



**John Paul Boulais**  
**MM2(SS) Gold Commissioning 65-66**  
**Dec 29, 1941 – June 25, 2022**

**BOULAIS, John Paul**, lifelong son of Holyoke, died surrounded by his family on Saturday, June 25, 2022. He was Born the son of the late Jean and Palmira (Vieira) Boulais on December 29, 1941. Apart from six years spent proudly serving in the United States Navy, he lived, went to school, and worked his entire life in his hometown of Holyoke. He was a 1959 graduate of Holyoke High School, and a founding member of the Nomads. **He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1961- an interesting choice, given his inability to swim at**

**the time- he served as a Machinist's Mate on the USS Boston (CAG-1), one of the US Navy's first guided missile cruisers, until he was identified as a prime candidate to attend the Navy's Nuclear Power School. He earned the rank of Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Petty Officer and began his time serving as a submariner in the Atlantic and Mediterranean specializing in Nuclear Propulsion. He was designated a 'Plank Owner' on the USS Henry L. Stimson (SSBN-665) in recognition of his service in the building and commissioning of the vessel. His final duty station was the USS Allagash (AO-97).** During his service, he travelled the world- and most notably met the love of his life- Margaret (Mahan) Boulais. Johnny and Peggy met at the NCO Club in Aberdeen, Maryland- where they eventually held the reception on their Wedding Day-June 18, 1966. Following **his honorable discharge in 1967**, Johnny returned to Holyoke, where the couple made their home and raised their family. His love of family and community was immeasurable, and he was a tremendous father to their four children: Jennifer Boulais, John Boulais, Anthony Boulais (Kim Kisiel), and Samantha (Robert) Howson and granddaughter Julia Mahan Cahill, who now knows how to change her own oil thanks to Papa Bou. He was a driving force behind the Boulais presence at the Mahan Family Reunion in Maryland, he hosted an 'open door policy' Thanksgiving dinner for any and all and was lucky enough to share a birthday with a great niece. If it involved family, Johnny was there. John was highly active in supporting youth sports in Holyoke, coaching baseball and soccer for many years. He was proud to have hit a hard line drive off of baseball pitching legend and Hall of Famer Bob Feller in an exhibition game at MacKenzie Field. He also fashioned himself a skilled soccer player, but evidence of that is still being sought. Regardless, he passed along his deep knowledge and love for the game to countless young players through his long involvement with the Holyoke Youth Soccer League. Hard work was another value that was instilled into John by his immigrant parents. He worked alongside his father at the Boulais Service Station on Main Street, eventually taking over the business where he worked literally until the day of his passing. He resisted suggestions that he retire and take more time for himself, as he had a genuine love of fixing things to help other people. John Guenther, a 25+ year fixture at the garage, helped him to continue his business for many years after most folks would have hung up the wrench. Johnny was truly a caretaker and cultivator--putting the same attention to detail into his customers' cars as he would with his landscaping and gardening at home, all of which brought him great joy. He was exceptionally proud of his Portuguese heritage. He was the final President of the Portuguese American Club of Holyoke, where he was involved with everything from bartending to organizing a luncheon after a memorial mass to fixing the boiler on a cold winter's night. He appreciated all members of the Portuguese community, and multiple generations of families came to his service station for auto repairs and good conversation. John also had many deep friendships throughout all areas of the community. He would celebrate major milestones with lifelong friends, gathering annually at the garage for their Doughnut Fest party. He also met regularly with his classmates from Holyoke High and was greatly looking forward to the Class of 1959's upcoming reunion luncheon. Along with his beloved wife and children, John leaves his three siblings Cheryl (Tony Ostroski) Boulais, Kathy (Frank) Barszcz, and Russell Boulais. He is predeceased by his brother, Raymond Boulais (Jeanne Codere). Relatives and friends are invited to a Mass of Christian Burial for John on Saturday, July 2nd at 10:00 am at Our Lady of the Cross Parish Church, Holy Cross Avenue, Holyoke. Committal and


military honors will be held on Tuesday, July 5th at 2:00 pm in the Chapel of the MA Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1390 Main Street, Agawam. Calling hours will be held on Friday, July 1st from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at the Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home, 2049 Northampton Street, Holyoke. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you shop locally, do a good deed for another person, or donate to the [charity of your choice](#). Published by Daily Hampshire Gazette on June 29, 2022.



## John P. Boulais , MM2(SS)







### Personal Information

Nickname	
Spouse / Partner Next of Kin	Margaret (Peggy)
Address	501 Northampton St Holyoke MA 01040
Phones	413-536-4944
E-mail Addresses	 home: pmboulais@aol.com
Deceased	Yes <b>Date went on Eternal Patrol: 6/25/2022</b>
Doing Now	Born on December 29, 1941 - Entered into Eternal Patrol on June 25, 2022.
Status	Changed on: 6/30/2022 Updated by Dennis C. Nardone ()

### US Navy Service Information

Years Served	Joined in left in
Highest Rank - Rate	E5 - MM2(SS)
Service Number	544 73 17
USN Retired	No
Naval Service Highlights	
Ships Served On	CA-69, SS-346, SSBN-655, AO-97

Hull#	Ship's Name	Rate/Rank	Years	Special Duties	
<a href="#">CA-69/CAG-1</a> 	Boston	MMFN	1962-63	2/6/62 RFD fm U.S.N.T.C. GLAKES ILL, 3/25/63 TRF to CO, SUBASE, NLON	
<a href="#">SS-346</a> 	Corporal	MM3	1963-64	6/21/63 RFD fm S/M Sch NLon	
<a href="#">SSBN-655</a> 	Henry L Stimson	MM2(SS)	1965-66	Plank Owner	M-Div
<a href="#">AO-97</a> 	Allagash	MM2(SS)	1966-67		