

Military, Law, and more ...

Thank you to the Memphis Safe Task Force and National Guard!

Memphian Petty Officer 3rd Class Alexander Aguilar Santiago defends America from under the sea aboard the USS Henry M. Jackson



Petty Officer 3rd Class Alexander Aguilar Santiago, a native of Memphis, Tennessee likes the challenges of the Navy. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Diamond Kyles)

By Ashley Craig,
Navy Office of Community Outreach

SILVERDALE, Wash. - Petty Officer 3rd Class Alexander Aguilar Santiago, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, is one of the sailors serving aboard USS Henry M. Jackson, continuing the U.S. Navy’s 126-year tradition of service under the sea to help ensure Americans’ safety. Aguilar Santiago graduated from Kirby High School in 2017. The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar

to those found in Memphis. “One thing that has helped me is to keep asking questions,” Aguilar Santiago said. “Everyone is very helpful around here, so it’s been a good opportunity to learn.” Aguilar Santiago joined the Navy two years ago. Today, Aguilar Santiago serves as a missile technician. “I joined the Navy because I wanted better opportunities for my parents and I wanted to show my siblings a better example,” Aguilar Santiago said. “I thought it would be a lot easier, but it’s



“I joined the Navy because I wanted better opportunities for my parents and I wanted to show my siblings a better example,” Aguilar Santiago said. “I thought it would be a lot easier, but it’s been a lot harder. It’s a good challenge. It’s been a lot of work to memorize everything and a lot of studying. I also wanted to travel. I’ve been to a lot of places with the Navy: Chicago, Connecticut, Georgia and now Washington. I’m looking forward to traveling more.”

As a submariner, Aguilar Santiago is part of a small percentage of Navy personnel who volunteer to serve under the sea. Known as America’s “Apex

Predators,” the Navy’s submarine force operates a large fleet of technologically advanced vessels. These submarines are capable of conducting rapid defensive and offensive operations around the world to deter aggression and defend the U.S. homeland. A major component of that maritime security is homeported at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. There are three basic types of submarines: fast-attack submarines, ballistic-missile submarines and guided-missile submarines. Fast-attack submarines are designed to hunt down and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships; strike targets ashore with cruise missiles; support special operations missions; conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions; and engage in mine warfare. The Virginia-class fast-attack submarine is the most advanced submarine in the world today. It combines stealth and payload capability to meet combatant commanders’ demands in this era of strategic competition. The Navy’s ballistic-missile submarines, often referred to as “boomers,” serve as a strategic deterrent by providing an undetectable platform for submarine-launched ballistic missiles. They are designed specifically for stealth, extended patrols and the

Please see sports page 4

ShotPay turns everyday firearms commerce into big support for the SAF

BELLEVUE, Wash. — Aug. 17, 2026 — The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) announced that ShotPay – a 2A-friendly, full-stack payments ecosystem for the firearms industry – will donate a portion of proceeds from each transaction to support the organization’s legal and educational efforts. “Every qualifying transaction through ShotPay helps fund the Second Amendment Foundation,” said ShotPay CEO Joe Fox. “That is the entire point. The firearms industry has spent years paying tolls into financial systems controlled by people who do not support us. ShotPay was built to reverse that flow of money. Our goal is simple – turn everyday commerce into a funding engine for the organizations defending our rights. We are giving gun companies the payment infrastructure they need to sell more, save more and take control of their financial future, while making sure every purchase helps fund the organizations fighting for our rights. This is how we stop funding our opposition and start funding the future of the Second Amendment.” For decades, the firearms industry has unknowingly funded the very financial institutions working against it. ShotPay is changing that. The company gives merchants a way to sell more

while ensuring more of every dollar stays inside the Second Amendment ecosystem. Instead of every gun purchase becoming another toll paid to big finance, they turn commerce into advocacy. ShotPay is liberating the industry from big finance by giving merchants one full-stack platform for embedded credit card processing, BNPL, layaway, wholesale/manual invoicing, gateway services, and 2A-friendly banking rails. “We’re always grateful to companies that want to support SAF’s efforts to ensure the right to keep and bear arms remains for generations,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “For more than 50 years SAF has been fighting to ensure the Second Amendment isn’t relegated to a second-class right, and thanks to companies like ShotPay we will remain at the tip of the spear in defending, securing and restoring our constitutional freedoms. This unique partnership further exemplifies the good that can be accomplished when we collaborate across the industry, and we look forward to working with the ShotPay team.” For more information about SAF’s corporate partner program, contact Senior Vice President Lauren Hill at Lhill@saf.org.

SAF gets court win! See article on sports page 4.

A Memphis Safe Task Force Report: West Tennessee Man Wanted for Child Rape Captured by U.S. Marshals; 32 Arrests, 7 Guns Recovered

MEMPHIS, August 14, 2026 — The Memphis Safe Task Force on Thursday executed 32 arrests and recovered seven illegal firearms. **Of note:** Three men -- Andre Evans, 47, Drevious Ward, 18, and Leandre Harris, 28 -- were arrested without incident and charged with manufacture, delivery, and sale of controlled substances after MSTF executed a search warrant at a house in the 400 block of Laclede Avenue. Agents recovered 30.6 grams of marijuana, 78 packs of buprenorphine, 3,750 grams of promethazine, 522 pills of oxycodone, hydrochloride, 132 pills of alprazolam and 72 pills of amphetamine dextroamphetamine, \$31,000 in cash, and weapons, including two 9mm pistols, a .40-caliber pistol, a .380 pistol and ammunition. Evans was also charged with unlawful possession of a firearm by



Patton Levi Mathias, 20, was indicted in Henderson County, Tennessee for rape of a child. A warrant was issued for his arrest on July 24, 2026, out of Henderson County Circuit Court. (Photos/Courtesy: Memphis Safe Task Force)



a convicted felon. Ward and Harris were also charged with unlawful possession of narcotics. **Steven Davis, 61,** was arrested after MSTF executed a search warrant at a house in the 1300 block of South Parkway East. MSTF recovered a Mossberg Maverick 88 shotgun, ammunition, drug paraphernalia, 59.1 grams of marijuana, and \$1,200 in cash. Davis was charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana and possession of a dangerous weapon in the commission of a crime. **Remuires West, 31,** was arrested in the 900 block of Getwell Road after MSTF initiated a traffic stop for driving with fictitious plates. During the stop, MSTF officers learned West had an active federal warrant for unlawful shipment, transfer, receipt, or possession by a felon. A search of Please see sports-Military 3

Love Springs Eternal

Let’s save the manatees— today, tomorrow, and forever.

Adopt-A-Manatee®

1-800-432-JOIN (5646)
savethemanatee.org
Photo © David Schrichte

WANT YOUR CATS TO HAVE A FUTURE?

KEEP THEM INSIDE!

For their sake and the sake of wildlife, keep cats safe in your home.

WENDI McLENDON-COVY AND RUITERS, FOR PETA