

NM NAUTICAL NEWS

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



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Fall 2024 Issue

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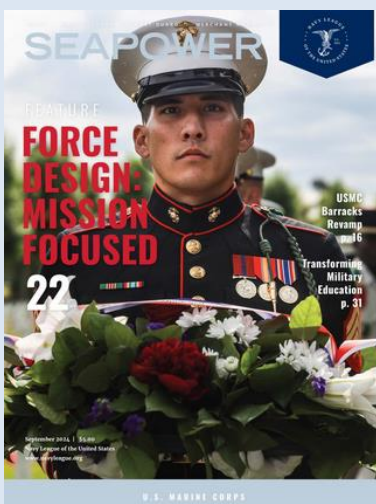
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A Very Action-Packed Navy Week Albuquerque 2024

by Mark Schaefer, newsletter editor

Starting Monday, September 9th, New Mexico was treated to a full schedule of Navy Week activities that introduced the United States Navy to the citizens of New Mexico. Navy Band Southwest did a fantastic job of entertaining the masses at the New Mexico State Fair on Monday morning and throughout the week. On Monday afternoon, festivities kicked off the USS Albuquerque Monument project, and there was a great Navy presence at Pascetti Steel, the fabricators for that renovation project.



L-R: CDR Eric Knepper, Commanding Officer of USS Santa Fe (SSN-763), and crew members ETVSN Joseph Green, LTJG Jessica Kirk, MPA, and EMN1 Storm Nguyen greet visitors to the New Mexico State Fair on Main Street.

Throughout the rest of the week were school visits, a Navy League dinner, ceremonial guard demonstrations, Veterans Memorial visit, and an Isotopes baseball game. The Navy got the word out at the State Fair with exhibits from the USS Constitution, the U.S. Naval Academy, and the Naval History and Heritage Command, and the crew of the USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) talked with many citizens and answered many questions.

Much more to the story and more Navy Week photos on following pages.

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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Donations to the USS Albuquerque Monument are now being accepted at this City of Albuquerque web site:

<https://one-albuquerque-fund.snwbll.com/uss-albuquerque-memorial>



President's Message



David F Williams

President, New Mexico Council

WOW- What a truly amazing time to be in the New Mexico Council.

Throughout this issue you will see stories (not "sea stories") about Navy Week, September 9-14. It started at a press conference with the public unveiling by the Mayor of Albuquerque, Tim Keller, of the City's plans to establish a service memorial in Tingley Pond utilizing the sail of the former USS Albuquerque (SSN-706). The Mayor was joined by former Commanding Officer of the USS Albuquerque, Admiral Stuart Munsch, now Commander of Naval Forces Europe and Africa.

It was at that press conference I met a 100-year-old Navy combat veteran of World War 2 and Korea who has become our newest member. I am sure I speak for our members in welcoming Raymond Bonda, our newest and by far oldest member to the New Mexico Council of the Navy League of the United States. But more on his life story in our next edition.



Ray Bonda, 1943

Monday evening the New Mexico Council hosted a dinner at El Pinto Restaurant for Admiral Munsch. Also attending were the former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Ships), Gloria Valdez; the current Commanding Officer of the USS Santa Fe (SSN-763), CDR Eric Knepper, with several crew members; and the Navy Surgeon General's representative, CAPT Shauna O'Sullivan, MC.

Returning to the USS Albuquerque memorial, we need to acknowledge the key roles our members have played in getting us to this point by advocating for the project with the community, educating the City Council and City Administration on its proud history, and facilitating the Navy's transfer of the sail to the City. I started to list the key members who have gotten us to this point. As I did, I realized that the list was those members listed on our mast head including officers, committee chairs, editor, webmaster, and former National Director, Dick Brown. However, our work is not done. Thanks to the Albuquerque City Council and Mayor, \$700K in seed money for the memorial has the project underway. To complete it, the City estimates that at least \$2 million more will be needed. It will take an "all hands" effort to help the City obtain the necessary funding to complete the memorial.

The fall promises to be full of interesting activities including our regular meeting of Directors and Committee Chairs on October 14, our Navy Ball on October 19 at the Albuquerque Convention Center (see nmnavyleague.com for more information), our Network Navy social networking event in November, and our Annual Meeting at 1 PM on Sunday, December 8 at El Patron Restaurant. See you there!

