

THE DESTROYERMAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE USS ARLEIGH BURKE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 2

JUNE 2025

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,

Wrapping up
Spring and with
Summer just
around the cor-
ner, I hope this
Newsletter finds
all of our Associ-
ation Members,
Family and Friends doing well!



USS Arleigh Burke Update

I continue to be so very proud of the Admiral's Destroyer!! The significant contribution USS Arleigh Burke and her Crew make to the Sixth Fleet every day as part of the Forward Deployed Naval Forces Europe is noteworthy. Under the Command of CDR Ethan Reber, the ship and her crew have completed the most complex FDNF Rota Maintenance Availability to date. And per my recent phone call with the Captain, Arleigh Burke's Crew performed exceptionally well. The Admiral's Destroyer will depart on Patrol 6 in the late Spring of this year. Of note: After the completion of Patrol 6 in the Fall 2025, USS Arleigh Burke will be conducting a limited maintenance availability followed by Strike Group Work Ups and Recertification in the Winter of 2026, which includes time in the Virginia Capes Operation Area as well as pier side

in Norfolk. Per my discussion with both the Captain and the Association Board of Directors during the May 2025 Monthly Board of Directors' Telcon, we plan on doing some sort of event with the ship when she is in port Norfolk in early 2026. At this juncture, it is anticipated that USS Arleigh Burke will conduct Patrol 7 in the Summer of 2026 timeframe.

I am sorry that the Special Commemorative Challenge Coin, struck by the USS Arleigh Burke Association, recognizing USS Arleigh Burke and her crew in the first operational employment of the SM3 Missile, engaging Iranian Ballistic Missiles shot at Israel in April 2024 in the Eastern Mediterranean, took so long to get to the ship. There were a couple of snafus with getting them sent to the right overseas address. The Captain assures me that everyone in the Ship's Crew who was aboard USS Arleigh Burke during those operations has received the Commemorative Challenge Coin. If you think that you rate the Special Coin and have not received it, please contact the XO or CMC to get it sorted out. And for Association Members who were in good standing during that time, the same applies to you as well. Our Treasurer, Rob Jobrack, sent the Commemorative Coins out to you last year, and if you believe that you rate one and have not received it, please reach out directly to Rob. The coin is again pictured at the end of my

OFFICERS

President

Rick Easton

[Email](#)

Secretary

Corey Keniston

[Email](#)

Treasurer

Rob Jobrack

[Email](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

2025 Dues: Ongoing
Please pay directly, by check, to the Treasurer, Rob Jobrack, or online

Annual Membership Meeting: 1930-2015
Thursday 20 November
2025- the 3rd Thursday of November

section on Page 4.

You can find additional information on USS Arleigh Burke's Patrols on our Association Official Website: ArelighBurkeAssociation.org. If you are not a Member of the USS Arleigh Burke Association, I recommend that you Join Now!! Easy to do on the Official Website listed above, which is also always noted on the back of "The Destroyerman" Newsletter as well.

USS Arleigh Burke Association Update

35th Commissioning Anniversary Planning.

This coming Fourth of July our Ship turns 34! Next Fourth of July is USS Arleigh Burke's 35th Birthday!! As reported in the February 2025 Edition of *The Destroyerman*, and per the decision at the 2024 Association Annual Membership Meeting, we have commenced planning for a scaled back 35th Commissioning Anniversary Celebration at some point in 2026. Our Secretary, Corey Keniston, is exploring various opportunities, to include an opportunity to do something with USS Arleigh Burke when she is in port Norfolk this coming Winter 2026, as well as a potential opportunity to do something in conjunction with the Tin Can Sailors Association Annual Meeting – during which they provide a venue every year for all Ship's Associations to leverage the Tin Can Sailors Annual Event to do a separate dedicated function. Corey is planning on attending this year's Tin Can Sailor Annual Meeting, which happens to be in Norfolk, to scope this potential opportunity. It shifts location every year to provide opportunity for broader geographic participation over time. If you have ideas on other alternative options to celebrate USS Arleigh Burke's 35th Commissioning Anniversary Celebration, please reach out to Corey.

Our next BIG Association Event will be the return of the Admiral's Destroyer's from FDNF Rota anticipated in the 2030/2031 timeframe. At that time we will do a major "Welcome Home" Celebration and Party to recognize USS Arleigh Burke's return from FDNF Europe after 10 or more years forward deployed, as well as pay tribute to her significant Forty Years of Service to our Navy. If you are interested in helping with the Homecoming, please let Corey know.

2025-2026 USS Arleigh Burke Association Anchor Scholarship Award.

I am honored to announce that Claire Ilkenhons, daughter of Plankowner OS2 SW Scott Ilkenhons, has been selected by the Anchor Scholarship Foundation to receive the USS Arleigh Burke Association Anchor Scholarship for Academic Year 2025-2026! This is our Association's Ninth Anchor Scholarship Award! This Fall, Claire will start college as a Freshman attending Guilford Tech Community College. She plans on majoring in Biology and embark on a path that will lead to Medical School. Claire achieved a 4.33 Grade Point Average in Highschool – very well done!! Please see Claire's pictures on page 7 and note on page 8. We look forward to Claire's updates in future editions of *The Destroyerman*.

This year's Anchor Scholarship Awards was presented during the Anchor Scholarship Awards Ceremony on May 29th in Norfolk at the Chrysler Museum.

Most importantly, thanks to all of our Members, Family and Friends who contributed this past year to the USS Arleigh Burke Anchor Scholarship and have made the 2025-2026 Association Ninth Scholarship a reality! BZ!! Please see the Anchor Scholarship Foundation Thank You Letter on page 9.

