National Civil War Museum Advisory Council Member

Member Contact	Organization	Location
Bruce H. Smith, Executive Director	**National Civil War Naval Museum**	**Columbus, GA**

Bruce H. Smith assumed the role of Executive Director of the National Civil War Naval Museum in 1998. Bruce graduated from the University of Arizona with a B.S. in Business Administration in 1971. He joined the National Museum of the Pacific War at the Admiral Nimitz Center (Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.) in 1984 as Curator. In 1985, he became the Acting Superintendent; and in 1986-1998, he was the Director.

Mr. Smith has been involved in numerous consulting projects and professional presentations, including the following:

- "Battleship Row during the Attack" – Veterans Panel Moderator – Pearl Harbor Symposium, Honolulu, Hawaii, 1991;
- "Charles Nimitz in the Civil War" – The Nueces Encounter, the Civil War in the Hill Country Symposium, Fredericksburg, Texas;
- AAM MAP Survey, Mississippi River Confederate Battery and Historic Site, 1998;
- "From Dynamite to Delicate: an archeological timeline for the CSS Jackson", Georgia Archeological Society, Savannah, May, 2001; and
- "The Gustavus Fox Confederate Collection," Numerous presentations, 2004.

Bruce is a member of the American Association of Museums; the American Association for State and Local History; the Historic Naval Ships Association; the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries; the Company of Military Historians; the Southeast Museums Conference; and has been named to the Governor's Committee for the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

The National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus, formerly the Confederate Naval Museum, is the only institution in the nation dedicated to telling the little-known maritime story of the Civil War. This 40,000-square-foot facility located on the Chattahoochee River in Columbus opened in 2001 and features the remains of two original Confederate Navy ships, along with full-scale reproductions of parts of three other famous Civil War ships and numerous artifacts.

A major feature of Port Columbus is the CSS *Jackson*, a 225-foot ironclad ship built in the Confederate Navy Shipyard, which is located less than a mile from the current museum. While under construction, a U.S. Cavalry column under General James Wilson burned the shipyard and the CSS *Jackson*.

The *Jackson* was raised in 1961 and brought back to Columbus, where today it forms the nucleus of the museum.

Port Columbus is designed to place its visitors inside the stories it tells. Reproduced ships, including the USS *Hartford*, the USS *Monitor*, and the ironclad CSS *Albemarle*, are open so that Civil War naval life can be experienced from the inside.

Years of collecting have resulted in an extraordinary array of artifacts on display.

Special events are held year-round at Port Columbus and range from academic symposia to living-history activities. The museum's largest annual event is "RiverBlast", held in early March on the weekend nearest the anniversary of the facility's opening.

For more information, visit www.portcolumbus.org

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