

**GENERAL DYNAMICS**  
*Electric Boat Division*

75 Eastern Point Road, Groton, Connecticut 06340-4989

James E. Turner, Jr.  
Vice President - General Manager

August 16, 1989

Mrs. Robert Byrd  
Suite 311  
Senate Hart Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mrs. Byrd:

I am pleased that you will be at Electric Boat on October 14, 1989, to serve as sponsor at the launching of WEST VIRGINIA (SSBN736).

The christening of this ship, that moment when WEST VIRGINIA receives its identity and first blessing, is one of the most important events in its life. It is a memorable event for all those who have been building her and for the officers and crew already serving in her; and of course for you, this day will have a special significance.

The program will be held on the Land Level Construction Facility. During the half hour ceremony, you will be protected from any inclement weather. The high point will be the actual christening itself. This will occur at noon, when you proclaim, "In the name of the United States, I christen thee WEST VIRGINIA. May God bless her and all who sail in her." You then break the traditional bottle of champagne. The morning of the ceremony, we will have a short briefing to go over all the launching details. At that time, you will have an opportunity to try a few practice swings with a wooden bottle.

After the launching, we will have a luncheon reception in your honor at the Division's Technology Center.

My Launch Ceremony coordinator, (Mrs.) Donna Simpson, will be in touch with you to arrange details to allow for a pleasant and successful launching.

