

**DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY
FOR
USS PATRICK HENRY (SSN 599)**



**PUGET SOUND
NAVAL SHIPYARD
25 MAY 1984**

UNITED STATES SHIP PATRICK HENRY (SSN599)

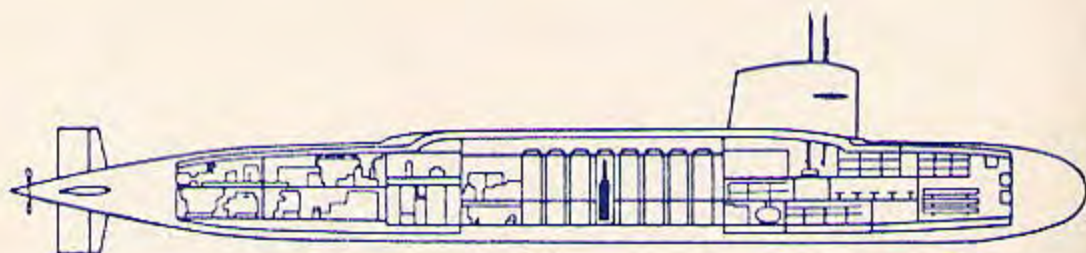
Built by General Dynamics Electric Boat Division

Authorized	20 January 1958
Keel Laid	27 May 1958
Launched	22 September 1959
Sponsor	Mrs. Leslie C. Arends
First Sea Trials	7 March 1960
Commissioned	9 April 1960
Length	381 feet
Beam	33 feet
Maximum Depth	In excess of 400 feet
Maximum Speed	In excess of 20 knots
Displacement (surfaced)	5600 tons
Ship Complement	135 officers and men
Number of Torpedo Tubes	6
First Patrol (commenced)	30 December 1960
Last Patrol (completed)	1 August 1981
Conversion to Fast Attack Submarine	24 October 1981
Inactivation Start	1 October 1983

SHIPS OF THE 598 CLASS

- * USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN598)
- * USS PATRICK HENRY (SSBN599)
 - + USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (SSBN600)
- * + USS ROBERT E. LEE (SSBN601)
- * + USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (SSBN602)

- * - Converted to SSN
- + - Decommissioned





*"The secret of liberty is courage."
Pericles*



*"Once one has seen a Polaris firing, the efficacy of this
Weapons System as a deterrent is not debatable."
John F. Kennedy*

USS PATRICK HENRY (SSN599)

NAMESAKE

USS PATRICK HENRY is the second American fighting ship to be named in honor of the great statesman and "Voice of the Revolution," PATRICK HENRY. The first ship was a confederate sidewheel steamer that distinguished itself in the battle of Hampton Roads during the civil war.

FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINE

USS PATRICK HENRY (SSBN599) was the second Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine to be constructed. Her keel was laid by the Electric Boat Division, General Dynamics Corporation, Groton, Connecticut, on 27 May 1958. She was launched and began her waterborne career on 22 September 1959, sponsored by Mrs. Leslie C. Arends. The ship was 381 feet long with a beam of 33 feet and a surface displacement of 5600 tons.

