

UNITED STATES BATTLESHIPS WAR SHIPS OF THE MODERN ERA

The first **Texas** was laid down on 1 June 1889 at Portsmouth, Virginia, by the Norfolk Navy Yard; launched on 28 June 1892; sponsored by Miss Madge Houston Williams; and commissioned on 15 August 1895, Capt. Henry Glass in command.

The first **Maine**, a second-class armored battleship, was laid down at New York Navy Yard 17 October 1888; launched 18 November 1889; sponsored by Miss Alice Tracy Wilmerding, granddaughter of Secretary of the Navy Benjamin Tracy, and commissioned 17 September 1895, Capt. Arent S. Crowninshield in command.

The second **Maine** (Battleship No. 10) was laid down by William Cramp & Sons, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 15 February 1899, a year to the day after the destruction of the first **Maine**; launched 27 July 1901; sponsored by Miss Mary Preble Anderson; and commissioned at Philadelphia 29 December 1902, Capt. Eugene H. C. Leutze in command.

The first **Indiana** (BB-1) was laid down 7 May 1891 by William Cramp & Sons, Philadelphia; launched 28 February 1893; sponsored by Miss Jessie Miller, daughter of the Attorney General of the United States; and commissioned 20 November 1895 Captain **Robley D. Evans** in command. The delegation from the State of Indiana in attendance of the commissioning was headed by Indiana Governor Matthews and included ex-President Benjamin Harrison.

The fourth **Massachusetts** was laid down by William Cramp & Sons, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 25 June 1891; launched 10 June 1893; sponsored by Miss Lella Herbert, daughter of Secretary of the Navy Hilary Herbert; and commissioned 10 June 1896, Capt. Frederick Rodgers in command.

Oregon (Battleship No. 3) was laid down 19 November 1891 by Union Iron Works, San Francisco, California; launched 26 October 1893; sponsored by Miss Daisy Ainsworth; and commissioned 15 July 1896, Capt. Henry L. Howison in command.

The second **Iowa** (BB-4) was laid down by William Cramp & sons, Philadelphia, 5 August 1893; launched 28 March 1896; sponsored by Miss M. L. Drake, daughter of the governor of Iowa; and commissioned 16 June 1897, Captain W. T. Sampson in command.

The second **Kearsarge**, named by act of Congress to commemorate the famed steam sloop-of-war, was launched 24 March 1898 by the Newport News Shipbuilding Co., Newport News, Virginia; sponsored by Mrs. Herbert Winslow, daughter-in-law of **Kearsarge's** commander, Captain John A. Winslow, during her famous battle with CSS **Alabama**. This launch also afforded spectators the opportunity to view the launch of sister ship **Kentucky** (BB-6) only one hour later in the neighboring berth. **Kearsarge** was commissioned 20 February 1900 with Captain William M. Folger in command.

Kentucky (BB-6) was launched 24 March 1898 by Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Virginia; sponsored by Miss Christine Bradley, daughter of Governor William Bradley of Kentucky, who, in support of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, christened **Kentucky** with water instead of the traditional Champaign. This launch also afforded spectators the opportunity to view the launch of sister ship **Kearsarge** (BB-5) only one hour earlier in the neighboring berth. **Kentucky** was commissioned 15 May 1900 with Captain Colby M. Chester in command.

Illinois (BB-7) was laid down 10 February 1897 by the Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Virginia, launched 4 October 1898; sponsored by Miss Nancy Leiter; and commissioned 16 September 1901, Captain G. A. Converse in command

The second **Alabama** (BB-8) was laid down on 1 or 2 December 1896 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by the William Cramp and Sons Ship and Engine Building Co.; launched on 18 May 1898; sponsored by Miss Mary Morgan, daughter of the Honorable John T. Morgan, United

States Senator from Georgia; and commissioned on 16 October 1900, Capt. Willard H. Brownson in command.

The first **Wisconsin** (Battleship No. 9) was laid down on 9 February 1897 at San Francisco, California, by the Union Iron Works; launched on 26 November 1898; sponsored by Miss Elizabeth Stephenson, the daughter of Senator Isaac Stephenson of Marinette, Wisconsin, and commissioned on 4 February 1901, Capt. George C. Reiter in command.

