



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day - December 7, 2024
Fly Your Flag at Half-Staff

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DECEMBER 2024

USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER

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**REUNION CONTROL CENTER
2025 Stimson Reunion
October 1 - 5, 2025
Groton CT**

From the Reunion Committee -
John & Gretchen Glaub

John and I are happy to report that we have been receiving inquiries and registrations for the reunion. To date, we have two attendees that have never been to a reunion! We are continuing to work on making definitive plans with the SUBBASE and USS Nautilus Museum to give you the best reunion experience. We look forward to seeing you in October!

The Reunion has been moved to **October 1 through October 5, 2025** so that we can go to the Nautilus Museum before it shuts down for 10 days for maintenance.

The hotel registration link will be provided with the registration form as soon as possible.

Questions Email: 655reunion2025@gmail.com

We have been able to negotiate the final room rates for the days of the Reunion. Rates with tax:

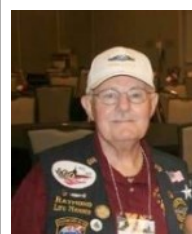
Weekdays: \$129 + 15% tax = \$148.35

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



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

Another year ends and the holiday season is upon us. CJ and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very joyful holiday season. I pray the new year brings good health and happiness to all of us.



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

Holliday Greetings

Autumn is slipping away and snow flurries are in the air a sign that the year is coming to and end. I don't know about you guys but looking back it seems like 2024 was a sad year, with all the tragedies and weather events we had it just felt sad to me. But as they say every dark cloud has a silver lining as the year closes on a happy note. I love this time of year where we reach out renew

ET1(SS) Bill Warp ? ??-??

[found by Don Ort; updated by shipmate]

MT1(SS) Dickie Davidson G 74-77

[found by Don Ort; updated by shipmate]

ET1(SS) Herb Watson G 88-91

[found by Don Ort; updated by shipmate]

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.

I am using the binnacle list as an ongoing story for each person on it. This way you will be able to understand the update better than if you do not remember what their health issues were.

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Jay Andress, MMCS(SS) [CMDCM Ret] B SY1/72-77, USSVI Carolina Piedmont Base, Holland Club

Cards to: 128 Mariner Pointe Ln., Mooresville, NC 28117

Jay has been in and out of the hospital the full month of November with health concerns. Received this update from him.

11.28.24: Email from Jay: On Nov 3rd I went back to Emergency Room at Lake Norman Medical Center to discover I had blood clots in my legs and left lung. I was sent a helicopter to take me to a cardiology specialist in a South Charlotte hospital and I spent six days in ICU where they filled me with blood thinners. I could remain in this condition for five to six months. I came home on Nov 9th and slowly recovering,

Barb and I would like to thank all of our HLS family's support, cards, calls, texts, thoughts and prayers as they really help in times like these.

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George Stevens, MT2(SS) G 68-71

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

NO RECENT UPDATES

10.28.24: Email from George: I am awaiting the results of a recent monitor to come in at which point a decision will be made on method of treatment.

9.17.24: Email from George: Basically the Dr said if I don't get my heart fixed, at the rate it's going,

long-term prospects are not good. I am trying to get to see my electro cardiologist ASAP. An ablation and or pacemaker and or meds are options.

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

Cards to: 50 Fairway View Dr., Etowah NC 28729

NO RECENT UPDATES

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.

4.17.24: Email from Vicki: The only thing new is that we now have a Toyota Sienna Hybrid Conversion Van equipped to transport Bruce's 425 pound power chair with a 6-way front passenger seat to make it easy for him to transfer into it. Of course he doesn't need it currently but we are prepared for when the need comes. He did have to go to the VA hospital in Salisbury for a driving evaluation which was like taking the test for a first license which Bruce passed with flying colors. The examiner said Bruce was only the 2nd ALS client she had that has passed.

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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*

9.17.2023: Email from Angie Mauk: Elam Lee has been in dementia for the past two years, Of course we cannot travel. Hope your reunion is a great success, We will miss you all

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

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

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.

As a result, the new regime treatment will continue. We will make any needed adjustments after each of the succeeding PET/CT scans. The biggest change with the new routine is it makes me tired which is a common result of using the chemo drug I am using, Alimta. Patients often stop the Alimta for that reason Their tiredness usually tends to increase as the treatments continue. We intend on using the new regime as long as Sandy can have a good quality of life.

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. Also, he was prescribed an additional medication to help with his anxiety and agitation. The medicine is working great!! We now have a happier and calmer household.

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

Jean/Ron

GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH

655 Association Website

www.ssbn655.org

In the Beginning...God Created the Submariner Stephen Hallquist

From the beginning of Time, the submariner has been known as an extraordinary specimen of human-kind. While God created all things and everyone, He created the Submariner to show His greatest effort in Creation. This is the part of the creation story that was kept from the public by members of the skimmer navy who committed it to the catalog of apocryphal texts. Now it has been brought into the light for all to know.

In the Beginning...God Created the Submariner

The Health Corner

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

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

Heart disease is still the #1 cause of death according to the CDC. The surprising thing is that high cholesterol is NOT the main culprit. Having high cholesterol can contribute to atherosclerosis - hardening of the arteries - but it's not the defining factor.

A few of things to remember.

1. High Density Lipoprotein - HDL - think of the "H" meaning healthy - the good stuff.
2. Low Density Lipoprotein or LDL - think of the "L" as lowly - "bad" stuff.
3. Triglycerides - most common form of fat in your body.

4. Without HDL, LDL, and triglycerides, you would die ... they are essential for life in the right proportions.

5. A cholesterol level of 300 does NOT mean you're destined for a heart attack.

Cholesterol levels of 300 were more common before statins were invented. Statins are just another way for the pharmaceutical companies to make money - period. To that end they keep pushing the "acceptable" level for high cholesterol lower. It used to be 225, then 200, then 175 and now 150. It's just another way for them to push their meds.

Your brain is made up of 60% fat i.e. cholesterol. The rest of your brain is blood vessels and nerves. If you take cholesterol medications to lower your cholesterol, the cholesterol in your brain will be affected and you stand a good chance of doing brain damage. Not only have lots of studies been done proving mental decline with cholesterol meds but, I have a friend in his late 50s that has been taking cholesterol meds for over 30 years. Recently he realized he couldn't remember the names of tools. He has stopped taking the meds. Can't say he has improved a lot but, he's not getting any worse. Statin drugs can cause mental decline, liver damage, digestive problems and pain according to the Mayo Clinic - need I say more.

