

# USS Yorktown Museum Improves Historic Flag Preservation with Purpose-Built Textile Storage

## CHALLENGE

The USS Yorktown, a WWII-era aircraft permanently docked at Patriot's Point in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, houses thousands of historic artifacts, including an impressive collection of 150 ceremonial flags ranging from 3' x 5' to a massive 30' x 90'.

But storing these irreplaceable textiles on board a warship came with challenges. The museum's available spaces were unconventional, oddly shaped, and never designed for modern collections care. Staff needed a solution that could:

- » Fit into tight, irregular ship corners
- » Safely house large-format flags
- » Improve organization and protect items from moisture and deterioration

As Collections Curator Melissa Buchanan put it, "We were retrofitting a warship that was not designed to be a museum."

## SOLUTION

Patterson Pope worked with the museum to design a system capable of navigating the ship's narrow staircases, low overheads, and turns that would stop standard storage equipment in its tracks.

Seven Spacesaver Textile Racks were lowered piece-by-piece into place, configured to fit beneath pipes and structural elements on board the vessel. Highlights included:

- » Five levels per side on most racks; four levels in lower-clearance areas
- » Capacity for 144 textile rolls, each wrapped in Tyvek for moisture protection
- » Dedicated storage for 75 flags at 4' x 6' and 69 flags at 3' x 5'

Each rack arm provides proper support for oversized flags while preserving airflow and preventing creasing or compression.



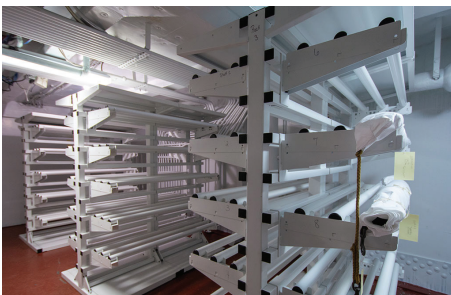
***"The textile racks have really helped me and my team achieve our aim."***

## ACHIEVEMENT

The new textile storage system dramatically improved preservation quality, organization, and day-to-day efficiency for the museum staff. The upgraded setup allows the Yorktown team to properly house one of its most meaningful collections – and strengthen the storytelling that brings the ship’s history to life.

“We’ve adjusted the areas to make them more ideal for museum storage,” Buchanan said. “The textile racks installed by Patterson Pope have really helped me and my team achieve our aim: to adequately house and commemorate a hugely important aspect of our collections.”

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## ABOUT PATTERSON POPE

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