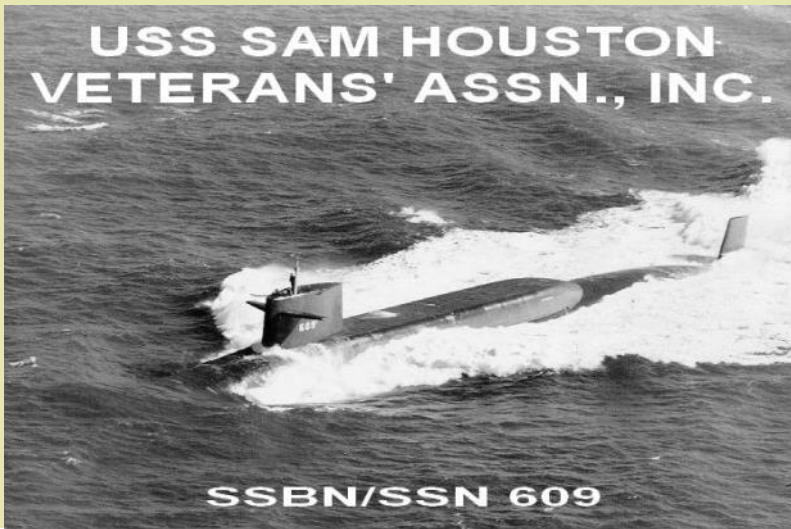


USS SAM HOUSTON VETERANS' ASSN., INC.



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1st Edition 2013



A Society of Distinguished Naval Veterans
Web Site: www.USSSamHouston.org



The Raven

An official publication of the USS Sam Houston Veterans' Assn., Inc.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Shipmates & Associate Members:

I hope that all of you are healthy and that you neither have sustained damage to your properties or encountered severe inconveniences caused by the many waves of severe weather that has been sweeping across the country since the last part of 2012.

Because this newsletter is being issued on time, it does not have as many pages as the 4th edition of 2012 because that issue included information which would have been in the 3^d edition of 2012 had I issued it. Nevertheless, I hope that you find the contents of this edition informative.

Reunion planning for both the 2014 reunion in the Seattle area and the 2016 reunion in the Washington, D.C. area are progressing. It's great to have lots of time to plan our reunions. Hopefully, you can attend them.

If you have any memories, pictures, or other graphics worthy of sharing with the membership, please send me the information for publishing in the next available edition of "The Raven."

Your Chairman, Reunion Planner, and Newsletter Editor,

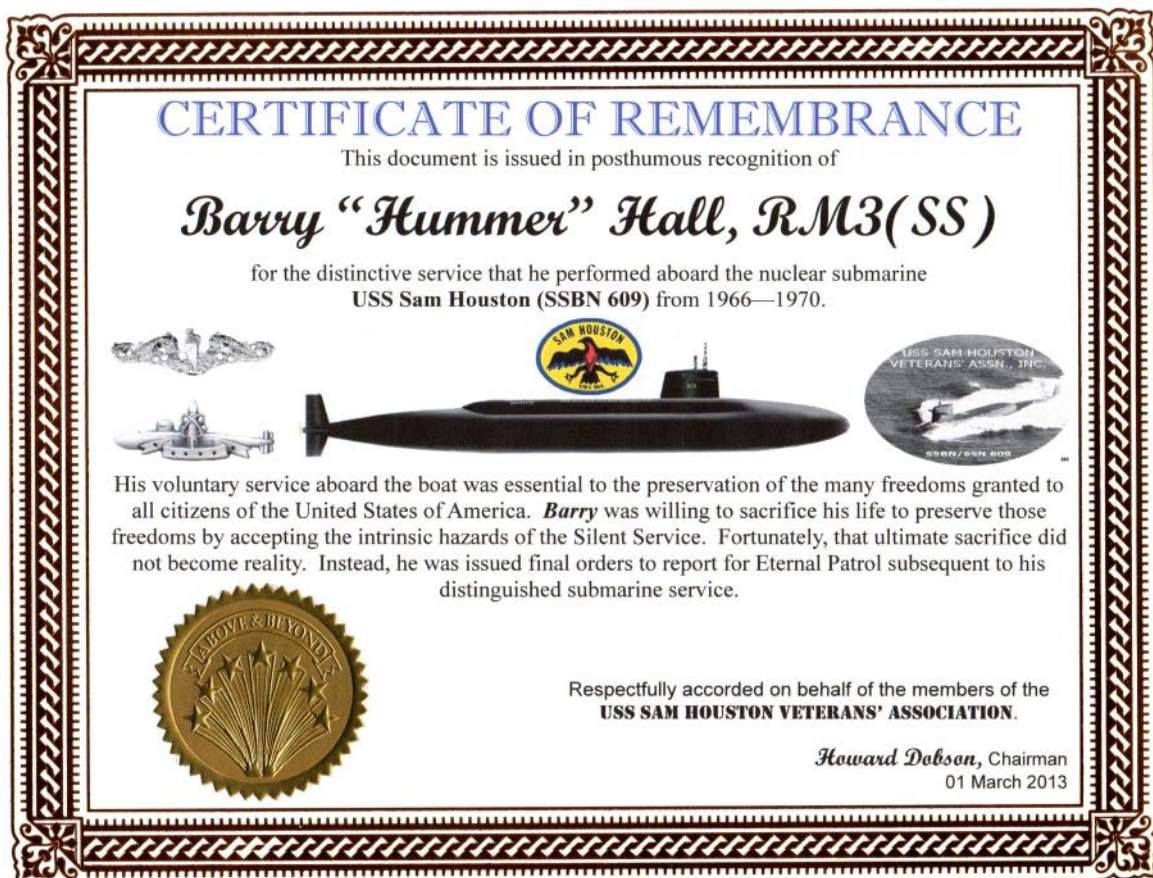
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CERTIFICATE OF REMEMBRANCE

