



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE
MAY 2022



Past



Present



Future



USSVI Creed

Section 1: To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country that their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments, and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

Camaraderie

Section 2: In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, USSVI shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for our mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. The USSVI supports a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

Perpetual Remembrance

Section 3: The organization engages in various projects and deeds that bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. USSVI also endeavors to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services United States submariners performed and how the sacrifices of lost shipmates made possible the freedom and lifestyle American enjoy today



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EDITOR'S DESK



The Deck Log is a monthly publication of the Central Texas Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. It is delivered via email in Microsoft Publisher PDF format to the Base Membership. A copy is printed and mailed via USPS to those shipmates not having email.

Deck Log Editor

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FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/ussvicentraltexas/>

INSTAGRAM: [ussvi.centraltexasbase](https://www.instagram.com/ussvi.centraltexasbase)

BASE MEETINGS - Base meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at M/SGT Ben D Snowden VFW Post 8587, 1000 N College St, Georgetown, TX 78626. We hold a quarterly social in lieu of a Base Meeting in March, June, September and December.




U.S. Submarine Service

JOIN USSVI

Have you ever worn the proud symbol pictured above? Are you related to, or know someone who is wearing, or has worn, Submarine Dolphins?

Visit our Web Site at:
<https://ussvicentraltexasbase.org/>



The original design for the U.S. Submarine Force insignia approved in 1924 by Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Acting Secretary of the Navy, is still in use today.



NATIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES

A listing of Internet information addresses of the various organizations as places to obtain information on national items of interest. Shipmates, you are invited to add to the list (just let me know via email of any you use), so over time it would become more comprehensive.



<https://www.ussvi.org/home.asp>



<http://www.ussvi.org/base/CentralTexas.asp>



<http://www.csp.navy.mil/>



<http://www.navytimes.com/>



<http://www.navy.mil/swf/index.asp>



<http://www.military.com/>



<http://www.med.navy.mil/pages/default.aspx>



<http://www.fra.org/>



<http://defensetech.org/>



<http://www.subvetstore.com/index.php>



<https://www.sublant.usff.navy.mil/>



<http://www.vfw.org/>



www.navyleagueaustin.org



www.navyleague.org



<http://www.usni.org/>



<http://www.navy.mil/navydata/cno/n87/n77.html>



www.military.com/military-report/



www.moaa.org



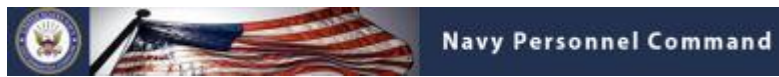
www.shiftcolors.navy.mil



<http://www.va.gov/>



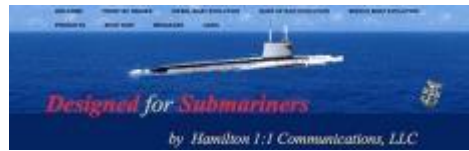
<http://www.submarinesailor.com>



<http://www.public.navy.mil/BUPERS-NPC/Pages/default.aspx>



<http://isasusa.org/>



WWW.DESIGNED4SUBMARINERS.COM



<http://www.dfas.mil/>



<http://www.usmilitaryforum.com/forums/>



<http://www.ausn.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/ussvicentraltexas/>

ON ETERNAL PATROL – MAY

"I can assure you that they went down fighting and that their brothers who survived them took a grim toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths." Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, USN



USS Logarto (SS-371)

Lost on May 3, 1945 with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. On her 2nd war patrol, she is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk by the USS Hawkbill 2 weeks later.

http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=24581



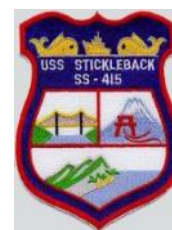
USS Scorpion (SSN-589)

USS Scorpion (SSN-589) was returning to Norfolk, VA. from a Mediterranean deployment. On May 22, 1968 she reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Scorpion was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined. 99 officers and men were lost.



USS Squalus (SS-192)

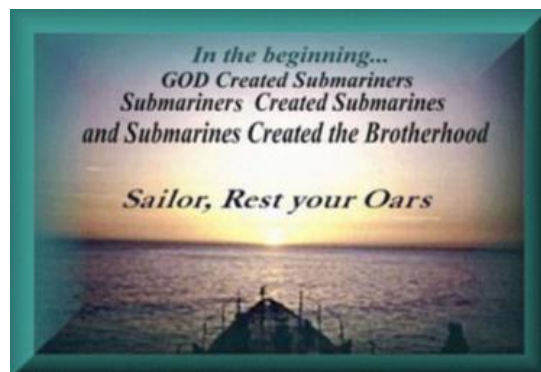
On May 23, 1939 USS Squalus suffered a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. Partially flooded, the submarine sank to the bottom and came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR-2) rescued 33 survivors using the diving bell he invented. 26 men drowned in the after compartments. Later Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish. In an ironic turn of fate, Sailfish sank the Japanese aircraft carrier carrying surviving crew members from Sculpin, which had located Squalus in 1939. Only one of survived after spending the rest of the war as slave laborers in Japan.



USS Stickleback (SS-415)

Lost on May 30, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while under tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to sinking. All crew were removed and efforts were made to save the submarine. Compartments flooded, but even with lines tied around her, she sank in 1800 fathoms of water.

We Remember For those who gave their lives in the defense of our country **We Remember**





USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS

BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Hello Shipmates,

Every month I sit here and try to come up with something to write that may be helpful and have some interest to all of you. I'll highlight some of the things we have done and some of the upcoming events or maybe talk about an issue of concern or National interest. I know Bill spends much more time working on this newsletter. Honestly, I get very little feedback so I'm not sure how we are doing or how many read this. Do you access it via email, or do you access it via our web page? What parts do you or don't you like? Every now and then though I hear a little something that encourages me whether it was meant to or not. Let us know what we can do with this newsletter to improve, what you like, what you don't. Are you interested in being part of the team? We could always use more material and would love it. Maybe you have a sea story to tell, a history brief or a report on your current role in the base. Let us know. We would love to build the team.

As many have heard and seen the weekend of Apr 8-10 we held the 2nd Annual Lonestar Subvet Round-Up. This year it was held in Galveston and based on feedback received it was a huge success. We had members from all 9 bases across Texas and as far away as El Paso and Kansas attend. There was a variety of events including a BBQ picnic, a ceremony at the USS Cavalla and a banquet Saturday Evening at Fisherman's Wharf. If you have not had the chance to go to Galveston and tour the USS Cavalla you are missing something special. We really need to support the efforts that are going on down there to keep this going. It is a special part of our history. The format this year worked out really well for most people so we are going to look hard at using the same for next year but would love to hear from you all what you would like to see added, removed or changed, currently we are looking at holding next year's event somewhere between Fredericksburg or San Antonio and it will be on the weekend of April 14-16, 2023. Save the date!

At our last meeting we were able to welcome a new visitor. Michael Overheim, who was a shipmate of Fred Maynard onboard the Gato and served on the Hawkbill if My memory serves correctly. It was good to see you Michael and hope to see an application for membership soon. We also discussed that May is typically when we do our Annual Tolling at Memorial Park in Round Rock. Well due to the park still being under construction and the fact the Round Rock is conducting a much larger ceremony at the same time we will not be conducting our Tolling as usual. We do have a great opportunity to be part of a Tolling ceremony on May 21st in Fredericksburg hosted by our PC Stryker Base. VADM Bird will be the guest speaker and Ms. Donna Jackson will provide vocals for various songs. I'm sure many of you remember her from our convention. Hope to see a few of you out there. A great cause and a good place to visit especially during this time of year. **(See ad at the back of the newsletter (ed.).)**

Our next meeting will be on May 18th at the VFW Post 8587 and June we will have our social. Please mark these dates on you calendars now. Especially the Social in June. It will be a picnic with friends and family welcome. It is going to be held at Berry Springs Park again. We will be holding a special Holland Club induction Ceremony for 5 shipmates; we will have a special cake and plenty of good food. Maybe a few more surprises. Make your plans now and come on out and bring your families and friends. We will also incorporate some type of fundraising event as we have for the past few years. This has always been successful, and we have raised \$500-\$1,000 from our base members to turn back around into our base and community.

Thank You all for everything you do. Feel free to reach out to me anytime. Email, Phone, Text are all great!
Rick Mitchell 512-639-0035

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USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEETING MINUTES – 20 APRIL 2022

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Location: VFW Post 8587 and Zoom.

