

Launching
Saturday, June 15, 1968
USS SEAHORSE SSN669
Groton
Connecticut



sea horse — *the hippocampus, a small, semitropical fish with a slender tail, plated body, and a head and foreparts somewhat like those of a horse.*

Webster's New World Dictionary



SEAHORSE

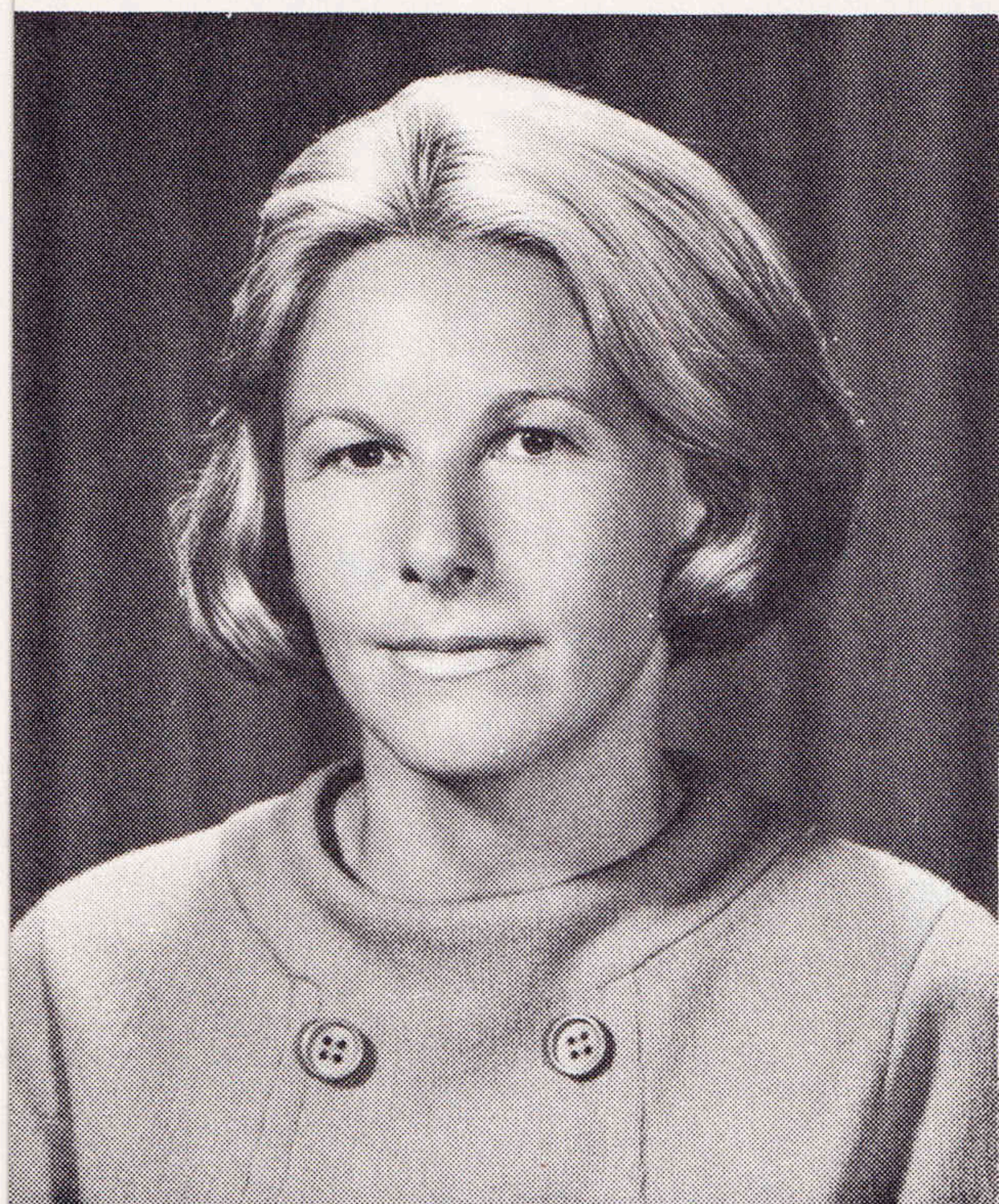
According to Navy historians the ship being launched today is the third to bear the name SEAHORSE.

The first was a one-gun schooner of unknown dimensions which figured significantly in the Battle of New Orleans, December 14, 1812. After joining in a delaying action which held up the British advance long enough for Andrew Jackson's reinforcements to arrive, the schooner was beached and burned to keep her out of enemy hands.

