



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

APRIL 2025
VOLUME XIV - ISSUE 4



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



USS Pickerel (SS-177)

The Loss of USS Pickerel (SS-177)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Pickerel_\(SS-177\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Pickerel_(SS-177))

She departed Pearl Harbor on 18 March 1943 and, after topping off with fuel and provisions at [Midway Island](#) on 22 March, headed for the eastern coast of northern [Honshū](#), Japan and was never heard from again. *Pickerel* was the first submarine to be lost in the Central Pacific area. She was stricken from the [Naval Vessel Register](#) on 19 August 1943. Specifications:

Class: **Porpoise**

Laid Down: **3/25/1935**

Launched: **7/7/1936**

Commissioned: **1/26/1937**

Builder: **General Dynamics Electric Boat**

Length: **300'**, Beam: **26**

#Officers: **5**, #Enlisted: **45**

Fate: *Pickerel* departed Pearl Harbor, HI., and after topping off with fuel at Midway, Island on 22 March, and headed for the Eastern Coast of Northern Honshu and was never heard from again.



U.S. NAVY SUBMARINE
ANNIVERSARY
125 YEARS
11 APRIL 2025



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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.

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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/>



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



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>



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



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



www.navyleague.org



www.moaa.org



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



<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/>



SILENT RUNNING

ARPIL 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 Pickerel (SS-177)

Lost on April 3, 1943 with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her 7th war patrol. She was lost off Honshu. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.



USS Snook (SS-279)

Lost on April 8, 1945 with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine.



USS Thresher (SS-593)

Lost on April 10, 1963 with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" - then, silence. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.



USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

Lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men off Saipan. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely due to a combined air and surface antisubmarine attack. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. On her first patrol, she became the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the submarine I-173.



USS Grenadier (SS-210)

Lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, the plane dropped a bomb causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 61 crew members taken prisoner, 57 survived the war.





USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS



BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Howdy Shipmates,

As I was trying to think of what to include in the Base Commanders Report for March, I realized that March has many significant days for the military. Some are directly related, and others are indirectly related by significance in military history due to key events, observances, and milestones that honor the bravery, sacrifices, and achievements of military personnel. The following dates may or may not show up on your calendar depending on what you choose as settings on your smart phone or possibly the type of "old school" paper calendar you may have hanging in your home. Whether it be a particular day or the entire month, I believe March may deserve a deeper dive, especially when it comes to the submarine service.

Significant Military Days in March

Women's History Month - March is Women's History Month, highlighting the contributions of women in the military. From serving as nurses and spies during the Revolutionary War to holding combat roles today, women have played a crucial role in U.S. military history. Women have played crucial roles in submarine support up until the ban on women on submarines was lifted in 2010 and the first women were assigned in 2016. Currently there are approximately 730 women actively in the submarine force. The USS New Jersey (SSN-796) is the first submarine to be built for both men and women as crew members.

National K9 Veterans Day (March 13) - This day commemorates the founding of the U.S. Army K9 Corps in 1942 and honors military working dogs for their service in war, law enforcement, and search-and-rescue operations.

Medal of Honor Day (March 25) - Medal of Honor Day is

a national observance recognizing recipients of the highest U.S. military award for valor in combat. Established by Congress in 1990, it serves to honor those who displayed extraordinary bravery beyond the call of duty. As of today, there have been 3528 Medal of Honor recipients. 8 of those have been submariners (7 officers, 1 enlisted). Of the eight, 5 survived and lived on post war or events that warranted the award. Maybe you were among the few that were able to meet or hear them speak.

Vietnam War Veterans Day (March 29) - This day honors veterans who served in the Vietnam War. It marks March 29, 1973, when the last U.S. combat troops withdrew from South Vietnam, signaling the end of direct U.S. military involvement in the war. Submarines played crucial roles throughout the Vietnam War. Only some of these details have been released over the years, but I'll bet that some of you have some amazing stories about being underway and participating in some of those operations.

Significant Military Events in March

Battle of the Alamo (March 6, 1836) - One of the most famous battles in American history, the Battle of the Alamo was a pivotal event in the Texas Revolution. Despite a loss, it became a symbol of resilience and sacrifice. I feel that we were very fortunate to hold our Tolling of the Boats ceremony in front of the Alamo in 2023.

Battle of Hampton Roads (March 9, 1862) - This Civil War battle marked the first clash between ironclad warships, the USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia, revolutionizing naval warfare.

Operation Allied Force (March 24, 1999) - NATO, including U.S. forces, launched airstrikes against Yugoslavia in response to human rights violations in Kosovo. This marked a major military intervention in modern history.

March is a month of remembrance and recognition for the

U.S. military, encompassing heroic acts, pivotal battles, and the contributions of service members past and present. Whether through honoring Medal of Honor recipients, acknowledging the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans, or recognizing the evolving role of women in the military, March serves as a crucial time to reflect on military history and the dedication of those who serve.

V/R, Curt Webber

curt.webber@gmail.com

(317)225-1823

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.