Meeting opened at 19:02 by Rick Mitchell, Central Texas Base Commander.

E-Board was present.

Sailing List: 32 Total, Local 24 + 1 Guest, Zoom 7.

Binnacle List: Bob Steinman, Charles Matula and Walt Whitingslow.

Bob Steinmann: Led the base in our opening Prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance: Frank Espinosa

Tolling of the Boats – March/April: Rick Mitchell, Gene Hall Tolling the Bell

History of the USS Barb (SS-220): By Eric Heter, Base Historian.

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report (Virgil Claycamp)

- \$32,622.38 1 Mar 2022 Balance
- \$31,757.46 General
- \$ 3,826.19 Memorial
- **\$35,583.65 Total Balance as of 1 Apr 2022**

Kaps 4 Kids (Shawn O'Shea) No Report

Parade (Tom Sprague): Red Poppy Festival Georgetown, 23Apr2022. The assembly locations is at College and 2nd Street. The Brazos Valley Base is loaning us their Submarine Float. Assemble at 07:30, decorate float and trailer, we'll move out at 09:45. The parade will last about 1hour. Please wear Red and your SubVests.

Memorial (Gene Hall): Project is still on hold, no progress while Round Rock works on replacement contractor.

Yonders Point Plaza (Calvin Story): On 30 May 2022, starting at 10:00 the Round Rock Veteran's Coalition and RR Parks and Recreation Dept invites everyone to a Memorial Day Ceremony. Location is 3103 Aten Loop, Round Rock on the north side of Old Settlers Park.

Membership (Chuck Malone): 82 Current Members, 48 National Life, 39 Base Life, 38 Holland Club and 69 War Vets. See Chuck if you don't have your Submarine Veteran Longevity Pin. Also see either Rick or Chuck if you are having problems updating your Profile at the National Website.

Birthdays 2022: See the Birthdays artwork on the next page (ed.).

Unfinished, Ongoing and Old Business

March Social: The March Social was held at the Springhill Catfish Restaurant in Pflugerville on 19 March 2022 and was well attended.

Recent POC's:

2022-13 National Awards Submission reminder

2022-14 AS Magazine Link

2022-15 VSO News

2022-16 USVI Web Site Update

2022-17 Mesothelioma Appeal

Blood Drive: Frank Espinosa organized the Blood Drive with "We Are Blood". The event was held on 29 March 2022 from 12:00-18:00 at the VFW 8587 Post. Thirty Four showed up to give blood and a total of 20 Pints was collected. Thank you to those who gave the gift of Life! Frank E. is hoping to do this again and see if it can be done on a weekend to possibly get more donors.

2022 National Convention: Will be held at Buffalo, NY from 24-27 August 2022. Hyatt Regency rooms are currently \$119/night. A motion was made by Garrett Onderdonk III put forth a motion to purchase a ½ page

add (\$175) in the program to support the Host Bases for this event. It was seconded by Chuck Trahan and passed unanimously by the members present.

2nd Annual Lone Star Subvet Round-Up!

This Year’s Event was held in Galveston, TX from April 8th to the 10th, 2022. 88 folks were in attendance, had a good time and \$435 was raised for the Charitable Fund.

May 21st Tolling Ceremony

This will be hosted by **P.C. Stryker Base** and will be held at the **National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, TX**. The **Silent Service Motorcycle Club (SSMC)** will have their **Annual Rally** that weekend as well. This is on a **Saturday and Starts at 09:30**, so Rise and Shine Early to get there, or stay the night before at a local hotel.

Custom Ball Caps Order

Since the ball cap style we wanted was no longer available, the order was cancelled and monies refunded to members.

Base Float (Rick Mitchell): Would like to get a committee together to get serious and start working on the replacement.

Need design ideas, what resources you may have available to contribute to this new float and so on. A drop tank has been donated for the new Submarine hull. Rick has salvaged some of the parts, screw, sail, etc. from the destroyed sub that may be reusable in the new float.

New Business.

June Social: 18Jun2022 at 12:00. Will be at Berry Springs and will be a Fundraiser as well as an Induction Ceremony for five new Holland Club Members: Ed Carr, David Miller, Don McGriff, Gene Hall and Harry Boyer. Holland Club Chair Don Atkins will officiate. Berry Springs Park is at 1801 County Road 152, Georgetown, TX.

Good of the Order

50/50 Raffle – \$50 Cash was won by Hubert Jackson, \$49 to base. The 2nd drawing prize was two glass Beer Steins with Engraved Dolphins on them and was won by Chuck Trahan.

Next Meeting – 28May2022 19:00 at VFW Post 8587 and Zoom.

Sailing List

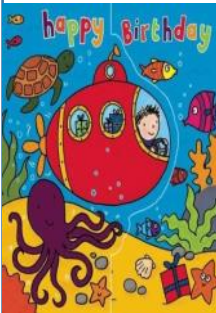
Base Members: Local at the VFW Post 8587 (25): Michael Overheim (Fred Maynard’s guest), Fred Maynard, Don Atkins, Harry Boyer, Virgil Claycamp, Bill Scott, Curt Webber, Hubert Jackson, Bill Brinkman, Jeff Linder, Chuck Trahan, Ed Carr, Frank Espinosa Jr, Mike Gauthier, Gene Hall, Calvin Story, Bob Steinmann, Erik Heter, Chuck Malone, Rick Mitchell, Garrett Onderdonk III, Garrett Onderdonk IV, Tom Sprague, Harry Ullmann, Frank Abernathy.

Members via Zoom: (7): Ron Bennett, Tom Williams, William (Bill) McCoy, Mike Goulding, James Boyles, Bill Bellinghausen and Roy Silva.

Meeting Adjourned by Rick Mitchell, 2031 hours Minutes submitted by Frank Abernathy, Secretary, 20Apr2022



MAY 2021



Dale Messing - 1st
 Michael Goulding - 13th
 Frank Abernathy - 17th
 Frank Espinosa - 18th
 Mike Gauthier - 28th
 Harry Ullmann - 30th

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP

Report presented to Base Commander w/copy to the Yeoman.

Members listed in Central Texas Database	81
Regular Annual Members	23
Associate Members	1
Base Life Members	40
National Life Members	47
Holland Club Members	41
Dual Members	4
Prospective Members:	0
War Veterans	69
Members pending:	0

Submitted: Chuck Malone, Membership

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BASE TREASURER'S REPORT

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15 April 2022

Financial Report for Period Ending 3/31/2022

Beginning Balance - 3/1/2022	\$32,622.38
RBFCU Checking (General Fund)	\$31,757.46
RBFCU Savings (Memorial Fund)	\$3,826.19
Uncleared checks	-\$160.59
Ending Balance	\$35,422.70

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

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STOREKEEPER CORNER

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The Central Texas Base (CTB) Supply Store is open for business. The Supply Store can obtain most of the items you need for memorabilia, your vest, gifts for others, etc. You can order them from the Storekeeper at a meeting or online at vclaycamp@yahoo.com. CTB can often get items at a lower than normal price, so you save money. The SK can search the net to find out-of-the-ordinary items, for all branches of the service. When requesting a ship's patch, tell the SK which coast you served on board, as the patches are often different for each coast.

The Base E-board is working on a way to inform you of the SK items in stock and prices and a way for to you purchase them either at the in-person meetings, or via an online email system to the SK for in-stock items.

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BINNACLE LIST

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We ask Lord, in your Son's Name, that you be with our Brother's and Sister's who are sick and ask that you hold them in your arms and heal them so that they might again join us around our table. In your Son's name, We pray, Amen.

Continued prayers for Bob Steinmann recovering from fractured hip.

Continued prayers for Charles Matula who has suffered several strokes and is paralyzed.

Prayers for Walt Whittingslow for back issues.

Prayers for Jerri Witt, Dick's wife recovering.

Please keep us informed of any person who should be listed. These are the people that we know about, so please e-mail any E-Board member if you know of any member or his family that might be in crisis. Also please keep the Base Chaplain, Shipmate Bob Steinmann informed as well.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Unless otherwise promulgated, the Base Monthly meetings will be held in-person and/or a combination of in-person and Zoom meetings.

18 May 2022, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1900 meeting. In-person and Zoom.

21 May 2022, Tolling ceremony, WW II National Museum of the Pacific, Fredericksburg, TX, hosted by the PC Stryker Base, 0930.

