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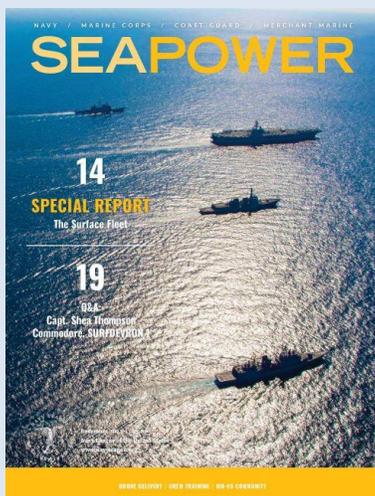
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<https://seapowermagazine.org/>



New Mexico Navy Community Cheers on Navy Football

story and photos by Mark Schaefer; newsletter editor

The New Mexico Navy community gathered at Craft Republic on December 10th in Albuquerque to cheer on Navy when Army and Navy met for the 123rd time in Philadelphia. It was an event that pulled together Naval Academy Alumni, Navy League members, sailors, family and friends across many generations.



Matt and Roberta Fotter, parents of Thomas '26

The Naval Academy parents club was represented by Matt and Roberta Fotter, parents of Thomas Fotter, USNA class of 2026, who entered the academy in the summer of 2022. Thomas was at the game in Philadelphia while his folks watched from Albuquerque. The senior Navy alumnus in attendance was Herb Richter from the class of 1959. Our Navy fans spanned more than 65 years.



Herb Richter, Class of 1959

The double overtime 20-17 Army win kept the game exciting and did not detract from our good food, past friendships rekindled, and new friends that were found.

More photos on page 7.
Go Navy! Beat Army!

Join Us! This issue is being electronically sent to members of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association, NM Chapter, and some other Local Navy supporters. We would love to have you join the Navy League of the United States, NM Chapter. Stay informed about our many activities in support of our namesake ships, our youth, our Sea Cadets, and the local active and reserve. Best \$55 you will spend this year!

<https://www.navyleague.org/become-a-member/>

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**New Mexico Council wins
Donald M. Mackie
GOLD Newsletter Award**

Keep those articles and photos coming! They make a difference for keeping our citizens informed.



President's Message



John Jones
President, New Mexico Council

Ring in the New Year!

Hope you were able to experience the Joys of the Christmas Season and are looking forward, with us, to the promise of 2023.

The year 2022 was quirky in many respects, but brought much success to our Council, thanks to the efforts of the membership. In 2023, we're looking forward to the City finalizing plans for the USS ALBUQUERQUE Sail Memorial, perhaps hosting our namesake submarine crews, and to cohost a Navy Birthday Ball with NOSC Albuquerque in October.

Our membership has recently risen with new subscribers and restoration of lapsed membership – we will strive to further expand our membership and to better serve our mission. The Council depends on passionate individuals, like you, and corporations to support our mission – please invite your friends to join!

The New Mexico Council has adopted ships, honored and rewarded local enlisted personnel, and supported families of deployed sea service personnel. At the national level, the Legislative Affairs Team of the League fights on behalf of our sea services and educates government officials. No prior

military service is required to be a member. Active-duty service members are now eligible for membership, and the spouses of those currently serving can join at no cost for one-year - just our way to thank you for all you do.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Council in support of 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.

If you'd like to represent the Council and present a Roosevelt Award at a local affiliated JROTC Unit – please contact us.

Our annual meeting on December 11th was a success, with 30 members and guests in attendance, and we're grateful to Seasons 52 for their hospitality.

The Council Board continues to meet via Zoom on the 2nd Monday of each month. Should you wish to sit in on a meeting, let me know and I will send you the login info!

Stay in touch, tell us what you think. Thank you for being with us this past year.

**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)



Namesake Ships



What is Going on in the Navy while our Submarines are At Sea?

photos courtesy of U.S. Navy

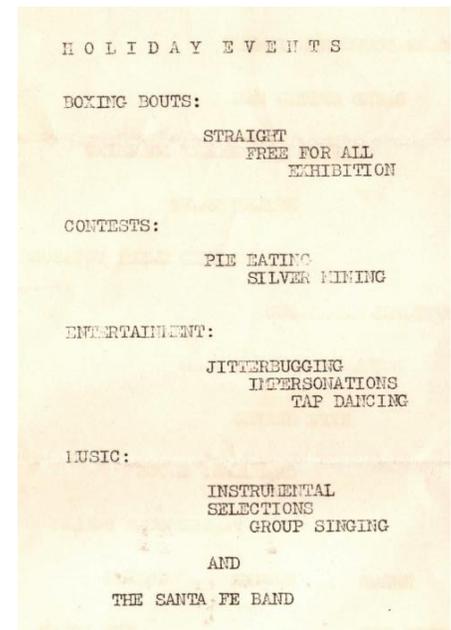
While our state's namesake submarines are out at sea, the rest of the Navy was pretty busy, too (and a lot more visible). Here is a photo from the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) that managed to combine work with a little fun over Christmas. And, you never know if there might be one of our submarines somewhere in the background of this picture.



