

# THE DESTROYERMAN

## NEWSLETTER OF THE USS ARLEIGH BURKE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2024

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

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

USS Arleigh Burke Association Members, Family and Friends,

#### Welcome

2024!! The Holidays whizzed by for me this year and things are already off to a rapid start. It is



great to have our new Secretary, Corey Kenniston, in place pursuant to his Election at the October 2023 Annual Membership Meeting, taking over from Kenyon Hiser who had been our Acting Secretary since Mark Fortune stepped down at the beginning of 2023. Of most importance this year is our plan is to stand up sometime this coming Summer the USS Arleigh Burke 35th Commissioning Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee, as the Fourth of July 2024 marks the two-year countdown to that historic milestone in the Admiral's Destroyer's life!

But before I get too much farther, I am very sad to report that we lost **Jeff Pitel**, Arleigh Burke's Commissioning Systems Test Officer (STO), on December 12th 2023, after a two-year battle with liver disease. Rob Jobrack, our Association Treasurer, extended sincere condolences to his widow, Ellen, on behalf of the entire Association. Jeff was the consum-

mate "STO" and made a huge difference in the introduction of USS Arleigh Burke and the Arleigh Burke Class, contributing directly to the highly successful Class Operational Evaluation (OPEVAL), key amongst many things. He was an important part of the Commissioning Crew. We will miss Jeff's enthusiasm and dry sense of humor!

All reports indicate that **USS Arleigh Burke**, under the leadership of her Captain, Commander Ty Bowman, continues to do great things as part of the Sixth Fleet Forward Deployed Naval Force. With the October 2023 Hamas attack on Israeli Civilians and resulting Gaza War, coupled with the ongoing Ukrainian War with Russia, there are now two serious conflicts bordering on the Sixth Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR). Despite being the first in Class and over 32 years old, the Admiral's Destroyer is fully modernized with her combat system having been upgraded to Baseline 9, and at the peak of material readiness due to the outstanding stewardship of her Crew. We can all be very proud that our Destroyer is contributing directly to security on the front lines of what is an increasingly unstable world.

Turning now to our **2023 Annual Association Membership Meeting**.

Note: Corey has captured the details in the Secretary's Report Section of the

### OFFICERS

#### President

Rick Easton

[Email](#)

#### Secretary

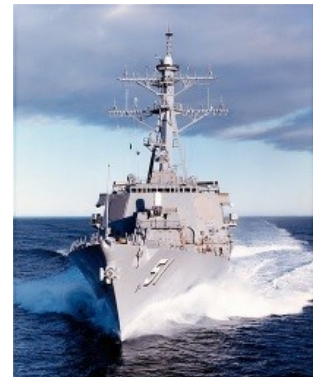
Corey Kenniston

[Email](#)

#### Treasurer

Rob Jobrack

[Email](#)



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**2024 Dues:** Ongoing  
Please pay directly, by check, to the Treasurer, Rob Jobrack, or online

**Annual Membership Meeting:** 1930-2015  
Wednesday 24 October  
2024 - the 4th Wednesday  
of October

Newsletter and in the Meeting Official Minutes.

**Highlights:**

-2024 Association Officers Elected – Easton-President, Jobrack-Treasurer, Keniston-Secretary

-2024 Association Annual Goals Approved

Support publication of three Issues of *The Destroyerman*

Support the USS Arleigh Burke Association Website and initiatives for continued improvement/impact

Support Regional Association Member Get Togethers/Mini Reunions

Support award of the 2024 USS Arleigh Burke Association Anchor Scholarship and raise the funds for the 2025-2026 Academic Year Scholarship

Support the Admiral Arleigh Burke Foundation, and related NMSN activities

Support an MOU between the USS Arleigh Burke Association and the Admiral Arleigh Burke Chapter (AABC) of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

-2024 Administered Anchor Scholarship Support – Approved for \$3500

-2024 Admiral Arleigh Burke Foundation Support - Approved for \$500

-2024 Oral History Support – Approved for \$500

-2024 Website/IT Support – Approved for \$300

-2024 Support for the 35th USS Arleigh Burke Commissioning Anniversary Planning Committee – Approved for \$500

Thanks to all who joined the October 2023 Annual Membership Meeting Telcon! The Board appreciates your support!!