You can prevent heart disease with life style changes. Personally, I was able to reverse my heart disease with a very low fat diet. Yeah I know, thin George had high cholesterol which caused blockages in my heart. I'd get chest pain walking up a flight of stairs. Three months on a diet of 10% calories from fat and the pain was gone. Six months later I had to go back to a more regular diet as my skin was drying out. I went back to a diet of good fats and there is no sign off atherosclerosis over 30 years later even though my cholesterol has still been in the 250 range and they still try to put me on statins. Switching to good fats was the key. Stay away from seed oils/ fat – butter IS better!

Do your own research. Look up things like good foods for cholesterol, bad foods, good supplements and don't forget to get some exercise. Again, I'm not a doctor and you need to do your own research and find what is best for

you. I can't cover all the cholesterol bases but hope this provides a little insight.

The Lean Submariner

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

<https://theleansubmariner.com/>

Home 2024

By **Mister Mac** on November 3, 2024

Home

We attended the highland Games in Charleston SC yesterday. It was a pretty nice affair held down on the waterfront in North Charleston.

I hadn't been to a gathering for a few years so hearing the pipes and drums was a special treat. I have to give the bands credit though. They played well despite the fact that the heat was at about 86degrees. Somehow, I thought November would be colder. We had a few Scottish treats (meat pies and bridies) and talked with a number of people as we walked around. Sadly, I could not find my Clan before the marching and did not participate. Maybe next year. [...]

Continue reading

And now we live here

By **Mister Mac** on November 9, 2024

The 2024 Gathering of the Saints is finally over.

I have been absent from the keyboard for a while as we executed our latest reunion in Charleston SC.

The planning for the reunion started at the end of 2023 and was non-stop until the very last day of the event.

One thing about reunions is that you have to really pay attention to all of the details before during and after.

I had planned three previous gatherings in addition to close to a hundred business off-site meetings in my prior life as a business excellence manager.

A Great Reunion – Well, Mostly Great

Defending the Defenseless – Veteran's Day 2024

By **Mister Mac** on November 11, 2024

This will have to be quick since I am going to

participate in the Veterans Day Service with the USSVI Charleston Base in Summerville SC this morning.

All of my social media platforms are filled with wishes for a Happy Veteran's Day this morning. I am truly grateful for each and every remembrance from family, friends and acquaintances. I am especially grateful for the wishes from people who I served with either directly or indirectly. You all are the reason for the day, and I send my personal thanks to each and every one of you.[...]

[Continue reading](#)

What happens after Veteran's Day?

By Mister Mac on November 12, 2024

Veteran's Day in the United States is a great way to recognize all of the service and sacrifices of those people past and present who did so much for their country.

Whether it's a war time veteran or a peace time veteran, we recognize that they put their life on hold and put on a uniform to protect the country they live in. Some do it for a change in pace from their old life and some do it for opportunities. I was looking for a way to see the world and catapult my life past obstacles that I felt were in my way. It wasn't until much later that I came to grips with the fact that I was going to be in a submarine that had a hundred ways to cause my death if things went wrong.

[Continue reading](#)

Part time sailors? There is no such thing

By Mister Mac on November 16, 2024

I'm still going through boxes of old paperwork and stuff I have saved over the years. Some of the items include pictures and mementoes from my years in the navy.

One item that was in an old album was a faded copy of a Welcome Aboard letter from Charleston's FBMSTC (Fleet Ballistic Missile Training Center).

Since we have been back in the area, I have been to the waterfront area a few times and have looked for old landmarks where the base used to be. They aren't that easy to find these days since so much of the base was turned over to the civilian industry. But Charleston was one of the most important bases during the Cold War. While her shipyard hosted many Fast Attack

submarines, my belief is that it was the Boomers that gave her the primary mission. I know that the main east coast base is now at King's Bay, but in my heart, Charleston will always be the place that I go back to when I think of my era as a Cold War warrior.

[Continue reading](#)

Air Mail (revisited)

By Mister Mac on November 22, 2024

Of all the submarine stories I have ever read, this one ranks with the most unusual. In 1959, the world was still reacting to the Soviet advances in space. The Navy had invested a significant amount of money on the Regulus Missile system as a way to counter Soviet threats. In the background, the Polaris program was about to come on line and change everything. But this story involves another use for the Regulus that is really just a foot note in history.

The story comes from the Postal Service Historic Library and shows an amazing feat that certainly should have a place in history. For the first time in history, mail was delivered using a missile fired from a navy submarine.

[Read full article here](#)



The Computer Corner

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

Windows 12 ???

Now that we are moving into the Windows 11

world, and have successfully moved our digital anchors to a new harbor (I thought a nautical tone might calm your fears...), it's time to look into the crystal ball and see what comes next.

While creating the Windows 11 upgrade article, I kept seeing mentions of Windows 12. Since Microsoft Windows has historically followed a three-year version update cycle, a late 2024 release date would seem reasonable.

My search of the topic suggests that at the moment it is unclear as to exactly when, but as Windows 11 was released in October 2021, a late 2024 or early 2025 date for Windows 12 seems plausible.

Here are some articles on Windows 12 that may offer an opinion of what's down the road:

Windows 12: What to Expect from Microsoft's Next Operating System - April 11th, 2024

Windows 12: New features, AI experiences, and everything we know so far – May 8th, 2024

Windows 12: Expected Release Date, Latest News & Prices - June 4th, 2024

And there are lots more opinions out there. One thing for sure, Windows Update will let us know when the next version is ready, what our hardware specifications are and how to get it the new release. So be sure to do your updates, create your restore points, and watch for the clues something is about to happen.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025! This time of year is a joyous one and brings families and friends together to celebrate. Cherish that time together.

As always, shipmates, comments and suggestions for future topics are welcomed. Contact me at subvet_ssbns@bellsouth.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



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

Fake Websites and other scams

Welcome back to the Security Corner! This month we are going to take a look at how to spot a fake website, and other similar scams. This content comes from two websites called Simply Geeky, and MakeUseOf. You can sign up to receive their newsletters if you have that interest. As with all articles offering advice, including the Security Corner column, the following applies:

Be sure to do your own careful research before taking action based on anything you find in this content."

With the rise of the AI Chatbot nation, and the rapid embracing of AI into computers, browsers, search engines, and now even operating systems, we need to sharpen our defenses to spot fakes of all types. Here are two articles that delve into one of the more common places where fakes can be used to deceive us. And the threat actors out there in the digital domain are using AI to boost their success rates. The following articles are taken from the Simply Geeky website:

How To Spot A Fake Website
The Different Ways Fake Websites Scam You

The following articles come from another tech site, called MakeUseOf, that publishes a newsletter as well with a variety of security tips.

