



USNS
LUCY STONE
T-AO 209

CHRISTENING



LAUNCH CEREMONY

September 21, 2024
San Diego, CA

GENERAL DYNAMICS
NASSCO

USNS LUCY STONE

CHRISTENING & LAUNCH CEREMONY

Master of Ceremonies Brian Jones
Manager of Communications
General Dynamics NASSCO

Presentation of Colors Naval Base San Diego Color Guard

National Anthem Navy Band Southwest

Invocation Lieutenant Commander Aman J. Grant, CHC, USN
Chaplain, Naval Base San Diego

Welcome David J. Carver
President, General Dynamics NASSCO

Remarks Vice Admiral Jeffrey T. Jablon, USN
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations
for Installations and Logistics

The Honorable Meredith Berger
Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy,
Installations, and Environment

Principal Address The Honorable Carlos Del Toro
78th Secretary of the Navy

**Sponsors Address
& Christening** Alicia Aadnesen
Deborah Donley Simmons

Platform Participants Rear Admiral Thomas Anderson, USN
Program Executive Officer, Ships

John Lighthammer
Auxiliary and Special Mission Shipbuilding Program
Manager, Program Executive Office, Ships

Captain Micah Murphy, USN
Commander, Military Sealift Command Pacific

Captain David Hart, USN
Supervisor of Shipbuilding Bath

Captain Lee Apsley, USMM
Master, USNS LUCY STONE (T-AO 209)

Trigger Honoree Debbie Carver
Wife of Dave Carver,
President of General Dynamics NASSCO

**First Shore
Removal Honoree** Robyn A. Lighthammer
Wife of John Lighthammer,
Auxiliary and Special Mission,
Shipbuilding Program Manager

Flower Girls Elizabeth & Abigail Carullo
Daughters of Lindsay Carullo,
Manager of Cash, General Dynamics NASSCO

Matrons of Honor Caitlin Shearer, Alissa Simmons Banks,
Jennifer Simmons Gard & Jillian Simmons Sherrin



DAVID J. CARVER

President, General Dynamics NASSCO

David J. Carver became president of General Dynamics NASSCO and a vice president of the General Dynamics Corporation in October 2019.

Carver began his maritime career in 1986 at M. Rosenblatt & Sons as a junior engineer. He joined NASSCO in October 1987, as a management trainee. Carver worked in many departments throughout NASSCO including Quality Assurance, Test and Trials, Repair Planning, Repair Contracts and Repair Production. He also served as a ship manager for several ships in repair and new construction and served as the director of Repair Administration prior to becoming the vice president of Repair at NASSCO in July 2008. In November 2013, Carver was named vice president and general manager of Repair.

Carver holds a bachelor's degree in marine engineering from the United States Merchant Marine Academy (Kings Point).



THE HONORABLE CARLOS DEL TORO

Secretary Of The Navy

The Honorable Carlos Del Toro was sworn in as the 78th Secretary of the Navy August 9, 2021. As Secretary, he is responsible for over 1 million Sailors, Marines, reservists, and civilian personnel and an annual budget exceeding \$255 billion. His priorities include securing the training and equipment successful naval operations demand and addressing the most pressing challenges confronting the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps

by strengthening maritime dominance, building a culture of warfighting excellence, and enhancing strategic partnerships.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Secretary Del Toro immigrated to the U.S. with his family as refugees in 1962. Raised in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of New York City, he attended public schools and received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. Secretary Del Toro was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer upon his graduation in 1983.

Secretary Del Toro's 22-year naval career included a series of critical appointments and numerous tours of duty at sea – including First Commanding Officer of the guided missile destroyer USS *Bulkeley* (DDG 84); Senior Executive Assistant to the Director for Program Analysis and Evaluation in the Office of the Secretary of Defense; and Special Assistant to the Director and Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget where he helped manage the budgets of the DOD, U.S. Department of State, Central Intelligence Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Reconnaissance Office, and the Peace Corps.

After retiring at the rank of Commander, Secretary Del Toro founded SBG Technology Solutions, Inc. in 2004. As its CEO and President, he supported defense programs across a host of immediate and long-term Department of Navy issue areas, including shipbuilding, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, acquisition programs, space systems, health, and training.

Secretary Del Toro holds master's degrees in National Security Studies from the Naval War College, Space Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School, and Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

Secretary Del Toro and his wife have four children and multiple grandchildren.



