



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

FEBRUARY 2025

VOLUME XIV - ISSUE 2



Past



Present



Future



USSVI Creed

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

Camaraderie

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

Perpetual Remembrance

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

Happy
Groundhog Day!



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USSVI NATIONAL COMMANDER

Jon Jaques 615-893-7800 jjagues@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, Curt Webber	317-225-1823	curt.webber@gmail.com
Vice-Commander, Chuck Malone	512-694-5294	cmalone10@austin.rr.com
Yeoman, Dave Clark	816-294-5755	dpclark1951@sbcglobal.net
Chief of the Boat, Rick Mitchell	512-639-0035	rmitch2@yahoo.com
Treasurer, Chris Glover	360-731-2032	c.glovedr713@gmail.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 - Rick Mitchell	512-639-0035	rmitch2@yahoo.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 - Rick Mitchell	512-639-0035	rmitch2@yahoo.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, STSCS (SS) USN Ret.
Holland Club, Life Member USSVI
SS-242, SSN-612, SSN-595, SSN-596
hscottss242@gmail.com

512-826-8876

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

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/>



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 Bellinghouse
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>



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



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



www.navyleague.org



www.moaa.org



<http://www.history.navy.mil/>
Naval History and Heritage Command



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



I'm always looking for good stuff for The Deck Log. Won't you submit something? -ed.

SILENT RUNNING

FEBRUARY LOST BOATS

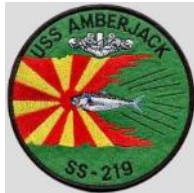
"I can assure you that they went down fighting and that their brothers who survived them took a grim toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths." Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, USN



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. The day before, she reported she survived 3 depth charge attacks.



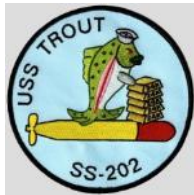
USS Shark (SS-174) - Lost on Feb 11, 1942 with the loss of 59 officers and men on her 1st war patrol. Shark was the 1st US submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific. She was most likely sunk by depth charges.



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. One additional man was killed earlier on the last patrol.



USS Grayback (SS-208) - Lost on Feb 26, 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.





USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS

BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Hello Shipmates,

I find it hard to believe that we're already at the end of January 2025. Since this is my first report to y'all and I feel more like a non-qual at this time, please bear with me as I seek to find my rhythm. I am a talker for sure, probably why I made a good Radioman, but I'm not as long winded when putting thoughts on paper.

We have some great events on the schedule for 2025, so please check out the emails already sent and look for more updates as we continue punching holes through the year. Also, if you have any ideas that we haven't discussed yet, please feel free to email, text, or call me so we can get them added to our monthly agenda.

For my final remarks, I would like to say Bravo Zulu to the outgoing board for doing such a great job keeping the boat on course. Also, thank you to the new board for volunteering to keep steering the boat in the right direction. I'll do my best to honor the position.

BT AR,

Curt Webber
curt.webber@gmail.com
(317)225-1823



USSVI CTB Base Meeting Minutes

Location: VFW Post 8587, Georgetown, TX

Meeting Opened: At 19:02 by Rick Mitchell, Base Commander

E-Board Present: All with the exception of Vice Commander Carl Repp and Secretary Frank Abernathy

Meeting Minutes: No Meeting Minutes for December due to Christmas Party

Sailing List: 20 Total at VFW, 4 on Zoom and one visitor on Zoom

Binnacle List: Don Atkins, Bill Bellinghausen, Hubert Jackson, Garret Onderdonk III, Chuck Trahan, and Walt Whittingslow

Prayer: Bob Steinmann led the Base.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chris Glover led the Base.

Tolling of the Boats for January: Curt Webber, Reading, Chuck Malone, Tolling

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: Virgil Claycamp

Funds as of January 1, 2025

\$27,164.32	Dec 1, 2024 Balance
\$26,650.03	Jan 1, 2025 Balance
General Fund:	\$22,929.27
Memorial Fund:	\$3,720.76

Storekeeper (Virgil Claycamp): The 2025 Calendars are available. Submarine Coloring books and other items are available in our Ships Store. The Central Texas Base Challenge Coins are on order and should be available at the February meeting. Contact Virgil if you need anything.

