



SUMMER 2025

PAUL DOUCETTE, EDITOR

USS NAUTILUS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone enjoyed a great summer. Now that it's approaching fall, it reminds us that the next Nautilus reunion is only one year away—next fall.

The board is shooting for the reunion dates to be in the last week of September 2026, the time period we've had it many times in the past. The primary reason for selecting late September in the past was to make the reunion coincide with the anniversary of the commissioning of USS Nautilus on September 30, 1954.

Unfortunately, in 2026 the September 30th anniversary date of the commissioning falls mid-week on a Tuesday—not a good day to begin or end a reunion. Regardless of our reunion dates, we will definitely celebrate the 72nd anniversary of our boat's commissioning.

Since most venues won't place holds on dates more than a year out, we began negotiations for the hotel and the special events venues the first week of September. We are aiming for the dates of Thursday, 25 September - Sunday, 28 September, with an alternative period of Thursday, 2 October - Sunday, 5 October. This will depend on venue availability and pricing.

As soon as agreements are in place, especially the reunion hotel agreement, we will post the final

dates on our web site, on our Facebook group, and via a special email to our distribution list. Be on the look out for it very soon. The reunion registration form will follow shortly afterward along with information about menus and events.

Enjoy the fall and don't forget to raise a glass this September 30th to celebrate the 71st anniversary of the commissioning of *The First and Finest*.



OPERATION SUNSHINE

THE DAY THEY CAME HOME

Bill Gaines (Nautilus 1955-1961/PANOPO)

It happened on 25 August, 1958, 67 years ago. The USS Nautilus SSN 571, with 116 newly acclaimed PANOPOs onboard, returned home following the transit under the North Pole: Operation Sunshine. On that historic day, with Captain William R. Anderson in command, standing proudly on the bridge, the USS Nautilus glided smoothly into New York Harbor. The crew was assembled topside, standing tall, attired in their crisp dress white uniforms. The red, white and blue stars and stripes, the beautiful American Flag, streaming in the breeze aft of the sail.

It was a celebration. An American celebration. It was the recognition of a historic American accomplishment. An accomplishment that propelled the United States back onto the world stage. And Nautilus did it. Now, the heroes of the Arctic were returning home, bringing with them American pride. American success. American achievement.

Harbor tugboats welcomed Nautilus, spraying towering plumes of white water high up into the clear blue New York City autumn sky. Numerous small craft filled with wildly cheering New Yorkers plied the water around this now world famous submarine. At the piers, the many moored ships sounded their loud whistles. Welcome home Nautilus. Welcome home brave sailors.

For those onboard, Operation Sunshine will always be a proud personal memory. How they, not alone, but together with their shipmates, challenged the perilous Arctic: the large and dangerous ice floes, the poorly charted shallow water, the dark unknown. With great courage the men of Nautilus carried out their assigned mission. They persevered. And they were successful. And then, for just a brief moment in time, they were called heroes. So quickly it was over.

Now, 67 years have quietly slipped by. The memory of that historic day, 03 August 1958, has faded. For many it will always remain a lifelong highlight. And rightfully so. For, it was a crew effort and a crew achievement. It was the skilled leadership who guided them. And it was the combined effort, dedication and skill of 116 men: Nautilus shipmates. American Sailors.

The 25 August 1958 arrival in New York brought to a close Operation Sunshine. That great adventure was now merely history. Just a memory. Oh yes, a special memory for some now very old sailors: PANOPOs.

However, please always remember, though Operation Sunshine was special, it was just a brief moment, a small part, a side note, in the long and proud history of the USS Nautilus SSN 571, the world's first nuclear powered submarine. Long after Operation Sunshine, long after the PANOPOs had all sailed on, Nautilus continued to set records, continued to be the pride of the submarine force and continued to be, and always will be, the First and Finest.

With this post, I want to send my most sincere best wishes to the families; mothers, wives, children, grandchildren, of those who so proudly served on Nautilus throughout its many operational years. Thank you for being part of the history of Nautilus, the legacy of Nautilus, and carrying forward the proud tradition of that so very special submarine. Your commitment to Nautilus is important and so very much appreciated by all those who served onboard.

