



Tributes to Mom

Moms used to say: “Straighten up or I’m sending you to military school.” Or, “If you don’t stop doing what you’re doing, you are going into the military.” Or, “You either have to go to college or going into the military.”

Such comments were common in yesteryear. If it weren’t “Mom” sayings, they were often spoken by a local judge. Military life sparked adventure for some, but it also was Mom’s way to strike fear in the hearts of the unruly.

With mothers being honored in May, it was most fitting to hear about how some Moms took the news of their young sons heading out to sea.

Praiseworthy plan fails

At the young age of 17, **John Stine** heard similar threats following his record of “acting up and skipping school.” He figured he had the perfect solution to defuse the situation.



He trotted into the local Navy recruiter and signed up, knowing his Mom would not sign the papers for this under-aged youth.

With enlistment papers in hand, John waited by his Mom’s car outside the BF Goodrich plant where she worked. Mom came out, and John held the paper up and said: “I’ve joined the Navy.” His mom grabbed the paper flipped it onto the hood of her ‘76 Chevy car and, without batting an eye, signed it.

“I didn’t expect her to sign it,” John confessed. Mom called his bluff. The rest is history.

Communication ain’t easy

Just after qualifying on submarines, young **Vic VanHorn** (now Central

District CDR for USSVI) left San Diego to go home for Thanksgiving. Things were going well until Vic sat down at the dinner table and asked his Mom to pass the “F . . . ing Potatoes.” “What did you say VICTOR PHILLIP!” she asked? For the rest of the visit, he states, “I didn’t want to go out and “F . . . up again.” He found communicating as a son and as a sailor required different skill sets.



Tom Who?

Did you every have a bad dream in which you come home to visit your family only to discover they had moved without leaving a forwarding address?

Ask **Tom Ramsay**—it happened to him. “Sorry Son,” his Mom said. “We forgot to tell you.” It took him a week to find them. Gotta love Moms.

Double whammy

It is hard enough to hear that one of your son’s joined the military, but how about two sons on the same day? **Bob Fleck’s** and his brother both joined the Naval Reserve before making the Navy a full-time occupation.

His mother handled it well, he said. “She was delighted we were not going to Vietnam and carrying a rifle.” We wonder what she thought about the submarines service as a safe option?

You can’t fool Mom

My Mom loved me, Jim Helsell recalls and was “OK” I enlisted in the Navy. However, she was afraid for me in case I got get into trouble.

“Our course I got into trouble,” Jim recalls after the fact.