This document continues to be a treasure to survivors of our shipmates. I make reasonable attempts to contact a survivor of a shipmate who is serving on Eternal Patrol whenever I learn that the shipmate has received his Final Orders. So far, all of the widows and surviving children whom I was able to contact not only requested a certificate for himself or herself, but often for the other siblings and, maybe, grandchildren. The recipients have expressed their gratitude in every case.

On 28 Feb 2013, **Jim Gach** [STS2(SS), O66 & Blue, 1966-1970] sent me an e-mail to inform me that **Barry "Hummer" Hall** [RM3(SS), O66 & Blue, 1966-1970] had succumbed to cancer on 19 Feb 2013. My reply to Jim was that I would try to contact Barry's wife to ask if she wanted a Certificate of Remembrance. Upon viewing the roster, he had no spouse listed, but I called the phone number and, unsurprisingly, learned that it was no longer in service. My next move was to check the roster to see if any shipmate lives near Hummer's last residence. **Tony Iacovelli** [MT2(SS), Gold, 1965-1970] lives about 10 miles away. I called Tony, and he agreed to go by Hummer's address with hope of finding any relative of his that I might communicate with. Tony was able to obtain the phone number of Hummer's sister. Meanwhile, Jim informed me that Barry was divorced, and gave me the e-mail address for his sister—the same sister that Tony obtained information about. I had already left a phone message for the sister, and she called me to request three Certificates of Remembrance. This story shows that the tradition of submariners helping shipmates continues, and I thank Tony, especially, and Jim for their follow-throughs.

Although we all hope that our day for Final Orders to Eternal Patrol and those of our shipmates are far off, we all will eventually receive those orders. It might be a good idea at this time to inform your spouses/partners and siblings to contact the SHVA if you receive your Final Orders. It is important not only that we toll the bell for you at our Memorial Services, but also that your survivors can receive a Certificate of Remembrance. That certificate, as simple as it is, is likely one of the two that directly relates to your service aboard **USS Sam Houston**. (The other document is probably your Submarine Qualification Certificate!) In addition to our Memorial Services and the Certificate of Remembrance, I will be submitting the names of our shipmates on Eternal Patrol to the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI) for inclusion in its national database of submariners on Eternal Patrol.



SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL SINCE THE 2012 REUNION

Since the 2012 reunion, the following shipmates were reported to have received orders for Eternal Patrol:

Last Name	First Name	Rate	Crew	On Ship	Off Ship	Departed
Armitage	Charles	LT	O72			unspecified
Ashpole						unspecified
Cramer	Roger	MM2	B	1969	1972	2/5/2013
Donaldson	Andrew	CPO				unspecified
Gowen	Harold	RM1	G	1962	1970	1/10/1999
Hall	Barry	RM3	O66,B	1966	1970	2/19/2013
Jones	Edward	LTjg				1980
Snogles	Robert	MM1	B,O66			5/22/2008
Tortorigi	Raymond	STSC	G	1961	1964	10/30/2012
Wilson	John	EN1	G			12/27/2012

These shipmates and all other submariners who served during the Cold War—alive or not today—were crucial to this country's victory in that war.

