



# *THE DECK LOG*

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE  
NOVEMBER 2022



### *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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 Parades - Tom Sprague 858-755-6071  
 Kaps4Kids - Shawn O'Shea 702-682-9170  
 Historian - Eric Heter 512-731-4139  
 Holland Club - Don Atkins 512-508-1997

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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 printed copy is mailed via USPS to those shipmates requesting a mailed copy.

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**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/>

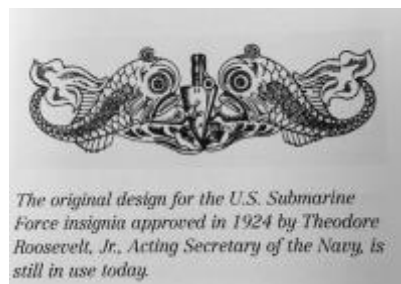
**USSVI WEB SITE:** <http://ussubvets.org/home.asp>

**BASE WEB SITE:** <https://ussvicentraltexasbase.org/>

**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.



2021  
Rick Mitchell  
Bill Scott

2017 Tom  
Williams

2010, 2014,  
2017, 2020

2020 Base

2020  
Bob Steinmann,  
Hubert Jackson

2012, 2013, 2016,  
2018, 2019, 2020,  
2021, 2022

**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/>



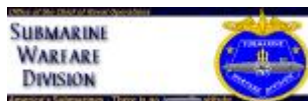
[www.navyleagueaustin.org](http://www.navyleagueaustin.org)



[www.navyleague.org](http://www.navyleague.org)



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



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



[www.military.com/military-report/](http://www.military.com/military-report/)



[www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)



[www.shiftcolors.navy.mil](http://www.shiftcolors.navy.mil)



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



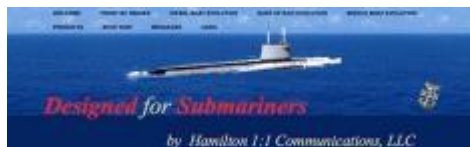
<http://www.submarinesailor.com>



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



<http://isasusa.org/>



[WWW.DESIGNED4SUBMARINERS.COM](http://WWW.DESIGNED4SUBMARINERS.COM)



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



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



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



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

## SILENT RUNNING - NOVEMBER

"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 Albacore (SS-218)

Lost on Nov 7, 1944 with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her eleventh war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.



### USS Growler (SS-215)

Lost on Nov 8, 1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 12th war patrol, and was lost while attacking a convoy, probably as a result of a depth charge attack or victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes.



### USS Scamp (SS-277)

Lost on Nov 9, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay. On her 8th war patrol, she may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate her and destroy her with depth charges.



### USS Corvina (SS-226)

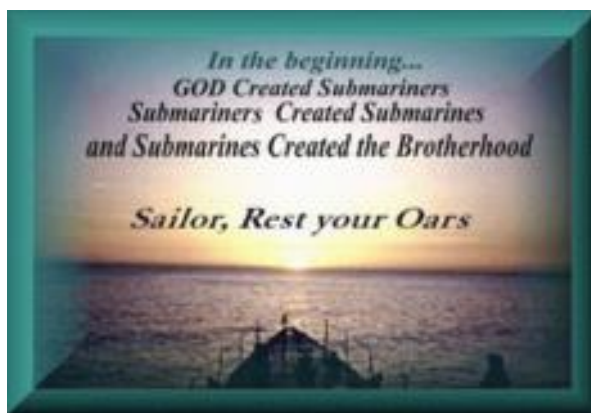
Lost on Nov 16, 1943 with the loss of 82 men when she was sunk just south of Truk. Corvina was on her 1st war patrol and appears she was lost to the torpedoes of a Japanese submarine.



### USS Sculpin (SS-191)

Lost on Nov 19, 1943 with the loss of 40 men near Truk. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, Sculpin continued to fight on the surface. When the captain was killed, the crew abandoned ship and scuttled Sculpin. 41 men were taken prisoner; only 21 survived the war. Among those not abandoning ship was CAPT Cromwell, aboard as a potential wolfpack commander, he rode the Sculpin down, fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture. For this, CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

**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,

Here we are in November. I hope you are doing well. I've had the fortune of seeing and speaking to many of you over the past few months but there are many who I have not seen or heard from in quite some time. I know we all are busy and have different things that we participate in and I don't want to twist your arm too much to join us in a meeting or an event if you are not desiring to do so though it would be helpful to me if you would occasionally reply to an email or something to let me know you are out there and getting the word and how you are doing. I appreciate each one of you and your continued support of our organization and our base through your membership. I hope you will continue to do so. It is dues time again and I hope to see us all get our dues paid ASAP. Consider the

various options for multi-year or life memberships. It will save you some money and makes things much easier for all of us.

I imagine everyone here knows that Veteran's Day is coming up on Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. Originally started as Armistice Day remembering our veterans lost in WWI, it has eventually become Veteran's Day as we now know it celebrating all of our nations veterans of which we all fit into that group. There are many companies and organizations out there looking to recognize all of you and I encourage you to participate as you can. More importantly, I ask that you get out there and help to recognize other veterans both past and present. The young men and women serving today deserve just as much recognition as any of us. There are many different ceremonies and celebrations happening throughout the area also. Grab your vest and ball cap and head on out to one or more. The two bigger ones we are promoting this year are in Georgetown at the Field of Honor in San Gabriel Park at 1100 hrs. and there is one in Round Rock in Old Settlers Park, Yonder's Point at 1100. Both look to be good ceremonies. Additionally in the afternoon Round Rock is holding a celebration in the park with food trucks, live music, and other stuff. We will be setting up an info booth there with other vendors and have a few shipmates there to promote USSVI and answer any questions folks may have about Submarines. Hope to see some of you and your families out there.

We had a pretty good meeting this month. Thanks to the 32 of you who attended whether in person or Zoom. I'm not going to rehash everything here as I sent out meeting notes and the presentation to everyone last week. I do want to highlight one thing though and ask you to put it on your calendar now and let your significant others know also. That is our Christmas Party this year. This year we are holding it on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> and it will be held at the Granger Cotton Country Club. They are opening up their dance hall for us and will provide the meal. We plan to charge base members \$10 per person. This will include your meal, deserts and water, coffee, and tea. The bar will be open and you can purchase sodas and adult beverages there. The owners of the Club are huge veteran supporters and are letting us use the hall at no cost. They also do a veteran's tribute every Sunday night. Let's make this our biggest and best party yet and support the club also. More details coming.

One thing we did not discuss at our last meeting was the annual wreath laying on all the graves at the Central Texas Veterans Cemetery through the Wreaths for Vets program. This will take place on Saturday Nov 26<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully we can get a few of us together for this special time.

Lastly, I want to recognize our shipmate Byron Sage who went on his own Eternal Patrol Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022. I met Byron early on after joining our base and really enjoyed talking with him. He was a very unassuming man but had a huge story through his career as an FBI agent. After he became sick and was no longer able to attend our meetings, I would visit him at home a few times and he was always very welcoming and very interested in what was going on with the base, us and our family. At his Celebration of life, we heard about 2 of his favorite sayings of which he lived by. They were, "it is what it is" and "bring it on". Ask me to share with you a little more about that someday. Byron, you will truly be missed.

Rick Mitchell 512-639-0035 [Rmitch2@yahoo.com](mailto:Rmitch2@yahoo.com)

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*USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEETING MINUTES - 19 OCTOBER 2022*

=====

**Location:** VFW Post 8587 and Zoom

**Meeting opened** at 19:05 by Rick Mitchell, Base Commander.

**E-Board was present**

**Aug Minutes Approved**

**Sailing List: LOCAL 24 and 8 via ZOOM; 32 Total**

**Binnacle List:** Bill Bellinghausen, Jack Odom, John Roberts, John Hazard

**Bob Steinmann:** Led the base in our opening Prayer.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Frank Abernathy

**Tolling of the Boats –** Rick Mitchell with Gene Hall Tolling the Bell

**USS Flasher SS-249** (Eric Heter) Provided a presentation detailing the history of the USS Flasher SS-249

**Officer and Committee Reports**

**Treasurer's Report:** Virgil Claycamp

Current Total Funds as of 1 Oct

\$27,083.43 Sep 1 Balance

    General: \$23,254.83

    Memorial: \$3,829.07

    Uncleared checks -\$500.00

\$26,544.58 Oct 1 Balance

**Memorial (Gene Hall):** City of Round Rock will go ahead with the project while they continue to work with the Insurance Company.

