



U.S.S. Missouri Commissioning Committee Virginia-Class Submarine

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MEDIA ADVISORY

***U.S.S. Missouri* Christening Ceremony Set for Saturday in Conn.**

Dec. 2, 2009—The christening ceremony for the *U.S.S. Missouri* (SSN-780), the Navy's newest nuclear attack submarine, is scheduled for 11 a.m., Sat., Dec. 5, at the General Dynamics Electric Boat Division ship-building facility in Groton, Conn.

Several Kansas City-area individuals, many representing corporate sponsors of the U.S.S. Missouri Commissioning Committee, will attend. Corporate sponsors include Boulevard Brewing Co., Burns and McDonnell, Kansas City Southern Charitable Fund, Parisi Artisan Coffee and Pelopidas LLC. Members of the Greater Kansas City Council of the Navy League of the United States also will attend the ceremony.

Christening and commissioning activities are important milestones in the history of a U.S. Navy ship. The highlight of the christening ceremony will involve the ship's sponsor breaking the ceremonial bottle of champagne against the bow of the new boat. The *Missouri* will then be moved from its land berth to the water.

Sponsoring the *Missouri* will be Mrs. Rebecca W. Gates, wife of current Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

Once trial runs for the *Missouri* are completed over the next several months, the boat will be commissioned in the summer of 2010. By law, federal funds cannot be used to commission Navy ships, so private funds must be raised. The U.S.S. Missouri Commissioning Committee is an IRS-designated nonprofit organization formed to raise \$300,000, with any additional funds raised designated to pay for crew members' travel expenses in case of family medical emergencies.

The *Missouri* will be the seventh Virginia-class nuclear attack submarine, all of which have been named for states. The Navy intends to build 30 submarines of this class by 2020 to replace the Los Angeles-class submarines that have been in service since the 1980s.

For photo or video requests related to the christening ceremony, contact Dave Griffith in Jefferson City, Mo., (573) 301-6259 or dgriffith@krcg.com.

Donations in support of the U.S.S. Missouri Commissioning Committee may be sent to 3220 W. Edgewood, Suite B, Jefferson City, Mo. 65109. Visit www.ussmissourisubmarine.org for more information.