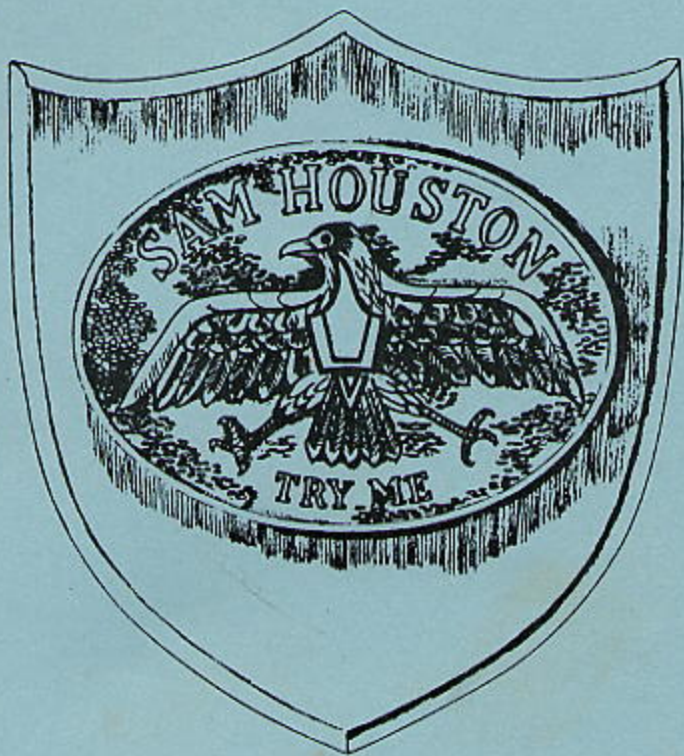


# WELCOME ABOARD



## USS SAM HOUSTON

### SSBN 609

# WELCOME ABOARD

On behalf of the Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, the officers and crew of the USS SAM HOUSTON (SSBN-609) take great pleasure in extending a warm "Welcome"! We hope that your visit will be enjoyable and prove to be of great interest.

## USS SAM HOUSTON (SSBN-609)

USS SAM HOUSTON was the third nuclear powered submarine and the first 608 class SSBN to be built at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company. The keel for this revolutionary weapons systems was laid on 28 December 1959. On 2 February 1961, the ship was christened "SAM HOUSTON" by Mrs. John B. Connally, wife of the then Secretary of the Navy. The launching followed an address by the late Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN, in which he remarked, . . . "The recent development of nuclear propulsion has probably done more for the submarine than for any other type of vessel and when equipped with the POLARIS missile system, the submarine becomes one of the deadliest weapons in our arsenal." The ship slid down the ways as the nation's seventh POLARIS submarine.

Upon completion of sea trials, SAM HOUSTON was commissioned on 6 March 1962. Thereafter she departed on initial shakedown cruise, fired her first missiles and subsequently departed on her first patrol in October 1962.

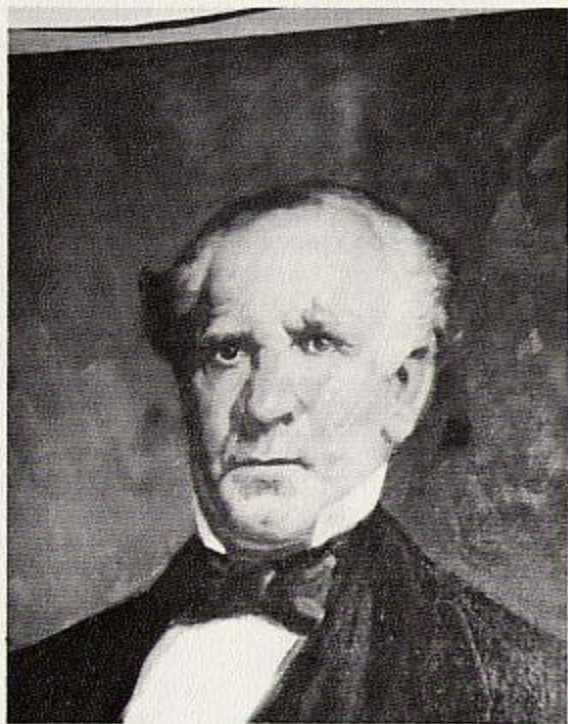
The third patrol provided two historic "First" in FBM submarine history. SAM HOUSTON was the initial FBM submarine to deploy to the Mediterranean and join the NATO Forces there, and also the first POLARIS submarine to make a port-of-call during a patrol, when she made a short operational visit to Izmir, Turkey.

