



August 1, 2025

Charles R. Bowery, Jr.  
Executive Director and Chief of Military History  
Center of Military History  
102 4th Avenue  
Washington, DC 20319-5060

Susan K. Springman  
Deputy Executive Director  
Center of Military History  
102 4th Avenue  
Washington, DC 20319-5060

Commanding General Gary M. Brito  
US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC)  
950 Jefferson Avenue  
Fort Eustis, VA 23604-5700

Deputy Commanding General David Francis  
TRADOC  
950 Jefferson Avenue  
Fort Eustis, VA 23604-5700

Dear Executive Director Bowery, Deputy Executive Director Springman, General Brito, and General Francis,

We write to express my strong opposition to the proposed permanent closure of the Harbor Defense Museum at Fort Hamilton. As a New York State Senator and New York City Councilman whose districts previously included the museum and who continue to represent many nearby communities, we urge you to remove the museum from the closure list.

The Harbor Defense Museum is the only publicly accessible military history museum in South Brooklyn and serves as a vital link between the civilian community and the military history of our region. It is housed on the grounds of one of the few remaining active military posts in New York City and tells the story of our nation's coastal defense in an engaging, educational, and accessible way. The museum's free admission, historic setting, and relevance to generations of local veterans, service members, and students make it a cherished community resource. Its closure would eliminate a unique public opportunity to connect with New York's—and America's—defense history.

We urge you to reconsider this decision and work with local, state, and federal partners to preserve this invaluable institution. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued service in preserving our nation's history.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Gounardes  
Member of Senate, 26th District

Justin Brannan  
NYC Councilman, 47th District