

FARRAGUT FLASH

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DD348 Guadalcanal 1942



FARRAGUT SHIPS' ASSOCIATION
online @<http://www.farragutassociation.org>

ONE LEGENDARY ADMIRAL-
FIVE EXTRAORDINARY SHIPS!

Founded: Evansville, IN July 2002
Reunited: Charleston, SC October 2004
Attended: Christening of FARRAGUT @BIW 23JUL2005
Reunited/rename: Mayport, FL June 2006
Attended: USS Farragut(DDG 99)Commissioning 10JUN06
Incorporated: Richmond, VA 31OCT2006

Membership open to ALL Farragut Sailors and
Friends of Farragut, past, present, afloat and ashore.



Greetings from our President

by Jerry O'Connor (RM, 69-71) President Farragut Ships' Association, INC.

Shipmates: The year 2006 draws slowly to a close. Some of us have had good years, some not so good. As for myself, I lost a last family member just before Thanksgiving. My Sister passed away after a four-year bout with cancer. There is at least one other Shipmate, Roy White, facing some health problems as well. It is my sincere hope that he is doing as well as can be.

As for the Association, we weathered a kind of storm early in the year when our Treasurer, Cesar Mujica had to resign his post due to family problems. With the support, assistance and guidance of your Board of Directors, I was able to ask Tom Randall to assume the Treasurer's Post. He stepped in and has done a top job for all of us, getting our bank account opened and the funds transferred with as few waves as possible. Tom has been instrumental in bringing about our tax-exempt status as well as some financial inputs for us.

In Tom's place, Paul Levasseur was asked to step in as 2nd Vice President. Paul jumped right into the fire and has

lent his support and voice to all measures asked of him.

Tony Gagliano, our 1st Vice President, took a lead role in our negotiations with Last Voyage to have them become a Sponsor to our Association with some donations to our Treasury as well. Last Voyage, in case you need to know, is a company that takes actual metal from ships and makes medallions and plaques from it for former Sailors. The Farragut is one of the ships. I proudly display my medallion on my "Farragut Wall" in my game room. (All Shipmates have an open invitation to visit if you ever make it to South Carolina. Bring your pool cue, lessons are cheap)

Our Secretary, William Forester, has advised us that he is expert in the dealings of the Government with regard to reemployment rights of returning Veterans. If any of you need advice on this subject, contact me and I will gladly put you in touch with Bill.

DDG 99 is going well. Capt McLay has kept us posted as to the comings and goings of her command. The

Command Master Chief, Eugene Finck, has also done us proud by being instrumental in recruiting members for our Active Duty chapter. There is scuttlebutt, at this point still unconfirmed, that a "Family Cruise" may be in the works. As to when and where, I will have to say, "I'll let you know", but rest assured, I will be there.

Your Board of Directors and I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Fair Winds and Following Seas, Shipmates



Shipmate Jerry and Lavelle O'Connor at home in SC and The President and the Captain in Mayport FL



Special Interest Articles:

- ◆ Greetings from our President
- ◆ Farragut is Home Again in Mayport
- ◆ 2008 Reunion Plans
- ◆ From the Helm The Captain has the Watch

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These commemorative Farragut coins are now available to purchase online @ <http://www.lastvoyagellc.com/ussfarragut.html>. Each coin is certified as cast from the metal hull of ex-USS Farragut (DDG 37). For each coin sold, a donation will be made to the FSA.



