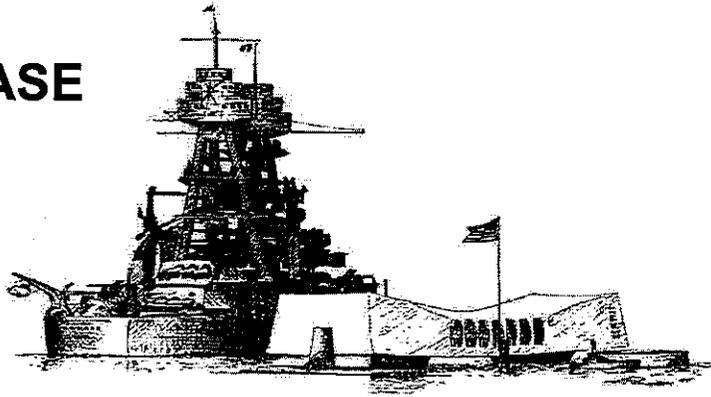


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Oct. 4, 2002
RELEASE #036-02

USS FREDERICK DECOMMISSIONS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

USS Frederick (LST 1184), the sixth of twenty Newport Class Tank Landing Ships, will be decommissioned after thirty-three years of distinguished naval service during a ceremony at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on October 5 at 10 a.m. USS Frederick is the Naval Reserve Force's only amphibious ship and is also the last remaining Tank Landing Ship to serve in the active naval fleet.

USS Frederick is the second ship of the fleet to honor the city of Frederick, Maryland. A city and a county in Maryland, Frederick is located in the west central portion of the state, near the Potomac and Monacacy Rivers. It was first settled by the Germans and was named in honor of Frederick Calvert, Sixth Lord Baltimore, and Proprietor of the Colony of Maryland. In recognition of the decommissioning, Mayor Jennifer P. Dougherty of Frederick, Maryland has declared Saturday, October 5th as USS Frederick day in the Maryland city.

The Frederick was built at National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO) in San Diego, California. Her keel was laid on April 13, 1968. Launched on March 8, 1969 she was commissioned on April 11, 1970 at Long Beach Naval Shipyard, California. Upon commissioning, Frederick was homeported in San Diego, CA. Frederick has made over sixteen

major deployments to the Western Pacific and Far East. A few of her more noteworthy deployments included: the South Vietnam withdrawal operations in 1970 and the refugee evacuations of 1974; Operation SEA ANGEL, the humanitarian assistance to Bangladesh; Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM; and Operation RESTORE HOPE in Somalia in 1994.

The ship's mission is to load and transport troops, cargo and vehicles of all types to a combat area. Frederick has the ability to launch and load amphibious vehicles via the 16-foot stern gate and the 110-foot bow ramp. Originally designed during WWII, Tank Landing Ships supported the launch and recovery of troops and equipment directly onto the beachhead in support of an amphibious invasion via a bow ramp and embarked causeways. One thousand fifty-one (1051) World War II era LSTs were built in American shipyards during the war, marking the most mass-produced platform in naval history. As construction time declined, it took approximately two months to construct an LST by 1945, half the time it took in 1943. LSTs served a major role in the success of the two most famous amphibious landings, the Invasion of Normandy and the Inchon Landing during the Korean War. Commonly called a "Large Slow Target" due to its slow speed and large cargo capacity, LSTs were minimally armed and relied heavily on escort ships for defense.

In January 1995, Frederick transferred to the Naval Reserve Force (NRF) and changed homeports to Pearl Harbor in November 1995. In recent years, Frederick conducted bilateral exercises with South East Asian Navies and was on standby to conduct humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions throughout the Pacific.

Commanded by Cmdr. Brian T. Smith, Frederick maintains a crew of 26 officers and 218 enlisted and a selected reserve force of 4 officers and 51 enlisted.

Guest speakers at the ceremony include President of the U.S. LST Association, Mr. Milan Gunjak; Rear Admiral Robert T. Conway, Jr., USN; Brigadier General Jerry C. McAbee, USMC; and Rear Admiral John P. Debbout, USNR.

In addition, a large representation of former crewmembers and U.S. LST Association members will also be in attendance, as well as former USS Frederick commanding officer, retired Rear Admiral Wirt Fladd.

Media desiring to cover Frederick's decommissioning should contact Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2888 no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, October 4 to arrange for an escort. Media will be met at the Visitors Pass Office parking lot at Nimitz Gate on Saturday, October 5 at 9:30 a.m. for escort to the decommissioning ceremony. Additional information on USS Frederick may be found on the website at www.frederick.navy.mil.

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