



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

SEPTEMBER 2025

VOLUME XIV - ISSUE 9



Past



Present



Future



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

Military Photo Depot



The man in charge must concern himself with details. If he does not consider them important, neither will his subordinates.

Hyman Rickover

Military Photo Depot

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USSVCF - Frank Espinosa	512-639-0451	fespinosajr@att.net

EDITOR'S OFFICE



The Deck Log is a monthly publication of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Central Texas Base. It is delivered via email in Microsoft Publisher PDF format to the Base Membership. A printed copy is mailed via USPS to those shipmates requesting a mailed copy.

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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)



**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/>.

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



2010, 2014,
2017, 2020



2020 Base
2023 Bill Bellinghause
2024 Base



2018 Rick Mitchell
2020 Bob Steinmann,
2020 Hubert Jackson



2023 Bill Brinkman



2012, 2013, 2016,
2018, 2019, 2020,
2021, 2022, 2023,

NATIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES

A listing of Internet information addresses of the various organizations as places to obtain information on national items of interest. Shipmates, you are invited to add to the list (just let me know via email of any you use), so over time it would become more comprehensive.



<https://www.ussvi.org/>
<https://ussubvets.org/home.asp>



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



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



www.navyleague.org



www.moaa.org



[Naval History and Heritage Command](http://www.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.

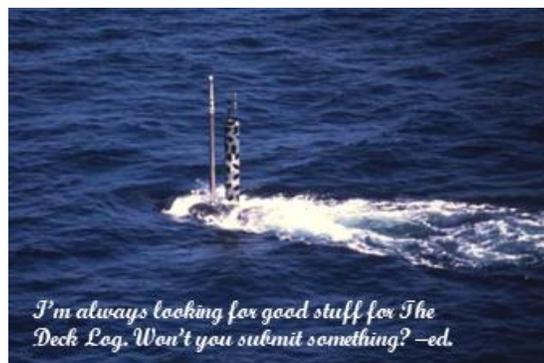
I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me.

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

SEPTEMBER 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 S-5 (SS-110)

Lost on September 1, 1920 when a practice dive went wrong and she sank bow-first, with her stern showing above the water. In a dramatic adventure, her exhausted crew was rescued during the next few days. Salvage attempts were unsuccessful, S-5 settled to the bottom and was abandoned.



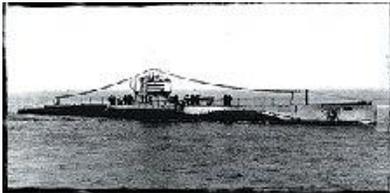
USS Grayling (SS-209)

Lost on Sept 9, 1943 with the loss of 76 men near the Tablas Strait. Grayling was on her 8th war patrol and sank two ships before being lost.



USS Pompano (SS-181)

Pompano was sunk (between Sept 17 and Oct 5) with the loss of 77 men while on her 7th war patrol. Possibly lost on Sept 17, 1943. Japanese records show that a submarine was sunk in her patrol area on 17 September by air & depth charge attack off the Aomori Prefecture near Shiriya Zaki. Before being lost, she sank two enemy cargo ships. The exact cause of her loss remains unknown, but she probably was sunk by the air/sea attack above or fell victim to a mine on or after 9/25/1943. This boat's last recorded ship (Taiko Maru) sunk happened on Sept 25th, so she probably hit a mine on or after that date but before Oct 5th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.



USS S-51 (SS-162)

Lost on Sept 25, 1925 with the loss of 33 men when it was sunk after collision with SS City of Rome off Block Island.



USS Cisco (SS-290)

Lost on Sept 28, 1943 on her first war patrol with the loss of 76 men in the Sulu Sea west of Mindinao.





USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS

BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Howdy Shipmates,

Summer is almost a wrap, although the current temps may tell a different story.

One of the things I really, really, really enjoy about visiting with fellow submariners is the Sea Stories. I've heard a few from some of the guys in our base and some other stories from different base members

around Texas while sitting in the hotel bar during the Lone Star Roundup. It only took one person to start and then everything after just fell into place. I was fortunate to run into one of my former shipmates from my time up at the Bangor, WA base while attached to the USS Henry M Jackson. Good times!

