

GENERAL DYNAMICS
nasco



USNS Alan Shepard
(T-AKE 3)
Launching Ceremony
December 6, 2006

USNS Alan Shepard (T-AKE 3)

Designed and built by General Dynamics NASSCO

Mission: To deliver ammunition, provisions, stores, spare parts, potable water and petroleum products to strike groups and other naval forces, serving as a shuttle ship or station ship.



Design Particulars:

Length: 210 Meters (689 ft.)
Beam: 32.2 Meters (105.6 ft.)
Draft: 9.1 Meters (29.8 ft.)
Displacement: 40,950 Metric tons
Speed: 20 Knots

Max dry cargo weight: 6,700 Metric tons
Cargo potable water: 52,800 Gallons
Cargo fuel: 23,450 Barrels
Propulsion: Single screw, diesel-electric

USNS *Alan Shepard* (T-AKE 3) Launching Ceremony Program

Music

Navy Band Southwest

Presentation of Colors

San Diego High School JROTC

Soloist

Jeffrey M. Couzens, General Dynamics NASSCO

Invocation

Commander Mark G. Steiner, CHC, USN, Naval Base San Diego

Remarks

Frederick J. Harris, President, General Dynamics NASSCO

Rear Admiral Charles S. Hamilton II, USN, Program Executive Officer for Ships

Rear Admiral Robert D. Reilly, Jr., USN, Commander, Military Sealift Command

Principal Speaker

The Honorable John H. Sununu, Former Governor of New Hampshire

Sponsor's Party

Mrs. Laura Shepard Churchley, Sponsor

Mrs. Juliana Shepard Jenkins, Matron of Honor

Mrs. Alice Shepard Wackermann, Matron of Honor

Flower Girl

Caitlin Lange, daughter of Christian Lange, General Dynamics NASSCO

Master of Ceremonies

Karl D. Johnson, Director of Communications, General Dynamics NASSCO



Alan Bartlett Shepard, Jr.

Rear Admiral Alan Bartlett Shepard, Jr., (November 18, 1923 – July 21, 1998) was the first American astronaut in space.

A native of East Derry, New Hampshire, Rear Admiral Shepard graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1944. He began his naval career serving aboard the destroyer USS *Cogswell*, which was deployed in the Pacific theater during World War II. He then entered flight training and received his naval aviator wings in 1947. He was later assigned to Fighter Squadron 42 and served several tours aboard aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean while with the squadron.

Rear Admiral Shepard graduated from Naval Test Pilot School (NTPS) in 1951. As a test pilot, he participated in high-altitude tests to obtain data on the properties of light at different altitudes; test and development experiments for the Navy's in-flight refueling system; and the trials for the Navy's first angled carrier deck. On his next assignment, he served as operations officer of Fighter Squadron 193,

making two Western Pacific tours while aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Oriskany*. He returned to NTPS after his squadron tour, attended the Naval War College and served on the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet staff. He logged more than 8,000 flying hours as a naval aviator, 3,700 of which were in jet aircraft.

In April of 1959, Rear Admiral Shepard was selected from a pool of 110 pilots to be one of the seven men named to NASA's Project Mercury. On May 5, 1961, aboard the "Freedom 7" spacecraft, he was launched on a ballistic trajectory suborbital flight, becoming the first American in space. The 15½ minute flight carried him to an altitude of 116 statute miles and to a landing point 302 statute miles down the Atlantic Missile Range. Although he was designated to be the command pilot of the first manned Gemini mission, Ménière's disease, a medical condition that causes fluid pressure to build in the inner ear, prevented him from making that flight and ultimately led to his removal from flight status for most of the 1960s.





In the meantime, he served as chief of the Astronaut Office and was responsible for monitoring all activities involving NASA astronauts.

Following corrective surgery for Ménière's disease, Rear Admiral Shepard was restored to full flight status in May of 1969. At age 47, and as the oldest astronaut in the program, he made his second and last space flight from January 31 to February 9, 1971, as commander of Apollo 14, with lunar module pilot Edgar Mitchell and command module pilot Stuart Roosa.



