



The state of Colorado has been honored by the naming of a Navy capital ship after the state. USS Colorado (SSN-788) is the 15th Virginia Class nuclear attack submarine and currently under construction at Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, CT. Commissioning is expected to occur in late 2016 or early 2017.

The commissioning of a naval vessel marks the point when it becomes an active ship of the United States Navy. The ceremony is one of the most important traditional ceremonial milestones in the life of the ship. It is a day of celebration for the ship's crew, the overall Navy, the shipbuilder and the namesake constituents. For USS Colorado those constituents are all citizens of our great state. The Navy owns the commissioning ceremony itself, but over the years a number of traditional events during Commissioning Week have developed which are the responsibility of the commissioning community. The USS Colorado Commissioning Committee has been formed to address those needs.

The committee's purposes are to promote awareness of USS Colorado within the state, provide support for the crew, and to help organize and raise money for the events surrounding commissioning. We seek to foster a long term relationship of support by our state for those who sail in our namesake submarine.

The Committee's goal is to raise \$400,000. This money will go to:

- Pay for the expected receptions and other events surrounding commissioning. These events honor the crew who have worked so hard during the construction period to ready this submarine to join the fleet.
- Fund periodic trips for selected crew members to visit the state so that the citizens of Colorado come to know and appreciate the high caliber of sailor defending their freedom. In turn we want these sailors to learn to love Colorado as we do.
- Provide for habitability upgrades to the submarine to improve the working environment for the crew while they are at sea, sometimes for months on end.

Any money raised in excess of these requirements will be donated to benefit the crew and their families and to promote the continued relationship with the state.

The Committee is asking for the State to support this effort with an appropriation of \$200,000.

This type of support has been provided for other recently commissioned submarines. New Mexico appropriated \$300,000 for the commissioning of USS New Mexico (SSN 779) in 2010 and North Dakota appropriated \$200,000 for USS North Dakota (SSN 784) in 2014.