



*THE DECK LOG*  
*USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE*  
*JANUARY 2026*  
*VOLUME XV - ISSUE 1*



*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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## 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](mailto: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](http://www.navyleague.org)



[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)



[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.*

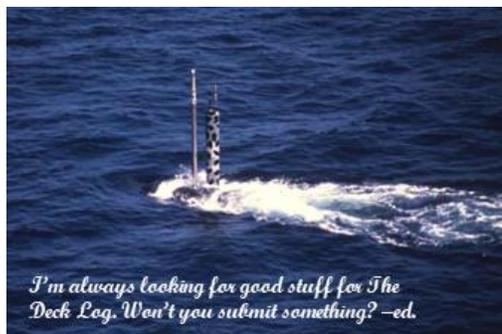
*I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me.*

*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*

## *JANUARY 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



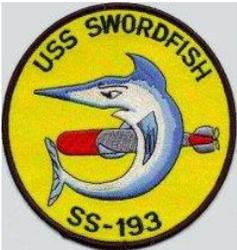
### **USS Scorpion (SS-278)**

Lost on Jan 5, 1944 with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.



### **USS Argonaut (SS-166)**

Lost on Jan 10, 1943 with the loss of 102 officers and men off Rabaul, on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Jap destroyer who along with 2 other destroyers depth charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sunk her by gun fire.



### **USS Swordfish (SS-193)**

Lost on Jan 12, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. Probably was lost to a mine.



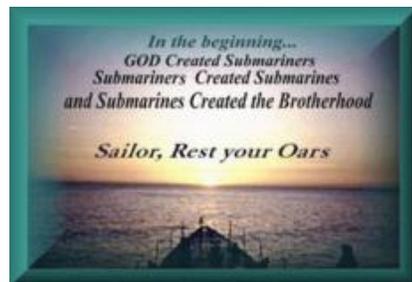
### **USS S-36 (SS-141)**

Lost on Jan 20, 1942 with no loss of life, on her 2nd war patrol. She ran hard aground on a reef and radioed for help. The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch ship after they scuttled her.



### **USS S-26 (SS-131)**

Lost on Jan 24, 1942 with the loss of 46 officers and men in the Gulf of Panama, on her 2nd war patrol. She was rammed by the USS PC-460 and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO and one lookout on the bridge, were the only survivors.





## *USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS*

### *BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT*

Happy New Year Shipmates,



Another year has officially rolled over, and once again we've proven that submariners are almost impossible to get rid of. We survived another twelve months without liberty incidents, flooding casualties, or anyone being sent to ER because they "slept wrong." That's a successful patrol by any standard!

New Year's has always been a strange concept for submariners. While the rest of the world stayed up late watching a glowing ball drop, many of us rang in the New Year somewhere under the ocean, arguing about what day it actually was without looking at the POD. On the boat, January 1st felt exactly like December 31st—same watch, same meal rotation, same guy complaining that the coffee was weak (even though it could strip paint). Time wasn't real; it was just something the Nav ET's worried about.

Now, years later, time is very real—and it hurts a little more. Most of us now wake up sore without having done anything that remotely resembles work. We need more light to read, more time to stand up, and more coffee than should be medically advisable. The good news is that despite the gray hair, hearing aids, and occasional "What were we talking about?" moments, we still recognize our own.

This past year reminded us that submarine rules never change:

- Coffee is still mission-essential equipment.
- If it's quiet, something is broken.
- If it's loud, something is \*about\* to break.
- And the most dangerous phrase in the Navy remains, "It's probably nothing."

Our base continues to be proof that the Silent Service only stays silent until submariners get together. Then it gets loud, fast. Sea stories somehow improve with age, patrols get longer, depths get deeper, and everyone "almost" qualified faster than the next guy. The laughter around the table sounds exactly like it did on the mess decks—just with more knee braces and fewer haircuts.

What hasn't changed is the bond. We served in a steel tube, underwater, far from help, trusting each other completely—often while sleep-deprived, over-caffeinated, and mildly irritated. That kind of trust doesn't fade. You don't forget the guy who stood your watch, fixed your gear, covered for you, or talked you through a rough day at sea. You don't forget shipmates.

As we head into the new year, let's resolve to keep doing what submariners do best: look out for each other. Show up when you can. Reach out when someone goes quiet. Sit next to the shipmate who looks like he might need it. We all know that sometimes the most important conversations happen after the work is done and the lights are low.

We also remember those who stood the watch before us and those still on eternal patrol. We carry them with us—quietly, professionally, and always.

So, here's to another year of bad jokes, good friends, questionable sea stories, and a brotherhood that refuses to fade. We may not stand watch in Control or Maneuvering anymore, but we still carry it—one year at a time.

Now, let's all secure from holiday routine, make coffee, and complain about how they do things "these days."

Fair winds, following seas, and may your coffee be strong and your sea stories get even better.

Cheers,  
Curt



Central Texas Base Christmas Party  
Stiles Switch BBQ & Brew  
6601 Lamar Blvd  
Austin, TX

United States Submarine Veterans Inc.

Rick Mitchell · 12/6/25

Here's a few pics from the USSVI Central Texas Base Christmas Party today held at Stiles Switch BBQ & Brew .

Our Menu included: Brisket, Turkey, Sausage, 2 sides, water and tea, cash bar was available. (If you remember 2 years ago the food was fabulous and there was more than we could eat).

