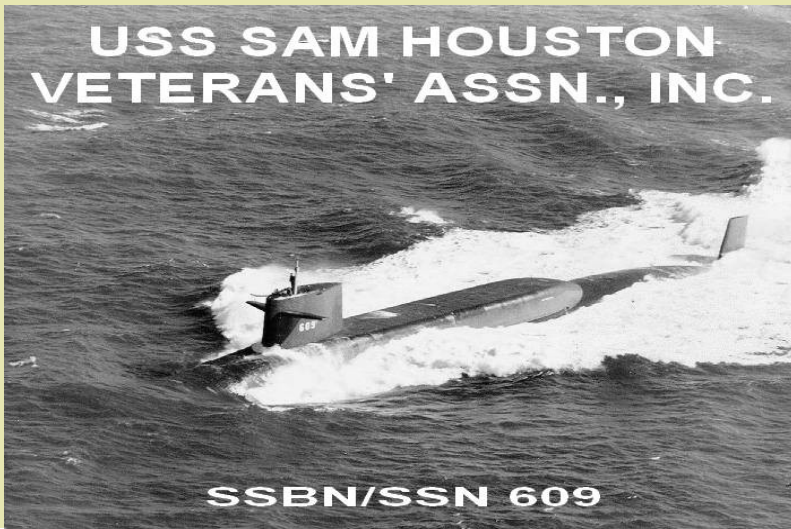


# USS SAM HOUSTON VETERANS' ASSN., INC.



SSBN/SSN 609

Message from the Vice Chairman	p2
Positions Open	p3
Member Donations	p4
Bylaws & Incorporation	p4
Tax Exemption	p4
USS SAM HOUSTON Past Incidents	p5
Sharing Pictures & Graphics	p5
Spanish Author Looking for Information	p6
Submariner Seeks Shipmates	p6
Pictures at Holy Loch	p7
USS SAM HOUSTON Decommissioning	p9
Deterrent Park	p11
Eternal Patrol	p13
Do You Know These Guys?	p14

**2d Edition**

**2010**



A Society of Distinguished Naval Veterans

Web Site: [www.USSSamHouston.org](http://www.USSSamHouston.org)

# The Raven



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

## MESSAGE FOR THE CHAIRMAN

Ahoy, Shipmates & Associate Members!

My message for this edition of "The Raven" is simply "hope to meet you at the reunion." I am anxious to be with those with whom I served again and to make new friends of those with whom I did not served.

On 31 March, I distributed the Reunion-Registration Packet to all on the roster and hope that you have read it to learn of the activities associated with this a la carte-type reunion. If you did not receive the packet or if you have questions about the reunion, please contact me.

If you are planning to attend, I must receive your completed 2010 Reunion-Registration Form with full payment no later than 15 September. For those of you who will be indecisive until the last minute, please mail your form with payment no later than 11 September so that I will receive your form by the deadline.

Walk-ins cannot be accommodated because I must provide hard-number counts to the hotel and tour company for the hotel-room block, group meals, and tour attendance well in advance of the reunion so that these two organizations will have adequate time to prepare. Thus, walk-ins cannot be accommodated without paying an exorbitant, additional fee for each occurrence.

I encourage you to bring your wives/partners as I have selected many of the reunion activities for their enjoyment as well.

If you have not received a Reunion-Registration Packet, please inform me. I sent it via e-mail to members with e-mail addresses on the roster and via USPS to those without e-mail.

Hoping to see you at the reunion,

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

8 Colony Blvd., Apt. 338C  
Wilmington, DE 19802-1426  
Phone/Fax: 302 764-1197

E-Mail: [howardvaldobson@verizon.net](mailto:howardvaldobson@verizon.net)

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHAIRMAN

Hello all Shipmates & Associate Members:

I hope this Newsletter finds both you and your family well. WOW! time is going by fast and before we know it, we be all sitting around the table and discussing sea stories and reminiscing about the good old days on old SAMMY. Howard has been working extremely hard on planning the reunion and, by all appearances, it looks like it will be a event to remember. I, for one who has never been to a boat reunion, am looking forward to this one.