USS Arleigh Burke Oral Histories

One of our important Association Goals for 2025 is supporting the "Oral" History Initiative, as I have mentioned in previous issues of *The Destroyerman*. This is now titled the "History Project" under the "Association" Tab on the Home Page, recognizing that we have history inputs contributing to Admiral and USS Arleigh Burke's legacy and archive of information and knowledge, from many different sources and in many different formats – oral interviews, documents, artifacts, etc. The first five DDG51 completed "History" Interviews are posted on the Association Website. We recently posted Andy Summer's – DDG51 Ship Design Manager, History. The other Initial Histories include: Oral Interviews with Retired Captains: Brian Perkinson – PMS 400D Arleigh Burke Program Manager throughout ship construction and delivery to the Navy, and John Ingram – involved as a young Lieutenant in DDG51's Test and Trials, and later Supervisor of Shipbuilding Bath; Retired Lieutenant Commander Ray Weber - Warranty Guarantee Engineer who rode Arleigh Burke for the first year and was instrumental in support-

ing the ship's CSQTT and OPEVAL; and Mr. John Mason, Bath Iron Works DDG51 Program Manager through construction and delivery of the ship. If you have not read what Kenyon Hiser has posted on our Association Website, it truly is a treasure trove of interesting information – I learned a lot. If you are interested in helping with the History Project, please reach out to our Secretary, Corey Keniston, who is keeping the list of proposed Interviewees. If anyone comes to mind that you think could add to this important effort, please forward their name to Corey as well. Note: As I have discussed previously, we want to get input and perspective from every level – military and civilian, and we are particularly looking for Seaman, Fireman, Junior Petty Officers and Junior Engineers to contribute.

National Museum of the Surface Navy (NMSN)

Update: Please also see the separate Article on the NMSN Great Ships Showcase – Page 15, which highlights an opportunity to have your name included in the Showcase, and called out specifically as either a Contributor or Sponsor of USS Arleigh Burke.

Our Surface Warrior Museum is on the final glidepath to open Phase I in October, which prominently features USS Arleigh Burke as well as Admiral Arleigh Burke. The festivities begin with a Major Donar Reception on Monday Evening October 13th 2025 - the Navy's 250th Birthday. That is followed a week and a half later with a Chairman's Reception on Friday evening October 24th, followed by the Official Ribbon Cutting on the afternoon of Saturday October 25th, then culminating with the NMSN Annual Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner that same evening. If you are interested in attending the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, please let me know.

One of the Principal Opening Exhibits is the "Great Ships" Showcase. This continuous Wall of Warships includes over 300 Men-of-War comprising all major classes of US Navy Ships throughout our Navy's History – 1775 to today. USS Arleigh Burke is very prominently displayed as one of 15 "Feature" Ships – which are the biggest and most interactive ships in the Showcase. USS Arleigh Burke represents today's Navy, bookending on the righthand side of the timeline's 15 Feature Ships, and recognizing the enormous capability and capacity of today's modern Navy.

Also of note, RADM Nevin Carr, USN (Ret.), Arleigh Burke's 5th Commanding Officer from April 1998 to October 1999, has been nominated to take the Admiral Arleigh Burke Foundation Seat on the NMSN Board of Directors. He will replace VADM John Morgan who has stepped down to pursue other activities. VADM Morgan was the first Admiral Arleigh Burke Foundation Representative to serve on the NMSN Board of Directors. Thanks very much to Admiral Morgan for his service to and support of our NMSN!

Today, the NMSN has over 17,000 Plank Owners!! If you have not yet joined the NMSN please do so - it is FREE. Everyone who joins between now and the Official Ribbon Cutting in October this year (2025) is a NMSN Plank Owner, and you will be part of the building momentum for our Surface Warrior Museum!! To join you can connect to the NMSN Website through our USS Arleigh Burke Association Website under the Association Tab and then Under the Related Links Tab, or go directly on line to: SurfaceNavyMuseum.org. If you have any questions regarding our Surface Warrior Museum, please reach out directly to me.

CAPT Seth Miller, DDG51/PMS 400D Program Manager, Change of Office and Retirement Ceremony. Welcome CAPT Jay Young the new DDG51/PMS400D Program Manager – 16 May 2025

I had the privilege of attending, on Friday May 16th, 2025, CAPT Seth Miller's Change of Office and Retirement Ceremony, along with CAPT Jay Young's Welcome Ceremony in the National Museum of the Navy on the Washington Navy Yard. This Ceremony marked the transfer of responsibility for the DDG51/PMS 400D Program Office from CAPT Miller to CAPT Young. During his six year record setting tenure as Program Manager, CAPT Miller delivered eight DDGs to the Navy, to include the first Flight III DDG the Jack H Lucas (DDG 125). Overall, his Program comprised approximately 25 ships under contract with as many as 12 of those in various stages of construction, representing a \$65+B Program. CAPT Miller has been and is a strong supporter of the USS Arleigh Burke Association, contributing regularly to our Newsletter, *The Destroyerman*. He was also a Principal Speaker at the 31st Commissioning Anniversary Celebration in Norfolk over the July 4th Weekend 2021, providing a detailed Arleigh Burke Class Program Update. At this juncture

CAPT Miller has not decided on what he will do next. On behalf of the Association, we wish CAPT Miller Fair Winds and Following Seas as he transitions to the next stage in his career and life.

RADM Tom Anderson, Program Executive Officer Ships, and a former USS Arleigh Burke Sailor, was the Ceremony Presiding Officer.



Left to right: Rick Easton, Captain Seth Miller PMS 400D Outgoing, Rear Admiral Tom Anderson PEO Ships, Captain Jay Young

RADM Tom Anderson PEO Ships Change of Office and Retirement

I also had the privilege of attending Admiral Tom Anderson's, Program Executive Officer Ships, Change of Office and Retirement Ceremony on Friday 30 May 2025, on the Admiral Leutze Parade Field and Park in the Washington Navy Yard. Admiral Anderson is a former Arleigh Burke Sailor having served in the Engineering Department as Auxiliaries and Electrical Officer, and where he also managed the first two Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Availabilities for USS Arleigh Burke and the DDG51 Class. As the Program Executive Officer (PEO) Ships, Admiral Anderson has been responsible for US Navy Shipbuilding to include Surface Combatants, Amphibious Ships, Logistics Support Ships, Support Craft and related Foreign Military Sales. Admiral Anderson has been a strong advocate for the DDG51 Program and supporter of the USS Arleigh Burke Association and the Association's quest to capture and preserve Admiral Arleigh Burke's Legacy and his Namesake's, USS Arleigh Burke's, history.

