

16 October, 2017

**Nomination for USS Memphis (SSN-691) as 2018 Hall of Fame Boat
Hampton Roads Base U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc.**

In that:

USS Memphis (SSN-691)¹, a *Los Angeles*-class submarine, was the sixth ship of the United States Navy to be named for Memphis, Tennessee. The contract to build her was awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Newport News, Virginia on 4 February 1971 and her keel was laid down on 23 June 1973. She was launched on 3 April 1976 sponsored by Mrs. Cathy Beard, and commissioned on 17 December 1977, with Commander G. Dennis Hicks in command.

In March 1981, *Memphis* completed an around-the-world cruise via the Panama Canal, including operations with both the Sixth and Seventh Fleets.

Memphis was re-designated an experimental submarine during 1989 to test composite hull structures, unmanned underwater vehicles, advanced sonars, hull friction reduction, and other advanced technologies for the *Los Angeles* and *Seawolf* classes, but remained combat-capable.

During a mid-1990s refit, *Memphis* received numerous modifications, which added about 50 tons to her displacement, most of it aft.

- a glass-reinforced plastic (GRP) turtleback abaft the sail to accommodate remotely operated vehicles
- a towing winch and drum for experimental towed sonar arrays
- 4.27 m-high by 1.37 m-wide vertical surfaces at the ends of the stern stabilizers to accommodate sonar transducer arrays
- a 54 mm towed array dispenser in the port fin leading to the new winch abaft the sail
- supports for the stern stabilizers
- new hydraulic systems
- a fiber-optic databus
- 58 standardized equipment racks to accommodate electronic test gear

In January 1994 *Memphis* entered Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for refueling, overhaul and modifications to support her research and development role. Upon completion of the shipyard availability she was assigned to Submarine Development Squadron 12 in Groton, Connecticut.

¹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Memphis_\(SSN-691\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Memphis_(SSN-691))

16 October, 2017

**Nomination for USS Memphis (SSN-691) as 2018 Hall of Fame Boat
Hampton Roads Base U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc.**

In 1998 *Memphis* tested the Lockheed Martin Undersea Systems Universal Gravity Module (UGM) passive bottom profiler navigational system.

On 3 May 2005, *Memphis* deployed conducting two polar transits, returning to New London on 3 November 2005.

Memphis won the coveted Battenberg Cup in 2005, as well as the Squadron 12 Battle E.

On 6 May 2006, *Memphis* deployed against Iraqi insurgency, returning to New London, Connecticut, on 7 August.

On 27 June 2007, *Memphis* returned to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, for a Pre-Inactivation Restricted Availability. She returned to Groton on 8 May 2008.

After 33 years of service *Memphis* was taken out of service in a decommissioning ceremony at the Shepherd of the Sea Chapel located at the US Submarine Base in Groton, Connecticut on 1 April 2011. *Memphis* went to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to begin the inactivation process. Parts from the decommissioned *Memphis* were to be used to repair the damaged USS Miami, until the decision to cease work on the Miami was made in August 2013.

Accordingly, the USS Memphis (SSN 691) is hereby nominated as the 2017 candidate for induction into the Submarine Hall of Fame by the Hampton Roads Base of U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.