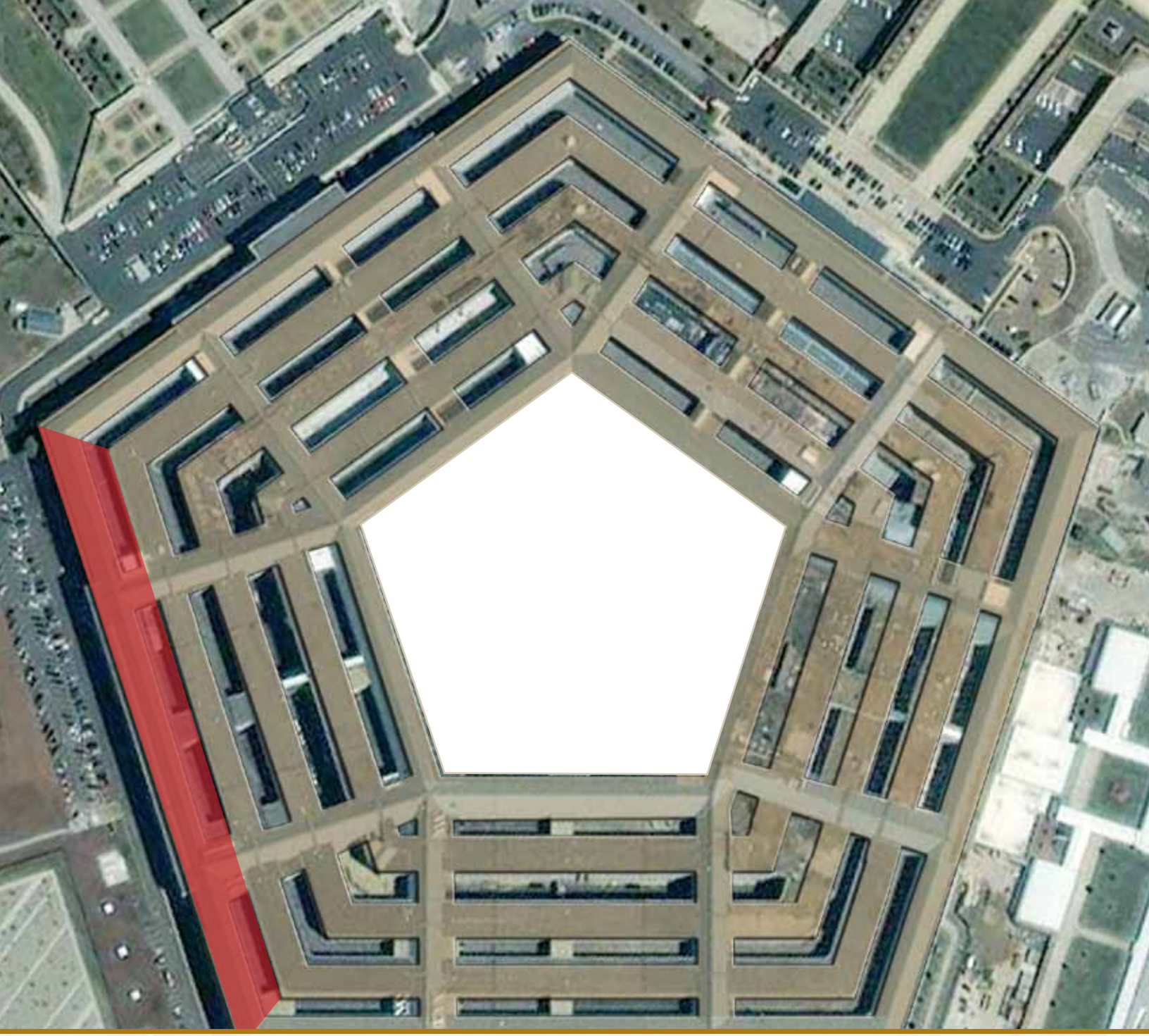
Christening of

ARLINGTON (LPD 24)

