



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

JANUARY 2023



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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USSVI NATIONAL COMMANDER

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USSVI NATIONAL SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Jon Jaques 615-893-7800 jaques@bellsouth.net

USSVI CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR

Tom Williams 512-632-9439 texsubvet@yahoo.com

USSVI CENTRAL DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

Rick Mitchell 512-639-0035 rmitch2@yahoo.com

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE OFFICERS

Base Commander Rick Mitchell	512-639-0035	rmitch2@yahoo.com
Vice-Commander Gene Hall	210.373.3198	genehall3198@gmail.com
Yeoman Frank Abernathy	512-426-3427	f.abernathy@utexas.edu
Chief of the Boat Bill Scott	512-826-8876	hscottss242@gmail.com
Treasurer Virgil Claycamp	512-632-4852	vclaycamp@yahoo.com

BASE SUPPORT APPOINTMENTS

Chaplain - Bob Steinmann	512-255-5250	bobandgladys@austin.rr.com
Memorial - Gene Hall	512-864-2860	genehall3198@gmail.com
Storekeeper - Virgil Claycamp	512-632-4852	vclaycamp@yahoo.com
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Newsletter Editor - Bill Scott	512-826-8876	hscottss242@gmail.com
Webmaster - Rick Mitchell	512-639-0035	rmitch2@yahoo.com
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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.

Deck Log Editor

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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/>

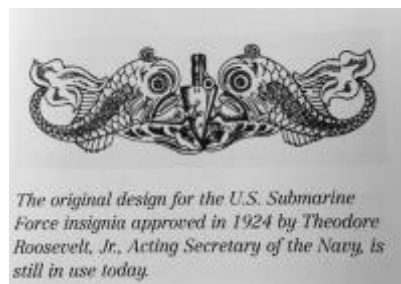
USSVI WEB SITE: <https://www.ussvi.org/>

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



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/>



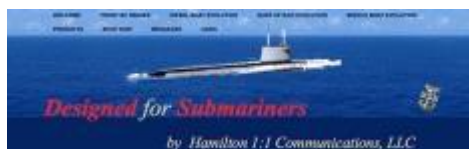
<http://www.submarinesailor.com>



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



<http://isausa.org/>



WWW.DESIGNED4SUBMARINERS.COM



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



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



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



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



SILENT RUNNING - JANUARY

"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



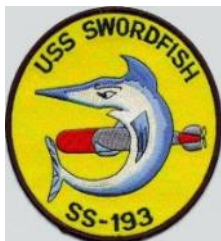
USS Scorpion (SS-278)

Lost on Jan 5, 1944 with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.



USS Argonaut (SS-166)

Lost on Jan 10, 1943 with the loss of 102 officers and men off Rabaul, on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Jap destroyer who along with 2 other destroyers depth charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sunk her by gun fire.



USS Swordfish (SS-193)

Lost on Jan 12, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. Probably was lost to a mine.



USS S-36 (SS-141)

Lost on Jan 20, 1942 with no loss of life, on her 2nd war patrol. She ran hard aground on a reef and radioed for help. The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch ship after they scuttled her.



USS S-26 (SS-131)

Lost on Jan 24, 1942 with the loss of 46 officers and men in the Gulf of Panama, on her 2nd war patrol. She was rammed by the USS PC-460 and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO and one lookout on the bridge, were the only survivors.

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



Happy New Year Shipmates!

Hope each of you along with your family and friends had a Wonderful Christmas and were able to celebrate however you chose to bring in the New Year. Here in the Mitchell home, we usually try to sleep through it and keep the dogs calm from all the crazy fireworks going off around here. This year we are planning to do it a bit different and planning to stay up and have family and friends over and ring in the New Year around a campfire and outdoor movies. Will see how it goes but having friends and family around, I'm sure it will go well. Anyway, Happy New Year to each one of you!

The New Year generally gives us reason to pause and look back at the previous year and celebrate what we experienced or in some cases say goodbye to some experiences. It provides a book end if you will and an opportunity for fresh starts for many of us.

There is a lot of discussion and talks about New Year's resolutions. Personally, I've never really been one for setting resolutions, but I do have goals and am constantly adjusting them and setting new ones, just not on the calendar but I do think it great for people to do if that is what gets them thinking about what we can do better or improve on. So, for all of us who do set resolutions (or goals) here's a couple to consider maybe adding to your list.

