
Launching Program

USS PERMIT
SSN 594



1 JULY 1961

MRS. JOHN A. McCONE, SPONSOR

THE SHIP

The PERMIT becomes the Navy's 25th launching of a nuclear-powered submarine. PERMIT is Mare Island's fifth A-sub, being preceded by the SARGO, HALIBUT, THEODORE ROOSEVELT, and SCAMP. Three others now on order will follow (PLUNGER and two Polaris-firing submarines of the LAFAYETTE Class). PERMIT is an "attack" submarine, torpedo-armed, 278 feet long, and displaces about 4,300 tons. The keel of PERMIT was laid 16 July 1959. When commissioned she will be commanded by Commander Ernest R. Barrett, USN, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

This is the second submarine to be named PERMIT. Permit is a fish of the Pompano family, found off Florida and in the West Indies.

The first PERMIT was launched in October 1936 at the Electric Boat Company, Groton, Connecticut. In her war patrols in the Pacific she sank three enemy ships and earned the Navy Unit Citation. It was scrapped following the close of WWII.

THE SPONSOR

Mrs. John A. McCone

Mrs. McCone is the wife of Mr. John A. McCone, who served in the preceding National Administration as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. Mr. and Mrs. McCone live in San Marino, California, and Washington, D. C. The christening invitation extended to Mrs. McCone by the Secretary of the Navy is an acknowledgment of the contribution which Mr. McCone has made to his country in the field of industry and commerce. In addition to having been Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Mr. McCone was a member of the President's Air Policy Commission 1947-1948; Deputy Secretary of Defense March-November 1948; Under Secretary USAF 1950-1951.

Mrs. McCone has as her Matron of Honor, Mrs. Seeley G. Mudd, also of San Marino.

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 HONORARY KEEL-LAYERS

The keel of the PERMIT was authenticated on 16 July 1959 by Rear Admiral L. V. Honsinger, USN, Shipyard Commander. The Honorary Keel-Layers on that occasion were:

Commander Edwin E. Kintner, USN, Nuclear Power Superintendent (Now Captain, and on duty at the Naval Reactors Office, Bettis Field, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.)

Florie A. Braghetta, Head, Industrial Laboratories Branch, Production Department.

Henry A. McKenna, Master Machinist, Ordnance Shop (now retired).

Walter R. Suess, Head, Photographic and Reproduction Section, Planning Department.

PERMIT (SS(N) 594) LAUNCHING TIME SCHEDULE

- 11:30 A.M. Muster Launching Crew on Station.
- 2:30 P.M. First Rally—Red Wedges, five blows.
- 2:45 P.M. Second Rally—White Wedges, five blows.
- 3:00 P.M. Third Rally—All Wedges, as directed.
- 3:35 P.M. Commence Removal of Keel Blocks.
- 4:45 P.M. Captain P. F. Straub, Jr., USN, Production Officer, will speak informally to visitors on progress of launching operations.
- 4:50 P.M. Sponsor's Party arrives on Building Ways; Honors.
- 5:00 P.M. Captain Straub presents Rear Admiral L. V. Honsinger, USN, Commander, Mare Island Naval Shipyard.
- Introduction of guests. Remarks.
- Introduction of Speaker, The Honorable Kenneth E. BeLieu, Assistant Secretary of the Navy.
- Prayer—Lieutenant Robert E. Gately, CHC, USN.
- National Anthem.
- Production Officer orders "Clear Building Ways". Three long blasts on siren.

FINAL PROCEDURES

- 5:27 P.M. Production Officer reports "Ready in All Respects for Launching", to Shipyard Commander.
- "Ready" buzzer signal from Launching Officer to Assistant Launching Officer. Start 40-second countdown. 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. R. T. Getchell, Group Master of the Machine Shop Group, releases trigger and launches PERMIT.
- Sponsor breaks bottle on bow, "In the name of the United States of America, I christen thee PERMIT".

THE SHIPYARD

The submarine being launched today is the 32nd to be built in the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in its 107-year history. Mare Island's first submarine was the earlier NAUTILUS, built in 1928. The PERMIT is the 499th craft to be built in this Shipyard, beginning with the gunboat SAGINAW in 1858-60.

The men and women of Mare Island have served their country for more than a century which has elapsed since the immortal Admiral (then Commander) David Glasgow Farragut founded the Shipyard on 16 September 1854. These generations of Americans have witnessed the transition of the Navy from sail to coal to oil to nuclear-power; from wood and copper, to iron and rivet, to steel and electric welding.

They are dedicated individuals whose goals are set on horizons still unexplored and whose daily challenge is to give the Navy a better product at less cost to the taxpayer.