The third **Missouri** was laid down by Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co., Newport News, Va., 7 February 1900; launched 28 December 1901; sponsored by Mrs. Edson Galludet, daughter of Senator Francis Marion Cockrell of Missouri, and commissioned 1 December 1903, Capt. William S. Cowles in command.

The third **Ohio** (BB-12) was laid down 22 April 1899 by Union Iron Works, San Francisco, California.; launched 18 May 1901; sponsored by Miss Helen Deschler; and commissioned 4 October 1904, Captain Leavitt C. Logan in command.

Virginia (Battleship No. 13) was laid down on 21 May 1902 at Newport News, Virginia, by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co.; launched on 6 April 1904; sponsored by Miss Gay Montague, daughter of the Governor of Virginia; and commissioned on 7 May 1906, Capt. **Seaton Schroeder** in command. After fitting out, *Virginia* conducted her "shaking down" cruise in Lynnhaven Bay, Virginia, off Newport, Rhode Island, and off Long Island, New York, before she put into Bradford, Rhode Island, for coal on 9 August. After running trials for the standardization of her screws off Rockland, Maine, the battleship maneuvered in Long Island Sound before anchoring off President **Theodore Roosevelt's** home, Oyster Bay, Long Island, from 2 to 4 September, for a Presidential review.

Nebraska (BB-14), ex-**Pennsylvania**, was laid down by Moran Brothers, Seattle, Washington, 4 July 1902; launched 7 October 1904; sponsored by Miss Mary N. Mickey, daughter of Governor John H. Mickey of Nebraska; and commissioned 1 July 1907, Captain Reginald F. Nicholson in command.

Georgia was launched by the Bath Iron Works of Bath, Maine, 11 October 1904, sponsored by Miss Stella Tate, and commissioned at Boston Navy Yard 24 September 1906, Captain R. G. Davenport in command

The first **New Jersey** (BB-16) was launched 10 November 1904 by Fore River Shipbuilding Company, Quincy, Massachusetts; sponsored by Mrs. William B. Kenney, daughter of Governor Franklin B. Murphy of New Jersey; and commissioned 12 May 1906, Captain William W. Kemball in command.

The second **Rhode Island** was launched 17 May 1904 by Fore River Shipbuilding Co., Quincy, Mass.; sponsored by Mrs. F. C. Dumaine; and commissioned 19 February 1906, Capt. Perry Garst in command.

USS **Connecticut** (BB-18) was built by New York Navy, laid down 30 March 1903, launched 29 September 1904 and commissioned 29 September 1906 with Captain W. Swift in command. Miss A. Welles, granddaughter of Gideon Welles who was Secretary of the Navy during the Civil War, sponsored her. Joining the Atlantic Fleet, *Connecticut* became flagship 16 April 1907, and later that month joined in the Presidential Fleet Review and other ceremonies opening the **Jamestown Exposition**.

Louisiana was laid down 7 February 1903 by the Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Virginia; launched 27 August 1904; sponsored by Miss Juanita LaLande; and commissioned 2 June 1906, Capt. Albert R. Couden in command.

The second **Vermont** (Battleship No. 20) was laid down on 21 May 1904 at Quincy, Massachusetts, by the Fore River Shipbuilding Co.; launched on 31 August 1905; sponsored by Miss Jennie Bell, the daughter of Governor Charles J. Bell of *Vermont*; and commissioned at the Boston Navy Yard on 4 March 1907, Capt. William P. Potter in command.

The second **Kansas** (BB-21) was launched by New York Shipbuilding Corp., Camden, New Jersey, 12 August 1905 and was sponsored by Miss Anna Hoch, daughter of the Governor of *Kansas*. She was then commissioned in Philadelphia Navy Yard 18 April 1907, Captain Charles B. Vreeland in command.

The second **Minnesota** (BB-22) was laid down by the Newport News Shipbuilding Co., Newport News, Virginia, 27 October 1903; launched 8 April 1905; sponsored by Miss Rose Marie Schaller; and commissioned 9 March 1907, Capt. J. Hubbard in command.

The second **Mississippi** (BB-23) was laid down 12 May 1904 by William Cramp & Sons, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; launched 30 September 1905; sponsored by Miss M. C. Money, daughter of Senator H. P. Money of Mississippi; and commissioned at Philadelphia Navy Yard 1 February 1908, Capt. J. C. Fremont in command.

