

USS PITTSBURGH (SSN 720)

Inactivation Ceremony



**U.S. Naval Undersea Museum
Keyport, Washington
January 17th, 2020**



Commanding Officer's Welcome

On behalf of the present officers and crew of USS PITTSBURGH (SSN 720), I extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all of PITTSBURGH'S loyal crew, her supporters, and honored guests. Today we celebrate a culmination of nearly thirty-five years of distinguished service in the defense of our nation. We are proud of PITTSBURGH'S superior reputation, her remarkable record of performance, and many accomplishments. Today's ceremony is a tribute to this ship and her crew both past and present, as PITTSBURGH prepares for decommissioning. We are glad you could join us to witness this historic event. Fair winds and seas abeam!

*Jason M. Deichler
Commander, United States Navy
Commanding Officer*

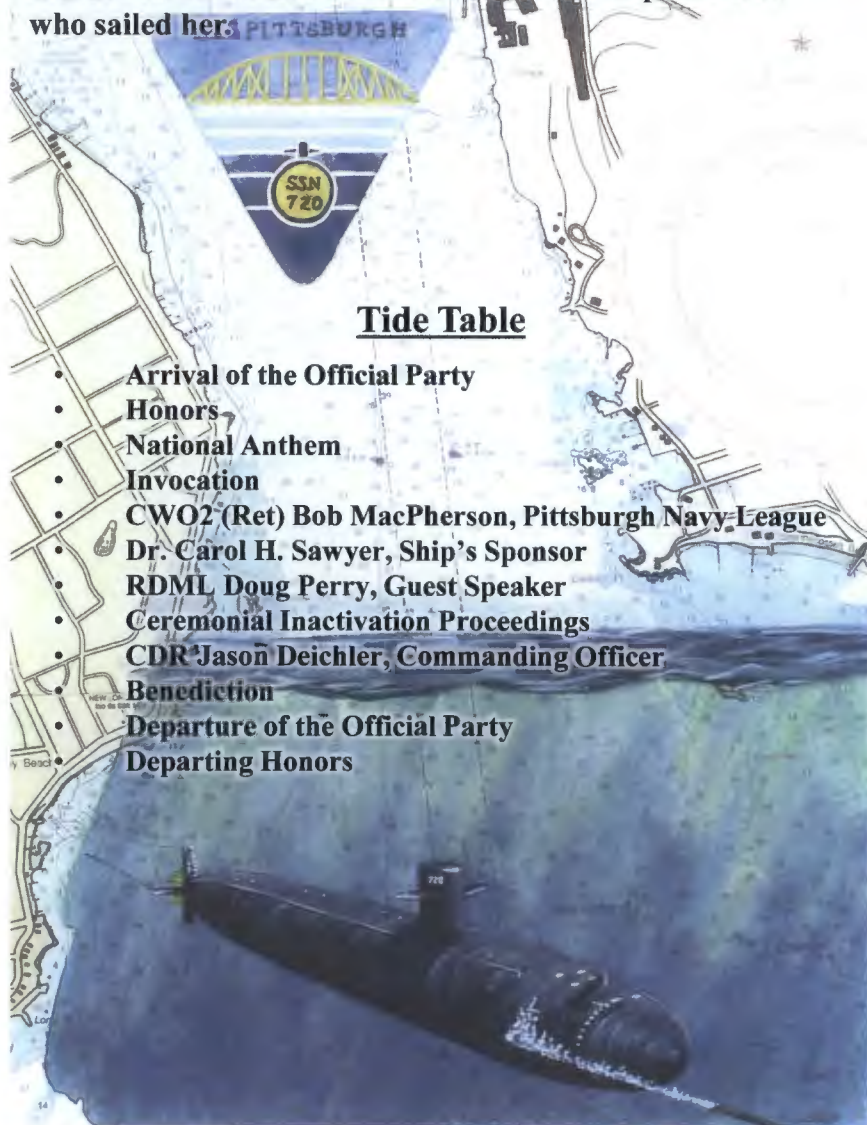


"Champions are champions not because they do anything extraordinary, they just do the ordinary better than anyone else."