I'll conclude with saying that with a bit of good fortune, I hope to see you again in 2026 to celebrate the long and wonderful history of the USS Nautilus SSN 571. May the sun always shine on Nautilus. And, may you always have fair winds and following seas.

Bill Gaines, Nautilus crew, November 1955-August 1961. PANOPO.

NAAI Finance Report

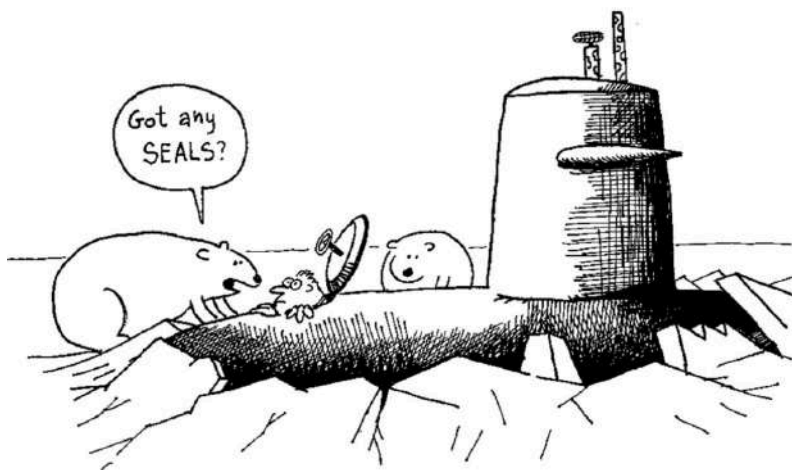
NAUTILUS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INC				
CHECKING BALANCE 05/19/2025			\$	8,998.15
JUNE-JULY 2025 EXPENSES				
05-15-2025	USPS Postage to mail coins		\$23.75	
06-02-2025	QUICKBOOKS		\$35.00	
06-18-2025	NAAI CREDIT CARD PAYMENT		\$17.11	
	ZOOM MEETING (MAY)	\$17.11		
07-2-2025	QUICKBOOKS		\$38.00	
07-13-2025	NAAI CREDIT CARD PAYMENT		\$18.18	
	ZOOM MEETING (JUNE)	\$18.18		
07-10-2025	USPS: Annual PO Box Rent		\$72.00	
		TOTAL EXPENSES		\$204.04
DEPOSITS JUNE-JULY 2025				
05-20-2025	Coin Reimbursement(Twiggs))		\$30.55	
06-18-2025	Coin Reimbursement(Gaines)		\$36.55	
07-14-2025	Coin Reimbursement(Struchen)		\$24.30	
	CHECKING BALANCE 07/13/2025		\$8,885.51	
	COIN INVENTORY	56		
Submitted by Rick Faircloth, Treasurer 07/14/2025				



The [Nautilus Education Assistance Fund \(NEAF\)](#), created and funded by NAAI announces that we are less than a month away from the beginning of the Nautilus Scholarship application period! Applications for our 2026 scholarship and for other Dolphin Scholarships will be accepted beginning October 1, 2025 and will close on March 15, 2026. Nautilus Scholarships are open to current Historic Ship Nautilus crew, their spouses, children, and grandchildren; and to children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of all sailors who ever sailed aboard Nautilus for 30 days or more. Adopted and step children/grandchildren/great grandchildren are also eligible. Our scholarships are open to high schools seniors, to those already in college who are seeking financial assistance, and for adults who want to go to college or trade school. Scholarships are available for community college, junior college, four-year colleges and universities, and for vocational/trade schools. We seek to award at least three scholarships per year up to \$3,500 each, with one going to a 2-year college applicant, one to a 4-year college/university applicant, and one to a vocational/trade school applicant. Scholarships are awarded by merit among applicants for each category. If there is only one applicant in a particular category, such as vocational/trade, then that applicant is guaranteed a scholarship. If there is no applicants for a specific category, then that category's scholarship will be given to a applicant in another category. Now is the time to publicize this among your family members. Remember, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, especially those living far from Nautilus shipmates, will likely learn of these scholarships only from you. Reach out and encourage them to apply. *Sidebar and cartoon "borrowed" from the Dolphin Scholarship publication.*

Scholar Spotlight: Emmalyn Siclare

Emmalyn Siclare earned both the Dolphin Scholarship and USS Nautilus Scholarship in 2023. She has renewed her Dolphin Scholarship each year and has reapplied and earned the USS Nautilus Scholarship every year since with her stellar efforts in the classroom, and involvement in her school and community.



