



THE CITY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

October 12, 2015

The Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy
Office of the Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentago, Room 4D652
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Greetings from Mobile, Alabama, where a large part of the greatest Navy the world has ever seen is being built. As you know, Austal and those Mobilians that work here are producing incredible warships that not only meet the needs of our Navy today, but warships that can adapt to meet the evolving needs of the future. You have seen firsthand the quality of workmanship that goes into each LCS and JHSV built here.

Knowing that LCS's are named for "regionally-important U.S. cities and communities", the purpose of my note is to ask for your consideration in naming a future LCS or Fast Frigate the USS Mobile to honor our city and its workers.

We have a rich history of ships named USS Mobile and an LCS or Fast Frigate thus named would be the nation's 5th USS Mobile. However, the last ship named USS Mobile was decommissioned in 1994. It was also an "L-ship", a Charleston class amphibious cargo ship, or LKA, that saw duty in the Vietnam war and, in the Gulf War, she was part of an 18-ship amphibious task force that was the largest such force since the Korean War. The USS Mobile previous to that was a light cruiser (CL-63) that was awarded 11 Battle Stars for her efforts in the Pacific during World War II.

2015 has been a magnificent year for Mobile. The Port of Mobile is ranked 12th in the nation in terms of tonnage handled and "Destination Mobile" is becoming an increasingly global brand. This is a city on the rise recognized not only as home to Austal, but Airbus will start delivering the A320 commercial aircraft next year. By the end of 2017, Airbus is expected to produce 4 aircraft a month. Carnival Cruise lines has also committed to placing a cruise ship out of Mobile in 2016. These are testaments to the confidence the tourism and high tech industry have in our work force and in Mobile as a destination.

Mr. Secretary, I think it right to say that a little piece of Mobile goes into each of the Independence class LCS ships made here at Austal. I ask that you consider naming the 5th USS

Mobile as a tribute to those putting their heart and soul into every ship they build. What better way to recognize the superior craft and workmanship Mobilians put into each one of these ships.

It seems only fitting that the world's only Navy with global reach have a ship named USS Mobile in tribute to a city with global impact and its magnificent workers.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter to a city that is truly on the rise. I hope this note finds you well and I look forward to seeing you again when next you visit Mobile for a christening or commissioning at Austal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Stimpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William S. Stimpson
Mayor