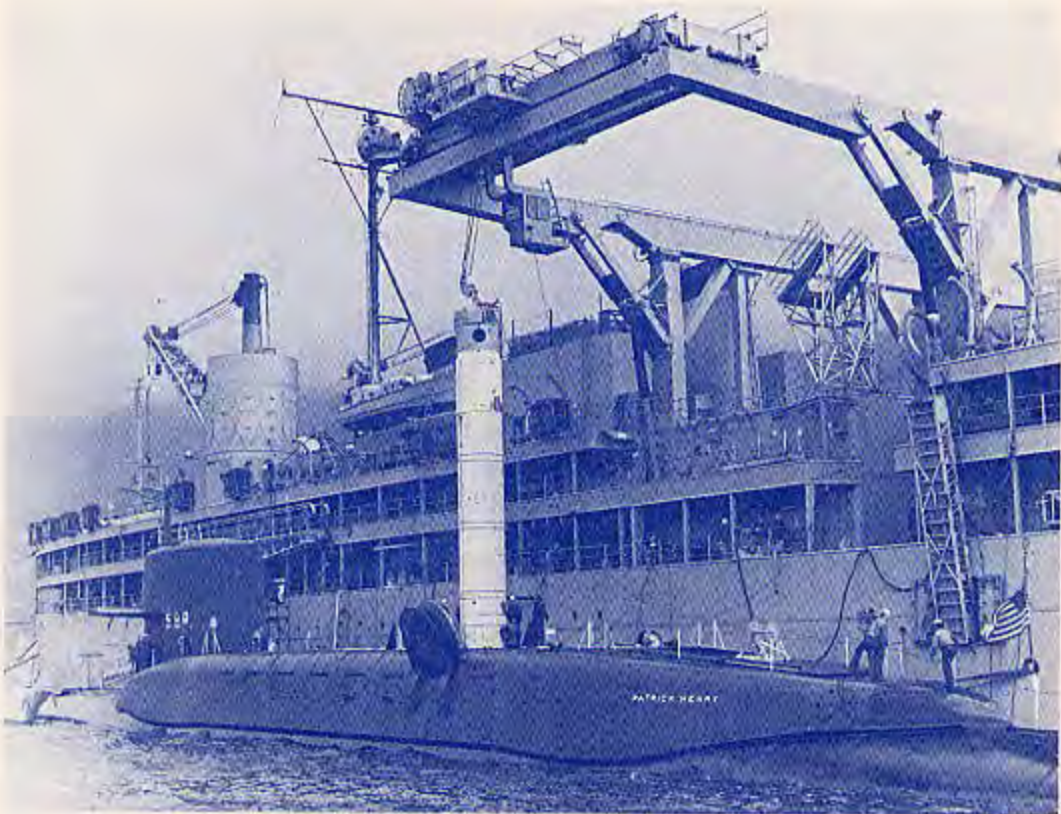
On 7 March 1960, PATRICK HENRY set out on her first series of sea trials. This marked the shortest construction time from keel laying to initial sea trials for any submarine built since the end of World War II.

On 9 April 1960, USS PATRICK HENRY was placed in commission, commanded by Commander Harold E. Shear (Blue Crew) and Commander Robert L. J. Long (Gold Crew). Immediately after commissioning, the ship proceeded to sea to conduct Preliminary Acceptance Trials. In August 1960, she transited to Cape Canaveral, Florida, for submerged firings of Polaris missiles on the Atlantic Missile Range. This included the first operational firings from a broad ocean area. After successful completion of this testing, USS PATRICK HENRY was ready to fulfill her design mission - to silently patrol the oceans of the world with the deterrent might of 16 Polaris missiles.

In December 1960, USS PATRICK HENRY departed from Groton, Connecticut, for *the first* of what would become *the most* strategic deterrent patrols for any submarine on record. When she arrived in Holy Loch, Scotland, after the first patrol, she had been submerged and completely isolated from the earth's atmosphere for a period of sixty-six days and twenty-two hours, setting a new record for continuous submergence under "sealed" conditions. PATRICK HENRY was the first Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine to enter the Holy Loch.

From 1961 to 1981, USS PATRICK HENRY completed fifty-nine strategic deterrent patrols, operating in both Atlantic and Pacific oceans, from Holy Loch, Scotland; Rota, Spain; and Guam, Marianas Islands, as a unit of Submarine Squadrons FOURTEEN, SIXTEEN, and FIFTEEN, respectively. She was overhauled and refueled three times, at Electric Boat, Groton, Connecticut; at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington; and at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California. During these overhauls her weapons system capabilities were upgraded to employ the A-3 Polaris missile and the MK 48 torpedo.

