



VOL. 2021 #11

Veterans Day
Nov. 11, 2021

NOVEMBER 2021

USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER

Association Officers & Board of Directors 2021 - 2023

PRESIDENT Tom [Marie] Krauser	VICE PRESIDENT Jerry [CJ] Blevins	SECRETARY Nick [Linda] Nichols	TREASURER Ken [Diane] Meigs
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Other Positions 2021 - 2023

HISTORIAN / CUSTODIAN Larry [Linda] Knutson	WEBMASTER / NEWSLETTER Nick [Linda] Nichols	CHAPLAIN Bruce Stefanik
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2021 Stimson Reunion Attendees
October 13-17, 2021
Erlanger KY

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**From the 2021 Reunion
Chairman - Dick Young, SN
(SS) G 70-71, USSVI Cincinnati
Base, Holland Club, 655
Assoc. Life Member**

I would like to thank everyone for attending the USS Henry L. Stimson Reunion XI in Cincinnati. I hope everyone had a great time.

When I raised my hand to volunteer to be chairman 3 years ago I never knew it was going to be a project that would go an extra year. Your patience and attendance made it possible to attain the success set by the chairmen of the previous reunions. I have done projects like this before and there was always that one glitch that came up to make things difficult but that never happened.

I have so many people to thank for helping along the line that I don't know where to begin. I'm sure you watched as shipmates and their wives pitched in and volunteered to help in so many areas, without their help it would have been impossible to pull off this reunion. You all have my heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

I did this reunion for **YOU** my shipmates, we went through a lot over the years of our service to our nation and it was great to renew those ties, some going back more than 50 years ago, but it seemed like just last year we were going out on patrol and depending on each other for month's at a time.

So my shipmates, I hope you have fair weather and following sea's as you set your course in 2023 to Charleston, South Carolina for Reunion XII. See you there!

//Dick stimson655reunion2020@aol.com



**From the Association President -
Tom Krauser, MM1(SS) B 72-74**

Marie and I had a great time at the reunion with all of our shipmates. Dick Young and the reunion committee did a fantastic job and the reunion was a great success.

As the bylaws state the purpose of the Association is "to promote the memory of the USS Henry L Stimson (SSBN-655) and to foster good fellowship and camaraderie among the shipmates who served aboard the ship". This was certainly accomplished at the reunion.

At the business meeting, our shipmates voted to have the next reunion in Charleston with Harry Nettles volunteering to be the reunion chairman.

I want to personally thank Nick Nichols for all his hard work to ensure the board runs smoothly. He has made my job a breeze. I am amazed that he is able to put out our newsletter every month and do all the other things he does for the Association such as maintaining the website.

I want to welcome Jerry Blevins to the Board as the Vice President and look forward to Jerry's suggestions to improve the Association.

Additionally, Bruce Stefanik has volunteered and I have appointed him as our Association Chaplain.

If you have any questions or concerns for the board, please feel free to contact us so we can address them.



**From the Association Historian/
Memorabilia Custodian - Larry
Knutson, MMCS(SS) B 79-81
USSVI-Charleston Base,
Holland Club**

During the recent Reunion, Gordon Long was gracious

Submarines Lost During the Month of November

USS ALBACORE (SS-218)	November 7, 1944 – 11 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 85 souls
USS GROWLER (SS-215)	November 8, 1944 – 12 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 86 souls
USS SCAMP (SS-277)	November 16, 1944 – 8 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 83 souls
USS CORVINA (SS-226)	November 16, 1943 – 1 st War patrol	Lost with all hands – 82 souls
USS SCULPIN (SS-191)	November 19, 1943 – 9 th War Patrol	Lost with 43 souls – 41 became POWs 21 survived the war

Five Boats and 376 Men Lost

enough to take what memorabilia/artifacts, along with the banners, and display it all for everyone. I hope you did get a chance to look them over.

We still have the box of Gold Crew check-in cards that were from the time of Bob Weeks CO tour. If you were on the Gold Crew during any time when Bob Weeks was the CO you completed a check-in card for him. The box of cards is now held by our base secretary. If you would like a copy of your card sent to you please contact our Secretary at 655webmaster@ssbn655.org.



**Chaplain's Corner - Bruce Stefanik,
MS1(SS) B 73-77**

I would like to take this time to introduce myself to you.

My name is Bruce Stefanik MS1(SS). I was appointed Chaplain for the Henry L. Stimson Association at the last reunion.

It is now my honor to serve you again.

After 10 years in the Navy, 30 years in ministry with The Salvation Army, I am now retired living with my wife Vicki in North Carolina.

Let me wish you all the best in the love of God. God be with you and keep you all.
Amen.



**From The Editor & Secretary -
Nick Nichols, TM1 G/B 70-75;
FTCS B COB 85-89, USSVI
Charleston Base, Holland Club,
655 Assoc. Life Member**

I would like to lend my voice to those many others who congratulated Dick & Debbie Young for persevering through an extra year to give all of us who were able to attend one of the best reunions Stimson has ever had.

The hotel was an outstanding venue; the trip to Wright Patterson was enjoyable (and educational) to all who went; the riverboat dinner cruise couldn't have been better in that the rain stopped just as we were getting onboard the boat and didn't start up again until we were all safely back at the hotel.

On Saturday the Eternal Patrol Memorial

service was emotional and moving, the business meeting was one of the best I think we've had at any reunion and the banquet (food, table decorations, speaker, special WWII SUBVET guest, color guard, and door prizes galore) could not have been planned any better.

Speaking for the 96 shipmates and guests and for all the special invited guests, I give very sincere thanks to the Chairman and his team for the success of this event.

BRAVO ZULU Dick, Debbie and all who helped!!

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NEW 655 ASSOCIATION LIFETIME MEMBERS

The following joined our Association as Lifetime Members during the recent reunion:

- ♦ **Jerry Blevins, LT(SS) B 76-79, USSVI Dual Membership Groton Base & Cincinnati Base**
- ♦ **Bruce Stefanik, MS1(SS) B 73-77, USSVI USS Asheville Base**
- ♦ **Donald Kornowski, MM1(SS) B Comm 65-69**

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Harry Nettles, QMCM(SS) G COB 91-92, USSVI Charleston Base, requested I pass this on to our Stimson shipmates.

