



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

DECEMBER 2024

VOLUME XIII - ISSUE 12



USSVI Creed

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

Camaraderie

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

Perpetual Remembrance

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



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USSVI NATIONAL COMMANDER

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

USSVI NATIONAL SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Tim Carlisle 925-812-4239 timcarlisle00@hotmail.com

USSVI CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR

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

USSVI CENTRAL DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

Don Hirschenhofer (817) 505-7250 Donh948@gmail.com

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE OFFICERS

Base Commander, Rick Mitchell 512-639-0035 rmitch2@yahoo.com
 Vice-Commander, Carl Repp 512-619-9366 carl_repp@gmail.com
 Yeoman, Frank Abernathy 512-426-3427 f.abernathy@utexas.edu
 Chief of the Boat, Bill Scott 512-826-8876 hscottss242@gmail.com
 Treasurer, Virgil Claycamp 512-632-4852 vclaycamp@yahoo.com

BASE SUPPORT APPOINTMENTS

Chaplain - Bob Steinmann 512-255-5250 bobandgladys@austin.rr.com
 Memorial - Gene Hall 512-864-2860 genehall3198@gmail.com
 Storekeeper - Virgil Claycamp 512-632-4852 vclaycamp@yahoo.com
 Membership - Chuck Malone 512-694-5294 cmalone10@austin.rr.com
 Newsletter Editor - Bill Scott 512-826-8876 hscottss242@gmail.com
 Webmaster - Rick Mitchell 512-639-0035 rmitch2@yahoo.com
 Parades - Tom Sprague 858-755-6071 tmsprague48@gmail.com
 Kaps4Kids - Shawn O'Shea 702-682-9170 Soshea77@outlook.com
 Historian - Eric Heter 512-731-4139 erik.heter@gmail.com
 Holland Club - Don Atkins 512-508-1997 oneoldcrow3134@gmail.com

EDITOR'S OFFICE



The Deck Log is a monthly publication of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Central Texas Base. 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
 Harold W. (Bill) Scott II, STCS (SS) USN Ret.
 Holland Club, Life Member USSVI
 SS-242, SSN-612, SSN-595, SSN-596
hscottss242@gmail.com
 512-826-8876

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://ussubvets.org/home.asp>
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.

USSVI National Office:

USSVI National Office
 PO Box 1063
 Groton CT 06340-1063
 360-337-2978



2017 Tom Williams



2021 Rick Mitchell
 2021 Bill Scott
 2023 Carl Repp
 2024 Frank Espinosa
 2024 Virgil Claycamp



2010, 2014,
 2017, 2020



2020 Base
 2023 Bill Bellinghause
 2024 Base



2018 Rick Mitchell
 2020 Bob Steinmann,
 2020 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/>
<https://ussubvets.org/home.asp>



www.ussvicentraltexasbase.org/
<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/>



<https://www.navyleague.org/news/council/greater-austin-council/>



www.navyleague.org



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



www.moaa.org



www.shiftcolors.navy.mil

The Newsletter
for Navy
Retirees.



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



<http://www.submarinesailor.com>



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



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



<http://isausa.org/>



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



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



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



<https://nationalinterest.org>



<https://gcaptain.com>



<https://warriormaven.com>



SILENT RUNNING

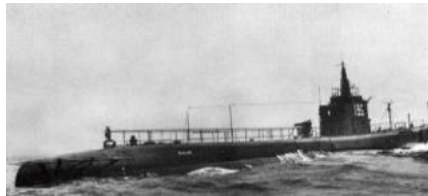
DECEMBER LOST BOATS

"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 Capelin (SS-289)

Lost on Dec 2, 1943 with the loss of 76 men. She was on her 1st war patrol, but her exact location and cause of loss remain a mystery. She may have been lost to mines or an operational casualty.



USS Sealion (SS-195)

Lost on Dec 10, 1941 with the loss of 5 men. To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack. The destruction of the Navy Yard made repairs impossible, and Sealion was ordered destroyed. All salvagable equipment was taken off, depth charges were placed inside, and the explosives were set off to prevent her from being made useful to the enemy.



USS F1 / Carp (SS-20)

Lost on December 17, 1917 with the loss of 19 officers and men when it was sunk after collision with the USS F-3 (Pickarel) (SS-22) off San Clemente, CA. While maneuvering in exercises at sea, F-1 and F-3 collided, the former sinking in 10 seconds, her port side torn forward of the engine room. 19 of her men were lost, while 3 others were rescued by the submarines with whom she was operating.



USS S-4 (SS-109)

Lost on December 17, 1927 with the loss of 40 officers and men when it was sunk after being rammed by USCG Paulding. Salvaged in 1928 and re-commissioned.





USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS

BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Welcome to December Shipmates!

Of course, I sit here before December is here as I do every month trying to decide what to put in my BC Report. I wonder who will be reading this and what do they really want to see here. What can I say, if anything that makes a positive difference? All ques-

tions I guess anyone who does these wonders.

Well, since today it is actually Thanksgiving morning and I'm taking advantage of a little quiet time to get this done before we head of to the chaos of packing 30+ mothers, father, sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews and so on, in a single house. Half of them trying to use the same oven for "just a few minutes" and all the other crazy things that, much the same, happens with many families across our country this Thanksgiving. Honestly, it's a bit overwhelming for me as I prefer the quieter setting and smaller groups but for whatever reason it is the way that many of us have set ourselves up. You know, keep to ourselves, heads down, working, taking care of ourselves first and then Bam!, the calendar reminds us that we should take a break and be thankful. I like to think as I have matured, I realize that there is reason to be thankful all throughout the year and not store it up for just one weekend and I believe I do a pretty good job of it, but I could be better. How about you?

I've now been a part of this organization for over 12 years. Not sure why I didn't join sooner but that's a discussion for another day. All I know is I have had the great fortune to meet many great people who I would have never met if I had not become a USSVI member. Sure I could have ran in other circles (which I do also) and met other people and filled my life with all sorts of things to take its place and there's nothing wrong with that as many of you do, but I have found that to steal a phrase from my friend and shipmate, Bobby Reed: *"No matter where you travel, when you meet a guy who's been.... There's an instant kind of friendship 'cause we're brothers of the 'Phin."* And for that I am thankful.

