

GENERAL DYNAMICS



USNS *Amelia Earhart*
(T-AKE 6)

Christening Ceremony
April 6, 2008



USNS *Amelia Earhart* (T-AKE 6)

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



USNS *Amelia Earhart* (T-AKE 6) Christening Ceremony Program

Music
Grand Pacific Band

Presentation of Colors
Navy Region Southwest Color Guard

Soloist
Ms. Tiffany Tanguay, daughter of Cynthia and Ron Tanguay, General Dynamics NASSCO

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

Remarks
Mr. Frederick J. Harris, President, General Dynamics NASSCO
Rear Admiral Nora W. Tyson, USN, Commander, Logistics Group, Western Pacific
Rear Admiral Charles H. Goddard, USN, Program Executive Officer for Ships

Principal Speaker
The Honorable Susan Davis, Member, U.S. House of Representatives

Sponsor's Party
Mrs. Amy M. Kleppner, Sponsor
Mrs. Beatrice Kleppner, Matron of Honor
Ms. Sofie Kleppner, Matron of Honor

Flower Girl
Miss Megan Root, daughter of Bob and Lisa Root, General Dynamics NASSCO

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

AMELIA MARY EARHART

Amelia M. Earhart was born in Atchison, Kansas, on July 24, 1897. After graduating from high school in 1916, Earhart worked as a nurse's aide in a Canadian military hospital during World War I, attended Columbia University, and became a social worker. While living in Los Angeles, Earhart took her first flying lesson on January 3, 1921. Later that year, Earhart bought her first aircraft, a two-seater Kinner Airster biplane that she flew to 14,000 feet and set a new women's altitude record.

On May 15, 1923, Earhart became the 16th woman ever to be issued a pilot's license.

In the spring of 1928, Earhart was selected by her future husband, publisher and publicist George Putnam, to be the first female passenger on a transatlantic flight. With pilot Wilmer Stultz and mechanic Lou Gordon, Earhart flew from Newfoundland to Wales aboard a Fokker tri-motor plane in less than 21 hours. The June 1928 flight made headlines worldwide. The crew was welcomed back to the United States with a parade in New York and a White House reception hosted by President Calvin



Coolidge. Earhart married Putnam on February 7, 1931, but continued her aviation career under her maiden name.

Earhart made a series of record flights, becoming the first woman to make a solo transatlantic flight in May 1932, and the first person to fly solo over the Pacific from Honolulu to Oakland, California, in January 1935. Also in 1935, she joined the faculty of Purdue University as a female career consultant.

It was the purchase of a Lockheed Electra through Purdue University that enabled Earhart to fulfill her dream – circumnavigating the globe by air.

Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan departed Miami on June 1, 1937, beginning a 29,000-mile, around-the-world journey. When they landed in Lae, New Guinea, on June 29, the pair had completed all but 7,000 miles. However, frequently inaccurate maps made navigation difficult, and their next hop – a 2,556-mile flight to the mile-and-a-half long and half-mile wide Howland Island – was the most challenging. USCGC *Itasca* was stationed offshore to serve as their radio contact to the island.





At 12:30 p.m. on July 1, Earhart and Noonan took off from Lae. Despite favorable weather reports, they flew into overcast skies, making Noonan's preferred method of celestial navigation impossible. As dawn of July 2 broke, Earhart asked for *Itasca's* location. She failed to report at the next scheduled time and her radio transmissions afterward were faint. At 7:42 a.m. the *Itasca* picked up the message, "We must be on you but cannot see you – but gas is running low – have been unable to reach you by radio – we are flying at 1,000 feet." The cutter's radioman replied but Earhart and Noonan seemed not to hear. At 8:45 a.m., Earhart reported, "We are now running on line north and south." Nothing further was heard from Earhart. A two-week search failed to locate Earhart, Noonan or the aircraft. To this day, their fate is unknown.

USNS *Amelia Earhart* is the second ship to be named in the aviatrix's honor. The first ship was the Liberty ship SS *Amelia Earhart* that served from 1942 to 1948. Other tributes to Earhart include a lighthouse constructed on Howland Island in 1938; her induction into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 1968, National

Women's Hall of Fame in 1973 and the California Hall of Fame in 2006; and the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum and the Amelia Earhart Airport, both located in Atchison, Kansas.



Biographical information about Amelia Earhart is primarily drawn from the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum's website and Ameliaearhart.com



Mrs. Amy M. Kleppner
Sponsor

Mrs. Amy Kleppner is the niece of Amelia Earhart. A retired educator and a lifelong hiking enthusiast, Amy lives in Wardsboro, Vermont, with her husband of 50 years, Adam. They have two sons, Bram and Caleb.