31 May 2022, Tolling ceremony, Combined with American Legion Post 447, Round Rock, TX, 1100 hours, potluck lunch afterwards at the Post.

18 June 2022, Berry Springs Park and Preserve, Georgetown, TX 78626, 1200 hours, potluck. Fundraiser and Holland Club ceremony.

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KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS)

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I have been staying in touch with the Children's hospitals. Due to the Coronavirus they have canceled all volunteer visits until further notice. I am checking with them monthly to reschedule as soon as it is safe to do so for the children and our volunteers. Any questions please do not hesitate to call me at 702-682-9170. Stay safe and be well. Thanks for all your support.

Shipmate Shawn O'Shea, Chair, Kap(SS)4Kid(SS)

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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YHWH

There was a moment when Moses had asked God what his name is. God was gracious enough to answer, and the name he gave is recorded in the original Hebrew as YHWH.

Over time we've arbitrarily added an "a" and an "e" in there to get YaHWeH, presumably because we have a preference for vowels. But scholars and rabbis have noted that the letters YHWH represent breathing sounds, or aspirated consonants. When pronounced without intervening vowels, it actually sounds like breathing. YH (inhale): WH (exhale).

So a baby's first cry, his first breath, speaks the name of God. A deep sigh calls His name – or a groan or gasp that is too heavy for mere words. Even an atheist would speak His name unaware that their very breathe is giving constant acknowledgment to God. Likewise, a person leaves this earth with their last breath, when God's name is no longer filling their lungs.

So when I can't utter anything else, is my cry calling out His name? Being alive means I speak His name constantly. Is it heard the loudest when I'm the quietest?

In sadness, we breathe heavy sighs. In joy, our lungs feel almost like they will burst. In fear we hold our breath and have to be told to breathe slowly to help us calm down. When we're about to do something hard, we take a deep breath to find our courage.

When I think about it, breathing is giving him praise. Even in the hardest moments!

This is so beautiful and fills me with emotion every time I grasp the thought. God chose to give himself a name that we can't help but speak every moment we're alive.

All of us, always, everywhere.

Waking, sleeping, breathing, with the name of God on our lips. {Psalms 150:6}



SHIPMATES IN ACTION

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Second Annual Lonestar Subvet Roundup

Great time was had by many of Central Texas shipmates along with many others from around the state last weekend in Galveston at the 2nd Annual Lonestar Subvet Round-Up.

See more and more pictures at the back of the Newsletter.



Longest Qualified: Wayne Standerfer 1958 on the USS Trigger (SS-564) and the Most Recent Qualified: Chip Pomeroy 2002 on the USS San Juan (SSN-751).

See more and more pictures at the back of the Newsletter.

Shipmates and Friends,

Thanks again for coming out this past weekend for our 2nd Annual Lonestar Subvet Round-Up. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. We had a crowd of around 75 for the BBQ Picnic Friday evening, great attendance at the ceremony at the Cavalla (no idea how many were there, there were 190 chairs, and they were full plus some standing) and we had 88 paid for the banquet of which it appears most were there. We heard many positive comments and think it went great. Besides the good times had we were able to raise about \$500 for the USSVI Charitable Foundation. Always a bonus when we can provide a little support to our own in providing scholarships to our youth, helping shipmates in need, and many other causes including support of our memorials around the world.

I wanted to mention also that I failed to thank our shipmates of the Golden Triangle and USS Cavalla bases for their help in helping with the weekend especially arranging for the BBQ and help with the ceremony Saturday morning. My apologies for not mentioning this at the banquet on Saturday as it was planned but we modified the schedule a bit and I just overlooked it. Thank You Keith, Bruce, Ron and your teams!

Below is a link to a google drive photo album for the weekend. Currently the only photos in there are some I took. The hope is that any of you that took pictures that weekend would add them to this album for all in attendance to enjoy. If you have some pics and are not sure how to add them please reach out to me and I'll help you with that.

[2022 Lonestar Subvet Round-Up](#)

Pictures at the back are courtesy of Rick Mitchell and Joe Keller of CTB and James Cochran of the Dallas Base.

Here are the links to the video we saw and another we did not play Saturday on the SS American Memorial and link to the web page for you to see more about what is happening in Seguin, TX.

<https://youtu.be/1ZDKMWOUOiw> - Memorial Video -14:40 minutes

<https://youtu.be/1vGZxzD1hUU> - Soldier Testimonials - 3:20 minutes

[Home of the SS American Memorial Foundation - SS American Memorial \(ssamemorial.org\)](http://ssamemorial.org)

Lastly, Next year we plan to hold the event in the San Antonio/Fredericksburg area. We are looking at the weekend of 14-16 April. This is the weekend after Easter. This is subject to change though as San Antonio has a Navy Day each year and we might adjust if it looks like we can make this work to our benefit as there may be a greater opportunity to share who we are with the public. We hope to have the location nailed down and start promoting it much earlier this time, hopefully by August. We also plan have a web page. Let us

know what you liked and didn't like and things you would like to see added, changed or kept the same.

Thank You,
Rick Mitchell

Email from: Wayne Standerfer, USSVI National Chairman

To: Rick Mitchell

Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 10:42:03 AM CDT

Subject: RE: Round-Up Wrap Up

Rick,

Please forward my congratulations and appreciation for a very well-organized district 4 roundup to the members that assisted in putting this together.

Jo Lynn and I had a great time visiting with some old friends we had not seen in far too long.

All the best and thanks again,

Wayne Standerfer

NC

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Georgetown, TX Annual Red Poppy Festival Parade



Manuevering Watch is Stationed! Getting underway soon [Red Poppy Festival Parade](#) . Thanks to the [USSVI Brazos Valley Base SubVets](#) for the float loaner.

On 4/24/2022, we had the privilege of participating in the [Red Poppy Festival](#) Parade in Georgetown TX. We had a great time and really appreciated everyone on the crowd that cheered us on. We needed every bit of it as we felt like we were running a sprint. Always good to be out in Georgetown though where we always feel very welcomed. There are a few more pic's at the end of the newsletter (ed.) with many more to be added to our web page soon.



The previous Undersea Warfare News weekly news bulletin email articles have been discontinued.

"As a result, as your newsletter editor, I contacted the PAO at [USFF COMSUBLANT NFLT PAO@navy.mil](mailto:USFF_COMSUBLANT_NFLT_PAO@navy.mil) for information on these newsletter articles being discontinued and have not received a response. Therefore I have been saving articles of interest posted on Google News website and at for publishing in The Deck Log. Some of the following articles were downloaded from "The Broadcast, Official Newsletter of Commander Submarine Force www.sublant.usff.navy.mil. All articles are supported by the appropriate URL for the articles."

[Bidens honor the Navy's new submarine at ceremony for USS Delaware | Fox News](#)

[President Biden](#) and first lady [Jill Biden](#) celebrated the formal commissioning of the USS Delaware, the U.S. [Navy's](#) newest fast attack submarine, at a ceremony Saturday in the Bidens' home state of [Delaware](#).

"The state of Delaware has loved the Bidens and cheered for us in most of our triumphant moments," Jill Biden said at the Port of Wilmington ceremony. "It has carried us through the darkest times in our lives with the kindness that asks for nothing in return. Delaware is family."



President Biden hugs first lady Jill Biden during a commemorative commissioning ceremony for the USS Delaware nuclear submarine at the Port of Wilmington, Del., April 2, 2022. (REUTERS/Elizabeth Frantz)

Jill Biden is the ship's sponsor, so the president gave a very brief speech to introduce his wife.

"My name is Joe Biden. I am Jill's husband," the president said.

He paid tribute to his wife's long-standing commitment to the military and thanked those who brought the warship to life.

"As your commander in chief, I believe, it is our sacred obligation as a nation to prepare and equip those troops that we send into harm's way and to care for them and their families when they return home," Biden said.

The USS Delaware is a Virginia-class fast attack, nuclear-powered submarine. It's the seventh naval warship named after the first state of Delaware. Construction on the warship [began in 2013](#).

The submarine is longer than a football field, and its crew has 136 sailors. The submarine carries torpedoes, and it's configured to launch Tomahawk cruise missiles, which can strike targets a thousand miles away with pinpoint accuracy.

"This is one hell of a fighting machine. To our adversaries, let me just say this: Don't mess with the USS Delaware," Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., said at the ceremony.

