



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SUBMARINE FORCE

VOL. 2022 #4

USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER

Association Officers & Board of Directors 2021 - 2023

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HISTORIAN / CUSTODIAN Larry [Linda] Knutson	WEBMASTER / NEWSLETTER Nick [Linda] Nichols	CHAPLAIN Bruce [Vicki] Stefanik
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From the Association President - Tom Krauser, MM1(SS) B 72-74:

They say April showers bring May flowers. Something to look forward to !! We got a snow storm on the 13th of March but that has all melted and the grass is starting to get green.

The temperature is finally up so we can take walks and actually sweat a little. Recently, Marie and I walked to the store for a few groceries and had to remove our coats on the way back. Looking forward to warmer days !!

Marie and I are looking forward to the next reunion in Charleston in 2023.

If you have any questions or concerns for the board, please feel free to contact us so we can address them.



Custodian - Larry Knutson, MMCS(SS) B 79-81 USSVI-Charleston Base:

We still have the box of Gold Crew check-in cards that were from the time of Bob Weeks CO tour. If you were on the Gold Crew during any time when Bob Weeks was the

CO you completed a check-in card for him. The box of cards is now held by our base secretary. If you would like a copy of your card sent to you please contact our Secretary at 655webmaster@ssbn655.org.



Chaplain's Corner - Bruce Stefanik, MS1(SS) B 73-77, USSVI USS Asheville Base

April showers show us that Spring is on the way. May we remember that as things start to grow we need to grow in God's love and in loving each other.

This is a great time for all Submariners to show love and care for each other and to remember all of our shipmates on the binnacle list.

May you and your families be blessed as we thing of each other this month.

A Charleston Base member submission

Thanks everyone who called! I'm grateful for your concern.

First off, I'm ok now but I was very shaken by the event. For those who aren't aware, I was robbed at a gas station in Summerville, South

to perpetuate the men lost aboard USS Thresher, John Henry McArdle Commander, Thresher Base USSVI



The following Stimson Shipmates have departed on Eternal Patrol.

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No Shipmates added this month

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The direct link to the Association Eternal Patrol page is: <http://ssbn655.org/eternal-patrol/eternal-patrol.html>



WELCOME ABOARD: Found & Updated Shipmates

(Shipmate has contacted us to be added or have info updated on our Sailing List. Please check the online Sailing List for shipmates contact info.)

NOTE: MANY THANKS TO DON ORT, MM1(SS) G/OVHL1/G 69-74, FOR THE EFFORTS HE IS MAKING TO LOCATE OUR STIMSON SHIPMATES WHO ARE ON OUR SAILING LIST BUT WITH NO EMAIL ADDRESS.

EM2(SS) Michael Baldaia B/SY1/G 71-74

[info updated per member request]

EM2(SS) Stuart Brantley EM2(SS) B 71-75

[info updated per member request]

BINNACLE LIST UPDATES: If you know of a shipmate who should be on the binnacle list please let me know. I will contact the shipmate for permission to add them to this list. I only add those who have given permission.

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Ron Hyson, STS1(SS) B 70-75, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI Hampton Roads Base, Holland Club, STSCM(SS) Retired

Cards to: 3425 MacDonald Rd., Virginia Beach VA 23464

3.14.2022: Email from Ron: I wanted to let you know that I was diagnosed last month with Alzheimer's. Do you know of anyone else on the boats that also has this disease? I was thinking this might be connected with Amine that was used on the boats. My short term memory is shot and their is no cure for Alzheimer's. I have another doctor's appointment Thursday, will let you more of my diagnosis. Our world has been turned upside down. Take Care, RG

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Karen Huckeba [Dave's wife, MM1(SS) B 71-75]

Cards to: 4611 Wickford Cir NE, Roswell GA 30075

3.28.2022: Update from Karen: I'm still dealing with pretty much the same things so there's not anything new. Just typical Covid side effects and those will take time. Maybe next month I might have some more news and made more progress on healing. We are hanging in there and hoping these cold snaps will stop and spring get here to stay!! God bless, Karen

2.21.2022: Update from Karen: Today at the pulmonary dr I did tests to measure how my oxygen levels and lungs are doing plus some X-rays.

Results were good. My lungs have cleared up by 2/3rds! I kept my oxygen level up walking and doing the tests without using oxygen. So I am off oxygen completely during the day!!! PTL! We are doing a sleep study for 2 nights with a special oximeter. If my oxygen stays up then I don't have to use it at night anymore. Dr feels it will stay up but I wanted to be sure! I don't want any mess ups at this point in time!! Tomorrow I go to primary care Dr. I want to get some answers about physical therapy. God is so good! I have to admit I thought my lungs would have more spots on them than they do. I also have the go ahead to swim and workout in the pool! So happy about that!! Thank you for your prayers!!

From Karen

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Pam Flynn (Mike Flynn's wife)

Cards to: 97 Arbor Place, New Albany IN 47150

3.28.2022: Update from Mike: Pam is well on her way to complete recovery. She is off all oxygen at this time, Thanks for your support!!

2.24.2022: Update from Mike: Pam is home from the hospital. She came home Sunday afternoon. She is very weak and still suffering from the Covid pneumonia. Her fever has subsided as has her nausea. She on large volume of oxygen 24/7 for now and I am monitoring it very close. Taking medications for pneumonia and her heart arrhythmia. Very slow process for healing from this point on. Thanks for all your prayers.

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Kim Sanner (Bill Sanner's wife, ET2(SS) B 73-77

Cards to: 2009 Glenda Ave., Haltom City TX 76111

2.24.2022: Update from Bill: At the end of January, we spent a full 12-hour day meeting and greeting with doctors, PAs and Social Workers, having 18 vials of blood taken for tests, and an end of day blood transfusion to finish it off. Since then, we have been patiently waiting for a transplant donor to be determined and located.

We have a video appointment slated for this coming Monday (2.28) with Kim's transplant doctor to discuss timelines and procedures. I'm close to ending my computer business because I'm about to begin full time caregiving for her, which is way more work than I expected.

Kim's attitude is good, although sometimes her emotions take over and she becomes overwhelmed. She gets winded putting clothes in the washing machine, or even walking from the living room to the kitchen, and gets frustrated from that. She has lived a vigorous lifestyle and just gets frustrated. She is a good woman.

Next time we go to Houston, she will be admitted to MD Anderson and immediately begin "extreme chemotherapy" (their words) to kill her immune system and to eliminate her current bone marrow. Then the transplant process will begin.

Please remember Kim Sanner when you pray. Our trust for our future together lies in His hands. Bill Sanner, 817-713-3530 cell

1.23.2022: Email from Bill: The date of our registration and start of our MD Anderson dance

has been moved to January 31. Unfortunately, we both contracted covid which forced the change. Meanwhile, I expect that she'll receive another blood transfusion before she travels. That will be her fifth or sixth, I can't remember which. Anyway, we are so grateful for your prayers.

Here is a song I wrote while my dad was in ICU. I hope you enjoy it. Bill

12.17.2021: Email from Bill: My wife, Kim Sanner, has been diagnosed with a bone marrow cancer called myelofibrosis which is kissing cousins with leukemia. We've been accepted to MD Anderson hospital in Houston, but this is going to be murder since she is barely too young for Medicare and has no other health insurance. The hospital itself is paying for much of her care, which begins on December 27th, but the logistics of travel and other care requirements are substantial. My daughter, Sherri, has setup a GoFundMe page to allow others to help with these costs, and the link is <https://gofund.me/ff78d706>. Please let our Stimson group know and please assist with your prayers whether or not they choose to donate. Our God is the only One who can heal her. The doctors, with their transplants, are merely His hands.

Thanks with Love, Bill Sanner 817-715-3530 cell

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Andrew 'Andy' Mckay, TMC G 85-88

Cards to: 2207 FM 1729, Lubbock TX 79403

1.25.2022: Email from Andy: As time goes by, I slowly get a little worse each day. I am now homebound. I have not been able to leave my house since July of last year. I use a walker to get around. This past November I went on home hospice. It has worked well for me. I have a nurse visit once a week. A nurse aid 3 times a week to help shave, bath and stuff like that. Hospice provides my medications, medical supplies and medical equipment. Bottom line is I am still kicking just not as hard as I use to. Thanks // Andy
4.1.2021: Email from Andy: I was found to have lung cancer in 2007. I had surgery to remove half of my right lung. I did 4 months of chemo. I now have final stage COPD. I am on full time supplemental oxygen

GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH

655 Association Website

www.ssb655.org

*Submitted by Don Ort, MM1(SS) G/SY1 69-74,
USSVI Charleston Base, Holland Club*

A great link to a series of really good submarine knowledge.

smarter every day submarine - YouTube

SOMETHING FROM OUR SHIPMATES:

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Submitted by George Birmingham, ET1(SS) G 69-74, Assoc. LM, USSVI Holland Club / Carolina Piedmont Base

This one has been around a couple of times but still good....call it a Golden Oldie...like most of us are.

