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Marine Corp. **Jason Dunham** gave his life to save others. In April 2004, he threw his own body over a live grenade on a



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sustained massive injuries and died eight days later.

The military paid tribute posthumously to his selfless and heroic act with the Medal of Honor. But his legacy will live on in another way: The U.S. Navy has named its newest guided-missile destroyer after him. The U.S.S. Jason Dunham will be commissioned at Port Everglades on Nov. 13, highlighting 10 days of community activities surrounding the destroyer's entry into the U.S. fleet.

A cruise along the Intracoastal Waterway for 80 people aboard the Sun Dream yacht Caprice kicked off fundraising for the commissioning. The committee's goal is \$200,000; approximately \$60,000 has already been received.

battlefield in Iraq, saving the lives of two of his fellow Marines.

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Among the guests were Jason's mother, **Deb Dunham**, and his sister, **Katie**, as well as Capt. **Scott Sciretta**, commanding officer of the U.S.S. Jason Dunham, and his wife, **Sharon**. Also aboard were **Bob Brantmeyer**, owner of Sun Dream Yachts, and his wife, **Anne**; **Marta Larrea** of Capital Grill in Fort Lauderdale, host of a dinner party the previous night for Capt. Sciretta; and **Shawn Farrell** of Pier 66, host of a party planned for Nov. 10, which would have been Jason's birthday.

While the reason for the cruise was serious, the party itself was a happy occasion. Guests munched passed hors d'oeuvres as the boat began its journey along the waterway, and later filled plates at a buffet before sitting down to supper in the dining room.

Chuck Black, former president of the Fort Lauderdale Council of the Navy League, is chair of the commissioning committee. For information about donations, contact him at 954-547-8858. **Jo Anne Lewis** is co-chair of social activities surrounding the commissioning, and her husband, **Oren**, is special events chair.



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Sharon and Capt. Scott Sciretta, Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. Jason Dunham; Jo Anne Lewis, social co-chair; Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler; Deb Dunham, mother of Jason Dunham; and Chuck Black, chair of the commissioning committee, at the fundraising kickoff party for the U.S.S. Jason Dunham commissioning.



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Anne and Bob Brantmeyer aboard the Caprice for the U.S.S. Jason Dunham kickoff.



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Connie and George LeVasser, KayeLynne Northcutt, Rita Gretina, Joann Black, and Mary and Richar Kazares at the fundraising kickoff for the U.S.S. Jason Dunham commissioning.



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Shawn Farrell of Pier 66; Oren Lewis, special events chair for the commissioning of the U.S.S. Jason Dunham; Marta Larrea of the Capital Grill; Michael Larrea; and William Stanton of LXR Resorts.