

# *Inactivation Ceremony*

**USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER  
SSBN 656**



*Over twenty-six years of proud service*

**21 OCTOBER 1992**

**NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE, BANGOR  
SILVERDALE WASHINGTON**

# USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

SSBN 656

COMMISSIONED JUNE 15th, 1966



## THE COMMISSIONING PENNANT

At the moment the commissioning pennant is broken, a ship becomes the responsibility of the Commanding Officer, who together with the ship's officers and men, has the duty of making her ready for any service required by our nation.



The commissioning pennant has for centuries been the symbol of a man-of-war. It is believed to date from the 17th century, when the Dutch were at war with the English. Dutch Admiral Maarten Harpertszoon Tromp hoisted a broom at his masthead to symbolize his intention to sweep the English from the sea. British Admiral William Blake answered this gesture by hoisting a horsewhip, indicating his intention to chastise the Dutch. The victorious British thus set the precedent for a long narrow commissioning pennant, symbolizing the original horsewhip as the distinctive symbol of a ship of war.



The modern U.S. Navy commissioning pennant is blue at the hoist with a union of seven white stars, and a horizontal red and white stripe at the fly. In lieu of a commissioning pennant, flagships fly Admiral's personal flags, hence the name flagship.



## THE INACTIVATION CEREMONY

The ceremony today is a tribute to the ship and its crew as it is decommissioned, the honorable end of a ship's service to its country. The ship's colors and commissioning pennant are hauled down and the watches secured. The solemn ceremony where the commissioning pennant, ensign, and jack are hauled down for the last time is a dedication to the success of the ship and the men who sailed it.

# **INACTIVATION CEREMONY**

## **PROGRAM**

### **MUSIC**

*Naval Base Seattle Band*

### **ARRIVAL HONORS**

### **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

### **INVOCATION**

*Lieutenant Commander Robert F. Burt, CHC, USN*

### **WELCOMING REMARKS**

*Commander David A. Zusi, USN  
Commanding Officer*

### **INTRODUCTORY SPEAKER**

*Master Chief (Submarines) Ray R. Kuhn, USN (Retired)  
First "Chief of the Boat"*

### **PRINCIPAL SPEAKER**

*Captain Lawrence J. Kramer, USN (Retired)  
Commanding Officer, USS George Washington Carver  
October 16th, 1978 – July 16th, 1982*

