



EAGLEHERALD CONTRIBUTOR/JOSH LACY

The future USS Cleveland, LCS 31, slides into the Menominee River Saturday at Finantieri Marinette Marine. The launch is the last side-style launch at the shipyard and the last planned vessel in the 31-ship Littoral Combat Ship fleet.

# CLASS AND SPLASH

## Future USS Cleveland christened, launched at FMM


**DAN KITKOWSKI**  
EagleHerald Senior Reporter

MARINETTE — Cleveland rocks. It's also got a little bounce and a whole lot of splash.

The future USS Cleveland, Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) 31, was christened and launched Saturday at Fincantieri Marinette Marine. About 3,000 invited guests — including dignitaries, shipyard officials, employees, retirees, the ship's assigned crew and other Navy personnel — gathered inside the shipyard on warm, sunny spring day

The ship's sponsor, Robyn Modly, christened the ship shortly before 11:30 a.m. with a successful swing of a sparkling wine bottle on the bow. Moments later, the ship was launched into the Menominee River. Modly is the wife of Thomas Modly, former acting secretary of the U.S. Navy.

The future USS Cleveland is the 16th



**LCS-31 SPECIFICATIONS**

Following are some vital statistics for the future USS Cleveland.

- Length: 387.6 feet
- Beam (overall): 57.7 feet
- Draft: 14.1 feet
- Full load displacement: 3,500 metric tons
- Propulsion: Combined diesel and gas turbine with steerable water jet propulsion
- Speed: Greater than 40 knots
- Core crew: 50; accommodations for 98 sailors
- Flight deck: More than 1.5 times that of traditional surface combatants

EAGLEHERALD CONTRIBUTOR/PAUL WILLIAMS

Robyn Modly, sponsor of the future USS Cleveland, christens the ship by smashing a bottle of sparkling wine on the bow. Modly is the wife of Thomas Modly, former acting secretary of the U.S. Navy.

Freedom-variant LCS and the 31st in the class. It also is the last side launch that will take place at FMM.

"It's an end of an era, these side launches are visibly spectacular and they're a lot of fun to do," said FMM Chief Executive Officer Mark Vandroff. "It's the way people have put ships into the water for literally thousands of years

— with basically the same technology. We're a modern shipyard and we have to adapt to the way of the future."

A ship lift that is under construction is a key component to the future, Vandroff said.

"Once that's done we will be able to

More **LAUNCH** | **A2**

### STATE

Escanaba paper mill fungus kills 1, sickens 21

**A13**



### SPORTS

Zembra zips into Menominee HOF.

**A20**

Good morning, **Ann Buscher!**  
Thank you for subscribing to the EagleHerald

### DEATHS

**Walker, Linda** Veronica

**More on A6**

### TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH LOW  
**40 | 30**

Cloudy with a mix of rain and snow.

**More on A11**

Advice.....A8-A10  
Classified.....A14-A15  
Comics.....A8, A10  
Crossword.....A8  
Deaths/Obits.....A6  
Opinion.....A5  
Records.....A6  
Sudoku.....A8  
Sports.....A17-A20

# Launch/<sub>from A1</sub>

put the ships in far more complete," he said. "There are certain components in the production stages, such as electrical work, that can't be assembled prior to a side launch.

"It will be safe evolution," Vandroff added. "It will be a more cost-effective evolution. It will be a more disciplined evolution. I'm looking forward to the future when we are going to slowly lower the ships in a state-of-the-art modern ship lift."

Improved technology will expand the capabilities of the shipyard, Vandroff said.

"We will be able to do so much more for delivering ships to our customers at high quality and high value," he said.

The next ships being built — four Multi-Mission Surface Combatants (MMSC) ships for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with frigates for the U.S. Navy — are much heavier than those in the LCS fleet and would exceed the capacity of a side launch.

The first ship that will utilize the ship lift will be a MMSC later this year or early 2024, Vandroff said. It is slightly larger than an LCS.

The first frigate, scheduled for 2026, weighs 7,000 tons, Vandroff said.

"That's twice the size of any ship this shipyard



EAGLEHERALD CONTRIBUTOR/PAUL WILLIAMS

The future USS Cleveland, LCS 31, is launched into the Menominee River Saturday at Finantieri Marinette Marine. This was the last side launch at the shipyard and the last vessel in the 31-ship LCS fleet.

EAGLEHERALD CONTRIBUTOR/PAUL WILLIAMS

**RIGHT:** The ceremony site is reflected in the horn of the Navy Band Great Lakes.

has ever delivered to any customer," he said.

Chris Minster, program director, Lockheed Martin, Surface Navy Integrated Systems, spoke highly of the future USS Cleveland.

"LCS 31 now is the most advanced, most capable LCS we have built," he said. "All the lessons learned, all the capability upgrades and improvements that have gone through the life of this ship. We're very proud to give the most capable LCS we built and launch it here today"

The future USS Cleveland will undergo another year of production, including sea trials, before delivery to the Navy for commissioning, Minster said.



EAGLEHERALD CONTRIBUTOR/PAUL WILLIAMS

Amoura Radtke, one of the youngest people at the ceremony at age nine months, was decked out in patriotic gear.

the LCS program to this area.

"I think the history of the LCS program has been a boost to

Marinette and Menominee and brought the shipyard to a tier 1 shipyard with the Saudis and the frigates (contracts)," he said. "The (LCS) program was the baby steps to get us there."

Krueger has about two decades of experience with FMM. He poignantly described the last side launch.

"It's an emotional day," he said. "We brought back 85 retirees. To see some of these older people that worked here for 40 years. It means a lot. It means a lot to them. It means a lot to the community. Some of them have two generations of kids working here."