Chapter Historian Finds USS Santa Fe (CL-60)'s 1943 Thanksgiving Menu

Story by Mark Schaefer; photos courtesy of Gregg Trapp, JD, Historian of the Navy League of the United States, New Mexico Chapter

Our Chapter Historian, Gregg Trapp, is always on the lookout for memorabilia from our namesake ships. We shared a menu from the USS New Mexico (BB-40) 1944 Christmas dinner in the newsletter a few years ago, and now Greg has uncovered a few more menus that capture a piece of the honor and tradition that our Navy ships enjoyed in the Word War II era.



TO THE SHIP'S COMPANY:--

In peace time a full complement of officers and men take over a newly commissioned ship, and they are known as plank owners. Our crew could not be fully assembled at commissioning a year ago, but our complement was almost filled when we started training the first week in January, 1943. I think it is fitting to consider as plank owners, all personnel on board at the start of the training period.

You turned to with a purpose and under adverse conditions developed into coordinated and smooth working teams that bode ill for the enemy at every encounter.

Our operations against the enemy are increasing in frequency and potency. Our actions, alertness and vigilance must continue undiminished; must increase if possible so that our strikes at the enemy may be heavier and more devastating. The work of each individual in the ship is important and by joint cooperation you control our striking power. The same cooperation enhances the well being of all. Carelessness on the part of any one person jeopardizes our safety.

What I am trying to say is that you have developed the spirit of "all for one and one for all." --Maintain it.

I am proud of the performance of our crew of veterans, and on this Thanksgiving Day, our people back home have cause to give thanks that men like you are beating back the enemy relentlessly to produce a sure and lasting victory.

Your Captain,
R. S. Berkey

USS Santa Fe (CL-60), a Cleveland-class light cruiser, celebrated 1943 Thanksgiving with a menu of Roast Young Hen Turkey, Baked Spiced Ham, Apple and Celery Dressing, Giblet Gravy, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Buttered Asparagus, Buttered English Peas, Ripe Olives, Cranberry Sauce, Parkerhouse Rolls, Bread, Butter, Coffee, Apple Pie, Ice Cream, and of course, after dinner Cigarettes and Cigars! Take a close look at the "Holiday Events" page of the menu. How would you like to do your pre-meal boxing bout? Or would you rather take part in the pie eating, jitterbugging, impersonations, or tap dancing? I'm sure that many of the senior chiefs and officers on board were the subject of some of the impersonations.

Editor's note: Greg now has about 95% of the war daily newspapers of the BB-40 in his collection, and we will be sharing a few of them and a few of their stories in upcoming newsletters.



New Mexico Educator Joins USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78) for a Distinguished Visit

by Kristin Tomany, Eldorado High School Health Teacher, Photos courtesy of Kristin Tomany

On September 17-18, 2022, I had the immense privilege of visiting the USS Gerald R Ford as a Distinguished Visitor (DV). I am a high school teacher and I have loved all things Navy as long as I can remember. For me, this visit to an active carrier was a lifelong dream come true.



My visit to the Ford not only met my high expectations, it surpassed them. I still don't have words to describe the anxiety and thrill of our arrested landing and catapult launch onto and off of the Ford in the C-2 Greyhound, but they were exhilarating experiences that I will never forget.

Because the C-2 is windowless, I didn't get to witness the approach or the landing onto the carrier. But, after taxiing for a few minutes, the rear cargo door was lowered and I was met with the surreal images of flight deck crew in their iconic colored shirts and white helmets, and then an expanse of open water. I felt like I had been transported to a world that I had seen so often in movies, and only in that moment was I discovering it was real. Later, our DV minds were blown again as we were ushered, like a gaggle of white geese, onto the middle of the flight deck, first feeling the intense heat on our faces, and then the

Kneeling in front is PS2 C. "Junior" Aguilar. Standing on the left side of the photo is HM2 Aaron VanDike. Standing on the right in the red shirt is AO2 Tia Nave. Right next to her in the back is AO2 Bryan Weaver. The seven staggered in the middle of the photo are the DVs, including me. I am in the back next to Weaver in a purple plaid shirt, behind the gentleman in the blue plaid shirt.

powerful vibration in our chests from the FA-18 engines. One of my favorite images from the flight deck was of the brown shirts, who would circle and check a piloted and ready plane, and then stand possessively with the nose under their arms, body language seemingly daring anyone to come and try to distract them from their protective position.

