



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

OCTOBER 2025
VOLUME XIV - ISSUE 10



USSVI Creed

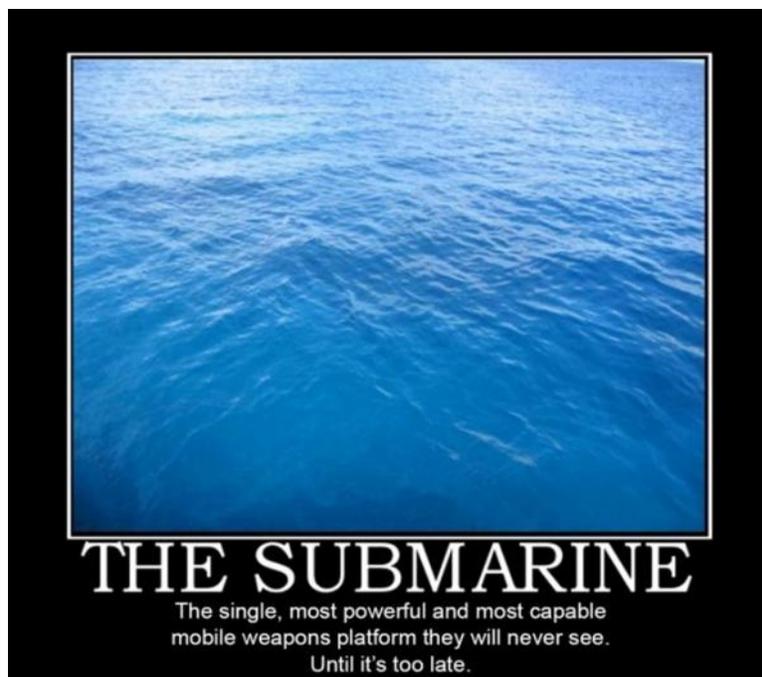
Section 1: To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country that their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments, and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United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

Camaraderie

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

Perpetual Remembrance

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



Submarine Veterans. Out of sight, but never out of mind. The silent power beneath the waves.

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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
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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.

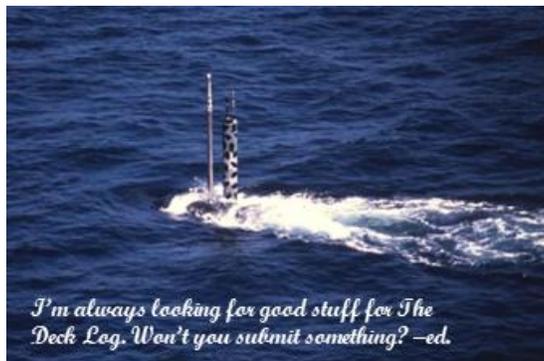
I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me.

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/)



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

SILENT RUNNING

OCTOBER LOST BOATS

"I can assure you that they went down fighting and that their brothers who survived them took a grim toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths." Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, USN



USS Seawolf (SS-197)

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



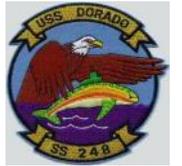
USS S-44 (SS-155)

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



USS Wahoo (SS-238)

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



USS Dorado (SS-248)

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



USS Escolar (SS-294)

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



USS Shark II (SS-314)

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



USS Darter (SS-227)

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



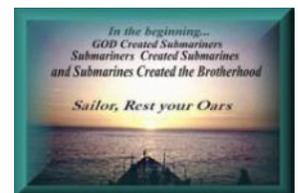
USS Tang (SS-306)

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



USS O-5 (SS-66)

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





USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS

BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT



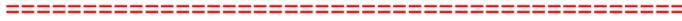
Howdy All,

It was great to see everyone that made it out to the Sept social. As always, I really enjoy seeing all of the spouses, family or friends that attend outside of our monthly meetings. It got me thinking back during my time on the boats and how important our spouses or significant others were during that time. It's great to see that it continues long after our EAOS. Social events that include spouses are a cornerstone of the military community because they acknowledge and strengthen the support systems that extend beyond the service member. Military life brings unique challenges—frequent moves, long deployments, and unpredictable schedules—and spouses often carry much of the weight during these times. Including them in socials not only validates their role but also creates a network of mutual support that helps families feel less isolated. When spouses build relationships with each other, it fosters stronger unit cohesion, allowing families to lean on one another during separations or emergencies. These gatherings also serve as an important space for sharing practical advice and resources, from navigating new duty stations to preparing for deployment. Most importantly, including spouses recognizes the sacrifices they make—such as career interruptions and solo parenting—and demonstrates appreciation for their contributions to the strength and resilience of the military community.

For retired or former submariners, socials that include spouses remain just as important today because the sense of camaraderie and shared experience does not end with active service. Life on submarines is unique—tight quarters, long deployments, and an intense reliance on one another—which forges bonds that extend to the families as well. Even after retirement, spouses remain a vital part of that community because they lived through the separations, relocations, and sacrifices alongside their service member. Including them in social gatherings helps preserve the shared identity and traditions of the submarine force, while also providing ongoing support and fellowship. For many, these events are a way to reconnect with people who truly understand the submarine lifestyle and to ensure that the legacy of service is honored not just by the submariners themselves but also by the families who served beside them in their own way. In both active duty and retired life, recognizing spouses through inclusive social events strengthens bonds, preserves traditions, and reminds everyone that military service has always been a shared journey—one carried out by the submariner and their family together.