Memorial (Rick Mitchell): The Torpedo has been repainted and the Memorial is back up for viewing.

Kaps 4 Kids (Rick Mitchell): Rick is working on scheduling visits for both Temple and Austin. Visits do not have to be at hospitals. Rick requested members to provide input about children facing health struggles so personal visits can be arranged. Interested members were requested to contact Rick for a rewarding experience.

Parade (Tom Sprague): Tom was not present so Rick stated the next parade is the Red Poppy Festival on April 26, 2025 in Georgetown.

Membership (Chuck Malone): 91 Current Members includes 54 USSVI Life / 40 Base Life and 45 Holland Club. There are six members who have decided to not renew their membership so the total number of members will be lower next meeting. The members were identified as Bryan Eaton, Tony Ellis, David Lewis, Kyle Nix, Shawn O'Shea and Garret Onderdonk IV. The Guest Speaker Jesse Cook stated that he was joining this meeting and completed the application later during the meeting.

Birthdays January 2025: 1/2 David Paulson, 1/19 Bob Lind, 1/20 Craig Russell, 1/20 Charles Goertz.

Presentation: Guest Speaker Jesse Cook CMDMC (SS/AW/SW) USN Retired and Founder of the Twin Screws Foundation provided some background experiences during his 27-years of service in the submarine force and the aviation force, including observing the air attacks on ISIS. He discussed how John Snyder and he decided to set up the Twin Screws Foundation to get active duty E-4 to E-6 military members and veterans together during outings in the woods. Jesse mentioned the 2024 events and their effectiveness in helping active duty personnel make informed decisions about their career. The Second Annual Vermont Turkey Hunt in May was identified as an upcoming opportunity. Jesse pointed out the foundation is coming up on its one year anniversary in February.

Unfinished, Ongoing and Old Business

Sailor of the Year: Rick presented a plaque to Bill Scott as our Sailor of the Year. Bill provided background on how he got involved in the role as the Newsletter Editor.

New Base Officer Swearing In: Base Commander Rick Mitchell assembled the newly elected Base Officers front and center and led them in the oath of office.

Base Commander: Curt Webber relieved Rick Mitchell
Vice Commander: Chuck Malone relieved Carl Repp
Yeoman: Dave Clark relieved Frank Abernathy
Treasurer: Chris Glover relieved Virgil Claycamp

Command Turnover: Outgoing Base Commander Rick Mitchell turned the meeting over to the new Base Commander Curt Webber.

2024 Christmas Party: Curt talked about the Christmas Party held at his house in Point Venture, TX and thanked the members who attended. Pictures are available on the CTB Facebook page. Bill Scott requested that anyone with additional pictures to send them to him.

NEW Business:

2025 Budget: The budget developed by the E-Board was presented. Members were informed that several ideas were being discussed for increasing income. The large delta between the Budget and Actual 2024 financial results was questioned by a member. Rick Mitchell reminded the Base that a motion was made and approved during the August meeting to not conduct the Raffles. This omission from the proposed budget was responsible for most of the delta. Rick Mitchell made a motion to approve the proposed Budget, Chuck Trahan seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

2025 Base Calendar: Schedules for 2025 were discussed, including Regular Meetings on the third Wednesday of the first two months each calendar quarter and Regular Socials on the third Saturday of the last month of each calendar quarter. The Lonestar Round-Up is scheduled for April 10-13, 2025 in Arlington, TX. Registration will be available soon, but interested members may want to reserve their room at the Sheraton Arlington Hotel. The USSVI National Convention is in Orlando FL from September 1-6, 2025. If interested in attending, members should go to the USSVI website and follow the links to register online. Planned parades for 2025 include the Red Poppy Parade in Georgetown in April, 4th of July Parade in Round Rock and the Veterans Day Parade in Killeen.