Both Howard and I are receiving numerous emails with photos and all for possible inputs into the "THE RAVEN." This is great, but it also got me thinking (which can be dangerous). If members can submit pictures of when you were on the boat together with the "new" you—sort of a before-and-after effect—that would be great!..(*More on submitting pictures later in the newsletter.*)

We are again also looking for some documented sea stories to place in the "THE RAVEN." These stories are often outstanding and can, at times, spark some interesting debates.

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**  
4 Woodland Drive West  
Groton, CT 06340  
Phone: 860-449-2103  
E-Mail: Sub3mcs@yahoo.com



## VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED TO FILL SHVA POSITIONS

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**

**This position has been removed.** Proceedings at our Board of Advisor Meetings and Business Meetings will be recorded—at least audio. The Reunion Planner will prepare minutes from those files.

#### **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***

### **MEMBER DONATIONS**

The Board of Advisors thanks all who have submitted donations to the SHVA. The need for the money was overdue and is being used to fund the administration of the SHVA.

If you are able to donate and have not done so, please consider doing so. The money will be used to support the founding functions of the SHVA as specified in its Certificate of Incorporation.

The board suggests a minimum donation of \$25, but less is acceptable. Donations of \$50 or more get you a Navy blue ball cap embroidered with your choice of hull number for USS Sam Houston, gold or silver dolphins, and a Plank Owner pin if you are eligible. The Treasurer has recently ordered caps for those who submitted qualifying donations. Please allow about 8 weeks for delivery. The vendors will mail the caps to each recipient. Send your donations to our Treasurer at the following address:

***USS Sam Houston Veterans' Assn.***  
***c/o Mark Manzer***  
***10118 NE 41st Ave.***  
***Vancouver, WA 98686***

***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 veterans will have a chance to voice their opinions of the bylaws. The board will evaluate any comments at that time and decide whether to adopt the changes or table them for further evaluation.

***Submitted by Howard Dobson***

### **APPLICATION FOR TAX-EXEMPT RECOGNITION**

Recently, Howard Dobson submitted the necessary forms and filing fee (\$400) to seek tax-exempt recognition of the SHVA by the IRS under section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code. The SHVA is a nonprofit corporation, but this status alone does not grant tax exemption. To ensure we become an organization that will not be subject to federal and state tax, a Letter of Determination [for tax exemption] is needed from the IRS.

Being tax exempt will exempt the SHVA from sales tax for purchases/services. The exemption can also relieve the SHVA from paying sales tax on group meals during reunions in some states. This translates into lower reunion costs—Virginia is not one of those states.

Unfortunately, donations received from members or outsiders will not be tax deductible for the donors. Our membership does not meet the percentage of “war veterans” as prescribed by the IRS.

***Submitted by Howard Dobson***

## USS SAM HOUSTON PAST INCIDENTS AS REMEMBERED BY A SHIPMATE

### EVENT #1

In late 1969, Sam Houston (B) carried 10 dummy missiles in addition to the normal amount of missiles with warheads. As a WSRT exercise, USS Sam Houston fired the ten 10 ballistic missiles (with dummy warheads) near the UK-Iceland gap to a point near the Bahamas Island chain. All 10 missiles were launched in 10 minutes with good accuracy. The ship went back on normal patrol for the remainder of the standard ~60 days. The purpose of the exercise was to show the Russians that SSBNs were there and could really do the job.

Note: This exercise took place a short time after the sinking of *USS Scorpion*.

### EVENT #2

Sam Houston departed New London in transit to the North Sea on the first patrol after the Portsmouth, NH overhaul. The ship had a depth excursion where a clear train of events can be followed that caused the out-of-control situation.

- Hydraulic leak near #1 accumulator, no reporting of the leak was made.
- Isolation of #2 accumulator (the wrong one).

Accumulator #3 was wired incorrectly indicating full when [it was] actually empty; so, the hydraulic pumps did not turn on. This problem was not found during shakedown cruises by both crews.

The submarine was running about 16 knots at 200 feet. Loss of all hydraulic pressure caused the stern planes to fail on full dive. The ship passed a 45-degree down angle. The reactor automatically scrammed and every alarm sound and light went off in the Maneuvering Room. The only thing that saved the ship (besides the absolutely necessary crew actions) was the newly installed emergency blow system and procedures that had been implemented in the shipyard overhaul because of the *Thresher* tragedy. The procedure was called "Bailout." USS Sam Houston was the first SSBN to have the system installed.

