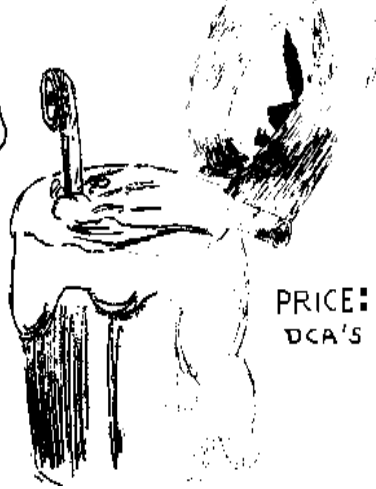




**WE  
WISH  
YOU A  
MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

**the NEW  
STIMSON  
DRINK**



PRICE: ONE  
DCA'S MATTRESS



VOL. 2023 #12

DECEMBER 2023

**USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER**

**Association Officers & Board of Directors 2023 - 2025**

<b>PRESIDENT</b> <u>Jerry [CJ] Blevins</u>	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> <u>Ray [Rita] Kreul</u>	<b>SECRETARY</b> <u>Nick [Linda] Nichols</u>	<b>TREASURER</b> <u>Ken [Diane] Meigs</u>	<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b> <u>Tom [Marie] Krauser</u>
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**Other Positions 2023 - 2025**

<b>HISTORIAN / CUSTODIAN</b> <u>Larry [Linda] Knutson</u>	<b>WEBMASTER / NEWSLETTER</b> <u>Nick [Linda] Nichols</u>	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> <u>Bruce [Vicki] Stefanik</u>
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**Wishing each of you a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your Association Officers and Board!!**

**REUNION VIDEOS**

We understand that there are many of our shipmates who would like to be at the reunion but due to health, travel distance, and other issues are not able to make it. In order to allow all of our Association Members to be an important part of the reunion, a video was made for three important events. If you would like to view any of these events please follow the appropriate link.

When you view the video we ask you to click the thumbs up button for each one you watch to allow us to know how many shipmates have watched it.

These videos are mostly raw footage without very much editing. They were compiled by a non-Stimson shipmate who is a member of Charleston Base SUBVETS. If you see a reference to Charleston Base that is because the videos are

being hosted on the Charleston Base YouTube channel at no cost to the Stimson Association. Shipmates helping Shipmates!

Enjoy these videos from the  
**2023 Stimson Reunion #12  
Decommissioning + 30 Years**

**Association Eternal Patrol Service**  
<https://youtu.be/nGqEWt9tEKU>

**Association Business Meeting**  
<https://youtu.be/5aEbCOXGI2w>

**Reunion Banquet Program**  
Reunion Chairman Harry Nettles  
Guest Speaker Sam Johnson, Decom CO  
<https://youtu.be/OH7cLPcq24g>



**From the Association President - Jerry Blevins, LT(SS) B 76-79, USSVI USS Groton Base, 655 Assoc Life Member:**

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, I reflect on how fortunate I am to have such great shipmates. Safe

travels for all of you that are travelling during the holidays. As we celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends let us not forget the many active-duty personnel who won't be home this year and pray that they remain safe. I remember, as I am sure many of you do, the Thanksgiving Days when we were either in-flight to Rota; in refit; or at sea.

**Some Thanksgiving Day history:**

General George Washington issued General Orders setting aside December 18, 1777 as a day for "Solemn Thanksgiving and Praise." In 1789, President George Washington issued a proclamation establishing November 26 of that year as "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer."

On October 3, 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation to "set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving." In 1870, President Ulysses S. Grant signed into law the Holidays Act that made Thanksgiving a yearly appointed federal holiday in Washington, D.C.

Finally, on December 26, 1941, Joint Resolution 77 H. J. Res. 41 was passed by the House of Representative and amended by the Senate, making the fourth Thursday in November the legal holiday of Thanksgiving Day.



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

Well shipmates fall is coming to an end and we're settling into the holiday season, snow has already fallen in many places so it's time to cozy

up together.

From Rita and myself we hope you will be able to gather your loved ones around and have great holiday's.



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

During the reunion we were given some items to add to our historical archives collection. You will have a chance to see them at the next reunion.

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 Association secretary. If you would like a copy of your card sent to you please contact him at [655webmaster@ssbn655.org](mailto:655webmaster@ssbn655.org).



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

December is a time of Peace and Joy.

It is also a time that we celebrate family and friends.

It is a time when some folks travel and some stay home.

It is a time when people eat too much and wish later that they had not.

God gave us Christmas to bring us closer to Him.

Remember that the Christ Child is the reason we have Christmas.

May you and your families be blessed as we thing of each other this month.

**Submarines Lost During the Month of December**

USS CAPELIN (SS-289)	December 2, 1943	1 <sup>st</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands 76 souls
USS SEALION (SS-195)	December 10, 1941	Bombed in Philippine Shipyards	Loss of 5 souls
USS F1/CARP (SS-20)	December 17, 1917	Collision with USS F3 (SS-22)	Loss of 19 souls
USS S4 (SS-109)	December 17, 1927	Rammed by USCGC Paulding	Lost with all hands 40 souls

**Four Boats and 140 Men Lost During the Month of December**





The following Stimson Shipmates have departed on Eternal Patrol.

=====

**MM1(SS) James Reed Kelly B 76-79**

**Eternal Patrol: July 15, 2023**

[reported by his wife Melissa]

**SK2(SS) James W. Weaver**

**Eternal Patrol: October 14, 2021**

[reported by USSVI]

**EMCM(SS) Richard Gay Olson**

**Eternal Patrol: April 1, 2021**

[reported by USSVI]

**MM3(SS) Thomas L. Barker G/SY1 59-73**

**Eternal Patrol: January 4, 2000**

[reported by Don Ort]

=====

THE FOLLOWING WERE LISTED IN THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER WITH MISSING INFORMATION. IF YOU CAN FILL IN THE ??? PLEASE SEND THE INFO TO ME. IF I DON'T RECEIVED INFO FROM THIS REQUEST THEN WHAT WE HAVE IS WHAT WE HAVE.

**MM1(SS) Eugene J. Tiller ? ??-??**

**Eternal Patrol: April 15, 2012**

Crew and dates onboard unknown  
[reported at reunion by Dave Huckeba]

**TM2(SS) George J. Kerr ? ??-??**

**Eternal Patrol: January 5, 2019**

Crew and dates onboard unknown  
[reported at reunion]

**ET3(SS) Dennis Bak ? ??-??**

**Eternal Patrol: 1990**

Crew and dates onboard unknown  
[reported at reunion]

=====

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 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/OVHL1/G 69-74, CWO4 Ret, continues to locate our Stimson shipmates who are on our Sailing List be without an email address.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MM3(SS) Bryan Clint Parham G 90-92**

[updated by member - found by Don Ort]

**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.

=====

**Diane Meigs, wife of Ken Meigs, ETR2(SS) G 65-70 Plank Owner, Association Treasurer & Life Member, USSVI Member-at-Large & Holland Club**

Cards to: 1537 Pebble Beach Ct, Medford OR 97504

**11.21.2023:** Diane has had her second chemo treatment in Portland the middle of November and arrived back home Monday before Thanksgiving. She and Ken are asking for prayer during her treatment and prayer for healing.

=====

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

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

**11.17.2023:** We had a very good first visit to the Wake Forest ALS Clinic. My doctor added 2 medications and he recommended me as a good candidate for a Capture Study out of the University of Miami where they follow your chart entries after each clinic visit. The respiratory therapist gave me breathing exercises. The physical therapist explained why we really should have hardwood in our bedroom because of future equipment needs. The nutritionist taught us that

ALS patients do better on the Mediterranean style diet so we will be converting to that. And the social worker connected us with the NC ALS Association social worker who gave us a whole notebook of resources.

And we have selected the contractor to do the VA adapted housing work the Adaptive Housing Construction Specialist said would be needed. They want to make sure it is done before it will actually be needed.

Just continue to keep us in your prayers.

*11.1.2023: In summer of 2022 I started having problems with my right foot. In August '22 it was diagnosed as drop foot and I was fitted with a brace to keep from tripping. The orthopedic leg specialist referred me to a spine specialist to determine the cause. From the MRI he thought I should have problems on my left side so he referred me to a neurologist. After her testing she felt it was more than diabetic neuropathy and she referred me to the neurology clinic at Wake Forest.*

*June 1st, I met with the doctor at Wake Forest. After his review of the reports from the first three doctors and his examination he voiced his suspicion but wanted to wait 3 months and do his own testing. On September 6th I had the testing at Wake Forest Diagnostic Neurology. After a little over a year of doctors and tests I have been diagnosed with ALS. I have been put on the medication that slows progression and will begin working with the specialists at the Wake Forest ALS Clinic in mid-November.*

*Thank you for your prayer support as we begin this journey.*

=====

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

Card to: 4000 Ibis Way Unit 201 Venice FL 34292

**9.17.2023: Email from Angie Mauk:** Elam Lee has been in dementia for the past two years, Of course we cannot travel. Hope your reunion is a great success, We will miss you all

=====

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

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

**10.14.2023:** Sandy and Donna were able to attend the Reunion in Summerville.

*9.6.2023: Dear Family and Friends,*

*Donna's back problems have not resolved, despite two surgeries and other pain treatments. She still has significant pain in her back and right leg, which is reduced with meds but not below about a 5 or a 6. The back surgeon says he cannot help her further. We are working with the pain doctor and he is recommending a nerve stimulator to see if that will help. We are proceeding down that track, which will take some time to set up.*

