



USNS  
**S****JOURNER** **TRUTH**  
T-AO 210

CHRISTENING & LAUNCH  
CEREMONY



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April 26, 2025 • San Diego, CA

# USNS SOJOURNER TRUTH

## CHRISTENING & LAUNCH CEREMONY

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**Master of Ceremonies** Brian Jones  
Manager of Communications  
General Dynamics NASSCO

**Presentation of Colors** USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) Color Guard

**National Anthem** Navy Band Southwest, San Diego CA

**Invocation** Lieutenant Commander Steven Schwarz, CHC, USN  
Chaplain, Naval Base Coronado

**Welcome** David J. Carver  
President, General Dynamics NASSCO

**Remarks** Captain Micah D. Murphy, USN  
Commander, Military Sealift Command Pacific

Vice Admiral John F. G. Wade, USN  
Commander, U. S. Third Fleet

**Principal Address** Dr. Brett A. Seidle  
Performing the Duties of the  
Under Secretary of the Navy

**Sponsors Address  
& Christening** Barbara M. Allen  
6th Generation Descendant of Sojourner Truth

**Platform Participants** Rear Admiral Thomas J. Anderson, USN  
Program Executive Office, Ships

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

Commander Mark A. Ewachiw, USN  
Officer-in-Charge, Supervisor of Shipbuilding Bath  
Detachment San Diego

**Trigger Honoree** Lizette E. Garcia  
Manager Production Control, TIMSA Operations,  
GD NASSCO

**First Shore  
Removal Honoree** Debbie Anderson  
Wife of Rear Admiral Thomas Anderson

**Flower Girl** Penelope Srock  
Daughter of Charles Srock,  
Director Planning, GD NASSCO

**Maid of Honor** Carmen Allen  
8th Generation Descendant of Sojourner Truth



## DAVID J. CARVER

President, General Dynamics NASSCO

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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).



## BARBARA M. ALLEN

Sponsor

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Barbara M. Allen is a sixth-generation descendant of the legendary abolitionist and women's rights activist Sojourner Truth. Born and raised in Battle Creek, Michigan, Barbara grew up hearing stories about her "Great Grandma" Sojourner, passed down through oral family history. These stories, combined with her own historical research, inspired her to preserve and share her family's legacy.

Barbara is an accomplished author, having written children's books such as *Remembering Great Grandma Sojourner Truth* and *Journey with Great Grandma Sojourner Truth*. These works aim to educate young readers about Sojourner Truth's life, from her early struggles as an enslaved person to her rise as a prominent voice for justice and equality.

In addition to her literary contributions, Barbara holds a Master of Business Administration degree and a postgraduate degree in Human Resources. She is also a passionate student of theology and an advocate for preserving the memory of her ancestor's remarkable achievements. Barbara continues to honor Sojourner Truth's legacy through public speaking, book readings, and community engagements.

Barbara's lineage traces back to Sojourner Truth through her daughter Sophia Schuyler, making her a proud torchbearer of a historic legacy that continues to inspire generations.



## CARMEN ALLEN

Maid of Honor

Carmen Allen, the granddaughter of Barbara Allen and an eighth-generation descendant of the iconic Sojourner Truth, exemplifies both the richness of her heritage and a steadfast commitment to personal growth. A 2024 high school graduate with honors, Carmen's journey is marked by her exceptional talent and dedication.

Since the age of five, Carmen has pursued her passion for competitive dance, showcasing her creativity and disciplined spirit. Now, she is working toward her dream of becoming a pilot by majoring in aviation at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

In addition to her academic and career ambitions, Carmen is widely admired for her loving, caring, and devoted personality. She consistently brings positivity and kindness to those around her, leaving a meaningful impact on her community and beyond. Carmen's story is one of passion and purpose — a tribute to the legacy of her ancestors and a reflection of her unique path forward.



## DR. BRETT SEIDLE

Performing the Duties of the  
Under Secretary of the Navy

Dr. Brett Seidle has served as a member of the Senior Executive Service for nearly 10 years and has extensive experience in the private sector. He is performing the duties of Under Secretary of the Navy, which he assumed on April 16, 2025.

