

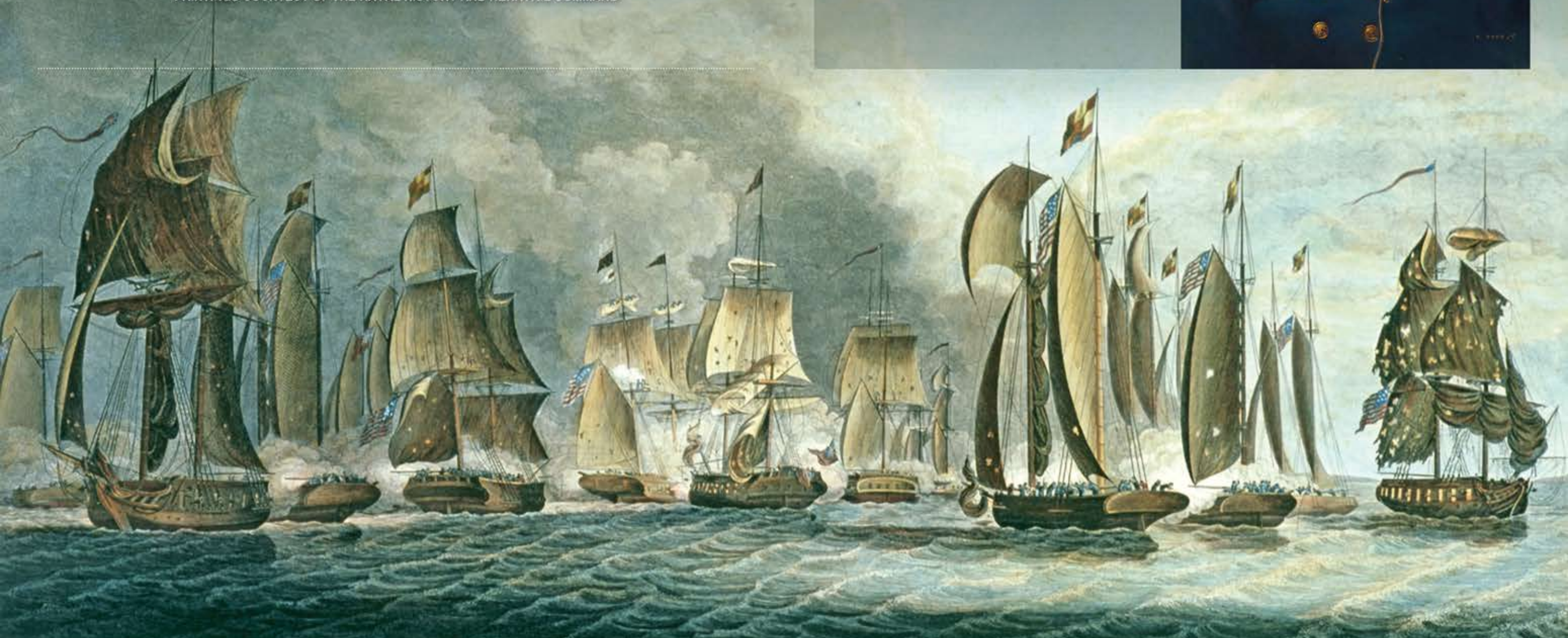
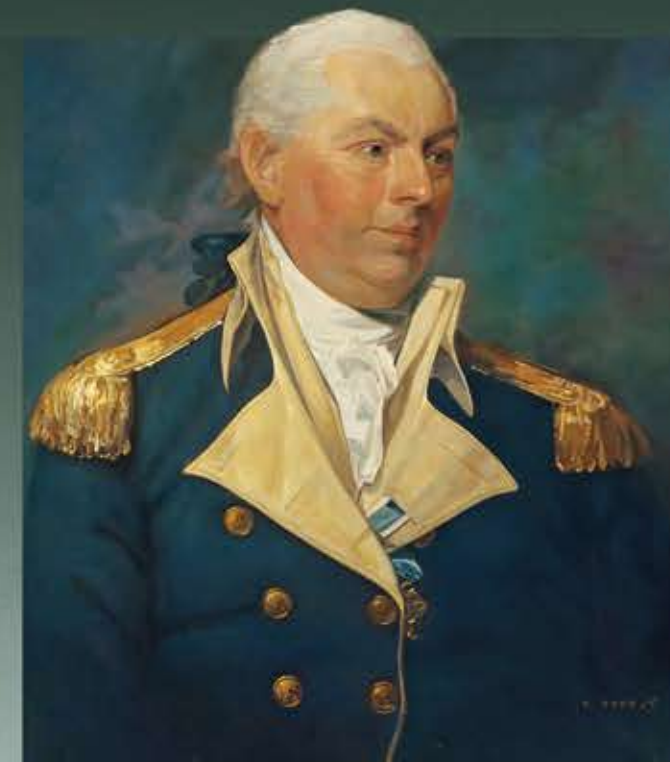
# GLORIOUS CELEBRATION

AS PART OF OUR YEAR-LONG TRIBUTE TO THE 250th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY,  
WE PRESENT ANOTHER SELECTION OF HISTORIC PAINTINGS HELD BY THE SERVICE

BY ROD ELMSDORF

PAINTINGS COURTESY OF THE NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

Oil painting on canvas by V. Zveg is a portrait titled *Commodore John Perry*. Born in Ireland, Perry immigrated to the American colonies to serve as a merchant sailor and later captain. He favored the revolutionaries' views and volunteered his services to their cause. He became the first officer in the Army or Navy to receive a commission from the Continental Congress. As captain of several vessels, including *Lexington* and *Raleigh*, Perry besieged many British Royal Navy vessels and merchant ships. Eager to improve communications between ships, he authored the first American signal book, published in 1780. He is considered by many to be a Founding Father of the US Navy, along with John Paul Jones.



During 1813, artist Murray Draper created this engraving titled *Battle of Lake Erie, First View, Fought 10 September 1813*. This impressive piece of art measures almost 40-inches in length and depicts a major naval victory in the War of 1812 — a victory that ensured United States control over the lake and precluding any territorial cession to Great Britain in the peace settlement. On 10 September 1813, Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry's fleet of nine ships engaged six British warships.

Perry's flagship was the USS *Lawrence* and it would suffer heavy casualties and be reduced to a defenseless wreck so Perry transferred his command to sistership USS *Niagara*. He led his forces directly into the British line, firing broadsides and forcing their surrender. Perry's ship flew a banner with James Lawrence's celebrated words "Don't Give Up the Ship" stitched upon it.