



COMMISSIONING
USS NARWHAL (SSN 671)

12 July 1969

USS NARWHAL (SSN671)

COMMISSIONING



Built by

GENERAL DYNAMICS

Electric Boat Division

Groton, Connecticut

KEEL LAID: *17 January 1966*

LAUNCHED: *9 September 1967*

COMMISSIONED: *12 July 1969*

Sponsored By

MRS. GLYNN R. DONAHO

Commissioning of a Navy Ship

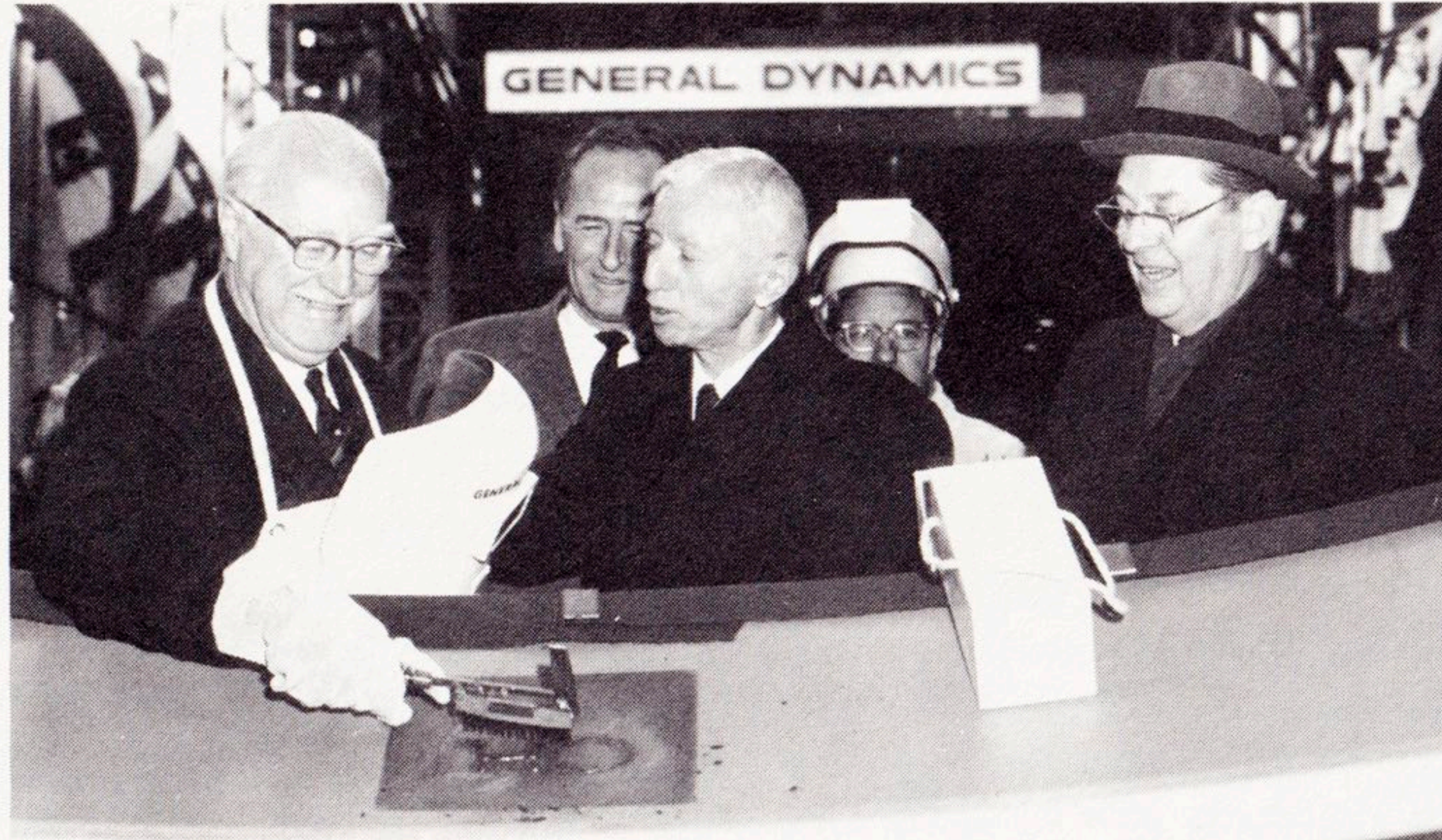


The commissioning ceremony marks the entry of a ship into the Operating Forces of the United States Navy. At the moment of breaking the commission pennant, USS NARWHAL (SSN671) becomes an active member of the Fleet. The Commanding Officer, together with the ship's officers and men, has the duty of making and keeping her ready for any service required by our nation in peace or war.



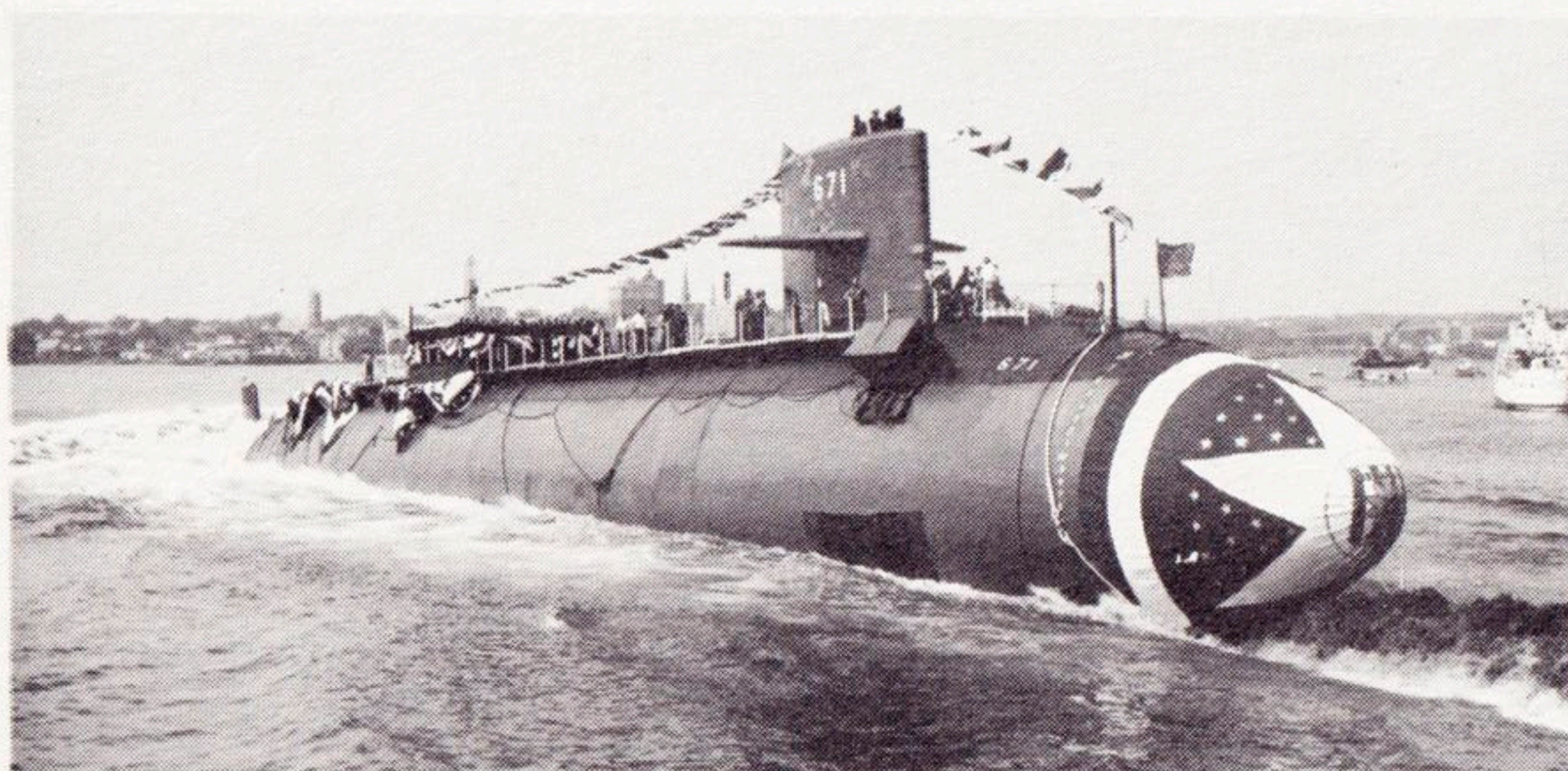
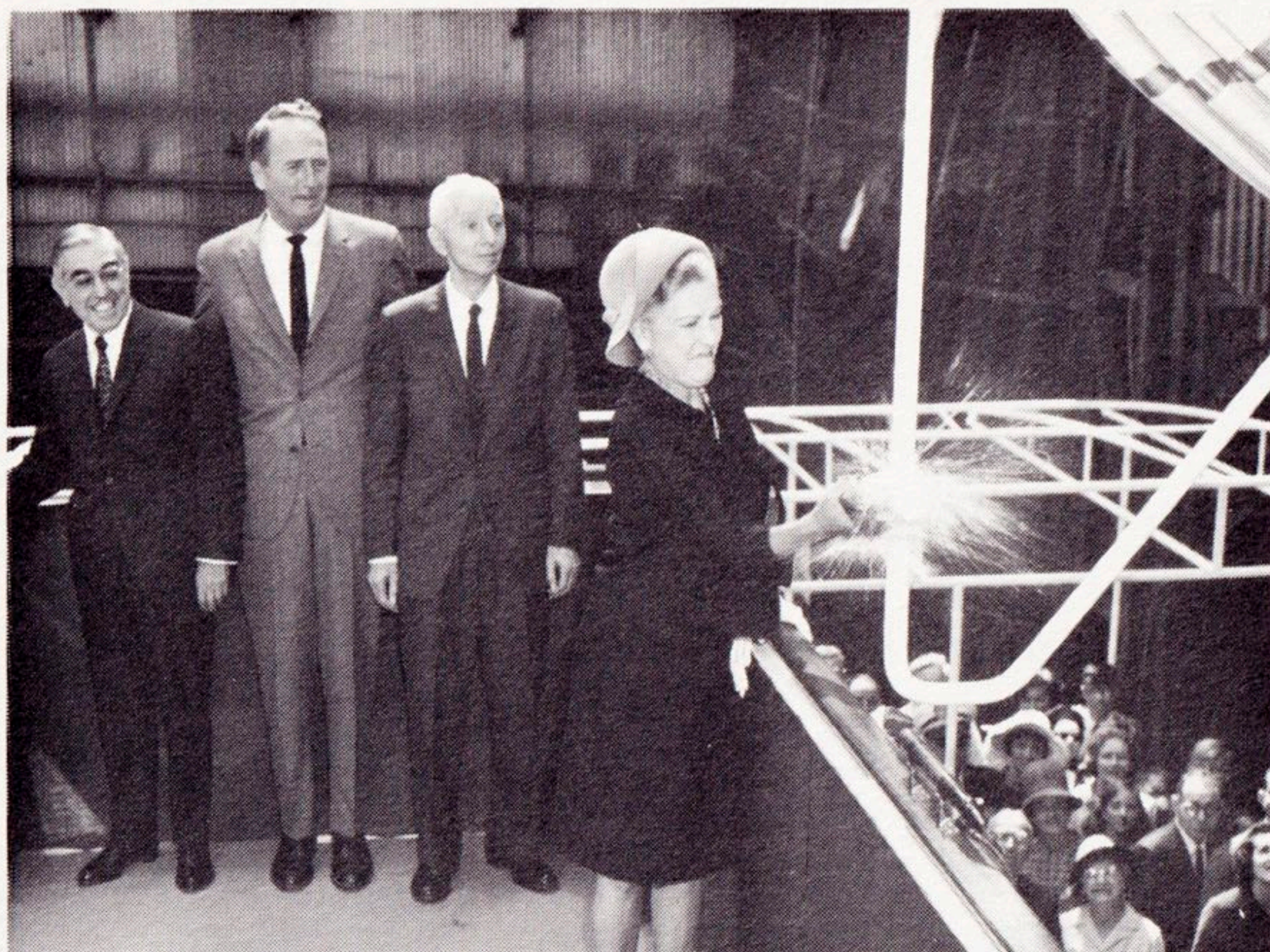
The commission pennant is believed to date from the 17th century. During the First Anglo-Dutch War the Dutch Admiral, Maarten Tromp, hoisted a broom at his masthead after his victory at Dungeness to signify his sweep of the English from the English Channel. This gesture was answered by the English admiral William Blake who hoisted a horse whip, indicating his intention to chastise the Dutch. The English were ultimately victorious and ever since, the narrow, or coach whip, pennant (symbolizing the original horse whip) has been adopted by many nations as the distinctive mark of a ship or war.

