

A new life for the Aviso ARA “General Irigoyen” It retired last year from active duty

It served as a rescue ship and for training divers and now it will be a boat museum. The army and the San Pedro commune signed an agreement so that the ship will be used for maritime divulgation.



A floating museum arrives at San Pedro

After signing an agreement with the navy, the General Irigoyen vessel will become an attractive floating museum filled with cultural and touristic material, on the Paraná riverside. It already arrived at the San Pedro port, from Zárate. The navy retired the ship, acquired in the United States in 1961, and offered it to the San Pedro City municipality in order to create a museum that will have projection and conference rooms, guided tours, a deck adapted for shows and the gallant presence of a historical ship in the privileged touristic coast of the city.

In the Libertad building, the chief of staff of the Navy Admiral Jorge Omar Godoy, received the municipal mayor in his office, Pablo Guacone and after a brief interview they headed towards the convention room where the protocol ceremony took place. The Navy's head officers participated as well as a group of municipal servants who accompanied the communal chief, amongst them, the Director of Culture and member of the Fossil Conservation Group José Luis Aguilar; the Secretary of Production and Tourism Norberto Atrip; the Director of Tourism Fabián Bianchi and the President of the Council party Margarita Frisch. Admiral Godoy as well as Guacone highlighted the importance of the agreement and the historical meaning of the fact that this is the first ship museum in the country which is given to a borough. The General Irigoyen sailed from Zárate and took its course towards the San Pedro port. Then, it will be placed in a public area set between two camping spots and there will be a welcome ceremony in which the Argentine Navy Band will play. The ship, of long, effective and suffered path, participated in the Malvinas war dispute, where it performed beacon missions and rescued a Westland Lynx helicopter from the Hercules Destructor, which had fallen into the sea near Puerto Belgrano.

The Aviso ARA General Irigoyen, which for six and a half decades was in service, passed on to be a boat museum and will set finally in San Pedro (Buenos Aires), through an agreement signed between the Navy and the City Hall.

The chief of staff of the Navy, Admiral Jorge Godoy and the municipal mayor Pablo Guacone signed the agreement for which the Force grants on free loan the ex rescue vessel in order to be used as a museum and display room on issued of national and provincial maritime interest. It will also serve as a conference room and will have multiple uses related to culture and community education. During its years of on-duty service, the ship was usually in the Mar del Plata Navy Base. Last year, when it passed on to reserve status, it changed its anchorage to the Zárate Navy Base, from where it sailed to San Pedro. "There, it will serve society and spread the interests of our country, whit by its geography is essentially maritime and fluvial", said Admiral Godoy.

On the other hand, mayor Guacone expressed: "It's worthy to stand out the support we had from the start so that this could take place. I am proud that the Armed Forces personnel can have this approach towards the community in such an open and spontaneous way". In the process of achieving the initiative, the areas of Culture and Tourism intervned, as well as the City Council; a team effort whose achievement represents a "before and after for San Pedro, with the arrival of the ship these days", concluded Guacone. In the signing of the agreement were present the exiting holder of the Navy General Secretary, Rear Admiral Daniel Francisco Hindryckx, and who will take his place, the Rear Admiral Eduardo Raúl Castro Rivas. Also, the Institutional Relations secretaries, Rear Admiral Alejandro Fernández Lobbe (exiting) and Rear Admiral Carlo Castro Madero (incoming); subsecretary of Maritime Interests, Rear Admiral Juan Carlos Máximo Sagastume.

Change of Anchorage

Since last year, the ARA General Irigoyen passed on to reserve status when it finalized its service as an on-duty unit of the Navy. In six and a half decades, it sailed through the waters of the South Atlantic and also in the Antarctic continent as a support vessel in personnel relief and supplying missions. It served to rescue human lives and it was a support unit for rescuing diving and diver training. From its decks, escapes from submarines could be performed. It participated in Submarine Force training and Special Forces as well. "From an active life it passes on to a life of teaching. A ship which will be a reference in its activity and education and will now transmit the importance of maritime interests, presence and control of the sea", said the Rear Admiral Castro Rivas, who along his career embarked on many Navy units.





