USS Ted Stevens Arrives at Naval Station Norfolk After Commissioning in Alaska



NORFOLK, Va. – USS Ted Stevens (DDG 128), the Navy's newest Flight III Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, arrived at its homeport of Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia, November 18.

The arrival – which coincides with the birthday of the warship's namesake– marks the destroyer's return to Norfolk as a commissioned warship following its commissioning in Whittier, Alaska. The milestone continues the warship's transition from initial post-deliverytesting to full operational integration with the U.S. Atlantic Surface Fleet.

Prior to its commissioning, the warship arrived in Norfolk for the first time as a pre-commissioning unit May 15, after

sailing from Huntington Ingalls Industries' (HII) Ingalls Shipbuilding division in Pascagoula, Mississippi, and completed full-warship shock trials off the coast of Florida in July. During its transit to the Pacific, the destroyer sailed alongside USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118) off the coast of San Diego on Sept. 17 to honor the lifelong bond between the two warships' World War II veteran and Senate namesakes.

Placed in commission during a ceremony in Whittier featuring Navy leadership and warship sponsors Catherine Ann Stevens, Susan Stevens Covich, and Lily Stevens Becker, Ted Stevens subsequently completed a four-day port visit to Alaska's capital city of Juneau, Oct. 7-11. While in Juneau, the crew hosted public warship tours and participated in community outreach events before visiting San Diego and then transiting back to the East Coast via the Panama Canal, stopping at Naval Station Mayport, Florida and Tampa, Florida, for logistics prior to arriving in Virginia. During its return voyage, Ted Stevens sailed alongside and escorted the decommissioned aircraft carrier ex-Enterprise (CVN 65), Nov. 6-13, as the historic warship was towed toward Mobile, Alabama, marking a maritime connection between the Navy's newest surface combatant and the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

"We are proud to return to our homeport of Norfolk as a commissioned warship," said Capt. Mary Katey Hays, commanding officer of USS Ted Stevens. "From Full Ship Shock Trials to our commissioning in Whittier, AK, from our port visit in Juneau and back through the Panama Canal, the crew has embodied our motto, 'Lead with Courage.' We are ready to join the Fleet!"

The warship is named in honor of the late U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska, a decorated World War World War II Army Air Corps pilot who flew transport missions in the China-Burma-India theater, and later, a served as a U.S. Senator representing Alaska from 1968 to 2009. This is the first U.S.

Navy warship to bear his name.

As the second Flight III Arleigh Burke-class destroyer delivered by Ingalls Shipbuilding, Ted Stevens represents the next generation of surface combatants. It features the AN/SPY-6(V)1 Air and Missile Defense Radar (AMDR) and the Aegis Baseline 10 combat system, paired with upgraded electrical power and cooling capacity designed to detect, track, and counter advanced ballistic, cruise, and hypersonic missile threats.

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From Keith Goodsell, Nov. 19, 2026