

**USS L. Mendel Rivers  
SSN 686**

**1975-2000**



**Inactivation Ceremony  
Naval Station Norfolk**

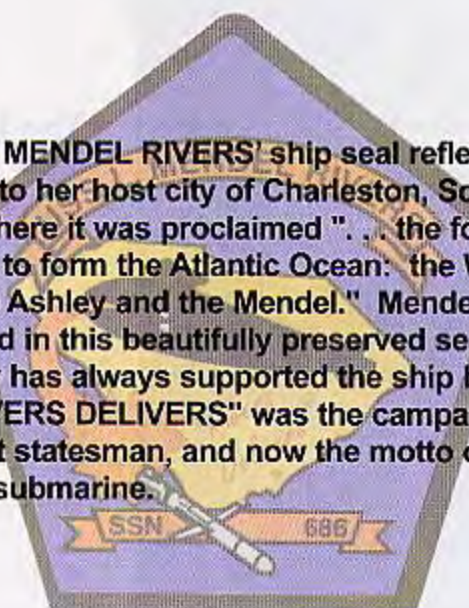
**July 28, 2000**



During its past one hundred years, the Submarine Force matured from its infancy as a coastal patrol force, came of age during World War II, and led to a successful and peaceful conclusion of the Cold War. Over 400,000 men and women have served in submarines themselves or directly supported the ships and their crews. The Submarine Force has been and remains a battle-proven, key component of America's armed forces, ready and able to silently project force in keeping the peace or going in harm's way to regain it.

The U.S. Submarine Force commemorates 100 years as the stealthy warfare component of the U.S. Navy. Throughout the year 2000, the men and women of the Submarine Force and the nation will commemorate this Centennial with local, regional and national ceremonies throughout the country. The events and observances will highlight the Cold War and the national leaders who founded and were the visionaries for the world's preeminent submarine force. The commemoration will also share the stories of service and sacrifice by American submariners who demonstrated the effectiveness of power projection in combat, nuclear deterrence, stealth and whose deeds in defense of freedom still inspire us both today and for many years to come.

The USS L. MENDEL RIVERS' ship seal reflects her lasting ties to her host city of Charleston, South Carolina, where it was proclaimed "... the four great rivers meet to form the Atlantic Ocean: the Wando, the Cooper, the Ashley and the Mendel." Mendel Rivers is still a legend in this beautifully preserved seaport city, and the city has always supported the ship bearing his name. "RIVERS DELIVERS" was the campaign slogan of this great statesman, and now the motto of this celebrated submarine.





The USS L. Mendel Rivers was christened on June 2nd, 1973 by her two sponsors, the daughters of L. Mendel Rivers, Mrs. Margaret Rivers Eastman and Mrs. Marion Rivers Cato.





The ship's commission pennant, a replica of which appears above, symbolizes the order to active service. As such, it is flown continuously by each navy ship from the moment she is commissioned until that final moment, years later, when she is retired from active service. Traditionally, the commission pennant is replaced with a new one at each change of the Commanding Officer. The outgoing commanding officer is then presented with the pennant flown during his command of the ship.



## HISTORY OF THE USS L. MENDEL RIVERS

The USS L. MENDEL RIVERS is a long hull variant of the Sturgeon Class of Submarines, the deepest diving and most versatile submarines in the US Fleet. She is 298 feet long with a beam of 32 feet and a surface displacement of 4,442 tons. She is capable of speeds in excess of 20 knots and depths in excess of 800 feet. She was built by the Newport News Shipyard & Drydock Co., and was commissioned on February 1, 1975, the second to the last of the Sturgeon Class submarines commissioned.

RIVERS is equipped with the most sophisticated of submarine technology, including an arsenal of Mark 48 ADCAP torpedoes. She also has the ability to employ the Tomahawk land attack cruise missile and conduct submarine launched mine laying. She is outfitted to operate and surface from under the Arctic ice flows, with vertical fairwater planes positioning and the strongest of hulls.

Yet RIVERS is equipped to perform more than the classic submarine missions. RIVERS is the paramount intelligence collecting platform; her ability to remain undetected in shallow waters and her capability for processing surveillance information are unmatched.

