

PRESIDENT'S REPORT SHIP EVENTS

May 2018 – April 2019

CINCINNATI (LCS 20)

A new Independence class littoral combat ship was christened on May 5, 2018 in Mobile, Alabama. CINCINNATI (LCS 20) was named and duly christened by The Honorable Penny Pritzker, former Secretary of Commerce, at a ceremony at Austal USA. This high speed, agile, shallow draft, focused mission surface combatant will conduct surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare and marine countermeasure missions in the littoral region. She is the fifth boat to carry the name Cincinnati, being preceded by an ironclad, 2 cruisers and a submarine.

Prior to the christening the mast of Cincinnati was stepped and a box containing sentimental and symbolic objects was welded to the ship. Among other items placed in the box were a letter from the mayor of Cincinnati, a key to the city, a history of the previous Cincinnati's and, contributed by Secretary Pritzker, a photo of her father who served in the Navy and a coin from her time at Commerce.

RADM John Neagley, Program Executive Officer for unmanned and small combatants spoke at the ceremony as well as Mr. David Mann, a Navy veteran and council member from Cincinnati. The ceremony was attended by crew members, Navy officials, shipyard officials, civic leaders, community members and Austal employees. Secretary Pritzker broke the bottle on the first, mighty swing and then joined Commander Jim Davenport, the prospective CO on a tour of her ship.

Contributed by Ellen Roughead

USS MANCHESTER (LCS 14)

The weather in Portsmouth, New Hampshire on May 26, 2018 was an unseasonably warm 83 degrees on that Memorial Day weekend. The crowd was overflowing on the pier as the Navy welcomed USS MANCHESTER, LCS 14, into the fleet. It was a truly special day – the ship was decked out and the city welcomed the officers and crew with a warm New Hampshire welcome. It was a rare day in Naval history – there were six women speakers out of the 11 including Senator Shaheen (D-NH) the noted ship sponsor, Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Rep Ann McLane Kuster (D-NH), Mayor Joyce Craig (Manchester), Allison Stiller (Secretary of the Navy representative), and Commander Emily Bassett, the ship's Commanding Officer. Admiral Bill Moran, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, served as principal speaker (10th in the line-up of 11) and he started his remarks by inviting the crowd to stand and stretch their legs while the Public Address folks blared "Sweet Caroline" – you could quickly tell the Red Sox fans from the Yankee fans in the audience. Commander Bassett, the final speaker, gave enthusiastic remarks and is a true inspiration to her crew.

Contributed by Allison Stiller

USS INDIANA (SSN 789)

Oh! Little compares to the excitement generated as a new ship becomes part of the United States Navy. Giving the time honored command, "Man our ship and bring her to life!", Diane Donald welcomed the crew of USS INDIANA (SSN 789) to man the rails. They did and then all the bells and whistles rang out. Built in Newport News by General Dynamics Electric Boat and Huntington Ingalls Industries Newport News Shipbuilding, Indiana (SSN 789) was commissioned in Port Canaveral, Florida on September 29, 2018. U.S. Representative from Indiana, Jim Banks, gave the keynote address. Admiral Kirk Donald, USN retired, was an honored guest.

This state of the art submarine is preceded by two heavy battleships with the same name. One served beginning in 1895 and then intermittently until 1919. The second USS Indiana (BB 58) was launched in 1941 just before Pearl Harbor, commissioned in 1942 and deployed to serve during WWII. Fourteen USS Indiana (BB58) Sailors attended the commissioning of USS Indiana (SSN 798). Two of the 14 were plank owners...part of the first crew when she was commissioned in Newport News Shipyard! In addition to having special features to support Special Forces, USS Indiana (SSN 789) "utilizes an advanced periscope called a photonics mast. The mast contains a camera that allows many tactical advantages when submerged. Indiana is one of the first boats to use a new and improved joystick controller to maneuver this mast rather than the traditional periscope hydraulic column. This frees up space in the control room and allows multiple individuals to see what the scope sees."

Sponsor, Diane Donald, was a submariner wife for 37 years. She will know, first hand, the trials and rewards facing crew and families of Indiana. She has always been involved in quality of life issues for Sailors and families and was especially prominent in the Dolphin Scholarship program which funds and awards college scholarships for children of submariners. The galley onboard USS Indiana (SSN 789) is known as the Brickyard Bistro referring to the Indy 500 venue and Sailors are called Hoosiers. "Hooyah Hoosier" is a common greeting and "Indiana strong, Hoosier Proud, Hooyah Hoosiers!" is their official chant. Hooyah Hoosiers!

