Navy to Commission Future Littoral Combat Ship Savannah



USS Independence (LCS-2), shown here at Naval Air Station Key West, Florida in 2010. The newest Independence-class littoral combat ship, the future USS Savannah, will be commissioned Feb. 5. *U.S. NAVY*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Navy will commission the future USS Savannah (LCS 28) as the newest Independence-variant littoral combat ship during a 10:00 a.m. EST ceremony Saturday, Feb. 5, in Brunswick, Georgia, the Defense Department said Feb. 4.

Remarks will be provided by Rep. Earl L. "Buddy" Carter, R-Georgia; Meredith Berger, performing the duties of the undersecretary of the Navy; Vice Adm. Carl Chebi, Commander, Naval Air Systems Command; Van Johnson, mayor of Savannah; Cosby Johnson, mayor of Brunswick; and Larry Ryder, vice

president of Business Development and External Affairs, Austal USA.

The ship's sponsor is Dianne Davison Isakson, wife of the late Johnny Isakson, former senator from Georgia. In a time-honored Navy tradition, Isakson, along with the matron of honor, her daughter Julie Isakson Mitchell, will give the first order to "man our ship and bring her to life."

"The city of Savannah, Georgia, has played an important role in our nation's naval history," said Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro. "I have no doubt the Sailors of USS Savannah will carry on the fighting spirit of this city and will play an important role in the defense of our nation and maritime freedom."

The LCS class consists of two variants, the Freedom and the Independence, designed and built by two industry teams. Lockheed Martin leads the Freedom variant team, or odd-numbered hulls, constructed in Marinette, Wisconsin. Austal USA leads the Independence variant team in Mobile, Alabama for LCS 2 and the subsequent even-numbered hulls.

Savannah is the 14th Independence variant LCS and the sixth ship to bear its name. USS Savannah will homeport at Naval Base San Diego, California.

The ceremony will be live streamed at: USS Savannah Commissioning. The link becomes active approximately 10 minutes prior to the event (9:50 a.m. EST).