



VOL. 2022 #8

AUGUST 2022

## USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER

### Association Officers & Board of Directors 2021 - 2023

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Tom [Marie] Krauser	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Jerry [CJ] Blevins	<b>SECRETARY</b> Nick [Linda] Nichols	<b>TREASURER</b> Ken [Diane] Meigs
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### Other Positions 2021 - 2023

<b>HISTORIAN / CUSTODIAN</b> Larry [Linda] Knutson	<b>WEBMASTER / NEWSLETTER</b> Nick [Linda] Nichols	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> Bruce [Vicki] Stefanik
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### 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

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

Marie and I were hoping to take some vacation before it got too hot in the south. Marie does not like to be in Baton Rouge, Louisiana or south Texas in the heat of summer. Guess we will wait until cooler weather for that trip.

Granddaughter Caitlin got over her Covid but everything still tasted bad to her.

I have been spending way too much time on my Family Tree. I am finding that most of my ancestor lines were here before the Revolution. Also finding several interesting ancestors among them.

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. 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](mailto:655webmaster@ssbn655.org).



#### Chaplain's Corner - Bruce Stefanik, MS1(SS) B 73-77, USSVI USS Asheville Base, 655 Assoc Life Member:

Summer gets hot in many places of our country in the month of August. May we keep cool in caring for each other during this time.

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**

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Karen Huckeba  
4511 Wickford Circle NE  
Roswell GA 30075

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**REQUEST OR PICTURES:** I have been asked if we have any archived pictures of family picnics, wife's gatherings or the like. I don't know of any we hold in the Association, but it would be great if there's someone out there that has pictures of our wives or families getting together while we were on patrol, i.e., half-way night, Christmas parties, etc. It would be wonderful to be able to share

If you have any pictures and that you are able to scan, email to [655webmaster@ssbn655.org](mailto:655webmaster@ssbn655.org). If you can scan but would share through the mail, I will be happy to scan them and send back to you. My address is 102 Greenhurst Ave. Summerville SC 29485. Please take the time to go through your photos and see if you can find what we're looking for.

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**United States Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI)**  
**Membership:**

\*TM2(SS)[TMC(SS) Ret] Tom Harmon B 76-81  
\*MM1(SS) Bob Negley G 90-92

- ◆ USSVI Home
- ◆ **Membership Form**

## The Purpose/Creed of USSVI:

*"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.*

[illegible]

### Submarines Lost During the Month of August

USS BULLHEAD (SS 332)	August 6, 1945 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> War Patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 84 SOULS
USS FLIER (SS 250)	August 13, 1944 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> War Patrol	LOST WITH 83 SOULS; 8 MEN SURVIVED
USS S-39 (SS 144)	August 14, 1942 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> War Patrol	NO LOSS OF LIFE
USS HARDER (SS 257)	August 24, 1944 – 6 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 79 SOULS
USS COCHINO (SS 345)	August 26, 1949	NO NAVY LOSS OF LIFE; ONE CIVILIAN LOSS; TUSK LOST 6 SOULS DURING THE RESCUE

### FIVE Boats and 253 Men Lost

### August 14, 1945 - VJ Day – Victory in the Pacific

Again this month I will be listing a few shipmates from our sailing list that we do not have contact with via email or phone numbers. A couple of you have helped me on the names from last couple of months and it's appreciated. If you know any of these shipmates please have them send me an email at [655webmaster@ssbn655.org](mailto:655webmaster@ssbn655.org)

Dale, William	EMC		93 Decom
Dandridge,	QMC	G	78
Darnielle, Douglas	STS2	G	89-92
Davidson, Bruce	RM2	G	90-93
Davis, Charlie, U.	IC1	G	90-92
Davis, Gary L.	MTSN	G Comm	66-67 Plank
Davis, James	MT3		
Davis, Michael 'Spike'			
Debisschop, Timothy	MS3	G	83-87
Delia, Joe	RM?		
Delisle, Mark	QM1		93 Decom
Dickson, Stephen J.	IC1	B	88-90
Dillender, John	ENS	G CHOP	84-87
Dittrich, R. Gary	STS2	B	67-70
Donnelly, Matt	SK2	B / G	81-84
Dryden, Bob	MM1	B	78-84
Dubecky, Darren	YN3		93 Decom
Duell, Paul	MT2	G	71-73
Duncan, Mike	TM3	B	87-90
Duvall, Robert			
Dyer, Kenneth	LT		93 Decom
Dyson, Randy			

## Submarine Qualification Card & Certificate

I have added a new page to 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](mailto: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

Check out: **Qualification Cards of Stimson Sailors**

## 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**

On Eternal Patrol

**The following Stimson Shipmates have departed  
on Eternal Patrol.**

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**TM2(SS) Robert L. 'Bob' Knight**  
**G/SY1/B 67-70/71-75**

## Eternal Patrol July 26, 2022

[reported by Deborah, wife]

**MT1(SS) Stephen F. 'Steve' Rust B/SY1 69-73?**  
**Eternal Patrol January 4, 1989**

[reported by shipmate Denny McFadden]

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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.**

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**LCDR Emory P. Zimmer G NAV 65-68**

**Plank Owner - CAPT Retired**

[info updated per member request]

**MS2(SS) Douglas Findlater G/SY2 80-83**

**Plank Owner / MSCS(SS) Retired 1993**

[info updated per member request;  
located by Don Ort]

**ETN2(SS) Walter Fettig B 65-68 Plank Owner**

[info updated per member request;  
located by Don Ort]

**QM2(SS) William 'Bill' Clark G 76-79**

[info updated per member request]

**MS3(SS) Joseph 'Joe' Ehlers G 87-91**

[info updated per member request;  
located by Don Ort]

**MM1(SS) Robert K. 'Bob' Negley G 90-92**

[info updated per member joining USSVI]

**TM2(SS) Thomas 'Tom' Harmon B 76-81**

[info updated per member joining USSVI]

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**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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**Lloyd Hyatt, MT2(SS) B 73-76**

**Cards to: 134 Coral Way, Jacksonville Beach FL 32250**

**7.26.22: Email from Lloyd:** I have been diagnosed with Leukemia {AML}. Treatment (17 doses of chemotherapy) hasn't helped. AML can be a result of exposure to radiation, which all of us were. Especially the MT's that had to go inside of the missile. Has anybody else been diagnosed with this disease? If you would like to contact me, please email me at [wwwlloyd@aol.com](mailto:wwwlloyd@aol.com) or

[jaxbeachlloyd@gmail.com](mailto:jaxbeachlloyd@gmail.com) or call me at 904-631-0029.

