

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

October 24, 2017

Fellow Hoosiers:


Indiana has long contributed its best and brightest to defend our rights and freedoms. Now, our great state has the honor of lending its name to a Virginia-class submarine, the third Navy vessel to bear the title *USS Indiana* since the BB-1 battleship was commissioned in 1895.

The BB-1 fought in the decisive battle of Santiago de Cuba where it helped secure victory for the United States during the Spanish-American War. The second *USS Indiana*, the BB-58, was awarded nine battle stars for her service during World War II, including one for the Battle of Iwo Jima. That these ships have borne the name Indiana is a testament to our state's historic commitment to the security and prosperity of the United States. The commissioning of the next *USS Indiana* will further enshrine this relationship and serve as a reminder of the many sacrifices made by Hoosier service members.

The future *USS Indiana*'s motto, "Silent Victors," encapsulates the hard work and dedication of not only the vessel's crew, but also the many thousands of Hoosier servicemembers and civilians who work every day to keep our country and communities safe.

I am honored by the opportunity to extend my support for the work of the Commissioning Committee and those who have contributed to this project. The *USS Indiana* will represent Hoosiers' service and sacrifice on behalf of this great nation, and I wish her crew the utmost success in their missions to come.

Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator