

U.S.S. CONSTITUTION ~ 1797

(Old Ironsides)

The U.S.S. Constitution is the world's oldest warship still afloat and is docked in Boston, Massachusetts. It was commissioned to be built by George Washington at a cost of \$302,000 and was launched by John Adams.

Old Ironsides got its nickname during a 35 minute shoot-out with a British frigate when one of her seamen watched cannonballs bounce off her live oak timbers and shouted, "Huzzah! Her sides are made of iron."

By 1925, the Constitution needed a complete overhaul. An appeal was made to America's school children to send their pennies to help save Old Ironsides and they responded so enthusiastically that the fund was soon oversubscribed.

ABOUT THE ARTIST...

This boat was hand crafted and generously donated by Jack Smith. Jack, a native of the anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania, has spent the better part of his life in engineering design. He now resides in Lakeland, Florida where his creative energy comes alive in his unique woodcarving art.