"Ahoy shipmates! It has been many years since we sailed together on that final patrol of the USS Henry L. Stimson SSBN 655 Gold. It was my pleasure to have served as your Chief of the Boat. You were a great crew and I was richly blessed by knowing each and every one of you. I hope life is treating you well in your Silver Years. I am doing well and frequently and fondly think of the good ole days on the high seas with such wonderful and brave men as you. May you continue to be blessed as each of you move on with your lives and families. Mine is growing and as a great grandfather I want to share my life for many more years with family and friends.

God Bless and have a wonderful and safe reunion. I sure miss you guys,
Harry E. Nettles QMCM(SS), USN, retired
"COB"

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Submarine Qualification Certificate

I have added a new page to our website for our SS Qual Certificate. Most of us still have them and know exactly where they are. Some may have to go digging. Start looking for those certificates. When

you find it either scan it or take a good picture and send it to me at 655webmaster@ssbn655.org. Your name will be added to the new page with a link to your certificate. This is for all Stimson shipmates, not just the ones who qualified on the 655. No matter what boat you qualed on if you were on the Stimson send me a scan or picture and it will be added to the website.

This can be any item related to your SS qualification: Qual Certificate; Qual card, picture receiving your dolphns; etc.

Check out: [Qualification Cards of Stimson Sailors](#)

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Sailing Lists: For a long time there have been 3 sailing lists [SL] on our web site.

SL1 is our primary list and is password protected and has been used for those I have good verifiable info about.

SL2 is the Open SL which anyone accessing our website can see that allows them to see who is on the SL but without personal info. It is not password protected.

SL3 is the Looking For list. It has names and some info for those shipmates who in one way or another I have received info they were on the boat with us. It is also password protected.

Beginning immediately, I will be combining SL2 and SL3. It may take me until the first of the year to complete this process and it will increase the size of the Sailing List by roughly 400 names. I do this in hopes that when you are looking at the SL you might see a name and remember you know some more info that you can send me to enter into our database. We'll see how it works. I really would like your help finding our shipmates.

Also many of our shipmates are on Facebook but are not listed on our Sailing List. When you see a shipmate on FB please ask them to contact me at 655webmaster@ssbn655.org

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Sharing Pictures with Shipmates:

If anyone has pictures you would like to share with your shipmates please either email them to me or contact me and I will send you directions to upload to our Stimson Dropbox file.

655webmaster@ssbn655.org



The following Stimson Shipmates have departed on Eternal Patrol.

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MM2(SS)/ELT David Wayne Nunn Jr.

SY2/G 82-86

Eternal Patrol on 7.24.92

[info updated by Brad Gacke MM1(SS) G 82-86

ETN2(SS) Sam George Anderson

G/SY1/G 70-73

Eternal Patrol on 5.15.73

[info reported by

George Birmingham/Alan Reed/Ron Testa)

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The direct link to the Association Eternal Patrol page is: <http://ssbn655.org/eternal-patrol/eternal-patrol.html>



WELCOME ABOARD: Found & Updated Shipmates

(Shipmate has contacted us to be added or have info updated on our Sailing List. Please check the online Sailing List for shipmates contact info.)

LCDR Michael 'Mike' Carmichael B 77-79

[info added per member request]

TM1(SS) Jeffrey 'Jeff' Cole B 88-89

[info added per member request]

FTB2(SS) Glen Clark B 83-89

MT1(SS) Retired

[info updated per member request]

EM1(SS) Frank Migyanka G 68-71

[info updated per member request]

MM2(SS) Guido Allegretto G/OVHL2/G 82-86

[info updated with info found by Don Ort]

LT(SS) Jerry Blevins B 76-79

USSVI Groton Base/Cincinnati Base Mbr

[info updated per member request]

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.

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Ray Kreul, TM2(SS) [TMCM Ret] G 65-69 Plank Owner, Assoc. Life Members, USSVI Groton Base, Holland Club

Cards to: 1015 Worthington Spring Dr., Melbourne FL 32940-7995

Contact via email: subvette1@gmail.com

9.26.2021: From Rita: Ray had a blockage. One stent inserted. He is doing well...and giving orders.

9.25.2021: From Rita: Ray is in the hospital getting tested for a possible heart attack.

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Andrew 'Andy' Mckay, TMC G 85-88

Cards to: 2207 FM 1729, Lubbock TX 79403

4.1.2021: Email from Andy: I was found to have lung cancer in 2007. I had surgery to remove half of my right lung. I did 4 months of chemo. I now have final stage COPD. I am on full time supplemental oxygen

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GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH

655 Association Website

www.ssbn655.org

Submitted by Don Ort, MM1(SS) G/SY1 69-74, USSVI Charleston Base

Secret Chinese SUBMARINE Spotted by US SATELLITE

Jan 17, 2021

Just under one hundred years ago, submarines were extremely expensive and only available to the world's two largest countries, the USSR and the USA. But they quickly became an invaluable part of a country's navy. Over time, every developed country armed itself with a couple submarines, sometimes even a few dozen nuclear submarines, to defend the integrity of its borders. Today, we will try to mention the most

unusual submarines that ever existed. You'll hear about the most expensive underwater vessel and new stealth technology made by Swedish engineers and see a concept of the most innovative French submarine to this day that is a game-changer which combines designer ideas and military craftsmanship. Is it possible to make a vessel absolutely invisible to enemy radar and execute a flank attack by sending a landing party right into the water and why has China already surpassed America in its naval strength? The answers to these questions are coming now! PHONE Li-ion Battery POWERS the Whole SUBMARINE France Announced Most DANGEROUS SUBMARINE In the WORLD <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAiyvfbhfPE>

After A Missing Submarine With 80 Sailors Was Found, Experts Untangled Its Sorry Fall



By Ken Macdonald
Boredom Therapy Staff

Tim Taylor and his team are looking for a U.S. submarine that disappeared in mysterious and tragic circumstances — with 80 sailors on board. They're using a remotely controlled underwater vehicle to help in the search, but as the machine travels through the depths, it frustratingly develops a fault. So, Taylor brings the craft back to the surface and takes a glance at the data that it's recorded. Then he spots two strange inconsistencies that prompt him to send down yet another probe. And what the technology finally unearths is enough to make the hairs on your arms stand on end.