The Under Secretary of the Navy serves as the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Management Officer of the Department of the Navy (DON). Dr. Seidle is responsible for providing oversight and developing policy for defense and naval strategy, intelligence and intelligence-related activities, sensitive activities, special access programs, space activities, critical infrastructure, small business programs, and the naval audit service. Additionally, he is responsible for business operations, performance management, and risk management within the Department of Navy.

A graduate of General Motors Institute, Dr. Seidle began his career in the private sector in 1983 working as an electrical engineer for General Motors. He was awarded a GM Fellowship to attend Stanford University, where he obtained his Master of Science degree Electrical Engineering. Upon his return to GM in 1992, he became Die Cast Manufacturing Manager of the GM Powertrain Bedford Facility.

In 1995, Dr. Seidle accepted a position with a joint venture between Alcoa and Cast Metals Industries, becoming Plant Manager of CMI-Precision Mold casting facility. In this role, he had full profit and loss responsibility for a facility with 700+ employees and \$100 million in sales, managing it through the launch of the industry's first all-aluminum cross-member subframe for Chrysler's minivan. He subsequently became Plant Manager for Alcoa's Kentucky Casting Center, responsible for the construction/design of the facility and organization from a brownfield site to full operational status.



## **VICE ADMIRAL JOHN F. G. WADE**

United States Navy  
Commander, U. S. THIRD Fleet

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Vice Admiral John F. G. Wade is a native of Port Washington, New York. He is a 1990 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy with a bachelor's degree in Economics. Vice Admiral Wade also holds a master's degree in Information Systems

Technology from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and a master's degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College in Washington, District of Columbia. Vice Admiral Wade assumed duties as Commander, U. S. Third Fleet in June 2024.

A career Surface Warfare Officer, Vice Admiral Wade has served at sea on Patrol Craft, Destroyers, Cruisers and Aircraft Carriers, completing multiple deployments and overseas contingency operations to include Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Vice Admiral Wade commanded USS *Firebolt* (PC 10), USS *Preble* (DDG 88), Destroyer Squadron 28, and Carrier Strike Group 12 embarked aboard USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72).

Ashore, Vice Admiral Wade served on the personal staff of the Chief of Naval Operations; Executive Assistant to the Director of the Quadrennial Defense Review Team; Deputy Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Chief of Staff to Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Director of Maritime Operations, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; and Director of Operations, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. Vice Admiral Wade served with the Army's 10th Mountain and 82nd Airborne Divisions as Commanding Officer of the Joint/Interagency Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) – Khost, Afghanistan. Additionally, he commanded the Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center.

Vice Admiral Wade's decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Combat Action Badge, and various service, campaign, and unit awards. Vice Admiral Wade is also the recipient of the Vice Admiral Edward Carson Waller III and Vice Admiral John D. Bulkeley leadership awards.



## **REAR ADMIRAL THOMAS J. ANDERSON**

United States Navy  
Program Executive Officer, Ships

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Rear Admiral Anderson is a native of North Brunswick, New Jersey. He was commissioned in 1991 through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Program at Boston University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Rear Admiral Anderson's tours as a Surface Warfare Officer include USS *Capodanno* (FF 1093) and USS *Arleigh Burke* (DDG 51), where he coordinated the first two Chief of Naval Operations availabilities of the DDG 51-class Destroyers. Upon selection to the engineering duty community in 1996, he attended the Naval Postgraduate School where he earned a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He also completed the Total Ship Systems Engineering Curriculum and became a California State Licensed Professional Engineer.

Ashore, Rear Admiral Anderson has served in a variety of industrial, fleet, program office and headquarters assignments in ship design and construction, maintenance, budgeting, and requirements. His ashore assignments include Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Executive Assistant; Littoral Combat Ship Shipbuilding Program Manager (PMS 501); Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Requirements Officer (N86); Chief Engineer and Post-Delivery Branch Head for the DDG 51 Class (PMS 400D); and Commander, Naval Surface Forces, Atlantic, Mine Warfare Type Desk Officer (N43).

Since May 2020, Rear Admiral Anderson has served as Program Executive Officer, Ships, where he is responsible for Navy shipbuilding for surface combatants, amphibious ships, logistics support ships, support craft, and related foreign military sales.

