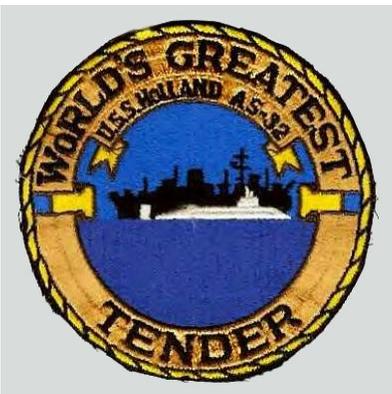


## USS Holland (AS-32) Asbestos Concerns

Chief Warrant Officer Steven Price passed away in April 2006 as a result of asbestos related cancer. As a result, the children of Mr. Price are represented by the law firm Waters & Krause ([www.waterskrause.com](http://www.waterskrause.com)) because it is their belief that he received significant asbestos exposure while working aboard the USS Holland, especially during the overhaul in the Puget Sound Shipyard from 1974 to 1975. The lawsuit of this type is typically brought against the manufacturer of the product in question and is difficult to prove because of the long timeline between the victim's exposure and diagnosis of the illness. In the case of asbestos, an aggressive cancer known as malignant mesothelioma may not be diagnosed until 20 to 30 years after exposure and death often follows within a year of diagnosis. A latency period of 30 to 40 years is not uncommon.

If you served on the USS Holland during the time frame that CWO Price was there, and you have firsthand knowledge of insulation products, equipment insulated with asbestos, equipment used to handle asbestos, working conditions or related safety guidelines used on board the Holland for that or any time period, Waters & Krause is looking such information. You may contact Waters & Krause via the contact information shown below.

During the USS Holland's 33 year service she was assigned to a number of submarine squadrons. Many of the submarines that the Holland serviced are listed



in the web-site maintained by Waters & Krause as "locations with a known risk of asbestos exposure." The Holland's support role for the subs would also indicate that asbestos exposure by Holland crew members could also have taken place on board the submarines during maintenance and repair activities. Information about such repair activities would also be helpful.

The problem with asbestos exposure will not go away soon. As more is known about the hazards of asbestos, its use and handling by the US Navy personnel has been guided by stricter safety procedures and guidelines. Its use, however, was so widespread that in a report dated March 1976 by the Naval Ship Engineering Center estimated that there would be at least as many as 30 years of continued exposure. An abstract of the report said:

"Exposure to asbestos is being decreased by prohibiting the use of asbestos containing materials where suitable substitutes have been designated and by revising applicable documentation. Asbestos exposure conditions will, however, be present in the Navy for the next 20 to 30 years due to the need for periodic rip-out of existing asbestos installations for maintenance and repair purposes and for those asbestos installations for which substitutes are not yet available. The Navy's near term objective will be to develop improved procedures during rip-out operations, to provide even greater protection to personnel working with asbestos and to identify remaining asbestos end items that must be replaced..."

Many Americans think that asbestos has already been banned, but it has not been. The EPA tried to ban it in 1989 but important portions of those regulations were overturned in court in 1991. Forty countries have banned asbestos but the United States has not.

US Senator Patty Murray, a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, has tried for over six years to ban asbestos from the United States. She has introduced a number of bills and most recently she reintroduced her bill, "The Ban Asbestos in America Act of 2007."

In Senator Murray's web-site she offers the following information about who is exposed to asbestos (keep in mind that about 10,000 Americans die each year from asbestos exposure):

- About one third of mesothelioma victims were exposed to asbestos while serving in the U.S. Navy.
- Brake mechanics, roofers, cement workers and demolition workers are exposed.
- Homeowners doing renovation projects are exposed (estimates indicate as many as 35 million homes and businesses have insulation with harmful minerals).
- Spouses and children of workers – who unknowingly bring home asbestos fibers on their clothing expose others.
- The EPA has estimated that as many as 3,000 consumer products were ounce made with asbestos.

In the next newsletter there will be some additional information about asbestos. Again, if you have information about the Holland or any of our former shipmates regarding the use of asbestos – use the contact information below.

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