*Info submitted by Dennis Johnson, (Lt., Blue, 1968-1970).*

## TIP FOR SHARING PICTURES & OTHER GRAPHICS

The board members thank all who have sent pictures for posting on the web site or inclusion in our newsletters and suggest that all veterans consider submitting pictures and graphics of interest to the SHVA and its members. But, we request that you do so by attaching the files to e-mails rather than imbedding them within the message section of the e-mail. When the pictures are in the message portion, it is a time-consuming process to extract them as individual files so that they can be used wherever. Either myself, our Newsletter Editor, or Web Master must find time to extract the files. This becomes problematic when many pictures are submitted in one e-mail or a batch of them. When the pictures are sent as attachments to e-mails, one merely forwards the e-mails to the required recipient(s).

Additionally, please include descriptions of any graphics whenever feasible. Such information can help others relate to the pictures. Even if you have incomplete or uncertain information, that might be sufficient to trigger another shipmate to recall the missing information.

Providing descriptions with pictures also has another purpose of which you are probably unaware—a purpose that will allow the SHVA to maintain its nonprofit status and, if approved by the IRS, the tax-exempt status. The incorporation of the SHVA and our recently submitted request to the IRS for recognition as a tax-exempt organization are partially based on providing "education" about the service performed by our members. The pictures that are submitted are one way of providing that education [to anyone], and without descriptions, the graphics probably provide little knowledge especially to siblings and other relatives of shipmates. We have a few nonveterans on our roster, and they are targets for this knowledge.

So, the board members ask that you send whatever material that you might have which is related to USS Sam Houston, its crews, and its accomplishments. In most cases, this will bring many fond memories of our service aboard the boat and to our great country.

*Submitted by Howard Dobson*

## SPANISH AUTHOR LOOKING FOR INFORMATION

Recently, I learned that a Spanish journalist is seeking information from veterans of the US Navy for a book he is authoring. He seeks information related to Barcelona, Spain, and I believe that some of our members might be able to help him. He contacted the web site, NavSource.org, for help. The web site posted a message from him, and the essence of that message follows:

***My name is Xavier Theros, and I'm a journalist for the newspaper El País (Spain). I'm nowadays working on a book about the visits of the US Navy's Sixth Fleet to Barcelona between 1951 and 1987.***

***I'm writing you to ask for your help. I beg you to communicate the goal of my project to your associates—especially the veterans of the US Navy who visited Barcelona—to gather their experiences and impressions.***

***I'm interested in such subjects such as:***

- ***Living on board ship.***
- ***First impressions of Barcelona (landscape, people, food, etc.).***
- ***What they did during leisure times.***
- ***The establishments they visited (dancing, bars, eateries, etc.).***
- ***The rapport with the natives (men and women).***
- ***Datings and weddings.***
- ***Places where they could dress as civilians (Locker Club, USO, hotels, etc.).***
- ***Trips out of town.***
- ***Personal anecdotes.***
- ***Does anyone still maintain some kind of contact with the city?***

***I will be happy to supply any information that you might need to help your recall and be grateful for your collaboration.***

***Xavier Theros***  
***<xavier.theros@gmail.com>***

Xavier provides only an e-mail address. If you can help him but do not have e-mail yourself, you might consider sending whatever information you have through a relative or one of your shipmates with e-mail.

***Article submitted by Howard Dobson***

## USS ULYSSES S. GRANT SUBMARINER SEEKS SHIPMATES

A crew member of the USS Ulysses S. Grant (SSBN 631) is seeking help in locating those who serve on that boat. He sent me the following message via e-mail:

***“Ahoy ‘41 for Freedom Shipmate’:***

***“I am searching for shipmates who served on the USS Ulysses S. Grant SSBN 631 from keel laying on August 18, 1962 thru disposal in the Submarine Recycling Program on October 23, 1993. Can you help? It is possible that some shipmates on the USS Sam Houston SSBN 609 may have served on the Grant.”***

If you served on the Grant or know of someone who did, John Hnizdil [ET2(SS), Grant Gold Crew & Plank Owner] requests that you contact him via e-mail or by visiting the web site of USS Ulysses S. Grant. The pertinent information follows:

***E-Mail: jhnizdil631@aol.com***  
***Web Site: <www.ussgrant.com>***

If you can help John but do not have internet access, please call me or send me the information via USPS. I will forward your information to him. My contact information is on the front page of this newsletter.

