



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

MAY 2023



Past



Present



Future



USSVI Creed

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

Camaraderie

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

Perpetual Remembrance

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



In Remembrance of Those



On Eternal Patrol

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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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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, 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



www.navyleague.org



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



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/>



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



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



[Naval History and Heritage Command](http://www.history.navy.mil/)

SILENT RUNNING - MAY

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



USS Logarto (SS-371)

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

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



USS Scorpion (SSN-589)

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



USS Squalus (SS-192)

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



USS Stickleback (SS-415)

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

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





USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS

BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Shipmates,

Seems like I was just writing last month's BC Report. Man, time really is starting to go fast. They say that happens as you get older. I don't know if it's that or that we just are getting better at cramming more stuff in at every opportunity. Here in the Mitchell household, we have decided we need to make a few changes and will be making a small move North to Salado. Of course, this is going to fill every spare minute we have over the next few months (and we don't have many) with more stuff. Hopefully it is a path to freeing up time though down the road. Enough about us though. It was good to see such a great turnout at our monthly meeting this month and at the Round-Up in San Antonio. So many things I saw and heard from many of you, I wish I could share all of it but I am going to talk about something I heard at our last meeting.

We had a couple of potential (they say they are joining us) new members at our meeting. Charles Goertz, which was his second time he joined our meeting and Dwayne Ariola who visited for the first time. When Dwayne was introducing himself, he mentioned how he was a member of many different veterans' organizations just like many of us. He really didn't know much about USSVI and kept on being hounded by someone to show up at a meeting and finally did and when he did this month when he got in the room, and you all started showing up there was a feeling he was home with his shipmates.

He mentioned how it felt good to be able to be part of a group of people who had a common bond. And I agree and feel the same. We all spent time on boats of various types, and different times but we do have a common bond unlike many others. Not that we are any more special than anyone else, but we all did volunteer for this duty and we all "qualified". Some of us served one term and some a career and many in between. We all got out and went on to our civilian careers and do many different things, but I think we can all say that those years we spent onboard the boats has played a part in who we are and what we are doing now. And that leads me into the second part of what I believe I heard him say.

He mentioned how great it was to see a group of guys so engaged and with such a high participation level in doing the things we do. He's right, I'm not sure how many of you attend other veterans' organization meetings but our turn out at meetings alone is generally close to 30-35% of membership. Most other organizations I see around here are lucky to have maybe 5-10% show up. And as I maintain that's just at our meetings. Our meetings allow us to plan, talk with each other, honor those on eternal patroll and when it is arranged maybe hear from a guest speaker, but it is not what defines us, at least I don't think so. It's what we do outside the meetings either as a group or individually. We have been given/earned the nickname "Silent Service". Is there any other part of any branch whose name has service as part of it? I find that interesting because a large portion of us continue our service to this day. We are out there serving others whether it be in a group or individually. We have members who give up much of their valuable time to serve boy scouts, kids in hospitals, our communities and other veterans causes. We have people who routinely volunteer at various places such as Caring Place in Georgetown, various food banks, Shriners, other veterans' organizations, helping homeless people and pets, we have many who selflessly give their time to this organization working on many different fronts locally and nationally. This list could go on and on, but I think you get the point.

The point is although sometimes I feel like I don't have much left in the tank just like you guys when I get around you all you have a way of lifting each of us up and make me proud to say I am a United States Submarine Veteran and part of this organization. Thank You for everything all of you do! Thank You Everyone, and I hope to see you at some of our events soon!

Respectfully,

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



USSVI 2023 Lonestar Subvet Round-Up

Davy Crocket once famously said, "You can all go to hell. I'm going to Texas" and that's exactly what Submariners from across the great state of Texas and beyond did last April. They gathered in San Antonio April 13-16 for the 3rd Annual Lonestar Subvet Round-Up celebrating the Submarine Force's 123rd birthday. This year we kicked things off with a Happy Hour social at the Crocket Hotel where many USSVI members, Silent Service Motorcycle Club members, and Submarine veterans not yet part of any organization gathered. We even had the privilege of welcoming the USS Finback crew who were in town for their reunion. It appears the Crocket Tavern was bar #5 on their pub crawl.

On Friday the day was capped off with a Welcome Aboard Party held at The Menger Hotel. Attended by about 100, good food and drink was enjoyed along with catching up with old shipmates and meeting new ones. The Menger Hotel, famous for many things including Teddy Roosevelt's recruiting of his Rough Riders in the hotel bar is also famously known as being haunted. Well it really is because shortly after the Welcome Aboard started the ghost of Elvis showed up and put on close to an hour show of his greatest hits. Elvis was none other than our shipmate STSCS(SS) Harvey McFadden and his wife Sharon. They sure did put on one heck of a show. Harvey and Sharon have put on 1000's of these shows along with old time country and gospel music shows. If you get a chance, you must see them.

The real highlight of the weekend was a special Tolling Ceremony that was held at the Alamo. The Alamo played a special role in the birth of Texas and it was also manned by an all-volunteer force. So, what better place to celebrate the Submarine Force birthday and remember all those on Eternal Patrol. Hundreds, including many civilians who have never heard about these men were present for the ceremony. It was held on the plaza right in front of the Alamo. Colors were presented by the Navy Medical Training Support Center – Fort Sam Houston. Ms. Donna Jackson opened with an a-cappella version of the National Anthem which gave everyone goosebumps and followed up with "Texas, Our Texas". Our guest speaker was VADM(SS) John Bird USN (Ret.) and he did a great job. Following VADM Bird members from various bases conducted the somber Tolling Ceremony. At the completion of the Ceremony echo taps was played, Amazing Grace on the bagpipes by Brazos Valley Base shipmate Rich Hendren was played and the ceremony closed with a wonderful rendition of God Bless America by Ms. Donna Jackson. On this day in Texas the memory of our shipmates on eternal Patrol who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the nation was certainly perpetuated in many people.

After such an amazing ceremony the crowd went off on their own to tour the Alamo, shop on the Riverwalk and tour San Antonio until later in the evening when we gathered for our banquet. The banquet was fashioned as a Sub Ball. Again over 100 gathered for food and fellowship. Many great prizes were given away including numerous to a certain individual who paid for numerous extra door prize tickets. This time it paid off as FTC(SS) Enrique Chaves won 3 times including the grand prize which was a custom piece of metal art created and donated by Chip Pomeroy. Funny note here, FTC lives in Texas but still swears allegiance to the Groton base. He keeps mumbling something about first and finest? There's still time to fix him. Dinner was served and then we had TM2 Don Atkins (qualified 71 years) and LT Rico Marquez (qualified 5 years lead us in a toast right before cutting and serving two custom cakes. Soon after that we were privileged to have none other the CMDMC (SS) Frank Lister honor our Holland Club members and induct the newest member Allen Roberts who qualified on the USS George Bancroft (SSBN-643) in 1973. The evening was finished up with our guest speaker LT (SS) Ricardo (Rico) F. Marquez. The LT just finished his JO tour onboard the USS Nebraska and is serving in San Antonio as the N5 Department Head NIOC Texas Legal Officer. He is a native Texan from the valley and gave an inspirational speech on how the Submarine Force has taught him invaluable leadership qualities he will be using for the rest of his life. This wrapped up a great evening and left everyone looking forward to next year. Mark your calendars now. It is happening again likely April 11 -14, 2024, probably in the Texas Hill Country. Stay tuned for details!

