

# USS PHOENIX (SSN 702) Cold War Monument Concept Reveal

Steele Indian School Park 300 E Indian School Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85012

April 11, 2023



## The History of the USS PHOENIX (SSN 702)

USS PHOENIX (SSN-702), a Los Angeles-class submarine, was the fifth ship of the United States Navy to be named "Phoenix" and the third to be named after the city, Phoenix, Arizona (the first two were named after the mythological bird). The contract to build her was awarded to the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut, on 31 October 1973, and her keel was laid down on 30 July 1977. She was launched on 8 December 1979, sponsored by Mrs. Betty Harvey Rhodes, wife of Congressman John J. Rhodes, and commissioned on 19 December 1981, with Captain William C. Rothert in command. Much of her service life is still classified, but she would have likely performed many clandestine missions throughout her career in the "silent service" while patrolling the North Atlantic. As a fast attack submarine, she would have operated both independently and in conjunction with US surface fleets, mainly carrier battle groups. The primary missions of fast attack submarines are to hunt down other submarines and surface ships, gather sensitive intelligence, and for those equipped, launch cruise missiles in support of ground operations. Phoenix was decommissioned on 29 July 1998. On Friday, 12 August 2016, the sail, diving planes, and rudder of USS Phoenix arrived in Phoenix, AZ by truck transport from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington. The parts, weighing in at a total of 123,160 pounds, are being stored at the Papago Park Military Reservation until sufficient funds can been

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington. The parts, weighing in at a total of 123,160 pounds, are being stored at the Papago Park Military Reservation until sufficient funds can been raised to restore the parts, create a monument, and place them at Steele Indian School Park near the Arizona State Veteran Home in Phoenix. Visit our website at www.ussphoenixmonument.org and donate or buy a brick to memorialize your or a loved one's service. It is time to move forward and complete construction of the USS PHOENIX Cold

War Monument!!

# Welcome

Pete Lumianski, Capt., USN (Ret.)

Pledge of Allegiance

Lynn Bennett, LCDR, USN (Ret.)

**Project History/Introduction of Special Guests** 

Pete Lumianski, Capt., USN (Ret.)

Sign Reveal Remarks

Wanda Wright, Col., USAF (Ret),
Former Director, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Remarks

Laura Pastor
City Counsel, District 4

**Closing Remarks** 

# **Major Project Contributors**

**AVNET** 

Arizona State Veteran Home Jim Bolek, Graphic Artist Jackie Brown, Graphic Artist Bragg Crane Service

Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railways
City of Phoenix Military Veterans Commission
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department

Colt Transportation
CORE Construction
Fasturtle

Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 163
Harry Robertson Family Foundation
Instagrint

Laura Pastor, Phoenix City Councilwoman, District 4
Orcutt | Winslow Architects

Papago Park Military Reservation
Perch Base Submarine Veterans, USSVI
Phoenix Saguaro Chapter, Association of the U.S.Navy
Port of Subs

Suzanne Thompson, Graphic Artist
The Robert Turpin Family
Trilogy Vistancia Association Veterans Club
Unified Arizona Veterans
Wall Sensations

Thanks also to the many, many persons who have contributed their dollars, time and support to our project. They are all greatly appreciated!

#### Laura Pastor, Phoenix City Council Member, District 4



Phoenix native Laura Pastor is a fifth generation Arizonan and current member of the Phoenix City Council representing the mid-town District 4, a district which ranges from McDowell Rd. to Bethany Home Rd. She was first elected to the City Council in 2013 and again for a second term in 2017. She is a graduate of St. Mary's High School, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from ASU. Both her parents, including her famous father, Congressman Ed Pastor, began their careers as classroom teachers. Laura served as a classroom teacher as well in the Roosevelt and Isaac Elementary School Districts, working primarily with at-risk students. In 1999, Laura was selected for a National Urban and Rural Fellowship at the Baruch College School of Public Affairs in the City University of New York, graduating with a Master of Public

Administration degree. She moved to Chicago and became involved in a variety of cultural education programs in support of many Chicago-based museums and schools. Laura is the current Council chair of the City's sub-committee on Economic Development, and serves on the Transportation, Infrastructure and Planning sub-committee as well. She is deeply involved in the Valley's Metro Rail programs and development.

