



# THE DECK LOG

## USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

### APRIL 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.*

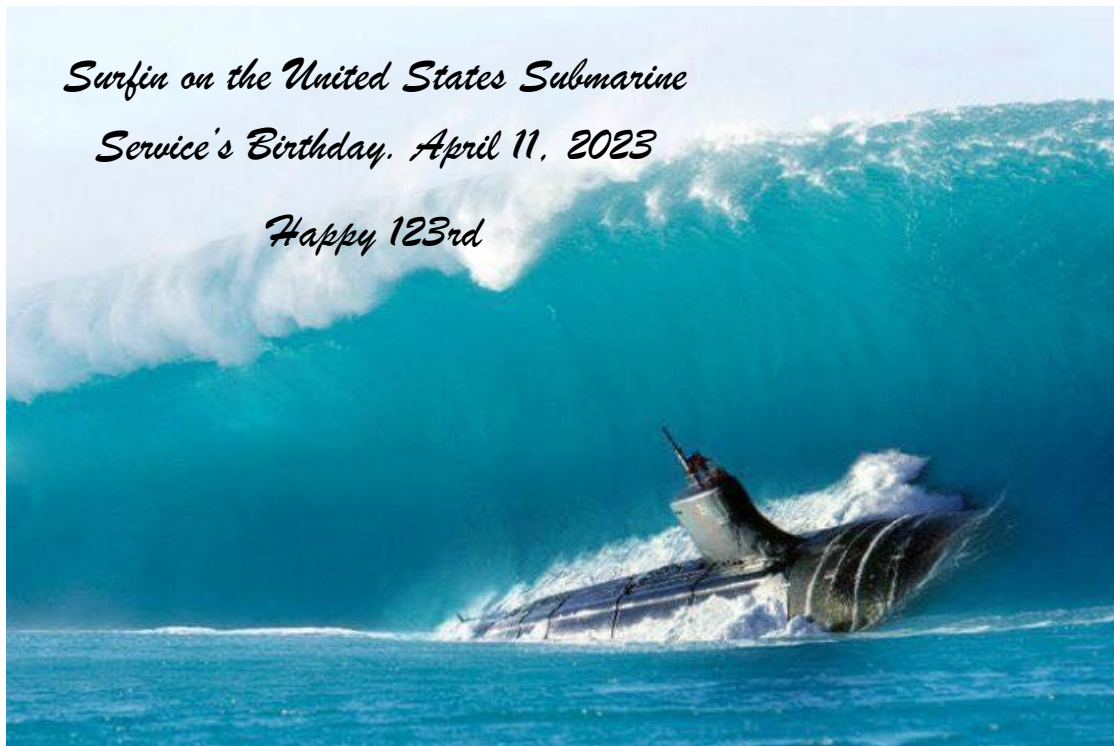
#### Perpetual Remembrance

*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*

*Surfin on the United States Submarine*

*Service's Birthday. April 11, 2023*

*Happy 123rd*



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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Creed	1
Table of Contents	2
Points of Contact	2
Publication, Web Site, Base Mtg	2
Links	3
Silent Running	4
USSVI Central Texas Base News	5
Base Commander's Report	5
Shipmates in Action	6
Base Treasurer's Report	8
Birthdays	9
Membership	9
Storekeeper Corner	9
Binnacle List	9
Calendar of Events	9
Kap(SS)4Kid(SS)	10
Chaplain's Corner	10
USSVI Official Business	11
Submarine News	14
History	17
Thoughts	20
Lone Star Subvet Round-up	23

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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 Mi-crosoft 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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**USSVI WEB SITE:** <https://www.ussvi.org/>

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

**FACEBOOK PAGE:** <https://www.facebook.com/ussvicentaltexas/>

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

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

**U.S. Submarine Service**  
**JOIN USSVI**  
Have you ever worn the proud symbol pictured above? Are you related to, or know someone who is wearing, or has worn, Submarine Dolphins?  
Visit our Web Site at:  
<https://ussvicentaltexasbase.org/>



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



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



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



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



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



Sub Vet Store (americommerce.com)



<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/>



[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://isausa.org/>



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



<https://www.silent-service-challenge-coins.com/>

## ***SILENT RUNNING - APRIL***

*"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 Pickerel (SS-177)**

Lost on April 3, 1943 with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her 7th war patrol. She was lost off Honshu. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.



### **USS Snook (SS-279)**

Lost on April 8, 1945 with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine.



### **USS Thresher (SS-593)**

Lost on April 10, 1963 with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" - then, silence. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.



### **USS Gudgeon (SS-211)**

Lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men off Saipan. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely due to a combined air and surface antisubmarine attack.

Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. On her first patrol, she became the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the submarine I-173.