SAM HOUSTON was overhauled after her seventeenth POLARIS deterrent patrol. Following overhaul SAM HOUSTON operated out of HOLY LOCH, SCOTLAND until the summer of 1970 at which time she shifted to the advanced site at Rota, Spain. The Secretary of the Navy awarded SAM HOUSTON the Meritorious Unit Commendation for performance during a mission conducted in the Fall of 1969.

After her 36th POLARIS patrol, SAM HOUSTON completed her second overhaul at Charleston Naval Shipyard. This overhaul included refueling of the nuclear reactor, converting the weapons systems for the A-3 missile and the capability to fire the most modern torpedoes available in the fleet today.

To date, SAM HOUSTON has more than six years submerged in the service of her country.





## PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF THE COMMISSIONING OF USS SAM HOUSTON

We, the people of the City of Houston, express our pride and gratitude to the United States Navy upon the occasion of the Commissioning of the Nuclear Submarine named in honor of the greatest Hero and First President of Texas, General SAM HOUSTON. We join with all Texans and, indeed, with all citizens of the United States of Aemica, in wishing godspeed and safe journeys in the years to come, and fervently trust that the presence of this great ship on and beneath the seas of the world, while prepared to defend this nation against all enemies, shall rather be an instrument for the preservation of Peace, and a constant deterrent to War.

May the USS SAM HOUSTON faithfully serve those who faithfully serve our beloved Nation.

# Sam Houston

1793-1863

**A** NATIVE OF VIRGINIA, GENERAL SAM HOUSTON was born in 1793 at Timber Ridge Church, just east of Lexington. His romantic career reads like fiction.

HOUSTON's formal education was very limited. His forceful personality and dynamic leadership were moulded by his colorful and turbulent frontier experiences and his years of life with the Cherokee Indians, who made him a Chief. For his exploits as general and statesman, his adopted State of Texas gave his name to what has become her largest city.

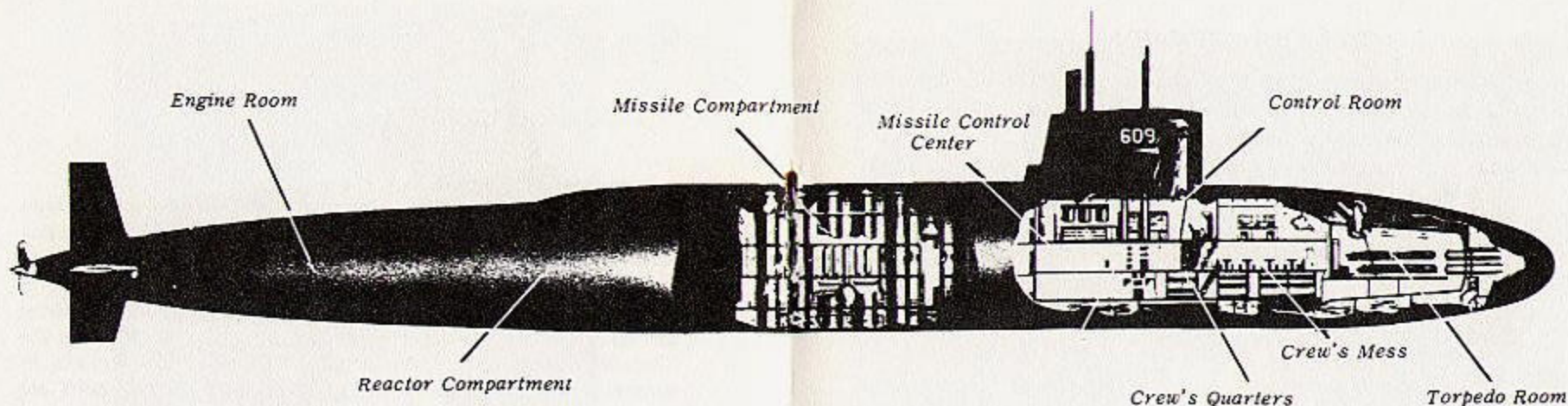
A private in the War of 1812, HOUSTON studied law and entered politics in Tennessee, where he became successively District Attorney of Nashville, United States Congressman, and Governor. Throwing himself into the thick of the revolution of the Texas territory from Mexico, he distinguished himself on the battlefield and subsequently became President of the Republic of Texas (1836-1841), U.S. Senator from Texas (1846-1859), and Governor of the State (1859).

