



THE DECK LOG
USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE
NOVEMBER 2025
 VOLUME XIV – ISSUE 11



USSVI Creed

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

Camaraderie

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

Perpetual Remembrance

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



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Happy 250th Birthday of the U.S. Navy and Veteran's Day 2025

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Points of Contact

USSVI NATIONAL COMMANDER

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

USSVI NATIONAL SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

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

USSVI CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR

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

USSVI CENTRAL DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

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

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE OFFICERS

Base Commander, Curt Webber	317-225-1823	curt.webber@gmail.com
Vice-Commander, Chuck Malone	512-694-5294	cmalone10@austin.rr.com
Yeoman, Dave Clark	816-294-5755	dpclark1951@sbcglobal.net
Chief of the Boat, Rick Mitchell	512-639-0035	rmitch2@yahoo.com
Treasurer, Chris Glover	360-731-2032	c.glover.ussvi@gmail.com

BASE SUPPORT APPOINTMENTS

Chaplain - Bob Steinmann	512-255-5250	bobandgladys@austin.rr.com
Memorial - Gene Hall	512-864-2860	genehall3198@gmail.com
Storekeeper - Virgil Claycamp	512-632-4852	vclaycamp@yahoo.com
Membership - Rick Mitchell	512-639-0035	rmitch2@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor - Bill Scott	512-826-8876	hscottss242@gmail.com
Webmaster - Rick Mitchell	512-639-0035	rmitch2@yahoo.com
Parades - Tom Sprague	858-755-6071	tmsprague48@gmail.com
Kaps4Kids - Ken Rydolph	512-989-8614	prydolph@aol.com
Historian - Eric Heter	512-731-4139	erik.heter@gmail.com
Holland Club - Don Atkins	512-508-1997	oneoldcrow3134@gmail.com
USSVCF - Frank Espinosa	512-639-0451	fespinosajr@att.net

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.
 Harold W (Bill) Scott II, STSCS (SS) USN Ret.
 Holland Club, Life Member USSVI
 SS-242, SSN-612, SSN-595, SSN-596
hscottss242@gmail.com
 512-826-8876



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 Website at:

<https://ussvicentraltexasbase.org/>

USSVI WEB SITE: <https://ussubvets.org/home.asp>

BASE WEB SITE: <https://ussvicentraltexasbase.org/>

FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/ussvicentraltexas/>

INSTAGRAM: [ussvi.centraltexasbase](https://www.instagram.com/ussvi.centraltexasbase)

BASE MEETINGS: Base meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at M/SGT Ben D Snowden VFW Post 8587, 1000 N College St, Georgetown, TX 78626. We hold a quarterly social in lieu of a Base Meeting in March, June, September and December.

USSVI National Office:

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



2017 Tom Williams



2021 Rick Mitchell
 2021 Bill Scott
 2023 Carl Repp
 2024 Frank Espinosa
 2024 Virgil Claycamp
 2025 Chip Pomeroy



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,
 2025

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.history.navy.mil/)



<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/>

THE SAILOR'S CREED

I am a United States Sailor.

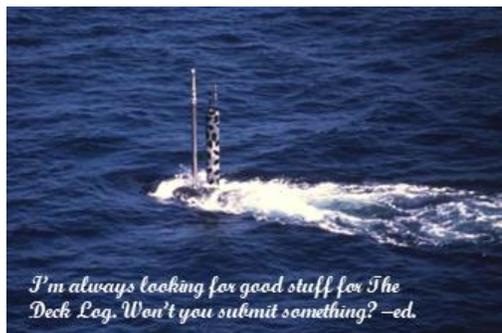
I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me.

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 \(navy.mil\)](http://www.navy.mil/)



SILENT RUNNING

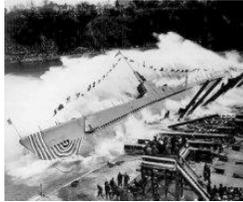
NOVEMBER LOST BOATS

"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 Albacore (SS-218)

Lost on Nov 7, 1944 with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her eleventh war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.



USS Growler (SS-215)

Lost on Nov 8, 1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 12th war patrol, and was lost while attacking a convoy, probably as a result of a depth charge attack or victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes.



USS Scamp (SS-277)

Lost on Nov 9, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay. On her 8th war patrol, she may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate her and destroy her with depth charges.



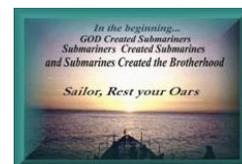
USS Corvina (SS-226)

Lost on Nov 16, 1943 with the loss of 82 men when she was sunk just south of Truk. Corvina was on her 1st war patrol and appears she was lost to the torpedoes of a Japanese submarine.



USS Sculpin (SS-191)

Lost on Nov 19, 1943 with the loss of 40 men near Truk. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, Sculpin continued to fight on the surface. When the captain was killed, the crew abandoned ship and scuttled Sculpin. 41 men were taken prisoner; only 21 survived the war. Among those not abandoning ship was CAPT Cromwell, aboard as a potential wolfpack commander, he rode the Sculpin down, fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture. For this, CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.





USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS

BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Cheers to November my fellow Shipmates,

I was thinking about several different ideas to write about, but what can be more important in November than Veterans Day. Thanksgiving came in a close 2nd. Veterans Day has always meant a lot to me because it's a time to honor all of us who have worn the uniform—every man and woman who has stood watch, answered the call, and done their part to protect our country. It's a day to remember the courage, commitment, and sacrifice that bind us together as veterans. This tradition goes back to the end of World War I, when the guns fell silent on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. What started as Armistice Day became Veterans Day in 1954, expanding to honor all who have served in every branch and every conflict. Unlike Memorial Day, which honors those who gave their lives, Veterans Day celebrates all of us who have served—especially those who are still with us today. It's a time for all Americans to pause, reflect, and remember the values of duty, honor, and service that define what it means to be a veteran.

