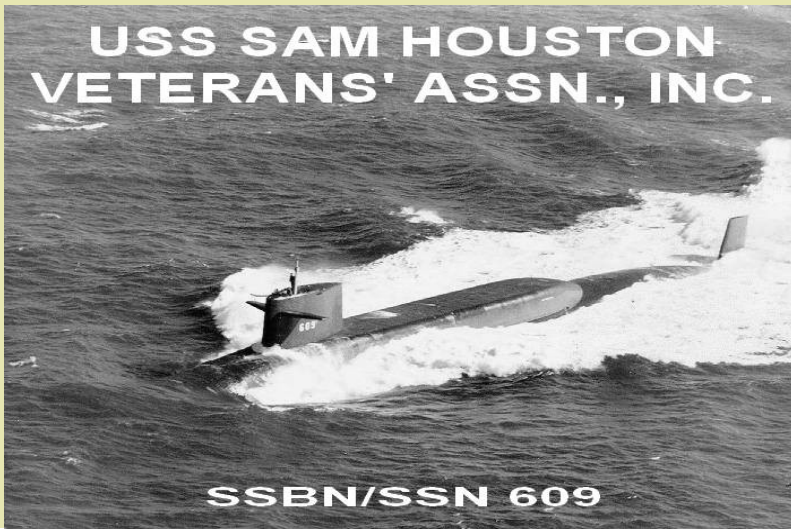


USS SAM HOUSTON VETERANS' ASSN., INC.



SSBN/SSN 609

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1st Edition

2010

A Society of Distinguished Naval Veterans

Web Site: www.USSSamHouston.org

The Raven



An official publication of the USS Sam Houston Veterans' Assn., Inc.

MESSAGE FOR THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings Shipmates & Associate Members:

First of all, I hope that you and your families are in good health and enjoyed the holidays. Also, best wishes to you for this new year. Last year was a busy one for me with the SHVA: our bylaws are drafted, arrangements are nearly worked out for this year's reunion, and the SHVA is incorporated. The sudden closing of the first hotel to host our reunion caused a rework with a different hotel.

With "The Raven" not having been published as often as desired last year, I developed the "Membership Memo." This document will not replace "The Raven" but supplement it by getting important information to the membership in a timely manner. The primary difference between a "Membership Memo" and "The Raven" is that the memo will contain only one or a few important topics and will not have "nice to know" information such as articles and pictures related to individual members and sub-related information—past or present.

Please read on to catch up on the SHVA, some of its members, and the upcoming reunion.

Fair winds and following seas,

**Howard Dobson (ETR2; 69-72, gold)
Acting Chairman & Reunion Planner**

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Wilmington, DE 19802-1426

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHAIRMAN

Hello all Shipmates & Associate Members:

I hope your holidays and new year were festive, and this newsletter finds you and your family well. It has been a while since our last newsletter, and I would like to offer my apologies for that due to conflicts with a number of circumstances starting with time management.

It is the goal of this publication is to be your newsletter; so, any inputs to it from members would be great. One new item that Howard and I discussed a new section for the newsletter entitled "Sam Houston Shipmate Spotlight." In this section a shipmate will be highlighted with a brief discussion about what he did while onboard, his favorite stories, and what has happen to him since he left the boat and the Navy. The guinea pig for this section is myself; enjoy. You get the idea; please submit your info to me for inclusion in a subsequent edition of the newsletter.

Another new section to the newsletter is an "Remember This Picture." The intent of this section is to provide a picture, and the readers guess details such as where and when that picture was taken. Some info about the picture(s) will appear somewhere in the newsletter.

Another added section is "Eternal Patrol." This section will be a list for the current year (except for this edition) of those for whom we learned of their passing regardless of the year in which they left us. While we hope that your day and those of your shipmates will be in the distant future, that day will, nevertheless, arrive. The SHVA will honor its shipmates who have moved onto Eternal Patrol during every formal Memorial Service held at each reunion. That shipmate put his life on the line in service to our country, and that is not something to be ignored—and the SHVA will always recognize the service of those of USS Sam Houston and the Silent Service regardless of whether they lives were lost in combat or not. Therefore, having knowledge of those shipmates is no less than essential. To ensure that the SHVA becomes aware of a shipmate's moving on, it is important that your next of kin inform any member of the Board of Advisors of the SHVA (or any shipmate that can be contacted) of the loss. If a nonboard member is contacted, that shipmate should inform a member of the board. The roster indicates if a shipmate is known to be on Eternal Patrol. If anyone knows of someone who has departed this life and is not indicated as such on the roster, preferably inform myself or Howard. Our addresses and phone numbers are with our articles on this page and on page 1.

