



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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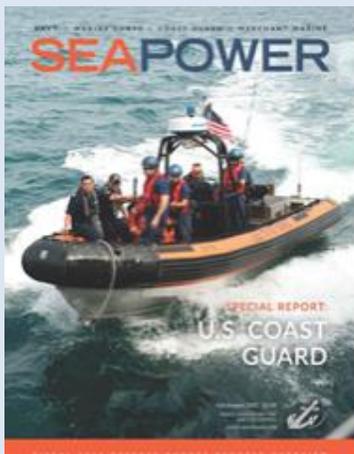
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Blue Star Mothers Care Packages Arrive at USS New Mexico (SSN-779)

Story by Damon Runyan



The smiles on the faces of the single members of the USS New Mexico (SSN-779) crew tell it all. These crew members were thrilled to each receive a three-pound care package that was put together by the Blue Star Mothers of America, Rio Grande Valley NM2 Chapter. The Blue Star Mothers packed nearly 300 boxes for U.S. servicemen and servicewomen around the world. Seventy of these boxes came to USS New Mexico.

Michelle and Damon Runyan had the privilege of helping pack some of these boxes alongside the Blue Star Mothers. What a great effort and what tremendous support from the Blue Star Mothers! The crew of the USS New Mexico knows that they can count on the enthusiasm of the patriotic people of New Mexico!

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

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Mark Schaefer

Newsletter Editor

NM Nautical Quiz!

Q1: Why didn't the sailors play cards?

Q2: What letter of the alphabet keeps a Pirate calm?

(see page 7 for answers)



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



President's Message



Tom Gutierrez

President, New Mexico Council

(Photo courtesy of Rebecca Vigil)

Greetings Navy League members and friends!

It is the end of the summer and we start thinking of the fall. Why not contribute to your New Mexico Council to support the following fall and winter events:

- \$400 to fly one Active Duty Sailor to enjoy Balloon Fiesta with our Council;
- \$300 to house one Active Duty Sailor during this event;
- \$400 to fly one Active Duty Sailor to learn how to cook at La Posta in Mesilla;
- \$300 to house this one Active Duty Sailor in Las Cruces;
- \$200 to add to the \$1,000 scholarship that we have built this year for a deserving New Mexico active duty dependent to pursue an academic program;
- \$100 to sponsor four of our Jr. NROTC awards;
- \$100 to sponsor one of our University of New Mexico Naval ROTC Midshipman's partial travel to a fall competition. (We could use 16 of these donations);
- \$200 to help print this newsletter each quarter.

So you see we have many slots to fill as we work down our list of financial

priorities that the Board wishes to fund this year. Won't you help your League?

A few years ago, Navy League received multiple donations of the "E-4 & below Ticket Prices" for the Navy Ball. If anyone wishes to send a number of E-4s and their dates to the Navy Ball, just send in your donation of \$20 for each ticket you wish to sponsor and we will work with the Naval Reserve Center to make sure your donation goes to this cause.

Lastly, I wish to ask for your prayers for the souls and the families of the 7 sailors who lost their lives serving their Country aboard the USS Fitzgerald, DDG-62, the night of 17 June 2017, and for the 10 sailors who lost their lives on the USS John McCain, DDG-56 the night of 21 August 2017. These are hard times while the U.S. Navy deals with these collisions and deaths. Two Commanding Officers have been relieved. Many Senior Enlisted men have been reassigned. We know the Navy will get to the underlying reasons for these tragedies, however long the inquiries will take. In the meantime, we in New Mexico will continue to support our three submarines, USS New Mexico, USS Santa Fe, and USS Albuquerque as they complete their journeys in 2017. Stay tuned to our web page as we unfold the dates for our Annual Navy Ball and our presentation date of Sept 22nd at Angel Fire Veterans Park where we will unfold our FY2018 request for a State Appropriation.

Watch our actions as the last quarter of 2017 unfolds and join your NM Navy League to support our US Navy and the Sailors and Officers who serve us so well in defense of this Great Country.

www.nmnavyleague.com.

