



COMMANDING OFFICER LEE S. GURKE COMMANDER, USN

Commander Gurke is a native of Bismarck, North Dakota. He graduated from Bismarck Junior College in 1966 and enlisted in the Navy. After recruit training he attended Electronics Technician "A" School at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

His first assignment was as an Electronics Technician onboard the **USS GURKE (DD-783)**, a destroyer named after his uncle, Henry Gurke, a World War II Medal of Honor Recipient. While on the **GURKE**, he was selected to participate in the Navy Enlisted Scientific Education Program (NESEP).

He subsequently attended NESEP preparatory school at NTC San Diego and then was ordered to the University of Kansas as a student. In 1971 he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Physics and was commissioned an Ensign. He subsequently attended Nuclear Power School at Bainbridge, Maryland, and the Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit at Ballston Spa, New York; graduating in 1972.

His next assignment was as the Auxiliaries Officer and later the Reactor Training Assistant in **USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65)**. In 1976 he served briefly as the Assistant Weapons Officer in the **USS DOWNES (FF-1070)** before reporting to the staff of the Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet as the Assistant for Nuclear Ship Maintenance and a member of the joint COMNAVSURFP AC/COMNAVAIRPAC Nuclear Propulsion Mobile Training Team.

While on the NAVAIRPAC Staff he earned a Master of Science degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California.

In 1978 he attended the U.S. Naval Destroyer School, subsequently reporting to the **USS LONG BEACH (CGN-9)** as the Electrical Officer. Following this tour he served as the Operations Officer in **USS FOX (CG-33)**. In 1983 he returned to the **USS ENTERPRISE** as the Chief Engineer.

In 1986 he reported to the Office of the Chief Naval Operations assigned to the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Surface Warfare) as the Surface Warfare Plans and Requirements Officer.

Commander Gurke's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), the Navy Commendation Medal and the Enlisted Good Conduct Medal.

He is married to the former Sharon McCue of Island Park, NY, who is also a Navy Commander. The Gurkes have two daughters, Marion and Leigh.