

NM NAUTICAL NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
NEW MEXICO COUNCIL
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES



www.nmnavyleague.com

January, 2021

Winter 2021 Issue

Page 1

- Navy Week Santa Fe

Page 2

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

Pages 3-5

- Namesake Ships
[SSN-779 Updates](#)
[SSN-763 Navy Week News](#)

Page 6

- Local New Mexico News
[Navy Week Photos](#)
[Council Awards & Financials](#)

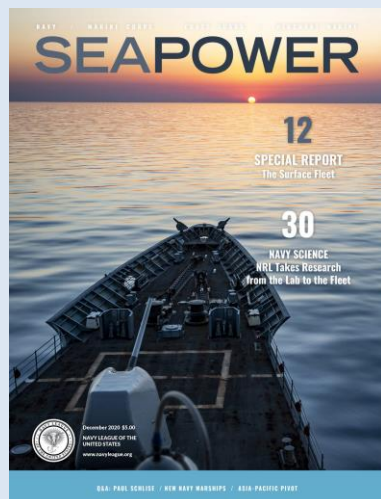
Page 7

- New Mexico Naval History

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".



Navy Week Santa Fe said to be "Incredibly Successful"

By Mark Schaefer, Newsletter Editor

Photos by Siarza Social Digital on behalf of the Navy Office of Community Outreach

Selected as one of eight cities to host a week-long Navy celebration event in 2020, Santa Fe rose to the challenge in this year's Navy Week. Using social media channels and multimedia stories to overcome pandemic challenges, Navy Week Santa Fe created a set of historical video clips that are truly enlightening about the personal journeys of several local Navy veterans, including several from our Navy League New Mexico Council.



The New Mexico Council invites you to take a closer look at these intriguing, heart-felt, and sometimes emotional stories. You can see these by going to www.youtube.com and searching for "Navy Week Santa Fe".

Bravo Zulu to the Navy Office of Community Outreach and the local planning committee for representing the Navy and the State of New Mexico in such a great way this past November 2nd through 8th. See more captures of Navy Week Santa Fe 2020 on page 6.



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 <https://www.navyleague.org/membership>

2021 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 Olexsak
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

Happy New Year New Mexico Council and Happy Birthday to the State of New Mexico on Wednesday January 6th!

The League will celebrate its 119th birthday this year.

This past year we were ALL presented with unique challenges and the Council was not immune from that - forcing us to change how we advocate for the maritime services, communicate with each other, and remain engaged in the Mission of the League... but we met those challenges and we'll be a better organization for it. On behalf of the officers of the Council, (Dave Williams- VP, Tom Gutierrez - Secretary, and Chuck Vaughan – Treasurer) we thank you for your support, and we are all grateful for the opportunity to serve the Mission of the League.

As is the case every year, there is plenty to do, and we'll discuss goals for 2020 at the Board meeting on Monday, January 11th. Along those lines, it is good to keep in mind 'the mission' and that the League is a nonprofit civilian, educational and advocacy organization that supports America's sea services - the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine. Three main tenants of the mission are:

- Enhance the morale of sea service personnel and their families through national and council level programs.

- Provide a powerful voice to educate the public and Congress on the importance of our sea services to our nation's defense and economic prosperity.
- Support youth through programs, such as the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Junior ROTC and Young Marines, that expose young people to the values of our sea services.

Every effective and efficient organization needs a solid mission (we have one), an engaged membership, and sufficient funding to carry out the mission. Our funding comes from membership dues through the National organization, and from donations. If you have a neighbor or friend who served or is interested in supporting our maritime serves – tell them about the Council. Additionally, please consider a tax-deductible donation to the New Mexico Council in support of programs that aid our active/reserve members and their families, our scholarship programs, 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.

In this issue, you'll find some highlight information on "Navy Week in Santa Fe" this past November and significant coverage on our work with the Namesake Ships – NEW MEXICO and SANTA FE – and their crews. We ask that you remember those who have departed us in the past 12 months, and for your support of our men and women in harm's way.

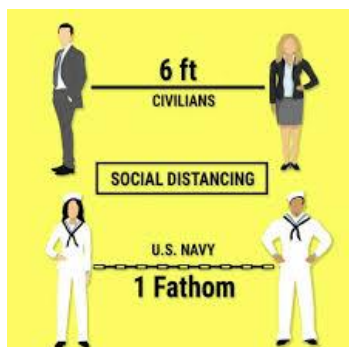
Stay in touch, tell us what you think.

