



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

FEBRUARY 2024



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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EDITOR'S DESK



The Deck Log is a monthly publication of the Central Texas Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. It is delivered via email in Microsoft Publisher PDF format to the Base Membership. A printed copy is mailed via USPS to those shipmates requesting a mailed copy.

Deck Log Editor

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Have you ever worn the proud symbol pictured above? Are you related to, or know someone who is wearing, or has worn, Submarine Dolphins?
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<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>



<https://www.navy.mil/>



<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/>



<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

FEBRUARY LOST BOATS

"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 Barbel (SS-316)

Lost on Feb 4, 1945 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 4th war patrol. Based on Japanese records, she was bombed near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage. Barbel sent a message reporting that she had been attacked three times by enemy aircraft dropping depth charges and would transmit further information on the following night.



USS Shark I (SS-174)

Lost on Feb 11, 1942 with the loss of 59 officers and men on her 1st war patrol. Shark was the 1st US submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific. She was most likely sunk by depth charges.



USS Amberjack (SS-219)

Lost on Feb 16, 1943 with the loss of 72 officers and men on her 3rd war patrol. Off Rabaul, she was attacked by a Japanese patrol plane, attacked by a torpedo boat and then depth charged by a subchaser. She reported having been forced down on the 13th by two destroyers, and that she had recovered an enemy aviator from the water and taken him prisoner. All further messages to the vessel remained unanswered.



USS Grayback (SS-208)

Lost on Feb 27, 1944 with the loss of 80 officers and men on her 10th war patrol. She appears to have been caught on the surface in the East China Sea by a Japanese carrier plane whose bombs made a direct hit. During this patrol she sank 4 ships totaling 21,594 tons and was tied for 11th in the number of ships sunk.



USS Trout (SS-202)

Lost on Feb 29, 1944 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 11th war patrol. She was sunk by escorts in the middle of the Philippines Basin after sinking a passenger-cargoman and damaging another in a convoy. She carried out several notable special missions, including carrying over two tons of gold bullion out of Corregidor in February 1942. Trout topped off with fuel at Midway and was never heard from again. Japanese records indicate that one of their convoys was attacked by a submarine on 29 February 1944 in the area assigned to Trout. Possibly one of the convoy's escorts sank the Trout.





USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS

BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Hello Shipmates,

I am hopeful this edition of our newsletter will find you in good spirits and good health though I know a some of you are facing some health challenges, some difficult, and some not so much, but challenges none the less. As you are receiving this and hopefully are reading it, I will be in Tennessee visiting with my parents who are facing some difficult health challenges themselves much like some of you. And, it brings to mind the visit I get to be a part of to Dell Childrens Medical Center tomorrow visiting some children in their own battles. My thoughts and prayers are with each one of you as you go through this season of your lives. My main prayer is that you have people around you who know how to just be there and support as you need and that you are accepting of this also. I do not believe we are not meant to be solitary creatures and suffer in silence. If there is anything any of us at the base can do to help lighten the load, provide encouragement, or anything let us know.

This month I have also had the privilege to go around and visit a few bases in the district in my role of District Commander and am excited to see the enthusiasm and things happening in other parts of the state. Of the 3 bases I visited, all of them have sworn in some new leadership and all are growing or starting to grow and looking at some new and different things the bases want to do. We here at our base also swore in 2 new members in leadership roles. I look forward to what Carl Repp is bringing to our base in his service as our new Vice Commander and Bryan Eaton as our new Treasurer. Thank you both for stepping up and of course thank you to Frank Abernathy for his continuing service to our base as our Yeoman.

I'm going on year 6 serving as your Base Commander now. This has been a great honor to me in that you have the confidence in me to do this and have put me in this position. It has been a privilege to get to meet and work with all of you and the many veteran organizations outside of USSVI that we partner with, but the time has come for me to step down from this role and I will do so at the end of this year (2024). I fully intend to always be an active part of the base though and will not dump anything on anyone. I think our creed is too important and worth both my and your time. If we don't continue to grow and provide outlets for our Submarine Veterans to meet, talk and share with the public about the Submarine force and allow things to just fade away, then what good will come from the efforts of those who served before us. This requires some time and effort and new ideas on how to do this which requires new people to step up, some to step down and all of us to provide positive input. If this doesn't happen, then who will tell their stories and what happens when our children stop hearing about the service and sacrifice others made to allow us to get where we are. I know some of you don't think our country is going in the right direction and failing and I'm not going to discuss it here. What I am going to do is ask you a question and it's a simple one. What are YOU doing, or going to do about it? You don't need to fix the entire world's problem in one fell swoop as we didn't get here overnight. We can do it one bite at a time, and we do that by being active in our community (and this does not mean from your desk on your PC or Cell Phone arguing on social media or passing on stupid memes with mostly false quotes on them) It means stepping up and serving in our organizations, including this one, that fight the good fight and educate the country on our history. I saw a list one of our shipmates shared recently on social media called a simple formula for living and it has a lot of good stuff on it. Here's my favorite: Stop blaming other people! From that I can extrapolate, look inward and figure out how you can help. Serving your base is one good example. I am looking forwarding to serving alongside all of you for many years to come. Thank you for everything each of you do!

