



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

OCTOBER 2023



USSVI Creed

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

Camaraderie

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

Perpetual Remembrance

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

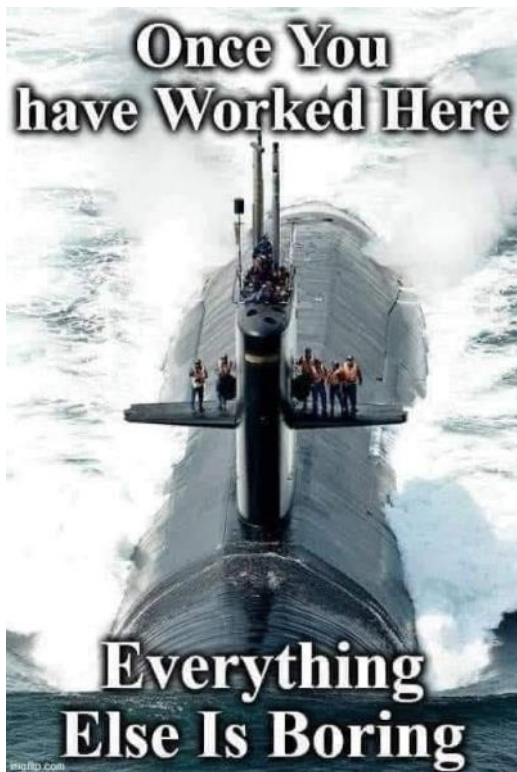


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| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
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EDITOR'S DESK



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.

Deck Log Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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



2017 Tom Williams



2021 Rick Mitchell
2021 Bill Scott
2023 Carl Repp



2010, 2014,
2017, 2020



2020 Base
2023 Bill Bellinghausen



2020
Bob Steinmann,
Hubert Jackson



2023 Bill Brinkman



2012, 2013, 2016,
2018, 2019, 2020,
2021, 2022, 2023,

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://isusa.org/>



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



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



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

SILENT RUNNING - OCTOBER

"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 Seawolf (SS-197)

Lost on Oct 3, 1944 with the loss of 83 officers and men and 17 US Army troops when she was sunk just north of Moritai by USS Rowell, a Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another Destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.



USS S-44 (SS-155)

Lost on Oct 7, 1943 with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles. S-44 was on her 5th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, S-44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.



USS Wahoo (SS-238)

Lost on Oct 11, 1943 with the loss of 80 men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of one of the great sub skippers of World War II, LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo was on her 7th war patrol. Wahoo had won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was lost to depth charges dropped by a Japanese patrol aircraft.



USS Dorado (SS-248)

Lost on Oct 12, 1943 with the loss of 77 men when she was sunk in the western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she had departed New London and was enroute to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane that received faulty instructions regarding bombing restriction areas or a German U-boat that was in the vicinity.



USS Escolar (SS-294)

Lost on Oct 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. She was on her 1st war patrol and was most likely lost to a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea.



USS Shark II (SS-314)

Lost on Oct 24, 1944 with the loss of 87 men when she was sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was on her 3rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the tragedy, it turned out that the freighter had 1,800 U.S. POW's on board.



USS Darter (SS-227)

Lost on Oct 24, 1944 when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan and was then destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by USS Dace. Winner of one Navy Unit Commendation, Darter had sunk a heavy cruiser and damaged another and went aground while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation in hopes of getting in an attack on a battleship.

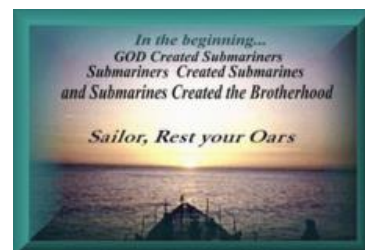


USS Tang (SS-306)

Lost on Oct 25, 1944 with the loss of 78 men in the Formosa Strait. Tang was on her 5th war patrol. Tang ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage, and had won two Presidential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR. O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

USS O-5 (SS-66)

Lost on October 29, 1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Ababgarez off the



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



USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS

BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Hello Shipmates,

I had the opportunity to travel to Tucson earlier this month for our 2023 National Convention, along with a few others from our base and hundreds from around the country. You missed a really good time if you didn't get to go. Our shipmates in Tucson did a great job this year and put on a pretty darn good event. Tucson was even a few degrees cooler than it was here in Texas also. The venue was fantastic and of course getting to meet new shipmates and catch up with old ones was a highlight. Along with the social events and sightseeing available there are also opportunities to meet with National leadership and hear firsthand what is going on, what is coming up and provide your thoughts and ideas for them to incorporate into future plans. Next year's convention will be hosted in our home region, we are part of the Central region. I strongly encourage all of you to mark your calendars now and plan to attend the 2024 National Convention August 19-25, in Cleveland Ohio. You won't regret it. Cleveland has the USS Cod (with working diesel), Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Pro Football Hall of Fame, Christmas Story House and much more. The Texas Rangers are going to be in town also that Friday evening. Let's really support our shipmates in Cleveland and show up in force this year.

At the convention I learned that our organization is still strong and for the first time in many years our membership is growing across the country. This is a very good sign as others around the country are starting to experience what we here in Central Texas have been for a long time. Oh, and by the way our base had the privilege of having 4 shipmates recognized for national awards. Congrats to Bill Scott "Newsletter of the Year", Bil Brinkman "Ben Bastura Historical Award", Carl Repp "Silver Anchor Award" and Bill Bellinghausen "Meritorious Award". A few other item of note was that our National Headquarter is moving to Groton to the only building USSVI owns and Charles Murray will be taking over as the new office manager by the end of the year.

A few weeks ago, many of you braved the storms and came out for our social held in Veteran Memorial Park in Cedar Park. I think you were rewarded with a good time and some good food. The weather started out rough but turned into some very moderate temps and was great for our event. Of course, we recognized those above who received awards, but we also had the opportunity to induct our shipmate, David Lewis into the Holland Club and we also recognized a new member:

Jim Andrea: qualified 1967 onboard the USS Bang (SS-385). Welcome Aboard Shipmate!

It's also dues time. If you are not a life member and paying annual dues, please make arrangements to get them paid sooner than later. You can contact Chuck Malone or myself to find out where you stand with this if you are unsure.

Hope to see many of you at our next meeting on Oct 18th. It will be both in person, and on-line. Of course, we prefer you in person but understand some cannot make it so please join us on-line if this is you. This time I plan to have someone outside the meeting host instead of me or Frank in the VFW and see if this helps with our bandwidth issue. Regardless hope to see you one way or the other. We have a lot coming up to discuss and plan for. These things include updates on our raffle ticket sales, budget inputs, new officer nominations and numerous events we need to find support for during the week prior and up to Veterans Day. Hoping many of you all will step up and represent the base.

Thank You,

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





Date: 9/16/2023

Location: Veterans Memorial Park, Cedar Park, Texas

Time: 1200

9/18/23, Email from Rick

Shipmates,

Just wanted to say thanks again to those who braved the elements for our picnic in Cedar Park Saturday. I think everyone probably agrees after a rocky start the weather turned out very nice. Took a little getting used to not sweating profusely and seeing puddles here and there but it appears most everyone enjoyed themselves.

I want to thank:

Gene Hall - for his efforts in shopping prior to the picnic, cooking and help cleaning up.

Jack and Linda Collins - for their efforts in shopping prior to the picnic and help cleaning up.

Chuck Malone - for contacting and arranging the park for our use.

Frank Espinosa - for his effort bring material from the VFW and help with the set-up and clean up.

Don and Mary Atkins - for their donation of the grill to the base.

Everyone - who brought some great sides and deserts.

Everyone - who stepped up and instead of complaining about the rain worked with what we had and made this a great event.

I'm sure I'm forgetting some, but it goes unsaid that in our group there are great efforts being made every day by someone that goes unrecognized though noticed and appreciated by those who are on the receiving end. Thank You!

We were able to recognize a few shipmates also. These were:

Bill Scott: Newsletter of the Year 2023 for Class II Base

Bill Brinkman: Ben Bastura Historical Achievement award 2023

Bill Bellinghausen: Meritorious Service Award 2023\

Carl Repp: Robert Link National Commander Commendation Award

David Lewis - Holland Club

Jim Andrea - Welcome Aboard Shipmate!

A couple pics attached, for more see our base FB Page: [USSVI Central Texas Base | Facebook](#) or our web page (in a day or 2) <http://www.ussvicentraltexasbase.org>

BASE TREASURER'S REPORT

15 August 2023

Financial Report for Period Ending 8/31/2023


| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance - 8/1/2023 | \$27,737.22 |
| RBFCU Checking (General Fund) | \$15,262.31 |
| RBFCU Savings (Memorial Fund) | \$4,160.45 |
| Uncleared Checks | |
| Ending Balance - 9/1/2023 | \$19,422.76 |



Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer



OCTOBER 2023



Bill Bellinghausen - 5th
 Joe Keller - 6th
 Richard Beason - 9th
 Tim Pacl - 11th
 Paul Craven - 12th
 Dwayne Ariola - 12th
 Curt Webber - 14th
 Tom Williams - 17th
 Coy Smith - 21st
 Ed Carr - 24th
 Gene Hall - 26th
 John Koenig - 26th

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP

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

| | |
|--|----|
| Members listed in Central Texas Database | 87 |
| Regular Annual Members | 26 |
| National Life Members | 50 |
| Base Life Members | 42 |
| Holland Club Members | 42 |
| Associate Members | 1 |
| Dual Members | 2 |
| Prospective Members: | 0 |
| War Veterans | 76 |
| 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. 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, Chuck Trahan, Don Atkins, Cynthia Whittingslow, Bob Steinmann, Other Shipmates not CTB members, and others?

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.

7 October 2023, 1200-1600, We Are Blood Drive, VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, **Ed. - See flyer at the back of the newsletter.**

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

4-12 November 2023, 7th Annual Field of Honor, GISD Hammerlin Center, 507 E University (Hwy29), Georgetown, TX. CTB Tolling of the Boats 11/4/23. **Ed. - See flyer at the back of the newsletter.**

6 November 2023, 11th Annual Snowden Cup Golf Tournament, Georgetown Country Clu, Georgetown, TX.
Ed. - See flyer at the back of the newsletter.

