




**"If You Want To Be Your Best You Must Surround Yourself With The Best."**  
 When I was a young man I was surrounded by the best and they all had Dolphins on their uniforms.



This is more than just pride. It is a brotherhood, camaraderie, and a lifestyle. Most people never have a chance to experience anything like this in their life! Thank you to the men who made this possible.

VOL. 2025 #1

JANUARY 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**

Happy New Year Everyone! It's 2025 and we are looking forward to receiving your registrations for the reunion! We are ready to get busy and solidify the plans we have been working on with the SUBBASE for a great reunion!

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As of 7 December we have 15 registrations submitted to us. The earlier you are able to register the better it is for the committee as they make continue planning for the reunion events.

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

Questions Email: [655reunion2025@gmail.com](mailto: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:**

CJ and I wish everyone wonderful holidays and a joyful New Year.



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

Well shipmates we completed another year, the holidays have passed and the fireplaces are crackling, the crisp winds are blowing and the crunching of snow under your feet lets us know it's time to settle in, slow our pace down as we prepare for the long winter.

I hope your holidays were joyful. Lets' take time out to reflect on the past year's accomplishments and plan for the new year. Remember shipmates mark your calendars for the upcoming ships reunion this fall. We are looking forward to meeting new and old shipmates there. So, remember take it easy when you are out doing those winter chores. Also please keep in







**NOTE:** Don Ort, MM1(SS) G/SY1/G 69-74, CWO4 Ret, continues to locate our Stimson shipmates who are on our Sailing List be without an email address.

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**None added or changed in December**

**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

**12.27.24: Email from Jay:** My ultrasound on Monday showed no blood clots in my legs!

**12.21.24: Email from Jay:** Just got home from my grandson's Wedding. I am a little tired but had such a wonderful time and feeling much better just seeing everyone again!

I had an appointment with my pulmonary doctor last Monday (follow-up from CT scan) and they feel that I am improving but still have fluid in my lungs that may never go away. My breathing and blood oxygen (98%) continue to improve.

I remain on blood thinners and chances are for the rest of my life. My legs feel pretty good and I have an appointment to have ultrasound test on them this coming Monday while looking for blood clots and I will forward results following.... Oh yeah I am also gaining weight back that I lost over the last couple months

**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

**12.20.24: Email from George:** I came through the operation fine but have to wait for the heart to settle down. Was told it could take up to 6 months but I should see some changes in a couple of months.

**12.18.24: Email from George:** Came through the operation with a heart that is beating better than it has in 30 years. I did have a bad reaction to the anesthesia and was throwing up for hours after. We are home now. And should be doing better by the weekend. GOD is good!!! //Geo  
*12.15.24: Email from George: I will be having heart surgery on the 17th.*

*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.*

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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

**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.

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*

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**GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH**

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**655 Association Website**

**[www.ssb655.org](http://www.ssb655.org)**

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***Editor: I came across this article in one of the emails I receive from komando.com. Very good information.***

It's smart to think ahead about what happens to your tech life when something happens to you.

It's a grim topic, but we have to think about what happens to all our online accounts, data, notes, photos, videos, websites, playlists, blogs and subscriptions once we're gone.

Do your loved ones a favor and get this sorted out beforehand. Tech expert Kim Komando has a list of steps to take now.

<https://www.komando.com/tips/tech-steps-before-you-pass/>

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### DID YOU KNOW??

NASA plans to store critical data on the moon. Think of it like the ultra-secure Fort Knox but for digital information.

<https://www.komando.com/news/how-nasa-plans-to-back-up-data-on-lunar-soil/>

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### 41 For Freedom - Polaris Submarines 2088

Celebrates the launching of the nation's forty-one Polaris fleet ballistic missile submarines, the "41 for Freedom". These boats formed the nation's undersea nuclear deterrent throughout most of the Cold War. Features footage of USS Tunny (SS-282), USS Woodrow Wilson (SSBN-624), USS Lafayette (SSBN-616), USS Daniel Boone (SSBN-629), USS Mariano G. Vallejo (SSBN-658), USS Will Rogers (SSBN-659), and USS Nautilus (SSN-571). Includes footage of the development of the missile concept, including the Regulus missile era, and testing of the Polaris missile system. First lady Jackie Kennedy appears briefly, as she christens the USS Lafayette. This film is part of the Periscope Film LLC archive, one of the largest historic military, transportation, and aviation stock footage collections in the USA. Entirely film backed, this material is available for licensing in 24p HD.

[https://youtu.be/4PAmEFrzQdk?](https://youtu.be/4PAmEFrzQdk?si=es6sZPmIFOSrVq0V)

[si=es6sZPmIFOSrVq0V](https://youtu.be/4PAmEFrzQdk?si=es6sZPmIFOSrVq0V)

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### PERT PROGRAM & U.S. NAVY POLARIS BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINE DEVELOPMENT 51634

This 1960s unclassified color film "Breakthrough" is about using PERT, the Navy's technique for managing large-scale R&D programs, to develop nuclear-powered submarines and Polaris missiles two years ahead of schedule. There are many clips of FBM submarines in action along with clips of the

missiles in use. It was produced by the United States Navy Special Projects Office and Merit Film Productions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elhobMrdzTk>

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

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#### Here' one for all those pilots we have in the Association:

Did you know the propeller on a small plane is actually used to keep the pilot cool? When it stops spinning, you can see the pilot start to sweat.

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**Riddle:** What's the difference between a cat and a comma? A cat has claws at the end of its paws and a comma's a pause at the end of a clause. (I know you're gonna use that one.)

#### 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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#### Some "Very Cool navy traditions" as a civilian would view them

By Mister Mac on December 22, 2024



As the year 2024 comes to an end, we are finally settling down in our new home in South Carolina.

One of the things that drew me to living here is the plethora of historical and veteran's activities. We haven't had much time to visit too many places yet, but a number of previous visits had given me a taste of what lays ahead. My health has shown some improvement and after a few minor procedures in the new year, I am looking forward to celebrating all things Carolina

I saw a brief news clip earlier today that talked

about strange but very cool naval traditions.

The five they listed were steel beach picnics, line crossing ceremonies, the importance of ice cream, the Herndon Monument Climb, and Fleet Week.

I suspect that the editors of the piece had never actually been in the navy if these were the ones that stuck out above the countless other navy traditions I remember. But each of the ones listed does hold a memory or two for me.

**[READ FULL POST HERE](#)**

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## **The Navy Warrant Officer Mystery – 249 Years in the Making**

By Mister Mac on December 26, 2024

As of December of 2024, its actually 249 years of service

### **What exactly is a Navy Warrant Officer and what do they do?**

To be honest, the definitions are all over the map. Quite often, even long serving officers struggle with what a warrant is, no less a Chief Warrant Officer. The basic thing to understand is a Warrant and a Chief Warrant are not the same. Chief Warrant Officers are commissioned naval officers and belong to one of a number of technical categories. I served as a Submarine Engineering Technician (non-nuclear). The year I was commissioned, only 13 of us were selected (out of over 1300 applicants).

The use of warrants and chief warrant officers has ebbed and flowed over the centuries. To understand what they are, you have to look at the history of how they came to be.

**[READ FULL BLOG HERE – GREAT INFORMATION ON THE NAVAL WARRANT OFFICER](#)**



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

### **MS-Office Products and an Alternative**

Happy New Year, Shipmates! I hope everyone had a great holiday season.

In 2024 I covered the task of converting from Windows 10 to Windows 11, and provided information on steps to follow to remain on

Windows 11 compatible hardware or move to new hardware. So, as we start 2025 you are on your version of choice for the near future. We have all used Microsoft Office products to get our word processing, spreadsheet and presentation apps over our years using Windows. So, let's take a look at what the Microsoft Store offers and what alternatives are out there that can compete.

Microsoft Office 365, available in the Microsoft Store and on Amazon, comes with a wide range of applications, like Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook and OneNote. All of which use "secure" Cloud Storage for either \$70/year for the Personal Plan, or \$100/year for a Family Plan. These apps are individually available in the Microsoft Store, but get bundled with Office 365 under the personal plan option.

So, let's look at an alternative we might consider.

LibreOffice is rated as the top alternative to Office 365 and best of all, it's free.

**[LibreOffice review](#)** -- this review is courtesy of Techradar.com:

This remarkable open source office suite continues to impress with regular additions of innovative features. Its exceptional flexibility and versatility make it an outstanding choice for both personal and commercial use, all at no cost.

#### **Pros**

- + Full suite of office software
- + Compatible with all Microsoft Office file formats
- + Regularly updated freeware

#### **Cons**

- Extra templates have to be downloaded and installed manually
- No cloud support, local software and storage only

I like the fact that it's free to use, is MS-Office compatible and does not use the Cloud for storage. I have installed it on 4 different Windows machines with no issues. You can download the proper version for your system at: **<https://www.libreoffice.org/download/download-libreoffice/>** Current version is 24.8.3.2.

