



*Statement by MaryAnn Burke on the occasion of the
31st Anniversary of the Commissioning of the USS Arleigh Burke*

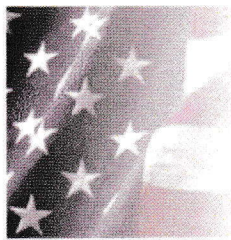
Greetings! I am MaryAnn Burke of Boulder, Colorado, the same town where my great-uncle, Admiral Arleigh Albert Burke, was born on October 19, 1901, about 121 years ago. My dad was Ralph Burke; his dad was Victor (Bill) Burke, and Bill was Arleigh's brother. So that makes me Arleigh's great-niece.

I am also an honorary member of the Admiral Arleigh Burke Chapter of MOAA, the Military Officers Association of America, located in Boulder. On behalf of our chapter, I bring our best wishes to the USS Arleigh Burke Association as it marks the 31st anniversary of the commissioning of the ship named in Arleigh's honor.

As you know, the USS Arleigh Burke was commissioned right here, in Norfolk, on July 4, 1991. I attended that ceremony as a much younger woman, with my dad and other family members. I am so pleased to be able to return here to Norfolk once again and want to thank your Association President, Rick Easton, for the invitation. Sadly, my mom and dad passed recently and can't be with me, but I know they are here in spirit.

Your Association and our MOAA chapter, though more than a half-continent apart, share a common interest in honoring and promoting the legacy of the Admiral. You know him as a WWII hero and 3-time Chief of Naval Operations; I know him also as a beloved family member who, despite the many demands on his time, would make time to visit Boulder, with his wife Bobbie, to visit the children in the elementary school named for him and to catch up with our family. And of course we would always look forward to his Christmas cards.

So thank you for letting me be part of your celebration.



Admiral Arleigh Burke Chapter

The Military Officers Association of America

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