### **READING OF INACTIVATION ORDERS**

### **CEREMONIAL HAULING DOWN OF COMMISSIONING PENNANT**

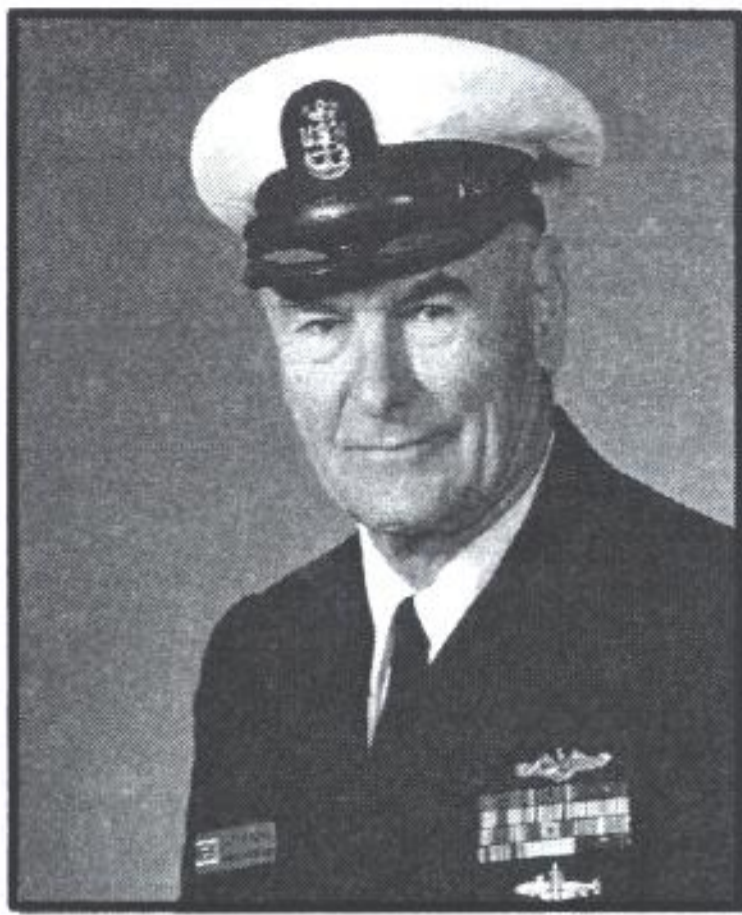
### **SECURE THE WATCH**

### **BENEDICTION**

*Lieutenant Commander Robert F. Burt, CHC, USN*

### **RECEPTION**

*Consolidated Mess (Open) Club  
Naval Submarine Base, Bangor*



**Master Chief  
Raymond R. "Pappy" Kuhn,  
United States Navy (Retired)**

**First "Chief of the Boat"  
USS George Washington Carver  
SSBN 656**

ETCM(SS) (Retired) Ray R. Kuhn started his impressive Naval career September 23, 1944. He completed an unprecedented FORTY-ONE years of active duty prior to retiring in November of 1985.

His main shore duty as the Command Master Chief of Naval Submarine School in Groton, Connecticut, (where ALL non-nuclear enlisted submariners first enter the world of submarines) was LEGENDARY; he oversaw the training of Subschool for OVER TEN years, earning the nickname "Pappy" by the students and staff of Subschool. A significant portion of today's senior submarine enlisted force are students of Master Chief Kuhn. He also spent some time as an instructor at the Navy's Nuclear prototype at Arco, Idaho.

His sea career was equally impressive; it included time on the USS VALLEY FORGE (CV 48), the USS CABAZON (SS 334), the USS CAIMON (SS 323), the USS CHIRO (SS 341), the USS SARGO (SSN 583) where he served as "COB" for the first time in his career, the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (SSBN 656), which he brought into commission as our First "COB" on June 15th, 1966, the USS DOGFISH (SS 380), which he was also the "COB" on, and finally, the USS BERGALL (SSN 667), where he was also the "COB."

The "Chief of the Boat," or "COB", is the senior enlisted member of a submarine crew. Reporting directly to the Commanding Officer and Executive Officer of a ship, he is responsible for all enlisted members of a crew.

Master Chief Kuhn's family has carried on his tradition of distinguished service to the Navy. His son, Ray R. Kuhn Jr., was also a Master Chief and has retired after twenty-eight years of active duty service. His grandson, MS2(SS) Vernon Talasma, and his nephew, Chief Timothy Kuhn are also on active duty in the Navy.

Master Chief Kuhn is entitled to wear the World War II Victory Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation (two awards), the Navy Expeditionary Medal (two awards), the Armed forces Expeditionary Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, the Expert Pistol Ribbon, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Medal, the Enlisted Submarine Service Insignia, and the Good Conduct Medal with ELEVEN awards. His Service Dress Blues (as shown in the photograph) had TEN hash marks representing four years of service apiece.

Ray Kuhn now lives in Hooksett, New Hampshire with his wife Catherine. His son, Ray Kuhn Jr. lives in Spokane, Washington.



**Captain Lawrence J. Kramer,  
United States Navy (Retired)**

**Commanding Officer  
USS George Washington Carver  
October 16th, 1978 - July 16th, 1982**

Captain Kramer is a native of Melvin, Michigan. He was commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps upon graduation from the University of Michigan in 1962 with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering Degree.