*Sandy's cancer – The August 27, 2023 PET/CT showed some nodules of cancer grew a little while some others shrank showing Keytruda has not failed completely. Keytruda treatments will be continued; the outcome we wanted. The next check on Keytruda's effectiveness will be on November 12, 2023. We live in three-month increments!*

*We are looking into the possibility of treating three spots of cancer in my muscle tissue, one in my right shoulder and two in my gluten area (butt) to eliminate these spots which are growing and thus reduce the cancer load on my immune system and let Keytruda be more effective.*

*We thank you for your prayers and Jesus for his continued protection. We will keep you informed. Love, Donna and Sandy*

=====

**John Cole, LT [CDR Ret] B AWEPS 78-80 [E1-E9 & O1E-CDR Ret.]**

Cards to: 5914 Ruby Dr., Pearland TX 77581-8926

**10.14.2023:** John and Susan were able to attend the reunion in Summerville.

*8.21.2023: Email from John: Even though the knee replacement surgery went well, things have gone south since I came home on July 29<sup>th</sup> just in time for 77<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 30<sup>th</sup>. On August 1<sup>st</sup> I was back in the hospital for an infection in the*

*lower right leg below the surgery area. Diagnosed as infection cellulitis. So, I have spent 17 of the last 27 days in the hospital. At least I am home right now just in time for Susan and I to celebrate our 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary tomorrow on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The knee, leg and foot are still very hot and swollen to the point that I can't put on any shoes. Making the reunion is still in GREAT DOUBT unless things turn around soon.*

*5.24.23: Physical Therapy 3 Times A Week Is Helping Immensely! Susan And I Will See You In Summerville.*

=====

**Michael Schwarzott, STS2(SS) B 75-76**

Cards to: 7935 Edgebrook Circle Apt 1, N. Charleston SC 29418

**8.26.2023: Email from Michael:** I was finally going to come to one [reunion] but unfortunately, I am having a total reverse shoulder replacement on Sept 20th. That will be a hard recovery with lots of PT and relearning to use my arm again.

=====

**Lloyd Hyatt, MT2(SS) B 73-76**

Cards to: 134 Coral Way, Jacksonville Beach FL 32250

**5.24.23: Email from Lloyd:** I did have my bone marrow transplant on April 10. I just met with my doctor after my 30 day bone marrow biopsy and so far everything is going well. I did have some graft verses host disease but things have settled down. My cancer is in remission, no cancer detected in my bone marrow and my donors DNA has been detected in the bone marrow. I want to thank everyone for the prayers. I'll give you a new update after the next biopsy in 60 days. Lloyd Hyatt MT2(SS) Blue Crew

=====

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

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

**5.24.23: Email from Jean:** I really don't have any updates, just taking it one day at a time. We have started attending some social events at our local VFW and Ron enjoys the camaraderie of his VFW

buddies, this certainly raises his spirits. Please keep checking in. Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

*1.29.23: Email from Ron 'RG': After my diagnoses of Alzheimer's, February 2022, I had to have my Aortic Heart Valve replaced in April followed by Cardio Rehab from June to August of 2022. I entered a CBD Oil Study from July to October through EVMS, Eastern Virginia Medical School, to help with my anxiety and agitation. It seemed to help a lot. January 2023, I was gggbg5reevaluated for my Alzheimer's and I am now in the moderate stage. I was prescribed new medication to help with my memory and anxiety. It seems to be working very well. Thank you for all your prayers, RG and Jean*

A man realized he needed to purchase a hearing aid, but didn't want to spend a lot of money. "How much do they cost?" he asked the salesman. "Anything from \$2 to \$2,000." "Can I see the \$2 model?" said the customer. The salesman put the device around the man's neck and said: "You just stick this button in your ear and run this little string down into your pocket." "How does it work?" asked the customer. "For \$2, it doesn't work," said the salesman. "But when people see it on you, they'll talk louder."

**GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH**

\*\*\*\*\*

**655 Association Website**

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

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

=====

*Received from a USSVI shipmate who received it from his son, who was an ETN1(SS) and got out after 10 years. It was written by an old shipmate of his.*

On my submarine, we did some of the stuff we did. We didn't do the other stuff we did because if we did do it, it was a secret. So, we didn't do it. Even though we did, but not really.

The medals my shipmates and I didn't earn for

doing what we didn't do, we did receive, except we didn't, because we never went where we were and weren't there when we were, but we did the stuff we didn't do while we weren't there not doing it.

As far as what boat I was on, we didn't go where we went and didn't do what we did while not doing it.

So, the bottom line, we weren't on a boat that I won't mention, not doing what we did, where we weren't.

I hope that clarifies things.



=====

Submitted by George Birmingham, ET1(SS) G/SY1/G 69-74, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI Carolina Piedmont Base, Holland Club

Recently, I was donating an old laptop carrying bag, one that I had used when I worked for Wachovia here in Charlotte so many years ago, to Habitat for Humanity at their nearby ReStore location.

While going through the many pockets, I discovered a book of stamps that I had purchased while at work. I was surprised to see that they were 37 cent stamps. I could not remember when postage was that cheap.

Fortunately, the back side showed me the vintage. It was just in 2002 !!!

Now that stamps are going to 68 cents, it is amazing of how prices have changed.

If you are old like me, you may remember **(WARNING: Trivia alert!)**:

- The 3-cent stamp in 1952
- The 5-cent stamp from 1963.

- The 6-cent stamp 5 years later in 1968.
- The 8-cent stamp in 1971
- The 10-cent stamp in 1974
- The 13-cent stamp in 1975 (surprised they didn't skip that rate. I guess they were not that superstitious)
- The 15-cent stamp in 1978
- The 18-cent stamp in 1981
- The 37-cent stamp hit in June 2002, up from 34-cents the prior July...

And so, it went until we have reached the new rate of 68-cents coming in January 2024...

E-mail is faster, but snail-mail costs more...

From: [History of United States postage rates](#)



=====

### S.O.S.

An Airbus 380 is on its way across the Atlantic. It flies consistently at 800 km/h at 30,000 feet, when suddenly a Eurofighter with a Tempo Mach 2 appears.

The pilot of the fighter jet slows down, flies alongside the Airbus and greets the pilot of the passenger plane by radio: "Airbus, boring flight isn't it? Now have a look here!"

He rolls his jet on its back, accelerates, breaks through the sound barrier, rises rapidly to a dizzying height, and then swoops down almost to sea level in a breathtaking dive. He loops back next to the Airbus and asks: "Well, how was that?"

The Airbus pilot answers: "Very impressive, but watch this!"

The jet pilot watches the Airbus, but nothing happens. It continues to fly straight, at the same

speed. After 15 minutes, the Airbus pilot radios, "Well, how was that?"

Confused, the jet pilot asks, "What did you do?"

The Airbus pilot laughs and says: "I got up, stretched my legs, walked to the back of the aircraft to use the washroom, then got a cup of coffee and a chocolate fudge pastry."

The moral of the story is: When you're young, speed and adrenaline seems to be great. But as you get older and wiser, you learn that comfort and peace are more important.

This is called S.O.S.: Slower, Older and Smarter.

Dedicated to all my senior friends ~ it's time to slow down and enjoy the rest of the trip.

=====

### Wait, how'd you know where I am?

You know your phone tracks your location. It has to, right? It goes deeper than that, of course, and it's not just about providing you with the best service based on where you are. Let me count the ways we're tracked ...



Your GPS must know where you are to find a destination. Social media wants to know where you are to serve ads. Family and friends keep tabs on your whereabouts. Advertisers and marketing companies use your location data to show you more relevant ads.

And guess what? All that location data is sold to who knows who. That's why it's definitely worth popping into your settings to review what location-related data you're sharing — and who you're sharing it with. It only takes a minute!

Let's start with your device and account settings.

- Google is always in the mix
- Have a Google account? Start there. Otherwise, skip to the next section.
- Sign into your account at [myaccount.google.com](https://myaccount.google.com) or through the Google app.
- Go to **Data & privacy > Location Sharing**. If you're not sharing your location with anyone, there's nothing to do here.
- Anyone you're sharing your location with will be listed here. Tap **Stop** next to a name to quit sharing.

Check Google Maps while you're at it. Open the **Google Maps app** and tap **your profile**. Tap **Location sharing**. If you're sharing your location with anyone, you'll see their names here. Tap a **profile**, then tap **Stop** to quit sharing with them.

### Make your iPhone less creepy

"Location Services" has two parts: A global setting to stop sharing your location with Apple and individual settings for each of your apps.

- Go to **Settings > Privacy & Security > Location Services**. You have the option to switch **off** "Location Services" completely.
- Alternatively, you can turn off "Location Services" for individual apps by scrolling the list and tapping the ones you want to change.

Like with Google, the loved ones you've selected can see where you are. I use this with my husband and son.

- Go to **Settings > Privacy & Security > Location Services > Share My Location**.

If you're sharing your location with anyone, you'll see their names here. Switch **off** "Share My Location" if you choose.

### Use Android?

Go to **Settings > Location** and toggle off **Use Location**. If you leave the setting on, scroll and change the settings for each app by tapping on them.



## Just a question:

How fast could you type via an old rotary phone?

### LANGUAGE SKILLS

A SPANISH Teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine.

"House" for instance, is feminine: "la casa."

"Pencil," however, is masculine: "el lapiz."

A student asked, "What gender is 'computer'?"

