

THE DESTROYERMAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE USS ARLEIGH BURKE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2015

Dedicated to preserving the heritage of Admiral Arleigh A. Burke and USS Arleigh Burke since 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT

USS Arleigh Burke Association Members and Friends:

It is an exciting time for the Arleigh Burke Association as we enter the fall of 2015 and look forward to next year and the celebration of USS Arleigh Burke's 25th Commissioning Anniversary! As a Plankowner, it is hard for me to believe that it has been over 24 years since the Commissioning Crew stood in downtown Norfolk's Towne Pointe Park and manned Admiral Arleigh Burke's Destroyer "bringing her to life!"

At the Annual Membership Meeting, which was held as planned per notification in the last *Destroyerman* Newsletter on July 22nd, the members in good standing who participated in that Meeting reelected your current Board Officers to another year at our Association's helm. In addition to my reelection as your President, Rob Jobrack was reelected as Treasurer and Mark Fortune was reelected as Secretary. All three of us are committed to making a difference for our Association as well as persevering USS Arleigh Burke's history which is still in the making, and Admiral Arleigh Burke's legacy. In addition, at the Annual Membership Meeting, the USS Arleigh Burke 25th Commissioning Celebration Committee was officially established and plan-

ning for next year's Fourth of July Weekend events kicked off. I very much appreciate our volunteers who are helping to support Cele-

bration Weekend events as well as track down former shipmates, both from the Commissioning Crew and all Sailors who served at any point aboard Arleigh Burke. Similar to the 20th Commissioning Celebration four years ago, we will kick off the weekend on Friday July 1st 2016 and culminate our activities on Monday July 4th. Key activities include:

Friday July 1st
Informal Arrival Get Togethers
Saturday July 2nd
Official Dinner
Sunday July 3rd
Picnic
Monday July 4th
Memorial Service

At this juncture it appears, that similar to four years ago, the Navy will support USS Arleigh Burke to be berthed at the Half Moon Pier next to Nauticus in downtown Norfolk for the July 4th weekend in 2016. While real world events ultimately drive ship schedules,



OFFICERS

President

Rick Easton

EastonAdvisors@gmail.com

Secretary

Mark Fortune

mark.w.fortune@gmail.com

Treasurer

Rob Jobrack

jobrack@cox.net



UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 Dues

Ongoing

Commissioning Silver Anniversary Celebration

July 1-4 2016

Annual Membership Meeting (TBD)

we are optimistic that we will have both the ship and her crew participate in the Celebration events. I have had the opportunity to meet with the ship's new Commanding Officer, Commander Tom Meyers, along with the Executive Officer and Command Master Chief, and they are excited to join in the activities wherever possible.

To enhance planning for next year's 25th Commissioning Celebration, it is important for the Committee to get as early as possible a good understanding of those that anticipate they will attend next year's 25th Commissioning Anniversary Fourth of July Celebration in Norfolk. This fall, we will be canvassing all of our current Association Members and Friends for their input. We plan to get a block of rooms at the Marriott Waterside, as well as identify more cost effective options which we will share as part of our initial input request. If you think that you might participate, please be sure to block your calendar now! In addition, I would appreciate anyone else who can volunteer a small portion of their time to plan and lead events, and/or track down former Arleigh Burke Shipmates.

I want to specifically thank RADM Joseph F Campbell, USN (ret), VP GM, Ship Repair, BAE Systems, for his support of the USS Arleigh Burke 25th Commissioning Celebration next year. Joe has committed to provide the 25th Commissioning Celebration Program and

to help wherever else that BAE can. I also appreciate Ray Weber, BAE Systems Director of AEGIS Programs, for his steadfast support of our Association, and his routine participation in the Board of Directors' Meetings.

Again, I have asked Rob Jobrack to reach out to everyone whose dues are not current through 2015, and I request that you bring them up to date as soon as possible. I also encourage all those who can afford it to join our Association as either a Sustaining or Life Member. If you pay Sustaining dues annually over a number of years it converts to a Lifetime Membership. Your participation at one of those levels will help to further strengthen our Association.

As I close my thoughts for this edition of *The Destroyer - man* Newsletter, I want to thank Ron Struewing for his effort as Editor – it is a difficult job getting the inputs and producing a truly quality product – thanks Ron. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the USS Arleigh Burke Association Officers if you have any thoughts or other inputs that you would like to share, and in particular if you can volunteer to help with planning for the 25th Commissioning Celebration. As our next edition of *The Destroyerman* is targeted for January/February 2016, I want to wish all of you the best for the fall and a very Happy and Joyous 2015 Holiday Season!!

Best regards, Rick

TREASURER'S REPORT BY ROB JOBRACK

Thank you to those who have paid their association dues for 2015. Our bank balance is now about \$5000. Please remember that the USS Arleigh Burke Association is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt non-profit organization under section 501(c)(19) if the internal revenue code.

I will be electronically sending receipts for dues payments, so please ensure your email address is on file with Mark Fortune, our Secretary.

