

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Late May 2013

Deposit Balance \$ _____

USS John Warner pictorial cancels - MIA

Back in February a request went in to our contact at the Newport News VA post office for a pictorial for the Keel Laying of the *USS JOHN WARNER* SSN-785 on March 16, 2013. A week later I had an email from the contact (the Postmasters secretary) that she was retiring in a few days. I was able to get the name of her replacement and just to be sure on the request, it was also sent to the new secretary.



Photo of Keel Authentication by
Huntingdon Industries

The event has come and gone and the pictorial did not show up in the Postal Bulletin. A call went in to Newport News and I was advised that there was also a new Postmaster, and that the request had been forwarded to another person. I am still attempting to reach this person to see what he did with the request. Perhaps nothing, but I am trying to see if anyone will accept responsibility with the request. A long email documenting the requests has also been sent asking that it be forwarded to both the postmaster and the manager of customer services in Newport News. Outcome: DC#4 finally provided a cancel.

Ingalls Awarded \$487 Million to Build USCG Cutter

MarineLink.com

Wednesday, May 01, 2013

Huntington Ingalls Industries announced today that the U.S. Coast Guard has awarded a \$487 million, fixed-price-incentive-fee contract to its Ingalls Shipbuilding division to build the sixth National Security Cutter, *Munro* (WMSL 755). NSCs, the flagships of the Coast Guard's cutter fleet, were designed to replace the 378-foot Hamilton-class high-endurance cutters, which entered

service during the 1960s. Ingalls has delivered the first three. The fourth, *Hamilton* (WMSL 753), currently at 40% complete, is scheduled to launch this summer and will be christened in October.



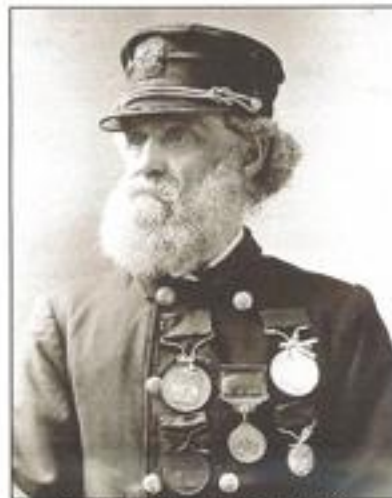
Photo Credit: Huntington Ingalls Industries, Inc.

Keel-laying for the fifth NSC, *Joshua James* (WMSL 754), is set for May 17. The ship is currently 17% complete and will launch in the spring of 2014. A long-lead material contract for Munro was awarded in 2012, and all associated equipment has been ordered. Ingalls builds, integrates and tests the NSC hull, mechanical and electrical (HME) systems, while Lockheed Martin provides the command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) capabilities onboard the cutters.

Chapter prepares covers for USCGC JOSHUA JAMES WMSL-754 Keel



Above cachet was designed by Wolfgang Hechler for the chapter and Wolfgang also did our *USCGC Hamilton* keel laying cachet. WMSL 754 is named for U.S. Lifesaving Service member and highly decorated hero Capt. Joshua James, USLSS.



Capt. Joshua James, USLSS

Joshua James was probably the most celebrated lifesaver in the world, credited with saving hundreds of lives from the age of 15 when he first joined the Massachusetts Humane Society until his death at the age of 75 while on duty with the U.S. Life-Saving Service. He was honored with the highest medals of the Humane Society, the United States, and many other organizations. His father, mother, brother, wife, and son were also heroic lifesavers. Covers are in the process of being printed.

USS SOMERSET LPD-25 COMMISSIONING set for PHILLY

May 9, 2013 PHILADELPHIA

U.S. Sens. Pat Toomey and Bob Casey say the Navy has agreed to commission the *Somerset* in Philadelphia. The Pennsylvania senators say the *Somerset* is the Navy's newest amphibious transport dock ship. It was christened the *Somerset* in remembrance of the western Pennsylvania county where hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 crashed during the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The New York and Arlington, both based in Norfolk, commemorate the other sites attacked that day, the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon.



Suggested cancel design above will be revised to reflect "9-11 Flight 93" loss in Somerset County PA. A Shanksville PA 15560 pictorial is also being considered.