

*USS JUNEAU (LPD 10)*  
*Decommissioning Ceremony*



*30 October 2008*  
*Naval Base, San Diego*





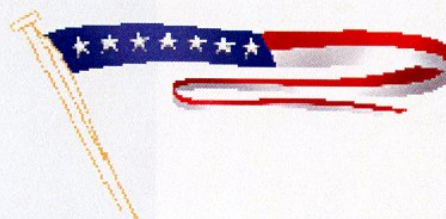


## *Schedule of Events*

0900- Ushers Fall-in

0930- Medley of Navy Ceremonial March music

0940- Enlisted Fall-in



0945- Officers Fall-in

0945- Guests Seated

1000- Ceremony Commences

- Arrival of Official Party
- Parading the Colors
- National Anthem
- Invocation  
LT Todd Fowler
- Commanding Officer Remarks  
Captain Dennis C. Mikeska
- Guest Speaker Remarks  
Rear Admiral Ronald H. Henderson
- Navy Hymn (Eternal Father)
- Benediction
- Cutting of the Ceremonial Cake
- Reception



## *USS JUNEAU Commanding Officer CAPT Dennis C. Mikeska*

Captain Mikeska, a native of Rosenberg, Texas, graduated from Rice University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Physics, with an emphasis on Space Physics and Astronomy, in 1985. Earning his commission via Naval Reserve Officer Training Program, he was designated a Naval Aviator in March 1988 at Beeville, Texas and has flown the F/A-18C operationally. He has over 3,200 flight hours in tactical jet aircraft and 750 carrier arrested landings. He is a 1992 graduate of Naval Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) and 1996 graduate from Naval Post Graduate School Monterey, California. He has completed Navy Nuclear Propulsion Training, the academics for a Doctor of Philosophy in Aeronautical and Astronautical (Aero/Astro) Engineering with a minor in Laser Physics, and holds a Master of Science Degree in Aero/Astro.

Captain Mikeska became the 26th Commanding Officer of USS JUNEAU (LPD-10), the "Mighty J10", in an Exchange of Command Ceremony held onboard USS DENVER (LPD-9), the "Mighty D9", on 10 July 2008, in Sasebo, Japan. Prior to this ceremony, he led "The Finest Crew in the Fleet" onboard LPD-9, "The Finest Gator in the Fleet", from the shipyard through sea trials, a compressed training cycle, depot level maintenance, and a Western Pacific deployment in preparation for this "Hull Swap". His crew will return with him on USS JUNEAU to its original homeport of San Diego, California, via Juneau, Alaska, under its own power for the last time. The "Mighty J10" is scheduled for deactivation in October 2008.

Captain Mikeska's also served as the Executive Officer of USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70). During his tour on CARL VINSON the ship completed 22 months of a 40 month Refueling Complex Overhaul at Northrop Grumman's Newport News, Virginia shipyard in the process of adding another 25 years to 95,000 tons of diplomacy. While there the ship's crew distinguished itself as the 2006 Navy League Admiral Vern Clark's Safety Award winner and continued to fly simultaneously both Enlisted Aviation and Surface Warfare Silver Excellence Pennants despite being in an arduous, industrial shore-based environment. He commanded the VFA-83 "Rampagers", an F/A-18C Hornet squadron home-ported at NAS Oceana, VA. While with VFA-83 he deployed with USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) as a component of CVW-17. Additional sea duty billets spanning junior officer and department head billets while in the Forward Deployed Naval Forces include VFA-195 and VFA-27 embarked with USS MIDWAY (CV 41), USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62), and USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63).

Ashore Captain Mikeska served as the Chief Operational Test Director and Maintenance Officer of Test and Evaluation Squadron NINE (VX-9) at NAWS China Lake, CA, and served as an instructor pilot in VT-25. He was selected for the Nuclear Power Program in December of 2003 and completed Navy Nuclear Propulsion Training in October 2005.

Captain Mikeska's military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Strike Flight Air Medals (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards). Individually, he earned the Naval Institute's Copernicus Award for Information Technology Innovation in 2002 and was designated AIRPAC's "Aviator of the Year" in 1999.





## *Ship's Decommissioning*

The decommissioning ceremony is a time honored tradition recognizing and terminating a ship's active service to the United States Navy. It is a somber occasion to take note and pay homage to the ship's history and accomplishments.

The ship's crew musters one final time to hear remarks from a distinguished guest and the ship's Commanding Officer. During the ceremony the many of the notable events and actions of the ship will be recollected and revisited.

Each portion of the ceremony has significance:

Playing of the National Anthem to commence the ceremony, as with any military event we recognize the country and freedoms we are sworn to protect.

Department heads make final reports-

The Chief Engineer: "Sir, the boiler fires have been extinguished, the shafts have been locked, all valves are closed, and the ship is defueled."

The First Lieutenant: "Sir, the anchor has been secured and the ship rigged for towing."

