



VOL. 2022 #7

JULY 2022

USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER

Association Officers & Board of Directors 2021 - 2023

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Larry [Linda] Knutson	Nick [Linda] Nichols	Bruce [Vicki] Stefanik



As we celebrate the 4th of July next week, we need to remember that our Freedom comes at a very high price. We can count the numbers...52 boats lost during WWII.

over 4,000 submariners lost over the history of the submarine program, the War on Terror claims more American lives each day. I have heard throughout my life that "Freedom Isn't Free." Many of us know too well just what that means.

On this Independence Day I would ask that you take time in your celebrations to remember the reasons you rode the boats...the reasons you made those long patrols,..the reasons so many of our young men and women wake up each day (if they've even been able to sleep), put on the uniform of an American Patriot and go about their daily duties.

I thought it would be appropriate to send along this link to an amazing video of a group of Hollywood stars who really knew what Independence Day was really about. Enjoy!!!

John Wayne 1970 Variety Show Celebrating America's History

In 1970, John Wayne hosted a variety show celebrating America's



history. Included in the cast were the following: (some were uncredited)

Ann Margret, Lucille Ball, Jack Benny, Dan Blocker, Roscoe Lee Browne, George Burns, Owen Bush, James Caldwell, Glen Campbell, Johnny Cash, Roy Clark, Bing Crosby, Phyllis Diller, Edward Faulkner, Lorne Greene, Harry Hickox, Celeste Holm, Bob Hope, Kay E. Kuter, Michael Landon. Forrest Lewis, Dean Martin, Dick Martin, Ross Martin, Greg Morris, Ricky & David Nelson, Hugh O'Brian, Dan Rowan, William Shatner, Orville Sherman, Red Skelton, Tom Smothers, Leslie Uggams, Jesse Vint, John Wayne, Patrick Wayne, Dennis Weaver, Dan White, Hal Williams, The Doodletown Pipers The closing piece featured many of the show's guests. Enjoy!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFvfqQ9D Y

REUNION CONTROL CENTER 2023 Stimson Reunion

Although a contract has not been signed we verbally have the following dates and venue scheduled with the hotel:

> October 11-15, 2023 **North Charleston Marriott**



From the Reunion Chairman -Harry Nettles, QMCM(SS) G COB 91-92, USSVI Charleston Base, Holland Club:

The reunion committees has been assembled and we are awaiting a call from the Marriott to

discuss the venue. Looking forward to putting together a great reunion and seeing old shipmates next year.



From the Association President -Tom Krauser, MM1(SS) B 72-74:

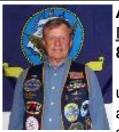
Happy 4th of July. As we celebrate our nation's independence let us all remember the sacrifices our forefathers made for our democracy. I pray we can get over

this government of extremes and come back together as a unified country.

My granddaughter Caitlin and her boyfriend Jeff got Covid the last week of June. They were both vaccinated and they did not get too sick.

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.



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

This past month we've seen an uptick in the number of those asking for their checkin cards. We still have the box of Gold Crew

check-in cards that were from the time of Bob Weeks CO tour. Several Gold Crew members have contacted us for their card. 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, 655 Assoc Life Member:

The birth of a Nation is on our mind in the month of July. May we also have the birth of love for

each other during this time.

God has shown us great love. Let us show great love for each other.

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



From The Editor & Secretary -Nick Nichols, TM1 G/SY1/B 70-75; FTCS B COB 85-89, USSVI Charleston Base, Holland Club, 655 Assoc Life Member

<<<<<<<<<<>>>>>>>> Passing of Last WWII MOH Recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams

Submarines Lost During the Month of July

USS S-28 (SS 133)

July 4, 1944 – Training Exercise USS ROBALO (SS 273) July 26, 1944 – 3rd War patrol

USS GRUNION (SS 216) July 30, 1942 - 1ST War patrol

LOST WITH ALL HANDS 49 SOULS LOST WITH 77 MEN: 4 DIED AS POW'S: 81 SOULS LOST WITH ALL HANDS 70 SOULS

THREE Boats and 202 Men Lost

Our last WWII Medal of Honor Recipient has passed away. You can read abut him on the last two pages of this newsletter.

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Lost Shipmates: Again this month I will be listing a few shipmates from our sailing list that we do not have contact with via email. No one helped me out on the names from last month. If you know any of these shipmates please have them send me an email at 655webmaster@ssbn655.org

Caldwell, Glen	FTBC	В	71-75
Callahan, Ed	RM1	G	85-89
Campbell, Edwin	MM1		93 Decom
Canup, Richard	MT2	G	89-92
Capaul, Raymond J.	HMCS	G	89-93 Decom
Cardin, Joseph	YN2	В	87-93 Decom
Carey, Bill	YN2	В	67-70
Carr, Don	ETC	G	65-69 Plank
Carrilio, Stephan C.	MM1	В	77-80
Carter, Joe	MM1	G	65-68
Cazes, Jimmy	MM2		93 Decom
Champagne, Brian J.	QM2	G	87-91
Chapman, John 'Chip'	MTC	G	65-66 Plank
Chapman, Lawrence Randall	RMSN	G/G	81-85 SY2
Chitty, Mark A. Jr.	MMC	G	83-89
Citizen Billy	RM?		
Claussen,Stephen 'Spock'	ET1	В	80-83
Clayton, James 'Danny'	MMCS	В	90-92
Coates, Kenneth	MM2		93 Decom
Cofield, Guy	LCDR	G XO	late 80's
Colon, Scott	STS2		93 Decom
Cook, Robert L.	HMC	В	73-77
Cooley, Robert	STS2		
Cooper, Denny L.	TMSN	В	78-80
Cooper, John F.	MM1	G	85-87
Couser, David	EMCM	В	88-91
Covington, Richard	LT	G	76
Craig, Jack E.	STSC	В	87-89
Crambit, Jeffrey	MM1		93 Decom
Cross, Larry	LT	G	84-88
Cruden, David S.	CDR	ВСО	70-74
Cruse, Mark L.	ET2		93 Decom

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Submarine Qualification Card & Certificate

There is now a page on our website for our SS

Qual Card & Certificate. Most of us still have them and know exactly where they are. Some may have to go digging. Start looking for those certificates. When you find it either scan it or take a good picture and send it to me at 655webmaster@ssbn655.org.

Your name will be added to the new page with a link to your certificate. This is for all Stimson shipmates, not just the ones who qualified on the 655. No matter what boat you qualified on if you were on the Stimson send me a scan or picture and it will be added to the website.

This can be any item related to your SS qualification: Qual Certificate; Qual card, picture receiving your dolphns; etc. Check out:

Qualification Cards of Stimson Sailors

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Sharing Pictures with Shipmates:

If anyone has pictures you would like to share with your shipmates please either email them to me or contact me and I will send you directions to upload to our Stimson Dropbox file.

655webmaster@ssbn655.org



The following Stimson Shipmates have departed on Eternal Patrol.