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



USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEETING MINUTES

Date: 1/17/24

Location: VFW Post 8587 and Zoom

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

E-Board was present**Meeting Minutes:** No Minutes from Dec 2023, Base Social**Sailing List: 26 VFW, 1 Speaker VFW, 5 ZOOM (32 Total)****Binnacle List:** Gene Hall suggested adding folks to your local Church Prayer Lists.**Prayer:** Bob Steinmann led the base in our opening Prayer.**Pledge of Allegiance:** Rick Mitchell**Tolling of the Boats –** Rick Mitchell Reading, Carl Repp Tolling**Officer and Committee Reports****Treasurer's Report:** Virgil Claycamp

Current Total Funds as of 1 Jan 2024

1 Dec 2023 Balance \$33,256.89

1 Jan 2024 Balance \$31,310.01

General: \$28,385.01

Memorial: \$4,164.63

Storekeeper – Virgil Claycamp**Base Challenge Coins** for \$10 each for members, \$20 for others.**The Submarine Coloring Books** that we use at Kaps4Kids events are available for \$5 each.**Memorial (Gene Hall):** Work is progressing and the stand for the MK14 is in place. Rick indicated that we lost our opportunity to paint the torpedo of the mount and will need to do the final painting of the Torpedo once it is re-mounted. We also discussed looking for local business to possibly donate their time and help on this.**Kaps 4 Kids (Shawn O'Shea):** The last event was at McLane Children's in Temple. The next event will be at Dell Children's in Austin at Mueller on 30 Jan 2024 at 11:00. Then on 7 Mar 2024 we'll be at McLane Children's in Temple again.**Parade (Tom Sprague):** Next event will be the Red Poppy Festival in Georgetown, 27 Apr 2024. Then 4th of July in round Rock, Veteran's Day to be in Killeen.**Membership (Chuck Malone):** 88 Current Members. 52 National Life, 40 Base Life. 45 Holland Club Members. Dues season in here. Please consider multi-year or Lifetime Options and Please get your Dues in as soon as you can. Annual dues are \$30/National and \$15/Base. 2024 Stickers and Membership Cards are available. Please log on to USSVI.ORG and ensure your information is current and correct.**Birthdays 2024:** 1/2 Boyer, 1/19 Bob Lind, 1/20 Fred Maynard, 1/20 Charles Goertz**Heroes Below** Guest Speaker Paul McLaughlin, Founder.

In Sept 2019 Paul retired from a job in corporate business and founded Heroes Below.

The purpose was to help Active/Veteran and First Responders reduce Stress through an introduction to Scuba Diving. There were 75 in the program in 2019 and the number has increased. Reports have shown that some of the Combat Veterans have had their Medications for Stress reduced after being in the program for a while. Flotation has been shown to be a significant stress reducer. Currently Tom's Dive and Swim at 5909 Burnet Rd in Austin is where sessions are held. Paul is looking for a location in the Georgetown and Round Rock area to provide more options. For further information go to www.heroesbelow.org or send email to Paul McLaughlin at heroesbelow@gmail.com or call him at 512-922-7415. Heroes Below was provided with a \$250 donation by CTB.

Unfinished, Ongoing and Old Business**2024 Base Officers**

Base Commander – Rick Mitchell

Vice Commander- Carl Repp

Treasurer- Bryan Eaton

Secretary/Yeoman- Frank Abernathy

Holland Club Inductee: Jim Andree was Inducted. Jim qualified on the USS Bang 1963.

Congratulations Jim.

NEW Business:

Chuck Malone asked about 'Boat Sponsorship' where we used to provide a donation of the Submariner Magazine and letter to a boat of our choosing. Rick Mitchell and Gene Hall suggested that we do not do this at this time due to questions about the program and find other ways as we have been to support the boats.

Sailor of the Year

Frank Espinosa was selected as our 2023 Sailor of the Year and was presented with a plaque provided by Bill Scott and a check for \$100 from the base.

Budget Approved for 2024 – Rick Mitchell

The proposed budget was presented at the meeting and after review and discussion, Carl Repp made a motion to accept the 2024 Budget as presented and it was seconded by Chuck Trahan and approved by the members present.

2024 Base Calendar

Regular Meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday of each of the following months.

In Person at the VFW Post with Zoom: Jan, Apr, Jul and Oct.

Regular Meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday of each of the following months

In Person Only at the VFW Post: Feb, May, Aug and Nov.

Base Socials will be on the 3rd Sat in Mar, Jun, Sep and Dec with dates and locations to follow.

Baseball Game 12 Apr 2024 at Dell Diamond. The base will supplement \$15 of the \$60/head cost after a motion by Chuck Trahan, 2nd by Jeff Linder and approval by all.

May Tolling of Boats, location to be determined, possibly Taylor, TX again?

Loan Star Round Up in Fredericksburg from 16-19 May 2024.

USSVI National Convention will be in Cleveland, OH near the end of August.

Good of the Order

50/50 Raffle – \$60 of \$120 was won by Virgil Claycamp. Harry Boyer won a 2nd drawing prize of a Wooden Challenge Coin Holder.

Next Events – Base Social on 16 March at "Dale's" in Walburg, TX.

Next Meeting – 21 Feb at the VFW Post. No Zoom

Sailing List

Total Base Members and Visitors (32):

Guest Speaker Paul McLaughlin of "Heroes Below" (1)

Local at the VFW Post 8587 (26): Frank Abernathy, Jim Andrea, Harry Boyer, Bill Brinkman, Ed Carr, Virgil Claycamp, Jack Collins, Bryan Eaton, Frank Espinosa, Mike Gauthier, Gene Hall, Hubert Jackson, David Lewis, Jeff Linder, Chuck Malone, Fred Maynard, Dale Messing, Rick Mitchell, Shawn O'Shea, Carl Repp, Bill Scott, Roy Silva, Tom Sprague, Bob Steinmann, Chuck Trahan and Harry Ullman.

ZOOM Participants (5)

Sam Amato, Bill Bellinghausen, Hubert Jackson, John Odom and Gene Whitenack.

