# THE PER PER SOUL DE Amonthly publication of the Los Angeles/Pasadena Base • United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

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"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**

I'm excited to report completion of the most recent stage of work on my accurate 52" radiocontrolled scale model of the USS *Harder* (SS-257)—see photo on back page. There's still more to do in getting her r/c innards properly installed and functional. (An expert friend will be accomplishing that.) Hoping for initial sea trials at the pond sometime late this summer. We'll see. Meanwhile, as usual, I'll be in the Yeoman's shack if anyone needs me.—*Jeff* 

# U.S. Nuclear Submarines Set to Dock in So. Korea for the First Time in Forty Years

(*Reproduced from the* gadget.com *website - published April 25, 2023. Source: AP.*) *by Maksim Panasovskyi* 



Ohio-class on the surface. (U.S. Navy photo.)

he United States and South Korea will join forces to deter the DPRK as it prepares for another nuclear test. U.S. Navy nuclear-powered submarines will dock in the Republic of Korea for the first time in 40 years.

# Here's What We Know

The submarines will be a key component in the so-called "Washington Declaration" aimed at deterring the DPRK. The plan for U.S. nuclear-powered submarines to call at South Korean ports will be signed by Presidents Joe Biden and Yoon Suk Yeol in Washington on Wednesday, April 26.

The agreement is aimed at allaying the Republic of Korea's fears over North Korea's aggressive nuclear programme. The U.S. wants to deter the country from restarting its own nuclear programme, which it closed some fifty years ago when it signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

(concluded on page 11)



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# From the Wardroom ...



Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

Our meeting for the month of June gave us an opportunity to meet leaders of VFW Post 3173 in Anaheim. They graciously invited us to meet in their hall on East Sycamore Street and they explained VFW's membership qualification. Several of us who meet the requirements joined their post. We also shared a steak

lunch with them, and they participated in our general meeting. VFW wants to expand membership qualification to more submariners. Currently, FBM crews qualify because they are part of the Nuclear Triad. Fast Attack crews often shadow foreign SSBNs, but their crews only qualify if an Expeditionary award was earned. DBF sailors whose boats were in specific "conflict zones" or who earned Expeditionary awards qualify. I offered to contact Submarine Squadron Eleven for advice on how Fast Attack

submarine work can be represented within confidentiality requirements which could help VFW modify their qualification guidelines. Fortunately, LCDR John Sison from Subron Eleven was the keynote speaker for our recent Memorial Day ceremony so I will take full advantage of our acquaintance! More information to come.

As required in our By-Laws, we issued a call for candidates for Base Officer jobs. The Elections Committee will check current office holders' term limits and seek candidates for the coming year. Candidates will be announced in August, the election will be held in September, and the 2024 Board will be installed in October. Regular members who are interested in serving in any of the Base Officer jobs, please send a note to *lapasadenabase@gmail.com* so the Elections Committee can take the next steps.

We will participate in the Annual Independence Day Parade in Huntington Beach on, of course, July 4th. Bonefish Base will join us with their replica of *Bonefish* (SS-223) on a trailer. Currently, Harold Staggs plans to be there, and we will place him in a prominent spot so ABC-TV can get a clear image of him for their broadcast of the parade. For those who don't know him, Harold was a Torpedoman who made ten War Patrols on three boats. During his patrols, his boats sank thirteen enemy ships. After his Navy service, Harold invested decades with Arcadia Fire Department, retiring as a Captain. He will celebrate his 99th birthday this year. I hope you can join us for the "Biggest Independence Day Parade West of the Mississippi River!"

On July 15th, we will hold our Annual LeRoy Stone Memorial "Picnic" and Auction at the VFW Hall, 805 East Sycamore Street in Anaheim. It will be an inside potluck lunch rather than a traditional picnic. Regrettably, we won't be able to barbecue, so please bring a dish to share plus your choice of beverage. We already have a LOT of interesting "stuff" to auction, and you are welcome to bring whatever you want to donate for sale. (Be willing to take it home again if it doesn't sell, though!) Proceeds from the auction will go into the Base Treasury, and Mike Swanson will only be able to accept cash—unless you want to buy something with a big price tag and you arrange with him to pay by check.

Please continue to protect your health, and I hope you enjoy your summer as much as I am enjoying mine!

Dave

Dave Vanderveen, Commander Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



# June General Meeting Sailing List

Ed Arnold and son Mason Ed Barwick and wife Bonnie Darin Detwiler Ken Dorn Craig Ignatowitz and Anna Marie Lesh Ron Jones Greg Paulson Mike Swanson Ray Teare Dave Vanderveen And for the VFW: Daniel Jennings, Dist. 2 Commander Michael Lynn Bobby McDonald





# Minutes of June 17, 2023 General Mtg./Steak Lunch

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at the VFW Post in Anaheim, CA at 12:37 hours. Dave then led the Pledge of Allegiance and read aloud the Statement of Purpose of the USSVI, followed by a request for a moment of silence for our departed shipmates and for Ed Arnold's wife Judy, who had passed recently. (Ed was in attendance with his son Mason.)