March Social: Members will meet at Dale's in Walburg at 13:00 on March 15, 2025. Gene Hall made a motion to approve, Vern Williams seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Baseball Game – Round Rock Express: Discussion was conducted to determine if adequate interest was present to schedule the Budweiser Party Porch on a Friday night to take advantage of the shaded area and fireworks show. The date will be determined if approved. A motion to schedule the event was made by Gene Hall and seconded by Bill Scott; however, Rick Mitchell pointed out that deposit of half of the minimum amount of \$1,200 is required to book the event. Following discussion, Chris Glover made a motion to authorize Rick to pay up to \$1,500 to book the event. Gene Hall seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

May Tolling Ceremony: On May 24, 2025 (Saturday before Memorial Day), the Tolling Ceremony will be conducted at the Round Rock Memorial. Motion made by Chuck

Malone to conduct the ceremony on that date was seconded by Ken Rydolph and approved unanimously.

Good of the Order:

2025 Amplify T-Shirt Design: Frank Espinosa shared that the Caring Place is providing the Base 2 complimentary T-Shirts for our sponsorship at the \$1,000 level in the March 2025 Amplify Austin fundraiser. Our sponsorship will match every other donation dollar-for-dollar up to \$1,000. The shirts are expected to be available by February.

50/50 Raffle: \$60 of \$113 was won by Jesse Cook with ticket 155253. As Guest Speaker, Jesse Cook was asked to make the pull by Gene Hall.

Welcome Aboard: Jesse Cook

Next Social Event: March 15, 2025 at Dale's in Walburg

Next Meeting: February 19, 2025 for 18:00 Social and 19:00 Meeting at VFW Post 8587, Georgetown

Sailing List Summary:

Total Base Members Present: 24

Local at VFW Post 8587: 20 Members; Jim Andree, Harry Boyer, Ed Carr III, David Clark, Virgil Claycamp, Frank Espinosa, Chris Glover, Gene Hall, J. Weldon Koenig, Chuck Malone, Dale Messing, Rick Mitchell, Ken Rydolph, Bill Scott II, Roy Silva, Bob Steinmann, Chuck Trahan, Jr., Harry Ullmann, Jr., Curt Webber and Vern Williams. Guest Speaker Jesse Cook joined at the end of the meeting and is not included in the count above.

Remote on Zoom: 4 Members; Bill Bellinghausen, Jack Collins, Hubert Jackson and Chip Pomeroy; **1 Visitor,** District Four Commander, Carl Donald Hirschenhofer

Meeting Adjourned: 20:32 by Base Commander Curt Webber

Minutes Submitted: January 17, 2025 by Yeoman Dave Clark

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**Base Meeting Pictures
Shipmate and Guest Recognition**

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A few pics from our Regular Monthly meeting this week. Recognized [H. Bill Scott](#) as our SOY and swore in 4 new Base officers. Also privileged to hear about the Twin Screws Foundation from Jesse.



Bill Scott being recognized as our 2024 Sailor of the Year.



Proud CRD swearing in 4 new officers.



A Slate of 4 new officers who, when faced with the choice to laugh or cry after recognizing what they just volunteered for, chose to LAUGH!



Above, top to bottom, Rick Congratulating the new Base Officers; Curt Webber, Chuck Malone, Chris Glover, Dave Clark



Our new Base Commander, Curt Webber



Jesse Cook sharing at the CTB Meeting about the Twin Screws Foundation



Sea Stories and hanging out with other "Qualified Shipmates".
PRICELESS!