Keel Laying



On January 17, 1966, 11 years after Nautilus flashed the historic message "Underway on nuclear power," the keel for Narwhal was laid at the Electric Boat division of General Dynamics.

Congressman Chet Holifield of California, then Chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, initialed the keel plate of Narwhal and said "this submarine is designed to be technically superior in military effectiveness to all previous attack submarines." With Rep. Holifield are, from left, Roger Lewis, President of General Dynamics; Vice Adm. H. G. Rickover; Electric Boat welder Herman Doughrity who burned the congressman's initials on the keel; and J. William Jones, Jr., then President of Electric Boat division.



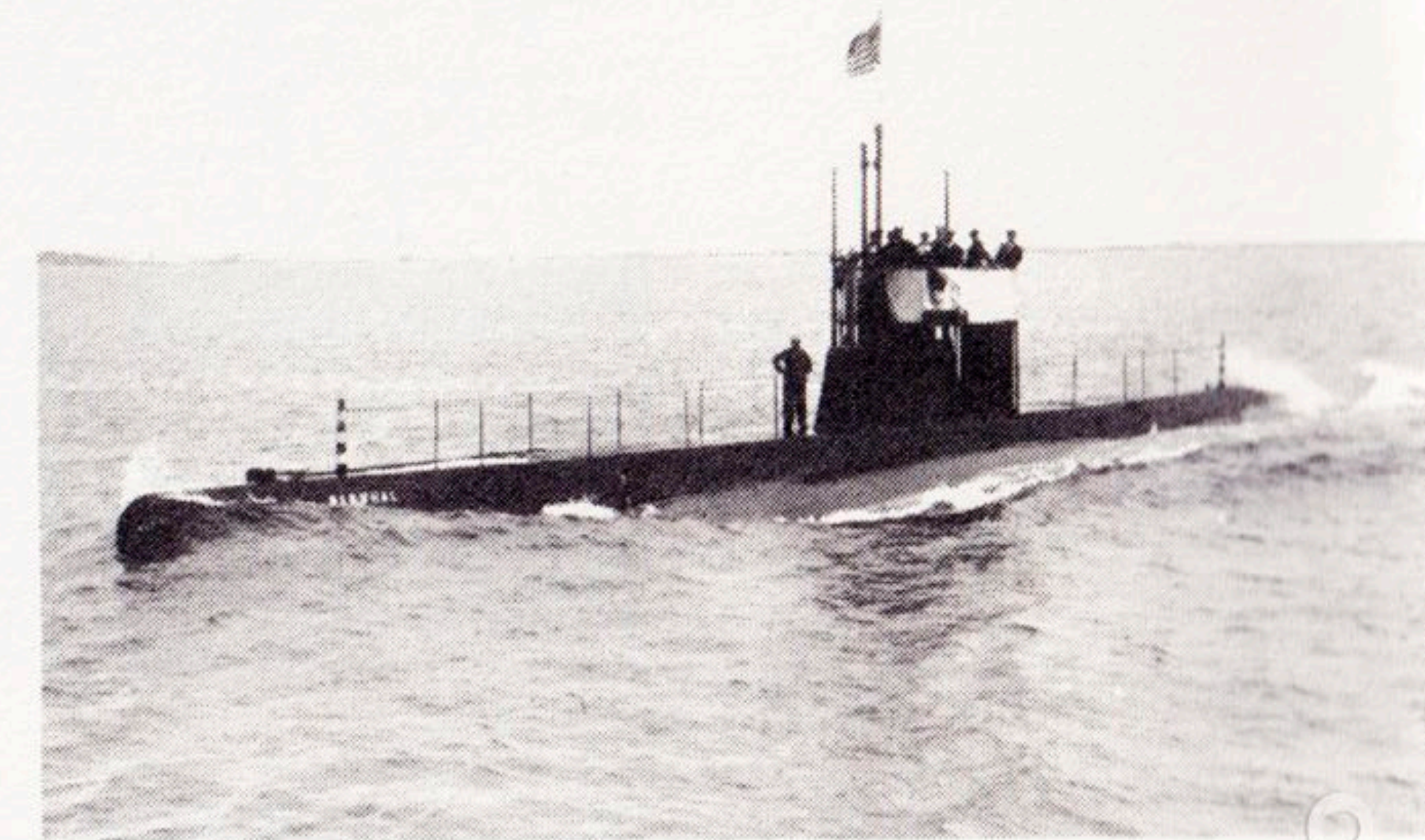
*Mrs. Glynn R. Donaho
christens the nuclear attack sub
Narwhal during launching
ceremonies September 9, 1967.
With Mrs. Donaho
on the christening platform are,
from left,
Senator John O. Pastore, of Rhode Island,
principal speaker at the launching;
Roger Lewis, president
of General Dynamics;
and Vice Adm. H. G. Rickover,
Director, Division of Naval Reactors,
Atomic Energy Commission,
and Deputy Commander
for Nuclear Propulsion,
Naval Ship Systems Command.*

USS Narwhal(SS17)

USS NARWHAL (SS-17) was built by the Fore River Shipbuilding Company, Quincy, Massachusetts. Her keel was laid on 16 April 1908; launched on 8 April 1908, under the sponsorship of Mrs. Gregory Caldwell Davidson, daughter of Rear Admiral Shepard, USN, and wife of the Vice-President of the Electric Boat Company. NARWHAL was commissioned 23 November 1909 with Lieutenant Julius Curtis Townsend, USN, commanding. She was renamed D-1, effective 17 November 1911.

NARWHAL joined the Atlantic Torpedo Fleet, based at Newport, Rhode Island. These pioneer submarines operated very actively in diving grounds in Cape Cod and Narragansett Bays; Long Island and Block Island Sounds and Chesapeake Bay; and off Norfolk, Virginia. Much time was spent on target ranges to prove torpedoes; in experimental operations as well as training cruises along the east coast. NARWHAL was one of the early submarine commands of that great American, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who took command of her at Annapolis, the afternoon of 18 November 1910. Then a Lieutenant, he remained in command of NARWHAL until 20 November 1911 when he departed to command the submarine SKIPJACK.

