UNITED STATES SHIP
MARIANO G. VALLEJO
SSBN 658
"THE BEAR"

INACTIVATION CEREMONY
27 MAY 1994
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN 658)

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KEEL LAID  7 JULY 1964

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LAUNCHED  23 OCTOBER 1965

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COMMISSIONED  16 DECEMBER 1966

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THE COMMISSIONING PENNANT

At the moment the commissioning pennant is broken, a ship becomes the responsibility of the Commanding officer, who, together with the ship's officers and men, has the duty of making her ready for any service required by our nation, whether at peace or at war.

The commissioning pennant has for centuries been the symbol of a man-of-war. It is believed to date from the 17th century, when the Dutch were at war with the English. Dutch Admiral Maarten Harpertzoon Tromp hoisted a broom at his masthead to symbolize his intention to sweep the English from the sea. This gesture was answered by British Admiral William Blake, who hoisted a horsewhip indicating his intention to chastise the Dutch. The victorious British thus set the precedent for a long, narrow commissioning pennant to symbolize the original horsewhip as the distinctive symbol of a ship of war.

The modern U.S. Navy commissioning pennant is blue at the hoist with a union of seven white stars and a horizontal red and white stripe at the fly.

THE DEACTIVATION CEREMONY

The ceremony today symbolizes a tribute to the ship preparing for her decommissioning, the time-honored end of a ship's life. When decommissioned, the ship's colors and commissioning pennant are hauled down and the watches secured. The solemn ceremony where the commissioning pennant, ensign and jack are hauled down for the last time is a dedication to the operational success of the ship and the men who sailed her.
October 19, 1965

Dear Bob:

I recall with much pleasure my laying the keel of the MARIANO G. VALLEJO, and I am honored to have my initials inscribed on so proud an addition to our naval arsenal.

It was especially heartening to learn that you will be participating in the official launching of this new Polaris submarine, and I want to take this opportunity to convey through you my warm good wishes to all who take part in the event.

The citizens of Vallejo have, throughout the years, sustained and enriched the many contributions of the great Mexican-American legislator for whom their city is named.

The launching of this vessel, which bears his name, is yet another reflection of their desire to keep alive the traditions and ideals for which he lived.

Please tell them how happy I am to share with them the success of this historic occasion.

Sincerely,

Honorable Robert L. Leggett
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Letter from President Lyndon B. Johnson
to Congressman Robert L. Leggett
19 October 1965
THE SPONSOR

Miss Patricia O. V. McGgettigan, the sponsor of the USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO, is the great-great granddaughter of General Mariano G. Vallejo. She is a native of California, born in San Francisco. Patricia’s father is a member of the McGgettigan family which figured prominently in the early history of the City of Vallejo. Her paternal grandmother was Francisca Vallejo, daughter of General Vallejo’s son, Platon.

On 23 October 1965 Miss McGgettigan christened “MARIANO G. VALLEJO” by smashing a bottle of California champagne across the ship’s bow during launching ceremonies at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. At the time of the launching Miss McGgettigan was a student in the senior class at the University of California at Berkeley and a member of KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA sorority. She majored in history and graduated from the university in June 1966.

Miss McGgettigan volunteered for work in the "Peace Corps" and she departed San Francisco in November 1966 for Puerto Rico to receive "Peace Corps" training. This unfortunately precluded her from attending the ship’s commissioning ceremonies in December. Her younger sister Molly S. V. McGgettigan represented her at the commissioning ceremonies.
GENERAL MARIANO G. VALLEJO
THE MAN

General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo was born July 7, 1808, in the settlement of Monterey. His father, Sergeant Ignacio Vallejo, was stationed in Monterey with the Mexican Army when Mariano was born. Young Mariano attended the Monterey Presidial Academy at the age of fifteen.

In 1825, General Vallejo was appointed secretary to the Mexican Governor of California. He served as Commander of the Presidio at San Francisco for several years and in 1835 was appointed Commandante General and Director of Colonization of the Northern Frontier—the highest military command in Northern California. As Commandante General, his major objectives were to discourage further Russian settlement in California and to hold the Indian tribes in check. The General’s appointment terminated during the Bear Flag revolt on June 14, 1846, when he enthusiastically supported the separation from the Mexican Government and the peaceful annexation of California by the United States.