# USSVI/VFW Relationship:

Next, our hosts at the VFW Anaheim facility were introduced. The long leadership of their organization among veterans was recognized, and their local leaders were in attendance for our meeting. Earlier today, four of our USSVI members had become VFW members as well. It was noted that VFW membership eligibility among modern submariners requires an SSBN Patrol or Expeditionary Medal. Controversy became apparent over the necessity of sailors qualified in submarine warfare being required to have these specific items listed on their DD-214s to be able to join, but either way, we've been warmly welcomed by the VFW and invited to consider this location our new home. (Anaheim VFW Post 3173 is also home to DAV, other VFW chapters, the Buffalo Soldiers, and the TAP Program. They hold steak dinners on the second Friday of every month, selling 150-200 steaks per night!) Progress of the VFW's work on the Orange County Veterans' Cemetery Project was discussed, as was the possibility of adding some USSVI signage out front of the Anaheim VFW Post 3173 building. Dave will contact Chuck Senior about possible artwork for same.

# Prior Meeting's Minutes and Treasurer's Report:

Dave announced that the E-Board had earlier approved and accepted the Minutes of the May meetings. Then Treasurer Mike Swanson presented the Treasurer's Report as of June 16, 2023—which had also been approved and accepted into the base record by the E-Board earlier. (*Said report appears in the E-Board Meeting Minutes elsewhere in this issue as usual.—ed.*)

# **Base Election:**

Dave then put out a call for L.A.-Pasadena Base officer candidates for the 2024 calendar year, discussing the open Director's position as well as candidate search committee details and the six-year term limits.

# Memorial Report:

The memorial's worn-out trellis had been removed the weekend prior to our Memorial Day ceremony—with four new bushes slated to be installed in its place on 6/19. (The Navy letter of acceptance for this gift values it at \$360.00.)

Rick Smith, the NWSSB Public Works contractor supervisor, is also looking into the continuing irrigation issues at memorial site.

# 2023 Memorial Day Ceremony:

Over 450 were noted in attendance—far more than that of the Seal Beach city-held event. It was noted also that although the Scouts in attendance did have our plan ready for state flag placement during the ceremony, their leadership changed things to ill effect. Also, flower distribution was less than successful: some were left in large buckets, not making it to the individual marker locations as desired.

# Storage of USSVI L.A.-Pasadena Base Items:

Ray Teare offered a room in his house for temporary storage, thus eliminating the \$240 per month fee for public storage. Greg Paulson, Ray Teare, Dave Vanderveen, and Darin Detwiler are to work on relocating these items once Ray and Cindy designate a date for the transfer.

(concluded on next page)







# 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!



# **General Meeting Minutes...**

(concluded from previous page)

### Judy Arnold:

It was announced that Ed Arnold had lost his wife Judy earlier in the week, just prior to our June base meeting; her funeral was held at Riverside National Cemetery on June 16. For many years, in tandem with Ed, Judy had helped arrange for Scouts from the Order of the Arrow to help us set up and conduct our Memorial Day Ceremony. Additionally, she had always graciously provided the table centerpieces (all hand-made!) and gift bags for our annual Christmas party. We'll all miss Judy greatly—her fun personality and all her wonderful contributions.

### 4th of July Parade in Huntington Beach:

Our base has a long tradition of participating in this parade—the largest 4th of July parade west of the Mississippi! This year we will share joint participation with Bonefish Base, who will pull their big submarine model on a trailer. Two vehicles will be involved: one of ours plus their truck to haul the trailer. Harold Staggs will ride as a celebrated VIP passenger on the TV camera side of the submarine. Muster for the parade takes place at 7:30 a.m. at the McDonald's on Golden West Avenue at Yorktown in Huntington Beach. Wear a hat and sunscreen. Bring water too. And prepare for a total parade participation lasting 2-2½ hours.

### Next Meeting:

Our July 15 base meeting will take place here at the VFW Anaheim Post 3173 (805 E. Sycamore St., Anaheim, CA 92805). It'll include our traditional White Elephant Auction with strictly CASH-ONLY transactions. Ken Dorn brought along a few sample auction items today to show and describe. Please do come and bring items to auction.But also be prepared to take them home again if they don't sell.

