

PRESS RELEASE

07 December 2007

THE USS GEORGIA (SSGN 729) IS COMING HOME!

ST MARYS, GEORGIA / - Sheila McNeill, former National President of the Navy League, announced that following a long and intense campaign to save it, the Peach State's namesake TRIDENT Submarine is scheduled to make Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia its homeport.

"Bring the USS GEORGIA home" has echoed throughout the state for more than 14 years.

The submarine's future was jeopardized in 1994 when the Nuclear Posture Review determined that the U.S. Navy had a surplus of their 18 TRIDENT submarines (SSBN) - 10 on the East Coast at Kings Bay and 8 on the West Coast at Bangor, Washington. The Nuclear Posture Review Report recommended that the initial four of the 18 Ohio Class SSBN's should be eliminated.

This sparked a vision by the U.S. Navy to keep in service the four submarines and convert them from a strategic deterrence mission to a precision strike and special operations forces capable SSGN submarine.

The four submarines are the USS OHIO (SSGN 726), USS MICHIGAN (SSGN 727), USS FLORIDA (SSGN 728) and USS GEORGIA (SSGN 729), which collectively have over 80 years of hull life left. The SSGN (guided missile submarine) was created by redesigning and converting these submarines with the capability to house 154 Tomahawk Cruise Missiles and the ability to carry and deploy from the submarine special operations forces through lockout chambers.

USS GEORGIA is 560 feet in length, displaces over 18,000 tons submerged and can carry a crew of 15 officers, 139 enlisted crew members and up to 66 Special Operations Forces for a sustained, long endurance deployment.

After a more than two year refueling overhaul and conversion at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Virginia, the USS GEORGIA will observe its formal return to service as an SSGN in a ceremony at Kings Bay on March 28th, 2008, thanks to a dedicated and hard working USS GEORGIA (SSGN 729) Return to Service Committee that includes citizens from across the state.

Chairman of the committee and of the events surrounding the Return to Service (RTS) is Shelia M. McNeill, past National President of the Navy League of the United States and Chairman of the "Support the SSGN" Committee.

Co-Chairman for Logistics is Keith Post, President of the Camden-Kings Bay Council of the Navy league and Co-Chairman for Development is Marty Klumpp, Executive Director of The Camden Partnership.

Honorary chairman of the committee is Gov. Sonny Perdue. Serving on the honorary committee are Sen. Saxby Chambliss, Sen. Johnny Isakson and Congressman Jack Kingston; along with former Governors Roy Barnes, Zell Miller, Joe Frank Harris, Carl Sanders as well as former Governor and President Jimmy Carter; former Senators Sam Nunn, Max Cleland, Mack Mattingly, Wyche Fowler and Mrs. Nancy Coverdell for her late husband Senator Paul Coverdell; and former Congressman Lindsay Thomas.

"We are expecting 3,000 to 4,000 attendees for the ceremony" McNeill said. "It will be a great day of celebration and an event this community has planned for and worked hard towards for over 10 years."

Any individual or business interested in becoming a sponsor for this event may contact those listed below. Honorary Plank Owners begin at \$100. and go up to \$10,000 for corporate sponsorships.

Additional information may be found on the committee's website at:

www.USSGEORGIA.org

**Or write to: USS GEORGIA RTS Committee
P.O. Box 5096 – St Marys, GA 31558**

Sheila M. McNeill, Chairman
912-223-3588
Smcneill04@aol.com

Keith F. Post, Co-Chair
912-674-2620
scgmackeith@tds.net

Marty Klumpp, Co-Chair
912-227-2148
martyklumpp@tds.net