

THE WOLVERINE

MARCH 2023

SUMMIT THE SERVICE DOG

FORD SAILOR NAMES NEXT-GENERATION
SERVICE DOG WITH MUTTS WITH A MISSION

SUPERBOWL LVII UNDERWAY

WHILE UNDERWAY SAILORS WATCH THE
GAME AND CHEER ON THEIR TEAM



FORD LEGO MODEL SHOWCASE

SAILORS VOLUNTEER AT HAMPTON ROADS NAVAL MUSEUM

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THE WOLVERINE

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Sailors assigned to Ford's deck department, conduct a small boat operations training evolution, Feb. 11, 2022. Photo by MC3 Manvir Gill

Next Generation Service Dog Named By Ford Sailor

Ford Sailors named a service dog to be trained for disabled veterans, Feb. 1, 2023.

Story by MC3 Aaron Arroyo

Mutts With A Mission brought its newest service dog to visit with Sailors stationed aboard the first-in-class aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN78), Feb. 1, 2023.

During the visit, Ford's Sailors had the honor of naming the puppy. The Sailors took pictures and turns holding the puppy and then submitted their name choices to the on-site Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) station.

Founded in 2008 by U.S. Army Veteran Brooke Corson, Mutts With A Mission trains service dogs to assist disabled veterans, first responders and law enforcement with mobility disabilities and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Corson, who said that a service dog's name should be chosen with care, picked the name Summit for the 8-week-old male Greater Swiss mountain dog.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handling 1st Class Katherine Candean, who picked the name Summit for the service dog, said she was thinking of her dog, Colorado, who also happens to be a mountain dog.

"I think it's cool they chose my name," said Candean, who likes to enjoy the outdoors with her family and two dogs: Colorado, a Bernese mountain dog, and Snoh, a Great Pyrenees.

"It makes me happy to think that Summit will grow up to be a great companion to a service member," said Candean.

According to Corson, because Summit is a giant breed dog, his training will take 2.5 years in order for him to be fully matured for his intended purpose.

"He'll be a mobility dog," said Corson, who added



ACAN Juan Serrano pets a dog assigned to Mutts with a Mission, aboard the Ford, Feb. 1, 2023. Photo by MCSN Simon Pike



SN Tahaja Wilson holds a dog, assigned to Mutts with a Mission, aboard the Ford, Feb. 1, 2023. Photo by MCSN Simon Pike

that Mutts With A Mission will send monthly updates on Summit's progress to the Sailors stationed aboard Ford.

The process of training Summit involves the dedicated work of volunteer "puppy raisers" like local Virginian Linda Lowe. Lowe said giving the dog its name is a crucial first step in its training.

"One of the first things I want him to learn is his name," said Lowe. "Calling his name is going to be the precursor to whatever the next command will be."

After Summit graduates from his training with the organization, he will be placed with an eligible veteran, first responder or law enforcement applicant.

The morale-reinforcing event was collaborated through the ship's MWR department. The event involved numerous Sailors gathered in the hangar bay interacting with roughly a dozen future service dogs and their volunteer puppy raisers.

According to Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Leah Turner, from Cheyenne, Wyoming, the visit was fun and also for a good cause.

"The dogs they train really help a lot of people," said Turner. "The visit has definitely brightened up my week and I appreciate them being here."

USS GERALD R. FORD CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Story by MC3 Trinita Lersch
Photos by MCSN Simon Pike



The first-in-class aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) hosted a celebration in honor of Black History Month sponsored by the ship's Multicultural Heritage Committee, Feb. 11, 2023.

The celebration highlighted Black Americans' many achievements and cultural connections in this country.

"Anyone [who] has stepped, worked in or visited a Black barbershop understands the rich culture that is connected to a Black barbershop," said Master-at-Arms 1st Class Tyrese Beasley, the lead event planner of the Multicultural Heritage Committee. "Black barbershops are so much more than a skillful establishment where men and women go to receive a haircut. Black barbershops have long been and will continue to be a central hub for the Black community. Also, a place to congregate, share and overall embrace a society."

Black history is expressed throughout the armed forces. In fact, it was Ford's very own namesake, President Gerald R. Ford, who not only was the first president to officially recognize Black History Month, but he also expanded it from a week to an entire month in 1976.

It is important to remember the struggles and successes of Black Americans throughout history, and to honor, celebrate and understand their history.

"You want to think that everyone gets the same opportunity, but when I first came in, there were a lot of times where you were questioned, and was it about anything other

than my professional trait," said Chief Aviation Boatswains Mate (Handling) Arlen Royal from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, attached to the air department. "As time goes on and things change, history changes and you come to realize that sometimes people are scared of the things they don't know. So, we have to give them that history to understand we're all created equal regardless of what your color looks like, it shouldn't define who you are."

When Sailors take their first steps into boot camp at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, many may not realize the building they stepped into was commemorated for Black History Month.