[**READ MORE HERE**](#)

Submitted by Jim McAuliffe, RM2(SS) B 67-68

A Tribute to Vietnam Veterans Featuring the Voice of Mr. Sam Elliott

This is a powerful tribute to our generation of Vietnam Veterans.

Featuring the voice of renowned actor Mr. Sam Elliott, this video is a tribute to the 7.2 million living veterans and the 9 million families of all who served from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. Thank you for your service and sacrifice!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVeBtnfAxP8)

[v=aVeBtnfAxP8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVeBtnfAxP8)

SOMETHING FROM OUR SHIPMATES: SEA STORIES, COMMENTS, JOKES, ETC.

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*Submitted by Pete Peterson, MM1(SS) B 70-72,
USSVI Member-at-Large,*

A younger man, a grandson I guess, pushed his wheelchair to the brow. He sat looking at the black hull in front of him. After a bit he gathered some strength he probably didn't know he had and heaved himself to his feet. His grandson concerned, took his arm, where upon the old feet shuffled forward to the grey steel bridge of his past. Stepping carefully up he planted one foot then the other on the brow. Taking his time he shuffled forward into his memories.

Reaching the midway point he stopped and with a glance commanded the young one to release his arm. Turning aft he straightened and threw an oft practiced salute to the ensign snapping in the stiff river breeze. A knarled fingered but straight armed salute given with the casual but respectful way of a long ago whitehat. Turning once more he continued his trek to his old smokeboat home.

Reaching the slotted deck he turned aft with the attentive man at his side. Treading carefully in his old man way, he moved to the After Engine Room hatch. Stopping and looking down, he spoke some words that the other listened to. I could not hear them and didn't move forward to try. The words were not for anyone that was there in the flesh. They were for long ago shipmates faded in his mind but firmly held in his heart.

He stared down at the shiny steel ladder that he and others had vaulted upwards on. Or slid down so many times with youthful exuberance in the past. With his youth gone the ladder no longer led to his home. No longer could it launch him out to exotic ports of call, the ladder was a barrier to his past.

The old one didn't seem to mind, he was close

enough. The river's wind gusts drew the wonderful smell to his nostrils once more. The smell, that only one who had been there through thick and thin could love for a lifetime. So it could bring back his past. His shipmates paraded through his mind to warm his heart and soul.

After a time, he tired and turned to retrace his steps to land. Tired though he was, his steps seemed stronger and jauntier now. Traces of the walk of a gotohell young whitehat were there. Reaching the center of the brow he again turned to salute his colors with practiced ease. At the end of the brow as he stepped down, hanging on to his memories so they would not fade away.

After turning and sitting down heavily again the wheelchair, he knew he would never again see, feel, smell or hear the thunder of submarine engines.

As he passed by, I saluted a smiling old man with a tear in his eye.

Author Unknown

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*Submitted by David Huckeba, MM1(SS) B 71-75 –
Comments: "Thought of our shipmates while reading
this. Huck"*

Devotional – October 13, 2021

Al Southerland, D.Min.

ALWAYS AND EVER

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a difficult time" (Proverbs 17:17).

The American poet Douglas Malloch wrote, "Thorns may hurt you; men desert you, sunlight turns to fog; but you're never friendless ever if you have a dog." Dean Koontz expands on this thought in his book The Darkest Evening of the Year: "Dogs' lives are short, too short, but you know that going in. You know the pain is coming, you're going to lose a dog, and there's going to be great anguish, so you live fully in the moment with her, never fail to share her joy or delight in her innocence."

I don't know a dog lover who would disagree with this assessment. Because of their loyalty, dogs are considered our best friends. This is the reason Will Rogers said, "If dogs don't go to Heaven, I want to go where they are."

Would the people who know us best choose

loyalty as our strongest attribute? A loyal friendship is characterized by grace. In difficulties, a true friend is there to comfort, help, and encourage. Not only are our friends loyal to us but we must also be loyal to our friends. This includes the friends of our fathers and mothers.

A couple of years ago I stopped by the home of one of my mom's good friends to thank her for the love and care she gave Mom, especially as she was declining in health. I told her that Mom thought highly of her and her husband, speaking of them often with admiration. In addition, I wanted her to know that Mom's life was enriched by her loyal friendship.

Good friends come to your aid as quickly as family, if not quicker. Faithful friends go the extra mile to offer encouragement when you face difficult times or an overwhelming task. A friend will listen to your heart and offer wise counsel that will prove beneficial to you. Rather than issuing judgment, loyal friends seek to understand you and assess your motives through godly discernment.

A loyal friend is genuinely interested in your welfare. For this reason, he or she will not just pray for you when you struggle with adversity but will stay by your side while you walk through the experience together.



VETERANS AFFAIRS - RETIREE INFO - AARP

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

And FLEET RESERVE

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7 Early Warning Signs of Dementia You Shouldn't Ignore

by Patrick J. Kiger, AARP, Updated September 27, 2021

How to spot early indicators that your loved one may have Alzheimer's or dementia

From age 50 on, it's not unusual to have occasional trouble finding the right word or remembering where you put things.

But persistent difficulty with memory, cognition

and ability to perform everyday tasks might be signs that something more serious is happening to a loved one's brain.

Dementia isn't actually a disease, according to the Mayo Clinic. It's a catch-all term for changes in the brain that cause a loss of functioning that interferes with daily life. Dementia can diminish focus, the ability to pay attention, language skills, problem-solving and visual perception. It also can make it difficult for a person to control his or her emotions and lead to personality changes.