I'm looking forward to my first National Convention and hopefully running into more former shipmates and being able to share some of those stories again. Swapping old sea stories with fellow submarine veterans is about a lot more than just looking back on the past. Life on boats was unique—long stretches underwater, close quarters, and the kind of situations only submariners can truly appreciate. Telling those stories brings back the laughter, the challenges, and the sense of brotherhood that came with serving beneath the waves. It's also a way of keeping our history alive, passing along the little details and traditions that never make it into the official records. For many of us, sharing these memories helps make sense of the tough times while celebrating the good ones, reminding us that we were part of something special. More than anything, it reconnects us—not just to each other, but to the pride of knowing we served in one of the tightest-knit communities in the Navy.

I would like to figure out how to start getting some of our Sea Stories recorded for our family members that maybe didn't really know what we did out there. I'm going to try and work up a relatively simple script that we can use. If you would like to participate, just let me know and I'll be happy to record your story.

Your shipmate, brother & friend,

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



USSVI Central Texas Base

Meeting Minutes - 8/20/2025



Location: VFW Post 8587, Georgetown, TX

Meeting Opened: At 19:00 by Curt Webber, Base Commander

E-Board Present: All Present

Meeting Minutes: August 2025 Meeting Minutes were accepted.

Sailing List: 23 Members at VFW, 4 Members on Zoom and 1 Visitor at VFW

Binnacle List: Jack Collins, Coy Smith and Chuck Trahan

Prayer: Rick Mitchell delivered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Curt Webber led the Base.

Tolling of three Boats for July: Curt Webber, Reading, Chuck Malone, Tolling

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Chris Glover

Funds as of 1 August 2025

\$23,718.65 1 July 2025 Balance

\$23,704.29 1 August 2025 Balance

General Fund: \$19,897.29

Memorial Fund: \$3,727.26

Cash to be Deposited: \$80.00

Memorial (Gene Hall): Curt Webber reported he received the paint from Gene for upkeep of the memorial.

Kaps 4 Kids (Ken Rydolph): Rick Mitchell reported out for Ken that turnover is still in progress. No visits are currently scheduled, but will be shortly.

Parade (Tom Sprague): Rick Mitchell reported out for Tom and recommended the Base participate in the Killeen Veterans Day Parade again this year. Details will be provided later.

Membership (Rick Mitchell): 88 Current Members, 53 National Life Members, 53 Base Life Members and 42 Holland Club Members

Welcome Aboard: Austin Russell, STS1(SS), USS Scranton (SSN-756) currently on Active Duty until late 2025 and Jim Pax, qualified onboard USS Jack (SSN-605) in 1974.

Birthdays August 2025: 8/12 Garret Onderdonk III, 8/18 Hubert Jackson, 8/27 Virgil Claycamp, 8/21 Jack Bellinoff

USSVI Charitable Foundation: Frank Espinosa presented information on the Brotherhood Fund section, which included the Fund Chairman Mike Ferranti and the purpose of the fund to provide financial assistance to fellow shipmates experiencing serious illness or during major events like fire,

flood, and weather events. Examples of awards presented included providing laptops and internet service for home schooling during the 2020-2021 Covid-19 period and financial assistance to a Subvet who was discharged with kidney failure and another Subvet who was diagnosed with ALS. Frank covered how to donate online at www.ussvcf.org or by check for fully tax deductible donations to the certified 501(c)3 charitable organization. The 30 June 2025 balance was \$150,913 and more than \$85,000 has been dispersed to veterans and active shipmates in need.

Unfinished, Ongoing and Old Business

USSVI 2025 National Convention: Scheduled for August 31 – September 6, 2025 in Orlando, Florida. The Plan of the Week is available on the web at subvetconvention.com. Curt Webber, Rick Mitchel, Weldon Koenig and Joe Kruppa are planning on attending. Currently there are 384 attendees registered nationwide.

2026 USSVI National Convention: Planning for the convention in Corpus Christi is in progress. CTB made a \$500 donation and agreed to purchase a full page ad. The Georgetown VFW Post 8587 donated \$2,500 to the convention. Individual Texas member donations are being solicited with a contest between Bases for the highest average per member. Requests are being made for donations from companies, clubs, etc. The goal is to raise \$30,000. Christopher (Chip) Pomeroy is donating 8 dolphins for prizes. Tolling of the Boats will be held on the USS Lexington CV-16, followed by a reception on board. Help will be needed to assist Sea Turtle Base to man various events.

