

USS SAM HOUSTON VETERANS' ASSN. (SSBN/SSN 609)

This is the official web site of the USS Sam Houston Veterans' Assn. (SHVA) — a formal, 501(c)(19) organization established for the veterans of the submarine and their families & friends.

One of the purposes of the SHVA is to hold biennial reunions; the next one is arranged for 15-17 Sep 2016 in the Wash., D.C. area.

If you are a veteran of the boat and a registered member of the SHVA, you will receive all official publications of the SHVA. If you are a veteran of the boat and not registered or suspect that you are not registered, [click here](#) to send the Chairman your contact information. To view the list of registered shipmates click on "Crew Roster" on the main page of the web site. About 430 veterans of the boat are registered, and we are aware of another 270 who are on Eternal Patrol or suspected to be.

If you are a friend or relative of a USS Sam Houston veteran who is not listed on the roster, [click here](#) and provide the Chairman any information that you have concerning that veteran even if he is deceased. At Memorial Services during our reunions, we honor those who served their country aboard USS Sam Houston and have received orders for Eternal Patrol. To view the list of shipmates on Eternal Patrol, click on the Crew Roster link on the main page and scroll to the bottom of the crew list.

If you are a relative — especially a spouse, son, or daughter — of a deceased veteran of the boat, you are welcome to become an Associate Member of the SHVA. As such, you will receive official publications of the SHVA and be invited to attend the reunions. You might meet some of those who served with your relative or are part of their families.

The SHVA publishes a newsletter, "The Raven," two to four times yearly, and other documents as needs arise.

USS Sam Houston (SSBN 609) was the US Navy's 7th nuclear, ballistic missile submarine and served the country from 1962 through 1980 in this configuration. She was one of the "41 For Freedom" — the Navy's initial active fleet of 41 ballistic missile submarines.

The SALT I Treaty of 1972 limited the number of submarine-launched missiles for the U.S. and Russia. To construct new and advanced-designed ballistic missile submarines, existing ballistic missile submarines had to be decommissioned or otherwise lose their missile-launch capabilities. In 1980, USS Sam Houston began modifications that deactivated its missile section, and the Navy reclassified it as an Attack Submarine (SSN 609) on November 10, 1980. In September 1982, the boat returned to service for intelligence-gathering. It also had enhanced Anti-Submarine Warfare and Special Forces delivery capabilities.

Those stealthy "41 For Freedom" boats paved the way for the Trident submarines that maintain the nation's strategic deterrence today.

Howard Dobson
Chairman & Reunion Planner