



Ship's Crest Design Finalized

The winning entry in the Ship's Crest Design Contest held earlier this year was LTJG Michael Nielsen of Arvada, Colorado who is now assigned to the crew of Colorado. Since reporting to the boat, he has worked with the command to make several enhancements to the final design it is finalized. The final Ship's Crest design is shown below. Some of the modification from the original include:

- The shape of the crest was made taller to make it more coin and patch friendly.
- Inclusion of seven stars to signify the seven battle stars earned by the Battleship Colorado (BB 45) in World War II.
- Modifying the Latin phrase to "Terra Marique Indomita" which means "By land and sea, untamed". In this form the Latin implies that Colorado, or the "spirit" embodied by the name (the state, the vessel, the past vessels, the people), is untamed by either land or sea.
- The submarine was updated to look more realistic and added in a slight wake around it to highlight the reflection as being water and give the appearance of ship movement.
- Detail was improved in the mountains to improve realism.
- The sun was given a stronger gradient to give it a better appearance of the sun resting on the horizon just over the mountains, this in order to emphasize the ties with the state's natural beauty and the beauty of technological prowess that is USS Colorado.



USS Illinois Christened

On Saturday, October 10, 2015 USS Illinois was Christened at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, CT. The First Lady, Michelle Obama, is the Ship's sponsor, and Committee Chair John "J. J." Mackin and his wife, Florence, were present to witness the breaking of the bottle of a bottle of sparkling wine over the sail of ILLINOIS. USS Colorado (SSN 788) will be the next boat to be christened at Electric Boat in Groton, expected sometime in the late spring - early summer of 2016.

First USS Colorado's Ship's Bell Arrives in Colorado

In ceremonies held on Veteran's Day, the University Memorial Center at CU Boulder unveiled the ship's bell from the first USS Colorado which was commissioned in 1858 and saw service in the Civil War. The 832 Pound bell arrived just the day before from the Navy History and Heritage Command in Virginia.

This bell got around. It was also used on the second USS Colorado (ACR 7) commissioned in 1905. That vessel was renamed USS Pueblo in 1916 to allow the name to be used for the battleship USS Colorado. Carlos Garcia, Executive Director of the UC (Boulder) Memorial Center recently discovered that between use on the two ships, the bell served on the Monitor USS Puritan BM-1 from 1896 until she was decommissioned in 1903. The Puritan was a Monitor class ship that served during the Spanish-American War and the 2nd of 5 ships called the USS Puritan. The bell was removed from the USS Pueblo in August or September 1931 during scrapping and transferred to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, IL for display. The bell was transferred to the Navy History Center (now called Naval History and Heritage Command) in November of 2004 until it was transferred to CU Boulder.

After the annual Veteran's Day ceremony in the Glen Miller Ballroom a reception was held in a nearby room the new bell proudly on display. USS Colorado Commissioning Committee had a table with merchandise for sale and a model of SSN 788 by model maker and retired Navy E-9, Jon Sorenson.

With the acquisition of the new bell, the University will be expanding the University Memorial Center to accommodate it.

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Currently the center has the bell and helm from the battleship Colorado, a 40 inch model of the ship and plaques honoring CU alumni who lost their lives in the service of our country.



December Crew Visit

Five sailors from USS Colorado will visit the state on December 13th through the 15th. Four will be here to be honored as "Bronco Country Heroes" during halftime of the Broncos-Raiders game on the 13th. Participating in this event will be Chief of the Boat, ETCM Brett Jackson along with MM1 Ryan Zabka, YN2 James Brown and MM2 Derrick Altenburger.

The fifth sailor, STSSN Brayden Kane of Brighton, Colorado has just met all the requirements to earn his submarine dolphins, the submarine warfare insignia. He will coming to Colorado in order to have his Dolphin Award ceremony here so that his family may attend. The ceremony will occur at 10 AM on Monday December 14th in the Rotunda of the State Capitol. WWII Submarine Veteran Andy Palenchar will present the Dolphins with submarine sailors and veterans in attendance.

During the visit the sailors will make several school visits and be available for media interviews. On Tuesday evening, December 15th there will be a reception in their honor. More details of this event to follow.

Left Hand Brewing to Make USS Colorado Beer

Left Hand Brewing Company of Longmont will be creating limited release beer to celebrate USS Colorado's Christening and Commissioning ceremonies. The beers will be released for approximately one month surrounding each of those ceremonies. The specific markets to be served are

still under development. More details will be finalized when the dates for the respective ceremonies are determined.

During the December Crew visit the sailors will visit the brewery for a VIP tour.

AAA to Offer Travel Packages to Groton

Committee representatives recently met with AAA Colorado to discuss travel to the Christening and Commissioning events. AAA will be the official travel agent for the Committee and will construct travel packages for those wishing to travel to Groton for the ceremonies. When the dates of the respective events are know, we will have information on our web site about the packages and how to sign up.

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 another \$50,000 in pledges.

We would like to thank all who have contributed to our campaign so far. In particular we would like to thank Mr. Patrick Meyers and our corporate sponsors Cogitic Corp. and Barber-Nickols Inc.

We would especially like to thank our presenting sponsor MDC/Richmond American Homes Foundation for their generosity and support.

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.

If you would interested in contributing to the campaign, please visit the Sponsorship page on our web site usscoloradocommittee.org.

Spring Fund-raising Auction Planned

Planning is underway for a major fund-raising event in the spring that will feature both live and silent auctions. We are currently looking at a May 14 date to hold the event. Stay tuned as more details become available.

I anyone has any items that they would like to donate for either the live or silent auction, please contact us at info@usscoloradocommittee.org.



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