I am also Thankful for:

- My paternal family, as many of you know and have experienced, tomorrow, is never promised. I know a couple in our group have recently lost loved ones and we have lost one of our own also. Cherish each other while you can.
- All of the opportunities you and I have had together whether marching in a parade, meeting for a beverage, having breakfast together, attending a Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) event, giving blood, or any of the other small events that we did together which allows us all to get to know each other a little more and share the story of the Submarine Force with our community.

- For the role our base played in executing 2 large events this year including a Tolling Ceremony in Taylor and the 4th annual Lonestar Subvet Round-Up in Fredericksburg.
- My brothers and sisters out there serving today that help ensure our continued freedoms. Hooyah!
- For those stepping up into leadership positions within our base to help guide it into the future.
- For each one of you and your families. It truly is an honor to get to know you all and become friends.

My list goes on forever and that's why I try to remember daily to be thankful. I believe we all have far more to be thankful for than what any of us realizes. What about you?

Thank You for everything you all do!

Rick Mitchell, 512-639-0035



November Meeting Summary Base commander, Rick Mitchell



New Member Welcome - Ken Rydolph is our newest member. Ken qualified onboard the USS Groton (SSN-694) in 1990 and lives in Pflugerville. Ken noted that he was a former member about ten years ago. Let's also welcome back former member **Derald Vogt** who has moved back to Texas after a short stint in the St. Louis area. He has moved to the San Antonio area and wants to renew his membership with us as a dual member.

Election of Base Officers - Base Officer elections will be held during December and a ballot using Google Forms like the past few years will be sent to all. What I'm really excited about here is that we have 4 volunteers, one each for each of our elected positions. Please take a second, or three, when you get the ballot and vote, and show them your support, or not, by writing in a vote. Our current slate of prospective officers is:

- Base Commander - Curt Webber - qualified 1989 onboard USS Olympia (SSN-717)
- Vice-Commander - Chuck Malone - qualified 1981 onboard USS Jacksonville (SSN-699)
- Yeoman - Dave Clark - qualified 1976 onboard USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN-641)
- Treasurer - Chris Glover - qualified 1999 onboard USS Springfield (SSN-761)

Sailor of the Year - Nominations are being taken and if you have someone to nominate, please get their name and reason to me NLT Nov. 30. We will vote for them also while voting for our officers. Winner will be announced at our Christmas Party on Dec. 14th. Current nominees are Virgil Claycamp, Frank Espinosa, and Rick Mitchell.

Base Christmas Party - This year, it will be held at Curt

Webbers place in Point Venture, which is about 40 minutes west of Round Rock on Lake Travis. He will be providing Smoked Prime Rib and Turkey. Sides and desert are pot-luck style. Water and Tea are provided. Feel free to BYOB. Asking \$5 a head to offset some of the cost. More details will be included in the Evite coming out soon. **The number one thing we need from everyone is your RSVP (Yes or No).** Please read the Evite for directions and more info.

Kileen Veteran's Day Parade - Jack Collins shared that we were on TV for the Killeen Veterans Day parade. You can see us here around the 12-minute mark.

[Rewatch: Killeen Veteran's Day Parade](#)

Membership Data Online Update - Frank Abernathy brought up a good point about making sure your information in the system is correct. **Every one** of you should have access to the ussubvet.org webpage. Please make sure you can log on and your info is correct. Why should you do this? Maybe you have a shipmate out there looking for you, maybe you haven't been getting your AS magazine or National bulletins via email. If you can't log in, directions are there for who to contact to reset your PW. It is easy. Let Rick know if you need help.



Location: VFW Post 8587

Meeting opened at 19:01 Rick Mitchell, Base Commander

E-Board was present with the exception of Carl Repp, Vice Commander

Meeting Minutes: 16 Oct 2024 Meeting Minutes approved

Sailing List: 21 Total at VFW

Binnacle List: Chuck Trahan and Coy Smith.

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Curt Webber

Tolling of the Boats – Rick Mitchell, Reading, Frank Abernathy, Tolling

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: Virgil Claycamp

Funds as of 1 Nov 2024

\$29,605.23 1Oct Balance

\$28,050.23 1Nov Balance

General: \$25,430.16

Memorial: \$4,175.07

Storekeeper – Virgil Claycamp: The 2025 Calendars, Silver Anniversary Coins and Patches as well as a Submarine Coloring book and other items are available in our Ships Store. We are currently out of the Central Texas Base Challenge Coins; Bill Scott will get a quote for more.

Memorial: Rick Mitchell: Rick is looking for 2 working parties to touch up the Torpedo, the first will do any repairs and the second will be to paint, using spray cans. Please

contact Rick if you are willing to help.

Kaps 4 Kids: Currently no future visits currently scheduled, but we are expected to have a couple scheduled after first of the year. Rick Mitchell will be taking the role of K4K Chair.

Parade (Tom Sprague): The Elgin Parade on 2 Nov 2024 was appreciated by there was a low local turnout by the community. The Killeen Veterans Day Parade on 11 Nov 2024 had a Very Large turnout. Jack Collins provide the following link from KCEN's Rewatch YouTube archives of the Killeen Parade. At approximately 12:55 minutes into the video is our Float.

<https://youtu.be/ily9U6Qn7CE?si=ogggQRPX1eh6Ni4p>
(copy and paste the link into your browser)

Membership (Chuck Malone): 89 Current Members. 54 USSVI Life/63 Base Life, 45 Holland Club.

Information from Chuck's list given to Yeoman at the meeting. Dues are due; please contact either Chuck Malone or Rick Mitchell to learn of payment options.

