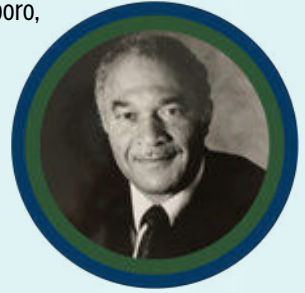


2026 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT HONOREE

LTJG Frank Ellis Sublett, Jr., USNR — CLASS OF 1938

(1920 - 2006) Frank Sublett, Jr. was born March 5, 1920, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. At an early age his family moved to Illinois where he attended grade school. He later completed three years of college studies, beginning his study at the University of Wisconsin and then transferring to George Williams College in Chicago. On July 7, 1942, Sublett enlisted in the Naval Reserve and commenced active duty. After recruit training he received training to become a machinist's mate. He was reportedly assigned to a Navy machine shop in Boston where he worked on sonar equipment, assisted in repairing equipment on auxiliary patrol craft, and attained the rate of machinist's mate first class.



In 1944 he was transferred to Great Lakes Naval Training Station where he underwent officer training and received his commission as a naval officer on March 20. He became one of the first Black officers in the United States Navy; this group became known as the "Golden Thirteen."

Following his commissioning as ensign he was assigned to the Naval Local Defense Forces, San Francisco, and was also assigned to the Port Director's Office, Twelfth Naval District. In addition, he served as executive officer of a yard oiler at San Francisco. On July 1, 1945, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant junior grade and briefly deployed as the Executive Officer of a stevedore battalion at Naval Operating Base, Eniwetok, Marshall Islands.

He was released from active duty on February 11, 1946, but remained a member of the Naval Reserve until his honorable discharge on October 27, 1952. After leaving the service, Sublett worked for several years as a service manager for a Buick automobile dealership in Chicago until later becoming a professional model. Sublett died September 27, 2006, at the age of 86 and is buried at Saint Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Holcombe, Wisconsin, where his burial marker carries the inscription: GOLDEN THIRTEEN – LTJG - US NAVY – WORLD WAR II.

