The Parker Leadership Society

Maine Maritime Museum invites you to envision your legacy...

Your involvement helps assure that Maine’s special maritime heritage and culture remain vibrant and relevant, bringing knowledge and enjoyment today, and benefiting generations to come. The museum has grown and prospered through the generosity of many individuals since its founding in 1962. Through the Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker Leadership Society, we recognize and honor them and assure that their contributions will not be forgotten.

Join the Parker Leadership Society of individuals who have made a planned gift benefiting the Museum.

Gifts qualifying for the Parker Leadership Society are bequests, life income gifts, gifts of life insurance policies, tax-deferred retirement plans, and major gifts of objects to the collection that are accompanied by a cash gift for their perpetual care. Contact the museum’s Development Director to discuss options and details in confidence. The museum encourages individuals to confer with professional counsel for legal advice at any point in the estate planning process.

Planned gifts, large and small, have the potential to transform the museum — and the donor. Make Maine’s heritage part of your legacy — make a gift to Maine Maritime Museum today!

Maine Maritime Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a 509(a)(1) public charity, exempt from federal taxes. We are supported by a broad base of gifts, grants and contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations, and we do not receive state or federal support except for competitively awarded grants.

Taxes and the state and federal laws that regulate them can change and be complex. You should seek the counsel of an attorney or financial advisor as you consider a planned gift. The museum’s Director of Development will ask you to provide basic written documentation of your intended gift. All information will remain strictly confidential. If you wish to participate in the Parker Leadership Society, but be listed as anonymous, please let us know.
Why does Maine Maritime Museum matter?
The museum celebrates Maine’s maritime history and traditions providing future generations with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the state’s unique heritage and assuring that this important facet of Maine’s culture is preserved forever.

Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker
The well-considered nature of a generous gift from Capt. W.J. Lewis Parker provides the inspiration for the founding of the Capt. W.J. Lewis Parker Leadership Society, which recognizes individuals who have made provisions for Maine Maritime Museum in their wills or through other planned gifts.

For many years, Capt. Parker was a worldwide authority on large cargo schooners of the U.S. Eastern Seaboard. Upon his death in 2006, he left his extensive collection of manuscripts, photographs, and maritime books to the museum. He also gave an unrestricted gift of cash to support the museum in whatever ways its trustees deemed most needed, that in part provided for the stewardship of his collection.

Please see MaineMaritimeMuseum.org/ParkerSociety for the full and inspiring story of Capt. Parker.

Types of Planned Gifts
Please contact the museum’s Director of Development to discuss options and details in confidence. The museum encourages individuals to seek professional legal and financial advice at any point in the estate planning process.

Contributions are tax deductible as provided by law. All donors receive a written acknowledgment of their gifts for their tax records.

Bequest
Giving to the museum via your will or trust is straightforward. Simply specify a set dollar amount, a certain percentage of your overall estate, or list specific assets that you would like to bequeath to the museum. If you already have a will or revocable trust, your attorney can draft a codicil to your will or an amendment to your trust agreement to add Maine Maritime Museum as a beneficiary.

Special Charitable Trust
Trusts accomplish important goals: protecting your family, expressing your charitable intentions, and maximizing tax savings. If you have a large estate, you may have already set up a trust or be in the process of considering one.

If you would like to charitably support the museum, share your intention with your estate attorney. He or she can craft an arrangement through your trust to benefit the museum and at the same time provide current income and tax savings to you or your family. The museum is prepared to work with you on different instruments such as CRUTs, CRATs, and lead trusts.

Retirement Plan Designation
Designating a retirement asset to go to the museum is beneficial to your estate and easy to do. When you make a charitable nonprofit a direct beneficiary for all or a portion of your Individual Retirement Account or pension, there will be no income tax on the designated amount.

Insurance Policy Designation
Life insurance policies are contracts that name one or more beneficiaries who will receive the policy’s value upon the death of the policy holder. If you designate Maine Maritime Museum as a beneficiary, the Museum will receive the payout upon your death, and your estate will receive a charitable deduction.

If you are interested in receiving a tax deduction now, you can name the museum as both the owner and the beneficiary of your policy; as you continue to pay future premiums, you may deduct those payments as charitable contributions as well.

Charitable Gift Annuity
Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs) provide lifetime income and some tax benefits in exchange for your gift. The museum’s trustees are investigating the establishment of a CGA program. If you are interested in this program, please contact the Director of Development.

Gifts of Tangible Property
Acceptance of personal property including boats will be assessed under the museum’s collections and gift acceptance policies. Major gifts of objects qualifying for the Parker Leadership Society are also accompanied by a cash gift for their perpetual care.