



**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.**

**JANUARY 2026**

# USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER

## Association Officers & Board of Directors 2025 - 2027

<b>PRESIDENT</b> <u>Jerry [CJ] Blevins</u>	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> <u>Paul [Margaret] Clark</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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**Wishing each of you a Very  
Happy New Year from your  
Association Officers and Board!!**



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

CJ and I wish everyone a Happy New Year. We hope that everyone had a wonderful and joyful Christmas season.



**Chaplain's Corner - Bruce Stefanik  
[MS1(SS) B 73-77, 655 Assoc Life  
Member, USSVI/Holland Club USS  
Asheville Base]:**

Praise the Lord.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalm 106:1

May this be your prayer for the New Year. Let all your distress be given to God.

Happy New Year to you and your families.

May you have the very best that the year has to offer.

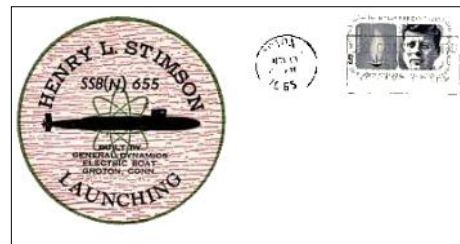
Be blessed....



**Ship's Historian - Larry Knutson**  
**[MMCS(SS) B 79-81 USSVI/  
 Holland Club Charleston Base]:**

Some of you have asked us to use pictures of our historic items.

As you may remember, many items were stolen from our storage locker back in Nov



2020. Pictures of items that are shown may have been lost in the theft.

Many of you still haven't asked for a copy of your check-in card. if you were on the Gold Crew during the time when Bob Weeks was the CO you had to complete a check-in card for him. If you're interested in receiving your card please mail the secretary [655webmaster@ssbn655.org](mailto:655webmaster@ssbn655.org).



**From The Editor & Secretary -**  
**Nick Nichols** [TM1(SS) G/SY1/B  
 70-75; FTCS(SS) B COB 85-89,  
 Assoc Life Member, USSVI/  
 Holland Club Charleston Basel:

[illegible]





### **WELCOME ABOARD: Found & Updated**

(Shipmate has been added or information has been updated on our Sailing List. Please check the online Sailing List for shipmates contact info.)

**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 THIS MONTH**

**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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**Diane Meigs [wife of Ken Meigs ETR2(SS) G Comm 65-70 Plank, SV MAL Base HC, Assoc. Treasurer & Life Member]**

Cards to: 1537 Pebble Beach Ct Medford OR 97504

**11.29.25: Text from Ken:** In early November, Diane had some serious surgery. Many of you have been praying for her as she recovers. I'm happy to let you know that as of Thanksgiving Day she has left the hospital and was able to spend the day with her family in Idaho. As of Friday, 28 Nov, she is safely at home and prepared to complete her recovery. We really appreciated all of your prayers that have got us to where we are now. Praise the Lord!!! Your continued prayers are greatly appreciated.

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

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

**9.26.25: Email from Sandy & Donna:**

Dear Family and Friends,

It has been a while since we sent an update on

our health. It is not for lack of caring but rather for going through an extended period of waiting for doctor results so we could plan a course of action. The below information provides a status of where we are in a mixture of competing challenges.

Since our July update, the addition of chemo to Sandy's Keytruda immunotherapy was paused to determine whether the chemo or his heart issues were causing his increased dizziness, shortness of breath, fatigue, and retention of fluid in the lymph system (lymphedema). Either the heart or the chemo or both could be causing these symptoms. The lymph system fluid retention causes significant fluid retention in his legs, making walking difficult. After thorough testing, the lymphedema was determined to be mainly caused by severe stenosis in the aortic heart valve. Combine this with a fall in our home, resulting in a fractured collarbone that eliminates use of his right arm for his walking cane to offset the limp he received after an operation to remove cancer in his left hip. All these challenges caused the cancellation of our attendance at the 65th reunion at the US Naval Academy. This was the last big class reunion for his class, and he planned for so long to attend. We are still waiting for a decision on how to treat the aorta valve stenosis. A long introduction; now we will close with an update.

Donna's back continues to give her a lot of pain. We presently see no options to get rid of the pain; however, we continue to search.

With Sandy, we are balancing his health items. The first big question is his heart. The calcification has worsened recently and is causing the symptoms of dizziness, shortness of breath, fatigue, and fluid retention, especially in the legs.

His cancer is also a worry because the cancer nodules in his hip and shoulder have started to grow again. He has been on a chemo drug in addition to Keytruda. The chemo was also causing dizziness, shortness of breath, fatigue, and fluid retention. For this reason, his oncologist at Duke and his local oncologist recommended stopping the chemo to see how it affected these adverse effects. After stopping the chemo for three infusions (nine weeks), the dizziness, shortness of breath, fatigue, and fluid retention all lessened; however, the drawback is the hip and shoulder cancer continued to slowly grow. His heart specialist, who would install a replacement artificial valve inside the

current aorta valve, is concerned about the cancer, which might make Sandy a non-candidate for this procedure. The procedure is a Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TVAR). We are trying to get him to agree to do the procedure while Sandy is feeling better and before the heart gets any worse. That decision is still up in the air. We will start by having a heart catheterization on October 3, 2025.

However, despite the above, we continue the fight for both of us. We will keep you informed if and when we get scheduled for the heart procedure and in three months when we get another PET CT scan.

We appreciate your prayers and support and wish we had better news. We know we have always been in God's hands. We are thankful we have a God that listens to prayers!

Warmly, Donna & Sandy

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**Bruce Stefanik [MS1(SS) B 73-77, 655 Assoc Life Member, USSVI/Holland Club USS Asheville Base]:**

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

**11.11.25: Email from Vicki:** Bruce had a good checkup at his ALS Clinic in October with only 2 very slight changes so he doesn't have to go back for another year.

I had an RFA ablation on lumbar nerves last week. It can take 6 weeks or more to fully take effect so I am in the waiting time. I also learned why I had such a difficult time with my knee during the reunion. We really like the new knee surgeon my PC doctor referred me to as he has had extra fellowship training in problem knees. It seems that my left knee has no ACL so I will need a replacement.

*3.17.25: Email from Bruce: I am doing well. I am holding steady with no progression and do not see my ALS doctor again until October after the Reunion.*

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**George Stevens [MT2(SS) G 68-71]**

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

**11.11.25: Email from George:** My heart is doing better since I gave up chocolate but having a lot of pain from arthritis/muscle/joints - everything hurts. Ann is going for a consult for her back - pinched sciatic nerve.

