

ACVA

Adams Class Veterans Association, Inc.
An IRS 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization



November 06, 2006

Volume 1, Issue 3

One More Year!!!
The Charles F. Adams DDG-2 Museum Hold has been extended for one (1) year.

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ACVA PRESS RELEASE

May 8, 2006

CRAIG T. BERNAT

ACVA DIRECTOR PUBLIC RELATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

Adams Class Veterans Association Working to Save First Guided Missile Destroyer

The story of the historic ADAMS class of guided missile destroyers begins in 1955, when a World War II era destroyer, the USS GYATT (DD-712), entered the Boston Naval Shipyard for conversion into the world's first guided missile destroyer test ship. Using German technology from scientists captured at the end of World War II, it was hoped that the US could develop ships capable of firing guided missiles at enemy aircraft to protect the carrier task force at sea – a feat never before envisioned as possible. On December 1, 1956, after the conversion, the USS GYATT was re-designated DDG-712, DDG signifying a guided missile capable destroyer, versus a “plain, guns only” destroyer (DD) like those of WW II. The USS GYATT spent the next three years conducting intensive evaluation and development exercises along the Atlantic Coast. On May 23, 1957, her hull number was changed to DDG-1, in recognition of her pioneering position and new mission. Shortly after completion of the testing, the GYATT returned to the US fleet and was re-designated DD-712.

GYATT's guided missile testing against airborne targets having been successful, Bath Iron Works was awarded a contract in 1957 to start building the future ships of surface warfare, the Guided Missile Destroyer. On June 15, 1958, the keel was laid for the first destroyer of this new generation of ships, the USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2). She was commissioned on Sept. 10, 1960 and for the next 30 years steamed the oceans of the world. From the shores of the United States, she steamed to the coasts of Cuba, Europe, The Middle East, Mediterranean, India, Vietnam, and everywhere else she was needed.

There were 29 ADAMS Class DDG's built in several US shipyards. Most (23) were built for America's needs and were numbered DDG-2 to DDG-24. However, as other nations saw the potential of these ships, three each were built for Australia and West Germany. The Greek government also saw the potential and as the US Navy decommissioned several DDG ships they purchased them and put them into service in their own Navy. All three Australian DDG's have been sunk or became artificial reefs. One of the German DDG's, FGS Rommel, was disposed of as scrap in October 2004. The FGS Lutjens is at the German Naval Arsenal awaiting final determination. This leaves the "FGS Molders", which opened June 24, 2005, as a museum ship in Wilhelmshaven, Germany. The Greek government decommissioned all DDG ships and is considering keeping one as a museum ship.

Over the past five years all of the US Navy DDG's have met their demise, save one. Some were sold to foreign navies, some were sunk as targets during US and Foreign naval exercises, and some were sold for scrap. One ship remains, the USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2), the first Guided Missile Destroyer (DDG) built from the keel up as a guided missile ship. She is somewhat untouched, and has been assigned "DONATION HOLD" status by the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA). The ADAMS presently is pier side in Philadelphia, PA.

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Mission Statement

- **Work with all Adams class groups and organizations to Save, Restore and Preserve the USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2.**
- **Educate the public on the rich naval heritage of the Adams class DDG ships;**
- **Document the roles Adams class DDG ships in United States history;**
- **Show the importance of preserving historic naval vessels and memorabilia for future generations to appreciate.**