### Christmas Luncheon:

Our annual holiday luncheon tradition is tentatively slated for December 9 at the Los Alamitos Golf Course (5660 Orangewood Ave., Cypress, CA 90630). A contract for same has been sent to us containing significant new twists: 1) It's up to *seven pages* long from last year's two! 2) There's now a requirement to provide documentation proving \$3M in liability insurance! 3) Luncheon prices have increased from \$24 to \$35 per meal—or \$40 for steak! 4) There's now also a fifty-guest minimum requirement. Needless to say, Mike Swanson is negotiating with the Eagle's Nest establishment over these new requirements. There was also some discussion about the possibility of seeking a new venue instead. Or, we may keep our current one for this year and revisit the idea of a new option for 2024. Stay tuned.

# **Ron Jones Holland Club Induction:**

Ron thanked Dave and the base for his induction ceremony held during the May meeting outside at the Memorial.

### 50/50 Raffle:

The total take was \$60. Darin Detwiler won and donated his winnings back to the Booster Club fund.

There being no further business, Mike Swanson motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Ed Barwick and approved by all present, adjourning the meeting at 1336 hours. Field day then commenced at the VFW Post.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Detwiler

Filling in for Bill Moak as Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

# LeRoy Stone WEWHOIL

This month we're back at the Anaheim VFW Post for our traditional summer gathering in LeRoy Stone's memory. Sorry, it's a "picnic" in name only this year we won't be grilling any meats so think of it in traditional potluck terms. Remember to bring your own beverages, utensils & plates, plus a dish to share (see below). Parking's behind the building.

### Location:

VFW Post 3173, Anaheim **805 East Sycamore Street** Anaheim, CA 92805

### Times:

• E-Board Meets: 10:00-11:00

- Social Time/Lunch Setup: 11:00-11:30
- Lunch: 11:30-Noon

• General Mtg.: Noon-1:00 (must vacate premises at 1:00)

Lunch: Potluck. Assignments by last name as follows. Remember to bring needed serving utensil(s).

A-H — Main Dish

I-R — Salad or Vegetable S-Z — Dessert

# **July Birthdays**

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

Mike Kish7/5
Beauchamp Tran7/7
Chuck Senior7/9
John Weisenberger 7/11
Larry T. Lovett 7/12
Bill Moak 7/14
M. Mark Hoffer 7/15
Scott Hultner7/18
Debra Miller 7/18
Michael Grubbs7/21
Bob Koplin7/25
David Nates
Ron Wagner7/30

# Ship's Store



2023 Calendars Still Available!

Order at ussvinationalstorekeeper.com

Or see details elsewhere in this issue.

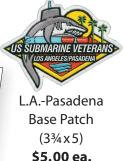
Don't miss out-they're selling fast!

# **New Reduced Price on T-Shirts!**

Our ever-popular L.A.-Pasadena Base "Submarine Service" tees are once again selling like fresh whites after a fall down the pump room hatch! Now a mere ten bucks apiece, there's no reason not to have a closetful. Contact Jack Mahan for yours, or just bring a few extra bucks to the next meeting, you skinflint!



**USSVI Logo Patch**  $(9^{3}/_{4} \times 6^{3}/_{4})$ \$11.00 ea.





Holland Club Member Patch (3x3) \$6.00 ea.

DEPTHS

Get in touch with our Storekeeper, Jack Mahan, at 714-349-5878 for more purchasing information.

# LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

# **2023 FLOWER FUND** and BOOSTER CLUB

August 2023

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

Angus McCall • Joe Dow • Dennis Bott • Ed Barwick • Robert Cailor Darin Detwiler (multiple donations) • Karen Silverman • Ron Jones Sally Moran • Ken Dorn (multiple donations) • Greg Paulson Gary Wing • Grant Chambers • Won't you help too?



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

# JULY TOLLING OF THE BOATS



# USS S-28 (SS-133)

Lost on July 4, 1944 while conducting training exercises off Hawaii in coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Reliance*. Contact was simply lost with *S-28* after she submerged for a routine practice torpedo approach. No distress signal or explosion was ever forthcoming. Two days later, an oil slick appeared near her last known position. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery to this day. Forty-nine crew members perished with the boat.

### USS ROBALO (SS-273)

Lost on July 26, 1944 during her third war patrol when *Robalo* struck a mine off the east coast of Balabac Island in the Philippines. At least four men survived the sinking, swam ashore, and were captured and imprisoned by the Japanese. By some accounts, some of these men were killed in captivity, while others were lost when evacuated by a Japanese destroyer which was never heard from again, presumably sunk by Allied forces. In total, eighty-one officers and crew of the *Robalo* made the ultimate wartime sacrifice.

# **USS GRUNION (SS-216)**

Lost on July 30, 1942 while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor, Alaska. *Grunion* radioed she sank two subchasers and damaged a third, but it was revealed in recent years that she had also tangled with an armed merchant ship and didn't survive the encounter. Though not absolutely certain, current theory suggests—supported by a Japanese eyewitness and recent underwater photographic evidence—that structural damage from her own circular torpedo run together with jammed dive planes had combined to put *Grunion* on the bottom. This evidence came to light when *Grunion*'s mangled remains were identified in the Bering Sea in 2007 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska. Her entire crew of seventy officers and men were lost.

