



# The ANCHOR



December, 2012

Welcome to the December 2012 issue of your *The Anchor*, the newsletter of the Nebraska Admirals Association (NAA). Thank you for your support, physically, emotionally and financially. Members make this all happen.

We want to share with everyone, some of the happenings since our last newsletter in July of 2012.

Following the Presentation of the Scholarships at the 2012 NAA Annual Meeting held at the Stuhr Museum in Grand Island, last April, we have some follow-up information. We would like to share some of the "Thank You" s that were sent to the membership of the NAA. That story starts on this page. See UNL and UNK Thank The NAA Membership for Funding the Scholarship Program

This year's Operation Ornament was a big hit to all that made and delivered the handmade Christmas Tree Ornaments. It is always such a pleasure to participate in a project that brings so many smiles to so many faces. That story is on page 2. Operation Ornament

In September, the NAA was able to host sev-

eral members of the USS Nebraska SSBN 739. The visit is always a special treat for those NAA members who are able to travel with the sailors. That story is on page3.

On June 25, 2012, several Members of the NAA attended the ship-naming ceremony for the USS Omaha (LCS-12) at the Lewis and Clark Landing, in Omaha, Neb. That story is on page4.

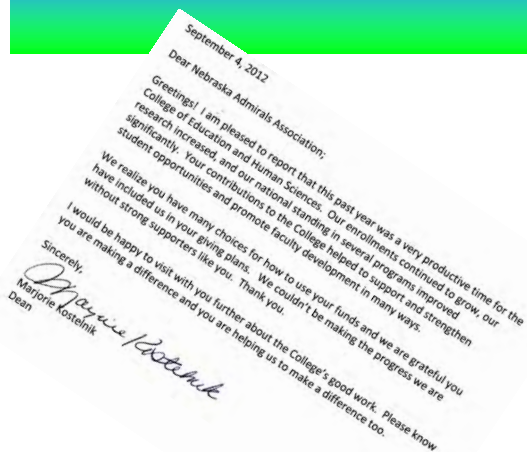
The 2013 Annual Meeting will be in Omaha this year in April. Keep an eye open for additional information. We will be using the NAA web site, email and the US Postal Service. That story is on page 5.

Progress in reducing costs by electronic communications (email, Facebook, Web Site). That story is on page 6.

Don Sluti of Kearney is our newest Board Member. Don has volunteered to be our Historian and Web Administrator. Thank you Don. You can see a listing of all the NAA Board Members on page 6 of this issue of *The Anchor*.

## UNL AND UNK THANK THE NAA MEMBERSHIP

## FOR FUNDING THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



The College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, annually has a Scholarship Donor Luncheon. This year's Luncheon was held at the Lied Center, Lincoln, October 26, 2012. Representing the NAA, were Jerry and Mary Decker and Guy and JoAnn Miller, all of Lincoln.



(Continued on page 2)



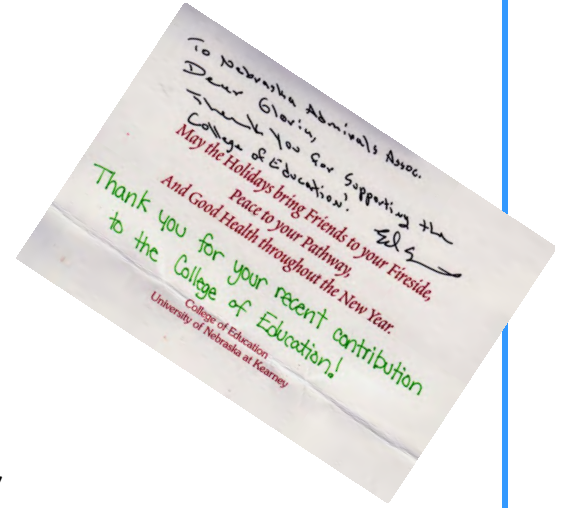
(Continued from page 1)

Scholarship recipients are recognized and the Donors are thanked. It was an honor to be part of the representation of the Nebraska Admirals Association.