Darn, I'm older than dirt!!

Someone asked the other day,,,,,,,,,,,,,

'What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?'

'We didn't have fast food when I was growing up,

I informed him, ' All the food was slow.'

'C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?'

'It was a place called 'at home,' I explained!

'Mom cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, & if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.'

By this time, the guy was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table. Here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood, if I figured his system could have handled it:

Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore Levi's, set foot on a golf course, traveled out of the country or had a credit card.

My parents never drove me to school I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and

only had one speed, (slow).

We didn't have a television in our house until I was 10. It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at 11:00 p.m., after playing the national anthem and a poem about God. It came back on the air at about 6:00 a.m. And there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on, featuring local people ...

I never had a telephone in my room.

Our only phone was on a party line.

Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line.

Pizzas were not delivered to our home... But milk was & so was bread.

All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers -- my brother delivered a newspaper, six days a week. He had to get up at 5 AM every morning.

Movie stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least, they did in the movies! There were no movie ratings because all movies were responsibly produced for everyone to enjoy viewing, without profanity or violence or most anything offensive.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Don't blame me if they bust their gut laughing.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

MEMORIES:

My Dad is cleaning out my grandmother's house (she died in December) and he brought me an old Royal Crown Cola bottle. In the bottle top was a stopper with a bunch of holes in it. I knew immediately what it was, but my daughter had no idea. She thought they had tried to make it a salt shaker or something. I knew it as the bottle that sat on the end of the ironing board to 'sprinkle' clothes with because we didn't have steam irons. Man, I am old.

How many do you remember:

Head lights dimmer switches on the floor.
Ignition switches on the dashboard.
Pant leg clips for bicycles without chain guards.
Soldering irons you heated on a gas burner.
Using hand signals for cars without turn signals.

Older Than Dirt Quiz:

Count all the ones that you remember, NOT the ones you were told about!

Ratings at the bottom.

1. Candy cigarettes
2. Coffee shops with table side juke boxes
3. Home milk delivery in glass bottles
4. Party lines on the telephones
5. Newsreels before the movie
6. TV test patterns that came on at night after the last show and were there until TV shows started again in the morning. (Only 3 channels! If you had a TV!)
7. Pea-shooters
8. Howdy Doody
9. 45 RPM records
10. 78 rpm records
11. Hi-fi records 33 1/3 rpm
12. Metal ice trays with lever
13. Blue flashbulb
14. Cork popguns
15. Studebakers
16. Wash tub wringers

If you remembered 0-3 = You're still young
If you remembered 3-6 = You are getting older
If you remembered 7-10 = Don't tell your age, &
If you remembered 11-16 = You're older than dirt! THAT'S ME!

I might be older than dirt, but those memories are some of the best parts of my life.

Don't forget to pass this along!
Especially to all your really OLD friends

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*Submitted by Don Ort, MM1(SS) G/SY1 69-74,
USSVI Charleston Base*

One of the men who served on a submarine wrote this and I think it captures the submarine spirit and pride. If you have seen it before, sorry. Stay

safe.

I lived.

I could have chosen to stay in my hometown and learned a trade. I could have hidden from life's greatest challenges and been safe. But instead...

I lived.

I could have worked harder to gain acceptance to a fine educational institution and maybe be part of a fraternity that I could look back on years later and think how special I was. But instead...

I lived.

I lived on a boat that was designed to defy the sea and all its challenges. I lived a life of sacrifice that often defied logic. Many of the people I lived it for didn't even know I was doing it. Or cared. And hardly appreciated the gift. But despite that...

I lived.

I lived with men who left their own families and personal freedom to protect total strangers. I lived with them in a world surrounded by darkness and enemies of every kind. We saw some amazing things and we remained silent through it all. And because of that...

I lived a life worth living. A life that has sustained me through my later years. When the Angels call me home and ask me what I did, I only have one response.

I was a Submariner. I lived.

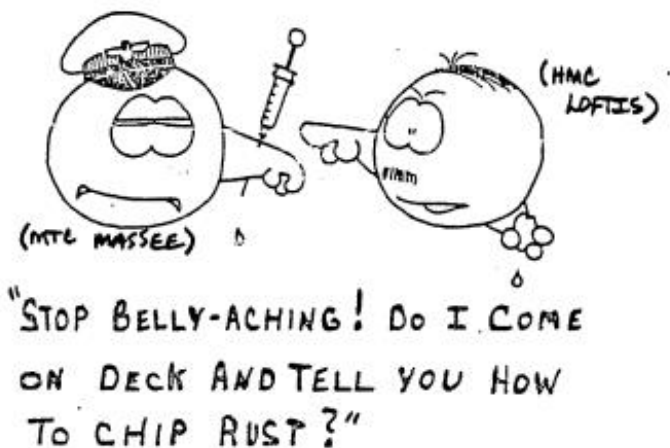


write your obituary, arrange your funeral, empty your home, and disperse your belongings, among other things.

Following are more tasks to consider. Be sure to consult a financial adviser, estate attorney or CPA for advice, as needed.

1. **Start by getting — and staying — organized**
2. **Figure out what you owe**
3. **Keep your estate plan current**
4. **Consider state law**
5. **Instruct your representative to take their time**

READ MORE HERE



The Computer Corner
By: Tom Krauser, MM1(SS) Blue 72-74, Assoc. Life Member

Getting or Giving Help with TeamViewer

By Tom Krauser Blue 72-74

There are times you need (or want to give) help with a computer or software. I volunteer at the local senior center and a program I find very useful to help seniors, friends, and family is called TeamViewer.

TeamViewer allows someone to connect to another computer remotely (one way only) to see their screen and control mouse and keyboard functions as if you are on that computer. The other person can also control the mouse and keyboard and can prohibit you from using these functions if desired.

You see what is on the other screen so you are not trying to guess what they are seeing. You can move their mouse cursor and type on that

computer with your keyboard.

TeamViewer is a FREE program when used for private non-commercial use. Both computers would need to install TeamViewer on them to use the program.

The link to install TeamViewer is below:

<https://www.teamviewer.com/en-us/>

After you install TeamViewer you can watch tutorials on YouTube on using TeamViewer. The link to one of the videos is below. There are several you could watch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPZJUoh3PzA>

When installed, TeamViewer creates an ID for each computer which DOES NOT change. This uniquely identifies that computer (like its own phone number). There is also a Password which CHANGES every time TeamViewer is started so the person connecting must be given the NEW password every time they connect to you.

I normally use my phone on speaker to communicate when using TeamViewer but the program also has the ability to use the PC camera and microphone to communicate.

You can also transfer files between computers with TeamViewer. Another option I have used is to setup your home computer for Unattended Access. I have used this to access the home computer when on vacation if the home computer was left running. You can find instructions for doing this online also.

Submitted by George Birmingham, ET1(SS) G 69-74, Assoc. LM, USSVI Holland Club / Carolina Piedmont Base

Do you know how to recognize a credit card skimmer?

Fresno-area police have these tips

Thaddeus Miller

Thu, March 24, 2022, 6:00 PM·3 min read

Credit card skimming has been a topic in recent weeks in multiple Fresno County cities, and police say there are ways to protect yourself.

Skimming usually involves a device that a thief places on an ATM or anywhere a customer might use a credit or debit card to pay.

The device steals the card number and other information that can be used to make fraudulent

purchases, police say. The thief can use the information themselves or sell it to a third party. Sgt. Martin Van Overbeek of Fresno's Financial Crimes Unit said devices can be simple and can store card information or be more complicated.

"Some have the ability to store the info and connect via Bluetooth while parked outside to download the skimmed card info," he said in an email.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

The Lean Submariner

Here's the latest posts on the blog. Still going strong. The link to his blog is

<https://theleansubmariner.com/>

Once to Every Man and Nation

by Mister Mac

As I watch the chaos unfold across the ocean, I can't help but think that history is repeating itself again. A maniacal despot seeking power, territory and personal gain pits his army against a weaker nation. But this time, the weaker nation is pushing back. Putin has just joined the scourges of the ages. He [...]

[Read more of this post](#)

Book progress – Tell the Whole Story

by Mister Mac

One of my goals for the past few years was to tell the story of Cassin Young, Captain, US Navy. Cassin was a thirty-year man in the Navy that saw some of his most significant moments during two of the most pivotal battles of the Second World War. At Pearl Harbor, he was stationed on [...]

[Read more of this post](#)

The Final Dive of the F-4 (March 1915)

by Mister Mac

F-4; THE FIRST SUBMARINE LOSS FOR THE US NAVY. It was on the morning of March 25, 1915, that F-1, F-3, and F-4 left Honolulu for local operations. F-4 did not return, and the eventual detection and recovery was a classic of naval salvage. She was later "interned" at the bottom of Pearl Harbor after [...]