**Kaps 4 Kids (Shawn O'Shea)** 9 November event scheduled, first since the Covid pandemic. McLain's Childrens Hospital, Temple, TX Maximum of 5 volunteers per visit. Contact Shawn if you are interested in participating.

**Parade (Tom Sprague):** No report for this period.

**Membership (Chuck Malone):** 82 Current Members, 49 USSVI National Life, 40 Base Life, 41 Holland Club, 71 War Vets and 1 Associate Member. See Chuck if you don't have your Submarine Veteran Longevity Pin.

**Birthdays 2022:** 10/1 Roy Silva, 10/4 Bill McCoy, 10/5 Bill Graham, 10/8 Joh Zieser, 10/9 Carl Repp, 10/12 Gene Whitenack 10/13 Randy Patterson, 10/16 Chuck Cohn, 10/22 Greg Kline, 10/28 Troy Stearns, 11/2 Walt Whittingslow, 11/5 Vern Williams, 11/6 Jake Ferrigan, 11/11 Chip Pomeroy

**Recent POC's:**

#2022-47 - VSO News

Email - about Hurricane Donations

Note that we are in a period of transition concerning POC Notices and National Bulletin delivery.

There will be a mix of Direct Email to your inbox and those forwarded by the Base Commander.

The transition is expected to be completed in December. Make sure your EMAIL Address is up to date in the National Website Database; Login to <https://www.ussvi.org> to update as soon as possible.

**December Christmas Party**

Proposed date of Saturday 3 December 2022

Granger Cotton Country Club, Granger, TX

There will be a Set Meal, rather than our prior Pot Luck. Pot Roast/Beef alternative or Menu.

Cost will likely be \$10 per person (base will supplement the actual cost).

The Cotton Country Club is a huge Veteran supporter (Sunday Salute), offers Military Discount.

Gene Hall presented a Motion for this Date/Location, Calving Story-Seconded, ALL Approved.

### **Rick Mitchell proposed several requests for expenditures of Base Funds**

#### **The Base needs a Table, Chairs and a Tent for setup at events. Approx. \$350**

Chuck Trahan presented a Motion to spend approximately \$350 for these items; Frank Espinosa-Seconded, ALL Approved.

#### **Rick would like to pay for our share of a 'Veterans Serving our Community' Ad in the Wilco Sun newspaper.**

We would be one of 5 Veterans organizations in the Ad. Approx. \$70

Bill Scott presented a Motion to place the Ad, Gary Onderdonk III-Seconded, ALL Approved.

#### **Rick requested that we provide \$100 to the VFW for our share of the recent picnic.**

Chuck Trahan presented a Motion that we provide \$100 to the VFW for that purpose; Chuck Malone-Seconded, ALL Approved.

#### **Rick showed us a Sample of a Tri-fold handout that lets folks know what the USSVI and our Base are about. He'd like to get 750 pieces at Approx. \$0.35 each or \$263.**

Chuck Trahan presented a Motion that we provide the requested funds for the purpose stated; Frank Espinosa-Seconded, ALL Approved.

### **The Central Texas Base at Walmart 22Oct2022**

The Base will setup a table at the Walmart entry to promote the Base and sell raffle tickets.

A Watchbill was passed around at the meeting for those interested in manning the table.

Flags, banner, wreath a model submarine and a few pictures will be on display.

### **Veterans Day Events**

#### **Field of Honor Participation 5-12 Nov 2022**

We had previously purchased a Sponsorship for this years Field of Honor event

We have 2 seats in the Tent for the Opening Ceremony on Sunday 6 Nov at 1330 and need 3 people to participate in the Parade of Colors.

Veterans Day Ceremony will be on Friday 11 Nov at 1100

Patriots Celebration BBQ on 11 Nov between 1800-2100

Honor Flight 2021-22 Reunion Lunch on 12 Nov

### **Unfinished, Ongoing and Old Business**

#### **OLD Business:**

#### **Base Float (Rick Mitchell):**

Jake Ferrigan and Dylan Gray are working on the new base float. Drop tank on hand. Sail and Stern salvaged from decommissioned unit. Going to build similar Sub Float to our previous one. Hull will be smooth and gloss paint this time - better presentation and easier to clean/maintain. Working on various trailering ideas.

#### **Base Challenge Coin: Bill Scott**

They are here and look GOOD! They will be \$10 each for Base Members and \$20 each for others.

#### **Blood Drive: Frank Espinosa**

22 Oct 2022 from 10:30 to 16:30 at VFW Post 8587

50 slots are open and we hope to get at least 38 pints.

USSVI, American Legion and the VFW are supporting this drive.

You can go to <http://weareblood.org> to pre-register and ensure you are able to give.

**New Business.**

**Annual Base Raffle:**

More tickets need to be sold and we will look at collecting ticket stubs and sales cash/checks around 6 Nov. Please see Gene Hall if you need more tickets or want to purchase some.

**Base Budget** is being worked on, think about anything you feel should be added to the Budget for 2023 and submit input to the E-Board.

**Annual Dues are Due**, we'd like to get it done by 1 Dec 2022.

**HELP WANTED**

The base is growing and more help is needed:

Please consider running for an elected position this Fall;

Treasurer, Base Yeoman, BC are up for grabs, every year.

There are several appointed positions that need to fill/replace or add to: Librarian, Social Coordinators, Parades, Fundraising, ROTC/Schools, Boy Scouts.

**2023 Lonestar Roundup:** Rick Mitchell

The 2023 Lonestar Roundup will be from 13-16 Apr 2023 and will be in San Antonio.

The Menger Hotel in San Antonio will be available at \$159/night.

We will hold a Tolling of the Boats at the Hotel. More details will follow.

**Good of the Order**

**50/50 Raffle** – \$38 of the \$76 was won by Frank Abernathy, who gave it to the Base.

**Bill Sikorski, a friend of Bob Steinmann** has donated to the base in the past and sent a check to Bob to purchase \$100 worth of 2022 Raffle Tickets. If Mr. Sikorski wins anything from the Raffle he intends to donate it back to the Base.

**Next Meeting** – 16 Nov 2022 19:00 at VFW Post 8587 and Zoom.

**Sailing List**

**Base Members: Local at the VFW Post 8587 (24):** Rick Mitchell, Gene Hall, Garrett Onderdonk III, Frank Espinosa, Hubert Jackson, Bill Scott, Frank Abernathy, Chuck Trahan, Sam Amato, Jack Collins, Chuck Malone, Don Atkins, Dave Messing, Virgil Claycamp, Michael Gauthier, Bill Brinkman, Harry Boyer, Eric Heter, Colin King, Fred Maynard, Shawn O'Shea, Carl Repp, Bob Steinmann, Calvin Story.

**Via ZOOM (8):** Bill Bellinghausen, Ron Bennett, Jim Bowles, Roy Silva, Tom Sprague, Derald Vogt, Gene Whitenack, Dan Maynard(? Phone).

Meeting Adjourned by Rick Mitchell, 2030 hours

Minutes submitted by Frank Abernathy, Yeoman, 23 Oct 2022

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*BASE CHALLENGE COINS*

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They're here! Our new Base Challenge Coins are now available from the Base SK, Virgil Claycamp, and they only cost \$10! Thanks to Shelly at **(SS) Challenge Coins** for helping us with this project and Bill Scott for getting this done.





*BASE TREASURER'S REPORT*

15 October 2022

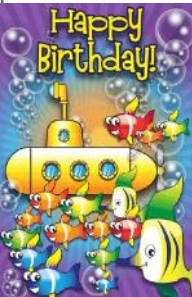
**Financial Report for Period Ending 9/30/2022**

<b>Beginning Balance - 9/1/2022</b>	<b>\$27,083.43</b>
RBFCU Checking (General Fund)	\$23,254.83
RBFCU Savings (Memorial Fund)	\$3,829.07
Cash to be deposited	\$00
Un-cleared Checks	-\$500.00
<b>Ending Balance - 9/30/2022</b>	<b>\$26,544.58</b>

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

Shipmates, Last month's edition had September Birthdays and not October's, so I've included October and November Birthdays this month. Sorry, my bad.

