



CHAMBER of COMMERCE  
EASTERN CONNECTICUT  
1910 - 2011 | SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

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## Business Center

Need help for your business? Visit the Chamber! **SCORE, a free, confidential organization supported by the Small Business Administration**, is available at the Chamber office every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and at Dime Bank in Norwich every second and fourth Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please call the Chamber for an appointment.

**Insurance Resource Center** representatives are available every day.

An advisor from the **Small Business Development Center** will be available the first and third Thursday of each month to provide free one-on-one counseling at the Chamber offices by appointment only. For more information, call the Chamber at 860-701-9113.

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**Memphis sails into the past, but the memories remain for Chamber Exec.**

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*Through their commitment to the Chamber, these companies have demonstrated support for the many smaller businesses we serve.*



A lot of memories went down the Thames in early April when the USS Memphis slid quietly down the river and into history.

Many who gathered in the Shepherd of the Sea chapel a few days before to witness the ship's decommissioning ceremony doubtless had memories of the 360-foot vessel that was built at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, and first entered the fleet in late December, 1977.

But one among them had a unique perspective. G. Dennis Hicks, known to all these days as Denny, is now the Chamber's director of strategic planning.

He was the first commanding officer of the Los Angeles Class, fast-attack sub named for a city known more for Elvis than undersea warfare. He was one of the speakers when the ship was formally retired after 33 years of active duty.

"I will not dwell on the sadness surrounding the loss of a tremendous asset to our fleet, but rather would like our conversations to celebrate the life of the Mighty Memphis and her significant contributions to our nation," he told the several

hundred attending the ceremony.

Built for duty during the Cold War, the Memphis has been modified over the years, and supported military operations in Iraq in 2006 and in other trouble spots before and since.

Under Denny's command of the pre-commissioning crew, the Memphis completed construction and then extensive testing

immediately following its launch, but before it joined the fleet.

In all, he spent more than four years with the Memphis, at times challenging, but with more than its share of satisfying memories.

Denny retired long before the Memphis, and settled in southeastern Connecticut. He recalled recently that his time with the ship was the highlight of a naval career that spanned

nearly three decades.

"I say that because there's more independence at sea to call the shots and take responsibility for them, more so than any other job I've had," he said.

"In a sense you become the ship and are responsible for everything that happens there," he said. I think anybody who's had command of a ship



*continued on page 3*





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### Members: Have news?

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## MILITARY DISCOUNT PROGRAM

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# News and Editorial

## Memphis *continued*

at sea would agree with that.”

Denny’s was a career that had him in major positions of responsibility, including command of a squadron of 10 nuclear submarines that operated out of Hawaii and a tour as the senior member of the Pacific Fleet Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board. He retired after a tour at the Pentagon.

He entered the navy in 1961 after earning a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Colorado. He retired as a captain 28 years later.

Addressing the standing-room-only crowd at the ceremony, Denny told how the Memphis traveled hundreds of thousands of miles in service to our country, but that it was time for Memphis to cease operations.

“[T]ime has taken its toll on systems and a hull that were designed for a 30 year life,” he said. “Memphis has given a full measure against that design and retires with honor. The taxpayers got their money’s worth.”

When she left Submarine Base New London last month, the Memphis headed for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Maine to begin a process that will undo the work so painstakingly carried out in that Virginia shipyard so long ago.

But for Denny and others who served on her, the Memphis will always occupy a special place in their thoughts, and in their hearts. After all, she was, and is, the Mighty Memphis.

## Sneak Peak at Mystic Magazine Cover



The countdown has begun for the publication date of Mystic Country Magazine. Shortly, 250,000 copies of the award-winning publication will be available for distribution to visitors and those thinking about coming here.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Tuesday, May 17, 2011 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

## Business After Hours Connecticut Tigers @ Dodd Stadium

14 Stott Avenue, Norwich

\$15 members, \$25 non-members  
\$5 walk-in fee

Wednesday, June 8, 2011 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

## Business After Hours Eugene O’Neil Theater Center with Liberty Bank

305 Great Neck Road, Waterford

\$15 members, \$25 non-members  
\$5 walk-in fee

To register, call (860) 701-9113 or visit [www.ChamberECT.com](http://www.ChamberECT.com)

## LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



Clockwise from top left: State Rep. Steve Mikutel, State Comptroller Kevin Lembo, State Rep. Diana Urban, State Rep. Ernest Hewett discuss current legislative issues in eastern CT with the leadership class.

## GOVERNMENT SESSION