Contributed by Ellen Roughead

KANSAS CITY (LCS 22)

The second ship to be named after Missouri's largest city was christened in the Austal USA assembly bay in Mobile, Alabama on September 22, 2018. Kansas City (LCS 22), the 11th Independence Class littoral combat ship and the 22nd of 33 littoral combat ships to be built, follows the legacy of a replenishment ship that served in Vietnam and Desert Storm. The Kansas City (LCS 22) is a high speed, agile, shallow draft, focused mission surface combatant.

Christening the ship with sparkling wine, Mrs. Tracy Davidson took a stance and gave a mighty swing wishing God's blessing on the ship and "all who sail in her". The breaking of the bottle was met with a roar from the crowd and the sound of horns. Mrs. Davidson is a native of Missouri, as is her husband. She has long been involved in and led Navy educational and family initiatives. She lives on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The dais included numerous local and national representatives. Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver gave the keynote address. He noted, "Brave men and women will utilize this

ship, that bears our city's great name, to continue to protect our freedom." Joining Congressman Cleaver on the dais were Austal USA president, Craig Perciavalle, RADM John Neagley and ADM Phil Davidson, husband of Mrs. Davidson and commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command.

Most littoral Combat Ships have been named for inland cities. Kansas City was named by Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus who emphasized and celebrated the "long tradition and strong connection between the people of Kansas City and our Navy." The crew of 40 will make the ship's motto, "United we stand, divided we fall" come to life with their team work and dedication.

Contributed by Ellen Roughead

FRANK E. PETERSEN (DDG 121)

There was a grand celebration in Pascagoula on October 6, 2018, when the christening of FRANK E. PETERSEN (DDG 121) brought together shipbuilders, Navy, community, crew and sponsors. Lieutenant General Frank E. Petersen, the first African American Marine aviator and first African American selected for Brigadier General, was honored by the ship's sponsors as they, in perfect unison, smashed their bottles on the bow of this guided missile destroyer. Dr. Alicia Petersen, the namesake's widow and Mrs. D'Arcy Neller, wife of the Marine Commandant were co-sponsors. Frank E. Petersen (DDG 121) is the 71st Arleigh Burke class destroyer and the 33rd built at Ingalls Shipbuilding.

Mrs. Neller has been a Marine Corps wife for more than 40 years and has always been concerned for the welfare of Marines and their families. That concern has propelled her to volunteer and, in her words, "pay it forward" in every duty station at home and abroad. She has said, "You can't wait for the community to embrace you, you have to whole heartedly embrace it!". The Marine Corps and Marine families have benefitted from this activism.

Dr. Petersen is a native of Philadelphia and has had a wide and varied career encompassing urban planning and economic development and teaching Political Science on a university level. As a Marine wife, she volunteered for numerous Marine and military related charities plus the League of Women Voters and the American Cancer Society. She has mentored underprivileged young women. Speaking at the christening, Dr. Petersen remarked on the "love and friendship that we have felt by everyone" in Pascagoula and that it was, "contagious."

The principal speaker was General Al Gray, 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps. He was joined on stage by General Robert Neller, current Commandant and Brian Cuccias, Ingalls Shipbuilding president. Summing up, Mr. Cuccias reminded everyone of the one goal of shipbuilding: "to protect brave Americans who defend our freedom." FRANK E. PETERSEN (DDG 121) will be critical in that role.

VERMONT (SSN 792)

The future USS VERMONT is the third U.S. Navy ship to bear the name of the "Green Mountain State." The first was a 74-gun warship authorized by Congress in 1816 but not launched until 1848. She saw service as a store and receiving ship in the Civil War and was

decommissioned in 1901. The second VERMONT (Battleship No. 20) was commissioned in 1907. As a member of 'Great White Fleet', she conducted a world cruise during the Theodore Roosevelt's administration. During World War I, she served as an engineering training ship and, after being converted, carried out her final missions as a troop transport. She was decommissioned in 1920.

On Saturday, October 20, 2019, at the shipyard of General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, CT, the newest VERMONT was waiting to be christened by her sponsor, Ms. Gloria Valdez. Ms. Valdez is uniquely suited to sponsor the technological marvel that is a U.S. Navy Virginia-class attack submarine, having just retired as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Ships – overseeing naval shipbuilding programs. Making remarks before the actual christening, she said "To the exceptional shipbuilders, the many trades and specialized artisans, thank you for building this incredible submarine for our nation and bringing this critical capability to our fleet. Remember that each of you is forever a part of VERMONT's history."

