

700 Washington Street
Bath, ME 04530

News

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Contact: Susan Pierter

Tel 207 442 1149

Fax 207 442 4499

susan.pierter@biw.com

Bath Iron Works Christens CHAFEE, DDG 90, on Veterans Day, November 11

AEGIS Destroyer first built at shipyard's new land-level transfer facility

BATH, Maine – Bath Iron Works will christen the Navy's newest DDG 51 Class Destroyer, CHAFEE (DDG 90) on Veterans' Day, Monday, November 11, 2002 at its new, world class Navy shipbuilding facility. DDG 90 is BIW's 22nd DDG 51 Class Destroyer, and the first ship to be built at the shipyard's new land-level transfer facility.

The one-hour ceremony will end with a fireworks display after the ship's christening by co-sponsors: Virginia Chafee, wife of the ship's namesake, and Diane Blair, wife of Retired Admiral Dennis Blair. The Honorable Gordon England, Secretary of the Navy, is scheduled to speak along with members of Maine's congressional delegation. The principal speaker is U.S. Senator John Warner (R-Va), a close friend of the ship's namesake.

Bath Iron Works

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DDG 90 is named for the late U.S. Senator John H. Chafee (October 22, 1922-October 24, 1999) who also served as Governor of Rhode Island, and Secretary of the Navy (January 1969 – April 1972). Chafee also served with the Sixth Marine Division in the April 1945 Battle of Okinawa. The ship will be commissioned in October 2003 in Newport, Rhode Island, and home-ported at Pearl Harbor.

Bath Iron Works has 14 DDG 51 Class Destroyers under contract with the U.S. Navy. Destroyers operate in support of carrier battle groups, surface action groups, amphibious groups and replenishment groups, and have been designed for a wide variety of warfare missions.

Bath Iron Works of Bath, Maine, a leader in surface combatant design and construction, employs 6,500 people. It is a subsidiary of General Dynamics, headquartered in Falls Church, Virginia. General Dynamics employs approximately 54,000 people worldwide and anticipates 2002 revenues of approximately \$14 billion. The company has leading market positions in land and amphibious combat systems, mission-critical information systems and technologies, shipbuilding and marine systems, and business aviation. More information about General Dynamics can be found on the worldwide web at www.generaldynamics.com.