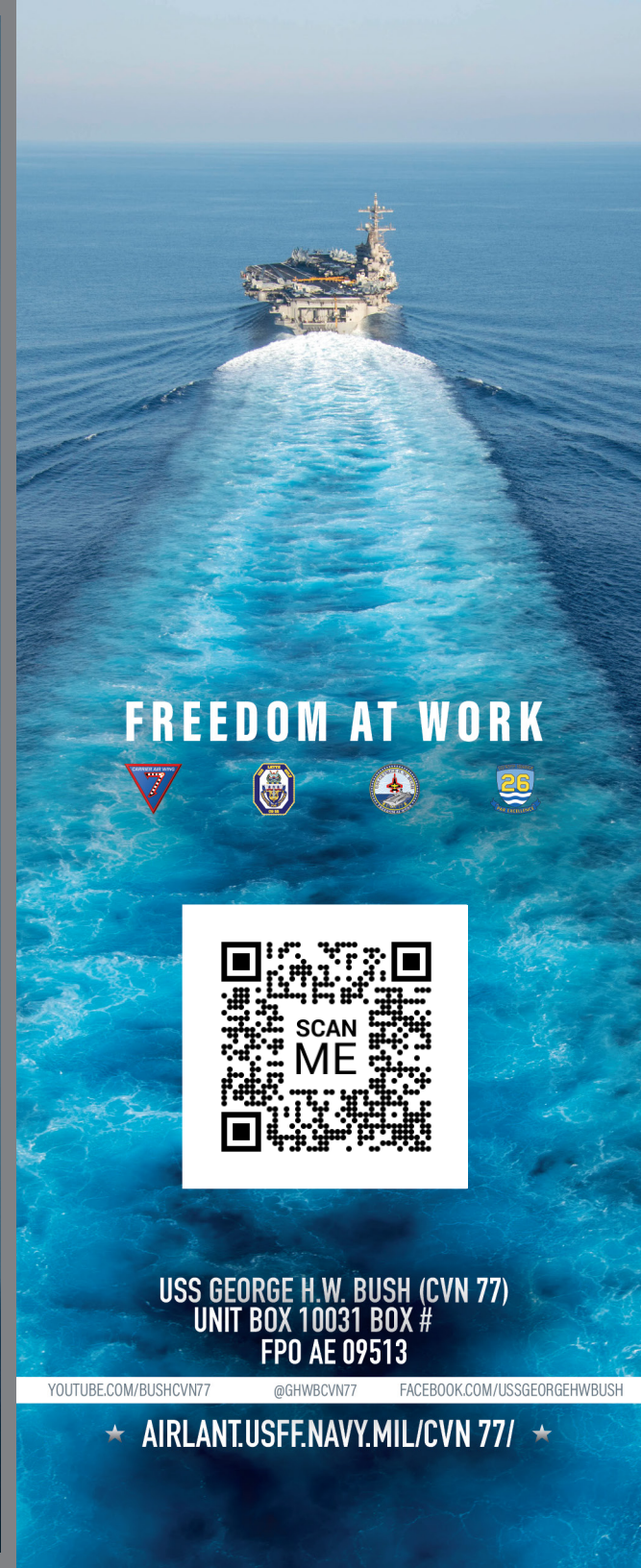




“WE KNOW WHAT WORKS. FREEDOM WORKS.  
WE KNOW WHAT’S RIGHT. FREEDOM IS RIGHT.”

— GEORGE H.W. BUSH



FREEDOM AT WORK



USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77)  
UNIT BOX 10031 BOX #  
FPO AE 09513

YOUTUBE.COM/BUSHCVN77

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FREEDOM AT WORK



USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH  
WELCOME ABOARD



## ★ OUR NAMESAKE ★

George Herbert Walker Bush, born in Milton, Mass., the 41st President of the United States, began a distinguished military career in 1942. On his 18th birthday, June 12, 1942, the young Bush graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., and enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a Seaman 2nd Class. Less than one year later he became the youngest pilot in Naval history when he received his wings and commission.



Following World War II, Bush attended Yale University, where he pursued a degree in economics and served as captain of the varsity baseball team. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1948.

Bush has held numerous leadership positions over the years: He served two terms as Representative to Congress from Texas; served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations; chairman of the Republican National Committee; chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China; and director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan selected George H.W. Bush to be his running mate. Bush was sworn in for the first of two terms as Vice President of the United States on January 29, 1981.

He served as United States President from 1989 to 1993, facing a changing world with the passing of the Cold War. His greatest challenge came when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and threatened to move into Saudi Arabia. Vowing to free Kuwait, President Bush marshaled a 30-nation coalition and successfully opposed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

After leaving office, Bush and his wife settled in West Oaks, Houston. In his retirement, Bush used the public spotlight to support various charities.

On January 10, 2009, Bush attended the commissioning ceremony of the U.S. Navy ship named after him, the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77).

Bush passed away on November 20, 2018 at the age of 94 and is survived by his five children, 17 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**“BE BOLD IN YOUR  
CARING, BE BOLD  
IN YOUR DREAMING  
AND ABOVE ALL ELSE,  
ALWAYS DO YOUR  
BEST.”**

— GEORGE H.W. BUSH

## ★ OUR MISSION ★



**USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77)  
will deliver decisive combat  
capability across all domains  
as the flagship of the George  
H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group.**



## ★ CAVU ★

Ceiling and Visibility Unlimited (CAVU) is a meteorology term used by aviators to indicate perfect flying conditions. It is a traditional blessing typically said from one aviator to another to wish them a safe flight.

