

The Anchor

Nebraska Admirals Association

Winter/Spring 2020

www.nebraskaadmirals.org

Christmas ornaments for service members and veterans and visits with the USS Nebraska and USS Omaha crews. Sail onward for highlights of the Nebraska Admirals.

The annual Nebraska Admirals Association Christmas Ornament project was a highlight of the season for our military personnel. Starting in October, various members of the Admirals contact schools to help



make the Nebraska-shaped Christmas ornaments that have been an NAA specialty since the days of Desert Storm, when they were sent to Nebraska National Guard troop groups overseas. As the National Guard folks began being sent individually, their mailing addresses were no longer available to the NAA. With the USS NEBRASKA sub being commissioned in 1993, the ornaments were sent to their crew.



When the USS OMAHA LCS was commissioned in 2018, it was added to the recipients for the ornaments. Several years ago, the four veteran's homes in Nebraska (located in Bellevue, Grand Island, Norfolk, and Scottsbluff) were included in the recipient list and teachers all over the state "enlisted" their students to help make enough ornaments so that each service member/veteran would get one.

Unfortunately, this year saw a drop in the number of ornaments received, but the two crews of the submarine and veterans in Bellevue and Kearney (at the new veteran's home that replaced the Grand Island facility) were very happy to receive ornaments. Our sincere apologies to those who missed out on receiving them this year. The members of the NAA promise to increase their "recruiting" for next year!

Thanks to all the teachers, students and Waterloo residents who created ornaments! Schools in Kearney, Alma, and Grand Island all participated. Our goal number is 1100 ornaments! On a side note, Gov. Pete Ricketts gifted a special-edition ornament to each of the sailors of the Blue & Gold crews of the USS OMAHA LCS this year.



Both crews made a visit to Nebraska in September. Pictured is LTJG James Gloria, a member of the Blue Crew of the USS NEBRASKA submarine, with Nebraska Admirals Chief of Staff, Gloria LeDroit. Arriving in Omaha, the crew members were welcomed by LeDroit and the Big Red Sub Club officer Randy Boldt. The Admirals and the BRSC joined together to provide #NEBRASKA STRONG T-shirts for all six crew members. Also in the “goodie bag” were key fobs, UNL football schedule cards and other goodies provided by Husker Hounds store in west Omaha.



A wine event was held at Deer Springs Winery in Lincoln. Both the Omaha and Nebraska crews were in attendance. With the USS OMAHA LCS crew jetting above the water on one side and the USS NEBRASKA submarine crew under the water on the other, it could be a “Jets vs Sharks” meeting.



At a farewell barbecue at Lake Manawa in September, Chief of Staff Gloria LeDroit spoke with USS NEBRASKA Blue Crew members about their visit to the namesake state. Here’s what they had to say:

Marco Rinauro-Salazar is a California native. A four-year resident on board the Nebraska sub, he serves as a logistic specialist for the crew. Marco enjoys being part of the crew and getting to visit the name-sake state. He really enjoyed seeing the sights and meeting the people.

Corey Coates is a native of Lake Stevens, Washington. In his fourth year in the Navy, Corey joined the NEBRASKA crew last April. Corey is a machinist's mate and an engine lab technician, working on the sub's reactor plant. He relates that the whole state he's gotten to visit has been very gracious to the crew. And he really likes the fruitcakes from Beatrice!!!

Billy Hawn is a torpedo man from Wisconsin in the Navy for 4 years. He is happy that 3.5 of those years have been on the NEBRASKA sub, which was "in his sights" from the beginning.

LTJG James Gloria joined the Navy after college, from Sparta, NJ. In his 3.5 years in the Navy, he served on the USS Bremerton and joined the NEBRASKA crew just 10 months ago. He really enjoyed the football game and all the events in Lincoln and was gratified to receive such open

appreciation from all the people he met.

Joe Hissong hails from Dearborn, Michigan, having served on the submarine for four years. Currently working as a machinist auxiliary specializing in hydraulic and atmosphere, he originally intended to be a corpsman, but no positions were available. He is enjoying his career with the Husker sub. He says the most fun time he has on the sub is when the crew is ready to get off the sub! After his stint in the Navy, he plans to pursue a nursing/medical career.

Thomas Sledge is the communications officer on board, having been in the Navy and aboard the Nebraska for all 3 years of his Navy career so far. He hails from New Haven, CT, and says his favorite thing about his visit here was meeting school kids. He really enjoyed it and would love to have had more time to visit more with the local folks.

Members of the USS Nebraska Blue Crew from left to right: Joe Hissong MMA2, Corey Coates MMN2, Billy Hawn TM2, Gavin Bilson LCDR Royal Navy, James Gloria LTJG, Marco Rinauro-Salazar LS2, Tom Sledge LT. Note: Bilson is with STRATCOM and is a Royal Navy submariner.





LCDR Gavin Bilson is a member of the British Royal Navy submarine force currently on assignment at Stratcom. He just arrived in August this year and specifically applied to be in Nebraska after visiting once.

Another Stratcom visitor was Capt. Brody Frailey, who plans to stay in Nebraska when he retires in a few years.

