



Ronald E. Ault, President

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July 2, 2010

Mr. Robert Kent
Pacific Battleship Center
615 Center Street #301
San Pedro, CA 90731

Dear Mr. Kent

On behalf of the Metal Trades Department of the AFL-CIO and the millions of skilled workers—past and present—who have toiled in the shipbuilding industry, it's with great pride that we support the objectives of the Pacific Battleship Center (PBC) to secure and restore the USS Iowa (BB 61). The Iowa should serve as an emblem of the accomplishments of the "Greatest Generation" and the Navy they built—as a tribute to the all sailors who manned those vessels and the workers who built them.

Ships like the Iowa, that have survived more than 70 years, are fitting monuments to the ingenuity and enduring skills of America's shipbuilding industry and its workers. Surely, even in this time of tight budgets, our nation can afford to honor the memory of the unsung heroes of one of the most remarkable periods of our history. In fact, we cannot afford to pass up this opportunity to memorialize the contributions and sacrifices made by everyday Americans to our nation's defense and to world peace.

Those who would visit a restored Iowa will better comprehend the awesome accomplishments of our nation—thus, this proud vessel will continue to serve the country for generations yet to be born.



Sincerely,

Ronald E. Ault
President