

# John A. Cowan



## John A. Cowan

**Born:** 08 July 1945 *in* Port Huron, MI  
**Died:** 30 May 2001 *in* Helsinki, Finland

John A. Cowan, age 55, of Portland, Ore., and formerly of North Street, died unexpectedly Wednesday, May 30, 2001 while on a business trip in Helsinki, Finland.

John was an auditor for Consolidated Freightways Company, which conducts business throughout the world.

He is survived by a son, John R. Cowan of Atlanta, Ga.; a daughter, Jeanette (Richard) Szczepanski of Bradenton, Fla.; two grandchildren, Angela and David Szczepanski of Bradenton, Fla.; his mother, Marian Cowan of North Street; his sister, Margaret (companion, Victor Hickman) Cowan of Troy, Mich.; brother, Rodney (Patricia) Cowan of North Street; sister-in-law, Joan Cowan of Virginia Beach, Va.; an uncle, Roy Sischo of Port Huron; three nieces; and one great-niece. He was preceded in death by his father, Archie Cowan; and his brother, Robert Cowan\*.

Arrangements by Smith Family Funeral Home, North, are incomplete.

Name:	<b>John A Cowan</b>
Birth Date:	8 Jul 1945
Address:	2925 Heritage Dr Apt L, Fort Gratiot, MI, 48059-3973

Name:	<b>John A. Cowan</b>
SSN:	373-46-8230
Born:	8 Jul 1945
Died:	29 May 2001
State (Year) SSN issued:	Michigan (1962)

**\* -- See note on next page, regarding John's brother.**

## DID YOU KNOW...

Robert Cowan

Birth aft 1940 in Clyde, St Clair, Michigan

Death 1968

Name: Robert Cowan

Gender: Male

Birth Date: 20 Aug 1943

Death Date: 4 Jun 1968

SSN: 378447410

Branch 1: NAVY

Enlistment Date 1: 4 Oct 1961

Release Date 1: 4 Jun 1968

Name: Robert Cowan

SSN: 378-44-7410

BORN: 20 Aug 1943

Died: Jun 1968

State (Year) SSN issued: Michigan (1961)

## USS Scorpion SSN-589

List of Sailors Who Perished in the Loss of USS Scorpion (SSN-589) on 22 May 1968

Cowan, Robert James, MM1(SS), USN

<http://www.submarinesailor.com/inmemorium/scorpionmemorial.htm>

... But as Joan Cowan, says "most submarine wives know that if it is overdue, it's gone." Cowan is the wife of 18-year submarine veteran MM1 Robert James Cowan who had planned on retiring from the Navy and return to farming. Her husband was among those who did not come home...

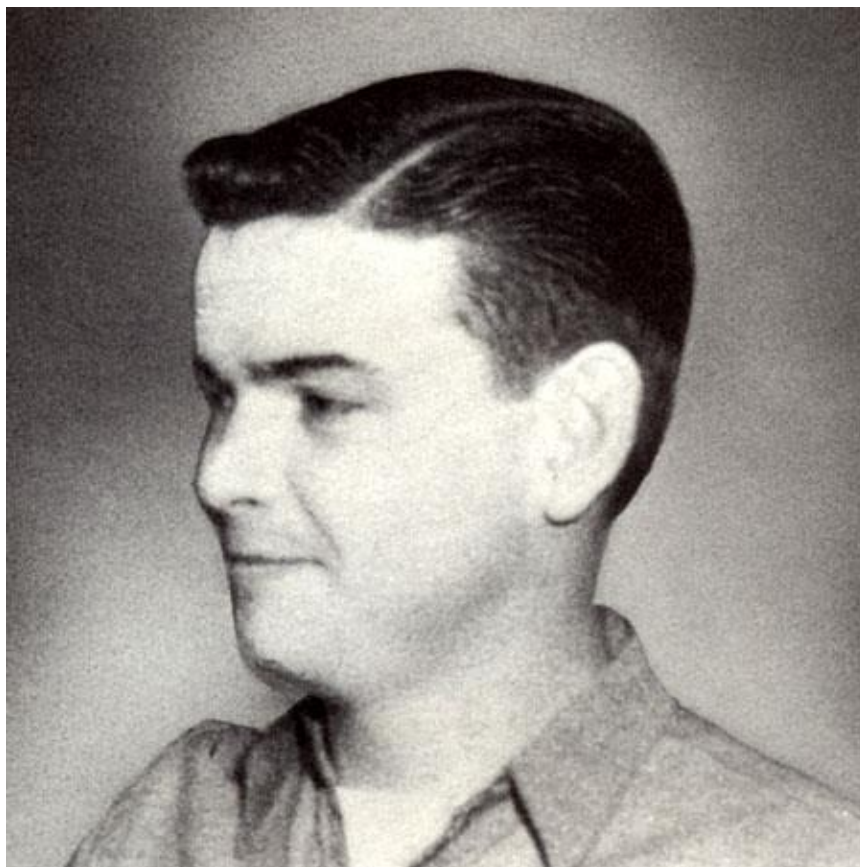
## FACTS:

- The Scorpion was just one of four mysterious submarine disappearances in 1968; the others being the Israeli submarine [INS Dakar](#), the [French submarine Minerve \(S647\)](#) and the [Soviet submarine K-129](#).
- Len Patterson served aboard the USS George Washington, SSBN-598. The Washington's keel was laid as the USS Scorpion. Her electrical switch gear was all labeled SSN-589. The original Scorpion was cut in half, the ends pulled apart, and a missile compartment installed. The missile compartment actually had a deeper test deep than the original bow and stern.

## On Eternal Patrol – Lost Submariner Of the US NAVY

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### Robert James Cowan



Rank/Rate	Machinist's Mate, First Class
Birth Date	August 20, 1943
From	Port Huron, Michigan
Decorations	
Submarine	<a href="#">USS Scorpion (SSN-589)</a>
Loss Date	May 22, 1968
Location	Approximately 400 miles southwest of the Azores
Circumstances	There is still no incontrovertible proof of the exact cause or causes of Scorpion's loss.