

King Sailor
2004 Bluejacket Way
Boston, MA 02134

The Honorable Gordon R. England
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

3 December 2004

Sir,

I am former member of the United States Navy and I am very proud of my service and my time aboard the USS King (DDG-41). I worked and lived aboard the King from July, 1986 to September, 1990. I came aboard as a young, inexperienced Third Class Fire Controlman and left as a seasoned First Class Petty Officer. The work experience that I gained and, more importantly, the life experiences that I came away with, remain the cornerstone of what I do and who I am today.

Several former crewmembers of the USS King came together and put up a web site dedicated to all who served aboard her. I first came across this web site in late 1999. The front page had a photo of the section of the transom with the ship's name on it. This was all that remained of the King and my first reaction was of tremendous loss. Since then I have had the opportunity to share memories with shipmates that I served with and those who served aboard her before me.

When I was aboard the King, she was known as "high op-tempo" ship. We were constantly steaming taking part in operations with U.S. and NATO ships in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. We were proud of the fact that we were the ship that could make any commitment at any time. The "can do" attitude we had on the King has stayed with me to this day.

I would like you to consider naming one of the new Arleigh Burke class Guided Missile Destroyers after Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King. I believe that we upheld the highest traditions of the United States Navy and I believe that another "King of the Fleet" would continue to serve our nation with distinction. It would be a great honor to me and my shipmates to see those traditions carried on aboard a new USS King.

Sincerely,

King Sailor
USS King (DDG-41) 1986-1990