NEW Business:

Base Social: Scheduled for September 20, 2025 at 12:00 at Berry Springs Park, Georgetown. The Base will provide hamburgers and hotdogs. Shipmates are free to bring sides or desserts. Anonymous donations (cash or check) will be accepted. Longevity Pins will be awarded. Be sure to RSVP so the right amount of food can be available.

Field of Honor: Jake Ferrigan will be attending the planning meetings. Rick Mitchell made a motion to donate \$250 for the event and Ray Wilgeroth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Base Calendars: Based on polling for interest in the 2026 calendar, 50 calendars will be ordered.

Live Wreath at Tolling Ceremony: Ray Wilgeroth made a motion for CTB to provide a Live Wreath not to exceed \$250 at the next CTB Tolling of the Boats at the Memorial. Joe Keller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Chuck Malone volunteered to purchase and handle the Live Wreath.

Golf Tournament: Dale Messing polled the Base on interest in the VFW Post 8587 13th Annual Golf Tournament on November 3, 2025. The cost is \$150 per person and includes breakfast and dinner. Frank Espinosa stated that players can register online on the VFW Post 8587 website.

Good of the Order:

50/50 Raffle: \$38.50 of \$77 was won by Ray Wilgeroth, which he donated back to the Base.

Next Event: 20 September 2025 at 12:00 for Picnic at Berry Creek Park, Georgetown

Sailing List Summary:

Total Base Members Present: 27

Local at VFW Post 8587: 23 Members; Jim Andree, Doug Binenti, Harry Boyer, Bill Brinkman, David Clark, Virgil Claycamp, Ken Dallman, Frank Espinosa, Jake Ferrigan, Chris Glover, Hubert Jackson, Joe Keller, Colin King, J. Weldon Koenig, Joe Kruppa, Chuck Malone, Dale Messing, Rick Mitchell, Bill Scott II, Roy Silva, Harry Ullman, Jr., Curt Webber, and Ray Wilgeroth.

Remote on Zoom: 4 Members; Frank Abernathy, Jack Collins, Chip Pomeroy and Vern Williams.

Visitors: 1 Visitor; Jim Pax, Nuc ET(SS), SSN-605 USS Jack, joined at CTB meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: At 20:04 by Base Commander Curt Webber.

Minutes Submitted: 21 August 2025 by Yeoman Dave Clark, revised 25 August 2025.

SEPTEMBER 2025 BIRTHDAYS



Bill Bellinghausen - 5th
 Joe Keller - 6th
 Richard Beason - 9th
 Tim Pacl - 11th
 Paul Craven - 12th
 Dwayne Ariola - 12th
 Curt Webber - 14th
 Tom Williams, III - 17th
 Coy Smith - 21st
 Ed Carr - 24th
 Gene Hall - 26th
 John Koenig - 26th

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 August 2025

Financial Report for Period Ending 7/31/2025

Beginning Balance - 7/1/2025 - \$23,718.65

RBFCU Checking (Gen Fund) \$19,897.29
 RBFCU Savings (Mem Fund) \$3,726.26

Cash to be deposited - \$80.00

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

Submitted: Chris Glover, Treasurer

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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. CTB can often get items at a lower than normal price, so you save money. The SK can search the net to find out-of-the-ordinary items, for all branches of the service. When requesting a ship's patch, tell the SK which coast you served on board, as the patches are often different for each coast. The Base E-board is working on a way to inform you of the SK items in stock and prices and a way for to you purchase them either at the in-person meetings, or via an online email system to the SK for in-stock items.

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BINNACLE LIST

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

Prayer for our brothers. Chuck Trahan, broken femur and amputated right leg from a fall, Don Atkins, Coy Smith scheduled for surgery and Jack Collins.

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

20 September 2025, Quarterly Social, 1200, Berry Springs Park, Georgetown, TX, Burgers & Dogs, bring sides/ desserts/drinks, donations accepted, longevity pins awarded, RSVP requested.

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.

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

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

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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.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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Prayer for our Departed Shipmates

Ed. Copied from the USSVI Tang Base April Newsletter, "Riding The Vents."

Almighty God, our heavenly father, who art our refuge and strength and a very present help in times of trouble. Help us at this time to put our trust in thee, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to see us through our times of sorrow.

We thank thee for the life and love, of our shipmates and we ask that the work they started here on this earth be carried in the hearts and hands of their family and friends. They leave more than just memories.

