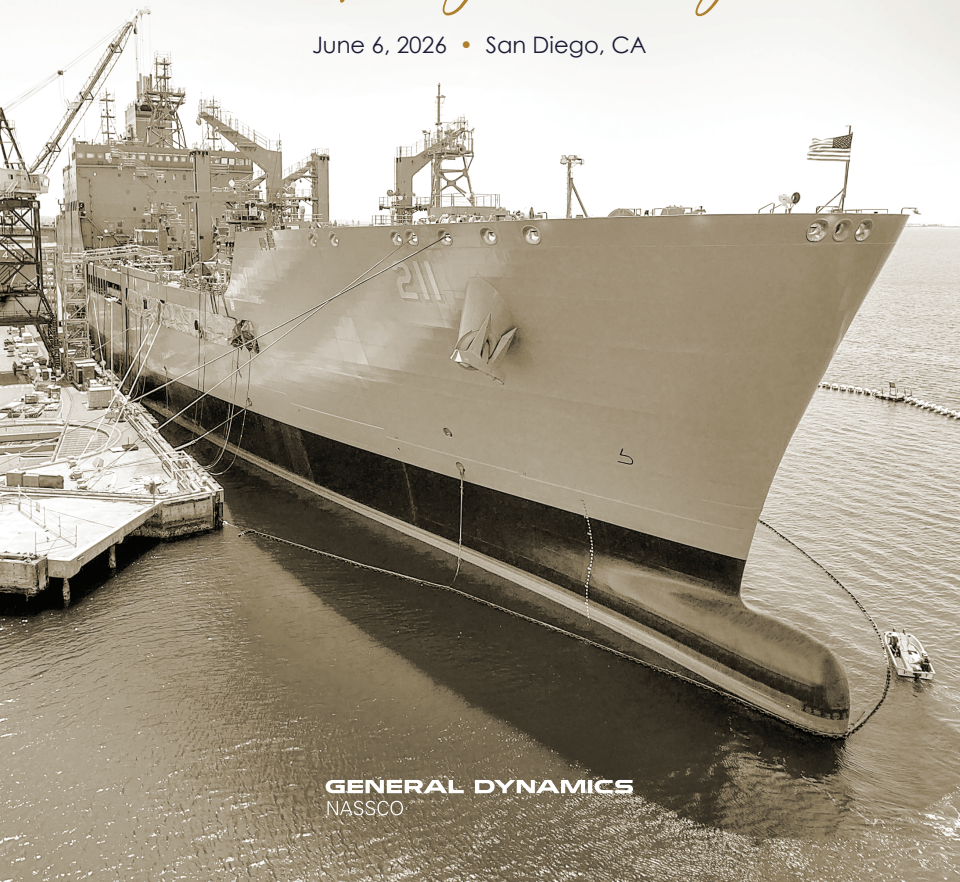


USNS
**THURGOOD
MARSHALL**
T-AO 211

Christening Ceremony

June 6, 2026 • San Diego, CA



GENERAL DYNAMICS
NASSCO

USNS THURGOOD MARSHALL

Master of Ceremonies Brian Jones
Director of Communications
General Dynamics NASSCO

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

National Anthem Navy Band Southwest
San Diego, California

Pledge of Allegiance Children of the Thurgood Marshall
Elementary School

Invocation Lieutenant Commander William Hardison
Deputy Force Chaplain,
Military Sealift Command

Welcome David J. Carver
President, General Dynamics NASSCO

Remarks Rear Admiral Benjamin Nicholson
USN Commander, Military Sealift Command

Vice Admiral Douglas Verissimo
Commander, Naval Air Forces
Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Principal Address Major General David Bligh
Judge Advocate General of the Navy

Christening Ceremony

Co-Sponsors Address & Christening Cecilia Marshall
Granddaughter of Thurgood Marshall

Melonie Tibbs
Granddaughter of Thurgood Marshall

Alissa Kamens Marshall
Granddaughter-in-law of Thurgood Marshall

Platform Participants Captain Cedric McNeal
USN Deputy Portfolio Acquisition Executive (Auxiliaries)

Commander Sarah Gregory
USN Officer-in-Charge, Supervisor of Shipbuilding
Bath Detachment San Diego

Captain Andrew Graff
USMM Prospective First Master,
USNS Thurgood Marshall (T-AO 211)

Jana Polzin
Deputy Program Manager,
Auxiliary and Special Mission Shipbuilding

Flower Girl Miss Lena Hershman
Daughter of Brett Hershman
Director of Government Relations
General Dynamics NASSCO

Maid of Honor Ms. Karmyn Tibbs
Great Granddaughter of Thurgood Marshall



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).



