



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

January 9, 2018

Fellow Hoosiers,

Across Indiana, Hoosiers celebrated the news a few years ago, that America's sixteenth *Virginia*-class attack submarine would bear the name *Indiana*. And I was one of them. Like most Hoosiers, I am proud that this outstanding new vessel and her crew will carry the name of our state around the world as a forward projection of American liberty.

USS *Indiana* (SSN-789) follows a great Navy tradition of ships bearing the name *Indiana*. The two USS *Indiana* battleships BB-1 and BB-58, occupy an honored place in our nation's history, and I am confident that SSN-789 will serve with equal distinction.

I appreciate the hard work and commitment of *Indiana's* crew, the ship builders, and more than 100 Hoosier companies who are doing their important part to get her underway.

As we move closer to the day *Indiana* begins to stand the watch, I want to especially share my thanks to the USS *Indiana* Commissioning Committee for working to engage Hoosiers across the state with our namesake ship and her crew. The Commissioning Committee has worked tirelessly to bring crew members and Hoosiers together, and to organize a long-term relationship with our ship.

As a member of the United States House of Representatives Armed Services Committee and the House Veterans Affairs Committee, I offer my strongest support for USS *Indiana* and her crew, and I look forward to celebrate with all Hoosiers on the day she officially comes to life.

Sincerely,

Jim Banks
Member of Congress