

# NM NAUTICAL NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NEW MEXICO COUNCIL  
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES



[www.nmnavyleague.com](http://www.nmnavyleague.com)

October, 2022

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<https://seapowermagazine.org/>



## Navy Week Albuquerque Brings Adventure to Our City!

Story by Damon Runyan; Photos courtesy of Damon Runyan



Three sailors from the Virginia-class submarine USS NEW MEXICO (SSN-779) visited the Southwest Learning Center in Albuquerque on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> as part of Navy Week Albuquerque. Albuquerque's Mayor Tim Keller proclaimed September 12-18 as Navy Week in conjunction with the New Mexico State Fair.

LT Curtis (Trey) Olsen from Roseville, CA, ETV1 Jason Cruz from Bronx, NY, and ETN2 Noah Bolin from Brighton, CO have all been on the USS NEW MEXICO for two and half years. Their visit to Southwest Learning Center included the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes (72 students total) of Mr. Tom Ottman, Ms. Susannah Martinez, and Ms. Sarah Knight.

For over 90 minutes, students could ask about life aboard the submarine, what made the sailors want to join the Navy, and what their jobs were on the boat. Each student also received a ship's crest lapel pin from the sailors as a way of saying thank you for letting us come to your school. One estimate gave the total number of questions asked by the students at just under 2,000! 🤗

**Thank You!** When you keep your dues up to date with the Navy League national office, our New Mexico council receives a stipend for each active member. This makes a big difference in our ability to support our namesake ships, our youth, our Sea Cadets, and the local active and reserve.

Join or renew at [members.navyleague.org](http://members.navyleague.org)

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## Navy League NM Council Scholarships

See our special insert to learn how to apply for the Navy League of the United States, **New Mexico Council Education Scholarship**.

You could be eligible for \$750 in tuition awards.

Contact Marilyn Smith for details.

[msmrlyn3810@aol.com](mailto:msmrlyn3810@aol.com)



## President's Message



John Jones

*President, New Mexico Council*

### Welcome to the Fall Season!

We have a GREAT issue for you ... Navy Week Albuquerque, visits by NEW MEXICO and SANTA FE sailors, the donation of BB40 artifacts to the Museum of New Mexico, the presentation of a model of the USS ALBUQUERQUE (SSN 706), crafted by Dan Moss, to the City of Albuquerque along with progress on bringing the sail of the 706 to Albuquerque, an update on training conducted by the SSN 779, and our scholarship.

The UNM NROTC unit is hosting a Navy/Marine Corps birthday event on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The event is used as a training opportunity for Navy Traditions and Ceremonies.

Our membership is steady so far this year, with several new members offsetting the loss of others. The Council depends on passionate individuals, like you, and corporations to support our mission – please tell your friends about us! The NM Council has adopted ships, honored and rewarded local enlisted personnel, and supported families of deployed sea service personnel. At the national

level, the Legislative Affairs Team of the League fights on behalf of our sea services and educates government officials. No prior military service is required to be a member. Active-duty service members are now eligible for membership, and the spouses of those currently serving can join at no cost for one-year - just our way to thank you for all you do.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Council in support of our educational efforts with the Sea Services, our scholarship program for men and women on active duty and in the reserves, our work with crews on our namesake New Mexico ships, and our recognition programs with the Navy ROTC and Junior Navy and Marine Corps ROTC programs around the State and El Paso.

Our annual meeting will be held at 12 noon on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> (the day AFTER the Navy football victory over Army), at Seasons 52, 6600 Menaul NE in Albuquerque. We'll review the year, recognize achievements and talk about next year – please consider joining us!

The Council Board continues to meet via Zoom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. Should you wish to sit in on a meeting, let me know!

Stay in touch, tell us what you think.

**Contact me any time at  
[JohnLJonesNM@gmail.com](mailto:JohnLJonesNM@gmail.com)**  
or by mail at the Council's P.O. Box.

Not for Self, but Country.  
Semper Fortis.

