



**VOLUME 13, Issue 2      APRIL 2011**

## **NEWS AND VIEWS ABOUT THE 739 CREWS**

**By Old "Doc" Randy Boldt, Co - Chair**

**Shipmates,**

Recall that in the January 2011 Newsletter, Co -Chair Dale Andersen reported that our USS Nebraska won the Battle E for 2010. Well, given our diverse membership, I began to wonder if all of us knew what the Battle E means and what it signifies to our Blue and Gold Crews and to all our ship serves. So this is an attempt to shed a bit more light on this very prestigious honor.

Even though the officers and men and (soon to be women) are all incredibly talented, good looking, and snappy dressers. The Battle E is certainly not a popularity or a beauty contest. The Battle E is shorthand for Battle Effectiveness Award, and is earned and given to a very small number of US Navy surface ships, submarines, aviation units, and other support units of the fleet. The USS Nebraska won the award over a one year period for being the best in it's class in readiness to carry out its assigned patrol and wartime tasks.

To qualify , much less win over other "Tridents" our ship had to win a minimum of 3 out of 4 Command Excellent Awards (Maritime Warfare, Command and Control, Engineering / Survivability, and Logistics Management). Only then would she be nominated by her immediate Superior Command. This is not just a snapshot performance. It requires rigorous day - to - day excellence stem to stern. The men of the USS Nebraska undergo frequent inspections and certifications in 16 different categories, among which are weapons and tactical readiness.

Members, We all know and love the men and silent mission the USS Nebraska carries out every day for the security of our state and nation. As they say however, this goes way beyond mission accomplishment. When we cheer the best ship under the seas, the Blue and Gold of Nebraska flat-out "Walk the Walk & Talk the Talk"..

**FAIR WINDS.....**

I am honored to have been the editor of the BRSC NEWSLETTER, and very sorry to have to give it up, but due to my eyesight problems, I must retire as Editor.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, Jerry Swift

BRSC Meeting  
20 APRIL 2011  
at 1600  
Great Western Bank  
9220 W Dodge Rd  
Omaha, NE

Next Crew Visit will  
be in June 2011 for  
NEBRASKAland  
DAYS in North Platte,  
NE.  
Dates will be 14 to 21

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## **NAVIGATING THE SEVEN SEAS**

Leadership Lessons of the First African American  
Father and Son to Serve at the Top in the U. S. Navy  
By

Master Chief Melvin G. William Sr, USN Retired &  
Vice Admiral Melvin G, Williams Jr, USN Retired



The Book **NAVIGATING THE SEVEN SEAS** written by VADM Melvin G Williams Jr USN Retired and MCPOC Melvin G Williams Sr USN Retired. Master Chief Melvin Williams Sr served on submarines, aircraft carriers & other surface ships from 1951 to 1978. Vice Admiral Melvin Williams Jr, a 1978 Naval Academy Graduate served on submarines, aircraft carriers, other surface ships & Joint & Fleet Commands from 1978 to 2010, nearly 60 consecutive years.

VADM Melvin G Williams Jr was Commanding Officer of the USS Nebraska SSBN 739 Gold Crew from 18 Aug 1994 to 17 June 1997.

This book may be ordered at your local book stores such as Amazon or Barnes and Noble, where they will order it for you at a cost of \$18.95 per book. Or by email, Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble.com.

It may be ordered from the U.S. Naval Institute by Members for \$12.32 per book and non-members \$18.95 per book at 1-800-233-8764 / [www.nip.org](http://www.nip.org).

For Gift Giving, Copies of the Book signed by the Authors are available for \$20.00 a Copy. Contact

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# STATEHOOD DINNER 4 MARCH 2011



L to R: Tom Plummer (Big Red Sub Club Member), Teresa Scanlan, 2011 Miss America, Commander Michael Fisher, the Commanding Officer of the USS Nebraska SSBN 739 Gold, DiAnna Schimek a Former Nebraska State Senator, and Allen Beermann ( Big Red Sub Club Member) cutting the Official Cake for Nebraska Statehood Dinner. On the cake were the Nebraska Seal and the USS Nebraska SSBN 739 Logo.

Article by Jerry Swift

Photo by Chris Ruhaak

L to RL Astronaut Clayton Anderson from Ashland, NE, 2010 Winter Olympic Four Man Bob Sled Gold Medal winner Curt Tomasevicz from Shelby, NE. Teresa Scanlan, 2011 Miss America winner from Scottsbluffs, NE and Commander Michael Fisher USN Commander of the USS Nebraska SSBN 739 Gold at the 2011 Nebraska Statehood Dinner in Lincoln, NE on 4 March 2011.

