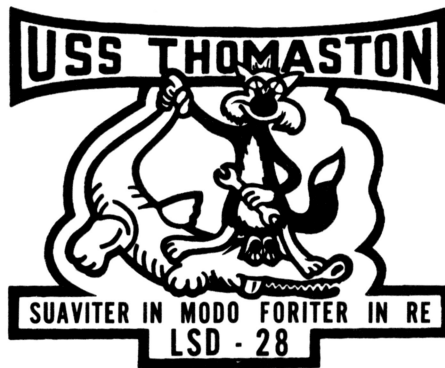


Decommissioning Ceremony

OF THE

UNITED STATES SHIP THOMASTON (LSD-28)



28 SEPTEMBER 1984

DECOMMISSIONING OF A NAVY SHIP

The decommissioning ceremony marks the retirement of a ship as a unit of the operating forces of the United States Navy. On USS THOMASTON (LSD-28), when the original order to commission this ship was given, a commission pennant was first hoisted to the forward truck. A pennant has flown there through 30 years of proud service. Today, when the commission pennant is hauled down for the final time, USS THOMASTON (LSD-28) will no longer be the responsibility of her Commanding Officer. Until this moment, he, along with the ship's officers and men, had the responsibility of making and keeping her constantly ready for any service demanded by our country in peace or war.

The commission pennant is said to date from the 17th century, stemming from an incident between the warring Dutch and English Navies. In one particular engagement, Maarten Harpertzoon Tromp, the Dutch Admiral, hoisted a broom at his masthead to indicate his intention to sweep the English from the sea. The English Admiral then hoisted a horsewhip, indicating his intention to chastise the insolent Dutchman. Ever since that time, the narrow, or coachwhip pennant, symbolizing the original horsewhip, has been the distinctive mark of a man-of-war. This tradition of so designating ships of war has been adopted by all nations.

The modern United States Navy commission pennant is blue at the hoist with a horizontal red and white stripe at the fly and varies in length with the size of the ship. At one time, there were thirteen white stars in the blue field representing the original states but in 1933, seven white stars became standard. It is a naval custom that when the commission pennant is hauled down for the last time it be presented to the commanding officer.

SHIP'S HISTORY

USS THOMASTON (LSD-28) is the first of a class of dock landing ships built in the 1950's. Her primary mission in amphibious warfare is the projection of power ashore—the rapid insertion of combat ready troops to any hostile zone within a matter of a few days. THOMASTON was designed by Gibbs and Cox, Inc., of New York City and was built by the Ingalls Corporation at Pascagoula, Mississippi, with the keel laid on March 9, 1953. Mrs. Mathias B. Carter, wife of VADM Mathias B. Carter, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, launched and christened USS THOMASTON on February 9, 1954. On September 17, 1954 USS THOMASTON was commissioned into active service.

Shortly after commissioning she joined the Pacific Amphibious Force for service. During the next three years THOMASTON conducted extensive training exercises in the Arctic off the Aleutian Islands in preparation for her first deployment in August 1957. On July 15, 1959 THOMASTON conducted her first rescue mission. The S.S. Bonnie Maru ran aground on the shoals off the northeast corner of Thailand Silini, Japanese Islands during typhoon "Billie." A crew of 12 officers and 31 men were brought onboard and later returned to safety.

With the tactical situation becoming more critical in the Western Pacific area, Commander, Seventh Fleet instituted the Amphibious Ready Force in early 1960. THOMASTON was an initial element of that first Ready Force.

In October 1962 THOMASTON was summoned to conduct special operations in the Caribbean Sea. After passing through the Panama Canal, she was assigned to the forces conducting the quarantine operation off the Cuban coast which eventually forced the removal of the Soviet medium range ballistic missiles from Cuba.