John L Jones, CDR SC USN (ret)



# Navy Week Albuquerque!



## Navy Week Albuquerque – Connecting with New Mexico *by Mark Schaefer, newsletter editor*



We did it once again! The New Mexico chapter of the Navy League of the United States helped to make the connection between our home state and U.S. Navy. This year, it was Albuquerque in the forefront. Timing was everything. We were able to tie together Navy Week with the New Mexico state fair and the efforts to bring in the sail of the former USS Albuquerque and our past support from the New Mexico Pinon Coffee company and the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

Rear Admiral Gene Price, vice commander of Naval Information Forces, led a contingent of Navy personnel to Albuquerque. He was joined by sailors from USS Santa Fe (SSN-763), USS New Mexico (SSN-779), USS George Washington (CVN-73), Navy Band Southwest, CANTRA aviators, members of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, and members of the elite Navy Ceremonial Guard Drill Team.

This was the sixth Navy Week hosted by Albuquerque and the surrounding communities. The entire Navy team did a great job of explaining why the Navy is important to Albuquerque and the surrounding area.

Sailors from the USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) joined KOB-TV's Diana Castillo at New Mexico Expo and talked about the many things that the Navy would accomplish during Navy Week, including working on a Habitat for Humanity project, visiting schools and Boys/Girls clubs, helping Meals on Wheels, and giving concerts at the state fair, UNM and Old Town plaza, and playing side by side with the Albuquerque Youth Symphony. A contingent of Navy STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) experts met at the National Museum of Nuclear Science & Technology. And the Navy aviators met with the SAMS Academy (Southwest Aeronautics, Mathematics, and Science Academy).



The Naval Meteorology Team from the Fleet Weather Center brought in LT Nikki Peterson and Aerographer 1st class Jesse Nelson to appear on KOB-TV with meteorologist Tonia Michele.



USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) sailors speak on KOB-TV at Expo New Mexico

Television appearances and interviews were made throughout the week. The sailors picked to represent us did a great job of explaining the role of the Navy.





# Navy Week Albuquerque!



## Navy Week Albuquerque Brings Adventure to Albuquerque Schools!

Photos by Damon Runyan



USS New Mexico (SSN-779) crew members kept up with the student questions and maybe made a few future recruits! Pictured are LT Curtis (Trey) Olsen, ETV1 Jason Cruz, and ETN2 Noah Bolin.



## The Albuquerque Isotopes Got Rained Out... Photos by Mark Schaefer

... but that didn't stop the Navy Ceremonial Guard and others from interacting with members of the community.





## New Mexico Pinon Coffee Were Outstanding Hosts story and photos by Damon Runyan

These photos came from the Marketing Coordinator at New Mexico Pinon Coffee, Ms. Taylor Mills, during the crew visit of the Roastery on 15 September 2022. Pictured are Lt Curtis Olsen (Trey) from Roseville, CA; YNCS Mark Cardenas (Ensign selectee) from Kingwood, TX; ETV1 Jason Cruz from Bronx, NY; EMN2 Jose Casillas from Compton, CA; ETN2 Noah Bolin from Brighton, CO; and MMN1 Dustin Munn (Chief Petty Officer select) from Sioux Falls, SD.

The group was led on the tour by the NM Pinon Coffee Director of Operations Bob Bruce. Thank you to Ms. Betty Berigan for graciously posing with the sailors during her busy workday. Thank you to the President of NM Pinon Coffee, Mr. Matt Bregar. He gave clearance for our group to tour the production facility as the



first group to

do so since the advent of the COVID-era. The owners of NM Pinon Coffee, Frank and Cindy Bassett, were delighted to provide this tour and I quote Mrs. Bassett, "You know I love my military!" You'll recall that at the big dinner on Monday night at El Pinto how each of these sailors remarked what a difference in their day this coffee made over the standard Navy-issue coffee.

As you can see, the end of the tour came at the huge roaster as the sailors were overwhelmed by the aroma of huge load of NM Pinon coffee fresh out the oven!



Thank you to Damon Runyan (picture at far right) for coordinating much of the crew visit and details surrounding Navy Week Albuquerque!



# Navy Week Albuquerque!



Left to right: LT Olsen, Senior Chief Cardenas, (orange hoodie), PO Casillas, PO Cruz, PO Munn (brown cap), PO Bolin (blue and white serape). *Photo by Damon Runyan*



# Namesake Ships



## What is USS New Mexico doing when not at Navy Week? *photos submitted by Damon Runyan*

US NAVY SEALs worked with USS New Mexico (SSN-779) recently on certification efforts between the SEALs and the boat.

The efforts here simulate moving "packages" to and from the submarine. Here are the SEALs simulating returning to the sub with "High Value Cargo" in the form of our national flag.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> photo records a visitor in trail of our submarine-based warfighters (see very center of the photo).