Others offering remarks were; The Hon. Joe Courtney - U.S. Representative, Connecticut-2nd District, The Hon. Peter Welch – U.S. Representative – Vermont, at-large District, The Hon. Jim Langevin – U.S. Representative, Rhode Island, 2nd District, The Hon. Richard Blumenthal - U.S. Senator, Connecticut, The Hon. Daniel Malloy, Governor of the State of Connecticut, VADM Charles A Richard, USN – Commander, Submarine Forces, and Ms. Allison F. Stiller – Principal Civilian Deputy, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition).

The Principal Address was given by The Hon. Phil Scott – Governor, the State of Vermont who recounted how, "since the Revolution, Vermonters have always answered our nation's call to protect and preserve American ideals and defend liberty around the globe." He told of the many lakes and rivers in the state and how important they have been throughout our nation's history and how Vermonters had had to navigate, do battle and defend the state's waters in the past. Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys, Fort Ticonderoga and the naval battles on Lake Champlain all came to mind. Moving to the present Governor Scott related, "Then there's Albert Perry, who would leave his home state of Vermont in 1952 and rise to become a Navy Captain, commanding the USS Spadefish, a Nuclear attack submarine. Altogether, the Perry family combined has over 120 years of naval service between them, including service on 17 submarines, 4 aircraft carriers, a cruiser and a destroyer. Captain Perry now has three grandsons serving on Active Duty and one granddaughter-in-law." It was an awesome moment when Governor Scott called upon CAPT Albert Perry, USN (Ret.) to stand and be recognized with the crowd erupting in sustained applause.

Then it was time for Ms. Valdez to christen the boat and with one strong swing of the heavy bottle she did so, breaking the bottle against the strike-plate and sending a voluminous spray of foamy bubbles over the boat and anyone standing nearby. This latest VERMONT was now ready to take her place in the U.S. Navy's and the state of Vermont's entwined histories.

Contributed by Linda Winter

USNS PUERTO RICO

November 10, 2018 saw the christening of USNS PUERTO RICO (EPF 11) at the Austal Shipyard in Mobile, Alabama. The Spearhead-class ship is an Expeditionary Fast Transport and is part of the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command. The vessel is 'designed to operate in shallow ports or waterways, increasing operational flexibility for a wide range of operations including maneuver and sustainment, relief operations in small or damaged ports, flexible logistics support, or as rapid transport. The versatility of the Spearhead-class is impressive!

Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court is PUERTO RICO's sponsor and, in the time-honored tradition, broke a bottle of sparkling wine over the catamaran's hull, giving the ship her rightful name and bathing her in foamy bubbles.

Although there have been other U.S. Navy ships with names alluding to the island, including the active USS SAN JUAN (SSN 751), USNS PUERTO RICO is the first to carry the name of the West Indies island. U.S. Representative, Puerto Rico, The Honorable Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon gave the Principal Address from the dais saying, "The USNS PUERTO RICO will be named after our beloved island, a land of people who have shown over and over again that we can cope with difficult trials and get ahead. A land of U.S. citizens who have proudly responded to the call of the nation to duty in the Armed Forces and the Merchant Navy for more than a century."

Other dignitaries making remarks to welcome the ship into the MSC were; RADM Robert T. Clark, USN - Deputy Commander, Military Sealift Command, Mr. Frederick J. Stefany III - Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Ships, and VADM Dixon R. Smith USN – Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics.

Contributed by Linda Winter

USS SIOUX CITY (LCS 11)

It was a blustery fall day in Annapolis, MD on November 17, 2018 , perfect for football – there was a game at the U.S. Naval Academy – but a bit chilly for the crowd assembled near the waters of the Severn River to watch the commissioning of USS SIOUX CITY (LCS 15). This Freedom-variant littoral combat ship is the first naval ship to be named after the fourth-largest city in Iowa and many of her citizens had traveled across the country to be present. The night before had seen the Commissioning Committee put on 'A Taste of Sioux City' in the Academy's old field house and now gathering place, Dahlgren Hall. If USS SIOUX CITY could not come to land-locked Sioux City well then, Sioux City would bring some of her tastiest and favorite foods to the festivities in Annapolis. It was obvious that the support these Iowans are prepared to extend to the officers and crew of 'their' ship is both wide and deep and that deep connections had clearly already been forged between the navy's newest ship and her namesake city.

U.S. Senator, State of Iowa, the Honorable Joni Ernst gave the Principal Address at the ceremony and, with Under Secretary of the Navy, Thomas Modly and Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) ADM John Richardson in attendance, spoke directly to them saying, "I've enjoyed working with both of you to strengthen our Navy's ability to project power on the seas and protect our wonderful homeland. I look forward to continuing this work as we rebuild the American military."