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)

Nautical Distancing!



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

Namesake Ships



USS New Mexico (SSN-779) and Crew are “Ready to Run”!

Email and Photos from USS New Mexico Commanding Officer, CDR Jared Smith to Damon Runyan, USS New Mexico Committee Chair

Damon,

Merry Christmas to you and all of our New Mexico family. We recently had a stop in Kings Bay, GA for a weapons load for deployment and we took the opportunity to celebrate Christmas as a crew with an in house holiday party. Over the last few months, we have promoted 7 Sailors to E4, 7 Sailors to E5, 3 Sailors to E6, and we have 2 Chief Selects onboard as well that will be getting pinned during our next underway.

We have had a few Officer promotions. The pictures are of LTJG Andrew McGrath being promoted to LT and LTJG Matt Nilsen getting his dolphins. LTJG Aaron McCoy has also recently earned his dolphins and passed PNEO all in the last three months!

Our Sailors are enjoying some stand-down time, but we are also working towards deployment and staying safe from COVID 19 as much as possible. Tough around the holidays, but the team is determined and have been giving me their all!

Thank you again for the coffee donation, we all enjoyed it this last underway and I think we are all hooked! COB may be reaching out to see what we can arrange for deployment. You will see we have fully embraced the roadrunner spirit and ties it in with my command Mission statement of “Be Ready” and have come up with a command slogan of “Ready to Run”. It is really taking off.

I wish you and all of our NMX supporters the merriest Christmas and the Happiest New Year!

Ready to Run,

Jared

CDR Jared Smith
Commanding Officer, USS New Mexico (SSN 779)



LTJG Andrew McGrath gets promoted to LT on the pier next to the USS New Mexico (SSN-779).

The Navy League New Mexico Council thanks

New Mexico Piñon Coffee

for continuous unwavering support of our submarine crews.

10 Years of donations and cases of coffee
have made each day a better day!



Randall Teller

Customer Service Manager, [New Mexico Piñon Coffee](#)

P: 505.298.1964 ext. 102

F: 505.237.8182

[2420 Comanche Rd. NE, Ste. D2](#)

[Albuquerque, NM 87107](#)



Namesake Ships

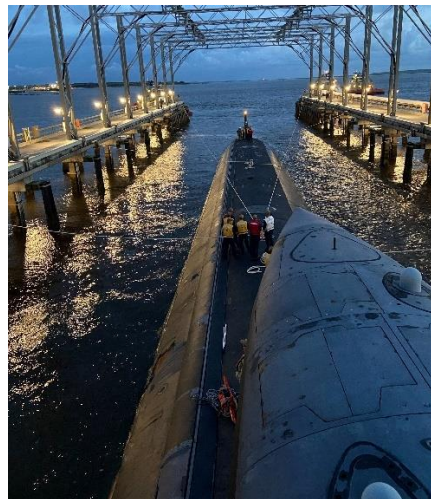


USS New Mexico (SSN-779) Keeps the New Mexico Council in the Know

Photos sent by USS New Mexico Commanding Officer, CDR Jared Smith to Damon Runyan, USS New Mexico Committee Chair



CDR Jared Smith presents promotions to the crew, and awards gold dolphins to LTJG Matt Nilsen on the pier.



A happy USS New Mexico crew member receives a HUGE candy bar from Santa during a stop in Kings Bay, Georgia.



Bringing the Southwest to USS Santa Fe

Article by Bianca Mireles



Having fresh and authentic New Mexico green chile stew aboard a submarine in New England might seem a bit far-fetched, but the New Mexico Council of the Navy League made it happen for the Sailors of USS Santa Fe. In early October, they sent Santa Fe's culinary crew boxes of roasted New Mexican Hatch chiles, seasonings, salsas, coffee, and even a recipe booklet full of New Mexican favorites in celebration of Navy Week. Since 2005, the Navy Office of Community Outreach has sponsored the Navy Week program, bringing America's Navy to fifteen cities and giving locals an opportunity to connect with and show their appreciation to Sailors. The Navy League supports sea services through unit and ship adoptions, and the New Mexico Council has been supporting USS Santa Fe since its commissioning in 1994 to enhance the morale of its sea service personnel and their families.