Sharing our (the Deckers and the Millers) table were our two NAA UNL scholarship winners, Megan Lehl and Elizabeth Jamrog, along with Melanie Kellogg, Assistant to the Dean College of Education and Human Science, and Dr. Jon Petersen, Associate Dean. Dr. Petersen is Professor - Teaching Learning and Teacher Education; Director, Center for Science Mathematics and Computer Education, and he was also one of the Program Speakers for the afternoon.



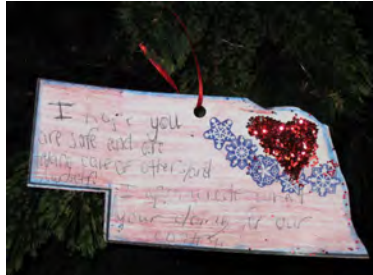
Pictured, L to R, are Megan Lehl, Melanie Kellogg, Jon Petersen, and Elizabeth Jamrog



This event was full of Thanks. The staffs at UNL & UNK work very hard for their students. The students and staff are very appreciative of this support to education. We want to be sure to relay that appreciation to all of the NAA members and supporters. Thank You.



In God We Trust. We appreciate everything you guys do! Thanks!



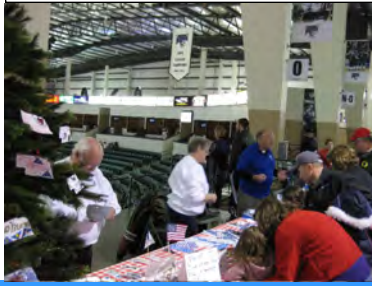
I hope you are safe and are taking care of others and yourself. I appreciate what your doing for our country

**Operation Ornament:** This year's Operation Ornament started in November. Preparation of the Christmas Tree Ornaments started on November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Hilltop Mall, Kearney, and then again, the next day, on Veteran's

Vaughn Wiebusch delivers another Ornament to this US Veteran at the Eastern Nebraska Veteran's Home in Bellevue, Nebraska. **Merry Christmas and Thank You for your service.**



Below - Jack, Janice & Don Working the table during the Hockey Game.



Above - Admirals Vaughn & Rob Wiebusch (father and son) left an Ornament for Admiral / Veteran Leonard Blass (102 yrs young) residing at the Eastern Nebraska Veteran's Home.

Day, Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Vi-aero Event Center before and during the Hockey Game.



Let the pictures speak.

Even three purple guys made ornaments!

## USS NEBRASKA (Blue) Crew Visits Kearney Area



(L to R) □ ITS2 Gordon Mills (IT & Strategic Navigation) □ LTJG Adam Stanton (Chemistry & Radiological Controls Assistant) and his wife, Stephanie □ ET1 Byron Swaim (Sailor of the Year candidate) □ COB (Chief of Boat) STSC5 Charlie Barton □ STS3 Michael Arenare (Sonar-Junior Sailor of the Year candidate) □ CDR Jason Wartell and his wife Tammy.



At the Petersen Senior Activity Center, CDR Jason Wartell speaks while the rest of the crew visits around the dining area.



At the Petersen Senior Activity Center, Mr. Stanton and his wife, Stephanie share time with Kearney area residents.

On September the 9<sup>th</sup>, crewmembers from the USS Nebraska SSBN 739 visited the Kearney area where several of the local NAA Members arranged for a day of sightseeing and visits. It was hard to tell who enjoyed the day the most, the Sailors or the Nebraskans who met the crewmembers.

Thank you to those Kearney area individuals and organizations that extended Nebraska hospitality to the fine young men and their ladies, from the USS Nebraska.

**THANKS:**

- ◆ To The Great Platte River Road Monument and Gary Roubicek, Executive Director. Thanks for the complimentary breakfast and tours for the visitors.
- ◆ TO The Petersen Senior Activity Center. Thanks for the hospitality and the opportunity for the crew and for the Kearney citizens to exchange thanks, care, and love.
- ◆ To Royal Composites, Minden. The crews, who get to visit Royal Composites, always enjoy the opportunity.
- ◆ To the Bethany Lutheran Church and Pastor Evenson for the coffee, printed history sheets and tour of the church?