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MM2(SS) George Frederick Frost III B 72-75 ELT MMCM Retired

Eternal Patrol May ?, 2014 [reported by son, George Frederick Frost IV]

ET?(SS) Jerry Bruce Avery B 75-79

Eternal Patrol April 10, 2018 [reported by shipmates Rusty Taylor & Tom Vaughan ET1(SS) B 76-81, USSVI Golden Corner Base]

MM2(SS) John Paul Boulais G 65-66 Comm and Plank Owner

Eternal Patrol June 25, 2018 [reported by Legacy.com]

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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 STIIMSON SHIPMATES WHO ARE ON OUR SAILING LIST BUT WITH NO EMAIL ADDRESS.

MM1(SS) Walter Upchurch B 72-75 [info updated per member request]

QMCM(SS) Harry Nettles G COB 91-92 USSVI Charleston Base; Holland Club [info updated per member request]

QM2(SS) William 'Bill' J. Clark G 76-79 [info added per member request]

HM2(SS) Thomas 'Doc' Clayton B 71 CWO4 Retired

Assoc. Life Member; USSVI Thresher Base; Holland Club [info updated per member request]

Shirley Lee Speakman Gnodle March 12, 1945 – May 26, 2022 Moncks Corner, SC





Shirley Gnoble, wife of John Gnoble, passed away on May 26th. John was a previous member of USSVI Charleston Base. John and Shirley attended many of the Charleston Base events prior to the shutdown. Services are private.

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.

John Cole, LT [CDR Ret] B AWEPS 78-80 [E1-E9 & O1E-CDR), May 12, 1964-July 30, 1994 Cards to: 2523 E 2830 S, St George UT 84790-4744

4.30.2022: Email from John; COPD, Aspiration Pneumonia, Cardiac Arrest & Parkinson's Disease! Agent Orange And Other Carcinogens Finally Caught Up With Me It Seems!

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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

NO NEW UPDATES

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

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

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

6.27.2022: This morning's very early visit to the ATC turned out very well. From the blood tests, her hemoglobin was 9.4 and all of her other blood numbers are steadily improving. But wait! There's more! We received a report from her bone marrow biopsy from the other day. Her bone

marrow is 98% donor. And there are no cancer cells showing at all. Also, DNA tests show that her blood is the same DNA as the donor too. That's fantastic and exactly what we want! Praise God! She is on a collision course with great health. I've already noticed a reduction in "huffing and puffing" when she walks.

5.29.2022: Update from Bill: I've been giving time since Kim's transplant to see how it goes. As you saw with Kim's last update, she's starting to feel some of the effects of changing her body at the most basic level. Now, things seem to be somewhat harder. As we wait for the stem calls to turn into active bone marrow, her blood numbers. such as white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets are hovering right around 0 even though they keep doing transfusions of blood and platelets. She remains hopeful and optimistic as her hair has been falling out all over her pillow and bed. She has decided to go ahead and shave her head to keep things less messy. Even though we know it's coming, it's still a rude awakening. She's also dealing with extreme headaches, nausea, very poor appetite, and general weakness. Thank God Kim is a strong woman.

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.

GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH

655 Association Website www.ssbn655.org

No links were received this month





VETERANS AFFAIRS - RETIREE INFO - AARP https://www.va.gov/ And FLEET RESERVE

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Is Your Beneficiary Information Current? DFAS-SmartDocs 21 June 2022

Did you know there are two different types of beneficiaries you need to designate and keep up to date if you are a retiree?

One is your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) beneficiary.

The other is your beneficiary for Arrears of Pay (AOP), which is the prorated retiree pay from first of the month of death to date of death, because entitlement to retired pay stops on the date of death.

Each type of beneficiary must be designated separately. And each type of beneficiary needs to be checked regularly to make sure the contact information is up to date.

We also suggest you limit the number of your AOP beneficiaries to avoid delays in payment. Remember that the AOP payment is usually less than one month's pay, and this amount will be divided among all of your designated beneficiaries.

Keeping your beneficiary information current will help your loved ones

Time to check and update your AOP beneficiary? Find out more at: https://www.dfas.mil/manageAOP

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Guaranteed Acceptance for Life Insurance

In January 2023, VA will launch a new life insurance program called Veterans Affairs Life Insurance, which provides guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance coverage to Veterans age 80 and under, with any level of service-connected disability.

LEARN MORE

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Veterans Crisis Line is Here for You

Each year, millions of Americans struggle with

mental illness. Veterans and their families are no different, which is why the Veterans Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255) continues to expand and evolve to find the most effective ways to serve.

READ MORE

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Free, Virtual Resources and Support for Family Caregivers

Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers'
Operations Family Caregiver and Caregiver
Support are free, virtual programs that provide
support and resources to family caregivers.

READ MORE

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Apply for a Specially Adapted Housing Grant for Veterans

VA offers housing grants for service members and Veterans with certain service-connected disabilities to buy or change a home to meet their needs and live more independently. Changing a home may involve installing ramps or widening doorways. Find out if you're eligible and learn how to apply for a disability housing grant.

LEARN MORE

<<<<<<<>>>>>>>>

Talking Memory Loss with Your Doctor

It can be normal to forget things as you get older, but there are sure signs it's time to talk to your doctor about memory loss. We want you to feel prepared for this appointment. **Learn more**.

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The Truth About PTSD

If you have symptoms of PTSD, it's important to know the facts. Your VA health care team is here to provide support and treatment. **Learn more.**

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How to Spot Deep Vein Thrombosis

Deep Vein Thrombosis can happen to anyone. Read about the risk factors and ways to prevent blood clots. **Learn more.**

<<<<<<<>>>>>>>

Need Internet or a Tablet for Appointments?

Telehealth brings you care from the comfort of home. If you don't have regular access to internet or a video-capable device, VA has options for you. **Learn more**.

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Hurricanes and Prescriptions

Hurricane season has started. If a storm is on the way, you want to be prepared. This includes getting your medications and health records ready. **Learn more**.

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How to Talk About Pain

t can be hard to know how to talk about pain. Prepare information to share with your doctor so they can help you feel better faster. **Learn more**.

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Understanding Diabetic Nerve Damage

Around half of the people with diabetes experience some form of nerve damage. Knowing the warning signs can help you prevent injury. **Learn more.**

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13 Things You Should (Almost) Never Put in a Text

OMG! Think hard before sending any of these messages.

by Edward C. Baig, AARP, May 25, 2022 What seems private might not stay secure So what should you never include in a text? The answers aren't always simple.

"From an etiquette perspective, it really depends," says author and etiquette authority Lizzie Post, the great-great granddaughter of Emily Post and co-president of the Emily Post Institute.

"To say, 'Never' for everything feels quite final, doesn't it? And I am sure there are many different caveat situations out in the world."

In no particular order, here are 13 things you should (almost) never put in a text, or at least consider before including them.

- 1. Don't report a death.
- 2. Don't end a relationship.
- 3. Don't express unrequited feelings of love.
- 4. Go easy on ALL CAPS.
- 5. Avoid sarcasm. That old spelling tip about 'assume' applies
- 6. Understand emojis.
- 7. Be wary of abbreviations.
- 8. Don't write an opus.
- 9. Watch typos.
- 10. Don't complain about your boss.
- 11. Don't spread gossip.
- 12. Leave out personal data.

