

## Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation



### FINAL DETERMINATION

This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
CHARLESTON	LKA 113
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
Amphibious Cargo Ship	Launched as AKA 113, re-designated from attack cargo ship to amphibious cargo ship on 14 December 1968
Vessel Location	Current Status
INACTSHIPMAINTO Philadelphia, PA	Stricken

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
18 April 2016	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
4 August 2016	Ineligible

### Vessel Snapshot

<b>Lineage</b>	Fifth U. S. Navy ship to be named CHARLESTON, honoring the city in South Carolina, with this particular ship honoring the county of that name as well.
<b>Displacement</b>	19,323 tons (full displacement)
<b>Length</b>	576 ft.
<b>Beam</b>	82 ft.

<b>Draft</b>	27 ft.
<b>Speed</b>	20 knots
<b>Propulsion</b>	Steam turbine, single screw
<b>Armament</b>	Two 3"/50 cal. twin mounts; later replaced by <i>Phalanx</i> close-in mounts (CIWS)
<b>Laid Down</b>	5 December 1966
<b>Launched</b>	2 December 1967
<b>Built By</b>	Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, VA
<b>Sponsor</b>	Mrs. John S. Thach, wife of ADM John S. Thach, USN (Ret.).  ADM Thach had been Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, when his wife was invited to christen the vessel.
<b>Delivered</b>	5 December 1968
<b>Commissioned</b>	14 December 1968
<b>Decommissioned</b>	27 April 1992
<b>Stricken</b>	31 August 2015

### Vessel History

<b>Deployment Summary</b>	CHARLESTON operated in the Mediterranean, Pacific and Indian Oceans, as well in the Caribbean, in the Atlantic, and off the east coast of the United States. Supported the establishment of the U.S. Naval Communications Facility at Diego Garcia, in the Indian Ocean.
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<b>Awards</b>	1 Joint Meritorious Unit Award, 3 Navy “E” Ribbons, 1 award of the Vietnam Service Medal, 1 Humanitarian Service Medal
<b>Noteworthy Events</b>	Circumnavigated the globe in 1971. Participated in evacuation of civilians threatened by strife in Lebanon, June 1976. Also participated in Operation <i>Provide Comfort</i> (caring for Kurdish refugees), 1991.
<b>DANFS* Entry</b>	Place-saver entry in preparation.

\**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

### Criteria Evaluation<sup>1</sup>

<b>i. Was the vessel awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation</b>	No
<b>ii. Did an individual act of heroism take place aboard the vessel such that an individual was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross?</b>	No
<b>iii. Was a President of the United States assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?</b>	No
<b>iv. Was the vessel the first to incorporate engineering, weapons systems, or other upgrades that represent a revolutionary change in naval design or warfighting capabilities?</b>	No
<b>v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?</b>	No
<b>Historic Evaluation Conclusion</b>	Ineligible

<b>Sources</b>	Naval Vessel Register
	Welcome Aboard brochure (undated)

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### 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 no written comments.

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<sup>1</sup> Evaluation conducted using triggers established for naval vessels in *Program Comment for the Department of Navy for the Disposition of Historic Vessels*, issued by the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation on 15 March 2010.

<b>Comments Received</b>	<b>Comment Disposition</b>