***Submitted by Howard Dobson***

PICTURES AT HOLY LOCH



Coming into Holy Loch at the end of the patrol

Picture of USS Hunley (AS 31) taken from the deck of USS Sam Houston as it returns to Holy Loch after patrol. (Date unspecified, but probably between 1961 and 1964.)

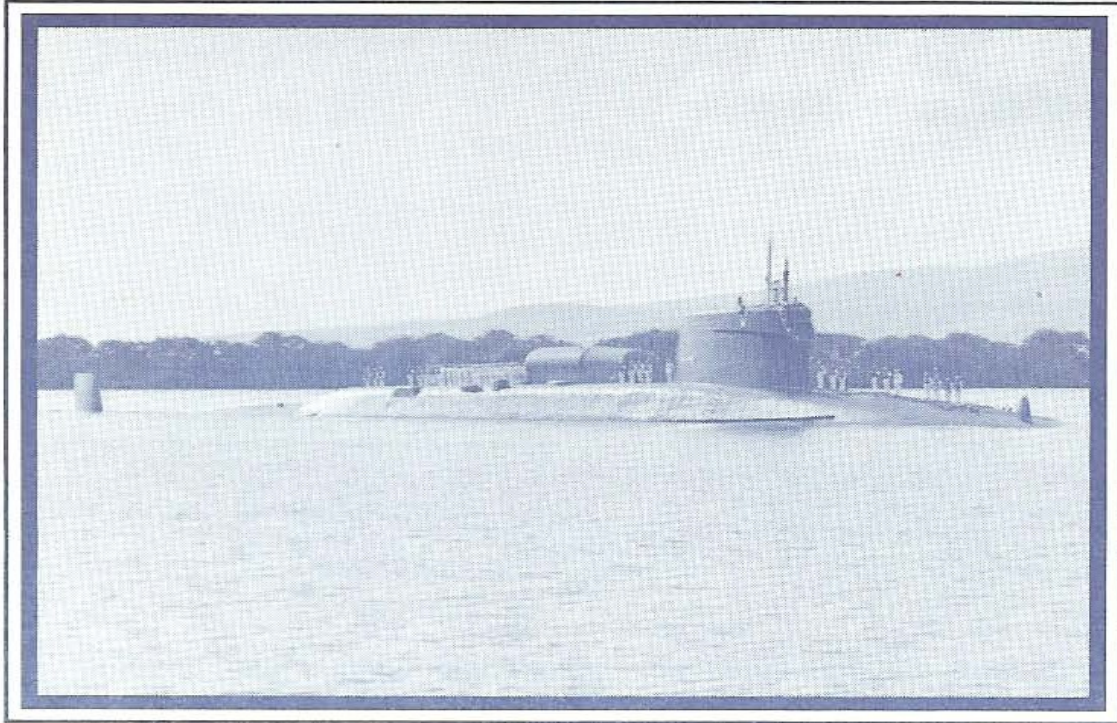


I think that's Edwards in the center  
The other two I can't remember

Scenario unspecified, but probably in Holy Loch.  
?? Edward is in the middle; other names forgotten.

*Photos submitted by Jim Pratt (MT1, Blue, 61-64).*

DECOMMISSIONING  
20 SEPTEMBER 1991



UNITED STATES SHIP  
SAM HOUSTON (SSN 609)







**Keel Laid** ..... 28 December, 1959  
in Newport News, Virginia

**Commissioned:** ..... 6 March, 1962  
**Decommissioned:** ..... 20 September, 1991

*As the water is drawn up to be rain,  
As the streams flow into the river,  
So shall we all return to the sea to be  
made whole again.*





**USS SAM HOUSTON (SSBN/SSN 609)  
COMMAND HISTORY**

**SSBN-609, BLUE**

W. P. Willis, Jr. CAPT  
Mar - 1962/Apr - 1964  
D. P. Brooks, CAPT  
Apr - 1964/Aug - 1966  
Z. D. Alford, CAPT  
Aug - 1966/Jul - 1968  
H. A. Glovier, Jr. CAPT  
Jul - 1968/Jan - 1972  
R. J. Wiltsie, CAPT  
Jan - 1972/Jan - 1975  
W. H. Rich, CAPT  
Jan - 1975/Jan - 1977  
D. C. Klinger, CAPT  
Jan - 1977/Jan - 1979  
B. M. Saft, CAPT  
Jan - 1979/Jan - 1981