Association membership categories and dues for 2015 are:



USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) Ship's Company:
Free

Member: \$20

Sustaining Member : \$125 (10 year sustaining equals Lifetime)

Lifetime Member: \$1000

Checks should be made out to USS Arleigh Burke Association and mailed to:

USS Arleigh Burke Association

32 King Georges Grant

Fredericksburg, VA 22405

FROM THE SECRETARY BY MARK FORTUNE

USS Arleigh Burke Association Members and Friends,

Shipmates, Shipmates, Shipmates! That is what we are looking for and we need your help. The 25th Anniversary of the commissioning of USS Arleigh Burke is fast approaching. We will be holding a reunion to celebrate the 25th Anniversary and we want to get as many former shipmates there as possible. Family and friends are welcome too! If you know the location of former Arleigh Burke sailors, please contact me via email mark.w.fortune@gmail.com and pass me there information. The better thing to do is to have them go to the USS Arleigh Burke Association website at <http://www.arleighburkeassociation.org/registration.php> and ask them to please register under the membership tab. If you have not registered, please go to the website and do so today! This is also the best way to ensure that you receive all of the newsletters, emails, and details of our upcoming reunion.

If you haven't paid your dues for 2014 and/or 2015, the dues structure is as follows:



Current crew members – Free

Members - \$20.00

Sustaining Members - \$125.00 (10 years = lifetime member)

Lifetime Members - \$1000.00

Our annual meeting was held on 22 Jul 2015 and the current Association Officers were unanimously re-elected to their positions. Current Association Officers are Rick Easton – President, Rob Jobrack – Treasurer, Mark Fortune – Secretary. We also organized volunteers to help with the 25th Anniversary Reunion planning.

We have made updates to the USS Arleigh Burke Association website at <http://www.arleighburkeassociation.org>. Please go and see the new information. You will find links to where we are on Facebook and other links of interest under the Links tab. You can also find past newsletters under the Newsletter tab.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the other Association Officers if you have questions or comments.

Best regards,

Mark

PHOTOS FROM THE SHIP PROVIDED BY CDR STEPP (XO)
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

USS ARLEIGH BURKE IN THE YARD

Photographs of the ship currently in the BAE Systems Ship Repair yard during the ACB 12/BL 9 Weapons Systems Modernization. Photographs provided by Ray Weber (BAE Systems Ship Repair)



ARLEIGH BURKE CLASS UPDATE BY CAPTAIN MARK VANDROFF

The ARLEIGH BURKE class program marked a unique milestone in September with the activation of Aegis Combat Systems on both the oldest, and the newest DDG 51 class destroyers. The future USS JOHN FINN (DDG 113) achieved "light off" of its Aegis Combat System on Sept. 8, at the Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss, while USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) achieved light off on Sept 5 as part of the DDG Modernization program combat systems upgrade at BAE in Norfolk. Although ARLEIGH BURKE was commissioned in 1991 and John Finn will commission 25 years later in 2016, they have virtually the same Aegis Weapon System and warfighting capabilities. Both ships will have the Aegis Baseline 9 program which includes an Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) capability incorporating Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) 5.0 and Naval Integrated Fire Control - Counter Air (NIFC-CA). The Aegis baseline 9 IAMD destroyers have increased computing power along with radar upgrades that improve detection and reaction capabilities against modern AAW and BMD threats.

JOHN FINN is the 63rd ARLEIGH BURKE class destroyer, the first DDG 51 Flight IIA "restart" ship and is the first new-construction destroyer equipped with the Baseline 9 version of the Aegis Combat System. The ship is expected to deliver to the Navy in 2016.

USS ARLEIGH BURKE is currently undergoing an extensive Extended Selected Restricted Availability (ESRA) for combat systems modernizations as part of the DDG modernization program. The ship will also receive the AN/SQQ-89 A(V) 15 sonar suite, providing a significant upgrade in anti-submarine capability and upgrades to support the MH-60 helicopter. USS Arleigh Burke is expected to complete the ESRA in 2016.

The Aegis Baseline 9 delivers modularization of computer program functions and includes the replacement of original Military Specification (MILSPEC) computing infrastructure with a network-based, open architecture computing environment. Aegis Baseline 9C DDG variant delivers critical new capabilities, including Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD), Naval Integrated Fire Control-Counter Air (NIFC-CA), and Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) Surface-to-Air Missiles. Aegis Baseline 9 also delivers important affordability with implementation of the Aegis Common Source Library software code based, Common Track Manager/Common Track Server software components, Common Processor System and Common Display System.

The follow on restart DDGs, the RALPH JOHNSON (DDG 114) and RAFAEL PERALTA (DDG 115) will start AEGIS testing early next year.





USS ARLEIGH BURKE ASSOCIATION

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.arleighburkeassociation.org

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

[https://www.facebook.com/
USSArleighBurkeAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/USSArleighBurkeAssociation)

MAIL

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**USS ARLEIGH BURKE
OFFICIAL WEBSITE**

[HTTP://WWW.ARLEIGHBURKE.NAVY.MIL/](http://www.arleighburke.navy.mil/)



The purpose of the USS Arleigh Burke Association is to represent the professional values of all those who have served onboard USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) or have an on-going interest in promoting the ship and crew, the Arleigh Burke Class of Aegis Guided Missile Destroyers, as well as the United States Navy. Toward that end, this Association serves as the professional association for all ARLEIGH BURKE crewmembers and their supporters, past, present and future.