Birthdays 2024: 11/8 Colin King, 11/19 David Clark, 11/19 Tom Sprague, 11/28 Ray Holloway, 12/3 Bill Brinkman, 12/4 Harry Boyer, 12/5 Fred Maynard, 12/9 Dick Witte, 12/11 Jack Odom, 12/15 David Miller, 12/16 Jim Bowles, 12/24 Shawn O'Shea, 12/28 Kyle and 1/2 David Paulson.

Unfinished, Ongoing and Old Business

Dues for BOTH Base and National will be increasing after 31Dec2024, so this may be a good time to consider paying 'Life Dues' one time. See Chuck Malone or Rick about the rates.

Charitable Donations: At the Oct meeting a suggestion was put forth by Rick to have four of our members attend the SS American Memorial's Christmas Gala in Seguin. The cost for the 4 person table would have been \$500; or we'd simply make a \$500 donation to SS American Memorial. Since there was no commitment by members to attend the gala, a \$500 direct donation will be made. \$500 was approved by members at the Oct 2024 meeting.

NEW Business:

2024 Christmas Party: The Christmas Party will be at Curt Weber's house, 508 Deckhouse Drive, Point Venture, TX. Curt will provide Smoked Prime Rib and Turkey (if anyone has dietary restrictions please contact Curt. Water and Tea provided, BYOB. Club members should respond to the eVite coming soon from Rick. The cost is \$5/head. Members are asked to bring sides and desserts and indicate on the eVite what you will be bringing. See You There.

Friends of Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery Wreath Laying Ceremony has THREE opportunities to help; on 23Nov2024 to PREPARE the Wreaths and then on 30Nov2024 to PLACE the Wreaths and on 11Jan2025 to RETRIEVE the Wreaths. Killeen, TX. It is suggested that you park at the Texas A&M parking lot and take the shuttle. See <https://www.wreathsforvets.org/home/schedule-of-events/> for more information.

Base Officer Elections

The following Officer positions are up for election. Please ensure you complete and return your Google Ballot, once

Rick emails them out. The current candidates are:

Base Commander: **Curt Webber**
 Vice Commander: **Chuck Malone**
 Yeoman: **Dave Clark**
 Treasurer: **Chris Glover**

Sailor of the Year

Current nominations are Virgil Claycamp, Frank Espinosa and Rick Mitchell.

These will be on the same ballot as the Base Officers and elected/select members will be announced at the 14 Dec Christmas party.

Good of the Order

50/50 Raffle – \$35 of \$70 was won by Hubert Jackson.

Frank Espinosa indicated that **American Legion Post 174** gave a certificate of appreciation to the base for our financial assistance to them this year. Rick has the certificate.

Welcome Aboard, Ken Rydolph

Ugly Flys- Ask Coy Smith about the fishing flys he sells.

Next Event – 14 Dec 2024 at Curt Webber’s house in Point Venture.

Next Meeting – 17 Jan 2025 18:00 Social and 19:00 Meeting at VFW Post WITH ZOOM.

Sailing List

Total Base Members 21

Local at the VFW Post 8587 (19): Frank Abernathy, Jim Andree, Harry Boyer, Ed Carr, David Clark, Virgil Claycamp, Jack Collins, Ken Dallman, Frank Espinosa, Mike Gauthier, Chris Glover, Hubert Jackson, Colin King, Chuck Malone, Dale Messing, Rick Mitchell, Bill Scott, Tom Sprague, Bob Steinmann, Curt Webber and newly joined member Ken Rydolph.

Meeting Adjourned by Rick Mitchell 20:15

Minutes submitted by Frank Abernathy, Yeoman, 28 Nov 2024

BASE TREASURER’S REPORT

15 October 2024

Financial Report for Period Ending 10/30/2024

Beginning Balance - 9/31/2024 - \$28,023.10



RBFCU Checking (Gen Fund) \$25,430.16
 RBFCU Savings (Mem Fund) \$4,175.07
 Cash to be deposited - \$0.00
 Uncleared Checks - **-\$1,555.00**

Ending Balance - 10/31/2024 - \$28,050.23

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

DECEMBER 2024 BIRTHDAYS



Bill Brinkman - 3rd
 Harry Boyer - 4th
 Fred Maynard - 5th
 Dick Witte - 9th
 John Odom - 11th
 Mark White - 11th
 David Miller - 15th
 James Bowles - 16th
 Shawn O’Shea - 24th
 Kyle Nix - 28th

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP

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

Members listed in Central Texas Database	89
Regular Annual Members	25
National Life Members	54
Base Life Members	63
Holland Club Members	45
Associate Members	1
Dual Members	5
Prospective Members:	0
War Veterans	76
Members pending	0
Submitted: Chuck Malone, Membership	

2025 USSVI National and Base Dues

	Years Renewed/age at Lifetime	National Dues 1/1/25	Base Dues*
Annual Dues	1 Year	\$40	\$15
	Oct-Dec & Next Year	\$47	\$20
	3 Years	\$113	\$55
	5 Years	\$185	\$90
Lifetime dues	76+ Years	\$150	\$75
	66-75 Years	\$300	\$150
	56-65 Years	\$450	\$225
	46-55 Years	\$625	\$310
	Up to 45 Years	\$750	\$375
			*Holland Club member dues paid by Base after 1 st year’s paid.

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 vcaycamp@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 patch-

es 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

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

Prayer for our brothers and friends in need. Shipmates noted at the Base Meeting: Gene Hall, Chuck Trahan, Don Atkins, Coy Smith.

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.

First Monday, every Month, 0800 hours, Texas Veterans breakfast, Texas Grill, 101 State Hwy 71, Bastrop, TX 78602

3 December 2024, Walsh Middle School Career Fair, 0830 -1100 hours, 3850 Walsh Ranch Blvd, Round Rock, TX 78681

7/14 December 2024, Annual Christmas Party, location TBD

15 January 2025, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, VFW Post #8587 and Zoom, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1900 meeting.



Kap(SS) for Kid(SS) Update

Kaps 4 Kids Chair – Still Vacant

Currently no future visits currently scheduled, but we are expected to have a couple scheduled after first of the year. Rick Mitchell will be taking the role of K4K Chair.