Board of Directors

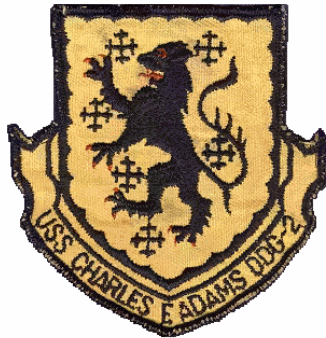
<i>President:</i>	<i>Thomas E. Crosser</i>	<i>USS Buchanan DDG-14</i>
<i>Special Assistant - City Search Team:</i>	<i>James H. Aldrich, Jr.</i>	<i>USS Sellers DDG-11</i>
<i>Vice President:</i>	<i>Richard A. Watson, Jr</i>	<i>USS Barney DDG-6</i>
<i>Executive Secretary & Parliamentarian:</i>	<i>David F. Myerly</i>	<i>USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Open</i>	
<i>Director – Newsletter:</i>	<i>Roger Raines</i>	<i>USS Lawrence DDG-4</i>
<i>Director – Membership and Ship Liaison:</i>	<i>Jack Cistrano</i>	<i>USS Semmes DDG-18</i>
<i>Director - Webmaster:</i>	<i>James Bosworth</i>	<i>USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2</i>
<i>Director – Public Relations</i>	<i>Craig T. Bernat</i>	<i>USS Lawrence DDG-4</i>
<i>Director – Fundraising (Temporary)</i>	<i>Craig T. Bernat</i>	<i>USS Lawrence DDG-4</i>
<i>Assistant to the Board:</i>	<i>Open</i>	

ACVA History

The Adams Class Veterans Association, Inc. formed in Jan 2004, after the Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum announced they were abandoning efforts to attain the USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2, as a museum ship for Bay City, Michigan.

Our goal is to save the USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2, the first Guided Missile Destroyer and the US Navy's first Guided Missile Ship, as a museum ship. We have representatives from all 23 "Adams Class DDG" ships and several from the German Adams Class DDG's who have joined our group.

The History of the USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2



In The Beginning

On June 16, 1958, the keel was laid for the USS Charles F. Adams. She was the first destroyer planned and built as a guided missile ship. The Adams was built at the Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine, and was the first in a line of 23 Adams Class DDG ships.

The ship was named for Charles Francis Adams, Secretary of the Navy from 1929 to 1933. Secretary Adams was a world-class yachtsman, winning the America's Cup in 1921 as the master of the *Resolute*.

The USS Charles F. Adams was launched on September 8, 1959, and commissioned at Charlestown Navy Yard, on September 10, 1960 in Boston, Massachusetts. After commissioning and testing, the Adams made an initial Northern Europe good will tour in 1961 as the flagship of the Commodore of DesRon6. Stops were made at many cities which had not been visited by the US Navy since the end of World War 2. From Northern Europe the Adams sailed south down the Kiel Canal to Kiel, Germany and in the spring of 1962 was assigned to the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. The DDG-2 returned to a home port of Charleston, SC in mid 1962.

Outfitting

The Charles F. Adams was designed to meet the new challenges of the Cold War. Bristling with more antenna and guidance systems than guns, the Adams used technology as well as conventional weapons to fight her battles. She was armed with two rapid firing, single barreled 5" 54 caliber guns, one twin Tartar surface-to-air missile launcher, one ASROC 8-tube launcher and two triple torpedo tubes

Missions

The first active duty stop for the Adams was the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Blockade. She also provided gunfire support in Viet Nam, served as flagship for Cold War surveillance of Soviet submarines in the North Atlantic, and patrolled the turbulent waters of Lebanon, Libya and the Persian Gulf when troubles brought the Navy to those regions in the late 1970's and all of the 1980's.

Retirement

The USS Charles F. Adams was decommissioned in 1990 and retired to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard to await final disposition. In January, 1997, the Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum Committee was founded and began efforts to bring the "**Charlie Deuce**" to Bay City, Michigan, to serve as a living museum. The Saginaw group quit this effort in October 2003 and the Adams Class (DDG) Veterans Association (ACVA) formed in early 2004 to begin work to have the Adams become a naval ship museum.

In early 2004, the ADAMS Class Veteran's Association, Inc. (ACVA, INC.), a 501c non-profit organization was formed with the mission and goal of saving an ADAMS class DDG ship. ACVA is focusing their efforts on preserving the USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2), as she is the only ship left of the class. Several of the founding ACVA members are either "Plankowners" (original crew members) or served on one of the 23 US DDG's or German DDG's, between 1960 and the late 1990s.

