



USS RANGER FOUNDATION

WWW.USSRANGER.ORG

---

# Ranger Means Honor

---

Honoring the military, veterans and all those who  
serve, have served and will serve

Larry Schmuhl, Program Manager

2010



The purpose of this document is to explore some of the possibilities Ranger will bring to Oregon and Southwest Washington in her role as a museum, memorial and civic center. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list of possibilities, but to stimulate ideas and encourage participation by the communities and others that will benefit.

USS Ranger Foundation 1505 SE Gideon St. Suite 650 Portland OR 97202



# Ranger Means Honor

---

## Background

The USS Ranger Foundation is a nonprofit corporation chartered to acquire the retired super carrier *USS Ranger* and operate it in the Portland OR metro area, as the anchor of a museum, memorial, educational, and civic center complex. The ship is currently moored in Bremerton WA, and is being held for a no-cost donation. Full details, presentations and planning materials are available as well as speaker engagements.

## Current status

Donation of Ranger is under a federal program conducted by the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) in Washington DC. They have a multi-phase process for proving that the potential donee has the proper corporate structure, tax status and plans for every facet of acquisition, modification, movement, mooring, operation and maintenance.

The USS Ranger Foundation has successfully passed through the first phase where we identified ourselves as a properly constituted and governed corporation with the correct IRS 501(c)(3) status. In addition, the Foundation commissioned a marketing study whose findings were that if the planning was properly executed, the project would be financially stable and viable in this area of the country.

## Phase II

Phase II was entered by the Foundation in September of 2009. NAVSEA has given us twelve months to complete the required activities in phase II, enabling us to enter phase III. Included in this timeframe is the creation of a business and financial plan as well as a comprehensive environmental study.

## Phase III

Phase III begins after successful completion of phase II, and includes planning and construction related to the actual donation of the ship, its relocation to Portland, modifications etc. Also in this phase are the museum acquisitions, planning and other activities related to providing a complex of this size and complexity.



## Oregon, SW Washington and the Navy

### Ranger means enhancing the present

Oregon State University has a vital and active NROTC unit in Corvallis as well as active reserve forces from all branches of service. Currently, Oregon is the only coastal state that has no naval presence except for Navy Operational Support Centers where the reservists drill. Ranger makes a perfect recruitment tool, providing a firsthand look at a life of service to our country.

The flight deck of a carrier is often used to mark milestones of a wide variety of audiences from individuals to whole crews and companies. It is a perfect setting for enlistments, re-enlistments, promotions, drills and retirement ceremonies. The 4 plus acres of space complete with flags flying and whistles blowing provides a backdrop ensuring the event is unforgettable.

Oregon has a long history of association with the Navy. The battleship **USS Oregon (BB3)**, a veteran of the Spanish American and First World Wars, was loaned to the State of Oregon for use as a museum in Portland from 1925 until 1944. Some of her steel aided in the WWII effort; the rest was later scrapped. Parts of the **'Bulldog of the Navy'** as she was known are scattered around the area. The Ranger complex can provide a unifying venue to render the proper honors to the state's namesake.

Every year, the Navy has dropped anchor in Portland to participate in the annual Rose Festival. Over time, hundreds of ships have been opened to the public for tours and other activities while they are there. Imagine the impact of hosting Rose Festival from the deck of a real live super carrier, complete with media presence.

### Ranger means the future

Ranger joins five existing museum aircraft carriers operating in various locations along the coasts. Each of them has a 'live aboard' program where youth groups come aboard to eat, sleep, learn and enjoy wholesome activities. These self-sustaining programs benefit our youth in a number of ways.

- Exposure to the experiences of those who have gone before. It is one thing to read about launching and landing an airplane on a moving ship. It is quite another to have the pilots and plane crews show you with the actual machinery available to touch.
- Unmatched demonstrations of all aspects of life aboard ship. How do the Captain and crew know where in the world they are at all times? How do they get to where they need to be? How do they communicate with the world? Ranger was a small city when active and had to provide



everything necessary to keep her and her escorts fed, watered and in good repair. The demonstration possibilities are as endless as the questions.

- These programs are often conducted under the supervision of the older generations that knew and did these things first-hand. It is sometimes hard to tell which group gains more by the interaction between the veterans and the youth groups, as they share experiences.

### Ranger means honoring the past

In 2006, Multnomah County's population was 526,083. At that time, approximately 50,972 were veterans according to the U.S. Census bureau's American Community Survey. As of 2008, the population had grown to 549,932 of whom 51,726 were veterans. From this we can determine that the percentage of veterans in relation to the population is relatively constant. \*

Below is the 2000 census data for the Portland – Salem – SW Washington area. It shows the overall population, veteran population and percentage of the population that are vets.

Portland--Salem, OR--WA CMSA	1,682,181	231,895	14%
------------------------------	-----------	---------	-----

Today, due to a variety of reasons many veterans' post and club facilities are simply not able to sustain their membership, and by implication their viability. Ranger plans to host any number of these groups with space aboard for their meetings and events at reduced or no cost.

