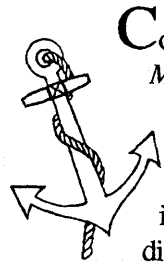


U.S. Naval Institute, Annapolis, Maryland

The third *USS Maryland*



Commissioned in July 1921 in the wake of World War I, the battleship *USS Maryland* was the first American ship mounted with 16-inch guns and featured a new type of seaplane catapult. She was also one of the 96 American ships basking in the early morning sun when Japanese attack planes filled the skies over Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941. Moored inboard of the *Oklahoma* along Battleship Row, she was shielded from a direct torpedo hit. Her anti-aircraft gunners destroyed two Japanese planes, including the first enemy plane downed by American forces.

The *Maryland* later participated in the fateful Battle of Midway in June, 1942, and earned the nickname "Fighting Mary" during several Pacific campaigns. "Fighting Mary" was severely damaged twice and earned seven battle stars for service. She also transported more than 9,000 American servicemen home at the end of the war as part of the "Magic Carpet" fleet and was decommissioned in 1947.

