

MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS

No. 060-M
April 18, 1997

On Saturday, April 19th at 11 a.m., the Navy will honor submariners who were lost at sea during World War II. The special ceremony, which commemorates the 97th birthday of the modern submarine, will be held at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Rear Adm. Ed Giambastiani, director for submarine warfare on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, will host the ceremony. The submarine sailors lost at sea will be honored at a wreath laying ceremony at the foot of the Lone Sailor statue. The Navy Band and an honor guard will also participate in this ceremony.

In attendance will be retired Rear Adm. Eugene Fluckey. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his performance during a record five war patrols as commanding officer of USS Barb.

During World War II the United States lost 52 submarines, while achieving the highest sinking of shipping tonnage by any other class of ship or aircraft. Submarines were also tasked with performing critical troop insertions and extractions, surveillance, covert mining and rescue operations. Downed aviators, like then Lt. j.g. George Bush, are some of the World War II veterans who owe their lives to the dedication and heroism of Navy submariners.

For additional information, please contact Lt. j.g. Joe Walker at the Navy Office of Information, (703) 697-5342.