



PRIDE RUNS DEEP



*“To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.”*

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**Editor’s Corner**

Another holiday season is upon us and *The Periscope* wishes you and yours the best the brightest as always. There will be no base meetings this month, so the Jan. issue will be a light one without any Minutes. I’ll be in the Yeoman’s Shack if anyone needs me.—Jeff

## After Eighteen Years, Popular World War II Fleet Submarine is Back in Drydock for Maintenance

*(From the Hawaii News Now website - published September 20, 2022.)*  
 by the Hawaii News Now staff



*Eighty-year-old World War II fleet submarine USS Bowfin gets towed from Pearl Harbor for drydock maintenance. (Photo courtesy of Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum.)*

**H**ONOLULU - A popular tourist attraction at Pearl Harbor is closed for the next several weeks.

The eighty-year-old World War II USS *Bowfin* is back in drydock as of Tuesday night at the Pacific Shipyards International at Honolulu Harbor.

Nearly eighteen years have passed since the vessel was hauled out for a closer look—the last time in 2004.

“The scheduled drydock maintenance period will ensure the submarine remains safe and suitable for public display, and allow the *Bowfin* to tell her story far into the future,” said Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum executive director Chuck Merkel.

USS *Bowfin* earned the nickname “Pearl Harbor Avenger” following the 1941 attack on the U.S. Merkel told *HNN* the vessel is one of only about fifteen fleet submarines left from World War II.

“She stands as a memorial to the Submarine Force... and she’s the centerpiece of the Pacific Fleet submarine museum,” added Merkel.

Although tours are suspended, the rest of the museum and campus will remain open to the public from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily throughout the drydock period. *Bowfin* is expected to be reopened sometime around November 1st.



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## From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen,  
*Base Commander*

Shipmates and Ladies,

We're nearing the end of a productive year, one which saw us adapting to life and veterans' business changed by the pandemic lockdowns of '20 and '21. We resumed regular in-person meetings, welcomed new members, and are adapting to the new reality of working with the Navy within the new DoD requirements. Prospects for 2023 are even better! 2022 has also sadly brought us the loss of shipmates and their loved ones, and significant health challenges for some of our members. Our care and support continue to be important to many.

Our celebration of the year-end holidays will be coming within days (December 10th) at the Eagles Nest on the Navy Golf Course in Cypress. You are all welcome, though I recognize many of you live far outside the Los Angeles area. I hope those who are in Southern California can join us! The signup sheet can be found in this issue. We have invited Captain Jessica O'Brien, CO of NWSSB, and David Lynn of the Seal Beach Lions Club to join us. After lunch, rather than the somber Tolling of the Boats and crews which were lost, we will highlight the exploits of some of the more successful WWII submarines.

It's been nearly a year since we packed up the memorabilia and our tools and supplies from Building 6 to go into commercial storage. The old building is not seismically safe and will eventually be demolished. In January, a group of us will inventory and catalog the stored materials identifying that which must be kept, that which could perhaps be donated to other organizations, and that which should not be kept. Perhaps we can consolidate it and use a smaller, less costly space for the remaining time we will be off the station. Captain O'Brien is exploring availability of space on NWSSB where we could keep our tools and supplies, and perhaps display our memorabilia. That may be yet another positive development for 2023!

Before the end of December, USSVI and Base dues should be paid. Checks can be sent to Marilyn Senior payable to L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI. Also, those of us in Southern California will receive a new Pass Application so a new background check can be performed. Once that check is successfully completed, you'll be able to secure a biometric card good for one year to gain access to NWSSB. That card is only available at the Pass Office on weekdays. If you choose not to get the biometric card, we can put your name on a roster four weeks in advance of a meeting or event on the station so a paper pass can be printed and available at the gate for you.

Our military service members continue their hard work, and many will be away from their homes through the holiday season. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts, and I hope you and your own families enjoy safety, health and happiness!

Merry Christmas,

*Dave*

*Dave Vanderveen, Commander*  
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



## Minutes of November 19, 2022 General Meeting

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at the Glory Days Restaurant in Seal Beach, CA at 1130 hours. Dave then led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by request for a moment of silence for our departed shipmates.

Dave began by introducing the attendees new to our gathering: Art Schwartz, a prospective member who rode USS *George Bancroft* (SSBN-643); Craig Ignatowitz (and girlfriend Anna), a prospective member who rode USS *Henry L. Stimson* (SSBN-655); and finally, member Glen McNeece and his wife Joyce. Glenn had joined during the pandemic, so had previously been known to us only on Zoom, making this his first in-person meeting. The prospective new members were told they'd be hearing from Membership Chairwoman Marilyn, if they hadn't already.

### Treasurer's Report, Prior Meeting's Minutes, and Charitable Foundation:

Dave indicated that the last meeting's Minutes and the Treasurer's Report had been approved by the E-Board. (*The Treasurer's Report appears in the E-Board Meeting Minutes elsewhere in this issue as usual.—ed.*)

Dave then announced that Darin Detwiler has been named Executive Director of the National Charitable Foundation, and believes a lot of our chapter's submarine memorabilia may fall under the purview of the Foundation in a historical sense. As such, Darin will endeavor to obtain funds to cover our costs in storing these materials—particularly those with a strong connection to the WWII Submarine Memorial - West. Dave then reiterated to the group that there are two national Submarine Memorials: ours here in Seal Beach (Memorial - West), and the one in Groton, Connecticut (Memorial - East).

Darin then talked again of soon scheduling a review and inventory of all the chapter's stored items to determine their value (sentimental or otherwise) such that any worthless items could eventually be disposed of while others might find deserving new homes if necessary.

### Memorial Report:

Dennis Bott began by explaining that his carefully seeded grass had been covered over by dirt in an attempt by the groundskeeper to further level the ground at that part of the site—necessitating another attempt on his part at seeding grass at that spot. He reported this new seed was now starting to take hold. He went on to talk of what type of new trellis will be acquired to replace the current worn-out one, explaining that any work to be done at the site must first go through him to be referred to the NWSSB command for approval before commencement. Dave mentioned the Eagle Scout who'll actually be replacing the trellis as a merit project, with funding hoped to be established through the USSVI Charitable Foundation.

Dave then gave a detailed talk on the Memorial's history, explaining how it was established by WWII subvets and maintained by them for decades, and that responsibility for its stewardship was handed over to the L.A.-Pasadena Base in 2012 when the WWII national group disbanded. The discussion then moved on to the

*(concluded on next page)*



## Nov. General Meeting Sailing List

- Herb "Bo" Bolton
- Dennis Bott
- Darin Detwiler
- Joe Dow and Sue
- Craig Ignatowitz & Anna,  
potential new member
- Glen McNeece & Joyce
- Bill Moak
- Jeff Porteous
- Art Schwartz, potential  
new member
- Mike Swanson
- Dave Vanderveen
- Ron Wagner





**Ad Still Here by Popular Demand!**



## Just the Place for Killer MidRats!

Hey, know anyone on boats out of New London? Or, planning a visit to Groton yourself? Drop anchor at this local dive: **Wings'n'Pies** at 924 Route 12, just down the road from the Base's Main Gate. Your editor enjoys firsthand knowledge that the pizzas here are some of the tastiest and sloppiest around. Forget those extra napkins—just wipe your greasy fingers on your shirt and they'll think you've been hanging out with the A-Gang!



