



SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

U.S. Navy Chief Carl R. Tilden, right, and the Hall County Commission hold the Georgia state flag Monday afternoon at the Hall County Courthouse Annex as the flag makes a scheduled stop in Hall County while touring every county in the state in celebration of the USS Georgia being moved to a new home near Savannah. The flag will be taken aboard the submarine when the tour of counties is complete.

## Traveling flag will welcome submarine home

BY JESSICA JORDAN  
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All 159 of Georgia's counties are playing a part in rolling out the welcome mat for the return of the USS Georgia to state waters in March.

U.S. Navy representatives are collaborating with multiple Georgia Regional Development Centers to plan a statewide Georgia Flag Project that takes the state flag on a trip through each county where local government officials sign a document verifying its visit to the county.

Hall County Commission Chairman Tom Oliver inked the proc-

lamation proving the flag visited Hall County Monday afternoon following a county work session. Hall County is the 13th county the flag has visited.

Upon the conclusion of the flag's statewide journey, it will be presented by Gov. Sonny Perdue to the commanding officer of the USS Georgia in King's Bay, where the submarine will be temporarily docked.

The flag will be folded and encased in a triangular shadowbox to be permanently mounted on the submarine. A logbook containing all the signed documents from each county official will also be

displayed aboard the sub.

"This flag, not a replica of this flag, will be mounted on this ship," said Danny Lewis, executive director of the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center.

The USS Georgia is one of four U.S. Navy submarines undergoing a \$2 billion conversion from a ballistic missile submarine to a guided missile submarine designation.

U.S. Navy Chief Carl Tilden led the ceremony Monday at the Courthouse Annex.

Retired U.S. Navy Capt. David Geer is also a member of the Metro-Atlanta Council of the U.S. Navy League, and said after all

**gainesvilletimes.com:** Hear Danny Lewis, executive director of the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center, talk about the Georgia Flag Project.

four ships undergo the conversion, the Navy aims to have at least two of the submarines deployed at all times.

The location of the submarines will be determined by a national authority, but Geer said the ships will most likely be stationed in the Mediterranean Sea or near the Middle East within the next year.

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## Georgia flag with a Navy mission visits Hall County

By [Jerry Gunn Staff](#)



GAINESVILLE - A Georgia state flag with a special mission drew a resolution from the Hall County Commission Monday.

Navy League member and retired submarine officer David Geer said Governor Sonny Perdue will present the flag and resolutions from all 159 of Georgia's counties to the captain of the newly refitted U.S.S. Georgia, a nuclear submarine.

"The purpose is to bring recognition to the ship and to the communities that the ship is back in Georgia and to show support to the crew," Geer said.

The Navy League and the Regional Development Center brought the flag; the flag presentation occurs March 28th at Kings Bay Submarine Base during a return to service ceremony.

Geer said the 'Georgia' is coming back on line as a guided missile submarine with a contingent of 66 Navy 'Seals' and their support equipment.



Georgia submarine flag visits Hall Commissioners

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