



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

OCTOBER 2024

VOLUME XIII - ISSUE 10



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



Navy to Commission Submarine New Jersey SSN 796

SEPT. 13, 2024

The Navy will commission the newest Virginia-class fast-attack submarine, the future USS New Jersey (SSN 796), during an 11 a.m. EST ceremony Saturday, Sept. 14, at Naval Weapons Station Earle in Middletown Township, New Jersey.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy will deliver the principal address. Additional speakers include Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro; Adm. William Houston, director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program; the Honorable Frank Pallone and Donald Norcross, U.S.

Representatives from New Jersey; Jennifer Boykin, president, HII-Newport News Shipbuilding; and Larry Runkle, vice president, Virginia-Class Submarine Program, General Dynamics Electric Boat.

The USS New Jersey "is the first Virginia-class submarine designed and built for a full gender integrated crew"

(Ed. See the link to the article in the "Submarine News section.")

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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USSVI Creed	1
Table of Contents	2
Points of Contact	2
Publication, Web Site, Base Mtg	2
Links	3
Silent Running - Sept. Lost Boats	4
USSVI Central Texas Base News	5
Base Commander's Report	5
CTB Shipmates in Action	5
Base Treasurer's Report	6
Birthdays, Membership, Dues	6
Storekeeper Corner	7
Binnacle List	7
Calendar of Events	7
Editor's Office	7
Kap(SS)4Kid(SS)	7
Chaplain's Corner	8
USSVI Official Business	9
Submarine News	9
History	12
Thoughts	14
Once Upon a Time	15
CTB Shipmates in Action	16

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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

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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:

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



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>



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

SILENT RUNNING

OCTOBER 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 Seawolf (SS-197)

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



USS S-44 (SS-155)

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



USS Wahoo (SS-238)

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



USS Dorado (SS-248)

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



USS Escolar (SS-294)

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



USS Shark II (SS-314)

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



USS Darter (SS-227)

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



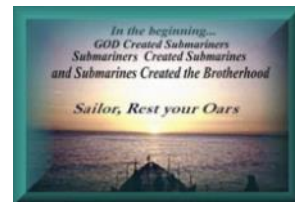
USS Tang (SS-306)

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



USS O-5 (SS-66)

Lost on October 29, 1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Ababarez off the Panama Canal.





USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS

BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Hello Shipmates and Friends,

Could it really be happening? I thought it was a few weeks ago but then it went away but looks like it's trying again. I sure hope so. Really hope we are heading into Fall and the worse of the summer is behind us.

Weather is looking like it and starting

to see and hear a little more from many of you who travel out of the area during the summer, though one of our members just said goodbye to us until next February or March as Jack Odom and his wife are off again on another adventure, this time to China. No matter what though, as I always tell people after spending about 10 1/2 years submerged I kind of like all weather. No matter what, it certainly could always be worse and usually it could be better. I guess this could be said true for pretty much anything. Our health, our jobs, and most anything including the state of our base. I believe things are going well here at the Central Texas Base and really appreciate the efforts by those of you to make things happen. I do sense we hit a bit of a summer lull. Hopefully it's just a temporary thing. I know we all are getting older and along with that comes various health and other challenges but encourage all to keep in touch and engage when you can.

We held our September social this last weekend in Round Rock. Had a pretty good turnout and saw some shipmates we have not seen in a while. The social was held at a new park, Round Rock West Park, which everyone thought was a great spot for the event. Curt, Dave, and Dale stepped up and helped get things organized and cooked some pretty good burger and hot dogs. We were able to recognize both Vigil and Frank Espinosa as they received their Robert Link Awards presented by our shipmate and current National Junior Vice Commander. Many of us also gathered at the torpedo for a group picture which turned out pretty good. Was hoping for a few more but we had a large group there and ended up we could have done it anywhere because we completely covered the torpedo. It was still a good opportunity for you all to see the new layout of the park. I shared the pictures out with the base, but we have another treat as Ken Dallman's daughter has edited one of the pics with some cool effects I think you all will like. We will share that out soon.

