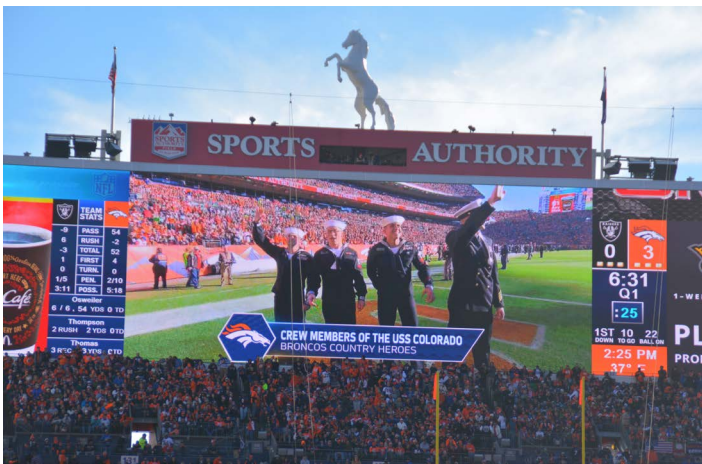




December Crew Visit A Great Success

At the Broncos-Raiders game on December 13th, four crew members from PCU Colorado were honored as “Broncos Country Heroes” during the first quarter of the game. Chief of the Boat Master Chief Brett Jackson, MM1 Ryan Zabka, YN2 James Brown and MM2 Derrick Altenburger were introduced to the 70,000+ plus fans after viewing a short submarine video on the Jumbo-tron. The sailors were able to view pre-game activities from the sidelines. Several member of the Commissioning Committee also attended the game.



The next morning the four submariners were interviewed on air by Channel 9’s Cheryl Preheim. They discussed construction of the Submarine and preparations to go to sea.

Later that morning, a fifth USS Colorado sailor, STSSN (Sonar Technician Submarines Seaman) Brayden Kane of Brighton, was awarded his submarine dolphins in ceremonies in the Rotunda of the State Capitol. Seaman Kane requested that his ceremony be held in Colorado so that his family could attend.

Committee Chairman and Retired Submarine Captain John Mackin officiated the ceremony. Brigadier General Michael Willis of the Colorado National Guard provided welcoming remarks on behalf of the State. World War II submarine veteran Andy Palenchar pinned the dolphins on. His PCU

Colorado shipmates participated in the ceremony as well. Chief of the Boat Brett Jackson provided remarks about Seaman Kane and assisted Andy in pinning the Dolphins on and MM1 Ryan Zabka read a story of World War II submarine operations.

Gene Nagel of the Rocky Mountain Base of the United States Submarine Veterans organization presented Seaman Kane with the traditional submarine veterans vest and a membership in the Base.

On Monday afternoon the crew members visited two local schools. Master Chief Brett Jackson and YN2 James Brown visited Ricardo Flores Magon Academy in Denver and MM1 Ryan Zabka and MM2 Derrick Altenburger visited Red Hawk Elementary School in Erie. Afterwards the crew members



enjoyed a VIP tour of Left Hand Brewing in Longmont.

Unfortunately on Tuesday snow came to Denver and forced cancellation of their events. The sailors were scheduled to visit two schools in the afternoon and a reception that evening at Balistreri Vineyard. Chief of the Boat was able to participate in an interview on KOA Radio in the morning by phone.

USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee

usscoloradocommittee.org

Construction Progress

Progress on the boat continues. In February they expect to meet the "Pressure Hull Complete" Milestone. This milestone means that all sections of the pressure hull have been welded together.

The best information we have about the schedule is that Christening will occur in August or September of this year and the Commissioning Ceremony will be in late April or early May of 2017. Stay tuned to our web site and Facebook page for the latest information.

Left Hand Brewing to Make USS Colorado Beer

To celebrate Christening, Left Hand Brewing will brew a limited edition USS Colorado beer this spring. The beer will be an American IPA with Blue Spruce, Colorado's state tree. The beer will start shipping in early June and be available in kegs and 22 oz. bottles for restaurants, bars and liquor stores. Left Hand will brew this beer again for the Commissioning. They will donate the profits from the sale of this beer to the Commissioning Committee to support our fund raising efforts.

New Merchandise for Sale

We have recently added a few more items to our merchandise page. We have several items from the ship's crew that includes the first ship's coin, a special Chief Petty Officer's coin, and a commemorative mouse-pad from the Keel Lay-



ing Ceremony. For those who already have a special license plate, we now have USS Colorado License Plate frames. Vis-

it the merchandise page of our web site to find out more.

April 8 Event

On April 8th we will hold a fund-raiser for USS Colorado. The reception will be held at Balistreri Vineyards in North Denver. The featured speaker will be retired Vice Admiral Jay Donnelly. Admiral Donnelly was a career submarine officer and held the position of Commander, Submarine Forces at his retirement in 2010. We hope to have some crew members there as well.

Future Events

We are currently in the process of planning other events for this year. We hope to have some crew members out for several visits. We will be holding a large Gala event later this year, but it's timing will depend on the date of the boat's Christening.

Military Appreciation Day

On January 29th Military Appreciation Day was celebrated at the State Capitol. USS Colorado was honored in Joint Resolution 1005 sponsored by Representatives Humphrey and Williams. Several Committee members came out to support the event. We thank them and the legislators for their recognition of USS Colorado!

Fund-raising Progress

The Committee's fund raising goal is \$400,000. Since our kick-off in April, we have raised approximately \$60,000 towards this goal, with approximately another \$100,000 in pledges.

We are also working with the Legislature to seek an appropriation by the state to the commissioning efforts. The states of New Mexico and North Dakota both contributed to the funds for their respective submarines and we are looking for a similar effort here.

Please consider contributing to the campaign. Visit the Sponsorship page on our web site usscoloradocommittee.org for more details.



USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee

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