We still need an ambassador for our base for the USSVCF. Please let me know you are interested and let's talk about it.

Base Commander, Rick Mitchell

Editor's Office

Lots goin' on around our base. Plenty to read and peruse here too. Me? I'm still keepin' busy juggling "The Deck Log" - what else is new? Make yourself useful and send me a Sea Story or two, huh? Stop by my email (hscottss242@gmail.com) and say hello sometime.

The November edition cover story:

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Seven Little Stories

Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. ~ That's FAITH

When you throw a baby in the air, she laughs because she knows you will catch her. ~ That's TRUST

Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning but still we set the alarms to wake up. ~ That's HOPE

We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. ~ That's CONFIDENCE

We see the world suffering, but still we get married. ~ That's LOVE

On an old man's shirt was written a sentence, 'I am not 60 years old, I am Sweet 16 with 44 years of experience. ~ That's ATTITUDE

One of the things age changes is; At 22 you walk into a bar and look around for a nice looking girl to hit on, at 80 you walk in and look around to make sure where the toilet is !! ~ That's SMART



Eternal Patrol

Prayer for our Departed Shipmates

Almighty God, our heavenly father, who art our refuge and strength and a very present help in times of trouble. Help us at this time to put our trust in thee, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to see us through our times of sorrow.

We thank thee for the life and love, of our shipmates and we ask that the work they started here on this earth be carried in the hearts and hands of their family and friends.

They leave more than just memories.

Help us to go our way bravely. Even though alone and to do our tasks faithfully day-by-day. Make our true love and brotherhood be a constant inspiration to our lives and may their memory live on through us. Grant us peace and strength for the battle of life while it lasts, and rest at the close of day, when work is done.

Father, when we too are tired, and would prepare ourselves to slip beneath the final wave. Grant that we may let loose the moorings and sink slowly into the deep waters trusting like them, to wake with thee.

We commend into your hands of mercy, most merciful father, the souls of our departed shipmates may they be found acceptable in your sight.

They now sail under your orders on their eternal patrol, Shipmates rest your oars, we have the watch. Amen

In memory of the fifty-two submarines lost in World War II

Sealion	Cisco	Harder
S-36	S-44	Seawolf
S-26	Dorado	Darter
Shark I	Wahoo	Shark II
Perch	Corvina	Tang
Grunion	Sculpin	Escolar
S-39	Capelin	Albacore
Argonaut	Scorpion	Growler
Amberjack	Grayback	Scamp
Grampus	Trout	Swordfish
Triton	Tullibee	Barbel
Pickrel	Gudgeon	Kete
Grenadier	Herring	Trigger
Runner	Golet	Snook
R-12	S-28	Lagarto
Grayling	Robalo	Bonefish
Pompano	Flier	Bullhead



NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

USSVCF November 2024 Newsletter

USSVCF President - Robert Bachman

Robert Bachman <info@ussvi.org>

11/20/2024

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzQXKNBrzvLGLJnBivTpfGJITqbX>

Ed. As these USSVCF news articles are National All-HandsBulletins, I'm only including the Google URL I receive for the article.

NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

Veterans Service Officer - John Dudas

United States Submarine Veterans
Inc. info@ussvi.org

11/29/2024

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzQXKWblhBlxvMrGdwzLjhKnznGb>

USSVI VSO Dec 24 Newsletter

Ed. As these VSO Newsletters are National All-Hands Bulletins, I'm only including the Google URL I receive for the article.



GEDUNK (SUBMARINE NEWS) FROM THE NET

(Ed., continuing with the updated "Submarine News" section by listing the various articles by title and attendant URL for reading at your own leisure.)

Reproduced from the Interesting Engineering website. Taiwan unveils 100-ton submarine mothership to raise spy, strike drones in sea

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/taiwan-unveils-100-ton-submarine-123942071.html>

Reproduced from the Tri-City Herald website. Take a look at huge nuclear submarine compartments' journey to Tri-Cities resting place

<https://www.tri-cityherald.com/news/local/hanford/article294782614.html>

Reproduced from the Interesting Engineering website. New sensors make Speartooth sea drone a silent-killer with 1,242-mile reach

[New sensors make Speartooth sea drone a silent-killer with 1,242-mile reach](https://www.interestingengineering.com/news/new-sensors-make-speartooth-sea-drone-a-silent-killer-with-1242-mile-reach)

Reproduced from the Ct Insider website. Behind the scenes at Electric Boat: Building submarines, nonstop hiring and meeting deadlines

<https://www.ctinsider.com/business/article/electric-boat-hiring-groton-connecticut-18416987.php>

Reproduced from the Interesting Engineering website. Spanish submarine to go undetected longer with world-first propulsion system

[Spanish submarine to go undetected longer with world-first](https://www.interestingengineering.com/news/spanish-submarine-to-go-undetected-longer-with-world-first-propulsion-system)

[propulsion system](#)

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Reproduced from the Buzz Hint website. Silent Hunters: The Rise of Diesel-Electric Submarines in Modern Naval Warfare

[Silent Hunters: The Rise of Diesel-Electric Submarines in Modern Naval Warfare](#)

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[Photos: US' submarine reactor heads for demolition after decades of service](#)

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<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/navys-nightmare-coming-true-age-submarine-ending-213538>

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<https://www.eurasiantimes.com/a-new-orientalism-an-open-hatch-sank-chinese-sub/>

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['Quiet As a Baby Dolphin': The Astute-Class Submarine Is Not To Be Toyed With](#)

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<https://www.newsweek.com/china-news-satellite-photo-shows-new-activity-underground-submarine-base-1981055>

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[How Deep Can A Military Submarine Go?](#)

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<https://www.thebarentsobserver.com/security/norwegian-fishermen-snagged-us-nuclearpowered-submarine/420357>

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<https://www.yahoo.com/news/taiwan-unveils-100-ton-submarine-123942071.html>

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<https://www.outkick.com/culture/rob-peters-submarine-david-hookstead-rules-of-engagment>

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[Can the U.S. Navy Really Build 3 Submarines Per Year?](#)

