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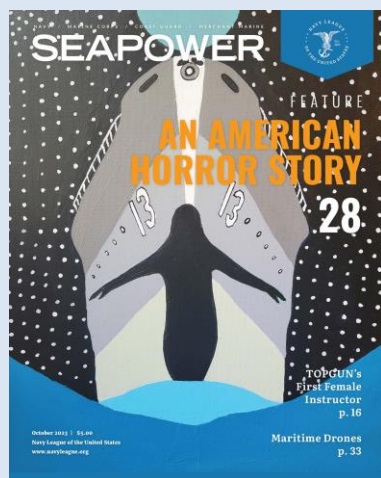
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CDR Carlos Otero, Commanding Officer, USS New Mexico (SSN-779) Gives Accolades to NM Council

story by Damon Runyan; photo courtesy of Tom Hutchinson, NM Council



XO LCDR Kristin Shaw (at podium), outgoing CO CDR Otero (middle), CAPT Pittman Commander Submarine Squadron 6 (2nd from right), and incoming CO CDR Hector Marin (far right)

Just prior to the Change of Command for USS New Mexico (SSN-779), CDR Otero sent the following words to Committee Chair Damon Runyan about the impact of our council's efforts on CDR Otero and the USS New Mexico team.

"I'd like to give my unending thanks to the New Mexico Navy League and our extraordinary group of supporters from our namesake state. This is my sixth submarine in over 20 years of Naval Service... As part of different staffs, I've ridden aboard countless submarines on both coasts. Of all the submarines I've been privileged to sail with, I've never seen such active involvement and support from our namesake (New Mexico Council, NLUS) as I have with this team. I'm especially thankful for the work of Damon Runyan and Tom Hutchison in direct support of our Sailors and our mission...During the summer of 2022, we sent Sailors to Las Cruces to embed at La Posta de Mesilla courtesy of retired CAPT Tom Hutchison, and supported Navy Week in various locations in New Mexico...I'm thankful for the seemingly never-ending stream of CARE packages from the many organizations that have supported us, the teams that assembled our mid-deployment morale-boosting boxes for each Sailor, and the myriad other lines of effort that you, our namesake state supporters, go out of your way to provide for us to help our Sailors succeed day to day and in the most stressful operating environments."

(Read more from CDR Otero's comments starting on page 4)

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 help support our namesake ships, our youth, our Sea Cadets, and the local active and reserve.
Join or renew at members.navyleague.org

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**New Mexico Council
Fun Fact**

The United States Navy is the largest, most powerful, and most well-equipped bluewater navy in the world.



President's Message



John Jones
President, New Mexico Council

Welcome to the Fall Season!

Our first Navy Ball since 2019 will be held on Saturday, October 14th, in conjunction with the Navy Reserve Center Albuquerque. You can still register and pay online at www.nmnavyleague.com. There are reduced prices for active and reserve sailors; civilians and retired Navy pay full fare. Please consider attending!

This issue brings a wide variety of news (scholarships, Network Navy Social events) and a copy of the laudatory email that outgoing SSN-779 CO provided to the chain of command. We are humbled by his references to what we do for our namesake submarines.

The UNM NROTC unit is hosting a Navy/Marine Corps birthday event on November 11th. The event is used as a training opportunity for Navy Traditions and Ceremonies, so the invitation list is relatively short.

Our membership is up a bit this year, with several new members offsetting the loss of others. The Council depends on passionate individuals, like you, and corporations to support our mission – please tell your friends about us! The NM 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 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 Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC programs around the State and El Paso.

Our annual meeting will be held at 12 noon on Sunday, December 3rd (the week BEFORE the Navy football victory over Army), at Seasons 52, 6600 Menaul NE in Albuquerque. We'll review the year, recognize achievements, and talk about next year – please consider joining us!

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! Ask for the link!

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)



Network Navy! New Mexico *story and photos by Mark Schaefer*



Keeping up to date on Navy news and meeting together for friendship and fellowship continued for our council at our “Network Navy!” event at O’Neill’s pub in Albuquerque on September 15th. Guest speaker, CAPT Gary Cave, spoke during an “electrifying” event, both from the perspective of giving an extraordinary talk and from the perspective of the late summer storm cell providing lightning bolts and thunder not that far away from our outdoor patio venue.