A few housekeeping items to mention. As it is Fall it brings about preparations for a new year. This includes looking for volunteers to take on new positions in the base. If you are interested let me know. There is no requirement to sit back and wait till someone vacates a position. Having an actual election would be a good thing as that shows we have many engaged people willing to help. All our positions are open. What role do you see yourself in. It's your base and it needs you to help keep it going and hopefully growing. It is also dues season so please bring your check books or cash to our next meeting in October if you are

not a life member and help get this annual chore out of the way in a timely manner. Just think of it like this, as many do not want to volunteer because they don't think they have the time, well those of us collecting and recording dues spend a lot of time chasing folks down so please help us save some time and effort and get them paid. Details will be coming in an email soon. Oh Yeah, when you decide whether to pay annually or maybe a multiyear period such as life know that starting Jan 1 dues are increasing for national by \$10 a year. You can save some money by taking advantage of the discount on multi year period and getting it before the increase.

One last thing this month. We have our blood drive coming up Oct 12th. As I write this, we still have 11 open positions. Please talk to your family and friends and ask them to help us out and sign up and help save some lives. We have never filled the 35 or so slots and this is an easy thing to do and I know we can find 11 more eligible donors.

Thank You for everything you all do!

Rick Mitchell

512-639-0035



CTB Shipmates in Action

Lonestar Subvet Round Up - 2025

9/15/2024



Pleased to announce we have confirmed dates and location for the 2025 Lonestar Subvet Round Up. We will be in Arlington, Texas <https://www.arlington.org/> April 10-13th! Hotel details coming in a few days! Save the date now and plan to join us in 2025. Excited to be here especially with the grand opening of the [National Medal of Honor Museum](#) scheduled for 2025. How many submariners earned the Medal of Honor, who were they?

8 - TM2(SS) Henry Breault, Captain John Cromwell, Commander Samuel Dealey, Rear Admiral Eugene Fluckey, Commander Howard Gilmore, Commander Richard O'Kane, Commander "Red" Ramage, LCDR George Street, III

BASE TREASURER'S REPORT

CTB Quarterly Social - September 21, 2024
Round Rock West Park
500 Round Rock West Drive
Round Rock, TX

Rick Mitchell sends on 9/22/2024:

Shipmates,

Appreciate those who made it out for our picture and the picnic. I think we had close to about 1/3 of the base there. I understand there was someone (unsure who?) who came by the memorial after we left and my sincere apologies for missing you. Waited until 5 after 10 and counted and we had more than the number who replied they would be there, so we went ahead. We usually have a great turn out for the Christmas party so we will try again then though not at the memorial. I have attached 2 pics to this email and will send another with 2 more so that we don't hit anyone's email size limitations. They are the full unedited JPEG files and I know I could have zipped them all but figured this was easiest for most.

Thank You to everyone who came out and helped make this happen yesterday!



Above is a picture of the Crew. Below is a picture of the crew with spouses.



(Ed. See more pictures at the back of the newsletter.)

15 September 2024

Financial Report for Period Ending 7/31/2024

Beginning Balance - 7/31/2024 - \$27,353.37



RBFCU Checking (Gen Fund) \$23,180.39
 RBFCU Savings (Mem Fund) \$4,171.98
 Cash to be deposited - \$0.00
 Uncleared Checks -

Ending Balance - 08/31/2024 - \$27,353.73

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

OCTOBER 2024 BIRTHDAYS



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

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP

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

Members listed in Central Texas Database	88
Regular Annual Members	26
National Life Members	52
Base Life Members	61
Holland Club Members	45
Associate Members	1
Dual Members	5
Prospective Members:	0
War Veterans	75
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 1st 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 vclaycamp@yahoo.com. CTB can often get items at a lower than normal price, so you save money. The SK can search the net to find out-of-the-ordinary items, for all branches of the service. When requesting a ship's patch, tell the SK which coast you served on board, as the patches are often different for each coast. The Base E-board is working on a way to inform you of the SK items in stock and prices and a way for to you purchase them either at the in-person meetings, or via an online email system to the SK for in-stock items.

BINNACLE LIST

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 August Base Meeting: Chuck Trahan, Don Atkins, John Roberts, 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

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

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

15 December 2024, Annual Christmas Social, TBD

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

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 September edition cover story: Shows the 'Wet' launch of the USS Idaho.



Kap(SS) for Kid(SS) Update



Grabbing lunch after a Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) visit at [McLane's Children's Hospital](#) with a couple of shipmates ([Joe Luna](#) and [Carl Repp](#)) from the [USSVI Central Texas Base](#) and [USSVI Heart of Texas Base](#) . Great time visiting with a sone cool kids and their parents. Couple of new honorary Submariners as of today.