The second **Idaho** (BB-24) was launched by William Cramp & Sons, Philadelphia, 9 December 1905; sponsored by Miss Louise Gooding, daughter of the Governor of Idaho; and commissioned at Philadelphia Navy Yard 1 April 1808, Captain S. W. B. Diehl in command.

The second **New Hampshire** (BB-25) was laid down 1 May 1905 by New York Shipbuilding Corp., Camden, New Jersey; launched 30 June 1906; sponsored by Miss Hazel E. McLane, daughter of Governor John McLane of New Hampshire; and commissioned 19 March 1908, Capt. Cameron M. Winslow in command.

South Carolina (BB-26) was laid down on 18 December 1906 at Philadelphia by William Cramp & Sons; launched on 1 July 1908; sponsored by Miss Frederica Ansel; and commissioned on 1 March 1910, Capt. Augustus F. Fechteler, in command.

The second **Michigan** (BB-27) was laid down 17 December 1906 by New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, New Jersey; launched 26 May 1908; sponsored by Mrs. F. W. Brooks, daughter of Secretary of the Navy Truman; and commissioned 4 January 1910, Capt. N. R. Usher in command.

The sixth **Delaware** (BB-28) was launched 6 February 1909 by Newport News Shipbuilding Co., Newport News, Virginia; sponsored by Mrs. A. P. Cahall, niece of the Governor of Delaware; and commissioned 4 April 1910, Captain C. A. Gove in command.

North Dakota (BB-29) was laid down 16 December 1907 by Fore River Shipbuilding Co., Quincy, Massachusetts; launched 10 November 1908; sponsored by Miss Mary Benton; and commissioned at Boston 11 April 1910, Comdr. Charles P. Plunkett in command.

Florida (BB-30) was launched 12 May 1910 by the New York Navy Yard, sponsored by Miss E. D. Fleming, daughter of a former Florida governor; and commissioned 15 September 1911, Capt H. S. Knapp in command.

Utah (Battleship No. 31) was laid down on 9 March 1909 at Camden, New Jersey, by the New York Shipbuilding Co.; Launched on 23 December 1909; sponsored by Miss Mary Alice Spry, daughter of Governor William Spry of Utah; and commissioned at the Philadelphia navy Yard on 31 August 1911, Capt. William S. Benson in command.

The third **Wyoming** (BB-32) was laid down on 9 February 1910 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by William Cramp and Sons; launched on 25 May 1911; sponsored by Miss Dorothy Eunice Knight, the daughter of former Chief Justice Jesse Knight of the Wyoming Supreme Court; and commissioned at the Philadelphia Navy Yard on 25 September 1912, Capt. Frederick L. Chaplin in command.

The fourth ship named **Arkansas** (Battleship No. 33) was laid down on 25 January 1910 at Camden, New Jersey, by the New York Shipbuilding Co.; launched on 14 January 1911; sponsored by Miss Nancy Louise Macon; and commissioned at the Philadelphia Navy Yard on 17 September 1912, Capt. Roy C. Smith in command.

New York (BB-34) was laid down 11 September 1911 by Brooklyn Navy Yard, New York; launched 30 October 1912; sponsored by Miss Elsie Calder; and commissioned 15 April 1914, Captain Thomas S. Rodgers in command.

The USS **Texas** was laid down on 17 April 1911 at Newport News, Virginia, by the Newport News Shipbuilding Co.; launched on 18 May 1912; sponsored by Miss Claudia Lyon; and commissioned on 12 March 1914, Capt. Albert W. Grant in command.

Nevada (BB-36) was laid down 4 November 1912 by the Fore River Shipbuilding Co., Quincy, Massachusetts; launched 11 July 1914; sponsored by Miss Eleanor Anne Seibert, niece of Governor Tasker L. Oddie of Nevada and descendant of Secretary of the Navy Benjamin Stoddard; and commissioned 11 March 1916, Capt. William S. Sims in command.

Oklahoma (BB-37) was laid down 26 October 1912 by New York Shipbuilding Corp., Camden, New Jersey; launched 23 March 1914; sponsored by Miss Lorena J. Cruce, and commissioned at Philadelphia 2 May 1916, Captain Roger Wells in command.

Pennsylvania (BB-38) was laid down 27 October 1913 by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Virginia; launched 16 March 1915; sponsored by Miss Elizabeth Kolb; and commissioned 12 June 1916, Capt. H. B. Wilson in command.