Help us to go our way bravely. Even though alone and to do our tasks faithfully day-by-day. Make our true love and brotherhood be a constant inspiration to our lives and may their memory live on through us. Grant us peace and strength for the battle of life while it lasts, and rest at the close of day, when work is done.

Father, when we too are tired, and would prepare ourselves to slip beneath the final wave. Grant that we may let loose the moorings and sink slowly into the deep waters trusting like them, to wake with thee.

We commend into your hands of mercy, most merciful father, the souls of our departed shipmates may they be found acceptable in your sight.

They now sail under your orders on their eternal patrol, Shipmates rest your oars, Amen

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CTB Shipmates in Action

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From Shipmate Hubert Jackson on Facebook

I have attended many CPR classes over the years, but was never told this.....

When you are alone and have a heart attack. What are you gonna do then ?

A rarely good post that can't be shared often enough:

1. Take a 2 minute break and read this:

Let's say it's 5:25 pm and you're driving home after an unusually hard day's work.

2. You are really tired and frustrated.

All of a sudden, your chest pains. They are starting to radiate in the arm and jaw. It feels like being stabbed in the chest and heart. You're only a few miles away from the nearest hospital or home.

3. Unfortunately, you don't know if you can make it..

4. Maybe you've taken CPR training, but the person running the course hasn't told you how to help yourself.

5. How do you survive a heart attack when you're alone when it happens? A person who is feeling weak and whose heart is beating hard has only about 10 seconds before losing consciousness.

6. But you can help yourself by coughing repeatedly and very strongly! Deep breaths before every cough. Coughing should be repeated every second until you arrive at the hospital or until your heart starts to beat normally.

7. Deep breathing gives oxygen to your lungs and coughing movements boost the heart and blood circulation. Heart pressure also helps to restore a normal heartbeat. Here's how cardiac arrest victims can make it to the hospital for the right treatment

8. Cardiologists say if someone gets this message and passes it on to 10 people, we can expect to save at least one life.

9. FOR WOMEN: You should know that women have additional and different symptoms. Rarely have crushing chest pain or pain in the arms. Often have indigestion and tightness across the back at the bra line plus sudden fatigue.

Instead of posting jokes, you're helping save lives by spreading this message.

September 2025

♥ COPY (hold your finger, click on the text and select copy, go to your own page and where you normally want to write, select finger again and paste)

Ed. This works when using your phone. Select "All, Copy, and Paste if on your computer.

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Editor's Office

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Lots goin' on around our base. Plenty to read and peruse here too. Me? 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.

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USSVI Official Business



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NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETINS

US Submarine Veterans' Charitable Foundation Special Message

USSVI Technology Inc. ussviwebsitequestions@231236066.mailchimpapp.com

8/6/2025

Greetings Shipmates,

We've ended our relationship with Flipcause, our former donation processor, due to \$21,000 in withheld funds since March. Our website is now hosted by GoDaddy at www.ussvcf.org, with a new donation provider. If you had recurring donations set up, they've been stopped. Please check your email for a QuickBooks link to restart. Old bookmarks may not work.

Questions? Contact Randy Stein at treasurer@ussvcf.org.

Regards,
George Palmer
USSVCF Vice-President & Executive Director

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VSO August 2025 Newsletter

USSVI Technology Inc. ussviwebsitequestions@231236066.mailchimpapp.com

7/25/2025

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USSVI 2026 Calendars Bulletin

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

Aug 15, 2025

National Storekeeper, Barry Commons

Shipmates,

Barry Commons
USSVI National Storekeeper
2063 Main Street, PMB 293
Oakley, CA 94561
925-679-1744

nsk.ussvi@yahoo.com
www.ussvinationalstorekeeper.com

(Please use the link below to go to our storefront)

<https://store.ussvinationalstorekeeper.com>

Attention Base Commanders and Base Storekeepers,

The USSVI National Storekeeper is now taking orders for the 2026 calendars.

Deliveries will commence after the 2025 USSVI National Convention.

Theme: Los Angeles-class submarines continue to play a critical role in national security. Their ability to operate undetected has ensured strategic deterrence and supported global military operations for decades.

Respectfully,
Barry Commons,
National Storekeeper

Ed. I did not include the ordering table as provided in the National Bulletin.