See more pictures at the back of the Deck Log





USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE
MEETING MINUTES

Location: VFW Post 8587 and Zoom

4/19/23 Meeting opened at 19:00 by Rick Mitchell, Base Commander.

E-Board was present

No Minutes from March - Base Social

Sailing List: local 26, zoom 1

Binnacle List: John Roberts

Bob Steinmann: Led the base in our opening Prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance: Bill Scott

Tolling of the Boats – Mar and April: Rick Mitchell with Chuck Trahan Tolling the Bell

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: Virgil Claycamp

Current Total Funds as of 1 Apr 2023

1 Mar 2023 \$38,829.26

1 Apr 2023 \$39,496.11

General: \$35,459.88

Memorial: \$4,096.23

Uncleared Checks \$60.00

In Line with the Budget

The General Fund balance includes Funds for the Apr 2023 Lonestar SubVet Round-up

Storekeeper's Report: Virgil Claycamp. Nothing new to report.

Kaps 4 Kids (Shawn O'Shea) 4 Apr 2023 event held at McLane's Children's Hospital in Temple, TX. Shawn O'Shea, Harry Ullman, Hubert Jackson, and Sam Amato participated. The next planned visit will be in July at Dell Childrens then followed by McLane's Children's again. Contact Shawn O'Shea if you are interested in participating.

Parade (Tom Sprague): The next event will be the Red Poppy Festival in Georgetown on 29 Apr 2023. Line up 0745-0800 at College and 2nd Street, begin at 0945. Brazon Valley Base is loaning us their Submarine Floate. The theme will be "Happy 175th Birthday Georgetown". Please a RED Shirt with your Vest and Red Pants if you have them. We can HAND OUT candy BUT NO THROWING.

Membership (Chuck Malone): 81 Current Members, 49 USSVI National Life, 41 Base Life,

Memorial (Gene Hall): Nothing New on Memorial Park.

Birthdays 2023: April and May. 4/7 Derald Vogt, 4/28 Gordon McMaude, 4/29 Hugh Brown, 5/1 Dale Messing, 5/13 Michael Goulding and 5/17 Frank Abernathy.

OLD Business:

Memorial Day Tolling

29 May 2023, 1000 hrs at Taylor, Texas with City Support. Will be at Memorial Park which has a 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. Harry Ullman will sing the National Anthem and we hope to have Sam Amato playing TAPS.

NEW Business:

2023 National Convention

August 28 thru Sep 3 at Tucson, AZ. The event hotel is the Hilton El Conquistador with rooms at \$99/night.

In support of the convention the Central Texas Base will place a full-page ad in the program guide for \$315. This was agreed upon after discussion and a motion by Fred Maynard, a Second by Chuck Malone and unanimous approval of those present.

Conventions for 2024 are planned for Cleveland and 2025 is still being determined.

June Base Social

17 Jun 2023 at 1200

Rick will be checking into reserving a Pavilion at San Gabriel Berry Springs Park.

This is our annual Fund Raiser. Base will provide the meal, you provide a donation. There will be a door prize.

Round Rock Express 23 Jun 2023 Ball Game Gathering

We'll have the 'Party Porch' which is in the shade; 40 minimum and 70 Max participants.

There will be free burgers and hot dogs, free Pepsi products, 2 free beers each.

There are 20 free parking passes, Rick will workout who gets these, hopefully car pooling.

Parking is \$15~20 dollars; Disable Veterans Park Free.

Cost is \$60/head with the Base picking up \$10 of that. Chuck Trahan placed a motion to provide the \$10 subsidy, Frank Espinosa seconded and approved by those present.

Chuck Trahan is the Point of Contact for this event. Please let him know soon if you intend on participating.

Bill Scott shared that National Awards Nominations MUST be submitted by 30 Apr 2023.

Future Lone Star Subvet Roundup possible locations:

2024 in Fredricksburg and in 2025, Arlington

Good of the Order

28 May 2023 at 1300

Fred Maynard invites us to the **Ben Hur Shrine Center** at 7811 Rockwood Lane, Austin. Call Fred at 512-656-5691 for more information.

Jack Odom celebrates 50 Years in Freemasonry!

Chuck Trahan reminded us that free tickets to various events are available through VetTix. Visit VETTIX.org for more information.

Gene Hall has gone on **Honor Flight Austin** and **Virgil Claycamp** will be going before the end of April. Everyone who has been on one, has been glad they did!

50/50 Raffle – \$38.00 of \$77 was won by Charles Goertz.

Next Events - 29 April 2023 Red Poppy Festival in Georgetown, 29 May 2023 Taylor Texas Tolling of the Boats

Next Meeting – 17 May 2023 VFW Post 8587

Sailing List

Base Members and Visitors:

Local at the VFW Post 8587 (26): Harry Boyer, Ed Carr, Virgil Claycamp, Jack Collins, Bryan Eaton, Frank Espinosa, Mike Gauthier, Harold Jackson, Hubert Jackins, Colin King, Chuck Malone, Fred Maynard, Dale Messing, Rick Mitchell, John Odom, Shawn O'Shea, Bill Scott, Tom Sprague, Bob Steinmann, Chuck Trahan, Harry Ullmann Derald Voght. VISITORS: Charles Goertz and Dwayne Ariola.

VIA ZOOM: Curt Webber (1)

Meeting Adjourned by Rick Mitchell, ~2025 hours

Minutes submitted by Frank Abernathy, Yeoman, 2023

BASE TREASURER'S REPORT

15 April 2023

Financial Report for Period Ending 3/31/2023

Beginning Balance - 3/1/2023	\$38,829.26
RBFCU Checking (General Fund)	\$35,459.88
RBFCU Savings (Memorial Fund)	\$4,096.23
Un-cleared Checks	-\$60.00
Ending Balance - 3/31/2023	\$39,496.11

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP

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

Members listed in Central Texas Database	82
Regular Annual Members	23
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

MAY 2023



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

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. CTB can often get items at a lower than normal price, so you save money. The SK can search the net to find out-of-the-ordinary items, for all branches of the service. When requesting a ship's patch, tell the SK which coast you served on board, as the patches are often different for each coast.