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's dementia, according to the "2021 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures" report from the Alzheimer's Association. Alzheimer's disease is the leading cause of dementia, accounting for 60 percent to 70 percent of cases, but a range of brain illnesses can lead to the condition

What to watch for

Here are some of the warning signs identified by dementia experts and mental health organizations:

- **Difficulty with everyday tasks.**
- **Repetition.**
- **Communication problems.**
- **Getting lost**
- **Personality changes.**
- **Confusion about time and place.**
- **Troubling behavior.**

READ MORE HERE

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Historic VA COLA increase of 5.9%

On October 8, the president signed into law S. 189, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021, which authorizes a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for veterans receiving Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation, clothing allowance, and survivors receiving dependency indemnity compensation (DIC) payments.

VA adjusts veterans' monthly disability compensation amounts based on the yearly change in the cost-of-living as determined by the Social Security Administration. The recently announced 5.9% COLA, will increase the amount paid to veterans and their survivors effective December 2021, and will be reflected in January

2022 compensation payments.

In the last two years, COLA increases have been less than 2%. This COLA increase of 5.9% for 2022 is the largest increase in nearly 40 years.

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Walmart is leaving the TRICARE pharmacy network on 12/15/2021.

We want to make sure you keep getting the medication you need at a price you can afford. Although Walmart will no longer be in the pharmacy network starting 12/15/2021, you have options.

Get prescriptions delivered

With Express Scripts® Pharmacy, you'll get up to a 3-month supply of your maintenance medication, delivered right to your door when you need it.

You can also enjoy standard shipping at no additional cost, lower copays compared to retail, and 24/7 access to pharmacists. You can move any eligible prescriptions in just a few steps online.

Move your prescription to a network pharmacy

You can find a new pharmacy in the TRICARE pharmacy network. If you have refills remaining, call Walmart to transfer the prescription or ask your doctor to send a new one. Please note: All Walmart and Sam's Club pharmacies will be out of network as of 12/15/21.

You can also go to a military hospital or clinic near you. Visit www.tricare.mil/mtf to learn more.

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Social Security COLA Set at 5.9 Percent for 2022

by John Waggoner, AARP, October 13, 2021

Rising prices lead to biggest cost-of-living adjustment to benefits in four decades

The Social Security Administration (SSA) announced Oct. 13 that its annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be 5.9 percent, a boost to average retirement benefits of about \$92 per month for individuals, starting in January. The 2022 COLA is the largest increase to Social Security benefits since the 7.4 percent hike that

went into effect in January 1983. Until this year, COLAs have been modest, averaging a 1.65 percent increase annually over the past decade, with no gain at all to benefits in 2016. The increase that went into effect in January 2021 was 1.3 percent.

"Today's announcement of a 5.9 percent COLA increase, the largest increase in four decades, is crucial for Social Security beneficiaries and their families as they try to keep up with rising costs," says AARP Chief Executive Officer Jo Ann Jenkins. "The guaranteed benefits provided by Social Security and the COLA increase are more crucial than ever as millions of Americans continue to face the health and economic impacts of the pandemic. Social Security is the largest source of retirement income for most Americans and provides nearly all income (90% or more) for 1 in 4 seniors."

READ MORE HERE

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Protect Yourself From Deadly Flu Complications

by Beth Howard, AARP, Updated September 10, 2021

How influenza can become life-threatening and what to do to protect yourself

Last year's flu season was one of the lightest on record — a rare silver lining of the COVID-19 pandemic. But the 2021-2022 season could be a doozy, especially for older adults — who are more prone to flu and its complications. "This year, schools and businesses are open and people are out and about, and not all are following mask guidelines," says Joseph Gastaldo, M.D., system head of infectious diseases at OhioHealth, a health care system in central Ohio.

Depending on the severity of the flu season, between 750,000 to 1 million people are hospitalized each flu season in the U.S., and 30,000 to 80,000 people die from it, notes Ryan Oyer, M.D., an infectious disease specialist for Kaiser Permanente in Denver. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 90 percent of these deaths and 50 to 70 percent of flu-related hospitalizations occur among people 65 and older.

How sick becomes sicker

Influenza itself can be deadly in vulnerable patients due to difficulties in breathing and dehydration. But complications like pneumonia are the real killers.

It starts with inflammation. "Influenza sets up an inflammatory response in the body, to fight off the infection," says William Schaffner, M.D., professor of preventive medicine and infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and medical director of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. That causes the aches, pains and respiratory distress that make you feel like you've actually been in battle.

The flu virus also attaches to — and infects — the cells lining the mucous membranes in the back of the throat, nose and bronchial tubes, Schaffner explains. Normally, these cells eject infectious agents out of the body through the nose or mouth, or they are swallowed. But when impaired by the flu, they allow the bacteria to slip down into the bronchial tubes and trigger a secondary infection in the lungs.

Unfortunately, lying in bed makes people, especially frailest folks, more susceptible to pneumonia. "We don't cough as vigorously when we do that," Schaffner notes. "We don't clear our secretions as well when we're lying down."

And things can get worse from there. Once infection sets in, the bacteria can clog up the air sacs in the lungs. That not only makes it hard to breathe but can allow bacteria to escape into the bloodstream, causing an infection called sepsis and, ultimately, leading to organ failure.

"When that happens in people of advanced age or who have underlying illnesses, you have fatality rates that can be somewhere between 10 and 20 percent, despite the fact that we have good antibiotics," Schaffner says.

Even after you recover from the flu, you may not be out of the woods. Inflammation related to the disease can also affect various organ systems independently, similar to the way experts have seen long-haul symptoms linger in COVID-19 patients for weeks or months.

"The inflammatory response continues for a period of time," Schaffner says. It can involve the blood vessels that feed the heart, increasing the risk of heart attack and stroke for weeks or

months. In rare cases, the blood vessels feeding the brain may be affected, triggering encephalitis.

