



USS MILIUS (DDG 69) to Visit Santa Barbara

November 4, 2011

Santa Barbara – USS MILIUS (DDG 69) will visit Santa Barbara harbor, November 10-15, 2011. The Commanding Officer, Commander Nicholie Bufkin, USN, and her crew will be attending the 16th Annual Military Ball sponsored by the Pierre Clayssens Veterans' Museum and Library and the Santa Barbara Navy League. The event will take place at Fess Parker's Double Tree Resort on November 12, 2011. The crew will also be invited to Veteran's Day events in Santa Barbara as well as a tour of the Ronald Reagan Ranch.

Commander Bufkin, USN, is the first female commanding officer on USS MILIUS (DDG 69). Cdr. Bufkin commands a crew of 281 sailors onboard the MILIUS. She has had previous tours on the USS PETERSON (DD 969) as Operations Officer from 2000 to 2001, and USS ANZIO (CG 68) as Operations Officer from 2001 to 2003. She also served afloat as Flag Secretary for Carrier Strike Group NINE (ABRAHAM LINCOLN Strike Group) from 2004 to 2005. She was Executive Officer onboard USS MOBILE BAY (CG 53) from 2006 to 2007.

The USS MILIUS (DDG 69) is an ARLEIGH BURKE class AEGIS guided missile destroyer and is named after Cdr. Paul Milius, USN, a Navy pilot who served his country during the Vietnam War. While conducting a mission over Laos, Milius' plane was hit by enemy fire. Milius ordered his crew to bail out of the plane while he maintained control of the aircraft. All of his crew was rescued, but there was no trace of Milius. He was classified as missing in action, which was later revised to presume killed in action. Milius was awarded the Navy Cross, posthumously. The ship's motto is "Alii Prae Me" (Others Before Me).

Public tours of the ship will be available on November 13 and 14, 2011. Please call the SEA Landing at 805-963-3564 to make your reservations to tour the USS MILIUS (DDG 69). Advanced reservations are highly recommended.

The Santa Barbara Council of the Navy League is dedicated to the support of the US Navy service members and other services, including adoption of 15 units from all sections of the armed forces and the crews aboard the USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN76), the USS STOCKDALE (DDG106), and the USS CALIFORNIA (SSN 781).

For more information, please contact:

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