In 1849, General Vallejo attended the constitutional convention in Monterey. He helped frame the State Constitution which was signed in October 1849. An influential member of the convention, he was appointed as head of a commission to recommend names for various counties of the State of California. General Vallejo was subsequently elected a member of the first State Senate which met in 1850.

General Vallejo died quietly in his home in Sonoma on January 12, 1890, and was buried on a hill overlooking Sonoma. His many years of service, loyalty and devotion to California throughout its early settlement, development and statehood have been given just recognition through the naming of the USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN 655).

April 2, 1846

When

the Native Californians debated the fate of the Province of California
Mexican Assembly, Monterey, California:

"I pronounce for annexation to France or England... but I hear some one say: No Monarchy... "But is not Monarchy better than Anarchy?"

General Jose Castro

"I cannot, gentlemen, coincide in opinion the cession of our country to France or England. It is most true that to rely any longer upon Mexico to govern and defend us would be idle and absurd... My opinion is made up that we must persevere in throwing off the falling yoke of Mexico... We have indeed taken the first step by electing our own governor but another remains to be taken, and that is annexation to the United States. In contemplating this consummation of our destiny, I feel nothing but pleasure, and I ask you to share it... When we join our fortunes to hers, we shall not become subjects, but fellow-citizens, possessing all the rights of the people of the United States and choosing our own federal and local rulers...

We shall have a stable government and just laws,
California will grow strong and flourish, and her people will be prosperous, happy and free... Let us, therefore, with jealousy upon the hardy pioneers who scale our mountains and cultivate our unoccupied plains; but rather welcome them as brothers, who come to share with us a common destiny."

General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo
What is a Plankowner?

A plankowner is a ship’s crewmember who is assigned to a U.S. Navy ship on the day of the ship’s commissioning. The term “plankowner” finds its origin back in the days of sailing ships when sailors slept on the deck. Because some planks of the deck were softer than others, the crew would select those to sleep upon, and in time would regard them as their own. In many cases, when the ship was dismantled, crew members would lay claim to these planks as mementos of their seagoing days.

The sense of ownership felt by a ship’s crew, especially by its commissioning crew, has carried this naval term into the twentieth century to today’s steel ships capable of carrying jet aircraft or diving to the ocean’s depths. The plankowning officers, chief petty officers and crew of the USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO were justifiably proud to have been on board during the ship’s construction and to have taken her to sea for the first time.
REAR ADMIRAL THOMAS J. ROBERTSON
COMMANDER
NAVAL BASE CHARLESTON
SUBMARINE GROUP SIX

Rear Admiral Thomas J. Robertson graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1963. His first submarine assignment, after submarine and nuclear power training, was in USS JAMES K. POLK (SSBN 645). Through the construction period and initial operations out of Rota, Spain, he served as Supply Officer, Electrical Officer, Communications Officer, and Sonar Officer.

Rear Admiral Robertson then served as Engineering Officer in USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (SSBN 600) from 1968 to 1970, deploying out of Holy Loch, Scotland. This was followed by duty as Squadron Material Officer for Commander Submarine Squadron 10 in New London and initial U.S. submarine operations at La Maddalena, Italy.

As Executive Officer and Navigator, Rear Admiral Robertson served in USS PARGO (SSN 650) from 1973 to 1975. His next assignment was with the U.S. Atlantic Fleet Commander’s Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board in Norfolk, Virginia.

Rear Admiral Robertson commanded USS GLENA (SSN 685) from July 1978 to October 1982. LIPSCOMB operated with distinction as a unit of Submarine Development Squadron 12 in New London and Submarine Squadron 6 in Norfolk, winning three consecutive Battle Efficiency "E" awards, three consecutive Engineering "E" awards, and the Navy Unit Commendation.

As Prospective Commanding Officer Instructor, Rear Admiral Robertson directed PCO training for Commander Submarine Force, Atlantic until April 1984. He then served with Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Submarines) in Washington as Program Coordinator for the SEAWOLF (SSN 21) Attack Submarine.

Rear Admiral Robertson commanded Submarine Squadron 8 in Norfolk from April 1986 to March 1988, during which time Submarine Squadron 8 was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation. He then returned to Washington as Director Attack Submarine Division in the Office of Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Undersea Warfare).