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**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**

**NO NEW UPDATES**

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

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

**7.29.22: Final Update from Bill: FINAL**

**UPDATE!!** Monday (7.25) we met with Kim's doctors and determined that she is finished with her medical treatment program. They scheduled her for two more doctor meetings this coming Wednesday and the following Monday. Yesterday she finished Occupational therapy and rang the bell. We will have to do follow ups in Houston from time to time, but she is otherwise considered cured. Praise God! We are grateful to all who prayed for us along the way, and for all who've helped us financially. When we get home all of our money will be gone, but I'll be in a position to



make some more. Kim's medical costs were covered by insurance and a grant from MDA, but our living expenses were on us, God, and generous friends. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU! I hope these updates have edified and informed you, and they will be compiled into a booklet for the purpose of informing those unfortunate folks who are just beginning what Kim has just finished. There will be no more updates, but you're requested to keep us in your prayers. God bless you!!

*5.29.22: 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 cells 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**

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**655 Association Website**

**[www.ssbn655.org](http://www.ssbn655.org)**

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## **Several Links to YouTube videos on the USS BARB SS-320**

- [The Submarine that sank a train: the U.S.S. Barb](#)
- [The Submarine that Sank a Train](#)
- [The Fat Electrician Reviews: USS Barb – The Submarine That Sank A Train](#)
- [The Submarine that Invaded Japan – The Incredible USS Barb](#)
- [This U.S. Sub Launched an Attack on a Japanese Train](#)
- [A Train Was Once “Sunk” by a Submarine: The Tale of the USS Barb- History in the Dark](#)

**Even though there are days I wish I could change some things that happened in the past, there's a reason the rear view mirror is so small and the windshield is so big. Where you're headed is much more important than what you've left behind.**

## **SEA STORIES & COMMENTS**

### **From Our Shipmates**

*Submitted by George Birmingham ET1(SS) G/SY1 69-74, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI Carolina Piedmont Base*

### **AMAZING, SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES:**

1. Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold the vegetables while you chop.
2. Avoid arguments with the females about lifting the toilet seat by using the sink.
3. For high blood pressure sufferers ~ simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure on your veins. Remember to set a timer.
4. A mouse trap placed on top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.

5. If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives; then you'll be afraid to cough.
6. You need only two tools in life - wd-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the wd-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.
7. If you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem.

THOUGHT for the day:

Some people are like Slinkies - not really good for anything but they bring a smile to your face when they're pushed down the stairs.

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*Submitted by a old SUBVET*

### Have A Beer!!!

- "Sometimes, when I reflect on all the beer I drink, I feel ashamed. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the brewery and all of their hopes and dreams. If I did not drink this beer, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. I think, it is better to drink this beer & let dreams come true, than be selfish & worry about my liver." Babe Ruth
- "When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading." Paul Horning
- "24 hours in a day and 24 beers in a case. Coincidence? I think not!" H. L. Mencken
- "When we drink, we get drunk When we get drunk, we fall asleep. When we fall asleep, we commit no sin. When we commit no sin, we go to heaven. So, let's all get drunk and go to heaven." George Bernard Shaw
- "Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy." Benjamin Franklin
- "Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza." Dave Barry
- "Beer: Helping ugly people have sex since 3000 B.C." W. C. Fields
- "Remember 'I' before 'E,' except in

Budweiser." Professor Irwin Corey

- "To some it is a six-pack. To me, it is a Support Group. Salvation in a can." Leo Durocher
- One night at "Cheers", a TV Sitcom: Cliff Clavin said to his buddy, Norm Peterson: "Well, ya see, Normy, it's like this. A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers!"

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### THREE BEERS

A cowboy, who just moved to Wyoming from Texas, walks into a bar and orders three mugs of Bud.

He sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn.

When he finishes them, he comes back to the bar and orders three more.

The bartender approaches and tells the cowboy, "You know, a mug goes flat after I draw

it. It would taste better if you bought one at a time..."

The cowboy replies, "Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is an Airborne Ranger, the other is a Navy Seal, both serving overseas somewhere."

When we all left our home in Texas, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days when we drank together.

So, I'm drinking one beer for each of my brothers and one for myself."

The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there.

The cowboy becomes a regular in the bar, and always drinks the same way.

He orders three mugs and drinks them in turn.

One day, he comes in and only orders two mugs. (I know, a tear is coming to my eye too)

All the regulars take notice and fall silent.

When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your loss."

The cowboy looks quite puzzled for a moment, then a light dawns in his eyes and he laughs.

"Oh, no, everybody's just fine," he explains, "It's just that my wife and I joined the Baptist Church and I had to quit drinking."

"Hasn't affected my brothers though."



## VETERANS AFFAIRS - RETIREE INFO - AARP

**<https://www.va.gov/>**

## And FLEET RESERVE

[illegible]

## 4 Warning Signs of Melanoma That Are Easy to Miss

## The dangerous skin cancer can take on odd forms and pop up in unexpected places

by Rachel Nania, AARP, Update June 22, 2022

Nearly 100,000 Americans are diagnosed with melanoma each year, making it one of the most common types of cancer in the U.S., especially

among older adults who have endured decades of sun exposure and whose immune systems aren't as robust as they once were. And while melanoma can be deadly, it is highly curable if caught early.