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Reproduced from the Yon Hap News English website. U.S. nuclear-powered submarine arrives in Busan to replenish supplies

[U.S. nuclear-powered submarine arrives in Busan to replenish supplies](#)

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[Women Take the Helm on USS New Jersey, a Navy First](#)

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[The USS Idaho: America's New Weapon in the Undersea Arms Race](#)

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Reproduced from the Daily Galaxy website. Scandal in the Royal Navy: British nuclear submarines equipped with software designed in Belarus

<https://dailygalaxy.com/2024/11/royal-navy-scandal-uk-nuclear-submarines-fitted-belarusian-made-software/>

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[US Navy submarines to re-arm with nuclear cruise missiles after 3 decades](#)

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[Minister opens new office 'critical' to Aukus submarine programme](#)

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[Which Global Power Owns 65 Submarines?](#)

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<https://www.yahoo.com/news/russia-could-china-submarine-tech-130839783.html>

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[US Upgrades Nuclear Submarine Force Tasked With](#)

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[The Navy's Virginia-Class Submarine Debacle](#)

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Reproduced from the YouTube website. Aboard the Virginia-class Fast-Attack Submarine USS New Jersey (SSN 796)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tD9paYZcelc>

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[US sends nuclear-powered attack submarine to Navy base near China in a first](#)

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<https://www.twz.com/sea/chinas-wacky-and-puzzling-new-aircraft-carrier-has-set-sail>



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<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/shipwreck-hunters-find-lost-world-war-ii-era-submarine-that-vanished-with-64-crew-members-onboard-180985285/>

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Source: Buzz Hint: The USS Scorpion Mystery: A Deep Dive into a Cold War Tragedy

[The USS Scorpion Mystery: A Deep Dive into a Cold War Tragedy](#)

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Reproduced from the National Interest website. The U.S. Navy's Los Angeles-Class Has Its 'Ride or Die' Moment

[The U.S. Navy's Los Angeles-Class Has Its 'Ride or Die' Moment](#)

Reproduced from the Herald Times Reporter website. Manitowoc-built WWII submarine USS Puffer survived one of the most intense depth-charge attacks on record

<https://www.htrnews.com/story/life/2024/11/11/wwii-submarine-uss-puffer-survived-intense-depth-charge-attack-in-1943/76135254007/>

[United States Submarine Veterans](#)

11/23/2024

On 24 November 1945 Menhaden broke the flag of Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, CINCPAC and CINCPAC. Fleet Admiral Nimitz had selected Menhaden as his flagship during Change of Command ceremonies, for she combined the new with the old. Although untried in combat, she was one of the newest boats in the Submarine Service and incorporated the latest improvements in submarine design and equipment. Moreover her "gallantly battle-tested" crew epitomized the "valor, skill, and dedicated service of submariners" during the long Pacific war. Thus, on her deck that morning Fleet Admiral Nimitz read his orders assigning him to duty as Chief of Naval Operations, and his relief, Adm. Raymond A. Spruance, read orders making him CINCPAC and CINPOA.



Photo from [Naval History & Heritage Command](#) In a change of command ceremony, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN, is relieved as Commander-in-Chief Pacific-Pacific Ocean Area (CINCPAC-CINCPAC) by Admiral Raymond A. Spruance on board USS MENHADEN (SS-377) moored at Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, 24 November 1945. Shown here boarding the submarine is Fleet Admiral Nimitz followed by Admiral Spruance. the sub on opposite side of pier is USS DENTUDA (SS-335).

Reproduced from the Change.org website. Name a Virginia-Class Submarine after Medal of Honor Recipient Henry Breault

[Petition · Name a Virginia-Class Submarine after Medal of Honor Recipient Henry Breault - United States · Change.org](#)

Reproduced from the Facebook website.

Night Guardian is in [Los Angeles, CA](#).

5/27/2024

In 1960: Captain Edward L. Beach aboard USS Triton (SSRN-586), announcing the start of Operation Sandblast, the first submerged circumnavigation of the earth. The 36,000 nautical mile trip was proof of concept for long, undetected, submerged ops.

[#USNavy](#) [#SilentService](#)



This Month in History

From Shipmate Erik Heter, Base Historian

The Legacy of USS Flasher (SS-249) in World War II

The USS Flasher (SS-249) was a Gato-class submarine that played a pivotal role in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Commissioned on September 25, 1943, the vessel exemplified the engineering excellence and strategic prowess of the United States Navy.

Under the command of Lieutenant Commander Reuben T. Whitaker, the Flasher embarked on its maiden war patrol in January 1944. Operating near Mindoro, Philippines, the submarine quickly established its reputation. On its first patrol alone, the Flasher sunk several enemy vessels. These vessels included the 2900 ton gunboat Yoshida Maru, the 1723-ton freighter Taishin Maru, and two additional cargo ships. These early successes foreshadowed the Flasher's record-breaking achievements.

The Flasher's second patrol in early 1944 saw it return to the South China Sea, off the coast of what was then

French Indochina (now Vietnam). This was a critical area for Japanese maritime logistics. Here, Flasher targeted convoys transporting troops, fuel, and supplies. This patrol includes sinkings of two ships, a freighter and a cargo ship, of around 1000 tons each.

By its third patrol, the Flasher had cemented its reputation as a deadly adversary. During this mission, it sank multiple Japanese freighters and tankers, disrupting vital supply chains. These sinkings includes significant tonnage, including the merchant tanker Otoriyama Maru (5280 tons) and the freighter Koto Maru (3557 tons), and the freighter Nippo Maru (6079 tons). She also damaged a passenger/cargo ship (unspecified name).

Flasher also directly engaged the Japanese navy on the third patrol. Engaging a cruiser and destroyer escort, Flasher attacked both, sinking the cruiser. A counterattack by the destroyer ensued, with Flasher successfully evading depth charge attacks.