We also had a white elephant gift exchange for those who wanted to participate.

**Citation and Photo of Congressional Veterans Commendation Award**

The presentation to Shipmate Frank Espinosa took place at the Workforce & Visual Arts Building at Temple College located at 2115 South 5th Street, Temple, TX 76504. Frank wanted to share the info this way since none of our Base members could attend due to the scheduling conflict with our Christmas party on 6 December.



**Congressional Record**

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

*House of Representatives*

Submitted into the Congressional Record by  
Rep. John R. Carter of Texas' 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District

Lieutenant Frank Espinosa Jr. (Ret.) has exemplified the highest ideals of service, both in uniform and throughout his civilian life, and I am proud to recognize him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Lt. Espinosa served on active duty in the United States Navy from July 1978 to December 2002. Among his most notable assignments was his tour from May 1985 to May 1989 with the Special Programs Office of the White House Military Office, where he contributed to the largest construction project completed at the White House in a quarter century.

His dedication to service has continued long after his military retirement. For more than 30 years, he has been a Paid-Up-For-Life member of the American Legion, contributing significantly to Post 174 in Georgetown as 1st Vice Commander, newsletter editor, and project coordinator for clothing donations serving homeless and at-risk veterans.

He is also a Gold Legacy Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and has provided steadfast support to Post 8587, where he donated equipment, maintained the flag collection, assisted with community events, and continues to serve as Webmaster. In addition, as a Life Member of the U.S. Submarine Veterans Central Texas Base, he has organized blood drives, served as an Ambassador for the Charity Foundation, and was honored as Sailor of the Year in 2023.

Lt. Espinosa's commitment to service extends deep into the community. Since 2014, he has been a dedicated volunteer with The Caring Place, serving in multiple roles, including on the Board of Directors, and helping coordinate food distribution for at-risk families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I extend my deepest appreciation to Lt. Frank Espinosa Jr. for his remarkable contributions to our nation and his lifelong commitment to serving others.

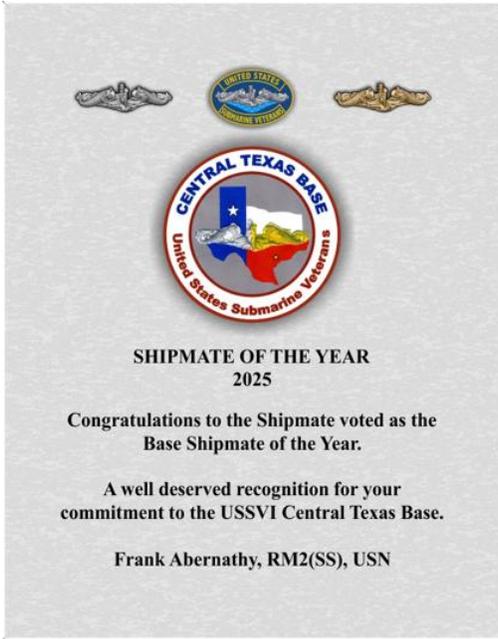
John R. Carter  
Member of Congress



Congratulations Frank, BZ.

January 2026

SHIPMATE OF THE YEAR



2026 USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Dive into Adventure at the 2026 USSVI National Convention in Corpus Christi, Texas!**

**Join Us From September 6-11, 2026**

**PLAN NOW**  
Start planning your trip now so you can soak up everything the Texas Gulf Coast offers. Reconnect with old shipmates, forge new friendships, and dive into engaging learning sessions. Browse the subvet vendor hall and explore local merchants. Return home refreshed and inspired, with cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

**BOOK NOW**

To register or find out more about convention events and local area attractions, visit [subvetconvention.org](https://subvetconvention.org)

**OMNI CORPUS CHRISTI HOTEL**  
Located on Corpus Christi Bay, Omni Corpus Christi Hotel offers accommodations with ocean views and close proximity to area attractions.

- Special Tolling the Boats ceremony followed by a BBQ on the USS Lexington.
- Submarine veteran speaker series.
- Informative meetings and workshops.
- Shopping discounts at local area businesses.
- Numerous tours and unique events.

USSVI 2026 National Convention @2026USSVIConvention

**Rick Mitchell**  
12/11/2025

This is the first ad for the 1st Qtr AS Magazine. I will be using it in some of our social media efforts. Makes a good flyer and great for publishing in your newsletters. All that aside, the #1 thing we all can do to help get registrations up is to register ourselves. Once people see the list growing, they are more likely to go ahead and register.

Go to <https://subvetconvention.org/> to check it out and to register.

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**USSVI 2026 National Convention**

12/22/2025

Merry Christmas Shipmates and Friends! May everyone's holiday season be filled with love, laughter, and unforgettable memories with those you cherish!

And speaking of unforgettable memories, those of you who are ready to create more of those, register and book your rooms NLT Jan 1st (bumping to Jan 3, and postmark is OK) for the convention will all be entered in a drawing for up to 3 FREE NIGHTS of your stay during the convention. Time is running out for this opportunity, Register and book your rooms here: [www.subvetconvention.org](http://www.subvetconvention.org)

For a look at what goes on in Corpus Christi during the holiday season check out this link here from the [Visit Corpus Christi](http://www.visitcorpuschristi.com/merrydays/) site.