Why Social Media Is Still Packed With Scam Ads, and How to Spot One

Here's How I Check if a QR Code Is Safe to Scan

Is ScamAdviser Legit? Here's What You Need to Know

Our digital worlds can be a place of learning, socializing, sharing, and safe e-commerce. But like most anything, there are those seeking to subvert its intended purpose to support their own ends. So be aware of what you see on the Internet, what you get in e-mails.

Happy Holidays, Shipmates. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season surrounded by friends and family. Be good because Santa is checking his list...

As always, shipmates, questions, comments, and suggestions for future topics are welcomed. Contact me at subvet_ssbns@bellsouth.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 Pt 2

iOS 18 Password App

Welcome back to the Security Corner! This is an additional article for October due to the release of the iOS 18 update and the addition of a new app for passwords that you will see on your Apple devices.

By now those of you who are Apple device users will have likely upgraded to iOS 18. Included in that release is a new app called Passwords.

It will likely be found on your last screen page



and looks like this:

In previous versions of iOS, Apple supplied a password management tool as part of the Settings app. Using iCloud Keychain, you could have passwords automatically generated for you and saved inside Settings under the Passwords screen. In iOS 18, passwords are breaking out of Settings and into their own, dedicated app.

Apple says the Passwords app uses end-to-end encryption to save your details, meaning nobody, not even Apple, knows what you have saved. Within the app, you can search for login details to your entries and set up groups to share passwords with other people.

Here are some links to help you understand what is changing and understand how to use this new feature.

[iOS 18 is out. Here are the new privacy and security features](#)

Interesting points from this article:

One thing we often hear when we recommend the use of a password manager is that it's too complicated. And, admittedly, many of them come with a learning curve. But Apple has made some steps in the right direction here.

Apple will also **warn users if their credentials have been caught up in a data breach**, so users can change their compromised password. In addition, users who have a weak password, or one that's been used before, will be warned to pick a better one. Current users of the AutoFill function should notice how their passwords have automatically been added to the Passwords app.

iOS 18 also prepares your device for Apple Intelligence which is expected next month.

(GB's Note: Beware!)

"Apple Intelligence, the personal intelligence system that combines the power of generative models with personal context to deliver intelligence that is incredibly useful and relevant while protecting users' privacy and security."

Apple Intelligence is an artificial intelligence (AI) platform developed by Apple. Its features include on-device processing so it's aware of your personal data, but doesn't require Apple to collect or store it, and a new complex system designed to draw on larger server-based models to handle more complex requests, while still protecting user privacy.

[iOS 18 Passwords App: All the New Features](#) [Apple's New Passwords App May Solve Your Login Nightmares](#)

[Here's what the new Passwords app in iOS 18 can do](#)

[iPhone User Guide: Use passwords on iPhone](#) [Make your passkeys and passwords available on all your devices with iPhone and iCloud Keychain](#)

So hopefully the links above will provide sufficient information to help you understand and use the new Password app installed with the iOS 18 update.

As always, shipmates, questions, comments or suggestions for future topics are always welcomed. Contact me at

subvet_ssb@bellsouth.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 Pt 3

I Almost Fell For a Phishing Scam: Here's What Happened

Probably need to add this to the December Security Corner section. I'm getting a lot of these supposedly from McAfee AV - which I don't use, and never have...

<https://www.makeuseof.com/how-i-spotted-phishing-scam/>

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The Security Corner Pt 3

Make the Most of Your VA Appointment

Your time with your health care team is important. We have tips to help you save time and make the most of your VA appointments.

[Learn more about VA appointments](#)

Do You Need a COVID-19 Vaccine?

More time indoors, holiday gatherings, and travel can increase the spread of viruses, including COVID-19. Find out if the COVID-19 vaccine is right for you.

[Learn more about the vaccine](#)

Pain? Try Yoga

Did you know yoga can help with pain? Try these 6 yoga exercises to relieve pain and stiffness.

[Learn more about yoga for pain](#)

It's Never Too Late to Quit Tobacco

Quitting smoking isn't easy. It often takes practice and a few tries, but in 2023, 77% of Veterans who have smoked said they have successfully quit for good.

[Learn how VA can help you quit](#)

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**Veterans Service Officer
John Dudas**

[Navy Submarine Honored with Top Unit Award for 3 Secret Intelligence Missions](#)

[New London Subbase Completes Micro-Grid to Supply Its Own Electricity](#)

[Annual Cost-of-Living Boost for Veterans Benefits Finalized by Congress](#)

[Veterans Burial Allowance](#)

[Lawmakers Launch Investigation of Reported Faulty Welds on Navy Subs and Aircraft Carriers](#)

[DFAS Retiree Newsletter September 2024](#)

[Veterans Could Get Free Gun Safes Under Suicide Prevention Proposal Introduced in House](#)

[Here Is the 2025 Pay Raise for Disabled Veterans and Military Retirees](#)
[See Your 2025 VA Disability Pay Rates](#)
[State Tax Information for Military Members and Retirees](#)

[Here Is the VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Rate for 2025](#)

[DD214: What You Need to Know](#)

[Two Veterans Will Argue to Supreme Court that VA Disability Claims Aren't Getting 'Benefit of Doubt'](#)

[Hundreds of Veterans Kicked Out of Military for Being Gay Will Have Discharges Upgraded](#)

[Canceled Appointments, Unexplained Mixups – Veterans Facing Challenges Getting VA Mental Health Care](#)

[Unclaimed for Years, Veterans' Remains Laid to Rest in Connecticut Cemetery: 'We Claim Them'](#)

[Supreme Court Weighs Arguments in Lawsuit over Veterans Getting 'Benefit of Doubt' in Claims Decisions](#)

[Medicare Prescription drugs \(outpatient\) under Part B](#)

[Tricare Enrollment Freeze Coming, But Officials Say Contract Transfer Will Avoid Headaches of 2017 Change](#)

[Overview of Military Education Benefits](#)

[Pair of Lawmakers Pushes Defense Bill Negotiators to Include Tricare IVF Coverage](#)

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[Understand QR code scams](#)

QR codes are versatile for quickly sharing information but they can also be used by

scammers looking to steal your private data. Learn how to protect yourself and loved ones from potential QR code scams.