From the time of her commissioning, RIVERS has played a substantial role in protecting the peace throughout the Cold War and into these modern times of small scale conflicts. RIVERS has completed:

- 2 Arctic Deployments
- 8 North Atlantic Deployments
- 8 Mediterranean Deployments

During the latter half of the Cold War, RIVERS operated on the frontier of antisubmarine warfare in the North Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. Now, RIVERS is fitted with a Dry Deck Shelter (DDS), enabling her to covertly insert special forces troops into littoral waters. The Dry Deck Shelter is a submersible launch hangar with a hyperbaric chamber that attaches to the ship's Weapon Shipping Hatch. The DDS provides the most tactically practical means of SEAL delivery due to its size, capabilities, and location on the ship. One of the few submarines fitted for this special mission, RIVERS has performed many special forces exercises, both here and abroad.



*SEAL Delivery (SDV) Team TWO is a SEAL team devoted to submarine launched attacks from the Dry Deck Shelter platform. They deploy with the Dry Deck Shelter as systems experts in this modern method of covert special forces insertion. These SEALS are highly trained in all modes of special warfare and are supported by their own contingent of Navy Divers.*

*SDV Team TWO works closely with RIVERS to support her primary mission of covert SEAL delivery.*



She has also been proven capable of acting as the mother ship for a Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle, a mini-submarine designed for undersea rescue. The Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) System was developed to fill the need for an improved method of rescuing the crew of a submarine accidentally immobilized on the sea floor. The DSRV will be airlifted and moved to a staging port where it will rendezvous with a nuclear submarine outfitted as a "mother sub". The mother sub will then transport the DSRV "piggy back" to the scene. There, the DSRV will locate and mate with the distressed submarine and remove 24 crewmen. Returning to the mother sub, she will mate, discharge the rescuees, and prepare for the second of seven round trips required to rescue the entire crew.

RIVERS is a uniquely equipped submarine that has outlived most other members of her class. Her stealth, endurance, mobility, and responsiveness made her an unmatched asset in naval forces, past and present.

Rivers has a distinguished tradition of excellence spanning the last twenty-five years. She has been the recipient of:

- 6 Battle Efficiency "E" Awards
- 3 Damage Control "E" Awards
- 3 Operational & Weapons Excellence "E" Awards
- 3 Engineering "E" Awards
- 5 Supply "I" Awards
- 1 Communications Excellence "E" Award
- 2 COMSIXTHFLT "Hook-em" Awards for ASW Excellence
- 2 Meritorious Unit Commendations
- 2 Navy Unit Commendations
- 1 Tactical White "T" Award
- 1 Damage Control Red "DC" Award
- 1 Navigation "N" Award
- 1 Communications Green "C" Award

RIVERS inactivation ceremony today marks the culmination of over twenty-five successful years of submarine operations.



*The Deep Submergence Unit works closely with RIVERS to support her operations when tasked as a "mother submarine." RIVERS' ability to transport the DSRV to a submarine in distress and conduct rescue operations is another reason why the RIVERS is the most versatile submarine in the world.*



"Make no mistake- seapower. . . is vital to our survival against those who would destroy our freedom."

*L. Mendel Rivers*



February 1976	-	August 1976	Mediterranean
August 1977	-	December 1977	Mediterranean
August 1978	-	November 1978	North Atlantic
November 1979	-	April 1980	Mediterranean
July 1983	-	October 1983	North Atlantic/Arctic
May 1984	-	August 1984	North Atlantic
May 1985	-	October 1985	Mediterranean
October 1986	-	December 1986	North Atlantic/Arctic
August 1987	-	October 1987	North Atlantic
February 1988	-	May 1988	North Atlantic
February 1989	-	April 1989	North Atlantic
September 1989	-	November 1989	North Atlantic
August 1994	-	January 1995	Mediterranean
February 1996	-	August 1996	Mediterranean
October 1997	-	April 1998	Mediterranean
June 1999	-	December 1999	Mediterranean
September 2000	-	November 2000	North Atlantic/Arctic*

\*Scheduled







**L. Mendel Rivers**, a native of Berkeley County, South Carolina, served in the United States House of Representatives for thirty Years. He was educated in the state's public schools, the College of Charleston, and the University of South Carolina.

He was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1932 and served in the state legislature from 1933 to 1936. From 1936 to 1940, he served as a special attorney for the U. S. Department of Justice and was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States.

He was Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee in the 89th, 90th, and 91st Congresses. As Chairman, Congressman Rivers maintained an abiding commitment to America's defense posture. In regards to the Navy, Mr. Rivers said, "Naval power is necessary to assure freedom of the seas, not only for ourselves, but for most of the free world." He was an outspoken advocate of nuclear propulsion for submarines, aircraft carriers, and frigates.