Kaps 4 Kids Chair – Still Vacant

As discussed at the August meeting, we are still looking for a new Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) chairman and we still need an ambassador for our base for the USSVCF. Neither of the positions takes a while lot of work yet can provide so much benefit to the base and others. Isn't it time you considered playing a more active role in our base? Please let me know you are interested and let's talk about it.

Base Commander, Rick Mitchell

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We Are Blood Drive

[Georgetown VFW Post 8587 M/SGT Ben D. Snowden](#)

10/1/2024

Please help us out on our Blood Drive scheduled for Saturday, October 12th from noon to 4 p.m. Click on the attached flyer for the QR code which will take you to the sign-up portal. We still have 9 slots available for the taking. If you're not eligible to donate, please send the attached flyer to someone you think who might be eligible to donate. Thank you!

LEND A HELPING ARM

BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, October 12
Noon - 4pm
VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION

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



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

For information about Eligibility:
whocandonate@weareblood.org

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



DRAWN TOGETHER SINCE 1951

=====

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

=====

The penny

You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story. Gives you something to think about.

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a

host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband.

He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment.

Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny.

He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

'Look at it.' He said. 'Read what it says.' She read the words 'United States of America'

'No, not that; read further.'

'One cent?' 'No, keep reading.'

'In God we Trust?' 'Yes!' 'And?'

'And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin, I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, 'In God We Trust,' and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message.

It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! And, God is patient.

=====



Bob Bachman
VP - Executive Director
USSV Charitable Foundation
516 532 0904
vp-ed@ussvcf.org, www.ussvcf.org

NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

Time Sensitive Veterans Service Officer Update
From the Desk of John Dudas, Veteran Service Officer

John Dudas, Veteran Service Officer via blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com, 9-2-2024
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgZQVzXRwVgISPkMLTRNMxRSxVLCL>

USSVI VSO News for September 2023

Posted to all in a National All Hands Bulletin

NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

Charitable Foundation Update
USSVCF News, September 2024

Robert J. Bachman vp-ed@ussvcf.org via blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com
9/2/2024

Shipmates,

We are thrilled to announce the donation of a fully restored '42 Willys Jeep to the Foundation! This magnanimous gift by shipmate John Martin of Frostburg Maryland was a complete and most welcome surprise. We intend to engage an auction house and turn John's labor of love into cash to help our deserving members.

We are in the planning process readying to move our library from its current location to the military history museum in Punta Gorda Florida. The museum venue will allow us to showcase our activities and add submarine artifacts. Volunteers with visual design experience will be needed to assist us in making our submarine veterans exhibit the finest in the nation. Call 860-886-3566 to help.

2025 calendars. USSV CF is selling 2025 Subvets calendars for \$10 each. You can order yours online. Just go to the USSVCF website at: www.ussvcf.org and find the donation pulldown. Enter your name and address and use your credit or debit card to complete the purchase. Your calendar will arrive by mail within a week or so. The theme of this year's calendar is the various configurations of the Virginia Class submarines.

Cool. Our Shipmates Program is a hit! So far 10 of our shipmates have received new A/C units! Email Mike at Brotherhood@ussvcf.org for details

JUST OFF THE PRESS! WE ARE SUPPORTING TANG BASE IN COLLECTING FUNDS TO SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS FOR USS TANG SSN-805 CHRISTENING AND COMMISSIONING. More next month on how you can contribute

Help Us to Help Shipmates in Need!

NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

USSVI 2024 National Convention Recap

9/2/2024

[USSVI 2024 CONVENTION HD 720p \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USSVI_2024_Convention_HD_720p)

2024 USSVI CONVENTION was hosted by Cod Base Cleveland. It was an honor to host this year's National Convention. Over 550 submarine veterans attended the convention. There also was a number of sub reunions held during the week. The main convention was held at Embassy Suites Rockside in Independence, Ohio. Off site events were attended by many during the week. An outstanding Tolling of the Boats was held at the USS COD Submarine Memorial located on the Lake Erie shore in Cleveland. Vice Admiral Robert Gaucher was our keynote speaker at the awards banquet held Saturday at the close of the convention. A great time was had by all who attended.