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

9 December 2023, 1200, Annual Christmas Party, Central Texas Base, Stiles Switch BBQ, 6610 N Lamar
Blvd, Austin, TX 78752

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KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS)

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Our K4K CTB team recently visited the children at McLane’s Children’s Medical Center on September 7th. The team provided exceptional time with the children and their parents, and hospital staff. On October 3rd, Kaps4Kids was visiting Dell Children’s medical center in Round Rock to put smiles on the children’s faces. Well done to all the volunteers that succeeded in allowing the kids to have a very good time during their hardship. We will finish out this year at McLane’s Children’s Medical Center. I have a couple spots open for the upcoming December 7th visit. First come, first serve. Contact me if you’re interested. Nothing is more rewarding than working with children that are ill and seeing a smile on their faces after visiting our dedicated submariners.

"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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Report from the Pastoral Search Committee

We do not have a happy report to give. We've not been able to find a suitable candidate for this church, though we have one promising prospect still. We do appreciate all the suggestions from the church members, and we've followed up each one with interviews or calling at least three references. The following is our confidential report on the present candidates.

Adam: Good man but problems with his wife. Also one reference told of how his wife and he enjoy nude walking in the woods.

Noah: Former pastorate of 120 years with no converts. Prone to unrealistic building projects.

Abraham: Though the references reported wife-swapping, the facts seem to show he never slept with another man's wife, but did offer to share his own wife with another man.

Joseph: A big thinker, but a braggart, believes in dream-interpreting and has a prison record.

Moses: A modest and meek man, but poor communicator, even stuttering at times. Sometimes blows his stack and acts rashly. Some say he left an earlier church over a murder charge. Also had an inter racial marriage

David: The most promising leader of all until we discovered the affair he had with his neighbor's wife. Also thought to have murdered her husband and used the power of his office to avoid charges.

Solomon: Great preacher but our parsonage would never hold all those wives.

Elijah: Prone to depression - collapses under pressure.

Elisha: Reported to have lived with a single widow while at his former church.

Hosea: A tender and loving pastor but our people could never handle his wife's occupation.

Deborah: Female.

Jeremiah: Emotionally unstable, alarmist, negative, always lamenting things, and reported to have taken a long trip to bury his underwear on the bank of a foreign river.

Isaiah: On the fringe? Claims to have seen angels in church. Has trouble with his language.

Jonah: Refused God's call into ministry until he was forced to obey by getting swallowed up by a great fish. He told us the fish later spit him out on the shore near here. We hung up.

Amos: Too backward and unpolished. With some seminary training he might have promise, but has a hang-up against wealthy people -- might fit in better with a poor congregation.

John: Says he is a Baptist, but definitely doesn't dress like one. Has slept in the outdoors for months on end, has weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.

Peter: Too blue collar. Has a bad temper -- even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive, but a loose cannon.

Paul: Powerful CEO type leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with young ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night.

Timothy: Too young

Jesus: Has had popular times, but once when his church grew to 5,000 he managed to offend them all and his church dwindled down to 12 people. Seldom stays in one place very long. And of course, he's single.

Judas: His references are solid. A steady plodder. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. We're inviting him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities here.



National All Hands Bulletin

United States National Commander <info@ussvi.org>

9/6/2023, 4:20 PM

From the Desk of National Commander Bill Andrea

2023 USSVI National Awards and Recognition Program

The following awards were announced and presented at 2023 USSVI National Convention in Tucson, AZ. Congratulations to all the Award Recipients. BZ

District Commander of the Year for 2023-2024

Charles A Martin - District Commander Northeast District Four - Northern Virginia Base

Golden Anchor Award

- Class I - Gold Country Base
- Class II - Cowtown Base
- Class III - Wolverine Base
- Class IV - Dorado Base

Silver Anchor Award

- Paul Skalski - Groton Base
- Douglas Stevens - Buffalo Base
- William W Strand Jr - Tang Base
- Robert (Bob) Gerle, Sr - USS Sailfish Base
- Terry L Schmidt - USS Maine Base
- John Yazanko - Denizens of the Deep Base
- Frances H. Davis - Central Oregon Base
- Dennis Glenn Mosebey - Sculpin Base

Meritorious Award - Individual

- Class I - James Irwin, Albany-Saratoga Base
- Class II - William A. Bellinghausen, Jr., Central Texas Base
- Class III - Raymond M. Ward - Cuttlefish Base

Class IV – Gregory R. Miller - USS Illinois Base

Meritorious Award - Base

CLASS I - Corvina Base

CLASS II – USS Sailfish Base

CLASS III – Egg Harbor Twp Base

CLASS IV – Cheyenne Subvets Base

Ben Bastura Historical Achievement Award

William G. Brinkman – Central Texas Base

Richard “Ric” Hedman - Seattle Base

The Newsletter of the Year Awards

CLASS I - Bremerton Base - Puget Soundings - Editor - David Pittman

CLASS II - Central Texas Base - The Deck Log - Editor - Bill Scott

CLASS III - SLO Subvets Base - SLO Subvets Scuttlebutt - Editor – Cathy Wathen

CLASS IV - Sculpin Base - Sculpin Base POD - Editor – E.D. “Moe” Moses

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR- Class I - Gold Country Base - Clear The Baffles - Editor - Barry Wyatt

Robert Link National Commander’s Award

Individuals

Barry J. Wyatt - Gold Country Base

Carl E. Repp - Central Texas Base

Daniel G. Marks - Perch Base

James R. Harvey - Nautilus Base

Michael E. Bost - Jersey Shore Base

Norman Peterson - Corvina Base

Romie Ortiz - Tucson Base

William L. Preece - Albany/Saratoga Base

Paul Skalski - Groton Base

Kirk M. Haugland - Groton Base

Harold C.F. Haugland - Groton Base

Marlin E. Helms - Smokey Mountain Base

David E. Farrugia - Tang Base

Dennis W. Ottley - Tucson Base

Kevin M. Galeaz - Thresher Base

James E. DeMott - Bremerton Base

Kenneth Earls - Rogue-Umpqua Base

Barry Commons - Mare Island Base

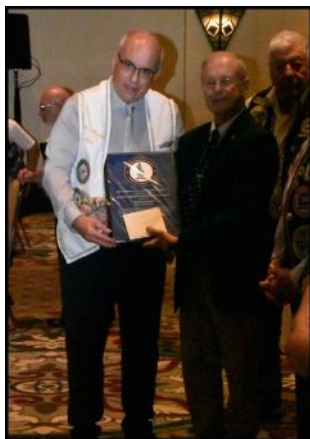
Base

Buffalo Base

Egg Harbor Twp Base

JOE NEGRI AWARD United States Submarine Veteran of the Year

Timothy Carlisle - Mare Island Base



Honored to Serve,
Harold W (Bill) Scott II, STSCS(SS), USN Ret.
2023 USSVI National Awards and Recognition Program Chair



National All Hands Bulletin

From the Desk of John Riley <info@ussvi.org>

9-26-2023

Shipmates,

US Submarine Veterans Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Week is just around the corner!

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

Each year **K4K Week** is celebrated around Veterans Day (November 11th). It was not observed during the COVID period but we are looking to observe it this year.

In addition to other K4K visits made during the year, I encourage USSVI Bases to schedule and make a K4K visit to Kids as close to Veterans Day as they can.

This is done to:

1. Take advantage of a period when Child Health Care Facilities are more likely to welcome visits by Veterans. If your base does not have a K4K Program it is a perfect time to start one. If your base does have a K4K program but is having a hard time getting access to a facility, this is a great time to approach them.
2. Obtain local and national recognition of **USSVI's Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Program**. This in turn will let our communities learn about who we are.
3. Have Sub Vets interact with Children, their families and facility staff at a time when the appreciation for Veterans is at its highest.
4. Bring joy to sick Children, their families and to the Sub Vets who visit them!

"We begin by imagining that we are giving to them; we end by realizing that they have enriched us" - Pope John Paul II

Thanks for all that you do for sick Children by participating in this Life Changing USSVI community outreach program!

John Riley
US Submarine Veterans
National Chairman KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS) Program/
Charitable Foundation Fund Manager
subvetss4kidss@gmail.com
203 668-9131

KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS) FUND
VIDEO / GUIDELINES / H.S. CERTIFICATE
[Kap\(ss\) 4 Kid\(ss\) Fund](#)



USSVI 2024 National Convention

Facebook Posts, 9/10/23

We are beginning to migrate information from the 2023 to the 2024 USSVI planning and announcements. Welcome to the 2024 USSVI National Convention coming to Cleveland. I will be adding information as it becomes available in different posts. Will also be promoting USSVI and USSVI Cod Base along with US Submarine facts and reasons to attend a National Convention.

USSVI 2024 National Convention updated their profile picture.



Hotel reservations are available now with Plan of the Week with dates, times and costs coming soon along with the new website for registering:

Your 2024 USSVI National Convention attendee

<https://www.hilton.com/.../2024ussvinationalconvention/...>

Group Name: 2024 USSVI National Convention Group (Code: USS)

Central Reservations Number: 1-866-344-7548

USSVI 2024 National Convention

<https://drive.google.com/.../1cAyj6dKD3xkOFUnXQsS.../view...>



2023 National Convention Information

United States Submarine Veterans Inc. <info@ussvi.org>

Sep 12, 2023

**National Convention Update
USSVI 2023 National Convention
28 August 2023 – 2 September 2023
Tucson, AZ
Final Blast**

Shipmates Attending - We had a total of 484 members and guests who registered for the convention. Unfortunately, we also processed 31 cancelations for various reasons, bringing our attendance total to 453. Thank you all for coming to Tucson.

Photographers - Mark Stevens and Rick Mitchell collaborated to photograph events and random shots of members and guests during the week. Mark produced DVD's and had them in the lobby when checking out of the hotel before going home. Rick took his and Marks pics and posted to the cloud at the following link:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/psxgswqGWrEzLANM9>

This link will be taken down in a couple of months so when you pull it up, there will be 3 dots on the upper right of the page; it gives you options and one is to download to your hard drive. Once done, you have a permanent photo record of the convention.

Congratulations - Congratulations to Charles Martin, District Commander-EN4 for receiving the District Commander of the Year Award and Tim Carlisle for receiving the Joe Negri Award. The Negri is the highest award for USSVI members. In addition, congratulations go to the winners of the Meritorious Awards, National Commander Robert Link Awards, Golden and Silver Anchors, Bastura and Newsletter Award. BZ to all.

