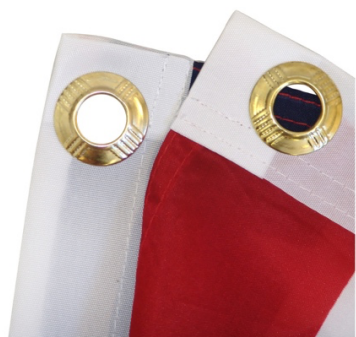


# SAVE THE GROMMETS, HELP CREATE THE NEW BELL FOR THE NEW USS ARIZONA TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2025



**PLEASE** SAVE THE GROMMETS FROM RETIRED FLAGS AT HOME, SCOUT UNIT, OR POST. IF YOU DO NOT CHOOSE TO RETIRE SYNTHETIC FLAGS BY FIRE, YOU CAN CUT OUT THE GROMMETS AND TURN THEM IN, EVEN WITH A SMALL AMOUNT OF FLAG MATERIAL REMAINING. We will remove the excess cloth.

**Grommets from the retired flags will be melted and combined with tin and Arizona copper to cast three bells for the US Navy to select for the official bell of the new USS ARIZONA (SSN-803).**

1. Retire Flags. Save/collect grommets at your local home or facility for collection later.
2. Contact Gary Vaughan when you have grommets to provide ([garyavaughan@gmail.com](mailto:garyavaughan@gmail.com)).
3. Arrangements for collections of the grommets will be made during the week of 19-24 February.

**DEADLINE FOR COLLECTION OF GROMMETS is 24 FEBRUARY 2024.**

## USS Arizona (SSN-803)



The lead boat of the *Virginia* class,  
*USS Virginia (SSN-774)*

**CALL TO ACTION:** The Arizona Sons of The American Legion are spearheading an effort to collect the brass grommets from as many retired national flags as possible. WHY? In **2025 (estimated)**, the 4th naval vessel to carry the name **USS ARIZONA (SSN-803)** will be **launched**. This will be the first time a vessel has held the name since 1941. **We are jointly working to collect brass grommets to be combined with AZ-mined copper to create three brass bells to be presented to the Navy, with one to be selected as the new vessel's bell.** **ACTION:** Please have your members and Scouts collect/save all brass grommets from retired or "to be retired" USA Colors and have them ready for a pick-up 19-24 February. Provide the name of the donor or organization (and their location) as they will become part of the bells' official history. The new USS ARIZONA will be a Virginia Class submarine (as pictured left).