*(Continued on page 5)*



Axtell Public Schools Principal, Bill Gilbreath accepts a commemorative plaque from CDR Wartell.



The Axtell Schools called an assembly so that they could learn from the crewmembers of the nuclear submarine USS Nebraska .



Cookie goodies from Morgan and the Cookie Lady (DeAnna Anderberry).

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus hosted a ship naming ceremony in honor of the littoral combat ship (LCS) **USS Omaha**, June 25, at 10 a.m. CDT at Lewis and Clark Landing, in Omaha, Neb.



**USS OMAHA (LCS 12)**

Artist rendition of USS Omaha (LCS 12)

The future USS Omaha LCS 12 is the fourth Navy vessel to bear the name. The Independence class is a class of littoral combat ships built for the United States Navy.

The hull design evolved from a project at Austal to design a 40-knot cruise ship. The Independence class was proposed by General Dynamics and Austal as a contender for USN plans to build a fleet of small, multi-purpose warships to operate in the littoral zone. Two ships were approved, for a



Pictured (L - R) Representing the NAA are, NAA Fleet Admiral Jack McSweeney, NAA Chief Yeoman Janice Wiebusch, Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle, and NAA Public Affairs & Operations Officer, Vaughn Wiebusch.

construction contract of up to 55 vessels.

As of 2010, the lead ship (Independence), is active, while a second ship, (Coronado), is under construction. Despite initial plans to only accept one of the Independence class, the USN has requested that



The ceremony presented by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus.

Congress order ten additional ships, for a total 12 ships.

The Omaha, is an Independence variant of the LCS class. The Omaha was named to honor the patriotic, hard-working citizens of Omaha and the state of Nebraska for their support of and

contributions to the military.

Littoral combat ships are fast, agile, focused-mission platforms designed for successful operations in near-shore and open-ocean environments. They are designed to defeat threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines, and fast surface craft.

The Omaha will be outfitted with reconfigurable payloads, called mission packages, which can be changed out quickly as combat needs demand. These mission packages are supported by special detachments that will deploy manned and unmanned vehicles and sensors in support of mine, undersea and surface warfare missions.

Austal USA in Mobile, Ala., will build the USS Omaha, which will be 419 feet in length, have a waterline beam of 103 feet, displace approximately 3,000 tons, and operate at speeds in excess of 40 knots.

In February 2012, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced that the fifth Independence-class littoral combat ship will be named USS Gabrielle Giffords, and the sixth USS Omaha.



Picture is the front and back of the personal coin of Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. This particular coin was given to Jack, by the Secretary of the Navy.

## 2013 Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Admirals Association

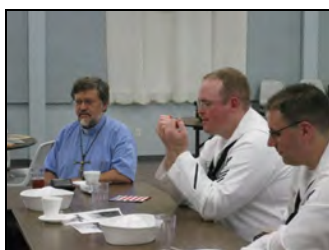
The 2013 Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Admirals Association, will be on April 6, 2013 in Omaha, at the Millard Roadhouse (13325 Millard Avenue, Omaha, NE 68137). The Board Meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. The Lunch and Scholarship Program is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Plan to attend the meeting, the luncheon, and meet the Scholarship recipients.

For new local information about Nebraska, we have organized a tour for the attendees, at the **LUCKY BUCKET BREWING COMPANY, LA VISTA, NE.** We will leave for the tour at 1:30 p.m.

The Quarterly Board meeting is to precede the Lunch and Scholarship Program at the Millard Roadhouse. Quarterly meetings are open to the general membership, whenever they can attend.



this is Bethany Church, south of Kearney. The crew is looking at the pipe organ, which the minister turned on so they could hear it. This church advertises in Nebraska Weddings as a special site to have a wedding!



Pastor Evenson of the Bethany Church, tells stories of long ago on the prairie.

