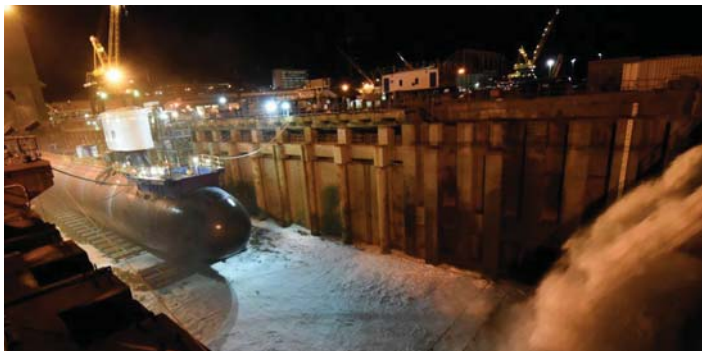




## USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee Newsletter # 15 February 2017

### USS Colorado Floats

On December 29th USS Colorado reached another milestone as the boat became waterborne. Previously rolled out of the Construction Hall after the Christening Ceremony and into the dry dock, the "Float off" was conducted the day before New Year's Eve. Prior to flooding the dock, the shipyard held another mini-christening ceremony, with a bottle of sparkling wine broken over the fillet, the curved portion of the hull joining the sail.



In earlier days of course, submarines slid down the ways into the water at Christening. The size of modern U.S. submarines however makes that no longer possible.

### Commissioning Date

Discussions are in progress in Navy circles to determine the Commissioning date. **The two dates being considered now are September 30 and October 14.** If all goes according to schedule, Electric Boat should deliver the boat to the Navy at the end of July. The current dates under consideration allow for some slippage in the schedule without affecting the Commissioning. We are not sure how long it will take to make a date official but as soon as we find out we will let everyone know. There will be a sign-up method on the Committee web site for all those wishing to attend the Commissioning.

### Crew Visit

Our Committee hosted another crew visit to our state during the last week of January. Executive Officer, LCDR Stephen Col, Chief of the Boat ECM Freddie Richter, ETN1 Kyle Rowe and MMN2 Tyler Magers spent three days visiting schools, companies and Capitol Hill.



The crew members made presentations to students at Golden High School, Panorama Middle School in Colorado Springs and Cherokee Trail High School in Aurora. Cherokee Trail will be helping in the creation of plank owner plaques that will be given to each crew member at Commissioning. The crew members also visited the Center for American Values in Pueblo and the Charles Schwab Complex in Lone Tree. Charles Schwab has been a major contributor and sponsor of the Committee's efforts.



On Friday they attended Military Appreciation Day at the State Capitol where they met several state legislators and military personnel including Lieutenant General Michelle Johnson, Superintendent of the Air Force Academy. Our Committee had a table with our merchandise on display.

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[usscoloradocommittee.org](http://usscoloradocommittee.org)

The bell that was recently crafted as a present to the boat from the Battleship Colorado Association was also on display. This bell will be presented to the boat at Commissioning. They were hosted to lunch by the Military Veterans Network at Western Union.



It was another great visit. The crew was able to reach out to many students here in Colorado and see some of our beautiful state before heading back to Groton.



**New Merchandise**

The Committee has just added USS Colorado scarves to our store. These scarves are of the same design as the scarves that were distributed by Electric Boat at the Christening ceremony in December. Please visit the Committee's merchandise page to order:

[usscoloradocommittee.org/merchandise-2/](http://usscoloradocommittee.org/merchandise-2/)



**USS Colorado Bill in Legislature**

The Commissioning Committee is seeking the financial support of the state legislature for the Commissioning. Several other states have contributed to the commissioning efforts of their namesake submarine including New Mexico, North Dakota and South Dakota. State Senator Robert Gardner recently introduced a bill for an appropriation of \$200,000 for the USS Colorado.



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