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 Herald Times Reporter website. Manitowoc is home to the most completely restored WWII submarine, the USS Cobia. Here's how it ended up in the city.

<https://www.htrnews.com/story/life/2024/08/22/uss-cobia-world-war-ii-submarine-is-docked-in-manitowoc-wisconsin-heres-why/74835941007/>

Reproduced from the National Interest website. China's Nightmare: The Navy Had a Plan to Build 29 Seawolf-Class Submarines

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/chinas-nightmare-navy-had-plan-build-29-seawolf-class-submarines-211779>

Reproduced from the Yahoo.com website. A rare look at the lousy life aboard China's 'Dragon Palace' submarines

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/rare-look-lousy-life-aboard-090002297.html>

Reproduced from the National Interest website. Russia's Oscar-Class Submarines: Built to 'Take Out' U.S. Navy Aircraft Carriers

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This Month in History

From Shipmate Erik Heter, Base Historian

(Ed. Apologies from Erik, as he has been swamped for the last month. I'm including an article that I downloaded from the web this past month. Erik will have his typical History article next month.)

'Take her down!' WWII submarine skipper sacrificed with final order

Story by Jon Guttman, 9/5/2024

Reproduced from the Marine Corps Times website. 'Take her down!' WWII submarine skipper sacrificed with final order.

['Take her down!' WWII submarine skipper sacrificed with final order \(msn.com\)](#)



'Take her down!' WWII submarine skipper sacrificed with final order

With the [Battle of Midway](#) raging in the Pacific in June 1942, Japanese forces 2,500 miles to the north were seizing control of the Aleutian Islands of Kiska and Attu.

Their aim was clear: Distract American forces from Midway while sending a message that Japan was capable of hitting additional territories belonging to the United States.

In the months that followed, the northern region would host a series of fights whenever weather permitted. U.S. submarines made their presence known that Fourth of July, when the submarine Triton sank the destroyer Nenohi.

But it was the following day that saw the combat debut of two names destined for submariner immortality: The USS Growler and its skipper, Cmdr. Howard Gilmore.

Howard W. Gilmore was born in Selma, Alabama, on Sept.

29, 1902. He enlisted in the Navy in November 1920 before commissioning at the U.S. Naval Academy.

In 1931 Gilmore transferred to the Navy's submarine school at New London, Connecticut. Climbing the ranks and earning a reputation as more aggressive personality than his peacetime counterparts, Gilmore attracted the attention of superiors and was rewarded by being named executive officer of the submarine USS Shark (SS-174).

While serving aboard Shark, Gilmore's career - and life - were almost cut short. On shore in Panama, he and a crewmate were assaulted by thieves. Gilmore's throat was cut in the brawl, but he survived.

In December 1941 Gilmore was given full command of Shark, but the role was short lived. The day after the Dec. 7 attack on Pearl Harbor Gilmore was transferred to the Gato-class submarine USS Growler (SS-174).

The boat's first war patrol was to the Aleutians, where, on the morning of July 5, 1942, it spotted a tempting sight: Three Japanese destroyers off the island of Kiska.

Approaching directly, Gilmore loosed two torpedoes, dealing serious damage to Kasumi and killing 10 of its sailors. Next, it blew off the bow of Shiranui, killing three seamen and forcing the destroyer to be towed to Maizuru, Japan, for repairs.

Gilmore then calmly turned toward the destroyer Arare. He fired another two torpedoes, the second of which sent the ship and its crew to the ocean floor. Arare's commanding officer and 42 survivors were rescued by the damaged Shiranui.

For these efforts Gilmore was awarded the Navy Cross - but he was just getting started.

In a second patrol Growler sank four merchant ships, totaling 15,000 tons, in the East China Sea near Formosa (now Taiwan). Gilmore was awarded a gold star in lieu of a second Navy Cross.

After an uneventful third patrol, Growler set out on what would become an ominous fourth.

Departing Brisbane, Australia, on New Year's Day 1943, Growler headed toward Rabaul in the western Solomons, sinking a transport on Jan. 16 and another on the 19th. On Jan. 30 it damaged a freighter but was driven down by a barrage of gunfire and depth charges.

The area had become a hornet's nest, courtesy of Japanese evacuations from Guadalcanal.