MARCH 26, 2011

PASCAGOULA, MISSISSIPPI



The single red edge of the LPD 24 coin represents the section of the Pentagon damaged in the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Pentagon Memorial, Arlington, Virginia

At 9:37 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001, American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon, changing U.S. history forever. The Pentagon Memorial was dedicated on Sept. 11, 2008, to serve as an everlasting tribute to the 184 people who perished. Cantilevered benches, each over a pool of lighted water, are engraved with their names and arranged by age from 3-year-old Dana Falkenberg to 71-year-old John Yamnicky Sr. Benches representing those killed inside the Pentagon are arranged so one reading the names will face the Pentagon's southwest facade, where the plane hit. A person reading names of those aboard the plane will face skyward along the path traveled by the plane.

On behalf of 18,000 proud Gulf Coast shipbuilders, I'd like to welcome you to our Pascagoula shipyard for the christening of *Arlington* (LPD 24) – the eighth ship in the San Antonio amphibious transport dock class and the second of three ships to honor the heroes of 9/11.

Each ship we build represents two legacies. The first honors her past – her namesake – and the second anticipates the history she will create. *Arlington's* first legacy was born on a bright, clear Tuesday morning at 9:37 a.m. when the safety of our nation was threatened and hundreds of Americans, many in uniform, others not, redefined heroism.

Before you today is a testament to the service men and women, first responders and other citizen heroes, the protectors of our freedom, who on that tragic day became part of the fabric of our history and who shall forever be remembered. From the moment that we pierced the first piece of steel for *Arlington* (LPD 24), our shipbuilders have devoted themselves to keeping that history alive.

Today celebrates the start of the second legacy for the proud name of Arlington. There is history yet to be made by this ship, her officers and crews. "Strength, Honor, Fortitude:" These are the attributes of the brave men and women who made us so proud on that historic day. Attributes, too, of the officers and crews of *Arlington* who will make us proud in the years ahead.

Shipbuilding is a complex business. It is more than welding, electrical hookups and machining. It is at once art and science. But most of all, it is pride: pride in safely building complex warships that enable and protect the brave men and women who go into harm's way; pride in craftsmanship as our shipbuilders strive each day to do it right - and to do it right the first time; and pride in knowing they do an important job that serves our nation and helps defend our freedom.

So today we welcome you to our shipyard. We are honored to have Mrs. Joyce Rumsfeld here to christen this amazing warship. Her family knows firsthand the courage displayed on that fateful Tuesday morning. For it was her husband, the Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld, former Secretary of Defense, in the Pentagon on 9/11, who was not only instrumental in our country's decisive response, but who also assisted first responders who came to the aid of the injured.

Today we also welcome Pentagon survivors, first responders, family members, and loved ones from that tragic day ten years ago in Arlington County, Virginia.

I am both humbled and proud to welcome members of my extraordinary team of shipbuilders. The men and women who built *Arlington* (LPD 24), a ship that both represents and defends our freedom.

Thank you for joining us as we honor our heroes, and celebrate the beginning of another shipbuilding legacy.

Irwin F. Edenzon
Vice President and General Manager
Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding - Gulf Coast

We are Shipbuilders

Diane Ware
Sheetmetal Mechanic

"The attacks of September 11, 2001, attempted to bring America down, but it only made us stronger. I am proud to be an American, building ships that will defend our nation."

Mike LeBlanc
Outside Machinist Workleaderman

"Naming this ship *Arlington* shows the strength and charisma of our country. This ship named in memory of the tragedy of 9/11 will be used to protect our freedom."

Perry Couch
Outside Machinist

"I think the Navy will get a good ship to serve on. It's important that this ship be built with quality for our Sailors and Marines and in honor of the innocent men and women killed on 9/11."

Sheree Bradley
Combination Electrical Workleaderman

"This is my livelihood for 20 years, and the quality of these ships speaks for me. In honor of September 11, we should all pull together to make this the best ship possible for our Sailors and Marines."

