



The Klaxon

Newsletter of the Submarine Force Library and Museum Association

Groton, CT

Winter 2007

Captain William R. Anderson, USN (Ret)

Editor's note: The following obituary/biography of Captain Anderson was written by his widow, Mrs. Patricia Walters Anderson and is reprinted here with her permission.

William Robert Anderson died February 25, 2007, in Leesburg, Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Walters Anderson; his son, Dr. Michael David Anderson, of Haymarket, Virginia; his son, William Robert Anderson, Jr., and his wife Catherine of Orange County, Virginia; his daughter, Jane Hensley Anderson of Leesburg; and youngest son Thomas McKelvey "Mac" Anderson of Leesburg; his granddaughter, Amanda Rose Anderson, of Ellicott City, Maryland; and his sister, Josephine Garner, of Franklin, Tennessee. He was predeceased by a sister, Margaret Taylor Gorda of Waynesboro, Tennessee.

Funeral services for friends and family will be held on March 16 at 11 a.m. at the Old Ft. Myer Chapel followed by burial at Arlington National Cemetery. The family has been comforted by the tributes and fond memories that have poured in from people whose lives have been touched or inspired by this great gentleman.

Anderson was born on June 17, 1921 at Bakerville, Tennessee, the son of David H. and Mary M. Anderson. In 1943, he married the former Yvonne Etzel of Newark, Delaware. They had two sons, Michael and William. In 1980, he married the former Patricia Walters of Wake Forest, North Carolina. They had two children, Jane and Thomas.

He graduated from the Columbia

Military Academy before entering the U.S. Naval Academy in July 1939. Graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 19, 1942, with the Class of 1943, he subsequently advanced to the rank of Captain on July 1, 1962. That promotion came two years early and ahead of almost 2,000 contemporaries, making him, at age 39, the youngest captain in the Navy.

Upon graduation from the Naval Academy he received instruction at the Submarine School, New London, Connecticut.

From October 1942 to June 1943 he was assigned to the USS *Tarpon*, participating in three war patrols and receiving a Letter of Commendation with Ribbon and Combat "V". The citation follows in part:

"For meritorious conduct in the performance of his duties in the USS *Tarpon* during the Sixth War Patrol of that vessel in the Japanese waters from 10 January to 25 February 1943. As Battle Station Officer of the Deck, his skillful navigation of his ship materially assisted his Commanding Of-



CDR William R. Anderson during NAUTILUS North Pole trip 1958.

ficer in conducting successful attacks which resulted in the sinking of 21,000 tons of enemy shipping..."

He next served for a year as Gunnery Officer and First Lieutenant of the submarine *Narwhal* which, during that time, made several war patrols and performed several special missions in support of guerilla operations in the Philippines. While serving in the USS *Trutta* from July 1944 until August 1946 he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", "For meritorious service

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From the Desk of the President

By the time you receive this issue of *The Klaxon*, winter should be pretty much behind us and we will all be looking forward to a, hopefully, busy season at the Submarine Force Library & Museum.

Another pioneer of the modern submarine force, CAPT William R. Anderson, has departed on eternal patrol. Captain Anderson passed away February 25, 2007. This issue contains a small tribute to his many contributions to the Submarine Force and to the United States Navy.

As of March 3, our docent program has been in operation for one year, and as we expected, do-

cents have significantly enhanced the visitor's experience at the museum and have created more positive impressions of the museum. We currently have 41 docents on "the watch bill" and we are appreciative of the volunteer efforts of each and every one. We still have need for additional volunteers; if you are interested, please contact our Executive Director, Mike Riegel to sign up.

As I do each year about this time, I want to take a moment to thank all of you for your support of the Submarine Force Library & Museum Association throughout the past year. Indeed many of you have been faithfully supporting the museum for many, many years. The Donor Registry for 2006 will be mailed very soon. As always, if we have made any errors, please

let us know. We want to properly recognize all of our donors.

By the time you receive this issue, work should have begun on the new temporary exhibit room; it should be completed by the end of our spring maintenance shutdown. Also, we are making great progress with the education program. The first classes, for Groton Public School middle school students, will be taught at the museum in May.

We hope to see many of you at the association annual meeting on May 18. We are inviting all docents to the meeting and subsequent reception. Please join us and meet this wonderful group of volunteers. Also, visit the museum as often as you can and bring your friends along.

David M. Goebel



From the Desk of the Museum Director

Greetings to all from Groton.