*Official US Navy Photo
approved for Public Release
June 10, 2006*



*Official US Navy Photo
approved for Public Release
June 10, 2006*

The USS Farragut (DDG 99) Commissioned June 10, 2006

by Thomas Randall, (MM, 76-80) 2006 Reunion Chair
On Saturday, June 10th the newly rededicated Farragut Ships' Association (FSA) attended the Commissioning Ceremony for USS Farragut (DDG 99). We were the guests of their plankowner Commanding Officer, Deidre L. McLay, CDR, USN. On a day that one shipmate compared the heat to a "Farragut fireroom in June"; 87 former shipmates and 116 of their guests were seated under brilliant Florida skies and were part of the pomp and circumstance that goes with this monumental event. During the ceremony we

were asked to stand and be recognized, but we were proud to be outgunned by the standing ovation CMH recipient and retired USMC Major Everett Pope received. One of our shipmates, Burt Renager (C.O. DDG 37, 83-85) was given the honor of setting the quarterdeck watch as he handed our long glass over to DDG 99s first OOD, Plankowner SK1 (SW) Srickhouse. That long glass and the portrait we gave to the ship to honor all ships named Farragut are going to be the centerpiece of a

display of honor on the mess decks.
In this photo you can barely see SECNAV Donald Winter, Senators Mel Martinez and Susan Collins and other VIPs as they listen to our Captain take command while our shipmates man the rails.



*Official US Navy Photo
approved for Public Release
June 10, 2006*

Our FSA Is On The Web And Full Speed Ahead

By Tony Gagliano BT3/Oil King – 1966-68 1st Vice President of the Farragut Association and Web Master
At the last reunion association meeting in Jax, FL I reported that our web page received 6,000 hits. I am happy to report that by the time all shipmates read this we will have come close to or have reached 9,000 hits. Our association has all of its members to thank for this success and I still encourage all to submit as many photos as you can to make our web site even better. I have heard so many stories from shipmates about their time aboard our beloved

Farragut and I think other shipmates would like to hear them also if they are sent to me to insert onto our web page. I have been in touch with Commander McLay of the DDG-99 and am awaiting her permission to start up Farragut DDG-99 home page that would be linked to from our home page. This will give us all an insight into the goings on aboard the new Farragut and give us a chance to get to know the crew, learn the ports of call, and bring us into the events aboard the ship. We are hoping that we can go ahead with this project as the interest in the DDG-99 is growing and we hope to

have this fine new crew as part of our association in the future when their enlistment is fulfilled. And last, I want to remind all shipmates that our web site also has a forum where you can bring up topics for discussion as well as a tool to find old shipmates. Our web page has been a source for old shipmates to locate one another and I can't think of anything more exciting than to hear from an old buddy that you haven't been in touch with for decades. This web site belongs to us all and it is with your help and submissions that make it the success it is today.



*Sue and Tony Gagliano at Bath Iron Works 23 July 2005
(Photo by a great photographer)*

We are online @ <http://www.farragutassociation.org>

Two more PHPs dedicated to the USS Farragut include:

- ◆ Tommy Anderson's (SM, 61-63) PHP <http://www.ussfarragutshipmates.com>
- ◆ Brian Patterson's (FTM, 80-84) http://www.geocities.com/pcoyote_86001/

Farragut Ships' Association, INC. is Manned & Ready

By Thomas Randall (MM, 76-80), 2006 Treasurer, Membership Affairs, and Editor, **Farragut Flash**

We are running a tight ship that is definitely manned and ready and full speed ahead.

We are now a registered Non-Stock (not-for-profit) Corporation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Papers filed on 27OCT2006 at Richmond, VA were followed the next day with an application for an IRS EIN number. With the legalities completed, we opened a no-fee business non-profit checking account at the credit union that has had my business for the past 20 years, 1st Advantage FCU. As your treasurer, I believe that we now have the foundations for a

properly functioning non-profit organization that can be accountable to its shareholders and I pledge my time and talent to its success.

When I was elected 2nd V.P. last summer, I really wanted to build our membership so I formed a Membership Affairs committee. I am going to continue in that capacity until the next reunion when I will hand it over the new 2nd V.P. I am actively recruiting new members and keeping a roster. Case in point, I visited our shipmates aboard DDG 99 on 27OCT06 at Norfolk Naval Station where the first four to sign up were the C.O. (CDR Deidre McLay); the CMC (CMDCM (SW) Gene Finck); GSE1(SW) Rob Pfirman, and the X.O.