Chuck Noll

The Decommissioning

The solemn ceremony you are witnessing today symbolizes a tribute to the ship and its crew as it prepares for decommissioning, the time-honored end of a ship's life. As if decommissioning, the ship's colors, ensign, and commissioning pennant are hauled down and the watches secured in dedication to the success of the ship and crew who sailed her.



Tide Table

- Arrival of the Official Party
- Honors
- National Anthem
- Invocation
- CWO2 (Ret) Bob MacPherson, Pittsburgh Navy League
- Dr. Carol H. Sawyer, Ship's Sponsor
- RDML Doug Perry, Guest Speaker
- Ceremonial Inactivation Proceedings
- CDR Jason Deichler, Commanding Officer
- Benediction
- Departure of the Official Party
- Departing Honors

History of

USS PITTSBURGH

USS PITTSBURGH is the 32nd Los Angeles-class nuclear powered attack submarine and the fourth ship in the U.S. Navy to bear the name of this Pennsylvania city. Her keel was laid on 15 April 1983, launched on 8 December 1984, delivered on 9 November 1985 and christened on 23 November 1985 by sponsor Mrs. Carol H. Sawyer. USS PITTSBURGH commenced operations homeported in Groton, CT for the next thirty-five years.



The first PITTSBURGH was a side-wheel ironclad gunboat built in 1861 and commissioned in January 1862.

The second was the 4th armored cruiser, commissioned on 9 March 1905. She decommissioned on 15 October 1921 only to be recommissioned on 2 October 1922.

She finally decommissioned on 10 July 1931.

The third was another armored cruiser originally named ALBANY. Her keel was laid down 3 February 1943 and commissioned on 10 October 1944. She sortied with the LEXINGTON carrier strike group for an assault on Iwo Jima. She was decommissioned on 7 March 1947 and later recommissioned on 25 September 1951. She continued to serve under both 6th and 7th Fleet in exercises and was decommissioned on 28 August 1956, earning two Battle Stars for World War II service.



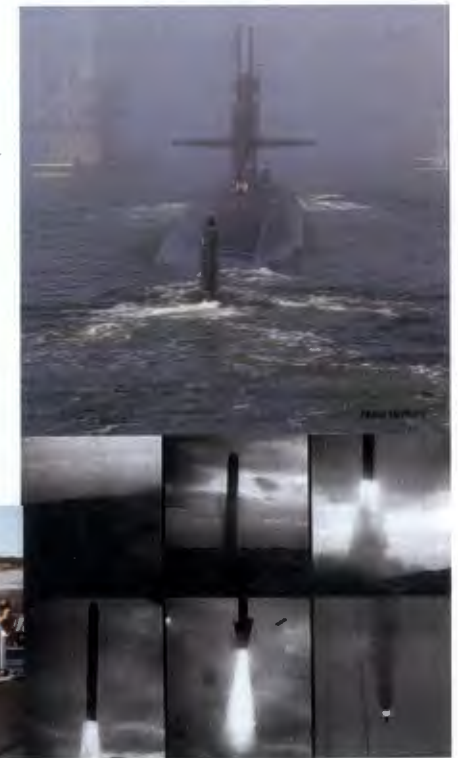
In the fall of 1986, USS PITTSBURGH successfully launched the first vertical Tomahawk cruise missile.

Late summer of 1987, USS PITTSBURGH conducted a Northern Atlantic Ocean deployment, crossing the Arctic Circle for the first time in her history.



In the spring of 1988, she became the first submarine to receive certification for vertical launch, earning her first Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC). Earning her second MUC, PITTSBURGH deployed to the North Atlantic in Spring of 1990. Displaying continued dominance in strike operations, USS PITTSBURGH successfully launched Tomahawk land attack cruise missiles during Operation DESERT STORM,

earning her first Navy Unit Commendation and the Southwest Asia Service Medal for the DESERT STORM campaign. After supporting the USS SARATOGA Battle Group operations in the Spring of 1992, she changed homeports to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, completing a Depot Modernization Period in 1994.



After earning a MUC in the winter of 1995, she sailed with USS ENTERPRISE Battle Group to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf to support Operations VIGILANT SENTINEL and DESERT STRIKE in the Summer of 1996. In the Spring of 1999, PITTSBURGH conducted an Arabian Sea and Adriatic Sea Deployment in support of Operation ALLIED FORCE, earning her another Navy Unit Commendation.