Meeting Adjourned by Rick Mitchell, 2020 hours

Minutes submitted by Frank Abernathy, Yeoman, 24 Nov 2023

E-Board was present

NO Meeting Minutes for September due to Base Social

Sailing List: 32 Total at VFW and Zoom

Binnacle List: John Roberts, Chuck Trahan, Don Atkins, Cynthia Whitingslow and Bob Steinman

Prayer: Bob Steinmann led the base in our opening Prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance: Rick Mitchell



Lonestar Subvet Round Up

Facebook post - 1/5/24

Our host hotel this year will be the Inn on Barons Creek. You are welcome to choose other area hotels also. Or even come by on day trips. We just hope to see you there! Pics here are from the hotel's web page, www.innonbarronscreek.com

Facebook post 1/20/24



Are you an RVer? If you want to bring your RV we have a block of spaces with Fredericksburg RV Park. We have 10 spaces next to each other reserved and if we get a minimum of 10 people their rates will be 20 % off or they will revert to the 10% veteran's discount. Everyone who has RV Park reservations and paid registrations by March 1st will be in a drawing for 2 Free Banquets or Welcome Aboard Party (your choice!) Reservations at Fredericksburg RV Park must be made by phone this year. Let them know you are requesting a site from the Lonestar Subvet Round Up block. 1-830-990-9582

Check out the webpage <http://www.lsr.org> for frequent updates.



BASE TREASURER'S REPORT

31 January 2024

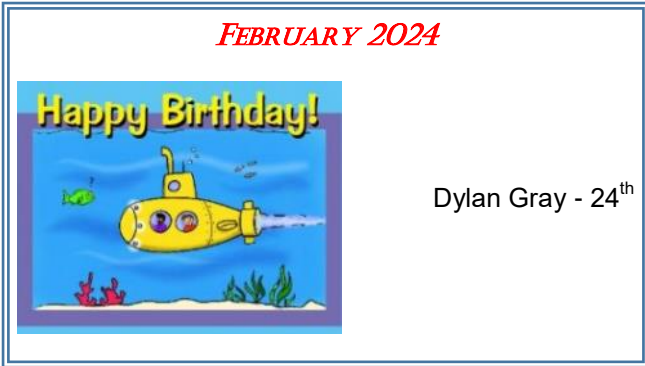
Financial Report for Period Ending 12/30/2023



Beginning Balance - 12/1/2023	\$33,411.89
RBFCU Checking (General Fund)	\$28,385.38
RBFCU Savings (Memorial Fund)	\$4,164.63
Cash to be deposited	\$0.00
Uncleared Checks	-\$1,240.00
Ending Balance - 12/31/2023	\$31,310.01

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

FEBRUARY 2024



Dylan Gray - 24th

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP

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

Members listed in Central Texas Database	88
Regular Annual Members	26
National Life Members	52
Base Life Members	61
Holland Club Members	45
Associate Members	1
Dual Members	2
Prospective Members:	0
War Veterans	77
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

Prayer for our brothers and friends in need.

Our Heavenly Father, we are so helpless. We care so much for our brothers and friends. They are special to all of us. It hurts us to see them suffering. And while we cannot be with them Lord, You be with them please and be with those who attend them. Comfort those who love them and need them, as well as those who must wait. Amen

New policy from the Base Commander. I personally think it is good to share with others the battles we are facing and things we need. I see no shame or anything wrong at all with this however, some of you wish to keep that to yourselves, and I respect those wishes too. Just to make sure I am not sharing anything you don't desire unless I hear specifically from you that you want to be listed then I will not. I hope though you all feel comfortable enough with your shipmates to share with us so we can offer support however best we can. I will put out a request to all via email a week or so before each meeting and you can reach me as always

phone, text, email, in person. I enjoy talking with all of you.

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.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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From a FB post by a shipmate on the USS Bluegill SS-242

The New Pastor



A pastor transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the church that he was to be introduced as the head pastor at that morning. He walked around his soon to be church for 30 minutes while it was filling with people for service. Only 3 people said hello to him, most looked the other way. He asked people for change to buy food because he was hungry. Not one gave him anything.

He went into the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was told by the ushers that he would need to get up and go sit in the back of the church. He said hello to people as they walked in but was greeted with cold stares and dirty looks from people looking down on him and judging him.

He sat in the back of the church and listened to the church announcements for the week. He listened as new visitors were welcomed into the church that morning but no one acknowledged that he was new. He watched people around him continue to look his way with stares that said you are not welcome here.

Then the elders of the church went to the podium to make the announcement. They said they were excited to introduce the new pastor of the church to the congregation. "We would like to introduce you to our new Pastor." The congregation stood up and looked around clapping with joy and anticipation. The homeless man sitting in the back stood up and started walking down the aisle.

That's when all the clapping stopped and the church was silent. With all eyes on him....he walked up the altar and reached for the microphone. He stood there for a moment and then recited so elegantly, a verse from the bible.....

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me.' ~ Matthew 25: 34-37.

After he recited this, he introduced himself as their new pastor and told the congregation what he had experienced that morning. Many began to cry and bow their heads in shame. "Today I see a gathering of people here but I do not see a church of Jesus. The world has enough people that look the other way. What the world needs is disciples of Jesus that can follow this teachings and live as he did. When will YOU decide to become disciples?

He then dismissed service until the following Sunday as his sermon had been given.

Amen

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

21 February 2024, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, Zoom and VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1900 meeting.

16 March 2024, Quarterly Social, Dale's Essenhaus, 3900 FM972, Georgetown, TX 78626 Time TBD

12 April 2024, Round Rock Express Baseball Game, Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd, Round Rock, TX 78665, 1800, Details to be provided.

17 April 2024, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, Zoom and VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1900 meeting.

27 April 2024, Red Poppy Festival Parade, Georgetown, TX, details to be provided

15 May 2024, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, Zoom and VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1900 meeting.



A special thanks to BC Rick Mitchell, Sam Amato, Harry Ullmann, Harry Boyer, and Frank Abernathy for volunteering to make six sick children smile on January 30th 2024. This was the CTB K4K program's first visit of the year to Dell Children's Medical Center. Our next event is planned for Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's on March 7th at 10:30 am. Any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

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

Sincerely, Shawn O'Shea
Chairman K4K CTB



USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

USSVI 2024 National Convention

Facebook posting on 1/21/24

Something you can do while in Cleveland at the convention in August!