As always, shipmates, comments and suggestions for future topics that interest you are welcomed. I am in need of topics for future articles, so please send your ideas along to me. Contact me at **[subvet\\_ssb@bellsouth.net](mailto: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





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

**Scams and how to identify them**

Happy New Year, Shipmates! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. Now we are beginning the new year of 2025, and we must sharpen our security awareness to make sure it is an event free year for us all. This month, a few comments on fraud, as we seniors, sadly, are most often the targets of the scammers.

As fraud grows, so does the language used to describe those scams. To keep you abreast of the terminology, AARP has created a guide to common phrases used when discussing internet and phone swindles. As an AARP member you can follow the links below. If you are not an AARP Member, and the links I provide are not accessible, contact me via e-mail and I will retrieve any articles of interest for you.

**Glossary of Scam and Fraud Terminology**

With the ever-increasing use of AI, scammers can be even more convincing and trick you in more ways that you can imagine. Here are just a few:

- **AI Fuels New, Frighteningly Effective Scams**
- **6 Ways You Can Thwart Check Washers**
- **Smishing**

AI is changing the scam landscape, and it will be even more difficult to detect going forward. Also note, if you are an iPhone, iPad user that the most recent Apple upgrade to version 18.2 now includes Apple’s implementation of AI technology into iOS. So, if an app or an iPhone function you use frequently seems a little off, that iOS update may be the reason.

As always, shipmates, comments and suggestions for future topics are welcomed. Contact me at [subvet\\_ssbm@bellsouth.net](mailto:subvet_ssbm@bellsouth.net) if you have questions about items in the monthly Article. //George

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**The Security Corner Pt 2**

**Bank fraud** is out of control. Tech expert Kim Komando wrote about the tricks scammers use

and what you can do to protect yourself and your money. You need to know this important info. I learned about this in The Current newsletter, read by me and 575,000 people every morning. Sign up for free at [www.getthecurrent.com](http://www.getthecurrent.com). You’ll love it!

**<https://www.komando.com/news/security/bank-fraud-is-rising-how-to-protect-yourself/>**

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**The Security Corner Pt 3**

**Beware of Brushing Scam!**

A recent scam has been showing up in many states. A "brushing" scam is when someone receives an unexpected gift or item not ordered in the mail from a place like Amazon or other company. Examples of gifts include, rings, bracelets, necklaces, Bluetooth speaker, etc. The gift will have the recipient’s address, but not include the sender's information or be from a known retailer. When the recipient opens the package to see what it is and possibly who sent it, there is a QR code to scan to find out who sent the gift.

Once the code is scanned, all the information from that phone will be sent to scammers. They receive all access to the phone. All personal and financial information is accessible to the scammers and often the victim's bank accounts are drained.

The gift can be kept or thrown away, but the QR code should NOT be scanned for any reason. QR code scams are nothing new. These scams show up in all places, including parking meters.

Inform your family members about the scam and avoid scanning any unknown QR codes included in the package.

**Links that substantiate the issue**

- \* **Brushing Scam** <-- from USPS
- \* **What Is a Brushing Scam?**
- \* **Report Unsolicited Packages or Brushing Scams** <-- from Amazon
- \* **BBB Tip:"Brushing" scam indicates a serious problem for victims** <-- from BBB
- \* **Don't scan the QR code: Police warn about brushing scam** - Cleveland OH
- \* **Consumer Alert: Be Aware of Brushing Scams** <-- from North Carolina Department of Justice ( State AG)





**See Your 2025 VA Disability Pay Rates**

[https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/va-disability-pay-rates.html?ESRC=mr\\_241118.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20241118](https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/va-disability-pay-rates.html?ESRC=mr_241118.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20241118)

**PACT Act: Presumptive Conditions**

[https://www.military.com/benefits/pact-act-presumptive-conditions.html?ESRC=mr\\_241118.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20241118](https://www.military.com/benefits/pact-act-presumptive-conditions.html?ESRC=mr_241118.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20241118)

**Basic Needs Allowance Overview**

[https://www.military.com/money/personal-finance/basic-needs-allowance-overview.html?ESRC=eb\\_241115.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20241115](https://www.military.com/money/personal-finance/basic-needs-allowance-overview.html?ESRC=eb_241115.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20241115)

**VA Set to Add Leukemia, Multiple Myeloma to List of Conditions Linked to Burn Pits**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/11/12/va-set-add-leukemia-multiple-myeloma-list-of-conditions-linked-burn-pits.html?ESRC=eb\\_241113.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20241113](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/11/12/va-set-add-leukemia-multiple-myeloma-list-of-conditions-linked-burn-pits.html?ESRC=eb_241113.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20241113)

**Rural Veterans Are Struggling with Access to VA-Provided Care**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/11/12/rural-veterans-are-struggling-access-va-provided-care.html?ESRC=eb\\_241113.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20241113](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/11/12/rural-veterans-are-struggling-access-va-provided-care.html?ESRC=eb_241113.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20241113)

**Virginia Veterans Can Connect to Services Through New State Website**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/11/12/virginia-veterans-can-connect-services-through-new-state-website.html?ESRC=eb\\_241113.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20241113](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/11/12/virginia-veterans-can-connect-services-through-new-state-website.html?ESRC=eb_241113.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20241113)

**Coast Guard Set to Receive New Icebreaker by Year's End, Bolstering US Presence in Arctic**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/11/20/coast-guard-set-receive-new-icebreaker-years-end-bolstering-us-presence-arctic.html?ESRC=eb\\_241121.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20241121](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/11/20/coast-guard-set-receive-new-icebreaker-years-end-bolstering-us-presence-arctic.html?ESRC=eb_241121.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20241121)

**Musk, Ramaswamy Proposal to Slash Spending Could Include VA Medical Services**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/11/21/musk-ramaswamy-proposal-slash-spending-could-include-va-medical-services.html?ESRC=eb\\_241122.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20241122](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/11/21/musk-ramaswamy-proposal-slash-spending-could-include-va-medical-services.html?ESRC=eb_241122.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20241122)

**Effort Underway to Give Eligible Veterans Easier Access to Military Installations**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/11/21/effort-underway-give-eligible-veterans-easier-access-military-installations.html?ESRC=eb\\_241122.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20241122](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/11/21/effort-underway-give-eligible-veterans-easier-access-military-installations.html?ESRC=eb_241122.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20241122)

**Free Cruise Tickets Available for Veterans and Active-Duty Military on This Upgraded Ship**

[https://www.military.com/discounts/want-free-cruise-tickets-vets-and-active-duty-military-can-get-them-upgraded-ship.html?ESRC=navy\\_241119.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=navy&utm\\_campaign=20241119](https://www.military.com/discounts/want-free-cruise-tickets-vets-and-active-duty-military-can-get-them-upgraded-ship.html?ESRC=navy_241119.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20241119)

**VA Needs Extra \$6.6 Billion, Not \$12 Billion, in 2025, Officials Tell Congress**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/11/25/va-needs-extra-66-billion-not-12-billion-2025-officials-tell-congress.html?ESRC=eb\\_241126.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20241126](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/11/25/va-needs-extra-66-billion-not-12-billion-2025-officials-tell-congress.html?ESRC=eb_241126.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20241126)

**Here Is the 2025 Pay Raise for Disabled Veterans and Military Retirees**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/10/10/here-2025-pay-raise-disabled-veterans-and-military-retirees.html?ESRC=mr\\_241125.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20241125](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/10/10/here-2025-pay-raise-disabled-veterans-and-military-retirees.html?ESRC=mr_241125.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20241125)

**Military Retirement and State Income Tax**

[https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/state-retirement-income-tax.html?ESRC=mr\\_241125.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20241125](https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/state-retirement-income-tax.html?ESRC=mr_241125.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20241125)

**My HealtheVet sign-in changes for 2025**

<https://app.box.com/s/wxee1mbxv21siz0qqjzb7etqf1la8ekg>

**Update: Hearing Aids for Military Retirees**

<https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/hearing-aids-for-military-retirees.html>

[ESRC=navy 241126.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=navy&utm\\_campaign=20241126](https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/hearing-aids-for-military-retirees.html)

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**4 Assets Your Kids May Not Want to Inherit**

By Donna Fuscaldo and Daniel Bortz, AARP  
Published August 29, 2022 - Updated December 10, 2024

Leaving your children an inheritance seems like a blessing, but it can also be a curse.

This is true, in particular, if the items you're handing down require a lot of effort to take possession of or extract value from, not to mention a lot of money to maintain or space to store. Sure, your kids may appreciate the thought, but if an asset being inherited is too hard to hold on to or easily sell, it could cause more hassle and expense that it's worth.

Most heirs aren't going to turn down money, but there are a handful of possessions they may not want that may surprise you, including these four.

**1. Property**

Vacation homes, farmland and other real estate can be a great asset to leave your children, as they can appreciate in value. But they can also cause untold headaches and hassles if there's a lot of maintenance and expenses involved. Strife is another issue if the property is being split among family members.

**2. A family business**

Cue the "Succession" reruns. You've spent decades building your business, so it's only natural to want to pass it down to your children. That's great if they want it. If not, your legacy is at risk.

