

# Nation Pays Honor to John Paul Jones

Washington, D. C.—(INS)—America will pay tribute today to the memory of John Paul Jones on the 200th birthday anniversary of the rugged sea fighter who led the nation's infant navy to victory in the Revolutionary war.

Retired Fleet Admiral William F. Halsey will be the principal speaker at a celebration at historic Fredericksburg, Va., honoring the father of the United States fleet.

**Fleet Admirals Chester W. Nimitz, Retired Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King and a host of army and navy celebrities will attend.**

Rear Admiral Eugen Georgievich Glinkov, Soviet naval attache in Washington, and a group from the Russian embassy, will journey to the little Virginia town 55 miles distant to participate in the ceremony.

At one time in his colorful career, Jones helped the Empress Catherine the Great fight the Turks.

Speakers are expected to recall the preparedness warning of America's first naval hero, who said:

**"America must become the first marine power in the world. In time of peace it is necessary to prepare, to be always prepared for war by sea."**

Jones was urgently called from honorable retirement in Paris in 1788 to help the Russian empress carry on the traditional Russo-Turkish fight for control of the Dardanelles, which had again flared into open hostilities.

With the permission of the United States government he accepted the invitation to enter the Russian American citizenship.

**His Russian tour of duty is believed to have contributed to his untimely death on July 18, 1794 at the age of 45.**

Fredericksburg was chosen as the site for the ceremonies because it was the home of Jones' brother, and there he spent much of his time ashore.

Jones was born in Scotland on July 6, 1774. He was apprenticed to a ship owner at the age of twelve. By 1772 he was the master of his own ship.

**Jones was the first to offer his services to the continental navy when the colonies broke away from England. He was commissioned on Dec. 7, 1775.**

As master of the Bonhomme Richard, Jones was most famous for his battle with the British vessel, Serapis.

His ship was a burning hull, half his crew were dead or dying, and his guns were out of action. When called on to surrender by the British Jones made his immortal reply:

**"Surrender! We have just begun to fight!"**

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jamespcarrion  
Sun, Sep 9, 2018