

# HEY KIDS, CHECK OUT SOME COOL HISTORY ON THE



The Port of Wilmington sits on the site of the former North Carolina Shipbuilding Shipyard, where Liberty and Victory ships were built during World War II. United States merchant mariners crewed these ships during the war. The Maritime Day Wreath Memorial Ceremony, held each May, recognizes these veterans and all who serve or have served in the nation's merchant marine. The Wilmington maritime community promotes the importance of maritime commerce on the Cape Fear River and also observes National Maritime Day.

- NC State Ports Authority cherishes its ties to the US merchant marine, dating back to its heritage as a shipyard during World War II.
- In the early 1940s, when the Port of Wilmington was formerly the North Carolina Shipbuilding Shipyard, some 20,000 shipyard workers built 243 Liberty and Victory ships to support the war effort.
- The Port in Wilmington serves vessels that sail in support of US military deployments, redeployments and humanitarian relief efforts throughout the world.



*Members of Wilmington's maritime community dedicate the wreath for National Maritime day.*



*Wreath is given to the US Coast Guard, where they place the wreath on the Cape Fear River.*

## ALSO HERE IS AN AWESOME BOOK TO READ!

***Waterways to the World***: the story of the North Carolina State Ports Authority, a recently published book, tells the history of the State Ports Authority and its ties to the US merchant marines.