*9.22.25: Email from George: Ann's back is worse and there's nothing the doctors can do. Shots don't work and surgery is not an option in her case. Me - not much more the docs can do for me either. I am increasing my cayenne intake and that seems to help.*

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

Cards to: 5914 Ruby Dr Pearland TX 77581-8926

**NO RECENT UPDATES**

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

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

Card to: 4000 Ibis Way Unit 201 Venice FL 34292

**NO RECENT UPDATES**

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

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

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**Ron 'RG' Hyson [STS1(SS) B 70-75 (STSCM Ret), Assoc. Life Member, USSVI/Holland Club Hampton Roads Base]**

Cards to: 3425 MacDonald Rd., Virginia Beach VA 23464

**No recent updates**

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



*transition to the Moderately Severe Stage of dementia.*

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

*Jean/Ron*

## DID YOU KNOW??

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**3-second tech genius:** If an app, service or your internet seems down, check [Downdetector](#). Search the name to see current outages along with problems reported in the past few hours. And if there are none, reboot your device.

**3-second tech genius:** Having internet issues? Restart it the right way. Unplug your **modem** and **router**, wait **30 seconds**, then plug in the **modem first**. When the lights are back, plug in the **router** and wait **two minutes**.

**3-second tech genius:** Stepping away from your desk? On **Windows**, press the **Windows key + L** to lock your screen without closing apps. On **Mac**, press **Control + Command + Q** to do the same.

**3-second tech genius:** Want a clock on your **Kindle**? In a book, tap the **Aa icon > More >** and turn on **Show Clock While Reading**. The time will appear at the top of the screen.

**3-second tech genius:** Save money on printer ink. **Arial** looks clean but burns through cartridges. Try **Times New Roman** instead. Tests show it can use up to 27% less ink over time.

**Find anything on your phone:** Stop scrolling through menus like it's 2010. On **Android**, swipe up on your home screen and use the search bar at the bottom to find apps, files, settings or contacts in seconds. On **iPhone**, same deal. Tap the search icon at the bottom and type away.

**Organize Kindle books:** Your Kindle doesn't have to be chaos. Create **Collections** (mini folders) to keep

your favorite reads together. In your **Library**, select the **three-dot icon** on a book, choose **Add to/remove from Collection**, hit **(+)**, name it, tap **Create** and **Save**. Then repeat with other books to add them.

**Send emails later:** Gmail lets you schedule messages, so you can write them now and send them later. On **desktop**, open the **Compose** box, click the arrow next to the blue **Send** button, and select **Schedule send** to pick a date. On **mobile**, open the Gmail app, tap **Compose**, then the **three dots** in the top right to do the same. Easy.

**Find your typing spot:** On Windows 11, it's easy to lose that little blinking line when writing long documents. To make it stand out, go to **Settings > Accessibility > Text cursor** and toggle on **Text cursor indicator**. You can pick the size (3 is good) and color. And yes, it works in most apps and browsers.

**The 3-2-1 backup rule:** Got important files you'd cry over losing? Follow this. Keep **3 copies** of your data (one main, two backups), stored on **2 different types** of media like an **external drive** and the cloud, with **1 copy off-site**, somewhere physically separate.



Admiral Rickover stands in the conning tower of the Henry L. Stimson (SSBN-655) during sea trials at the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corp., Groton, CT; November 1965.

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## GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH

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### 655 Association Website

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

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This is really a good movie about the submarines role in WWII and also explains the different phases of the war as the Navy changed strategies and tactics. Lasts About 45 minutes.

<https://youtu.be/5sb4sU-4nQ4>

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### *The Lean Submariner*

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

<https://theleansubmariner.com/>

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### **The Great Charleston Earthquake of 1886 and "The Summerville Sensation"**

By Mister Mac on December 25, 2025

#### **New beginnings - again**

We made the move to South Carolina over a year ago to downsize from a house that was too big to take care of and find more reasonable winters. I had been stationed for a short while at the Charleston Naval base and Debbie and I had visited South Carolina and particularly Charleston a number of times over the years. Despite the fact that the heat is pretty oppressive during parts of the summer, we took the gamble that we could manage that part in exchange for warmer winters.

So far that has been working out. A little snow last year only lasted a few days and overall, we have been enjoying our time here. We have ventured out to a number of areas in between routine trips to the doctors and have loved discovering what makes South Carolina a wonderful destination. Even the nearby passing of a few hurricanes has been manageable, and we have continued our long-standing tradition of keeping a bug out bag handy and the gas in the car rarely goes below a half before getting topped off. I'm very happy about the lower cost of fuel here. Pennsylvania taxes the heck out of gas and property taxes and at our age, it's nice to have friendly relationships with lower prices on both.

I was checking out the Library of Congress's newspaper collection today looking for stories from 1925. It's one of my hobbies to mine the data in that collection. Anyone who reads my blog has

seen that history is a great predictor of the future. It seems like the old adage from Proverbs remains sound: **There is nothing new under the sun.**

In the Washington Times for this date in 1925, a small snippet appeared as a filler on the editorial page.

Quite often, the news of the day was not enough to fill the page with new content so they would add pieces to fill the page.

[Read full blog here](#)

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### **Truman's Decision – 1945**

By Mister Mac on December 27, 2025

#### **It seems a lifetime ago when I last sailed on a submarine.**

I left the USS Ohio in December of 1984 after making my fourth patrol. It was a routine patrol with nothing special to report. Considering that we were conducting a strategic deterrent patrol, that is a very good thing. After having served on three other submarines, I was ready to come home from the sea for a while and get fully reacquainted with my bride. Frankly, the last patrol seemed like it lasted way longer than it actually did in real time. I can remember being very happy to climb up the ladder for the very last time thinking that I wasn't sure I could ever climb back down another one.

Patrols gave you a lot of free time to think about life in general. I wrote most of my thoughts down and would keep them in a box which we carried around with our household goods every time we moved. All told, we moved about twenty-one times as a couple. Last year as we prepared for the move down to South Carolina, I finally opened the box for the last time and destroyed all of the notebooks I had written in. Shredded and burned. To be honest, most of the notes were really personal and I did not want my nieces and nephews to see that part of our life.

**But the memories remain.**

[Read full blog here](#)



### **The Computer Corner**

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

### **How to change the Text Size in Windows 11 for better readability**

Greetings Shipmates, and Happy New Year. In 2026 we will continue our journey with Windows

11 and all it has to offer. This month we will look at fine tuning text size for both our primary Windows Desktop and for two command terminal utilities we may also use during more system level work on our systems.