<https://www.visitcorpuschristi.com/merrydays/>

[United States Submarine Veterans Inc.](http://www.usnavyvet.org)

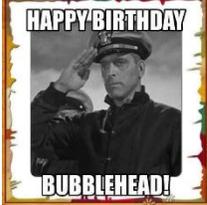
[Rick Mitchell](#) · 12/23/2025, 8:00pm

Lots of hard work going on by many of your shipmates down here in Texas, preparing for the USSVI 2026 National Convention, who hope to see many of you here. Everyone registered and rooms booked by end of year (actually Jan 3) will be entered in a drawing for 3 free nights of your stay.

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*BIRTHDAYS AND MEMBERSHIP DATA*

*JANUARY BIRTHDAYS*



David Paulson - 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Bob Lind - 19<sup>th</sup>  
Craig Russell - 20<sup>th</sup>  
Charles Goertz - 20<sup>th</sup>

*CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP*

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

Members listed in Central Texas Database	87
Regular Annual Members	24
National Life Members	56
Base Life Members	55
Holland Club Members	42
Associate Members	1
Dual Members	5
Prospective Members:	0
War Veterans	75
Members pending:	0
Submitted: Rick Mitchell, Membership	

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*STOREKEEPER CORNER*

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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](mailto: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.

USSVI Calendars for 2026 are available at \$10 each and 3 for \$25 and Base Challenge coins at \$10 each for members, others \$20 each.

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## *BASE TREASURER'S REPORT*

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**15 December 2025**

**Funds as of - 11/30/2025 - \$22,976.39**

RBFCU Checking (Gen Fund) \$20,608.12

RBFCU Savings (Mem Fund) \$3,731.00

**Funds as of - 1/1/2026 - \$24,339.12**

Submitted: Chris Glover, Treasurer

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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. Gene Hall, Garrett Onderdonk, Coy Smith, Chuck Trahan, The Burnet Jackson's.

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

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.

21 March 2026, Quarterly Social, TBD.

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

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*CHAPLAIN'S CORNER*

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**Bend in the Road**

When we feel we have nothing left to give  
And we are sure that the song has ended,  
When our day seems over and the shadows fall  
And the darkness of night has descended,

Where can we go to find the strength  
To valiantly keep on trying?  
Where can we find the hand that will dry  
The tears that the heart is crying?

There's but one place to go and that is to God,  
And dropping all pretense and pride,  
We can pour out our problems without restraint  
And gain strength with Him at our side.

And together we stand at life's crossroads  
And view what we think is the end,  
But God has a much bigger vision,  
And He tells us it's only a bend.

For the road goes on and is smoother,  
And the pause in the song is a rest,  
And the part that's unsung and unfinished  
Is the sweetest and richest and best.

So rest and relax and grow stronger  
Let go and let God share your load.  
Your work is not finished or ended  
You've just come to a bend in the road.

~ Helen Steiner Rice

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*EDITORS OFFICE*

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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](mailto: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*



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**NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETINS**

**USSVCF Monthly Newsletter**

**US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc. [newsletter@ussvcf.org](mailto:newsletter@ussvcf.org)**

12/16/2025

January 2026

## US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation Newsletter for December 2025

Hello Shipmates,

This month's issue is my chance to wish each of you and your loved ones a happy Christmas Holiday season. May 2026 bring us all good health and good fortune.

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

[www.ussvcf.org](http://www.ussvcf.org)

- **Welcome Aboard**
- **Charity Begins at Your Base**
- **Our Commemorative Coins** - \$19 including shipping at: <https://ussvcf.org/shop/>



- **Base Charitable Activities**
- **USS S4 Memorial Service**

USSVCF Newsletter No 24 Copyright © December 2025 George Palmer Editor

Respectfully,  
George Palmer  
USSVCF Vice-President and Executive Director



### Email Scam at 7 Different Bases To Date

USSVI Technology Inc. <[ussviwebsitequestions@231236066.mailchimpapp.com](mailto:ussviwebsitequestions@231236066.mailchimpapp.com)>

12/17/2025

### National Commander Jon Jaques

Shipmates,

This email was sent out to Tim and likely others - we have had at minimum 7 different bases which have received the same type of email listed below. Please call and verify at minimum if you receive an email with the person suggested. Otherwise just ignore

---

**From:** Jon Jaques <[jjagues@email.com](mailto:jjagues@email.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 2:26:07 AM  
**To:** [timcarlisle00@hotmail.com](mailto:timcarlisle00@hotmail.com) <[timcarlisle00@hotmail.com](mailto:timcarlisle00@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** USSVI Central Texas Base : Outstanding Payment

Hi Tim,

I'm on vacation with spotty cell service and can't make calls. Could you please cover an urgent \$870 payment for the USSVI Central Texas Base ? via bank transfer, Venmo or Zelle ? I'll send the payment details once you confirm and i'll have you reimbursed you as soon as I can.

Thanks for jumping on this!

This is urgent, Please get back as quickly as possible.

Kindest Regards.

**Jon Jaques**  
Commander  
USSVI Central Texas Base  
[jjagues@bellsouth.net](mailto:jjagues@bellsouth.net)

Respectfully,  
Jon Jaques,  
NC

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**2025 Holiday Message**

USSVI Technology Inc. <ussviwebsitequestions@231236066.mailchimpapp.com>

12/18/2025

**National Commander Jon Jaques**

Shipmates,

As we arrive at the holiday season, I pray you are surrounded by family and friends who bring you joy and happiness!