[Read more of this post](#)

A sign of the times... Got Shelters?

by Mister Mac

Sunday March 4, 1962 was a cool and cloudy day in Washington DC. The front page of the paper had several stories about Marine Colonel John Glenn, Jr., recent space traveler visiting his hometown in Ohio to happy throngs of people. Other front-page stories talked about government corruption, unrest overseas, and of course, across the [...]

[Read more of this post](#)

SSN 590 – USS Sculpin – Cold War Warrior

by Mister Mac

Originally posted on [theleansubmariner](#):

SSN 590 USS Sculpin Sculpin: A spiny, large-headed, broad-mouthed, usually scale less fish of the family Cottidae. Several species are found on the Atlantic coasts of Europe and North America. USS Sculpin (SSN-590), a Skipjack-class nuclear-powered submarine, was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for the...

[Read more of this post](#)

“The sea – like life itself – is a stern taskmaster” The Story of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz

by Mister Mac

Originally posted on [theleansubmariner](#):

The sea – like life itself – is a stern taskmaster. This was the early childhood lesson taught to the boy who would later become one of the most influential leaders in the United States Navy. He was significantly influenced by his German-born paternal grandfather, Charles Henry Nimitz, a former seaman...

[Read more of this post](#)

When are those P-40's going to arrive to “raise hell on the other side of the line?” March 1942

by Mister Mac

Where are the planes? March 7th In the Philippines, the ever-encroaching forces of the Imperial Japanese Army must have seemed relentless. The under gunned and under-protected American and Philippine forces were subjected to an increasingly powerful Japanese force. Fall of the Philippines Only in the

Philippines, almost on Japan's southern doorstep, was the timetable of [...]

[Read more of this post](#)

Everything Old is New Again – Life in the Nuclear Shadow

by Mister Mac

Everything Old is New Again I've spent a great deal of time over the past few years studying about the development of nuclear power for use by the US Navy. One of the most informative documents was written in the early nineteen sixties titled Nuclear Navy 1946-1962 written principally by Richard G. Hewlett and Francis [...]

[Read more of this post](#)

May you live long enough that you long for your past despite the hardships and difficulties.

by Mister Mac

The definition for nostalgia that comes from Webster's Dictionary include these: a wistful or excessively sentimental yearning for return to or of some past period of irrecoverable condition the state of being homesick. With apologies to Webster and company, this is my definition: May you live long enough that you long for your past despite [...]

[Read more of this post](#)

What's in a name? The Saga of the Jinxed Sea Otter – 1942

by Mister Mac

What's in a name? The Saga of the Jinxed Sea Otter Even before the United States entered World War II, an old nemesis from the last World War was making its presence known: the submarines of the German Navy. Sea commerce was the life blood of the British Empire and in 1940, America was already [...]

[Read more of this post](#)

The Three Plane Navy – The Story of Rear Admiral Fullam's Vision

by Mister Mac

A little bit longer of a post than normal, but I found this to be an interesting story about a visionary man who played a key role in the Navy

in the early 1900's. Twenty years before the attack on Pearl Harbor, many voices were actively trying to warn about the narrow-minded vision of naval [...]

[Read more of this post](#)

Letters from Home – Lifelines in a Sea of Loneliness

by Mister Mac

Mail Call Anyone from my generation and before who has ever served in the military is aware of how important letters are when you are away from home. They are truly the connection you have to a place where "normal" lives despite the chaos of your current situation. With the internet, my nephews told me [...]

[Read more of this post](#)

The Mighty "B" – Don't give up the ship... the story of the USS Birmingham CL-62

by Mister Mac

On March 20, 1942, the cruiser Birmingham was launched at Newport News Virginia. Like so many ships of her generation, she was planned and designed around a model that had been determined during the various naval arms limitation treaties that predated the war she would fight in. In 1942, ships were desperately needed to fight [...]

[Read more of this post](#)

March 1946 – The Navy Gains a Foothold in the Atomic Field

by Mister Mac

In March of 1946, the country was still struggling to come to terms with the realization that the atom had been partially mastered. When the atomic bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were used to help end the war in the Pacific, the eyes of the world suddenly were opened to the fact that nothing was [...]

[Read more of this post](#)

1922 – Radio, Seaplanes and A Seagoing Covered Wagon

by Mister Mac

1922 was a year that saw both progress and limitations for the US Military and especially the

Navy. Both would play a key role in the war that could come less than two decades after. The implementation of the terms of the Washington Naval Arms Limitation Treaty were already being felt. The new class at [...]

[Read more of this post](#)

One Veteran's Story – Suicide knows no rank (March 28, 1942)

by Mister Mac

Veteran's suicide is not a new phenomenon. It has been reported that upwards of twenty-two men and women veterans commit suicide every day. That number is not pure since there are a number of filters and interpretations that are often included in statistics. But even one suicide leaves an impact on the family and those [...]

[Read more of this post](#)



**Some day all beer cans
will open this easy!**

Now only Schlitz brings you—coast to coast—the world's
easiest opening beer can! The new aluminum Softop can!
real gusto—real easy!

The Beer that made Milwaukee Famous ... simply because it tastes so good! ©1962 by Schlitz Brewing Co., Milwaukee, WI, Seattle, WA, San Diego, CA, Boston, MA, Toledo, OH.

Here's The Damage The Submarine Connecticut Sustained When It Hit An Undersea Mountain

(NAVY TIMES 02 MAR 22) ... Geoff Ziezulewicz

The stealthy and pricey fast-attack submarine

Connecticut sustained damage to its forward main ballast tanks and sonar sphere when it collided with an undersea mountain Oct. 2 in the South China Sea, and the sonar dome needs to be replaced, Submarine Force Pacific officials said Wednesday.

But neither the pressure hull nor the nuclear propulsion plant suffered damage in the mishap, according to SUBPAC spokeswoman Cmdr. Cynthia Fields.

“Based on the damage, there was no risk to the submarine’s buoyancy or stability,” Fields told Navy Times.

For months, sub veterans and online Navy watchers have speculated about what sort of damage the boat suffered based on public photos of its transit back to the states.

But Wednesday’s disclosure to Navy Times is the first official tally of what that undersea mishap did to the Seawolf class sub, one of only three in the sea service.

The sonar sphere sits within the sub’s fiberglass-like sonar dome at the bow of the ship, while the forward main ballast tanks span from the dome to the rest of the ship and help the boat submerge and surface.

An industry source, who was not authorized to speak to Navy Times on the record, said replacing the sonar dome may be the toughest part of the repairs because the three-sub Seawolf class is unlikely to have replacement parts on hand.

When the submarine San Francisco had a similar underwater incident in 2005, the Navy pulled a sonar dome from a recently decommissioned Los Angeles-class boat to replace it.

That won’t be possible for Connecticut, the source said, meaning the Navy will have to work with industry to engineer a new dome and find a supplier to build it — amid the other work being done to build new Virginia- and Columbia-class boats.

The boat entered drydock at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Feb. 8, and is undergoing “a thorough assessment,” SUBPAC spokeswoman Cmdr. Cynthia Fields told Navy Times.

But how long it will take to get Connecticut back into the fight, and how much it will cost,

remain unclear.

“Once complete, the damage assessment will inform an estimated timeline and cost to restore the ship,” Fields said. “Until the Navy completes its detailed assessment, we cannot provide an estimated cost or time to fully restore the boat.”

Eleven sailors were injured in the collision. Soon after, the boat made its way back to Guam and reached its Bremerton, Washington, home port in December under its own power.

The sub’s command triad was relieved in November, and a communitywide navigation stand-down was later implemented.

While officials declined to provide details on the precise nature of the stand-down, they said it would serve as a refresher course on navigation and other best practices in the submarine community.

Investigations into the mishap have not been released, but Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday told reporters in November that they would be made public when they were finished.

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2022/03/02/heres-the-damage-the-submarine-connecticut-sustained-when-it-hit-an-undersea-mountain/>

The U.S. Navy's Only Operational Sub Named After A President Has Been Doing Top-Secret Missions For 17 Years

(BUSINESS INSIDER 10 MAR 22) ... Benjamin Brimelow

The US Navy nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Jimmy Carter celebrated the 17th anniversary of its commissioning in February.

Laid down in 1998, launched in 2004, and commissioned in 2005, Carter is one of only three Seawolf-class submarines and the only active sub in the US fleet named after a president.

Though Seawolf-class subs are known as some of the most sophisticated attack subs ever, Carter stands out among the three subs of the class.

Larger and more advanced than the other two Seawolf boats, Carter has been tasked with some of the US Navy's most secretive missions.

Seawolf-class

The Navy began designing Seawolf-class subs

in 1983 in direct response to the Soviet Navy's newest Akula-class attack submarines, which were believed to be stealthier than the US's Los Angeles-class attack subs.

At 353 feet long and 40 feet wide, Seawolf-class subs displace 9,138 tons when fully submerged and can sailing over 25 knots. The first boat, USS Seawolf, was commissioned in 1997, while the second boat, USS Connecticut, was commissioned a year later.

