



USS GEORGIA coming home

The Navy League of the United States, Atlanta Metropolitan Council fought for 14 years to "Bring the USS GEORGIA home." Having finally succeeded in its goal — the OHIO Class Submarine will be returned to service in March and stationed at Kings Bay in St. Marys — the organization took on the additional task of taking the Georgia State Flag on a trip across the entire state, to each of Georgia's 159 counties. The flag, along with proclamations from each county welcoming the sub and her crew of 15 officers and 139 enlisted members back to Georgia, will be presented by Gov. Sonny Perdue to the the Commanding Officer of the USS GEORGIA as part of the Return to Service Ceremony in Kings Bay March 28. Capt. Don Giles (U.S. Navy Ret.), RTS Committee Member and a National Director of the Navy League, worked with Georgia Regional Development Centers in planning the project. Lumpkin County is the first county in this region of the state to have the state flag that will be presented to the Commanding Officer of the USS GEORGIA visit its courthouse. Pictured are (from left) U.S Navy recruiter 1C2(SW) Curtis Draper Jr.; GMRDC Executive Director W. Danny Lewis; county commissioners Clarence Grindle, Clarence Stowers, John Raber, Steve Gooch and Deborah Hutcheson; GMRDC member J.B. Jones; and Harley T. Jones with the Navy League and a retired captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve. The Navy League, which is organizing the celebration, is offering sponsorships to help defray the cost of the event. For more information, visit their website at www.USSGEORGIA.org. (Staff photo/SHARON HALL)

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