BASE TREASURER'S REPORT

15 March 2025

Financial Report for Period Ending 2/28/2025

Beginning Balance - 2/1/2025 - \$26,467.51



RBFCU Checking (Gen Fund) \$29,240.15
RBFCU Savings (Mem Fund) \$3,722.57
Uncleared Checks - -\$0.00

Ending Balance - 2/28/2025 - \$32,962.72

Submitted: Chris Glover, Treasurer

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP

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

Members listed in Central Texas Database	86
Regular Annual Members	23
National Life Members	55
Base Life Members	61
Holland Club Members	43
Associate Members	1
Dual Members	5
Prospective Members:	0
War Veterans	74
Members pending:	0
Submitted: Rick Mitchell, Membership	

APRIL 2025 BIRTHDAYS



Derald Vogt - 7th
Gordon McMaude - 28th
Hugh Brown - 29th

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.

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. Base Commander Curt Webber asked to add Jack Collins to the Binnacle list.

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

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. See Shipmates in Action below for LRSU details.

15 April 2025, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, VFW Post #8587 and Zoom, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1800 Social hour, 1900 meeting.

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

15 May 2025, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, VFW Post #8587 and Zoom, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1800 Social hour, 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, 1000 hours.

21 June 2025, Quarterly Social, TBD

Kap(SS) for Kid(SS) Update



Hey Shipmates!

Very happy to report we have 2 visits coming up for our Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) program. Our 1st visit will be to Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's Medical Center in Temple on 18 April at 1330 Hrs. We have a few from the base already lined up for this one and a likely attendee from the Heart of Texas Base in Waco.

Additionally, I just learned that we will be visiting Dell children's Hospital in Austin on April 30th at 1100 HRS. I have not yet reached out to volunteers on this one yet so if you would like to be part of a K4K visit then let me know. We cannot take a bunch at one time so we try to limit it to 4 people max but let me know if you want to go. I will see what we can do.

So, what happens on a K4K visit? Lately we have gone to a playroom at the location and kids and family that are there for the day or longer come by for playtime. We talk with them, share pictures, maybe some videos and just try to encourage them. We do not discuss their current struggles other than to relate it to the submarine qualification process which we use to bridge into making them "Honorary Submariners" basically we discuss the team work we needed and how they have a team of the doctors, nurses, staff, friends and family and how they all need to work together to have a successful mission. We have a small ceremony for those who desire and present an Honorary Submariner Certificate along with other gifts such as caps challenge coins, and now we have K4K bears. Usually, to tell the truth we spend a lot of time answering parents' questions and the kids are more interested in playing with the toys.

It's always different, and even though we're only there for a short period and seeing a few people, every visit I have had the privilege of being on I felt that we provided a welcome distraction to whatever and usually find a few more smiles from the children.

So are you interested in being on the team and what does that mean? Being on the team is simply being willing to get invites and be willing to occasionally attend one of these visits. It means providing ideas and feedback to help improve our efforts. It means being able to talk to children (wait, we are bubbleheads so we do that with each other all the time). Anyway, let me know your interest and every time we have a visit come up I will send you a notice and see if you can make it and we will try to rotate around so that everyone has a chance to make a visit. We ask that you dress nicely for these visits such as a collared shirt and of course your vest and ball cap. Let me know if you want to be part of the team and any questions or ideas you may have!

Rick Mitchell, K4K Chair, 512-639-0035

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.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Sailor's Psalm 23

The Lord is my Pilot, I shall not drift.
He guides me across the dark waters.
He steers me through deep channels.
He keeps my log.
Yea, though I sail 'mid the thunders
and tempest of life,
I shall dread no anger, for He is with me;
His love and His care, shelter me.
He prepares a quiet harbor before me.
He anoints the waves with oil
My ship rides calmly.
Surely sunlight and starlight
shall guide me on the voyage I take.
And I will rest in the Heaven's port forever.

I've been fighting
for survival
since I was a child.
I've learned lessons
from experiences
I never should have
been forced to face.
I'm tired now.
I just want to live
the most peaceful life I can,
surrounded by those I love.
I think I've earned it.

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USSVI 2025 Lonestar Subvet Round-Up

Lonestar Subvet Round Up - <http://www.lsr.org>

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As our Tolling of the Boats Ceremony is taking place at the [National Medal of Honor Museum](#) I'm believe that it is appropriate to honor the eight US Navy Submariners that have received the Medal of Honor in this newsletter. (They were named in a previous "The Deck Log," however, I am providing photos and a link to them for you. ed.)



[TM2 Henry Breault \(1923\)](#)



[CAPT John P. Cromwell \(1943\)](#)



[CDR Samuel D. Dealey \(1944\)](#)



[CDR Eugene B. Fluckey \(1945\)](#)



[CDR Howard W. Gilmore \(1943\)](#)



[CDR Richard H. O'Kane \(1944\)](#)



[CDR Lawson P. Ramage \(1944\)](#)



[CDR George L. Street III \(1945\)](#)



Submarine Force MOH Recipients

Established in 1861, the Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. It is generally presented to its recipient by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress. The Medal of Honor is the highest [military decoration](#) awarded by the United States government. It is bestowed on members of the United States armed forces who distinguish themselves "conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States."

The Medal of Honor is one of two military [neck order](#) awards issued by the United States and is the sole neck order awarded to members of the armed forces. The Commander's Degree of the [Legion of Merit](#) is also a neck order but it is only authorized for issue to foreign dignitaries.