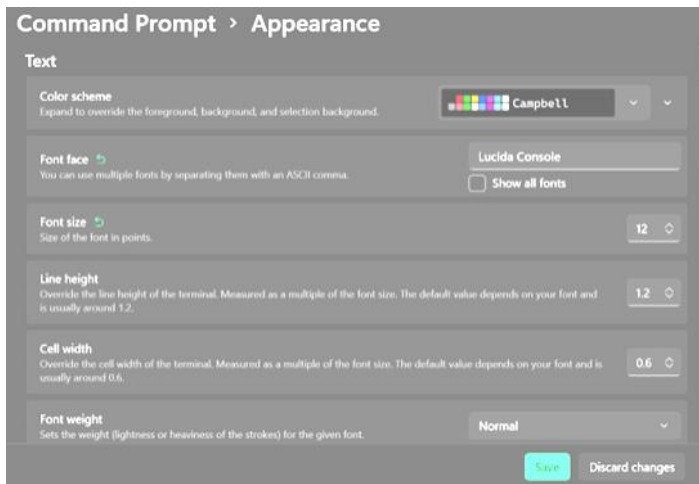
The Windows Desktop text size is easily adjusted as you can see in this video:

### How Can I Make the Text on My Screen Larger?

If you have used a Windows system in the past, then the Command Terminal (cmd.exe) or the Powershell Terminal should not be a stranger to you. This video shows some easy steps to change the default font size in a command terminal – and it works the same for CMD.exe and Powershell terminals.

### How to Change The Font Size In Command Prompt Using Windows 11

What the presenter did not show in his video was how to change the default Font. Sometimes a different text font is your favorite and can be more readable. To do this you follow the steps provided in the video, but Select the “Font Face” option to pick your favorite. You can check the “Show All Fonts” box to see more Font choices. Be sure to click on the Save button when you are done.



If you are using a Command Terminal, or a Powershell Terminal, then the CTRL+ and CTRL- actions will indeed change the size of the font size in the window without going through the settings change process.

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

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## **The Computer Corner #2**

### **It looks like USB-C, but this symbol changes everything**

**By Gavin Phillips -- Published Dec 15, 2025**

At first glance, a Thunderbolt port looks just the same as any old USB-C port. Same shape, same cable, same satisfying click when you plug something in. But that small lightning bolt symbol next to the port signals something very different happening under the hood.

Towards the end of 2025, I bought a new laptop and was reminded of how incredibly useful Thunderbolt ports are, especially the latest iteration, Thunderbolt 5.

What's interesting is that, externally, nothing looks special. But in reality, that tiny lightning symbol unlocks faster speeds, extensive display support, and hardware options unavailable to a regular USB-C port.

Thunderbolt is one of those bits of tech that you might not know you're using, but when you do, you'll never want to stop. With that said, I have one major gripe with Thunderbolt that, for the life of me, I cannot understand why they don't fix!

### **It looks like USB-C, but it's way better**

#### **The lightning symbol changes everything**

The confusion between USB-C and Thunderbolt is understandable. All the tech goes through the connector, USB-C, but it doesn't actually completely explain what the port can do.

A basic USB-C port supports charging and data transfer, and can potentially handle high-speed data transfer and higher levels of power delivery. However, at a glance, the port typically doesn't tell you what you're getting; it's basically guesswork most of the time. And that's before you even consider the problems with USB-C roulette.

Thunderbolt is a standard built on top of USB-C. When you see the lightning symbol on a USB-C port, it shows that it conforms to a different, strict set of requirements. The standard covers speed, connectivity, display support, expansion cards, power delivery, and more.

**Read complete article here**





## The Security Corner

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

## The AI Adventure – AI: Safe or not?

Happy New Year, Shipmates! This month marks the beginning of our AI adventure in 2026. Each of us will have our own opinion and perspective on the emergence of AI in our digital lifestyle. A range of products including AI-enabled PCs, AI in our Apple products, several popular web browsers, and even our newer appliances now have AI embedded in their hardware and software. AI is already being tested on commercial trucks and 5 automobile models already embrace AI in some form.

If you watched the 1968 movie 2001: A Space Odyssey – well, it seems that HAL has now arrived, And in many forms. In the 1990 movie Total Recall, self-driving AI taxis were in use. Science fiction has now become reality in many ways.

By now the names Copilot+, ChatGPT, and Google Gemini might be familiar items that you have read about, or heard of. And your browsers – like Chrome and Firefox, are now AI-enabled.

The term, “Agentic AI” may be a new one you have not heard of – yet. This link from Wikipedia will provide some insight to the form of AI Microsoft and others are about to unleash in our digital world.

## Agentic AI

And finally for this month's discussion comes this article from Microsoft, dated November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, that give us a glimpse of what may be in a future Windows Update in new features Agent Workspace and Copilot Actions:

## Experimental Agentic Features

As I noted at the beginning of this article, we each have our own opinion of AI and what its impact will be on our digital lifestyles. My goal here is to bring information to you so that you make the best decision possible.

As always, shipmates, comments and suggestions for future topics are welcomed. Contact me at [subvet\\_ssbn@bellsouth.net](mailto:subvet_ssbn@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



## VETERANS AFFAIRS - RETIREE INFO - AARP

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

And FLEET RESERVE

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THE LINKS BELOW WERE TAKEN FROM THE EMAILS I RECEIVE FROM MANY SOURCES. These are not in any order so take a look at each of them and decide what want to continue reading. You DO NOT have to have special accounts to view this information. There may be some general areas of information in here that will be of help to some of you.

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## Presidential Memorial Certificates (PMC)

A Presidential Memorial Certificate is a gold-embossed certificate signed by the sitting President to honor the memory of a deceased veteran and express the nation's gratitude for their service. (Note: Families may receive a certificate only from the President in office at the time of request.)

Learn more: [www.cem.va.gov/facts/Presidential Memorial Certificates.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/facts/Presidential_Memorial_Certificates.asp)

### **Aid & Attendance: Additional Compensation for a Disabled Spouse**

If a veteran receives VA compensation, a spouse who qualifies for Aid and Attendance (A&A) or Housebound status may also be eligible for additional benefits under 38 CFR § 3.4. Veterans rated 30% or higher for service-connected disability may qualify for added amounts, including increased payments for a totally disabled spouse.

For assistance applying, please contact your VA representative.

### Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustment

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has announced a 2.8% increase in benefits for 2026 across Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability



Insurance (OASDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

On average, retirement benefits will increase by about \$56 per month starting in January.