Upon his death on December 28, 1970, Senator Strom Thurmond said, "His lifestyle, his flamboyance, his wit, his intelligence and his personality were to be greatly admired. One of the rare things a man ever does is to do the best he can. Mendel Rivers always met that test."

Admiral Hyman G. Rickover said of him, "Mendel Rivers was a great American patriot. He was dedicated to peace but aware of the awesome responsibility our nation bears in defense of our freedom."

L. Mendel Rivers' widow, Mrs. Margaret Middleton Rivers, still resides in Charleston, as do her children, Margaret Rivers Eastman, Marion Rivers Cato, and L. Mendel Rivers Jr. Margaret and Marion sponsored the ship at its commissioning in 1975 and the family is still closely tied to the ship bearing their name.

For over twenty-five years, the crew has enjoyed the sponsorship of the Rivers family. Mrs. Rivers and her children have been frequent visitors onboard the submarine, and have been present at all major ship's events, providing a link with history that few ships enjoy. In March of 1995, the ship left the Charleston Naval Base to be permanently stationed in Norfolk, VA.



**Arrival of the Official Party**  
(guests please rise)

**The National Anthem**  
Atlantic Fleet Band

**Invocation**  
LCDR Ronald D. Craddock, CHC  
United States Navy  
(guests please be seated)

**Welcoming Remarks**  
Commander David A. Portner, United States Navy  
Commanding Officer

**Introduction of Guest Speaker**  
Captain Frank M. Drennan, United States Navy  
Commander, Submarine Squadron SIX

**Remarks of Guest Speaker**  
Captain Roderick L. Wolfe  
United States Navy, Retired

**Introduction of Principal Speaker**



**Remarks of Principal Speaker**

Admiral Richard W. Mies, United States Navy  
Commander in Chief  
United States Strategic Command

**Reading of Inactivation Order**

**Securing of the Watch**

**Ceremonial Hauling Down of  
The Commissioning Pennant**

**Benediction**

LCDR Ronald D. Craddock, CHC  
United States Navy  
(guests please rise)

**Departure of the Official Party**

**Reception for Guests and Crew**

## THE PRESTIGE, PRIVILEGE AND THE BURDEN OF COMMAND

*By Joseph Conrad*

“Only a seaman realizes to what extent an entire ship reflects the personality and ability of one individual, her Commanding Officer. To a landsman this is not understandable and sometimes it is even difficult for us to comprehend, but it is so!

A ship at sea is a different world in herself and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of the fleet, units of the navy must place great power, responsibility, and trust in the hands of those leaders chosen for command.

In each ship there is one man who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one who alone is ultimately responsible for the safe navigation, engineering performance, accurate gunfire and morale of his ship. He is the commanding Officer. He is the ship!

This is the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour as Commanding Officer that he can escape the grasp of command responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are almost ludicrously small; nevertheless Command is the spur which has given the Navy its great leaders.

It is a duty which most richly deserves the highest time-honored title of the seafaring world . . . **CAPTAIN.**”



**COMMANDING OFFICERS  
OF  
USS L. MENDEL RIVERS (SSN 686)**

CDR RODERIC L. WOLFE	FEB 75 - SEP 76
CDR RAY G. JONES JR.	SEP 76 - JUL 79
CDR JOHN F. JORDAN JR.	JUL 79 - DEC 82
CDR HOLLIS W. HOLDEN	DEC 82 - NOV 85
CDR MARIO J. BAGAGLIO JR	NOV 85 - NOV 88
CDR RUSSELL A. PICKETT	NOV 88 - AUG 91
CDR CARL V. MAUNEY	AUG 91 - APR 94
CDR BRADFORD N. MCDONALD	APR 94 - OCT 96
CDR GEORGE M. PETRO	OCT 96 - MAR 99
CDR DAVID A. PORTNER	MAR 99- Present



## **Admiral Richard W. Mies United States Navy**

Admiral Richard W. Mies is Commander in Chief, United States Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. The Command has responsibility for all U. S. Air Force and U. S. Navy strategic nuclear forces supporting the national security objective of strategic deterrence.

Admiral Mies graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree with majors in mechanical engineering and mathematics.

After completing training for submarine duty he served on two nuclear attack submarines, USS SUNFISH (SSN 649) and USS L MENDEL RIVERS (SSN 686), and a ballistic missile submarine, USS NATHAN HALE (SSBN 623) (BLUE), before commanding the nuclear attack submarine USS SEA DEVIL (SSN 664).