13. Consider political ramifications

READ MORE HERE

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11 Supermarkets That Give Seniors a Discount By Donna Fuscaldo, AARP May 26, 2022 With food prices soaring, here's how you can save

Everyone is looking for ways to save these days, and the grocery store may be an option if you're an older adult. Many supermarkets across the country offer people over a specific age a percentage off their bill. The grocery stores typically pick one day per week, known as senior discount days, to extend this deal to their older shoppers. The discounts tend to range from 5 percent to 10 percent off your grocery bill or select items.

Keep in mind that some big grocery chains, including Safeway and Giant, don't have a corporate-wide senior day on the books, but individual stores may extend a discount, so it's best to check with your store. Veterans can also save at the grocery store, with some supermarkets offering similar discounts to individuals who have served in the military. With that in mind, here's a list of 11 grocery stores across the country that have set senior discount days.

1. ALBERTSONS

Locations: Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas and other central and western states

Age for discount: Varies

Deal: Senior discount is available at select stores throughout the country. Customers are encouraged to reach out to their store to confirm if there's a senior discount.

2. BASHAS'

Locations: Over 100 stores in Arizona

Age for discount: 55+

Deal: The first Wednesday of every month, customers 55 and older get 10 percent off their purchase. Customers are required to use their Thank You rewards card to receive the discount. The discount cannot be used for prescriptions, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, postage stamps, gift cards, Western Union, taxes, fuel or lottery tickets.

3. BROOKSHIRE'S FOOD & PHARMACY

Locations: Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas

Age for discount: 60+

Deal: Every Tuesday and Thursday, customers 60 and older can save 5 percent off their grocery purchase when they use their Brookshire's Thank You Card. Eligible adults need to ask for the discount at checkout. The discount doesn't apply to milk and other dairy products and a host of other things including fuel, tobacco and prescription drugs.

4. DECICCO FAMILY MARKETS

Locations: New York Age for discount: 62+

Deal: Seniors get a discount on regular-priced items one day per week. The individual store sets the percentage off and day of the deal. Customers are required to have a DeCicco Preferred Card to receive the discount.

5. FOOD BAZAAR

Locations: Connecticut, New Jersey and New York

Age for discount: Varies

Deal: Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., seniors get 5 percent off their grocery bill. Sales found in the weekly circular are not eligible for the senior discount.

6. FRED MEYER

Locations: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and

Washington

Age for discount: 55+

Deal: The first Tuesday of every month, adults 55 and older get 10 percent off select items including private-brand groceries, apparel, shoes, accessories, all home goods and most electronics.

7. HARRIS TEETER

Locations: North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Florida, Delaware, Maryland, Washington, and D.C.

Age for discount: 60+

The deal: Every Thursday customers 60 and older receive a 5% discount on their bill. To receive the discount a shopper must have a valid VIC rewards card. Let the cashier know at checkout to get the savings.

8. HY-VEE

Locations: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin

Age for discount: Varies

Deal: Every Tuesday, seniors get 3 percent off their orders. There are other specials throughout the store on Senior Discount day.

9. NEW SEASONS MARKET

Locations: Portland, Oregon; San Jose,

California; Vancouver, Washington

Age for discount: 65+

Deal: On Wednesdays, people 65 and older receive 10 percent off most items in the store.

10. TOPS MARKETS

Locations: New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont **Age for discount:** 60+

Deal: The first Tuesday of every month, shoppers 60 and older get 6 percent off their entire grocery bill and out-of-pocket prescription drug purchase. Customers have to sign up for a Tops BonusPlus rewards card to get the deal.

11. WEIS MARKETS

Locations: Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey,

New York, Virginia and West Virginia

Age for discount: 60+

Deal: Every Tuesday, people 60 and older get 10 percent off participating Weis branded products.

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DISCLAIMER: This video and all links are from the law firm Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick LTD. This link, and the links in the article below, have great information concerning many VA rating areas. This law firm is not associated with anyone in the Stimson Association nor supported by the Stimson Association for anything other than informational purposes.

Can VA Reduce a 100% VA Disability Rating? Jun 14, 2022

Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick LTD

Many veterans seek a 100% VA disability rating, but once granted 100% VA disability benefits, is there a chance VA could reduce your rating? Tune in to learn the types of 100% VA ratings, whether VA can reduce a 100% disability rating, which protected ratings may apply (such as the VA disability 5-, 10-, and 20-year rules) for veterans with this rating, plus the chances of VA reducing a 100% permanent and total or Individual Unemployability (TDIU) rating.

Is My VA Disability Rating Permanent?- https://

cck-law.com/veterans-law/is-m...

Rating Reductions: What VA Can and Cannot Do- https://cck-law.com/blog/rating-reduc...

What Does It Mean to Be 100% Disabled by the VA?- https://cck-law.com/types-of-va-disab...

Protected VA Disability Ratings: What They Are and When They Take Effect- https://cck-law.com/blog/protected-va...

- ⇒ 0:00 Introduction
- ⇒ <u>0:37</u> How VA Disability Ratings Work
- ⇒ <u>1:37</u> Types of 100% VA Disability Ratings
- ⇒ 2:44 Why and How VA Reduces Veterans' Disability Ratings
- ⇒ 5:58 Can VA Reduce 100% Ratings? VA Protected Ratings: 5, 10, 20 Year Rules
- \Rightarrow 8:31 Example of a Protected 100% VA Rating
- ⇒ 9:52 Are Individual Unemployability (TDIU) Benefits Able to Be Reduced?
- ⇒ 10:45 Closing Thoughts and VA Claim Tips **WATCH VIDEO HERE**

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6 Skin Changes That Probably Aren't Cancer but Still Need Attention

Kim Painter, AARP Jun 06, 2022 Why you should pay attention when your skin displays these warning signs

Is your skin sending up red flags? Even if you diligently watch for changing moles and other possible signs of skin cancer, you should not ignore changes that are unlikely to be cancer but could spell trouble, skin-health experts say. In some cases, these changes are warning signs of other potential problems; in others, they are treatable conditions that tend to get worse if you do nothing.

Here are a few common skin changes to watch for.

1. VERY DRY SKIN

Dry skin isn't deadly, but it can make you vulnerable to more serious problems, including skin infections and inflammation.

2. ITCHY, SCALY OR CRACKED SKIN

Skin that isn't just dry but is itchy, scaly, cracked, inflamed or otherwise irritated requires a higher level of attention..

Watching for Skin Cancer

Some skin changes, of course, may signal cancer and should be checked out by a doctor. Signs of

the most serious skin cancer, melanoma, can include:

- A mole or other spot that is changing
- A spot that differs from any other spot
- · A growth that itches, bleeds or hurts
- A band of color beneath or around a nail
 A sore that does not heal or heals and returns

3. PERSISTENT BRUISING

Bumping your arm and getting a bruise that goes away in a few days is no cause for concern. And bruising is more common as we age and our skin becomes more fragile.

4. ACNE OR ACNE-LIKE BUMPS

Adults do get acne. It's especially common in women going through the hormonal changes of menopause. It's a treatable condition at any age.