Your shipmate, brother & friend,

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



CTB Shipmates in Action



2025 USSVI National Convention

31 August - September 2025

Shipmates Base Commander Curt Webber, Central Region Director Rick Mitchell, Weldon Koenig and Joe Kruppa attended. Shipmates Bill Scott and Chip Pomeroy received awards at the Banquet. Bill won the Class I Newsletter of the Year Award for "The Deck Log," his eleventh award, and Chip received the Robert Link National Commander's Award. Congratulations and a big BZ to them both.

+++++

2025 National Awards Recipients

USSVI Technology Inc.
[<ussviwebsitequestions@231236066.mailchimpapp.com>](mailto:ussviwebsitequestions@231236066.mailchimpapp.com)
 9/25/2025



National Bulletin USSVI National Awards Chairman Gary Galles

Shipmates,
 The following awards were announced and presented at 2025 USSVI National Convention in Orlando, FL. Congratulations to all the Award Recipients. BZ

District Commander of the Year for 2025-2026

Michael E. Bost - District Commander Northeast District Two – Jersey Shore Base

Golden Anchor Award

- Class I - Gold Country Base
- Class III - Boise Base
- Class IV – Oklahoma City Base

Silver Anchor Award

- Class I – Hubert C. Dietrich - Requin Base
- Class II – Brenda Giles – Jersey Shore Base
- Class III – Steven Bateman - USS Maine Base
- Class IV – Jerry L. Juhl – Heart of Texas Base

Meritorious Shipmate Award - Individual

- Class I - David Lee Harvey—Charleston Base
- Class II – David W. Weaver – Chesapeake Base
- Class III – John Armenta - Dolphin Base
- Class IV – Troy J. Robie – Brazos Valley Base

Meritorious Base Award - Base

- Class I - Charleston Base
- CLASS II – Carolina Piedmont Base

Ben Bastura Historical Achievement Award

- David L Johnston - Hampton Roads Base
- Thomas C. Denton - Tri-State Base

The Newsletter of the Year Awards

- Class I - Central Texas Base - The Deck Log - Editor – Harold W. Scott II
- CLASS I – Gold Country Base – Clear the Baffles - Editor – Barry J. Wyatt
- CLASS II – Sea Poacher Base – The Straight Scoop - Editor – John E. Merrill
- CLASS III – Boise Base – Riding the Vents - Editor – Gary Grunewald
- CLASS IV – Sout Florida Base – Dive - Dive - Editor – David P. Sturm

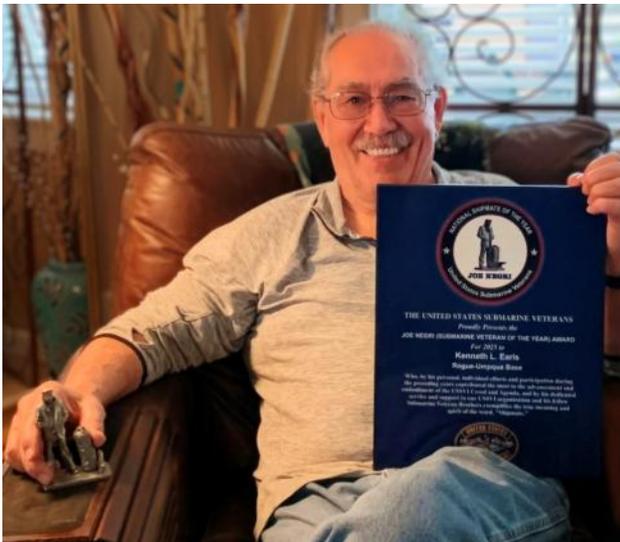
NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR- Class I - Bremerton Base - Puget Soundings - Editor - David R. Pittman

Robert Link National Commander’s Award

- Charles L. Andrews - Buffalo Base
- Michael Brigandi – Mare Island Base
- Andrew Brown – Carolina Piedmont Base
- Grant Day – Rocky Mountain Base
- James R. Harvey - Nautilus Base
- Vaughn Mortimer - Dorado Base
- Ronald L. Mosher – Naples Base
- John E. Nichols - Charleston Base
- Christopher A. Pomeroy – Central Texas Base
- David P. Sturm – South Florida Base

JOE NEGRI AWARD United States Submarine Veteran of the Year

Kenneth L. Earls – Rogue-Umpqua Base



Honored to Serve,

Gary Galles,
2025 USSVI National Awards and Recognition Program Chair

Prepared by Harold W (Bill) Scott II, National Awards Committee

Respectfully,
Gary Galles
USSVI National Awards Chairman

+++++

September Quarterly Base Social

20 September 2025

Noon, at Berry Springs Park, 1801 Co Rd 152, Georgetown, TX 78626

Ed., See information and a selection of pictures at the back of the newsletter.

Reproduced from the Facebook website.

Here's the pics I took today. If you have some you want to add to the album, feel free to do so.

[Sept 2025 CTB Base Picnic · Saturday, Sep 20](#)

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2026 USSVI Convention

Forwarding email: '26 Convention Fund Raising Contest Results

Rick Mitchell

9/8/2025, 2:24 PM

Forwarding on behalf of Curt Webber, BC

BCC'd to All Texas Base Commanders and our District Commander for distribution to all your members.

Texas Shipmates,

Well, the 2025 convention is over and we are now "Full Speed Ahead" in rolling out the welcome mat for our shipmates around the country as we prepare for the '26 USSVI National Convention in Corpus Christi. Many of you have already done so by participating in our contest raising money for the 2025 Convention. Thanks to your support:

\$7,185.00 has been raised to date!