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether "computer" should be a masculine or a feminine noun. \*

Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that "computer" should definitely be of the feminine gender ("la computadora"), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval.
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

### (THIS GETS BETTER!)

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be Masculine ("el computador"), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on.
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves.
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem.
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

**\*The women won\***



### The Computer Corner

By: Tom Krauser, MM1(SS) B 72-74, 655 Assoc Life Member, USSVI Albany-Saratoga Base, Holland Club

### Upgrading Your Hard Drives in Your Computer

Recently my laptop "hard drive" was running out of space so I thought I would buy a bigger hard drive, clone it, and change it out.

I went online and purchased a larger capacity 2.5-inch SATA drive which I ASSUMED would fit in my computer to replace my SSD hard drive. I made a "Clone" of my hard drive onto it. THEN I removed the back off my laptop and started looking for the "hard drive" to replace it. Much to my surprise I could not see anything that looked like a traditional laptop "hard drive" that I was used to seeing.

My laptop has a Solid-State Drive (SSD), which I knew, but never thought about what it would look like. I ASSUMED there would be a space to connect a standard SATA drive inside the computer. THEN I went online to see what a SSD hard drive actually looked like.



There are SATA SSD drives that look like the traditional 2.5-inch laptop drive like the one shown which will connect in a "standard" SATA hard drive slot. However, there are also ones as shown above that look like a "memory" stick or a USB



**Form 214 or equivalent) you should expect a fast response -usually in ten days or less.** If a DD Form 214 will meet your needs, please consider requesting only a DD Form 214 as you will receive a much faster response.

If you require additional documents, please allow additional time (several months) for a response. We have a plan in place to eliminate the entire backlog by December, 2023 but until then, other types of requests will continue to be delayed.

### **VA Claims**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a duty to assist veterans in gathering evidence to support their claim. It is not necessary to secure records from NPRC to submit a disability claim to the VA. For the fastest outcome, submit your claim directly to the VA and allow the VA to obtain any records needed to adjudicate your claim. In many instances, the VA will already have access to your electronic record. In instances in which analog, or paper records are required, NPRC is normally able to furnish them to the VA within three days.

### **Alternate Methods to Obtain Service Records**

Also, please be aware that there are alternate sources available for access to modern military records. In many instances, records that are available in electronic formats may also be accessed directly by veterans, without involvement from NPRC, through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) eBenefits application at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage> or the Department of Defense milConnect application at <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>.

Modern military medical records may be accessed through the VA's Blue Button application at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/get-medical-records/>.

For more information regarding the online availability of VA and military records, please visit <https://www.va.gov/records/>.

We hope the above on-line resources are helpful and greatly appreciate your patience as we continue making progress towards the

elimination of our backlog.

=====

### **My HealtheVet's 20th Anniversary**

Celebrating 20 years of connecting Veterans to care

My HealtheVet will celebrate its 20th anniversary this Veterans Day. Take a look at some key changes My HealtheVet has made over the years—and what's new to come.

[Learn more.](#)

=====

### **You Won't Pay a Copay for Secure Messaging**

Secure Messaging is included in your care at VA. You will never be charged a copay or receive a bill for messaging your VA providers.

[Learn more.](#)

=====

### **Strengthening Your Core**

Strengthening your core can ease lower back pain and lower your risk of injury. Follow a VA exercise physiologist to learn this seated core strengthening routine.

[Watch now.](#)

=====

### **An App to Help You Sleep**

If you struggle with sleep, you're not alone. Try the Insomnia Coach app to track and improve your sleep.

[Learn more.](#)

=====

### **Should You Get a COVID-19 Vaccine This Fall?**

Get ready for cooler weather and holiday gatherings by protecting yourself and your family from COVID-19. If you have questions about the vaccine, this interactive guide can help.

[Learn more.](#)

=====

### **Take Care of Your Brain**

Brain health is key to physical and mental health. We have healthy habits that can keep your brain strong.

[Learn more](#)

=====

### **Try Appointments on VA.gov**

We're building a new home for VA health tools on VA.gov

My HealtheVet features are moving, so that you can manage your health and benefits all in one place. Try the appointments list now, so you're ready for the change.

[Learn more.](#)

=====

### **Power Your Immune System**

Your immune system defends against viruses and bacteria that can make you sick. Help your body fight flu, colds, COVID-19, and more with these healthy tips.

[Learn more.](#)

=====

### **Blood Pressure: What to Ask the Doctor**

It's important to have good communication with your doctor. Ask these helpful questions next time you talk about your blood pressure.

[Learn more.](#)

=====

### **Get Care Now with VA Health Chat**

Chat with a VA health care team member in real time. Get medical advice, schedule appointments, or refill prescriptions wherever you are.

[Learn more.](#)

=====

### **Should You Be Screened for This Cancer?**

Colorectal cancer is one of the most common and deadly cancers in the U.S. Find out if you're at risk and which screening options are right for you.

[Learn more.](#)

=====

### **Traumatic Brain Injury? Symptoms to Watch**

Most symptoms from TBI resolve over time. Find out what symptoms you should watch for and what to do if they persist.

[Learn more.](#)

=====

### **12 Things That Are Free Under Medicare**

While most services come with a cost, some preventive screenings, vaccines and counseling are covered without charge

**By Dena Bunis, AARP** Published October 27, 2023

We worry a lot about what Medicare

beneficiaries must for pay out of pocket, such as monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and copays for doctor visits and prescription drugs. But what many enrollees may not realize is that there are services that won't cost them a cent.

You can get vaccines and screenings for a number of illnesses and see your doctor each year for a wellness visit. You can also get counseling to help you kick smoking or manage your diabetes. You won't be subject to any out-of-pocket charges for these services as long as you use a health care provider who participates in Medicare or, if you get your health care through a Medicare Advantage plan, an in-network medical professional.

Here's a look at a dozen things you can get for free from Medicare. For a full list of the program's preventive and screening services, go to [Medicare.gov](#).

#### **1. A onetime "Welcome to Medicare" visit**

This visit must be made within the first 12 months of signing up for Medicare Part B, the part of Medicare that covers doctor visits and other outpatient services.

#### **2. A yearly wellness visit**

The first thing to know about this is what it isn't: a physical. According to Medicare, this is a once-a-year visit to "update your personalized plan to help prevent disease or disability." Your doctor will probably take your vital signs (height, weight and blood pressure) and review your medical history and the medications you are taking.

#### **3. Vaccines**

Thanks to a federal law passed in 2022, Medicare now covers most vaccines at no cost to enrollees with prescription drug coverage under Medicare Part D or as part of their Medicare Advantage plan.

#### **4. Diabetes screenings**

Medicare Part B will cover up to two diabetes screenings each year, including blood glucose tests, if your doctor determines you are at risk for developing diabetes and you have risk factors such as high blood pressure, a history of abnormal cholesterol levels, are obese or have a history of high blood sugar.

## **5. Depression screening**

Medicare covers one depression screening per year that must happen in a primary care setting, like a doctor's office. If a provider recommends follow-up treatment or other mental health and behavioral services, then the coinsurance rules under Part B would apply. In a crisis, people can contact the free and confidential Suicide & Crisis Lifeline by calling or texting 988 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## **6. Mammograms**

Medicare will pay for a screening mammogram every 12 months if you are a woman age 40 or older.

## **7. Colorectal cancer screenings**

Four separate screening tests for colorectal cancer are covered for free:

## **8. Lung cancer screenings**

Medicare will cover a lung cancer screening using low-dose computed tomography once a year if all these conditions apply:

## **9. Prostate cancer**

Starting the day after a man turns 50, Medicare will cover a prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test every 12 months. If you also need a digital rectal exam or other follow-up services, then the 20 percent coinsurance rules under Medicare Part B will apply.

## **10. Smoking counseling**

Medicare will pay for up to eight counseling sessions over a 12-month period to help you stop smoking or using tobacco.

## **11. Alcohol counseling**

Medicare will cover one annual alcohol misuse screening. In addition, the program will cover up to four brief face-to-face counseling sessions each year if you are someone who uses alcohol but doesn't meet the medical criteria for being alcohol dependent. You must get the counseling at a primary care setting, such as a doctor's office or clinic.

## **12. Nutrition therapy**

Medicare will cover some nutrition services if you have diabetes or kidney disease or have received a kidney transplant in the past 36 months. These services can include an initial nutrition and

lifestyle assessment, individual or group sessions, help managing the lifestyle factors that affect your diabetes, and follow-up visits to check on your progress.

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

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## **The #1 Exercise to Do as You Get Older By Michelle Crouch, AARP**

If you have time for only one exercise, fitness experts say, try this

Seated? Please stand (don't use your hands) to give tribute to the one exercise that fitness gurus say stands out among the rest for healthy aging. Now be seated again. Consider that your first rep.

Yes, a great workout challenges all of the major muscle groups in your upper and lower body. But if you have time for only one exercise, you'll get the most bang for your buck by doing squats — the classic move in which you slowly lower your bottom to seated level, then stand back up.

Squats strengthen all of the muscle groups in your legs, including your calves, quadriceps, hamstrings and glutes, as well as muscles in your lower back and core. Those muscles provide the foundation for most activities of daily living.

Squats are the antidote to soft couch-cushion syndrome — those challenging moments when we struggle to get up from that deep, old sofa. They can also help protect your joints, improve your balance and prevent falls, says Denise Austin, for 40 years one of America's best-known fitness experts and authors. "Squats are one of the best overall exercises," she says. "They strengthen the major muscles of the lower body we need to keep strong and also protect two joints we need help with on a regular basis — our knees and our hips."