Spring is fast approaching and visitation

has begun to pick up. We've started a number of projects this year designed to improve the Museum experience that are beginning to bear fruit. We've just completed converting the library card catalog into a digital format that will very soon be online. We are also very close to awarding contracts to replace the aging mannequins on board the NAUTILUS and to improve site security with a

new automatic main entrance gate. Finally, work should start on the new temporary exhibit room this March.

Another great success at the NAUTILUS was the recent lecture and book signing by Glenn Knoblock, *Black Submariners in the United States Navy, 1940 - 1975*. Planned to coincide with Black History Month, many African American submarine veterans attended the event, and the auditorium was packed with distinguished guests, local press, a fascinated public, and notable SUBASE military personnel, including RDML Haney, Commander, Submarine Group Two.

Finally, we have been working very hard with the Groton School System to jump-start an educational outreach program here at the Museum. In just two exploratory meetings, we have already roughed out a curriculum and plan to host the first group of students sometime this spring.

As a reminder, the NAUTILUS will close to the public starting 16 April for the spring upkeep. The Museum will reopen 23 April, and the ship will reopen 30 April. The dates were shifted so that we could be open when the cruise ships arrive in early May.

LCDR Randolph Tupas

Notice of Annual Meeting

The 34th Annual Meeting of the Submarine Force Library and Museum Association will take place on Friday, May 18 at the Museum. The museum doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and the meeting will commence at 5:45 p.m. Nautilus will be open for tours until 7:00 p.m. A reception will follow the short business meeting from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. All members in good standing are invited to attend and to bring a spouse or one guest.

Election of Association Officers for 2007 will be held during the short business meeting. Any member in good standing may submit nominations for the offices of President, Vice President or Treasurer. Each nomination must identify the office for which the individual is being nominated and must include a written statement from the nominee indicating that he/she consents and will accept the nomination and serve if elected. Nominations will close 72 hours prior to the commencement of the Annual Meeting. Submit nominations to CAPT Arne C. Johnson USN (Ret), 186 Jerry Browne Rd, #1043, Mystic, CT 06355-3052.

William R. Anderson, USN (Ret.)

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as Engineer and Diving Officer...during the Second War Patrol of that vessel in the Yellow Sea from May 28 to July 17, 1945." The citation further states: "(He) rendered invaluable assistance to his commanding officer in conducting successful attacks which resulted in the sinking of seventeen cargo-carrying small craft and in the efficient rescue of a downed aviator..."

Transferring to the USS *Sarda* in September 1946, after eleven World War II submarine war patrols, he was first Engineer and later Executive Officer of that vessel until September 1949 when he returned to the United States to become Instructor in Naval Weapons with the Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps Unit at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho. Following that duty he again went to sea in February 1951 as Executive Officer in the USS *Trutta* until September 1951 when he was assigned in the same capacity to the fast attack submarine *Tang*. In May 1953 he became Commanding Officer of the USS *Wahoo* which participated in action in the Korean theater from January to May 1954. In July 1955 he became Head, Tactical Department, at the U.S. Navy Submarine School, New London. Within one year, he was assigned to the Division of

Reactor Development, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D.C., directly under Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, known at the time as the "father of the nuclear navy."

On April 30, 1957, he was ordered to duty as Commanding Officer of the USS *Nautilus*, the first atomic powered submarine and on June 19, 1957 relieved Captain Eugene P. Wilkinson, USN, the first Commanding Officer of the *Nautilus*, during that submarine's visit to Seattle, Washington. Anderson stated years later that he wanted his command to be more than just second act to Wilkinson's spectacular first command of the world famous submarine. He felt the ship and crew deserved his maximum efforts.

Anderson began his work in the Arctic during a pioneering 1957 cruise of the *Nautilus*, during which the atomic powered submarine cruised to within 180 miles of the North Pole and accumulated extensive scientific and operational data. That exploration was the basis for the Stephen Decatur Award by the Navy League of the United States. He also received a Legion of Merit; his citation reads in part:

"Commander Anderson exhibited out-

standing qualities of leadership and professional competence beyond that required or expected of his rank or experience. During three separate submerged penetrations of the Arctic ice cap, and despite the hazards of submerged operations in certain areas where surfacing was dangerous, he successfully directed his ship's safe penetration of these previously unpenetrated Arctic waters...constantly mindful of the welfare of his men...in keeping with the highest tradition of the United States Naval Service."

