

FLEET FOCUS

USS Los Angeles returns from WESTPAC

By SUBPAC Public Affairs

USS Los Angeles (SSN 688), a fast-attack submarine based out of Pearl Harbor, recently returned from a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific.

"It was a tremendously successful deployment," said Cmdr. Mark Jenkins, USS Los Angeles Commanding Officer. "Our crew responded to every challenge and were the ultimate professionals," he added.

One of the high points of the deployment was the four day port visit to Hobart, Tasmania.

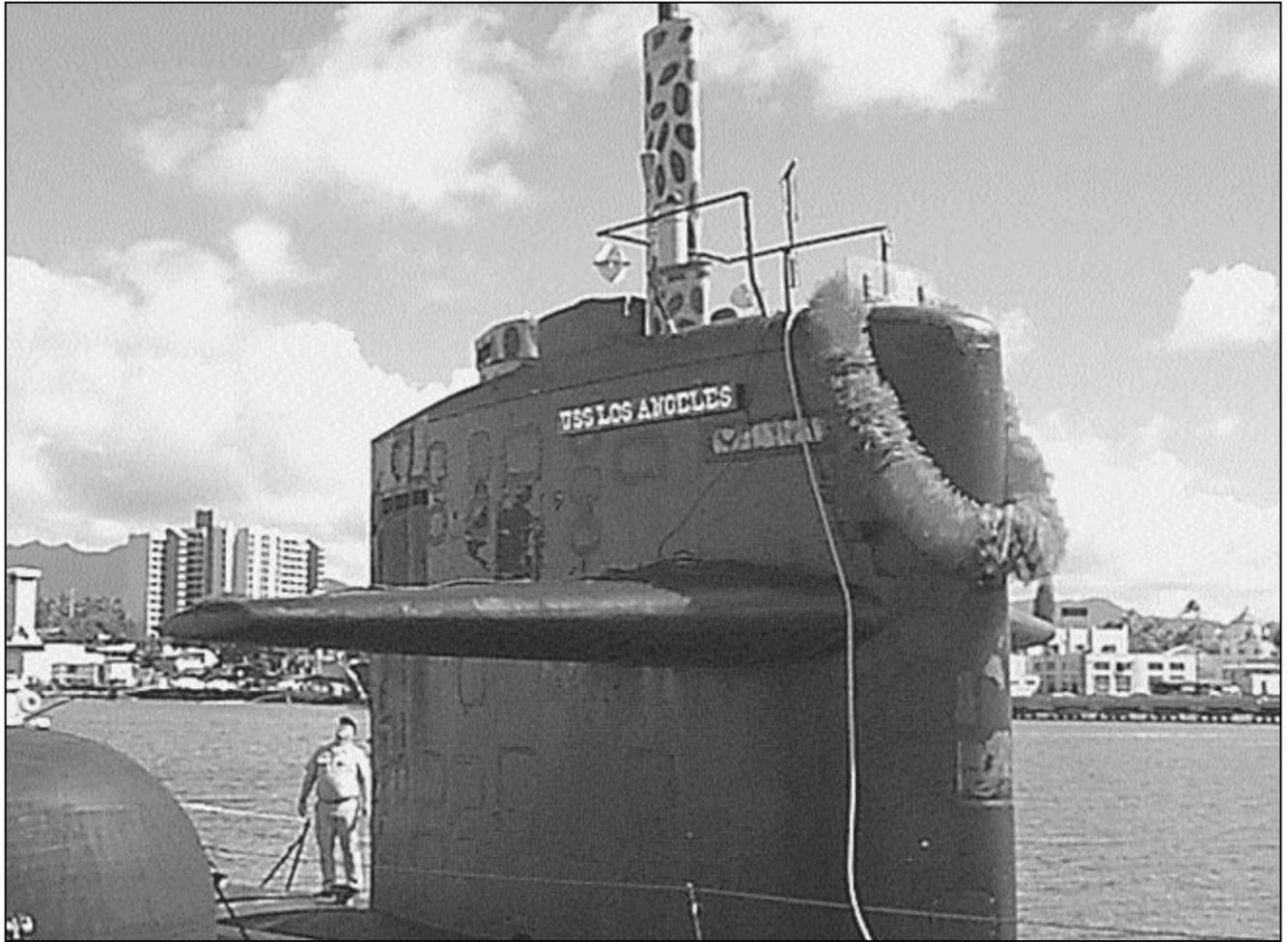
"The crew really enjoyed themselves there," said Jenkins. "Maximum benefits were gained for our country and theirs. Relations between USS Los Angeles crewmembers and the city of Hobart were overwhelmingly positive," he added.