Contact me any time at

tomgutierrez1970@gmail.com

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

Namesake Ships



USS New Mexico (SSN-779) News Update *by Damon Runyan*

Groton, CT – In a phone call with Chief of the Boat, Senior Chief Norm Clarke, SSN-779 Committee Chairman Damon Runyan learned the following changes upcoming for USS NEW MEXICO and the crew:

1. The boat will be leaving in a few weeks for a major two-year overhaul at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in New Hampshire. While in the yard, there will be a Change of Command saying good-bye to CDR Dan Reiss and passing command to CDR Marrow. This event is scheduled for next March 27th, the eighth anniversary of the commissioning of SSN-779. This date will mark 25% of USS NEW MEXICO's design life.
2. Upon completion of the overhaul, there will be an additional refit period back down in Groton, CT at Electric Boat shipyard.
3. At that point, USS NEW MEXICO is then scheduled to make a Homeport change and end up permanently assigned to the Norfolk Naval Base, Virginia.

The USS NEW MEXICO Committee of the New Mexico Council has offered to assist the Commanding Officer and the Chief of the Boat with help in inventory and safe keeping with the many unique items onboard the boat while it is in the shipyard. These include the original oil painting by Ms. Emilee Reinhart (nee Sena) of the Ship's Crest, a battle flag from the battleship USS NEW MEXICO (BB-40), two silver platters loaned to the boat from the New Mexico History Museum, and a host of other items sent to USS NEW MEXICO over the last eight years.



The New Mexico Pinon Coffee Company presented a generous supply of coffee from New Mexico to Commanding Officer Dan Reiss and the crew of the USS New Mexico (SSN-779). In case you were wondering, the coffee flavor is Essence of Santa Fe! We will need to try that one!

The Bells of the "The Queen", USS New Mexico (BB-40)

For many New Mexicans, including the New Mexico History Museum for a while, the location of BB-40's second ship's bell was a mystery. The first is at the New Mexico History Museum in Santa Fe. The second was hidden in plain sight, high in a tower, at UNM between the Student Union Building and Zimmerman Library.

A UNM construction project is moving the bell to a new memorial pyramid at UNM that will be erected to support the 1200-pound bell. Navy League New Mexico Council's Greg Trapp, Tom Gutierrez, and Damon Runyan met with the UNM construction manager to ensure all is monitored and is going well. We look forward to helping to make the bell a little more visible to all New Mexicans.



A Feast Fit for a Queen, Thanksgiving Aboard the Battleship USS New Mexico *by Greg Trapp, J.D*

The battleship USS New Mexico was on neutrality patrol in the Atlantic on the final Thanksgiving before the start of World War II. Just six months earlier, New Mexico had been part of the Pacific fleet based at Pearl Harbor. The sailors sitting down for their Thanksgiving meal in that November of 1941 could not have known that in less than two weeks Pearl Harbor would be attacked, and they would be on their way to the Pacific. As a result of the losses of December 7, and with the North Carolina class having propeller problems, and the South Dakota and Iowa classes yet to enter service, the early months of World War II saw the venerable USS New Mexico reassume the mantle as one of America's most powerful battleships.



Known as The Queen, New Mexico was commissioned on May 20, 1918. Displacing 32,000 tons, The Queen towered 120 feet above the water, was 624 feet long, and was 97 feet wide. The ship incorporated many innovative features, including turbo-electric drive, a clipper bow, and an improved main battery of twelve 14-inch guns. The guns could fire 1,400 pound shells up to 20 miles, and each gun barrel was nearly 60 feet long.

As the war in the Pacific progressed, aircraft carriers became America's primary capital ships. Because of their speed, these carriers were escorted by the "fast battleships" of the North Carolina, South Dakota, and Iowa classes.

As a result, slower World War I era battleships such as New Mexico were ordered to use their big guns to bombard Japanese-held islands in support of troop landings. New Mexico would go on to participate in many of the most pivotal and famous battles in the Pacific, including the 1942 battles to retake the Aleutian Islands, and the battle at the Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Islands. In 1944, New Mexico fought in the Marshall Islands campaign, and in the crucial battles in the Mariana Islands at Saipan, Tinian, and Guam.