1. I'm going to put all our base meetings on the calendar right now so I can plan to attend as many of them as possible as they are always the 3rd Wednesday of the month except for Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec where we have a social on 3rd Saturday. Why? Because by attending you get to hang out and meet some really cool and special people who you have some things in common with.
2. I'm going to play a more active role in my base. I will provide ideas, recommendations, and positive feedback as this is my base and I am responsible for my part. Why? Because its your base and you deserve a chance to have a say in what goes on and you may even say have a responsibility to do so.
3. I'll participate in more parades, local ceremonies, and events. Why? Its fun and it is our #1 way of educating the public about our shipmate's deeds both past and present. We are fortunate to live in a very military friendly community and we are always well received. It's also a good way to find new members.
4. I'll proudly wear my submarine ball cap and various sub related shirts etc. sharing with others about my base and why I am glad to be part of it. Why? Same as #3 above.
5. I will RSVP when requested as this helps the event organizer know that you received the invite and the number to plan for. RSVP means let the organizer know (Yes or No) if you will attend. No response does not necessarily indicate a No, it just means we don't know if you received the invitation. Why? It's just a nice thing to do and it's easy. Communicate your intentions and make a commitment.
6. I will consider participating in one of our Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) programs. Why? Self-explanatory, it brightens a kid's, their parents and hospital staff's day.
7. I will strongly consider attending one of our regional or National events such as the Lonestar Subvet Round Up in San Antonio in April or the National Convention in Tucson in August. Why? Generally, in nice places at reduced cost. Allows you to meet new shipmates of which if you are like me some will become lifelong friends.

I am wishing you all the best and look forward to my time spent with each one of you this year wherever that is. Hopefully you will consider adding 1 or more of these resolutions to you list. Hope to see you Wednesday, January 18th at our 1st base meeting of the year! Remember too, always feel free to call, text, email me anytime. I'm always open for grabbing lunch, coffee, or a beer with a little notice pending my work schedule. Happy New Year Shipmates!

Rick Mitchell - 512-639-0035 - rmitch2@yahoo.com



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BASE TREASURER'S REPORT

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15 December 2022

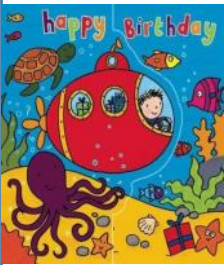
Financial Report for Period Ending 11/30/2022

Beginning Balance - 11/1/2022	\$32,228.00
RBFCU Checking (General Fund)	\$27,176.81
RBFCU Savings (Memorial Fund)	\$3,830.99
Cash to be deposited	\$00
Un-cleared Checks	-\$300.00
Ending Balance - 11/30/2022	\$30,707.80

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

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JANUARY 2023



David Paulson - 2 nd
Fred Maass - 17 th
Bob Lind - 19 th
Robert Slobod - 20 th
Dentous Holloway - 28 th

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP

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

Members listed in Central Texas Database	83
Regular Annual Members	25
National Life Members	48
Base Life Members	41
Holland Club Members	40
Associate Members	1
Dual Members	4
Prospective Members:	0
War Veterans	72
Members pending:	0

Submitted: Chuck Malone, Membership

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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.

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.

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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.

Bill Bellinghausen, John Roberts, Hubert and Linda Jackson, Carla Mitchell, Chuck Trahan's Sister and son.

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.

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

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

18 March 2023, Central Texas Base Quarterly Social, Details TBD

13-16 April 2023, 2023 Lonestar Subvet Round-up, The Menger Hotel, San Antonio, TX

19 April 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).

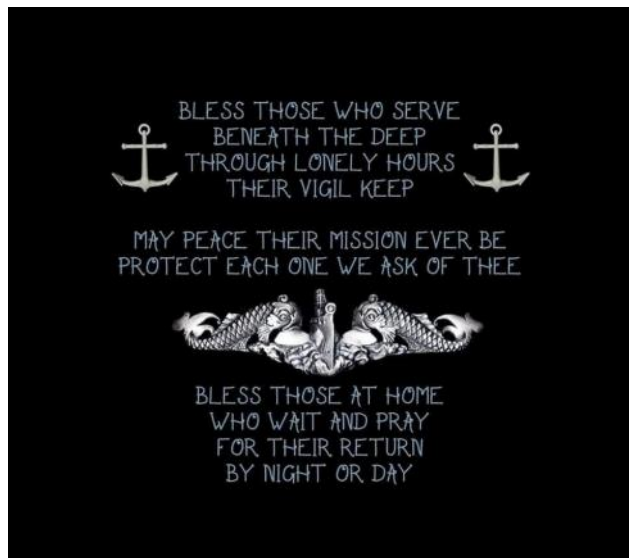
An event was held On 9 November there. Bob Steinmann, Harold Jackson, Harry Ullmann, Rick Mitchell and Shawn O'Shea were in attendance and were well received. They also made an Honorary Submariner of a young man while in the waiting area before their scheduled meeting. Looking forward to Feb 2023 for the next visit. Let Shawn know if you are interested.

