



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

New Mexico
Council



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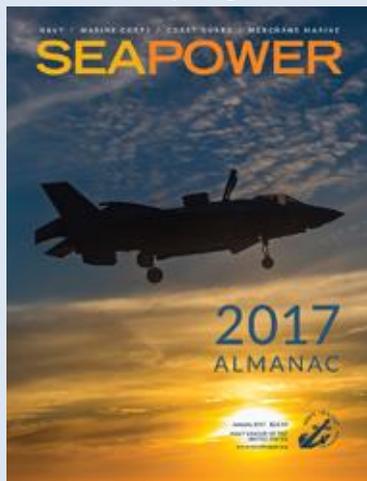
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Did you know that you can get the latest issues of Sea Power magazine in an App? Go to your mobile device App Store and search on "Navy League".



Goodbye 706!

Story by Chuck Vaughan

Goodbye USS ALBUQUERQUE (SSN-706). Thank you for serving this nation proudly and always giving your best effort in service to this nation!



USS Albuquerque Commanding Officer Donald Tenney and crew members return Rolls Royce keys to Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry at City Hall

(photo courtesy of City of Albuquerque)

The USS ALBUQUERQUE, SSN 706, is a Los Angeles class U. S. Navy fast attack submarine, commissioned on May 21, 1983. And like many of the older Los Angeles class submarines, the ALBUQUERQUE is being decommissioned because it is worn out from its many years of service to this nation. (see the rest of the story on page 3, Goodbye 706!)

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.

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NAVY LEAGUE

NEW MEXICO COUNCIL

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Mark Schaefer

Newsletter Editor

NM Nautical Quiz!

Q1: Why do young pirates always fail when saying the alphabet in kindergarten?

Q2: How much do pirate earrings cost?

(see page 6 for answers)



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



President's Message



Tom Gutierrez

President, New Mexico Council

(Photo courtesy of Rebecca Vigil)

Greetings Navy League members and friends!

My name is Tom Gutierrez. I was elected President of the New Mexico Council of the U.S. Navy League for 2017. I was VP for two years a few years ago. I have been active in this Council since 2009.

Will you join me in our many activities this year? I am sure if you follow us, you will see many more opportunities to help us meet our Mission and to be fulfilled as a Patriot. Why not look us up on our Webpage and follow us as we move as the "crew" of the New Mexico Council of the U.S. Navy League in 2017?

I like to introduce myself as a "Son of New Mexico." My grandfather was here before the State came into the Union in 1912. I am a Naval Academy Graduate with the Class of 1970. I served my active duty time as a Marine Corps Officer. I earned my Naval Flight Officer wings in 1971. I joined VMFA-212 Marine Squadron in 1972 and because Marine F-4Js came out of Viet Nam in 1973 I missed participation in that encounter.

I transferred into the U.S. Naval Reserves in 1984 as a Seabee Officer. In December, 1989 while Executive Officer, my 750-man Seabee Battalion was

activated for Operation Desert Shield. President George H. W. Bush won that war so quickly that the Navy sent us back from California in late January 1990. I spent the next ten years as a Reserve CDR and CAPT preparing to mobilize the Marines and supporting and designing their Big Camps for the ensuing Gulf War engagements.

Since 1984 I have spent most of my working career here in New Mexico; and I have had the opportunity to associate myself with many Navy Programs. I recruit for the Naval Academy; if any of you would like for me to speak personally to any Navy Juniors or other family members, please call upon me.

I am proud to have met the many hard working members of this Council in 2009 as they worked to "christen the *USS New Mexico, SSN-779*" in 2010. I learned they had been working on naming her for many earlier years. My wife, Rebecca Vigil, and I travelled to Norfolk to witness the *New Mexico* receive her name in the christening ceremony held 27 March 2010. **What a ride with the New Mexico Council it has been since then.** U.N.M Naval ROTC and JR NROTC awards are a thrill to hand out. Watching LT (j.g.) Dave Adair lead the Sea Cadets makes us proud that we have such a thoughtful and dynamic leader and his hard-charging Cadets that we support. Judging statements for Scholarship Awards has been challenging and meaningful. Meeting the many C.O.s, Chiefs of the Boat and Sailors annually, remind us why we joined this organization. We advocate at the State Legislature for State Funding to support our Mission.

Will you join me in our many activities this year?

Contact me any time at

tomgutierrez1970@gmail.com

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

Namesake Ships



Goodbye 706! (continued from front page) by Chuck Vaughan; photos courtesy of the City of Albuquerque

The New Mexico Council recently hosted a visit to Albuquerque by Commander Donald Tenney, USN, Commanding Officer; STSCS(SS) Neal Bederson, Chief of the Boat; MMN1(SS) Mark Keener, 2016 USS ALBUQUERQUE Sailor of the Year and MMA2(SS) Patrick Igoe, 2016 USS ALBUQUERQUE Junior Sailor of the Year.