In July 1989 Rear Admiral Robertson was assigned to the Joint Staff as Chief of Maritime/UN Negotiations Division. He was selected for Rear Admiral in 1989, serving then as Deputy Director for Operations, Joint Staff, during the 1990-91 period encompassing Operation DESERT STORM. He relieved as Commander, Submarine Group 10, Kings Bay, Georgia, and Commander, Submarine Group 6, Charleston, S.C., in January 1992.

Rear Admiral Robertson relieved as Commander, Naval Base, Charleston in September 1993 and remains in command of Submarine Group 6. He and his wife Julie grew up in Bellingham, Washington. Their son John is a resident physician in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and daughter Diana is employed in Arlington, Virginia.
Rear Admiral Albert H. Konetzni, Jr.
Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel
For Military Personnel Policy and Career Progression
And Total Force Programming and Manpower

Rear Admiral Albert H. Konetzni, Jr. was born in New York City in 1944. He attended Archbishop Stepinac High School in White Plains, New York, and entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1962. He graduated with merit and was commissioned in 1966, having earned a Bachelor of Science degree.


In 1973, Rear Admiral Konetzni reported to the precommissioning unit of USS WILLIAM H. BATES (SSN 680) under construction in Pascagoula, Mississippi, and served as Engineer Officer through commissioning until 1976. Rear Admiral Konetzni served as Executive Officer, USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN 642)(GOLD) from June 1976 to December 1978. In December 1978, Rear Admiral Konetzni reported to the Naval Military Personnel Command and served as Submarine Placement Officer and Executive Officer Detailer. He commanded USS GRAYLING (SSN 646), a nuclear powered fast attack submarine from August 1981 until May 1984.

Rear Admiral Konetzni served as Deputy Commandant of the U.S. Naval Academy from August 1984 until May 1987. He commanded Submarine Squadron Sixteen from May 1987 until July 1989. After his squadron command, he served as Senior Fellow of the Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group. Rear Admiral Konetzni served as Deputy Director of the Submarine Strategic Division in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Undersea Warfare) from July 1990 until April 1991. From April 1991 to April 1993, he served as Chief of Staff to Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Prior to assuming his current duties, he served as Director, Attack Submarine Division (N872).

Rear Admiral Konetzni is entitled to wear the Legion of Merit with three gold stars; the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars; the Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars; and the Navy Achievement Medal. He holds a Master’s Degree in Industrial Personnel Management from the George Washington University and is the co-author of Command at Sea.

Rear Admiral Konetzni is married to the former Barbara Lee Kroetzky of Armonk, New York. They reside in Arlington, Virginia. Sons Kyle and Al III attend Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia, daughter Kristen attends the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, and daughter Kiera attends Cortland College in New York.
Schedule of Events

Arrival of Official Party
National Anthem

Invocation
Commander Robert S. Hill, Jr., CHC, USN

Introduction of Speaker
Rear Admiral Thomas N. Demsey
Commander Naval Base
Commander Submarine

Reactivation
Rear Admiral Thomas N. Demsey
Assistance for Amphibious Operations
Commander Submarine

Benediction
Commander Robert S. Hill, Jr., CHC, USN

Departure of Official Party
COMMANDER DAVID E. BILLINGSLY
UNITED STATES NAVY

A native of Dallas, Texas, Commander Billingsly entered the U.S. Navy in 1970. Following completion of Nuclear Power Training, he was selected for the Navy Enlisted Scientific Education Program. He graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering. After attending Nuclear Power School in Bainbridge, Maryland, Prototype Training in West Milton, New York and Submarine School in New London, Connecticut, Commander Billingsly reported to USS SIMON BOLIVAR (SSBN 641) BLUE in August 1976. During his four years on board, he served in all Engineering Divisions and as Assistant Engineer.

In 1980, Commander Billingsly reported to the Nuclear Power School in Orlando, Florida where he taught Officer Reactor Dynamics. In 1982 he was assigned as Engineer Officer of USS NATHAN HALE (SSBN 623) GOLD, where he served until 1985.

Following a tour at the Submarine Training Facility, Charleston, South Carolina, Commander Billingsly reported for duty as Executive Officer of USS HENRY L. STIMSON (SSBN 655) GOLD in 1987. From May 1990 through December 1991, Commander Billingsly was assigned as Executive Officer of USS SIMON LAKE (AS-33) in Holy Loch, Scotland.

In August 1992, Commander Billingsly assumed command of USS TECUMSEH (SSBN 628) which he deactivated in July 1993 at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. In December 1993, Commander Billingsly took command of USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN 658) GOLD. In April of 1994 he assumed command of the combined BLUE and GOLD crews of VALLEJO.

