Navy to Christen Submarine New Jersey



USS Virginia, the first of the Virginia-class of fast-attack submarines, in 2004. The Navy will christen the newest Virginia-class submarine, the future USS New Jersey (SSN 796) on Saturday, Nov. 13. *GENERAL DYNAMICS ELECTRIC BOAT / Wikipedia*

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Navy will christen one of its newest Virginia-class fast-attack submarines, the future USS New Jersey (SSN 796), during an 11 a.m. EST ceremony Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021, at Huntington Ingalls Industries in Newport News, Virginia, the Defense Department said Nov. 12.

The principal speaker will be retired Adm. Michael Mullen, the 17th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the 28th chief

of naval operations. Frederick “Jay” Stefany, acting assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition and Vice Adm. Johnny Wolfe Jr., director, Strategic Systems Programs, will also deliver remarks. The submarine’s sponsor, Susan DiMarco Johnson, will christen the ship by breaking a bottle of sparkling wine across the bow in a time-honored Navy tradition.

“Shipbuilding has always played a key role in shaping the future of our national security,” said Mullen. “The impressive community of men and women involved in the construction of the future USS New Jersey should be extremely proud as they continue a legacy of extraordinary USS New Jersey ships and the future of our maritime security.”

The future USS New Jersey (SSN 796) is the third Navy vessel named in recognition of the state and is the 5th Block IV Virginia-class submarine to be built. The first USS New Jersey (Battleship No. 16) commissioned in 1906 and then sailed as part of the around-the-world cruise of the Great White Fleet. It spent most of its career in the Atlantic and West Indies, decommissioning in 1920.

The second USS New Jersey (BB 62) was commissioned in early 1943 before sailing for the Pacific. It served as a fast carrier escort and shore bombardment platform in the war against Japan, earning nine battle stars through the end of World War II. Although decommissioned in the post-war drawdown, it returned to service three more times over the next 45 years: once for the Korean War, once for Vietnam and again for service in the 1980s at the end of the Cold War. New Jersey now serves as a museum ship in Camden, New Jersey.

Virginia-class submarines are built to operate in the world’s littoral and deep waters while conducting antisubmarine warfare, anti surface ship warfare, strike warfare, special operations forces support, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, irregular warfare and mine warfare missions.

Their inherent stealth, endurance, mobility and firepower directly enable these submarines to support five of the six maritime strategy core capabilities: sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security and deterrence. Virginia-class submarines are replacing Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarines as they retire.