



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

New Mexico
Council



July, 2020

www.nmnavyleague.com

Summer 2020 Issue

Page 1

- USS New Mexico Changes Homeport

Page 2

- President's Message:
[NM Council Updates](#)

Pages 3-4

- Namesake Ships
[USS Albuquerque Memorial](#)

Page 5

- Local New Mexico News
[Awards and Appointments](#)

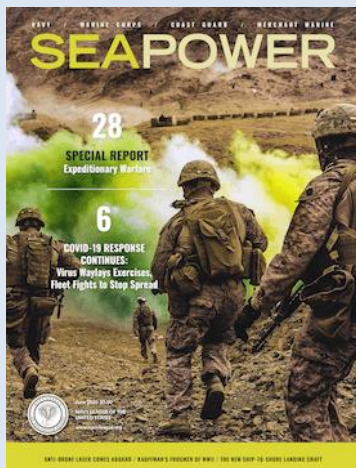
Page 6-7

- Nautical Items of Interest
[Naval Academy Updates](#)
[Ship's Bell Updates](#)
[Record Time for Ships at Sea](#)

Page 8

- Upcoming Events

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".



USS New Mexico (SSN-779) Changes Homeport

By Damon Runyan, Photo by Stephanie Morrow

After making the homeport change from Groton, CT to Norfolk, VA, the USS New Mexico got right back underway after a few weeks to get families settled. SSN-779 made what is often referred to in the Navy as a "shakedown cruise" to work out any bugs left over from an extended overhaul. The boat and crew are back home for the July 4th holidays.



Commanding Officer CDR Jim Morrow will depart the New Mexico at the end of July and turn his command over to CDR Jared Smith. As has been happening all over the Navy with the COVID-19 restrictions, the event will almost certainly follow the

script that dozens have over the last several months - no fanfare, no crowd, a simple exchange of command in the presence a Squadron and Fleet commander in an office of 6-8 people including spouses.

In an email to the New Mexico Committee Chairman Damon Runyan, CDR Morrow stated, "It is really unfortunate that I will not be able to pay public tribute and thank everyone for making my time on this great ship memorable. I particularly regret that our Spring plan fell through due to travel restrictions. Stephanie and I have talked many times about how we'll thank everyone in lieu of a ceremony. I will 100% plan to come out there for a week on my dime when we are past the pandemic situation, to thank everyone in the New Mexico Navy League for the continued outstanding support and understanding. I don't know when that would be, but I absolutely want to come back out to that beautiful place in an informal manner and say thanks."



2020 COUNCIL OFFICERS

John Jones

President

Dave Williams

Vice President

Chuck Vaughan

Treasurer

Tom Gutierrez

Secretary

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Damon Runyan

USS New Mexico SSN-779

Ron Oleksak

USS Santa Fe SSN-763

Greg Trapp

BB-40 Memorial Bell

tbd

USS Los Alamos Commissioning

Rebecca Vigil

Public Affairs

Joe Lukas-Drouillard

Sea Cadet Liaison

Ed Nava

Website Editor

NAVY LEAGUE
NEW MEXICO COUNCIL
P.O. Box 91554

Albuquerque, NM 87199

Mark Schaefer

Newsletter Editor



President's Message



John Jones

President, New Mexico Council

AHOY!

A Spring like no other... in these uncertain times of COVID, social distancing and economic distress, we hope you are well.

The Council Board has been unable to meet in person since March, but we've found that Zoom is an amazing technology – especially given the geographic diversity of our members – and works great! Dang the COVID – full speed ahead!

Our JROTC Theodore Roosevelt Awards were impacted by COVID – less than a dozen of the units held awards events with a physical presence, some conducted a virtual awards, some units said they'd make awards one-on-one – but we're supporting the units in any way they choose.

In our last issue, we reported about the legislative retirement of Senator RADM Bill Payne and his passing of SM20 for a study of the two BB40 bells. That study has taken shape, in spite of COVID, and it will move forward this summer.

The former USS ALBUQUERQUE (SSN 706) is in the dismantling process – some of the boat's components are available for appropriate displays and the Council has

formed a committee led by Chuck Vaughan to help in that effort.

