

Committee to Commission USS Arlington (LPD 24)

Nancy.Gorell@gmail.com,

571-438-5554

Fred.Gorell@gmail.com,

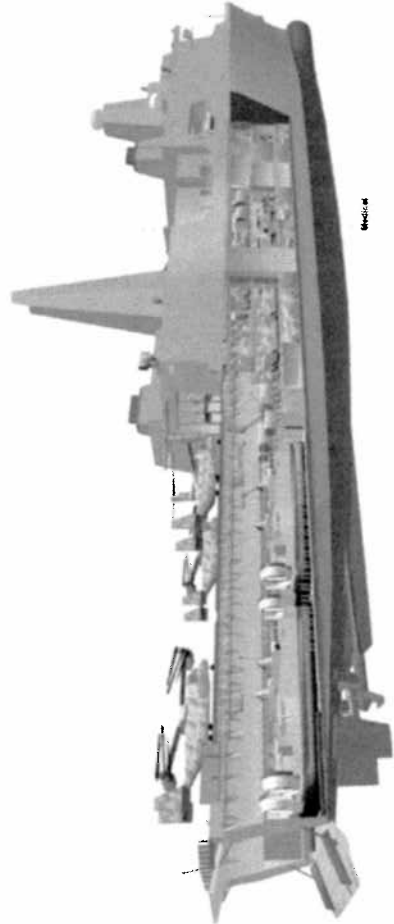
301-802-8334

PCUArlington.org

(Commissioning site)

<http://www.arlington.navy.mil/> (Navy)

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/USS-Arlington-LPD-24/134679149930739>
(Facebook page)



1. Something about the ship: Named for Arlington County—third ship named Arlington. Name honors 184 innocent lives lost in the air and on the ground-- fallen heroes from the Pentagon, American Airlines Flight 77. The name also honors the military and civilian employees, emergency, fire and rescue personnel of Arlington County and surrounding communities who provided the critical assistance after the attack. One of three ships of the LPD 17 (San Antonio Class) named for 9/11 attack sites (along with USS New York (LPD 21) (commissioned) and PCU Somerset (LPD 25) is an “amphibious transport dock” **Built** by Northrop-Grumman. Now in Ingalls Shipyard, Pascagoula. **Christened** in Pensacola March 26, 2011 --an ancient process that bestows a blessing on a new ship. Sponsor is Mr. Rumsfeld. At the commissioning, **Arlington Fire Chief James Schwartz**, who was Deputy Fire Chief and Incident Commander on 9/11 at the Pentagon coordinating the rescue response efforts on the ground, delivered emotional comments as principal speaker. "In its remembrance, 9/11 taught us that life is precious; so too is the American way of life," said Chief Schwartz. "Today, we christen a Navy vessel whose chief responsibility is to preserve that way of life and to enable us as Americans to pursue our hopes and dreams in freedom. This way of life is only possible because of the sacrifice of men and women in uniform who protect our nation here and around the world." Steel taken from the Pentagon after the September 11 attacks will be displayed aboard.

2. Commissioning: Date and Location: Summer or Fall, 2012. Location to be determined by the Secretary of the Navy, after a recommendation from the ship's Prospective Commanding Officer. (May be known early this summer.) Our Navy League Council will partner with the Council at the selected site. **Commissioning event:** While this commissioning will rightly look back on 9/11 2001 and the events and people then who will forever be part of this ship, the commissioning will also rightly focus on the first crew of USS Arlington, and the important role they will play in protecting us all. A commissioning is an awesome event that completes the cycle from christening and launching to full status as a ship of the United States Navy.. Now, regardless of size and mission, the vessel and her crew stand ready to take their place in America's historic heritage of the sea. The band plays. There are thousands on the pier. When the ship is commissioned, the ship comes to life...crewmembers on the pier race up the gangway while the ship sounds all its bells and alarms, perhaps onboard Marine aircraft spin up their rotors and the colors are raised on the ship. PCU changes to USS-- it is the Navy's newest ship and crew, ready to sail in harm's way. **A commissioning ceremony is the province of the Navy. However, the committee can make recommendations. Some under consideration include (a) having the flag that was draped over the Pentagon raised at the commissioning, perhaps on ladder trucks from Arlington County, (b) While the crew is on the pier pre-commissioning having 184 of thee each holding a ship's ID card with the name and image of a person killed at the Pentagon, so that when those crewmembers rush aboard the ship at commissioning, 184 virtual crewmembers are with them as part of the first ship's crew, and every ship's crew thereafter, sailing on every cruise, (c) at commissioning, have a flyover of military fighter jets, perhaps in missing-man formation. (Note: this bolded section should not raise expectations--these are only in the committee's idea stage)**

