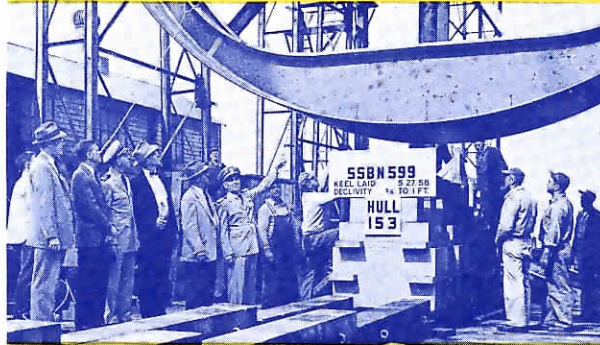


# PATRICK HENRY

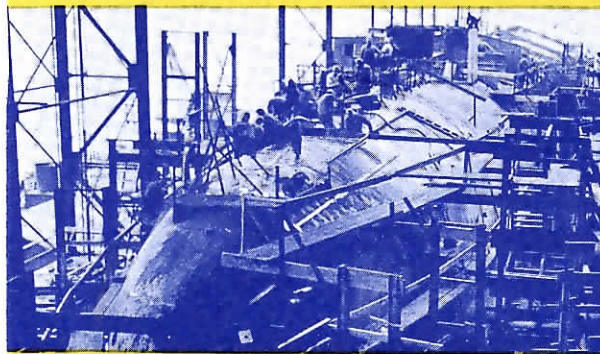
SSB (N) 599

## LAUNCHING

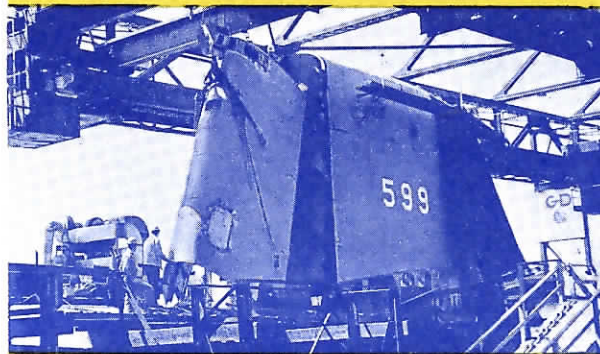
SEPTEMBER 22, 1959



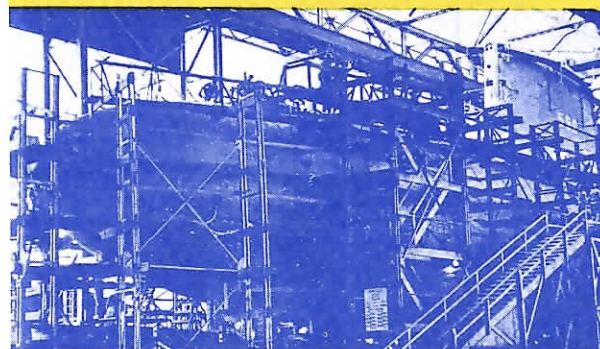
KEEL LAYING



UNDER CONSTRUCTION



HOISTING "SAIL" INTO PLACE



PRIOR TO LAUNCHING





CDR. HAROLD E. SHEAR, USN  
Prospective  
Commanding Officer

### THE SKIPPER

Commander Harold E. Shear, holder of the Silver Star Medal for four World War II submarine patrols, is the Patrick Henry's prospective commanding officer. A native of New York City and 1941 graduate of the Naval Academy, Commander Shear was the commanding officer of the submarine USS Becuna between 1952-1954. For the past year he has received special training in nuclear propulsion, missiles, fire control and navigation preparatory to taking command of the nation's second Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine. Commander Shear has been nominated for promotion to the rank of captain.

### THE SHIP

The Patrick Henry is a nuclear powered submarine designed specifically to fire Polaris ballistic missiles from underwater or surface positions. The 599, sister-ship of the recently-launched George Washington, is the second submarine launched in the Navy's Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine program.

A tear-drop hull design will enable the Patrick Henry to achieve high submerged speeds and improve maneuverability. The Patrick Henry is 380-feet long and displaces 5,400 tons on the surface. The ship has 16 tubes for launching the Polaris intermediate range (1,500 mile) missile and will also have torpedo-firing capabilities. In addition, the latest scientific advances in navigation have been incorporated to enable the submarine to cruise underwater for almost indefinite periods of time.

On May 26, 1957 the Skipjack, now world's fastest and deepest diving submarine, was launched from building ways number 12. The following day the keel for the Patrick Henry went down, officially starting what has proved to be a submarine construction record. Less than 16 months have been required to advance the 599 to its launching date, faster than all previous nuclear subs and even faster than post-war diesel-electric powered submarines.

Top priority has been given the Fleet Ballistic Missile program, which currently includes authorization for nine nuclear submarines and funds for long lead-time items for three others.

### THE SPONSOR

Mrs. Leslie C. Arends, wife of Congressman Arends of Illinois, will christen the Patrick Henry. The SSB (N) 599's sponsor, a native of Cleveland, was a prominent figure in the sale of U. S. Government Bonds throughout World War II. Her 12-year-old daughter, Letty, will serve as maid of honor at today's ceremony.

## PROGRAM

NATIONAL ANTHEM . Electric Boat Division Band



### INVOCATION

LT. GUY M. LEONARD, Jr., (CHC) USN

### WELCOME

CARLETON SHUGG, President  
Electric Boat Division



### REMARKS

EARL DALLAM JOHNSON, President  
General Dynamics Corporation

### REMARKS

VICE ADMIRAL THOMAS S. COMBS, USN  
Commander Eastern Sea Frontier



### ADDRESS

HONORABLE JAMES P. MITCHELL  
Secretary of Labor

### CHRISTENING

MRS. LESLIE C. ARENDS  
Sponsor

