



*USNS Carl Brashear*  
(T-AKE 7)

Christening Ceremony  
September 18, 2008

**GENERAL DYNAMICS**

**nasco**

# **USNS Carl Brashear (T-AKE 7)**

**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, by serving as a shuttle ship or station ship.**

**Trigger Person: Mrs. Carol Toner**  
**First Shore Person: Mrs. Carol Kimener**  
**Keel-laying Honoree: Ms. Bilyana Anderson**  
**Start of Construction: Ms. Robyn Wawryznski**



## **Design Particulars:**

<b>Length:</b>	<b>210 Meters (689 ft.)</b>	<b>Max dry cargo weight:</b>	<b>6,700 Metric tons</b>
<b>Beam:</b>	<b>32.2 Meters (105.6 ft.)</b>	<b>Cargo potable water:</b>	<b>52,800 Gallons</b>
<b>Draft:</b>	<b>9.1 Meters (29.8 ft.)</b>	<b>Cargo fuel:</b>	<b>23,450 Barrels</b>
<b>Displacement:</b>	<b>40,950 Metric tons</b>	<b>Propulsion:</b>	<b>Single screw, diesel-electric</b>
<b>Speed:</b>	<b>20 Knots</b>		



**USNS *Carl Brashear* (T-AKE 7)  
Christening Ceremony Program**

***Music***

**Navy Band Southwest**

***Presentation of Colors***

**Navy Region Southwest Color Guard**

***Soloist***

**Ms. Cynthia Davis, Material Analyst, General Dynamics NASSCO**

***Invocation***

**Captain Doyle Dunn, CHC, USN, Force Chaplain, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet**

***Remarks***

**Mr. Frederick J. Harris, President, General Dynamics NASSCO**

**Master Chief Kenneth L. Green, USN, Command Master Chief, Military Sealift Command**

**Admiral Gary Roughead, USN, Chief of Naval Operations**

***Principal Speaker***

**Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Joe R. Campa, Jr., USN**

***Sponsor's Party***

**Ms. Lauren Brashear, Sponsor**

**Ms. Linda Watkins-Brashear, Matron of Honor**

**Mrs. Sandra Brashear, Matron of Honor**

**Ms. Joy Harris, Matron of Honor**

***Flower Girl***

**Miss Sienna Rodriguez, daughter of Rigoberto Rodriguez, Production Supervisor,**

**General Dynamics NASSCO**

***Master of Ceremonies***

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

## Carl Maxie Brashear

**Master Chief Boatswain's Mate Carl M. Brashear was born in Tonieville, Kentucky, on January 19, 1931. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on February 28, 1948, shortly after the Navy had desegregated. He completed recruit training at Naval Training Center Great Lakes, Illinois, in May 1948.**

**After shore duty and two ship tours, Master Chief Brashear attended U.S. Navy Salvage & Diving School in Bayonne, New Jersey. In October**

**1954, he became one of the first African-Americans to graduate from the Navy diving school and was designated a Navy salvage diver. Over the next 10 years, he served as a Navy diver aboard ship and at several shore stations. In June 1964, he graduated from the Navy's Deep-Sea Diving School located in Washington, D.C., and was designated as a First Class Diver.**

**In September 1965, Master Chief Brashear reported aboard the rescue salvage ship USS *Hoist* (ARS 40) as the acting Master Diver. On January 17, 1966, a hydrogen bomb was lost off the coast of Spain, after two U.S. Air Force planes collided during an aerial refueling attempt. The *Hoist* was part of the Navy group tasked to find and recover the bomb. On March 23, 1966, during recovery operations, a mooring line of a landing craft pulled a steel pipe out of the *Hoist's* deck. As the pipe flew across the deck, Brashear pushed another sailor out of the way, but was struck in the left leg below the knee by the pipe, nearly severing the limb. He was evacuated to Torrejon Air Base in Spain, then to Wiesbaden, Germany, and finally to the Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Virginia.**







Despite efforts to save his leg, an infection in the limb worsened. Rather than face years of recovery with pins and braces, Master Chief Brashear convinced his doctors to amputate the lower portion of his left leg.