- **Know your risk factors for severe flu**
- **How to protect yourself**
- **Why getting a pneumonia vaccine matters**
- **When to go to the hospital**

[**READ MORE HERE**](#)

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Cancer Screenings Help Save Lives. Schedule Your VA Preventive Screening Today

"The earlier a cancer is diagnosed, the better the outcome." That's what Dr. Jason Dominitz, VA national director of Gastroenterology said. It's true: Screenings can catch cancer in an earlier stage before you notice symptoms, improving the chance treatment will be successful. VA recommends routine screenings for four cancers: lung, colon and rectal (colorectal), breast and cervical.

[**READ MORE**](#)

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VA Extends Presumptive Period for Gulf War Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs has extended the presumptive period to Dec. 31, 2026 for qualifying chronic disabilities rated 10% or more resulting from undiagnosed illnesses in Persian Gulf War Veterans to ensure benefits established by Congress are fairly administered.

[**READ MORE**](#)



The Computer Corner
By: George Birmingham, ET1
(SS), Gold 69-74, Assoc. Life
Member, USSVI SV Carolina
Piedmont, Holland Club

View a Saved Wi-Fi Password Using the Windows Command Prompt

I came across the following tip in an article on Command Prompt tips that I thought you all might find useful. The following information is from WIRED Magazine. I tried it myself, and it's pretty cool. I hope you like it.

- ◆ "Ever been somewhere with password-protected Wi-Fi that you *know* you've used before, but you can't remember the password for your other devices? If the network is saved on your Windows laptop, you can retrieve the saved password for use on your phone or tablet with a simple command.
- ◆ If you're currently connected to the network on your laptop, you can reveal this information from the Network Status menu, but if you aren't, you can run the following command to see the password of a given saved network:
**netsh wlan show profile MyWiFi
key=clear**
- ◆ Replace MyWiFi with the name of the network in question. If Windows has the password saved, it should show it to you in plain text under "Key Content."
- ◆ You can also run "**netsh wlan show profile**" to see a list of saved networks."

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

U.S. Submarine Hits Underwater Object In South China Sea

(CNN 07 OCT 21) ... Oren Liebermann

A US nuclear powered submarine struck an object underwater in the South China Sea on Saturday, according to two defense officials.

A number of sailors on board the USS Connecticut were injured in the accident, the officials said. None of the injuries were life-threatening, according to a statement from US Pacific Fleet. It's unclear what the Seawolf-class submarine may have hit while it was submerged.

"The submarine remains in a safe and stable condition. USS Connecticut's nuclear propulsion plant and spaces were not affected and remain fully operational," the statement said. "The incident will be investigated." The US Navy did not specify the incident took place in the South China Sea, only that it occurred in international waters in the Indo-Pacific region.

The accident happened as tensions between the US and China soared over the Chinese military's incursions into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ).

The Connecticut was operating in the waters around the South China Sea as the US and its allies have been carrying out a major multinational show of force in the region led by the United Kingdom's Carrier Strike Group 21. The ongoing operations saw exercises with ships from the US, UK, Japan, Australia, Canada, and the Netherlands, including three aircraft carriers, training in and around the South China Sea.

On Saturday, 39 Chinese military aircraft, including fighter jets and transport aircraft, entered Taiwan's ADIZ, causing the Taiwanese air force to scramble jets and deploy air defense missiles to monitor the aircraft. Two days later, China sent 56 aircraft into Taiwan's ADIZ within 24 hours, the highest number since the self-governed island began publicly releasing such numbers last year.

"We are very concerned by the PRC's provocative military activity near Taiwan," US Secretary of State Tony Blinken told reporters at a news conference in Paris Wednesday when asked about the Chinese activity. "As we said, the activity is destabilizing. It risks miscalculation and it has the potential to undermine regional peace and stability. So, we strongly urge Beijing to cease its military, diplomatic and economic pressure and coercion directed at Taiwan."

Taiwan warns China could invade by 2025

On Wednesday, Taiwan's defense minister, Chiu Kuo-cheng, said China could be ready to launch a "full-scale" invasion of the island by 2025, adding that "they currently have the ability" to attack, but they would have to "pay a price."

The Biden administration has shifted the focus of US national security policy away from the wars of the past two decades and towards Beijing, which has asserted itself in the region and on the world stage. On Thursday, the Central Intelligence Agency announced the creation of a new mission center for China following a months-long review that found China as the greatest long-term threat to the United States.

One day earlier, national security adviser Jake Sullivan met a high-ranking Chinese official in

Switzerland in what one senior administration official called a "candid, direct, and wide-ranging discussion."

The meeting, which the official said had a "different tone" than an acrimonious meeting between Sullivan and his Chinese counterpart six months ago, set the stage for a virtual meeting between President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping later this year in an effort to ensure stability.

But the agreement in-principle between the two leaders to meet did little to alleviate the current friction in the region, nor did it ease the friction around the South China Sea, where China has built a series of bases on reefs and artificial islands in the disputed waterway.

In response to a report in the Wall Street Journal on the presence of US troops in Taiwan, the Pentagon highlighted its support for Taiwan and its defense needs.

"Our support for and defense relationship with Taiwan remains aligned against the current threat posed by the People's Republic of China," said Pentagon spokesman John Supple on Thursday, accusing China of actions that are "destabilizing and increase the risk of miscalculation."

As relations between the US and China soured, the State Department requested in June 2018 that US Marines be sent to Taiwan help safeguard the de facto US embassy there. At the time, there were only 10 US troops in the Taiwan, according to Defense Department workforce records, and only one was from the Marine Corps, which is the branch of the military in charge of embassy security. The number gradually increased to 19 troops two years later, before jumping to 32 troops earlier this year, the records show. Similarly, the number of US troops in China increased from 14 in 2018 to 55 now, the majority of which are Marines.

"The US defense relationship with Taiwan is guided by the Taiwan Relations Act and based on an assessment of Taiwan's defense needs and the threat posed by the PRC, as has been the case for more than 40 years," Supple said.

The comments are part of a series of escalating rhetorical attacks between the two superpowers engaged in what Pentagon officials

call "Great Power Competition."