During World War I, SS-17 trained crews and classes of officers and served in experiments under jurisdiction of the Third Naval District. Though placed in commission in reserve 9 September 1919, she continued her work of training new submariners along with experimental and developmental work. She entered the Philadelphia Navy Yard 30 January 1922 and was decommissioned there 8 February 1922. Her hulk was sold for scrapping 5 June 1922.



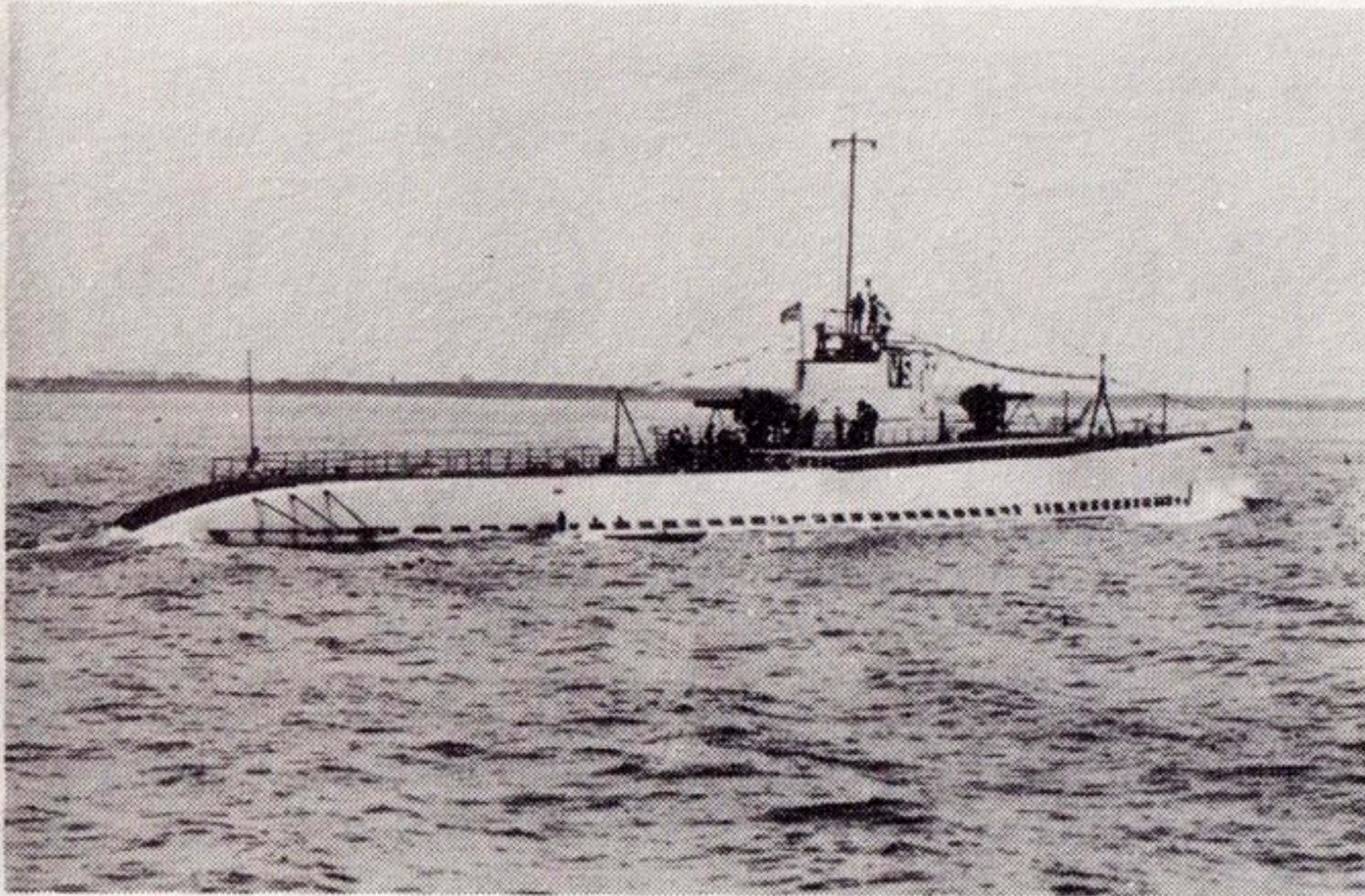
Length overall: *134 feet, 10 inches*
Extreme beam: *13 feet, 11 inches*
Normal displacement: *288 tons*
Mean draft: *11 feet, 8 inches*
Designed complement: *1 officer, 14 men*
Submerged displacement: *337 tons*
Designed depth: *200 feet*
Designed surface speed: *13 knots*
Designed submerged speed: *9.5 knots*
Armament: *four 18-inch torpedo tubes*
carried four torpedoes

USS Narwhal (SS167)

USS NARWHAL (SS-167) was built by the Portsmouth Navy Yard, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Originally designed USS V-5, her keel was laid 10 May 1927. She was launched on 17 December 1929 under the sponsorship of Mrs. Charles Francis Adams, wife of the Secretary of the Navy. The submarine was commissioned in the Portsmouth Navy Yard, New Hampshire, 15 May 1930, Lieutenant Commander John H. Brown, Jr., USN commanding. She was named NARWHAL, effective 19 February 1931.

NARWHAL was one of five submarines in various stages of overhaul when the Japanese aerial raiders struck Pearl Harbor the fateful morning of 7 December. Situated on the south side of the harbor, her Submarine Base was a "box seat" flanking the bombing-run of Japanese planes that roared over Hickam Field on their way to Ford Island where seven battleships were moored in "Battleship Row" with battleship PENNSYLVANIA sitting helpless in drydock. Within a few minutes of the first enemy bomb explosion on Ford Island, NARWHAL's gunners were in action. One enemy torpedo plane, under fire from numerous ships including NARWHAL, crashed into the channel about 100 yards astern. Another plane which came under her fire, banked and turned, emitting white smoke and wobbling as it disappeared low in the direction of the Navy Yard. NARWHAL suffered no damage as the Japanese ignored the Submarine Base — an omission they would soon regret.

NARWHAL made fifteen war patrols, mostly in Philippine waters, with eminent success, receiving fifteen battle stars, and numerous other awards including the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation, for her gallant actions. She was decommissioned 23 April 1945 and subsequently sold for scrapping.



Length overall: *371 feet*
Extreme beam: *33 feet, 3 inches*
Standard displacement: *2,730 tons*
Mean draft: *15 feet, 9 inches*
Submerged displacement: *3,960 tons*
Design surfaced speed: *17 knots*
Designed submerged speed: *8 knots*
Designed complement: *8 officers, 80 men*
Designed depth: *300 feet*
Armament: *Originally armed with ten 21-inch torpedo tubes (including 4 deck firing tubes); two 6-inch .53 caliber guns; and two .30 caliber machine guns.*

USS Narwhal (SSN671)

Nautilus and Narwhal are 100 hull numbers apart, from 571 to 671, but the advances between the two submarines are far more than numerical. Narwhal incorporates the experience of 14 years of nuclear submarine operations, from voyages under the Arctic ice pack to surfacings at the North Pole, from a submerged circumnavigation of the globe to Polaris patrols that serve as a forceful deterrent to nuclear war.

NARWHAL is designed to be technically superior to other classes of nuclear submarines and, as such, she incorporates many unique design features not found on any other submarine. She is designed with the latest quieting, fire control, ship control, and submarine safety systems that should make her the most effective submarine in the world.

NARWHAL is 314 feet 8 inches long with a beam of 33 feet. She displaces about 5100 tons on the surface and is capable of speeds in excess of 20 knots and depths in excess of 400 feet. She is manned by a crew of 12 officers and 95 enlisted men. She is armed with four 21-inch torpedo tubes.

Congressman Chet Holifield

91st Congress 1969-1970



Congressman Chet Holifield of Montebello, California, was elected to the 78th Congress in November 1942 to represent the newly formed 19th Congressional District of California and has served his constituency since then, having been re-elected each time by an overwhelming majority of the votes cast.

Congressman Holifield is presently Chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. He is also ranking member of the Committee on Government Operations, chairman of its military subcommittee, and member of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government (the new Hoover Commission).

Congressman Holifield has been a member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy since its inception in 1946. He has been a constant and vigorous proponent of a strong atomic defense for the United States and its Allies and of a vigorous program of research to develop the peacetime uses of atomic energy. He has also been a strong advocate of the Naval Nuclear Power Program, one example being his laying of the keel of the NARWHAL.

Congressman Holifield was born in Kentucky, educated in the public schools of Arkansas, and has lived in Montebello, California since 1920. He and his wife, "Cam," have four daughters and fifteen grandchildren.

