



The Honorable Pete Wilson
Governor of California



GOVERNOR PETE WILSON

October 31, 1997

Captain R. C. Perkins, USN
Commanding Officer
USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11)
FPO AP 96627-1650

Dear Captain Perkins:

Gayle and I are delighted to extend our best regards to you and everyone who has gathered today in San Diego for the decommissioning ceremony of the USS NEW ORLEANS.

The third United States vessel to bear the name, NEW ORLEANS was commissioned on November 16, 1968 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Since then, she has served with honor and distinction in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, Somalia and a host of other operations that were critical to the vital interests of the United States of America. Her presence and the dedication of her crew members, both past and present, have contributed significantly to the security of our Nation during a turbulent era.

A proud and lasting testament to world peace and freedom, NEW ORLEANS has borne great tidings of safety and support to many people in need. Those who have tended her weathered decks have taken part in an important legacy of Naval service that will not soon be forgotten.

On this special occasion, I am honored to join her captain, officers, crew and the civilian community in saluting the USS NEW ORLEANS for her 29 years of remarkable service.

Sincerely,

PETE WILSON



The Honorable Mike J. Foster, Jr.
Governor of Louisiana



M. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

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September 15, 1997

Captain R. C. Perkins, USN
Commanding Officer
USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11)
FPO AP 96627-1650

Dear Captain Perkins:

On the solemn occasion of decommissioning USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11), I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of her crew members, both past and present. She is a great warship because of your dedicated service.

USS NEW ORLEANS has served her country well for almost three decades. She has fought in two major conflicts, and assisted countless thousands of people with much needed humanitarian assistance. She has maintained America's forward presence in many places where many of us would not care or dare to be, and has played a significant role in the development of improved military capabilities. In addition to national defense, NEW ORLEANS has made major contributions to our country's foreign relations and the space program.

Although NEW ORLEANS' commissioned service is at an end, her spirit and devotion to freedom will live on in those who served on this great ship. Americans can sleep well knowing that the security of their nation is in your capable hands. On behalf of the people of Louisiana, I thank you for your service to our great country, and wish you every success in the future.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

M. J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.