Article by Jerry Swift

Photo by Chris Ruhaak



Commissioning Of The USS NEBRASKA SSBN 739 First Day of Issue Envelope from Clint Orr's collection. Clint designed the entire envelope and sent it to be stamped and returned to him. He has these from every nuclear submarine commissioned since the USS Nautilus.

Article by Jerry Swift

Envelope from Clint Orr



# 111 YEARS OF PROGRESS IN SUBMARINES



## USS HOLLAND (SS 1)

She was the first US Navy's commissioned submarine, named after John P Holland an inventor, but not the first US Navy Submarine. That was the 1862 Alligator.

Launched	17 May 1897
Commissioned	12 October 1900
Length	53 feet 10 inches
Draft	8 feet 6 inches
Displacement Submerged	74 Long Tons
Power	45 horsepower gasoline engine 56 Horsepower electric motor
Armament	one 18 inch torpedo, 2 torpedo one 8.4 inch dynamite gun
Crew	7 men

Decommissioned 7 July 1905, was sold on 18 July 1913, was on display in a park in Paterson, New Jersey, until it was sold for scrap in 1932. Many of John Holland's proven concept used in the USS Holland were used into the 20<sup>th</sup> century submarines, both the internal combustion engine for running on the surface and the electric motor for running Submerged. President Teddy Roosevelt boarded and observed on a 55 minute submerged ride on the USS Holland SS-1 on 25 August 1905

Article by Jerry Swift & Clint Orr

Photo by Clint Orr

## USS NEBRASKA (SSBN 739)

She is the second ship to be named after the state. The first was the battleship BB - 14 who joined the "Great White Fleet" in 1908. The BB-14 was decommissioned in July 1920.

Christened	15 Aug 1991 by Pat Exon
Commissioned	10 July 1993
Length	560 feet
Draft	36.2 feet
Displacement submerged	18,750 Tons
Power	Nuclear Reactor Plant and Various electric motors and a diesel engine
Armament	24 Missile Tubes 4 Torpedo Tubes
Crew	15 Officers 150 Enlisted

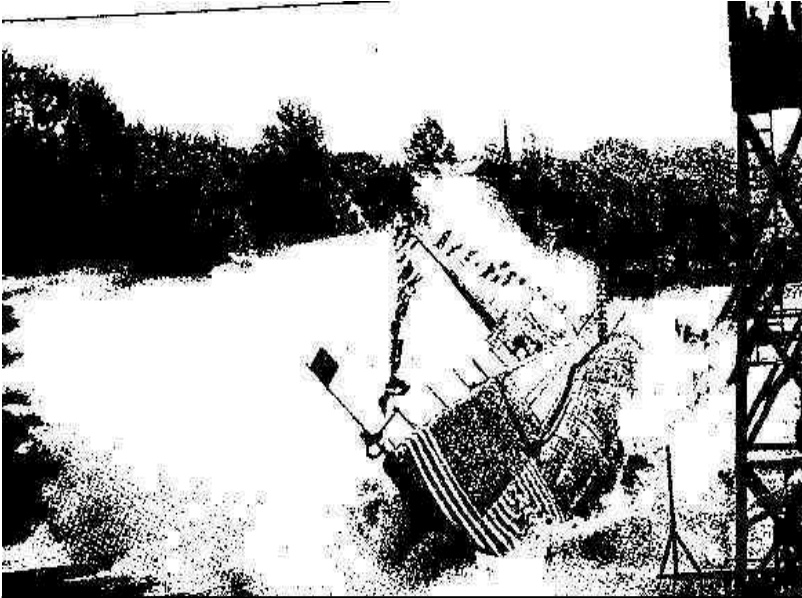


Article & Photo from the USS Nebraska SSBN 739

# HAPPY 111<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY TO ALL SUBMARINERS

# THE PAST THE PRESENT and THE FUTURE

## USS Lagarto is Launched on 28 May 1944



## Submarine Warfare in World War II

70,838 Days U.S. Submarines spent on war patrols  
14,748 Torpedoes were fired by U. S. Submarines  
1,178 Japanese merchant vessels were sunk by U. S. Submarines (5,053,491 gross registered tons)  
380 U. S. Airmen rescued by 86 U. S. Submarines  
249 U. S. Submarines operated in the Pacific  
206 Submarines launched in the United States between 7 Dec 1941 and Labor Day 1945  
52 U. S. Submarines lost, 8 from unknown causes  
16 Number of war patrols by USS Stingray SS 186  
A record for U. S. Submarines in World War II  
7 U. S. Submarine Commanders who received the "Medal Of Honor", Three posthumously