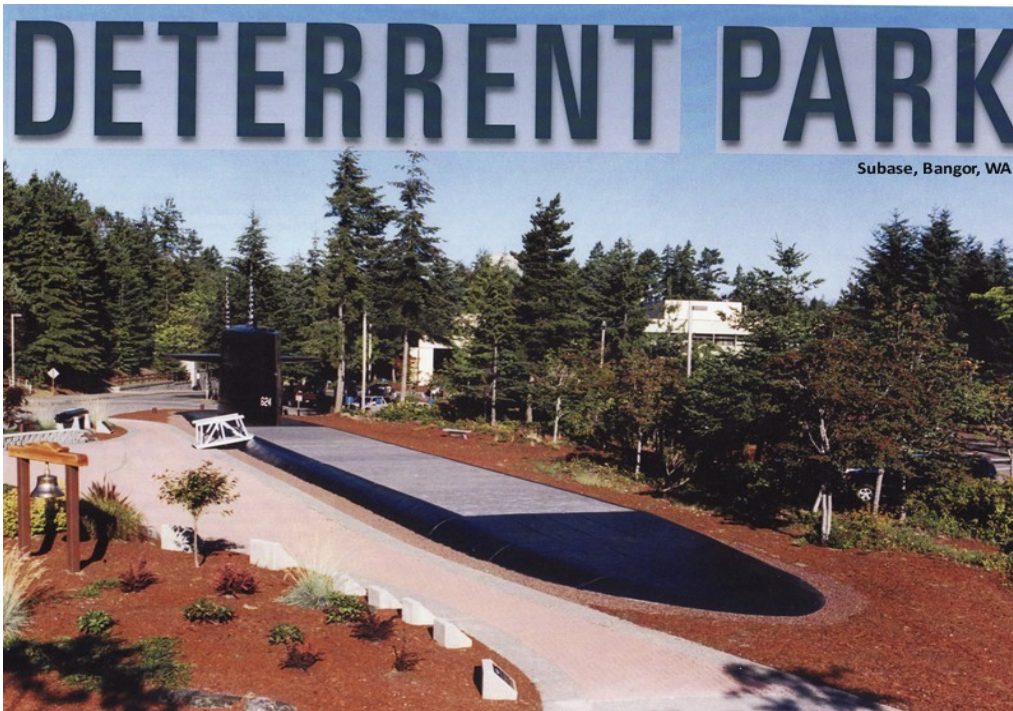
**SSBN-609, GOLD**

J. H. Hawkins, CAPT  
Mar - 1962/Jul - 1965  
Z. D. Alford, CAPT  
Jul - 1965/Nov - 1967  
A. C. Bivens, CAPT  
Nov - 1967/Oct - 1970  
C. P. Griffing, CAPT  
Oct - 1970/Jan - 1977  
C. H. Otto, CDR  
Jan - 1973/Jan - 1975  
J. P. Weikert, CAPT  
Jan - 1975/Jan - 1977  
W. A. Owens, CAPT  
Jan - 1977/Jan - 1981

**SSN-609**

J. J. Hyland III, CDR  
Jan - 1981/Jun - 1983  
E. R. Lockwood, CDR  
Jun - 1983/Jun - 1987  
R. S. Collins, CDR  
Jun - 1987/Jan - 1988  
G. D. Jensen, CDR  
Jan - 1988/Apr - 1988  
P. J. Keuhlen, CDR  
Apr - 1988/Dec - 1990  
W. C. Butler, Jr. CDR  
Dec - 1990/Sep - 1991

## DETERRENT PARK IN BANGOR, WASH.



Dedicated in April 2000 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Submarine Fleet, the proudly named "Deterrent Park" offers a place for learning, quiet contemplation, and a natural location for honoring our shipmates on distinguished occasions.

The park is located on Naval Submarine Base Kitsap, Bangor, centrally located near Submarine Group NINE headquarters, TRIDENT Training Facility and the Off-Crew Administration Building. Naval Base Kitsap is responsible for the maintenance of the park and keeps the submarine replica and surrounding grounds in top ceremonial condition.