During 2005, the ACVA has had discussions with several locations in Florida about providing the ADAMS with a berth and a city willing to be the host for a navy museum ship. We hired a marine engineer and completed marine site surveys at several potential berthing sites in the areas. Florida is considered a preferred berthing area due to its year round warm climate and because it is a desired tourist destination that would provide a large number of annual visitors. When discussions began with the Florida City, the ACVA was not aware that any other group had an interest in ADAMS, however in November 2005, we learned that another Florida City, and others in the Northeast and Midwest are expressing interest in the ADAMS. The ACVA wants to work with any city or group that will provide a home and continued support for the ADAMS regardless of the location. Our goal is to "Save the ADAMS"

Saving a US Destroyer as a museum ship is a costly endeavor. The estimated cost could be \$6-7 million, depending on the actual location. The members of the ACVA are going to attempt to raise \$1 million of the amount in addition to donating many hours of experienced labor.

Our President, Tom Crosser, (who served on USS Buchanan DDG-14, 1966 to 1968), resides in Phoenix, Arizona and is supported by a Board of Directors, who are located in California, Virginia, Florida, New Jersey, Maine, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. The ACVA, INC. represents and supports all ADAMS class ships. Our current membership includes crew from all 23 American DDG's, 2 German DDG's, and others who have never served on a DDG or in the military.

Anyone with an interest is welcome to join in our efforts to preserve the history of the beginning of the Guided Missile Destroyer service. You need not be a DDG sailor, ex-Navy, or ex-military to join our organization. We welcome all who are interested in helping to preserve our nations Naval History for future generations. We currently have no dues, but will accept donation checks. Those becoming members and donating \$25 or more are assigned an "ACVA Plankowner" number. To learn more about the efforts of the ACVA, and to complete our simple application, visit our website: www.adamsclassddgvets.org

For additional information, please contact our ACVA President, Tom Crosser at email tecrosserbsausnr@aol.com or at 8520 West Clarendon, Phoenix, AZ 85037-2723, or by phone at 623-849-9526.

Charles Francis Adams III

Charles Francis Adams III (2 August 1866–June 10, 1954) was the United States Secretary of the Navy under Herbert Hoover and well-known as a yachtsman.

A scion of the Adams family that gave the country two presidents, Charles Francis was born in Quincy, Massachusetts. Adams' father was Charles Francis Adams Jr. and his great-grandfather was John Quincy Adams. Adams graduated cum laude from Harvard College in 1888 and from Harvard Law School in 1892. He was first a lawyer, then went into business.

In 1920, he skippered the America's Cup defender Resolute and soon became known as the "Dean of American Helmsmen".

As Secretary of the Navy, from 1929 to 1933, he vigorously promoted public understanding of the Navy's indispensable role in international affairs, and worked strenuously to maintain naval strength and efficiency during a period of severe economic depression. He served at the London Naval Conference in 1930 where he successfully maintained the principle of United States naval parity with Britain. He died in 1954 and is interred in Mount Wollaston Cemetery in Quincy, Norfolk County, Massachusetts next to his father, Charles Francis Adams, Jr., and his grandfather, Charles Francis Adams, Sr.

The Charles Francis Adams Memorial Trophy for yacht racing was established in his memory, and the Navy destroyer USS Charles F. Adams was named after him.

His son Charles Francis Adams IV was a prominent businessman and first president of Raytheon Company.

Ship Reunions

2006/2007

USS CHARLES F. ADAMS DDG-2

USS TATTNALL DDG-19

Branson, Missouri...Spring 2007
Please note that this is tentative.