### **USS Grenadier (SS-210)**

Lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, the plane dropped a bomb causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 61 crew members taken prisoner, 57 survived the war.

**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*



Shipmates,

I hope as you are reading this you find yourselves and your families well. Hard to believe but here we are a quarter of the year behind us and we are now entering the most active quarter of the year for many of us. I just want to say up front how much I appreciate each of you and your efforts in supporting the base and our organization. I understand we all are in different periods of life and cannot do everything we want or are asked to do but if we all pitch in here and there then things continue to get done and that's exactly what has been happening. Thank You for your part in that.

A big tip of the cap to Harry Ullmann for his suggestion and arranging of our social to we held at Mesa Rosa. The turnout was exceptional and we were able to see a few shipmates who we usually don't see. This caused the room we had reserved to need to overflow and fill the adjacent room. Even with the large crowd the restaurant staff did a good job at keeping up and I think everyone enjoyed themselves. Thanks to everyone who attended. Next quarter's social will be our base's annual picnic and internal fundraiser. We will cook and feed you at a park TBD and you donate what you want. We will have some sort of prize(s) we will give away from a raffle for anyone who donates. Details coming soon.

In a few short weeks we have the 3rd Annual Lone Star Subvet Round-Up coming up on April 13-16 in San Antonio. This is looking to be a great event and I see many of you registered and will be attending. I hope everyone considers coming down to San Antonio on the 15<sup>th</sup> though for the Tolling in front of the Alamo. It's free and wouldn't it be great to fill the plaza with Subvets, their friends and family for this! Tell all your friends and spread the word. We have a great speaker VADM John Bird USN (Ret.) and Donna Jackson will be singing for us and it is shaping up to be a great ceremony in a great location. This is a great time to be in San Antonio and there is so much to do, why not bring your families down? Hope to see you there. More info is available on our web page [www.ussvicentraltexasbase.org](http://www.ussvicentraltexasbase.org) or on our FB Page.

In April we also have a scheduled Kaps(SS)4Kid(SS) visit to McLane's Children's Medical Center in Temple. Thank You to our Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) chairman Shawn O'Shea for getting this set-up and coordinating our program. We will also be participating in the Red Poppy Festival Parade this year. We are a bit behind on our float but will be borrowing the BV Base float again. Need your thoughts and ideas on how to decorate it to promote the Poppy Festival along with Georgetown's 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Then in May we are looking at conducting our traditional Memorial Day Tolling in Taylor this year. Our Park is not complete in RR and they have a new ceremony for the public that is held when we used to do our Tolling. There is some mention of possibly turning Armed Forces Day through Memorial Day into a series of events there and maybe through this we can find a fit for our Tolling back in Round Rock again.

Last month I recognized a couple shipmates here who have been serving representing our base and supporting the community in various ways, but always maintaining "ultra quiet" and keeping their heads down and just serving. This month I want to mention Frank Espinosa. We all know Frank and how active he is in all the local Veterans Organizations. A while back Frank had the opportunity to make a presentation to a scout troop on Submarining prior to them heading down to visit the USS Cavalla in Galveston. He did a great job and the presentation was enjoyed by all. Turns out there is video evidence of this. Maybe you might want to check it out here: <https://fb.watch/i-88J5Os5j/> Thank You Frank!

Thank You Everyone, and I hope to see you at some of our events soon!

Respectfully,

Rick Mitchell - 512-639-0035 - [rmitch2@yahoo.com](mailto:rmitch2@yahoo.com)



## SHIPMATES IN ACTION

### USSVI Central Texas Base

Facebook post, 3/16/23

In preparation for our upcoming social this Saturday here's a blast from the past. Our March 2014 social in Walburg. A couple items to note in these pics.

1. How brave the restaurant was to feed a bunch of Bubbleheads right in front of a huge, unlocked beer cooler.
2. How much, but well, we have all aged. 😊
3. The shipmates in these pics that are no longer with us. 😞

Looks like we will have a great turnout this weekend too. Looking forward to seeing what appears to be about 50-60 of you and family members who this weekend! Thanks to everyone who did RSVP one way or the other so we can plan accordingly!



### USSVI Central Texas Base 2023 Lonestar Subvet Round-Up!

Facebook post, 3/16/23

Was able to stop by [Chapline Distillery](#) yesterday to pick up a couple bottles of Critical Batch they donated to the Round-Up. A couple of you are gonna go home pretty happy. Mike and his son Chappy will be at the Crocket Tavern Thursday afternoon where it just so happens they carry his bourbon behind the bar.

Facebook post, 3/23/23

If you ordered a hat or shirt they are in! Great job as always by our shipmate Brian Headon of [Always A Submariner](#). He even threw in few extras, cups, wallets, etc for give aways at the event. Pic is just a sample of a few.