Our 763 (SANTA FE) and 779 (NEW MEXICO) committees remain active with each of our namesake boats, in the yards and at sea.

The Navy League recently announced awards for Councils based on their 2019 activities – New Mexico won the Small Council Award for Unit Support of both of our namesake submarines, and for its newsletter!

The Scholarship Committee has recently issued a call for applications for our scholarship – you can find information on the council web site.

A goal of the Council this year is to increase our membership – if you have friend interested in the maritime support mission of the League, or is a former sea service member, please refer them to the Council or the National web site ... there is PLENTY to do!

Please consider a tax deductible donation to the New Mexico Council in support our educational efforts with the Sea Services, our scholarship program for men and women on active duty and in the reserves, our work with crews on our namesake New Mexico ships, and our recognition programs with the Navy ROTC and Junior Navy and Marine Corps ROTC programs around the State and El Paso.

Stay in touch, tell us what you think.

Contact me any time at

JohnLJonesNM@gmail.com

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

Not for Self, but Country. Semper Fortis.

John L Jones
CDR SC USN (ret)

NM Nautical Quiz!

Q1: What does a pirate say on his 80th birthday?

Q2: What is a pirate's favorite exercise?

Q3: Why is pirating so addictive?

(see page 6 for answers)

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

Namesake Ships



Update on Possible Effort to Create a USS Albuquerque Memorial *story and photos by Dick Brown*

As reported in past issues of Nautical News, our Council has been considering embarking on a major project, more like a major community collaboration, to acquire the sail and some artifacts of ex-Albuquerque.

The boat is presently moored at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, minus its nuclear reactor, and is awaiting hull recycling. It is scheduled to go into drydock on August 25, 2022 to begin the process of removing the 50-ton sail and upper portion of the rudder, which we have requested, and cutting up the steel hull. By the way, the sail is 26 feet long, 6 feet wide and 19 feet high. The fairwater planes have a 33-foot wingspan, as shown below, the same diameter as the hull.



Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) handles the disposition of major components like the sail, rudder, diving station and periscopes. Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHHC) handles requests for smaller items, onboard artifacts like the ship's bell, original battle flag, various brass plaques, and steel plate with Ship's Sponsor Nancy Domenici's welded initials that can be acquired on a long-term loan basis. These historic items have already been removed from the ship and are in storage. We are in communication with both NAVSEA and NHHHC, located at the Washington Navy Yard, about this project.

On June 12th, John Jones, Chuck Vaughn, Dave Williams and Dick Brown briefed (via zoom) Alan Armijo, Public Affairs Director, and staff members of Mayor Keller's

office on the concept of a USS Albuquerque Submarine Memorial. We discussed cost sharing, candidate sites, the amount of real estate needed, and creation of an interactive exhibit. The latter would have to be an indoor exhibit in an existing museum or a new building. The initial City response was positive with requests for additional information.

We have since sent the below artist rendering of what the City of Cincinnati is doing for its namesake Los Angeles-class attack submarine. Alan Armijo is interested in the length of such a permanent display. We explained that the sub is 360-feet long and the portion of the hull above the waterline could be black-painted concrete. A concept requiring less real estate of course is just the sail itself. We also mentioned that transportation from Bremerton, WA to Albuquerque could be via two flatbed trucks or railcar.

This project is in the early talking stage and has a long way to go. But if it came to pass, it would certainly be a fitting memorial honoring the thousands of undersea warriors who served aboard "our" submarine. It would also serve to recognize the ship itself – a combat veteran – for her 33 years of service to our Navy and our Nation.



Namesake Ships



USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) and a Possible Late Autumn Navy Week *by Ron Oleksak*

Two quick updates after a long period of silence - not much has been going on with the Boat up in Portsmouth, NH undergoing a couple of years of maintenance and refueling. But the world doesn't stand still, and I have news!



The first week of November will have the US Navy **coming to Santa Fe for Navy Week**, and that means we will have crew from the USS Santa Fe and an education contingent of crew from the USS Constitution visiting our wonderful city! The schedule is not firmly established yet, but we should have several crew members including the Skipper and Chief of the Boat (COB) visiting that week. New Mexico is one of the few states that the Department of Defense has said are safe to travel to - yay us and keep safe everyone!