Howard Dobson

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

I finally found time to complete the mailing of the Membership Certificates that I had begun in Oct 2011. In Nov 2011, I had to put the project on hold to devote time and effort toward the upcoming 2012 reunion. In Feb 2013, I was able to return to the certificate mailing and have nearly completed the mailing in Mar 2013. I have about four members who have yet to receive their certificates because I am missing some information about them that is either needed for printing on the certificates or for mailing the certificates to them. I have sent requests to those with the missing information. If I have not contacted you about missing information and you have not received your certificate, please notify me because you were inadvertently overlooked. (Some members receive two certificates because they served on both the SSBN and SSN configurations of the boat—the certificates differ.)

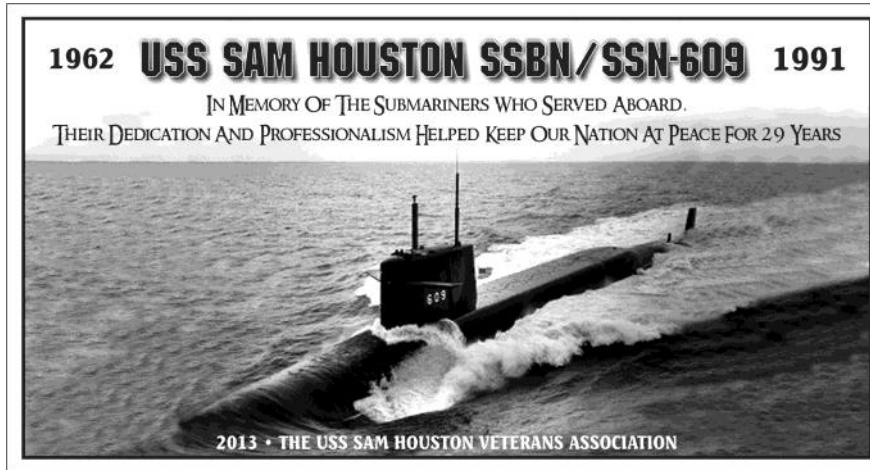
If you joined the SHVA in 2012 or later, you might be unaware of the reason for the certificates. Early in 2011, **Bob Bishop** [MMCS(SS), *Blue & Gold, 1960-1970*] wondered why I did not issue membership cards as other veterans' organizations do. We decided that a membership certificate would be better than a small wallet card because the certificate would be suitable for display in a home rather than have a small card in a wallet. Thus, the birth of the Membership Certificate.

Howard Dobson

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Contributions for the memorial plaque to be installed at the US Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. have been slow, with donations only from 11 members. I realize that times are tough and will likely become tougher, but I'm requesting that you donate \$25 although any amount is appreciated. I do not plan to request donations for the even-numbered years which translates to the donation equating to about \$1 a month over a 2-year period or \$2 a month over a 1-year period! The memorial plaque is a worthy cause that will perpetuate the memory of all who served aboard the boat. Hopefully, you intended to donate but forgot. (I was in this category until drafting this article reminded me to donate.)

The plaque consists of images engraved on a 7-in. X 3.75-in., archival, matte-finish, 16 gauge, aluminum plate. It will be mounted underneath the larger commemorative plaque contributed by the USSVI. Our plaque will be near chest level on the third panel from the entrance to the Commemorative Plaque Wall area.



I thank you in advance for contributing to this worthy and lasting cause. Please mail your contribution to me (address on page 1) and make your check or money order payable to **USS Sam Houston**.

Howard Dobson

SHVA DONATION'S PROGRAM

If you joined the SHVA during the past three years, you might be unaware that SHVA does not require dues for membership as most other military/veterans' groups do. The SHVA operates solely on donations from members. This has been successful primarily because most of the communications with members is accomplished through e-mail—only members without computers receive the newsletters and other official communications via postal mail. Additionally, our tax-exempt status requires that upon cessation of the SHVA, all assets of the SHVA be given to another tax-exempt organization. Thus, I don't feel comfortable accumulating money from members that would be used for the benefit of some other organization at a later time.