Dave Williams

Commander, U.S. Navy (ret)

Navy Week Albuquerque '24



Four-Star Admiral Visits Albuquerque for Navy Week 2024 *by Damon Runyan*

Navy Week 2024, hosted by the Navy Community Outreach office in Millington, Tennessee, kicked off with a bang here in Albuquerque on September 9th 2024. Mayor Tim Keller was joined by Admiral Stuart Munsch, current Commander U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa, at Pascetti Steel on Claremont Ave NE. They toured the three remaining pieces of the submarine USS Albuquerque (SSN-706) currently undergoing refurbishment and re-assembly at Pascetti. The Mayor presented the Admiral with a proclamation declaring September 9-15 2024 as Navy Week in Albuquerque and at the New Mexico State Fair.

Admiral Munsch is a former Commanding Officer of USS Albuquerque from 2002-2005. Also in attendance were numerous members of the New Mexico Council of the Navy League including the past Chairman of the USS Albuquerque Monument Committee, Mr. Greg Trapp, and the current Chairman, Mr. Lawrence Edwards. They were joined by several members of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc, Bullhead Base, the local Albuquerque chapter of this national organization.



Admiral Stuart Munsch and Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller (photo by Tim Walsh PIO CABQ)



Admiral Munsch peers inside the rusty hulk of the former USS Albuquerque (SSN-706) at Pascetti Steel (photo by Tim Walsh PIO CABQ)

Also in attendance were a number of members of the Mayor's staff responsible for the eventual design, construction and display of the sail portion of the USS Albuquerque (SSN-706) in a pond at Tingley Beach, near downtown Albuquerque.

The Admiral in turn presented the Mayor with a CINCUSNAVEUR Commander's Plaque to commemorate this one of kind visit to the Duke City.

Pascetti Steel was awarded the contract by the city in June to "bring the sail back to life" as seen in the Concept Plan.



Navy League members and the citizens of New Mexico are encouraged to support the USS Albuquerque Monument at

<https://one-albuquerque-fund.snbll.com/uss-albuquerque-memorial>

Proposed model of the USS Albuquerque Monument as it may appear in Tingley Pond after the monument is built (as shown on web site at www.ussalbuquerque.org)

Navy Week Albuquerque '24



Representing the USS Constitution Sailing Ship at the New Mexico State Fair Main Street area were FN Rylie Schneider, SN Angel Morales, IT2 Ethan Kay and OS2 Katherine Butler. USS Constitution, also known as **Old Ironsides** is a three-masted wooden-hulled frigate of the United States Navy. She was launched in 1797 and is the world's oldest commissioned Naval warship still afloat. (photo by Newsletter editor Mark Schaefer)



The Naval History and Heritage Command had a booth on Main Street discussing sailing ships and submarines with the local crowd. . (photo by Mark Schaefer)



Navy Band Southwest, based in San Diego, CA entertained State Fair visitors with a Big Band concert. They also played the Star Spangled Banner at an Albuquerque Isotopes baseball game. (photos courtesy of KRQE News 13 in Albuquerque)

Navy Week Albuquerque '24



Ceremonial Guard members gave a very impressive picture of the Navy at the New Mexico State Fair on Wednesday of Navy Week.

All photos on this page are courtesy of Mark Schaefer, Newsletter editor



Wednesday evening during Navy Week, all Navy components got to attend an Albuquerque Isotopes game.



Navy League New Mexico Council's Marilyn Smith (in purple Colorado Rockies colors) is employed by the Isotopes and helped arrange a tour of the 3rd floor press box, radio announcer, organist, and sound/video board areas of the park.



Behind the crew of the USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) and CAPT Shauna O'Sullivan, MC, was our great NM sky. Albuquerque's volcano backdrop can also be seen.



Press box and scorer area of Isotopes Park gives a great view of the ballpark.

Namesake Ships



USS Albuquerque to Set Sail from Tingley Beach *from the City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department*

September 09, 2024

The City, along with the U.S. Navy, the Navy League New Mexico Council, and other partners unveiled a draft concept plan for a USS Albuquerque monument to kick off Navy Week in Albuquerque. Named after the city, the USS Albuquerque is a nuclear submarine decommissioned in 2017. The sail, which is currently in three pieces, was recently moved from storage at Kirtland Air Force Base to Pascetti Steel, where it will be restored and prepared for reassembly. The City has developed a draft concept plan to build the USS Albuquerque memorial at Tingley Beach.

“My piece of this was commanding Albuquerque from 2002 to 2005,” said **Admiral Stuart Munsch**. “We were known back then for our competency, innovation, and our toughness and I’d like to think that we took that from the character of the City, here in Albuquerque.”

