# 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.