CAPT Cave, Commanding Officer of the University of New Mexico (UNM) NROTC unit, gave us an overview of its highly successful membership and leadership and the unit’s recent move to a new headquarters building. He also told us about his experience as Commanding Officer of USS Zumwalt (DDG1000). USS Zumwalt, one of the most technologically advanced surface combatants in the world, continues to give the US Navy a lot of information about staffing ships at minimal levels, seaworthiness testing of unique hull designs, weapon systems development and stealth capabilities.



USS Zumwalt (DDG1000)

Thank you to Navy League New Mexico Council member John Glynn for coordinating the reservation for this event.

Navy League of the United States, NM Council Scholarship Award *story and photos by Mark Schaefer*

During our Network Navy! Event, Council President John Jones and Scholarship Committee Chair Marilyn Smith presented a scholarship to Staff Sergeant Jovany Gutierrez from the UNM NROTC unit. SSgt Gutierrez expects to graduate and be commissioned in May 2025. He is majoring in International Studies in Spanish with a minor in Military Studies. Previously enlisted, he earned 2 Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medals, the Presidential Service Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, 2 Sea Service Deployment ribbons, and a Joint Meritorious Unit award.

SSgt Gutierrez stated, “Receiving a scholarship while serving in the military offers a transforming opportunity to reach both personal and professional objectives. The scholarship will enable me to achieve academic excellence, improve my military career, and leave a long-lasting impression both inside and outside the military community.”



President John Jones, SSgt Jovany Gutierrez, and Scholarship Chair Marilyn Smith

Namesake Ships



USS New Mexico (SSN-779) Change of Command Update from CDR Carlos Otero

Editor's note: In an email to our USS New Mexico Committee Chairman in early September 2023, CDR Carlos Otero, USS New Mexico (SSN-779) Commanding Officer submitted the following comments reflecting on the accomplishments of our great namesake ship over the timespan of his command. We are sharing the entire email here with CDR Otero's permission.

Damon, I submit the following to the NM Navy League and our cast of supporters:

Effective 08 September 2023, I've been properly relieved by CDR Hector Marin as Commanding Officer, USS NEW MEXICO (SSN 779). This seems brief; Command tours are typically about 27 months. I arrived in January 2022 after 7 months as Commanding Officer of USS NEW JERSEY (SSN 796), exchanging Commands with CDR Jared Smith in light of a medical issue. I expect Hector to be in Command through the next deployment in mid-2024, and into our next overhaul, providing needed continuity and exceptional leadership. I know he will do great.

Since I took command of NEW MEXICO in January 2022, we've accomplished some pretty remarkable things together.

-In February 2022, our Engineer, LCDR Brian Bielinski, qualified for Command of Submarines. This is a remarkable professional achievement reserved only for the highest performing second-tour submarine officers.
-In March of 2022, we conducted a Combat Readiness Evaluation (CRE) with outstanding results. We also hosted Commander, Submarine Forces Atlantic, Vice Admiral Bill Houston, to showcase our excellence in one of the first volleys in accelerating the AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States) team, which has culminated in the lines of effort you are likely familiar with in expanding our partnership with Australia and helping them establish their nuclear propulsion program.

-In May of 2022, we completed a Supply Management Inspection with overwhelmingly exceptional results. The SMI focuses on logistical readiness, hazardous material management, culinary excellence, and other mission areas. Under the leadership of Supply Officer LTJG John Ferry, Logistics Chief Tyler Woline, and Culinary Chief Matt Boerner, we received the highest marks on the East Coast in over 2 years.

-In June and July of 2022, we completed the next phase of Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Independent Certification (ICERT). The photo I've sent with this note is probably the single most patriotic thing I've ever been a part of! This certification set the stage for some pretty remarkable things we did while deployed. We also completed an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination with outstanding results. We had a brief port call in Port Canaveral, Florida, and hosted over



June 2022 – USS New Mexico (SSN-779) and Naval Special Warfare Independent Certification (ICERT)

20 prospective submarine officers while supporting Midshipman summer training operations.

-In the summer of 2022, we had four Sailors selected for Chief Petty Officer, including our Sailor of the Year HM1 Kenny Harp and our Leading Engineering Laboratory Technician, MMN1 Dustin Munn. This is an outstanding career milestone for our best Sailors.