Donations support the administration of the SHVA—primarily stationery, printer inks, and postal fees. At the reunion in 2010, the membership voted to have installed a granite memorial bench at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum in Charleston, S.C. at a cost of \$2500. That bench was installed in Oct 2011. I did not request donations for 2011.

At the 2012 reunion, the members voted to have installed the commemorative plaque mentioned in the article above. Donations for 2013 will provide the money for that plaque. As usual, any excess money will remain in the bank account for other authorized uses in the administration of the SHVA.



Howard Dobson

REUNION UPDATE

Brad Lawrence [*IC2(SS), Gold, 1972-1973*], Assistant Reunion Planner, and I are collaborating on the 2014 reunion being held in the Seattle area and the 2016 reunion being held in the Washington, D.C. area. Four hotels in the Seattle area have submitted their proposals to us which we will analyze and reduce to two qualified candidates capable of hosting our reunion from 04-06 Sep 2014. These dates follow the 2014 USSVI Convention that year to occur in California. At our 2012 reunion, some attendees expressed a desire to have our 2014 reunion occur either just before or after the USSVI's Convention. This scheduling would save transportation costs for those who would desire to attend both events.

In May 2013, I will perform Site Inspections of the two candidate hotels in Seattle and meet with the chefs. Additionally, I will meet with a preselected tour operator to discuss area attractions and visit those that I believe would be desirable. Although a tour of the Trident Sub Base in Bangor is #1 on the list, I will not visit the base because we will be at the mercy of the Navy on the actual day of our planned tour. The Navy will determine what we can do on the base if we will be permitted on the base. We will not know with certainty if we would be permitted on the base until the day that we are scheduled to be there. If not permitted on the base, we will likely have a tour of the Bremerton area as an alternate.

At our request, many hotels have submitted proposals for the 2016 reunion in the Washington, D.C. area. The host hotel for this reunion will be in the nearby Fairfax County of Virginia that is popular for hosting military reunions. The most popular cities/areas are Herdon, the Dulles Airport area, Reston, the Tysons Corner area, and McLean. (Hotels within Washington, D.C. are too expensive.) What will be different about the Washington, D.C. reunion is that, if you would arrive in the Washington, D.C. area by any means of public transportation, travel via the Washington Metro (subway) will be necessary to avoid renting a car. If the host hotel would be near the Dulles Airport, travel via the Metro would not be required. Even though the Metro does not serve any of the areas mentioned above now, it will do so as a result of a service extension to the Dulles airport that will be completed in early 2016. We are planning to have our reunion in Sep-Oct 2016. One of the requirements of the host hotel is that it will provide complimentary shuttle service for the Dulles airport if the hotel will be near that airport or a nearby Metro Station otherwise. If you would use the Reagan Airport, travel to the host hotel via the Metro will be your best bet to avoid renting a car. (The Reagan airport is not in Fairfax County.) The choice of the Baltimore-Washington airport (BWI) would be feasible if you would get a good deal on airfare, but using this airport would necessitate a 40-minute ride on the MARC (local train) to the Amtrak Station in Washington, D.C. before continuing to the host hotel via the Metro. Current one-way fares on the MARC are \$6 regular or \$3 for seniors/disabled. The MARC fare might be a negligible consequence compared to a deal that you might get on airfare for BWI.

The 2016 Reunion-Registration Packet that you will receive will include every detail that you will need for travel via the D.C. Metro and/or MARC. Those details will include how to operate the self-service ticketing machines for the D.C. area Metro. Ticket purchases for the Metro can only be made from these machines that are easy to use. In most cases, a transfer between Metro subway trains will be necessary. I will cover this in detail, also. The longest period related to travel via the Metro will be about 30-45 minutes (on board + wait time for transfer) depending upon the day and time. That longest period will involve the Reagan airport.

A new feature being contemplated for our future reunions is skype® video conferencing for the benefit of those who do not attend the reunion. For those who are unfamiliar with this technology (myself included), it is a type of Internet live broadcast that uses a small video camera and microphone to broadcast bi-directionally over the Internet. We see similar technology often during TV newscasts. This technique can allow absentee shipmates to see and communicate with their shipmates at the reunion. The concept is in the idea phase; so, we do not know exactly when the video conference would occur. During the banquet would seem to be the best time because this is the event with the most attendance, but the many goings-on during the banquet might not permit it. Brad and I will work out something because skype® video conferencing is a great idea and will have a near negligible cost!