Commander Billingsly is authorized to wear the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars and the Navy Achievement medal.

Commander Billingsly is married to the former Lillian Guill of Dallas, Texas. They presently reside in Charleston, South Carolina. Their daughter, Jennifer is a Senior at the College of Charleston. Their son, Brandon attends East Texas State University.
USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN 658)
THE SHIP

MARIANO G. VALLEJO was authorized to be built as the fortieth fleet ballistic missile submarine of the Polaris/Poseidon fleet. Her keel was laid on 7 July 1964 at ceremonies at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California and bears the initials of President Lyndon B. Johnson. Fifteen months later on 23 October 1965, she was launched and officially christened by Miss Patricia O. V. McGintigan, the great-great granddaughter of General Mariano G. Vallejo.

USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO was placed in service on 9 October 1966 and initial sea trials were successfully conducted on 6 November 1966. On 16 December 1966 Rear Admiral Clark, Commandant of the Twelfth Naval District, Commissioned the Ship with principal address given by Rear Admiral John G. Maurer, Commander Submarine, Force Pacific. VALLEJO completed 20 successful Polaris deterrent patrols in both the Atlantic and Pacific and was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for service as a member of Submarine Squadron Fifteen (Pacific Fleet) during the period July 1968 to October 1970.

VALLEJO was converted to carry Poseidon missiles during an overhaul at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, which was completed on 26 December 1973. VALLEJO was awarded a second Meritorious Commendation as a member of Submarine Squadron Sixteen (Atlantic Fleet) in 1974. In the fall of 1979, she became the second ship to be converted to a new Trident-I Strategic Missile Weapon System at Cape Canaveral, Florida. VALLEJO received the Battle Efficiency “E” award and the U.S. Atlantic Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine Outstanding Performance Award for 1979.

VALLEJO returned to overhaul in January 1983 at Charleston Naval Shipyard and, upon completion in July 1984, assigned to Submarine Squadron Sixteen operating out of Kings Bay, Georgia. VALLEJO was honored in April 1987 for completing the nation’s 2500th SSBN Strategic Deterrent Patrol. VALLEJO was awarded the Battle Efficiency “E” in 1987 and again in 1991.

VALLEJO recently completed her 83rd, and last, Strategic Deterrent Patrol.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
April 1, 1987

To the Commanding Officer and Crew of U.S.S. MARIANO G. VALLEJO:

You have my heartfelt congratulations on your completion of our Nation’s 2500th SSBN strategic deterrent patrol — your 50th patrol.

You and all the members of the United States Naval Submarine Force have contributed immeasurably to our strategic defense. Our Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines’ 2500 patrols represent nearly 416 years of submarine operations and that’s a long time away from homes and families. Our Nation is grateful for the many sacrifices submariners have made in helping to preserve our freedom and to keep the peace.

I simply want to express to each of you my pride and gratitude, and that of your countrymen, for the devotion that is yours. Your performance is in the finest tradition of the Submarine Force and the United States Navy. Well done! God bless you, and God bless America.

[Signature]
FAREWELL

Today this mighty vessel of Peace, Honor and Strength prepares to leave the Navy. In her nearly thirty years from birth at keel laying to transition at deactivation, she has never once failed to carry out her mission.

As we bid our last farewell, we know that the vessel will return to the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY. The crew that made the ship come true for years, the brave and daring men of the USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO, is of the finest men who ever served aboard her. Their dedication and hard work have earned them the respect of all who have served aboard her. They made her one of the finest ships in the world.

As we bid our last farewell, we know that the vessel will return to the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY. The crew that made the ship come true for years, the brave and daring men of the USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO, is of the finest men who ever served aboard her. Their dedication and hard work have earned them the respect of all who have served aboard her. They made her one of the finest ships in the world.

USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN 658)
Arrives Charleston, South Carolina
Completing the Final Forty-One for Freedom
Strategic Deterrent Patrol
1 April 1994
USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO INACTIVATION CREW

CDR D. E. BILLINGSLY
Lcdr J. M. ELLIOTT

COMMANDING OFFICER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

OFFICERS

LT C. M. DALY
LT T. J. BARNES (WEPs)
LT T. J. BURNHAM (NAV)
LT R. W. CRANLEY (SUPPO)

Lt C. M. DALY
LT T. J. BARNES (WEPs)
LT T. J. BURNHAM (NAV)
LT R. W. CRANLEY (SUPPO)

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

ETCM(SS) C. KERR

CHIEF OF THE BOAT

MTC(SS) D. C. BATCHELDER (FIB)
ETW(SS) G. J. BROWN (NAV)
STCS(SS) J. C. CATE (STS)
ETC(US) C. O. POSTER (RC)
MMC(M)(SS) R. C. GIBBS (FDA)

RMCS(SS) A. P. LABERGE (RM)
RMCS(SS) D. L. LANDON (B)
RMCS(SS) K. D. LAVENDER (MSL)
MMCS(SS) S. C. MCBRIDE (A)
MSC(SS) R. P. MCCLOUD (MS)

ETCS(SS) R. T. MCKAY (NAV)
RMCS(SS) P. E. PRICE (SM)
RMCS(SS) J. M. SMITH (M)
QMSC(SS) M. J. SORDERHRT (QM)
SKC(SS) F. G. HASSON (SK)

CREW

QMSC(SS) S. D. BACHELDER
EM(B) J. B. BAKER
SA(M) R. R. BALL
FT(S) T. M. BETHANY
FT3(SS) F. L. BLOOM
FT3(SS) T. A. BRADSHAW
FTN(SS) S. M. BRADY
FTN(SS) K. D. BUSH
MT2(SS) J. B. BUTLER
ET3(SS) A. S. BUTT
ET3(SS) M. C. BYRD
ST3(SS) M. F. CALVERT
ST3(SS) D. G. CHAPPELL
IC3(SS) J. W. CLARDY
SN(SU) A. E. COOK
ST1(SS) G. P. COURTNEY
MM2(SS) G. S. COWART
ET2(SS) G. E. CRISTOMO
TM4NS(SU) G. C. CUNLIFIE
SKN(SS) W. F. DAKE
RM2(SS) L. D. DICKSON
FT1(SS) J. M. DIXON
MM2(SS) J. A. DOMSHOT
MM2(SS) F. A. DOYLE
MM2(SS) P. J. DYTRE
ST3(SS) B. J. ENBCO
MT1(SS) R. A. EISLECK
MM2(SS) D. D. FOURNET
EM3(SS) E. F. FREBISTON
MTX(SS) S. A. FRITICHMAN
MM1(SS) J. W. FULLER
TM1(SS) G. S. GAIBAN
MT1(SS) M. T. GEORGE
MM2(SS) H. A. GILDER
SN(SU) K. L. GRAHAM
MM4(SS) S. A. GROVER
ST2(SS) J. J. HALL
ET1(SS) L. A. HALL
SA1(SS) J. E. HANSON
MT2(SS) R. E. HAPNER
MT2(SS) R. D. HARRIS
MM2(SS) L. C. HENDERSON
ET2(SS) O. A. HERNANDEZ
RM2(SS) J. A. HICKLING
RM2(SS) C. E. HIGGS
MM2(SS) D. J. HOOY
TC(SS) R. B. HOOKS
QMSC(SS) M. S. HOPKINS
RM2(SS) D. B. HOWARD
YN2(SS) S. D. HOWARD
SK3(SS) C. W. HUNTHER
ST2(SS) T. M. JENKINS
ET3(SS) M. J. JUDD
ET3(SS) S. G. KAMMERER
MMNN(SS) M. A. KAST
EMNS(SS) D. E. KNIGHT
EM3(SS) M. D. KNIGHTS
RM1(SS) R. D. KNOTTS
IC1(SS) A. L. KOONCE
MM2(SS) P. R. KRUESS
YNN2(SS) W. F. KUEHN
MM1(SS) B. M. KUHNZ
ET2(SS) S. D. KUTCHRA
FT2(SS) R. J. LARKIN
MM1(SS) R. A. LIENARD
ST3(SS) M. R. LILES
ET2(SS) H. * LOPEZ
MT2(SS) J. D. LUCAS
MM2(SS) A. R. LUSTWERK
IC1(SS) E. C. MACK
BT1(SS) G. C. MACRAE
MM2(SS) R. S. MAPLES
MT2(SS) D. T. MARRETT
FT3(SS) B. J. MARTIN
MT3(SS) M. S. MCGREGOR
ST3(SS) S. F. MCGOWAN
MM2(SS) J. D. MEIER
MT2(SS) F. V. MENDOZA
FT2(SS) K. L. MIRKOLA
MM2(SS) J. D. MURPHY
MM2(SS) T. M. NAUJUR
MESSA(10) K. A. NAVARRO
MM2(SS) J. E. NICHOLS
TM1(SS) P. A. NICHOLSON
FT2(SS) J. A. NORTIS
FT2(SS) J. R. OLIVEL
FT2(SS) C. R. OTTERSTEDT
MM2(SS) J. P. PENDRY
ET2(SS) R. T. PETTITRILL
MM1(SS) M. S. PIERSON
MM1(SS) M. C. PLACKO
SN(SU) M. P. PULAWOSKI
ET2(SS) R. R. RADER
TM1(SS) S. B. RAINBOW
MM1(SS) L. W. RANSOM
MM2(SS) B. R. REAVIS
EM2(SS) R. K. RENZER
HM1(SS) E. C. RICH
FAASU T. R. RICKY
MTX(SS) P. A. RIPLEY
EM1(SS) R. * RIVINUS
MT1(SS) A. * RIVINUS
EM3(SS) J. A. ROTH
EM2(SS) T. D. RUSSELL
MT1(SS) P. Q. SANGIULIANI
MT1(SS) A. C. SCOTT
MM2(SS) C. J. SEITZ
MM2(SS) W. H. SIMS
MT2(SS) J. S. SLOB
MM3(SS) A. W. SNATIC
ET3(SS) J. F. SPOFF
MM1(SS) G. P. SPANKAUBER
MT2(SS) V. * SRIBANDIT-MONGKOL
EM3(SS) J. C. STANLEY
ET1(SS) C. M. STARK
MM3(SS) M. A. STINE
EM1(SS) S. M. STRICKLAND
EM1(SS) J. V. HERICO
MT1(SS) K. J. TOLLISON
QMSC(SS) E. N. VANDERMEER
EM2(SS) A. C. VINCENT
MT3(SS) T. B. VOITKO
ET2(SS) G. W. WIBST
MM1(SS) T. F. WHITE
MT2(SS) S. M. WOLP
MM1(SS) S. D. WOOD
QMSC(SS) T. M. WOODS
ST3(SS) C. A. WRIGHT
ST3(SS) W. C. WRIGHT
SA(SS) W. C. YORK
SUBMARINE INSIGNIA

