The Hunley comes back today
Crane will lift lost sub

After 136 years missing in action, the Confederacy's lost ship will finally come in today.

The Hunley recovery team expects to pluck the submarine from the bottom of the Atlantic at 8 this morning. From there, the Hunley — still strapped to its lifting truss — will be put on a barge for the 15-mile journey home.

It's expected at the mouth of the harbor after 10 a.m.

"It's a go," said Sen. Glenn McConnell, chairman of the Hunley Commission. "We've been working out all the last-minute details. And we've been inundated with phone calls — the public interest is overwhelming. This has all the earmarks of being the most historic event in Charleston in our lifetime."

Church bells will ring to herald the sub's arrival, and the ship will get a 21-gun salute from both sides of the harbor. A blue light atop the Yorktown will answer the Hunley's blue light signal that its mission, a century later, is complete.

The Hunley, cradled in its 32 lift straps and padding, ready to be lifted to the surface.

Raising the Hunley

After years of planning and months of work, the H.L. Hunley is ready for its journey home. Around 8 a.m. this morning, the crane aboard the barge Karlissa B will lift the sub from its resting place.

Karlissa B
The six-legged crane-barge platform has been used around the globe to recover everything from lost oil pipes in the North Sea to freezing grounded ships in the Caribbean.

The big lift
Secure in its lift straps, the Hunley will be hoisted onto an awaiting barge that will carry it to the former Charleston Navy base. There, in a specially designed lab, the painstaking process of conservation will begin. Researchers must also find a way to enter the sub.

Recovery barge

The Hunley

Coming Wednesday:
Discovery to recovery:
- Special Report
- Full coverage
- More mysteries await
- Charleston welcomes the Hunley
- Recovery timeline
- News updates on the Internet at www.CharlestonNow

Prep and Outreach by Eric Caron
SENATOR GLENN F. MCCONNELL

HUNLEY FUNERAL HOMILY

APRIL 17, 2004

WE ARE HERE TODAY TO HONOR EIGHT MEN WHOSE LIVES AND DEATHS HAVE CREATED AN AMAZING LEGACY. IT IS A LEGACY THAT WILL SERVE TO INSPIRE THE WORLD FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

THE LEGACY BEGAN ON FEBRUARY 17, 1864. ON A COLD WINTER'S NIGHT, THESE EIGHT MEN TOOK THE FIRST STEPS FROM THEIR LODGINGS TO BATTERY MARSHALL ON SULLIVAN'S ISLAND, TO THE PLACE WHERE THE H.L. HUNLEY WAS DOCKED, AWAITING THEIR ARRIVAL.

THE STEPS THEY TOOK ALONG THAT PATH CONTINUE TO ECHO DOWN THE CORRIDORS OF TIME. THEIR STEPS LAUNCHED A JOURNEY WE CONTINUE TODAY.

AS THEY WALKED THE SHORT DISTANCE TO THE SEA, BEFORE THE SUN WOULD RISE AGAIN, THESE EIGHT MEN WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD.

THE POET HENRY LONGFELLOW WROTE A PASSAGE THAT CARRIES SPECIAL MEANING FOR US. HE WROTE...

THE... "LIVES OF GREAT MEN REMIND US WE CAN MAKE OUR LIVES SUBLIME AND DEPARTING LEAVE BEHIND US FOOTPRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME; FOOTPRINTS, THAT PERHAPS ANOTHER,