

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
23RD DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 21, 2021

To the crew of the Fort Lauderdale:

Greetings and congratulations on the christening of the Amphibious Transport Ship Fort Lauderdale. I'm sorry I am unable to join you in person for this wonderful ceremony.

Fort Lauderdale has a rich naval history. It's ties to the United States Navy date back to the early 1830s when Navy Lieutenant Levin Powell commanded the "swamp sailors" during the Second Seminole War. Powell's contingency reinforced Major William Lauderdale's troops who were stationed along the north bank of the New River where they constructed the first "Fort Lauderdale."

It is our understanding that the City of Fort Lauderdale was also an important naval training center during World War II. Radar, gunnery, and parachuting schools operated at the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale, which today serves as Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport. In addition, West Prospect Airfield, known today as Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, served as an important training facility for Naval Aviators, including former President George H.W. Bush.

Naming the ship the Fort Lauderdale not only recognizes the City's longtime commitment to the Navy and distinguished role in naval history, but also honors the thousands of retired Navy sailors who call Fort Lauderdale and the surrounding areas their home.

I wish all of you a most enjoyable celebration!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Wasserman Schultz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1114 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-0923
(202) 225-7931
(202) 226-2052 (Fax)

DISTRICT OFFICE:
777 SAWGRASS CORPORATE PARKWAY
SUNRISE, FL 33325
(954) 845-1179
(954) 932-9664 (Fax)

AVENTURA OFFICE:
19200 WEST COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE
AVENTURA, FL 33180
(305) 936-5724
(305) 932-9664 (Fax)

