

MOSSAR Assists in Commissioning of Submarine USS MISSOURI

A new ship bearing the name of the Show-Me State became part of the U.S. Navy fleet on July 31, 2010, with the commissioning of the USS Missouri (SSN-780) at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton CT. Several hundred Missourians were among the 3,000 people who gathered on a pier for the commissioning ceremony, including several MOSSAR Compatriots involved in the event. After the ceremony, the crew of the Missouri hosted public tours of the boat

MOSSAR provided an ongoing link between our Society and the new submarine by the gift of an original painting that will hang in the wardroom of the submarine where all of the officers of the sub eat their meals and conduct their meetings. Members of the Fernando de Leyba Chapter took the lead in this effort.

Compatriot Charles E. Lilly President of the Fernando de Leyba Chapter and MOSSAR Secretary, was honored to present the gift to Commander Tim Rexrode, the submarine's Captain at the Friday night banquet on July 30th,. The painting depicts the five naval vessels to proudly bear the name of our state.

In addition to Lilly, Fernando de Leyba Chapter members attending the ceremony included Chapter Vice President Paul Smith and Chapter Veterans Chairman David Christian

Other MOSSAR Compatriots were also very involved in the ceremony and its preparation. The State of Missouri established a *USS Missouri* Commissioning Committee to support the commissioning ceremony activities and provide assistance with certain crew amenities. The *Committee* was headed by Samuel M. Bushman, Jefferson City businessman (and Compatriot of MOSSAR's Christopher Casey Chapter). The Committee Treasurer was MOSSAR Honorary Vice-President Edward S. Gray. Compatriots Bushman and Gray attended the Commissioning Ceremony.

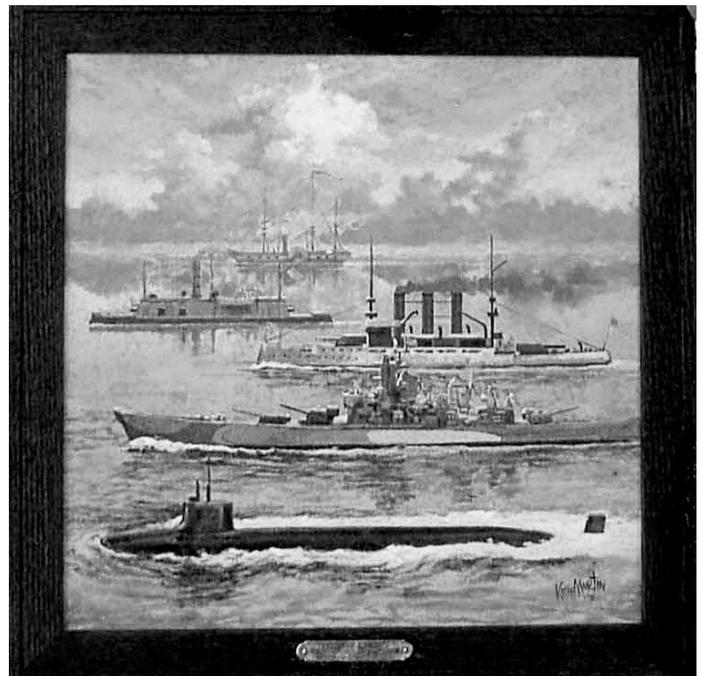
Congressman Ike Skelton of Lexington, MO, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and MOSSAR Compatriot, was principal speaker at the ceremony. Congressman Skelton's father was a sailor on the first battleship USS Missouri during World War I.



Compatriot Charles Lilly & the *USS Missouri*

MOSSAR'S GIFT TO THE USS MISSOURI

**"The USS Missouri"
"We wish them Godspeed"**



The Original Painting, pictured above, was presented to the Officers and Seamen serving aboard the *USS Missouri*, by the Missouri Society, Sons of the American Revolution. The painting, by Missouri artist Ken Martin, depicts the five naval vessels that have proudly born the name of our state. From the top, the ships are:

The USS Missouri, circa 1841 - a 10-gun, side-wheel frigate. She was one of the first steam-powered

warships in the United States Navy.

The USS Missouri, circa 1863 - a steam-powered ram in the Confederate Navy. She operated in Texas on the Red River before surrendering at the end of the civil war.

The USS Missouri, circa 1901 - a Maine class battleship. She sailed around the world with Teddy Roosevelt's "Great White Fleet."

The USS Missouri, Circa 1944 - "Mighty Mo" She served the United States extensively in WWII and hosted the formal surrender of the Japanese forces by MacArthur on her main deck on 14 August 1945.

The newest USS Missouri, 2010 - a Virginia Class Nuclear Attack Submarine.

PRINTS AVAILABLE

A limited number of prints of the MOSSAR donated USS Missouri painting are available. Archival paper prints (12x16) are \$70 (plus \$6 shipping). Mounted canvas prints (18x18) are \$175 (plus \$8 shipping).

To obtain a form to order from the artist, contact Compatriot STEPHEN M. BALDWIN, 285 HUNTSDALE DRIVE, WENTZVILLE, MO 63385, baldwinsm@aol.com