5. RASHES ON YOUR FEET

Any unexplained rash should get your attention, especially if it is widespread or comes with fever or pain. Allergic reactions and infections are common causes. But lingering rashes on your feet may be easy to miss or ignore until they really cause trouble.

6. FLAT, DARK SPOTS ALL OVER YOUR SKIN

The good news is that the flat spots or blotches proliferating on your hands, back, chest or elsewhere almost certainly are not skin cancer. You may know them as age or liver spots, but dermatologists call them solar lentigines. They are usually tan or brown and are most common in people with fair skin. A dermatologist can do a full-body skin exam periodically to look for worrisome spots.

READ MORE HERE

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EDITOR NOTE: Our Federal Tax Return was on the IRS desk on 28 Feb according to USPS. It has now been 17 weeks and we still have not received our refund. I spent an entire day last week attempting to talk to a live person at the IRS to see if I could find out if there is a problem. I finally found the information below while doing just one more search and I was able to talk to someone. Long story short....they blamed it on COVID. Thought some of you might be able to use this info:

Before calling the IRS, take a deep breath with me.

Please remember that there are some wonderful people working at the IRS. They have families and souls, just like the rest of us. They pay taxes and have to follow the same laws that we do.

With that being said, here are the steps you need to take to reach a real person on the phone at the IRS.

When to call

The IRS is available from 7 a.m. -7 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The best time to call is early in the morning.

Make sure you're prepared

Before you call, make sure you have all of the information that you need.

- Social Security cards and birth dates for those who were on the return you are calling about.
- An Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) letter if you don't have a Social Security number (SSN)
- Filing status Single, Head of Household,
 Married Filing Joint or Married Filing Separate
- Your prior-year tax return. We may need to verify your identity before answering certain questions
- A copy of the tax return you're calling about Any letters or notices the IRS sent you

How do you speak to a live person at the IRS?

- 1. The IRS telephone number is 1-800-829-1040.
- 2. The first question the automated system will ask you is to choose your language.
- 3. Once you've set your language, do <u>NOT</u> choose Option 1 (regarding refund info). Choose option 2 for "Personal Income Tax" instead.
- 4. Next, press 1 for "form, tax history, or payment".
- 5. Next, press 3 "for all other questions."
- 6. Next, press 2 "for all other questions."
- 7. When the system asks you to enter your SSN or EIN to access your account information, do **NOT** enter anything.
- 8. After it asks twice, you will be prompted with another menu.
- 9. Press 2 for personal or individual tax

questions.

10. Finally, press 4 for all other inquiries. The system should then transfer you to an agent.

Need help? Try contacting your local IRS office. If you can't reach a real person over the phone, you can **contact your local IRS office**. The Taxpayer Assistance Center operates by appointment only, where you can get help directly from an agent.

The IRS also provides a great service called the Taxpayer Advocate. **Click here** to find a Taxpayer Advocate in your area.

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What Dementia Feels Like

by Jeanette Beebe, AARP, May 24, 2022

Grappling with a dementia diagnosis can bring on an array of emotions, shifting among fear, anxiety, dread and more. Approximately 5.8 million Americans are living with dementia — a cluster of symptoms that can rob a person of their ability to think, remember and reason — and everyone's experience is different.

The years following a diagnosis are often painfully brief: Individuals with Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia, live an average of four to eight years after being diagnosed, though people can live with the disease for up to two decades as it progresses from mild to more severe stages (there are five total). And the day-to-day can feel complex.

What are the signs of dementia?

Signs and Symptoms can vary, but common ones include:

What are the signs of dementia?

Signs and symptoms can vary, but common ones include:

- Memory loss, poor judgment and confusion
- Difficulty speaking, understanding and expressing thoughts
- Difficulty with reading and writing
- Wandering and getting lost in a familiar neighborhood
- Trouble handling money responsibly and paying bills
- Repeating questions
- Using unusual words to refer to familiar objects
- Taking longer to complete normal daily tasks
- · Losing interest in normal daily activities or

events

- Acting impulsively
- Not caring about other people's feelings
- Losing balance or experiencing problems with movement

Source: National Institute on Aging

READ MORE HERE



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

What is "S" Mode in Windows

I recently bought a new laptop which came with Windows 11 in the

"S" mode. Many Windows computers you buy today come with the "S" mode activated. This is supposed to make them more secure and safer to use.

According to Microsoft: Windows 11 in S mode is a version of Windows 11 that's streamlined for security and performance, while providing a familiar Windows experience. To increase security, it allows only apps from Microsoft Store, and requires Microsoft Edge for safe browsing.

The key words in this statement are that it only allows apps from the Microsoft Store to be installed on the computer and that it requires Microsoft Edge for "safe browsing".

If you buy a computer that comes in the "S" mode you need to evaluate what software you "want" installed on that computer and "if" that software or an acceptable product is in the Microsoft Store. If the software you want on your computer is "not" in the Microsoft Store you will not be able to install it on your new computer.

If you have software on a CD that you purchased, it cannot be installed on a PC in the "S" mode. If it is not available for download from the Microsoft Store you will NOT be able to use that software on your computer in the "S" mode.

Make a list of all the software you want on your computer and rank it for importance to you. After you make your list of software you want installed on your new computer go to the Microsoft Store and see if that software (or an acceptable equivalent software) is available in the Microsoft

Store. I found that many products are in the store but also that some software that is "free" on the internet has a charge in the Microsoft Store for downloading it.

If you go to the Microsoft Store and type "browsers" to see what other browsers are available I found Firefox and Opera plus a lot of browsers I have never heard of listed but not Google Chrome, CCleaner Browser, or other browsers I like to use. You can install other "browsers" from the Microsoft Store, however, you cannot set any other browser but Microsoft Edge as the "default" browser while in the "S" mode. Microsoft Edge must be the "default" browser.

If you decide that acceptable software is available in the Microsoft Store you can leave your new computer in the "S" mode which prevents "malicious" software from being installed on your computer and thus "safer".

If you have "must have" software in your list that is not in the Microsoft Store then you may decide to "deactivate" the "S" mode. For example, I use Family Tree Maker 2019 to track my ancestry on my local computer which works well with Ancestry.com, but that program is not available in the Microsoft Store. Thus, this was a "must have" program for me to have on the new computer.

If you decide that you want other software you own to be installed on your computer then you have the option of switching Windows out of the "S" mode. Once the "S" mode is deactivated, you CANNOT return to the "S" mode. It is a ONE-WAY process. If you feel you may want to start over in the "S" mode you should make a "clone" of your initial hard drive and put it in safe place. This will allow you to "restore" the hard drive back to the original setup at a later time if desired.

It is a fairly simple process to switch out of the "S" mode. The following link gives simple instructions for deactivating the "S" mode. Open the link then select "How do I get out of the "S" mode?" and follow the instructions.

https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/ windows/windows-10-and-windows-11-in-smode-faq-851057d6-1ee9-b9e5-c30b-93baebeebc85

This "deactivates" the "S" mode and switches

Windows to the "normal" mode which allows you to install any software and choose any browser as the "default" browser. It also makes it possible for malicious software to be installed by bad sites. Remember deactivating the "S" mode cannot be reversed.