The following year, Anderson and his crew of 115 aboard *Nautilus* made the first voyage in history from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean by way of the North Pole, accomplishing this feat by passing under the ice at the North Pole at 11:15 p.m. (EDT) on August 3, 1958. The officers and men of the *Nautilus* received the Presidential Unit Citation, the first time in peace that this award had been made. Commander Anderson was awarded another Legion of Merit presented by the President at the White House on August 9, 1958. It reads:

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Captain William R. Anderson, USN (Ret.)

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“For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services while serving as Commanding Officer of the USS *Nautilus* (SSN 571) during the period 8 June to 5 August 1958. Commander Anderson, by foresighted planning, skilled seamanship and thorough study of the Arctic Area, succeeded in cruising *Nautilus* across the top of the world from the Bering Sea to the Greenland Sea, passing submerged beneath the geographic North Pole. Under his intrepid leadership, *Nautilus* pioneered a submerged sea-lane between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. This points the way for further exploration and possible use of this route by nuclear powered cargo submarines as a new commercial seaway between the major oceans of the world.

“Commander Anderson’s leadership, skilled application of professional knowledge, and courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.”

Headlines from around the world reflected a joyous reaction to *Nautilus*’s historic voyage. It was a tremendous technological victory for the United States at a time when Cold War tension with the Soviet Union was high. They had, seemingly effortlessly, propelled the satellite “Sputnik” into the stratosphere at a time when the U.S. satellite rockets could not get off the ground. *Nautilus*’s transpolar exploration gave the U.S. and the rest of the free world something to cheer about.

Anderson was a modest, handsome hero that unfliningly gave others the credit. Nevertheless, he was showered with attention and awards beginning immediately following the famous voyage. He was presented with a Gold Medal representing the Christopher Columbus International Communications Award in Genoa, Italy. He was also awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science by Defiance College.

In 1959, the Royal Geographic Society presented him the Patron’s Medal by authorization of Queen Elizabeth. He also received the Elisha Kent Kane Medal from the Philadelphia Geographic Society for “eminent geographical research.” In 1960, he received Freedom Leadership Award, the highest award of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, with citation as follows:

“For a life of patriotic zeal, technical competence, integrity and faith, which resulted in his selection by the United States

Navy for powerful, positive leadership. For exemplifying in behalf of all the officers and men of the United States Navy the highest level of competence and patriotic devotion. For humility in the face of high honor. For strength in the face of danger.”

Following duty on the *Nautilus*, Captain Anderson served as Director of Personnel Selection and Training in the Navy Nuclear Propulsion Training Program, once again under Vice Admiral H. G. Rickover. He then served as Naval Aide to two Secretaries of the Navy. In this capacity his duties involved direct assistance in Navy budget planning, development, and preparation; Congressional hearings involving naval matters; and general administrative management of the Navy.

After 20 years of service, Captain Anderson retired from the Navy. He became a consultant to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson coordinating legislative efforts to create the Domestic Peace Corps (VISTA). In 1964, he was elected to the U.S. Congress representing the sixth district of Tennessee as a Democrat. While serving in Congress for four terms, he was the author of the Amendment to the Omnibus Crime Control Act of 1968, which created a Law Enforcement Education Program, under which more than a half million law enforcement personnel have studied at the college level. He also instituted the first definitive House action against massive impoundment of appropriated funds. Congressman Anderson was the co-discoverer of the infamous South Vietnamese “Tiger Cages” at Con Son.

Anderson, standing up for law and order, opposed what he viewed as illegal and underhanded tactics of J. Edgar Hoover and President Nixon - his name ending up on Nixon’s infamous “enemies list.” Though he was well liked by his colleagues and constituents, Anderson was narrowly defeated for a fifth term in the national election the year Senator George McGovern was the Democrat’s nominee for president. He was also hurt by the reconfiguration of congressional districts in Tennessee and, what many consider, a lot of dirty tricks inspired by Hoover, then the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

After leaving Congress in 1973, Captain Anderson became Chairman of the Board of Digital Management Corporation, the first firm to offer on-line computerized constituent management services to members of Congress. He also served on the

Board of Directors at the Atlantic Union. Subsequently, with his wife, Pat, he founded Public Office Corporation, a data management firm specializing in computer-related services to presidential primary campaign committees and members of the U.S. Senate and U. S. House of Representatives seeking reelection. Presidential primary clients included Congressman Dick Gephardt, Senators John Glenn, Paul Simon, and Al Gore. Governor, and later, President Bill Clinton was a client from 1991 to 1995.

