

HII's Ingalls Shipbuilding Authenticates Keel Of Amphibious Assault Ship Fallujah (LHA 9)



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PASCAGOULA, Miss., Sept. 20, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – HII's (NYSE: HII) Ingalls Shipbuilding division authenticated the keel today for the *America*-class amphibious ship *Fallujah* (LHA 9). The ship's sponsor, Donna Berger, former first lady of the Marine Corps and spouse of Gen. David H. Berger, 38th commandant of the Marine Corps, was in attendance to declare the keel "truly and fairly laid."

During the authentication ceremony Ingalls Welder Seveta Gray welded the initials of the sponsor onto a ceremonial keel plate that will remain with the ship throughout its life.

"Ingalls is honored to mark this important milestone with our shipbuilders and so many of our critical partners here today," Ingalls Shipbuilding President Kari Wilkinson said. "Whether representing namesake, customer, community or shipyard, today's keel event demonstrates the unique connection we have to one another through this industry and through our respective devotion to service."

Photos accompanying this release are available at: <https://hii.com/news/hii-ingalls-shipbuilding-authenticates-keel-fallujah-lha-9>.

Ingalls was pleased to host Under Secretary of the Navy Erik

Raven who also provided remarks at the ceremony.

“The USS *Fallujah*, like her predecessors the USS *America*, USS *Tripoli* and USS *Bougainville*, will one day join the amphibious fleet, and serve as the centerpiece for amphibious ready groups and Marine Expeditionary Units,” Raven said. “L-class ships like the future USS *Fallujah* make our Navy and Marine Corps a potent fighting team, forward-postured around the globe, ready to respond to crisis and disaster.”

The future USS *Fallujah* (LHA 9) is the fourth *America-class* large-deck amphibious assault ship built at Ingalls Shipbuilding and the second ship in the class to be built with a well deck. Similar to *Bougainville*, *Fallujah* will retain the aviation capability of the *America-class* design while adding the surface assault capability of a well deck and a larger flight deck configured for F-35B Joint Strike Fighter and MV-22 Osprey aircraft. These large-deck amphibious assault ships also include top-of-the-line medical facilities with full operating suites and triage capabilities.

The *America* class is a multi-functional and versatile ship that is capable of operating in a high density, multi-threat environment as an integral member of an expeditionary strike group, an amphibious task force or an amphibious ready group.

Ingalls has delivered 15 large-deck amphibious ships to the U.S. Navy. The shipyard delivered the first in the new *America* class of amphibious assault ships (LHA 6) in 2014. The second ship in the *America* class, USS *Tripoli* (LHA 7), was delivered to the Navy in early 2020 and *Bougainville* (LHA 8) and *Fallujah* (LHA 9) are currently under construction.