

## NOA/RFI Responses 2024

#	Name	Affiliation	Response
1	Natasha Nash Dixon	None noted	Hello! My husband and I were lucky enough to tour the NS Savannah and just fell in love with the ship. We do not have the means, unfortunately, to purchase the ship or pay for expenses. However, I think this ship is a golden opportunity for STEM learning. I see it as a museum for all, with added exhibits teaching kids about atomic energy and other STEM topics, in the place where some of these things took place. The hospital area could have medical exhibits. Navigational learning exhibits could be on the bridge and/or the map room. There are so many opportunities. Maybe even for teaching about interior design. I am surprised the Baltimore Science Museum isn't interested. This would be the perfect partnership. And the ship wouldn't necessarily need to be exactly where the museum is. It could be located elsewhere but be an extension of the museum. I would love to be involved somehow, even if not financially. Anyway, that is my input. I am hopeful someone takes this on and the Savannah isn't lost.
2	Eugene Mattioni	CEO, Maritime Academy Charter School	Dear Mr. Koehler: Since our last meeting several years ago when Savannah was in Philly Shipyard, there have been some new developments in Philadelphia. The Pier 38 North has become available. It is a space of 180,000 sf on two floors, each 90,000 sf. It is a potential site for Maritime Academy Charter School to relocate its High School from our current location in Port Richmond. We are interested because we have always wanted a waterfront site to create a Maritime Center of Excellence in Philadelphia. It has also come to my attention that Independence Seaport Museum is also looking at the site for approximately 60,000 sf to relocate their museum from its present location at Penn's Landing. MACS has a very strong relationship with ISM through boat building, visits to the museum and summer programs. I became aware of this in discussion with Chris Pennington of the Biswanger Company that is promoting the site for sale by the current owner. MACS is interested in the site for a High School and a Maritime Center of Excellence envisioned by former Maritime Administrator Admiral Mark H. Buzby. Philadelphia and related Community Colleges have a Maritime Center of Excellence but without critical components, such as a major waterfront site. Pier 38N is potentially a very viable waterfront site. MACS would propose that it acquire the Savannah to be its Vocational Maritime Center of Excellence. With the recent educational components you advised, cargo holds available for classrooms and educational spaces, turbine rotors, cut away boilers, accessible bridge and engine room, and a steam engine among other exhibits, the Savannah is an ideal educational maritime vocation platform for Maritime Academy Charter School. MACS would also retain the current ideal for Savannah as a Museum since the Savannah is, in and of itself, a matter of National Interest as the World's First Nuclear-Powered Merchant Ship and is a National Historic Landmark of the United States. The Savannah has also been made environmentally safe. The City of Philadelphia is also the best place for Savannah since it is the birthplace of our Country with many historic landmarks to compliment Savannah. Also, Camden is where the Savannah was built - it is a homecoming! We also have a new Mayor in Cherelle Parker, the first female mayor in 100 years. I know she is interested in the City as a major Maritime Port and economic engine of the City and Delaware Valley. Please accept this email message as showing interest in a potential preservation outcome for Savannah. This would be a very ambitious project but we believe it has the potential to be a positive outcome for MACS, ISM, the Savannah, and the City of Philadelphia. We are interested in scheduling a date to make a visit to Savannah with our High School cadets on a date before the end of our school year, June 6, 2024.