COMMISSIONING

INVOCATION

The Reverend *G. Richard Siener*, Vicar St. David's Episcopal Church, Gales Ferry, Connecticut

INTRODUCTION OF BUILDER'S REPRESENTATIVE

Captain *Albert E. Rose, Jr.*, USN, Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair, Groton

REMARKS

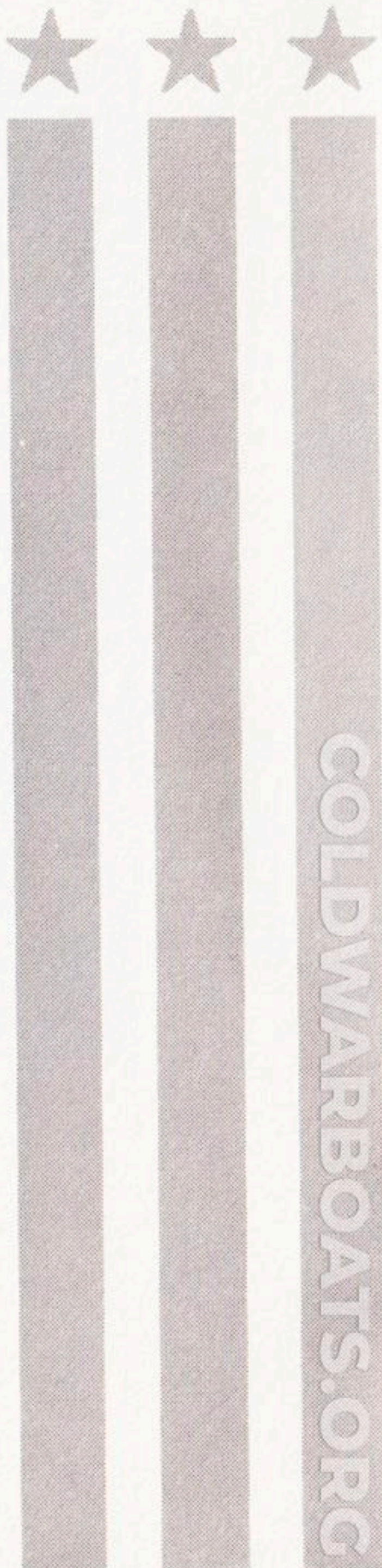
Mr. *Roger Lewis*, President
General Dynamics

INTRODUCTION OF COMMANDER SUBMARINE FLOTILLA TWO

Captain *Rose*

REMARKS AND READING OF AUTHORITY TO PLACE THE SHIP IN COMMISSION

Rear Admiral *Eugene P. Wilkinson*, USN, Commander Submarine Flotilla Two



NG PROGRAM



**HOISTING OF THE ENSIGN,
UNION JACK, AND COMMISSIONING PENNANT**

NATIONAL ANTHEM

United States Naval Submarine Base Band

ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND AND SETTING OF THE WATCH

Commander *Willis A. Matson, II*, USN

INTRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL SPEAKER

Vice Admiral *H. G. Rickover*, USN

Director, Division of Naval Reactors, Atomic Energy Commission

Deputy Commander for Nuclear Propulsion, Naval Ship Systems Command

ADDRESS

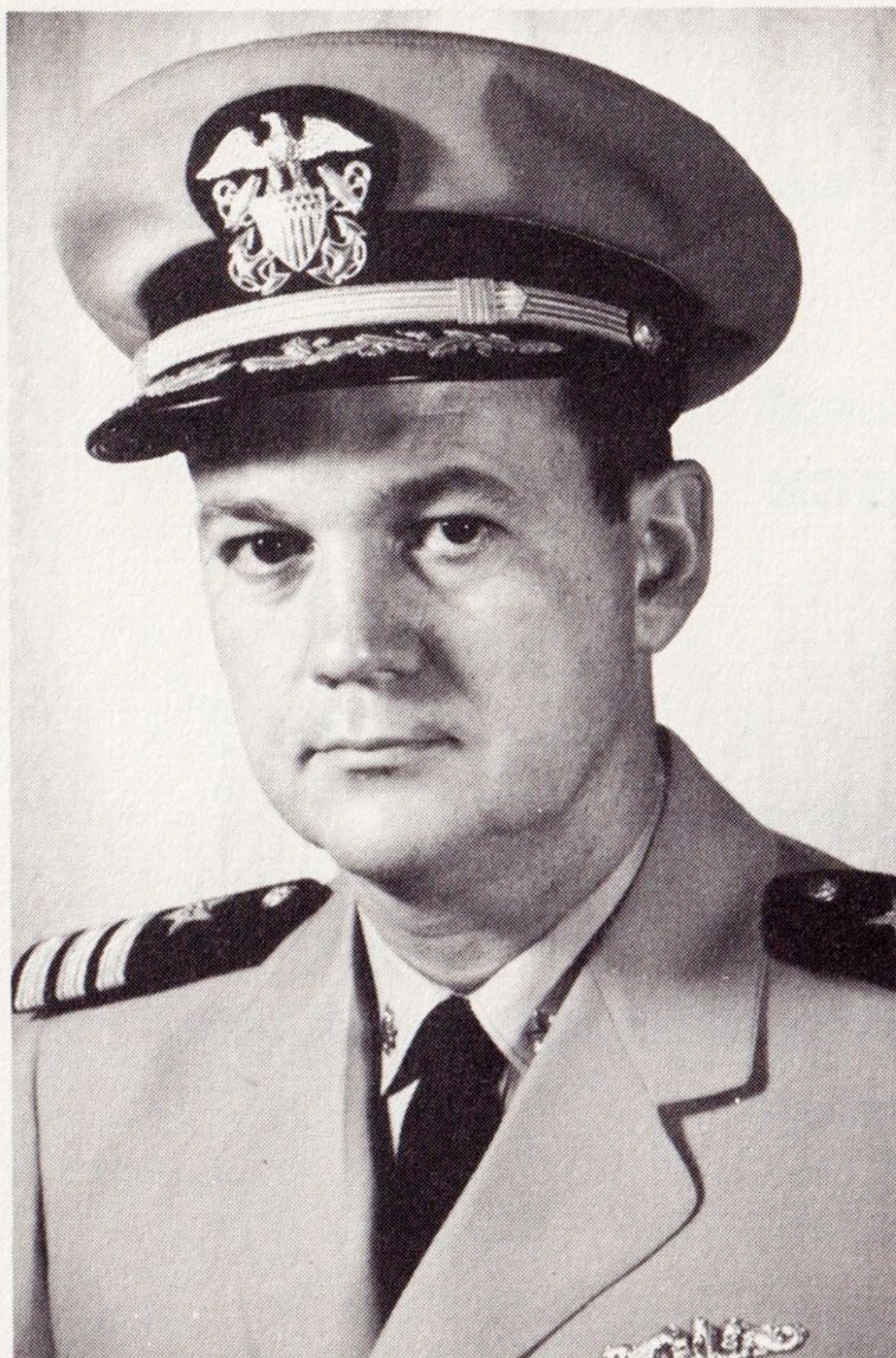
The Honorable *Chet Holifield*, U.S. House of Representatives

Chairman, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy

BENEDICTION

Commander *Edwin S. Jones*, CHC, USN

The Commanding Officer



Commander Willis Arthur Matson, II, USN was born on 17 May 1928 in Rochester, New York. He is the son of Mr. Randall W. Matson of Naples, New York and Mrs. Milton Latham of Vallejo, California.

Commander Matson entered the U.S. Naval Academy in July 1946 and was graduated in June 1950.

Upon graduation Commander Matson was assigned Communications and Gunnery Officer aboard the USS CHARLES S. SPERRY (DD 697) which spent 10 months operating in Korean waters during 1950 and 1951. For his service aboard the CHARLES S. SPERRY Commander Matson received the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V", the United Nations Medal and the Korean Service Medal with four stars.

After completing Mine Warfare School in February 1952 Commander Matson served as Executive Officer of the USS GROSBEAK (AMS 14) for 10 months.

Commander Matson attended Submarine School from January to June 1953 and then reported to the USS SEA FOX (SS 402) where he served as Engineer Officer until June 1955.

He then reported to the Nuclear Power Training Unit at West Milton, New York, and commenced training on the operation of the prototype of the USS SEAWOLF (SSN575).

In March 1957, Commander Matson reported aboard the USS SEAWOLF (SSN575) where he served as Reactor Control and Electrical Division Officer until March 1959. The SEAWOLF was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation in 1958 for operations during a record breaking 60 day submergence.

Commander Matson then served in the Engineering Department of the USS NAUTILUS (SSN571) until August 1959 and as Engineer Officer of the USS SEAWOLF (SSN575) until May 1961.

He then reported to the USS SKATE (SSN578) as Executive Officer. As Navigator and Executive Officer he participated in under-ice operations in preparation for a subsequent Arctic trip.

He attended the Polaris Command Course at Dam Neck, Virginia from April until June 1962 prior to reporting as Executive Officer (Blue Crew) of the commissioning crew for the USS ANDREW JACKSON (SSBN619).

