



**ADM WILLIAM DEE 'BILL' SMITH, US NAVY RETIRED
COMMANDING OFFICER USS HENRY L. STIMSON SSBN 655
GOLD CREW / SHIPYARD #1 / BLUE CREW 1971-1974
ETERNAL PATROL 9 SEPTEMBER 2020**



SMITH WILLIAM DEE SMITH Admiral, USN (Ret.) Admiral William Dee Smith, USN, Ret. passed away on September 9, 2020. He is survived by his soul mate of 63 years, Sabra Harriman Smith, his daughter, Evangeline Quinn and son-in-law, Kevin Quinn. He is predeceased by his son Frederick W. Smith who also graduated from the US Naval Academy and served in submarines. His early assignments were on the USS BACHE and 6 submarines before taking command of the USS Henry L. Stimson in October 1971. He then served on the staff of Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet as the Deputy and then Senior Member of the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board. After a tour as Director of Nuclear Power Personnel he was ordered as Squadron Commander to Submarine Squadron

Fourteen in Holy Loch, Scotland. Then he was assigned to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) as Director, Naval Communications Division. Then he became Commander, Submarine Group EIGHT before being reassigned to the office of the CNO where he served in various administrative capacities. His final assignment was the U.S. Representative to the Military Committee of NATO. He retired in December 1993, the last active duty member of the Naval Academy class of 1955. Some of Admiral Smith's many decorations and awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal w/ Gold Star, The Legion of Merit w/3 Gold Stars, The Meritorious Service Medal w/ gold Star and the Navy Commendation Medal He formed a consulting firm, Heisler Corporation, became a full time Senior Fellow at both the Center for Naval Analyses and National Defense University. He served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Naval Submarine League, the Naval Mutual Aid and the Board of Advisors to APL at Penn State University. He was a member of the Naval Studies Board of the National Academy of Sciences and served as a Capstone Fellow at the National Defense University. Admiral Smith was the soul of kindness and a blessing to all who knew him. A memorial and celebration of life will be held at a date to be determined; burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery. Admiral Smith was the soul of kindness and a blessing to all who knew him. A memorial and celebration of life will be held at a date to be determined; burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery.

https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?n=william-smith&pid=196824173&utm_source=MarketingCloud&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ObitMessenger_Results_PowerInbox_Neustar_081320&utm_content=ObituaryURL&sfmc_id=10038128

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).
Published in The Washington Post on Sep. 20, 2020.

From: Cox, Samuel J SES USN NHHC WASHINGTON DC (USA) <samuel.cox@navy.mil>

Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 6:19 AM

Subject: Passing of Admiral William Dee Smith, USN (Ret.)

It is with deep regret I inform you of the passing of Admiral William Dee "Bill" Smith, U.S. Navy (Retired) on 9 September 2020 at age 87. ADM Smith entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1951 and served as a Submarine Officer until his retirement in 1993 as the U.S. Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium. His commands included USS HENRY L. STIMSON (SSBN-655 GOLD,) Submarine Squadron FOURTEEN, and Submarine Group EIGHT/Allied Submarines Mediterranean.

Bill Smith entered the U.S. Naval Academy during the Korean War on 2 July 1951 with the class of 1955, where he was captain of the cross country team and ran track as well. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Naval Science and was commissioned an ensign on 3 June 1955. His first duty assignment was as Damage Control Assistant and Engineer aboard escort destroyer BACHE (DDE-470) operating from the U.S. east coast for exercises in the Caribbean and deployment to the Mediterranean. For a short period, he was also assigned to destroyer escort DELONG (DE-686) before returning to BACHE. In December 1957, after the required two years in surface ships, he reported to Naval Submarine School, New London. In June 1958, Lieutenant (junior grade) Smith reported as Supply Officer for diesel attack submarine HARDHEAD SS-365, operating as part of Submarine Development Group TWO from New London to research and test doctrine and equipment, a period during which HARDHEAD earned four-consecutive Battle "E" awards. Selected for the Navy Nuclear Power Program, in December 1960, Lieutenant Smith reported to the Atomic Energy Commission, Schenectady Naval Reactors Office and Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit, West Milton Site, Schenectady, NY for duty under instruction. He then served in the pre-commissioning crew as Electrical and Reactor Control Officer of fast attack nuclear submarine TINOSA (SSN-606.)