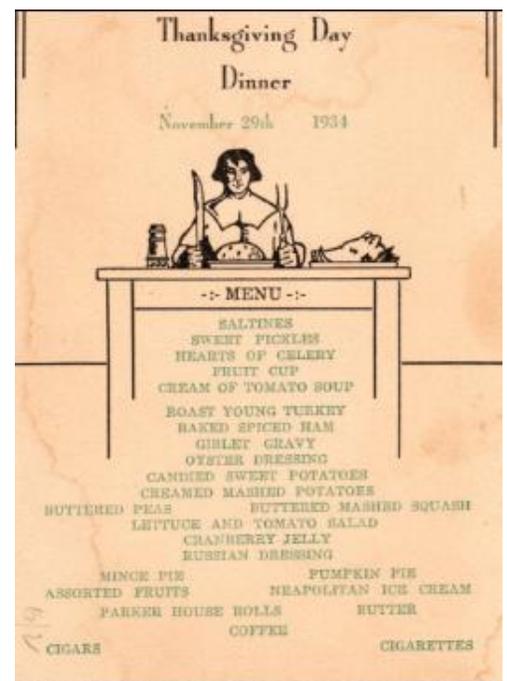
On November 30, 1944, the sailors aboard USS New Mexico sat down for Thanksgiving dinner. In need of repairs after the heavy fighting during the Gilbert and Marianas campaign, the Queen had sailed to Bremerton for an October and November overhaul at the Puget Sound Navy Yard. Freshly supplied from their stay at Bremerton, the sailors enjoyed offerings that included roast young tom turkey, shrimp cocktail, buttered asparagus tips, and pumpkin pie.

As we consider our own blessings this Thanksgiving, **let us be thankful for the men and women in our armed forces who are away from their own families.** This includes those serving on the current USS New Mexico, SSN-779, as well as USS Santa Fe, SSN-763. Let us also be thankful the sacrifices of those who defended our nation during some of the most difficult and darkest times of World War II.



Shown at left is the front of the Thanksgiving menu from November 24, 1927. Reflecting the booming economy of the 1920s, the elaborate menu has a "porthole" that can be raised to reveal a sailor underneath. Inside the menu is a poem and a message from President Calvin Coolidge. The menu included roast young turkey, crab salad, Virginia baked spiced ham, and pumpkin pie.

Shown at right is a menu from 1934. With a postcard on back, this very simple menu reflects the austerity of the Great Depression.





Shown at left is the front of the Thanksgiving menu for 1941. Highlighting the recovering economy, the colorful menu is printed and embossed on heavy card stock, and features a silk cord binding the inside page. It is noteworthy that the menu does not list the actual day, which would give the warship the flexibility to observe either the 4th or 5th day. One month later, President Roosevelt signed a Congressional resolution that officially set Thanksgiving on the 4th Thursday.

Thanksgiving Day Dinner, 1941

SHRIMP COCKTAIL		
CREAM OF TOMATO SOUP	SALTINES	
RIPE, GREEN AND STUFFED OLIVES		
CELERY en BRANCH	ASSORTED SWEET PICKLES	
ROAST TURKEY		
CRANBERRY SAUCE	GIBLET GRAVY	
OYSTER DRESSING		
MASHED POTATOES	BUTTERED GREEN PEAS	
LETTUCE and TOMATO SALAD		
MAYONNAISE DRESSING		
APPLE PIE	AMERICAN CHEESE	
FRUIT CAKE		
PARKER HOUSE ROLLS	BUTTER	
ASSORTED NUTS		
HARD CANDY		
CIGARS	CIGARETTES	
COFFEE		

Shown at right is the inside of the Thanksgiving menu for 1941. For this Thanksgiving, sailors enjoyed a meal that included roast turkey, oyster dressing, and apple pie.



Shown at left is the front of the Thanksgiving menu from November 30, 1944. Reflecting wartime austerity, The menu is printed on a single sheet of thin paper. Note that Thanksgiving is being celebrated on the 5th Thursday. The late Thanksgiving is possibly because New Mexico was still being overhauled on the 4th Thursday.

U.S.S. NEW MEXICO
THANKSGIVING DAY
30 November 1944

Menu.