The draft concept plan, prepared by PLAND Collaborative, proposes to install the sail in the western-most pond at Tingley Beach. The sail will be framed with bow and stern (rudder) indicators to depict the full length of the sub, and a simulated bow wave will create action/movement. The site plan also includes plazas that will depict the sub’s service in the five oceans of the world, educational exhibits, parking lot improvements, and a restroom. The estimated cost of the entire project is \$5.4 million.



Design Key Notes

- ① USS Albuquerque Sail
- ② Black Concrete Foundation
- ③ Bow Wave Ripples
- ④ Elevated Grate Decking
- ⑤ Concrete Walk
- ⑥ Bow Tip Marker
- ⑦ Flag Poles
- ⑧ Submariner Walk with 127 Markers to Represent the Number of Crew
- ⑨ Five Oceans - Separated by Aqua Colored Concrete Edger with Wave Formliner Pattern Colored Glass Surfacing in Ocean Current Patterns - Sized Relative to Ocean Sizes
- ⑩ Plaza to Represent Bremerton, WA - Seven Foot Radius
- ⑪ Informational Signage



USS Albuquerque Monument Plan 3D Perspectives

USS Albuquerque Monument | September 2024

“It’s fitting that Albuquerque will be the final harbor for this historic sub, with a memorial honoring this vessel and the crews who sailed in its 34 years of service,” said **Mayor Tim Keller**. “This project has been years in the making and is a testament to this city’s commitment to honoring our veterans and preserving our history for future generations.”

“As the 47th state, landlocked with no navigable water path to the ocean, it is pretty cool that New Mexico has such a robust representation with U.S. Naval history, almost thirty naval ships, boats, and tugs have linkage to our state,” said Historian and Navy League of the United States, New Mexico Council, member **Greg Trapp**. “It is appropriate for the City of Albuquerque to showcase New Mexico’s continued devotion to the US Navy by creating the USS Albuquerque Memorial, with the USS Albuquerque sail as the centerpiece.”



At Pascetti Steel in Albuquerque are Navy League members Dick Brown, Greg Trapp, Lawrence Edwards, Dave Williams who visited with steel contractor Damian Pascetti (far right). The USS Albuquerque parade model is at left and the physical sail that is to be refurbished is in the background. (photo by Tim Walsh, PIO CABQ)



Greg Trapp, former chair of the USS Albuquerque Sail Committee, and Kristelle Sizarza Moon meet Admiral Munsch at Pascetti Steel. (photo by Tim Walsh, PIO CABQ)



Mayor Tim Keller and Admiral Munsch (center) meet with citizens of New Mexico to celebrate the initial steps of refurbishing the sail of the USS Albuquerque at Pascetti Steel in Albuquerque. (photo by Tim Walsh, PIO CABQ)

Namesake Ships



Navy Week Albuquerque Makes the Sail Monument Kickoff Something Special

(photos from the City of Albuquerque PIO Tim Walsh)



CDR Eric Knepper, Commanding Officer of USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) meets Mayor Tim Keller of Albuquerque above and various military veterans and supporters below.



Admiral Stuart Munsch greets citizens of New Mexico in front of the hulk of the sail of the USS Albuquerque.



The fairwater planes also made it over to Pascetti Steel and will be a notable part of the reconstructed sail.



Admiral Munsch and Mayor Tim Keller shake hands at the podium in front of the sail of the USS Albuquerque.



New Mexico Council of the Navy League Honors Admiral Stuart Munsch during Navy Week

by Damon Runyan, USS New Mexico Committee Chair; photos courtesy of Damon Runyan

The New Mexico Council of the Navy League, in coordination with Navy Community Outreach (NAVCO), hosted a dinner at El Pinto Restaurant to honor amazing achievements of ADM Munsch. Attending the dinner were five outstanding crew members from the USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) and the submarine's Commanding Officer, CDR Eric Knepper (also a former crew member of the USS Albuquerque). Other notable attendees included a senior officer from the Surgeon General's office, CAPT Shauna O'Sullivan, MC and her PAO CDR Jessica McNulty, MC, and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Ms. Gloria Valdez, and her husband Tim.



ADM Munsch presents the CINCUSNAVEUR Plaque to NM Council President Dave

During his remarks, ADM Munsch gave the group a small insight into the complex nature of maintaining sea lane security for all of Southern Europe and North Africa during the on-going war in Ukraine and the strife and conflict surrounding Israel/Gaza/Yemen/Lebanon. At any given moment, the Admiral has between 9,000 and 12,000 personnel under his command. At the conclusion of his

remarks, the Admiral awarded commemorative plaques from CINCUSNAVEUR / AFRICA to the Commanding Officer of the USS SANTA FE, the President of the New Mexico Navy League, and a former crew member of the USS ALBUQUERQUE who led the last refueling effort for that submarine. That crew member, Lawrence Edwards, also presented the Admiral with a C.O.'s ball cap from his old boat.