Laura resides in Phoenix with her husband, Harry Cotto, a former major league baseball player and minor league coach. They have four children, Henry Jr, Claudia, Eduardo and Sophia.

### COL Wanda Wright, Former Director Arizona Department of Veterans' Services



Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Director Wanda Wright is the third generation of her family to serve in the U.S. military. As a 1985 United States Air Force Academy graduate, Colonel Wright began her military career as Deputy Budget Officer with the Tactical Air Command in South Carolina. During 21 years with the Arizona National Guard, she served in various positions finishing her career as the Director of Staff for the Adjutant General in Phoenix. Colonel Wright holds a B.S. in Management from the U.S. Air Force Academy, a M.B.A from Webster University in South Carolina, a M.P.A. from the University of Arizona and an M.A. in Educational Leadership from Arizona State University. Colonel Wright's decorations and awards include the

Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster.

Director Wright is the President for the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs as of 27 August 2022. In 2018, Director Wright was appointed to serve on the Veteran Affairs' Advisory Committee on Women Veterans.

### USS PHOENIX (SSN 702) Cold War Foundation

#### Carol Culbertson, Chairwoman



Captain Carol Culbertson was bom in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1943. She enlisted in the Naval Reserve at Pearl Harbor in 1962. She attended the University of Hawaii, earned a BA in English, and was later commissioned as an Ensign in 1967, after completing her officer training at OCS in Newport, RI. During her active duty in the Navy, she was stationed in San Diego in support of antisubmarine warfare training. She joined the Naval Reserve in 1972 and retired as a Navy Captain, Reserve Intelligence, in 2003. As a civilian, Carol worked as a Civil Service employee for 33 years with the US Navy in Japan, the US Army in Kansas, the Forest Service, and the Internal Revenue Service in California, Arizona, and Colorado.

In her retirement Carol provides business training programs to working women, and educational history programs which are open to the public. Carol is a community leader in 16 different organizations, including veteran/federal affairs with the Federally Employed Women, Retired Federal Employees, Association of Former Intelligence Officers, the American Legion, Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame and Society, Association of the U.S. Navy, the Cactus WAVES, the Naval Order of the U.S., and the Unified Arizona Veterans.

She is also active in Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Cross Roads Methodist Church, as well as the Phoenix Hawaiian Club and the American Aviation Historical Society. As a Big Sister, she has mentored three young women. As Church Team Leader, she serves meals to the homeless in Phoenix.

#### Pete Lumianski, Executive Director



Captain Pete Lumianski is the third son of an English professor at Michigan State University and grew up in central Michigan. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy and spent the next 24 years in the Navy as a helicopter pilot and leader-manager, ending his career in 1988 as a Captain and as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Reserve Center, Tampa, FL.

Along the way, he acquired an MBA in management from Bryant University and graduated with honors from the Naval War College in Newport, RI. Over the past 34 years since moving to Phoenix, Pete has held positions in the hospitality industry as the Chief Human Resources Officer at both the Pointe Resorts and at Macayo Restaurants. He was the President of the

Service Academy Alumni Association of Arizona for eight years.

Pete has been involved with the USS Phoenix (SSN 702) since 1989, first as a USS Phoenix Commission member, and for the past 28 years as a leader in the effort to save parts of the USS Phoenix and place them in a downtown Phoenix park as part of a Cold War monument. He and his wife Chris are both retired and have three daughters and eight grandchildren, all living in Phoenix.

### Lynn Bennett, Marketing Director



LCDR Lynn Bennet is retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve and was a Public Affairs Officer. She worked mostly with the Navy Office of Community Outreach and Pacific Command and was prior enlisted.

She retired in 2016 after 22 years in the Navy. For the past 20 years, Lynn has been a Real Estate Agent in the Phoenix area, as well as a Property Manager. She has been the Vice President of the Association of the U.S. Navy – Phoenix Saguaro Chapter since 2003.