



USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee Newsletter # 36 August 2018



Commanding Officer Visits Colorado

Submarine Model Presented to Governor

Commander Reed Koepp, Commanding Officer of USS Colorado (SSN 788), and his wife Aimee, visited Colorado from July 17th through the 20th. The main purpose of their visit was to participate in the presentation of the USS Colorado model on Wednesday. Arriving about noon on Tuesday the first event was a visit to Colorado Springs. Committee members Beth Burroughs, Florence and JJ Mackin joined them for a jeep tour of Garden of the Gods, Manitou Springs. They had dinner with several additional Committee members at the Broadmoor in the evening.



On Wednesday morning, a three foot long model of the submarine was presented to Governor John Hickenlooper for permanent display at the State Capitol. It will join the replica of the Ship's Crest which is mounted in the South Wing. The model was crafted by retired Navy Master Chief Jon Sorensen. Jon is a professional model maker who has restored the Boettcher collection of ship's models that now reside at the Ship Tavern at the Brown Palace Hotel. He made the model several years ago and has had it on display at several of the Committee's Events. CDR Koepp made remarks as part of the ceremony. Afterwards he and Aimee along with members of the Committee were given a tour of the Capitol. The group then went for lunch at the Brown Pal-

ace. Beth and Jerry Burroughs graciously hosted dinner on Wednesday evening for several members of the Committee and three Commissioning volunteers from Schwab.



On Thursday the Koepp's visited the CU Boulder campus starting at the University Memorial Center and viewed the ship's bells that served on the first three Colorado's and a replica of the bell currently in use on SSN 788. They also toured the new veteran's services center and the NROTC spaces. The visit to CU was followed by lunch at the Capitol Grill in Golden and then a visit to Lookout Mountain and the Buffalo Bill Museum and grave. Traveling to Centennial, they joined Committee members in presenting Colorado's Adjutant General, Major General Michael Loh, with an Honorary USS Colorado Plankowner's Plaque.



In the evening several members of the Committee hosted them to dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe in Denver. A limited

USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee
usscoloradocommittee.org

number of these are for sale on our web site as well as from Hard Rock Cafe.

It was great to have CDR Koepp and Aimee visit the state and to give them a feeling for the great state that they represent.

Please visit our [web site](http://usscoloradocommittee.org) for more details and additional pictures of the visit.



Committee Reorganization

Now that the boat is in Commission, our goal shifts to providing long term support for the crew and their families. This will require a reorganization, revision to our bylaws and new 501C3 authority. In the near future we will send out a survey to determine individual's interest in serving on the reorganized committee. Subsequently we will have a meeting with those interested to help determine the new organization. We have consulted with two other state committees to solicit ideas on our future organization.

Jacket Update

We received information recently from Spyder that the jackets are ready to be shipped to the company doing the embroidery, which is located locally in Boulder, and that the embroidery will take about two weeks. When complete, the jackets will be returned to the Committee for mailing.

Ship Status

The ship is still in a Post Shake-down Availability (PSA) at Electric Boat where they are fixing guarantee items and performing various system upgrades. It is expected they will

complete PSA in September and then do additional certifications and beginning work up for an extended deployment early next year.



USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee
P. O. Box 630463
Littleton, CO 80163-0463