



USS Colorado (SSN 788)
Submarine Association
Newsletter
September 2021

FRG Halfway Boxes & Success

The Family Readiness Group successfully completed their Halfway Boxes project. They were able to collect all of the items on the single sailor and morale wish lists and provided them to the crew for underway. The Association received a nice thank you for our support of this effort.



The FRG also recently held a brunch for the families which the Association also helped support.



USS Colorado Underway

Here are some pictures of USS Colorado's recent underway from Groton



BB-45 Veteran Passes

One of the few remaining veterans of USS Colorado (BB-45), Frank Wayne Kizer, 96, of Perrysville IN, passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, August 12, 2021. Frank was one of five veterans of the Battleship that attended the Commissioning of SSN 788 on March 17, 2018. For a more complete obituary see our web site



Below: Battleship Colorado veterans with then Commanding Officer Reed Koepp at the Chairman's Reception the evening prior to Commissioning in 2018.



September 2nd also was the date a year earlier in 1944 when LTJG George H. W. Bush, after being shot down in the Pacific, was rescued by USS Finback (SS-230).

Colorado's connection to this event is that the young Seaman who pulled LTJG Bush from the water was Andy Palenchar. Andy was a member of the Rocky Mountain Submarine Veterans chapter. In 2015 when one of PCU Colorado sailors, SN Brayden Kane, a Colorado native, was ready to receive his dolphins, he requested to have his ceremony held here in Colorado in conjunction with a crew visit occurring at the time. The Commissioning Committee arranged to have his dolphin ceremony held in the rotunda of the State Capitol and have Andy pin on his dolphins alongside the Chief of the Boat. Not your average Dolphin Ceremony!



September 2nd Remembered

September 2nd celebrates the official V-J Day in 1945, the date on which the formal signing of the Japanese instrument of surrender took place aboard USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Moored next to MISSOURI was USS Colorado (BB45) who witnessed the event. COLORADO arrived in Tokyo Bay on August 27th and departed for the United States on September 20th.



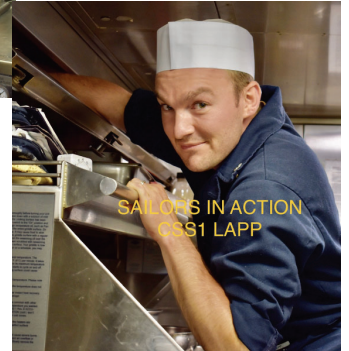
USS Colorado (SSN 788) Submarine Association

usscoloradosubassoc.org

Andy's career was amazing. After the war he left the Navy but subsequently joined the Army Reserve. He was called up for active duty in Korea and was given a battlefield commission. He stayed in the Army after Korea and served two tours in Vietnam and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1978. He passed on in 2017. We sure miss him. From what he described, President Bush remained in contact with the Finback sailors who rescued him.



SAILORS IN ACTION
CO and COB



SAILORS IN ACTION
CSS1 LAPP



Sailors In Action
EMN3 Harrower and
LTSSN Garner



SAILORS IN ACTION
ETV1 WAYMIRE

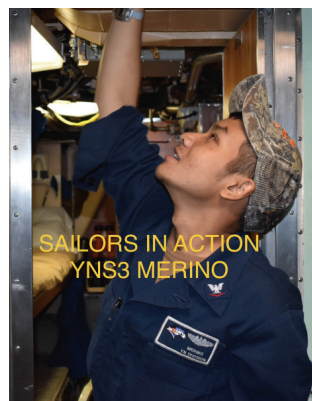
A link to a video of LTJG Bush's rescue:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=be3N4LaFekM>

Here is a link to an article we posted on our web site about the ceremony:

<https://usscoloradocommittee.org/sn-brayden-kane-awarded-dolphins-at-capitol/>

Crew Pictures



SAILORS IN ACTION
YNS3 MERINO



USS Colorado (SSN 788) Submarine Association
usscoloradosubassoc.org