

March 14, 2011
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USNS William McLean (T-AKE 12) to be Christened and Launched at General Dynamics NASSCO on April 16

WHAT: The U.S. Navy's newest resupply ship, USNS *William McLean* (T-AKE 12), will be christened and launched into San Diego Bay. The launch ceremony begins at 8:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public. The shipyard's main gate (28th Street and East Harbor Drive) will open at 7:00 p.m. and will close at 8:30 p.m.

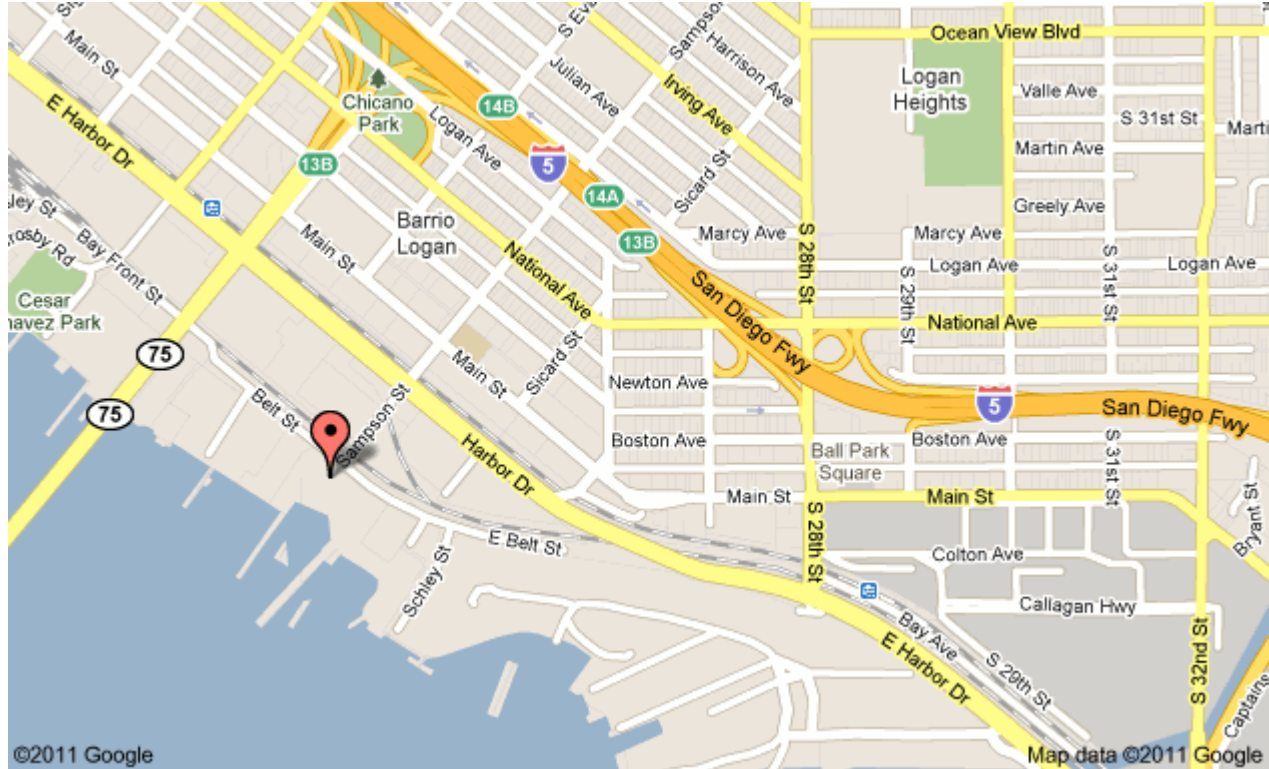
WHEN: Saturday, April 16, 2011.

WHO: Margaret Taylor, the eldest niece of Dr. William McLean, will serve as the ship's sponsor. Mrs. Taylor will ceremonially name the ship by breaking the traditional bottle of champagne against its hull. Fred Harris, president of General Dynamics NASSCO, will speak at the ceremony. On Saturday, General Dynamics NASSCO officials will be available for interviews prior to the launch.

WHERE: The General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard is located at 2798 East Harbor Drive in San Diego. Media should enter through NASSCO's Gate 14 at the north end of the complex on Harbor Drive and Sampson Street for escort to the media platform. Please see the map below. Mary Montgomery will be the on-site media contact.

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Gate 14 is located at Sampson Street and East Harbor Drive, pictured here on the left:



Background:

Named in honor of William Burdette McLean (1914–1976), the U.S. Navy physicist who conceived and developed the heat-seeking Sidewinder missile, USNS *William McLean* is the twelfth ship of the T-AKE class of dry cargo-ammunition ships that NASSCO is building for the Navy. When the *William McLean* joins the fleet in the third quarter of 2011, its primary mission will be to deliver more than 10,000 tons of food, ammunition, fuel and other provisions to combat ships on the move at sea.

General Dynamics NASSCO employs 3,700 people and is the only major ship construction yard on the West Coast of the United States. The San Diego shipyard has already delivered 11 T-AKE ships to the Navy and, in addition to T-AKE 12, is currently building two more T-AKE ships, USNS *Medgar Evers* (T-AKE 13), and the yet unnamed T-AKE 14, for a total class of 14 vessels. Additional information on NASSCO can be found at www.nassco.com.

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