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The Official Newsletter of the Farragut Ships' Association, Inc.

"DAMN THE TORPEDOES! FULL SPEED AHEAD!!"

-Admiral David G. Farragut, USN



WE ARE THE FARRAGUT SHIPS' ASSOCIATION:

One Legendary Admiral and Five Extraordinary Ships!
USS Farragut TB-11; DD-300; DD-348; DLG-6/DDG-37; DDG-99

WE'VE BEEN MAKING THE OLD MAN PROUD SINCE 1898!

Special Interest Articles:

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Farragut Changed Command 6SEPT2017 as Irma Neared

By Ensign Susan E. Wissmann PAO USS Farragut (DDG-99)

Guided-missile destroyer USS Farragut (DDG 99) held a change of command ceremony on 6SEPT2017 during which CDR Casey C. Baker relieved CDR Megan A. Thomas.

Thomas served as XO during Farragut's 2014 Bold Alligator Operations and the 2015 deployment with the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group. While deployed to the 5th Fleet AOR, *Farragut* successfully ensured freedom of navigation, rescued three stranded fishermen on a disabled boat in the Red Sea, as well as supporting maritime security and Operation Inherent Resolve. She then assumed duties as *Farragut's* C.O. in March 2016. During Thomas' tenure as Captain, *Farragut* participated in Fleet Week New York 2016, completed a strenuous Maintenance Phase including a Docking Selected Restricted Availability, and fully certified during the Basic Phase to ensure *Farragut* will be ready for future deployments.

Farragut was awarded Four Command Excellence Awards and

the 2016 Retention Excellence Award while Thomas had command.

"I've been extremely fortunate to serve among such a tremendous group of professionals including the numerous entities that support our operations, from maintenance to training, but it is the memories of the dedicated Officers, Chiefs and Crew of USS *Farragut* that have made a lifelong impact on me and for which I am truly humbled and grateful," reflected Thomas.

Friends and family were in attendance for the change of command ceremony which took place in the pilot house of *Farragut*. The ceremony had to be moved up a day in advance of Hurricane Irma. CAPT David Maxey, Commander SURFRON 14, who served as the guest speaker, praised Thomas for her successful tours on board *Farragut*.

Baker takes command of *Farragut* after serving as the XO since FEB2016. He is originally from Dallas, TX and earned his commission through the USMMA at Kings Point, NY in 1994. His first sea tour was aboard USS *Caron* (DD 970) as the DCA, followed by a tour aboard USS *Ramage* (DDG 61) as the Fire

Control Officer. As a Department Head, he served as the CHENG onboard USS *Nitze* (DDG 94) and then as the N4 at Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 26.

Ashore, Baker served at the Joint Deployable Assessment Team (JDAT), the Tactical Document Media Exploitation Team – Afghanistan (TACDOMEX-A, and at the Patrol Coastal Squadron (PCRON) One as the Operations and Plans Officer. Cmdr. Baker earned a Masters in Public Administration from Regent University and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the Air War College.

When asked about his thoughts as he faces command, Baker explained "I am deeply honored at receiving the chance to command *Farragut* and her fantastic crew."

Farragut is continuing local operations, preparing for a future deployment. She will enter an integrated phase with Carrier Strike Group 8 later this year. The crew of *Farragut* thanks Thomas for memorable and successful years under her leadership and wish her and her family fair winds and following seas.

***Damn the Torpedoes,
Full Speed Ahead!***

I am once again very proud to serve as your Shipmate President. We are a not -for-profit organization incorporated in Florida dedicated to preserving the honored traditions of service exemplified by our Hero, Admiral David G. Farragut (-1899). Our membership (currently \$30 for two years) is open to ALL that have served aboard a US Navy ship named for him. The majority at this time are now DDG-37 Shipmates with DLG-6 Shipmates a close second in numbers. We have three DDG-99 Plankowners (the C.O. and CMC1 included).

Your FSA continues to plan and hold bi-annual meetings and reunion events. On 11 June 2016 the General Membership voted to hold the 10th Farragut Homecoming at Norfolk, VA 11-14 October 2018. The date changed one week due to hotel availability, but read on for more information.

***-Thomas Randall
DDG 37, 1976-80
FSA President 2014-18***



**2018 Reunion
Committee Meeting
with the Sheraton
Norfolk Waterside Staff
29DEC2017**

News from Farragut's Commanding Officer, CDR Casey Baker

Happy New Year's
Farragut Shipmates!

I hope the holiday season treated you all well and this letter finds you in good health and spirits. The current *Farragut* (DDG 99) and her crew have been very busy this past year.