The Operations Officer: "Sir, all operational reports have been completed and all armament has been removed and the magazines emptied."

The Supply Officer: "Sir, all rations have been commuted and the galley fires extinguished."

The Medical Officer: "Sir, all physicals have been completed and the binnacle list cleared."

The Air Boss: "Sir, all aircraft have been removed and the final flight plan filed."

The Executive Officer: "Captain, the ship has been de-manned, all personnel are accounted for and departments report the ship is ready to be decommissioned."

The crew departs the ship for the last time, carrying on their next orders.

The Ensign, Jack and lastly Commissioning Pennant are lowered. By tradition the Commanding Officer is given the Commissioning Pennant and the crew member with the most years in service keeps the last ensign flown.

Finally, the Executive Officer gives the order to "Secure the Watch," at which time the continuous cycle of watch relieving watch aboard a ship in commission is broken and the ship is no longer in commission.



*Honorable Guest*  
*Rear Admiral John W. Miller*



Rear Admiral John W. Miller was commissioned an Ensign upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy in 1979. He was designated a Naval Flight Officer in June 1980 and received orders to VF-101 for replacement training in the F-14A Tomcat.

Rear Adm. Miller's sea tours include VF-31 as a Division Officer, VF-84 as Maintenance Officer, and command of VF-142, VF-101, *USS Dubuque* (LPD 8), *USS Juneau* (LPD 10), *USS Constellation* (CV 64), and *USS John F. Kennedy* (CV 67).

His shore tours include VF-101 as an instructor, the United States Naval Academy as Leadership Section Head, White House Fellowship as special assistant to the administrator of NASA, Aviation Commander Assignment Officer at the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Deputy Commander of the United States 5th Fleet, and Deputy Director, Strategy, Plans and Policy (J5) and Chief of Staff, U.S. Central Command.

Rear Adm. Miller is a distinguished graduate of the Naval War College and holds a Masters Degree in International Relations from Salve Regina University.

He assumed his current position as the Commander, Carrier Strike Group ELEVEN in September 2008.

Rear Adm. Miller has accumulated over 3,500 flight hours and 1,000 arrested landings in the F-14 Tomcat flying off of *USS John F. Kennedy*, *USS Nimitz* (CVN 68), *USS Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71), *USS George Washington* (CVN 73), *USS Kitty Hawk* (CV 63), and *USS Constellation*.

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal (2), Legion of Merit (3), Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (3), Strike Flight Air Medal (2), Navy Commendation Medal (5), Navy Achievement Medal, and numerous unit and campaign awards.



*Guest Speaker*  
*Rear Admiral Ronald H. Henderson, Jr.*



Rear Admiral Ronald H. Henderson assumed duties as U.S. Defense Attaché in London, United Kingdom in August 2007. Previously, he served on the Joint Staff as Deputy Director for Operations, National Military Command Center. A native of Strafford, Pa., Rear Adm. Henderson is a 1972 graduate of The Hill Preparatory School and a 1976 graduate of Harvard University, earning a Bachelor's cum laude. He earned a Master's in National Security and Strategic Studies at the National War College, Washington, D.C., graduating with distinction in 1998. He was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral in January 2005.

Rear Adm. Henderson's tours at sea include: Light Attack (A-7E) pilot with Attack Squadron 93 on USS *Midway* (CV 41), forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan; Strike Operations Officer and Tactical Action Officer in USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65); Strike Fighter Pilot (F/A-18) and Department Head with Strike Fighter Squadron 25; and Commanding Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 146. Rear Adm. Henderson participated in Operations *Desert Shield*, *Southern Watch*, and *Allied Force* and has completed deployments with USS *Midway* (CV 41), USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65), USS *Constellation* (CV 64), USS *Independence* (CV 62), and USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68). He served as the Commanding Officer of USS *Juneau* (LPD 10), forward deployed to Sasebo, Japan. Most recently, he commanded USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) during Operation *Enduring Freedom*, Extended Overhaul, and workups for JFK's Summer 2004 deployment.

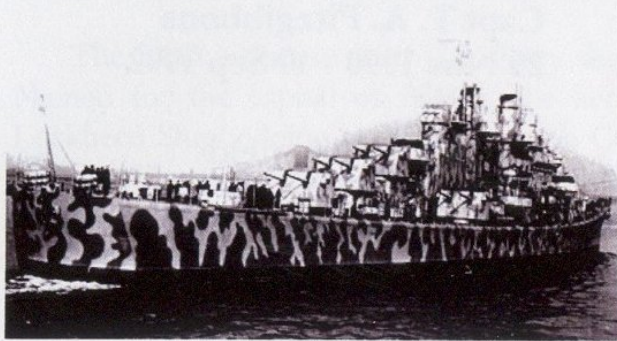
Rear Adm. Henderson's previous shore tours include: Electronic Warfare and Strike Tactics Instructor at the Light Attack Weapons School, Pacific; A7E Instructor Pilot; F/A18 Instructor Pilot; Requirements Officer for Strike and Precision Guided Weapons at the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.; and U.S. Navy liaison Officer to the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Warfighting Laboratory, where he was the Navy planner and staff officer for Exercise Hunter Warrior. His last shore assignment was with Naval Striking and Support Forces, Southern Europe, Naples Italy, serving as Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations.

