

GENERAL DYNAMICS



USNS *Richard E. Byrd*
(T-AKE 4)
Launching Ceremony
May 15, 2007

USNS *Richard E. Byrd* (T-AKE 4)

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.



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 Richard E. Byrd (T-AKE 4)
Launching Ceremony Program**

Music

Marine Band San Diego, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego

Presentation of Colors

Junipero Serra High School NJROTC Color Guard

Soloist

Everett E. Benze, US Joiner LLC

Invocation

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

Remarks

Frederick J. Harris, President, General Dynamics NASSCO
Rear Admiral Charles H. Goddard, USN, Program Executive Officer for Ships

Guest Speaker

The Honorable Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy

Principal Speaker

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

Sponsor's Party

Bolling Byrd Clarke, Sponsor
Eleanor "Lee" Clarke Byrd, Matron of Honor
Marie Clarke Giossi, Matron of Honor

Flower Girl

Katherine Graney, daughter of Kevin Graney, General Dynamics NASSCO

Master of Ceremonies

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

Acknowledgements: Biographical information about Rear Admiral Byrd is principally from the Ohio State University website and "The Last Explorer" by Edwin P. Hoyt, 1968. The images used in this program were taken from the website of the National Archives and www.southpole.com. The bronze medallion on the cover was presented at the 1929 New York Explorer's Club dinner honoring the achievements of the Byrd polar expeditions.

Richard Evelyn Byrd, Jr.

Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Jr., was born in Winchester, Virginia, on October 25, 1888. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1912, and initially served in the battle-ship fleet. He later attended flight training and was designated a naval aviator in April 1917.

Early in his flying career, Rear Admiral Byrd mastered the technique of landing sea-planes at night and over-the-horizon flight navigation. He created the flight plan for the Navy's NC-4 flight in May 1919, the first-ever transatlantic aerial crossing via Newfoundland and the Azores.

Fascinated with exploration since childhood, Byrd concluded that he could use his flight knowledge and skills to successfully explore the Arctic frontier by air. In February 1926, he took leave from the Navy to organize a privately-financed expedition to the North Pole. Supported by Edsel Ford, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., the New York Times and others, Byrd and his pilot, Floyd Bennett, claimed to have reached the North Pole on May 9, 1926. Both men were awarded the Medal of Honor soon after their feat.

Rear Admiral Byrd later turned his attention southward and began a privately-funded expedition to Antarctica in the fall of 1928. He established the *Little America* base on the Ross Ice Shelf on January 1, 1929. His 42-man expedition wintered through the months of permanent Antarctic darkness. On November 29, 1929, he made the first-ever flight over the South Pole, serving as navigator to pilot Bernt Balchen, co-pilot/radioman Harold June and photographer Ashley McKinley. He was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral when the expedition returned home in June 1930.





In 1933 Rear Admiral Byrd organized a larger team of 55 men on his second expedition to Antarctica. The admiral spent most of the Antarctic winter of 1934 alone in a meteorological hut about 120 miles from *Little America*. His winter weather observations were the first measurements ever taken from the Antarctic interior. However, the effort almost cost the admiral his life as he suffered through weeks of carbon monoxide poisoning from a poorly-ventilated stove and generator. He had to be rescued by teammates when the winter darkness lifted. It was during this expedition that Antarctica was first referred to as a continent and not a mountainous island surrounded by ice.

Rear Admiral Byrd's third and fourth expeditions, in 1939 and 1946 respectively, were sponsored by the U.S. government and led by veterans of his previous treks. The admiral's son, Lieutenant Richard Byrd III, was a member of the fourth expedition team.

In the spring of 1955, Rear Admiral Byrd was appointed as officer-in-charge of U.S. Antarctic Programs, which included "Operation Deep Freeze." This large-scale expedition, which ultimately established permanent U.S. bases at the South Pole, would be the admiral's fifth and final Antarctic mission. He left the continent for the last time on February 3, 1956.

Rear Admiral Richard Byrd died on March 11, 1957, in Boston and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

In his lifetime, Rear Admiral Byrd was awarded 22 special commendations, nine of which were for bravery and two for extraordinary heroism in saving the lives of others. In his honor, the Richmond International Airport in Virginia was originally dedicated in 1927 as the Richard Evelyn Byrd Flying Field. The *Charles F. Adams*-class guided missile destroyer, *USS Richard E. Byrd* (DDG 23), served in the fleet from 1964 to 1990. Mount Byrd on Ross Island, Antarctica, and the lunar crater Byrd were also named in his honor.



Bolling Byrd Clarke

Sponsor

Bolling Byrd Clarke was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and is the eldest daughter of Marie Byrd and Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd. Bolling now resides in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. She has four children – daughters Eleanor “Lee” Byrd, Marie Clarke Giossi and Evelyn “Lyn” Clarke, and a son, Richard Evelyn Byrd.

Bolling attended Pre-Medicine studies at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. Following her studies, she worked as a counselor and special programs coordinator at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, and as a laboratory technician at the Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. Bolling has also been affiliated with many scientific and humanitarian projects, including board memberships with the Byrd Polar Research Center, the Cook Society and the Woman’s League for International Peace and Freedom. For many years, she conducted educational lectures on the polar explorations of her father and contemporary environmental issues.