The other bit of news is an award that reflects on all of your food and volunteer donations - the New Mexico Council of the Navy League won a **Sea Service Unit Adoption Excellence Award** - direct recognition that even in a landlocked state like New Mexico, we can still show tremendous support for the sailors on OUR BOAT!!

Note from NM Council President, John Jones, regarding Navy Week

NAVY WEEK in Santa Fe! The Navy Office of Community Outreach (NAVCO) has scheduled a Navy Week celebration in Santa Fe during the week of November 2nd (COVID permitting). The Theme of the week is "The Navy the Nation Needs" and will involve crew from the USS Santa Fe (SSN-763), EOD Group 1, the Navy Band out of Great Lakes, a Navy Ceremonial Guard and crew from the USS CONSTITUTION. We'll keep ya posted!

Navy League New Mexico Council Wins Prestigious Sea Service Adoption Award

The press release shown below was sent out by our Council's Public Affairs committee chair, Rebecca Vigil on June 9th. Our past national director from New Mexico, Dick Brown, stated that this is "not bad for a land-locked council with a top-notch newsletter. Note our co-winners are two seaports with submarines & surface ships, one of which is the current home for our third sub, Ex-Albuquerque. Bravo Zulu!"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The New Mexico Council of the Navy League of the United States has won a **Sea Service Adoption Award** for a small council and won a **silver Mackie Award for our newsletter** from the Navy League of the United States. These awards will be presented at the National Convention this fall.

Bill Stevenson, National President, Navy League of the United States informed us that, "Our councils are the core reason the Navy League is the premier sea service support organization in the world....it's our honor to recognize our councils that have risen above and beyond the core of our mission and exemplify the excellence our organization strives for."

Our New Mexico Council members and Council President, CDR John Jones, support the missions, history, accomplishments, and the work of our two sponsored submarines. USS New Mexico Nuclear Submarine (SSN-779) committee is chaired by Damon Runyan and the USS Santa Fe Nuclear Submarine (SSN-763) committee is chaired by Ron Oleksak.

Our New Mexico Council produces an excellent newsletter for its members that can be viewed on our website at www.nmnavyleague.com.



Navy League New Mexico Council Presents 2020 Teddy Roosevelt Youth Awards

Here are some of your 2020 NJROTC and MCJROTC Teddy Roosevelt Youth Award winners from around the State of New Mexico and nearby schools in Texas. The Navy League New Mexico Council presents these awards each year. Note that not all of this year's awards are shown below since many of the school's graduation and awards ceremonies were delayed. We are only listing the "delivered" awards for 2020, many of which were sent by mail.



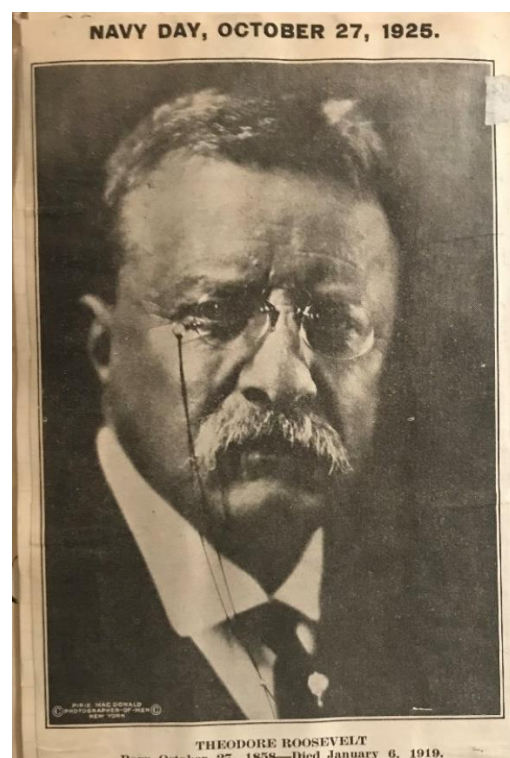
The national Navy League of the United States established this Youth Medal that is awarded to **outstanding Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) cadets and Naval Sea Cadets**. The award consists of a medal, ribbon bar, certificate, and pamphlet on President Theodore Roosevelt whose visage is on the medal.