WWII Submarine Memorial

If you haven't visited the WWII Submarine Memorial On Thames Street in Groton, just a couple of miles from Historic Ship Nautilus, then you are missing out of an great experience.

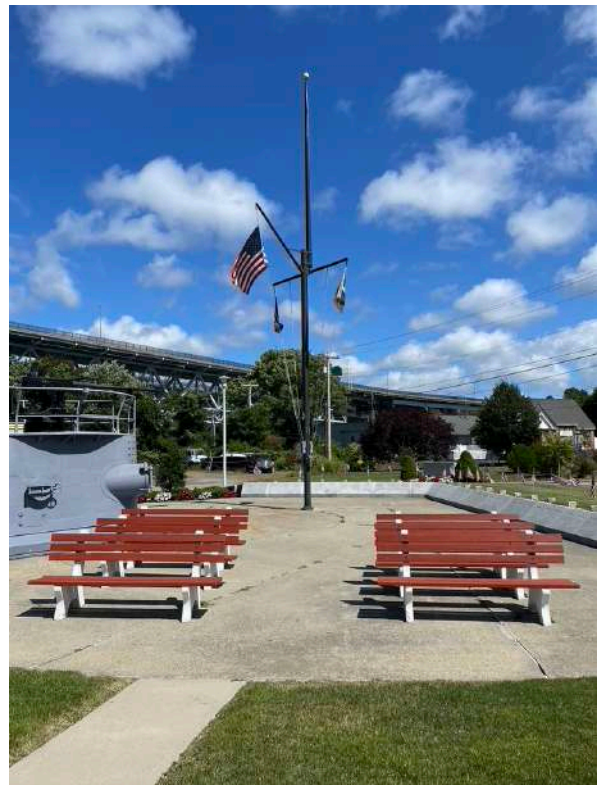
There have been vast improvements to the site in the past few years. Stop by when you are in the area.





This Quarter's Submarine Trivia

Q: What two symbols did U.S. submarines in the Pacific during WWII display on their battle flags to indicate the types of enemy vessels they had sunk? (Answer later in this newsletter.)