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### **Appointments on the new My HealtheVet Get answers to common questions**

If you have questions about using the new appointments tool, we have answers. Learn about online scheduling, how VA keeps your personal information safe, and how to get support.

[Learn more](#)

### **Secure messages on the new My HealtheVet**

The new My HealtheVet experience allows you to communicate with your health care team in the same place that you manage your other VA benefits.

[Get answers to common questions about secure messages](#)

### **Get tips about key VA services and benefits**

Do you track personal health information—like your heart rate, blood sugar, or weight? Now there's an easy way to review this all in one place—and share it with your VA health care team.

[Learn more about Annie for Veterans](#)

### **Manage travel reimbursements with VA: Health and Benefits app**

With the VA: Health and Benefits mobile app, you can submit mileage-only travel claims directly from your smartphone or mobile device. Find out if you're eligible for travel reimbursement and how to get started

[Learn more](#)

### **First Columbia-Class Sub Bow Section Arrives At Electric Boat**

(DEFENSE DAILY 01 DEC 25) ... Rich Abott

The bow section of the first Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine arrived at General Dynamics' [GD] Electric Boat South Yard assembly building in Groton, Conn. last week, enabling it to start final assembly.

With this delivery, all of the major modules for the future USS District of Columbia (SSBN-826) are now at Electric Boat's facility. The bow and stern of the SSBNs are being built by HII's [HII] Newport News Shipbuilding division.

Rep. Joe Courtney (D-Conn.), whose district includes the shipyard, hailed the "breakthrough milestone for the Columbia program. This module completes the delivery of all major modules for the District of Columbia. For the first time, all modules are together in one yard."

Courtney also noted the Northrop Grumman [NOC] turbine power generator was also delivered in recent weeks and these two items end two of the bigger supply chain delays for the submarine.

Last year, GD Chairwoman and CEO Phebe Novakovic said the company was slowing construction of the submarine due to late deliveries from component suppliers, especially the turbine power generators and bow.

### **Electric Boat in November also installed the submarine's motor into the stern.**

"This milestone is a culmination of work by an industrial base of over 2,500 suppliers, spanning all 50 states. It is also the result of the over \$10 billion investment by Congress into the U.S. submarine industrial base over the last seven years," Courtney added.

During an October earnings call, Novakovic said SSBN-826 was about 60 percent complete (Defense Daily, Oct. 24).

She added that by the end of the year the company would have all of the major modules in Groton for assembly and test. GD is still trying to improve the schedule delays.

"We'll work in coordination, hand in glove, with the Navy. We're working very hard to move that ship to the left along with our customer and along with the supply chain. We've seen some improvements again from the supply chain... This next year will be pivotal," Novakovic said.

In 2024, the Navy estimated SSBN-826 would be delivered in fiscal year 2028, 12 to 18 months later than planned, partially due to the previous late deliveries from component suppliers. GD is the prime contractor for the Columbia-class submarines, which are built in modular sections in cooperation with HII. Electric Boat builds the central section and performs final assembly for the new SSBN after HII builds and delivers the bow and stern sections.

Newport News Shipbuilding previously delivered the stern section of the District of Columbia in early 2024 (Defense Daily, Jan. 10, 2024).

The Navy plans to buy 12 Columbia-class boats to replace the aging Ohio-class SSBNs in what it frequently calls its top acquisition priority. <https://www.defensedaily.com/first-columbia-class-sub-bow-section-arrives-at-electric-boat/navy-usmc/>

## **US Submarines Carrying Nuclear Weapons Could Dock In Australia Despite Ban, Senate Told**

***Defence secretary appears to contradict previous assurances from Penny Wong that only conventionally armed submarines will visit Australian ports under Aukus deal***

(THE GUARDIAN 04 DEC 25) ... Ben Doherty

US submarines carrying nuclear weapons could dock at Australian bases, defence officials have told the Senate, and the Australian government and people would not know.

Senate estimates heard fierce debate over whether US Virginia-class submarines – set to “rotate” through Australian ports from 2027 as part of the contentious Aukus agreement – could carry nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are prohibited in Australia.

Defence department officials told senators there was “no impediment” to submarines armed with nuclear weapons visiting Australia, insisting that any such visit would not breach Australian or international law.

The US maintains a policy of “strategic ambiguity” around its nuclear deployment and it refuses to confirm or deny whether aircraft or seagoing vessels capable of carrying nuclear weapons are, in fact, carrying a nuclear warhead.

That ambiguity would apply to US submarines that might dock at Australian ports, as it now does to nuclear-capable B-52 bomber aircraft landing at RAAF Base Tindal in the Northern Territory, which is being upgraded to be able to accommodate more US bombers.

“We respect the United States position of neither confirming nor denying,” the Australian defence department secretary, Greg Moriarty, told the Senate.

But anti-nuclear campaigners and some senators argue that the evidence to the Senate undermines Australia’s non-proliferation commitments and risks making the country “a launchpad for nuclear war”.

They also say the acquiescence to US ambiguity over its nuclear weapons contradicts the foreign affairs minister’s assurance in a 2023 speech that only conventionally armed submarines would visit Australia.

“The US has confirmed that the nuclear-powered submarines visiting Australia on rotation will be conventionally armed,” Penny Wong told the National Press Club.

US Virginia-class submarines are to begin rotating through Australian ports – part of pillar one of the Aukus agreement – from 2027, before Australia buys then builds its own nuclear-powered, conventionally armed submarines.

The US Congress approved funding in 2024 for a new submarine- and ship-launched nuclear missile – the first new US nuclear weapon since the end of the cold war. The SLCM-N weapon is slated to be operational within a decade and Vice-Admiral Johnny Wolfe has told Congress that the weapons program is “focused on the integration of SLCM-N into the Virginia-class submarine”.

The South Pacific nuclear free zone treaty – known as the Treaty of Rarotonga and to which Australia is a party – prohibits the “stationing” of nuclear weapons in Australia (and the broader South Pacific zone). But Australia maintains that a US submarine, potentially armed with nuclear weapons, is not prohibited from visiting an Australian port.

Bernard Philip, assistant secretary of international policy at the Department of Defence told the Senate Australia would comply with its treaty obligations, which were also understood by the US.

“The United States does not station nuclear weapons in Australia,” he said. “Stationing nuclear weapons in Australia is prohibited by the South Pacific nuclear free zone treaty, to which Australia remains committed.

“There is no impediment under the Treaty of Rarotonga and the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons to the visit of dual-capable foreign platforms to Australia’s territory or transiting Australia’s airspace or waters.”

