



NAVY APPROVES EX-HOGA TOWING PLAN

Washington, DC – February 6, 2009 – USS HOGA was built by Consolidated Shipbuilders, in Morris Heights, NY. The vessel was launched on December 31, 1940 and placed into service on May 22, 1941.

USS HOGA is best known for her actions during the Pearl Harbor attack. Coming under attack on the morning of December 7, 1941, the tugboat saved several ships caught in the harbor. The vessel pulled the damaged repair ship, USS VESTAL, away from the burning USS ARIZONA, and fought fires aboard USS ARIZONA. HOGA also pushed the minelayer USS OGLALA to a nearby dock and assisted the burning USS NEVADA by fighting fires and pushing the sinking vessel aground. This action prevented USS NEVADA from sinking in the channel and blocking the fleet's access to the open sea. For her actions, HOGA, her commanding officer, and the crew received a commendation from Admiral Chester A. Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet, in February 1942.

In 1948 the Navy loaned HOGA to the City of Oakland, CA, where it served as a firefighting tug for 45 years in San Francisco Bay. While still in service by the City, HOGA was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior in June 1989. The City of Oakland retired the vessel in 1993 and returned it to Navy custody. HOGA was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on July 12, 1996, and on July 28, 2005, the U.S. Navy officially donated the vessel to the City of North Little Rock following a competition between five applicants.

The City of North Little Rock plans to lift ex-HOGA onto a transport barge in Alameda, CA with a specially built cradle, where it will then be towed to New Orleans via the Panama Canal. In New Orleans, it will be lifted off the cradle and towed up the Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers to North Little Rock.

Ex-HOGA is the last remaining naval vessel afloat to see action in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The creation of the HOGA museum in North Little Rock will allow future generations to share and commemorate her rich history and memorialize a significant event in our country's past.