-During the summer of 2022, we sent Sailors to Las Cruces to embed at La Posta de Mesilla courtesy of retired CAPT Tom Hutchison, and supported Navy Week in various locations in New Mexico.

-From 11 November 2022 to 25 May 2023, NEW MEXICO conducted her fifth overseas deployment to the European Command (EUCOM) Area of Responsibility. While in theater, we completed several missions vital to theater and national security and conducted first-ever operations north of the Arctic circle including Naval Special Warfare operations with Norwegian partners. NEW MEXICO also conducted port calls in Faslane, Scotland and GrottsundFort, Norway. We also performed brief stops for cargo and personnel in Haakonsvern, Norway; Vestfjorden, Norway; Faslane, Scotland; Tromso, Norway; and Torshavn, Faroe Islands, Denmark. The nature of our operations remains classified, but I can say that we earned the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the Arctic Service Ribbon, and a multitude of other individual awards and qualifications.

-In March of 2023, LCDR Kristin Shaw relieved as Executive Officer. She is the first female XO in U.S. Submarine Force history, and she is performing exceptionally.

-In August of 2023, we had four Sailors selected for Chief Petty Officer, including our Sailor of the Year MMN1 Rob Veale and our Assistant Navigator, ETV1 Jason Cruz.

-In August of 2023, we also had one of our most seasoned Chief Petty Officers, ETVC Jeff Rizzo, retire from active duty after over 20 years of service to our country. Additionally, all three department heads were selected for Lieutenant Commander - Navigator Eric Nordquist, Weapons Officer Jeff Mitchell, and Engineer Wes Royston. To have all three department heads select for LCDR in the same cycle is extraordinarily rare. Notably, LT Mitchell was "merit reordered" to promote ahead of schedule and will become a LCDR on 01 October of this year, 11 months ahead of schedule, because of his sustained superior performance at sea. He also qualified for Command of Submarines, several months ahead of schedule.

-In September 2023, we completed the Type Commander's Readiness Evaluation (TRE), receiving exceptional marks in nearly every mission area.

There are other shoutouts, superlatives, and notable events that I surely have missed, but I can say with confidence that our team continues to routinely exceed expectations and operative above Fleet standards in nearly every warfighting, operational, and supporting mission area.

For my entire adult life, I've served on submarines or on waterfront staffs in direct support of the submarine missions. I've never known anything but the unmatched dedication of the submarine community and the unwavering support of our families and supporting teams. I'm incredibly proud of the crew and our accomplishments. I'm thankful for the seemingly never-ending stream of CARE packages from the many organizations that have supported us, the teams that assembled our mid-deployment morale-boosting boxes for each Sailor, and the myriad other lines of effort that you, our namesake state supporters, go out of your way to provide for us to help our Sailors succeed day to day and in the most stressful operating environments.

As my wife Amber and daughters Lydia and Cecilia transition to shore duty in Washington, D.C., we remain grateful for everything you do for our NEW MEXICO family every day. Our warship is ready to host you any time you are able to make it to the East Coast, our Sailors look forward to our next namesake visit to the Land of Enchantment, and my family is eager to host you if your adventures bring you to the DC area. Together, our team remains - READY TO RUN!!!

Eternally Grateful and Very Respectfully,
CDR Carlos Otero
Commanding Officer
USS NEW MEXICO (SSN 779)



2022 - Culinary Specialists Kyle Scott, Cole Pagels, and Nicholas Armantroutbuckler train on culinary skills at La Posta in New Mexico

Namesake Ships



New Mexico Council at the SSN-779 Change of Command

story and photos by Tom Hutchinson, CAPT, USNR (ret); Navy League of the United States, New Mexico Council

My son, Christopher, and myself had the honor of attending the USS New Mexico SSN 779's Change of Command Ceremony at PIER 3 in Norfolk, Virginia last week. Wonderful ceremony in the finest traditions of the US Navy. CDR Otero was EXTREMELY complimentary of the support he received during his command tenure from the Navy League New Mexico Council and Damon Runyan in his outgoing remarks.