Leading Culinary Specialist CSS1 Scott R. Pike and his crew of six prepare meals each day for the Sailors aboard USS Santa Fe and were excited to switch up the menu with the special stew. "Being on a submarine means that you eat

a lot of preserved foods and have limited access to spices, so we know the crew will really appreciate this fresh meal," said Pike. As an Army veteran, USS Santa Fe Committee Chair Ron Olexsak has experienced the dynamics of military life, so he has a personal understanding of the importance of offering meaningful support to service members. "Developing a relationship with a Navy crew is like welcoming a new family member or close friend in your life. You get to learn about their hometowns, what they love about the Navy and this country, and most especially what kinds of food they love," said Olexsak. New Mexico is famous for its spicy food and the Committee enjoys sending southwestern delicacies to the crew every year. "The Navy runs on its collective stomachs, and anything we namesake cities can do to enhance the culinary aspect of the relationship is always welcome."



From left to right: CSS3(SS) Kenyomo R. Tatum, Supply Department Enlisted Advisor CSSC(SS) David Abollo, Culinary Specialist Assistant Leading Petty Officer CSS2(SS) Joshua D. Carlton, Leading Culinary Specialist CSS1(SS/DV) Scott R. Pike, and ITSC Info Warfare Listed Advisor Matthew Johnson.



Ron Olexsak preparing a package



CSS2(SS) Joshua D. Carlton has been a culinary specialist on Santa Fe for five years. He and his six other crew members prepare three meals daily for the 150 Sailors aboard Santa Fe. "We've got Sailors from all over the country, from Alaska all the way to New York," said Carlton. "So it can be interesting to see the reactions when preparing food for such a diverse range of palates."

Info Warfare Listed Advisor Matthew Johnson has been serving in the Navy for 17 years and during that time has been stationed all over the world. The green chile stew was nostalgic for him, because as a Hispanic and native Texan, the flavors took him back to his roots and reminded him of his grandmother's and aunt's southwestern cooking that he grew up with.



Local New Mexico News



More Photos from Navy Week Santa Fe

By Mark Schaefer, Newsletter Editor Photos by Navy Office of Community Outreach

Here are a few more screen captures from Navy Week Santa Fe. The page after this shows a bit of New Mexico's Naval History from the Naval History and Heritage Command. This history was prepared for Navy Week Santa Fe. I found it to be fascinating, but council member and inaugural USS New Mexico committee chair, Dick Brown, assures us that the records show a ship count for ships named after something in New Mexico to be about twice this number!



T.J. Bonzon, Computer Science Teacher (Los Alamos Middle School)



Electronics Technician Chief Duston Anthony, Senior Enlisted Leader NOSC Albuquerque



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH
5722 INTEGRITY DR. (BLDG 458-3)
MILLINGTON, TN 38054

12000
Ser N00/036
Nov 17, 2020

Navy League of the US New Mexico Council
P.O. Box 91554
Albuquerque, NM 87199-1554

Dear New Mexico Council Members:

On behalf of the U.S. Navy, thank you for your personal involvement in our recent community outreach efforts in Santa Fe. While we were disappointed that the current pandemic prevented us from being with you in person, I am very grateful for your willingness to help us connect through virtual channels.

Because the Navy is concentrated on primarily the east and west coasts, connecting with Americans across the country, and sharing with them the investment they have in their Navy, can be a unique challenge. This is precisely why Navy outreach in places like Santa Fe is so important.

It is my hope that we will be able to conduct Navy Weeks in person again in 2021, perhaps offering the opportunity to bring a Navy Week to Santa Fe. Stay well, and thank you again for your help and support.

Sincerely,

K. R. Burzynski
K. R. BURZYNSKI

NM Council's Annual Meeting – via Zoom Dec 14, 2020

At the council's annual meeting, two 2019 plaques from national Navy League were presented to the NM Council for Sea Service Unit Adoption Excellence (service to namesake ships) and for the newsletter! BZ! Thank you to the many council members participating in our Navy support efforts. We serve those who serve the nation.

Council and Committee Financial Balance Sheets



	December 7, 2019 balance (\$)	December 8, 2020 balance (\$)
763 Committee	6,723.64	7,720.04
779 Committee	11,390.92	11,152.86
Los Alamos Committee	4,208.34	4,650.50
Council	7,100.10	7258.68
Savings	25.71	25.71
TOTAL	29,448.71	30,807.79



NEW MEXICO'S NAVAL HISTORY



www.history.navy.mil

SHIPS



USS New Mexico (SSN 779)

New Mexico returns to Newport News, Va., after completing her first round of sea trials, November 26, 2009. Note that the attack boat also proudly displays the flag of her namesake state.