Do you know what to look for? The hallmarks of melanoma are asymmetrical or rough-looking moles that are not defined by a border. A spot on the skin that continues to grow in size or change is another indication, and a once-monthly body scan is an easy way to keep tabs on any of these concerning characteristics. But there are also some more unusual signs that could signal the presence of the skin cancer.

Here are four warning signs of melanoma you need to know about so that no spot goes unnoticed.

## 1. The 'ugly duckling'

People who have lots of moles are at increased risk for melanoma. That said, there's no need to start counting your spots or panicking over every mark on your body.

## 2. 'Where the sun doesn't shine'

The majority of melanomas are thought to be caused by ultraviolet (UV) light, but not all of them come from sun exposure. Melanoma can develop anywhere on the body, including “in places the sun doesn't shine,” like the soles of the feet or the palms of the hand.

### 3. Red, white and blue hues

While melanomas are often depicted as dark-brown moles, they can actually present in a variety of colors. The cancer may have a blue tint to it, from deeper pigmentation.

#### 4. Spots on the skin that bleed or itch

If a mole on your body starts to itch or becomes more painful or tender, you need to get it checked out.

## Skin cancer prevention

Wearing sun-protective clothing and UV-blocking sunglasses, and lathering up on sunscreen are some of the most effective ways to prevent melanoma.

## Risk Factors For Skin Cancer

The most common risk factors, include:

- A lighter natural skin color





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## Cost of a Forever Stamp Increases by 2 Cents in 2022

## U.S. Postal Service raises rates on first-class postage, postcards, international letters in July

The current price of a first-class Forever stamp is 60 cents, up 3.4 percent from the previous price of 58 cents. A first-class stamp covers the cost to mail a 1-ounce letter. An additional ounce now costs 24 cents, up from 20 cents.

In addition to raising the price of Forever stamps, the U.S. Postal Service implemented other postage increases, as well, effective July 10, 2022.

- Metered letters rose to 57 cents from 53 cents
- Domestic postcards rose to 44 cents from 40 cents
- Outbound international letters rose to \$1.40 from \$1.30

## How much do Forever stamps cost?

Forever stamps currently cost 60 cents apiece. But the “Forever” in their name means that even after the price rise, a single Forever stamp you paid 58 cents for before July 10, will still send a 1-ounce letter to any U.S. address. You won't have to add additional postage to make up for the price increase. You can still use an original Forever stamp purchased 15 years ago for 41 cents to mail a first-class letter today without additional postage.

Forever stamps, introduced in 2007, are always equivalent to the current price of a first-class stamp. Since 2011, virtually all first-class stamps sold are Forever stamps.

## Blame the internet

It's no secret that widespread use of email and the shift to online banking have taken a toll on the post office. People need fewer stamps for letters and bills these days, and businesses can reach customers more affordably and efficiently with email instead of junk mail.

**READ MORE**

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## 14 Great Freebies That Don't Cost a Dime

**(Really!)**

You may be surprised by the number of things you can get for free

by John Waggoner, AARP, Updated July 13, 2022

You know what the best price is for something? Nothing. Free. No charge. And there are a surprising number of things that will cost you nothing more than the air you breathe. Here's a list of 14 great freebies you can check out right now.

1. Free entry to national parks
2. Free fishing
3. Free fireworks displays
4. Free dental care
5. Free education
6. Free tax preparation
7. Free trees
8. Free bluebirds
9. Free books
10. Free coffee
11. Free movies
12. Free birthday stuff
13. Free samples
14. Free music

**READ MORE HERE**

[illegible]

## Updated Access to Care Website Gives Veterans More Tools to Manage Their VA Health Care

Veterans have a more user-friendly, streamlined information tool to make it easier to plan their VA health care visits. The updated Access to Care website offers new search tools and information, including average appointment wait times at the nearest facility or other VA medical centers in the network.

**LEARN MORE**

[illegible]

## Save a trip to your VA facility

If you use hearing aids, you know they need to be adjusted over time. With VA Video Connect, you can get help managing your aids from home.

**LEARN MORE**

[illegible]

Sitting in the same position for a long time can cause pain. Try these five posture tips to protect your neck and back.

**LEARN MORE**

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## Access to Care Website: New and Improved

VA's Access to Care website is now easier to navigate and more informative. Plan your next visit based on average wait times for your VA facility and the types of services you need.

**LEARN MORE**



## The Computer Corner

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

## Disabling Touchpad When Using USB Mouse on Laptop

Many laptop users are frustrated when they are using a USB mouse on a laptop and the cursor suddenly goes somewhere they did not expect. They could be typing a paragraph and suddenly the cursor is in another paragraph as they are typing inserting the text where they did not want it. This happens because your hands are over the touch pad and you may accidentally touch it while you are typing causing the cursor to jump to wherever the cursor arrow is currently located.

There is a setting where the touchpad can be turned off whenever a mouse is installed and automatically turns back on if the mouse is not installed.


To change this setting in **Windows 10**, do the

following steps.

1. Open Start, then select settings (the gear icon on the Start Menu).
2. In the Windows Setting screen click on Devices.
3. Under Bluetooth & Other Devices click on Touchpad.
4. Under Related Settings click on Additional Settings.
5. Under the Mouse Properties pop-up check the box that says "Disable internal pointing device when external USB pointing device is attached."
6. Click Apply then close all windows.

**In Windows 11** it appears the Touchpad may be automatically disabled when a USB mouse is plugged in.

To change this setting in Windows 11 do the following steps.

1. Open Start Menu then open the Settings Menu (the gear  on the Start Menu).
2. Click on Bluetooth & Devices
3. Click on Touchpad
4. Click on the Touchpad window with the “On” Slider
5. Another box should open. Check the status of “Leave touchpad on when a mouse is connected” checkbox. If you want the touchpad to always be “ON” check this box otherwise make sure it is not checked.