84 Shipmates from around the state including all 8 bases and Members at large made donations. This even includes one wayward member stuck living up in Oklahoma.

The top 3 bases as far as average donated/person are:

- 1. Brazos Valley Base** with a \$40.28 average (wins a custom set of 36" dolphins)
- 2. Sea Turtle Base** with a \$25.81 average (wins a custom set of 24" dolphins)
- 3. Cowtown Base** with a \$21.19 average (wins a custom set of 18" dolphins)

*Winners determined by taking the total donated by base members and dividing by total number of base members

4. PC Stryker

5. Heart of Texas
6. Central Texas
7. Dallas
8. USS Cavalla

The 5 individual winners of the 24" custom dolphins are:

- Peter Filidoro** - Dallas Base
Alan Roberts - Brazos Valley Base
Ardith Shea - Heart of Texas Base
Wayne Standerfer - Dallas Base
Jodi Baque - Sea Turtle Base

*All donors received one entry ticket, and a random blind drawing was held. All of our donors will be appropriately mentioned in the convention program.

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

BRAVO ZULU also to Chip Pomeroy for his time and effort crafting and donating the 8 sets of metal art dolphins for this effort.

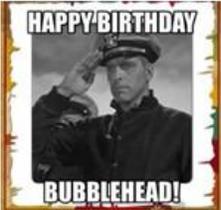
We will still be raising money throughout the year so if you belong to a VFW, American Legion or any club, or business, that might like to donate to us please check with me for tools you can use to help you in your donation request. Individual donations will always be appreciated also and we will be running some more raffles. Be on the lookout for those. To make a tax-deductible donation go here: [2026 USSVI National Convention Donations - USSVCF](#)

Donations will all be used to help keep our costs down for attendees by paying for things like transportation for group events, AV Costs, Free coffee and Tea in hospitality area and so on. Any funds that do not get used will be directly donated straight back to the USSVI Charitable Foundation.

Thanks Again on behalf of your '26 Convention Team,

Rick Mitchell
 512-639-0035

OCTOBER 2025 BIRTHDAYS



Roy Silva - 1st
 Gary Morrison - 2nd
 Ken Dallman - 2nd
 Jim Pax - 3rd
 Bill McCoy - 4th
 William Graham - 5th
 John Zieser - 8th
 Carl Repp - 9th
 Gene Whitenack - 12th
 Randy Patterson - 13th
 Chuck Cohn - 16th
 Jim Andree - 18th
 Greg Kline - 22nd

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	75
Members pending:	0

Submitted: Rick Mitchell, Membership

BASE TREASURER'S REPORT

15 September 2025

Financial Report for Period Ending 8/31/2025

Beginning Balance - 8/1/2025 - \$23,704.29

RBFCU Checking (Gen Fund) \$19,439.86
 RBFCU Savings (Mem Fund) \$3,728.21

Ending Balance - 9/1/2025 - \$23,168.07

Submitted: Chris Glover, Treasurer

STOREKEEPER CORNER

The Central Texas Base (CTB) Supply Store is open for business. The Supply Store can obtain most of the items you need for memorabilia, your vest, gifts for others, etc. You can order them from the Storekeeper at a meeting or online at vclycamp@yahoo.com. CTB can often get items at a lower than normal price, so you save money. The SK can search the net to find out-of-the-ordinary items, for all branches of the service. When requesting a ship's patch, tell the SK which coast you served on board, as the patches are often different for each coast. The Base E-board is working on a way to inform you of the SK items in stock and prices and a way for to you purchase them either at the in-person meetings, or via an online email system to the SK for in-stock items.

BINNACLE LIST

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

Prayer for our brothers. Chuck Trahan,- various items associated with Parkinsons , Coy Smith - scheduled for re-

versal Surgery near end of Sept, and Jack Collins - kidney removal.

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.



Eternal Patrol Prayer

"Those who have served, and those currently serving in the uniformed service of the United States, are ever mindful that the sweetness of enduring peace has always been tainted by the bitterness of personal sacrifice. We are compelled to never forget that while we enjoy our daily pleasures, remember those who have answered the final sailing order from the Supreme Navigator and/or King Neptune. Let us pause to remember our departed shipmates".

Clifford J Bellinghausen TM3(SS) retired, Passed, September 6, 2025, in Minot ND.

Brother of Shipmate Bill Bellinghausen

Email forwarding: Memory of Clifford J. Bellinghausen

Rick Mitchell

10:08 AM - 9/12/2025

Shipmates,

Forwarding this on behalf our shipmate Bill Bellinghausen. Clifford is Bill's brother and qualified in 1960 onboard the USS Diodon (SS-349) from 1960-1962. He was a TM. Some of us had the good fortune to meet Clifford when he visited the area. Cliford was a USSVI Life Member.

r/

Rick Mitchell
512-639-0035

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

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

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.

October 2025

20 December 2025, Annual Christmas Party/Social, "is tentatively scheduled pending Base approval"

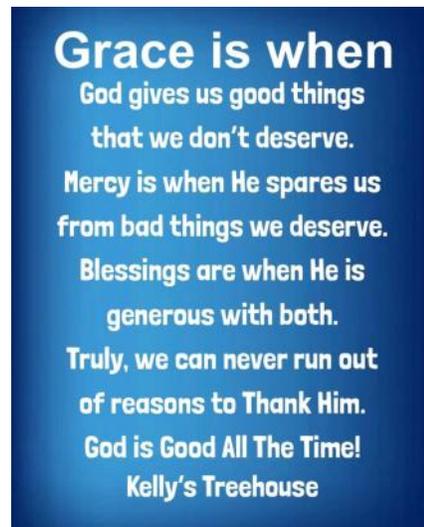
21 January 2026, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, VFW Post #8587 and Zoom, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1800 Social hour, 1900 meeting.



Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Update

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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



What Did You Gain

"Once a man was asked, 'What did you gain be regularly praying to God?' The man replied, 'nothing...but let me tell you what I lost: Anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity, and fear of death.' Sometimes, the answer to our prayers is not gaining, but losing; which ultimately is the gain."

Can I get an Amen?

Editor's 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.



NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETINS

USSVI National Convention Technology Update

USSVI Technology

Inc. ussviwebsitequestions@231236066.mailchimpapp.com

9/10/2025

Chief Technology Officer - Tim Carlisle

Here is a recording of the Technology Update shared at the National Convention in Orlando last week (24 minutes long). <https://youtu.be/UzTndkGaQTW>

Respectfully,
Tim Carlisle,
CTO

US Submarine Veterans' Charitable Foundation September 2025 Newsletter

USSVI Technology

Inc. ussviwebsitequestions@231236066.mailchimpapp.com

8/24/2025

Greetings Shipmates,

Ed., Excerpt from the National Bulletin.

...All I can say is WOW! The 2025 convention has passed into history and for my money it was the greatest ever. Thank you Florida bases who produced this true extravaganza! The agenda was full but there was still plenty of time to connect with two of my old shipmates and to sign up new blood to help the Foundation. For those of you who know **Jess Hult**, I'm sure you'll agree with me that she's a **total find**.

Regards,
George Palmer
USSVCF Vice-President & Executive Director

VSO Newsletter September 2025

USSVI Technology

Inc. ussviwebsitequestions@231236066.mailchimpapp.com

9/28/2025

Shipmates,

Ed., excerpts from the VSO National Bulletin of note:

"ALL HANDS TAKE NOTE"

The following attachments explain what has been attempted

October 2025

ed to resolve the Blue Water Issues with Submarine "Special Operations Patrols" and what has not yet been accomplished to allow the VA to grant these Blue Water Claims issue. Attachment 2 fully explains why the location information is not available to the VA. There are 2 new officials in office that can help push this effort and both are Submariners. They are the New CNO and the New MCPON. The supporting information can be uploaded from: <https://app.box.com/s/0p1bpjor680jd6g4nuf4ogdeq840zd1f>

2025 USSVI Convention VA Handout

I have had additional requests for the handout that was used at the convention presentation in Orlando. This is the final time it will be available to print. It is a great listing of the major questions raised about VA benefits over the past few years that I have covered with all our submarine veterans and widows many times over.

<https://app.box.com/s/n0u4pgkwapzjyh9dj3em65r83ss9aaus>

Letter from the Outgoing National Veterans Service Officer

From the Desk of John P. Dudas MMCS (SS) USN RET.

USSVI National Veterans Service Officer

It is with great respect for all our membership that I am announcing my retirement as the USSVI National Veterans Service Officer. If any of you have experience as a VSO or CVSO, I would like you to step up and continue helping the members of USSVI.

Contacting Pete Juhos, the Western Region Director (my immediate supervisor) or Jon Jaques, the USSVI National Commander, who are both aware of my decision and medical issues I am having which are the source of my decision.

I was first hired by T Michael Bircumshaw around 2010 where I was the first to have the USSVI recognized by the Veterans Administration as a certified Veterans Service Organization.

I have served almost continuously since then helping hundreds of our Veterans and Widows with their issues of VA Claims and Burial Benefits. I have lost count of everyone I have helped over the last 15 years, but the successes far outweigh the failures of supporting all of you with your VA claims. My wife Carol also deserves credit for my coverage during all those years by taking many of the phone calls and ensuring your messages were answered by me. She got so familiar with the questions, she could almost give the answers herself without looking up the answers. Some people say that behind every successful man stands a woman. I can refute that by stating she was never behind me, but always right beside me supporting all that I have accomplished.

I wish all of you the best and much success with USSVI as we forge into the future and enjoy the company that all submariners share with each other.

May you have Fair Winds and Following Seas,

Respectfully,
John Dudas
VSO



GEDUNK (SUBMARINE NEWS) FROM THE NET

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HISTORY

[Naval History and Heritage Command](#)

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

10/12/1900 - [Holland \(Submarine No. 1\)](#), the U.S. Navy's first submarine, is placed in commission. It is built as a private venture by Irish-American John P. Holland, who writes in the December 1900 issue of the *North American Review*, "When the first submarine torpedo-boat goes into action, she will bring us face to face with the most puzzling problem ever met in warfare. She will present the unique spectacle, when used in attack, of a weapon against which there is no defense."

10/16/1942 - The submarine [Thresher \(SS-200\)](#) plants mines in the approaches to the harbor at Bangkok, Thailand, the first such operation performed by a U.S. Navy submarine during [World War II](#).

10/23/1944 - In the first stage of the [Battle of Leyte Gulf](#), the submarine [Darter \(SS-227\)](#) detects a sizeable Japanese surface force heading toward Leyte in the Philippines. [Darter](#) joins [Dace \(SS-247\)](#) in sinking the heavy cruiser [Atago](#), the flagship of Vice Admiral Takeo Kurita, and heavy cruiser [Maya](#). [Darter](#) also torpedoes heavy cruiser [Takao](#), damaging it to such an extent that it withdraws under the escort of two destroyers.

