



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EASTERN SHIPBUILDING GROUP ANNOUNCES KEEL AUTHENTICATION FOR UNITED STATES COAST GUARD OFFSHORE PATROL CUTTER CHASE (WMSM-916)

PANAMA CITY, FL - Today, Eastern Shipbuilding Group, Inc. (ESG) hosted the keel authentication ceremony for the U.S. Coast Guard's future Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC), USCGC CHASE (WMSM-916), at the Nelson Street facility. Admiral Karl Schultz, the 26th Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, and Chairwoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40), House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee Chair and ship sponsor, delivered remarks to mark the occasion along with ESG President Joey D'Isernia.

"Here at Eastern we start each day with the recognition that we are building a new era of cutters for the young women and men of the United States Coast Guard who will sail in them on critical National Security missions for decades to come. From our thirteen hundred family members to your nearly 60,000 active duty, reserve, and civilian workforce... our pledge remains the same – these cutters will always get you home," said ESG President Joey D'Isernia.

The ship's sponsor is Chairwoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40). As chairwoman of the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, the congresswoman leads the effort to ensure homeland security personnel have the resources and guidance they need to keep the country safe and has a vital role in supporting the acquisition of the OPC program. The cutter honors previous namesake vessels including those named after Salmon Portland Chase, former chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, governor, and antislavery leader.

"To the Coast Guard, our employees, and the community we call home, this is another milestone and moment of pride. We understand that you are depending on us to produce the absolute best workmanship and deliver a modern cutter that will stand-the-watch for up to 40 years. And much like Salmon Chase, we are up to the challenge," said D'Isernia.

Joey D'Isernia was accompanied on the podium by Admiral Schultz and Cory Brooks, the expert welder charged with welding the sponsor's initials onto the ceremonial keel authentication plate.

The keel authentication, also known as keel laying, represents the ceremonial start of a ship's life by commemorating the assembly of the initial modular construction units. Historically, to attest that the keel was properly laid and of excellent quality, the shipbuilder would carve their initials into the keel. This practice is commemorated by welding the ship's sponsor's initials into the keel authentication plate.

Last month, ESG was awarded contract modifications to begin construction of hull three, future USCGC Cutter INGHAM, and to purchase long lead materials for hull four. The OPC is designed to conduct multiple missions in support of the nation's maritime security and border protection. The OPC will provide a capability bridge between the national security cutter, which patrols the open ocean in the most demanding maritime environments, and the fast response cutter, which serves closer to shore. The OPC design includes the capability of carrying an MH-60 or MH-65 helicopter and three operational Over The-Horizon small boats. The vessel is also equipped with a highly sophisticated combat system and C5ISR suite that will enhance capabilities to execute the service's missions.

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For more information about Eastern Shipbuilding Group, Inc, please visit:

www.easternshipbuilding.com

For more information about the USCG OPC, please visit:

<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Programs/Surface-Programs/Offshore-Patrol-Cutter/Offshore-Patrol-Cutter-Program-Profile/>