



Through the Georgia Flag Project, the White County Board of Commissioners officially gave its support Friday to the USS Georgia submarine crew. From left are military veteran Tom Sieswerda, Bill Schwendler, Bill Black, Craig Bryant, Chris Nonnemaker, Joe Campbell, Annie Sutton, Danny Lewis, Carl Tilden, Don Stanley and Alton Brown. (Photo/Denise Etheridge)

Commission lends sub support through Georgia flag project

by Denise Etheridge
White County News

The White County Board of Commissioners pledged its support Friday to the USS Georgia submarine's mission in a ceremony documenting the Georgia flag's journey through White County.

The USS Georgia (SSGN 729), a ballistic missile submarine, is returning to service in March and will be home-ported at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay near St. Marys on the Georgia coast.

The submarine can carry a crew of 15 officers, 139 enlisted men and up to 66 Special Operations Forces for a sustained, long endurance deployment.

Local government officials and representatives from the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center (GMRDC), the U.S. Navy and Navy League joined in recognizing the submarine's crew.

"It is the largest submarine in our (naval) service," said

Danny Lewis, GMRDC director. "It's all about protection."

"The USS Georgia has 154 Tomahawk missiles," said Master Chief Carl Tilden, U.S. Navy. "That would take out Baghdad twice."

Present were White County Commissioners Joe Campbell and Craig Bryant, White County Commission Chairman Chris Nonnemaker, White County manager Alton Brown, Cleveland Mayor Don Stanley, Cleveland City Council Member Annie Sutton, GMRDC board member Bill Black, Bill Schwendler of the Navy League, Master Chief Carl Tilden, U.S. Navy and GMRDC director Danny Lewis.

"We want the folks on the boat to know that people in the state [of Georgia] appreciate them," said Navy League representative Bill Schwendler.

Gov. Sonny Perdue will present the flag to the commanding officer of the USS Georgia at the Return to Service Ceremony in Kings Bay on March 28.



Submarine flag makes its way through White County

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