Wrap Up

At the end of this year, I intend to step down as the USS Arleigh Burke Association President, after more than 15 years at the helm, in order to spend time on other activities to include the National Museum of the Surface Navy, and laying the foundation to eventually transition USS Arleigh Burke to a Museum Ship at some point after her decommissioning. I also believe that the Association will benefit from new leadership and perspectives. I encourage all Association Members to consider stepping into the role as President. The next few years will be exciting as we welcome USS Arleigh Burke and her Crew home after serving in the Forward Deployed Forces Europe. Please let Corey Keniston know if you may be interested. It truly has been an honor to work with the Association and serve as the President, and I thank all the Members, Family and Friends for your contribution and support.

As I close, I thank once more our Association Officers, and the individuals who commit their time to support and run our Association, as well as those who join and contribute to our Monthly Board of Director's Meetings! As I have mentioned before, they make a critical difference. If you have not already done so, please be sure to check out our Website. It is packed with current, relevant information on the Association's and USS Arleigh Burke's activities, as well as contains the first of our History Project Interviews – definitely worth the read! Thanks to Kenyon Hiser for making our Website relevant. Thanks again to Ron Struewing, our Newsletter Editor, for his hard work to put together this edition of *The Destroyerman*. And, thanks to all those who provide inputs to the *The Destroyerman* - your contributions make a difference.

Please reach out to me, Rob or Corey if you have any questions or recommendations.

Have a GREAT Summer and Be Safe! Rick



TREASURER'S REPORT BY ROB JOBRACK

As you've probably read elsewhere in this newsletter, Rick Easton will be stepping down as president of the USS Arleigh Burke Association at the next annual membership meeting.

Personally, I owe Rick a great deal. Much of what has happened in my life has resulted from our first meeting in Washington DC in 1988.



Let me state: if you ever served on an Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer, or if you are a member of the USS Arleigh Burke Association, then you, too, owe Rick a debt of gratitude.

As the first Executive Officer of the lead ship of the class, Rick was tough man to work for. He was smart, observant, detail oriented, tireless, demanding and never forgot anything. And he was EXACTLY the right XO for that ship at that time. The entire class of destroyers is better for things he did as a DDG 51 Plankowner that set the standards and established procedures for the class.

As the first (and, so far, only) President of the USS Arleigh Burke Association he is not so tough to work for but he is still smart, observant, detail oriented, tireless, demanding and never forgets anything. Our Association is better for things he did as the Association plankowner.

And I haven't even mentioned all the other things he has done for the Navy on active duty and as a civilian. From a purely selfish perspective, I am glad Rick will

still be around as a Director of the Admiral Arleigh Burke Foundation, planning for the future of the ship and Admiral Burke's legacy.

If you care about the Navy and the USS Arleigh Burke Association --- and if you are reading this, then you do care --- please take a few minutes to let Rick know that you appreciate all that he has done.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Our membership categories and dues for 2025:

- 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:

- 1) Using PayPal via the association website, USSArleighBurkeAssociation.org
- 2) Send a check made out to USS Arleigh Burke Association to:

USS Arleigh Burke Association

32 King Georges Grant

Fredericksburg, VA 22405

The ASSOCIATION STORE IS OPEN

Ball caps (30+ years 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.



FROM THE SECRETARY BY COREY KENISTON

USS Arleigh Burke Association
Members and Friends,

The first half of 2025 has been amazing, and your Association is doing well.

Please spend some time on our website <https://ddg51.org/>. It is a treasure trove of information and a great resource for your friends and colleagues who may be interested in joining the Association. If you know someone who served on the Admiral's Destroyer or contributed to the success of the Ship Class, please share our webpage with them and invite them to join by clicking on the "Association" tab and following the instruction under "Membership." Or share their contact information with me, secretary@arleighburkeassociation.org, and I'll extend the invitation!

Membership Dues: Current Arleigh Burke Sailors – Free, Basic Annual Membership – \$20.00, Sustaining Membership – \$125.00, Lifetime Member – \$1000.00 (of cumulative support).

We continue to consider options to celebrate the 35th Commissioning Anniversary of USS ARLEIGH BURKE in 2026. This is a significant milestone as the Admiral's Destroyer turns 35, made even more significant because of her active status at 35 while more of the ship class are being built – easily making us the most successful ship class in our Navy's history! While we have traditionally gathered for celebration every five years over the 4th of July Weekend, but attendance has been waning while the ship remains forward deployed to our Europe Forces, and we have decided to scale back the 35th Anniversary Celebration. To that end, next year we've been offered an opportunity to partner with The Tin Can Sailors annual reunion in 2026. Location and date have not been determined, but they annually host a large reunion for all Tin Can Sailors over several days. They offer opportunities for individual association events within their overall schedule and provide a venue for ship specific events. This seems the most cost effective way to appropriately mark the occasion in the ship's life and support The Tin Can Sailors Associa-



tion's efforts to raise awareness among current Destroyer Associations. More to follow as the details are worked out over the coming year.

The Tin Can Sailor's website is <https://www.destroyers.org/> and you can follow them on Facebook @tincansailorsdestroyers. A specific link to this year's TCS reunion is <https://www.destroyers.org/2025-national-reunion/> along with registration information if you want to join me in attending the 2025 Sep 20-24 events in Norfolk. Combining our 35th Commissioning Anniversary celebration with their 2026 reunion allows us to "keep our Association's powder dry" for our ship's return to the homeland, when we'll plan a more typical weekend long "welcome home" celebration in Norfolk – but that might not be until 2031!

