U.S.S. Missouri Commissioning Committee

SSN-780 Virginia-Class Submarine

Contact: Dave Griffith (Jefferson City), (573) 301-6259
Dan Lara (Kansas City), (913) 638-6105

U.S.S. Missouri Commissioning Committee Launches Web Site

Make Donations, Purchase Memorabilia, Learn *Missouri* History

The U.S.S. Missouri (SSN-780) Commissioning Committee has launched a web site at www.ussmissourisubmarine.org. Visitors can learn about the *Missouri*, the seventh nuclear attack submarine built in the U.S. Navy's new *Virginia*-class. The *Missouri* will be officially commissioned in late summer 2010. The boat was christened at the General Dynamics Electric Boat Division facilities in Groton, Conn., on Dec. 5.

The web site allows individuals to make secure donations to the Commissioning Committee via Paypal and purchase *Missouri* memorabilia like hats and a keepsake official *Missouri* coin that commemorates the boat. All proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the Commissioning Committee's efforts. The goal is to raise at least $300,000 to pay for commissioning activities for the *Missouri*, as well as to create a fund to help crew members with travel expenses home for family medical emergencies.

In addition, a link can be found to Kansas City corporate sponsor Parisi Artisan Coffee's Fuel the Future web site (http://fuelthefuture.org/fundraiser/). Parisi is one of several Missouri companies supporting the Commissioning Committee. The company has named one of its coffee blends "The Mighty Mo," in honor of the *Missouri*. The blend was chosen by *Missouri* crew members earlier this year as the official coffee for the boat.

The web site also has photos and other information about the history of ships named *Missouri*, from the 1841 side-wheel frigate to the famous World War II-era battleship (BB-63). The Navy intends to build 30 submarines of the *Virginia*-class by 2020 to replace the *Los Angeles*-class submarines that have been in service since the 1980s.

By law, federal funds cannot be used to commission Navy ships, therefore private funds must be raised. The U.S.S. Missouri Commissioning Committee is an official IRS-designated nonprofit organization. Those individuals wishing to mail their donations can do so to the U.S.S. Missouri Commissioning Committee, 3220 W. Edgewood, Suite B, Jefferson City, Mo. 65109.

Commissioning Committee on Facebook

The Commissioning Committee has a Facebook page. The committee encourages everyone interested in the latest *Missouri* news and to connect with *Missouri* fans to sign up at "SSN 780 USS Missouri Commissioning Committee."