They are designed to be the ultimate stealthy hunter-killer submarines. Their pump-jet propulsion helps keep the noise they make at 95 decibels, just above the level of general ocean background noise, while their high-strength HY-100 steel hulls enable them to dive about 2,000 feet.

Equipped with eight torpedo tubes — four more than Los Angeles-class subs — the Seawolfs can carry up to 50 torpedo-sized weapons, including Mk 48 torpedoes, Tomahawk cruise missiles, and Harpoon anti-ship missiles.

The Seawolfs also have an advanced suite of electronics, including a 24-foot diameter spherical sonar array mounted in the bow, a wide-aperture flank array sonar mounted on the sides, and the recently added ability to carry a towed-array sonar.

The subs' sails are reinforced, allowing them to punch through ice floes in the Arctic, where Soviet and Russian attack and missile submarines have long operated.

The US Navy originally planned to build 29 Seawolfclass subs over 10 years. By the time Seawolf and Connecticut hit the water, however, the Soviet Union had collapsed. By the early 1990s, the plan had been cut to 12 subs.

The Russian navy that emerged from the Cold War wasn't seen as a big enough threat to justify the astronomical \$33 billion price of those 12 Seawolf-class subs, and the program was eventually reduced to just three boats.

USS Jimmy Carter

Carter spent more time in the shipyard than Seawolf or Connecticut because the Navy decided to modify it for special intelligence-gathering missions.

The modification included adding special

thrusters fore and aft that allow the sub to remain stationary underwater, as well as a 100-foot hull extension known as the Multi-Mission Platform, which increased its length to 435 feet and its fully submerged displacement to 12,158 tons.

The MMP is essentially an underwater hangar with a sort of hourglass passage running its length. It allows Carter to carry remotely operated vehicles, cable spools, special operations craft, and other advanced technologies needed to carry out classified operations and "enhanced warfighting capabilities," the Navy says.

The space can also be used to deploy Navy SEALs and other special-operations forces. Carter is also the only active-duty submarine named after a president; a naming convention typically reserved for aircraft carriers.

President Jimmy Carter himself served on submarines when he was in the Navy and was part of the Navy's nuclear powered submarine program, working under Adm. Hyman G. Rickover, who is known as the "Father of the Nuclear Navy."

What exactly USS Jimmy Carter does is a closely guarded secret, but it is believed to be able to tap undersea fiber-optic communications lines and conduct intelligence-gathering missions. In 2017, the sub returned to its homeport flying the skull and crossbones — a tradition among submariners usually associated with a successful mission. The sub has received Battle Efficiency awards and a Presidential Unit Citation, though nobody but the crew knows what they did to earn them.

Carter's official history says it "performed under a wide range of adverse and extremely stressful conditions without external support ... in pursuit of vital national security goals," during the operation for which it received its Presidential Unit Citation, which is cryptically named "Mission 7."

Despite its role as an intelligence-gatherer, Carter remains one of the best attack subs in service, and its deployment, especially when done alongside its siblings, is often an intimidating sign.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/navy-seawolf-class-sub-jimmy-carter-secret-missions-17-years-2022-3>

Future USS Oregon Submarine Delivered To U.S. Navy

(KOIN CBS PORTLAND 10 MAR 22) ... Amanda Arden

PORTLAND, Ore. – The USS Oregon is a Virginia-class nuclear attack submarine, capable of launching missiles

More than two years after its christening, the USS Oregon was finally delivered to the U.S. Navy in February.

Oregon's future namesake submarine has been a work in progress for years; it was christened in Connecticut in 2019 and was scheduled to be commissioned in fall 2021. The U.S. Navy said shipbuilders spent almost 10 million hours working on the submarine and it underwent rigorous testing before it could be delivered to the U.S. Navy on Feb. 26.

"Oregon is in excellent condition and the captain and crew have expertly taken the ship through her paces," said Capt. Todd Weeks, the Virginia Class Program manager. He rode the submarine during its sea trials.

The vessel is the U.S.' 20th Virginia-class nuclear attack submarine, capable of launching Tomahawk cruise missiles in addition to torpedoes.

"It's hard to describe. I mean, it's really a sense of pride that I'm involved in this organization that's getting the ship and the crew ready to defend our country," Dave Vrooman, who is on the USS Oregon Commissioning Committee, told KOIN 6 News in May 2021.

Virginia-class submarines are built to operate in both shallow and deep waters while conducting several different types of warfare missions.

The Navy says their stealth, endurance, mobility and firepower allow Virginia-class submarines to perform five of the six maritime strategy core capabilities: sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security and deterrence.

The submarine is the third U.S. Navy ship to honor the state of Oregon. The first USS Oregon was a brigantine ship purchased in 1841 and used for exploration until 1845.

The second USS Oregon was a battleship commissioned on July 15, 1896, that helped win

the Spanish-American war. It was decommissioned in 1906 and recommissioned again in 1911. It remained in the reserve until 1942.

The USS Oregon battleship's smokestacks were kept at Zidell Yards for years until they were moved in 2021. Terry Emmert from Emmert International of Clackamas told KOIN 6 News he planned to move the smokestacks and the ship's anchor to a permanent display at his Emmert Cali Marketplace and Saigon Mall on SE 82nd and Foster.

The battleship's mast is on display at Tom McCall Waterfront Park. <https://www.koin.com/news/oregon/future-uss-oregon-submarine-delivered-to-us-navy/>

Navy Divers Recover Torpedoes Under Arctic Ice During ICEX

(NAVY TIMES 16 MAR 22) ... Rachel Nostrant

Navy divers took to the frigid waters of the Arctic this month during Ice Exercise 2022 to retrieve torpedoes fired by fast attack submarines participating in the biennial exercise.

Divers from both Joint Base Pearl Harbor's Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One and Underwater Construction Team One were flown by helicopter to spots in the ice floe where torpedoes fired earlier in the exercise by Virginia-class USS Illinois (SSN 786) and Los Angeles-class Pasadena (SSN 752) submarines were stopped under the ice.

The Navy divers are then tasked with setting up a system similar to an ice-fishing hut and cutting a hole in the ice nearby before plunging into the freezing water, swimming to the torpedo, and directing it through the entry point in the ice.

"You don't have direct access to air if you need to get air," Navy diver Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Wilkins, head of dive team MDSU-1, said in a press release. "That's always in the back of your mind when you're in an environment like this. You're working under ice that's seven feet thick in some places, and the water can be thousands of feet deep. There's almost no limit to how far down you could fall."

After navigating the treacherous under-ice waters to bring the ordnance up, divers then hook

the torpedoes to cords for a helicopter crew to lift them from the water.

"Under the best of conditions, Navy divers do very dangerous work," said Rear Adm. Richard Seif, commander of the Navy's Undersea Warfighting Development Center in Groton, Connecticut, and ranking officer of ICEX 2022.

"Diving under the Arctic ice adds another degree of difficulty. ICEX gives our divers an opportunity to work and train in the Arctic, gaining crucial experience that would be impossible to replicate anywhere else on Earth."

ICEX 2022 — the month-long, joint-exercise with Royal Canadian service members and sailors from the U.K. Royal Navy — took place at Ice Camp Queenfish, a temporary base 28 built on Arctic ice located in international waters 160 nautical miles off the coast of Alaska.

Occurring at the same time as ICEX is U.S. Northern Command's Arctic Edge, a separate biennial exercise designed to provide realistic training for service members in the region to rapidly deploy to locations throughout the Arctic region. Arctic Edge takes place at Ice Camp Queenfish and Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, over a three-week period, involving about 1,000 participants from the U.S. and Canadian Coast Guards, in addition to employees from the Defense Department and Canada's Department of National Defense.

Both exercises serve as examples of the U.S. military's commitment to expanding its presence in the Arctic region as the region warms and ice melts, allowing shipping lanes and territory to emerge that may cause conflict among nations interested in expansion.

"As maritime traffic increases through the Arctic waters, we must work with our partners and allies to project strength and keep this region safe and peaceful," Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, the Hon. Meredith Berger, said after a visit to ICEX Mar. 7. "Ice Exercise 2022 highlights our unique ability to operate in this austere and challenging environment. It's inspiring to see firsthand what the men and women of our Navy and Marine Corps can do in even the most inhospitable environments on Earth."

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2022/03/16/navy-divers-recover-torpedoes-under-arctic-ice-during-icex/>

Navy Says Destroyer is ‘Out of Commission’ After Florida Judge Blocks Removal of Unvaccinated CO

By: Heather Mongilio

March 8, 2022 6:35 PM • Updated: March 9, 2022 1:40 PM

An East Coast guided-missile destroyer is “out of commission” after a federal judge in Florida prevented the Navy from removing its commanding officer for his refusal to get vaccinated against COVID-19, the service said in ongoing legal action.

Judge Steven Merryday ruled in a February decision that the Navy cannot remove an unnamed commanding officer despite what the service says is a lack of confidence in his ability to lead because his religious objections to the COVID-19 vaccine are protected by federal law.

The Navy, on the other hand, has said it will not deploy anyone who is not fully vaccinated, and, in this particular case, will not allow a commander it no longer trusts to lead one of its ships.

