

**Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation**  
FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
USNS Paul Buck	T-AOT-1122
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
Gus W Darnell (AOT 1121)	N/A
Vessel Location	Current Status
MARAD National Defense Reserve Fleet, Beaumont, TX	Disposed of by Navy title transfer to the Maritime Administration

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
6 Nov 2023	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
15 Apr 2024	Ineligible

**Vessel Snapshot**

<b>Lineage</b>	The ship was named after Merchant Marine Paul Buck, who was awarded the Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal.
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<b>Displacement</b>	32572 tons
<b>Length</b>	615 ft
<b>Beam</b>	90 ft
<b>Draft</b>	36 ft
<b>Speed</b>	16 knots (30 km/h; 18 mph)
<b>Propulsion</b>	Single shaft
<b>Armament</b>	Unarmed
<b>Laid Down</b>	1985
<b>Launched</b>	7 July 1985
<b>Built By</b>	American Ship Building Company
<b>Sponsor</b>	N/A
<b>Delivered</b>	7 July 1985
<b>Commissioned</b>	11 September 1985
<b>Inactivated</b>	30 June 2010
<b>Decommissioned</b>	30 June 2010
<b>Stricken</b>	30 June 2010

**Vessel History**

<b>Deployment Summary</b>	USNS Paul Buck (T-AOT-1122) was originally named the MV Paul Buck and used for transport of military assets in various theaters.
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	<p>It was not until the outbreak of the Iraq war in 2003 when the ship was purchased by the United States Navy that it was fully put under the operation of Military Sealift Command</p> <p>In 2010 the vessel was replaced by Empire State and Paul Buck was taken out of service and transferred to the Maritime Commission's National Defense Reserve Fleet.</p>
<b>Noteworthy Events</b>	<p>Long Term Charter by MSC: 11 September 1985 Acquired by US Navy 15 January 2003.</p> <p>USNS Paul Buck was part of Military Sealift Command's Sealift Program, transporting fuel for the Department of Defense. Paul Buck had missions including refueling the National Science Foundation in Antarctica and Thule Air Base in Greenland.</p> <p>Was originally constructed in 1985 by American Ship building Company, Tampa, Florida for Ocean Product Tankers of Houston for a long term charter to the United States Navy under the direction of Military Sealift Command.</p> <p>She was named after Captain Paul Buck, a Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal recipient.</p> <p>On 22 March 2023, the USNS Paul Buck, title was transferred by Navy to Maritime Administration (MARAD).</p>
<b>DANFS* Entry</b>	

\**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

**Criteria Evaluation<sup>1</sup>**

<b>i. Was the vessel awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation? (A Presidential Unit Citation is awarded to military units that have performed an extremely meritorious or heroic act, usually in the face of an armed enemy.)</b>	No
<b>ii. Did an individual act of heroism take place aboard the vessel such that an individual was subsequently awarded</b>	No

<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.

the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross? (The Medal of Honor is awarded for valor in action against an enemy force. The Navy Cross is awarded for extraordinary heroism in action not justifying an award of the Medal of Honor.)	
iii. Was a President of the United States assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?	No
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?	No
v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?	No
<b>Historic Evaluation Conclusion</b>	Ineligible

<b>Sources</b>	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USNS_Paul_Buck">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USNS_Paul_Buck</a>
	<a href="https://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_AOT_1122.HTML">https://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_AOT_1122.HTML</a>
	<a href="https://www.freightwaves.com/news/military-sealift-command-upgrades-tanker-fleet">https://www.freightwaves.com/news/military-sealift-command-upgrades-tanker-fleet</a>

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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 0 written comments.

Comments Received	Comment Disposition