



Jim Sandman
National Chaplain

Greetings fellow bubbleheads,

Last April 11 we celebrated the 125th anniversary of the U.S. Navy Submarine Service, with USS *Holland* (SS 1) being the force's first commissioned submarine. Now the nation is set to commemorate its 250th anniversary (semi-quincentennial), celebrating the signing of our cherished Declaration of Independence in 1776. To Britain, it was an act of war and treason. Patrick Henry said, "If this be treason, make the most of it!" And they did. For the colonists yearning for less governmental tyranny and more liberty, it marked the beginning of a hard-fought, years-long war that officially ended on September 3, 1783, with the Treaty of Paris, ratified by Congress on January 14, 1784.

July 4, 2026, will be a celebration for the history books. In fact, the celebrations have already begun, as various organizations, including the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and the Children of the American Revolution (CAR), are observing the 250th anniversary of the events that led to the Declaration. For instance, large crowds

gathered in December 2023 to commemorate the Boston Tea Party (December 16, 1773), and also in April for the Battles of Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1775), known as the "shot heard 'round the world." I encourage you to look up those organizations for more information. Even the U.S. Navy is currently holding events. Visit homecoming250.org to learn about scheduled commemorations across the country.

As members of America's Navy, we've each played a small yet significant role in upholding a free country for our families and friends. All of us took an oath to defend the founding principles outlined in the U.S. Constitution: limited government, three branches with checks and balances, freedom of speech, religion, and the press, and the sovereignty of the States that established the federal government. This is an ongoing struggle that our founders and others understood well.

Here are some of their thoughts that continue to inspire us today:
The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.

—Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to William Stephens Smith, Nov. 13, 1787

The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance; which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime and the punishment of his guilt.

—John Philpot Curran, Irish lawyer, 1750-1817

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

—Wendell Phillips, 1811-1884, abolitionist

If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary.

—James Madison, Federalist No. 51

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

—Edmund Burke, 1729-1797

In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in men, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.

—Thomas Jefferson, 1799

If ye love wealth greater than liberty, the tranquility of servitude greater than the animating contest for freedom, go home from us in peace. We seek not your counsel, nor your arms. Crouch down and lick the hand that feeds you; and may posterity forget that ye were our countrymen.

—Samuel Adams, 1722-1803, leader of the Boston Tea Party

The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave.

—Patrick Henry

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.

—Mark Twain

Please note that our next convention will be held in Orlando from August 31 to September 6. I hope to see you there.

In His service,

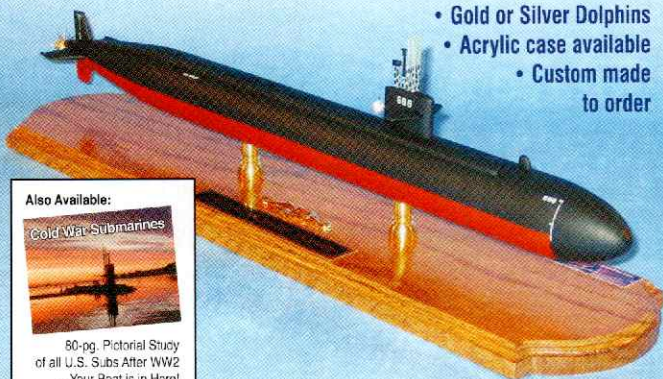
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