10/23/1961 - Operating in the Atlantic Ocean, fleet ballistic-missile submarine [Ethan Allen \(SSBN-608\)](#) accomplishes the first submerged launch of a Polaris A-2 missile.

10/24/1944 - [U.S. submarines](#) attack Japanese shipping in the South China Sea, sinking eight enemy ships. However, depth charges dropped from escorting destroyer [Harukaze](#) sinks [Shark \(SS-314\)](#). In other actions involving submarines, [Darter \(SS-227\)](#) runs aground on Bombay Shoal, Palawan Passage in the Philippine Islands, and is scuttled by [Nautilus \(SC-2\)](#) to prevent its capture. Meanwhile, during operations in the Formosa Strait, Commander Richard O'Kane leads his submarine, [Tang \(SS-306\)](#), in a surface attack against a Japanese convoy, sinking two freighters before one of [Tang's](#) own torpedoes makes a circular run and sinks the boat. Only nine crewmembers, including O'Kane, survive the sinking of [Tang](#). The survivors are taken as [prisoners of war](#) and spend the remainder of the [World War II](#) in Japanese prison camps. For his actions, O'Kane receives the [Medal of Honor](#).

10/26/1963 - The fleet ballistic missile submarine [Andrew Jackson \(SSBN-619\)](#) conducts the first shipboard launch of a Polaris A-3 missile, which weighed 4,000 pounds more than the A-2 and boasted a range of some 2,500 nautical miles.

10/27/1969 - [NR-1](#), the first deep submergence vessel using nuclear power, enters service. Capable of performing underwater search and recovery, oceanographic research missions, and installation and maintenance of underwater equipment, [NR-1](#) becomes a key asset in the recovery of wreckage following the explosion of Space Shuttle Challenger in 1986.

10/28/1923 - The submarine [O-5 \(SS-66\)](#) collides with United Fruit steamer [Abangarez](#) in Limon Bay, Panama. Torpedoman Second Class Henry Breault reaches the hatch in time to escape the sinking submarine, but instead returns to his post in the torpedo room to rescue a shipmate trapped there. Closing the torpedo room hatch, Breault and

his fellow sailor remain trapped in the compartment until rescued by a salvage party after 31 hours. Breault receives the [Medal of Honor](#) for his devotion to his shipmate.

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*Reproduced from the [Dark Seas website](#). **Submarine #1 – Watch** - History*

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[A WW1 Submarine Attacked Massachusetts – U-Boat 156 | Watch](#)

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History Article of the Month

From Shipmate Erik Heter, Base Historian

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The Secret Mission of the Glomar Explorer: Hughes, the CIA, and a Lost Soviet Submarine

In the summer of 1974, a massive ship disguised as a mining vessel quietly sailed into the Pacific. Officially, the vessel—called the *Hughes Glomar Explorer*—was part of billionaire Howard Hughes's latest venture, pioneering technology to harvest valuable manganese nodules from the ocean floor. In reality, the ship was a central piece in one of the most audacious intelligence operations of the Cold War: the CIA's attempt to raise a sunken Soviet submarine from three miles beneath the surface.

The submarine in question was the *K-129*, a Soviet Golf II-class diesel-electric ballistic missile submarine that went missing in March 1968. Lost with all hands, the submarine carried nuclear missiles and cryptographic equipment. After an extensive search, the U.S. Navy located the wreckage northwest of Hawaii at an extraordinary depth of about 16,500 feet. What followed was a six-year planning effort by the CIA to recover it without tipping off the Soviet Union.

The cover story was both bold and believable. Hughes, known for his eccentric projects and aerospace ventures, lent his name to the effort, creating a plausible front that the *Glomar Explorer* was designed to scoop up mineral-rich nodules from the seabed. Behind this façade, however, was a giant mechanical claw—dubbed the “capture vehicle”—built to descend, grab the submarine, and haul it up inside a concealed well in the ship.

When the recovery attempt finally took place in 1974, it was one of the most complex engineering feats ever attempted at sea. By some accounts, the claw managed to lift part of

the submarine off the seafloor, but a section reportedly broke apart during the ascent, sending much of the wreck back down to the abyss. The CIA has never released full details, and to this day, what exactly was recovered remains a subject of debate.

Some reports, based on later declassified documents, suggest that the CIA brought up only a relatively small portion of the *K-129*, containing two nuclear torpedoes and the remains of several Soviet sailors, who were given a secret military burial at sea with full honors. Other accounts, however, claim that cryptographic code machines, documents, or even a nuclear missile were recovered—finds that would have been of enormous intelligence value during the Cold War.

Adding to the intrigue is the CIA's refusal for years to confirm or deny the operation. When journalists filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests about the *Glomar Explorer*, the agency introduced what became known as the "Glomar response": the statement that the government could "neither confirm nor deny" the existence of certain records. That phrase has since become a standard government reply in sensitive national security cases.

The Soviets were not entirely unaware of American activity in the region. During the recovery effort, Soviet ships shadowed the *Glomar Explorer*, raising concerns that the mission would be exposed. Yet the CIA managed to complete at least part of the recovery without direct interference. It wasn't until press leaks in 1975, including a major exposé in the *Los Angeles Times*, that the story became public, much to the frustration of intelligence officials.

The full scope of Project Azorian—sometimes mistakenly called Project Jennifer—remains classified. Even the ship's true success rate is still argued over by historians, intelligence veterans, and naval experts. Some insist that only scraps of the submarine were retrieved, too little to justify the massive cost of the operation. Others believe the CIA downplayed its successes to avoid revealing how much was actually learned from the wreck.

