

# THE USS GEARING DD 710

The USS GEARING (DD-710) was one of the best known ship's in the U.S. Navy. She was one of the first (the leader, as her Latin motto "DUX" implies) of what was to become know as the Gearing class Destroyers, svelte product of late World War II Naval architecture and technology designed for a longer cruising rang and considerably more accurate firepower than war-vintage predecessors.

The keel was quietly laid on 10 August 1944, and working with a speed which may never again be witnessed in a shipyard, The Federal Shipbuilding and Dry dock Company sent the Gearing down the ways at Port Newark, New Jersey on 18 February 1945 in a total of just 192 days.

## THE CHRISTENING AND LAUNCH CEREMONY

February 18, 1945

The U.S.S. Gearing was sponsored by Mrs. Charlotte Gearing Foley the daughter of the late commander Henry Chalfant Gearing Sr.



Mrs. Charlotte Gearing Foley Christening the USS Gearing

The tradition of the christening ceremony for seagoing vessels dates back to the dawn of recorded history. The custom has survived through the ages and today is practiced in some form, by all seafaring nations. Ships of the United States Navy were originally christened by men, a custom which continued through the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1846 the tradition changed when Mrs. Latvivia Watson Fanning became the first woman to sponsor a ship. Since then christenings of Naval ships have been carried out by women.



The USS Gearing Launch February 18, 1945 at Port Newark, New Jersey



The USS Gearing sent down the ways



The USS Gearing fitting out