As the award citation includes the phrase "in the name of Congress", it is sometimes erroneously called the Congressional Medal of Honor; however, the official title is simply the **Medal of Honor**.

Eight Submariners have received the Medal of Honor. Click on the photo or name to read more about each person who received the Medal of Honor for actions while a submariner.

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3/1/2025

One lucky person is going to take home this one-of-a-kind custom art piece created and donated by our shipmate "Chip" Pomeroy at [Test Depth Customs](#). At 36" wide this multi layer, powder coated, metal art piece, including a new updated dolphin design, represents much of why we do this. Note the subs depicted on the design. SS-197 and SSN-775 and of course, the Red, White Blue. Any thoughts on why those 2? Only way to win it is to be at our banquet and the only way to be there is to register soon at www.lsr.org. To take a look at more of Chip's work: <https://mytestdepthcustoms.bigcartel.com/>

Rick Mitchell - 512-639-0035



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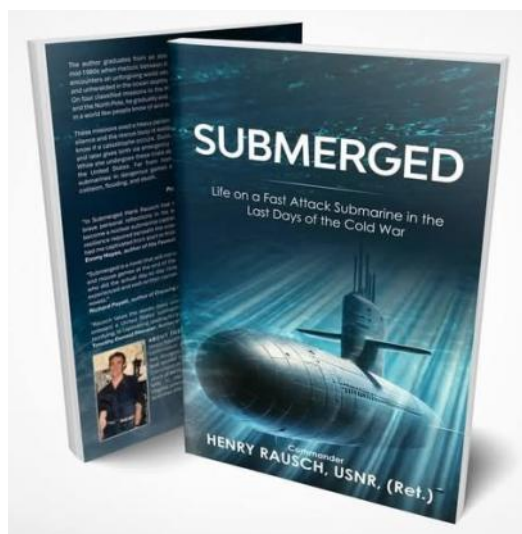
A peek at another prize 2 people will walk away with at this year's Lonestar Subvet Round Up . Submariner made right here in Texas. These bottles come from the USS Pasadena (SSN-752) batch. Thank you Mike Chapline and Chapline Distillery. www.lsr.org



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3/22/2025

During the social hour prior to our Banquet Saturday evening Submariner and author Henry Rausch will be flying in from West Virginia and join us to discuss his new book and answer any questions you have. He has also donated a couple of signed copies to our prize pool. If you haven't yet register and book your rooms here: www.lsr.org



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3/23/2025

Our Sailing List is getting full but Hot Racking is allowed. Only way to get on the sailing list though is to register soon. You can check out the sailing list, get more info, book your rooms and register here: www.lsr.org

April 2025

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3/27/25

A big THANK YOU to Shelly Saxton and SS Challenge Coins for supporting us and donating a couple of challenge coins and a gift certificate.



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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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Sea Story Time

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The first of some sea stories, from Shipmate Bill Bellinghausen. Who's next to send me one, or more?

Today is a special day...

On Jan 30, 1965, I fell overboard off the USS Triton while moored in St Thomas, VI. Luckily I was pulled from the water. Suffering with a concussion, bunged up shoulder and neck, plus damage done to my scalp by the barnacles.



Another story from Bill.

The USS Triton was a good home.

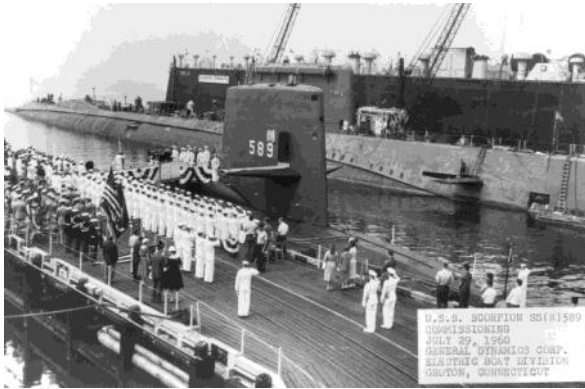
But we ran out of fuel.

On January 18, 1968, I transferred to the USS Seawolf SSN 575. Shortly thereafter we put to sea to do a warmup for our mission in the Mediterranean.

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On Jan 30, 1968, we hit something while submerged, traveling at a high rate of speed. We broke a portion of the bow and 19 feet of the stern. Leaving the rudder and stern planes dangling by the hydrolytic rams. We surfaced and was towed back to New London.

As we were not going to make it to the Mediterranean, the USS Scorpion SSN 589 took our place. Four months later on her return, she would be lost with all hands. I lost several close shipmates.



Change of command on the Scorpion, with the Triton in the background.

"Sailors rest your oars".



NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

Charitable Foundation Newsletter, March, 2025

George Palmer <info@ussvi.org>

3/15/2025

Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation Newsletter March 2025

Shipmates. If you are at all like me you still harbor a feeling of invulnerability. How could a rompin' stompin' submariner, afraid of nothing, and at the top of his game, face the inevitability of ... eternal patrol? I know it's hard to fathom. The truth is, though, that it's something we all need to come to grips with. The likelihood that between half and seventy percent of us **aren't** prepared for it is sobering.

Your Charitable Foundation has wrestled with it and decided to try and make part of those preparations easier. We are in discussion with a service that can make it less difficult and more economical to prepare our Wills on line. Wills are the only real way we can be sure that our wishes are carried out after we're gone.