While you celebrate, I hope you reach out to the family member or shipmate you need to and wish them a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, or whatever holiday they celebrate. Your voice may be the gift they need this year.

My wish for each of you is to have a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year!

Respectfully,  
Jon Jaques,  
NC



*SUBMARINE NEWS GEDUNK FROM THE NET*

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*Reproduced from the 19FortyFive website. Why the Navy Never Built 'Deep Diving' Titanium Submarines Like Russia - 19FortyFive* - <https://share.google/beW8qQnPBW5fBI5sH>

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*Reproduced from the National Security Journal website. The U.S. Navy Can't Fix Its Warship Crisis - National Security Journal* - <https://share.google/bN9KGfaKYOhSVFNNh>

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*Reproduced from the Global Defense News website. U.S. Virginia class submarine USS Vermont maintenance in Australia to deepen AUKUS undersea ties* - <https://share.google/FxSZUMyU9j9liKbpK>

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*Reproduced from the WION News website. What is Sweden's A-26 and why is it described as the world's first 5th-gen submarine?* - <https://share.google/BalPDzqiYbNW2GTpe>

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*Reproduced from the Naval News website. Brazil launches fourth Scorpène submarine* - Naval News - <https://share.google/T5jyCEUn7sAmOVy9L>

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January 2026

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*Reproduced from the Militarnyi website.* **UK Deploys Fathom Marine Gliders in the Atlantic to Counter Russian Submarines** - [Militarnyi - https://militarnyi.com/en/news/uk-deploys-fathom-marine-gliders-in-the-atlantic-to-counter-](https://militarnyi.com/en/news/uk-deploys-fathom-marine-gliders-in-the-atlantic-to-counter-)

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*Reproduced from the **Breaking Defense** website. Reforms to Navy's research office must come without sacrificing scientific freedom - **Breaking Defense** [Reforms to Navy's research office must come without sacrificing scientific freedom - Breaking Defense](#)*

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*Reproduced from the **Zona Militar** website. Construction has begun on the future USS Barb, the 31st Virginia-class nuclear submarine of the U.S. Navy - <https://www.zona-militar.com/en/2025/12/10/construction-has-begun-on-the-future-uss-barb-the-31st-virginia-class-nuclear-submarine-of-the-u-s-navy/>*

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*Reproduced from the **WVEC-TV Norfolk** website. Newport News Shipbuilding hosts keel laying ceremony for future USS Barb - [Newport News Shipbuilding hosts keel laying ceremony for future USS Barb](#)*

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*Reproduced from the **Marine Link** website. HII Hosts Keel Laying of Virginia-Class Attack Submarine Barb - [HII Hosts Keel Laying Of Virginia-Class Attack](#)*

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*Reproduced from the **WAVY Norfolk** website. HII hosts keel laying ceremony for new Virginia-class attack submarine - [HII hosts keel laying ceremony for new Virginia-class attack submarine](#)*

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*Reproduced from the **Facebook** website. Keel Laying Ceremony USS Barb SSN 804 - [USS Barb](#)*

[Pamela Cosner Bove](#) · 36m ·

The Keel Laying Ceremony held today was wonderful! The Newport News Shipbuilding staff were incredible hosts and I cannot thank them enough for their guidance, kindness and hospitality.

I am happy to share pictures and a video of the ceremony recorded by my husband, Tom. When I receive the pictures from the shipyard I will post them.

Here is the link... [USS Barb Keel Laying - Google Drive](#)

Also from Facebook: [USS Barb](#)

[Pamela Cosner Bove](#) · December 10 at 11:00 AM ·

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BpzaAZZeV/>

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*Reproduced from the **Global Defense News** website. U.S. Navy and HII begin construction of Virginia-class Block V submarine Barb (SSN-804) - <https://www.armyrecognition.com/news/navy-news/2025/u-s-navy-and-hii-begin-construction-of-virginia-class-block-v-submarine-barb-ssn-804>*

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*Reproduced from the Naval News website. JFD Global to provide deep saturation diving and submarine rescue capability to Polish Navy - Naval News - <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2025/12/jfd-global-to-provide-deep-saturation-diving-and-submarine-rescue-capability-to-polish-navy/>*

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*Reproduced from the Euromaidan Press website. Frontline report: Russia couldn't fix its nuclear submarine, so it's leasing it to India for \$2 billion - Euromaidan Press - <https://euromaidanpress.com/2025/12/11/frontline-report-2025-12-11/>*

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*Reproduced from the Military Watch Magazine website. Taiwan's First Attack Submarine Suffers Major Breakdown During Sea Trial: Problematic Program Faces Growing Issues - <https://militarywatchmagazine.com/article/taiwan-first-attack-submarine-performance-issues>*

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*Reproduced from the Zona Militar website. Construction of two new Project 677 submarines for the Russian Navy would begin in early 2026 -* <https://www.zona-militar.com/en/2025/12/17/construction-of-two-new-project-677-submarines-for-the-russian-navy-would-begin-in-early-2026/>



## Naval History and Heritage Command

### January 1

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

**1/10/1944** - In a two-day attack against a Japanese convoy in the waters north of Okinawa, Japan, the submarine [Seawolf \(SS-197\)](#) sinks three cargo ships.

**1/17/1955** - With its skipper, Commander Eugene P. Wilkinson, radioing the message “underway on nuclear power,” the submarine [Nautilus \(SSN-571\)](#) proceeds down Long Island Sound into the Atlantic for sea trials.