[MUSEUM TOURS USSVI CONVENTION \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Come and tour some of the finest museums in the country. All in one location at University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio. Enjoy each other as you have a wonderful day, including lunch at The Crawford Museum among some of Americas finest classic cars.

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NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

From the Desk of USSVI National Awards Chairman

Jeffrey Walsh

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

1/30/2024

Shipmates,

The Awards Manual is posted on our old website (www.ussubvets.org) under "Documents" and "Manuals", and the new website, (www.ussvi.org) under "Manuals. You will have to sign in to the new website to access the manual. The 2024 awards season opens on 1 February.

Dates to remember:

FEBRUARY 1: Award Nomination period opens and all USSVI Members in good standing submit Award nominations to the National Awards Chair.

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

MAY 5: The National Awards Chair submits nominations to the respective Award Selection Committee Chair for evaluation, voting and selection of recipients

Jeff Walsh, National Awards Chair

USSVI END1

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860-449-2103



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Newest USS New Jersey ready to make its debut as the 1943 model goes home

Story by David M. Zimmer, NorthJersey.com, 1/3/24

[Newest USS New Jersey ready to make its debut as the 1943 model goes home \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com)

As the newest USS New Jersey prepares to make its formal debut off the state's coastline, its predecessor is nearing a return to its birthplace

In early 2024, the World War II-era battleship USS New Jersey is due to make a short voyage along the Delaware River from Camden to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard dry dock, where it was made in the early 1940s. Launched for service on Dec. 7, 1943, the floating museum will again be dry-docked, this time for inspection and maintenance.

"The Battleship New Jersey is an incredible piece of history that has traveled the world and aided our military during some of this country's most unstable times, like World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War," Louis Cappelli Jr., director of the Camden County Board of Commissioners, said in 2023. "Even years after its decommissioning, the battleship plays an important part in our community here in Camden County, and preserving it is something we needed to prioritize."

The maintenance project is being funded through a \$5 million contribution from the New Jersey Historical Commission and a \$3.25 million loan from the Camden County Improvement Authority to the association behind the Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial, the nonprofit Home Port Alliance. The well-preserved ship, nicknamed Big J, brings about 80,000 visitors a year to its Camden home. Museum ticket sales are due to fund the loan's repayment.

The ship was one of four Iowa-class battleships, the last battleships commissioned by the U.S. Navy. All be-

came museums. The USS New Jersey, which opened to the public in Camden in October 2001, is the most decorated. It earned 19 battle and campaign stars during a term of service that included World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War and the Gulf War.

The ship is 887 feet long and displaces more than 60,000 tons of water. Its listed top speed is 33 knots, or nearly 38 mph. When the ship was built, it was cutting-edge. The Iowa class was a culmination of the battleship era and was meant to counter Japan's massive battleships with superior speed and firepower. Ultimately the platform proved less useful than the similarly sized Essex class of aircraft carriers. After the Cold War, the battleship was deemed superfluous.

The U.S. Navy moved toward submarines. Currently boasting about 50 nuclear-powered attack submarines, U.S. Navy officials plan to boost numbers to at least 60. Among the new ships is the new USS New Jersey. Named in 2015 and launched in 2022, the submarine is due to be commissioned into the fleet during an April 6 ceremony at Naval Weapons Station Earle in Monmouth County. Tickets are available through Jan. 15 from the USS New Jersey Commissioning Committee.

The ship will be the third naval vessel named after the state in the U.S. naval service. The first was a Virginia-class battleship built in Quincy, Massachusetts, commissioned in May 1906. About half the length of its namesake battleship, the original USS New Jersey mostly existed as a deterrent before becoming a training ship during World War I. After the war, it transported troops home from Europe before being destroyed in September 1923 during U.S. Army bombing tests.

This article originally appeared on NorthJersey.com: [Newest USS New Jersey ready to make its debut as the 1943 model goes home](#)



First Look At Columbia Missile Submarine's X-Shaped Stern

Story by Howard Altman, 1/10/24

[First Look At Columbia Missile Submarine's X-Shaped Stern \(msn.com\)](#)



First Look At Columbia Missile Submarine's X-Shaped Stern© GD Electric Boat

The first Columbia class submarine stern section has been delivered to General Dynamics Electric Boat. The massive component will serve as the propulsion section of the inaugural [Columbia-class nuclear ballistic missile submarine](#).

The stern section was shipped aboard Holland - GDEB's 400-foot barge - for the 400-mile journey from Newport News to GDEB's Quonset Point, Rhode Island shipyard. It arrived there last week.

The images show the Columbia class's distinctive x-shaped stern configuration, the first one designed for a U.S. submarine in six decades, with the USS Albacore featuring it back the 1960s. The configuration provides [enhanced maneuverability, efficiency, and safety](#), as well as acoustic signature reductions across major parts of the submarine's operating envelope compared to the current cruciform system used on existing American submarines. The x-stern configuration has becoming increasingly popular and is now found on other submarine designs around the globe.

The Columbia class is designed to be the largest and most complex submarine ever procured by the Navy, [according to the Government Accountability Office](#) (GAO). The Navy is planning to spend \$132 billion on the program and GDEB has a target of delivering the first one in April 2027, according to the GAO. It is the

first new ballistic missile submarine the Navy has built since the 1990s.

The first Columbia class submarine stern rides underneath the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge heading to the General Dynamics Electric Boat plant in Quonset Point, Rhode Island. (General Dynamics Electric Boat) (General Dynamics Electric Boat) (General Dynamics Electric Boat)

Because the current Cold War-era Ohio class boats will begin to retire in 2027, the Navy wants the USS District of Columbia to be on patrol by October 2030. There has been talk of [extending the life of some of the Ohio](#) class SSBNs in order to accommodate more slippage in this schedule.