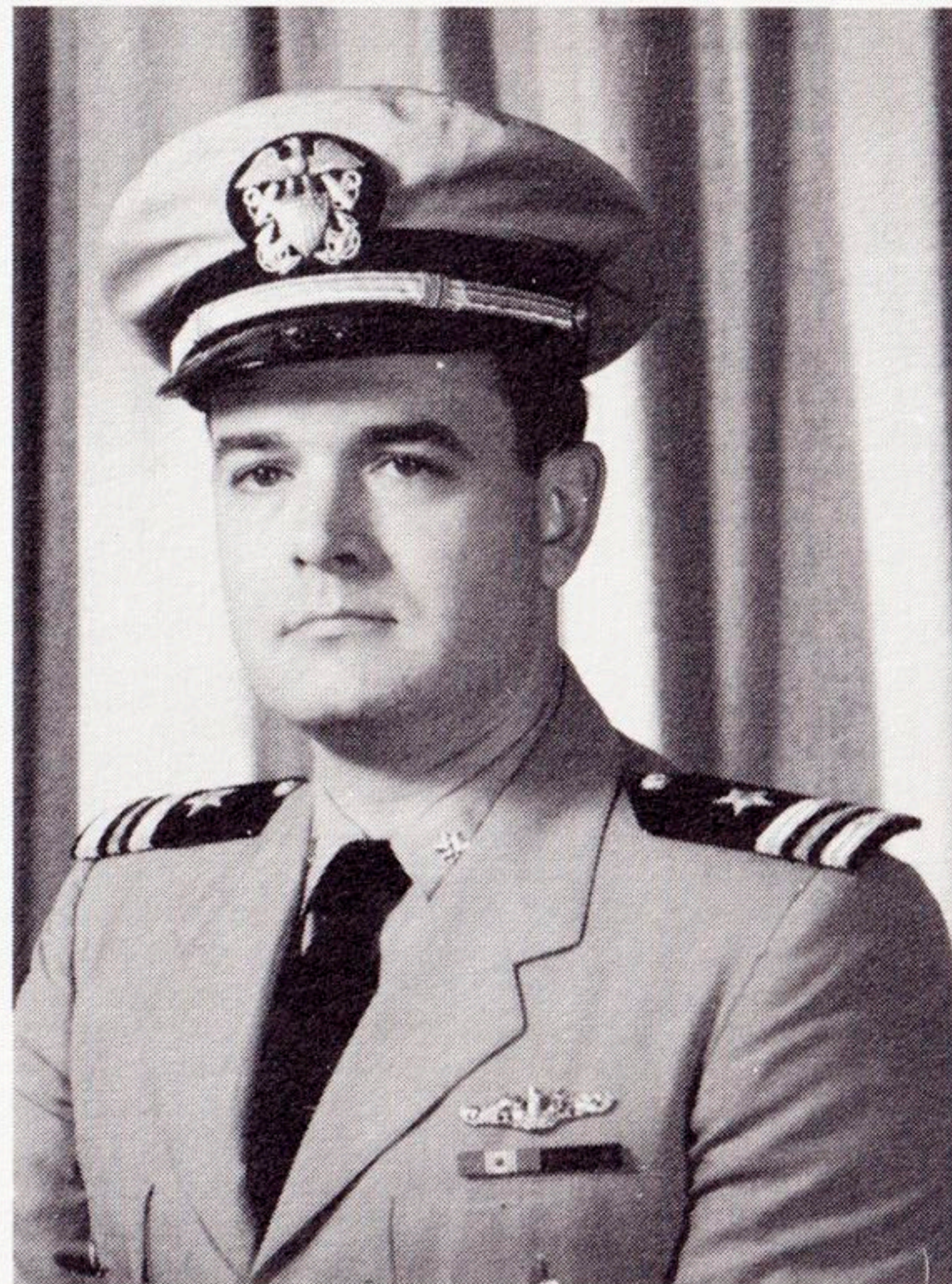
After completing the first ANDREW JACKSON Polaris patrol in August 1964, Commander Matson assumed command of the U.S. Naval Nuclear Power School, USNTC, Bainbridge, Maryland.

In February 1967 Commander Matson reported for duty as Prospective Commanding Officer, USS NARWHAL (SSN671) at Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation, Groton, Connecticut.

Commander Matson is married to the former Jane Peacock of Naples, New York. They now reside in their home on Overlook Road, Gales Ferry, Connecticut with their daughter Pamela and sons David and Willis A., III.

Commissioned Officers

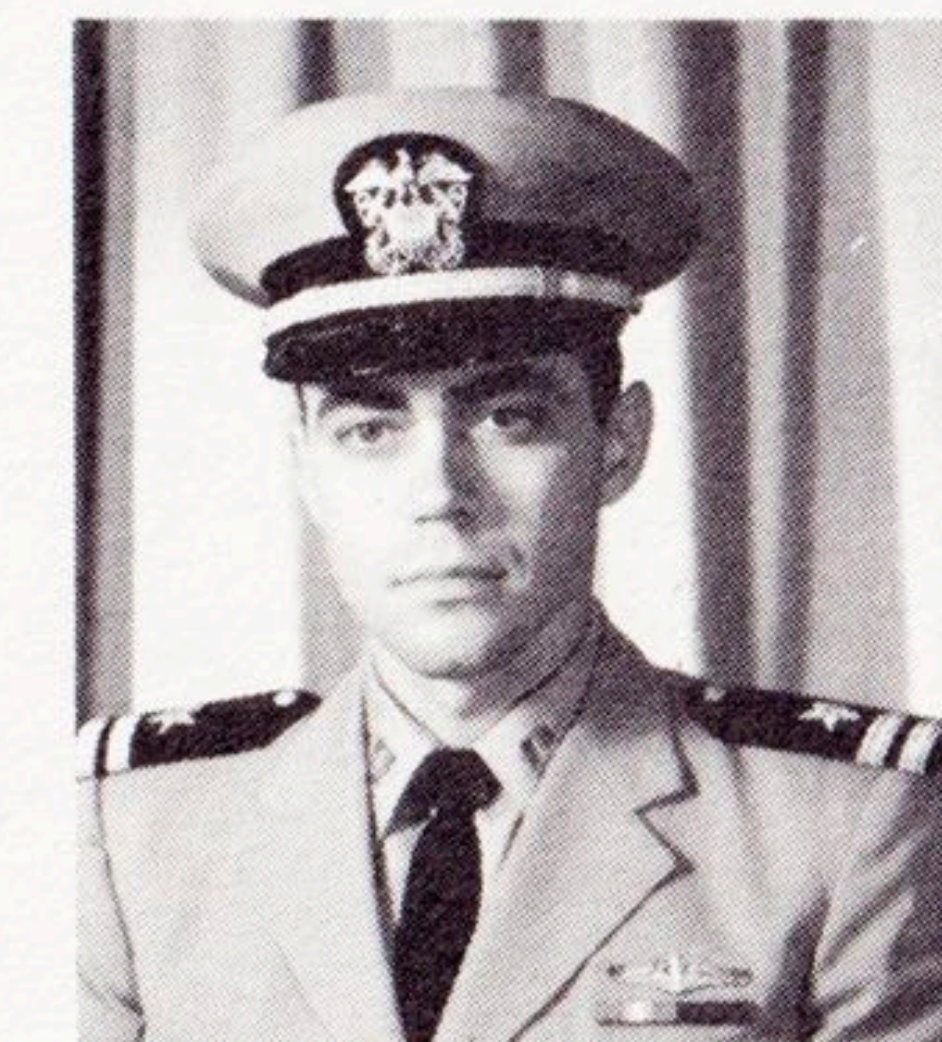
Executive Officer
Richard H. Scales
LCDR, US Navy



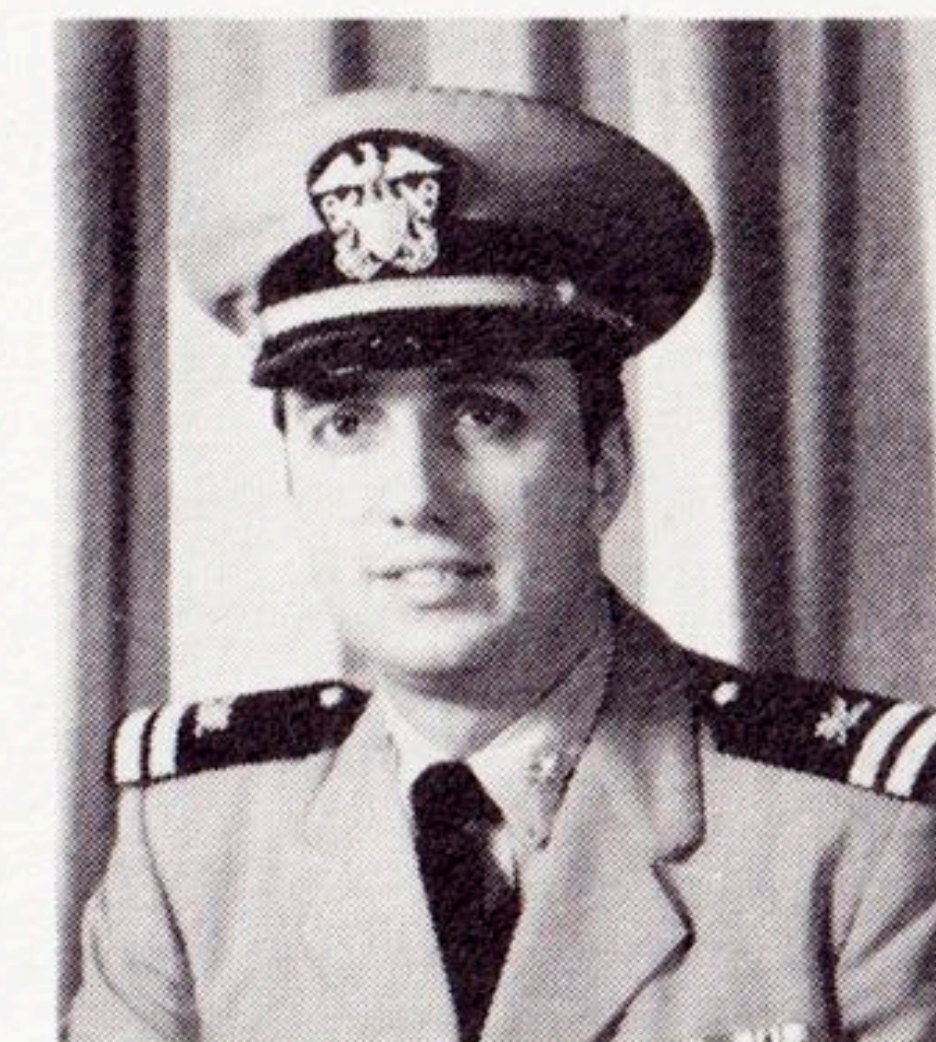
Engineer Officer
Frank W. Butterworth III
LCDR, US Navy