When a veteran passes away, he or she is entitled to have honors rendered in recognition of their service to all of us. As such, space will be dedicated aboard Ranger as 'hallowed ground' where services can take place, honor and color guards can store their equipment and the families can receive visitors.

Using state of the art technology, we will be able to record and document the living histories of those men and women who served aboard, not only Ranger, but all her sister carriers and their escorts. Capture of video, books, pictures, and other memorabilia will make this a living memorial.

Veterans often need to travel long distances to utilize central facilities provided by the Veterans Administration, and Department of Defense. Having walk-in facilities located in the complex or aboard can help to ensure that the deserving receive the services they earned.

\*[http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/STTable?\\_bm=y&-geo\\_id=05000US41051&-qr\\_name=ACS\\_2008\\_1YR\\_G00\\_S2101&-ds\\_name=ACS\\_2008\\_1YR\\_G00\\_-&-lang=en&-redoLog=false](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/STTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US41051&-qr_name=ACS_2008_1YR_G00_S2101&-ds_name=ACS_2008_1YR_G00_-&-lang=en&-redoLog=false)



Ranger can be utilized for reintegration of current service men and women who are returning home to Oregon and need support, connections and training to help the transition be smooth. Training areas can be set, support services can be aboard ship, so that those returning home can go to one place and get the support they need.

### **Ranger means a world-wide tourist draw**

There are many Veterans' organizations in existence today. Besides the nationally known groups like the Veterans of Foreign Wars, DAV and American Legion, there are literally hundreds of special interest groups. All of these groups have in common a desire to share experiences, help their communities, promote patriotism and support our nation.

On any given month, regular newsletters and magazines carry a reunion notice section. These notices of scheduled and proposed reunions come from all branches of service - and even some non-service branches such as merchant marine, defense workers etc. - and can run several pages. Prominent among the destinations are those cities like Charleston (Yorktown), Corpus Christi (Lexington), San Diego (Midway), Philadelphia (New Jersey), Baltimore (Inner Harbor) to name a few. The draw is the opportunity to visit, dine and meet aboard a real Navy ship.

In 2007, the *USS Ranger Reunion Association* met in Portland for close to a week. The economic impact of several hundred former crewmen and their families was immense at the airport, hotels, restaurants, dinner cruise, bus tours and the Evergreen Aviation Museum. Think of a steady stream of these events providing year-round employment and tourism income.

### **Ranger means jobs**

Oregon is suffering under the current economic climate. In addition to increasing demand for the service industries indicated above as a result of increased tourism, the complex itself will provide a number of good jobs.

Initially the ship will require conversion from a mothballed warship, to a public venue, including electrical, HVACs, fire prevention, painting, ADA access and other work.

Once opened, there will be a continuing need for docents, guides, staff, volunteers at all levels and in all disciplines.

A ship the size of Ranger can accommodate groups of virtually any size. Serving guests will provide ample opportunities in the catering and hospitality fields.



USS RANGER FOUNDATION

[WWW.USSRANGER.ORG](http://WWW.USSRANGER.ORG)

Though the ship's kitchen equipment will not be activated for food preparation, there will be equipment aboard for cooking, serving, seating, dining, audio/visual and other activities involved in hosting events. All of this equipment must be maintained, cleaned, operated, set up and stored, by local service providers.

### **Ranger means civic pride**

One of the attractions of a ship museum venue is the ability to host reunions, meetings and conventions aboard. Think of using the four and a half acre flight deck to host the Rose Festival, 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks, concerts etc.

USS Intrepid has become a part of the New York City skyline. USS Lexington is synonymous with the Corpus Christi tourist board. Midway has made San Diego's already robust tourist economy even better.

There are many venues drawing tourists to the area, but an anchor as large as Ranger would be would alter the landscape to make Portland a true destination city. Ranger will change the face of tourism in the Pacific Northwest. Making Portland Oregon a destination for large conventions, reunions and meetings will increase traffic through the airport with a corresponding increase in bus, cab, rental car and light rail usage.

### **We need your help to make this happen**

Please help us spread the word about this exciting project. We need the demonstrated support of Metro, the labor forces, civic associations, Port of Portland, politicians from the federal level to the local neighborhood association. We also need your dollars to fund the required permitting activities and studies.

### **For further information**

For further information please visit our web site [HTTP://WWW.USSRANGER.ORG](http://WWW.USSRANGER.ORG) or phone (503) 558-8519.

*Peter Ogle*

President and CEO

USS Ranger Foundation [Peter.Ogle@USSRANGER.ORG](mailto:Peter.Ogle@USSRANGER.ORG) (971) 409 9305

*Larry Schmuhl*

Program Manager

USS Ranger Foundation [Larry.Schmuhl@USSRANGER.ORG](mailto:Larry.Schmuhl@USSRANGER.ORG) (972)672 0561

USS Ranger Foundation 1505 SE Gideon St. Suite 650 Portland OR 97202