Rear Admiral Shepard holds the distinction of being the only Mercury astronaut to walk on the Moon. He is also remembered for playing golf on the Moon, using a Spalding six-iron head attached to a lunar sample scoop handle. While his first shot only went a hundred feet, his second swing, which he hit with one arm because the bulk of his spacesuit prevented him from using both arms, sent the ball as he said, "miles and miles and miles."

Rear Admiral Shepard retired from the Navy and NASA on August 1, 1974. He spent his post-NASA career in business and for several years ran the Mercury Seven Foundation, a non-profit organization now called the Astronaut Science Foundation that provides college science scholarships. His decorations and awards included the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, two NASA Distinguished Service Medals, NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal, Naval Astronaut Wings, Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, the Langley Award (highest award of the Smithsonian Institution) and the Lambert Trophy (awarded to aviation pioneers).

Rear Admiral Alan Shepard, Jr., died in Pebble Beach, California, at age 74.



Acknowledgments:

Images and biographical information obtained from NASA and the Navy.

Mrs. Laura Shepard Churchley
Sponsor

Laura Shepard Churchley was born in Wilmington, Delaware. She is the eldest daughter of Rear Admiral Alan B. Shepard, Jr., USN (Ret). Laura lives in Evergreen, Colorado with her husband, Frederick William Churchley III.

Laura has two children: a daughter, Lark Brewer Stewart, and a son, Bartlett Churchill Snyder, both of whom reside in Denver, Colorado. She also has four step children: Scott Richard Churchley, Bryan Stewart Churchley, Brett Frederick Churchley and Megan Louise Churchley.

Laura graduated from Principia College in Elsah, Illinois, with a bachelor's degree in art history. She has a long history of community volunteer work with various youth and athletic organizations, and has provided leadership in many professional associations.

Laura is a former member of the Evergreen Chamber of Commerce and the Evergreen Art Council, and is a founding member and historian of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mountain Rendezvous Chapter. She serves on the Kansas Cosmosphere Foundation Board in Hutchinson, Kansas, and the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation Board of Trustees at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.



Mrs. Juliana Shepard Jenkins
Matron of Honor

Juliana Shepard Jenkins was born at the Patuxent Naval Base in Maryland, and is the second daughter of Louise Shepard and Rear Admiral Alan B. Shepard, Jr., USN (Ret). She now lives in Wimberley, Texas with her husband, Gregory. She has two children, Ethney Anna Coleman and Shepard O'Neil Coleman.

After attending the University of Arkansas, Juliana worked for Continental Airlines as a flight attendant. She was personally recognized by the airline's owner for her courage, dedication, and devoted conduct during an airplane crash in 1975. The leadership and effective response of the entire crew ensured the safe evacuation of all passengers.

Juliana started and currently operates her own business, "Reflection," which sells "litecube" products. She also provides support for local civic functions and community theater, and volunteers to give talks about her father to surrounding area schools and clubs.



Mrs. Alice Shepard Wackermann
Matron of Honor

Alice Shepard Wackermann was born in Baltimore, Maryland and is the youngest daughter of Rear Admiral Alan B. Shepard, Jr., USN (Ret). She now resides in the Chicago suburb of Aurora, Illinois, with her husband, Neil. She too graduated from Principia College in Elsah, Illinois, with a bachelor's degree in art history.

Alice has two grown children, Reid and Heather. Reid is a Petty Officer Third Class in the United States Navy, stationed at Naval Air Station Atlanta in Marietta, Georgia. Heather is attending the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, working towards a degree in hospitality management.

Alice is an active member of her church and serves with PEO, a philanthropic sisterhood in Naperville, Illinois. She is currently a contract worker with IBM's Technological Acquisition and Asset Services Group in Oak Brook, Illinois.



The Honorable John H. Sununu
Former Governor of New Hampshire
Principal Speaker

John H. Sununu, of Salem, New Hampshire, is president of JHS Associates, Ltd., and a former partner in Trinity International Partners, a private financial firm.

Governor Sununu was a visiting professor of practice in public service at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government during the 2003 – 2004 school year. In 2004, he co-chaired the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board's Nuclear Energy Task Force. He also co-hosted CNN's "Crossfire," a nightly news and public affairs discussion program, from 1992 until 1998.