**35th Commissioning Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee.** As mentioned previously, we will be standing up this Summer the 35th USS Arleigh Burke Commissioning Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee. We are looking for input on both content and format from all our Association Members, Families and Friends. And, we are looking for Volun-

teers to make it all happen. If you are willing to contribute to this historic Ceremony, please let our Secretary, Corey Keniston, know.

**Oral Histories.** As addresses in previous Newsletters, we are very interested in input from the Association Membership, to include Families and Friends, on worthy stories or artifacts that contribute to USS Arleigh Burke's noteworthy Fleet Introduction and Service History, as well as thoughts you may have regarding individuals you recommend be included on the Oral History Interview list. As stated previously, this is important work to capture those pearls of historical knowledge before they are lost due to the passage of time. Also, we are looking for volunteers to help with conducting the Oral History Interviews. Please let Kenyon and me know if you can help here.

**Missing Roger Williams USS Arleigh Burke Commissioning Painting.** Tracking down the Roger Williams missing USS Arleigh Burke Commissioning Painting still continues. We believe we have the period that it disappeared narrowed to a 2 year window – likely between 2002 to 2004. We remain hopeful that it was removed for safekeeping during an availability or for some other reason, and we just need to get to the person who has it so it can be returned. Again, all we want is the Painting back as it is an important historical artifact of both Admiral Arleigh Burke and USS Arleigh Burke.

**Anchor Scholarship.** We are on track to support award of the 2024-2025 Academic Year USS Arleigh Burke Association Anchor Scholarship which will occur in June of this year. This will be our Association's Eighth Anchor Scholarship. Our Treasurer will provide the funds to the Anchor Scholarship Foundation in February. My sincere appreciation to all the Association Members who contributed in 2023 to make our Eighth Scholarship a reality. Well done!! Please see Rob's section for details.

**National Museum of the Surface Navy (NMSN)/Surface Navy Association Annual Symposium 9-11 January 2024.** We are down now less than two years to the Official Opening of Phase One of the NMSN – 13 October 2025, aboard the Battleship Iowa, in the Port of Los Angeles. Design effort has now passed to the Detailed Designers – Phil Bloom and Joshua Wexler. Included in the Plan is an Aegis Showcase/Exhibit. David Rosenberg and I met with Phil and Joshua in December

2023, and we are standing by to support. The Aegis Exhibit will be a highly interactive immersive Experience. It is very exciting and will be a great place to memorialize Admiral Arleigh Burke. As mentioned in previous Newsletters, the key theme for our Surface Warrior Museum is "Freedom of the Seas" and its importance to both our National Security and Prosperity. In addition, during the recent Surface Navy Association Annual National Symposium in Crystal City/ Arlington, Virginia 9-11 January 2024, the NMSN had a Kisok. We signed up several hundred new NMSN Plank Owners, and I also had the chance to interact with a number of former Arleigh Burke Sailors – two highlighted here: VADM John Nowell and LT Ashley Mack.



Rick Easton with VADM Retired John Nowell - former USS, Arleigh Burke Operations Officer in the 1995 to 1996 timeframe. VADM Nowell's last job in the Navy prior to his retirement was as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Personnel, Manpower and Training - OPNAV N1



Rick Easton with LT Ashley Mack, USS, Arleigh Burke's Strike Officer 2020-2022, now en route to John Basilone as the Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer

I also had the opportunity to speak with VADM Brendan McLane, our new "SWO Boss" and former Commander Naval Surface Force Atlantic who was pivotal in supporting our 2022 USS Arleigh Burke 31st Commissioning Anniversary Celebration in Norfolk assigning us 5 support DDGs, given the absence of USS Arleigh Burke assigned to FDNF Rota. I updated him on plans for USS Arleigh Burke's 35th Commissioning Anniversary Celebration.