*OCTOBER 2022*



Roy Silva - 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Bill McCoy - 4<sup>th</sup>  
 William Graham - 5<sup>th</sup>  
 John Zieser - 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Carl Repp - 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Gene Whitenack - 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Randy Patterson - 13<sup>th</sup>  
 Chuck Cohn - 16<sup>th</sup>  
 Greg Kline - 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Troy Stearns - 28<sup>th</sup>

*NOVEMBER 2022*

Walt Whittingslow - 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Vern Williams - 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Jake Ferrigan - 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Chris Pomeroy - 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Tom Sprague - 19<sup>th</sup>

*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
National Life Members	48
Base Life Members	40
Holland Club Members	40
Associate Members	1
Dual Members	4
Prospective Members:	0
War Veterans	70
Members pending:	0

Submitted: Chuck Malone, Membership

*STOREKEEPER CORNER*

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](mailto: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.

They're here! Our new Base Challenge Coins are now available, and they only cost \$10! Thanks to Shelly Saxon at [\(SS\) Challenge Coins](#) for helping us with this project and Bill Scott for getting this done.

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.

*BINNACLE LIST*

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.

Family of Byron Sage (EP), Bill Bellinghausen, Jack Odom, John Roberts, John Hazard, Cowtown Base—EP. 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.



*CALENDAR OF EVENTS*



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

5 – 12 November, 2022, The 6th Annual Field of Honor®, <https://georgetowntxfieldofhonor.org/>, San Gabriel Park in Georgetown, TX.

7 November 2022, 10th Annual Snowden Cup Golf Tournament, Georgetown Country Club, Georgetown, TX.

11 November 2022, Veteran’s Day event, Ceremony at 11AM, Old Settlers Park at Yonder’s Point, Round Rock, TX.

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

3 December 2022, Base Annual Christmas Party, Granger Cotton Country Club, Granger, TX, More details TBD.

18 January 2023, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1900 meeting. In-person and Zoom.



*KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS)*



Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's Medical Center – Temple, is opening up for outside visitors and events like Kap(SS)4Kid(SS). I have scheduled a visit on November 9, 2022 to put a smile on those children's faces. Anyone interested in joining the Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) team, and want to volunteer to get on the roster to attend one of our events, please contact me at 702-682-9170 or [soshea77@outlook.com](mailto:soshea77@outlook.com).

Thanks to all of you for your continued support.

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



*CHAPLAIN’S CORNER*



**The Mayonnaise Jar and 2 Glasses of Wine**

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 glasses of wine.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two glasses of wine from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things---your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite

passions---and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car.

The sand is everything else---the small stuff. "If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you".

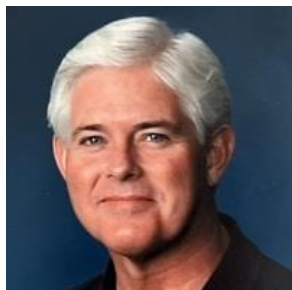
"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your children. Spend time with your parents. Visit with grandparents. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first---the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the wine represented. The professor smiled and said, "I'm glad you asked."

The wine just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of glasses of wine with a friend."



**Byron Allen Sage**



**Obituary**

Byron Allen Sage, of Round Rock, Texas, passed away surrounded by his family, on Sunday, October 16, in Round Rock, at the age of 75. Byron was born August 5, 1947, in Owensboro, Kentucky to parents William and Mary Withers Sage.

He spent most of his childhood in Vallejo, California. Byron is a Vietnam veteran and served in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service. He attended California State University and holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a Master's in Criminology.

In 1974, Byron joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation. During his career he was directly involved in a wide variety of investigative efforts ranging from violent crimes, crisis negotiations, and counterterrorism. He was called upon to testify before Congress on multiple occasions on behalf of the FBI. He served on numerous Senior Advisory Groups on behalf of U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Energy as well as other federal, state, and local panels. Byron also provided extensive training on behalf of the U.S. Department of State in Bosnia and other nations worldwide. In 1993, Byron was the Primary Negotiator during the Branch Davidian siege near Waco, Texas. He has done extensive interviews on the siege for multiple television documentaries. Following his retirement, he established his own consulting firm where he continued to provide operational training to law enforcement, municipal governmental agencies, major corporations, and the private sector. Most recently, he volunteered with the Williamson County Sheriff's cold case unit.

Byron loved his work but the most important things to him were his faith and his family. He married the love of his life, Sheryl, in 1975 and they have been loving each other every since. Byron is survived by his son Tracy and his wife Jane of Lewisville, Texas, his daughter Jamie and her partner Brett of Vancouver, Washington, his son Matthew and wife Michelle of Round Rock, Texas, and his son Tim and his wife Katie of Georgetown, Texas. Byron was an especially proud "Papa" to his nine grandchildren: Jada, Alyssa, Shaya, Kaitlyn, Lola, Tessa, Wyatt, Max and Kirby. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Byron truly lived his life to the fullest. He was devoted to his family and loved having tea parties with his grandchildren, doing woodworking projects for the kids, and spent many hours with his family playing Mexican train and Ten Thousand. He enjoyed scuba diving, climbing mountains, riding bikes, and going for jeep rides with his boys. There are many, many "dad sayings" that have been incorporated into his family's lives and without a doubt future generations will be honking at dead animals on the road and saying, "Wake up, that's a silly place to sleep!"

To honor Byron's memory, we are holding a celebration of life on Wednesday, October 26, at 2:00 pm at Life Austin Chapel, 8901 State Highway 71 in Austin. Reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, we are asking for donations to B.I.G. Love Cancer Care, P.O. Box 540485, Houston, TX 77254 or online at [www.biglovecancercare.org](http://www.biglovecancercare.org) .

Here's one of many articles written about Byron. You may find it interesting. <https://www.texasmonthly.com/true-crime/fbi-agent-cant-stop-thinking-waco/>

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*SHIPMATES IN ACTION*

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**USSVI Central Texas Base**

10/15/22, From FB Post



A few CTB Shipmates this morning at the [Georgetown VFW Post 8587 M/SGT Ben D. Snowden](#) with other area Veteran Service Orgs. Held a picnic for veterans and first responders. Various units from the [Georgetown Police Department](#) and [Georgetown Texas Fire Department](#) rotated through grabbing some lunch and showing off their trucks and cars to all interested. Opening ceremonies supported in fine fashion by the [GISD Liberty Battalion](#).

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**Breakfast at Rosa's Café**

Tuesday, Oct 25th at 0830 here is your chance at:

Rosa's Café  
2111 E. Palm Valley Blvd.  
Round Rock, TX

Turnout this morning was Shawn, Harry U, Harry B, Joe, Bill B and Bill S. During the meal and chatting, a gentleman came to our table, said he heard some of our conversation as he was reading his bible, thanked us for our service and presented us with a gift card to Rosa's Cafe for \$50 (Shawn has custody). We all thanked him for his generosity and we continued chatting and finishing breakfast. We made plans to meet

again next month to use the gift card for our breakfasts, the logistics of which we need to sort out.

“We also received a 2nd gift card outside Rosa’s Café thanking us for our service as we were leaving. Don’t know how much is on this card.”

Shawn

“That’s cool. This is one of the good things about living in this area. Wished I could have joined you but was at the last Field of Honor committee meeting. I’m sure breakfast with bubbleheads was way better.”

Rick;



**Your selected charity received a \$574.57 donation from AmazonSmile**

Email from Rick Mitchell.

CTB Shipmates,

Just another reminder that if you shop at Amazon, please use AmazonSmile and consider choosing USSVCF as your beneficiary. I know quite a few of you do this and it appears that more and more are starting to choose USSVCF as the quarterly donations seem to be going up. FYI, there is no cost to you for doing this; a portion of your purchase is sent they do not ask for any money.

Why the USSVCF?

College Scholarships of which many of our bases' family members have been recipients

The Brotherhood Fund helping shipmates in need. Members of our base have been helped from this fund. Supporting Submarine Memorials And much more.

