



VOL. 2025 #7

1950 - 1953  
JULY 2025

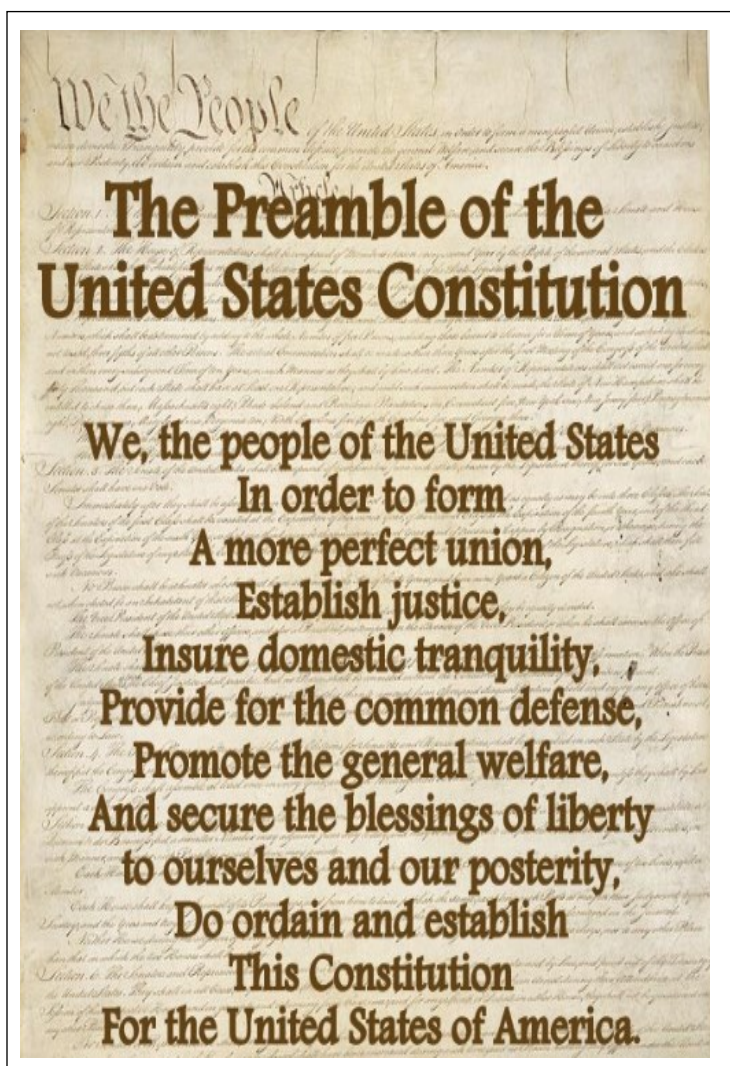
## USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER

### Association Officers & Board of Directors 2023 - 2025

<b>PRESIDENT</b> <u>Jerry [CJ] Blevins</u>	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> <u>Ray [Rita] Kreul</u>	<b>SECRETARY</b> <u>Nick [Linda] Nichols</u>	<b>TREASURER</b> <u>Ken [Diane] Meigs</u>	<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b> <u>Tom [Marie] Krauser</u>
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### Other Positions 2023 - 2025

<b>HISTORIAN / CUSTODIAN</b> <u>Larry [Linda] Knutson</u>	<b>WEBMASTER / NEWSLETTER</b> <u>Nick [Linda] Nichols</u>	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> <u>Bruce [Vicki] Stefanik</u>
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**REUNION CONTROL CENTER**  
**2025 Stimson Reunion**  
**October 1 - 5, 2025**  
**Groton CT**  
**From the Reunion Committee -**  
**John & Gretchen Glaub**

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**62 registrations received as of 21 June**  
**Registered Attendees Sailing List**

## Association Members,

The reunion will be held in 3 ½ months in Norwich CT. During our business meeting there are two items that must be addressed and voted on and the Board of Directors (BOD) requests your help.

**ITEM 1.** Election of officers occurs during the Reunion business meeting every two years. A slate of candidates will be presented to those in attendance to be vote. The elected positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Send any nominations to filling these positions to the Secretary [[655webmaster@ssbn655.org](mailto:655webmaster@ssbn655.org)] as soon as possible. You must have the persons agreement to run for the position before submitting the name. Although some currently holding these positions may be willing to continue to serve the Association, all positions are open for our members to nominate others to that job.

The chart below shows past and current officers and their years serving on the BOD. Our bylaws state: "Officers may normally serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same office unless election to subsequent terms is in the best interest of the Association. Officers elected to more than two consecutive terms shall consent to re-election."

YEAR	PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	TREASURER	SECRETARY	PAST PRES	WEBMASTER	CHAPLAIN	HISTORIAN
2005	Phil Johnston	na	Phil Johnston	Loree Riggs	na	Jeff Bricmont	JB Helms	na
2005-07	Phil Johnston	Robert Callahan	Phil Johnston	Loree Riggs	na	Randy Allen	JB Helms	Loree Riggs
2007-09	Chuck Hladik	Robert Callahan	Ken Meigs	Loree Riggs	Phil Johnston	VA Host	JB Helms	Loree Riggs
2009-11	Chuck Hladik	Neal Anderson	Ken Meigs	Loree Riggs	Phil Johnston	VA Host	JB Helms	Loree Riggs
2011-13	Chuck Hladik	Neal Anderson	Ken Meigs	Loree Riggs	Phil Johnston	VA Host	JB Helms	Loree Riggs
2013-16	Ray Kreul	Tom Krauser	Ken Meigs	Nick Nichols	Chuck Hladik	Nick Nichols	JB Helms	Loree Riggs
2016-18	Ray Kreul	Tom Krauser	Ken Meigs	Nick Nichols	Chuck Hladik	Nick Nichols	Ken Meigs Acting	Larry Knutson
2018-21	Tom Krauser	Steve Novic	Ken Meigs	Nick Nichols	Ray Kreul	Nick Nichols	Jake Morris	Larry Knutson
2021-23	Tom Krauser	Jerry Blevins	Ken Meigs	Nick Nichols	Ray Kreul	Nick Nichols	Bruce Stefanik	Larry Knutson
2023-25	Jerry Blevins	Ray Kreul	Ken Meigs	Nick Nichols	Tom Krauser	Nick Nichols	Bruce Stefanik	Larry Knutson

**ITEM 2.** Reunion location and chairman for 2027 Reunion #14. It cannot be emphasized enough how important this decision is to continuing our Association and gathering together every two years. This question on location and chairman usually takes the most time in our meeting so come prepared to volunteer.

The BOD is asking for nominations for location and names of a possible chairman for that reunion. Any Association Member whether or not attending the current reunion, can nominate a location & chairman. Send your nominations to both the Association President [[jlb.ssbn655b@gmail.com](mailto:jlb.ssbn655b@gmail.com)] and to the Association Secretary [[655webmaster@ssbn655.org](mailto:655webmaster@ssbn655.org)]. Guidelines for reunion and chairman are located in our current bylaws: Article VI. Meetings and Reunions [[2310 655BylawsRev101423.pdf](#)]

### Submarines Lost During the Month of July

<b>USS S-28 (SS 133)</b>	<b>July 4, 1944 – Training Exercise</b>	<b>LOST WITH ALL HANDS 49 SOULS</b>
<b>USS ROBALO (SS 273)</b>	<b>July 26, 1944 – 3<sup>rd</sup> War patrol</b>	<b>LOST WITH 77 MEN; 4 DIED AS POW'S; 81 SOULS</b>
<b>USS GRUNION (SS 216)</b>	<b>July 30, 1942 – 1<sup>ST</sup> War patrol</b>	<b>LOST WITH ALL HANDS 70 SOULS</b>

**THREE Boats and 202 Men Lost**



**From the Reunion Committee -  
John & Gretchen Glaub**

We are 3 months away from the reunion! Things are falling into place nicely: guest speaker, SUBSCHOL graduation, transportation and decorations. We are looking forward to having everyone attend. We are still looking for donations for door prizes, please contact Tom Krauser if you have anything to donate. Keep sending those registrations in!

**Send in your registration and  
make your hotel reservation now!**

We will be attending SUBSCHOOL Graduation on October 3, 2025. The name of the class will be Henry L Stimson SSBN 655. After the graduation, we will have a tour of the Base and then lunch at SUBVETS Clubhouse.

