



FTCS(SS) Thomas Walter Lawson
DOB: 24 November 1941
Eternal Patrol 19 March 2026



Thomas Walter Lawson
November 24, 1941 – March 19, 2026

Thomas “Tom” W. Lawson 84 of Ladson, SC passed away unexpectedly after a long illness.

He was born on November 24, 1941, in Port Huron, MI. He grew up with a love of outdoors and was an avid fisherman. His love of fishing stayed with him all his life. He was very involved in the Men-Riv sports complex, specifically coaching girls’ softball for over ten years.

Thomas proudly served and retired from the US Navy Submarine Service; he also retired from the US Postal Service as a letter carrier. He volunteered at the VA Hospital; he was a volunteer for the Caromi Rural Vol. Fire Dept. Company 1 and on the board of directors for the past 14 years and was a Life member of SUBVETS USSVI National and Charleston Base.

Above all, he was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who found his greatest joy in family.

He is survived by his loving wife Suzanne; his sons, Thomas and Jackie Lawson, William Lawson and Will Johnson, Doug and Nancy Gardner, and Tres Gardner; Daughter, Tracey Lawson; grandchildren, Mary Frances Lawson, Rivers Ann Gardner and Ridge Gardner; and many dear friends. He was predeceased by his parents Thomas and Margaret; his first wife, Jeanette; and his sisters Patricia, Sharon, and Margaret.

My father demonstrated kindness, wisdom, resourcefulness, and quick wit, possessing a remarkable ability to repair almost anything. He was among the most intelligent individuals I have encountered and instilled in us the importance of diligence and perseverance.

Dad, you were our rock. We love you always.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00am, on Friday, March 27, 2026, at St George Episcopal Church, 9110 Dorchester Rd, Summerville, SC 29485.

A Committal Service and Military Honors will be held at 12:00 noon, on Monday, March 30, 2026, at Beaufort National Cemetery, 1601 Boundary St, Beaufort, SC 29902

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Admiral James B Osborn Memorial Scholarship or the Caromi Rural Vol. Fire Dept. Company 1.

IN THE CARE OF [Carolina Funeral Home & Gardens](https://www.carolinafuneralhome.com)

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries?keyword=thomas+lawson&location=9887Eternal>



Thomas Lawson , FTCS(SS)



USSVI Life Member



Holland Club



Submarine Qualified
50 years ago

Personal Information

Nickname	Tom
Spouse / Partner Next of Kin	Suzanne
Address	Contact Information available only to USSVI MEMBERS (Log in Member / Crew menu)
Doing Now	Retired and traveling
Status	Changed on: 1/21/2025 Updated by Dennis C. Nardone ()

US Navy Service Information







Years Served	Joined in 1959 left in 1982
Highest Rank - Rate	E8 - FTCS(SS)
Service Number	535-21-08
USN Retired	Yes in 1982
Naval Service Highlights	
Ships Served On	DD-535, AS-32, AS-31, SSBN-645, SSBN-655, AS-34

Membership in the USSVI





Member Info	Joined USSVI on: 11/19/2009
Primary Base	Charleston
Member Type	Holland Club Life Member since 11/26/2010
Title or Office	
Comments	
SS Qualified	in 1975 on the USS James K Polk (SSBN/SSN-645)







Membership in Charleston Base Information

Base Info	Joined Base on: 11/12/2009
USSVI Info	Joined USSVI on: 11/19/2009 Holland Club Life Member since 11/26/2010
Title or Office	Vice CommanderVA Rep
Comments	
SS Qualified	in 1975 on the USS James K Polk (SSBN/SSN-645)
Other Assn's	AL-POST SC0166, FRA-BRANCH 269, SSBN-655, USSVI, USSVI-CHARLESTON

Hull#	Ship's Name	Rate/Rank	Years	Special Duties
DD-535 	Miller	SA	1959-60	
AS-32 	Holland	FTB2	1963-66	W-2
AS-31 	Hunley	FTB1	1970-72	
SSBN/SSN-645 	James K Polk	FTBC(SS)	1975-76	
SSBN-655 	Henry L Stimson	FTCS(SS)	1980-81	COB
AS-34 	Canopus	FTCS(SS)	1981-82	

Name	Location	Rate/Rank	Years
Guided Missile School	Dam Neck, VA	FTB1	1967-69
FBMSTC	Charleston, SC	FTCS(SS)	1978-80

Nickname	Association Name	Joined	TR
AL-POST SC0166 	American Legion - Post 166	2003	
FRA-BRANCH 269 	Fleet Reserve Association - Branch 269	2000	
SSBN-655 	USS Henry L Stimson SSBN655 Association		
USSVI-CHARLESTON 	USSVI Base - Charleston	2009	Vice Commander VA Rep

Hull#	Ship's Name	Rate/Rank	Years	Special Duties
DD-535 	Edit Miller	SA	1959-60	
AS-32 	Edit Holland	FTB2	1963-66	W-2
AS-31 	Edit Hunley	FTB1	1970-72	
SSBN/SSN-645 	Edit James K Polk	FTBC(SS)	1975-76	
SSBN-655 	Edit Henry L Stimson	FTCS(SS)	1980-81	COB
AS-34 	Edit Canopus	FTCS(SS)	1981-82	

Name	Location	Rate/Rank	Years
Edit Guided Missile School	Dam Neck, VA	FTB1	1967-69
Edit FBMSTC	Charleston, SC	FTCS(SS)	1978-80