



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

22 April 1994

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. ~~Clinton~~ *Hillary*:

I am delighted that you have accepted our invitation to be the sponsor of the submarine COLUMBIA on September 24, 1994, in Groton, Connecticut.

The launching ceremony will be an exciting and memorable occasion for you and your participation will make the event unforgettable for the shipyard and the naval personnel present.

This letter provides additional details on the typical christening ceremony schedule of events. We will, of course, be happy to modify the agenda to suit your desires and the demands upon your schedule.

The timing of the ceremony, which takes about an hour, is dictated by the tides in the Thames River into which COLUMBIA will be launched. It is anticipated that it will commence around noon.

Traditionally, the shipyard hosts a dinner in honor of the sponsor on the night before the christening. This dinner is usually held at 6:30 p.m. at a hotel in Mystic, Connecticut. Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics hosts the dinner to gather platform principals in an informal setting to get acquainted prior to the ceremony. In light of the many competing pressures on your time, if you would prefer to omit this event and arrive in New London on the morning of the ceremony, we would certainly understand.

Enclosed are sample programs from launching ceremonies for two other submarines of this same class.

We would be honored if you would agree to serve as the event's principal speaker as well as sponsor. If you desire to do so, we would likely follow a scenario along the lines of that used at the christening of "SPRINGFIELD" at which then-Secretary of Labor Lynn Martin performed the dual role of sponsor/speaker.

If you prefer to say just a few words in addition to breaking the bottle on COLUMBIA's bow, we would follow an itinerary somewhat like that used at the christening of "HARTFORD."

Sponsors are invited to name a maid or matron of honor to join them on the platform at the ceremony. Often the sponsors' daughters are selected for this role. Please let us know if you would like Chelsea or someone else to share in this experience with you.

Also, enclosed is a videotape of the launching of HARTFORD last December. Your staff may wish to scan the tape to get a better idea of a typical christening.

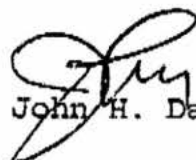
Following the ceremony there is a reception where the sponsor is presented a few mementos of the occasion.

During the early evening of the day of the christening there is a reception for the ship's crew and sponsor. Here again, we would fully understand if your schedule precluded your taking part in this portion of the festivities.

My staff will be in touch with yours to advise regarding additional logistical arrangements for this event.

We are delighted that you have agreed to christen this fine new ship and to help launch her on her mission to defend our great nation.

Sincerely,


John H. Dalton

Enclosures

*I hope this is a great experience
for you. I think it will be.*

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages ► 3

To	KAREN FINNEY	From	LT JAY KNIGHT
Dept./Agency	PRESS DEPT	Phone #	203 433 4920
Fax #	202 456 7806	Fax #	203 433 6537
NSN 7540-01-317-7368 5098-101		GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	

TE HOUSE
INGTON

May 18, 1994

LT Jay Knight
197 Pelican Drive
Groton, Connecticut 06340

Dear LT Knight:

Thank you for your kind letter and invitation to Mrs. Clinton to christen a new Los Angeles class submarine to be called "COLUMBIA."

Mrs. Clinton would be pleased to serve as COLUMBIA's sponsor and participate in the christening ceremony in September in Groton, Connecticut. Our office will be in contact with you again to work out the details of Mrs. Clinton's visit.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions or concerns that you might have.

Sincerely,



Patti Solis
Special Assistant to the President
Director of Scheduling
for the First Lady