



# USS Colorado (SSN 788) Submarine Association Newsletter January 2024

## COLORADO Returns From Deployment

On December 19 USS Colorado (SSN 788) arrived home in Groton, CT after a six month deployment. It was a cold day in Groton but that did not dampen the enthusiasm for the large crowd of family and friends on hand to meet them. They were welcomed with music from a Navy band. Speaking with Squadron 4 personnel, by all measures it was a highly successful deployment. Eight members of our USS Colorado Support Association travelled to Groton to be part of the welcoming celebration. The Association created a specially designed challenge coin commemorating the boat's third deployment and provided one to each member of the crew.



## COLRADO Wins Battle E

Congratulations to the crew of USS Colorado on winning the Battle 'E' for their Squadron. The Battle E is awarded to the submarine in each squadron rated number one in warfighting readiness. Additionally the crew won the Medical "M", Cyber "C", Navigation "N", and Supply "S" awards. This is quite an accomplishment!



## USS Colorado (SSN 788) Submarine Association

[usscoloradosubassoc.org](http://usscoloradosubassoc.org)

### Change of Home Port

The boat will be changing home port to Pearl Harbor this spring to undergo an extended maintenance period in Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and will be transiting under the ice and over the North Pole to get to Hawaii!

### New XO

The Executive Office, LCDR Matt Sweezy has been relieved by LCDR Eric Stromme. LCDR Sweezy will report as Executive Officer of Pre-commissioning Unit (PCU) Columbia (SSBN-826). When commissioned USS Columbia (SSBN-826) will be the first of the new Columbia Class SSBN's that will replace the current Ohio Class.

### BB-45 Pictures at History Colorado

Dr. Chris Juergens and his colleague Sidney Mauck from History Colorado addressed the Denver Council of the Navy League on Friday January 18. Part of their presentation fo-



cused on their work on the USS Colorado (BB 45) photographs. Our Association had funded the work of an intern at the museum and that person was successful in digitizing some 1300 original photographs from the life of the battleship. These photographs are available online at the History Colorado website: <https://www.historycolorado.org>

### Deployment Support

Earlier in the deployment a number of students from the fourth and fifth grades of Mission Viejo Elementary School took time to write letters to crew members of USS Colorado. Upon receiving the letters the crew returned the favor, responding personally to the fifteen students who wrote letters. In addition, the Commanding Officer, CDR David Beam, wrote a letter to the principal expressing their gratitude, saying in part: "The men of USS COLORADO have all been warmed by the wonderful letters the students have written ... We have been posting a couple of the letters at a time in our main passageway and it has become a cause for excitement each time a letter from Mission Viejo Elementary School appears"

The Commanding Officer also sent along an American Flag which had been flown from the bridge of USS Colorado during a recent surface transit while on their current deployment.

While visiting the boat after it's arrival in Groton, Association members noted a number of these letters posted on a bulletin board in the passageway.

### Support the Crew - Become a Member

If you are interested in more actively supporting the crew and families of USS Colorado, consider becoming a member of the USS Colorado Submarine Association. Membership dues contribute to crew and FRG morale boosting activities.

### Check Us Out:

<https://usscoloradosubassoc.org/join-us>



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