

the Lugar Center

December 19, 2017

Dear Fellow Hoosiers:

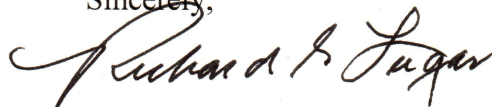
All Hoosiers take great pride in celebrating the history of our country. We give special recognition to the members of our armed forces and their families who now make a huge contribution to the safety of our country and the stability of a complex and often dangerous world. In 2018, Hoosiers will have a very special opportunity to celebrate the commissioning of the USS Indiana (SSN-789), a *Virginia*-class submarine which follows the heritage of two battleships that bore the name "USS Indiana."

I want to commend the USS Indiana Commissioning Committee for remarkable achievements in informing all of us of the construction of the new USS Indiana and the support which we can give to the ship's crew throughout years of service ahead.

I am especially excited as the USS Indiana commissioning ceremonies come closer. In 1941, my parents, Marvin and Bertha Lugar, were invited by Governor Henry Schricker to take a train ride to Newport News, Virginia, with at least fifty other Hoosiers to witness the launch of the battleship, USS Indiana (BB-58). Our parents brought along my brother, Tom, and me for an experience that remains indelible in our memories. In addition to watching the bottle of champagne smashed across the bow of the battleship, I remember a number of experiences including my sighting of the Secretary of the Navy. I approached Secretary Knox and after introducing myself, thanked him for naming the battleship "USS Indiana." As a nine-year-old boy, I remained an enthusiastic supporter of the United States Navy and as I completed my graduate studies at Oxford University, England, I visited the United States Embassy in London and volunteered to serve in the United States Navy. That service which included becoming an intelligence briefer for Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Arleigh Burke provided not only a post-graduate education in the importance and complexity of military and civilian public service, but increased the enthusiasm that I still have for Hoosier ties and support of the United States Navy.

The new USS Indiana is a huge submarine that will provide remarkable defense of our country in both obvious and classified operations. I hope that all Hoosiers will not only celebrate its commissioning but will continue to follow and support its crew and the history which it will produce.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator (Ret.)