Hundreds of Northrop Grumman shipbuilders worked together tirelessly creating *Arlington* (LPD 24). Photos left to right: 1) Bob Brandt, outside machinist workleaderman, mills a foundation for the close-in missile defense system. 2) LPD 24 shown under construction and ready for bow lift. 3) Pipewelder Jessie Thigpen fabricates a small pipe attachment for the dry compressed air pumping station.

Valerie Rumsfeld-Richard

MATRON OF HONOR

Valerie Rumsfeld-Richard lives in Santa Fe, N.M., with her husband, architect Paul N. Richard and their three children Rachel (19), Sophia (16) and Sam (14).

Valerie graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in political theory from Connecticut College in 1978 and received her Master of Arts in counseling psychology from Lesley College in Cambridge, Mass., in 1984. She received her doctorate in psychology from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology in 1990. Valerie is a licensed psychologist in both Massachusetts and New Mexico, although she now enjoys being a full time mother and wife.

Valerie served on the Board of Trustees of the Santa Fe Waldorf School from 2000-2005 as secretary and then vice president. Additionally, she has served as a parent representative on the board of the Santa Fe Youth Hockey Association and has been involved with the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association through her children.

Marcy Rumsfeld

MATRON OF HONOR

Marcy Rumsfeld, Joyce and Donald's second daughter, graduated from Pomona College in Claremont, Calif., where she received a Bachelor of Arts in history with a concentration in U.S and modern European history. Marcy served as president and chairperson of the Chicago Waldorf School from 2002-2006 and as a trustee on the Chicago Waldorf School Board from 1998-2009. She was involved in two independent Waldorf School initiatives and advocates for the preservation of unstructured play and the cultivation of imagination in children and youth. Prior to her years of full-time parenting and volunteer service, Marcy worked as an account executive for Bozell Advertising (1984-1991). She is married to artist Santiago Vaca, is the mother of two: Kailey (24), and Lukas (19) and stepmother of three: Maurico (26), Andrea Catalina (22), and Camila (21). Marcy and Santiago live in Chicago.

Aston Lyndsey Smith

FLOWER GIRL

Aston Lyndsey Smith is the granddaughter of Iris Murray, administrative aid for Subcontracts, and the daughter of Billy and Tracy Smith of Pascagoula. The friendly 9-year-old is a Good Citizen Award winner at Lake Elementary. Her favorite teacher, Keyla Young, encourages her love of reading. Aston enjoys cheerleading for the Green Waves, playing Wii games, and playing in the park with her sister Tyler, 7, and her dog Pico.

Joyce Rumsfeld

SHIP SPONSOR

Joyce Rumsfeld was born in Billings, Mont., and her family moved throughout the Midwest, settling near Chicago. She graduated from New Trier High School in Winnetka, Ill., also attended by her husband-to-be, Donald H. Rumsfeld. A hallmark year for Joyce was 1954, when she earned a Bachelor of Arts in art history from the University of Colorado and married Donald on Dec. 27.

In 1985, Joyce founded the Chicago Foundation for Education (CFE), to enhance education in Chicago public elementary schools, and served 13 years as chairperson. CFE has invested more than $5.5 million into Chicago Public Schools, impacting nearly 30,000 teachers and more than one million students.

Joyce also served on the Big Shoulders Program at the Archdiocese of Chicago, the National Advisory Council of Character Education Partnership Inc. and the U.S. Department of Education's fund for Post-Secondary Education. She also served 12 years on the Board of Visitors and Governors at St. John's College, Annapolis, Md.

In 2006, The Department of Defense awarded Joyce the Distinguished Public Service Award in honor of her work with members of the U.S. military and their families.