Please submit award candidates for 2024 for those deserving recognition next year. Nominations are due before 4/30/2024. Refer to the awards manual on the website when the National Awards Chair kicks off the campaign.

Thank You - I want to personally thank National Leadership, Tim Carlisle, Wayne Standerfer, and the Tucson and Perch 2023 Convention Committee for all the work they did to pull off a successful National Convention.

2024 Convention - Next year we re-convene in Cleveland from 19 August-24 August 2024, hosted by the Cod Base. The National Convention Facebook website is now launching posts relative to the 2024 Convention. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/codbaseussvi/> to view the site if you haven't seen it. Like and follow for updates posted by Rich Ullom.

Dennis Ottley
2023 National Convention Chair

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USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2023-006

noreply@ussubvets.org, 9/28/23

NEWS-01: October VSO Bulletin

Submitted by: John Dudas on 9/28/2023

Shipmates:

We are still experiencing problems with our new email system, the last VSO Bulletin sent out 9-28 apparently did not go out to everyone, but some members received it in their "Spam" folders and some received it in their regular mail folders. Since we have no way of knowing who did or didn't receive it, I am including it in this Broadcast. Please ensure that it gets forwarded to all your Base members.

We are looking into the problem, so it is not necessary to bring it to our attention again.
The broadcast follows:

VSO October Bulletin, 9-28-2023

Cradle to Grave: The Only American Both Born and Buried at Arlington National Cemetery
https://www.military.com/history/cradle-grave-only-american-both-born-and-buried-arlington-national-cemetery.html?ESRC=mr_230904.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20230904

PACT Act: Agent Orange Toxic Exposure
https://www.military.com/benefits/pact-act-agent-orange-toxic-exposure.html?ESRC=navy_230905.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20230905

Tricare Rate Hikes: Premiums for Young Adults, Retired and Reserve Troops Jump Sharply for 2nd Straight Year
https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/08/31/tricare-rate-hikes-premiums-young-adults-retired-and-reserve-troops-jump-sharply-2nd-straight-year.html?ESRC=navy_230905.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20230905

\$6 Billion Earplug Accord Risks Failure If Veterans Reject Deal
https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/09/01/3ms-6-billion-earplug-accord-risks-failure-if-veterans-reject-deal.html?ESRC=eb_230905.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20230905

Think You Saw a UFO? The Pentagon Wants to Hear from You
https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/09/01/think-you-saw-ufo-pentagon-wants-hear-you.html?ESRC=eb_230905.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20230905

Marine Corps Tests Out New 5G Equipment That Promises Faster Battlefield Communication
https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/09/01/marine-corps-tests-out-new-5g-equipment-promises-faster-battlefield-communication.html?ESRC=eb_230904.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20230904

VA to Mark 9/11 Attack Anniversary with Volunteer Opportunities at Cemeteries
https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/09/01/va-mark-9-11-attack-anniversary-volunteer-opportunities-cemeteries.html?ESRC=eb_230904.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20230904

Army Sparks Outrage with Delay of 'Brandon Act' Implementation

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/08/30/army-sparks-outrage-delay-of-brandon-act-implementation.html?ESRC=eb_230831.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20230831

VA Says It's Closing In on a Goal to House 38,000 Veterans This Year

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/08/29/va-says-its-closing-goal-house-38000-veterans-year.html?ESRC=eb_230830.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20230830

'This Is Horrible': Homeless Veterans Are Being Buried in Paupers' Graves Near Fort Moore

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/08/29/horrible-homeless-veterans-are-being-buried-paupers-graves-near-fort-moore.html?ESRC=eb_230830.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20230830

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/08/23/32000-veterans-have-va-disability-claims-decisions-delayed-technical-glitch.html?ESRC=navy_230829.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20230829

32,000 Veterans Have VA Disability Claims Decisions Delayed by Technical Glitch

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/08/23/32000-veterans-have-va-disability-claims-decisions-delayed-technical-glitch.html?ESRC=navy_230829.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20230829

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/08/27/federal-authorities-have-been-probing-roughly-5000-pilots-suspected-of-withholding-major-health-issues-report-says.html?ESRC=eb_230828.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20230828

Federal Authorities Have Been Probing Roughly 5,000 Pilots Suspected of Withholding Major Health Issues, Report Says

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/08/27/federal-authorities-have-been-probing-roughly-5000-pilots-suspected-of-withholding-major-health-issues-report-says.html?ESRC=eb_230828.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20230828

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/09/07/more-3700-medically-discharged-sailors-and-marines-eligible-reevaluation-retirement.html?ESRC=eb_230908.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20230908

By Court Order, Department of Navy Begins Process to Reconsider 3,770 Medical Discharges for Retirement Upgrades

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/09/07/more-3700-medically-discharged-sailors-and-marines-eligible-reevaluation-retirement.html?ESRC=eb_230908.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20230908

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/09/07/new-jersey-failed-veterans-state-run-homes-hit-dozens-of-covid-19-deaths-federal-report-says.html?ESRC=eb_230908.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20230908

New Jersey Failed Veterans in State-Run Homes Hit by Dozens of COVID-19 Deaths, Federal Report Says

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/09/07/new-jersey-failed-veterans-state-run-homes-hit-dozens-of-covid-19-deaths-federal-report-says.html?ESRC=eb_230908.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20230908

Camp Lejeune Water Victims Offered Quicker Payout Option by Navy and Justice Department

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/09/06/camp-lejeune-water-victims-offered-quicker-payout-option-navy-and-justice-department.html?ESRC=eb_230907.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20230907

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/09/06/facial-scanners-are-getting-new-look-some-cars-entering-redstone-arsenal.html?ESRC=eb_230907.nl&utm_medium=e

Facial Scanners Are Getting a New Look at Some Cars Entering Redstone Arsenal

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/09/06/facial-scanners-are-getting-new-look-some-cars-entering-redstone-arsenal.html?ESRC=eb_230907.nl&utm_medium=e

This is an official email communication from the United States Submarine Veterans. If you don't want to receive these E-Grams, please contact William C. Andrea (NJVC@ussubvets.org).



Russia's State-Of-The-Art Titanium Submarine Was Superior to the U.S. Navy's For These Reasons

©warships_subs_pics/Instagram

Story by Olawale Ogunjimi, 9/22/23

[Russia's State-Of-The-Art Titanium Submarine Was Superior to the U.S. Navy's For These Reasons \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com)



During the Cold War, the Soviet Union thought they could outsmart the United States when it came to marine warfare by including titanium hulls in Lira-class boat design. The idea was to make their submarines faster, quieter, and more capable of reaching greater depths.

However, as impressive as this idea was, the U.S. Navy didn't try to level up to it. Weren't they feeling competitive enough, or was there something they knew that Russia didn't? Let's find out.

The Numerous Advantages of Titanium©Reddit



There's no doubt that the Soviet Project 705 "Lira" (or "the Alfa") was the nuclear submarine of its time, and it had titanium to thank for it. Although titanium alloy had superior strength compared to steel, it was also half as weighty. So, it had the strength and lightness advantage that other submarines lacked.

Plus, titanium is more resistant to corrosion in saltwater and able to withstand more pressure in deep waters than steel.

The US Navy Considered its Disadvantages Too©Reddit



Although the U.S. Navy was aware of all the advantages the Alfa afforded the Soviet Union, the disadvantages were also obvious. First, titanium was extremely expensive. Secondly, it was also difficult to weld.

To shape titanium, the welders must be provided with an external oxygen source as they work. Even the slightest mistake would be dangerous and compromise the integrity of the hull.

They Had a Different Idea©Reddit



The U.S. Navy weighed the pros and cons of building titanium submarines and decided that it wasn't the best option for them. Instead, they decided to focus their resources on improving undersea warfare abilities.

While the Lira boats could travel at a speed of 41 knots, the MK 48 heavyweight torpedo they built could reach 63 knots. They also began building the Sea Lance anti-submarine missile that could take down the Lira boats.

The U.S. Navy Made the Perfect Call©Reddit



The Russians were only able to produce seven Lira boats. To make matters worse, the submarines didn't meet expectations as they were not as quiet as everyone thought they would be.

They were also too costly to maintain and had to be decommissioned after the Cold War. The U.S. Navy was right after all—the Lira boats weren't worth the money and effort.



Captain of missile submarine USS Alabama fired for 'loss of confidence'

Story by Jeff Schogol, 9/25/23

[Captain of missile submarine USS Alabama fired for 'loss of confidence' \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com)

The ballistic missile submarine USS Alabama's commanding officer Cmdr. Michael Lyle has been fired, Navy officials said on Monday.

Rear Adm. Nichols Librook, commander of Submarine Group 9, relieved Lyle of command on Sept. 22 "due to a loss of confidence in his ability to command," a Navy news release says.

The phrase "loss of confidence" is catch-all wording commonly used by the military branches when officers and senior enlisted leaders are relieved and the Navy release did not offer specifics on Librook's reasons.

"Navy commanding officers are held to high standards of personal and professional conduct," the release says. "They are expected to uphold the highest standards of responsibility, reliability and leadership, and the Navy holds them accountable when they fall short of those standards."

As a ballistic missile submarine, USS Alabama can carry up to 20 nuclear-armed missiles, which it can launch in a matter of minutes. Missile submarines make up one leg of the United States' nuclear triad, which also includes land-based nuclear missiles and bombers capable of delivering nuclear-weapons.

All three are meant to deter adversaries by ensuring the United States would retain the ability to respond to any surprise nuclear attack.

Missile submarine commanders are among the most scrutinized positions in the US military because of their direct operational oversight and control of nuclear weapons. Senior officers on a Navy missile submarine are among just a handful of positions in the entire military — along with the air crews of nuclear bombers and launch officers of hardened missile silos — classified as “critical” under the Pentagon’s [Nuclear Weapons Personnel Reliability Program](#), which sets out the requirements, monitoring and disqualification guidelines for working with nuclear weapons.

A fictionalized version of the Alabama was the setting of the 1995 movie [Crimson Tide](#), starring Denzel Washington and Gene Hackman. As the ship’s captain and executive officer, the two square off for command of the ship when one doubts the authenticity of an order to launch the ship’s missiles.