Are you also computer savvy? If so, look into web site Facebook.com. This site is a great social networking tool as there are not one but two groups dedicated to the mighty USS Sam Houston. This great tool can be used to catch up to your shipmates from the past.

Jeff Walsh (STS2; 86-89, SSN)
Vice Chairman & Newsletter Editor

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Groton, CT 06340
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VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED TO FILL VACANCIES ON THE BOARD

The shipmates listed below have volunteered for the positions indicated:

- **Jeff Walsh** (STS2, 86-89, SSN): *Vice Chairman and Newsletter Editor*
- **Mark Manzer** (STS3, 79-82, gold): *Treasurer*
- **Art Sullivan** (MT1, 70-75, gold): *Finance Committee*
- **David Dinwiddie** (MM2, 85-89, SSN): *Chaplain*
- **Pat Pecorelli** (IC2, 69-72, gold): *Storekeeper*

The Following BoA Positions Remain Open or Will Become Open

Chairman

I, **Howard Dobson**, fill this position in an acting capacity. This means that I have not been elected to the position and am essentially self-appointed. Because the SHVA is not yet a formal society, this was necessary to get it started. Formal elections will occur at the Business Meeting during our reunion. The situation with the Chairman position for me is that I do not wish to remain in this position and function as Reunion Planner simultaneously. I can best serve the SHVA as Reunion Planner. Besides, both positions will have voting rights, and no individual will be able to hold two such positions on the BoA simultaneously.

The major duties of the Chairman are to:

- Manage the overall operation of the SHVA.
- Preside at meetings and functions (or delegate others!)
- Approve spending and reimbursements.

This position will not be overwhelming, and I will always be available for consultation.

Chief of the Boat (Position does not require the individual to have been a Chief Petty Officer)

The major duties of the COB are to:

- Manage membership.
- Perform ancillary functions at meetings as needed.
- Produce mail labels or related files for various mailings of the SHVA—maybe.

This position will require knowledge of a basic use of either Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Access. (**Howard Dobson** might perform the function of producing mail labels and related files as this requires more than basic knowledge of the computer programs mentioned.)

The Following non-BoA Positions Remain Open

Recording Secretary

The major duties of the Secretary are to record, generate, and maintain minutes of the Board of Advisors (BoA) and Business Meetings. **NOTE:** *Any person—First Mate or nonmember—can fill this position.*

Reunion Committee

This will consist of 3-4 people who will help with activities for and during our reunions. This committee essentially will be inactive at other times but reactivated a few months before a reunion.

Nominating Committee

This is a one-person committee who duties are to:

- Assemble names of nominees for elections.
- Present the candidates at the Business Meetings.
- Conduct the voting.
- Swear in new and old members of the BoA during the banquet at reunions.

I do not anticipate that anyone will be overwhelmed when serving in any official position because I plan on keeping things simple—from the organization through the reunions. Also, I do not expect that meetings of the BoA will be necessary between

reunions. As such, members of the BoA should not have to travel to attend any meetings other than the ones that will occur during our reunions. The use of e-mail and phone calls should be sufficient for conducting official business.

Serving in any official position of the SHVA will not require the individual to attend a reunion or an unlikely special meeting. If you are interested in filling one of these vacancies, please let me know.

Howard Dobson
Acting Chairman & Reunion Planner

MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS

The organization desires to operate on **donations** from members as opposed to requiring yearly dues. This is different than most other military-reunion organizations. The concept is that no one will lose or be denied membership because of financial difficulties. What the board will do is ask for yearly donations from all with a suggested minimum (\$20?). Those who can contribute should send donations even if the donations would be below the minimum. The SHVA does not have the enormous expenses associated with making hardcopies of its documents and the subsequent postal charges. If donations later prove inadequate, we will consider dues only as a last resort to any other options that might exist.