On Feb. 4 Gilmore tailed two freighters escorted by two patrol craft toward Gazelle Channel. As he moved Growler into position for an ambush, the lead Japanese ship proved ready and fired on the sub at 5,000 yards.

Gilmore ordered a dive, forced to wait out an hour-long depth charge attack. One concussion ruptured a manhole gasket in the forward main ballast tank. Emergency repairs slowed the leak.

Just before 6 a.m., Gilmore, believing the patrol vessels to have moved on, brought Growler to periscope depth to pursue a ship five miles away.

In the early morning hours of Feb. 7 Growler's crew spotted a target. Gilmore ordered torpedo tubes readied and re-

duced the range to 2,000 yards, but the Japanese vessel reversed course.

Growler's radar lit up. The enemy ship was headed straight for the sub.

The nemesis was Hayasaki, a 920-ton ammunition ship converted to an auxiliary escort. It was armed with one 3-inch and two 25mm anti-aircraft guns, as well as a single 13mm machine gun.

With the range between Growler and Hayasaki too close for the sub's torpedoes to arm, Gilmore ordered "Left full rudder."

Just then the collision alarm sounded and the antagonists crashed head-on at 17 knots, throttling the sub and knocking everyone off their feet.

Growler heeled 50 degrees. An 18-inch section of bow bent sideways, disabling the sub's forward torpedoes.

Hayasaki had been rammed amidships but its 13mm gun crew, realizing they were holding a tiger by the tail, fired on the sub's conning tower with the only weapon they could bring to bear.

At point-blank range, the machine gun crew killed [Ensign William Wadsworth Williams](#) and Fireman 3rd Class Wilbert Fletcher Kelley.

Grievously wounded, Gilmore clung to the bridge frame.

Belowdecks the battered XO, [Lt. Cmdr. Arnold F. Schade](#), was finding his feet when he heard Gilmore's next order.

"Clear the bridge!"

Wounded personnel were pulled down the hatch. Then came Gilmore's final order.

"Take her down!"

Schade hesitated, as did the crew under the conning tower, but Gilmore did not appear. Another 13mm burst swept the upperworks, leaving a hole that let in the sea.

The crew closed the hatch and submerged.

Assuming command, Schade used controlled flooding to level Growler off while the crew scrambled to make temporary repairs.

After about 30 minutes he ordered "battle surface," but the damaged Hayasaki had already withdrawn to Rabaul.

There was sign of Gilmore.

Thanks to its skipper's sacrifice, Growler managed to limp back to Brisbane, where it was restored to combat readiness.

"The performance of the officers and crew in effecting repairs and bringing the ship safely back to base is one of the outstanding submarine feats of the war to date," Commodore James Fife Jr., the chief of staff of Asiatic Fleet Submarines, remarked.

In New Orleans, Louisiana, on July 13, 1943, Rear Adm. Andrew C. Bennett, the commandant of the Eighth Naval District, awarded Howard Gilmore the Medal of Honor. Present to receive it was his widow and their children.

Under Schade's command Growler took part in five more patrols, sinking the destroyer Shikinami and the escort ship

October 2024

Hirado on Sept. 12, 1944.

The boat dispatched a total of 15 ships, totaling 74,900 tons, and claimed seven more damaged.

During its 11th patrol, however, Growler, then under command of Thomas B. Oakley, vanished somewhere in the South China Sea off Mindoro, possibly falling victim to the destroyer Shigure.

Hayasaki, meanwhile, managed to survive mines, air attacks and submarines until the end of the war. After two years of repatriation duties, on Oct. 3, 1947, it was ceded to the Soviet Union as the Olekma.

Howard Gilmore's memory is marked in the Howard family plot - his widow's family - in Magnolia Cemetery, Meridian, Mississippi.

Carved in stone are his last words, which remain similarly etched into the memories of every U.S. Navy submariner.

"Take her down!"



Change the Batteries

From Shipmate Jack Odom's FB post 9/4/24



My father made a good point when he said: "When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, you don't throw it away, you change the batteries.