# USS Albuquerque Sail Project



## USS Albuquerque 'sails' into Duke City *by Rick Nathanson / Journal staff writer - Sunday, August 21, 2022*

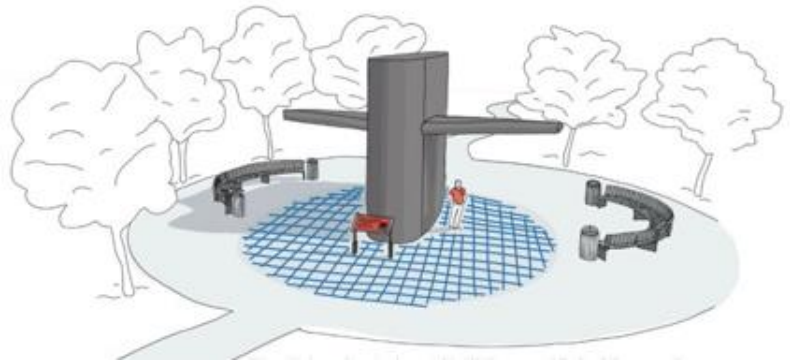
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When the nuclear-powered submarine USS Albuquerque was commissioned in 1983, then Mayor Harry Kinney jokingly offered the keys to a Rolls Royce to the first captain who could maneuver the sub up the Rio Grande for a port call in Albuquerque. The keys were subsequently passed on to the skipper at each of 13 change-of-command ceremonies, according to history of the ship posted to a city website. The keys eventually made their way back to the Mayor's Office in 2017, after it was decommissioned, and the submarine – or at least a large chunk of it – is expected to arrive in Albuquerque before the end of this year.

The 362-foot-long Los Angeles class submarine is currently at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Washington state, where it is being dismantled, and the U.S. Navy is making the 52-ton sail from the submarine available to Albuquerque, said Thomas Tozier, the city's liaison for military and veterans affairs. To be clear, the sail is nothing like the large, wind-swelled sheet of fabric mounted to a tall mast that propels a schooner through the water; rather it is the conning tower that's mounted on the topside of a submarine, and includes the wing-like structures, or fairwater planes, which project sideways from the tower and aid in underwater stability and steering, Tozier explained.

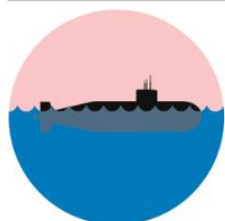
The New Mexico Council of the Navy League of the United States had been following the final journey of the USS Albuquerque. Knowing that the Navy occasionally allows pieces of decommissioned ships to go to locales that have a tie to those vessels, the league brought it to the attention of Tozier, who brought it to the attention of Mayor Tim Keller. The city bought into the idea with an initial commitment of about \$800,000 allocated in the fiscal year 2023 budget, said Dave Simon, director of the city's Parks and Recreation Department, which is leading the effort for site selection, planning and design of a monument to house the submarine sail.

Simon said that the involvement of Parks and Rec does not necessarily mean the sail will wind up in a city park. The city has set up a website, [www.ussalbuquerque.org](http://www.ussalbuquerque.org), which offers some history about the submarine, the process for bringing the sail to Albuquerque and a nomination form for people to suggest sites and ideas for monument design features. "We want the monument to be an exciting, dynamic and inspirational space in our city that honors the legacy of all those who served on the submarine," Simon said.



This graphic shows a dimensioned concept of the USS Albuquerque sail memorial. The City of Albuquerque will receive the sail and is looking for a suitable site for it. Courtesy of [www.ussalbuquerque.org](http://www.ussalbuquerque.org)

### HOW WILL THE USS ALBUQUERQUE RETURN HOME?



**1** USS Albuquerque is decommissioned



**2** You help us select a suitable site



**3** The sub sail is transported to Albuquerque



**4** The site is prepared and the sail delivered



**5** The USS Albuquerque monument is ready for you to visit!



During Navy Week Albuquerque, at the New Mexico state fair, Greg Trapp had the honor of saying a few words commemorating the move of the sail of Albuquerque.