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

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, Other Shipmates 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.

17 May 2023, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1900 meeting.

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.

17 June 2023, Quarterly Social, Central Texas Base, details to be determined.

21 June 2023, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1900 meeting.

23 June 2023, Round Rock Express, Party Porch (min 40 - Max 70), 20 free parking passes, free burgers and Hot dogs, free Pepsi products, 2 free beers each, \$60 head (base pay \$10), Fireworks Friday. Details TBD.

KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS)

The K4K volunteers poured out a rousing and engaging time with the children at McLane's Medical Center, in Temple, Texas on April 4th. Children and parents alike were engaged and participated during the entire event with Central Texas bases Kaps4Kids team members. Eight wonderful children passed through the activities center with our volunteers. Submarine photo presentation kept Harry Ullmann busy on the computer providing compelling story telling with incredible photos of life and action operating a submarine. That both fascinated the children, and amazed the parents. Hubert kept the younger children busy with funny stories, and engagement with the children at the play table. As the children eagerly devoured crayons in the submarine coloring books provided by our base. Sam not only kept the children laughing, but provided many of them with the most prestigious award of the day, their honorary submarine certification and ball caps. The staff commented how well our events provide the children a much-needed positive impact to their day. We are looking forward to our next Kaps4Kids visit. The children's medical centers limit us to 5 volunteers per visit. Please contact me in advance to get on the roster for upcoming visits. If you can't make it, please let me know so I can allow another volunteer to attend. Thanks again to all who support this rewarding program.



Shipmates, l/r: Sam Amato, Sean O'Shea, Harry Ullmann, Hubert Jackson

"No one stands so tall as when they stoop to help a child" - Abraham Lincoln

Sincerely,
Shawn O'Shea, Chairman K4K CTB

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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Mother's Day



Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on different days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May. It complements similar celebrations, honoring family members, such as Father's Day, Siblings Day, and Grandparents' Day. While some countries have a multi-century history of a day to celebrate mothers, the modern American version of the holiday began in the United States in the early 20th century at the initiative of Anna Jarvis, who organized the first Mother's Day service of worship and celebration at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia, which serves as the International Mother's Day Shrine today. It is not directly related to the many traditional celebrations of mothers and motherhood that have existed throughout the world over thousands of years, such as the Greek cult to Cybele, the mother deity Rhea, the Roman festival of Hilaria, or the other Christian ecclesiastical Mothering Sunday celebration (associated with the image of Mother Church). However, in some countries, Mother's Day is still synonymous with these older traditions



Veterans Service Officer Update

From the Desk of John Dudas, Veteran Service Officer

John Dudas, Veteran Service Officer via blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com, 3-31-2023

USSVI VSO News for April 2023

Shipmates,

All Combat-Injured Vets Would Keep Their Full Retirement, Disability Pay Under Proposal

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/02/28/all-combat-injured-vets-would-keep-their-full-retirement-disability-pay-under-proposal.html?ESRC=navy-a_230301.nl

'Single Digits': Only a Handful of Sailors Booted over the COVID-19 Vaccine Reportedly Want Back In

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/02/28/single-digits-only-handful-of-sailors-booted-over-covid-19-vaccine-reportedly-want-back.html?ESRC=navy-a_230301.nl

Top Enlisted Sailor Says Service Members Should Be Able to Access Mental Health Care Without a Referral

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/02/28/top-enlisted-sailor-says-service-members-should-be-able-access-mental-health-care-without-referral.html?ESRC=navy-a_230301.nl

Service Members Get Special Rental and Eviction Protection

https://www.military.com/benefits/military-legal-matters/scra-rental-and-eviction-protection.html?ESRC=navy-a_230301.nl

Opt Out or Pay: All Troops to Automatically Get Life Insurance March 1

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/02/24/opt-out-or-pay-all-troops-automatically-get-life-insurance-march-1.html?ESRC=navy-a_230301.nl

Military Retirement and State Income Tax

https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/state-retirement-income-tax.html?ESRC=navy-a_230301.nl

DoD Still Hasn't Released a Form Needed for Retirees' One-Time Chance to Change SBP

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/02/dod-still-hasnt-released-form-needed-retirees-one-time-chance-change-sbp.html?ESRC=eb_230303.nl

VA to Look at Racial Disparities in Claims Decisions

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/02/va-look-racial-disparities-claims-decisions.html?ESRC=eb_230303.nl

3M Subsidiary Claims Many Military Plaintiffs in Earplug Case Did Not Suffer Hearing Loss

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/02/3m-subsidiary-claims-many-military-plaintiffs-earplug-case-did-not-suffer-hearing-loss.html?ESRC=eb_230303.nl

Biden Administration Releases New Cybersecurity Strategy

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/02/biden-administration-releases-new-cybersecurity-strategy.html?ESRC=eb_230303.nl

Veterans' Emergency Room Bills Could Get Repaid by VA Thanks to Change

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/01/veterans-emergency-room-bills-could-get-repaid-va-thanks-change.html?ESRC=eb_230302.nl

Navy Unveils New Mental Health 'Playbook' That Pushes Leaders to Talk with Sailors Early and Often

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/01/navy-unveils-new-mental-health-playbook-pushes-leaders-talk-sailors-early-and-often.html?ESRC=eb_230302.nl

Military-Veterans Advocacy® Quarterly Newsletter.

https://www.militaryveteransadvocacy.org/uploads/3/4/1/0/3410338/mva_newsletter-winter_2023.pdf

VA Drops Mask Requirements for Staff, Patients at Most Medical Facilities

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/06/va-drops-mask-requirements-staff-patients-most-medical-facilities.html?ESRC=eb_230307.nl

Overclassification Overkill: The US Government Is Drowning in a Sea of Secrets

https://www.military.com/daily-news/opinions/2023/03/06/overclassification-overkill-us-government-drowning-sea-of-secrets.html?ESRC=eb_230307.nl

Vietnam Blue Water and PACT Act info for Submarines

<https://app.box.com/s/5vpitm4kzf07vl8u0jb8q960nhk0exs2>

The New Tricare Pharmacy Contract: Delivering Value for Military Families and Taxpayers

https://www.military.com/daily-news/opinions/2023/03/09/new-tricare-pharmacy-contract-delivering-value-military-families-and-taxpayers.html?ESRC=eb_230310.nl

Funding for Toxic Exposure Benefits, Medical Facilities Construction VA \$325 Billion Budget Proposal Includes

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/09/va-325-billion-budget-proposal-includes-funding-toxic-exposure-benefits-medical-facilities.html?ESRC=eb_230310.nl