For those of us who served under the sea, Veterans Day carries something even deeper (pun intended). Life on a submarine was unlike anything else—tight quarters, endless watches, and the constant hum of machinery (now my tinnitus) surrounding us in the deep. We depended on each other completely. Every man on board mattered, even the NUBS; every decision could mean the difference between coming home or not. That kind of trust builds a bond that lasts long after we've left the service. We may have been unseen by most of the world, but our mission was vital, and our sacrifices were real. When we remember our time together, we also remember those who never made it back. The "Tolling the Boats" ceremony always hits close to home, especially for me—it's our way of honoring our lost brothers, those silent boats still on patrol. That tradition reminds us who we are and what we shared: strength, loyalty, and a quiet pride that only submariners truly understand.

As veterans, and especially as submariners, we have a responsibility to keep the meaning of Veterans Day alive. We can share our stories—with our families, our communities, and the next generation—so people understand what service really means. We can show them that being a veteran isn't just about what we did in uniform, but how we live afterward continuing to serve, to lead, and to look out for one another. Whether it's volunteering, mentoring younger vets, or simply being there for a shipmate who needs a hand, we keep the spirit of Veterans Day going every day of the year. We've already proven our strength under pressure; now we carry that same strength into the world around us. That's how we honor our brothers and sisters—by living the values we learned beneath the waves and never letting the meaning of our service fade away. So, I raise a glass to you, my fellow Veterans, and salute you for all you have done and continue to do.

Cheers,
Curt



USSVI Central Texas Base



MEETING MINUTES - 8/20/2025

Location: VFW Post 8587, Georgetown, TX

Meeting Opened: At 1900 by Curt Webber, Base Commander

E-Board Present: All Present

Meeting Minutes: August 2025 Meeting Minutes were approved. Frank Espinosa made the motion, Bill Brinkman

seconded the motion and the Base voted unanimously.

Sailing List: 16 Members at VFW, 10 Members on Zoom and 1 Visitor at VFW

Binnacle List: Gene Hall, Garrett Onderdonk, Coy Smith, Chuck Trahan and Vern Williams

Prayer: Bob Steinmann delivered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Rick Mitchell led the Base.

Tolling of Boats for September and October: Harry Boyer, Reading, Chuck Malone, Tolling

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Chris Glover

Funds as of 1 October 2025 \$22,803.63

\$23,704.29	1 August 2025 Balance
\$22,803.63	1 October 2025 Balance
	General Fund: \$19,075.50
	Memorial Fund: \$3,728.13

Storekeeper Report (Virgil Claycamp): Virgil requested anyone needing items to give him a call. Calendars for 2026 are available at \$10 each and 3 for \$25. Extras are available.

Memorial (Rick Mitchell for Gene Hall): Rick Mitchell reported paint work will be scheduled when weather permits. Curt Webber has the paint. Markers for the memorial are still being pursued.

Kaps 4 Kids (Ken Rydolph): Ken is working on scheduling the next visit. He explained what they do at the hospital visits and the effects on the kids, families and hospital staff.

Parade (Tom Sprague): Curt Webber provided update for Tom. The Base is signed up for the Killeen Veterans Day Parade. Participation is encouraged. Details will be provided soon.

Membership (Rick Mitchell): 87 Current Members, 54 National Life Members, 53 Base Life Members and 42 Holland Club Members Patrick Raglin will be joining.

Welcome Aboard: No new members reported.

Birthdays October 2025: 10/1 Roy Silva, 10/2 Ken Dallman, 10/5 Bill Graham, 10/8 John Zieser, 10/9 Carl Repp, 10/12 Gene Whitenack, 10/13 Randy Patterson, 10/16 Chuck Cohn, 10/22 Greg Kline

Unfinished, Ongoing and Old Business

USSVI Charitable Foundation: Frank Espinosa presented information on the Legacy Fund that provides an opportunity to invest in what USSVI stands for. Additional information is available on page 22 of the November 2025 edition of The Deck Log (Volume XIV – Issue 11).

Base Social: The Base Social cookout on September 20, 2025 at Berry Springs Park, Georgetown, was a success, with \$450 donated by attendees. Longevity Pins were awarded to members.

2025 USSVI National Convention: The convention held August 31 – September 6, 2025 in Orlando, Florida was discussed by Curt Webber and Rick Mitchell, who provided highlights from the convention.

2026 USSVI National Convention: Planning continues for the convention hosted by the Sea Turtle Base with assistance from CTB and other Texas Bases. The convention is scheduled for September 6-11, 2026 at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas. Hotel reservations can be made online for \$142 per night at subvetconvention.org. Members interested in helping are requested to contact Rick Mitchell.

NEW Business:

Field of Honor: Jake Ferrigan encouraged members to order flags. Rick Mitchell recommended listing CTB as the affiliate to get some money donated back to the Base. Rick Mitchell proposed the Base repost flags for Base EP members at the Field of Honor. Jake Ferrigan made a motion to donate \$350 for the reposting, seconded by Chuck Trahan, and the Base voted unanimously in favor.

Annual Dues: An email will be sent soon to annual members for dues. Rick Mitchell made a motion to change the Base Bylaws to lower Base dues to \$10 per year. Jake Ferrigan seconded the motion and the Base voted unanimously in favor. (Follow-up: The Base Bylaws were changed by Rick Mitchell and approved by Don Hirschenhofer, District Commander – CD-4 on October 16, 2025.)

December Base Social (Christmas Party): Base members were canvassed for potential locations to hold the 2025

Christmas Party. Several alternatives were identified. After discussion, Jake Ferrigan proposed renting the hall at VFW Post 8587 on December 6, 2025 (with additional details to follow). Chris Glover made a motion to book the hall, Dale Messing seconded the motion and the Base voted unanimously in favor.

Fundraisers: Chris Glover requested members to give thought on future fundraisers to propose to the Base.

Good of the Order:

50/50 Raffle: Hubert Jackson won and donated back to the Base for a total of \$65.

Next Event: Base Meeting on November 19, 2025 at VFW Post 8587

Sailing List Summary:

Total Base Members Present: 26 Members

Local at VFW Post 8587: 16 Members; Harry Boyer, Bill Brinkman, Virgil Claycamp, Frank Espinosa, Jake Ferrigan, Chris Glover, Hubert Jackson, Chuck Malone, Dale Messing, Rick Mitchell, Jack Odom, Ken Rydolph, Bob Steinmann, Chuck Trahan, Harry Ullman, Jr., and Curt Webber.