The second U.S. ship built to bear the name **Arizona** (BB-39) was laid down on 16 March 1914 at the New York Navy Yard; launched on 19 June 1915; sponsored by Miss Esther Ross, daughter of a prominent Arizona pioneer citizen, Mr. W. W. Ross of Prescott, Arizona; and commissioned at her builder's yard on 17 October 1916, Capt. John D. McDonald in command.

New Mexico (BB-40), ex. *California* was laid down 14 October 1915 by the New York Navy Yard; launched 13 April 1917; sponsored by Miss Margaret C. DeBaca, daughter of the Governor of New Mexico; and commissioned 20 May 1918, Capt. Ashley H. Robertson in command

Mississippi (BB-41) was laid down 5 April 1915 by Newport News Shipbuilding Co., Newport News, Virginia; launched 25 January 1917; sponsored by Miss Camelle McCeath; and commissioned 18 December 1917, Capt. J. L. Jayne in command.

The fourth **Idaho** (BB-42) was launched by New York Shipbuilding Corp., Camden, New Jersey, 30 June 1917; sponsored by Miss H. A. Limons, granddaughter of the Governor of Idaho; and commissioned 24 March 1919, Captain C. T. Vogelgesang in command.

Battleship BB-43 was laid down on 14 May 1917 at the New York Navy Yard; launched on 30 April 1919; sponsored by Miss Helen Lenore Roberts, daughter of the governor of **Tennessee**; and commissioned on 3 June 1920, Capt Richard H. Leigh in command.

California was launched 20 November 1919 by Mare Island Navy Yard; sponsored by Mrs. R. T. Zane; and commissioned 10 August 1921, Captain H. J. Ziegemeier in command; and reported to the Pacific Fleet as flagship.

The third **Colorado** was launched 22 March 1921 by New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, New Jersey, sponsored by Mrs. M. Melville; and commissioned 30 August 1923, Captain R. R. Belknap in command. The newly commissioned battleship was assigned to replace USS **Delaware** (BB-28) in the Fleet and thus received her crew from that ship when she decommissioned.

Maryland was laid down 24 April 1917 by Newport News Shipbuilding Co., Newport News, Virginia; launched 20 March 1920; sponsored by Mrs. E. Brook Lee, wife of the Comptroller of the State of Maryland; and commissioned 21 July 1921, Capt. C. F. Preston in command.

Washington (BB-47) was laid down on 30 June 1919 at Camden, New Jersey, by the New York Shipbuilding Corp.; reclassified BB-47 on 17 July 1920; launched on 1 September 1921; and sponsored

by Miss Jean Summers, the daughter of Congressman J. W. Summers of Washington State. However, on 8 February 1922, two days after the signing of the Washington Treaty for the Limitation of Naval Armaments on 6 February 1922, all construction work ceased on the 75.9 percent completed dreadnought. Ultimately, her uncompleted hull was towed out to sea, where attempts were made to sink her as a gunnery target on 25 November 1924.

The second **West Virginia** was laid down on 12 April 1920 by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co. of Newport News, Virginia; reclassified to BB48 on 17 July 1920; launched on 17 November 1921; sponsored by Miss Alice Wright Mann, daughter of Issac T. Mann, a prominent West Virginian; and commissioned on 1 December 1923, Capt. Thomas J. Senn in command.

South Dakota (BB-49) was laid down on 15 March 1920 by the New York Navy Yard. Although she was to be the name ship of a new class of six 43,200-ton battleships, her construction was suspended on 8 February 1922 in accordance with the provisions of the Washington Treaty limiting naval construction. Her unfinished hull, 38.5% completed, was sold on 25 October 1923 for scrapping on the slipway to Steel Scrap Corp. of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and her name was struck from the Navy list on 10 November 1923. Her scrapping was reported completed on 15 November 1924.

Indiana (BB-50) was laid down by the New York Navy Yard 1 November 1920, but her construction was canceled 8 February 1922 in accordance with the terms of the Washington Treaty for naval limitation.

Authorized 4 March 1917, **Montana** (BB-51) was laid down 1 September 1920; but construction of the *South Dakota* class battleship by Mare Island Navy Yard, Vallejo, California, was canceled 8 February 1922 by the Washington Treaty on the limitation of naval armament. *Montana* was struck from the Navy list 24 August 1923 and sold 25 October 1923 to be scrapped.