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*USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE SOCIAL—18 MARCH 2023*

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No minutes for the Base Social held on the 18th of March 2023, Mesa Rosa Mexican Restaurant, 15515 Ranch Rd 620 N, Austin, TX 78717

Some pics from our March Social last weekend at Mesa Rosa in Round Rock. We all enjoyed catching up and eating some good Tex-Mex. Recognized a couple shipmates for their efforts including Mike Gauthier for his efforts working on the new float and Bill Bellinghausen for his work with the Boy Scouts.



The Webber's and Eaton's including the one and only Admiral Blake!



Dale and Dianne. Great to see you guys!



Jill with Garret and Shawn and Bill in the background.



Repp's and Keller's



Jean, Dawn, Tom and Phil.



Derald and Tim are lost and find themselves sitting at our USNA Grad (Vern and Chuck) table. It's OK though, they are all Qualified!



Malone's and Story's present.



Colin and Jennifer



Chris and Mary



The Boyer's and Collins'. Can you draw a line to who belongs to who?



And here we have a rare John and Sandra Roberts sighting. Very good to see you guys. Jean, sorry but we always need at least one pic of someone putting food in their mouths



Got a few plank owners here. Great to see the Jackson's, Brinkman's, Ullmann's, Atkin's and Steinman's all out here today!



Rick getting schooled again.

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***BASE TREASURER'S REPORT***

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**15 March 2023**

**Financial Report for Period Ending 2/28/2023**

<b>Beginning Balance - 2/1/2023</b>	<b>\$34,452.52</b>
RBFCU Checking (General Fund)	\$34,464.50
RBFCU Savings (Memorial Fund)	\$4,364.76
Un-cleared Checks	\$0
<b>Ending Balance - 2/28/2023</b>	<b>\$38,829.29</b>

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer





*APRIL 2023*



Dale Messing - 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Michael Goulding - 13<sup>th</sup>  
 Frank Abernathy - 17<sup>th</sup>  
 Frank Espinosa - 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Mike Gauthier - 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Harry Ullmann - 30<sup>th</sup>  
 Terry Moore - 30<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	22
National Life Members	51
Base Life Members	41
Holland Club Members	40
Associate Members	1
Dual Members	3
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.

John Roberts, Bob Steinman, Bill Bellinghausen, Chuck Trahan (back surgery), Carla Mitchell, Other Ship-mates not CTB members?

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.**

13-16 April 2023, 2023 Lonestar Subvet Round-up, The Menger Hotel, San Antonio, TX. [Lone Star Subvet Round-Up – Central Texas Base \(ussvicentraltexasbase.org\)](http://ussvicentraltexasbase.org)

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

28-30 April 2023, Red Poppy Festival Parade, Georgetown, TX, 29 April @ 1000 with line up at 0800.

30 April 2023, All Award nominations must be received by the National Awards Chair at the close of business on this date.

20 May 2023, Planting and Pick-up of U.S. Flags @ IOOF Cemetery, 1117 E. 7th Street, Georgetown, TX 78626, by VFW Post 8587 and American Legion Post 174 and their chartered Boys Scout troops, for Memorial Day Observance; Planting - Saturday, 20 May @ 0800, Pick-up/retrieval - Saturday, 3 June @ 0800.

29 May 2023, Memorial Day Tolling of the Boats Ceremony, to be held in Taylor, Texas with the City of Taylor's support at the Memorial Park (large covered area in the event of rain). The guest speaker will be MMCM (SS) Duane Ariola, Taylor City Council Member, American Legion Vice-Commander, retired in 2005 and is a Taylor High school Alumni.

21 June 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)*



DELL Children's Medical Center – Round Rock, is opening up for outside visitors and events like Kap(SS) 4Kid(SS). Our K4K team members hosted a wonderful event on February 7<sup>th</sup> that put a smile on the children's faces. I have scheduled another visit on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with Baylor, Scott, White McLane Children's Medical Center - Temple 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 upcoming events, please contact me at 702-682-9170 or [soshea77@outlook.com](mailto:soshea77@outlook.com).

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



*CHAPLAIN'S CORNER*



**THE FIFTH SET**

**READ SLOWLY**

You know ... Time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But, here it is.... **The 5th set of my life** and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that I was only in the first set and the end of the match was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me...but, I see the great change. Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter into this last set of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that though I made it to the fifth set, and I'm not sure how long it will last. I could get lucky and take this match into overtime . . . . but this I know, that when it's over on this earth...it's over. A new adventure will begin! **Yes, I have regrets.** There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done.

