

# The Anchor

Nebraska Admirals Association

Winter 2019

www.nebraskaadmirals.org

*USS Omaha and USS Nebraska sailor visits, Operation Ornament, and more! There is no better way to welcome 2019 than with highlights and memories of the Nebraska Admirals.*

**O**peration Ornament, an annual community service project sponsored by the Nebraska Admirals Association just ended 2018 with a bang. This project, which started



during Operation Desert Storm, gives children the opportunity to be creative and to connect with active and retired members of the military. Over 1,000

ornaments adorned with glitter, stickers, and original artwork in the shape of

***“Please accept my sincerest gratitude for the one-of-a-kind Christmas tree ornaments...”  
Commander John Barrientos  
USS Omaha Blue***

Nebraska were delivered to the Blue and Gold crews of the USS NEBRASKA SSBN739 submarine stationed in Seattle, the Blue and Gold crews of the USS



OMAHA LCS-12 combat ship stationed in San Diego, as well as all veterans in the Grand Island, Scottsbluff, Norfolk, and Bellevue Nebraska Veterans' Homes. A



Chief of Staff Gloria LeDroit delivers ornaments to veterans at the Nebraska Veterans' Home in Bellevue.

huge thank you to the teachers and elementary students in Kearney, Sutherland, Grand Island, and Elkhorn, for making this annual project a success.



Commander John Barrientos of the USS Omaha Blue states it best:

"On behalf of the crew of USS OMAHA, please accept my sincerest gratitude for the one-of-a-kind Christmas tree ornaments you sent as part of "Operation Ornament." They were well received and put smiles on the faces of your sailors. I know the crew is looking forward to putting them on their Christmas trees. We'll make sure the crew on leave get their share and will send pictures when they get back. Thanks again, and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from USS OMAHA BLUE!"

CDR John Barrientos  
Commanding Officer  
USS OMAHA (LCS 12) BLUE



Several Admirals made personal deliveries to the Veterans' Homes. Thanks go to Annette Partridge and her husband, Elaine Sluti, Jack McSweeney, Janice Wiebusch, and Dan and Gloria LeDroit for honoring our veterans at Christmas.

Let's talk about membership in the Nebraska Admirals. As a current member, did you know that you can nominate a friend or family member for membership in our organization? In fact, "Each one Reach one!" is our goal. Once new members are nominated, their contributions to the state are checked out and verified. If they are deemed seaworthy, the Governor of the Great State of Nebraska will issue them an Admiral certificate.



This tradition started in 1931. Our association's first Chief of Staff was John Hanlon. He contrived a special ceremony for conferment of Admiral certificates that included "Walking the Plank" for new "recruits". Please help us keep our organization thriving by nominating new members!

Copy and paste the following link to access the membership form on the Nebraska Admirals webpage:  
[http://www.nebraskaadmirals.org/nomination\\_form.htm](http://www.nebraskaadmirals.org/nomination_form.htm)

Nebraska Admirals "represented" at the Nebraska State Fair's Opening Day Parade in Grand Island this past August. Members had fun and raised awareness of the efforts of our



organization. Members involved included Eddie Biwer, Dan and Gloria LeDroit, Don and Elaine Sluti, and Annette Partridge.



In September, the Admirals and the Big Red Sub Club welcomed the USS Nebraska SSBN 739 Gold Crew and the USS Omaha LCS 12 Gold Crew to the state. Members visited Beatrice, Lincoln, Omaha, and Nebraska City.

## Crew Notes:



Travis Brown serves as the COB (Chief of Boat) on the Blue Crew of Big Red; he's enjoyed 2.5 years on the sub so far



Vince McCall graduated from the Naval Academy in 2007 and is a Lieutenant Commander.

Lowell Maxwell hails from Iowa and has been on the Big Red for two years. He says working with the crew is a blast.

Jon Serry hails from Falls City, Oregon, but enjoys being with the Nebraska crew.

Cliff Demboski is from New Jersey. During his seven months aboard the NEBRASKA, he has specialized in working with the nuclear equipment. He really enjoyed visiting the State Capitol building and interacting with the locals.



The average crew member is just 23 years old!

Kyle Begalka, from Illinois, has been in the Navy two years. Most of that time has been spent onboard the NEBRASKA. He says the people here are really nice! He has enjoyed learning the history of the state and the sub, which was the first one in the Navy to have electronic navigational equipment.