On 1 March 1968, USS PATRICK HENRY completed her 22nd patrol and the United States Fleet Ballistic Missile force's 500th. In 1969 on her 30th patrol, USS PATRICK HENRY passed the "quarter million" mark for miles of submerged operation. On 4 July 1976, USS PATRICK HENRY was the first U.S. ship to hoist the Bicentennial Jack at Guam, Marianas Islands.



USS PROTEUS (AS-19) LOADING A POLARIS MISSILE INTO THE
USS PATRICK HENRY (SSBN599) AT HOLY LOCH, SCOTLAND, 11 MARCH 1961



FAST ATTACK SUBMARINE

In October 1981 in Bangor, Washington, USS PATRICK HENRY off-loaded her missiles for the last time. Her mission and designation were changed to that of an SSN, an attack submarine. Operating first from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as a unit of Submarine Squadron ONE and then from Bangor, Washington, as a unit of Submarine Squadron SEVENTEEN, she continued to serve the nation's defense in the Mid-Pacific and Eastern Pacific for a full two years. USS PATRICK HENRY entered Puget Sound Naval Shipyard on 1 October 1983 for inactivation.

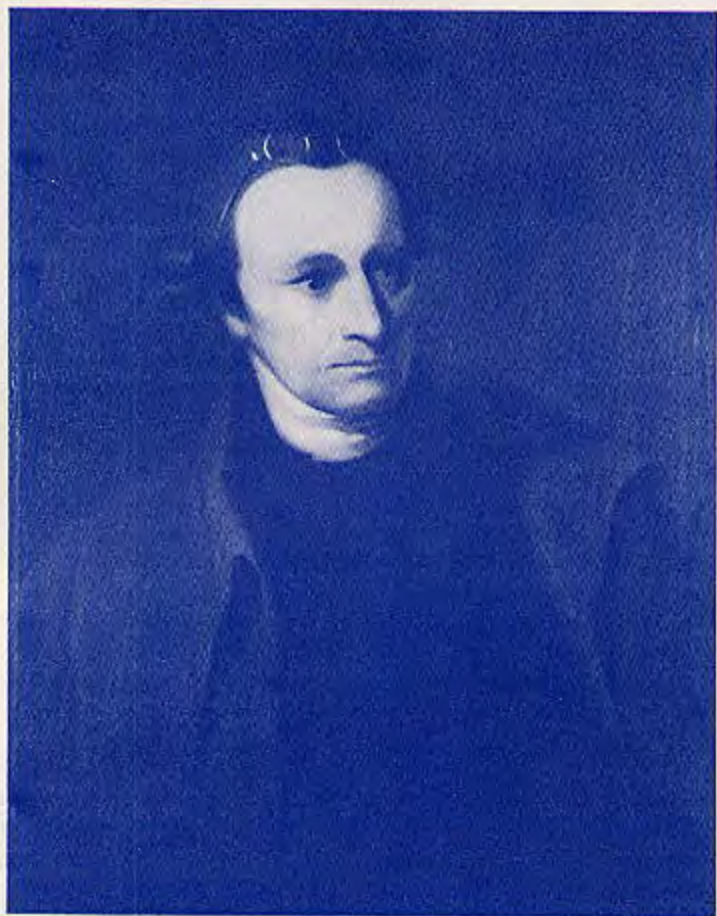
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Over her 24 years of service, USS PATRICK HENRY distinguished herself by earning the Battle Efficiency "E" for 1964, 1976, and 1981; the Engineering "E" for 1976, 1981, and 1983; the ASW "A" for 1975, 1976, and 1979; the Supply "E" for 1979, and the Communications "C" for 1983. She also earned the Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Fund Award in 1976 and earned Silver Anchor Awards for retention in 1976, 1980, and 1983. She logged 531,230 miles while operating submerged, equal to over 21.3 times around the world. Her 59 strategic deterrent patrols, representing more than 11 years submerged and undetected, stand as the record for all navies of all nations.

The patriot Patrick Henry gave much to win freedom and peace for his country; the ship PATRICK HENRY and her crews have given much to preserve that freedom and peace.