3	Hugh Cadzow	Chairman Project Liberty Ship	JOINT RESPONSE On behalf of Project Liberty Ship and the N/S SAVANNAH Association we are jointly providing this letter in response to the Notice of Vessel Availability and Request for Information posted in the Federal Register by the Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation (MARAD). Project Liberty Ship (PLS) is an all-volunteer 501 C (3) organization which owns, maintains, and operates the World War II Liberty Ship SS JOHN W. BROWN as a living history memorial to the merchant mariners, Naval Armed Guard and shipyard workers who made it possible to supply the allied war machine at great risk to themselves. Project Liberty Ship has a 36-year record of successfully maintaining, operating, and sailing a historic merchant vessel, with over 2 million volunteer hours invested so far. The organization has a substantial membership and support base, substantial financial assets, and no debt. We are proud that it can be done. The N/S SAVANNAH Association (NSSA) is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization that was born out of the efforts of the SAVANNAH Crew Associates in 2008 with the Mission to Promote, Protect and Preserve the N/S SAVANNAH for future generations. Since inception, the NSSA has provided financial support for restoration projects beyond the normal scope of normal maintenance operations and day to day work activities. Projects for example, restoration and renovation of passenger staterooms, public access areas, and the simplest form of help in the way of labor and personnel for activities aboard the ship. The most important aspect is the focus on promoting the ship and to educate the public about the unique groundbreaking technology this ship represented for her time. This is accomplished by speaking engagements, scheduled public tours of the ship, Annual Maritime Day venue since coming to Baltimore. We believe the NSSA, in cooperation with Project Liberty Ship, can present our vessels in a manner to inspire the next generation of mariners and engineers while honoring the generations that lead the way. On behalf of Project Liberty Ship, N/S SAVANNAH Association, and its members, we urge MARAD to preserve the Nuclear Ship SAVANNAH as an intact structure along with preserving as much of her historic fabric as possible given the operational requirements of nuclear decommissioning. The N/S SAVANNAH is already well recognized for her historic status as the pinnacle of merchant maritime steam plant development, her place as a showpiece of the Atoms for Peace program and her distinctive design by designation as a National Historic Landmark. This is a prior Federal recognition that the SAVANNAH is worthy and deserving of preservation and should be given great weight in any decision regarding her disposition by MARAD. MARAD has maintained the N/S SAVANNAH for many years at great cost in taxpayer dollars. The funds expended on this historic vessel represent an investment by the taxpayers of the United States which should not be thrown away by disposing of the SAVANNAH as scrap or "preserving" her in name only as a reef or dive attraction which will only be seen by a tiny fraction of the people.
			(continued) We believe that it is important that potential partners or organizations be identified early so that they can have adequate time to develop an effective business plan, arrange funding and coordinate with MARAD prior to the date of turn over. Funding sources for Project Liberty Ship are charitable donations and memberships, donations from members and veteran organizations, etc. There are also grant opportunities provided through private foundations, government funding and corporations. Sponsorships with local and regional small businesses. These are all funding sources the N/S SAVANNAH Association can pursue. Project Liberty Ship is interested in assisting and advising any agency or organization which is selected to preserve and display N/S SAVANNAH. Project Liberty Ship and N/S SAVANNAH Association would like to propose the establishment of a National Maritime Museum in Baltimore, Maryland which would include the N/S SAVANNAH, SS JOHN W. BROWN, and other historically significant vessels at the same pier. This proposal would require governmental support and funding along with that of the private sector. A project of this magnitude has the potential to provide unique educational opportunities, STEM activities, historical interpretation of flow of technology from the turn of the century steam engineering to innovative nuclear propulsion that composed the Savannah's power plant. This educational experience can be presented to secondary school and college students, future mariners, engineers, scientist, designers, shipfitters are virtually endless possibilities only limited when vessels such as the N/S SAVANNAH are preserved as the one-of-a-kind ship she is. We envision that various maritime academies, shipping, and shipbuilding businesses, maritime and ship building unions and other interested parties could be solicited for funding and support of such a project. Both organizations thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide comment on such an important subject. If you have any questions and/or comments, please e-mail Hugh Cadzow, Chairman Project Liberty Ship at: john.w.brown@usa.net or Robert Adams, President NSSA at: president@ns-savannah.org We believe that it is important that potential partners or organizations be identified early so that they can have adequate time to develop an effective business plan, arrange funding and coordinate with MARAD prior to the date of turn over. Funding sources for Project Liberty Ship are charitable donations and memberships, donations from members and veteran organizations, etc. There are also grant opportunities provided through private foundations, government funding and corporations. Sponsorships with local and regional small businesses. These are all funding sources the N/S SAVANNAH Association can pursue. Project Liberty Ship is interested in assisting and advising any agency or organization which is selected to preserve and display N/S SAVANNAH. Project Liberty Ship and N/S SAVANNAH Association would like to propose the establishment of a National Maritime Museum in Baltimore, Maryland which would include the N/S SAVANNAH, SS JOHN W. BROWN, and other historically significant vessels at the same pier.