ADM Munsch proudly wears an SSN-706 hat presented by former crew member Lawrence Edwards.



Benediction and fallen hero remembrance were led by U.S. SubVet member Alan Tate.

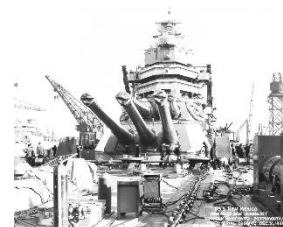
New Mexico Council Historian Speaks to NM State Bar Association

by Damon Runyan



On Friday, August 16th, one of our Navy League members, Mr. Greg Trapp, Executive Director of the New Mexico Commission for the Blind, gave a riveting presentation at a meeting of the NM State Bar Association History Committee. Over twenty attended in person and many others attended over Zoom. Greg presented an informative and fact-filled history of the state's namesake battleship, the USS NEW MEXICO (BB-40). Greg covered events leading up to the choice of the name "New Mexico" for this Navy ship, its revolutionary "electric drive" turbine propulsion system,

its commissioning, and review of extremely important milestones in the ship's service to our nation. Greg's PowerPoint presentation included some rarely seen photographs of the battleship, a color photo of the ship in action at Saipan, and the ship under a Japanese kamikaze attack. During the presentation, Greg was assisted by his friend Kelly Burma, and those attending were privileged to hear her sing the USS NEW MEXICO fight song. When she finished, Greg said it had probably been several decades since the song had last been performed in public. The song is titled "Queen of the Sea," and is set to the familiar tune of Taps. The presentation concluded with a Q&A session and Greg offering copies of the book he co-authored along with Dick Brown, John Taylor, and Richard Melzer, "Images of America – USS NEW MEXICO BB-40". As he has always done, Greg donated all of the proceeds of the book sales to the New Mexico Council of the Navy League.



Queen of the Sea

We are the Queen of the Sea
And our thoughts will always be
To win all games and - race boat fame.
New Mexico we'll hold her name,
All along the coast,
In every port we'll boast,
"We're here to fight, fight, fight"
And carry home another victory.



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

The Queen's Women by Greg Trapp, JD

Author's Note: I am starting a series of articles about the famous and influential men who served on USS New Mexico (BB-40). As the first article in this series, I thought it appropriate to begin with a look at the many women who were also a part of the life of the ship.

The battleship USS New Mexico (BB-40) was commissioned on May 20, 1918, and decommissioned on July 19, 1946. The 624-foot battleship was known by several names over her 28 years of service. Those names included The Electric Ship, The Wonder Ship, and The Queen. Of those names, it was "The Queen" that would endure throughout the length of her entire service. During her World War II service, her ship's newspaper was named "The Queen's Daily." In the final year of the war, the Queen's Daily included a regular column titled "The Queen's Men." Each Queen's Men column highlighted the life and service of one of the men serving on the battleship. This article recognizes that the service of these men would not have been possible without the many women who in some way also served. These "Queen's Women" include the mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, friends, and girlfriends of the crew. Many of these women served on the home front during World War II. Over 350,000 women served in uniform during the war, with women serving in the Navy Nurse Corps, the Navy Women's Reserve, the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, and the Coast Guard Women's Reserve. Millions of women also entered the workforce, serving as "Government Girls" in vital administrative and defense positions, and building planes and ships as "Rosie the Riveters" and "Wendy the Welders." The Queen's Women also include the ship's sponsor, and the countless women who took on a variety of roles in support of the overall war effort.

The first of the Queen's Women is unquestionably Margarita C. de Baca. She was the daughter of Governor Ezequiel C. de Baca, and she was given the honor of christening the state's namesake battleship during the launching held on April 23, 1917. The 21-year-old C. de Baca christened the ship with the traditional bottle of champagne. Assisting her was Virginia Carr, who used a jug of water drawn from the Rio Grande and Pecos river. Carr was the granddaughter of William Carr, a Civil War sailor who received the Medal of Honor for his service on USS Richmond during the Battle of Mobile Bay. This rare photo is of Margarita C. de Baca. The photo was distributed along with a Navy press release announcing the upcoming launch of USS New Mexico on April 23, 1917.