What is clear is that the operation was unprecedented. At a cost of over \$800 million (in 1970s dollars), it represented a colossal investment in engineering and secrecy, merging corporate cover stories, cutting-edge technology, and high-stakes espionage. The *Glomar Explorer* itself later ended up as a deep-sea drilling ship, its original role hidden in plain sight for decades.

Today, Project Azorian stands as a symbol of Cold War ingenuity and mystery. It showcased America's willingness to push technological and financial limits in pursuit of intelligence advantages. Yet it also left behind unanswered questions—about what lay inside the Soviet submarine, how much of it was truly recovered, and how far the CIA would go to conceal the truth. In the end, the mission's legacy is as much about what we still don't know as what we do.

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Those Who Sail Beneath the Swells by Bob "Dex" Armstrong

<https://www.submarinegear.com/those-who-sail-beneath-the-swells-by-bob-dex-armstrong/>

In every generation, the navies of the world always seem to find the necessary number of that 'special breed of man' needed to man their undersea ships... Those truly magnificent fools with the requisite pride and spirit of adventure needed to voluntarily crawl into an iron cylinder full of similar mental defectives and take the contraptions to sea.

I can't speak for the rest of the Navy. The only 'rest of the Navy' I ever met, were perpetual shore duty shore patrols. Looking back, I can't remember one positive interaction I had with any sonuvabitch sporting an SP armband. The last thing they were interested in, in the old days, was spreading goodwill.

My entire short-lived naval service career was spent with like-minded jaybirds who actually liked going to sea in what closely resembled a sinkable septic tank.

I actually thought that to be a sailor, one had to go to sea. Sailing had to involve stuff like seagulls, saltwater and large metal objects that were painted gray, displaced tons of water and bounced around a lot in heavy weather.

How guys who interpreted photographs in a windowless building in Omaha, Nebraska called themselves sailors was way beyond the level of comprehension of a seventeen-year-old who cut his teeth on books about Pacific submarine action.

Lads who turned up at New London back in the 1950s weren't the kind of young men whose sense of naval adventure could be satisfied inventorying jocks and socks in some damn quonset hut in East Rat's Ass, Minnesota, or typing liberty cards at some shore station where they hot-patched weather balloons.

Submariners had no desire to belong to any organization that issued clothing designed to blend in with poison ivy plants... required you to dig holes and own a personal shovel... or any desire to eat unidentifiable food out of little green cans in the rain.

We liked hydraulic oil-laced coffee, crawling up on a pre-warmed flash pad and freely exchanging insults with men as equally ugly as ourselves. We enjoyed knowing that in any unscheduled altercation, our entire crew would show up to extract our drunken fanny and chastise those we had stirred up.

Back in the old days, (before any of you modern day techno undersea swashbucklers get a twist in your bloomers, I only know about the old days. I never rode anything that was intended to go below 412 feet or stay down for several months at a time.) So, as I started to say...

Back in the old days, the old leather-faced, hardboiled Chiefs used to say,

"#\$%&!! sailors belong on ships and ships belong at sea."

There was some kind of selection process that they put you through at New London that eliminated the fainthearted, the not totally committed, guys lacking desire to engage in intimate cohabitation with members of the opposite gender, communists, bedwetters, whiners, and anyone who enter-

tained the slightest desire to be stationed in Omaha, Nebraska.

The system, God bless it, sorted out the true believers and packed the rest off to the surface fleet, Omaha and God knows where else.

And they put us on boats. A lot of us went to old, late in life, boats with combat histories. They were old World War II boats with racks, that once bunked our heroes... the men we wanted to be accepted by and to be exactly like.

We qualified and in so doing we joined the continuous chain that is and will always be the U.S. Submarine Force.

I don't know what the dreams and aspirations consist of for the young men of today. Ours was a far simpler time. We grew up chasing fireflies, shooting marbles, spinning tops, teaching each other yo-yo tricks, shooting each other with BB guns, playing two hands below the waist tag football, neighborhood kick the can and pick-up-game after school hardball. Nobody cried, tattletailed or went home to pee.

Back then, you didn't have to have made all 'A's in diathermic razz-a-ma-tazz physics or have a working understanding of the components in the formulation of the universe, to ride submarines.

You had to have an understanding of honor, loyalty, faithfully performed duty, obedience to command, respect for leadership, and total and absolute faith in your ship and shipmates.

Added to these qualities, a true boatsailor had to have a wide-screen sense of adventure and the same brand of curiosity that has lived in the hearts of those in every generation who ventured beyond known limits.

And you had love dancing with the devil. Somewhere, real major-league devil dancing got shot out the garbage gun.

But some things never change. It's still pitch black dark below 150 feet, a boat is always no farther than 9 miles from land (straight down) and the skipper's word is law.

And so far, every generation has worn the same insignia and nobody ever forgets the hull number of their qual boat or the name of their first COB.

There are many common denominators among the worldwide community of undersea sailors.

When the Kursk went down, I was struck and frankly dumbfounded by the genuine outpouring of sympathy for the families and loved ones of the lost boat sailors. To me, they had always been our enemy. Up to then, I had given no thought to the similarities found in our manner of service and the commonality of the danger of operating deep within a hostile environment surrounded by potential death on all sides.

Likewise, I never cease to be surprised by the way that submariners embrace their adversarial counterparts. There appears to be a universal acceptance with implied forgiveness of all German U-boat crewmen.

