



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

MARCH 2025
VOLUME XIV - ISSUE 3



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

The Loss of USS Perch (SS-176)

<https://ussnautilus.org/the-loss-of-uss-perch-ss-176/>



Lost on March 3, 1942 near Java with no immediate loss of life, while on her 1st war patrol. She survived 2 severe depth charging in less than 200 feet of water by 3 Japanese destroyers. The crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the 61 officers and men taken prisoner, 55 survived the war and six died as POWs

Specifications:

Class: **Porpoise**
Laid Down: **2/25/1935**
Launched: **5/9/1935**
Commissioned: **11/19/1936**
Builder: **General Dynamics Electric Boat**
Length: **300'**, Beam: **26**
#Officers: **5**, #Enlisted: **45**
Fate: **Scuttled in the Java Sea on 3 March 1942 after being damaged by Japanese destroyers; wreck illegally scrapped.**

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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/>



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



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/>



SILENT RUNNING

MARCH 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 Perch (SS-176)

Lost on March 3, 1942 near Java with no immediate loss of life, while on her 1st war patrol. She survived 2 severe depth chargings in less than 200 feet of water by 3 Japanese destroyers. The crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the 61 officers and men taken prisoner, 55 survived the war and six died as POWs.



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.



USS Grampus (SS-207)

Lost on March 5, 1943 with the loss of 71 officers and men, on her 6th war patrol. She was lost in Vella Gulf, sunk after engaging 2 Japanese Destroyers. In company with USS Grayback, Grampus departed Brisbane, Australia on her 6th war patrol from which she failed to return, the manner of her loss still remains a mystery today.



USS F-4 (SS-23)

Lost on March 25, 1915 with the loss of 21 men. She foundered 1.5 miles off of Honolulu when acid corrosion of the lead lining of the battery tank let seawater into the battery compartment, causing loss of control. She was raised in August 1915.



USS H-1 (SS-28)

Lost on March 12, 1920 with the loss of 4 men as they tried to swim to shore after grounding on a shoal off Santa Margarita Island, off the coast of Baja California, Mexico. Vestal (AR-4), pulled H-1 off the rocks in the morning of 24 March, only to have her sink 45 minutes later in some 50 feet of water. She was originally named the USS Seawolf before becoming H-1.



USS Tullibee (SS-284)

Lost on March 26, 1944 with the loss of 79 officers and men, on her 4th war patrol. It's believed she was a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. The lookout was the only survivor and he survived the war as a Japanese prisoner.



USS Triton (SS-201)

Lost on March 15, 1943 with the loss of 74 men. She was sunk north of the Admiralty Islands during a fight with 3 Japanese Destroyers. Triton was the 1st boat to engage the enemy in December 1941 off Wake Island, sinking 9 ships, 1 submarine and a destroyer.



USS Trigger (SS-237)

Lost on March 26, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men, on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese antisubmarine vessels and aircraft. Trigger ranked 7th in total tonnage sunk and tied for 8th in number of ships sunk.





USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS

THE SAILOR'S CREED

I am a United States Sailor.

*I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America
and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me.*

*I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before
me to defend freedom and democracy around the world.*

*I proudly serve my country's Navy combat team with Honor, Courage and
Commitment.*

I am committed to excellence and the fair treatment of all.

The Sailor's Creed (navy.mil)

BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Howdy Shipmates,

And just like that, February is in the books. How come, at least for me, it never felt like time moved this fast while underway? I know one thing that I like to have happen faster than it usually does and that is getting the cold weather out of Texas. With the beginning of March, brings the start of the new years' worth of events, so be on the

lookout for updates via both email and social media. That aside, here's my first attempt at putting my thoughts, with the help of a computer, on paper. Please bear with me.

Post military life for me started in 1998. I didn't run into many submariners for many years until I was invited to a meeting of the Central Texas Base. At first, I didn't give it much thought partially because I had been mostly a "loner" in the civilian world even when being around other former military members. I often thought of myself as a different breed of veteran, which I later found out that, being a submarine veteran, I was.

Reflecting, I realized that life aboard a submarine is unlike any other experience in the world. We operate in one of the most challenging and unforgiving environments, where teamwork, trust, and camaraderie are not just values but necessities. My fellow submariners were more than shipmates—they were my lifeline.

In the tight quarters of a submarine, every person plays a critical role. Whether punching holes in the depths, standing watch in or out of our rates, performing our actual rate related jobs or learning about other rates jobs, we depend on each other to keep the boat running safely and efficiently. There is no room for hesitation or doubt; we must trust that every sailor knows their job and has our backs. That trust is built through training, shared hardship, and an unshakable commitment to the mission.

Beyond the mission, fellow submariners provide the sup-

port needed to endure the challenges of extended deployments. In the isolation of the deep, far from family and the outside world, it was my shipmates that kept me going. Well, that and the fact I knew there was an ice-cold beer waiting for me when I returned. We celebrate victories together, lift each other up in difficult moments, and form bonds that last a lifetime. It has always seemed to astound nonmilitary friends of mine how we will not see a fellow Brother of the Phin for years and then carry on like we had just seen each other yesterday.

Being a submariner is more than a duty—it is a brotherhood and now, a sisterhood, forged in the silent service. I take pride in knowing that no matter what, my fellow submariners will always be there for me, just as I will always be there for you. I look forward to getting to know each of you better, helping grow our base and the national organization. As during my time on boats, I will lean on you for help and guidance, and I pray that you will assist me along the way.

V/R,

Curt Webber

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



After Meeting Follow-up

Shipmates,

An email on behalf of Curt (317-225-1823) and the E-board, 2/22/2025.

Rick, 512-639-0035

+++++

It was good to see many of you braving the cold last Wednesday at our Monthly meeting.

First and foremost, we'd like to welcome 2 new shipmates who were visiting us:

Doug Binenti who qualified on the USS George Washington Carver (SSBN-656) in 1990 and was an STS.