(LCDR Matt Bonner).

These four took the lead and now form the core of the Active Duty Chapter, an entity we created for our active duty shipmates aboard DDG 99. Once our shipmates leave Farragut for other assignments or life ashore, they can join the rest of us old salts in the Veterans' Chapter. I am currently tracking 249 shipmates in the roster with 116 of us paying dues. Please join and become a voting, active member – membership signifies commitment, and commitment means we continue to help make this association grow. An application is included with this newsletter.

ED. NOTE: A gold star on your address label means your dues are current.



Former MM2 Tom Randall, DDG 37, visited PCU Farragut at NOB on 14MAY06 to make final 06 reunion plans in person.
[Photo by CMDCM (SW) Gene Finck, Plankowner CMC of USS Farragut (DDG 99)]



The Third Reunion in JAX is History & Cleveland is Next in 2008

By Thomas Randall (MM, 76-80), 2006 Reunion Committee Chairman

What a great thrill it was to see so many shipmates in Jacksonville last June. Thanks to support and active participation of the previous executive board and Russ Kauffman (FTM, 62-64) and Sandy Mock (C.O. 77-79) our visit to JAX went very well overall. We learned some lessons about what not to do next time and we certainly found out that we can work together to make a reunion worth remembering.

And what a gathering of shipmates it was - We had one DD 348 shipmate and about a 60/40 split of DLG 6 and DDG 37 (Same ship,

different day) shipmates present. At the Commissioning, I counted 86 shipmates in all with 113 Friends of Farragut right there with us as we welcomed the newest USS Farragut to the fleet.

That is the best turn out yet. We can only grow and prosper now that we are the FARRAGUT SHIPS' ASSOCIATION, INC. with membership open to ALL Farragut sailors, past and present, and we are a not-for profit corporation by unanimous vote at our business meeting on June 9th. We also voted to meet in Cleveland, OH in 2008 in deference to our West Coast shipmates' requests

and we agreed to have every other reunion in JAX to maintain our ties to DDG 99.

Joe Ferlin (MT, 62-63) is our 2008 Reunion Committee Chairman. Together with Bill Forester (IC, 75-77) they are making preliminary inquiries about our Cleveland road trip. Joe and Bill both have great ideas that include a possible trip to the ballpark, a trip to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, maybe even a ride on a tin can if one is in town. One major item they need your help with is WHEN do we want to have the reunion? Send your ideas to them and consider what time of the year is the best time to get all of us together.

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“Just want to say a special “thank you” for all the time and effort you put forth to make the commissioning weekend such a memorable experience for my family and me. We all enjoyed the entire experience. Everything was so well planned and seemed to go off without a hitch.”

E-mail from Don Aman
WT2, DD 348 & WW2
Veteran June 13, 2006

From The Helm – The Captain Has the Watch



Two Philadelphia Eagles cheerleaders flank the Captain during DDG 99's maiden port visit to Philadelphia, July 4th, 2006. (Photo © Philadelphia Eagles)

“Thanks to all of you who keep us in your thoughts and come by anytime we are in Mayport or any other port for a visit. FARRAGUT Sailors and supporters of any time period are always welcome aboard Farragut.”

Shipmate Deidre L. McLay, CDR, USN
Plankowner
Commanding Officer
USS Farragut (DDG 99)
10 December 2006

*By Deidre L. McLay, CDR
USN Plankowner
Commanding Officer
USS Farragut DDG 99)
Homeport Mayport, FL*

Greetings to all of the FARRAGUT family, past and present. The newest FARRAGUT, DDG-99, has been very busy in our first six months of commissioned service. A few highlights will give you an idea of all the events we have been busy executing with professional expertise, a good attitude, and a spirit of accomplishment and achievement. We are doing our very best to keep the solid record of excellence established by all the other ships named for Admiral Farragut.