<p>Check to see that touchpad is not functional when an external USB mouse is attached and that it works if the USB mouse is unplugged.</p>
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## 10 Myths About the American Flag

## Don't believe everything you've heard about the Stars and Stripes

by Aaron Kassraie, **AARP**, Updated May 18, 2022

The American flag has evolved over time along with the nation. The first official red, white and blue flag bearing 13 stars and 13 stripes debuted in 1777. Today's familiar 50-star flag dates back to 1960, the year after Alaska and Hawaii became states. Legends and misconceptions about the flag have also evolved over time. Here's a closer

look at 10 myths about the American flag and the truth behind each of them.

♦ ***Myth #1: Betsy Ross created the first American flag***

The familiar story of George Washington walking into a shop and asking Betsy Ross to sew a flag originated with William Canby, a grandson of Ross, said Peter Ansoff, president of the North American Vexillological Association, a group devoted to the study of flags. Canby presented his tale with little supporting evidence to the Pennsylvania Historical Society in 1870, nearly a century after the original flag was created. He claimed Ross told him the story right before her death in 1836, when he would have been around 11 years old.

"Obviously, he was still a youngster at the time, and he was writing this much later than that," Ansoff said. "There are many discrepancies in the story — some things that just don't make sense." Since Washington was out in the field commanding the army, for example, he didn't spend much time in Philadelphia, where Ross' upholstery shop was located. Additionally, flags were first made not for ground troops but for naval forces, which Washington had little to do with, Ansoff said. The true creator of the first American flag is likely lost to history.

**What is the Flag Code?**

The Flag Code is a set of flag etiquette guidelines developed in 1923 by the American Legion and other organizations. It instructs when the flag should be displayed, manners and methods of displaying it, and buildings where it should be raised. There are detailed specifications for displaying the flag at half-staff and even how to deliver the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Flag Code was adopted as law by Congress in 1942. However, it does not have an enforcement mechanism, and there is no flag police. States have attempted to punish people who disrespect the flag. However, their efforts were struck down by the Supreme Court as free speech violations.

♦ ***Myth #2: The flag has always had stars and stripes***

America's earliest flags did not have stars and

stripes. A flag used in 1775, for example, did have stripes, but it displayed the British Union Jack crosses in the canton, the top left corner of the flag that's also known as the union. The primary use of a national flag at that time was for naval ships to be able to recognize each other.

Congress didn't adopt the flag with 13 stars and 13 stripes as the official U.S. flag until 1777.

♦ ***Myth #3: Americans have always flown the flag***

Prior to the Civil War, flags were really only flown in an official capacity on ships, forts and government buildings. "In the antebellum period, if a citizen had flown his flag on his house or carriage, people would have thought that was strange. Why is he doing that? He's not the government," Ansoff said.

The outbreak of war in 1861 quickly changed Americans' attitudes about displaying the flag.

"At the beginning of the Civil War there was an outburst of patriotism," Ansoff said, "and very soon, you saw people flying flags everywhere to show their support for the Union cause."

♦ ***Myth #4: Red, white and blue have official meanings***

The colors of the flag were not assigned any official meaning when the first flag was adopted in 1777. The traditional meanings assigned to the colors may have arisen five years later, in 1782, when Charles Thompson, the secretary of the Continental Congress, waxed poetic about the colors in the Great Seal of the United States, which he helped design. Thompson described the red in the seal as representing hardiness and valor; the white, purity and innocence; and the blue, vigilance, perseverance and justice.

As for the origin of the red-white-and-blue color scheme, it's likely no coincidence that the British flag bore the same three colors.

♦ ***Myth #5: It's against the law to burn the American flag***

In the landmark case *Texas v. Johnson* in 1989, the Supreme Court ruled that desecrating the American flag is a form of speech protected by the First Amendment. Defendant Gregory Lee Johnson had burned a flag in an act of protest at the 1984 Republican National Convention in

Dallas. Prior to that ruling it was, indeed, illegal to burn the flag.

Subsequent efforts on the judicial and legislative fronts to make flag burning illegal again have failed.

♦ ***Myth #6: It's illegal to wear clothing bearing the flag***

Wearing clothing made from an actual American flag would be a breach of etiquette, according to the American Legion, but it said you wouldn't be breaking the law by wearing clothing bearing a flag design: "People are simply expressing their patriotism and love of country by wearing an article of clothing that happens to be red, white, and blue with stars and stripes. There is nothing illegal about the wearing or use of these items."

♦ ***Myth #7: A flag that touches the ground must be destroyed***

According to the Flag Code, the American flag should never touch anything beneath it, including the ground, the floor or the water. "People have taken that to mean that if it ever does that, then it should be destroyed," said Jeff Hendricks, deputy director of Americanism at the American Legion.

However, that's not necessarily the case. Flags should be destroyed only when they are no longer in good enough condition to be displayed. If touching the ground didn't render the flag unfit for display, then it shouldn't be destroyed. Once a flag is unfit for display, burning it is the preferred method of destruction.

♦ ***Myth #8: The flag should never be flown at night***

Although it's customary to display the American flag from sunrise to sunset, the flag can be displayed 24 hours a day as long as it is illuminated through the night, according to the Flag Code.

"What we've taken that to mean is that it must have sufficient light that the average passerby can readily identify it as the flag of the United States," Hendricks said.

♦ ***Myth #9: Only a veteran's coffin can be draped with the American flag***

"Nowhere in [the Flag Code] does it say that the flag may only cover the casket of a veteran,"

said Hendricks, noting that the myth may stem from the fact that the Department of Veterans Affairs provides flags for the services of veterans and active-duty service members. "However, there's nothing in the language of the Flag Code that would prevent anyone else from having a flag that covers their casket."

