Navy to Christen Guided-Missile Destroyer Daniel Inouye



Irene Hirano Inouye (left) and Frank Wood, a Bath Iron Works welder, authenticate the keel of the future guided-missile destroyer USS Daniel Inouye last May. Inouye is the ship's sponsor and widow of the ship's namesake, Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye. The USS Daniel Inouye is set to be christened on June 22. U.S. Navy via General Dynamics

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S Navy will christen its newest Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, the future USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118), during a 10 a.m. ceremony June 22, in Bath, Maine, the Defense Department announced.

The future USS Daniel Inouye is named in honor of Daniel Inouye, who served as a United States senator for Hawaii from 1963 until his death in 2012.

Inouye received the Medal of Honor June 21, 2000, for his extraordinary heroism in action while serving with the 442nd Infantry Regiment Combat Team in Italy during World War II. During an assault on April 21, 1945, an exploding grenade shattered his right arm; despite the intense pain, he refused evacuation. He remained at the head of his platoon until they broke the enemy resistance and his men deployed in defensive positions, continuing to fight until the

regiment’s position was secured.

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii will deliver the christening ceremony’s principal address. Irene Hirano Inouye, the late senator’s wife, will serve as the ship’s sponsor. In a time-honored Navy tradition, Irene Inouye will christen the ship by breaking a bottle of sparkling wine across her bow.

“The future USS Daniel Inouye will serve for decades as a reminder of Senator Inouye’s service to our nation and his unwavering support of a strong Navy and Marine Corps team,” Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer said. “This ship honors not only his service but the service of our shipbuilders who help make ours the greatest Navy and Marine Corps team in the world.”

The future USS Daniel Inouye will be the 68th Arleigh Burke-class destroyer and is one of 21 ships under contract for the DDG 51 program. The ship is configured as a Flight IIA destroyer, which enables power projection and delivers quick reaction time, high firepower, and increased electronic countermeasures capability for anti-air warfare. The USS Daniel Inouye will be 509.5 feet long and 59 feet wide, with a displacement of 9,496 tons. She will be homeported in Pearl Harbor.