ADM Richardson in remarks about commissioning a ship at the United States Naval Academy said that “This place breeds toughness.” adding that Iowa also showed toughness in increasing its productivity by forty percent since 2007. Linking the Navy to this farm state’s business Richardson pointed out that “This increase in productivity was fueled by the ability to safely, securely, and reliably ship those goods over sea lines of communication to markets around the world. Iowans and all Americans depend on the security and the system of rules and order that promotes a free flow of goods across the world’s oceans so that all people can prosper. That is why your Navy is operating around the world, around the clock.”

Mrs. Mary Winnefeld, wife of ADM James ‘Sandy’ Winnefeld, USN, (Ret.) and sponsor of the ship, stepped up to give the order to ‘Man Our Ship and Bring Her To Life’ and the officers and crew of USS SIOUX CITY (LCS 15) sprinted onto their ship to the cheers of the crowd – ready to bring her into the United States’ Navy fleet at last.

Contributed by Linda Winter

USS THOMS HUDNER (DDG 116)

Then Lt. (J.G.) Thomas J. Hudner, Jr. was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions of December 4th, 1950, when he attempted to rescue his friend and fellow aviator, Ensign Jesse Brown (the first African American carrier fighter pilot) after Jesse’s corsair was disabled and crashed due to enemy fire at the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. Tom and the other pilots circled around the downed pilot’s position and noted that Jesse was still alive. Lt. Hudner crash landed his own plane, sustaining injuries of his own, but went on to help Jesse, who was still trapped in the burning fuselage. Unable to free his friend from the wreckage, Tom used packed snow to try to keep the flames away, radioed other airborne planes, requesting a helicopter be dispatched with an ax and fire extinguisher, and remained on the spot, despite continuing danger from enemy action. Lt. Hudner, then with the help of a rescue pilot, renewed a desperate, but unavailing battle against time, cold, and flames. From the Medal of Honor Citation “Lt. (J.G.) Hudner’s exceptionally valiant action and selfless devotion to a shipmate sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.”

On December 1, 2018, a huge crowd thronged to the cruise terminal on the Boston Harbor waterfront to watch as the navy’s newest destroyer, USS THOMAS HUDNER (DDG 116), was commissioned into the United States Navy. Years before, in 1973, the frigate USS JESSE L. BROWN (FF 1089) had been brought into the fleet and now, USS HUDNER would forever link the two friends and their story in U.S. Naval vessel history.

Present that day to honor the late Thomas Hudner and speaking from the platform were; The Hon. Stephen Lynch - U.S. Rep, Massachusetts’ 8th District, The Honorable Richard V. Spencer – Secretary of the Navy, General Joseph Dunford, USMC – Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, ADM William Moran, USN – Vice Chief of Naval Operations, and Thomas Hudner III – son of CAPT and Mrs. Thomas Hudner, Jr. The Principal Address was given by Charlie Baker, Governor of the State of Massachusetts. Governor Baker’s remarks underlined what it was about Thomas Hudner that made so many of his friends and fellow citizens love and appreciate him and why so many were there that December day, saying “Simply put, life was never about Thomas Hudner, he was the consummate team player. The only way a person would know anything about what took place on that mountain top during the Korean War would have been

to hear from someone else or to have read about it because he never talked about that day. It is my fervent hope that this ship is imbued with the humility, selflessness, patriotism, the commitment to one another, the kindness and decency that transcends our differences that made Tom so special.”

Ship’s sponsors Mrs. Barbara Miller and Mrs. Georgea Hudner together gave the order to ‘Man Our Ship and Bring Her to Life’ and the officers and crew of USS THOMAS HUDNER did just that, running on board to the cheers of the crowd and the strains of ‘Anchors Aweigh’. USS THOMAS HUDNER’s motto is *ABOVE ALL OTHERS* surely a goal for which to strive and a testament to her namesake.

Contributed by Linda Winter

ST. LOUIS (LCS 19)

The Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) is a fast, maneuverable and networked surface combatant that provides the required warfighting capabilities and operational flexibility to execute focused missions including mine warfare, anti-submarine warfare and surface warfare. The Freedom-variant is a steel monohull built in Marinette, WI by Fincantieri Marinette Marine. On December 15, 2018, following a long navy tradition, Mrs. Barbara Broadhurst Taylor broke a bottle of sparkling wine on the bow of the ship and christened her USS ST. LOUIS. The latest of U.S. Navy ships bearing that name, this ST.LOUIS becomes the seventh ship to honor the *Gateway* city. The first ST. LOUIS was a sloop of war launched in 1828, followed by an ironclad gunboat commissioned in 1862, a troop transport commissioned in 1898, a protected cruiser commissioned in 1906, a light cruiser commissioned in 1939, and a Charleston-class amphibious cargo ship that saw service from 1969 to 1991.

