



COMMANDER, ATLANTIC AREA
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
431 CRAWFORD STREET
PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA 23704-5004

May 26, 2015

Dear Governor Haley,

Please accept my personal invitation to attend the commissioning ceremony of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter JAMES on Saturday, August 8, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. Although the cutter will be home ported in Charleston, South Carolina, the commissioning ceremony will be held at Coast Guard Base Boston located at 427 Commercial Street, Boston, Massachusetts, because of the cutter's distinctive namesake. The ship is named in honor of Joshua James, who is credited with saving more than 600 lives in the Boston Harbor area. Captain James' lifesaving career began at age 15 when he joined the Massachusetts Humane Society and ended with his death in 1902 at age 75 while on duty with the U.S. Life-Saving Service. The Life-Saving Service merged with the Revenue Cutter Service in 1915 to create the modern day U.S. Coast Guard.

This is a significant event for the Coast Guard, as the Cutter JAMES is the fifth National Security Cutter, and the second homeported on the East Coast. As you may know, the JAMES was built by Huntington Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, Mississippi. Construction began on May 14, 2012, the keel was laid on May 17, 2013, the cutter was launched on May 3, 2014, and the Coast Guard is scheduled to accept JAMES on June 5, 2015. Once commissioned, the cutter will perform maritime homeland security, maritime safety, law enforcement and maritime national defense missions. At 418 feet and 4,500 tons, the new National Security Cutters are designed as the flagships of the U.S. Coast Guard's fleet, capable of executing the most challenging maritime security missions including supporting the mission requirements of U.S. combatant commanders. Cutter JAMES has state of the art technologies and capabilities; enhancing the Coast Guard's interoperability with our DoD and DHS partners.

I hope you are able to join me in Boston for this time-honored maritime tradition. If you accept, please contact my Governmental Affairs Specialist, Mrs. Feba Thomas at (757) 398-6350 or feba.m.thomas@uscg.mil; or CAPT Edward Marohn at (617) 223-8160 or edward.j.marohn@uscg.mil for additional information about this historical event.

Your continued service to our Nation and outstanding support of the Coast Guard is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. D. Lee".

W. D. LEE

Vice Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Governor of South Carolina
State House
P.O. Box 12267
Columbia, SC 29211