In 1997, The Explorers Club, one of the world’s most distinguished societies presented Lowell Thomas Medals to Anderson and fellow Arctic submarine pioneers Vice Admiral James Calvert, Vice Admiral John Nicholson, Vice Admiral George Steele and Dr. Waldo Lyon. In 2003, Anderson received The Explorers Club’s Finn Ronne Memorial Award for accomplishment in polar field research. He was also elected to honorary membership of the Club, a group that is limited to twenty living members for their lifelong achievement in the field of exploration. The roll has included Theodore Roosevelt, Sir Edmund Hillary, Charles Lindberg, and John Glenn.

In 2004, at the invitation of the American Geographical Society, Anderson signed the famed ancient globe that contains signatures of the world’s greatest explorers.

He was the author with Clay Blair, Jr., of *Nautilus 90 North*, a New York Times bestseller, printed in numerous foreign editions through the United States Information Service. His second work, a book for children entitled *First Under the North Pole*, received an award from the Boys’ Clubs of America in 1959. In 1960, his third book, *The Useful Atom*, was published with co-author Vernon Pizer.

Before his death, Anderson, along with Don Keith, a well-known naval historian, completed a manuscript that is a revised and expanded version of the 1957 and 1958 *Nautilus* explorations. It includes many details that were either unknown or could not be revealed due to national security. Release is expected later this year.

Docent Program Update

The Docent Program achieved one year in operation as of March 3 of this year. At present, we have docents at the museum on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. We plan to add on the remaining days of the week as soon as we have a sufficient number of docent volunteers

Thanks to our members and to U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., Groton Base, we currently have 41 volunteers for the docent program. We will need at least 80 docent volunteers to fulfill our long range plans for the program. These plans include having docents at the entry to the museum, at various key locations throughout the museum and also to have regularly scheduled tours of the museum. So, we are still looking for volunteers.

If you are interested in becoming a docent, contact our Executive Director, Mike Riegel at 860-448-0893 or email to association@tvconnect.net. No experience necessary.

Museum Store

Museum store merchandise is officially available on the Internet at

"www.submarinemuseum.com."

Response has been strong and feedback from new "online" customers has been very favorable regarding selection, response and timeliness of delivery. The store has a wide array of submarine related mementos, gifts and collectibles. Why not give the site a look and order a gift for that "special someone?"

VISIT US AT WWW.SUBMARINEMUSEUM.COM

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Reunions

If you have a submarine reunion coming up and would like it mentioned in *The Klaxon*, please send us the particulars. We will include as much information as space allows. We will only publish information on submarine reunions.

USS SPRINGFIELD (CL66/CLG7/SSN 761)

April 26-29, 2007

Location: *Omni Hotel*

Newort News, VA

Contact: John W. Adams
71 Brookview Rd.

Windham, NH 03087-1780

Telephone: 603.598.2806

Email: johnmrwillie@aol.com

USS ARCHERFISH (SSN 678)

July 19-22, 2007

Location: *Radisson Hotel*

New London, CT

Hotel Telephone: 800.333.3333

Contact: Steve Jackson
558 Fire St.

Oakdale, CT 06370

Email: sjackson05@excite.com

USS BUMPER (SS-333)

September 27-30, 2007

Location: *Best Western Dakota Ridge
Eagan, Minnesota 55122*

Contact: Edward W. Stone, Secretary
308 Merritt Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13207-2713

Telephone: 315.469.3825

USS CAPITAINE (SS/AGSS-336)

October 15-17, 2007

Location: *Las Vegas, NV*

Contact: Gary LaRonge
1801 Heritage Dr.
Pahrump, NV 89048

Telephone: 775.751.9435

Email: Saltracer552@juno.com

Web Site: www.decklog.com

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Wanted: New Members

If you received a complimentary copy of *The Klaxon*, why not consider becoming a member of the Association and join the growing numbers who are "Helping to Preserve Our Proud Submarine Heritage?" Use the form provided in this issue to join.

The Association supports the Museum and NAUTILUS by providing funds for displays and other projects when such funding is not available from appropriated funds. Income for the Association is provided by membership dues, donations and museum store profits.

Donations, which are always appreciated, are also tax-deductible.



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