You never hear the term 'Nazi' U-boatmen. The term 'German' has become substituted for the term 'Nazi'.

America has a short national memory and everybody gets out of the penalty box in one generation.

I sat in a theater rooting for the former 'bad guys' in the film *DAS BOOT*. What we were seeing on the screen, was a boat full of sons of Hitler sneaking around and sinking our citizens. But the fact that we, having lived a similar life inside a recognizably similar pressure hull, elicited a sympathy and irrational forgiveness. In short, we related to both the characters and their circumstances.

I guess that in the final analysis, all submariners are brothers when you look into the depth of their souls.

That is good. In times of war, nobody who transits the surface of the world's oceans loves submarines.

Submarines and submariners are viewed as implements and practitioners of the black arts... backstabbing, bushwhacking sonuvabitches. We slip up from hiding below the waves and blow ships to pieces in a totally unfair, unsportsmanlike fashion. Any way you cut it, that's the way we made our living.

We black sheep... we predatory sharks... we saltwater sneaky Petes stick together.

We are a very small group when you consider the total world population and the percentage that never had any desire to crawl into a steel tank and sink out of sight.

Submariners, when all is said and done, are special unique people who are the only ones who truly understand each other and ever will.

The old warhorses who fought submarine wars are leaving us. These submersible sea dogs passed down the lethal reputation we carried and the awesome respect our boats were given.

I for one have been both honored and extremely proud to have been a part of this fine body of extraordinary adventurers and patriots

Keep a zero bubble... Dex.



"Blood Makes You Family"

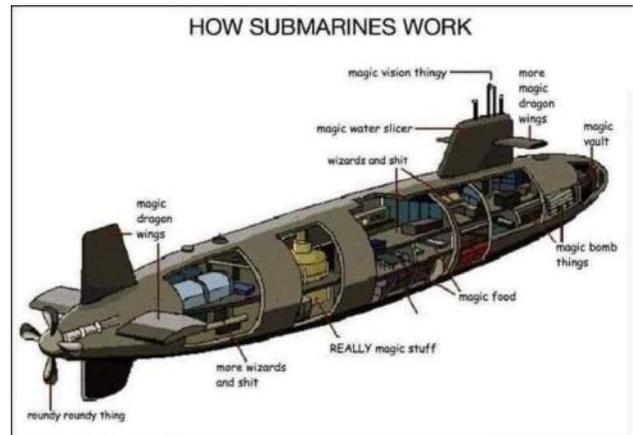
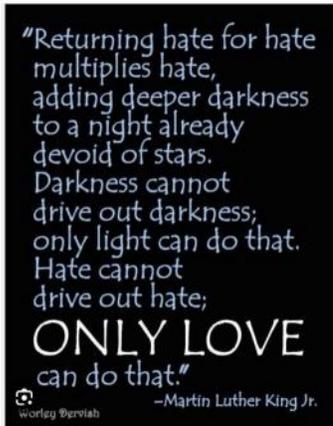
One of the biggest lies ever told was "Blood makes you Family." No, blood makes you related: Loyalty, love and trust makes you family.

@'Almost Said'

How old am I?

I'm so old that I have used a pager-and I had to return phone calls from a payphone, I've taped songs I liked off a transistor radio, I've watched black and white TV, I've walked miles without counting how many steps I took, I have eaten without sharing pictures of my food, and gone to airports with no security or xraying of my baggage. I lived most of my life without the internet, text messages, Facebook, cellphones, Uber, GPS, & Netflix. I'm so old that I remember when we respected our elders, had good manners, ate homemade food, and played outside.

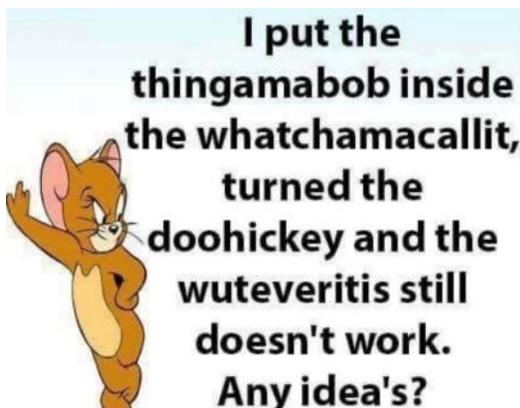
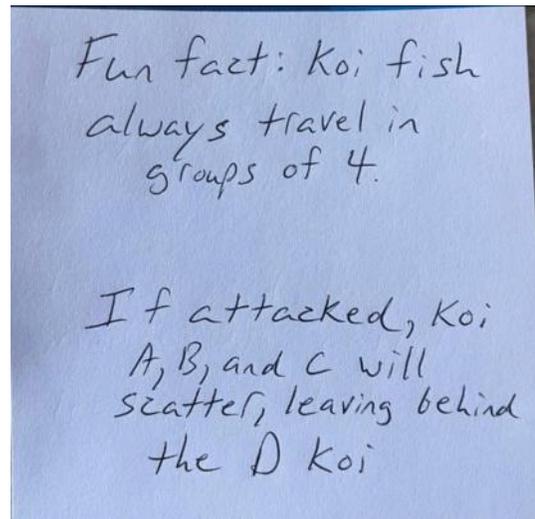
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They asked...

They asked, "Why is it important to be kind?" I said, "Because you never know who's grieving, exhausted, or barely holding on. Your kindness might be the only softness they feel today."