DO NOT SEND DONATIONS YET BECAUSE A CORPORATE BANK ACCOUNT HAS YET TO BE SET UP. WE WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN AND WHERE TO MAIL YOUR DONATIONS. FOR NOW, PLEASE ONLY PLAN TO DONATE.

Submitted by Howard Dobson

BYLAWS DRAFTED

The Chairman has drafted bylaws for the SHVA , and the Vice Chairman has reviewed them. During the Business Meeting at the reunion, the members will have a chance to voice their opinions of the bylaws. The board members will evaluate any comments at that time and decide whether to adopt the changes or table them for further evaluation.

Submitted by Howard Dobson

THE SHVA IS INCORPORATED

Thanks to the hard work by Howard, the SHVA became incorporated on 11 December 2009 in the state of Delaware. This was important for a number of reasons from protecting the assets of members of the Board of Advisors in legal issues to providing the SHVA a means to open necessary corporate bank accounts. Being incorporated can also be an incentive for receiving donations from corporate sponsors. I do not intend to go this route, but if down the road the board learns that it might be feasible, the SHVA will be a step ahead. Being incorporated can be especially advantageous when the SHVA becomes a tax-exempt organization.

Submitted by Howard Dobson

2010 REUNION UPDATE

The reunion dates are reserved with the host hotel for 20-23 Oct 2010 (Wed-Sat) in Norfolk, Va. Howard expects to sign the required contracts with the hotel by mid-Feb. A contract with the tour company is signed, but it will be modified to include a 3-hr. tour that will be especially suited to our First Mates during midday on Sat. It will include time for shopping at the MacArthur Center (mall) while the shipmates attend the Business Meeting early Sat afternoon (23 Oct).

At this time, those who wish to attend the reunion should concentrate on allocating money and making arrangements to be away from home during the days that you want to attend the reunion. ***You will have the option to attend the reunion on the days you are able and participate in the group activities and meals of your choice on those days.*** Plan on spending about \$900/person or \$1400/couple to attend all tours and group meals during the entire reunion. (The reason why the cost does not double for a couple is that the room rate (\$101.57/night) remains unchanged for up to four occupants/room. (The quoted room rate is \$89/night + taxes.)

All-day tours are scheduled for Wed-Fri with the short tour on Sat for our First Mates as described above. The highlights of the tours are:

Wed: historic Williamsburg, Va. overview; Jamestown Settlement

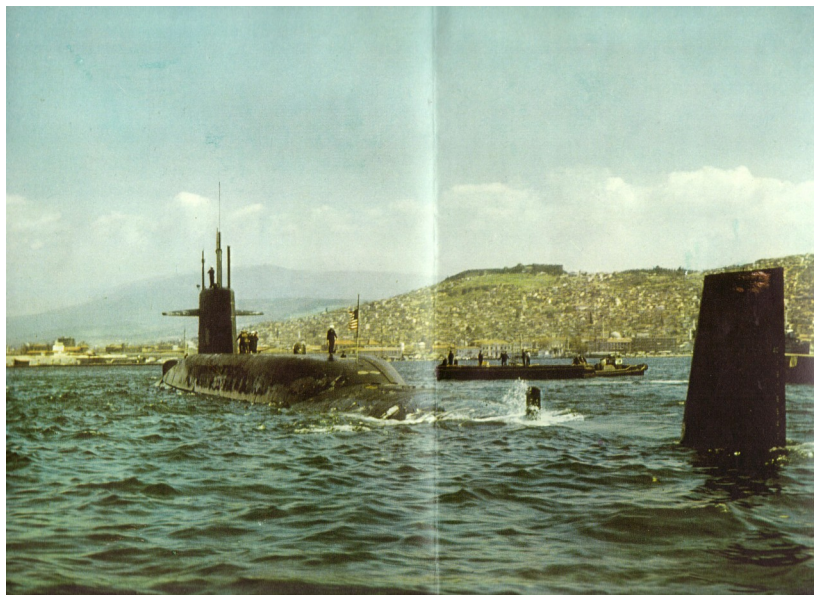
Thu: Spirit of Norfolk lunch cruise; Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum

Fri: Norfolk Navy Base; Memorial Service; tour a sub or destroyer (if approved); lunch at a club on base; and the Nauticus (not a misspelling—it is a maritime museum in downtown with must-see venues that include the battleship Wisconsin)

Sat: short tour for our First Mates that includes time for shopping

In mid-March, Howard will send members a Reunion-Registration Packet that will detail every aspect of the reunion: making hotel reservations, traveling to Norfolk, and detailing each reunion activity. It will also have a 2010 Reunion-Registration Form. To attend the reunion, one form must be completed for each room reservation needed and mailed back to Howard with full payment by a deadline specified on the form (most likely by mid-Sept).