[The Navy declined to assist the filmmakers](#) over objections to the script.

Lyle was commissioned in 2004 after completing Officer Candidate School and he has served on the attack submarines USS Houston and USS Buffalo and later as the executive officer aboard the ballistic missile submarine USS Louisiana, according to his [Navy biography](#).

He been on three strategic deterrent patrols, four Western Pacific deployments, and deployed to Afghanistan from 2010 and 2011 as the leader of a Navy postal platoon responsible for the mail mission in three of the country’s provinces, his biography says.

Before becoming the USS Alabama’s skipper, he served as the operations officer for commander, Task Force 69, a submarine unit in Naples, Italy, from 2019 to 2021.

Originally from Fairport, New York, Lyle holds an undergraduate degree in history from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Rochester’s Simon Business School in New York.

A spokesperson for Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet could not immediately be reached for comment on Monday.



Chinese scientists propose using 6G cellular networks to detect, identify, determine the speed and direction of enemy submarines

<https://gagadget.com/en/fleet/308013-chinese-scientists-propose-using-6g-cellular-networks-to-detect-identify-determine-the-speed-and-direction-of-enemy/>

Sixth-generation communications can help detect submarines. This is the conclusion reached by Chinese scientists.

Here's What We Know

Chinese specialists from the National University of Defence Technology conducted an experiment in the Yellow Sea. They published an article about it in the peer-reviewed journal Journal of Radars.

The experiment used a manipulator with a sensor sensitive in the terahertz range. A sound emitter was lowered into the sea water. It simulated the noise of the submarine's propulsion system. As it turned out, in clear weather, the sensor was able to detect ripples of 10-100 nm in height on the sea surface.

It is believed that such sensors can be integrated into unmanned aerial vehicles. The drones will be able to patrol the sea area and collect important data. The information obtained will make it possible to detect and identify the submarine, as well as determine its speed and direction of movement.

Source: [scmp](#)



HISTORY



This Month 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/october-1.html>

10/02/1918 - A squadron of 11 American submarine chasers screen British-French-Italian naval forces during the Second Battle of Durazzo, destroying mines and driving off an Austrian submarine trying to reach the fleet.

10/02/1943 - A mine laid by USS Silversides (SS 236) four months earlier damages Imperial Japanese Navy minesweeper W 28 off Kavieng Bay, New Ireland, Bismarck.

10/02/1944 - USS Pomfret (SS 391) attacks a Japanese convoy in Luzon Strait, sinking an army transport about 75 miles southeast of the southern tip of Formosa.

10/03/1944 - USS Shelton (DE 407) is sunk by Japanese submarine off Morotai Island, Indonesia. During anti-submarine operations, USS Richard M. Rowell (DE 403) accidentally sinks USS Seawolf (SS 197), which is transporting U.S. Army personnel to the east coast of Samar. There are no survivors among the more than 100 crew and passengers.

10/06/1944 - USS Whale (SS 239) sinks the Japanese merchant tanker Akane Maru while under the escort of Japanese Coast Defense Vessel No. 21 west of Balintang Channel, Philippines. USS Seahorse (SS 304) then sinks Coast Defense Vessel No.21 as the ship is rescuing survivors from Akane Maru, 140 miles north-west of Cape Bojeador, Luzon.

10/06/1958 - USS Seawolf (SSN 575) completes a record submerged run of 60 days, logging more than 13,700 nautical miles.

10/07/1944 - USS Hawkbill (SS 366) and USS Baya (SS 318) attack a Japanese convoy and sink the Japanese cargo ship Kinugasa Maru about 400 miles west of Manila, while USS Cabrilla (SS 288) sinks Japanese transport No.8 Shinyo Maru off Vigan, Luzon.

10/07/1944 - USS Greenling (SS 213) sinks the Japanese transport No 8 Kiri Maru and the merchant tanker Kotai Maru.

10/07/1955 - USS X-1, the Navy's only midget submarine, is placed into service and conducts numerous scientific tests for the Naval Research Laboratory.

10/07/2017 - The Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Washington (SSN 787) is commissioned in a ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk. Washington, named in honor of the 42nd state, is the 14th Virginia-class, -attack submarine to join the Navy's operational fleet.

10/08/1943 - USS Guardfish (SS 217) sinks Japanese army cargo ship Kashu Maru north-northwest of the Admiralty Islands while USS Gurnard (SS 254) sinks the Japanese army cargo ship Taian Maru and transport ship Dainichi Maru off the northern tip of Luzon.

10/09/1940 - Secretary of the Navy William F. Knox approves recommendation to equip 24 submarines with gasoline for delivery to seaplanes on the water. The move followed a demonstration in which submarine Nautilus (SS 168) refueled patrol planes and conducted successful test dive to 300 feet with aviation gasoline aboard.

10/09/1943 - USS Kingfish (SS 234) torpedoes and sinks Japanese oiler Hayamato in Sibitu Channel. Also on this date, USS Rasher (SS 269) sinks Japanese army cargo ship Kogane Maru 28 miles from Ambon, while USS Wahoo (SS 238) sinks Japanese cargo ship Hankow Maru off Oga Peninsula.

10/10/1943 - USS Bonefish (SS 223) sinks the Japanese army cargo ship Isuzugawa Maru and merchant transport Teibi Maru off Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina.

10/11/1944 - USS Tang (SS 306) sinks Japanese freighters Joshu Go and Oita Maru in the Formosa Strait. Also on this date, USS Trepang (SS 412), in an attack on a Japanese convoy south of Honshu, sinks landing ship T.105 about 105 miles southwest of Tokyo Bay.

10/14/1942 - USS Greenling (SS 213) sinks the Japanese army cargo ship Takusei Maru six miles off Todo Saki near the northern coast of Honshu and USS Sculpin (SS 191) sinks the Japanese army cargo ship Sumiyoshi Maru 75 miles southwest of Kavieng, New Ireland.

10/14/1965 - The 1,200-nautical-mile range Polaris A-1 fleet ballistic missile is retired from service when submarine Abraham Lincoln (SSBN 602) returns to the United States for overhaul and refitting with 2,500-nautical-mile range Polaris A-3s.

- 10/15/1943 - USS Tullibee (SS 284) attacks a 10-ship Japanese convoy in Formosa Strait and sinks the transport Chicago Maru.
- 10/16/1942 - USS Thresher (SS 200) mines the approaches to Bangkok, Thailand, the first US Navy submarine mine plant during World War II.
- 10/17/1942 - USS Trigger (SS 237) sinks the Japanese freighter Holland Maru near the mouth of Bungo Strait off Kyushu, Japan. Lost in action with all hands later in the war, Trigger receives 11 battle stars for her World War II service and the Presidential Unit Citation for her fifth, sixth, and seventh war patrols.
- 10/17/1943 - USS Tarpon (SS 175) sinks German auxiliary cruiser Michel (Schiffe No. 28) off Chichi Jima, Bonin Islands.
- 10/18/1944 - USS Bluegill (SS 242) and USS Raton (SS 270) attack a Japanese convoy in the South China Sea. Bluegill sinks the army cargo ships Arabia Maru and Chinsei Maru and freighter Hakushika Maru. Raton sinks the army cargo ships Taikai Maru and Shiranesan Maru.
- 10/19/1915 - The Naval Submarine Base at New London, Conn. is established.
- 10/20/1991 - USS West Virginia (SSBN 736) is commissioned at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, GA. It is the third U.S. Navy ship to be named for West Virginia, and the 11th of 18 Ohio-class submarines.
- 10/21/1942 - USS Guardfish (SS 217) sinks Japanese freighter Nichiho Maru about 120 miles north-northeast of Formosa while USS Gudgeon (SS 211) attacks a Japanese convoy in the Bismarck Sea and sinks the transport Choko Maru.
- 10/21/1989 - Los Angeles-class submarine USS Topeka (SSN 754) is commissioned at Groton, CT
- 10/23/1942 - USS Kingfish (SS 234) sinks Japanese gunboat at the entrance to Kii Suido, Honshu, Japan.
- 10/23/1944 - The Battle of Leyte Gulf, considered the largest naval battle of World War II, begins with the U.S. submarines attacking two elements of the Japanese armada moving towards Leyte. In the Palawan Passage, USS Darter and USS Dace sink heavy cruisers Maya and Atago. Takao is also hit, but survives. Off Manila Bay, USS Bream's torpedoes damage the heavy cruiser Aoba.
- 10/23/1961 - Submarine Ethan Allen (SSBN 608) makes the first underwater launch of a Polaris A-2 fleet ballistic missile. The Polaris soars 1,500 miles down the Atlantic Missile Range.
- 10/23/2004 - USS Virginia (SSN 774) is commissioned at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., the sixth U.S. Navy ship named Virginia; she is the first of its submarine class.
- 10/24/1944 - USS Shark (SS 314) is lost in the vicinity of Luzon Strait while participating in a coordinated attack by Task Group 17.15 with USS Seadragon (SS 194) and USS Blackfish (SS 221). Also, USS Richard M. Rowell (DD 403) sinks Japanese submarine I-54, 70 miles east of Surigao, and USS Tang (SS 306) is lost when she runs into her own torpedoes.
- 10/25/1986 - Virginia class submarine USS New Hampshire (SSN 778) is commissioned at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine.
- 10/25/2014 - Virginia class submarine USS North Dakota (SSN 784) is commissioned at Groton, Conn.
- 10/25/2008 - Virginia class submarine USS New Hampshire (SSN 778) is commissioned at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine.
- 10/25/2014 - Virginia class submarine USS North Dakota (SSN 784) is commissioned at Groton, Conn.
- 10/26/1944 - Three U.S. Navy submarines sink a number of Japanese vessels: USS Drum (SS 228) sinks freighter Taishu Maru, cargo ship Taihaku Maru and damages transports Aoki Maru and Tatsura Maru; USS Icefish (SS 367) sinks freighter Taiyo Maru and USS Rock (SS 274) sinks Takasago Maru.
- 10/26/1963 - USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN 619) launches the first Polaris A-3 missile while cruising submerged 20 miles off Cape Canaveral, Fla.
- 10/29/2011 - Virginia class submarine USS California (SSN 781) is commissioned at Norfolk, Va.



