

**Remarks given by Rear Adm. Jay Deloach, USNR (Ret.)
For the dedication of the Admiral D.G. Farragut statue in Farragut, Tenn.
May 2, 2010**

Good afternoon and many thanks to Mayor Frank McGill and the Town of Farragut for this opportunity to participate in the dedication of this wonderful statue to your town's namesake – Admiral David Glasgow Farragut. I must confess it is a tough act to follow the three mayors of Farragut on this momentous occasion but I will do my best. I am truly overwhelmed by the collective efforts of this town and its committees who planned and funded this Memorial Plaza for those who have served their country in the past, present, and in the years to come. I am so impressed with the work of Linda Rankin and her superb rendition of the likeness of our Naval Hero. To the whole town of Farragut we have a saying in the Navy for all your outstanding efforts – BRAVO ZULU for a job well done!!

It was 110 years ago, when another admiral, Admiral George Dewey, the hero of the Battle of Manila, participated in the dedication of another monument to Admiral Farragut's birthplace just a few miles from here. I am also happy to be back in eastern Tennessee, where I served as the commanding officer of a Navy reserve unit over in Knoxville ten years ago. I feel very privileged and honored to be a part of this ceremony because of the common bond I share with Admiral Farragut coming from seafaring families, being Navy flag officers, as well as having a Hispanic heritage.

Tennessee has no shortage of brave military heroes – such as Davy Crockett or Alvin York – but perhaps none is greater than the one we honor today – Admiral David Glasgow Farragut – the Navy's first admiral.

Admiral Farragut's career was nothing short of spectacular – he is known for his heroic and dynamic leadership at the battles of Mobile Bay and New Orleans.

His success at New Orleans illustrated the importance of careful preparation – perhaps one of the least glamorous, but most important attributes of leadership. In January 1862, he received simple orders – take New Orleans and push up the Mississippi. To do this, he needed to ensure that his force was properly manned, equipped and trained. He did just that – and because of this meticulous preparation, he defeated the Confederates in a decisive battle in April of that year. For his gallant actions at New Orleans, Farragut was promoted to the newly established rank of Rear Admiral on July 26, 1862 – making him the first naval officer to hold this rank in the United States Navy.

And at the battle of Mobile Bay in August 1864, he displayed his almost uncanny ability to sense the right oment to act decisively when in the face of danger, he shouted “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead” and led his ships thru a minefield and on to one of the most celebrated victories in American naval history.

Again, our country heaped special honors on this naval hero. On December 23, 1864, Congress passed a bill establishing the rank of vice admiral. The next day, President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill into law and named Farragut as the first three-star flag officer.

Farragut's careful preparations, keen situational awareness, and above all, courage to act boldly at the decisive moment resulted in some of this country's greatest early naval victories. These qualities made him one of the greatest officers of the Civil War – Union or Confederate – and the greatest American naval officer of the nineteenth century – this resulted in his appointment as America's first full admiral in July 1866 – equivalent to a four star admiral or general today.

Good naval officers know that success depends on thorough logistical arrangements, intimate familiarity with ships and weapons, and a firm grasp of tactics. But what separates the good naval officer from the great one is the courage to make difficult decisions in the heat of combat – despite personal fear or the awful realization that some of their Sailors will have to pay the ultimate price.

Admiral Farragut embodied our time honored Navy Ethos by offering the highest standards of service to his nation. He was disciplined, well-prepared and committed to mission accomplishment, while unwavering in his dedication and accountability to his fellow shipmates. His integrity and decisive leadership were the foundation for his success. In the face of adversity, he defended our nation with great strength, determination, and dignity. Admiral Farragut was a true patriot and he embodies our proud heritage and tradition that reflects the Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment.

And this proud heritage of honor, courage and commitment displayed by Admiral Farragut has lived on in the five ships the Navy has named in his honor – from Torpedo Boat Number 11 to today's guided missile destroyer - DDG 99 – the fighting spirit of our first admiral lives on. As the flag-ship for Task Force one-fifty-one, USS Farragut is currently part of a Combined Maritime Task Force that is working to defeat terrorism, combat piracy, reduce illegal trafficking of people and drugs, and promote the maritime environment as a safe place for mariners with legitimate business.

The ship's motto is *Prepared for Battle* – and they proved that just over a month ago when they engaged lawless pirates that were attempting to commandeer an unarmed merchant vessel off the coast of Somalia. With swiftness and resolute, Farragut sailors seized and destroyed the pirates' equipment and sank their mother ship, thereby affirming the United States' stance in enforcing the "rule of law" on the high seas.

A few years ago, the Navy along with the Marine Corps and Coast Guard developed a new maritime strategy on how we will apply maritime power to the crucial job of protecting our vital interests at sea in an increasingly interconnected and uncertain

world. This strategy is a partnership not just amongst the sea services, but also with the American people who want us to remain strong; they want us to protect them and our homeland, and they want us to work with our partners around the world to prevent war.

The American people can safely know that we are able to execute this strategy because of people like Admiral David Glasgow Farragut and the proud fighting spirit we continue today in the United States Navy.

Thank you.