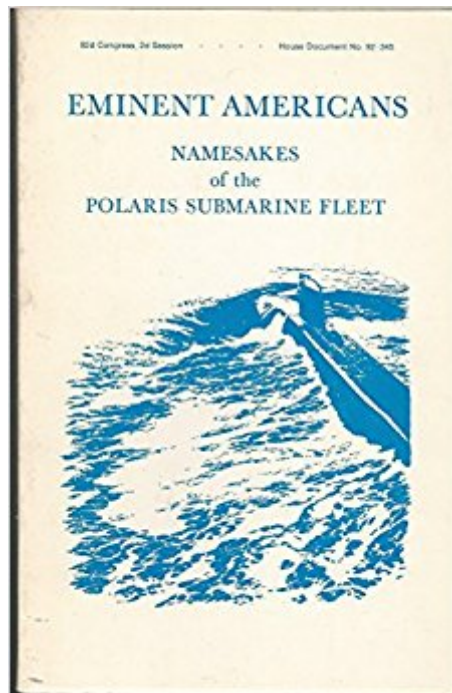




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Eminent Americans: Namesakes Of The Polaris Submarine Fleet



Synopsis

The Polaris nuclear powered submarine was the largest ever built. Their purpose was to provide a powerful force that would serve as a deterrent to a nuclear attack upon the United States. Because these ships would be so important to our defense, it was decided to name them after well-known figures in American history who had won and defended our freedom. The men for whom these submarines were named are the subject of this book.

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Very interesting Reading and an incite to the mind of the Father of today's Nuclear Navy. Admiral H. G. Rickover. And his thoughts behind the names of our Fleet Ballistic Missile Boats (FBM) AKA Boomers by the men who road them. A good book to read if you can find a copy to read.

I read this book by Admiral Rickover years ago and found the bios on prominent American figures interesting. I was happy to be able to get a copy for my own library. And the supplier was prompt and accurate.

book was as promised.

While exiting a used book store in Gloucester, MA, I came across this little white book on a shelf near the door. I am always keeping my eye out for books on submarines. As a Navy veteran (who graduated from Naval Nuclear Power School and served on the reactor plant of a nuclear submarine,) I went on to teach U.S. History for 15 years. TO FIND A BOOK LIKE THIS GAVE ME THE CHILLS - a look at historical figures from various points in our nation's past - written by not only an historical figure in himself, but by a key figure in the earliest foundations of today's nuclear Navy. This is a must read for history buffs, submarine veterans, and even those who simply identify themselves as submarine / Navy enthusiasts. This 1972 book by Admiral Hyman G. Rickover is actually a government document in book form: 92nd Congress, 2d Session....House Document No. 92-345. Known as the "Father of the Nuclear Navy", Admiral Rickover directed the original development of naval nuclear propulsion and controlled its operations for over three decades. He was responsible for the well functioning of the reactor plants as well as the training of the officers and men. Having served for over 63 years, Rickover is the longest-serving naval officer in U.S. history. Not only have many books been written about this man, but he, too, was an author, as evidenced by this reviewed book. Rickover was on hand as each new nuclear submarine, starting with the USS Nautilus, was first tested at sea. He would sit aboard the ship and write letters (by hand) to members of Congress and other appropriate officials in the executive branch to report how the submarine did in sea trials. Pre-Polaris Fleet Submarines: USS Nautilus (SSN-571), USS Seawolf (SSN-575), USS Skate (SSN-578), USS Swordfish (SSN-579), USS Sargo (SSN-583), USS Seadragon (SSN-584), USS Skipjack (SSN-585), USS Triton (SSRN-586), USS Halibut (SSGN-587), USS Scamp (SSN-588), USS Scorpion (SSN-589), USS Sculpin (SSN-590), USS Shark (SSN-591), USS Snook (SSN-592), USS Tullibee (SSN-597) With the start of the Polaris submarine program in 1959, not only were these boats named after historical figures, but Rickover now began to include a brief biography of the man for whom the ship was named. He did this for all 41 submarines in the Polaris Fleet (A.K.A. - "41 for Freedom.") Members of Congress pressed him to publish these letters in a book - something beyond a simple entry into the Congressional Record. In 1968, Congress passed a legislation authorizing the printing of this book. Rickover, along with the editorial help of his wife, spared small amounts of free time over the next four years to "expand the original brief sketches of these figures into more complete essays." Polaris Submarine Fleet Namesakes - George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Patrick Henry, Nathan Hale, Lafayette, Ethan Allen, Nathanael Greene, Casimir Pulaski, Von Steuben, Daniel Boone, Lewis and Clark, John Marshall, Francis

Scott Key, Tecumseh, Kamehameha, James Monroe, Simon Bolivar, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, Sam Houston, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, Abraham Lincoln, Stonewall Jackson, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, Mariano G. Vallejo, Thomas Edison, George Washington Carver, George Bancroft, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Henry L. Stimson, Will Rogers, George C. Marshall, Sam Rayburn. I tasked my students with identifying all of these people (technically 41 subs and 42 men - Lewis AND Clark) trying to figure out who they were and why these men were chosen as namesakes. As I was teaching in Washington State, many of the 39 counties shared these same namesakes. I would also ask my students what historical figures they think submarines should be named after today...add to the list, if you will. And, in case you were wondering, Rickover became the namesake of a submarine as well. The USS Hyman G. Rickover (SSN-709) was commissioned in 1984, two years before his death, and served until it was deactivated in 2006. REVIEWER: Darin Detwiler, M.A. Ed, served aboard the USS William H. Bates (SSN-680) and qualified in Submarine Warfare in 1989. As an educator and adjunct professor over the last 15 years, he received the 2013 Washington State Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching History.

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