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## First Ever Underwater Ball-Handling Routine

*By Mark Schaefer; Photo courtesy of Instagram Karen Thier*

What do the Harlem Globetrotters, the USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) and ESPN have in common? They all teamed up in a "Hoops for the Troops" game in celebration of the Globetrotters' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of entertaining United States servicemen and women. As part of the festivities, the USS Santa Fe hosted the first ever underwater ball-handling routine. This photo shows Navy Petty Officer Blake Thier on the submarine pier, as posted to Instagram by his mom.

As part of the game, the entire audience was composed of U.S. military personnel and their families. The event was hosted in conjunction with Navy Entertainment, who partners with the Globetrotters to bring joy to military bases overseas each fall.



The Globetrotters conducted the underwater ball-handling routine (known as the "Magic Circle") aboard the USS Santa Fe submarine, and they also played a shooting game of N-A-V-Y with sailors aboard the deck of the USS Missouri battleship.

Challenge to Readers: For those of you with a keen eye, there are a couple of submarine masts and antennae visible somewhere in the photo. Pick them out and share with a friend!

**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. Joint or renew at*

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## NM Nautical Quiz!

Q1: Do submarines have head lights?

Q2: Why do they call bathrooms on ships "heads"?

(see page 7 for answers)

To contact the editor, write to Mark Schaefer at [usnanm@comcast.net](mailto:usnanm@comcast.net).



## President's Message



Chuck Vaughan

President, New Mexico Council

*(Photo courtesy of Rick Carver)*

### Greetings Navy League members and friends!

I recently took the helm of the New Mexico Council as President of the Council again. At the January 2018 meeting of the Council's Board of Directors, I passed along to the board members my goals for 2018. These goals include filling two key vacant positions on the Council, awarding at least two scholarships this year, recruiting two corporate sponsors and finishing 2018 with at least 120 members of the New Mexico Council. Along with my goals I will direct the Council to continue to provide support to our Sea Cadet (Triton) battalion, continue to support active-duty and reserve Sea Service personnel and their families, continue to support Navy Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) midshipmen and Navy and Marine Corps junior ROTC cadets, and provide support to our three standing committees: the USS New Mexico committee, the USS Santa Fe committee, and the USS Los Alamos Commissioning committee.

One of my top priorities is to provide support for local U. S. Navy personnel and their families and to continue to provide support to the Navy and Marine

Corps Junior ROTC instructors and their cadets. We provided support to local U. S. Navy personnel in December 2017 when the Council gave eight \$75 gift cards (to Smith's grocery stores) to eight junior enlisted personnel stationed at the Navy Operational Support Center on Kirtland Air Force Base just before Christmas. Last year the Council supported Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC instructors and their cadets by awarding 22 Theodore Roosevelt Leadership awards to students in New Mexico and the El Paso, TX area during the Spring 2017 awards ceremonies.

My other top priorities are to support the men and their families assigned to the USS New Mexico and the USS Santa Fe, and to support the initiative of the USS Los Alamos Commissioning committee to build and commission a U. S. Navy nuclear submarine named the USS Los Alamos (a USS Los Alamos has never existed before). We support the men and their families assigned to the submarines by sending them gift packages, pinon coffee, umbrellas to use at homecoming and other gifts. We also support them by showing them our great state and having a great time with them when some of the submarine crew members are able to come to New Mexico for a short visit.

Thank you for belonging to the Navy League and supporting the efforts of the New Mexico Council. If you have any suggestions for how the New Mexico Council can improve our support, please let myself or the newsletter editor know; we would love to hear from you!

Contact me any time at

[chuck.vaughan@comcast.net](mailto:chuck.vaughan@comcast.net)

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

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# Namesake Ships



## 75 Years Apart – News of Two USS Santa Fe Ships and their Great Contributions

by Ron Oleksak, USS Santa Fe Committee Chair

### Q1 1943 and USS Santa Fe (CL-60) – Getting into the War – Light Cruising

Dateline March 23, 1943. Pearl Harbor, HI. Captain Russell S Berkey looks out from the bridge of his light cruiser USS Santa Fe to see patrol boats guarding the entrance to Pearl Harbor. Launched in June of 1942, the Cleveland-class cruiser bristled with guns and a crew ready to take the war to the Imperial Japanese Navy. Spurred on by the outbreak of war, USS Santa Fe was delivered six months ahead of schedule and crewed by new to the Navy sailors alongside veterans of the Battles of Midway and Coral Sea. She boldly steamed through the Panama Canal and arrived in the Pacific Theater with three new Destroyers ready for action.