Biggest Military Pay Raise in Decades Proposed by White House

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/09/biggest-military-pay-raise-decades-proposed-white-house.html>

House GOP Entertains Scuttling VA's \$16B Electronic Health Records Program

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/08/house-gop-entertains-scuttling-vas-16b-electronic-health-records-program.html?ESRC=eb_230309.nl

Lithium Batteries Will Soon Be Banned in Some Military Moves

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/08/lithium-batteries-will-soon-be-banned-some-military-moves.html?ESRC=eb_230309.nl

Biden to Unveil UK-Australia Submarine Deal Monday in San Diego

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/08/biden-unveil-uk-australia-submarine-deal-monday-san-diego.html?ESRC=eb_230309.nl

Who Is Eligible for Space-A Flights?

https://www.military.com/travel/space-available-flight-eligibility.html?ESRC=navy_230314.nl

How to Use the Survivor Benefit Plan's One-Time Open Enrollment

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/10/how-use-survivor-benefit-plans-one-time-open-enrollment.html?ESRC=navy_230314.nl

Biden Announces Nuclear-Powered Submarines for Australia

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/13/biden-announces-nuclear-powered-submarines-australia.html?ESRC=navy_230314.nl

VA Asks for Historic \$4.1 Billion for Construction as Agency Weighs Closing Some Aging Medical Facilities

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/13/va-asks-historic-41-billion-construction-agency-weighs-closing-some-aging-medical-facilities.html?ESRC=navy_230314.nl

Renewed Military ID Cards Can Be Sent by Mail in New Pilot Program

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/13/renewed-military-id-cards-can-be-sent-mail-new-pilot-program.html?ESRC=eb_230314.nl

The Hunt for Red October' Is Based on This Real Soviet Mutiny

https://www.military.com/history/hunt-red-october-based-real-soviet-mutiny.html?ESRC=eb_230317.nl

Key Senator Presses DoD on Protecting Service Members from Medical Debt

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/16/key-senator-presses-dod-protecting-service-members-medical-debt.html?ESRC=eb_230317.nl

7 Ways the New Secure 2.0 Act Could Help You Save for Retirement

https://www.military.com/money/personal-finance/7-ways-new-secure-20-act-could-help-you-save-retirement.html?ESRC=eb_230317.nl

Ask Stew: How to Prepare for the Navy PST

https://www.military.com/military-fitness/ask-stew-how-prepare-navy-pst?ESRC=eb_230316.nl

VA Secretary Swats Down Idea to Cut VA Disability Pay for Wealthier Vets

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/23/va-secretary-swats-down-idea-cut-v-a-disability-pay-wealthier-vets.html?ESRC=eb_230324.nl

VA Slashes Home Loan Rates for Native American Vets on Tribal Lands

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/23/va-slashes-home-loan-rates-native-american-vets-tribal-lands.html?ESRC=eb_230324.nl

Navy Follows Army in Offering Prep Courses to Recruits Who Don't Meet Fitness, Academic Standards

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/22/navy-follows-army-offering-prep-courses-recruits-who-dont-meet-fitness-academic-standards.html?ESRC=eb_230323.nl

VA Rolls Out New Mental Health Scholarship as Need Increases

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/22/va-rolls-out-new-mental-health-scholarship-need-increases.html?ESRC=eb_230323.nl

The VA Is Hiring at Record Numbers. A Federal Workers' Union Says It's Not Enough

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/21/va-hiring-record-numbers-federal-workers-union-says-its-not-enough.html?ESRC=eb_230322.nl

Survivors of Vets Who Died from PACT Act Illnesses Can Reapply for Benefits

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/21/survivors-of-vets-who-died-pact-act-illnesses-can-soon-reapply-benefits.html?ESRC=eb_230322.nl

The 25 U.S. States Where Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDCs) Bills Have Been Introduced

<https://thedaesreport.com/crypto-nfts/the-25-u-s-states-where-central-bank-digital-currency-cbdcs-bills-have-been-introduced/>

Everything You Need to Know About the Military Draft

https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/everything-you-need-know-about-military-selective-service-system.html?ESRC=navy_230321.nl

Renewed Military ID Cards Can Be Sent by Mail in New Pilot Program

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/13/renewed-military-id-cards-can-be-sent-mail-new-pilot-program.html?ESRC=mr_230320.nl

Can You Really Be Recalled to Active Duty at Any Time?

https://www.military.com/join-military/eligibility-requirements/can-you-really-be-recalled-active-duty-any-time.html?ESRC=mr_230327.nl



Tricare Isn't Covering a Treatment for Eating Disorders. Senators Want to Know Why.

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/24/tricare-isnt-covering-treatment-eating-disorders-senators-want-know-why.html?ESRC=eb_230327.nl

5 Reasons Veterans and Military Families Should Be Concerned About TikTok

https://www.military.com/daily-news/opinions/2023/03/24/5-reasons-veterans-and-military-families-should-be-concerned-about-tiktok.html?ESRC=eb_230327.nl

Camp Lejeune Health Claims Stalled Despite Law Allowing Suits

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/24/camp-lejeune-health-claims-stalled-despite-law-allowing-suits.html?ESRC=eb_230327.nl



USSVI 2023 National Convention Updates

United States Submarine Veterans Inc.
ussviwesterndistrict1@gmail.com via blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com

Shipmates,

USSVI 2023 National Convention Update

Registrations—We have 171 members and guest registrations as of 4/23. If you register by 4/30/2023 you are eligible for a drawing for a 2-night stay in an executive suite for the nights of 9/1 and 9/2. A ticket will be drawn for all who registered next month.

Hotel Reservations---Currently we have met a little over 50% of our contracted room nights per our contract at the \$99 rate. We urge all to go online and make your hotel registrations as soon as possible. Once we meet our contractual requirements, any reservation will only be booked if rooms are available and are subject to normal pricing.

Vendor Tables---The vendor application form can be located under the “Vendor” tab on the ussvi.org website. If you want to have a table in the vendor area of the Hospitality Suite, please submit and forward to the address on the form. We have plenty of room for all vendors to conduct their business.

Convention Magazine Ads—All regions, districts and bases are encouraged to submit ads for the convention magazine. We offer a **10%** discount for all ads received by 5/31/2023. Go to ussvi.org and on the convention page, click on the “Vendor tab”. The ad form is listed and is a fillable pdf.

Mobility Issues—A company that’s worked with the Hilton El Conquistador can have wheelchairs, scooters, and motorized wheelchairs available for those of us who have mobility issues. American Mobility can be reached on 520.628.7480 and information is available on their website (americanmobility.com). American Mobility asks that reservations **not** be made earlier than 8/15/2023 to insure they have the equipment available in their inventory and what is out for rental due to be returned.