On its fourth patrol, operating near Luzon Strait in a wolf-pack with the USS Hawkbill and USS Becuna, Flasher conducted lifeguard duty in preparation for the invasion of The Philippines. Despite being on lifeguard duty, Flasher still managed three sinkings during this patrol – the Saigon Maru (5350 tons, 9/18), the transport/hospital ship Ural Maru (6374 tons, 9/27) and cargo ship Taibin Maru (6886 tons, 10/4).

The Flasher's fifth patrol in late 1944 was particularly fruitful, as it ventured into the East China Sea, sinking several high-tonnage vessels. Among these were oil tankers critical to Japan's war effort, further exacerbating the fuel shortages that plagued Japanese forces in the latter stages of the war. On December 4th, she sunk the Hakko Maru (10,022 tons) and an accompanying escort destroyer. On December 21, Flasher inflicted severe damage on the Japanese war effort, encountering a tanker convoy and sinking the tankers Omurosan Maru (9204 tons), Otowasan Maru (9204 tons) and the Arita Maru (10,238 tons). The latter vessel was the largest sunk by Flasher during the war.

As a result of its efforts from its previous patrols, there were few encounters with Japanese vessels on Flasher's sixth war patrol. Instead, Flasher demonstrated her versatility by laying mines near enemy harbors while simultaneously engaging in aggressive attacks on merchant shipping. Her only sinking on this patrol was the 850-ton cargo vessel Koho Maru. Flasher was proceeding to her seventh war patrol when news of the Japanese surrender was received.

The success of the USS Flasher was not merely the result of technological superiority; it was a testament to the tactical ingenuity of its commanders and the cohesion of its crew. The crew's training ensured quick response times, particularly during tense encounters with enemy destroyers tasked with anti-submarine warfare.

By the end of its operational service, the Flasher had sunk an extraordinary total of 100,231 tons of enemy shipping. This achievement earned it the distinction of being the most successful U.S. submarine of World War II in terms of tonnage sunk. Its contributions were celebrated in naval circles, and its record remains a testament to the effectiveness of submarine warfare in crippling enemy supply lines during the conflict.

The submarine and its crew earned numerous commendations. Flasher received Presidential Unit Citations for each of her third, fourth and fifth war patrols, as well as six battle stars, one for each patrol. Individual crew members were decorated for their bravery and skill under fire.

After the war, the USS Flasher was decommissioned on March 16, 1946 and struck from the Naval Vessel Register. She was memorialized by placing her conning tower at the National Submarine Memorial in Groton, CT.

The USS Flasher epitomized the effectiveness of submarine warfare during World War II. From its design as a Gato-class submarine to its record-breaking wartime achievements, she was a cornerstone of the U.S. Navy's efforts in the Pacific. Its legacy continues to be celebrated by historians and naval enthusiasts alike, ensuring that its story of courage and tactical brilliance remains a beacon of inspiration for future generations.



The Arrow and the Song

By [Henry Wadsworth Longfellow](#)

I shot an arrow into the air,
It fell to earth; I knew not where;
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,
It fell to earth; I knew not where;
For who has sight so keen and strong,
That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak
I found the arrow, still unbroke;
And the song, from beginning to end,
I found again in the heart of a friend.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a prominent figure in American literature, is celebrated for his accessible and evocative poetry. "The Arrow and the Song," one of his shorter works, encapsulates his talent for blending simple language with profound meaning. This poem explores the enduring impact of our actions and words, using the metaphorical imagery of an arrow and a song.

In "The Arrow and the Song," Longfellow presents a metaphorical journey of two actions: shooting an arrow and singing a song. The poem is structured in three quatrains with a consistent ABAB rhyme scheme, lending it a rhythmic and lyrical quality.

The first stanza describes the speaker shooting an arrow into the air, only to lose sight of it. This symbolizes the physical actions we take, whose outcomes we cannot always predict or immediately observe. The arrow represents the direct, often tangible deeds that can have unforeseen consequences.

In the second stanza, the speaker breathes a song into the air, similarly losing track of where it goes. The song symbolizes words, emotions, or artistic expressions that, while intangible, have the power to spread far and wide. This highlights the theme of unseen influence, where our words can affect others in ways that are not immediately visible.

The final stanza reveals the lasting nature of both the arrow and the song. The arrow is found intact in an oak tree, and the song is discovered in the heart of a friend. The oak tree symbolizes strength and endurance, suggesting that our actions can leave long-lasting impressions. Finding the song in the heart of a friend emphasizes the profound and enduring impact that words and emotions can have on others.

Longfellow's "The Arrow and the Song" is a reflective meditation on the far-reaching effects of our actions and expressions. The poem invites readers to consider the lasting impacts of what they do and say, encouraging mindfulness and awareness of the influence one can have on the world and those around them.

=====



Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer

From a Facebook post on 11/19/24

Wow, I had no idea about the original story of Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer! If you aren't familiar with it either, read below:

As the holiday season of 1938 came to Chicago, Bob May wasn't feeling much comfort or joy. A 34-year-old ad writer for Montgomery Ward, May was exhausted and nearly broke. His wife, Evelyn, was bedridden, on the losing end of a two-year battle with cancer. This left Bob to look after their four-year old-daughter, Barbara.

One night, Barbara asked her father, "Why isn't my mommy like everybody else's mommy?" As he struggled to answer his daughter's question, Bob remembered the pain of his own childhood. A small, sickly boy, he was constantly picked on and called names. But he wanted to give his daughter hope, and show her that being different was nothing to be ashamed of. More than that, he wanted her to know that he loved her and would always take care of her. So he began to spin a tale about a reindeer with a bright red nose who found a special place on Santa's team. Barbara loved the story so much that she made her father tell it every night before bedtime. As he did, it grew more elaborate. Because he couldn't afford to buy his daughter a gift for Christmas, Bob decided to turn the story into a home-made picture book.

In early December, Bob's wife died. Though he was heartbroken, he kept working on the book for his daughter. A few days before Christmas, he reluctantly attended a company party at Montgomery Ward. His co-workers encouraged him to share the story he'd written. After he read it, there was a standing ovation. Everyone wanted copies of their own. Montgomery Ward bought the rights to the book from their debt-ridden employee. Over the next six years, at Christmas, they gave away six million copies of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer to shoppers. Every major publishing house in the country was making offers to obtain the book. In an incredible display of good will, the head of the

department store returned all rights to Bob May. Four years later, Rudolph had made him into a millionaire.