Rick Easton with VADM Brendon McLane, the new "SWO Boss" who as of December 2023 is Commander Naval Surface Forces. VADM McLane was pivotal in his support for USS Arleigh Burke's 31st Commissioning Anniversary Celebration in his previous job as Commander Naval Surface Force Atlantic.

I close by thanking all of you who actively support and participate in the USS Arleigh Burke Association, whether it be a donation to the USS Arleigh Burke Association Anchor Scholarship, participation directly in our Board of Director's Telcons, help recruit new Association Members, or in any other way. Special thanks to Ron Struwing who makes our outstanding Newsletter happen and gets the word out!

As we negotiate Winter and head into Spring, my best to all for a Happy and Prosperous 2024!

Be safe!

Rick



## TREASURER'S REPORT BY ROB JOBRACK

Congratulations to Scott Woody, the newest Lifetime Member of the Arleigh Burke Association. Scott was a plank owner back in 1991, and as you can see in this photo he hasn't changed bit. Please thank him for his generosity when you see him.



Thank you to those who have fulfilled their pledge to support the Arleigh Burke Association Scholarship run by the Anchor Scholarship Foundation, and thanks to those who skipped the pledge part and just contributed directly. We have received two thirds

of the funds we need to make the \$3000 scholarship happen. It's not too late: we provide the funds to the Foundation in February.

As you'll read elsewhere in the newsletter, another shipmate, a Lifetime Member of the Association, and a good friend of mine passed away on Dec 12. Jeff Pitel was our commissioning System Test Officer and we were in business together after our active duty days were over. This loss emphasizes once again why the Arleigh Burke Association is so important to prevent these relationships from fading. Please support the association through dues and contributions so we can nurture existing friendships and develop relationships with others who share the privilege of maintaining the legacy of Admiral Burke and the class of ships that bear his name.

### ASSOCIATION STORE IS OPEN

Ball caps (30th anniversary as shown and blue 25th anniversary ball caps: Crew ballcaps: \$20; O5/06/Flag



ballcaps: \$25. This includes shipping costs.

25th anniversary T-shirt for only \$5.

Our membership categories and dues for 2023:

- USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) Ship's Company: Free
- Member: \$20
- Sustaining Member: \$125 (10 year sustaining equals Lifetime)
- Lifetime Member: \$1000

The USS Arleigh Burke Association is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt non-profit organization under section 501(c)(19) of the internal revenue code.

Payments and donations to the association can be made in two ways:

Using PayPal via the association website, [USSArleigh-BurkeAssociation.org](https://USSArleigh-BurkeAssociation.org)

Send a check made out to USS Arleigh Burke Association to:

USS Arleigh Burke Association  
32 King Georges Grant  
Fredericksburg, VA 22405

## FROM THE SECRETARY BY COREY KENISTON

. USS Arleigh Burke Association Members and Friends,

I'm excited to be the new Association Secretary. I have retired after completing 30-years as a SWO and settled in College Station, Texas (Home of Texas A&M). Our paths may have crossed when I was the 14th Commanding Officer of USS ARLEIGH BURKE from 2010-2012 and we held our 20th Commissioning Anniversary Ceremony in Norfolk, or we may have met during the many other exciting adventures the Navy provided. I look forward to connecting/reconnecting with you and serving as your Secretary.



We need your help. Are you in contact with a shipmate from DDG-51 or someone associated with the ARLEIGH BURKE legacy? If so, please reach out and confirm they've joined the Association. If not, share our website information (<https://arleighburkeassociation.org/>) so they can learn more and invite them to join. The membership information is found under the "Association" tab. At a minimum, share their contact information with me, [secretary@arleighburkeassociation.org](mailto:secretary@arleighburkeassociation.org), and I'll extend the invitation! We have started a membership verification and expansion campaign as our first step in the path to the 35th Commissioning Anniversary Ceremony. These are exciting times for our Navy and the Arleigh Burke Class. We should be celebrating the first ship of her class and every success that has resulted from those who worked so hard aboard her and all that has been achieved. You have much to be proud of!