Currently, Joyce co-chairs the non-profit Rumsfeld Foundation, supporting microfinance development projects, fellowships for graduate students interested in public service, exchange programs for young leaders from nations in Central Asia and the Caucasus, and charitable causes that benefit the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

ARLINGTON (LPD 24)

The amphibious transport dock ship *Arlington* (LPD 24) is the eighth ship in the LPD 17 class and the third ship named for Arlington County, Virginia, home to the Pentagon. *Arlington* is one of three ships being built by Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding in recognition of the heroes of September 11, 2001. The primary mission of the ship will be to embark, transport, and land U.S. Marine Corps landing forces in a variety of expeditionary and special operations missions, while providing ample command and control, communications connectivity, and medical and dental capability. The ship will support its embarked Marines and Sailors through expeditionary fighting vehicles (EFVs), landing craft air cushion (LCAC), MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft, and CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters.

Crew: 28 officers, 332 enlisted Sailors, and 3 Marines
Embarked: Marine Expeditionary Force of 66 officers, 633 enlisted (surge to 800)
Armament: Two 30 mm Bushmaster II cannons, for surface threat defense; two Rolling Airframe Missile launchers for air defense
Propulsion: Four Colt-Pielstick diesel engines, two shafts, 40,000 hp (30 MW)
Length: 208.5 m (684 ft) overall *Beam:* 31.9 m (105 ft) extreme *Displacement:* 25,000 tons full *Speed:* 22 knots (41 km/h)

OTHER SHIPS NAMED FOR ARLINGTON

USS *Arlington* AGMR-2

Two previous ships have been named for Arlington, Va. The first was AP-174, a USS *Cape Johnson* -class transport. AP-174 was commissioned as USS *Arlington* on April 18, 1944, and served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater during WWII.

The second USS *Arlington* was converted from USS *Saipan* (CVL-48) and served as a light aircraft carrier. She was converted to a communications relay ship and renamed USS *Arlington* (AGMR-2) in 1965. The ship and her crew earned seven campaign stars for service in Vietnam. AGMR-2 also assisted in recovering the manned space crews from two NASA missions, Apollo 8 and Apollo 10, as the primary landing area communications relay ship.

SHIP MILESTONES

Start of fabrication October 18, 2007
"Start Fab" recognizes that the first 100 tons of steel has been cut into patterns to start ship production.

Keel laying - December 18, 2008
Nas Bolton, a 39-year Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding welder (inset), welds the initials of keel authenticator Ron Carlee, former county manager of Arlington, Va., onto a plaque during a ceremony for *Arlington* (LPD 24) on Dec. 18, 2008, in Pascagoula. The plaque will be permanently affixed to the ship. Pictured left to right are Carlee, Irwin F. Edenzon, vice president and general manager, NGSB-GC, and Bolton.

Commander Darren W. Nelson

UNITED STATES NAVY
PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICER, *ARLINGTON* (LPD 24)

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Darren W. Nelson will serve as the first Commanding Officer for *Arlington* (LPD 24) and will lead his crew of 28 Naval Officers, 332 enlisted Sailors, and 3 Marines, along with embarked Marines and Special Operations Forces, on missions supporting freedom and democracy around the world. Cmdr. Nelson is a native of Rushville, Neb. He received his commission and Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska in December 1993.

His initial sea tour was onboard USS *Bainbridge* (CGN 25), where he served as Communications Officer and Administrative Officer, followed by duty aboard USS *Barry* (DDG 52) in the Arabian Gulf as Damage Control Officer. He was next assigned to Regional Support Group Ingleside, Texas, as the Officer in Charge of the Integrated Support Group, sponsored by the Chief of Naval Operations to improve the reliability of mine hunting sonar.

Cmdr. Nelson then served onboard USS *Ingraham* (FFG 61) as the Combat Systems Officer and completed a deployment with the 5th fleet during Operation Enduring Freedom. Subsequently, he was assigned as the Deck Department Head (1st Lt.) of USS *Saipan* (LHA 2), helping Marines prepare for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Later, he was assigned as the Assistant Surface Operation Officer for Commander, Carrier Strike Group Eight. Cmdr. Nelson then served as Executive Officer (XO) of USS *Gunston Hall* (LSD 44), where he participated in another 5th Fleet deployment. Cmdr. Nelson holds a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

Lewis Moore
Pipefitter Workleaderman

"I'm proud to build a ship that carries the memory of 9/11. I want to stand up and say I helped build a great quality ship that will protect our freedom."

