

USS IOWA SSN-797

Commissioning Committee, PO Box 1968, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406



Commissioning Committee Newsletter

2019 – # 4

July 1, 2019

Officers

- Sponsor: Ms. Christie Vilsack
- Chairman: Peter B. Welch, CAPT, SC, USNR (ret)
- Trustee Director: Dr. Stephen Regan

Nautical Term

Scuttlebutt:

Most of us know the term 'scuttlebutt' as a folksy way to refer to rumor or gossip, but in nautical nomenclature, a *scuttlebutt* is an open cask of drinking water or a drinking fountain. The former definition evolved out of the nautical sense, as sailors would engage in idle chat while gathered around their version of the office water cooler.

“Of all the branches of men in the forces there is none which shows more devotion and faces grimmer perils than the submariners.”

- Winston Churchill

Keel-Laying Ceremony

The ship's sponsor Christie Vilsack and the Commissioning Committee have been informed that the Keel-Laying Ceremony will be at the Electric Boat facility in Quonset Point, Rhode Island on Tuesday, August 20, 2019. This ceremony is one in which Christie Vilsack, as the ship's sponsor, signs her initials and then a nuclear qualified welder permanently affixes a replica of the initials onto the keel of the submarine.

We are still awaiting the details of the event as it is an Electric Boat evolution, but we hope to have extensive coverage with the media in Iowa.

Additional Note:

We are still looking for people that are interested in assisting the Committee in helping their community learn about the USS Iowa. We are also looking for a media coordinator that will work with media outlets on releasing public events information to Iowa media such as the above Keel-Laying Ceremony.