The distinguished warrior and statesman died on June 26, 1863.

Texas won its independence and HOUSTON his place in military history at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. Leading his 910 Americans against General Santa Anna's forces of 1200, General HOUSTON routed the Mexicans in only 18 minutes, killing over half of them and taking the rest prisoner with the loss of only nine of his own men. This decisive battle led to the annexation of Texas and the end of the Mexican War, resulting in acquisition not only of Texas, but the whole Southwest, nearly one-third of the present area of the United States. The site near Houston is marked by a 460-acre state park.

General HOUSTON credited his courage to his Irish mother. She is said to have sent him forth to war in the manner of Romans, with the words, "Son, take this musket and never disgrace it; remember, I had rather all my sons should fill one honorable grave than that one of them should turn his back to save his life."





*USS SAM HOUSTON (SSBN-609)*

*Keel Laid: 28 December 1959*

*Launched: 2 February 1961*

*Commissioned: 6 March 1962*

*Length: 410 feet*

*Beam: 33 feet*

*Submerged Displacement: 7,874 tons*

*Number of Missile Tubes: 16*

*Maximum Depth: In excess of 400 feet*

*Maximum Speed: In excess of 20 Knots*

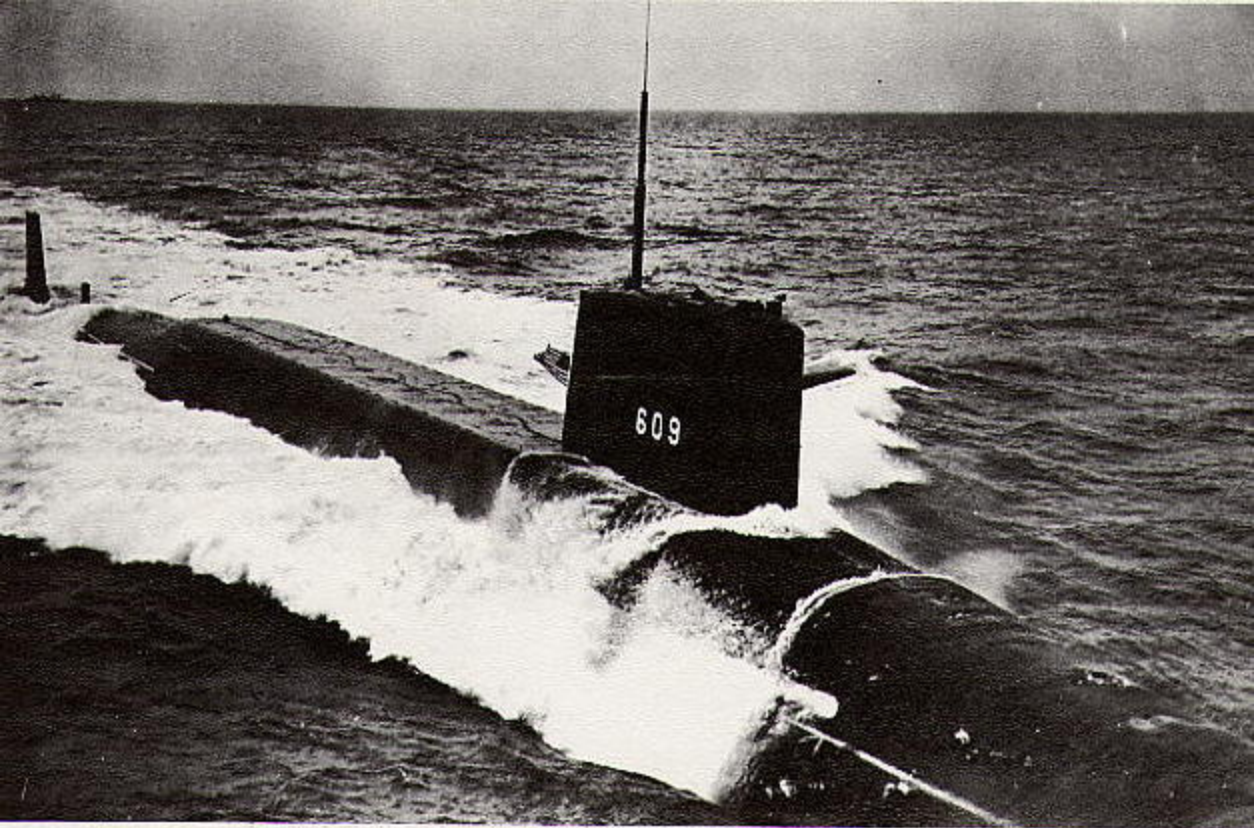
*Ship's Complement: 136*

The SAM HOUSTON is divided into six water-tight compartments. The forward-most compartment, the Torpedo Room, houses the torpedoes and torpedo tubes which provide the ship with a highly effective attack and self-defense capability. The Operations Compartment contains, on the upper level, the stations for ship control, navigation, and torpedo fire control. On the middle level are located the officers' and chief petty