Rear Admiral Anderson served as the 15th Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) from August 2023 through January 2024. In that role, he oversaw a global team responsible for the development, construction, delivery and maintenance of the Navy's ships, submarines and systems.



## JOHN LIGHTHAMMER

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

John Lighthammer is currently serving as the Program Manager for the Navy's Program Executive Office Ships (PEO Ships) Auxiliary & Special Mission Shipbuilding Program (PMS 325), responsible for managing a \$12 billion portfolio of seven acquisition programs across four product lines. Prior to serving as the PMS 325 Program Manager, Mr. Lighthammer was the Deputy Program Manager for the Support Ships, Boats, and Craft Program Office, a portfolio of approximately 150 acquisition programs and foreign military sales cases across six product lines. Prior to this, Mr. Lighthammer was the Principal Assistant Program Manager of the Auxiliary Ships Division, responsible for managing the T-AO 205 Fleet Replenishment Oiler, an ACAT 1 program. In total, he has served in numerous program management and leadership capacities for the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, and private shipyards over his 30+ years of experience.

Mr. Lighthammer's experience includes a one-year rotation at the Office of the Secretary of Defense Acquisition Technology, and Logistics (OSD AT&L) Naval Warfare Office, experiencing the milestone decision and annual budget processes at the Department of Defense level. Prior to joining PEO Ships, he worked in the Acquisition Directorate for the U.S. Coast Guard. He was the Program Manager for the composite version of the Fast Response Cutter (FRC) and shepherded the transition from the composite hull variant to the steel FRCs that are currently in production.

Mr. Lighthammer holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with a Major in Physics from Albion College and is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. He also holds a Master of Science degree in Quality Systems Management from the National University.

Mr. Lighthammer and his wife, Robyn, are proud parents of two children.



## CAPTAIN MICAH MURPHY

United States Navy  
Commander, Military Sealift  
Command Pacific

Captain Micah Murphy is a native of Wheaton, Illinois and attended the University of Notre Dame, earning a commission through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps. He later earned a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management (Northwestern University).

At sea, Captain Murphy served aboard USS *Kinkaid* (DD 965) and USS *Fletcher* (DD 992) as part of the "Sea Swap" initiative, USS *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6), USS *Momson* (DDG 92), and commanded Mine Countermeasures Crew Exultant aboard USS *Dextrous* (MCM 13) and USS *Chief* (MCM 14). He was also selected to Command and help rebuild the USS *John S. McCain* (DDG 56) following a deadly 2017 collision.

Captain Murphy's shore and staff assignments include Executive Assistant to the Chief of Legislative Affairs, Special Assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations, Legislative Fellow to U.S. Senator John McCain, Federal Executive Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Adjunct Fellow at the U.S. Naval Institute, and Commanding Officer of Afloat Training Group Western Pacific in Yokosuka, Japan. Captain Murphy was the Strategy Implementation Branch Chief at U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. Captain Murphy is the Commodore of Military Sealift Command Pacific in San Diego.

Captain Murphy was also a charter member of the Chief of Naval Operations Rapid Innovation Cell, a founding member of the Defense Entrepreneurs Forum, a term member at the Council on Foreign Relations, a fellow in the U.S. - Japan Leadership Program, former member of the U.S. Naval Institute's Editorial Board, and co-author of the book, *Guide to NROTC*.



## COMMANDER MARK A. EWACHIW

United States Navy  
Officer-in-Charge, Supervisor of  
Shipbuilding Bath  
Detachment San Diego

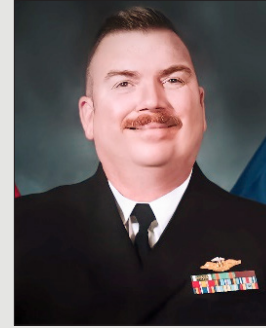
Commander Mark A. Ewachiw was commissioned as a naval officer in 2005 through the Holy Cross Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps program. His tours of service include three ships and duty stations around the globe.

Commander Ewachiw served onboard USS *Porter* (DDG 78) as the Communications and Public Affairs Officer, USS *George Washington* (CVN 73) as a Reactor Division Officer, and USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68) as the Reactor Electrical Assistant. During these assignments, he completed five deployments and qualified as both Surface Warfare and Naval Nuclear Engineer.