Just after commissioning in June, we had a busy July. The ship visited Philadelphia for Independence Day and spent two weeks on an advanced exercise as part of a carrier battle group. The ship did great which was a testimony to all of the hard work and talented crew that brought the ship to fleet readiness so quickly. In August, we groomed all of our combat systems and weapons for various tests and firing events later in the Fall.

We successfully fired almost every type of ordnance we have, including Vertical Launch Torpedoes (VLA), over the side torpedoes, chaff, 5-inch gun rounds, small arms, crew served weapons, and the very capable SM-2 surface to air missile. We tested all of the radars, radios, data links, auxiliary equipment, propulsion equipment, deck gear, boats, navigation systems and more. You name it, we tested it.

We demonstrated all of our required training certifications that we could and were certified in most areas just after Thanksgiving.

There was a bit of fun inserted once in awhile in our hectic schedule. The ship visited Port Canaveral, FL, near Orlando. That allowed many to visit Disneyworld and other local attractions. There was an at-sea swim call in the Bahamas. Many crewmembers were selected for Chief Petty Officer and the CPO Mess did a fine job of training and “transitioning” the new Chiefs. In early December, 24 members of the crew were

advanced to the next pay grade, with 6 new PO1s, 12 new PO2s, and 6 new PO3s.

The week of 11-15 December is INSURV inspection for Final Contract Trials, the last big event before the holiday break. The FARRAGUT team is ready for the event, and definitely looking forward to a well-deserved break during the holidays.

Thanks to all of you who keep us in your thoughts and come by anytime we are in Mayport or any other port for a visit. FARRAGUT Sailors and supporters of any time period are always welcome aboard *Farragut*.



The Crew visited the VA Hospital during DDG 99's maiden port visit to Philadelphia, July 4th, 2006. (Photo © Philadelphia Eagles)

USS Farragut Anchor Now At Farragut (TN) High School

By Alan Sloan *Farragut Press*, Jun, 1, 2006
Reprinted by permission.

A piece of history that represents "Farragut Admiral" in a direct way is expected to be on display alongside Bill Clabo Field in the Farragut High School stadium sometime during 2006 FHS football and girls soccer seasons this fall. Ripe with symbolism, the anchor from decommissioned U.S. Navy destroyer USS Farragut (DDG 37) will be available for transportation from where the destroyer is being dismantled - Brownsville, Texas - according to Mark Braden, legislative correspondent with U.S. Rep John J. Duncan Jr.'s office in Washington, D.C. "... International Shipbreaking Limited out of Brownsville, Texas contacted me this morning... They have graciously decided to donate the nine-foot high, eight-thousand-pound anchor from the ex-USS Farragut to Coach [Eddie] Courtney and Farragut High School," said Braden, an FHS alumnus and former Admiral football player under Courtney (current FHS head coach) in a letter to *Farragut Press* Friday, May 19. "That's excellent ... that's super," said Clyde Floyd, a 1952 FHS graduate, U.S. Navy veteran and Admiral Football historian, who along with Courtney hatched the idea to obtain a

piece of the destroyer earlier this year. "Everybody's been wanting an anchor for years," Floyd added. "They've been hunting something sort of standard down there at the football field for years [for players] to rub [upon entering the field just before kickoff] like the rock at Clemson, that type of stuff." The original goal was to get "something from the ship that we could display at the football stadium," Courtney said. "It's a piece of history and something to add a little pride, maybe, a little morale - we're known as the 'Admirals.' We're going to try and put it on the hill there where you come in the pass gate." "The hill" is on the far northeastern side of stadium real estate located in the corner grass lot at the drive-in entrance inside the stadium and the school entrance road from Kingston Pike. Floyd said he's made several attempts to gain an anchor for the football stadium. "I went two weeks for eighteen years to Charleston, SC, and I checked on it from time-to-time," adding he had "no trouble" finding an anchor. "But the trouble I had was getting it from Charleston to Farragut." But those anchors weren't from the USS Farragut. And though Braden indicated the USS Farragut anchor will be set "aside for pick-up," Courtney said he's contacted "a couple of trucking companies that do hauling nationwide, and we've talked to a couple of them as to whether they could work it out in their schedule."