officers' living quarters and the crew's dining and recreation area. The crew's living area and missile fire control equipment occupy the lower level. Aft of the Operations Compartment is the ship's largest section, the Missile Compartment. The Missile Compartment houses the sixteen missile tubes with their associated systems. The three aftermost compartments contain the engineering plant which provides the ship's propulsion, electricity, and other necessary services using energy from the nuclear reactor.

## THE FBM SUBMARINE

When the pioneer nuclear submarine NAUTILUS entered Gleet Service in 1955, the dream of uniting nuclear power with the submarine became a reality. The marriage of the nuclear submarine and the ballistic missile has been one of the most significant developments in the free world's defense structure. Nuclear Submarines capable of launching the Polaris Missile while submerged have been patrolling the world's oceans since 1960. SAM HOUSTON is one of these submarines.





*OUT ON SEA TRIALS*





SAM HOUSTON LAUNCHES POLARIS

# POLARIS....

## ....Sea Power For Peace

The POLARIS missile is a two-stage solid propellant missile designed to be launched from surface or submerged submarines.

The solid propellant system and electronic fire control system permit missiles to be launched rapidly and on short notice. Ejected from its launch tube by air, the missile is forcefully propelled above the surface of the water where the motor ignites. The missile continues on its own until thrust is terminated by a signal from the guidance system at the correct speed and the correct point in space. The re-entry body continues along the pre-planned trajectory to the target. The maximum range of the A3 POLARIS Missile carried on SAM HOUSTON is 2500 nautical miles.