Unit	Albuquerque/ North NM	City	Cadet Recipient
MC	Shiprock High School	Shiprock, NM	C/CPL Maria Dokey
MC	Shiprock High School	Shiprock, NM	C/CPO Deshaun Begay
MC	Atrisco Heritage High School	Albuquerque, NM	Cadet Juan Hernandez
Navy	Los Alamos High School	Los Alamos, NM	C/SCPO Nathan G Johnson
Navy	West Mesa High School	Albuquerque, NM	C/CDR Jeovany Montano
MC	Grants High School	Grants, NM	Cadet Gunnery Sgt Andrew Venable
Navy	Manzano High School	Albuquerque, NM	Cadet Bryan Albers
Navy	Santa Fe High School	Santa Fe, NM	C/CPO Isaiah Segura
Navy	Belen High School	Belen, NM	C/CPO Matthew Stump

Unit	Las Cruces/ South NM /Texas	City	Cadet Recipient
Navy	Gadsden H.S.	Anthony, NM	C/CPO Victor Romero
Navy	Canutillo H.S.	Canutillo, TX	C/CDR Judith Ayala

The photo of Theodore Roosevelt at right was submitted by New Mexico Council member Greg Trapp from his extensive collection of Navy memorabilia. The original words spoken by Teddy Roosevelt for the article from Navy Day in 1925 were,

"The strong arm of the government in enforcing respect for its just rights in international matters is the Navy of the United States. I most earnestly recommend that there be no halt in the work of upbuilding the American Navy. There is no more patriotic duty before us as a people than to keep the navy adequate to the needs of this country's position. The veteran seamen of our warships are of as high a type as can be found in any navy which rides the waters of the world; they are unsurpassed in daring, in resolution, in readiness, in thorough knowledge of their profession. They deserve every consideration that can be shown them."



2019 United States Naval Academy Appointees from New Mexico



Appointee	School	City	STATUS
Raymond Chapman	Aztec High School	Aztec, NM	USNA
Estevan Nunez	Cibola High School	Albuquerque, NM	USNA
Robert A. Montoya	Cobre High School	Bayard, NM	NAPS
Andre T. Saiz	Los Lunas High School	Los Lunas, NM	NAPS



U.S. Naval Academy Makes Modifications to Graduation and to Plebe Summer

By Mark Schaefer with inputs from the Candidate Guidance Office at USNA; photo courtesy of WTOP.com

Similar to many academic institutions keeping students at home after Spring Break of 2020, the Naval Academy had their break extended by a week, and then ultimately never returned to campus. While keeping in mind the safety and health of the entire Naval Academy family, Superintendent Sean Buck sent a letter to all Midshipmen outlining that classes were going remote beginning March 20th. The Superintendent stated, "I want to reinforce that Spring Break is over. I want to make it abundantly clear that you are in a duty status at your current location."

The stay-at-home "orders" for the rest of the semester were not the end of the impact from COVID-19. At right, you will see one of the strangest sites ever seen at a Naval Academy graduation. Socially distanced

Midshipmen were put into five groups for swearing-in ceremonies on May 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20. The swearing-in events were closed to all guests, including parents, family members, media, and members of the public. The Blue Angels flew overhead in celebration of the swearing-in ceremonies. A virtual graduation and commissioning ceremony was broadcast on May 22, with a tribute and keynote address pre-recorded from Secretary of Defense Mark Esper.



Summer training of freshmen, also known as Plebe Summer, is kicked off by I-day. Often misnamed Indoctrination Day or Incoming Day, I-day actually stands for "Induction Day", which is essentially a Navy term for bringing in or sucking in fresh seawater into engine plants. In terms of Midshipmen, the new Plebes are sucked into the system on I-day. It is frequently stated by graduates that their own Plebe Summer was the hardest Plebe Summer ever at the Naval Academy (*author's note → this is true in my year*). But Plebe Summer of 2020 will be particularly unique. Instead of all plebes coming in on the same day, they are checking in over four days starting June 29th, six to eight at a time, in thirty-minute intervals. The Plebes will then commence a

14-day Restriction of Movement (ROM). They will be issued laptops when they check in to start doing academic placement exams, learn "rates", etc. They will each have one roommate and will participate in squad level events, etc. The ROM will be over on around July 14th/16th and there will be a swearing in ceremony on July 17th. Exposure to COVID-19 will not eliminate a new Plebe. When they report they will be tested and, if sick, they will be berthed in separate areas and treated until the COVID-19 issue clears up.

