



NAVY LEAGUE
of the United States
"Citizens in Support of the Sea Services."

New Mexico
Council



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www.nmnavyleague.com

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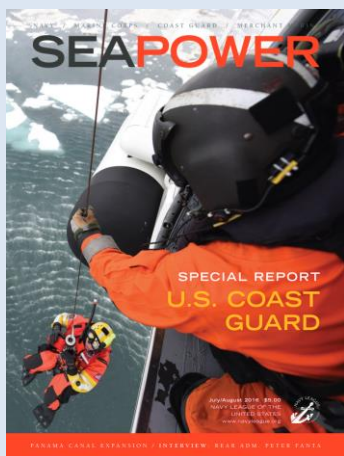
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Did you know that you can get the latest issues of Sea Power magazine in an App? Go to your mobile device App Store and search on "Navy League".



New Mexico Youth and Our Great Navy in San Diego!



USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship Features the Albuquerque Youth Symphony
(Photo courtesy of Mark Schaefer, Navy League, New Mexico Council)

With a standing-room only flight deck and the San Diego clouds beginning to break to clear skies on June 12th, the USS Midway museum ship was the featured venue for the Albuquerque Youth Symphony (AYS) and its 90+ dedicated string, woodwind, brass, and percussion players. The AYS members played their final summer concert and spent a half day on the Midway exploring its crew spaces, flight deck, hangar deck, flight simulators, climb-aboard aircraft and cockpits, "ejection seat theater", and other interactive exhibits.

If you are looking for a place to get a fantastic visit of a Navy ship (it's strikingly similar to today's modern aircraft carrier ship environments), or if you want to make a positive Navy impression on a young person, this is the place!

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.

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NAVY LEAGUE

NEW MEXICO COUNCIL

P.O. Box 91554

Albuquerque, NM 87199

Mark Schaefer

Newsletter Editor

NM Nautical Quiz!

Q1: What Nautical word looks the same upside down and backwards? Hint: it's a requirement for all new recruits...

Q2: Why did the whale cross the ocean?

(see page 7 for answers)



To contact the editor, write to Mark Schaefer at usnam@comcast.net.



President's Message



Chuck Vaughan
President, New Mexico Council

(Photo courtesy of Rick Carver)

Greetings Navy League members and friends!

As the weather begins to turn cooler, I'm reminded that fall is just around the corner and with it comes a distinguished visitor cruise on the USS Santa Fe (SSN-763), Navy Week in Albuquerque (September 12th to 18th), the dedication of the sail of the USS James K. Polk on September 24th at the Nuclear Museum, and the Navy Birthday Ball on October 15th. I originally anticipated the USS Albuquerque (SSN -706) being decommissioned this fall but it now looks like she will be decommissioned on March 1st 2017 at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Meanwhile our two namesake submarines, the USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) and the USS New Mexico (SSN 779) stay very busy. U. S. Navy attack submarines like these stay busy because they are capable of completing many different missions and because there is a great demand for their services.

I've previously written about submarine missions such as anti-submarine warfare; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR); insertion and recovery of special operations forces; and projection of power ashore. Today I am writing about mine warfare.

Many nations are known to have sea (or Naval) mines; a recent article I read noted that Iran has several thousand, North Korea could have 50,000, China could have 100,000 or so, and Russia might have 250,000 Naval mines.¹

It is legal under international law to lay mines in international waters as long as the country doing it makes it publicly known what areas have been mined. There are several ways to lay mines; they can be laid by surface vessels, dropped from an aircraft (certain mines), or even launched from a submarine. Aircraft can lay mines very fast, but submarines can do it with stealth.

China has equipped its entire submarine fleet to lay mines.¹ The down side is that a submarine can carry and deploy a very limited number of mines, but they can do it with a low likelihood of being detected, and a low likelihood of the mine being detected. It is not surprising, therefore, that submarines are involved in mine warfare.

We need a strong U. S. Navy to conduct anti-submarine warfare, to conduct ISR, and to monitor, without being detected, what our potential adversaries might be planning to do or what they might be doing against us. And we especially need a strong Navy to fight and win battles at sea for the United States.

Go Navy - and a thank you to all who have served or are serving in our United States Navy.

1. Freedberg, S. J. Sowing the Sea with Fire: the Threat of Sea Mines. Breaking Defense, 30 March 2015.

Contact me any time at

chuck.vaughan@comcast.net

or by mail at the Council's P.O. box.