LEARN HOW TO AVOID THE SCAMS

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Prepare for VA's Secure sign-in Changes

Starting in 2025, you'll need to use a Login.gov or ID.me account to sign in to manage your VA health and benefits online. After January 31, 2025, we'll remove the option to sign in with a My HealtheVet user ID and password. You'll still be able to use your My HealtheVet health portal—you'll just need to sign in using a Login.gov or ID.me account. Create your account and log in using it today so you're all set before January 31

LEARN HOW TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT

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Fulfilling the Dreams of Terminally Ill Veterans

The Dreams for Veterans program honors the service of Veterans, service members and their families by fulfilling their final dream, providing them, their families and caregivers inspiration, comfort and closure at the end of life. Find out more how Dreams for Veterans can help you or someone you know

LEARN ABOUT THE DREAMS FOR VETERANS PROGRAM

VIDEO: Submarine Designed With Women In Mind Joins U.S. Navy Fleet

(CBS NEWS 11 NOV 24) ... Charlie D'Agata, Nicole Cutrona, Mary Walsh

The USS New Jersey made waves when it was commissioned — the first submarine in the U.S. Navy's fleet designed specifically with women in mind.

It is Machinist Mate Kianna Gonzalez's first submarine.

"I am the first female on this boat to qualify as an engine room supervisor," she told CBS News. She is looking forward to a promotion, noting she's next in line to be placed in charge of her division.

The Navy lifted the ban on women on submarines back in 2010, retrofitting bathrooms and sleeping quarters to accommodate them. The New Jersey's crew, however, is historic.

"I have about 40 women on board, which, there's no other fast attack submarine with that volume of women part of the crew," said Steven

Halle, the commanding officer of the ship's 135 crew members.

He said it feels "great" to be heading up a historic crew, noting, "Studies have shown that a fully integrated diverse crew, they just perform better. Up to 15 or 20% better."

Asked what he thinks accounts for that increased performance, Halle said, "If we have everyone thinking the exact same way, we end up with one school of thought. Having all genders, all races, really brings an additional level of perspective."

As more women join the submarine force, the Navy says they are bringing important capabilities. "Integration is not just vital to problem-solving, but it is a war-fighting necessity," said Lt. Victoria Meyer, the Navy's Women in Submarines coordinator.

"When I was on the USS New Jersey, I was one of just a couple female officers, and now almost half the wardroom is female officers who are absolutely crushing it out there," Meyer said.

The crew of every Navy ship has to work as a team. On a submarine, it's mission critical.

"I think anyone who doesn't agree women should be in the submarine force has to ask themselves why they would think about that," Meyer said. "Is it because they have a notion that women are not capable? That is not true. Is it a notion that men can't conduct themselves around women? Because that is not true. I think it's an archaic way of thinking."

The New Jersey is the most advanced fast attack submarine in the Navy's fleet, capable of carrying a payload of a dozen Tomahawk cruise missiles and 24 torpedoes.

As the New Jersey heads out into sometimes uncertain waters, its skipper believes the women submariners have brought more than war-fighting skills to his crew.

"I've learned things from the ladies on the ship," Halle said. "I think they've taught me most, to have grace and compassion. Their talent and their professionalism is matched to the rest of the crew."

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/uss-new-jersey-submarine-women-sailors/>

U.S. Nuclear-Powered Submarine Arrives In Busan To Replenish Supplies

(YONHAP NEWS AGENCY 18 NOV 24)

A U.S. nuclear-powered submarine has arrived at a major southeastern naval base Monday to replenish supplies and provide rest for crew members, South Korea's Navy said.

The 6,000-ton USS Columbia entered the naval base in Busan, 320 kilometers southeast of Seoul, earlier in the day, according to the Navy.

The Navy said it plans to conduct friendly exchange activities with the crew members of the Los Angeles-class attack submarine during their stay in the country, as part of efforts to bolster the combined defense posture between the allies' naval forces.

The U.S. submarine's arrival came amid heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula following North Korea's launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile last month and continued sending of trash-carrying balloons across the border.

It also came around two months after the Virginia-class attack submarine USS Vermont visited Busan for replenishment purposes in September.

https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2024/11/113_386572.html

Navy Promises First Columbia-Class Boat Will 'Be On Patrol In 2030'

(USNI NEWS 15 NOV 24) ... Mallory Shelbourne

ARLINGTON, Va. – The lead ship in the Navy's new class of nuclear ballistic missile submarines will deploy in 2030, a service official said Thursday.

Speaking at the annual Naval Submarine Symposium, Matt Sermon emphasized the Navy's commitment to delivering the future USS District of Columbia (SSBN-826) on time.

"Shipbuilders out there, supply chain, major mechanical equipment out there, stakeholders out there, we're going to have District of Columbia on patrol in 2030," Sermon, the executive director of the strategic submarines program executive office at Naval Sea Systems Command, told the audience.

Sermon acknowledged the ongoing trouble with the lead ship's schedule, which is currently tracking to a 96-month build instead of the 84-

month contract timeline.

"We are clawing back every single day, those earnings, and how we pave that critical path," Sermon said. "We will not give up."

The Columbia program – which is the Pentagon's top acquisition priority and recapitalizes the sea-based leg of the nuclear triad – has a thin margin for error because each boat needs to replace the outgoing Ohio-class submarines one-for-one. To absorb the risk, the Navy is extending as many as five Ohio-class boats beyond their planned service lives.

Earlier this year, the Navy acknowledged that the lead Columbia-class boat was facing a 12 to 16 month delay due to supplier issues, USNI News previously reported. The submarine is supposed to deliver to the Navy in Fiscal Year 2027 so it can deploy by 2030.

Under a teaming arrangement between General Dynamics Electric Boat and HII's Newport News Shipbuilding, HII builds the bow and stern sections of the submarine in Virginia and sends them on a barge up to Groton, Conn., where Electric Boat marries the two sections up with the middle of the hull built in its own yard. HII has delivered its sections late, causing delays in production and problems with the sequencing of the builds up in Connecticut. Newport News delivered the stern of the future District of Columbia in January but has yet to deliver the bow.

Last month, during GD's Fiscal Year 2024 third-quarter earnings call, the company's chief executive officer said the shipyard would slow down submarine work because of suppliers' delays in delivering components for the boats.

"EB continues to be severely impacted by late deliveries from major component suppliers, which has delayed schedules and is continuing to impact costs," Phebe Novakovic told investors.

"There is no point hurrying portions of the boat only to have to stop and wait increasingly extended periods of time for major components to arrive. It is neither good for the boat over time nor cost. Given the recent projections from the supply chain on deliveries, we need to get our cadence in sync with the supply chain and take costs out of the business if we are to hope to see incremental margin growth."

Novakovic said the delayed components led

the shipyard to perform out-of-sequence work on the submarines that is both more costly and time-consuming.