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4	Robert Adams	President, NS Savannah Association	JOINT RESPONSE (see above )
5	Michael Moan	None noted	In response to the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) Notice of Availability / Request for Information for the NS Savannah in the Federal Register, there is interest in exploring the possibilities of unique economic, educational and cultural opportunity for the State of Rhode Island. This letter proposes that a possible partnership be explored between MARAD, State of Rhode Island, and private and public institutions of higher learning. Such an agreement could open opportunities for the ship to be used for education in engineering, medicine, and business, as well as a venue for cultural and social events. The ship's restored interior and its stunning mid-century modern design along with her internal house areas are suitable for office, classroom, trade shop and project support space along with social events. Economic enhancement for Rhode Island may also be realized by the NS Savannah as it would generate business with the need for skilled trades such as marine, electrical, plumbing and other craftsmen for ship and shoreside improvements. Savannah also offers an opportunity to support tourism by allowing visitors to experience the ship much as it appeared when it visited the State in 1964. Rhode Island is currently home to the large number of National Register properties. The Nuclear Ship Savannah (NSS) as a National Historic Landmark, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Engineering Record vessel with a berthing spot in the vicinity of Providence, could provide prominent viewshed of both the ship and the city of Providence Harbor. Savannah would complement the current and future cultural, commercial and residential development plans of the City of Providence and East Providence. Rhode Island's special connection with Savannah is the late Captain Arnold R. Block Jr. of Cranston, RI. He was a senior officer with American Export - Isbrandtsen Lines that contracted with MARAD to operate the ship from 1963 until her removal from service in 1971. He was with the ship that entire time. Captain Block was principal and permanent Captain from 1965 through 1971 and her last Master in 1971. The State's long maritime and nuclear history is well known. The late RI Senator John O. Pastore was Chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy at the birth of the ship during President Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace program. RI can share in a noble collaborative effort aimed at keeping one of America's most prized treasures vibrant, beautiful and available to inspire generations well into the 21st century.
6	Bert Brantley	President/CEO Savannah Chamber of Commerce	The Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Visit Savannah, is pleased to submit the following information in response to the Request for Information: National Historic Landmark Nuclear Ship Savannah Available, Federal Register # 2024-01502. Proposed use(s) for the ship; Our organizations are interested in investigating the possibility of adding the NS Savannah to our visitor offerings, as well as adding an educational opportunity for area students. Mission statement for your organization; The Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to ensuring the region's employers and employees have every opportunity to succeed and thrive. Through advocacy, networking and collaboration, economic development, community engagement and tourism promotion, the Chamber works every day to nurture a positive business environment in Savannah, Chatham County and our neighboring communities. Visit Savannah serves as the official destination marketing organization for the Savannah/Chatham County area, and is committed to supporting the more than 28,000 area hospitality jobs by increasing visitor spending, economic vitality and quality of life for the region, all while continually building upon Savannah's image as a world-class destination. Proposed or potential locations for ship; While other locations may be feasible and worthy of study, the most obvious location is in a slip next to the Savannah Convention Center, which is currently undergoing a major expansion and soon will break ground on a hotel adjacent to the center and slip 3. This is across the river from the location the NS Savannah was stationed during its previous stint here. Staffing resources for maintaining and operating the ship; All to be determined. Our best guess would be a non-profit organization created specifically for this purpose. Experience with ship maintenance and operations; With a very active port facility (the 3rd largest container port in the US), we have many entities that have substantial experience with ship maintenance and operations. However, we do not have any experience in managing this type of attraction. We would likely look for assistance from other areas that have had this type of experience. Experience with historic property or structures; Savannah was founded in 1733, and our community takes historic preservation very seriously. The entire downtown historic district was declared a National Historic Landmark District in 1966, and is one of the largest urban, community-wide historic preservation districts in the United States. We have many historic properties and structures that are being preserved around our community. Funding sources; and, To be determined. We have not had a community-wide conversation about this potential project yet. Preferred conveyance mechanism for acquisition of the ship. To be determined. We have not had a community-wide conversation about this potential project yet.
7	Steve Perry	None identified	I, Steven R. Perry represent an exploratory group of persons looking to investigate preserving NS Savannah in the City of Miami, Florida, adjacent to PortMiami. A location has been identified, and preliminary potential partner organizations for interpretation and visitor management are being contacted. The discussions with these organizations and local officials are at a preliminary stage, and so we do not have detailed information to share at this time. We expect to be in a position to respond to a future RFP from MARAD in 2025.