Dave Shearer who served as an Nuke Electrician and qualified about 50 years ago. (didn't get the year and boat)

We'd also like you to add the following items to your calendars:

March Base Social @ Dale's Essenhaus in Walburg Saturday March 15th @ 1300. Family and Friends encouraged to attend!

Lonestar Subvet Round-Up April 10-13th. You can come for a day or the weekend. Really hope to see many of you up there Saturday for the Tolling at the National Medal of Honor Museum. Details here: <http://www.lsr.org>

April Base Meeting - April 16th at the VFW

Red Poppy Parade in Georgetown - April 26th 10AM

Round Rock Express Baseball Game for family and friends. May 16th. Cost is \$45ea for each member and their first guest. Beyond that its \$60 each. Tickets include



USSVI CTB Base Meeting Minutes

parking, free food, drinks, beer, etc.

=====

Location: VFW Post 8587, Georgetown, TX

Meeting Opened: At 19:03 by Curt Webber, Base Commander [Note: Technical issues with Zoom delayed actual meeting start to 19:09]

E-Board Present: All with the exception of Treasurer Chris Glover

Meeting Minutes: January 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes approved

Sailing List: 14 Members at VFW, 6 Members on Zoom and 1 Visitor at VFW

Binnacle List: None identified

Prayer: Chuck Malone delivered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Ken Rydolph led the Base.

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

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: Chris Glover not present, presented by Curt Webber, Base Commander

Funds as of February 1, 2025

\$26,650.03 Jan 1, 2025 Balance

March 2025

\$26,467.51 Feb 1, 2025 Balance

General Fund: \$22,745.80

Memorial Fund: \$3,721.71

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 Curt stated the next parade is the Red Poppy Festival on April 26, 2025 in Georgetown. Registration will be available in March and the Base will be registered.

Membership (Rick Mitchell): 85 Current Members, which includes one new member. Six members did not renew their membership this year.

Welcome Aboard: Doug Binenti

Storekeeper (Virgil Claycamp): The Central Texas Base Challenge Coins are available. Contact Virgil if you need anything.

Memorial (Gene Hall): Gene was not present so Commander Curt Webber discussed the pictures being sent to the group that loaned the Torpedo for the Memorial in Round Rock.

Birthdays February & March 2025: 2/24 Dylan Gray, 3/1 Don Atkins, 3/9 Calvin Story, 3/11 Bill Scott, 3/11 Chris Munn, 3/16 Bob Steinman, 3/19 Ken Rydolph, 3/22 Ray Wilgeroth, 3/23 Kim Newman, 3/24 Bob Wakefield, 3/31 Chuck Malone, 3/31 Jack Pitts

Note: At this point, technical issues prevented viewing the PowerPoint slides locally and on Zoom; however, audio remained operational for Zoom attendees.

Unfinished, Ongoing and Old Business

March Social: Members will meet at Dale's Essenhaus in Walburg (at 3900 FM 972 – Exit 268 then 2 miles east) at 13:00 on March 15, 2025.

Baseball Game – Round Rock Express: On the Budweiser Party Porch on Friday night May 16, 2025; Free Parking, Food, Drinks and access to the Intel Club; Need 40 participants minimum; Cost is \$45 per head (includes spouse or significant other), any guest is an additional \$60.

2025 Lonestar Subvet Round-Up: April 10-13, 2025 in Arlington, TX. A guest speaker from Blue Forge Alliance will discuss their efforts to build up the submarine force. Registration is available at www.LSRU.org and a separate link is available for group rates at the Sheraton Arlington Hotel.

NEW Business:

May Tolling Ceremony: On May 24, 2025 at time TBD (Saturday before Memorial Day), the Tolling Ceremony will be conducted at the Round Rock Memorial. Advertise to family and friends and invite them.

Heroes Resource Center Bar-B-Que: On May 24, 2025 from 10:00 to 15:00 at Reunion Ranch, Georgetown. Free to Veterans and First Responders and their families at no cost. Consider coming after the Tolling Ceremony for free food, music, gift drawings, craft booths and information

booths.

Good of the Order:

VFW Post 8587 Day of Service Support: Frank Espinosa requested to be contacted by members willing to support the VFW Blood Drive on May 3, 2025 from 12:00 to 16:00, including notifying people of the opportunity.

2025 Amplify Austin: Frank Espinosa announced that the Caring Place provided the Base with three complimentary Amplify Austin T-Shirts for our sponsorship at the \$1,000 level for the 2025 Amplify Austin fundraiser. The T-shirts are available first come-first serve. Our sponsorship will match every other donation dollar-for-dollar up to \$1,000.

50/50 Raffle: \$21 of \$42 was won by Bill Brinkman.

Next Social Event: At 13:00 on March 15, 2025 at Dale's Essenhaus in Walburg

Next Regular Meeting: April 16, 2025 for 18:00 Social and 19:00 Meeting at VFW Post 8587, Georgetown

Sailing List Summary:

Total Base Members Present: 20

Local at VFW Post 8587: 14 Members; Harry Boyer, Bill Brinkman, Ed Carr III, David Clark, Virgil Claycamp, Frank Espinosa, Chuck Malone, Dale Messing, Rick Mitchell, Ken Rydolph, Bill Scott II, Harry Ullmann, Jr., and Curt Webber. Doug Binetti joined prior to the start of the meeting and is included in the count above.

