



NAVY MEDICINE SHIP NAMESAKES 1920-Present

- Naming a ship after a person has long been the ultimate way to honor an individual's contributions, achievements, and service to their country. It serves as a lasting tribute, ensuring their legacy lives on and inspires future generations.
- Since 1920, when the first Navy medical personnel were honored as ship namesakes, there have been 49 ships named after Navy hospital corpsmen, physicians, dentists, and nurses.



USS Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee (DDG 123)

SECNAV Instruction 5031.1D

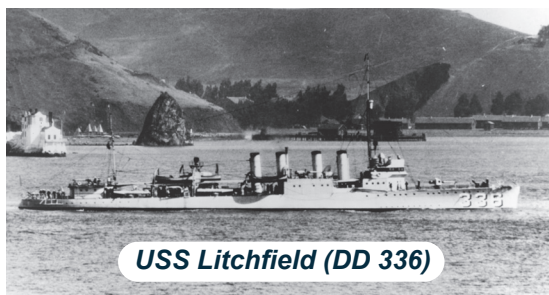
(March 21, 2019) designates the Secretary of the Navy as the chief authority for approving ship names and class-naming conventions.

DYK

THE FIRST SHIPS NAMED AFTER NAVY MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Commissioned between 1919 and 1922, the **Clemson-class of destroyers** comprised 156 ships including four which are the first vessels to be named after Navy medical personnel.

- USS Kane (DD 235)—named after Asst. Surgeon **Elisha Kent Kane** (1820-1857), physician and polar explorer
- USS Osborne (DD 295)—named after Lt. (j.g.) **Weedon Osborne, DC, USNR** (1892-1918), dentist and Medal of Honor recipient (posthumous)
- USS Wood (DD 317)—named after Commodore **William Maxwell Wood** (1809-1880), the first Navy Surgeon General (1871)
- USS Litchfield (DD 336 / AG 95)—named after Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class **John Russell Litchfield**, hospital corpsman and Navy Cross recipient (posthumous)



USS Litchfield (DD 336)

USS LITCHFIELD -- THE FIRST SHIP NAMED AFTER A HOSPITAL CORPSMAN

- **NAMESAKE:** On Sept. 15, 1918, while serving on the eastern flank in the allied offensive on the St. Mihiel Salient, Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class **John Russell Litchfield** was killed when carrying a wounded soldier to safety. He was 19 years old.
- **SHIP:** Commissioned in 1921, USS Litchfield spent its first decade of service participating in several humanitarian efforts including the evacuation of over 250,000 Greek and Armenians refugees from Smyrna during the Greco-Turkish War (1922).
- During World War II, **USS Litchfield** served as an escort for submarines and convoys from Pearl Harbor to the Northern Pacific and took part in two rescues of downed patrol planes.
- USS Litchfield was decommissioned in 1944 after 24 years of service.



There have been two ship classes named after Navy medical personnel -- **Bronstein** and **Tryon**

- **Bronstein-Class**—Lt. (j.g.) **Ben Richard Bronstein, MC, USN** (1915-1942), a physician aboard USS Jacob Jones (DD 130). He was killed when his ship was sunk by a German U-boat (U-578) off of Cape May, N.J.
- **Tryon-Class**—Commodore **J. Rufus Tryon** (1837-1912), the tenth Navy Surgeon General. Tryon helped lay the foundation for establishing the hospital corps.

DYK 24 ships have been named after hospital corpsmen



USS Benfold (DDG 65)

SHIP NAMESAKES - LEGEND

- AS:** Active ship
- C:** Commissioned
- DC:** Dental Corps namesake
- HC:** Hospital Corps nameake
- MC:** Medical Corps namesake
- NB:** Named but not built
- S:** In Service (Non-Commissioned)
- UC:** Under Construction

Clemson-Class Destroyers

- USS Kane (DD 235)—C: June 11, 1920 (MC)
- USS Osborne (DD 295)—C: May 17, 1920 (DC)
- USS Wood (DD 317)—C: Jan. 21, 1921 (MC)
- USS Litchfield (DD 336 / AG 95)—C: May 12, 1921 (HC)

Gleaves-Class Destroyers

- USS Grayson (DD 435)—C: Feb. 14, 1941 (MC)