At least 31 ships have been named after the state of New Mexico, its cities, places, and people. A few of those include:

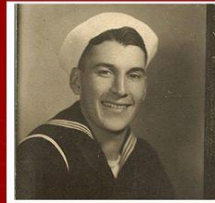
- USS Acoma (SP 1228), 1917
- USS Alamogordo (ARDM 2), 1944
- USS Albuquerque (PF 7), 1943
- USS Albuquerque (SSN 706), 1983
- Apache I (Tug), 1898
- USS Bernalillo County (LST 306), 1942
- USS Bullhead (SS 332), 1944
- USS Caliente (AO 53), 1943
- USS Catron (APA 71), 1944
- USS Cimarron (AO 22), 1939
- USS Cimarron (AO 177), 1981
- USS Eddy County (LST 759), 1944
- USS Gallup (PF 47), 1944
- USS Gila River (LSMR 504), 1945
- USS Hidalgo (AK 189), 1945
- USS Jicarilla (ATF 104), 1944
- USS Los Alamos (AFDB 7), 1945
- USS Navajo (AT 64), 1940
- USS New Mexico (BB 40), 1918
- USS New Mexico (SSN 779), 2010
- USNS Pecos (T-AO 197), 1982
- USS Rio Grande (AOG 3), 1943
- USS Sandoval (APA 194), 1944
- USS Santa Fe (CL 60), 1942
- USS Santa Fe (SSN 763), 1994
- USS Tarrant (AKA 76), 1944
- USS Tucumcari (PGH 2), 1968
- USS Tularosa (AOG 43), 1945
- USS Valencia (AKA 81), 1945
- USS White Sands (ARD 20), 1944
- USS Zuni (ATF 95), 1943

PEOPLE



Navajo Code Talkers

During World War II, Navajo code talkers, many of whom resided in northwestern New Mexico, took part in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945. In 1942, there were about 50,000 Navajo tribe members. As of 1945, about 540 Navajos served as Marines, 375 to 420 of whom trained as code talkers. Navajo remained valuable as code even after the war. For that reason, the code talkers, whose skill and courage saved both American lives and military engagements, only recently earned recognition from the U.S. government and the public.



Max M. Archibeque Navy Cross Recipient

A native of New Mexico, Signalman First Class Max M. Archibeque received the Navy Cross for his extraordinary heroism while serving on board USS San Francisco (CA 38) in the action against Japanese naval forces in the Solomon Islands in November 1942. After an enemy plane crashed into the aft machine gun platform and started a large fire, Archibeque, with utter disregard for his own personal safety, ably assisted in leading a hose to the top of turret III. Although this turret was firing, he effectively fought the fire while facing the terrific blast.



William H. Payne USN Retired; State Senator

William H. Payne was raised in Albuquerque, N.M. A graduate of the University of New Mexico, he entered the Navy in 1975. He was the first career reserve Navy SEAL to be promoted to rear admiral and served in the Navy for nearly 35 years of combined active and reserve service before retiring in October 2009. Payne continued to serve his country and state when, in 1998, he was elected to the Senate. One of his many Senate duties include overseeing veteran and military affairs.

PLACES



Did You Know...?

The father of modern rocketry, scientist Robert Goddard, came to New Mexico in 1930 to test rocket-ship models. From those humble beginnings the aerospace industry became one of New Mexico's leading industries.



NOSC Albuquerque

The Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Albuquerque is part of the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque. The center serves 12 Navy Reserve units, 11 Army Reserve units and two Marine Corps Reserve units, totaling more than 1,000 reservists. This is the one center in the state for Navy reservists.



USS Desert Ship

In the desert of White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, is a Navy "vessel" that never leaves port. It is the Naval Surface Warfare Center Port Huene Division, White Sands Detachment, Desert Ship that performs live-fire test and evaluation of Navy weapons, encompassing missiles, guided munitions, and high-energy laser technologies.

Sources: Naval History and Heritage Command; www.navy.mil; loc.gov; newmexico.gov; nasa.gov; navsea.navy.mil; newmexicorepublicansenators.com; Infographic by Naval History and Heritage Command Communication and Outreach Division.

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

Return Service Requested

The Navy League New Mexico Council thanks

ABQ Grafix

for more than 5 years of discounted printing and great service
in the printing of the NM Nautical News!

send 'em your business!



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.

2021 Upcoming Events for Navy League, New Mexico Council

January 11	NM Council Board meeting via Zoom
January 20	Presidential inauguration
March 3	Navy Reserve birthday
March 5	SeaBee birthday
March 15	American Legion birthday
March 21	Rosie the Riveter Day