It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in the fifth set yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're in the fifth set or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life....so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

**"Life" is a gift to you.** The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one. **LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY! HAVE A GREAT DAY**

Remember **"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.**

LASTLY, CONSIDER THIS:

- ~Your kids are becoming you.....but your grandchildren are perfect!
- ~Going out is good. Coming home is better!
- ~You forget names....But it's OK because some people forgot they even knew you!!!
- ~You realize you're never going to get any better at anything like tennis....you just want to keep the ball in play a little longer.
- ~The things you used to care to do, you aren't as interested in anymore, but you really don't care that you aren't as interested.
- ~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV 'ON' than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".
- ~You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch..
- ~You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what?"..."when?"....???
- ~You notice everything they sell in stores that's your size . doesn't fit anymore"?
- ~What used to be freckles are now liver spots.
- ~Everybody whispers.
- ~You have several sizes of clothes in your closet....most of which you will never wear.
- ~But Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!!

Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!" Send this on to other "Old Friends!" and let them laugh in AGREEMENT!!! It's Not What You Gather, But What You Scatter That Tells What Kind Of Life You Have Lived.

**TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN; YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE, SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS**

**GOD BLESS THOSE THAT READ THIS.**



**2023 Western Region Roundup**

**From the Desk of the Western Region Director – Pete Juhos 3/6/2023**

Pete Juhos, MMCS(SS/SS1) USN. Ret, [via](mailto:via_blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com) blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com, 3-7-2023

**2023 Western Region Roundup**

Shipmates!

The 2023 Western Region Roundup planning is well underway, hard at work to prepare and deliver this time-honored event at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento, CA from April 27 to April 29, 2023.

The WRR is not a convention, nor is it intended to supplement or replace the annual USSVI National Convention. It is open to all submariners, veterans, and active duty alike, are invited. Its purpose is multi-fold - to provide Regional and District Commanders, and Base Officers to discuss USSVI business, engage in facilitated workshops to exchange ideas and communicate ways to improve Base operations, improve new member recruiting and retention, engage the ever-changing social media fabric to our advantage. As always our goal is to provide a way for all Submariners to gather for mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

Visit our website, <https://wrroundup.com/> to register for the event, and make your lodging reservations, look forward to connecting with your Shipmates.

Pride Runs Deep!

Pete Juhos, MMCS(SS/SS1) USN. Ret  
Western Region Director  
[dsv3.ss1@gmail.com](mailto:dsv3.ss1@gmail.com)



### USSVI 2023 National Convention Updates

#### Facebook Post, 3/4/23, 12:40 PM

Thanks to Past NC Standerfer for stepping in and resolving issues with the National website.

When you access the site, one does not have to log in to access the Convention links. Click on "Visitor" and a 2023 Convention link will take you to our various sub-links. One form, the Vendor Application for the Hospitality Suite, is now being worked on to add to the convention page.

The committee will be sending forms out directly to vendors that have applied in the past. If you want a form before it's linked to the website, please contact Dennis Ottley, Convention Chair, at [dottley888@comcast.net](mailto:dottley888@comcast.net).

See you in August.

#### Facebook Post, 3/4/23, 12:39 PM

This is a reminder to all Bases, Districts, Regions, sponsors and vendors that the window to create the Convention Magazine is basically just around the corner. The cutoff date is 7/1/2023 in order to allow for compiling and printing time frames.

The magazine ad form is on the National website ([ussvi.org](http://ussvi.org)) and when you click on the tab the word doc will download to your hard drive.

The magazine is an important source of revenue for our convention as it contributes to the financial success for USSVI and your support is very much appreciated.

Looking forward to sea stories in August.



### National All-Hands Bulletin

**This message is being sent to all USSVI member's current listed email address**

#### From the Desk of the National Convention Chair

Dennis Ottley, [ussviwesterndistrict1@gmail.com](mailto:ussviwesterndistrict1@gmail.com), via [blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com](http://blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com), 3/13/2023

#### 2023 National Convention Update

Shipmates,

This is a reminder to all Bases, Districts, Regions, sponsors, and vendors that the closing window to create the Convention Magazine is basically just around the corner. The cutoff date for submissions is 7/1/2023 to allow for compiling and printing time frames.

The Magazine Ad Form is on the National website ([ussvi.org](http://ussvi.org)) under the Vendor tab, and when you click on the Magazine Ad Form, the word document will download to your hard drive.

The magazine is an important source of revenue for our convention as it contributes to the financial success of USSVI, and your support is very much appreciated.

The Convention Committee is offering all Bases a 10% discount for each ad size.

In addition, the Vendor Application Form is available under the Vendor tab. If you want a table or tables in the Hospitality Suite please download, fill out, and send your check or money order to the address on the form. If you need electrical power, it's an additional charge. We will work with any vendor for location within the suite. When we shut down the suite for the day a wall closes off the vendor area and is secure.

