

SUSAN FORD BALES, GERALD R. FORD (CVN 78) SHIP SPONSOR

MR. PRESIDENT WELCOME. WHAT A MAGNIFICENT DAY THIS IS FOR THE YOUNG LIFE OF THIS MIGHTY SHIP.

MR. PRESIDENT, YOU HAVE SPOKEN PASSIONATELY ABOUT AMERICA'S GREATNESS AND THERE ARE NO FINER EXAMPLES OF THAT GREATNESS THAN THE CREW OF THE USS GERALD R. FORD AND THE NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDERS.

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PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

THE SOON TO BE COMMISSIONED GERALD R. FORD USS, WHAT A PLACE. IT REALLY FEELS LIKE A PLACE. YOU STAND ON THE DECK AND YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE STANDING ON A VERY BIG PIECE OF LAND. IT WILL NOT ONLY BE A GREAT SYMBOL OF AMERICAN STRENGTH BUT A GREAT LEGACY FOR YOUR FATHER AND OUR FORMER PRESIDENT GERALD FORD. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HELP BUILD IT. THIS IS AMERICAN CRAFTSMANSHIP AT ITS BIGGEST, AT ITS BEST, AT ITS FINEST. AMERICAN WORKERS ARE THE GREATEST ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. THIS WARSHIP AND ALL WHO SERVE ON IT SHOULD BE A SOURCE OF SHARED PRIDE FOR OUR NATION. AND BY THE WAY WE'RE GOING TO SOON HAVE MORE COMING. HAVE MORE COMING.

[APPLAUSE]

WE WILL GIVE OUR MILITARY THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO PREVENT WAR AND, IF REQUIRED, TO FIGHT WAR AND ONLY DO ONE THING. YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS? WIN! WIN! THIS CARRIER AND THE NEW SHIPS IN THE FORD CLASS WILL EXPAND THE ABILITY OF OUR NATION TO CARRY OUT VITAL MISSIONS ON THE OCEANS TO PROJECT AMERICAN POWER IN DISTANT LANDS. HOPEFULLY ITS POWER WE DON'T HAVE TO USE. BUT IF WE DO, THEY'RE IN BIG, BIG TROUBLE.

OUR REPUBLIC WILL MEET ANY CHALLENGE, DEFEAT ANY DANGER, FACE ANY THREAT AND ALWAYS SEEK TRUE AND LASTING PEACE.

MAY GOD BLESS OUR MILITARY. MAY GOD BLESS OUR NAVY. MAY GOD BLESS THE WONDERFUL GERALD FORD FAMILY. AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]