Check out the Charitable Foundation Web Page here for more info:

[United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc. - USSV Charitable Foundation \(ussvcf.org\)](http://ussvcf.org)

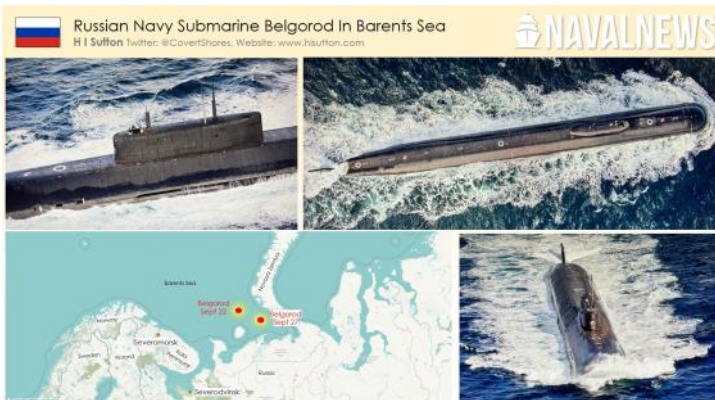


*The previous Undersea Warfare News weekly news bulletin email articles have been discontinued.*

*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](http://www.sublant.usff.navy.mil). All other articles are supported by the appropriate URL for the articles.”*



**New Images Reveal Russia’s ‘Missing’ Submarine Belgorod In Arctic**



Media hype claims that a unique Russian submarine, the Belgorod, has 'vanished'. This may be exaggerated. Naval News can share images of the submarine operating on the surface in the Arctic.

H I Sutton, 05 Oct 2022

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/10/new-images-reveal-russias-missing-submarine-belgorod-in-arctic/>

The photographs show the submarine operating in the east of the Barents Sea. Locations based on Open Source intelligence.

The whereabouts of a new Russian submarine, the *Belgorod*, has captured headlines around the world. With a degree of hysteria, there have been reports that it has been deployed with its nuclear 'apocalypse' and 'doomsday' weapons. Even that it has 'disappeared' (submarines do that).

*Naval News* has been keeping an eye on the topic since before these stories broke. We can offer fresh information about her activities.

Images obtained by *Naval News* show the submarine operating in the Barents Sea, north of Russia's Kola Peninsular.

The *Belgorod* (K-329) is a unique submarine. She is around 178 meters (583 ft) long, 15 meters (50 ft) wide and in the region of 30,000 tons. This makes it by far the largest built anywhere in the world since the famous Typhoon class. She is armed with the **Poseidon** strategic weapon which itself is unique.

Described by the U.S. Navy as an '*Intercontinental Nuclear-Powered Nuclear-Armed Autonomous Torpedo*', it combines incredible range with hard-to-kill performance. There is a concern that, with current weapons, it is effectively unstoppable once launched.

Launched in 2019, *Belgorod* was formally commissioned on July 8 2022, so this is one of her first longer-range trips. But she is still very close to home, in the Russian Navy's back yard.

We noted the submarine leaving Severodvinsk in the White Sea a few weeks ago, and she was in the Barents Sea by September 22. She was still there on September 27. On both dates she was observed on the surface. This is not unusual for new submarines like this.

#### Prospect Of A Poseidon Launch

Predictions are dangerous in this game. However, we view a test launch of Poseidon as not out of the question. This could be routine, to test a new weapon system. Or it could principally be political, as a demonstration. Testing nuclear weapons, even without warheads, may be part of Russia's chosen nuclear escalation ladder.

Satellite images show *Belgorod* operating in eastern Barents Sea on September 22 and 27

We will leave it to nuclear weapon wonks to better asses the nuclear ladder. But we cannot rule out a test.

However, her movements are also broadly in line with what we would expect of a new submarine. Russian political leaders may value the ambiguity of her being at sea, but they have not been doing very much to fully hide her movements.

#### Nord Stream Attack

Another topic which needs addressing is the **leaks in the Nord Stream gas pipes** under the Baltic on September 26. These are believed to have been a deliberate act of sabotage, and Russia is a candidate.

*Belgorod* has another important capability as well as carrying Poseidon. She can act as a mother submarine ('host platform') for special deep-diving midget submarines which operate on the sea floor. Russia has a fleet of these mother submarines for seabed warfare.

Technically *Belgorod* would be suited to carry out such an attack, even in relatively shallow water. And media did turn to her as the best known example of this type of 'special mission' submarine.

However, it is highly unlikely that she was involved. She is known to have been observed in the Barents Sea on September 22 and again on September 27. This makes it impossible for her to have been in the Baltic at the time of the attacks. And, looking at her past sailing plans, it is equally unlikely that sailed to the Baltic beforehand.

This does not rule Russia out as being behind the attacks. But it does eliminate *Belgorod* as a suspect.

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#### Naval Group Continues Work On Lithium-Ion Batteries For Submarines

<https://www.navalnews.com/event-news/euronaval-2022/2022/10/naval-group-continues-work-on-lithium-ion-batteries-for-submarines/>

At Euronaval 2022, in one of the full immersion dark rooms on the Naval Group stand, the company presents its new lithium-ion battery for submarines.

Alix Valenti, 20 Oct 2022

The number of submarines patrolling the world’s oceans is constantly growing. To protect their territorial waters as well as their interests in different regions of the world, submarine operating nations are therefore facing two significant challenges: range – and therefore autonomy – and discretion. Propulsion plays a significant role in this context, but existing technologies have a number of limitations, including the production of hydrogen-like Lead-Acid Batteries (LAB) – which presents a significant safety risk.

Lithium-Ion Batteries (LIB) hold great promises on a number of aspects. They provide greater energy than LABs, therefore giving submarines greater submerged autonomy while reducing indiscretion rate. They are also far more efficient in relation to charging. Where in order to reach 100% charge for LAB, the charging needs to happen onshore (the final charging phase releases hydrogen), LIB does not present the same risk. In fact, LIB batteries reach 98% charge by phase two, therefore making it possible to charge them while at sea. Finally, because the amount of power they produce is the same, regardless of the battery’s state of charge, they offer more tactical mobility.

Recognising LIB’ significant potential, Naval Group launched preliminary studies on the topic in 2006. The company subsequently concluded the system design phase, which included the selection of the battery supplier.

When designing the LIB for integration onto a submarine, Naval Group had to take a number of factors into account. First and foremost, from a safety point of view, it had to ensure the battery’s chemical intrinsic stability and perform safety analyses on physical, electrical and thermal safety barriers. Second, from a design standpoint Naval Group had to consider how to use industrial cells and how to organise the architecture of the batteries. In fact, while the risk of hydrogen is eliminated with LIB, the risk of fire remains. As such, Naval Group has applied a layered, Russian dolls approach: a string design, which includes mechanical barriers, encases packs that contain modules that contain the cells.

In 2020 Naval Group qualified the LIB in an on-shore facility, but trials have yet to take place on a submarine. In the meantime, the company has already been thinking about how to implement the technology on submarines. This includes considering the submarine electrical network’s architecture and charging systems, which will have to be different from those designed for LABs. Ventilation and cooling will also need to be taken into consideration.

Finally, Naval Group highlights the fact that future submarine designs will have to include room for evolutions. *“LIBs are in constant evolution, so it is important that such potential is taken into consideration from the start.”*

*Anthony Covarrubias, Operational Marketing Manager*



## Exploration of Wolfpack Tactics Earns Submariner Recognition in Operations Research

MC2 Lenny Weston | October 11, 2022

[https://nps.edu/stories/-/asset\\_publisher/WlRgSRJOzp1B/content/exploration-of-wolfpack-tactics-earns-submariner-recognition-in-operations-research?\\_com\\_liferay\\_asset\\_publisher\\_web\\_portlet\\_AssetPublisherPortlet\\_INSTANCE\\_WlRgSRJOzp1B\\_assetEntryId=137615701](https://nps.edu/stories/-/asset_publisher/WlRgSRJOzp1B/content/exploration-of-wolfpack-tactics-earns-submariner-recognition-in-operations-research?_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_WlRgSRJOzp1B_assetEntryId=137615701)



*Summer Quarter graduate Lt. Spencer Kitten is the latest winner of the Military Operations Research Society (MORS) Stephen A. Tisdale Thesis Award, recognizing the top operations research thesis focused on operational effectiveness and with the highest potential for near-term impact on the security of the U.S. and its allies.*

Advancements in technology towards secure communication between submarines will significantly affect how they could operate in groups, or modern “Wolfpack Tactics.” This award-winning analysis conducted by U.S. Navy Lt. Spencer Kitten, a recent graduate from the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), addresses undersea warfare concepts that support NAVPLAN 2022 efforts to strengthen our nation’s integrated deterrence.

Kitten was one of five graduating U.S. Navy students from the NPS Department of Operations Research (OR) selected to present their theses to a panel of judges, professors and peers for the Military Operations Research Society (MORS) Stephen A. Tisdale Thesis Award competition.

When the dust settled, Lt. Spencer Kitten’s examination of submarine force tactics through his thesis, “Revisiting Submarine Wolfpack Tactics Using Computational Methods,” was selected as the winner of the Summer Quarter’s MORS/Tisdale award.