Dual-capable platforms are those able to carry both conventional and nuclear weapons. Defence officials said nuclear missiles deployable on Virginia-class submarines were still in development, labelling the scenario “hypothetical”.

The Australian director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Gem Romuld, said the foreign minister's commitment that nuclear weapons would not be rotating through Australia was now "dead in the water".

"It's taken just two years for expectations of an Aukus partner to shift, so what will come next?" she said.

"If Aukus is 'not about nuclear weapons', then Australia's numerous assurances must be backed up with legal commitments. The best way to draw the line on nuclear weapons is to sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons."

Labor has formally committed in its party platform to signing and ratifying the weapons ban treaty "in government" but it has not yet signed done so. Seventy-four countries are now party to the treaty: none of the nine nuclear-armed states have signed it.

The Greens senator David Shoebridge asked in Senate estimates: "So we're going to permit them to be sitting, floating off Fremantle in US-Virginia class submarines, and is it still the position that the Australian government won't ask the US whether or not they're nuclear-armed submarines, just like we don't ask about the nuclear-armed B-52s?"

"Is that still the position? Don't ask, don't tell?"

The secretary of the defence department said: "We respect the United States' position of neither confirming nor denying."

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/dec/05/us-submarines-nuclear-weapons-australia-aukus>

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### **U.S. Navy Moves Closer To New Nuclear Sea-Launched Missile**

(DEFENCE BLOG 06 DEC 25) ... Colton Jones

The United States Navy's Strategic Systems Programs (SSP) office has announced its intent to award a sole-source contract to General Dynamics Mission Systems (GDMS) for engineering and technical services supporting fire control systems for the nuclear-armed, sea-launched cruise missile (SLCM-N) program.

According to a presolicitation notice posted on December 4, the proposed agreement is being pursued under 10 U.S.C. 3204(a)(1), as implemented by FAR 6.302-1, which allows for

sole-source awards when "only one responsible source and no other supplies or services will satisfy agency requirements." As stated in the notice, "The Strategic Systems Programs (SSP) intends to negotiate a sole source contract with General Dynamics Mission Systems (GDMS) ... for technical and engineering services for Fire Control efforts in support of the Nuclear-armed, Sea-Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM-N) Program."

The SLCM-N program began during Donald Trump's first term. The system is viewed as a lower-yield nuclear weapon launched from submarines. The concept was introduced as part of a broader effort to expand U.S. nuclear options in response to changing global security conditions.

GDMS, located in Pittsfield, Massachusetts (CAGE 3CX85), is identified as the only vendor capable of meeting the Navy's requirements for SLCM-N fire control engineering. The contract is expected to be awarded in December 2025 and will include a one-year base period with two one-year options, for a total performance period of 36 months.

Work will be performed in Washington, D.C., and Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The effort is classified under Product Service Code AC13—National Defense Research and Development Services for Department of War experimental development—and NAICS code 541330 for engineering services.

According to the presolicitation, the scope includes sustained fire control engineering and technical support for the Navy's emerging nuclear cruise missile capability. While details remain limited due to classification, the notice indicates that GDMS will provide specialized system-level expertise under close coordination with SSP.

In addition to the upcoming General Dynamics contract, BAE Systems Technology Solutions & Services Inc. was awarded a related contract modification in May 2025. The \$7.96 million modification funds engineering and acquisition support for the SLCM program.

<https://defence-blog.com/u-s-navy-moves-closer-to-new-nuclear-sea-launched-missile/>

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### **U.S. Nuclear-Powered Submarine Arrives In S. Korea To Replenish Supplies**



(YONHAP 23 DEC 25) ... Lee Minji

A U.S. nuclear-powered submarine arrived at a key naval base in the southeastern city of Busan on Tuesday to replenish supplies and provide rest for crew members, South Korea's Navy said.

The USS Greeneville, a Los Angeles-class attack submarine, entered the naval base in Busan, some 330 kilometers southeast of Seoul, earlier in the day, the Navy said.

"The Navy plans to boost exchanges and cooperation between the navies of South Korea and the United States and strengthen our combined defense posture on the occasion of the USS Greeneville's entry," it said.

<https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20251223003400315>

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### **Gaucher Nominated As New Navy Sub Czar, New Air Boss Nominated**

(USNI NEWS 18 DEC 25) ... Sam LaGrone

The admiral who leads the U.S. Navy submarine forces was tapped to head a new position that will oversee American submarine construction, according to a Thursday Pentagon announcement.

Vice Adm. Robert Gaucher, if confirmed, will be the first submarine direct reporting portfolio manager (DRPM) and will report to Deputy Defense Secretary Steve Feinberg.

The four-year position will oversee the non-nuclear construction of Virginia and Columbia-class submarines and work with the Maritime Industrial Base office, the effort to accelerate surface and submarine construction, according to a memo USNI News reviewed earlier this year.

A career submariner, Gaucher, is currently the commander of Naval Submarine Forces, the commander of Submarine Force, Atlantic and of the Allied Submarine Command based in Norfolk, Va.

Prior to COMSUBFOR, Gaucher served as the director of strategic integration for the deputy chief of naval operations for information warfare (OPNAV N2/N6), a position he has held since August 2022. Before that role, Gaucher was the commander of Submarine Group 9/Task Group 114.3, according to his service biography. At sea, Gaucher was the executive officer of the blue crew of Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine USS Maryland (SSBN-738) and the commanding

officer of Los Angeles-class submarine USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN-705).

Gaucher's nomination comes as the Pentagon has placed an emphasis on operators informing requirements for new weapon systems and acquisition overall. Air Force Gen. Mike Guetlien was confirmed by the Senate in July to lead a DRPM for the Golden Dome missile defense plan. Earlier this year a defense official told USNI News there was another planned DRPM for the Air Force's LGM-35 Sentinel next-generation intercontinental ballistic missile program.

Vice Adm. Jeffery Jablon, the current deputy chief of naval operations for installations and logistics, has been nominated to be the deputy commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Jablon, a career submariner, commanded USS Philadelphia (SSN 690) and was commodore of Submarine Development Squadron 5 in Bangor, Wash. He previously led Submarine Group 10, which oversees ballistic missile submarine activities at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga., and also worked for U.S. Strategic Command as the deputy director for plans and policies, according to his Navy biography.