The Ship would eventually win 13 Battle Stars and battle was just over the horizon. Bearing anti-aircraft guns and with a deck plan boasting watertight compartments, 120 days of supplies, and enough oil on board to steam ten thousand miles at thirty knots, the Camden, NJ-built Santa Fe was a gun wagon itching to get into the action. Her skipper, the eventual Four-star Admiral Berkey, was a steady hand who had seen action in World War I aboard the Battleship New York and later served aboard the gunboat USS Panay in the Yangtze River in inter-war China. Promoted to Captain, he took command of the newly commissioned Santa Fe and got her ready for action.

**NEXT QUARTER:** The USS Santa Fe fires her guns in the Aleutian Islands.

*Light Cruising is a historical retrospective on the Cleveland-class light cruiser USS Santa Fe, CL-60. These articles are meant to commemorate the quarterly events of seventy-five years ago when the "Lucky Lady" fought in World War II.*

### Q1 2018 and USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) – Getting Ready to Deploy

The USS Santa Fe recently completed the Total Ship's Readiness Assessment in January and identified a number of items to work on. At the same time, they welcomed new sailors aboard and said goodbye to others rotating to new duties and duty stations. The Skipper, CDR Foret, said that every deployment cycle the ship "loses" about one-third of the sailors aboard. This means that new qualifications are always happening, and the current at-sea exercises will be used to get new crewmembers up to speed on the USS Santa Fe way of fighting a submarine and to complete important inspections. Sometimes it means reenlistments for these brave young men and the skipper takes great pride in swearing them into a new enlistment term.



*Petty Officer Powell re-ups for another tour*

Next up is the deployment certificate and much work is on deck for the busy crew. No boring days at sea, and although homeport weather in Hawaii is always nice, the Pacific Ocean can mean foul weather and safety harnesses!



*Newly Qualified Submariner and some Cold weather gear to boot*

The crew is also preparing to welcome a new skipper aboard since CDR Jake Foret is due to be relieved in a Change of Command Ceremony in Pearl Harbor, HI on Friday, April 13, 2018.



**USS New Mexico (SSN-779) Change of Command** by Damon Runyan, USS New Mexico Committee Chair

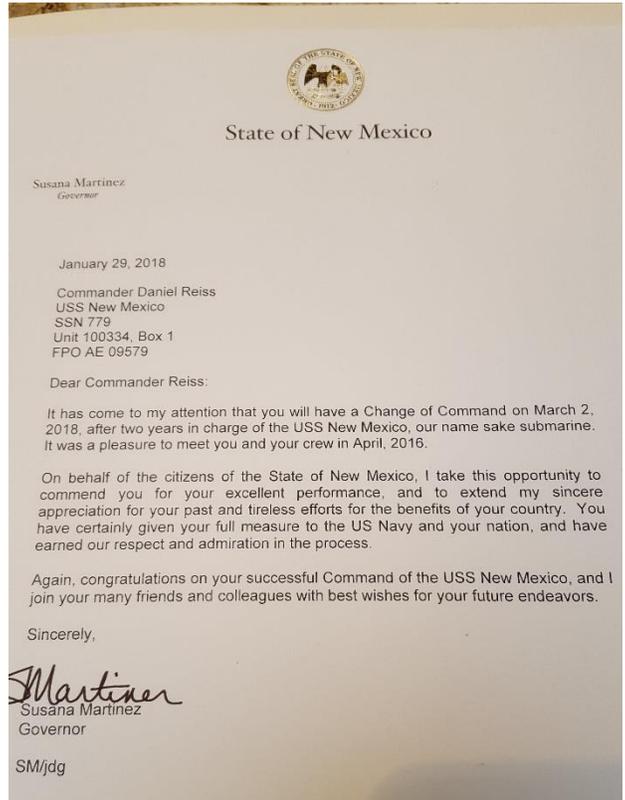
On 1 March, two members of the New Mexico Council of the Navy League (CAPT Chuck Vaughan and LCDR Damon Runyan) will travel to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME to attend the Change of Command of the USS NEW MEXICO (SSN-779). CDR Dan Reiss will be relieved by CDR James Morrow. CDR Reiss took command from CDR Todd Moore in



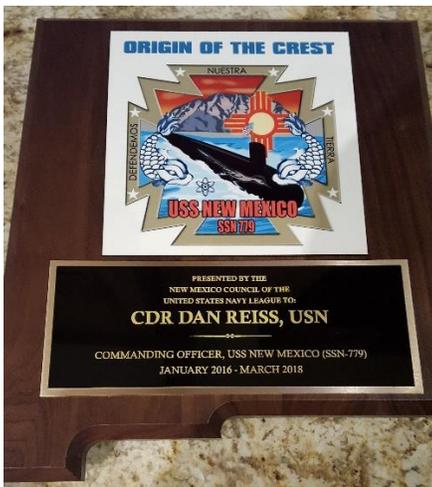
January 2016, and guided the submarine to an extremely successful six month deployment to the North Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. That deployment ended on 24 April, 2017, meaning the crew was on patrol during Thanksgiving and Christmas 2016, guarding our nation's interest.

Governor Susanna Martinez has written a letter of congratulations to CDR Reiss on his success as commander of our State's namesake

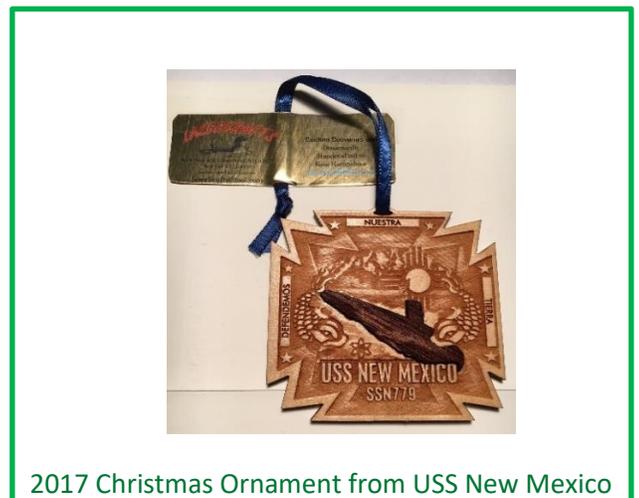
submarine. She has also had a New Mexico state flag flown over the Capitol to honor his time as Commanding Officer. Council member Damon Runyan (LCDR, USN Ret.) will carry that letter and flag and present them to CDR Reiss on the Governor's behalf.



Mr. Runyan will also present a large plaque from the New Mexico Council with the ship's official crest and a plate on the back of the plaque with a description of all the details in the crest, as written by the crest's designer, Emilee Reinholz.



Mr. Runyan's sister, Ms. Patricia Dickens, has created and donated eight hand-made gift bags for the leaving and arriving Commanders and others aboard the submarine. The gift bags contain numerous items that carry New Mexico significance to add the support citizens of New Mexico show for the crew of "our" great submarine.



2017 Christmas Ornament from USS New Mexico



## Answering the Bell: Honoring a Historic Naval Artifact *by Greg Trapp, J.D.*

A ship's bell is a maritime tradition that dates back to the age of wooden sailing ships. In an age when few sailors had watches and clocks were primarily navigational instruments, a ship's bell would be rung in half hour increments to mark the hours of the watch. A 30-minute hour glass was used to track the time, and the bell was rung once for each elapsed half hour until 8 bells signaled the end of the watch. A ship's bell was also used to warn other vessels when fog limited visibility. A ship's bell would also be rung as an alarm in the case of fire, which was a constant danger for wooden sailing ships. The bell would be rapidly rung for at least 5 seconds, followed by a single ring to indicate a fire forward, two rings to indicate a fire amidships, or 3 rings to indicate a fire aft. In such a way, a ship's bell might send out an alarm that might save the ship.



Ship's bells have since evolved into another maritime tradition, namely surviving to serve as enduring memorials to the ships they once helped protect. The bells from the battleship USS New Mexico (BB-40) are a part of that memorial tradition. USS New Mexico was commissioned on May 20, 1918, and had two large brass bells. The battleship was scrapped shortly after the end of World War II, but the bells were preserved. In 1948 one of the bells was placed in a memorial at the University of New Mexico. In 1964, the bell was moved to a memorial tower at Smith Plaza, which is a part of the UNM mall. That long history came to an end when the memorial bell tower was recently taken down to make way for a \$3 million renovation of Smith Plaza.

The bell, which is on loan from the Naval History and Heritage Command, is currently in a private area of Zimmerman Library and covered with plastic sheeting. The bell weighs about 1100 pounds, and is likely made of admiralty brass, which is a corrosion-resistant alloy consisting of about 69% copper, 30% zinc, and 1% tin.