Remote on Zoom: 10 Members; Frank Abernathy, David Clark, Jack Collins, Jesse Cook, Chip Pomeroy, Bill Scott II, Tom Sprague, Derald Vogt, Gene Whitenack and Vern Williams

Visitors: 1 Visitor; Patrick Racklin, Qualified 1985 onboard USS Nevada SSBN-733

Meeting Adjourned: At 2015 by Base Commander Curt Webber

Minutes Submitted: 20 October 2025 by Yeoman Dave Clark



United States Submarine Veterans Inc.

Rick Mitchell 10/24/2025

Just saw this. Had the great privilege meet and talk with Tony and Betty few times.

Lost Harbor (by Leslie Nelson Jennings)

There is a port of no return, where ships
May ride at anchor for a little space
And then, some starless night, the cable slips,
Leaving an eddy at the mooring place....
Gulls, veer no longer. Sailor, rest your oar.
No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore.



St. Marys Submarine Museum

10/24/2025

November 25

RIP

The Museum just received word that one of our longest members, biggest supporters and true American Hero has passed away.

Yesterday, surrounded by family, WWII Submarine Veteran Tony Faella passed away. Tony just turned 103 years young in September, and recently attended the USSVI National Convention in Orlando, Florida where he was serenaded with the singing of 'Happy Birthday' by all in attendance and presented a Birthday Cake. Until just the past few weeks, Tony has been in excellent health.

We are so very thankful for him and very grateful for a life well lived. We send lots of LOVE and HUGs to his wife of over 72 years Betty Faella.

More to follow Rest in Peace dear Tony, we have the watch shipmate ...

Curt Webber

Getting to spend a few minutes visiting with them was my highlight of the Orlando convention.



Georgetown Field of Honor - Flag Sales and Volunteer opportunities

Shipmates,

As many of you are aware this is the 9th year for the Georgetown Field of Honor. As a base we have supported this effort in various ways including sponsorships, volunteer hours and participating in various ceremonies. Here is a link to the Field of Honor Web Page.

[Home Page - The Georgetown Texas Field of Honor®](#)

This year we are supporting The Field of Honor with a small sponsorship, and we are also an affiliate for flag sales. What does this mean? It means that our base gets a small donation depending on the number of flags purchased through us. Please consider purchasing a flag to honor your favorite veteran(s) or 1st responder(s). Flags cost \$45 each and will be flown at the field for the week and are yours to keep at the end of the event. They can also be reposted in future years for a reduced cost. To purchase a flag use this link and don't forget to fill in the affiliate block with United States Submarine Veterans - Central Texas Base

<https://georgetowntxfieldofhonor.org/USSV-CTB>

There are also various opportunities to volunteer to help out during the week. You can see these and sign up here if interested. If you do volunteer, we would love to know what you are doing, maybe send a picture or 2 and consider wearing your vest and ball caps.

[Volunteer at the 2020 The Georgetown Texas Field of Honor®](#)

Any questions feel free to reach out to either Jake Ferrigan (copied in this email) who is helping with this effort or myself.

r/

Rick Mitchell
512-639-0035

[USSVI Central Texas Base](#)
[Follow us on Facebook](#)

CTB Base By-Laws Change

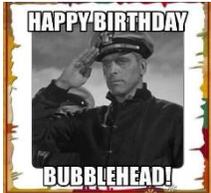
At last night's base meeting, 10/15/2025, having a full quorum as defined in our base by-laws, the base voted to change the current by-laws. The change, highlighted in yellow, encompasses lowering of base dues to \$10/year and includes multi-year options. Nothing else was changed.

Article V – Membership, Section: General, Paragraph c: Local dues will be \$10.00 per year renewal. Multi-year options such as 3yr, 5yr, and life options will be as follows: 3 Year - \$20, 5 Year - \$35, Life 46+ - \$300, Life 56+ - \$200, Life 66+ -

100, Life 76+ - \$50. Once becoming eligible for the HC, HC members are exempt from paying base dues. If a HC member transfers into CTB then they will pay an initial base dues of \$10 and then become exempt in the following years. Dues are due and payable effective the last day of December each year. Beginning on Jan 1st a non-renewed member is considered in arrears. Members shall have through 31 January to bring their status up to date. After the above listed dates, members who have not become current in status will be removed from the rolls of the organization. National Life members whose Base dues have not been paid by April 1st will be removed from the Base.

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BIRTHDAYS AND MEMBERSHIP DATA

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Walt Whittingslow - 2nd
 Vern Williams - 5th
 Jake Ferrigan - 6th
 Collin King - 8th
 Chris Pomeroy - 11th
 Tom Sprague - 19th
 David Clark - 19th
 Dentous Holloway - 28th

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP

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

Members listed in Central Texas Database	89
Regular Annual Members	27
National Life Members	54
Base Life Members	60
Holland Club Members	42
Associate Members	1
Dual Members	5
Prospective Members:	0
War Veterans	74
Members pending:	0
Submitted: Rick Mitchell, Membership	



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BASE TREASURER'S REPORT

15 October 2025

Financial Report as published in the October Meeting Minutes for Period Ending 8/31/2025

RBFCU Checking (Gen Fund) \$19,459.86
 RBFCU Savings (Mem Fund) \$3,728.21

Funds as of - 9/30/2025 - \$23,188.07

RBFCU Checking (Gen Fund) \$19,115.50
 RBFCU Savings (Mem Fund) \$3,729.13

Funds as of - 10/1/2025 - \$22,844.63

Submitted: Chris Glover, Treasurer

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STOREKEEPER CORNER

The Central Texas Base (CTB) Supply Store is open for business. The Supply Store can obtain most of the items you need for memorabilia, your vest, gifts for others, etc. You can order them from the Storekeeper at a meeting or online at vclaycamp@yahoo.com. CTB can often get items at a lower-than-normal price, so you save money. The SK can search the net to find out-of-the-ordinary items, for all branches of the service. When requesting a ship's patch, tell the SK which coast you

served on board, as the patches are often different for each coast. The Base E-board is working on a way to inform you of the SK items in stock and prices and a way for to you purchase them either at the in-person meetings, or via an online email system to the SK for in-stock items.

