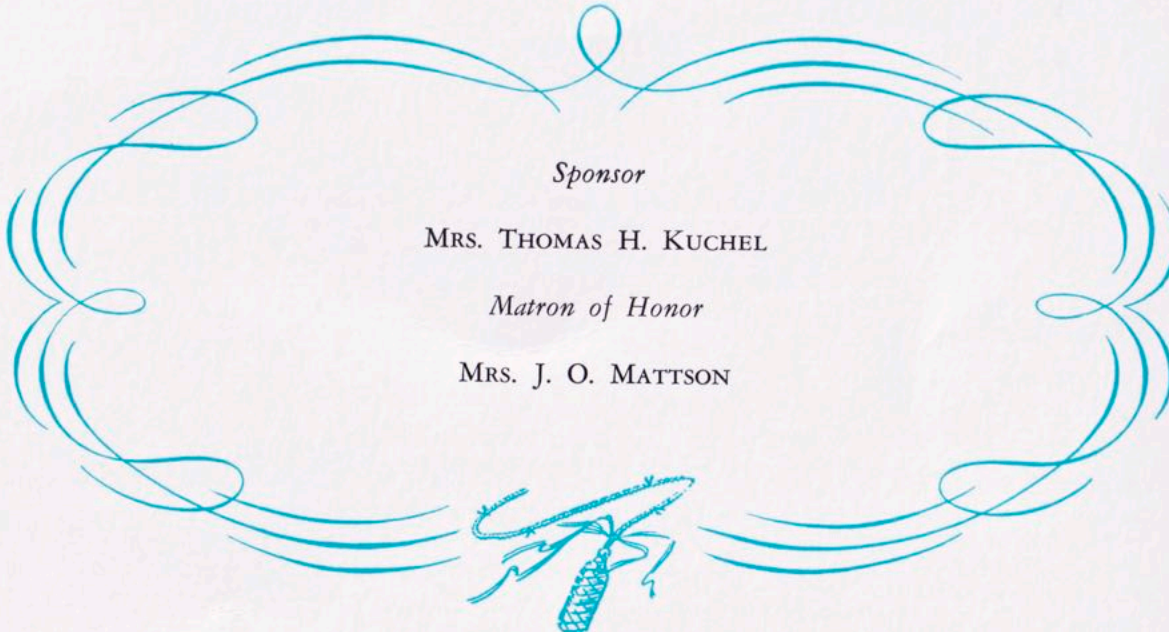


LAUNCHING OF  
THE ATTACK SUBMARINE

**RAY**

JUNE 21, 1966

NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING AND DRY DOCK COMPANY / NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA



*Sponsor*

MRS. THOMAS H. KUCHEL

*Matron of Honor*

MRS. J. O. MATTSON

LAUNCHING OF THE  
ATTACK  
SUBMARINE

**U.S.S. RAY**

SS(N)653

JUNE 21, 1966

NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING AND DRY DOCK COMPANY  
NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA



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# Program

NATIONAL ANTHEM

U. S. Navy Band, Commander in Chief, United States  
Atlantic Fleet

WELCOME AND  
INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

Mr. Donald A. Holden, President of the Newport News  
Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company

ADDRESS

The Honorable Thomas H. Kuchel, United States Senator  
from California

INVOCATION

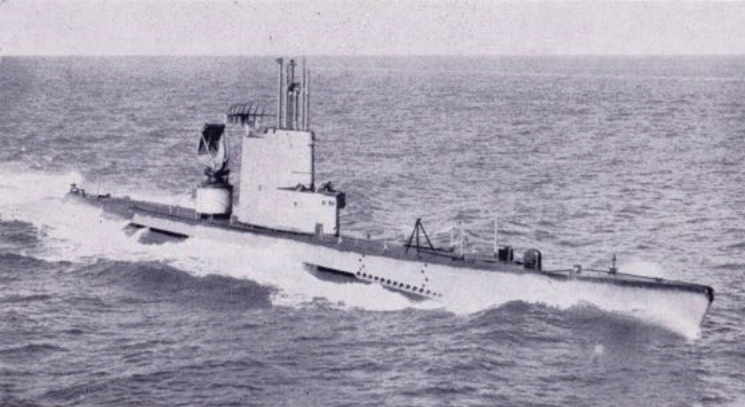
Commander Alla W. Robertson, USN, Assistant District  
Chaplain, Fifth Naval District

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPONSOR  
AND MATRON OF HONOR

Mr. Holden

CHRISTENING

Mrs. Thomas H. Kuchel



## HISTORY OF

The nuclear attack submarine RAY being launched at Newport News today is the namesake of a valiant veteran of World War II which had a long and distinguished career.