"That building was commemorated from the 'Golden Thirteen,'" said Beasley. "The Golden Thirteen were the first U.S. Navy Black commissioned officers."

During the celebration, the guest speakers spoke about their experiences as Black Americans in the Navy.

"I did not want to be a statistic, if everyone knows what I mean, so I joined the Navy to travel and beat the statistic," said Chief Warrant Officer Kellee Reed, from Chicago, the communications officer aboard Ford. "I have been in 22 years and when I started, there were less people that looked like me, in a room. It is always difficult when you are the different one. Just being able to compete and feel equal, that has been a struggle."

Originally written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson, and dubbed as the Black national anthem by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was performed by Beasley during the celebration. A historical skit and dance performance were presented by the ship's Multicultural Heritage Committee.

The celebration concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony and a speech from the commanding officer.

"It's a great thing that we were able to celebrate Black History Month tonight," said Capt. Paul Lanzilotta, Ford's commanding officer. "Our core values of the U.S. Navy; Honor, Courage, Commitment, all three of those things we have to do and actually preserve."



USS Gerald R. Ford Sailors Watch the Super Bowl Underway

Story by MC3 Aaron Arroyo

Sailors gather in Ford's hangar bay to watch Super Bowl LVII, Feb. 12, 2023. Photo by MC3 Trinity Lersch

Sailors assigned to the first-in-class aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) gathered to watch Super Bowl LVII in the ship's hangar bay while underway in the Atlantic Ocean conducting carrier qualifications, Feb. 12, 2023.

The ship's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) department organized the American Forces Network livestream of Super Bowl LVII game between the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles.

According to MWR Afloat Recreation Specialist Shawn Reed, the command's "Fun Boss," from Odenton, Maryland, the goal was to transform the hangar bay into a football stadium for the big game.

"Gerald R. Ford was a big-time football player and we're keeping the tradition going by showing the game," said Reed.

MWR set up a faux, red-brick stadium entrance to the event that read 'USS Gerald R. Ford Stadium.' Through that stadium entrance was a green turf field, including goal posts, set with two sections of chairs in front of a jumbo inflatable television screen.

Seaman Larry McCollum, from Baltimore, said the stadium setup was fun and that he felt the experience was just like being at the game.

"I'm grateful to be a part of something like this," said McCollum, adding that he is fortunate to be able to have fun experiences, like this one, with such a busy work schedule.

Concession tables were set out by

the MWR, providing 600 bags of popcorn, 400 snow cones, wings, nachos, jalapeño poppers and ice cream bars.

After helping set up the event, Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Amanda Brooks, from Jacksonville, Florida, said that handing out snow cones was the most relaxing part of the day.

"I enjoy making everyone happy," said Brooks. "It's quite the experience serving the Sailors."

Ford's retail services specialists from the ship's store were at the event selling snacks and earning funds for future MWR events.

According to Retail Services Specialist 3rd Class, Zada Hernandez, from El Paso, Texas, participating in MWR

events is a great way to meet other Sailors. "It's a great way to get face time," said Hernandez. "We get to see and talk to the other Sailors and build up our customer service skills."

Sailors who were not actively watching the game threw footballs back and forth in the hangar bay while others played cornhole.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 2nd Class Justin Dickinson, from Singer, California, said the game is a fun thing to watch with his shipmates.

"It's nice to get some down-time while working aboard the ship," said Dickinson, who has seen the Super Bowl five times while at sea.

The MWR-sponsored Super Bowl watch party is just one example of how

Ford supports its Sailors' well-being while also completing its mission.





Sailors assigned to the Ford conduct small boat operations from the ship's port boat davit, Feb. 14, 2023.





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PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY 2023

1. Rear Adm. Gregory C. Huffman, Commander of CSG-12, presents Capt. Stefan Walch, Commodore of DESRON 2, the Legion of Merit during a change of command ceremony aboard Ford, Feb. 17, 2023.
(Photo by MC3 Aaron Arroyo)

2. CS3 Asia Sidouang (right), and CS2 Christopher Harrison, both assigned to Ford's supply department, carry Valentine's Day cupcakes from the ship's bakery for lunch in the ship's mess decks, Feb. 14, 2023.
(Photo by MC3 Aaron Arroyo)

3. Sailors assigned to Ford's deck department handle mooring lines during sea-and-anchor detail, Feb. 8, 2023.
(Photo by MC1 David Kolmel)

4. Sailors assigned to Ford's deck department, prepare for small boat operations in the ship's port boat davit, Feb. 14, 2023.
(Photo by MC2 Jackson Adkins)

5. ABE3 Class Joseph Gonzales, assigned to Ford's air department, signals to an FA-18E Super Hornet attached to the "Sunliners" on the flight deck, Feb. 9, 2023.
(Photo by MC2 Jackson Adkins)