When a flag is used to cover a coffin, it should be placed with the union — the blue field with stars — at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

♦ ***Myth #10: The flag must always be folded into a triangle for storage***

Folding a flag into a triangle for storage, with only the blue union and stars visible, is part of tradition, said Hendricks, not a requirement of the Flag Code. Flags on a staff are properly stored in an entirely different manner that doesn't involve folding.

"Flags that are affixed to a staff are typically rolled around the staff and then a burlap case is placed over the flag and staff," he said. "So, at that point, you can handle it like luggage. It's been properly stored."

**READ ARTICLE**

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**'Doomsday' Submarine Armed With Nuclear Torpedoes Delivers to Russian Navy**

By: Sam LaGrone July 8, 2022



*Russian submarine Belgorod delivery ceremony in Severodvinsk on July 8, 2022. JSC PA Sevmash Photo*



A Russian Navy submarine armed with a strategic nuclear torpedo the size of a school bus was delivered to the Kremlin this week, according to an announcement from the shipyard.

Project 09852 *Belgorod* is based on a Russian Oscar-class guided-cruise missile submarine that has been altered to accommodate six 80-foot Poseidon nuclear torpedoes that could be armed with a warhead of up to 100 megatons, USNI News previously reported.

The submarine was delivered to the Russian Navy in a ceremony in at the Northern Fleet's headquarters in Severodvinsk on Friday,

"The Belgorod submarine opens up new opportunities for Russia in conducting various research, allows conducting diverse scientific expeditions and rescue operations in the most remote areas of the world ocean," according to a statement from Russian Navy chief Adm. Nikolai Anatolyevich Yevmenov.

"The ship is designed to solve diverse scientific problems, conduct search and rescue operations, and can also be used as a carrier of rescue deep-sea and autonomous unmanned underwater vehicles."



*Poseidon Torpedo. Russian Defense Ministry Photo*

Absent from the statement were images of the submarine or a description of the Poseidon weapons.

Poseidon, first revealed in 2015, is a nuclear strategic weapon that would have a range of thousands of miles and would "destroy important economic installations of the enemy in coastal areas and cause guaranteed devastating damage to the country's territory by creating wide areas of radioactive contamination, rendering them unusable for military, economic or other activity for

a long time," according to a translation of a Russian presentation caught on camera by the BBC.

Russians have long complained about the strategic imbalance of American ballistic missile defense systems in Europe. Poseidon and *Belgorod* were created to mute the U.S. BMD advantage by creating a nuclear weapon that could duck under a U.S. BMD screen.

*Belgorod* is part of the Russian Navy's specialized submarine fleet designed for espionage, deep-sea rescue and special operations operated by the Main Directorate of Deep Sea Research — known by the Russian acronym GUGI, (Glavnoye Upravleniye Glubokovodnykh Issledovaniy). The GUGI boats operate from an isolated Arctic base on the Kola Peninsula on the Barents Sea.

The Russians have also expanded their facilities in Severodvinsk, USNI News reported in August.



*Illustration of Belgorod submarine. H I Sutton Image used with permission*

In addition to Poseidon, *Belgorod* can serve as a mothership for variety of crewed and unmanned submersibles for deep sea missions. Those submersibles include *Losharik* (A-12), a deep diving manned submersible that suffered a battery explosion in 2019 that killed 14 Russian submariners. The Russian Navy is currently repairing the boat, USNI News previously reported.

While the Russian Navy declined drastically following the end of the Cold War, its submarine force has remained a pressing concern for the Pentagon.

The Russians have put to sea a new generation of attack submarines armed with long-

range cruise missiles capable of targeting European capitals from the North Atlantic.

In response to the Russian submarine threat, the Navy reestablished U.S. 2nd Fleet to create a theater anti-submarine warfare command in the Atlantic.

<https://news.usni.org/2022/07/08/doomsday-submarine-armed-with-nuclear-torpedoes-delivers-to-russian-navy>

## Russia Scraps World's Largest Nuclear Submarine: Report

BY ISABEL VAN BRUGEN ON 7/20/22 AT 9:08 AM EDT



According to a report from Russian state media on Wednesday, the world's largest strategic nuclear ballistic missile submarine has been removed from the Russian naval fleet.

The state-run RIA Novosti news outlet, citing an unnamed Russian defense industry source, said the Dmitry Donskoy, a nuclear ballistic missile submarine that measures nearly 600 feet, has been decommissioned. "The submarine Dmitry Donskoy has been removed from the fleet and is to be scrapped," the source said.

The Typhoon-class submarine, the lead vessel of the Project 941 Akula class of ballistic missile submarines, has been in commission since 1980, the news outlet said.

The 600-foot Oscar II-class Belgorod nuclear submarine, which was commissioned earlier this month, will take Dmitry Donskoy's place as the largest submarine in the world, according to *The Moscow Times*.



The Russian Typhoon class submarine Dmitry Donskoy, which was once the world's largest in active service, has been decommissioned and removed from active service in the Russian Navy, according to a report from Russian state media. OLGA MALTSEVA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Naval analyst H I Sutton, citing Open Source Intelligence, said on June 26 that the Dmitry Donskoy was spotted on the surface of the White Sea.

"[Two] largest submarines in the world, Belgorod (K-239) and Dmitriy Donskoi (TK-208) (TYPHOON Class) caught on surface in White Sea," Sutton tweeted. "These subs are ginormous, much bigger than anything in the West, even the US Navy's Ohio Class."

It isn't clear why the two submarines were in the White Sea, close to Russia's northwestern coast.

In January 2021, a military insider source told Russia's state-run news agency TASS that the Russian Navy had no immediate plans to decommission Dmitry Donskoy.

"There are military training events planned for 2021 involving the cruiser. Decommissioning of the submarine is an issue of five years, at least," the source said.

The submarine had been due to be phased out over the coming decades by the new Borei class of nuclear-powered strategic submarines, according to a report from *The National Interest*.

Meanwhile, several unnamed sources in the shipbuilding industry and law enforcement agencies in the north of Russia offered conflicting information to TASS regarding the Dmitry Donskoy, following RIA Novosti's report.