As I have processed this experience in the past few weeks, it has become clear that the biggest take-away for me is how dedicated the Naval crew members are aboard the Ford. I have family members who served in the Army, Navy and Air Force and I thought I understood what service entailed, but I learned during this visit that I did not. I find myself now incredibly humbled and a bit awe-struck by the insight I gained about what ship life entails and the level of sacrifice it takes to serve in the Navy. This, for me, was the absolute highlight of my visit.

We were in the tower watching jets launch and land when I started to glean that the four petty officers who were given the task of leading us around the ship were just as giddy to be there as we were. AO2 Nave, AO2 Weaver, PS2 Aguilar and HM2 VanDike did not work in Media or Public Affairs. Their regular jobs did not allow them to be in very many of the areas that we were touring. I realized then that the overwhelming majority of the crew we were walking amongst, even those working on the flight deck, had never flown onto the Ford, and most worked in the bowels of the ship, in rooms where fans were used to combat the pervasive dank and industrial smell. This realization served to not just emphasize how incredibly lucky I felt to be a DV on the ship, but also give me insight about what the job was like for most of these sailors. When the curtain of romance is pulled back, what one is left with is the high level of performance by a dedicated crew. Everywhere we went Officers proudly emphasized to us the young age of the sailors who were doing immensely dangerous and important jobs.

In the evening, we were treated to a formal dinner with the XO, Jeremy Shamblee, at the head of a table of twenty, with formal china and place settings. This was also a unique experience for our guides, evidenced by PS2 Aguilar leaning over his salad plate and whispering to me, "I don't know which fork to use!" It appeared to be more exciting for the crew to hear that we were being served "Texas Roadhouse style butter" than it was for them to be seated with their XO, which I felt was a tangible and bittersweet example of the sacrifices of daily life and freedom that they all make. AO2 Weaver and I bonded over the fact that we both keep a plant-based diet. I was not surprised to learn that maintaining his diet was a challenge aboard the carrier. Aguilar, who has a huge grin on his face in every picture I have of him, told me that he is the type of person that finds enjoyment in everything he does, including most aspects of his career aboard a carrier. CPO Gary Prill spoke openly and honestly of his career in the Navy, his father's service before him, and about the fact that he was now the absent military father, with his children back home in Indiana. As a mother of a teen myself, this hit home and I told him so. He said, "What am I going to do? Ask someone else to do it because I don't want to?" He shook his head. "That doesn't make sense to me." As I retired to my curtained bunk later, the now familiar sound of the catapult above me, I found myself deeply impacted by the conversations I'd had with our dinner companions. I was struck by the unique ideals of many of these sailors and by the fact that their level of sacrifice is ultimately an unknown. The morale, positive attitude and sense of duty of all the sailors aboard the Ford was impressive and made me feel honored to be a part of their world for the very short time that I was.



AO2 Bryan Weaver aboard USS Gerald R Ford (CVN-78)

The next day, after the morning's tour, we quickly separated from our guides to go have brunch in the Officer's Mess, a meal that was described so fondly by the crew (waffles and teriyaki chicken!) Then, our DV group was quickly directed to a waiting area for our impending ride off the carrier and I realized suddenly that we were not going to see our guides again. I felt distraught as I had anticipated selfies and hugs, time to thank them and say goodbye. I was distracted from this disappointment while boarding the C-2, having my five-point harness checked, double checked and triple checked, hearing the scraping as we were hooked to the catapult, and then anxiously awaiting launch. But as we rose into the air, the G-forces and thrill having passed, my emotions turned nostalgic again because without windows I couldn't even look down at the Ford and say goodbye to her. I tried to imagine what our four guides were doing below us now that we were gone. I hoped we hadn't robbed them of their precious Sunday morning down time, and yet, I was pretty sure we had, because of course life on the Ford is non-stop. Days off do not exist.

I want to thank everyone who arranged and supported my visit to the Ford, and every member of the ship that we encountered, from Captain Lanzilotta to the 50-caliber gunner that I spoke to on the stern, whose name I did not catch. I send an extra big thank you to AO2 Nave, AO2 Weaver, HM2 VanDike, and PS2 Aguilar. All four of these sailors were incredibly personable, honest, friendly, eager and helpful to us and represented the US Navy with pride. Thank you all for your service and your sacrifice. I think of you all and I appreciate you all every single day.

