



PCC Visits the USS Iowa

By Dave Atkinson

PCC had a wonderful event on Saturday the 20th of May on a tour of the USS Iowa in San Pedro. The journey started at the IHOP parking lot by John Wayne Airport in Irvine. The caravan, led by Dave and Arlene Atkinson, started up the 405 North swimmingly **BUT** then in Huntington Beach we hit a wall of traffic from an accident near Bolsa! There is always the fear that something could go wrong on these outings, and it started to look like we were not going to make it up to San Pedro in time... I've never in my life seen Google Maps change how long an accident delay could or could not last! Cool heads prevailed and we were able to resume our trek within 30 minutes or so. Kathy and Jerry Zechmeister surprised us all as they had sling-shotted past the caravan in the traffic by taking the carpool lane on the 405 North and were pulled over waiting for us on the 110 South exit ramp just off the 405! It did not take long to get to the ship from there and after talking to the USS Iowa office on the way there, they allowed all 14 Corvettes with twenty-three people from our club to park for free right in front of the ship!



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BATTLESHIP IOWA
LOS ANGELES



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The tour started with our docent/guide, Dave, leading us on five different levels of a real war fighting ship. It was designed to be staffed mostly by 19-year-old sailors. There were stairs that seemed more like ladders and many bulkheads to step over and under. We saw bunks, the mess hall, kitchens, a bakery, and lots of GUNS. Battleship USS Iowa served the US proudly in WWII, Korea, and the Cold War. It was launched on July 27, 1940, had three commissioning's, then was decommissioned on October 26, 1990. Today, the historic U.S. Navy ship is an iconic Los Angeles landmark and considered one of the region's best museums for families. During our visit and tour, we followed in the footsteps of sailors and the mascot Vicky the Dog. Donna Friess even met an almost 100-year-old man who is a "regular" greeter on board on the weekends.

It was interesting to learn about the battles the ship was a part of, how the ship was modified to carry President Roosevelt, and how it almost was sunk by one of our own ships. It carried President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Secretary of State Cordell Hull, and all the country's World War II military brass to the "big three" conferences in Cairo and Teheran. All of this makes it obvious why the USS Iowa is known as the "Battleship of Presidents," "The Grey Ghost," and "The Big Stick."

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After over 2 hours on tour at the USS Iowa, the whole group caravanned over the Vincent Thomas Bridge and the beautiful new Gerald Desmond Bridge, by shipping yards with their thousands of containers at the Ports of LA and Long Beach, to Curley's Café in Signal Hill for delicious burger, fries, and adult beverages! A fine time was had by all... ☒ Many thanks to David McCue for his photopgraphy!