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BINNACLE LIST

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Our Heavenly Father, we are so helpless. We care so much for our brothers and friends. They are special to all of us. It hurts us to see them suffering. And while we cannot be with them Lord, You be with them please and be with those who attend them. Comfort those who love them and need them, as well as those who must wait. Amen

Prayer for our brothers. Chuck Trahan- various items associated with Parkinsons and awaiting prothesis, Coy Smith - scheduled for reversal Surgery near end of Sept, and Jack Collins - kidney removal, Garrett Onderdonk III, Gene Hall back Surgery, Vern Williams, hip replacement.

Please keep us informed of any person who should be listed. These are the people that we know about, so please e-mail any E-Board member if you know of any member or his family that might be in crisis. Also please keep the Base Chaplain, Shipmate Bob Steinmann informed as well.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Unless otherwise promulgated, the Base Monthly meetings will be held in-person and/or a combination of in-person and Zoom meetings.

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

8-16 November 2025, Georgetown Texas Field of Honor, Georgetown, TX see details in the 'Shipmates in Action' section above.

11 November 2025, Veteran's Day Parade, Killeen, TX, 761st Tank Bn Ave. (Ave. E) starting at College Street at 0700 hours, parade starts at 1100 hours, see the email for map and parade details. Link for the parade: <https://www.centex-avac.org/veterans-day-parade>

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

? December 2025, Annual Christmas Party/Social, Details TBD

21 January 2026, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, VFW Post #8587 and Zoom, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1800 Social hour, 1900 meeting.

18 February 2026, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, VFW Post #8587 and Zoom, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1800 Social hour, 1900 meeting.

6 September – 11 September 2026, 2026 USSVI National Convention, Corpus Christi, TX. Registration is now open via the web page www.subvetconvention.org

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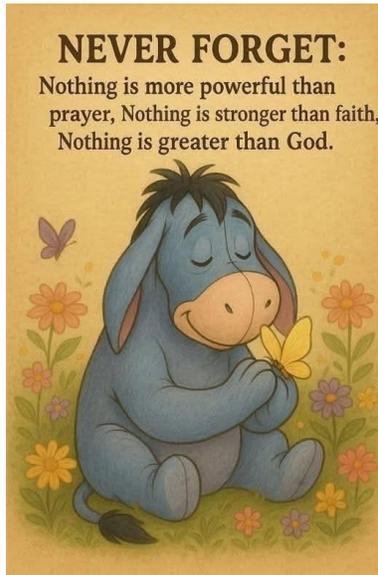
KAP(SS)4KID(SS)



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From your editor: There is no update this month. The turnover from Rick is in the works to Ken Rydolph.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Our Thinking vs God's Promises

Have you ever heard a statement or phrase that really touches you? One that adds to your life? One that makes you say, "that was God?" There are lots of gems here. Pick one that will make you say, "This is God."

"It's impossible." All things are possible (Luke 18:27)

"I'm too tired." I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28-30)

"Nobody really loves me." I love you (John 3:16 & John 13:34)

"I can't go on." My grace is sufficient (II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

"I can't figure things out." I will direct your steps (Proverbs 3:5-6)

"I can't do it." You can do all things (Phillipians 4:13)

"I'm not able." I am able (II Corinthians 9:8)

"It's not worth it." It will be worth it (Romans 8:28)

"I can't forgive myself." I forgive you (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)

"I can't manage." I will supply all your needs (Phillipians 4:19)

"I'm afraid." I have not given you a spirit of fear (II Timothy 1:7)

"I'm always worried and frustrated." Cast all your cares on Me (I Peter 5:7)

"I don't have enough faith." I've given everyone a measure of faith (Romans 12:3)

"I'm not smart enough." I give you wisdom (I Corinthians 1:30)

"I feel all alone." I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)

EDITORS OFFICE

Lots goin' on around our base. Plenty to read and peruse here too. Me? Still keepin' busy juggling "The Deck Log" publication—what else is new?! Stop by my email (hscottss242@gmail.com) and say hello sometime. Or make yourself useful and send me a Sea Story or two, huh? The Editor is often guilty of plagiarizing anything he reads that he likes. Please also feel free to copy anything you like, but if he gets into trouble, so will you.



USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS



NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETINS

2026-2027 USSVCF Scholarship information and timelines

USSVI Technology Inc. ussviwebsitequestions@231236066.mailchimpapp.com

10/17/2025

USSVCF Scholarship Chair, Dr. Alan Fickett

Greetings Shipmates,

Ed., Excerpt from the National Bulletin. Please read the National Bulletin.

The USSV Charitable Foundation Scholarship Committee (USSVCF) announces the 2026-2027 Academic Year USSVCF Scholarship Program for USSVI members and the children, grandchildren, stepchildren, and Guardian children of our members as of October 31, 2025. For 2026-27, a new category of eligible applicants has been added: USSVI members in good standing who seek scholarship funding for trade, technical, career education and apprenticeship programs at accredited institutions (Qualified submarine veterans who are not USSVI members may join by clicking the link: <https://www.ussvi.org/>).

Dr. Alan G. Fickett, Chairman
USSVCF Academic Scholarship Program

USSVCF October 2025 Newsletter

USSVI Technology Inc. ussviwebsitequestions@231236066.mailchimpapp.com

10/19/2025

USSVCF Vice-President & Exec. Director - George Palmer

Shipmates,

Ed., Synopsis from the National Bulletin. Please read the National Bulletin.

www.ussvcf.org

- Scholarship News
- Charity Begins at Your Base
- Renewing Our Commitment to the Fleet
- Combined Federal Campaign News
- The Saga of The Scam

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Respectfully,
George Palmer
USSVCF Vice-President and Executive Director

2026 National Convention Update

USSVI Technology Inc. ussviwebsitequestions@231236066.mailchimpapp.com

November 25

10/30/2025

Shipmates,

Ed., Synopsis from the National Bulletin. Please read the National Bulletin.

- Planning is underway for the 2026 USSVI National Convention
- Where? – The Sparkling City by the Bay, Corpus Christi, Texas from Sept 6th – Sept 11th at the OMNI hotel right on the bay!
- You can find the links to register, book your rooms, and more info on the [Convention Website](#) You can also look for us on Facebook (USSVI 2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION) or Instagram (2026ussviconvention).
- Questions? Contact any of our team as listed on the contact page of the above website.
- Register early - **Everyone who has a paid convention registration along with reservations booked at our hotel NLT Jan 1 will be entered in a drawing for 3 FREE NIGHTS (\$486 value) during your stay.**
- Come see why our Pride Runs Deep in the Heart of Texas!

