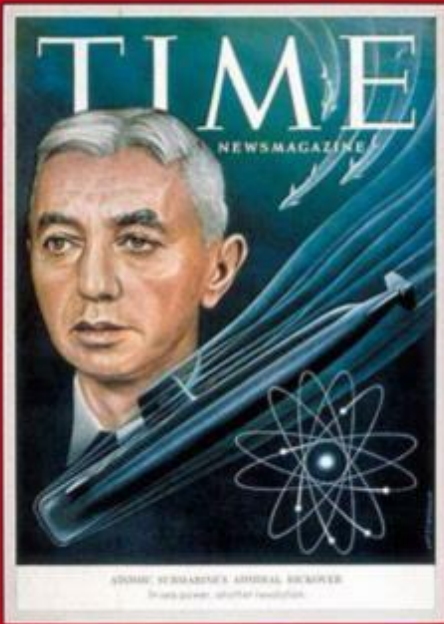


*"Relentlessly Pursuing Excellence"*

# The Rickover Tribune

*The official newsletter of USS Hyman G. Rickover (SSN 795)*

**Fourth Quarter, Fiscal year 2023  
& Beyond**



## FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Dear friends and family,

I am thrilled to bring you the latest edition of our newsletter, highlighting a momentous occasion – the commissioning of the USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER. This historic event marked the dedication of a ship that embodies the unrelenting commitment to excellence, spanning 63 years of military service. The proud Sailors of the next-generation USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER stand ready to continue this legacy of excellence, guiding our ship into harm's way and defending the values that we hold dear. I'd like extend our gratitude to the numerous individuals and organizations who have contributed to the commissioning of the USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER. From the ship's sponsor, Ms. Darleen Greenert, to the shipbuilders, waterfront organizations, and the submarine veterans, we acknowledge and appreciate the unwavering support that has been instrumental in achieving this significant milestone. As our Sailors embark on our next journey, we are reminded of Admiral Rickover's principles of responsibility, perseverance, creativity, courage, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, which are embodied by this extraordinary vessel and her crew.

Best regards,  
CDR Matt Beach



## FROM THE CHIEF OF THE BOAT

Greetings again from the finest boat in the fleet. I am proud to be writing this as we transit in the depths of the Atlantic to our first ever port call away from Groton CT. The crew is looking forward to some well-deserved liberty in sunny Florida. Having recently completed commissioning we are now preparing to operate in more challenging environments with the eventual goal of being overseas deployment ready. I would like to highlight how far the Sailors onboard RICKOVER have come, each one onboard has shown passion, expertise and a commitment to excellence in order to transition from a Pre-Commissioning Unit in the shipyard to operating a nuclear powered warship and being a critical part of national defense aboard this United States Ship. To highlight some of the events from the last quarter, we recently announced the advancement of six of our Sailors to the next pay grade and were able to host an All Hands awards ceremony where we recognized over 35 Sailors for their hard work and dedication. Additionally, RICKOVER was handpicked to be the focal point of a base wide fire drill where the response of the local area emergency responders and fire stations was exercised. Again, it is an honor to be a part of the accomplishments of each Sailor here and to serve in America's Navy onboard RICKOVER. We are wishing you and yours a blessed holiday and a happy new year. – TCM Sean DeGraff, Chief of the Boat





# SILVER DOLPHINS RECIPIENTS



MMN2(SS) GABRIEL SCIBONA



STSSN(SS) NICHOLAS EVANS



MMN2(SS) BRIAN BAYOT



ETV3(SS) MICHAEL TSOI



MMN2(SS) SEBASTIAN LOPEZ



STSSN(SS) AUSTIN CRAIG

Can you think of a symbol that has immediate meaning to you? Maybe it's the American flag, the logo of your favorite sports team, or your college mascot. For the men and women of the Submarine Force, it's the submarine warfare insignia, informally known as a submariner's "dolphins." Submariners earn their dolphins by demonstrating their vast knowledge of all the systems aboard their submarine in a process they call "qualifying." Qualifying is not just a rite of passage or an achievement for submariners, it is a requirement of submarine service. A new unqualified submariner has a year to successfully complete the qualification process and pass his or her final evaluation board prior to receiving their dolphins.





# SILVER DOLPHINS RECIPIENTS



ITS2(SS) WILLIAM MELLON



MMN2 EMERIL BRASWELL

Can you think of a symbol that has immediate meaning to you? Maybe it's the American flag, the logo of your favorite sports team, or your college mascot. For the men and women of the Submarine Force, it's the submarine warfare insignia, informally known as a submariner's "dolphins." Submariners earn their dolphins by demonstrating their vast knowledge of all the systems aboard their submarine in a process they call "qualifying." Qualifying is not just a rite of passage or an achievement for submariners, it is a requirement of submarine service. A new unqualified submariner has a year to successfully complete the qualification process and pass his or her final evaluation board prior to receiving their dolphins.