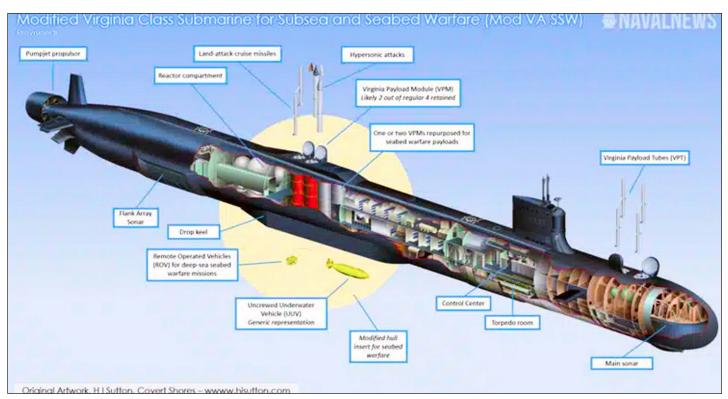


WE REMEMBER For those who gave their lives in defense of our country WE REMEMBER

# U.S. Navy to Get New Unique Submarine: Virginia "SSW"

(Reproduced from the Naval News website - published April 20, 2023.)

by H I Sutton



*The U.S. Navy plans a single Mod VA SSW submarine. Work is already underway at famous submarine builder Electric Boat in Groton. The main observable difference from other Virginias will be the special mission insert with extended drop keel.* 

The USS *Jimmy Carter* is widely regarded as the most secretive submarine in the U.S. Navy. It is especially equipped for Seabed Warfare, unreported missions deep below the waves. Now a new seabed warfare submarine, using a *Virginia*-class hull, is planned.

The USS *Jimmy Carter* is currently the U.S. Navy's principal seabed warfare submarine, specially fitted for covert spy missions deep beneath the waves. Now plans are underway to build a follow on special spy submarine using the newer *Virginia*-class hull.

A single Mod VA SSW (Modified *Virginia*, Subsea and Seabed Warfare) version of the *Virginia* class is expected to be built.

Work is already underway at the famous Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, Connecticut. A basic outline of the design was shared by General Dynamics Electric Boat's President, Kevin Graney, in a January 2022 at a Connecticut Economic Summit in 2022. Since then some information about the SSW design has slowly emerged in open sources, but naturally the details remain cloaked. According to the Congressional Research Service, a single boat will be procured in the U.S. Navy's 2024 budget. The calculated cost is \$5.1 billion, almost a billion more than the baseline *Virginia* class.

# Seabed Warfare

Seabed warfare has been brought into sharp focus by Russia's ongoing efforts to map undersea infrastructure. And by the September 2022 attack on the Nord Stream gas pipelines in the Baltic. There is no suggestion that the USS *Jimmy Carter* was involved in the Nord Stream incident (it wasn't!). But the attack shows the relevance of these capabilities. Most seabed warfare, however, is closer to espionage than sabotage. And at this the American submarines excel.

The history of operations against undersea infrastructure, such as sensor networks, communications and energy infrastructure, goes back a long way. And both the U.S. Navy and Russian Navy have strong traditions.

In the 1970s, Operation Ivy Bells saw the U.S. Navy tapping Soviet communications networks deep undersea. Tapping the cables which the Soviets thought were safe gave the U.S. valuable

(concluded on page 11)

# Six Russian Delta IV-Class Submarines Continue to Hold U.S. at Risk of Nuclear Attack

The Russian Navy still operates six Delta IV-class (Project 667B Murena) nuclear-armed ballistic missile subs.

(Reproduced from the Warrior Maven website - published April 22, 2023.)

By Kris Osborn, President, Center for Military Modernization



Russian Navy Delta IV-class nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarine.

The Russian Navy still operates six Delta IV-class (Project 667B *Murena*) nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarines designed to secretly patrol dark corners of the undersea while holding the U.S. at risk of a catastrophic nuclear attack from the ocean.

The Delta IV carries the RSM-54 Makeyev missile (Nato designation: SS-N-23 Skiff), which is reported as a "three-stage liquid propellant ballistic missile" able to attack at ranges of 5,200 miles, according to unconfirmed reports. While there is not much reliable information on the composition or lethality of the RSM-54, it is believed to be possible that it can fire nuclear warheads on multiple re-entry vehicles.

Also, much like the now-retired Typhoon-class submarines, the Delta IV submarines are engineered for ice-breaking missions in the Arctic Ocean to potentially hold U.S. targets at risk of nuclear destruction from the top of the world.