The origin of the U.S. Navy submarine service insignia dates back to 1923. On 13 June of that year, Captain Ernest J. King, USN, later to become Fleet Admiral and Chief of Naval Operations during World War II, and at that time Commander Submarine Division Three, suggested to the Secretary of the Navy, via the Bureau of Navigation (now Bureau of Naval Personnel) adoption of a distinguished device for qualified submariners.

He submitted a pen-and-ink sketch of his own, showing a shield mounted on the beam end of a submarine, with dolphins forward and abaft of the conning tower. Commander, Submarine Divisions, Atlantic strongly endorsed the suggestion.

A Philadelphia firm, which had done work for the Navy previously, was approached with the request that it undertake to design a suitable badge. The firm submitted two designs which the Navy combined into a single design which remains in use today: a bow view of a submarine, proceeding on the surface, with bow planes rigged for diving, flanked by dolphins in a horizontal position with their heads resting on the upper edge of the bow planes.

On 20 March 1924, the Chief of Navigation recommended to the Secretary of the Navy adoption of the design. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., the acting Secretary of the Navy, adopted the recommendation.

The submarine insignia was directed to be worn at all times by officers and men qualified in submarine duty attached to submarine units or organizations, ashore and afloat, and not to be worn when not attached.

In 1941 the Uniform Regulations were modified to permit qualified officers and men to wear the submarine insignia after they had been assigned to other duties in the naval service, unless such right had been revoked.

The officer’s insignia was a bronze, gold-plated metal pin, worn centered above the left breast pocket and above the ribbons and medals. Enlisted men wore the insignia embroidered in white silk for blue clothing and blue silk for white clothing. This was sewn on the outside of the right sleeve, midway between the wrist and elbow. The device was two and three-quarters inches long.

In mid-1947 the embroidered device shifted from the sleeve of the enlisted men’s jumper to above the left breast pocket.

A change to the Uniform Regulations dated 21 September 1950 authorized the embroidered insignia for officers (in addition to the pin-on insignia) and a bronze, silver-plated, pin-on insignia for enlisted men (in addition to the embroidered device).

