



USS Colorado Returns From Deployment

Ten members of the USS Colorado Submarine Association visited Groton, Connecticut to welcome home USS Colorado from her second extended deployment on March 13th. It was a cold and windy day in Groton but that did not deter the many family members who were there to meet the boat. The deployment was seven months long, a month longer than originally intended. Commander Submarine Forces sent a congratulatory message citing what a superior job the crew has done during their operations.

Association members assisted the Family Readiness Group in selling merchandise and distributing snacks to the attendees.

The boat arrived about 2 PM to the cheers of all attending. There were many hugs and kisses and congratulations as the sailors came ashore. After some time, the crowd gradually dispersed as they headed home.

COLORADO's previous Chief of the Boat, Chip Alger, and his wife Michelle joined the Association members for dinner in New London across from Electric Boat shipyard.



On Monday Association members attended quarters on the pier with the Colorado crew. Association President Don Price presented the Commanding Officer with congratulatory proclamations, one from Governor Jared Polis and another from the General Assembly. The Association also

presented each member of the crew with a specially designed challenge coin celebrating the boat's second extended deployment. Members were treated to tour of various Submarine School facilities including the fire trainer, the escape training building and diving tank and the Virginia Class ship control trainer. They also received an extensive briefing from the Undersea Warfare Development Center.

In the evening CDR Storz and his wife Jeanne joined the Association for dinner in Mystic.

Overall, it was a great visit. We are all happy to have USS Colorado home again.



USS Colorado (SSN 788) Submarine Association

usscoloradosubassoc.org

Crew Visit Planned

Plans are currently under development for a crew visit to Colorado in early June. Paperwork has been submitted to have five members of the Crew come to the state from 5 through 10 June. The trip needs to be approved by senior submarine staff which could take several weeks. The Association is developing a schedule to show the sailors what a great state they represent and also let our citizens meet these fine submariners!

More information to follow as plans become firm.

2nd Deployment Challenge Coin

The Association has developed a custom designed challenge coin commemorating the boat's second extended deployment and presented one to each member of the crew on their arrival. We will have approximately 40 coins for sale on our web site in about two weeks. Price will be \$20 per coin with a discounted price for Association members.

We will post when it is available on Facebook.



BB-45 Veteran Passes



WWII battleship USS Colorado (BB-45) veteran Charlie Henry Ripper passed away on March 10, 2022, in La Grange, Texas at the age of 96. He attended the submarine Colorado christening and commissioning events with his other BB-45 shipmates.

He enlisted on July 20, 1943, and embarked USS Colorado in Pearl Harbor in October 1943. He was assigned to Deck Division (1st Division) and his battle station was Turret #1. He participated in battles of Tarawa, Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Leyte Gulf, Mindoro, Luzon and Okinawa. He was an eyewitness to the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay from the observation tower (crow's nest) of the USS Colorado moored next to USS Missouri.



Battleship Veterans at USS Colorado Christening

After the war he returned to LaGrange in Fayette County, Texas where he was the town barber for 40+ years. Charlie knew almost everybody in that small town and surrounding county.

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



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