You have a lot of reasons to be proud of today's DDG 51 Crew. USS ARLEIGH BURKE remains assigned to Forward Deployed Naval Forces-Europe (FDNF-E) homeported in Naval Station Rota, Spain as part of Task Force 65. Under the direction of Naval Forces Europe/Africa, TF 65 ships execute operations from as far north as the Norwegian Sea and south to the Cape of Good Hope. They are involved in missions that include Ballistic Missile Defense, Sea Lines of Communication enforcement, Maritime Interdiction Operations, direct support to NATO combined and Joint operations and exercises, Counter-terrorism operations, Counter-piracy operations, Africa Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership operations, whole of government Africa Partnership Station deployments, Safety of Life at Sea, and Theater Security Cooperation activities both inport and underway. USS ARLEIGH BURKE is on station, ready to respond to any crisis during these tumultuous times in the Mediterranean Sea, Baltic Sea, and Easter Atlantic waters caused by Russia's war in Ukraine and the Israeli Gaza conflict. The ship is built to fight, and these young men and women know how!

We recently received word from Commander Ethan Reber the commemorative challenge coins, for the ship's firing of the first SM-6 in combat operations while defending Israel from ballistic missile attack, have been distributed to the Crew. He wrote, "Good afternoon from Rota, Spain! I wanted to close the loop with you and the

Association to let you know we did receive the commemorative coins. They really turned out great! Our officers and crew that were onboard April 14th of last year have really appreciated them and the Association's willingness to commemorate this historic event with a challenge coin. XO, CMC, and I set up on the mess decks to shake hands, say thanks for their dedication to mission, and present them." It is obvious the ship and crew are well lead. Commander Reber is living up to the legacy of so many distinguished leaders who have had the privilege of being the Captain of the Admiral's Destroyer.

As always, your Association leadership encourages you to join us for our Board of Director's Association meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 1930 (EST). When we discuss the Association's business, the more participation in the conversation, the stronger

the Association will be.

We have a new Zoom subscription - with new link information: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84945831836?pwd=xRMPeJHoWGEkz17TrmqVjcaDa9CCen.1>

Meeting ID: 849 4583 1836

Passcode: 552200

I look forward to working alongside you and to seeing everyone at future events. I hope you had a great first half of 2025 and are ready for more adventure as we round the corner toward 2026.

Sail safe, lead well, and make a difference in a Sailor's life today!

Very respectfully submitted,

Corey

NAVAL ACADEMY SHIP SELECTION NIGHT

On the evening of February 6th, 2025, over 250 Midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy choose the ships to which they will proceed after graduation and commissioning in May. MIDN 1/C Henry Frye, MIDN 1/C Sophia Baguilod and MIDN 1/C Daniel Angulo all chose the Admiral's Destroyer. Following their initial training they will join the crew in Rota later this

year. Commander Pete Flynn, past USS Arleigh Burke Commanding Officer who is presently stationed at the Naval Academy as the Director of Seamanship Training, was on hand to personally congratulate the three Midshipmen. The USS Arleigh Burke Association extends a hearty congratulations as well!!

USS Arleigh Burke Association Anchor Scholarship Awardee



Claire Ilkenhons as she heads off to College, and aboard USS Arleigh Burke moored at Town Pointe Park Half Moon Pier during the USS Arleigh Burke 20th Reunion over the fourth of July Weekend 2011

2025-2026 USS ARLEIGH BURKE ASSOCIATION ANCHOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



***Claire
Ilkenhons***



Kernersville, NC



Scholarship: \$3,000 Arleigh Burke Association Scholarship sponsored by ARLEIGH BURKE ASSOCIATION

College: Guilford Tech Community College

Major: Biology

2025-2026: Freshman

Academic Highlights:

- 4.33 High School GPA

Thank you so much for furthering the history of this amazing ship within my family. It started with my mom's parents both working at Bath Iron Works on the construction of the USS Arleigh Burke DDG51. My dad, OS2 SW Scott C. Ilkenhons was a member of the commissioning crew and a Plankowner. During his stay in Bath, Maine he met my mother and they married during his enlistment. I have heard many stories of my dad's time in the US Navy growing up. I am extremely thankful that his service turned into a helping hand in my education. This help will allow me to focus on schoolwork and fully involve myself in my school community. My plan is to study the pre-medical pathway and eventually attend medical school; making this scholarship extremely beneficial in the long term path. Thank you so much for your support of my education and rewarding my dad's dedication to the Arleigh Burke DDG51. The picture I am sending was taken in 2011 when my family went to the USS Arleigh Burke reunion weekend in Virginia Beach. It was a fun family weekend meeting my dad's old friends and shipmates. Again, thank you so much for your support!

Claire



From the Desk of Joy Eyrolles...

Dear Rick,

First and foremost, let me thank you for the contributions you made to Anchor Scholarship Foundation over the past scholarship year. Your support allowed us to invest in U.S. Surface Navy families through higher education scholarships at a record level.

I encourage you to take a moment to think about the impact of your gift.

For the 2024-2025 school year, Anchor Scholarship Foundation awarded 44 scholarships to children and spouses of our Surface Navy Sailors. The total amount – \$153,300 – is an increase of 10% and the highest amount we've ever been able to award.

This means that 44 dependents have one less thing to worry about this Fall. One less challenge to face when weighing their higher education options. It means being able to focus more on their studies and their school communities rather than on finding part-time jobs to make ends meet. Their grades will be better, their school involvement will be higher, and their peace of mind will be intact.

But your gift's impact reaches far beyond the upcoming school year. It is proven that those who obtain scholarships and accrue little to no college debt realize life milestones faster than their peers with student loans. Buying a car, owning a home, marriage, even saving for retirement happens faster for our scholarship recipients because they started their careers with far less in student loans.

Enclosed is our impact statement where you will hear from our scholars how grateful they are for your support and how these scholarships make a difference to them. Enjoy reading their words and seeing their faces, and know that your annual gift does, indeed, have real meaning to real people.

With gratitude,

P.S. Please share our Impact Statement with others and tell them that Anchor Scholarships might be a resource for them too!