A TASS source in the shipbuilding industry told the news agency that a decision on the future fate

of the submarine would be made no earlier than December this year.

"Then the specialists will have to assess the technical condition of the ship and the stock of nuclear fuel," the source said.

"Recent reports about the withdrawal of Dmitry Donskoy from the Russian Navy do not correspond to reality. The ship is currently performing combat training tasks at sea, participating in combat training activities. It will remain in combat formation at least until the end of the year," another source told TASS.

Russian political scientist and military analyst Alexander Khramchikhin told Russian-language news outlet The Insider that vessels such as the Dmitry Donskoy are typically in commission for 20 to 30 years.

"The nuclear submarine 'Dmitry Donskoy' has long been used only as an experimental one. Naturally, it could not be used for military purposes in any way, except as a large-scale nuclear war," said Khramchikhin.

Military expert Alexei Sukonkin told NEWS.ru that the submarine is most likely past its shelf life.

**Hired a handy man and gave him a list. When I got home, only #1, 3, & 5 were done. Turns out, he only does odd jobs!**

**Did the Japanese know Navajo code talkers were used in WWII but were unable to crack the language or did they have no clue what language it was?**

Yes, the Japanese had a pretty good idea that the language that Code was based on was Navajo. This is why they tortured a captured Navajo named Joe Kieyoomia (1919–1997). He was captured in the Philippines and then sent on the Bataan Death march. Later, he survived Nagasaki, too. He was a member of the New Mexico 200th Coast Artillery.

They first tortured him because they thought he was Japanese-American. After several months, they accepted that he was Navajo. Then, later, they came to him with a list of words (that they had tried to write down, so they could repeat what they were hearing on the radios), and asked him what they were.

He could confirm it was a list of Navajo words, but it was nonsense to him. He was not trained in the memorized code that had been developed in San Diego in 1942. There were only 421 Navajo were trained in the code. There were thousands who served in the military. They tortured him, and that ended any attempt to really break the code. Without a willing Navajo to work with, progress on the code-breaking project was stalled for a long time, and they had no success before the end of the war.

The difficult consonants, vowels, and the tonal structure made it impossible for most untrained people to even transcribe the language. The Japanese had been good at breaking every code before that. The Code was not just speaking in Navajo. It was meant to rapidly transmit over an open radio line and exact, letter-by-letter word-by-word replication of English military communication. Chatting in Navajo would mean a radically different result because the languages are so structurally different and exact translation is difficult. It used no code book and was entirely memorized.

For each English letter three possible Navajo words were used. The words in English started with the target letter (examples: B = bear, badger, or barrel). The words in Navajo did not (shash, nahashch'idí, toish-jeh) It was based on the idea of spoken letter codes like alpha, whiskey, bravo and so on. Navajo words were chosen that would not be easily mistaken for other Navajo words. Then, in addition code words for standard military items were invented so those did not need to be spelled out (example, captain= two silver). There were not standard Navajo verbs in the Code and Navajo is a verb-based language. Navajo verbs conjugated in a complex manner that is not at all like English. Much more information is put in suffixes and prefixes around a verb stem. And the verb is normally at the end. Often much of what



would be many words in a English sentence is put in the way the verb is structured. This means for a Navajo listener who did not know the code it is particularly odd and nonsensical.

The Code was created by the first 29 Navajo Marines who were recruited for the Code program and had just finished boot camp near San Diego. They went to another base near San Diego and with assistance of a single military cryptographer who did not know Navajo they created the Code. It was 17 pages and the whole thing had to be memorized. That was so there would be no code book to capture.

Kieyoomia was in the Japanese POW camps for 43 months. Here is his account in an interview: [How Effective Was Navajo Code?](#)

Here is info about the code from the CIA: [Navajo Code Talkers and the Unbreakable Code](#)

Here are interviews with Code Talkers from the Code Talkers Assoc. They were amazing guys. One of my Navajo language teachers had been one: [Interviews | Navajo Code Talkers](#)

I recommend Chester Nez' memoir called Code Talker: The First and Only Memoir By One of the Original Navajo Code Talkers of WWII: [Amazon.com: Code Talker: The First and Only Memoir By One of the Original Navajo Code Talkers of WWII \(9780425247853\): Chester Nez, Judith Schiess Avila: Books](#)

Here is a short overview: [World War II: Navajo Code Talkers](#)

A slight addition. So that you can understand how hard it is to write down, or even hear Navajo sounds, here is the radio weather report from the Navajo Nation radio station. Listen a little and try to write down the sounds. It was read by Paul Jones, and aired throughout the day on KTNN AM 660. This particular report was given on February 17, 2009 at 7:30 AM:

**Note:** There is still some confusion in the comments that I have noticed. The Navajo Code was a code. It was not just speaking in Navajo. Other Native languages were used at times in other locations but no code was created. This code had 411 Navajo words in 17 pages that had to be memorized. There was not a code book

brought along, so no code book could be captured. The first 29 Navajo Marines created the code together in a Marine base near San Diego with help from a single military cryptographer who did not speak Navajo.

The Cold Talkers did not use Code words for things like tanks because they did not have words for tanks. That is incorrect, even though the idea is common. Navajo is a modern, living and flexible languages. It is very easy to construct new words. There are extremely few borrowed words for this reason. They have Navajo based words for all modern things, including things like planes and tanks and radios. The phrase for a military tank is: chidí naa'na'í bee'eldqohtsoh bikáá' dah naaznilígíí. That is the word for caterpillar tractor (car that crawls about) + big cannon (big explosion is made with it)+they sit up on it. The word for tortoise or turtle is tsisteel.

Below in the video is a Code Talker, Peter Mcdonald, explaining how the code worked. The key part of this is the exact example of a code phrase.

