

HII Authenticates Keel of Guided Missile Destroyer Ted Stevens (DDG 128)

PASCAGOULA, Miss. – Huntington Ingalls Industries' Ingalls Shipbuilding division authenticated the keel of the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer Ted Stevens (DDG 128), the company announced March 25.

The ship's name honors former U.S. Senator Ted Stevens, who served as a pilot in World War II and later as a senator representing Alaska. At the time he left office in 2009, he was the longest serving Republican U.S. senator in history.

"With this ship we honor Sen. Stevens' exemplary service to our nation," said Kari Wilkinson, president of the Ingalls Shipbuilding division. She was joined at the ceremony by the senator's wife of 29 years, Catherine Stevens, his eldest daughter, Sue Stevens Covich, and his granddaughter, Laura Sexton, who represented his youngest daughter, Lily Stevens-Becker, who could not attend. "Each one of these women has a unique connection to our ship's namesake," Wilkinson said, "and we are grateful that each of them accepted the important responsibility of sponsor. Ingalls shipbuilders welcome them as part of our extended family and we will work steadfastly together to build the legacy of this public servant."

Closing out the tradition of a keel authentication ceremony, the ship's sponsors joined Ingalls welder Henry Johnson to weld their initials onto a steel plate, signifying the keel of DDG 128 as being "truly and fairly laid." The plate will remain affixed to the ship throughout its lifetime.

Ted Stevens is the 76th Arleigh Burke-class ship ceremonially laid and the second Flight III destroyer to be constructed at Ingalls Shipbuilding. The Flight III upgrade incorporates a

number of design modifications that collectively provide significantly enhanced capability.