



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1403

Fellow Hoosiers,

Across Indiana, Hoosiers have been celebrating the United States Navy's decision to name the newest *Freedom*-class littoral combat ship USS *Indianapolis* (LCS 17). We are proud that this new ship will bear the name of Indiana's capital city when she joins the world's most powerful naval fleet.

As the latest ship to bear the name *Indianapolis*, this great ship and her crew will carry the responsibility of a historic legacy. Ships named *Indianapolis* served after World War I, during World War II, and the Cold War. USS *Indianapolis* (ID 3865) carried vital supplies as a cargo ship after World War I, and the submarine, USS *Indianapolis* (SSN 697), kept the watch during the Cold War. And Hoosiers remember the historic heavy cruiser, USS *Indianapolis* (CA 35), in which hundreds of men paid the ultimate price while protecting our nation in the Pacific during World War II. As USS *Indianapolis* (LCS 17) prepares to take the watch, I know she and her crew will uphold this historic legacy as a force for freedom around the world.

I am thankful for the crew of *Indianapolis*, the ship-builders, and the countless others who have worked for many months bring her to life. Their work is a tribute to American excellence and innovation. I am also grateful to the members of the USS *Indianapolis* Commissioning Committee for their dedication and commitment to educating and connecting Hoosiers with the crew of *Indianapolis*. The Commissioning Committee has represented our state well as they have worked tirelessly to bring crew members and Hoosiers together throughout our state, to tell the story of *Indianapolis*, and cultivate long-term relationships that will last for decades to come.

As a Navy Veteran, a Hoosier, and a member of the United States House Armed Services Committee, I offer my enthusiastic support for *Indianapolis* and all who sail in her for as long as she serves our nation. I am looking forward to the day when *Indianapolis* gets underway as the newest ship of the world's greatest Navy.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Banks".

Jim Banks
Member of Congress
Indiana's Third District