

USS UTAH (SSN 801)

Commissioning Committee Information Update

**Captain Ken Gunderson, USN (deceased)
(Mike Lamoreaux, V.P. and Acting Chairman)**



USS Utah Naming Ceremony
January 19, 2016
w/ then Secretary of the Navy Ray
Mabus



GOALS

- Inform the people of Utah about the USS Utah and its' role in protecting our nation;
- Support the commissioning of the USS Utah as a key component of the U.S. Navy's submarine fleet;
- Provide appropriate financial support for educational, ceremonial, operational and Quality of Life enhancements of USS Utah not provided by the Navy;
- Promote and facilitate lasting relationships between the people of Utah and all those who serve aboard her namesake ship.
- State Interest and Stakeholders: 33+ year service life of namesake submarine as a national defense asset:
 - Utah military service organizations, State History, Utah Office of Tourism, Chambers of Commerce, business donors, STEM education, etc.

VIRGINIA CLASS SUBMARINES

- USS Utah will be 28th of 40 *Virginia* class fast attack submarines to be built.
- SSN Primary Missions:
 - to seek and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships
 - project power ashore with Tomahawk cruise missiles and Special Operations forces,
 - carry out Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance missions;
 - support carrier battle group operations; and engage in naval mine warfare.
- *Virginia* class submarines are named after states.
 - Formerly, battleships of the US Navy were named after states (USS Utah BB-31).



CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

- **Keel Laying: September 1, 2021**

- Small ceremony - the start of construction of a ship.
- Ship's Sponsor is Kate Mabus, daughter of Former Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus
- Although no true 'keel' on an SSN, the sponsor initials a steel plate and mounted permanently in the boat.

- **Christening: Summer/Fall 2025**

- Christening is a shipyard ceremony designed to celebrate the float off or 'wetting' of the ship. Unlike in days past, submarines no longer "slide down the ways".
- Ceremony culminated in the traditional bottle break of sparkling wine with about 3,000 attending.

- **Commissioning: Fall 2026 or early 2027**

- Formal induction of the ship into the fleet.
- Culminating event with about 6000 attending.



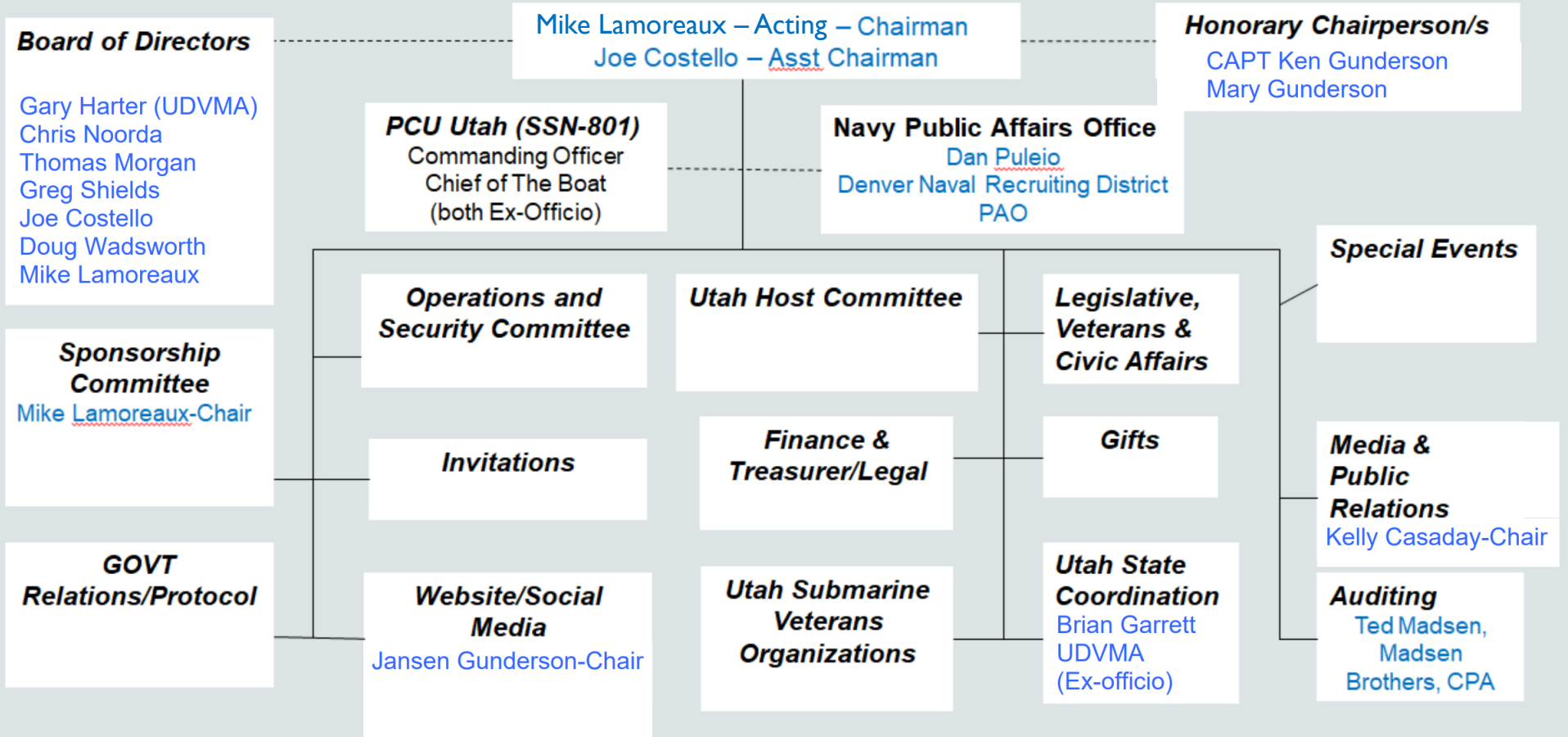
USS Iowa Christening June 2023

HOW IT ALL WORKS

- ✓ Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) announces ship name
- ✓ SECNAV selects a Sponsor
- ✓ Commissioning Committee formed
- ✓ Commissioning preparations begin