Margaret C. de Baca

The release said "Margaret" C. de Baca was the ship's sponsor, anglicizing her first name.



A group of "Wendy the Welders" from World War II. This grouping includes the "welding champion" of Ingalls Shipbuilding out of Pascagoula, Mississippi.

World War II was a total commitment on the part of the United States, and the war transformed American society as a result. This included Executive Order No. 8802 issued on June 25, 1941, which prohibited discrimination in the defense industry based on "race, creed, color, or national origin." Despite Executive Order 8802, racism and labor shortages persisted, and the nation turned to recruiting women as a way to increase the workforce. As a result, millions of women took on jobs that had previously been reserved for men, working in every sector of the workforce. Women in the millions built the ships, planes, tanks, trucks, guns, and munitions that would ultimately win the war. The iconic "Rosie the Riveter" became the symbol of these women workers, but in the ship building sector their symbol was "Wendy the Welder."



Lauren Bacall

Another group of the Queen's Women would be the many models and Hollywood stars who frequently graced the back cover of the Queen's Daily papers. World War II was a very different time politically and culturally, and these "pin-up girls" were seen as a way to build morale. For instance, the July 16, 1945 issue of the Queen's Daily had Lauren Bacall on the back cover. The Queen's Men column of that issue featured Carpenter's mate first class Richard A. Wagstaff. However, it is safe to presume that it was Lauren Bacall that the sailors were talking about. Just four days later, the July 20 issue featured a 17-year-old Shirley Temple on the back cover, and one can easily imagine that "America's Sweetheart" was that day's main topic of conversation among the younger sailors serving on The Queen. Shown at left is the back cover of the July 16, 1945 issue of the Queen's Daily. The cover featured a picture of a 20-year-old Lauren Bacall. The photo may have been taken from "Yank," which was distributed weekly throughout the armed forces and included a weekly "pin-up girl."

Shown at right is the back cover of the July 20, 1945 issue of The Queen's daily. The cover featured a photo of Shirley Temple, who was often called "America's Sweetheart." Temple had Married an Army air Corp Sargeant, John Agar, shortly after she turned 17. She would go on to be a United Nations diplomat and ambassador.



Shirley Temple

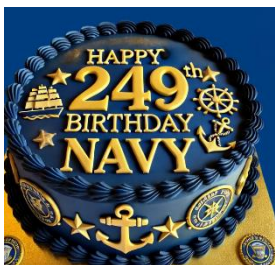
While Shirley Temple was America's Sweetheart, The Queen had her own "sweetheart." This sweetheart was selected by a competition in which sailors submitted their own nominees for the title. As the June 23, 1945



Ellen Stevenson

issue described it, there were "83 Lovelies for Judges" to select from. The selection was reduced to a final group of eight who were featured in the July 16 Queen's Daily, with the decision being made by the entire ship's complement. According to the July 18 Queen's Daily, the "winnah" was Ellen Stevenson, who was Attending Lynnwood College in St. Charles, Missouri. She was later quoted in the October 13, 1945 Queen's Daily, saying "Thank you ever so much for making me the official sweetheart of the U.S.S. New Mexico. I really feel quite honored and proud to think that you all believe I can fulfill the position."

The photo at left is from the back cover of the July 18, 1945 issue of the Queen's Daily. It features a photo of the 20-year-old Queen's "Sweetheart," Ellen Stevenson.



Save the Date!! Navy Birthday Ball Albuquerque is October 19th at the Albuquerque Convention Center

*6 pm to Midnight – dinner, dancing, silent auction, and celebration of our sailors
Guest Speaker: Captain Gary Cave, USN, UNM NROTC Commanding Officer
Master of Ceremonies: Jessica Garate, Emmy Award Winning Journalist, KRQE Anchor*

Tickets Available at NMNAVYLEAGUE.COM

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2024 Upcoming Events for Navy League, New Mexico Council

October 14	Navy League, New Mexico Council board meeting via Zoom
October 19	249th Navy Birthday Ball 6 p.m. to Midnight; Albuquerque Convention Center; Purchase tickets at NMNAVYLEAGUE.COM
November 9	Marine Corps Ball , Santa Ana Star Casino
November 11	Veterans Day and Navy League, New Mexico Council board meeting via Zoom
November TBD	Network Navy, Merchant Marine
December 8 @1300	Annual Meeting, New Mexico Council, Navy League of the United States; El Patron
January 13	Navy League, New Mexico Council board meeting via Zoom