Christopher and I also took an extensive (VIP) tour of the USS New Mexico by LT John Ferry (CHOP) prior to the ceremony and attended the post Ceremony reception, where we supported the food offerings with fresh salsa from La Posta. Quick trip but really enjoyed ourselves. CDR Otero and CDR Marin were genuinely appreciative that we were there.... it was certainly our honor and pleasure to represent NM and our Navy League! Tom Hutchinson CAPT USNR (ret)



Tom Hutchinson, CDR Carlos Otero, CDR Hector Marin, and Christopher Hutchinson at Change of Command reception.

LT John Ferry leads an "inspection" of the galley, named La Posta Baja del Mar, for Christopher Hutchinson, Culinary Specialist 1st class Tourtillott, Tom Hutchinson and another culinary specialist on SSN-779.



CDR Carlos Otero is framed by XO LCDR Kristen Shaw, Chief of the Boat Joseph Williamson and the senior enlisted leadership of SSN-779.

CDR Hector Marin, incoming Commanding Officer, USS New Mexico (SSN-779)

Welcome letter from Navy League of the United States, New Mexico Council, USS New Mexico Committee Chair, Damon Runyan



CDR Hector Marin

A hearty welcome to you, CDR Marin, to “our” submarine from all of us out here in New Mexico. I received photos and great reviews from Tom Hutchinson about his trip to your Change of Command.

By way of introduction, I have been with the New Mexico Council and the SSN-779 committee since 2001, before there was confirmation that we would even get the name New Mexico on a Virginia-class submarine. I retired from the Navy in 1998 after 20 years as a designated 1630 Intelligence Officer. I was present at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque on December 6th, 2004, when Secretary Gordon England flew out here to name SSN-779 the USS NEW MEXICO. Originally started by Mr. Dick Brown, a submariner from the 1960s, and with the help of numerous dedicated New Mexico citizens and elected State and Congressional people, we were able to convince the Secretary that we would sustain a long period of support for the crew of 779.

To date, we have visited Newport News, VA; Groton, CT; and Port Canaveral, FL for Keel Authentication, Christening, and Commissioning ceremonies, and to tour and embark on USS NEW MEXICO with members of our Council. We have also hosted 11 different crew visits to the Land of Enchantment, and many of those visits have included a meeting with the Governor of our State up in Santa Fe, visits to Indian pueblos, trips to the top of Sandia Peak (10,300 ft ASL), radio and TV appearances, a fantastic appearance last year at our State Fair, hot-air balloon rides, dinners at famous New Mexican restaurants, visits to elementary schools, and stops at the Navy ROTC unit at the University of New Mexico. Three of those visits were to Las Cruces down south by your CSs to learn authentic cooking techniques from Tom Hutchinson and his wife Jerean at their former Pony Express fort, now the restaurant La Posta De La Mesilla.

Whatever your schedule may allow, please look at a five or six-day window when members of your crew can travel out here to allow New Mexicans to meet and speak to dedicated, active-duty sailors operating the mighty New Mexico and to also allow members of your crew to experience an environment rarely encountered by submariners.

Again, Commander Marin, welcome aboard the USS NEW MEXICO. Very respectfully, Damon Runyan



Fresh Pinon Coffee Anyone?

After their recent return to home port from a nearly seven-month deployment, the **New Mexico Pinon Coffee Company** once again showed their support toward the crew of our State's namesake submarine with a donation and shipment of a large load of their great coffee to the USS New Mexico (SSN-779). Here are three crewmen holding 5 lb. bags of Pinon Coffee on the brow to the submarine on 28 June 2023 in Norfolk, VA.





From the Sea Chest — by Greg Trapp, JD, Chapter Historian

Have Guns Will Travel: The Story of USS Gallup (PG-85)

by Greg Trapp, JD

The tumultuous decade of the 1960s saw the United States engaged in nuclear brinksmanship with the Soviet Union. This nuclear rivalry came perilously close to war during the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962. The crisis was triggered when the Soviet Union stationed intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Cuba, which brought Washington and the East Coast in range of Soviet missiles. President Kennedy publicly responded to the crisis on October 22, when he announced, “a strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated.” Although the “quarantine” was successful and averted nuclear war, the Cuban Missile Crisis revealed some shortfalls in the capabilities of the U.S. Navy. One of those needs was the lack of a fast and agile gunboat that could perform maritime interdiction work. The Navy responded to the shortfall by building the Ashville-Class of gunboats. One of the seventeen Ashville-Class gunboats was USS Gallup, which was commissioned on October 22, 1966, exactly four years after President Kennedy’s fateful quarantine announcement.

