



To Our Very Welcome Visitors:

Since her commissioning, the BENNINGTON has been host to many thousands of people. Today we are pleased to add your name to our distinguished list.

It is my wish that this short visit will give you a better insight into the workings of one of your country's fighting ships, as well as an understanding of the many and varied jobs of Navy-men.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy your visit to our ship. We all, as a team, are happy to welcome you on board.

Robert M. Ware

ROBERT M. WARE
Captain, U. S. Navy

Commanding Officer

Captain Robert M. Ware took command of the BENNINGTON 21 September 1960. He was born in Hagerman, New Mexico and attended high school in Twin Falls, Idaho and preparatory school in Washington, D.C. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1937 and reported for his first duty aboard the carrier USS LEXINGTON.

Designated a Naval Aviator in 1940 after flight training in Pensacola, Fla., Capt. Ware reported to the USS WASP and VS-72 in 1941.

Following the sinking of the WASP, he went to NAS Daytona Beach as an instructor, and then to VB-17 aboard the USS HORNET as Commanding Officer in 1944.

While flying in the Pacific, he participated in the first landings on Guadalcanal, the first strikes on Japan, the Iwo Jima and Okinawa landings and the sinking of the Japanese battleship YAMATO.

Captain Ware's decorations include the Navy Cross with Star, the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with Star, the Purple Heart and the Air Medal with Star.

At the end of World War II, he served with the staff of Commander Fleet Air West Coast. He then became Group Commander of air group CVEG-3 aboard the USS MINDORO (CVE-120).

Captain Ware studied at the Naval War College at Newport, R. I. and served a two year tour in the Pentagon with the Fleet Operations Division. He then became Commanding Officer at Saufley Field, Pensacola, Fla.

Prior to taking command of the BENNINGTON, Captain Ware was the Skipper of the ammunition ship SURIBACHI.