Lonestar Subvet Round Up - 1/20/2025

Rick Mitchell 512-639-0035

Shipmates,

I am excited to finally officially announce our 2025 Lonestar Subvet Round-Up. It will be held April 10-13 in Arlington, Texas. Please consider joining us this year as we celebrate year #5 of this event. When we first gathered for a cookout in Corsicana who could have dreamed what this was going to turn into. Many great times in Corsican, Galveston, San Antonio, Fredericksburg and now Arlington! All great events but it's not the location that makes the event, it's the Shipmates and their families that make the event. Come join us this year whether first time or repeat attendee. We have various events planned throughout the weekend including what looks to be a really special Tolling Ceremony held at the brand-new National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington. Come for a day or the whole weekend but please plan to attend. Everyone who has a room reservation and paid event registration in by 17 February will be placed in a drawing for 1 night free at the Sheraton. Follow us on Facebook and visit the web page [Lonestar Subvet Round-Up – A Gathering of Submariners](#) for info and links to book a room and register. Any questions please contact me directly, I hope to see many of you there!

Time to get your registrations in. Come join us for year #5!
www.LSRU.org



National Medal of Honor Museum; Arlington, Texas

[Ten Must-See Museums Opening Around the World in 2025](#)



A rendering of the National Medal of Honor Museum
 National Medal of Honor Museum

With a grand opening set for America's National Medal of Honor Day (March 25) along the Arlington waterfront, the [National Medal of Honor Museum](#) is a state-of-the-art facility showcasing Medal of Honor recipients and their inspiring stories.

The [Medal of Honor](#) is the United States military's highest award for valor. Created during the American Civil War to recognize members of the armed forces who've risked their own lives to fight for the U.S. beyond the traditional call of duty, it's been awarded to only 3,519 people so far—less than 0.01 percent of the total number of Americans who have served.

BASE TREASURER'S REPORT

15 January 2025

Financial Report for Period Ending 12/31/2024

Beginning Balance - 12/1/2024 - \$27,164.32



RBFCU Checking (Gen Fund) \$22,929.27
 RBFCU Savings (Mem Fund) \$3,720.76
 Uncleared Checks - -\$0.00

Ending Balance - 12/31/2024 - \$26,650.03

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP

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

Members listed in Central Texas Database	92
Regular Annual Members	28
National Life Members	54
Base Life Members	63
Holland Club Members	45
Associate Members	1
Dual Members	5
Prospective Members:	0
War Veterans	78
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.

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BINNACLE LIST

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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. Shipmates noted at the Base Meeting: Don Atkins, Chuck Trahan, Garrett Onderdonk III, Hubert Jackson, Bill Bellinghausen and Walt Whittingslow.

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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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.

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

19 February 2025, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1900 meeting.

15 March 2025, Quarterly Social, 1300 hours, Dale's Es-senhaus, 3900 FM972, Georgetown, TX 78626. Outside in biergarten, menu service.

10-13 April 2025, Annual Lonestar Roundup, Arlington, Texas <https://www.arlington.org/>, [Lonestar Subvet Round-Up – A Gathering of Submariners](#), Sheraton Arlington Hotel, 1500 Convention Center Drive, Arlington, TX 76011 details TBD.

26 April 2025, Red Poppy Festival Parade, Georgetown, TX, details TBD.

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

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

16 May, 2025, Round Rock Express Baseball game vs the OKC Comets, details TBD.

24 May 2025, USSVI Central Texas Base Tolling of the Boats Ceremony, Round Rock Memorial Park, 600 N Lee St, Round Rock, TX 78664, Time TBD.

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Vampires are always looking for their necks victim.

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Kap(SS) for Kid(SS) Update

Kaps 4 Kids Chair – Rick Mitchell

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.

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Editor's Office

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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.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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Great Spirit Meditations

**"The Great Spirit is the one that's looking after us."
Jimmy Jackson, OJIBWAY**

The only place our minds can find peace is when our focus is on the Creator. Daily we need to ask the Creator to direct our thinking. When we look at our brothers and sisters, we need to see the Creator in them. When we look at the trees, plants and the animals, we need to realize the Creator is within us. Our attention needs to be on the Creator. When we work, we do it for the Creator. When we are troubled, we need to pray to the Creator. When we are happy and joyful, we need to realize we are feeling the presence of the Creator. Thinking God thoughts will produce peace.