The Fatal Collision Between the USS *Greenville* (SSN-772) and the Japanese Ship *Ehime Maru*

<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/ships/uss-greenville-ehime-maru-collision.html>

Story by Ryan McLachlan, 9/13/23

On February 9, 2001, approximately nine nautical miles south of Oahu, Hawaii, the USS *Greenville* (SSN-772) was involved in a collision with *Ehime Maru*, a Japanese fishing trawler and high-school training ship. To demonstrate her capabilities for onboard VIPs, the *Los Angeles*-class nuclear attack submarine performed an emergency blow, during which she struck the Japanese ship, which sank minutes later.

Lead up to a disastrous collision

On January 10, 2001, *Ehime Maru* departed Japan for Hawaii. The Japanese fishing trawler, owned by the government of the Ehime Prefecture, was on a 74-day cruise to train high school students about the sea, sailing and fishing.

On February 8, *Ehime Maru* reached Honolulu. The following day, the USS *Greenville* prepared to leave Pearl Harbor as part of the US Navy's Distinguished Visitor Embarkation (DVE) program. The initiative saw civilians invited aboard nuclear submarines to see the vessels' capabilities.

On previous trips, *Greenville* had played host to the likes of Tipper Gore and [James Cameron](#).

Greenville [departed Pearl Harbor at just before 8:00 AM](#) with 16 civilians. While the submarine left on time, she soon fell behind schedule, reaching her dive point at 10:17 AM and submerging. While submerged, the VIPs were provided lunch, after which they were supposed to go to the control room and view the vessel's capabilities. The aim was to return to Pearl Harbor by 2:30 PM.

At around 12:50 PM, *Ehime Maru* departed Honolulu, reaching the area where *Greenville* was operational. She was picked up on the submarine's sonar and designated "Sierra 13" (S-13). Patrick Seacrest, *Greenville's* fire control technician, determined the course, speed and range of the vessel. He also determined Sierra 13 to be heading away from *Greenville*.

Since the VIPs were standing in front of the Contact Evaluation Plot, Seacrest stopped updating the system on the vessel's movements.

USS *Greenville* (SSN-772) collides with *Ehime Maru*

Before the USS *Greenville* began her maneuvers, Cmdr. Scott Waddle verified there were a number of surface vessels in the area, but none were closer than seven nautical miles.

For 15 minutes, the submarine performed various maneuvers to the delight of the VIPs onboard. Once finished, *Greenville* went to periscope depth to check for ships or obstacles, before performing an emergency dive and blow; she would quickly submerge to 400 feet, then surface in a matter of seconds.

The checking of the submarine's surroundings was rushed, and while S-13 (*Ehime Maru*) closed in on her location, the Japanese vessel wasn't reported; with Widdle not making any visual contacts, Patrick Seacrest thought the system must be wrong. Instead of believing the contact was 3,000 yards away and closing in, he reported the distance as 9,000 yards.

Greenville submerged and began her ascent to the surface. Two VIPs, John Hall, CEO of an oil company, and Jack Clary, a sports writer, were allowed to operate the controls for the emergency blow. Clary sat in the helmsman's chair while Hall controlled the air valves, both supervised by *Greenville's* crewmen.

At 1:43 PM, *Greenville* [surfaced directly under](#) *Ehime Maru*, causing a disastrous collision. The former's rudder cut into the Japanese ship's hull from starboard to port, causing the vessel to lose power and begin to sink. From periscope depth, Widdle watched as the ship stood almost vertical, sinking in a matter of minutes.

Attempting to rescue those aboard *Ehime Maru*

After the collision, at 1:48 PM, the USS *Greenville* [radioed for assistance](#), and the US Coast Guard began a search and rescue operation. It was decided *Greenville* wouldn't try to take survivors from *Ehime Maru* aboard.

At almost 2:30 PM, a Coast Guard helicopter arrived and, seeing survivors in life rafts, began a search for anyone who could still be in the water. Shortly after, two boats arrived to pick up the stranded crewmen and passengers. At the same time, the media arrived on the scene.

There had been 35 people aboard *Ehime Maru*, of which 26 were rescued, one with serious injuries. The other nine were missing. Despite a search by the Coast Guard, the US Navy and two Japanese civilian ships, they weren't located.

Japanese response to the incident

After *Ehime Maru* sank, Japanese Premier Yoshirō Mori was informed of what had occurred. He was later criticized for his response, as he continued to play his round of golf for another hour and a half before returning to work.

Japanese media soon reported that civilians had been at the controls of the USS *Greeneville*, causing Japanese officials to [express their concern](#). Foreign Minister Yōhei Kōno stated, "I cannot help but say it is an extremely grave situation if it were the case that the participation of civilians in the submarine's surfacing maneuver led to the accident."

American officials issue an apology to Japan

America was quick to apologize for the collision between the USS *Greeneville* and *Ehime Maru*. On February 11, 2001, President George W. Bush apologized on television, saying, "I want to reiterate what I said to the prime minister of Japan: I'm deeply sorry about the accident that took place; our nation is sorry."

Secretary of State Colin Powell and Secretary of Defense [Donald Rumsfeld](#) also made public apologies.

Tom Foley, the American ambassador to Japan, made personal apologies to the country's premier and emperor, while Adm. Thomas B. Fargo, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, apologized to the families of the victims. Later, Adm. William Fallon, vice chief of naval operations, went to Japan and met with family members.

The Japanese largely accepted these apologies. However, many Americans felt they'd gone too far. Writing in a column for [The Washington Post](#), Richard Cohen said, "We've apologized enough to Japan." He added that, while America had apologized excessively for the incident, Japanese officials had begrudgingly apologized for what their nation did during [World War II](#). Scott Waddle [later visited Japan](#) himself.

Aftermath of the collision

The USS *Greeneville* suffered some damage in her collision with *Ehime Maru*, including a single 31-foot scrape on her rudder, a 24-foot section of missing acoustic tiles and multiple dents. The repairs [cost \\$2 million](#) and were completed on April 18, 2002, at which point the submarine returned to active duty.

The US Navy convened a court of inquiry. It didn't recommend a court-martial, but, instead, a [non-judicial punishment](#). Thomas Fargo met with Scott Waddle and told him that his resignation should be expected, with him retiring on October 1, 2001.

Initial dives to the wreck of *Ehime Maru* proved unsuccessful in finding the bodies of those who died onboard. It was decided to salvage the ship, moving it closer inshore, where more thorough dives could take place. Subsequent excursions by both Navy and Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force divers recovered eight of the nine bodies, as well as many personal items or items special to the ship.

On November 25, 2001, *Ehime Maru* was raised, taken out to sea and scuttled in 6,000 feet of water.

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USS Scorpion: The Cold War Mystery That Remains Unsolved

Story by Kathryn Olvera, 9/23/2023

[USS Scorpion: The Cold War Mystery That Remains Unsolved \(msn.com\)](#)



USS Scorpion maiden voyage© Pictorial Parade/Getty Images

Naval warfare has been a part of history long enough to fill history books and provide legends and lore for the masses. Combat quickly moved from above to below sea level with [the introduction of submarines](#). The United States Navy entered the era of underwater vessels when, in 1900, Irish immigrant John P. Holland designed the Holland submarine.

Then, in 1954, the United States Navy joined the other armed forces in the Nuclear Age after it introduced the USS Nautilus. The USS Nautilus was the first submarine of its kind as it was the first-ever nuclear-powered attack submarine. The technology of the Nautilus was unlike anything in the sea at that time, with an S5W reactor giving it impressive power.

Shortly after the addition of nuclear-powered submarines, the United States Navy took its newfound technology even further with the invention of the Skipjack submarine. The Skipjacks had an improved reactor and a teardrop-shaped hull, allowing for more speed and less sound. The nuclear power of the Skipjack gave it the ability to remain under the surface for longer periods of time.

Six total Skipjack submarines were made. The Skipjack, Scamp, Sculpin, Shark, Snook, and the Scorpion. The Scorpion is perhaps the most well-known Skipjack due to the mystery that surrounds it after its mysterious disappearance and recovery that was never explained. At least not to the public.

Submarines During The Cold War Were Kept In A Near-Constant State Of Work



Cold War era submarine periscope© Niquirk/Shutterstock

The USS Scorpion was commissioned on July 29, 1960, and came as a formidable Cold War nuclear-powered vessel. The innovation of the submarine, combined with the high tensions of the time and the constant state of alert brought on by the Cold War, kept the Skipjack active and working almost constantly.

In August 1960, the Scorpion set out to European waters before eventually, in 1961, being transferred to a base in Norfolk, Virginia. The Scorpion kept a standard routine of patrolling the Atlantic coastline and practicing nuclear warfare drills. After a mechanical overhaul lasting from June 1963 to May 1964, the USS Scorpion began patrol of European waters. In 1966, the submarine was sent on an assignment to the Black Sea.

This constant state of patrol meant another overhaul was necessary after the voyage to the Black Sea. However, given the state of the Cold War and the need for submarines to be ready to combat the Soviets at a moment's notice, the USS Scorpion's readiness was put above proper maintenance even after years of constant patrol.

The USS Scorpion Was In A Disastrous Mechanical State



View of a rusty submarine© Audley C Bullock/Shutterstock

The USS Scorpion's near-constant drills and patrol left it in a state of despair that was rightfully called out on multiple occasions by the crew, who not-so-affectionately nicknamed the vessel the "USS Scrap Iron."

The Scorpion was meant to receive a full overhaul in February 1967 at its home base in Norfolk, Virginia.

However, the intensity of the Cold War led to pressure for the submarine to resume its patrols. After completing only what was considered emergency repairs, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral David Lamar McDonald signed off on the submarine and gave the okay for ultimately cutting corners regarding repairs. The overall cost came out to just one-seventh of what a normal submarine overhaul cost.

The lack of repairs meant that longstanding issues only grew more prevalent. Just one year later, in 1968, the Scorpion's mechanical problems included an electrical fire caused by a water leak and leaking refrigeration systems. The Scorpion was given a depth limit of no more than 500 feet below the surface. The choice to fix only what was considered emergency repairs has long been thought to play a serious role in the submarine's ultimate demise.

Official Loss Of Communication

In May 1968, the USS Scorpion was tasked with observing Russian military activity and set out on an observational mission to the Azores. The sub was scheduled to return to Norfolk, Virginia, on May 27. However, when May 27 arrived, the Scorpion did not. The date of intended arrival was seven days after the last known communication from the submarine on May 20.

