



News Release

LOS ANGELES MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI TO RECEIVE FREEDOM OF THE SEAS HUMANITARIAN AWARD

SAN PEDRO, Calif., Sept. 28, 2021 – The [National Museum of the Surface Navy at the Battleship IOWA](#), the museum for America’s Surface Navy located aboard the historic Battleship USS Iowa Museum, today announced Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti will be honored with the Freedom of the Seas Humanitarian Award at the inaugural [Freedom of the Seas Awards Gala](#) on Saturday, October 23, 2021.

The Freedom of the Seas Humanitarian Award recognizes those that exemplify the fearless bravery and tenacity necessary to sail through troubled waters to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief as a core principle of America’s Surface Navy.

Mayor Garcetti is being recognized for his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic, which included bringing the hospital ship, USNS Mercy, to the Port of Los Angeles, deploying California National Guard troops to area hospitals, and the establishing a field hospital at the L.A. Convention Center, to provide critical medical support throughout the region. Coordinating the use of military assets and personnel through the Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) program, Mayor Garcetti ensured the ability to meet the needs of citizens across the Los Angeles region through the height of the COVID-19 surge. In addition, Mayor Garcetti led his team in support of the [LovLA](#) program, a program created and managed by the Port of Los Angeles that is designed to protect critical workers by connecting organizations in need of personal protective equipment (PPE) with available supplies of PPE.

“Mayor Garcetti’s leadership and foresight were critical in protecting and saving the lives of countless numbers of Angelenos throughout the region,” explained retired Navy Rear Admiral Mike Shatynski, Chairman of the Board of the National Museum of the Surface Navy. “Given the incredible challenges and decisions that he had to face in dealing with the ever-changing and evolving situation and the ominous threat to the health and welfare of the citizens posed by the pandemic surge, I can think of

nobody that embodies the spirit of the Freedom of the Seas Humanitarian Award more than Mayor Garcetti.”

Attendance at the annual Freedom of the Seas Awards is by invitation only. For information on sponsorship opportunities, visit <https://surfacenavymuseum.org/fos/> or contact Jonathan Williams at jwilliams@surfacenavymuseum.org.

About the Freedom of the Seas Awards

The Freedom of the Seas Awards is the premiere annual event of the National Museum of the Surface Navy at the Battleship IOWA. The event is held in honor of the anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in the history of the world, which occurred during World War II. The Awards honors those that embody the core principles of the American Surface Navy’s mission to protect and defend our oceans for the benefit of the free world.

About the National Museum of the Surface Navy

Scheduled to open in 2025 aboard the historic Battleship USS Iowa Museum, the National Museum of the Surface Navy is the museum for America’s Surface Navy. The museum’s mission is to raise America’s awareness of the importance of the United States Surface Naval Forces’ role in international relations, free trade, humanitarian assistance, and technological innovation, not just in the past but today and into the future.

Located in the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro, Calif., Battleship USS Iowa Museum is one of the top five museums and attractions in Los Angeles, bringing the ship’s history to life through in-person and virtual tours and educational programs for youth. In addition to providing a natural platform for veterans and patriotic civilians to come together as a community, Battleship USS Iowa Museum provides a wide array of impactful programs and resources that support the critical needs of our military and veterans.

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