Remote on Zoom: 6 Members; Frank Abernathy, Jim Bowles, Jack Collins, Hubert Jackson, Jack Odom and Roy Silva

Visitors: 1 Visitor; Dave Shearer (from Killeen)

Meeting Adjourned: At 19:53 by Base Commander Curt Webber



CTB Shipmates in Action

Minutes Submitted: February 22, 2025 by Yeoman Dave Clark

Central Texas Base March Social

Good morning shipmates,

March is right around the corner and that leads us to our first social event of the new year. Join us on March 15th, 1300 start, at Dale's Essenhaus in Walburg. Enjoy fine eats such as the Original Walburger, Fried Catfish, or the ever popular, gut busting, STUFFED Pork Schnitzel. Although all that food is alone enough to come out to Dale's, what really warrants your presence is the fellowship and conversation with other submariners/family of our elite fraternity. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

NOTE: Please let us know if you are coming and how many total will be in your group so we can give Dale's a heads up on how many to expect.

V/R,

Curt Webber

Lonestar Subvet Round Up - 2025

Rick Mitchell

2/22/2025

Forwarding for Curt. CTB has always represented well at this event. Let's do so again this year.....

Shipmates,

Please forward this note to your base members and other Submarine Veterans you may know.

This year we will be celebrating the 125th Birthday of the Submarine Force on April 11th. This is done across the country in various ways, usually in the form of a Sub Ball and here in Texas we have been conducting the [Lonestar Subvet Round Up](#) now for 5 years as our way of doing this and celebrating the Submarine Force, each other, and remembering our heroes.

Check out the website [Lonestar Subvet Round Up](#) for details and to register for the LSRU being held in Arlington, TX this year from April 10-13th. Our host hotel is going to be the Arlington Sheraton. We will hold various social events throughout the weekend, and you can come to any or all of them.

Here are a few highlights:

Friday night BBQ at Veterans Park in Arlington

- Arlington Mayor Jim Ross (a veteran himself) will be joining us
- Elvis will be performing
- BBQ is said to be some of the best in the state

Saturday Tolling Ceremony

- Held at the brand-new National Medal of Honor Museum
- Guest Speaker Ryan Walker, US Navy Submariner and author of "The Silent Service's First Hero (Henry Breault)"

Saturday Evening Banquet

- Great Food
- Holland Club Induction(s)
- Guest Speaker Evan Young Cole w/ Blue Forge Alliance see "Build Submarines.com"

Friday Group Events

- AT&T Stadium Tour (Cowboys Stadium)
- Axe Throwing Party (Lone Star Axe)

And best of all, a bunch of Subvets from all generations to meet and hang out with all weekend!

Registration form and a separate Hat/Shirt Order form are available on the web page. Get your registrations in ASAP as time is running short and make your reservations at the Sheraton. The link is on the web page.

Any questions at all let me know. Hope to see you in Arlington this year!

Here's a peek at the T-shirts and Hats we will have to order



this year. Order form will be going up on the web site www.LSRU.org this weekend! (Ed., See Above info for the online link to order.) You will be able to pick your color of dolphins. See you all in Arlington! Thanks Brian at [Always A Submariner](http://www.alwaysasubmariner.com) for helping us with this!

r/

Rick Mitchell
512-639-0035
<http://www.lsrp.org>



USSVI Central Texas Base

2/18/2025

Shipmate [Bill Bellinghausen](#) doing what he does best.

March 2025

Serving the community and showing the colors!

Capitol Area Council

At our council's February Executive Board meeting, Keith Graf - council advisory board member and Executive Director of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission - recognized Eagle Scout Joshua Hilewitz. Joshua is a retiring Chief Warrant Officer 5 with the Texas Army National Guard. He has served more than 26 years as an Apache helicopter pilot with multiple deployments. He has also served with the Texas Attorney General's Counterdrug Task Force and natural disaster relief efforts. Congratulations, and thanks to Chief Hilewitz for his service on behalf of all Texans.

BASE TREASURER'S REPORT



15 February 2025

Financial Report for Period Ending 1/31/2025

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	

Beginning Balance - 1/31/2025 - \$26,650.03

MARCH 2025 BIRTHDAYS



Don Atkins - 1st
Calvin Story - 9th
Bill Scott - 11th
Chris Munn - 11th
Bob Steinman - 16th
Ray Wilgeroth - 22nd
Kim Newman - 23rd
Bobby Wakefield - 24th
Chuck Malone - 31st
Jack Pitts - 31st

RBFCU Checking (Gen Fund) \$22,745.80

RBFCU Savings (Mem Fund) \$3,721.71

Uncleared Checks - -\$0.00

Ending Balance - 1/31/2025 - \$26,467.51

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

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 you to 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. There weren't any Shipmates noted at the Base Meeting as being on 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

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. See Shipmates in Action above for LRSU details.

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, 1800 Social hour, 1900 meeting.

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.

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.

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

Just Checking in Today

A Minister passing through his church
In the middle of the day,
Decided to pause by the altar
To see who come to pray.

Just then the back door opened,
And a man came down the aisle,
The minister frowned as he saw the man
Hadh't shaved in a while.

His shirt was torn and shabby,
And his coat was worn and frayed,
The man knelt down and bowed his head,
Then rose and walked away.

In the days that followed at precisely noon, the preacher saw this chap, each time he knelt just for a moment, a lunch pail in his lap.

Well, the minister's suspicions grew, with robbery a main fear, he decided to stop and ask the man, 'What are you doing here?' The old man said he was a factory worker and lunch was half an hour. Lunchtime was his prayer time, for

finding strength and power. I stay only a moment because the factory's far away; as I kneel here talking to the Lord, this is kinda what I say:

'I JUST CAME BY TO TELL YOU, LORD,
HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN,
SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHERS FRIENDSHIP
AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN.

DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY,
BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY.
SO, JESUS, THIS IS BEN,
JUST CHECKING IN TODAY.'

The minister feeling foolish, told Ben that it was fine. He told the man that he was welcome to pray there anytime.

'It's time to go, and thanks,' Ben said as he hurried to the door.

Then the minister knelt there at the altar, which he'd never done before. His cold heart melted, warmed with love, as he met with Jesus there. As the tears flowed down his cheeks, he repeated old Ben's prayer:

'I JUST CAME BY TO TELL YOU, LORD,
HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN,
SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHERS FRIENDSHIP
AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN.

DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY,
BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY.
SO, JESUS, THIS IS BEN,
JUST CHECKING IN TODAY.'

Past noon one day, the minister noticed that old Ben hadn't come. As more days passed and still no Ben, he began to worry some. At the factory, he asked about him, learning he was ill. The hospital staff was worried, but he'd given them a thrill.

The week that Ben was with them, brought changes in the ward. His smiles and joy contagious. Changed people were his reward. The head nurse couldn't understand why Ben could be so glad, when no flowers, calls or cards came, not a visitor he had.

The minister stayed by his bed, he voiced the nurse's concern: No friends had come to show they cared. He had nowhere to turn. Looking surprised, old Ben spoke up, and with a winsome smile; 'The nurse is wrong, she couldn't know, He's been here all the while.' everyday at noon He comes here, a dear friend of mine, you see, He sits right down and takes my hand, leans over and says to me:

'I JUST CAME BY TO TELL YOU, LORD,
HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN,
SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHERS FRIENDSHIP
AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN.

DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY,
BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY.
SO, JESUS, THIS IS BEN,
JUST CHECKING IN TODAY.'

If this blesses you, pass it on. Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.

May God hold you in the palm of His hand and Angels watch over you. Please pass this page on to your friends &

loved ones. If you aren't ashamed. Jesus said, ' If you are ashamed of me,' I will be ashamed Of you before my Father.' If you are not ashamed, pass this on.



So, FRIEND, this is ME ..."Just Checking In Today"

=====

A friend of mine was fired from his job at a local dairy because he only had nine toes. The good news is he sued and won his case when the judge ruled that his former employer was "lack toes intolerant".

=====

NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

Charitable Foundation Update

Charitable Foundation Newsletter, February, 2025

George Palmer <info@ussvi.org>

2/23/2025

Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation Newsletter February 2025

Shipmates! This month we welcome our two newest Ambassadors: Leah Torino, Tri-State Base and Frank Espinosa, Central Texas Base. Welcome aboard! Now the news.

Brotherhood Fund

As we move through another season weather continues to dominate and overwhelm many of us. From freezing, to wildfires, ice and snow, the Brotherhood Fund (BHF) is standing by, ready to assist any shipmate. I have been in contact with shipmates still recovering from Hurricanes Helene and Milton and they know that when they reach the point in their reconstruction efforts that they need our assistance, we are standing by and ready to go on helping. Thanks to *all of you* for your generous donations so far.

There are currently many areas of the country in need of some form of relief and it is a very daunting task to understand the exact geographical areas that are affected. I am asking all District and Base Commanders to stay as up to date as possible with what is happening in your areas and to stay in contact with our members. We need all eyes on these issues to ensure we can serve you as best we can. Remember, we are all in this together :ONE SHIP ONE CREW. Call-A-Buddy! if you know of a USSVI member who needs assistance, we have established a Home Depot Voucher Program to provide appliances that may have been damaged by storms and need to be replaced; please tell them about this program and have them contact me, Mike Ferranti, at brotherhood @ussvcf.org or call me at 407-45-2154.

Kaps 4 Kids

John Riley appreciates all members efforts related to K4K. To read his recent letter to all Base Commanders click on <https://www.ussvcf.org/k4k-letter.html> .

Legacy Funds

See the January newsletter, if you missed it, it's on our website.

Monuments and Memorials

Does your Base maintain a Submarine Memorial? If so, please send us a picture or two of your memorial(s) along with some basic information such as: address of the memorial, when built (if known), etc. We are building a directory of the Submarine Memorials and a lot of the information on the old website is out of date or has low-res photos. Please email your photos (preferably the highest res you can provide) along with any relevant information to Don Young, Memorials Fund Manager at: memorials@ussvcf.org.

Scholarship News

Since 2000, The USSVCF Academic Scholarship Program has been providing educational assistance to children, grandchildren and legal dependents of USSVI members across the nation. The 2025-26 Scholarship application window launched 31 October 2024, and applications are being accepted until 20 May 2025.

To date, more than 210 applications have been received and are in review. Applicants enrolled in trade, technical, career education and apprenticeship programs at accredited institutions are also eligible to apply. Age is not a limiting factor. (Just take a look at www.mikeroweworks.org on line to see the extent of available technical jobs!)

To register, go to bit.ly/ussvcf-scholarship2025. Only the student applicant may register and apply using their email address.

Expanding Our Reach

Last month we broached the subject (broached, I guess old habits die hard) of adopting a Charitable Foundation mascot. So far we have received mascot ideas from 7 of our members. They include: "CPO Sharky", "Charity Charlie", a tortoise, "Garbo the puppy" (after the famous dog who rode USS *Gar* during WWII), "Flipper", "Willie the Whale and Penny the Porpoise" (dual submissions by Mrs. Owen McCoy) and "Salty the Dolphin". We want to hear from you before we decide which way to go, and we're upping the ante on the reward. Not only will I buy the winner a drink during the Orlando Convention, but we'll also include a *free submarine commemorative coin*. It's our copyrighted design, celebrating the 250th anniversary of our Navy on the front side and the 125th anniversary of submarines on the reverse. See it at: <https://www.ussvcf.org/commemorative-coin.html>. We'll be offering them via our website soon. The coin is the brainchild of Bob MacPherson and the work of Barry Commons, our National Store-keeping whiz.

One last thing. We are looking for submarine-related items for the silent auction we will have as part of our presence at the Orlando convention. Memorabilia of any type objects or documents (including that old qual card that showed you were Dink for the first few weeks of your first patrol aboard USS *Usetafish*) are fine.

USSV CF Newsletter No 14 Copyright© February 2025
George Palmer Editor

George Palmer

March 2025

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



GEDUNK (SUBMARINE NEWS) FROM THE NET

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

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.