**3. Time-shares**

Time-shares seem like a dream come true: You have a vacation spot and don't have to spend a fortune. Some even offer you choice in where you vacation. But often time-shares can be a drain on your sanity and your bank account. There's an annual maintenance fee, utilities and taxes, which can quickly add up. And getting out of a time-share can be difficult and time-consuming.

**4. Storage unit**

Unless there's cash or jewelry stashed in it, a storage unit full of old stuff can be a burden. Your loved one is left to go through and clean out the space and figure out what to do with all your belongings or take on the added expense of maintaining the unit.

**READ ARTICLE HERE**

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**12 Pain Symptoms You Should Never Ignore**

Doctors share which eye, chest and stomach pains, among others, may indicate something serious

**By Michelle Crouch, AARP**

Published August 11, 2022 - Updated November 25, 2024

If you're hurting, see a doctor. It's sound advice that may seem obvious, but older adults in particular sometimes write off pain as a function of aging and may wait too long to get medical attention, says Edwin Leap, M.D., an emergency physician in Southern Appalachia.

He has seen it happen. And the results can be devastating.

Any new or unexplained pain should be checked out by a doctor, Leap says, even if it's not severe.

Of course, some types of pain are more likely to signal something serious. Doctors recommend heading straight to the emergency room if you're experiencing one of the types below.

1. Pain with loss of function
2. Eye pain that comes out of nowhere
3. Chest pain
4. Pain in one or both arms, your jaw or between the shoulder blades
5. The worst headache of your life
6. Severe abdominal pain
7. Calf or thigh pain, especially if in just one leg
8. Severe back pain that lasts more than 72 hours
9. Back pain with pelvic numbness and/or incontinence
10. Pain from a minor wound
11. Pain after a procedure or injection
12. Pain with fever
  - The pain is in your mouth, throat or neck.
  - The pain is in your lower or upper back.
  - The pain is associated with an area of tender, inflamed skin.
  - The pain is at or around a surgical site.

## READ FULL ARTICLE HERE

### **Russian Attack Submarine Calls At Chinese Port**

(*NEWSWEEK 09 DEC 24*) ... Ryan Chan

A second Russian naval group, led by an attack submarine armed with missiles, arrived in China on Monday, following a transit that had raised concerns among America's allies.

The Russian Pacific Fleet said diesel-electric submarine Ufa, which is escorted by rescue tug Alatau, made a port call in Qingdao, a city in eastern China facing the Yellow Sea.

Photos posted by the Russian Embassy in China on its Facebook page showed the Chinese military personnel standing in formation to welcome the visiting Russian military vessels.

The arrival of the Ufa and Alatau came less than a week after three corvettes and a support vessel of Russia visited Qingdao on Thursday as part of their Asia-Pacific deployment.

The visiting Russian corvettes Gromky, Rezky, and Hero of the Russian Federation Aldar Tsydenzhapov, as well as the tanker Pechenga, on Monday left the Chinese port for their base in Vladivostok, the Russian Pacific Fleet said in a separate press release.

*A Russian navy fleet consisting of four vessels wrapped up visit to China's coastal city Qingdao and left on Dec. 9th. During the visit, Chinese and Russian naval sailors conducted cross-deck visits and exchanged ideas on professional skills.*

*#Chinesenavy #Russiannavy pic.twitter.com/UWAJgXFONs*

*China Bugle 中国军号 (@ChinaBugle) December 9, 2024*

The 3,900-ton Ufa, which can launch Kalibr cruise missiles that have seen extensive use in strikes against Ukraine, was commissioned in November 2022 in St. Petersburg. It is on a voyage transiting from the Baltic Sea to the Vladivostok-based Russian Pacific Fleet.

The Russian submarine reached the Indo-Pacific region in October, which saw it making port calls in India, Indonesia, and Malaysia. On November 28, it was spotted transiting in the South China Sea off the coasts of the Philippines, a treaty ally of the United States.

Another Washington's treaty ally, Japan, reported that a submarine and a rescue towboat

of Russia on December 3 were sailing northward in the waters between two of the country's southwestern islands in the Philippine Sea, a marginal sea of the Western Pacific Ocean.

It's likely that the Russian submarine spotted by Japan and the Philippines was the same. Newsweek has contacted the Russian Defense Ministry for confirmation by email.

During the submarine's visit to China, the Russian sailors will hold a number of meetings with representatives of the Chinese navy, as well as visit the Chinese Naval Submarine Academy and local tourist attractions, according to the Russian Pacific Fleet's statement.

This came amid U.S. Navy Admiral Samuel Paparo, the commander of the U.S. military in the Indo-Pacific region, saying last month that Russia might help China, which is a pacing challenge for the U.S., cut American naval dominance by providing submarine technology.

The Ufa is the fourth of six Project 636.3 submarines that were built for Russia's Pacific Fleet. In its Facebook post, the Russian Embassy in China claimed that the submarine is called "black hole" because of the new propulsion system that makes it "almost silent."

<https://www.newsweek.com/russia-news-attack-submarine-calls-chinese-port-1997716>

### **Virginia-Class Submarine Christened By Member Of Little Rock Nine**

(*ASSOCIATED PRESS 08 DEC 24*)

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. The nuclear submarine USS Arkansas was christened Saturday, almost a decade in the making since the U.S. Navy announced that a Virginia-class submarine would bear the state's name.

Carlotta Walls LaNier, one the nine Black students who desegregated Little Rock Central High School in 1957, launched a bottle of sparkling wine into the hull of the Virginia-class submarine at Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia.

In 2018, then-Navy Secretary Ray Mabus named the six women of the Little Rock Nine as sponsors of the ship. Besides LaNier, Elizabeth Eckford and Gloria Ray Karlmark also attended the ceremony. All the sponsors had their initials welded into steel plates when the submarine's keel was laid in 2022.



History is full of groups of collective people who come together to make something happen, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported that LaNier said in a speech before the crowd at the shipyard. Many people are behind the submarine that we christened today. It is similar to the quote on our currency, E pluribus unum Out of many, one. We have SSN 800, but many participated in the reality of it being here today.

Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro called the ship the very best of our submarine force capabilities.

She will always be propelled by the proud legacy of her namesake, represented here today by three of her courageous sponsors, who overcame tremendous adversity as members of the Little Rock Nine, Del Toro said.

A number of speakers also noted the 83rd anniversary of Japan's attack in Pearl Harbor, the event that launched the United States into World War II.

The submarine is the fifth naval ship named for Arkansas, including a battleship. The most recent was a guided missile cruiser that was decommissioned in 1988.

The Arkansas is the 27th in a series of Virginia-class submarines and the 13th built at Newport News, a massive shipyard owned by Huntington Ingalls Industries. The other submarines are built at General Dynamics Corp.'s Electric Boat shipyard in Connecticut.

<https://www.wset.com/news/local/virginia-class-submarine-christened-by-member-of-little-rock-nine-newport-news-va-navy-arkansas-carlotta-walls-lanier-december-2024>

## **U.S. Cruise Missile Submarine Surfaces In West Pacific Outpost**

*(NEWSWEEK 02 DEC 24)* ... Ryan Chan

The United States continued to enhance its naval power in the Western Pacific Ocean as one of its cruise missile submarines surfaced in a strategic outpost in the region recently.

According to photos posted by the U.S. Navy on November 28, USS Michigan, an Ohio-class nuclear-powered guided-missile submarine, visited Naval Base Guam on November 2. Guam is the westernmost U.S. territory and also hosts air force and marine corps bases. It also hosts five fast-attack submarines, although the Michigan is not one of these and was only paying a visit to the

island.

The 18,750-ton Michigan, which is armed with up to 154 Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles that can strike targets 1,000 miles away, "is conducting routine operations in the U.S. Seventh Fleet area of operation," the U.S. Navy said in one of the photos' captions.

Newsweek has contacted the U.S. Seventh Fleet for further information regarding the Michigan's deployment by email.

The fleet operates ships and aircraft in a vast area that covers from the International Date Line west of the Hawaiian Islands to the border between India and Pakistan in South Asia, as well as from the Kuril Islands of Russia in the north to the Antarctic in the south.

The visit came amid China's expansion of its naval fleet, which is the world's largest with more than 370 ships and submarines, and its naval activities in the Western Pacific Ocean.

In late September, a Chinese aircraft carrier approached Guam at a distance of 559 miles. The island forms part of the second island chain, one of the layers of a U.S. defense concept designed to constrain the Chinese military in wartime.

Guam is 1,500-1,700 miles from the contested waters of Taiwan, as well as the East and South China seas, making it an ideal staging area for the U.S. military to project power.

The number of Guam-based fast-attack submarines increased by one to five with the arrival of the advanced Virginia-class submarine USS Minnesota last week, complementing the fleet of four older generation Los Angeles-class submarines at the U.S. military hub.

The Michigan was originally built as an undersea platform for launching nuclear-armed ballistic missiles. In the early 2000s, it and three sister ships—USS Ohio, USS Florida, and USS Georgia—were converted to be conventionally armed with cruise missiles.

Besides being equipped with land-attack weapons, the four guided-missile submarines are capable of hosting up to 66 personnel for special operation missions. They also have enhanced communication capabilities enabling them to serve as clandestine small command centers.