The reunion is limited to 350 attendees, but I expect about 200 total attendees which is a large amount for a military reunion. To date about 260 members are located, and I expect about 120 to register. This will translate to about 200 attendees. Don't forget that the reunion is a family affair; thus, family and friends are welcome!. To be safe, submit your completed 2010 Reunion-Registration Form as soon as practicable after you receive the packet.



USS Sam Houston, (SSBN 609) entering port at Izmir, Turkey. Date unknown.

Picture submitted by Larry Check (ETN2SS , 67-70, Gold)

-- Excerpt From "The 6th Shaft" --

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE OLD MAN OF THE SEA

Shaft: Chief Walsh, is it true that you are a plank owner on the Ark?

Chief Walsh: No, absolutely not. I didn't report aboard the Ark until just before the flood. This was at least a week after she was commissioned.

Shaft: I see, and what was it like on board the Ark?

Chief Walsh: Well, I only made one patrol. It lasted 40 days and 40 nights and boy, was it miserable. It rained the whole time.

Shaft: How about the crew?

Chief Walsh: God, what a bunch of animals!

Shaft: Did you get to know any of the crew very well?

Chief Walsh: Well, there was this one frog...

Shaft: Yes, well let's move along. What was your particular job on board the Ark?

Chief Walsh: I helped Captain Noah (I never did find out if that was his first or last name) navigate, and also I was in charge of communications. It was my job to release the dove each morning.

Shaft: How were communications in those days?

Chief Walsh: Well, it was slower in those days of course. We had to wait for that damn dove to fly back each time, but we managed to maintain our alert status.

Shaft: It sounds pretty rough.

Chief Walsh: Yes, and the worst part was, that stupid dove could only carry one family-gram at a time, and when your name comes at the end of the alphabet, well you know what I mean.

Shaft: Yes, I see. Did you have any other experiences that might interest our readers.

-- Excerpt From "The 6th Shaft" continued --

Chief Walsh: Well, I remember once when I was on the Bounty.

Shaft: You mean the HMS Bounty with the notorious Captain Bligh?

Chief Walsh: Shucks, he wasn't so bad. A little quick tempered maybe. Of course, he did have a slight discipline problem.

Shaft: Are there any other things you'd like to tell us about?

Chief Walsh: Did I ever tell you about the time I set sail from Spain with three ships and made an important discovery.

Shaft: I thought that was Columbus?

Chief Walsh: Don't feel bad, a lot of people get us mixed up.

Shaft: Well chief you certainly have been around, what are your plans for the future?

Chief Walsh: Well, when I get back from the moon next week....

Shaft: Thank you very much.

* * * * *

WE LOVE YOU, FRANCIS.

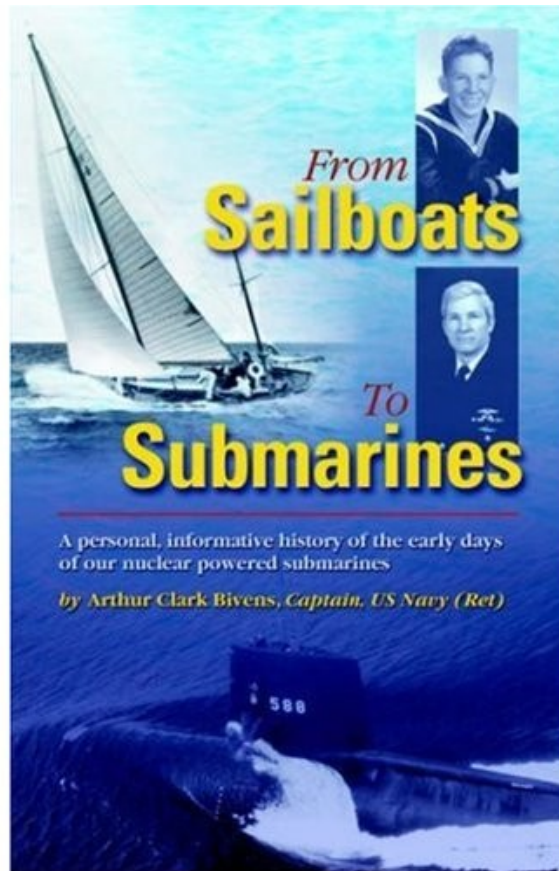
CO OF BIG SAM AUTHORS A BOOK!