(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 19FortyFive website. Russia's 48,000 Ton Typhoon-Class Submarine: Armed with a Swimming Pool and Nukes

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2025/01/russias-48000-ton-typhoon-class-submarine-armed-with-a-swimming-pool-and-nukes/>

Reproduced from the Wall Street Journal website. Russia's New Naval Base Threatens to Drag Georgia Into Ukraine War

<https://www.wsj.com/video/series/in-depth-features/russias-new-naval-base-threatens-to-drag-georgia-into-ukraine-war/A47A5873-B367-4B69-B953-034E0C32EF7F>

Reproduced from the Techradar.com website. New 'Quantum Sensors' Could Make America's Billion-Dollar Submarines Obsolete

<https://www.techradar.com/pro/could-ai-soon-make-dozens-of-billion-dollar-nuclear-stealth-attack-submarines-more-expensive-and-obsolete>

Reproduced from the YouTube website. Japan's Creepiest Submarine Trick the US Never Saw Coming

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTs-ayU_TiY

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Reproduced from the The Defence Post website. Germany Approves World's First Submarine Active Defense System

<https://thedefensepost.com/2025/01/27/germany-submarine-active-defense/>

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What kind of dog doesn't Bark? A hush Puppy.
What has a head, a tail but no legs? Answer: A coin

=====

Reproduced from the National Interest website. Russia Hopes the Lada-class Submarine Will Improve. It Won't.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/russia-hopes-the-lada-class-submarine-will-improve-it-wont/>

=====

Reproduced from the Business Insider website. How Navy Submarine Cooks Feed 150 Sailors At Sea | Boot Camp | Business Insider

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDr74_wV3qo

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Reproduced from the Naval News website. New Unreported Submarine In China Leaves West Guessing

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2025/02/new-unreported-submarine-in-china-leaves-west-guessing/>

=====

Reproduced from the 1819 News website. U.S. Navy submarines to be manufactured in Mobile, creating over 1,000 jobs

<https://1819news.com/news/item/u-s-navy-submarines-to-be-manufactured-in-mobile-creating-over-1-000-jobs>

=====

Reproduced from the 19FortyFive website. Russia's Submarine Fleet Summed Up Simply in 4 Words

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2025/02/russias-submarine-fleet-summed-up-simply-in-4-words/>

=====

Reproduced from the Newsweek website. New Chinese Submarine Seen in Satellite Photos

[New Chinese Submarine Seen in Satellite Photos](#)

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Reproduced from the MSN.com website. NATO Allies Track Submarines For Combat Preparedness

[NATO Allies Track Submarines For Combat Preparedness | Watch](#)

=====

Reproduced from the YouTube website. China's Secret New Submarine Stuns Naval Experts!

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

=====

Reproduced from the US Naval Institute website. Shipbuilders, Navy Want Deal on 2 Virginia Attack Boats 'As Soon as Possible'

<https://news.usni.org/2025/02/06/shipbuilders-navy-want-deal-on-2-virginia-attack-boats-as-soon-as-possible>

=====

Reproduced from the Bulgarian Military website. China's latest 093B submarine with 12 VLS tubes breaks cover

<https://bulgarianmilitary.com/2025/02/07/chinas-latest-093b-submarine-with-12-vls-tubes-breaks-cover/>

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Reproduced from the The Maritime Executive website. America Needs a New Fleet Act to Rejuvenate the U.S. Navy

<https://maritime-executive.com/editorials/america-needs-a-new-fleet-act-to-rejuvenate-the-u-s-navy>

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Reproduced from the 19FortyFive website. SSN(X): The Navy has a Big Submarine Decision to make

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2025/02/ssnx-the-navy-has-a-big-submarine-decision-to-make/>

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Reproduced from the Fluctus website. The Extreme Logistics of Launching US Navy's Newest Billions \$ Submarines

[The Extreme Logistics of Launching US Navy's Newest Billions \\$ Submarines | Watch](#)

=====

Reproduced from the Newsweek website. Satellite Photo Captures Chinese Nuclear Submarine's Weapons System

<https://www.newsweek.com/china-nuclear-submarine-weapons-missiles-huludao-2028660>

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Reproduced from the Yahoo.com website. China could detect US' stealth submarines with new tech that tracks surface disturbance

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/china-could-detect-us-stealth-163632483.html>

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Reproduced from the The War Zone website. Navy Develops Highly Persistent Undersea Hydrophone System Powered By Ocean Temperatures

<https://www.twz.com/news-features/navy-develops-highly-persistent-undersea-hydrophone-system-powered-by-ocean-temperatures>

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Reproduced from the Zona Militar website. Australia made the first payment of US\$500 million to the U.S. for the purchase of its first Virginia-class nuclear submarine

<https://www.zona-militar.com/en/2025/02/11/australia-made-the-first-payment-of-us500-million-to-the-u-s-for-the-purchase-of-its-first-virginia-class-nuclear-submarine/>

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Reproduced from the Stars and Stripes website. North Korea warns of 'counteraction' after US submarine docks in South

https://www.stripes.com/theaters/asia_pacific/2025-02-11/north-korea-navy-submarine-visit-16793497.html

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Reproduced from the Slash Gear website. Why Pepsi Once Had More Submarines Than Most Countries

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/companies/why-pepsi-once-had-more-submarines-than-most-countries/ar-AA1yHCUE>

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Reproduced from the Zona Militar website. The Russian Navy deploys one of its Kilo II-class attack submarines to the Mediterranean again

<https://www.zona-militar.com/en/2025/02/13/the-russian-navy-deploys-one-of-its-kilo-ii-class-attack-submarines-to-the-mediterranean-again/>

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Reproduced from the Bulgarian Military website. U.S. P-8 enters no-fly zone to track Russian B-265 submarine

<https://bulgarianmilitary.com/2025/02/15/u-s-p-8-enters-no-fly-zone-to-track-russian-b-265-submarine/>

Also See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVH5e2hWYP4>

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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 Slash Gear website. Why Are Most Military Submarines Painted Black?