**REUNION ATTENDEES, PLEASE GET YOUR  
FORM 5512 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**Everyone** attending the reunion who is not retired (i.e., retired ID card) is **REQUIRED** to complete a SECNAV 5512.1 form and return to John Glaub NLT August 30 so you can access to the base for the graduation and tour. The military dependents ID card works for spouses as well. The form is located on the reunion website. **655 Reunion #13**

Email Tom with a picture of any items you will provide for door prizes.

**Tkrauser0550@gmail.com**

The hotel registration link is on the Reunion Page **655 Reunion #13**

Questions Email: **655reunion2025@gmail.com**

Room rates with tax for the Reunion :

Weekdays: \$129 + 15% tax = \$148.35

Weekend: \$159 + 15% tax = \$182.85

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*From Paul Clark, MM1(SS) B 73-78, SV Denizens of the Deep Base, Holland Club, Assoc. Life Member:*

I am putting together a golf outing in conjunction with the 2025 reunion. Our only days are Thursday or Friday. Looking at the scheduled events, it appears that anything I put together will interfere with other planned events. I am looking to schedule the outing for the morning if there is enough interest. If interested, email at **sailpbc@gmail.com** and let me know you are interested and which day you would prefer. If I have an adequate response to a specific day or not, I will let all responders know if an outing will

be planned. Let me know as soon as possible so I can contact the golf course. Margaret and I are looking forward to seeing everyone in October.  
//Paul



**From the Association President -  
Jerry Blevins, LT(SS) B 76-79,  
**USSVI USS Groton Base, 655  
Assoc Life Member:****

CJ and I wish everyone a happy Fourth of July and enjoyable month.

I have recently received a couple of "Level 1 Global Travel Notice for Measles alerts" through the D.O.S. Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. Those alerts also stated: "Travelers should be prepared for travel restrictions to be put into effect with little or no advance notice."

The CDC recommends the MMR vaccination for "...adults who do not have evidence of immunity." It adds that "Most born before 1957 are likely to have been infected naturally and therefore are presumed to be protected against measles..." However, there is a standard blood test available for measuring your level of measles antibody. Considering the rapid restrictions that occurred during COVID, anyone travelling internationally in the next few months may want to have the blood test to obtain written verification of their immunity.



**From the Association Vice  
President - Ray Kreul, TM2(SS)  
**[TMCM Ret] G 65-69 Plank  
Owner; Assoc. Life Member;  
USSVI Groton/Snug Harbor/  
Rhode Island Bases, Holland  
Club:****

[A] Memory from the past. Rita and I were having pizza today and I had a flash back of pizza and movie marathon nites on the boat. Remember starting Friday nite all the way thru midrates Sunday nite. Had to make sure the galley was cleaned up for Monday breakfast or Barry our cook would cancel any more pizza nites.

God how I miss those great times.

Unfortunately Rita and I will not be attending this reunion due to family commitments. We will miss seeing all of you.

Also, this is my official notice letting everyone know I will not be running for Vice President this time.

We shall never forget their sacrifice



Happy Birthday America!  
May we always remember that

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

During the upcoming months, we will be showing pictures of our historic items we still have and

[illegible]

Speaking of attending here is a list of those who will be attending. If you see some you served with,

Andress Jay & Barbara	MMCS [CMDCM Ret]	SY1/B 72-77
Blevins Jerry & CJ	LT	B 76-79
Bradish Tom & Judy	MM1	B 74-77
Casella Michael 'Mike' & Denise Bogosian	SN	B 69-71
Daugherty Harry & Stacy	LT [LCDR Ret]	B 76-78 CHOP
Dougherty Robert & Elaine	MM1	G/SY1/G 70-74
Freidman Peter & Sylvia	LT	B 86-89
Glaub John & Gretchen	MM2	SY1/B 71-74
Graham Ron & Cindy	MM2	G 68-71
Hladik Chuck & Joyce	TM2	G 67-70
Huckeba David & Karen	MM1	SY1/B 71-75
Hunt Jim & Jana	IC2	B 78-80
Jacobs Anthony	MT1 [MTC Ret]	G 66-70 Plank
Kornowski Donald	MM1	B 65-69 Plank
Krauser Tom & Marie	MM1	SY1/B 72-74
Matherly David & Virginia 'Ginny'	LT	B 77-81
Mihalko Chuck	LT (CDR Ret)	G 77-80
Muth Joe & Michele	LT	B 82; G 85-86
Navarrete Dennis, Karen & Trent	MM3	B 86-90
O'Connor Thomas	MM2	77-79
Ort Don & Donna	MM1 [CWO4 Ret]	G/SY1/B 69-74
Rowan William 'Bill' & Judy	LT	B 88-91 CHOP
Rowe Gerald & Diane	MM2	B 66-69 Plank
Sanner William 'Bill' & Kim	ETN2	SY1/B 73-78
Shepherd Skip & Sandi	TM2	B 74-75
Stefanik Bruce & Vicki	MS2	B 73-77
Stickle Gary & Laurie	MM2	G 77-79
Stracke Michael	TM3	G 65-70 Plank
Testa Ron & Linda	ETN2 (LCDR Ret)	G/SY1/G 70-73
Thomas Scot & Laurie	QM2	SY1/G 72-75
Thompson Tom	EM3	B 85-89
Violette Dave & Beth	MM1	B 73-76
Young Neil	LT	B 79-81
Young Dick & Kevin (son)	SN	G 70-71

[illegible]

I'm looking for any information regarding issuance of "Blue Nose" card or other "memorabilia". This would be a Gold Crew run in 66-68 era. Bob Weeks was the CO, I don't know we ever got anything like that.





9.22.24: Email from Bruce: Things good here, ALS IS GOING VERY SLOW. Thanking the good Lord for His blessings

6.15.24: Email from Vicki: Bruce is doing great. His neurologist was a little surprised at his May clinic visit at how Bruce has not progressed but Bruce reminded him that he is on both Rx's to slow the progress. He decided Bruce doesn't have to go back to clinic for 6 months instead of 3.

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**George Stevens, MT2(SS) G 68-71**

Cards to: 3025 Winterhaven Dr., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404

**5.12.25: Email from George:** The ravages of aging are taking their toll. In the past three months, my hands have been increasing in pain so that it is constant, actually, fingers to shoulders. Part of the peripheral neuropathy and arthritis I assume. Sometimes my skin feels like it's on fire. Even my exercise program is in shambles. I will see the VA doc next month. My heart is doing better but I do occasionally have a bad day when my heart is racing - and I'm not LOL

3.10.25: Email from George: Update - I wore a monitor for three days in the middle of Feb, the results from that were good. Previous monitor results showed a LOT of missed beats, slow beats, and other abnormalities. This last report showed as only 1%. The doc was pleased (me too!). As the heart takes about 6-12 months to fully recover from an ablation, we are going to wait another 3 months before making any decisions but it looks like I won't be needing a Watchman (device to prevent strokes). I'm still taking nattokinase and serrapeptase to prevent unwanted clotting/stroke so for now, I think I'm doing good. The heart rate has dropped down to the 80s and BP is running 140/80 more or less. Hopefully in the next three months both BP and rate will continue to improve. All round, good news. I still have some chest pain and shortness of breath but it's nowhere near as bad as it has been. So, thank you GOD for the help and healing!!!

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**John Cole, LT B WEPS 78-80, USSVI Member-at-Large, CDR Ret.**

Cards to: 5914 Ruby Dr Pearland TX 77581-8926

**NO RECENT UPDATES**

7.31.24: Email from John: We pray that you and your loved ones are healthy and happy. Susan and I are doing well as we fight the continuing battle against Parkinson's, Left Shoulder Surgery and now my C1-C6 surgery as well. It just seems like all of the parts are wearing out as time seems to fly by faster and faster. The things I miss the most are hunting, hiking, gardening and just being in the mountains. I must be content with the flowers and a few pots of garden plants on our patio. Bye for now, Very Respectfully. John F. Cole Cdr., U. S. Navy Retired, 100% Disabled 05/12/1964 To 08/01/1994, E1-E9 & O1E-O5 Vietnam through Desert Storm

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**Elam Lee Mauk, EMCM(SS) B 65-69 COB 66-68 Plank, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI USS Sailfish Base Holland Club**

Card to: 4000 Ibis Way Unit 201 Venice FL 34292

**NO RECENT UPDATES**

2.20.2024: Email from Gretchen Glaub: John has joined the USS Sailfish Base and received the following email from the Base Commander. Elam is a member of the USS Sailfish Base:

- I called his home and spoke with his wife. He is in the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Nursing Home in Port Charlotte with dementia. I have added him to our binnacle list. Bill Heck, USS Sailfish Base Commander

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**Sandy Hastie, CAPT B 80 (Oct-Dec) CO-1 patrol**

Cards to: 75 Lambeth Dr., Asheville NC 28803-3425

**NO RECENT UPDATES**

10.26.24: Email from Donna: Dear Friends – A Hallelujah Message,

We saw our oncologist Wednesday, October 23, 2024 to get the results of the Sunday PET/CT scan. It was a very enjoyable experience! The new treatment regime significantly reduced the cancer! Our oncologist was very pleased and said he was amazed at the cancer reduction.