Master Chief Brashear remained at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital for 10 months, while rehabilitating from the amputation. Although facing automatic discharge orders, he was determined to remain on active duty and agreed to undergo a prolonged series of fitness tests and diving exercises. In March 1967, he was assigned to the diving school for Harbor Clearance Unit Two, where he spent the next 12 months preparing to return to active duty. In April 1968, after a long struggle, he became the first amputee to return to full diving status. In June 1970, he became the first African-American to qualify and serve as a Master Diver while on active duty. He was promoted to the rank of Master Chief Boatswain's Mate in August 1972.



Master Chief Brashear retired from the Navy on April 1, 1979, after 31 years of service. He briefly worked for private industry before joining the federal civil service in November 1982, as an Environmental Protection and Energy Conservation specialist at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia. He retired again after 10 years of civil service in January 1993.

In 2000, Brashear's military service was portrayed by Cuba Gooding, Jr., in the film, *Men of Honor*.

Master Chief Boatswain's Mate Carl Brashear died on July 25, 2006, in Portsmouth, Virginia, and is buried in Norfolk, Virginia.

On October 24, 2007, the Newport News, Virginia Fire Department dedicated a 9.1-meter long (30-foot) high-speed fireboat in Master Chief Brashear's honor. The fireboat is used by the city's dive and marine incident response teams.



**Ms. Lauren E. Brashear**  
***Sponsor***



**Ms. Lauren Brashear is the eldest granddaughter of Master Chief Carl Brashear. Born in Newark, New Jersey, Lauren is the daughter of DaWayne Brashear and Linda Watkins-Brashear.**

**Lauren graduated from Marylawn of the Oranges Academy in South Orange, New Jersey, in 2002, where she was the co-captain of the championship girls' basketball team. Lauren is currently attending Essex County College, where she is scheduled to graduate with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 2010. She works as a senior courtroom clerk typist in the Department of Code Enforcement for the city of Newark, New Jersey.**

**Lauren's volunteer service includes the Don Bosco Community Center in Orange, New Jersey; the Camp Watershed Summer Program in Newfoundland, New Jersey; and the College Bookstore at the College of Saint Elizabeth in Covent Station, New Jersey. She has also coached the Benedictine Academy girls' basketball team in Elizabeth, New Jersey.**



**Ms. Linda R. Watkins-Brashear**  
*Matron of Honor*

**Ms. Linda Watkins-Brashear is the mother of the ship's sponsor, Lauren Brashear. Born in Richmond, Virginia, and raised in Norfolk, Virginia, Linda holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in public administration from Rutgers University. A 28-year employee of the Newark Watershed Conservation and Development Corporation, she now serves as executive director of the non-profit organization that manages 35,000 acres of land owned by the city of Newark.**



**Mrs. Sandra E. Brashear**  
*Matron of Honor*

**Mrs. Sandra Brashear is the aunt of the ship's sponsor, Lauren Brashear, and the wife of Master Chief Carl Brashear's son, Phillip. Sandra was born in New York City and raised in Hampton, Virginia. Sandra is a 20-year military veteran who served in the regular Army, Virginia National Guard and Army Reserves, primarily as a medical non-commissioned officer and a licensed practical nurse. Sandra now works for the Virginia Department of Social Services as an Administrative Procedures Specialist. Sandra and Phillip have four children: Tia, Tyler, Megan and Melanie.**



**Ms. Joy S. Harris**  
*Matron of Honor*

**Ms. Joy Harris is the partner of Master Chief Carl Brashear's son, DaWayne, who is the father of the ship's sponsor, Lauren Brashear. Born in East Orange, New Jersey, Joy attended Virginia Commonwealth University. While at VCU, she became a licensed cosmetologist. In 1985, Joy accepted a management position with Essanelle Salon Corporation. In 1990, she began her entrepreneurial career with her first full-service salon. Ten years later, she became an interior designer and is currently a practicing designer and principal of Edit Interiors, LLC.**