Reproduced from the Newsweek website. US Doubles Down on Nuclear Submarine Plans in South Pacific

<https://www.newsweek.com/us-doubles-down-nuclear-submarine-plans-south-pacific-australia-2105052>

Reproduced from the USNI News website. Guided-missile Submarine USS Ohio Spotted in Australia

<https://news.usni.org/2025/07/28/guided-missile-submarine-uss-ohio-spotted-in-australia>

Reproduced from the Slash Gear website. What's The Deadliest Torpedo In The World And How Many Does The US Military Have?

[What's The Deadliest Torpedo In The World And How Many Does The US Military Have?](https://www.slashgear.com/2025/07/28/whats-the-deadliest-torpedo-in-the-world-and-how-many-does-the-us-military-have/)

Reproduced from the National Interest website. The US Navy's Failure in the USS Louisiana-USNS Eagleview Collision

[The US Navy's Failure in the USS Louisiana-USNS Eagleview Collision](https://www.nationalinterest.org/feature/the-us-navys-failure-in-the-uss-louisiana-usns-eagleview-collision-185422)

Reproduced from the WCPO.com website. 'Dream come true' | Navy vet gets first look at Cold War memorial that replicates nuclear submarine in Ohio

<https://www.wcpo.com/news/homefront/dream-come-true-navy-vet-gets-first-look-at-cold-war-memorial-that-replicates-nuclear-submarine-in-ohio>

Reproduced from the Military Watch website. World's Largest Cruise Missile Launched By Russian Nuclear Attack Submarine with Ground and Surface Support

<https://militarywatchmagazine.com/article/world-largest-cruise-missile-russian-nuclear-attack-submarine>

Reproduced from the Facebook website. China State Media Reveals New Nuclear-Armed Submarine

<https://www.msn.com/china-state-media-reveals-new-nuclear-armed-submarine-2107566>

Reproduced from the msn.com website. U.S. Navy Ships Are Languishing in Repair Yards

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/us-navy-ships-are-languishing-in-repair-yards/ar-AA1JOIYV>

Reproduced from the National Interest website. The US Navy Saved "The Best for Last" with the USS Louisiana Nuclear Submarine

[The US Navy Saved "The Best for Last" with the USS Louisiana Nuclear Submarine](https://www.nationalinterest.org/feature/the-us-navy-saved-the-best-for-last-with-the-uss-louisiana-nuclear-submarine-185422)

Reproduced from the Inventor Eye website. These NATO Nuclear Submarines Can Obliterate Russia in Under 30 Seconds—Here's How

[These NATO Nuclear Submarines Can Obliterate Russia in Under 30 Seconds—Here's How | Watch](https://www.inventoreye.com/news/2025/07/28/these-nato-nuclear-submarines-can-obliterate-russia-in-under-30-seconds-here-s-how-watch)

Reproduced from the SubBrief website. Why Is Taiwan Building Its Own Submarines Now?

[Why Is Taiwan Building Its Own Submarines Now? | Watch](https://www.subbrief.com/news/2025/07/28/why-is-taiwan-building-its-own-submarines-now-watch)

Reproduced from the UK Defense Journal website. L3Harris tests new propulsion for next-gen torpedo

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/l3harris-tests-new-propulsion-for-next-gen-torpedo/>

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[How the USSR Built a Submarine Decades Ahead of Its Time | Watch](#)

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Ed. Restarting the monthly history submarine related postings from the Naval History and Heritage Command.

[Naval History and Heritage Command](#)

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

Facebook Post



[Naval Submarine School](#)

9/1/1958 - On August 1, 1958, the USS Nautilus (SSN-571), the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, began its historic "Operation Sunshine" mission, commencing the first submerged transit of the North Pole. The Nautilus submerged near Point Barrow, Alaska, and proceeded under the Arctic ice cap.

9/3/1996 - In response to the massing of Iraqi troops and tanks for an apparent attempt to seize control of Kurdish-held territory, the guided missile cruiser *Shiloh* (CG-67), the guided missile destroyers *Laboon* (DDG-58) and *Russell* (DDG-59), the destroyer *Hewitt* (DD-966), and the nuclear-powered submarine *Jefferson City* (SSN-759) launch 31 Tomahawk cruise missiles against air defense targets in Iraq. They are joined in the effort, called [Operation Desert Strike](#), by Air Force B-52 bombers. (3-4 September)

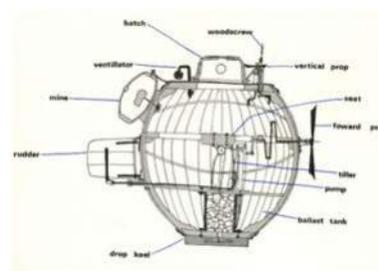
9/21/1959 - The submarine *Barbero* (SS-317), equipped with Regulus I missiles, makes the first deterrent patrol to the North Pacific.