Sponsors—We are always looking for financial help for our convention for businesses that support Veteran Organizations. If any of you have a contact in a national company that has supported USSVI before, please contact Convention Chair Dennis Ottley at dottley888@comcast.net. We will take it from there.

Dennis Ottley, 2023 National Convention Chair



USSVI National Bulletin

From the Desk of National Commander Bill Andrea

American Submarine, Issue 2

NC Bill Andrea via blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com, 4-10-2023

Shipmates,

The current Issue (Issue #2) of American Submariner is now on line on both the old and new websites. You must be signed into access it.

Thank you for using the on-line version of our magazine

V/R, Bill Andrea, NC



USSVI National Bulletin

From the Desk of National Commander Bill Andrea

USSVI National Commander [via blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com](mailto:blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com)

Shipmates,

It is my sad duty to report that Shipmate Frederick "Carl" Schmidt departed on Eternal Patrol Sunday, April 16, 2023.

Carl joined the Navy in 1959 and retired as an ETC(SS) in 1979.

Carl qualified on USS Triton SSN/SSRN 586 in 1961.

Carl also served on the USS Razorback SS 394, USS Cubera SS 347, USS James Madison SSBN 627, USS Casimir Pulaski SSBN 633, USS Tang SS/AGSS 563, and USS Sailfish SSR/SS 572.

Carl was a Life Member of USSVI, joining in 2000, and was a proud member of Cod Base. He was also a member of the Razorback Base, Topeka-Jefferson City Base and USS Snook Base.

Carl was a dedicated and faithful member of USSVI and served in numerous positions, including Central Region Director, National Chaplain and National Senior Vice Commander.

Please keep Carl's wife Bonnie and his entire family in your thoughts and prayers.

Rest your oar, Shipmate, we have the watch.

V/R
Bill Andrea
NC



Submarine News



US deploys guided-missile submarine amid tensions with Iran

April 8, 2023

<https://apnews.com/article/gulf-tensions-us-submarine-iran-74d6bc9cf2b8781edab7b081151914ae>



This photo released by the US Navy show a guided-missile submarine capable of carrying up to 154 Tomahawk missiles. The Navy said nuclear-powered submarine, based out of Kings Bay, Georgia, passed through the Suez Canal on Friday, April 7, 2023. (US Navy via AP)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The U.S. Navy has deployed a guided-missile submarine capable of carrying up to 154 Tomahawk missiles to the Middle East, a spokesman said Saturday, in what appeared to be a show of force toward Iran following recent tensions.

The Navy rarely acknowledges the location or deployment of submarines. Cmdr. Timothy Hawkins, a spokesman for the 5th Fleet based in the Gulf nation of Bahrain, declined to comment on the submarine’s mission or what had prompted the deployment.

He said the nuclear-powered submarine, based out of Kings Bay, Georgia, passed through the Suez Canal on Friday. “It is capable of carrying up to 154 Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles and is deployed to U.S. 5th Fleet to help ensure regional maritime security and stability,” Hawkins said.

The 5th Fleet patrols the crucial Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all oil transits. Its region includes the Bab el-Mandeb Strait off Yemen and the Red Sea stretching up to the Suez Canal, the Egyptian waterway linking the Mideast to the Mediterranean Sea.

The U.S., the U.K. and Israel have [accused Iran of targeting oil tankers and commercial ships](#) in recent years, allegations denied by Tehran. The U.S. Navy has also reported [a series of tense encounters at sea](#) with Iranian forces that it said were being recklessly aggressive.

Last month, the U.S. [launched airstrikes](#) against Iran-backed forces in Syria after a rocket attack killed a U.S. contractor and wounded seven other Americans in that country’s northeast.

Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from ships or submarines can hit targets up to 2,500 kilometers (1,500 miles away). They were famously employed during the opening hours of the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and [in response to a Syrian chemical weapons attack in 2018](#).

U.S.-Iranian tensions have soared since then-President Donald Trump withdrew from a 2015 agreement with world powers that provided sanctions relief in return for Iran curbing its nuclear activities and placing them under enhanced surveillance.

The Biden administration’s efforts to restore the agreement hit a wall last year. The tensions have worsened as Iran has [supplied attack drones to Russian forces](#) in Ukraine and as Israel and Iran have [escalated their yearslong shadow war](#) in the Middle East.

In addition to drawing closer to Moscow, Tehran has sought improved relations with China, which brokered an agreement last month [to restore diplomatic ties](#) between Iran and Saudi Arabia.



Report to Congress on Columbia-class Ballistic Missile Submarine Program

January 4, 2023 9:44 AM

Congressional Research Service report, Navy Columbia (SSBN826) Class Ballistic Missile Submarine Program: Background and Issues for Congress.

<https://news.usni.org/2023/01/04/report-to-congress-on-columbia-class-ballistic-missile-submarine-program-8>

The following is the Dec. 21, 2022, Congressional Research Service report, Navy Columbia (SSBN-826) Class Ballistic Missile Submarine Program: Background and Issues for Congress.



From the report

The Navy’s Columbia (SSBN-826) class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) program is a program to design and build a class of 12 new SSBNs to replace the Navy’s current force of 14 aging Ohio-class SSBNs. Since 2013, the Navy has consistently identified the Columbia-class program as the Navy’s top priority program. The Navy procured the first Columbia-class boat in FY2021 and wants to procure the second boat in the class in FY2024.

The Navy’s proposed FY2023 budget requests \$3,079.2 million (i.e., \$3.1 billion) in continued procurement funding for the first Columbia-class boat and \$2,778.6 million (i.e., about \$2.8 billion) in advance procurement (AP) funding for subsequent boats in the class, for a combined FY2023 procurement and AP funding request of \$5,857.8 million (i.e., about \$5.9 billion).

The Navy’s FY2023 budget submission estimates the procurement cost of the first Columbia-class boat at \$15,179.1 million (i.e., about \$15.2 billion) in then-year dollars, including \$6,557.6 million (i.e., about \$6.6 billion) in costs for plans, meaning (essentially) the detail design/nonrecurring engineering (DD/NRE) costs for the Columbia class. (It is a long-standing Navy budgetary practice to incorporate the DD/NRE costs for a new class of ship into the total procurement cost of the first ship in the class.) Excluding costs for plans, the estimated hands-on construction cost of the first ship is \$8,621.5 million (i.e., about \$8.6 billion). The Navy’s FY2023 budget submission estimates the total procurement cost of a 12-ship class at \$112.7 billion in then-year dollars.

