

Quarterly News

Welcome Tar Heel Boat

It's been six years since a delegation from USS NORTH CAROLINA visited its name-sake state. Commanding Officer Mike Fritts and three sailors visited Raleigh-Durham and Wilmington in early March. A week-long schedule of events centered on two purposes for such visits: "increase public awareness and understanding of U.S. Navy operations as well as personnel and support recruiting goals."

Engaging with High School STEM and Local University Navy ROTC units, they familiarized the next generation with our Pacific Submarine Fleet. With stops at the HUNLEY memorial at Oakwood Cemetery and the WWII Battleship NC Museum/Memorial, they connected with the state's proud naval heritage. With remarks at invitation-only gatherings,



NC State Senator Mike Lee (third from left) welcomed the *USS North Carolina* SSN 777's Commanding Officer Mike Fritts (center) and 3 members of his crew. Joining were members of the 777 Family Readiness Group and the NC Submarine Foundation.



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"First in Fight"

they emphasized the importance of the Navy's undersea operations to state-level business and civic leaders.

Key Leader Engagements at the Executive Mansion with Lt Governor, the NC General Assembly with the Speaker of the House, and the Emergency Operations Center with the NC Emergency Mgmt Director reinforced the bond between Navy and NC Leaders.

The visit wasn't all work as the 777 crew enjoyed JumboTron recognition during the UNC-Duke Basketball and Carolina Hurricanes Hockey games as well as the occasion to present the University



LT Lauren McDonnell (left), 777 Assistant Engineer, presented Lieutenant Governor Rachel Hunt with a set of Navy Lieutenant bars.

of North Carolina's Head Football Coach Bill Belichick with a painting of the 3rd and 4th vessels named USS NORTH CAROLINA. Many alumni know of Coach Belichick's strong connection to our Naval Academy. His father, Steve, was a Navy Football assistant coach for 34 years and Bill spent much of his youth in Annapolis.

Thank you for your continued support in the efforts to support the crew and families of our NC submarines.

Aloha, Gray

Breakfast reception aboard Battleship North Carolina (L to R): Wilmington Council Member Salette Andrews; Captain Mike Fritts; Co-Chairs of the 777 Commissioning Committee Louise McColl and Captain David Scheu USN (Ret); Admiral Van Mauney USN (Ret)



Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo (right) & 777 Commanding Officer, Captain Mike Fritts



(Top, L to R): 777 Commanding Officer & crew members; Dr. Jay Martin, Executive Director of Battleship North Carolina. (Bottom, L to R): North Carolina Battleship Commissioners Mark Lanier, Rubye Braye & Marcia Morgan

STEM Education & Work-Force Innovation Workshop with President Jim Morton and staff members of Cape Fear Community College





Presenting UNC Football Coach Bill Belichick with a painting depicting the Wilmington coast, with both the Battleship and Submarine NC.

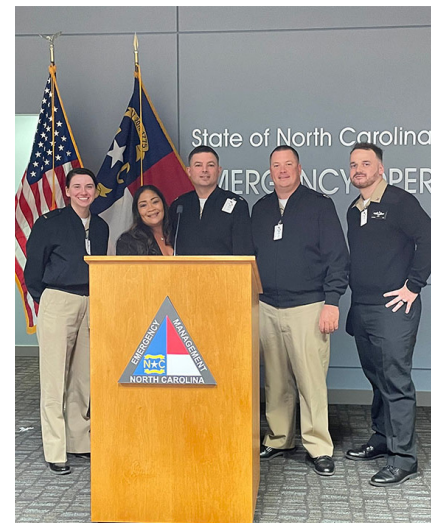
777 Crew with UNC Chancellor Lee Roberts prior to Duke @ UNC basketball game.



777 Crew on-ice prior to the Hurricanes vs Bruins hockey game.



777 Crew led a STEM discussion with the Cary High School JROTC Unit.

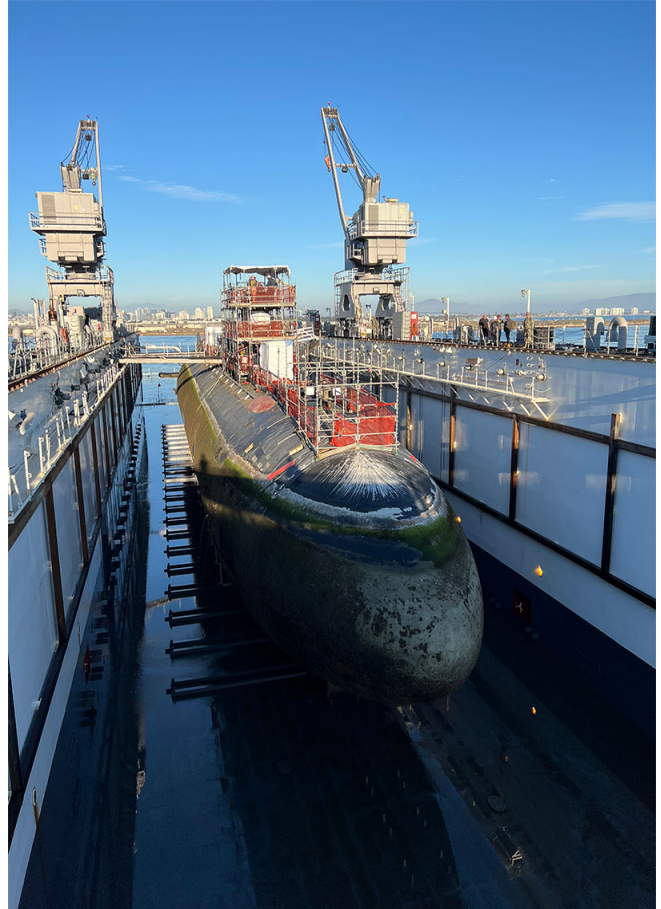


777 Crew visited with the North Carolina Department of Emergency Management Services.

USS Asheville SSN 758 Updates

Asheville Enters Dry Dock in San Diego, California

After returning from a 181-day deployment in May 2024, the USS Asheville (**photo at right**) transited to San Diego, where she is in a repair period for an estimated 12 months. As can be seen from the photo, most of a submarine is almost always under the water.



Introducing the 2025–2026 Family Readiness Group Board Members

Brianna Hall	PRESIDENT
Reagan Callahan	VICE PRESIDENT
Chelsea Rodriguez	TREASURER

A warm welcome from your NC supporters!



Congratulations to Master Chief Torpedoman Justin Urso for selection as Command Master Chief



Hurricane Helene Support



Shortly after Hurricane Helene devastated Asheville and Buncombe County, NC, the 758's Family Readiness Group raised funds (**photo below**) in support of the Asheville Fire Department. These funds were sent along with a banner signed by the crew of the 758 and proudly displayed Asheville's Central Fire Station (**photo at left**).



USS Charlotte SSN 766 Updates

Operating In and Out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii



Far Left: 766 underway off of the coast of Oahu, Hawaii.
Left: 766 wardroom table set for Commanding Officer Dan Futch's January birthday dinner.



766's well-earned Battle E presented to the submarine, both the boat and the crew, which achieved the highest level of overall readiness.

UNC Charlotte's Men's Basketball Team visited the 766 in December 2024 while on island for the Diamond Head Classic Tournament.



For more information about the SSN 777 Club, visit our [website](#) and [LinkedIn page](#).