



USS Colorado (SSN 788)
Commissioning Committee
Newsletter # 40
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CBS4 Denver Does Story on USS Colorado

During the week of February 4th, CBS4 Denver ran a series of stories about USS Colorado (SSN 788). Reporter Dominic Garcia and Photojournalist Rob McClure visited the boat in in December in Groton and interviewed several of the crew.

The first episode focused on two sailors from Colorado who currently serve onboard, Petty Officer Paul Niswonger, who attended Heritage High School, and Lt. Quinlan Melvin, a graduate of Arapahoe High School and the Colorado School of Mines. Also interviewed was ETN1 Joseph Gaines, who participated in the first crew visit to Colorado in April 2015.



The second episode featured a WWII veteran of service on the third USS Colorado, BB45, Ernest Lowery who lives in Colorado. Ernest was wounded twice on the battleship during the campaigns in the Pacific. The story took him to the University Memorial Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder, which holds several artifacts from the battleship. The episode also showed a platform in the Control Room made from the teak decking of Battleship Colorado. This platform is where the Officer of the Deck stands his watch while underway submerged.

The third episode showed interior shots of the submarine, including the Colorado nature photography of John Fielder which decorates the crew's mess, bringing a bit of Colorado to the otherwise stark interior. They interviewed the Com-

manding Officer and showed the papers with the signatures and good wishes from the people of Colorado that the Commissioning Committee gathered at the Capitol on Colorado Day last year as well as talking about the heritage of previous USS Colorado's.

CBS4 is planning a half-hour story about USS Colorado to air in April.

Visit our [website](#) for links to the stories.

Military Appreciation Day at Capitol

On the first of February, the Capitol held the annual Military Appreciation Day. The Commissioning Committee joined with members from the new long-term support organization, USS Colorado Submarine Association, in staffing a table at the event. This was the fifth year that the Committee has participated in this event to raise awareness the boat. Our message this year emphasized continuing support for the crew over the long term now that Commissioning is behind us. Our members interacted with state legislators, Colorado National Guard officials and the general public spreading the word.



New Organization Moves Forward

USS Colorado Submarine Association formed in December, has recently received approval as a non-profit organization (501(C)(3)) from the IRS and is starting to engage with the crew. The new association is led by Don Price, a former submariner. Others on the Board are Jim De Francia, Vice President, Mark Nelson, Secretary, Florence Mackin, Treasurer, and 'JJ' Mackin, Past President. The Commissioning Committee has transferred their residual funds to the new Association to get them started.

The Association has already reached out to support the Family Readiness Group by sponsoring a family event while the boat was at sea. They are also procuring a special flag for the submarine.

As soon as the membership policies are established and the web site operational, the new association will be fully operational. The Commissioning Committee's last newsletter will link to the Association's new web site. Our current email list will become the list for the Association and the Facebook page will be re-branded.



USS Colorado FRG Blanket Sale

USS Colorado Family Readiness Group (FRG) is the group organized to support families of USS Colorado sailors, especially while the boat is deployed. They are raising funds to organize morale boosting events for crews and families. by selling special USS Colorado blankets. These high quality knit blankets are inscribed with the ship's crest and are 53" wide by 71" long. The cost is \$55.00 without personalization, or \$60.00 with personalization up to 18 characters.

If you are in need of some warmth on these cold winter nights and would like to take this opportunity to support our namesake submarine you may order online with this [Goggle Blanket Order Form](#) . There is also a children's blanket available.