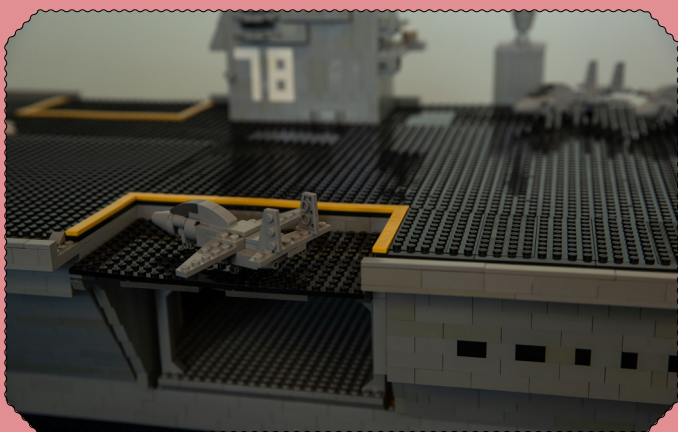
6. Ford renders Full Honors during President's Day, Feb. 20, 2023.
(Photo by MC3 Manvir Gill)

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Brick by Brick: LEGO Shipbuilding

Photos and Story by MCSN Grace Lyles



HAMPTON ROADS NAVAL MUSEUM SHOWCASES LEGO MODEL OF FORD

The Hampton Roads Naval Museum hosted its Brick by Brick: LEGO Shipbuilding event in downtown Norfolk, Feb. 4, 2023. This year, the main feature was a replica of the first-in-class aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), recreated as a large-scale LEGO model.

“It’s the newest, biggest, baddest ship out there now,” said Jett Starcher, the Ford model builder. “I wanted to build something special and cool.”

Starcher constructed the ship in two weeks and used about 40,000 LEGO pieces to complete the project. Because he always had a love for aircraft carriers and jets, Starcher said he knew immediately what he wanted to build when the museum asked him to build a display. Starcher originally planned to build a 25-foot model, but he scaled it down in order to move it more easily.

Laura Orr, The Hampton Roads Naval Museum director of education said she was excited to find out that Starcher was building the Ford because so many Ford Sailors came to volunteer this year.

Sailors assigned to Ford volunteered at the event and helped guests construct their own LEGO ship models. The museum is collaborating with Ford to bring more Sailors to volunteer in the future.

“When [visitors] come up, I say, ‘this is the USS Gerald R. Ford, the largest warship ever built,’” said Electronics Technician 1st Class Brandon Hanna, from San Antonio, assigned to Ford’s combat systems department. “I get to show, [on the LEGO model], ‘hey, this is where I work.’”

In addition to the Ford model, other LEGO ship models showcased the U.S. Navy’s proud history. Veterans and service members provided guests with historical facts about each of the displays.

THE WOLVERINE

USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN 78)

MEET THE TRIAD

COMMANDING OFFICER

CAPT Paul Lanzilotta

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CAPT Matthew Mulcahey

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

CMDCM Bryan Davis

MEDIA DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

LCDR David Gardner

ASSISTANT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

ENS Paula Niederland

ENS Mackenzie Culver

DEPARTMENT LCPO

MCCS Ryan Wilber

PRODUCTION LCPO

MCC Gary Prill

EDITOR

MC3 Manvir Gill

STAFF

MCC Julie Matyascik

MC1 David Kolmel

MC1 Ryan Williams

MC1 William Spears

MC2 Jackson Adkins

MC2 Brian Glunt

MC2 Darien Kenney

MC2 Adonica Muñoz

MC2 Jennifer Newsome

MC2 Nolan Pennington

MC3 Aaron Arroyo

MC3 Trinité Lersch

MCSN Jacob Mattingly

MCSN Grace Lyles

MCSN Simon Pike

FOR MORE CONTENT

Want to see more about USS Gerald R. Ford?

<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/CVN78>



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@Warship_78



@USSGeraldRFord



USS Gerald R. Ford CVN 78

BACK COVER PHOTO

AO3 Trenton Milgrim, assigned to Ford's weapons department, conducts a live-fire exercise with a .50 caliber machine gun on the ship's fantail, Feb. 12, 2023. Photo by MC3 Aaron Arroyo

COMMAND OMBUDSMEN



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NEXT MONTH IN NAVAL HISTORY

March 3, 1776

Under the command of Commodore Esek Hopkins and Marine Capt. Samuel Nicholas, the Continental Navy makes the first American amphibious landing operation at New Providence, Bahamas, captures the forts for much needed ordnance and gunpowder.

March 11, 1778

During the American Revolution, the Continental frigate Boston captures the British ship, Martha, in the North Atlantic.

March 16, 1944

PBY-5A (VP 63) seaplanes, employing magnetic anomaly detector (MAD) gear, detect a German submarine, U 392, while attempting to transit the Straits of Gibraltar. The submarine was attacked and sunk by nearby allied ships.

February 27, 1973

The last known female veteran of World War I, Charlotte Louise Berry Winters, dies at the age of 109. She enlisted in the Navy in 1917.

