



USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee Newsletter # 39 December 2018



COLORADO Visits King's Bay.

On the first weekend of November, USS Colorado (SSN 788) paid a port visit to King's Bay, Georgia for some routine work. King's Bay is the site of Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, home port to several Ohio Class submarines. The visit coincided with the 30th annual Submarine Veterans of World War II Memorial held by the base. Commanding Officer, CDR Reed Koepp, and several of the crew were able to attend the ceremony. Over ten submarine veterans of the war were present and the principal speaker was retired Vice Admiral Al Konetzni who helped start the annual memorial when he was a Squadron Commander there in the '80s.



New Organization for Long Term Support

The new organization that will support the crew throughout the life of the boat has been established. The organization will be known as USS Colorado Submarine Association. The Association has elected it's officers and filed the necessary paperwork and is currently awaiting approval of it's 501(C) (3) status. It is also developing it's plans for membership and activities and those details will be forthcoming. When complete this newsletter and email list will automatically transition to the new association.



Commissioning Committee Chairman, JJ Mackin, and his wife Florence were in King's Bay for the Memorial and two submarine reunions. Since no Ohio Class were available for tours, COLORADO was the designated tour boat and hosted several hundred visitors on Thursday and Saturday. JJ and Florence were able to visit the boat to meet with the CO and meet the new Executive Officer, Matt Wolf, and new Chief of the Boat, "Chip" Alger.

FDNY's Engine 91 Presents 9/11 Plaque to USS Colorado.

GROTON, Conn. (Dec. 07, 2018) Lt. Billy Meeks, joined by fellow firefighters assigned to New York City Fire Department's (FDNY) Engine Company 91, presents a plaque he created containing a cross made of 9/11 steel to Cmdr. Reed Koepp, commanding officer of the Virginia-class, fast-attack submarine USS Colorado (SSN-788) and his crew. Meeks originally wanted to present the plaque to his friend Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Simon Makuchowski, who is assigned to Colorado, but Makuchowski declined his offer with a counter-offer to present the plaque to the entire crew of Colorado due to the high honor the plaque represents. Meeks' uncle, Assistant Chief Gerard Barbara, died at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. A few years later, Meeks joined FDNY and ended up working at Engine 91 out of Spanish

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Harlem just as his uncle had before climbing the ranks. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist First Class Steven Hoskins/Released)



See more at:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/>



Crew Participates in Wreaths Across America

WATERFORD, Conn. (Dec. 15, 2018) – Chief Electronics Technician (Navigation) Scott J. Wilkerson, assigned to USS Colorado (SSN 788), shows his son how to salute while honoring America's fallen service members during Wreaths Across America in Waterford's Jordan Cemetery. Wreaths Across America is a yearly day of remembrance for deceased veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces which features wreath-layings all over the country. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Tristan B. Lotz/Released)



Colorado Students send Christmas Cards

Students from the 5th Grade of The Classical Academy of Colorado Springs expressed their support for USS Colorado by sending Christmas cards to each crewmember.



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