PATRICK HENRY (1736-1799)

Distinguished Statesman and Orator at the time of the
Revolutionary War

A handwritten signature of Patrick Henry in cursive script. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

*"I know not what course others may take, but as for me,
give me liberty or give me death"*

Patrick Henry - 1775

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

BAND SELECTIONS



OFFICIAL PARTY ARRIVES



INVOCATION

Lieutenant Commander J.E. Dowers, CHC, USN



REMARKS

Commodore R.F. Bacon, USN



REMARKS and READING of DECOMMISSIONING ORDER

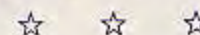
Commander R.E. Fast, USN
Commanding Officer



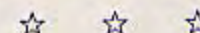
HAULING DOWN of the COLORS and COMMISSIONING PENNANT



SECURING THE WATCH and TRANSFER OF CUSTODY



BENEDICTION



CREW PARADES OFF



**COMMANDER RICHARD E. FAST
UNITED STATES NAVY**

COMMANDER RICHARD E. FAST, U.S. NAVY

Commander Richard E. Fast graduated from Auburn University in 1964. Upon completion of Officer Candidate School and commissioning as an ensign, Commander Fast attended eighteen months of Submarine and Nuclear Propulsion Program Training. He then served in USS SCULPIN (SSN 590), USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571), and USS TUNNY (SSN 682). Commander Fast was the Executive Officer of USS JAMES K. POLK (SSBN 645) (Gold) and Commanding Officer of USS THOMAS A. EDISON (SSN 610). Commander Fast also completed tours on the staffs of the Nuclear Propulsion Training Unit, Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Commander Submarine Force Pacific, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Commander Fast is authorized to wear the Meritorious Service Medal with two Gold Stars, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal and National Defense Medal.

Commander Fast is married to the former Alice Rebecca Alverson of Hope Hull, Alabama. They have two children, Julie and Ed.

Commander Fast's next duty will be: Force Operations Officer, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.



COMMODORE ROGER F. BACON
UNITED STATES NAVY

COMMODORE ROGER F. BACON, UNITED STATES NAVY

Commodore Roger F. Bacon was raised in the Bremerton, Washington area, graduating from Bremerton High School in 1955. He attended the United States Naval Academy, graduating with distinction in June 1959. He was selected for promotion to Flag rank in January 1983.

Commodore Bacon served in USS ISHERWOOD (DD 520), his first sea tour, until 1960. Following Submarine School and Nuclear Prototype training at Idaho Falls, he reported to USS HALIBUT (SSGN 587) in 1961. While on board HALIBUT, Commodore BACON participated in five REGULUS missile deterrent patrols. His next assignment was in USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN 642) (Gold) as Engineer Officer during construction, shakedown and two POLARIS patrols. In 1969, Commodore BACON received a Master's Degree in Computer Science from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California. During the period 1969 to 1972, he served as Executive Officer of USS HALIBUT (SSN 587). Commodore BACON commanded USS FLASHER (SSN 613) from August 1972 to January 1975. Under his command, USS FLASHER completed two deployments to the Western Pacific and was awarded the Battle Efficiency "E". Commodore BACON conducted three POLARIS patrols as Commanding Officer, USS PATRICK HENRY (SSBN 599) (GOLD) during the period February 1975 to May 1976. PATRICK HENRY was awarded the Battle Efficiency "E" and the MARJORIE STERRETT Battleship Fund Award during this period. Commodore BACON served as the Tactical Training Officer and Prospective Commanding Officer Instructor on COMSUBPAC Staff, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii from May 1976 to January 1979.

During the next two years, Commodore BACON served as Commanding Officer, USS HUNLEY (AS-31), the forward deployed submarine tender at the Fleet Ballistic Missile Site III, Apra Harbor, Guam. For service to fast attack and Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines during sixty-four refits, USS HUNLEY was awarded the Battle Efficiency "E", CINCPACFLT Golden Anchor Award, the SECNAV Energy Conservation Award and Meritorious Unit Commendation during his tour.