Remember to periodically "clone" your hard drive to ensure you can recover from a failed hard drive or malicious software.

The Lean Submariner

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

https://theleansubmariner.com/



The Future USS Montana Was Commissioned In Virginia Saturday

(KFBB-TV ABC GREAT FALL 24 JUN 22) ... Meridith Depping

HELENA, Mont. - This Saturday, the newest Virginiaclass attack submarine, the future USS Montana (SSN 794) was commissioned at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

This will be the third of the Block IV Virginiaclass attack submarines to be delivered, and the second commissioned warship bearing the name according to a press release from the U.S. Navy.

The first USS Montana (ACR-13) was an armored cruiser, also built at Newport News Shipbuilding and commissioned in July 1908 and was decommissioned in 1921.

Two other vessels named after Montana never saw commissioned service.

"This boat is a true treasure of the U.S. Navy, and will play an integral part in protecting and

promoting American prosperity and security abroad," said Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro. "I am so proud of the brave men and women who will man this submarine, and I look forward to their success on the high seas."

According to the release, Montana is the third Block IV Virginia-class submarine to enter service, designed to carry out the core missions of the submarine force: anti-submarine warfare; anti-surface warfare; delivery of special operations forces; strike warfare; irregular warfare; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; and mine warfare. These capabilities allow the submarine force to operate anywhere, at any time, and contribute to regional stability and the preservation of future peace. https://www.montanarightnow.com/news/the-future-uss-montana-was-commissioned-in-virginia-saturday/article_3b7e7882-f4b3-11ec-9b69-3f4a5eaa0911.html



Navy Commissions Sub SSN-793, Completes Refit Of SSGN-727

(DEFENSE DAILY 01 JUN 22) ... Rich Abott

The Navy recently commissioned the Virginiaclass attack submarine USS Oregon (SSN-793) and also completed a refit of the guided-missile submarine USS Michigan (SSGN727).

SSN-793 was commissioned at a traditional ceremony held at Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn. on May 28, the first regular ceremony of its type since February 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Oregon was built by General Dynamics' [GD] Electric Boat division in Groton,

Conn. The vessel was previously christened at the Groton shipyard in October 2019.

Electric Boat delivered SSN-793 to the Navy in February (Defense Daily, March 1).

SSN-793 is the second Block IV Virginia-class boat. That variant includes design changes meant to reduce total ownership cost of the submarine. Incorporating these smallerscale design changes to increase component-level lifecycle of the submarine, the Navy seeks to increase the time between depot maintenance availabilities and increase the number of deployments per vessel.

The Navy said while Blocks I-III Virginia-class submarines are expected to undergo four depot maintenance availabilities and 14 deployments, Block IV vessels are planned to have only three depot maintenance availabilities and up to 15 deployments.

Separately, the Navy completed an extended refit period of the Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Michigan (SSGN-727) at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility and the ship got underway on May 27.



SSGN-727 first entered dry dock in July 2019, four months before the first COVID-19 cases were confirmed.

There are four Ohio-class SSGNs, which are nuclear armed submarines converted to conventional cruise missile roles. Each submarine can field up to 154 Tomahawk missiles.

The SSGNs are expected to retire between fiscal years 2026 and 2028, but Navy officials recently said the service is examining the possibility of extending the vessels while the Navy waits for more SSNs with the Virginia Payload

Module (VPM) to be built. The VPM increases the number of cruise missiles each attack submarine can hold from the current 27 to about 65. Twenty-two VPM-equipped SSNs will equal the four-ship SSGN fleet (Defense Daily, May 16).

Ohio-class submarines were originally expected to last for 30 years, but were previously extended to 42-year service lives.

Melissa Kittrell, assistant project superintendent on the USS Michigan project, Code 392, Operations Department said this team was the first to try out new equipment, saving time in maintenance compared to the original work timeline.

"We were the first availability to try out new equipment developed by (Naval Undersea Warfare Center) Keyport," she said. "This allowed the project to more efficiently conduct some repair work, and saved two weeks to the project timeline."

Kittrell underscored the amount of work the maintenance team was able to do despite the pandemic.

https://defensedaily.com/navy-commissionssub-ssn-793- completes-refit-of-ssgn-727/navy -usmc/



Submitted by Bob Peterson, MM1(SS) B 70-72 For all of us getting older by the day! The 1% Age Group.

This **special group** was born between 1930 & 1946 = 16 years. In 2021, the age range is between 75 & 91. Are you, or do you know, someone "still here?" Interesting Facts.

- * You are the smallest group of children born since the early 1900s.
- You are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war that rattled the structure of our daily lives for years.
- You are the last to remember ration books for everything from gas to sugar to shoes to stoves.
- You saved tin foil and poured fried meat fat into tin cans.
- You saw cars up on blocks because tires weren't available
- You can remember milk being delivered to your house early in the morning and placed in the "milk box" on the porch.
- You are the last to see the gold stars in the front windows of grieving neighbors whose sons died in the War.
- You saw the 'boys' home from the war, build their little houses.
- You are the last generation who spent childhood without television; instead, you "imagined" what you heard on the radio.
- With no TV until the 1950s, you spent your childhood "playing outside." There was no Little League.
- There was no city playground for kids.
- The lack of television in your early years meant that you had little real understanding of what the world was like.
- On Saturday mornings and afternoons, the movies gave you newsreels sandwiched in between westerns and cartoons.
- Telephones were one to a house, often shared (party lines), and hung on the wall in the kitchen (no cares about privacy).
- Computers were called calculators; they were hand-cranked.
- 'INTERNET' and 'GOOGLE' were words that did not exist.

- Typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage, and changing the ribbon.
- Newspapers and magazines were written for adults and the news was broadcast on your radio in the evening.
- * The Government gave returning Veterans the means to get an education and spurred colleges to grow.
- Loans fanned a housing boom
- Pent-up demand, coupled with new installment payment plans opened many factories for work.
- New highways would bring jobs and mobility
- * The veterans joined civic clubs and became active in politics.
- * The radio network expanded from 3 stations to thousands.
- Your parents were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into exploring opportunities they had never imagined.
- You weren't neglected, but you weren't today's all-consuming family focus.
- They were glad you played by yourselves until the street lights came on
- * They were busy discovering the postwar world.
- You entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where you were welcomed, enjoyed ourselves and felt secure in your future although the depression poverty was deeply remembered.
- * Polio was still a crippler.
- * You came of age in the '50s and '60s.
- You are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our homeland.
 - The second world war was over and the cold war, terrorism, global warming, and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life with unease
- Only your generation can remember both a time of great war and a time when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty.
- You grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better...
- You are "The Last Ones."

More than 99 % of you are either retired or deceased, and you feel privileged to have "lived in the best of times!"

Amen! It's great being part of the 1% Special Group!

History Of The Drunken Sailor Sea Shanty (NAVY TIMES 31 MAY 22) ... Sarah Sicard

There is something about sailing the open seas that comes with the stereotype of being a rum-soaked scalawag.

