

**Chief of Naval Operations
Adm. Jonathan Greenert**

Michael Murphy Commissioning

6 October 2012

Adm. Greenert: Good morning, New York. Good morning Mayor Bloomberg, Senator Schummer, and Secretary Mabus, and fellow colleagues. I'm honored and pleased to be here.

Maureen Murphy, a big day today, we've talked about and it has been clearly laid out the incredible heroism and values of your son.

Today, we complete the adoption of the crew, here, and it's a special concept here in the Navy. Nobody is better qualified to be a ship's sponsor and we thank you again. Thank you very much ma'am.

We think of New York as a Navy town. We thank you all for what you do for us during Fleet Week and all you do for our Sailors out there. New York has a legacy of service. Michael Murphy, and the New York area, is one of the same. From the Battle of Long Island in 1776, New York is about heroism, it's about service, it's about sacrifice. The service of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, who served from 1806-1966. The War of 1812, a lot of sacrifice, New Yorkers and the people from the New York area were willing to do.

And Michael Murphy, just like his namesake, this ship will be joining the best, the Arleigh Burke destroyer class, the finest class of destroyers in the world and this is the last of that particular class. We have saved the best for last, for sure. This ship is fast, it's nimble, and it's lethal. It has guns, it has missiles and it's got torpedoes. It has electronic attack. It has cyber attack in it. It has helicopters and it has unmanned vehicles. It will also deploy Special Forces. It's multi-mission, it's flexible, resilient and high-tech. And, just like the ship's namesake, Michael Murphy, it will assure, it will protect and it will deter for over 30 years. What a better motto, than what this ship has grabbed- Lead the Fight.

Today Michael Murphy, the ship, will join the centerpiece of our fleet and I'm honored to be here to witness that. A fleet of destroyers.

Today, ladies and gentlemen, there are 25 ships just like this deployed around the world. They protect areas of the world in Asia Pacific and the Arabian Gulf and Europe from ballistic missile attack. They are conducting counter-piracy, counter-smuggling and counter-terrorism in Africa and the Arabian Gulf. And they are ensuring that the life-blood of this world economy is flowing in the maritime crossroads of the world. What we call the sea lines of communication. All those various and sundry straits- Hormuz, Gibraltar, the Red Sea, et cetera, et cetera. They support and they assure our allies and our partners.

Today as the Chief of Naval Operations I feel honored and fortunate to be a part of this ship joining our great fleet, your great fleet.

I'm also fortunate to be able to introduce our guest speaker today. It's my pleasure to work with and be a part of his team. A man of vision, leadership, and a man of compassion. He has a diverse and distinguished history of public service, He was a naval officer and he served on the United States Ship Little Rock. Now, some of you are going to run and go google, Ray Mabus and Little Rock, and you are going to see a beard and you are going to say, wait a minute. Who is that Yasser Arafat or what? No, that's Ray Mabus, Lieutenant Junior Grade Ray Mabus. But, this is a man who understands the culture of being a Sailor and going to sea. He was the auditor for the state of Mississippi. He understands accountability and he understands judiciousness and being a steward of your tax dollars. He was the youngest governor of Mississippi, and he lead that state in recreating, if you will, moving forward its education system. He understands where the seed corn of our future is. He was ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the key country to stability in the Middle East where he moved that country forward in areas, such as, equal rights and equal opportunity. Today he is our 75th Secretary of the Navy. He is responsible for the Navy, but also for our primary partner, the United States Marine Corps, a team that can't be beat. He is committed to shipbuilding, for sure. But he's also committed to the development of our Sailors and Marines and he has put together a comprehensive and effective program for our families and for our Sailors, so when they join our Navy their lives are accelerated, they are ready to transition through a career or be great citizens of this great country. And perhaps best of all he has a tangible, innovative and effective energy, vision and strategy as we look out to be independent of energy and to be good stewards of the energy that we have.

Ladies and gentlemen, would you please join me in welcoming the Honorable Ray Mabus.

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