The Naval Academy Prep School procedures will be similar. The fleet NAPS candidates will show up in Newport on July 14th and the rest on July 15th and 16th.

New Mexico's Parents Club has an annual "send-off" reception each year for Plebes and parents to get together to talk about Plebe Summer and the Naval Academy in general. This year's send-off was conducted by Zoom.

Past issues of the NM Nautical News
can be found at

www.nmnavyleague.com/newsletters.html

Answers to NM Nautical Quiz (from page 2)

A1: Aye, Matey!

A2: Planking

A3: Once you lose yer first hand, ye get hooked!

State Organizing Senate Memorial 20 Task Force *By Greg Trapp, JD, Historian; photo by Shelli Takeuchi*

Senate Memorial 20 was passed on February 17, 2020. The Memorial was sponsored by Senator William Payne, and it called upon the Department of Cultural Affairs to “convene a task force to make recommendations for the appropriate display and conservation of the two bells from the historic battleship USS New Mexico.” What no one could have appreciated at the time was the degree to which the Coronavirus would transform life in the state, and indeed in the entire world. Although the task force was delayed by the Coronavirus crisis, it is now being organized and its work will soon begin.

Department of Cultural Affairs Secretary Debra Garcia y Griego has appointed Mr. Billy Garrett to organize and facilitate the task force. Mr. Garrett is the Executive Director of the New Mexico History Museum. Mr. Garrett has informed President Jones that he is currently in the process of gathering contact information for the groups that will be participating in the task force. The task force will be meeting by video conference, though onsite inspection of the bells may take place should public health orders permit. Mr. Garrett has said that once the task force is organized, the task force will gather information about the current location and condition of the bells, identify options for the appropriate display of the bells, and reach agreement about a recommendation based on evaluation of the options. The task force will attempt to complete an initial draft of the report by mid-August. The final report is due to the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee by October 2, 2020.



The photo shows one of the two bells from the World War II battleship USS New Mexico (BB-40). The bell is currently on display south of Zimmerman Library at the University of New Mexico. The bell is inscribed “USS New Mexico 1918.”

Dodging Virus, Navy Ships Break Record for Staying at Sea *By Associated Press, June 25, 2020*



WASHINGTON (AP) - The two U.S. warships in the Middle East weren't aiming to break a record. But when the coronavirus made ship stops in foreign countries too risky, the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower and the USS San Jacinto were ordered to keep moving and avoid all port visits.

On Thursday, as they steamed through the North Arabian Sea, they notched their 161st consecutive day at sea, breaking the previous Navy record of 160 days. And they're on pace to crush it, since they won't hit land again until they get home to Virginia later this year.

The milestone, Navy Capt. Kyle Higgins said, "is not one that I think we really wanted but one that the circumstances of the world thrust upon us. And we embraced it with style." The photo, provided by the U.S. Navy, shows sailors on board the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower running for exercise.

In March, Vice Adm. Jim Malloy, the Navy's 5th Fleet commander, ordered a stop to all port visits to reduce the chance of spreading the virus through the fleet. Other ships were battling outbreaks, including the USS Theodore Roosevelt, which got sidelined in Guam.

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
NEW MEXICO COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 91554
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87199

Return Service Requested

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, and the local active and reserve. Join or renew at <https://www.navyleague.org/membership>*



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-

2020 Upcoming Events for Navy League, New Mexico Council

July 13	Board meeting by Zoom – email John Jones if you want to listen in
Aug 10	Board meeting – site tbd
Sep 5	Navy – Notre Dame football; Navy-Marine Corps Stadium, Annapolis, MD
Sep 14	Board meeting – site tbd
State Fair	cancelled
Balloon Fiesta	cancelled
Oct 3	Navy-Air Force football; Colorado Springs, CO
Navy League Annual Meeting	cancelled
Dec 12	Army-Navy football; Philadelphia, PA