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April 4, 2019

To the Commissioning Committee of the USS Indianapolis (LCS 17),

I want to thank and congratulate the illustrious members of the Commissioning Committee of the USS Indianapolis for all their hard work and dedication in bringing this moment to fruition. From the 2013 Navy announcement of the name and throughout the years of construction started back in 2016, this vessel has been greatly anticipated by the State of Indiana. This was a massive effort undertaken by an elite team of Hoosiers culminating with the Commissioning of the USS Indianapolis (LCS 17).

Once given official orders, the Commanding Officer and crew are entrusted with maintaining the ship's readiness in peacetime and efficacy in conduct and engagement during wartime. As a former Navy reserve member, myself, this ship and its history hold special significance to me. Upon its commission, I know that the USS Indianapolis, named for the capital of our beloved Hoosier state, will serve as the new standard of Naval excellence.

The vision and commitment to the city of Indianapolis, by the Commissioning Committee should be recognized and commended. These men and women have committed themselves to cultivating a strong, continuous positive relationship between the city of Indianapolis, the crew of the USS Indianapolis and the United States Navy. Such honor and distinction are not earned lightly, nor maintained easily, underscoring the obligation all Hoosiers have to continue representing our values while honoring the century of excellence the USS Indianapolis has steadfastly maintained throughout her many incarnations.

As the Commissioning Committee carries on its work begun in 2013, I urge them to keep close to their hearts, the words of our magnificent Navy, *Semper Fortis*- Always Courageous!

Sincerely,



Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress

LB/AN