Ashore, Commander Ewachiw was an Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Officer in Naples, Italy; a Deputy Project Superintendent at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard; a Military Defense Fellow for Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) during the 116th Congress; Lead Systems Engineer for the Freedom variant Littoral Combat Ship (LCS); and most recently as the Freedom variant Post Delivery Officer. His current assignment is as the Officer-in-Charge for the San Diego detachment of Supervisor of Shipbuilding Bath.

Commander Ewachiw holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and two advanced degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering and Electrical Engineering & Computer Science.

Commander Ewachiw is married to Gabriela, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Cusco, Peru, an Electrical Engineer, and a practicing Program Manager. They have two children.



## LIEUTENANT COMMANDER STEVEN SCHWARZ

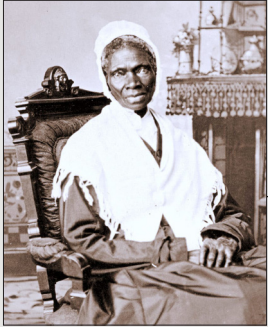
Chaplain Corps, United States Navy

Lieutenant Commander Steven Schwarz began his naval career by enlisting in active duty in December 1995. He completed Aviation Electrician's Mate "A" School in Millington, Tennessee the following fall, followed by Instrument Technician "C" School in Jacksonville, Florida.

His first duty station was Naval Air Station Norfolk, where he advanced to Aviation Electrician's Mate Third Class (AE3) in 1997. He subsequently transferred to an operational billet at Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD) Naval Air Station Oceana. During his enlisted service, he deployed aboard multiple aircraft carriers, including the USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75), USS *Constellation* (CV 64), and USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74), culminating in a Western Pacific deployment in 2000.

Following an honorable discharge and completion of his enlistment with a Good Conduct Medal, Chaplain Schwarz briefly worked as a civilian Aviation Technician before answering the call to ministry and Naval Chaplaincy. He earned an Associate of Arts degree from Temple College in 2005, a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in 2007, and a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2011, fulfilling the educational requirements for the Navy Chaplain Corps.

Commissioned into the Chaplain Corps in the fall of 2011, Chaplain Schwarz's first assignment was supporting the pre-commissioning crew of USS *Anchorage* (LPD 23), where he earned the title of Plankowner. Upon completion of that tour, Chaplain Schwarz reported to Naval Aviation Schools Command in Pensacola, Florida, providing spiritual support to aircrew and student aviators beginning their careers in naval aviation. In 2017, Chaplain Schwarz graduated from the Naval War College with a diploma in Joint Professional Military Education (JPME).



## SOJOURNER TRUTH

Ship Namesake  
1797 – 1883

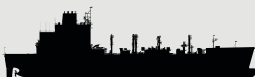
Sojourner Truth, born Isabella Baumfree was an American abolitionist and activist for African-American civil rights, women's rights, and alcohol temperance. Truth was born into slavery in Swartekill, New York, but escaped with her infant daughter to freedom in 1826. After going to court to recover her son in 1828, she became the first black woman to win such a case against a white man.

She gave herself the name Sojourner Truth in 1843 after she became convinced that God had called her to leave the city and go into the countryside "testifying to the hope that was in her." Her best-known speech was delivered extemporaneously, in 1851, at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio. The speech became widely known during the Civil War by the title "Ain't I a Woman?", a variation of the original speech that was published in 1863 as being spoken in a stereotypical Black dialect, then more commonly spoken in the South. Sojourner Truth, however, grew up speaking Dutch as her first language.

During the Civil War, Truth helped recruit black troops for the Union Army; after the war, she tried unsuccessfully to secure land grants from the federal government for formerly enslaved people (summarized as the promise of "forty acres and a mule"). She continued to fight on behalf of women and African Americans until her death. As her biographer Nell Irvin Painter wrote, "At a time when most Americans thought of slaves as male and women as white, Truth embodied a fact that still bears repeating: Among the blacks are women; among the women, there are blacks."

A memorial bust of Truth was unveiled in 2009 in Emancipation Hall in the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. She is the first African American woman to have a statue in the Capitol building. In 2014, Truth was included in Smithsonian magazine's list of the "100 Most Significant Americans of All Time".





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