Nuclear missiles from this region could be used as a kind

of "bolt-out-of-the-blue" massive salvo nuclear attack on the United States, with the idea being to disable any U.S. ability to respond or counter-strike. Should a number of Delta IV nuclear-armed submarines launch simultaneous attacks from the Arctic region, weapons would not have as far to travel to hit the U.S. and Canada quickly.

This possibility is precisely why the Pentagon works to maintain a full nuclear triad, meaning land, air, and undersea options for a nuclear attack. This is the premise of strategic deterrence: should there be any nuclear attack on the U.S., the attacker would quickly be fully eliminated in a catastrophic retaliatory second strike. Therefore, should U.S. ground-based interceptors be unable to track and intercept a large incoming salvo of nuclear missiles, nuclear armed ballistic missile submarines conducting clandestine missions could guarantee complete annihilation of the attacker. This is kind of a paradox, as perhaps it is only through the promise of total catastrophe and destruction that there can be any assurance of nuclear peace.

(concluded on page 9)

# **Russians Still Operating Boats with Nukes**

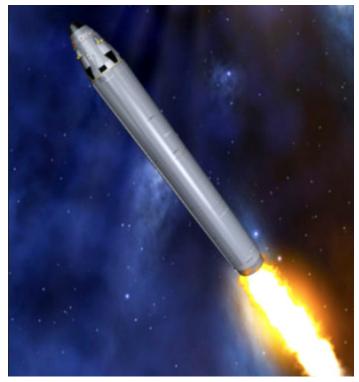
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A significant 2017 Defense Intelligence Ballistic Missile Analysis Committee explains that Russia has upgraded its RSM-54 submarine-launched ballistic missiles to a Sineva variant with a vastly increased range listed at greater than 8,000 km.

### Submarine Delta IV Class

The existence of Russia's Yasen and Delta IV class nucleararmed submarines likely informs part of the Pentagon rationale for prioritizing the development of the emerging Columbia-class nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarines.

Kris Osborn is the Military Affairs Editor of 19FortyFive and President of Warrior Maven - Center for Military Modernization. Osborn previously served at the Pentagon as a Highly *Qualified Expert with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the* Army—Acquisition, Logistics & Technology. Osborn has also worked as an anchor and on-air military specialist at national TV networks. He has appeared as a guest military expert on Fox News, MSNBC, The Military Channel, and The History Channel. He also has a Masters Degree in Comparative Literature from *Columbia University.* 



Russian RSM-54 Makeyev intercontinental ballistic missile. (Nato designation: SS-N-23 Skiff.)

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- ✓ First-time sponsors receive a Boat Sponsorship Patch
- ✓ All sponsors entered into the quarterly Boat Model Giveaway drawing (one entry per sponsorship) - a \$500 value

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USS Montana (SSN-794) USS North Dakota (SSN-784) USS Kentucky Blue (SSBN-737) USS Kentucky Gold (SSBN-737) USS Maine Blue (SSBN-741)

# **Questions?**

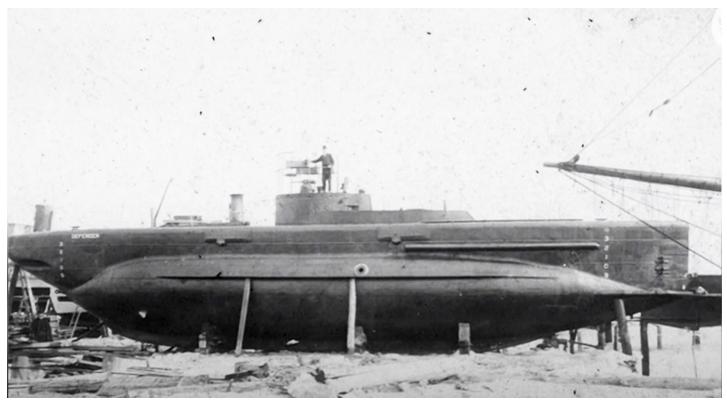
Jack Messersmith (928) 227-7753 or e-mail MesserJ109@gmail.com

# Divers Discover Century-Old Submarine in Long Island Sound

Long lost Simon Lake submarine provides history lesson in early submarine design.

(Reproduced from the WIBX website - publishing date unlisted.)

(umcredited)



Entrepreneur Simon Lake's submarine, the Defender. (U.S.A Today photo.)

S cientists continue to say that we know more about space than what lies beneath the sea. It seems to hard to believe that in the crowded Long Island Sound, a 92-foot submarine could lie there completely unnoticed for nearly eighty years. Apparently, this was just such the case.

On Sunday, an underwater commercial diver from Coventry, Connecticut and his team found something they had been long looking for, the *Defender*.