Some research even shows a link between strong leg muscles and longevity. In one study, people ages 70 to 79 with stronger quadriceps (the muscles along the front of the thigh) had a lower chance of dying over six years compared with those who had weaker quadriceps

Here's how to get started:

1. Get in position
  2. Lower into a squat
  3. Repeat
  4. Get your arms in play
  5. For a greater challenge, add resistance
- [READ HERE](#) for whole story

## 2023–2024 Tax Brackets and Federal Income Tax Rates

The seven IRS tax brackets determine how much you will owe in taxes on your income

By John Waggoner, AARP

Published November 10, 2023

Even though we're still in the 2023 tax year, you're probably thinking to yourself, *Gosh! I wonder what the tax brackets are for the 2024 tax year?*

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) adjusts tax brackets for inflation each year, and because inflation remains high, it's possible you could fall into a lower bracket for the income you earn in 2024. Your standard deduction — the amount you can use as a deduction on your 1040 tax return without itemizing — will also be higher.

If you start now, you can make plans to reduce your 2024 tax bill. Knowing the tax brackets for 2024 can help you implement smart tax strategies, like adjusting your income tax withholding, so you don't get caught with a big tax bill.

### How the tax brackets work

In the U.S. tax system, income tax rates are graduated, so you pay different rates on different amounts of taxable income. There are seven federal income tax rates in all: 10 percent, 12 percent, 22 percent, 24 percent, 32 percent, 35 percent and 37 percent. The more you make, the more you pay.

A tax bracket is a range of income that's taxed at a specified rate. Importantly, your highest tax bracket doesn't reflect how much you pay on all of your income. If you're a single filer in the 22 percent tax bracket for 2024, you won't pay 22 percent on all your taxable income. You will pay 10 percent on taxable income up to \$11,600, 12 percent on the amount over \$11,600 to \$47,150,

and 22 percent above that (up to \$100,525).

## Tax brackets for income earned in 2024

Table with 3 columns and 7 rows.

Tax rate	Single filers	Married filing jointly
37%	\$609,350 or more	\$731,200 or more
35%	\$243,725 - \$609,349.99	\$487,450 - \$731,199.99
32%	\$191,950 - \$243,724.99	\$383,900 - \$487,449.99
24%	\$100,525 - \$191,949.99	\$201,050 - \$383,899.99
22%	\$47,150 - \$100,524.99	\$94,300 - \$201,049.99
12%	\$11,600 - \$47,149.99	\$23,200 - \$94,299.99
10%	\$11,599.99 or less	\$23,199.99 or less

Source: [IRS](#)

## Tax brackets for income earned in 2023

Table with 3 columns and 7 rows.

Tax rate	Single filers	Married filing jointly
37%	\$578,125 or more	\$693,750 or more
35%	\$231,250 - \$578,124.99	\$462,500 - \$693,749.99
32%	\$182,100 - \$231,249.99	\$364,200 - \$462,499.99
24%	\$95,375 - \$182,099.99	\$190,750 - \$364,199.99
22%	\$44,725 - \$95,374.99	\$89,450 - \$190,749.99
12%	\$11,000 - \$44,724.99	\$22,000 - \$89,449.99
10%	\$10,999.99 or less	\$21,999.99 or less

Source: [IRS](#)

*Married filing separately pay at same rate as singles. Source: Internal Revenue Service*

In addition, the standard deduction is \$14,600 for single filers for the 2024 tax year, up from

\$13,850 for 2023. The standard deduction for couples filing jointly is \$29,200 in 2024, up from \$27,700 in the 2023 tax year. The standard deduction is the fixed amount the IRS allows you to deduct from your annual income even if you don't itemize your tax return. The lower your taxable income is, the lower your tax bill.

There's even more good news for older taxpayers. Each joint filer 65 and over can increase the standard deduction by \$1,550 apiece, for a total of \$3,100 if both joint filers are 65-plus. In total, a married couple 65 or older would have a standard deduction of \$32,300. You can also itemize individual tax deductions, for things like charitable donations, but they need to add up to more than the standard deduction to make itemizing worthwhile.

[READ ARTICLE HERE](#)

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### **Navy Opening More Subs To Women As New Female Officers Double**

(NAVY TIMES 21 NOV 23) ... Megan Eckstein

The Navy plans to expand the number of submarine crews that women can serve with, after doubling the number of female officers coming into the community in recent years, but not yet increasing the number of boats with gender-integrated crews.

Vice Adm. William Houston, the commander of Naval Submarine Forces, last month signed a "major revision" to the force's gender integration plan that would allow females to serve in all submarine homeports.

San Diego will host integrated crews by the end of this year, with Guam following suit next year, Houston said Nov. 7 at the Naval Submarine League annual symposium.

That plan will increase the number of subs that female officers can serve on from 30 to 40 boats, he said.

The Navy has 69 boats: 51 attack subs and 18 Ohio-class ballistic missile and guided-missile submarines.

On the enlisted side, 14 crews have female sailors today, and that will grow to 20 crews by 2027 under the plan.

Houston noted part of that will involve women serving on eight attack submarines, up from the two boats in that category currently hosting female crewmembers.

That move follows female officers who pushed to serve on the smaller attack subs after initially being assigned to only the larger Ohio-class boats.

Houston noted that, in some ways, all submarines are gender-neutral today, and all boats can accommodate women.

"Right now, I have crews that are not integrated that have multiple female officers assigned to them and serving on them in a temporary status to get deployment experience," he said. "We do that routinely. Direct support elements, shipyard workers, contractors, squadron staff, inspection teams — every submarine can embark women right now."

The issue, he said, is that the force has so far kept women assigned to crews on certain submarines for berthing purposes.

That has led to situations where some submarines actually have more female officers than male. Minnesota, for example, has 10 female officers in a wardroom of 17.

"We doubled the number of female officers we were bringing in, but we hadn't changed the number of platforms that they were assigned to," Houston said.

He noted that the sub community now has two female executive officers, or XO's, and they are assigned in a gender-neutral manner, with both women serving on non-integrated boats as the only women in the crews.

Houston said female officer retention in many year groups exceeds male retention, as does promotion rates.

On the enlisted side, he said that, as the number of enlisted female accessions in the community continues to grow, so too will the number of boats to which they're assigned.

The number of women enlisting in non-nuclear submarine rates doubled from 80 in fiscal 2019 to 160 in fiscal 2023, according to Naval Submarine Forces officials.

Houston pointed out that the first female chief of boat recently helped bring the Louisiana out of a major maintenance availability that included refueling the sub's nuclear reactor.

"Our female officers are crushing it," Adm. Frank Caldwell, who leads Naval Reactors and the naval nuclear community," said at the Submarine League event. "They have really done a fantastic job."

Asked during his remarks when the Navy might see a female commanding officer, Caldwell noted that it might be another four years because the two female sub XO's today would have to do a couple shore tours ahead of entering the pipeline for command

Caldwell and Houston also talked more broadly about submarine recruiting and retention issues during the Sub League event.

Caldwell said the Covid-19 pandemic had created some recruiting gaps they still need to close. The community is meeting its ROTC goals and is nearing its goals at the U.S. Naval Academy.

But it's struggling with the Nuclear Power Officer Candidate pipeline, which pays students while they earn an undergraduate or graduate degree in nuclear engineering and brings them in as nuclear naval officers upon graduation.

The sub force is looking at accession bonuses and signing people earlier to address remaining gaps, Caldwell said.

Houston said that, once officers are in the submarine community, he's trying to entice them to stay.

The Navy already implemented a junior officer split tour initiative, where officers serve both on a submarine in the repair yard and a submarine in the fleet during their first tour — meant to avoid assigning them entirely to boats in long-term repair, where the officers may not be able to get all the qualifications and experience, they'd need to be successful in later assignments.

Houston said he also put in place a "direct to department head" option where, if a young officer wanted to, they could serve a junior officer tour, go to department head school, and then do their

department head tours all in the same homeport.

He's looking at whether it's feasible to extend this to a "direct to command" option, where the officer would also do their executive officer tour and commanding officer tour back-to-back in that same homeport.

Houston said he thinks the bulk of officers would choose the traditional career path, but because the service is small enough, it can adapt if needed.

"If we want to retain the best people, we have to have the best, most flexible career path," he said. "And that is really what our goal was with that."

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2023/11/21/navy-opening-more-subs-to-women-as-new-female-officers-double/>

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### **U.S. Navy Eyes Two-Submarine Delivery Rate In 2024 After Schedule Upset**

(DEFENSE NEWS 09 NOV 23) ... Megan Eckstein

ARLINGTON, Va. — The U.S. Navy and the submarine sector hope in 2024 they can begin reliably delivering two attack submarines annually, following work disruptions that threw off plans to do so this year.

Industry delivered one attack sub, the Hyman G. Rickover, this calendar year and will send a second, the New Jersey, to sea trials in December ahead of delivery early next year.

Rear Adm. Jon Rucker, the program executive officer for attack submarines, said his office enacted new construction and delivery timelines in February to begin achieving two-sub deliveries a year in 2023.

But almost immediately his office fell behind.

In addition to some unspecified issues that arose over the summer, General Dynamics Electric Boat had to delay launching a submarine in the spring when its launch pontoon broke, creating a backup of modules and parts since it didn't have the space to let new material flow into its construction facilities until the boat left.

Rucker called the summer a low point in Virginia-class attack submarine production, but he



said the overall production rate was already up and should be back to a 2.0 delivery cadence by fiscal 2028.

The Navy and industry are at a 1.3 attack sub construction cadence, which means all the phases of submarine construction — manufacturing, outfitting, assembly, final test and delivery — are humming along at a rate that would support delivering that number of subs year over year.

By the end of this calendar year, Rucker said while speaking at the Naval Submarine League's annual symposium, the work across all phases of construction will be "rebalanced" after this summer's backups, and the cadence should be able to continue creeping up toward the 2.0 goal.