# WELCOME ABOARD

SSN-609  
USS SAM HOUSTON



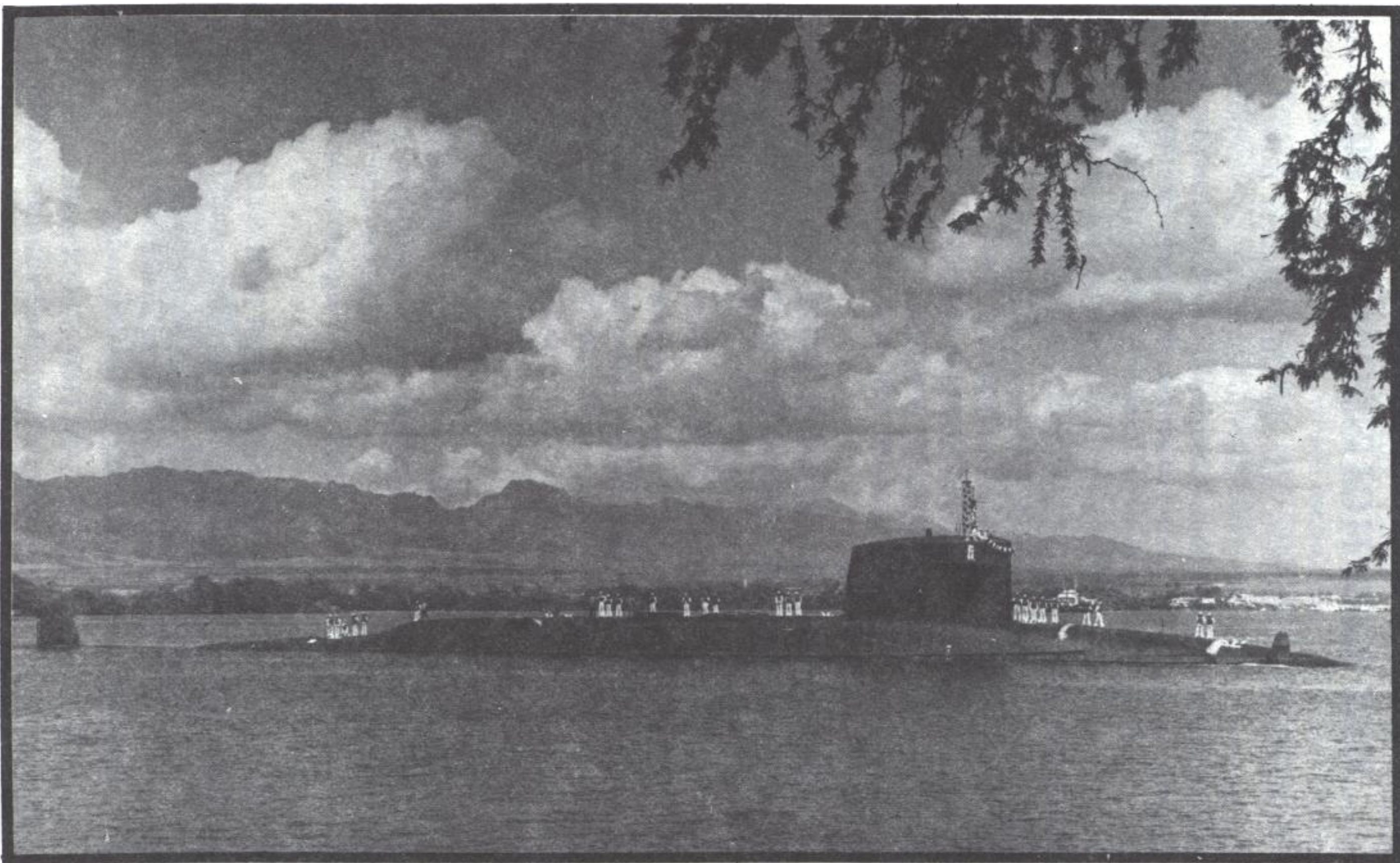


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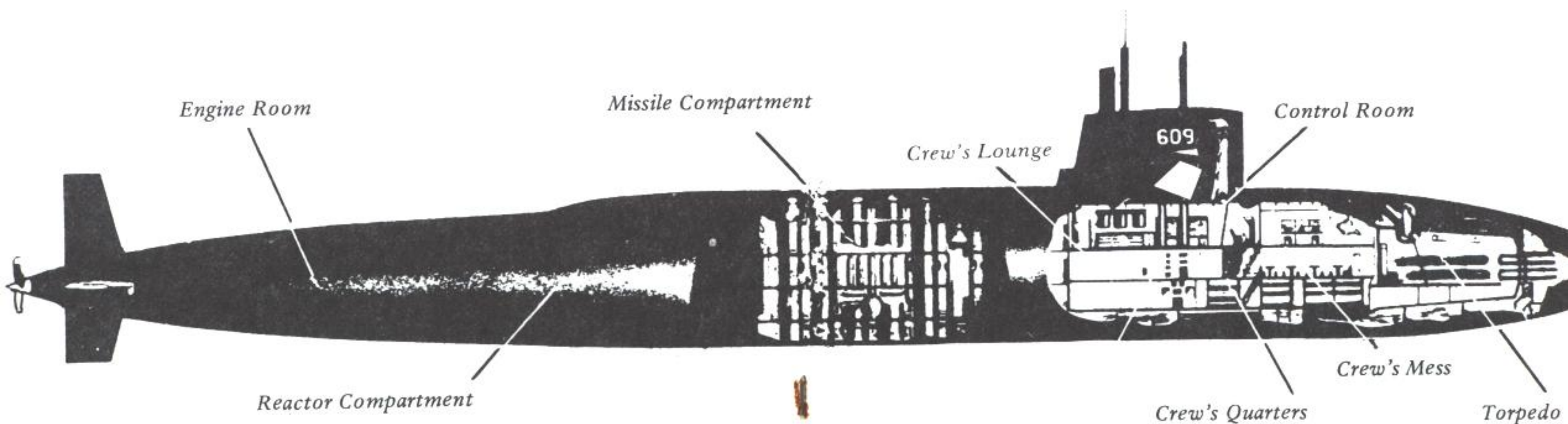
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Launched: 2 February 1961