While we don't endorse any particular service as yet, we would like your input before we enter into an agreement and put up our cold hard cash. If we do engage this service each of us will be able to get a will prepared for free. To be clear, any USSVI member, their children and their grand-

children will be able to get a Will ... **free**.

I can answer any questions you may have if you contact me at: vp-ed@ussvcf.org or by phone at 860-886-366. But I've put some frequently asked questions and their answers below. Our comments should not be a substitute for/or taken as legal advice. However, Wills made as a part of this program will be enforceable in your state.

FAQs

1. Will my will be legally valid in my home state? Yes each Will is tailored to your individual home state.
2. Will I have to hire a local attorney to have the details of my Will carried out? No, not unless you feel the need to.
3. Will I have to pay for any legal services after my Will is finalized and I sign it? No, not unless you have many specific bequests, or have complicating circumstances like trusts or other encumbrances, then it is advisable to hire your own attorney.
4. Will my Will supersede any previous Wills I may have made? Yes.
5. Should I have my Will notarized? Yes.

We need a **"show of hands"** to know how many would be interested, before we commit, so please let me know.

Scholarships

Our esteemed Dr. Alan Fickett is currently shepherding 286 scholarship applicants through the selection process. He reports that this is a bumper crop of applicants, but he is confident that all will be evaluated, and the lucky recipients informed, by the end of July.

Volunteers

Thank you and welcome aboard to our most recent volunteers! As everyone should know the Charitable Foundation is staffed by the most willing set of hands any boat has ever seen. It's no surprise that our bases are named for boats we've known or geographic features dear to us. Welcome aboard to Fernando Borges who has stepped up to aid Mike Ferranti as manager of the Brotherhood Fund. Welcome also to Scott Gerber who will back up Don Young with the Monuments and Memorials Fund and finally welcome aboard to Tim Blevins who will back up Steve Day as Building Fund manager.

That all being said we still need volunteers for important work. If you have communications skills or experience as a historian we need you, and we still need Ambassadors for 130 bases.

Our New Mascot

I'm sure you are all eager to know what has been chosen as our new mascot. I hate to keep everyone in suspense, but the truth is we haven't picked one yet. Altogether we've received entries from eleven members and some are intriguing. For instance, John Barr from Razorback Base submitted the venerable Pelorus Jack. Jack was a real aquatic hero, a dolphin who helped to guide ships through the treacherous Cook Strait near New Zealand in the late 1800s and early 1900s. I'm pulling for you, Jack.

John Fleitz of USS *Toledo* base has entered an historic

seadog. He reminds us all that Garbo the Puppy was the mascot and good luck charm aboard *USS Gar*, during six WWII patrols. She was a calming influence in the forward torpedo room especially during depth charging.

There are nine other entries, and I must report that each one is creative. Enjoy the suspense. I am holding the entries open until May 1st when the CF Board of Directors will vote and choose the winner. That gives the rest of you, who haven't sent me an entry, (send it to me at vp-ed@ussvcf.org) time to use that old submarine know how to conjure up a winner. Remember that the prize is a drink **on me** during our Orlando convention and a free commemorative coin. (Look for that to appear on our website for purchase soon).

USSV CF Newsletter No 15 Copyright® March 2025
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

3/2/2025

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

USSVI VSO March 2025 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 GAO.gov website. Shipbuilding and Repair: Navy Needs a Strategic Approach for Private Sector Industrial Base Investments

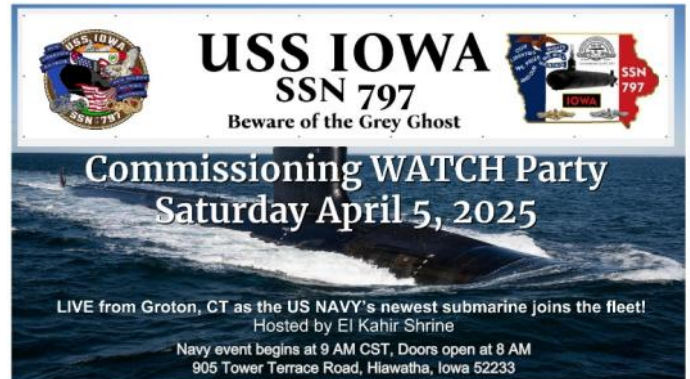
<https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-25-106286>

Reproduced from the National Interest website. Iran's Ghadir Submarines Pose a Hidden Threat to the United States

[Iran's Ghadir Submarines Pose a Hidden Threat to the United States](https://nationalinterest.com/newsfeature/iran-ghadir-submarines-2025/)

Reproduced from the El Kahir Shrine - Facebook website. USS Iowa SSN-797 Watch Party

[PUBLIC INVITED - USS SSN 797 Iowa Commissioning Watch Party | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ElKahirShrine/)



Event by [El Kahir Shrine](https://www.facebook.com/ElKahirShrine/) and [USS Iowa SSN 797 Commissioning Team](https://www.facebook.com/USS-Iowa-SSN-797-Commissioning-Team/), 905 Tower Terrace Road, Hiawatha, IA, United States, Iowa 52233, Public, Anyone on or off Facebook.

Join us for a live stream of the USS Iowa SSN 797 commissioning. Doors open at 8 AM, live stream begins at 9 AM.