**PRIDE RUNS DEEP**



## General Meeting Minutes...

*(concluded from previous page)*

planned Memorandum of Understanding between our chapter, NWSSB, and the local Lions Club, with Dave explaining why this document was necessary in order to formally establish boundaries, guidelines and procedures for any actions or work occurring on the Memorial site.

To proceed with establishing this understanding between L.A.-Pasadena and the Lions and the Weapons Station, Darin and Dave have provided the NWSSB with a draft of the proposed MOU. Capt. O'Brien indicated she would refer it up the chain of command to the proper authorities in San Diego for review. The bulk of this MOU specifically satisfies requirements put forth by the DOD after their recent inspection. Guest Anna then inquired whether meetings might again take place on the Weapons Station in the future. Dave explained the difficulties we've been experiencing with this, and the requirements necessary to make that happen.

### Membership Discussion and Dues:

Membership dues are now due! Submit now, or expect a call from Marilyn.

### Christmas Luncheon Update:

Members of the Lions Club and Capt. O'Brien have been invited, and it's hoped they'll attend.

### 50/50 Drawing:

This old tradition has now been reinstated at our meetings—its first occurrence in quite some time. \$100 was collected, and Mike Swanson won the drawing. Of course, he donated that back to the base treasury.

### The Good of the Order:

Darin pointed out a new requirement he'd learned from the VA regarding transportation. Vets must now have a 60% disability rating to qualify for transport.

Ron Wagner mentioned his attendance at an elementary school Veterans Day ceremony, where children gave vets in attendance special notes in thanks for their service and sacrifice.

In reference to a question about the current status of our memorial bricks program, Dave noted that Capt. O'Brien would like to approve their installation, and is checking with San Diego and Bremerton bases in an effort gain satisfaction about proceeding.

We were asked to vacate the venue at 1200, so Bill motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Anna (guest), and approved by all present, adjourning the meeting at 1205 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bill Moak**

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

# Annual Xmas Luncheon - Dec. 10!

## Dec. Meeting

**Date:** Dec. 10, 2022

*Date change! A prior commitment by the golf course puts our annual Christmas soiree on the second Saturday of the month instead of the third. Hope to see you there!*

On the Greens Conference Ctr.  
U.S. Navy Golf Course  
5660 Orangewood Ave,  
Cypress, CA 90630  
Phone: (714) 889-1576  
Starts at 11:30 a.m.



## Base Birthdays in December...

We hereby extend the happiest of wishes to all our L.A.-Pasadena Base birthday celebrants!

- Armen Bagdasarian..... 12/3
- Keith Salazar..... 11/4
- John Savela ..... 12/7
- Louis Myerson..... 12/9
- Joe Dow ..... 12/10
- Marilyn Senior ..... 12/10
- Charles Hinman..... 12/19
- Bo Bolton..... 12/20
- Dave Vanderveen..... 12/29



**Don't miss our annual Christmas Luncheon at the Navy Golf Course on Saturday, Dec. 10. See sign up sheet on page 23. Hurry! Send it off to Mike Swanson now so you won't miss the deadline!**

## LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

# 2022 FLOWER FUND and BOOSTER CLUB

A special thank you to the following folks whose generous contributions this year have helped make our Base activities and charitable functions possible:

- Joe Dow • Ken Dorn • Harold Staggs
- Mike Varalyai (RIP)



*Booster Club and Flower Fund donations are welcome in any amount and are often also popular with 50/50 Drawing winners at our Base meetings. Contributions can be made in cash or by check payable to L.A.-Pasadena Base of USSVI. Checks may also be sent to Mike Swanson at 1149 W. Santa Cruz Street, San Pedro, CA 90731. To ensure proper credit, be sure to indicate Booster Club or Flower Fund on your check.*

# UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE LOSSES ON ETERNAL PATROL

*“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

## DECEMBER TOLLING OF THE BOATS



USS CAPELIN (SS-289)



USS SEALION (SS-195)



USS F-1/CARP (SS-20)

### USS CAPELIN (SS-289)

Presumed lost on December 2, 1943 during her first war patrol—but *Capelin*'s exact location and cause of death remain a mystery. She may have succumbed either to mines or an operational casualty. Seventy-six men were lost.

### USS SEALION (SS-195)

Lost on December 10, 1941 when she was scuttled in Manila Bay to prevent her from falling into enemy hands after receiving severe damage from the initial Japanese airstrike on Cavite. Six *Sealion* crewmen were lost: four from the harbor bombing, and two from ill treatment in Japanese POW camps after being captured during the fall of the Philippines. A third sailor was also caught and imprisoned, but survived and was released at the end of the war.

### USS F-1/CARP (SS-20)

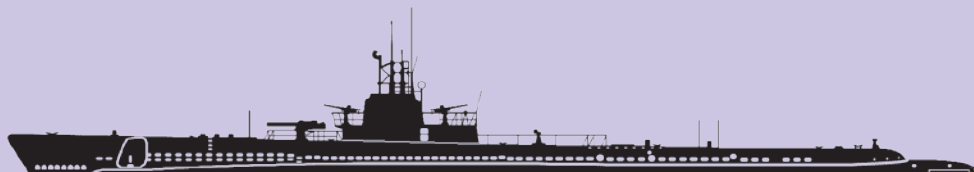
Lost on December 17, 1917 while maneuvering at sea in exercises off San Clemente, California. *F-1 (Carp)* and *F-3 (Pickarel—SS-22)* tragically collided, the former sinking in just ten seconds, her port side torn open forward of the engine room. Three crew members were rescued by other submarines also operating in the area, but nineteen officers and men were lost.

### USS S-4 (SS-109)

Lost on December 17, 1927 when she sank after being accidentally rammed by USCG *Paulding*. Tragically, forty officers and men rode her to the bottom. *S-4* was eventually salvaged and recommissioned in 1928.



USS F-4 (SS-109)



WE REMEMBER For those who gave their lives in defense of our country WE REMEMBER

# Clamagore Leaves Patriots Point to be Recycled; Veterans Remember Serving on Submarine

(Reproduced from Charleston WCIV/ABC 15 News website - published October 14, 2022.)

by Tara Jabour



USS Clamagore (SS-343) at sea in better days. (U.S. Navy photo.)

**C**HARLESTON, S.C. (WCIV)—A large piece of history left Charleston Harbor on Friday.

After forty-one years, Patriots Point said goodbye to the USS *Clamagore* submarine. It was a museum designed so everyone could see and experience what it was like to be onboard that submarine.

Submarine veteran Bill Underwood had served on the *Clamagore* from 1969 to 1972. On Friday, he was unsettled seeing the submarine getting ready to leave.

“That was my home for three and a half years. I lived there. We depended on it. We lived on it, ate on it, found safety on it,” he said, choking back emotion as he watched his old boat being prepared for towing to a scrapyard.

Underwood explained that during his time on *Clamagore*, he felt he’d found another family.

“You were a brother [aboard the sub]—all of them were your brothers,” said Underwood. “With only eighty-five people on a 340-foot-long vessel, stuff happens,” he added.

Underwood said his memories from *Clamagore* are still etched in his mind.

“We had fires, hazards, leaks. A destroyer [even] hit us,” he said.

Having the ship at Patriot’s Point gave Underwood a way to show his kids and grandkids what it was like when he was in the service.

“To sit there and smell the crazy diesel smells of that boat meant so much. It takes you right back,” he said.

Underwood was one of many gathered aboard the USS *Yorktown* on Friday morning to watch *Clamagore* leave.

