

# Quarterly News

Ahoy, 777 Club and Friends!

The Blue Moon this month might be a rare site, but seeing the Tar Heel boat at sea is NOT! After several months of local area work-ups, NCA began a multi-month Western Pacific deployment just after Independence Day. Adding to the excitement and stress are several changes to key personnel, which are common right before and after deployments. 777 is already making the Namesake State proud, having very visibly participated in Exercise Talisman Sabre with our Australian

partners (follow our [LinkedIn page](#) to view).

Back in the Old North State, this summer has seen an official visit as part of Navy Week and the retirement of a 777 plank owner (read more pg2). We're excitedly preparing for Navy Football's visit to Charlotte in October, which should present a great opportunity to gather NCA supporters and highlight the good work of 758, 766, and 777.



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**“First in Fight”**

On ASHEVILLE and CHARLOTTE, the recap involves Typhoons and Prime Ministers and Easter Bunnies — Read On!

Primus in Proelio,  
– Gray

## North Carolina Underway



“Showtime”– Above: SSN 777 departs Pearl Harbor to begin a multi-month operational deployment in the West Pacific Area of Operations.

“Meet the New FRG President” – Right: new Family Readiness Group president, Crystal Ricciuti, with family. The FRGs are official Navy organizations dedicated to helping families navigate the stresses inherent with Service to Country, and 777 Club endeavors to support their work.

### UPCOMING EVENTS



Oct 14, 2023:  
Navy v Charlotte Football  
(Charlotte, NC)

Oct 23, 2023:  
777 Halfway Party  
(Pearl Harbor/W.Pacific)



## Navy Week Wilmington

Despite a busy pre-deployment schedule, three NCA sailors traveled from Hawaii to the Port City in early April for Navy Week. Like other such events around the country each summer, Navy Week seeks to increase awareness of the US Navy's domestic and global impacts through community, business, and local government engagement.



**"NCA at KMI"** – NORTH CAROLINA delegation visiting with staff and students at Kids Making It as a part of Navy Week-Wilmington. KMI is our partner in the ["Time Aboard Plaque Program."](#)



**"Relieving the Watch"** – SSN 777 Plankowner and First XO, CAPT Andrew Hertel, receives a gift of an embroidered National Ensign flown over both BB55 (Battleship *North Carolina*) and SSN777 from Captain Bill Coleman (Secretary, US Naval Academy Alumni Association-Triangle Chapter) as a part of his retirement ceremony.



**"Senior Tarheel Sailor"** – Tar Heel Boat sailors discussing the earning of "fish" (Submarine Warfare Device) with NC-native and Commander US Fleet Forces, ADM Daryl Caudle aboard Battleship NC after the opening ceremony of Navy Week-Wilmington.

## NAVY at CHARLOTTE



**Saturday Oct. 14**

Navy Football will visit Charlotte on Sat. Oct. 14 for the UNC Charlotte 49ers Homecoming game.

In support of this inaugural contest, UNC Charlotte will broadcast during the game a Greeting from the Commanding Officer of the *USS Charlotte* SSN-766, Commander Tony Stranges. In addition, our NC Submarine Museum will present ensigns flown over the *USS Charlotte* to representatives of UNC Charlotte, the City of Charlotte, and the Charlotte Fire Department which has long supported the 766.

[Read here](#) about the proud Veteran foundation of UNC Charlotte.

If you're interested in joining the tailgate or game or both, please contact:

[Director@ncsubmuseum.org](mailto:Director@ncsubmuseum.org)



## USS Asheville SSN 758 Updates

### 758 in Perth, Australia

Our *USS Asheville* (SSN 758) departed Royal Australian Navy (RAN) base HMAS Stirling in Western Australia, March 20.

While in port, the crew had a busy slate of tours and public engagement activities, highlighted by a visit from Australian Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles and other Australian political leaders.

*Asheville* was visiting Perth for combined training exercises with RAN submarine forces as part of a regularly scheduled patrol in the Indo-Pacific region.

"*Asheville's* visit to Western Australia demonstrates an investment in new operational capabilities, advanced technologies, and idea-sharing with some of our closest Allies," said Cmdr. Tom Dixon, commanding officer of *Asheville*. "My crew is committed to the sustinment of a free and open Indo-Pacific region."

*Right, top:* Berth in Perth. **Bottom:** Australian Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles greets the crew.



## NC Sub Museum Presents City *USS Asheville* Postal Covers



*From left:* Fire Chief Scott Burnett; Vice Mayor Sandra Kilgore; Dr. Julie Lockwood; Assistant Fire Chief Patrick Crudup; Marcus Kirkman, City of Asheville

Our Navy is proud of its long-term and important affiliation with the City of Asheville. In June, Dr. Julie Lockwood, wife of 758 CO, CDR. Tom Dixon, presented the City of Asheville with one framed set of three U.S. First Day Covers, each post-marked aboard its namesake Asheville-US Navy combatant:

- Patrol Gunboat, *USS Asheville* PG-21, lost in combat on March 3, 1942 in the Java Sea
- Patrol Gunboat, *USS Asheville* PG-84, in service during the Vietnam War. Decommissioned in 1977.
- Submarine *USS Asheville* SSN 758, currently in active service homeported in Apana, Guam





## USS Charlotte SSN 766 Updates



Left: Easter Bunny visits with the children of the Family Readiness Group. Below: Always a good day on Oahu for a family picnic at Waikiki Beach, this one in May for Memorial Day.



## Busy Operational Tempo and Families Pulling Together

I visited Pearl Harbor in May, fortunate to meet with the Commands and Family Readiness Groups of the *North Carolina* and *Charlotte*. The daily lives and lifestyles of submariners and submarine families are busy ones, especially in the prevailing international political climate. Remarkably, spirits are good, operational commitments are met and families reliably support one another. A great country is comprised of great people!

I didn't get to Guam this trip to meet our *USS Asheville*. In late May, shortly after the 758's return from patrol to Australia, Typhoon Mawar blasted across the island, disrupting everyday services (electricity, water

supply, travel and access to routine island services). Families have rallied to support one another and put things back together. It may take a little longer as the island mends. Heroes come in all sizes. – Chris Perrien

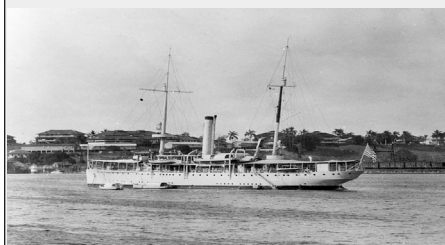


"Charlotte Command" – From left: CDR Anthony Stranges; NCSM Executive Director Chris Perrien; LCDR Brian Juskiewicz, XO; Master Chief Mike Rodriguez, COB

## PG-21 DEDICATION

Christopher Perrien, President of the NC Submarine Museum Foundation, announced formally Project 21, an NCSM Foundation initiative to commemorate those 162 PG-21 crew-members lost in combat on March 3, 1942.

On March 3, 2024 at Asheville's Riverside Cemetery, a monument honoring the crew of PG-21 will be unveiled in an accompanying memorial ceremony.



Read more about the history of PG-21 >

Additional information to follow in the Winter newsletter.

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