

HALL OF FAME BOAT INDUCTION OF USS L. MENDEL RIVERS (SSN 686)

USS L. MENDEL RIVERS (SSN 686), active from 1975 until 2001, was the second to last of the STURGEON class submarines commissioned and the last of the class to be inactivated. In silence and stealth, but most importantly in secrecy during the Cold War, L Mendel Rivers deployed to missions in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. During the 1990's L. Mendel Rivers was fitted with a dry-deck shelter that allowed her to deploy SEAL Delivery Vehicles. During her final mission prior to deactivation, L. Mendel Rivers operated submerged below the polar ice cap and transited from the Atlantic to Pacific via the North Pole.

L. Mendel Rivers in literature:

In the Undersea Warfare Magazine article titled [Arctic Challenge: Under the Polar Ice Cap](#), an account of the L. Mendel Rivers' final voyage from one ocean to another under the arctic ice pack ahead of decommissioning is recounted.