Issues for Congress for the Columbia-class program include the following:

- the risk—due to technical challenges and/or funding-related issues—of a delay in designing and building the lead Columbia-class boat, which could put at risk the Navy’s ability to have the boat ready for its first scheduled deterrent patrol in 2031, when it is to deploy in the place of the first retiring Ohio-class SSBN;
- the risk of cost growth in the program;
- the potential impact of the Columbia-class program on funding that will be available for other Navy programs, including other shipbuilding programs; and

potential industrial-base challenges of building both Columbia-class boats and Virginia-class attack submarines (SSNs) at the same time.



Memorial Day

Originally known as **Decoration Day** is a federal holiday in the United States for mourning the U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day to honor and mourn those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Many volunteers place American flags on the graves of military personnel in national cemeteries. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer in the United States.

The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as Decoration Day, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the Union soldiers who had died in the Civil War. This national observance was preceded by many local ones between the end of the Civil War and Logan’s declaration. Many cities and people have claimed to be the first to observe it. However, in 2022, the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, credited Mary Ann Williams with originating the "idea of strewing the graves of Civil War soldiers - Union and Confederate" with flowers.

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This Day in History

(Information source is fresh, so I'm starting to include this info as I had done before I lost access.)

<https://www.history.navy.mil/today-in-history/april-7.html>

04/01/1943 USS Shad (SS 235) torpedoes and damages the Italian blockade runner Pietro Orseolo, shortly after the Italian ship reaches the Bay of Biscay and her escort of four German destroyers.

04/02/1943 USS Tunny (SS 282) sinks the Japanese transport No.2 Toyo Maru west of Truk.

04/02/1991 USS Chicago (SSN 721) arrives at San Diego, Calif., homeport following Operation Desert Storm. During the six-month deployment, the attack submarine works with US and coalition forces deployed to the Southwest Asia area of operations, conducting surveillance and reconnaissance operations.

04/03/1943 Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, is named Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas (CINCPAC) and also retains the title of Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet (CINCPAC).

04/03/1943 USS Haddock (SS 231) sinks Japanese fleet tanker Arima Maru north of Palau, and USS Pickerel (SS 177) sinks Japanese submarine chaser Ch 1.

04/04/1943 USS Porpoise (SS 172) sinks the Japanese whaling ship Koa Maru near Eniwetok.

04/06/1945 USS Besugo (SS 321) and USS Hardhead (SS 365) sink ships in Japanese convoy HOMO-03.

04/07/1990 The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Albany (SSN 573) is commissioned at Naval Station Norfolk.

04/07/1979 USS Ohio (SSBN 726), the first Trident submarine, launches at Groton, Conn. She is commissioned into the Navy in November that same year. Following a conversion to a guided-missile submarine in 2006, she is now SSGN-726.

04/08/1944 USS Seahorse (SS 304) and USS Trigger (SS 237) successfully attack a Japanese convoy off Guam, damaging a Japanese destroyer and a tanker.

04/10/1942 USS Thresher (SS 200) torpedoes and sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship Maru six miles north of Oshima, near the entrance to Tokyo Bay, Honshu, Japan.

04/10/1963 During diving tests, USS Thresher (SSN 593) is lost with all hands east of Cape Cod, Mass., including commanding officer and 17 civilian technicians.

04/11/1900 United States Navy Acquires USS Holland (SS-1)

04/11/1944 USS Redfin (SS 272) sinks the Japanese destroyer Akigumo in the eastern entrance to Basilan Strait.

04/11/1992 USS Annapolis (SSN 760) is commissioned at the Electric Boat Division at Groton, Conn. The 10th of her Los Angeles "Improved" class of attack submarines.

04/2023 04/12/1944 USS Halibut (SS 232) sinks Japanese army passenger/cargo ship Taichu Maru despite the presence of at least three escort vessels.

04/13/1942 USS Grayling (SS 209) sinks the Japanese freighter Ryujin Maru off southeast tip of Shikoku, Japan.

04/13/1944 USS Harder (SS 257) sinks the Japanese destroyer Ikazuchi, 180 miles SSW of Guam.

04/14/1945 USS Tirante (SS 420), commanded by Lt. Cmdr. George L. Street III, attacks a Japanese convoy in the approaches to the Yellow Sea and sinks a transport ship and two vessels. Street earns Medal of Honor for his actions.

04/16/1942 USS Tambor (SS 198) sinks the Japanese stores ship Kitami Maru 50 miles southeast of Kavieng, New Ireland.

04/17/1942 USS Searaven (SS 196) begins rescue of stranded Australian sailors, airmen, and soldiers from Japanese occupied Timor, N.E.I.

04/20/1944 USS Seahorse (SS 304) torpedoes and sinks Japanese submarine RO 45 off the Mariana Islands.

04/20/1964 USS Henry Clay (SSBN 625) launches a Polaris A-2 missile in the first demonstration to show that Polaris submarines could launch missiles from the surface as well as from beneath the ocean.

04/22/1945 USS Hardhead (SS 365) sinks Japanese cargo vessel Mankei Maru off Chimpson and USS Cero (SS 225) sinks the Japanese guardboat Aji Maru west of Tori Jima and damaged the guardboat No.9 Takamiya Maru.

04/24/1943 USS Seawolf (SS-197) sinks Japanese Patrol Boat #39 off east central coast of Formosa, while the enemy warship is screening the towing of the wrecked Nisshin Maru.

04/23/1945 USS Besugo (SS 321) sinks the German submarine U 183 in the Java Sea.

04/24/1981 USS San Francisco (SSN 711) is commissioned at Norfolk Naval Station, Va.

04/25/1944 USS Crevale (SS 291) sinks Japanese army cargo ship Kashiwa Maru, north of Borneo and USS Guvania (SS 362) sinks Japanese army cargo ship Tetsuyo Maru, northwest of Chichi Jima.

04/26/1960 USS George Washington (SSN 598) conducts a Polaris missile test firing in Long Island Sound in the Atlantic Ocean.

04/27/1944 USS Bluegill (SS 242) torpedoes the Japanese light cruiser Yubari west of Sonsorol Island, while USS Halibut (SS 232) sinks Japanese minelayer off Okinawa.

04/2023 04/27/1963 USS Daniel Webster (SSBN 626) is launched at Groton, Conn. Commissioned a year later, she serves until decommissioned in August 1990.

04/28/1945 USS Sennet (SS 408) sinks the Japanese cable layer Hatsushima off Kii Strait, south southeast of Miki Saki; USS Springer (SS 414) sinks the Japanese submarine chaser CH 17 west of Kyushu as she is escorting landing ship T.146, and USS Trepang (SS 412) sinks T.146 off Ose Saki, Japan.

04/29/1944 USS Pogy (SS 266) sinks the Japanese submarine I 183, 30 miles south of Ashizuri Saki, Japan.

04/30/1944 USS Bang (SS 385) attacks a convoy engaged the previous night and sinks the Japanese merchant tanker Nittatsu Maru off the northwest of Luzon. Also on this date, USS Flasher (SS 249) sinks the Vichy French gunboat Tahure in the South China Sea off Cape Varella, French Indochina.