Additionally, our Arts & Crafts Committee, formed during the 2012 reunion, will have projects that are certain to enhance our future reunions. The members are Sandy Dobson, Nancy Holycross, Glenna Hubbell, and Kim Schwind.

Please plan to attend the Seattle and Washington, D.C. reunions if you can see your way to do so.

Howard Dobson

2012 REUNION-MEMORY BOOK

As mentioned in a prior Membership Memo, **Brad Lawrence** has produced a top-notch Reunion 2012 Memory Book. The hardcover book has a simulated, woven-texture finish and measures 12 inches square when closed; when opened, it is 2 feet wide! Its 15 high-quality, glossy, photo pages contain lots of large pictures. This book is coffee table quality—not so much for storage out of sight although the spine has the printed title.

If you desire a copy and have not ordered one, please place your order directly with Brad. Include a check or money order for \$45 payable to **Brad Lawrence** for each copy ordered.

Brad Lawrence
34487 N 92nd Pl
Scottsdale AZ 85262



Howard Dobson

IN SEARCH OF . . .

Recently, I received the e-mail message below. If you can help her locate the shipmate, please give her any information that you feel might be useful. Also, give me that information.

I am trying to find the Best Man from our wedding. He served on Sam Houston with my husband in Hawaii. His name is Thomas Roberts who served on the boat in 1990, and he was part of the crew that took it to the east coast. My husband is Rodney Dockstader (QM2) back in those days.

My husband just retired from San Diego as an ETCS, and we have tried very hard to find Tom.

If you can direct me to where I could find this information, I would love it.

Stacy Dockstader
303-947-5945

I called Rodney to get information on him for the roster. I learned that Thomas Roberts was an IC2 at the time [aboard the SSN in 1990].

Howard Dobson

MESSAGE FROM A NEW-FOUND SHIPMATE

Bertrand “Butch” Savaria [ET1(SS), Gold & O66, 1965-1968], new to the SHVA, sent the following picture with faces of three unidentified shipmates at the Diving Station. He hopes to submit more if he can find them. Can you identify any of them?

Butch also wrote “. . . thanks you for the Membership Certificate to the SSBN 609 Veteran’s Association. I attached my Polaris Pin and Dolphins to the frame that I have it mounted in and have it displayed on the wall of my ‘man cave’ with the rest of my memories and collectables.

“Again, thank you and looking forward to the 2014 reunion.”

[Ed. Note: All of us who served aboard boomers should be proud of how we served our country during the Cold War. If we give our boomer duty some serious thought, we will learn that we did something that only a select handful of people in the world did and are continuing to do! That weapon’s platform was the most powerful during the era and remains so to this day.]



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOSS OF USS THRESHER (SSN 593)

The month of April 2013 marks the 50th anniversary of the loss of the Thresher. On 10 April 1963, an insurmountable problem encountered during a dive to test depth after a 9-month, post-shakedown and reliability overhaul resulted in the boat’s inability to avoid exceeding crush depth which took the lives of the 108 crew members and 21 military and civilian specialists aboard.

Although the cause of the disaster has not been conclusively determined, those lives were not lost in vain. The investigations that were conducted resulted in the multi-faceted SUBSAFE program that provided the remaining boats with improved conditions of their hulls and the ability to have better control to recover from flooding casualties.

On 21 Mar 2013, I sent a Membership Memo via e-mail to SHVA members that forwarded a message about the 50th-Year Thresher Memorial Service being hosted by the Thresher Base of the USSVI. The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard had been footing the bill for the memorial service in prior years, but last-minute cuts in federal funding for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard put the memorial service in jeopardy. The Membership Memo also requested contributions toward the service. On 25 Mar, I learned that sufficient contributions had been received, and the memorial service will occur as planned. The Thresher Base provided monetary support as did the Maine Base of the USSVI of which **Larry Ferrell** [MM1(SS), Blue, 1968-1970] is the Base Commander. Some members of the Maine Base will serve as escorts for attendees at the memorial service as well as help with other tasks related to the service.

This is yet another case of submariners stepping up to help during a crisis to assure that an important submariner-related function can occur.

Howard Dobson