In December 1963, LT Smith reported to the Gold crew as Assistant Engineering Officer of fleet ballistic missile submarine GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN-598) operating from New London and made one deterrent patrol. In March 1964 he reported to the Blue crew as Engineering Officer of ABRAHAM LINCOLN (SSBN-602) conducting strategic nuclear missile deterrent patrols out of Holy Loch, Scotland, making three deterrent patrols. He was promoted to lieutenant commander in July 1964.

In September 1965, LCDR Smith reported to the Naval Guided Missile School, Dam Neck, VA for duty under instruction. In November 1965, he then reported as pre-commissioning Executive Officer for fleet ballistic missile submarine WILL ROGERS (SSBN-659.) In January 1966, he reported as Executive Officer for DANIEL BOONE (SSBN-629,) the first U.S. ballistic missile submarine assigned to the Pacific Fleet, operating from Pearl Harbor. He made five patrols on DANIEL BOONE, which earned a Navy Unit Commendation during this period. In June 1968, he reported to the staff of Commander Submarines Pacific as Fleet Ballistic Missile Plans and Targeting Officer, and was promoted to commander on 1 July 1969.

On March 1971, CDR Smith assumed command of HENRY L. STIMSON (SSBN-655) Gold crew, during her shift of operations from Charleston SC, to Rota, Spain. In August 1974, CDR Smith returned to Pearl Harbor serving as Deputy and Senior Member of the Nuclear Propulsion Examination Board for Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet. He was promoted to captain on 1 July 1975.

In August 1976, CAPT Smith reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Submarine/Nuclear Power Distribution Control Division. In October 1978, he assumed command of Submarine Squadron FOURTEEN in command of fleet ballistic missile submarines conducting deterrent patrols from Holy Loch, Scotland. On 1 March 80, he was designated a rear admiral for duty in a billet commensurate with the grade.

In July 1980, RADM Smith reported to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO,) as Director of the Naval Communications Division (Op-941.) He was promoted to rear admiral on 1 March 1981. In August 1983, RADM Smith assumed command of Submarine group EIGHT/Allied Submarines Mediterranean in Naples, Italy responsible for U.S. nuclear fast attack and ballistic missile submarines operating in the Mediterranean and assigned NATO Allied submarines. In February 1985, he returned to the Pentagon as Director of Budget and Reports in the Fiscal Management Division/Comptroller of the Navy (OP-92) in the Office of the CNO. In July 1987, RADM Smith assumed duty as the Deputy CNO for Logistics (OP-04) and was designated a vice admiral in September 1987 for duty in a billet commensurate with that grade.

In September 1987, VADM Smith assumed duty as the Director, Navy Program Planning (Op-08) in the Office of the CNO. He was promoted to admiral on 22 February 1991 just after being assigned as the U.S. Representative to the NATO Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium. ADM Smith retired on 1 December 1993.

ADM Smith's awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal (2,) Legion of Merit (4,) Meritorious Service Medal (2,) Navy Commendation Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation (2,) National Defense Service Medal (3,) Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon.

After his retirement from active duty, ADM Smith formed a consulting company, Heisler Corporation, and became a full time senior fellow at the Center for Naval Analysis and the National Defense University. He served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Naval Submarine League, Navy Mutual Aid, and the Board of Advisors for Applied Research Laboratory at Penn State University, the Naval Studies Board at the National Academy of Sciences and served as a Capstone Fellow at the National Defense University. U.S. space policy was a particular interest of his, and he served on a number of defense panels on the subject. He was named a Distinguished Submariner by the Naval Submarine League and was an Emeritus Board of Director for the Naval Submarine League.

Funeral Services will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a date to be determined.

Admiral Smith's greatest accomplishment was probably never having to fire a nuclear ballistic missile from one of his submarines. The ability of U.S. ballistic missile submarines to remain undetected made them the most survivable leg of the strategic deterrent "Triad" during the Cold War. The Soviets knew that because of the U.S. submarines they could not find, no surprise nuclear attack on the U.S. would go unanswered by a devastating counter-strike that they could not stop. To have command of a submarine with more destructive firepower than all of World War II was an awesome responsibility requiring the utmost in judgment and leadership, but these submarines were the ultimate guarantee against a nuclear exchange and were a significant factor in ultimately bringing about an end to the hair-trigger threat of the Cold War. In an irony of history, ADM Smith was the U.S. representative to the NATO Military Committee during a period of profound change for the NATO Alliance that included the establishment of formal NATO relations with the Russian Republic following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. Admiral Smith's career path could likely serve as a detailer's template for the ideal path for a submarine officer to reach flag rank, coupled with the necessary sacrifice by family resulting from very long times at sea. But, it wasn't the jobs that made him a four-star; it was his incredible performance and leadership in those jobs that serves as an example to all. His dedication to our Navy and our Nation continued long after his retirement as he continued to mentor future generations of Navy (and Joint) leaders. His influence has been profound and the Navy is grateful for his service and sacrifice.