Captain Kramer attended Nuclear Power School at Vallejo, California, followed by nuclear power prototype training at the SIC prototype in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. After completing Submarine School he reported to USS SNOOK (SSN 592) for duty in the Engineering and Supply Departments. He next served as an instructor at Nuclear Power School, Bainbridge, Maryland. He was then assigned as Navigator aboard USS ALEXANDER HAMILTON (SSBN 617) (GOLD) for seven deterrent patrols. After serving on the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Submarine Warfare from August 1972 to February 1975, he completed five deterrent patrols as Executive Officer aboard USS JAMES K. POLK (SSBN 645) (BLUE). In October 1978 he assumed command of USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (SSBN 656) (GOLD) serving for seven deterrent patrols. From July 1982 to January 1983 he served as Assistant Chief of Staff for Training at Submarine Group NINE, assuming command of USS PATRICK HENRY (SSN 599) from January to September 1983 when he returned to the staff of Submarine Group NINE. In May 1985, he became Commanding Officer of USS GEORGIA (SSBN 729) (BLUE). After four patrols he was relieved in June 1987 and reported to the staff of Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet as Assistant Chief of Staff for Strategic Systems. In August 1990, he assumed duties as Commanding Officer of the Naval Submarine Base, Bangor, from which he retired in June of 1992.

Captain Kramer is entitled to wear the Legion of Merit with Gold Star, Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation with two stars, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal with one star.

Captain Kramer is married to the former Christine Miel of Detroit, Michigan. They have two daughters, Kathryn and Jennifer.



**Commander David A. Zusi,  
United States Navy**

**Commanding Officer,  
USS George Washington Carver  
SSBN 656**

Commander Zusi graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in Buffalo, New York in 1970. Following graduation from the University of Notre Dame in

1974 with a degree in physics, he attended nuclear power and submarine training until September 1975.

Commander Zusi was first assigned as an Engineering Division Officer aboard USS SKATE (SSN 578). In November 1978 he transferred to the Precommissioning Crew of USS BREMERTON (SSN 698), where he served as Sonar and Weapons Officer. In November 1981, he reported to USS CAVALLA (SSN 684) for duty as Navigator and Dry Deck Shelter Officer, where he served until January 1985. Following this tour, he served in Washington, DC on the staff of the Nuclear Propulsion Program Manager (OP-131) until June 1987. Reporting to USS CINCINNATI (SSN 693) in October 1987, he served as Executive Officer until December 1989, when he entered Prospective Commanding Officer training. He relieved as Commanding Officer, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (SSBN 656) (GOLD) on 3 August 1990. He continued as Commanding Officer of CARVER's combined crew as of 7 August 1991.

Commander Zusi is entitled to wear the Navy Commendation Medal (five awards), Navy Achievement Medal (two awards), Navy Unit Commendation (two awards), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Expeditionary Medal (two awards), National Defense Service Medal (two awards), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (nine awards), FBM Deterrent Patrol Pin (two awards) and the Submarine Warfare Insignia.

Commander Zusi and his wife Cathy presently reside in Bremerton, Washington.

