

KEEL AUTHENTICATION CEREMONY  
OF THE

*New Mexico*

SSN 779



APRIL 12, 2008

NORTHROP GRUMMAN SHIPBUILDING  
NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA



## *New Mexico Keel Authentication*

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Welcome to the Keel Authentication Ceremony for *New Mexico* (SSN 779), the sixth submarine in the *Virginia* class and the third that will be delivered by Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding.

Today's ceremony is the first milestone for *New Mexico*, and we are pleased to have the Ship's Sponsor, Mrs. Cindy Giambastiani, here to perform the keel authentication honors. Mrs. Giambastiani, the wife of Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani Jr. (Ret.), is a longtime supporter of the submarine community and the recipient of the United States Navy's Meritorious Public Service Award. In keeping with maritime tradition, she will chalk her initials onto a metal plate, and they will then be welded and permanently affixed to the stern unit to sail wherever *New Mexico* sails.

This ceremony is also a celebration of our relationship with the United States Navy, the crew of the pre-commissioning unit *New Mexico* and the great people of "The Land of Enchantment."

Most importantly, this ceremony – and the magnificent submarine *New Mexico* – is a testament to the talent and skill of the thousands of men and women from both Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding and General Dynamics Electric Boat who are building *New Mexico* and the other submarines in the *Virginia* class. I am privileged to lead this extraordinary team of shipbuilders and proud to showcase their hard work today.

Enjoy the ceremony!



**Mike Petters**  
President  
Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding

# The Ceremony

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## Parade of the Colors

Warwick High School Navy Junior Reserve  
Officers Training Corps

## Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. McKinley Wilson  
Pipefitter Specialist, Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding

## National Anthem

United States Fleet Forces Band  
Conducted by Lt. Commander K.E. Bissel,  
Fleet Bandmaster

## Invocation

Mr. Ernest Green  
Brush Painter, Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding

## Navajo Blessing

Mr. Frank Willetto  
Navajo Code Talker

## Welcome and Introduction of Distinguished Guests

Mr. Mike Petters  
President, Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding

## Remarks

Rear Admiral William H. Hilarides  
Program Executive Officer, Submarines

## Mr. John Casey

President, General Dynamics Electric Boat

## Vice Admiral John J. Donnelly

Commander, Submarine Force  
Commander, Submarine Force, Atlantic  
Commander, Allied Submarine Command

## Principal Address

The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
U.S. House of Representatives,  
Third Congressional District, Virginia

## Introduction of the Authenticator

Mr. Mike Petters

## Keel Authentication

Mrs. Cindy Giambastiani  
Ship's Sponsor and Keel Authenticator

Mr. Kim Kerins  
Welder/Burner Specialist, Northrop Grumman  
Shipbuilding

## Remarks

Mrs. Cindy Giambastiani

## Closing Remarks

Mr. Mike Petters



## *Principal Speaker*

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Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott began serving his eighth term as a member of Congress on Jan. 4, 2007. Prior to serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Scott served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1978 to 1983 and in the Senate of Virginia from 1983 to 1993.

In November 1992, Rep. Scott was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Through this election, Rep. Scott made history by becoming the first African-American elected to Congress from Virginia since Reconstruction and only the second African-American elected to Congress in Virginia's history. Having a maternal grandfather of Filipino ancestry also gives Rep. Scott the distinction of being the first American with Filipino heritage to serve in the United States Congress.

Rep. Scott currently serves on the House Committee on the Judiciary, where he is the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security. Rep. Scott also serves on the House Committee on Education and Labor and the House Committee on the Budget.

In his 15 years in Congress, Rep. Scott has become known as a champion of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, fighting to protect the rights and civil liberties of all Americans. In 1997, Rep. Scott fought to protect the right of all children with disabilities to obtain a free and appropriate education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In 2000, Rep. Scott sponsored the Death in Custody Act, which was signed into law by President Clinton on October 17, 2000. This bill requires states to report information regarding the death of any person in custody of law enforcement officials. Rep. Scott is also a leading opponent of efforts to permit employment discrimination based on race or religion in federally funded programs.

Rep. Scott is a strong supporter of our nation's military readiness as well as our troops and their safety. He is a leading advocate for improving and increasing funding for veterans' benefits and health care, especially mental health care. In the 110th Congress, Rep. Scott is leading efforts to pass comprehensive juvenile justice reform and crime prevention legislation by sponsoring the Youth PROMISE Act, which provides resources to state and local governments to prevent juvenile crime.

Rep. Scott was born on April 30, 1947, in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Newport News. He is a graduate of Harvard University and Boston College Law School. After graduating from law school, he returned to Newport News and practiced law from 1973 to 1991. He received an honorable discharge for his service in the Massachusetts National Guard and the United States Army Reserve.