The last known communications from the USS Scorpion were meant to be received by U.S. Naval base Rota in Rota Cádiz but were instead picked up by Naval communications in Nea Makri, Greece. The message communicated that the submarine was closing in on the Soviet task force. Though the message assured that everything was going smoothly, the signals ended at midnight, and no one heard from the USS Scorpion again.

After it failed to arrive in Norfolk as scheduled, a search for the submarine ensued, and on June 5, 1968, the USS Scorpion, along with the 99 crew members on board, was officially declared lost.

The Search For The USS Scorpion



Diver investigating a shipwreck© Kichigin/Shutterstock

After the USS Scorpion failed to arrive in Norfolk and was officially declared lost by the military and the media, the search for signs of the submarine and the 99 crew members on board continued. Even on June 30, 1968, when the submarine had been missing long enough to be officially removed from the Naval Vessel Register, search efforts still didn't slow.

When an unsuccessful summer of tireless searching came and went, autumn brought with it a break in the case. In October 1968, the USNS Mizar, a Navy Oceanic research ship, successfully located the USS Scorpion 400 nautical miles southwest of the Azores, where the submarine's final mission took place.

Once the submarine was located, other investigative ships were dispatched to the area to assess months of wear and tear caused by resting below the seawater in an attempt to understand what could have gone wrong on what otherwise would have been a routine mission for the seasoned Skipjack.

The Investigation And Damage Assessment



Diver among submarine wreckage© Extreme-photographer/Getty Images

Even though the public didn't realize anything was wrong until the USS Scorpion failed to arrive back at the port in Norfolk on May 27, there was speculation and reports stating that a non-public investigation had already begun. The last communication from the submarine was several days before its scheduled return, and the radio silence may have been enough to kick off an early and quiet investigation.

When the Scorpion was found in October 1968, it was discovered 9,800 feet deep and had seemingly skidded along the ocean floor as it landed. The position of one of the running lights gave investigators the knowledge that either the submarine was on the surface when a disaster struck or that an explosion had knocked it open. Investigators also speculated that a possible hull explosion could be to blame. Even with each theory and speculation from experts, a final cause for the sinking of the USS Scorpion was never decided on, or at least never released to the public.

1968 Was A Tragic Year For Submarines



Life preserver on the water© Paulfleet/Getty Images

The loss of the USS Scorpion and its 99 crew members was an absolute tragedy, but sadly, the Scorpion wasn't the only submarine that was lost that year. In 1968, submarines belonging to four separate navies were lost in one way or another.

On January 25, Israel's submarine, the INS Dakar, sank due to a mechanical failure and wasn't discovered until 1999, when it was found between Cyprus and Crete. January 27 brought an equally devastating scenario when a French submarine, the Minerve, completely disappeared off the southern coast of France. The Minerve remained missing for over 50 years until its discovery on July 22, 2019, 30 miles off the coast of Toulon.

March of 1968 brought with it another sunken submarine. This time, it was the Soviet Union's K-129. The USS Scorpion was the last of the four submarines, along with all of their crew, to be declared lost in 1968. While the USS Scorpion's reason for sinking has never been revealed, speculation has continued over the decades.

Some Of The Scorpion's Crew Refused To Return



Crew members on the USS Scorpion© Pictorial Parade/Getty Images

While the public may not have been made aware of the mechanical crisis on board the USS Scorpion, the men who had served as the submarine's crew knew all too well of the dangers within. Crew member Dan Rogers served on the USS Scorpion as an Electrician's Mate for a year. An Electrician's Mate is responsible for the maintenance and repairs of the vessel's electrical equipment and control systems. This made Rogers well-versed in system safety measures.

The conditions inside were so poor that Rogers requested a transfer to a different submarine after his time on the Scorpion. In a quote published by [The Baltimore Sun](#), Rogers spoke out after the loss of the USS Scorpion and said, "I didn't know it was going to sink, but I was absolutely uptight after having been on there and seeing the things I had seen. I was just unable to deal with going to sea again on the Scorpion." The overlooked wear and tear of the Scorpion was enough for crew members to distrust its integrity for another mission, but still, the Scorpion continued to venture out.

Conspiracy Theories And Cover-Ups



Paper torn showing the word Truth© JuShoot/Shutterstock

The uncertainty surrounding the USS Scorpion's fate led to restless wondering and plenty of theories regarding what happened the day it sank and the events leading up to its demise. There were plenty of those who believed the United States military didn't want to disclose the mechanical crisis that was the state of the submarine as it would only come across as negligence.

A full two months before the Scorpion sank, the submarine's captain, Commander Francis Atwood Slattery, wrote up an emergency work request for the poor state of the submarine's hull. Other theories pointed to that of an enemy attack conducted by the Soviet Union. One theory even claims that the USS Scorpion was intentionally sunk by the Soviets in a retaliation effort for the loss of the K-129 submarine, which had sunk just weeks prior. The loss of the K-129 had been blamed on the United States.

None of the speculations regarding the USS Scorpion have been confirmed, and no further explanation for the tragedy has been offered since 1968.

The U.S. Navy Has Since Improved Maintenance Requirements On Submarines



Maritime law book and a gavel© Vitalii Vodolazskiy/Shutterstock

The USS Scorpion was a casualty of a period when the United States felt overwhelming pressure and high tensions regarding nuclear warfare. Had these pressures not been such a prevalent stressor hanging over the heads of commanding officers, things may have been different. However, because of their existence, a "Planned or Reduced Availability" overhaul in 1967 was the best that the USS Scorpion received, and it wasn't enough to save it from disaster.

Most of the work on this non-traditional repair was done by the submarine's own crew, and it was the cheapest overhaul in U.S. Naval history at a cost of \$3.2 million instead of the usual \$20 million. After the incident in 1968 and the heavy scrutiny that followed, the "Reduced Availability" overhauls were removed entirely as an approved practice. The halting of this procedure may have come too late for the crew on the Scorpion's final mission, but it no doubt helped save countless lives in the future.

Whether or not the definitive reason for the Scorpion's sinking was mechanical failure, enemy fire, or something else entirely, the theories and mystery surrounding the submarine's fate live on.



Barb: The U.S. Navy's World War II Rocket-Firing Submarine That Terrorized Japan

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2023/09/barb-the-us-navys-world-war-ii-rocket-firing-submarine-that-terrorized-japan/>

Story by Sebastien Roblin, 9/24/23



USS Barb© Provided by 1945

USS *Barb* - The Story of a Rocket Firing Submarine from World War II: In the closing months of World War II, heavy losses and depleted fuel stocks kept many of Japan's remaining combat aircraft grounded and warships in port, awaiting an anticipated amphibious invasion.

Starting in July 1945, Allied battleships embarked on a series of naval bombardments of coastal cities in Japan in an effort to draw these forces out to battle—with little success.

However, a week, before the battleships began lobbing their massive shells, a legendary U.S. submarine totting a rocket launcher, began its own campaign of coastal terror that foretold the future of naval warfare—and *also* engaged in the only Allied ground-combat operation on Japanese home-island soil.

Submarines still made use of deck guns during World War II, most of them ranging between three and five inches in caliber. These were used to finish off unarmed merchant ships or sink smaller vessels that could evade torpedoes—but also were occasionally directed to bombard coastal targets, such as in early-war Japanese raids on the coasts of California and Australia. The problem was that a single gun was unlikely to inflict much damage in a short amount of time, and the submarines were highly vulnerable to air, sea and land attack as long as they remained surfaced.

In 1942, the German Kriegsmarine actually tested submarine rocket artillery that could be fired underwater, but gave up on the idea due to its impracticality. Rumors that Germany had modified their subs to launch V-2 ballistic missiles at the United States led to a vigorous and bloody submarine hunt in the closing weeks of World War II.

The U.S. Navy, meanwhile, considered a much cruder solution: taking one of the Mark 51 rocket launchers it used on some of its LSM landing ships and strapping it to the main deck of a submarine. The twelve spin-stabilized 127-millimeter rockets mounted on the launch rack could only be fired while surfaced, and had a maximum range of three miles. However, a full volley could be ripple fired in the space of five seconds. The fixed launcher was unable to traverse, so the entire submarine had to turn to adjust the aim laterally.

Capt. Eugene Fluckey of the Gato-class submarine USS *Barb* volunteered his boat to try out the experimental rocket launcher in 1945. At the time, the Navy was actually testing the weapon's viability as an anti-kamikaze weapon, but Fluckey managed to cajole the R&D staff into releasing the Mark 51 in time for his patrol, making the *Barb* the only rocket-launching submarine of the U.S. Navy in the conflict. You can check out footage of the rocket launcher on the *Barb* [here](#).

The *Barb*, which displaced 2,400 tons submerged, was one of the top-scoring Allied submarines of World War II. By the most conservative count, it sank seventeen ships totaling ninety-seven thousand tons of shipping. Other tallies are considerably higher.

In January 1945, on his fourth patrol as commander of the *Barb*, Fluckey snuck his boat into the shallow wa-

ters off of Namakwan Harbor off the coast of China and torpedoed six ships before hightailing away, an action that earned him the Medal of Honor. Despite this exploit, Fluckey was concerned it would be difficult to find much enemy shipping on his fifth and last war patrol, so he was keen on being well equipped to attack targets on land.

The *Barb* set sail from its base in Midway on June 8 loaded with one hundred rockets. It arrived off the Japanese home islands on June 20. At 2:30 am on June 22, it surfaced off of the town of Shari in northeastern Hokkaido Island, unleashing a volley of twelve rockets into the slumbering community. It then sailed northward to the coast of Southern Sakhalin Island, then known as the Japanese prefecture of Karafuto. (All of Sakhalin is presently administered by Russia.)

Over the following month, the *Barb* expended sixty-eight rockets on Shikuka, Shoritori and Kashiho, mostly firing late at night at near-maximum range. She also used her four-inch deck gun to bombard the towns of Kaihyo To, Shibertori and Chiri. The attacks targeted civilian industrial sites, including a cannery, seal rookery, lumber yard, paper factory and several small shipyards, as well as a military radio, radar and lighthouse stations. When Japanese seaplanes began hunting the sub during the day, Fluckey retaliated with a volley of rockets aimed at the Shikuka military airfield. The *Barb's* guns also destroyed more than three dozen civilian sampans, while its homing torpedoes took out local trawlers, tugboats and a few large merchant ships.

