

Greeting to STIMSON Shipmates from Admiral Bill Smith

I am honored to send my greetings to the Henry L. Stimson reunion. I only recently became aware of this gathering and thank David Huckeba for tracking me down. I would also like to thank George Birmingham, and Alan Reed who were shipmates with me such a long time ago. Their day to day performance along with the rest of the crew and the Gold Crew made Stimson the great ship that she was.

My time aboard that fine ship was absolutely my best tour in the Navy. Although I served over 19 years after I left the ship, I never again served directly with sailors and Chief Petty Officers in my day to day duties. The opportunity to serve directly with and to interact directly with the people who get things done and make real things happen was the highlight of my time in Command. That tour was the benchmark against which I compared all my subsequent tours, and those tours did not quite match up. My very best to all of you, and God bless you, each and every one for your service!!!! Bill Smith

Greetings to STIMSON Shipmates from VADM Dennis Jones

Dear Stimson Shipmates

I wish I was there with you to celebrate the good ship Henry L Stimson, by telling outrageous sea stories and renewing friendships that were born and nurtured on many long patrols.

You should be very proud of your personal service, because you are what made the Stimson such an outstanding National Asset. As an important part of the wonderful "Forty one For Freedom", you took the Henry L. into harm's way----stuck your head in a tiger's mouth and made your nation proud. I was fortunate to serve with you!

I have many fond memories of my Engineer's tour in the early 1970s. One vivid memory, is that my scheduled thirty six month tour lasted forty eight months. In addition to multiple patrols, there was a Poseidon conversion and a nuclear refueling. I went into that tour standing six feet tall---came out at five seven !!!!

As a young officer, with little real submarine experience, I listened to everything that my shipmates said. My two Commanding Officers, Bob Weeks and Bill Smith allowed me to make decisions and to screw up. A great lesson that would come in handy, later in my Navy career. As long as I could keep Bob Week's coke machine and movie projector working, I was able to survive. And Bill Smith taught me something that I badly needed---patience ! And of course, Bob taught me how to properly execute the mission of being a true sailor on liberty. The things we did---YIKES !!!

However, my greatest memories are about many of you, and what you taught me. I've recently taken this opportunity to look at the pictures of the crew that I served with. I can honestly tell you, that with every face, I can remember stories about each of you. Stories of things you repaired---things you broke---things you did---things you said---things I learned from you.

So, just let me say---THANK YOU----And have a great reunion

Very Best Regards

Dennis

Greetings to STIMSON Reunion from ADM Henry Chiles, former Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Strategic Command, and former ComSubLant

The inventor of the first accepted US Submarine, John Holland, didn't live long enough to comprehend the impact that submarines would have on warfare at sea. He died in August 1914. Within 3 weeks of his death, the German U boat, U 15 (or perhaps U 9), based on his design, sank 3 British cruisers in one hour. Germany sank 20 million tons of Allied shipping in World War I, over 13 million tons of allied shipping in World War II. United States submarines sank another 5 million tons of Japanese shipping in World War II: a total of about 40 million tons of shipping sunk by submarines in the last century.

This month we celebrate the 109th birthday of the submarine force. Our predecessors who did the dirty jobs of a hot war, particularly the Submarine sailors who fought in World War II were PEACEMAKERS. They had no choice but to fight to restore the peace in a terrible war the United States didn't start and didn't want. These PEACEMAKERS we honor this month in tolling the bells for submarine shipmates lost at sea doing the dirty jobs of war that we, THEIR grateful successors might know peace, a better world.

So PEACEMAKING was not our role.... USS HENRY L. STIMSON and all who served in her were PEACEKEEPERS. Following the legends, those heroes of World War II, the PEACEKEEPERS of our GENERATION have had a different situation. The advent of nuclear power and subsequent technological advances provided us a far more capable submarine, practically unlimited endurance, greater firepower, better sensors at longer range, a strategic weapon with incredible accuracy over thousands of miles, a tactical weapon that can strike far inland. We've taken a more active role internationally. We've learned that American strength, judiciously applied, is an essential ingredient to preservation of the peace worldwide. The Cold War never went hot. You accomplished the mission.

So congratulations PEACEKEEPERS of USS HENRY L. STIMSON. I wish you a superb reunion, good health, and many more opportunities to reflect on your magnificent contributions to our country. Well done!

As you slide down the banister of life, may all the splinters be in the right direction.

Warm regards,

Hank Chiles