Brian Chandler
Electrical Workleaderman

"It's important for future generations to remember 9/11. As long as LPD 24 is out there, it will help people remember. That's why it needs to be built with quality."

9/11 First responders

Jim Schwartz
Assistant Chief of Operations on 9/11
Currently Arlington County Fire Chief

"My attention was drawn immediately to the West Lawn of the Pentagon and a large grassy area that could accommodate a helicopter landing. There were a number of casualties and it was an incredible effort on the part of the people of the Pentagon helping those injured. A ship named USS Arlington *will be a resounding symbol of the strength of the United States and the 9/11 family members."*

Fire Capt. Stephen McCoy, Engine Company 101 on 9/11

"We were coming down Interstate 395 and that's when we saw the plane go by low. It was banking to the right and going really fast. It caught our eye because normally in this area planes are not that low...The Arlington County fire department was there first; but as the days went on, the whole county was involved in the operations of the recovery and investigation."

Firefighter Derek Spector, Truck 105 on 9/11

"The USS Arlington *will be a tangible item that you can see – not only here in the United States, but worldwide. That ship's going to make ports of call all over the world, and to me that's probably one of the most incredible tributes you can give those who died on 9/11."*

James Laychak,
President of Pentagon Memorial Fund

James Laychak, who lost his brother, David Laychak, in the attack on the Pentagon, is president of the Pentagon Memorial Fund and a member of Families of 9/11. When the Pentagon launched a design competition to create a memorial for those who died that day, Laychak was asked to serve on the committee that would select a design. The families wanted a memorial representing each lost life and creating a place for solace and healing. Before long, Laychak was president of the Pentagon Memorial Fund, leading the effort to raise the $30 million needed for the memorial.

"When I see the reflected sunshine climb up the sides of the memorial units, I see the beauty of life. I hope the Pentagon Memorial will provide a sense of closure and comfort to all those who are still in pain. ... The memorial represents what great things can happen when we all work together to create something good."

Arlington, Va., is home to many monuments to our nation's history (left to right): 1) Cherry blossoms bloom at Arlington National Cemetery 2) The U.S. Marine Corps Memorial depicts the brave Marines and Corpsman raising the flag on Iwo Jima. 3) An eternal flame burns in memory of U.S. President John F. Kennedy. Arlington House, once the home of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee is visible in the background. 4) A soldier walks his post at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Arlington, Virginia

In 1791, President George Washington commissioned architect Charles L'Enfant and geographer Andrew Ellicott to define the boundaries of Washington, D.C., assisted by Benjamin Banneker, a scientist and surveyor. At the time, federal construction on the Virginia side of the Potomac was prohibited. That area became Arlington, Va., the smallest self-governing county in the Continental United States. Its 26 square miles are dotted with memorials honoring our nation's heroes including the U.S. Air Force Memorial, U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, and the Women in the Military Memorial. More than 300,000 brave men and women from all of our nation's wars are also buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

THE PENTAGON

The Pentagon, headquarters for the U.S. Department of Defense, is the world's largest office building, containing 6.5 million square feet of office space. Each day, 23,000 military and civilian employees arrive at the Pentagon to defend the United States. In 1941, with much of Europe controlled by Nazi Germany, President Franklin D. Roosevelt rushed its construction. Ground was broken for the Pentagon on September 11, 1941, 60 years to the day prior to the 2001 attacks.

After the attacks, the damaged section of the Pentagon was reconstructed and occupied by Sept. 11, 2002, under the "Phoenix Project." Bearing the motto "Strength, Honor, Fortitude," the ship *Arlington* (LPD 24), like the occupants of the Pentagon, will serve to defend the United States and what our nation stands for around the world.

A view of the Pentagon from Arlington National Cemetery.