DEBORAH "DEBBIE" DONLEY SIMMONS

Sponsor

Debbie Simmons was born in Fort Worth, Texas and lived in seven cities in Texas before moving to Colorado, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, attending 10 schools in 12 years. Her father worked for the government and traveled internationally as a special advisor on World Trade, while her mother managed their home with her older brother, John and younger sister, Lucy.

Majoring in Political Science, Debbie had the opportunity to study at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. After leaving South Africa, she joined Pan American World Airways as a Flight Attendant and later as a Protocol Supervisor. She served as President of World Wings Washington Chapter, comprised of former Pan Am flight attendants.

Debbie has had the honor of working with the Navy as a defense contractor and as a Navy civilian for 31 years, providing protocol expertise and overarching guidance to ship sponsors, pre-commissioning crews and ceremonial participants for the design, planning and execution of Navy surface ship milestone keel layings, christenings, and commissioning ceremonies. During this time, 335 ceremonies were executed on behalf of the Program Executive Office, Ships and Program Executive Office, Unmanned and Surface Combatants to honor Navy and Marine Corps heroes, Medal of Honor Recipients, living namesakes, Native American nations, and various communities and cities.

Debbie married Keith Simmons while he was stationed in the Air Force as an Avionics Officer. After four years in West Texas, they moved to Virginia, where Keith became a defense contractor, and raised their three wonderful daughters, who are all now married. Alissa and Jeff live in Virginia, Jennifer and Mike are in Illinois, while Jillian and Chris live in North Carolina. Debbie and Keith now love being known as Nana and Pops to their 12 grandchildren.



ALICIA AADNESEN

Sponsor

Alicia was born in Salt Lake City, Utah to a military family. Her father was an officer in the United States Marine Corps who served three tours in Vietnam. Her mother was a military spouse, volunteering with the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society and American Red Cross, and later excelling in a career in retail as she worked to support her two daughters, Alicia and older sister, Cathy.

After growing up in California, Oklahoma, Michigan, Guam, and Virginia, Alicia attended the University of Virginia and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. For over 30 years she has worked in the defense industry supporting naval shipbuilding programs, both with industry and as a federal civil servant.

Alicia is married to Tim Phillips, a Navy veteran and logistician who throughout his career supported many of the ships in the current fleet before retiring in 2022 as the senior logistician for the Zumwalt Class destroyer program. Her greatest joy is her family, including her stepchildren Caitlin and Jackson, both of whom work for Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU APL), supporting NASA and DoD programs, respectively; son-in-law, Nathan; grandchildren, Audrey and Jordan; and grand-pup, Max.

Alicia and Tim live in Ellicott City, Maryland with their dogs, Grommit and Winston. She loves hiking, reading, and spending time with friends and family (when not traveling). It has been her honor to serve in the Department of the Navy, and to work alongside the dedicated individuals that comprise the surface ship ceremonies team, as they have worked together to build a foundation of history and heritage for each new ship of the Navy's Surface Fleet.



ALISSA SIMMONS BANKS

Matron of Honor

Alissa is the oldest daughter of Deborah Simmons, ship sponsor, and Keith Simmons.

Alissa grew up in Virginia and married her college sweetheart, Jeffrey Banks, a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force and current United Airlines pilot. While on active duty, they had the great privilege of various assignments in Europe, traveling often and serving as a family in many different capacities. Alissa served on

several boards, and was a Key Spouse, Welfare Chair and Vice President of the Executive Board of Spouses that helped to distribute over \$500,000 in proceeds in earnings back to programs and organizations that supported airmen and family members within the community.

Alissa is a Virginia Tech graduate with Bachelor of Science degrees in Psychology and Sociology. Since moving back to Virginia where they currently reside, she has been a Preschool Teacher for the past nine years. They have two sons, Tyler and Jackson.



JENNIFER SIMMONS GARD

Matron of Honor

Jennifer Simmons Gard was born in Fairfax, Virginia. She is the middle daughter of Deborah Simmons, ship sponsor, and her husband Keith Simmons.

Jennifer graduated in 2000 from Christopher Newport University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. She proudly worked as a Pediatric Oncology nurse for several years at Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters.

Jennifer is married to Lieutenant Colonel Michael Gard, United States Air Force. They have lived in many different states and are currently stationed at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. She is the mother to Sydney, Mitchell, Rhyann, Reid, Maya, Caroline, Nathan, and Charlotte.

