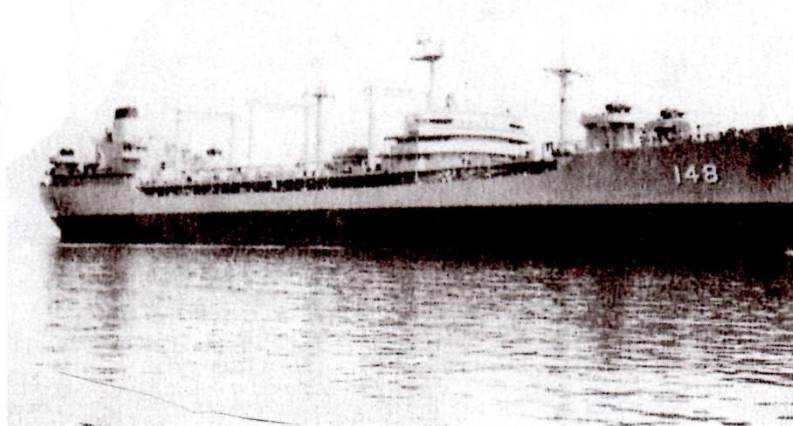




UNITED STATES SHIP

⚓ **PONCHATOULA** ⚓

(AO 148)



COMMISSIONING PROGRAM



PHILADELPHIA NAVAL SHIPYARD

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

12 JANUARY 1956

U. S. S. PONCHATOULA

(AO 148)



BUILT BY

NEW YORK SHIPBUILDING CORPORATION
CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY



KEEL LAID

1 MARCH 1954



LAUNCHED

9 JULY 1955



SPONSOR

MRS. I. N. KILAND



COMMISSIONING

12 JANUARY 1956

PHILADELPHIA NAVAL SHIPYARD

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

U. S. S. PONCHATOULA

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY



The Order of the Navy Department
to Commission U. S. S. PONCHATOULAThe Commandant

The Commissioning

*

The National Anthem

The Hoisting of the National Ensign,
the Jack and Commission Pennant

The Breaking of the Personal Flag

The InvocationThe Chaplain

**

Acceptance of CommandThe Commanding Officer

Set the WatchThe Commanding Officer

Honorable JAMES H. MORRISON, M. C.
United States Congressman
from Louisiana

Captain W. R. WILSON, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer

The BenedictionThe Chaplain

Pipe DownThe Commanding Officer

* Audience rise

**Audience be seated

All guests are invited to inspect the ship.
Ushers are available to act as guides
after the Commissioning Ceremony.

NAVAL COMMISSIONING



The commissioning ceremony marks the initiation of service of a ship of the Operating Forces of the United States Navy. At the moment of breaking her Commission Pennant, U. S. S. PONCHATOULA becomes the responsibility of her Commanding Officer, who together with the ship's crew, then has the duty of making and keeping her constantly ready for any service demanded by our country in peace or in war.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

7 December 1955

Dear Captain Wilson:

It gives me great pleasure to extend my sincere best wishes to you, your officers and men on the occasion of the commissioning of the USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148).

The PONCHATOULA is the second naval vessel to bear this name and is one of the most modern naval fleet oilers incorporating many new and advanced design features essential to the mobile logistic support of our fast task forces.

I am confident that you and the officers and men under your command in the PONCHATOULA will perform in a manner that will reflect the highest standards and traditions of the Navy.

Sincerely yours,

C. S. THOMAS

CAPT William R. Wilson, USN
Commanding Officer
USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148)
c/o Commandant, 4th Naval District
U. S. Naval Base
Philadelphia 12, Pennsylvania

ORIGIN OF THE NAME PONCHATOULA

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Oilers of the United States Navy are named after rivers. The Ponchatoula River flows through the southwestern part of the Tongipahoa Parish, Louisiana, and enters the Tuckfaw several miles southeast of Springfield in Livingston Parish.

The name Panchatoula signifies "Singing Hair." The Choctaw Indians gave this fanciful name to the stream because of the abundance of Spanish moss on the trees in its vicinity. The Indians, thinking that the moss sang in the wind, named the river "Ponchitoawa" which was subsequently corrupted by white settlers to "Ponchatoula."