"The Old Ones have always said that no matter who despises or ignores you, no matter who keeps you from entering their circles, it is right to pray for them because they are like us, too." Larry P. Aitken, CHIPPEWA

You don't know how an apple tastes until you taste it. You don't know what a fish tastes like until you eat it. You don't know how it is to be a woman unless you are one. You don't know what it means to have a baby until you have one. So it is with the natural laws. An example: the natural law of forgiveness says, if you hate someone, pray for the person to be blessed with happiness, joy and all the blessings of the Great Spirit. You will not know about this law unless you do it. The natural law says love others as you

love yourself. If you hate yourself or feel guilt in some area of yourself, you will tend to judge and condemn your neighbor. You cannot give away what you don't have. You teach your children by your example, not by your words. The natural laws are written in our hearts.

Great Spirit, teach me how to look into my heart.



NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

Shipmates,

Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation Newsletter - January 2025

This month's focus is on the Legacy Fund managed by Mike Talpai

The USSVCF is more than just a charitable organization; it is a community united by shared values of service, sacrifice, and patriotism. Donors, volunteers, and veterans come together to preserve the legacy of those who served beneath the waves before us, creating a powerful network of support and gratitude. By contributing to the CF, you become part of this community, joining others who are dedicated to honoring the past, supporting the present, and building a stronger future.

The CF's mission spans a range of initiatives designed to honor the past, address present needs, and ensure a strong future for the submarine veteran community. Whether by direct grants to those in members in need, providing scholarships to our members children and grandchildren, providing comfort to sick children or helping to develop and maintain memorials to those whose shoulders we stand on today your contributions help to directly support these vital programs:

Our Legacy Fund is an opportunity for all our shipmates to invest in what USSVI stands for. One of the most impactful ways to contribute is by participating in the CF's *Living Legacy Fund*, a \$10,000 pledge spread over 10 years. Unlike traditional donations, this fund is never spent. Instead, it is invested, generating sustainable income to support programs that preserve the heritage, dignity, and future of submarine veterans. As a donor, you can decide which initiative (fund) your contribution supports, creating a deeply personal and lasting impact.

Supporting the CF is easier than you might think. Whether through direct donations, planned giving, or a pledge to the *Living Legacy Fund*, or one of our other alternatives, your involvement makes a profound difference. To learn more, visit www.ussvcf.org or contact Mike (legacy@ussvcf.org) at the foundation for personalized assistance. He can explain how your tax-advantaged donation can best fit you and your estate plan.

Ambassador Program News

As you know we've been on a campaign to recruit and install CF Ambassadors at each of our bases. With the recent addition of Steve Juskiewicz (Mid-Atlantic Base), Dave

Halliday (Sculpin Base), Brian Schnurr (Scorpion Base), Dave Sturm (S. Florida Base) and Bob MacPherson (Charleston Base), we are happy to announce that we've reached 40% of all USSVI bases. Please continue to volunteer, our goal is to place an Ambassador at **every** base.

Search for New Ideas

We are seeking to adopt a "Mascot" for use in each of our advertisements. The idea is to find a symbol that is instantly recognizable as representing the USSV Charitable Foundation. We all know that "Smoky the Bear" represents the US Forest Service and its mission to prevent forest fires. That's the kind of mascot we are looking for. The mascot idea that is finally chosen **will earn a drink ON ME** at our Orlando Convention in September. Email me your ideas at vp-ed@ussvcf.org.

Issue 13 January, 2025 Copyright© USSVCF George Palmer Editor

George Palmer
Vice-President & Executive Director
USSV Charitable Foundation
vp-ed@ussvcf.org
www.ussvcf.org



NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

Veterans Service Officer - John Dudas

United States Submarine Veterans Inc. info@ussvi.org

1/29/2025

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

USSVI VSO February 2025 Newsletter

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



NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

USSVI National Awards Chairman - Gary Galles

Gary Galles info@ussvi.org

1/30/2025

2025 National Awards Manual

Shipmates,

The Awards Manual is posted on our old website (www.ussubvets.org) under "Documents" and "Manuals." https://ussubvets.org/Documents/Online_Manuals_2025_USSVI_Awards_Manual.pdf

The 2025 awards season opened on 1 February.