This has led to an impasse as the Navy awaits to hear if the Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit will hear the case.

But legal experts told USNI News the case speaks to a potentially bigger problem for the military as it could set a new precedent where federal judges no longer defer to the military when it comes to personnel and operational decisions.

The judge’s order is part of a multi-branch lawsuit suing Department of Defense officials for rejecting religious objections to the COVID-19 vaccination. The commanding officer joined the lawsuit after he determined he would be relieved from his duties over his lack of vaccination.

“The court’s order effectively requires the Navy leave a subordinate commander in command of a warship, despite his senior officer’s questions relating to his fitness to discharge his duties as ordered,” wrote Vice Adm. Daniel Dwyer, commander of U.S. Second Fleet, in his declaration, included in the government’s motion

for the preliminary injunction to be stayed. “Under no circumstances would the Navy typically deploy a commander in an operational capacity with whom his or her superior officers have such reservations.”

The order “effectively places a multi-billion dollar guided-missile destroyer out of commission,” according to the government’s motion.

“For example, if it becomes necessary to deploy an East Coast-based surface ship in response to global events in Ukraine (or elsewhere), the Navy will not deploy the Commander’s vessel,” according to the motion. “In this way, the Court’s order will have a wide-ranging impact on Navy operations and national security.”

Mathew Staver, founder and chairman of Liberty Counsel, the Christian legal ministry representing the commanding officer, takes issue with the idea that the ship is undeployable, he told USNI News.

While the ship has not deployed, it has been underway even as the legal proceedings were unfolding, Staver said. The ship returned to its homeport after training at sea last week, Staver said.

“There was no loss of confidence until they got the temporary injunction. And then they invented that they lost confidence because of the religious accommodation request,” Staver said.

Slate first reported the effects of the motion on Friday.

Courts and military operations

At the center of the lawsuit is the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), a 1993 Congressional act that was meant to protect a person’s religious freedoms against government laws.

RFRA was passed in order to ensure the government accommodated religion in the least restrictive manner, USNI News previously reported. The law sets up a two-prong legal test requiring the government, if challenged, to show the compelling interest for passing a law and that it uses the least restrictive means.

Federal judges usually defer to the military and shied away from involvement in the service’s day-

to-day, a practice established by the Supreme Court, said Philip Cave, partner at Cave & Freeburg, LLP, and a former Navy JAG.

This was also discussed prior to the passing of RFRA, according to a July 27, 1993 Senate committee report on the law. Federal courts would use the compelling government interest test in evaluating claims of religious freedom in the military, with the committee “confident that the bill will not adversely impair the ability of the U.S. military to maintain good order, discipline, and security.”

“The courts have always recognized the compelling nature of the military’s interest in these objectives in the regulations of our armed services,” according to the committee report.

“Likewise, the courts have always extended to military authorities significant deference in effectuating these interests. The committee intends and expects that such deference will continue under this bill.”

In the motion to stay the preliminary injunction, attorneys for the government wrote that the federal courts consistently determined that the decisions for who should lead commands is the role of the military and political branches and outside of the judiciary.

“By ordering that these two Plaintiffs be kept in command (in the case of Navy Commander) or be placed in command (in the case of Lieutenant Colonel 2), the Court improperly took control of the Navy’s and the Marine Corps’ command assignments, stepping beyond its constitutional limits and improperly stepping into the role of those officers entrusted to run the military,” according to the motion,

Merryday disagreed, finding that RFRA provided enough of a legal window to allow the courts to prevent the Navy from removing the commanding officer due to his religious objections to the COVID-19 vaccine.

It is an unusual decision, said Eugene Fidell, an adjunct professor at New York University’s law school.

“Until the vaccine mutiny that we’re currently in the middle of, this was completely unheard of...,” Fidell said. “this is a case in which I think the judges have ripped pages out of the history

books, out the law books, in order to reach this quite preposterous conclusion.”

The Military’s Health and the Law

Under RFRA, the Navy needs to show that even if the vaccine mandate is of a substantial burden on a person’s religious beliefs, which the Navy agrees it can be, vaccination is the less restrictive means to prevent COVID-19 and is of compelling government interest.

The plaintiffs argue that there are less restrictive means to preventing COVID-19 that do not involve vaccination. These include masking, testing and social distancing.

In the preliminary injunction and his follow-up order denying a stay, Merryday agreed with the plaintiffs, noting that the commanding officer was able to lead his ship during the pandemic before vaccination existed.

“For example, reason suggests that the defendants might show why the Navy cannot — in the facts of his actual performance — accommodate Navy Commander’s service on his surface missile destroyer now, when 99 percent of the force is vaccinated and the relatively weak and transient Omicron variant is dominant, even though Navy Commander served in the same command on the same destroyer, including on a 300-day mission with his 320-member crew, entirely without vaccination during the many months of the height of the pandemic and without and unmanageable consequence,” Merryday wrote.

The Department of Defense decided that a fully vaccinated force is the only possible way to prevent COVID-19 within the military. Booster shots are not mandated.

Within the Navy, particularly, communicable disease can spread because of the tight quarters in which sailors live on ships, Dwyer wrote.

“This harm is not lessened by the fact that the vast majority of the force is vaccinated; the presence of unvaccinated members of the forces still poses a significant threat to the Navy’s mission,” he wrote.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Gilday was the final say in the appeals process for any sailor, including the commanding officer, according to his declaration. While he considered

each of the religious beliefs sincerely held, the needs of the military outweighed the freedoms of the individual, he wrote in his declaration.

“Particular to this officer’s request, lesser restrictive means will not achieve the compelling government interest,” according to Gilday’s declaration. “The Navy is committed to accommodating every Sailor’s practice of his or her religious beliefs which do not have an adverse effect on military readiness, unit cohesion, good order and discipline, or health and safety.”

Going forward

Liberty Counsel aims to turn this lawsuit into a class action, which will extend the judge’s decision to the whole of the military instead of just the listed plaintiffs.

It is similar to what the lawyers in the Navy SEALs case are attempting, although that class action would be limited to the Navy, while this case would cover all services, Staver said.

Fidell finds the case ironic, when looking at the Navy’s treatment of Capt. Brett Crozier, who was relieved from his role as the commanding officer of USS *Theodore Roosevelt* for going against naval orders to help his sailors, Fidell said.

“Now, we’re in a position where an officer who refuses the minimal demands of personally getting behind a management decision, he’s protected,” Fidel said. “But Capt. Crozier gets fired. This is upside down.”

It is a bad situation made worse by the Russian invasion into Ukraine. While it is unclear if the commanding officer’s ship was on track to be deployed, the Navy cannot afford to have a ship unavailable because it cannot deploy its commanding officer, Fidell said.

It is also a case, when combined with the Navy SEALs lawsuit in the Fifth Circuit, that has the ability to set precedent for the military going forward.

Giving the courts the ability to interfere with command decisions could be corrosive and detrimental to national security, Fidell said.

Cave agreed, saying that it sends a bad message when a commanding officer goes against an order from the service. In addition to affecting personnel decisions, the outcome of this lawsuit could affect readiness.

Staver also sees this case as possibly precedent-setting, albeit in a different way than Cave and Fidell.

“But I think it sets a big precedent that the military is bound by the law, and the military has to honor the Religious Freedom Restoration Act,” Staver said.

Merryday will next hear the case during an evidentiary hearing Thursday. The government has also filed to appeal Merryday’s preliminary injunction.

<https://news.usni.org/2022/03/08/navy-says-destroyer-is-out-of-commission-after-florida-judge-blocks-removal-of-unvaccinated-co>

JMSDF Commissions The 1st Taigei Class Submarine

JMSDF Commissions The 1st Taigei Class Submarine



The Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force commissioned the submarine "Taigei," (S513) the lead submarine of the Taigei-class, with a ceremony at the Kobe Shipyard of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.

The event was posted on the official Twitter account of the JMSDF on March 09.

“Taigei” (previously known as 29SS) is the first submarine of its class, and its name means “Great Whale” in Japanese and was once used as the name of a submarine tender of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

Taigei was officially launched on October 14, 2020, and entered service 17 months later.

About Taigei class Submarine

The external appearance of the *Taigei* is not much different from the *Sōryū*-class, but inside of it is a completely different submarine. First, the *Taigei* uses lithium-ion batteries instead of the

4V-275R Mk. III AIP system, which was installed aboard the first 10 *Sōryū*-class submarines.



Secondly, the capabilities of the sonar and combat command system have been improved, as well as the use of new acoustic absorbent materials and a floating floor structure to make it quieter. It is also equipped with Torpedo Counter Measures (TCM), which ejects decoys to evade enemy torpedoes for improved survivability.

The *Taigei* is scheduled to be commissioned into the JMSDF in March 2022, after which it will be used as a test submarine, according to the “National Defense Program Guidelines for FY 2019 and beyond” published in December 2018. In other words, *Taigei* will be the dedicated ship to conduct all future tests of technology on JMSDF submarines.