One of the most popular sea shanties of all time is that which we've come to know as "What Shall We Do with the Drunken Sailor?"

The original music reportedly comes from an Irish tune called 'Oró Sé do Bheatha 'Bhaile,' which means "Óró, you are welcome home."

The song's lore dates back to the early 1800s, but references are scant. Its chorus, however, is referenced in some whaling ship records out of New London, Connecticut, in 1839, according to Financial Times.

It's easy to understand why seafarers are so often associated with excessive spirit consumption. Before filtration and modern-day water storage aboard ships, it was much easier to keep alcohol as the main source of potable liquid.

The U.S. Navy indeed had a long history with drink on its vessels before its prohibition over 100 years ago.

On March 27, 1794, Congress enacted a daily drink ration, which included "one half-pint of distilled spirits" or "one quart of beer."

After that, limits on alcohol increased until finally the U.S. Navy banned it on July 1, 1914, under General Order 99. The regulation stated, "The use or introduction for drinking purposes of alcoholic liquors on board any naval vessel, or within any navy yard or station, is strictly prohibited, and commanding officers will be held directly responsible for the enforcement of this order."

However, American sailors have had dalliances with drunkenness since — typically at port.

For example, U.S. sailors stationed in Japan were also banned from drinking in the country, onor off-base, after a sailor was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving on the island of Okinawa in 2016. Restrictions were eased shortly after, limiting drinking to on-base only.

In Iceland in 2018, a couple thousand U.S. sailors and Marines drank the entire beer supply of the capital city of Reykjavík while stationed there on a NATO mission.

So what do you do with a drunken sailor?
According to the song, there are several things you can do with a drunken sailor: Shave his belly with a rusty razor, put him in a long boat 'til he's sober, stick him in the scupper with a hosepipe on him, or put him in the bed with the captain's daughter.

Whether or not the U.S. Navy has ever utilized any of these methods of punishment is not known. However, any captain who found a drunken sailor in bed with his daughter is likely to turn to the bottle himself.

https://www.navytimes.com/off-duty/militaryculture/2022/05/31/history-of-the-drunkensailor-sea-shanty/

First Columbia Class Submarine Keel 'True And Fairly Laid' At Electric Boat

(THE DAY 04 JUN 22) ... Sten Spinella



NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. — Electric Boat held a keel-laying ceremony Saturday morning to mark the beginning of construction for the submarine District of Columbia (SSBN 826), the first of its new namesake class of boats.

Political and military dignitaries converged on the Quonset Point facility in North Kingstown for the keel laying — the ceremonial start of construction for a submarine. U.S. Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-DC, sponsored the ship and inscribed her initials on it Saturday.

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro delivered the ceremony's keynote address. He was one of several speakers who appreciated the work of EB employees.

"I know the hard work that goes into waking up, coming to work, in times of heat and times of cold, to make these ships," he said. "Your role is as important as mine."

The Navy secretary said Columbia-Class submarines "will be the cornerstone of our national security" and represent 70% of the U.S.'s nuclear arsenal.

"Adversaries know our silent service is always on patrol. They don't know where," Del Toro said. "It is imperative that we must now modernize our fleet ... recapitalizing our seabased deterrents as foundational to our national security." He thanked the American people for their "investment and confidence" in the ship-building effort.

He mistakenly and repeatedly referred to Delaware at the beginning of his remarks before self-correcting to Rhode Island, noting President Joe Biden was in Delaware recently.

The seriousness of the ceremony was balanced by a celebratory reception before and after the event that included donuts made to look like submarines. The standing room-only event, which was not open to the public, drew an estimated 1,500 people, according to General Dynamics Electric Boat.

Submarine Columbia (SSBN 826) is the lead ship in the newest class of ballistic submarines for the Navy, which will replace the Ohio class of Trident-missile nuclear submarines that are scheduled to retire from service at the end of the decade.

Connecticut U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-2nd District, also delivered remarks on Saturday. "The Columbia now is the largest single shipbuilding program in the Navy's budget," he said Saturday. "Its production facilities have transformed the skylines of Quonset Point, Groton and Newport News. The dramatic hiring in southern New England over the last decade has elevated Electric Boat to the position of the number one private employer in both Connecticut and Rhode Island, which will continue into the 2030s."

According to EB, the Navy awarded the company a \$9.5 billion contract for the first two Columbia class ships, which includes construction, testing and associated design work. The company also was awarded funds for additional work in 2021 and this year for \$314 million and \$474 million, respectively.

Since 2015, Courtney has been working to finance the construction of the Columbia class.

In 2016, he "helped secure the inclusion of a provision in the year-end continuing resolution that provided a critical funding boost for the Columbia-Class submarine program." In 2017, the Navy contract for detailed design of the Columbia program was awarded to EB. In 2019, the company broke ground on a new production facility designed expressly for Columbia-class sub construction.

The facility is "part of a \$1.8 billion investment General Dynamics is making to grow its submarine design and manufacturing infrastructure," a Saturday news release reads. Construction of the Columbia is roughly more than 20% complete.

EB was awarded the Columbia-class construction contract in 2020. In February and March of 2022, two votes in Congress allowed for the continued funding for the first Columbia-class submarine.

The March vote "included a Courtney-authored provision providing \$130 million to continue efforts to improve the nationwide supplier base, as well as \$20 million to support training programs to help support expansion of the skilled submarine workforce to prepare shipyards for an increase in future submarine construction," according to Courtney's office.

"The Columbia-class submarine program will be constructed in large part by the men and women at the EB shipyard in Groton, and will support jobs up and down the eastern CT manufacturing supply chain," Courtney's office added.

"'Keel laying' is an ancient maritime term whose historic definition is 'the formal recognition of the start of a ship's construction.' ... This submarine's construction hardly began today," Courtney said. "In a sense, today's keel laying

does in fact mark a start — these modules are now poised to be fitted out for final assembly and seaworthiness." He then paraphrased Winston Churchill, saying, "It's not the beginning of the end, but it is perhaps the end of the beginning."

The Navy approached Electric Boat in 2007 about assisting in designing the Ohio-class replacement class. The first Columbia-class boat is scheduled to be deployed in 2030, with a service life that is expected to last until the 2080s.

"The Columbia class of 12 ships will each carry 16 missiles, which in total will represent approximately 70 percent of the country's nuclear arsenal," according to a description at Saturday's event from EB. "At a length of 560 feet and displacing 20,810 tons, the Columbia will be the largest submarine ever built by the U.S. Its reactor will not require refueling during its lifetime of planned service, making the ship more cost effective to operate and maximizing time in deployment. In addition, the submarine will feature superior acoustical performance and state-of-theart sensors to make it the most capable and quiet submarine ever built."

The Columbia ultimately will be assembled and tested at Electric Boat, and will be delivered to the Navy in 2027.

"With the Columbia-class program, the Navy has entrusted Electric Boat to deliver the next 60 years of nuclear deterrence for our nation, continuing the company's legacy of delivering the finest, most technically advanced submarines in the world," EB President Kevin Graney said Saturday.