Commissioned on July 27, 1943, the RAY arrived at Brisbane, Australia in late October, ready for her first war patrol. By the time the Pacific war ended, the RAY had sent a confirmed 56,000 tons of Japanese shipping to the bottom. Probable kills more than double the total, and added to this are the countless small craft which the RAY sank or damaged with her deck guns. In recognition of achievements as one of the most aggressive of our silent raiders, the RAY was awarded the Submarine Combat Insignia eight times, giving the ship a perfect score of eight successful war patrols.

On November 13, 1943, the RAY left on her first patrol in the area north of the Bismarks, which lasted 24 days. During

that time she attacked and sank the 2,526-ton gunboat NIKKAI MARU.

The second patrol began on December 11 from Milne Bay, where the ship had been repaired and refueled. The patrol lasted 32 days and resulted in the sinking of two Japanese ships, a 5,792-ton tanker and a 2,904-ton gunboat. No damage was sustained from subsequent depth-charging, and the RAY returned to Fremantle for provisioning.

The third war patrol, which began on February 6, 1944 and included a special mission to lay a minefield off the coast of Indo-China, lasted 51 days and was completely successful.

After three weeks refitting and training, the fourth patrol commenced on April 23, 1944. During the 54-day period, the RAY sank the 6,094-ton passenger cargo ship TENPEI MARU.

The fifth war patrol consisted of two phases. In the first, the RAY expended her torpedoes and was credited with sinking the 5,244-ton tanker JANBI MARU. After reloading at Fremantle, she sighted a convoy in the Maccassar Straits and sank a 2,612-ton cargo vessel. Nine days later on August 13, she sighted a 12-ship convoy, five of which were escort vessels. From then until the 21st, the RAY began to fight a running battle. On the night of the 20th, the USS HARDER and USS HADDO joined

# THE FIRST USS RAY (SSR-271)

her for a coordinated attack. During this siege the RAY sank three large enemy ships.

The sixth patrol was a mixture of suspense and action beginning on September 23, 1944. On October 12 the Ray sank another passenger cargo ship. Two days later, while making a quick dive to avoid aircraft detection, the conning tower was flooded, but there were no casualties. On October 27, after repairs, the RAY was back on patrol. After sinking a small cargo vessel, she proceeded to Mindoro on a special mission, successfully landing three men and some cargo on the island and picking up three escaped war prisoners and two aviators. On November 4 during a concerted attack with three other subs, the RAY saw torpedoes passing along either side of her, apparently fired by one of the other subs but missing their target. She arrived in Pearl Harbor on December 8 after the 72-day patrol.

For both the fifth and sixth war patrols, the RAY was awarded the Navy Unit Citation.

During the seventh patrol, which began on April 30, 1945, the RAY rescued 20 aviators at sea and sank or damaged an uncounted number of small craft with her 5-inch gun. The eighth patrol started on July 21. The RAY became the scourge of the coast in the Gulf of Siam, damaging, sinking and burning every small boat she could find. However, it was the shortest patrol

of her career. She was called back when the Japanese began to make peace overtures.

In February 1946, the RAY was decommissioned and transferred to the Reserve Fleet.

In December 1950, the RAY was returned to the fleet for conversion to a radar picket submarine. Her hull was cut in two and a 30-foot section added. The upper half of this new section became a combat information center and the lower half provided room for electronic equipment storage, a sonar room, and an air conditioning plant. The old bridge was replaced by a streamline sail. She was equipped with specialized electronic equipment, her communication facilities were greatly expanded, her fuel capacity increased 139,000 gallons, and her after torpedo tubes were removed to permit expansion of berthing space for the additional personnel.

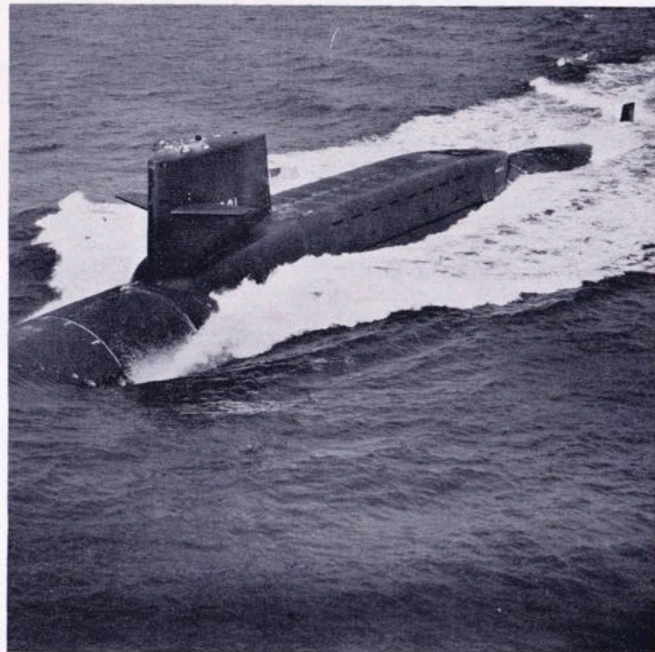
Recommissioned in August 1952, she took part in training exercises along the Atlantic coast and participated in fleet operations in the Mediterranean twice. She represented the United States Navy in various international functions, such as the International Naval Review at Hampton Roads in 1957 and at a six-nation salute to SHAPE while in the Mediterranean in 1956.