In Fall 2002, PITTSBURGH conducted a EUCOM and CENTCOM deployment, supporting OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM and SOUTHERN WATCH. Participating in her second campaign, she launched strike missiles in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM on March 21, 2003, earning recognition from President George W. Bush.

In support of the Global War on Terror, PITTSBURGH conducted a SOUTHCOM deployment in 2004 and supported PANAMAX, a multinational exercise geared at protecting free trade through the Panama Canal. Spring. Over the next 15 years of her life, PITTSBURGH successfully completed five deployments to the EUCOM and CENTCOM areas of operation, supporting numerous missions vital to national security, while earning several unit awards and commendations.



In April of 2019, PITTSBURGH commenced her final underway from Groton, Connecticut. Executing the first under-ice transit in the history of the ship, PITTSBURGH remained without communications for over twenty-two days while sailing the treacherous underwater environs of the high north. She arrived in her final homeport of Bremerton, Washington in May 2019. PITTSBURGH is currently docked in Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for defueling and decommissioning.

PITTSBURGH has been awarded the Southwest Asia Service Medal for operations in Desert Storm, two Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals, and a Navy Unit Commendation and Meritorious Unit Commendation during Iraqi Freedom. PITTSBURGH was awarded the NAVY "E" for her outstanding performance during 2001. Over her 35 year service, she totaled 8 Meritorious Unit Commendations, 2 Navy Unit Commendations, 2 Armed Forces, 1 Battle E, 2 LOC and served in 2 campaigns.



"I believe the game is designed to reward the ones who hit the hardest - If you can't take it, you shouldn't play."

Jack Lambert

Commanding Officers

CAPT Raymond Setser Jr.
23 Nov 1985 - 17 Jan 1986



CDR Neil P. Walsh
17 Jan 1986 - 29 Jul 1988



CDR Charles H. Griffiths Jr.
29 Jul 1988 - 18 Mar 1991



CDR W. Steven Wolff
18 Mar 1991 - 30 Jul 1993



CDR James P. Adams II
30 Jul 1993 - 16 Feb 1996



CDR Chris Sullivan
16 Feb 1996 - 29 Jun 1998



CDR Paul Bushong
29 Jun 1998 - 12 Mar 2001



CDR Jeffrey Curren
12 Mar 2001 - 19 Sep 2003

CDR David Hahn
19 Sep 2003 - 05 Jan 2007



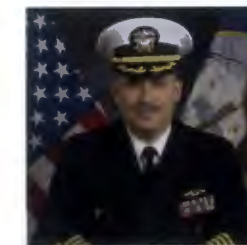
CDR Andy Jarrett
05 Jan 2007 - 19 Jun 2009



CDR Michael K. Savageaux
19 Jun 2009 - 26 Feb 2013



CDR William Solomon III
26 Feb 2013 - 06 Nov 2015



CDR J. Neil Colston
06 Nov 2015 - 12 Jan 2018



CDR Jason M. Deichler
12 Jan 2018 - present





WARDROOM



CDR Jason M. Deichler	Commanding Officer
LCDR Peter Gaal	Executive Officer
LCDR Joe Laspe	Engineer
LT Michael Lopez	Navigator
LT Matthew Bouwense	Weapons Officer
LT Zachary Speirs	Communications Officer
LT Karthik Venkatraman	Electrical Assistant
LTJG Bogdan Michka	Damage Control Assistant
LTJG Nate Redder	Assistant Engineer
LTJG Adam D'Amico	Reactor Control Assistant
LTJG Zachary Ceroli	Main Propulsion Assistant
LTJG Jules Godino	Chemical and Radiological Assistant