The Navy has poured billions of dollars into the submarine-industrial base since FY18 to address some of the cadence issues. Matt Sermon, the executive director of Program Executive Office Strategic Submarines, told Defense News at the conference that investments from FY19 through FY21 targeting sequence-critical parts that were showing up late — forcing the construction process to either pause and wait, or continue without the part and then try to install it later in a costly or disruptive way — would help submarines under construction today.

For the Block V Virginia-class subs, as well as the second Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine that just formally began construction last month, "we're going to see improvements in that space" as the vendors use the Navy's money to expand facilities or improve work processes, and thus deliver their parts on time, Sermon added.

Boats in construction now will also benefit from workforce development spending, Sermon said, as key suppliers have been able to hire highly skilled tradesmen from formal training pipelines like the Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing center in Virginia.

In FY24, the Navy plans to fund about 50 supplier development projects. The supplier development projects are still targeting sequence-critical parts: either new parts that have started delivering late and putting construction schedules

at risk, or parts whose manufacturers have already received some money but need more help, Sermon said.

If there's any leftover money, Sermon added, the Navy will begin targeting other suppliers who either can't keep up with delivery schedules today, or who aren't expected to keep up as the workload increases in the coming years.

Whitney Jones, the director of the Navy's submarine-industrial base program, said her office is trying to take a smarter approach to where it puts this money.

"Historically, we have often looked at how we're making these investments at a supplier level, and it's been very whack-a-mole: For every one we address, five more pop up. It's a challenge. What we have shifted to is looking at the health of a market space or the health of a commodity group, and figuring out where the investments need to be made for the health of a space," she told Defense News.

<https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2023/11/09/us-navy-eyes-two-submarine-delivery-rate-in-2024-after-schedule-upset/>

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### **U.S. Navy Upgrading Torpedoes, Leveraging Cloud Computing For Submarines**

(DEFENSE NEWS 16 NOV 23) ... Megan Eckstein

ARLINGTON, Va. — The U.S. Navy is pushing new technology to its undersea fleet to make it safer, smarter and deadlier, while also nearing a major step in developing its next-generation attack submarine.

Among the changes that will have the most impact is moving the Submarine Warfare Federated Tactical System to a cloud-based common computing environment. SWFTS comprises a sub's sonar, imaging, electronic warfare and combat systems, and also ties into ship control, navigation and more.

Capt. Todd Weeks, the program executive officer for undersea warfare systems, said at the Naval Submarine League's annual symposium that this move forces the decoupling of hardware and software, which makes it quicker and easier to

upgrade each.

The common computing system also comes with boosted cybersecurity and creates the bandwidth to install artificial intelligence tools for submariners.

Weeks said submariners are inundated with more sonar and electronic warfare data than they can manually analyze. An AI tool could rapidly toss out meaningless data, allowing sailors to look through a narrower set of potentially interesting information.

As the Navy begins to test these AI tools onboard submarines, it built a so-called sandbox for these applications so users can access the data generated by SWFTS without posing a risk or otherwise affecting existing systems. The Navy can experiment with apps in this sandbox before committing to their installation with SWFTS.

Weeks said the current SWFTS build has a small sandbox, which will increase in size in the coming years so multiple apps can simultaneously undergo testing.

#### **Next-gen attack sub**

The Navy intends to begin buying its SSN(X) attack submarine about a decade from now, following what would be a 35-year run building the Virginia-class boats.

Rear Adm. Jon Rucker, the program executive officer for attack submarines, said his team is conducting technology development and early design work. They'll incorporate the best of the Virginia, Seawolf and Columbia submarine designs and focus on four attributes: speed, payload capacity, stealth and operational availability — minimizing time needed for major depot work and maximizing the time it can be out on patrol.

Rucker said Nov. 7 at the same conference that Navy leadership signed the SSN(X) initial capabilities document, which is now with the Joint Staff for final signatures and approvals.

The Navy will then begin an analysis of alternatives in 2024, he said, noting this process will help decide how to proceed — a clean-sheet design, modifying the existing Virginia-class design, or something in between.

#### **Torpedoes and countermeasures**

For the ships and aircraft that hunt enemy submarines, Weeks' office is offering greater capability by developing an advanced sonar array for existing Mk 54 lightweight torpedoes. His team is also creating an advanced lightweight torpedo to leverage new sonar technology and add "significant improvement in lethality and speed and depth so that there's no submarine in the world that is safe from our [anti-submarine warfare] forces."

To supplement the torpedo inventory, Weeks said in his Nov. 8 speech, his office is also "in the process of developing" the Compact Rapid Attack Weapon, or CRAW, a spinoff of the anti-torpedo torpedo defensive system the Navy uses on aircraft carriers.

Weeks told reporters the Penn State University's Applied Research Laboratory developed CRAW, which features a new warhead and fresh operational software compared to the old system. The Navy is working with several industry partners, who he declined to name, to put the system into production. He expects to sign off on its Milestone B achievement in the coming weeks, he added.

CRAW will first deploy for an offensive anti-submarine mission, and then receive a defensive anti-torpedo torpedo capability via a software update.

Weeks said CRAW will arm Virginia submarines "soon" and that the aviation and surface communities are interested in the system, which is smaller than the lightweight torpedo but has less range.

#### **Safety gear**

Vice Adm. William Houston, the commander of Naval Submarine Forces, said Nov. 7 he's made rapid safety improvements on the Ohio-class ballistic missile and guided-missile submarines, including improved firefighting gear.

Previously, sailors would rely on hand-held thermal imagers to find their way around dark, smoky areas of the sub during an emergency. But the Ohio boats would typically only have two of these onboard, leaving many first responders

unable to see how close they were to a fire.

In a few months, the Navy developed and purchased a new self-contained breathing apparatus that has a thermal imaging heads-up display built into the face mask. Now, every first responder could have thermal imaging without having to find or hold a device.

The entire Ohio class has this new apparatus, and the Virginia attack subs will get it soon, Houston said.

<https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2023/11/16/us-navy-upgrading-torpedoes-leveraging-cloud-computing-for-submarines/>

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### **Navy Chooses Boston As Commissioning Site For USS Massachusetts Nuclear Sub**

It is slated to take place in 2025 but the actual site has not been decided yet.

(NBC BOSTON 16 NOV 23)

The United States Navy will commission the USS Massachusetts, its newest submarine, in Boston, according to reports from the Boston Herald.

“I am pleased to announce that we will move forward with Boston as the commissioning site.” said Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro in a letter.

It is slated to take place in 2025 but the actual site has not been decided yet.

“Our Commonwealth has the honor of being the namesake for a Virginia-class submarine, and now, we have the honor that the USS Massachusetts will be commissioned here in Boston,” said Senator Elizabeth Warren of the decision. “Massachusetts has a long history of service to the United States Navy, and

Secretary Del Toro has answered the call for the USS Massachusetts to enter service in Boston, in recognition of these unique contributions.”

“The City of Boston is honored to be selected as the commissioning site for the USS Massachusetts, a Virginia Class submarine purposefully built for the inclusion of women sailors and as a place to foster the leadership of its men and women service members,” said City

Council President Ed Flynn.

“We collectively look forward to this fantastic opportunity to showcase the 200+ year tradition of support that the Commonwealth has for Sailors at sea,” said the USS Massachusetts Commissioning Committee in their press release.

Our state has played an important role in naval history, and this vessel perfectly embodies our commitment to freedom, equality, and innovation. It represents us with pride, and I’m excited to welcome the USS Massachusetts home in 2025.

<https://t.co/rQzQrZmQ9f> and <https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/navy-chooses-boston-as-site-for-uss-massachusetts-nuclear-attack-submarine/3193160/>

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### **Navy Creates Three New IT Submarine Ratings To Promote Specialization**

(NAVY TIMES 16 NOV 23) ... Diana Stancy Correll

The Navy is creating three separate ratings for information technology, or IT, personnel serving on submarines to specialize in communications, network security and electronic warfare.

The change means that sailors currently in the information systems technician rating aboard submarines will convert into these new ratings to facilitate “mastery” in one specific area of expertise, according to a naval administrative message, or NAVADMIN, released late last month.

“While the shipboard network knowledge base will be shared, these career paths will be distinct; each managed by separate training pipelines and [Navy Enlisted Classification] codes,” the NAVADMIN said. “All submarine IT Sailors will become knowledgeable in network fundamentals, but will be specialists in communications, Network security, or electronic warfare.”

Officials said the change stems from feedback from a Submarine Force survey where sailors said they’d prefer three separate ratings.

Additionally, the official said the “existing accession pipeline does not allow for rating growth.”

“Revising ITs into three ratings will increase accession production by 33% and allow for growth in the three new ratings to improve fill in the Force,” the Navy official said in an email to Navy Times.

The revised ratings are available for all active duty sailors, while Reserve sailors may only convert to the communications and network security ratings.

Commands will coordinate with their immediate superior in command, type commanders, and the

Bureau of Navy Personnel by the end of the year to determine which career realignments best accommodate the needs of the Navy and commands for all active duty sailors E-1 to E-9.

“Commands should ensure that each Sailor selects an appropriate career path based on their current Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) codes and qualifications,” the NAVADMIN said.

“Amplifying information on the process for selecting career paths will be provided via a separate execute order.”

The Bureau of Naval Personnel will coordinate the realignment for Reserve sailors.

All of the new ratings will complete their own Navy-wide Advancement Examinations that will kick off in January 2024, and produce their own advancement quotas.