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.

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



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Fact Sheet - two pages



In 2020, Congress designated the new 988 dialing code to operate through the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the lead federal agency, in partnership with the Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs, working to make the promise of 988 a reality for America. Moving to a 3-digit dialing code is a **once-in-a-lifetime opportunity** to strengthen and expand the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (the Lifeline).

Of course, 988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number—it is a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress – whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. Preparing for full 988 implementation requires a bold vision for **a crisis care system that provides direct, life-saving services to all in need.**

SAMHSA sees 988 as a first step towards a transformed crisis care system in much the same way as emergency medical services have expanded in the US.



In pursuit of this bold yet achievable vision, SAMHSA is first focused on strengthening and expanding the existing Lifeline network, providing life-saving service to all who call, text or chat via 988. Longer term, SAMHSA recognizes that linking those in crisis to community-based providers—who can deliver a full range of crisis care services—is **essential to meeting crisis needs across the nation.**





Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Lifeline and will 988 replace it?

The **Lifeline** is a national network of over 200 local, independent, and state-funded crisis centers equipped to help people in emotional distress or experiencing a suicidal crisis. **Moving to 988 will not replace the Lifeline**, rather it will be an easier way to access a strengthened and expanded network of crisis call centers. Beginning July 16, 2022, people can access the Lifeline via 988 or by the 10-digit number (which will not go away).

When will 988 go live nationally?

The **988 dialing code** will be available nationwide for call (multiple languages), text or chat (English only) on July 16, 2022. Until then, those experiencing a mental health or suicide-related crisis, or those helping a loved one through crisis, should continue to reach the Lifeline at its current number, **1-800-273-8255**.

How is 988 different from 911?

988 was established to improve access to crisis services in a way that meets our country's growing suicide and mental health related crisis care needs. 988 will provide easier access to the Lifeline network and related crisis resources, which are distinct from 911 (where the focus is on dispatching Emergency Medical Services, fire and police as needed).

How is 988 being funded?

Congress has provided the Department of Health and Human Services workforce funding through the American Rescue Plan, some of which will support the 988 workforce. At the state level, in addition to existing public/private sector funding streams, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 allows states to enact new state telecommunication fees to help support 988 operations.

Is 988 available for substance use crisis?

The Lifeline accepts calls from anyone who needs support for a suicidal, mental health and/or substance use crisis.

Urgent realities.



Too many Americans are experiencing suicide and mental health crises without the support and care they need. In 2020 alone, the US had one death by suicide about every 11 minutes — and for people aged 10-34 years, suicide is a leading cause of death.

Easier access.



Moving to an easy-to-remember, 3-digit dialing code will provide greater access to life-saving services.

There is hope.



Providing 24/7, free and confidential support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress works! The Lifeline helps thousands of people overcome crisis situations every day.

Email 988 questions to:

**988Team@
samhsa.hhs.gov**

CALLING ALL SUBMARINERS!

Come join us in San Antonio, TX April 13-16, 2023 for the 3rd Annual Lone Star Subvet Round-Up!

A gathering for all Submariners and their families and
celebrating the Submarine Force's 123rd Birthday



Friday Evening Welcome Aboard Party
 -Elvis Performance
 -Snacks
 -Submarine Movie
 -Cash Bar

Saturday Banquet
 -Cash Bar
 -Plated Meal
 -Guest Speaker

Tolling of the Boats Ceremony
 at the ALAMO on the Plaza
 Saturday Morning 1100 HRS!
 -Guest Speaker
 -Special Performance by Ms. Donna Jackson
 -Its going to be Special, Don't Miss It!

Many other events planned
 through out the weekend!
PLAN NOW to Come see your old
 Shipmates and meet some new
 ones!