The Michigan and its sister ships "provide the Navy with unprecedented strike and special operation mission capabilities from a stealth,

clandestine platform," the U.S. Navy noted.

In early July, the Florida reloaded its cruise missiles during a stop in Guam. It returned to its home port in Georgia at the end of the month following a 727-day round-the-world deployment, which included launching strikes against Houthi rebels in Yemen.

This is the second time the Michigan, which is homeported at Naval Base Kitsap in the state of Washington, has visited the island since late January.

<https://www.newsweek.com/us-news-cruise-missile-submarine-surfaces-guam-west-pacific-outpost-1993885>

### **Newport News Shipbuilding Acquires South Carolina Facility From W International**

*(USNI NEWS 04 DEC 24)* ... Sam LaGrone

HII Newport News Shipbuilding is buying a manufacturing facility outside of Charleston, S.C., to build submarine and aircraft carrier modules, the president of the shipyard said on Wednesday.

The 480,000-square-foot manufacturing facility sits on a 45-acre plot north of Charleston and was formerly owned by manufacturer W International.

"We're not acquiring W International. This is an asset transaction," Newport News president Jennifer Boykin told reporters on Wednesday.

"It represents an opportunity... to increase our capacity overall so it will not affect the workforce here at Newport News. In fact, we expect both sites to continue to grow."

Boykin said the about 500 employees who worked for W International would be invited to join the new Newport News Shipbuilding – Charleston Operations. Pending approvals, the sale is set to close by the end of the year, according to a statement from HII. The price was not disclosed.

"This region has a very strong shipbuilding ecosystem that's been growing [and we're] really excited about that," Boykin said.

"There's great trades workforce capability down there. We're excited about that. So about 500 employees... all will be offered the opportunity to come to work with us at Newport News."

The HII outpost will be overseen by Newport News vice president Matt Needy who will oversee the plan for module work as the general manager.

"We know which Virginia-class modules will be

built down there. In fact, we know which footprint at the site each will be built in and that's the same for Columbia-class," Boykin said

"Our expectation is that you know, as the throughput there grows, we know what's next and really the intention is for that site in Charleston to become a center of excellence for particular modules."

Moving submarine work out of submarine yards Newport News and General Dynamics Electric Boat is a key effort by the submarine industrial base to increase the production rate to two Virginia-class attack submarines and one ballistic nuclear missile Columbia-class a year. HII currently outsources about a million hours of submarine work outside of Newport News.

Prior to the acquisition of the facility, W International produced submarine modules for both General Dynamics Electric Boat and Newport News, however Newport News cancelled its contracts with the company in 2022, according to a report in the Post and Courier newspaper.

Boykin said Electric Boat would be moving the work to another facility.

"We're working with electric boat and the site as they're transitioning that work to a different focus factory," she said.

The acquisition comes in the midst of a Department of Justice investigation into, "in which an unnamed whistleblower claims the metal fabricator misspent potentially millions of dollars in federal funds," reported The Post and Courier.

Company founder and CEO Ed Walker has denied any wrongdoing.

<https://news.usni.org/2024/12/04/newport-news-shipbuilding-acquires-south-carolina-facility-from-w-international>

### **Navy To Cut Boot Camp From 10 Weeks To Nine**

*(NAVY TIMES 11 DEC 24)* ... Diana Stancy

The Navy is cutting its Basic Military Training program from 10 weeks to nine weeks, effective next year, in an attempt to better streamline curriculum.

While the Navy's Basic Military Training, known as boot camp, historically has spanned eight weeks, the service extended the program to 10 weeks in January 2022 to accommodate more life skills training to help sailors adjust from civilian

to Navy life.

But now, the Navy is revamping its curriculum to eliminate redundant training and integrate those lessons instead throughout the program in a more intentional way, spokesman for Naval Service Training Command Lt. Cmdr. Mack Jamieson told Navy Times.

The Warrior Toughness Program, which seeks to educate sailors on how to perform in stressful situations, as well as some physical and professional development training, will now be condensed during recruits' time at boot camp, Jamieson said.

Our focus is on delivering a streamlined yet robust training experience that equips our sailors with the essential skills they need to succeed in the fleet, Rear Adm. Craig Mattingly, commander of Naval Service Training Command, said in a Navy news release. This change will help us achieve that, providing a rigorous curriculum that ensures readiness while enabling recruits to join the fleet faster.

These changes, which were made following feedback from Recruit Training Command staff and training experts, align with Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Lisa Franchetti's navigation plan, the Navy said.

From the deckplate to the classroom, our team has worked hard to identify efficiencies that uphold our high standards while advancing the CNO's vision for a capable and ready Navy, Mattingly said. This optimization doesn't just shorten the time-to-train; it enhances our recruits' ability to transition seamlessly into the fleet and contribute immediately.

The updates come following challenges for the Navy when it comes to attracting new recruits and missing its accession targets for the first time ever in fiscal year 2023. However, the service announced in October it surpassed its recruiting training goals for fiscal year 2024.

According to Navy officials, the service accomplished this feat through data-driven decision-making, cutting down the time to process medical waivers and expanding opportunities.

Changes to expand the pool of eligible applicants include allowing those without a high school diploma or General Educational Development credential to enlist, as long as those applicants score a 50 or higher on the Armed

Forces Qualification Test.

The Navy is focused on thoughtfully increasing recruiting numbers while maintaining historically high retention rates, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro said in a statement in October. We are doing this by improving the efficiency of our recruiting enterprise and expanding the pool of applicants who can join our team.

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2024/12/11/navy-to-cut-boot-camp-from-10-weeks-to-nine/>

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### **Navy Expects To Have First Female Submarine Commander By 2028**

*(MILITARY TIMES 11 DEC 24)* ... Hope Hodge Seck

Fourteen years after the Navy began integrating women into submarine crews, the population of enlisted women and officers in subs continues to grow steadily year-over-year and the service projects it will name the first female submarine commanding officer by 2028.

That's according to a briefing presented by Lt. Victoria Parrish, the Navy's Women in Submarines coordinator at Submarine Force Atlantic.

For fiscal 2024, there were 87 female officer accessions and 400 enlisted accessions, she told the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services at its quarterly meeting near Washington. That represents 20.3% of officer accessions and 9.5% of enlisted. Fiscal 2024 also represented the largest jump in female enlisted accessions since integration began, rising from 271 the previous year for an increase of nearly 48%.

In all, though, 712 women are currently assigned to submarines, making up just under 5% of a total sub force of more than 15,000.

While representation remains modest, enlisted women are remaining in the sub community at higher rates than their male counterparts, Parrish's data showed. From fiscal year 2017 to 2024, enlisted women submariners re-enlisted at a rate of 74.9%, 1.1% higher than enlisted men.

While retention rates for officers have fluctuated widely in recent years, female officers in year groups 2010 to 2016 show a department head retention rate of 29%, 1.5% higher than their male peers.

Parrish noted that the small numbers of women were responsible for large rate fluctuations and limited how much could be read into retention data.

If just a couple more or less female officers decided to sign a contract, those retention rates could significantly change, she said.

That said, it's clear the Navy has made great strides toward its stated goal of full gender integration aboard submarines, despite a troubled start and delays in ushering the first class of subs designed with accommodations for women into the fleet.

Female officers were the first to join the sub community in 2010 after then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates lifted a ban on women in subs.

In 2015, the Navy began training enlisted female submariners as well, welcoming a female chief petty officer to the community in 2016, shortly after the Defense Department struck down all prohibitions on women serving in any military role.

These early years saw a series of criminal incidents in which female crew members were secretly recorded by their male peers in showers and changing areas, leading to service investigations and discipline.

Despite these disturbing episodes, the population of women in the community continued to grow each year.

In 2021, the Navy announced its plan to integrate 33 boat crews by 2030. This year, the service updated the projection to 39 integrated boat crews by 2033. The 2021 goal, Parrish said, was spurred by an interest in joining and staying with the submarine community that took the Navy by surprise.

What we had originally projected for female officer retention was assuming it would mirror the nuclear Surface Warfare female officer retention of 12.5% to 15%, Parrish said. Well, it exceeded our expectations. So, we're actually at 25%-plus. And then also we confirmed that there was robust interest at officer accession sources. So, this ultimately led us to increase our plan.

The first sub designed with berthing for both men and women, the Virginia-class submarine USS New Jersey, was delivered to the Navy in April. Though the Virginia class is running up to 36 months past its contracted delivery dates, a

second sub in the class, the USS Iowa, is expected to join the Navy later this month.

The only sub classes that are not slated to have women join their crews are the Los Angeles and the Seawolf, both scheduled for upcoming deactivation, Parrish said.

The Navy, Parrish said, is targeting a female population of at least 20% for each integrated crew, though it sometimes falls short of that goal.

One of the reasons 20% was sought after was based on a [CNA] study that showed at around 20% population of a group within a whole population, you have less likelihood that you will have that group marginalized, Parrish said. And those members would feel more as individuals vice just a member of a minority group.

Female leadership cadres are growing, though.