## *Authenticator and Sponsor*

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Mrs. Cindy Giambastiani was raised in a military home. Her father began his career as an Air Force officer during World War II, and her two older brothers served as pilots in the Navy and Air Force during the Vietnam War. As a child, she lived all over the United States, as well as in Japan, Hawaii and England. She graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in nutrition before marrying and raising two children. Her husband is retired Navy Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani. Between 2005 and 2007, Admiral Giambastiani was the second highest-ranking military officer in the United States, serving as the seventh Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

As a Navy family, the Giambastianis have been stationed at various submarine and naval bases along the East and West coasts of the United States, as well as in Hawaii. For over 31 years, she has served in support groups and organizations in the local military communities, to include numerous volunteer jobs supporting submariners and their families, as well as her children's extracurricular activities.

Some of her recent achievements in the military community include serving for two years as chairman of the Spouses Program for newly selected Navy flag officers, and as president of Dolphin Scholarship, a scholarship for children of submariners. She co-authored the cookbook "Diving with the Dolphins" to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Submarine Force. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks benefited the Dolphin Scholarship. In July 2000, she was awarded the Meritorious Public Service Award by the Navy for her selfless support of the submarine and Navy communities. In July 2005, she was awarded the Distinguished Public Service Award for her continued dedication to military spouses and families. Mrs. Giambastiani has been an "Honorary Submariner" since 1991 when she submerged while aboard the USS *San Juan* (SSN 751).

In her last position, Mrs. Giambastiani was the advisor for the Tidewater Officers Spouses Association, advisor for the Tidewater Collection, and president of the NATO Officers Wives Club. She also traveled with her husband, representing the United States at numerous NATO activities. As the wife of the vice chairman, she served on various national boards and committees in the National Capitol Region, including serving as the co-chair of the Red Cross Gala in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Giambastiani is also an active supporter of the Fischer House Foundation. She hosts visiting dignitaries and foreign government officials in her home and continues to represent the military while traveling with her husband.

Admiral and Mrs. Giambastiani have two children: Peter, a Lieutenant in the Navy Reserve and Congressional Military Legislative Assistant, and Catherine, a lawyer for a government agency in Washington, D.C. Catherine also serves as her mother's Matron of Honor. The Giambastianis also have a 2-year-old granddaughter, Hannah.



## *Special Ceremony Participants*

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Newport News native **Ernest Green** has worked at Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding-Newport News for 36 years. He is attending today's ceremony with his wife, Lillie.



**Kim Kerins** has worked at Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding-Newport News for 20 years. Originally from Sharon, Pa., he now resides in Newport News. He is attending today's ceremony with his son-in-law, Sean McCallup.



**McKinley Wilson** has worked at Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding-Newport News for 36 years. Originally from Gates County, N.C., he now resides in Eure, N.C. He is attending today's ceremony with his wife, Mamie.



**Frank Chee Willetto Sr.** was born on June 6, 1925, near the world-famous Chaco Canyon in New Mexico and served as a code talker in the United States Marine Corps, using his native Navajo language to transmit vital combat information over radio. He earned two combat stars for his service with the 2nd Marine Division during World War II and in 2002 received the Congressional Silver Medal. Mr. Willetto now lives near Crownpoint, New Mexico, and has 10 children and 65 grandchildren. He will be escorted to the stage by Machinist's Mate First Class Michael Buck, PCU *New Mexico's* 2006 and 2007 Sailor of the Year.



## *Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding*

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Northrop Grumman is the nation's sole industrial designer, builder and refueler of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and one of only two companies that design and build nuclear-



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powered submarines. The business is also one of the nation's leading providers and life-cycle supporters of major surface ships for the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, international navies and commercial vessels. In addition, our after-market services – maintenance and repair – support a wide array of naval and commercial vessels.

The Shipbuilding sector is composed of the company's Newport News, Va., and Gulf Coast operations in Pascagoula, Miss., New Orleans, La., Gulfport, Miss., and Tallulah, La.

## *About the Submarine*

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*New Mexico* (SSN 779) is the sixth submarine in the *Virginia* class and the third that will be delivered by Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding-Newport News (USS *Texas* and USS *North Carolina*). Designed to meet the Navy's requirements in a post-Cold War era, *Virginia*-class submarines use advanced technologies to increase firepower, maneuverability and stealth. The 377-foot long *Virginia*-class submarines are capable of submerged speeds of more than 25 knots and can stay submerged for up to three months at a time.



### **Virginia-class submarines:**

- Are the most advanced submarines in the world
- Will maintain the nation's undersea supremacy well into the 21st century
- Require seven years to design and five years to build
- Are 377 feet long, 34 feet in diameter, and displace 7,800 tons submerged
- Are capable of submerged speeds in excess of 25 knots
- Have a crew complement of 100 sailors and officers
- Can stay submerged for periods of up to three months at a time

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