Those in the information systems technician, submarine rating who’ve already received approval to retire before the end of February will not undergo the rating realignment process.

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2023/11/16/navy-creates-three-new-it-submarine-ratings-to-promote-specialization/>

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## **Era Of Total U.S. Submarine Dominance Over China Is Ending**

New Chinese submarines and sensors to catch U.S. subs will alter the balance of power (WALL STREET JOURNAL 20 NOV 23) ...  
Alastair Gale

For decades, the U.S. hasn’t had to worry much about China’s submarines. They were noisy and easy to track. The Chinese military, meanwhile, struggled to detect America’s

ultraquiet submarines.

Now, China is narrowing one of the biggest gaps separating the U.S. and Chinese militaries as it makes advances in its submarine technology and undersea detection capabilities, with major implications for American military planning for a potential conflict over Taiwan.

Early this year, China put to sea a nuclear-powered attack submarine with a pump-jet propulsion system instead of a propeller, satellite imagery showed. It was the first time noise-reducing technology used on the latest American submarines had been seen on a Chinese submarine.

A few months earlier, satellite images of China’s manufacturing base for nuclear-powered submarines in the northeastern city of Huludao showed hull sections laid out in the complex that were larger than the hull of any existing Chinese submarine. A second modern construction hall at the plant was finished in 2021, indicating plans to boost output.

At the same time, the western Pacific is becoming more treacherous for U.S. submarines. Beijing has built or nearly finished several underwater sensor networks, known as the “Underwater Great Wall,” in the South China Sea and other regions around the Chinese coast. The networks give it a much better ability to detect enemy submarines, according to Chinese military and academic texts.

The People’s Liberation Army, as China’s military is known, is getting better at finding enemy submarines by adding patrol aircraft and helicopters that pick up sonar information from buoys in the sea. Most of China’s navy now has the ability to deploy underwater listening devices called hydrophones on cables trailing ships or submarines.

In August, China conducted a submarine-hunting exercise lasting more than 40 hours in the South China Sea, involving dozens of Y-8 anti-submarine patrol aircraft. A few weeks earlier, the Chinese and Russian navies conducted a joint anti-submarine warfare exercise in the Bering Sea, off the coast of Alaska.

The developments mean the era of unchallenged dominance of the U.S. under the seas around China is ending.

It now exceeds the U.S. fleet by number of ships, although China's ships are generally smaller and less sophisticated. In response, a larger percentage of the U.S. Navy has been deployed to the Pacific, including some of America's most advanced ships and aircraft. The U.S. has also increased the tempo of naval operations in the region and deepened coordination and training with allied fleets, such as Japan.

The U.S. also needs new strategies below the waves to face a more potent adversary, said Christopher Carlson, a former U.S. Navy officer. The U.S. needs far more resources, such as patrol aircraft and attack submarines, to locate, track and potentially target a new generation of quieter Chinese submarines, he said.

"The implications for the U.S. and our Pacific allies will be profound," he said.

Simulations of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan conducted by American military analysts often assume U.S. submarines would try to sink ships in the attacking Chinese fleet. The destruction of Chinese ships could help blunt the invasion and enable Taiwan to better defend itself, some of the simulations show, but a greater threat to U.S. submarines would complicate that task.

Even getting close to the Taiwan Strait might become more precarious. China's nuclear-powered attack submarines could be assigned to a hunter-killer role seeking U.S. and allied submarines to the east of Taiwan, said Brent Sadler, a former U.S. submarine officer who is now senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, a think tank based in Washington, D.C.

### **Hard to hunt**

An indication of the rising stakes in countering China's submarine fleet came in March, when Gen. Anthony Cotton, head of U.S. Strategic Command, said during a congressional hearing that China had deployed new missiles on its ballistic-missile submarines that could hit targets

deep inside the U.S. while remaining close to China.

Keeping track of these Chinese submarines is one of the primary roles of the U.S. Navy and its attack submarines in the Asia-Pacific region.

One book published by a former PLA officer in 2020 suggests new Chinese attack submarines will have their engines mounted on shock-absorbing rafts to better damp vibrations. China is working on other quieting technology for submarines, such as new hull materials and more-efficient nuclear reactors for propulsion, academic research papers show.

Based on the available information, Carlson, the former U.S. Navy officer, anticipates the new Chinese submarines will be as quiet as Russian Akula I-class attack submarines commissioned from the 1990s—a series still in service today that marked a leap forward in stealth and speed from previous Russian submarines.

"Finding a boat this quiet is going to be really hard," he said.

Much of China's current submarine technology comes from reverse-engineering diesel-electric submarines bought from Russia after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Closer military ties between Moscow and Beijing in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine have spurred concerns that Russia may be willing to share some of its advanced submarine technology with China, but there have been no clear indications of such transfers.

To be sure, a new generation of Chinese nuclear-powered submarines is years away from active duty, and significant progress in the program isn't guaranteed. Submarines often go through several prototype stages over a period of years before final designs are reached.

The new attack submarine launched by China this year could be a test model that isn't intended for deployment. Entire projects can be scrapped for technical, economic or political reasons. The U.S. Seawolf-class submarine program was dropped in 1995 because of high costs.

There is also little chance that China will catch up with the U.S. in submarine technology soon.

The latest U.S. Virginia-class attack submarines and the planned Columbia-class ballistic-missile submarines are a generation ahead of China's capabilities in terms of noise-reduction technology, propulsion, weapons systems and other areas, military analysts say.

But China doesn't necessarily need to match U.S. capabilities. By making submarines that are much harder to detect and producing them at scale, it can stretch the resources used by the U.S. military to keep track of them. And any war would likely be fought in China's backyard, the area it knows best.

To patrol the region, the U.S. rotates squadrons of P-8 aircraft through a base in Okinawa, Japan. One recently retired U.S. anti-submarine warfare officer said that a lack of American anti-submarine patrol aircraft based permanently in the Asia-Pacific region would be a handicap.

"We know where their subs are now," he said. "But continuing to do so depends on having the assets to keep track of them."

### **China's 'Underwater Great Wall'**

In 2017, the Chinese government approved plans to build sensor networks over five years in the South China Sea and East China Sea, where Taiwan is located, to monitor the regions in real time.

China's underwater sensor networks echo the Sound Surveillance System, or Sossus, developed by the U.S. during the Cold War to detect Soviet nuclear submarines through a network of hydrophones fixed to the sea floor.

A few years ago, China also placed listening devices on the seabed near the island of Guam, home to a major American submarine base.

The growth of Chinese underwater sensor networks means U.S. submarines can no longer rely solely on their stealth capabilities to avoid detection in the South China Sea and other areas close to the Chinese mainland, said Bryan Clark, a former naval officer who is now a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, a think tank based in Washington, D.C.

Clark said the U.S. needs a new strategy to

confuse or suppress China's undersea sensors, by deploying unmanned submersible craft that can jam the surveillance systems, act as decoys or destroy sensors.

China is under pressure to improve its sub-hunting capabilities as the U.S. works with allies to boost its undersea advantage. In 2021, the U.S. and U.K. said they would help Australia build its first nuclear-powered submarines.

The new Australian submarines aren't expected to be deployed until the 2040s, so as a stopgap measure, the U.S. agreed this year to sell as many as five U.S. Virginia-class nuclear-powered attack submarines to Australia in the 2030s. The U.S. also pledged to rotate attack submarines through a base in western Australia by 2027 to help its military gain proficiency in maintaining nuclear submarines.

A Chinese government spokesman said in March the plans to boost Australia's capabilities would lead "down the path of error and danger."

### **U.S. behind schedule**

China's recent advances have also highlighted a shortfall the U.S. is facing in its own submarine fleet. The Navy has started moving more submarines to the Asia-Pacific region and says it needs 66 nuclear-powered attack submarines to meet global missions. The U.S. has 67 nuclear-powered submarines, but only 49 of those are attack submarines, a result of a decline in construction after the end of the Cold War.

Its fleet of attack submarines is forecast to decline to 46 boats by 2030 as older submarines are retired, before recovering to 50 in 2036 if an annual construction rate of two submarines can be reached, up from the current rate of 1.2. In the Navy's most optimistic scenario, it would have 66 attack submarines in 2049.

China currently has six nuclear-powered attack submarines. Carlson, the former U.S. Navy officer, predicts that once China has settled on new designs it could triple the current U.S. annual production rate. In its annual assessment of the Chinese military published this month, the Pentagon forecast China would have a total fleet of 80 attack and ballistic-missile submarines by

2035, up from 60 at the end of last year.

China's main base for nuclear-powered submarines is on the southern island of Hainan. To accommodate more submarines, China added two new piers at the base this year, on top of four existing piers. Two submarines can dock at each pier.

Hainan is at the northern edge of the South China Sea, a maritime region where China has built military bases on artificial islands and has some of its most extensive surveillance systems, both above and below the sea surface.

Sadler, the former U.S. submarine officer, said China's development of more advanced submarines added to the likelihood of a military showdown with the U.S. this decade.

"Regardless, the U.S. submarine force will certainly be in greater demand than ever before across the wider Pacific," he said, "and with narrowing margins of advantage over its chief adversary."

<https://www.wsj.com/world/china/us-submarine-dominance-shift-china-8db10a0d>

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*Submitted by Ron Testa, ETN2 [LCDR ret] B/SY1/G 70-73, Assoc. Life Member*

The Lone Sailor - Italian Style????  
LA STATUA IL BACIO DELLA MEMORIA DI UN PORTO

Buon giorno, Lone Sailor Bremerton shipmates! [www.lonesailor-bremerton.org](http://www.lonesailor-bremerton.org)

We are docked in Civetavecchia, Italy, for the night, and we are disembarking Viking Venus in the morning. The next phase of our 30-day Mediterranean excursion is to catch a train from Rome to Florence for an additional 10 days on our own exploring central Italy.