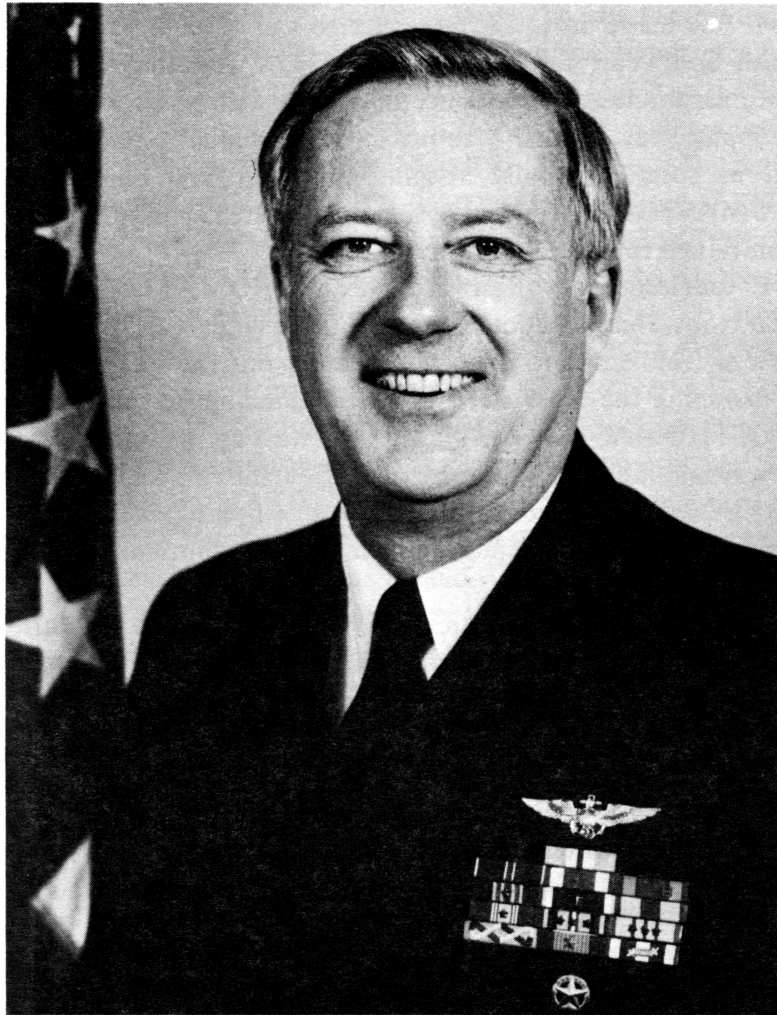
In the years to follow, THOMASTON saw extensive action in the Vietnam conflict. She debarked U.S. Marines at DaNang, Chulai, and various other North Vietnam locations. For her services she was awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation for beach assaults into enemy dominated territory and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal in Operation Eagle Pull off Phnom Penh, Cambodia. In February 1980, THOMASTON received the Humanitarian Service

Medal for her part in the radioactive cleanup operations on Eniwetok Atoll. She received this same award for rescuing 77 Vietnamese refugees in the South China Sea in April 1981.

USS THOMASTON began her final deployment on 17 January 1984. She made port calls to such places as Manila, Hong Kong, Pusan and Pearl Harbor. THOMASTON participated in three major amphibious exercises in conjunction with South Korean and Philippine Naval units. Meeting all her arduous commitments as well as some originally assigned to other amphibious ships, THOMASTON ended her 30 years of dedicated operational service upon return to San Diego July 27, 1984.

510 foot long and with an 84 foot beam, THOMASTON displaces 13,000 tons. Her most notable feature is the large "well" or wet dock reaching from her stern gate and extending into the bulk of the ship. By dropping the large stern gate and flooding her many ballast tanks, THOMASTON can fill the well with up to 10 feet of water and allow amphibious landing craft to float into the well for loading and discharge of cargo. Thus, during an amphibious landing, the ship can approach the landing beach and launch preloaded assault boats as they are needed.

