

17 JUL 1992

Mr. Dennis H. J. Medina
Museum Curator
Dwight D. Eisenhower Library
Abilene, KS 67410

Dear Mr. Medina:

One highlight of President Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" program was the world's first commercial nuclear ship, N/S SAVANNAH. I am informed that your collection includes an oil painting of this ship, and other related materials. As an addition to the resources you preserve for scholar and citizen alike, I enclose a copy of the letter recently received from the American Nuclear Society, and the program of the 1991 Nuclear Historic Landmark Award Ceremony.

Sincerely,

Sgd. Captain Warren G. Leback

CAPTAIN WARREN G. LEBACK
Maritime Administrator

Enclosures (2)

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CC: 100, 220.3, 220MJM, 721(WLF), 800.2(ZL)



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June 29, 1992

Captain Warren G. Leback
Maritime Administrator
MAR 740.1, Room 2122
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Capt. Leback:

The Board of Directors of the American Nuclear Society approved the N/S Savannah at Patriots Point for a Nuclear Historic Landmark Award in October 1991. This award is symbolized by an inscribed bronze plaque, presented today. The inscription reads:

N/S SAVANNAH AT PATRIOTS POINT

The first U.S. nuclear-powered merchant vessel (1962-1971) built under President Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" program by the Maritime Administration and the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

As a further explanation of the N/S Savannah's place in history, the Board approved this citation:

The N/S Savannah was built in a joint program by the Maritime Administration and the Atomic Energy Commission under the Eisenhower Atoms for Peace initiative. It was a pressurized water reactor with 4.4% enriched uranium-235 oxide pellets in a matrix of tubular fuel elements. The power level was 74 Mw (thermal). The ship is 595.5 feet long with a 78 foot beam and displaced 21,800 long tons. The combination passenger and cargo ship could run 24 knots. The ship was designed by George G. Sharp, Inc. of New York and was built by New York Shipbuilding of Camden, New Jersey. The keel was laid by Patricia Nixon on May 22, 1958; the hull was launched by Mrs. Dwight Eisenhower on July 21, 1959; and then the reactor was installed, systems tested and the ship delivered for operations on January 31, 1962 with Captain Gaston DeGroot in command. The ship attained full nuclear power and was accepted by the operator, States Marine Lines Inc., on May 1, 1962.

The goal of the N/S Savannah program was to first prove technical feasibility of commercial nuclear powered ships and second to open ports of the world to nuclear powered ships. Both of these objectives were accomplished.

2. Capt. Leback

June 29, 1992

Before her deactivation by Todd Nuclear Division of Todd Shipyards in Galveston, Texas in 1971, the ship sailed 450,000 miles, visited 32 domestic ports and 45 foreign ports in 26 countries.

The ship is part of the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina.

The plaque is presented today, June 29, 1992 at a special presentation ceremony at the N/S Savannah at Patriots Point. The persons and organizations that contributed to the successful creation and operation of the N/S Savannah are to be congratulated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Rossin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

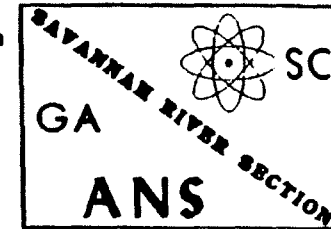
A. David Rossin

xc: Zelvin Levin, Maritime Administration, Washington, DC
Chuck Waldrop, Patriot's Point, Charleston, SC
E. W. Hunt, Jr. Savannah River Section, ANS
K. K. S. Pillay, Chair, ANS Honors and Awards Committee

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1991-1992



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Patriots Point

**Dick Condon
Al Nesmith**

NS Savannah Associates Wayne Britz

ANS

Joann Hollensteiner

*******ALL CEREMONY SPEAKERS*******

**AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY
1991 NUCLEAR HISTORIC
LANDMARK AWARD CEREMONY**

**JUNE 29, 1992
1:00 PM**

**PATRIOTS POINT
SOUTH CAROLINA**

N.S. SAVANNAH



NS SAVANNAH AT PATRIOTS POINT

The first U.S. nuclear powered merchant vessel (1962-1971) built under President Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" program by Maritime Administration and the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

**WELCOME &
INTRODUCTIONS**

MR. E. WAYNE HUNT, JR., PE
Savannah River Section

**AMERICAN NUCLEAR
SOCIETY**

DR. ROBERT L. LONG
Past ANS President

**NS SAVANNAH
Nuclear Design**

MR. JOHN LANDIS
Past ANS President

**NS SAVANNAH
Operations**

Mr. TED KEDZIERSKI
VP FAST

**PRESENTATION OF
AWARD**

DR. ROBERT L. LONG
Past ANS President

**ACCEPTANCE OF AWARD
& CLOSING REMARKS**

DR. ZELVIN LEVINE
Maritime Administration