

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Richard Spencer
Secretary of the Navy
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350

Admiral John Richardson
Chief of Naval Operations
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Secretary Spencer and Admiral Richardson,

We write you today to respectfully request that the ex-CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2) be placed back on donation hold and that the Navy continues to work closely with the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA) to secure the ship's transfer.

As you know, the City of Jacksonville is the proud home to multiple Navy installations, tens of thousands of military personnel, and even more veterans. Jacksonville has the third largest concentration of Naval assets in the country, and of the top three Navy towns, it is the only City without a Naval warship museum.

To correct this, the JHNSA has been tirelessly working since 2008 to bring the ex-CHARLES F. ADAMS back to Jacksonville. As you may know, the ex-ADAMS was homeported at Naval Station Mayport from 1969 to 1980 and engaged in many historic missions including the Cuban Missile Crisis. Because of this rich history, the City of Jacksonville, the JHNSA, the State of Florida, and many others have committed, and remain committed, to bringing the ex-ADAMS home.

That is why we were disappointed to see the decision to remove the ex-ADAMS from donation hold, especially considering the enormous amount of documentation JHNSA has provided NAVSEA and how many resources have been directed for this project.

After submitting thousands of pages of information, JHNSA's application was approved by NAVSEA in 2014 and was offered to transfer ownership via a bailment agreement, at which time JHNSA had to postpone acceptance of the ship but accepted 6 months later to ensure proper resources. NAVSEA then went back on the offer and has since cited new issues that we never raised prior to the offer. In recent correspondence denying the most recent application, NAVSEA made several errors, including claims of absent documentation. Since then, the JHNSA has made multiple efforts to clarify concerns NAVSEA has since raised, including resubmitting hundreds of pages of documents, but has received limited communication of substance back. We find these actions greatly concerning.

The JHNSA and we as Members of Congress are committed to securing the transfer of this ship and will continue to work closely with all parties, including the facilitation of communications, to make sure all of NAVSEA's requirements are met.

We have attached to this letter updates on all issues cited by NAVSEA in their March 26, 2018 letter to JHNSA and expected completion dates. It is important to note that the JHNSA believes they would have all requirements met by June 26, 2018.

In coordination with this letter, we will be sending NAVSEA updated information, including a revised Development Agreement from the City of Jacksonville, that show all parties' continued commitment to this project.

The State of Florida and the City of Jacksonville continue to grow its tourism industry, and the ex-ADAMS would be a key addition to our proud state. Returning the ex-ADAMS back to her City of homeport would honor her history and dedication of those who served. Please reach out with any further questions, as we stand by ready to assist.


Sincerely,



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress

CC: Vice Admiral Thomas J. Moore, Naval Sea Systems Command