[Why Are Most Military Submarines Painted Black?](#)

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Reproduced from the Daily Aviation website. Life Inside US Navy's Gigantic Submarine Patrolling the Ocean at High Speed

[Life Inside US Navy's Gigantic Submarine Patrolling the Ocean at High Speed | Watch](#)

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Reproduced from the Interesting Engineering website. China's new hypersonic missile-capable submarine challenges US in Philippines: Report

[China's new hypersonic missile-capable submarine challenges US in Philippines: Report](#)

Reproduced from the Business Insider website. A top US Navy shipbuilder says the problem isn't that the industry doesn't know how to build warships

<https://www.businessinsider.com/industry-knows-how-to-build-warships-navy-shipbuilding-insider-2025-2>

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Reproduced from the 19FortyFive website. The U.S. Navy's Los Angeles-Class Submarine Nightmare Has 'Pulled Into Port' - 19FortyFive

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2025/02/the-u-s-navys-los-angeles-class-submarine-nightmare-has-pulled-into-port/>

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Reproduced from the 19FortyFive website. Gotland-Class: The Stealth Submarine You Never Heard of Sinks Aircraft Carriers

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2025/02/gotland-class-the-stealth-submarine-you-never-heard-of-sinks-aircraft-carriers/>

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Reproduced from the Defense News website. Naval Group charges rival ThyssenKrupp with selling out submarine tech

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2025/02/20/naval-group-charges-rival-thyssenkrupp-with-selling-out-submarine-tech/>

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Reproduced from the Interesting Engineering website. US Navy next-gen submarines, carriers to get nuclear reactors with longer deployments

<https://interestingengineering.com/military/us-navy-submarines-nuclear-reactors>

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Reproduced from the Navy Lookout website. NATO Conducts Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercises in Arctic Waters

[NATO Conducts Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercises in Arctic Waters | Watch](#)

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Reproduced from the CBS Evening News website. 5th graders getting early start on skills that could help power the Navy's fleet

<https://fb.watch/xZUGODTV4h/>

[CBS Evening News](#) and [CBS News](#)
February 20 at 6:32 PM ·

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Reproduced from the Slash Gear website. What Is The Top Speed Of A Submarine While Underwater?

<https://search.app/x5mt>

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Reproduced from the Slash Gear website. How Long Can A Military Submarine Stay Underwater?

<https://search.app/dUmZ>

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Reproduced from the Newsweek website. US Nuclear Submarine Visits Ally As China's Warships Close In

<https://search.app/m3vb>



HISTORY

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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://search.app/m3vb)

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Reproduced from the 19FortyFive website. Foxtrot-Class: The Russian Submarine That Almost Started World War III

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2025/02/foxtrot-class-the-russian-submarine-that-almost-started-world-war-iii/>

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Reproduced from the YouTube website. The Secret Allied Weapon That Made U-Boat Wolfpacks Useless

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

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Reproduced from the US Naval Institute website. The USS Scorpion: Buried at Sea

<https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history/2025/february/uss-scorpion-buried-sea>

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Reproduced from the The Collector website. Submarine Warfare: What Were the U-boats?

<https://www.thecollector.com/what-were-the-u-boats/>

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Reproduced from the The Collector website. The History of Submarines: From Science to Stealth

<https://www.thecollector.com/history-of-submarines/>

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Reproduced from the MSN.com website. Project Azorian: The Secret US Mission to Recover a Soviet Submarine

[Project Azorian: The Secret US Mission to Recover a Soviet Submarine | Watch](https://search.app/m3vb)

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Reproduced from the Business Today website. 'Trapped underwater for 60 days': The secret submarine experiment preparing for Mars

[https://www.businesstoday.in/visualstories/news/trapped-](https://www.businesstoday.in/visualstories/news/trapped-underwater-for-60-days-the-secret-submarine-experiment-preparing-for-mars-208052-07-02-2025)

[underwater-for-60-days-the-secret-submarine-experiment-preparing-for-mars-208052-07-02-2025](https://search.app/m3vb)

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Reproduced from the Slash Gear.com website. German U-Boat Vs. Submarine: Is There A Difference?

<https://www.slashgear.com/1779305/german-u-boat-vs-submarine-differences/>

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Reproduced from the Slash Gear website. WW1 Submarines: What Were They Used For And Do Any Still Exist?

[WW1 Submarines: What Were They Used For And Do Any Still Exist?](https://www.slashgear.com/1779305/german-u-boat-vs-submarine-differences/)

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Reproduced from the MSN.com website. Old Submarine Emerges From Water - We Explored it!

[Old Submarine Emerges From Water - We Explored it! | Watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoEa7Ot9NWU)

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Reproduced from the YouTube website. The Genius Move That Sent U-Boats to the Scrap Heap

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoEa7Ot9NWU>

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Reproduced from the Knewz.com website. Naval Officer Accidentally Discovers First World War Submarine Hidden Beneath a Town Park

[Naval Officer Accidentally Discovers First World War Submarine Hidden Beneath a Town Park](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoEa7Ot9NWU)

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Reproduced from the Smithsonian Magazine website. How Britain's Secret Decoy Ships Outfoxed German U-Boats During World War I

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/how-britains-secret-decoy-ships-outfoxed-german-u-boats-during-world-war-i-180986044/>

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Reproduced from the Slash Gear website. Why Are Submarines Called Boats? The History Behind The Term

[Why Are Submarines Called Boats? The History Behind The Term](https://www.slashgear.com/1779305/german-u-boat-vs-submarine-differences/)

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Reproduced from the YouTube website. US Submarine Smashes Massive Japanese Convoy - Raid on Namkwan 1945

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Z7d76zSKas>

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Reproduced from the The Maritime Executive website. Divers Find "Lost" Dutch Submarine From WWII Off Australia

<https://search.app/xLqE>

This Month in History

From Shipmate Erik Heter, Base Historian

USS Silversides: A Legacy of Valor in the Pacific War

The USS Silversides (SS-236), a Gato-class submarine, carved its name into the annals of World War II naval history through its daring missions and significant contributions to the Pacific theater. Commissioned on December 15, 1941, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Silversides embarked on 14 war patrols, earning 12 battle stars and a Presidential Unit Citation for her exceptional service.