The *Defender* was an experimental submarine designed by Simon Lake in 1908. According to Pat Eaton-Robb of apnews.com, the vessel was designed to win a U.S. Government contract by Lake Torpedo Boat Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Like two of Lake's other designs, the *Defender* (or the *Lake* as it was called at the time) was rejected by Congress.

This past Sunday, commercial diver Richard Simon and his company, Shoreline Diving, made the discovery of a vessel that

they had been searching for. Simon told the Associated Press, "A submarine has a very distinct shape. It needs to be a hundred feet long and thirteen feet in diameter. So I made a list of everything that was that long and there was one target on that list." Poor conditions delayed the discovery until Sunday, but the crew was certainly excited by the find.

"It was legitimately hiding in plain sight. It's on the charts. It's known about in Long Island Sound, just no one knew what it was." Simon verified that it was indeed the *Defender*. The length, the size and shape of protrusions on the submarine's distinct keel, and the shape and location of diving planes characteristic of Lake-built vessels all helped to identify it, Simon explained to the Associated Press.

Simon and his team plan to spend the summer diving on the sub. They will film and document the vessel by taking photos. Simon has contacted the U.S. Navy to gauge interest in preserving the submarine. You never know what lies beneath the ocean.

# **U.S. Subs in Korea First Time in Forty Years**

(concluded from page 1)

Earlier, the president of the Republic of Korea had mulled resuming the development of its own nuclear weapons. Yoon Seok-yeol has also considered the option of the USA deploying its own weapons on the Korean peninsula.

The two countries intend to increase coordination as part of a nuclear response strategy in the event of an attack by North Korea. The U.S. would have operational control of all weapons, while nuclear weapons would not be deployed on the territory of the Republic of Korea after all.

As a presidential candidate, Yoon Seok-yeol said he planned to call for greater deployment of U.S. strategic bombers, nuclearpowered submarines and aircraft carriers in the country. The B-1B Lancer and B-52H Stratofortress strategic jets are already making themselves at home in the region, but nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines were last in South Korea in the 1970s—the height of the Cold War. And sometimes they came in several times a month, while the Republic of Korea itself hosted hundreds of U.S. nuclear warheads.

In 1991, a decision was made to withdraw U.S. nuclear weapons. A year later, a declaration was signed between Seoul and Pyongyang that neither country would test, produce, receive, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons.

As for the "Washington Declaration," the source does not say which U.S. Navy submarines will be sent to South Korean ports. There are nearly two dozen *Ohio*-class submarines in service. Four of them carry Tomahawk cruise missiles, while the rest are equipped with Trident II (D5) ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads.

# Unique Virginia-Class Spy Sub Design

(concluded from page 7)

insight and intelligence. The first tap, in the Sea of Okhotsk was followed by several others of similar significance but less fame. The USSR only found out about them when a Soviet spy deep in the American intelligence apparatus, Ronald Pelton, betrayed them.

At first the U.S. Navy used a converted cruise missile submarine for this purpose: USS *Halibut*. This was followed by USS *Seawolf* and then USS *Parche*, both of which were upgraded with extended hulls to carry the specialized equipment. Then, in the 2000s, one of the new *Seawolf*-class submarines, USS *Jimmy Carter*, was built with the hull extension already fitted. This submarine becoming the premiere seabed warfare boat of the U.S. Navy. The new specialized *Virginia*-class submarine will augment or succeed USS *Jimmy Carter*.

# The Virginia SSW Submarine Design

Exact details of the new *Virginia* SSW submarine are, as we should expect, unclear. Even the USS *Jimmy Carter*, which has been in service almost twenty years, remains something of a mystery. However, we can expect the new submarine to carry special uncrewed underwater vehicles (UUVs), remote-operated vehicles (ROVs), and special operations submersibles.

Some of the vertical launch systems for missiles, known as VPMs (Virginia Payload Modules) will be repurposed for new systems. Additionally the keel beneath them will be extended. Exactly how this will interface with specialized submersibles can only be speculated at.

Russia too has a long tradition of seabed warfare. And rela-

tive to even the U.S. Navy, is heavily invested in this area. The largest submarines in service anywhere in the world are Russia's fleet of specialized submarines. The U.S. Navy's seabed warfare capability is likely more sophisticated, but Russia's is broader and more plentiful.

So if the U.S. Navy wishes to retain any advantage, it is natural that it would look to have a successor to the USS *Jimmy Carter*.



USS Jimmy Carter—*direct predecessor to the new* Virginia-*class spy mission submarine.* (U.S. Navy photo.)

# The Norfolk Gospel Tabernacle Bus

by Bob "Dex" Armstrong

T t was 2:00 in the morning and here you are leaning on a parking meter half-in-the-bag with your white hat MIA. Your jumper pocket is hanging inside out, there's nothing in your wallet but a faded love letter, and you look just like a first grader with a "KICK ME" sign taped to your butt. Your running mate is sitting on the curb shuffling pocket lint and mumbling something in an unknown tongue about the possibility of the reappearance of fifteen Slim-Jims and two gallons of draft beer.

