

represented the nation with dignity and grace around the globe. In 1969, she hosted the Eighth Vietnamese Awards Ceremony. Guests included the Prime Minister of the Republic of Vietnam, Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet, and numerous other dignitaries. Over the years, she has received several foreign heads of state, the Bolshoi Ballet, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, several Chiefs of Naval Operations, and Miss America, to name a few.

NEW ORLEANS also enjoyed her share of the limelight. In 1971 the popular Mike Douglas TV Show was filmed onboard. In addition to the media coverage of all the space program recoveries, several portions of the Oscar winning movie "Apollo 13," starring Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon, and Bill Paxton, were shot onboard. NEW ORLEANS' Hollywood career ended in May of 1997, after the crew

participated in the filming of the TV movie tentatively titled "A Thousand Men and a Baby." The movie is based on a true story about a U. S. Navy ship that recovered and cared for an infant during the Korean War. The movie is scheduled to air on CBS affiliates at 9 PM (PST), December 7, 1997.

Throughout her 29 year history, NEW ORLEANS has always lived up to the "Hallmark" standard. As a fighting ship, she has never let her country down, always ready to go in harm's way to defend our national interests. NEW ORLEANS has excelled in every endeavor; her many accomplishments are a tribute to the fine Navy and Marine Corps Team that has served with her so well. Her legacy of excellence will be the standard by which other amphibious assault ships will be judged in the years to come. She will be sorely missed.

Fair winds and following seas, NEW ORLEANS!

NEW ORLEANS' ANCESTORS

The first ship intended to bear the name NEW ORLEANS, a wooden ship of 2,805 tons and 74 guns, was never commissioned. She was under construction during the War of 1812, and work was suspended when the war ended. She was sold in 1883, having been in an unfinished condition for 68 years.

The first ship commissioned as USS NEW ORLEANS was a light cruiser of 3,430 tons built in England for the Government of Brazil. The AMOZONES, as she was named by the Brazilians, was purchased by the United States on March 16, 1898. Commissioned by the U. S. Navy on March 18, 1898, she served with distinction in both the Spanish-American War and World War I. She remained in commission until 1920.

The second USS NEW ORLEANS (CA 32) was one of six ASTORIA class heavy cruisers completed just prior to World War II. Built at the Brooklyn Naval Shipyard, the 10,000 ton cruiser was commissioned on February 15, 1934. NEW ORLEANS operated with the Atlantic Fleet until 1936, when she was assigned to the Pacific Fleet. Surviving the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, NEW ORLEANS went on to participate in a total of 17 Pacific Campaign engagements during World War II. She was decommissioned in 1946.