To date, according to the briefing, 44 female officers are serving or have served as a submarine department head and four women have been designated as submarine executive officers. Under a gender-neutral detailing process, two of the three female XO's currently serving are leading non-integrated boat crews.

One woman is now serving as a chief of boat, the top enlisted advisor to a submarine leadership team; and a female engineering department master chief is in training and set to report to her sub in 2026.

Parrish told Military Times the Navy's projection about having the first female submarine CO by 2028 was based on inventory and population planning, rather than a current candidate in the pipeline.

The Navy's ability to go above a 20% proportion of women on submarines is limited only by senior female leadership in place, Parrish said.

She suggested that the service could use policy waivers to make exceptions to requirements such as having a female chief onboard in order to get more female submariners out to sea.

You've seen in the accessions; we've got more and more people. The word is getting out that you can have an adventure of a lifetime and serve on the most technologically advanced submarines with the most brilliant and capable individuals in our nation, she said.

As [the number of] overall women in the Navy increases, hopefully every submarine population



will reflect the same.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2024/12/11/navy-expects-to-have-first-female-submarine-commander-by-2028/>

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### **Another LA-Class Submarine Arrives In Bremerton, Scheduled For Inactivation**

*(KITSAP SUN 13 DEC 24)* ... Peiyu Lin

BREMERTON — At approximately 2:30 p.m. Thursday, the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine, USS Topeka (SSN 754), arrived in Bremerton from Pearl Harbor.

The Topeka, now serving for over 35 years, is the oldest fast attack submarine in the U.S. Pacific Fleet. The boat is on the list as one of the 19 ships scheduled to be inactivated in Fiscal Year 2025, according to the Navy's Report to Congress on the Annual Long-Range Plan for Construction of Naval Vessels for Fiscal Year 2025 issued in March 2024. The sub was commissioned in 1989 with an expected service life of 33 years.

Before coming to Kitsap, the Topeka had been based at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam since it changed its homeport from Guam in December 2020.

The Navy League of the United States Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council, following its tradition of greeting sailors from L.A.-class subs when they arrive, plans to host a welcome party for the Topeka crew at the Horse and Cow bar and grill in Bremerton, at 536 Fourth Street, on January 17, according to the Navy League.

The Topeka was recently deployed to the Indo-Pacific region for nearly seven months, from May to November 2023, and returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. During the deployment, the crew performed anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, and exercises with allies and partners within the region. The sub trained and worked closely with Australian, Japanese, and Korean allies and made a port call in Yokosuka, Japan, and visits to U.S. Naval Base Guam, according to the Navy.

In January, the sub conducted a change of command ceremony in Hawaii and it's now led by Commanding Officer Cmdr. Chris Clevenger, from Palos Verdes, California. The boat has a crew of approximately 130 sailors and 17 officers.

The Topeka was the second Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine that was transferred to

Bremerton in 2024 for its upcoming inactivation, followed by USS Helena (SSN-725) which arrived in August.

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/news/2024/12/13/uss-topeka-submarine-arrives-in-bremerton/76863570007/>

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### **Australian Officer, Training For Nuclear Sub Operations, Earns U.S. Navy 'Dolphins'**

*(STARS AND STRIPES 19 DEC 24)* ... Jeremy Stillwagner

An Australian naval officer recently became the first of his countryman to earn the U.S. Navy Submarine Warfare Device, often referred to as "dolphins."

The Australian lieutenant commander, identified only by his first name, James, received the award during a Dec. 12 ceremony at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, according to a Navy news release Tuesday. It did not list the officer's last name, citing Australian navy guidelines.

"It is always an honor to pin dolphins on a Sailor's uniform and welcome them into an elite community of undersea warfighters," Rear Adm. Chris Cavanaugh, commander of Submarine Group 7, said in the release.

In January, the Navy identified Lt. Cmdr. James Heydon as one of three Australians who became the first to complete initial training for nuclear power operators at the Nuclear Power Training Unit at Goose Creek, S.C.

The Submarine Warfare Device is a mandatory qualification for all submariners in the U.S. Navy, according to the Naval History and Heritage Command website. Sailors must demonstrate a strong understanding of all systems, compartments and equipment aboard the submarine to earn the badge.

The Australian officer earned his dolphins while serving aboard the USS Vermont, a nuclear-powered fast attack submarine, according to the release.

Australian naval officers are training on U.S. Navy submarines as part of the 2021 trilateral AUKUS partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. More than 100 Australian officers participate in the program, according to the Tuesday release.

AUKUS was formed to provide Australia with

nuclear-powered submarine capabilities while ensuring they have submariners capable of safely operating and maintaining the vessels. The member states agreed to start training Australian navy personnel in 2023.

Australian officers and civilians began embedding with the U.S. and U.K. navies last year.

In August, the submarine tender USS Emory S. Land arrived at HMAS Stirling, near Perth, Australia, for several weeks of maintenance training on a U.S. nuclear-powered sub. In February, 37 Australian officers and sailors arrived at Naval Base Guam for similar training.

In March, President Joe Biden's administration trimmed plans to produce two Virginia-class subs in 2025 for Australia to one, according to Bloomberg.

The U.S. plans to sell three Virginia-class nuclear submarines to Australia after 2030 as part of the program, pending approval from Congress closer to the time of sale, according to a White House fact sheet released in March.

[https://www.stripes.com/theaters/asia\\_pacific/2024-12-19/australian-nuclear-sub-navy-dolphins-16214007.html](https://www.stripes.com/theaters/asia_pacific/2024-12-19/australian-nuclear-sub-navy-dolphins-16214007.html)

### Old Dad Needs Hearing Aids

An elderly man rear-ended a guy driving an expensive European sports car. Enraged, the guy hops out and confronts the old man. He yells, "Look what you did to my car! You're going to give me \$10,000 right now or I'm going to beat you to a pulp!"

"Oh my..." the old man said nervously. "I don't have that kind of money. Let me call my son." he said with hope. "He trains dolphins and he will know what to do."

"Dolphins!" the other driver huffed, while rolling his eyes.

The old man pulled out his phone, dialed his son, and just as his son answered, the irate man snatched the phone away from the old man.

"So, YOU'RE a dolphin trainer, huh?" The irate man yelled, "Well, your old man here just rear-ended my car and I need TEN GRAND right now, or I'm going to beat you AND your old man to a pulp!"

"I'll be there in 10 minutes." says the voice calmly on the other end.

Exactly 10 minutes later, a Jeep pulls up and a guy hops out and proceeds to pulverize the bully, leaving him in a heap on the side of the road. When he finished, he walked over to his father and said,

"For the last time dad, I train Seals... Navy Seals. NOT dolphins!"

### Why I Like Retirement!

**Question:** How many days in a week?

**Answer:** 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

**Question:** When is a retiree's bedtime?

**Answer:** Two hours after falling asleep on the couch.

**Question:** How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?

**Answer:** Only one, but it might take all day.

**Question:** What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

**Answer:** There is not enough time to get everything done.

**Question:** Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

**Answer:** The term comes with a 10% discount.

**Question:** Among retirees, what is considered formal attire?

**Answer:** Tied shoes.

**RETIRED =  
6 SATURDAYS  
+ 1 SUNDAY  
EACH WEEK**

## **The Submarine Tradition**

**"There is something about the submarine service. It tends to create a bond between those who have served that is born of trust. Every submariner who ever put to sea and submerged has placed in the hands of another, their very lives. The bond is not one of close friendship, even though those do grow out of the time spent aboard a boat. It is one of mutual respect - blind to color, ethnicity, religion, nationality and gender. The bond is one of personal responsibility. Not everyone has it. Some don't even know what personal responsibility is. Submariners know what it is. It is their way of life. The trust and respect and sense of personal responsibility is.... "The Submarine Tradition..."**

**Jim Christley**



Thursday, October 10, 2024  
For Immediate Release  
Mark Hinkle, Press Officer  
[press.office@ssa.gov](mailto:press.office@ssa.gov)



## News Release

### **Social Security Announces 2.5 Percent Benefit Increase for 2025**

Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for more than 72.5 million Americans will increase 2.5 percent in 2025, the Social Security Administration announced today. On average, Social Security retirement benefits will increase by about \$50 per month starting in January.

Over the last decade the COLA increase has averaged about 2.6 percent. The COLA was 3.2 percent in 2024.

Nearly 68 million Social Security beneficiaries will see a 2.5 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) beginning in January 2025. Increased payments to nearly 7.5 million people receiving SSI will begin on December 31, 2024. (Note: Some people receive both Social Security benefits and SSI).

“Social Security benefits and SSI payments will increase in 2025, helping tens of millions of people keep up with expenses even as inflation has started to cool,” said Martin O’Malley, Commissioner of Social Security.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) is slated to increase to \$176,100 from \$168,600.

Security begins notifying people about their new benefit amount by mail starting in early December.

This year, for the first time, Social Security beneficiaries will receive a newly designed and improved COLA notice that makes it easier for customers to find the information they need most. The simplified COLA notice is now only one page, uses plain and personalized language, and provides exact dates and dollar amounts of a person’s new benefit amount and any deductions.