He has served in various command positions including Commander Submarine Development Squadron Twelve, Commander Submarine Group EIGHT and Commander Allied Submarines Mediterranean, and Commander Submarine Force U. S. Atlantic Fleet and Commander Submarine Allied Command Atlantic.

His staff positions include duty on the staff of Commander in Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, Executive Assistant to the Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Undersea Warfare), Chief of Staff to Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, and Director Strategic Target Plans and Deputy Director Plans and Policy on the staff of Commander in Chief, U. S. Strategic Command.

Admiral Mies has completed post-graduate education at Oxford University, England, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and Harvard University. He holds a Masters degree in government administration and international relations. His professional education includes the Flag Officers' Capstone course, the program for Senior Executives in National and International Security at Harvard University, and the Joint Flag Officer Warfighting course.

Admiral Mies is a qualified submariner and naval aviation observer. In addition to unit and service awards, his decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal (two awards), Legion of Merit (four awards), Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy Commendation Medal (four awards), and Navy Achievement Medal.



## **Captain Frank M. Drennan United States Navy**

Captain Frank M. Drennan, a native of Elberton, Georgia, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1976. After commissioning, he attended nuclear power training at Orlando, Florida and Windsor, Connecticut.

During his career, Captain Drennan served aboard USS JAMES MADISON (SSBN 627) in various division officer jobs, USS BIRMINGHAM (SSN 695) as Engineer Officer, and USS LOUISVILLE (SSN 724) as Executive Officer. His shore tours include positions on the staffs of the Joint Staff C4 Directorate(J6), Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, Submarine Squadron Sixteen, and as an

instructor at Naval Submarine School.

Captain Drennan commanded USS PORTSMOUTH (SSN 707) from August 1992 to March 1995. During his tour, PORTSMOUTH completed a highly successful Western Pacific deployment and several groundbreaking tactical development exercises. In 1994, PORTSMOUTH was awarded the Submarine Squadron Three Battle Efficiency "E" for excellence in combat readiness and all-around ship's operations, as well as the Engineering "Red E" and the Supply "Blue E" departmental awards. In 1995, Captain Drennan was selected as the U. S. Pacific Fleet recipient of the James Bond Stockdale Award for Inspirational Leadership.

Captain Drennan is entitled to wear the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (two awards), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal(five awards), and the Navy Achievement Medal. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the U. S. Naval Academy and a Master of Science degree in Engineering Management from The Catholic University of America.

Captain Drennan is married to the former Anne Renfroe of Bartow, Florida. They have two sons, Billy, 19 and Jimmy, 16.





## **Commander David A. Portner United States Navy**

CDR Portner, was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on 4 March 1959, the eighth of eleven children. The son of a career Naval Officer, he moved to Southern California in 1960. In 1977, he graduated from Saint Anthony's High School in Long Beach, California, and entered the United States Naval Academy, graduating in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Following graduation and commissioning, CDR Portner completed nuclear power and submarine training and reported to USS LA JOLLA (SSN 701) in San Diego, CA in February 1983. On board LA JOLLA, CDR Portner participated in the Tomahawk Cruise Missile operational evaluation and certification, a Northern Pacific deployment and completed qualification in submarines.

In August 1984, CDR Portner transferred to new construction duty on USS ALABAMA (SSBN 731) in Groton, Connecticut. He completed new construction and fleet transfer to the Pacific Fleet at Bangor, Washington. In June 1985 he completed qualification as Engineer Officer. CDR Portner transferred in 1986 to the USNA where he served as 11<sup>th</sup> Company Officer until December 1988.

In the summer of 1989, CDR Portner reported as Engineer Officer on board USS TUNNY (SSN 682) undergoing a refueling overhaul in Bremerton, Washington. As Engineer he completed the overhaul, and change of homeport to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In July 1991, he relieved as Combat Systems Officer on TUNNY and completed a six month Western Pacific deployment. CDR Portner transferred to the Pentagon as Special Projects Officer on the staff of the Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Undersea Warfare (OP-02). He completed night courses and earned a Master of Science in Engineering degree from Catholic University in Washington, DC.

In August 1994, CDR Portner reported to USS SPADEFISH (SSN 668) as the Executive Officer. He participated in Operation Support Democracy off Haiti in 1994, Operation Southern Watch during an Arabian Gulf deployment in 1995, and circumnavigated the world in 1996 during SPADEFISH's final deployment to the Arabian Gulf and Western Pacific prior to inactivation. CDR Portner reported in 1996 to the Tactical Readiness Evaluation Team on the staff of Commander, Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk, Virginia. He assumed command of the USS L. Mendel Rivers (SSN 686) in March 1999.