The ship underwent a successful Engineering Light-Off Assessment following the 2016 dry-docking, into a jam-packed basic phase throughout the spring. After certifying, we got underway and sailed up to Bristol, RI where the crew marched in the oldest continuous Fourth of July celebration in the country. We returned home for a brief stay in-port, which

was cut short by Hurricane Irma. We conducted a quick change of command ceremony on September 6th in which CDR Casey Baker relieved CDR Megan Thomas. The next day all of the ships in the Mayport Basin were instructed to get underway to head to Norfolk to wait out the storm. We returned to Mayport a few weeks later, made some quick preps, and got back underway on Columbus Day weekend for our Group Sail with all of the other ships in the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group. Following a successful month-long group sail, and supporting the Iwo Jima Amphibious

Readiness Group COMPTUEX, *Farragut* returned to Mayport. The crew put in a lot of hard work and effort to make repairs throughout the ship in anticipation of Mid-Cycle Inspection, which resulted in an overall score of "Green" and above average marks for this ship.

Leading into the New Year, the crew is getting ready for our COMPTUEX with the Truman Strike Group to prepare for our Spring Deployment. We hope all is well with all of our *Farragut* Shipmates and that we all enjoy a Happy New Year.

***-Casey Baker
Commanding Officer
USS *Farragut* (DDG 99)***

**Our Home Page, <http://www.farragutforever.org>**

On the Internet the FSA continues to maintain a homepage (<http://farragutforever.org>) and stays current on social media on Facebook. The FSA keeps up with USS *Farragut* Vets and Friends:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/56685239399/> and there is a FB group for Shipmates of DDG-37: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/127577445802/> For DDG-99, departing Mayport for deployment 11APR2018, the Navy maintains these pages:

<http://www.navy.mil/local/d dg99/> and <http://www.public.navy.mil/surflant/ddg99/Pages/default.aspx>. And, on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/farragutddg99/>

Our Homecoming 2018 Keynote Speaker FORCM (AW/SW) Bob Conklin

Force Master Chief (SW/AW) Bob Conklin hails from Paterson, NJ where he enlisted in the USNR on 14 July 1969. He attended recruit training at RTC, Great Lakes, IL and later graduated from DC "A" School, Naval Damage Control Training Center, Philadelphia, PA.

In 1970 he reported for active duty onboard USS WILLIAM C LAWE (DD 763). During his tour on LAWE, he advanced to DC2. In 1972, he returned to the drilling reserve and served with Ship's Maintenance and Repair Unit 2202, Jersey City, NJ advancing to DC1. In 1975, he transferred to FTG 4414, Southfield, MI.

Returning to active duty in 1976, he was a recruiter at Navy Recruiting District, Newark, NJ. Reenlisting in the USN in 1980, he returned to sea and served in USS SEMMES (DDG 18), homeport Charleston, SC, qualifying as an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) and JOOD (underway) and was advanced to HT1. He split toured to USS CONOLLY (DD 979) in 1982, where he was selected as a HTC and later served as CONOLLY'S DCA.

In 1985, he reported to Damage Control School, Fleet Training Center, Norfolk, as the Senior Instructor and Curriculum Model Manager for the Afloat Safety Officer and Safety Petty Officer courses. In addition to the

Safety courses, he also qualified to instruct the General Damage Control, Repair Party (BUTTERCUP) and DCPO Maintenance courses. While at DC School he was designated a Master Training Specialist by the Chief of NAVEDTRA and was advanced to DCCS.

In 1988, he reported aboard USS SAIPAN (LHA 2) after graduating from the Senior Enlisted Academy at Newport, Rhode Island, Class 32. Aboard SAIPAN he served as Engineering Department Leading Chief Petty Officer, Repair Division LCPO, Fire Marshal and Ballast Officer.

In 1990, he was advanced to HTC and selected as a Command Master Chief (CMC). Staying at sea, his first CMC tour was in USS CONOLLY (DD 979).

In 1992, he was selected as CMC of USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER (CVN 69). In 1994 he was selected as the Force Master Chief, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Returning to sea again in 1997, he reported to USS BARRY (DDG 52). He was only on board one week when he was handpicked by the Type Commander to fill an unplanned loss aboard USS BATAAN (LHD 5), assuming the duties as CMC on October 6, 1997. During BATAAN'S first cruise, he qualified as Enlisted Aviation Warfare

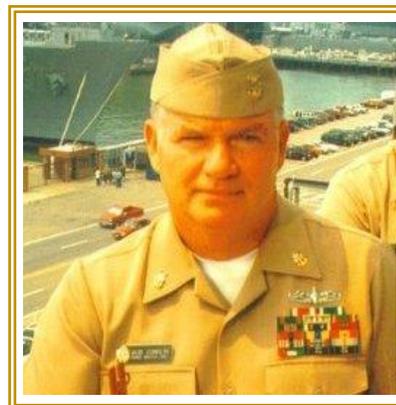
Specialist (EAWS).