SYMBOLISM OF ARLINGTON'S CREST

SEAL: The coat of arms as blazoned in full color upon a white oval enclosed by a blue collar edged on the outside with a gold rope bearing the inscription "USS ARLINGTON" at top and in base "LPD 24" in gold letters. The rope has 184 twists, one for each of the lives lost at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

SHIELD: Dark blue and gold are the colors traditionally used by the Navy. The pentagon shaped shield, representing the Department of Defense, has a border the color of limestone buff except the red section of the Southwest wall, which symbolizes the area of the Pentagon where American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the building on September 11, 2001. The laurel wreath is symbolic of honor and high achievement, and commemorates the heroism of the first responders to the Pentagon. The trident, representing sea prowess, underscores USS *Arlington's* mission to support the deployment of the Marine Corps landing force to conduct amphibious warfare missions. The Pentagon's location in Arlington County is highlighted by the Arlington House adapted from the Arlington County seal.

CREST: The thirteen stars between the rays are from the Department of Defense seal. The two benches with the trees represent two of the 184 illuminated benches of the Pentagon Memorial, a permanent outdoor memorial to the lives lost at the Pentagon site. The bald eagle, embodiment of strength, vigilance and resolve, is long associated with the United States of America and our Armed Forces. It is soaring above, bowing its head in respect for the fallen. The eagle's wings echo the shape of the Memorial Benches.

SUPPORTERS: The crossed Navy Officer sword and Chief Petty Officer cutlass, and Marine Corps Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer swords symbolize the teamwork of the Navy-Marine Corps team of the amphibious transport dock ship, USS *Arlington*.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Joyce Rumsfeld

Joyce Rumsfeld was born in Billings, Montana and after moves to Fargo, N.D., Minneapolis, and Milwaukee she ended up in the Chicago area while in grammar school. She graduated from New Trier High School where she and her husband, Don Rumsfeld, were classmates. She received a B.A. in Art History from the University of Colorado in 1954.

Mrs. Rumsfeld was the founder of the Chicago Foundation for Education (CFE) in 1985 and served as chairman of its board of directors for thirteen years. The foundation is dedicated to enhancing the education of children in the Chicago public elementary schools. In the last 25 years, CFE has invested more than 5.5 million dollars in the Chicago Public Schools, impacting nearly 30,000 teachers and more than 1 million students. From the beginning, the foundation has emphasized support for character education curriculum, which seeks to integrate teaching practices that encourage responsible decision-making and the need for teamwork, respect and tolerance in the classroom. This year the Chicago Foundation for Education will be hosting the 22nd Annual Teachers as Leaders and Learners Workshop, bringing together hundreds of teachers for a day of inspiration, collegiality, networking and sharing of effective teaching practices.

Mrs. Rumsfeld has served on the Big Shoulders Program at the Archdiocese of Chicago, the National Advisory Council of Character Education Partnership, Inc, and the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for Improvement of Post-Secondary Education. She also served on the Board of Visitors and Governors at St. John's College for 12 years.

In honor of her work with members of the U.S. military and their families, on December 15, 2006, Mrs. Rumsfeld was awarded the Department of Defense's Distinguished Public Service Award.

Currently, Mrs. Rumsfeld chairs a non-profit foundation with her husband. The Rumsfeld Foundation supports microfinance development projects, fellowships for graduate students interested in public service, exchange programs for young leaders from nations in Central Asia and the Caucasus, and funds charitable causes that benefit the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

Rev. 6/15/10

James Schwartz

Fire Chief

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James Schwartz was named Fire Chief for Arlington County Fire Department in June 2004. Chief Schwartz has been with Arlington Fire for 24 years and has served a variety of fire department positions before becoming Fire Chief.

Among those assignments, he served as Assistant Chief of Operations, overseeing all response-related activities, including fire, EMS, hazardous materials and technical rescue response, incident management and operational training. His service also included an assignment to the Office of the County Manager where he served as Director of Emergency Management until his appointment to Fire Chief.