- ✓ Shipbuilder commences work (September 2018)
 - Commanding Officer, Executive Officer and Chief of the Boat selected & report (End of 2022 or Early 2023)
 - Crew selected, report for duty (2023)
 - SECNAV selects commissioning site (Groton, CT)
 - Navy Commissioning Support Team (CST) engages with:
 - Commanding Officer
 - Commissioning community (THAT'S US!!)
 - Navy Shipbuilding Program Office

USS Utah Commissioning Committee Organization



ALL VOLUNTEERS.....no paid staff

EXPENSES AND BUDGET

- Fundraising Goal \$500,000+. Money raised will be used to:
 - Fund traditional Keel Laying, Christening and Commissioning Week activities.
 - Fund visits by crewmembers to Utah during the construction period.
 - Provide for quality-of-life upgrades to improve shipboard conditions for the crew.
 - Funds as of Aug. 2023 total \$83,000, with expenditures of approx. \$27,000.
- The following events and gifts are customary for a successful commissioning:
 - Chairman's Reception
 - Platform Briefing Reception
 - Commissioning Ceremony
 - Post-Commissioning Reception
 - Commissioning Committee Reception
 - Crew Reception
 - Plankowner Plaques/Sponsor's Gift/Contributor's Gifts



USS Illinois Commissioning October 2015

- Commissioning Committee's funding sources historically consist of state, defense contractors, businesses and private donations

NEAR TERM OBJECTIVES

- ✓ IRS 501 (c) (3) Application
 - Staff Board of Directors/Identify Honorary Chairperson/s
- ✓ Identify Legislative, Veterans and Civic Affairs Chairman
 - Identify and begin development of potential high value donors
 - Coordination with Navy Commissioning Support Team
 - Media outreach
 - Identify committee representatives across Utah
- ✓ Commissioning Committee letter of support



STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 15, 2019

Kenneth J. Gunderson, Captain, USN Retired
USS Utah (SSN-801) Committee
10059 S. Altavilla Dr.
Sandy, Utah 84092

Dear Captain Gunderson,

On behalf of the state of Utah, I would like to extend our support to the efforts of the USS Utah Commissioning Committee. Since the submarine's naming ceremony in 2016, we have looked forward to the construction timeline and commissioning activities of our Navy's newest Virginia class submarine, the USS Utah (SSN 801). We appreciate the essential role the Committee will play in the milestone events and the quality of life enhancements for the submarine and its crew.

The USS Utah will help provide essential national security capabilities for decades to come. Since the previous USS Utah (BB-31) was tragically sunk at Pearl Harbor, we have not had the privilege of a US Navy vessel bearing our state's name. Having our namesake submarine in the fleet is a source of pride for the entire state. Building and commissioning the new USS Utah is a once-in-a-generation event, and we embrace this historic occasion.

I ask that you coordinate closely with the Utah Department of Veteran and Military Affairs and provide periodic updates on your progress. Please coordinate with my staff to ensure we communicate key events and include interested state leaders and stakeholders in the planning and activities.

We appreciate your efforts in leading the commissioning activities over the coming years and look forward to working with you and your committee.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Herbert
Governor

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

CAPTAIN KEN GUNDERSON, USN (RET)

(deceased Feb. 10, 2020 – search for replacement has commenced – contact Micheal Lamoreaux, Vice President, 801.633.7400 mlamoreaux@uss-Utah.org)

Committee Website
uss-utah.org

Other State Committees
www.ussmontanacommittee.us
ssn790.org (USS South Dakota)
usscoloradocommittee.org
ussindiana.org



**FIRST NAMESAKE VISIT - CDR KOS
AND FIVE CREW - JULY 23-25, 2023**



PRESENTATIONS TO GOVERNOR COX AND LT GOV HENDERSON



Governor Cox was presented with the Keel Plaque from the Keel Laying ceremony by CDR Michael Kos.



LT Governor Henderson was presented with a working design of the ship's crest by CDR Michael Kos.

NEAR TERM OBJECTIVES

- Navy Fleet Week – Host Meet the Captain and Crew Gala with visiting Admiral (coordinating with Tim Page):
 - Thursday September 14th at Zion's Bank Tower 18th Floor Reception Hall, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. All are invited – get the word out!!
 - Crew will commence STEM visits with High Schools this visit.
- Continue community outreach;
 - Met with Director of Military Affairs for Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints - completely supportive of commissioning.
 - Plans for Tabernacle Choir to sing at Commissioning Events.
 - Provide Crew tours of Church facilities and welfare systems.
 - Attend Tabernacle Choir performance.
 - Facilitate outreach to other prominent faith organizations in Utah.
 - Support Fundraising Efforts (can't allow Idaho to outraise Utah!).
- Ramp up fundraising efforts statewide. Seeking contacts with large scale donors throughout Utah.
- Ongoing crew visits between now and commissioning.