

MEDIA ADVISORY

Feb. 15, 2019

Navy League Issues Statement on Approved Budget, Averting Government Shutdown

Coast Guard to Receive Essential Funding That Will Enable Polar Security Cutter

ARLINGTON, Va. — Today, the Navy League of the United States National President Alan Kaplan, issued the following statement regarding the recently approved congressional budget, signed by the president:

On behalf of the Navy League's 40,000 members, we applaud Congress and the president for working together to create a bill that not only averts another shutdown, protecting the pay of Coast Guard men and women and their families, but also gives the Coast Guard a path forward to securing a much-needed Polar Security Cutter.

Included in the bill is \$655 million for production of the first Polar Security Cutter and an additional \$20 million for long-lead-time materials for a second cutter. To date, the polar icebreaker program has received nearly \$360 million in acquisition funding since fiscal year 2018, including \$300 million provided through the U.S. Navy's shipbuilding account and the remainder from the Coast Guard's acquisition account. With adequate funding now in place, the Coast Guard will be able to award a contract to begin construction this year and have it entered into service in 2023. It will also have funding in place to partially fund the procurement of the second icebreaker, with a final goal of three heavy and three medium icebreakers and one on its way now. This funding bill will allow the Coast Guard to support the United States' desire to provide presence, security and safety in the Arctic region.

Our Navy League members sent thousands of messages to members of Congress, the president and the vice president, urging them to secure funding for the Polar Security Cutter and to maintain Coast Guard pay during any shutdown crisis. Our legislative team met with many lawmakers to convey the urgency of these issues. Our voices were heard. We thank Congress and the administration for taking action on these critical issues.

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About the Navy League of the United States

The Navy League of the United States, founded in 1902 with the support of President Theodore Roosevelt, is a nonprofit civilian, educational and advocacy organization that supports America's sea services: the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine. Through national and local programs, the Navy League of the United States provides a powerful voice to educate the public and

Congress on the importance of our sea services to our nation's defense, well-being and economic prosperity. The Navy League provides support to our sea services personnel and their families and youth programs, such as the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Junior ROTC and Young Marines, that expose young people to the values of our sea services.