The RAY was again decommissioned in September 1958, and her proud name was stricken from the Navy List, effective April 1, 1960.

## Last and First of The Polaris Program at Newport News



USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER  
Delivered June, 1966



USS ROBERT E. LEE  
Delivered September, 1960



# Submarine Construction At Newport News

## POLARIS SUBMARINES

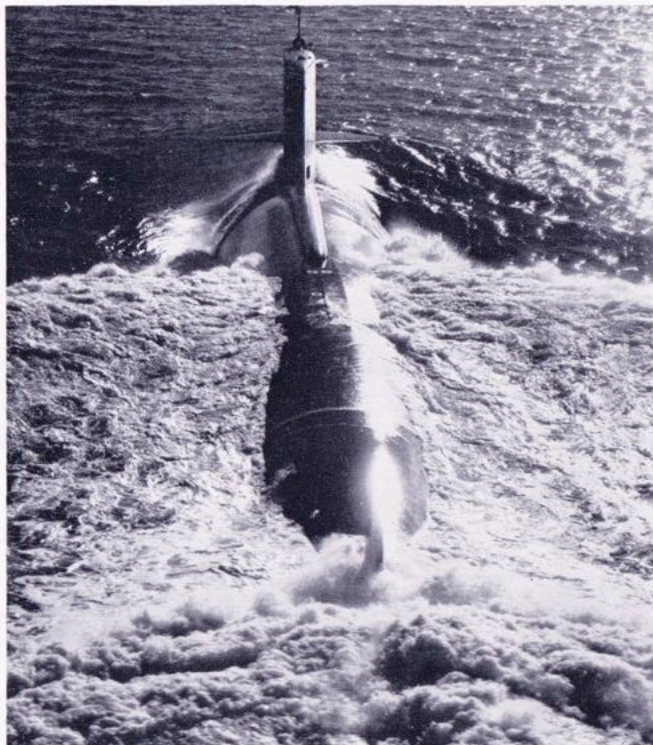
USS ROBERT E. LEE, SSB(N) 601 (1960)  
USS SAM HOUSTON, SSB(N) 609 (1962)  
USS JOHN MARSHALL, SSB(N) 611 (1962)  
USS THOMAS JEFFERSON, SSB(N) 618 (1963)  
USS JAMES MONROE, SSB(N) 622 (1963)  
USS HENRY CLAY, SSB(N) 625 (1964)  
USS JAMES MADISON, SSB(N) 627 (1964)  
USS JOHN C. CALHOUN, SSB(N) 630 (1964)  
USS VON STEUBEN, SSB(N) 632 (1964)  
USS SAM RAYBURN, SSB(N) 635 (1964)  
USS SIMON BOLIVAR, SSB(N) 641 (1965)  
USS LEWIS & CLARK, SSB(N) 644 (1965)  
USS GEORGE C. MARSHALL, SSB(N) 654 (1966)  
USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER  
SSB(N) 656 (1966)

## ATTACK SUBMARINES

USS SHARK, SS(N) 591 (1961)

### Under Contract

USS QUEENFISH, SS(N) 651  
USS RAY, SS(N) 653  
USS LAPON, SS(N) 661  
USS HAMMERHEAD, SS(N) 663  
USS SEA DEVIL, SS(N) 664  
SS(N) 668  
SS(N) 670



Nuclear Attack Submarine  
USS SHARK SS(N)591

## THE USS RAY—SS(N)653

The RAY is one of 23 vessels authorized in the STURGEON Class of attack submarines. These ships are 292 feet long and have a surfaced displacement of 4,060 tons. Both the STURGEON and PERMIT Classes are designed to carry the SUBROC missile-torpedo, the latest anti-submarine warfare weapons system.

The keel for the RAY was laid on January 4, 1965. The only previous nuclear attack submarine delivered by Newport News was the USS SHARK, delivered in February 1961. The Company also has six additional STURGEON Class vessels under contract, including the QUEENFISH which was launched in February of this year.

The RAY is named for fish of the family Rajaidae, especially abundant in the North Pacific and North Atlantic oceans, some growing to a large size and attaining a weight of over 300 pounds. Most of them, however, are shorefishes, which lie concealed in the sand or mud at the bottom of the water and from that hidden point dart suddenly upon unsuspecting prey. They are also called Devilfish.



Commander Albert L. Kelln, USN  
Prospective Commanding Officer

Lt. Cdr. Robert H. Harris, USN  
Prospective Executive Officer



# Autographs