**1/23/1960** - Piloted by Lieutenant Don Walsh and civilian Jacques Piccard as part of Project Nekton, the bathyscaph [Trieste](#) descended seven miles to the Challenger Deep—located at the southern end of the Mariana Trench—the deepest known point of the Earth’s oceans. The world record descent took nine hours.

**1/28/1984** - The Space Shuttle Challenger explodes shortly after takeoff in the space program’s worst fatal accident since the Apollo 1 launch pad fire. Among those killed on board the spacecraft is the pilot, Commander Michael Smith. Navy ships and the nuclear-propelled submersible [NR-1](#) support the search for wreckage off Florida’s east coast.

## U.S. Navy Submarine Service - SSN's

12/18/25

### "Steel, Memory, & The Sound of Home "



Oh man... this one hits that old submariner soul just right. You can almost hear the diesel rumble of those C-Tractor tugs 🚢 before you even see 'em. For a lot of folks, this is just a nice photo of a submarine being eased along by three hard-working little beasts of harbor muscle. But to guys like us? This is coming home. ❤️ This is the first breath of real air after weeks or months of smelling amine, diesel, sweat, coffee ☕, and whatever mystery aroma came from the aft head that nobody ever admitted responsibility for. 😂

These C-tractors were brand-new muscle machines 💪 back when I was three or four years into my career in the early '90s. Seeing them again is like running into an old friend who's still doing exactly what they were born to do—steady, patient, dependable, and a whole lot tougher than most folks realize.

There's something deeply comforting about tugboats and submarines together. One is all brute force, horsepower, and push-you-where-you-need-to-go attitude 🚢...and the other is silent, sneaky, patient, and terrifyingly capable when it has to be 🐱. But in moments like this? They're just teammates. 🤝 When you're outbound, those tugs feel like the last handshake from home before heading off to do the things you're trained for but pray never get used in the worst-case ways 🙏. Coming back in? Buddy... those tugs look like angels with big engines and fat rubber bumpers 😊. Somewhere between God, Newton's laws of motion, and a good harbor pilot, they make sure you get back to your pier, back to your family 🏠, and maybe back to a halfway edible cheeseburger 🍔.

Now here's the thing about this particular photo—it isn't from “our days.” This one was taken in 2021 as part of a Navy effort talking about supporting the fleet and keeping our undersea warriors ready for the future. You can find the official

write-up here if you want to dive deeper:

NAVSUP WSS Participates in Multi-Agency Meeting to Discuss Submarine Needs – 2021

<https://www.dvidshub.net/.../navsup-wss-participates...>

But that's when reality hits a little harder ❤️.

Because while this picture is recent, the ones that really live in our hearts are older. The boats many of us served on belong to a different era altogether... an era slowly fading as the men who lived it are called to their eternal patrol 🚢🌊. The old websites are disappearing. The photo archives we lovingly built over years are vanishing behind dead links and abandoned pages ... or worse, being scooped up, monetized, and locked behind paywalls 🗝️. History that once lived freely among brothers is now something you have to pay to revisit.

So yeah... that's why I do this. That's why, broken body and honey-do list taller than the Eiffel Tower 😊, I still chase down the backstory behind these photos. I want to know where they came from, what story they carry 📖, and how they fit into the long river of submarine history 🌊. Because these moments deserve to live. Free. Honest. Remembered.

"Mr. Pain and Wrenches" may be beat-up, wired together like a museum restoration project, but on the good days, this stuff fills the tank. A picture like this isn't just steel, water, and tugboats. It's memory. It's pride. It's gratitude.

It's a reminder that once upon a time, we were part of something enormous, quiet, and deadly serious... and every now and then, it feels pretty good to sit back, smile, and say:

"Yeah... I was there for that world." -

The Sub Vet - Pain and Wrenches [TheSubVet.com](http://TheSubVet.com)

by E. Ryle



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### True Stories

12/10/2025

Eugene B. Fluckey took a U.S. submarine straight into a mined enemy harbor because waiting offshore meant letting the war last longer.

Eugene B. Fluckey stood on the bridge of the USS Barb in January 1945, staring down a Japanese harbor that American submarines were never supposed to enter. The waters were shallow. The channels were mined. Shore guns covered the approaches. Standard doctrine said turn back. Fluckey gave the opposite order.

To the Navy, Eugene B. Fluckey was a risk. He was young for a submarine commander and openly dissatisfied with safe patrols that kept boats alive but changed little. Submarines were sinking ships. The war still dragged on. Fluckey wanted results that altered strategy, not statistics.

The context mattered. By late 1944, Japan's coastal shipping lanes were still feeding war production and troop movements. Most harbors were considered untouchable. Mines and shore batteries made them death traps. Eugene B. Fluckey saw something else. Predictability. If the enemy believed no American commander would ever enter their backyard, that belief itself became a weakness.

So, he went in.

Under cover of darkness, the Barb slid through a mined harbor on China's coast. The crew counted mines by sight. One mistake would have blown the submarine apart in seconds. Inside the harbor, Fluckey fired torpedoes at anchored ships and escaped before dawn. The attack shocked Japanese commanders. It worked.

He escalated.

