

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLMOTT

To amend and reenact R.S. 25:1005, 1005.2, and 1005.3(A), relative to the Kenner Naval Museum Commission; to remove provisions relative to acquisition and exhibit of a specific ship by the museum; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. R.S. 25:1005, 1005.2, and 1005.3(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

The legislature hereby recognizes that it is appropriate to establish a naval museum on the Mississippi River at Kenner and that including a naval vessel of historic significance as part of such museum will be a significant factor in its effectiveness. The legislature finds that such a museum would be an excellent educational and historical facility for Louisianians, especially school children, and would also be a distinctive attraction to visitors to Louisiana and that the location of such a facility at Kenner would complement and be complemented by the many museums and other visitor attractions located there. The legislature recognizes that the museum would also pay fitting tribute to those citizens of Louisiana who participated in the naval engagements of our past wars. ~~The legislature therefore further recognizes the desirability of including as part of the museum the U.S.S. Cabot-Dedalo, formerly an aircraft carrier of the United States Navy which was involved in virtually the entire Pacific campaign in World War II and which later was the flagship of the Spanish Navy.~~

* * *

1 §1005.2. Duties

2 A. The commission shall have authority to acquire, lease, transport, berth,
3 renovate, equip, operate, and maintain, and to exhibit ~~the aircraft carrier U.S.S.~~
4 ~~Cabot-Dedalo or, if acquisition thereof becomes impossible or impractical, then any~~
5 ~~other~~ property acquired for use as a permanent naval museum, and to adopt rules and
6 regulations for the use of such museum and its properties.

7 B. The commission may have control over ~~the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Cabot-~~
8 ~~Dedalo or other~~ any naval museum vessel it acquires, and shall have control over any
9 improvements and exhibits located thereon and any additions constructed, created,
10 leased, acquired, or erected in connection therewith.

11 C. The commission shall select a site for permanently docking ~~the U.S.S.~~
12 ~~Cabot-Dedalo or other~~ any naval museum vessel it acquires at Kenner and make all
13 necessary arrangements for leasing or acquiring a location for its exhibition.

14 D. The commission shall be responsible for all distribution and collection of
15 funds connected with this project. It is also authorized to contract for, receive,
16 accept, and expend any funds made available from public or private sources. No
17 employees of the commission shall be deemed to be employees of the state or be
18 entitled to join the state retirement system.

19 E. The commission is authorized and empowered to contract for professional
20 management of all or part of the operations of ~~the U.S.S. Cabot-Dedalo, or other~~ any
21 naval vessels it acquires and related facilities.

22 F. The commission shall have the authority to contract with the U.S.O., U.S.
23 Navy and any other branch of the U.S. Armed Services, other naval and military
24 museums, military and quasi-military organizations, corporations, individuals, and
25 other legal entities for the purpose of soliciting and acquiring exhibits, equipment,
26 additional improvements, films, videos, photographs, and memorabilia for public
27 display, as well as donations for the acquisition of such items, and for events on ~~the~~
28 ~~U.S.S. Cabot-Dedalo, or other~~ any naval vessel it acquires.

§1005.3. Authority to acquire, lease, construct, and finance certain facilities and improvements

A. The Kenner Naval Museum Commission, in addition to those duties specified in R.S. 25:1005.2, shall have the authority to acquire, lease, construct, and finance a landing facility for commercial excursion boats, an observation area, a platform for tourist related recreational projects, and other related improvements to ~~the U.S.S. Cabot-Dedalo and its related museum~~ any naval vessel it acquires, as needed public facilities and improvements, and as a means of enhancing the revenue-producing potential of such facilities. In the exercise of this authority, the commission is further authorized and empowered to enter into and execute an agreement or agreements with ~~the U.S.S. Cabot-Dedalo Foundation~~, the city of Kenner, the parish of Jefferson, or ~~at~~ both of them, hereinafter referred to as the "foundation", ~~the~~ "city"; and the "parish", and such entities are likewise authorized to enter into such agreements for participation by the foundation, the city, and the parish in the acquisition, construction, and financing of such facilities and improvements.

* * *

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____