First lady Biden, the daughter of a U.S. Navy signalman during World War II and a champion of military families, is the [official sponsor](#) of the U.S. Navy warship, an honor given by the secretary of the Navy. It means

she will participate in the milestones of the life of the boat. She already christened the ship in 2018 with a ceremonial bottle of sparkling wine at a ceremony at a Newport News, Virginia, shipyard.

"I've seen the heart of this crew, and it makes me feel both proud and humbled to be your shipmate for life," the first lady said Saturday.

The USS Delaware became the first Navy vessel to be commissioned while underwater after the original ceremony was canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic. Saturday's formal commissioning was the delayed event with dignitaries on hand at the Port of Wilmington.

Marisa Schultz is a politics reporter for Fox News Digital. Story tips can be sent to marisa.schultz@fox.com or [@marisa.schultz](https://twitter.com/marisa.schultz).



Commander, Submarine Forces

April 23, 2022



#OTD in 1964, USS Henry Clay (SSBN-625) launches a Polaris A-2 Missile from the surface of the Atlantic Ocean off Cape Kennedy, Florida. This was the first demonstration to show that Polaris submarines can launch missiles from the surface, as well as beneath the surface as thirty minutes earlier Henry Clay successfully launched a missile while submerged.

(The objects flying through the air around the missile are launch adapters designed to detach themselves automatically once the missile left the tube. The sub's slight port list is a standard part of surface launch procedures. The tall mast is a temporary telemetry antenna installed for operations at the Cape only).



How Russia's Nuclear Attack Submarines Were Built With Stolen US Technology

Commander, Submarine Forces

[April 18 at 9:10 AM](#) ·

Expedition 66 – NASA's SpaceX Crew-3 Mission, will depart the International Space Station for Earth later this month.

Among the crew is NASA Flight Engineer Kayla Barron, who if you remember, was a Submarine Officer assigned to the Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine USS Maine (SSBN 741).

Barron qualified as a submarine warfare officer and completed three strategic deterrent patrols while serving as a division officer aboard the Maine. She is a member of the first class of women commissioned into the submarine community.



Watch Barron's interview here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXqUKNLTUmw>

Facebook posts

[USSVI Central Texas Base - Members Group](#)

[NASA Astronaut Kayla Barron](#)

Today marks the 122nd birthday of the U.S. Navy Submarine Force, and I wanted to say happy birthday to all my fellow dolphin-wearers from a submarine in space! Serving alongside some of the Navy's most talented sailors in such a complex, operational environment was the most challenging and developmental experience of my career. I learned so much from the sailors, chiefs, and officers of the USS MAINE, and I rely on that experience every single day as I work to support NASA's mission aboard the [International Space Station](#).

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The 15 Best Submarine Movies Ranked (Slashfilm.com)

<https://www.slashfilm.com/815810/the-best-submarine-movies-ranked/>

[THE SUB VET](#) · [Eric Ryle](#) · April 1 at 6:44 PM ·

"The Sub Vets"

Eric Ryle and Dave Bowman take a look at Slashfilms list of what it thinks are the "Best 15 submarine films ever." They are, of course, completely wrong, although some of these films are pretty good. A couple of them should never have been on the list in the first place, and more importantly they left at least two of the GREAT-EST completely off their list. It's like

SlashFilms isn't qualified and certainly isn't an expert, like the Sub Vets! USS Delaware is being commissioned this weekend, Dave is still playing Cold Waters, and the Sub Vets opine in an highly UNCLASSIFIED manner about how the Russians might be hiding their boomers. That and more on this episode of The Sub Vets!

The top 15 Submarine Movies?

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'Held Hostage' By Engine Manufacturers, World's Biggest Naval Power - China Struggles With Submarine Tech

<https://eurasianimes.com/worlds-biggest-naval-power-china-struggles-with-submarine-tech/?amp>

China, which has the largest navy in the world, with about 355 vessels in its arsenal besides a mammoth shipbuilding industry, is facing a crisis that questions its naval supremacy.

An attempt by China to supply a Yuan-class submarine to Thailand has [hit a snag](#) due to a lack of engines for propelling the submarine. As a result, Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has warned that the deal with China would be scrapped if Beijing was unable to fit the engines specified in the purchase agreement.

In April 2017, the Thai government authorized its Royal Navy to purchase three Yuan-class submarines from China for 36 billion baht (US\$1.05 billion). However, due to budget constraints, just one submarine – now valued at 13.5 billion baht (\$403 million) – was approved, while the other two were shelved.

The submarine's engines were to be provided by Germany's Motoren- und Turbinen-Union (MTU) under the deal, but the German company was unable to sell them to China owing to an arms embargo since they are classified as military/defense items.

China has reportedly offered reverse-engineered Chinese-made engines certified by German MTU but the same was turned down by Thailand authorities that insist on the original term of the agreement to be followed by the Chinese side.

In another incident, Pakistan had signed an agreement with Beijing in 2015 to purchase 8 Yuan-class submarines. Out of the 8 submarines, 4 each were to be built in China and Pakistan.

In December last year, Pakistan conducted the [steel-cutting ceremony](#) for the first submarine to be built indigenously. However, the chance for Islamabad to source an original Type 039 engine for its sub is grim given the German reticence to supply the engines to China.

It's would be worth reflecting on how the world's largest navy finds itself in a bind as Thailand threatens to terminate the deal. China has been attempting to establish itself as a regional defense exporter, a goal that may now be compromised to some degree.

Though Thailand has stated explicitly that canceling the deal will have no impact on bilateral ties, China's inability to supply the submarine with the original engine may jeopardize its future submarine sales prospects. The reason behind it is simple: German engines just wouldn't come through anymore.

How Germany Derailed China's Submarine Assembly

The European Union had imposed an [arms embargo](#) on China in 1989 in the aftermath of the Tiananmen Square massacre. However, despite the restrictions, the Chinese military was able to receive materiel from European countries until very recently.

Individual EU member states were left to decide how the embargo should be implemented, and their interpretations differed in terms of policy and practice.

Last year, two German news organizations—the public broadcaster ARD and the newspaper Welt am Sonntag—published the findings of an investigation that claimed several types of Chinese warships were using German-made engines. MTU and the French branch of MAN, a Volkswagen subsidiary were providing the engines to Beijing.

MTU engines used on Chinese warships and submarines were classified as 'dual-use technology'. According to Alexander Lurz, a weapons expert with Greenpeace, the reason behind this was that Germany's technology was geared toward export.

After the revelations were made by German media, MTU told ARD and Welt am Sonntag that it had "definitively halted" the supply of submarine engines and that it had no functional contracts with the Chinese military. This could be understood as the reason behind China's inability to complete its commitments to Thailand.

However, the MTU's decision to continue exports despite an overall arms embargo is in stark contrast to its policy of not doing arms trade with countries accused of human rights violations.

Due to human rights concerns, Berlin had banned sales of several Airbus platforms to Saudi Arabia and other nations, including the A330 MRTT refueling tanker, C-295 military transport, and H145 helicopter.

It is also spelled as an abnormal German departure from the stated EU position that has condemned China over the years. Further, the West is united in its approach towards Beijing, aimed at aggressively containing its rise. The investigation had caused fury in Brussels for Berlin's violation of rules.

While Thailand has issued an ultimatum to China, there is still no clarity from Pakistan which has just emerged out of political chaos and has probably not decided on the issue yet. But why has China let itself slip into this position of helplessness?

Does China Lack Engine Expertise?

While China has made several breakthroughs in engine manufacturing for its fighter jets like J-20s and wind tunnels for its hypersonic technology, it severely lags in submarine propulsion technology.

Propulsion engineering is one of the Chinese military industry's biggest structural flaws, as the bulk of engines used in Chinese submarines is foreign-made.

For example, the Song and Yuan-class attack submarines, which make up the majority of China's conventional submarine fleet, are powered by MTU 396 SE84 series diesel engines built in Germany.

Despite the EU arms embargo, MTU provided China with over 100 of its engines for destroyers and submarines from 1993 to 2020, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which tracks arms transfers throughout the world.

In a 2015 conference on the Chinese Navy's capabilities at the US Naval War College (NWC), Professor Andrew Erickson, NWC's China Maritime Studies Institute (CMSI) had observed that propulsion engineering remains a work in progress in the PLAN's [People's Liberation Army Navy's] underwater force.