<https://news.usni.org/2025/12/18/gaucher-nominated-as-new-navy-sub-czar-new-air-boss-nominated>

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### **Upgraded Sub-Launched Nuclear Warhead Program Wraps Production**

***The last production unit of the W88 Alt 370, an upgraded version of the legacy W88 used on Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines, has rolled off the line.***

(BREAKING DEFENSE 17 DEC 25) ... Aaron Mehta

Production has completed on America's newest submarine-launched nuclear warhead, according to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

The last production unit of the W88 Alt 370, an upgraded version of the legacy W88 used on Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines, rolled off the line recently, NNSA announced on Tuesday. Design work began in 2013, but it took only about four years from first production unit to last production unit; total program costs are estimated to be around \$3.4 billion, according to an October 2024 NNSA document.

While the Defense Department has oversight on the delivery systems for nuclear weapons, nuclear warhead modernization is run through the NNSA, a semi-independent branch of the Department of Energy.

“Completion of the last W88 Alt 370 testifies to the successful collaboration we’ve had with our U.S. Navy and Department of War partners,” David Hoagland, NNSA Acting Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, said in the statement. “The momentum built through the production and delivery of the W88 Alt 370 will continue into our expanding weapons modernization programs and additional stockpile efforts in the coming years.”

The Alt 370 is not a “new” warhead as counted by nonproliferation regimes. Instead, it’s an upgrade to existing nuclear warheads, updated for both safety and capability. According to the release, the Alt 370 “included replacing the warhead’s arming, fuzing, and firing assembly, adding a lightning arrestor connector, refreshing the conventional high explosives within the weapon, and concurrently replacing limited-life components.”

The Alt 370 is the second part of a major nuclear warhead modernization effort, launched under the Obama administration, to achieve its goals. In January, NNSA announced it had wrapped production on the B61-12 gravity bomb design. A lower-yield version, the B61-13, was announced by the Biden administration in 2023 and completed its first production unit in June of this year.

There are two other navy warhead modernization efforts underway. The first is the creation of a sea-launched cruise missile, or SLCM-N. (Notably, the announcement also states that the staff who worked on the Alt 370 effort will now pivot to focus “more fully on acceleration” of that effort.) The second is the W93, for deployment on Ohio- and Columbia-class subs and is expected to also be equipped on British subs.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2025/12/upgraded-sub-launched-nuclear-warhead-program-wraps-production/>

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## **Second Attack Sub Delivered This Year, Future USS Idaho**

(DEFENSE DAILY 15 DEC 25) ... Rich Abbott

The Navy accepted delivered of the future Virginia-class USS Idaho (SSN-799) from General Dynamics [GD] Electric Boat on Monday, marking the second attack submarine delivery of the year.

The boat will now undergo a set of tests and trials before being commissioned into active service, expected in the spring of 2026.

SSN-799 is the 26th Virginia-class submarine, with the class being co-produced by GD and HII's [HII] Newport News Shipbuilding as both companies build different sections of the boats and largely take turns on final assembly and delivery. This is the 14th Virginia-class submarine being delivered by Electric Boat and the eighth of 10 Block IV vessels.

Rep. Joe Courtney (D-Conn.) noted this follows the November delivery of the future USS Massachusetts (SSN-798) from HII and is a sign that the submarine industrial base production speed is improving thanks to congressional investments.

“This achievement is proof of the growing momentum in the Virginia program, following delivery of the USS Massachusetts (SSN 798) in November. Similarly, last year, two Virginia submarines were delivered – the USS New Jersey (796) and the USS Iowa (797). Looking ahead to 2026, the USS Arkansas (800) and the USS Utah (801), the 27th and 28th Virginia-class submarines will be performing final sea trials prior to joining the fleet,” Courtney said in a statement.

Courtney is a major supporter of submarines, with his district including Electric Boat’s shipyard.

“This two-per-year cadence, at the same time that the Columbia-class program is in full production, demonstrates that the \$10 billion investment by Congress into the submarine industrial base starting in 2018, to grow the workforce, boost wages, supply chain, and facilities, is paying dividends,” he added.

Courtney noted industry currently has a backlog of 12 Virginia-class submarines and three Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines.

<https://www.defensedaily.com/second-attack-sub-delivered-this-year-future-uss-idaho/navy-usmc/>

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## SUBMITTED BY JEFF SANKEY – POSTED ON FACEBOOK

These three have departed on Eternal Patrol: Barnes, Buchinski and Francesconi

1st Row, L-R, **Joe Buchinski**, Jeff Peck, **Matt Francesconi**, Doug Dawson

2nd Row, L-R, Marty Jensen, Dennis Crump, Jim Enoch

3rd Row, L-R, Jeff Sankey, Dave Karst, Fred Hudson, Roger Heheman

4th Row, L-R, Paul Shine, Dave Miller, Brian Dennis, Dave Janka, Mark Spinner, Rick Dion

5th Row, L-R, Greg Cohn, Mark Fairbaugh, Sean Murphy, Jim Kynast, Jim Campbell

6th Row, L-R, Steve Genia, **Jim Barnes**





## **America's Game: How Army And Navy Built One Of The Most Legendary College Football Rivalries**

(*MILITARY.COM 02 DEC 25*) ... Allen Frazier

Navy started playing organized football in 1879, when first-classman William John Maxwell formed the Naval Academy's first team. The squad practiced before reveille and after drills, against direct orders from the academy superintendent who had banned the sport.

By 1890, Navy needed a similar opponent, but Army didn't have a football team. When Navy requested a friendly game, Cadet Dennis Mahan Michie convinced West Point leadership to create a team.

On November 29, 1890, the teams met on the Plain at West Point for the first time. The 271 members of the Corps of Cadets each contributed 52 cents to cover half of Navy's travel costs. Navy arrived by ferry and according to some legends, grabbed a goat from an Army NCO's quarters to use as their mascot. Other legends allege that the officers of the USS New York gifted the Midshipmen their ship's goat mascot. Either way, Bill the Goat became Navy's official mascot.

Navy dominated 24-0 in front of roughly 1,000 spectators.

Michie recruited coach Harry Williams from nearby Newburgh to lead the team in practice going forward. When Army traveled to Annapolis in 1891, the Black Knights crushed Navy 32-16. The rivalry was born.

Dennis Michie never saw the rivalry become the legend it is now. Captain Michie was killed during the Spanish-American War on July 1, 1898, shot by a Spanish marksman during the Battle for Santiago at just 28 years old.

### **Early Rivalries, Suspensions, and Resumptions**

In the 1893 meeting, Navy Admiral Joseph Mason Reeves made history by wearing what's widely regarded as the first football helmet—a leather contraption made by an Annapolis shoemaker after a Navy doctor warned another head injury could cause death or permanent disability.

After that game, an argument between an Army general and a Navy admiral escalated into a brawl between fans on both sides. President Grover Cleveland intervened, issuing orders that effectively prevented the teams from playing each other from 1894 through 1898.

The game resumed in 1899 in Philadelphia. For the first time, Army chose the mule as the team mascot when a quartermaster officer chose a white mule to match the Navy goat. The first "official" Army mule, Mr. Jackson, later arrived at West Point in 1936.

Navy's 1906 victory, 10-0, became one of the most historic. Percy Northcroft kicked a 43-yard field goal, and Jonas Ingram caught a 20-yard touchdown pass to win the game. After the win, Navy unveiled "Anchors Aweigh" which later became the Navy's official song.

In 1909, West Point Cadet Eugene Byrne unfortunately died from injuries sustained in an October game against Harvard. Army canceled the remainder of its season in mourning. World War I canceled the 1917 and 1918 games. Disputes over player eligibility rules canceled the 1928 and 1929 matchups.

Since 1930, the rivalry has remained unbroken for 95 consecutive years. Through 125 meetings, Navy leads 63-55-7. Though Army has won six of the last eight.

### **Future Generals on the Gridiron**

The 1912 Army team included halfback Dwight D. Eisenhower, who started three games before a career-ending knee injury against Tufts. The New York Times called him "one of the most promising backs in Eastern football."

Omar Bradley also played on that squad. Both belonged to West Point's Class of 1915, later known as "the class the stars fell on" for producing 59 generals. Bradley became a five-star general and the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

During the Battle of the Bulge, Bradley reminded Eisenhower of a lesson their coach Ernest Graves Sr. had taught them in 1912, "If things break badly or go against you, stay with it all the harder."

That 1912 team also included six other generals who would go on to achieve great feats in both World Wars. William Hoge, Geoffrey Keyes, Leland Hobbs, Leland Devore, Vernon Prichard, and Robert Neyland, who later became a College Football Hall of Fame coach at Tennessee.

Even Douglas MacArthur served as Army's team manager in 1899. He graduated from West Point first in his class in 1903. He wrote that on "the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds that on other days, upon other fields, will bear the fruits of victory."

Navy's William "Bull" Halsey played for the Midshipmen in the early 1900s before directing naval operations in the Pacific during World War II. Other famous admirals who played football for Navy include Thomas Hamilton, John Stufflebeem, and Don Whitmore.

### **Medal of Honor Recipients**

Eleven service academy football players later received the Medal of Honor—six from Navy, five from Army.

Navy's Allen Buchanan lettered in 1898 but never faced Army—his playing years fell during the 1894-1898 suspension. He earned the Medal of Honor on April 21, 1914, during the Battle of Vera Cruz.

Two other Navy football players earned the award during the same Mexican campaign in April 1914, Jonas Ingram, who played fullback from 1903 to 1906 and scored the only touchdown in the 1906 Army-Navy game, and Frederick McNair Jr.

Carlton Hutchins played for Navy from 1922 to 1925. He received a peacetime Medal of Honor in 1938 after staying at the controls of his damaged PBY-2 seaplane to give his crew time to parachute to safety off the California coast during training.

Richard Antrim, a POW in the Dutch East Indies, saved a fellow officer's life by taking a beating meant for him. Harold Bauer, a Marine aviator at Guadalcanal, engaged an entire Japanese squadron alone and destroyed four enemy planes before his fuel ran out.

Army's five recipients included Douglas MacArthur, who received his Medal for defending the Philippines in World War II. Robert Cole led a bayonet charge across open ground near Carentan on D-Day. Leon Vance Jr. flew a crippled bomber back over the English Channel on one engine with his foot nearly severed.

Samuel Coursen engaged in hand-to-hand combat in Korea—seven enemy dead were found in the emplacement when his body was recovered. Frank Reasoner was killed in Vietnam running to aid his wounded radio operator under heavy fire.

Medal of Honor recipients have also participated in pregame ceremonies. Before the 2010 game, three Army recipients—including Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta, the first living recipient from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—joined three Navy recipients for the coin toss.

### **Presidential Attendance at the Game**

Theodore Roosevelt became the first sitting president to attend in 1901, establishing the game as a national event. He attended again in 1905. Harry S. Truman set the record for attendance, watching all but one game from 1945 to 1952, missing only the 1951 matchup while on vacation. The former World War I artillery captain understood the game's significance.

In total, 10 sitting presidents have attended the game including Woodrow Wilson (1913), Calvin Coolidge (1924), Gerald Ford (1974), Bill Clinton (1996), George W. Bush (2001, 2004, 2008), Barack Obama (2011), and Donald Trump (2018, 2019, 2020). Trump also attended as president-elect in 2016 and 2024.

John F. Kennedy was particularly fond of the rivalry. The former PT boat commander who earned the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroism in World War II attended the 1961 and 1962 games. Presidents typically sit at midfield, alternating between the Army and Navy sides at halftime.

### **When Both Teams Dominated the Sport**

For much of the first half of the 20th century, Army and Navy dominated college football. The 1926 game at Chicago's Soldier Field drew 110,000 spectators. Both teams entered undefeated—Navy at 9-0, Army at 8-0-1.

Army coach Biff Jones started his second unit to "soften" Navy. The strategy backfired as Navy jumped to a 14-0 lead. Army's starters rallied for a 21-14 fourth-quarter lead, but Navy's Tom Hamilton

executed a reverse that allowed Alan Shapley to score a late touchdown. Hamilton drop-kicked the extra point for a 21-21 tie. Because Army already had one tie on its record, Navy claimed a share of the 1926 national championship.

Despite WWII, the 1944 Army team had assembled what General MacArthur called "the greatest of all Army teams." Led by future Heisman winners Felix "Doc" Blanchard and Glenn Davis, the Black Knights entered ranked No. 1 while Navy stood at No. 2. The December 2 game in Baltimore drew 70,000 fans for a War Bond drive that raised \$58.6 million. Army won 23-7, snapping a five-game losing streak to Navy.

In 1945, both teams again entered undefeated, ranked No. 1 and No. 2. Army raced to a 20-0 first-quarter lead and won 32-13. Those Army teams went undefeated from 1944 through 1946 while winning three straight national titles.

Five Heisman winners have played in Army-Navy games including Blanchard (1945), Davis (1946), Pete Dawkins (Army-1958), Joe Bellino (Navy-1960), and Roger Staubach (Navy-1963). As college football evolved, both academies found it difficult to compete due to admissions standards and service obligations. Since 1963, only five games have featured both teams entering with winning records.

The 1963 game became one of the most poignant in the rivalry's history. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, eight days before the scheduled kickoff forcing both teams to contemplate cancelling the game. Jacqueline Kennedy urged both academies to proceed, feeling her husband would have wanted it to happen. The game moved to December 7—the 22nd anniversary of Pearl Harbor. More than 102,000 spectators filled Philadelphia's Municipal Stadium.

Navy entered 9-1 behind quarterback Staubach, who had just been named Heisman Trophy winner. Army's opening touchdown drive featured the first use of instant replay in American television. Navy won 21-15. Staubach served in the Navy before a Hall of Fame career with the Dallas Cowboys. Army quarterback during the game, Rollie Stichweh, later served five years in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

### **Modern Era Football Milestones**

The 1964 game marked another milestone when Navy sophomore Calvin Huey became the first African-American to play in the series. Although Army won 11-8, Huey completed four passes. Through the 1970s, '80s, and '90s, the rivalry remained fierce. Army won seven of nine games from 1984 to 1992, but Navy answered with six consecutive victories from 1993 to 1998.

Navy dominated the modern era with a 14-game winning streak from 2002 to 2015, the longest in series history. Led by quarterback Keenan Reynolds, who set an NCAA record with 88 rushing touchdowns, the Midshipmen won by an average margin of 25.7 points during the first nine games. Reynolds finished fifth in Heisman voting in 2015.

Army finally broke through on December 10, 2016, with a 21-17 victory. Army has since won six of eight meetings, including a 20-17 double-overtime game in 2022—the first overtime game in the rivalry's history. Only seven games in the entire series have been decided by three points or fewer. Navy won the 2024 game 31-13, the 125th meeting between the academies.

### **Traditions of the Army-Navy Game**

The pregame march-on has both student bodies enter the stadium in military formation. Every cadet and midshipman participates. The prisoner exchange has become a tradition since the Service Academy Exchange Program began. Cadets spending the fall semester at Annapolis and midshipmen studying at West Point are ceremonially released before kickoff. The USMA first captain leads the midshipmen to midfield, while the USNA brigade commander brings out the West Point cadets.

Military jets conduct flyovers. When the president attends, Air Force One sometimes joins the formation. The Navy's Leap Frogs and Army's Black Knights parachute teams often land on the field. Cadets and Midshipmen usually bring signs poking fun at each other with witty football jokes and pop-culture references.



After the game, both teams gather at midfield. They face the losing team's students and sing that alma mater together. Then they turn to face the victors and sing the winning school's song. Within years, many of these competitors could serve on the same side in combat.

Service academy alumni remain standing at attention after other fans leave, hands over hearts as both songs play.

### **Alternate Uniforms and Military Tributes**

In 2008, Nike created the first special uniforms for the game. Army wore camouflage helmets and pants with "WEST POINT" stenciled down the legs, paired with a black jersey featuring camo numbers. Navy wore white jerseys with blue and gold epaulets inspired by historic Navy service uniforms. Starting in 2011, both teams began regularly unveiling elaborate alternates.

Since 2016, Army has worked with Nike and West Point's Department of History and War Studies to honor specific military units such as the 82nd Airborne (2016), 10th Mountain Division (2017), 1st Infantry Division (2018), 1st Cavalry Division (2019), 25th Infantry Division (2020), Special Operations (2021), 1st Armored Division (2022), 3rd Infantry Division (2023), and 101st Airborne (2024).

Navy's approach has showcased aviation and naval warfare including aircraft carriers (2015), Blue Angels (2017), NASA astronauts—54 Naval Academy graduates became astronauts, more than any other institution (2022), submarine force (2023), and Jolly Rogers fighter squadron (2024).

The 2025 game marks both services' 250th anniversaries. Army's marble-patterned white uniforms match Arlington National Cemetery headstones, with purple accents referencing the Purple Heart. Navy's design honors the USS Constitution with copper helmets—a nod to the ship's copper-sheathed hulls.

### **The Legacy of the Army-Navy Game**

Nearly 25 percent of the 1,300 men who have worn Army's gold and black have risen to at least brigadier general. Forty Hall of Fame players have played in the game, along with nine Hall of Fame coaches. The rivalry has produced five Heisman Trophy winners and numerous professional players, including Roger Staubach's Hall of Fame tenure with Dallas.

Navy joined the American Athletic Conference in 2015. Army followed in 2024. The Army-Navy game remains an out-of-conference contest. Since 1972, the game concludes the competition for the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy, awarded to the service academy with the best record among Army, Navy, and Air Force.

For most players, the Army-Navy game marks their last time in pads. For the seniors, it's typically their final competitive game before commissioning as officers. Within months, they report to their first duty stations. Some lead platoons in combat. Some command ships or fly fighter jets. Some, like Dennis Michie, make the ultimate sacrifice.

Millions of Americans tune in or follow the scores to see which team will come out on top each year, including thousands of service members deployed overseas who stream the game from remote bases and even combat zones.

The rivalry has survived brawls between admirals and generals, wartime restrictions, tragic deaths, and college football's evolution into a billion-dollar industry where service academy players compete without scholarships while carrying full academic and military training loads.

In 2025, the National Football Foundation honored the Army-Navy game with the Distinguished American Award, recognizing it as a national treasure representing courage, commitment, and service.

The 126th meeting is scheduled for December 13. After 135 years, Army-Navy remains America's Game.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/investigations-and-features/2025/12/01/americas-game-how-army-and-navy-built-one-of-most-legendary-college-football-rivalries.html>

Subject: Diagnosis...AAADD

Recently, I was diagnosed with A. A. A. D. D. - Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.

This is how it manifests:

It's early so I decide to water my garden.

As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide my car needs washing.

As I start toward the garage, I notice that there is mail on the porch that I brought up from the mailbox earlier.

I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the can is full.

So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my checkbook off the table, and see that there is only one check left.

My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I see the can of Coke that I had been drinking.

I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. I realize the Coke is getting warm, and I decide I should put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye--they need some water.

I set the Coke down on the counter, and find my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning.

I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly I spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table.

I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I will be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table! So I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor.

So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill.

Then I head down the hall trying to remember what the heck was I planning to do.

At the end of the day: the driveway is flooded, the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter, there is still only one check in my check book, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled ... I know I was busy all day long, because I'm really tired.

I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll calm down and check my e-mail.

Do me a favor, will you?

Forward this message to everyone you know, because I don't remember who I have sent it to.

Don't laugh -- if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!