Rooms for \$159/night @ The Menger Hotel
 (requires 2 night stay)
 Click Here for Room Reservations
 Room Block closes 7 March, 2022

Camping is available a many
 nearby campground including
 numerous military bases

Many Great Door Prizes
 throughout the weekend!

For more information
 call 512-639-0035



Any Profits go to the
 USSVI Charitable
 Foundation



SHIPMATES IN ACTION



2023 Lonestar Subvet Round-Up Announcement!

Shipmates,

Here we go! The 2023 Lonestar Subvet Round-Up will be held in San Antonio this year on April 13-16th! We will be based at the Menger Hotel right between the Alamo and the Riverwalk. Room rates will be \$159/night. There are places to camp very close by including a KOA and Fort Sam Houston. Please make sure to spread the word to any Submariners you know. We have a lot planned to include a Welcome Aboard Party with an appearance and performance by Elvis, a Tolling Ceremony on the plaza at The Alamo, and a dinner banquet Saturday night. A few other events are planned to include a Happy Hour get together at The Crocket Tavern and a group tour option for the Buckhorn Saloon and Texas Ranger Museum. There will be plenty of time for you to explore on your own also if you chose. April is a great time to be in San Antonio. Make your plans now and get your reservations made and registrations sent in. You can do this via the web page here:

[Lone Star Subvet Round-Up](#)

Check back to the web page frequently for more updates on the weekend and we will be adding a who's coming section also!

Any questions at all please feel free to reach out anytime.

I also advise you to register early. I cannot say for sure, but I have a feeling, all events may sell out this year.

Thank You,

Rick Mitchell
512-639-0035
Base Commander Central Texas Base
[Central Texas Base – Web Page](#)
[USSVI Central Texas Base | Facebook](#)
District Commander CD4 (Texas)
[USSVI National Web Page](#)
[United States Submarine Veterans | Facebook](#)



'22 CTB Christmas Party

[USSVI Central Texas Base](#) is with Gene Hall and 11 others

Facebook Post and comments, 12/3/2022

Christmas Party Time! Shipmates, family and friends gathered today at the [Cotton Country Club](#) in Granger today. Thanks for hosting us! Enjoyed good food and great friends! We had a gift exchange, shared stories, met many new people and celebrated the year we had together. We also had the privilege of announcing our Sailor of the Year, Carl Repp! Merry Christmas Everyone.

Comments:

- Frank Abernathy - Good Times! BZ Carl Repp! The [Cotton Country Club](#) did a Great Job for this event! BTW, right across the street is a Vietnam Memorial.
- [Cotton Country Club](#) - Such a great group, we enjoyed it. Thanks so much for allowing us to host your special event.
- Dian Snowden Repp - Rick always celebrates ALL well! Blessings to awesome men and women in this Subvet organization who continue to live sacrificially.
- Editor - See pictures at the back of the newsletter.



Christmas Party Wrap-Up

Rick Mitchell, Mon, Dec 5, 9:38 AM

Shipmates,

Carla and I had a great time visiting with many of you on Saturday at the base Christmas Party. I know a few of you were under the weather and could not make it and sure hope you are feeling better now. Even down a few we had what I think may be a record attendance of 75 or so. The Cotton Club did a great job hosting. I want to share the video we saw at the party and the link to an album with pictures I took. If anyone has other pictures you took, please share them in the album or send to me and I can put them in there.

I also wanted to apologize for a glaring omission I made while recognizing our new shipmates for 2022. I recognized these shipmates:

Transfer

Craig RusseLL, and David Miller

New

- Dylan Gray (in attendance, qualified 2013 USS Houston)
- Jake Ferrigan (in attendance, qualified 2012 USS Houston)
- Bryan Eaton (in attendance, qualified 2012 USS Newport News)
- Terry Moore (qualified 1984 on USS Drum)

But I forgot

Colin King who was in attendance with his wife Jennifer. I'm sorry for that Colin and Jennifer. LT King qualified on the USS Maryland in 2004.

Here's the video: [USSVI Central Texas Base 2022 Highlights and Tribute Video](#)

Here's the Photo Album: [CTB Christmas Party](#). See also pictures at the back of the newsletter.



USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS

USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-050

NEWS-01: December 2022 VSO Bulletin

Submitted by: John Dudas, USSVI VSO on 11/30/2022

Shipmates,

This is a correction from the November Newsletter

5 Things You Didn't Know About the Camp Lejeune Legislation

5 Things You Didn't Know About the Camp Lejeune Legislation | ClassAction.org

Be vigilant of PACT Act scammers

https://news.va.gov/107732/be-vigilant-of-pact-act-scammers/?utm_source=feature&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=07SEP2022

Free Lifetime National Parks Passes Are Here for Veterans and Gold Star Families

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/11/09/free-lifetime-national-parks-passes-are-coming-veterans-and-gold-star-families.html?ESRC=navy-a_221116.nl

Here's the Scoop on Disney Military Discounts for 2023

https://www.military.com/discounts/disney-renews-armed-forces-salute-another-year.html?ESRC=navy-a_221116.nl

The Army's Little-Known Boat Fleet Is Getting a Big Upgrade

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/11/14/armys-little-known-boat-fleet-getting-big-upgrade.html?ESRC=navy-a_221116.nl

Many Tricare Users Will See Prices Increase in 2023

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/11/12/some-tricare-users-will-see-small-price-increase-2022.html?ESRC=navy-a_221116.nl

VA to Move Veterans with Cancer to Front of the PACT Act Line

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/11/07/va-move-veterans-cancer-front-of-pact-act-line.html?ESRC=mr_221114.nl

Hotels at Air Force Bases Across the Country Are Closing

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/11/04/hotels-air-force-bases-across-country-are-closing.html?ESRC=mr_221114.nl

VA Starts Doing Toxic Exposure Screenings as Advocates Press for Medical Testing

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/11/07/va-starts-doing-toxic-exposure-screenings-advocates-press-medical-testing.html?ESRC=mr_221114.nl

VA Not Consistently Asking Vets Having Thoughts of Suicide About Firearms, IG Finds

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/11/17/va-not-consistently-asking-vets-having-thoughts-of-suicide-about-firearms-ig-finds.html?ESRC=eb_221118.nl

Express Scripts Invites Independent Pharmacies to Rejoin Tricare in What Critics Call 'Empty Gesture

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/11/16/express-scripts-invites-independent-pharmacies-rejoin-tricare-what-critics-call-empty-gesture.html?ESRC=mr_221121.nl

The Type 2 Diabetes Epidemic Among Veterans Is a National Tragedy. Let's Fix It.

https://www.military.com/daily-news/opinions/2022/11/16/type-2-diabetes-epidemic-among-veterans-national-tragedy-lets-fix-it.html?ESRC=mr_221121.nl

As you know the USSVI organization is in standing with the Military Veterans Advocacy group (MVA), They have an enormous impact on the legislation for Agent Orange exposure for all veterans, and they have been especially helpful with the PACT Act that added Guam and American Samoa to the exposure areas. There were many submarines, tenders and other surface ships that called Guam home for many years and they are now eligible for submitting VA claims for exposure to Agent Orange. I have been working with the MVA personnel and their contacts in both NARA and congress that have resulted in a great deal of support to our submarine veterans. I am also a Life Member of the MVA and am listing their website for you to browse and see just what they are doing to support our submarine community Their "Blue Water Section" is where all of our support is coming from. Please feel free to search their website (which is free) and if you like what you see, please consider becoming a part of their organization. It will help them become large enough to be listed with the VA as a Military Organization supporting veterans. It will be worth your time and energy to do this.

Their website is at Military-Veterans Advocacy (militaryveteransadvocacy.org)



USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-053

NEWS-01: January 2023 USSVI VSO Report

Submitted by: John Dudas, USSVI VSO on 12/28/2022

Shipmates,

Fast facts about new toxic exposure screening for Veterans and Periodic Occupational and Environmental Monitoring Summary (POEMS)

<https://news.va.gov/110809/fast-facts-toxic-exposure-screening/>

PACT Act from the VA Source

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

VA Debuts New Life Insurance Program

https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/2022/11/30/va-debuts-new-life-insurance-program.html?ESRC=mr_221205.nl

See Your 2023 VA Disability Pay Rates

https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/va-disability-pay-rates.html?ESRC=mr_221205.nl

2023 VA Disability Pay

https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-pensions.html?ESRC=mr_221205.nl

2023 Retiree and Survivor Pay Dates

<https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/military-retiree-pay-dates.html>

Military's COVID Vaccine Mandate to Be Repealed by Annual Defense Bill

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/12/07/militarys-covid-vaccine-mandate-be-repealed-annual-defense-bill.html?ESRC=navy-a_221207.nl

2023 Veterans VA Pension Rates

https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-pensions.html?ESRC=navy-a_221207.nl