Other supplier delays contributing to the stalled work are the Northrop Grumman-built turbines, which convert steam generated from the submarine's nuclear reactor to electrical and mechanical energy.

<https://news.usni.org/2024/11/15/navy-promises-first-columbia-class-boat-will-be-on-patrol-in-2030>

Navy Needs Industry All In On 3D Printing Parts For Subs, Or Else

"If you are a supplier, and your lead time is too long, and you refuse to work with us" on 3D printing alternative spare parts, said Rear Adm. Jon Rucker, "we're going to figure it out. Not a threat – a fact of life."

(BREAKING DEFENSE 19 NOV 24) ... Sydney J. Freedberg Jr.

WASHINGTON — Leading Navy admirals and officials now see additive manufacturing as a potential savior of the overstretched submarine force and its "exceptionally fragile" industrial base. But they need industry to get on board, ASAP.

3D printers are already churning out an ever-larger array of ever-larger parts, from simple plastic safety covers, to high-end specialty valves, to robust metal structures weighing a ton and a half. And while many companies are embracing the new approach, the service's program executive officer for attack submarines (PEO-SSN) had stern words for the laggards.

"If you are a supplier, and your lead time is too long, and you refuse to work with us to give us your tech and help us figure out how to reverse-engineer it and how to manufacture it — not that we're trying to take it from you — [but] we're going to figure it out," said Rear Adm. Jonathan Rucker, the PEO-SSN. "[That's] not a threat — [it's] a fact of life.

"We're going to figure out how to get these parts quicker," he told a ballroom full of contractors at last week's Naval Submarine League conference. "We need your help. We don't have a choice. Time is not on our side."

Rucker reassured industry that "we're not trying to steal anyone's IP [intellectual property]." He made a point to praise what he said were a

large number of small businesses that were "already ... leaning forward [and] helping us in additive manufacturing."

"All of us can benefit together," he exhorted the conference. "For all small businesses, I implore you to be part of the team with us."

Heavy Metal

The military has 3D printed small numbers of small, non-critical plastic parts for years, like safety covers for switches and connectors for LAN cables. But aerospace and defense firms are increasingly able to print large, high-strength metal components.

Up until this year, the Navy had only installed two 3D-printed metal parts on its submarines, said Vice Adm. Robert Gaucher, commander of Naval Submarine Forces. But this year, he told the conference, they quadrupled that to eight — and when USS Michigan comes in for overhaul next year, "we plan to have 33."

"Delivering these parts will be faster than traditional casting, so we can mitigate our supply chain shortfalls," Gaucher emphasized. "Where I really want to press forward with metal data manufacturing is at our regional maintenance centers."

But in the longer term, 3D-printed metal parts can speed up construction of new submarines as well, said Matt Sermon, executive director of PEO -Strategic Submarine.

"Metallic additive manufacturing ... it's our Manhattan Project," Sermon told the conference. It's a "national security imperative," he said, along with increasing use of automation, robotics and other advanced manufacturing technologies to overhaul an ailing industrial base.

The stakes are existential for a submarine force that is struggling to simultaneously maintain an overworked and aging fleet, build the upgunned and upgraded version of the Virginia-class attack sub fast enough to meet both US and Australian demand, and launch the first Columbia-class nuclear ballistic missile boat by 2027.

"We have a huge hole to dig out of," said Adm. Bill Houston, director of the Navy Nuclear Propulsion program. "We've let too much of the shipbuilding industry go away [because] we essentially stopped building submarines for about seven years" after the Soviet Union fell. The Navy is still paying for that decision today, he told the

conference, rushing to ramp up production of new boats and improve maintenance of old ones “with an industrial base that’s less than half the size” it was during the Cold War.

“It’s an exceptionally fragile supply base,” Houston said.

That said, in recent years, the service and industry have had some success in reconstructing old-school heavy-metal industrial capabilities, such as the casting of hundred-ton hull sections.

“Castings [were] the bane of our existence when I talked to you two years ago,” Rucker told reporters at the conference. “That chokepoint’s gone.”

A big part of that breakthrough has been the United Kingdom, Rucker said: Whereas the Navy used to have just one vendor it deemed qualified for certain crucial, large-scale castings, “we now have four” — two of them British.

These four companies use conventional casting techniques, not additive manufacturing, which has historically been restricted to much smaller parts. But 3D printing has potential to speed up production of even heavy-metal, high-strength components.

The traditional process “takes years of machining” to smooth out the massive castings and remove the inevitable imperfections left by the traditional process, before they can be installed on a sub or ship, Sermon told Breaking Defense. By contrast, he said, “as additive manufacturing matures ... we believe we can print those [parts] with better quality,” saving time and expensive skilled labor.

Sermon’s team has already 3D printed a 3,300-pound (1.65 ton) metal part and is beginning tests to ensure it’s up to standard, he told Breaking Defense. For the future, they are studying additive manufacturing of the kind of massive hull sections that currently can only be produced by casting.

“I see a world, not science fiction ... but in the relatively near term, where we’ll be able to print submarine hull and ship modules,” he said.

America’s AUKUS allies, Australia and the United Kingdom, need to be a part of this additive manufacturing revolution, Sermon added. “We want to do it with our partners,” he said. “We absolutely want their industrial base [using] a 2030s model ... not a 1970s industrial base.”

An Australian additive manufacturing firm, AML3D, joined the US Navy’s R&D efforts last year, Sermon told reporters at the time. The firm’s work for the US is moving ahead, Rucker told reporters last week: Just before he came to the Submarine League conference, he said, he got an email asking for his formal approval on one of their engineering drawings.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2024/11/navy-needs-industry-all-in-on-3d-printing-parts-for-sub-or-else/>

Guam Homeports Its First Virginia-Class Attack Submarine As Tensions Simmer With China

(STARS AND STRIPES 26 NOV 24) ... Wyatt Olson

The USS Minnesota arrived Tuesday at Naval Base Guam, the first Virginia-class fast-attack submarine to be homeported in the strategically important U.S. territory.

“The security environment in the Indo-Pacific requires that the U.S. Navy station the most capable units forward,” the service said in a news release announcing the sub’s arrival that day.

“This posture allows flexibility for maritime and joint force operations, with forward-deployed units ready to rapidly respond to deter aggression and promote a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.”

The Virginia-class subs will eventually replace the Navy’s aging fleet of Cold War-era Los Angeles-class vessels.

Guam homeports four Los Angeles-class subs: USS Annapolis, USS Jefferson City, USS Asheville and USS Springfield.

