



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

New Mexico
Council



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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".



Nuclear Museum Hosts USS James K. Polk (SSBN-645) Submarine Sail Dedication Ceremony



USS James K Polk (SSBN-645) Sail in the Museum's Outdoor Exhibition Area
(Story by Mark Schaefer, photo courtesy of Claudia Madrid, kafbnucleus.com)

Every work day, my drive takes me past the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History and the restored submarine sail of the USS James K. Polk (SSBN-645) on my way down Eubank Boulevard in Albuquerque. For me, this relatively small but historically significant piece of submarine history brings back a flood of memories. Back in the summer of 1981, as a Midshipman at sea for a one-week Midshipman cruise, I stepped across a temporary brow from the quaint Navy small boat personnel transfer ferry to the humming and vibrant missile deck of an active duty ballistic missile submarine moving slowly on the surface of the Atlantic Ocean. This was the USS James K. Polk (SSBN-645). Sleeping for a week in which my bunk literally was shaped around the outer circumference of missile #12 helped me to gain a better understanding of what the nuclear Navy was all about, and it helped shape my decision to become a submariner upon graduation. Read more on page 5 about the fascinating journey of the sail of SSBN-645 and how it got to the desert in New Mexico for all of us to enjoy.

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



President's Message



Chuck Vaughan
President, New Mexico Council
(Photo courtesy of Rick Carver)

Greetings Navy League members and friends!

The 75th anniversary of "a date which will live in infamy", December 7, 1941, is upon us. Four Sea Cadets and three Sea Cadet officers will be in Pearl Harbor to celebrate the 75th anniversary of a date which will live in infamy. Reflecting upon that day I wondered what lessons Americans learned from that experience - so I googled December 7 1941 lessons learned and this is what I found.

Lesson 1: be prepared. The Navy League supports a strong U. S. Navy so the U. S. will be prepared to respond to an attack against us in the future. It takes years to build a nuclear submarine or a modern surface warship. We lobby for a strong U. S. Navy now because it will take a long time to build additional submarines, ships and aircraft if the need arises.

Lesson 2: use the intelligence. I think this is easier said than done. There is so much data out there to sort through making it very difficult to use the intelligence to stop events before they happen.

Lesson 3: do not forget. But people do forget, or maybe they don't want to remember - or acknowledge that strong Sea Services are needed to protect us from our adversaries and that we need to spend money on national defense. In

1941 we did not think Japan would attack us. Are there nations in 2016 that we don't think will ever attack us but, in a few years, we might find ourselves at war with? Don't forget our history.

Lesson 4: don't deny people their rights. I've read about WW II internment camps here in the U. S. where American citizens of Japanese descent were detained during the war. I hope I never see the U. S. do that again.

Lesson 5: be willing to fight. My father and his five brothers all served in the U. S. military during WW II, with only one killed in action. My father and his brothers were willing to fight when we needed them to fight.

Lesson 6: war is horrible. People are killed, nations are destroyed, lives are turned upside down; what more do I need to say? We cannot avoid war for long; even today we find ourselves in a war against terrorists in the Middle East, in the U. S., and other parts of the world.

Lesson 7: be pro-active. If you are an advocate for strong Sea Services, if you are an advocate for the Sea Cadet program, if you are an advocate for anything else - be pro-active. Be pro-active for whatever causes interest you and in which you believe.

With that message, I sign off as your president as my second term comes to a close on December 31st. Our bylaws prohibit my election to a third term. Enjoy the upcoming holidays, be safe, and pray for and care for our men and women who serve in uniform.

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!

NM Nautical Quiz!

Q1: Why do seagulls fly over the sea?

Q2: Why is pirating so addictive?

(see page 7 for answers)



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

Namesake Ships



75th Anniversary of the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor – December 7th, 1941

by Mark Schaefer



The New Mexico Council of the Navy League of the United States remembers the 75th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. We ask all members to fly the United States flag on this day, and please ask your neighbors to do the same. What a great way to remember those who served before us!

A great website you might want to check out is <http://pearlharbor75thanniversary.com>. This site

was put together by Governor David Ige and the Pearl Harbor Historic Sites partners that include the USS Arizona Memorial, the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park, the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor, and the Battleship Missouri Memorial. It has a lot of good educational materials and historical facts.