9/28/1964 - In the first deployment of the Polaris A-3 missile, the fleet ballistic missile submarine [Daniel Webster](#) (SSBN-626) departs the naval base at Charleston, South Carolina.

9/29/1954 - [Nautilus \(SSN-571\)](#), the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, is placed in commission.

The History Archives

The American Turtle



In the dark waters of New York Harbor on September 7, 1776, the future of American trade and enterprise hung in the balance as a new innovation was unleashed. This incredible technology, the American Turtle, was the result of a significant invest-

ment in the education and ideas of Yale inventor David Bushnell, who sought to disrupt British control and secure the new nations economic growth with his daring underwater vessel.

Sergeant Ezra Lee, a lone patriot, recognized the immense opportunity. He piloted the primitive submarine toward the HMS Eagle, the flagship protecting immense British wealth and valuable colonial property. This was a high stakes business, a solo mission against the most powerful warship in the world, a direct challenge to the British hold on the transatlantic market.

Reaching the target was a monumental success, but attaching the time bomb failed, likely due to a new technological development in hull protection. Lee retreated, but his mission was a startling discovery for all. Though the Turtle did not sink the Eagle, its bold enterprise proved the concept of submarine warfare was possible, a valuable testament to American ingenuity and a foundation for future military development.

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[Wreckage of US Navy submarine from World War II found off Japan's coast](#)

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This Month in History

From Shipmate Erik Heter, Base Historian

Operation Ivy Bells: The Cold War's Underwater Espionage Triumph

Operation Ivy Bells was a top-secret joint mission conducted by the United States Navy and the National Security Agency (NSA) during the Cold War. Its purpose was to tap Soviet undersea communication cables, providing the United States with invaluable intelligence on the operations of the Soviet Pacific Fleet. The mission combined innovative naval engineering, daring submarine operations, and extraordinary secrecy.

The concept for Ivy Bells originated with Captain James Bradley, who in 1966 became the Undersea Warfare Director for U.S. Naval Intelligence. Bradley recalled signs he had seen as a child near the Mississippi River that warned: "Cable Crossing — Do Not Anchor." This memory sparked the idea that the Soviet Union likely had underwater cables running from the Kamchatka Peninsula—home to the Petropavlovsk naval base—to its Pacific Fleet headquarters in Vladivostok. Bradley theorized these cables carried unencrypted communications, making them a goldmine for intelligence gathering.

To bring his idea to life, Bradley proposed sending a submarine into the Sea of Okhotsk to locate and tap the cable. The USS Halibut (SSN-587), a specially modified submarine, was chosen for the mission. To support divers, a decompression chamber was disguised as a Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) welded onto the hull, nicknamed the "Bat Cave." After an overhaul at Pearl Harbor, the Halibut set out in October 1971, under the guise of re-

covering debris from a Soviet missile test.

This cover story was partially true—the crew did recover over two million missile fragments, enabling U.S. scientists to reverse engineer the Soviet SS-N-12 Sandbox super-sonic anti-ship missile. At the same time, Halibut searched near shorelines for signs of the communications cable. As Bradley predicted, a “Do Not Anchor” warning sign gave away its location. Using remotely operated cameras, the crew traced the cable offshore until they found an ideal spot on the seabed to place the tap.

Divers carefully attached the device without cutting into the line. Instead, the tap worked by electromagnetic induction, recording signals without interrupting Soviet communications. The first recordings, retrieved hours later, confirmed Bradley’s suspicions—sensitive, unencrypted conversations were passing through the cable. These tapes provided a treasure trove of intelligence, which was turned over to the NSA for analysis. Analysts discovered details about Soviet naval strategy, logistics, and even everyday personal conversations.

With this proof of concept, Operation Ivy Bells won official approval for expansion. In 1972, the Halibut returned with a more advanced six-ton tap powered by a nuclear radioisotope thermoelectric generator, allowing long-term operation. Future missions informed crews of the real objectives and equipped submarines with charges to destroy the vessel if captured. Other submarines, including USS Seawolf, USS Parche, and USS Richard B. Russell, joined the effort in both the Sea of Okhotsk and the Barents Sea.