Barbara Taylor herself hails from St. Louis and has for many years been deeply involved in many of the city’s civic endeavors. She was ably supported in Marinette by her two daughters, Maid of Honor, Patricia Ann Taylor and Matron of Honor, Christine Taylor Broughton. Mrs. Taylor’s father, Lt. Gen Edwin B. Broadhurst served in the U.S. Airforce and was a highly decorated WWII pilot. Through her husband, Andrew C. Taylor, she has strong ties to the U.S. Navy, as well. Her father-in-law, the late Jack C. Taylor- founder of Enterprise Rent-a-Car, served in the U.S. Navy as an F6F Hellcat fighter pilot flying from the decks of the USS ENTERPRISE. He thought so highly of his experience in the navy that he named his new company after that ship.

A large contingent from St. Louis was present that December day to watch this newest ST. LOUIS be christened and launched into the Menominee River. These ships built at Marinette Marine do not slip gently into the river, but, are tilted over and allowed to slide - somewhat violently- sideways into the water. Standing on a high platform near the bow, the sponsor has a true ‘birds eye view’ of the proceedings and is advised by the shipyard to hold tight to the railing so as not to lose her balance as the huge ship in front of her seemingly keels over. None of this fazed Barbara Broadhurst Taylor and with one hard swing, the bottle was broken and the bubbly wine escaped to well and truly christen this latest USS ST. LOUIS.

Speaking from the platform that day were Mr. Joe DePietro, Vice President Lockheed Martin Integrated Warfare Systems and Sensors; Mr. Dario Deste President and CEO of Fincantieri Marine; RADM John Neagley, USN, PEO, Unmanned and Small Combatants; The

Hon. Lyda Krewson, Mayor of St. Louis; VADM William Lescher, USN, Dep. CNO for Integration Capabilities; and The Hon. Jack Bergman, U.S. Rep., Michigan's 1st District. The Principal Address was given by The Hon. Roy Blunt, U.S. Senator, Missouri.

Contributed by Linda Winter

DELAWARE (SSN 791)

Twenty three year Navy veteran and U.S. Senator from Delaware, Senator Tom Carper invoked favor over the ship and crew of Delaware (SSN 791) at her christening on October 20, 2018. He was joined on the stage at Huntington Ingalls Newport News Shipbuilding by Dr. Jill Biden, Delaware's sponsor, Delaware Governor Carney, Delaware Lt. Governor Hall-Long, Congressman from Virginia, Bobby Scott, Newport News president, Jennifer Boykin, Delaware's commanding officer, CDR Brian Hogan and Secretary of the Navy, Richard Spencer. Secretary Spencer noted, "Today's christening marks an important milestone in the life of the future USS Delaware, moving the submarine from a mere hull number to a boat with a name and spirit." That spirit is now and always will be instilled by her sponsor, Dr. Biden.

Named for our country's first state and following SIX previous ships with Delaware as their name, it took 10,000 shipbuilders from Newport News and General Dynamics Electric Boat to build the vessel's stern, bow, engine room, torpedo room, control room, pressure hull, crew's quarters and machinery spaces. Delaware is the 18th Virginia class submarine. The Virginia-class submarines can conduct anti-submarine warfare; anti-surface ship warfare; strike warfare; special operation forces support; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; irregular warfare and mine warfare missions.

Dr. Biden is a long time military and military family advocate. Both her father and her son served in the military. She works tirelessly for the Delaware Boots on the Ground and, in her role as wife of the Vice President of the U.S., she was intimate in the formation and continuation of Joining Forces...designed to engender community awareness and support for the military and military families. The Biden Foundation "strives to support our military community, including raising awareness about mental health and wellness, military spouse employment and military connected kids." Dr. Biden's speech was a tribute to the 136 Sailors in Delaware's crew and to every family supporting them.

Contributed by Ellen Roughead

USS WICHITA (LCS 13)

In Mayport, Florida, an advanced warship, the Keeper of the Seas, was commissioned with pomp and circumstance on January 12, 2019. USS Wichita (LCS 13) made her debut in the Atlantic Fleet with sponsor Kate Lehrer giving the call to, "Man our ship and bring her to life!". Named for the largest city in Kansas, this is the third USS Wichita to sail for our nation (following a heavy cruiser and an oiler). LCS 13 is a Freedom class variant of the Littoral Combat Ship. There are two variants, the Freedom class and the Independence class. The Freedom variant is a monohull whereas the Independence variant is a trimaran. Both are designed for close in, agile operations. Wichita will be homeported in Mayport, Florida.