The USS Iowa SSN 797 will be the fourth US Navy ship named after the state of Iowa, and the first submarine to bear the state's name. Learn more at www.ssn797.com.

Reproduced from the YouTube website. China launched yet another nuclear submarine. 7th in the last 2 years

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25Recun33NI>

Reproduced from the Zona Militar website. Naval Group accuses TKMS of harming the European submarine shipbuilding industry with its technology transfer to third countries

<https://www.zona-militar.com/en/2025/03/02/naval-group-accuses-tkms-of-harming-the-european-submarine-shipbuilding-industry-with-its-technology-transfer-to-third-countries/>

Reproduced from the USNI News website. Continuing Resolution Proposal Includes \$1B in Anomalies for Columbia Sub, Shipbuilding Programs

<https://news.usni.org/2025/03/03/continuing-resolution-proposal-includes-1b-in-anomalies-for-columbia-sub-shipbuilding-programs>

Reproduced from the Breaking Defense website. Navy contractor KEEL to spend \$70M on new facilities for submarine fabrication

<https://breakingdefense.com/2025/03/navy-contractor-keel-to-open-new-70m-facilities-for-submarine-fabrication/>

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Reproduced from the AS USA website. Movement of U.S. and Australian submarines as Chinese flotilla approaches Australian shores

[Movement of U.S. and Australian submarines as Chinese flotilla approaches Australian shores](#)

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Reproduced from the Newsweek website. US and Allies Hunt Submarines in Pacific

<https://www.newsweek.com/us-news-allies-anti-submarine-warfare-exercise-pacific-hawaii-guam-2040353>

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Reproduced from the Navy Lookout website. Exploring Australia's AUKUS Submarine Strategy: A Royal Navy Overview

[Exploring Australia's AUKUS Submarine Strategy: A Royal Navy Overview](#)

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Reproduced from the National Interest website. The USS Alexandria's emergence showcases the platform's role in deterring U.S. adversaries.

[Kim Jong Un Is Furious That a Los Angeles-class Submarine Is in Busan](#)

=====

Reproduced from the Interesting Engineering website. Japan's new 3,000-ton submarine with Harpoon missiles poses threat to China

[Japan's new 3,000-ton submarine with Harpoon missiles poses threat to China](#)

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Reproduced from the Breaking Defense website. White House's OMB skeptical of Navy plan to boost shipyard wages, SASC chairman says

<https://breakingdefense.com/2025/03/white-houses-omb-skeptical-of-navy-plan-to-boost-shipyard-wages-sasc-chairman-says/>

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Reproduced from the ABC News website. North Korea unveils nuclear-powered submarine for the first time

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/north-korea-unveils-nuclear-powered-submarine-time-119582971>

=====

Reproduced from the Breaking Defense website. New Australian submarine industrial base strategy calls for \$30 billion AUD investment

<https://breakingdefense.com/2025/03/new-australian-submarine-industrial-base-strategy-calls-for-30-billion-aud-investment/>

=====

Reproduced from the The War Horse website. Misadventures on a Nuclear Submarine: A Swollen Knee, a Gush

of Water, and a Man Overboard

<https://thewarhorse.org/navy-submarine-humanitarian-transfer-went-wrong-led-to-man-overboard/>

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Reproduced from the NBC News website. North Korea unveils work on nuclear-powered submarine for the first time

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/north-korea-unveils-nuclear-powered-submarine-first-time-rcna195450>

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Reproduced from the USNI News website. U.S. Starts Two Pacific Submarine Drills, Chinese Surface Group Operating Near Australia

<https://news.usni.org/2025/03/06/u-s-starts-two-pacific-submarine-drills-chinese-surface-group-operating-near-australia>

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Reproduced from the Stars and Stripes website. USS Oregon pulls in to new homeport at Naval Station Norfolk

<https://www.stripes.com/branches/navy/2025-03-09/uss-oregon-norfolk-homeport-change-17088317.html>

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Reproduced from the Naval News website. Singapore plans procurement of 2 more submarines, new maritime patrol aircraft

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2025/03/singapore-plans-procurement-of-2-more-submarines-new-maritime-patrol-aircraft/>

=====

Reproduced from the War on the Rocks website. When It Comes to Submarines, Australia Is Going to Be Left High and Dry

<https://warontherocks.com/2025/03/when-it-comes-to-submarines-australia-is-going-to-be-left-high-and-dry/>

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Reproduced from the Yahoo.com website. USS Hampton enters Dry Dock 1 at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/uss-hampton-enters-dry-dock-194202530.html>

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Reproduced from the The Independent website. French nuclear attack sub mysteriously docks in Nova Scotia, 300 miles from US border

[French nuclear attack sub mysteriously docks in Nova Scotia, 300 miles from US border](#)

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Reproduced from the Reuters website. US starts to build submarine presence on strategic Australian coast under AUKUS

[US starts to build submarine presence on strategic Australian coast under AUKUS](#)

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Reproduced from the Navy Lookout website. Nuclear Submarine HMS Astute Docks in Australia

[Nuclear Submarine HMS Astute Docks in Australia | Watch](#)

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Reproduced from the Global Defense News website. Focus: US Navy's Shipbuilding Industry Confronts Production Challenges as Global Maritime Threats Rise