As an active member of her local church, Jennifer enjoys serving in preschool classrooms and supporting women's events. She currently home educates her children and loves watching their many sports events. She also enjoys baking and spending vacations at the beach.



JILLIAN SIMMONS SHERRIN

Matron of Honor

Jillian Simmons Sherrin was born in Fairfax, Virginia and is the youngest daughter of ship sponsor, Deborah Simmons and Keith Simmons.

Jillian received her Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Disorders from Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky and her Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology from NOVA Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She currently owns her own

Speech and Language Therapy company in North Carolina, specializing in early intervention communication disorders.

Jillian has been happily married for 18 years to her husband, Chris Sherrin, and is the proud mother of two teenagers Preston and Savannah. She has two spoiled Hungarian Vizsla dogs.



CAITLIN SHEARER

Matron of Honor

Caitlin is a Maryland native, growing up in the Washington/Baltimore metropolitan area with her brother Jackson and parents Tim, Alicia, Jeremy, and Dennis. She attended the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, followed by her Master of Science degree in Engineering for Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Maryland. Caitlin currently works in the space

industry supporting satellite development.

While at the University of Maryland, Caitlin met her future husband, Nathan. They currently live in Olney, Maryland with their two children, Audrey and Jordan, and dog Maximus. Caitlin's passions include gardening, fiber arts, photography, baking, family, and (formerly) Irish step dancing.



THE HONORABLE MEREDITH BERGER

Assistant Secretary of the Navy
for Energy, Installations & Environment

The Honorable Meredith Berger assumed the responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations & Environment on July 28, 2021. She is responsible for providing oversight and policy for Navy and Marine Corps energy and climate resilience; infrastructure sustainment, restoration and modernization;

military construction; acquisition, utilization and disposal of real property and facilities; environmental protection, planning, restoration and natural resources conservation; and safety and occupational health.

Ms. Berger has served in a variety of policy and senior leadership positions in both federal and state government and the private sector. Before her nomination, Ms. Berger was a senior manager for the Defending Democracy Project at Microsoft Corporation. She was a Fellow with the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

Ms. Berger was Deputy Chief of Staff to Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, advising the Secretary on the formulation and execution of Department-wide strategy, policies, plans, and standards.

Ms. Berger also served as a Department of Defense Fellow. Prior to her tenure with the Department of the Navy, Ms. Berger held policy positions with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Office of the State of Florida Chief Financial Officer.

Ms. Berger holds a master's degree in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School, a Juris Doctor from Nova Southeastern University, and a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and Spanish from Vanderbilt University. She has earned the Secretary of the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Medal, Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service, and the EPA Gold Medal for Exceptional Service.



VICE ADMIRAL JEFFREY T. JABLON

United States Navy
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for
Installations and Logistics

Vice Admiral Jeffrey Jablon is a native of Frostburg, Maryland. He graduated from Virginia Tech in 1987 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He also holds a Master of Business Administration from James Madison University.

Vice Admiral Jablon's sea tours include a division officer assignment aboard USS *L. Mendel Rivers* (SSN 686), navigator and operations officer aboard USS *Olympia* (SSN 717), and executive officer aboard USS *Key West* (SSN 722). He commanded USS *Philadelphia* (SSN 690) in Groton, Connecticut, and was commodore of Submarine Development Squadron (DEVRON) Five in Bangor, Washington. Jablon was recognized by the United States Naval Submarine League with the Jack Darby Award for Inspirational Leadership in 2007.

Vice Admiral Jablon's staff assignments include tours as assistant professor of naval science at Reserve Officer Training Corps Unit, University of Virginia; special projects officer on the Staff of Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet; naval warfare submarine strategist at U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM); Commander, Submarine Development Squadron (COMSUBDEVRON) 12 Deputy Commander for training; Naval Submarine School prospective commanding officer instructor; and Division Director of Submarine/Nuclear Power Distribution (PERS-42).

As a flag officer, his tours include deputy director, plans and policies at U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM); Commander, Submarine Group 10; director, military personnel plans and policy, OPNAV (N13); Commander, Submarine Force Pacific; and Special Assistant to Director, Navy Staff. Currently, he serves as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Installations and Logistics (OPNAV N4).

His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Joint Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various unit and service awards.



www.NASSCO.com



GENERAL DYNAMICS
NASSCO