The Navajo words when translated directly into English means:

**“SHEEP, EYES, NOSE, DEER, Blow up, TEA, MOUSE, TURKEY, ONION, Sick Horse, 3, 6, 2, BEAR. “**

From this example, I think you can see how Joe Kieyoomia could not make much of, or understand this sort of thing. It has no normal verb with complex conjugation which is the way Navajo regularly works. In Navajo the verb goes at the end and it is conjugated in ways we can't in English. Much more information is added to the verb in Navajo, so that often a verb and one noun can be the same as a whole sentence in English. Who and how something is happening is put on the verb and not as much in separate words. If they had just spoken Navajo there would be many ways to translate it. It would not be an exact coded transmission. Translation does not end up with exact repeated meanings from one person to the next. It is approximate. The US Mainres wanted exact, letter by letter transmissions.

When deciphered the Phrase above means:  
**“Send demolition team to hill 362B.”**



For a Japanese speaker, or English speaker, this is what they heard:

***Dibé, anáá', áchííh, bííh, ahdeeltahí , dééh, na'asts'qosí, tǎzhii, t'oh chin, lǐj da'atsaah, táá, hastáá, naaki, shash.***

It is hard for a Japanese speaker to differentiate many of those sounds. They do not exist in Japanese (or English). Even with a linguist who could do that, and who recognized there were tones, there is still the problem of where one word ends and another begins. For many Japanese (or English speakers) it would not be clear that the two word "***t'oh chin***" means the one word "tamanegi" (onion in English).

An Unbreakable Code: <https://youtu.be/QmignAQTTCl>

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### What Are Grits?

Nobody knows. Some folks believe grits are grown on bushes and are harvested by midgets by shaking the bushes after spreading sheets around them. Many people feel that grits are made from ground up bits of white corn.

These are obviously lies spread by communists and terrorists. Nothing as good as Grits can be made from corn. The most recent research suggests that the mysterious manna that God rained down upon the Israelites during their time in the Sinai Desert was most likely Grits. Critics disagree, stating that there is no record of biscuits, butter, salt, and red eye gravy raining down from the sky, and that God would not punish his people by forcing them to eat Grits without these key ingredients.

Grits are formed deep underground under intense heat and pressure. It takes over 1,000 years to form a single Grit. Most of the world's grit mines are in South Carolina, and are guarded day and night by armed guards and Pit Bull dogs.

Harvesting the Grit is a dangerous occupation, and many Grit miners lose their lives each year so that Grits can continue to be served morning after morning for breakfast (not that having Grits for lunch and dinner is out of the question).

Yankees have attempted to create synthetic Grits. They call it Cream of Wheat. As far as we can tell, the key ingredients of Cream of Wheat

are Elmer's Glue and shredded Styrofoam. These synthetic grits have also been shown to cause nausea.

As we mentioned earlier, the first known mention of Grits was by the Ancient Israelites in the Sinai Desert. After that, Grits were not heard from for another 1000 years. Experts feel that Grits were used during this time only during secret religious ceremonies, and were kept from the public due to their rarity.

The next mention of Grits was found amidst the ruins of the ancient city of Pompeii in a woman's personal diary. The woman's name was Herculaneum Jemimaneus (Aunt Jemima to her friends.)

### The 10 Commandments of Grits

- I. Thou shalt not put syrup on thy Grits.
- II. Thou shalt not eat thy Grits with a spoon or knife.
- III. Thou shalt not eat Cream of Wheat and call it Grits, for this is Blasphemy.
- IV. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's Grits.
- V. Thou shalt use only salt, butter, and red-eye gravy as toppings for thy Grits.
- VI. Thou shalt not eat Instant Grits.
- VII. Thou shalt not put ketchup on thy Grits.
- VIII. Thou shalt not put margarine on thy Grits.
- IX. Thou shalt not eat toast with thy Grits, only biscuits made from scratch.
- X. Thou shalt eat grits on the Sabbath for this is manna from heaven.

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### The Wall: Vietnam a little history most people will never know

Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth , Mass. Listed by

the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

**The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.**

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam .

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam .

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia . I wonder why so many from one school.

8 Women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

**The Marines of Morenci** - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

**The Buddies of Midvale** - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy

Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

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Submitted by George Stevens, MT2(SS) G 68-71

### **The U.S. Navy's New Supersized Columbia-Class Submarines Are Built To Make Russia Sweat**

By Christian Orr

*An artist rendering of the future U.S. Navy Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines. The 12 submarines of the Columbia-class will replace the Ohio-class submarines which are reaching their maximum extended service life. It is planned that the construction of USS Columbia (SSBN-826) will begin in in fiscal year 2021, with delivery in fiscal year 2028, and being on patrol in 2031.*

### **What makes the Columbia-Class so unique?**

Unbeknownst to most Americans who aren't hardcore music history buffs, "The Star Spangled Banner" was not America's first national anthem; in fact, Francis Scott Key's song didn't even become the USA's official national anthem until 1931. Our actual original anthem was "Hail, Columbia," named after the demigoddess who

preceded Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty in personifying the then-new nation of America; the melody was composed for George Washington's first inauguration and had the lyrics added for John Adams's Presidency. Nowadays, it serves as the entrance anthem for the Vice President of the United States in the same vein the "Hail to the Chief" does for the POTUS. So then, it's only fitting that Columbia should go on to serve as the namesake of not only our nation's capital but now America's latest class of ballistic missiles submarines (SSBNs).

Let's take a deeper dive (lousy pun intended) into the story of the Columbia-class SSBNs. Remember that these boats have one mission: to ensure the undersea survival of America's nuclear weapons assets if Russia or China ever dreamed of starting a nuclear war and/or deterring them from even thinking about doing so.

### **Hail the Columbia-Class**

These new undersea Columbiads are intended to replace the Ohio-class submarines, which have faithfully served the U.S. Navy since 1981 but are now starting to get a little bit long in the tooth; arguably the most famous of the Ohio-class boats is the USS *Alabama*, thanks to the 1995 movie *Crimson Tide* starring Gene Hackman, Denzel Washington, George Dzundza, a post-*Silver Spoons* Rick Schroeder, a pre-*Lord of the Rings* Viggo Mortensen, a pre-*NCIS* Rocky Carroll, and a pre-*Sopranos* James Gandolfini (R.I.P.).