In an article written by Dick Brown (NM Council, Navy League), recently published in *The Submarine Review* (November 2016), Dick noted that there has been a long-standing relationship between the USS ALBUQUERQUE and her namesake city. This relationship began at the commissioning of the USS ALBUQUERQUE when then Mayor Harry Kinney offered the keys of a Phantom series Rolls-Royce to the first skipper who brought the boat up the Rio Grande for a port call in Albuquerque. By tradition, the keys have been passed along from Commanding Officer to Commanding Officer at 13 Change of Command ceremonies; however, the fabled Rolls-Royce, elusive as a phantom, has gone unclaimed. Mayor Kinney, and the follow-on mayors of Albuquerque, did not have to worry about actually giving away a Phantom series Rolls-Royce as the Rio Grande river is at most only two feet deep and has several dams in it, so bringing the submarine up the Rio Grande for a port call was an impossible task and a very safe bet for the Mayor. On Monday, February 13, 2017 the submarine's final Commanding Officer, CDR Donald Tenney, USN, returned the keys for posterity, albeit begrudgingly, to Albuquerque's current mayor, Richard Berry.

USS ALBUQUERQUE was initially home-ported in Groton, CT and was deployed many times in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean seas. During the 1999 Kosovo conflict the USS ALBUQUERQUE was directed to launch ten Tomahawk land-attack missiles at targets. Because the ten missiles hit 100 percent of their targets, the USS ALBUQUERQUE became known as the Sure Shooter of the Submarine Force – which explains why there are 10 TLAMs on her battle flag. About mid-way through her expected life, she was refueled at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (2001 - 2003). In 2009, she shifted her homeport to San Diego, CA, concluding the Navy's 60/40 Pacific/Atlantic split of Submarine Force assets. From San Diego, the aging battle-tested submarine was deployed many times in the Pacific, doing her part in the Global War on Terrorism. All told, the USS ALBUQUERQUE compiled a record of superior performance, earning three Navy Unit Commendations, four Meritorious Unit Commendations and four Battle Efficiency "E" Awards.

In addition to meeting with Mayor Berry to return the keys to the Rolls, during their recent visit crew members spent time with local Sea Cadets, visited with veterans at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center, spoke to MCJROTC students at Atrisco Heritage Academy High School, appeared on Bob Clark's morning talk show (on 770 KKOZ-AM) on 13 February, toured Bullhead Park with local submarine historian Dick Brown, and attended a dinner in their honor, at El Pinto restaurant on Saturday, 11 February. This was the final visit of ALBUQUERQUE crew members to Albuquerque, NM.

On Monday, 27 February, the ALBUQUERQUE will be decommissioned and the crew members sent to other assignments or, in at least one case, off to retirement. The New Mexico Council thanks all the crew members who have ever served on the USS ALBUQUERQUE for their service and for setting a high standard of excellence in the performance of their duties.



As remembrances, a piece of submarine pressure hull engraved with SSN-706 and a piece of anchor chain sit atop a block of engraved wood that came from the battery well of USS Albuquerque.

One Final Great Photo of the USS Albuquerque (SSN-706)... *Silentum Excubitor*



Final Crew Visit of the USS Albuquerque (SSN-706) to Albuquerque



Dick Brown and Chuck Vaughan receive the SSN-706 battle flag from "The Sure Shooter", USS Albuquerque.



CDR Don Tenney, Commanding Officer of USS Albuquerque, presents the U.S. Navy Official Ship's Dive Log that recorded all 1,075 dives and surfacings made over 33 years of operation.



The crew worked hard while in town, toured the USS Bullhead memorial park shown above....



And enjoyed lunch at a few good local establishments with members of the New Mexico Council, including Tom Gutierrez and Rebecca Vigil.

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

Rising 9th, 10th, and 11th Graders are Invited to the United States Naval Academy Summer STEM Camp

New Mexico students are invited to apply to the Naval Academy's Summer STEM camp. Applications are open now!

You gain exposure to one of the "Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs" in the country as ranked by U.S. News & World Report. You will work in world-class lab facilities that provide a unique learning environment outside the traditional classroom. You will experience real-life application of math and science principles through hands-on practical learning. You will meet other students from across the country who share similar interests in STEM fields.