UNITED STATES SHIP
PONCHATOULA
(AO 148)

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U. S. S. PONCHATOULA (AO 148) is the sixth of a new class of fleet oilers. She is 655 feet in length with a beam of 86 feet. She is designed primarily for rapid transfer of petroleum products and other cargo to the forces afloat operating at high speed and at long distances from base. U. S. S. PONCHATOULA will carry in addition to her own fuel supply nearly eight million gallons of fuel oil, aviation fuel, and diesel oil for delivery to the fleet at sea.

U. S. S. PONCHATOULA is armed with a powerful battery of automatic-loading, rapid-firing guns, controlled by the most modern directors and radars. Her equipment also includes the latest developments in navigational radar and instruments, modern portable and built-in fire fighting facilities, and numerous high powered radio receivers and transmitters. U. S. S. PONCHATOULA is one of the first fleet oilers to have air-conditioned working and living spaces for the increased comfort and efficiency of the entire ship's company.



Rear Admiral E. H. von HEIMBURG, USN

Commandant
Fourth Naval District



Commanding Officer
U. S. S. PONCHATOULA



Captain W. R. WILSON, USN



MRS. I. N. KILAND

THE SPONSOR

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Mrs. Ingolf N. Kiland is the sponsor of U. S. S. PONCHA-TOULA, having officiated at her launching. Mrs. Kiland is the former Isabel Jackson Taylor of Philadelphia, and the wife of Rear Admiral Kiland. They have a son, Ingolf Norman Kiland, Jr.

Rear Admiral Kiland is the Commandant of the Fifth Naval District, with Headquarters at the Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia. In addition to the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit with Gold Star and Combat "V", Rear Admiral Kiland has the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon with two stars; the Victory Medal, Destroyer Clasp; the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; the American Campaign Medal; the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with engagement star; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with five engagement stars; the World II Victory Medal, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with star; the Navy Occupation Service Medal, Asia Clasp; and the China Service Medal.



HONORABLE JAMES H. MORRISON, M.C.
United States Congressman
from Louisiana

PRINCIPAL SPEAKER

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It is appropriate that the principal speaker at the commissioning ceremony be the Representative in Congress of the district in which the Ponchatoula River flows. Honorable James H. Morrison was born in Hammond, Louisiana in that same district. Mr. Morrison graduated from Tulane University Law School in 1935 and has had a distinguished career of public service at the city, county, state and national levels. He is now serving his 14th year in Congress, having been elected for seven consecutive terms.

Mr. Morrison's uncle was admiral Richmond P. Hobson, a distinguished naval officer, who served brilliantly in the Spanish-American War.

**OFFICERS OF
U. S. S. PONCHATOULA**

•
COMMANDING OFFICER
CAPTAIN W. R. WILSON

•
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
LCDR E. V. KNOX

OPERATIONS

LT J. E. MITCHELL, USNOperations Officer and Navigator
LTJG D. J. NICOL, USNRCommunications Officer

DECK

LT W. H. SINGLETARY, USNFirst Lieutenant and Gunnery Officer
ENS R. T. BODENSTEINER, USNRAssistant Gunnery Officer
ENS G. SCHWERM, USNRAssistant Gunnery Officer
CWO E. L. DEXTER, USN Ship's Boatswain

ENGINEERING

LCDR C. O. MEKKELSON, USNEngineering Officer
LTJG L. B. FOGG, USNRDamage Control Assistant
CWO H. M. DANIELS, USNMain Propulsion Assistant

SUPPLY

LTJG F. C. HEINEMANN, USNRSupply Officer
ENS J. B. LOVELACE, USNDisbursing Officer

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS OF
U. S. S. PONCHATOULA

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BACON, O. H.Chief Radioman
BELCHER, C. W.Chief Quartermaster
EDMONDS, A. W.Chief Gunner's Mate
GUNNELS, W. T.Chief Engineman
LANCASTER, E. A.Chief Boatswain's Mate
MAY, D.Chief Boilerman
McKNIGHT, E. L.Chief Hospital Corpsman
MONTROYA, L.Chief Commissaryman
PERRY, B. F., Jr.Chief Machinist's Mate
REXROAD, M. "C", Jr.Chief Electrician's Mate