Earlier this week, China criticized the US for what it called "irresponsible remarks," after the US condemned the Chinese military flights in Taiwan's ADIZ. "In recent times, the United States has continued its negative actions in selling weapons to Taiwan and boosting its official military ties between the United States and Taiwan," said the spokeswoman of China's Foreign Ministry, Hua Chunying.

https://lite.cnn.com/en/article/h_a7ba6c92b95d8d0831527bccaa8d6822f

Attack Submarine USS Connecticut Suffers Underwater Collision in South China Sea (USNI NEWS 07 OCT 21) ... Sam LaGrone

Almost a dozen sailors have been injured after a U.S. nuclear attack submarine hit an unknown underwater object in the South China Sea, USNI News has learned.

The Seawolf-class nuclear attack submarine USS Connecticut (SSN-22) suffered an underwater collision while operating in international waters on Oct. 2 and is returning to port in U.S. 7th Fleet, a U.S. Pacific Fleet spokesman confirmed to USNI News on Thursday.

"The Seawolf-class fast-attack submarine USS Connecticut (SSN-22) struck an object while submerged on the afternoon of Oct. 2, while operating in international waters in the Indo-Pacific region. The safety of the crew remains the Navy's top priority. There are no life-threatening injuries," Capt. Bill Clinton told USNI News.

"The submarine remains in a safe and stable condition. USS Connecticut's nuclear propulsion plant and spaces were not affected and remain fully operational. The extent of damage to the remainder of the submarine is being assessed. The U.S. Navy has not requested assistance. The incident will be investigated."

A defense official told USNI News about 11 sailors were hurt in the incident with moderate to minor injuries. The attack boat is now headed to Guam and is expected to pull in within the next day, the official said. The underwater strike occurred in the South China Sea and the attack boat has been making its way to Guam on the

surface since Saturday, a defense official confirmed to USNI News.

The Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton, Wash., based submarine deployed on May 27 for the Pacific, the Navy announced at the time. The service has released photographs of the submarine operating in the Western Pacific with port calls in Japan in late July and August. U.S. 7th Fleet commander Adm. Karl Thomas visited the submarine in August, according to the service.

Connecticut is one of three Sea Wolf-class boats, a late Cold War attack submarine designed to hunt the most complex Soviet submarines in deep blue water. Along with USS Sea Wolf (SSN-21) and USS Jimmy Carter (SSN-23), Connecticut is among the Navy's most capable and sensitive attack boats.

The last known instance where a submerged U.S. submarine struck another underwater object was in 2005. Then, USS San Francisco (SSN - 711) struck an underwater mountain at full speed near Guam. One sailor died in the incident.

The following is the complete Oct. 7 statement from Pacific Fleet.

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<https://news.usni.org/2021/10/07/breaking-attack-submarine-uss-connecticut-suffers-underwater-in-pacific>

China Is Fixated On A Mysterious U.S. Submarine Incident In The South China Sea And Keeps Accusing The U.S. Of A Cover-Up
(BUSINESS INSIDER 26 OCT 21) ... Ryan Pickrell

Beijing keeps demanding answers about a mysterious US submarine incident that happened in the South China Sea earlier this month, accusing the US of being "cagey" and of trying to cover it up. The US insists that is not the case.

The Seawolf-class nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Connecticut collided with an object in early October, and Chinese officials have asked about it repeatedly since then.

Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Zhao Lijian said Tuesday that China has "grave concerns" and accused the US of being "irresponsible" and "cagey" by not providing details about the incident. He said the lack of details gives "every reason to question the truth and the intention of the US."

"What was USS Connecticut up to do secretly in the South China Sea this time? What did it collide with? Why did that collision happen?" Zhao asked. "Was there a nuclear leak that creates nuclear contamination in the marine environment?"

Zhao's statements Tuesday echo some he made on October 11, when he accused the US of "stonewalling" and engaging in a cover-up. His latest remarks also echo comments made by Ministry of National Defense spokesman Tan Kefei last week accusing the US of covering up the submarine incident with a "lack of transparency."

Pentagon press secretary John Kirby addressed Chinese allegations of a cover-up on October 12, saying that "it's an odd way of covering something up when you put a press release out about it."

US Pacific Fleet released a press statement on the submarine incident five days after the collision occurred on October 2, delaying its release because of operational security concerns. China has capitalized on that delay, suggesting it is suspicious.

The Navy said the submarine struck an object while submerged in international waters, writing that there were no life threatening injuries, that the sub was in stable condition, and that the nuclear-propulsion systems were not damaged. The sea service did not say where the incident occurred, though Navy officials speaking on the condition of

anonymity provided that information to some reporters following the release of the statement.

China's line of questioning could be aimed at pressuring the US to disclose information about US submarine activities in the South China Sea, especially given China's submarine base in the strategic waterway and speculation that Connecticut may have been conducting surveillance.

But there's another angle to the remarks by Chinese government officials.

The US frequently accuses China of militarizing the South China Sea, bullying and coercing other countries in the region, and aggressively advancing its extensive claims the US argues are not supported by international law. In turn, China has worked to cast the US as the destabilizing military presence in the South China Sea. The incident involving the Connecticut appears to be playing into those efforts.

In his comments at Tuesday's briefing, Zhao criticized the US military presence in the region and argued that the US is "the biggest force for militarization of the South China Sea" — a frequent criticism by China's Foreign Ministry. The US has repeatedly accused China, which has built military outposts in the South China Sea and used its growing military might to advance its geopolitical interests, of engaging in behavior that contrasts sharply with the US vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

The Connecticut is docked in Guam, according to The War Zone, which published the first satellite images of the wounded submarine on Friday. The satellite images offered a limited view of the submarine but did not appear to show any major damage.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/china-keeps-demanding-answers-mysterious-us-submarine-incident-2021-10>

Russia Test Fires Hypersonic Missile From Submarine

(AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE 04 OCT 21)

Russia said on Monday it had launched a new hypersonic cruise missile from a submarine, the latest test of emerging weapons President Vladimir Putin has dubbed "invincible".