Early War Patrols and Initial Successes

Under the command of LCDR Creed Burlingame, Silversides conducted its first three war patrols between April and November 1942. These early missions were marked by aggressive engagements against Japanese forces. One notable encounter occurred on May 10, 1942, when the submarine heavily damaged a Japanese patrol boat using its 3-inch deck gun. This action, however, resulted in the loss of TM3 Mike Harbin, the only crew member of Silversides to be killed in action during the war.

Silversides recorded its first confirmed sinking on May 17, 1942, when it successfully torpedoed a 4,000-ton cargo ship. Despite challenges such as an entangled periscope, the submarine also managed to damage a second vessel. Over the next two patrols, Silversides continued its attacks, sinking several enemy ships, including a transport and a passenger-cargo vessel, and damaging a large tanker. Though no confirmed sinkings were recorded on its third patrol, the crew inflicted significant damage on Japanese supply lines.

The Incredible Fourth War Patrol

Silversides' fourth war patrol, launched from Brisbane, Australia, on December 17, 1942, was among its most dramatic and perilous. Operating between Truk Island and New Ireland, the submarine faced not only enemy forces but also an emergency medical crisis.

A few days into the patrol, Fireman Second Class George Platter developed acute appendicitis. With no means of evacuation, Pharmacist's Mate First Class Thomas Moore performed an emergency appendectomy—his first-ever surgery—on December 22 while the submarine was submerged 50 miles from the Japanese naval base at Rabaul. Despite complications, including internal bleeding and a near mishap with ether anesthesia, the surgery was successful, and Platter returned to duty just six days later.

Immediately after surfacing post-surgery, Silversides encountered a Japanese destroyer. LCDR Burlingame ordered an immediate engagement, firing two torpedoes before diving to evade counterattacks. Over the next several hours, the submarine endured depth charge and aerial attacks, suffering damage to its diving planes that nearly sent it to crush depth. She was saved by the crew's quick response and subsequently continued her patrol.

Silversides' most significant success of this patrol came on January 18, 1943, when it engaged and sank the Toei Maru, a large Japanese tanker. Further engagements followed, including a coordinated attack on a four-ship con-

voy. The submarine fired six torpedoes, five of which found their targets, resulting in multiple enemy sinkings. Despite mechanical issues and damage sustained from enemy depth charges, Silversides successfully evaded detection and returned safely to Pearl Harbor on January 31, 1943.

Continued Service and Post-War Fate

Following its fourth patrol, Silversides underwent an overhaul before embarking on ten additional war patrols. By the war's end, it had confirmed the sinking of 23 enemy ships, totaling approximately 90,000 tons of Japanese shipping. It was undergoing a retrofit on Guam when Japan surrendered in August 1945.

Decommissioned on August 17, 1946, Silversides eventually found a permanent home in Muskegon, Michigan, where it now serves as a museum ship. Visitors today can explore the vessel and learn about its extraordinary contributions to the war effort, ensuring that its legacy endures.

Conclusion

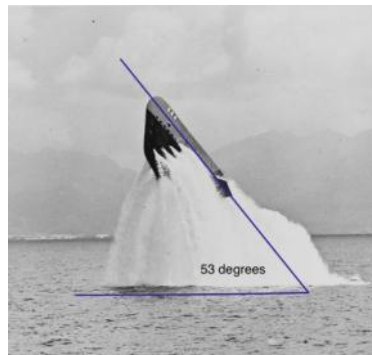
The USS Silversides exemplifies the bravery, ingenuity, and resilience of the U.S. Navy's submarine force during World War II. From its bold attacks on Japanese convoys to the life-saving surgery performed under extreme conditions, Silversides' history remains a testament to the courage and skill of its crew. Today, as a museum, it continues to educate and inspire future generations about the sacrifices and triumphs of the Silent Service.

ED. Another History article for you. From Shipmate Bill Bellinghausen and Poopie Suits & Cowboy Boots posts on FaceBook.

USS Pickerel SS-524

[Bill Bellinghausen](#), & [Poopie Suits & Cowboy Boots](#) "Sub Tales" updated their profile picture.

2/12/2025



From the chapter "Emergency Blow!" in "Sub Tales":

PHOTO: The moment of maximum angle while breaking the surface.

The crew of the USS Pickerel (SS-524) was assigned a special mission for 01 March 1952. She was to attempt to break the record for the steepest angle ever achieved during an emergency blow. Of course, in her case, there was no true emergency, but the Navy was interested to see if she could break the existing record of 43° set by the USS Amberjack (SS-522) in 1950. The CO of the Pickerel, H.B. Sweitzer, accepted the challenge with a certain sense of glee. Sweitzer, a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, enter-

tained no doubts that he was going to set the new record, and he made certain to inform the crew members of his utter confidence that his boat would eclipse the old mark.

Before the attempt was made, Sweitzer made sure that the battery cells of the Pickerel were topped off and connected in series for maximum power. A Navy helicopter circled overhead to keep an eye on the proceedings, while a companion submarine, the USS Sabalo (SS-302), remained nearby on the surface. The sonarmen of the Sabalo kept close tabs on the whereabouts of the Pickerel once she submerged. Using relative bearing calculations, the photographers assembled topside on the Sabalo to record the attempt and were informed precisely where to point their cameras as the emergency blow was executed.

