

## 100 Years of US Navy Aircraft Carriers!

As we continue to celebrate National Aircraft Carrier Month, it is important to note that March of 2022 will mark 100 years of service for the aircraft carrier, which changed the face of warfare and national defense.

When the aircraft carrier USS **Langley** (CV-1) was commissioned in March 1922, it marked the birth of a new seaborne weapon, one that had much to do with making the U.S. Navy a dominant naval power. From the humble beginnings of **Langley** as a converted collier (bulk cargo ship designed to carry coal), to today's USS **Gerald R Ford** (CVN-78), aircraft carriers representing the most advanced war-fighting platforms in the world. The American aircraft carrier has been the mainstay in executing the U.S. Navy's mission of defending our nation and its interests around the globe.

**USS Langley** was the United States Navy's first aircraft carrier, and also the US Navy's first turbo-electric-powered ship. Named after American aviation pioneer Samuel Pierpont Langley, she survived 20 years of service to fight in World War II as a seaplane tender.

Photo # 80-G-424475 USS Langley in Pearl Harbor, May 1928



From the **Langley**, we progressed to the USS **Gerald R. Ford** (CVN-78), the first ship of the **Ford**-class, which is the first new aircraft carrier design since the **Nimitz**-class. The ship has flight deck revisions, improved weapons handling systems and a redesigned island, all to designed to increase aircraft sortie rates. The **Ford**-class also features new nuclear power plants, increased

electrical power-generation capacity, allowances for future technologies, and reduced workload for sailors, all of which will translate to a smaller crew size and reduced operating costs for the Navy.



The *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78)

In addition to the **Ford**, the **USS John F. Kennedy** (CVN-79) was christened in 2019. The **USS Enterprise** (CVN-80) is scheduled to begin construction next February, and in August of this year, the ceremonial first cut of steel was executed for the newest addition to the **Ford**-class fleet... the **USS Doris Miller** (CVN-81).

Please use this month to celebrate the values, accomplishments, and contributions of U.S. Navy Aircraft Carriers; the courage, industriousness and sacrifices of the men and women who serve aboard them, and the skilled workers who build these technological marvels that help to keep us safe.

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