Arthur Bivens [Capt. (Ret.), 1967-1970, gold crew CO] authored the book [From Sailboats to Submarines](#). In it, he chronicles his personal life and naval career and includes many details associated the nuclear navy in general and USS Sam Houston. I've read the book and found it quite interesting—especially the portions about nuclear subs and Big Sam. I learned of the existence of lots of interesting happenings that had occurred while I was aboard but was unaware.

The standard-size paperback, about 5/8-in. thick, is available from prominent bookstores (e.g., Borders) at a cost of about \$17.00 (ISBN 0-7414-2152-6). I recommend it because of the detail provided related to the nuclear navy and Big Sam. I don't think that you will be disappointed if you purchase a copy. If his health permits, Art Bivens plans to attend the reunion in 2010, and you might be able to convince him to autograph your copy of the book!

Article submitted by:

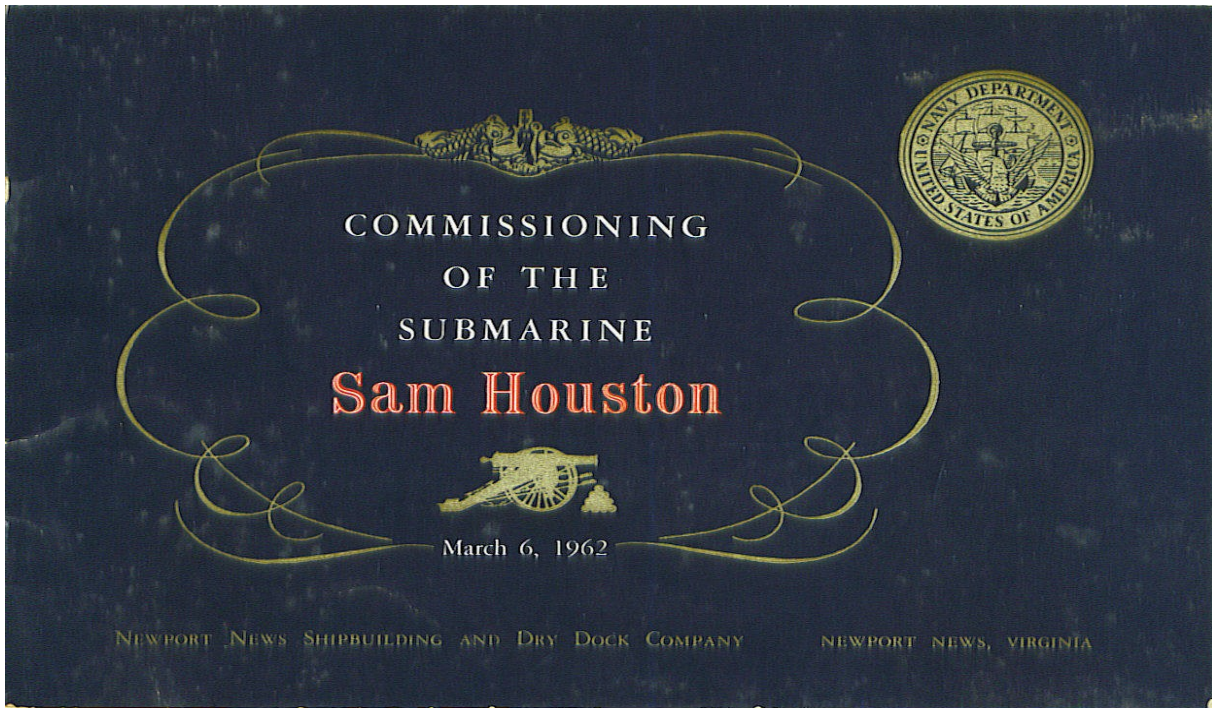
Howard Dobson (ETR2, 1969-1972, gold)
Acting Chairman & Reunion Planner



