

This would not be the end of his sea duty, though. In fact, his most important command and date with history was yet to come. It was actually while Anderson was at the U.S. Submarine School that the United States commissioned its first nuclear submarine, the U.S.S. *Nautilus* on January 17, 1955.

The potential of this new type of submarine brought a need for more officers trained in nuclear operations. And so, Commander Anderson found himself being called into Rear-Admiral H.G. Rickover's office to interview for the program in January of 1956.

He soon found himself recruiting and awaiting a new command. During this time Rickover asked Anderson to devise a method of study for new officers entering the program. This project eventually evolved into the core study program for all nuclear submarine commanders.

It was on April 30, 1957, that Captain Anderson was ordered to assume command of the U.S.S. *Nautilus*. His classified mission was to be ready to take his submarine and crew under the Arctic polar ice cap whenever he received the order.

Known as "Operation Sunshine" by the Navy, this project would challenge both Captain Anderson's leadership skills and his nautical training.

No one had ever succeeded in finding a northern sea passage before, and the lack of information and charts on the pack ice, the inability of normal navigational instruments to operate so near to the magnetic North Pole and other instrumentation problems had to be sorted out and solved—all in the deepest of secrecy.

With the summer of 1957 ending, the crew of the *Nautilus* made its first attempt to traverse the ice pack while submerged. Using special ice detecting sonar, the *Nautilus* started maneuvering around the icebergs. It would not succeed on this attempt or the next one in June of 1958.

The same cannot be said for the third attempt, and on August 3, 1958, Captain Anderson and the crew of the *Nautilus* finally crossed under the North Pole. Upon return to the United States, the entire crew was hon-

ored with a ticker tape parade in New York City, and Anderson was personally awarded the Legion of Merit by President Eisenhower.

Commander Anderson's career continued to flourish—from his serving as an aide to the Secretary of the Navy, Fred Korth, to his appointment as the Director of the National Service Corps, which would be renamed the Peace Corps in later years by President Kennedy.

In 1960, Anderson was even considered as a possible gubernatorial candidate in Tennessee, but he decided to fulfill his 20 year commitment to the Navy. Upon retirement from the Navy, Anderson was elected as the Representative from the Sixth District of Tennessee in 1965, and he continued to serve his constituents for four successive terms in office before retiring to Virginia.

I, for one, am proud of the accomplishments of my fellow Tennessean, William Robert Anderson. For his diligent and long-standing service to this great Country and the State of Tennessee, I would like to return the honor by paying him this tribute to his great accomplishments.

While Commander Anderson now resides in the great state of Virginia, we Tennesseans still choose to claim him as one of our native sons.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES DOUGLAS H. NIECE AS THE LONGEST SERVING CUBMASTER IN THE U.S.

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2000*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Douglas H. Niece, the longest-serving Cubmaster in the United States. For over 50 years, Mr. Niece has made tremendous contributions to our community through his commitment and dedication as the Cubmaster of Pack 61, the oldest Cub Scout pack in Hunterdon County.

In January 1948, several community leaders in Flemington decided to start a Cub Scout

Pack in Hunterdon County. The Pack was founded on the principle of helping young men achieve a sense of self worth and satisfaction from knowing they can accomplish their goals. Today, Pack 61 continues to provide young men with the values and experiences that cultivate discipline and a sense of responsibility; traits that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

Mr. Niece has served as Cubmaster of Pack 61 since its inception over 50 years ago. As Cubmaster he has been a mentor to over 5,000 boys during his extraordinary tenure. Mr. Niece has taught Cub Scouts from Pack 61 the value of community and service to our nation. He has instilled lifelong values that will be used to build a foundation for future growth. Many of Mr. Niece's scouts have continued to serve their communities in a variety of ways, including volunteering their time as a Scouter or Cubmaster.

Mr. Niece is one of the few surviving graduates of the Flemington Children's Choir School, a school founded at the turn of the 20th century to train children to sing in the local church choirs. Even at the age of 80, he leads carolers around Flemington on Christmas morning, singing carols at any home with the porch light on—a tradition begun by the Choir School in the early 1900's.

Mr. Niece is a life-long member of the Flemington Presbyterian Church where he continues to teach Sunday School. He has served as both at Elder and Deacon of the Church and was Superintendent of the Sunday School for over a decade. Several years ago, on Boy Scout Sunday, the church honored him with the "God and Service Award" in recognition of his many years of service and dedication to the youth within the community. Mr. Niece embodies the true spirit of giving and dedication. He has centered his life around service to his community.

Mr. Douglas H. Niece has been, and continues to be, a strong presence in Central New Jersey. I urge all my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mr. Niece's commitment and dedication to the children of our community.