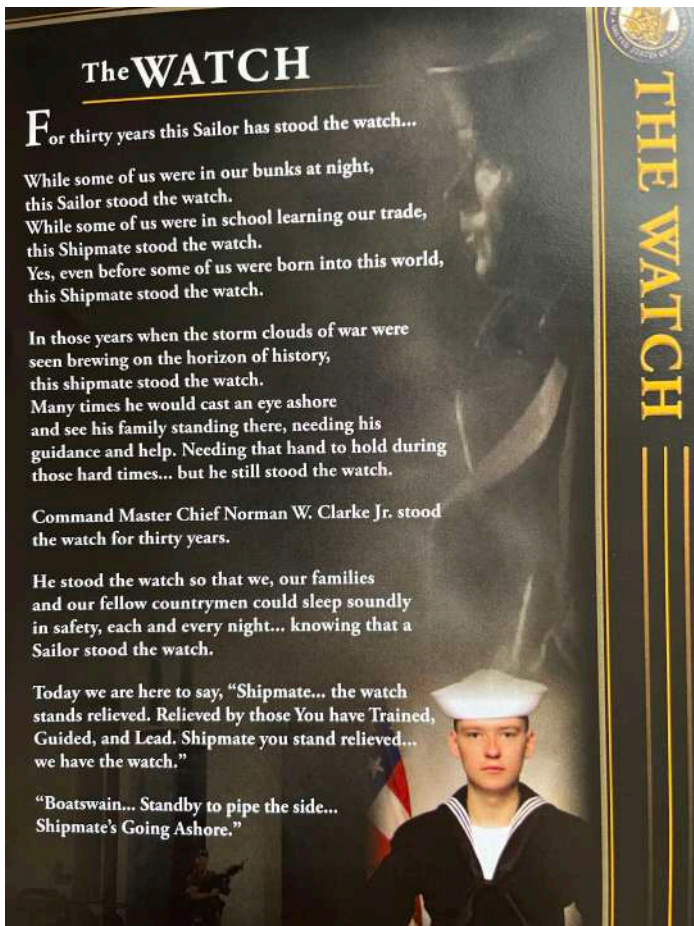
Classy Retirement Ceremony

Lonnie Barham

My son-in-law, Marc Murray, who teaches at Preston (CT) Middle School, recently attended the retirement ceremony for Command Master Chief (SS) Norman W. Clarke, Jr., which was conducted on the deck of Historic Ship Nautilus and on the pier. The retiring Submarine Learning Center CMC's wife, Justina (Tina), an employee at Marc's school, had invited him.

Marc showed me the program for the ceremony and I found several things in it that were very impressive. I've included two pages from the program that are perhaps familiar to those who spent their careers in the Navy but were refreshing and new to me.

"The Lady in Wait" tribute to spouses who stay behind while submariners patrol the oceans' depths. And "The Watch," a tribute to a submariner's decades of steadfast watch as Americans sleep soundly.



There Couldn't Be A Better Place For
A Retirement Ceremony Than On the
Deck Of Our Former Home - The USS
Nautilus, SSN 571



A Shipmate of Long Ago

NAAI member Bruce Harvey submitted some photos of his father, CDR John Wesley Harvey, on the occasion of CDR Harvey's Heavenly Birthday. John Harvey served aboard Nautilus from 1955-1958 as a lieutenant and was aboard when Nautilus transited the North Pole during its historic PANOPO trip. He was later promoted to Commander and assigned as skipper of the ill-fated USS Thresher. Unfortunately, he went down with his ship in 1963.





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AND FOR THE BIGGEST THRILL OF ALL, you'll stalk the "enemy" in the newest and mightiest submarine of all, the missile-armed George Washington! You'll stand fearlessly at the command to launch the Polaris missile ... cheer as it lands on target 2,800 miles away! These are just a few of the thrills that await you—in the new Science Program presentation of SUBMARINES. And it's yours for only 10¢ on this "get-acquainted" offer.

Enjoy Monthly Adventures Like These

Each month this new program will take you on a "guided tour" of a different field of science. One month a chemist will show you metal that burns and gas that poirs. Another time a biologist will let you look through his microscope at a living cell. On other adventures your guides will be radio engineers ... medical researchers ... nuclear physicists.

Each month you receive sheets of full-color photographs—also an illustrated album, crammed with information, and with spaces for mounting the pictures. In addition, there will be many other interesting things to do.

What It Will Mean to Your Family

Think what these adventures will mean to your family—especially if you have children in school! It will help them participate in science projects, help prepare them for life in the space age—may even lead to a scientific career.

MAIL COUPON NOW with only 10¢ for the Introductory package. With it we will also send the current Activity Kit for which you will be billed only \$1, plus shipping. No further obligation. If you do not wish to continue, simply write us within ten days. Otherwise you pay only \$1 plus shipping for each month's scientific adventure. You may cancel at any time. Mail the coupon with only ten cents to

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Trivia Answer: WWII Submarines in the Pacific displayed a Red Ball (the Meatball) on their battle flags for every enemy merchant vessel sunk and the Red Rising Sun for every war ship sunk.



Things that ruin a submariner's day

ETERNAL PATROL



"Sailor, rest your oars"

"We're built to cruise for but a while upon this trackless sea, until one day we sail away into infinity." - John T. Baker 14

Roger R. Miller, ET1(SS), PANOPPO, served aboard Nautilus from 1957-1960, Departed on *Eternal Patrol* on 2/22/25

John J. Woolery, TM2(SS), served aboard Nautilus from 1966-1968, Departed on *Eternal Patrol* on 7/30/25

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lonbarham1@gmail.com

401-644-6829

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