The Association conducted our Annual Meeting on 25 Oct 2023 to review the status of our goals from 2023, establish our goals for 2024, elect the Associations Officers, and hear updates from each Officer.

I'm happy to say that we met (almost) all our goals for 2023. We Issued three Editions of *The Destroyerman* to over 450 people, continued our exceptional website, supported our commitment to the Anchor Scholarship, and continued support to the ADM Arleigh Burke Foundation memorandum of understanding (MOU)

with the new National Museum of the Surface Navy (NMSN) being built on Battleship IOWA in the Port of LA. Surprisingly, the only goal we didn't meet was supporting our Regional Association Meetings, because no one asked for it!

We unanimously adopted our goals for 2024 (three issues of *The Destroyerman*, continued support for the website, support for Regional meetings, supporting the Anchor Scholarship by raising funds for the 23-24 academic scholarship, support Oral History recordings of those involved in ship building and early history of the ship, continue the MOU with NMSN, establish a 35 Year Anniversary Celebration planning committee, and begin a membership verification and expansion drive).

Association Officers were elected (President – Rick Easton, Treasurer – Rob Jobrack, Secretary – Corey Keniston). The President updated us on efforts to grow the Association's membership, record oral histories, and strengthen our relationships with the Surface Navy Association (SNA), NMSN, and MOAA. He discussed the fall NMSN Gala on the Battleship IOWA and the SNA Annual Symposium in DC. He asked us to look for those who could help with the 35 Year Anniversary Celebration planning committee. The Treasurer reported we are in a healthy financial standing. Our Secretary/Webmaster discussed the effort underway to merge contact information from several files and systems for a master membership database and the desire to build operational history files.

Your Association leadership encourages you to join us for our monthly Board of Director's Association meetings as mentioned in the President's section. When we discuss the Association's business, the more participation in the conversation, the stronger the Association will be.

I'd be remiss if I didn't give a special thanks to Mark Fortune for being our Secretary for the last 14 years and to Kenyon Hiser for filling in for him until the board confirmed my selection. Thank you for standing the watch!

I look forward to working alongside you and to seeing everyone at future events.

All the best wishes!

Corey

## A LITTLE ABOUT OUR NEW SECRETARY

CAPT(ret) Corey Keniston was the Commanding Officer of USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) from May 2010 – Apr 2012. During his time in Command he led the ship through a nine-month shipyard period for the Hull Mechanical and Engineering (HM&E) upgrade portion of DDG Modernization, hosted the 20th Commissioning Anniversary celebration onboard the ship in downtown Norfolk, certified for deployment at the international exercise Joint Warrior off the coast of Scotland, and conducted an independent deployment to the waters off the Horn of Africa in support of NATO's Counter Piracy efforts.

Corey has also served as the Chief of Staff for Expedi-

tionary Strike Group TWO from Dec 2016 – Oct 2017 and Commanded USS GETTYSBURG (CG 64) from Mar 2018 – 2021. He retired on 01 Nov 2023 from the position of Senior Military Assistant to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) at the NATO Military Headquarters in Mons, Belgium.

A lifelong student of history and leadership with a passion for education, he and his family live in College Station, Texas, where he is enjoying his recent retirement and, in addition to being our Association's Secretary, volunteering with the National Museum of the Surface Navy and with the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets.

---

## ONLINE MEDIA BY KENYON HISER

One goal of the association is to document history of the ship and Admiral. We are always looking for new (old) content for archiving on the web site.

There is a big hole in ship history during the middle years, especially since we have not been able to locate the annual ship history reports. We are relying on the cruise books to fill in some of this empty history.

These cruise books are already captured online:

Precomm

First Year

2003

2009

2014

Finding cruise books online is problematic, and expensive when available. We would like to borrow cruise books not listed above for scanning – paying round trip insured postage.

Recent acquisitions (scanned and avail on the web page) include a commissioning first day cover, and several of the versions of the USPS Distinguished Sailors stamp set from 2010.

Photos, reminiscences (particularly of the Admiral), articles, change of command programs, almost anything referencing the ship or Admiral – all are of interest to us.