It was *late*. And dark. And morning quarters was still six hours away.

At this point, a little teenage girl would appear and invite you to an all-night soul-saving of wayward naval personnel and lead you—with the Good Book in hand—to the Norfolk Gospel Tabernacle Bus, known throughout DES/ SUB piers as the "Free Ride Jesus Wagon."

If you declined the invitation, the sweet little girl would poke what looked like a folded ten dollar bill into your jumper pocket. When you unfolded it, it turned out to be only half of a printed fake ten dollar bill. The other half read: "Satan also deceives. But Jesus saves." The thing was great to leave on the chart table in the control room to hook some unsuspecting idiot.

But if you were an E-3 seriously considering crawling down Granby Street and Hampton Boulevard on your hands and knees, the alternative looked pretty damned good.

"C'mon Stuke. Let's get on the bus."

"I dunno. Whatcha say we finda bar. Shumbody's gotta be open dis time-a night...."

"We're broke, Kemosabi. Flat-ass outta wampum. No dinero. Gotta git back t'the boat."

"Boat?"

"Yeah, boat, ya blind, drunk sonuvabitch. The gahdam boat. Gotta make quarters."

"You got a quarter?"

"No, you idiot: quarters. Morning muster. If you're gonna shoot your cookies, launch 'em in the street, not on the bus."

"Bus? What bus? We gonna git onna bus? Where we goin'?"

"Lemme help you. Jeezus, you look bent up."

"I look bent up? I feel tore up. Where's Jack?"

"Jack who?"

Keep a zero bubble...



You ended up in an old former school bus with twenty or thirty other rollicking defenders of the free world. When the fishers of lost souls had harvested a busload, they fired up the engine and



hauled you out to a field so far out of Norfolk that land sold for a dime an acre.

In the middle of this field in this godforsaken corner of the planet stood a tent: a big canvas circus tent. A tent wherein a couple hundred drunken bluejackets sat parked on steel folding chairs swatting three pound mosquitoes and singing, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

They unloaded and ran you through a kinda car wash sheep-dip process where a lady the size of a cement mixer gave you a cup of coffee that could float a lug nut. I have no idea what they put in that coffee, but it could reverse the effect of embalming fluid. One cup and it was like somebody opened up an umbrella between your ears. Wow!

All the lads who worked the Jesus tent wore coats and ties. Ties like your eighty-year-old granny gave you for Christmas. The girls were all flat-chested. In Norfolk it was impossible to be a religious zealot and have big tits at the same time.

Every thirty minutes or so, this guy—the Right Reverend Pringle of The Norfolk Mission to Redeem the Lost would pop up like a jack-in-the-box and give you a rundown on what was going on in Hell. Sounded a lot like he'd once been billeted in T-division aboard the *Orion*.

You sang a few more songs, drank a little more coffee, scraped the fur off the inside of your eyelids. Then you either "accepted Jesus as your savior" or smiled and simply said, "Maybe next time, darlin."

You reboarded the bus and got delivered to the pier. His Highness Hyman Rickover would've found the whole process absolutely disgusting. Unless he was drunk sometime, dead-busted and hanging onto a parking meter on Grandby Street for dear life at 2 a.m., that is. Then he would have called it "innovative alternative transportation."

Shipmate Mike Hemming had a reserved seat on that bus. The girls always used to say, "Don't sit in that seat: Mr. Hemming should be here any minute. He's a regular. 'Been saved forty-two times now."

None of it lasted any longer than the trip back to Pier 22, of course. And no addled grease monkey who ever worked on a Fairbanks-Morse engine will ever be allowed into heaven. Says so right in the Bible: Book of Leroy, Chapter six, Verse nine.

# **New Members**

We proudly welcome aboard:

# Scott Hultner

(MM1-SS E6; Petty Officer, 1st) Spouse: Geri 5341 Vangard Avenue Garden Grove, CA 92845-1512 *cell*: 714-325-7321 shultner@yahoo.com (Qualified in 1974 on *John Adams*, SSBN-620; aboard till '78)

# Larry T. Lovett

(Associate; Retired Pharmacist) Wife: Robin 6632 Beachview Drive Huntington Beach, CA 92648-2666 *cell*: 714-856-3508 rx4art@gmail.com (Uncle lost on *Tullibee*, SS-284.)