Diesel-electric submarines are much stealthier than nuclear submarines, thanks to diesel engines that are specifically built to reduce vibration and noise to avoid sonar detection.

Both the Song- and Yuan-class attack submarines, for example, are powered by MTU Friedrichshafen GmbH of Friedrichshafen, Germany's 396 SE84 series of state-of-the-art diesel engines.

Three of these engines, which have been constructed under license by Chinese defense firms since 1986, are installed on each Song- and Yuan-class warship, noted The Diplomat. The Yuan-class is also believed to

be outfitted with Stirling air-independent propulsion technology and quieting technology from Russian-designed submarines.

The ease of access to these engines for China could have been a potential reason behind its dependence on the imports of the technology. It has made some advancements in reverse engineering in the past few years, however, the Chinese engine has been rejected by the Thailand authorities despite the certification received by MTU.

The CSOC has asked the Thai navy to change the contract to replace the German engines with Chinese engines of the same standard, such as the MWM 620, but the navy remains unconvinced. For now, the fate of the deal depends on the consultations scheduled between the two sides.

However, this could be a turning point in China's submarine diesel engine technology and a new beginning for China's submarine manufacturing industry.

Contact the author at sakshi.tiwari9555@gmail.com

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'He is one of my heroes.' WWII and US Navy vet John Hagen honored by fellow vets

Rich Reeve KSTP - Published: March 29, 2022 - 11:29 PM Updated: March 30, 2022 - 11:36 AM

['He is one of my heroes.' WWII and US Navy vet John Hagen honored by fellow vets - KSTP.com Eyewitness News](#)

He showed 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS those decorations at his Golden Valley home, including the submarine warfare insignia – also known as the “dolphin pin.”

“Once a submarine sailor, you’re always a submarine sailor,” he said. “You’re a sub-mariner.”

This week, Hagen’s fellow Navy submarine veterans plan to honor him in a special way.

“He is one of my heroes,” declared Kenneth Tupper, a submariner from the Vietnam era. “It was a tremendously different submarine force, back before the snorkels, back in World War II, before all the equipment, all the radars. The torpedoes had problems. And you know, we lost 52 submarines during World War II.”

In 1943, Hagen was a 17-year-old from St. Louis Park who would serve in the South Pacific and then, after the war, on submarines.

He was part of a generation that fought in battles that spanned the globe.

“John and all the World War II people are the greatest generation,” said John Barnes, the commander of the Minneapolis-St. Paul chapter of the United States Submarines Veterans, Incorporated, or USSVI, for short. “They did what they had to do and prevailed. They got us our freedom that we see today.”

It was a generation that faced the horrors of war but were ready to join in the fight.

“I went in the Navy in '43,” Hagen recalled. “A bunch of us in high school wanted to go into the Marine Corps, and my dad said absolutely not. He wouldn't sign.”

So he went to sea, trained at sonar school, and was shipped to Hawaii.

While waiting on a ship assignment, he was ordered to go to Pearl Harbor nearly two years after the attack by the Japanese empire.

“The Oklahoma battleship had just come off the bottom,” Hagen said. “And we were the first crew to go on it, to clean it up and help.”

He says what they found inside the once-submerged ship was horrific and heartbreaking, including the remains of some of the 429 men killed on board.

“Two of us were assigned to an officer and went through the compartments and opening lockers and collecting, and he wrote down everything, what the locker was and what was in it,” Hagen remembered.

He served on two destroyer escorts, the USS Darby and the USS Martin.

Hagen still has an American flag from the Darby, now kept in a triangular wooden case, and a knife with a handle made partly with metal from downed fighter planes.

“We had a carpenter that would take the knife and had scavenged metal and aluminum and stuff from wrecked airplanes,” he said. “They put the handle on it, and I carried that all during the war.”

Hagen wasn’t even 21 years old when he first encountered a vast armada of ships in places that would become known to the world: Guadalcanal, the Philippines, and the Marshall Islands.

“Seven battleships, and I think twelve carriers and everything in between,” he said. “Battleships came under attack quite often, at night, with the Japanese planes and things.”

Hagen said he was fortunate that he survived the war and was never wounded.

“I was very fortunate,” he said. “I had a wonderful career ... came out of it with all four arms and legs.”

In 1945, at the war’s end, Hagen’s life changed again with a simple question from a Navy commander.

“He said, how many of you guys want to go to submarine school,” he smiles. “Me,” Hagen says, raising his hand. “That’s how we got into submarines.”

By 1947, Hagen had completed a process the Navy calls “qualifying.”

He was awarded his “dolphin pin” for his thorough knowledge of submarines.

“Memorizing everything there is on the boat,” Barnes, a qualified submariner, noted. “What to do with each person’s job. You need to be able to handle all that, and that’s six months, a year on some boats.”

Hagen retired from the Navy in 1964, as a Sonar Technician Senior Chief, after a 20-year naval career.

We asked what made him stay.

“I liked it,” Hagen said. “I was on submarines, and it’s the greatest bunch of guys in the world. You can’t imagine ... every time the diving alarm goes, sixty other guys you know are doing their job, and you don’t worry about it.”

Those who have won their “dolphin pins” are considered an elite group.

A band of brothers under the ocean waves.

Tupper also qualified in submarines, put it like this: “When you’re out at sea, and everything can go wrong, and you have fifty or sixty other guys that knows as much as you do, and how to fix what can go wrong, it’s kind of a peaceful feeling, actually.”

Which brings us to present day.

This Friday, Hagen will be honored by his fellow submarine veterans at an invitation-only breakfast at VFW Post 1350 in St. Paul.

He’s to receive a special certificate to celebrate the 75th anniversary of his qualifying in submarines.

The Holland Club organizers, whose club name comes from the name of the first U.S. Navy submarine, say Hagen is one of a handful of people to receive this honor.

“I think it’s pretty nice,” the 96-year-old man smiled. “But nothing special. I’m just very fortunate to live this long,” he added with a chuckle.

It’s the pin that unites this group – and everything it symbolizes.

“To earn these is a big thing,” Barnes said. “John, not only has he survived a long time, [and] he’s been very generous with our group. Just a good brother. That’s what we are, [and] we’re all brothers. John’s our older brother.”

If you would like to learn more about the United States Submarine Veterans, you can contact them via email at office@ussvi.org or call them at 1-877-542-3483.



Meet The Foxtrot-Class: The Best Russian Navy Submarine Ever?

By [Peter Suci](#), Published 4/21/22

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2022/04/meet-the-foxtrot-class-the-best-russian-navy-submarine-ever/>



Russian Foxtrot-class Submarine. Image Credit: Creative Commons.

Foxtrot-class submarine: One of the best submarines ever? Military collectibles have become increasingly popular in recent years, and while most people will need to be content with a helmet or old uniform, those of certain means can buy almost anything. [Brad Pitt owns](#) a World War II Supermarine [Spitfire](#) and Russian T-54 tank, while the late Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen amassed [one of the largest collections](#) of military tanks in the world.

In January 2022, something even rarer than a Spitfire or T-54 came up for sale: a *Foxtrot*-class submarine that had been in service with the Soviet and later Russian Navy.

[According to MySubmarines.com](#), which is offering the boat for sale, it was decommissioned by the [Soviet Navy](#) for museum purposes in 1993. It had reportedly served with the Soviet Baltic Fleet during the Cold War period, and then it was used as a training vessel for crews from overseas.

It has been used as a museum ship since 1998, and as a result, it is internally just as it was when it was retired from service with all the equipment and no compartments removed; while the forward battery compartment was adapted and can now be used as a function or educational space seating around 30 people.

“It is an ideal submarine for keeping it in a museum,” noted the sellers.

Of the seventy-four *Foxtrot*-class submarines constructed, seven are now preserved and that includes examples located next to the RMS *Queen Mary* in Long Beach, California, and one (B-413) in Kaliningrad, Russia. A former *Foxtrot* that served with the Indian Navy as the INS *Kursura* ([S20](#)) is also now a museum ship at RK Beach, Visakhapatnam.

Meet the Project 641 Foxtrot

Officially designated Project 641, this class of diesel-electric [was developed](#) to replace the earlier *Zulu*-class. The first *Foxtrot* keel was laid down in 1957 and commissioned in 1958 and the last was completed in 1983. The boats were built for the Soviet Navy at the Sudomekh division of the Admiralty Shipyard (now Admiralty Wharves), Saint Petersburg.

