



Capital Campaign Now Underway to Commission MISSOURI (SSN 780) Nuclear Attack Submarine *Raising \$300,000 is the Goal for Summer 2010 Ceremony*

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. – A year-long capital campaign to raise \$300,000 to officially commission the U.S. Navy’s newest Virginia-class nuclear attack submarine, the MISSOURI (SSN 780), was launched at a news conference on Aug. 21 at the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial. The event brought the boat’s commanding officer and some of her crew together with members of the Kansas City business community who have pledged to support the campaign. Also attending were members of the Naval Reserves and other veterans from across the Kansas City metro area.

Navy CDR Timothy A. Rexrode, commanding officer of the MISSOURI, spoke about the how the Navy’s newest nuclear attack submarine will be a state-of-the-art vessel.

"MISSOURI along with other submarines, enabled by a combination of nuclear propulsion, stealth, firepower and forward presence, are often the only component of the joint force able to gain assured access in the early stages of a maritime contingency or campaign," Rexrode said.

Rexrode also recognized the other MISSOURI crewmembers attending today’s event, including Senior Chief Petty Officer William “Billy” Williams; Chief Culinary Specialist Travis Miller; and Second Class Petty Officer Ryan Thruston, who is a native of Jefferson City, Mo.

The capital campaign is sponsored by U.S.S. MISSOURI Commissioning Committee in conjunction with the Greater Kansas City Council of the Navy League of the United States and corporate sponsors led by Burns and McDonnell, Kansas City Southern Charitable Fund, Parisi Artisan Coffee, a division of Paris Brothers Coffee, and Pelopidas LLC.

“Burns and McDonnell has a long history of partnership with the U.S. Navy and with Electric Boat in Groton, Conn., where the MISSOURI is being built,” said Greg Graves, Chairman and CEO of Burns and McDonnell. “We are proud to be part of the continuing legacy of vessels with the name ‘MISSOURI’ that have served our country.”

Also making remarks at the news conference were Bill Kanaga, President of the Greater Kansas City Council of the NLUS; Greg Graves, Chairman, President and CEO of Burns and McDonnell; and Mike Haverty, Chairman and CEO of Kansas City Southern and Scott Presnell, Director of Marketing for Parisi Artisan Coffee.

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“The fact that the Navy is constructing a new vessel that will be christened the U.S.S. MISSOURI should make Missourians very proud,” said retired RADM Stanton Thompson, a native of the state and co-chairman of the commissioning committee. “Vessels named Missouri have made historic contributions in service to our country.”

By law, federal funds cannot be used to commission Navy vessels, so private funds must be raised. The U.S.S. MISSOURI Commissioning Committee was formed as an official, IRS-designated 501(c)3 nonprofit.

Prior to the news conference, the MISSOURI crew toured the National World War I Museum. The crew also attended a fundraising dinner in their honor the night before. The dinner was scheduled to raise at least \$15,000.

To Donate to the U.S.S. MISSOURI Commissioning Capital Campaign:

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to the U.S.S. MISSOURI Commissioning Fund, P.O. Box 144, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0144.

Facts about the MISSOURI:

The MISSOURI will be the seventh Virginia-class nuclear attack submarine, all of which have been named for states. The Navy intends to have 30 submarines of this class built by 2020 to replace the Los Angeles-class submarines that were built in the 1980s and 1990s.

The MISSOURI was built by the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics in Groton, Conn. Her keel was laid Sept. 27, 2008. She displaces 7,800 tons with a length of 377 ft. and hull diameter of 34 ft. She can reach a maximum depth of greater than 800 ft. The MISSOURI is armed with four 21-inch torpedo tubes and 12 Vertical Launch Missile Tubes capable of firing Tomahawk cruise missiles.

The boat will have a crew of 136, including 15 officers, 17 chief petty officers and 104 enlisted crew members.

This will be the fifth vessel named “MISSOURI.” The first vessel so named was one of the first steam warships in the Navy. The most famous namesake was the battleship MISSOURI (BB-63), the last battleship constructed by the United States. During World War II, she bombarded the shores of Okinawa during the invasion of the island, and she served as the site of the Japanese surrender ceremonies that ended the conflict. MISSOURI also saw combat during the Korean War. A recommissioned battleship MISSOURI (BB-63) was used in action during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

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