Rest in Peace Admiral Smith.

Very respectfully,

Sam

Samuel J. Cox (SES)

RADM, USN, (Ret.)

Director of Naval History

Curator for the Navy

Director, Naval History and Heritage Command



WILLIAM DEE SMITH '55

Admiral William D. Smith, USN (Ret.), passed away on 9 September 2020.

Born in Denver, CO, in 1933, "Bill" graduated from Cheyenne County High School. At the Naval Academy, he was a member of the track and cross country teams (and was captain of the latter). He graduated with the Class of 1955, Fourth Company and began a distinguished naval career.

Bill's early assignments were on BACHE and six submarines before taking command of HENRY L. STIMSON in October 1978. He then served on the staff of Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet as the Deputy and then Senior Member of the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board.

After a tour as Director of Nuclear Power Personnel, he was ordered as squadron commander to Submarine Squadron Fourteen in Holy Loch, Scotland. Then he was assigned to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) as Director, Naval Communications Division. Bill became Commander, Submarine Group Eight before being reassigned to the office of the CNO, where he served in various administrative capacities. His final assignment was as U.S. Representative to the military committee of NATO. He retired in December 1993, the last active duty member of the Naval Academy Class of 1955.

Some of Admiral Smith's many decorations and awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal w/Gold Star, the Legion of Merit w/3 Gold Stars, Meritorious Service Medal w/Gold Star and the Navy Commendation Medal.

Bill formed the consulting firm, Heisler Corporation and became a full-time senior fellow at both the Center for Naval Analyses and National Defense University. He served as chairman of the board of directors of the Naval Submarine League, Naval Mutual Aid and the board of advisors to APL at Penn State University. He was a member of the Naval Studies Board of the National Academy of Sciences and served as a Capstone fellow at the National Defense University.

He is survived by his soulmate of 63 years, Sabra Harriman Smith; daughter, Evangeline Quinn; and son-in-law, Kevin Quinn. He was predeceased by his son, Frederick W. Smith '87, who also served in submarines.

Bill was the soul of kindness and a blessing to all who knew him.

A memorial and Celebration of Life will be held at a date to be determined; burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery. ★



William D. Smith , ADM




USSVI Life Member



Holland Club
Submarine Qualified
50 years ago

Personal Information








Nickname	Smitty
Spouse / Partner Next of Kin	Sabra
Address	7452 Spring Village Dr Apt 309 Springfield VA 22150-4949
Phones	
E-mail Addresses	 home: heistercorp@outlook.com
Doing Now	
Status	Changed on: 10/19/2019 Updated by Robert Bradley (ggcteam3b@gmail.com)



US Navy Service Information

Years Served	Joined in 1951 left in 1993
Highest Rank - Rate	O10 - ADM
Service Number	596146
USN Retired	Yes in 1980
Naval Service Highlights	Pomflant 1969-1971, SWFPAC 1976-1980
Ships Served On	SS-365, SSN-606, SSBN-598, SSBN-602, SSBN-659, SSBN-629, SSBN-655

Membership in Tri-State Base Information

Base Info	Joined Base on:
USSVI Info	Joined USSVI on: 5/28/1996 Holland Club Life Member since
Title or Office	
Comments	
SS Qualified	in 1959 on the USS Hardhead (SS-365)
Other Assn's	NSL, NSL-CAPITOL, USSVI, USSVI-TRI-STATE

Hull#	Ship's Name	Rate/Rank	Years	Special Duties	
SS-365 	Hardhead	LT	1958-60		
SSN-606 	Tinosa		1961-63		
SSBN/SSN-598 	George Washington	LT	1963-64		
SSBN-602 	Abraham Lincoln	LT	1964-65	RFD 4/10/64 fm USS Geo Washington Gold	
SSBN-659 	Will Rogers		1965-66		
SSBN-629 	Daniel Boone		1966-68		
SSBN-655 	Henry L Stimson	CDR	1970-74		CO

Nickname	Association Name	Joined	
NSL-CAPITOL 	NSL Chapter - Capitol	1982	
USSVI-TRI-STATE 	USSVI Base - Tri-State	1996	