

Dear _____,

Members of the national USS Hornet Association, representing thousands of proud veterans of the Aircraft Carriers USS Hornet, CV-8, CV, CVA, and CVS-12, are writing to urge their representatives to support our effort to see the name "Hornet" once again on an active Naval ship. We need your help in understanding how to reach that goal.

For nearly two hundred years, from 1775 to 1970, the United States Navy and our country were protected by no less than eight Hornet ships. Performing gallantly from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War and on through much of the 20th century, they and their proud crews and air groups served our country with honor and distinction.

In the opening years of WWII, the aircraft carrier USS Hornet CV-8, the seventh Hornet, was the launch platform for Colonel Jimmy Doolittle's famous Tokyo Raiders. She later fought at the Battle of Midway, and in 1942 at the Battle of Santa Cruz, where on 27 October, she was finally lost.

Just ten months later in August 1943, the eighth Hornet CV-12 was christened. The keel, originally designated as the Kearsarge, was renamed Hornet. It was felt by both the President and the Navy, that "the name Hornet should live again as a symbol of the strength and determination of the American people in their cause". During WWII she went on to win the Presidential Unit Citation and seven battle stars. In her later years, she served in many campaigns including several tours of duty in the Viet Nam conflict. She finally ended her career by successfully recovering the first and second Apollo manned missions to the moon, Apollo 11 & 12. She is now a popular museum and a National Historic Landmark at Alameda, California.

As one of thousands of Hornet veterans, and as a member of the USS Hornet Association, it is our goal to resurrect those words spoken in August 1943 at the christening of CV-12 as indicated above. Our association also believes that the name Hornet should live again, and that it belongs in the roll call of active Navy ships.

The precedence has been set with the development in recent years of the LHD Amphibious Assault ships. In part because of the efforts of thousands of former crewmembers, these assault carrier type ships have all been christened and commissioned with such famous names as the Wasp, Essex, Kearsarge, Boxer, Bataan, Bonhomme Richard and Iwo Jima. All named after early aircraft carriers, which had served along side the Hornet. Unfortunately the name Hornet was not selected, and the class is now complete.

All is not lost however. The Navy is currently developing the LHA(R) program, which is in the early stages of design review, with initial delivery scheduled for 2013. It seems appropriate that one of these amphibious assault class ships should carry the Hornet legacy into the 21st century and beyond. At this point in development, the tradition of naming has not begun. We are hopeful that with your help and that of many of our other representatives, we will once again see the name Hornet representing the United States Navy and the United States of America. Your help and direction will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely Yours,