A special gift for the sailors was provided by the Cookie Lady (or the Kookie Lady!), who brought not only her special “Boomer” cookies, but also her new “LCS” cookies (littorally/literally caramel

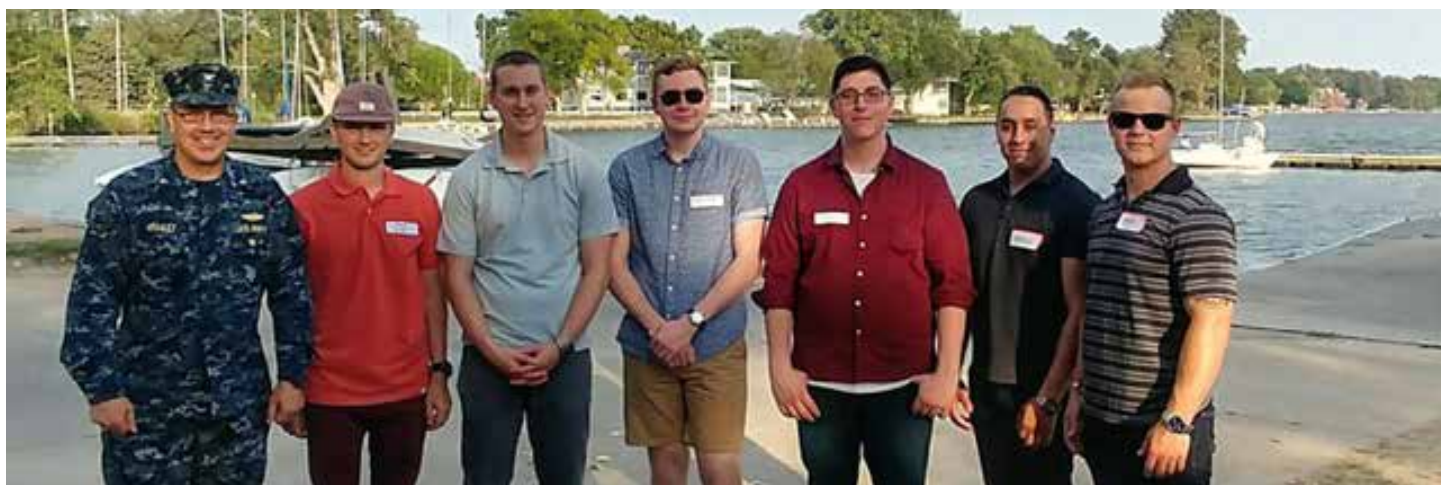
and sea salt) for them to try. Here’s hoping that the next joint visit of both “Jets” and “Sharks” will enjoy both cookie specialties! In addition to the cookies, Admiral DeAnna and her husband brought John Deere caps for all the guys. Some of the crew commented that they had seen some on citizen heads and the sailors were envious, so you’ll notice that the picture from page four shows them in their “green hats!”

P.S. The new cookies were designated with the “LCS” name, as the USS OMAHA is a littoral combat ship, which means it operates out of San Diego along the coastlines of the U.S.



Plan to set sail into Columbus for the 34th Annual Conference on April 4, 2020! Those members who have paid their 2020 dues are eligible to join in the board meeting, luncheon, scholarship recognition and afternoon tours. Since Columbus was the home of Andrew Higgins, the creator of the World War II landing craft (which Eisenhower said “won the war!”), you can expect that a brief tour of the Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial will be on the list! (BTW, the father of NAA Scholarship Officer Dan LeDroit piloted one of those in the Pacific!)

Since the Conference will occur BEFORE our next newsletter issue, you will want to check out our Facebook page (Nebraska Admirals Association) and/or our website at: www.nebraskaadmirals.org for more registration information.


















www.nebraskaadmirals.org

**NEBRASKA ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION to DAVID OLSON
223 W. 1ST STREET • NORTH PLATTE, NE 69101**

ITEM	QTY	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Mail this form to: Quartermaster David Olson 223 W. 1 st Street North Platte, NE 69101		Subtotal:	
		Shipping & Handling:	\$8.00
		TOTAL ORDER AMOUNT	

	Ball Cap with Screen printing \$8.00		Nebraska Admirals Association Flag (12"x18") \$5.00
	License Plate Holder (silver frame with blue plaques & white lettering) \$20.00		
	Blank Cards & Envelopes featuring 3 each of U.S.S. Centennial, U.S.S. Nebraska, & U.S.S. Nebraska submarine & the Viktoria 12 Total \$25.00		Plank Walk Patches \$5.00
	Numbered Commemorative Coin \$15.00		
	Polo Shirts \$25.00		
We also have Sweatshirts and Ladies crew neck t-shirts with the NAA logo Your purchases help fund the NAA Scholarship and Sailor Hosting Programs.		Nebraska Admirals Patch \$5.00	

Nebraska Admirals Association
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DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 1ST!
DID YOU SEND YOURS IN? THANKS!

This is the time of year when the Nebraska Admirals Association awards scholarships to juniors in the Hospitality, Restaurant & Tourism Management program! Watch for our next newsletter which will include the winners for 2020 and news about our 34th Annual Conference meeting in Columbus, NE!