Please submit your nominations ASAP, before the deadline.

Dates to remember:

FEBRUARY 1: Award Nomination period opens and all USSVI Members in good standing submit Award nomina-

tions 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 on Committee Chair for evaluation, voting and section of recipients.

Gary Galles, National Awards Chair
nac.ussvi@gmail.com
757 714-2733
Gary Galles, USSVI National Awards Chairman



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.)

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<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2024/12/germanys-type-212a-one-of-the-best-submarines-on-earth/>

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Reproduced from the TechRadar website. Could AI soon make dozens of billion-dollar nuclear stealth attack submarines more expensive and obsolete?

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Ed. In case you forgot. LOL

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HISTORY

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Reproduced from the *Business Insider* website. **See inside a WWII-era U-boat, the only submarine that the US Navy captured intact and towed home**

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Reproduced from the *YouTube* website. **US's Rocket Sub That Creeped Out Japan**

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This Month in History

From Shipmate Erik Heter, Base Historian

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The Biggest Prize – the USS *Archerfish* and the Sinking of the carrier *Shinano*

As those of you who have spent any significant time reading about naval warfare, sinking a ship in battle is hard. Sinking a giant ship, such as an aircraft carrier, is even harder – more so when attacked by a single submarine. In fact, only one WWII submarine ever accomplished this task – the USS *Archerfish* (SS-311).

Archerfish was a Balao-class submarine of the United States Navy that was commissioned in September 1943. She initially performed routine patrols in the Pacific, engaging in reconnaissance and attacking Japanese shipping. Though her first war patrols were relatively unremarkable, she would achieve legendary status with a single action in November 1944 that forever changed its legacy.

The Japanese aircraft carrier *Shinano* was a behemoth of naval engineering, originally constructed as a *Yamato*-class battleship before being converted into an aircraft carrier. At over 72,000 tons, it was the largest carrier in the world at the time, designed to serve as a mobile airbase capable of replenishing and supporting Japan's depleted fleet of carriers. Launched in October 1944, the *Shinano* was still incomplete when it set out on its maiden voyage on November 28, 1944, to deliver supplies and aircraft to other forward-deployed Japanese forces. Little did its crew know, the *Archerfish* lay in wait.

On the night of November 28, *Archerfish*, under the command of Commander Joseph F. Enright, was patrolling off the Japanese coast near the Kii Strait. Around midnight, the submarine detected a large vessel accompanied by a number of destroyers. Initially unaware of its significance, the crew of the *Archerfish* tracked the vessel for several hours. Intelligence reports confirmed that this was no ordinary vessel—it was the *Shinano*. Recognizing the enormity of the target, Enright decided to pursue and attack despite the significant risks posed by the carrier's heavy escort and the shallow waters.

Meticulously shadowing the *Shinano*, *Archerfish* maneuvered into a favorable attack position. At around 3:15 a.m. on November 29, the boat fired a spread of six torpedoes at the massive carrier. Four of the torpedoes impacted the target, ripping into the *Shinano*'s unarmored sections. Though the carrier had been built with some of the heaviest armor ever placed on a ship, its hurried construction and lack of readiness left it vulnerable. Flooding rapidly overwhelmed the vessel's damage control efforts, and the carrier began listing to port.

By the morning of November 29, just hours after the torpedo strike, the *Shinano* sank beneath the waves, taking more than 1,400 of its crew with it. This was the only instance in history where a submarine sank an aircraft carrier that was underway. The sheer size of the *Shinano* made its loss a devastating blow to Japan, both militarily and symbolically. From military standpoint, the loss of the *Shinano* occurred at a time when the Japanese were particularly vulnerable, having lost the Battle of Leyte Gulf months earlier. For the *Archerfish*, the sinking of the carrier was a historic achievement, and one of the most significant single-engagement submarine victories of World War II.