U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., also thanked those who built "this majestic craft." 7

"'Popular Science' just called you masters of steel," he said to the workers gathered throughout the facility. "From the nuclear power plant within to the deep ocean pressure without, you craft the most capable ... vessels to ever sail the seas."

Holmes Norton, who took the opportunity during her remarks to express her support for D.C. statehood, had her initials welded onto a plate by Electric Boat welder Maria Betance-Pizzarro.

According to EB, "Since submarines have round hulls and do not have a keel, the

ceremonial plate will be mounted in a place of honor on the ship permanently."

https://www.theday.com/local-news/20220604/

first-columbia-class-submarine-keel-true-and-fairly-laid-at-electric-boat

Keel Laid For Nuclear Ballistic Missile Submarine District of Columbia

(USNI NEWS 04 JUN 22) ... John Grady

After inspecting the engraved plate with her welded initials, Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) declared the keel laid for the future USS District of Columbia (SSBN-826).



Artist's rendering of the Columbia-class SSBN submarine.

US Navy Image

The ceremony marks the ceremonial construction start of the first in a new class of ballistic missile submarine that's expected to commission in 2027.

"Though this is not the first time a U.S. Navy vessel has been named Columbia, this is the first time that the name has been used to specifically commemorate the District of Columbia. The Columbia class will be the largest, most capable and most advanced submarine produced by our nation," Norton said in her remarks during the ceremony.

Norton added the district is home to about 30,000 veterans now and almost 200,000 D.C. residents have served in the armed forces since World War I.

It was appropriate, "the Navy would be recognizing the people of the District of Columbia," she said.

"It is fitting that it recognizes what will become the 51st state."

Building the 12 boomers in the Columbia-class

has been the Navy's top priority for the last decade. Preliminary design work on the 520-foot long, 20,000-ton ballistic missile submarine started in 2007. The class will replace the Ohio class ballistic missile submarines as the nation's number one strategic deterrent starting with District of Columbia's first patrol in 2031.

The Columba-class will carry "70 percent of America's deployed nuclear arsenal," Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro said at the ceremony at Electric Boat's Quonset Point facility in Rhode Island. He added the ballistic missile submarines are "the smartest investment we can make" to secure the American public.

The D.C.-class will bring to the Navy "unmatched stealth, advanced weapons systems" and a complex electric propulsion system, Adm. Daryl Caudle, a career submariner and commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command, said

Electric Boat president Kevin Graney added, District of Columbia is expected to "serve well into the 2080s" and will never have to return to a shipyard for nuclear refueling.

In March, USNI News reported the \$110 billion Columbia program and the Virginia Payload Module hull module are refining modular techniques EB developed to build the early Virginia-class submarines to maximize the efficiency of assembling the complex hulls under a timeline with razor-thin margins.

Also like the Virginia-class, Electric Boat is pairing with Newport News Shipbuilding in the submarines' construction. Jennifer Boykin, president of HII's Newport News Shipbuilding, said the work "raised the bar on size and scope" of submarine's modular construction. The bow and stern modules for District of Columbia will be transported by a specially-built ocean-going barge from Virginia to Electric Boat's facility at North Kingstown, R.I.

In 2016, then Navy Secretary of the Navy announced the first in the new class of boomers would be called Columbia after D.C., reported USNI News at the time.

On Friday, Del Toro announced the first boat would officially add "District of" to the name in order to avoid an overlap in names with the existing USS Columbia (SSN-771). The Los

Angeles class attack boat , named for cities in South Carolina, Illinois and Missouri, was also built at Electric Boat and commissioned in 1995. The current Columbia was originally set to leave the fleet before District of Columbia was to commission but is set to see a service life extension, USNI News understands.

While the name Columbia for a U.S. ships and aircraft is not new – at least eight U.S. ships, a Space Shuttle and the Apollo 11 command module have all shared the name – it will be the first time the name has been used to commemorate the U.S. capital.

"The District of Columbia is rich with naval history. The Washington Navy Yard is our oldest shore facility... Marines like Montford Point Marine Herman Darden and Brigadier General Anthony Henderson and sailors like Yeoman Charlotte Louise Berry Winters and Medal of Honor Recipient First Class Fireman John Rush were born and raised in D.C.," Del Toro said.

"This is why I prefer to call D.C., not just our nation's capital, but instead, our naval capital." https://news.usni.org/2022/06/04/keel-laid-for-nuclear-ballistic-missile-submarine-district-of-columbia

How U.S. Sailors Pulled Off A Daring High-Seas Mission To Save A Sinking Nazi Submarine And Capture Its Secrets (BUSINESS INSIDER 23 JUN 22) ... Benjamin Brimelow

In early June 1944, more than 100,000 Allied soldiers and thousands of ships and aircraft massed on the English coast, preparing for one of the most important battles in history: the invasion of Normandy.

Several hundred miles to the south, the six ships of US Navy Task Group 22.3 were on a rather routine U-boat hunterkiller patrol — a mundane mission in comparison.

After a few weeks at sea, the task force was heading to Casablanca to refuel. On the way, they pulled off one of the most impressive naval feats of the war: capturing the German U-boat U-505 completely intact — including its valuable Enigma machines and the codebooks needed to use them.

U-505



U-505 shortly after being captured

Roughly 250 feet long and displacing about 1,200 tons submerged, U-505 was a Type IXC U-boat with a crew of 60. It had six torpedo tubes to fire its 22 torpedoes, one 4-inch deck gun (which had been removed by 1944), and two anti-aircraft guns.

U-505 quickly earned a reputation for being unlucky. Its first deployment was repeatedly delayed by mechanical problems — a constant issue that cut many of its patrols short. Its first commanding officer had his tenure ended by appendicitis, and its second commanding officer had a mental breakdown during a depth-charge attack and killed himself.

Over 12 wartime patrols, U-505 only sank eight ships, including the accidental sinking of a Colombian diplomat's schooner, which contributed to that country declaring war on Germany in November 1943.

In summer 1944, U-505 was commanded by Oberleutnant zur See Harald Lange and operating in its usual hunting grounds off the West African coast.

The Allies had cracked Germany's codes and were using intercepted messages to determine the general area and timing of U-boat operations.

The Allies sent hunter-killer groups with escort carriers and sonar on the offensive, but they still didn't know precisely where German subs would be because the subs' coordinates were encrypted using a newer version of the Enigma that the

Allies hadn't gotten their hands on.

The capture

Task Group 22.3 sailed from Norfolk, Virginia, on May 15. It was commanded by Capt. Daniel Gallery, an anti-submarine-warfare pioneer, with the Casablanca-class escort carrier USS Guadalcanal in the lead and five destroyer escorts: USS Pillsbury, USS Pope, USS Flaherty, USS Chatelain, and USS Jenks.

On a previous anti-submarine patrol, Gallery had sunk U515 and U-68 within 12 hours of each other, but he knew that capturing a German sub could be more valuable. He ordered the crews of Task Group 22.3 to train to capture a U-boat rather than sink it when they next had the chance.

Gallery was able to get the approximate location of U-505 from decrypted German transmissions, but after weeks of searching for the sub off of West Africa, the task group was running low on fuel and headed north for Casablanca.