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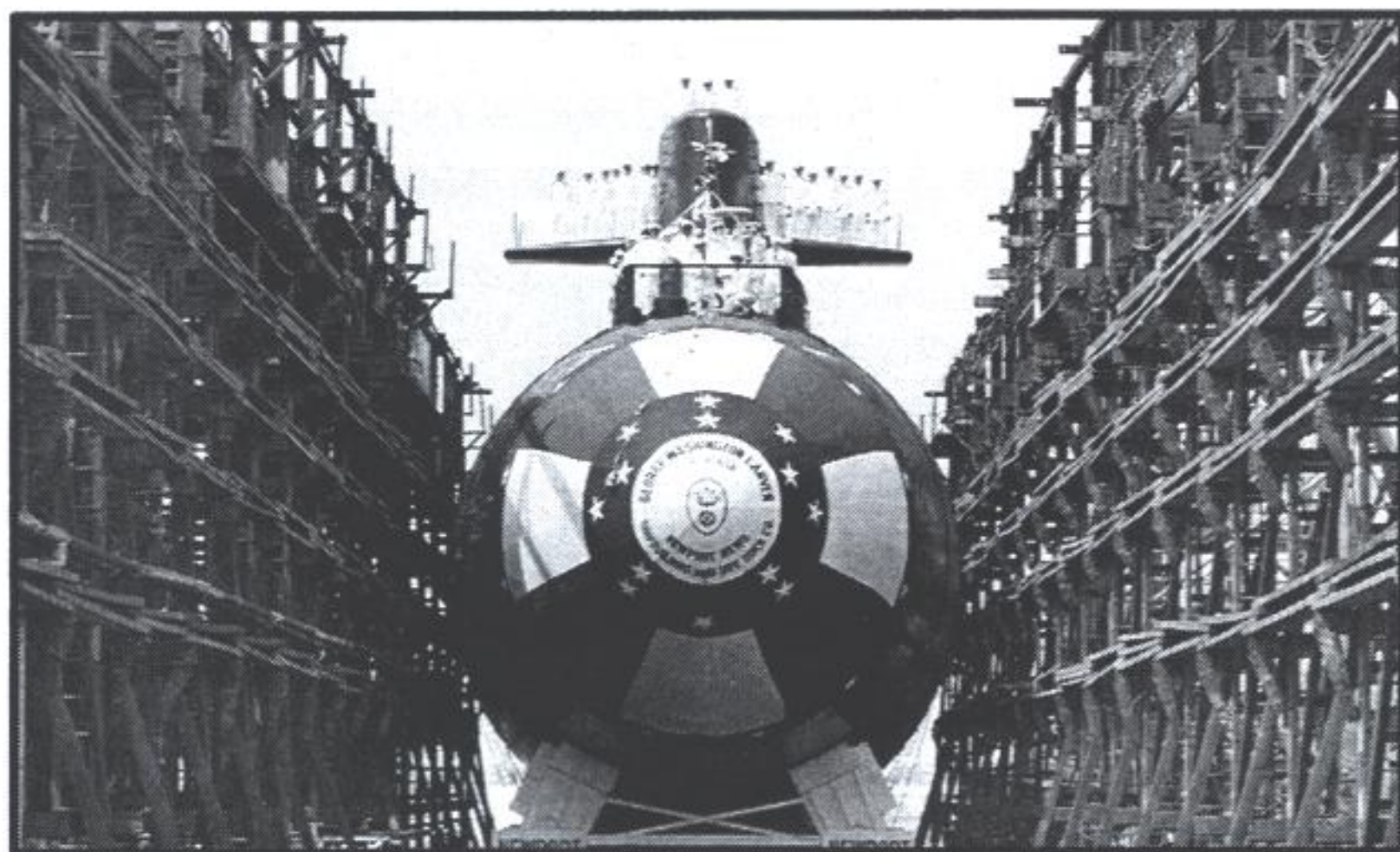
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**PAST COMMANDING OFFICERS  
USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (SSBN 656)**