Thousands of Pharmacies Will Return to Tricare in January

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/12/09/thousands-of-pharmacies-will-return-tricare-january.html?ESRC=mr_221212.nl

Do Veterans Benefits Expire?

https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-benefit-expiration-dates.html?ESRC=mr_221212.nl

4 Outright Lies Veterans Believe About VA Home Loans

https://www.military.com/money/va-loans/4-outright-lies-veterans-believe-about-v-a-home-loans.html?ESRC=mr_221212.nl

Navy to Accept Recruits with Lowest Test Scores as Recruiting Goal Grows

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/12/05/navy-accept-recruits-lowest-test-scores-recruiting-goal-grows.html?ESRC=mr_221212.nl

The REAL ID Deadline Has Been Delayed Once Again, and This Time to 2025

https://www.tripsavvy.com/real-id-tsa-airport-security-5271897?hid=ac96b53e72647a6fa9a79b5c3a5ba059ca96eb1e&utm_campaign=travel-today_newsletter&utm_medium=email&mid=104270987968&did=883670-20221212&utm_source=tripsavvy&utm_content=121222&cid=883670

US Navy Hospital Suspends Care in Haiti After 19 Overboard

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/12/13/us-navy-hospital-suspends-care-haiti-after-19-overboard.html?ESRC=navy-a_221214.nl

Largest Military Pay Raise In 20 Years Headed to Biden's Desk As Part of Defense Bill

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/12/15/largest-military-pay-raise-20-years-headed-bidens-desk-part-of-defense-bill.html?ESRC=navy-a_221221.nl

Biden Urges Veterans to Seek Health Benefits Under New Law

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/12/16/biden-urges-veterans-seek-health-benefits-under-new-law.html?ESRC=navy-a_221221.nl12-Week

Military Parental Leave Benefit Will Be in Place by Next Month

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/12/15/12-week-military-parental-leave-benefit-will-be-place-next-month.html?ESRC=navy-a_221221.nl

Navy Halts Up or Out Rules in Bid to Keep Ranks Filled

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/12/22/navy-halts-or-out-rules-bid-keep-ranks-filled.html?ESRC=mr_221226.nl

(Read the items below that the CBO is proposing and you will see what the MVA is fighting for all of the retired military members - They ARE a Great Group!)

MVA NEWS: Website is at: <https://www.militaryveteransadvocacy.org/>

During the past year, Military-Veterans Advocacy (MVA) has been able to secure benefits for hundreds of thousands of veterans. As well as fighting to obtain benefits for those veterans in Panama and Okinawa, we are also monitoring legislation to ensure earned benefits are not cut.

Did you know that the Congressional Budget Office, (CBO) a supposedly non-profit organization advising Congress on budgetary issues, is urging cuts in veterans' programs?

The bean counters at CBO have made the following proposals:

- End VA's Individual Unemployability Payments to Disabled Veterans at the Full Retirement Age for Social Security
- Reduce VA's Disability Benefits to Veterans Who Are Older Than the Full Retirement Age for Social Security
- Narrow Eligibility for VA's Disability Compensation by Excluding Veterans With Low Disability Ratings
- Use an Alternative Measure of Inflation to Index Social Security and Other Mandatory Programs

<https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2020-12/56783-budget-options.pdf>

MVA has gone toe to toe with CBO in the past. We are prepared to do it again in the future. We are poised to fight against this and other budget cuts at the expense of veterans. To do that, we need to track and monitor all legislation. Our Military-Veterans Advocacy (MVA) legislative tracking tool will all



