



www.history.navy.mil

USS JOHN FINN (DDG 113)

Honoring A U.S. Navy Legend



John W. Finn's Distinguished History

- Born July 23, 1909, in Los Angeles, John William Finn enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 17. Upon enlisting, he attended basic training at Naval Training Station San Diego.
- It took Finn just nine years to rise to the rank of chief petty officer.
- Finn was the first member of our armed services to earn the Medal of Honor during World War II for heroism during the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- Of the 15 Medals of Honor awarded for actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Finn's was the only one based on valor in combat. The others recognized heroism in rescue operations.
- During his naval career, he served on many noteworthy ships, including USS Lexington (CV 2), USS Houston (CA 30) and USS Saratoga (CV 3).
- Before he passed away at the age of 100 on May 27, 2010, he was the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient.
- He is the only aviation ordnanceman to receive the Medal of Honor.

DDG Quick Facts:

Name: USS John Finn (DDG 113) **Length:** 510 feet
Class: Arleigh Burke **Speed:** 30+ knots
Crew: 303 officers and enlisted personnel

Mission: The guided-missile destroyer is a surface combatant capable of conducting Anti-Air Warfare (AAW), Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), and Anti-Surface Warfare (ASUW). The destroyer's advanced weapons systems and the MK-41 Vertical Launch System (VLS) have greatly expanded the roles of the ship in strike warfare.



Status Et Pugno - Stand Fast and Fight



"... in a completely exposed section of the parking ramp ... Although painfully wounded many times, he continued to man this gun and to return the enemy's fire vigorously and with telling effect."