Individuals who have a personal *my* Social Security account can view their COLA notice online, which is secure, easy, and faster than receiving a letter in the mail. People can set up text or email alerts when there is a new message--such as their COLA notice--waiting for them in *my* Social Security.

People will need to have a personal *my* Social Security account by Nov. 20 to see their COLA notice online. To get started, visit [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

Information about Medicare changes for 2025 will be available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). For Social Security beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare, the 2025 benefit amount will be available via *my* Social Security’s Message Center starting in late November. Those who have not opted to receive messages online will receive their COLA notice by mail in December.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) as determined by the Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

To read more, please visit [www.ssa.gov/cola](http://www.ssa.gov/cola).

# # #

To get more Social Security news, follow the Press Office on Twitter [@SSAPress](https://twitter.com/SSAPress).

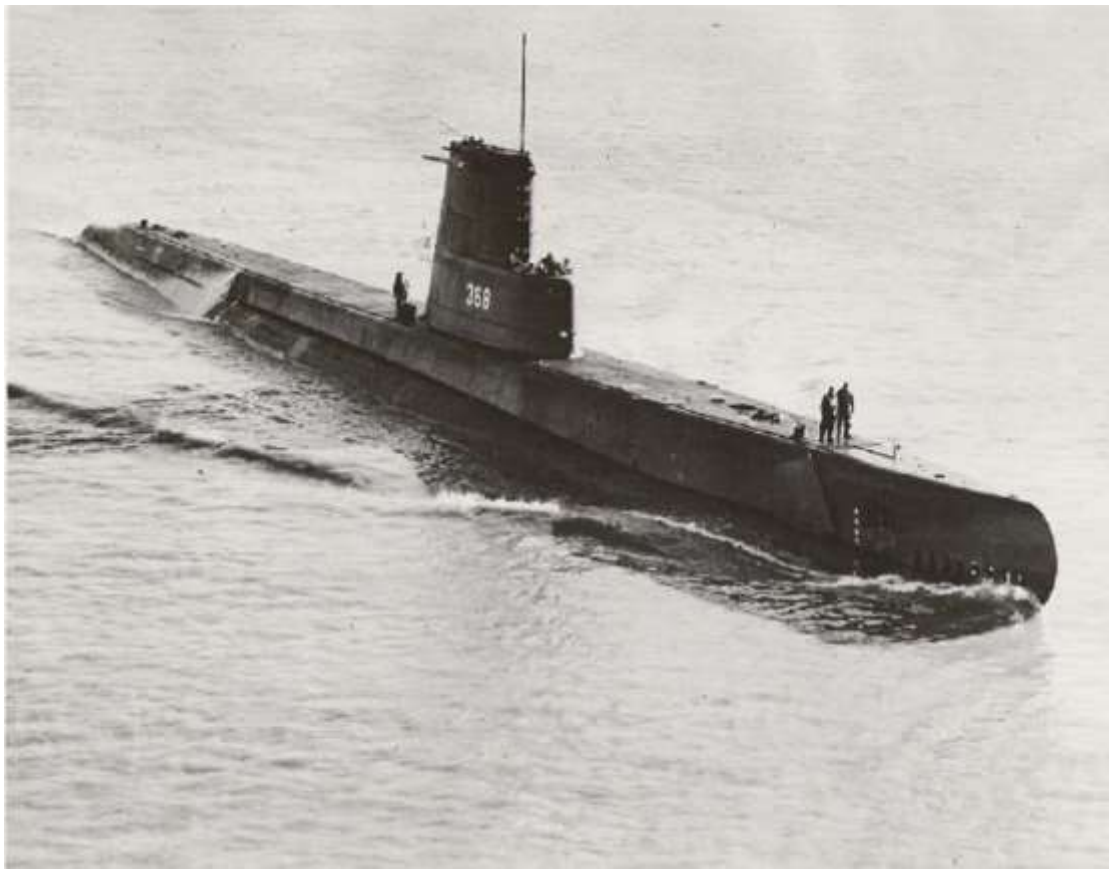


**Submitted by Jim Gutierrez, LTJG G Comm 66-67 Plank Owner**

We had lots of fun on the smoke boats before Rickover invented Nuclear Power. Jim, AKA Jim Bob, AKA James Gutierrez

Or

### **How Nuclear Power took the fun out of Submarines**



#### USS Jalao (SS-368)

My second and best boat

This talk is to honor those who served on Diesel Boats and let all you Nukes know what you missed out on. If you served on both you can appreciate the difference.

At the end of WWII most of the old fleet boats were put in the reserve fleet commonly referred to as the Moth Ball Fleet. Many of them were new or in like new condition. Diesel Subs are like cars. If you keep them tuned up and change the oil regularly, they will run forever.

Starting in 1947, With the threat of the Soviet menace, The Navy started converting their fleet boats to GUPPY's

This is about what it is like to ride a Diesel Boat compared to a Nuke.

The first time I stepped aboard a diesel boat was up at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine 1964. The Clamagore was getting a New Battery. It was the year after the Thresher was lost after a six-month Post Shake Availability at that yard. The shipyards reputation was, They're Slow but They Do Poor Work.

I was impressed with the closeness of the crew. Being packed up in a small boat had something to do with it. One noteworthy thing that I remember was the

Monday Morning Debriefing in Control. The men talked about their weekend with the local girls. I just listened. All the girls had nicknames. The only one I remember was SPACE FACE. Sub boat sailors know how to have fun.

The girls weren't interested in Officers. When they hear Officer, they think of Police Officers, and they prefer Sailors to Police Officers.

Let's get this boat out to sea. When you're on the surface you're always rigged for dive.

As a brand-new Ensign, I was taught how to dive the boat.

The Captain has already told the OOD to dive when ready.

The OOD on the bridge takes a good look around and then gives the order:

Look out down

With the last man down, you flip the switch on the diving alarm and start down the hatch pulling on the lanyard with all your weight while the helmsman dogs the hatch.

This isn't as easy as it sounds. In our Sub School underway one of my classmates bounced the hatch and the helmsman dogged it open. We took on a little water. They passed the word, "If one of the Officer Students is making his very first dive, do some clear the bridge dills first."

On the second sound of the diving alarm the Chief of the Watch opens all the vents.

You continue down to the dive stand and hear the Chief of the watch say, "Green Board." You order "15 degrees down bubble, make your depth 26 feet"

"Shut the Main Induction." You hope the engineman killed their engines when he heard the diving alarm. Otherwise, you're going to pull a vacuum on the boat and pop every one's eardrums.

The cook comes back with, Main Induction shut and locked, Very well.

When you level out at periscope depth you order, "Cycle the vents."

Now your boat is doing what Subs do best, cruising beneath the waves.

I won't go through all the things you have to do before you dive a Nuke Boat. It involves rotating and securing the running lights, rotating the clam shell on the bridge and securing it in place, etc.

The beauty of the Diesel boats was the smaller crew in a smaller less complicated boat that could do most of the operations that a Nuke can do. Not as fast but quieter. There is nothing quieter than a Diesel Boat on the battery.

Cruising at night under the stars is beautiful. Anyone can come up on the bridge and enjoy the beauty of the night.

You are on one of the boats that served in WWII, that sank ships. Jallao made 4 war patrols. On her first Patrol she participated in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. They were directed to take up scouting positions between the Philippines and Japan to cut off Japanese cripples struggling home after their devastating defeat at the Battle off Cape Engaño. She sank the damaged light cruiser Tama.

For her next three patrols she operated in the Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan. She did life guard duty picking up downed pilots and sank a 6,000-ton freighter Timoko Maru.

In the 60's The Diesel Boats carried the bulk of keeping track of the Soviet fleet both in the Atlantic and the Pacific. During this period, we were building Fast Attacks and the 41 for Freedom. As the brand-new Fast Attacks came on line we were retiring Diesel Boats.

### Another advantage

Diesel Boats don't have radioactive refueling. I knew a former Nuke boat sailor at Exxon who wanted to make the Navy his career. He developed bone spurs in his knees most likely from standing fire watch during refueling. I participated in a refueling of sorts on the Clamagore. We got a new battery.

You don't have to worry about BO on the diesel boats. Everyone smells the same... BAD. After two weeks at sea on the Jallao this burly Engineman comes up on the Bridge to announce. "They opened up the showers today, but I understand it's not mandatory."

To let you know how casual things were on the Jallao, we were out in Long Island Sound getting ready to dive. I was standing watch with LT Wilson. He stepped forward on the bridge and started relieving himself as he told me, "You can't do this on a destroyer." You probably couldn't do it on a Boomer or a Fast Attack either.

Getting back to the BO issue. On the Simson we had a newspaper printed up by our good Doctor. One of the news stories was about Fume, will he ever take a shower? In a later edition of the paper, he started talking about Father of Fume. Some of us knew he was writing about the XO.

Diesel Engines are not as complex as a Nuclear Engine. I am talking about all that equipment in the Reactor Compartment. Once the steam leaves the Reactor Compartment, you have a typical engine room much like you would see on a conventional surface ship. With all that Nuclear stuff you have more complex procedures.

All the training and procedures we have on Nuclear Boats is necessary. This is why we have never had a meltdown on one of our boats.