In June 1945, Eugene B. Fluckey ordered something unprecedented. He sent an eight-man landing party ashore on Sakhalin Island to destroy a Japanese train line. Submariners were not trained for ground combat. No U.S. naval landing had occurred on the Japanese home perimeter. The team planted explosives, blew up the tracks, and escaped undetected. It remains the only ground combat operation conducted by U.S. forces on the Japanese home islands during World War II.

By the end of the war, the USS Barb had sunk or damaged 30 enemy vessels and crippled infrastructure far beyond what a single submarine was expected to affect. Eugene B. Fluckey completed five combat patrols without losing a single

crewman.

The Navy awarded him the Medal of Honor. The citation cited “extraordinary heroism.” Fluckey later reduced it to something simpler. Thinking differently under pressure. Refusing to accept that rules written for safety automatically lead to victory.

Eugene B. Fluckey did not break doctrine for glory. He broke it because predictable wars last longer — and bold decisions, taken carefully, can end them sooner.

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**Reproduced from the Military Times website. How one Japanese vessel spectacularly failed at Pearl Harbor - <https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/military-history/2025/12/07/how-one-japanese-vessel-spectacularly-failed-at-pearl-harbor/>**

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**Reproduced from the War on the Rocks website. Shallow Waters, Big Lessons: What the Falklands War Reveals About Submarine Warfare - <https://warontherocks.com/2025/12/shallow-waters-big-lessons-what-the-falklands-war-reveals-about-submarine-warfare/>**

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### History Article of the Month

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From Shipmate Erik Heter, Base Historian

#### USS Scamp (SS-277)

The USS *Scamp* (SS-277) was a *Gato-class* diesel-electric submarine of the United States Navy that served with distinction in the Pacific Theater during World War II. She was the first U.S. Navy vessel named for the scamp grouper, a fish in the family Serranidae. Built for wartime service, she was laid down at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Maine on 6 March 1942, launched on 20 July 1942, and commissioned on 18 September 1942 under the command of Lieutenant Commander W. G. Ebert.

After outfitting and training on the East Coast, *Scamp* transited the Panama Canal and arrived at Pearl Harbor in February 1943 to prepare for war patrols. Her first deployment, beginning 1 March 1943, took her toward the Japanese home islands. Early torpedo attacks were hampered by the notorious problems with U.S. torpedo magnetic exploders, and she managed only to damage enemy vessels before returning to Pearl Harbor in April for refit and resupply.

During her second war patrol, *Scamp* operated in the Southwest Pacific, reconnoitering islands and eventually sinking the *Kamikawa Maru*, a Japanese seaplane tender, on 28 May 1943, finishing off the damaged vessel with follow-up torpedoes. She then reached Brisbane, Australia, concluding the patrol on 4 June 1943, and establishing a pattern of aggressive, forward-area operations.

On her third patrol, *Scamp* continued offensive operations in the Bismarck Archipelago and Solomon Islands. On 27 July 1943, she engaged and sank the Japanese submarine *I-168*, a significant achievement given that *I-168* was infamous for having previously sunk the aircraft carrier *USS Yorktown* and destroyer *USS Hammann* during the Battle of Midway.

Subsequent patrols saw *Scamp* remain highly effective against Japanese shipping. On her fourth and fifth patrols, she attacked convoys in the Solomon Sea and Truk-Kavieng traffic lanes, sinking freighters and damaging major surface combatants like the light cruiser *Agano*, temporarily putting it out of action for later American strikes.

During her sixth patrol, *Scamp* sank the large tanker *Nippon Maru* in January 1944, disrupting the enemy’s critical logistics network. Her seventh patrol, in the waters between New Guinea and the Philippines, included an engagement in which she was heavily damaged by a bomb from a Japanese aircraft. Despite severe internal damage and loss of power, the crew fought to save the submarine, demonstrating extraordinary seamanship and courage.

*Scamp*’s eighth war patrol began on 16 October 1944, when she departed Pearl Harbor for operations near the Bonin Islands northeast of Japan. She was last heard from on 9 November 1944, reporting her position with full torpedo load and ample fuel. After failing to respond to orders on 14 November to move into position off Tokyo Bay, she was officially listed as missing.

Postwar examination of Japanese records suggests *Scamp* was likely located by Japanese aircraft and the escort ship *Kaibōkan CD-4* on 11 November 1944 and subjected to a prolonged depth-charge attack with as many as 70 charges dropped, which probably sank her with all 83 officers and crewmen aboard. The submarine was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 28 April 1945, with all hands declared lost.

For her seven successful war patrols and her role in crippling enemy shipping, the USS *Scamp* was awarded seven battle stars for World War II service. *Scamp*'s legacy remains honored among the many submarines that paid the ultimate price in the Pacific, and the names of her lost crew are memorialized at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.



## THOUGHTS

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“Your real wealth can be measured not by what you have, but by what you are.” -- Napoleon Hill

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“Your real wealth can be measured not by what you have, but by what you are.” -- Napoleon Hill

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**“So... this is the beginning of the final stretch.”**

From Shipmate Jack Collins on Facebook

When I turned 67, I sat in my favorite chair, looked back at my life, and whispered to myself, “So... this is the beginning of the final stretch.”

And slowly, the truths I had avoided all my life began to surface.

Kids? They're busy writing their own story.

Health? Slips away faster than sand through open fingers.

The government? Just headlines, promises, and numbers that never change your daily reality.

Aging doesn't hurt your body first — it hurts your illusions.