To ensure an uninterrupted presence of the undersea component of the nuclear triad, the Navy has made the Columbia class its priority. [As we wrote previously](#), that has impacted the production of its Virginia class fast attack submarines. GDEB, which is producing those submarines as well, has 17 Virginia class boats in its current backlog delivering through 2032, [according to Reuters](#).

The Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Illinois (SSN 786) returns home to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from a deployment in the 7th Fleet area of responsibility on Sept. 13, 2021. (Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Michael B. Zingaro/U.S. Navy via AP)

Given the importance of the program, the Navy is working to make sure that the Columbia class stays on track throughout the production process. The sea service is working to accelerate the remaining construction work on the District of Columbia to brace for potential delays in the boat's testing later this decade, [Defense News reported in October](#).

The Navy and GDEB originally built a six-month buffer into the construction schedule, the publication reported, but that has eroded due to "[pandemic-related challenges and contractor performance](#)," according to Defense News. There has been other issues with the program, including [issues with poor welds](#) on missile tubes for the boats.

Still, the Navy has confirmed the District of Columbia is still "on its contractually mandated schedule," Defense News reported.

We've reached out to the Navy and GDEB for more details.

The delivery of the District of Columbia's stern section is a positive sign for a vital Navy procurement program. We will continue to monitor it as it progresses.

Contact the author: howard@thewarzone.com



Navy fires captain of guided missile submarine for 'loss of confidence'

Story by Jeff Schogol, 1-15-24

[Navy fires captain of guided missile submarine for 'loss of confidence' \(msn.com\)](#)



Then-Cmdr. Geoffrey Patterson during a change of command ceremony for the USS Maryland. (Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Bradley J. Gee/U.S. Navy)© Provided by Task & Purpose

The captain of a guided missile submarine, the USS Georgia, was fired from the position, the service announced on Monday, due to "a loss of confidence in his ability to command."

Navy Capt. Geoffrey Patterson was relieved as the commanding officer of the Georgia's Blue Crew by Navy

Rear Adm. Thomas “T.R.” Buchanan on Jan. 12. [according to a Navy news release.](#)

“Capt. Geoffry Patterson was relieved from command and an investigation is being conducted,” said Navy Lt. Spencer Marion, a spokesman for Submarine Group Ten. “As a matter of policy, the Navy does not comment on ongoing investigations and does not speculate on any administrative and/or disciplinary actions.”

Patterson originally joined the Navy as an enlisted sailor, rising to command on both the Georgia and the USS Maryland. [Guided missile submarines](#) have two full crews that alternate manning the boats, each designated by a color.

The Navy has four guided missile submarines, all of which were originally Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines, but were converted to non-nuclear capable boats. The Georgia was converted in 2007. Each guided missile boat can carry up to 154 Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles and train to deliver special operations forces on covert missions.

“Navy commanding officers are held to high standards of personal and professional conduct,” the news 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.”

So far, Navy officials have not provided a specific reason for Patterson’s relief. The phrase “loss of confidence” is a euphemism commonly used by the military branches when leaders are fired that avoids providing an exact reason why. Media outlets can submit a Freedom of Information Act request to find out more information about reliefs of command, but the process can take months, if not longer.

Originally from Chicago, Patterson assumed command of the USS Georgia’s Blue Crew in May 2022, according to the [Defense Visual Information Distribution Service.](#)

He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and naval science, and he later earned a master’s degree from the U.S. Naval War College in national security and strategic studies.

USS Georgia is now commanded by Navy Capt. Christopher Osborn, commanding officer of the boat’s Gold Crew, the Navy’s news release says.



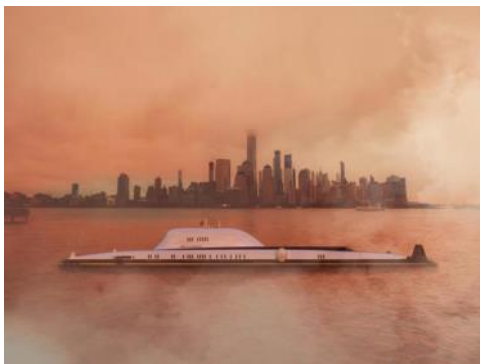
Inside the World’s First \$3 Billion Luxury Super Submarine

Story by Shubhendu Vatsa, 1/26/24

[Inside the World’s First \\$3 Billion Luxury Super Submarine \(msn.com\)](#)

Blending [superyacht](#) luxury with [submarine](#) stealth, the Austrian-designed Migaloo M5 promises to redefine maritime living but at a cost that’ll burn a hole through your pocket. While the M5 has yet to set sail, Migaloo, the company responsible for the M5, is calling the vessel the world’s first luxury super submarine. Billed as the “future of yachting,” this high-end hybrid vessel will be capable of four-week underwater voyages, thus offering unprecedented security and secluded exploration, making it an ideal haven for discerning adventurers and [rich billionaires.](#)

According to [Air Mail](#), the submersible is set to be an impressive 541 feet in length, capable of fitting 20 passengers and 40 crew members while diving to depths of 250 meters. Onboard, there’s a ton of stuff to keep you entertained – think jet skiing, kite surfing, paddle boarding, and even exploring with one of two mini-submarines or catching a helicopter ride.



The Migaloo M5 is billed as the world's first super submarine and is capable of four-week underwater voyages | Image: Migaloo© Provided by Man of Many UK

Adding to its allure, the M5 will also feature two pools, a jacuzzi, and a cafe. For culinary delights, the vessel offers a 36-seat dining room with glass walls, providing guests with spectacular views of the sea and marine life. And if that's not enough, you can amp up your experience with extras like a swimming pool, wine cellar, or cinema, though these come at an extra cost. All this luxury comes with a hefty price tag – the Migaloo M5 is estimated to cost around AUD \$3 billion for construction alone, without even adding those optional bells and whistles.

