

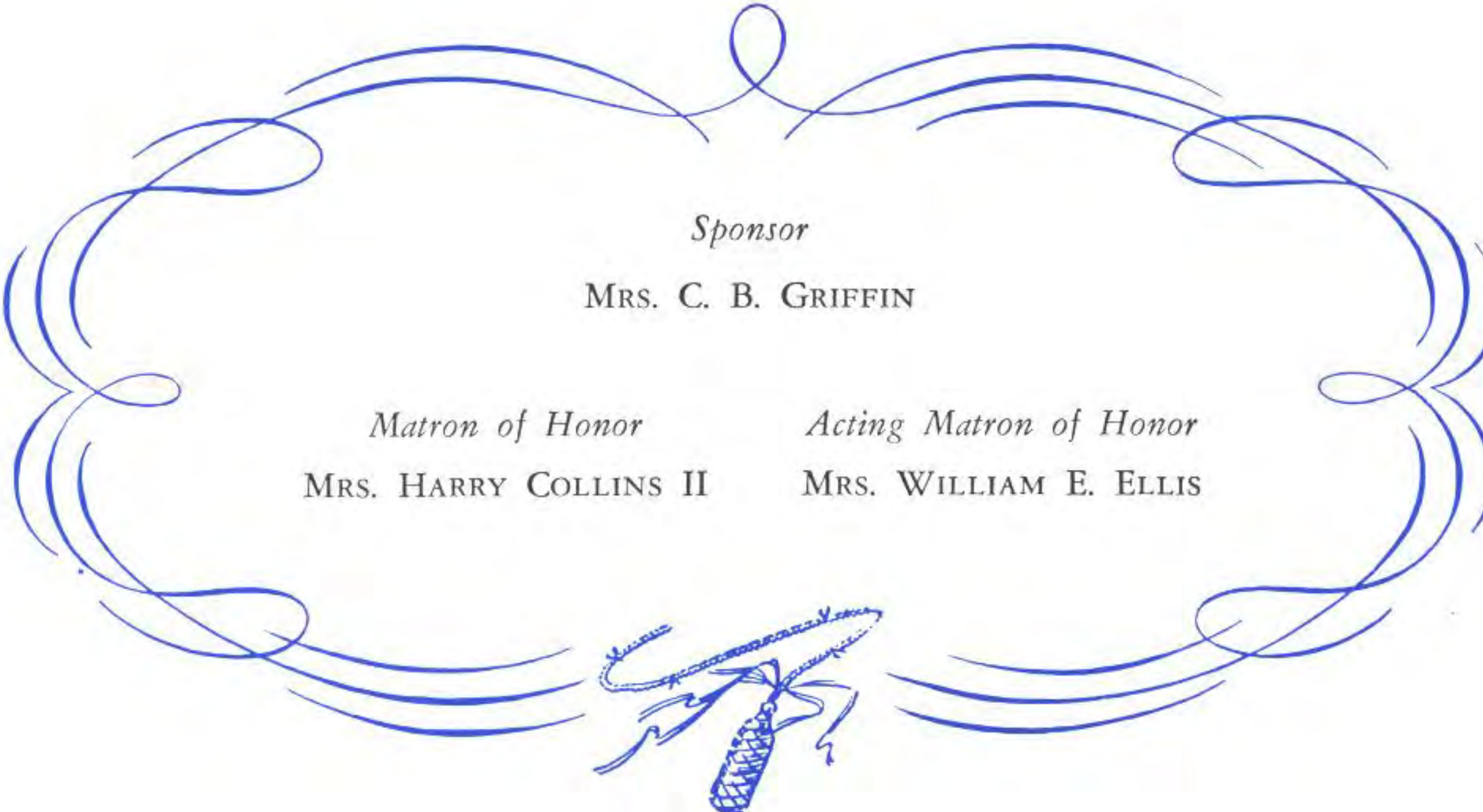
LAUNCHING
OF THE
ATTACK SUBMARINE

LAPON

DECEMBER 16, 1966

NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING AND DRY DOCK COMPANY

NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA



Sponsor

MRS. C. B. GRIFFIN

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MRS. WILLIAM E. ELLIS



A T T A C K
S U B M A R I N E

U S S LAPON

SSN661

DECEMBER 16, 1966

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Program

NATIONAL ANTHEM

U. S. Navy Band, Commander Naval Air Atlantic

WELCOME AND

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

Mr. Donald A. Holden, President and Chairman of the Board of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company