As an enticement to register asap, we are going to conduct a drawing for those who are registered for the convention by 4/30/2023 with the winner receiving a 2-night stay in an Executive Suite for nights of 9/1 and 9/2. Let's get your registration in ASAP.

Sub Reunions are an integral part of the National Convention. We want to welcome all boat coordinators to schedule their reunion during the 2023 National Convention as you'll be able to enjoy the \$99 hotel room rates and other costs that fall under our contract. Contact Bob Bowe at [bob\\_bowe@outlook.com](mailto:bob_bowe@outlook.com) and coordinate with Barbara Soto, Hilton Event Manager at [barbara.soto@hilton.com](mailto:barbara.soto@hilton.com) or 520.544.1150.

All the Best and looking forward to seeing all of you in Tucson.

Dennis Ottley, 2023 National Convention Chairman



### USSVI 2023 National Convention Update

#### Facebook Post, 3/14/23, 10:45 AM

The new website [ussvi.org](http://ussvi.org) now has a much easier way to access the convention page. No need to login. Once on the website click on the "Visitors" tab. The first link is "2023 National Convention". That will take you to all the links/information pages related to the convention.

We now have the ability for all interested individuals to register and attend the convention. One does NOT need to be a member of USSVI in order to attend the convention.



### USSVI National Bulletin

#### From the Desk of USSV Charitable Foundation President, Kenneth Earls

USSVCF Chairman Ken Earls [via blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com](mailto:blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com), Sun, Mar 26

#### USSV Charitable Foundation Volunteers Needed

Shipmates,

Over the past few months, the USSV Charitable Foundation has attracted several new volunteers to help build our organization. We are looking for at least two more.

**Secretary - Backup.** Anyone who has served as a base secretary can easily fill this position as the backup to the Charitable Foundation's Secretary. The amount of time required is small. This position also sits on the Charitable Foundation's Investment Committee, both as the committee secretary and as a voting member. The requirements are the same as for serving as a Secretary of any base and do include the need to be able to attend Zoom meetings whenever they are called. That happens infrequently. If interested, please contact Ray Wewers or Ken Earls, contact info is below.

**Legacy Fund Manager - Backup.** The Legacy Fund is a critical fund within our organization, the Legacy donations form the foundation for our investments and provide longevity for the Charitable Foundation. Requirements are simply to have a strong interest in the US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation and what it does. It helps to have some experience in or an understanding of the Time Value of Money. The amount of time spent is completely dependent on your desire to be of assistance. Time can range from a couple of hours per year to a few hours per month and could include working with others within the Charitable Foundation's team of volunteers. If interested, please contact Jon Jaques or Ken Earls, contact info is below.

Ray Wewers - [raywewers@gmail.com](mailto:raywewers@gmail.com), Jon Jaques - [jjagues@bellsouth.net](mailto:jjagues@bellsouth.net),

Ken Earls, President  
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928-308-4488 - Mobile



**U.S. SECNAV Names Future Virginia-Class SSN “John H. Dalton”**

Secretary of the U.S. Navy (SECNAV) Carlos Del Toro announced during the U.S. Naval Academy’s Submarine Officer Selectee Dinner that future Virginia-class nuclear-powered attack submarine SSN-808 will be named USS John H. Dalton (SSN 808).

Naval News Staff, 01 March 2023

US Navy press release

The future USS John H. Dalton will honor John H. Dalton, the 70<sup>th</sup> Secretary of the Navy, who served on two submarines USS Blueback (SS 581) and USS John C. Calhoun (SSBN 630) before departing active duty to pursue graduate education and a career in the private sector.

*“I couldn’t be prouder to name this future submarine after John Dalton. He served as a proud submariner and as Secretary of the Navy, he took strong and principled stands against sexual assault and harassment and oversaw the integration of female Sailors onto combat ships. The changes he drove almost thirty years ago are evident in all corners of our Navy today, with women serving on, above, and below the sea. A ship bearing his name brings strength to the crew who will undoubtedly operate it with the courage and dignity of John H. Dalton.”*

Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the U.S. Navy

A native of Louisiana, Dalton graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1964 and entered active naval service. Separating from the Navy in 1969, Dalton held positions at top private sector firms before President Carter nominated him in 1977 to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Government National Mortgage Association. He then served (as a member and later as chairman) on the Federal Home Loan Bank Board from late 1979 until mid-1981. President Clinton nominated Dalton as Secretary of the Navy in 1993, a position he would hold until 1998. As Secretary of the Navy, Dalton took principled stands in defense of women in the Navy on issues of sexual assault and harassment in the wake of the Tailhook scandal.