Additional hulls were also built for other countries.

Each of the submarines displaced nearly 2,000 tons when surfaced and 2,515 tons submerged. Overall length was 295 feet with a beam of 24.2 feet, and a draught down to 19.3 feet. The boats were powered by three Kolomna 2D42M diesel units, which provided 2,000hp to three shafts. The *Foxtrot*-class submarines were able to maintain a maximum surfaced speed of sixteen knots and a maximum submerged speed of fifteen knots, and just nine knots while snorkeling. The range was 20,000 nautical miles.

The submarines were manned by a crew of twelve officers, ten warrant officers and fifty-six sailors.



Foxtrot-class submarine. Image Credit: Creative Commons.

The *Foxtrot* had [some serious teeth](#), as each boat was equipped with ten torpedo tubes – six in the bow and four in the stern. The subs carried a total of twenty-two torpedoes. During the [Cold War](#), the Project 641 submarines were a regular component of all four Soviet Navy fleets, and at least four subs took part in the [Cuban Missile Crisis](#) in October 1962.

The last of the submarines of the Project 641 was retired in 2014, and now it seems a few might be [coming up for private sale](#).

Now a Senior Editor for 1945, Peter Suci is a Michigan-based writer who has contributed to more than four dozen magazines, newspapers and websites. He regularly writes about military hardware, and is the author of several books on military headgear including [A Gallery of Military Headgear](#), which is available on Amazon.com. Peter is also a [Contributing Writer](#) for Forbes.



The True Story of the Russian Kursk Submarine Disaster

A navy fleet exercise became a desperate race to recover survivors hundreds of feet beneath the sea.

BY [KYLE MIZOKAMI](#), MAR 11, 2022

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/navy-ships/a23494010/kursk-submarine-disaster/>



ANTOINE GYORIGETTY IMAGES

In 2000, one of the worst peacetime submarine accidents ever took place off the coast of Russia. A huge explosion sank the giant nuclear-powered submarine *Kursk*, killing most of its crew and stranding nearly two dozen survivors hundreds of feet underwater. An international rescue team assembled to save the sailors, but was unable to reach them in time.

Kursk—a movie based on the disaster, starring Colin Firth, came out in 2018. But here's the real story of the doomed sub.

Carrier Hunters

One of the Soviet Union's biggest worries during the Cold War was America's fleet of aircraft carriers. The Soviets saw American carriers as both delivery platforms capable of launching thermonuclear airstrikes against the motherland, and as hunters of the USSR's own nuclear ballistic missile fleet. As a result, the USSR spent enormous sums on weapon systems meant to hunt down American carriers in wartime.

The Antey-class submarines were one such solution. The subs, nicknamed "Oscar II" by NATO, made up a large class of nuclear-powered boats designed to kill large ships—particularly aircraft carriers. The Oscar IIs were 508 feet long with a beam of nearly 60 feet and displaced 19,400 tons, twice as much as a destroyer. To keep up with American nuclear-powered carriers, the Soviet subs were each powered by two OK-650 nuclear reactors that together provided 97,990 shipboard horsepower. Such power gave them a top speed of 33 knots underwater.

The Oscar IIs were big because they carried big missiles. Each submarine carried 24 P-700 Granit missiles, which themselves were each the size of a small plane—33 feet long and weighing 15,400 pounds each. The missiles had a top speed of Mach 1.6, a range of 388 miles, and used the now-defunct *Legenda* satellite targeting system to home in on their aircraft carrier targets. A Granit could carry a 1,653-pound conventional high-explosive warhead (enough to damage a carrier) or a 500-kiloton warhead (enough to vaporize an aircraft carrier with a single hit).

Thirteen Oscar I and Oscar II submarines were built, including K-141—also known as *Kursk*.

The Torpedo That Failed

The *Kursk* was completed in 1994 and assigned to the Russian Northern Fleet. On August 15, 2000, the *Kursk* was involved in a major fleet exercise, along with the aircraft carrier *Admiral Kuznetsov* and battlecruiser *Pyotr Velikiy*. *Kursk* was fully armed with Granit missiles and torpedoes and was to make a simulated attack on *Kuznetsov*.

At 11:20 a.m. local time, an underwater explosion rocked the exercise area, followed two minutes later by an even larger explosion. A Norwegian seismic monitoring station recorded both explosions. One Russian account claims the 28,000-ton battlecruiser *Pyotr Velikiy* shook from the first explosion.

Racked by explosions, *Kursk* sank in 354 feet of water at a 20-degree vertical angle. One of the explosions ripped a large gash in her forward bow, near the torpedo compartment. A Russian Navy board of inquiry later determined that one of the submarine's Type 65-76A super heavyweight torpedoes had exploded, causing the gash. The explosion was likely caused by a faulty weld that failed to hold the hydrogen peroxide fuel chamber together.

Like many torpedoes, the Type 65-76As used hydrogen peroxide as underwater fuel. The danger was that this chemical compound can become explosive if it comes into contact with organic compounds or a fire.

According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) "hydrogen peroxide is not itself flammable, but can cause spontaneous combustion of flammable materials and continued support of the combustion because it liberates oxygen as it decomposes." In one instance recorded by the NLM, "leakage from drums of 35 percent hydrogen peroxide onto a wooden pallet caused ignition of the latter when it was moved. Combustion, though limited in area, was fierce and took some time to extinguish. Leakage of 50 percent peroxide onto supporting pallets under polythene sheeting led to spontaneous ignition and a fierce fire."

The Fateful Moments

So what happened on board the *Kursk*? The likely chain of events was something like this: A hydrogen peroxide leak started a fire, which in turn detonated the Type 65-76A's 900-pound high-explosive warhead. This probably started the gash in the hull above the torpedo section. The second explosion would have been the detonation of the remaining torpedoes aboard the submarine.

The *Kursk*'s sinking didn't kill all of its 118 crew members—at least not right away. One of the ship's officers, Lieutenant Captain Dmitri Koselnikov, left a note dated two hours after the second explosion recording 23 sur-

vivors. Despite a hastily organized rescue effort, including British and Norwegian rescue teams, the Russian government was unable to reach any of the survivors in time. The wreck of the submarine was recovered in 2001 and returned to the Russian Navy submarine shipyards at Roslyakovo.



USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS

USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-014

NEWS-01: USSVI VSO news for April, 2022

Submitted by: John Dudas, USSVI VSO on 4/1/2022

Shipmates,

These 17 Medical Centers Would Close and More Than 30 Built or Replaced Under VA Plan

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/03/14/these-17-medical-centers-would-close-and-more-30-built-or-replaced-under-va-plan.html?ESRC=mr_220321.nl

They Spent Years Caring for Their Veterans. Now They Are Losing a Lifeline

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/03/18/they-spent-years-caring-their-veterans-now-they-are-losing-lifeline.html?ESRC=mr_220321.nl

VA Wants to Make Telephone Appointments for Mental Health Care Permanent

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/03/17/va-wants-make-telephone-appointments-mental-health-care-permanent.html?ESRC=mr_220321.nl

Patient Safety Risked Through VA Electronic Health Record Rollout, Watchdog Find

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/03/18/va-electronic-health-record-rollout-risked-patient-safety-watchdog-finds.html?ESRC=mr_220321.nl

Navy Won't Kick Out Bearded Sailors Who Can't Shave Due to Skin Conditions Under New Policy

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/03/09/navy-wont-kick-out-bearded-sailors-who-cant-shave-due-skin-conditions-under-new-policy.html?ESRC=navy-a_220316.nl

Pentagon Asks Supreme Court to Rule in Navy SEALs' COVID-19 Vaccination Refusal Case

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/03/09/pentagon-asks-supreme-court-rule-navy-seals-covid-19-vaccination-refusal-case.html?ESRC=navy-a_220316.nl

How the USS Constitution Was Saved from Target Practice

https://www.military.com/history/how-uss-constitution-was-saved-target-practice.html?ESRC=navy-a_220316.nl

American Veterans Joining the Ukrainian Army May Run Afoul of Federal Law and Could Lose Benefits or US Citizenship

https://www.military.com/daily-news/opinions/2022/03/11/american-veterans-joining-ukrainian-army-may-run-afoul-of-federal-law-and-could-lose-benefits-or-us.html?ESRC=navy-a_220316.nl

6 Reasons You Should Try Telehealth If You Haven't Already

<https://www.military.com/benefits/tricare/reasons-you-should-try-telehealth-if-you-havent-already.html>