---

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR BY RON STRUEWING

Association members, Starting with this issue I am working to get the "Where are they now?" section in each issue of *The Destroyerman*. If you would like to submit a short article such as Chuck Killian did in this issue, to let everyone know what you have been up to since you left

the ship, please contact me and provide a short article for publication in a future issue. I can send you some examples if desired. My email address is: [NewsLetter@arleighburkeassociation.org](mailto:NewsLetter@arleighburkeassociation.org)

Thank you.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? BY CHUCK KILLIAN

Hello Shipmates! My name is Chuck Killian who had the honor and privilege to serve on the USS Arleigh Burke from her precommissioning days through her commissioning. I departed in May 1993. My duties involved test equipment calibration and repair. I also had the privilege to serve as the only First Class CSOOW underway and in port.

After leaving the Navy's finest destroyer, I reported to duty at Fleet Training Center, Norfolk. There I was the course supervisor for Test Equipment repair and calibration. As I finished my duties there, we packed up all of the equipment and training materials and the course was moved. Prior to that date, I decided that I would not be re-enlisting. Once my enlistment was up, I moved back to my hometown of Lebanon, PA.

I was able to land a job doing what I loved, Test Equipment repair and calibration, imagine that. That had me traveling all over Pennsylvania to hospitals because we specialized in Biomedical test equipment. After a couple of years doing that, I felt it was time to make somewhat of a career change. I moved into installing and repairing telephone systems for a medium sized business from the Harrisburg, PA area. At least this time, I could sleep in my own bed every night.

After a couple of years of dealing with phone systems, a position opened for the same company in the Audio / Video department. I made the move, and I started on the long journey installing and repairing CCTV (Security camera systems), and Access Control systems. As we all remember, 2008 brought many challenges for companies and myself and many of my coworkers found we no longer had a job with that company. The fortunate part was that my time unemployed lasted one week. I remind everyone, make sure you don't burn any bridges in life, they might be able

to help you out someday. One phone call and that's all it took. I moved to a different company that continued to grow even through those tough times.

After being there 8 years, I got a phone call from a friend that left that company several months before that and that there were openings at his Siemens branch in Harrisburg, PA. I left and went to Siemens in April 2016. Again, I started work there as a technician repairing CCTV and Access Control systems. In 2018, one of my Fire and Security Sales Executives retired leaving an opening. After kicking around the idea of moving to a Sales position, I made the transition to a Fire and Security Sales Executive. Looking back, I couldn't be happier doing what I am today. I get to work with some great customers, all of which most of you would know. It has also afforded me many comforts that I have today.

I met my longtime girlfriend, Jen, 20 years ago this year. Jen has a 2nd place in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware where we spend a lot of time during the summer months. Her two grandkids consider me their PopPop, the best title I think I have. Abby is in gymnastics which gets us to the Virginia Beach area at least once a year, so it gives me some time to go see those gray ships sitting in Norfolk.

With all that said, I must make a plug for the USS Arleigh Burke Association. Without getting too deep into it at this point, most of you remember that during the precom days in Bath, ME, and time served on Arleigh Burke I carried a camera around my neck just about 24/7. Those pictures have all been scanned, and along with all the pictures from every reunion we had so far, can all be found online. If you can't find them, PLEASE let me know. I can guide you to where they are. The next reunion is coming up in 2 short years, so I am hoping to see more of you there.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

For those who are new to the Association or were not at the USS Arleigh Burke and DDG51 Class 31st Commissioning Anniversary Celebration and Former Crew Reunion 1-5 July 4th weekend 2022 in Norfolk, there are many photographs of the Anniversary weekend and other related content. Click on the link below or scan this QR code with your mobile device.

<https://arleighburkeassociation.org/31st/>





## USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) PATROL 4 UPDATE

BY ENS SUSANNA GAITHER, USS ARLEIGH BURKE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PHOTOS BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS OMAR RUBI

For the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51), the New Year brought an opportunity for reflection on the first month of her fourth Forward Deployed Naval Forces-Europe patrol.