THOMASTON is an extremely versatile ship. She can offload men and combat equipment via helicopter on the flight deck and transport huge amounts of cargo from the well. This versatility has kept her in constant demand. Her armament includes three twin 3"/50 caliber mounts, five 50 caliber gun mounts, and various small arms. A modern communications system allows for all types of radio communications including the ability to send messages via satellite. Her propulsion plant consists of two boilers producing steam at 850°(F) and 700 PSIG which deliver 12,000 shaft horsepower to twin propellers for a speed of over 20 knots. Her evaporators produce a total of 40,000 gallons of fresh water per day and her four main electric generators will produce 500 kw per generator. She has the capacity to carry two LCVP's, a MK IV, a MK XI, and a salvage boat for amphibious operations, With two 50 ton Boat & Aircraft cranes she can onload or offload equipment, cargo, and vehicles for any foreseeable contingency. THOMASTON can carry a crew of 20 officers and 283 enlisted personnel. In addition, she has the capacity of berthing 24 Marine officers and 232 enlisted marines.



COMMODORE
BRUCE R. BOLAND
UNITED STATES NAVY

COMMODORE BRUCE RAYMOND BOLAND, U.S. NAVY

Commodore Bruce R. Boland assumed command of Amphibious Group Eastern Pacific in San Diego, California, on 22 July 1983. As COMPHIBGRUEASTPAC he commands four amphibious ship squadrons totaling 30 ships, and two shore-based but sea-going commands. Before this assignment he served as Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, at Headquarters, U.S. Naval Forces Europe.

Commodore Boland was born in Buffalo, New York, enlisted in the Naval Aviation Cadet Program in November 1953, and was commissioned and designated a naval aviator in May 1955. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1968 and has since received his Master's Degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. He is also a distinguished graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Commodore Boland has served in several aviation/sea-going commands, including VF-62, VF-174 and VF-13 flying the F-8 Crusader. He was also Aide and Flag Lieutenant to the Commander Carrier Division 18 who was the on-scene commander of the Cuban Quarantine in 1962. While he was Commanding Officer of the Fighting Red Checkertails of VF-24, Commodore Boland and his squadron completed two deployments to the Tonkin Gulf on board the aircraft carrier, USS HANCOCK (CVA-19). He later returned to USS HANCOCK as Operations Officer. Following that tour he was Commanding Officer of USS DURHAM (LKA-114) and Commanding Officer of USS OKINAWA (LPH-3), and deployed each with PHIBRON ONE to the Western Pacific.

Commodore Boland's shore assignments have included duties as a flight instructor at NAS Kingville, Texas, flying the F9F series fighter; Executive Assistant and Senior Aide to the Naval Inspector General; and Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

Commodore Boland was selected for flag rank in February 1983. His personal decorations and awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal 8 Strike/Flight, Meritorious Unit Commendation with Star, Navy Unit "E" for USS DURHAM, Naval Order of Vietnam 3rd Order, and Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star.

Commodore Boland and his wife, the former Elaine Sarnowski, have four children: Paula, Elaine, Bruce, and Michael.



PROGRAM

Music by the Navy Band

Official Party Arrives

Honors

Parade the Colors

National Anthem

Invocation

Remarks by
COMMODORE B. R. BOLAND, USN
COMMANDER, AMPHIBIOUS GROUP EASTERN PACIFIC

Remarks and Reading of
Decommissioning Orders by
CAPTAIN J. P. KELLY, USN
COMMANDING OFFICER, USS THOMASTON (LSD-28)

Haul Down Meritorious Unit Commendation
and Navy Unit Commendation

Strike the Commission Pennant and Lower the Colors

Presentation of the Commission Pennant

Close the Ship's Log and Secure the Watch

Retire the Colors

March Off of Crew

Benediction



CAPTAIN
JOHN P. KELLY
UNITED STATES NAVY

CAPTAIN JOHN P. KELLY, USN

Captain John Patrick Kelly was born in New York City on 20 September 1940. Following graduation from Regis High School in Manhattan, he entered the Navy as a Midshipman and was commissioned as an Ensign in June 1962.

Captain Kelly's first sea assignment was as a Weapons Department Division Officer onboard USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DD-932) during which tour he took part in the Cuban Quarantine. He subsequently served as Operations Officer, USS JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, JR., (DD-850). During his four years with the Atlantic Fleet Cruiser-Destroyer Force, he made several deployments to the Caribbean and Mediterranean Seas.

