

"Newseyletter" Stephen Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Deposit Balance \$ _____

Sad State of USCG Icebreaking Capabilities

SOURCE: Navy Times

DATE: 14 Feb 11

The service is planning to decommission one of its two heavy icebreakers in 2011, according to its posture statement. The heavy icebreaker USCGC *Polar Sea*, which suffered a major engineering casualty last summer, should be decommissioned in 2011 and her crew transferred to the USCGC *Polar Star* currently being renovated for return to active service in 2013. The Coast Guard had completed a service life extension to the 33-year-old ship in 2006 that was intended to keep it in service until 2014. The budget request sets aside \$39 million to keep the medium-sized ice breaker USCGC *Healy* running and complete the reactivation of *Polar Star*. In an October interview with Navy Times, Papp said that with both heavy icebreakers sidelined, the service was unprepared to respond to a major incident in the Arctic. "We need icebreakers up [in the Arctic], and right now our icebreakers are in a sorry state," Papp said. "They need replacement or very thorough renovation to allow the United States to sustain an active presence and support our sovereignty up there." In his Feb. 10 State of the Coast Guard address, Papp said he was engaged with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on the subject and that it was time for the country to make an investment in Arctic policy. "We're committed to leading, and where appropriate, supporting our national Arctic policy," he said. "But, if we are

serious about protecting our Arctic national interests and resources, then we must make the investment to do so.

Editors note: Nothing new here in ten years or more, just no money and neglect of our national priorities.

SS United States sold!

From Wall Street Journal Online



The S.S. United States sits unused in Philadelphia. Preservationists' plans for the storied passenger ship include hotels, casinos and restaurants. Beating the odds, a small group of ship-lovers is finally taking ownership of the object of their affection: the historic ocean liner S.S. *United States*. It's the latest step in the effort to save the down-on-its-luck supership from the scrap heap. On Tuesday, the preservationist group S.S. United States Conservancy will officially become the owner of the Titanic-sized vessel, buying it for \$3 million from cruise-line operator NCL Group, according to both parties. The Wall Street Journal reported the planned sale last year. "Now comes the real challenge," said Dan McSweeney, the conservancy's executive director. The goal is a "public-private partnership" to find a permanent spot to dock the ship and fill it with hotels, restaurants, classrooms or offices. "We've got 650,000 square feet of space," he said.

USS New Jersey Chapter sponsors two pictorials.

These pictorials have been submitted by Phil Schreiber and

the USS New Jersey Chapter for upcoming events. Both nice designs.



Flagship Station
Fleet Week NY
Staten Island NY
10304

Designs above by our new national director, Greg Cielski.

Wilmington Philatelic Society requests pictorial

To note the 65th Anniversary of the USS *North Carolina BB 55*, a pictorial cancel has been requested from the post office at Wilmington NC.



Covers to: Postmaster,

No pictorial for USS Arlington LPD 24 christening

Sorry to say the USPS would not issue a pictorial for the Christening of the USS *Arlington*. The ship is named to honor the first responders to the Pentagon on 9-11 and those who lost their lives in the Pentagon and on Flight 77. The reason, too expensive to issue the cancel.



Check out the naval items on eBay. Proceeds go to Decatur Chapter. Seller: CGCOVERGUY

Feel free to send any information that you think may be of interest to other collectors.

Information published here is not guaranteed.

Visit the Universal Ship Cancellation Society web site at: www.uscs.org/