Respectfully,
Rick Mitchell and Mark Gattis
2026 Convention Co-Chairs



[The Office of the Chief of Naval Operations](#)

10/12/2025

As the U.S. Navy celebrates its 250th birthday in Philadelphia this weekend, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Daryl Caudle celebrated alongside two incredible World War II veterans, 100- year old Paul Robins and 99-year old Eddie Desmond, aboard the Battleship USS New Jersey Museum and Memorial. Their courage and stories reminds us of the legacy we continue to uphold every day and living proof that from past to present we are the world's most capable maritime force, our Navy has stood the watch for 250 years — forged in the Foundry, sustained by the Fleet, and always ready to Fight when our nation calls.

[#Navy250](#) [#FoundryFleetFight](#) [#PeaceThroughStrength](#) [#USNavy](#)





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[In Pursuit of Das Boot](#)

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Reproduced from the Eurasia Review website. Nuclear-Armed Sea-Launched Cruise Missile (SLCMN) – Analysis – Eurasia Review

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Reproduced from the National Security Journal website. The U.S. Navy's Great Ohio-Class SSGN Submarine Comeback Has Begun

[The U.S. Navy's Great Ohio-Class SSGN Submarine Comeback Has Begun - National Security Journal](#)

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Reproduced from the National Interest website. How America and China Are Preparing to Fight Each Other's Submarines - The National Interest

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Reproduced from the Proceedings website. The Path to a Bigger Submarine Fleet Includes Diesels | Proceedings - November 25

October 2025 Vol. 151/10/1,472

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Reproduced from the Gymbag4u website. **SSN(X) Explained: How America Plans to Rule the Deep**

[SSN\(X\) Explained: How America Plans to Rule the Deep](#)

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Reproduced from the African In Space website. **China claims US submarines have only a 5 percent chance of survival with new AI-driven detection system - African In Space**

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Reproduced from the Proceedings website. **How New Technologies Are Making the Submarine Force More Lethal | Proceedings - October 2025 Vol. 151/10/1,472**

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Reproduced from the Face National Interest website. **The USS Ohio Just Arrived in the Philippines—and Won't Be Retired Next Year! - The National Interest**

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Reproduced from the VisegradPost website. **“They Quietly Built a \$3.5 Billion Beast”: Inside the US Navy’s Virginia Block V Submarine That Can Launch 40 Cruise Missiles Unseen**

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Reproduced from the Interesting Engineering website. **US, EU navies to use 750,000-mile cable network to track submarines**

<https://interestingengineering.com/military/us-eu-navies-submarine-hunting-sonars>

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Reproduced from the Navy Times website. **Navy fires commanding officer of USS Wyoming**

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2025/10/09/navy-fires-commanding-officer-of-uss-wyoming/>

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Reproduced from the Zona Militar website. **Japan’s Self-Defense Forces’ Taigei-class attack submarines will be equipped with the new Type 12 anti-ship missiles**

<https://www.zona-militar.com/en/2025/10/13/japans-self-defense-forces-taigei-class-attack-submarines-will-be-equipped-with-the-new-type-12-anti-ship-missiles/>

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Reproduced from the Naval News website. Russia's Submarine Problem Is Much Worse Than Many Imagine - Naval News

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Reproduced from the National Security Journal website. 727 Days on Patrol: A U.S. Navy Ohio-Class Missile Submarine 'Broke All the Rules' - National Security Journal

<https://nationalecurityjournal.org/727-days-patrol-a-u-s-navy-ohio-class-missile-submarine-broke-all-the-rules/>

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Reproduced from the The National Interest website. The Case for American Diesel Submarines - The National Interest

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-case-for-american-diesel-submarines-jh-102125>

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Reproduced from the Zona Militar website. The U.S. cleared up doubts about AUKUS by confirming the sale of Virginia-class nuclear-powered submarines to the Australian Navy

<https://www.zona-militar.com/en/2025/10/21/the-u-s-cleared-up-doubts-about-aucus-by-confirming-the-sale-of-virginia-class-nuclear-powered-submarines-to-the-australian-navy/>

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Reproduced from the SlashGear website. This Advanced Nuclear Submarine Is Set To Join The US Navy's Fleet Soon After Successful Testing

<https://www.slashgear.com/1998327/uss-massachusetts-joining-us-navy-fleet-soon-after-successful-milestone/>

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Reproduced from the Fox13Now website. USS Utah to be christened as newest submarine in naval fleet

<https://www.fox13now.com/news/local-news/uss-utah-to-be-christened-as-newest-submarine-in-naval-fleet>

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Reproduced from the United 24 Media website. Russia to Raise Soviet Nuclear Submarines from Arctic Depths — UNITED24 Media

<https://united24media.com/latest-news/russia-to-raise-cold-war-nuclear-submarines-from-arctic-whats-hiding-on-the-seabed-12644>

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Reproduced from the National Security Journal website. The U.S. Navy Is In Crisis - National Security Journal

<https://nationalecurityjournal.org/the-u-s-navy-is-in-crisis/>

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Reproduced from the Local 12 News website. USS Cincinnati Memorial Pavilion advances with key installations

[USS Cincinnati Memorial Pavilion advances with key installations](#)

[United States Submarine Veterans Inc.](#)

[Rick Mitchell](#) · 10/22/2025

Love seeing the progress in Cincinnati. Looking forward to visiting this one when its complete. Looks like it will be soon. Here's a link to a video of the vision: <https://subcincy.org/full-video/>



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Reproduced from the YouTube website. German and Norwegian defence ministers say submarine project 'better if Canada is on board'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kx9TA7Uz3G0>

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Reproduced from the The TWZ Newsletter website. South Korea Has Launched Its Most Advanced Submarine Ever

<https://www.twz.com/air/south-korea-has-launched-its-most-advanced-submarine-ever>

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Reproduced from the New York Times website. Drug-Smuggling Submarines on Display at Latin American Naval Base

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/22/world/americas/drug-smuggling-submarines.html>

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Reproduced from the Interesting Engineering website. Russia copies US, EU sonar tech to protect its nuclear submarines

