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USS REQUIN VETERANS TO HOLD REUNION
FORMER CREW MEMBERS TO SHARE ACCOUNTS ON CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER’S SUBMARINE

PITTSBURGH, August 15, 2013 — On Saturday, Aug. 17, Carnegie Science Center will welcome veterans of USS Requin as they reunite to reminisce and share stories with visitors.

The crew holds its reunion every three years, and approximately 50 veterans and their spouses from across the country come to Carnegie Science Center for the occasion. Visitors to the Science Center on Saturday will enjoy a special chance to meet those who served on the submarine, which is docked alongside the Science Center on the Ohio River, and hear firsthand accounts about life on the Navy’s first Radar Picket Submarine.

Former crew members will be aboard Requin nearly all day Saturday.

“Having the chance to welcome USS Requin veterans back on board is a great honor,” says Patty Rogers, curator of Historic Exhibits at Carnegie Science Center. “Each time we have this event, visitors comment on how amazing it is to hear real-life accounts of our country’s history and meet the people who actually lived it.”

Any visitor wishing to go on a self-guided tour of USS Requin is welcome to do so daily from 10 am to 5 pm, weather permitting. USS Requin is included with general admission to the Science Center; admission to the submarine only is $5 for walk-ups.

USS Requin History

USS Requin entered the water for the first time on New Year’s Day in 1945, but as she readied for battle in World War II, the war was drawing to a close. The submarine’s departure date was Aug. 21, 1945. In August 1946, the submarine arrived at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, where it underwent the first of three conversions to become the first U.S. Navy Radar Picket Submarine. In November 1946, the submarine departed and headed for the Caribbean to test the conversion. One year later, Requin moved for exercises north of the Arctic Circle under operational control of Submarine Division 82 and sailed with her sister ship, USS Spinax.

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On Jan. 20, 1948, USS Requin reported back to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and underwent a second conversion, a Migraine II conversion, and was reclassified to SSR-481. In December, the submarine was assigned to Submarine Squadron 8 in New London, Conn.

In 1949, the submarine sailed its first deployment with the Sixth Fleet and in 1951 departed Norfolk, Va. for a four-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. It was deployed there four times until 1956, when it resumed duty with the Sixth Fleet in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. In June 1959, USS Requin reported to Charleston Naval Shipyard, Charleston, S.C., for its final conversion to a Fleet Snorkel boat. Its radar equipment was removed, and it was reclassified to SS-481.

USS Requin spent the remainder of its service on various Cold War missions, some of which are still classified. On June 29, 1968, the submarine was reclassified for non-combat duties, and finally, on Dec. 3, 1968, the submarine was decommissioned.

Today, USS Requin serves a very different purpose: to educate hundreds of thousands of visitors about life and science aboard a Cold War-era submarine. Preserved within its 312-foot-long hull is the technology of a bygone era, and it pays tribute to the nation’s history—giving visitors the chance to explore a submarine that is a predecessor to the sleek, nuclear-powered behemoths that now patrol the seas.

More information about USS Requin is available at CarnegieScienceCenter.org.

About Carnegie Science Center
Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center’s goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh’s premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes and off-site education programs.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh
Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums dedicated to exploration through art and science: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and the Andy Warhol Museum. Annually, the museums reach more than 1.2 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities and special events.

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