Despite pitching the Migaloo M5 over the past several months, CEO Christian Gumpold has faced challenges in attracting buyers, with safety remaining a major concern, particularly after the Titan submersible tragedy in June last year. Acknowledging this challenge, Gumpold stated that the company is aiming for “visionary billionaires with or without existing superyacht experience who have extraordinary demands for exclusivity, safety, adventure.” He further added that Migaloo is “in negotiations with a number of interested parties from all over the world who are motivated to own the world's first superyacht-submarine hybrid.”



Image: Migaloo© Provided by Man of Many UK

“As it is a completely new development, such a project will require corresponding monetary resources, take a lot of time for design, construction and building and demand many decisions,” Gumpold told [The Times](#). “However, the owner also receives the corresponding prestige and unimagined new possibilities when calling this product his own. Our target group must be aware of this and have the corresponding innovative mindset.”

While Migaloo M5 surely offers a luxurious bunker-like experience beneath the waves, its invulnerability will surely be questioned, with safety features likely analyzed by prospective buyers. With a whopping upwards of AUD \$3 billion price tag, the M5 will have a lot to prove in terms of safety, but Migaloo remains confident its vessel is secure. The company promises maximum protection with a double-hull construction and a range of rescue systems, including mini-submarines.

[Migaloo M5](#)



Image: Migaloo© Provided by Man of Many UK



Commander, Submarine Forces

Facebook Post 1/25/24

Our Submariners are just built different. We go anywhere, anytime, in any conditions. We take our Sailors to places they've only dreamt of seeing.

[#SilentService](#) [#TravelTuesday](#) [#whereareyougoing](#) [#ICEX](#)



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/february-1.html>

2/01/1902 – USS *Plunger* (SS-2), the lead ship of the *Plunger*-class submarine, launches. She is commissioned Sept. 19, 1903, at the Holland Company yard at New Suffolk, Long Island, N.Y. Ensign Chester W. Nimitz is the submarine's final commander when *Plunger* is decommissioned Nov. 6, 1909 at the Charleston Navy Shipyard.

2/01/1944 – Three US Navy submarines, *Guardfish* (SS-217), *Hake* (SS-256) and *Seahorse* (SS-304), attack Japanese convoys, sinking a destroyer, cargo ship and another vessel.

2/02/1942 – USS *Seadragon* (SS-194) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Tamagawa Maru*.

2/04/1942 – While the battle for Bataan rages throughout the night, USS *Trout* (SS-202) loads 20 tons of gold bars and 18 tons of silver coins as ballast to replace the weight of ammunition they had just delivered to US and Philippine forces in Manila.

2/05/1944 – USS *Flasher* (SS 249) sinks Japanese army cargo ship *Taishin Maru* off Mindoro. Also on this date, USS *Narwhal* (SS 167) lands 45 tons of ammunition and cargo to support Filipino guerrilla operations at Libertad, Panay, Philippines.

2/06/1945 – U.S. Navy submarine USS *Pampanito* (SS 383) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks merchant tanker *Engen Maru* about 200 miles northeast of Singapore. Also on this date, USS *Spadefish* (SS 411) sinks Japanese merchant passenger-cargo ship *Shohei Maru* off Port Arthur, Korea.

2/07/1943 – USS *Growler* (SS 215) fights a desperate night battle with the Japanese supply ship *Hayasaki*, during which the boat's commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. Howard W. Gilmore, rams the enemy ship, badly bending *Growler's* bow. Wounded by machine gun fire and unable to go below, Gilmore gives the order "Take her down!" sacrificing himself so his submarine could dive to safety. For his "distinguished gallantry and valor" on this occasion and earlier in the patrol, he is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor and promoted one rank.

2/07/1945 – USS *Thomason* (DE 203) sinks the Japanese submarine RO 55 off Iba, Luzon. USS *Bergall* (SS

320) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks Coast Defense Vessel No. 53 off Cam Ranh Bay. USS Guavina (SS 362) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks merchant tanker Taigyo Maru, off Saigon, French Indochina while USS Parche (SS 384) sinks Japanese army cargo ship Okinoyama Maru in Tokara Retto.

2/08/1942 – A Japanese destroyer sinks after being torpedoed by Navy submarine S37 (SS 142) the day before off Makassar.

2/08/1943 – USS Snook (SS 279) attacks a Japanese convoy off the west coast of Kyushu and sinks the transport Lima Maru and survives depth charges about 30 miles southeast of Goto Retto.

2/09/1960 – USS Sargo (SSN 583) becomes the third submarine to surface through the ice at the North Pole.

2/10/1943 – USS Pickerel (SS 177) sinks Japanese freighter Amari Maru off Sanriku.

USS Pogy (SS 266) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks destroyer Minekaze and freighter Malta Maru 85 miles north-northeast of Formosa.

2/10/1943 – USS Pogy (SS 266) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks destroyer Minekaze and freighter Malta Maru 85 miles north-northeast of Formosa.

2/10/1943 – U.S. Navy submarine USS Batfish (SS 310) sinks three enemy submarines from Feb. 10-13.

2/11/1944 – USS Gudgeon (SS 211) sinks Japanese freighter Satsuma Maru that was previously damaged by Chinese B-25s off Wenchow, China.

2/12/1945 – USS Hawkbill (SS 366) sinks the small Japanese cargo vessel Kisaragi Maru and the two large boats she is towing, at Lombok Strait, N.E.I.

2/12/1947 – The first launch of a guided missile, the Loon, takes place on board USS Cusk (SS 348).

2/13/1945 – USS Sennet (SS 408) is damaged by gunfire of Japanese gunboat (No.8 Kotoshiro Maru or No.3 Showa Maru), east of Tanega Shima, but then Sennett sinks No.8 Kotoshiro Maru after it had been shelled by USS Lagarto (SS 371) and USS Haddock (SS 231). Haddock then sinks No.3 Showa Maru, which had already been shelled by Lagarto and Sennett.

2/14/1945 – USS Gato (SS 212) sinks Japanese Coast Defense Vessel No.9 in the Yellow Sea and USS Hawkbill (SS 366) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chasers Cha 4 and Cha 114 in the Java Sea.