Where was the USS New Mexico (BB-40) on December 7, 1941? According to the Naval History and Heritage Command, BB-40's homeport was re-located to Pearl Harbor, HI in 1940 as a deterrent to Japan. But, German successes in the Atlantic resulted in BB-40 being sent to the Atlantic in May 1941 to meet the menace of lost shipboard freight traffic to the German Navy. Then, after Pearl Harbor was attacked, BB-40 was sent back to the Pacific via the Panama Canal to re-join the fight in the Pacific. We are certainly glad that BB-40 was not in Pearl Harbor on that fateful day of December 7, 1941, and we are happy that she lived on to fight another day and to be present in Tokyo Bay for the Japanese surrender less than four years later!



USS New Mexico with 14-inch projectiles on deck prior to 1944 invasion of Guam. (official U.S. Navy photo in National Archives)

Chair of the USS Mexico Committee visits 8th Grade Students at Cleveland Middle School



Damon Runyan, our chairman of the USS New Mexico (SSN-779) committee, poses with students from Cleveland Middle School's AVID classes. AVID means Advancement Via Individual Determination. Mr. Runyan gave 75 eighth graders a presentation on the USS New Mexico submarine, its construction, its naming, and how its official crest was chosen. Each student received a folder covered in pictures of the crew and submarine plus a lapel pin of the ship's official crest. The presentation was set up by Renee Ortega, daughter of one of our recently departed Council members, Joyce Pullen. (photo courtesy of Damon Runyan)



USS James K. Polk Sail Dedication at National Museum of Nuclear Science & History

by Mark Schaefer with significant inputs from nuclearmuseum.org; photos courtesy of nuclearmuseum.org

The James K. Polk Veterans Association held a dedication ceremony October 1st at the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History for the previously restored iconic USS James K. Polk (SSBN-645) nuclear submarine sail. It is now on permanent display in the museum's outdoor exhibition area, Heritage Park.



USS James K. Polk – photo courtesy of General Dynamics



Initial building of the sail at Nuclear Museum



Top portion of the sail sits in a puddle



Completed restoration of sail exhibit!

The sail measures 30 feet high by nine feet wide and weighs 53 tons. It was acquired by the Museum in 1999, but because the Museum's permanent home had not yet been established, staff and volunteers were not able to proceed with erecting the sail for public display immediately. When the Museum qualified for the "Encore Fellowship Program" – a program administered through the United Way, with financial support from Intel -- recently retired Intel engineers were recruited to work on the restoration of the James K. Polk sub sail, and work began in the spring of 2014.

Under the supervision of retired Intel engineer Frank Fernando, and with help from Museum staff, volunteers and various partners - LaFarge for concrete, Coronado Wrecking & Salvage for steel support and J.B. Henderson Construction and Enterprise Builders for excavation – worked on the exhibit. Volunteers from Sandia National Laboratories also donated a substantial amount of time and expertise to the project and benches around it. Named after the 11th president of the United States, the USS James K. Polk was commissioned as SSBN 645 in 1966.

First Overland Submarine Cruise – Albuquerque Port Call by Dick Brown

For three decades, Albuquerqueans have been anticipating USS Albuquerque cruising up the Rio Grande for a port call in her namesake city. According to legend, the lucky skipper would have received the keys to a Rolls Royce. As it turns out, the feat had already been accomplished in 1943 – well, sort of.

Step back in time to December 7, 1941. At 0330, on a moonlit sea, about 10 miles off the coast of Oahu, Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki and Petty Officer Kiyoshi Inagaki climbed through Submarine HA-19's 15-inch conning tower hatch. The boat detached from the aft deck of its mother ship (Submarine I-24) and slipped beneath the surface. Sakamaki's orders called for HA-19 to arrive at the entrance of Pearl Harbor by 0800 but, unable to navigate into the dredged channel due to an inoperative gyrocompass, it went aground on coral reefs multiple times and never was able to join the surprise attack. Scuttling efforts failed, Inagaki drowned and Sakamaki became the first Japanese prisoner of war when HA-19 drifted around to the southeast coast of Oahu and became beached at Waimanalo, about 10 miles south of Kaneohe. The two-man submarine was salvaged, shipped to the mainland and became the star attraction in wartime parades from coast to coast. On January 14, 1943, HA-19 visited Albuquerque.



The captured submarine was featured in a parade along Central Avenue as part of a cross-county tour to sell war bonds. This image shows the submarine westbound between 2nd and 3rd Streets with the Grand Central Hotel as a backdrop. Photo (PA1982.118-19) courtesy of Albuquerque Museum.

