



USS Colorado License Plate on Sale

On January 2nd the USS Colorado (SSN 788) license plate went on sale at local Motor Vehicle bureaus. In order to receive one of these special plates, residents must place an order at the local Motor Vehicle Department and the plates will be sent to their home address. The cost of the plate is \$50.



Military Appreciation Day

On January 30th Colorado held the annual Military Appreciation Day at the State Capitol. After speeches by the Governor and Adjutant General a Joint Assembly



of the state legislature paid honor to veterans and active duty military. USS Colorado Committee had a display table at the event. Committee members JJ Mackin and Dan Puleio passed out brochures about the boat and fielded questions from interested attendees.



Keel Laying Ceremony

General Dynamics Electric Boat has scheduled the Keel Laying ceremony for COLORADO (SSN 788) for March 7th at their Quonset Point Facility in North Kingston, R. I. The ship's sponsor, Annie Mabus, daughter of Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, will lay the keel. The Keel Laying Ceremony symbolizes the point where the ship begins the transition from concept to reality. In the ceremony pieces of steel are ceremonially welded together and authenticated with the initials of the sponsor. About 200 invited guests are expected to attend.

CDR Franklin interviewed by KOA Radio

CDR Ken Franklin was interviewed on January 16th on KOA Radio 1650 by host Steffan Tubbs. He discussed the ship's construction, crew manning, upcoming Keel Laying Ceremony and Ship's Crest Contest. The interview was replayed several times during the day. Great interview!

Ship's Crest Contest

The Ship's Crest Design Contest continues with over 35 Senior Division entries received so far. The winner in the Senior Division will be eligible for a \$1500 scholarship and the Junior Division winner will earn a \$100 gift certificate. Details of the contest and how to submit entries are located on our web site usscoloradocommittee.org. Deadline for submissions is March 16th. We have received great support and publicity from the Denver Post and their associated newspapers. The Crest Contest is being sponsored by Cogitic Corporation of Colorado Springs. Cogitic makes precision machined parts of high tech metals for submarines.



USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee

usscoloradocommittee.org

Original USS Colorado Ship's Bell Found

In researching the history of ships named Colorado, we have recently discovered the ship's bell of the first two USS Colorado's. The bell, cast in 1856 by the Wm. Cramp & Sons Company of Philadelphia, is in archival storage at the United States Navy History and Heritage Center, Washington Navy Yard. This bell was used on the original USS Colorado (1856) and then later by the second USS Colorado (ACR-7). This is truly a valuable piece of Naval and Colorado history. A movement is underway to acquire the bell and deliver it to a suitable display location in Colorado.

Sponsorships Available Online

The fundraising goal of the Commissioning Committee is \$400,000. This money will go to establish a scholarship fund for the crew and their families, fund crew member visits to Colorado, pay for shipboard enhancements for the crew and fund Commissioning Week activities. A variety of sponsorship levels are available. Our web site has recently been updated to accept online donations. Check out the details at: usscoloradocommittee.org/wp/support-our-submarine-3/

Merchandise ordering online

Our web site has also been updated to allow for online ordering of ball caps. See the Merchandise page of the site. We intend on adding additional merchandise in the future.

Keeping Up to Date

We are currently issuing this newsletter once every two months. Between issues you can keep up with the activities of the crew and the Commissioning Committee by checking on our web site and liking USS Colorado (SSN 788) on Facebook. We also have a Twitter account, [usscolo](#)

About the Committee

USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee is a 501(C) (3) organization formed to:

- Raise awareness about the construction and commissioning. Create enthusiasm and support.
- Promote relations between the state and the ship's crew. Initiate a long-term relationship.
- Coordinate activities surrounding the commissioning.
- Raise funds and finance appropriate events and activities associated with these objectives.

To learn more about USS Colorado, the Committee's activities and how you can contribute to Commissioning, [visit our website usscoloradocommittee.org](http://usscoloradocommittee.org) and like [USS Colorado \(SSN 788\)](#) on Facebook!



USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee

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