



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Milwaukee County
SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2008

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**WALKER WELCOMES SHIP AND CREW TO MILWAUKEE COUNTY
VETERANS PARK**

MILWAUKEE – County Executive Scott Walker will welcome the LCS 1 Freedom ship and her crew to Milwaukee County on Sunday, November 2 when it docks at Milwaukee County Veterans Park for a week-long stay.

The LCS (Littoral Combat Ship) is the first of its kind and is a fast, agile, focused-mission platform designed for operation in near-shore environments, yet capable of open-ocean operation. It is designed to defeat threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines and fast surface craft.

The ship will become part of the Navy fleet at the Commissioning Ceremony on Saturday, November 8. The principal speaker will be the Honorable Donald Winter, Secretary of the Navy. The commissioning will entail a few brief speeches, the acceptance of the ship by the Commanding Officer, the hoisting of the commissioning pennant, the setting of the first watch, and the charge of the Ship's Sponsor to "Man our ship and bring her to life." At that, the crew runs up the brow and mans the rail of the ship, radars start turning, lights and alarms go off as the ship comes alive and becomes the USS Freedom.

More information can be found at the commissioning website: www.ussfreedom.org.

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| DATE: | Sunday, November 2, 2008 |
| TIME: | 11 am |
| LOCATION: | Milwaukee County Veterans Park Ship arrives and docks at seawall |
| DATE: | Saturday, November 8, 2008 |
| Commissioning Ceremony: | 10 am, Veterans Park (The Navy has closed ticket distribution) |

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