Commodore BACON was next assigned as Commander Submarine Squadron ONE from August 1980 to May 1982 in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. During this period 16 fast attack and Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines were assigned. Commodore BACON served as the Chief of Staff to Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet during 1982 and 1983. He is presently assigned as Director, Strategic and Theater Nuclear Warfare Division (OP-65) OPNAV.

Commodore BACON is married to the former Joan D. Darby of Walnut Creek, California. They have two children, Roger and Jennifer.

USS PATRICK HENRY (SSBN599) COMMANDING OFFICERS

BLUE CREW COMMANDING OFFICERS

Commander H. E. SHEAR, USN April 1960 - July 1962
Commander F. D. McMULLEN, Jr., USN July 1962 - September 1964
Commander R. H. BLOUNT, USN September 1964 - November 1967
Commander J. R. LEWIS, USN November 1967 - July 1969
Commander R. Z. TEST, USN July 1969 - March 1973
Commander R. M. CHANSLOR, USN March 1973 - May 1976
Commander D. R. FERRIER, USN May 1976 - September 1978
Commander E. D. HUX, USN September 1978 - July 1980
Commander C.T. WEAVER, USN July 1980 - May 1981

GOLD CREW COMMANDING OFFICERS

Commander R. L. J. LONG, USN April 1960 - August 1963
Captain S. D. CRAMER, Jr., USN August 1963 - December 1964
Commander S. G. MAYFIELD, USN December 1964 - August 1966
Commander W. S. COLE, USN August 1966 - September 1966
Commander G. A. BARUNAS, Jr., USN September 1966 - October 1970
Commander R. Z. TEST, USN October 1970 - November 1971
Commander C. F. HARNER, Jr., USN November 1971 - February 1975
Commander R. F. BACON, USN February 1975 - May 1976
Commander D. R. FERRIER, USN May 1976 - March 1978
Commander J. E. GRISE, USN March 1978 - January 1980
Commander E. G. KREINIK, USN January 1980 - October 1981



USS PATRICK HENRY (SSN599) COMMANDING OFFICERS

Commander E. G. KREINIK, USN October 1981 - January 1983
Captain L. J. KRAMER, USN January 1983 - September 1983
Commander R. E. FAST, USN September 1983 - May 1984



"Only they deserve liberty who are willing to defend it and die for it"
Patrick Henry - 1775



INVENTOR HOLLAND

In 1900, the United States Navy acquired the USS HOLLAND, its first submarine. Today, 84 years later, the history of the submarine service is marked with valor and distinction. USS PATRICK HENRY has served with pride for 24 of those 84 years.

DECOMMISSIONING CREW

Commanding Officer - Commander Richard E. FAST
Executive Officer - Commander Gary A. GRADISNIK
Chief of the Boat - STSCS(SS) Dennis S. BRYANT

LCDR William G. BEAUDOIN
LT David M. EPSTEIN
LT John D. HERRING
LT Joel R. MARTINSON
LT Robert E. SHAW
LT Roger D. THORNTON

LT Donald S. GRUMP
LT Douglas W. HASE
LT Gary E. KELLY
LT Anthony B. RAIMONDO
LCDR James L. SHELOR

LT Mark F. DARROW
LT Arthur HUNDIAK
LT Todd H. LESSER
LT Christopher A. REDFORD
LT Joseph E. SKINNER

ETC(SS) James R. ALLEN
ETC(SS) Jimmie P. FOUNTAIN
ETC(SS) Donald D. JOHNSON
ICC(SS) James C. MCCLENATHAN
MMC(SS) Max. C. OLARTE
QMC(SS) James R. SCOTT

STSC(SS) William H. COTTRELL
SKC(SS) William L. FRANKLIN
MMC(SS) David L. KENWORTHY
RMC(SS) Stephen J. MCKEE
MMC(SS) Ed Marshall PUTNAM III