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/navy-news/2025/focus-us-navys-shipbuilding-industry-confronts-production-challenges-as-global-maritime-threats-rise>

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Reproduced from the AS USA website. Warning that all the world's oceans will soon be under control of new 10,000-ton submarine with never-before-seen technology

https://en.as.com/latest_news/warning-that-all-the-worlds-oceans-will-soon-be-under-control-of-new-10000-ton-submarine-with-never-before-seen-technology-n/

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Reproduced from the 19FortyFive website. Russia's Nuclear Submarine Fleet Explained In 4 Simple Words

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2025/03/russias-nuclear-submarine-fleet-explained-in-4-simple-words/>

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Reproduced from the Global Defense News website. USS Ohio nuclear submarine returns to the Pacific with more firepower than all bombs in World War II combined

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/navy-news/2025/uss-ohio-nuclear-submarine-returns-to-the-pacific-with-more-firepower-than-all-bombs-in-world-war-ii-combined>

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Reproduced from the Fluctus website. How US Navy Resupplies its Nuclear Submarine In Middle of Nowhere

[How US Navy Resupplies its Nuclear Submarine In Middle of Nowhere | Watch](#)

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Reproduced from the Interesting Engineering website. Submarines to become deadlier with panoramic view of underwater threats using new tech

<https://interestingengineering.com/military/submarines-defense-bolsters-high-tech-sonar>

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Reproduced from the United 24 Media website. Russia Expands Its Arctic Fleet with Nuclear Submarines That Will Be Launched Within the Next Two Years

<https://united24media.com/world/russia-expands-its-arctic-fleet-with-nuclear-submarines-that-will-be-launched-within-the-next-two-years-6846>

=====

Reproduced from the All Israel News website. Under the sea: The secrets of Israel's Flotilla 7 submarine unit

<https://allisrael.com/under-the-sea-the-secrets-of-israel-s-flotilla-7-submarine-unit>

=====

Reproduced from the Asia Times website. Sinking ship: US undersea nuclear deterrent's plunging credibility

<https://asiatimes.com/2025/03/sinking-ship-us-undersea-nuclear-deterrents-plunging-credibility/>

=====

Reproduced from the Newsday website. As the Navy ramps up submarine production, West Islip High students are getting hands-on training in the industry

<https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/navy-submarine-production-worker-training-msgwy4mx>

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Reproduced from the The Gazette website. All but the Butter Cow will welcome Iowa's namesake submarine

<https://www.thegazette.com/news/all-but-the-butter-cow-will-welcome-iowas-namesake-submarine/>

=====

Reproduced from the National Interest website. These 5 U.S. Navy Warships Rule the Waves

[These 5 U.S. Navy Warships Rule the Waves](#)

=====

Reproduced from the National Interest website. NR-1: This Tiny Vessel Ruthlessly Hunted Soviet Nuclear Submarines

[NR-1: This Tiny Vessel Ruthlessly Hunted Soviet Nuclear Submarines](#)

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Reproduced from the YouTube website. The Tricky Submarine that Changed the Entire War

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxU8DaUgi20>

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Reproduced from the 19FortyFive website. The Deadliest Ambush That Sent 100,000 Tons of Japanese Steel to the Bottom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01uxX8f4OJc>

=====

Reproduced from the Dark Docs website. Operation Barney - Submarines Sent for Pearl Harbor Revenge

[Operation Barney - Submarines Sent for Pearl Harbor Revenge | Watch](#)

=====

Reproduced from the Dark Seas website. The Submarine That Secretly Tormented Russia

[NR-1: This Tiny Vessel Ruthlessly Hunted Soviet Nuclear Submarines](#)

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[Bill Bellinghausen](#)

3/19/2025



[Poopie Suits & Cowboy Boots](#)

[March 17 at 9:30 PM](#)

DEAR READERS:

While we're on the topic of emergency blows, here's a hypothetical:

Could a nuclear submarine even come close to simulating the up angle achieved by a fleet boat like the PICKEREL? If not, what is the limiting factor--does the weight/location of the reactor have anything to do with the limitation?

PHOTO: USS HOUSTON (SSN-713) executes a beautiful emergency blow demo for the cameras of "The Hunt for Red October."

=====

[USSVI Central Texas Base](#)

3/20/2025

As one of over 160 [United States Submarine Veterans](#) bases located across the US we do a lot of different things promoting camaraderie among Submarine Veterans, educating the public about the Submarine Forces and supporting our local communities through various programs like Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS), Scouting recognition, school talks, and more. We do all of this so that we can ensure that the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in pursuit of the duties while serving their country will never be forgotten. Here is one example of those Shipmates!

[United States Submarine Veterans](#)



USS KETE (SS-369)

Lost on March 20, 1945 with the loss of 87 officers and men at the end of her 2nd war patrol. Probably sunk near Okinawa by a Japanese submarine that itself was subsequently lost. Kete is Delaware's memorial Submarine. Her memorial is located at War Memorial Plaza [War Memorial Plaza, 163 Cherry Lane, New Castle, DE](#) For more on the loss of the USS KETE and her crew: <https://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-kete-369-loss.html>

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Reproduced from the The Barent Observer website. "Now this pile of scrap metal will be a monument to the USSR"

<https://www.thebarentsobserver.com/security/now-this-pile-of-scrap-metal-will-be-a-monument-to-the-ussr/426997>

=====

Reproduced from the YouTube website. Watch "Hell Under The Sea: WWII Torpedoman on Destroying Japanese Ships | Patrick Zilliacus" on YouTube

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

Shipmate Zilliacus is a USSVI Lifetime member of the LA Pasadena Base, Ed.

