

INDEPENDENCE (CV-62)

Final Determination: 30 November 2010

The Fifth Ship of the Fleet to carry the Name

Built By: New York Naval Shipyard

Keel Laid: 7 July 1955

Launched: 6 June 1958

Commissioned: 10 January 1959

Decommissioned: 30 September 1998

A complete history of INDEPENDENCE is currently not available in the *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*. Her available narrative in this publication ends in 1967. For the ship's last nineteen years of service, it was necessary to review her unpublished Command Operations Reports [Command History Reports] in the collections of the History and Archives Division, Naval History and Heritage Command (formerly the Naval Historical Center's Naval Warfare Division, Ships' Histories Branch).

Deployments:

Mediterranean: 18

North Atlantic: 1 (some of her Mediterranean deployments included service in the North Atlantic). Her deployments also included service in the Caribbean.

Western Pacific: 11 (includes service in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf)

Awards:

Presidential Unit Citation: 0

Navy Unit Commendation: Multiple Awards

Meritorious Unit Commendation: Multiple Awards

Navy "E": Multiple Awards

Navy Expeditionary Service Medal: Multiple Awards

National Defense Service Medal: Multiple Awards

Southwest Asia Service Medal: Multiple Awards

Vietnam Service Medal: Multiple Awards

Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross): 1

Noteworthy Accomplishments / Events:

1962: Participated in the quarantine of Cuba

1991 – 1998: Second carrier home ported overseas (Yokosuka, Japan)

From 1995 – 1998, INDEPENDENCE was the oldest active USN ship and allowed to fly the First Navy Jack in lieu of the Union Jack.

Conclusion:

INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) does not meet the criteria to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. She does not have a Presidential Unit Citation; she is not first of class, and no U.S. President served in her. Although her long history is an honorable one, it does not justify listing on the Register.

NOTE: The following ships, considered a separate class, are developments on the Forrestal design. They are included, briefly, here for comparison.

Sources:

INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) Decommissioning Program Dated 30 September 1998

Friedman, Norman. U.S. Aircraft Carriers An Illustrated Design History. Naval Institute Press, Annapolis 1983.

Grossnick, Roy. United States Naval Aviation 1910 – 1995. Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C. 1996.

Polmar, Norman. The Naval Institute Guide to the Ships and Aircraft of the U.S. Fleet 15th ed. Naval Institute Press, Annapolis 1993.

Polmar, Norman. The Naval Institute Guide to the Ships and Aircraft of the U.S. Fleet 18th ed. Naval Institute Press, Annapolis 2005.

USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) DANFS Entry. Unattributed
<http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/i1/independence-v.htm>

Command Histories and Command Operations Reports for CV62 in the collections of the History and Archives Division, Naval History and Heritage Command (formerly Naval Historical Center, Naval Warfare Division, Ships' Histories Branch).

HISTORIC PRESERVATION STAKEHOLDER COMMENT:

Historic preservation stakeholder comments received are considered when preparing final determinations. The initial determination for this vessel was made available for comment by historic preservation stakeholders for 60 days. During that time, the Navy received zero (0) written comments.