Governor Sununu was commissioned Chief of Staff to the President of the United States on January 21, 1989, and served in the White House until March 1, 1992. He became New Hampshire's 75th governor on January 6, 1983, and served three consecutive terms before joining the White House staff.

From 1963 until his election, Governor Sununu served as president of JHS Engineering Company and Thermal Research Inc. Prior to that, he helped establish Astro Dynamics Inc., and served as its chief engineer. From 1968 until 1973, he was associate dean of the College of Engineering and associate professor of mechanical engineering at Tufts University. He served on the Advisory Board of the Technology and Policy Program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) from 1984 until 1989.

Governor Sununu earned his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in mechanical engineering from MIT. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a member of the Board of Trustees for the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation.



Frederick J. Harris
President , General Dynamics NASSCO

Fred Harris became president of General Dynamics NASSCO and a vice president of General Dynamics Corporation on January 1, 2006. Prior to that, Harris was the senior vice president of programs at General Dynamics Electric Boat and was responsible for the execution of all submarine design and construction programs.

Harris began his shipbuilding career in 1973 as a senior engineer for Electric Boat's Trident ballistic missile submarine program. For his successful construction effort as program manager of the Virginia-class submarine design program, he received the Maine Maritime Academy Outstanding Alumni Award for the Year 2000 and, in 2002, received the annual William M. Kennedy Award from the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. In 2003, he was included on the Maine Maritime Academy's Wall of Honor for his accomplishments in the Marine field.

Harris was born in Framingham, Massachusetts. A 1963 graduate of Hopkinton, Massachusetts High School, he graduated from the Maine Maritime Academy in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in marine engineering. He sailed for several years as a U.S. Merchant Marine, notably aboard the U.S. registered SS *Transglobe*, the most decorated American merchant ship of the Vietnam War. He holds a Coast Guard Chief Engineer's License of Unlimited Horsepower. In 1972, he received a master's degree in business administration from Babson College, graduating with distinction.



Rear Admiral Charles S. Hamilton II, USN
Program Executive Officer for Ships

Rear Admiral Charles Hamilton is a native of Amityville, New York. He attended Duke University, graduating in May of 1974, with a bachelor's degree in zoology. He was commissioned in the Navy in May of 1974 through the NROTC program at Duke. His graduate education includes master's degrees from the Naval Postgraduate School and the National War College.

Rear Admiral Hamilton's sea tours include USS *Hawkins* (DD 873), USS *Coontz* (DDG 40), USS *Callaghan* (DDG 994), USS *Fox* (CG 33) and command of USS *O'Brien* (DD 975). His shore tours include positions within the Program Resource Appraisal Division (OP-91) and the Aegis Cruiser Destroyer Branch, (OP 355F), Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and as Military Staff Specialist for Naval Warfare, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology). He also served as Arsenal Ship Program Manager and as Program Executive Officer (PEO) for Surface Strike.

Rear Admiral Hamilton was named PEO for Ships in April of 2003. PEO Ships provides the Navy with a single, platform-focused organization responsible for the research, development, systems integration, construction, and lifecycle support of current and future surface combatant, amphibious and auxiliary ships.



**Rear Admiral Robert D. Reilly, Jr., USN
Commander, Military Sealift Command**

Rear Admiral Robert Dunham Reilly, Jr., a native of Winnetka, Illinois, comes from a family with more than a century of service in the U.S. armed forces. Commissioned in 1975 through the NROTC program, Rear Admiral Reilly first served aboard USS *Edson* (DD 946) as Combat Information Center Officer and Damage Control Assistant.

His other shipboard tours include commissioning USS *Fletcher* (DD 992) as its first Operations Officer; Executive Officer, USS *John Young* (DD 973); and Commanding Officer, USS *Halyburton* (FFG 40). He also commanded Cruiser Destroyer Group Two and the USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75) Carrier Strike Group.

Ashore, Rear Admiral Reilly's assignments include serving as Director, Environmental Readiness, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO N45) and Deputy Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Information Technology (CNO N098). In March of 2006, he assumed command of the Military Sealift Command.

Rear Admiral Reilly earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Washington and a master's degree in public administration (National Resources) from George Washington University. He is also a 1993 graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.





USNS Alan Shepard (T-AKE 3)
Dry Cargo / Ammunition Ship

