

# MEMO



**TO** All Hill Employees  
**FROM** Chris Kastner  
**DATE** Jan. 29, 2026  
**RE** Honoring Service

Hi Team,

In honor of Black History Month in February, I want to take a moment to highlight for you some extraordinary Americans whose legacy we carry forward in our work.

A few of them have special significance to us this year, as we prepare to deliver USS *Arkansas* (SSN 800) to the Navy.

This submarine is sponsored by the Little Rock Nine, nine students who in 1957 integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. They walked through hostile crowds under federal protection to claim their right to equal education. Their courage in the face of intimidation and violence became a defining moment in our history, and transformed American education.

We're also proud that our work includes CVN 81, the aircraft carrier USS *Doris Miller*, currently under construction. Doris Miller was a Navy cook who, during the attack on Pearl Harbor, manned an anti-aircraft gun — despite having no training — and carried wounded sailors to safety. For his heroism, he received the Navy Cross. Tragically, he was killed in action in 1943 at age 24.

That both vessels bear these names speaks to how the Navy — and our nation — honor those who show extraordinary courage in pursuit of liberty and duty. No matter where you work at Hill, we carry forward a profound legacy of serving America's commitment to the common good.

Thank you for the pride and craftsmanship you bring to this important work every day.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Kastner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Kastner  
President and CEO