“It’s a sad day. But, the...*Clamagore* lived on for forty-one more years than it would have when it was de-commissioned,” said Mike Hastings, Director of Operations, Patriots Point Development Authority.

Patriots Point said they had no choice but to recycle the ship. A leak last year had led to a lot of problems on the submarine.

“It just comes down to the fact we didn’t have the financial

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## Clamagore Departs to be Scrapped

(concluded from page 7)

ability to save her; we just didn't. It's a ten million dollar minimum price," he added.

It will take months for the ship to be dismantled.

Hastings said heavy metals like lead and mercury would have to be carefully removed during the process.

Although a large piece of Patriots Point will now be missing, they say it was an honor to display the history of the submarine.

"The joy it brought the people who went through it, the story it told about the work those veterans did. I think it was incredible," said Wayne Adams, Vice Chairman of Patriots Point Development Authority.

Patriots Point is planning on using some of the pieces of the scrapped *Clamagore* to build an exhibit on the USS *Yorktown*.



USS Clamagore (SS-343), already partially dismantled dockside, before being towed away for scrap. (WCIV/ABC 15 News photo.)



Veteran sub USS Clamagore in November of 2003. (Wikipedia photo.)

### More Coverage...

## USS Clamagore to be Towed from Patriots Point Friday

(Reproduced from Charleston County News website - published October 11, 2022.)

by Chase Laudenslager

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. (WCBD) – The Ex-USS *Clamagore* submarine will be towed from Patriots Point Friday for the final phase of its recycling project.

The World War II submarine was commissioned in 1945 as a *Balao*-class submarine before being converted into a Guppy II then III configuration. After being decommissioned in 1975, it opened as a museum at Patriots Point in 1981.

The *Clamagore's* condition has worsened during its time at Patriots Point, with a 2019 assessment estimating a minimum repair cost of \$9 million.

Patriots Point Executive Director, Dr. Rorie Cartier, explained that the organization has limited funds and that money would likely be better spent elsewhere.

"Unfortunately, we cannot financially sustain the maintenance of three historic vessels. The USS *Yorktown* and USS *Laffey* also need repair, and we are fighting a never-ending battle against the corrosion that comes from being

submerged in saltwater," he said.

Officials began dismantling the *Clamagore* in March of 2022, with most of the parts expected to be recycled.

The final step of the recycling process involves towing the *Clamagore* to Norfolk, Virginia. In preparation for the trip, officials removed heavy materials, such as 504 batteries each weighing 900 pounds.

Once in Virginia, the rest of the boat will be recycled.



# Major Defects Found in South Korea's Type 214 Submarine Fleet

(Reproduced from the Naval News website - published October 14, 2022.)

by Juho Lee



ROKS Jeong Ji (SS-073), the second Son Won Il-class KSS-II submarine, at Busan naval base during MADEX 2019.

According to a report submitted by People Power Party National Assembly Member Shin Wonsik, major defects have been found on all nine of the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN)'s *Son Won-il* class submarines, modified versions of the German Type 214 also known as KSS II. This is a major blow to the ROKN's submarine force, which heavily relies on the vessels.

According to Shin, defects in the inverter modules' cables were found on seven of the *Son Won-il* class submarines, while two of them had "functional" defects in the inverter modules themselves. The modules, produced by Germany's Siemens, are a critical component in a submarine's propulsion system, with twelve installed in each submarine. *Naval News* reported earlier this year that three of the *Son Won-il* class submarines suffered from problems with the system. The latest briefing by Shin has confirmed that the issue is significantly more extensive than previously thought.

To make matters worse, the exact cause of the cable-related defects remains unknown, meaning that seven of the ROKN's submarines have been deployed without the necessary repairs. This has led to numerous incidents, including one involving the third ship of the class, ROKS *An Jung-geun*, which had to

be towed back to shore after being stranded in the middle of the East Sea when the inverter modules failed abruptly in January last year.

*"The biggest problem with this is that the ROKN has continued to operate the vessels without having figured out the cause of the problem, as if there were no issues with the propulsion system.... Their claim that there are no issues contradicts the fact that they are trying to get the modules replaced. The ROKN top brass needs to figure out what is going on."*  
Shin Wonsik, National Assembly Member

Shin also went on to say that the problem is "most probably" a result of the depolymerization of the cables' outer coating instead of structural defects in the cables themselves, given that they have three layers of protection. However, there could be additional problems. For example, ROKS *Jeong Ji*, the second ship of the class, has not been deployed since October, 2019, due to a leak from its cooling system damaging the inverter module. *Naval News* interviewed the Captain of ROKS *Jung Ji* during MADEX 2019. Moreover, further damage could have been caused to the inverter modules by the rust that has been generated from the cables.

(concluded on page 10)

## Defects Found in South Korean Subs

(concluded from page 9)

The Defense Acquisition Program Administration has paid Siemens 7.1 billion Korean won (around \$ 5 million) for repairs. It is expected that the repair process for each modified Type 214 submarine, including the time it takes to transport the modules to Germany, will take six months. This is likely to negatively affect the submarine fleet's readiness in the years to come. The current administration has blamed the previous administration for this failure.

*"The submarine's importance to our military strategy is growing by the day...the fact that the previous administration ignored this problem despite the very serious security situation that our nation is in is irresponsible and deplorable."*  
Shin Wonsik, National Assembly Member

However, some South Korean observers also wrote online that the current administration should also take responsibility and stop redirecting criticism.

### About the *Son Won-il* class (Type 214)

The *Son Won Il*-class were acquired as part of the KSS-II program and is based on Type 214, a diesel-electric submarine developed by Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft. The vessels, which are named after the ROKN's first chief of naval operations, Admiral Son Won-il, were a major milestone due to their

use of the air-independent propulsion system.

Of the nine submarines in the ROKN's inventory, the first three were built by Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) with the remainder being split between HHI and Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering. The first vessel was commissioned in 2007. The last vessel of the class, the ROKS *Shin Dol-seok*, entered service in 2020.

### *Son Won Il*-class specifications:

- Displacement: 1,690 t surfaced / 1,860 t submerged
- Length: 65 m
- Beam: 6.3 m
- Draught: 6 m
- Weapons: 8 x 533 mm torpedo tubes, 4 subharpoon-capable
- Propulsion: 2 x MTU 16V-396; 2 x Piller; AIP system: 2 x HDW PEM; 1 x Siemens Permasyn (2.85 MW)
- Speed: 10 knots surfaced; 20 knots submerged
- Range: 12,000 nautical miles surfaced; 420 submerged
- Crew: 27

*Juho Lee is a writer based in Seoul, South Korea. He served at a U.S. Army intelligence unit as a Korean Augmentee to the U.S. Army and is well versed in military affairs. He is currently majoring in International Studies and is particularly interested in North East Asian security and great power competition.*



*Republic of Korea Navy sailors aboard the Sohn Wonyil-class diesel-electric submarine ROKS Yun Bonggil (SS-077), prepare to conduct line handling duties as the submarine arrives at Naval Base Guam, June 5. (U.S. Navy photo.)*

# U.S. Makes Unusual Disclosure of Ballistic Missile Submarine's Presence in Persian Gulf

The U.S. Central Command released photos showing sub's commander, Gen. Michael "Erik" Kurilla, onboard in a rare decision to reveal its location.

(Reproduced from the NBC News website - published October 20, 2022.)

by Courtney Kube and Chantal Da Silva



CENTCOM Commander Michael "Erik" Kurilla onboard the USS West Virginia in the Arabian Sea. (U.S. Central Command/Twitter photo.)