Key Specifications

Standard Displacement: about 3000 tons

Length: 84 meters

Total width: 9.1 meters

Crew: about 70

Propulsion: Diesel Electric Propulsion (with lithium-ion batteries)

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/03/jmsdf-commissions-the-1st-taigei-class-submarine/>

"7%" written by a 90-year-old

This is something we should all read at least once a week!!!!!! Make sure you read to the end!!!!!!

Written by Regina Brett, 90 years old, writer for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio.

"To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the

45 lessons life taught me. It is the most requested column I've ever written. My odometer rolled over to 90 in August, so here is the column once more:"

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short – enjoy it.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and family will.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Stay true to yourself.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye, but don't worry, God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful. Clutter weighs you down in many ways.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to be happy. But it's all up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'

27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time, time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative of dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Envy is a waste of time. Accept what you already have, not what you need
42. The best is yet to come...
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift."

Reflections of a Blackshoe

By VADM Harold Koenig, USN (m).

I like the Navy. I like standing on the bridge wing at sunrise with salt spray in my face and clean ocean winds whipping in from the four quarters of the globe - the ship beneath me feeling like a living thing as her engines drive her through the sea.

I like the sounds of the Navy - the piercing trill of the boatswains pipe, the syncopated clangor of the ship's bell on the quarterdeck, the harsh squawk of the 1MC and the strong language and laughter of sailors at work.

I like Navy vessels - nervous darting destroyers, plodding fleet auxiliaries, sleek submarines and steady solid carriers. I like the proud names of Navy ships: Midway, Lexington,

Saratoga, Coral Sea—memorials of great battles won. I like the lean angular names of Navy 'tin-cans': Barney, Dahlgren, Mullinix, McCloy - mementos of heroes Who went before us.

I like the tempo of a Navy band blaring through the topside speakers as we pull away from the oiler after refueling at sea. I like liberty call and the spicy scent of a foreign port. I even like all hands Working parties as my ship fills herself with the multitude of supplies both mundane and exotic which she needs to cut her ties to the land and carry out her mission anywhere on the globe where there is water to float her.

I like sailors, men from all parts of the land, farms of the Midwest, small towns of New England, from the cities, the mountains and the Prairies, from all walks of life. I trust and depend on them as they trust and depend on me - for professional competence, for comradeship, for courage. In a word, they are "shipmates."

I like the surge of adventure in my heart when the word is passed "Now station the special sea and anchor detail - all hands to quarters for leaving port", and I like the infectious thrill of sighting home again, with the waving hands of welcome from family and friends waiting pierside.

The work is hard and dangerous, the going rough at times, the parting from loved ones painful, but the companionship of robust Navy laughter, the 'all for one and one for all' philosophy of the sea is ever present.

I like the serenity of the sea after a day of hard ship's work, as flying fish flit across the wave tops and sunset gives way to night.

I like the feel of the Navy in darkness - the masthead lights, the red and green navigation lights and stern light, the pulsating phosphorescence of radar repeaters - they cut through the dusk and join with the mirror of stars overhead. And I like drifting off to sleep lulled by the myriad noises large and small that tell me that my ship is alive and well, and that my shipmates on watch will keep me safe.

I like quiet midwatches with the aroma of strong coffee - the lifeblood of the Navy - permeating everywhere. And I like hectic watches when the exacting minuet of haze-gray shapes

racing at flank speed keeps all hands on a razor edge of alertness I like the sudden electricity of "General quarters, general quarters, all hands man your battle stations", followed by the hurried clamor of running feet on ladders and the resounding thump of watertight doors as the ship transforms herself in a few brief seconds from a peaceful workplace to a weapon of war—ready for anything. And I like the sight of space-age equipment manned by youngsters clad in dungarees and sound-powered phones that their grandfathers would still recognize.

I like the traditions of the Navy and the men and women who made them. I like the proud names of Navy heroes: Halsey, Nimitz, Perry, Farragut, John Paul Jones. A sailor can find much in the Navy, comrades-in-arms, pride in self and country, mastery of the seaman's trade. An adolescent can find adulthood.

In years to come, when sailors are home from the sea, they will still remember with fondness and respect the ocean in all its moods - the impossible shimmering mirror calm and the storm-tossed green water surging over the bow. And then there will come again a faint whiff of stack gas, a faint echo of engine and rudder orders, a vision of the bright bunting of signal flags snapping at the yardarm, a refrain of hearty laughter in the wardroom and chief's quarters and messdecks.

Gone ashore for good they will grow wistful about their Navy days, when the seas belonged to them and a new port of call was ever over the horizon. Remembering this, they will stand taller and say,

"I WAS A SAILOR ONCE.
I WAS PART OF THE NAVY;
THE NAVY WILL ALWAYS BE PART OF ME."

So tonight, my true love of 60 years in November and 63 years since our first date last month says something about those Russians. I reply, "I already beat them once". She questions. So, with apologies to those that didn't serve on the "Bobby Lee" and those that didn't serve on the "41 for Freedom", but recognizing your significant contribution to our Victory I give you Admiral Joe Williams presentation to one of our boat

reunions. ENJOY!!! Mike Lyster

Speech Given by
Vice Admiral Joe Williams, Jr.
Gold Crew Commissioning Commanding Officer (1959-64)
at the 7th Reunion of the
USS Robert E. Lee (SSBN-601) Association
in New Orleans, LA on Saturday, September 27, 2003

Vice Admiral and Mrs. Reynolds, President and Mrs. VeArd, Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mrs. Williams and I are delighted and thrilled to once again be with you. It's been a long time.

How pleasant it is to look out over all you lovely wives and companions of those who once served on the USS Robert E. Lee-SSBN 601.

It also pleases me to see all the handsome, vigorous, sexy "Bobby Lee: Sailors of Yore", who are running so hard to keep up with you ladies. I can't tell whether their tongues are hanging out in anticipation as in "Days of Yore" – or from exhaustion.

You gents are losing ground, you know. Ground ... hair ... teeth ... eye sight ... memory ... but keep trying, you will live longer, and you will need each other more and more as years go by. Margaret and I know.

I have a question for you. What is it that motivates us to get together like this?

To see old friends to be sure ... and party ... show photos of grandchildren and vacation trips ... and party ... reminisce about our escapades ... and party some more.

But surely there is more to it than that! I think the underlying, unspoken reason is we enjoy getting together in a family environment like this, wherein we feel comfortable talking about our shared experiences.

For instance, in this collective privacy we aren't embarrassed to speak of the thrill we experienced and the perceived aura of glory we associated with the intimate involvement in something very important for the welfare of our families, our country, and mankind in general – something essential to the cause of freedom. Something simple like inventing and giving birth to a high technology nuclear deterrent system "Polaris: Doing it under pressure – "just in

the nick of time”.

To refresh your memories – the Soviets, in October 1957 successfully tested their first inter-continental ballistic missile by putting the world’s first satellite, Sputnik-1, in orbit. The free world’s scientists, military, and politicians were shocked – stunned!

We, who were rather leisurely inventing and developing Polaris, with deployment scheduled for 1964, were all of a sudden in grave danger. The Soviets were in a position to deploy a nuclear tipped inter-continental missile long before 1964. A position from which, by nuclear blackmail, they could force the rest of the world to accept communism and function as satellites of the Soviet Union.

A relationship identical to that which they had forced on East Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Austria, Rumania and Yugoslavia after World War II.

In response to the crisis, American industry, the scientific community, labor unions, major universities and government labs dropped their differences. They coalesced under the direction of the US Navy’s Special Projects office in an effort to put “Polaris” to sea four years earlier than scheduled.

It would be a larger, more costly effort than the Manhattan Project, which invented, developed, and deployed the atomic bomb in World War II.

Despite the arrogant assertion by the Air Force and some senior admirals that such was impossible, USS George Washington (SSBN-598) was deployed in September 1960, four years ahead of schedule, and only 3 years after Sputnik flashed through American skies. USS Patrick Henry, Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt were close behind. “Just in the nick of time” - the Soviets had lost the race.

You were an indispensable part of that accelerated effort which began in November 1957 and continues today at a steady, less intense, level that ensures our continued superiority.

Some of us in this room were there to take the ball on the “kickoff” and advance it to mid-field. You of following generations, each better educated than the preceding one, and provided with ever more sophisticated technology, kept

advancing the ball – leaving the Soviets ever further astern.

We should not be embarrassed to let our children and the public know what we did. Take it out of this room and talk about it. It is more than a family matter.

Another “for instance!” I do not consider it pompous to reflect together on how heady was the realization after a few patrols that our enemy really was afraid of us.

For me, the realization came with President Kennedy’s responses in 1963 to Premier Khrushchev’s installation of Ballistic missiles in Cuba. His most important response was an immediate order for the two Polaris submarines in upkeep alongside the tender in Holy Loch, Scotland to get underway and join the other three on alert patrol.

