

USS IOWA SSN-797

Commissioning Committee, PO Box 1968, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406



Commissioning Committee Newsletter

2020 – # 19 REVISED

July 10, 2020

www.USSIowaSSN797.org

Officers

- Sponsor: Ms. Christie Vilsack
- Chairman: Peter B. Welch, CAPT, SC, USNR (ret)

As most of you may have heard by now, yesterday the Big Ten has canceled all 2020 non-conference games for the rest of the season. This is an attempt to make it through the COVID-19 pandemic so there will not be any Iowa versus Iowa State game this fall. And so there will not be any 'Veteran of the Game' with Christie and the CO and myself walking out onto the field.

In Iowa the 'Cy-Hawk' football game is often called Iowa's Super Bowl. Thousands of houses in Iowa display 'black-and-gold' or 'cardinal-and-gold' banners all week with large viewing parties throughout the state. The Hawkeyes' season opener against Northern Iowa will be gone for the season too. Iowans will be as one with their disappointment regarding this decision.

Wednesday's big news was that the SECRETARY of the NAVY visited the USS Iowa and the crew at the shipyard in Groton! The skipper tells me that SECNAV now has an Iowa coin in his pocket! Pictures to follow later, but they have to clear the security protocols first.

We're planning on a video zoom conference with the senior crew members on Tuesday July 14th at 4:00 PM Central Daylight Time. (Eastern time will be at 5:00 PM daylight time.)

Because of security conditions, the crew is not allowed to conduct zoom conferences while in the shipyard. But they can from outside the base. There will be a number of topics to be discussed. If you want to participate in the zoom call, or come to my law firm where we have a huge conference room with a ten foot TV screen, then respond back to the Committee at this email address and we'll send you directions on how to participate.

CAPT Pete Welch sends his best!!! Stay healthy!!!