Rear Adm. Henderson has over 3800 mishap-free flight hours in single seat tactical jet aircraft and over 600 carrier landings on numerous aircraft carriers.

Rear Adm. Henderson's decorations include: the Defense Superior Service Medal (two awards), the Legion of Merit (two awards), the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Air Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), and numerous unit and campaign ribbons.



## *USS JUNEAU (CL 52) HISTORY*



USS JUNEAU (CL-52) a 6000-ton ATLANTA class cruiser was laid down by Federal Shipbuilding Co., Kearny, N.J., 27 May 1940; launched 25 October 1941; sponsored by Mrs. Harry I. Lucas, wife of the Mayor of the city of Juneau, Alaska, and commissioned 14 February 1942, Captain Lyman K. Swenson in command. She operated in the Atlantic and Caribbean until transferring to the South Pacific in August 1942.

Playing an active role in the Guadalcanal campaign, JUNEAU was present when USS WASP (CV-7) was sunk on 15 September. She also participated in the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands on 26-27 October and the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal on 13 November 1942.

At 11:01 A.M. on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of November, 1942, just nine short months after her commissioning, JUNEAU took a direct hit into her forward magazine from a torpedo launched by the Japanese submarine I-26. The ship exploded into bits and completely disappeared from the surface within seconds.

Earlier that morning the USS JUNEAU along with the shattered remnants of a thirteen ship task group limped out of the fire zone off Guadalcanal, one of the most destructive sea battles of the war. Having sustained a torpedo hit the evening before, JUNEAU was still in far better shape than other members of the task group including the heavy cruiser USS SAN FRANCISCO. She had sustained serious damage and significant casualties during the previous night's battle and requested urgent medical assistance from JUNEAU. At approximately 8:00 A. M. JUNEAU's Junior Medical Officer, along with Orrel Cecil and two other Pharmacist Mates boarded a motor whale boat and headed to SAN FRANCISCO to render assistance.

Later that morning the commander of the Japanese submarine I-26 had two torpedoes left in his tubes when he came to periscope depth to survey his potential targets. Given the choice of targets, two light cruisers and the heavy cruiser USS SAN FRANCISCO, he selected the more valuable target and deployed both torpedoes towards the heavy cruiser. In an ironic twist of fate both torpedoes missed their primary target and one of them slammed into JUNEAU.

Although the navy lost many ships during the Pacific War, USS JUNEAU is often remembered as the ship on which, against navy policy, all five Sullivan brothers served and died together, along with two other sets of brothers, Rogers and Combs.

JUNEAU received four battle stars for World War II service.



## *Mr. Orell Cecil, Chief Petty Officer, USN (Ret.)*

We are honored to have with us today the only living survivor of USS JUNEAU (CL 52).

Orrel Cecil was born on 22 November 1919 in Plankinton, South Dakota. He and his family moved to Gillette, Wyoming in 1932 where he attended Campbell County High School. Cecil first enlisted in the United States Navy on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1937.

After completing boot camp in San Diego, Ca., Cecil attended Hospital Corpsman School then served a tour of duty at the Naval Hospital in San Diego, Ca., where he qualified as an X-ray Technician in 1939.

In December 1940 Cecil was transferred to the Fleet Marine Force Medical Company and deployed to Iceland. In October 1941 Cecil returned to the states and was assigned duties aboard the receiving ship USS SEATTLE in New York. Cecil re-enlisted in November 1941 and was on leave when the Japanese attacked the fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hi.

In January 1942 Cecil joined the pre-commissioning crew of the Light Cruiser, USS JUNEAU (CL-52). The USS JUNEAU was commissioned on February 14, 1942. After the sinking of JUNEAU on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1942 Cecil returned to the United States and was transferred to the Armed Guard Center in Brooklyn, New York. Cecil was promoted to Chief Petty Officer in July 1943

Between January of 1943 and July 1957 Cecil served aboard the USS OBRIEN, USS REPOSE, USS PIEDMONT, USS VESUVIUS and the Naval Hospitals at Charleston and Mare Island.

Upon his retirement in July 1957 Cecil worked for the Western Radio Company until 1969 and Oxford Products until 1987. Cecil became a member of the Poway Senior Volunteer Patrol in 1994 and continues to volunteer his time.

Cecil married the late Aileen Marie Willett of Allentown, Pa., on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1948. They had one daughter, Patricia Lee Van Ornum who is a resident of Castro Valley, Ca.



*From THE FINEST CREW IN THE FLEET*

*Thank you for joining us on this most auspicious occasion.*

