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Nationally recognized haunted boat set to open for 20th season in Newport, KY!

Newport, KY, September 2011 – For 20 years now, the USS Nightmare has haunted the banks of the Ohio River in the greater Cincinnati area during the Halloween season. Each season aboard America's premier haunted steamboat improves on the previous year's show and annually garners recognition both locally and nationally as a premier haunted attraction and outstanding seasonal entertainment value. In 2010, the USS Nightmare was named City Blood's 2010 Haunt of the Year and was rated 10 for Value by Ohio Valley Haunts. The 2011 season promises to continue that tradition. Recently, the historic steamboat was named by www.Hauntworld.com as one of the nation's Top 13 Scariest Locations for Haunted Houses in 2011 – recognition that celebrates the best REAL haunted houses in America. And, what a story the USS Nightmare has to tell.

Before becoming America's premier haunted steamboat, the USS Nightmare was originally used as an Army Corps of Engineers' dredge, the William S. Mitchell. During its 1934 dedication ceremony, the vessel was dubbed "...the grandest of all working steamboats..." After fifty years of active dredge service cursed with injuries and strange occurrences, the vessel known to its crew as the "Death Dredge" made one last journey as it traveled unmanned down the Missouri River hitting multiple bridges in what became known as the Mitchell Massacre. Caught on video by local news media, this unbelievable journey can be seen online at www.ussnightmare.com.

Although it seemed the once magnificent vessel was doomed for the scrap yard, the mysterious history and spectacular workings of the once powerful steamboat became the ideal surroundings for greater Cincinnati's annual Halloween favorite, the USS Nightmare. The horrific story of the Death Dredge is revealed in the area's most detailed haunted attraction enhanced with Hollywood quality makeup, sound, lighting, animation and special effects. With such tremendous atmosphere and detail, the USS Nightmare is annually one of greater Cincinnati's longest and highest rated attractions making it the area's best Halloween entertainment value.

This year's show features some fright seekers' favorites including the infamous Captain Mitchell; his strange daughter, Anna; the Rat Lady; the Vampire Overlord and the Captain's creepy crewmembers. The 30 minute bone chilling tour through the 288' vessel meanders through 20,000 square feet and more than 40 terrifying scenes. For 2011, new twists and turns along the path will reveal previously secluded areas including the ship's laundry, the machine shop, and the center of impact zone crushed during the Mitchell Massacre. Along this journey, the authentic equipment and atmosphere of the

historic vessel will expose visitors to mankind's most common phobias including the fear of heights, the fear of confined spaces, the fear of creepy crawling creatures, and the fear of being eaten alive.

Returning again this year, the Nightmare Landing known as the Family Fun Center offers an enclosed waiting area ideal for parents with small children or those who are faint of heart. The family friendly zone includes arcade games, a concession stand, and Laser Rage – the area's only floating laser tag arena (available for an additional charge or as part of an online combo package purchase).

Come aboard, if you dare, to have the ship scared out of you! Join the USS Nightmare's ghastly crew for the kick-off weekend on Friday, September 16 and Saturday, September 17 from 7 p.m. to midnight. Then beginning Friday, September 23, the haunting schedule is expanded to include Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday shows from 7 to 11 p.m. with Friday and Saturday nights remaining open until 1 a.m. The season will close out with a special Halloween show on Monday, October 31 from 7 to 11 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase at the USS Nightmare ticket window or with advance online purchase. General admission tickets are \$16 per person.

Special online opportunities include RIP express entry tickets for \$20 per person as well as some fantastic saving packages. Visit www.ussnightmare.com to purchase our Family Fun 4 Pack which allows Mom and/or Dad to join the kids for an outstanding discounted price of \$48 for 4 general admission tickets or \$60 for 4 RIP express tickets valid for any show night. Or, purchase the online Super Saver 6 Pack which includes 6 general admission tickets valid for Wednesday night shows only for \$60 (a savings of \$36!) These great packages are available only online with advance purchase.

The USS Nightmare also has great online opportunities for group outings and private party events. Returning this year, group discounts are available ranging from discounts of \$4-\$6 per person depending upon the group size. Or for something a little more private, rent the USS Nightmare's private party room, the Mess Hall. Perfect for groups of 20 to 30 guests, the Mess Hall package includes 2 hour room rental with unlimited show entrance, pizza and soft drinks. All for just \$25 per person! It is a fantastic location for seasonal events - from school outings to birthday parties or even Halloween themed sorority events. Visit www.ussnightmare.com for more details and purchase options.

The 2011 season will also offer a couple special events. As always, the Captain welcomes smaller children not quite ready for the regular show, for the popular family friendly "lights on" matinee on Sunday, October 23 from 4 to 6 p.m. for just \$6 per person. It's a great event to allow the little ones to join in the Halloween fun. For those who want a little more extreme show, the Captain will unleash his crew for the unrated eXtreme Captain's tour on Saturday, October 29 from midnight to 2 a.m. This special unleashed, up close and in your face show is for visitors 18 and older, and is \$20 per person.

The USS Nightmare is conveniently located on Riverboat Row in Newport, KY in front of Newport on the Levee. Visit www.ussnightmare.com for more information regarding coupons, online ticket purchases, group rates, and directions.

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