Shrimp Cocktail		
Cream of Tomato Soup	Saltines	
Ripe Olives	Sweet Pickles	Green Olives
Roast Young Tom Turkey		
Cranberry Sauce	Sausage Dressing	
Giblet Gravy		
Cream Whipped Potatoes		
French Peas	Buttered Asparagus Tips	
Pumpkin Pie	Fruit Cake	Ice Cream
Hot Cross Buns		
Butter	Coffee	
Assorted Nuts	Bar Candy	
Cigars, Cigarettes		

Shown at right is the inside of the Thanksgiving menu for November 30, 1944. Along with the traditional turkey and pumpkin pie, the sailors could also have cigars and cigarettes.

USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) Committee Update

Ron Olexsak noted that, since our last issue, the USS Santa Fe is still at sea and is out of contact. However, Ron is in contact with the submarine's ombudsman and the Commanding Officer's wife. The Commanding Officer suggested that since that has been a long deployment, the committee should allow the crew to spend time with family and friends upon return to port. There will probably be a change of command ceremony this fall which would be a shortened command tour for the Commanding Officer. Ron also noted that a distinguished visitor cruise is possible later this Fall, but the date is unknown at this time.



Measuring more than 360 feet long and weighing more than 6,000 tons when submerged, USS Santa Fe is among the world's stealthiest platforms. She is homeported in Pearl Harbor and is assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron 7. She is named after the great city of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

USS Los Alamos (SSN-TBD) Committee Update

Jim Nesmith passed out a markup amendment (number 295) to the FY2018 National Defense Authorization Act from the Senate Armed Services Committee; the amendment was proposed by Senator Martin Heinrich.

The amendment is as follows:

"The committee notes that 2018 will be the 75th anniversary of Los Alamos National Laboratory. The committee further notes that people of Los Alamos, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the Navy, have a 74-year relationship that spans the Manhattan Project through the creation of a nuclear Navy and to the sea-based leg of the strategic triad of the United States. The people of Los Alamos and surrounding communities have contributed to the Navy's offensive edge since World War II, through the Cold War, that continues today.

The committee believes that naming a submarine the USS Los Alamos will recognize and continue to forge the longstanding relationship between the Navy and Los Alamos. Therefore, the committee urges the Secretary of the Navy to name the next nuclear-powered fast attack submarine the USS Los Alamos."

The amendment also proposes a USNS Navajo as follows:

"The committee notes the Navy has a tradition of naming tug boats for Native American tribes. The committee further notes that over the next several years the Navy will be decommissioning all Powhatan-class fleet ocean tugs (T-ATF) and Safeguard-class salvage ships (T-ARS). The committee understands that these ships will be replaced by a single class of vessels with the designation T-ATS. In keeping with the tradition of naming U. S. Navy ships after Native American tribes, the committee urges the Secretary of the Navy to name the first T-ATS vessel the USNS Navajo."



Local New Mexico News



News from New Mexico Sea Cadets Triton Battalion *by Dave Adair*

- USNSCC has redefined the Southwest Region. Arizona and New Mexico have been removed from Region 15-2 (CAPT Stan Mack) and assigned to Region 8 (CAPT Charles Farrell) which also includes Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Puerto Rico.
- Former Cadet PO2 Matthew Jingle has reported to the Virginia Military Institute NROTC program. He is pursuing a degree in aeronautical engineering.
- Former Cadet CPO Jesus Gutierrez is in Marine basic training at Camp Pendleton.
- Former Cadet CPO Abraham Rodriguez-Lopez has been promoted to USMC LCpl (E-3) and is being deployed to South Korea.
- Former Cadet CPO Turner Adair has been promoted to USCG OS2 (E-5) and is reassigned to Sector Puget Sound, Seattle, WA.
- Contact Dave Adair at aec3535@comcast.net for more information.



Navy League New Mexico Council welcomes new members.
Since our last issue, please welcome:

Janice Arnold-Jones	Mike Boice	Penelope Brynes
Matthew Hood	Elsie Mathues	Alan Nanco
Jeff Peterson	Robert Stone	Wendy Turnage

Answers to NM Nautical Quiz
(from questions on page 2)

A1: Because the Captain was standing on the deck.

A2: The Letter P. Without it, they are irate.

