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# NAVAL HISTORY OF MINNESOTA



## SHIPS



### Minnesota (BB 22)

Commissioned in 1907 and named in honor of our 32nd state, Minnesota was the fifth Connecticut-class pre-dreadnought battleship. As part of the Great White Fleet, she circumnavigated the globe in 1908-09. At the outbreak of World War I, Minnesota trained Navy personnel and while cruising off the eastern U.S. coast in September 1918, she struck a naval mine laid by a German U-boat. After repairs, however, she returned to service in time to help bring home American soldiers from Europe in 1919. Minnesota was decommissioned in 1921.

At least 38 ships have been named after the state of Minnesota, its cities, places, and people. A few of those include:

- USS Beltrami (AK 162), 1945
- USS Benton County (LST 263), 1943
- USS Bunch (DE 694), 1943
- USS Clearwater County (LST 602), 1944
- USS Courtney (DE 1021), 1956
- USS Dodge County (LST 722), 1944
- USS Douglas County (LST 731), 1944
- USS Duluth (CL 87), 1944
- USS Duluth (LPD 6), 1965
- USS Earl V. Johnson (DE 702), 1944
- USS Fairbault (AK 179), 1945
- USS Fillmore (APA 83), 1945
- USS Fort Snelling (LSD 30), 1955
- USS Goodhue (APA 107), 1944
- USNS Gopher State (T-ACS 4), 1972
- USS Grant County (LST 1174), 1957
- USS Hennepin (AK 187), 1945
- USS Kittson (APA 123), 1944
- USS Lake County (LST 880), 1945
- USS Lincoln County (LST 898), 1944
- USS Lyon County (LST 904), 1945
- USS Mahan County (LST 912), 1944
- USS Meeker County (LST 980), 1944
- Minneapolis (Frigate), 1855
- Minneapolis (C 13), 1894
- USS Minneapolis (CA 36), 1934
- USS Minneapolis - St. Paul (SSN 708), 1984
- Minnesota (BB 22), 1905
- USS Minnesota (SSN 783), 2013
- Minnetonka, 1867
- USS Minnesotan (Steamship), 1912
- USS Nicollet (AVS 6), 1945
- USS Ringness (DE 590), 1944
- Saint Paul, 1895
- USS Saint Paul (CA 73), 1945
- USS Tollberg (APD 103), 1945
- USS Traverse County (LST 1160), 1953
- USS Wallace L. Lind (DD 703), 1944

## PEOPLE



### Franklin Van Valkenburgh Captain, U.S. Navy

Born in Minneapolis, Minn. on April 5, 1888, Van Valkenburgh began his naval career as a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy in 1905. He served as the engineering officer on board Minnesota (BB 22), later commanding the USS Arizona (BB 39). He was killed during the Pearl Harbor raid on Dec. 7, 1941, and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.



### Roy Alexander Gano Vice Admiral

Born in Pipestone, Minn. on Dec. 3, 1902, Gano graduated from the Naval Academy in 1926. During WWII, he commanded the destroyer USS Dyson (DD 572) as part of Destroyer Squadron 23. The squadron earned the nickname "Little Beavers" for covering the initial landings in the Bougainville Campaign and fighting in 22 separate engagements in the next four months. During the Korean War, he commanded the USS Saint Paul (CA 73). He retired from the Navy in 1964.



### Heidmarie Stefanyshyn-Piper Captain, U.S. Navy & Astronaut

Born in St. Paul, Minn. on Feb. 7, 1963, Stefanyshyn-Piper received her commission from MIT's Navy ROTC Program in 1985. After completing training at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center, she became a Navy Basic Diving and Salvage Officer. Selected by NASA in 1996, she flew as a mission specialist on two space flights; STS-115 and STS-126. Later, she commanded a NASA study on human survival in the Aquarius underwater laboratory in preparation for future space exploration.

## PLACES



### Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Minneapolis

The mission of NOSC Minneapolis is to generate mobilization readiness by providing administrative services, training support, and world class customer service to Reserve personnel in support of surge and operational requirements for the Navy and Marine Corps team, and Joint Forces.

### Univ. of Minnesota Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC)

NROTC Minnesota prepares college students for leadership roles in the Navy and Marine Corps. The battalion consists of students from the University of Minnesota, St. Thomas University and Macalester College, with diverse majors from physical therapy to aerospace engineering. Graduates gain invaluable leadership experience while participating in numerous social activities. At graduation all Midshipmen earn the prestigious position of an officer and leader in the Naval Service of the United States of America Armed Forces.



### Did You Know...?

Minnesota's number of recreational boats per capita is one boat per every six people; more than any other state.