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The USS Fort Worth & Women's Leadership

By D. A. Sharpe

Contemporary Fort Worth has shown that its people revere and respect leadership of strong and visionary women! Kay Granger led the way in winning the office of Mayor in May 1991, serving through 1995! She was elected Congressional Representative in 1996, succeeding long-term Congressman Pete Geren (1989 – 1997). Mayor Betsy Price has been at the Fort Worth helm since 2011!



**USS FORT WORTH
Women in Leadership Breakfast**



**Congresswoman Kay Granger, Ship Sponsor
Cdr. Michel Falzone, Captain of the USS Fort Worth
Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price
Moderated by Nancy Jones**

Monday, April 10, 2017, 8-10 am, Blue Mesa Grill, 612 Carroll St, 2nd Floor



That tradition of women in leadership was endorsed further this April 10th with the USS Fort Worth Support Committee's "Women in Leadership" event at Fort Worth's Blue Mesa Grill, honoring Commander Michel Falzone, the first female Captain given the helm of the USS Fort Worth, done in November 2016! Being a career military

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family child, born in North Carolina, Commander Falzone graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.

Commander Falzone was commissioned in the United States Navy in 1999. She became a qualified nuclear engineer. Beside several commendations of merit for service, she was identified as the 2002 Nuclear Engineer of the year in the USN.

The host sponsors were Mayor Price and Congresswoman Granger. An elite and adoringly supportive gathering of some 100 people were present to acknowledge this milestone in Naval leadership. USS Fort Worth Support Committee Executive Director, Kristen Harford, organized and promoted this significant occasion.

Dr. Nancy Jones, Principal Officer of the North Texas Community Foundation, moderated the panel of three women leaders, Commander Falzone, Congresswoman Granger, and Mayor Price. Each woman cited backgrounds about their entrance into public service and the uniqueness for each about being women competing in a world of aggressive leaders.

It was reported that all the ships in the U.S. Navy named after a city do have citizen public support committees. However, the USS Fort Worth Support Committee has become known as the most active and effective of these Naval Ship Committees currently! Today's Navy has about 325,000 personnel, one sixth of which are female. The first female Navy combat ship captain was CDR Maureen Farren in 1998.



(L to R): Cheryl & Bobby Armstrong, D.A. & Suzanne Sharpe, Congresswoman Kay Granger, Executive Pastor Gene Bailey, Commander Michel Falzone, Teri Lynn Bailey, and Senior Pastors Terri & George Pearsons. All of the pastor couples were our guests and are from our home church, Eagle Mountain International Church, Fort Worth, TX

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Granger's leadership role as Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee of the U.S. Congress enabled her to accomplish the honoring of Fort Worth, the 16th largest population city in the United States, by naming a newly modern combat Navy ship after our city. Fort Worth's own Gordon R. England, a TCU graduate with an engineering Master's Degree, served as the 25th U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense under Presidents Bush and Obama. He played a key role in the development of the USS Fort Worth, working with Representative Granger, and was present with us at the ship's 2010 Christening in Marinette, Wisconsin and her Commissioning in Galveston.

The USS Fort Worth is a Freedom-class littoral combat ship of the United States Navy, build by Lockheed-Martin. Currently, the USS Fort Worth is the fastest combat Navy ship capable of a 40-knot speed (46 mph). She already has had extensive assignments in the Asia-Pacific region, and is slated for missions around the Korean peninsula. Her home depot is San Diego, California.



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Dr. Nancy Jones, CMD Michel Falzone, Congresswoman Kay Granger, Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price and Wise County's D. A. Sharpe.



Commander Michel Falzone was presented a Long Horn Steer's Horns on behalf of the USS Fort Worth Support Group and its sponsors, Mayor Betsy Price and Congresswoman Granger.

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Congresswoman Granger and Commander Michel Falzone are shown here with Wise County's D. A. & Suzanne Sharpe and their guests, Pastors George & Terri Pearsons, Pastor Gene and Teri Lynn Bailey and Pastor Bobby Armstrong and Cheryl.