A Florida Judge Won't Let the Navy Remove a Rule-Breaking, Vaccine-Refusing Ship Commander

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/03/08/florida-judge-wont-let-navy-remove-rule-breaking-vaccine-refusing-ship-commander.html?ESRC=mr_220314.nl

Troops Slated for Largest Pay Raise in 20 Years Under Pentagon Budget but Inflation Looms

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/03/28/troops-slated-largest-pay-raise-20-years-under-pentagon-budget-inflation-looms.html?ESRC=navy-a_220330.nl

Judge Stops Navy from Discharging Any Religious Vaccine Refusers

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/03/29/judge-stops-navy-discharging-any-religious-vaccine-refusers.html?ESRC=navy-a_220330.nl

Supreme Court Allows Navy to Reassign Vaccine-Refusing SEALs

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/03/25/supreme-court-allows-navy-reassign-vaccine-refusing-seals.html?ESRC=navy-a_220330.nl

Navy Wants to Scrap 9 Littoral Combat Ships Along with 15 Others to Pay for New Carriers and Submarines

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/03/28/navy-wants-scrap-9-littoral-combat-ships-along-15-others-pay-new-carriers-and-submarines.html?ESRC=navy-a_220330.nl

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USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-015

NEWS-01: American Submariner magazine 2022 2nd edition now on line info

Submitted by: Wayne Standerfer, National Commander on 4/1/2022

Shipmates,

Due to a continuing situation out of our control, we cannot upload the American Submariner 2022 2nd Quarter Edition to our current website.

As a temporary workaround, we have made this latest edition available by the use of Google Drive.

Please click on or copy and paste the following link into your web browser which will open this current edition for your viewing.

<https://tinyurl.com/zdan2a8j>

This link is for USSVI Members in good standing only. It is not to be shared with anyone outside of our organization.

All the Best and please take care,

Wayne Standerfer
USSVI National Commander

NOTE:

To be assured all of our members receive this message it will be sent twice, first as a National Bulletin followed up by going through the Regional Directors and District Commanders.

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USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-016

NEWS-01: USSVI Website

Submitted by: William C. Andrea on 4/13/2022

Shipmates,

Good Morning USSVI – my name is Tim Carlisle and I serve as the Mare Island Base Commander in the Bay Area, and now have been appointed as the chairman of the Website Development Committee by the National Commander. Our committee includes national leadership and three technical team members.

After some serious investigation of the website and the database, we discovered there are 6-7 databases that data was pulled from by our previous website. Our belief is this was due to size constraints of databases back then (this was written in SQL 2000). The cost and effort to have an outside firm discover, separate, and append all the data to one database would likely be higher than the cost of our 3-year Blackbaud contract. We are taking that on internally with the goal of handing Blackbaud a backup of a usable database. In this process we will be removing a large amount of redundant data.

On another note, we are looking for a software developer (preferably a Submarine Veteran) with 10-15 years of experience with C#, Java, or ASP. Please reach out to me at timcarlisle00@hotmail.com if interested.

I will be sending out monthly regarding our progress with the website and database through the POC Manag-

er. Thank you for your patience, as we take this on.

Timothy Carlisle



USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-017

NEWS-01: Important message from Past National Cdr Michael Bircumshaw

Submitted by: PNC Michael Bircumshaw, 4/19/2022

Shipmates,

Out of our membership, I have received 611 calls from my offers to assist my shipmates with the issues of Asbestosis and Mesothelioma. Of that 611 (5% of 12,000 members), 542 (4.5% of 12,000 members) have called me again to tell me their results from the High-Resolution Cat Scan with no Contrast. 363 of the members who called with results have something wrong with their lungs. 12 of them were diagnosed with Mesothelioma and none of them thought they had any sort of problem. My dear friend Mike Milano (owner of Orion Printing) was the last one to pass just a couple of months ago. Only 2 of the 12 are still alive. 171 of the 363 who called back were diagnosed with Asbestosis. The remainder had COPD or spots on their lungs which required further testing or Lung Cancer of a different nature than Asbestosis.

If you served on any Naval vessel built before 1980, you were exposed to Asbestos. Snipes got the most asbestos exposure, Shipyards and overhauls made the exposure worse, Pre-Comm crews saw more. than they needed. Fire watches were an excellent opportunity to get introduced to Asbestos. Neither Asbestosis nor Mesothelioma can be cured. At best whatever is offered to you may slow down the effects or make you more comfortable, but there is no cure.

About 5% of those with Asbestosis will become the victims of Mesothelioma (Asbestos Cancer).

Some of the bad news is that Asbestosis or Mesothelioma can happen at any time. I had been gone from Sea Duty for 42 years when my Cardiologist chuckled as he looked at a Cat Scan following my Heart attack in 2009 and reported, "Well Michael, it looks like you have Pleural Plaques!" To Which I replied, "What in the Hell is Pleural Plaques?" And he said, "You have had more Asbestos exposure than you ever wanted!" I was immediately diagnosed with Asbestosis.

Please consider seriously about giving me a call and I will gladly give you all the information that you will need to get through the VA and help you determine if you need any legal help with the Civilian legal system. There is no charge for the information. This is a freebie. Do it for yourself, for your family. Let your friends and Shipmates know that I am here to help, whether I like you or not.

Best,

Michael

T. Michael Bircumshaw CWO/EMCM (SS)
National Commander 2010-2014
American Submariner Editor 2005-2010 /2018-2020
AmericanSubmariner@gmail.com
951-775-4549 Leave a message, I will call back!



USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-018

NEWS-01: Awards Nominations Deadlines extended

Submitted by: Harold W Scott II, National Awards Chair on 4/27/2022

Shipmates,

This is a reminder about the 2022 USSVI National Awards nominations and the last important deadline. The April 30 deadline has been extended as noted below to encourage additional nominations from the membership.

80 nominations have been received as of 4/30/22: 2 – Joe Negri, 21 – Robert Link, 4 – DCOY, 15 - Meritori-

ous Individual (1 posthumous), 5 – Meritorious Base, 5 – Golden Anchor, 19 - Silver Anchor (1 posthumous), 5 – Ben Bastura and NLOY: 2 – Class I, 3 Class III and 1 Class IV.

Last call for all awards May 15 - All Nominations including any NLOY nominations are due to me NLT close of business on that day. I will then send all nominations to the on committee chairs for tabulation and selection of award winners. Nominations received after this deadline will not be considered, and the sender will be notified. If mailing nominations via snail mail, they must be postmarked no later than that day to be considered.

Refer to the Awards Manual for any additional information.

When sending your nominations, be sure to include the nominee's base, base position, Base Class, BC's name and address. In addition, the NLOY award nominations should include the editor's name. I'm also suggesting the inclusion of the District Commander's name and address also for mailing any awards for the recipients in case they aren't at the convention.

Honored to Serve,

Harold W (Bill) Scott II, STSCS(SS) USN RET.
USSVI National Awards Chair
Chief of the Boat, USSVI Central Texas Base
CTB Newsletter Editor,
512-826-8876



The Last One

by Mike Hemming

Out of the morning mist she appears, a still sinister, low black shape. As she does, two men get out of a car and walk to the waters edge. Both are in uniform, the oldest put her in commission and fought a war in her. Then he returned at the end of his career to make her last cruise and decommission her. Retired now, he puts on his uniform once more to say goodbye. All the boats he served on are decommissioned and gone now.

The younger man, his son, qualified on her and sailed on her for 4 years before returning to civilian life. He too wears his uniform for one last goodbye.

They both watch silently as she slips by, headed down river to the sea one last time. From this distance softened by the low fog she looks well cared for like she was when they sailed her. The man-years they and others spent on her are over now and will only be memories fading away.

Father and son salute for the others as she passes abreast of them. The black hull moves on and fades back into the mists of her last journey. Slipping quietly through calm glassy water, she becomes a black ghost of steel. The father and son hold their salutes as she fades from black to gray to gone in the mist. The tugs mournful foghorn is the last evidence they hear of her. Dropping their arms and turning away, they both catch the sadness in each other's eyes. But as they walk side by side, without words, smiles and twinkles return to their eyes. A memory of shipmates and of times good and bad, but mostly good, return. Memories of her steel, strong and true, that protected her men from the dangers of the deep oceans and her country's enemies. Memories that remind them how much they owe this deep-sea lady.