He was honored in 1997 by the National Security Caucus as the recipient of its International Security Leadership Award, the first Service Secretary to receive such distinction. When his tenure as Navy Secretary concluded, Dalton returned to business as well as advisory work and charitable undertakings, most notably with the White House Historical Association, Washington National Cathedral, Habitat for Humanity, and Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Attack submarines are designed to seek and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships; project power ashore with Tomahawk cruise missiles and Special Operation Forces (SOF); carry out Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions; support battle group operations; and engage in mine warfare.

**Australia to purchase up to five submarines from U.S. as part of defense pact, report says**

Justin Klawans, The Week Staff writer

Wed, March 8, 2023 at 5:45 PM CST

[https://news.yahoo.com/australia-purchase-five-submarines-u-234528299.html?fr=sycsrp\\_catchall](https://news.yahoo.com/australia-purchase-five-submarines-u-234528299.html?fr=sycsrp_catchall)



An Australian submarine. Yuri Ramsey/Australian Defence Force via Getty Images

Australia is expected to buy up to five submarines from the United States as part of a new defense agreement, [Reuters](#) reported Wednesday.

The Australian Navy is expected to purchase the Virginia-class nuclear submarines sometime in the 2030s, four sources from the U.S. military told [Reuters](#). Australia will reportedly first purchase three submarines, with the option to buy two more at a later time. The officials also said that the United States would begin deploying some submarines in Western Australia around 2027.

The submarine purchases are part of a new deal called the AUKUS agreement. Described by [The Guardian](#) as "a new three-way strategic defense alliance to build a class of nuclear-propelled submarines ... [and] work together in the Indo-Pacific region," the AUKUS agreement [was signed](#) between the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia in 2021.

The exact details of the submarine program are expected to be revealed this coming Monday, when President Biden meets with the leaders of Australia and the U.K. in San Diego. [Politico](#) reported that Biden will "unveil the first phase of an ambitious three-nation nuclear submarine deal," which has been in the works for the past 18 months as the trio of nations try to come to a defense agreement.

[Reuters](#) reported that Australia is planning to outfit the submarines to meet their specifications, with [The Guardian](#) reporting that they will implement "British design success" but "will also make heavy use of U.S. technology." However, the submarines will likely not be ready until the late 2030s or early 2040s.

The AUKUS agreement has [been controversial](#) due to its perceived walk backs of previous alliances. While the pact is meant to strengthen Pacific defenses against China, [France previously had](#) an Australian submarine deal in place that had to be scrapped because of AUKUS.

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## **AUKUS Is About Far More Than Submarines**

For AUKUS to matter, it will need to move from conception to reality at full speed.

by Charles Edel, March 18, 2023

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/aukus-about-far-more-submarines-206325>

On Monday in San Diego, President Joe Biden met with his Australian and British counterparts and announced what amounts to one of the most significant shifts in U.S. security policy in decades. Standing atop the USS *Missouri*, a *Virginia*-class nuclear-powered submarine docked at the U.S. Naval Base Point Loma and facing the Pacific Ocean, the three leaders announced the way forward for [AUKUS](#), the trilateral defense pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

That announcement came almost eighty years ago to the day that President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Lend-Lease Act into law. That act allowed the United States to lend or lease defense materials to any nation deemed "vital to the defense of the United States." The United States shipped more than \$50 billion worth of equipment to supply Moscow, Beijing, Paris, and London in their warfighting efforts, and ultimate-

ly helped them prevail in their struggle against totalitarian forces in World War II. After Lend-Lease had become official American policy, Roosevelt declared that “here in Washington, we are thinking in terms of speed and speed now.” What was true for Roosevelt’s America, is true today. For AUKUS to matter, it will need to move from conception to reality at full speed.

The big news out of the leaders’ meeting all revolves around submarines—America and the United Kingdom will increase the frequency of their port visits to Australia, the United States will start a rotational deployment of submarines to Australia within the next several years, Washington will sell Australia three to five of its *Virginia*-class attack submarines, and ultimately, Australia will begin [building submarines](#) that are British-designed and loaded with American technology and weapons systems.

What was revealed yesterday, however, is significantly more ambitious than that. AUKUS, it turns out, is about much more than submarines, and more than even a trilateral defense partnership. Fundamentally, it represents a bet that by integrating industrial capacities and increasing interoperability between the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia, the capabilities of two of America’s closest allies will become much more powerful, and that will ultimately change Beijing’s calculations about its security environment. The real goal here is to stabilize a region that has been deeply destabilized by China’s rapid expansion of its military capabilities and increasingly aggressive foreign policy.

Over the past decade, Beijing has built up a [formidable military arsenal](#). Growing capabilities, both quantitative and qualitative, have abetted an expanding set of goals and resulted in growing concern in the region. Once content to shelve territorial disputes with its neighbors, Beijing now uses its strengthened military to increasingly lean on, intimidate, and attack neighboring states while it seizes disputed territory, builds military bases and outposts throughout the region, and projects its power further afield. Most observers now believe that China may eventually be looking to weaken American alliances in the region and push U.S. forces and bases out of Asia altogether.