Arleigh Burke departed Rota, Spain, on November 17th, 2023 after completing a comprehensive Surface Incremental Availability (SIA). 17.5 million dollars of repairs, alterations, and installations were performed to the ship's engineering, weapons, and combat systems, and the intensive Mobility-Engineering (MOB-E) certification was completed.



Sailors gather together after an awards ceremony, Nov 22, 2023.

The ship began her patrol transiting east through the Straits of Gibraltar. In this area, she participated in the 2023 European Air-Missile Defense Exercise 2023 (EAMDEX23), a joint exercise incorporating the United States Air Force, Army, and Space Force together with AEGIS Ashore Poland and Romania and NATO allies.

In the Mediterranean, Arleigh Burke joined the Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group (CSG). She joined the ranks of the Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 8, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 2, the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Normandy (CG 60), and Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS Ramage (DDG 61), USS McFaul (DDG 74), and USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116). While a part of the Gerald

R. Ford Carrier Strike Group (GRFCSG), Arleigh Burke served as horizon reference unit and air defense picket, participated in flight operations, and conducted fleet level tactical exercises.

On December 10th 2023 Arleigh Burke took her first port call in Souda Bay, Crete. Her visit in Souda Bay provided a chance to further strengthen the United States' partnership with its NATO ally Greece, demonstrating the U.S.'s commitment to a stable, secure, and prosperous Europe. Additionally, Arleigh Burke Sailors enjoyed the opportunity to experience the unique aspects of Grecian culture. While in port, Arleigh Burke's Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure team collaborated with Greek Navy Seals to complete her theater-level certification.

Following her port visit, Arleigh Burke performed escort duties with the USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20) as she sailed westward through the Mediterranean.

Arleigh Burke arrived back in Rota on December 21st 2023, marking the end of 30 days underway. During the first portion of her fourth FDNF-E patrol, she traveled 6,500 nautical miles and conducted 4 sea and anchor details, 4 underway replenishments, and 27 helicopter flight operations.

Following her return to homeport, Arleigh Burke commenced an inter-patrol Training and Maintenance Availability (TRAV). During the in-port period, Arleigh Burke conducted routine repairs and maintenance in preparation for her second half of patrol. After saying farewell to outgoing Shipmates and welcoming new faces, she departed Rota, Spain on January 5th, 2024.

Reflecting on the first half of patrol, CDR Bowman, Commanding Officer of the USS Arleigh Burke remarked, "The crew of the Admiral's Destroyer continues to display remarkable ingenuity and technical acumen in a theater with complex and dynamic threats. Their efforts continue to solidify her legacy as first-in-class of the most successful class of warfighting ships in history. She is America's Lead Destroyer!"



Arleigh Burke is currently on a scheduled patrol in the U.S. Naval Forces Europe area of operations, employed by U.S. Sixth Fleet to defend U.S., allied and partner interests.

USS Arleigh Burke departs Souda Bay, Greece, Dec 15, 2023.



Sailors participate in flight operations, Nov 26, 2023.

Sailors lower safety nets ahead of flight operations, Dec 09,



CDR Tyrchra Bowman, commanding officer of the guided-missile destroyer USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51), speaks to his Sailors during an all-hands call, Dec 22, 2023.

## ARLEIGH BURKE CLASS UPDATE

**BY CAPT. SETH MILLER, DESTROYER SHIPBUILDING PROGRAM MANAGER**

Calendar Year 2023 was an eventful and positive year for the DDG 51 Arleigh Burke-class Destroyer program. The capstone event of 2023 was delivering the first Flight III ship, the USS Jack H. Lucas (DDG 125), on 27 June 2023. Following a post-delivery availability and crew training period, DDG 125 sailed away from Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII), Ingalls Shipbuilding Pascagoula, MS shipyard on 26 September. During transit to Tampa, FL, DDG 125 conducted her first Live Fire Exercise of a SM-2 missile, resulting in the skin-to-skin intercept of her intended target. DDG 125's commissioning ceremony was held in Tampa, FL on 07 October 2023. The ship arrived in her homeport of San Diego, CA on 25 October 2023 to continue testing and proving the new combat systems.

