

the Lugar Center

December 2017

Dear Fellow Hoosiers:

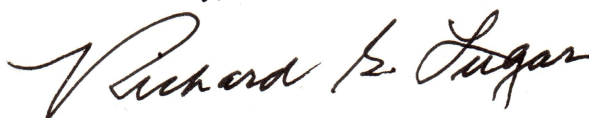
Indianapolis, the capital city of Indiana, has long been known as the “Crossroads of America.” Motor vehicles, rail cars, and aircraft have appreciated and utilized its central location in our country and its celebration of all those who have served our country as veterans of military service.

On three occasions, a ship in naval service has been named after Indianapolis, Indiana. I remember the third occasion, the launching of USS Indianapolis SSN 697 on July 30, 1977. Then Secretary of the Navy W. Graham Claytor, Jr. wrote a letter to the survivors of the USS Indianapolis CA 35 which was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine on July 30, 1945 in the closing days of World War II. Of the 1,196 men aboard CA 35, 880 gave their lives, the heaviest loss of life in a single vessel in the history of the United States Navy. Secretary Claytor noted that of the 316 men who survived the attack, 200 were still alive 32 years later for the launching of the new USS Indianapolis.

I join with the USS Indianapolis Commissioning Committee in encouraging Hoosiers to learn more of the history of the three ships bearing the name “Indianapolis” and to support the launching of the new ship in 2018. The new USS Indianapolis LCS 17, a *Freedom*-class littoral combat ship now being prepared for launch by Marinette Marine in its Marinette, Wisconsin shipyard, is counting on residents of Indianapolis and all Hoosiers to provide the support that the crew will need in its work in the United States Navy to ensure the security of all Americans.

For all Hoosiers, 2018 will provide some special days of celebration as well as an opportunity to commemorate, again, the lives of all who have served on the first three Indianapolis ships. I give thanks to the USS Indianapolis Commissioning Committee for keeping all of us who have served in the United States Navy in touch with this new opportunity to remember the first three USS Indianapolis naval vessels and to prepare to commend and support all who will extend our Hoosier naval history in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator (Ret.)