

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**Commissioning Capital Campaign Gets Underway
for U.S.S. MISSOURI Nuclear Attack Submarine
News Conference Set for Aug. 21 at National World War I Museum**

Contact:

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. – A year-long capital campaign to raise funds to officially commission the U.S. Navy’s newest Virginia-class nuclear attack submarine, the U.S.S. MISSOURI (SSN 780), will launch with a news conference at 10 a.m., Friday, Aug. 21, in the J.C. Nichols Auditorium at the National World War I Museum.

The news conference will feature remarks by Navy CDR Timothy A. Rexrode, prospective commanding officer of the MISSOURI. Three of the MISSOURI’s crew members also will be present: 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 and Paris Brothers Coffee.

Also making remarks at the news conference will be Bill Kanaga, President of the Greater Kansas City Council of the NLUS; Greg Graves, Chairman and CEO of Burns and McDonnell; and Mike Haverty, Chairman and CEO of Kansas City Southern.

“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.”

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, along with the other Virginia -class submarines, use state-of-the-art electronics combined with unmatched stealth, firepower and nuclear endurance to preserve national interests around the globe,” Thompson said.

The MISSOURI was built by the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics in Groton, Conn. The boat will have a crew of 136. The commissioning ceremony is scheduled for summer 2010. By law, federal funds cannot be spent to commission Navy ships, so private funds must be raised. The U.S.S. MISSOURI Commissioning Committee is a nonprofit organization formed to raise the needed money.

This will be the fifth vessel named “MISSOURI” in the Navy. The first vessel so named was one of the first steam warships in the Navy. The battleship MISSOURI (BB-63) served as the site of the Japanese surrender ceremonies that ended World War II. A recommissioned battleship MISSOURI (BB-63) was used in combat during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

The news conference will be preceded by a tour for the MISSOURI crew members of the World War I Museum, which begins at 9 a.m. The World War I Museum is located at the Liberty Memorial, 100 W. 26th St., Kansas City, Mo. 64101.

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