Farragut's Football Booster Club will be in charge of raising all necessary funds for shipping costs and any other expenses, the coach added. Courtney said his first contact with Duncan's office came in February, and added he's talked directly with Duncan twice. "He's been in contact with different people in the Navy department, the ones certainly overseeing the project," Courtney said. "We've received a lot of cooperation." As for dealing directly with Duncan, "It's been very positive, something he wants to try to see if there's any way possible to be a part of. He thought that was unique, trying to do something special," Courtney said. "He uses our track [at Bill Clabo Field] to work out on, jog on, so there's a lot of interest there." Courtney added he hopes to have arrangements made with a moving company and the anchor secured, transported and in the stadium by the start of the 2006 football and girls soccer season.

Commissioned Nov. 14, 1956, and first launched July 18, 1958, the 512.5-foot, 5,800 destroyer was decommissioned Oct. 31, 1989. The fourth ship to bear the name USS Farragut, the DDG 37 was transported to Brownsville for scrapping from Philadelphia, Pa. Feb. 6 (*ed. note: 2006*).



Farragut's anchor now at FHS where our Plankowner Associate Member Clyde Floyd holds the anchor chain from the port anchor of USS Farragut (DDG 37)
Photo © *Farragut Press* reprinted by permission.

Crew Commissions USS Farragut (DDG 99)

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.farragutassociation.org>

By JO1 Sonja Chambers,
Deputy Public Affairs Officer
Mayport Naval Station

The crew of USS Farragut (DDG 99) commissioned its new Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer during a ceremony Saturday at NS Mayport.

Attending the traditional Navy ceremony was Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter, Florida Senator Mel Martinez, Maine Senator Susan Collins, Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton and other shipbuilding and Navy officials.

Peyton welcomed the Farragut crew to Jacksonville and gave a key to the city to Cmdr. Deidre L. McLay, USS Farragut Commanding Officer.

Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby, Deputy Director Surface Warfare Division Office of Chief of Naval Operations, congratulated the crew for their hard work on readying the ship for the Fleet.

"Farragut Destroyer men, you are at the pinnacle of success on the newest warship in the world's best Navy," he said.

Martinez, the ceremony's principal speaker, welcomed the crew to Florida and praised their dedication.

"USS Farragut is an incredible ship. It's soon to be the pride of the Fleet," he said. "The crew heartily represents the motto "Prepared for Battle."

The final steps in getting the ship "Prepared for Battle" started off with Winter placing the ship in commission. Colors were raised, and McLay read her orders.

After the First Watch was set, Collins, the ship's sponsor, gave the order to "Man our ship and bring her to life!"

The crew ran on board to applause and shouts from the crowd, which included former crew members of USS Farragut (DDG 37) that decommissioned in 1989.

To mark the end of the crew's pre-commissioning journey, sirens began wailing and the MK45 Mod 4 5"/62 caliber gun took

aim while shots fired from the MK99 Mod 3 Fire Control System. This received heightened applause from the more than 3,000 people in the crowd.

McLay reported for duty and remarked what a privilege it was to be Captain of Farragut. She also thanked all the friends and family that lent their support to Farragut's crew during the pre-commissioning process.

"This day is the culmination of many long hours and the efforts of many people, and it promises to be a memorable day for all. We could not have reached this milestone without the strong support and encouragement from all of you," she said.

"It was great to see all the hard work of pre-commissioning pay off," said ENC (SW) Gibson Greene, leading chief petty officer of Farragut's EA Division. "We've got a great ship."

FARRAGUT SHIPS' ASSOCIATION, INC

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