

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

December 6, 2022

The Honorable Carlos Del Toro
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Room 4D652
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Secretary Del Toro,

We write to urge you to consider naming a new LPD amphibious ship for the city of Duluth, Minnesota and in honor of the USS Duluth LPD-6, which was commissioned in 1965 and decommissioned in 2005.

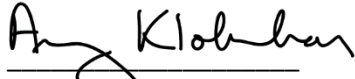
The USS Duluth served for nearly 40 years and, whatever her charge, she ably and nobly performed her motto “Fortiter in Re” – Bold in Action. In recognition of her long and valiant history, the USS Duluth received numerous awards and commendations for her service, including the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Award for supporting Navy SEAL operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom. During its last deployment in 2005, the USS Duluth supported Operations Unified Assistance and received its third Humanitarian Service Medal after successfully delivering 210 tons of supplies to Sri Lanka in response to the tsunami that struck the area in December 2004. Her missions spanned from sailing to Vietnam in spring 1975 to support the evacuation of almost 9,000 people in Saigon, to operating as support for Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The USS Duluth that was decommissioned in 2005 was the second ship with its name that served so well. The first USS Duluth was a light cruiser (CL-87) and was commissioned in 1944 and decommissioned in 1949 after receiving two battle stars for her World War II service in the Pacific Theater. Both ships were named in honor of Sir Daniel Geysolon De Lhut, who raised the French flag at the westernmost point of Lake Superior in 1679.

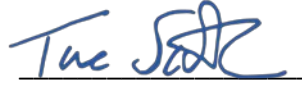
The USS Duluth LPD-6 is unique among ships in the way it has been embraced by the local community over the years. In 2014, the City of Duluth honored the ship and its crew with a permanent monument on the City’s waterfront, using the ship’s anchor as its centerpiece. The monument was built by 27 local companies and 62 community members with all labor and parts donated free of charge. To this day, the USS Duluth Crewmembers Association holds its annual reunion in the city. After the ship was decommissioned in 2005, former crewmembers, including two former commanding officers, boarded the ship prior to scrapping for mementos and photographs. Those items are today on display at a local museum in Duluth.

We urge you to consider naming a new LPD ship in honor of the stalwart and noble USS Duluth.
Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator



Tina Smith
U.S. Senator



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress