



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

NEW MEXICO
Council



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www.nmnavyleague.com

Fall 2019 Issue

Page 1

- Namesake Ships in Shipyard

Page 2

- **President's Message:**
NM Council Awards
Recognitions

Insert – Navy Birthday Ball
Registration Information,
October 19, 2019

Pages 3

- Namesake Ships
Shipyard!
Historical Photos

Page 4

- Nautical Items of Interest
60 Years of Boomers

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Submarine Crews Work Hard at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to Keep Our Namesake Ships in Peak Shape

by Damon Runyan and Mark Schaefer

Time at sea can be tough on any Navy ships. Submarines spend their time mostly completely submerged, so the sea elements and the pressure at depth and the normal wear and tear on shipboard equipment combine to make regular maintenance a necessity.

Maintenance and drydocking is conducted at our Naval Shipyards. Shorter maintenance periods are called Selected Restricted Availabilities (SRAs), while the longer maintenance periods are called "overhauls".

In this photo, CDR Jim Morrow, CO USS New Mexico (SSN-779), and CDR Christopher Hedrick, CO USS Santa Fe (SSN-763), and their Chiefs pose in front of USS Squalus at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine.

The USS New Mexico will soon depart the shipyard after a 2-year overhaul/upgrade. The USS Santa Fe just recently arrived, and will be at PNSY for two years.

This a rare event for both of New Mexico's namesake submarines to be together. Dick Brown noted that this is the first time in 36 years that we have not had a namesake ship in active service.



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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President's Message



Chuck Vaughan

President, New Mexico Council

(Photo courtesy of Rick Carver)

Congratulations New Mexico Council Members!

Earlier this year the New Mexico Council received two awards from the Navy League of the U. S.: an Honorable Mention Council award for 2018 and the Sea Service Adoption Excellence Award for 2018. The Honorable Mention Council award is based on the Council's activities including youth programs, sea services support, legislative affairs involvement and public education activities. I want to especially thank Lisa Childress, Tom Gutierrez, Lori Harris, John Jones, Joe Lukas-Drouillard, Ed Nava, Jim Nesmith, Ron Oleksak, Damon Runyan, Mark Schaefer, Greg Trapp, Rebecca Vigil, Dave Williams and Julie Wright for all they did in 2018 for the Council to earn the Honorable Mention award.

The Sea Service Adoption Excellence Award is a new award for 2018 and is given to a Council that has a great Sea Service unit adoption program. For the New Mexico Council, Ron Oleksak leads our adoption efforts for the USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) and Damon Runyan leads our adoption efforts for the USS New Mexico (SSN 779). Both Ron and Damon are in regular contact with the

crews, send gifts from New Mexico to the crews, and coordinate crew visits here or visits to the submarines.

Earlier this summer I presented a \$750.00 scholarship check to Hieu Ngo, a Navy Reserve Third Class Petty Officer who is taking classes at the University of New Mexico to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in emergency medical service and hopes to become a U. S. Navy officer after graduation from UNM. I wish Hieu the best of luck in pursuing his goals.

What enabled our scholarships? The Council's budget for 2019 is \$2,721.00 and amazingly donations from Council members exceeded the Council's 2019 budget. Thank you Jeff Albright, CAPT (ret) William Bennett, Dick Brown, CDR (ret) V. Brian D'Andrea, COL (ret) Randall Eakin, Robin Gomez, David Grimes, CAPT (ret) Michael Hamilton, Mary Ann Hendrickson, CDR (ret) John Jones, Duane Karjala, CAPT (ret) Stuart Kendrick, Herbert Richter, LCDR (ret) Damon Runyan, Margaret Schmidt, Cash and Judy Smithwick, CAPT (ret) Ernesto Valenzuela, HMCS (ret) Gary Williams and CAPT (ret) Joseph Zanetti for your donations! Due to your generous donations the Council was able to award scholarships and presented 21 Navy League Theodore Roosevelt leadership awards to Junior ROTC high school students. I salute all of you who provided a donation to the Council this spring!

The date of the annual meeting has been set for December 7th and I'm going to try to hold it at Nick and Jimmy's again, but that hasn't been firmed up yet. Readers of the newsletter can expect to be receiving a ballot sometime in November once we get a new slate of officers firmed up.

Contact me any time at

chuck.vaughan@comcast.net

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

Sea Service Adoption Award



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

Namesake Ships



Shipyard Time Makes for Slow News from our Namesake Ships by Damon Runyan and Mark Schaefer

The submarine USS New Mexico (SSN-779) is about ready to get out of the shipyard. Completion of work and final testing of ship systems can keep a crew amazingly busy. Yet, Damon has been in contact to get the photo on the front page of this issue of the newsletter, and there are plans to have the crew send two Culinary Specialists to La Posta restaurant for training on the proper preparation of Mexican food! La Posta is owned by New Mexico Council member and Navy Veteran Tom Hutchinson. Damon and his wife, Michelle, will also be travelling to the homeport change to Norfolk Naval Base once the dates are finalized. The New Mexico Council thanks them for representing all of us here in the State of New Mexico at this important change for the crew and the submarine.

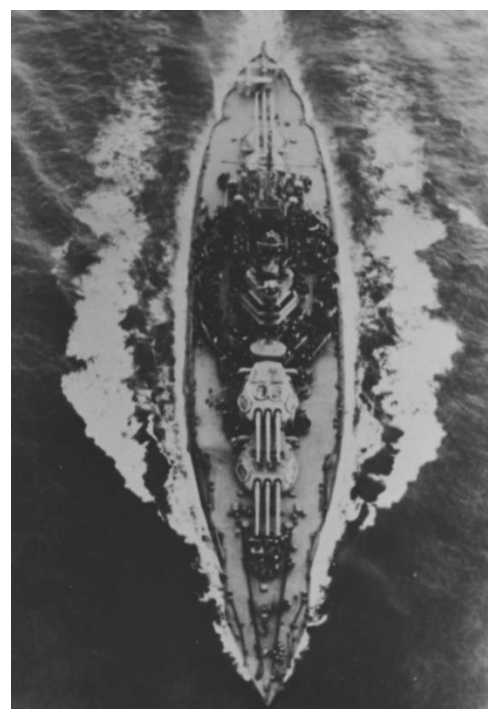
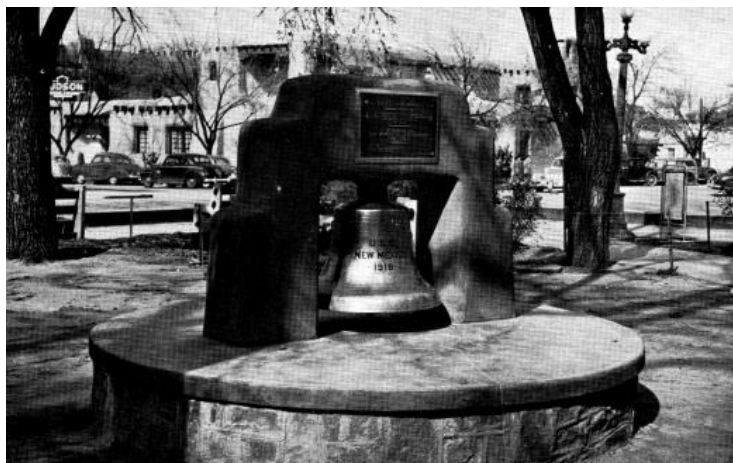
Similarly, for USS Santa Fe (SSN-763), the preparation for shipyard can be really tough. Little news is coming to us as a result. Our USS Santa Fe chair, Ron Oleksak, is staying on top of the crew needs and how we can support them here from New Mexico.

The photo at right shows the USS Santa Fe arriving at New London, CT in July 2019 just prior to transiting up to the shipyard in Portsmouth. Note how the tug at left assists submarines, from time to time, in approaching the pier for docking.



Two Cool Historical Photos of Namesake Ships submitted by Greg Trapp

At left, the Battleship New Mexico (BB-40) ship's bell used to be located on the plaza in Santa Fe! At right is a rare aerial photograph of BB-40 at sea. The "Queen" was an amazing global force for good!



Nautical Items of Interest

NEW MEXICO
Council



60th Anniversary of Our First Boomer Commissioning by Dick Brown

USS George Washington (SSBN 598) joined our fleet on December 30, 1959, 60 years ago, as the world's first nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine.

With the Cold War growing more tense in the late 1950s, the Soviets began building diesel-electric Zulu and Golf-class ballistic missile submarines with one to three vertical missile silos in the sail for surface-launching. While they finally reached submerged launch capability with their Golf IIs, they continued to struggle with liquid-fueled missiles. We acted very quickly to counter the rapidly developing Soviet threat.

We halted construction on a Skipjack-class attack submarine already named USS Scorpion (SSN 589), cut her in half and inserted a 130-foot missile compartment to house 16 two-stage, solid-propellant Polaris A-1 missiles. On June 9, 1959, the lengthened submarine emerged from the Electric Boat shipyard with a new name, USS George Washington, and a new hull number, SSBN 598, a slight transposition of the figures in 589. Another attack submarine under construction became the ill-fated Scorpion.

As a stop-gap measure against nuclear aggression, we deployed sea-based nuclear weapons aboard submarines beginning in 1959, using Regulus I—our winged, surface-launched, nuclear-tipped cruise missile. Five Regulus boats began making strategic deterrent patrols off the Kamchatka Peninsula in the far-north Pacific. Known as the North Pacific Yacht Club, these Regulus boats made a total of 41 patrols.

On July 20, 1960, Washington's Gold crew fired their first test missile 30 miles off Cape Canaveral. It landed on target, 1,150 miles distant. President Dwight Eisenhower received the historic message: POLARIS—FROM OUT OF THE DEEP TO TARGET. PERFECT. Two hours later a second missile launch was equally successful. On November 15, 1960, the Blue crew set out on Washington's first strategic deterrent patrol.

By the time the Soviets had its first operational SSBN in November 1967, a Yankee-class with a 16-missile payload in the hull like our Polaris SSBNs, we had placed 40 more boomers in service!

This December, we celebrate the 60th anniversary of placing USS George Washington in service. She was first in her class, the beginning of the sea-based leg of our Nuclear Deterrence Triad which continues today with our Trident boomers. Washington completed 55 patrols during her 25-year career. She was decommissioned on January 24, 1985. Her sail stands guard outside the Submarine Force Museum in New London, Connecticut.

Dick is a Cold War submarine veteran, having served aboard the Regulus cruise missile submarine USS Barbero (SSG 317) in the Bering Sea and the Polaris ballistic missile submarine USS Lafayette (SSBN 616 Blue) in the Mediterranean Sea.

2019 Upcoming Events for Navy League, New Mexico Council

October 5	Navy-Air Force football game, Annapolis, MD 1:30pm Mountain time
October 13	Navy Birthday
October 19	Navy Birthday Ball! Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown; social hour @1800. See inside flyer for info.
November 10	Marine Corps Birthday
November 16	Navy-Notre Dame football game, South Bend, IN 12:30 pm Mountain time
December 7	New Mexico Council Annual Meeting, time and location TBD
December 14	Army-Navy football game, Philadelphia, PA 1:00pm Mountain time

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.