Amy graduated from Smith College in 1952, received a master's degree from Mount Holyoke College in 1954, and earned a doctorate in philosophy from Columbia University in 1960.

In her career as an educator, Amy taught physical education in New York City; philosophy at Wellesley College, Howard University and the University of Maryland; and English at Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, Maryland.

Last year, Amy was elected to Wardsboro's Selectboard, becoming only the second woman to serve in that capacity since the town was chartered in 1780. She also devotes her time to writing. She has written several articles and a high school student manual, *Research Paper Procedure* (2004), and co-authored the pictorial history book, *Wardsboro, VT: Exposing the Past* (2003).

Mrs. Beatrice S. Kleppner
Matron of Honor

Mrs. Beatrice Kleppner is the sister-in-law of the ship's sponsor, Amy Kleppner. Beatrice was born in Austria, and spent five years in Tanzania, Africa, where her father was a physician. She came to the United States when she was 10 years old.

Beatrice graduated from Barnard College with a bachelor's degree in history in 1954 and received a master's degree in education from Cambridge University, England, the following year. While traveling to Cambridge on the SS *United States*, she met her future husband, Daniel Kleppner. In 1957, she joined the history faculty of the Beaver Country Day School in Brookline, Massachusetts, where she continues to teach today.

Beatrice and David live in Belmont, Massachusetts, where they raised two sons and a daughter.



Ms. Sofie R. Kleppner
Matron of Honor

Ms. Sofie Kleppner is the niece of the ship's sponsor, Amy Kleppner, and the daughter of co-matron of honor, Beatrice Kleppner. Born in Boston, she graduated from Boston University in 1987. She earned her doctorate in neuroscience from the University of Pennsylvania in 1996, and completed a five-year, post-doctoral fellowship at the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2001. She worked at two California bio-technology companies from 2001 to 2005.

Sofie married Keith Bettinger in 2006, and is currently a stay-at-home mother raising their son, Darwin. She is writing a series of essays that address the science behind the maternal experience.



**The Honorable Susan Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
Principal Speaker**



Congresswoman Susan Davis assumed office in January 2001, to represent California's 53rd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. She currently sits on the House Armed Services Committee, for which she serves as the chair of the Military Personnel Subcommittee. She also serves on the House Education and Labor Committee and the House Administration Committee.

Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Congresswoman Davis grew up in Richmond, California. She graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in sociology. She then earned a master's degree in social work from the University of North Carolina.

After graduating from UNC, Congresswoman Davis and her husband Steve lived in Japan with their two children, Jeffery and Benjamin, while Steve served as a U.S. Air Force doctor during the Vietnam War. She returned to the United States in 1972, and became a social worker in San Diego.

Congresswoman Davis's interest in public affairs grew out of her experiences as a social worker, parent, youth mentor and military spouse. She served on the San Diego School Board from 1983 to 1992, serving as president or vice president for five of those years. From 1994 to 2000, she served three terms in the California State Assembly, where she chaired the committee on Consumer Protection, Government Efficiency and Economic Development, until her election to Congress.

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, he 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.

Mr. 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.

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.



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



Rear Admiral Charles 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 USS *Robert E. Peary* (FF-1073), where he served as Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer and Auxiliaries and Electrical Officer.

Rear Admiral Goddard became a Navy Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) in 1981. His EDO tours include Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Long Beach Naval Shipyard, David Taylor Research Center, Naval Sea Systems Command and Supervisor of Shipbuilding San Diego. He later served as a CNO Fellow on the Strategic Studies Group; Executive Assistant to Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command; DD(X) Program Manager; and Vice Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command. 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 topics of ship design and construction.

Rear Admiral Nora W. Tyson, USN
Commander, Logistics Group, Western Pacific

Rear Admiral Nora Tyson, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1979, with a bachelor's degree in English. She attended Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, and received her commission in December 1979. After serving in Washington, D.C., she attended Navy flight training in Pensacola, Florida, earning her wings as a Naval Flight Officer in 1983.

Rear Admiral Tyson's major commands include Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 4 and USS *Bataan* (LHD 5), when the ship supported disaster relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and deployed twice to the Persian Gulf.

Ashore, Rear Admiral Tyson has served as a political-military planner for the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Executive Assistant for the Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Director of Staff for the Commander of Naval Forces Europe/U.S. Sixth Fleet; and Executive Assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations.

Rear Admiral Tyson assumed command of Logistics Group, Western Pacific, in September 2007. She holds a master's degree in national security and strategic affairs from the Naval War College.



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