CHIEF'S MESS



CSSCS(SS) David Pope II	Chief of the Boat
MMNCS(SS) Jason Van Gorden	Engineering Department Master Chief
ETRC(SS) Zachary Wright	3MC
ETRC(SS) Joesph Allard	Radio and Navigation LCPO
EMNC(SS) Charles Delp	Electrical Division LCPO
ITSC(SS) Rocky Fain	LAN Division LCPO
CSSC(SS) Steve Green	Logistic Specialist/Culinary Specialist
	LCPO
TMC(SS) Lee Jobes	Weapons Department LCPO
MMAC(SS) Luis NavarroDiaz	Auxiliary Division LCPO
MMNCS(SS) Nick Northup	Reactor Laboratory Division LCPO
ETNC(SS) Jonathan Smith	Reactor Controls Division LCPO
MMNC(SS) Zachary Waters	Machinery Division LCPO

PETTY OFFICERS



ELECTRICAL

EMN1(SS) Branden Conwell
 EMN1(SS) Elliot Hobson
 EMN2(SS) Christopher Evans
 EMN2(SS) Jesse Jayne
 EMN2(SS) Charles Martin
 EMN2(SS) Spencer Schroader
 EMN2(SS) Matthew Tipton

REACTOR CONTROLS

ETN2(SS) Joseph Consolo
 ETN2(SS) Houston Edwards
 ETN2(SS) Angus Maclellan
 ETN2(SS) Kenneth Mayo
 ETN2(SS) Jeffrey Reddish

MACHINERY

MMN1(SS) Andrew Evers
 MMN1(SS) Justin Feiock
 MMN1(SS) Matthew Golliday
 MMN1(SS) Dillion Polk
 MMN2(SS) Derek Brauer
 MMN2(SS) Harrison Carter
 MMN2(SS) Kevin Hakenjos
 MMN2(SS) Kyle Parden
 MMN2(SS) Zeon Stewart
 MMN2(SS) Devin Watters
 MMN2(SS) Samuel Wolf
 MMN3(SS) Jacob Patton

REACTOR LABORATORY

MMN1(SS) Zachary Pearson
 MMN2(SS) Grayson Belles
 MMN2(SS) Tobiah Troyer

CORPSMAN

HM1(SS) Austin Lenzi

YEOMAN

YNS1(SS) Jason Foster
 YNS2(SS) Nicholas McKeon

AUXILIARY

MMA1(SS) David Moore
 MMA1(SS) Gordon Patterson
 MMA2(SS) Skye Brock
 MMA2(SS) Daniel DiazTellez
 MMA2(SS) Gabriel Evangelista
 MMA2(SS) Christian Hadaway
 MMA2(SS) Andrew McEachin
 MMA2(SS) Jordan Rose
 MMA2(SS) Zachary Noble
 MMA2(SS) Justin Triplett
 MMA3(SS) Isaiah Campbell

COMMUNICATIONS

ETR1(SS) Corwin Ford
 ETR2(SS) Brandon Rode

NAVIGATION

ETV2(SS) Brent Bowen
 ETV2(SS) Jack Leavy
 ETV2(SS) Javon Steplight
 ETV2(SS) Braxton Wallis

LAN

ITS2(SS) Matthew Strafaci
 ITS3(SS) Matthew Moraca

TORPEDO

MMW2(SS) Kibinge Kangethe
 MMW2(SS) Evan Sloneker

FIRE CONTROL

FT1(SS) James Vanlaar
 FT2(SS) Roger Nelson

SONAR

STS2(SS) Rodney Boykin
 STS2(SS) Nathaniel Hansen
 STS2(SS) Matthew Ricci
 STS3(SS) Brennon Tascarella

LOGISTICS

LS2(SS) Joe Davis
 LS3(SS) Devin Shepodd



Dr. Carol H. Sawyer Ship's Sponsor

Carol Haedtler Sawyer is the sponsor of the United States Navy fast attack submarine, USS Pittsburgh (SSN 720), originally home-ported out of Groton, Connecticut. The honor of Sponsorship was given to her by Secretary of the Navy John F. Lehman, when Assistant Navy

Secretary George A. Sawyer left the Navy Department to return to civilian life. On December 8, 1984, she smashed a champagne bottle across the bow and christened the ship with the Navy's traditional wording: "May God bless her and all who sail in her." She has attended every Change of Command ceremony across the ship's thirty-five years of active duty, and visited the boat and crew in Florida, Maine, Washington State, and frequently in Connecticut. Being the sponsor of this submarine has been a distinct privilege and hallmark of her life; she has pride in the accomplishments of USS Pittsburgh, and great admiration for the ship's personnel and their families.