<https://interestingengineering.com/military/russia-secret-undersea-web-nuclear-submarines>

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Reproduced from the Facebook website. America's Secret Weapon Against Stealth Submarines

<https://interestingengineering.com/videos/americas-secret-weapon-against-stealth-submarines>

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Reproduced from the Turn to 10 website. Christening ceremony held for submarine built by Electric Boat

<https://turnto10.com/news/local/christening-held-for-naval-submarine-built-by-electric-boat-general-dynamics-electric-boat-utah-rhode-island-connecticut-october-25-2025>

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Reproduced from the Naval News website. US Navy continues AUV - SSN torpedo-tube launch and recovery efforts - Naval News

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2025/10/us-navy-continues-auv-ssn-torpedo-tube-launch-and-recovery-efforts/>

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Reproduced from the Zona Militar website. General Dynamics reported a 60% progress in the construction of the first of the U.S. Navy's new Columbia-class nuclear submarines

https://www.zona-militar.com/en/2025/10/27/general-dynamics-reported-a-60-progress-in-the-construction-of-the-first-of-the-u-s-navys-new-columbia-class-nuclear-submarines/#google_vignette

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Reproduced from the Newsweek website. US Ally Gives Update on Building Nuclear-Powered Submarines - Newsweek

<https://www.newsweek.com/us-ally-gives-update-on-building-nuclear-powered-submarines-10944300>



Naval History and Heritage Command

<https://www.history.navy.mil/today-in-history/november-1.html>

11/11/1918 - The cease-fire ending World War I goes into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Armistice Day is now a holiday that honors those who have served in all the nation's wars, and is now known as Veterans Day.

11/19/1943 - The submarine [Sculpin \(SS-191\)](#) is heavily damaged by the Japanese destroyer *Yamagumo* north of Truk in the Caroline Islands. Though he has time to escape the boat before it sinks, Captain [John P. Cromwell](#), the commander of the submarine squadron of which *Sculpin* is a part, chooses to go down with the boat rather than face interrogation that might force him to reveal his knowledge of plans to seize the Gilbert Islands. For his selfless sacrifice, he receives a posthumous [Medal of Honor](#).

11/21/1944 - The submarine [Sealion \(SS-315\)](#) attacks a Japanese task force off Formosa, sinking the battleship *Kongo* and the destroyer *Urakaze*.

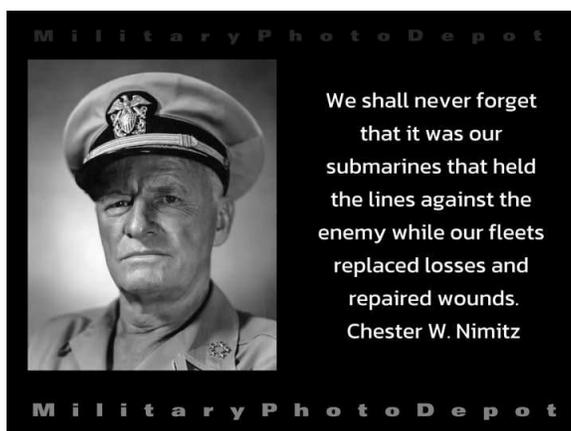
11/29/1944 - The submarine [Archerfish \(SS-311\)](#) claims the biggest prize of the war, torpedoing the 64,000-ton Japanese carrier *Shinano* southwest of Tokyo Bay, Japan.

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United States Submarine Veterans Inc.

David Beck, Facebook post, 9/30/2025

Chester William Nimitz graduated from Annapolis



Chester William Nimitz graduated from Annapolis in 1905 and in May 1906 as an ensign he assumed command of the **USS *Plunger/A-1 (SS-2)*** , later promoted directly to lieutenant in January 1910 he commander **USS *Snapper* **USS C-5 (SS-16)**** when she was commissioned on 2 February 1910, and on 18 November 1910, assumed command of **USS *Narwhal/D- (SS-17)*** . Although he was a GBF (Gasoline Boats Forever) In November 1911, he was ordered to the Boston Navy Yard to assist in fitting out the **USS *Skipjack/E-1 (SS-24)***, the first American submarine to be powered by diesel engine, and assumed command of that submarine at her commissioning on February 14, 1912.

Submarine dolphins were officially adopted as a distinguishing insignia on March 20, 1924

November 25

Two wars and thirty some innovative years later Nimitz endorsed an entirely new course for the US Navy's future by way of supporting then-Captain **Hyman G. Rickover's** chain-of-command-circumventing proposal in 1947 to build **USS Nautilus (SSN-571)**, the world's first nuclear-powered vessel

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[United States Submarine Veterans Inc.](#)

[David Beck](#) Facebook Post - 10/6/2025

https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/alligator/m_faq.html

THE GREAT GATOR HUNT

Built in Philadelphia in 1862, the *Alligator* was the U.S. Navy's first submarine. The green, torpedo-shaped vessel was a technological wonder on par with the other great maritime advances of the Civil War era, including the ironclad USS *Monitor*, and the recently raised Confederate submarine CSS *H.L. Hunley*. Designed by French inventor and immigrant Brutus de Villeroi (1794-1874), the 47-foot-long *Alligator* was the first submarine ever deployed to a combat zone. Its design boasted a number of pioneering innovations for a ship of its type, including an air purification system and a diver lockout chamber that served as a weapons system.

Shortly after its launch on May 1, 1862, the *Alligator* was towed to Hampton Roads, Va. Her first missions: to destroy a strategically important bridge across the Appomattox River and to clear away obstructions in the James River. However, neither the James nor the Appomattox proved deep enough to permit the vessel to submerge, and it was withdrawn from its first combat deployment without entering battle. The navy then ordered the *Alligator* to return to the Washington Navy Yard for further modification and testing.

While in Washington, D.C., the *Alligator* was refitted with a hand-cranked screw propeller, and in early spring 1863, President Lincoln observed a demonstration of the "improved" vessel. Shortly thereafter, Rear Adm. Samuel Dupont dispatched the *Alligator*, commanded by Samuel Eakins, to participate in the capture of Charleston, S.C.

Towed by the USS *Sumpter*, the *Alligator* left Washington, D.C., for Port Royal on March 31, 1863. On April 2, a fierce storm forced the crew of the struggling *Sumpter* to cut the submarine loose off the coast of North Carolina in an area known as the "Graveyard of the Atlantic." It was never seen again.