Operations Officer
James D. Cossey
LCDR, US Navy

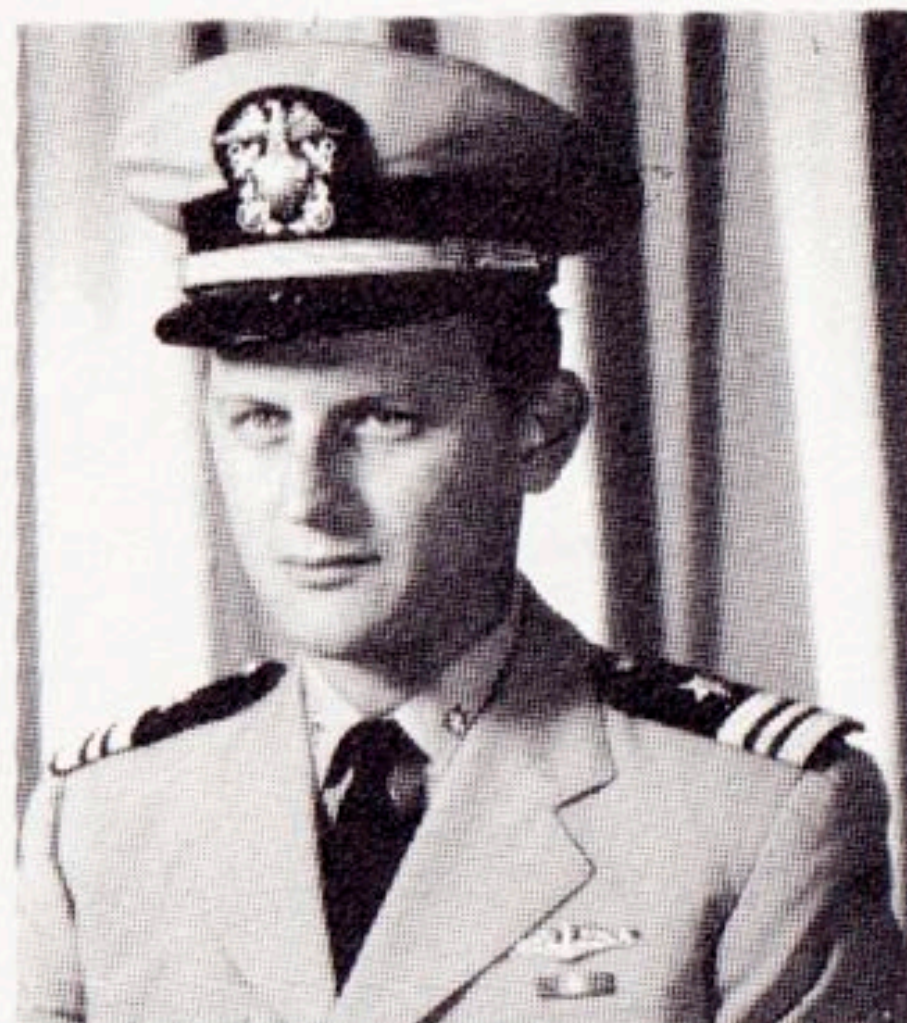


Damage Control Assistant
Ronald K. Seiberling
LT, US Navy



Supply Officer
Joseph G. Lessa
LT, SC, US Navy

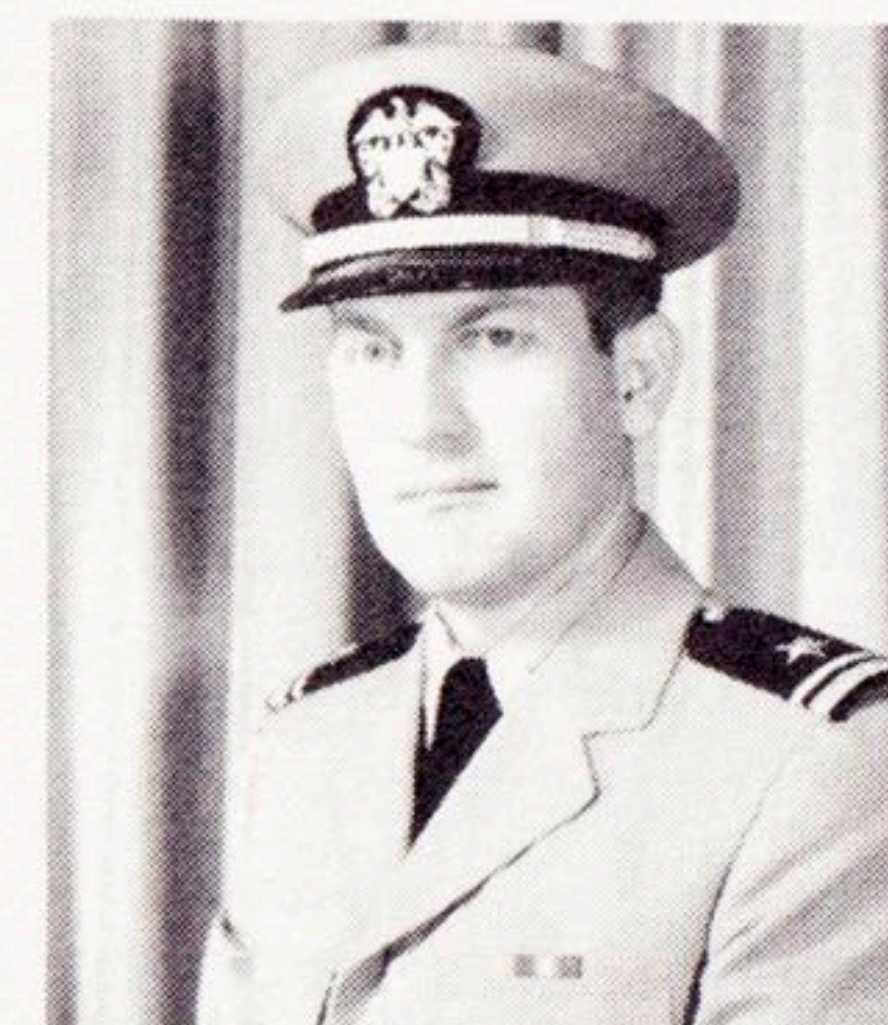
Sonar Officer
David R. Montgomery
 LCDR, US Navy



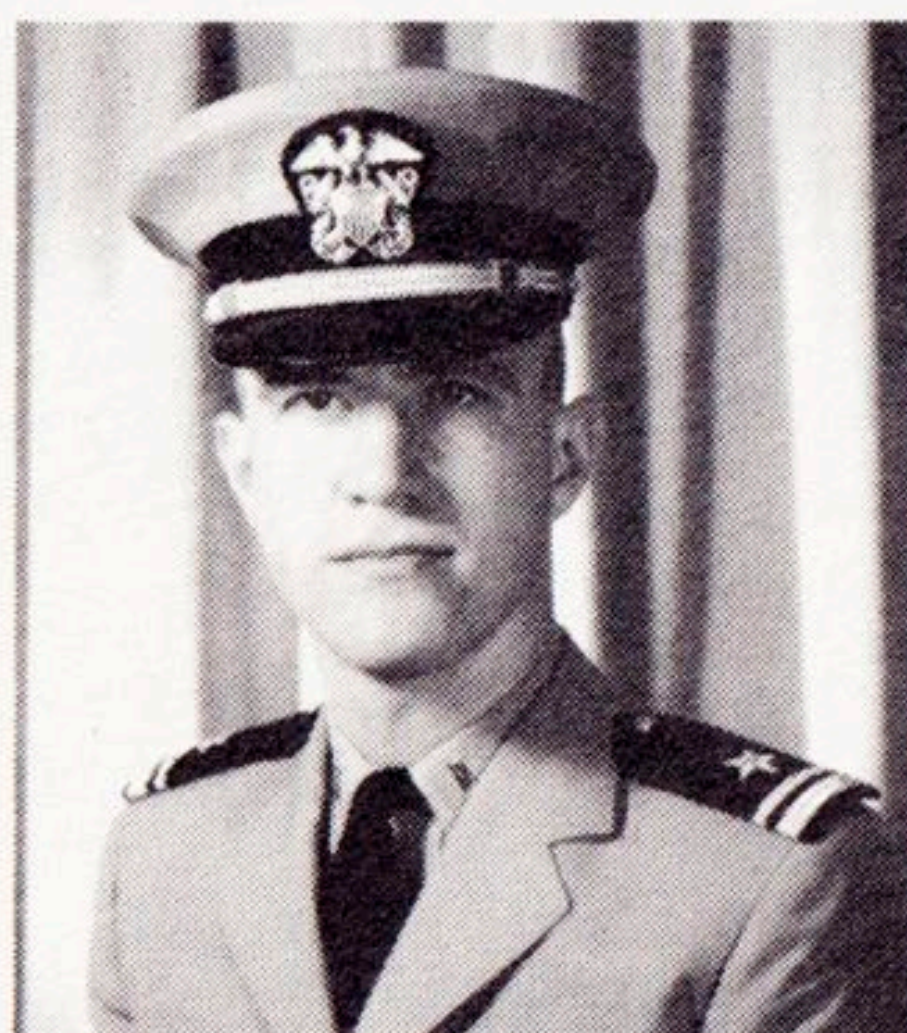
Admin Officer
Michael E. O'Byrne, Jr.
 LT, US Navy