In 2001 he reported to Strike Fighter Squadron 15 as Command Master Chief and was embarked onboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) on September 11th. Returning from Operation Enduring Freedom in November 2001, he was selected to be the Command Master Chief of the Navy's newest aircraft carrier, USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76) in construction at Newport News Shipbuilding. On 14 April 2004, CMC Conklin was relieved of his duties and reported to Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic where he served as until his retirement on 1 SEPT 2004 after 35 years of Naval Service.

A 1994 graduate of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, Force Master Chief Conklin earned an AS Degree in General Studies from Mohegan Community College and a B.A. degree in Human Relations Management from Golden Gate University, graduating Summa cum Laude.

His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal (six awards), Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), National Defense Service Medal (3 awards) and 23 other service, campaign and unit awards.

Force Master Chief Conklin and his wife Kathleen have been married for 45 years. They have 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren.



FORCM (ret.) Bob Conklin

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND MASTER CHIEF ROBERT CONKLIN

*By the Honorable Scott McInnis (R) Colorado in the US Congress
4 NOV 2003.*

Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an American hero. Command Master Chief Robert Conklin stands as a fine example of our fighting men and women of the Armed Services who have dedicated their lives to protecting their nation and their fellow citizens. Master Chief Conklin has given thirty-four years of service to his country, and I am honored to pay tribute to his accomplishments here today...

[Congressional Record, 4 NOV 2003](#)

Info for the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside 11-14OCT18

Your Reunion Committee has contracted with the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside for the dates of 11-14 October 2018. Those dates changed one week thanks to the advice of Ted Dey, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. who told us there is a sports championship the week we selected. Rooms are \$119.00/night plus

standard 14% room rate and \$8/night for parking. You won't find cheaper parking downtown OR a more convenient hotel. Rooms are Harborview and Cityview, first come, first served. The FSA will be hosting a Hospitality Room and a room for the Silent Auction, Ship's Store, and Memorabilia. Only 33

rooms are left on the original contract, we can and will add more rooms. At 1530, Saturday 13OCT2018, the General Membership Meeting will be held in the Hospitality Room. The Finance Report, the election of officers and the selection of a location for the 2020 Farragut Homecoming will be made.

To register for your room at the Sheraton, **CLICK HERE:**
<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/FARRAGUT>

Visit *Nauticus* & *USS Wisconsin (BB 64)* 12OCT2018

Your Reunion Committee was sent to Nauticus with free passes donated by Visit Norfolk on 29DEC2017. The museum will not disappoint. There are many interactive exhibits and on the second floor is the Hampton Roads Naval Museum. Beyond the HRNM are the doors leading to the former USS

Wisconsin (BB-64) that saw wartime duty in the Pacific in WW2, in Korea and in the First Gulf War. Admission for our group is \$12 per person and \$10 for those age 4-12. Hours are 1000 hours through 1700 hours so spend all or part of the day with your Shipmates remembering the US Navy and the life we lived.

In addition, two guided tours each are set up for the Machinery Space (10 persons, 1000 and 1030) and two for Command and Control (20 persons, 10 and 1030). These are first, come, first serve and NOT handicapped friendly. You MUST be able to climb ladders. Call Tom Randall directly (954) 790-5739 for clarification.

Sightseeing Cruise *Spirit of Norfolk* 13 OCT2018

This is the one event you won't want to miss. 125 of us Shipmates, our families and our friends will board the *Spirit of Norfolk* @ 1100 hours Saturday, 13OCT2018 for a two-hour sightseeing cruise while enjoying a buffet-style lunch with a Cash Bar.

During our cruise towards the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel and back, we will have a Keynote

Speaker, FORCM (SW/AW) (ret.) Bob Conklin. Past FSA President Russ Kauffman goes way back with Bob and we say "Thanks, Russ" for inviting your Shipmate and his wife to join us.

The contract negotiated by the Reunion Committee got us a **25%** discounted price of \$50 per person. Sign up for the lunch cruise with the

2018 Farragut Homecoming RSVP Form provided or E-mail farragutshipsassociation@gmail.com to get another.

When the Reunion Committee arranged this outing, we had two goals in mind: Do something different than the usual stuffy banquet at the hotel and (2) pick a time and date to allow local Shipmates working for a living to join the fun.



FSA Operates a Ship's Store for YOU!

The ship's store is open! At this time we have custom embroidered, American made DDG-37 ball caps (2 ea.) and DLG-6 ballcaps (6 ea.) in stock.