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Sea Cadet Jason Giordano Promoted to Highest Ranking Cadet in the Triton Battalion



On occasion of his promotion to Cadet Chief Petty Officer, Sea Cadet Jason Giordano is presented with a ship's coin and a USS New Mexico (SSN-779) commemorative baseball from Damon Runyan, chairman of the New Mexico Navy League's USS New Mexico (SSN-779) committee. Jason now assumes the role of the highest ranking cadet in the Triton Battalion. Sea Cadet Liaison for the Navy League and Commanding Officer of the Triton Battalion, LT Dave Adair, looks on at right of photo.

(photo courtesy of Damon Runyan)

Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services awarded hat from the future USS Los Alamos? *(photo courtesy of Damon Runyan)*

The Navy League's Jim Nesmith, Chairman of the USS Los Alamos naming committee presents a ball cap to retired Brigadier General Jack R. Fox during celebrations for the USS Albuquerque decommissioning on February 11th.

As the Albuquerque is retired, why not start the efforts to get another submarine named after a city in New Mexico?



New Leadership Sworn In for the New Mexico Council *(photo courtesy of Rebecca Vigil)*



Newly elected President Tom Gutierrez (center) and Vice President Rick Carver (left) are sworn into office in January 2017 by outgoing President Chuck Vaughan (right). Council elections went smoothly with the new team transitioning in to take on the challenges of the Council.

Once each month, the Navy League New Mexico Council board meeting is graciously hosted at the law offices of Butt Thornton & Baehr, Attorneys at Law. The New Mexico Council greatly appreciates this strong support from this law firm.



Answers to NM Nautical Quiz

(from questions on page 2)

A1: Because their fathers always insisted that there are seven C's!

A2: Two bucks. A buck an ear.

Shortfall Solution: The Ohio Replacement Program

by Lynnze English, parts reproduced with permission from the Association of the United States Navy, *Navy* magazine, Summer 2016.



Specifications for the submarine have been completed and the detailed design for the (Ohio Replacement) program is scheduled for 2017 with construction to begin in 2021. CAPT David Goggins, ORP's program manager, wants to ensure that he has a thorough manufacturing plan that is feasible and is currently working on the detailed construction plan.

ORP will be 560-feet long, the same as the *Ohio* class design, and have 16 Trident II D5 missiles instead of the 24 missiles featured on the *Ohio* class submarines. The missile launch tubes will be the same 44-foot-long tubes of the *Ohio* class. However, unlike the *Ohio* class, ORP will have a

life-of-the-ship nuclear core that is abundant enough to power the ship for its entire expected service life. It will be equipped with an electric-drive propulsion train used on other submarines. The electric drive system will make the submarine quieter and stealthier.

The ORP will have many of the same features seen on the *Virginia* class. It will use the *Virginia* class's fly-by wire joystick control system and large-aperture bow array sonar. Combat systems are also being incorporated into the ORP. The combat system has electronic surveillance measures, the periscope, radios and computer systems.

Construction for the first submarine is scheduled for 2021, with plans to enter service in 2031. Eventually, the Navy plans to build a total of 12 submarines, all to be in service by the early 2040s and serve into the 2080s. Production for the lead ship is estimated to cost \$12.4 billion. The cost projection of the remaining submarines is \$4.9 billion each. The service life expectancy of each submarine is 42 years with each carrying out 124 deterrent patrols during its service plan.

Dick Brown Honored by the New Mexico Council with a "Triple Tribute"

by Damon Runyan



(photo courtesy of Damon Runyan)

Outgoing New Mexico Council President Chuck Vaughan presented a unique American flag to Dick Brown, former NLUS National Director and former President of the USS NEW MEXICO Committee. This flag has been certified to have been flown from the masts of all three of our namesake submarines, USS ALBUQUERQUE (SSN-706) – USS SANTA FE (SSN-763) – USS NEW MEXICO (SSN-779). This is a small token of appreciation to Dick Brown for his 17 years of dedicated volunteer commitment to the New Mexico Council of the United States Navy League.



NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
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Green note: In case you would like to receive this newsletter by email only, please email chuck.vaughan@comcast.net.



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.

2017 Upcoming Events for Navy League, New Mexico Council

Feb 27	Decommissioning Ceremony for USS Albuquerque (SSN-706)
Mar 13	New Mexico Council Monthly Board of Directors Meeting – to be held in Santa Fe, NM this month, Thornburg Investment Management, 1730
Mar 18	Military Coalition Lunch
April 1	USNA Summer STEM camp applications should be complete
April 10	New Mexico Council Monthly Board of Directors Meeting - Albuquerque
April 11	National Submarine Day
April 12	NJROTC Award Ceremonies Start – Email Tom Gutierrez to sign up to be a presenter