Equally compelling was the award of multi-year procurement contracts for Fiscal Years 2023 through 2027 on 01 August 2023. HII and General Dynamics Bath Iron Works (BIW) were awarded separate, fixed-price incentive contracts for the construction of nine firm ships (six at HII, three at BIW). The third ship authorized and appropriated in FY23 was awarded as a pre-priced Option ship to HII on 11 August, bringing the total number of ships on contract to 26 through FY27. This FY23 – 27 MYP award provides HII and BIW with a stable workload that will ensure the successful acquisition, production, and delivery of these vital platforms to the warfighter for decades to come.

With the delivery of USS Carl M. Levin (DDG 120) in January 2023 and USS Jack H. Lucas (DDG 125) in June 2023, 73 DDG 51-class ships have been delivered to the Fleet. The future USS John Basilone (DDG 122) is currently preparing for trials and will be the next ship to deliver in 2024. The future USS Harvey C. Barnum, Jr (DDG 124) recently achieved Aegis Light Off (ALO) on 04 January 2024. This milestone marks the beginning of

the ship's combat systems test program that will culminate in her readiness for Builder's Trials, Acceptance Trials, and eventual delivery to the Fleet in late 2024.

The Navy accomplished many other significant milestones in the past year and continues to work with our industry partners to accelerate delivery of this critical capability to the Fleet. Since the program's last update in February 2023, the Navy celebrated the following set of achievements:

Future USS John E. Kilmer (DDG 134) start fabrication

Future USS Thad Cochran (DDG 135) start fabrication

Future USS George M. Neal (DDG 131) Keel Laying

Future USS Harvey C. Barnum, Jr. (DDG 124) Christening

Future USS Ted Stevens (DDG 128) Christening

Future USS Carl M. Levin (DDG 120) Delivery

Future USS Jack H. Lucas (DDG 125) Delivery

USS Carl M. Levin (DDG 120) Commissioning

USS Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee (DDG 123) Commissioning

USS Jack H. Lucas (DDG 125) Commissioning

In addition to these shipbuilding milestones, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro recently named DDG 141 (future USS Ernest E. Evans) and DDG 142 (future USS Charles J. French). DDG 141 is named after Medal of Honor recipient Commander Ernest Edwin Evans. Secretary Del Toro made the announcement of the future USS Ernest E. Evans during a Native American Heritage month event held at the U. S. Naval Academy

on 15 November 2023. Commander Evans was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during the Battle of Leyte Gulf in World War II. Commander Evans is the first Native American in the U. S. Navy to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

The most recently named ship, DDG 142, is named after Navy Mess Specialist 1st Class Petty Officer Charles Jackson French. Petty Officer French saved 15 of his shipmates after their high-speed transport was sunk in combat during the Battle of Guadalcanal in World War II. Secretary Del Toro posthumously elevated Petty Officer French's personal letter of commendation from Admiral Halsey and awarded him the Navy and Marine Corps Medal in May 2022 in recognition of Petty Officer French's heroic actions. I had the honor to be in attendance when the Secretary surprised the audience at the

Surface Navy Association's 36th Annual National Symposium on 10 January 2024 by announcing the naming.

On 11 December 2023, the Naval War College hosted a keel plate ceremony for the future USS J. William Middendorf (DDG 138). This ceremony was held to honor Ambassador Middendorf, the ship's namesake, prior to commencing ship construction. Ambassador Middendorf served as Secretary of the Navy from 1974 to 1977 and as a United States Ambassador on three occasions, including to the Netherlands (1969 – 1973), to the Organization of American States (1981 – 1985), and to the European Union (1985 – 1987).

The DDG 51 program continues to deliver highly capable warships ready to "preserve the peace, respond in crisis, and win decisively in war."

## **ADMIRAL BURKE AT THE TEXACO STATION**

### **FROM OUR FIRST ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW**

#### **INTERVIEW OF CAPT JOHN INGRAM**

From our first oral history interview with CAPT (Ret) John Ingram. See link in Oral History section on page 12 for complete interview.

