

Decatur Chapter #4 Newseyletter

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Current Deposit Balance \$ _____

Icebreaker contract awarded to VT Halter Marine



An artist's rendering of VT Halter Marine's winning bid for the U.S. Coast Guard Polar Security Cutter. VT Halter Marine

VT Halter Marine Inc. has been awarded a \$745M detailed design and construction contract for the Coast Guard's next-generation heavy icebreaker, according to a Tuesday Pentagon contract announcement. According to the announcement, the first-in-class ship will be built at the company's Pascagoula, Miss. shipyard and is scheduled to deliver in 2024. "The initial award is valued at \$745.9 million and supports non-recurring engineering and detail design of the PSC class as well as procurement of long lead-time materials and construction of the first ship," read a statement from the Coast Guard and Naval Sea Systems Command. "The contract also includes options for the construction of two additional PSCs. If all options are exercised, the total contract value is \$1.9 billion. The yet-to-be-named Polar Security Cutter will be the first of a planned class of six icebreakers – three heavy and three medium – the Coast Guard says it needs to meet the minimum requirements for the U.S. mission in the Arctic.

(The government of Singapore, through its Temasek Holdings investment firm, owns 51 percent of Singapore Technologies Engineering; that company owns Halter)

ex-USCGC Bramble to repeat Northwest Passage



The former Coast Guard cutter *USCGC BRAMBLE WLB 392* is preparing to repeat the historic Northwest Passage transit the cutter took part in back in 1957. At that time, she was in the company of *USCGC STORIS* and *USCGC SPAR*. The *BRAMBLE*'s new owner (Tom

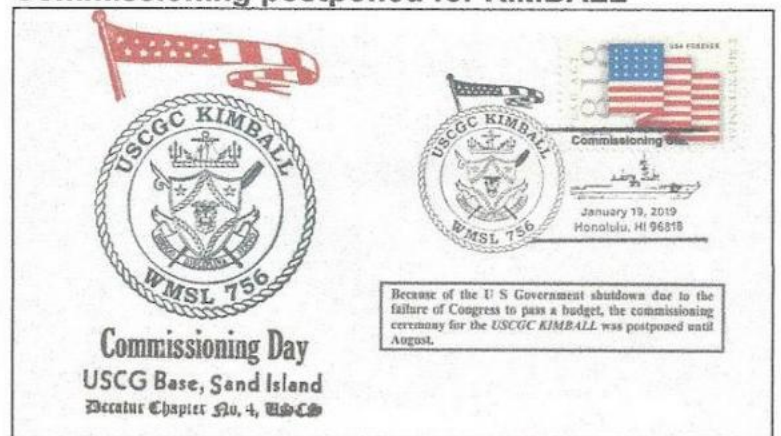
Clarke of Virginia) recently had the cutter make the voyage from Port Huron to Alabama. After a drydock period the cutter expects to depart in May or June. The trip will include traversing the Panama Canal and stopping in the Galapagos Island before heading to Alaska. "I don't have a good reason other than it sounds like a lot of fun," Clarke said. "I'm really into history, over the years we've done a lot of things to protect historic homes, fix historic parks. "The *Bramble* is living history, and I think (of) the old saying, 'If you don't study history, you're bound to repeat its mistakes.' It seemed like a really special thing, especially for the people I've met who served on the *Bramble*."

Ed note: The *BRAMBLE* is now 75 years old, and was launched in 1944. Clarke is a billionaire, a partner in Chippewa Capital Partners (a Minnesota LLC).

Canadian Coast Guard to acquire three interim icebreakers

Perhaps the Canadian Coast Guard is thinking with a clear head in moving forward to acquire three interim icebreakers as they wait for new construction to be ready. Specifically, Public Services and Procurement Canada has issued an Advanced Contract Award Notice (ACAN) to Chantier Davie of Lévis, Quebec, for the acquisition and conversion of three medium commercial icebreakers. They will conduct critical icebreaking duties for the Southern wintertime program and will be deployed as needed in support of Arctic summertime programs. The U S Coast Guard, on the other hand, is putting their efforts into one heavy icebreaker that is nearly forty years old. Recent break downs, leaking and fires have made trips to the Antarctic suspenseful and dangerous. A proposal to lease or purchase an interim icebreaker was strongly rejected by the U S Coast Guard stating the vessel in question was "not military".

Commissioning postponed for KIMBALL



KIMBALL cover annotated. USCG cancelled the commissioning ceremony due to the U S Government shutdown. We have added a statement to the covers on hand. Feel free to either return your cover for a replacement or we will add the comment to your cover if you send it to me.