**CDR L. V. Beatty**

**CDR D. R. Briggs**

**CDR J. M. Cohen**

**CDR A. G. Cotterman**

**CAPT R. D. Donovan**

**CDR D. C. Finch**

**CDR M. S. Hale**

**CDR R. F. Klaus**

**CDR L. J. Kramer**

**CDR C. J. Lidel**

**CDR D. R. Montgomery**

**CDR R. L. Mushen**

**CDR F. O'Bierne Jr.**

**CDR W. L. Pray**

**CDR P. A. Scala**

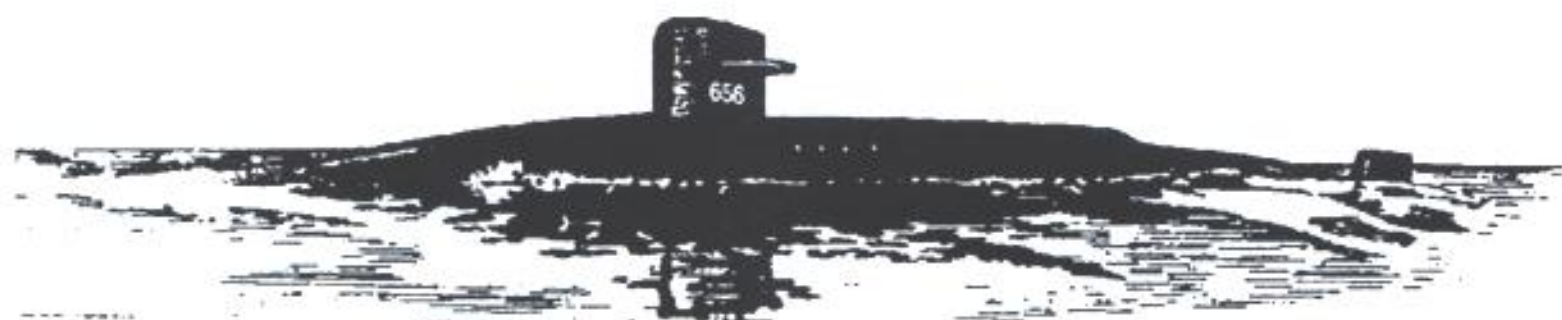
**CDR P. D. Tomb**

**CDR R. J. Trabona**

**CDR T. G. Warson**

**CDR G. B. Williams**

**CDR D. A. Zusi**





## **Command At Sea**

### **THE PRESTIGE, PRIVILEGE AND BURDEN OF COMMAND**

*Only a seaman realizes to what extent an entire ship reflects the personality and ability of one individual, her Commanding Officer. To a landsman this is not understandable and sometimes it is even difficult for us to comprehend – but it is so.*

*A ship at sea is a distant world in herself, and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of the fleet units the Navy must place great power, responsibility and trust in the hands of those leaders chosen for command.*

*In each ship there is one man who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one who alone is ultimately responsible for the safe navigation, engineering performance, accurate gunfiring and morale of his ship. He is the Commanding Officer. He is the ship.*

*This is the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour of duty as Commanding Officer that he can escape the grasp of command responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are almost ludicrously small; nevertheless command is the spur which has given the Navy its great leaders.*

*It is a duty which most richly deserves the highest, time-honored title of the seafaring world – “CAPTAIN”:*

## SHIP'S HISTORY

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (SSBN 656) was the thirty-seventh Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine to join the fleet. Serving as part of the United States deterrent force, she has the capability of carrying sixteen Navy C-3 Poseidon missiles. The endurance and mobility provided by her nuclear reactor propulsion system enables her to cover almost any target on earth. The ship is four hundred twenty-five feet in length and has a submerged displacement of eighty-two hundred tons, equivalent to a light cruiser. CARVER's complement is fourteen officers and one hundred twenty-eight enlisted men.

The keel of USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (SSBN 656) was laid on 24 August 1964 at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Newport News, Virginia.

The ship was launched on 14 August 1965, and was sponsored by Miss Marian Anderson, the world renowned American opera singer. The launching speaker was W. Willard Wirtz, Secretary of Labor.

The submarine was commissioned on 15 June 1966 with Dr. Luther H. Foster, President of Tuskegee Institute as the principal speaker. Assuming command of the ship was CAPT R. D. DONOVAN, USN, Commanding Officer of the Blue Crew. LCDR C. J. LEIDEL, USN, was the first Commanding Officer of the Gold Crew.

In 1972 CARVER commenced a refueling overhaul and was converted to carry the Poseidon C-3 missile system. In August 1974 she commenced her first post-conversion Poseidon deterrent patrol, her twentieth since launching.

In 1982 CARVER again commenced a refueling overhaul after completing 53 Poseidon deterrent patrols. In August 1985 the Blue Crew successfully launched a Poseidon C-3 missile on the range at Cape Canaveral, Florida. In February 1986, CARVER returned to Holy Loch, Scotland from where she operated as part of the nation's nuclear deterrent force.

To insure that CARVER maximized her on-station time she was assigned two crews that alternately manned her. The Blue and Gold Crews exchanged command of the ship about every three months.

In 1991 CARVER ceased to operate as a strategic deterrent asset after successfully completing SEVENTY-THREE alert patrols and began operating as an attack submarine for the Pacific Fleet. CARVER will commence decommissioning at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton in November 1992, completing over twenty-six years of proud service.