During the visit, Jenkins made calls on local dignitaries while the crew enjoyed the natural beauty of the Australian island of Tasmania. The visit to Hobart was the first visit by a U.S. fast attack submarine since 1995. Other port visits included stops in Japan, Korea, Guam and Perth, Western Australia.

While they were enjoying their Australian port visit, the crew of the Los Angeles were also busy getting ready to participate in Lungfish 99 with three Royal Australian Navy (RAN) submarines, surface ships and US and RAN maritime patrol aircraft.

The crew received a special treat as they were greeted by Master Chief (Retired) Delbert Black, the first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. Master Chief Black, now 78 and living in Florida, was in Hawaii celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary. He is also a Pearl Harbor survivor.

USS Los Angeles, over 360 feet



file photo

USS Los Angeles (SSN 688), decorated with a Hawaiian lei, recently returned from a six-month deployment to the western Pacific. Friends and family members were pierside to greet their loved ones. The fast-attack submarine visited Japan, Korea, Guam and Australian ports while on deployment.

long and displacing over 6,900 tons when submerged, has a crew of 130 men.

Los Angeles is the first ship of

its class and was commissioned in November of 1976. The ship is a

member of Submarine Squadron One in Pearl Harbor.

Toledo Council Navy League adopts USS Lake Erie

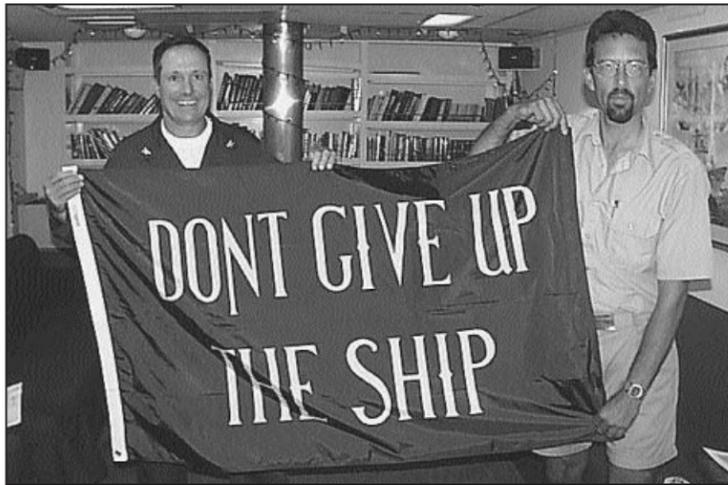
By Ens Ryan Ona

USS LAKE ERIE

USS Lake Erie (CG-70) is named for the Battle of Lake Erie, fought in and around Put-In Bay, Ohio, on September 10, 1813, during the War of 1812. The battle is remembered for the American victory over the British squadron, which preserved the Northwest for the United States.

This past September the Navy League Toledo Council in Perrysburg, Ohio celebrated the 186th anniversary of the battle and officially adopted USS Lake Erie. The Toledo Council Member, Mr. Glenn Cooper, visited Lake Erie at the end of her six-month deployment and rode the ship during a Tiger Cruise from Pago Pago, American Samoa to her homeport in Pearl Harbor and he presented the ship with a plaque from the Toledo Council.

In addition, he extended an invitation to the ship: "I would like to invite each and every Lake Erie Sailor to visit Put-In-Bay and the Toledo area. We would enjoy having you as our guests, just as I have greatly enjoyed your hospitality this cruise...your pride and professionalism is evident everywhere I look and with everyone I talk to." In turn, Lake Erie presented him with a ship's plaque and a Battle Flag with the ship's motto, "Don't Give Up the Ship". Captain Capello extended an invitation to all of



Ens Ryan Ona photo

Capt. Capello, commanding officer of USS Lake Erie (CG 70) presents Glenn Cooper, Toledo Council member, with the flag bearing Capt. James Lawrence's famous battle cry, "Don't give up the ship!"

the members of the Toledo Council to visit Lake Erie any time they are in Hawaii.

