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# NAVY LEAGUER

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**Please Note: All photos  
used in this issue of the  
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tographers for the use of  
their work**

**Date to Remember**

- July 31, 2010—Commissioning  
of the U.S.S. Missouri at  
Groton, Connecticut

## Representative Ike Skelton keynotes U.S.S. Missouri SSN-780 Christening

U.S. Congressmen Ike Skelton keynoted the Christening of the new Virginia Class Submarine, U.S.S. Missouri. The U.S.S. Missouri is the seventh in a class of Nuclear Attack Submarines. On a very cold and wet, December 5th, the families, guests and crew of the sub assembled at General Dynamics Electric Boat yard in Groton, Connecticut. Congressman Skelton noted that his connection to the Navy extended to his grandfather, Ike Skelton, who was a coal-stoker in third vessel named for our State, U.S.S. Missouri BB-11. He went on to say that the old battleship Missouri was part of the Great White Fleet that President Roosevelt sent on the around-the-world cruise. He noted that this marked the beginning of the United States as World Naval Power. Congressmen Skelton went on to say that with the U.S.S. Missouri BB-63 being stricken from the Naval Vessel Registry, that this name was available for naming this vessel after the 24th State of the Union. During the ceremony, Chairman Skelton presented the ship's crew with two flags: a Missouri state flag, which flew over the State Capitol in Jefferson City, and a United States flag, which has been flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington. For a full text of his speech, turn your web browser to <http://www.house.gov/skelton/releases.shtml>

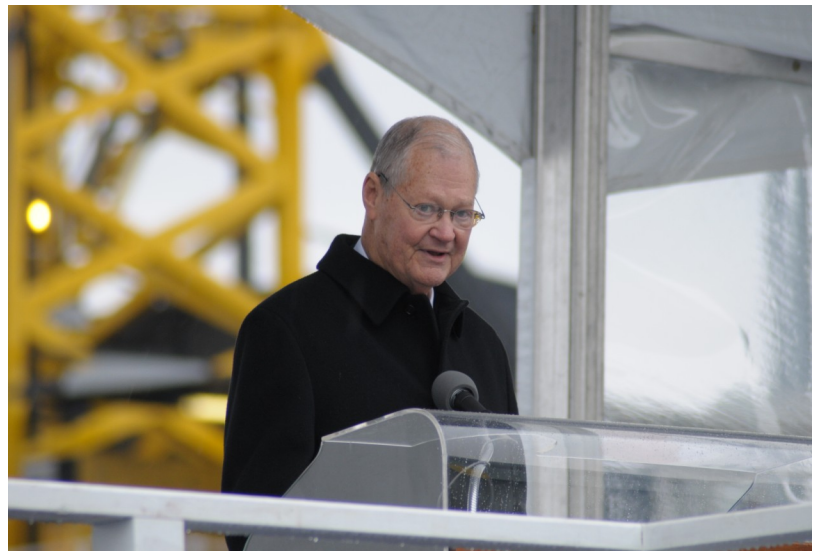




U.S.S. Missouri Christening—Supported by the Missouri National Guard. Brigadier General Steven Danner, the Adjutant General for the Missouri National Guard led a group of Missourians to the U.S.S. Missouri christening. He along with several members of his Air Guard, flew a C-130 of the 139th Squadron to Quonset Point National Guard Base in Rhode Island. The delegation included members of the Employers Support to the Guard and Reserves (ESGR). Members of the U.S.S. Missouri Commissioning Committee and Navy Leaguers from the St. Louis, Kansas City and Mid-Missouri Council were invited to fill out the space available on the aircraft. General Dynamics Electric Boat provided transportation to the hotel and christening. After the christening, there was a reception with dignitaries followed by a quick tour of the U.S.S. Nautilus and Museum. Photo shows General Danner alongside a life-size model of Bushnell's Turtle (with Revolutionary Sgt. Ezra Lee). Photo by Ed Gray NLUS Editor.

## More Photos from the U.S.S. Missouri Christening

Representative 4th Congressional District of Missouri and Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Ike Skelton delivering his keynote speech at the Christening of the U.S.S. Missouri SSN-780. (Left)



Below Ship Sponsor Rebecca Gates (Mrs. Robert Gates) and the crew of the U.S.S. Missouri at the Christening, December 5, 2009. Inset photo, Mrs. Gates gives the boat a good whack with the champagne provided by Stone Hill Winery of Hermann, Mo. The editor noted that some of the Missouri sports teams could use a 'hitter' like her.





U.S.S. Missouri—SSN-780 in basin for her Christening. A 75 foot Coast Guard Cutter is patrolling the Thames River and the USCGC Eagle—Nazi War Booty is tied up at the Coast Guard Academy Wharf. The Eagle, now WIX-327, was originally built as the Horst Wessel for the Kriegsmarine.



Left—Commanding Officer T.A. Rexrode, the Executive Officer Jessie Porter, and Chief of the Boat Reginald “Chevy” Brown on the foredeck of their newest charge, U.S.S. Missouri.

Ed’s Note #2

The Editor would also like to acknowledge the assistance of William “Billy” Fitzgerald of Electric Boat, who herded the National Guard, ESGR, and U.S.S. Missouri Commissioning Committee members to the various activities during the Christening of our new Submarine. Many thanks for the memories.



Upper Left—U.S.S. Missouri SSN-780 in her christening berth. Above—Capt Rexrode, Executive Officer Jessie Porter and Chief of the Boat Chevy Brown in front of the sail and the Great Seal of the State of Missouri. Left—Senator Claire McCaskill gave some poignant comments at the Christening.

We're on the Web  
[www.nlus.org](http://www.nlus.org)

#### A Message from Sam -

The Midwest Region of the Navy League has been involved in many things lately, the most important of which is the Commissioning of the Virginia Class Fast Attack Submarine—U.S.S. Missouri SSN 780. Commissioning is scheduled for July 31, 2010 in Groton, Connecticut and the Navy League is playing a very important role in the Commissioning. Navy League members from all over Missouri are serving on the U.S.S. Missouri Commissioning Committee and I am serving as Chairman.

All Navy League members and friends are invited to the Commissioning. We will be spotlighting Missouri and will serve Kansas City Barbeque, plus Boulevard Beer and Stone Hill Wine.

Central Travel of Jefferson City has put together several travel packages, hotel and tours for attendees. Contact Lois at 1-877 NAVY SUB (1-877-628-9782) or visit [www.navysub.us](http://www.navysub.us). The U.S.S. Missouri Commissioning Committee website is [www.ussmissourisubmarine.org](http://www.ussmissourisubmarine.org). Visitors to the website may purchase official ball caps, challenge coins and other appropriate souvenirs. You may also donate to the U.S.S. Missouri Commissioning Committee from this website. Many of our corporate sponsors have links to the website.

Hope to see you in Connecticut! Sincerely,

*Sam Bushman*