



USS MONTANA COMMITTEE

Supporting SSN 794 and all who sail aboard her in defense of our nation

USS MONTANA Commanding Officer and Crew Events in Helena

March 9, 2023

You're invited to meet and visit with the Commanding Officer and crew members of the USS MONTANA (SSN 794) at events in Helena on Thursday, March 9th!

Coordinating events in partnership with Helena organizations is the nonprofit USS Montana Committee, the official commissioning and long-term support organization for the USS MONTANA in Big Sky Country.



MONTANA Sea Trials (HII NNS Photo)

Commissioned into the Navy fleet just last summer, the USS MONTANA is a leading-edge, highly stealthy and lethal nuclear-powered fast attack submarine. During its construction and commissioning, Montanans across the state have shown their strong support for the boat and its young crew members. Before long the boat and sailors are expected to join the Pacific Fleet, ready to be “on-scene, unseen” in defense of our nation.

Commander Jon Quimby and crew members will be available at several events on the 9th to thank Montanans and answer questions about the capabilities of SSN 794 and her crew. They will also be presenting to the State of Montana the actual commissioning pennant flown over our namesake warship during her commissioning ceremony. Public Events on Thursday, March 9, include:

- **Visit with Hometown Helena members and attendees**
Montana Club, 7:00 am
- **Special public lunch at the Helena Armed Forces Reserve Center (HAFRC) at Fort Harrison**

Sponsored by the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce, the Helena Naval Reserve Center, and the USS Montana Committee, this will be a special opportunity to join the CO and crew, Montana National Guard and Reserve members, and the current Leadership Helena class for a presentation on the submarine and crew, with lots of question-and-answer time.

Helena Armed Forces Reserve Center, 1956 Mt. Majo Street, Fort Harrison. 11:30 am until 1:00 pm. Reservations are required. Cost is \$16 in advance or at the door. To reserve and/or pay in advance, please email the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce at info@helenachamber.com or call 406-442-4120.

Following the lunch, attendees are invited to tour the nearby Montana Military Museum (1900 Williams Street, Fort Harrison).

- **A State Capitol update and appreciation event for Montana elected officials and the public, including presentation of the USS MONTANA commissioning pennant to the State of Montana**

Sponsored by the Governor and legislative leaders, this event will be especially meaningful and historic because of the presentation of the SSN 794 commissioning pennant. Only once before, in 1908, was a warship named the USS MONTANA commissioned into the fleet.

State Capitol, Old Supreme Court Chamber (Room 303), 5:00 - 6:00 PM.

USS MONTANA (SSN 794) Visitors

Commander Jon Quimby

Commanding officer since July, 2021, CDR Quimby led the USS MONTANA and her crew in preparing for SSN 794's commissioning into the Navy fleet on June 25, 2022. Since then he has been focused on ensuring that the MONTANA's crew is well-trained and the boat is well-prepared for any missions they may face in defense of our nation once joining the Pacific Fleet as expected. An experienced submariner, CDR Quimby served aboard both fast attack and ballistic missile submarines before taking command of the USS MONTANA.

His shore assignments included being Deputy Mission Commander for the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Requirements Officer for the Navy's Undersea Warfare Division and a Financial Management Officer on the staff of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Financial Management and Comptroller.

CDR Quimby is a native of Atmore, Alabama and earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of South Alabama. He holds two post-graduate degrees. He was commissioned from Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida.

With his wife Heidi, CDR Quimby has two children.

Lieutenant Cody Popelka

LT Cody Popelka is a nuclear-trained and engineer-qualified officer who currently serves as the USS MONTANA's Assistant Operations Officer. He is responsible for planning and executing the short- and long-range operations of the ship while in port or at sea.

LT Popelka is a Native of Montana, lived in Acton before joining the Navy and graduated from Cut Bank High School. He earned his degree in Mechanical Engineering from Montana State University in 2018.

Senior Chief Kevin Frey

ETNCS (Electronics Technician Nuclear Senior Chief) Frey serves as the Engineering Department Master Chief aboard the USS MONTANA. He is responsible for the day-to-day operations, training and management of the entire Engineering Department.

The USS MONTANA is Senior Chief Frey's third submarine. He served in his ETN rate onboard the USS ALBANY, and USS MONTPELIER as a reactor operator and a divisional chief prior to reporting to the MONTANA.

He is from Virginia Beach, and is married with 4 children.

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For more information on the USS MONTANA and the support committee, go to the ussmontanacommittee.us website.

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