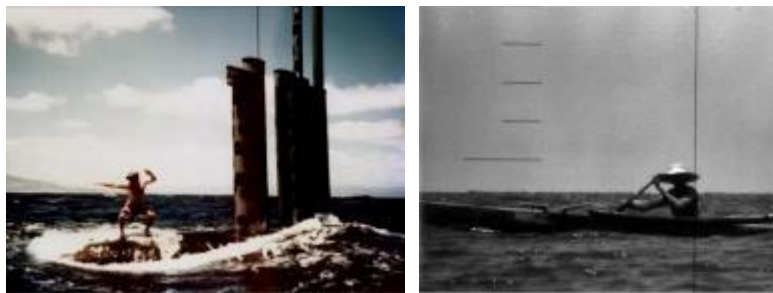


[U.S. Naval Institute](#)

Facebook post, 3/30/23

January '22, 2023 ·

In 1991, Surfer magazine named the Sturgeon-class attack submarine USS Tautog (SSN-639) the "hottest surfboard in the world" after a SEAL was photographed riding on top of the sail.



[Poopie Suits & Cowboy Boots](#) updated their cover photo.

Facebook post, 4/4/23

The only witness to the around-the-world passage of the USS Triton (SSRN-586) was this 19-year-old Filipino fisherman, who reported seeing "a mysterious eye". He had no idea that it was a submarine as long as one-and-a-half football fields!

This occurred 63 years ago on April 1, 1960.

Read all about the adventures of the Triton in our book "More Sub Tales"--more than 700 pages of submarine history and photos!



Got Dolphins?

Facebook post, 4/7/23

First in its Class -- USS Ohio Launched

Launched on this date in 1979, USS Ohio (SSBN-726/SSGN-726) the first in its class of ultra-stealth missile firing submarines.

The contract to build her was awarded to the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut on 1 July 1974 and her keel was laid down on 10 April 1976 by Mrs. Robert Taft, wife of Senator Taft. On 2 February 1978, the Precommissioning Unit was formed with Commander A. K. Thompson as its Commanding Officer. Ohio was launched on 7 April 1979 sponsored by Mrs. Annie Glenn, wife of Senator John H. Glenn.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Ohio_%28SSGN-726%29

Photo Credit: <http://www.chnarmy.com/html/2010-10/6458.html>



Divers discover sunken 100-year-old submarine at the bottom of Long Island Sound

Saleen Martin, USA TODAY, 19 April 2023

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/04/19/submarine-found-long-island-sound-defender/11695172002/>

Divers in Connecticut found a sunken submarine Sunday that was built over 100 years ago and sank in the Long Island Sound.

The submarine was initially named the Simon Lake XV, according to [NavSource Naval History](#).

It was built in the early 1900s by Simon Lake, a naval architect who wanted to win a competition for a U.S. Navy contract. The boat didn't win so he then tried renovating it for minesweeping, salvage and rescue tasks, renaming it the Defender, the [Associated Press](#) reported.

No one ever bought the vessel but it was still popular among some and was even visited by Amelia Earhart in 1929, said Richard Simon, the diver whose crew found the vessel.



[April 7 \(navy.mil\)](#)

The submarine was an experimental vessel, equipped with wheels to move along the ocean floor and a door that gave divers the option to exit the vessel underwater, Simon told the Associated Press.

Eventually, it sat docked in New London before it was abandoned and later scuttled by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1946, [NavSource Naval History](#) reported.

Until Sunday, the submarine's whereabouts had been unknown. On Sunday, Simon led a crew that found the 92-foot-long submarine.

Shipwreck: [Video shows discovery of shipwreck after boats mysteriously vanished in 1914](#)

Great Lakes: [1800s ship that sank on 'Shipwreck Coast' in Great Lakes found in 'surprisingly good condition'](#)

How did the team find the submarine?

Simon developed an interest in the sunken submarine years ago and told the Associated Press he spent months analyzing sonar and underwater mapping surveys of the bottom of the sound.

He also looked at government documents to identify any phenomenon that matched the size of the Defender.

"A submarine has a very distinct shape," he told the outlet. "It needs to be 100 feet long and 13 feet in diameter. So I made a list of everything that was that long and there was one target on that list."



Submarine *Defender* as rebuilt with sharply raked bow, and her topsides changed, ready for launch at Lake's Bridgeport base. Above her twin propellers is the shutter of a stern torpedo tube. Lake's characteristic pair of amidships planes have been folded up (they are forward and abaft the big conning tower).

He put together a team of divers to see if the submarine was there. An initial attempt last Friday was thwarted due to tidal conditions but the divers tried again Sunday. That's when they found the Defender more than 150 feet beneath the water's surface.

"It was legitimately hiding in plain sight," he said. "It's on the charts. It's known about in Long Island Sound, just no one knew what it was."

Simon said he waited anxiously on the deck of his own vessel waiting for two of his divers to return to the water's surface.

He said his team knew they'd found the Defender because of its length and the protrusions on the submarine's keel.



The team plans to dive on the sub this summer, capturing photos and videos. His company, Shoreline Diving, funded the mission, he told the Associated Press.

He has also reached out to the Navy to see if anyone is interested in preserving the site.

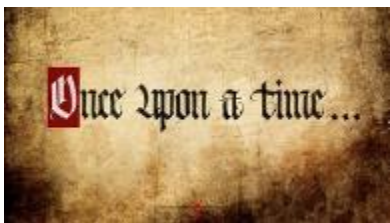
The ship is protected under the Abandoned Shipwreck Act. The act states that the wreckage must be treated like an archaeological or historical site versus a commercial property.

“So, as a wreck diver, I can go visit history; I can touch it; I can experience it,” Simon said. “It’s just a different connection to history, to the past that we don’t have in any other activity.”

Contributing: Associated Press

Saleen Martin is a reporter on USA TODAY's NOW team. She is from Norfolk, Virginia – the 757 – and loves all things horror, witches, Christmas, and food. Follow her on Twitter at @Saleen_Martin or email her at sdmartin@usatoday.com.





If you've ever snuggled between a tomahawk missile and a mk48 torpedo you might be a fast attack sailor!





SHIPMATES IN ACTION

***USSVI 2023 3rd Annual Lonestar Subvet Roundup
San Antonio, Texas
13-15 April 2023***

Shipmates,

Is there a better spot in the Great State of Texas to celebrate the Submarine Force Birthday and honor our heroes than right here at the Alamo? Not only that, but the weather was great and the crowd at the Tolling of the Boats on Saturday of over 300-400 people made the ceremony worth it.