The late 41st President of the United States, George H.W. Bush, used CAVU as both a blessing towards others and as a way of life. Bush's daughter, Doro Bush Koch, spoke to her father's CAVU outlook in the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation documentary 41 on 41.

“It's what Naval pilots would wish for,” said Koch. “And that is blue skies. Blue, clear skies. And that's what dad had in his life.”

The late 41st President of the United States, George H.W. Bush, used CAVU as both a blessing towards others and as a way of life.



In January 2009, the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush was christened by Doro with her father and brother, 43rd President of the United States George Bush, in attendance.

“Dad loves the carrier and loves the sailor onboard,” said Doro. “It is a culmination of everything in dad's life that's important to him.”

Bush returned to his carrier often to be with the sailors onboard, hearing stories and offering the greatest personal blessing he could imagine – CAVU to the sailors that have come after him.

## ★ OUR HISTORY ★

USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) was christened on October 7, 2006, during a ceremony attended by the 41st President of the United States George H.W. Bush. The tenth and final Nimitz-class aircraft carrier, GHWB became the first aircraft carrier in history to have its namesake participate in the christening.

President Bush also attended the ship's commissioning ceremony on board Naval Station Norfolk on January 10, 2009. At the ceremony, his son then-President George W. Bush delivered the keynote address and his daughter – the ship's sponsor – Dorothy “Doro” Bush Koch gave the order to “man our ship and bring her to life!” More than 15,000 people attended the event including military, government, and industry leaders. Among the crowd were former USS San Jacinto (CVL 30) Sailors who served aboard the ship in World War II – the same ship President Bush flew from during the war.

May 11, 2009, marked the ship's official delivery to the Navy, and she was assigned to Carrier Strike Group (CSG) TWO for her first deployment.

The ship returned to Northrop Grumman Newport News shipyard on June 18, 2009, for post-delivery maintenance work, also known as the ship's post shakedown availability (PSA). A PSA is a typical availability in the early life of a carrier that allows the Navy and builder to resolve any items that came up during trials and delivery and make any last-minute changes and upgrades. Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding returned Bush to the U.S. Navy January 28, 2010, following the completion of modernization and maintenance work accomplished during the ship's PSA. The ship completed this period in early 2010.



The aircraft carrier completed her first missile launch utilizing NATO Sea Sparrow missiles while underway in the Atlantic Ocean June 23, 2010, conducting combat systems ship qualification trials.

Under the command of the first woman to lead a CSG in Navy history, Rear Adm. Nora W. Tyson, the George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group departed on its maiden deployment on May 11, 2011. During the ship's first combat deployment, the ship participated in Exercise Saxon Warrior, visited England, Spain, Italy, Bahrain, and France and supported Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. The ship returned to Norfolk on December 10, 2011. Upon returning, then-Captain Brian Luther and the crew visited Texas A&M to debrief President and Mrs. Bush and their guests. The ship swept the Battle E competition and earned the Battenburg Cup, the Jig Dog Ramage Award with Carrier Air Wing EIGHT, and the Flatley Award for safety.

The carrier returned to Norfolk on December 10, 2011, following a seven-month deployment supporting operations with the U.S. Navy's 5th and 6th fleets.



On July 25, 2012, Bush began her four-month overhaul at Norfolk Naval Shipyard at Portsmouth, Virginia, which included scheduled short-term technical upgrades. On December 1, 2012, Bush completed her PIA maintenance cycle and began sea trials on December 3, 2012. After completing sea trials on December 4, 2012, the carrier started her training and qualification cycle in preparation for the group's 2013 deployment.

In May 2013, the GHWB became the first aircraft carrier to launch an unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) at sea when an X-47B launched from her flight deck.

In February 2014, the ship departed for her second combat deployment. During the nine-month deployment, the ship participated in strikes over Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. The ship earned the Battle “E” that year, and the Secretary of the Navy approved the Navy Unit Commendation for the GHWB Carrier Strike Group. She returned to homeport in November, subsequently entering Norfolk Naval Shipyard in June 2015 for an extended Planned Incremental Availability.

In July 2016, GHWB returned to sea, completing a successful Sea Trials and Flight Deck Certification.

GHWB successfully completed a rigorous training cycle and departed for its third combat deployment in January 2017. During the seven-month deployment, the ship participated in strikes in Syria and Iraq in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. The ship was the first aircraft carrier to support Operation INHERENT RESOLVE for a second time, and expended 907 tons of ordnance, the most expended by a CVN/CVW team since Desert Storm. The ship went on to win the Battle “E”, Admiral Flatley Memorial Safety Award and Fleet Retention Excellence Award.

In February 2019, GHWB arrived at Norfolk Naval Shipyard for a planned 28-month Docking Planned Incremental Availability (DPIA) period.

The ship returned to operational status on August 30, 2021, after completing Sea Trials which certifies the completion of ship maintenance and modernization. She immediately returned to the basic phase of training and certifications in preparation for an upcoming deployment. In addition to deployment preparation, the ship is supporting training and fleet carrier qualification to help develop naval aviators of the future.