



## **USS Constitution Museum Receives the 2011 Bronze MUSE Award for Online Game “A Sailor’s Life For Me!”**

*This is Not Your Ordinary History Lesson!*

BOSTON, MA- The USS Constitution Museum received the Bronze MUSE Award for Online Presence at the American Association of Museums (AAM) Conference in Houston Texas, May 23, 2011. The Museum, located in the Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston, MA across from “Old Ironsides,” received this award for the creation of online game and educational resource, “A Sailor’s Life For Me!” According to AAM, this award was granted “in recognition of the highest standards of excellence in the use of media and technology.”

This isn’t your ordinary history lesson! Students, families and educators are invited to join the fight for freedom on the high seas when they virtually enlist as sailors on board USS CONSTITUTION and travel back in time to prepare for the War of 1812. Users can explore the ship, scrub a filthy deck, or fire a cannon! Meeting real sailors who served on CONSTITUTION in 1812 helps today’s online users feel connected and compels them not just to learn history, but experience it. The voyage of discovery on board USS CONSTITUTION through “A Sailor’s Life for Me!” is a primary example of what is truly at the heart of the Museum: education, interpretation and the memory of “Old Ironsides.”

The Museum staff has invested ten years of research into the history and lives of sailors during the War of 1812 and has transformed that research into an award-winning game. The website invites virtual users to explore CONSTITUTION and sample a sailor’s life from this time period through historically accurate depictions of life on a sailing warship. History comes alive and is experienced through detailed drawings by artist Stephen Biesty, the words of author Richard Platt, and animations by web developers Eduweb. The Institute of Museum and Library Services funded this project and the US Navy Office of Commemorations is supporting the accompanying curriculum that is currently under development to be completed for Fall 2012. With the approach of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, the Museum is proud to be recognized with such an esteemed award.

### **USS Constitution Museum**

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