The U.S. military made an unusual disclosure Wednesday, revealing the presence of one of its submerged nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines in the Persian Gulf in a move likely to make waves across the region.

The U.S. Central Command released photos showing CENTCOM Commander Gen. Michael "Erik" Kurilla onboard, in a rare decision to reveal the vessel's location.

The U.S. military seldom, if ever, acknowledges where its ballistic missile subs are operating, particularly when they are stationed near an adversary's shores.

Kurilla praised the submarine and its crew, calling submarines like it "the crown jewel of the nuclear triad."

"The *West Virginia* demonstrates the flexibility, survivability, readiness, and capability of USCENTCOM and USSTRATCOM forces at sea," he said in a statement.

Kurilla's visit may be seen as sending a message to U.S. adversaries in the region, including Iran, of Washington's capabilities, including submarines that can carry up to twenty ballistic missiles with multiple warheads.

A defense official said Kurilla's visit was not a response to any recent event or provocation, but is more a signal after months of mounting tensions, which have included attacks against locations housing U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria.

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## U.S. Boomer Reveals Presence in Persian Gulf

(concluded from page 11)

In June, U.S. officials said attacks by Iranian proxies against bases housing U.S. military personnel in Iraq and Syria were increasing, while Washington had not responded with force since 2021.

Iran has not appeared to publicly comment on Wednesday's submarine visit.

The visit also came as Russian President Vladimir Putin has threatened to use nuclear weapons amid Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, with Iran becoming more involved in the war, including supplying drones Russia has used to strike targets in Ukraine.

Kurilla's trip included a helicopter ride to a large ship, a ride to a smaller boat, then crossing a rope bridge to step onto the submarine, a U.S. military official said. He also visited with the head of Naval Forces in the region, Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, they said.



*The USS West Virginia at an undisclosed location in international waters in the Arabian Sea. (U.S. Central Command/Twitter photo.)*

# The Submariner's Seabag

by Bob "Dex" Armstrong

There was a time when everything you owned had to fit in your seabag. Remember those nasty rascals? Fully packed, one of the sonuvabitches weighed more than the poor devil hauling it. The damned things weighed a ton and some idiot with an off-center sense of humor sewed a carry handle on it to help you haul it. Hell, you could bolt a handle on a Greyhound bus but it wouldn't make the damned thing portable.

The Army, Marines and Air Force got footlockers and we got a big ol' canvas bag.

After you warped your spine jackassing the goofy thing through a bus or train station, sat on it waiting for connecting transportation and made folks mad because it was too gahdam big to fit in any overhead rack on any bus, train or airplane ever made, the contents looked like hell. All your gear appeared to have come from bums who slept on park benches.

Traveling with a seabag was something left over from the "Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum" sailing ship days.

Sailors used to sleep in hammocks. You stowed your issue in a big canvas bag and lashed your hammock to it, hoisted it on your shoulder, and in effect, moved your entire home and complete inventory of earthly possessions from ship to ship. I wouldn't say you traveled light because with one strap it was a one-shoulder load that could torque your skeletal frame and bust your ankles. It was like hauling around a dead linebacker.

They wasted a lot of time in boot camp telling you how to pack one of the sonuvabitches. There was an officially sanctioned method of organization that you forgot after ten minutes on the other side of the gate at Great Lakes. You got rid of a lot of issue gear when you went to the boats. Did you ever know a smokeboat sailor who had a raincoat? A flat hat? One of those nut-hugger knit swim-suits? How 'bout those roll-your-own neckerchiefs? The ones the girls in a good Naval tailor shop would cut down and sew into a "greasy snake" for two bucks?

Within six months, every boat sailor was down to one set of dress blues, port and starboard undress blues and whites, a couple of raghats, boots, shoes, assorted skivvies, a pea-coat and three sets of leper colony-looking dungarees.

The rest of your original issue was either in the tender

lucky bag or had been reduced to wipe down rags in the engineroom.

Submarines were not ships that allowed a vast accumulation of private gear. Hobos who lived in discarded refrigerator crates could amass greater loads of packrat crap than boat sailors. The confines of a diesel boat side locker and a couple of bunk bags did not allow one to live a Donald Trump existence.

Space and the going pay scale at the anchor end of the submersible social order combined to make us envy the lifestyle of a mud hut Ethiopian. We were the global equivalents of nomadic Mongols without ponies to haul our stuff.

And after the rigid routine of boot camp, we learned the skill of random compression-packing—known by mothers worldwide as "cramming." It's amazing what you can jam into a space no bigger than a breadbox if you pull a watch cap over a boot and push it in with your foot. Of course it looks kinda weird when you pull it out, but they never hold fashion shows at sea and wrinkles added character to underwater appearance.

There was a four-hundred-mile gap between the images on recruiting posters and the actual appearance of submarine sailors at sea. It was not without justifiable reason that we were called the "sewer pipe" Navy.

We operated on the premise that if "Cleanliness were next to Godliness," we must be next to the other end of that spectrum. We looked like our clothing had been pressed with a waffle iron and packed by a bulldozer. But what in the hell did they expect from a bunch of jerks hot-sacking in a "Hogan's Alley Hellhole" on a contraption that leaked like a screen door and smelled like a skunk jamboree?

After a while you got used to it. You got used to everything you owned picking up and retaining that distinctive pig boat aroma. You got used to old ladies on busses taking a couple of wrinkled-nose sniffs of your pea-coat—then getting up and finding another seat. It came with your Dolphins.

Do they still issue seabags? Can you still make five bucks sitting up half the night drawing a diesel boat and Dolphins on the side of one of the damned things with black-and-white marking pens that drive old master-at-arms into a "rig for heart attack" frenzy? Makes their faces red, the veins on their necks bulge out. And then they yell: "Jeezus

*(concluded on page 21)*

## New Members

We proudly welcome aboard our newest base shipmates:

### Charles R. Hinman

(Associate Member)

Wife: Keiko

2015 Lime Street, Apt. #904

Honolulu, Hawaii 96826-3930

cell: 808-561-2869

charles.hinman@gmail.com

Phone number at *Bowfin*

Museum: 808-423-1341

### Dr. Darin Steven Detwiler

(E5-MM2SS; served 1986-1994)

Wife: Gennette Zimmer

205 7th Street

Seal Beach, CA 90740-6180

cell: 425-232-5743

ddetwiler680@gmail.com

Qualified in 1989 on the

USS *William H. Bates* (SSN-680)

### Robert "Bob" John Frazier

EMC-SS E-7 CPO; served '78-'94)

4278 Hill Avenue

Fullerton, CA 92833-3430

cell: 714-931-8654

Uboatman@gmail.com

Qualified in 1981 on the

USS *Tautog* (SSN-639)—'80-'85

USS *Rich. B. Russell* (SSN-687) '89-'92

### Robert "Mike" Cailor (returning)

(EM1-SS E6; served '64-'71)

Wife: Rebecca

2514 Elm St., Seffner, FL 33584-5812

cell: 813-585-7615

rmcgfish@gmail.com

Qualified in 1968 on the

USS *Guardfish* (SSN-612)

### Edward "Ed" Elliot Kushins

(LT-03SS; served '68-'79)

Wife: Mary Hamilton

45 16th Street

Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-3402

phone: 310-345-3562

edkushins@gmail.com

Qualified on the USS *Flasher*

(SSN-613)—'69-'71, LTJG.