On the day of the visit, the Albuquerque Journal ran a full-page advertisement for the War Bond Parade. By mid-morning, 20,000 public-spirited Albuquerqueans lined Central Avenue to see the sub on a 90-foot truck-trailer rig. So, HA-19 really became the first submarine to visit Albuquerque.

The story of Japanese suicide submarine operations is quite intriguing. HA-19 was one of five midget submarines deployed during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The 47-ton, 78-foot submarine was powered

by a single 600-hp electric motor and two counter-rotating concentric propellers. She was armed with two 800-pound muzzle-loaded torpedoes in vertically stacked bow tubes. Her attack orders specified carriers, battleships and cruisers as targets during the lull between two air strikes, followed by scuttling with a 300-pound charge.

At 0817, USS Helm (DD-388) raced out of Pearl Harbor towards the open sea. A lookout spotted HA-19 stranded on a reef. Helm shot and missed but the blast jarred the submarine free. After submerging, she ran aground again, this time damaging the firing mechanism for one of her torpedoes.



HA-19 on Waimanalo Beach, Hawaii. US Navy photo.



HA-19 being hauled ashore. US Navy photo.

First Overland Submarine Cruise (continued)

Sakamaki observed black smoke billowing over Pearl Harbor until depth charges disabled his periscope and his second torpedo. The crew was overcome by battery fumes and the submarine drifted with the currents. They awoke at night off Waimanalo. Inagaki abandoned ship (and drowned in the pounding surf) as Sakamaki set the scuttling charge. It failed to detonate as he swam ashore and collapsed on the beach. HA-19 floundered in the waves. Sakamaki was captured the next day when awakened by an American soldier pointing a pistol at him. Sakamaki asked that he be killed or allowed to commit suicide. Neither request was honored. Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, Commander of the Japanese Combined Fleet, was outraged that the disgraced submariner allowed himself to be captured alive.



The salvaged submarine arrived at Mare Island Naval Ship Yard at Vallejo, California in January 1942. US Navy photo.

The war prize launched its circuitous nationwide war bond tour, sponsored by the US Treasury Department, in San Francisco in October 1942, passed through New Mexico three months later, visited many cities, including El Paso, San Antonio and Washington, DC, and was in Chicago when the war finally ended. It was perhaps the first overland submarine cruise in history. In New Mexico, the submarine toured Lordsburg and Deming, then turned north, following the Rio Grande to Las Cruces and Socorro before arriving in the Duke City. Before leaving the state, it also toured Roswell, Artesia and Carlsbad. In the Las Cruces area, where the parade included high school bands and a contingent from New Mexico A&M's ROTC unit, 4,000 citizens bought \$100,000 in war bonds. In Albuquerque, the captured submarine inspired local residents and visitors from nearby towns to invest \$175,000 in war bonds and stamps.

The military-civilian parade was the biggest ever staged in Albuquerque. It was headed by Col. F.D. Hackett, Commander of Kirtland Field; Col. John Fite in command of the Mobile Air Training Depot; and Clyde Tingley, City Commission Chairman. Spectators jammed the sidewalks as the pageant moved along from Broadway to 8th Street. Besides hundreds of soldiers from both military establishments, the parade included UNM's NROTC unit, the 31st Army Air Force Band, the American Women's Voluntary Service, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps, and veterans of World War I. When it ended, the boat was moored on Central between 4th and 5th Streets and went on display for the next 12 hours. The crowd immediately surrounded the boat, pushing and shoving to be the first to buy war bonds and stamps – the price of a look through small glass windows cut into the port and starboard sides of the hull to view two Japanese dummies in cramped quarters. After the initial stampede, spectators, facilitated by fold-down steps and catwalks, formed an orderly steady stream.

In January 1947, HA-19 went on display at Naval Station Key West. In 1991, the submarine became a permanent exhibit at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas. That same year, Sakamaki was reunited with his old submarine. Sad thoughts of his lost shipmate, the faulty gyrocompass, his failed mission and the demise of the other four submarines must have weighed heavy on his mind. Only one of the five submarines managed to sneak into Pearl Harbor and may have torpedoed USS Oklahoma (BB-37), causing her to capsize. All but HA-19 and Sakamaki perished in the attack. Eight years after his emotional reunion with his old boat, Sakamaki passed away.

Imagine the excitement of seeing a captured Japanese submarine cruising down Central Avenue. World War II was still raging and Americans needed something to cheer about. The Albuquerque War Bond Parade was just the venue to raise spirits and funds to avenge Pearl Harbor. Perhaps this first encounter with a naval submarine foretold of New Mexico's future involvement with namesake submarines and their proud undersea warriors.



