



Thursday January 21, 2010

Mr. Frank Lennon  
President  
Rhode Island Aviation Hall of Fame  
P.O. Box 845  
North Kingstown, RI 02852

Dear Mr. Lennon,

On behalf of the board of directors and staff of the Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau we are pleased to offer our support for your efforts to bring the aircraft carrier USS John Kennedy to Aquidneck Island. As the official tourism marketing organization for Newport and Bristol County we are very excited about the possibility of adding a significant new visitor attraction to the waters of Narragansett Bay to compliment other area attractions and strengthen our overall tourism program.

We believe the addition of the USS John Kennedy would be a perfect match for Newport and Aquidneck Island for several reasons;

1. We currently welcome over 3 million visitors annually that might like the opportunity to see & tour such a great ship. We see the potential to develop and package local train service to and from the carrier as a new innovative way to promote accessibility and enhance the visitor experience.
2. The United States Navy has a long and rich history in Newport County. Having such an attraction would be a fitting tribute to this long standing collaboration.
3. The Kennedy family history with Aquidneck Island. Newport was the summer home of Jacqueline Bouvier. John F. Kennedy married Ms. Bouvier here in September 1953. Their summer home, Hammersmith Farm served as the "Summer White House" during the Kennedy administration.
4. The local hotel industry on the island is well developed and eager to market this potential attraction to military reunions and aviation enthusiasts on a year round basis.

In closing we would like to express our total enthusiasm for this potential project. It would be absolutely fantastic if we could welcome the USS John Kennedy here to start a new chapter in the ship's great history. We look forward to following the progress of your efforts with great interest and hope.

Sincerely,

Evan Smith  
President & CEO