Dr. Sawyer is a distinguished award-winning professor emerita in the College of Business and Public Management, University of La Verne in southern California, where she continues to teach graduate courses in management and in leadership. She is a graduate of Michigan State University, with a master's degree from Western Michigan University and both masters and doctoral degrees from the University of Southern California's Washington Public Affairs Center.



Her career has included active and often leadership roles in the International Leadership Association, the Academy of Management, and the Organizational Behavior Teaching Society for Management Educators. She is a frequent presenter at national and international conferences. Dr. Sawyer's career path has included managerial positions in academe, in government, and in both profit and non-profit organizations.



Her life's mission is to recognize and to realize possibilities for herself and for others.

Dr. Sawyer was born in Chicago and grew up in Michigan, before living on the East Coast, in St. Louis and now in southern California. She has traveled both professionally and for personal joy in 32 different countries. She is an avid reader, immersed (as audience) in music and theatre, and a passionate fan of the Chicago Cubs. She is happy to acknowledge an immediate and extended family of loving and supportive sons, grandchildren, a brother and a sister, nieces, nephews and the spouses of many of these family members.





**Rear Admiral
Douglas Perry**
Commander
Submarine Group Nine

Rear Admiral Douglas Perry is a 1989 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor's in Aerospace Engineering. He is also a graduate of Marquette University with a Master's in Civil Engineering.

He served at sea as division officer and Navy diver aboard USS Pittsburgh (SSN 720); executive officer/operations officer aboard Submarine NR-1 and executive officer of USS Maine (SSBN 741). His deployment experiences span the Caribbean and Mediterranean, Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic and Pacific. As commanding officer of USS Pasadena (SSN 752) from October 2006 to February 2009, he led the ship on highly successful deployments to the Eastern and Western Pacific.

Rear Admiral Perry served as commander, Submarine Development Squadron Five where he led Submarine Force development of unmanned systems tactics and employment, and commanded the Navy's squadron of Seawolf-Class Fast Attack submarines. Prior to his current assignment, he served as director, Joint and Fleet Operations, U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

Ashore, he served as branch chief for Director Undersea Warfare, on the Joint Staff as combatant commander Joint Exercise Engagement division chief and subsequent chief of staff for the Director of Joint Force Development; executive assistant to Commander, Submarine Forces Pacific Fleet; deputy commander, Submarine Squadron 7; congressional liaison in the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs at the Pentagon; Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps instructor at Marquette University; and as Submarine Force Atlantic chief of staff.

Rear Admiral Perry is currently serving as commander, Submarine Group Nine in Silverdale, Washington.





Jason M. Deichler
Commanding Officer
USS PITTSBURGH

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he received his commission in 1999 through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps after graduating from Carnegie Mellon University in a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics. Commander Deichler's first assignment was USS WEST VIRGINIA (SSBN 736)(GOLD), from 2000-2003, where he served as the Chemistry and Radiological Controls Assistant, Damage Control Assistant, and Quality Assurance Officer while completing four strategic deterrent patrols. Upon completion, he served as a Shift Engineer and material Officer onboard Moored Training Ship Daniel Webster (MTS 626) in Charleston, South Carolina from 2003-2005. Following his tour, he was assigned as an Associate Professor of Naval Science at The George Washington University in charge in instruction in Weapons System and Naval Engineering.

From 2007-2010, he served as the Engineering Officer onboard USS SPRINGFIELD (SSN 761). The ship completed a Central Command Deployment while also earning the Submarine Squadron Two Battle Efficiency "E" award. He was then assigned as the material officer for Submarine Group Two in Groton, Connecticut from 2010-2012, where he was responsible for the material readiness and timely completion of the new construction and overhaul of both VIRGINIA and LOS ANGELES class submarines.

His next assignment was Executive officer of USS ASHEVILLE (SSN 758) from 2012-2015. The ship completed a Western Pacific Deployment while earning a Meritorious Unit Commendation. ASHEVILLE's deployment was followed by a change of homeport to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for the completion of an extended overhaul at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. From 2015-2017, he served as the Nuclear Officer Program and Submarine Officer Community Manager on the OPNAV N133 staff in Arlington, VA.