When Khrushchev awoke the next morning, he was told that we had emptied the Holy Loch and five boomers were at sea with eighty missiles pointed his way.

He promptly commenced withdrawing the missiles and the Soviet ships enroute to Cuba with more missiles, turned for home.

The blockade of Cuba by surface and air units was well done and effective, but in my opinion his retreat was primarily caused by our boomers.

We should share this with the public and our children. Never think for a minute that High School History Teachers or University Professors will ever mention it. Most of them are unaware of it.

Yet “another instance”! Here in our “Bull Sessions” we feel comfortable verbalizing the thrill we experienced when Premier Gorbachev, in early 1988, announced the new Soviet Reform Policy called, “Perestroika”. By January 1989 communism had begun to crumble and the captive countries of Eastern Europe were set free. On November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall came down.

In this milieu we can say without fear of contradiction that he gave up primarily because:

Firstly: the continuous nerve racking pressure applied by our invulnerable boomers and Tridents during more than 3,500 patrols spanning more than 29 years. We averaged more than 20

submarines on alert patrol constantly during those years.

Secondly: The humiliating harassment of his forces by our attack boats, which operated with impunity in his home waters year around. They were there to gather intelligence on his weapons, sensors, radiated noise and tactics. They were there to intimidate them and incidentally to receive a quality of training for war that could be obtained no other way. There was just enough visual or acoustic detection of our boats to keep him aware of our “around the clock” presence.

To add insult to injury, our boats often fell in close behind one of his when it departed on patrol. Sometimes we would follow him throughout a 60 – 70 day patrol. Occasionally if the trailing boat needed to come home, another boat would be sent out to take over the tail – a hand off in mid ocean. Pretty sophisticated operations by professionals.

We periodically let him get a sniff of our presence so that the Soviet Commanding Officer would always have to assume an undetectable SSN was behind him. On occasion an unintentional “bumping” reinforced that assumption. Just think what it would have done to our morale if the roles had been reversed.

You should let your children and the public know about your impact on the downfall of Soviet Communism. You were the constantly dynamic force. Granted, you did have “static” help from the Army, and a lot of dynamic, rhetorical help from President Reagan always at the right moment. From the Air Force – nothing!

You and I were fortunate to be on the powerful U.S.S. Robert E. Lee the fourth of 41 Polaris Submarines which would, by 1968, comprise the greatest peace preserving – war fighting force the world has ever seen.

From the beginning “Bobby Lee” was the “Best of the Best”. You had many first, among them – Blue and Gold together wrote and proofed the “Procedures for Handling and Operating the Weapons Systems” for all of squadron 14. They would be adopted by all squadrons. Together, we devised the “Four Safes, Safe within a Safe” security system which provided for concurrent

validation of the “Firing” message by the Commanding Officer, Exec., and weapons officer plus a secure storage of the firing key.

Our cooks went to New York to work and learn from the finest chefs during the off crew training period. The Gold Crew declined to take civilian technical reps on their first patrol thus severing that umbilical for all following ships. Both crews sent large numbers to NESEP for four years of college and a commission. Many were accepted in the LDO Community. Several attained the rank of commander and Paul Rogers as a Captain, Commanded Sandia Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

A larger number of you joined me in 1964 to build Bancroft. It would be a super sub also, because it was custom made by Lee personnel.

When Bancroft deployed in 1966, it and Lee were a duo that could not be beat – Truly the “Crème d’ La Crème”.

You each played a very important role in this country’s history.

Do you realize how few people in their lifetimes can point to an act by them which positively and significantly affected the freedom of all people and the course of history?

You can do that!

Your wives can do that!

It was a team effort!

Without the sacrifices and support of you ladies we warriors with big egos and swelled heads could never have done it, year ... after year ... after year.

The foregoing recitation of some amazing accomplishments notwithstanding, I have still not addressed your most important, most singular feat. One which the Soviet Communist culture simply could not emulate. I’m going to give you a little background/history so that all of you understand the environment in which it took place.

A LITTLE HISTORY

In World War II, the crushing defeat of the Japanese at sea was led by the commanding officers of our submarines.

Those daring LCDRs, CDRs, and Junior Captains, lead their courageous crews into battle in Japan’s home waters and along the sea lanes over which their essential food stuffs, oil, and

strategic materials moved.

On December 31, 1941, 24 days after Pearl Harbor, USS Gudgeon (SS-211), LCDR Elton W. Grenfell, Commanding, arrived off the southern entrance to Japan's Inland Sea. He sank his first ship 5 days later. Thereafter there was a steadily increasing flow of our submarines into and out of the Japan, Philippine and East China Seas.

There they commenced attacking Japanese merchant shipping moving in convoys escorted by Naval Units. They also attacked the escorts when necessary.

It would be 33 long, lonesome months before U.S. surface and air units started arriving in Southern Philippine waters to help out. By that time, 36 of our submarines with about 2,500 men and officers had been lost. Those numbers would grow to 52 submarines and 3,500 personnel lost by war's end. They were not lost in vain. Our submariners had swept the Japanese Merchant Fleet, more than six million tons, from the seas and sank one-fourth of their Navy.

The officers and men of our submarine force, hero's all, had established an historic 'winning tradition'.

By 1954 the surviving officers who remained in the Navy were Rear Admirals and Captains in Command of all submarine organizations afloat and ashore. They were responsible for setting our course for the future.

Their submarines were few in number with only about 6,000 personnel. Their budgets were meager, and they had no influence in Washington. It was not an atmosphere that generated big thinking – visions.

The Navy as a whole was in the doldrums. Many Senior Officers were resting on their laurels and enjoying peacetime life. The Korean War was primarily an Army, Air Force and Marine Force show, the amphibious landing at Inchon notwithstanding. The carrier fighter planes, for instance, could not compete with the Soviet's migs.

THIS WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE.

In May 1955, a new Chief of Naval Operations burst upon the scene. Young, 54 year old Admiral Arleigh Burke took charge with orders from President Eisenhower to rapidly modernize the

Navy.

In 1942, this destroyer man had become world-famous as he raced his "little Beaver" Squadron of destroyers at 31-Knots throughout waters around Guadalcanal and up the slot, sinking Japanese ships and destroying their shore facilities.

Allied victories were non-existent at that time so the press trumpeted Burke's successes worldwide. They dubbed him "31-Knot" Burke, a sobriquet that became a household word overnight.

He would become more famous a Chief of Staff for Admiral Marc Mitscher, the brilliant commander of the fast attack carrier task force of "The Big Blue Fleet".

Under Mitscher, Burke was the architect, planner, and tactical director of the carrier operations that destroyed the remaining three-fourths of the Japanese fleet and made possible the seven major amphibious assaults from New Guinea to Okinawa.

The Admiral took over as CNO in an unusual situation. President Eisenhower had promoted him from Rear Admiral with two stars to Admiral, four stars, over the heads of 92 other two star ... three star ... and four star admirals who were his seniors.

Not only was he a stellar leader, ship driver, and tactical commander of very large task forces, his technical competence was notable.

He held an advanced degree in Ordnance Engineering from the University of Michigan and had served two tours of shore duty designing guns, ammunition and ammunition storage facilities prior to his escapades in the Pacific. He possessed "Brain-Power".

In 1956, after viewing the damage caused by the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the damage to ships used in our tests at Bikini Island, Burke, like many others, concluded that civilization could not survive a world wide nuclear war.

His solution was to build and deploy a survivable sea-based force armed with long range, nuclear tipped ballistic missiles.

Such a survivable force randomly roaming the world's oceans would guarantee any aggressor that if he conducted a first strike against any

nation in the free world, his country would be destroyed at a time of our choosing.

It would be a deterrent to nuclear war, a force for peace.

As a Captain in post World War II Washington, he pursued his objective relentlessly, but the Senior Admirals would not support the concept.

Immediately on becoming CNO he started the concept moving, working hard at getting support from the Secretary's of the Navy and Defense and President Eisenhower.

By the end of his first year, having gone to sea on Nautilus and talking to Admiral Rickover about the future of nuclear powered propulsion plants, he decided the missiles should be placed on large nuclear submarines.

No such missiles existed nor did such large submarines. Other technical problems like precise navigation had not ever been addressed.

Burke simply said, "The technical problems can be resolved by the rigorous application of sufficient brain power", and determined to get on with it. First, however, he wanted the unstinted backing of his CNO Advisory Board. Its members, 17 Vice Admirals, all of whom were older than Burke and had been senior to him until recently, listened to him describe his program. Every one of them voted against it.

A red-faced angry Burke pounded his fist on the table shouting, "All right, dammit, we will do it anyway".

Almost none of the submarine Admirals or Senior Captains supported him. One of their many reasons was a grave doubt that enough enlisted men with the requisite brain power to handle such high technology could be recruited for the initial five submarines let alone a rapid growth to 41 submarines and the attendant, long term, world wide support systems.

Burke turned away from the submarine community and chose an aviator, Rear Admiral "Red" Raborn to develop and provide the missile system, supporting ships systems, training of personnel, and worldwide facilities and logistic support.