Virginia-class subs are designed for a greater range of missions, with an emphasis on littoral operations, according to a Navy fact sheet.

They support a host of missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike warfare, surveillance and reconnaissance.

The subs are designed so that their torpedo rooms can be reconfigured to hold a large number of special operations forces and their equipment during extended deployments.

The USS Minnesota was commissioned Sept. 7, 2013, in Norfolk, Va., becoming the 10th Virginia-class sub brought into service.

It was previously homeported at Joint Base

Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, where it completed a two-year maintenance overhaul this summer.

The ship is manned by a crew of about 140 sailors, according to the Navy's news release.

The crew members are "eager to get out into the local community and stand ready to contribute to our strategic objectives and maintain warfighting readiness in the Pacific," Cmdr. Isaac Pelt, Minnesota's skipper, said in the release.

Guam is of growing importance to the Pentagon's Indo-Pacific strategy as China continues to expand its navy and its ambitions in the region.

The island is also home to Andersen Air Force Base and Camp Blaz, a massive Marine Corps base still under construction.

Guam would serve as a critical hub in the event of a conflict with Beijing because of its proximity to the South China Sea, a flashpoint in the region.

The USS Minnesota's presence "will enhance our operational capabilities and further strengthen deterrence efforts throughout the Indo-Pacific," Capt. Neil Steinhagen, commander of Submarine Squadron 15, said in the news release.

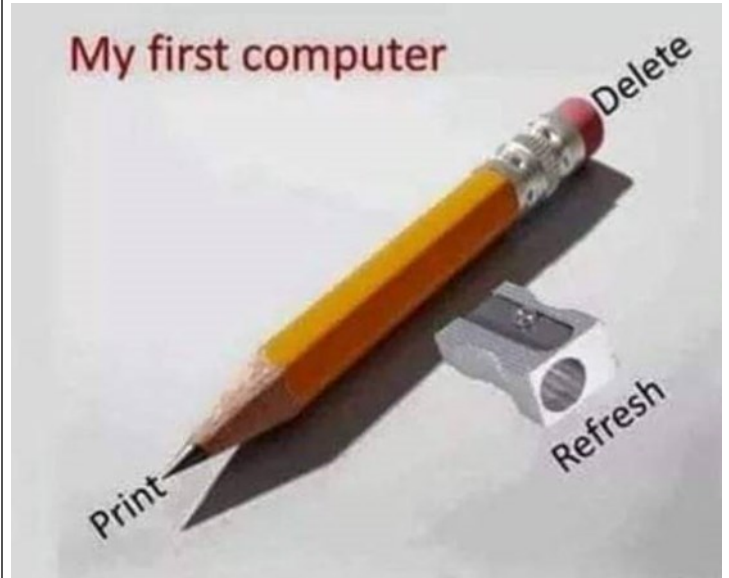
https://www.stripes.com/theaters/asia_pacific/2024-11-26/guam-submarine-virginia-class-15977671.html

WHAT THE TECH?



This photo was snapped all the way back in December of 1959. At least no one back then could text and drive.

You can't give away a used mattress but somehow we'll pay three hundred bucks a night to sleep on one at a hotel.



Do y'all remember, before the internet, that people thought the cause of stupidity was the lack of access to information? Yeah. It wasn't that.

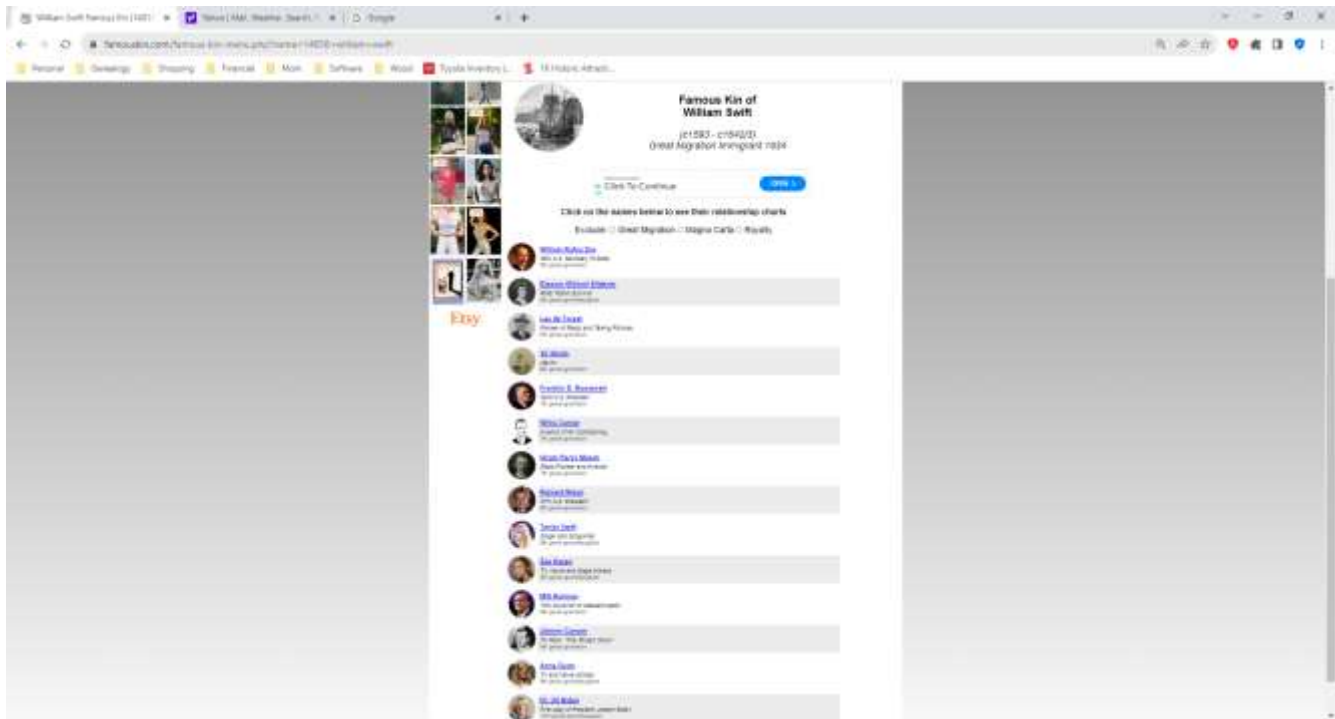
From the information in Don's tree, we see that this is his ancestor who was part of the Great Migration of the early 1600's and is included in the FamousKin program. William Swift is a "direct ancestor" (9th great-grandfather), thus, all the people shown as "famous kin" can be "directly" related to Don and added to Don's tree.