Commander Deichler holds a Masters Degree in Engineering Management (2008) from Old Dominion University. He is entitled to wear the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (five awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), and other various personal, unit and service awards.

Commander Deichler is married to the former Michelle Hoover of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They have four children: Hannah, James, Matthew and Ian.



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR SPONSOR

For centuries, shipbuilding has had a tradition of asking women to christen, with wine, newly constructed ships, providing the name for each vessel, and asking for blessings on the ship and those who sail her.

The United States Navy has followed that tradition for centuries. The Secretary of the Navy designates the ship's name. He honors a woman to conduct the initial ceremony, the dramatic and exciting bottle smashing! She then serves as a supporting sponsor throughout the life of the ship.

In the earlier years of this nation, submarines were named for "fish and denizens of the deep". The fast attack submarine we recognize today is the fourth United States Navy ship named instead for this city: the City of Pittsburgh.

The Secretary of the Navy chose wisely in naming SSN 720 for this great city.

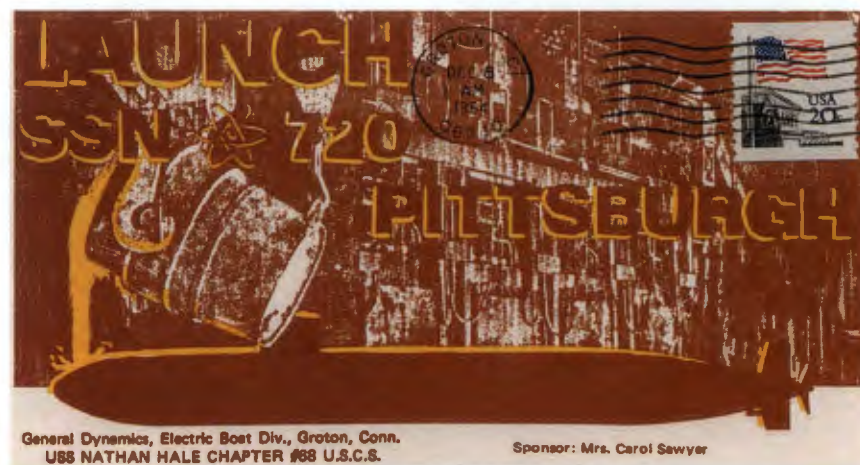
A personality—more important, *character*--comes along with a name. The City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania has a proud history. Pittsburgh is a city whose residents have built a community of *neighborhoods*; neighborhoods surrounded with physical beauty. This city and its people are known for hard work, for high ambition, for resilience and for creativity. Pittsburgh is a city of invention and of higher education, grounded in spiritual traditions. And always Pittsburgh and its people are committed to working together and to taking care of one another. This very way of being has come to the ship and the ship's people. The name brings skills and energy and values well matched to the challenges of this submarine's mission for the Navy.

It can be quite poetic to sail in a ship named for "a denizen of the deep." But being named for the City of Pittsburgh has a different vitality. That naming, and the character that came with the name, have resulted in a remarkable interaction.

There has been a rich and long-lasting relationship between the boat's men and families, and the very good people of the city. The connection and support that the Pittsburgh Navy League and others in Pittsburgh have provided SSN 720 is likely unmatched in the experiences of any other U.S. Navy vessel. As we honor the ship and its families, all those who have served across these years, and those who have waited at home, this is also a day to recognize and thank the city whose name the ship has borne so proudly.

Dr. Carol H. Sawyer
Ship's Sponsor

USS PITTSBURGH (SSN 720)



**Many thanks to everyone who has
contributed to PITTSBURGH and all of
its supporters:**

Crew past and present
Families
City of Pittsburgh Navy League
City of Pittsburgh Submarine Vets
Pittsburgh Relief Crew



"O God, thy sea is so great and my boat is so small."

Winfred Ernest Garrison





"We owe this freedom of choice and action to those men and women in uniform who have served this nation and its interests in time of need. In particular, we are forever indebted to those who have given their lives that we might be free."

President Ronald Reagan