# GOLD DOLPHINS RECIPIENTS

*BRAVO ZULU TO RICKOVER'S LTJG VERKAMP  
FOR COMPLETING THE RIGOROUS SUBMARINE  
QUALIFICATION PROCESS AND RECEIVING HIS  
GOLD DOLPHINS!*



*LTJG LOGAN VERKAMP*





# USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER'S 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER AWARDS

USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER'S  
BLUE JACKET OF THE QUARTER  
MMAFN(SS) IOLOAUSE MASTER



USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER'S  
JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER  
LSS2(SS) SAMUEL J. REIMER



USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER'S  
SAILOR OF THE QUARTER  
MMAI(SS) JOSEPH CLEVELAND



OUTSTANDING!

**BRAVO ZULU, SHIPMATES!**



# *USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER'S SELECTED SAILORS OF THE YEAR*

USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER'S  
JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR

LSS2(SS) Samuel J. Reimer

USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER'S  
SAILOR OF THE YEAR

YNS1(SS) Joseph M. Tooley



OUTSTANDING!

***BRAVO ZULU, SHIPMATES!***







# OMBUDSMAN UPDATE

Hello Rickover families!

Shelby and I want to take a moment, first and foremost, to say congratulations to the crew! Commissioning was a huge success, and we are so grateful to have been able to witness all your hard work and sacrifices pay off. To all the parents and family members we were able to meet during the week's events, thanks for coming up and introducing yourselves and sharing kind words. Your support and well wishes make volunteering in this position a little brighter! Shelby and I also had the honor of meeting the Ship's Sponsor, Darleen Greenert (pictured), the Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, and Senator Richard Blumenthal, and we shared some of our stories from our time as your Ombudsmen and the sacrifices the families of our service members must endure. It was truly a week filled with joy and lasting memories!

Now that the boat is officially the USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER, there will be some changes coming down the line. The biggest change will be an increase in boat movements. Life aboard a submarine, especially a fast attack like the RICKOVER, is unpredictable. Schedules can change in a moment, dates shifted to the left or right with little to no warning. Communication can be spotty while the boat is out to sea, and the workload while on the pier can be overwhelming. As your Ombudsmen, we are here to support the families by answering any questions that you may have, and to help facilitate communication and provide resources when asked.

## OMBUDSMAN CONTACT INFORMATION

[795ombudsman@gmail.com](mailto:795ombudsman@gmail.com)

PHONE: (860) 772-4133

### RESOURCES

AMCROSS

COMPASS

MWR

FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT  
CENTER





# OMBUDSMAN UPDATE CONT'D

As always, we want to add a reminder about Operations Security (OPSEC). One of the most important jobs of a military family is to keep the information your sailor gives you safe. This information could be about boat movement, port calls, the maintenance schedule, or upcoming missions. Keeping the information safe includes not sharing it in writing, in public places, or in virtual spaces like on Facebook. If you are on our Facebook group, you may have seen the example I posted of 3 spam accounts trying to access our public fan page this month. The spam accounts had all stolen photos of sailors and were pretending to be supporting our boat. We have passed those fake profiles on to NCIS, but it is a reminder that we must be constantly vigilant. If families begin to share information in unsafe ways, it could put our sailors and the boat at risk. "Loose lips sink ships" is an old adage, but it is still completely applicable. Please do your part in keeping our loved ones safe and able to come home to us!

We are so grateful to continue to work as your Ombudsmen! If you need us, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. You can contact us at the cell phone listed below between the hours of 8am-8pm (24 hours for emergencies), or via email (with a return email within 24 working hours). Thank you, and we hope you have a joyous and restful holiday season!

Celeste Winters  
Shelby Bender  
USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER Ombudsmen  
Cell: 860-772-4133  
Email: [795ombudsman@gmail.com](mailto:795ombudsman@gmail.com)

*Navy Family Ombudsmen are required to report to the command and/or the appropriate authorities all instances of alleged or known child abuse, alleged spouse abuse, potential or attempted suicide, potential homicidal or life-threatening behavior, and any other issues identified as reportable by the Commanding Officer.*

Ombudsman Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/795ombudsman>

## OMBUDSMAN CONTACT INFORMATION

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PHONE: (860) 772-4133

### RESOURCES

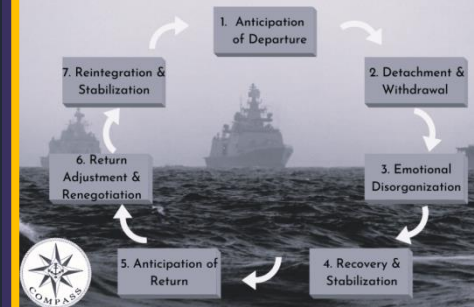
AMCROSS

COMPASS

MWR

FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT  
CENTER

## The Emotional Cycle of Deployment





Congratulations to the following Sailors for being meritoriously advanced to the next paygrade!



