



U. S. Navy

Plank Owners, Plank Owner Certificates, and Planking

A "plank owner" is an individual who was a member of the crew of a ship when that ship was placed in commission.

Plank Owners: Original Crew

The tradition of the plank owner reaches far back into history. As a member of the Navy crew serving on board the ship at the time of commissioning, the plank owner receives "a clear, free, open and unencumbered title" to a plank of the deck of the ship, thus signifying his participation in this special day. This privilege will not be given to any future member of the crew of that ship. More than just a title, crewmembers feel they of have grown with the ship. When each was ready they came together as a team, the ship and crew at sea.

Deck Planking

As part of the vessel decommissioning and disposal process, the Navy formerly removed a small portion of the deck as a traditional reminder of the time when "wooden walls and iron men" were a key part of the Navy. The last major vessel known to have been fitted with a wooden deck was USS *Long Beach* (CGN-9), commissioned in 1961.

Orion's Quest Plank Owner

As a participant of *Orion's Quest Mission 1*, you are designated as an *Orion's Quest Plank Owner*. As the program moves forward no other group will be recognized as such. In recognition of your efforts and contribution you are presented with an official "Orion's Quest Plank Owners Certificate."

Fair Winds and Following Seas!