

# Navy to Christen Littoral Combat Ship Nantucket



The Freedom-variant littoral combat ships USS Wichita (LCS 13), USS Billings (LCS 15), and their embarked aviation detachments participate in a maritime training exercise with the Freedom-variant littoral combat ship USS Sioux City (LCS 11), July 4, 2021. They will soon be joined in the fleet by the newest Freedom variant, the future USS Nantucket (LCS 27).  
*U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Marianne Guemo*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S. Navy will christen its newest Freedom-variant littoral combat ship (LCS), the future USS Nantucket (LCS 27), during a 10 a.m. CDT ceremony Saturday, Aug. 7, in Marinette, Wisconsin, the Defense Department announced in an Aug. 6 release.

The principal speaker will be Rep. Mike Gallagher, U.S. Representative for Wisconsin's 8th District. In a time-honored Navy tradition, the ship's sponsor, Polly Spencer, will break a bottle of sparkling wine across the bow.

"The future USS Nantucket will be the third U.S. Navy ship commissioned to honor the maritime history and spirit of Nantucket," said Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Harker. "I have no doubt the Sailors of USS Nantucket (LCS 27) will carry on the proud legacy from generations past in preserving sea lanes, countering instability, and maintaining our maritime superiority."

LCS is a fast, agile, mission-focused platform designed to operate in near-shore environments, winning against 21st-century coastal threats. The platform is capable of supporting forward presence, maritime security, sea control, and deterrence.

The LCS class consists of two variants, the Freedom-variant and the Independence-variant, designed and built by two industry teams. The Freedom-variant team is led by Lockheed Martin in Marinette, Wisconsin (for the odd-numbered hulls). The Independence-variant team is led by Austal USA in Mobile, Alabama, (for LCS 6 and the subsequent even-numbered hulls).

The first Nantucket, a Passaic-class coastal monitor, commissioned on Feb. 26, 1863. Assigned to the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, Nantucket participated in the attack on Confederate forts in Charleston Harbor on April 7, 1863. Struck 51 times during the valiant yet unsuccessful assault on the vital Southern port, the single-turreted monitor was repaired at Port Royal and returned to Charleston to support Army operations on Morris Island. The second Nantucket, a wooden light ship built in 1907 for the Lighthouse Service, was transferred to the Navy by executive order on April 11, 1917. During World War I, the ship continued its duties of warning vessels away from Nantucket Shoals and aided in guarding nearby waters against U-boats.