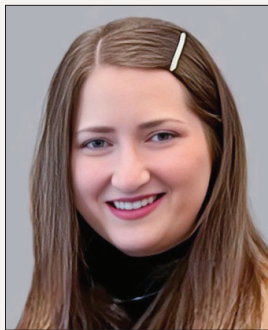
Cecilia L. Marshall

Sponsor

Cecilia Marshall is the Executive Director of the Thurgood Marshall Foundation, where she leads the family's efforts to preserve, protect, and promote the legacy of her grandfather, Justice Thurgood Marshall. She stepped into this role after years of leadership in national nonprofits and philanthropy, bringing deep experience in fundraising, strategic partnerships, college access and success, and program innovation to steward the Foundation's mission at a pivotal moment.

Her career has centered on expanding opportunity and increasing social mobility. She has held senior leadership roles at Ed Advancement, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, the Jackie Robinson Foundation, and APIA Scholars, where she launched initiatives to strengthen college access, student success, and long-term impact for underrepresented communities. She holds a fine arts degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design and earlier in her career led global recruitment efforts at SCAD after beginning her professional path in corporate advertising in New York City.

Cecilia previously served on the Board of Directors of the National Scholarship Providers Association (NSPA) and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF), the nation's premier legal organization fighting for racial justice, founded by her grandfather.



Alissa Kamens Marshall

Sponsor

Alissa Kamens Marshall, Ph.D., is a member of the Strategic Collaborations Management Team at Promega Corporation, a global leader in life sciences innovation. In her role, Alissa fosters the adoption of cutting-edge technologies within the research community, enabling advancements in pharmaceutical research and supporting the discovery of potential new therapies. Passionate about bridging the gap between emerging science and its practical applications, she works to empower researchers worldwide with the tools they need to accelerate innovation.

Alissa earned her Ph.D. from Tufts University, where she contributed to the field of chemical biology as a member of the Kritzer Laboratory. Her doctoral research focused on developing innovative tools to unravel cellular mechanisms associated with oncology research targets, underscoring her commitment to impactful, translational science.

Alissa is married to Thurgood William Marshall, the grandson of Thurgood Marshall and Cecilia Suyat Marshall.



Melonie Tibbs

Sponsor

Melonie Tibbs is an experienced agent with a proven track record of helping clients navigate the home buying and selling process. With a passion for connecting people with their dream homes, Melonie has built a reputation for her professionalism, market expertise, and dedication to exceptional service.

Melonie is the granddaughter of Thurgood Marshall and Cecilia Suyat Marshall.



Kamryn Tibbs

Maid of Honor

Kamryn Tibbs is the great granddaughter of Thurgood Marshall and Cecilia Suyat Marshall, and the daughter of Melonie Tibbs.

Kamryn is a recent graduate from Northern Virginia Community College where she earned an Associate of General Studies degree. Kamryn is deeply passionate about American and African-American history and plans to further her education in that field.



Vice Admiral Douglas Verissimo

United States Navy
Commander, Naval Air Forces
Commander, Naval Air Force,
U.S. Pacific Fleet

Vice Admiral. Doug "V8" Verissimo, is a native of Falmouth, Massachusetts. He is a 1987 graduate of Cape Cod Community College with an Associate's degree in Arts and Science.

Immediately following graduation, he enlisted with the Naval Aviation Cadet (NAVCAD) Program. Upon completion of flight training, he earned both his commission and designation as a naval aviator in July 1989. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mathematics from California State University, Fresno, California and a Master of Science degree in Campaign Planning and Strategy from the Joint Forces Staff College. He is also a graduate of the Navy's Nuclear Power Program.

Vice Admiral Verissimo's operational assignments include Fighter Attack Squadron (VFA) 25, Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer aboard USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74); Department Head for VFA-34; Command of VFA-105; Executive Officer aboard USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71); and Commanding Officer of USS *New Orleans* (LPD 18) and USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70).

Vice Admiral Verissimo's shore duty assignments include instructor duty at VFA-125; a demonstration pilot for U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, Blue Angels; Executive Assistant to Commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic and Joint Staff J3, where he served as Joint Force Coordination/Strategic Plans Division Chief.

Vice Admiral Verissimo's flag tours include Deputy Director for Operations, Operations Team 2 (J3); Commander Carrier Strike Group 9; Director Assessment Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (N81); Director, Maritime Operations, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; and Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic.

Vice Admiral Verissimo assumed his duties as Commander, Naval Air Forces and Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet in February 2026.

Vice Admiral Verissimo's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal and various other personal, unit and service awards.