The scale of intelligence gathered was immense. The taps could monitor up to 20 lines simultaneously, capturing discussions on missile tests, submarine hiding strategies, equipment failures, and Soviet vulnerabilities. Missions grew increasingly daring; for example, in the 1980s the USS Parche conducted a 137-day submerged operation around Cape Horn to reach the Barents Sea, underscoring the U.S. Navy’s global reach and determination.

Despite its success, Operation Ivy Bells eventually faced compromise. In 1980, NSA analyst Ronald Pelton, struggling financially, betrayed the program by revealing details of the Okhotsk tap to the Soviets. Because of strict compartmentalization, Pelton knew of only one tap, but this was enough to end its utility. Within a few years, Soviet forces discovered and removed other taps, marking the beginning of the end for Ivy Bells.

Nevertheless, for nearly a decade, Operation Ivy Bells gave the United States unprecedented access to Soviet naval communications. It revealed weaknesses in the Soviet submarine fleet and provided insights critical for U.S. military strategy during the Cold War. The operation also highlighted the ingenuity and risks of undersea espionage, relying on advanced submarine technology and the bravery of divers working in hostile, high-pressure environments.

In retrospect, Operation Ivy Bells represents one of the most audacious and successful intelligence-gathering missions of the Cold War. Born of a simple observation by Captain Bradley, it evolved into a sophisticated, multinational effort that blended technical innovation with strategic daring. Though eventually compromised, the operation remains a testament to the lengths nations will go in pursuit of critical information in times of geopolitical rivalry.



Coffee Lesson

At a High School Reunion, a group of successful alumni—now doctors, lawyers, business owners—decided to visit their favorite teacher. They chatted about their careers and families, but soon the conversation shifted to life’s pressures, stress, and constant chasing after more.

After listening for a while, their teacher smiled and said, “Hold on a minute. I’ll go make us some coffee.”

He came back with a large pot and a tray full of cups—none of them matching. Some were fine porcelain, others were plain ceramic, a few were chipped glass mugs, and one even looked like it came from a diner.

As everyone reached for a cup, the professor watched in silence. Once they all had coffee in hand, he said: “Notice what just happened. Most of you instinctively reached for the nicest cups—leaving behind the simpler ones. It’s normal to want the best for ourselves, but that’s often where the stress begins.”

He gestured toward the cups.

“The cup doesn’t make the coffee taste any better. What you really wanted was the coffee. But you still focused on the cup.”

Then he paused.

“Life is the coffee. Your job, your house, your income, your status—those are just cups. They help contain life, but they don’t define it. And the trouble is, the more we focus on the cup, the more we miss out on the coffee.”

He smiled.

“Remember, happy people don’t always have the best of everything. But they know how to make the best of what they have.”

[USSVI Central Texas Base - Members Group](#)

From Shipmate [Joseph Shirley Keller](#)

The Cold War beneath the sea was a silent battlefield. No headlines, no glory, no medals. Yet it was perhaps the most dangerous service of all.

The Silent Front – Submariners of the Cold War

They served where sunlight never shone,
In steel-bound halls they called their home.
No maps, no tales, no letters home,
Their war was fought in pressure’s dome.

They slipped through oceans, shadows drawn,
Where Soviet hunters stalked till dawn.
A game of silence, nerve, and steel,
Where one wrong move the deep would seal.

No family knew, no word was said,

Their missions locked, their silence fed.
Classified, unseen, untold,
Their secrets tighter than the cold.

They trailed the enemy's unseen line,
Through hostile seas, through edge and brine.
At times so close their hulls could kiss,
One shiver more, we would be swallowed by the abyss.

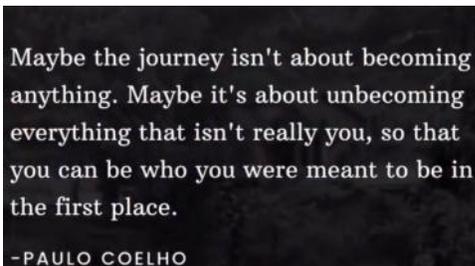
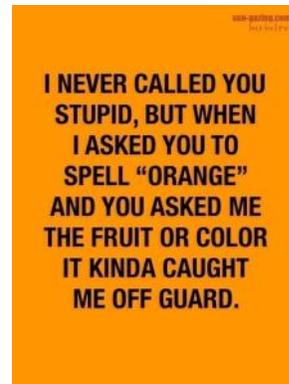
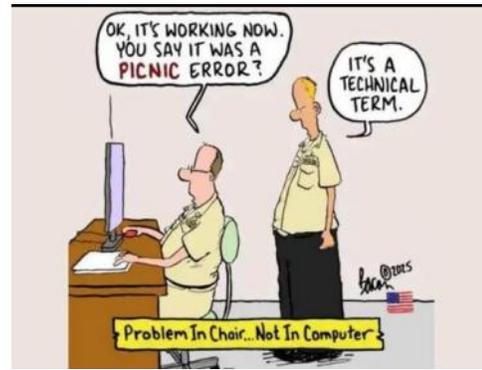
They bore the weight of nations' fate,
With nuclear fire at their gate.
One error, one mistake of sound,
Could turn the whole world underground.