### USS NEBRASKA (Blue) Crew Visits Kearney Area

*(Continued from page 3)*

◆ The Axtell Public Schools and Principal, Bill Gilbreath for his arranging this opportunity for his students and the Crew.

◆ To the Anderberry Family for opening their farm and their home.

In addition to the cookie presentation at school, DeAnna arranged for østkaka with lingonberries and whipped cream at the Bethany Lutheran Church.

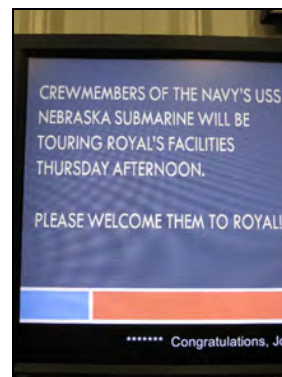


Thanks to the sailors of the USS Nebraska, our families are

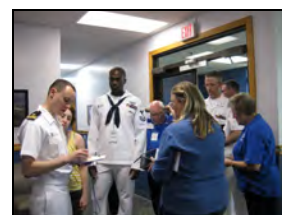
Definitely outstanding, but it's some one else's field!

At the Anderberry farm, where corn harvest was underway.

able to worry about the football and volleyball games. We don't worry about the bad guys. We know that the Nebraska is on patrol.—Thank you for your service!



The announcements screen at Royal Composites.



Signing in for the tour at Royal Composites in Minden.

Donations for the Scholarship Funding may be mailed to the Nebraska Admirals Association, at the address as shown at the top of this page, or use the credit card links on the Nebraska Admirals Association Website. These links will allow you to donate with the use of Pay Pal.,

Check out the Nebraska Admirals Association on Facebook too.

### NEBRASKA ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION

(A 501(c)3 non-profit organization)

PO BOX 83723

Lincoln, NE 68501

www.nebraskaadmirals.org



facebook

## Visit your Website

Memberships expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which they were paid. Dues are due on January 1st of each year.

(October, November, & December exception). Dues paid in October, November, or December, are considered to be paid in the following year.

If you receive your newsletter by US Mail, Please look for your Due date on your Newsletter mailing label.

[Snowbirds - PLEASE Read this](#)

### IF YOU HAVE YOUR MAIL FORWARDED



Some of our members get the opportunity to spend their winters in a much milder climate. The United States Post Office (USPO) will hold your mail for 30 days or forward it for a year. When you have your mail forwarded, we ask that you keep us in mind and remember that:

The United States Post Office will not forward your Newsletters.

If you have chosen to have your Newsletter come by United States Post Office, we need to know of any temporary address changes, or you will not get your Newsletter; your Nebraska Admirals Association has to pay to have it returned to us.

Please provide us:

1. Your Name
2. Home Address
3. Temporary Address
4. Date you expect to return to your home address:

If you would like to use the USPS:

Mail information to:

Nebraska Admirals Association

PO Box 83723

Lincoln, NE 68501

If you would like to use email:

Email to the NAA Editor at: [naaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:naaeditor@gmail.com)

Thank you very much.

### Current Nebraska Admirals Association (NAA) Board Members

#### Fleet Admiral

☺ Jack McSweeney — Kearney, NE

#### Chief of Staff

☺ Gloria LeDroit - Kearney, NE

#### Finance Officer

☺ Gerald Decker - Lincoln, NE

#### Quarter Master

☺ Eddie Biver - Omaha, NE

#### Scholarship Officer

☺ Dan LeDroit - Kearney, NE

#### Chief Yeoman

☺ Janice Wiebusch - Kearney, NE

#### Historian

☺ Don Sluti - Kearney, NE

#### Public Affairs & Operations Officer

☺ Vaughn Wiebusch - Omaha, NE

#### Editor & Membership Coordinator

☺ Guy Miller - Lincoln, NE

#### Non-Board Member Positions

#### Webmaster

☺ Don Sluti - Kearney, NE

**Electronic Mail update Report** - As we get ready for distribution of this issue of The Anchor, a review of our Membership List indicates that about 16- $\frac{1}{2}$  % of you have opted for your newsletter to be sent by email. Also about 7- $\frac{1}{2}$  % of you have requested to use only the US Postal Service. The 16- $\frac{1}{2}$  % of you that have opted for email are saving the NAA over \$140.00 in printing and postage for just one newsletter. If everyone could respond at this rate, we could save about \$700.00 per issue. Please consider asking to be on the email list.