"It is my honor to be here this morning to give a brief history of USS ALBUQUERQUE. USS ALBUQUERQUE was a Los Angeles-class nuclear attack submarine. She was launched on March 13, 1982 and sponsored by Nancy Domenici. Her hull number was SSN-706, a tribute to the 1706 founding of the city of Albuquerque. ALBUQUERQUE was 361 feet long, almost 33 feet wide, and displaced 5,758 tons. She was armed with four 21-inch torpedo tubes. In addition to firing torpedoes, she could also fire Tomahawk and Harpoon missiles. These statistics, however, do not tell the full story.



Distinguished visitors watched Greg Trapp give a brief history of the USS Albuquerque (SSN-706) during Navy Week.

ALBUQUERQUE entered service at one of the lowest points in the Cold War. The Soviet Union had invaded Afghanistan in December of 1979, driving relations between the United States and Soviets to new lows. ALBUQUERQUE's primary mission was to confront the submarines of the Soviet fleet; a very dangerous game of underwater cat-and-mouse. ALBUQUERQUE was also designed to deliver special Operations forces and conduct intelligence gathering. These were especially dangerous classified operations.

ALBUQUERQUE had another mission which was to launch her Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles deep into enemy territory. ALBUQUERQUE performed that mission during the Kosovo War in May of 1999. The Kosovo War is in some ways similar to the current War in Ukraine. Instead of Vladimir Putin, the aggressor was Slobodan Milosevic. Under his leadership, the Serbians engaged in a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the much weaker Albanians. The world was rightfully horrified, and NATO responded with Operation Allied Force, known by the United States as Noble Anvil. USS ALBUQUERQUE was in the Mediterranean with the Theodore Roosevelt Battle Group. By the end of May, USS ALBUQUERQUE had fired a total of ten Tomahawk missiles at Serbian targets. ALBUQUERQUE achieved a 100 percent success rate in those firings, earning her the nickname of Sure Shooter.



USS Albuquerque was transferred to the Pacific in 2006, where she finished her career. USS Albuquerque was in service for over 33 years. Throughout that time, the most important mission USS ALBUQUERQUE had was to help preserve peace between the superpowers. We can this morning be thankful to USS ALBUQUERQUE and to her sailors for preserving that peace."



Mr Tom Tozier, city of Albuquerque, RADM Gene Price, Mr. Dan Moss (USS Albuquerque model maker), and John Jones, President of the New Mexico Chapter of the Navy League of the United States.



## ‘Telling the story of New Mexico’

by Rick Nathanson / Journal staff writer - Friday, August 26, 2022

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Although the battleship USS New Mexico was decommissioned in 1946 and scrapped shortly afterward, artifacts from the ship continue to bring it to life and, on Thursday, a number of items from the ship became part of the permanent collection of the New Mexico History Museum in Santa Fe.



A USS New Mexico launch medal from April 23, 1917, with red, white and blue ribbon, was among the items donated to the New Mexico History Museum. (Chancey Bush/Albuquerque Journal)

Among the items were a ceremonial ship commander’s sword, the commander’s napkin ring, copies of newsletters printed aboard the ship, a sailor’s cap and a 78 rpm recording of Prokofiev’s “Peter and the Wolf” in the original cover – music piped over the ship’s loudspeakers. The items were laid out briefly in the museum at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial in Albuquerque, where members of the Navy League of the United States, New Mexico Council, formally turned them over to a state history museum curator.

“It’s surprising that, in the landlocked state of New Mexico, so many people have served in the U.S. Navy,” said council president John Jones, who estimated that 20% of the state’s roughly 156,000 veterans served in the Navy.

Many of the items gifted to the history museum were in the private collections of Navy League members who wanted a larger audience to see and enjoy the artifacts. The items, Jones said, “are a link to our heritage and to the fact that New Mexico is tied to the maritime nature of our nation.”

Greg Trapp, historian for the Navy League’s New Mexico Council, donated many of the items from his private collection. “I think they help tell the story of New Mexico,” he said.

The USS New Mexico was commissioned in May 1918 and was the first of its series in the New Mexico class of battleships and the first with turbo-electric transmission. At about 625 feet long, it was considered enormous for its day, said Trapp.

Known as “the Queen of the waves,” sailors produced an onboard newsletter called the “Queen’s Daily News.” A number of those newsletters are among the gifted items. An edition from Aug. 12, 1945, includes homefront articles written by a budding East Coast newspaper columnist named Ed Sullivan, who later went on to host a popular TV show that introduced Americans to the Beatles.

