

CVN 69: A Model Carrier

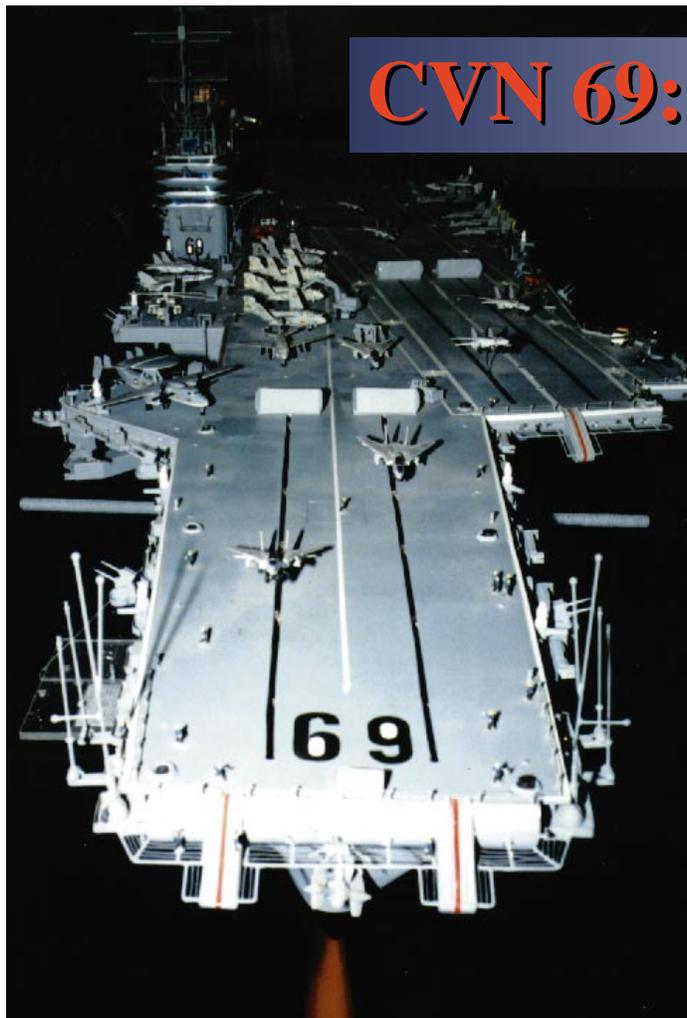
By JOSN Stacy Clark

Left, Anthony Miller's tribute to the men and women of *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69): a nine-foot-long model weighing in at 90 pounds, complete with model aircraft, working propellers and moving radar dishes. Below, Miller shows the model off to Lt. Doug Scherer, *Ike's* Electronics Materials Officer. Miller spent four years constructing the model, which is now on display in the USS Eisenhower Room of the Adams County Library, Gettysburg, Pa.

said. "I had already built a six-foot model of the battleship *New Jersey* (BB 62), so I knew I could do it."

A Marine Corps veteran of WW II, Mr. Miller chose to build this particular carrier because he respected President Eisenhower. "I made the *Eisenhower* because Ike was in WW II with me," said the 73-year-old modeler. "I just thought he was a great president."

The ship found its way to Gettysburg when Capt. Brown learned of Mr. Miller's model from a newspaper article. Mr. Miller wanted to donate the model to Capt. Brown and the crew, but *Ike's* public affairs officer, Lieutenant (jg) Lisa Brackenbury, suggested plac-



It took five men to carry *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) to her new home. On 9 September 1996, the nine-foot scale model of the second *Nimitz*-class aircraft carrier, built by Anthony Miller of Shamong, N.J., was installed in the USS Eisenhower Room of the Adams County Library in Gettysburg, Pa.

Filled with *Ike* artifacts, the room was dedicated to the citizens of Gettysburg, the former president's home town. Following the dedication ceremony on 18 September, *Eisenhower's* skipper, Capt. Gregory C. Brown, presented Mr. Miller with a plaque designating him an honorary crew member.

Mr. Miller, a retired engineer, began building the model from scratch seven years ago. The ship, complete with an air wing and crew, was built from the keel up like the real thing.

"The ship isn't made of plastic,"

Miller said, "it's made of metal roof flashing. I built it just like you'd build a real ship, including a dry dock so I could lay the keel. I balanced the ship with lead weight so it wouldn't lean."

Like the real ship, this 90-pound model is no toy. It has two moving propellers, spinning radar dishes and working lights. The model also has moving elevators which reveal the aircraft that are chocked down in the hangar bay. Miller installed mirrors in the hangar bay to give the illusion of more planes.

The inspiration to build the carrier came to Mr. Miller while he was reading an issue of *Popular Mechanics*. "The magazine had a two-page picture of the ship," he



PH3 Brian Brunelle

ing the model in the USS Eisenhower Room. "I thought the citizens of Gettysburg would enjoy learning more about the aircraft carrier named after one of the borough's most famous residents, General Dwight D. Eisenhower," she said.

The Eisenhower Room serves as a showcase for the Navy and a memorial to Gettysburg's renowned citizen. n

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