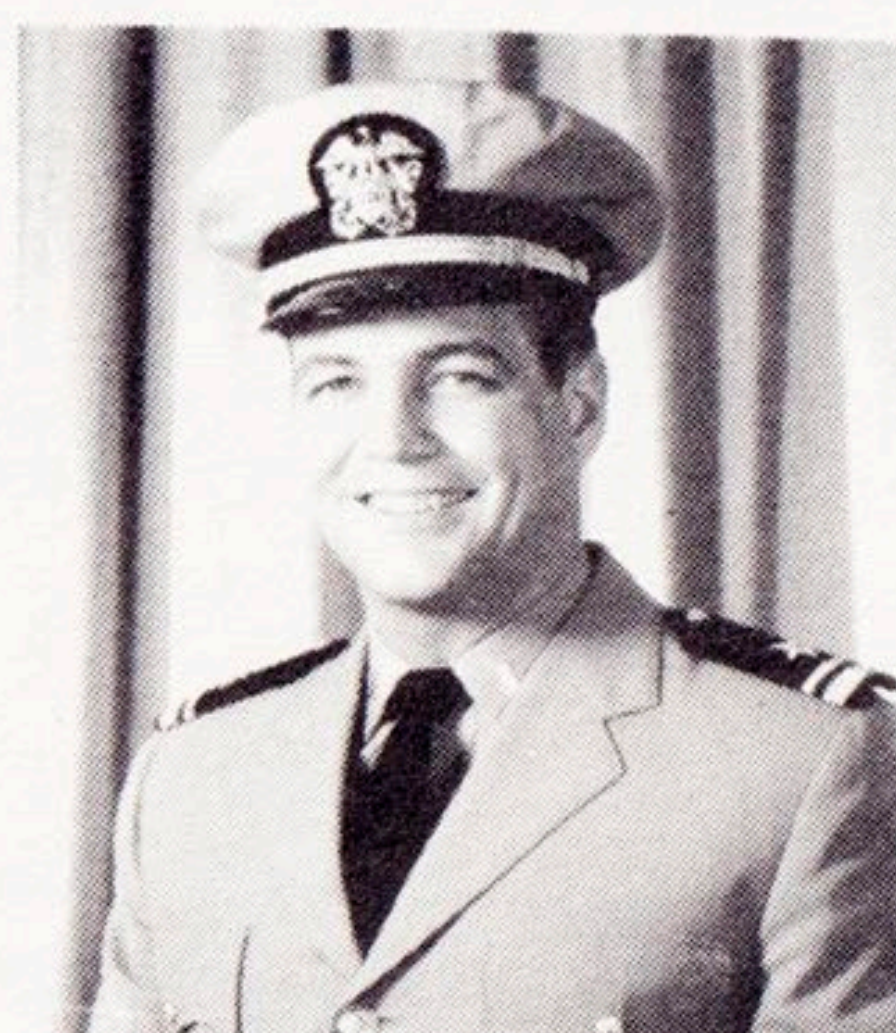
Weapons Officer
Donald C. Erickson
 LT, US Navy



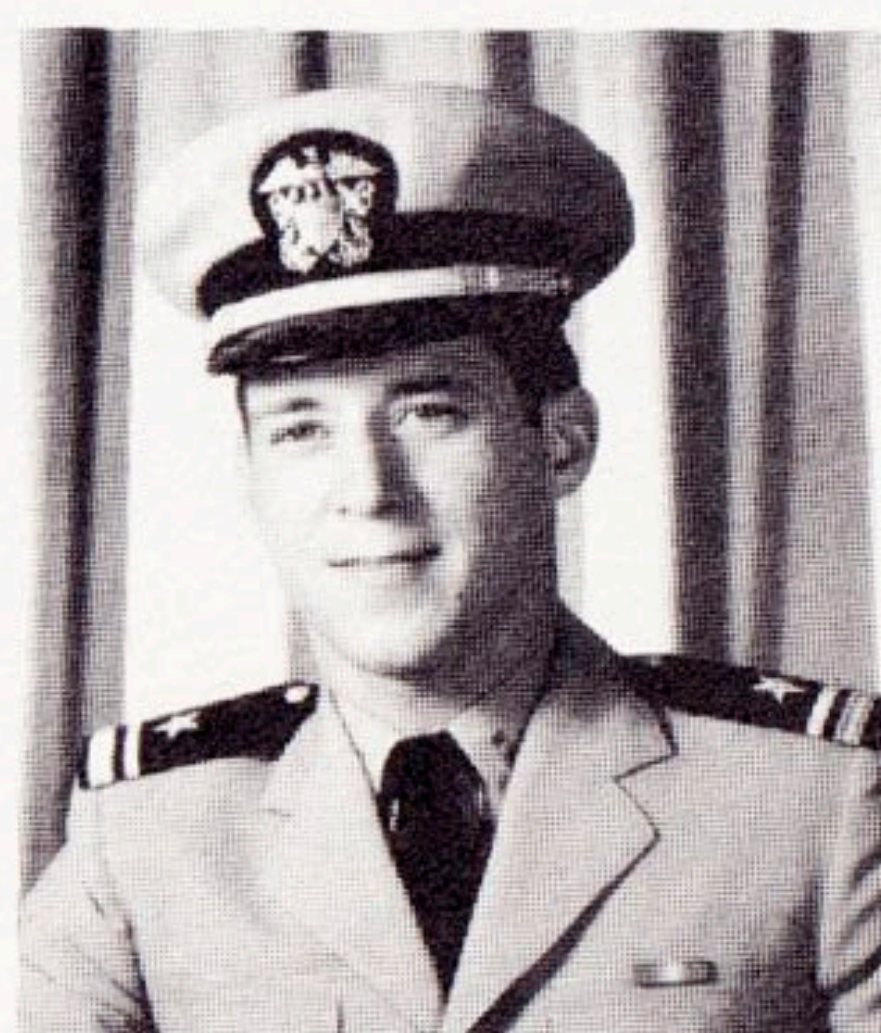
EOOW in Training
Dennis J. Alexander
 LT(jg), US Navy