2/15/1943 – USS Gato (SS 212) sinks Japanese stores ship Suruga Maru in Bougainville Strait and USS Pickerel (SS 177) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks cargo vessel Tateyama Maru off the east coast of Honshu.

2/16/1944 – USS Skate (SS 305) sinks the Japanese light cruiser Agano as she deploys from Truk, Caroline Islands.

2/19/2005 – Fast Attack Submarine USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23) is commissioned.

2/20/1945 – USS Pargo (SS 264) sinks Japanese destroyer Kokaze off Cape Varella, French Indochina and survives counter-attack by destroyer Kamikaze, which had been steaming in company with Nokaze during the attack.

2/21/1942 – USS Triton (SS 201) sinks Japanese merchant cargo vessel Shokyu Maru in the East China Sea, 60 miles south of Quelpart Island.

2/22/1945 – USS Becuna (SS 319) sinks Japanese merchant tanker Nichiyoku Maru off Cape Padaran Bay despite the presence of two escort vessels.

2/24/1945 – USS Lagarto (SS 371) sinks Japanese submarine I 371 and freighter Tatsumomo Maru off Bungo Strait, Kyushu.

2/25/1944 – USS Hoe (SS 258) attacks a Japanese convoy at the mouth of Davao Gulf, sinking the fleet tanker Nissho Maru and damaging the fleet tanker Kyokuto Maru, while USS Rasher (SS 269) sinks Japanese army cargo ship Ryusei Maru and freighter Tango Maru off the north coast of Bali.

2/27/1945 – Submarine USS *Scabbardfish* (SS-397) sinks Japanese guardboat No. 6 Kikau Maru, 100 miles northeast of Keelung, Formosa, while USS *Blenny* (SS-324) attacks a Japanese convoy off French Indochina and sinks merchant tanker Amato Maru off Cape Padaran.

2/27/1944 – Three U.S. Navy submarines sink three Japanese cargo ships: *Grayback* (SS-208) sinks *Ceylon Maru* in the East China Sea; *Cod* (SS-224) sinks *Taisoku Maru* west of Halmahera while *Trout* (SS-202)

sinks *Aki Maru*.

2/27/2017 – The *Los Angeles*-class fast-attack submarine USS *Albuquerque* (SSN-706) is decommissioned after 33 years of service during a ceremony held at Keyport Undersea Museum.

2/28/1944 – USS *Balao* (SS 285) and USS *Sand Lance* (SS 381) sink Japanese army cargo ship *Akiura Maru*, transport *Shoho Maru* about 90 miles northwest of Manokawari, New Guinea and transport *Kaiko Maru* just east of Musashi Wan, off Paramushir, Kurils.

2/29/1992 – Fast Attack Submarine USS *Jefferson City* (SSN 759) is commissioned.



NavalHistoria

1/3/24

USS *Pickrel* (SS-524) surfacing at a 48 degree angle during tests off Oahu, March 1, 1952

<https://navalhistoria.com/uss-skate-the-first-submarine.../>



U.S. Naval Institute

12/31/23

#OTD in 1942, USS *Nautilus* (SS-168) conducted an unusual mission by rescuing a group of refugees in the Solomons that included fourteen nuns in white habits who had evaded the Japanese for nine months. The nuns spent three days on the sub and were impressed with the hospitality offered to them by the sailors. Though they never figured out how to operate the complex flushing procedure for the head, the nuns did learn how to play cribbage. The four "Submarine Sisters" of St. Joseph of Orange returned to the Solomons after the war.





U.S. Naval Undersea Museum

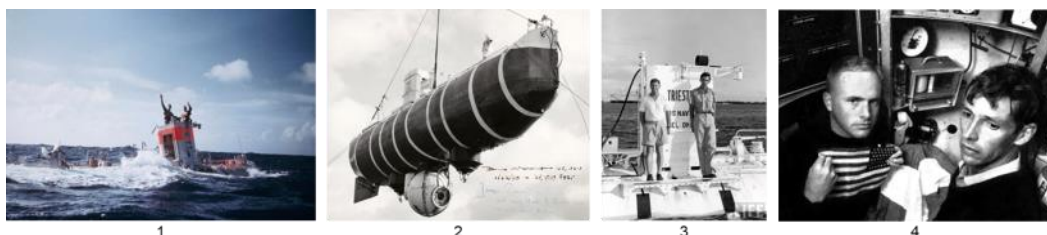
1/23/24

[#OnThisDay](#) in 1960, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Don Walsh and Swiss oceanographer Jacques Piccard descended almost seven miles (35,800 feet) inside bathyscaphe Trieste to reach the Challenger Deep, the deepest point in the world's oceans. The deep-diving descent remains one of the most significant events in deep submergence history.

Trieste's landing on the ocean floor stirred up so much silt that Walsh and Piccard could see little to nothing out of the pressure sphere's observation window. Walsh described it as "like looking into a bowl of milk."

For more than five decades after Walsh and Piccard's historic dive, no human returned to the Challenger Deep. Then in the last 12 years, 25 people have made the seven-mile journey! Filmmaker James Cameron made the trip in 2012, followed by undersea explorer Victor Vescovo in 2019. Between 2019 and 2022, twenty-three other individuals have also reached the Challenger Deep, most through Vescovo, including Don Walsh's son Kelly in 2020.

[#DeepSubmergence](#) [#ChallengerDeep](#) [#DonWalsh](#)



Pictures Left to Right

1. Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard celebrate after a successful descent to the Challenger Deep, January 23, 1960.
2. Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard signed this photograph of Trieste after the dive. At the time, instrument readings identified the depth of the dive as 37,800 feet, the actual depth was later determined to be 35,800 feet.
3. Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard pose on Trieste's deck before their historic dive to the Challenger Deep.
4. A photograph of Don Walsh (left) and Jacques Piccard inside Trieste's pressure sphere during their descent to the Challenger Deep, January 23, 1960.