Sign Up and Get Your Tickets Now for the 242nd Navy Birthday Ball on October 14th

242nd Navy Birthday Ball

Saturday, October 14, 2017

Sheraton Airport Hotel

2910 Yale Blvd S.E., Albuquerque, NM 87106

Doors open @ 1800 Ceremony begins @ 1900

Guest Speaker: Rear Admiral Ronald Fritzscheier

Ticket prices:

Sponsor and First Guest

O4 - O9 & E9 - \$50

O1 - O3 & E7 - E8 - \$40

E5 - E6 - \$30

E4 & Below - \$20

All additional guests will be \$50 per person

Attire:

Military/Retirees – Dinner Dress Blues or Service Dress Blues

Civilians – Black Tie Formal

Alternative for Females – Below the Knee Length Ball Gown

Name: _____ # of Guest: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

CHICKEN BEEF VEGETARIAN

Donation: \$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 OTHER: _____ (Tax Deductible)

Point of Contact:
PSC Araceli Crites
araceli.crites@navy.mil
aacrites@gmail.com
505-853-2431

Make Checks Payable to:
NAVOPSPCEN ALBUQUERQUE
RECREATION FUND

Mail Checks to:
NOSC ALBUQUERQUE
8810 S St. S.E. Bldg 20616
Albuquerque, NM 87117

Navy Operational Support Center Albuquerque is sponsoring this year's 242nd Navy Birthday Ball. Our Navy League Council has had a large presence at this Birthday Ball for quite a while, and we encourage your support. The guest speaker, Rear Admiral Ronald Fritzscheier has a lot of Navy background here in New Mexico, having served in several Navy Reserve units while working at Sandia Laboratories. Come share a night with your fellow Navy friends and your Navy family!

Military Coalition Luncheons

Monthly Military Coalition Luncheons give you another opportunity to meet with your fellow military members. The Navy League participates each month, along with Military Officers Association of America, Air Force Association, Association of the U.S. Army, Reserve Officers Association, United Veterans Council of New Mexico, and Tuskegee Airman Inc., at the Albuquerque Marriott on Louisiana and I-40. Social hour starts at 1100 and lunch starts at 1200 with a cost of \$23 per person.

The upcoming Luncheon schedule, coordinated by Joe Loisel (joeloisel@aol.com) is: Sep 16th, Oct 21st, Nov 18th.

Nautical Items of Interest

NEW MEXICO
Council



Commander of Navy's 7th Fleet Dismissed After Series of Ship Mishaps

(extracted from an article by Doreen McCallister, NPR news)

Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, the three-star commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet was relieved of command on Wednesday, August 23rd. The fleet is based in Yokosuka, Japan. A statement from the Navy explains why Aucoin was dismissed. "Adm. Scott Swift, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, today relieved the commander of Seventh Fleet, Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, due to a loss of confidence in his ability to command. Rear Adm. Phil Sawyer, who has already been nominated and confirmed for the position and promotion to Vice Adm., will assume command immediately."

Aucoin's removal follows four accidents involving Navy ships in the Pacific this year. The latest happened off Singapore when the USS John S. McCain collided with an oil tanker. Ten sailors were reported missing. In June, seven sailors died after the USS Fitzgerald collided with a container ship off Japan. Before that, the guided-missile cruiser Lake Champlain collided with a South Korean fishing vessel in May. And in January, the guided-missile cruiser Antietam ran aground in Tokyo Bay. Adm. John Richardson, the Navy's top officer, announced that all 277 Navy ships worldwide would take an "operational pause" to review basic seamanship, teamwork and other "fundamentals".

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
NEW MEXICO COUNCIL
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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.

2017 Upcoming Events for Navy League, New Mexico Council

Sep 16	Military Coalition Luncheon – Albuquerque Marriott, Louisiana & I-40. 1100 social; 1200 lunch.
Oct 7	Navy football – Air Force, Annapolis. 1330 Mountain time.
Oct 14	Navy Birthday Ball. Sheraton Airport Hotel. Albuquerque. Doors open 1800.
Oct 21	Military Coalition Luncheon – Albuquerque Marriott, Louisiana & I-40. 1100 social; 1200 lunch.
Nov 18	Military Coalition Luncheon – Albuquerque Marriott, Louisiana & I-40. 1100 social; 1200 lunch.
Nov 18	Navy football – Notre Dame, Notre Dame stadium. 1330 Mountain time.
Dec 9	Army - Navy football, Philadelphia, PA. 1300 Mountain time.