



## Commissioner Heather Moraitis



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

The USS Fort Lauderdale (LPD28) arrived in Port Everglades and was commissioned on Saturday, July 30th! The commissioning of USS Fort Lauderdale is the result of many years of coordination and I would like to thank everyone who supported this mission, especially the commissioning committee, led by Chair Patricia Du Mont and Fundraising Chair Jack Seiler, and the ship's crew.

The ship's naming was in large part the brainchild of the late retired Senior Chief Petty Officer Charles "Chuck" Black, who led a years-long effort to get the U.S. Navy to name a ship USS Fort Lauderdale. Beginning in 2010, a small group of local volunteers led by member Chuck Black, with the support of the South Florida Congressional Delegation, requested the Secretary of the Navy name a vessel for our city. In March 2016, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus confirmed the naming of the USS Fort Lauderdale (LPD 28). Black, who passed away at 63 years of age in 2016, served 20 years in the Navy and was involved in several of the annual Broward Navy Day Fleet Week activities at Port Everglades. He served on the Navy League's national board of directors as well.

As an amphibious transport dock ship, USS Fort Lauderdale, whose motto is "Together We Fight" is a warship designed to embark, transport and land elements of a landing force for a variety of expeditionary warfare missions. The 684 foot ship, costing \$1.8 billion weighs more than 7000 tons and can transport 800 Marines and landing craft. The ship was built by Ingalls Shipbuilding, a shipyard located in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

The Commanding Officer of the USS Fort Lauderdale will be Captain James Quaresimo, a 1997 Summa Cum Laude graduate of Jacksonville University. Captain James A. Quaresimo is a native of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania and enlisted in the Navy as a Damage Controlman in 1988. His enlisted tours of duty include USS Gallery (FFG 26), instructor at Fire Fighting Training Division, Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, and as Repair



Division Leading Chief Petty Officer aboard USS Mitscher (DOG 57). Captain Quaresimo is a Joint Qualified Officer whose personal awards include the Defense Meritorio.



The USS Fort Lauderdale Ship arrives in Port Everglades.





The Navy League of the United States Fort Lauderdale Council hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Mary N. Porter US Naval Sea Cadet Training Center in Fort Lauderdale. Senior Chief Starr, Commissioner Moraitis, and LCDR Moraitis (Ret.) at the new Sea Cadet building grand opening.



Commissioner Moraitis, Mayor Trantalis, Captain James Quaresimo, and Vice Mayor Sorensen at the Commissioning Chair and Committee Reception.

Thank you Chair Patricia Du Mont for all your hard work.



Commissioner Moraitis, Mayor Trantalis, and Vice Mayor Sorensen presented the Secretary of the U.S. Navy with a proclamation and Key to the City.





USS Fort Lauderdale Commissioning Ceremony at Port Everglades with LCDR Moraitis (Ret.)