The *Barb's* most famous exploit did not involve those weapons. Observing trains passing along the Japanese coastline, Captain Fluckey hatched a scheme to dispatch a landing party to blow up one of the trains by burying the *Barb's* fifty-five pound scuttling charge (essentially a self-destruct device) under the tracks. Rather than using a timer, the explosives would be jury-rigged only to blow when the pressure of a passing train completed the circuit, a trick Fluckey likened to a childhood walnut-cracking prank. A landing party of eight was selected on the basis of their unmarried status and membership in the Boy Scouts. Fluckey believed the scouts would have better pathfinding skills.

At midnight on July 23, the *Barb* slipped up to within a kilometer of the shore, and a landing party commanded by Lt. William Walke, paddled quietly to the beach. While three men took up guard positions—they encountered a sleeping Japanese guard in a watchtower, whom they left unharmed—the other five buried the demolition charge and managed not to blow themselves up jury-rigging the detonation circuit. They were furiously rowing back to the *Barb* when a second train passed.

Fluckey described what happened next in his autobiography "[Thunder Below!](#)": "The engine's boilers blew, wreckage flew two hundred feet in the air in a flash of flame and smoke, cars piled up and rolled off the track in a writhing, twisting mass of wreckage."

All sixteen train cars derailed, killing 150 passengers. The *Barb's* crew added a train to the tally of enemy ships sunk on their battle flag. Its landing party had just performed what would be the only U.S. ground operation on the Japanese home islands during World War II. The *Barb* continued its rampage along the Sakhalin coastline through July 26 before returning safely back to its base in Midway Island on August 2.

The *Barb's* raids on the Japanese coast—and even those performed by Allied battleships—were premised on the Japanese military's inability, by 1945, to effectively defend the home-island coastlines, which included a lack of [coastal-defense guns](#). Many of the casualties of the *Barb's* attacks were likely civilians in largely undefended towns. On the other hand, targeting civilian merchant ships was a standard practice undertaken by all sides in World War II.

While the rockets the *Barb* employed appear to have been effective, it's not clear that they were superior to having another deck gun. But within a decade of the *Barb's* last mission, new rocket-based technologies in the form of guided cruise and ballistic missiles drastically reduced the relevance of big guns on warships or coastal defenses. The new weapons could be launched by a submerged submarine a long distance from the shore, safe from immediate retaliation.

Thus the *Barb's* last rocket-laden patrol presaged the future of undersea warfare. Submarines, such as the enormous [Ohio-class](#) ballistic missile submarine, which has a variant carrying 154 land-attack cruise missiles, can pose a threat even to a nation with a well-defended coastline. The *Barb's* month-long seaside rampage will remain a unique incident for some time to come.

Sébastien Roblin writes on the technical, historical and political aspects of international security and conflict for publications including the [19FortyFive](#), [The National Interest](#), [NBC News](#), [Forbes.com](#) and [War is Boring](#). He holds a Master's degree from Georgetown University and served with the Peace Corps in China. You can follow his articles on [Twitter](#).



“Make the chili”

A good friend of mine unexpectedly lost his wife. A couple months later we were golfing together, chatting about nothing. He asked what my dinner plans were and I told him wifey wanted my homemade chili and cornbread, but I didn't feel like stopping at the store. We golfed a few more minutes when he quietly said, “Make the chili.”

It took me a few minutes to realize we were no longer talking about dinner. It was about going out of your way to do something for someone you love because at any moment, they could unexpectedly be taken from you. So today I'm sharing with you that wisdom handed to me by my dear friend, that I've thought of many times since that day. Next time someone you love wants you to go for a walk or watch a football game or play a board game or just put your phone down and give them your undivided attention, just do it. “Make the chili”

Authpr unknown.

An Hour of your time

SON: "Daddy, may I ask you a question?"

DAD: "Yeah sure, what is it?"

SON: "Daddy, how much do you make an hour?"

DAD: "That's none of your business. Why do you ask such a thing?"

SON: "I just want to know. Please tell me, how much do you make an hour?"

DAD: "If you must know, I make \$100 an hour."

SON: "Oh! (With his head down)."

SON: "Daddy, may I please borrow \$50?"

The father was furious.

DAD: "If the only reason you asked that is so you can borrow some money to buy a silly toy or some other nonsense, then you march yourself straight to your room and go to bed. Think about why you are being so selfish. I work hard everyday for such this childish behavior."

The little boy quietly went to his room and shut the door.

The man sat down and started to get even angrier about the little boy's questions. How dare he ask such questions only to get some money?

After about an hour or so, the man had calmed down, and started to think:

Maybe there was something he really needed to buy with that \$ 50 and he really didn't ask for money very often. The man went to the door of the little boy's room and opened the door.

DAD: "Are you asleep, son?"

SON: "No daddy, I'm awake".

DAD: "I've been thinking, maybe I was too hard on you earlier. It's been a long day and I took out my aggrava-tion on you. Here's the \$50 you asked for."

The little boy sat straight up, smiling.

SON: "Oh, thank you daddy!"

Then, reaching under his pillow he pulled out some crumpled up bills. The man saw that the boy already had

money, started to get angry again. The little boy slowly counted out his money, and then looked up at his father.

DAD: "Why do you want more money if you already have some?"

SON: "Because I didn't have enough, but now I do."

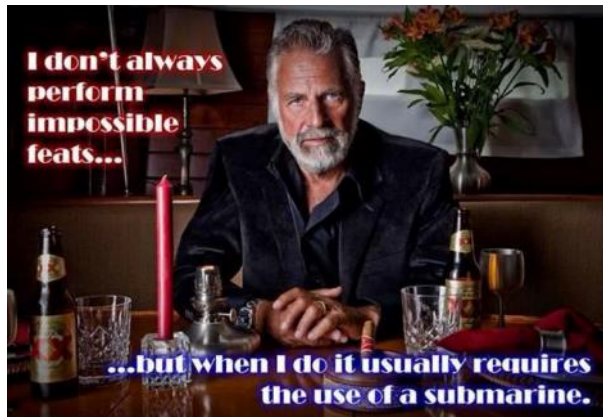
"Daddy, I have \$100 now. Can I buy an hour of your time? Please come home early tomorrow. I want to play with you."

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little son, and he begged for his forgiveness. It's just a short reminder to all of you working so hard in life.

We should not let time slip through our fingers without having spent some time with those who really matter to us, those close to our hearts.

Author Unknown

Courage is knowing it might hurt, and doing it anyway.
Stupidity is the same.
And that's why life is hard.





SubVets Wants You, Horsefly

by Bob "Dex" Armstrong

For years I had my old Silver Dolphins tucked away in my cufflink box. Every now and then when I was looking for a tie clip or a shirt stud, I would come across my old Dolphins and for a moment, a smile would be triggered by raw pride.

I had no one to share those memories with. No one would understand, much less care. It was all so long ago, and geography and years had separated me from both my boat and shipmates. I thought I had lost my grip on the magic that you feel when you are a part of the U.S. Submarine community.

The United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and the dedicated men who stoke the fires that keep it going strong, have given the magic back to us. They have done something that force leadership failed to do: they've provided a platform where lads who rode piston-powered boats could drain beer glasses with lads who rode proton-powered boats, share the comradeship we should have shared a long time ago, and trade bullshit by the forklift load.

Submarine sailors are notorious for failing to say thank you. We were so damn close that "Thank you's" were simply understood. The unsaid stuff was a large part of the brotherhood of the undersea service.

But as you grow older, your sense of appreciation matures and you recognize that the road has an end and that you had better toss your "Thank you's" on the messdeck table for your mates to sift through because your I.O.U.s will expire when the bastards nail the lid on your box.

Subvets has given us all a late-in-life "After the ball is over" rerun. Whoever thought it up and those who are devoting time to keep it "Full on four," deserve our sincere thanks. A sort of mass invisible handshake from all of us who have benefited from the restoration of our wonderful boatservice memories. SubVets lets an old coot run barefoot over the bare titties of the Goddess of the Main Induction, to tap dance with the devil and howl at the moon. That is no small gift.

If you rode the boats, Qualified, and remember how damned special it all was, and you still haven't linked up with SubVets, dig into your mattress money and mail in for your membership. We were an elite service. That's not bogus bragging, it's a damned fact. When you take the totality of American service veterans, there aren't a helluva lot of us. Having said that, it's important for those of us our country pinned Dolphins on to support the guys who are keeping us together. Look on it as a kind of alumni obligation. Hell, all of us blow more than SubVets dues on a lot of stuff we don't really need.

Hey, it's the right thing to do if you ever stowed your entire inventory of earthy belongings inside the pressure hull of a U.S. submarine. No one suggested this, promoted it or even knew I was doing it. It is just an old E-3 long overdue "Thank you" to the great guys who run the "All-Comers Clubhouse" for guys who made a living poking invisible holes in saltwater.

If you're reading this, most likely you've already joined—or at least know how to.

If not, what are you waiting for, horsefly? Tell 'em Dex sent you, and promised you an alley rack.

Keep a zero bubble...

Dex

Rick Vinson

Something I wrote a couple years ago. Sometimes I think too much.....

Yep the alphabet

There are 26 letters in the alphabet. Why?

We don't need 3 of them at all! (Q, X and C.) Why do we need a Q, it uses a U for a crutch most of the time. Why not just use a K and W? It sounds the same. Then there's the X, it sounds like a K and S so why not use those instead? And please stop using X as a Z. You can spell Xylophone with a Z or any of those other xeno words. I'm thinkin the Z is a little shy or in love with X because it sure does let the X take its place a lot!

Then there's the poor C, it doesn't know whether it's an S or a K. Like the word Success. You might have misspelled it if you put the wrong C first. Then it would sound like Suscess, so be careful, don't want to confuse anybody. The C also has 2 best friends it seems to hang out with a lot, H and K. Not sure why it hangs out with the K unless it just makes the K feel good knowing that the C wants to sound just like him when their together, because when they do hang out together the C sounds just like the K. Maybe the C is just letting the K know, hey I've got your back, because of the 130 English words that Start with K, there are 37 where the K is silent when it's followed by an N. Like knee or knowledge. It's like the N is telling K...you can be in front just shut up.