PAGES FROM THE COMMISSIONING BOOKLET FOR USS SAM HOUSTON

Mrs. Beverly Zellmer (the widow of plank owner Werner Friedman [FTG1(SS), gold, 1961-1964] sent Howard Dobson the complete booklet. Shown here are the cover page and one of the inside pages. Beverly is an Associate Member of the SHVA.

Howard Dobson (ETR2; 69-72, gold)
Acting Chairman & Reunion Planner



U. S. S. SAM HOUSTON SSB(N)609

SAM HOUSTON, the second ship of the new 608 Class of Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines, adds to the growing deterrent FBM force of the U. S. Navy. The integration of nuclear propulsion; hydrodynamic hull form, and the Polaris missile achieved in the Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine has given our country a weapon of unsurpassed invulnerability and awesome deterrent power. In SAM HOUSTON, these revolutionary developments have been refined to produce an even more potent weapon. Incorporated into the ship's design are new navigation and underwater sound systems which combine with improvements in habitability, atmosphere control, and greater missile range to increase both the capability and habitability of the ship.

In striking power, SAM HOUSTON and the other Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines have no comparable counterpart. The destructive potential of the missiles carried by one of these ships exceeds that of the total of all bombs dropped by aircraft during World War II. Despite her size, SAM HOUSTON is very quiet, maneuverable, and capable of high submerged speeds.

Two complete crews, each with twelve officers and one hundred enlisted personnel, are assigned to SAM HOUSTON, and will conduct alternate patrols. The use of two crews, enabling the ship to remain almost constantly within range of targets, provides the maximum deterrent capability with minimum expense.

Those who sail in SAM HOUSTON will always strive to live up to the sentiment expressed by the great man for whom the ship was named:

*"He loved his country,
he was a patriot;
he was devoted
to the Union"*

NEW YEARS DINNER MENU 1970

Where were you on New Year's Day in 1970? The following Dinner Menu will identify some of your Gold Crew shipmates and what you ate that evening. Howard Dobson submitted the menu. Enjoy and reminisce.

Happy New Year



1970

Dinner Menu

USS SAM HOUSTON (SSBN609)(Gold)

USS SAM HOUSTON (SSBN609)

*CDR A.C. BIVENS, USN
Commanding Officer*

*LCDR J.H. COOK, III, USN
Executive Officer*

*LTJG G.D. BLAKE, III, (SC), USNR
Supply Officer*

Commissarymen

*CS1(SS) K.C. DE BEAUMONT, USN
CS3(SS) B.O. WOOLERY, USN
CS3(SS) D.A. RONALLO, USN
CS3(SS) J.A. SKARDA, USN*

Stewards

*SD1(SS) S.G. JIMENEZ, USN
SD3 R.N. RESURRECCION, USN
TN(SS) A.P. CAVERO, USN*

New Year Dinner

1970

ASSORTED CANDY

ASSORTED JUICES

ASSORTED NUTS

BUFFET SUPPER

ROAST BEEF AUJUS/SLICED TO ORDER W/NATURAL GRAVY

OVEN BAKED HAM/SLICED (COLD)

TUNA FISH SALAD

HOT BAKED BEANS

EGG SALAD

BAKED POTATOES W/SOUR CREAM SAUCE

GOLDEN GLOW SALAD

COLE SLAW SALAD

COTTAGE CHEESE SALAD

HOT BUTTERED ROLLS & BAKED BREAD

PICKLES

OLIVES

SALAD

APPLE COBBLER W/CHEESE

GINGERBREAD W/WHIPPED CREAM

HOT COFFEE

ICED TEA

FRUIT PUNCH



REMEMBER THESE PICTURES?

What can you figure out about these pictures? Hint: Larry Check submitted them.

[Editor's Note: Those pinups were not there when I was aboard!]



It is assumed that Larry was aboard when these pictures were taken. Larry served on the Gold Crew from 1967-1970, and he mentioned that the pictures were from Patrol 19. The event is likely a Halfway Party because of the pinups!