Rear Admiral Bill Houston with StratCom was the guest speaker at the picnic.



in travel, tourism and hospitality— Nebraska’s third largest industry! This year, we also began providing support to the crews of the USS OMAHA littoral combat ship, which was commissioned in 2018.

**Important Notes:**

Dues are due! Nebraska Admirals Association dues have remained steady at just \$20 a year. There is also the option of paying lifetime memberships of \$250. Check your membership card to find out when your membership expires.

Our Association depends on your support to continue our connections with the USS NEBRASKA submarine crews and providing scholarships to juniors in the University of Nebraska system who major

The officers of the Association are all unpaid volunteers who believe in our

organization’s goals. Help us continue to provide and support these projects on your behalf and connect with new Admirals to share the fun and fellowship being an Admiral can bring.



**M**ark your calendar for Saturday, April 6, 2019. That is the date of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Nebraska Admirals Association being held in Grand Island. All Admirals in good standing in the Association and



their guests are invited to attend. The quarterly board meeting precedes the luncheon. Registration forms will be sent to all members with a Nebraska mailing addresses. A registration form will also be posted on our website for those out-of-state members who might like to attend. At this meeting, the 2019 scholarship winners will be recognized. The Association officers will also be elected for the next two-year term. Come join in the fun and camaraderie with your fellow Admirals!

## TRIVIA

**USS Nebraska** may refer to...

USS Nebraska was the name given to the never commissioned Kalamazoo-class monitor *Shakamaxon* in 1869.

USS Nebraska (BB-14) was a Virginia-class battleship from 1904 – 1923.

USS Nebraska (SSBN-739) is an Ohio-class submarine launched in 1992 and currently on active duty.





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

<p><b>Ball Cap with Screen printing</b> <b>\$8.00</b></p>	<p><b>License Plate Holder</b> <b>\$20.00</b> (Silver frame with Blue plaques and white lettering)</p>	<p><b>Nebraska Admirals Association Flag (12" x 18")</b> <b>\$20.00</b></p>
<p><b>Blank cards and envelopes</b> featuring 3 each of U.S.S. Centennial, U.S.S. Nebraska, U.S.S. Nebraska submarine, and the Viektorria. 12 total <b>\$3.00</b></p>	<p><b>Golden Lapel Pin</b> <b>\$4.00</b> <b>Anniversary Golden Lapel Pin With Faux Diamond Accent</b> <b>\$7.50</b></p>	<p><b>I Christen Thee, Nebraska...</b> <b>By Monty McCord</b> <b>Only a few copies left</b> <b>\$18.00</b></p>

<p><b>Plank Walk Patches</b> <b>\$5.00</b></p>	<p><b>Nebraska Coin Keychain</b> <b>\$7.50</b></p>	<p><b>Numbered Commemorative Coin</b> <b>\$15.00</b></p>
<p><b>Polo Shirts</b> <b>\$25.00</b></p>	<p><b>Scrambled Eggs</b> <b>\$3.00</b></p>	<p><b>Nebraska Admirals Patch</b> <b>\$5.00</b></p>
<p><b>We also have Sweatshirts, and Ladies crew neck t-shirts with the NAA logo \$25.00</b> <b>Your Purchases help fund the NAA Scholarship and Sailor Hosting Programs.</b></p>		

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Fcxkl' Qnqp' at 308-520-3870.

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 Ö5 J-8 'C@5CB, %\$\$' 95 GH8 'GH'  
NCFH< D@FH9zB9 6- %%%

ITEM	QTY	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Mail this form to:		Subtotal:	
Quartermaster David Olson		Shipping & Handling:	\$+ \$\$
1003 East D St		TOTAL ORDER AMOUNT:	
North Platte, NE 69101			

Nebraska Admirals Association  
P.O. Box 83723  
Lincoln, NE 68501



***In the Navy there are no windows, walls or bathrooms.***

*The Navy has rich diction, but don't get it mixed up. Ships don't have walls; they have bulkheads. They don't have windows; they have portholes. Your left side is your port side and the right side is starboard. The mess deck is where you eat and the deck is where you walk. Above your head is an overhead, not a ceiling or roof. If you need a toilet, you will find that in the head, and the rack is where you sleep.*