So I sat down with myself and carved out a handful of bitter but necessary truths.

- Kids don't save you from loneliness.

Children grow, life pulls them in every direction, and you become a memory they visit when time allows.

You smile... and yet something inside you remains strangely hollow.

Kids bring joy — but they are not a shield against loneliness.

- Health is not forever

One day, the outings you once jumped into with enthusiasm feel like a marathon.

You realize health was never a background character —

it was the main pillar holding your life steady.

- Retirement and money

Retirement is not a reward — it's a reality check.

Depending on the system is like standing on thin ice.

Bills grow, needs grow, prices grow... but support doesn't.

- So I rebuilt my life on new rules — honest, sharp, practical rules for living with dignity.

Rule 1: Money is more reliable than anything else.

Love your kids, cherish them — but don't make them your retirement plan.

Save for yourself.

Even small savings create big freedom.

Financial independence is dignity.

Rule 2: Your health is your real job.

Nothing else matters if your body refuses to cooperate.  
Move. Walk. Stretch.  
Guard your sleep like treasure.  
Eat cleaner. Reduce the poison disguised as sugar and salt.  
Illness doesn't discriminate,  
but it respects those who take responsibility for themselves.

Rule 3: Create your own joy

Waiting for others to make you happy is the fastest way to heartbreak.  
So you learn to enjoy the small things — a peaceful breakfast, a good book, music that warms the soul.  
When you know how to make yourself happy, loneliness loses its power.

Rule 4: Aging is not an excuse to become helpless

Some people turn aging into a performance of complaints.  
And slowly, even those who love them start stepping away.  
Strength is attractive.  
Resilience is magnetic.  
People respect the ones who stay capable, not the ones who surrender.

Rule 5: Let go of the past

The good old days were beautiful — yes.  
But they're gone, and there is no return ticket.  
Clinging to the past steals the present.  
Life today may look different, but it still holds moments worth living.

Rule 6: Protect your peace like it's your property

Not every argument needs your voice.  
Not every insult needs your response.  
Not every relative deserves access to your emotions.  
Peace is expensive.  
Protect it from drama, negativity, and draining people — even if they're your close ones.

Rule 7: Keep learning something — anything

The day you stop learning is the day you start aging.  
A new recipe, a new word, a new app, a new hobby — your brain needs movement just like your body does.  
Learning keeps you young.  
Stagnation makes you old.

Strength and freedom still belong to you.

Aging is an exam no one can take for you.  
You can adapt, rebuild, and rise stronger...or sit back, complain, and wait for someone to rescue you.  
And if ...No one comes to rescue you ...Stand up for yourself ...Because you still can.  
And that single truth is enough to transform the rest of your life.

Unknown author

And there are horses. You can always find a horse that needs you as much as you need them.

-- Ruella Yates

This is amazing!!



**USS Shark story**

**Pain and Wrenches**

**[U.S. Navy Submarine Service - SSN's](#)**

12/19/2025

"USS SHARK — When a Submarine Decides the Ocean Is in Her Way"

I went looking for a cool submarine photo today... and instead found a whole story. Not just one picture — three snapshots of attitude, power, teamwork, and Silent Service swagger.

January 2026

## Those First Two Photos

That ain't just a submarine "at speed." That's a Skipjack-class legend saying:

"Excuse me, ocean... I'm busy. Get out of the way." 🤨

She's tearing through the water like she owes somebody money, throwing a bow wave that could knock the taste out of your mouth, reminding everyone why these boats were legends. You can almost feel it: wind cutting your face, the rumble under your boots, the OOD yelling something important, and half the watch team pretending they aren't freezing. 🌊🌊

Back before 4,000 screens and sensors that can hear shrimp sneeze — this was 🗺️ paper charts, 🖋️ grease pencils, ☕ paint-stripping coffee, and 🧑🏻 crews who didn't need fanfare... they just needed to get it right.

📷 Now About the Photographer...

Whoever took those shots deserves 🏆 a medal, 💰 a raise, and 🗣️ maybe counseling.

This wasn't a drone.

This wasn't burst mode.

This wasn't "try again."

This was some wild-eyed soul hanging halfway out of a helicopter with a 35mm camera, wind screaming, pilot yelling, boat hauling tail — and those boys were running on adrenaline alone. ⚡

You KNOW that flight sounded like:

"You GOT IT yet!?"

"ALMOST — HOLD HER THERE — AND SOMEBODY CRACK A WINDOW, THIS HELICOPTER SMELLS LIKE ADRENALINE AND BAD DECISIONS!!" 🤪

No stabilization. No preview. No retakes.

Just one shot, one heartbeat, and a cockpit full of hootin' and hollerin' back to the LZ because they knew they caught lightning in a bottle. ⚡📷

Then the Third Photo...

Suddenly she's calm. Graceful. Professional. Sliding through the locks — most likely Panama — like a queen in a parade. 🏆🚢

Crew topside.

Line handlers locked in.

Everyone doing that quiet, serious ballet that keeps bad days from happening. 🗣️📷

And back then? It wasn't inspection-ready, tactical-PR-approved super-uniforms like today. Nobody needed a photo committee, cue cards, or a branding department. It was good old Navy dungarees and khakis. 🚢🚢 Simple. Honest. Proven. Just like it ought to be.

Because back then...

👉 we were pirates. 🏴‍☠️

Cold War pirates with discipline, grit, humor, and absolute pride in what we did — unseen, uncelebrated, and deadly serious when it counted.

