

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



USS Yorktown Museum

Innovative Museum Storage Systems Protect Historic Items

CHALLENGE

The USS Yorktown is a World War II-era aircraft carrier currently anchored at Patriot's Point in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. On the list of National Historic Landmarks, it currently serves as a maritime museum. Among its many collections is an array of 150 flags measuring from 3' x 5' to an astounding 30' by 90'. Finding a way to collect, organize and properly store this museum's historic items was a unique task, especially given that the unconventional spaces used onboard the vessel as museum storage were oddly shaped.

SOLUTION

A collection of seven Spacesaver Textile Racks were gently lowered, piece by piece, down the ship's precarious stairs and around tight corners into their new home. There are five levels per side on most of the racks, and four levels in those areas where the units are situated underneath the ship's piping. Each level can hold three flags (wrapped in Tyvek for moisture protection) on the storage arms or level. The system can store a total of 144 flags. It's designed to provide storage for 75 4' x 6' flags and 69 3' x 5' flags.

ACHIEVEMENT

"We were retrofitting a warship that was not designed to be a museum," said Patriot's Point Collections Curator Melissa Buchanan. "We've adjusted the areas to make them more ideal for museum storage. The textile racks installed by Patterson Pope have really helped me and my team achieve our aim; namely, to adequately house and commemorate a hugely important aspect of our collections."



"I feel like we're really giving people the sense that this was a floating city. By being able to talk with former sailors and their families, see and feel some of these things that commemorate their experiences here, we're bringing the ship back to life, in a way. We're giving it a new purpose. It's a special thing to be a part of, yes. And Patterson Pope definitely is helping us tell those stories."

Melissa Buchanan
Patriot's Point Collections Curator