**Admiral Gary Roughead, USN**  
**Chief of Naval Operations**



**Admiral Gary Roughead is a 1973 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. Among his six operational commands, Admiral Roughead was the first officer to command both classes of Aegis ships, having commanded USS Barry (DDG 52) and USS Port Royal (CG 73).**

**As a flag officer, Admiral Roughead commanded Cruiser Destroyer Group 2, the *George Washington* Battle Group, and U.S. Second Fleet/NATO Striking Fleet Atlantic and Naval Forces North Fleet East.**

**Ashore, he served as Commandant of the United States Naval Academy, the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs, and Deputy Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command.**

**Admiral Roughead is one of only two officers to have commanded the fleets in the Pacific and Atlantic, commanding the U.S. Pacific Fleet and Joint Task Force 519, as well as U.S. Fleet Forces, where he was responsible for ensuring Navy forces were trained, ready, equipped and prepared to operate around the world, where and when needed.**

**Admiral Roughead's awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and various unit and service awards.**

**Admiral Roughead became the 29th Chief of Naval Operations on September 29, 2007.**



**Frederick J. Harris**  
***President, General Dynamics NASSCO***

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

**Mr. Harris began his shipbuilding career in 1973 as a senior engineer for Electric Boat's Trident ballistic missile submarine program. For his accomplishments later as program manager of the Virginia-class submarine design phase, Harris 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.**

**Mr. Harris was born in Framingham, Massachusetts. A 1963 graduate of Hopkinton 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.**



**MCPON (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa, Jr., USN**  
***Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy***

**Master Chief Joe R. Campa, Jr. was born in Lynwood, California, and raised in Southern California. He enlisted in the Navy on June 2, 1980, and completed Recruit Training and Hospital Corps "A" School in San Diego.**

**His duty assignments include USS *Ogden* (LPD 5); Naval Medical Center San Diego; Seventh Marine Regiment, First Marine Division at Camp Pendleton; Naval Hospital Long Beach, California; Third Force Service Support Group in Okinawa, Japan; Naval Hospital Bremerton, Washington; First Force Service Support Group during the Persian Gulf War; USS *Comstock* (LSD 45); and Naval Training Center Great Lakes, Illinois.**

**Master Chief Campa was selected to the Command Master Chief program in May 1999. He has served as the Command Master Chief aboard USS *Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54) and USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40). Prior to assuming his duties as MCPON on July 10, 2006, he was the Command Master Chief at Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.**

**Master Chief Campa is a distinguished honor graduate of the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy (Class 88). He also graduated from the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy and completed the Command Sergeants Major course. He holds a bachelor's degree from Excelsior College and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College.**





**CMDCM (SW/AW) Kenneth L. Green, USN**  
***Command Master Chief, Military Sealift Command***

**Master Chief Kenneth L. Green is a native of Laurel, Mississippi. He enlisted in the Navy in November 1977. After completing recruit training in San Diego, he attended Aviation Electricians Mate Class "A" School in Millington, Tennessee.**

**Master Chief Green's first duty assignment was with Fighter Squadron 32, in which he made numerous deployments with the "Swordsmen" onboard USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) and USS *Independence* (CV 62).**

**After shore duty in Mississippi and Tennessee, and sea duty with Fighter Squadron 11 embarked aboard USS *Forrestal* (CV 59), Master Chief Green reported to Navy Recruiting Station Hattiesburg, Mississippi, in January 1991. There, he was selected as Rookie Recruiter of the Year and twice led his Recruiting Station to "Station of the Year" honors.**

**In September 1993, Master Chief Green transferred overseas to Atsugi, Japan, where he again served aboard USS *Independence* with Fighter Squadron 21, Electronic Attack Squadron 136 and Fighter Squadron 154.**

**In January 1996, Master Chief Green attended the Senior Enlisted Academy. Since February 1998, he has served as the Command Master Chief for USS *Cushing* (DD 985); U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan; Carrier Air Wing 5; and Naval Support Activity La Maddalena, Italy. In July 2007, Master Chief Green reported for duty as Command Master Chief for the Military Sealift Command.**



**GENERAL DYNAMICS**

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San Diego, California  
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**USNS *Carl Brashear***  
**(TAKE 7)**

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