Imagine our surprise when we saw this very large sculpture at the port - a lone enlisted sailor, kissing his girl, with a seabag and a cleat nearby!

Do you recognize these various elements existing in sculptures of sailors in the United States?

Going to sea bonds us all as shipmates.  
Ciao for now! Ron & Linda

**LA STATUA IL BACIO DELLA MEMORIA DI UN PORTO**

Near **Fort Michelangelo**, along the **Molo del bicchiere**, it is possible to admire the statue "The

**Kiss of the Memory of a Port".**

The statue was **inaugurated on 16 September 2020, on the occasion of the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the Harbour Master's Office.**

**The creator of the project is Ivana Puleo and the statue was made by the Marinelli foundries, thanks to the contribution of some operators in the maritime and port sector and private individuals.**



**THE NEW STATUE OF THE KISS: HISTORY**

The work was created to **remember all those who left the port of Civitavecchia**, mainly as a result of war events, and in some cases never returned.

Not only that, it was built with the **intention of reconstructing a "memory" lost on May 14, 1943**, when a devastating bombing destroyed not only the historic building of the Harbour Master's Office, but a large part of the port and the town, erasing centuries of history.



**THE NEW STATUE OF THE KISS: THE CHARACTERISTICS**

The statue "The Kiss of the Memory of a Port" depicts a **young woman kissing a sailor of the "Royal Harbour Master's Office".**

**The construction material is bronze and the height is almost three meters.** The girl dresses in

summer clothes from the 40s while the sailor wears the old uniform of the Royal Harbour Master's Office.

**A must-see point of interest**, not only for the statue but for the beautiful scenery around it,

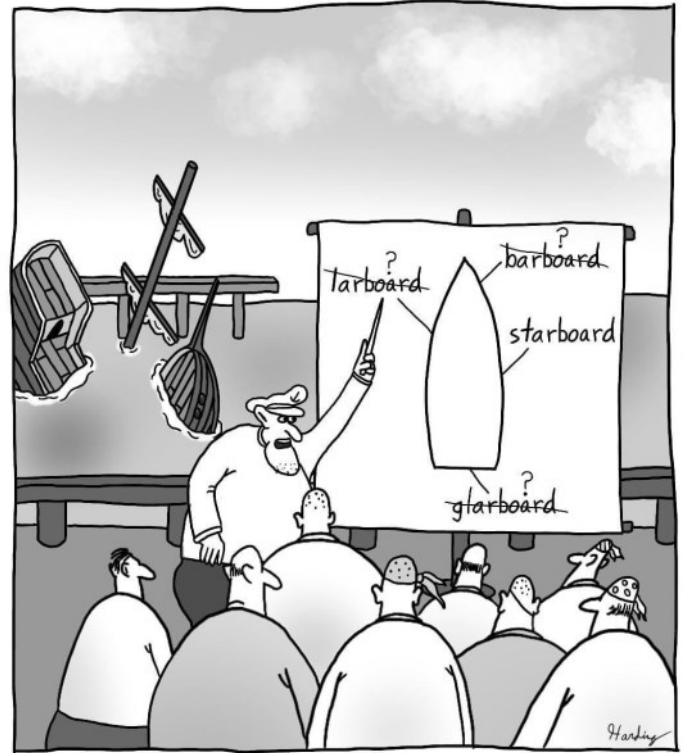


More information and pictures at these links:

[La statua Il Bacio della Memoria di un Porto | Port Mobility Civitavecchia](#)

[The Statue The Kiss of Memory of a Port: the photogallery | Port Mobility Civitavecchia](#)

It helps if you imagine  
auto correct as a tiny  
little elf in your phone  
who's trying so hard  
to be helpful but is in  
fact quite drunk.



"I've called this here meeting so we can face a hard truth. It's time to rethink our entire naming scheme."



### LAW OF MECHANICAL REPAIR

After your hands become coated with grease  
your nose will begin to itch,  
and you'll have to pee

I wish all ladies would quit  
asking Santa for the perfect  
man!  
I've almost been kidnapped  
3 times today!



**Singers of the 60's are revising their hits  
with new lyrics to accommodate baby-boomers**

**New Releases Include:**

Herman's Hermits

Mrs Brown, You've Got A Lovely Walker

Ringo Starr

I Get By With A Little Help From Depends

The BeeGees

How Can You Mend A Broken Hip?

Roberta Flack

The First Time Ever I Forgot Your Face

Johnny Nash

I CAN'T See Clearly Now.

Paul Simon

Fifty Ways To Lose Your Liver

The Commodores

Once, Twice, Three Times To The Bathroom

Procol Harum

A Whiter Shade Of Hair

Leo Sayer

You Make Me Feel Like Napping

The Temptations

Papa's Got A Kidney Stone

Abba

Denture Queen

Helen Reddy

I Am Woman, Hear Me Snore

Lesley Gore

It's My Hormones & I'll Cry If I Want To

Willie Nelson

On the Commode Again

*Submitted by Jerry Blevins, LT B 76-79,  
Association President & Life Member, USSVI  
Groton Base*

In 1943, eighty-years ago, we lost 16 boats. That year, the USS Sculpin (SS 191) and the USS Corvina (SS 226) were lost in November and the USS Capelin (SS 289) in December. As representative of the crews, I have included available photos of the CPOs aboard. Unfortunately, I have had no success in identifying any of the COBs.

The **USS Sculpin (SS 191)** was launched on 27Jul38 from Portsmouth Navy Yard, ME and commissioned on 16Jan39. On 05Nov43, she left Pearl Harbor for her ninth war patrol with CDR Connaway on his first patrol as Captain. She was a Sargo-class submarine displacing 1,450-ton with a surface speed of 20-knot (kt) and submerged speed of 8.7-kt. The ship was 310-feet (ft) long with a beam of 27-ft and draft of 15-ft. Her propulsion system was electric-drive provided by 4-General Electric 685-shaft-horse-power (shp) motors with two motors paired through a reduction gear to each of the twin shafts. For electric power, she had 4-General Motors 1,535 brake-horse-power (bhp) diesel generators. This was the first class of submarines with welded-hulls and had an operating depth of 250-ft.

In addition to the 84 crewmembers, CAPT Crawford, SUBDIV43, was aboard to coordinate an attack with other submarines assigned to the Carolina Islands area based on Ultra information. The average crew age was 24 with 8 officers (aged 27 to 32) and 5 chief petty officers (aged 28

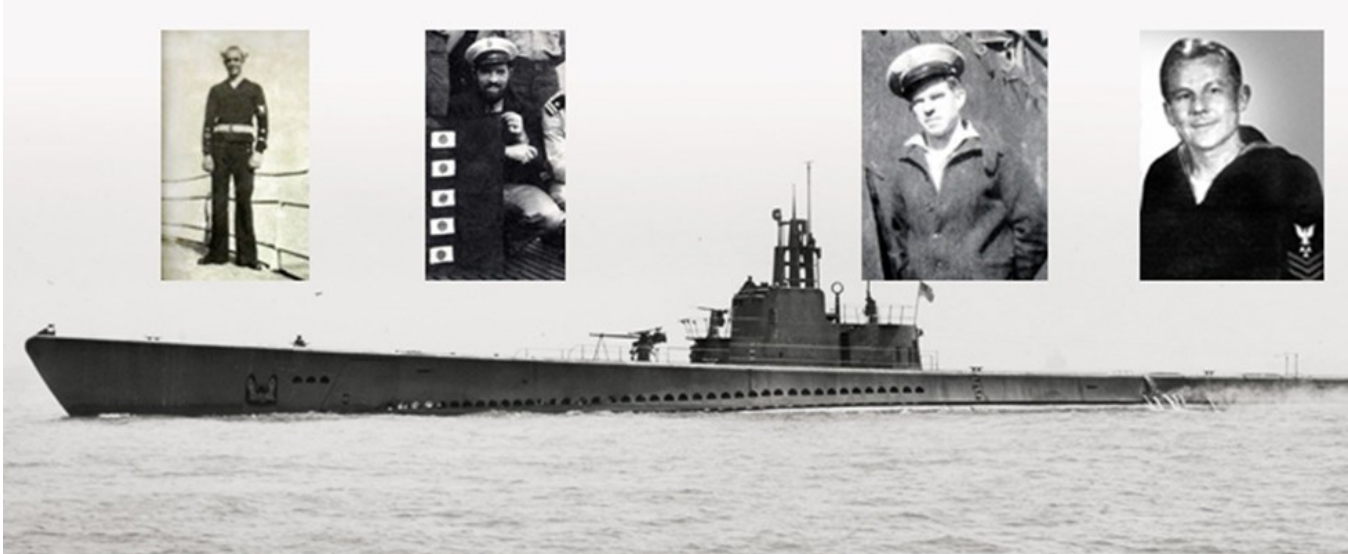
to 36.)

An attempted periscope-approach attack of a convoy, early on November 19, failed when the Sculpin's periscope was spotted. The convoy turned towards the sub and passed over her. Depth charges launched by a trailing Japanese destroyer inflicted minor damage and drove the Sculpin deep. Several hours later, CDR Connaway ordered periscope depth to see if the destroyer was still present. During the ascent, ENS Fiedler, Acting Diving Officer, failing to notice a stuck depth gage, broached the sub. The destroyer immediately charged and launched depth charges as the Sculpin dove. The attack disabled both the dive planes and steering in addition to causing multiple leaks.