## George Washington Carver 1864 - 1943



USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (SSBN 656) is the first ship named for George Washington Carver, the famed American agricultural chemist and educator whose scientific achievements were a vital factor in the economic and social progress in the South.

George Washington Carver was born near Diamond Groves, Missouri, the son of former slaves of the planter Moses Carver. He was only nine months old in the last year of the Civil War when he and his mother were stolen by raiders and

carried into Arkansas. His mother disappeared, but George was returned to Mr. Carver in exchange for a horse. He was given the name George Washington Carver, and at nine left the Carver family to make his own way in the world.

Carver educated himself in spite of the obstacles thrown up by racial prejudices and abject poverty, and advanced to high places in the scientific and academic world. He received his Master of Science degree from Iowa State College in 1896, and became a member of the faculty. In the same year Booker T. Washington persuaded him to become the director of the Department of Agricultural Research at Tuskegee Institute.

In 1905 Carver became the Director of the Agricultural Research and Experiment Stations, a post he held until his death. He was a collaborator with the U.S. Department of Agriculture finding numerous ways to improve agricultural practices in the South through soil conservation and crop diversification, discovered new uses for existing crops, widened the use of native plants, and successfully developed methods for the utilization of waste products. His research bore fruit in the form of synthetic products - 300 from the peanut, 118 from the sweet potato, and more than 60 from the pecan. His creative touch brought synthetic marble from wooden shavings, hundreds of vegetable-based dyes, pigments from clays, rope and carpets from okra fibers, and excellent fertilizers from swamp growth and leaf mulch.

Dr. Carver refused staggering sums for the commercial exploitation of his inventions, and instead gave them freely for the use of mankind and the nation. His distinguished service to humanity continues through the George Washington Carver foundation which he established in 1940 and endowed with his total life savings. He died, unmarried, in Tuskegee, Alabama, on January 5th, 1943. His remarkable contributions to humanity and to the United States of America were recognized by Congress, which passed a resolution fixing the date of his death as George Washington Carver day.

On July 14th, 1953, Dr. Carver's birthplace on the site of the old Moses Carver plantation was made a national monument. The monument stands amid the original walnut groves where he began his botanical studies as a young boy. It is marked by a plaque and a bronze bust of the man who was born a slave and became a scientist and a benefactor of his country.

## **The Submariner**

*Only a submariner realizes to what great extent an entire ship depends on him as an individual. To a landsman this is not understandable, and sometimes it is even difficult for us to comprehend, but it is so!*

*A submarine at sea is a different world in herself, and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of submarines, the Navy must place responsibility and trust in the hands of those who take such ships to sea.*

*In each submarine there are men who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to each other. These men are ultimately responsible to themselves and each to the other for all aspects of operation of their submarine. They are the crew. They are the ship.*

*This is perhaps the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour as a submariner that he can escape the grasp of responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are almost ludicrously small, nevertheless, it is the spur which has given the Navy its greatest mariners — the men of the Submarine Service.*

*It is a duty which most richly deserves the proud and time-honored title of ~ Submariner.*