In addition to unit and service awards, CDR Portner is entitled to wear the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), the Navy Commendation Medal (four awards), the Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Joint Service Expeditionary Medal with bronze star, and the Southwest Asia Service Medal with bronze star.

CDR Portner is married to the former Mary Gigioli of Rockville, Maryland. They live in Virginia Beach, Virginia with their eight children; Jennifer, Andrew, Eugene, Joshua, Timothy, Gregory, Elizabeth and Rebecca.





**CDR DAVID A. PORTNER**  
*COMMANDING OFFICER*

**LCDR MICHAEL J. QUINN**  
*EXECUTIVE OFFICER*

**LCDR DALE R. MINICH**  
*ENGINEER*

**LT MARSHALL R. PROUTY**  
*WEAPONS OFFICER*

**LT ROGER E. MEYER**  
*NAVIGATOR*

**LTJG DAVID L. RODDY**  
*SUPPLY OFFICER*

**LT JAMES D. SHELL**  
*DAMAGE CONTROL ASSISTANT*

**LT STEPHEN C. KARPI**  
*COMMUNICATIONS*

**LT ESLY A. PETERS**  
*SONAR OFFICER*

**LTJG KEITH A. BARAVIK**  
*QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER*

**LTJG TODD P. GLIDDEN**  
*MAIN PROPULSION*

**LTJG JAMES R. JONES**  
*ELECTRICAL ASSISTANT*

**LTJG DAVID FORMAN**  
*CHEM/RADCON ASSISTANT*

**LTJG JUSTIN ANDERSON**  
*REACTOR CONTROLS*

**MMCS(SS) HAROLD D. MILLER**  
*CHIEF OF THE BOAT*

**MMCS(SS) DANA WARREN**  
*EDMC*

**ETCS(SS) DARRYL TAYLOR**  
*FIRST LIEUTENANT*

**HMCS(SS) JAYCEE ENRIQUEZ**  
*MDR*

**YNCS(SS) DAVID BOWLBY**  
*YN LCPO*

**MMC(SS) CLIFF SELTRECHT**  
*TM LCPO*

**ETC(SS) CRAIG HOUCK**  
*3M COORDINATOR*

**STSC(SS) JAMES KEYSE**  
*ST LCPO*

**MMC(SS) SYDNEY NUNEZ**  
*ENG ASSISTANT*

**ETC(SS) THOMAS LIGHT**  
*RC LCPO*

**ETC(SS) THOMAS MOORE**  
*NAV DIV*

**MMC(SS) KENNETH SOMMER**  
*A LCPO*

**FTC(SS) PATRICK BURNHAM**  
*FT LCPO*

**SKC(SS) GREG BROOKS**  
*SDEA*

**EMC(SS) TOM HOFFMAN**  
*E LCPO*

**MMC(SS) JIM PRICE**  
*M LCPO*

**MSC(SS) WINDELL HINKSON**  
*MS LCPO*

**ETC(SS) SCOTT JONES**  
*COMM LCPO*

**ETC(SS) GENE SHAW**  
*NAV LCPO*



MM1(SS) R. T. ABRAHAMSEN	MMFN(SS) P. W. ADKINS	SKSA(SU) N. J. ALLEN
MM2(SS) E. S. ALLISON	SKSN(SS) V. R. AMOS	MM3(SU) R. ARBOGAST
MM2(SW) M. C. ARCHIBALD	MM1(SS) P. T. BABCOCK	EM2(SS) S. P. BAKER
ET3(SU) T. L. BAKKER	STS3(SS) A. P. BARRON	FT2(SS) R. R. BARROW
MM1(SS) B. C. BARTEE	ET1(SS) P. J. BEACH	MM2(SS) D. A. BEARMAN
MM2(SS) M. L. BLANCHARD	EM1(SS) S. R. BOGLE	YN2(SS) K. E. BOSSOM
MM2(SU) R. J. BOWMAN	STS1(SS) R. L. BROUSSARD	MS3(SS) J. E. BURNS
STSSA(SU) N. T. BURNS	MM3(SU) T. J. BUSH	STS2(SS) R. P. CACCHIOLA
STS3(SS) J. T. CARR	SN(SS) M. F. CASSIDY	MM3(SU) J. A. CLOUGH
ET3(SS) D. C. CRAYTON	EM2(SS) C. J. CROOK	MM3(SU) J. A. CRUMRINE
STS3(SS) J. A. CULBRETH	MM1(SS) A. D. DAO	MS3(SS) D. L. DAVIS
MM1(SS) T. DEBOER	ET1(SS) J. L. DENSON	EM3(SU) K. J. DENNEY
