

USS Jason Dunham Launched in Maine



Jason L. Dunham

The legacy of a Machinist's grandson, killed while serving in Iraq, will

soon grace the high seas. Thousands gathered at Bath Iron Works shipyard in Bath, Maine, to watch the mother of USMC Cpl. Jason L. Dunham, joined by members of his family and the U.S. Marine Corps., christen the DDG Arleigh Burke class destroyer that now bears the 22-year-old's name.

The *USS Jason Dunham* was ceremoniously launched into the Kennebec River marking the beginning of a lasting tribute to Cpl. Dunham's courageous act during a reconnaissance mission in 2004.

Cpl. Dunham died after covering an enemy hand grenade with his helmet and then his body in order to shield his fellow Marines from the blast. He was the first Marine since the Vietnam War to receive the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for bravery.

Cpl. Dunham was the grandson of IAM Local 2741 member Skip Dunham of Hornell, NY. The destroyer was built by IAM Local S6 members at Bath Iron Works.



Crowds cheer the launch of the USS Jason Dunham built by IAM Local S6 members at Bath Iron Works in Bath, ME. The ship was named after Medal of Honor recipient Jason Dunham, who was the grandson of IAM Local 2741 member Skip Dunham.

IAM Scholarship Deadline Feb. 26

Each year, the IAM scholarship program helps many IAM members and children of IAM members complete a four-year college degree or two-year technical/vocational program.

If you are a member, or child of a member, who meets the eligibility guidelines, your IAM Scholarship application must be postmarked no later than February 26, 2010.

For application information and complete eligibility rules, go to www.goiam.org/iamscholarship or call 301-967-4708.



Photo by J. T. Macmillan

Custom Bike to Benefit Guide Dogs Charity

A 2009 customized Harley-Davidson Street Glide motorcycle, built as a fundraiser for Guide Dogs of America (GDA), will be raffled off November 21, 2009, at GDA's Annual William W. Winpisinger Charity Banquet in Las Vegas, NV.

GDA Representatives Steve and Grace Cohan have been showcasing the bike at events across the country as part of the fundraising effort and raising awareness about Guide Dogs of America. To purchase raffle tickets online, go to www.guidedogsofamerica.org before November 14, 2009.

The fundraising effort supports Guide Dogs of America and their mission to provide professionally-trained guide dogs to blind and visually-impaired individuals at no cost to them.



This 2009 Harley-Davidson Street Glide, customized by Donnie Smith, was built as a fundraiser for Guide Dogs of America. The winner of the bike will be announced at GDA's annual William W. Winpisinger Charity Banquet on November 21st.

2008 IAM Convention Theme Lives On in CA

Inspired by the 2008 Grand Lodge Convention's theme based on FDR's "Four Freedoms," District Lodge 725 Area 1 Director and Business Representative Virginia Cobb flew home to San Diego, CA, thinking, "that would make a perfect mural for the wall outside our Chula Vista building."

On and off since 1995, Cobb and the San Diego Machinists Union Building Association have drawn together volunteers, workers, donations and money from union hall rentals and leases to make improvements to the IAM buildings in San Diego and Chula Vista without a

penny from union dues. "I want our members to feel like they're home when they come to the union hall," Cobb explained. "They're proud of their buildings now." Community residents have also expressed their appreciation.

Cobb has used her penchant for art at both locations. For the Chula Vista project, she did the initial artwork and then rounded up a local artist and volunteers to turn her idea into a reality.

"Whether you're in Chula Vista or San Diego," said Cobb, "everyone knows where the Machinists Union is!"