<http://www.bozair.com/adamsmen/DDG2.html>
http://fivekiller1n0.tripod.com/Tattnall_DDG-19.html

USS LAWRENCE DDG-4

Washington, DC...June 21-25, 2007

www.uslawrence.com

USS BUCHANAN DDG-14

San Diego, CA...February or March (Date Not Set), 2008

USS CONYNGHAM DDG-17

Charleston, SC

Date Not Set, 2007

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

Rommel D-187

Kiel, Germany... June 2007

<http://www.z-rommel.de/>

Ship Timelines

Hull No.	Name	Commissioned	Years in Service	Disposition
DDG 2	Charles F. Adams	09/10/60	29.9 yrs	NAVSEA Museum Hold
DDG 3	John King	02/04/61	29.1 yrs	Sold for scrap 2/10/99
DDG 4	Lawerence	01/06/62	28.2 yrs	Sold for scrap 12/03?
DDG 5	Claude V Ricketts	05/05/62	27.5 yrs	Sold for scrap 11/8/02
DDG 6	Barney	08/11/62	28.4 yrs	Sold for scrap 2005
DDG 7	Henry B Wilson	08/11/60	28.8 yrs	Sunk as target 8/15/03
DDG 8	Lynde McCormick	06/03/61	30.3 yrs	Sunk as target 2/24/01
DDG 9	Towers	06/06/61	29.3 yrs	Sunk as target 10/9/02
DDG 10	Sampson	06/24/61	30.0 yrs	Sold for scrap 10/15/03
DDG 11	Sellers	10/28/61	28.0 yrs	Sold for scrap 9/29/03
DDG 12	Robison	12/09/61	29.8 yrs	Sold for scrap 6/21/94
DDG 13	Hoel	06/16/62	28.3 yrs	Conv to Power Barge
DDG 14	Buchanan	02/07/62	29.6 yrs	Sunk as target 6/14/00
DDG 15	Berkeley	12/15/62	28.9 yrs	Transferred to Greek Navy
DDG 16	Joseph Strauss	04/20/63	26.8 yrs	Transferred to Greek Navy
DDG 17	Conyngham	06/13/63	27.3 yrs	Sold for scrap 4/15/94
DDG 18	Semmes	12/10/62	28.8 yrs	Transferred to Greek Navy
DDG 19	Tattnall	04/13/62	27.8 yrs	Sold for scrap 2/10/99
DDG 20	Goldsborough	12/10/62	29.5 yrs	Tranfered to Australian Navy
DDG 21	Cochrane	03/21/63	26.5 yrs	Sold for scrap 9/19/01
DDG 22	Benjamin Stoddert	09/12/64	27.3 yrs	Sunk 02/03/01
DDG 23	Richard E Byrd	03/07/64	26.1 yrs	Transferred to Greek Navy
DDG 24	Waddell	08/28/64	28.1 yrs	Transferred to Greek Navy

ADAMS Commanding Officers (In Order Of Succession)

	Name	Rank	From	To	Notes
1	Munroe Jr., William Robert	CDR	1959/60	March 10, 1962	Plank Owner DECEASED 1991
2	Terrill, Scott E	CDR	March 10, 1962	April 6, 1963	
3	Tidd, Emmett H.	CDR	April 6, 1963	July 6, 1964	
4	Monroe, Bob Robert R.	CDR	July 6, 1964	January 1, 1966	
5	Hoffman, Roy Francis	CAPT.	January 1, 1966	April 1, 1968	
6	Jones, John (Jack) L.	CDR	April 10, 1968	September 11, 1969	
7	Gatje, Carl George C.	CDR	September 11, 1969	September 22, 1971	
8	Newell, B. Bruce	CDR	September 22, 1971	September 19, 1972	
9	Gurke, Donald Lee	CDR	September 19, 1972	March 1, 1974	
10	Mosher, Norman G.	CDR	March 1, 1974	April 1, 1976	
11	Lane, Glenn Quentin	CDR	April 1, 1976	April 1, 1978	DECEASED 2005
12	Narciso, John Anthony	CDR	April 1, 1978	March 1, 1980	
13	McCarton, Joseph F.	CAPT.	March 1, 1980	August 1, 1981	
14	Huchting, George A.	CAPT.	August 1, 1981	August 20, 1983	
15	Branco, Robert J. Dave	CAPT.	August 20, 1983	October 11, 1985	
16	Watson, David	CAPT.	Oct 11, 1985	January 1, 1988	
17	Finn, Michael P.	CDR	January 1, 1988	August 1, 1990	Decommissioned Adams