Sweitzer ordered the Pickerel to a depth of 250 feet. Officially, the test run was reported to the press as beginning at 150 feet, but Sweitzer wanted a little more "real estate" for acceleration to maximize his boat's chances of breaking the record. All eyes were on the ocean surface as the Pickerel accelerated first to flank speed (16 knots) and then began her mighty thrust upward.

Most submariners remember their emergency blow drills fondly. These were instituted quarterly as part of the SUBSAFE program in the mid-1960s. Before that time, the drills occurred only at the discretion of the skipper. While the loss of normal trim and the adoption of a fairly steep angle may be disconcerting or even dangerous when not anticipated, in the instance of an emergency blow drill everyone is on the same page and ready for the thrill ride to the top. Many have likened the experience to a ride on a high-speed elevator or a roller coaster; the sensation of moving rapidly at an angle is accompanied by the deafening sound of the MBTs filling with compressed air. (Interestingly, the boat's propulsion system contributes little to the lifting force, which is nearly entirely a result of the rapid change in buoyancy and the up-angle placed upon the diving planes.)

As the Pickerel began its shot upward to the ocean surface, Sweitzer ordered the up-angle to 60°. He wasn't interested in merely exceeding the existing record of 43°; he wanted to smash that mark. A clinometer in the control room measured the angle from true horizontal. This simple bubble-type indicator, similar in design to a carpenter's level, was closely monitored on a panel at the ship's control panel or diving station. The men braced themselves firmly as the boat continued its steep forward tilt. Those men not on watch but in their racks (beds) steadied themselves by gripping the railings. All but three of the racks were intentionally mounted with their long axes parallel to that of the boat to minimize the problem of "dumping" sailors in their berthing areas in the event of a sudden up- or down-angle.

At some point in her historic rise to the surface, the line between Pickerel legend and truth became blurred. There is no question that when she abruptly broke the plane of the ocean surface, she leaped magnificently from the water at a very high angle. Approximately the entire forward half of the football-field-length submarine cleared the water; photographs show the bow protruding as far aft as the bridge fairwater. A massive splash ensued as the boat leveled out quickly.

Newspapers around the world ran with the same stunning photograph of the breaching submarine at its zenith. The captions varied somewhat, but in general, they described

an angle of 48°. Presumably, this was the number provided by the Navy press office. However, it is not difficult to measure the precise angle with a simple protractor from the



famous photograph. This informal analysis yields an angle of 53°. Either measurements would Pickerel record with

TO READ the three dozen stories with US Subma-

[Sub.../dp/ref=sr_1_3...](#)



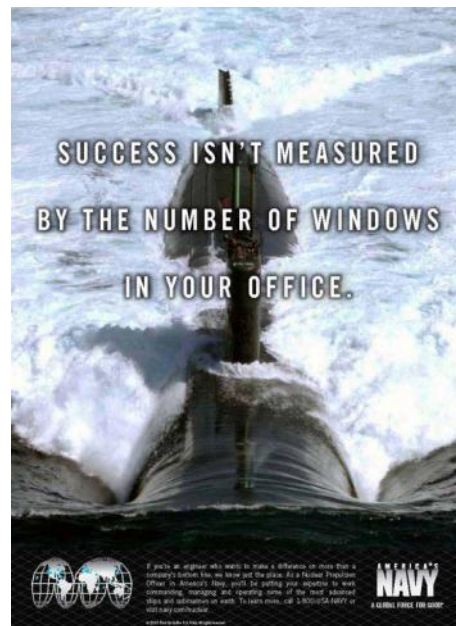
whole chapter, and more true, original photos about the rine Force: <https://www.amazon.com/B082KMTVQR/>

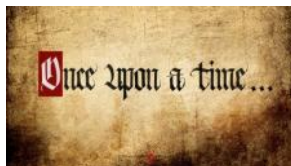
I lied and said I was busy.
I was busy; but not in a way
most people understand.

I was busy taking deeper breaths.
I was busy silencing irrational thoughts.
I was busy calming a racing heart.
I was busy telling myself I am okay.

Sometimes, **this is my busy**,
and I will not apologize for it.

b. oakman





“Who got you smiling?”

The voices in my head cracked a
joke leave me alone.

BASIC ELECTRICAL EXAM

1. What color is the green grounding screw? _____
2. When hooking up a 200v heater, you must use 220v wire? _____ TRUE _____ FALSE
3. Electricity will leak out of pipes if they are not connected with rain tight fittings? _____ TRUE _____ FALSE
4. To trip a breaker, you must stick out your foot as it walks by. _____ TRUE _____ FALSE
5. When dealing with conduit the O.D. must be larger than the I.D. or the hole will be on the outside. _____ TRUE _____ FALSE
6. A keyless fixture cannot be unlocked _____ TRUE _____ FALSE
7. A breaker reads "20" on the handle. This means that it can only be tripped 20 times before it wears out. _____ TRUE _____ FALSE
8. If you plug a 110v appliance into a 120v line, 10 extra volts will leak out and make a mess. _____ TRUE _____ FALSE
9. The gauge # of a wire tells you how many outlets you can plug into it. _____ TRUE _____ FALSE
10. When pulling 4/0 wire thru a 1/2" PVC conduit, the "PVC" stands for "Pipe Very Crowded" _____ TRUE _____ FALSE
11. An OHM is a Hindu measurement of voltage _____ TRUE _____ FALSE
12. A Flush Mounted device may only be hooked up to a toilet. _____ TRUE _____ FALSE
13. High voltage wire is only used in the upper stories of a building and low voltage wires is only used in the lower floors and basement. _____ TRUE _____ FALSE
14. If you have a molded case breaker, the mold can be removed with soap and warm water. _____ TRUE _____ FALSE
15. Electrical Inspectors are also known as _____

KENTON

