



180420-N-LW591-014 GROTON, Conn. (Apr. 20, 2018) Rochester, Minn. native Cmdr. Brian Tanaka (left), outgoing Commander of the Virginia-class, nuclear-powered, fast-attack submarine, USS Minnesota (SSN-783), shake hands with his relief, Grand Island, New York native, Cmdr. Thomas Flaherty during a change of command ceremony on Friday, Apr. 20., as Commander, Submarine Squadron Four, Capt. Brian Sittlow oversees the time honored naval tradition on Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist First Class Steven Hoskins/Released)

## Grand Island native takes command of nuclear submarine

By [Nancy A. Fischer](#) | Published 7:42 a.m. April 27, 2018 | Updated 33 minutes ago

U.S. Navy Commander Thomas Flaherty III, a Grand Island native, took over command of the USS Minnesota submarine on April 20 during a ceremony in New London, Conn.

Flaherty takes over the Virginia class, nuclear-powered, fast-attack submarine from Commander Brian Tanaka, who completed a 50-month command tour that saw the Minnesota undergo maintenance and complete its first deployment.

Flaherty gave Tanaka and his wife praise for instilling the Minnesota crew with the battle cry of "Be a Viking" and said his ship will continue the motto.

"Like our motto reads, we will no doubt bring power from the North," Flaherty said.