The second SEAHORSE (SS304), a submarine roughly half the displacement of today's ship, was launched by Mare Island Navy Yard, Vallejo, California in January 1943 and commissioned the following March. She proceeded to win nine battle stars and the Presidential Unit Citation for her exploits in the Pacific theater, sinking 20 enemy ships for an official total of 72,529 tons. She was decommissioned March 1946 and assigned to the Pacific Reserve fleet.

Today's SEAHORSE is the Navy's 47th nuclear attack submarine and the 15th to be launched by Electric Boat division. She is of the STURGEON class, with an overall length of 292 feet and submerged displacement of 4,600 tons. Her crew comprises 12 officers and 95 men.





Sponsor

MRS. PAUL R. IGNATIUS



Speaker

THE HONORABLE PAUL R. IGNATIUS

Secretary of the Navy



Prospective Commanding Officer

CDR. GEORGE T. HARPER, JR.



PROGRAM

- Noon The National Anthem
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD BAND
- 12:02 p.m. Invocation
LCDR. RICHARD C. HUNKINS (ChC), USN
- 12:03 p.m. Welcome
JOSEPH D. PIERCE
General Manager
Electric Boat division
General Dynamics
- 12:05 p.m. Remarks
ROGER LEWIS
President
General Dynamics
- 12:10 p.m. Address
THE HONORABLE PAUL R. IGNATIUS
Secretary of the Navy
- 12:25 p.m. Introduction of Sponsor
MR. LEWIS
- 12:28 p.m. Christening
MRS. PAUL R. IGNATIUS



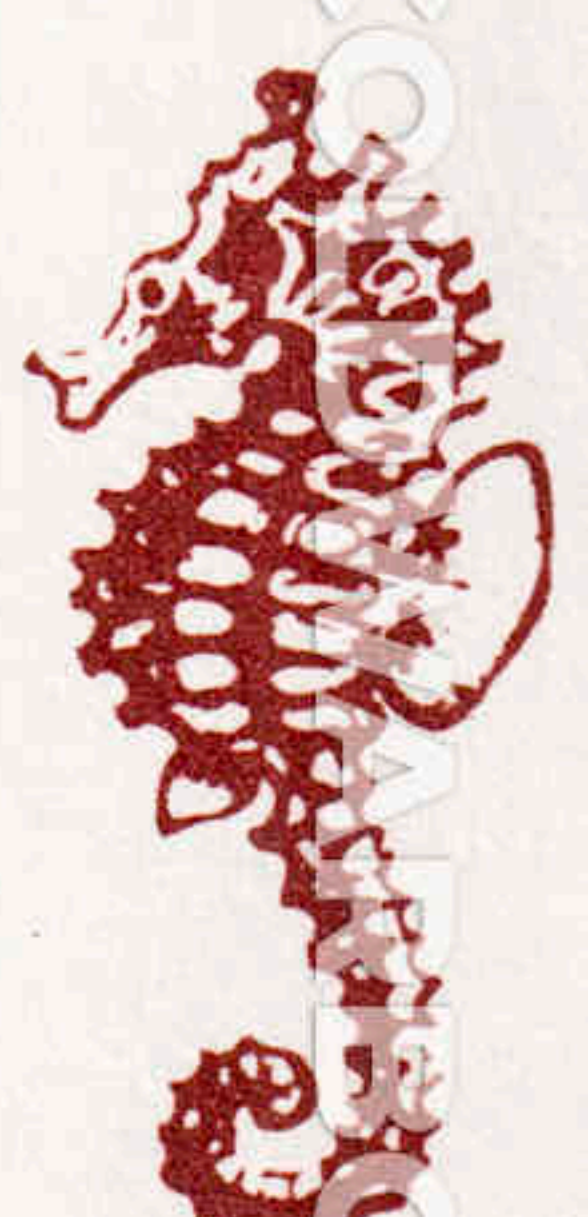


WHY CHRISTEN A SHIP?

Like people, ships bear names and have “personalities”, as they have from the earliest recorded times. Possibly mariners, venturing on a hostile element, the sea, preferred to trust their lives to a craft they could personify with a name; possibly rivalries between bands of sea rovers, and later between navies, caused ships to be named for rulers, heroes or patron deities, thereby honoring men, invoking gods or identifying allegiance. In any case the custom survives and shows no sign of diminishing.

As a child is given a name on being born, formed but untried, into the world where he will live, so a ship is named as she leaves the building ways where she took shape and enters her home, the sea. Names of both child and ship are confirmed by ceremonial christening.

To the Navy, a ship christening has deep significance. By this act the warship, destined to defend America, receives her name and begins to form the personality that will be hers alone. The hopes and dreams of all who built her, all who will sail in her, all who have served our nation at sea, begin to be hers. Her future no one knows, nor what challenges lie ahead of her, but we do know she will play an indispensable role in the struggle for freedom.



GENERAL DYNAMICS
Electric Boat Division