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This Month in History

From Shipmate Erik Heter, Base Historian

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The USS Tang: A Pacific War Legend

The USS Tang (SS-306) remains one of the most legendary submarines in U.S. Navy history. A Balao-class submarine, she was one of 120 built during World War II and played a crucial role in the Pacific Theater. Commissioned on October 15, 1943, at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, the Tang carried out five war patrols that demonstrated aggression, precision, and effectiveness against enemy ships. Under the command of Lieutenant Commander Richard O'Kane, the submarine carved out a reputation as one of the most successful of the war.

On her first war patrol, which began on January 22, 1944, the Tang wasted no time making her presence known. She expended all 24 of her torpedoes, hitting 16 enemy vessels and sinking four freighters, a gunboat, and a tanker, leaving no doubt that she was a formidable adversary to the Japanese Navy. Tang's first patrol concluded at Midway Island, but as she refit, the crew was already preparing for their next mission.

The second war patrol took a different turn. Although she encountered five enemy ships, circumstances prevented the launching of any attacks. Tang's mission then shifted to lifeguard duty around Truk Atoll, where she rescued 22 downed American airmen. This critical work not only saved lives but also reinforced the submarine's versatility in war-time operations.

The third war patrol, beginning in June 1944, took the Tang to the Yellow Sea and South China Sea. Engaging enemy convoys, she sank multiple freighters, including a transport

carrying 3,200 Japanese soldiers. Over the course of several days, Tang successfully targeted and destroyed multiple enemy vessels, making her one of the most effective submarines in the U.S. fleet. Initially credited with sinking eight ships on this patrol, post-war records bumped that number up to ten.

Tang's fourth war patrol was conducted off the coast of Honshu, Japan, from July 31 to September 3, 1944. This patrol brought even more success. Tang destroyed multiple enemy ships, including a massive 8,135-ton transport. She also engaged in surface attacks, using her deck gun to cripple a patrol yacht. Despite undergoing a sustained depth charge attack lasting nearly 40 minutes, the submarine emerged unscathed, further cementing her reputation as an elite combat vessel.

Tang's final war patrol in October 1944 became her most famous—and most tragic. She struck hard against enemy convoys, sinking multiple transports, tankers, and even a destroyer. However, on October 24, after successfully launching a series of attacks, the Tang fired her last torpedo—only for it to circle back and strike her stern. The impact sent the Tang to the bottom of the ocean at a depth of 180 feet. Nine crew members, including Commander O'Kane, managed to escape and were later captured by the Japanese. They endured brutal treatment as prisoners of war until Japan's surrender in 1945.

For his extraordinary leadership and valor, Commander O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. His courage and tactical brilliance ensured that the Tang left an enduring legacy despite her loss. O'Kane continued serving in the Navy, eventually retiring as a Rear Admiral in 1957. In recognition of his contributions, the USS O'Kane (DDG-77), an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, was named in his honor in 1998.

One way in which the Tang's legacy is preserved is in a special exhibit at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. The "Final Mission: USS Tang Submarine Experience" immerses visitors in the fateful last patrol of the legendary submarine, providing a firsthand look at the harrowing world of undersea warfare. Additionally, O'Kane's cribbage board is kept in the wardroom of the oldest fast-attack submarine in the fleet (at present, the USS Topeka, SSN 754), maintaining the link between past and present submariners.

The story of the USS Tang serves as a true legend of the role of the U.S. submarine fleet in achieving victory in the Pacific Theater of WWII. Tang and her crew fought with incredible bravery, unmatched skill, and unparalleled determination on her five war patrols, which struck severe blows against the Japanese enemy. Although Tang was eventually lost (due to no fault of her captain or crew), her legacy continues to serve as a reminder of the courage and sacrifices made by America's submarine sailors that ultimately led to victory.



=====

Test Depth Customs



Steel Below...

A black steel submarine slipping silently through the abyss,
its shadow a ghost in the deep.

Around it, the solemn forms of the brotherhood, watchful,
wordless, united.

Bound by depth, by duty, by the crushing weight of the sea
and by the strength that only such silence can forge.

The weight of the deep, the strength of those who stand not
above but far below, in the silence of the sea.

"Steel Below, Iron Within"

Black ships of steel, they glide like shade,
Where light is lost and courage made.
No flags, no fame, no crowds that cheer,
Just men who hold the line down here.

Men of iron, spirits worn,
By crushing depths and silence sworn.
No breath of wind, no flash of sun,
Just darkness thick, and duties done.

A brotherhood that does not break,
That bends but never dares to shake.
With every dive, with every strain,
They bind themselves in salt and chain.

Where sea would crush, they stand as one,
Their battles fought, their glory none.
They speak in nods, in glances brief,
Their tales are stitched in wordless grief.

They go where few would ever tread,
With ghosts behind and thoughts unsaid.
Yet still they serve, in steel they stay,
The watchers of the deep and grey.

