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SUBJ/ANNOUNCING NEW YEAR'S DAY DECK LOG POEM CONTEST FOR 2026//

POC/NHHC DECK LOG PROGRAM//LOC: WASHINGTON, DC/EMAIL: NHHC-
DECKLOGS(AT)US.NAVY.MIL//

RMKS/1. The Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) is excited to announce the annual New Year's Day Deck Log Poem Contest for 2026.

2. Celebratory congratulations to our winners from last year.
First place: USS GETTYSBURG (CG 64), written by LT Mary Bolton.
Second place: USS GRAVELY (DDG 107), written by ISC Casey Jones.
Third place: USS ST. LOUIS (LCS 19), written by LT Victoria Cavazos.
Thank you to everyone that submitted entries for last year's contest.

3. The deck log is the official record maintained by all commissioned U.S. Navy vessels. While regulations normally restrict the types of entries in logbooks, the Navy has long held the tradition of the Midnight New Year's Poem. The first entry of the New Year, written in verse, allows Sailors to express their creativity, shipboard experiences, and pride in their command. To highlight this unique tradition, NHHC will host a New Year's Day Deck Log Poem contest. Sailors, we want to hear your voice.

4. Contest details:

- a. Deadline for submissions is 2359 eastern daylight time, 31 March 2026.
- b. Due to the public-facing nature of the contest, all entries will be unclassified.
- c. Submissions will be accepted by email only. Email a pdf copy of the deck log page(s) with your poem to: nhhc-decklogs(at)us.navy.mil.
- d. Eligibility:
 - (1) Entries must be from a commissioned U.S. Navy vessel, deployed or at shore.
 - (2) Entries must be submissions to the ship's official deck log.
 - (3) Entries must be written as the first entry on 1 January 2026.
 - (4) All paygrades, active and reserve, are eligible.
- e. Poems can be submitted with either an identified or anonymous author. Commanding officers that would like to recognize the poem's author, please provide the author's contact information with the submission email. In the case of an anonymous author, the command will be recognized and receive the award.
- f. Selections will be made for first, second, and third place. The first place prize is a piece of historic copper sheathing from the USS CONSTITUTION. Winning entries will be featured on NHHC's website alongside examples from generations past. The NHHC director will also recognize the winners.

g. Winners will be announced in April in coordination of national poetry month.

5. For examples of poems and more information, see NHCs website:
<https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/nhc/research/archives/resources-for-the-fleet/deck-logs/new-years-contest.html>

6. For questions, please contact the NHC deck log program, email:
nhhc-decklogs(at)us.navy.mil.

7. Built in the Foundry - Tempered in the Fleet - Forged to Fight.

8. ADM Daryl Caudle, 34th Chief of Naval Operations sends.//

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