ARLEIGH BURKE CLASS UPDATE

BY CAPTAIN JAY YOUNG, DESTROYER SHIPBUILDING PROGRAM MANAGER

The DDG 51 Class Shipbuilding Program Office, along with our shipbuilding partners and industry team, have celebrated several significant events and milestones since our last update in December 2024. First and foremost, we commemorated the successful career and retirement of Captain Seth Miller and welcomed Captain Jay Young onboard as the next DDG 51 Program Manager at the formal Change of Command ceremony on 16 May 2025. Captain Miller dedicated over six years of service to the program successfully managing the delivery of seven destroyers, including the first Flight III ship, USS JACK H. LUCAS (DDG 125). He oversaw the serial production of an additional 12 DDGs in various stages of construction and the administration of 25 ships under contract across both DDG 51 class shipbuilders. His knowledge will be sorely missed; but his dedication to the mission will never be forgotten. Captain Jay Young hails from Mitchell, South Dakota and is coming to us following a successful tour as the Commanding Officer of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center in Norfolk, VA. Upon graduation from the Naval Academy in 1998, he earned his Surface Warfare Qualification onboard the USS Fife (DD 991) and then transitioned to the Engineering Duty Officer community. His previous DDG program office experience includes DDG 51 Program Chief Engineer as well as serving as a Supervisor of Shipbuilding Gulf Coast Project Officer.

Services branch (PMS 400D7) kicked off preparations for the FY28-32 Multi-Year Procurement as they issued the call letter on 6 January 2025 soliciting proposed changes that will inform the configuration of those ships. Proposed changes were received from stakeholders and both Bath Iron Works (BIW) Lead and Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) Follow Yard Services are now scoping and developing cost estimates for those proposed changes and consideration by PMS 400D. A formal Configuration Control Board will be held in late 2025 to obtain senior leadership approval of the proposed baseline.

The future USS PATRICK GALLAGHER (DDG 127) successfully achieved Aegis light Off (ALO) on 31 December 2024. This milestone marks the beginning of the ship's combat systems test program that will culminate in readiness for Builder's Trials, Acceptance Trials, and eventual delivery to the Fleet.

Following the conclusion of a 4-month Post Shakedown Availability (PSA), which included the completion of all planned work and a post-repair sea trial, USS JACK H. LUCAS departed BAE San Diego and returned to her homeport at Naval Base San Diego. Baseline 10 and SPY-6 testing have resumed as the ship prepares for Developmental Test Phase 2 events planned for October 2025. Custody of the ship was officially transferred from PMS 400D to PMS 421 at a formal ceremony held on 14 May 2025.

Ingalls Shipbuilding launched the future USS JEREMIAH DENTON (DDG 129) on 25 March 2025. DDG 129 safely transitioned from Ingalls' floating dry dock to pier side where she will be undergo generator, main engine, and combat system light offs as she gets ready for sea trials.

The future USS JOHN BASILONE (DDG 122) successfully completed Combat Systems Ship Qualification Trials (CSSQT) on 28 March 2025; and Final Contract Trials (FCT) concluded on 7 May 2025. FCT marked the final in-depth review of the ship, crew, engineering plant, as well as the shipboard navigation, deck, communication, and combat systems.

Bath Iron Works (BIW) successfully transferred the future USS LOUIS H. WILSON, JR (DDG 126) from its Land Level Transfer Facility (LLTF) to the dry dock on 11 April 2025. The next major event is Launch which is forecasted for Oct 2025. The Program's Engineering and Material

The Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, officially named DDG 145 during a ceremony held in the leg-

endary aircraft carrier Intrepid Museum Ship, the former Essex-class aircraft carrier (CV/CVA/CV-11), on 3 January 2025. DDG 145 is the fifth vessel to bear the name Intrepid, “honoring her past namesakes and the courageous service of all our Sailors.” His wife, Betty Del Toro, will be the ship’s sponsor.

Later that day, SECNAV met with former U.S. Senator Robert Kerrey in NYC to inform him DDG 146 would be named the future USS Robert Kerrey. The formal announcement was made in Washington, DC on 4 January 2025. Senator Kerrey served as a U.S. Navy SEAL from 1966 to 1969 during the Vietnam War, achieving the rank of Lieutenant (junior grade). President Nixon awarded Senator Kerrey the Medal of Honor in 1970 for his heroic actions as he led his squad in a counterattack against the Viet Cong on Hon Tre Island in 1969 despite suffering significant wounds that resulted in the loss of the lower part of his right leg. Senator Kerrey was the first Navy SEAL to be awarded the Medal of Honor. In addition to his military career, he served as the Nebraska Governor from 1983 to 1987 and a U.S. Senator representing Nebraska from 1989 to 2001.

During his keynote address to the Surface Navy Association’s 37th National Symposium held on 15 January

2025, SECNAV announced the names of the remaining three DDGs on contract : the future USS Ray Mabus (DDG 147), the future USS Kyle Carpenter (DDG 148), and the future USS Robert R. Ingram (DDG 149).

DDG 147 honors former Secretary of the Navy Raymond Edwin Mabus, Jr. Secretary Mabus was confirmed as the 75th SECNAV in 2009 and served in this position until 2017, becoming the longest serving SECNAV since World War I. Liz Mabus, the daughter of Secretary Mabus, will serve as the sponsor of DDG 147.

DDG 148 honors Corporal William “Kyle” Carpenter, USMC, Retired. President Obama awarded Corporal Carpenter the Medal of Honor in 2014 for his selfless actions while serving as an Automatic Rifleman during the defense of the village of Marjah, Helmand Province, Afghanistan from a Taliban attack on 21 November 2010. During the attack, Corporal Carpenter shielded a fellow Marine and absorbed the detonation blast from a grenade, saving the life of his fellow Marine but leaving himself with the loss of his right eye and severe wounds to his right arm and jaw. Corporal Carpenter is the youngest living Medal of Honor recipient. Robin and Brittany Carpenter, the mother and spouse of Corporal Carpenter, will serve as the sponsors of DDG 148.