We thank you for your support and prayers, they work. We are very thankful we have a God who answers prayers!

Warmly, Donna and Sandy

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**Ron 'RG' 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 recent updates**

*3.26.2024: Email from Jean: The results of Ron's evaluation on January 2024, compared to last year, scored significantly lower on a test of global cognition. His doctor reported that Ron has transition to the Moderately Severe Stage of dementia.*

*Thank you for all the prayers, caring thoughts, cards, letters, pictures, and memories Ron has received. They really brighten his day.*

*Jean/Ron*

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**DID YOU KNOW??**

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**Lifesaving tip:** Here's how to trigger Emergency SOS, fast. Know this before you need it.

\* On Android, press the power button five times or more.

\* For iPhones, press and hold the side button and either volume button until the slider pops up.

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Add emojis fast: Want to add some spice to your emails? You don't have to hunt for the right emoji or symbol. On Windows, press the Windows key + period (.). On Mac, hit Control + Command + Space. The full emoji panel will pop up right where your cursor is located.

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**GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH**

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**655 Association Website**

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

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What do you call a powerboat that can turn into a submarine and can also act as a gunship? Take a look...

**[https://youtube.com/shorts/t9oynuBxIs?si=QC\\_8rxbhDg0SsAXn](https://youtube.com/shorts/t9oynuBxIs?si=QC_8rxbhDg0SsAXn)**

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**SEA STORIES, COMMENTS and JUST GOOD THINGS From Our Shipmates**

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*There's no answers provided for these questions. Google will tell you all you need to know but I would hope you can answer most of them without*

*help. Remember, we went to school when this information was taught.*

**FOURTH OF JULY TRIVIA**

- The United States of America was originally made up of how many colonies?
- On the original flag, in what shape were the stars laid out?
- The capital of the United States is Washington DC, but it used to be...
- What bird did Benjamin Franklin want to be the national bird (instead of the Bald Eagle)?
- Who was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence?
- Today the American flag has how many stars?
- Who was the first president of the United States?
- How many people signed the Declaration of Independence?
- Who wrote the lyrics to "The Star-Spangled Banner?"
- What year were fireworks first used to celebrate the 4th of July?
- What president was born on the 4th of July?
- Name 3 presidents who died on July 4.
- What is considered the most 'American' dessert?
- In what state was July 4 first declared an official holiday?
- On what day did the majority of the people sign the Declaration of Independence?
- Who was the oldest person elected as president?
- Where is the oldest functioning airport in the USA?
- How many hot dogs are being consumed each year on the 4th of July?
- Who sewed the first US flag?
- What do the 13 stripes on the U.S. flag indicate?
- Who was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence?
- How much money is spent on fireworks every year?
- Who wrote the Pledge of Allegiance?
- What are the first seven words of the Declaration of Independence?

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*Submitted by Trin Rios, LCDR B NAV 76-78, USSVI Tri-State Base, Holland Club*

*I received this from an old shipmate, and I*

wanted to pass it on.

May GOD continue to Bless all who went to sea in the boats; all who made their last dive never to surface, and those who waited at home...

### **Prayer for Submariners**

Bless those who served beneath the deep,  
Through the lonely hours,  
The vigil they had to keep,  
May eternal peace their mission ever be,  
Bless each one we ask of thee,  
And comfort those who at home  
who waited and prayed,  
For their loved ones return night and day.

**AMEN**

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*George Birmingham ET1(SS) G/SY1/G 69-74,  
Assoc. Life Member, SV Carolina Piedmont Base,  
Holland Club*

### **Some Aging Insights**

- I woke up this morning determined to drink less, eat right, and exercise. But that was four hours ago when I was younger and full of hope.
- How did doctors come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life, when the rabbit is always jumping but only lives for around two years, and ... the turtle that doesn't exercise at all lives over 200 years.
- If only vegetables smelled as good as bacon.
- When I lost the fingers on my right hand in a freak accident, I asked the doctor if I would still be able to write with it. He said, "Probably, but I wouldn't count on it."
- Still trying to get my head around the fact that 'Take Out' can mean food, dating, or murder.
- Dear paranoid people who check behind their shower curtains for murderers. If you do find one, what's your plan?
- Anyone who says their wedding was the best day of their life has clearly never had two chocolate bars fall down at once from a vending machine.
- We live in a time where intelligent people are silenced so that stupid people won't be offended.
- The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren't a robot.
- If Adam and Eve were Cajuns they would have eaten the snake instead of the apple and

saved us all a lot of trouble.

- You know you are getting old when friends with benefits means having someone who can drive at night.
- After watching how some people wore their masks, I understand why contraception fails.
- I have many hidden talents. I just wish I could remember where I hid them.
- Apparently, exercise helps you with decision-making. It's true. I went for a run this morning and decided I'm never going again.

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### **The Health Corner**

**By: George Stevens MT2(SS) G 68-71**

(this article is written from the author's research and point of view)

Summer is still in full swing and time to get outside and enjoy outdoor activities is still here. Getting lathered up with sunscreen to avoid getting burned may not be the best answer. First off, your body needs vitamin D that it gets from the sun and putting on sunscreen kills that. Vitamin D is more important to your health than most people, including doctors, realize.

You've got two main options to keep your vitamin D levels up: sunlight and supplements. Sunlight is the best option for optimizing your vitamin D levels.

Sunlight is nature's power source for your vitamin D factory. When sunlight hits your skin, it turns a substance in your body into vitamin D. Your body will not over produce vitamin D. Here's how to get sun exposure safely:

Expose your bare skin to direct sunlight daily. I try to get sun year round but for new exposure, I try to get 15 minutes in early morning or late afternoon several times in a week and then build up from there. To gauge safe sun exposure, perform a simple "sunburn test." You're aiming to stay just below the point where your skin starts to turn red. The best way to gauge that is to press your open fingers against your exposed skin, hold for a few seconds, and when you take your fingers away, the exposed skin will be a lot pinker than the depressed skin. Any redness at all is a signal to get out of the direct sun, so avoid getting a sunburn; that's a sign of damage, not benefit.

A caution - seed oils can cause skin damage. Eliminate seed oils before peak-hour sun exposure — Seed oils, prevalent in processed



and fast food, are packed with linoleic acid (LA). When LA gets accumulated in your skin, it interacts with the sun's UV rays and triggers inflammation and DNA damage. It's best to avoid a lot of direct sunlight during peak hours (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) until you've cut back on seed oils for six months. This gives your body time to clear some of the accumulated LA.

Don't forget to keep Vitamin D rich foods in your diet. Vitamin D can be obtained through foods such as fatty fish, egg yolks, cheeses, orange juice, fortified cereals, and certain types of mushrooms. In spite of the bad press about eggs, they really are a great food - some would say super-food. Be careful of fortified cereals; they can contain some nasty additives.

Vitamin D3 supplements are a backup plan — Vitamin D3 supplements are inexpensive and easy to find. If you can't get enough vitamin D from sun exposure, here's what you need to know about vitamin D supplementation:

It is important to buy good quality vitamins. Do your research and shop around. How much vitamin D3? Your goal is to reach and maintain optimal vitamin D levels, ideally between 60 and 80 ng/mL (150 to 200 nmol/L). The best way to know if you're in this range is to get your vitamin D levels tested. I get mine tested twice a year, once in the summer by my VA doc and again in the winter by my primary care doc.

The benefits of good D3 levels are:

1. Keeping your bones strong. This is the job of your endocrine system. When you have enough vitamin D, it turns into calcitriol in your kidneys. This helps your gut pull calcium from food to build strong bones. Without it, children get rickets (soft bones) and adults develop osteomalacia, or weak, painful bones.

2. Boosting your immune system and support immune cells use vitamin D differently. They need vitamin D3 directly to make calcitriol inside themselves. This powers up your immune system to fight off viruses, keeps your heart healthy and even helps your brain stay sharp. Ever notice you get fewer colds when you're out in the sun? Vitamin D helps your immune system fight viruses like the flu and even COVID.