Editor's note: The Navy Distinguished Visitor program invites people who are active leaders in their local, civic, education, or business community to embark a Navy ship and share their experience with others. Ms. Tomany was nominated by a local JROTC unit at the encouragement of Ron Olexsak of the Navy League of the United States, New Mexico chapter. Selections were made by the Navy.

New Mexico Remembers Medal of Honor Recipient Hiroshi Miyamura

Gallup-born son of Japanese immigrants, Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura died on November 29th at 97 years. He was the second-to-last living recipient of the Medal of Honor from the Korean War. NM council's Dick Brown stated, "Our dear friend Hershey passed away on Tuesday. He attended our SSN-779 Naming Ceremony with SECNAV, the Governor & Codetalker Chester Nez, and was personally honored by Gordon England that day at the Hispanic Cultural Center.... A true American hero."





Navy Birthday Celebration at Kirtland AFB BX

Story and photos provided by John Jones

In a show of joint service support, the Kirtland AFB Exchange hosted a Navy Birthday cake cutting on Thursday, Oct 13th, celebrating the Navy's 247th birthday. Cutting the cake was LCDR Nicholas Bularzik (Commanding Officer of NOSC



Navy League of the United States, NM Chapter President John Jones (center) with Navy retirees and supporters.

Albuquerque) and HM2 Michael Pena. Attending the ceremony was retired Chief "Gary" and his daughter. Sea stories were the Order of the Day. Lindsay Estrada-Perez, Sales and Merchandising Manager for Kirtland BX, hosted the event and coordinated the function with NM Council President John L Jones. Several members of the NOSC crew attended the event. The Doolittle Raid aside, Billie Mitchell and Bull Halsey would be surprised at the level of cooperation between the services.



Navy Marine Corps Reserve Center members from NOSC (Navy Operational Support Center) Albuquerque help celebrate the 247th Navy Birthday at Kirtland AFB Exchange

New Mexico Chapter Annual Meeting

by Mark Schaefer, newsletter editor

Bravo Zulu to Seasons 52 for their great food and service during our chapter Annual Meeting on December 11th. Chapter business was conducted and a report out from each committee and activity was given that showed the many things this Chapter accomplished throughout the year in support of the sea services, reservists, local Navy/Marine Corps teams, and New Mexico citizens who support the Navy. Committee reports were given from the USS New Mexico committee, USS Santa Fe committee, the USS Albuquerque sail committee, finances, membership, scholarships, and Teddy Roosevelt JROTC award givers. The patriotism and enthusiasm shown from this team was evident, and it left all who attended wanting to do even more.



L-R: Greg Trapp, Dan Moss, President John Jones, and Secretary Tom Gutierrez at our Annual Meeting

UNM NROTC Commissions new 2ndLt

Story and photo Kristelle Siarza, NM Chapter Facebook site owner

Congratulations to UNM NROTC Midshipman Jay Moirangthem who graduated from UNM and was commissioned into the Marine Corps as a 2nd Lt in December. He will be reporting to TBS (the basic school) this coming May.

Jay's Linked In page says, "my life's purpose is to positively influence and empower individuals to become the best versions of themselves through servant leadership." Welcome to the Marine Corps, Jay!



Local New Mexico News



Greg Trapp Receives Foundation for Open Government Award

by Damon Runyan, USS New Mexico SSN-779 committee chair

New Mexico chapter historian, Greg Trapp, received the 2022 William S. Dixon award from the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government for his work as Director of the New Mexico Commission for the Blind. His citation states, "Greg Trapp has worked vigorously to ensure equal access, accountability and transparency in the Commission and for other state agencies and boards." It goes on to say that Greg is a "stickler for detail" which we also appreciate greatly in his role here in the Navy League in his work on the USS Albuquerque sail committee and the USS New Mexico bell committee.



More Army-Navy Gameday Photos

Continued from story on front page



L-R: Mark Schaefer (newsletter editor); Tom Gutierrez (secretary), and Tolly Toliver → all current or former Blue & Gold Officers for USNA Admissions



L-R: Janice Arnold-Jones, Ed Johnson '73, John Jones (President NLU New Mexico Chapter)



L-R: Anne Hammond '86, Jay Carrizales '75, Bill Hammond



L-R: Mike Spinello '13, and Secretary Tom Gutierrez share some football strategies and lots of sea stories

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2023 Upcoming Events for Navy League, New Mexico Council

January 9	Navy League, New Mexico Council board meeting via Zoom
February 13	Navy League, New Mexico Council board meeting via Zoom
March 13	Navy League, New Mexico Council board meeting via Zoom
April 10	Navy League, New Mexico Council board meeting via Zoom

Join our monthly NM chapter meeting. Get an invite by contacting Ron Olexsak at sakzilla@hotmail.com