In 1969 Captain Kelly assumed command of USS SNOHOMISH COUNTY (LST-1126), a unit of the Pacific Fleet Amphibious Force engaged primarily in operations in and around the Republic of Vietnam. He subsequently commanded USS PAGE COUNTY (LST-1076) with the same mission.

From 1974 to 1976 Captain Kelly commanded USS GRAHAM COUNTY (AGP-1176), serving concurrently as Commander, Patrol Division TWENTY ONE. PATDIV TWENTY ONE consisted of four forty-knot patrol combatants (PG's) armed with surface-to-surface missiles, permanently deployed with the Sixth Fleet; GRAHAM COUNTY was a former LST converted to a support ship role.

In 1979 Captain Kelly returned to the Pacific Fleet, commanding USS CAYUGA (LST-1186) until October 1981. He assumed command of USS THOMASTON (LSD-28) in June 1984.

Captain Kelly's shore assignments included three years on the Executive Department staff of the Naval Academy (1966-1969), three years as an Operations Briefer for the Chief of Naval Operations (1971-1974), and three years on the staff of the Chief of Naval Personnel (1976-1979). During the latter tour he served as Head of the Subspecialty Management Section and, subsequently, as Head of the Officer Professional Development Branch. Prior to his assignment to USS THOMASTON, Captain Kelly served on the Staff of Commander Amphibious Group Eastern Pacific as Readiness Officer and, ultimately, as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans.

Captain Kelly holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Naval Academy and a Master of Science degree in Personnel Administration from George Washington University. In 1982 he graduated with distinction from the Naval War College.

Captain Kelly is married to the former Judy Lee Peoria of Clarksburg, West Virginia. The Kelly's and their two children, Mary and John Jr., reside in San Diego.

COMMANDING OFFICERS

Captain M.F.R. DEARELLANO, USN	17 SEP 54 to 16 JUN 55
Captain R. C. HOUSTON, USN	16 JUN 55 to 08 MAY 56
Captain C. M. WINNE, USN	08 MAY 56 to 22 FEB 58
Captain C. P.. CALLAHAN, USN	22 FEB 58 to 24 JUL 59
Captain B. C. JARVIS, USN	24 JUL 59 to 18 JUN 60
Captain K. G. NICHOLS, USN	18 JUN 60 to 22 JUL 61
Captain B. S. FORREST, USN	22 JUL 61 to 14 AUG 62
Captain C. B. ANDERSON, USN	14 AUG 62 to 08 SEP 63
Captain C. KOENIGSBERGER, Jr., USN	08 SEP 63 to 19 OCT 64
Captain P. G. DYE, USN	19 OCT 64 to 18 OCT 65
Captain F. T. STEPHENS, USN	18 OCT 65 to 02 NOV 66
Captain J. W. O'NEILL, USN	02 NOV 66 to 29 MAR 68
Captain J. M. TIERNEY, USN	29 MAR 68 to 17 MAY 69
Captain R. C. THOMSON, JR., USN	17 MAY 69 to 18 JUN 70
Captain E. E. TISSOT, USN	18 JUN 70 to 23 APR 71
Captain A. G. HODGE, USN	23 APR 71 to 05 JAN 73
Commander R. A. SHINN, USN	05 JAN 73 to 17 AUG 74
Commander W. G. CARSON, USN	17 AUG 74 to 24 JUL 76
Commander C. L. BONHAM, USN	24 JUL 76 to 20 MAY 78
Commander J. B. LAPLANTE, USN	20 MAY 78 to 06 JUN 80
Captain W. J. WALLIS, USN	06 JUN 80 to 11 OCT 82
Commander W. G. CHRISMAN, USN	11 OCT 82 to 21 JUN 84
Captain J. P. KELLY, USN	21 JUN 84 to 28 SEP 84