The Undersea Warfare Development Center (UWDC) at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn., sponsored and supported Kitten’s research.

“We strongly believe in supporting the next generation of Operations Research trained naval officers and are happy to have had the opportunity to sponsor and help shape Lt Kitten’s research,” noted Dr. Michael W. Kopp, Head, Submarine Operations Research Group at UWDC. “We are exceedingly pleased that the selection committee agreed with our assessment that his work deserved special recognition and look forward to seeing his future contributions to the submarine force.”

“I was humbled to have been selected for this award among so many other excellent candidates,” added Kitten. “When I first came to NPS, I knew that I wanted to work on a project that would have a direct and positive impact to naval thought. This award is a realization of that effort, and I am deeply honored.”

The MORS Tisdale award recognizes a graduating student from the OR department for outstanding thesis research that offers operating effectiveness and has highest potential for near-term impact on the security of the U.S. and its allies.

“Rather than a competition, the faculty in the OR department like to view this event as a celebration of the outstanding work of our students, as well as recognize how much they have learned in two very fast and intense years of study,” said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Nicholas Ulmer, Operations Research Department Program Officer.

The research Kitten conducted as part of his thesis was a simulation using data farming techniques as well as intelligent experimental design to revisit submarine wolfpack tactics in the modern era.

“Models like mine will be used to inform submarine strategy in crucial battlespaces, specifically on coordination and communication matters,” said Kitten. “Much of the existing literature on joint operations is tailored to a submarine operating in concert with non-submerged assets such as a battlegroup. Usually, when submarines operate together, very specific procedures are issued that are only relevant for the duration of the event. It would be exciting to see more general advice for submarines employed with other submarines.

“I think the most interesting exploration for this research will involve simple changes in the assumption of the simulation design,” he added. “Time permitting, I’d like to continue to explore this subject and to stay involved with the military operations research community at large.”

Ulmer says competitions like the MORS/Tisdale Award are a win/win for the fleet, and all participating students. The Navy benefits from students’ research on real problems impacting the service, he says, while the students get the experience of briefing peers and leaders on those problems while also participating in their discipline’s broader community.

The MORS/Tisdale award is named in honor of Lt. Cmdr. Stephen A. Tisdale, a dual-degree graduate from NPS in 1989. Tisdale perished in a military aircraft accident on March 21, 1991, while serving with Patrol Squadron (VP) 50 off the coast of California. Tisdale’s outstanding and influential thesis, “Assessing Optimal Utilization of Potential Anti-Satellite Architectures,” won the MORS prize for his graduating class, and he was recognized as NPS’ top Space Systems Operations student.







## Remember When ... A Soviet Nuclear Submarine Sank off the Coast of Bermuda

Kyle Mizokami, October 3, 2022

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/remember-soviet-nuclear-submarine-sank-004100472.html>



US Navy photo of K-219 on the surface after suffering a fire in a missile tube

36 Years Ago Today, a Nuclear Sub Sank off Bermuda National Archives

On this day in 1986, a [Soviet nuclear submarine](#) off the coast of Bermuda caught fire and sank.

The sub's thermonuclear warheads and nuclear reactors went down with the ship.

Although most of the warheads and reactors are still down there, some of the warheads—and the missiles containing them—were counted as missing two years later.

One of the most dangerous incidents at sea during the Cold War took place on this day 36 years ago in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. The Soviet Navy submarine *K-219* caught fire and ultimately sank, killing three of her crew. Adding to the tragedy were the losses of the ship's thermonuclear warheads and nuclear reactor, which threaten to unleash an environmental disaster if they are not someday recovered.

On October 3, 1986, *K-219* was cruising approximately 600 miles northeast of the island of Bermuda. The ballistic missile submarine was designed to carry nuclear-tipped missiles within range of the United States as part of the USSR's nuclear deterrence. A month after departing the Soviet Northern Fleet's Gadzhiyev submarine base, *K-219* was conducting launch drills, preparing for the day it might launch its nuclear-tipped missiles at the eastern seaboard of the United States.

*K-219* was a "Yankee"-class submarine, a NATO intelligence designation likely referencing the submarine's uncanny resemblance to early *George Washington*-class U.S. Navy ballistic missile submarines. Unlike previous Soviet missile submarines, which stored their long missiles in the sail, the Yankee class stored shorter, more compact missiles in the hull behind the sail, in a raised hump, just like American submarines. (North Korea's nuclear submarines, for example, still carry their more primitive missiles in the sail.)

At 420 feet long, with a beam of 38 feet, the Russian submarine was a long and slender nuclear-armed predator. *K-219* had a maximum dive depth of 1,029 feet and a crew of approximately 120. Powered by two OK-700 90-megawatt nuclear reactors, she could travel at 27 knots underwater and had a range limited only by her food and water supply.

*K-219* also bristled with armament: in addition to six 533-millimeter torpedo tubes and 18 torpedoes, the sub-

marine carried 16 R-27U submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs). Each R-27U had a range of 1,900 miles. Its accuracy—measured in circular error probable (CEP), or the maximum distance from the target in which half of the warheads will fall—was 1.2 miles. This relatively poor accuracy required a big, civilization-smothering warhead to make up for it; as a result, each missile carried one megaton thermonuclear warhead or three individual 200-kiloton warheads. To illustrate *K-219*'s destructive firepower, one megaton equals 1,000 kilotons, with the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan rated at just 16 to 17 kilotons.

On that day in 1986, *K-219* was sailing submerged in the Sargasso Sea when a missile fuel leak sparked an explosion. After battling the explosion and fire, the crew was also forced to manually shut down the reactors, a standard procedure aboard a nuclear-powered ship to prevent the fire from breaching the reactors. The accident killed four crew members (one of whom died while shutting down the reactors) and injured an unknown number more.

After three days of fighting to save the ship, the Soviet commercial ship *Krasnogvardeysk* took it under tow. The tow cable abruptly snapped and *K-219* sank in 18,000 feet of water. In high-level conversations, Soviet officials stated they believed the hull would implode at 2,296 feet.

The accident resulted in the loss of at least 16 thermonuclear warheads, as well as two nuclear reactors. Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, then the head of the Soviet Navy, explained to Soviet leadership that the high explosive and plutonium aboard each nuclear warhead were contained in metal spheres. The spheres would gradually corrode in the salt water, Chernavin explained, and “a corrosion process will begin, which will lead to the spread of radioactivity.” However, the radioactivity would be limited and would not reach the surface, he said. Chernavin also explained that the two reactors would corrode and spill radioactivity, but “that would happen very slowly, over decades.”

Releasing toxic plutonium into the ocean would cause an ecological disaster, threatening the surrounding environment, fish stocks, and possibly even nearby shipping lanes. Plutonium decays very slowly, with a half-life of 24,000 years, meaning that half of the material released into the ocean will still be around in 24 millennia, contaminating the environment.

The U.S. government quickly became aware of *K-219*'s plight, sending P-3C Orion patrol aircraft to monitor efforts to save the submarine and even offering assistance. But Soviet leadership was more worried about the possibility that the United States could raise the submarine and learn its secrets. Premier Mikhail Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union, twice mentioned the possibility that Americans could raise the ship. Gorbachev and the Politburo were apparently aware of Project Azorian, the CIA's secret operation to raise another sunken Soviet missile submarine, *K-129*, off the coast of Hawaii in 1974.

Stephen Schwartz, a nonresident senior fellow with the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, says there are several notable things about the incident. “First, the heroic efforts of the crew under very dangerous conditions to shut down the two reactors and stabilize the submarine,” Schwartz tells *Popular Mechanics*. “Much like an earlier accident in 1961 involving the Soviet Union's first ballistic missile submarine, the *K-19*, they prevented a far greater catastrophe.”

“Second, the Soviet Union's quick acknowledgement of what had happened, demonstrating that Soviet leaders had learned from their bungled attempt just five months earlier to deny both the occurrence and the region-wide consequences of the catastrophic reactor explosion at Chernobyl in Ukraine.”

Gorbachev, it turned out, was right to worry that the Americans would abscond with parts of the submarine and missiles. The third notable event, according to Schwartz, was the “little-known discovery by a Soviet research vessel two years later that several of the *K-219*'s ballistic missiles—and their thermonuclear warheads—had somehow been retrieved sometime after it sank in 18,000 feet of water to the bottom of the ocean. Did the United States secretly salvage not just one, but two, Soviet missile submarines?”