The Toledo Council's adoption of Lake Erie and Mr. Cooper's visit to the ship was a vivid reminder that the strength

of our Navy is not just in the ships at sea, but also in the strong support from those in the community who share our respect for the Navy's heritage and care about its future.

VR-51 announces Sailors of Year, Quarter

By VR-51

COMMANDER Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 51 took great pleasure in announcing the command Sailors of the Year and Quarter for 1999. Aviation Electrician's Mate 1st Class (AW/NAC) Eric Dixon, TAR and Personnelman 1st Class Dori Lowham, Selected Reservist, were selected as SOY.

Dixon is an exemplary leader and an outstanding crewchief. As the Physical Readiness Test coordinator he demonstrates genuine interest in the health and well being of his shipmates, as well as having a positive impact on the commands' overall physical readiness.

Lowham is the consummate professional and a highly motivated leader.

She planned, organized, coordinated and executed an outstanding change of command ceremony.

Sailors of the Quarter for the fourth quarter were Aviation Maintenance S2nd Class (NAC) Joy Gisi, TAR and Yeoman 1st Class Kim Rutigliano, Selected Reservist.

Gisi maintains both TAR and SELRES Crewchiefs/Loadmasters training folders, ensuring that qualifications are kept up to date. She is also a superb financial manager, initiating an MWR fundraising plan of action and significantly increased the commands' funds to more than \$1000 in the fourth quarter alone.

Rutigliano is not only an asset to the Administration Office, but to the command. She has dedicated many non-paid additional drills to receive training for billets normally held by active duty personnel.

Bravo, Mike piers being refurbished

This steel leviathan is a derrick barge adjacent to Pearl Harbor's Bravo Pier 23. The giant carries a driver which punches fender piles into the ground as easily as a nail. Contractor Healy Tibbitts Builders employs the tall worker. Bravo and Mike piers are being readied to service ships of the Pacific Fleet. The old, deteriorating timber pile posts are being replaced with pre-cast concrete piles and composite plastic timbers that are much more durable and cost-efficient.



Rick Saltzman photo

Around the Fleet

London Sailors Celebrate Life and Times of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Just as we honor George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, great Americans that fought and lead our troops through the wars that molded our country, we take a day out of our year to commemorate another great American. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led Americans through an undeclared war against hypocrisy and for the equality of all Americans.

These were the words of participants from Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration, which took place at the American Embassy in Grosvenor Square recently.

The celebration, which started with an address by Rear Adm. Michael D. Haskins, Deputy, Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, urged everyone to live the message of King. The Admiral's comments were followed by a play depicting a 1960's sit-in and numerous songs, original poetry and speeches, including King's famous "I have a dream" speech.

Dr. Ralph Ransom, a participant in the event, said the theme of the celebration, "The New Age...The New Dream", illustrates a new sense of rebirth and unity for all men in the new millennium. "It wasn't just whites or just blacks that made history and change possible, it was

a combined effort and unity that made this possible," said Ransom.

Ransom, who is involved with the London Cultural Awareness Committee, a group that commemorates awareness in diversity, said that involvement is the key to understanding the issues surrounding our society today.

"Expanding cultural awareness by skit acting and getting away from stereotyping individuals brings forth a sense of unity by getting all involved," said Ransom.

Bridging the gap for increased unity between all people was clearly the message sent out to the audience from the participants.

Lt. Grady Dunn, a speaker at the event, said that this sense of unity is important in today's society. "In my 10 years of service to the Navy, I have discovered that people are more alike in many more ways than they are different," said Dunn. "We must never forget that we must live together for the better of all man, just like Dr. King preached."

In today's age of advanced technologies, one thing is certain, the key to our ultimate survival and peace is unity between all people, something King sought more than 40 years ago.

The Navy has successfully pursued this practice, which was enhanced by the acts of the former Chief of Naval Operations, the late Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, who stated, "No black Navy, no white Navy, just one U.S. Navy."