

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVY REGION MID-ATLANTIC PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USS MASON DOCKS AT NAUTICUS FOR SPECIAL EVENT

Norfolk, VA (CNRMA) – The USS Mason (DDG-87) will pull in to the Nauticus pier on Tuesday morning to take part in a week long of activities surrounding the special test screenings of the movie *Proud* at the Nauticus theater.

Proud is based on the book and documentary *Proudly We Served: The story of the USS Mason and her crew* by award winning author Dr. Mary Pat Kelly. *Proud* tells the story of how during WWII, destroyer escort USS *Mason* (DE-529), was the first ship to carry an all African-American crew into combat. These sailors fought the Nazis at sea during the Battle of the Atlantic, and racism at home. This was also the first time blacks were permitted to train and serve in ratings other than cooks and stewards.

The Hampton Roads Naval Museum joins with Nauticus, the National Maritime Center, and the U.S. Navy League to bring the film *Proud* to Hampton Roads for special screenings at the Nauticus theatre.

The USS Mason (DDG-87) will be open for tours to movie ticket holders only on February 25 and 26. The ship will not be open for general public tours. A limited number of free tickets to the movie are still available at the Navy's Tour and Information Office located on Hampton Blvd. outside Naval Station Norfolk Gate 5. For a complete listing of show times, ticket information and activities please visit <http://www.cnrma.navy.mil/hrnm.htm>.

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MEDIA NOTE: Media desiring interviews, photo/b-roll opportunities regarding this release may contact the Navy's Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs Office at 322-2853.