Email to the NAA Editor at: [naaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:naaeditor@gmail.com) Thank you



**ALL HAIL HER ADMIRALTY!  
SHOW YOUR PRIDE IN THE NEBRASKA  
ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION**











Your purchases help fund the  
**NAA Scholarship and  
USS Nebraska Crew Hosting Programs.**

**Thank You**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Eddie Biber at 402-289-2807.

To Order any of the items above, please fill out this form and send along with your check made out to  
**NEBRASKA ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION to EDDIE BIWER, PO BOX 540484, OMAHA, NE 68154**

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	\$/EA.	QTY	SUB TOTAL
#1	Blank cards and envelopes featuring 3 each of: U.S.S. Centennial; U.S.S. Nebraska U.S.S. Nebraska submarine; and the Victoria. 12 total	<u>\$3.00</u>		
#2	Golden Lapel Pin	<u>\$4.00</u>		
#3	Anniversary Golden Lapel Pin. With Faux Diamond Accent	<u>\$7.50</u>		
#4	License Plate Holder (Silver frame with Blue plaques and white lettering)	<u>\$20.00</u>		
#5	Ball Cap with Screen printing	<u>\$8.00</u>		
#6	Nebraska Admirals Patch	<u>\$5.00</u>		
#7	Nebraska Admirals Association Flag (12" x 18")	<u>\$20.00</u>		
#8	Numbered Commemorative Coin	<u>\$15.00</u>		
#9	Scrambled Eggs	<u>\$3.00</u>		
#10	Polo Shirts	<u>\$25.00</u>		
Mail this form to:			Subtotal:	
Quartermaster Eddie Biwer PO BOX 540484, Omaha, NE 68154			Shipping & Handling: \$5.00	
			TOTAL ORDER AMOUNT:	

				
#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
				
#6	#7	#8	#9	#10

~ MISSION ~

NEBRASKA ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION's primary purpose is to organize the Admirals in the Nebraska Navy into a force for the promotion and enhancement of the "Good Life of the State of Nebraska," specifically:

- ⇒ To promote education and educational activities throughout the state
- ⇒ To promote tourism in the state
- ⇒ To promote Nebraska products
- ⇒ To enhance Nebraska's agricultural industry
- ⇒ To seek and save Nebraska's sea
- ⇒ To develop and maintain ports throughout the state
- ⇒ To enjoy fun activities such as "walking the plank"
- ⇒ To build Nebraska pride and esprit de corps
- ⇒ To recycle Nebraska's assets
- ⇒ To increase the fleet of flagships of the Nebraska Navy
- ⇒ To continue efforts to have U.S. Naval ships named after Nebraska, its people and places.

~ WHO ARE WE? ~

The Nebraska Admirals Association is a voluntary organization of those who, over the years, have received a commission as an Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska.

No governor has ever mobilized this vast storehouse of talent and ability for the good of Nebraska; it is estimated that over one hundred thousand Admirals have been appointed. Many Nebraskans and visitors to our state have not heard of our navy; they have not heard of the waves of prairie schooners that at one time plied our plains under which lies our real wealth---Nebraska's under-ground sea.

After receiving their commissions, many have asked, "Now that I am an Admiral, what are my duties, what can I do for Nebraska?" The NEBRASKA ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION has the answer to that question, and perhaps much more. Nebraskans who have earned an Admiral's commission are more serious about the coveted appointment.

NEBRASKA ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION members are enthusiastic about working for Nebraska and contributing in his or her own unique way.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 Lincoln NE 68501