Because these men and others remember her, she will not yet die. Because men loved her, she became more than steel, she became alive to them. Because men loved her, will she ever fade completely from men's hearts?



WE ARE A GENERATION THAT WILL NEVER COME BACK.

A generation that walked to school and then walked back.

A generation that did their homework alone to get out asap to play in the street.

A generation that spent all their free time on the street with their friends.

A generation that played hide and seek when dark.

A generation that made mud cakes.

A generation that collected sports cards.

A generation that found, collected and washed & Returned empty coke bottles to the local grocery store for 5 cents each, then bought a Mountain Dew and candy bar with the money.

A generation that made paper toys with their bare hands.

A generation who bought vinyl albums to play on record players.

A generation that collected photos and albums of clippings.

A generation that played board games and cards on rainy days.

A generation whose TV went off at midnight after playing the National Anthem.

A generation that had parents who were there.

A generation that laughed under the covers in bed so parents didn't know we were still awake.

A generation that is passing and unfortunately it will never return!!..

I loved Growing up when I did.



Headache

The doctor said, "Joe, the good news is I can cure your headaches. The bad news is that it will require castration. You have a very rare condition, which causes your testicles to press on your spine and the pressure creates one hell of a headache. The only way to relieve the pressure is to remove the testicles."

Joe was shocked and depressed. He wondered if he had anything to live for. He had no choice but to go under the knife. When he left the hospital, he was without a headache for the first time in 20 years, but he felt like he was missing an important part of himself.

As he walked down the street, he realized that he felt like a different person. He could make a new beginning and live a new life. He saw a men's clothing store and thought, "That's what I need... a new suit."

He entered the shop and told the salesman, "I'd like a new suit." The elderly tailor eyed him briefly and said, "Let's see... size 44 long." Joe laughed, "That's right, how did you know?" "Been in the business 60 years!" the tailor said.

Joe tried on the suit.. it fit perfectly. As Joe admired himself in the mirror, the salesman asked, "How about a new shirt?" Joe thought for a moment and then said, "Sure." The salesman eyed Joe and said, "Let's see, 34 sleeves and 16-1/2 neck." Joe was surprised, "That's right, how did you know?" "Been in the business 60 years."

Joe tried on the shirt and it fit perfectly. Joe walked comfortably around the shop and the salesman asked,

"How about some new underwear?" Joe thought for a moment and said, "Sure." The salesman said, "Let's see... size 36." Joe laughed, "Ah ha! I got you, I've worn a size 34 since I was 18 years old." The salesman shook his head, "You can't wear a size 34. A size 34 would press your testicles up against the base of your spine and give you one hell of a headache."

- New suit - \$400
- New shirt - \$36
- New underwear - \$6
- Second Opinion - PRICELESS

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**USSVI Second Annual Lonestar Subvet Roundup, Picnic
8 April, 2022, Galveston, TX**









**USSVI Second Annual Lonestar Subvet Roundup, Cavalla Ceremony
9 April, 2022, Galveston, TX**

The following photos are attributed to "Photographers, Jeff Walston." My wife Eva Walston photographed the group photo with the text added.

White Horse Entertainment, P.O. Box 1925, Whitehouse, Texas 75791, 903-780-3670



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USSVI Second Annual Lonestar Subvet Roundup, Banquet
9 April, 2022, Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant, Galveston, TX

The following photos are attributed to Rick Mitchell, Joe Keller, Bill Scott and James Cochran.







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USSVI Central Texas Base Red Poppy Festival Parade, 4-23-22

Yesterday, 4/23/22, we had the privilege of participating in the Red Poppy Festival Parade in Georgetown TX. We had a great time and really appreciated everyone on the crowd that cheered us on. We needed every bit of it as we felt like we were running a sprint. Always good to be out in Georgetown though where we always feel very welcomed. Here's a few pic's with many more to be added to our web page soon. Photos are by Rick Mitchell.



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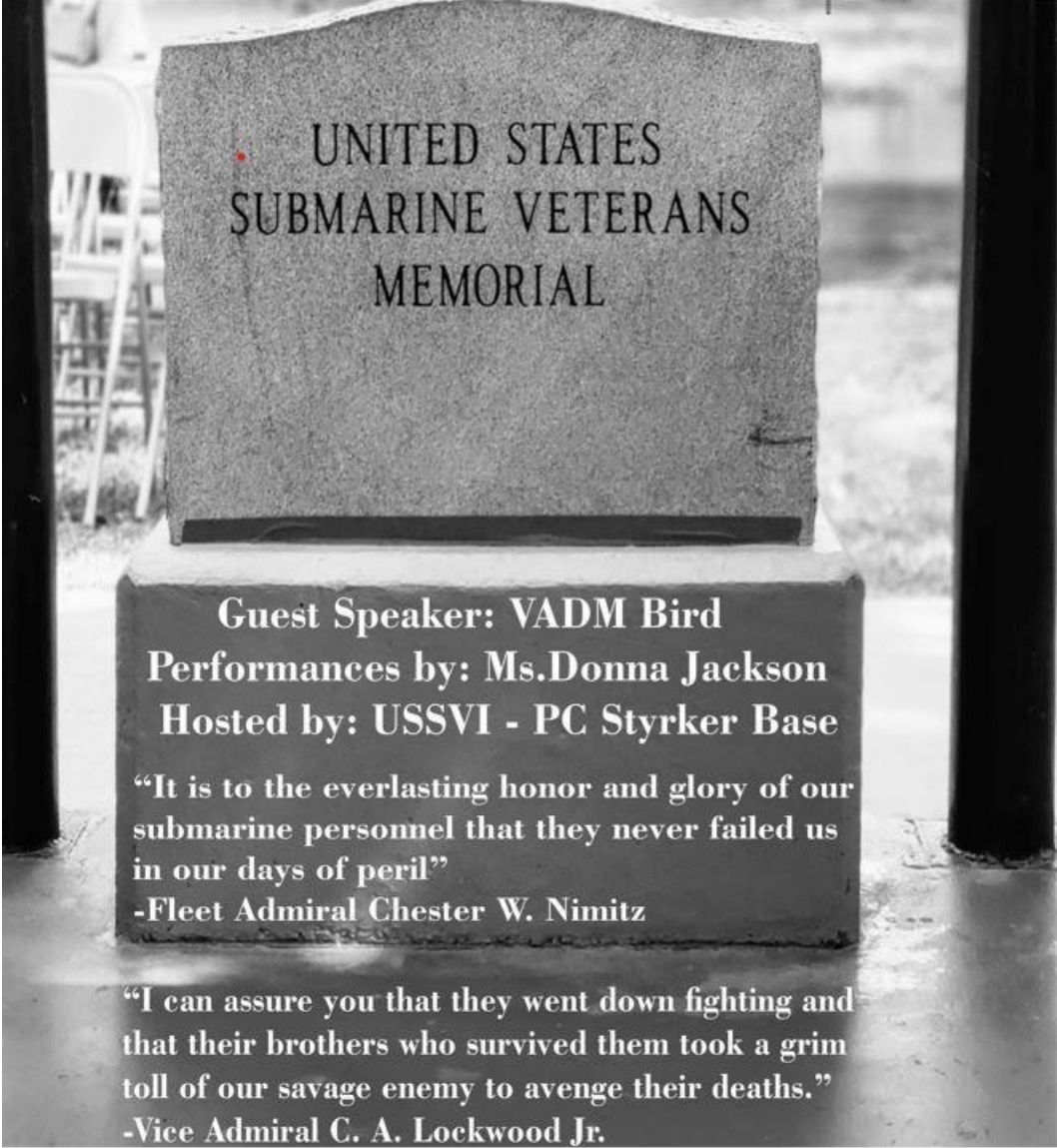
USSVI PC Stryker Base Tolling of the Boats, 5-21-22

TOLLING OF THE BOATS CEREMONY

May 21, 2022 @ 0930

National Museum of the Pacific War

Fredericksburg, TX



**UNITED STATES
SUBMARINE VETERANS
MEMORIAL**

Guest Speaker: VADM Bird

Performances by: Ms. Donna Jackson

Hosted by: USSVI - PC Stryker Base

**“It is to the everlasting honor and glory of our
submarine personnel that they never failed us
in our days of peril”**

-Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

**“I can assure you that they went down fighting and
that their brothers who survived them took a grim
toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths.”**

-Vice Admiral C. A. Lockwood Jr.