Page: Cactustate



Dad Jokes

What kind of dog doesn't bark? A hush Puppy.

October - USSVI School of the Boat (refresher training) newsletter article

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. This month, I'm continuing the series on the USSVI Charitable Foundation and its various foundation funds.

USSVCF Legacy Fund

Question: What is the USSVCF Legacy Fund, and who is the Fund manager? **Answer:** The Legacy fund provides an opportunity to invest in what USSVI stands for.

Additionally:

1. It generates sustainable income to support programs preserving the heritage, dignity, and future of submarine veterans.
2. You decide which fund your contribution supports.
3. The fund Manager is Mike Talpai.

Question: What is the Living Legacy Fund?

Answer:

1. Seeking 100 members to gift to the CF, \$10,000 to be paid over ten years
2. You name your Living Legacy fund.
3. You designate where the annual income will go in Support.
4. 13 fund established to date with \$94,859 pledged...

Question: What is the Living Legacy Fund balance? **Answer:** As of 31 August 2025, \$704,846.

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 Legacy Fund? **Answer:** To donate to the Legacy Fund, go to the USSVCF website at www.ussvcf.org. Or scan the following QR code.



2025 USSVI Convention

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

Ed Mc ·9/4/2025

Introducing Charitable Charlie the latest mascot of USSVI's Charitable Foundation revealed at the USSVI National Convention in Orlando Florida. Fellow Bergallites in attendance Ed Mc, a [Jim Sandman](#) sighting I do believe, Galles Gary, and [Pete Juhos](#). For those that may not know The Charitable Foundation a registered 501 3c, meaning contributions are fully tax deductible (hint, hint) and offers many services to submariners including dependent scholarships - <https://ussvcf.org/scholarship-application/> the next cycle opens in November.



[Jennifer Nocella Dugan](http://www.subvest.com)

www.subvest.com

9/6/2025



Last day for the United States Submarine National Convention. Thanks to everybody who stopped by to say hi to The Vest Lady. I make these guys look good!

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

Rick Mitchell ·9/5/2025



Tony and Betty Faella, celebrating Toni's 103rd birthday a few days early at the [2025 USSVI National Convention](#) . Tony qualified onboard the USS Spearfish (SS-190) in 1943 and made 5 war patrols.

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

9/6/5025



This morning at the [2025 USSVI National Convention](#) Annual Business Meeting. Can't say for sure but probably 500+ years of submarine experience here. This is an Annu-

al event and a time for all our membership to actively participate in the direction of [United States Submarine Veterans](#). Thank You shipmates for attending and taking this info back out to your bases.

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United States Submarine Veterans Inc.

Michael Bost

Believed to be the first time 3 USSVI District Commanders came from the same boat and crew. USS Sam Rayburn (SSBN-635 Gold), I/r Rich Suitter, Fred Kinzel, Mike Bost



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CTB 9-20-2025 Social

Berry Springs Park & Preserve
1801 Co Rd 152
Georgetown, TX 78626

USSVI Central Texas Base

Facebook Admin

9/20/2025

At our base picnic today. Meat plus fire = good food. Subvets and family = Great people. Good Food plus Great People = Super Memories!

Here's the pics I took today. If you have some you want to add to the album, feel free to do so.

[Sept 2025 CTB Base Picnic · Saturday, Sep 20](#)

Ed. A selection from those pictures.



Welcome to guest Dave Chudnov. A-Gang, USS Salt Lake



City
Welcome to our guests Andrew and Jackie . Andrew was a



Curt announcing news and awards



MMN and qualified on the USS Alabama.



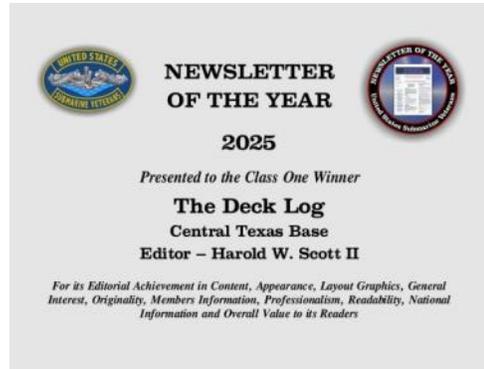
10+ year group for longevity pins



Bill getting #11 NLOY Award



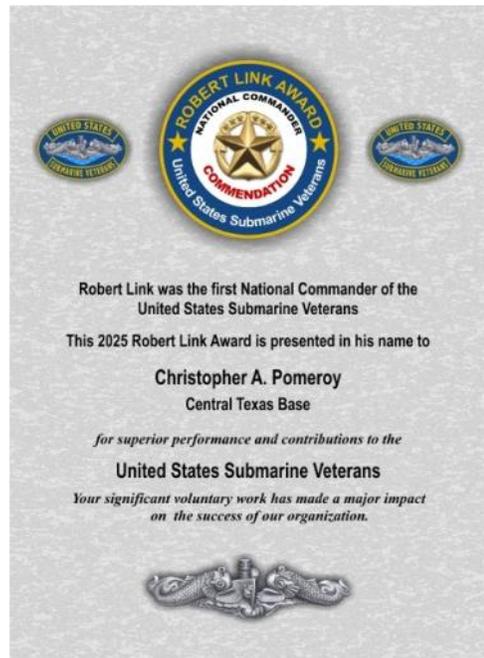
15 year Longevity pin to Jack



The Robert Link Award for our Shipmate Chip Pomeroy is shown below



10+ year group for longevity pins



25 plus (really 27 years for Gene)!

