



Kay Bowen Webber Cochran, the seventh national security cutter's sponsor, addresses Coast Guard and industry members at Ingalls' shipyard at the cutter's keel authentication ceremony in Pascagoula, Mississippi, March 4. The ceremony formally marks the beginning of the cutter's construction. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Chief Petty Officer Bobby Nash.

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## **Acquisition Update: Keel Authenticated For Seventh National Security Cutter**

March 7, 2016

The Coast Guard and Ingalls Shipbuilding authenticated the keel for the seventh national security cutter, Kimball, in Pascagoula, Mississippi, March 4.

During the ceremony to mark the beginning of Kimball's construction, the initials of cutter sponsor Kay Bowen Webber Cochran were welded into a steel plate affixed to the ship's structure to authenticate that the keel was "truly and fairly laid." Cochran was accompanied at the event by her husband, Sen. Thad Cochran.

The cutter's namesake, Sumner Kimball, was appointed chief of the Treasury Department's Revenue Marine Division in 1871; he reformed the Revenue Cutter Service and established a training school for young officers that would later develop into the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He also organized the nation's network of volunteer lifesaving stations into the U.S. Life-Saving Service, of which he served as general superintendent until it merged with the Revenue Cutter Service to become the modern Coast Guard in 1915.

The NSC is designed to execute the Coast Guard's most challenging operations, including supporting maritime homeland security and defense missions. NSCs feature advanced sensors to provide maritime domain awareness, two types of cutter boats to extend its range and a flight deck with space for manned and unmanned aircraft. The ships are 418 feet long, with a range of 12,000 nautical miles and endurance for 60- to

90-day patrols.

Kimball will be the seventh NSC to enter service, with delivery scheduled for 2018. Five NSCs are in service, with three in Alameda, California, and two in Charleston, South Carolina. The sixth NSC, Munro, will also be based in Alameda and is scheduled for delivery to the Coast Guard later this year. The eighth NSC, Midgett, is on contract and is scheduled for delivery in 2019.