

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Mabus:

We are writing to ask that you give all due consideration to honoring the five servicemembers killed in Chattanooga, Tennessee on July 16, 2015 by naming an appropriate naval vessel the *USS Chattanooga*. The Chattanooga City Council and the Tennessee General Assembly passed separate resolutions supporting naming the next eligible U.S. Navy ship in honor of the five servicemembers who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attack in Chattanooga.

On July 16, 2015, a lone terrorist attacked both a United States Military Recruiting Station and a Navy and Marine Corps Operational Support Center, ultimately claiming the lives of Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, Staff Sgt. David Wyatt, Sgt. Carson Holmquist, Lance Cpl. Squire "Skip" Wells, and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Randall Smith. Furthermore, the five servicemembers were awarded the Purple Heart on December 16, 2015 because the attacker was found to be inspired by propaganda from a foreign terrorist organization.

In the wake of this tragedy, we believe that it is appropriate for the U.S. Navy to honor the legacy of those who lost their lives. We therefore ask that you give all due consideration to naming an appropriate vessel the *USS Chattanooga*.

Sincerely,



Lamar Alexander
United States Senator



Bob Corker
United States Senator



Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Tom Graves
Member of Congress