



USS HOWARD DDG 83

the Dragon Times



November 2012

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Newsletter #2

HONORING OUR NAMESAKE



The gravesite of the USS HOWARD'S Namesake, 1st Sgt Jimmie E Howard

BY: CTM3(SW) REBECCA MARINACCI

NOVEMBER 12, 2012, 0900 - The sun was already climbing well into the sky on this warm San Diego morning following Veteran's Day. Family, friends, and Howard Sailors gathered together at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, a stoic reminder of the many who have given their lives in service of their country. We gathered to remember our Veterans - and more importantly, we gathered to remember one individual in particular.

1st SGT Jimmie E Howard, Hero of Hill 488, Awardee of the Medal of Honor, and namesake to the Arleigh Burke class Destroyer DDG 83, the USS Howard, passed away this very day nineteen years

ago. Sailors onboard the Howard honor their namesake at every entry and exit of the harbor, saluting his grave as they pass by. Today, they would honor him a little closer.

LTJG Ashley Valanzola began the ceremony, welcoming those attending. She then introduced FC3 Carl Miller, who spoke on the history and achievements of 1st Sgt Jimmie E Howard. From there, CTM3(SW) Rebecca Marinacci continued with a brief history of the cemetery followed by a history of Veteran's Day. We may have gathered to honor our namesake, but it is important that we remember he is one of many valiant souls who have defended and are defending our country and our freedom. Each sacrifice we commemorate as we solemnly bow

our heads in prayer.

Afterwards, a beautiful gift of flowers was placed at his grave by CDR David Zook, Commanding Officer of the USS Howard. A patriotic bouquet of red white and blue, the flowers were but a symbol of gratitude.

The gathering may have been small, but there was certainly something in the air that day. It had brought with it a sense of gratitude and a feeling of pride. To be part of the crew on a ship that honors its namesake in such a poignant way is quite a privilege, to say the very least of it. Being so close to our namesake is a powerful reminder that the jobs we perform are still very real. It is a reminder that we do what we do for a reason, and it is an assurance that we will not be forgotten.





VETERAN'S DAY

By: ENSIGN ETHAN FRANC

The Sailors Creed states "I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world". Navy Personnel include this into the creed so that our Sailors never lose sight of the tradition and groundwork that has been laid before them. The military is full of time-honored traditions, none more important than recognizing those who have already fought our battles and defended our freedom. If Sailors were to neglect this, the very backbone of the Navy would be lost. That idea though stands for everyone, not just those already serving in the military. The country as a whole must remember the sacrifices made by so many.

How does a person honor a veteran? How does a country show their appreciation? November 11, Veteran's Day, gives each person a chance to show in their own unique way how much they care for a veteran's service. Veteran's Day now stands as a building block for so many activities and fundraisers built to

honor the veterans who have served the armed forces. For the USS Howard this year, it was going to the gravesite of our namesake hero. Others gather their friends and family to raise a toast for those who serve. There are a multitude of ways to help veterans. You can volunteer at a VA Hospital or even tell a veteran that you know "Thank You". Even taking the time to just think about all those who have served the United States throughout its illustrious history can be enough. The most important thing to do though is remember - not just every year when Veteran's Day comes around, but every day.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER



This November Team HOWARD did some amazing things. We took our 9700 ton Warship out of the dock and brought her back to life. We advanced 42 Sailors to the next rank, a promotion rate that is well higher than fleet average and one of the greatest numbers ever advanced on HOWARD. We celebrated the season with a terrific Holiday party put on by our own Morale Welfare and Recreation Committee and we paused to reflect on the service of those who serve and have served our Country.

November is a special month in our history as well: HOWARD was christened

Nov 20th 1999, almost 6 years to the day after our Namesake, Marine Corps First Sergeant Jimmie Howard, passed away. We are proud to carry on his fighting Spirit and excited to get the ship back in the water so that we can complete this maintenance phase and prepare ourselves to enter the forging fires of the training cycle where we will hone our skills and be prepared to take HOWARD where our Navy and our Government directs.

Our next major wicket is Light Off Assessment on 12 December, Dock Trials on 17 December and Sea Trials later that week. We are on track to knock these events out of the park and then take a much needed and well deserved Holiday Stand down starting 21 December. Thank you for all of your support and for everything you do to help make HOWARD Great!

Article by:

CDR David Zook
Commanding Officer, USS
Howard (DDG 83)

NOVEMBER

01 NOV	CSC
02 NOV	CS2
03 NOV	EN3
08 NOV	GSM3
10 NOV	CTM1
11 NOV	ET3
15 NOV	LTJG
15 NOV	FCCS
16 NOV	FC2
19 NOV	ET2
19 NOV	CSSN
22 NOV	LT
23 NOV	OS3
27 NOV	SH3
28 NOV	STG1
30 NOV	EN3

BIRTHDAYS

THROM, ANTHONY
WINT, SHAKIRA
FERNANDEZQUINONES
ZELI, CLAUDE
GILLIAM, FRED
KENT, SERGEI
CHEEZEM, TARA
ROSELAND, PATRICK
GARCIA, MARNEIL
KREML, KEITH
TAWATAO, MICO
MORRIS, CHRISTOPHER
SAUCEDO, BRITTANY
MICKEY, LASASHA
CRAMER, MATTHEW
CAMPBELL, CODY





USS Howard Snapshot

USS Howard Veteran's Day Ceremony - November 12, 2012





USS HOWARD Junior Enlisted Association

By: STG3 Stuart

We here at the Howard pride ourselves at being at the forefront of change and growth as well as providing opportunities to our junior sailors. Howard's newest opportunity that has been seen navy wide is the creation of a Junior Enlisted Association. For those who do not know, the Junior Enlisted Association is run only by the E-5 and below and is great way for junior personnel both new and old at the command to get out there and volunteer. Volunteer opportunities are available all over San

Diego doing anything as simple as helping the USO load and offload trucks, beach clean-ups, or lending a hand at one of the many food and toy drives. If you are more of a person, there are opportunities available at holiday events, senior centers, or providing homework assistance for school children. All of these are great chances to get out there, help your community, and spend time really making a difference. The USO posts monthly military volunteer calendars for those who want more information on times, dates, and events. Anyone who is interested

please feel free to talk to only E-5 and junior are myself or any of the other voting members. T-shirts will also soon be available and we are currently planning events from bake sales to morale boosters so together morale boosting please come and attend a meeting soon.



This edition of the Dragon Times has been brought to you by the USS HOWARD Public Affairs Committee!

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 FC3 CARL MILLER
 CTTSN SHIRLEY URIOSTEGUI
 CTTSN(SW) ROBERT SCHWEIZER



The HOWARD crew underneath the stern of the ship before it Undocks from its Maintenance Period. Look forward to more pictures and stories from the start of the training cycle in next month's newsletter!