I don't know how it is now, but in the 60's Diesel Boats were able to get into more liberty ports. Japan did not let any Nukes in their ports. They didn't want anything to do with anything Nuclear. When Fast attacks made West pack cruises, they stayed at sea most of the time and pulled into places like Guam which, take it from me, it isn't much of a liberty port. Now a days its different. We even had a carrier pull into a port in Viet Nam. The talking heads on TV said it was just to piss off the Chinese. I guess Fast Attacks now make liberty ports in Hong Kong and Singapore. I really don't know.

Now all the Boats have girls on board, so I guess the need to have good liberty ports is not as pressing.

Firing and recovering torpedoes was more fun on diesel boats. You would fire at your target and then surface and look for the fish. Once you found it you would put a man in the water to hook on to it, bring it on board and stow it below. You can't do that on a Fast Attack. We played war games with the Dog Fish in the Atlantic while I was on the Jallao. We only lost one Mark 37. You have to look for it for a certain length of time and then record in the Log, "Searched high and low for our torpedo. Never found it, presumed sunk." The Weapons officer had to tell someone, I'm sure. The Navy inventories all their weapons, even the practice ones.

Speaking of torpedo recovery, I know that at the end of turn around on a boomer you take a short underway. You get to fire one torpedo. You get one of those little torpedo boats to pick up the torpedo. As Navigator on the Hunley on Guam I was able to do some enjoyable Navy Stuff. One of them was the Officer in Charge of a tugboat. My one and only Command at Sea. It was my job to stay between the torpedo and the Russian Trawler to make sure they didn't recover one of our Mark 37's. This was easy in the winter of '68. The North Koreans had captured the Pueblo in January and the Trawler did not want to have anything to do with anything that floated and carried the American Flag.

And now, Little Rocket Man has ICBM's and Nuclear Weapons. But he will never use them. Deterrence still works.

Diesel Boats were not always fun to ride. At least not for one of the sailors on a boat we gave to Afghanistan. That was common in those days. Whenever we had a boat, we wanted to retire, we would offer it to one of our allies.

We found that they had a very strict method of administering swift punishment for breaking the law. They erected a scaffold on board their boat. When asked why they were doing this, they told the authorities that a man on board was caught stealing and they were preparing to hang him. No no no! You can't do that here. They took the scaffold down, went out to sea, erected the scaffold, and hung the poor chap. He was buried at sea.

Let's surface the boat.

The OOD in the barrel looks around to see if it is safe to surface. Long Island Sound in the summer had lots of sail boats. They are quiet and to tell you the truth, I don't know how we missed them.

Blow bow buoyancy. The boat takes a gentle up angle.

Blow main ballast. Your boat comes out of the water hopefully bow first.

Secure the air. Start the low-pressure blower. Once you are on the surface you secure the low-pressure blower.

The OOD climbs up the ladder and opens the hatch. He and the two lookouts go up on the bridge.

I noticed that the guys in my sub school class who were serious about making the Navy their career all picked diesel boats. You get lots of ship handling experience on Diesel Boats. On Nuclear boats you leave port, get out to deep water, and pull the cork. You don't surface until you are ready to come into port.

As for me, I joined the Navy because they offered to send me through College. I wanted to fly. Even got my private license my senior year in college complements of the Navy. I got sucked into the Nuclear Navy because that's what they needed the most at the time. However, the training at Nuclear Power School and serving a year in the engine room, made me a better Engineer in Civilian Life.

Wouldn't trade it for anything. I am especially glad I got to spent 6 months on 2 Diesel Boats before I started Nuke School.

Captain Degen on the Jallao gave me good marks, which wasn't always true during my Naval Career.

JEG 2019



# Using FamousKin Program Ahnentafel System to Find Ancestors

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

In previous newsletters we used FamousKin.com to link different “notable” or “famous” ancestors together to add them to your tree.

Another feature in the FamousKin.com program is called the “Ahnentafel System” to see ancestor lines up the tree from the selected ancestor.

## Ahnentafel System Defined

An *ahnentafel* (German for "ancestor table") is a genealogical numbering system for listing a person's direct ancestors in a fixed sequence of ascent. The subject (or proband) of the ahnentafel is listed as No. 1, the subject's father as No. 2 and the mother as No. 3, the paternal grandparents as No. 4 and No. 5 and the maternal grandparents as No. 6 and No. 7, and so on, back through the generations. Apart from No. 1, who can be male or female, all even-numbered persons are male, and all odd-numbered persons are female. In this [schema](#), the number of any person's father is double the person's number, and a person's mother is double the person's number plus one. Using this definition of numeration, one can derive some basic information about individuals who are listed without additional research.

Assuming you have an ancestor in your tree that is in the FamousKin.com database, you can use this method to add them to your tree for as many generations up from that person that is listed in the FamousKin database. It is best if the person used is a “direct ancestor” (parent, grandparent, great-grandparent) such that “all ancestors” up from that person are also “direct ancestors” to you.

For example, in Tom’s tree, Hugh le Bigod (Abt. 1182-18 Feb 1225) is his 25<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather. He was one of the Barons that signed the Magna Carta in 1215.

If we type “hugh le bigod famouskin” in Google search, we see “Hugh le Bigod Famous Kin (3963)” as one of the search options. If we click on that option, we get the following screen:

<https://famouskin.com/famous-kin-menu.php?name=3963+hugh+le+bigod>

FKJ Hugh le Bigod Famous Kin (396) x +

famouskin.com/famous-kin-menu.php?name=3963+hugh+le+bigod

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**Famous Kin of Hugh le Bigod**


*Magna Carta Surety*


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Exclude:  Great Migration  Magna Carta  Royalty

 [Roger le Bigod](#)  
Magna Carta Surety  
Father

 [King Robert I](#)  
King of France  
8th great-grandfather

 [Anne Boleyn](#)

This shows all the “notable” or “famous” kin of Hugh le Bigod in the FamousKin.com database which we have discussed in a previous newsletter. At the top of the screen it shows “Home > Hugh le Bigod Genealogy > Famous Kin” so if we click on “Hugh le Bigod Genealogy” we get the following screen:

Browser tabs: Hugh le Bigod Family Tree (3963) x +

Address bar: famouskin.com/family-tree.php?name=3963+hugh+le+bigod

Navigation: Personal, Genealogy, Shopping, Financial, Mom, Software, Wood, Toyota Inventory |...

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### Ancestry of Hugh le Bigod

*Magna Carta Surety*

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- [Hugh le Bigod Family Tree \(Family Group\)](#)
- [Hugh le Bigod Family Tree \(Pedigree\)](#)
- [Hugh le Bigod Family Tree \(Ahnentafel\)](#)
- [Hugh le Bigod Family Tree \(Surname Index\)](#)

---

**Who was Hugh le Bigod?**

Hugh le Bigod was listed as one of the Magna Carta Sureties. The Magna Carta Sureties were a group of 25 barons who were named as the guarantors of the Magna Carta, a document signed by King John of England in 1215. The Magna Carta, also known as the Great Charter, was a cornerstone of English constitutional history, as it limited the power of the monarchy and established certain rights for the people. The barons who served as the Magna Carta Sureties were responsible for ensuring that the king upheld the terms of the document, and they had the power to use force if necessary to do so. The Magna

This shows the different options available in the FamousKin program. The method we want to explore is the 4<sup>th</sup> option down called “Hugh le Bigod Family Tree (Ahnentafel)” on the screen. If we click on this option we get the following screen:

FKJ Hugh le Bigod Ancestor Chart x +

famouskin.com/ahnentafel.php?name=3963+hugh+le+bigod

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Home > Hugh le Bigod Genealogy > Ahnentafel

### Ancestry of Hugh le Bigod

*Magna Carta Surety*

**Look** → Click or tap a name to see more details including sources or famous kin.

**1st Generation**

1. Hugh le Bigod (c1182–c1225)

**2nd Generation**

2. Roger le Bigod (c1147–c1221)
3. [Ida de Tony](#)

**3rd Generation**

4. Roger Bigod
5. Juliana de Vere
6. Ralph de Tony
7. Margaret Beaumont

**4th Generation**

10. Aubrey de Vere (c1090–1141)
11. Alice Fitzrichard de Clare (–c1183)
12. Roger de Tony

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Looking at this option we see that the FamousKin database allows us to go up 16 generations from Hugh le Bigod as the starting person. So if Hugh le Bigod is Tom's 215<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, we have information to add ancestors to get to Tom's 41<sup>st</sup> great-grandparents.