### Ramon O. Aguilar (returning)

(E5-ET Radio Div.; 1996-2001)

22736 Jody Lane

Carson, CA 90745-3603

cell: 562-303-0866

octiviano89@gmail.com

Qualified in 1998 on the USS

*City of Corpus Christi* (SSN-705)



## "Get'cher Chapter News Here — Read All About It! —"

*When News Breaks, We Pick Up the Pieces...*

*(Marilyn reports in below with the following news. Sorry both these items are somewhat belated as presented here; ran out of space last time.—ed.)*

I have some good news to report. I've been in contact with our four members who live in Florida.

• Sam Aboulafia • Mike Cailor • David Nates • Francis "Dick" Traser

They're all reporting that they're okay and have suffered very little damage from the recent hurricane in Florida. Just wanted to share this good news with our membership.

Also, there's some sad news to share too: another one of our WWII members has departed on Eternal Patrol. He and his wife Dolores are both now buried at Riverside National Cemetery.

I have no information regarding family members as of this writing. The National Office provided the Eternal Patrol notice, and I'm waiting to hear back from Dennis to see what information he was provided.

### *Sterling Fidelity Higgins*

Born: April 15, 1926

Passed: May 19, 2022 (age 96)

Burial: Riverside National Cemetery  
Riverside, Riverside County, California  
Plot: Section 64, Site 1955; Memorial ID: 240628303

Rate/Rank: RT2(SS)

Year of Qualification: 1945; Qual Boat: *Dentuda* (SS-335)

75-Year Holland Club Member

Lived in Yorba Linda, CA.

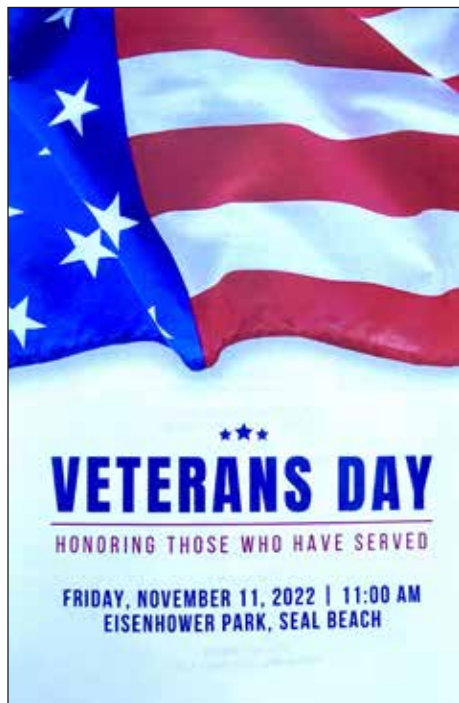
Kind regards,

*Marilyn*

Marilyn Senior, Membership  
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base USSVI  
1278 W. Sepulveda Street  
San Pedro, CA 90732-2948  
email: marilyn.senior@gmail.com  
cell: 310-503-3915 (call or text)

# More Chapter News: L.A.-Pasadena Base Veep Darin Detwiler Spoke at Seal Beach's Recent Veterans' Day Festivities

Here are some photos he sent in to share....



PROGRAM
<b>Opening Ceremony Colors Advanced + Presented</b> Southeast County Young Marines
<b>National Anthem</b> Chad Berlinghieri, Seal Beach Lions
<b>Colors Posted</b> Southeast County Young Marines
<b>Opening Prayer</b> Chaplain Donald Shoemaker, Seal Beach Police Department
<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>
<b>Opening Remarks</b> Thomas Bell, Seal Beach Lions
<b>Speaker</b> Mayor Joe Kalmick
<b>Speaker</b> Dr. Darin Detwiler, Submarine Veterans
<b>America the Beautiful</b> Chad Berlinghieri and Grace Community Church Chorus
<b>Speaker</b> Congresswoman Michelle Steele, 48th Congressional District
<b>My Country 'Tis Of Thee</b> Grace Chorus, Grace Community Church
<b>Introducing Guest Speaker</b> Thomas Bell, Seal Beach Lions
<b>Guest Speaker</b> Captain Jessica O'Brien, Commanding Officer of Naval Weapons Station
<b>POW/MIA Remembrance Table</b> Thomas Bell and Chad Berlinghieri
<b>Laying of the Wreath</b>
<b>TAPS</b> Dylan Johnson
<b>Closing Prayer</b> Chaplain Donald Shoemaker, Seal Beach Police Department
<b>Retiring the Colors</b> Southeast County Young Marines
<b>Closing Remarks</b> Thomas Bell, Seal Beach Lions





**THANK YOU...**

To our Veterans for serving our country and protecting our freedom.  
 To our speakers and musicians.  
 To the Southeast County Young Marines  
 To Baytown Realty for providing the flags.  
 To Glory Days Beachside Grill for providing VVA Medivac Huey.  
 To American Legion 291 for providing VVA Medivac Huey.  
 To Harbor Party Rentals for chairs and acoustics.  
 To Grace Community Church for printing.  
 To our hosts, The Seal Beach Lions and Grace Community Church of Seal Beach.

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HOSTED BY



## L.A.-Pasadena Base 50-Year Holland Club

(75-year members noted with \*)

Gerard A. Krudwig.....	2022
Gregory M. Paulson .....	2022
Michael J. Swanson .....	2022
Ralph J. Hansen .....	2021
Robert F. Schive, Sr.....	2021
Larry D. Long .....	2021
G. Judson "Jud" Scott, Jr....	2021
Edward E. Kushins .....	2020
Bruce Evan Neighbors .....	2020
David H. Vanderveen .....	2019
Philip J. Jaskoviak.....	2019
Dennis Bott .....	2018
Robert "Mike" Cailor .....	2018
Robert Miller .....	2018
John A. Anderson.....	2017
Roger C. Dunham, MD....	2017
Richard McPherson .....	2017
Harry "Bill" Moak .....	2017
Louis A. Myerson .....	2017
Elliot Rada .....	2017
Ronald G. Wagner .....	2017
Dennis J. Walsh.....	2017
Michael Kish.....	2016
Gary Wheaton .....	2016
Lawrence R. Butler .....	2015
Samuel T. Higa .....	2015
Harry P. Ross .....	2015
Stephen C. Rowe .....	2015
Charles H. Senior .....	2015
Larry E. Smith .....	2015

(concluded next page)



## Los Angeles-Pasadena Base 2022 Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 15:	Monthly Meeting via Zoom Conference
February 19:	Monthly Meeting at Taco Surf Restaurant
March 19	Monthly Meeting at Taco Surf Restaurant
April 16	Monthly Meeting Cancelled
May 7	Lion's Club Memorial Plaque Refit Reception at the Submarine Memorial, West - 1600-1700
May 14	Field Day/Prep at the Memorial Site - 0900
May 21	Hang Up the Tarp at Memorial Site - 0900 Monthly Meeting at the Memorial site Call for participants in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
May 30	Memorial Day Service - 1100 Submarine Memorial, West
May 28	More Tarp Prep at the Memorial Site
June 18	STEAK FEST at Monthly Meeting at Bunker 33 Picnic Area; Nominations for 2023 Base Officers
July 4	115th Annual... Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
July 16	LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic Bunker 33, Seal Beach Weapons Station
August 20	Monthly Mtg. - Glory Days Grill - Hawaii Theme 2023 Base Officer Candidates Announced
September 17	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Election of Officers
October 15	Monthly Meeting Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
November 19	Monthly Meeting - Thanksgiving Theme
December 10	Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Los Alamitos Golf Course



(Holland Club Roster, continued)