Kansas senator Jerry Moran was the principle speaker at the festive ceremony connecting Wichita and its citizens with the crew of Wichita in his remarks, "Wichita represents people of strength, patriotism, and perseverance, and I am confident that the crew of the USS Wichita will share those same traits in the tasks and challenges that lie ahead."

The commissioning followed a "Big Splash" when Wichita was christened by Ms. Lehrer and launched in Marinette, Wisconsin on September 17, 2016. The launch is quite spectacular and can be viewed on the internet.

Contributed by Ellen Roughead

USS MICHAEL MONSOOR (DDG 1001)

Petty Officer Second Class (SEAL) Michael was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on September 29, 2006. On that day, as part of a sniper overwatch security position, he saved the lives of three other SEALs and eight Iraqi Army (IA) soldiers when he covered a grenade with his body even though, positioned next to an exit, he could have escaped. On a bright day in January in Coronado, California, the ship named for him was commissioned into the United States Navy. USS MICHAEL MONSOOR (DDG 1001) is the second ship in the Zumwalt class that comprises the most technologically advanced destroyers in the Navy's fleet. It is fitting that this magnificent ship carries the name of a true American hero.

Those offering remarks from the podium were; VADM Richard Brown, USN; Major General Ronald Clark, USA; VADM Timothy Szymanski, USN; VADM William Moran, USN; and The Honorable James Geurts, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Research, Development and Acquisition. The Principal Address was given by The Honorable Scott Peters, U.S. Representative, California's 52nd District. VADM Szymanski, Deputy Commander, United States Special Forces Command, said "When you man the rails today and you man your first watch stations at general quarters, you bring this ship to life in the spirit of Michael Monsoor with toughness, courage and love, and you will be the defenders. You will defend. Stay in the fight," Congressman Peters' speech centered on the words Petty Officer Monsoor wrote on the inside of his camouflage hat that he wore throughout his Basic Undersea Demolition School training "You Never Quit." He added that if you visit this magnificent new ship, you will see this hat – with those words, encased in glass, where it will stay for the lifetime of the ship. Though time and wear have faded the letters, "their significance and how Michael applied them to his life are as vivid and meaningful today as they were that day he wrote them many years ago as a reminder to persevere. The words 'you never quit' are also brandished prominently through the ship as if Michael himself is offering encouragement to every man and woman who sets sail upon her."

Sally Monsoor, Michael Monsoor's mother and sponsor of the ship spoke to those assembled, saying that she couldn't go without saying thank you for coming and "You came because you were following his story and you cared. Thank you to our military men and women, the best in the world, SEAL Team, you have our hearts." Mrs. Monsoor then gave the order to 'Man Our Ship and Bring Her to Life' and the officers and crew ran on board accompanied by former members of SEAL Team Three, who lined the gangway as if to protect the ship.

Commanding Officer, CAPT Scott Smith had the final words, praising his crew's dedication and skill and adding in closing, "In all the descriptions of Michael a constant theme emerges: He was a good dude. He was good, he affected the lives of those who served alongside him and though his example, he continues to affect history and will as long as this ship sails. This is what we give you today: the good ship Michael Monsoor." USS MICHAEL MONSOOR joined the United States Navy's fleet on January 26, 2019.

Contributed by Linda Winter

USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790)

On a bright, clear, cold morning in Groton, CT, the Navy's newest fast attack submarine, USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790) joined the fleet at Naval Submarine base New London with a crowd of well-wishers, including many from South Dakota, looking on. This USS SOUTH DAKOTA is the fourth United States Navy vessel to carry the name of the MT. Rushmore state. The first, USS SOUTH DAKOTA (ACR 9/CA 9) was a PENNSYLVANIA class armored cruiser that saw service in WWI. Interestingly, her name was changed to HURON to free up the SOUTH DAKOTA name for a new battleship class. However, that class, although already designed, was cancelled as a result of the Washington Naval Treaty. USS SOUTH DAKOTA (BB 57), the lead ship in her class, was commissioned in 1942 and saw extensive action in WWII. She is the most highly decorated battleship, earning thirteen battle stars. The USS SOUTH DAKOTA commissioned on February 2, 2019 is nothing like her predecessors, she is a stealthy fast attack submarine meant and, as her Commanding Officer, CMDR Craig Litty said from the dais, 'to be on scene and unseen, forward deployed and ready to take the fight to our adversaries and protect our shores here.' Speakers from the boat's namesake state included U.S. Senator, S.D., Mike Rounds, South Dakota Governor, Kristi Noem, and U.S. Representative, S.D., Dusty Johnson. Sen. Rounds told how 'Even though we South Dakotans live about as far away from the ocean as anyone can get, we are fiercely proud of the men and women who serve on this new submarine now and in the future, Just as we are still fiercely proud of those who served on the previous navy vessels named USS SOUTH DAKOTA.' Gov. Noem stated she was there to deliver a message to service members from the state, saying 'They are proud of you, grateful to you, remember their freedom, pray each day they are safe and always come home.' Rep. Johnson said that the boat is connected to South Dakotans three ways; as South Dakota's boat, as the United States' boat and because it personifies American values.