Moscow has in recent years touted the development of weapons that it hopes will give it the edge in any arms race with the United States at a time of growing tensions with the West.

Hypersonics can travel more than five times the speed of sound and manoeuvre in mid-flight, making them much harder to track and intercept than traditional projectiles.

The military said on Monday it had fired a Zircon missile from the Severodvinsk nuclear submarine and hit a test target in the Barents Sea in Russia's Arctic.

"The test launch of the Zircon missile from a nuclear submarine was considered successful," the defence ministry said in a statement.

The ministry released grainy video footage showing missile flares illuminating the night sky.

The Zircon had already undergone several tests in recent years, including a launch from the Admiral Gorshkov frigate.

Putin used his state of the nation address in 2018 to reveal new hypersonic weapons, including the Zircon, saying it could hit targets at sea and on land with a range of 1,000 kilometres.

The Zircon looks set to join Avangard hypersonic glide vehicles that were put into service in 2019 and the air-launched Kinzhal (Dagger) missiles in Russia's arsenal.

The launch comes a week after North Korea said it had tested a new hypersonic weapon, becoming the latest country to join the hypersonic arms race.

Experts agree that, for now at least, Russia has an edge in their development.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/russia-test-fires-hypersonic-missile-from-submarine>

U.S. Navy Looking To Arm Its Subs With Tiny Torpedoes That Intercept Incoming Torpedoes

By Joseph Trevithick April 11, 2019

The compact weapons could give subs substantially greater magazine depth, a hard-kill anti-torpedo countermeasure, and more.

Tucked away in its most recent budget proposal, the U.S. Navy says that it is interested in giving its submarines the ability to launch small torpedoes. These weapons could offer added

offensive firepower, as well as an all-new anti-torpedo defense interceptor capability. The mini-torpedos use a common body and future variants might also arm unmanned ships or submarines, as well as flying drones, act as naval mines, and more.

READ MORE HERE

Navy Nuclear Engineer Charged With Trying to Pass Secrets

A Navy nuclear engineer with access to military secrets has been charged with trying to pass information about the design of American nuclear-powered submarines to someone he thought was a representative of a foreign government but who turned out to be an undercover FBI agent, the Justice Department said Sunday.

In a criminal complaint detailing espionage-related charges against Jonathan Toebbe, the government said he sold information for nearly the past year to a contact he believed represented a foreign power. That country was not named in the court documents.

Toebbe, 42, was arrested in West Virginia on Saturday along with his 45-year-old wife, Diana, after he had placed a removable memory card at a prearranged “dead drop” in the state, according to the department.

It wasn’t immediately clear whether either Toebbe had a lawyer.

Prosecutors say the scheme began in April 2020 when Toebbe sent a package to a foreign government containing a sample of U.S. secrets he could provide, along with instructions for how to continue the furtive relationship. He then began communicating with someone who was actually an undercover agent and agreed to sell information for thousands of dollars in cryptocurrency, according to the complaint, which alleges violations of the Atomic Energy Act.

Colin Powell, 84, Top Soldier And Model Diplomat, Is Dead

(NEW YORK TIMES 19 OCT 21) ... Eric Schmitt

A former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, secretary of state and national security adviser, Mr. Powell died of complications of Covid-19, his

family said. Colin L. Powell, who in four decades of public life served as the nation’s top soldier, diplomat and national security adviser, and whose speech at the United Nations in 2003 helped pave the way for the United States to go to war in Iraq, died on Monday. He was 84.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/18/us/politics/colin-powell-dead.html>

Colin Powell: ‘Get Mad, And Then Get Over It,’ And 12 Other Rules He Lived And Worked By (CNBC NEWS 18 OCT 21) ... Jade Scipioni

Colin Powell accomplished his goals by adopting a handful of key life principles along the way. Thirteen of them, in fact.

On Monday, Powell — the country’s first Black Secretary of State, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and national security advisor — died from complications from Covid-19, his family wrote on Facebook. He was 84 years old. Here are those rules for success and leadership:

1. It ain’t as bad as you think. It will look better in the morning.
2. Get mad, then get over it.
3. Avoid having your ego so close to your position that when your position falls, your ego goes with it.
4. It can be done.
5. Be careful what you choose: You may get it.
6. Don’t let adverse facts stand in the way of a good decision.
7. You can’t make someone else’s choices. You shouldn’t let someone else make yours.
8. Check small things.
9. Share credit.
10. Remain calm. Be kind.
11. Have a vision. Be demanding.
12. Don’t take counsel of your fears or naysayers.
13. Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2021/10/18/black-american-trailblazer-colin-powells-13-rules-for-life-and-work.html>

Only in Texas

Just Texas

Pep, Texas 79353
Smiley, Texas 78159
Paradise, Texas 76073
Rainbow, Texas 76077
Sweet Home, Texas 77987
Comfort, Texas 78013
Friendship, Texas 76530

Love the sun?

Sun City, Texas 78628
Sunrise, Texas 76661
Sunset, Texas 76270
Sundown, Texas 79372
Sunray, Texas 79086
Sunny Side, Texas 77423

Want something to eat?

Bacon, Texas 76301
Noodle, Texas 79536
Oatmeal, Texas 78605
Turkey, Texas 79261
Trout, Texas 75789
Sugar Land, Texas 77479
Salty, Texas 76567
Rice, Texas 75155
Pearland, Texas 77581
Orange, Texas 77630

And top it off with:

Sweetwater, Texas 79556

Why travel to other cities? Texas has them all!

Detroit, Texas 75436
Cleveland, Texas 75436
Colorado City, Texas 79512
Denver City, Texas 79323
Klondike, Texas 75448
Pittsburg, Texas 75686
Newark, Texas 76071
Nevada, Texas 75173
Memphis, Texas 79245
Miami, Texas 79059
Boston, Texas 75570
Santa Fe, Texas 77517
Tennessee Colony, Texas 75861
Reno, Texas 75462

Pasadena, Texas 77506
Columbus, Texas 78934

Feel like traveling outside the country?