STSI(SS) CASTRO



ETN2(SS) MCKAY

The Meritorious Advancement Program (MAP) gives the Commanding Officer (CO) the opportunity to recognize their best E-5 and below Sailors by advancing them when they are ready for the next level of responsibility, giving RICKOVER greater authority to shape its workforce and the Navy by developing and rewarding its most talented Sailors. MAP will count towards 20% of Navy advancements in this calendar year!

***BRAVO ZULU, SHIPMATES!***





**FAREWELL CDR KYLE HAUBOLD**  
**USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



***BRAVO ZULL, CDR HAUBOLD!***



# FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

The following Sailors have transferred and received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for their faithful service aboard RICKOVER:



ETV2(SS) Garrett Crowthers



ETV2(SS) Michael Delcastillo



FT2(SS) Patrick Kelly



MMNI(SS) Wesley Raymer



MMAI(SS) Robert Woolley



TM2(SS) Christian Ortiz

# RICKOVER'S NEWEST DEVILS!



MMN3 Abraham  
Jimenez



ITS3 Nyriian  
Jiggets



ITS2 Justin  
Hart



ITS3 David  
Smith



EMN3 Robert  
Greenwood



ITSC Sean  
Hacker



ITS3 Juan  
Difot



MMN3 Qaiden  
Hokoanastanley



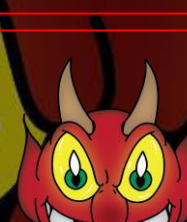
MMN3 Jackson  
Dyer



MMN3 Sean  
Mcquilken



STSSN William  
Gallman



ETN3 Nicholas  
Kalyvas



LCDR Taylor  
Shope

**WARMEST WELCOMES!**



# Family Readiness Group

Hello RICKOVER Family!

We are your USS Hyman G. Rickover Family Readiness Group (FRG) Board.

The USS Hyman G. Rickover FRG serves to promote Sailor and Family readiness for PCU Hyman G. Rickover. Our FRG Board Members are: Allie Schmitz, FRG President; Melissa Woolley, FRG Vice President; and Josie Mellon, FRG Treasurer. As an FRG, our mission is to provide for the well-being of the families of USS Hyman G. Rickover sailors.

As an FRG, we host meetings, events, and fundraisers throughout the year to provide social support, engagement, and valuable information about Navy Life.

The FRG is a great way to meet your fellow RICKOVER families, and we always welcome new faces. Our goal is to foster a caring, supportive, and responsive group that can provide assistance when needed.

Our email address is [frg795@gmail.com](mailto:frg795@gmail.com) Please feel free to contact us at any time. We also have a private USS Hyman G. Rickover FRG Facebook group which, once you are confirmed as a member, will keep you up to date on our news and events. We also have a fan page that is public that we keep up to date on things happening with the boat and base happening.

Below is a list of events and fundraisers that are happening this quarter:

- December 14 at 5:30 PM FRG Holiday Party and General Meeting
- January 2024:
- FRG General Meeting January 18 at 5:30 at the Church of Christ.

To RSVP for any event or check out other events we are doing, please check out the facebook page in the Event section!

# 2023 CHIEF PETTY OFFICER PINNING CEREMONY



MMNC PIANALTO



ETVC ROBINSON



TMC LETT



ETVC BERUBE



ITSC HACKER

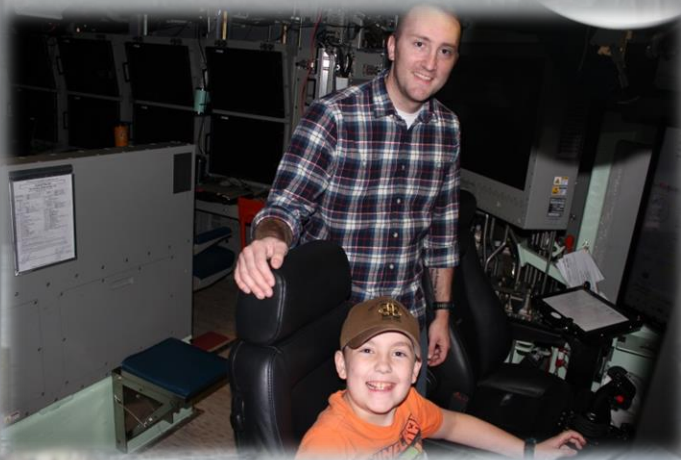


After Selection, Chief Selects undergo four intense weeks of training, leadership development and the strengthening of bond, commonly know as "Chiefs Season". Congratulations RICKOVER's newest Chiefs!