HII’s Ingalls Shipbuilding division successfully launched future USS Jeremiah Denton (DDG 129) (HII picture)

MIDSHIPMAN ARLEIGH BURKE EXPLAINS NAVAL ACADEMY SLANG TO MISS ROBERTA GORSUCH

JANUARY 1921

BY CAPT DAVID A. ROSENBERG, USN (RET.)

In the late 1980s, when Admiral Arleigh A. Burke and Roberta Gorsuch “Bobbie” Burke, his wife of more than six decades, moved from the house on Fenway Drive in Bethesda, Maryland, where they had lived since the admiral retired from the Navy in August 1961, to The Virginian retirement home in Fairfax, Virginia, the Burkes gave the Naval Historical Center (now the Naval History and Heritage Command) a collection of shoeboxes where Mrs. Burke had saved Arleigh’s letters from the first one inviting her to a Naval Academy dance in the fall of 1920 through the end of his tour on

the United Nations Truce Negotiating Team in Korea in December 1951. Among them was the following letter, Midshipman Third Class Burke’s second letter to Miss Gorsuch, following her coming to the Naval Academy for that dance. It is a remarkable piece of history, showing both young Arleigh’s infatuation for the woman who would become his wife on 7 June 1923, the same day he graduated the Naval Academy, as well as his total immersion in and affection for the Navy and the Naval Academy that he felt compelled to share, looking to a continuing relationship.

Tuesday [postmarked PM 12 January 1921]

Dear Bobbie

The more I say that name the better I like it so don’t be very much surprised if I keep repeating when you come again.

Do you know that you nearly caused me to loose [sic] my head. I promised a Youngster a dance with you and he didn’t get it. Last night he came up with murder in his eye but I persuaded him to let me off just once. If I can I’m going to keep you away from my classmates because you are far too pretty and if I’m not very careful somebody else will be lucky.

Do you remember the trouble I had by trying to get a “dining out reg.” thro? They read an order this morning saying that one meal a week end could be taken by men on the training table. That is fierce. I don’t like to jump ship but I see where it is going to be necessary.

If you want to read a queer short story of this place, I advise you to get “Colliers” for Jan. 8. They have their slang mixed a bit but the meaning is clear enough. I’ll send a few of the most common slang expressions in this letter. Before you know it you will be a real Navy Girl.

Bobbie, I like you immensely, so if you can possibly arrange it you’ve simply got to come to that formal. That is the last hop until Easter and I am on duty the Easter hop. That only leaves one more formal until June Week and I don’t want to wait that long before I have the pleasure of your company. So please come.

I am nearly dead tonight. I wrestled a fellow twenty pounds heavier than I and he felt as if he should try to get me. He did too.

I shall send that “Log” every time there is anything in it that might interest you. If you see anything that is going to happen down here that you’d like to come to, just come ahead because I’d like awfully much to have you down. I know that is unusual but well—the only excuse I have is [I’m a] Mid and I don’t like to keep inviting a girl down when she couldn’t come to them all so pick out what [you] want to come to and come.

I've simply got to bone or the end of this week will see me on a tree.

Most sincerely,

Billie

"Glossary"

Femme—a girl

A 4.0—you're one

drag—n. a girl whom a mid has been escorting

v. to escort a femme

Brick—the opposite of a 4.0

Snake—A mid who drags nearly every hop

Red Mike—A mid who never drags

savvy-- one who is exceptionally brilliant

wooden—one who is exceptionally the other way

minature (sic)—a minature (sic) class ring. Engagement.

Crabtown—Annapolis

crab—a girl is an inhabitant thereof

to rag--to be put on report

to pap--to hit the rebound

D's—demerits

to bilge—to flunk—fail

to star—to make a 3.4 an Ace

skinny—E.E.&P. Electrical Engineering and Physics

steam—M.E.&N.C. Marine Engineering and Naval Construction

juice—Electricity

req—Request—Requisition

Be on a hard [?Unreadable]—Hurry up

Ratey—A person who does something he doesn't rate

Bow—For'ard part of a boat or anything else

Boy—Corridor boy or mess attendant

Mose [?Unreadable]—Mess attendant

Chow—Food

Jyrine—Marine

O.D.—Officer of the Day

D.O.—Duty officer

supt.—Superintendent [sic]

Com—Commandant

Exec—Executive officer on Infantry Drill

To grease—to get on the good side of anybody by doing them special favors

Greaser—One who greases

M.C.—Midshipman in charge of a deck

Tea Fight—Where the tea hands (?) hold their battles

Buzzard—A 2nd petty officer—corporal

1P.O.—1st petty officer—sergeant

C.P.O.—chief petty officer—top sergeant

Striper—midshipman officer

Foofoo—Perfume or anything that has perfume in it, powder, etc.

Fruity—easy

Queen—A 4.0—A girl who is lovable

to drag blind—drag a femme you haven't met

Gonk (?)—your head

stand by—to get ready

Pipe down—shut up—keep quiet

Knock off—Quit doing what you are doing

To jump ship—to French—to leave without authority—a.w.o.l.

Shove off—start out

Shoot—commence—cit slang

civs—civilians or civilian clothes

Plebe—fourth classmen—frosh year, freshman

Youngster—third classman—second year, 1 diag
[diagonal stripe]

Second classman—two diags, third year

First classman—fourth year, 3 diags or officer

Clean sleever—1st classman who didn't make either
petty officer or officer

to get busted—to be reduced in rank

grease mark—efficiency mark

stag—they have them in civs

Sat—satisfactory—to drag sat is to drag a girl who is
above the average but not a 4.0

Line—a good conversation of (heavy line) is mighty
good repartee

Dope—something that is gossip, or something that is
unofficial

Red-eye—catsup

Mexican athletics—talking

Radiator club—(Bunch?) who aren't out for athletics

To spoon on any person—to treat him as a classmate

Skag—cigarette

Joe Gish—John Doe

Gadget—Gimmick—Anything you don't know the name
of

Pampered pet of Uncle Sam—A Mid

Gouge—to cheat

R.H.I.P.—Rates has its privileges

Stand from Under—you know that

To be hard---they have the same kind in civ life

(Johnny Gow)—mechanisms

To hit a tree—to go unsat

Unsat—to be below passing

to bone—to study

Bones—hygiene

scuttlebutt—Drinking fountain

S.O.P.—Senior Officer present

Log—detail of all happenings on board ship or stations

Lucky Bag—Place on board ship where they stow any-
thing that is lost

This is all the slang that I can think of at the present time. Some of these things are used differently and some things I can't figure a definition of them. There isn't much more slang that this that is in common use. By the time you savvy all these expressions you will be proficient in understanding a mid.