Major General David J. Bligh

United States Marine Corps

Judge Advocate General of the Navy

Major General Bligh was raised in Athens, Pennsylvania. He is a 1988 graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a 1997 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law.

Major General Bligh was commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Course program in 1988. He initially served as a Platoon Commander and Company Commander at 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He later served as a Series Commander at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina.

Upon completion of the Naval Justice School, Major General Bligh served as a civil law officer, trial counsel, and officer-in-charge of legal assistance at Camp Lejeune. He was then assigned as Director, Joint Law Center, Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina. During this assignment, Major General Bligh deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)-I with Task Force Tarawa.

Major General Bligh has served as the Staff Judge Advocate for 3rd Marine Division and III Marine Expeditionary Force in Okinawa, Japan, and Marine Corps Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia. Prior to assuming his current duties, Major General Bligh served as the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and as the Assistant Judge Advocate General of the Navy (Military Law).



Rear Admiral Benjamin Nicholson

United States Navy Commander,
Military Sealift Command

Rear Admiral Benjamin Nicholson is a graduate of the Naval War College, Naval Postgraduate School, and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Rear Admiral Nicholson's previous Flag Officer assignment was Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Plans, and Strategy, N3/N5B, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. As a Flag Officer, he also served as Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group Two; Commander, Joint Region Marianas, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, Task Force West; and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Senior Military Official for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau.

His sea duty Command assignments include Destroyer Squadron 22, USS *Pinckney* (DDG 91), USS *Sentry* (MCM 3), USS *Gladiator* (MCM 11), and USS *Defender* (MCM 2). He has also served aboard USS *O'Bannon* (DD 987), USS *McFaul* (DDG 74), and USS *Mitscher* (DDG 57).

Rear Admiral Nicholson's ashore combat tours include Second Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Helmand, Afghanistan; and Commander of Provincial Reconstruction Team and Forward Operating Base, Farah, Afghanistan. He has also served ashore on the Joint Staff, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Chief of Naval Operations staff.

Rear Admiral Nicholson's military decorations include various individual, campaign and unit awards. He is also a recipient of the FBI Director's Award.

T-AO 211 Fact Sheet



Mission

Underway Replenishment Oiler

Principle Characteristics

Length, LBP	215.49 m
Length, Overall	227.33 m
Beam	32.2 m
Draft	10.2 m
Depth	17.2 m
Full Load Displacement	50,474 MT

Speed and Endurance

Sustained Speed	20 kn
Endurance	6,465 nm

Machinery Systems

Type of Engines: Medium-Speed Diesel
Installed Power: 28.8 MW
Number of Engines: 2
Number of Shafts: 2
Propellers: Controllable Pitch
Ship Service Power:
2 x 2.65 MW PTO/PTI
2 x 3.72 MW Diesel Generators

Lifesavings

USCG Certified (Cargo & Misc. Vessels)

Lifeboats: Total Ship's Compliment x 2

Life Rafts: Total Ship's Compliment x 2

Cargo Capacities

Liquid Cargo	162,164 bbl
Dry Cargo623 m2
Refrigerated Cargo280 m2
Cargo Potable Water213 MT
Ordnance	0 MT

Cargo Systems

Port Side:

3 FAS stations with double probes and 2.5" span line

1 RAS station

Starboard Side:

2 FAS stations with single probe and 2.5" span line, and receiving capability

1 RAS station with receiving capability

10 x main cargo centrifugal pumps at 3,000 gpm

Supported by 2 x 5 MT cranes

Survivability

Advanced Degaussing

NIXIE Torpedo Decoy

Space & Weight for Self-Defense

Command and Control

Naval Communications Suite

Accommodation

Habitability Mixed Gender Compliant

Licensed: 24

CPO: 17

Unlicensed: 58

Transient Enlisted: 30

Total: 129





Thurgood Marshall

Ship Namesake

1908 – 1993

Who was Thurgood Marshall?

Thurgood Marshall was an American lawyer, civil rights advocate and judge who became the first Black justice on the United States Supreme Court in 1967.

What is Thurgood Marshall best known for?

He is best known for arguing the *Brown v. Board of Education* case before the US Supreme Court and helping bring an end to legal racial segregation in American public schools.



Where was Thurgood Marshall born?

Thurgood Marshall was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on 2 July 1908.

Did Thurgood Marshall serve on the Supreme Court?

Yes, he served as a justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1967 until his retirement in 1991.

Why is Thurgood Marshall important in history?

He is important because he used the law to challenge segregation and racial discrimination, helping to reshape American civil rights and constitutional history.



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