Any serious response to China's actions needs to increase allied capabilities, diversify U.S. force posture, and underscore that the United States and its allies are willing to push back against Beijing's destabilizing activities. If what was announced in San Diego can be pulled off, and pulled off in a timely manner, it has the potential to accomplish those goals by putting more ships in, and under, the water throughout the Indo-Pacific. This would add to the combined nuclear-powered submarine forces of the three nations; negate some of Beijing’s local advantages by increasing the range, power, and stealth of the allied presence; and reinforce that these three nations are willing to work collectively to deter future acts of Chinese aggression.

AUKUS is the most substantial response yet to China's rapidly expanding military power—and a harbinger of where American and allied strategy will need to go. It is a public declaration that the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom are aligning their strategies more closely in order to ensure that they are sufficiently armed and able to push back against acts of aggression in the future.

It also has the potential to transform the industrial shipbuilding capacity of all three nations, accelerate technological integration, change the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific, and, ultimately, transform the model of how the United States works with and empowers its closest allies.

Of course, this new agreement brings risks too—the weight of its ambitions alone might sink those submarines. On top of those great expectations lies a challenging road ahead to bring AUKUS from concept to reality. That includes maintaining bipartisan support for this initiative in all three countries over multiple decades; ensuring sufficiently large investments are made into the industrial base and shipbuilding capacity of all three nations; finding, training, and retaining more scientists, shipbuilders, and nuclear-trained submariners; changing the way the United States shares and Australia protects sensitive technology; and pulling this all off in a way that begins providing deterrence now—not a decade from now.

Much has changed since 1941 when Roosevelt described Lend Lease as an initiative to provide “aid to democracies,” and declared that the country had awoken from a long slumber to “realize the danger that confronts us.” Neither China nor Russia is an ally today. This time, the United States is not giving, but selling, its most advanced technology. And thankfully, the world is not at war. But the logic that held then, holds now. Stronger allies, working together, have the best chance of defending themselves, deterring further acts of aggression, and preserving peace.

AUKUS has the potential to play a tremendous role in defense, in deterrence, and in the maintenance of peace. The question that remains is whether the governments, legislatures, and industries of the three nations can proceed with “speed and speed now.”



Charles Edel is the inaugural Australia Chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Previously, he was an associate professor at the U.S. Naval War College and worked in the Secretary of State's Office of Policy Planning.



### GOLD FROM UNDER THE SEA

The crew of the submarine Trout (SS-202) which transported Philippine gold and securities are shown unloading the cargo after getting it out of Corregidor under the noses of the Japanese.

WOODBURY WILLOUGHBY; Who supervised transfer of Philippine gold.

Rear Admiral Thomas Withers congratulates Lt. Comdr. Frank W. Fenno on the successful completion of the voyage from the Philippines with the treasure.

Photo # 80-G-45971 Unloading gold bars from USS Trout, at Pearl Harbor, March 1942





**Naval Sea Systems Command**



#ThrowbackThursday! Did you know that in 1975 Hull Technician 3rd Class Donna Tobias made history when she became the first woman to graduate from the Navy’s Deep Sea Diving School as the Navy’s first female hard hat diver.

She chose the rate of a hull technician when her recruiter told her “no way, women can’t get in” as a diver. With persistence she worked for a waiver to attend dive school. After graduation, without the ability to get sea duty orders at the time, her first assignment was as an instructor at the Submarine Escape Training Tank at Submarine Naval Base in New London. Tobias was involved in search and salvage operations in Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean, and participated in the sinking of a World War II ship to construct an artificial reef in Chesapeake Bay.

Learn more about women’s journey to join the U.S. Navy’s diving community in this online exhibit at the [U.S. Naval Undersea Museum](https://www.history.navy.mil/.../online/women-divers.html): <https://www.history.navy.mil/.../online/women-divers.html>

Also, see more women making history across the U.S. Navy in the Women in the Navy e-book: <https://buff.ly/41Y2J17>. (We challenge you to look for NAVSEA’s own change makers listed here!)

#WomensHistoryMonth



**Submarine Cobia to celebrate 80 years**

by Eric Peterson, FOX 11 News

Sun, March 12th 2023, 12:00 PM CDT

<https://fox11online.com/news/local/submarine-cobia-to-celebrate-80-years-manitowoc-wisconsin-maritime-museum-karen-duvalle-history-birthday-world-war-two-dock-project-sturgeon-bay>



*USS Cobia Submarine docked in Manitowoc, March 8, 2023 (WLUK/Eric Peterson)*

MANITOWOC, Wis. (WLUK) -- A grand bash for a Lakeshore favorite is in the works.