Coincidentally, U-505 was also running low on fuel and had set a course for France.

At 11:09 a.m. on June 4, USS Chatelain reported possible sound contacts 150 miles off of what is now part of Western Sahara. Two F4F Wildcat fighter planes launched from Guadalcanal to investigate, while the destroyers Chatelain, Jenks, and Pope moved in.

U-505 was only about 60 feet deep, and Chatelain and the Wildcats discovered it almost simultaneously. The destroyers fired Hedgehog anti-submarine mortars and dropped over 60 depth charges, while the Wildcats fired their machine guns into the sea to mark U-505's course.

U-505 began taking on water, leading its crew to believe the hull was cracked and that they would soon sink. Lange ordered them to surface less than 800 yards from Chatelain and abandon ship.

Gallery then put his plan into action. All five destroyer escorts took position around the sub as it surfaced and sprayed it with small-caliber machine-gun fire, which wounded Lange, killed his chief officer, and panicked the crew.

A herculean effort

The destroyers ceased fire after two minutes, and the Germans hurriedly jumped into the water.

They had opened scuttling valves to flood the sub but, in their haste to abandon ship, didn't set the scuttling charges correctly.

An eight-man boarding party from Pillsbury soon boarded U-505. As the F4F Wildcats fired into the water to keep the Germans from returning, the boarding party grabbed as many codebooks, documents, and maps as they could, along with the Enigma machine.

The US sailors then mounted a herculean effort to save U-505. With its rudder damaged and engine running, the sub sailed in a continuous right turn. They had closed the scuttling valves, but when the engine was disabled the sub sank faster, so they turned it back on.

Pillsbury tried to tow the sub but gave up because U-505 kept running into it, tearing a hole in the destroyer's hull. At one point over 90% of U-505 was underwater, with just its bow and conning tower above the surface.

Fortunately for the Americans, a half-Polish member of the German crew named Ewald Felix agreed to help. Felix showed them how the bilge pumps worked, allowing them to pump water out of the sub.

The engine was disconnected, halting the sub's continuous right turn, and Guadalcanal took it under tow. Though the engine was off, the towing made the propellers spin, which charged the sub's battery and allowed the pumps to keep working.

With a large American flag flying over its German ensign, U-505 was now fully secured. It was the first time US Navy personnel boarded and captured an enemy warship since 1815, and one of only six German U-boats captured during the war.

Not everyone was happy — Adm. Ernest J. King, the chief of US naval operations, was initially furious, fearing the Germans would figure out what happened and change their codes — but the value of the sub soon became clear.

To keep news of U-505's capture from spreading, the sub was towed some 1,700 miles to Port Royal Bay in Bermuda, which, because it saw little military traffic, US officials believed likely had few if any German spies. The sub was also painted in US colors and renamed "USS Nemo."

The German crew, all but one of whom survived, was sent to Camp Ruston in Louisiana and held in isolation — a violation of the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of POWs.

U-505 yielded extremely valuable intelligence. Ten sacks full of codebooks, documents, and maps weighing over 900 pounds were recovered, as were two up-to-date Enigma machines and multiple acoustic torpedoes.

The sub's capture was kept secret until the war in Europe was over. It was then used as a prop to encourage war bond sales. U-505 was to be used for gunnery and torpedo practice after the war, but it was instead donated to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago in 1954, where it is still on display.

https://www.businessinsider.com/us-sailors-saved-u505- uboat-enigma-in-high-sea-raid-2022-6

T-SHIRTS FOR SENIORS







June 29, 2022

Statement from the 63 Living Medal of Honor Recipients on the Passing of Recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams

Growing up in Quiet Dell, friends and family of Woody Williams knew him as a West Virginia farmer's son and the youngest of 11 children who dutifully supported his family after his father died.

Fellow Marines knew him as the corporal who volunteered for a mission on Iwo Jima to clear a lane through enemy pillboxes that were destroying American tanks.

Veterans in West Virginia knew him as their advocate through his work as a Veterans Service Representative.

Gold Star families knew Woody through his work raising money for scholarships and other programs through the Woody Williams Foundation.

And the nation knew him as a hero and the last living World War II Recipient of the Medal of Honor.

We, his fellow Medal of Honor Recipients, knew him as our friend and one of our heroes. We will miss him greatly.

Semper Fi and Godspeed, Woody



Congressional Medal of Honor Society Announces Passing of Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society regretfully announces that <u>Hershel</u> "Woody" Williams, the last living World War II Medal of

Honor Recipient, passed away on June 29, 2022, in Huntington, West Virginia, at the age of 98.

President Harry S. Truman presented Williams with the Medal of Honor on White House grounds in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 5, 1945, for his actions during the battle for Iwo Jima.

On Feb. 23, 1945, then-Corporal Williams was a Marine Demolition Operator with Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 21st Marines. 3rd Marine Division. which confronted series of camouflaged. а reinforced concrete pill boxes lining the outskirts of an airfield that U.S. Marines were trying to take.

Over the course of four hours, Williams, armed with a flamethrower and guarded by four Marine riflemen, repeatedly ran the width of the beach while under intense enemy fire to

disarm and destroy seven pillboxes. His actions neutralized a considerable obstacle and created an access point for Marine Infantry units.

Speaking about the significance of the Medal of Honor, Williams once said, "The Medal represents what the country has always stood for. Sacrifice. The day I was born I was handed a gem that is absolutely impossible to buy. That was my freedom. Can't pay for it. There is not enough money in the world. So this Medal, to me, stands for sacrifice and service."

Williams was born in Quiet Dell, West Virginia, on Oct. 2, 1923. He served in the Civilian Conservation Corps for one and a half years during the 1930s and then enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943 while World War II was underway. Following his retirement from the military in 1969 as Chief Warrant Officer Four, he worked for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as a Veterans Service Representative.

In 2010, Williams created the Woody Williams Foundation to honor and remember the sacrifices of Gold Star Families—the immediate family member(s) of a fallen service member who died while serving in a time of conflict. The USS Hershel "Woody" Williams (ESB-4) was christened in his name in 2020. He was one of the charter members of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society when it was founded in 1958, and he served as its Chaplain for decades.

He is survived by numerous family members. Burial arrangements are pending.

There are 63 recipients alive today.

About the Congressional Medal of Honor Society

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Medal of Honor and its Recipients, inspiring Americans, and supporting the Recipients as they connect with communities across the country.

Chartered by Congress in 1958, its membership consists exclusively of those individuals who have received the Medal of Honor. There are 63 living Recipients.

The Society carries out its mission through

outreach, education and preservation programs, including the Medal of Honor Museum, Congressional Medal of Honor Outreach Programs, the Congressional Medal of Honor Character Development Program, and the Congressional Medal of Honor Citizen Honors Awards for Valor and Service. The Society's programs and operations are funded by donations.

As part of Public Law 106-83, the Medal of the Honor Memorial Act, the Medal of Honor Museum, which is co-located with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's headquarters on board the U.S.S. Yorktown at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, was designated as one of three national Medal of Honor sites.

Learn more about the Medal of Honor and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's initiatives at <u>cmohs.org</u>.

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