Now remarried with a growing family, May felt blessed by his good fortune. But there was more to come. His brother-in-law, a successful songwriter named Johnny Marks, set the uplifting story to music. The song was pitched to artists from Bing Crosby on down. They all passed. Finally, Marks approached Gene Autry. The cowboy star had scored a holiday hit with "Here Comes Santa Claus" a few years before. Like the others, Autry wasn't impressed with the song about the misfit reindeer. Marks begged him to give it a second listen. Autry played it for his wife, Ina. She was so touched by the line "They wouldn't let poor Rudolph play in any reindeer games" that she insisted her husband record the tune.

Within a few years, it had become the second best-selling Christmas song ever, right behind "White Christmas." Since then, Rudolph has come to life in TV specials, cartoons, movies, toys, games, coloring books, greeting cards and even a Ringling Bros. circus act. The little red-nosed reindeer dreamed up by Bob May and immortalized in song by Johnny Marks has come to symbolize Christmas as much as Santa Claus, evergreen trees and presents. As the last line of the song says, "He'll go down in history."

Rudolf will air December 6th, NBC, 8:00 Eastern, 7:00 Central time.

=====

[Bill Bellinghausen](#) shared a memory.

11/9/2024

One of our own Shipmates, VADM. John Koenig, U.S.N. Ret.

[Benton B. Hooks](#)

I WAS A SAILOR ONCE

I liked standing on the bridge at sunrise with salt spray and the ocean wind in my face, the ship beneath me feeling like a living thing as she drove swiftly through the sea.

I liked the sounds of the Navy - the shrill boatswain's pipe, the ship's bell on the quarterdeck, the harsh squawk of the 1MC, and the strong language and laughter of sailors.

I liked Navy vessels; fast destroyers, plodding fleet auxiliaries and amphibs, sleek submarines and steady solid aircraft carriers.

I liked the proud names of Navy ships: Midway, Lexington, Saratoga, Coral Sea, Antietam, Valley Forge...memorials of great battles won and tribulations overcome.

I liked the lean angular names of Navy "tin-cans" and escorts; Dewey, Farragut, Law, McCloy... mementos of heroes who went before us. And the others, San Jose, San Diego, Los Angeles, St. Paul, Chicago...named for our cities.

I liked the tempo of a Navy band blaring through the top-side speakers as we stood out to sea

I liked Liberty Call and the spicy scent of a foreign port.

I even liked the all-hands working parties as my ship filled herself with stores and fuel in order to cut ties to the land and carry out her mission anywhere on the globe.

I liked sailors from all parts of the land, we trusted and depended on each other for competence, comradeship, strength and courage. They were "shipmates"; then and forever.

I liked the surge of adventure in my heart, when the word was passed: "Now set the special sea and anchor detail - all hands to quarters for leaving port," and I liked the thrill of sighting home again, with the waving hands of welcome from family and friends waiting pier side.

The work was hard and dangerous; the going rough at times; the parting from loved ones painful, but the companionship of robust Navy laughter, the "all for one and one for all" philosophy of the sea was ever present.

I liked the serenity of the sea after a day of hard ship's work, as flying fish flitted across the wave tops and sunset gave way to night.

I liked the feel of the Navy in darkness -- the masthead and range lights, the red and green navigation lights and stern light, the pulsating phosphorescence of radar repeaters - they cut through the dusk and joined with the mirror of stars overhead. And I liked drifting off to sleep lulled by the myriad of noises that told me that my ship was well, and that my shipmates on watch would keep me safe.

I liked quiet midwatches with the aroma of strong coffee; the lifeblood of the Navy permeating everywhere. And I liked hectic watches when the exacting minuet of haze-gray shapes racing at flank speed kept all hands on a razor edge of alertness.

I liked the sudden cry of "General quarters, general quarters, all hands man your battle stations," followed by the clamor of running feet on ladders and the resounding thump of watertight doors as the ship transformed herself in a few brief seconds from a peaceful workplace to a weapon of war...ready for anything.

And I liked the sight of space-age equipment manned by youngsters clad in dungarees and sound-powered phones that their grandfathers would still recognize.

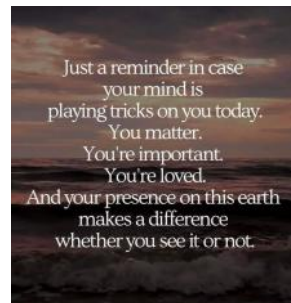
I liked the traditions of the Navy and those who made them. I liked the proud names of Navy heroes: Halsey, Nimitz, Perry, Farragut, John Paul Jones and Burke. A sailor could find much in the Navy: comrades-in-arms, pride in self and country, mastery of the seaman's trade.

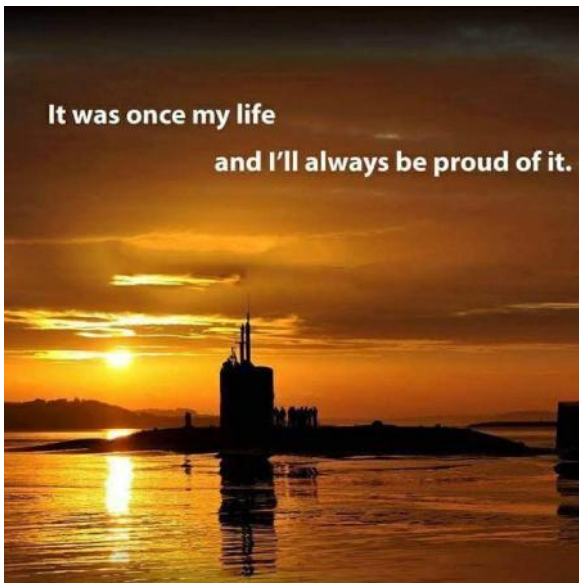
In years to come, when sailors are home from the sea, they will still remember with fondness and respect the ocean in all its moods - the impossible shimmering mirror calm or the storm-tossed green water surging over the bow. And then there will come again a faint whiff of stack gas, a faint echo of engine and rudder orders, a vision of the bright bunting of signal flags snapping at the yardarm, a refrain of hearty laughter in the wardroom and chief's quarters and mess decks.