Sam Aboulafia ..... 2014  
 David Palagyi..... 2014  
 Earl Thomas Peratt, Jr. .... 2014  
 David D. Semrau, DDS .... 2014  
 Ray Tracy Teare..... 2014  
 Milton Harry Boudov ..... 2013  
 Kenneth Jon Dorn..... 2013  
 M. Mark Hoffer ..... 2013  
 Michael P. Klein..... 2013  
 Ronald L. Levenson..... 2013  
 Edward L. Arnold ..... 2012  
 T. Michael Bircumshaw.... 2012  
 Raymond Cheesebrough . 2012  
 Bobby O. Mahaffey..... 2012  
 John V. Mahan ..... 2012  
 Lee Melody ..... 2012  
 Clyde Matthew Turner ..... 2012  
 George R. Walrath ..... 2012  
 John L. Weisenberger ..... 2012  
 Edward A. Barwick..... 2011  
 Joseph W. Koch, Jr. .... 2011  
 Stephen D. Diumentis ..... 2009  
 David Whittlesey ..... 2009  
 Dennis A. Yure..... 2009  
 Armen Bagdasarian..... 2008  
 Paul A. Riggs..... 2008  
 Rex L. Shields..... 2008  
 John L. Von Ulmen ..... 2008  
 Francis R. Traser..... 2006  
 Ronald K. Thompson..... 2004  
 Robert L. Conboy ..... 2003  
 James Rogers ..... 2003  
 John E. Savela, Jr. .... 2003  
 Ben Van Devender..... 2002  
 Berry S. Yolken ..... 2002  
 James E. Carter ..... 1999  
 William F. Long ..... 1999  
 Herbert J. "Bo" Bolton ..... 1998  
 Kenneth E. Chunn..... 1998  
 \*Royal Harrison, Jr. .... 1995  
 \*Robert Clair Koplin..... 1995  
 \*William J. Dillon..... 1993  
 \*Harold Staggs..... 1992



## E-Board Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2022

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted on the morning of Saturday, November 19, 2022.

### In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Darin Detwiler, Base Vice Commander
- Bill Moak, Secretary
- Mike Swanson, Treasurer
- Dennis Bott, Memorial Director
- Herb "Bo" Bolton, Director
- Jeff Porteous, *Periscope* Editor
- Glen McNeece and Joyce, Member and Guest

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the meeting at Glory Days Beachside Grill in Seal Beach to order at 1000 hours with a quorum present. Minutes of the October meeting were reviewed with no revisions requested. Dennis Bott moved to accept the Minutes; this was seconded by Mike Swanson and approved by voice vote.

### Treasurer's Financial Report: Mike Swanson

The Treasurer's Report as of November 18, 2022 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Mike Swanson:

Checking	\$20,996.10
Savings	\$0.00
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$899.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,147.10</b>

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

Income:	\$74.00
Expenses:	\$422.00

### Flower/Booster Club Additions:

Ken Dorn	\$100.00
Dennis Bott	\$55.00

### Inkind Donations:

\$00.00

Again, there were no questions or corrections. Bill Moak moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; this was seconded by Dennis Bott and approved by voice vote.

Dave took a moment to mention Marlene Mahan's recent cancer diagnosis; no details were available as of yet. He also mentioned a health tragedy in the Senior family: Chuck and Marilyn's nephew had recently been diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Dave asked all shipmates to keep these folks in their thoughts and prayers.

### Memorial Report:

Dennis reported that the Memorial site area where he had previously planted grass seed had been covered over by dirt by the groundskeeper in an apparent effort to level said area—necessitating Dennis's application of more grass seed. He noted that the new seed is

(concluded on next page)



PRIDE RUNS DEEP

## AmazonSmile Charity Update

Good news, shipmates—this just in from AmazonSmile: “This is your quarterly notification to inform you that...U.S. Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc. received a new donation of \$574.57.

**AmazonSmile’s impact to date: \$7,776.95 to U.S. Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc.** Thanks for continuing to generate donations by shopping at smile.amazon.com.” (*Note: it’s easy to set up your account to donate small amounts to this charity through your regular Amazon purchases. Check it out!—ed.*)

## E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

already starting to take hold.

Dave indicated that an Eagle Scout candidate has accepted the task of replacing the trellis at the Memorial site. The price of the trellis will be borne by the base, but it’s hoped the cost will ultimately be reimbursed via the Charitable Fund. The labor, however, will be the scout’s responsibility.

Dennis indicated that he visits the site about every other week, and that the Lions Club had recently conducted an updated cleaning.

Dave went on to discuss his contact with the vendor hired to place the new engraved plaques on the back of the street-facing Memorial sign; there’s been trouble achieving proper follow-through on the project. New plaque copy will be sent to this contact to eliminate ongoing confusion and restart the project—with Jeff Porteous and Chuck Senior now directed to be the vendor’s contacts regarding the work, all in an effort to move the project along.

### Memorandum of Understanding:

Dave and Darin have now drafted a proposed version of our Memorandum of Understanding and submitted it to Jasmine Atencia for further attention up the chain of command. If accepted, the Lions Club will be provided these firm guidelines for three-way compliance between our chapter, their group, and the NWSSB as regards activities at the Memorial site.

Darin attended the Veterans’ Day event at the Seal Beach pier and had a discussion with Capt. O’Brien, who indicated the MOU draft had now been forwarded to San Diego. Dave stated she was impressed with the draft. Darin emphasized the need for clarity of just what the Lions are to be permitted to do at the Memorial site. Dave Lynn and Kevin Young have been instrumental in the work done by the Lions. Chuck and Marilyn Senior have invited Dave and his wife to attend our Christmas luncheon—and have covered their meals.

### Membership Update:

Marilyn Senior, while not present, had indicated no change from last month’s report. There are now potential members in the queue however, so once contacted by Marilyn, our member numbers may indeed rise again.

### Christmas Luncheon Update:

Mike reported thirteen current registrations; we need twenty-five to secure our spot.

### Where to Meet in January and February:

While we still have some issues with base entrance (i.e. the need for more background checks and the issuance of biometric security pass cards), until this is resolved we will meet again at the Glory Days Restaurant in January and February of the coming year.

### Good of the Order:

Darin would soon like to schedule a review and inventory of the chapter’s tools, decorations and memorabilia currently held in public storage. He is now a director of USSVI’s National Charitable Foundation, and hopes that our base can be reimbursed for expenses related to the storage of these various materials.

There being no further business, Dennis Bott motioned the meeting be adjourned; Mike Swanson seconded and it was passed by all present, ending the meeting at 1040 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bill Moak*

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI



## Satellite Images Reveal Chinese Expansion of Submarine Base

(Reproduced from the Yahoo!News website; published Sept. 21, 2022.)

by Mike Yeo

MELBOURNE, Australia — China is expanding its submarine base on the edge of the South China Sea, with satellite photos showing it's building two new piers.

The imagery of the Yulin naval base on the southern tip of China's Hainan Island taken by Maxar Technologies on July 31 and published on Google Earth show the structure for two new piers under construction, adding to the four existing piers at the site.

The new piers are being built to the north and south of the existing piers, connected to what appears to be newly reclaimed land. A dredger is seen on the satellite imagery adjacent to the new northern pier.

This measures 573 feet long and 67 feet wide, according to Google Earth's measuring tool, while the southern pier measures 780 feet long and is of a similar width to its northern counterpart.

Neither the reclaimed land nor pier structures were seen in previous satellite images of the base; the next most recent in Google Earth was an image taken in February, 2022.