3. Lower chronic disease risk — Studies link optimal vitamin D levels to less heart disease, diabetes and cancer. It's like a shield for your

body, helping to ward off chronic disease.

4. Fewer autoimmune problems — Conditions like multiple sclerosis, psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis are also less likely when you have enough vitamin D.

5. Happier mood — Feeling down? Some research says vitamin D helps lift your spirits and ease anxiety and depression

6. A study published on May 23 found that people with higher vitamin D intake may be slowing a process linked to aging.

7. Vitamin D has also been shown to reduce inflammation.

One final note on sunscreens and the sun, I get as much sun as I can and I have fewer colds, etc. than most people. I don't use sunscreens. 80% of the sunscreens have dangerous chemicals that get absorbed through the skin. Did you know that since the "invention" of sunscreens, skin cancer rates have gone **UP**! Chemicals to avoid are - avobenzene, oxybenzone, escamsule and octocrylene. One use for one day will allow those chemicals in. That doesn't sound like anything I want in my body.



**theleansubmariner**

### ***The Lean Submariner***

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

<https://theleansubmariner.com/>

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### **The 2025 Military Salute Regatta in Charleston Harbor – Another bucket list item checked off**

By **Mister Mac** on June 5, 2025

#### **A lifetime on the water**

Growing up in Western Pennsylvania, my life experience included sailing on the rivers that cut through the Mon valley and converge at Pittsburgh at the point. I remember the gentle rides we took on both powerboats and houseboats. My grandfather Bob had a great lakes v hulled cruiser that was powered by twin grey-marine diesel engines. When he pushed the throttle over to full, the wake would cause smaller boats to have to maneuver to avoid getting water inside their hulls. The damage to nearby boat docks could be sever too so he rarely ever

opened the engines all the way up. But even though I saw some small sail boats from time to time, I was always a power boat kind of guy.

**[Continue to read here](#)**

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### **All ahead slow**

By Mister Mac on June 17, 2025

#### **All ahead slow.**

**Mister Mac Note: If you are a sensitive soul and easily offended, this is probably not a great story for you to engage in. Check back later for more submarine related stories**

Many years ago, when I was in the middle of my second career (2006), I went on my first trip to Sweden for a series of meetings. The main part of the meetings was in Gothenburg. The trip allowed for us to do a little sightseeing, and we got to experience some beautiful scenery and a few touristy things. On the waterfront is a large collection of ships called "Maritiman". The billing states: A floating maritime museum where you can go to sea without ever casting off.

**While I enjoy ships of all types, my favorite was their submarine exhibit. From their advertising:**

"Take the chance to go beneath the surface and discover the submarine HMS Nordkaparen and the stationary exhibition which tells stories on how life was on board the submarine."

I practically ran through the surface ship tied up next to her since I knew my boss was anxious to get to dinner. That guy loved to eat. Somehow, I knew that this was going to be my only chance to see the boat, so I was pretty excited to spend as much time as I could.

**[Continue to read here](#)**

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### **He Was a Good Man – Remembering Our Submariners**

By Mister Mac on June 19, 2025

Every once in a while, I am reminded that the one constant in life is change and tied to that is the passage of time. No, I am not channeling a former presidential candidate... time is really passing and despite the commercials on tv promising to hide the effects of that passage, you can't escape that every minute that passes, we are all getting older.

I saw a brief posting on Facebook from one of the Sub Vets bases saying that they had lost their

last World War 2 Veteran. His life was a remarkable story of achievement and courage.

**<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/trenton/name/calvin-moon-obituary?pid=207727540>**

#### **DBF**

I try to make it to as many subbase meetings as I can here in Charleston but being relatively new to the base, I could not remember if I had seen any since I have been here. We are a typical base with a mix of different generations. The diesel boat guys are still pretty active and present but more and more the ones that I see have nuke boats on their sub vests as well as their diesel boat names. I remember going to my advanced auxiliary package course here in Charleston in 1973 and most of my class were former enginemen from the smoke boats who were getting converted to machinist mates and sent to the nuclear submarines that were replacing the older boats. I remember that they did not seem happy to give up their former lifestyle.

**[Continue to read here](#)**

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### **Where Are They Now?**

By Mister Mac on June 20, 2025

Social media has really had an impact on the world. While some might argue that it has been mostly negative, there are some positive impacts that most of us would have never thought of fifty years ago. In previous generations, you had to meet face to face in a common space in order to develop relationships or catch up with old friends. If you were in the military, keeping in touch with old comrades or shipmates would have been challenging unless there was a robust system that allowed for reunions. Even then, only certain people could afford to attend or had the time. By the time many of those reunions would occur, Father Time had already claimed some of the participants and their presence was only felt through the stories and faded photographs others held close.

The same thing was true of the people you went to school with. Whether it was high school or college, time, distance or different life paths sent all of you in different directions. New relationships blurred old ones in many cases and marriage and divorce often caused even further separations. The old saying about "you can't go home again" was all too often the case. I distinctly remember a

feeling of being a foreigner when I came home to the place I was born after just four years in the navy. Old friends were busy with their new life without me being a part of it. There was some cordiality, but nothing like the old days when we were together day and night creating adventures and causing mischief. It was easy for me to go back into the navy and start all over again. Frankly, it was the best move I ever made since it brought me to Debbie and an amazing life.

[Continue to read here](#)

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## **The Day the World Changed – Launching Polaris Submerged**

By Mister Mac on June 27, 2025

**I watched the news recently when the Air Force successfully landed their bunker buster bombs on the Iranian Target.**

**65 years ago, the Navy had its own dramatic moment that forever changed the world.**

**USS George Washington (SSBN 598) left Groton on 28 June 1960 for Cape Canaveral, Florida, where she loaded two Polaris missiles.**

Standing out into the Atlantic Missile Test Range with Rear Admiral William Raborn, head of the Polaris submarine development program, on board as an observer, she successfully conducted the first Polaris missile launch from a submerged submarine on 20 July 1960

At 12:39, *George Washington's* commanding officer sent President Dwight Eisenhower the message: POLARIS - FROM OUT OF THE DEEP TO TARGET. PERFECT. Less than two hours later a second missile from the submarine also struck the impact area 1,100 nmi (1,300 mi; 2,000 km) downrange.

[The rest of the story:](#)



### **The Computer Corner**

**By: George Birmingham ET1(SS)  
G/SY1/G 69-74, Assoc. Life  
Member, SV Carolina Piedmont  
Base, Holland Club**

**How to control a family or  
friend's computer remotely**

Greetings shipmates! As Tom Krauser and I know, sometimes we need to help out parents with a computer problem as well as our friends

and shipmates. There are a number of solutions available, and some that are not. So, let's look at the options.

Back in June 2017, Tom Krauser wrote an article on how to use TeamViewer for remote access. So, is TeamViewer available for Windows 11? The answer is yes, and just as before, go to the TeamViewer website for the free download. Be sure to select the leftmost download on the page, marked as "Download Now".

### [TeamViewer Free](#)

Their security statement notes: "All TeamViewer versions use full encryption. Encryption is based on **4096bit RSA private/public key exchange and 256 Bit AES session encryption**. This uses the same security level as https/SSL and is considered completely safe by today's standards. The key exchange also guarantees that the data transfer is completely encrypted from client to client and that any routers or servers in between (including our routers) are unable to read or analyze the data stream."

So, it's secure enough for our use.

You may be asking, "Doesn't Windows have a Remote Desktop Connection (RDC)"? Well, yes, sort of. Most of us use the Windows Home version, which comes standard with most consumer home desktop and laptop PCs. However, the RDC capability is not supported on that version. This is true for both Windows 10 and Windows 11. In order to get the RDC capability, you must upgrade to Windows Pro, which costs around \$99 for the Pro license key. But there is an alternative for most simple support needs.

While on the AARP website earning Rewards Points, I came across the following video, which describes how to connect to another Windows computer, whether Windows 10 or Windows 11, using a built-in Windows functionality.

### [How to Control Your Parents' Computer Remotely](#)

I actually tested this "Quick Assist" functionality using my Windows 10 Desktop and Windows 11 Laptop in both directions, and it worked exactly as described in the video. Note that both computers need to be connected to their Microsoft account.