# FAMILY FUN DAY

RICKOVER celebrated its commissioning with food and special tours of the ship for families prior to the Commissioning Week events!





# FAMILY FUN DAY ( CONTINUED)





# COMMISSIONING WEEK

On 13 October, one day prior to Commissioning, RICKOVER hosted our Ship's Sponsor Darleen Greenert, where she presented a gift to the ship, a painting by artist Jennifer Tidd, representing the ship, it's Sailors and their families. She spoke to the crew and presented her quarterly gift to the Junior Sailor of the Quarter and Sailor of the Quarter (pictured on Page 5), an established program that began in Fiscal Year 2023! RICKOVER hosted Mrs. Greenert and her family onboard for lunch and tour of the ship.





# COMMISSIONING WEEK (CONTINUED)

## HYMAN G. RICKOVER EXHIBIT UNVEILING.

The Nautilus Museum opens the USS Hyman G. Rickover (SSN 709) exhibit with the commissioning of Hyman G. Rickover (SSN 795) and was attended by Margaret Lurie, the Niece of Admiral Hyman G. Rickover





# COMMISSIONING WEEK-CHAIRMAN'S RECEPTION

The HYMAN G. RICKOVER Commissioning Committee hosted the Chairman's Reception at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. The program consisted of illustrious speakers and gifts to the Ship, including representatives from General Dynamics-Electric Boat, Lockheed Martin and all the way to Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, who gave remarks on this momentous occasion.





# ***RICKOVER COMMISSIONING CREW***

## ***HAPPY HOUR***

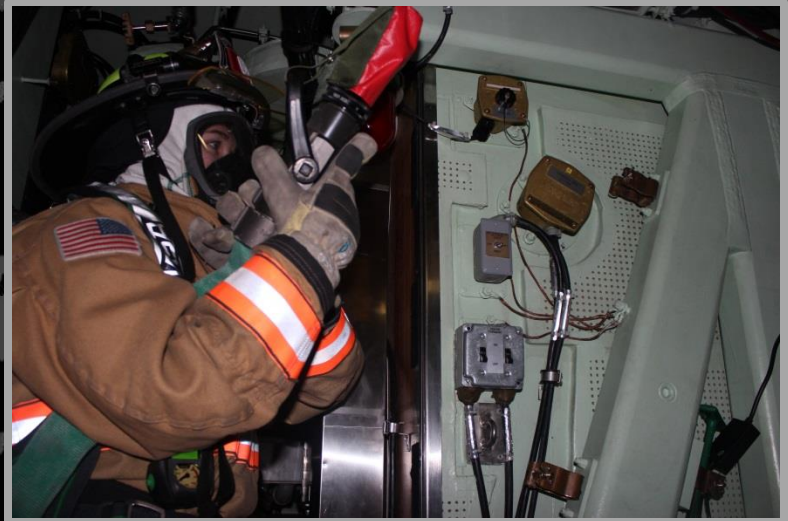
On 11 October 2023, the HGR Commissioning Committee hosted a Crew Happy Hour at Social Bar/Kitchen in New London, CT. The crew was treated to a buffet style dinner with drinks and even a submarine-themed sheetcake. Additionally, crewmembers received their official plankowner certificates hand-signed by the Commanding Officer, and a Kindle tablet additionally sponsored by the HGR Commissioning Committee!





# SUBASE FIRE DRILL

*HYMAN G. RICKOVER was selected to be the crucial location of SUBASE New London's most recent Fire Drill, testing the ship and the installation's response to a shipboard fire. This was a successful full-scale exercise that employed the abilities of numerous departments and tenant commands in the local area!*







## THE SKIPPERS OF THE USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER (SSN-709)



From left to right: Captain Fredrik Spruitenborg (21 JUL 84), Commander Jay Cohen (23 JAN 85), Commander Bruce Lemkin (23 JAN 88), Commander Benton Greene (28 JUL 90), Commander Jay Donnelly (2 NOV 91), Commander Joseph Walsh, Commander Robert Schuetz (10 JUL 97), Commander Robert Cosgriff (12 AUG 05) and Commander Troy Mong (15 JUN 07). (Not pictured: Commander Pete Young [8 JUL 99] and Commander Kenneth Gray [7 JUN 02]).  
*Photo by Commander Jeffrey S. Gray.*