Commissioned: 6 March 1962

Number of Missile Tubes: 16

Length: 410 feet

Beam: 33 feet

Submerged Displacement: 7,874 tons

Maximum Depth: In excess of 400 feet

Maximum Speed: In excess of 20 Knots

Ship's Complement: 145

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# SAM HOUSTON (1793-1863)

Born a native of Virginia at Timber Ridge Church, Sam Houston would later be claimed as a son of both Tennessee and Texas.

General Houston's formal education was limited. After his father's early death, the family moved to Blount County, Tennessee, where he lived among the Cherokee. He became the adopted son of Chief Oo-loo-te-ka, and was given the name Co-lo-neh or "Raven."

Houston served with the Tennessee contingent under General Andy Jackson in the War of 1812. His exploits at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend caused Jackson to take an active interest in the young lieutenant.





With Jackson as his political mentor, Houston became successively: District Attorney for Nashville, United States Congressman, and Governor of Tennessee.

An arranged marriage that ended abruptly caused Houston to move on to Texas, where he lived with the now displaced Cherokee.

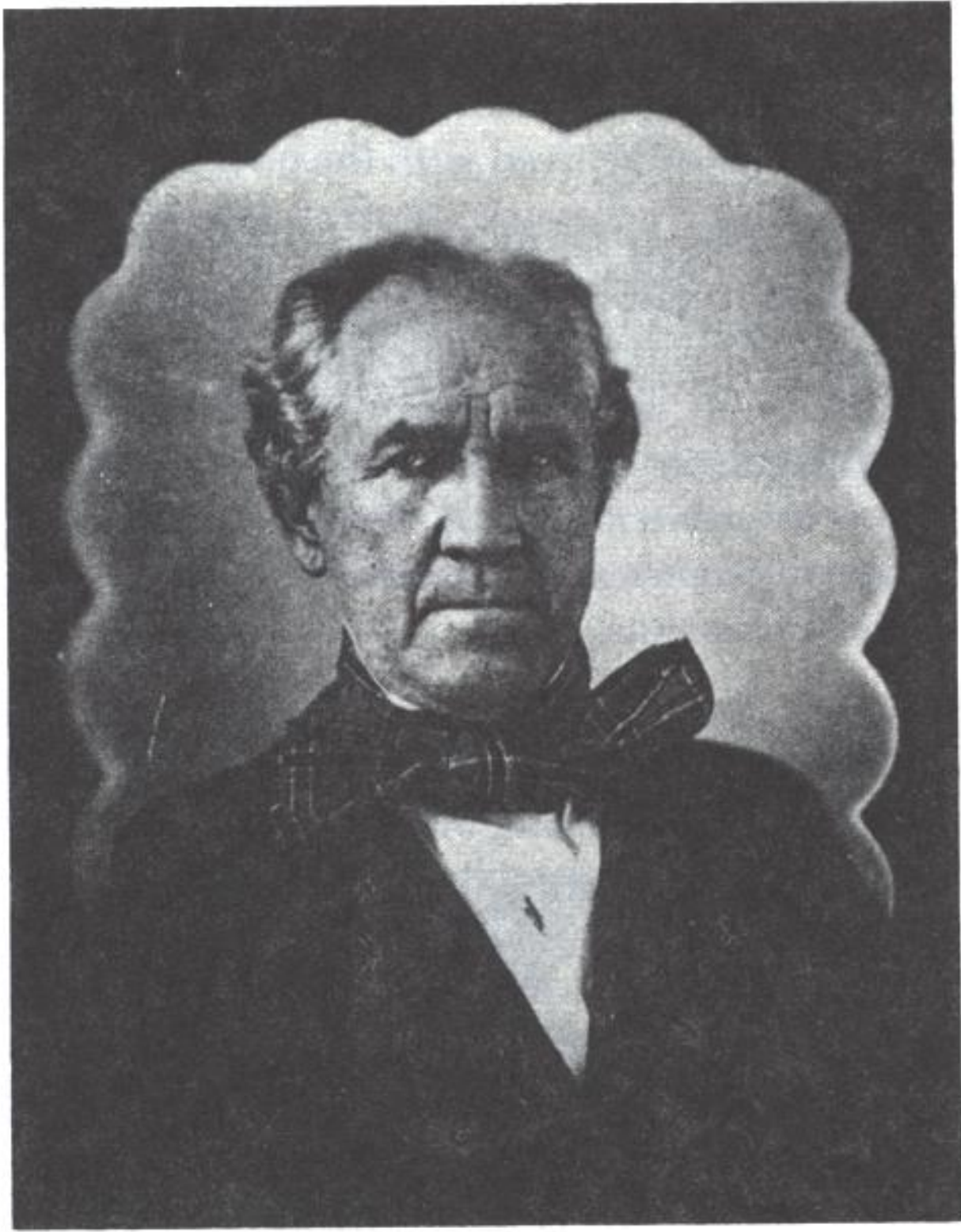
Santa Anna's abrogation of Mexico's federal constitution led Texans to arm and organize politically. As Santa Anna advanced into Texas, Sam Houston was appointed General of the Texas Army. His subsequent victory at Jan Jacinto against great odds, amid internal dissention, and with only nine casualties, led to two terms as the new Republic of Texas's President. Shrewd diplomatic overtures ensured American annexation while forestalling the eventual Mexican invasion.

Sam Houston then served in the United States Senate. He championed Indian rights, opposed the spread of slavery, and denounced secession — angering many of his constituents. Still, he successfully sought the Governorship in 1859. Lincoln's election set the forces of secession in motion. The 67-year-old governor implacably opposed the process, stating that the day of secession “will be written . . . in the blood of humanity . . .” Words were not enough. The Instrument of Secession was adopted, and all state officers were required to take an oath renouncing the Union. Houston refused.