ADDRESS

Rear Admiral Donald G. Baer, USN, Commander Submarine Flotilla SIX and Former Commanding Officer, USS LAPON (SS-260)

INVOCATION

Captain Gerald H. Sargent, CHC, USN, Chaplain Fifth Naval District

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPONSOR
AND MATRON OF HONOR

Mr. Holden

CHRISTENING

Mrs. C. B. Griffin

HISTORY OF THE FIRS

The nuclear attack submarine LAPON being launched at Newport News today has been named to commemorate the submarine SS-260 of World War II, which received the Navy Unit Commendation for extraordinary heroism during four of her six war patrols.

The first LAPON was commissioned on January 23, 1943. She had an over-all length of 311 feet and was designed to carry 24 torpedoes.

She joined the Pacific Submarine Force and began her first patrol on June 17, 1943. At the termination of the patrol on August 4 the LAPON with two sister submarines had proved, after braving reefs, dodging mine fields and avoiding possible radar contacts, that American submarines could successfully invade the Sea of Japan.

Her second patrol, which began on September 26 and was spent close to the coastline of Southern Honshu, Japan, was plagued with bad luck, including duds among her torpedoes. The submarine was forced away from battle scenes several times by efficient enemy escort vessels. She did, however, sink one Japanese cargo ship during the patrol which ended on November 4.

She came back to the United States to be re-engined and

receive modifications which would permit the firing of Mark 18 torpedoes.

She returned to Pearl Harbor and on February 13, 1944 commenced her third patrol which took her to the South China Sea and then to a new base in Australia. The patrol was highlighted by sinkings of at least five ships, including three large ones, and damages to several others. The bravery of her men was exemplified by an audacious daylight attack on a four-ship convoy despite three escort vessels and an airplane bearing down on them.

The LAPON reached Fremantle, Australia on April 1, 1944, having logged 10,226 miles on that third patrol.

The greater part of the LAPON's fourth patrol was spent north of the Malaya Barrier in the Java Sea and the South China Sea. She left Fremantle on April 25, 1944. On May 23 she intercepted a convoy of three large cargo ships with two escorts and attacked four times within ten hours. Her daring sent two of the cargo ships to the bottom of the sea and damaged the third before she was chased away by the escorts.

As the LAPON continued her patrol she received word that a Japanese submarine had been sighted in the area, news which had also reached the RATON. Both subs went on special alert.

USS LAPON (SS-260)

On May 27 the LAPON, cruising submerged, picked up a "I-68 Class" submarine and fired two torpedoes. Simultaneously, RATON, having picked up interference on her search radar, was prepared for action with a possible enemy submarine. Minutes after the LAPON fired, the RATON was shaken by two explosions. She went hard right and steadied on course. The skipper of the LAPON checked fire and later wrote in the ship's log, "The previous certainty that this was an enemy submarine was lessened in the mind . . ." The LAPON-RATON episode was probably the only time an American submarine fired at one of its own family and even in this case keen judgment finally won the day.

The fifth patrol began June 29 and saw the sinking of two ships and possibly three. Returning to Fremantle on August 10, the LAPON had a new commanding officer, Lt. Cdr. Donald G. Baer.