USS Gallup was launched on June 15, 1965. The warship was sponsored by Gudrun Chase, the wife of Goodwin Chase. Goodwin Chase was President of the National Bank of Washington. USS Gallup was commissioned at the Tacoma Municipal Pier on October 22, 1966. The city of Gallup was represented at the commissioning ceremonies by Mr. and Mrs. J. McCollum, who attended on behalf of Gallup mayor Edward Munoz. Capt. Jack Dawley read the orders to commission the ship. The guest speaker was Rear Adm. William Brockett (ret.). Taking command of the newly commissioned gunboat was Lt. Cmdr. William T. Spane Jr.



October 25, 1966. USS Gallup was originally classified as a patrol motor gunboat (PGM-85), but was later reclassified as a patrol gunboat (PG-85). The gunboat was the second U.S. Navy ship named after the city of Gallup, the first being the WWII Patrol Frigate USS Gallup (PF-47). (Official U.S. Navy Photo)



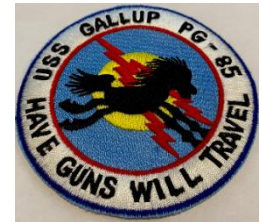
August 14, 1967. USS Gallup knifes through the South China Sea along the coast of South Vietnam. USS Gallup was participating in Operation Market Time, the effort to interdict the flow of arms and supplies to Viet Cong forces. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

USS Gallup had a length of 165 feet, a beam of 24 feet, and a displacement of 240 tons. Sources list her complement variously between 24 and 28 men. The gunboat was powered by a combined diesel or gas (CODOG) system of propulsion. She had twin 725 hp Cummins diesel engines for cruising, and a single 13,500 hp GE gas turbine for high-speed operations. The warship had two controllable pitch propellers and could reach speeds of 40 knots while running on her gas turbine. Her high speed was also made possible by her lightweight aluminum hull and fiberglass superstructure.

The Ashville-class gunboats were the first U.S. Navy warships to be powered by a gas turbine, and the first to use a CODOG system of propulsion. (See Footnote) They were also the first to be built with a combination aluminum hull and fiberglass superstructure. Their lightweight construction had been designed for blockade work where fast speed was a priority, but the lightweight construction meant that the agile gunboats had only minimal armor protection. While they were highly successful during the Vietnam war when used in their intended tasks of maritime interdiction, reconnaissance, and search and rescue, their lack of armor would prove to be a disadvantage when the gunboats were

used for operations in the more confined spaces of the inland rivers. Two of the class, USS Crocket (PG-88) and USS Canon (PG-90), sustained extensive damage from rocket attacks while engaged in inland river operations. USS Gallup transferred from the West Coast to the South China Sea for service in the Vietnam War in 1967. The gunboat successfully served as a part of Operation Market Time, the effort to interdict the flow of supplies sailing on trawlers and sampans from North Vietnam to Viet Cong forces fighting in the South. USS Gallup took her motto from "Have Gun- Will Travel," the Popular CBS Western that ran from 1957 to 1963. The Western starred Richard Boone as Paladin, a gentleman gunfighter who roamed the West to defend those in need. The guns on USS Gallup consisted of a 3-inch fifty caliber main gun, a 40 mm Bofors gun, and two twin .50 caliber machine guns. USS Gallup used these guns to provide gunfire support off the coast of South Vietnam, and to stop the trawlers and sampans that attempted to elude the Operation Market Time blockade.

After the American withdraw from Vietnam, USS Gallup was homeported in Guam and assigned the task of patrolling the waters of the Pacific Trust Territories. The gunboat returned to San Diego in July of 1975, where she was assigned to the Naval Reserve Force. The warship spent the remainder of her active career participating in Navy training exercises off the West Coast. USS Gallup was decommissioned on January 31, 1977, and was struck from the Naval Register on October 9, 1984. She was then transferred to The Naval Sea Systems Command, where her parts were used to help maintain their three other Ashville-class research ships. The gunboat was next transferred to the Maritime Commission on August 6, 2004. USS Gallup went to her final home when she was sold for scrap on May 13, 2007.



