

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of War
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Secretary Hegseth,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to name the future aircraft carrier CVN-84 the USS Yorktown, a name that reflects a defining moment in American history and the proud legacy of the United States Navy.

This year marks the nation's 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. Achieving that independence required victory in the Revolutionary War against Great Britain, a result that was far from certain. Ultimately, the heroism displayed at the decisive Battle of Yorktown secured American independence. There, in Yorktown, Virginia, the Continental Army under General George Washington surrounded British forces and compelled General Charles Cornwallis to surrender. This culminating moment effectively ended the war and led to the negotiations that produced the Treaty of Paris, formally recognizing American independence and ushering in our great American experiment. The victory at Yorktown also marked the beginning of the United States as a maritime nation, whose security and prosperity would ultimately depend upon naval power and control of the seas.

The siege of Yorktown remains synonymous with American resolve and sacrifice. That legacy continued through the service of USS Yorktown (CV-5) and USS Yorktown (CV-10), whose crews demonstrated extraordinary courage during World War II and the Vietnam War. USS Yorktown (CV-5), which fought with extraordinary courage at the Battle of Midway after rapid repairs following the Battle of the Coral Sea, helped secure one of the most consequential naval victories in American history. The name has also been carried with distinction by several other warships over nearly two centuries, each reflecting the Navy's enduring commitment to peace through strength. Today, the United States Navy remains the most powerful maritime force in the world, built on the foundations laid at Yorktown.

Naming CVN-84 the USS Yorktown would honor the decisive victory that secured American independence, recognize the sailors who served aboard ships bearing that name, and mark the nation's 250th anniversary with a symbol of American resolve as the United States enters its next quarter millennium. The name would also hold special meaning in Virginia, where the historic victory at Yorktown took place and where generations of sailors and shipbuilders have supported the strength of the United States Navy. I respectfully urge your consideration of this designation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued leadership of the United States Armed Forces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Wittman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable John Phelan, Secretary of the Navy