



## MOORING LINES . . . a note from the Editor

*By Virginia Rapp, Editor*

Last November 3, the USS Potomac left the dock with nearly 100 guests aboard and an ensemble of volunteers called [Characters of the Bay](#). This special event cruise brings a unique dimension to the history of the San Francisco Bay – our characters stay in character, the conversation never stops, and it’s always fun. Yours truly traded in her Editor’s hat for the occasion and donned a very Victorian wig to play the role of Lillie Hitchcock Coit.

However, on this particular cruise the conversation did stop as the Potomac changed course. Our captain announced that we were heading for the [Richmond Shipyards](#) to sail by [USS Iowa](#). The hush was immediate as the Iowa came into view on our starboard side. The ages of those aboard ranged from young children to some who lived through WWII. As we slowly cruised by, the mood aboard the Potomac turned to a combination of awe and reverence. For whatever reason, it was a tremendously moving moment - whether in reaction to the size of the ship itself, or her role in history, or for all who served during her time – something quietly struck everyone.



Not long ago, friends of mine returned from Normandy... “It’s hard to find words,” they said. I now appreciate what they meant.

In closing, all this leads me to say that every cruise on the Potomac brings something unique, and often, the unexpected. We’ll be back on the water Sunday, April 29 for [Opening Day on the Bay](#). Why not join us – you never know where the course might lead.

Virginia Rapp, Editor