Ship's sponsor, Deanie Dempsey, wife of former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and now retired General Martin Dempsey, USA, gave the order to 'Man our ship and bring her to life' and the officers and crew of SSN 790 willingly complied. Mrs. Dempsey later related what the moment had meant to her and how privileged she is to be the ship's sponsor saying 'I've been here from the very beginning, watching both the boat and the crew grow and that gives me a tremendous sense of pride. When I said those words and the sailors responded "Aye, aye, Ma'am", it gave me goosebumps.'

Vice Admiral Chas Richard, Commander Submarine Forces, in his platform remarks had this to say about USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790) 'Traveling silently through the world's oceans undetected, collecting information, preparing for battle, and, if necessary, striking from the deep swiftly without warning; answering the nation's call. To the SOUTH DAKOTA crew, as your

motto attests, 'Under The Sea, We Rule', because the nation, the Navy, and the Mt. Rushmore state are depending on you.' Goosebumps indeed!

Contributed by Linda Winter

USS TULSA (LCS 16)

As principal speaker at the commissioning of USS Tulsa (LCS 1), Oklahoma Senator James Lankford gave a short, technical lesson regarding the Independence class littoral combat ship, saying, "this massive vessel does not have a traditional rudder or propeller and operates more like a catamaran and a jet ski with a high draft, sitting just 14 feet in the water." USS Tulsa is the second ship named for the Oklahoma City (the first was a gunboat that operated during World War II near Australia and the Philippines) and is designed to patrol coastlines. It was christened in Mobile in 2017.

The commissioning ceremony was held in San Francisco, CA on February 16, 2019. The ship and crew will be home ported in San Diego. Escorted by the Command Master Chief, the Honorable Kathy Taylor, former mayor of Tulsa, joined others on the dais as sponsor of the ship. She dedicated her address to Tulsans and Oklahomans and indicated that the ship and her city shared not only a name but also a spirit and a heritage. She gave credit to the citizens of Tulsa and Oklahoma and the crew of USS Tulsa indicating that the strength of the city, the state and the ship, "lies in the talent of the people." The Navy, Tulsa and Oklahoma were all well represented by municipal and state officials and officers associated with the LCS program, surface ships and the commander of the Pacific Fleet.

While introducing her family, Mrs. Taylor gave a special honor to her father who served as a Chief Signalman during World War II. With sincerity, she gave a stirring and inspirational promise from her family to remain steadfast in their support of USS TULSA (LCS 16). As the crew ran aboard to man the rails, she "high fived" every member as they passed her at the head of the brow.

Contributed by Ellen Roughead

USS Charleston (LCS 18)

Giving credit to the South Carolinians who are "dedicated to making sure America remains the safest nation on earth", Senator Tim Scott delivered the principal address at the commissioning of the latest of SIX ships to be named for Charleston, honoring the Naval and maritime heritage of the "holy city". On March 2, 2019, at Charleston's Columbus Street Terminal, USS Charleston (LCS 18) became part of the United States Navy. She will traverse the Panama Canal and be home ported in San Diego, becoming part of the Pacific Fleet. Her mission will include patrolling off South America and into the Pacific and Asia, specifically Singapore and the South China Sea. The trimaran was built in Mobile, Alabama by Austal USA.

Mrs. Charlotte Riley, wife of the long time mayor of Charleston, Joe Riley, gave the ultimate order to, "Man our ship and bring her to life!" in front of several thousand spectators and a multitude of Naval, city and state dignitaries including Secretary of the Navy, Richard Spencer, Admiral J. Foggo, U.S. Forces, Europe, Charleston Mayor Tecklenburg, Former Charleston Mayor, Joseph Riley, Commissioning Committee Chair and President of Charleston

Navy League, Capt. Patrick Keaveny and Commander C. Brusca, receiving a warm welcome as the commanding officer of USS Charleston (LCS 18). Besides introducing Mrs. Riley, Commander Brusca gave a stirring address emphasizing diversity and solidarity as the backbone of the ship.

March 2 was a patriotic, stirring and meaningful day for Charleston, South Carolina, the Navy and the United States of America. Welcome, USS Charleston!