"Have Guns Will Travel"
shoulder patch from USS Gallup

Footnote: The Hamilton-class of Coast Guard cutters also used a CODOG system of propulsion. USCGC Hamilton (WHEC-715) was launched on December 18, 1965, and commissioned on March 18, 1967. Wikipedia lists the Hamilton-class as the "first U.S. military vessels with combination diesel or gas turbine operation." However, USS Ashville and USS Gallup were laid down, launched, and commissioned prior to USCGC Hamilton, making the Ashville-class of gunboats the first U.S. military vessels to use a CODOG propulsion system.

Bullhead Park's Significance to the Atomic Age

from an original article by Elaine D. Briseno on September 3, 2023; reproduced with permission from the Albuquerque Journal

A park in southeast Albuquerque honors the last U.S. Navy ship lost in action during World War II, whose destruction was overshadowed by the world's first nuclear attack. Sometimes when one grows up in a place or lives there for a long time, the extraordinary becomes ordinary, and every day sights fade into the background. USS Bullhead Memorial Park was one of those places for me.

The park today contains two playgrounds, seven soccer fields, four lit softball fields, grills and picnic tables. Its name is catchy, but as someone born long after the end of World War II, USS Bullhead had little significance to me and growing up I never questioned what exactly a bullhead was and why it was the name of a park. But it is significant, and its name is a memorial to the dozens of men who died while serving their country, even though its loss is often eclipsed by the big story of that day.



Last month marked 78 years since the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945. It's also the day Japanese bombers sank the USS Bullhead submarine, killing 84 officers and crewmen on board. The Metropolitan Parks and Recreation Advisory Board voted in April of 1974 to name 44 acres of "park land east of Veterans Hospital" the USS Bullhead Memorial Park. Harry Kinney was in his first year as mayor at the time, after serving as chairman of what was then called the City Commission. That was followed months later in January 1975 by a U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation grant for \$168,000, matched locally to construct the park, according to a short newspaper story in the Albuquerque Journal. That Jan. 21, 1975, article also mentioned that the park was named for the Navy submarine sunk during the latter part of World War II. The blurb appeared on page 19 and also happened to share a page with advertisements featuring the latest adult and mainstream films appearing on the city's movie screens. Among

Bullhead Park's Significance to the Atomic Age *(continued from previous page)*

the screenings that day were the "Godfather Part 2" and "The Sting". The day USS Bullhead was struck, "I'll Be Seeing You" was playing at the Lobo Theater, and Gary Cooper and Loretta Young were gracing the screen in "Along Came Jones" at the KiMo Theatre.

However, the public was not immediately aware that the submarine was destroyed. The ship was built at the Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, Connecticut, and launched for the first time on July 16, 1944. It was commissioned later that year on Dec. 4. It left Fremantle, Australia, on July 31, 1945, for operation in the Java Sea. The Navy sent out a call on Aug. 13, 1945, for all submarines to report in because the end of the war was imminent and that's when concerns about the submarine were raised.

On Aug. 24, the Associated Press reported an announcement from the Navy that the submarine was overdue from war patrol. "Efforts to contact the Bullhead by radio began Aug. 13 and have been unsuccessful," the Navy said at the time. "It is assumed that the Bullhead has been lost due to enemy action. It brought the number of submarines lost to 52, according to the article.

The submarine had escaped a close call just a few months before that, according to a June 26, 1945, report by journalist Martin Sheridan, a Boston Globe war correspondent who managed to secure a spot on the vessel. It was 2 a.m. on a Tuesday, and the USS Bullhead was on the surface charging its batteries when a twin-engine Japanese bomber came into sight. It had spotted the submarine's wake in the bright moonlight, according to Sheridan. A lookout began ordering the men to clear the bridge and sounded the diving signal so they could escape the approaching aircraft. "The first lookout down was in such a hurry that he struck his head against the overhang above the hatch and knocked himself out," Sheridan wrote. "It's uncomfortable to lie in your sack during a dive, if you sleep with your head toward the bow. As the boat noses down rapidly ... your head is lower than your feet and you have a sensation of falling. You wonder 'When in the devil are they going to level off? "

The few moments of chaos on board a submarine were mostly followed by times of idleness, he said. The crew on the USS Bullhead broke-up the monotony by smoking. A lot. Sheridan claimed the submarine had great air conditioning, making the smoke tolerable. But he did muse about where smoking was allowed. "What at first makes you break out in a cold sweat and feel weak in the knees is seeing a man light a cigarette and lean casually against a longer torpedo complete with warhead," Sheridan wrote. "It's perfectly safe, however. So they tell me, anyway. Sheridan traveled on the USS Bullhead for 38 days in the South China Sea, but was not on that fateful last patrol. He recalled his time on the submarine in an Aug. 5, 1945, Associated Press story, saying he boarded USS Bullhead accepting he might not make it back. He did make it back and lived until the age of 89, passing away in 2004.