Upon initial connection from the "Control" computer to the "Target" computer, you can see their remote desktop, but your mouse and



keyboard will not work at this point. The Control computer has to request control permission from the Target computer and you do that by clicking the "Request" control button at the top of the Quick Assist screen on the Control computer. The Target computer then grants permission by clicking the "Allow" button on the Quick Assist screen on their desktop. Once that is done, you will have full mouse/keyboard functions available on the Control computer. The Target computer can remove access at any time by clicking on the "Cancel Control" button. There is a "Leave" button on the Quick Assist window that will disconnect the session when clicked. That function is also displayed on the Control computer screen. That's how it works. Pretty simple to perform.

But, are there other approaches? Yes, there are, but there are things to consider. While you can find any number of "free" remote desktop software applications, you want to make absolutely sure they are truly free as many offer a limited trial followed by having a paid subscription, which is often never really affordable because they are an annual subscription in most cases. You also want to make sure any remote desktop solution used strong encryption for both the login password exchange and ongoing communications, as some I have seen do encrypt the login action but not the data exchange afterwards.

So, now you have two ways to help a parent, a friend, or a shipmate with their computer issues. I hope you find this information helpful.

As always, shipmates, comments and suggestions for future topics are welcomed. Contact me at [subvet\\_ssbnsouth.net](mailto:subvet_ssbnsouth.net). And if you have a difficult computer or network problem you need help with, contact me. I'm always glad to help out if I can. //George

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**The Security Corner**  
**By: George Birmingham ET1(SS)**  
**G/SY1/G 69-74, Assoc. Life**  
**Member, SV Carolina Piedmont**  
**Base, Holland Club**  
**Scams, yes, we've got scams!**

Greetings Shipmates! I don't know about you, but does it seem the volume of scam e-mails, scam iMessage/Test messages, and scam phone calls are increasing every day? It

sure seems that way.

More recently, banks have started sending out e-mails warning of scams relating to financial services and credit cards. Setting alerts on your bank accounts and credit cards may well save you from an unpleasant situation down the road. I especially like one alert offered by Citibank where they notify you if a transaction posts where the card was not presented. You will get those where you order from an on-line retailer, or pay a utility bill on-line with a credit card. So, take advantage of having your financial institutions watching your accounts, because they stand to lose as well if something happens. Alerts can be set in your profile with your institution(s) to cover not only a specific situation but also dollar amounts that will trigger an alert.

Here are some articles that you may find helpful:

- [8 important mobile banking alerts to set up today](#)
- [Common scams targeting senior citizens](#)

If you use your bank's mobile phone app, here is a suggestion from Forbes magazine:

- [How To Enable Mobile Credit Card Alerts for Purchases and Fraud](#)

Finally, some suggestions on bank account alerts that are useful:

- [7 bank alerts that can help protect your money](#)

Last month I wrote about the Scamicide.com website, and their daily alerts for the scam of the day. I hope you took a look at the site and found it useful. With AI assistance the scams are becoming more difficult to detect. The more information we have, the better we will be at defending ourselves from scams

As always, shipmates, comments and suggestions for future topics are welcomed. Contact me at [subvet\\_ssbnsouth.net](mailto:subvet_ssbnsouth.net). And if you have a difficult computer or network problem you need help with, contact me. I'm always glad to help out if I can. //George

## **US Navy to boost Virginia-class submarine production with new \$987 million contract.**

Naval News Navy 2025 19 Jun, 2025 - 15:07

According to information published by the U.S. Department of Defense on June 18, 2025, Electric Boat, a business unit of General Dynamics, has secured a \$987 million contract modification to advance the U.S. Navy's submarine industrial base. This infusion funds critical Component Development, Class Lead Yard Support (CLYS), and Submarine Industrial Base (SIB) supplier enhancements. The package covers procurement of long-lead-time materials, shipyard infrastructure modernization to support increased output, and the expansion of key suppliers to remove bottlenecks and accelerate delivery timelines. Approximately 70 percent of the work will occur at Electric Boat's Groton, Connecticut, yard, with the remaining 30 percent equally allocated to Newport News, Virginia, and Quonset Point, Rhode Island. The project runs through 2031.

[Read more](#)

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## **Fleet Forces Commander Tapped To Be Navy's Next Top Admiral**

*(STARS AND STRIPES 19 JUNE 25)* ... Caitlyn Burchett

Adm. Daryl Caudle, the commander of U.S. Fleet Forces, was nominated to be the next chief of naval operations for the Navy, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told senators Wednesday.

Caudle's nomination comes more than four months after President Donald Trump abruptly fired Lisa Franchetti as the sea service's top admiral.

The admiral is a career submarine sailor. He assumed command of U.S. Fleet Forces, which is based at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., in December 2021. Fleet Forces Command is responsible for training and certifying naval personnel and assets to provide combat-ready forces to combatant commanders.

In the role of Fleet Force commander, Caudle championed quality-of-life initiatives for East Coast-based sailors following a cluster of suicides in the Virginia area. Caudle oversaw pilot programs that outfitted barracks with Wi-Fi and put emotional support dogs aboard aircraft carriers for deployed sailors.

A native of North Carolina, Caudle is a 1985 graduate of North Carolina State University with a degree in chemical engineering. He was then commissioned after attending Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I. Caudle holds advanced degrees from the Naval Postgraduate School and Old Dominion University. Caudle also holds a doctorate in management in organizational leadership with a specialization in information systems and technology.

Caudle's early sea tours included assignments as a division officer aboard the submarine USS George Washington Carver, an engineer on submarines USS Stonewall Jackson and USS Sand Lance, and an executive officer for submarine USS Montpelier.

Caudle's first command assignment was leading submarine USS Jefferson City. He also stepped in to be the commanding officer of submarines USS Topeka and USS Helena due to "emergent losses of the normally assigned commanding officers," according to his biography.

Caudle also served as the assistant deputy director for information and cyberspace policy on the Joint Staff in Washington and as chief of staff to the commander of the Pacific-based Submarine Force.

His decorations include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, four Defense Superior Service medals, four Legion of Merit awards, three Meritorious Service medals, five Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medals, and four Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medals.

<https://www.stripes.com/branches/navy/2025-06-18/navy-chief-of-naval-operations-18162182.html>



**Veterans Service Officer  
John Dudas**

**VA Special Benefits allowances like Clothing, autos, etc.**

<https://www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates/special-benefit-allowance-rates/#:~:text=Clothing%20allowance,-Effective%20December%201&text=If%20a%20skin%20medicine%2C%20prosthetic,this%20amount%20once%20a%20year>

**VA: Health and Benefits Downloads**

<https://mobile.va.gov/app/va-health-and-benefits>

**VA, Defense Secretaries Agree to Improve Transition Process for Troops as They Leave Military Service**  
[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/05/29/va-defense-secretaries-agree-improve-transition-process-troops-they-leave-military-service.html?ESRC=eb\\_250530.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20250530](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/05/29/va-defense-secretaries-agree-improve-transition-process-troops-they-leave-military-service.html?ESRC=eb_250530.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20250530)

**Ask Lacey: Is Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay Taxed?**  
[https://www.military.com/money/personal-finance/ask-lacey-concurrent-retirement-and-disability-pay-taxed.html?ESRC=dod\\_250530.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=dod&utm\\_campaign=20250530](https://www.military.com/money/personal-finance/ask-lacey-concurrent-retirement-and-disability-pay-taxed.html?ESRC=dod_250530.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dod&utm_campaign=20250530)

**Military Retirement and State Income Tax**  
[https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/state-retirement-income-tax.html?ESRC=mr\\_250602.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20250602](https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/state-retirement-income-tax.html?ESRC=mr_250602.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20250602)

**Why You Should Get a Veterans Designation on Your Driver's License**  
[https://www.military.com/discounts/veterans/why-you-should-get-veterans-designation-your-drivers-license.html?ESRC=mr\\_250602.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20250602](https://www.military.com/discounts/veterans/why-you-should-get-veterans-designation-your-drivers-license.html?ESRC=mr_250602.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20250602)

**8 Popular Cruise Lines That Offer Military Discounts**  
[https://www.military.com/discounts/cruise-line-military-discounts.html?ESRC=mr\\_250602.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20250602](https://www.military.com/discounts/cruise-line-military-discounts.html?ESRC=mr_250602.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20250602)

**Veterans: What's Taxed and What's Not on Your Federal and State Returns**  
[https://www.military.com/money/personal-finance/veterans-whats-taxed-and-whats-not-your-federal-and-state-returns.html?ESRC=mr\\_250602.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20250602](https://www.military.com/money/personal-finance/veterans-whats-taxed-and-whats-not-your-federal-and-state-returns.html?ESRC=mr_250602.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20250602)