DECOMMISSIONING WARDROOM

COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT J. P. KELLY
EXECUTIVE OFFICER CDR M. M. LOESSIN
FIRST LIEUTENANT LCDR D. A. GOEPFERT
SUPPLY OFFICER LT M. FUZY III
WEAPONS OFFICER LT L. PERINE
OPERATIONS OFFICER LT R. W. BUTLER
ENGINEERING OFFICER LT J. R. MORRISON
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER LT A. L. KILGORE
DISBURSING OFFICER LTJG D. A. SMITH
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER LTJG J. H. LEWIS
SHIP'S BOATSWAIN CWO3 R. L. HEERSEMA
MAIN PROPULSION ASST CWO2 R. C. HUNTINGTON

DECOMMISSIONING CHIEFS MESS

BMCS S. T. STAFSTROM	GMGC M. W. SKINNER
HTC R. C. THIEN	BTC V. R. RODRIGUEZ
EMC E. S. TIRONA	OSC D. M. ORTEGA
RMC J. MORRISON	SKC E. B. ANDAYA
QMC F. G. STEELE	PNC E. H. DELACRUZ
BMC M. BALINO	BTC D. M. BREWER
SKC E. S. LOPEZ	

DECOMMISSIONING CREW

BM1 H. Pricer	MM1 J. L. Tucker
BM3 A. E. Luna	RM2 M. R. Jennings
SN J. Hall	BM2 D. F. Swort
SKSN H. Honeycutt	SN G. L. Boyte
BM3 R. F. Branton	SN J. A. Worosz
SN A. L. Sprowls	BM3 W. A. Davis
SN A. L. Spence	SKSN C. Y. Concepcion
GMGSN S. M. Heck	GMG3 R. W. Stockton
HT1 L. J. Hoeckelmann	HT2 R. L. Cummins
HT2 M. A. Delosreyes	HT3 R. D. Owens
HT3 G. Meyer	HTFN G. G. Gil
HTFN R. D. Ermisch	MM1 I. L. Pura
HTFA M. D. Wilmore	MMFN S. D. Haas
MM1 B. G. Keith	MMFN R. P. Tillit
MM3 P. R. Miller	FN G. S. Ritchie
MMFN C. Mattes	BT2 T. F. Nosek
FR M. R. Baker	BT3 R. W. Smith
BT1 T. H. Beaster	BTFN D. E. Russell
BT2 L. D. Delahoy	FN W. J. Smith
BT3 G. R. Balthazar	EM3 S. A. Dawley
BTFA M. A. Burns	RM1 T. E. Collins
FN J. F. Norris	RM2 M. Pettit
EM2 S. K. Burniston	SK2 R. S. Reese
MR3 M. J. Bouthiller	DK2 J. W. Yatzor

DECOMMISSIONING CREW (continued)

MSSN H. E. Meeuwes

YN3 M. A. Griffin

ET2 M. Acosta

SK3 A. A. Morales

QM2 R. G. Jarshaw

BM3 S. C. Hernandez

BM3 G. D. Oglesby

BM3 M. S. Hoffman

SN D. F. Robinson

QM1 L. C. Jackson

HT2 R. J. Decker

HT3 J. R. Verstrate

MM1 C. T. Vilale

MM3 C. E. Lathrum

MMFN R. T. Wilson

BT2 S. A. Beard

BT3 K. E. Sugg

EM1 R. D. Icasas

FN E. A. McCloud

RM2 J. E. Gilbert

ET3 M. K. Kirchner

SKSN R. J. M. Aldana

MS1 H. I. Alagar

QM3 L. A. Cochran

NC1 T. M. Wood

SH3 M. J. Strehle

SN M. T. Madison

HM1 W. G. Darnell

JO3 S. J. Pape

SK2 R. O. Cunanan

SH1 A. D. Mejia

MS3 E. V. Diaz

PN2 J. F. Bertine

PC3 H. Stephens

SA J. Bryant

BM3 G. M. Warren

BM3 J. P. Vigar

HT3 R. M. Karst

HT3 M. D. Trottier

MM2 M. D. Clifford

MMFN T. S. Jones

FN K. Rohnke

BT2 D. S. Valentine

FN W. A. Griffin

EM3 W. K. Ryan

MM1 M. Rivera

SK2 R. G. Delacruz

DK1 L. Luna

YN1 E. J. Crawford