NAVY LEAGUE NEW MEXICO COUNCIL
HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS
2015 OUTSTANDING COUNCIL!

Namesake Ships



USS Albuquerque (SSN-706) Moors at Bremerton *by Mark Schaefer, photo courtesy of Danny Erdman*

Albuquerque residents and proud Navy submarine crew member parents Danny and Leoni Erdman saw an article in the most recent issue of the *NM Nautical News* about the USS Albuquerque inactivation in San Diego. They knew from the article that the Albuquerque was headed to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, WA for decommissioning. During a visit to see their daughter-in-law and granddaughter in Bangor while their son, FT2 Joseph Perez, was on deployment on the USS Ohio (SSGN-726), the Erdmans decided to make a trip from the active submarine base in Bangor, WA to the shipyard in Bremerton, WA to see if they could find the USS Albuquerque.



Danny noted, "When we found the Albuquerque, it was smaller than I thought it would be. It's a lot smaller than the USS Ohio." He was allowed to take the photo of the USS Albuquerque shown here.

There are quite a few items of interest in this photo. First, the United States flag is still flying on our namesake ship. A ship flying the US flag is still in commission and considered to be a United States Ship (USS). While under construction, ships are known as

pre-commissioning units or PCU ships instead of USS ships. And then when decommissioned after hopefully a long and useful life of service, the USS designation is no longer used, and the ships are referred to only by their names. Second, the facilities include topside vinyl "dog shacks" that are covering all three hatches to keep the rain out, shore cables are hooked up and can be seen (right above the hood of the silver car) coming out of the pier and running towards the aft engineering room hatch, a habitability barge for comfort of the ship's crew is very near the bow of the submarine, and a white "fire watch" shack (with windows near the US flag) can be seen on the pier to monitor all of the grinding, cutting, and welding that can be expected in the inactivation. Third, the fairwater planes are having some kind of inspection since they are not coming out of the sail in a horizontal way, but are angled slightly upward as if making the submarine come closer to the surface. And lastly, if you look really closely, you can see two brows coming to the submarine from the pier, one aft and one forward, and the forward brow has two armed topside watch standers (directly under the starboard fairwater plane) to keep control of unexpected visitors. Thank you, Danny and Leoni, for this update!

Crew Members from USS Mesa Verde (LPD-19) Visit New Mexico, Colorado, and Mesa Verde National Park *by Mark Schaefer with inputs from Angie McKinstry, President of the Navy League Rocky Mountain Region*

CAPT Randall Peck, Commanding Officer of the USS Mesa Verde (LPD-19) and seven of his crew were hosted by the New Mexico Council of the Navy League at a luncheon in Albuquerque at the Piatanzi restaurant on 22 August. The crew also visited the Denver Colorado Council, attended a Denver Broncos pre-season game, and visited the Mesa Verde National Park during the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service. (Mesa Verde is the national park after which this ship was named). The park is close enough to New Mexico for this ship to be considered one our "namesake ships"!



Navy Week Albuquerque



America's Navy Comes to Albuquerque September 12th to the 18th!



Albuquerque is one of 15 cities selected for the Navy's outreach program in 2016. The Navy wanted Navy Week to coincide with the New Mexico State Fair in order to maximize its reach throughout the state of New Mexico.

Navy Weeks are coordinated by the Navy Office of Community Outreach (NAVCO). They are designed to give Americans the opportunity to learn about the Navy and its contributions to national security and homeland defense.

"Navy Weeks are designed to help Americans understand that their Navy protects and defends America on the world's oceans, that their Navy is deployed around the world around the clock, and is ready to defend America at all times," said John Wallach, NAVCO's deputy director. " Because the Navy is concentrated primarily on both coasts, we're challenged to communicate our mission away from fleet concentration areas. The Navy Week program helps us do that. "



Schedule for Albuquerque Navy Week

Monday, September 12th

- 10:30-11:30 am, Navy Week Kickoff Ceremony; New Mexico Veteran's Memorial, 1100 Louisiana Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM. Event will include Navy Divers, Navy Band Northwest, USS Constitution Sailors, Navy Recruiters, Navy Medicine Ambassadors, Navy Operational Support Center and NROTC midshipmen from the University of New Mexico. Also, Rear Admiral (RADM) Phillip Sawyer will speak.
- 12:00-1:00 pm, RADM Sawyer speaks at Rotary Club of Albuquerque, 3301 Menaul Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM.
- 6:00-7:00 pm, Navy Band Northwest plays at New Mexico State Fair Pavilion Stage.