The *K-129* incident is an example not just of the dangers of nuclear weapons, but the dangers of using nuclear power carelessly. Someone, someday, will have to descend 18,000 feet below the surface of the Atlantic and retrieve the reactor and warheads before corrosion releases their toxic materials (*Well*, what's left of the missiles and the reactor).

If that sounds like a headache, imagine living with an even greater problem for 24,000 years—all because of the Cold War.



## WWI German U-boat discovered off US coast 100 years after it sank

By Tom Metcalfe, 10/6/2022

U.S. warplanes blasted the U-boat during target practice.

<https://www.livescience.com/german-wwi-uboaat-discovered-in-us>



The wreck of SM U-111 lies on the seafloor about 40 miles off the coast of Virginia, at a depth of about 120 feet. It was rediscovered in July after being deliberately sunk over 100 years ago. (Image credit: Photograph by Benjamin Lowy for National Geographic)

A team of shipwreck hunters has discovered an extraordinary sunken vessel off the East Coast of the United States: the wreck of a World War I German U-boat sunk by U.S. warplanes a century ago for target practice.

According to an exclusive report by National Geographic, the team confirmed the identity of the wreck in early September as that of SM U-111, a submarine that served in the Imperial German Navy. After Germany agreed to an armistice in 1918, the U-boat surrendered to the British, who saved a handful of the early submarines to the U.S. to study and reverse engineer. In 1922, the U.S. Navy deliberately sank the vessel, but its exact location was not disclosed.

But in early July, wreck researcher Erik Petkovic and his colleagues found the SM U-111 with a remotely-operated underwater vehicle (ROV) at a depth of about 400 feet (120 meters) and about 40 miles (65 kilometers) off the coast of Virginia.

The SM U-111 was one of five German U-boats from World War I that were sunk in U.S. waters (there are also eight from World War II) and it's the last to be rediscovered.

When the U-boat sank, the U.S. Navy thought the seawater at the location was much deeper, and that the vessel would fall to the seafloor about 1,600 feet (500 m) below the surface, Petkovic said.

But knowledge of the depths was imperfect 100 years ago, and so SM U-111 came to rest in relatively shallow water next to a deep abyss. "If it was one mile to the east, it was in the abyss and it never would have been seen again," Petkovic said.

### Submarine menace

Germany built the SM U-111 in the northern port city of Kiel in 1916 and it joined the war at sea in early 1918. The submarine made three raids on commercial shipping vessels in the Irish Sea and the English Channel, and sank at least three Allied merchant ships.

"The first U-boat war from 1914 to 1918 often gets overlooked," Innes McCartney, a nautical archaeologist at Bangor University in the United Kingdom, told Live Science in an email. "But it is important to recognize that in comparison to World War II, the U-boats of the Kaiserliche Marine [Imperial German Navy] sunk twice the number of ships and sustained only 20 percent of the losses."

McCartney was not involved in the rediscovery of the SM U-111, but he's discovered other World War I U-boat wrecks.

"Importantly for the Allies, had it not been for the experience gained in 1917 and 1918 in particular, the campaign against the U-boats in World War II would have proven more of a challenge," he said.

After Germany agreed to the armistice in November 1918, the SM U-111 was surrendered to the British and then given to the U.S. Navy; and in April 1919 it set out for the U.S. with a crew of 32 U.S. sailors — 17 of whom had never been aboard a submarine before, Petkovic said.

To save time, the commander chose the shortest — and most dangerous — northern route across the Atlantic, which was strewn with icebergs and had claimed the R.M.S. Titanic seven years before.

In addition, the submarine had only German signage, so the U.S. crew didn't know how to operate the vessel's gyro-compass, and had to navigate with a magnetic compass; and a plug in an open valve made of a "hard, gummy substance," secretly installed by German saboteurs, dissolved in the seawater four nights into the voyage, flooding and almost sinking the vessel.

"It's really remarkable that they survived," Petkovic said.

U-boat wreck

After its arrival on the U.S. East Coast, SM U-111 was used to promote a final 1919 issue of war bonds in Brooklyn, and was then tested against the latest U.S. submarines. Eventually its engines and equipment were stripped out, and in June 1921 U.S. warplanes using it for target practice sank the German sub.

But the vessel was considered a navigation hazard at the location where it first sank; and so it was raised and towed into deeper water in August 1922, where it was sunk for the last time by opening its hatches and setting off an explosive depth-charge nearby. Its exact location was not publicly disclosed.

Petkovic had searched for the wreck of SM U-111 for several years, after noting that the other deliberate wrecks of U-boats in U.S. waters were found in shallower waters than expected. He said the key to the discovery was determining which U.S. Navy ship had towed the disabled U-boat to its final destination, and then getting access to its logbook. They found the wreck of SM U-111 almost exactly at the location described in the ship's logbook. "It was right on the money, really close to the numbers that we had," he said.

Petkovic now hopes to dive to the wreck next summer, although it's at an extreme depth even for technical divers with the latest rebreather equipment, which recycles the gases divers exhale and allows them to stay underwater longer.

"It's pushing the limit in terms of rebreather technology and the limits of human endurance," he said. "But there are guys on our team that are capable of doing it... it's still a dangerous dive, but that is a goal of ours."

You can read more about the German U boat discovery on [National Geographic](#)(opens in new tab).

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## **Former U-2 pilot tells the story of the Soviet submarine that almost fired a nuclear torpedo at a US Navy ship during the Cuban Missile Crisis**

By Linda Sheffield Miller, Oct 27 2022

<https://theaviationgeekclub.com/former-u-2-pilot-tells-the-story-of-the-soviet-submarine-that-almost-fired-a-nuclear-torpedo-at-a-us-navy-ship-during-the-cuban-missile-crisis/>

*'Now let me say something about that Cuban Missile Crisis. This is probably as close as this nation has ever come to being in World War III,' Buddy Brown, former U-2 and SR-71 pilot.*

60 years ago this week the fear of World War III was on everyone's mind. The island of Cuba just 90 miles from Florida had installed nuclear missiles capable of reaching the US.

On Oct. 23, 1962, I remember my father telling my mother to go to the commissary and buy as much food as possible. At that time we were living in Texas at Carswell Air Force Base (AFB). Dad, Butch Sheffield said as he was leaving, to fly the B-58 Hustler bomber on red alert.

Seven years later we were living at Beale AFB and Buddy Brown was our neighbor. He was one of the only 12 men in the world that flew both of U-2 and the SR-71. The following is an interview by Buddy Brown given ten years ago to Oakridger.

*'Now let me say something about that Cuban Missile Crisis. This is probably as close as this nation has ever come to being in World War III,' Brown began. 'When I say close, it was probably about that far from pushing a button to launch a nuclear torpedo,' he stated, as he gestured with two of his fingers only a few inches apart.*

*'I was at a 50-year thing at George Mason University about a year ago, and they were celebrating (the 50th anniversary of) the Cuban Missile Crisis. Since I was one of the pilots, they had me talk to the group there about that. I sat next to Sergei Khrushchev — (Soviet Premier Nikita) Khrushchev's son — who was around 30 years old during the Cuban Missile Crisis and is now a professor at Brown University. But he was telling us that the Soviets had some diesel subs inside the line there in case nuclear war started.*

'Well this one person running the submarine thought we were, in fact, at war — because they didn't have any contact,' Brown recalled. 'They had a bunch of naval ships out there and, fortunately, somebody with a cooler brain stopped him from doing that — but he was about three inches from pushing and launching one of those nuclear torpedoes at one of our naval ships out there.' He paused and stated: 'Now that would have started it right there.' The Soviets had, in Cuba, about sixty 1-megaton weapons that were ready to go. Cruise missiles and a few other things.



Soviet submarine B-59, forced to the surface by U.S. Naval forces in the Caribbean near Cuba.

Brown concludes;

'To make a comparison, the ones that they set off during World War II at Nagasaki was about 15 kt (kiloton) — now we're talking about 1 Megaton and they were going to use them. Well, fortunately, none of that happened and it ended up that we didn't go to war; but it was probably the closest this nation has ever been.'

*Be sure to check out Linda Sheffield Miller (Col Richard (Butch) Sheffield's daughter, Col. Sheffield was an SR-71 Reconnaissance Systems Officer) Facebook Page Habubrats for awesome Blackbird's photos and stories.*



## USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS



### National Commander Bulletins

From the Desk of National Commander Bill Andrea



### Hurricane Ian

4 October 2022

### From our USSVI Charitable Fund President:

Shipmates,

As you are aware Hurricane Ian wreaked havoc on the state of Florida and the Carolinas last weekend.

