

USS Colorado (SSN 788) Submarine Association Newsletter December 2022



Veteran's Day Events

Several members of the Association participated in Denver's Annual Veteran's Day celebration which was held this year in Civic Center Park on November 5th. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, windy conditions forced cancellation after only about one hour. We were able to meet several people, pass out brochures and get signatures on Holiday cards for the Crew.

Six members of the Association also attended CU Boulder's annual Veteran's Day Memorial Ceremony, held at the University Memorial Center (UMC) on the CU campus in Boulder. The UMC is dedicated as the state's official living memorial honoring the service and sacrifice of Colorado's veterans. The Veteran's Memorial Lounge contains many artifacts from the various USS Colorado's throughout history, including a replica of the ship's bell that is currently in use aboard our Submarine. As part of the events, Association members got many in attendance to sign holiday greeting cards for the crew.



Visit to King's Bay, Georgia

Association members JJ and Florence Mackin were in King's Bay, Georgia to attend a submarine reunion and had the opportunity to see CDR Steve Col and his wife Julianna. Steve was Commissioning XO of USS Colorado and is now Com-

manding Officer of USS Rhode Island (Blue).

The reunion was held in conjunction with the annual WWII Submarine Veterans Memorial in King's Bay GA held at the Naval Submarine Base. Although COVID caused cancellation during the pandemic, this event has been held in King's Bay for over thirty years and is always well attended. Several WWII Submarine sailors were in attendance. Retired Submarine Vice Admiral Al Konetzni was the principal speaker.





Boat Operations

The Boat's Commanding Officer, Commander David Beam, has recently been in touch with the Association's Don Price and Rick Riessen to update us on the boat's activities. Since CDR Beam relieved in August, the boat has been quite busy with operations along the East Coast. They recently returned from at-sea participation in the Submarine Command Course. COLORADO participated in these advanced tactical exercises for soon to report submarine Prospective Commanding Officers and Executive Officers, where the boat fired numerous exercise torpedoes.

We are hoping to arrange a Zoom call with the boat's leadership soon to get further updates and to plan for future visits and events.



Navy Birthday Ball

Several members of the Association attended the Navy Birthday Ball on October 15th in Colorado Springs, organized by the Navy League. About 125 people were in attendance. Principal speaker was Rear Admiral Dan Cheever, Chief of Staff, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command at Peterson Space Force Base. The slide show at the event included several pictures of USS Colorado and some previous crew visits.

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Sub Construction News

The Association's Board recently received an update on submarine construction news from member Jared Veteto. Jared is the owner of Cogitic Corporation, a manufacturer of parts for current generation submarines and an active member of the Submarine Industrial Base Council. Information passed to the Council recently by the Navy highlighted current challenges in submarine construction and maintenance. Supply chain and personnel shortages have extended the construction timeline for Virginia Class submarines from 72 months to greater than 96 months. This comes as the Navy is attempting to increase production rate of Virginia Class as well as starting construction of the Columbia Class submarine, the replacement for the Ohio class. The Navy and several contractors have ramped up training programs to increase the workforce as well as implementing new and innovative procurement plans.



Dolphin Solicitation

The Association has instituted a program with the boat to donate dolphins of submarine veterans that are to be presented to newly qualifying USS Colorado sailors. This is meant to help reinforce the traditions of the submarine service and to carry on the legacy of submarine veterans.

If you are a served submariner and would like to contribute your dolphins to this program, please contact Rick Riessen at 788rick@gmail.com.



Christmas Greetings for the Crew

Several members of the board have collected signatures on Christmas and Holiday greeting cards to send to the crew. We wish to show the crew the well wishes and support of the citizens of Colorado. Signatures on the boxful of cards were collected at the Veteran's Day events, from the Submarine Veterans organization and at the recent Navy League meeting. The Submarine Association was also proud to support the boat's upcoming Christmas Party with a monetary donation to the Family Readiness Group.



*Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas
to all.*

Join the Association

If you are interested in more actively supporting the crew and families of USS Colorado, consider joining the USS Colorado Submarine Association.

usscoloradosubassoc.org/join-us