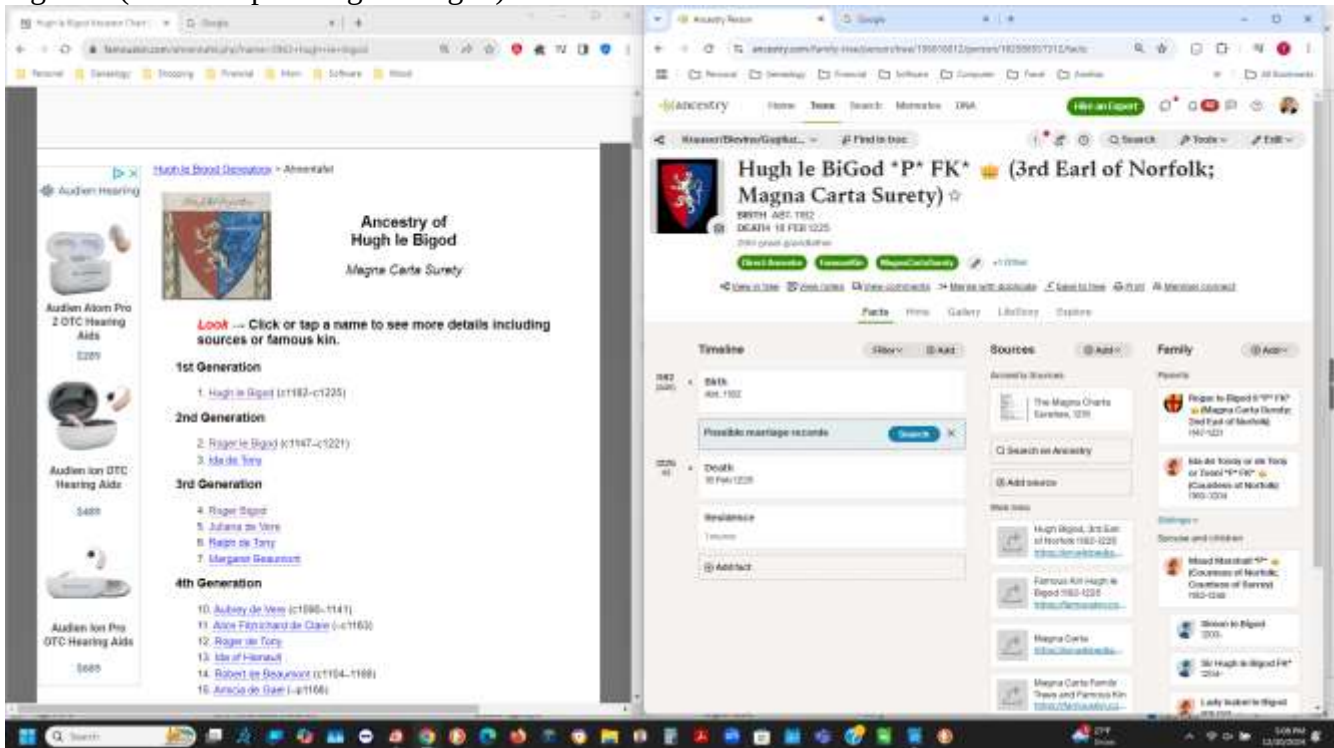
It should be noted that not every generation up the tree is complete as not all ancestors may be in the FamousKin database. This list is only the ones that FamousKin has listed in the database. Remember that the grandparents double each generation you go up the tree. Thus, we see that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation we see 2 grandparents, 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation – 4 grandparents, 4<sup>th</sup> generation should have 8 grandparents but only shows 6 grandparents so 2 grandparents are unknown for this or any subsequent generations up the list.



One method would be to start adding grandparents on this list but that only shows the name and any known birth/death information. This is not all the information available for those people so a more useful method would be to look at the profile page for each person to get all the information available about that person from the FamousKin database. Since each generation doubles the grandparents and it would quickly become extremely difficult to keep track of where we are on the list as we add generations we need a method to keep track of where we are in the list.

We suggest that you print out this list, either on paper or as a PDF file, that you can use to mark off each person as you add them to your tree. That way you can go up one surname path until you have added as many generations available marking them off the list as you progress up the list. If you printed it on paper, you can cross off each name as you go up the list until you reach the end of that surname. If you printed it out as a PDF file and are using Adobe Acrobat Reader to read the list, you can use the Highlight feature to “highlight” each name as you add it to keep track of which ancestors you have put in your tree as you add them to your tree. You may find it easier to mark them off with a pen on paper.

The method we would suggest is to open the FamousKin.com program in a browser (Edge, Chrome, Firefox, etc.) on the left screen (if using two monitors) or left half of the screen if only using one screen such as your laptop. On the right monitor (using 2 monitors) or right half of the screen on your laptop, open a different browser (Edge, Chrome, Firefox, etc.), open your ancestry program to the Profile of the ancestor you are starting with (For example: Hugh le Bigod).



In FamousKin click on “Hugh le Bigod” (this would be your starting ancestor) under 1<sup>st</sup> Generation on the list. This opens the following screen (left side of screen):

FKJ Hugh le Bigod Family Group | Hi x +

famouskin.com/family-group.php?name=3963+hugh+le+bigod&ahnum=1

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**Ancestry of Hugh le Bigod**

*Magna Carta Surety*



**Hugh le Bigod**

[View famous kin of Hugh le Bigod](#)

**1st Generation**

Ahnentafel No: 1

Father: [Roger le Bigod](#)

Mother: [Ida de Tony](#)

Birth Date: ABT 1182

Birth Location:

Christening Date:

Christening Location:

Death Date: ABT 1225

Death Location:

Update your Profile for Hugh le Bigod on the right screen to add any information from FamousKin to this person including Birth, Death, Burial, Spouse, Notes, or any other information you want from this page. You can also add any of the Sources you want to add to the Profile page in your ancestry page. Notice that for Hugh le Bigod there is a WikiPedia reference which will give a lot more information about him. We would add this reference and any additional information from WikiPedia or WikiTree.

The screen below shows what is in Tom's tree for Hugh le Bigod (right side of screen):

The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com profile for Hugh le BiGod \*P\* FK\* (3rd Earl of Norfolk; Magna Carta Surety). The profile includes a coat of arms, a star icon, and the following details:

- BIRTH** ABT. 1182
- DEATH** 18 FEB 1225
- 25th great-grandfather

Tags below the name include: Direct Ancestor, FamousKin, MagnaCartaSurety, and +1 Other.

Navigation options include: View in tree, View notes, View comments, Merge with duplicate, Save to tree, Print, and Member connect.

The main content area is divided into three columns:

- Timeline:** Shows a birth event at age 1182 and a death event at age 43 in 1225. There is a section for "Possible marriage records" with a search button.
- Sources:** Lists Ancestry Sources (e.g., "The Magna Charta Sureties, 1215") and Web links (e.g., "Hugh Bigod, 3rd Earl of Norfolk 1182-1225").
- Family:** Lists Parents (Roger le Bigod II \*P\* FK\* and Ida de Tosny or de Tony or Toeni \*P\* FK\*), Siblings, and Spouse and children (Maud Marshall \*P\* and Simon le Bigod).

Note that the information in FamousKin and other sources may not always agree and you should use your judgment as to what information you add to your tree.

Notice that Tom lists “\*P\* FK\* 🏰(3rd Earl of Norfolk; Magna Carta Surety)” in the Suffix field and uses “Direct Ancestor, FamousKin, MagnaCartaSurety, and RoyaltyNobility (+1other)” TreeTags for this person. Tom uses “\*P\*” to signify that Hugh is a “direct ancestor on his Paternal side”; “FK\*” to signify that it is a profile in the FamousKin program; “🏰(3rd Earl of Norfolk; Magna Carta Surety)” to indicate he is Royalty and any title or other information to display. Tom adds TreeTags he has created to allow searching for this person using different filters.

After you have added all the information for this person to your tree, cross them off the list on the paper or PDF. Now you are ready to move up the tree. You can either add Roger le Bigod (father) or Ida de Tory (mother) as the next person on your tree. This is why you need to mark each one off the list as you add them because it would be easy to lose track of where you are on the list as you move up the list. Remember that as you move up each generation you double the number of grandparents so it can become very difficult to keep track of which branch you are going up.

Assume we choose to go up the Bigod line as far as we can. After we reach the last ancestor in the list for the Bigod line, we come back to Ida de Tony (or the next person not marked off on the list) to start up that lineage as far as we can go. Mark each person off the printout as you add them to keep track of where you are on the list. Keep coming back to the person at the start of your list that has not been marked off and then move back up to add that line to your tree. Since in this case we have 16 generations to add, to add all these people could take you weeks or months just for this starting person.

Be aware as you go up the list you may recognize ancestors that may already be in your tree. You may need to perform a search for them in your tree, and if you find them already in your tree, you should "Merge" the two people together. Tom and Don have a lot of ancestors where families inter-married to keep power or land in the family, thus, many family lines combine at some point. If you do "Merge" people in your tree, you may be able to move up the tree and mark them off the list. You should add any information from the FamousKin program to the Profiles in your ancestry program as discussed above for the Hugh le Bigod entry.

When everyone on the list has been marked off, you have added all those generations to your ancestry tree. Now you can find another "direct ancestor" that is in FamousKin and repeat the process.

Print a copy, complete and mail with your check or money order to the address below.



### 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](#)  
**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
X beside each one	2011 SC	2013 AL	2016 SC	2018 OK	2021 KY	2023 SC

#### 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.**

<b>REUNION USE ONLY</b>
Check # _____
Date Rcvd _____
Registration # _____
Hotel Resv: _____

#### 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.



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.