

Joseph E. Kernan

Governor of the State of Indiana, 2003-2005

Lieutenant Governor of the State of Indiana, 1997-2003

Mayor of the City of South Bend, 1988-1997

Veteran of the United States Navy

April 16, 2018

Dear Fellow Hoosiers:

Serving as an honorary chairman of the Commissioning Committee for the USS *Indiana* has truly been a treasure. Thank you to the men and women across our great state for your ongoing support of the committee's efforts.

We are finally closing in on the completion and commissioning ceremony for this incredible submarine, which will feature the very latest in maritime technologies and highlight Indiana's tremendous contributions to our nation's military. Our state's namesake, a 370-foot, 7,800-ton attack vessel, will enable the United States Navy to meet multi-mission requirements that include warfare, crucial surveillance and mine delivery and mapping.

The USS *Indiana* is not only dear to my heart due to my service in the Navy, but also because so many of its components have been built in Indiana. With more than a hundred Hoosier companies playing a role in the ship's construction, it is a great testament to our manufacturing legacy.

This year's commissioning celebration for the next-generation USS *Indiana* will be a proud moment for us all. On that special date, we will remember the many Hoosiers who have given their lives for our country, and honor those who continue to serve America today.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Kernan