COMSUBPAC

1/3/24 - Throwback Thursday (1959): USS Skate (SSN-578) became the first submarine to surface at the North Pole in 1959. Note, the 3,000 mile journey had the sub in the Arctic region for over a month, and the crew later received the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon for "the first time the ability of submarines to operate in and under the Arctic ice in the dead of winter."

NHHC Photograph Collection, L-File, Ships

[#TBT](#) [#Submarines](#) [#USSSkate](#)





“May...”

From CTB Shipmate John Odom Facebook post

May there always be work for your hands to do;
may your purse always hold a coin or two;
may the sun always shine on your windowpane;
may a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
may the hand of a friend always be near you;
may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

Republic.

From a Facebook Post by CTB Shipmate Joe Keller

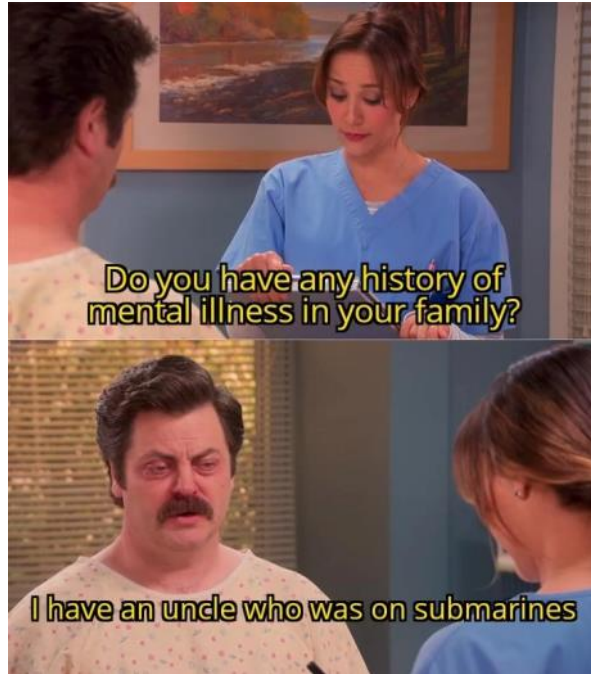
“I like the sound of the word. It means people can live free, talk free, go or come, buy or sell, be drunk or sober, however they choose. Some words give you a feeling. Republic is one of those words that makes me tight in the throat - the same tightness a man gets when his baby takes his first step or his first baby shaves and makes his first sound as a man. Some words can give you a feeling that makes your heart warm. Republic is one of those words.”



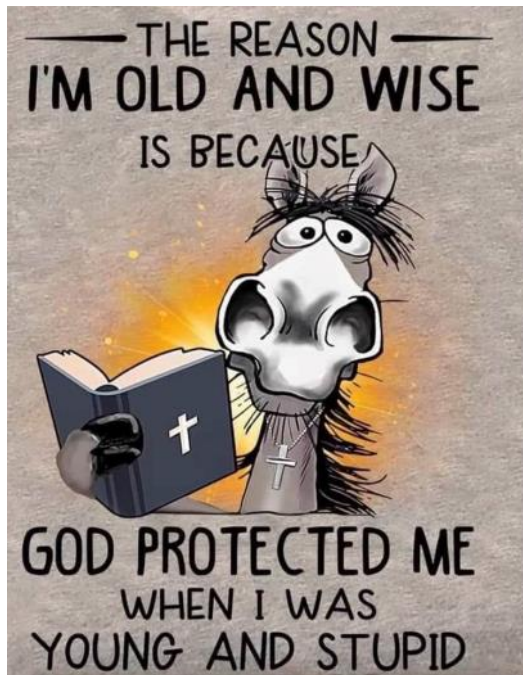
Attribution: John Wayne as David Crockett, The Alamo (1960)

Most people don't want to be part of the **process**, they just want to be part of the **outcome**. But the **process** is where you figure out who's worth being part of the **outcome**.

~Scottie Pippen



Religious Humor





SHIPMATES IN ACTION

Base Meeting 1-17-2024

USSVI Central Texas Base

1/19/24

From our meeting Wednesday night. 35 Shipmates in attendance to see:



Our new slate of officers were sworn in. L/R, Carl Repp (Qual'd 1986 onboard USS Sunfish)- Vice Commander, Bryan Eaton (Qual'd 2012 USS Newport News) - Treasurer, Frank Abernathy (Qual'd 1974 USS Patrick Henry) - Yeoman with the Rick Mitchell, BC administering the Oath of Office.



A Holland Club induction: Jim Andree (Qual'd 1963 USS Bang), l/r Gene Hall, Jim, BC Rick Mitchell. Gene Hall presenting Holland Club Certificate to Jim Andree



A great presentation by Paul McLaughlin founder of www.herosbelow.org which is one of the non-profits we proudly supported in 2023. Check out the link above to see what Heroes Below is all about.

Paul McLaughlin giving presentation on behalf of his Non Profit - Hero's Below.



Presentation of a plaque to our Sailor of the Year, Frank Espinosa Jr by H. Bill Scott and much, much more.

Frank Espinosa (left) being presented his plaque for being selected as the bases 2023 Sailor of the Year.



At left: Tom Sprague our parade chairman updating the base on upcoming parades.



At Left: Virgil Claycamp our treasurer giving his last report before being relieved by Bryan Eaton.

From the Base Commander: **Rick Mitchell** - Congrats **Jim Andree** and **Frank Espinosa Jr**. Thank You Paul for your presentation and serving our veterans. Thank You, **Carl Repp**, Bryan Eaton, and **Frank Abernathy** for stepping up and serving the base and **United States Submarine Veterans**, and to everyone else at the base who chip in to make this thing work.

Hope to see you all at our next meeting February 21st, if not before somewhere!



Progress on the Memorial

