



**USCGC INGHAM (WPG-35)
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**

NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO COAST GUARDSMEN KILLED IN ACTION IN WORLD WAR II AND VIETNAM.

USCGC INGHAM IN KEY WEST

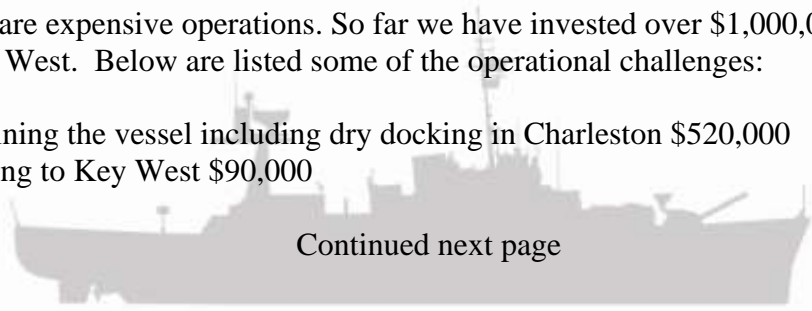
The Ingham was brought to Key West in November 2009 and opened to the public in February 2010. An existing lease between the City, signed in 2006 and the Non-Profit that operates the ships was re-written to accommodate the addition of Ingham in 2009. The Board of the Non-Profit is a group of 6 persons mostly comprised of Military Veterans. It was felt both at the time of the Mohawks arrival in Key West in 2006, that having a military presence at the Truman Waterfront would be appropriate to represent that that property was significant military base for over 76 years and that the Mohawk might draw attention to the undeveloped park and accelerate its development. Inasmuch as the east quay wall had no support facilities for mooring vessels, substantial funds were spent making the seawall usable as to electric and other utilities. The Ingham is currently moored in the location that was originally planned for the submarine USS TROUT in the original proposed BRAC agreements.

In 2009, the Ingham operating as a floating military museum at Patriots Point in Charleston, South Carolina was offered to our organization as a result of their restructuring of that organization. The Ingham is a significant military memorial being a National Historic Landmark, of which only three now exist in Monroe County. She was also at the time of her retirement, Americas oldest serving and most decorated Naval Vessel in the service of her country. A letter from President Ronald Reagan on her retirement attests to her service encompassing at that time 52 years of service and almost 25% of our Nation’s History. Her Service encompasses WWII North Atlantic Convoys and the credited sinking of U-Boat 626. She also served on the Mediterranean and African Convoys before being reassigned to the Pacific Theater distinguishing herself as Command Ship for many of the landing in the Philippines and further service in China after the war as Flagship for the South China Naval Force under the flag of RADM Buckmaster who has been the Commanding Officer of the USS YORKTOWN when it was sunk at the Battle of Midway. On February 28, 1955 she hosted General Douglas MacArthur and senior Naval Military personnel to plan the invasion of Corregidor, the Maravilles and Manila as the Flagship for those operations. She continued to serve through the Korean Period and later in the Viet-Nan where she earned two Presidential Unit Citations for her service. In 1980 she came to Key West and was a major asset in the Mariel Boat Lift and was finally retired in Portsmouth, Virginia in 1988. When retired everything on the ship was left in tact so she is a time capsule representing the military period from 1935 to 1988. It was felt by our organization that this ship would be a fitting tribute at the Waterfront to represent that properties history of our Naval History.

Museum ships are expensive operations. So far we have invested over \$1,000,000 in bringing Ingham to Key West. Below are listed some of the operational challenges:

- a. Obtaining the vessel including dry docking in Charleston \$520,000
- b. Towing to Key West \$90,000

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USCGC INGHAM MEMORIAL MUSEUM

TRUMAN WATERFRONT • POST OFFICE BOX 186 • KEY WEST, FLORIDA 33041 • USA

**MIAMI-DADE HISTORICAL MARITIME MUSEUM, INC. IS A 501(C)(3) FLORIDA NON-PROFIT CORPORATION.
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- c. Installing utilities at the Truman Waterfront \$42,000
- d. Certification by the Navy and Coast Guard as a permanently moored vessel including new mooring bitts on pier, dock lines, Naval Engineering Certificates \$160,000. By law, the vessel must be able to withstand 130 mph sustained winds with a safety factor of three.

Our annual operating expense is \$235,000 annually plus any cost of restoration and maintenance. We operate with mostly Key West volunteers with three paid employees for administration, engineering and hull maintenance. The Executive Director is uncompensated.

The Ingham's contribution to the community in addition to being a significant artifact at the Waterfront is as follows:

- a. Visitation annually around 14,000 visitors. It is listed at present and climbing as #123 out of #249 attractions in Key West on Trip Advisor for tourists.
- b. We have booked over 60 hotels nights last year and already booked over 180 hotel nights for this fiscal year.
- c. We have been selected by the International Historic Ships Association for this years' convention here in Key West in September, last year's being on the USS Missouri in Hawaii.
- d. We will be having the 2012 reunion of the Ingham Veterans Association on board Ingham comprising over 300 members in October.
- e. Our visitation not only includes land based tourists but cruise ship tourists.
- f. We have hosted wedding parties, other local non-profit events, birthday parties, military events including the terminus of Soldier Ride for the Wounded Warrior Project, and private parties for members of the community.
- g. We provide a training area for our High School JROTC program as well as other such programs throughout Florida.
- h. We provide realistic training for various Military and Governmental agencies for organizations throughout the United States.
- i. Future plans include obtaining a beer and wine license for more events including a possible "Movies on the Fantail" weekly event such as that done at Atlantic Shores for many years. Additional goals are to provide and overnight program for the youth of our city to expose them to Military life in the Naval Services perhaps encouraging them to attend one of the Service Academies or enlist in one of our armed services.
- j. The Museum has paid over \$14,000 to the city for "Administrative Fees"

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SUMMARY

In the fall of 2010 ago a meeting was held in the City Manager’s Office which included City Staff, The City Attorney, Navy representatives and Robert Spottswood of MSM. After lengthy conversations it was determined that only one of the vessels could be accommodated in any Marina Plan so it was agreed that we would find another home for Mohawk which has been accomplished by donating it to Lee County as an artificial reef. The result of that meeting was the production of the MSM development plan of December 2010 (see attached exhibits) showing Ingham in the Marina boundaries. It is featured throughout that brochure including a sections on the ship on pages 2, 16, 20, 21, 23, 26, 27, and on page 28 and 29 wherein it is stated **that “The ships new berthing area will be directly accessible and visible from the Naval Maritime Museum, a relationship that will help bolster the visitation opportunities of both venues as well as enhance the overall historic and tourism attraction of the area”.** We have continued to move forward with our plans based on that assumption. In a subsequent meeting with Bill Spottswood, we agreed to see if there was another location within the basis to moor the ship. The City Manager wrote a request to the Navy to see if any other space was available such as Pier A which is in front of the Discovery Center and the reply was they would like to accommodate us but they have future plans for that pier and well as increased use of the entire basin. This brings us back to location of Ingham and we feel that it can be accommodated in the new Marina Design without interference in building a marina at that location as indicated in the MSM Development plan of December 2010. Therefore, it not a decision of either/or but having both to enhance the Truman Waterfront.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. G. Verge
Executive Director
USCGC INGHAM Memorial Museum

Attachments 5 (MSM1-5)



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