PETTY OFFICERS FIRST CLASS OF
U. S. S. PONCHATOULA

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ANDREU, P. P.Machinist's Mate First
ANDROWSKY, F. G.Pipefitter First
BROWN, E. A.Gunner's Mate First
BROWNELL, R. F.Teleman First
BLACK, R. G.Machinist's Mate First
BOSWELL, W. H.Electronic Technician First
CRAYCRAFT, C. R.Damage Controlman First
CUSHARD, W. N.Pipefitter First
FOGG, S. O.Electrician's Mate First
GRIFFIN, R. J.Boilerman First
HARLESS, "J" "C"Storekeeper First
HARPER, O. R.Ship's Serviceman First
INGERSOLL, J. L.Radarmen First
JACKSON, A. E.Radioman First
KUHN, W. K.Boilerman First
LEITH, W. E.Metalsmith First
McCLARIN, W. F.Steward First
McDONALD, T. L.Boilerman First
MOSS, C. W.Machinist's Mate First
MOLDAN, E. H.Machinist's Mate First
PEVY, J. A.Machinist's Mate First
SMITH, R. C.Commissaryman First
WALDRON, C. V.Yeoman First
WORTHINGTON, J. A.Storekeeper First
YOUNG, D.Boatswain's Mate First

**PETTY OFFICERS SECOND CLASS OF
U. S. S. PONCHATOULA**

•

BODENSTAB, O. R.Machinist's Mate Second
BONKOWSKI, E. E.Electrician's Mate Second
BROWN, W. E.Yeoman Second
CURRY, R.Personnelman Second
FLETCHER, T. L.Gunner's Mate Second
HUNTER, E. F.Boatswain's Mate Second
ISSACSON, J. J.Machinist's Mate Second
JACKSON, C.Ship's Serviceman Second
KERLEY, M. L.Boatswain's Mate Second
LONG, C. N.Electrician's Mate Second
MABEN, R. L.Fire Control Technician Second
MACHAMER, C. E.I. C. Electrician Second
McAULIFFE, J. B.Radioman Second
McDANIEL, J. B., Jr.Boatswain's Mate Second
OKERWALL, R. W.Quartermaster Second
PENTZ, R. T.I. C. Electrician Second
RUMRILL, K. E.Personnelman Second
SAKAL, D. M.Pipefitter Second
STEMBRIDGE, J. A.Storekeeper Second
STORRS, D. L.Disbursing Clerk Second
VAN NATTA, R. J.Commissaryman Second
WATERBURY, H. A.Boilerman Second
WHITE, C. E.Metalsmith Second

PETTY OFFICERS THIRD CLASS OF
U. S. S. PONCHATOULA

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ADEY, W. F.Electrician's Mate Third
BECKER, A. H.Machinist's Mate Third
BOWEN, J. R.Quartermaster Third
BREWER, R. C.Fire Control Technician Third
BRYAN, R. E.Radarman Third
BURNETT, J. J.Engineman Third
CARLISLE, A. L.Quartermaster Third
CARTER, J. D., Jr.Metalsmith Third
COLGATE, C. A.Boatswain's Mate Third
COX, O., Jr.Machinist's Mate Third
CUNNINGHAM, A. W.Machinist's Mate Third
CUNNINGHAM, M. W.Quartermaster Third
DELQUAGLIO, S. J.Commissaryman Third
EMMONS, C. M.Machinist's Mate Third
FAITH, R. S.Boatswain's Mate Third
FICKLIN, R. H.Gunner's Mate Third
FORSYTH, J. J.Ship's Serviceman Third
JONES, P. W.Fire Control Technician Third
KILLORAN, R. M.Electrician's Mate Third
LOOMIS, B. R.Machinist's Mate Third
MASON, E. G.Boilerman Third
MASON, L. W.Damage Controlman Third
McKAY, J. B.Electrician's Mate Third
MOORE, J. L.Commissaryman Third
NORRINGTON, C. N.Machinist's Mate Third
PERKINS, M. A.Electrician's Mate Third
PROCTOR, D. R.Machinist's Mate Third
RENNINGER, D. A.Boilerman Third
ROBERTSON, T., Jr.Storekeeper Third
SCHIED, J. P.Radarman Third
STERNER, F. M.Gunner's Mate Third
WALKER, H. V.Gunner's Mate Third
WASHINGTON, J. R.Boatswain's Mate Third
WISNEWSKI, W. F.Electronic Technician Third

