

Launching Program

**USS WOODROW WILSON
SSBN 624**



22 FEBRUARY 1963

MISS ELEANOR AXSON SAYRE, SPONSOR

THE SHIP

The WOODROW WILSON becomes the Navy's 41st launching of a nuclear-powered submarine. It is the eighth Mare Island A-sub, and the third Polaris boat to be launched here. Four sister ships of the WOODROW WILSON are currently under construction in this Naval Shipyard. The ANDREW JACKSON (launched September 15, 1962) is nearing completion on the waterfront; the DANIEL BOONE and the STONEWALL JACKSON are on adjacent building ways; and shop fabrication is proceeding on the (SSBN 642) (unnamed).

These LAFAYETTE-type Polaris submarines are 425 feet long, are torpedo-armed in addition to their 16 missile tubes, and displace in excess of 7,000 tons.

This powerful submarine is named in honor of the twenty-eighth President of the United States (1913-1921). He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1919. He also served with distinction as President of Princeton University and as Governor of the State of New Jersey, and achieved international eminence as a statesman.

THE SPONSOR

Miss Eleanor Axson Sayre, Cambridge, Massachusetts, daughter of Jessie Woodrow Wilson and Francis B. Sayre, is the granddaughter of President Woodrow Wilson and was named after the President's wife Ellen. Miss Sayre is a nationally recognized expert on prints and an internationally accepted authority on Goya. She is now an Assistant Curator in the Print Department of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. She has as her Maid of Honor, her niece, Miss Jessie Wilson Sayre, great granddaughter of the late Woodrow Wilson.

THE SPEAKER

The Honorable Kenneth E. BeLieu, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Logistics), is a native of Portland, Oregon, a graduate of the University of Oregon with a degree in Business Administration, and attended the Harvard Business School. His service in the U. S. Army in World War II carried him from the Normandy landings, the campaigns in France, the Battle of the Bulge and into Germany and Czechoslovakia. He was awarded the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Croix de Guerre for gallantry in action. He was discharged from the Army in 1945 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In July 1950 he volunteered for action in Korea and, while there, lost his left leg below the knee in November 1950.

Between 1951 and 1955 he served as Executive Officer to two Secretaries of the Army. In November 1955, Mr. BeLieu became a professional staff member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. In January 1959 he became Staff Director of the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Investigating Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Armed Forces. He took the Oath of Office as Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Logistics) on 7 February 1961.

THE PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICERS

The Prospective Commanding Officers are Commander Cleo N. Mitchell, USN (Blue Crew) of Jamaica, Long Island, New York, and Commander Walter N. Dietzen, USN (Gold Crew) of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Both are graduates of the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, with the class of 1944. Each has had extensive submarine experience.

Commander Mitchell's submarine service includes duty aboard the DOGFISH, on the Staff of Submarine Division 81, Executive Officer of TROUT and Commanding Officer of CHIVO and of the nuclear-powered submarine SCULPIN.

Commander Dietzen's assignments include his three war patrols aboard TIRANTE in WW II, Executive Officer of the BAYA and Commanding Officer of COBERA. He was the first Commanding Officer of the Mare Island-built A-sub SCAMP two years ago.

WOODROW WILSON (SSBN 624) LAUNCHING TIME SCHEDULE

RADM EDWARD J. FAHY, USN, SHIPYARD COMMANDER
CAPT PAUL F. STRAUB, JR., USN, PRODUCTION OFFICER
AND LAUNCHING OFFICER FOR (SSBN 624)

CEREMONY

10:50 A. M. Sponsor's Party arrives on Building Ways.
Honors.

10:55 A. M. CAPT Straub introduces RADM Fahy.

Introduction. Remarks.

Launching address by The Honorable Kenneth E. BeLieu,
Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Prayer -- The Very Reverend Francis B. Sayre, Jr.,
grandson of the late Woodrow Wilson and
brother of the Sponsor.

National Anthem, Twelfth Naval District Band.

Production Officer orders "Clear Building Ways".
Three long blasts on siren.

FINAL PROCEDURES

11:27 A. M. Production Officer reports "Ready in all respects for Launching"
to the Shipyard Commander.

"Ready" buzzer signal from Launching Officer to Assistant
Launching Officer. Start 40-second count-down. Sponsor and
Shipyard Commander in position at bow.

"Stand-by" buzzer: signal from Assistant Launching Officer to
Launching Officer -- Ten seconds until Launch. Sponsor has
bottle in hand.

Mr. Edward M. Martinez, Master Mechanic Service Group,
releases trigger and launches WOODROW WILSON.

Sponsor breaks bottle on bow. "In the name of the United States
of America, I Christen thee WOODROW WILSON."

THE SHIPYARD

Founded by the immortal Admiral (then Commander) David Glasgow Farragut, USN, on September 16, 1854, this oldest of Pacific Coast Naval Stations observes its 109th year. Its loyal men and women -- some who are now in the fifth generation -- have participated in the Navy's transition from canvas, to coal, to oil, to the atom. The WOODROW WILSON is Mare Island's 502nd launching beginning with the wooden gunboat SAGINAW in 1858-1860, and is the 35th submarine to be built in this shipyard.

HONORARY "KEEL-LAYERS"

The first circular hull section of the WOODROW WILSON was authenticated on September 13, 1961, by RADM L. V. Honsinger, USN, then Shipyard Commander. The Honorary "keel-layers" on that occasion were:

Keith R. Kimball, Master Mechanic (Utilities)
Emil C. Jensen, Deputy Chief Design Engineer
Eugene J. Murray, Head Electronics Shop
Edward Beutel (now retired), Head Rigger and Laborer Shop

TRIGGERMAN

The ship is released for launching by a trigger device, located under the submarine. The Triggerman selected for launching the WOODROW WILSON is Edward W. Martinez, Master Mechanic Service Group.