The name **North Carolina** was assigned to BB-52, laid down at Norfolk Navy Yard 12 January 1920. However, work was halted 8 February 1922 under terms of the Washington Treaty for the Limitation of Naval Armaments, and the battleship's uncompleted hull sold for scrapping 25 October 1923. Her name was struck from the Navy List 10 November 1923.

BB-53 was laid down as **Iowa** at Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co., 17 May 1920, but on 8 February 1922, work was suspended when the ship was 31.8 percent complete. Construction was cancelled 17 August 1923 in accordance with the terms of the Washington Treaty limiting naval armaments. She was sold for scrap 8 November 1923.

Massachusetts was laid down by Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corp., Quincy, Massachusetts, 4 April 1921. In accordance with provisions of the Washington Naval Treaty, which was signed by the United States 6 February 1922, construction was suspended 8 February 1922; and the contract was canceled 17 August 1923. Her unfinished hull was sold 8 November 1923 to the Steel Scrap Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for scrap, and her name was struck from the Navy list 10 November 1923.

North Carolina was laid down 27 October 1937 by New York Naval Shipyard; launched 13 June 1940; sponsored by Miss Isabel Hoey, daughter of Governor of North Carolina; and commissioned at New York 9 April 1941, Captain Olaf M. Hustvedt in command. First commissioned of the Navy's modern battleships, *North Carolina* received so much attention during her fitting out and trials that she won the enduring nickname "Showboat". *North Carolina* completed her shakedown in the Caribbean prior to the Pearl Harbor attack, and after intensive war exercises, entered the Pacific 10 June 1942.

The eighth **Washington** (BB-56) was laid down on 14 June 1938 at the Philadelphia Navy Yard; launched on 1 June 1940; sponsored by Miss Virginia Marshall of Spokane, Washington, a direct descendant of former Chief Justice Marshall; and commissioned at the Philadelphia Navy Yard on 15 May 1941, Capt. Howard H. J. Benson in command.

South Dakota was laid down on 5 July 1939 at Camden, New Jersey, by the New York Shipbuilding Corp.; launched on 7 June 1941; sponsored by Mrs. Harlan J. Bushfield; and commissioned on 20 March 1942, Capt. Thomas L. Gatch in command.

Indiana (BB-58) was launched by Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Virginia, 21 November 1941; sponsored by Mrs. Lewis C. Robbins, daughter of *Indiana* governor Henry F. Schricker; and commissioned 30 April 1942, Captain A. S. Merrill in command.

Massachusetts was laid down 20 July 1939 by Bethlehem Steel Co., Quincy, Massachusetts; launched 23 September 1941; sponsored by Mrs. Charles Francis Adams; and commissioned 12 May 1942 at Boston, Capt. Francis E. M. Whiting in command.

Alabama (BB-60) was laid down on 1 February 1940 by the Norfolk, Virginia, Navy Yard; launched on 16 February 1942; sponsored by Mrs. Lister Hill, wife of the senior Senator from Alabama; and commissioned on 16 August 1942, Capt. George B. Wilson in command.

The third **Iowa** (BB-61) was laid down at New York Navy Yard, 27 June 1940; launched 27 August 1942; sponsored by Mrs. Henry A. Wallace, wife of Vice President Wallace, and commissioned 22 February 1943, Capt. John L. McCrea in command.

New Jersey (BB-62) was launched 7 December 1942 by the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard; sponsored by Mrs. Charles Edison, wife of Governor Edison of New Jersey, former Secretary of the Navy; and commissioned at Philadelphia 23 May 1943, Captain Carl F. Holden in command.

The fourth **Missouri** (BB-63), the last battleship completed by the United States, was laid down 6 January 1941 by New York Naval Shipyard; launched 29 January 1944; sponsored by Miss Margaret Truman, daughter of then Senator from Missouri Harry S Truman, later President; and commissioned 11 June 1944, Capt. William M. Callaghan in command.

The second **Wisconsin** (BB-64) was laid down on 25 January 1941 at the Philadelphia Navy Yard; launched on 7 December 1943; sponsored by Mrs. Walter S. Goodland; and commissioned on 16 April 1944, Capt. Earl E. Stone in command.

Information from www.battleship.cc