To be able to retrieve this screen at any time, you should add the information to the Profile of that ancestor. To do this with the Profile open:

- Click on **Add web link**
- Copy the web address from FamousKin and then paste it into **Web address** field.
- Type "Famous Kin of William Swift" into **Link name** field.

You can also create and add **FamousKin** and **GreatMigration** custom tree tags to this Profile (see article on Tree Tags). Plus, you can add the **Direct Ancestor** and **Immigrant** tree tags to allow for tree searches later.

Another thing you can do is to add **FK*** to the Suffix field using **Quick edit** so that it shows which Profiles are in the FamousKin program. In the Suffix field it is also helpful to add a short description showing desirable information such as "**(Great Migration)**" or other useful information. Remember you have 128 characters you can use in the Suffix field to provide useful information.

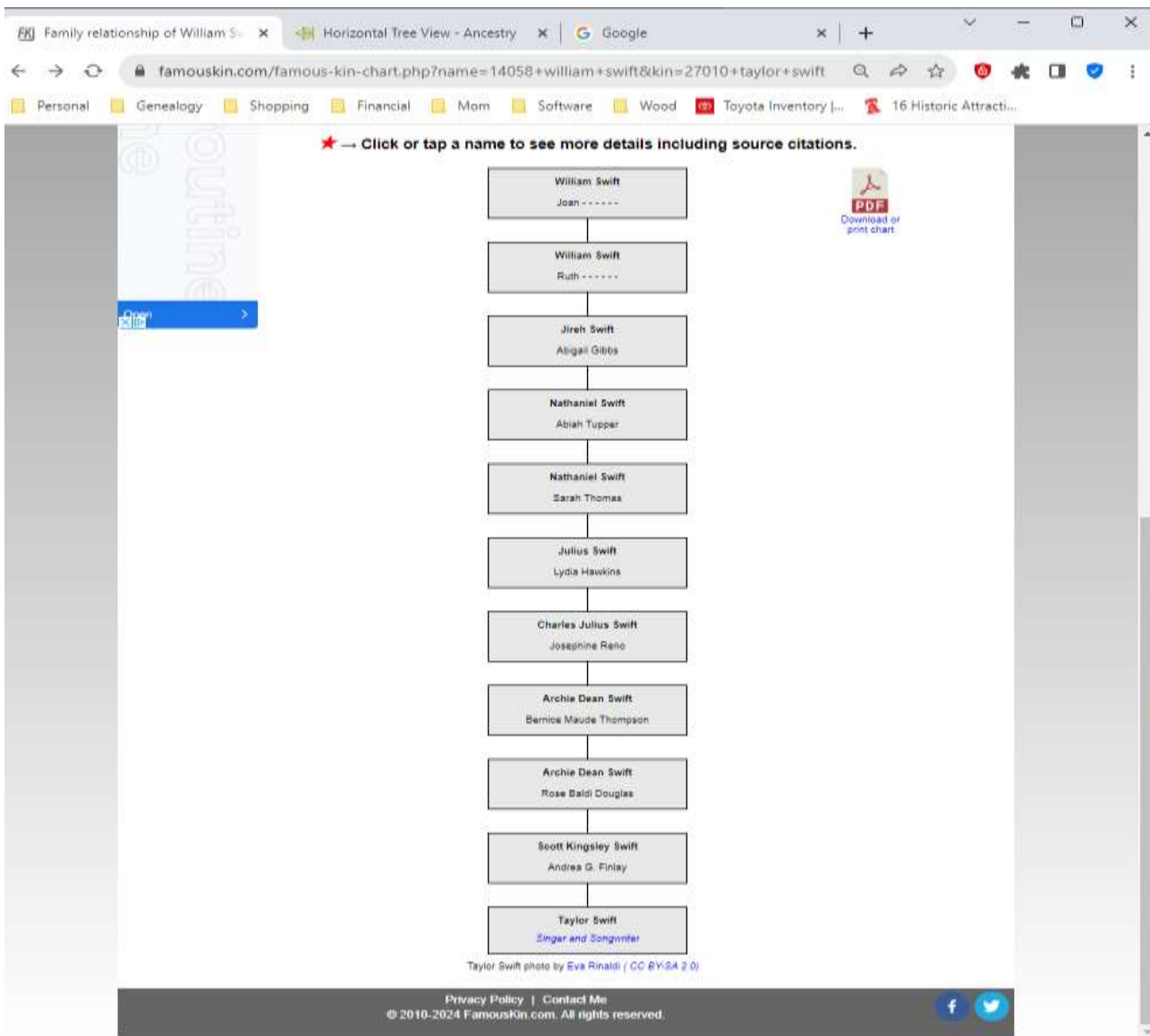


Looking at the listed people you can see that Franklin D. Roosevelt, Willis Carrier, Richard Nixon, Taylor Swift, Mitt Romney, Johnny Carson, Jill Biden, plus others, are all grand-children of William Swift and thus related also to Don. Thus, we can use the FamousKin program to add these people to Don's tree.

Just to use one person as an example and show how to add them to Don's tree, we will choose "Taylor Swift, Singer and Songwriter, 8th great-granddaughter of William Swift." Click on Taylor Swift and the following screen is shown:

<https://famouskin.com/famous-kin-chart.php?name=14058+william+swift&kin=27010+taylor+swift>

As can be seen on the screen it shows the direct connection between William Swift and Taylor Swift allowing you to add each generation from William Swift down to Taylor Swift.



The easiest way to add FamousKin people to your tree is to use either dual-monitors or split screens using two "browsers" (Edge, Google Chrome, Firefox, etc) so you can display the FamousKin screen on the left browser and the Profile from your family tree on the right browser.

To use two browsers do the following:

- Open 1st browser such as Edge, Google Chrome, Firefox, or any other browser you prefer.
- Open FamousKin program showing ancestor of interest.
- Put this browser in left monitor or on left half of your screen.
- Open 2nd browser (other than one used above) and show on right monitor or position on right half of screen.
- In 2nd browser open the Profile for the ancestor you are starting with (Example: William Swift)

If not already done, add the FamousKin web link for the FamousKin page to the Profile, FK* and description to Suffix field, and any desired Tree Tags, as discussed above.