ETERNAL PATROL

Navy Submarine Hymn

*Bless those who served beneath the deep,
Through the lonely hours the vigil had to keep,
May eternal peace their mission be,
Bless each we ask of Thee
Comfort those who at home who waited and prayed,
For their return night and day*

John A. Walsh (ETCS, 66-69, Gold.) Left for Eternal Patrol in 1998, as reported to the SHVA by his son.

Rodney Hummer (MT1, Gold) . Left for Eternal Patrol on 15 March 2009.

Frank Rosenau (MT1, 65-70, Gold). Left on Eternal Patrol 18 July 2009

Zeb Alford (CO, 65-68, Blue and Gold) Left on Eternal Patrol 4 August 2009.

Rodney Hummer (MT1, Gold). Left on Eternal Patrol 15 Mar 2009

From Rodney's wife, Chick:

Good evening, it is with a heavy heart that I write to you about my beloved Rodney [Hummer]. He passed away on 15 March of this year [2009] from a 2 1/2 year battle with lung cancer. The man never complained and was a gem to the end. He died at home in my arms the way he & I wanted it. We were married for 35 years, knew each other 37, and never had children; so, my Mom, sister, brother-in-law, brother, niece, and her husband came to the house to say their farewell to him. I have to tell myself that he is in a better place, but it still hurts.

Thought I would give you a quick update on his life after retirement from the Navy. He went to work for the Post Office and retired. His next venture was to go to school to be a CNA. Originally, he wanted to be an RN when he retired from the Navy, but a counselor changed his mind at the local community college. So, he settled for the CNA coming out at the top of his class. Along with seeing patients, he volunteered for Hospice. How ironic it was that he would then get cancer. He was a generous man with a great sense of humor, liked by many, and missed by all.

Hope this will be of some interest to you or any one who knew him.

Thank you for your time,

Chick Hummer

[Editor's Note: Chick sent her message to Paul Orstad (TMC, gold, 1967-1970), an official of the USSVI.]

SAM HOUSTON SHIPMATE SPOTLIGHT—STS2(SS) JEFF WALSH

When on USS Sam Houston—I served onboard the Sam Houston from Sept 1986 to Oct 1989. I was assigned primarily to the Sonar Division but picked up additional responsibilities as the Dry Deck Supervisor and Deck Division LPO.

Biggest memory— ADAK ALASKA, and Standing Maneuvering Watch Lookout in Pearl.

What I learned from my experience onboard—That I had a lot of maturing to do, and I learned what it took to be a leader.

What I have done since I left USS Sam Houston— When I left the USS Sam Houston, I went to follow training and an assignment to USS Puffer, (SSN 652). This alone was somewhat of a reunion of Sam Houston sailors as several others ended up serving there also. I ended up serving on two additional submarines: USS Philadelphia, [SSN 690 (1995-2000)] and USS Annapolis, [SSN 760 (2002-2006)]. I served at two shore commands, FLEASWTRACENPAC (1993-1995) and CSG-2—SOBT (2000-2002).

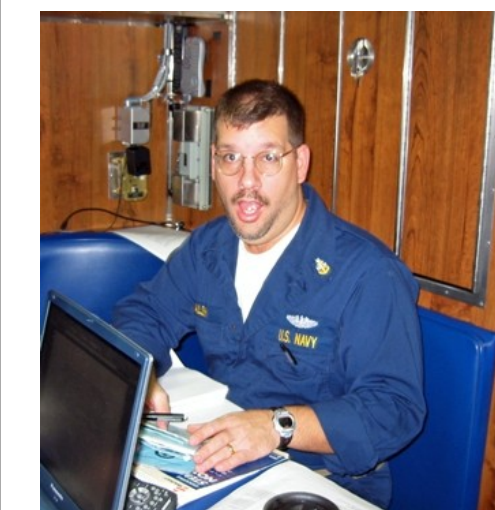
I retired as Senior Chief Walsh after 22 wonderful years in the Navy. I now work as a Training Developer and also a Test Engineer for the AN/BYG-1 Combat Control System.



Getting Dolphins Apr 87



Note to self: do not tease the animals



What do you mean they approved my papers!



Still looking good



Shadow Box