### **Sponsored Content**

The *Ohios* will start reaching the end of their service between 2027 and 2040, at a rate of about one sub per year. Bearing that in mind, the Navy plans to replace each retiring Ohio-class boat with a new Columbia-class SSBN starting in 2031. A bigger plus in light of America's renewed "near-peer" rivalry with revanchist Russia is that the *Columbias* will be fresher on the scene than Soviet-designed Typhoon-class submarines (Project 941/*Akula* i.e. "Shark" as the Russkies themselves call their behemoth boats), whose first year of construction coincided with that of the *Ohios*, although these Russia boats are mostly retired.

However, America's proverbial new kids on the block (or would be new squids on the dock?) still won't be as big as the *Typhoons*, which still the largest submarines ever built at a submerged displacement of 48,000 tons. For a basis of comparison, the *Ohios* have a submerged displacement of 19,000 tons, whilst the *Columbias* will weigh in at 20,810 tons, so at the very least the new boats and their crews will at least be able to claim bragging rights to the largest submarine ever built by the U.S. At a hull length of 560 feet (171 meters), the *Columbias* will still be 14 feet shorter than the Soviet "Sharks"...and presumably won't be able to accommodate a swimming pool & sauna like the "proletarian" boats do. (Drat! Or as the Russians might say, "Черт!/Chert!")

### **Is the Columbia-Class Cost Effective?**

A huge plus for the *Columbia*-class subs will be the greater bang for the buck that they will provide. As noted by the Submarine Industrial Base Council (SIBC) information page:

*"The Columbia Class SSBN is designed with a 42 year service life. The reactor is designed for the boat service life, eliminating the need mid-life reactor refueling overhaul (typically takes 2 years) which saves an estimated \$40 Billion over the life of the class. The elimination of the mid-life reactor refueling allows 12 Columbia Class SSBNs to replace the existing 14 Ohio Class SSBNs, reducing overall upfront procurement cost. Despite being approximately the same size, 16 ballistic missile launch tubes on Columbia Class submarine will replace 24 tubes on the Ohio Class – reducing construction, operations, and maintenance costs."*

The projected per unit cost comes out \$9.15 billion USD. Regarding those 16 missiles launch tubes, they'll be loaded with Trident D5 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) and backed up by twin torpedo tubes for the purpose of firing the MK 48 heavyweight torpedo.

### **"Fight For Ol' DC..."**

Appropriately enough, the first boat in the *Columbia* class has been designated the USS *District of Columbia* (SSBN 826). The second boat in the class will be named the

USS *Wisconsin* (SSBN-827), which I reckon makes for a lovely tribute to the WWII-era *Iowa*-class battleship of the same name, even if that was a mere coincidence and not a deliberate homage on the part of the current Navy brass.

On 4 June 2022 — coincidentally the 80th anniversary of the commencement of the Battle of Midway — General Dynamics Electric Boat conducted a keel laying ceremony for the USS *District of Columbia* at Quonset Point, Rhode Island. Appropriately enough (again), among the dignitaries present was Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), the boat's sponsor and the delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives from the ship's namesake. Norton went on record saying "As a third-generation Washingtonian, I am excited and honored to be the sponsor of the future USS *Columbia*. I look forward to meeting and establishing relationships with the men and women who will serve aboard her."

In short, it looks like smooth-sailing (yes, one more lousy pun for good measure) for the *Columbia*-class submarines so far. We at *19FortyFive* will be sure to keep our dear readers updated on the latest developments on the program as soon as the information is made available to the public. Stay tuned, ladies 'n' gents.

*Christian D. Orr is a former Air Force officer, Federal law enforcement officer, and private military contractor (with assignments worked in Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kosovo, Japan, Germany, and the Pentagon). Chris holds a B.A. in International Relations from the University of Southern California (USC) and an M.A. in Intelligence Studies (concentration in Terrorism Studies) from American Military University (AMU). He has also been published in The Daily Torch and The Journal of Intelligence and Cyber Security. Last but not least, he is a Companion of the Order of the Naval Order of the United States (NOUS).*

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*Submitted by George Birmingham ET1(SS) G/SY1 69-74, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI Carolina Piedmont Base*

## The Origin of "Old Sayings"

Early aircraft throttles had a ball on the end of it, in order to go full throttle the pilot had to push the throttle all the way forward into the wall of the instrument panel. Hence "balls to the wall" for going very fast. And now you know the rest of the story.

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During WWII, U.S. Airplanes were armed with belts of ammo, which they would shoot during dogfights and on strafing runs. These belts were folded into the wing compartments that fed their machine guns. These belts measure 27 feet and contained hundreds of cartridges. Often times, the pilots would return from their missions having expended all of their bullets on various targets. They would say, "I gave them the whole nine yards," meaning they used up all of their ammunition.

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Did you know the saying "God willing and the creek don't rise" was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the South, Hawkins was requested by the President to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, "God willing and the Creek don't rise." Because he capitalized the word "Creek" he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

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In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington have him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted.

Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint.)

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As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October). Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig'. Today we often use the term here comes the 'Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide bench folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the bench. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board.'

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Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, 'mind your own bee's wax.' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term 'crack a smile'. In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt. Therefore, the expression 'losing face.'

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Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight laced' wore a tightly tied corset.

\*\*\*\*\*

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would

purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck.'

\*\*\*\*\*

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's, radios nor internet, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some Ale and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A barmaid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in pints and who was drinking in quarts, hence the phrase 'minding your Ps and Qs.'

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One more: bet you didn't know this! In the heyday of sailing ships, all warships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

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## Various Pictures provided to the webmaster