ETC(SS) Gary C. FLESHER
MMC(SS) Christopher P. GAHAN
MMC(SS) Dana M. MARCUS
FTGC(SS) Armando MEDINA Jr.
YNCS(SS) Donald D. SCOTT

RM1(SS) Charles A. ANDERSON
IC3(SS) David R. BOND
MM1(SS) Mark R. BUTCHER
MM2(SS) Paul J. CLARK
MS1(SS) Eric L. CRANDALL
ET2(SS) Scott C. DAY
MM2(SS) Stephen A. DONOHO
MMFN(SS) Michael P. EMMONS
MSSN(SS) Steven G. FRANCE
MS3(SS) Edward T. GENTRY
ET2(SS) Gary I. GOTT
QMSN(SS) Douglas HARRISON
MT2(SS) David C. HILL
MM2(SS) David A. HORNBUCKLE
MMFN(SS) Paul L. HUTSCHENREUTER
ET3(SS) Kenneth O. KAILEY
ET2(SS) George A. KIMBALL Jr.
MMFA(SS) Michael A. KREGER
MM1(SS) David A. LANDAHL
ET2(SS) Donald A. LUX
STS1(SS) Christopher E. MAJUSIAK
SN(SU) Per A. MOLVIK
MM2(SS) Mark A. NOWAKOWSKI
MM1(SS) Gordon J. PADGETT
FTG2(SS) Charles E. RUSS Jr.
RM2(SS) Lacey J. SHOWELL
ET2(SS) James P. SMITH
MM2(SS) William A. SPEAR
MM2(SU) Bert STAMMERJOHAN
STS2(SS) David L. TAYLOR
ET3(SS) James L. VINCENT
STS2(SS) William P. WEAVER
SK2(SS) McCurtis WINSTON

STS2(SS) Roy B. BAIN
EM2(SS) Robert J. BREITER Jr.
RMSN(SS) Michael A. CEGELSKI
MM1(SS) Philip K. CLARK
EM2(SS) Robert L. DARRIGO
EM1(SS) Timothy D. DENNIS
MM1(SS) Peter T. DORAN
ET3(SS) David V. FLEHARTY
MS3(SS) Joel C. FRANKLIN
ET2(SS) Kelly G. GEORGE
EM2(SS) Ned J. HAND
SN(SS) James A. HART
HM1(SS) Thomas E. HOBBS
ET2(SS) James L. HOWARD
YN2(SS) Jeffrey J. JIMMO
ET2(SS) David A. KETCHLEDGE
MM2(SS) Scott B. KLINGLER
SK3(SS) Barry R. KUMRO
MS3(SS) Robert W. LASTAIR
EM1(SS) John C. MACKAY
FTG1(SS) Stephen M. MAJUSIAK
ET2(SS) Joshua M. MORRISON
ET2(SS) Charles M. O'DONNELL III
FTG2(SS) Carlis W. PATRICK
MM2(SS) Gregory E. SANSOM
ET1(SS) Michael A. SKIBA
YN3(SS) Thomas R. SMITH III
IC2(SS) Gregory H. SPRINKLE
TM2(SS) James J. SWANSON
FA(SU) Gary L. TESBERG
ET2(SS) Ferdinand VONBEHREN IV
EM1(SS) John W. WILKINS, Jr.
ET2(SS) Paul D. WIRTZ

