

DR. JAMES P. DELGADO

Dr. James P. Delgado's career spans nearly five decades of investigating the past and sharing discovery and history with a global audience. Archaeologist, historian, journalist, educator, museum director, television host and government official, he often jokes that his career demonstrates his fundamental inability to keep a job. Actually, his professional journey has kept a focus on the past, especially our seafaring history. Passionately dedicated to exploration, for the past decade he has increasingly focused on deep ocean exploration, new technologies for reaching not only the deep but a worldwide audience through the use of robotic vehicles, satellites and the Internet to bring the public along with him as he explores the world miles below the surface of the ocean.

Dr. Delgado's connection to USS *Hornet* comes from his tenure as the founding head of the U.S. Government's maritime preservation program, where he oversaw a nationwide inventory of historic maritime and naval properties, ships and shipwrecks. He personally conducted the study that led to *Hornet*'s designation as a National Historic Landmark – as well as many other significant naval vessels, including the wrecks of USS *Arizona* and USS *Utah* at Pearl Harbor. As an archaeologist, many of his projects have involved significant naval wrecks, from the 1840s brig *Somers*, Pearl Harbor, D-Day wrecks off Normandy, and the atomic-bombed test fleet of Operation Crossroads at Bikini. There, he explored and documented the carrier USS *Saratoga*. Most recently, he returned to his native Bay Area and led dives with robotic vehicles to explore and document the carrier USS *Independence*, resting off Half Moon Bay, thirty miles offshore in nearly 3,000 feet of water. He also led the expedition that discovered, lying off the Golden Gate, the long-lost U.S. Navy tug *Conestoga*, which went missing in 1921 and remained one of the top ten mysteries in the American naval history until rediscovered. Dr. Delgado was the government official who then contacted as many families and descendants as could be found to notify them in advance of an official announcement. He understands what that means; his wife's uncle, a naval aviator assigned to VT-5 on USS *Yorktown*, was MIA after the Battle of the Coral Sea for months until he arrived at Pearl Harbor after being rescued by local natives and started on a long voyage through enemy waters in a camouflaged trading schooner to a U.S. Advance Base.

Dr. Delgado currently serves as the Senior Vice President of SEARCH, Inc., the nation's largest company devoted to archaeology, historic preservation and museum services, working throughout the United States and globally. He remains active in field work, most recently leading search efforts to locate the wreck of *Clotilda*, the last ship to bring slaves to the United States on the eve of the Civil War, and he has just returned from Panama, where he assisted in the exhumation, from an unmarked grave, of the inventor of America's first deep diving submarine, a Civil War naval veteran who died of fever in Panama while working with his amazing craft in 1867. The reburial, with full honors, will take place in February, and Dr. Delgado will be there. He continues to share his work with the public on television and in writing; his thirty-fourth book, "War At Sea: A Shipwrecked History from Antiquity to the Cold War," will be published next Spring by Oxford University Press.

Dr. Delgado's presentation at the gala will focus on the legacy of war at sea with an emphasis on the need to preserve historic ships like Hornet, drawing from his work and observations around the world, and also speaking to the other "museum" that rests beneath the sea. As an active explorer, archaeologist and historian, he will share stories of finding and documenting these lost warships, why that is important, and why, as well, why Hornet and other floating historic naval vessels are key to understanding and appreciating these ships, their crews, and the families associated with them.