Kazuo Sakamaki walks around the two-man submarine that he piloted. Photo courtesy of Historic Naval Ships Association.

Join Our Colleagues January 21st for the following Speaker and Lunch Topic:

You and Your Friends are Cordially Invited to the Military Coalition's January 2017 Luncheon

Sponsored by Local Chapters of the:

Tuskegee Airman, Inc.
General Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton Chapter
Navy League of the United States
Reserve Officers Association
U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association
Air Force Association
Military Officers Association of America
Albuquerque Armed Forces Advisory Association
Association of the U.S. Army, MG John S. Lekson Chapter
United Veterans Council of New Mexico

Saturday 21 January 2017

Albuquerque Marriott
Louisiana & I-40
Albuquerque, NM

SPEAKER:
Lt. Col. Alex Carothers USAF (Ret)

Tuskegee Updates / Youth Programs

Social Hour: 11:00 - Lunch: 12:00
Cost: \$23.00 per person (pay at the door)

Menu:
Cobb Salad
or
Grilled Salmon

Dinner rolls with butter, tea, coffee, appetizer and dessert.

For reservations please contact:

Frances or Marvin Spallina, 822-9642 Email: franspal@aol.com

Joe Loisel, 839-0969 Email: joeloisel@aol.com

Reservations accepted thru Wednesday 18 January 2017

(No Shows Will Be Billed)

Answers to NM Nautical Quiz

(from questions on page 2)

A1: Because if they flew over the bay, they would be bagels.

A2: They say once ye lose yer first hand, ye get hooked!

Election of Council Officers

Remember to mark you ballot for 2017 New Mexico Council officers and return it to our Post Office Box. The slate of candidates nominated this year by our nominating committee include:

President - Tom Gutierrez
Vice President - Rick Carver
Secretary - Charles Vaughan
Treasurer - Shannon Kawane



The New Mexico Council can use your year-end gift to help support our namesake ships, local active duty and reserve, sea cadets, and youth! We are a 501(c)(3) organization. Your tax-deductible check may be written to *Navy League New Mexico Council*. Mail to:

P.O. Box 91554

Albuquerque, NM 87199

In Memory of the Navy League New Mexico Council's Joyce Pullen



Joyce Marie Pullen 78, of Albuquerque died September 27, 2016. A celebration of life gathering was held on October 15, 2016 at 4:30 pm at the Marriott Uptown at which Joyce's family welcomed her friends to celebrate her life. Joyce was born May 15, 1938, in Los Angeles, California to Duncan Howard and Zella Myers. She married her high school sweetheart Robert D. Briggs, in 1955. They had three children, Robert Jr., Scott and Denise. She married her second husband, Richard Pullen Sr. in 1971. They had two children, Ryan and Renee.

Joyce was an active member of the New Mexico Council of the Navy League. She served several years on the nominating committee for Council officer elections. She regularly attended the Navy Ball, and she was a financial supporter of it. Joyce was the state executive director for Senator Pete V. Domenici for many years, and in this role, she was also the office lead for service academy nominations for the Senator. She had a special place in her heart for the Naval Academy. Those of us who were privileged to serve on one of her nomination boards will be always thankful for her complete dedication to the service academies, her unmatched organization of the nomination day schedules, and her fun wit and kindness in making these events go smoothly. (photo courtesy of the *Albuquerque Journal*; story from *Albuquerque Journal* and enhanced by Mark Schaefer).

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 NEW MEXICO COUNCIL
 P.O. BOX 91554
 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87199

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Navy League of the United States New Mexico Council, P O Box 91554, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87199-1554. The Navy League is classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donation is tax-deductible.

2016 Upcoming Events for Navy League, New Mexico Council

Dec 3	American Athletic Conference Championship football – Navy/Temple – 10 am Mountain
Dec 7	75 th anniversary of Pearl Harbor attack – Fly Your U.S. flag!
Dec 10	Army-Navy football – Baltimore, MD – 1 pm Mountain time – CBS
Dec 23	Armed Forces Bowl – Fort Worth, TX – Navy football vs. Big 12 opponent
Dec 29	Joint Service Academy Reception for Midshipmen, Cadets, and service academy candidates; 6 pm to 8:30 pm; Dekker/Perich/Sabatini offices
Jan 21	Military Coalition Luncheon – 11 am to 1 pm – Albuquerque Marriott - Tuskegee Airmen update

New Mexico Council wins Outstanding Council designation by Chuck Vaughan, President, New Mexico Council

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.