Oh by the way, we got some dope on the cruise this morning. I haven't any idea how true it is. The dope is that we are going to be distributed in the whole Atlantic Fleet and cruise down South American and back up the coast of Africa. I hardly think that the fates have been that kind to us.

It is surely lucky for me that the weather of today was delayed as long as it has. It is snowing and a veritable blizzard is coming in from the bay. Boy, I mean Girl, it is cold. A whole lot colder than it has been yet this year. If the weather isn't careful, it will make me a liar yet and that Severn will freeze up. It if does, we will have a little bit of skating and I haven't skated since I left home many years ago. There is nothing beats a try even at that. I wish it would clear up. This weather gets me feeling Rhino. That means Blue. I forgot that.

Source: Arleigh Burke-Roberta Gorsuch Burke Letters, Burke Papers, NHHHC

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE SURFACE NAVY (NMSN) GREAT SHIPS SHOWCASE -- OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE YOUR NAME INCLUDED

If you are interested, and for a donation of \$250 or more, you can have your name included in the NMSN Great Ships Showcase in perpetuity, specifically linked to USS Arleigh Burke which is one of 15 Feature Ships telling our Navy's Story. Donations of \$250 – 2449 are recognized as Contributors, while donations of \$2500 or greater are recognized as Sponsors. All donations over time are cumulative – you can start out as a Contributor and eventually grow and become a Sponsor. Please use the following Link which will take you to the NMSN Website and the Feature Ships, which includes USS Arleigh Burke:

https://surfacenavymuseum.org/museum_campaign/phase-1-great-ships/

Once on this page find and click on (USS Arleigh Burke)

which takes you to the Donation Page for USS Arleigh Burke. Follow the form/prompts to make your contribution. Easiest way to donate is by Credit Card, but if you scroll down to the bottom of the page several alternate ways to donate are addressed to include: Check, Transfer from an IRA, etc.

Please reach out directly to either Corey Keniston, who in addition to being our Association Secretary is also a NMSN Ambassador, or to me, if you have any questions or difficulty donating. This is a real opportunity to become part of our Surface Warrior History, and directly support the capture and display of USS Arleigh Burke's Accomplishments in Service to our Navy and Nation.

TIN CAN SAILORS BY ROSEN GIPE - TIN CAN SAILOR ASSN. PRESIDENT

Tin Can Sailors continues to host the quarterly Coffee Hour at the Headquarters in Somerset, Massachusetts. This program brings together members and friends in the area for presentations and conversations about destroyer history, the active fleet, destroyer museum ships, and current news for veterans. The next program is scheduled for Thursday, August 7 at 9 a.m.. Admission is free. The topic is yet to be determined. Call 508-677-0515 for information and to register.

The 2025 Tin Can Sailors National Reunion will be held September 21-25 in Norfolk, Virginia. The host hotel is the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside. The National Reunion provides an opportunity for shipmates from all destroyers and all eras to get together to reminisce, commiserate, and enjoy a bit of camaraderie. Many destroyer associations find that the National Reunion is a great way to keep their groups together without the hassle of making arrangements and negotiating contracts. Tin Can Sailors does all the work. The year's optional tours include a dinner cruise, a day trip to the Jamestown Settlement, and the Victory Rover naval base cruise from Nauticus. There are always a few un-

announced, sometimes unplanned, surprises. Registration information is available online at <https://www.destroyers.org/2025-national-reunion/>.

Tin Can Sailors is an organization for destroyer sailors, family, friends, and history enthusiasts. "The Tin Can Sailor," the quarterly magazine, contains historical articles, current news, and sea stories, as well as meeting and reunion listings. To become a member, call 508-677-0515 or visit the website at <https://www.destroyers.org/membership/>. To keep up with Tin Can Sailors, follow us on Facebook [@tincansailorsdestroyers](https://www.facebook.com/tincansailorsdestroyers).



Patrol 5 to Patrol 6 Inport Period

By ENS Susanna Gaither, USS ARLEIGH BURKE

On Dec. 7, 2024 the USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) returned home after a four-month long forward deployed patrol, her fifth since shifting homeport to Rota, Spain. Following her return to homeport, Commander Tyrchra Bowman was relieved by Commander Ethan Reber as the commanding officer of ARLEIGH BURKE in a ceremony on Dec. 19, 2024. The ship then entered a 3-month long, \$21 million dollar Selected Restricted Availability (SRA), the most manpower intensive SRA in Rota history.



CDR. Ethan Reber, commanding officer, is pinned with the command at sea insignia by his wife Nicole, Dec. 19, 2024. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Drace Wilson)

The SRA began with a Damage Control Validation Exercise (VE) that tested the crew's ability to combat a major shipboard industrial casualty while seamlessly integrating with Naval Station Rota Fire Department and Forward Deployed Regional Maintenance Center (FDRMC) Rota. Following the VE Drill, major repair and modernization work commenced as the local maintenance activity, Navantia, and representatives FDRMC Rota, alongside ship's force, updated, repaired, replaced, and improved multiple ship's systems. After successfully closing over 100 work items, the SRA concluded on Apr. 11, 2025.

Immediately following the SRA, ARLEIGH BURKE commenced her Damage Control Material Assessment



Damage Controlman First Class Carl Zollicoffer (center) leads sailors through a Damage Control validation exercise, Jan. 23, 2025. (U.S. Navy photo by Electricians Mate First Class Paul Draves)

(DCMA), an intensive inspection validating the readiness of the ship's damage control equipment and administration to support engineering light off and sustained operations. Hundreds of man hours from ARLEIGH BURKE's hard-charging Sailors ensured the ship was ready to combat any casualty, in port or at sea.