**Nuclear Carrier USS Enterprise Teardown in Mobile: Details Emerge, Chamber Silent**  
<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/06/03/nuclear-carrier-uss-enterprise-teardown-mobile-details-emerge-chamber-silent.html>

**Veterans with Mental Health Conditions Face Challenges Getting Care Outside VA, Study Finds**  
[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/06/02/veterans-mental-health-conditions-face-challenges-getting-care-outside-va-study-finds.html?ESRC=eb\\_250603.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20250603](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/06/02/veterans-mental-health-conditions-face-challenges-getting-care-outside-va-study-finds.html?ESRC=eb_250603.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20250603)

**The Next Deadline for Backdated PACT Act Payments Is Coming Soon. Here's What You Need to Know**  
<https://www.military.com/benefits/next-deadline-backdated-pact-act-payments-coming-soon-heres-what-you-need-know.html>

**Navy Orders Force Wide Housing Inspections After Secretary 'Appalled' by Guam Barracks Conditions**  
<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/05/30/navy-orders-forcewide-housing-inspections-after-secretary-appalled-guam-barracks-conditions.html>

[appalled-guam-barracks-conditions.html](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/05/30/navy-orders-forcewide-housing-inspections-after-secretary-appalled-guam-barracks-conditions.html)

**Budget for Veterans to See Private Doctors Would See Big Boost in GOP's VA Funding Proposal**  
[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/06/04/budget-veterans-see-private-doctors-would-see-big-boost-gops-va-funding-proposal.html?ESRC=eb\\_250605.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20250605](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/06/04/budget-veterans-see-private-doctors-would-see-big-boost-gops-va-funding-proposal.html?ESRC=eb_250605.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20250605)

**2025 Veterans Pension Rates**  
[https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-pensions.html?ESRC=mr\\_250609.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20250609](https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-pensions.html?ESRC=mr_250609.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20250609)

**Trump Says All Army Bases Stripped of Confederate Namesakes Will Have Names Restored**  
[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/06/10/trump-says-all-army-bases-stripped-of-confederate-namesakes-will-have-names-restored.html?ESRC=eb\\_250611.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20250611](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/06/10/trump-says-all-army-bases-stripped-of-confederate-namesakes-will-have-names-restored.html?ESRC=eb_250611.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20250611)

**Hegseth Wants to Rename 8 Naval Ships. Here Are the Stories Behind Their Namesakes**  
[https://www.military.com/history/hegseth-wants-rename-8-naval-ships-here-are-stories-behind-their-namesakes.html?ESRC=dod\\_250613.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=dod&utm\\_campaign=20250613](https://www.military.com/history/hegseth-wants-rename-8-naval-ships-here-are-stories-behind-their-namesakes.html?ESRC=dod_250613.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dod&utm_campaign=20250613)

**When You Die, VA Will Provide a Free Grave Marker**  
[https://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/headstones-and-markers.html?ESRC=dod\\_250613.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=dod&utm\\_campaign=20250613](https://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/headstones-and-markers.html?ESRC=dod_250613.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dod&utm_campaign=20250613)

**Hearing Aids for Military Retirees**  
[https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/hearing-aids-for-military-retirees.html?ESRC=mr\\_250616.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20250616](https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/hearing-aids-for-military-retirees.html?ESRC=mr_250616.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20250616)

**Free Lifetime National Parks Passes for Veterans and Gold Star Families: Do You Have Yours Yet?**  
[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/11/09/free-lifetime-national-parks-passes-are-coming-veterans-and-gold-star-families.html?ESRC=mr\\_250623.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20250623](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/11/09/free-lifetime-national-parks-passes-are-coming-veterans-and-gold-star-families.html?ESRC=mr_250623.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20250623)

**Do Veterans Benefits Expire?**  
[https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-benefit-expiration-dates.html?ESRC=mr\\_250623.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20250623](https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-benefit-expiration-dates.html?ESRC=mr_250623.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20250623)

**Your 2025 State Veteran Benefits**  
[https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory.html?ESRC=mr\\_250623.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20250623](https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory.html?ESRC=mr_250623.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20250623)

**2025 Fourth of July Military Discounts**  
[https://www.military.com/july-4th/discounts.html?ESRC=dod\\_250627.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=dod&utm\\_campaign=20250627](https://www.military.com/july-4th/discounts.html?ESRC=dod_250627.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dod&utm_campaign=20250627)





## WWII VETERAN NATHAN BLOCKMAN



LAST PATROL VOLUNTEERS IN TENNESSEE HONORED NATHAN BLOCKMAN, A WWII VETERAN AND FORMER POW, WHO IS NOW IN HOSPICE CARE.

BORN IN MEMPHIS IN 1926, HE, ALONG WITH 2 BROTHERS, WOULD GO ON TO SERVE IN WWII. HIS FATHER RAN THE ONLY SCRAPYARD BUSINESS IN MEMPHIS, WHICH WAS FOUNDED BY NATHAN'S GRANDFATHER. NATHAN'S ARMY INFANTRY UNIT ARRIVED IN FRANCE A WEEK AFTER D-DAY. WITHIN DAYS, HE WAS DEEP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NAZI GERMANY. SOON CAME THE BATTLE OF BULGE. NATHAN REMEMBERS THE MASSIVE ARTILLERY SHELLING AND AIR BOMBARDMENT. SOLDIERS DUG FOXHOLES DAILY IN THE SNOW AND FROZEN GROUND WITH ONLY THEIR SMALL E-TOOLS. AT 6' 2" NATHAN'S FOXHOLE HAD TO BE MUCH DEEPER. HE REMEMBERS THE RETREATING SOLDIERS, MANY INJURED AND RAGGED, YELLING TO NOT GO FORWARD AS IT WAS SURE DEATH. BUT ATTACK THEY DID. OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE WAS SLOWED AND STOPPED. LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES WERE HEAVY. ON CHRISTMAS DAY, NATHAN'S UNIT CAPTURED AN AREA WHERE US TROOPS HAD ABANDONED SEVERAL VEHICLES DURING THE ENEMY'S INITIAL ASSAULT. THEY FOUND CHRISTMAS CARE PACKAGES FROM THE STATES AND INDULGED IN COOKIES AND OTHER TREATS, A SMALL BLESSING AMID WAR.

NATHAN'S UNIT CONTINUED TO FIGHT, CROSSING THE ROER RIVER ON FEBRUARY 23. THEY GAINED A REPRIEVE AND SPENT TWO WEEKS IN HOLLAND TRAINING IN RIVER CROSSING TECHNIQUES.. A FEW MONTHS LATER, IN APRIL OF 1944, NATHAN'S INFANTRY COMPANY CROSSED THE ELBE AND CAME INTO IMMEDIATE CONTACT WITH ENEMY FORCES. DURING THE ENSUING BATTLE, THEY CAPTURED ENEMY TROOPS, ONE OF WHICH WAS A GERMAN GENERAL OFFICER. ONE DAY THEY SCALED A FENCE AND TOOK SHELTER IN A LARGE HOUSE. THEY THEN HEARD THE RUMBLINGS OF GERMAN TANKS ACCOMPANIED BY GERMAN SOLDIERS. REALIZING ALL AVENUES OF ESCAPE WERE ELIMINATED, HE & OTHER AMERICANS WERE CAPTURED.

THE GERMANS ESCORTED THEM TO AN EXTREMELY LARGE TENT FOR INTERNMENT. THE TENT WAS CROWDED WITH OTHER POWS, AND WITH NO BEDS, ALL POWS SLEPT ON THE STRAW-COVERED GROUND. THE ONLY CONTACT WITH THE GERMAN GUARDS WAS AT THE ONE MEAL PER DAY WHEN GUARDS WOULD BRING ONE LOAF OF BREAD PER SEVEN POWS OR SOME BROTH. NO PRISONERS COULD LEAVE THE TENT. DAYS TURNED INTO WEEKS. FINALLY, THE GERMAN GUARDS DISAPPEARED AS THE SOVIET RED ARMY BURST THROUGH THE GATES AND LIBERATED THE CAMP. NATHAN AND HIS FELLOW POWS CELEBRATED MIGHTILY. HOWEVER, SOON THEY REALIZED THEIR SITUATION HAD CHANGED LITTLE. THE RUSSIANS PROVIDED LITTLE FOOD, AND THEY CELEBRATED WAY TOO OFTEN WITH MUCH VODKA. NATHAN AND A FEW OTHER POWS WALKED OUT OF THE CAMP DETERMINED TO FIND THE AMERICAN LINES, WHICH AFTER 30 DAYS, THEY EVENTUALLY DID.