4. By the numbers: 3-age of youngest killed at the Pentagon, 6--aviation spots on the ship, 8--Arlington is the U.S Navy's eighth San Antonio class amphibious transport ship, 11--number of this class of ship planned to be built, 22 plus--speed of the ship in knots, 23-draft of the ship in feet, 24--hull number of the ship, 71-age of oldest killed at the Pentagon, 77-American Airlines Flight#, 105-feet at the beam 184--innocent lives lost at the Pentagon, 363--number in crew including 2 Marines, 684--overall length of the ship in feet, 700--Marines can embark with equipment, 800--surge number of embarked Marines 24,900--tons of water displaced by the ship, 500,000 fundraising goal of the committee in dollars and in-kind

5. Funded Items: Commissioning committees raise funding for (a) Pre-commissioning fund raising, marketing, fulfillment, and administrative costs (There are no salaries for committee members) (b) Water and possibly food (box lunches) for the thousands expected at the commissioning (c) Hand-held American flags for commissioning attendees (d) Several commissioning events for the crew, the families of those killed at the Pentagon, first responders, speakers, major donors (e) A commissioning printed program, including a sponsors list.(This program could include a commissioning

coin) (f) "Plankowner plaques" for the ship's first crew members (g) Gifts to the ship's sponsor and other event participants **The commissioning committee also raises funds for:** (a) The ship's welfare, recreation and morale fund (b) Support for a ship's education center for crew members (c) Support for the ship's family-support group (d) Support for items identified by the ship's Commanding Officer (e) Recognition of ship's (and embarked Marine's) outstanding enlisted personal and junior officers of the quarter and of the year, (f) Potential support for ship's silver service, dinnerware, etc., for use when the ship hosts VIP events in the U.S. and overseas

6. Where funds reside and how they are disbursed:

(a) The Northern Virginia Council of the Navy League of the United States is the non-profit organization that will receive donations for the commissioning. The Council's Website informs where to mail checks, and will soon have a special PayPal account for credit card payments (b) Funds raised will be isolated and funding will be disbursed only for USS Arlington's commissioning and support of that ship's crews and families. (c) The commissioning committee may reimburse approved expenses that support the commissioning, but it does not fund travel or per diem for committee members or others to attend commissioning-related events. **An exception to this could be to fund ship's crewmembers to attend events that support the morale, welfare or recreation of the crew.** (c) **Following the disbursement of funds required for commissioning events we envision the funds raised as providing continuing support for the ship's initial and follow-on crews and their families. This will be a cooperative effort between the Northern Virginia Council of the Navy League, the ship, the County of Arlington, Arlington first responders, the representative of families of those killed at the Pentagon, and others as appropriate. The bottom line will be, "Does it support crewmembers and their families as endorsed by the ship's Commanding Officer or his or her representative.**

Following the commissioning, the Board of Directors of the Northern Virginia Council of the Navy League will assume responsibilities for funds raised in support of the commissioning, crews and families of USS Arlington. Requests for funding and approved disbursements will be transparent and available to any interested party.

7. Sponsors-- Arlington County Police Association has made the first contribution, to allow the committee to print letterhead, etc.

8. How individuals and organizations can help with cash and in-kind donations: Cash: (a) Direct cash donations from individuals or organizations (b) Organizations encouraging member organizations or individuals to donate cash (c) Personal contacts that encourage other organizations or individuals to donate cash (d) Inclusion of "key messages" in speeches or media interviews that encourage others to donate **In-kind:** (a) **Artist or artists** to create USS Arlington artwork (may be selected to be on display on the ship, used in ship's promotional items (ship's store), on promotional items given in recognition of donation levels, (b) **Fundraising** services (Society of Professional Fundraisers and their nationwide network?) (c) **Direct mail** services to distribute fundraising letters (d) **Promotional services** company (donation of caps and other items given in recognition of donation levels) (e) **Printing services** to print several thousand copies of full-color Commissioning Programs with donors lists, and to print letterhead, envelopes and direct mail pieces (f) **Web developer** services to assist our Web coordinator (g) **Flag provider** (hand-held flags at the commissioning) (h) **Media and marketing** service partners--in-kind donations (i) **Water and food** for commissioning attendees (**likely from a commissioning site donation**) (j) **Commissioning Secretarial services**—on loan from a company for Commissioning meetings and special events (k) Potential new "Honorary Chairs" (Discuss first with Commissioning Committee)