And we had even greater captains to lead us into battle. 🚢🗺️ Leaders who trusted their crews, understood the mission, guarded morale like a tactical asset, and knew that a tight, confident submarine crew could outrun storms, outrun fear, and outrun anything the world threw at them.

The Sub Vet - Pain and Wrenches

by E. Ryle

[TheSubVet.com](http://TheSubVet.com)



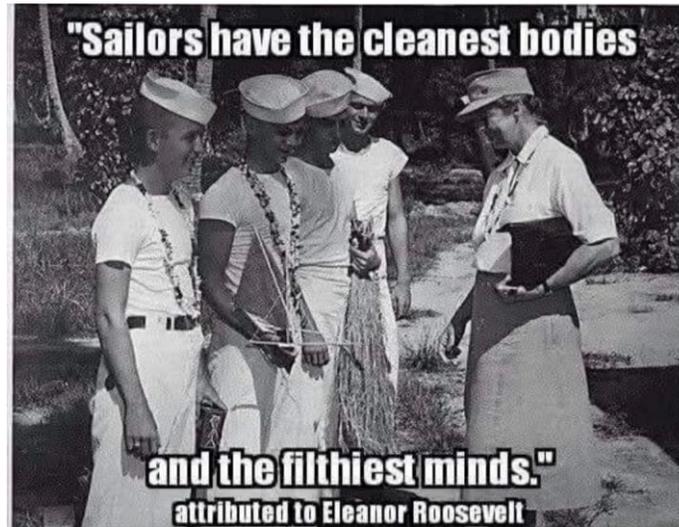
*ONCE UPON A TIME*

**Screwdrivers**

Left-handed screwdriver – Vodka and orange juice

Right-handed screwdriver – Vodka and grapefruit juice

Philips screwdriver – Vodka and Philips Milk of Magnesia



**My heart is Heavy**

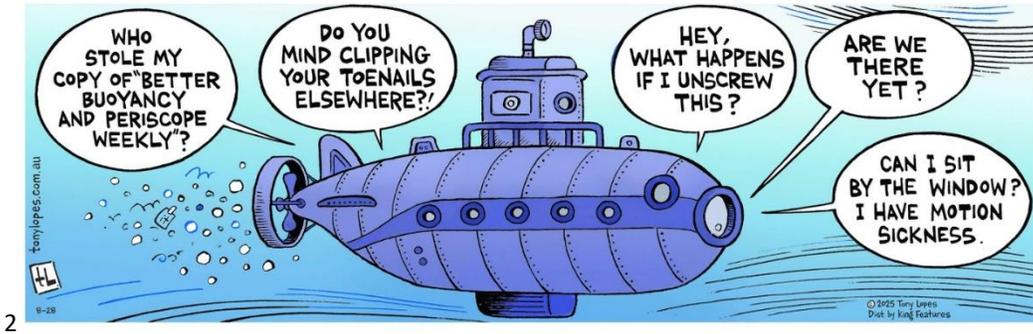
My heart is heavy... I just left the Emergency Room. I wanted everyone to know that whomever has been in contact with me in any way over the last 14 days should stay indoors and contact your nearest test center.

This is why I choose to stay to myself I'm so sorry to every one of my friends, family, and others who have been in close proximity to me.

I have had symptoms for a few days now and it has just been confirmed. I have been diagnosed as being extremely smart, good-looking, hilarious, fun to be around and just a nice person!!

I'm told there is no cure as of yet for all 5 together.

When I see this reposted, I'll know who has read this to the end. I know a few that won't let me down.



## USSVI SCHOOL OF THE BOAT

### January – USSVI Charitable Foundation Refresher Training

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

In June 2025, 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 Scholarship Fund.

#### USSVCF Scholarship Fund

**Question:** What is the USSVCF Scholarship Fund, and who is the Fund manager? **Answer:** The fund helps bridge the gap between the educational resources available to a submarine Veteran's candidate child and what they need to advance their education. The Fund Chairman is Dr. Alan Fickett.

Next to the Brotherhood Fund, the Scholarship Fund is one of the most sought-after funds.

**Question:** What is the purpose of the Scholarship Fund? **Answer:** The fund helps bridge the gap between the educational resources available to a submarine Veteran's candidate child and what they need to advance their education.

**Question:** What is the history of the Scholarship Fund? **Answer:** Beginning in 1985, we have awarded many scholarships to many children and grandchildren of submarine Veterans.

For 20 years, from 2002 through 2022 the fund has awarded more than 798 scholarships totaling more than \$1,042,470 in financial support for these excellent students.

**Question:** Are there eligibility requirements for receiving a scholarship? **Answer:** Yes:

- Applicants must be related to and sponsored by a USSVI "SS" qualified regular member in good standing.
- If the sponsor is not "SS" qualified, they must be a current regular member of Submarine Veterans of WWII.
- Eligible relatives include children, step-children, grandchildren, or court-appointed wards of the sponsoring member.

**Question:** How are scholarships applied for? **Answer:** Yes.

- Applications for 2026-2027 Academic Year Application Period must be completed on or before 18 May 2026.
- For instructions to apply for a scholarship go to: <https://subforcescholarships.smapply.io/>

**Question:** What is the Scholarship Fund Balance? **Answer:** As of 30 November 2025 - \$79,166

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