CDR Connaway surfaced the ship and the Sculpin crew engaged the Japanese destroyer with their deck guns. Almost immediately a direct hit on the conning tower killed CDR Connaway, the XO, the Gunnery Officer and all of the lookouts.

The remaining senior officer, 23-year-old reservist LT Brown, ordered the crew to abandon ship and for the COB to open the main vents to scuttle the ship. CAPT Crawford, ENS Fiedler and 10 unidentified crewmen went down with the ship. Forty-one of the crewmembers surrendered. 19 of them died when the USS Sailfish sank the Japanese carrier Chuyo and 21 of the remaining POWs survived the war.

The CPOs picture below are, left to right: Philip J. Gabrunas, MoMMC; Richard E. Hemphill, MMC; Weldon E. Moore, SMC; Claiborne H. Weade, TMC.



**USS CORVINA (SS 226)** left Pearl Harbor on November 4, 1943, on her first war patrol with CDR R.S. Rooney as Captain. The average age of the 82-man crew was 24-years-old. They hailed from 22 different states (with the most from Connecticut). There were 7 officers (aged 24 to 35) and 8 chief petty officers (aged 27 to 35). Likely reflecting volunteers of that time, there was a 28-year-old and 29-year-old seaman and a 28-year-old LTJG onboard. The crew had barely 2-months from commissioning to starting their first war patrol.

The Corvina was a Gato Class submariner built by EB in Groton. She was launched 09May43 and

commissioned 06Aug43. There were a total of 77 Gato class submarines built between 1941 to 1943. Basic statistics on the class was 1,526-tons, 312-foot (ft) length, 27-ft beam, 15-ft draft, and 300-ft operating depth. The propulsion system was electric-drive with two 1,375 hp General Electric motors connected to each shaft through a reduction gear. Electric power was provided by 4-General Motor 1,535 bhp diesel generators. She was rated with a 20-kt surface speed and 8.7-kt submerged with an approximately 48-hour battery life on maximum charge.

After refueling on Johnston Island, she left with patrol orders to proceed to the vicinity of Truk Atoll

in the Carolina Island group and was never heard from again.

Based on post-war Japanese records, the Corvina may have been sunk by a Japanese submarine on November 16, 1943, about 115 miles south of Truk. This would make her the only submarine sunk by a Japanese submarine.

The CPO's aboard, pictured below are (L to R): Delbert L. Green, Jr, RMC; Lloyd W. Beaudette, QMC; Ernest L. Foster, MoMMC; Sidney E. Grisham, TMC; Bill D. Hale, MoMMC; Boyd F. Smith, EMC; Erwin E. Wood, EMC.



The **USS Capelin (SS-289)** was launched on 20Jan43 from Portsmouth Navy Yard, ME and commissioned on 04Jun43. The average age of the crew was 23-years old. Both the officers and the chiefs averaged 30-years of age. She left Pearl Harbor on 31Oct43, with CDR Marshall as Captain on her first war patrol. She was a Baleo-class submarine, which was virtually a Gato-class submarine made of high-tensile strength steel instead of mild steel. The stronger hull increased her operating depth to 400-ft.

On 16Nov43, she entered Darwin, Australia for two days of repair of damage from being depth-charged during her shortened first patrol. The Capelin departed for her second patrol on 17 Nov43. Her patrol area was in the Molucca and Celebes Seas. Her orders directed the captain to maximize time in Kaoe Bay, Moratai Strait, Davao

Gulf and trade routes in the vicinity of Siao, Sangi, Talaud and Sarangani Islands. She was to leave her area on 06Dec43.

Nothing was positively heard from CAPELIN after her departure. However, CDR Tom Hogan, BONEFISH, reported that on 02Dec, he sighted Capelin about 5-miles away heading west. CDR Hogan reported: "By sonar, I told him who I was, about the convoy, and named him by his nickname: 'Steam'...he receipted for the message by sonar." This position was in the area assigned to CAPELIN at this time. An attempt to reach CAPELIN by radio, on 09Dec43, elicited no response and she was declared lost.

The CPO's aboard, pictured below are (L to R): Claude I. Beck, Jr., TMC; Marcy H "Art" Butler, RMC; John F Ganley, Jr., MoMMC; Leo A. Landres, MoMMC.



# **Ancestry Sources/Books When Researching Ancestors**

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

## **Documenting Sources**

### **Ancestry Books**

Many times when we are looking for information on our ancestors we find references to books that have been written about our ancestors or places that they lived or settled that talk about their families. These may be entire books dedicated to a family line or books written about a time period, event, or location that talks about the people of that time including our ancestors.

When you find books or references online, you may have the option to purchase printed copies or order digital copies of these materials online. Tom has started a personal library of printed copies of books he has found online to save for his family. He has also found digital copies that are either free or low cost for a digital library of his ancestors.

The easiest way to start looking for information on ancestors is to start with a “search engine” such as Google, Bing or whichever your search engine preference is. In the search window type information that you are searching for such as a family name, event, or location and see what comes up in the search results. Adding “books” to the search phrase may help locating books about that subject.

For example, type “books Blevins ancestry” in the Google search window and it shows multiple books and articles about/by the Blevins family. Many of these books can be ordered online or you can go to the site specified to find out more about the material presented.

There are usually sites you can go to such as Amazon, eBay, or other books sites where you can purchase copies of books available about your ancestors. Always look at the reviews of different sites to ensure they are reputable sites.

Be careful when purchasing books with multiple volumes. Only a specific volume may be listed and it may not be the volume you actually want. Make sure to order the actual volume(s) you are interested in. For used books, be careful to check for the best price and condition before ordering. The exact same book can have a wide variety of prices and conditions on different sites. Research the site reviews to see comments from others who have purchased books from them to ensure they are reputable.

Also, be careful to order the “latest version” of the book if there was more than one version published. For example, Tom ordered a book called “The Longhunters: A Report on the History and Family Of William Blevins Sr. Of Virginia” several years ago (2012) and used this book to fill in his tree. A 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of this book was recently published (2022) and is now available which corrects and updates information on many of the ancestors in the book. The original edition (2012) still shows up for sale on the same sites for about the same price as the new version, but you want to make sure to order the latest edition of any book you desire. Tom has also ordered used books only to discover later that newer versions were available, so before ordering check to see which is the latest version.

Printed books are nice for your personal library to pass on to your family, but digital copies are extremely useful especially if they have a “search” feature. By digital, it could be a PDF copy you can download to your computer and search using Adobe Reader, which is free download, or it could be a different online digital format for that specific site. For downloads I create a folder for books and other reference papers under my ancestry folders and then put sub-folders under that folder for Paternal or Maternal ancestors. Then under these folders I add folders for different families or topics. I make the free Adobe Reader my default for PDFs which allows me to search, edit, and markup copies of the PDF document.

There are several online sites that have ancestor reference material available to you. A few, but not all, of the sites are listed below:

### **Google Books**

<https://books.google.com/>

Google Books is a site that you can obtain digital copies of many books online and either get a free copy of some books and/or purchase a digital copy for your Google Library. The cost to purchase a digital copy can be very reasonable. For example, on Google Books Tom ordered the digital version of “The Longhunters” book above for \$3.99 each for both versions of the book. You can then access the book from a “link” or your “library” on Google Books. This has a search feature you and use to search the books for any text in the book.

If you go to the Google Books link above you can type in what you are looking for in the Search window. For example, type “Blevins [L](#)onghunter” in the Search window and many books about the Blevins are displayed. Clicking on a book will tell you where it is available from and if a digital copy is available.

### **Ancestry.com**

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Ancestry has many books and reference papers available to users. Many of these resources show up as Hints when using the program but many are available online just by searching.

### **Family Search Digital Library**

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/>

The Digital Library can connect you to genealogy books containing the stories of your ancestors and lead you to new discoveries. You should sign up for Family Search to be able to see the many resources available on the site.

In the Search window type the key words or names you want to search on. You can browse the results and many of them can be opened for viewing. Depending on the “Permission Level” and Copyright permissions for viewing how much you can actually view/print or download. Some material can be printed or downloaded to your computer.

### **WikiTree Books**

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Category:Books>

Besides searching for individuals, WiKiTree also has links to books and publications you can view and search.

### **Internet Archive**

<https://archive.org/>

Internet Archive is a free site you can join that has an extremely large library of materials you can have access to. Many of the materials on this site can be downloaded to your computer.

### **Library of Congress**

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

The Library of Congress has many types of resources you can access for free.

### **HathiTrust**

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/mb>

Collections of genealogical records available to the public. HathiTrust was founded in 2008 as a not-for-profit [collaborative of academic and research libraries](#) now preserving 18+ million digitized items in the HathiTrust Digital Library. We offer reading access to the fullest extent allowable by U.S. and international copyright law, text and data mining tools for the entire corpus, and other emerging services based on the combined collection.

### **Digital Public Library of America**

<https://dp.la/>

DPLA is totally free to use and open to all – no library card, subscription, or sign-up required! Their collection, with items from many institutions, offers a unique research resource for family historians and genealogists.

### **WorldCat**

<https://www.worldcat.org/>

WorldCat.org is a great resource for locating unique, trustworthy materials that you often can't find anywhere except in a library. And by connecting thousands of libraries' collections in one place, WorldCat.org makes it easy for you to browse the world's libraries from one easy search box.

WorldCat.org connects genealogical researchers to millions of pieces of unique content not found elsewhere. **Newspapers, family Bibles, cemetery and burial archives, microfilm, and digitized local records—it's a treasure trove of family history waiting to be uncovered. Learn how to make the most of this powerful, global resource.**