Vandroff spoke about the workforce at the local shipyard.

"I'm so proud of the men and women who work here — both blue collar and white collar," he said. "Right now nearly 1,400 men and women who are here as part of Marinette Marine. Shipbuilding is hard work and these folks work hard — whether it's the welders, the electricians, the painters, material handlers, yard services, the folks in the safety department who keep us safe, the engineers who do the design and the calculation, the purchasing agent that buys the material. Everyone's got their roles to play.

Everyone shows up here every day at Fincantieri Marinette Marine and I couldn't be more proud of them."

Dignitaries spoke to a few hundred people inside Building 10 before the launch.

They include Vandroff, Austin Davis and U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Tom

Anderson.

Davis, senior policy advisor and assistant law director for the City of Cleveland, was at the ceremony on behalf of Mayor Justin M. Bibb. He spoke about the proud history of Cleveland and said he refers to it as "paradise on Lake Eerie."

Anderson offered

words of encouragement to the crew of the future USS Cleveland.

"You will go forward and make your namesake city proud, I have every confidence in you," he said.

**Dan Kitkowski** can be reached by email at [dkitkowski@eagleherald.com](mailto:dkitkowski@eagleherald.com)



EAGLEHERALD/PAUL WILLIAMS

The crew of the future USS Cleveland pose for a photo as the ceremony prepares to begin in the background.

### Compare our CD Rates Member SIPC · edwardjones.com

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

Term	APY*	Minimum deposit
1 year	4.90 %	\$1,000
2 years	4.75 %	\$1,000
3 years	4.55 %	\$1,000

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

\* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 4/12/2023. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit [www.fdic.gov](http://www.fdic.gov) or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).



**Joe Klug**  
AAMS® CRPC®  
Financial Advisor



**Tanessa L. Klug**  
AAMS® CRPC®  
Financial Advisor

3908 Hall Ave Ste C  
Marinette, WI 54143-1018  
715-330-6046

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



1809 Dunlap Ave., P.O. Box 77  
MARINETTE, WI 54143  
715-735-6611  
ehextra.com

**Mark Lewis**  
Regional President, APG Southern Wisconsin  
[mark.lewis@adamspg.com](mailto:mark.lewis@adamspg.com)

**Todd Colling**  
General Manager  
[tcolling@eagleherald.com](mailto:tcolling@eagleherald.com)  
715-750-2121

**Tricia Hurley**  
Advertising Sales Manager  
[thurley@eagleherald.com](mailto:thurley@eagleherald.com)  
(715) 750-2122

**Dan Kitkowski**  
Senior Reporter  
[dkitkowski@eagleherald.com](mailto:dkitkowski@eagleherald.com)  
(715) 750-2103

**Matt Lehmann**  
Sports Reporter  
[mlehmann@eagleherald.com](mailto:mlehmann@eagleherald.com)  
(715) 750-2113

**Erin Noha**  
Reporter  
[enoha@eagleherald.com](mailto:enoha@eagleherald.com)  
(715) 750-2105

**Karyn Saemann**  
Regional Editor,  
APG Southern Wisconsin  
[karyn.saemann@apg-sw.com](mailto:karyn.saemann@apg-sw.com)

**Tim Seeman**  
Regional Sports Editor,  
APG Southern Wisconsin  
[tim.seeman@apg-sw.com](mailto:tim.seeman@apg-sw.com)

**Brian O'Connor**  
News Editor, APG Southern Wisconsin  
[brian.oconnor@apg-sw.com](mailto:brian.oconnor@apg-sw.com)

**CIRCULATION**  
Brian Hult, 715-750-2099  
LeRoy Wood, 715-750-2112  
[subscriptions@eagleherald.com](mailto:subscriptions@eagleherald.com)

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING**  
Judith Kline, 715-750-2109

Published three times a week Monday, Wednesday and Friday, except holidays, by Adams Publishing Group.

USPS #012-581. Periodicals postage paid at Marinette, WI.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

By postal delivery: \$63.70 for 13 weeks, \$127.40 for 26 weeks, \$254.80 for 52 weeks  
Digital only rates: \$57.20 for 13 weeks, \$114.40 for 26 weeks, \$228.80 for 52 weeks  
Above AUTOPAY rates reflect best value  
Certain issues of The EagleHerald will be considered premium day editions and incur additional charges. These additional charges will change the paid-through date of your subscription.

**SUBSCRIPTION TERMS:** An EZ-Pay (Auto-Renew) subscription is considered a CONTINUOUS SUBSCRIPTION, which means it will automatically renew at the end of the initial term. Notice of cancellation must be provided before the end of this SUBSCRIPTION TERM to avoid charges for an additional term. Future SUBSCRIPTION TERM prices and publication days are subject to change. This subscription grants you a FULLY PREPAID, NON-REFUNDABLE license to receive and access the subscription materials for the duration of

the subscription term. PRE-PAYMENT: if you choose the convenience of prepay, price changes, premiums and/or surcharges during the pre-payment term may apply, this could reduce or extend the pre-payment term. We reserve the right to issue refunds or credits at our sole discretion. If we issue a refund or credit, we are under no obligation to issue the same or similar refund or credit in the future. All subscriptions will automatically include up to six premium content editions, there will be a charge for these premium editions, which will

shorten the length of your subscription. The publisher reserves the right to change subscription rates during the term of any subscription. A Maintenance fee may be added to subscriptions to accommodate for increased business expenses during the year.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to EagleHerald, P.O. Box 77, Marinette, WI 54143.