It's not clear how the city chose this particular submarine for the name of the park, since no New Mexicans were on board, but Sheridan sheds some light on how the vessel got its name and tells us exactly what a bullhead is. Its namesake, he said, is from the catfish family similar to the New England's horned pout. "According to those who know its habits, the bullhead prefers warm and weedy waters, eats during the day and prowls along the bottom at the night, feeding on snails, crustaceans and bivalve mollusks," he said. "As for the Bullhead, it too prefers warm waters and prowls along the bottom.

Editor's note: What a fantastic story published by the Albuquerque Journal! In our next issue, we will feature "The Rest of the Bullhead Story", an article by Dick Brown of the Navy League of the United States, New Mexico Council.



Standing in the galley chatting with crewmen of the USS Bullhead is a war correspondent, whom the Navy believes was most likely Martin Sheridan of the Boston Globe. The picture was shot by a Navy photographer between March and April 1945.



An officer looks through the periscope aboard the USS Bullhead in the spring of 1945.

Nautical Items of Interest

NEW MEXICO
Council



Care Packages for the Crews *by Suzan Miller-Garrison, Daughters of the American Revolution, New Mexico Chapters*



Ladies and Gentlemen: A year ago (August 2022) when I proposed this care box project to our 16 New Mexico DAR Chapters I had no idea I would have such an enthusiastic response (I should have known better). As DAR members, we have so many service projects and committees that we volunteer for (and lives to live). In 2022 alone, we managed to ship 24 boxes to our submarines. For 2023, the 25 mentioned here. I also have 3 more boxes that went out from individual chapters at this same time.

I want to thank the wives of Officers Club stationed at Kirtland AFB who generously donated the shipping costs of 20 of these boxes. I also managed to snag a corporate sponsor "Bad Ass Coffee" to donate cases of coffee direct to the Submarines from their

Corporate headquarter in Hawaii. A toast to the ladies who give their time and money (thousands of dollars, hundreds of hours to a truly wonderful cause, our Sailors who are far away from home and family. We are letting them all know we are their family, and we are here for them in thoughts, prayers and spirit (and goodies). Hoping their days and nights are safe while they make our days and nights safer.

Thanks to all the ladies of DAR New Mexico that donated this year and last for this wonderful project. We will continue doing this. I want to share with everyone how proud I am of being part of DAR, A Navy League Member, a Navy Mom and grandmom.

Suzan Miller-Garrison, White Sands Chapter - NMSODAR –
Alamogordo, New Mexico State Chair - Project Patriot



National Navy League Awards go to..... New Mexico Council!!

Navy League of the United States, New Mexico Council member Chuck Vaughan attended the National Convention on June 8, 2023 on behalf of the Council. We received a Platinum Mackie Award for our Newsletter, the top award in the nation, and we stood alone in that prestigious spot. We also received an honorable mention for the Council's performance in 2022. Pictured here are Navy League National President Dave Reilly, Chuck Vaughan, and Navy League National President-Elect Christopher Townsend. This year's national meeting was held in Dallas, TX and next year's meeting will be in San Diego, CA.



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

2023 Upcoming Events for Navy League, New Mexico Council

October 9	Navy League, New Mexico Council board meeting
October 14	2023 Navy Ball with Navy Reserve Center Albuquerque; Sheraton Uptown, 1800-midnight
October 21	Navy vs. Chair Force football game, 1000, Craft Republic bar & grill
November 13	Navy League, New Mexico Council board meeting
December 3	Annual Meeting and Elections for New Mexico Council
December 9	Army-Navy football game, 1300, Craft Republic bar & grill

You are reading the **Platinum Mackie Award Winning** New Mexico Council NM Nautical News!