Tuesday, September 13th

- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Navy Recruiters on Main Street, New Mexico State Fair.
- 10:30-11:30 am, Veterans Appreciation, The State Fair honors the military and veterans on the Expo Pavilion Stage.
- 5:00-6:00 pm, Bernalillo County Proclamation Ceremony, City/County Chambers, One Civic Plaza NW, Albuquerque, NM, RADM Sawyer receives proclamation from Bernalillo County commissioners.
- 6:00-7:00 pm, Navy Band Northwest plays at New Mexico State Fair Pavilion Stage.
- 7:00-8:00 pm, Navy Band Northwest vocalist sings the National Anthem at the Rodeo.

Wednesday, September 14th

- 9:00 am -3:00 pm, Navy Recruiters on Main Street, New Mexico State Fair.
- 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, Navy Divers set up at the Bio Park Zoo, 903 10th St. NW, Albuquerque, NM. Divers will set up at the Seal Habitat. They will feature high tech gear, MK-5 traveling exhibit, dive helmets, and STEM.
- 12:00 am – 1:00 pm, Navy Band performs at UNM Cornell Mall between the student union building and Mesa Vista Hall West on UNM campus!
- 6:30 – 9:00 pm, Reception and Dinner with RADM Phillip Sawyer at El Pinto restaurant.

Saturday, September 17th

- 12:30-1:30 pm, Leap Frogs and Navy Color Guard kick off the Horse Races at the Downs, The Downs Racetrack, New Mexico Expo, 145 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM. Navy parachute team Leap Frogs jumps into the Downs.

You are invited to our 12th Event ...

NETWORK NAVY!

**Navy League of the United States
New Mexico Council**

Invites you to celebrate

Navy Fleet Week

Special Reception & Dinner

Wednesday, 14 September 2016 6:30-9 pm

El Pinto Restaurant

10500 4th St NW, Albuquerque NM 87114



Special Guest: RADM Phillip G. Sawyer **Deputy Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet**

Rio Grande Dinner Buffet

Salad Bar, Red Chile Cheese Enchiladas, Green Chile Chicken Enchiladas,
Aztec corn, Beans, Rice, Roasted New Mexico Potatoes, Single-meat carving station
(honey-glazed ham), and Flan or Levante for dessert.

\$40.00 per person (includes gratuity, no tax)

Alcoholic Beverages available (separate purchase) / Business Casual

RSVP to email john.l.jones.nm@gmail.com

or by phone 505-604-3456.

Reservations must be made no later than

Sunday, 11 September 2016

The Navy League, the civilian support organization for our nation's sea services, is classified by IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so your contribution may be tax-deductible. Navy League of the U.S. New Mexico Council, P.O. Box 91554, Albuquerque, NM 87199



Navy League New Mexico Council Member - CAPT Ronald A. Farmer Retirement



Congratulations to Navy League member and submarine veteran, CAPT Ronald A. Farmer on the occasion of his official retirement. July 31st was a perfect Navy day at the New Mexico Veterans' Memorial for the ceremony that featured guest speaker Rear Admiral Matt Zirkle, Commander Submarine Forces NATO and a moving tribute from Ron's son, Josh. Laura Farmer did a super job with the preparations and plans.

Photos show the Navy team in attendance, the flag ceremony at which the flag progresses up the ranks of its members, and flower tributes to the family. CAPT Chuck Vaughan, President of the Navy League New Mexico Council, was pleased to be a part of the flag passing ceremony, and is seen just to the right of Ron at the final pass of the flag. *(story and photos courtesy of Mark Schaefer)*



Tom Grasser WWII Ambulance Driver Finds His Ride at NM Museum of Military History



by Mark Schaefer; (photo courtesy of Tom Grasser)

At the NM Museum of Military History, Albuquerque resident and World War II veteran Tom Grasser recently found the ambulance he drove on the beaches of Normandy. An usher at Tom's church told him about a WWII ambulance on display at the museum, and much to Tom's surprise, it turned out to be the exact one he drove as a member of General George Patton's 593rd Motor Ambulance Company.

Museum board member Harry Misel verified that the numbers on the bumper of "Ambulance No. 14" matched the unit numbers and ambulance number found on old photos of the ambulance with Tom. As Tom tells it, the landing craft on Omaha Beach couldn't get the ambulances close enough to shore, so the drivers rigged up duct-tape on the doors, and put tubes on the tail pipes to act as snorkels, and then drove through shallow water to get to the beach.