Contributed by Ellen Roughead

USNS GUAM (T-HST-1)

HST equals High Speed Transport and the christening of USNS Guam (T-HST-1) brings a fast, flexible, maneuverable ship into service to transport troops and equipment—FAST. This former Hawaii super ferry was christened on April 27 in Okinawa, Japan by Bruni Bradley, 1984 graduate of the Naval Academy, 25 year veteran of the U. S. Navy and bold supporter of our military. USNS Guam belongs to the Military Sealift Command that controls replenishment and military transport ships of the Navy.

On the dais with Ms. Bradley was her husband, Admiral (ret) Harry Harris who is the U.S. Ambassador to South Korea; Guam representative, Michael San Nicholas; Lt. General Eric M. Smith, III Marine Expeditionary Force commander and RADM Robert Clark, depute commander of the Military Sealift Command. Admiral Harris was the principal speaker. Ambassador Harris stated, “Although most of the greatest generation are no longer with us, we can hear their stories of duty, honor and courage. Their spirits walk among us, and with us, and call out to us. Today, we’ve answered their call with an innovative ship, which serves as a reminder of their heroism and a tribute to a beautiful place called Guam, U.S.A,” said Harris. Lt. General Smith noted that Guam can be quickly re-configured for any requirement: from supporting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to transporting Marines and Sailors and equipment throughout the Indo Pacific theatre.

USNS Guam was preceded by three courageous ships named Guam: a patrol gunboat, a cruiser and an Iwo Jima class amphibious assault ship. She has been duly inaugurated by a veteran and a huge splash of sparkling wine.

Contributed by Ellen Roughead

LYNDON B. JOHNSON (DDG 1002)

The chilly April day dawned with the threat of more rain in the air, but as the christening of this third in the ZUMWALT class of destroyers drew closer, the skies brightened even as the breezy wind kept the watching crowd tightly bundled up. April 27, 2019 was a typical spring day at Bath Ironworks Shipyard in Bath, Maine.

USS LYNDON B. JOHNSON is named after the 36th President of the United States, Texan Lyndon Baines Johnson, who was also a Representative in the House, a Senator, a Minority and Majority Leader, and Vice President of the United States. Becoming President after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Johnson led the country through a period of mourning and uncertainty. He won reelection in 1964 and, using his legislative prowess, went on to get both a tax cut and a civil rights act passed that, so far, had been unsuccessfully

championed by Kennedy. This civil rights act became the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, considered the first effective civil rights law since the 1870's. President Johnson then turned his efforts towards his sweeping vision of a Great Society that would advance the fight against poverty, support the arts and humanities, champion urban renewal, environmental and conservation concerns, and provide the elderly with proper medical care through the 1965 Medicare Act. USS LYNDON B. JOHNSON's motto, *DEFENSOR EX SOCIETY MAGNA*, - Defender of the Great Society - appropriately reflects President Johnson's accomplishment and the ship's role in the protection of the United States and her citizens.

President Johnson's two daughters, Lynda Johnson Robb and Luci Baines Johnson are the sponsors of their father's ship and performed their duties admirably and with a great deal of panache. Mrs. Robb is married to former Virginia Governor and U.S. Senator Charles S. Robb and has three daughters and five grandchildren. Ms. Johnson's husband is Ian Turpin, co-founder along with her of a financial planning firm, and has four grown children, a stepson, and fourteen grandchildren. Both women have a long list of accomplishments after their names and continue to contribute their time and efforts to the benefit of their country and fellow citizens. The many family and friends who were present to witness the christening, also joined in with their own stories of 'LBJ', contributing to the warmth and good cheer surrounding the events.

Adding their remarks from the podium on Saturday were; The Honorable Susan Collins, U.S. Senator, Maine, The Honorable Angus King, U.S. Senator, Maine, The Honorable Chellie Pingree, U.S. Representative, Maine's First District, The Honorable Jared Golden, Maine's Second District, Mr. Frederick J. Stefany III, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ship Programs, and VADM Michael Moran, USN, Principal Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition.

As part of the Principal Address, Lynda Robb quoted John Quincy Adams' words calling America 'a well wisher of freedom for all' and added that this ship would go out not only as an American vessel concerned with the nation's self-defense, but also as a vessel in support of our alliances, such as NATO and in support of important ideas such as the 'idea of a community of free nations'. She emphasized how vital our defense pacts and alliances are in 'today's dangerous and unruly world.'

When it came time to christen the ship, the two sisters stood next to a large metal 'Texas star' that had been joined to the ship's rail for the occasion and, in perfect sync, broke their bottles against that star, sending twin showers of bubbles cascading over the now named USS Lyndon B. Johnson.

Contributed by Linda Winter