In a letter, later called "Raborn's Hunting License" he gave Raborn the right to select for his staff of 40 personnel, any officer, enlisted man, or

civilian from any Naval organization except that of Admiral Rickover. He provided that he report directly to the Secretary of the Navy to eliminate interference from any admiral and in closing said, "If there is anything that slows this project up beyond the capacity of the Navy (to solve), we will immediately take it to the highest level." That meant Secretary of Defense and President Eisenhower.

Admiral Burke turned to Rear Admiral Rickover, who had but recently proven his nuclear propulsion plants in Nautilus, Seawolf, and Skate, to provide the nuclear plants for much larger submarines and the associated training of personnel. Rickover and Raborn were "Off and Running" with Burke riding sidesaddle, whipping the horse and maintaining Congressional and Presidential support.

THEN YOU COME ON STAGE AND INTO THE ACT.

About 1,400 of you were needed for the two crews each of the first 5 Polaris submarines with an additional 15,000 over the next six years.

For the first five Polaris Subs, they swept from the diesel boats, the most talented of every rate, the smartest of the Junior Officers, and ten Commanding Officers – nine Naval Academy Graduates and this Ex-Chief with no brain power and no college degree.

In we all went to hastily established schools, officers and enlisted often together. The curriculum included mathematics, physics, electrical engineering, radio-chemistry, thermodynamics, metallurgy, computer design and operations, gyros and accelerometers for initial navigation and missile guidance, practical application of it all at prototypes and in laboratories, and on ... and on ... night and day – Remember?

The performance of that first contingent proved all those with grave doubts about brain-power, to be "dead wrong". Year after year, you who followed kept proving them "dead wrong" despite the steadily increasing sophistication of equipments and systems, increasing difficulty of curriculum, and raising of standards.

Such was the CROWN JEWEL of all your achievements.

It was the savior of our system. The inability of the communist system to produce such men and women was its Achilles Heel.

It validated my long held, not original with me, conviction that one should "never underestimate the U.S. Navy Blue Jacket and his family".

With all that we all must acknowledge, that the small percentage of Senior and Junior Officers and ratings who did embrace Burke's vision were absolutely essential for the vision to become a reality. They carried the staff and shore facility loads for ten years and more, until we nukes, navigators and missile types could be spared from sea duty.

It came to pass that the Soviet hierarchy could not use their land-based missiles and bombers because we could destroy their country at a time of our choosing with missiles launched from our invulnerable Lee's and Bancroft's – 41 of them.

The Soviets could not count on their blue-water attack submarines to gain control of the seas because our nuclear attack submarines – with or without support of other ASW forces – would surely destroy them and the Soviet boomers.

The coup de grace was putting Tomahawk missiles on our attack submarines, followed by President Reagan's announced intent to build an anti-missile defense force.

With their economy bankrupt and unable to counter our submarines, the Soviets threw in the towel. You had carried on the tradition of winning everyday for 40+ years. Today our trident submarines are quieter with oceans and oceans of water in which they can patrol.

Their missiles have a very long Range – 6,000 miles with a CEP, miss distance, of less than 120 yards.

Your deterrent system is alive and well. You still own a part of the system because it has evolved from Polaris to Trident, based in great part on the lessons you learned and recommendations you made for improvements.

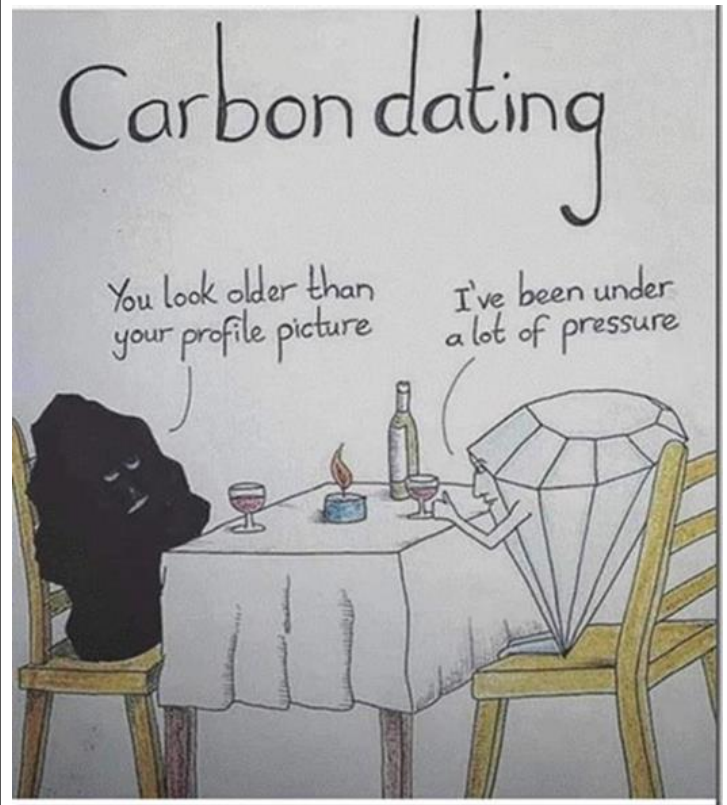
You are not ... has beens. Your contributions are still in use, and you are entitled to bask in the system's present reflected glory.

For those of you who served on SSN's, your Tomahawks are generating a great winning tradition as a strike force.

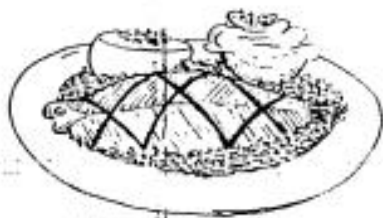
In Iraq, there were 207 strikes with 202 hits. You should all be proud of your accomplishments, proud of your submarine force, and proud of the flag under which we serve.

God Bless

Mrs. Williams and I thank you for inviting us.



WARD ROOM MESS



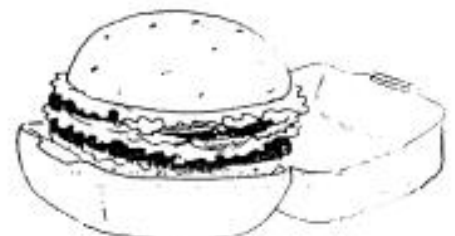
HAUTE CUISINE

CPO MESS



NOUVELLE CUISINE

CREW'S MESS



CUISINE VÉRITÉ
(SLIDERS)

**SUBMITTED BY DAN BAXTER
SK2(SS) B/SY1 71-73, USSVI Chicago Base**

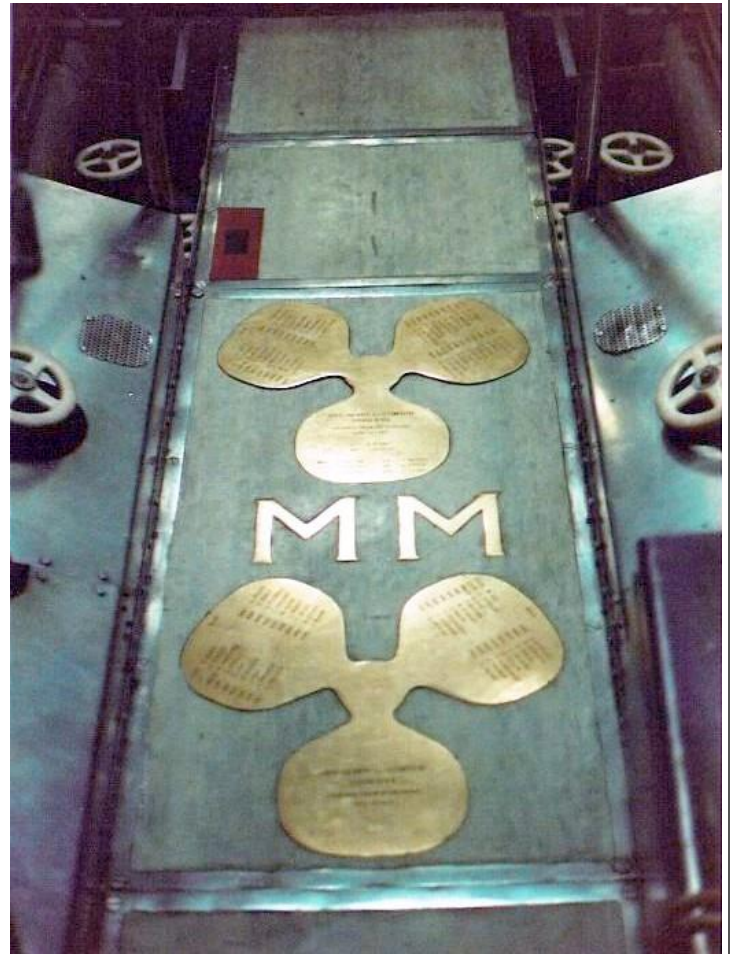


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VISIT TO BARBADOS



**SUBMITTED BY JEFF SANKEY
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