"So I graduated from high school in 1975. And I grew up in the D.C. area. When I was a sophomore, I worked at a place called Westwood, Texaco in Bethesda, Maryland. I worked in a gas station, pumping gas, checking oil cleaning windshields.

And Arleigh Burke would drive into Westwood, Texaco now and then and the manager of the station would like go hermatile. The admiral's here. Get out there. Wash his windows. You know, and so I would pump Arleigh Burke's gas and wash the windows, check the oil. And I told him I wanted to be in the Navy. And he graciously spent a little bit of time talking to 15-year-old me about how great a Navy career would be.

He was, I think a member the board, the governing board of Texaco at that point, which is why they knew who he was. And he comes in and pull out all the stops and make sure that he's happy and get his gas pumped."



CAPT John Ingram, USN (Ret.)



## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT BY KENYON HISER

One of the Association's objectives is to preserve the legacy of the Admiral and his ship.

We are starting a new effort for this preservation - Oral Histories of those that contributed to the success of Arleigh Burke.

Initial focus is the Arleigh Burke to Sea period, including design, construction, precomm, commissioning, DT-OT, PSA, deployment preparations, and first deployment. Time is somewhat critical as we are starting to lose the heroes that made Arleigh Burke to Sea a reality.

But any Arleigh Burke (ship or admiral) related oral history is appreciated.

The first interview is complete and posted - and it underscores the relevance of this effort -

"And this is what success feels like. Remember that. I felt that way about Burke. We did a good job and we were successful. And I learned what success felt like. And I used that as a measuring stick for other things that I got involved in.

You know, if you do something the right way and you have success, even if it was hard, it's something that you should keep in mind. You know, this is what it takes. These are the kind of things that you have to do to ensure success."

CAPT John Ingram

We have a long (and growing) list of folks to interview. We need volunteers to conduct interviews and to process the resulting audio files for posting.

-Interviews can be done in person, via phone, or video. We need an audio file captured for transcription. Time investment is ~ two hours for interview, plus preparation with questions, practice recording, scheduling, & uploading the completed audio file.

-Processing the captured audio into a usable transcript takes about 2-3 times the interview, some computer skill, and helps to have some knowledge in the topic area.

-Please contact us if you can support the project.

Read the first interview at <https://arleighburkeassociation.org/purpose/oral-history-project-2/> or scan the QR code below with your mobile device.



Admiral Burke during Alpha Trial



The ship was christened and launched on **September 16, 1989**. Mrs. Roberta Burke, the wife of Adm. Burke, served as sponsor of the ship.

Pictured: Roberta Burke and Wilma Miles, close friend of Admiral and Mrs. Burke.





Future USS Ted Stevens launching at Huntington Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, Mississippi in August 2023



Future USS Jack H. Lucas departing Huntington Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, Mississippi - September 2023

## 2024 BOD Meeting Dates

Jan 18 Feb 15 Mar 21 Apr 18 May 16 Jun 20 Jul 18 Aug 15 Sep 19 Oct 17

Annual Association Meeting-Oct 24 Nov 21

All Telcons kick off at 1930 EST:

### Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88446377823?pwd=dG9GZm5OdXF4WGdoVE0weGVlbEJOZz09>

Teleconference for BOD/ Annual Meetings: 301-715-8592, Meeting ID: 884 4637 7823, Passcode: 059031

### WE'RE ON THE WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA!

[.ArleighBurkeAssociation.org](https://ArleighBurkeAssociation.org)



### MAIL

USS Arleigh Burke Association  
Attn. Rob Jobrack  
32 King Georges Grant  
Fredericksburg, VA 22405

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Ron Struewing

[Newsletter](#)

### ONLINE MEDIA

Kenyon Hiser

[Online Media](#)

### USS ARLEIGH BURKE OFFICIAL WEBSITE

[HTTPS://WWW.SURFLANT.USFF.NAVY.MIL/DDG51/](https://www.surflant.usff.navy.mil/DDG51/)



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 ongoing 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.