NON-RATED MEN OF
U. S. S. PONCHATOULA

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BAKER, R. V.	DYMKOWSKI, A. A.
BANKS, J. J.	ELLIOT, M. G.
BEAMER, A. G.	ENDAYA, A. Y.
BEAR, L. G.	FAZIO, B.
BELLOSPRITO, D.	FININ, J. F.
BERGGEN, J. M.	FITZWATER, J. W.
BIGORNIA, C. B.	FLANAGAN, J. R.
BELTZ, H. G.	FORAN, R. J.
BOHLING, M. G.	FOURNIER, T. J.
BONE, R. G.	FOWLER, P. J.
BORKOWSKI, R. J.	FREIDLAND, G. A.
BRANNAN, W. H.	GAY, H.
BROOKS, R. E.	GAMP, H. A.
BROWN, C. D.	GEORGE, J. L.
BRUMMETT, R. E.	GILES, D. D.
BRYANT, H. F.	GODLEWSKI, J. T.
BRYNE, R. F.	GRANTHAM, I.
BULWICZ, D. A.	GRAVES, A. J.
BURGESS, H. A.	GREAVES, S. F., Jr.
CAPUTO, F. A.	GREENWOOD, R. W.
CARR, E. L.	GURNICK, J. J.
CASSETT, J.	HAGLOCK, G. A.
CHUNN, C. R.	HAMMONDS, E. R.
COLLINS, R. D.	HARTWIG, J. A.
COSTELLO, W. F.	HAWKINS, T. W.
COWAN, T. L.	HEIMBACH, S. P.
COX, J. T.	HESCH, D. J.
CREECH, R. D.	HEWICKER, J. A., II
DELAWTER, W. F.	HIDEN, C. B.
DEVERE, C.	HODGE, J.
DUDERSTADT, D. R.	HOSMER, M. E.
DUNCAN, J. P.	INCH, E. E.
DYER, J. E.	JACOBY, R. A.

NON-RATED MEN—(Continued)
U. S. S. PONCHATOU LA

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JOHNSON, J. A.
JONES, H.
KELLY, E.
KEMP, L. B.
KINNEY, F. E.
KZINOWEK, W. J.
LAFELLA, A. P.
LAYNE, H. T.
LAW, W. H.
LIBBY, S. M.
MARCUM, A. W.
MARLIN, G.
MARTIN, G. A.
MASKE, J. N.
McDONALD, A. P.
McGOVERN, J. H.
McLEOD, D. K.
MERRITT, J. H.
MERRITT, J. R.
MOORE, C. F., II
MYERS, E. S., Jr.
NICHOLSON, K. A.
NIX, J. D.
O'DONNELL, F. J.
PAPER, E. A.
PRICE, L. D.
PLUFF, A. J.
POTOCHNIK, J. W.
POWELL, J. H.
PUCHIO, P. A.
POWERS, J. T.

RALLISON, B. G.
REED, G. D.
REGER, P. C.
REINER, R. L.
REYES, T.
ROBERTSON, D. W.
ROGILLIO, H. A.
ROY, N. L.
SANDERS, R. L.
SCHMIEDER, R. L.
SCMERSE, J. R.
SLOAN, A., Jr.
SMITH, F. G.
SMITH, M. T., Jr.
STARKS, R. J.
STEINER, P. J.
STURGIS, T. P.
SUGGS, C. F.
SWEARINGER, J. A.
TALBOT, M. E.
TEDESCO, W. W.
THOMAS, P. C.
VAN SAMBEEK, T. A.
WAGNER, J. I.
WAKER, R. D.
WALCHBURGER, F.
WEILER, F. W.
WHITFIELD, A.
WILBER, R. N.
WILLIAMS, J.
WILSON, J. W.

WOBOSHI, W. I.