Then there's the P, it just jumps in the front of words that no one knows the meaning of, like pfui teufel or psithurism. It does that in 38 words in the English language. I think it just wants to sound educated. King David started that with the book of Psalms, so if P does that in the Bible I can't pick on it too much, but when it hangs out with the H they throw the letter F right out of words like photo or phone. Totally unnecessary. I'm sure the F is not over there thinkin (WTPH.) I'm thinkin maybe the N, Q and X are bullies making the K stay out of a lot of words it should be in. The P doesn't make other letters be quiet unless it's hanging out with the H. I think it just wants to be involved and the H is a bad influence!

I also know the T is an important letter, but sometimes it just hangs out where it's not needed at all, and kinda hides in a word like Clutch or Crutch. It wasn't needed there. We don't start church with a T. In fact, the T doesn't show up in church at all. Oh Wow, maybe the T is going to hell. Maybe the N, Q and X should go too for being so mean to K.

Anyway, just a thought y'all! What do ya think?



Peeking Duck

Ughh... I hate to do this about a local business but feel you deserve to know. ** Be aware. ** We ordered a Chinese takeout from a local place last night (I won't name them) just been to pick it up and as I was driving home, I heard the bags rustling and moving!!! I thought what the hell is that? Has something got in the bag? I thought I could see a little pair of eyes peering out I was driving so I leaned forward, picked up the bag, put it on the passenger seat and there it was again, more rustling and little eyes looking out behind the prawn crackers, I thought it's got to be a rat or a mouse or something, so I carefully pulled the bag down ... And there it was A Peeking Duck!!!

(copied from another source)





SHIPMATES IN ACTION

USSVI Central Texas Base

Facebook Post, 8/14/23

(Missed this for the September Deck Log (SORRY, Ed.)

Bravo Zulu to Maddie Whitenack on her being selected as one of the recipients of the 2023-34 [US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation](#) college scholarships. Maddie is the granddaughter of our base member Gene Whitenack (any guesses which boat Gene served on?) and she lives in South Carolina where she will be attending the University of South Carolina as a freshman this fall. Great Job Mattie!



Rick Mitchell &

9/10/23 on FB, Today at the Livestrong Challenge.



[Carla Mitchell](#) and I made it through the 10k walking/jogging. Mostly walking 😊. We finished in 1:40 though. We are happy with that. Now we have a starting point. Thanks for everyone's support with fundraising. We believe your generosity is being put to good use. Thank You [#livestrongchallenge](#)



USSVI Central Texas Base, Blood Drive coming up.

As you should be aware we are supporting another blood drive at the Georgetown VFW on Oct 7th from Noon-1600. Flyer with details is attached. As of this email there are still 29 open slots. Our goal is to have 36 donors with a collection of 26 pints. Please help save someone's life by doing one of the following:

1. Sign up to donate. Rules change constantly and many of the things that prevented people from donating before are not disqualifiers now. Check it out. You may be able to donate. Any? at all about this and you can contact We Are Blood at whocandonate@weareblood.org It is quick, 30-45 minutes and does not hurt. This blood WILL help save someone's life.
2. Spread the work to your family and friends and ask them to sign up to donate. This is a service to our community and the donations stay in our community. We have 88 members with tons of friends and family, we should be able to fill this up ourselves.

Link to sign up:

<https://weareblood.org/donor/schedule/?location=63872&date=10/07/2023&reschedule=>

Base Quarterly Social, 9/16/23, Veteran's Memorial Park, Cedar Park. TX

USSVI Central Texas Base is at Veteran's Memorial Park.

Well can't think of a better example why we like these guys. Severe storm warnings and then severe storms couldn't keep these guys and families away. Started with high winds and sideways rain but as you would expect these Bubbleheads and their families came together and pulled off a great picnic! Welcomed our new member Jim, inducted a member into the Holland club and presented National awards to 4 shipmates. **Veteran's Memorial Park.**

Base Quarterly Social, 9/16/23, Veteran's Memorial Park, Cedar Park, TX, Con't.

USSVI Central Texas Base is at Veteran's Memorial Park.



Bill and Dale. Sorry, have to do it..... <https://youtu.be/tMHQG-nAjZE?si=gR1BKxavVdQdy9qY>



Notice the man in the middle shows up to be inducted into the Holland Club wearing a skimmer hat 🤪 See blue hat on table. Well now that problem is solved!



Enjoying the calm after the storm. Literally!



Jack and the admiral, Linda! FYI, they are rooting for Wyoming tonight against the Horns. Oh Well, at least your day started off good with a bunch of bubble heads.

Base Quarterly Social, 9/16/23, Veteran's Memorial Park, Cedar Park, TX, Con't.



The weenie master, otherwise known as Mr. Don, our Holland Club chairman.



Wasn't it just blowing 30+ and raining sideways?



Bill Brinkman being presented an award by Bill Scott.



Carl Repp receiving the Robert Link Award.

Base Quarterly Social, 9/16/23, Veteran's Memorial Park, Cedar Park, TX, Con't.



Roy and supervision.



This is a no sh.....! Been married long enough she can tell the stories now!






Storms over, time to eat!



Can't take these guys anywhere. Actually these guys can go anywhere they want if you ask us. These are the Holland Club members (qualified 50+ years) that made it to the picnic or at least those we could get of the playground equipment in the background. Harry Boyer, Gene Hall, Don Atkins, Virgil Claycamp, David Lewis, Bill Brinkman, Dale Messing, Hubert Jackson, H. Bill Scott, Bill Bellinghausen, Garret D. Onderdonk III.

2023 USSVI National Awards for Central Texas Base









Robert Link was the first National Commander of the United States Submarine Veterans

This 2023 Robert Link Award is presented in his name to


Carl E. Repp
Central Texas Base

for superior performance and contributions to the
United States Submarine Veterans
Your significant voluntary work has made a major impact on the success of our organization.









The 2023 Meritorious Shipmate Award
is presented to
William A. Bellinghausen, Jr.
Central Texas Base

Who, having been judged by a panel of his peers and deemed by them to be the member who most exemplifies the U.S. Submarine Veteran's motto, "Pride Runs Deep," and who, by his efforts and involvement in local veterans affairs, parades, school activities, among other similar endeavors, either personally or through and/or with others has promoted the concept of honor, duty and the pride of the U.S. Navy Submarine Force to the General Public.



2023 USSVI National Awards for Central Texas Base








Let it be known to all who present greetings that the BEN BASTURA HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD For 2023 is presented to

William G. Brinkman
Central Texas Base

Who, by his outstanding performance as an original Plankowner of the Central Texas Base, he converted a 1200 sq. ft. separate guest house for Base meeting space supporting submariners. The house has ship's plaques and pictures, submarine related posters and newspaper clippings on the walls. Various scale models of the Hunley, WWII and fast attack submarines, bookcases of submarine related books, movies and keepsakes are displayed. As the president, storekeeper and newsletter editor of the USS Sea Owl (SS-405) group, their WWII battle flag is displayed, mounted in a nice frame.

He has a genuine love of submarines and the history of the people that served and personifies the commitment to keeping the memories of submarines and submariners for posterity. He has demonstrated a broad understanding of the submarine community in his ability to collect and preserve our history.

NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR

2023

Presented to the Class Two Winner

The Deck Log
Central Texas Base
Editor – Bill Scott

For its Editorial Achievement in Content, Appearance, Layout Graphics, General Interest, Originality, Members Information, Professionalism, Readability, National Information and Overall Value to its Readers

SAVE THE NEW LOCATION! ★★ FOR 2023 ONLY! ★★ SAVE THE DATE!


7th Annual Field of Honor® ★ Nov. 4-12, 2023

Sports field behind GISD Hammerlun Center
507 E. University (Hwy 29)
Georgetown, TX


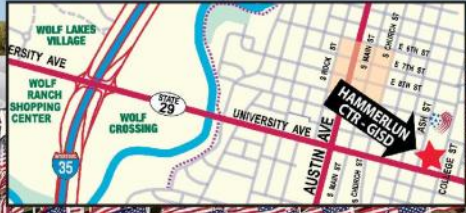

Location for 2023 while San Gabriel Park is renovated.

VFW Post 8587
Is a Proud Affiliate of the Georgetown, TX Field of Honor®.
Order online to support them:
www.georgetowntxfieldofhonor.org/VFW8587

Georgetown, TX
Rotary Foundation



FIELD OF HONOR®
A TRIBUTE TO SERVICE ABOVE SELF

| NOVEMBER 2023 | | | | | | |
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| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

- 4-12 Flag Sales & Reposts
- 5 Opening Ceremonies
- 11 Veteran's Day Ceremony
- 12 Final Flag Sales & Pick-up

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www.georgetowntxfieldofhonor.org • All net profits from flag sales are awarded to 501c3 organizations benefitting veterans and first responders.

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS



CENTRAL TEXAS BASE



2023 FUND RAISER RAFFLE



\$2500 IN PRIZES!
Gift Certificates

1st Place - \$1000 GC 2nd Place - \$750 GC
3rd Place - \$500GC 4th Place - \$250 GC

\$10 Per Ticket / 3 for \$25

CONTEST INFORMATION

- Only 1000 Tickets
- Drawing on Nov 15th @ Base Meeting
-at the Georgetown VFW
- You must be 18 years old to purchase a ticket

Your ticket purchase will support our base and the USSVI Charitable Foundation which provides our member's children College Scholarships and helps shipmates in need through the Brotherhood Fund. We also support local non-profits such as VFW Post 8587, R.O.C.K, Folds of Honor, Patriot Guard, WILCO Blue Star Mothers, VET RIDE, Georgetown Field of Honor, Texas Fallen Project and many, more.

LEND A HELPING ARM

BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, October 7th
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Blood Drive at the VFW Hall
1000 N. College Street, Georgetown



Scan the QR code or email Craig at cwellborn@weareblood.org to get signed up
Walk-ins Welcome!

For information about Eligibility:
whocandonate@weareblood.org

EAT A FULL MEAL BEFORE
DONATING AND PLEASE
REMEMBER
TO BRING YOUR PHOTO ID.



DRAWN TOGETHER
SINCE 1951