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# A LEGEND RETURNS



Navy League Cadets of New Haven pay a visit to the Intrepid. Photos by Susan Watts/Daily News

## Hundreds hop aboard new-look Intrepid after \$115M makeover

BY ANDREW S. GARIB  
DAILY NEWS WRITER

THE RETIRED aircraft carrier turned West Side floating museum reopened its doors yesterday after a \$115 million makeover.

Hundreds of people began lining up as early as 9 a.m. to get a look at the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum. Among those marveling at the 22-month renovation were about 1,000 active-duty Marines and sailors.

Ray Stone, 83, who retired from the Navy, spent three years aboard the Intrepid when it launched in 1943. Stone was just 18 when he began serving on the ship. He and his shipmates survived five kamikaze attacks, he said.

"Hopefully it's an inspiration to our youth," said Stone, of Long Island. "Now I can take my grandchildren here."

Kevin Brown, 56, the son of a retired Navy admiral who served in Vietnam, brought his two sons, Nikolas, 12, and Alex, 11. They were first in line, waiting an hour and a half to get inside.

"It's bridging the generations so they have an appreciation and respect for our men and women in uniform," said Brown, a real estate broker from Brooklyn.

The warship saw action in World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. More than 750,000 people a year visited the museum on the Hudson River before its face-lift.

President Bush will attend Veterans Day ceremonies at the museum where he will receive the 2008 Intrepid Freedom Award.

"This is a city landmark and a landmark in American history," museum curator John Zukowsky said. "It's exciting."



Sebastian, 4, (l.) and Kai Widick, 6, check out a Bell 47 chopper at the just reopened Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum on West Side.