The base is part of a large naval complex housing the South Sea Fleet of China's People's Liberation Army Navy, which is equipped with nuclear-powered

(concluded on next page)

## Soviet Submarine B-59 and the Man Who Single-Handedly Prevented Nuclear War

You probably don't recognize his face, but he's likely the reason you're alive.

(Reproduced from the IFL Science website - published September 26, 2022.)

by James Felton, Senior Staff Writer



Vasili Arkhipov: The story of his heroism was suppressed for over forty years. (Image credit: Olga Arkhipova/Wikimedia Commons photo.)

A new opera is to tell the story of a soviet naval officer who, in 1962, narrowly prevented the world from entering a nuclear war. Vasili Arkhipov was born into a peasant family near Moscow in 1926. After serving as a minesweeper in World War II, he began working aboard Soviet submarines in 1947, rising through the ranks before helping to prevent a mutiny on a nuclear submarine when there was a problem with its nuclear reactor.

Due to the incident, eight crew members were killed and Arkhipov himself became sick with radiation poisoning, receiving a dose that would eventually lead to his death in 1998. To most people, that would be enough incident for one lifetime, but for Arkhipov that was just a footnote in his life's story: he would go on to single-handedly prevent World War III.

Arkhipov was serving as second in command on the Soviet B-59 nuclear submarine at the time of the missile crisis. After the U.S. ordered a naval blockade around Cuba, the navy began to drop depth charges on Soviet submarines in order to force them to surface. The Soviets had been warned ahead of the non-lethal charges being dropped, but this hadn't been conveyed to the commanders of its submarines in the area. This lack of communication led to the captain of the B-59, upon seeing charges being dropped at his vessel, concluding that World War III had broken out, as they were clearly being attacked.

Captain Vitali Savitsky ordered that the submarine's 10-kiloton nuclear torpedo be prepared, ready to launch at a U.S. aircraft carrier, sending fallout towards land. If the nuclear torpedo had

(concluded on page 20)

## China Expands Submarine Base

(concluded from previous page)

attack and ballistic missile submarines. These includes six Type 094, or *Jin*-class, nuclear-powered ballistic missile subs, three of which are seen berthed on Maxar's image of the base. A smaller submarine, measuring 107 meters (351 feet), which means it could be a Type 093, or *Shang*-class, nuclear-powered attack sub, is also be seen on an adjacent pier in the image.

Yulin also has a submarine cavern tunneled into the side of a mountain.

In addition to the submarine piers under construction, the base has seen the assembly of a pier for large surface ships, including China's aircraft carriers. This has allowed the PLAN to homeport China's second carrier, the *Shandong*, at Yulin.

A new dry dock to accommodate an aircraft carrier and a surface combatant is also being built, while a helicopter base at the nearby city of Sanya has also received a refurbishment with new hangars, an expanded parking apron and resurfaced runways.

The South Sea Fleet is also where most of the PLAN's rapidly growing amphibious assault fleet, including the first Type 075 helicopter carrier and most of its Type 071 landing platform docks, are assigned. These ships, which are designed to transport troops via landing craft or helicopters, would be a vital component of any Chinese invasion of Taiwan, which Beijing considers a rogue province and has threatened to take back by force, if necessary.

## Opera About Soviet Submarine Officer Who Pevented Nuclear War

(concluded from page 19)

been launched, or any of the rest of the submarine's nuclear arsenal, it would likely have led to retaliation and—given the tension of that moment in history—nuclear war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, especially if the U.S. believed the command to fire had come from the Kremlin itself.

In order to fire the missile, however, the process required the captain, the ship's political officer, and Arkhipov to agree to the launch. Arkhipov was the only one of the three men who argued against launching nuclear weapons. After a long argument, he was able to convince the others not to launch, and instead surface the vessel and request further orders from the Kremlin.

The opera—named ARKHIPOV—goes through the story of the incident “from the initial excitement and camaraderie of the submariners through their increasing deprivation, to a tortured state in which a decision to destroy the world seems almost logical.”

The opera ran October 21 and 22 at the Kirk Douglas Theater in Los Angeles.



*Soviet submarine B-59, forced to the surface by U.S. Naval forces in the Caribbean near Cuba. (U.S. National Archives, Still Pictures Branch, Record Group 428, Item 428-N-711200—from Wikipedia.)*

## The Submariner's Seabag ... by Dex Armstrong

(concluded from page 13)

H. Christ! What in Gawd's name is that all over your seabag!?"

"Artwork, Chief. It's like the work of Michelangelo: Dolphins. My boat. Great, huh?"

"Looks like some gahdam comic book!"

Here was a man with cobras tattooed on his arms. A skull with a dagger through one eye and a ribbon reading "DEATH BEFORE SHORE DUTY" on his shoulder. Crossed anchors with "Subic Bay, 1945" on the other shoulder. An eagle on his chest, and a full-blown Chinese dragon peeking out between the cheeks of his butt.

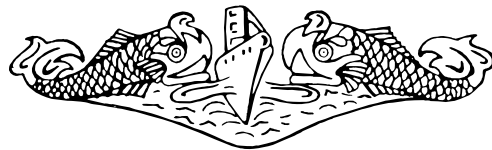
If anyone was ever an authority on stuff that looked like a comic book, it had to be this E-8 sonuvabitch.

Sometimes I look at all the crap stacked in my garage, close

my eyes and smile, remembering a time when everything I owned could be crammed into a canvas bag. Maturity is hell.

Keep a zero bubble . . .

Dex.



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USS <i>Connecticut</i> (SSN-22)	USS <i>North Dakota</i> (SSN-784)
USS <i>Delaware</i> (SSN-791)	USS <i>Kentucky Blue</i> (SSBN-737)
USS <i>Greeneville</i> (SSN-772)	USS <i>Kentucky Gold</i> (SSBN-737)
USS <i>Helena</i> (SSN-725)	USS <i>Maine Blue</i> (SSBN-741)
USS <i>Hyman G. Rickover</i> (SSN-795)	

**Questions?**  
Jack Messersmith  
(928) 227-7753  
or e-mail  
MesserJ109@gmail.com

2023 United States Submarine Veterans Calendar

# PERIL IN THE DEPTHS

United States Submarine Incidents Since 2000



## Mishaps at sea can take a deadly toll.



It is our purpose 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 be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

At sea, an adversary's combatant ships are not the submarine's only enemy. Hidden seamounts, undetected friendlies, and all manner of potential mishaps and accidents not only cause crippling and expensive damage, but can easily turn deadly—as such representing every submarine skipper's ongoing and unpredictable nightmare.

This year's USSVI submarine calendar explores Peril in the Depths: a series of at-sea collisions and other accidents proving that bad decisions—or mere bad luck—can happen to the best of them, even the most capable and highly-trained sailors in the world. From all corners of the globe, these accounts show what happens when submariners have a really bad day—skirmishes with fate involving everything from the simple trading of paint between passing boats to catastrophic submerged collisions causing tragic loss of life.

Join us here month by month as we present these fascinating accounts of submarine accidents you just can't seem to look away from, much as you might like to.

Sound the Collision Alarm and standby for some jolts!

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Quantity discounts available.



