Navy Honors Capt. Thomas G. Kelley at Keel Plate Signing



The U.S. Navy celebrated the keel plate signing ceremony for

the future USS Thomas G. Kelley (DDG 140) at General Dynamics Bath Iron Works (BIW) on Aug. 30. During the ceremony, Marc Cote, a senior welder from General Dynamics BIW, welded the ship’s namesake, Capt. Kelley’s signature onto the keel plate which will be used in the future during the keel laying ceremony. Capt. Kelley, a Medal of Honor recipient for his heroism during the Vietnam War. (U.S. Navy photo)
By Team Ships Public Affairs, Aug.30, 2024

The U.S. Navy celebrated the keel plate signing for one of the Navy’s future Arleigh Burke-class Flight III destroyers at an event hosted at General Dynamics Bath Iron Works (BIW) on Aug. 30.

The ceremony was held in honor of Capt. Thomas G. Kelley, a Medal of Honor recipient for his heroism during the Vietnam War and the namesake of the future USS Thomas G. Kelley (DDG 140).

During the ceremony, Marc Cote, a senior welder from General Dynamics BIW, welded Capt. Kelley’s signature onto the keel plate which will be used in the future during the keel laying ceremony.

“What an honor! I am truly grateful and humbled that Secretary Del Toro chose me to be the namesake of DDG 140. To have the ship built in my backyard makes it more special and is a testament to the work skills of New England men and women. I am so proud of the capability this destroyer will eventually bring to the fleet”

Flight III destroyers feature the AN/SPY-6(V)1 Air and Missile Defense Radar and incorporate upgrades to the electrical power and cooling capacity plus additional associated changes to provide greatly enhanced warfighting capability to the fleet.

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ships and craft, auxiliary ships, special mission ships, sealift ships and support ships.