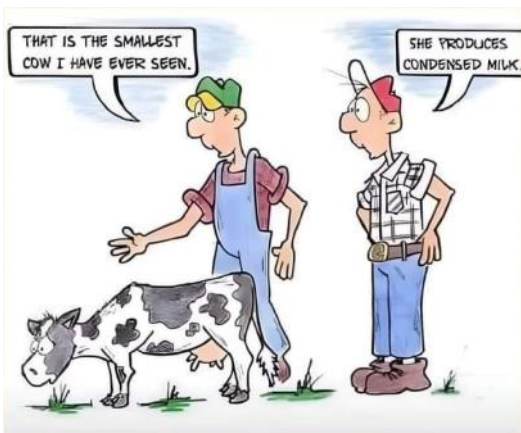
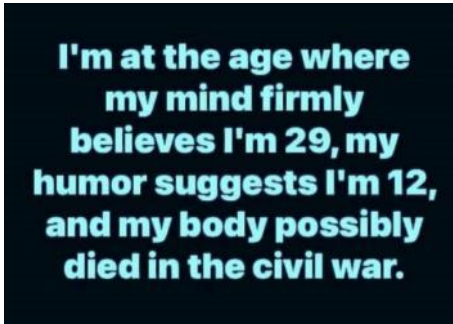
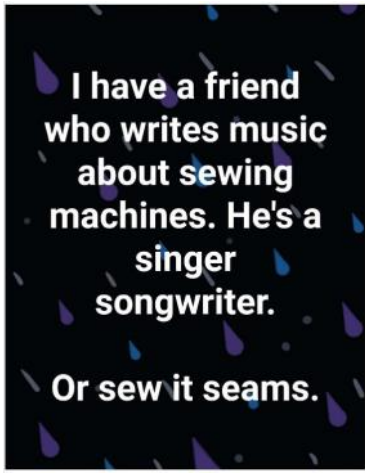
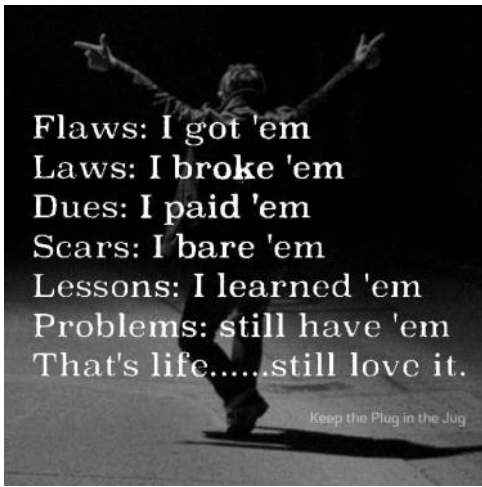
When a person messes up and finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not, you help them change their batteries!

Some need AA batteries; attention and affection. Some need AAA; attention, affection and acceptance. Some need C; compassion. Some need D; direction.

And if they still don't seem to shine. Simply sit with them quietly and share your light.

—anyakathryn_, Pascal Campion



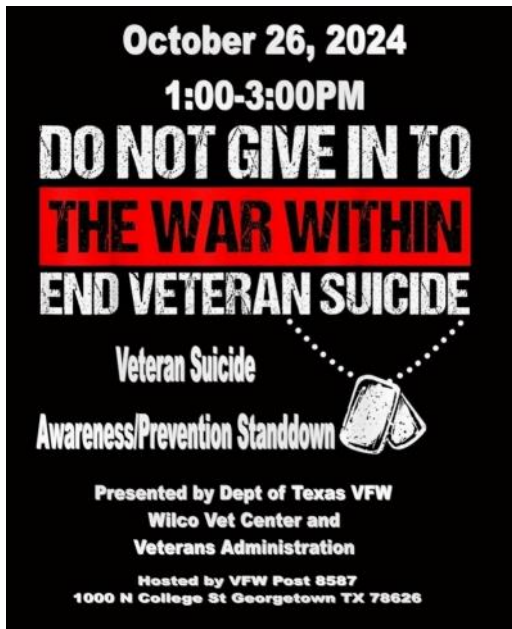


Dad Jokes

I'm writing a book about all the things I should be doing with my life.
It's an oughttobiography.

"Why did the football coach go to the bank?"
-To get his quarter back!

"What's the best thing about Switzerland?"
-I don't know, but the flag is a big plus!



CTB Quarterly Social - September 21, 2024
Round Rock Memorial Park
Round Rock West Park
500 Round Rock West Drive
Round Rock, TX



Happy Halloween