What you may not know is how that has impacted over 1,000 Florida USSVI members and their families. In the southwest part of Florida alone, we have over 150 members who were in Ian's path of destruction. At the time of this email, there are still almost 600,000 Floridians without power.

We are already aware of some who lost everything! Many more will incur significant out-of-pocket expenses to meet deductibles and help with cleanup efforts. Officials are predicting total damage costs from the hurricane could top \$60 Billion.

What we're asking is for you to help these shipmates, your Shipmate by making a tax-deductible donation through the USSV Charitable Foundation. All donations will go directly to those affected by hurricane Ian.

Donations can be made by going to [www.ussvcf.org](http://www.ussvcf.org) and clicking on the hurricane relief button.

Thank you for your help in this critical time of need for our shipmates; it's times like these that we pull together and demonstrate why the Brotherhood of the Phin is "a brotherhood like no other."

Ken Earls  
President  
USSV Charitable Foundation  
[kenearts.ss@gmail.com](mailto:kenearts.ss@gmail.com)  
[www.ussvcf.org](http://www.ussvcf.org)  
928-308-4488 - Mobile



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**USSVI 2023 National Convention**

Facebook post, 10/8/2022

Just want to update all on the process for convention registration plus vendor requests and ads for the convention magazine.

Tim Carlisle's team is building the links on the USSVI website for all these processes.

1. Forms will be a fillable pdf where all your input info will minimize any errors in processing.
2. All will have an option for either credit card or check/money order payment. The payment must be posted before the transaction is complete if mailed. There will be a credit card processing fee and we'll utilize a vendor with the best rate.
3. We are going to offer a 2 night stay at the Hilton if registered before 3/31/2023. We will post the raffle drawing on Facebook shortly after that date.

We should be ready for this process to be in place within the next month or so. Perhaps shoot for 1/1/2023 as focus now is going to be on the holiday season.

You are currently able to make a hotel room reservation via the long link previously posted on FB. Only \$99/night.

I will also get updates to all on the USSVI email blast when appropriate.

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**Announcing the 2023 – 24 Submarine Veterans Scholarship**

**From the Desk of National Commander Bill Andrea**

National Commander Bill Andrea via [blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com](http://blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com)

10/29/2022, 6:40 AM

November 2022

From our USSVI Charitable Fund:

**Announcing the 2023 – 24 Submarine Veterans Scholarship**

The United States Submarine Veterans Inc. and the United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation have sponsored educational scholarships for nearly 4 decades. These scholarships, given to submarine veterans and their families, have had a huge impact on their continuing education.

The program has expanded eligibility this year. This expansion includes vocational training, trade schools, and apprenticeships for submarine veterans, their children, and grandchildren. The application period for the next academic year is open now.

**Interested individuals can visit the following link to view information about eligibility and the application process.** [Application - United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc. \(ussvcf.org\)](https://ussvcf.org)

Anyone interested in helping to further this program with a tax-deductible donation is encouraged to visit the USSV Charitable Foundation website: [www.ussvcf.org](http://www.ussvcf.org)

Dr. Alan G. Fickett, Ph.D.  
Chairman, USSVCF Academic Scholarship Program  
[alan.csubvets@gmail.com](mailto:alan.csubvets@gmail.com)



**USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-045**

**NEWS-01:** October 2022 VSO

Submitted by: John Dudas, USSVI VSO on 9/27/2022

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Shipmates,

Nearly 15,000 Pharmacies Leaving Tricare Next Month

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/23/nearly-15000-pharmacies-leaving-tricare-next-month.html?ESRC=mr\\_220926.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/23/nearly-15000-pharmacies-leaving-tricare-next-month.html?ESRC=mr_220926.nl)

Record Pay Increase Likely Coming for Disabled Veterans and Military Retirees in 2023

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/08/17/record-va-disability-pay-raise-military-retiree-pay-raise-2023.html?ESRC=mr\\_220926.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/08/17/record-va-disability-pay-raise-military-retiree-pay-raise-2023.html?ESRC=mr_220926.nl)

VA Mulls Pushing Vets to Telehealth Before Offering Local Doctor Appointments

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/22/va-mulls-pushing-vets-telehealth-offering-local-doctor-appointments.html?ESRC=mr\\_220926.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/22/va-mulls-pushing-vets-telehealth-offering-local-doctor-appointments.html?ESRC=mr_220926.nl)

No-Cost Tube Tying Surgeries Will Be Available for Some Through Tricare Next Year, But Not Vasectomies

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/21/no-cost-tube-tying-surgeries-will-be-available-some-through-tricare-next-year-not-vasectomies.html?ESRC=mr\\_220926.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/21/no-cost-tube-tying-surgeries-will-be-available-some-through-tricare-next-year-not-vasectomies.html?ESRC=mr_220926.nl)

Smartphone check-in now at most VA health facilities

[https://news.va.gov/108845/smartphone-check-in-va-health-facilities/?utm\\_source=middle&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=VetResources&utm\\_id=21SEP2022](https://news.va.gov/108845/smartphone-check-in-va-health-facilities/?utm_source=middle&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=21SEP2022)

September is National Life Insurance Awareness Month

[https://news.va.gov/108648/national-life-insurance-awareness-month/?utm\\_source=middle&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=VetResources&utm\\_id=21SEP2022](https://news.va.gov/108648/national-life-insurance-awareness-month/?utm_source=middle&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=21SEP2022)

Sailors' Medical Discharges Halted for Almost a Week Due to Computer Glitch

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/20/sailors-medical-discharges-halted-almost-week-due-computer-glitch.html?ESRC=navy-a\\_220921.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/20/sailors-medical-discharges-halted-almost-week-due-computer-glitch.html?ESRC=navy-a_220921.nl)

VA Family Caregiver Benefits for 'Legacy' Veterans Extended Through 2025

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/15/va-family-caregiver-benefits-legacy-veterans-extended-through-2025.html?ESRC=navy-a\\_220921.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/15/va-family-caregiver-benefits-legacy-veterans-extended-through-2025.html?ESRC=navy-a_220921.nl)

Group Tries to Overload VA Crisis Line to Protest Prosecutions of Capitol Rioters

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/20/group-tries-overload-va-crisis-line-protest-prosecutions-of-capitol-rioters.html?ESRC=navy-a\\_220921.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/20/group-tries-overload-va-crisis-line-protest-prosecutions-of-capitol-rioters.html?ESRC=navy-a_220921.nl)

Major Cut to Cost-of-Living Allowances Planned, Then Put on Hold for Service Members in Hawaii

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/16/major-cut-cost-of-living-allowances-planned-then-put-hold-service-members-hawaii.html?ESRC=navy-a\\_220921.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/16/major-cut-cost-of-living-allowances-planned-then-put-hold-service-members-hawaii.html?ESRC=navy-a_220921.nl)

Navy Gets New Top Enlisted Sailor Who Promises to Focus on Sailors' Needs and Their Families

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/12/navy-gets-new-top-enlisted-sailor-who-promises-focus-sailors-needs-and-their-families.html>

VA Stepping Up Security as It Begins Providing Abortions

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/26/va-stepping-security-it-begins-providing-abortions.html>

Bigger Housing Allowances, Price Cuts at Commissaries Coming Under New Plan Unveiled by Pentagon

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/22/bigger-housing-allowances-price-cuts-commissaries-coming-under-new-plan-unveiled-pentagon.html>

Leading Advocacy Group for Gay Rights in the US Military Shutting Down

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/26/leading-advocacy-group-gay-rights-us-military-shutting-down.html>



**USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-046**

**NEWS-01:** American Submarine 4th Quarter now online

Submitted by: William C. Andrea on 9/30/2022

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Shipmates,

The 4th quarter issue of the American Submariner Magazine is now online. Also, the pdf is interactive in that the reader can go directly to anything listed in the contents by clicking on it. Additionally, clicking anywhere at the bottom of any page will return them to the contents.



**USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-047**

**NEWS-01:** USSVI - Military Veterans Advocacy meeting overview

Submitted by: John Dudas, USSVI VSO on 10/9/2022

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Shipmates,

On October 06,2022, a Zoom Meeting was held between the Military Veterans Advocacy Inc group and the USSVI Organization to acquaint all of the members with the new members who have been voted into their respective organizations.