Another newsletter from Aug. 16, 1945, contains crew reaction to the surrender of Japan the day before and how the ship’s giant bell, which had been silent since the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, was finally rung. That 1,100 pound bell, said Trapp, has been in the possession of the state since 1948 and is currently in the New Mexico History Museum. A smaller 800-pound bell was removed from the ship during a 1945 repair and wound up in New Mexico shortly thereafter. It is on display at the University of New Mexico.

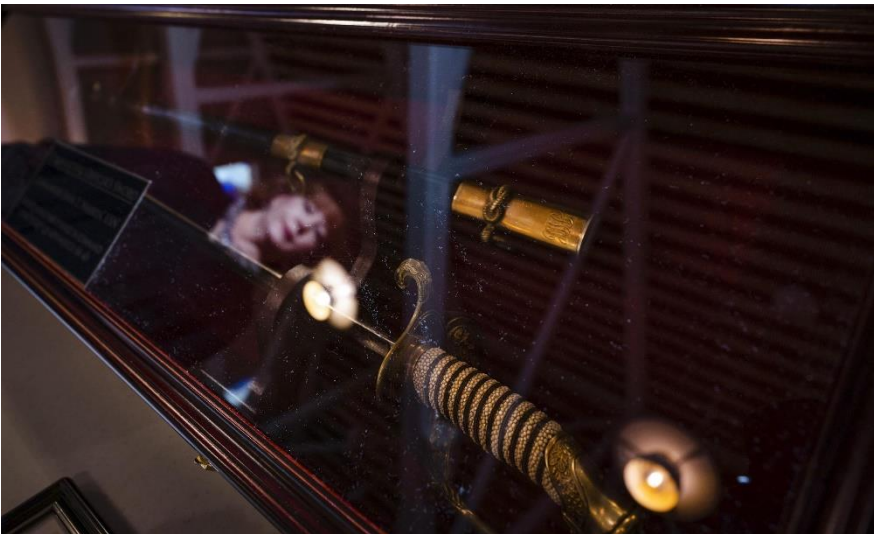


The Queens Daily News was an onboard newsletter produced aboard the USS New Mexico. Copies of it are among the items donated to the New Mexico History Museum.



Other gifts donated by Trapp included a USS New Mexico “flat hat,” also known as a “Donald Duck” hat or a “pancake” hat, a style of hat that was worn between 1918 and early 1941; and a USS New Mexico launch medal dated April 23, 1917, with red, white and blue ribbon.

Lisa Cummings donated the ceremonial sword belonging to her grandfather, John T. Warren, who assumed command of the USS New Mexico on Jan. 6, 1945, after a kamikaze attack killed the previous commander and 29 crewmen.



Lisa Cummings is reflected in a glass case displaying the ceremonial sword of her grandfather, John T. Warren, when he was commander of the battleship USS New Mexico. The sword will now be donated to the New Mexico History Museum. (Chancey Bush/ Albuquerque Journal)

“I’ve had it since I was a teenager,” Cummings said. “My stepmother passed it on to me and a lot of my grandfather’s other memorabilia. Several of his things are on the new USS New Mexico,” a nuclear-powered Virginia-class submarine launched in 2009. “It was really important to me that people should be able to see these things because they’re so beautiful and because they are part of our history,” she said.

Cathy Notarnicola, curator at the New Mexico History Museum, said “there aren’t a lot of artifacts from the USS New Mexico, so we’re really pleased to accept them.” These items not only help tell the story of the battleship USS New Mexico, she said, but also help tell the story of the history of the state – “a history that most people don’t know about.”



Ms. Cathy Notarnicola, from the New Mexico Museum of History accepts historic artifacts related to the state’s namesake battleship, USS New Mexico (BB-40). Mr. Greg Trapp and Ms. Lisa Cummings, granddaughter of former Commanding Officer John Warren donated personal items, and John Jones, President of the New Mexico Council of the Navy League of the United States oversaw the activity.



Cookies and refreshments celebrated the USS New Mexico (BB-40) and its heritage and contributions to our national defense.

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**2022 Upcoming Events for Navy League, New Mexico Council**

October 6	NM Foundation for Open Government Dixon Award to Greg Trapp
November 5	UNM ROTC Birthday Ball – Capt. Dan Gonzales, 505-277-7023
December 10	Army-Navy football. Go Navy!
December 11	Annual meeting of NM Council, NLUS – noon – Seasons 52

**Watch for activities coming up and plan to attend our Council's Annual Meeting December 11, 2022.**