



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
PCU IDAHO (SSN 799)
GENERAL DYNAMICS ELECTRIC BOAT
75 EASTERN POINT ROAD
GROTON, CONNECTICUT 06340

5730
Ser SSN799/001
January 6, 2026

The Honorable James E. Risch
United States Senate
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

SUBJECT: USS IDAHO (SSN 799) SPACE NAMING

Dear Senator Risch,

Thank you for the telephone call on December 17, 2025 requesting to name a space aboard USS IDAHO (SSN 799) in honor the 30th Governor of Idaho and 49th United States Secretary of the Interior, The Honorable Dirk Arthur Kempthorne.

While it isn't uncommon to name spaces aboard U.S. Navy Submarines after cities, towns, locations of the namesake state, which serves to remind the crew of the ties between them and the people of the namesake state, it is less common to name spaces after prominent people from the namesake state or individuals with ties to previous ships that bore the name.

Governor Kempthorne has been intrinsically involved and a true advocate for our ship since the day Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced the naming of USS IDAHO on August 23rd, 2015. The drive he demonstrated as the 30th governor of Idaho propelling the state forward in technology and conservation, is the same drive and enthusiasm he has demonstrated in support of USS IDAHO. Therefore, I am pleased to inform you that we will be naming the USS IDAHO's Engine Room in honor of Governor Kempthorne.

A plaque will be prominently displayed stating "The Honorable Dirk A. Kempthorne, A Driving Force for the Great State of Idaho, Whose Legacy Endures, Above and Below the Waves."

I greatly appreciate your recommendation. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CJG", is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

C. J. GUILLERAULT
Commander, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer