



Thomas 'Doc' Clayton
HM2(SS) [CWO4 Ret] B 71
1971 Qual 655
655 Assoc. LM
SV-HC Thresher Base

Received from Gretchan Glaub and Vicke Stefanik.

Just saw this on Facebook: From Lynda Scelza: My father passed away on Feb 27, and asked that I send this message after his passing

Stimson FB group

Got some bad news.

The supreme commander is calling me home.

The Parkinson's disease on one shoulder was joined by congestive heart failure on the other, have been chasing me for years, finally caught up & joined forces. Caught up with me on Dec 21.

Had a case of aspirational pneumonia from a pill I swallowed that went into to the left lung and had to have it removed.

The shortness of breath from pneumonia and from CHF led to inability to exercise and let the Parkinson's get out of control.

Haven't been able to drive for over six months.

I was never able to get back up to two miles a day walking.

That led to my physical demise went from 160# to 123#.

Ended up in the hospital on Thursday with a drop in cardiac output from 30 to 20%.

Need 50 percent output to maintain heart brain lungs kidneys.

I have cardiac failure. DR said I have a few days to live barring a miracle. Praying 🙏 for a miracle, prepared for a trip to meet God.

Love all my brothers from the Stimson

Especially my time on board with you, Rocco Carobone and the A-gang crew

Love you all, Doc

OBITUARY:

Eliot, ME – Thomas “Doc Clayton, 81, passed away peacefully on Friday, February 27, 2026, at York Hospital. Born and raised in Michigan in 1944 to the Late Thomas and Betty (Richardson) Clayton.

In 1957 his parents moved the family to Florida, where he attended Admiral Farragut Academy in St. Petersburg, FL. He went on to graduate from Dunedin High School in 1963. Thom received his Associates of Arts Degree from Santa Monica College in Santa Monica, CA.

He loved horseback riding from a young age and taught horseback riding at Camp-Al-Gon-Quin in Indian River, Michigan for two years before going into the Navy.

Thom enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1966. He made HM1 in less than 4 years. He served as a Fleet Marine Service Corpsman, stationed with Gulf company, 2nd Bn., 28th Marines, in 1968-1969, during

the Vietnam War, where he earned the coveted nickname "Doc". He attended Independent Duty School and Nuclear Submarine Medical School. **HM Clayton qualified in submarines in 1971, aboard the USS Henry L. Stimson, SSBN 655.** He later served on the Nathaniel Greene, SSBN 636. He became a father in September of 1971. He was certified as an EMT in Oct. 1971 at Baccus Hospital in Norwich, CT. While stationed at the Submarine Base in Groton, CT, Mr. Clayton also served as a member of the Occum Volunteer Fire Department. In 1974, Thom was selected to attend the U.S. Navy/Air Force Physician Assistant Program at Sheppard A.F.B., in Wichita Falls, TX. He graduated from the University of Nebraska, in 1976, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Medicine. Mr. Clayton went on to serve as a P.A. in the U.S. Navy, rising to the rank of CWO4.

Thom was the director of Emergency Training at the P.N.S.Y. Medical Clinic from 1983-1986 where he trained many corpsmen, HMs and firefighters. Thom worked in the Emergency Room, Family Practice Clinics and served as the Officer in Charge of the Submarine School Sick Call, where he earned a Navy Achievement Medal for developing the first objective tests for claustrophobia. CWO4(SS) Thomas "Doc" Clayton retired from active duty in December 1986 but remained active in Veterans Affairs. He served as Commander of the American Legion Post 188, Eliot Maine for 4 years, as a district officer of 3 years, as Sgt-at-Arms and as Chaplain. He was a member of the VFW, Vietnam Veterans, the Marine Corps League and Submarine Veterans. Thom was active in the early development of the P.A. profession. He served as the 3rd President of the Naval Association of Physician Assistants. He was instrumental in achieving Commissioned Officer Status for P.A.'s in the Navy. He served as the president for the Connecticut Academy of P.A.s. He served on the National Board of Directors of the American Academy of Physician Assistants in 1977-1979. He served as a delegate to the House of Delegates of the AAPA for over 12 years. P.A. Clayton served as adjunct faculty for George Washington University, Nova University and Notre Dame College. He mentored countless P.A. students over his career. He and his former wife Peg set up their own company, Clayton & Co. in 1998 and ran it successfully, providing P.A. and Occupational Medicine Services for over 14 years. Later in his career he received his Master's Degree in Physician Assistance Studies after many years as a practicing P.A.

As a civilian, Thom practiced as Physician Assistant, for another 25 years. Locally he practiced at Seaborn Hospital, Seabrook Nuclear Power Station and for the Rockingham County Government. He was an avid motorcyclist, wilderness canoer and photographer.

