



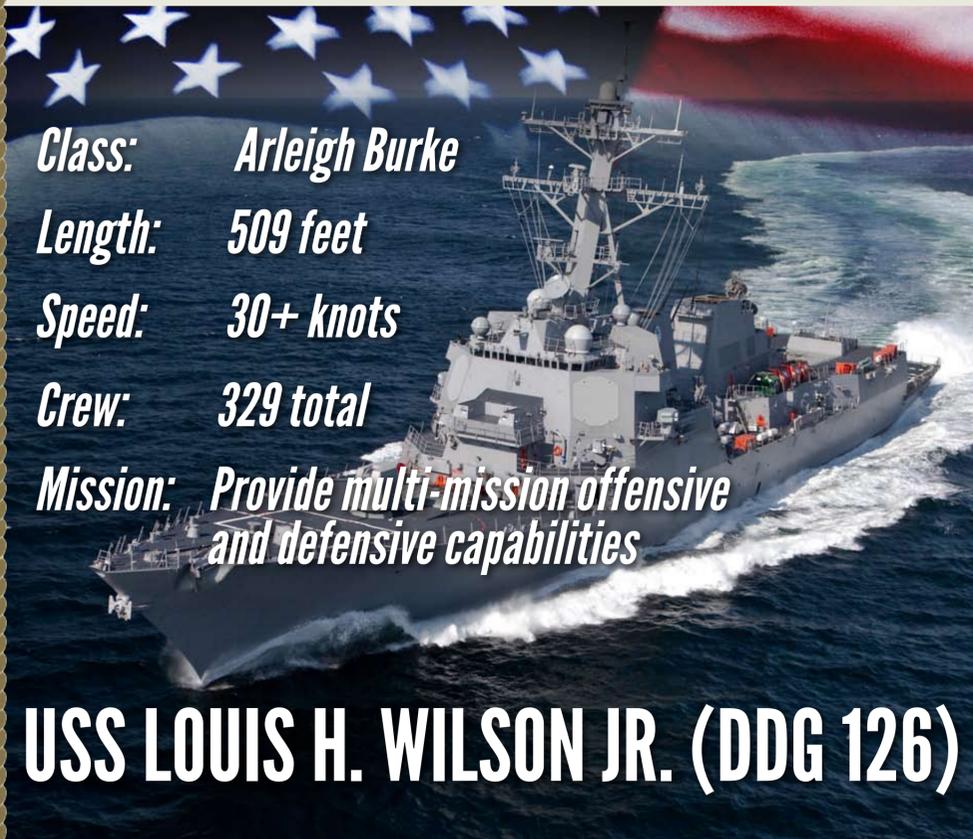
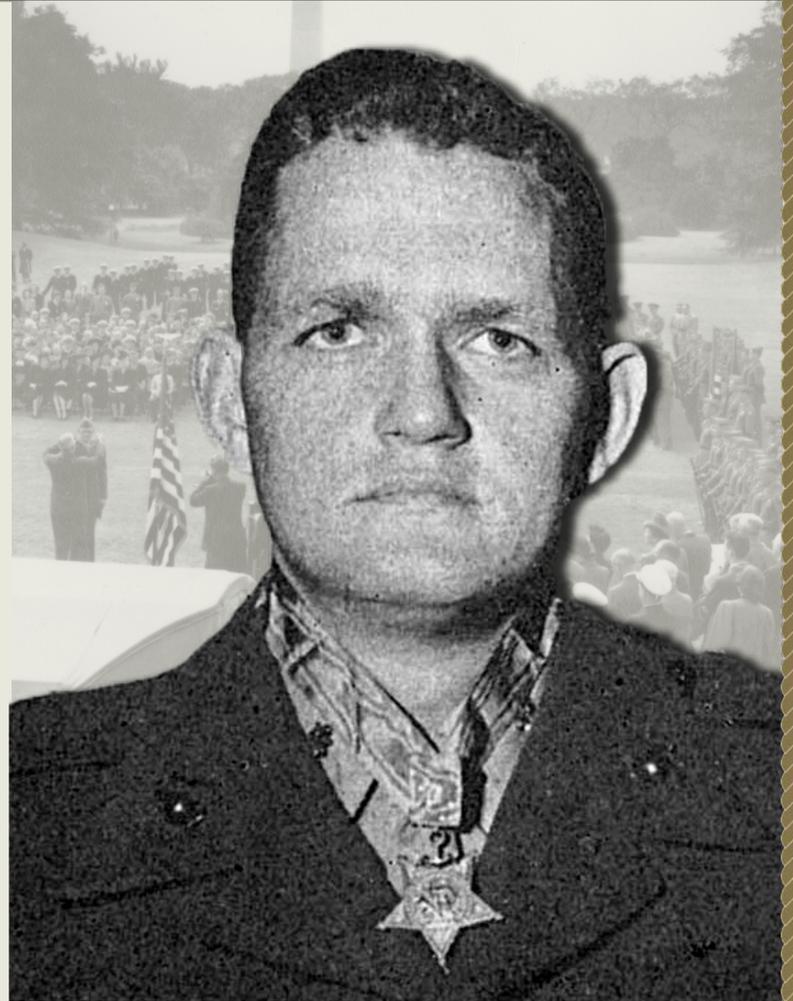
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# USS LOUIS H. WILSON JR. (DDG 126)

## Honoring A Lifetime of Service

### A Distinguished History

- Born Feb. 11, 1920, in Brandon, Miss., Louis Hugh Wilson Jr. enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in February 1941 and became a commissioned officer later that same year.
- On July 25-26, 1944, while commanding Company F, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, Capt. Wilson earned the Medal of Honor for heroism in combat when he and his company repelled and destroyed a numerically superior Japanese force during the Battle of Guam. Facing continuous hostile fire, a hail of shrapnel, multiple wounds, and hand-to-hand combat, he drove his men forward and annihilated 350 Japanese troops after hours of fighting.
- Wilson deployed with the 1st Marine Division in August 1965, stopping at Okinawa before going to Vietnam as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, 1st Marine Division. He was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star.
- In July 1975, with the rank of general, Wilson became the 26th Commandant of the Marine Corps, serving in that post until his retirement in June 1979.
- General Louis H. Wilson Jr. died in Birmingham, Ala., June 21, 2005, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va.



**Class:** Arleigh Burke

**Length:** 509 feet

**Speed:** 30+ knots

**Crew:** 329 total

**Mission:** Provide multi-mission offensive and defensive capabilities

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### A LOOK AT THE MEDAL OF HONOR

**1861**

President Abraham Lincoln approved the congressional action to provide for 200 Navy Medals of Honor.



**1863**

On July 1, Cpl. John F. Mackie became the first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor.

**1915**

Congress authorized U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard officers to wear the Medal of Honor.

**2016**

As of 2016, there have been 297 Medals of Honor awarded to Marines.



*“By his indomitable leadership, daring combat tactics and dauntless valor in the face of overwhelming odds, Captain Wilson succeeded in capturing and holding the strategic high ground in his regimental sector....”*

*- From Wilson’s Medal of Honor Citation, 1945*

Pictured Left: Platoon Sergeant Donald C. Bushnell (left) and Capt. Louis Wilson (right) hold the first American flag to be recaptured from the Japanese on Guam. The first enemy banner to fall into their hands rests below. July 1944. Photo by Pfc. R.G. Simpson.