A few years ago, the USSVI under Wayne Standerfer our National Commander at that time, and the USSVI Veterans Service Officer John Dudas held a meeting where the USSVI would establish a legal term of "Understanding" with the MVA for their support in helping to promote the processing of Blue Water Claims for Submariners with the VA. It has been an ongoing effort with recent success in locating support for the submariners who have been trying to locate any non-classified documents relating to the submarines position within the 12-mile limits of Vietnam.

This meeting was attended by John Wells Chairman of the MVA, Richard Elliott MVA Director of Research who is also a submariner, William "Bill" Andrea Current USSVI National Commander, Wayne Standerfer Immediate Past USSVI National Commander, John Dudas USSVI National Veterans Service Officer and Peter Juhos USSVI Western Region Director who is also John Dudas's immediate supervisor. There were also a few other attendees that were in attendance that I missed, but my old age is catching up with me and slowing everything down, so I have to apologize for my inadequate note taking.

The MVA was instrumental in the process of getting the Blue Water legislation passed and also in the new PACT Act where they actually wrote part of the legislation which is now law. The PACT Act expanded the Agent Orange Presumptive Exposure to new areas which included Guam and American Samoa between the dates of January 09, 1962 through July 30, 1980. It also included Johnson Atoll from January 01, 1972



through September 30, 1977. This opened up a larger exposure for American submarines and submarine tenders. If you served on active duty in any of these areas, or had your ship pull into any of these areas that includes the territorial waters off Guam and American Samoa, then you are automatically assumed "Presumptive" for exposure to Agent Orange.

Submarine Squadron 15 was established on September 01, 1963 and ran through September 30, 1981. From December 1964 through October 1981, 23 different SSBNs completed 398 Polaris Deterrent Patrols in the Pacific. The Submarine Tenders Proteus and Hunley were also stationed in Guam during this period, so there are a multitude of personnel that can now apply for Agent Orange benefits for these timeframes.

The MVA has been working on establishing a list of Deck Logs for this area of operations and so far, have a listing of 48 submarines that comprise 13 SSBNs, 12 SSNs, 20 SS (diesels), 2 SSKs and 1 SSR Submarines. The list is not yet finished and some of the boats are still missing, but they are working diligently to complete this search at the NARA archives. When it is completed, the entire list will be distributed to all members to help with their claims process. The listing will also contain the NARA Log Image with an internet code for you to access that ships Deck Logs for the times they were in the areas of exposure. I can't wait for this to be completed as I know how many of you have been emailing and calling me for help with this missing data. If you are interested in the MVA, please go to their website and see everything they have posted. I realized how valuable their expertise is and have also been a member of MVA for a few years now. Their Membership is not expensive and their website is located at <https://www.militaryveteransadvocacy.org/>.

The PACT information can be found at this location: <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits-esp>

More to come, especially when the listing is completed.

John Dudas USSVI National Veterans Service Officer



**USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-048**

**NEWS-01:** USSVI VSO News for November, 2022

Submitted by: John Dudas, USSVI VSO on 10/26/2022

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Shipmates,

See Your 2023 VA Disability Pay Rates

[https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/va-disability-pay-rates.html?ESRC=navy-a\\_221019.nl](https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/va-disability-pay-rates.html?ESRC=navy-a_221019.nl)

It's Official: Here's the 2023 Pay Raise for Vets and Military Retirees

[https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/allowances/cola-for-retired-pay.html?ESRC=navy-a\\_221019.nl](https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/allowances/cola-for-retired-pay.html?ESRC=navy-a_221019.nl)

Here's the VA Dependency Indemnity Compensation Rates for 2023

[https://www.military.com/benefits/survivor-benefits/dependency-and-indemnity-dic-rates-increase.html?ESRC=navy-a\\_221019.nl](https://www.military.com/benefits/survivor-benefits/dependency-and-indemnity-dic-rates-increase.html?ESRC=navy-a_221019.nl)

Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) Rates Increase for 2023

[https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/special-monthly-compensation-smc-tables.html?ESRC=navy-a\\_221019.nl](https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/special-monthly-compensation-smc-tables.html?ESRC=navy-a_221019.nl)

2022 Veterans Day Retail Deals and Discounts

<https://www.military.com/veterans-day/retailers-veterans-day-military-discounts.html>

Over 41,000 VA Patients Warned of Delayed Care Due to Troubled Electronic Records System

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/10/19/over-41000-va-patients-warned-of-delayed-care-due-troubled-electronic-records-system.html?ESRC=mr\\_221024.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/10/19/over-41000-va-patients-warned-of-delayed-care-due-troubled-electronic-records-system.html?ESRC=mr_221024.nl)

2022 Veterans Day Free Meals and Restaurant Deals and Discounts

[https://www.military.com/veterans-day/restaurants-veterans-day-military-discounts.html?ESRC=mr\\_221024.nl](https://www.military.com/veterans-day/restaurants-veterans-day-military-discounts.html?ESRC=mr_221024.nl)

2022 Veterans Day Retail Deals and Discounts

[https://www.military.com/veterans-day/retailers-veterans-day-military-discounts.html?ESRC=mr\\_221024.nl](https://www.military.com/veterans-day/retailers-veterans-day-military-discounts.html?ESRC=mr_221024.nl)

How Open Enrollment Affects You

<https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/insurance/how-open-enrollment-affects-you.html>

USOs Across the Country Are Mysteriously Shutting Down

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/10/24/usos-across-country-are-mysteriously-shutting-down.html>

Tricare Offers Special, Limited Program to Treat Low Back Pain

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/10/25/tricare-offers-special-limited-program-treat-low-back-pain.html?ESRC=navy-a\\_221026.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/10/25/tricare-offers-special-limited-program-treat-low-back-pain.html?ESRC=navy-a_221026.nl)

VA Increases Housing Grant Amounts

[https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/va-increases-housing-grant-amounts.html?ESRC=navy-a\\_221012.nl](https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/va-increases-housing-grant-amounts.html?ESRC=navy-a_221012.nl)



### A Matter of Perspective

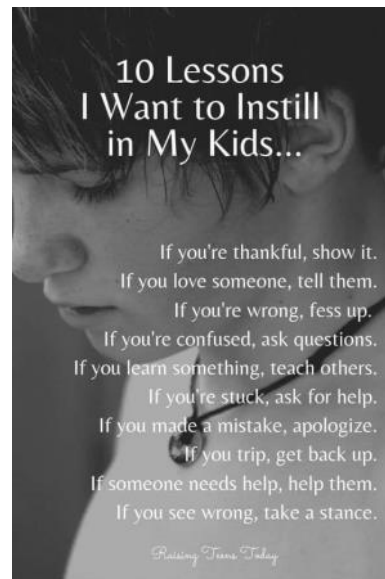
Am I passionate or obsessive?  
That's a *matter of perspective*.  
You can make a quick decision,  
But your opinion is subjective.

Am I eccentric or insane?  
Demented or deranged?  
I won't argue with the claim,  
That I'm particularly strange.

See, the way that we perceive,  
It shapes the way that we believe;  
But let us not deceive ourselves,  
Things aren't always what they seem.

Sometimes I'm like a raging river,  
And other times, a silent stream.  
Is what we see reality?  
Or is it just a vibrant dream?

Jimmy Osborne



### Funny thing that mirrored my life

Thomas is 32 years old and he is still single. One day a friend asked, "Why aren't you married? Can't you find a woman who will be a good wife?" Thomas replied, "Actually, I've found many women I wanted to marry, but when I bring them home to meet my parents, my mother doesn't like them." His friend thinks for a moment and says, "I've got the perfect solution, just find a girl who's just like your mother." A few months later they meet again and his friend says, "Did you find the perfect girl? Did your mother like her?" With a frown on his face, Thomas answers, "Yes, I found the perfect girl. She was just like my mother. You were right, my mother liked her very much." The friend said, "Then what's the problem?" Thomas replied, "My father doesn't like her."

(Copied from another source)



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### Dad Jokes

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"Why do fathers take an extra pair of socks when they go golfing?" "In case they get a hole in one!"

I didn't think the chiropractor would improve my posture. But I stand corrected.

Studies show cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them. It's a case of in one ear and out the udder.

I told my carpenter I didn't want carpeted steps. He gave me a blank stair.

How do chickens communicate with one another? It's said to be fowl language.

An invisible man married an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at, you see.