Chief Schwartz chairs the Sustainment Committee for Arlington County's Metropolitan Medical Response System, a federally funded program that focuses on the integration of a community's response capabilities for mass casualty incidents. He is also a member of the Interagency Board on Equipment Standardization, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Committee on Terrorism and Homeland Security.

Chief Schwartz serves on the Board of Regents for Leadership Arlington, an organization that develops and connects leaders in the public, private and non-profit sectors of Arlington.

Chief Schwartz graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor's degree in Fire Administration.

Commander Darren W. Nelson
United States Navy

Commander Nelson is a native of Rushville, Nebraska. He received his commission and Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska December 1993. His initial sea tour was onboard USS BAINBRIDGE (CGN 25), where he served as Communications Officer and Administrative Officer.

His second sea assignment was as Damage Control Officer in USS BARRY (DDG 52), where he deployed to the Arabian Gulf conducting visit board search and seizure operations. Following BARRY, he was assigned to Regional Support Group Ingleside Texas and served as the OIC of the Integrated Support Group. ISG was a CNO sponsored group to improve the reliability of the Mine Hunting sonar. Upon completion of Department Head School, he served onboard USS INGRAHAM (FFG 61) as the Combat Systems Officer and completed a deployment to the 5th fleet AOR during the initial operations of Enduring Freedom. Subsequently, he was assigned as the 1St Lieutenant onboard USS SAIPAN (LHA 2). During his tour on SAIPAN he conducted the back load of Marines for operation Iraqi Freedom. Following his department head tours, he was assigned as the Assistant Surface Operation Officer for Commander Carrier Strike Group Eight. Commander Nelson then served as Executive Officer of USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD 44), where he participated in another 5th Fleet deployment. Following his XO tour he was assigned to the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island were he received a Masters of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies.

His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (four awards), and various campaign and service ribbons.

Christening of **ARLINGTON (LPD 24)**

March 26, 2011

Platform Participants

Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert
United States Navy
Vice Chief of Naval Operations

Mrs. Donald Rumsfeld
Ship Sponsor

The Honorable Sean J. Stackley
Assistant Secretary of the Navy
Research, Development and Acquisition

Major General James A. Kessler
United States Marine Corps
Commander, Marine Corps Logistics Command

Chief James H. Schwartz
Fire Chief, Arlington County, Virginia
Principal Speaker

The Honorable Robbie Maxwell
Mayor, City of Pascagoula

Irwin F. Edenzon
Vice President & General Manager
Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding - Gulf Coast

Mike Petters
President
Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding

Commander Darren W. Nelson
United States Navy
Prospective Commanding Officer,
Arlington (LPD 24)

Honoring the Heroes of September 11, 2001

Order of the Day

Presentation of Colors	Moss Point High School Navy Jr. ROTC
The National Anthem	Navy Band New Orleans
Pledge of Allegiance	**Mr. Jessie Beasley** *Arlington* (LPD 24) Pipefitter
Invocation	**Commander William Holiman, CHC, USN** Chaplain, 22nd Naval Construction Regiment
Host	**Mr. Irwin F. Edenzon** Vice President and General Manager Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding - Gulf Coast
Remarks	**Mr. Mike Petters** President, Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding
	The Honorable Robbie Maxwell Mayor, City of Pascagoula
	Major General James A. Kessler Commander, Marine Corps Logistics Command
	The Honorable Sean J. Stackley Assistant Secretary of the Navy Research, Development and Acquisition
	Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, USN Vice Chief of Naval Operations
Principal Address	**Chief James H. Schwartz** Fire Chief, Arlington County, Virginia
Sponsor Introduction	**Mr. Irwin F. Edenzon**
Christening of Arlington	**Mrs. Donald Rumsfeld, Ship Sponsor** Wife of former Secretary of Defense, The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Flower Presentation	**Aston Lyndsey Smith** Flower Girl
"Anchors Aweigh" "Marine Corps Hymn"	Navy Band New Orleans

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