By Andrew Dingley

=====

Q: What kind of ship has two mates but no Captain?

=====

Q: What has one eye, but cannot see?

Ed., Answers are before the Shipmates in Action banner.

=====



lizclimo.tumblr.com



😏 When you are bored just think about a few things that don't make sense 😏.....like ;

1. If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous? 😏
2. Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C? 😏
3. Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned? 😏
4. Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V? 😏
5. Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to fully work. 😏
6. Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty. 😏
7. The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims" 😏
8. 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses. 😏
9. If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them 😏

😏 Four great confusions still unresolved:

1. At a movie theatre, which arm rest is your's 😏?
2. If people evolved from monkeys, why are monkeys still around 😏?

Tip your server. Return your shopping cart. Pick up a piece of trash. Hold the door for the person behind you. Let someone into your lane. Small acts can have a ripple effect. That's how we change the world.

KARMA Says...

1. "What goes around, comes around."
2. "Karma has no menu; you get served what you deserve."
3. "The energy you put into the world is the energy that will return to you."
4. "Do good and good will come to you."
5. "Karma is the law of cause and effect, and what you put out comes back to you."



From Shipmate TJ Robie on FaceBook

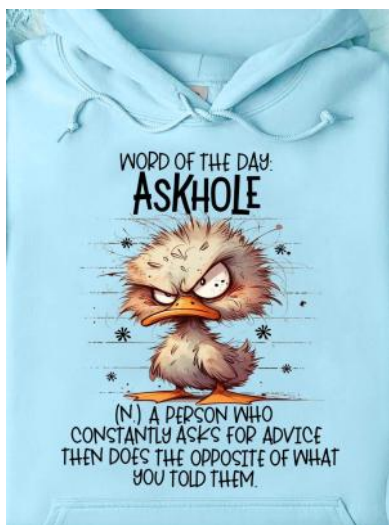
<https://www.defense.gov/.../marine-corps-famous-oorah.../>



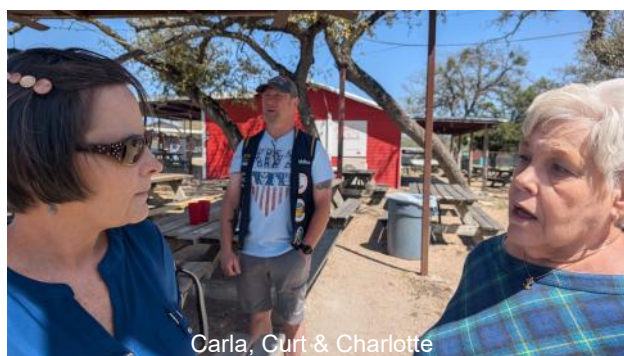
[defense.gov](https://www.defense.gov/)

Marine Corps' Famous 'Oorah!' Mantra Started in a Submarine





man's Vest



Carla, Curt & Charlotte



Cw, Curt, Lori, Carla & Gene



Cw, Tom, Harry B., & Bill S

Riddle answers: Relationship and Friendship & A Needle



Central Texas Base Quarterly Social

Our quarterly Social was held at [Dale's Essenhaus - Walburg, Georgetown, TX](#), on the 15th of March and was well attended. We were outside in the bier garden where we partook of some great food, camaraderie, and chatting amongst all who attended. The weather looks very good, though it was a little on the windy side. Here's some pictures of the folks and festivities.



Bill talking with Derrald V and friend



Derrald's Friend



Joe Keller and more crew



Dick & Jerrie W. Rachel & Chris Glover



Dick & Jerrie W. Rachel & Chris Glover



Sam & Libby on vacation overseas.. celebrating 50 years of marriage. Happy Anniversary.



Harold Jackson's Vest



Frank A stuffing his pie hole



Different view of the crew



Jesse & Chuck



USSVI 2025 Lonestar Subvet Round-Up
Lonestar Subvet Round Up - <http://www.lsrn.org>

4/1/2025

Need a Vest, Need Alterations, or maybe a hat or something custom? Well thanks to Jennifer Nocella Dugan or otherwise known as the "Subvest Lady", someone will be going home with a \$50 Gift Certificate towards www.subvest.com. Only way to get it though is to be there and only way to be there is to register. Still a couple days left to register and join over 130 other people who already have. www.lsrn.org



2025 USSVI National Convention

USSVI Central Texas Base

3/22/2025

United States Submarine Veterans is with Dennis Maita Sr.

3/21/2025

What happens at the Convention, unfortunately doesn't stay at the Convention but it sure is fun! Get ready to make some more new memories at the 2025 USSVI National Convention in Orlando, Florida. It's coming up fast so go to <https://subvetconvention.org/> and make your reservation at the Rosen Shingle Creek and get your registration filled out and sent in.

Let's go to Orlando.

Rick Mitchell



LEND A HELPING ARM

Blood drives save lives.

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Sponsored by: VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION - GEORGETOWN



Saturday, May 3
noon to 4pm

Questions: John Havenstrite
jhavenstrite@weareblood.org

Schedule at weareblood.org/donor
with group code: **D682**

VFW Post 8587 Blood Drive Coordinator - Frank Espinosa, fespinosajr@att.net

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

TEN COUNTIES. ONE FAMILY.



