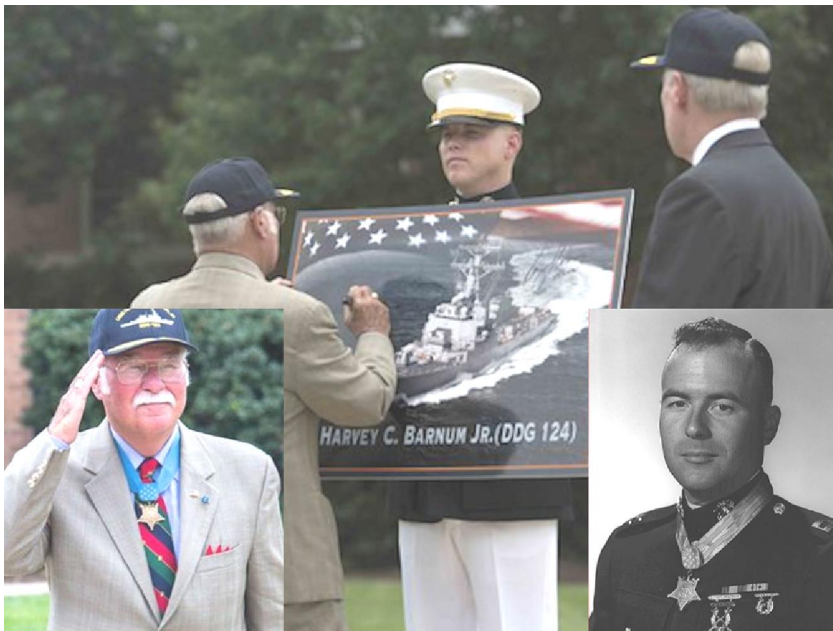


Navy Ship Named after Vietnam Marine Medal Of Honor Winner



By Keith Huddleston

On July 28, 2016, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus honored a Vietnam Medal of Honor hero in a ceremony at Marine Barracks, Washington, DC, by naming the new Navy destroyer DDG-124 after him: USS Harvey C. Barnum Jr.

Colonel Barnum, USMC (Ret.), retired in 1989 after 27 years in the Corps and again after serving as deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs. He received the nation's highest valor award for heroism during a December 18, 1965, battle outside the village of Ky Phu, in Vietnam's Quang Tin province during Operation Harvest Moon.

Barnum went to Vietnam from Hawaii on a 60-day temporary duty assignment. He was an artillery officer attached to Hotel Company, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment. Two weeks after arriving in the country, Barnum was serving as artillery Forward Observer on a patrol with Golf and Hotel Companies. Both companies were ambushed just after passing through the village of Ky Phu. The infantry officers were either killed or wounded, and Barnum took charge of Hotel Company and led the fight to route the enemy force.

According to his citation, Barnum "immediately assumed command of the rifle company, and moving at once into the

midst of the heavy fire, rallying and giving encouragement to all units, reorganized them to replace the loss of key personnel and led their attack on enemy positions from which deadly fire continued to come."

The citation continues, "Provided with two armed helicopters, Barnum moved fearlessly through enemy fire to control the air attack against the firmly entrenched enemy while skillfully directing one platoon in a successful counterattack on the key enemy positions. Having thus cleared a small area, he requested and directed the landing of two transport helicopters for the evacuation of the dead and the wounded."

The combat hero did not receive the award in the traditional White House ceremony, though, since the Vietnam War

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was so unpopular at the time. The award was made at the same Marine Barracks, and 1st Lieutenant Keith Huddleston was proud to be Barnum’s escort officer for the week of activities in March 1967.

Barnum served multiple tours in Vietnam after being awarded the Medal of Honor. After retirement from the Marine Corps, he served in the Department of Defense. His life has truly been one of service to his country. One would have to look far and wide to find a nobler person than Barney Barnum.

The destroyer Harvey C. Barnum Jr. will be constructed at Bath Iron Works in Maine and is expected to enter the fleet in 2024.

This article was provided by Keith Huddleston, who retired from Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control in 2006 after serving as SEIT Director on MEADS. Keith was lucky to meet up with Barney again in 2007 at a Veterans Day ceremony at the Iwo Jima War Memorial in Arlington. Barney Barnum was the reviewing official.



Harvey C. Barnum Jr. & Keith Huddleston

Links of interest:

Video of the ceremony: <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/476757/ship-naming-ceremony-colonel-harvey-barney-barnum>

More about the ceremony: <http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/story/military/2016/07/28/marine-vietnam-war-hero-now-has-navy-ship-named-his-honor/87674822/>

More about Barnum’s career: <https://www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/2010/06/harvey-c-barney-barnum-his-journey-connecticut-schoolboy-living-marine-corps>

Citation: <http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3225/barnum-harvey-c-jr.php>

DISASTER RELIEF TRIP TO WEST MONROE, LOUISIANA

By Harold Cates



On April 3, 2016, Sue and I got up at 3:30am to get prepared to go on a disaster relief trip to Monroe, LA, which had numerous homes flooded. We left for the church to meet other members of our team at 4:30am. Sue was driving our Lincoln Navigator

and I was driving our 39 foot RV. We got to First Baptist at 5am to meet up with our 22 member disaster relief team under the directions of Ray Shands. We departed around 5:45 am with Sue carrying 4 passengers in the Lincoln, me carrying 4 passengers in the RV, and the rest of the men and women team riding in the other vehicles. Sixteen hours later and approximately 916 miles, we arrived in at North Monroe Baptist Church. We also took two 12X6 cargo trailers loaded with tools and equipment needed to clean out flooded homes.

We staged at North Monroe Baptist Church with groups from Oklahoma and were taken care of concerning food and water and a place to sleep each night. Sue and I along with another couple slept in the RV. The next morning we had devotion at 6:30am and breakfast at 6:45 am. Subsequently we split up into three work crews/teams during our week at Monroe. We generally worked until 4-5pm, took a shower, and then had diner. From Monday until Friday, We cleaned out 14 houses (12 complete houses and 2 that other teams didn't get to finish), which speaks of how hard our three teams worked under the leadership of our three team leaders; Kenny Majors, David Mathis, and Larry (Santa Clause) Porter. Our teams witnessed to each home owner, leaving them a bible signed by each team member, and were able to minister to three individuals separately, who needed individual attention. God answered the prayers of a lot of folks back home and no one was injured outside a few minor cuts and bruises, which is a given in this type of clean-up work.

We departed on Saturday at 5am from North Monroe Baptist Church and 16 hours later we were at Orlando First Baptist Church.