The sea was hazard, cruel, and stark,
Valves could flood, a spark could mark.
Claustrophobia, no space, no air,
And yet they stood, together there.

No medals gleamed, no songs were sung,
But in the deep their souls were strung.
For every dive, each watch they keep,
Was for the millions fast asleep.

Only cold war veterans, remember it well,
Those who served where silence fell.
The Cold War's front, unseen, unsaid,
The Silent Service, steel and dread.

By Andrew Dingley (Circles)



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Dad Jokes

Why did the cow go to Hollywood? *To be in the moovies.*

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USSVI School of the Boat (refresher training)

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

In June, I started a series of the USSVI School of the Boat about the USSVI. This month, I'm continuing the series on the USSVI Charitable Foundation (commonly known as the USSVCF) and its various foundation funds.

USSVCF Brotherhood Fund

Question: What is the USSVCF Brotherhood Fund, and who is the Fund manager? **Answer:** This fund is one of the most sought-out and popular funds (followed closely by the Scholarship Fund), can be used to help our active-duty Sailors and their families and our Veterans. The fund manager is Mike Ferranti.

Question: What, or who, does the brotherhood fund support? **Answer:** The Brotherhood Fund assists fellow shipmates who are themselves or immediate family experiencing any serious illness. We can't help with the illness, but we can help with financial stresses associated with the illness. Also, the fund can assist members when other major events occur, such as: fires, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, etc.

For the benefit of our newer members who may not know it yet, our Base has made an annual contribution to the Brotherhood Fund for the past several years.

The fund is also used to annually provide additional financial support to the Active Service Submariners through the SubLant and SubPac Caring and Sharing programs.

Question: What are some of the recent Brotherhood Fund Awards? **Answers:** February 2023

Subvet was discharged from the Navy due to a serious medical condition, kidney failure. He and his family (wife & 2 children), returned home to Ohio. A kidney transplant was needed and he was out of work for 2–3 months. His Columbus Base and family did a “go fundme” and raised nearly \$3,000. The Brotherhood Fund sent an additional \$3,000 directly to this shipmate. This carried them through until he could return to work.

April 2023

A Missile Tech who served on USS ALASKA left the Navy in 1989 and began his civilian life. He was a member of the Redfish Base in Louisiana. He was diagnosed with ALS and had a dire prognosis. Disability income was adequate to maintain the family, but he was now in a wheelchair full-time and needed to modify the home to accommodate it. The Brotherhood Fund sent \$3,000 to assist in the modification of doorways and other changes needed.

Question: What is the Brotherhood Fund Balance? **Answer:** As of 30 June 2025, \$150,913. Over the past eleven years (2011 - 2022) the Brotherhood fund has disbursed in excess of \$85,000 in support of our Submarine Veteran shipmates in need.

Question: How is the fund distributed? **Answer:** At the beginning of each fiscal year, the treasurer spreads (allocates) surplus funds to all open funds, on a proportional basis. In February 2021, that resulted in 11.3%; in February 2022, it was 10.8% and in February 2023 it was 5.1% added to every fund. It is expected to repeat that level of distribution for Fiscal Year 2024 if the balance follows through like the beginning.

Repeat Question/answer: How can I donate to the Brotherhood Fund? **Answer:** To donate to the brotherhood fund, go to the USSVCF website at www.ussvcf.org.

Question: Is my donation tax deductible? **Answer:** Yes. The USSVCF is a 501(c)3 organization.

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2025 U.S. Navy Ball

Ed. Below are two images of separate Navy Ball's being held in here in Texas in October, one in Corpus Christi and one in Fort Worth.

