

Sub talk



TOM LaPOINT/TIMES UNION

Cmdr. Paul N. Jaenichen of the sub USS *Albany* talks with Mayor Jerry Jennings at City Hall Wednesday. **Story on B4.**

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AROUND THE REGION

Crew visits sub's namesake city

Albany Detachment's duties include honoring a Niskayuna teacher whose students write to sailors and officers

By **BRUCE A. SCRUTON**
Staff writer

Instead of civilians visiting aboard a U.S. Navy submarine, the submariners have come aboard Albany for a three-day visit to the place for which their ship is named.

The visit serves several purposes, said Cmdr. Paul N. Jaenichen, captain of the nuclear submarine USS *Albany*. While visiting the city and providing a reward for some of the top sailors aboard, the Navy will take the opportunity to honor teacher Carol Larou at Iroquois Middle School in Niskayuna.

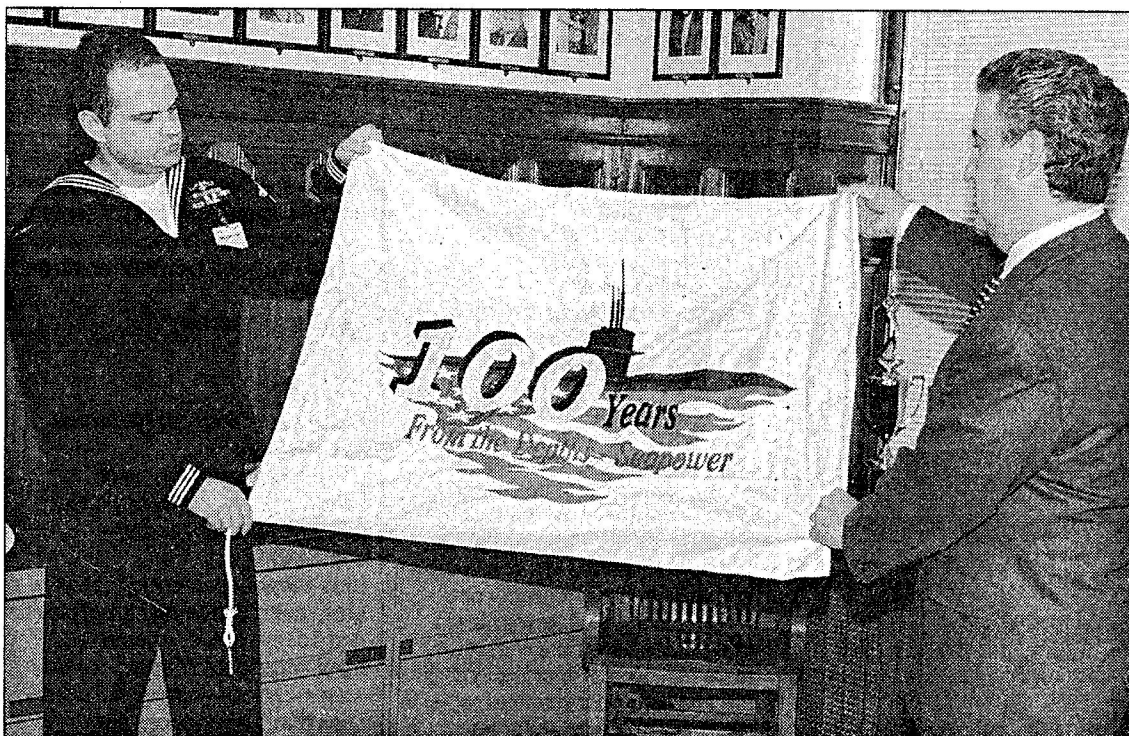
"For the past 19 years, she has gotten her students involved in writing to sailors and officers in the Navy," said Jaenichen. "This year, there's 12 different ships," including the *Albany*.

Larou, who has been named a Teacher of the Week by WNYT, Ch. 13, and will be honored this spring by the Smithsonian Institute, uses the letters and gifts from the sailors in various ways within the classroom.

"I think it's great," said the captain. "If you can pique a child's interest as a student, it makes a lasting impression."

The 10-person detachment from the *Albany* met with Mayor Jerry Jennings Wednesday afternoon, then visited the USS *Albany* wing of the Albany Visitors Center. The evening's events included an River Rats hockey game.

Today, the group visits the Kesselring site in Milton, the spot where some of the sailors received



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PETTY OFFICER Glenn Teter of the USS *Albany* presents a banner to Mayor Jerry Jennings Wednesday.

their nuclear submarine training, and the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, which helped develop the first nuclear power plants for the Navy's fleet.

On Friday, the two officers and eight enlisted men visit Iroquois school.

Among the visiting crew members is MM1 Glen Teter, the *Albany's* Sailor of the Year, who also was named Sailor of the Year for Sub Squadron 6. "He was judged best of the 500 or so men in the squad," said his captain.

Such trips are morale boosters for the enlisted men, the commander explained. "We are providing a service to this country, but sometimes they lose sight of what we're doing when they're scrubbing johns or swabbing decks. This

gives them a chance to get out and meet the people of the country. It re-enforces what we are doing."

This is Jaenichen's sixth submarine assignment since he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in the early 1980s, and it's his first command. In his last assignment, he was executive officer aboard the USS *Kentucky*.

This incarnation of the USS *Albany* is the latest of several Navy ships that have borne the city's name. The first was launched in 1846 and the 150th anniversary of that launch was the last time an *Albany* crew has visited the city.

The captain said the ship is at his home port in Norfolk, Va., where it is getting a routine maintenance overhaul and inspection. At the end of the month, the sub will get a

week of trials to check that work and then in April will begin a six-week training mission.

While he wouldn't talk directly about the USS *Greenville*, the submarine that struck and sank a Japanese fishing boat off the coast of Hawaii while U.S. citizens were aboard, Jaenichen said he believes the practice of bringing civilians aboard should be continued.

"It's one way we can be sure the general public, the 'influential constituents' they're called, can see first hand just what we can do," he said. "It's important for them to know, to see for themselves where their tax dollars are going."

"People need to realize what we can do as a force, both from the military as well as the scientific aspects," he added.