You can visit the NM Museum of Military History at 8603 Lomas NE in Albuquerque from 10 am to 6 pm Friday through Sunday. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

Military Students Get a Taste of Sandia National Laboratories Over the Summer

For the past seven years, the National Nuclear Security Administration has hosted the Military Academic Collaboration to give students at the Naval Academy, West Point, the Air Force Academy, the Coast Guard Academy, and the Merchant Marines a taste of research in the nuclear security enterprise. Sandia National Laboratories hosted the students shown in the photo at right this past summer, many of which you can see are wearing Navy uniforms. Los Alamos labs also participates in the program along with Lawrence Livermore Labs, the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, and the Kansas City and Savannah River lab sites.



Future Leaders from Military Academies participate in Sandia National Laboratories "Military Academic Collaboration" (photo by Randy Montoya, courtesy of Sandia Lab News)

The students attend the Collaboration for three and half to six weeks geared to hands-on research. These midshipmen and cadets get to see and participate in an awesome laboratory projects, and the the labs build relationships with future military leaders with the idea that the leaders will one day consider the labs as a resource if they need help with a problem.

Answers to NM Nautical Quiz

Q1: What Nautical word looks the same upside down and backwards?

swims

Q2: Why did the whale cross the ocean?

To get to the other "tide".

New Mexico Council Wins Outstanding Council Designation — by Chuck Vaughan

I'm proud to tell you the New Mexico Council was recently named an Outstanding Council for 2015. Per the Navy League's website, Outstanding Council Awards are presented to those councils that epitomize the very best of what the Navy League does — from community education to supporting our men and women in uniform. They share common traits that include strong leadership, successful and effective programs, good retention and recruiting plans, and a network of active members who go above and beyond to help ensure their council carries out the mission of the Navy League. Thank you to all who helped the New Mexico Council be named an Outstanding Council for 2015!

In Memory of the Navy League New Mexico Council's Ben Montoya



Rear Admiral Benjamin Franklin Montoya passed away in December 2015 and is greatly missed by the Navy Community in New Mexico. A U.S. Naval Academy graduate in 1958, Ben earned an additional bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and was assigned to Long Beach Naval Shipyard as resident engineer. He deployed to Guam and Vietnam before returning to Port Hueneme, CA, working as a Navy Civil Engineering Corps Seabee. He went on to get a degree from Georgia Tech, and after serving in several public works and facilities commands, he retired as Chief of the Navy Civil Engineer Corps. In "retirement", Admiral Montoya worked for Pacific Gas and Electric in San Francisco, and in 1993, he became President and CEO of the Public Service Company of

New Mexico. Ben was a member of the Navy League New Mexico Council and the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association, New Mexico Council. We could count on Ben to put together road trips to Navy-Air Force football games or for other local Navy support. Ben will be remembered fondly here in our State and for his contributions to the nation and the Navy. (photo courtesy of Shipmate magazine published by the U.S. Naval Academy; story by Mark Schaefer).

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
 NEW MEXICO COUNCIL
 P.O. BOX 91554
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2016 Upcoming Events for Navy League, New Mexico Council

Sep 12-18	Navy Week in Albuquerque (see detailed schedule with times inside)
Sep 12	Navy Week kick off activities; RADM Sawyer at Rotary Club; Navy Band at NM State Fair
Sep 13	Navy Week Veterans Appreciation Ceremony; Bernalillo County Navy Week Proclamation Ceremony; Navy Band at NM State Fair; Navy vocalist at Rodeo Anthem
Sep 14	Navy divers at Bio Park Seal Exhibit; Network Navy! Dinner with RADM Phillip G. Sawyer – El Pinto – 6:30 pm
Sep 17	Navy Leap Frogs parachute team at the Horse Races at the Downs
Sep 24	Submarine Sail Restoration Ceremony – USS James K Polk (SSN-645) at Nuclear Museum
Oct 1	Navy @ Air Force Falcons football – Colorado Springs, CO – 1:30 pm - CBSSN
Oct 15	Navy Birthday Ball in Albuquerque – Save this date!
Nov 5	Navy / Notre Dame football – Jacksonville, FL – 9:30 am - CBS
Nov 11	Veterans Day Celebrations
Dec (tbd)	Annual Navy League of the United States New Mexico Council Meeting
Dec 10	Army-Navy football – Baltimore, MD – 1 pm – CBS