Under FamousKin click on name (William Swift) to open the detail page for that person. Then update any information on the Profile page with information from FamousKin program. There are Sources listed at bottom of page you can add if desired to the Profile page. It may also show parents, additional spouses, and children you can add to the Profile. If you add someone that only lists the name (not a blue link) then you can add “**FK**” (without *) to the Suffix field to show it came from FamousKin but was not a link for this path. It may be linked to another FamousKin person. If you wanted to know you could type that name in the FamousKin search window to see if a list for it came up. For missing birth information you should estimate the birth date based on given information. For example, it lists an Additional Marriage for William Swift. It lists “Sarah” with a marriage date of Abt. 1616. You can add the additional Spouse with a last name of “?-Swift” and an estimated birth date of “Abt. 1593” and add “FK” in the Suffix field.

Click on “Spouse Name: Joan ...” to see page for spouse and add information. Use “?-Swift” for Last Name unless you already know that information. She also has an Additional Marriage to add.

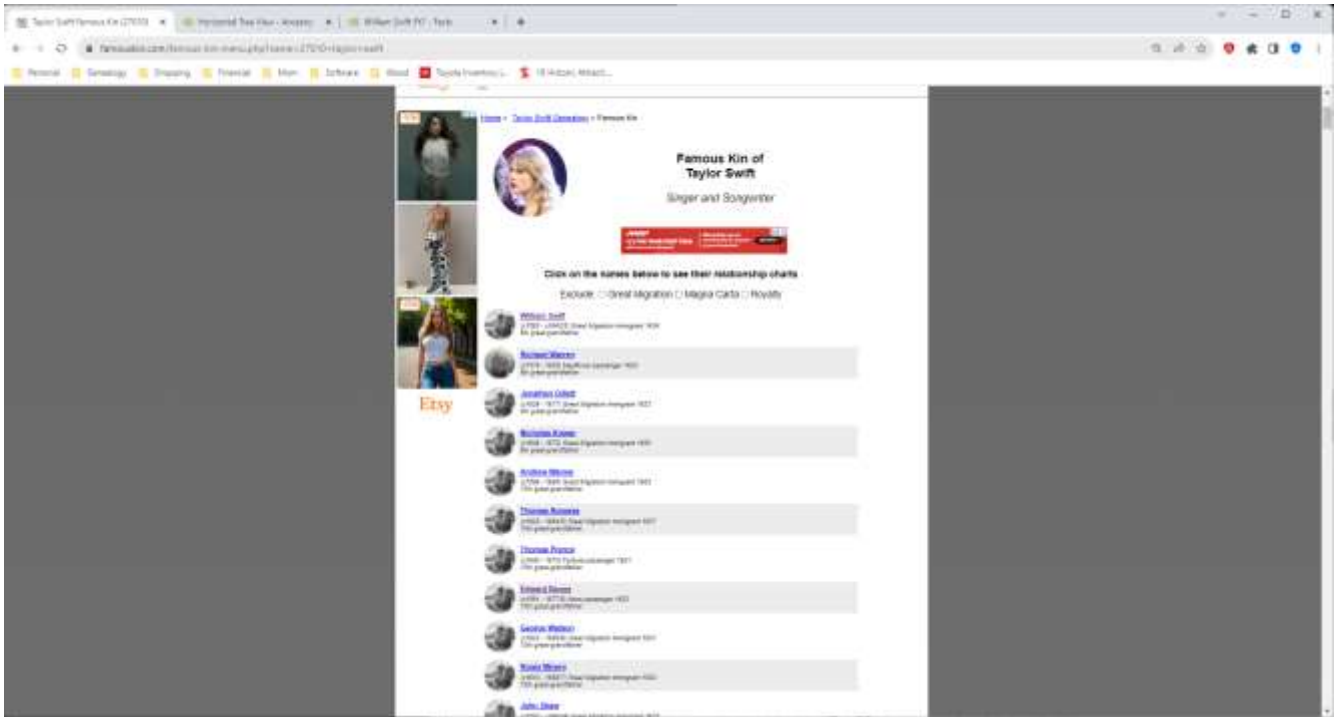
It lists two (2) children, William and Ester, with William being the link to the next generation. Add a record for both children then click on William to move to next generation. Since the child is also William you may choose to use Sr and Jr for each in Suffix field. Since William was Christened on 25 Apr 1627, add Christening Fact for that and use “Bef. 25 Apr 1627” for the Birth date. For Ester, you could use Abt. 1628 for the Birth Date. If you typed Ester Swift in the FamousKin Search window you would find a record showing she was born about 1629 and additional information about her you can fill in her Profile with. You could do this for each child’s missing information if you want to take the time at this point. If you do use the actual record from the program change “FK” to “FK*” to show it was an actual record.

Pay attention to remarks in the **Notes** field as it may contain important information.

We continue this process as we move down the tree until we get to Taylor Alison Swift. When you finally get to her record, there will be no continuing information since this is the last record in that string. Since this is a famous person there is probably a WikiTree or Wikipedia page for them where you can get a lot of additional information and pictures. Do a Google search to find more information about them.

For Taylor Alison Swift’s Profile add all the information you desire. Then click on “View famous kin of Taylor Alison Swift” to show all her famous kin (in her case there are hundreds). Add this web page link to her Profile page, FK* and description to Suffix field. Add Tree Tags (Example: FamousKin, Actor_Actress, Recording Artist_Composer, etc.).

<https://famouskin.com/famous-kin-menu.php?name=27010+taylor+swift>



Looking at her FamousKin you may notice other people in your tree that you may want to fill in the connections. Remember that going up the tree may lead you up “spouses” lines that may not be related to you. Notice that Taylor Swift has hundreds of famous kin up many lines. Clicking on anyone of them shows the path up and maybe then down to that person. If it says “via” that means that it goes up to someone then down a different child of that person to the second person. If the top (via person) or end person is in your tree you can repeat the process to make that connection. It is usually easier to work down rather than up if you already have the top person in your tree.



For example, to go from Taylor Swift via Jireh Swift, you come up through brother Nathaniel Swift to the father, Jireh Swift, then back down thru brother Rowland Swift down to William Rufus Day.

Taylor Swift is related to both Don and Tom, for Don she is his "8th cousin 2x times removed," but for Tom she is "currently" shown as his 29th cousin, but as other connections are made that relationships may become closer. For example, Tom connected her to Robert de Ross in his tree, her 25th great-grandfather and Tom's "husband of 2nd cousin 27 times removed." As Tom adds more connections this relationship may become much closer. As Tom was adding her, he noticed many names that were common to his tree so there are likely connections closer that have not been uncovered yet.

With FamousKin it is very easy to start down a "rabbit hole" and get sidetracked. Many of Taylor Swift's ancestors are common to both Don and Tom since they are 6th cousins 4 times removed and have several great-grandparents in common.