On behalf of everyone that attended the Third Annual 2023 Lonestar Subvet Round-up in San Antonio last weekend, I want to sincerely thank Central Texas Base Commander/Central District Four Commander, Rick Mitchell for the fine job he did in organizing and carrying out through the completion of a great weekend. Thanks also go out to all of the folks from the USSVI Central District Four Bases that participated in all of the activities over the weekend, especially at the Tolling on Saturday including; Ms. Donna Jackson, VADM John Bird USN Ret., Subvet Piper CDR (SS) Rich Hendren USN Ret., Harvey McFadden (aka Elvis), and the Color Guard - Navy Medicine Training Support Center. Thanks also goes out to our host hotel, the Historic Menger Hotel for our accommodations and banquet facilities.

Enjoy some of the pictures that follow (Not presented in any particular order).

Honored to Serve,

Harold W (Bill) Scott II

Your Newsletter Editor



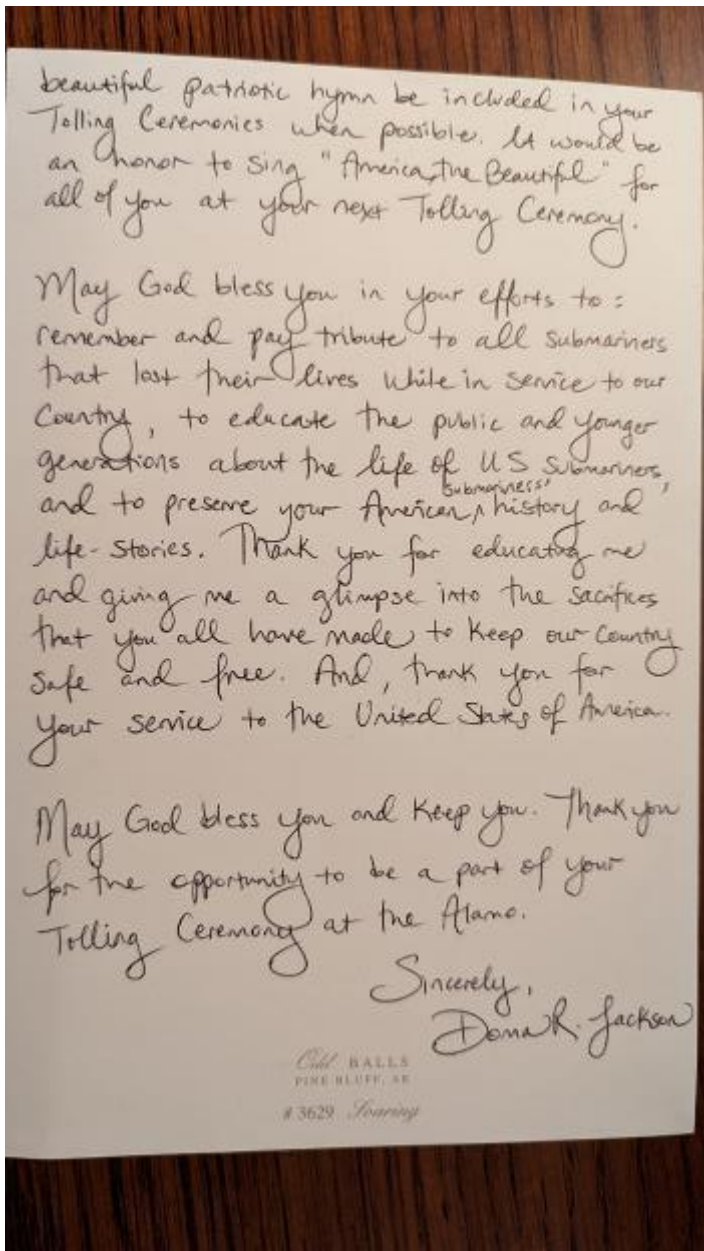
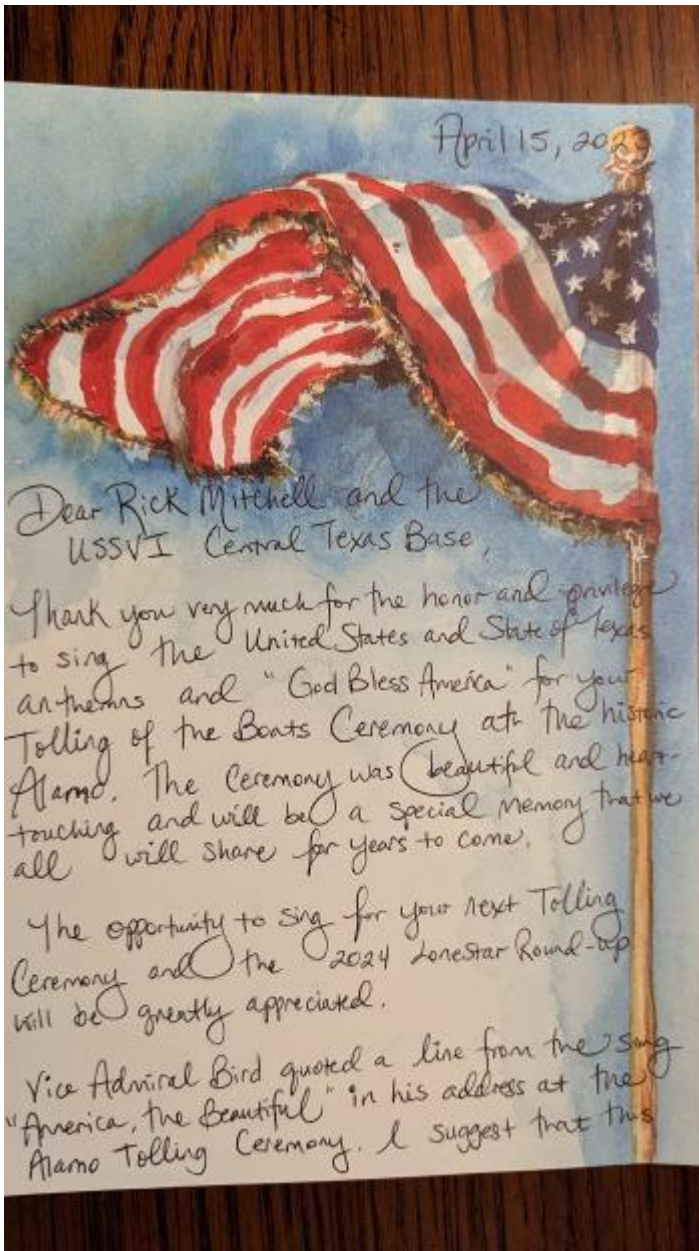












Thank you card from Ms. Donna Jackson, the singer of our National Anthem, Texas, Our Texas, and God bless America.