



THE NAVAL HISTORY OF ALASKA



SHIPS

OVER **33** SHIPS HAVE BEEN NAMED AFTER THE STATE'S CITIES, PLACES, AND PEOPLE



USS ANCHORAGE (LPD 23)

Commissioned in 2013, this amphibious transport dock ship is the second vessel to be named after the city. The symbols in its crest honor both the mountainous landscape of its namesake and the moose that live in and around Anchorage. Six battle stars above the shield denote those earned by the first *Anchorage* (LSD 36) during its 34 years of service.

PEOPLE

COL. ARCHIE VAN WINKLE MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT



Van Winkle, a Juneau native, served in the Marine Corps during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. During the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in Korea, his leadership, despite being wounded, disrupted the Chinese attack on his unit. A recipient of the Medal of Honor for his heroism, he was the first service member from Alaska to receive this award.

CWO4 SOLOMON ATKINSON PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT



Born in Metlakatla in 1930, "Sol" joined the Navy in 1952 and became one of the inaugural members of SEAL Team 1. A veteran of three combat tours during the Vietnam War, he was the recipient of multiple awards, including the Purple Heart. The keel of USNS *Solomon Atkinson* (T-ATS 12) was laid in April 2025.

MM1 HARVEY JACOBS AND QM3 MARK JACOBS, JR.



Machinist Mate (MM) 1st Class Harvey Jacobs (left) and his brother Quartermaster (QM) 3rd Class Mark Jacobs Jr. (right) from Sitka served as code talkers in World War II, using their native Tlingit language, which the Japanese were unable to break. In November 2013, they were posthumously awarded the Congressional Silver Medal for their vital service.

PLACES

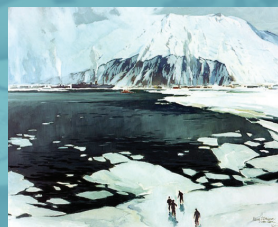
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS



The two westernmost islands in the Aleutian chain off the coast of Alaska were briefly occupied by Imperial Japanese forces starting in June 1942. The following year, the Allied forces recaptured one of the islands, Attu, in May 1943. Two months later, the

Japanese military evacuated the other island, Kiska, leaving the Aleutian chain under American control.

KODIAK ISLAND



During World War II, Kodiak Island hosted a forward operating base in defense of Alaska. The island served as an important logistics center for the deployment of aircraft during the Aleutian Islands campaign. Although the Coast Guard assumed control of the base in 1972, the

Navy operates a special warfare center on the island specializing in advanced cold-weather training.

DID YOU KNOW?



On March 27, 1964, a 9.2-magnitude earthquake rocked southern Alaska. As part of the joint military response, the U.S. Navy provided prompt delivery of emergency supplies and crucial equipment to the affected areas. Despite damage to the local facility, Naval Station Kodiak became a haven for evacuees, providing heat and serving meals.



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