



# *Proclamation*

*In Recognition of*

## **USS John Finn DDG 113 Day**

**WHEREAS**, John Finn was born July 23, 1909 in Compton, California, and enlisted in the United States Navy in July 1926; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1941, Aviation Ordnance Chief John Finn was stationed at Naval Air Station, Kaneohe Bay in the Territory of Hawai'i. On the morning of December 7, 1941, Finn became the first Medal of Honor recipient of World War II for heroism displayed during the attack by Japanese warplanes. He was honored for manning a .50 caliber machine gun on the exposed flight line and defending Naval Air Station, Kaneohe Bay for over two hours, despite being shot at and suffering 21 shrapnel wounds; and

**WHEREAS**, John Finn retired as a Navy Lieutenant after thirty years of honorable service, and, at age 100 and as the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient, Lieutenant John Finn was the guest of honor during the December 7, 2009, ceremony at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i. He died a few months later on May 27, 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 15, 2011, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced that the Navy's newest destroyer would be named in honor of Lieutenant John Finn; and

**WHEREAS**, the keel of USS John Finn (DDG 113) was laid in the spring of 2014 and launched March 30, 2015. Ms. Laura Stavridis, wife of Admiral James Stavridis (U.S. Navy, Ret.) as the ship's sponsor, christened USS John Finn on May 2, 2015, during a ceremony at the Huntington Ingalls Shipbuilding facility in Pascagoula, Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, the Navy accepted delivery of guided-missile destroyer USS John Finn (DDG 113) on the 75th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 2016. The USS John Finn marks the beginning of a new era of production for the Arleigh Burke class destroyer; and

**WHEREAS**, the USS John Finn (DDG 113) will be commissioned on July 15, 2017, in Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i,** do hereby proclaim July 15, 2017, as

## **"USS JOHN FINN DDG 113 DAY"**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to recall the heroism of Medal of Honor recipient, Lieutenant John Finn, who is honored now with the commissioning of guided-missile destroyer USS John Finn (DDG 113).

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this ninth day of June 2017.



DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i



SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i