



THE NAVAL HISTORY OF ALABAMA



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SHIPS



USS Alabama (SSBN 731)

The fourth Alabama was launched May 19, 1984, and commissioned at Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn., May 25, 1985, with Capt. Wade H. Taylor (Blue Crew) and Capt. Malcolm S. Wright (Gold Crew) in command. The Navy's ballistic missile submarines, often referred to as "boomers," serve as an undetectable launch platform for intercontinental missiles. They are designed specifically for stealth and the precise delivery of nuclear warheads.



At least 34 ships have been named after the state of Alabama, its cities, places, and people. A few of those include:

- Alabama I (Side Wheel Steamer), 1819
- Alabama II (Battleship No. 8), 1898
- USS Alabama III (BB 60), 1942
- USS Alabama IV (SSBN 731), 1984
- USS Autauga (AK 160), 1944
- USS Barbour County (LST 1195), 1971
- Birmingham I (Scout Cruiser No. 2), 1905
- USS Birmingham II (CL 62), 1941
- USS Birmingham III (SSN 695), 1977
- USS Blount (AK 163), 1944
- USS Brock (DE 234), 1944
- USS Bullock (AK 165), 1944
- USS Chilton (APA 38), 1942
- USS Cleburne (APA 73), 1944
- USS Crenshaw (APA 76), 1944
- USS Cullman (APA 78), 1944
- USS Elmore (APA 42), 1943
- USS Geneva (APA 86), 1945
- USS Henry County I (IX 34), 1930
- USS Henry County II (LST 824), 1944
- Huntsville I (Screw Steamer), 1861
- USS John Q. Roberts (APD 94), 1944
- USS Lamar I (APA 47), 1943
- USS Lamar II (PCE 899), 1943
- USS Marengo (AK 194), 1945
- USS Mobile (CL 63), 1942
- USS Mobile Bay (CG 53), 1987
- USS Montgomery (LCS 8), 2014
- USS St. Clair County (LST 1096), 1945
- USS Shelby (APA 105), 1944
- USS Talladega (APA 208), 1944
- USS Tuscaloosa (CA 37), 1933
- USS Tuscaloosa (LST 1187), 1969
- USS Tuscumbia (YTB 762), 1945

PEOPLE



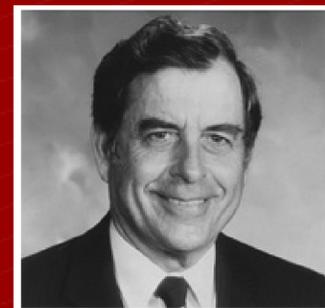
Kathryn P. Hire Captain, USN; NASA Astronaut

Born in Mobile, AL, Hire became a naval officer in 1981. She earned her naval flight officer wings in 1982 and flew worldwide oceanographic research missions to 25 countries aboard specially configured P-3 Orion aircraft. On May 13, 1993, Hire became the first female in the U.S. military to be assigned to a combat aircrew when she reported to Patrol Squadron Sixty-Two (VP 62). Flying aboard the P-3 maritime patrol aircraft, she participated in Atlantic and Caribbean operations.



Leighton W. Smith Jr. Admiral, USN, Retired

Leighton W. Smith, Jr., was born in Mobile, AL. He attended the United States Naval Academy, graduating with the Class of 1962. He received his wings in January 1964. As a light attack pilot, Smith flew the A-4 Skyhawk and A-7 Corsair during multiple deployments to the Mediterranean, North Atlantic, Western Pacific and Indian Ocean. These deployments included three combat cruises in waters off North Vietnam, where he flew more than 280 combat missions.



Jeremiah A. Denton Jr. Rear Admiral, USN, Retired

Alabama Senator Jeremiah A. Denton Jr. was born in Mobile, AL. Denton graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1946 and served more than 30 years in the United States Navy, eventually attaining the rank of rear admiral. During the Vietnam War he was shot down, captured, and held prisoner by the North Vietnamese for 7 years and 7 months.

PLACES



European Exploration and Colonial Period

In 1540, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto and his expedition first set foot in what is now Alabama. His arrival marked the beginning of a dramatic cultural shift in the Southeast. From the mid-sixteenth century to the end of the eighteenth century, Spain, France, and England vied for control of the region.



Auburn University NROTC

Part of Auburn University's mission is to develop midshipmen and officer candidates morally, mentally, and physically, and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty in order to commission college graduates as officers who possess a basic professional background.



Battleship Memorial Park Mobile, Alabama

Citizens of the state of Alabama formed the USS Alabama Battleship Commission to raise funds for the preservation of the ship as a memorial to the men and women who served in World War II. The ship was awarded to that state June 16, 1964, and was formally turned over July 7, 1964, in a ceremony in Seattle. Alabama was then towed to her permanent berth at Mobile, AL, arriving in Mobile Bay September 14, 1964.