The sixth patrol was highlighted by the rare experience of watching U. S. planes destroy a convoy. The only problem was that every time the LAPON approached a target, the airplanes would destroy it, thus giving the valiant submarine no chance to participate. And, when the convoy had been virtually demolished, the LAPON was left to escape the searching wrath of five escort

vessels. Later, however, the submarine destroyed one of the remnants of the air attack. Also, two other large vessels were sunk during the patrol which ended on October 31, 1944.

The seventh and eighth patrols were not as eventful as the previous ones, and it was during a refitting for her ninth patrol that hostilities with Japan ceased on August 15, 1945.

The LAPON arrived in Houston, Texas on October 27, where she received the Navy Unit Commendation in recognition of the ship's outstanding valor during the third through the sixth patrols.

She then reported to New London for inactivation overhaul and was decommissioned July 25, 1946 and placed in the reserve fleet.

On March 27, 1957, she was reactivated for loan to the Government of Greece under terms of the Military Assistance Program. Her extensive refitting and modernization included snorkel conversion. She was turned over to the Greek Government on August 10, 1957. She was still on loan there when on March 22, 1965 her name was cancelled from the records to permit its being assigned to the new LAPON today. The proud and venerable vessel now serves the Royal Hellenic Navy as POSEIDON (Y-16).

Last and First of The Polaris Program at Newport News



USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER
Delivered June, 1966



USS ROBERT E. LEE
Delivered September, 1960

Submarine Construction

At Newport News

POLARIS SUBMARINES

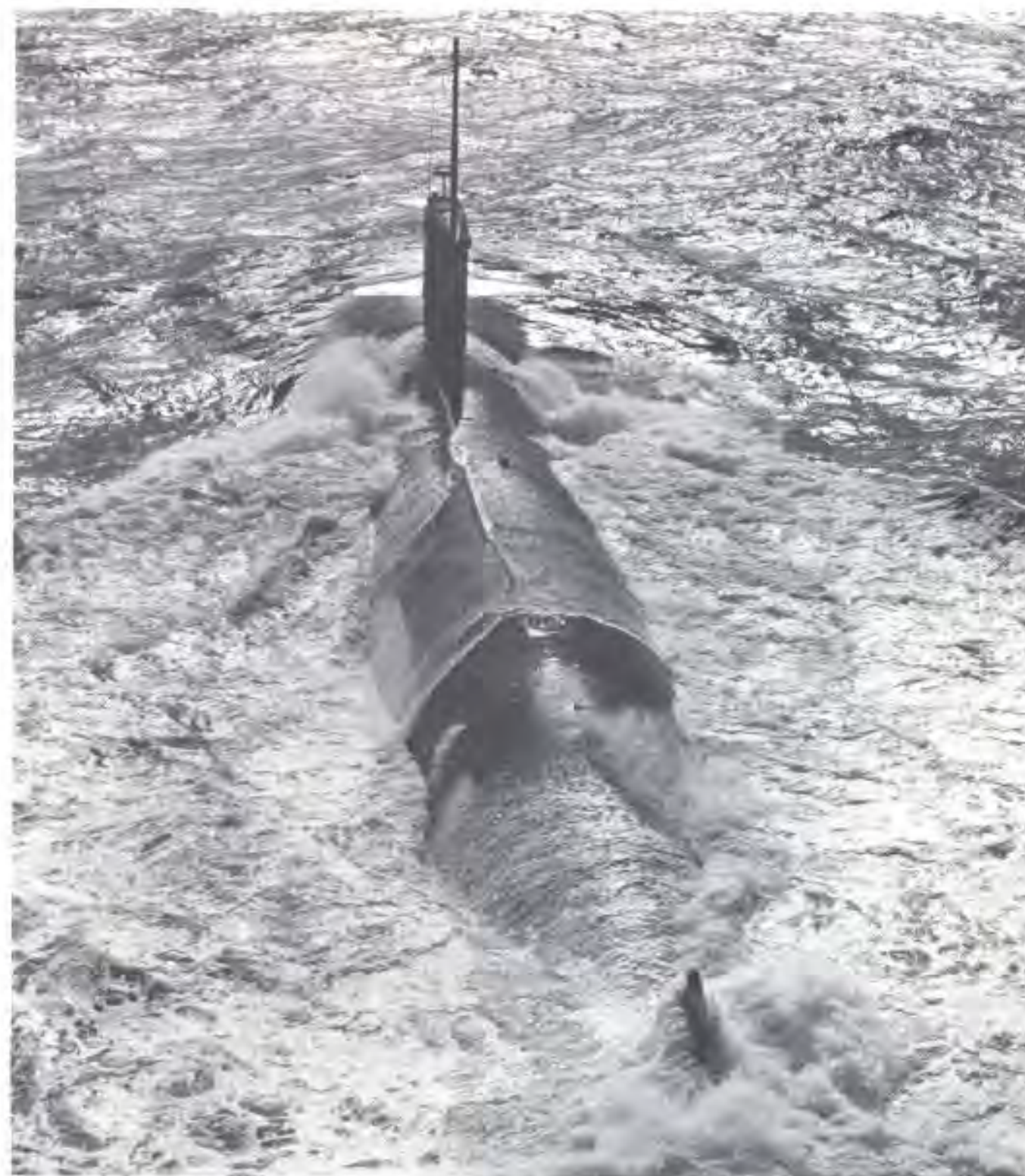
USS ROBERT E. LEE, SSBN601 (1960)
USS SAM HOUSTON, SSBN609 (1962)
USS JOHN MARSHALL, SSBN611 (1962)
USS THOMAS JEFFERSON, SSBN618 (1963)
USS JAMES MONROE, SSBN622 (1963)
USS HENRY CLAY, SSBN625 (1964)
USS JAMES MADISON, SSBN627 (1964)
USS JOHN C. CALHOUN, SSBN630 (1964)
USS VON STEUBEN, SSBN632 (1964)
USS SAM RAYBURN, SSBN635 (1964)
USS SIMON BOLIVAR, SSBN641 (1965)
USS LEWIS & CLARK, SSBN644 (1965)
USS GEORGE C. MARSHALL, SSBN654 (1966)
USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SSBN656 (1966)