Following this engagement, the *Archerfish* continued its service in the Pacific, conducting further patrols and supporting Allied efforts during the final months of the war. By the time the war ended in 1945, the *Archerfish* had completed seven war patrols and received multiple commendations, including a Presidential Unit Citation for its role in sinking the *Shinano*.

Post-war, the *Archerfish* saw intermittent service during the Cold War, including operations as a target and training vessel for anti-submarine warfare exercises. She was decommissioned in 1946 but recommissioned in 1952 for service with the U.S. Naval Reserve. *Archerfish* was finally retired for good in 1968 and scrapped in 1972, but its legacy endured as the only submarine to sink an enemy carrier.

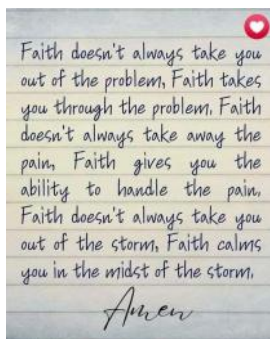
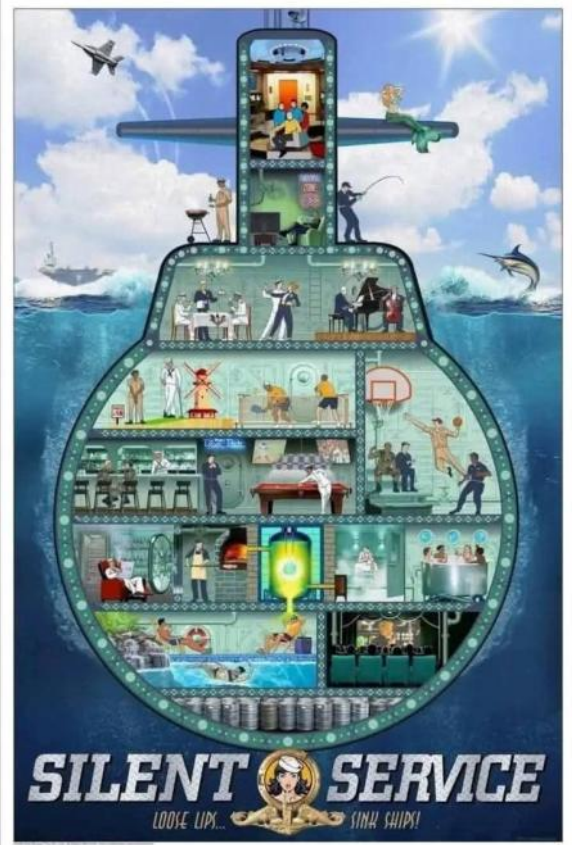
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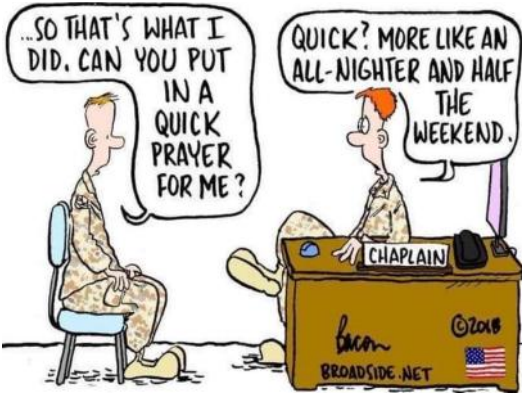


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When I was young, I was poor. But after years of hard work, I am no longer young.

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Dad Jokes
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- Ducks have feathers to cover their butt quacks.
- "Why did the bank teller push the customer?" *He wanted to check his balance.*
- "Why did the picture go to jail?" *He was framed.*
- "How do birds learn to fly?" *They wing it.*
- "How do you throw a party in outer space?" *You planet!*
- "What do you call a fake noodle?" *An impasta.*
- "What did the Dalmatian say after dinner?" *That hit the spot.*
- "Why did the rabbit go to the salon?" *It was having a bad hare day.*
- "Where do crayons go on vacation?" *Color-ado.*
- "How do you make a robot angry?" *Keep pushing his buttons.*

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