He sat in the basement of the capitol, whittling. A clergyman watched him and heard the summons from the convention above, the call thrice repeated — Sam Houston! Sam Houston! Sam Houston! but the man sat silent, immovable, whittling steadily on.

General Houston departed from the capital and died three years later, surrounded by his family: a soldier, a statesman, devoted to the Union.





## **PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF THE COMMISSIONING OF USS SAM HOUSTON**

We, the people of the City of Houston, express our pride and gratitude to the United States Navy upon the occasion of the commissioning of the nuclear submarine named in honor of the greatest Hero and First President of Texas, General SAM HOUSTON. We join with all Texans and, indeed, with all citizens of the United States of America, in wishing godspeed and safe journeys in the years to come, and fervently trust that the presence of this great ship on and beneath the seas of the world, while prepared to defend this nation against all enemies, shall rather be an instrument for the preservation of Peace, and a constant deterrent to War.

May the USS SAM HOUSTON faithfully serve those who faithfully serve our beloved Nation.



# THE SUBMARINE . . .

## Sea Power for Peace

Since World War II the submarine has played a vital role in the defense of our nation. Our BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINES and ATTACK SUBMARINES are continually on the prowl ready to protect and defend the freedom our forefathers have nurtured.

Today's nuclear submarines are highly complex and sophisticated pieces of machinery. They are manned by dedicated crews of highly skilled technicians. These men of the 'Silent Service' serve proudly in the highest traditions of the United States Navy. The men of the USS SAM HOUSTON serve in that same proud tradition.