Following DCMA, the ship entered another comprehensive, engineering-focused event with Light Off Assessment (LOA). LOA included daily safe to train / safe to operate (STT/STO) walkthroughs of all engineering main and auxiliary spaces, a ship-wide Main Space Fire Drill (MSFD) evaluation, and extensive "cold" and "hot" checks of engineering equipment. The event was completed in seven days, besting her previous ten-day record from her time stationed in Norfolk, and absolutely crushing the standard set by ships half her age.

DCMA and SRA were ship-wide events that relied heavily on significant personal investment from all hands. During all hours of the day, Sailors from all departments could be found identifying and correcting discrepancies. Electrician's Mate Senior Chief Jimm Gadway, ARLEIGH BURKE's Top Snipe, says "LOA was a wake-up call for the ship, emphasizing procedural compliance and reestablishing a baseline of what right looks like at all levels. It helped us identify what we could improve, as a team, so that we can safely and effectively operate the plant out at

sea. We had to do this together – this was an All Hands event.”

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jorge Siguenza, Main Propulsion Assistant, emphasized the importance of outside support in making a 34-year-old warship ready to sail. “LOA provides feedback to the fleet on the ship’s personnel and equipment shortfalls, and readiness to operate at sea. We fight every day to keep the ship operationally ready. Integration with outside support to fix issues beyond ship’s force capabilities was essential to keeping ARLEIGH BURKE mission ready.”

With LOA complete, the ship was able to return to sea and successfully execute Sea Trials from May 12th through May 14th. With an aggressive schedule that included seamanship training, precision anchorage, anti-submarine warfare operations, flight deck operations, small boat evolutions, engineering checks, and Pre-Calibration Fire (PACFIRE) requirements for the 5-inch/54-caliber Mark 45 gun and the Phalanx CIWS, Sea Trials provided an opportunity to shake down, test, and evaluate critical systems prior to Patrol 6.



The guided-missile destroyer USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) fires her Mark 45 5-inch gun during a live-fire exercise,

Despite the busy SRA schedule, ARLEIGH BURKE’s crew completed collaborative events with her Spanish sister ship, the ESPS SANTA MARIA; hosted Vice Admiral Jeffrey Anderson, Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet; sent dozens of Sailors to critical training and schools; and placed second in the Naval Station Rota soccer tournament. As the ship looks towards the next patrol and continues her work in a dynamic, rapidly evolving theater of operations, Team 51’s focus continues to sharpen on material readiness, warfighting excellence,

and delivering lethality.



Vice Admiral Jeffrey Anderson, Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet (right) discusses ship schedule and tactics with Cmdr. Ethan Reber, Arleigh Burke’s commanding officer (left) and Cmdr. Jamie Jordan, Arleigh Burke’s executive officer (center).

“ARLEIGH BURKE continues to meet every task head-on with the spirit, tenacity, and resolve of our namesake,” says Cmdr. Ethan Reber, Commanding Officer. “I am extremely proud of all that Team 51 has accomplished during this inter-patrol period. I know that this crew is ready to fight America’s Lead Destroyer at sea, defending U.S., Allied, and partner interests, and projecting power on call.”

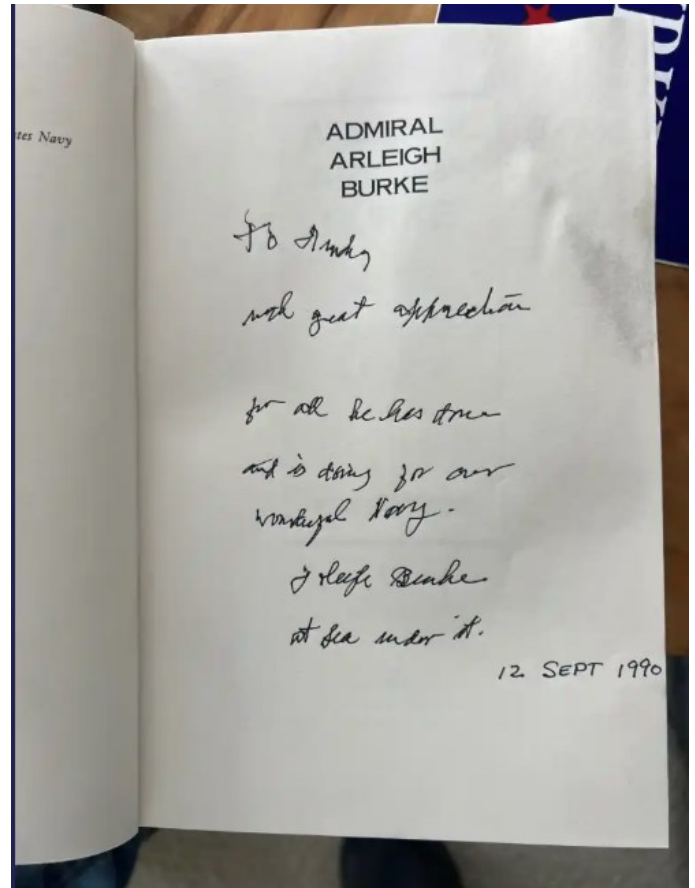
USS ARLEIGH BURKE is currently in Rota, Spain preparing for her sixth forward deployed Patrol.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Association members,

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 others have done in previous issues, 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

Thank you.



Andy Summers with Kenyon Hiser

2025 BOD Meeting Dates

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

-- Annual Association Meeting Nov 20

All Telcons kick off at 1930 EST:

Teleconference for BOD/ Annual Meetings:

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84945831836?pwd=xRMPeJHoWGEkz17TrmqVjcaDa9CCen.1> (NEW)

Meeting ID: 849 4583 1836 Passcode: 552200

Phone: 301-715-8592, Meeting ID: 849 4583 1836, Passcode: 552200

WE'RE ON THE WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA!

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



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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.