# *Closing*

*One ship leaves the Navy  
today*

*One ship of hundreds*

*Will feel the ocean one last  
time.*

*Yet she takes with her the  
knowledge*

*That she has served her  
nation and her men*

*As well as any ship could.*

*This one submarine which  
carries her name*

*The history of all such craft*

*That have ever flown our  
nation's flag*

*The Carver is before us now,  
Twenty-six years serving with  
pride.*

*What was once a smooth hull  
and pristine lines,*

*The newest and the best of all.*

*Now shows scars from  
welder's torch;*

*From repairs and patches  
made of necessity.*

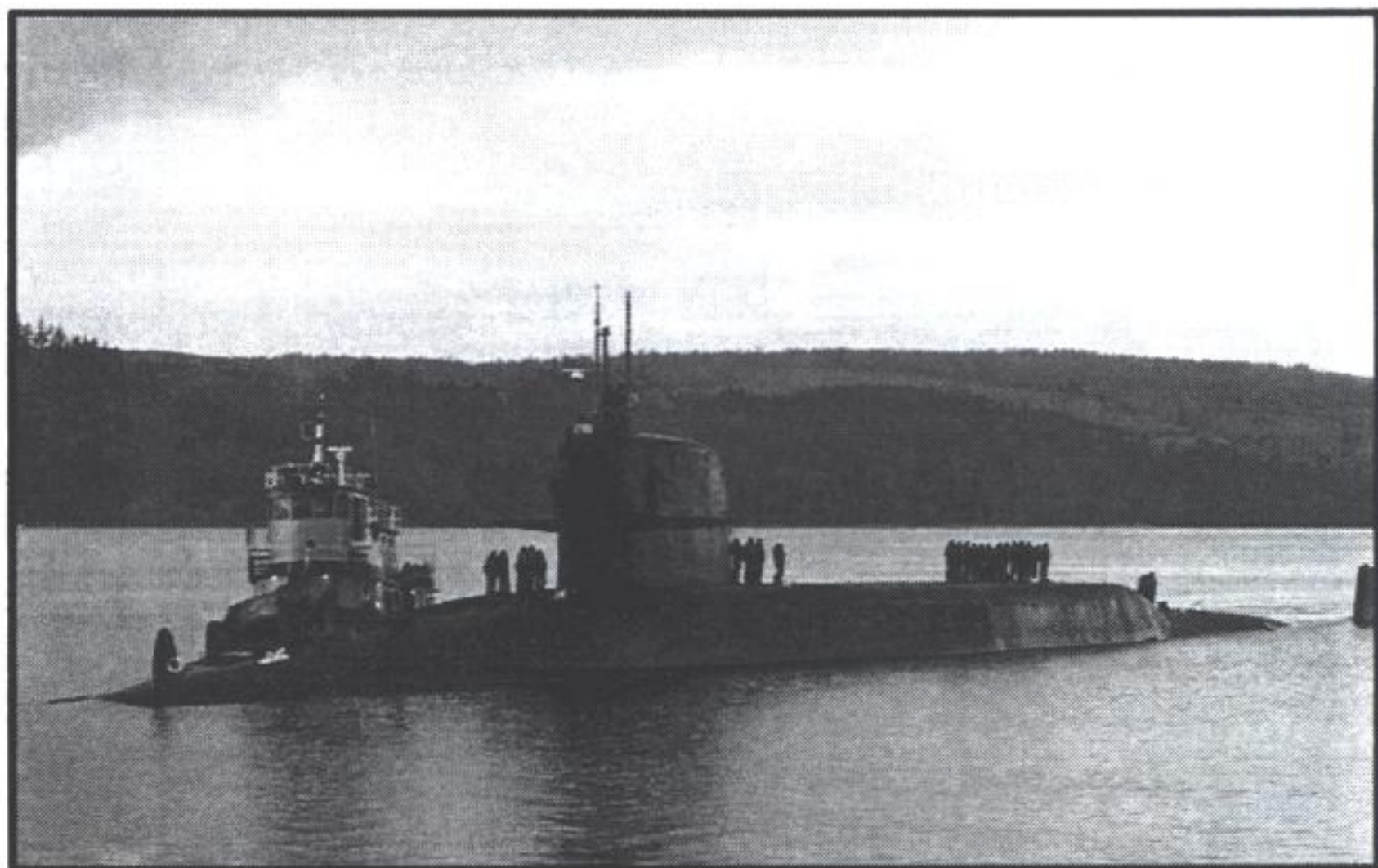
*No innocent youth, this ship,*

*She wears her age well, with  
pride,*

*For even at the end,*

*She is among the best.*

**1966 – 1992**



*The end of an era*

*Lord God, our power ever more  
Whose arm doth reach the ocean floor,  
Dive with our men beneath the sea;  
Traverse the depths protectively.  
O hear us when we pray, and keep  
them safe from peril in the deep.*

*Submariner's Stanza  
Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