Source: "Subs against The Rising Suns" by Keith Milton  
Yucca Free Press 2000

## NAVY NAMES FOUR SUBMARINES TO CARRY WOMEN

The Navy selected four submarines to carry the first women to serve aboard what has been the last class of military vessels off limits to them. Twenty-four Female Officers are in training for submarine services are expected to join their boats in December 2011. The Navy selected the USS Wyoming SSBN 742 and the USS Georgia SSGN 729, homeport in Kings Bay, Georgia and the USS Maine SSBN 741 and the USS Ohio SSGN 726 homeport in Bangor, Washington.

The 560-foot nuclear-powered ballistic or cruise-missile submarines chosen are big by submarine standards, allowing the Navy greater flexibility in designing accommodations for women. The initial class of women will serve teams of three, all sharing a stateroom. The lone head for Officers will bear a reversible sign, leaving men to know that it's in use by women.

Front Row L to R: MM2 Adam LaMar, MM2 Kyle Aycock  
Second Row L to R: YNC Lance Penn, CDR Chris Haugen  
Commanding Officer USS Nebraska SSBN 739 Gold Crew  
Third Row L to R: ETCM Mark Witherell, LTJG John Eisenraun.

The Gold Crew visited Broken Bow, NE in June 2004 on the road to North Platte, NE The Rotary Club and Keith Glaze hosted a luncheon for them.

Article by Jerry Swift

Photo by Debrah McCaslin



## SKUTTLEBUTT

1. Honorees at the Nebraska Statehood Dinner sponsored by the NEBRASKAland Foundation were DiAnne Schimek Tom Plummer, and Allen Beermann
2. CDR Gerard Somlai will be relieved by CDR Jason Wartell on 13 May 2011

**WELCOME ABOARD  
TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS AT BELOW LEVELS**

**COMMODORE**

**Jack Barnhart 11<sup>th</sup>, John Barnhart 10<sup>th</sup>**

**CAPTAIN**

**Dan Hunt 9<sup>t</sup>, Dr Klaus Hartmann 7<sup>th</sup>, Sen David Pankonin 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
Robert Rosen 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tami Kaschje 10<sup>th</sup>, Dr Bernard Doyle 4<sup>th</sup>,**

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Sapp, Wayne French 9<sup>th</sup>, Bobby Livingston 5<sup>th</sup>, J Randel Smith 4<sup>th</sup>.  
Leonard Krenk 12<sup>th</sup>, Barbara Haggart 2<sup>nd</sup>, Don & Sue Burvanek**

**SUBMARINER**

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Peggy Watkins 3<sup>rd</sup>, Richard Shasteen 4<sup>th</sup>, Steve & Cynthia Haynes  
3<sup>rd</sup>, Don Watkins 3<sup>rd</sup>,**

,  
If you have donated since the last newsletter and we missed you. Please  
contact Jerry Swift 402.455.3765 or [cucmjs@cox.net](mailto:cucmjs@cox.net)

**LEVELS FOR DONORS**

As you know, we survive on the continued support we receive from Members Dues to provide for the twice a year visits to the State, by the Crews of the USS NEBRASKA SSBN 739. 40 visits by 279 crew members since 1993. You can assist us by becoming or continuing as a Member of the Big Red Sub Club at one of the levels below today.

COMMODORE for \$739.00\_\_\_\_\_or

CAPTAIN for \$173.90\_\_\_\_\_or

COMMANDER for \$ 73.90\_\_\_\_\_ or

SUBMARINER for \$ 17.39\_\_\_\_\_

NAME\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

CITY\_\_\_\_\_STATE\_\_\_\_ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

**These amounts reflect the Hull Number 739.**

**Once a Member, Annual donations at a lower level will maintain your Membership in good standing.**

**ALL DONATIONS are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

**We will be watching for you to please return this Form & a Check to the Treasurer in the near future. Carl Burnham 9185 Ogden St Omaha, Ne 68134-195318533**

**"THANK YOU"**

**BIG RED SUB CLUB NEWSLETTER**

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