Electrical Officer
Peter E. Walberg
 LT, US Navy

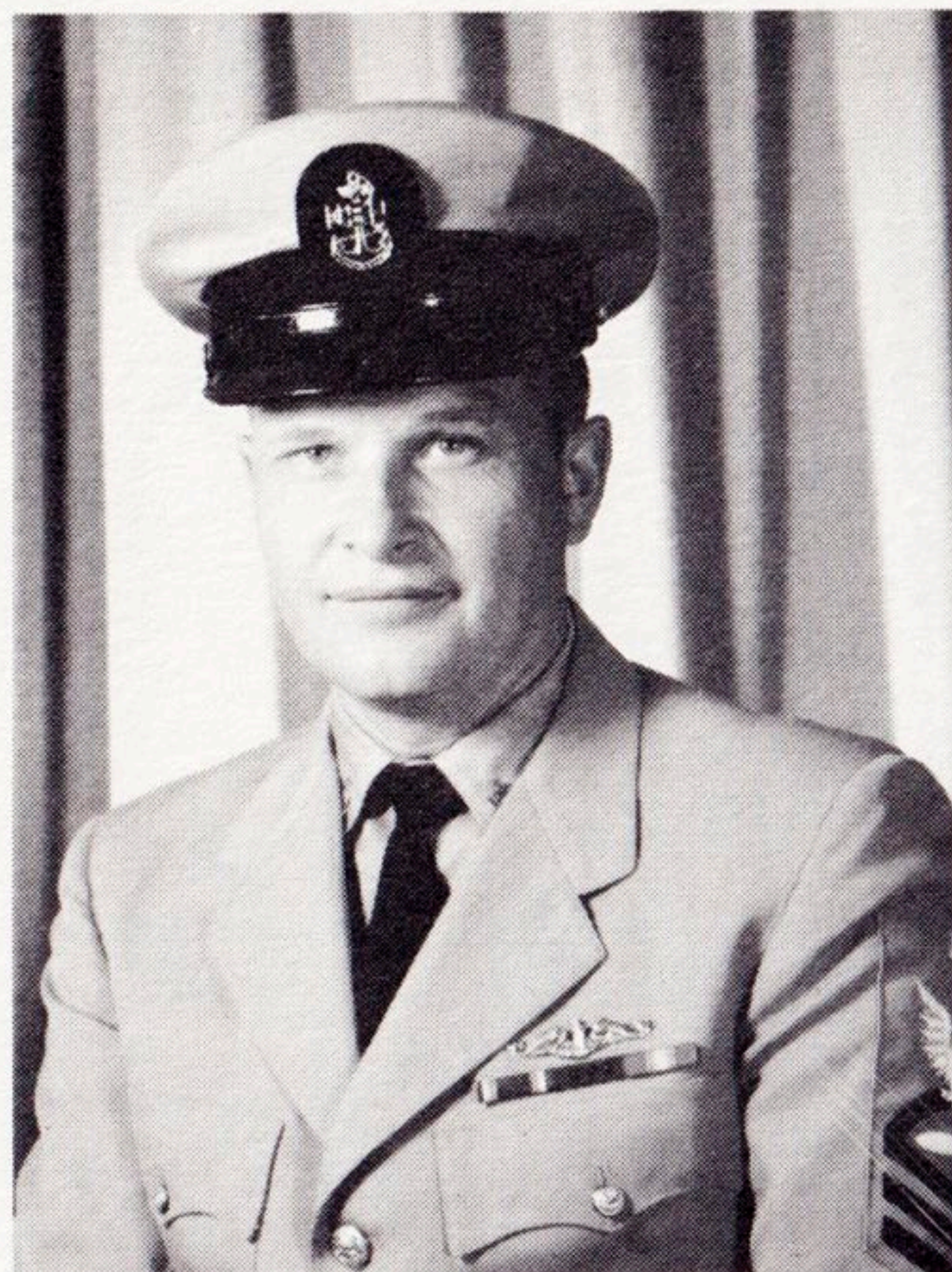


Main Propulsion Assistant
James H. Gillard
 LT, US Navy



Communicator
Philroy C. Gale III
 LT (jg) US Navy

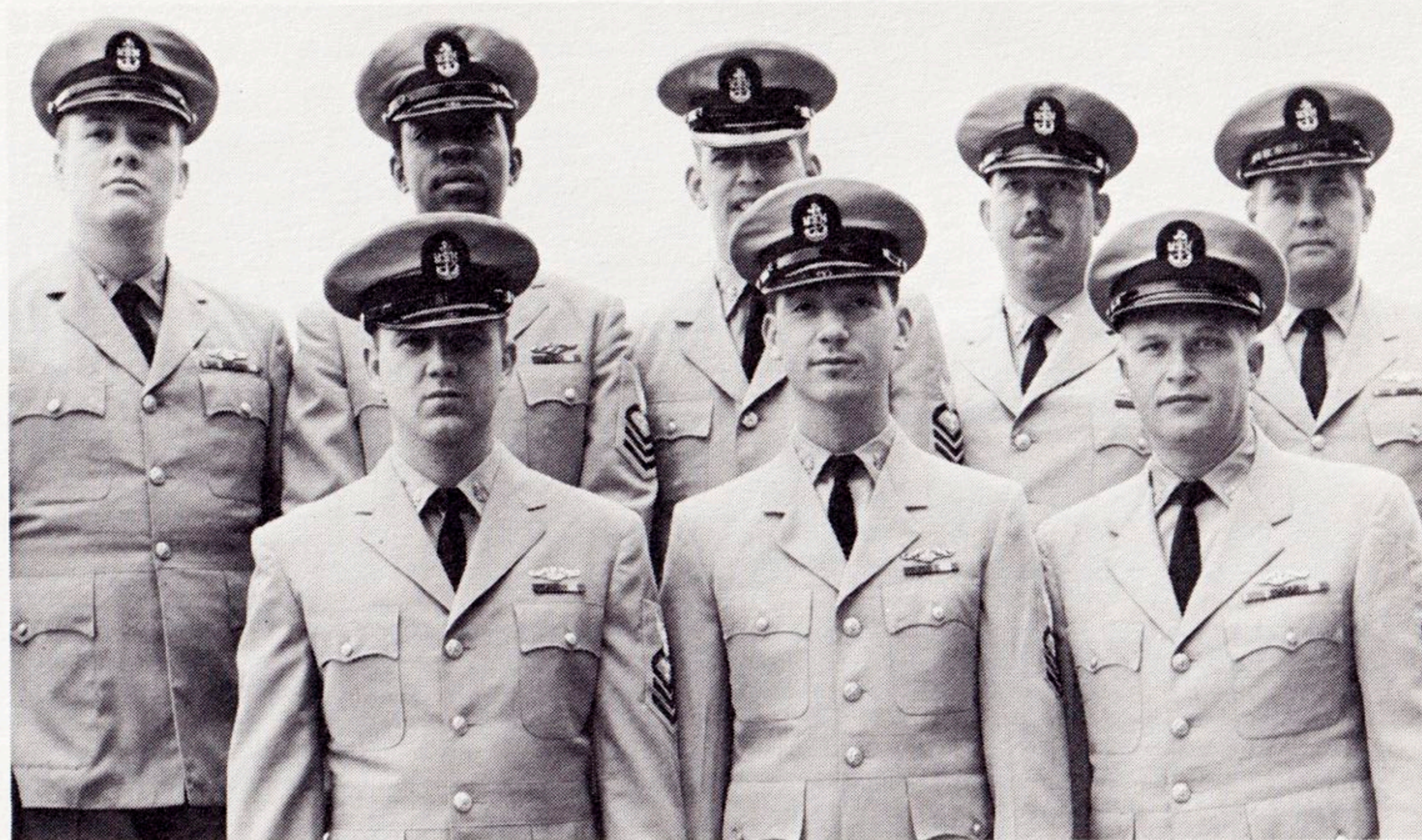
Chief Petty Officers



CHIEF OF THE BOAT

Frederick J. Weber, Jr.

TMCS(SS)



CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

HMC(SS)

RMC(SS)

MMC(SS)

FTC(SS)

Floyd M. Gray

Frank D. Imlay

Alfred D. Kemp, Jr.

George A. Larson

STC(SS)

MMC(SS)

MMC(SS)

ETC(SS)

Francis P. McCoy, Jr.

Jonathan C. Salisbury, Jr.

Gary E. Semler

Stanley T. Yoakum

First Class Petty Officers



| | | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| TM1(SS) | <i>Joseph P. Arendt</i> | ET1(SS) | <i>Sidney E. Isaacs</i> | MM1(SS) | <i>Stanley A. Peterson</i> |
| MM1(SS) | <i>Robert Axtman</i> | QM1(SS) | <i>Richard F. Jones</i> | IC1(SS) | <i>Timothy D. Rathbun</i> |
| MM1(SS) | <i>Robert D. Baker</i> | MM1 | <i>Michael D. King</i> | EM1(SS) | <i>Richard E. Rohde</i> |
| MM1(SS) | <i>Richard D. Bone</i> | EM1 | <i>Thomas W. Kirbey</i> | RM1(SS) | <i>Fred L. Seifert</i> |
| MM1 | <i>Robert E. Bryan, Jr.</i> | ST1(SS) | <i>Edward L. Krahner</i> | MM1(SS) | <i>Austin L. Sizemore</i> |
| QM1(SS) | <i>Richard S. Caldwell</i> | EM1(SS) | <i>Lanny D. Lighthill</i> | MM1 | <i>George W. Smith</i> |
| RM1(SS) | <i>Buford M. Cook, Jr.</i> | ET1(SS) | <i>Raymond A. MacKinder</i> | EM1(SS) | <i>John L. Smith</i> |
| ET1(SS) | <i>Lyle D. Craig</i> | EM1 | <i>Bruce R. Majka</i> | ET1 | <i>William J. Titus</i> |
| ET1(SS) | <i>Charles C. Griffin, Jr.</i> | ET1 | <i>Charles A. Mayer</i> | EM1 | <i>Thomas T. Tribble</i> |
| ST1(SS) | <i>Stephen D. Hahne</i> | TM1(SS) | <i>David K. Montgomery</i> | CS1(SS) | <i>William E. Weber</i> |
| MM1(SS) | <i>Coy E. Harrison</i> | MM1(SS) | <i>Peter D. Peters</i> | ET1 | <i>Larry T. Wildes</i> |

Second Class Petty Officers



IC2
STS2(SS)
MM2
EM2
ETN2
MM2(SS)
ETR2(SS)
IC2
ETN2(SS)

Douglas E. Bartlett
Owen E. Bostrom
William G. Bowen
Duane C. Bowers
Brenton L. Brooks
Kenneth R. Coombs
Gary M. Curtis
Joseph A. DeBlasis, Jr.
William D. Dudgeon

MM2
IC2
CS2(SS)
YN2(SS)
QM2(SS)
IC2
SK2(SS)
MM2
MM2

Dennis E. Fraher
Ralph W. Hansen
Alan D. Hessenins
John D. Hoffman
Herbert G. C. Hulbert
Andrew M. Hutchison
Joseph F. Johnson
Ronald K. Lamb
Bently H. Lynch, Jr.

SD2(SS)
TM2
ETN2
STS2
FT2(SS)
MM2
MM2
STS2(SS)
MM2

Benjamin T. Macapugay
Paul D. Mair
Robert Q. Montgomery
Barry L. Parker
Stephen J. Pidlypchak
David E. Snyder
Dennis L. Stailey
Daniel J. Waldron
Dennis M. Weber

Third Class Petty Officers



MM3
MM3
RM3(SS)
STS3
FT3

James Altman
Richard L. Chandler
Jon J. Cox
Don E. Dixon
Michael R. Kane

CS3
IC3
YN3(SS)
MM3
STS3

Edwin J. Kent
William R. Lehan
Peter K. Mitchell
Charles H. Preston, Jr.
Stephen W. Searight

QM3(SS)
STS3
QM3
IC3(SS)

Ronald L. Shepard
Harold C. Tubbs, Jr.
Calvin E. Ward
Blane B. Willey

Seamen and Firemen



| | |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| TN | <i>Jerrold M. DeGroate</i> |
| SN | <i>Daniel H. Devanna</i> |
| TMSN | <i>Richard D. Dowell</i> |
| FA | <i>George E. Gschwind</i> |
| FA | <i>John K. Mahoney</i> |
| TN | <i>Raymond J. McKinley, III</i> |
| FA | <i>Gregory R. Messina</i> |
| FN(SS) | <i>George A. Travis</i> |
| SA | <i>Thomas E. Weber</i> |