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Reproduced from the History Computer US website. The Fascinating History of The U.S. Submarine Program

[The Fascinating History of The U.S. Submarine Program | Watch](#)

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Reproduced from the Earth.com website. U.S. submarine lost since 1917 is located at a depth of 1,300 feet - Earth.com

<https://share.google/Iu5X6Ixt8y5JsGUFZ>

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Reproduced from the Facebook website. This warship on display in Alabama was designed to be overlooked. Don't miss it.

<https://www.al.com/life/2025/07/this-warship-on-display-in-alabama-was-designed-to-be-overlooked-dont-miss-it.html>

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Reproduced from the eBaum's World website. 22 Photos of Life on the Very First Nuclear Submarines

[22 Photos of Life On the Very First Nuclear Submarines](#)

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Reproduced from the Slash Gear website. This Submarine Sank Over 100 Years Ago – Here's How It Was Finally Found

<https://www.slashgear.com/1992314/uss-f1-ww1-submarine-recovery-mission/>

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History Article of the Month

From Shipmate Erik Heter, Base Historian

On the Frontlines, Early: The USS *Grayback* (SS-208)

The USS *Grayback* (SS-208) was one of the most notable American submarines to serve in the Pacific during World War II. A member of the Tambor-class, she represented a leap forward in submarine design, combining range, armament, and underwater endurance at a level not seen in earlier classes. Her keel was laid down on April 3, 1940, at the Electric Boat Company in Groton, Connecticut, and she was launched on January 31, 1941, sponsored by Mrs. Lydia Ballou Brown. Commissioned on June 30, 1941, under the command of Lieutenant Willard A. Saunders, *Grayback* entered service just months before the United States would be drawn into global conflict.

In her early months, *Grayback* conducted shakedown operations off the U.S. East Coast, testing her systems and training her crew in submarine tactics. She operated briefly in the Caribbean and the Chesapeake Bay before undergoing an overhaul at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Maine. As fate would have it, this maintenance period coincided with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Within weeks, *Grayback* was reassigned to the Pacific Fleet and steamed toward Hawaii, arriving at Pearl Harbor on February 8, 1942, to join the undersea campaign against Japan.

Grayback's first war patrol began on February 15, 1942, when she departed Pearl Harbor for the waters off Saipan and Guam. The patrol was eventful from the start. On February 22, she was attacked by a Japanese submarine that fired two torpedoes at her. For four tense days, the enemy sub shadowed *Grayback* before she managed to elude pursuit. Though she did not score any confirmed kills on that first patrol, it served as a proving ground for her crew and a preview of the dangers that would come to define her wartime service.

Over the next two years, *Grayback* established herself as one of the Navy's most successful submarines. She would go on to complete nine patrols, sinking 14 enemy ships with a combined total of more than 63,000 tons—placing her among the top 20 U.S. submarines by tonnage sunk. Her fifth patrol, in late 1942, became legendary for a remarkable act of courage: while submerged at a depth of 100 feet, Pharmacist's Mate Harry B. Roby performed an emergency appendectomy on a fellow sailor, saving his life in the cramped, swaying confines of the submarine. On that same patrol, in January 1943, *Grayback* also sank the Japanese submarine *I-18*, marking one of the rare sub-versus-sub victories of the war.

As the war intensified, *Grayback's* missions grew more ambitious. Under her new commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander John Anderson Moore, she departed Pearl Harbor in September 1943 to join two other submarines in one of the first American "wolf-packs" in the Pacific—a tactic borrowed from German U-boat operations. This coordinated approach proved highly effective. During the patrol, *Grayback* sank the passenger-cargo ship *Nanryo Maru* on October 14 and followed up a week later by destroying the former light cruiser *Awata Maru*, a high-value target carrying troops and materiel. These actions demonstrated both Moore's daring leadership and the growing tactical sophistication of the U.S. submarine force.

In January 1944, *Grayback* sailed from Pearl Harbor on what would become her final patrol. She entered the East China Sea, one of the most dangerous hunting grounds for submarines due to the heavy Japanese air and naval presence. Despite the risk, *Grayback* was relentless. On February 19, she reported sinking two small transports southwest of Taiwan. A few days later, she attacked a large convoy, damaging or destroying multiple ships, including the tanker *Nanho Maru*. Then, on February 27, she used her last two torpedoes to sink the freighter *Ceylon Maru*. Moments later, as she surfaced, a Japanese Nakajima B5N torpedo bomber spotted and attacked her, dropping a 250-kilogram bomb that struck near her conning tower. The resulting explosion sent *Grayback* to the bottom with all 80 men aboard. She was declared missing in action on March 30, 1944.

For her wartime achievements, *Grayback* and her crew received two Navy Unit Commendations and eight battle stars. Commander Moore was posthumously awarded his third Navy Cross for his leadership during her final patrol. These honors reflected the submarine's formidable record and the exceptional bravery of her crew, who undertook each patrol with full knowledge of the peril involved.

For decades, the details of *Grayback's* final moments remained uncertain. Postwar records confirmed Japanese aircraft had claimed a submarine in the East China Sea, but navigational errors in transcribing the coordinates meant her wreck eluded discovery. That mystery was finally solved in June 2019, when the private research team Lost 52 Project located the wreck about 50 nautical miles south of Okinawa, resting upright on the seabed 1,400 feet below the surface. The wreck showed catastrophic damage near the stern—consistent with a bomb strike—and a deck gun lying some 400 feet away. The discovery provided long-awaited closure to the families of the men who served aboard her.

The story of the *Grayback* is not only one of daring and destruction but also of innovation and sacrifice. Her adoption of coordinated "wolf-pack" operations reflected the U.S. Navy's ability to adapt tactics to meet an evolving enemy, while her crew's courage under constant threat exemplified the spirit of the submarine service. In the unforgiving world beneath the waves, each patrol was a gamble, and for the men of the *Grayback*, the price was ultimately everything.