Tryon-Class Evacuation / Attack Transports

- USS Tryon (APH 1)—C: Sep. 30, 1942 (MC)
- USS Pinkney (APH 2)—C: Nov. 27, 1942 (MC)
- USS Rixey (APH 3)—C: Dec. 30, 1942 (MC)

Fletcher-Class Destroyers

- USS Heermann (DD 532)—C: July 6, 1943 (MC)
- USS Longshaw (DD 559)—C: Dec. 4 1943 (MC)

Edsall-Class Destroyer Escorts

- USS O'Reilly (DE 330)—C: Dec. 28, 1943 (DC)
- USS Durant (DE 389)—C: Nov. 16, 1943 (HC)

Buckley-Class Destroyer Escorts

- USS Liddle (DE 206 / APD 60)—C: Dec. 6, 1943 (HC)
- USS J. Douglas Blackwood (DE 219)—C: Dec. 15, 1943 (MC)
- USS Gendreau (DE 639)—C: March 17, 1944 (MC)
- USS Frament (DE 677 / APD 77)—C: Aug. 15, 1943 (HC)
- USS Tatum (DE 789 / APD 81)—C: Nov. 22, 1943 (DC)

Rudderow-Class Destroyer Escorts

- USS Samuel S. Miles (DE 183)—C: Nov. 4, 1943 (MC)
- USS Bronstein (DE 189)—C: Dec. 13, 1944 (MC)

Evarts-Class Destroyer Escorts

- USS Crowley (DE 303)—C: March 24, 1944 (DC)
- USS Rall (DE 304)—C: April 8, 1944 (MC)

Rudderow-Class Destroyer Escorts

- USS William M. Wood (DE 287)—NB (MC)
- USS Daniel A. Joy (DE 585)—C: April 28, 1944 (HC)
- USS Jobb (DE 707)—C: July 4, 1944 (HC)

Butler-Class Destroyer Escorts

- USS Pratt (DE 363)—C: Sep. 18, 1944 (MC)
- USS Thaddeus Parker (DE 369)—C: Oct. 25, 1944 (HC)
- USS Henry C. Tucker (DE 377)—NB (HC)
- USS Walter C. Wann (DE 412)—C: May 2, 1944 (HC)

Crosley-Class High Speed Transports

- USS Ringness (APD 100)—C: Oct. 25, 1944 (HC)
- USS Don O. Woods (APD 118)—C: Oct. 25, 1944 (HC)

Gearing-Class Destroyers

- USS William M. Wood (DD / DDR 715)—C: Nov. 24, 1945 (MC)
- USS Higbee (DD 806)—C: Jan. 27, 1945 (NC)
- USS Henry C. Tucker (DD 875)—C: March 12, 1945 (HC)

Bronstein-Class Frigates

- USS Bronstein (FF 1037)—C: June 16, 1963 (MC)

Silas Bent-Class Survey Ships

- USNS Kane (T-AGS-27 1037)—S: May 19, 1967 (MC)

Dealey-Class Destroyer Escorts

- USS Lester (DE 1022)—C: June 14, 1957 (HC)
- USS John Willis (DE 1027)—C: Feb. 21, 1957 (HC)

Knox-Class Frigates

- USS Francis Hammond (FF 1067)—C: July 25, 1970 (HC)
- USS Phil Valdez (FF 1096)—C: July 27, 1974 (HC)

Spruance-Class Destroyers

- USS Caron (DD 970)—C: Oct. 1, 1977 (HC)
- USS David R. Ray (DD 971)—C: Nov. 19, 1977 (HC)

Oliver Hazard Perry-Class Guided Missile Frigates

- USS Jack Williams (FFG 24)—C: Sept. 19, 1981 (HC)
- USS Boone (FFG 28)—C: May 15, 1982 (MC)
- USS Halyburton (FFG 40)—C: Jan. 7, 1984 (HC)
- USS De Wert (FFG 45)—C: Nov. 19, 1983 (HC)

Arleigh Burke-Class Destroyers

- USS Benfold (DDG 65)—C: Mar. 30, 1996 (HC, AS)
- USS Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee (DDG 123)—C: May 13, 2023 (NC, AS)
- USS William Charette (DDG 130)—UC (HC)
- USS John E. Kilmer (DDG 134)—UC (HC)



Navy medical namesake ships were awarded **95** battlestars (commendations) in World War II