The Ship 's Storekeeper is going to order 24 each to resupply before the reunion. What we ask is that you pre-order them, \$20 each, for delivery in person at the reunion. This will save an average of \$4 in shipping costs.

The store also has some odds and ends including a batch of DLG-6 patches. Mike Olivieri is looking for bids on a DDG-37 patch.

Balance in the Ship's Store is \$69.15. (Hey, it's a start.)

The newest item the FSA Ship's Store is considering is an FSA Coin. Its design is based on a cloisonné pin that Navy Veterans of Farragut's Fleet wore at their reunions.



Our FSA Coin is going to be 2", numbered 1 to 100, and a limited edition. \$20 prepaid and delivered in person at the reunion.



Finance Report from our Treasurer, ex-DDG-37 QM2 Gordon Wright

Treasurer's Report: Since our last meeting in June of 2016 at the FSA Reunion; Balance after reunion was \$2,575.10. I have collected \$300 in dues since. There have been the following expenses since the reunion in 2016:

- \$121.90 for Farragut Forever stickers
- \$21.95 for FSA checks
- \$61.25 for annual incorporation fees

- to the State of Florida
- \$62.95 for a Parting Gift DDG-99 CO Megan Thomas
- \$231.04 for Website fees to Go Daddy.

Our current balance is \$2,371.50 + a buck or two for interest earned! The strength and state of our Treasury remains strong!!



Latest FB Posted Photo of DDG-37 in 1987

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Association Officers
2016-2018**

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We're on the Web!

See us at @

<http://www.farragutforever.org/>

Farragut (DL-6/DLG-6/DDG-37)'s Commanding Officers

DL/DLG-6

10DEC1960 USS Farragut (DLG-6) commissioned, CDR Roger E. Spreen assumes command
21APR1962 CDR Adam A. Herron Jr. relieved CDR Roger Spreen (r. RADM d. 29JAN1988)
9MAY1963 CDR William B. Althoff relieved CDR Adam Herron (ret. & d.3AUG1997)
11JULY1964 CDR Richard B. Jacobs relieved William Althoff (r. CAPT, d.9AUG2009)
23APR1966 CDR William A. Kananui Jr. relieved CDR Richard Jacobs
25NOV1967 CDR William R. Martin relieved CDR William Kananui Jr. (r. CAPT, d.12MAY1984)
1MAY1968 USS Farragut (DLG-6) decommissioned with CDR (r. CAPT) Bill Martin in command

DLG-6

13SEPT1969 CDR William A. Cockell Jr. assumes command of USS Farragut (DLG-6)
1DEC1970 CDR Harry W. Bergbauer Jr. relieved CDR William Cockell (r. RADM, d. 6JUNE2000)
10MAY1972 CDR James F. McNulty relieved CDR (r. CAPT) Harry Bergbauer
10AUG1973 CDR John Frederick Shaw relieved CDR James McNulty (r. RADM, d.14NOV2006)
30JUNE1975 USS Farragut (DLG-6) reclassified (DDG-37) with CDR Jack Shaw in command

DDG-37

1AUG1975 CDR Jeremy M. Boorda relieved CDR Jack Shaw (r. RADM, d.28MAY2009)
1July1977 CDR Sanford N Mock relieved CDR Mike Boorda (ADM/CNO Boorda d.10MAY1996)
28AUG1979 CDR William L. Wunderly relieved CDR (now r.) Sandy Mock
28MAY1981 CDR Stephen Allen Jarecki relieved CDR (now r.) William Wunderly
17JUNE1983 CDR Burton W. Renager relieved CDR (r. CAPT) Stephen Jarecki
14OCT1985 CDR David P. Sargent relieved CDR (r. CAPT) Burton Renager
23OCT1988 CDR David R Shaw relieved CDR (r. RADM) David Sargent

Departed Shipmates Reported Since the Last Farragut Homecoming in 2016

- ◆ 6FEB2016 Jeffrey W. Woods, Plankowner, Milton, PA
- ◆ 17OCT2017 Mark Moltzen, FTM, DDG-37 Rochester, NY
- ◆ 14DEC2017 Roy White BTC (r.) DLG-6, Philadelphia, PA
- ◆ 27DEC2017 William Timmons, MM1, DLG-6 Pontotoc, OK
- ◆ We send condolences to families and friends of The Departed.
- ◆ If any deaths of our Shipmates were omitted, it is not for lack of trying to keep up with the latest news. Please send and corrections or additions to: farragutshipsassociation@gmail.com or call Tom Randall (954) 790-5739

FARRAGUT SHIPS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

c/o Secretary Jesse Petersen
2438 Ridge Will Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32246



**SHIPMATE NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 00000**