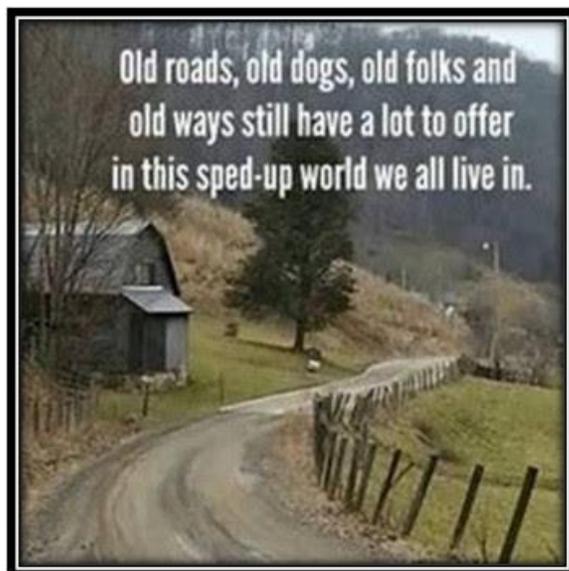
Today, *Grayback* remains a powerful symbol of the silent service's contribution to Allied victory in the Pacific. Her name—taken from the lake herring—lives on as part of a proud naval lineage, and her wreck stands as both a war grave and a testament to the courage of those who served aboard her. In less than three years, *Grayback* embodied the full arc of America's undersea war: innovation, aggression, triumph, and tragic loss. Her legacy endures as a reminder that even in the hidden depths of the ocean, history remembers.



THOUGHTS

Important things to remember

1. Compliment three people every day.
 2. Watch a sunrise at least once a year.
 3. Be the first to say "Hello."
 4. Live beneath your means.
 5. Treat everyone like you want to be treated.
 6. Never give up on anybody. Miracles happen.
 7. Forget the Joneses.
 8. Never deprive someone of hope. It may be all he has.
 9. Pray not for things, but for wisdom and courage.
 10. Be tough-minded but tenderhearted.
 11. Be kinder than necessary.
 12. Don't forget, a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated.
 13. Keep your promises.
 14. Learn to show cheerfulness, even when you don't feel like it.
 15. Remember that overnight success usually takes about 15 years.
 16. Leave everything better than you found it.
 17. Remember that winners do what losers don't want to do.
 18. When you arrive at you job in the morning, let the first thing you say brighten everyone's day.
 19. Don't rain on other people's parades.
 20. Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them.
-



"When asked why kindness matters, I said: Because someone out there is grieving, drained, or just trying to survive and your kindness may be the only gentle moment in their day."

Literally Me



Positive Thinking

From Shipmate Jack Odom

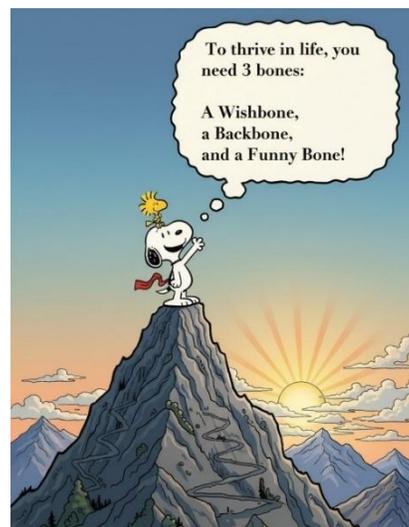
"Positive thinking is powerful thinking. If you want happiness, fulfillment, success and inner peace, start thinking you have the power to achieve those things. Focus on the bright side of life and expect positive results." -- Germany Kent

Nobody...

Nobody is going to do the work for you. Nobody else is going to get you up when your alarm rings, nobody can do the workout for you when it gets hard. Nobody else is going to fight for the life you want, or do the work that it takes to get there, The person that has to push through the mental blocks, and decide to keep going, is you. The person who can change your life for the better, is you. *All the power and all the control of what you want your life to be and the person you wish to become, lies with you.*

@SALTANDWHISTLE

ONCE UPON A TIME



SUBMARINE VETERAN RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

1. NEVER PROVOKE HIM... PTSD... POST TRAUMATIC SUBMARINE DEPLOYMENT DISORDER. HE IS A SHORT FUSED CAFFINATED JUNKIE WITH A LOOOONG MEMORY.
2. DO NOT DISRESPECT THE FLAG, THE COUNTRY, NOR HIS FELLOW SERVICE MEMBERS ... SEE #1
3. NEVER ASK HIM TO SHARE ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES AT SEA OR DURING LIBERTY CALLS. IT'S HIS PERSONAL RECORD... HE KNOWS SOME OF THE S#* HE PULLED WAS NOT ONLY ILLEGAL BUT ALSO UNNATURAL, LET IT BE
4. DON'T SNEAK UP ON HIM NOR SHAKE HIM TO WAKE HIM... NO ONE CAN AVOID THAT MANY ELBOW JABS AND MULE KICKS PER SECOND
5. ASK ANY OF THEM WHAT THEY MISS THE MOST? ... THE TIMES THEY BARELY REMEMBER SPENT WITH SHIPMATES THEY'LL NEVER FORGET



USSVI SCHOOL OF THE BOAT

November – USSVI Charitable Foundation Refresher Training

Learn more about our USSVI organization – an oft repeated subject, but necessary.

In June, I started a series of the USSVI School of the Boat about the USSVI. I'm continuing the series on the USSVI Charitable Foundation and its various foundation funds. This month is the Library Fund.

USSVCF Library Fund

Question: What is the USSVCF Library Fund, and who is the Fund manager? **Answer:** The Library Fund supports procuring submarine-related books, video, and media and the Fund Chairman is Joseph R. Mathis.

Over the nearly 55 years that USSVI has been in existence, many departed shipmates have left their personal libraries to us. As a result, the library currently has 2,501 books, videos and other literary items in it.

Question: Where can I find the USSVI Library? **Answer:** The library is located at the USS RAZORBACK museum submarine site at the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum, 120 Riverfront Park Drive, North Little Rock, AR

Question: What is the Library Fund balance? **Answer:** As of 30 September 2025, \$11,806.

Question: Again, is my donation tax deductible? **Answer:** Yes. The USSVCF is a 501(c)3 organization and all donations are fully tax deductible.

Repeat Question/answer: How can I donate to the Library Fund? **Answer:** To donate to the Library Fund, go to the USSVCF website at www.ussvcf.org. Or scan the following QR code.

