

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

© Stephen Decatur Chapter #4, U.S.C.S.

Richard F. Hoffner, USCS # H-4456, Chapter Cachet Director
415 Moyer Road, Souderton, PA 18964-2319

Phone: 215-721-8606

e-mail: pauscg@gmail.com

Mid-September 2011 Deposit Balance \$ _____

USS Iowa donation – Navy pressured to make a decision



Official pressure mounted over the weekend for the U.S. Navy to expedite its announcement on donating the USS Iowa. Expressing concerns about the timing of towing the battleship before the stormy winter months arrive, several House members have urged Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus to decide quickly which suitor will be home to the icon. Nonprofit groups in both Los Angeles and Vallejo have submitted applications that have been under review by the Navy for several months. U.S. Rep. Tom Latham, D-Iowa, mentioned in an Aug. 26 letter to Mabus that the Navy Ship Donation Office had made a formal recommendation to begin the process. But Mabus still must sign off on the recommendation - and there is no word on what the recommendation will be. Latham wrote to Mabus in his letter, also signed by Iowa Reps. Leonard Boswell, Steve King, Dave Loebsack, Bruce Braley and U.S. Sens. Charles Grassley and Tom Harkin. "If the USS Iowa cannot be moved before the winter months take hold, the battleship would silt and require the labor-intensive and costly act of dredging before towing to its final resting place can commence." Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad recently signed off on an appropriation committing \$3 million to the refurbishment of the ship, wherever it ends up. That apparently has been a key decision the Navy has been awaiting. The ship, now sitting with the Navy's ghost fleet in the shallow Suisun Bay in Northern California, needs to be towed out of storage during a high tide, which will occur at the end of September and again at the end of October. But the October time frame is

complicated because it is the beginning of the winter storm month, according to Robert Kent of the Iowa Class Preservation Association.



The window is close to closing to make the preferred September deadline, he said.

Editors note: At press time: From blog "Juice" Sept 18th by Josh Hafner After years of campaigning and review processes, the Navy last week decided to donate the Iowa to the Pacific Battleship Center. With that approval came \$3 million of seed money that state lawmakers in Iowa approved June 29, the next-to-last day of the legislative session, as part of a major appropriations bill including state salaries, tax credits and other expenses.

Navy Christens Joint High Speed Vessel USNS Spearhead T-JHSV 1



The Navy christened the joint high speed vessel (JHSV) Spearhead on Sept. 17, at 10 a.m. CDT in Mobile, Ala. Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama delivered the commissioning ceremony's principal address. Retired Army Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth Wahlman, served as the ship's sponsor. His daughter Catherine, a staff sergeant in the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps at Virginia Tech University,

will assist her father in the christening. The 338 foot-long aluminum catamaran is being constructed by Austal USA in Mobile, Ala. Spearhead and the nine other JHSVs under contract allow intra-theater transportation of troops, military vehicles, supplies and equipment. They are capable of transporting 600 short tons 1,200 nautical miles at an average speed of 35 knots and can operate in shallow-draft ports and waterways, providing U.S. forces added mobility and flexibility. Joint high speed vessels' aviation flight decks can support day and night air vehicle launch and recovery operations.

This platform can berth up to 146 personnel and provides airline-style seating for up to 312. Initially, four JHSV vessels were slated for the U.S. Army and four to the U.S. Navy. The first was to be USAS Spearhead but the project was switched to the Navy recently. The Army named the first vessel before the change, but the Navy can name the remainder of the vessels. Upon delivery to the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command (MSC), Spearhead will be designated as a United States naval ship.

Acquisition Update: Contract Awarded for Production of Fifth National Security Cutter

September 9, 2011 U.S. Coast Guard
Acquisition Directorate Newsroom

The U.S. Coast Guard today awarded a fixed-price incentive contract action valued at approximately \$482 million to Huntington Ingalls Industries for the production of the fifth National Security Cutter (NSC). "The contract award for production and delivery of the fifth NSC is an important step forward in the Coast Guard's efforts to recapitalize its aging surface fleet," said Rear Adm. Bruce Baffer, the Coast Guard Acquisition Directorate's program executive officer. "The NSC is desperately needed to replace the service's 40-year old High Endurance Cutters and to be able to perform today's challenging homeland security missions."

Editors Note: Cutter will be named
USS JAMES WMSL-754.