NATHAN RETURNED TO MEMPHIS AND BEGAN HIS LIFE-LONG PROFESSION IN THE FAMILY SCRAPYARD BUSINESS. ONCE NATHAN "WASHED THE SCRAP METAL DIRT OFF," HE LOOKED PRETTY GOOD, BARBARA, THE LADY WHO BECAME HIS WIFE OBSERVED. THEY BOUGHT A HOUSE TOGETHER AND RAISED TWO LOVELY CHILDREN.

NATHAN BLOCKMAN IS A TRUE HERO. WHEN ASKED WHAT HE WOULD WANT FOLKS TO KNOW OR REMEMBER ABOUT HIM, HE JUST SHOOK HIS HEAD AND SMILED. BARBARA SPOKE UP, "CARING, UNDERSTANDING, KINDNESS, GOOD PERSON, LOVING... TO FAMILY, FRIENDS, CUSTOMERS, AND STRANGERS. HE ALWAYS HAS A SMILE ON HIS FACE."

WE SALUTE NATHAN. GOD BLESS AMERICA AND ALL WHO HAVE SERVED HER AND ARE NOW ON THEIR LAST PATROL.



# Using FamousKin.com Program to Make Connections Between Family Lines

Don Ort - Gold/SY1/Blue 69-74 and Tom Krauser - Blue 72-74

We have discussed using the FamousKin program in other articles to find notable, famous, or infamous ancestors and add them to our tree.

In this article we want to describe a general process using **FamousKin** to connect ancestors and look for **potential connections** to other family lines in our tree. As we are using the FamousKin program to connect two ancestors, for each person from FamousKin that we add to Ancestry, we can open the “**View famous kin of ? (person adding)**” link to view the FamousKin of that person that FamousKin.com currently knows about.

Note that FamousKin is frequently updated so the list of FamousKin for each person can frequently change. If all the FamousKin shown are **down the tree** from them, and FamousKin does not show any known links to ancestors **up the tree**, then we will not be able to make a connection to an ancestor above to make the person we are working on a relation (cousin, etc.). However, if people are shown going **up the tree** in FamousKin, then we can examine that list of people to see if there is someone on the list that we **might connect** to someone already in our tree.

We may also notice that some of the surnames shown are similar to names already in our tree and there **may be a connection** because they are siblings or somehow connected to someone else already in our tree that FamousKin may not be aware of. For example, we notice that someone in the FamousKin list was born about the time as others in our tree with the same surname or are from a similar region and that may make them the child, or sibling, of someone with that name already in our tree. Comparing the two people we may notice that they were in the same general location which suggests that they may be related. By looking closer at the person already in our tree we may see a possible connection to the person from FamousKin so we can do some research to connect them. We could also look at the references shown in FamousKin to see if they may show a connection.

When using this process, it is highly recommended to either use two monitors or use split screens on your computer. This has been described in the past but you want to use two different browsers (Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Firefox, or any of a number of browsers) such that one browser (Example Microsoft Edge) is open on the left monitor or left half of the computer screen and a different browser (Example Google Chrome) is open on the right monitor or right half of the computer screen. This allows you to open FamousKin.com on the left side and open Ancestry.com on the right side.

As you add each person in the FamousKin list (left browser) to your Ancestry.com tree (right browser), it is a **very good idea** to add the FamousKin web link to the Ancestry Profile as follows:

- In the **FamousKin** web page (left side), click on the **web address window** (under the tabs at top of window) to **highlight** the web address for that web page. Before doing this make sure any add pop-ups (usually a pop-up ad) have been closed so the pop-up is not part of the web address you are going to save.
- Either press the “**Ctrl**” and the “**c**” keys at the same time (shortcut for **Copy**) OR **right click** on highlighted area and select **Copy** to copy the web address to the clipboard.

- On the Ancestry Profile (right side), click on **Add web link** then click in the **Web address** box. Press “**Ctrl**” and “**v**” at the same time (shortcut for **Paste**) OR **right click** in the box and select **Paste** to paste the web address from FamousKin into the box.
- On the FamousKin web page (left side) highlight **Famous Kin of ? (person selected)** plus the birth/death years and copy it as above.
- In the **Add web link** box in Ancestry paste it in the **Link name** box.
- Click **Add**.
- **Note: There is limited space (about 64 characters) in the Link name box and you may not be able to fit all the information from FamousKin into the Link name box.** If the link name information copied is **more than 64 characters** it will not save when you click **Add**. If you click **Add** and the web link does not save to the Ancestry Profile, you will need to shorten the **Link name** information to less than 64 characters by removing some of the description copied and try to save it again.

**NOTE:** On the FamousKin page for each person there are references and Notes at the bottom for that person that were used to derive the data. You may want to look at these references and Notes and add them to the Ancestry profile for this person. Since you are adding this link you can always return to this page later to review the references. You can add any of the reference web links to the Ancestry Profile.

Now this FamousKin web link to the FamousKin program is available as a web link in Ancestry whenever you open this Profile in Ancestry. Thus, we can always click on it to review it to add other FamousKin to this person later if desired.

To show that this Ancestry Profile is included in FamousKin and we have added a web link to FamousKin, we add **FK\*** (FamousKin profile exists) to the Suffix field for this person in Ancestry. Thus, for every Ancestry Profile you add a web link to FamousKin you should add **FK\*** to the **Suffix field**. If an added profile is in FamousKin (usually additional spouses or siblings) but is **not part of the main path** (no FamousKin web page was available for this path) between two people we just add **FK (no \*)** (in FamousKin but not kin not shown on this path) to the Suffix field. These additional people are **probably** in FamousKin and you could search for them to find their FamousKin profile page in FamousKin if you wanted to include it. Straying off the selected path may take much more time than you want to spend at this time. You may also come across these additional people when you are adding other FamousKin and then you would **Merge** them in Ancestry.

Suppose you find a person, such as the spouse of a cousin, etc., in your tree that does not **currently** show as a relation, other than their spouse. However, when you open their FamousKin web link, the spouse’s FamousKin list has people shown in their FamousKin page who are **already** in your tree. If **this connection were completed** up the tree to your known ancestor between these two people, it would then make this spouse also a relationship (cousin, etc.) to you. If we **do not want to deviate** from the current connection path we are working on now, **but we would like to come back later** to complete these connections, we should identify this person as someone we need to return to later.

We suggest two different methods of **marking** this Ancestry Profile so we can return later to connect this spouse to someone up our tree to complete the connection.

The 1<sup>st</sup> method would be to have a **Custom Tree Tag** in Ancestry called **Needs\_Continued\_Connected** that we can add to the spouse’s Profile in Ancestry so that later we can use **Tree Search** to **Filter** on this **Tree Tag** to



return to this Profile to complete the path up to our current ancestor. We have discussed creating Tree Tags previously, but a quick review is included here.

- Open **Profile** in Ancestry for person to add **Custom Tag** to
- Click on **View Comments**
- Click on **My TreeTags**
- Click on **Create custom tree tag**
- Under **Tag name (alphanumeric)** type **Needs\_Continued\_Connection** or whatever you want to call it.
- Under **Tag Description** put in a description of the tag.
- Click **Create** to save the tag. This Tree Tag should now appear on the Profile for this person.

Later when you have time and want to come back to this profile to complete the path to the ancestor above them:

- Do a **Tree Search** in Ancestry
- Click on **Filters**
- Under **Custom Tags** select the tag name you created above
- Click **Done** to display list of all Profiles you added this tag to.
- Select the desired Profile to work on.

Another method to keep track of people you want to come back to later to connect would be to create a **Bookmark** for them on the browser you are using for Ancestry.com. To organize these **Bookmarks**:

- In the browser (Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, etc.) Bookmarks are usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> row from the top of the browser window.
- Bookmarks should be visible under the web address window (usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> row down from the top). If Bookmarks are not visible in the Browser, you may need to go into the Browser **Settings** to make Bookmarks visible.
- If you do not already have a folder on the Bookmark bar for **Genealogy**, you should create one by **right clicking** on the **Bookmark bar** and choose **Add folder**.
- Under **New folder** type **Genealogy** and select **Save**.
- You can position this folder on the Bookmark bar by “dragging” it to where you want it on the Bookmark bar.
- **Right Click** on the new folder **Genealogy** and select **Add folder**.
- Under **New folder** type **Needs Connection** to add this folder. If the new folder does not appear under **Genealogy** you can “drag” it under Genealogy on the Bookmark bar.
- Note that you can add other folders under **Genealogy** to organize other ancestry web links such as:  
A link to open Ancestry.com; Books References folder; \_Last folder (we used this to store last link

worked on to open when we restart Ancestry.com); or any other folder that can help you organize web links.