Today, Bolling is involved with her local community center, and remains an avid supporter of numerous environmental and humanitarian causes.



**Eleanor “Lee” Clarke Byrd
Matron of Honor**

Lee Clarke Byrd was born in Philadelphia and is the youngest daughter of Bolling Byrd Clarke. Lee has two sons – Cameron Ames Byrd and Elliot Saltonstall Byrd. She now lives in South Burlington, Vermont, with her partner, Dr. Paul Krusinski.

Lee graduated from Simmons College in Boston with a bachelor’s degree in business management. A graduate of the Morven Park International Equestrian Institute in Virginia, Lee is an avid competition horse rider and has 35 years of experience as a trainer and instructor.

Lee’s civic support work includes board membership and project management for Crossroads Academy in Lyme, New Hampshire, and fundraising management for various community outreach programs. She is also an aspiring novelist, working toward the completion of her first mystery novel.



**Marie Clarke Giossi
Matron of Honor**

Marie Clarke Giossi was born in Philadelphia and is the second youngest daughter of Bolling Byrd Clarke. Marie currently resides in Warwick, Rhode Island, with her husband, Peter. She has three children – Michael and twins Megan and Matthew.

Marie studied physics at Colorado Mountain College in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. After college, she worked as a caregiver in a convalescent home and was an assistant at a preschool for children with disabilities. She later performed missionary work in support of churches and community groups throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Today, Marie works at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, providing shuttle services for students, faculty and staff members with physical disabilities. She continues to support local and international humanitarian organizations in her spare time.



**The Honorable Donald C. Winter
Secretary of the Navy**



Donald C. Winter is the 74th Secretary of the Navy, sworn into office on January 3, 2006. As Secretary of the Navy, Dr. Winter leads America's Navy and Marine Corps Team and is responsible for an annual budget in excess of \$125 billion and almost 900,000 people.

Prior to joining the administration of President George W. Bush, Dr. Winter served as a corporate vice president and president of Northrop Grumman's Mission Systems sector. Previously, Dr. Winter served as president and CEO of TRW Systems; vice president and deputy general manager for group development of TRW's Space & Electronics business; and vice president and general manager of the defense systems division of TRW. From 1980 to 1982, he was with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency as program manager for space acquisition, tracking and pointing programs.

Dr. Winter earned a bachelor's degree (with highest distinction) in physics from the University of Rochester in 1969. He received a master's degree and a doctorate in physics from the University of Michigan in 1970 and 1972, respectively. He is a 1979 graduate of the USC Management Policy Institute, a 1987 graduate of the UCLA Executive Program, and a 1991 graduate of the Harvard University Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security. In 2002, he was elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

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 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 Robert D. Reilly, Jr., USN
Commander, Military Sealift Command
Principal Speaker**

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 Navy's Reserve Officer Training Corps 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; Engineering Officer, USS *Sterett* (CG 31); Executive Officer, USS *John Young* (DD 973); and Commanding Officer, USS *Halyburton* (FFG 40). He also commanded Destroyer Squadron Fifty, Cruiser Destroyer Group Two and the USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75) Carrier Strike Group.

Ashore, Rear Admiral Reilly's assignments include the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet staff, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Bureau of Naval Personnel. He also served as Joint Operations Division Pacific Command Division Chief, Joint Staff (J3); Director, Environmental Readiness, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO N45); and Deputy Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Information Technology (CNO N098). In March 2006, Rear Admiral Reilly assumed command of 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.



Rear Admiral Charles H. Goddard, USN
Program Executive Officer, Ships

Rear Admiral Goddard graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in naval architecture. He also holds a master's degree and an ocean engineer's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Rear Admiral Goddard achieved Surface Warfare Qualification aboard the USS *Robert E. Peary* (FF-1073), where he served as Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer and Auxiliaries and Electrical Officer.

He became an Engineering Duty Officer in 1981. His engineering duty officer tours include Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard as Ship Superintendent; Long Beach Naval Shipyard as Ship Superintendent and Type Desk Officer; David Taylor Research Center as System Engineer for the Advanced Surface Machinery Program; Naval Sea Systems Command as Surface Stealth Project Officer; Supervisor of Shipbuilding San Diego as New Construction Officer; and Naval Sea Systems Command as Director of Ship Research and Development and Strategic Sealift Deputy Program Manager (PMS 385).

Rear Admiral Goddard served as a CNO Fellow on the Strategic Studies Group from 1999-2000; Executive Assistant to Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command from 2000-2001; DD(X) Program Manager from 2001-2005; and as Vice Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command from 2005 to 2007. He assumed his present duties in February 2007.

Rear Admiral Goddard is a member of the Acquisition Professional Community and a graduate of the Program Manager's Course at the Defense Systems Management College. He is the author of several articles on the topic of ship design and construction.



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Dry Cargo / Ammunition Ship

San Diego, California
www.nassco.com