

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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CIRCLE LINE SIGHTSEEING CRUISES TO WELCOME 18TH ANNUAL PARADE OF SHIPS

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER – CIRCLE LINE SIGHTSEEING CRUISES IS TO ACT AS A “FLOATING” GRANDSTAND

NEW YORK, NY, MAY 11, 2005 – U.S. Navy ships will glide into New York Harbor, and the skies above will rumble with the sounds of Hawkeyes, F-14 Tomcats and Hornets on Wednesday, May 25th as Fleet Week returns to New York City. For the first-time ever, Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises, will be acting as a “floating” grandstand bringing spectators closer than ever and offering superb views of these commanding U.S. Navel vessels, U.S. Coast Guard ships, along with a number of international naval ships.

The annual Parade of Ships will kick-off New York City’s 18th Annual Fleet Week celebration, May 25 – June 1. Selected to hold the lead position in this pagent procession of naval sea power is the USS Shreveport (LPD 12) commanded by LCDR David R. Bradley. This military flotilla includes the USS Cape St George (CG 71), PNS Tippu Sultan (D 185) a Pakistani ship, USS Carr (FFG 52), USCG Katherine Walker (WLM 552), USS Porter (DDG 78), ONR Starfish (YP 679), PNS Moawin (A 20) a Pakistani ship, USCG Vigorous (WEMC 627). Closing the celebration, is the famed aircraft carrier, USS John F. Kennedy (CV67), commanded by Captain Dennis FitzPatrick, a New York state native. This flagship vessel commissioned in 1968 is returning from Iraq, bringing home thousands of sailors and marines.

While captivated and awestruck by all the military power, simultaneously adding to the patriotic festivities aboard will be Rear Admiral Joseph F. Callo, U.S.N. R (Retired) serving as the official Grandstand Announcer, decribing each ship as she floats by. Callo’s last post before retiring was Naval Reserve Chief of Information and was the Public Affiars Commanding Officer for New York City’s first Fleet Week in 1987.

Parade-goers will benefit from Circle Line Sightseeing's positioning by the World Trade Center site, where they will be able to have a close-up view of the sailors man the rails of each vessel, rendering honors in memory of the sacrifices made on September 11, 2001. "The Parade of Ships Floating Grandstand offers spectators the best view for the event," said Andreas Sappok, Vice President General Manager, Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises, "our coordinated position with the U.S. Military brings our passengers closer to the excitement as New York City welcomes the fleet as they sail past the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum before the ships will moor at Manhattan's Pier 88 and Staten Island's Stapleton Pier.

The Parade of Ships is free to the public, the Circle Line Floating Grandstand seats can be reserved for \$75 (adults) and \$50 (children 12 & under). Ticket price includes a buffet-style continental breakfast, a selection of lunch items and unlimited non-alcoholic beverages. Individuals can purchase tickets by calling 212-563-3200 or visit www.circleline42.com. Reservations are required. Boarding begins at 8:00 a.m. and sailing will commence at 8:45 a.m. departing from Circle Line Sightseeing at 42nd Street Plaza, Pier 83, West 42nd Street & the Hudson River.

About Circle Line Sightseeing Yachts

Sailing since 1945, Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises at 42nd Street has hosted over 60 million passengers in New York City. Owned and operated by New York Cruise Lines, Inc., New York's oldest and largest provider of scheduled and chartered sightseeing and special function cruises. Residents and tourists can choose from five different leisurely tours including a three-hour *Full Island Cruise*, a two-hour *Semi-Circle Cruise*, 75-minute *Liberty Cruise*, two-hour twilight *Harbor Lights Cruise* or a 30-minute thriller boat ride aboard *The Beast*, coupled with convenient schedules to accommodate guests needs, state-of-the-art vessels, first class service and attentive crews. Cruises are not only designed to provide the best viewing opportunities, but to also be informative, comfortable and entertaining as well. Today, the company is recognized as one of the most famous boat rides in the entire world and is one of the oldest 42nd Street landmarks.

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Editor's note: For more details about these events and others, or to arrange for complimentary tickets for a journalist on assignment, please contact Anne Ryan or Jennifer Kelly, at 203-661-3663.

Important Note: For official photos of military ships, please visit the links below:

1. USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12) <http://www.shreveport.navy.mil/>
2. USS CAPE ST GEORGE (CG 71) <http://www.cape-st-george.navy.mil/>
3. USS CARR (FFG 52) <http://www.carr.navy.mil>
4. USCG KATHERINE WALKER (WLM 552) <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g%2Da/awl/bclass/wlm/keeperclass.htm>
5. USS PORTER (DDG 78) <http://www.porter.navy.mil/>
6. ONR STARFISH (YP 679) <http://www.onr.navy.mil/default.asp>
7. USCG VIGOROUS (WEMC 627) <http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/cutter/Vigorous/>
8. USS JOHN F KENNEDY (CV 67) <http://www.nol.navy.mil/homepages/cv67/>