MS2(SS) Paul O. BIEDERMANN
MM2(SS) Tommy B. BURGESS
FTG2(SS) David R. CHADWICK
MM2(SS) Todd E. COOPER
MM2(SS) John R. DAVIS Jr.
EM1(SS) Lars J. DIAS
RM2(SS) Charles R. EDMONSON Jr.
EM3(SS) Charles R. FOOTIT
MM1(SS) Michael A. GALLEGOS
MM3(SU) Samuel P. GLASS
ET2(SS) William L. HARRIS
STS2(SS) William R. HERANDY IV
TM2(SS) Paul A. HODELL
EM2(SS) Mark E. HUNSTMAN
IC2(SS) Joel M. JOHNSON
ET2(SS) Thomas E. KIESSLING
ET2(SS) James C. KOTSON
RM2(SS) William R. KUZELKA
QM3(SU) John E. LOPES Jr.
MM1(SS) Patrick E. MACLEAN
MM1(SS) Peter M. MACNAMARA
YNSN(SS) Kenneth W. MOSES
ET1(SS) Scott C. OIEN
MM2(SS) Michael S. PLAFKER
STS3(SS) Mark A. SHIMONEK
ET1(SS) Robert W. SLANE
EM2(SS) Gene W. SPARKS Jr.
MM2(SS) Esel R. STAFFORD
EM2(SU) David E. TAIT
MM1(SS) Gregory M. THORALDSON
IC2(SS) Hebert G. WAGNER Jr.
MM2(SS) Robert L. WILSON
ET2(SS) Mark J. WORDEN

"TREASON! TREASON! If this be treason make the most of it! - Patrick Henry
(1765, after denouncing the Stamp Act.)



*"The men who have fought and who are still fighting our battles on the sea...
no man can stand in the presence of these young men on the eve of battle
without a deep humility...."*

James Forrestal



A Submariner's Prayer

'Eternal God, whose creative hand turned primeval seas into oceans wide, and whose omnipresent love can be as keenly felt beneath as above their undulating surfaces,

'Descend with us now into the silent depths as our Unfailing Guide.

'We men of the silent service are grateful to be among the few ever to thrill with the excitement of a dive, and the sheer ecstasy of each surfacing. May we never look upon these maneuvers as mere routine, for each is an experience fresh with challenge and no little danger. May we be ever alert to our individual duties, realizing that so much depends on our doing our duty without error.

May we remember the new member of our crew, who is to make his first descent, and breathe a prayer that he shall become a good submariner.

May we, who know what it is to follow a course, also know Him who said, "I am the Way."

May we, who gulp in hastily the first few breaths of fresh air as it rushes down the hatchway, following every dive, know also Thy Refreshing Spirit.

May we, who know the necessity for companionship, feel our partnership with Thee.

When the hatches are dogged, and we are rigged for diving, and all else of the surface-world has been closed out, may we feel Thee in every compartment, as near to us as throbbing engines, pinging sonar, and the hissing of compressed air.

And when as aging submariners, our souls have descended into the depths of eternity, may Thy final call to us be, "Surface, Surface, Surface!"

In the name of Him, who rides as the Unseen Crewman in every ship at sea. Amen.

Reverend Earl S. Christofferson



DECOMMISSIONING OF A NAVY SHIP

The decommissioning ceremony marks the retirement of a ship as a unit of the operating forces of the United States Navy. On 9 April 1960, when the order to commission this ship was given, a commissioning pennant was first hoisted on the sail. A pennant has flown there through 24 years of proud service. Today, when the commissioning pennant is hauled down for the final time, USS PATRICK HENRY (SSN599) will no longer be the responsibility of her commanding officer. Until this moment, he, along with the ship's officers and men, had the responsibility of making and keeping her constantly ready for any service demanded by our country in peace or war.

The commissioning pennant is said to date from the 17th century, stemming from an incident between the warring Dutch and English navies. In one particular engagement, Maarten Harpertzoon Tromp, the Dutch Admiral, hoisted a broom at his masthead to indicate his intention to sweep the English from the sea. The English Admiral then hoisted a horsewhip, indicating his intention to chastise the insolent Dutchman. Ever since that time, the narrow "coachwhip" pennant, symbolizing the original horsewhip, has been the distinctive mark of a man-of-war. This tradition of so designating ships of war has been adopted by all nations.

The modern United States Navy commissioning pennant is blue at the hoist with a horizontal red and white stripe at the fly and varies in length with the size of the ship. At one time, there were thirteen white stars in the blue field representing the original states but in 1933, seven white stars became standard. It is a naval custom that when the commissioning pennant is hauled down for the last time, it be presented to the commanding officer.