Gone ashore for good they will grow wistful about their Navy days, when the seas belonged to them and a new port of call was ever over the horizon.

Remembering this, they will stand taller and they will say, "I WAS A SAILOR ONCE AND I WOULD DO IT AGAIN."

Writing by VADM. Harold Koenig, U.S.N. Ret.





He could drive, but he didn't avo-cado.

--- "Where do you learn to make ice cream?" *Sundae school.*



**Veteran's Parade, Elgin, TX
2 November 2024**

[Rick Mitchell](#)

11/1/2024

Facebook post

Pre-Underways complete. Ready to head to Elgin in AM. Sending out a text group to those who responded they will be there for updates. Will be there by 0830 and parade is at 1000. Those who want will be getting together after for some BBQ.



If a "MARINE" has to be somewhere important in the morning. Then he calls in sick and he calls someone to take his place. Is the guy he calls called a "SUBMARINE"?

Dad Jokes

--- To be frank, I would have to change my name.

--- "What do you call a funny mountain?" *-Hill-arious.*

--- "I used to be addicted to the hokey pokey... until I turned myself around."

--- "I don't trust stairs... they're always *up to something.*"

--- "Want to hear a joke about construction?" *-I'm still working on it!*

--- "Want to hear a joke about paper?" *-Never mind. It's tear-able.*

--- "What did Spartacus say when the lion ate his wife?" *-Nothing. He was glad-iator.*

--- "Where does 007 invest his money?" *-In the bond market.*

--- "What do you call a deer with no eyes?" *-No idea (no eye-deer).*

--- "You can't trust atoms. They make up everything!"

--- "Why couldn't the produce manager make it to work?"

Parade video via TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@hamb.../video/7432764562895670559...>

**Georgetown Texas Field of Honor
9 November 2024**

Facebook posts

[Rick Mitchell](#), 11/9/24

What a great start to the day! Bright sun, upper 60's and so many flags. Went out to the [Georgetown Texas Field of Honor](#) this morning to repost flags for our [USSVI Central Texas Base](#) members on Eternal Patrol. Had wonderful help from a couple [American Heritage Girls of Georgetown TX Troop TX 1045](#) reposting the flags. Up to 11 now. More on that on our base's FB page. Also visited the OP Vet fest going on today. Certainly, worth a visit. But the Flags..... Love them! See more pictures at the Back of the newslet-

ter.

USSVI Central Texas Base

11/11/2024

15 Flags out at the [Georgetown Texas Field of Honor](#) for some of our [United States Submarine Veterans](#) here at the base. 4 flags honoring current members and 11 remembering our members on Eternal Patrol. Flag locations are listed on the tags here in the pictures if you are going out there. Tomorrow, a few of us will be participating in the Parade of Colors during the opening Ceremony.

USSVI Central Texas Base

The crew at yesterday's Parade of Colors for the opening ceremony at the [Georgetown Texas Field of Honor](#).



Left to right: Bill Brinkman, Rick Mitchell and Harry Ullman.
Field of Honor Pictures start on page 18



W Jack Collins USSVI Central Texas Base - Members Group

December 2024

11/11/2024 @ 1242 hours

[Bill Bellinghausen](#) at the Bastrop Red, White and Blue Banquet.



More Veteran's Day Facebook posts

USSVI Central Texas Base - Members Group

[Joseph Shirley Keller](#)

4 submariners and a target!!

Happy Veterans Day



**Veteran's Parade, Elgin, TX
2 November 2024**

Pictures start on page 18



**Killeen Texas Veteran's Day Parade
11 November 2024**

Facebook posts

USSVI Central Texas Base

11/11/2024

Today we had the privilege of marching in the Killeen Veterans Day parade. Got to bring our Submarine to an Army town. They say Submarines are a lot like tanks, just designed for smart people though.

USSVI Central Texas Base - Members Group

[W Jack Collins](#) · 11/20/2024 ·

<https://youtu.be/ily9U6Qn7CE?si=ogqgQRPX1eh6Ni4p>

The City of Killeen held its annual Veterans Day parade.

We're at time 12:40 to 13:03 in the video.

More pictures start on page 18



Georgetown Texas Field of Honor
9 November 2024



William K Johnson

Byron Sage

Charles Matula

William Strawser

Fred Mass

Dan Stim



Larry Walts

Jerry Schmidt

Ron Hornsby

John Roberts

John Gurley

**Georgetown Texas Field of Honor
9 November 2024**

Honoring USSVI Central Texas Base Charter Members



Bill Brinkman



Ray Wilgeroth Jr



Clifford 'Don' Atkins



Bob Steinman

**Elgin, Texas Veteran's Parade
2 November 2024**



Killeen, Texas Veteran's Day Parade
11 November 2024



**Wreaths for Vets
Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery
Killeen, Texas
11 November 2024**

[Rick Mitchell](#) is at [Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery](#).

Visiting a couple of friends this morning. We were privileged to be able to call each other brothers. 16,500 wreaths were laid here today.



**Eagle Scout Certificate Presentation
3 November 2024**

USSVI Central Texas Base

Facebook post 11/3/2024

Central Texas's newest Eagle Scout, Charles P.

Congrats to one of Central Texas's newest Eagle Scouts. Charles P.! Shown here being presented a certificate of recognition for his achievement by our shipmate, Tim Pacl who was able to share at Charles's Court of Honor about a famous Submariner who himself was an eagle scout and received the Medal of Honor. Anyone know who this Submariner was? Hint, he was responsible for a submarine crew that blew up a train in WWII.

I know the answer to the above question, do you? (Ed.)