- To add the Profile you want to come back to later, click on the **bookmark icon (usually a star)** on the right side of the **web address window**.
- Locate the folder “**Needs Connection**” and select it to save this web address under that folder. Do this for all Profiles you want to come back to later to make a connection.
- When you are ready to complete the connection later you can select the **Needs Connection** folder on the **Bookmark bar** and select the person you want to complete.

Since you saved the FamousKin web link of this person before in the Ancestry Profile, you should be able to click on the Web link in the Ancestry Profile to open it up and choose the person in FamousKin you want to make the connection to that is already in your tree.

**Note:** After you open the FamousKin web link you may want to copy the web link and paste it into the left browser (using split screen) and have the Ancestry Profile on the right browser. This makes it easier to work between the two programs.

We have found it is easier to **work down** from the person at the **top** of the shown links to the **bottom** person. When you are working **down** the list, the correct child is shown as the next person to select to move down the list. When you are working **up** the list you have to keep referring back to the original list to see which parent is **next** up the tree. This makes it more complicated to keep track of where you are in the list.

As you work down the list ensure the FamousKin web link is included in each person’s Ancestry Profile going down and you have added **FK\*** in the Suffix field.

Check for any reference web links you may want to add to Ancestry. Also, look for other FamousKin connections as you work down the list and tag them to come back to later as previously discussed.

Using this method we have found many other connections to expand our trees and connect family lines to each other. Using this method also showed many other connections between Don Ort’s and Tom Krauser’s trees. It also showed that Tom Krauser’s paternal and maternal lines are connected and Tom has many great-grandparents that are common to both his father and mother. When this occurs, Tom shows both **\*P\* \*M\*** in the Suffix field to show both connections and has created a **Custom Tree Tag** called “**Krauser\_Blevins\_Com\_GGP**” which Tom added to each Profile so it can be “filtered” in Tree Searches to show these common great-grandparents.



# USSVI 2025 National Convention



## USSVI 2025 National Convention

August 31 – September 6

**Rosen Shingle Creek, Orlando, FL**



[2025 USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION ONLINE REGISTRATION](#)

[2025 USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION PAPER REGISTRATON](#)

Registration Fee: \$30.00 pp

Welcome Aboard Party: \$35.00 pp

Holland Club Breakfast: \$30.00 pp

Men's & Women's Luncheon: \$35.00 pp

Banquet: \$65.00 pp

Various Tours & Events: prices on the registration form

[2025 USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION HOTEL RESERVATIONS](#)

**\$120 Per Night Excluding taxes and fees**





## 655 Reunion #13 - Registration

Dates: 1-5 October 2025

Holiday Inn Norwich

10 Laura Boulevard | Norwich, CT 06360

860.889.5201

To Reserve Rooms: call the number above or link to

<https://hinorwich.info/HenryLStimson>

Reserve by phone reference HenryLStimson

Hotel Prices are good for Mon-Mon 29 Sept-6 Oct

Hotel Reservation **Deadline 1 September 2025**

*Hotel Reservation is the responsibility of the individual.*

Reunion Registration **Deadline 1 September 2025** Reunion Web Page: [655 Reunion #13](https://hinorwich.info/HenryLStimson)

**Transportation is not provided from the airport.**



Complete (print legibly), print the form and mail along with a check (payable to **John Glaub**) or money order to **John Glaub, 2 Terrace Ave., Niantic CT 06357**. Reason for **2025 HLS Reunion**.

For any questions contact the committee at: [655reunion2025@gmail.com](mailto:655reunion2025@gmail.com)

Shipmate Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship (place X beside correct one): Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Significant Other \_\_\_\_\_ Family \_\_\_\_\_ Friend \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Number who will be attending this event in your group: \_\_\_\_\_

# Patrols on STIMSON: \_\_\_\_\_ Total # Patrols on all boats: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Onboard	Rate	Crew	Dates Onboard	Rate	Crew
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Reunions Attended:	1999 ND	2001 CT	2003 WA	2005 MO	2007 CT	2009 GA
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X beside each one	2011 SC	2013 AL	2016 SC	2018 OK	2021 KY	2023 SC
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### Event attendance will be through advance payment only [pp = per person]

I am registering for the following per person (Association Member and all guests):

**Registration Pkg Fee:** (required for all) \$160 pp Number: \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

(This fee includes registration, Saturday banquet, all hospitality room food & beverages, bus transportation.)

**OR**

### Individual pricing: [select what you want to do]

Registration Fee: (required for all) \$65 pp Number: \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Banquet – 3 options for dinner \$65 pp Number: \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

### Buses:

USS Nautilus Museum \$10 pp Number: \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**Use of bus is required for the SubSchool, Base Tour, SSN Tour – no personal transportation**

SubSchool Graduation/ SubBase Tour /

WWII Memorial / Lunch at SUVBETS Club \$10 pp Number: \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

SSN Tour [if available] \$10 pp Number: \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**If an SSN tour is available to us, you must be physically able to climb the ladders.**

### General Comments from the committee.

In order to get onboard NAVSUBASE everyone will be required to have a Military retiree ID card or complete some method for security verification. It may be by completing a special form or going online and completing security information. At this point we do not know which method will be used but as soon as known it will be put out to everyone via email.

### REUNION USE ONLY

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Date Rcvd \_\_\_\_\_

Registration # \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel Resv: \_\_\_\_\_

The Association has established a refund policy for reunion registrations and it is located within our Bylaws in Article V.g. You can view this policy at: <http://ssbn655.org/association/bylaws/1610%20655BylawRev.pdf>

g. Cancellation of reunion registration and the refund of monies paid will be based on the timing of the cancellation. Registration cancelled prior to the reunion registration cutoff date will result in refund of monies paid minus the registration/office fee. For cancellation after the registration cutoff date, there will be no refund of monies paid.

## THINGS TO DO IN THE AREA

**MYSTIC AQUARIUM** - 55 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT

<https://www.mysticaquarium.org/>

Veterans get in free (proof of veteran status required). \$10.00 off for accompanying household family members. As a side note, they have kiosks to purchase tickets and John did not have to prove he was a veteran.

**MYSTIC SEAPORT** - 75 Greenmanville Avenue, Mystic, CT

<https://mysticseaport.org/>

Mystic Seaport is the nation's leading maritime museum.  
Open daily 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

**OLDE MYSTIC VILLAGE** - 75 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT

<https://oldemistickvillage.com/>

An open-air village with unique shops

**MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT MUSEUM** - 110 Pequot Trail, Mashantucket, CT

<https://www.pequotmuseum.org/>

**FOXWOODS RESORT CASINO** - 350 Trolley Lane Boulevard, Ledyard, CT

<https://www.foxwoods.com/>

**MOHEGAN SUN CASINO** - 1 Mohegan Sun Boulevard, Uncasville, CT

<https://mohegansun.com/>

The hotel provides a free shuttle to and from Mohegan Sun Casino.

**FORT TRUMBULL STATE PARK AND MUSEUM** - 90 Walbach Street, New London, CT

<https://ctparks.com/parks/fort-trumbull-state-park>

Fort Trumbull has a legacy of service spanning two and a half centuries, from the American Revolution to World War II to the Cold War. Along with serving as a federal military facility, the fort played a pivotal role in the country's coastal defense system. Originally built in 1777 to protect the New London Harbor from British attack, the first masonry structure was destroyed after Benedict Arnold successfully raided the fort and the British burned New London to the ground.

**FORT GRISWOLD BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK** - Park Avenue and Monument Street, Groton, CT

<https://ctparks.com/parks/fort-griswold-battlefield-state-park>

The historical park is the site of the largest Revolutionary War battle in Connecticut, the 1781 British massacre of colonial militia. On September 6, 1781, British Forces, commanded by infamous traitor, Benedict Arnold, captured the Fort and massacred 88 of the 165 American patriots stationed there, including commander Colonel Ledyard.

**GENIUS MUSEUM** - 1650 Hartford-New London Turnpike, Montville, CT

<https://naturesartvillage.com/attraction/genius-museum/>

Take a historic walk and discover a timeless town displaying the rapid transformation of American technology over two centuries, along with the geniuses who created it all! The Genius Museum is a great place for families to share memories, older adults to feel nostalgic, and the young to learn how everyday life has developed with technology's advances.