The submarine U.S.S. Cobia turns 80 this year, and those at the [Wisconsin Maritime Museum](#) are getting ready to celebrate.

She sits in the shallow channel not far from the mouth of the Manitowoc River.

"Cobia was built in Groton, Connecticut. She's 311 feet, nine inches long, and 28 feet wide," said Karen Duvall, Wisconsin Maritime Museum Submarine Curator.

Duvall says the keel on The U.S.S. Cobia was laid on March 17, 1943.

"So, it's a St. Patrick's Day boat. We always kind of celebrate that together. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the keel-laying. So, we always have some fun with it -- call it a birthday party. And we have cake and cupcakes for people that attend," she said.

Duvall says Cobia has a rich naval history, dating back to World War II.

"The boat served six patrols in the Pacific, sinking 13 ships. And they also rescued seven downed airmen," she said.

Duvall says about 80 crew members were on board.

"The captain was the old man. He was mid to early 30s. Most of the crew were 19 and 20 year olds," she said.

"How small it is, how cramped the quarters, their tiny bunks that they had. They couldn't bring a lot of stuff with them. Ninety-degree temperatures. No sunlight for two months," said Duvall.

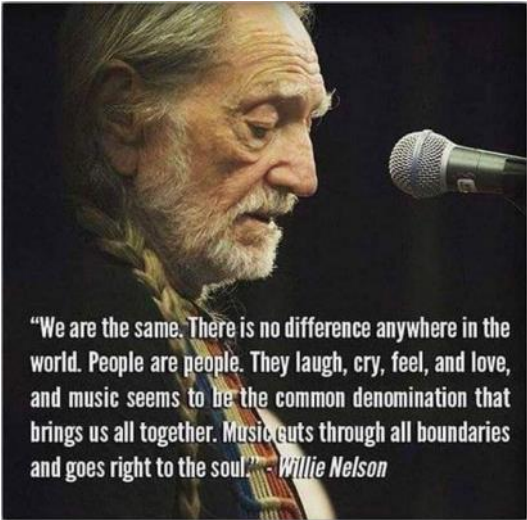
Duvall says the boat was brought to the Wisconsin Maritime Museum site in 1970 and has been a popular Manitowoc attraction ever since.

"Cobia is one of the best-preserved submarines or museum ships in the country. Very few modifications were done to the sub. So, it still has that World War II look. It's always been in good hands here, which is why we want to continue that tradition and dry dock," she said.

Duvall says the museum is raising about \$1.5 million to temporarily move Cobia to the shipyard in Sturgeon Bay for some work.

"It's been since '96 that we pulled the boat out of the water, inspected it, cleaned, painted it. So, just general routine maintenance to be good stewards of the boat," she said.

The U.S.S. Cobia Submarine birthday celebration is March 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$8.



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lizclimo.tumblr.com

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### Carrots, Eggs, or Coffee; "Which are you?"

Grandmother says... Carrots, Eggs, or Coffee; "Which are you?"

A young woman went to her grandmother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved a new one arose.

Her grandmother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water. In the first, she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs and the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her granddaughter, she asked, "Tell me what do you see?"

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

She brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they got soft. She then asked her to take an egg and break it.

After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, she asked her to sip the coffee. The granddaughter smiled, as she tasted its rich aroma. The granddaughter then asked. "What's the point, grandmother?"

Her grandmother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity--boiling water--but each reacted differently.

The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But, after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened.

The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her granddaughter.

"When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I?

Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity, do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff?

Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and a hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you.

When the hours are the darkest and trials are their greatest do you elevate to another level?

---AUTHOR UNKNOWN ---





**I asked my wife if  
I was the only one  
she'd been with.**

**She said yes, all  
the others had been  
nines and tens...**

=====

### Another version of The Three Bears

Momma Bear, Poppa Bear and Baby Bear returned from their morning walk and Poppa Bear said, "Someone's been sitting in my chair." This sentiment was echoed by Momma Bear and Baby Bear. Later, Poppa Bear said, "Someone has been eating my porridge." Again this was echoed by Momma Bear and Baby Bear. Bedtime arrives and Poppa Bear and Momma Bear said in unison "Someone's been sleeping in my bed." Baby Bear said "Goodnight."

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### They're A\*\*holes.

A grade school teacher often gave her students Lifesavers as a treat. The children began to identify the flavors by their color:

Red – Cherry, Yellow – Lemon, Green – Lime, Purple – Grape.

Finally the teacher gave them all honey lifesavers. None of the children could identify the taste. The teacher said, "I will give you all a clue. It's what your mother may sometimes call your father."

One little girl looked up in horror, spit her lifesaver out and yelled, "Oh my God! They're a-holes!"

# 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

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throughout the weekend!

For more information  
call 512-639-0035



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