

Navy Announces Commissioning Date for Future USS Indianapolis



The future USS Indianapolis during acceptance trials in Lake Michigan on June 19. Lockheed Martin.

SAN DIEGO

– The U.S. Navy has approved the commissioning date for the future USS

Indianapolis (LCS 17), the commander of Naval Surface Forces announced July 17.

The littoral

combat ship will be commissioned Oct. 26 in Burns Harbor, Indiana. The

commissioning ceremony signifies the acceptance for service and the entrance of

a ship into the active fleet of the U.S. Navy.

Burns

Harbor is on the shores of Lake Michigan in northwest Indiana and is 160 miles

north of Indianapolis.

Jill

Donnelly, the wife of former Indiana Sen. Joe Donnelly, is the ship's sponsor.

As the sponsor, Donnelly leads the time-honored Navy tradition of giving the

order during the ceremony to “man our ship and bring her to life!” At that

moment, the commissioning pennant is hoisted and Indianapolis becomes a ship of

the fleet.

Cmdr.

Colin Kane, a Columbus, Ohio, native, is the ship's commanding officer.

"The

future USS Indianapolis honors more than a city; it pays tribute to the legacy

of those who served during the final days of World War II on board USS

Indianapolis," Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer said at the ship's

christening ceremony. "This ship will continue the proud legacy of service

embodied in the name Indianapolis and is a testament to the true partnership

between the Navy and industry."

LCS 17 is

the fourth ship to carry the name of Indiana's capital city.

The first

Indianapolis was a steamer built for the U.S. Shipping Board (USSB) and

commissioned directly into the Navy in 1918. After two runs to Europe, the ship

was returned to the USSB following World War I.

The saga

of the second Indianapolis (CA 35), a cruiser, and its crew is well documented

by the Naval History and Heritage Command. The loss of the ship was a tragic

moment following the completion of a secret mission that directly contributed

to the end of World War II.

After a

successful high-speed run to deliver atomic bomb components to Tinian, the

decorated Portland-class cruiser continued to Guam. Indianapolis was en route from Guam to Leyte when she was torpedoed and sunk by the Japanese submarine

I-58 on July 30, 1945. The ship's wreckage was located on Aug. 19, 2017.

Survivors of the cruiser met with the crew of the future Indianapolis earlier

this year to screen a documentary about the discovery of the lost ship.

The most

recent Indianapolis was a Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine, which was

commissioned Jan. 5, 1980, and served through the end of the Cold War before

being decommissioned in 1998.

The future Indianapolis

will be homeported in Naval Station Mayport, Florida, upon her commissioning.