Athens, Texas 75751
Canadian, Texas 79014
China, Texas 77613
Dublin, Texas 76446
Egypt, Texas 77436
Ireland, Texas 76538
Italy, Texas 76538
Turkey, Texas 79261
London, Texas 76854
New London, Texas 75682
Paris, Texas 75460
Palestine, Texas 75801

No need to travel to Washington DC

Whitehouse, Texas 75791

We even have a city named after our planet!

Earth, Texas 79031

We have a city named after our state:

Texas City, Texas 77590

Exhausted?

Energy, Texas 76452

Cold?

Blanket, Texas 76432
Winters, Texas 79567

Like to read about History?

Santa Anna, Texas 76878
Goliad, Texas 77963
Alamo, Texas 78516
Gun Barrel City, Texas 75156
Robert Lee, Texas 76945

Need Office Supplies?

Staples, Texas 78670

Want to go into outer space?

Venus, Texas 76084
Mars, Texas 79062

You guessed it. It's on the state line.

Texline, Texas 79087

For the kids...

Kermit, Texas 79745
Elmo, Texas 75118
Nemo, Texas 76070
Tarzan, Texas 79783
Winnie, Texas 77665
Sylvester, Texas 79560

Other city names in Texas, to make you smile.....

Frognot, Texas 75424
Bigfoot, Texas 78005
Hogeye, Texas 75423
Cactus, Texas 79013
Notrees, Texas 79759
Best, Texas 76932
Veribest, Texas 76886
Kickapoo, Texas 75763
Dime Box, Texas 77853
Old Dime Box, Texas 77853
Telephone, Texas 75488
Telegraph, Texas 76883
Whiteface, Texas 79379
Twitty, Texas 79079

The Anti-Al Gore City

Kilgore, Texas 75662

And our favorites...

Cut and Shoot, Texas 77303
Gun Barrel City, Texas 75147
Ding Dong, Texas
West, Texas (it's in Central Texas)
and, of course,
Muleshoe, Texas 79347

Here is what Jeff Foxworthy has to say about folks from Texas

- If someone in a Lowe's store offers you assistance and they don't work there, you may live in Texas;
- If you've worn shorts and a parka at the same time, you may live in Texas;
- If you've had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed a wrong number, you may live in Texas;
- If 'Vacation' means going anywhere south of

Dallas for the weekend, you may live in Texas;

- If you measure distance in hours, you may live in Texas;
- If you know several people who have hit a deer more than once, you may live in Texas;
- If you install security lights on your house and garage, but leave both unlocked, you may live in Texas;
- If you carry jumper cables in your car and your wife knows how to use them, you may live in Texas;
- If the speed limit on the highway is 55 mph -- you're going 80 and everybody's passing you, you may live in Texas;
- If you find 60 degrees 'a little chilly,' you may live in Texas;
- If you actually understand these jokes, and share them with all your Texas friends, you definitely live in Texas.

Here are some little known, very interesting facts about Texas:

1. Beaumont to El Paso: 742miles
2. Beaumont to Chicago : 770 miles
3. El Paso is closer to California than to Dallas
4. World's first rodeo was in Pecos, July 4, 1883.
5. The Flagship Hotel in Galveston is the only hotel in North America built over water. Destroyed by Hurricane Ike - 2008!
6. The Heisman Trophy was named after John William Heisman who was the first full-time coach at Rice University in Houston.
7. Brazoria County has more species of birds than any other area in North America.
8. Aransas Wildlife Refuge is the winter home of North America 's only remaining flock of whooping cranes.
9. Jalapeno jelly originated in Lake Jackson in 1978.
10. The worst natural disaster in US history was in 1900, caused by a hurricane in which over 8,000 lives were lost on Galveston Island.
11. The first word spoken from the moon, July 20, 1969, was "Houston," but the Space Center was actually in Clear Lake City at the time.
12. King Ranch in South Texas is larger than Rhode Island.

13. Tropical Storm Claudette brought a US rainfall record of 43" in 24 hours in and around Alvin in July of 1979.

14. Texas is the only state to enter the US by TREATY, (known as the Constitution of 1845 by the Republic of Texas to enter the Union) instead of by annexation. This allows the Texas Flag to fly at the same height as the US Flag, and Texas may choose to divide into 5 states.

15. A Live Oak tree near Fulton is estimated to be 1500 years old.

16. Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in the state.

17. Dr Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885. There is no period in Dr Pepper.

18. Texas has had six capital cities: Washington-on-the Brazos, Harrisburg, Galveston, Velasco, West Columbia, and Austin.

19. The Capitol Dome in Austin is the only dome in the US which is taller than the Capitol Building in Washington, DC (by 7 feet).

20. The San Jacinto Monument is the tallest free standing monument in the world and it is taller than the Washington Monument.

21. The name 'Texas' comes from the Hasini Indian word 'tejas' meaning friends. Tejas is not Spanish for Texas.

22. The State Mascot is the Armadillo. An interesting bit of trivia about the armadillo is they always have four babies. They have one egg, which splits into four, and they either have four males or four females.

23. The first domed stadium in the US was the Astrodome in Houston.

Cowboy's Ten Commandments posted on the wall at Cross Trails Church in Farlie, Texas:

- (1) Just one God.
- (2) Honor yer Ma & Pa.
- (3) No telling tales or gossipin'.
- (4) Git yourself to Sunday meeting.
- (5) Put nothin' before God.
- (6) No foolin' around with another fellow's gal.
- (7) No killin'.
- (8) Watch yer mouth.
- (9) Don't take what ain't yours.
- (10) Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff.

Y'all git all that?

Lord, keep Your arm around my shoulder and Your hand over my mouth.



***Do you remember when...
TV stations played the national
anthem every night?***



**SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL STRACKE,
TM2(SS) G COMM 65-70 PLANK OWNER**



**Michael Stracke
Stan Penning
Ray Kreul**

**Painting the
missile hatches.**



2021 Reunion Pictures









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