The Centerpiece of the park is a full-scale replica of an FBM submarine topside with the sail and upper rudder of USS WOODROW WILSON (SSBN 624). Additional features include the "Forty One for Freedom" Memorial that describes submarine -force history and a ceremonial area.

The park is used frequently for retirement and other official ceremonies by local naval commands. You can continue its operational availability by donating a memorial brick. Your 4.5 x 9, submarine black brick with engraved message is used to form the submarine's missile deck and fill an area adjacent to the replica. Typical engravings are three line with a combination of either your name, rate/rank, dates served, date qualified, boats served on, memory (shipmate on Eternal Patrol), or any other message that meets the decorum of the site. You will receive a certificate verifying the message to be engraved and a chart showing the location of your brick.

The price of a brick is \$40.00 and includes all engraving costs. You may purchase as many bricks as you wish. Once purchased, the bricks become park property. The submarine veterans of the USSVI Bremerton Base are responsible for the marketing and sale of the bricks. All profits realized after the engraving of the bricks will go to support our efforts "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country." You may complete and print an order form for a brick online at <http://gertrude-check.up-scope.org/ap.htm> or use the order form included in this newsletter. Additionally, a link to the home page of the web site of Deterrent Park exists in the Links Section of our web site [www.USSSamHouston.org](http://www.USSSamHouston.org).

## DETERRENT PARK in Bangor, WA (Continued)



All donations are federal income tax deductible as the sponsoring Pacific NW Submarine Heritage Association is approved for tax exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The information and pictures in this article appear on the web site of the USSVI Bremerton Base and are reprinted by written permission.

**Article submitted by Howard Dobson  
who purchased a brick in July 2002.**

## 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*

### **Bob Beck** (STS3, 66-71, Gold,)

Departed for Eternal Patrol on 1 April 2010 (submitted to the SHVA by his son)

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### **J. Guy Reynolds** (XO, 70-72, Blue)

Left for Eternal Patrol on 29 March 2010.

**John Catlin (Lt., 71-73, Blue) submitted the following obituary for Guy Reynolds:**

#### **J. Guy Reynolds Navy Vice Admiral**

“J. Guy Reynolds, 72, a retired Navy vice admiral who was commander of the U.S. submarine force in the Pacific, died March 29 [2010] of lung cancer at his home in Alexandria.

Adm. Reynolds served aboard several submarines early in his naval career and was a Vietnam War veteran. From 1973 to 1977, he commanded the attack submarine USS Pintado.

In later assignments, he certified the safety of nuclear-powered Navy ships and was responsible for the development, procurement, and testing of torpedoes. After serving in an intelligence role, Adm. Reynolds returned to submarine duty and, from 1987 through 1989, commanded operations of the 56 submarines in the Pacific fleet.

He was a Navy testing and evaluation director before his military retirement in 1992. His decorations included two Distinguished Service Medals, the Defense Superior Service Medal and four awards of the Legion of Merit.

James Guy Reynolds was born in Chicago and was a 1959 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. In retirement, he was an independent consultant on defense policy, nuclear power and business development and was president of the Naval Submarine League.

Survivors include his wife, Jan Trefethen Reynolds of Alexandria; a son, Peter Reynolds of Carlsbad, Calif.; two stepchildren, Cathy Quirk of Seattle and Jim Quirk of Greenland, N.H.; two brothers; a sister; and four grandchildren.”

**DO YOU KNOW THESE GUYS?**



Jeff Baur as a trusty lookout  
Submitted by Jeff Baur (TM2, 82-86)



Weps (Xerxes Herrington, LT, 87-89) supervising  
Phipps (FT2, 86-89) as he plays in the water.  
Submitted by Steven Phipps (FT2, 86-89)



Anyone know this former Sam Houston Shipmate? It is  
none other than Bruce Fulbright (MM1, Gold, 65-70).



A white tie with a white suit? Davey  
ready to go out on the prowl. Picture  
Submitted by Steven Phipps (FT2, 86-89)

**DO YOU KNOW THESE GUYS? (continued)**



Thanksgiving at sea, Westpac, 1989. Brent Vaughan and George Shipman getting dessert. Picture submitted by Brent Vaughan (MS, 88-91)



Crew Photo circa 1966-1969. Submitted by Martin Walsh, son of John Walsh (ETCS, 66-69, Gold)