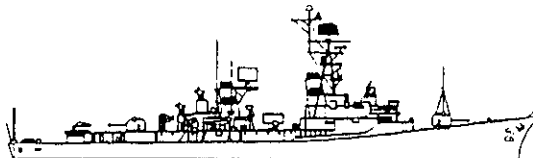


BATH NAVAL HISTORICAL PARK
"Shipmate Park"
home of the



CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG 2)

The Honorable John H. Dalton
Secretary of the Navy
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington D.C. 20350

Dear Secretary Dalton,

9 Jan 94

I am writing on behalf of the Bath Naval Historical Park, Inc., a non-profit corporation founded in Maine last year with the purpose of returning the CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG 2) to Bath, Maine. She was built by the Bath Iron Works, delivered to the U.S. Navy in 1960 and was named after Secretary of the Navy Charles F. Adams, who served in that capacity from 1929 to 1933 under President Herbert Hoover.

We would like to ask for your consideration in the naming of an ARLEIGH BURKE Class destroyer, USS CHARLES F. ADAMS. Further, should you find that name acceptable, we would ask that it be a BIW built ship. The vitae of the Honorable Charles F. Adams is attached. On his own merit, Charles F. Adams has earned the right to be considered for this very special honor. There are several other reasons for this request which we would like to share with you.

When the Bath Naval Historical Park returns the CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG 2) to Bath, she will be the first of the more than 250 U.S. Navy ships built at that venerable yard to return to the place of her birth. As such, the opportunity for the original ship to actually witness the rebirth of her namesake in the form of an ARLEIGH BURKE Class Destroyer would be a unique and exciting event.

The tradition of naming ships repetitively has continued at Bath. Your office surely appreciates the importance of reinforcing Naval customs and tradition whenever possible. Of the five BURKE Class Destroyers under current or recent construction here, three of them follow ships of the same name. We believe that the ties to the Navy and its traditions are made all the stronger by the bridge across time and the generations that this practice allows.

JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG 53), commissioned 18 Dec 93 is the 6th ship to bear the name and the second built at BIW. JOHN S. MCCAIN (DDG 56) is the second to bear the name and the second JOHN S. MCCAIN to be built at BIW. USS JOHN S. MCCAIN (DL 3) was

delivered to the U.S. Navy on 23 Sept 53. PAUL HAMILTON (DDG 60), the third Secretary of the Navy, is the 3rd ship to bear the name. The associations of shipmates represented by the earlier ships have welcomed with open arms the addition of modern sailors to their necessarily diminishing rolls.

The CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG 2) Association, headquartered in Bath, Maine has pledged to do everything possible to further acquaint the sailors of the next CHARLES F. ADAMS, with the laws of the sea and the rich heritage of which they are to become a part.

Being the superstitious sort (and what sailors aren't?), we have been struck by other connections worth mentioning. The Secretary of the Navy when CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG 2) was named was the Honorable Thomas S. Gates. USS THOMAS S. GATES (CG 51) was the first AEGIS Class cruiser built by BIW and the ship that allowed BIW to gain the experience needed to win the contract to build ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51)...

...and speaking of Arleigh, the Chief of Naval Operations at the time of the commissioning of USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG 2) was none other than Admiral Arleigh Burke himself.

Coincidentally, the Bath Iron Works is currently constructing USS CURTIS WILBUR (DDG 54), the fourth ship of the BURKE class. DDG 54 is named for another Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Curtis Dwight Wilbur, who served in that office from 1923 to 1929 and was relieved by Charles Francis Adams. Like Mr. Adams, Curtis Wilbur still has family alive who have had the rare experience of witnessing the birth of their father's ship.

Individuals of the McCain family are witnessing the birth of yet another ship to be so named and built in Bath, and it is a rare occurrence indeed! We respectfully request this consideration for CHARLES F. ADAMS as well. We thank you for your assistance in this matter. It will be a great day for the U.S. Navy and Naval heritage and the Adams family and BIW, should this request be granted!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas G. Broussard, Jr.
Executive Director
Bath Naval Historical Park, Inc.
P.O. Box 607
Bath, ME 04530