



September Crew Visit

USS Colorado crew members Executive Officer Stephen Col, STS1(SS) Michael McKenna, and MMA2(SS) Eric Robinson paid a visit to Colorado in conjunction with the Committee's Gala and Auction on September 17th. The three crew members arrived on Wednesday the 14th. That evening they visited the monthly meeting of Rocky Mountain Base of the United States Submarine Veterans organization where they were greeted warmly by the veterans. They talked with many of those present, including WWII submarine veteran, Andy Palenchar.

On Thursday they visited three NJROTC units in Colorado Springs at Doherty, Mesa Ridge and Widefield High Schools. They also visited NORTHCOM headquarters for lunch and a tour of the Command Center. They finished the day with a tour of Cogitic Corporation in Colorado Springs. The company is a precision manufacturer that makes critical parts for our submarines, including USS Colorado.

On Friday they started the day talking to an assembly of about 1500 students at Century Middle School in Thornton. During the school's "Constitution Day" an enthusiastic group of students listened as the crew members discussed the technology involved with making today's submarines operate and the importance of STEM education.



From there they visited the Gallery of Sculptor George Lundeen in Loveland. He has been commissioned by the Battleship Colorado (BB 45) Association to create a special commemorative ship's bell for SSN 788. There they were introduced to the sculptor's work including the method for

fabricating the ship's bell.

The crew members traveled to Estes Park to have lunch at the Stanley hotel with Mayor Todd Jirsa, Town Commissioner Cody Walker and Retired Navy Captain Dick Life, a resident of Estes Park. A visit to Left Hand Brewing in the afternoon completed their schedule for the day.



Saturday, before the Gala, they had an opportunity to visit the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

On Sunday they attended the Rockies game and were recognized on the field doing the 7th inning stretch. They invited Air Force veteran Jennifer Burch to join them on the field for the recognition.



It was another great visit by sailors from USS Colorado to the state. We are proud to be able to facilitate the outreach between the fine sailors of SSN 788 and the citizens and school children of Colorado.

USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee

usscoloradocommittee.org

Committee Holds Gala and Auction

USS Colorado Committee held their fund-raising Gala and Auction on September 17th at Charles Schwab's Event Center at their new campus in Lone Tree. About 180 persons attended the event including the three visiting crew members.

The event opened with a cocktail hour at the hosted bar. The weather cooperated with a beautiful September day, allowing open access from the event center onto a terrace with spectacular views of the mountains. About 40 silent auction items were available for people to bid on. The Committee incorporated an on-line auction function that allowed persons not able to attend the Gala to bid on silent auction items.



In addition to donating use of their event center, Charles Schwab provided support in numerous ways. Fifteen volunteers from the company helped with the auction and merchandise sales throughout the evening. Individual Schwab employees were also participants in the event, purchasing tickets and tables, donating auction items and bidding both during the silent and live auction phases.

Scott Alexander of the Kildow Auction Company (www.kildow.com) donated his time and expertise in conducting the live auction. There were ten items up for bid including a golf foursome at the private Sanctuary golf course, a two day John Fielder photo workshop, signed Broncos memorabilia, a special USS Colorado edition Kota Longboard, a special USS Colorado commemorative edition 44 magnum Henry rifle and a model of the submarine mounted on decking from the battleship USS Colorado (BB 45).



The emcee for the evening was Steffan Tubbs, KOA morning show radio host and President of Mountain Time Media (www.mountainm.com). Steffan has been a great supporter of USS Colorado since the very beginning.

The event's keynote speaker was Walter Borneman, historian and author (www.walterborneman.net). He is the author of the national bestseller *The Admirals: Nimitz, Halsey, Leahy, and King — The Five-Star Admirals Who Won the War at Sea*. His most recent book is *MacArthur at War: World War II in the Pacific*. He gave a compelling talk weaving in history of previous USS Colorado's, submarine traditions and the future USS Colorado (SSN 788).

The Executive Officer, LCDR Stephen Col surprised the two crew members he brought with him by presenting them each with awards. STS1(SS) Michael McKenna was awarded Sailor of the Quarter for PCU Colorado and MMA2(SS) Eric Robinson was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for service while on temporary duty to USS Illinois (SSN 786).

We were honored to have many veterans present, including two WWII vets and a Korean War vet. Left Hand Brewing once again supplied the beer for the event and Balistreri supplied the wine.

All in all it was a great evening, raising about \$30,000 towards the Commissioning Committee's goal.

Culinary Specialists Visit Colorado

Two Culinary Specialists from PCU Colorado, CSSN Thomas Carswell and CSSN Oyedolapo Oworu visited Colorado from September 25th through October 2. They had a busy schedule working with chefs from the Four Seasons in Vail, the Broadmoor, the Brown Palace and Tom's Urban Restaurant in LoDo. They also had the opportunity to attend the Navy - Air Force Football game. Look for more information on this visit on the web and the next newsletter.



USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee

P. O. Box 630463

Littleton, CO 80163-0463

USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee

usscoloradocommittee.org



USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee

P. O. Box 630463

Littleton, CO 80163-0463