THE SUBMARINER

Only a submariner realizes to what extent an entire ship depends on him as an individual. Landsmen do not understand this and sometimes we even find it difficult to comprehend. But it is so!

A submarine at sea is a different world in itself. In consideration of the protracted, distant and independent operations of submarines, the Navy places more responsibility and trust in the hands of those who take such ships to sea than on other vessels.

Each submarine contains men who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to each other. These men hold themselves accountable to each other for all aspects of the operation of their submarine. They make up the crew. They are the ship.

This represents the most difficult and demanding assignment in the navy. A submariner cannot escape the grasp of responsibility for even an instant during his tour. In view of his obligations he has almost ludicrously few privileges. Nevertheless, this spirit of accountability has given the Navy its greatest mariners - the men of the Submarine Service.

Those who perform this rigorous duty most richly deserve the proud and time-honored title of — Submariner.
FAREWELL FROM
ADMIRAL HENRY G. CHILES
COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U.S. STRATEGIC COMMAND

To the crew of the Mariano G. Vallejo:

After long and distinguished service covering eighty-three strategic deterrent patrols, you and your many predecessors have our gratitude for your contribution to the deterrent posture of our country.

Your namesake was a determined leader and pioneer, who was essential in the frontier defense in the Western United States. Your actions espoused the same qualities in Strategic Defense of the Western Hemisphere and the free world. With successful completion of the Cold War, and the new stability that has ensued, we offer our sincerest thanks for a job well done.

Best wishes for your future success.

Admiral Henry G. Chiles
24 March 1994

FAREWELL FROM
VICE ADMIRAL GEORGE W. EMERY
COMMANDER
SUBMARINE FORCE U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET

On 1 April the TRIDENT Backett commitment to Strategic Deterrence will be completed. This commitment began with the first Trident patrol by Francis Scott Key (SSBN 657) in October 1979. Twelve SSBNs of the original Forty-One for Freedom were converted from the Poseidon to the Trident Weapons system during 1979 through 1983. The last patrols of the USS Stonewall Jackson (SSBN 634), USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN 641) and USS Mariano G. Vallejo (SSBN 656) culminate a successful completion of 408 Trident Backett patrols. As a new generation of SSBNs assumes the full task of defending our hard won freedom, the submarine force and the nation we serve will never forget the invaluable contribution of the original Forty-One for Freedom.

To the crews of the USS Stonewall Jackson, USS Simon Bolivar, USS Mariano G. Vallejo, USS Canopus and staffs of COMSUBRON SIXTEEN, COMSUBGRU SIX and COMSUBGRU TEN, your tenacity and perseverance in the operation, maintenance, and support of these SSBNs were critical elements in the ending of the cold war era. We offer our heartfelt thanks for a job well done. Best wishes for your future accomplishments. On behalf of a grateful nation, well done.

Vice Admiral George W. Emery
30 March 1994
VESSELS BENEATH THE SEA

Oh, I have abandoned the legs of man
For the planks of the uncharted deep.
Downward I've dived into the
Mere depths.
And seen the wondrous things
You will never see, wonder beauties
And felt...
I've felt the warm, banner, deep awes
I've felt with shadowed might beneath
The palliate of midnight.
And dated my vessel in places
No man has been before me.
I have lived a thousand years
In a span of thirty days.
And breaking the surface exhaling.
I've learned all over again.
Why man prays.

L. Lucian Gilbert

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who didst the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep,
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea!

Hark, God, our passing woe,
Whose arm hath reach the ocean floor;
Thus with our crew beneath the sea;
Tenor the depths indistinguishable.
O hear us when we pray, and keep
Them safe from peril in the deep.

God, who dost still the restless sea,
Protect the souls we love at home.
Provide that they should always be
By thine own grace both safe and free.
O Father, hear us when we pray
For those we love so far away

O Father, King of earth and sea,
We dedicate this ship to thee.
In faith we send her on her voyage;
In faith we send her humble pray;
O hear from heaven our sailor's cry
And watch and guard her from afar.

And when at length her course is run,
Her work for home and country done,
Of all the sails that in her sailed
Not one life in thee have failed;
Not hear from heaven our sailor's cry,
And grant eternal life on high!
AUTOGRAPHS
THANKS FROM

A

GRATEFUL NATION