The Navy League New Mexico Council has formed a committee to help guide the University of New Mexico to find a proper home for the bell. The goal is to create a new memorial that will be befitting of the World War II veterans that were honored by the original memorial, and of the distinguished record of USS New Mexico.

The picture of the bell tower was taken on January 19, 2018. It shows the bell tower behind construction fencing at UNM. The bell has since been taken down.

## Teddy Roosevelt and Our Navy *by Dick Brown*

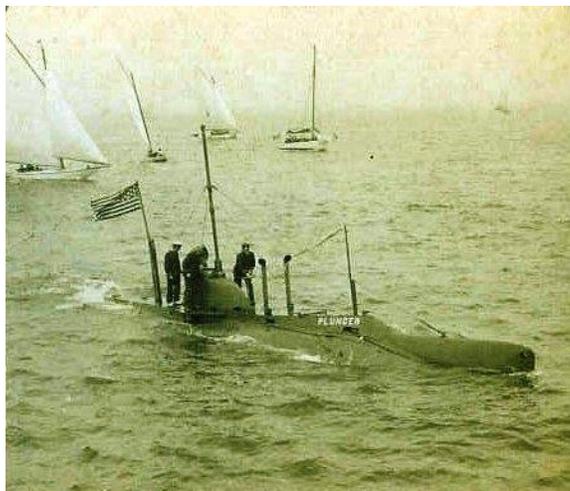
In April 1897, President William McKinley, wary of giving the independent firebrand, Teddy Roosevelt, too much power or public exposure, offered TR the job of Assistant Secretary of the Navy. While TR had campaigned for McKinley, he felt he had been sidelined, but then the battleship USS Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor.

TR quickly resigned his Navy position in order to lead the Army's First Volunteer Cavalry, the infamous Rough Riders, in battle in Cuba during the Spanish-American War – our first overseas war. At 510, New Mexico Territory had the largest contingent of volunteers who not only fought for America but fought to win a star in the US flag for New Mexico. TR returned as a war hero and signed on as McKinley's running mate in the incumbent's successful 1900 reelection campaign. Tragically, President McKinley was assassinated in September 1901. Vice President Roosevelt became our 26th and youngest President. *(story continues on next page)*

*[Editor's Note: Teddy Roosevelt was a great friend to the U.S. Navy. Each Spring, in his honor, the Navy League NM Council awards the Teddy Roosevelt Youth Medal to outstanding Junior ROTC cadets and Naval Sea Cadets across the state.]*

## Teddy Roosevelt and Our Navy *(continued from previous page) by Dick Brown*

In 1902, President Roosevelt encouraged the establishment of the Navy League of the United States as a civilian organization dedicated to promoting strong sea services. The following year, TR helped Panama secede from Colombia and created the Canal Zone, clearing the way for the Panama Canal, finally an efficient way for ships to transit between the Atlantic and Pacific. Construction started in November 1903 and a few years later, TR visited the massive project. By then TR had been elected in his own right to a full term as president and in visiting the Panama Canal he became the first president to leave the country while in office.



*President Roosevelt peering down the hatch while underway aboard USS Plunger in Oyster Bay Harbor.*

On August 25, 1905, the USS Plunger (SS-2) arrived at Oyster Bay on Long Island, New York, where it conducted sea trials near Sagamore Hill, the home of President Roosevelt. At the invitation of the CO, the adventurous president stepped onto the only flat portion of the submarine's slippery deck. The gasoline engine-powered submarine cruised out of the harbor on the surface as the captain guided his Commander-in-Chief down the 24-inch hatch. Once in the clear, the hatch was closed and Plunger slipped beneath the choppy sea.

The dive carried Plunger to a depth of 40 feet where she settled on the bottom of Long Island Sound for about 30 minutes. Lights were turned off to show that the crew of nine could safely operate their submarine under adverse conditions. For the first time in history, the President of the United States was in total darkness at the bottom of a raging sea! After nearly an hour of submerged operations, Plunger surfaced, restarted her engine and safely returned the President to his Sagamore Hill home. He was most impressed.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, TR directed that officer duty in submarines be equated with officer duty on surface ships, indeed that submarine officers be given generous consideration for promotion. Enlisted men qualified in submarines were paid \$5 per month over their base pay but the President issued an Executive Order immediately directing that submariners be paid an additional \$1 per day if their submarine spent any part of a day submerged.

The President continued to have his mind on the Navy that year: "It seems to me that all good Americans interested in the growth of their country and sensitive to its honor should give hearty support to the policies which the Navy League is founded to further. . ."