MM3(SS) T. B. DEWALT	ET2(SS) W. M. DORN	FT3(SS) S. C. ELLER
STS3(SS) R. FILAK	MM3(SS) M. L. FLICK	ETSN(SS) L. G. FRANCESCONI
ET1(SS) M. L. GASTON	MM2(SU) B. R. HAMILTON	ET3(SS) L. O. HERRING
MM3(SS) C. L. HILL	EM3(SU) P. C. HULL	MMFA(SU) B. D. JACKS
EM1(SS) D. R. JETT	ET3(SS) C. R. JOHNSON	MM3(SS) J. JOHNSON
MM3(SU) J. R. JONES	FT3(SS) R. A. KIDD	ET3(SS) R. L. KING
MM1(SS) J. W. KOZAL	SN(SS) J. P. LAMOREAUX	MS2 (SW/SU) A. K. LEDBETTER
STS3(SS) C. J. LIPKA	MM3(SU) T. LOGAN	STS3(SS) J. A. LONG
STS1(SS) D. P. LORD	EM2(SS) W. O. LUCAS	STS3(SS) K. A. MATTHIESEN
EM2(SS) S. A. MCNICHOLS	ET1(SS) M. A. MCCAULEY	ET2(SS) C. F. MEADOWS
MS2(SS) T. D. MILLER	FT1(SS) G. R. MOILES	MM1(SS) J. C. MORGAN
ET2(SS) B. G. MOSER	MMFN(SS) R. M. MOSQUEDA	ET1(SS) G. E. MOSS
MM2(SS) T. M. NEIDIGH	ET3(SS) M. J. NOYES	MS2(SS) R. F. OATES
STS2(SS) M. T. OBRIEN	EM2(SS) A. A. ODEFA	ET3(SS) A. ORTIZ
ET1(SS) A. K. OWEN	ET3(SS) T. F. OXLEY	MMFA(SS) P. A. PARCELL
ET3(SS) R. J. PERERAS	FA(SU) T. E. PHELPS	YN3(SS) PHILLIPS
ET3(SS) W. E. POPLE	ET1(SS) M. T. PULLIAM	EM2(SS) K. E. RECKER
ET3(SS) D. REYNOLDS	SA(SU) D. T. RICHARDSON	STS3(SU) F. B. ROBINSON
MM1(SS) R. SARWAL	MM1(SS) G. W. SCHUCHARD	MM1(SS) H. G. SIZEMORE
ET2(SS) R. B. SMITH	MSSN(SS) S. A. SMITH	ET2(SS) K. L. SOLOMON
MM1(SS) C. J. STEFENACK	STS2(SS) D. L. SUMMERS	ET3(SS) E. W. TERRY
STS2(SS) W. S. THORPE	ET2(SS) J. L. VALENCIA	MM3(SU) D. M. WHITE
MM2(SS) R. A. WHITE	EM1(SS) J. G. WHITEHEAD	MM2(SS) J. H. WHITMAN
SK2(SS) M. WILKINS	FT2(SS) W. D. WILLIAMS	



UNITED STATES SHIP L. MENDEL RIVERS  
(SSN 686)

**THE SUBMARINER'S PRAYER**

Almighty, Everlasting God, the Protector of all who put their trust in Thee—

Hear our prayers on behalf of Thy servants who sail their vessels beneath the seas. We beseech Thee to keep in Thy sustaining care all who are in submarines, that they may be delivered from the hidden dangers of the deep.

Grant them courage and devotion to fulfill their duties, that they may better serve Thee and their native land. Though acquainted with the depths of despair and the dark hours of the absence of friends and family, let them always be lifted by a good ship's spirit. Bless all their kindred and loved ones from whom they are separated. When they surface their ships, may they praise Thee for Thou art there, as well as in the deep.

Fill them with Thy Spirit, that they may be sure in their reckonings, unwavering in duty, high in purpose, and upholding the honor of their nation. *AMEN*

"Any man who may be asked what he did to make his life worthwhile can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, I served in the United States Navy."

President John F. Kennedy  
1963 Naval Academy Graduation Address



**RIVERS DELIVERS**