In Eliot, Mr. Clayton was active, behind the scenes. He was a Marshwood High School band parent, when his daughter Lynda was in attendance. He was involved with the program "Helping Alcohol and Drug Addicts" (HADA) which established the earliest chemical awareness training for MSAD 35 students, where he served as a group facilitator for a number of years. Mr. Clayton was Santa for numerous church and school functions, including the PTO breakfast with Santa. He "played" Santa for over 35 years but anyone who knew him, knew his generous spirit reached far beyond this "role". His last great accomplishment was achieving 45 years of sobriety with his Friday night group and good friends by his side.

Members of his family include his daughter, Lynda Scelza and her husband Richard of Rochester NH, his brother, Greg Clayton of Eliot, ME, his sister, Gigi Nordquist of Oakland, CA, step-grandchildren, Nick and Adam Scelza, his cousins and many friends he acquired along the way. He is predeceased by parents and his brother, John Clayton. In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Thom's name to your favorite Veterans Organization or to Footprints Food Pantry in Kittery, Maine. Friends may visit Saturday, April 4, 2026 from 10 AM to 11 AM with a celebration of life to be held at 11 AM in the Chapel of the R.M. Edgerly & Son Funeral Home, 86 South Main St, Rochester NH 03867.

A burial will be at the So. Maine Veterans Cemetery in Springvale, Maine at a later date.

To order [memorial trees](#) or send flowers to the family in memory of Thomas S. Clayton, IV, please visit our [flower store](#).

Thomas Clayton , CWO4



USSVI Life Member

Holland Club



Submarine Qualified
50 years ago

Personal Information

Nickname	Doc
Spouse / Partner Next of Kin	Lynda Scelza
Address	Contact Information available only to USSVI MEMBERS (Log in Member / Crew menu)
Doing Now	Past Commander, Post 188, Eliot, ME, 4 times Played Santa Claus, yearly for 40 years Harley Rider for decades
Status	Changed on: 12/29/2025 Updated by Frank K Gardner (subdude1990@gmail.com)

US Navy Service Information

Years Served	Joined in 1966 left in 1986
Highest Rank - Rate	W4 - CWO4
Service Number	B819001
USN Retired	Yes in 1986
Naval Service Highlights	Navy Achievement Medal for developing the first objective tests for Closed Space Phobias: 8404, FMF, 2nd BN, 28th Marines, '68-69 OIC, Sub School Sick Call, '80-83 EMT Instructor, NRMCC, PNSY, Kittery, ME, '83-86
Ships Served On	SSBN-636, SSBN-655

Membership in the USSVI

Member Info	Joined USSVI on: 10/12/2006
Primary Base	Thresher
Member Type	Holland Club Life Member since 10/15/2012
Title or Office	
Comments	
SS Qualified	in 1971 on the USS Henry L Stimson (SSBN-655)
Dual Membership	NAT GREENE

Membership in Thresher Base

Base Info	Joined Base on:
USSVI Info	Joined USSVI on: 10/12/2006 Holland Club Life Member since 10/15/2012
Title or Office	
Comments	
SS Qualified	in 1971 on the USS Henry L Stimson (SSBN-655)
Other Assn's	USSVI, USSVI-NAT GREENE, USSVI-THRESHER

Hull#	Ship's Name	Rate/Rank	Years
SSBN-636 	Nathanael Greene	HM2(SS)	1970-72
SSBN-655 	Henry L. Stimson	HM2(SS)	1971-71

Name	Location	Rate/Rank	Years	Special Duties
Naval Hospital	Jacksonville, FL	HM3	1968-69	worked on SOQ and Senior Corpsman, Psych Ward
2nd Bn, 28th Marines, 5th Mar.Div.	Camp Pendleton, CA	HM2	1968-69	Senior Corpsman, Golf Company, Infantry. Embarked troops, afloat on USS Tripoli LPH10 Corpsman, B.
Advanced Hospital Corps School, IDT School	San Diego, CA	HM1	1969-70	
Submarine School New London	Groton, CT	HM1	1970-70	
Nuclear Submarine Medical School (NUMI)	Groton, CT	HM1	1970-70	
Naval Submarine Medical Center	Groton, CT	HM1	1972-72, 1974-74	Champus representative Physician Aide Screener
P.A. Training, Phase I, Sheppard AFB	Wichita Falls, TX	CHIEF	1974-75	
P.A. Training Phase II, NRMC, Camp Pendleton	Oceanside, CA	CWO	1975-76	
Naval Regional Medical Center	Oceanside, CA	CWO2	1976-76, 1979-79	Physician Assistant, Walk in Clinic, and Remote Satellite Clinic Medical Practitioner
Naval Submarine Medical Center	Groton,	CWO3	1979-79, 1983-83	Physician Assistant in the Emergency Room Officer in Charge, Submarine School Sick Call
Naval regional Medical Clinic, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	Kittery, ME	CWO4	1983-83, 1986-86	I worked in the Military and Civilian walk in clinics. I took care of active duty members, dependents

Nickname	Association Name	Joined
USSVI-NAT GREENE 	USSVI Base - Nat Greene	2010
USSVI-THRESHER 	USSVI Base - Thresher	