Inside Yugoslavia's Secret Naval Tunnels

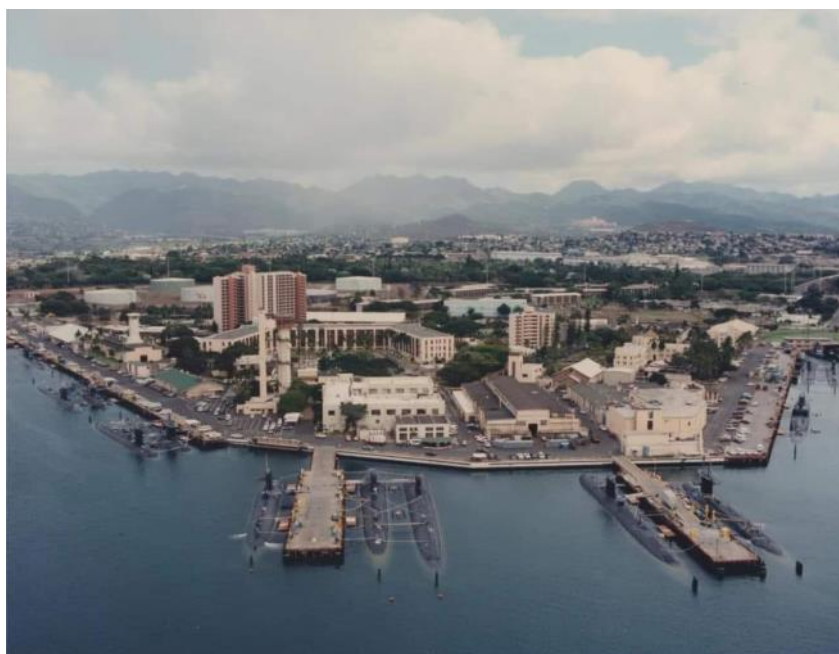
November 29, 2022 14:16 GMT

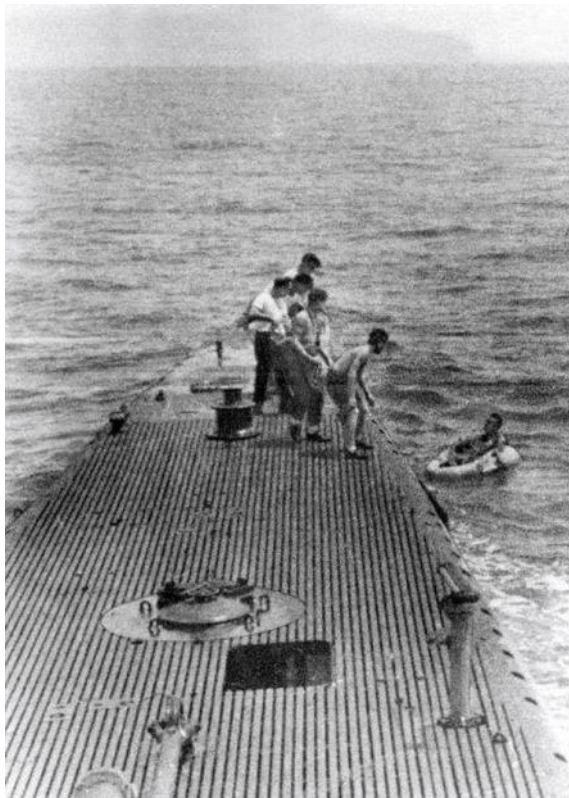
By [Amos Chapple](#)

Camouflaged moorings for ships and submarines hidden along the coastline of Montenegro give a fascinating insight into Cold War tensions.

<https://www.rferl.org/a/montenegro-kotor-secret-submarine-base/32153902.html>

15 photos with captions to see.

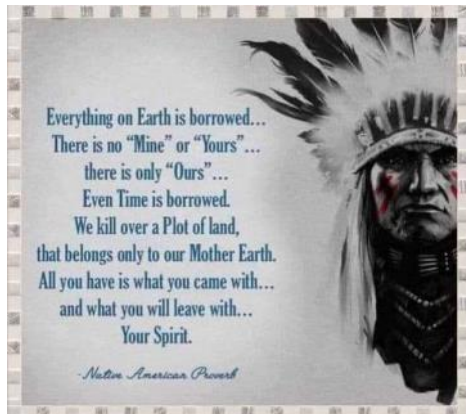




Rescue of Ltjg George Bush 9-2-1944 By USS Finback



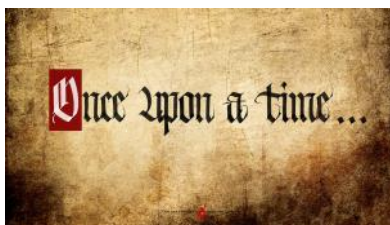
USN Reserve Fleet, Mare Island, ca 1946



My Farmhouse Love

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and live well. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Thank you to everyone who took a few minutes to wish me yet another successful occupation of our earthly dominions and circumnavigation of the sun!



Q. What do you call an overweight psychic?

A. A four-chin teller.

What's the difference between a Hippo and a Zippo?

One's a little heavy and the other is a little lighter.



MORE SHIPMATES IN ACTION

'22 CTB Christmas Party