ATTACK SUBMARINES

USS SHARK, SSN591 (1961)
USS QUEENFISH, SSN651 (1966)

Under Contract

USS RAY, SSN653
USS LAPON, SSN661
USS HAMMERHEAD, SSN663
USS SEA DEVIL, SSN664
USS SPADEFISH, SSN668
SSN670



Nuclear Attack Submarine
USS QUEENFISH SSN651

THE USS LAPON — SSN 661

The LAPON is one of 23 vessels authorized in the STURGEON class of nuclear attack submarines. These ships are 292 feet long and have a surfaced displacement of 4,140 tons. Both the STURGEON and PERMIT Classes are designed to carry the SUBROC missile-torpedo, the latest anti-submarine warfare weapons system.

The keel for the LAPON was laid on July 26, 1965. Newport News also has five additional STURGEON Class vessels under contract. Other nuclear attack submarines delivered by the company thus far are the SHARK in 1961 and the QUEENFISH in 1966.

The LAPON has an advanced hydrodynamic hull propelled by nuclear power. The extensive use of sound-isolating materials and great care in noise reduction of all moving parts gives LAPON an inherent silent quality and maximum performance of her advanced sonar system. She combines the endurance and environmental independence of nuclear power with deep submergence and high speed. These capabilities, coupled with the latest in submarine weapons systems including nuclear-tipped and rocket-propelled torpedoes, make the LAPON one of the Navy's most effective anti-submarine weapons.

The ship's complement is 12 officers and 95 men.

Super quiet, deep-diving and swift, the LAPON is not only lethal to hostile surface shipping, but especially suited as a "killer submarine" vitally concerned with denying the effectiveness of a hostile underseas fleet.



Lt. Cdr. David L. Self
Prospective Commanding Officer
USS LAPON (SSN 661)