

National Museum of the Pacific War
Admiral Nimitz Foundation
Fredericksburg, Texas

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**Premier of HERO SHIPS : USS Texas Continues History Channel Series at
The National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas**
HERO SHIPS: USS TEXAS to Premier Saturday, February 16, 2008

Fredericksburg, Texas (February 11, 2008) - The highly successful premier series from the History Channel will continue with *HERO SHIPS: USS Texas* on Saturday, February 16, 2008 at the National Museum of the Pacific War. The film will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Museum's historic ballroom which is located at 340 East Main Street in Fredericksburg, Texas. World War - II veterans from the *USS Texas* (BB-35) Warren Luken and William R. Smith will join Andy Smith, Director of the Battleship Texas, for a discussion panel immediately following the film.

Texas is the last of the battleships, patterned after HMS *Dreadnought*, that participated in World War I and the Second World War. In 1940, *Texas* was designated flagship of U. S. Atlantic Fleet. The First Marine Division was founded aboard *Texas* early in 1941. That same year while on "Neutrality Patrol" in the Atlantic, *Texas* was stalked unsuccessfully by the German submarine U-203. *Texas* escorted Atlantic convoys against potential attacks by German warships after America entered World War II in December 1941.

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During the amphibious assault on Morocco *Texas* provided gunfire support putting Walter Cronkite ashore to begin his career as a war correspondent. After further convoy duty, *Texas* fired on Nazi defenses at Normandy on "D-Day", June 6, 1944. Shortly afterwards she was hit twice in a duel with German coastal defense artillery near Cherbourg, suffering 1 fatality and 13 wounded. Quickly repaired, she shelled Nazi positions in Southern France before transferring to the Pacific where she lent gunfire support and anti-aircraft fire to the landings on Iwo Jima and Okinawa.¹

Rear Admiral Chuck Grojean, USN (Ret), Executive Director of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation commented, "We are really pleased and honored to be a part of this important program. Opportunities such as this help the Museum inform the American public of the great stories to be told about the Pacific War and the sacrifices of those who served; these are great for the entire family. "

“We inspire our youth by honoring our heroes.” - The National Museum of the Pacific War, a Texas Historical Commission property operated by the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, is located in Fredericksburg, Texas, and is the only institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to telling the story of the Pacific Theater of World War II.

Located on a six-acre site, the facility includes the George H.W. Bush Gallery, Admiral Nimitz Museum, Plaza of the Presidents, the Memorial Courtyard, Japanese Garden of Peace, Pacific Combat Zone and the Center for Pacific War Studies.

Originally named the Admiral Nimitz Museum and housed solely in the historic Nimitz Hotel, the Museum has grown into a dynamic, first-class experience that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and from all backgrounds, a great family educational experience. In addition to nearly 34,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space, the Museum boasts an impressive display of Allied and Japanese aircraft, tanks, guns and other large artifacts made famous during the Pacific War campaigns. An additional 40,000 square-foot expansion is planned to be completed in late 2009. Visit us at WWW.Nimitz-Museum.org

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¹ Information provided by the Historic Naval Association