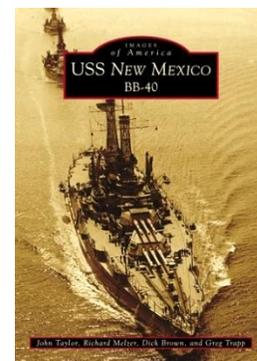
TR went on to expand the Navy and sent the Great White Fleet on a goodwill tour to project America's naval power to the world during the period December 1907 to February 1909. With his philosophy "speak softly and carry a big stick", TR transformed the U.S. Navy into a major international sea power.

At the family home in Oyster Bay, the venerable Theodore Roosevelt died in his sleep on January 6, 1919 (New Mexico Statehood Day) at the age of 60. He left his mark on so many aspects of American life. In 1922, the Navy League reaffirmed his importance to the Navy by establishing Navy Day on his birthday, October 27th — the original day that naval tradition called for celebrating our Navy's beginning.

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## USS New Mexico BB-40 Book is Available for Purchase

Don't forget to place your orders for the "USS New Mexico BB-40," that tells the story of the first U.S. Navy warship named after the state of New Mexico. The authors are John Taylor, Richard Melzer, Dick Brown, and Greg Trapp. The 128-page book is a part of Arcadia's Images of America series, and retails for \$21.99. **The royalties go to the Navy League New Mexico Council**, so your purchase will be supporting a good cause. The book is available from area book stores, as well as directly from Arcadia Publishing at <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467127721>.



## Green Bay Packers -- Some Stadiums Still Get it Right!

Submitted by Joe Loisel, December 2017



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

A1: *Of course, the head lights on a submarine are in "the heads".*

A2: *The toilet was placed at the fore of the ship aft the bowsprit and to the side so the spray from the bow wave would wash it clean. The correct expression would be "going to the head" as in head of the ship.*

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## Meet the New Mexico Council Membership Team! *by Tom and Lisa Childress*

Hi, We are Lisa and Tom Childress. We are excited to continue our support of the Navy as the membership team for the Navy League, New Mexico Council.

We have lived in New Mexico since Tom retired from the Navy about 14 years ago. Lisa is a native New Mexican. Tom wasn't born here but as they say in Texas, he got here as quickly as he could. Lisa is also active with Blue Star Moms as the 1st Vice President and too many other activities to list. Tom was a Navy aircraft maintenance officer for almost 30 years and still runs around looking for things to fix when he isn't working part time for Lockheed Martin, hunting hogs in Texas, playing darts, painting, occasionally bowling, playing as much golf as possible or taking long naps. Obviously, he doesn't actually get around to fixing much.

We are tremendously proud of our four children: our oldest is the Deputy Governor of Illinois, our second son is a custom builder in Michigan, our daughter is a law student and our youngest son is a brand new P-3 Flight Engineer for the Navy.

We look forward to meeting our fellow Navy supporters here in New Mexico!

## Historical Society of New Mexico Annual Conference *by Dick Brown*

I thought you might be interested in some of the afternoon events on April 21<sup>st</sup>:

1. [Japanese Submarine Visits 12 NM Communities in 12 days](#). Presentation features a WWII nationwide War Bonds Tour that displayed a Japanese submarine captured the day after the Pearl Harbor attack.
2. [The USS New Mexico](#). A review of the recent book mentioned on page 6 of this newsletter.
3. [Building a New New Mexico](#): The Albuquerque District of the US Army Corps of Engineers in WWII. Presentation describes the history of the Albuquerque District from 1941 through 1946, including projects about the Alamogordo Army Airbase and its Bombing and Gunnery Range.

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**2017 Upcoming Events for Navy League, New Mexico Council**

Mar 2	USS New Mexico (SSN-779) Change of Command – Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME
Mar 17	USS Colorado Commissioning Ceremony – Groton, CT
Mar 17	Military Coalition Luncheon – Albuquerque Marriott – Merico Zanotti and Ruben Foster from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; social hour 1100-1200; lunch 1200-1400
Apr 9-11	Navy League Sea-Air-Space Exposition – Gaylord National Harbor Convention Center, MD
Apr 13	USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) Change of Command – Pearl Harbor, HI
Apr 19	USNA Alumni Assn Spring Dinner – Canyon Club, Albuquerque 1800
Apr 21	Historical Society of New Mexico Annual Conference - Alamogordo
Jun 6-9	Navy League National Convention
Jun 10	USNA picnic - Elena Gallegos Picnic Area time tbd