**USS Hartford and USS New Orleans Collide**

The USS *Hartford* (SSN 768) and the *San Antonio*-class amphibious transport dock USS *New Orleans* (LPD-18) collided on March 20, 2009. The incident occurred in the Strait of Hormuz, between Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Musandam, an enclave of Oman. A Navy investigation into the collision found that *Hartford* was solely to blame for the accident. According to the investigation, the collision was caused by poor leadership on the submarine and a failure to adequately prepare for and conduct the crossing of the Hormuz Strait by the crew. As a result, the captain and several other officers and sailors were removed or disciplined. The collision inflicted minor injuries on fifteen sailors aboard *Hartford* and ruptured a fuel tank on *New*

*Orleans*, spilling 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel into the Strait. Both vessels continued under their own power. *Hartford* was submerged and at periscope depth at the time of the collision, and is believed to have rolled about eighty-five degrees and sustained extensive damage to her sail, periscope, and port bow plane. There was no damage to the nuclear reactor. On April 19, *Hartford* began a surface transit back to the U.S. for further repair, arriving two months later. The repairs included installation of a hull patch and a bridge access trunk, along with a portside retractable bow plane and the entire sail. The final cost of repairs was \$120 million by the time *Hartford* returned to duty in February 2011.

### August 2023

(Five submarines and 251 men lost)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

July							August							September							October							November							December																																																																																																																														
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																								
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"Attack!"  
—Divers "Mara" Morton  
CO - USS *Thresher* (SS-595)

Proceeds to benefit USSVI operations and projects.



# THE L.A.-PASADENA BASE, USSVI ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

On Saturday, December 10, 2022, the USSVI L.A.-Pasadena Base will hold its annual Christmas luncheon at the Los Alamitos Golf Course's On the Greens Conference Center, 5660 Orangewood Ave., Cypress, CA 90630. It's the time we especially enjoy catching up with our submarine friends, families and guests, so to allow plenty of opportunity for this, the Tolling of the Boats ceremony will once again not be held during this year's gathering.

**(NOTE: SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH—NOT THIRD—THIS YEAR ONLY DUE TO SCHEDULING CONFLICT.)**

Social Hour: 11:30AM. - Luncheon served 12:15PM



### ***This Year's Menu is as Follows:***

*Tossed Garden Salad with Ranch and Italian dressings on the side*

#### ***Entrée Selection:***

***Chicken piccata***

*Oven-roasted Potatoes and Green Beans Almondine, Dinner Rolls and Butter*

***Grilled flat iron Steak***

*Oven-roasted Potatoes and Green Beans Almondine, Dinner Rolls and Butter*

***Vegetarian Option***

*Mushroom Raviolis  
Dinner Rolls and Butter*



***Beverage: Coffee, iced tea***

***Dessert: Cheesecake with Raspberry Drizzle***

***Sparkling Cider/Champagne Toast***

As always, it is very important that you get your reservations in ASAP so that we can give the Golf Course a firm headcount no later than 12 days before the luncheon.

The cost of the luncheon will be \$30.00 per person. Cocktails will be available from the main bar.

Please send your check and reservations (checks made out to LA/Pasadena Base USSVI) to the address shown below. Be sure to indicate your choice of entrée and how many of each.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken piccata \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Flat iron steak \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Mushroom ravioli \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of dinners \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Mike Swanson  
1149 W. Santa Cruz St.  
San Pedro, CA 90731  
Phone: 310-832-5981





# 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

by Anonymous Bubblehead

(with apologies to Clement Clarke Moore;  
provided by Paul Riggs from the internet)



'T was the night before Christmas and what no one could see,  
the men with the Dolphins were under the sea.  
Most of the crew lay out flat on their backs,  
snoring and dreaming all snug in their racks.

Those men on the watch were making their rounds,  
some manning the planes or listening for sounds.  
Back in maneuvering or down in the room,  
they all hoped the oncoming watch would come soon.

I'd finished some PM's whose time were now due,  
and hoped for some sleep, just an hour or two.  
Against better judgement I took a short stroll,  
and found myself wandering into Control.

The NAV had the Conn, the COW was in place,  
the COB had the Dive with a scowl on his face.  
The helm and the planes were relaxed but aware,  
the QM and ET were discussing a dare.

To comply with Night Orders the NAV told the Dive  
to bring up the boat with a minimum rise.  
The bubble came up and soon they were there,  
at periscope depth with a 'scope in the air.

The QM confirmed our position with care;  
the broadcast was copied, we brought in some air.  
The NAV on the 'scope let out a small cry—  
he shook his head twice and then rubbed his eyes.

He looked once again to find just what it was  
interrupting his sweep and causing this pause.

Try as he might there was nothing to see,  
so down went the 'scope and us to the deep.

I asked what it was that had caused his dismay.

He sheepishly said, "I'm embarrassed to say.  
It could've been Northern Lights or a cloud,  
or a meteorite, perhaps," he wondered aloud.

"But to tell you the truth I guess I must say,  
whatever it was, it looked like a sleigh.  
And though it passed quickly and never was clear,  
I almost believe it was pulled by reindeer."

We laughed and we teased him and got up to go,  
when the moment was broken by "Conn, Radio."

They told us a message was just coming in...  
We looked at the depth gauge and started to grin.

"Radio, Conn, I feel safe to say,  
your attempt at a joke is too far delayed.  
If it had been sooner it might have been neat,  
but I doubt we're receiving at four hundred feet."

"Oh Conn, Radio, you can come down and see,  
we're not playing games to any degree."  
I then headed aft—nothing better to do—  
surprised by the fact it was still coming through.

Once ended, 'twas sent to Control to be read;  
the NAV checked it slowly and then scratched his head.  
Once again he began, but this time aloud,  
to all those who waited, a curious crowd:

"Denizens of the deep are you men of the sea,  
who risk your lives daily so others stay free...  
I rarely have seen you, on this my big night,  
for so many times you're all hidden from sight.

But purely by luck I did see you tonight...  
as your 'scope coaxed the plankton to glow with a light.  
And lucky for me I have finally won  
the chance to say thanks for all you have done.

I know that you all miss your families back home,  
and that sometimes you feel as if you're alone.  
But trust what I say and I'll do what is right:  
Something special will go to those families tonight.

Along with the gifts I'll drop off with your kin,  
I'll visit their dreams and leave word within.  
They'll hear of your love and how sorely you miss them;  
I'll tell them that soon you'll be once again with them.

It might not be much, I know that is true,  
to thank you for all the things that you do.  
But I'll do what I can, while you do what is right,  
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

*With Warmest Holiday Wishes from The Periscope*





USS *Ohio* (SSBN-726) in a drydock during her conversion into a guided-missile submarine, August 14, 2003. (U.S. Navy photo.)

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*In memory  
of the  
fifty-two  
submarines  
lost in  
World War II*

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SEALION  
S-36  
S-26  
SHARK I  
PERCH  
S-27  
GRUNION  
S-39  
ARGONAUT  
AMBERJACK  
GRAMPUS  
TRITON  
PICKEREL  
GRENADIER  
RUNNER  
R-12  
GRAYLING  
POMPANO  
CISCO  
S-44  
DORADO  
WAHOO

CORVINA  
SCULPIN  
CAPELIN  
SCORPION  
GRAYBACK  
TROUT  
TULLIBEE  
GUDGEON  
HERRING  
GOLET  
S-28  
ROBALO  
FLIER  
HARDER  
SEAWOLF  
DARTER  
SHARK II  
TANG  
ESCOLAR  
ALBACORE  
GROWLER

SCAMP  
SWORDFISH  
BARBEL  
KETE  
TRIGGER  
SNOOK  
LAGARTO  
BONEFISH  
BULLHEAD

