

LENAH SUTCLIFFE-HIGBEE (DDG-123)

As we say goodbye to 2023  
Onboard Lenah Sutcliffe-Higbee  
We take time to reflect on months passed  
While fresh in mind the memories last.

In 2017 her keel was laid  
Arleigh Burke-Class, and Ingalls made  
Though not the first ship to bear this name  
We wear it with pride, knowing whence it came.

She joined the nurse corps, one of the "Sacred Twenty"  
Of her accolades, that was one amongst many  
She was superintendent during the "the Great War"  
And earned the Navy Cross, no woman had before.

So with this in mind, and filled with esprit  
The crew all went down to Mississippi  
After passing inspections, and completing all preps  
We departed the Gulf after a mast step.

In the city of Key West, she was commissioned  
Two years and month after she was christened  
The ceremony was splendid and filled the crowd with delight  
And ended with the command "bring this ship to life"!

Post that brief stop, it was full speed ahead  
With thought of the west coast filling our heads  
Through the Panama Canal, the ship made its way  
Up to her new home San Diego, CA.

Cheers to the new year of 2024  
When DDG-123 will shine brighter than before  
After all this, my poem finally ends  
Bellatrix illa! Stay frosty! Get wins!