# Arthur B. Schwartz, Jr.

(HM2-SS E5; Petty Officer 2nd.) Wife: Reta L. 13812 Reva Street Cerritos, CA 90703-9062 *cell*: 562-972-7865 abschwartzjr@gmail.com Qualified in 1975 on the USS *George Bancroft* (SSBN-643)

# David Detwiler

(Associate Member) Wife: Mary Ellen 738 Madrid Street San Francisco, CA 94112-3547 *phone:* 415-672-2294 dmdetwiler@att.net Qualified in Life and now enjoying retirement ;-)

# **Craig Ignatowitz**

(IC2-SS E5; P.O.2c; '86-'92) Partner: Anna Marie Lesh 6323 Capetown Street Lakewood, CA 90713-1703 *cell:* 562-965-7710 Texasiggy@gmail.com Qualified in 1988 on the USS *Henry L. Stimson* (SSBN-655)

# Charles R. Hinman

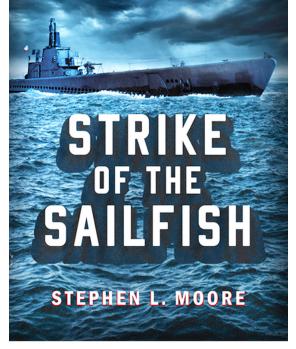
(Associate Member) Wife: Keiko 2015 Lime Street, Apt. #904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96826-3930 *cell:* 808-561-2869 charles.hinman@gmail.com Phone number at *Bowfin* Museum: 808-423-1341



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

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

TWO SISTER SUBMARINES AND THE SINKING OF A JAPANESE AIRCRAFT CARRIER



# Strike of the Sailfish: Two Sister Submarines and the Sinking of a Japanese Aircraft Carrier

We understand our own Bill Dillon worked closely with the author of this new book to relate the story of his boat and her experiences during WWII. Way to go, Bill! The title is set for release on December 5 of this year, but is already available for pre-order on Amazon.com for \$30. Below is the book jacket copy as related on the Amazon promo page.—ed.

A gripping true-life thriller about the first U.S submarine to sink a Japanese aircraft carrier—and the sub's tragic twist of fate

In 1939 off the New England coast, the submarine USS *Squalus* is accidentally sunk during a training exercise, killing half her crew. Coming to the rescue is the USS *Sculpin*, in many

ways the *Squalus*'s twin. The remaining crew aboard the *Squalus* are saved in a lengthy, white-knuckle operation, and eventually the sunken submarine is raised, repaired, and returned to duty with a new name: the *Sailfish*.

Four years later, on patrol during the darkest days of the Pacific War, the *Sailfish*'s radarman picks up the tell-tale signs of a Japanese aircraft carrier, the greatest of all enemy ships. Never before has an American submarine taken down a carrier. Immediately, the crewmen swing into action, embarking on a deadly game of cat-and-mouse as this oncedead boat evades enemy cruisers to stalk closer and closer to their prized target. Little do they know that aboard the Japanese carrier are the sole survivors of an attack on the USS *Sculpin*, the very boat that saved the *Squalus*-turned-*Sailfish* back in '39.

Author Stephen L. Moore takes readers inside the nine-hour duel, narrating the action aboard both *Sailfish* and the doomed carrier, as the American POWs fight against all odds to save their own lives before the ship goes down. *Strike of the Sailfish* is the nail-biting story of this strange chapter of naval history, tapping into a wealth of new information, including long-lost survivors' accounts.

(Respected author Stephen L. Moore has also written well-received books about subs Parche, Spadefish and American submarine POWs in WWII—as well as other WWII topics.—ed.)

# Annual SteakFest, 2023!



L.A.-Pasadena Base's newly adopted HQ.



Ron, Dave and Ray man the grill.



*Dave in obvious command.* ;-)



An annual luncheon tradition continues!

# **Our Memorial Just Got a Facelift**

Darin Detwiler documented this recent work accomplished at the Memorial. The worn-out trellises were removed and replaced with new shrubbery. Great to see our beloved Memorial site looking postively tip-top again!—ed.



Before work begins: worn-out trellises.



*Removal: out comes the old.* 



Now only a memory.....



All ready for a little something new.



Fresh greenery now added.



After: The new look—ready for the next ceremony.



Bonus: Object lesson. Our skipper teaches the value of hard work.



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

(75-year members noted with *)
Ronald R. Jones 2023
Gerard A. Krudwig
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 Bott2018
Robert "Mike" Cailor 2018
Robert Miller2018
John A. Anderson 2017
Roger C. Dunham, MD2017
Richard McPherson 2017
Harry "Bill" Moak 2017
Louis A. Myerson 2017
Elliot Rada2017
Ronald G. Wagner 2017
Dennis J. Walsh2017
Michael Kish2016
Gary Wheaton 2016
Lawrence R. Butler 2015
Samuel T. Higa 2015
Harry P. Ross 2015
Stephen C. Rowe 2015
Charles H. Senior 2015
(concluded next page)



# Los Angeles-Pasadena Base 2023 Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 21:	Monthly Meeting - Glory Days Beachside Grill	
February 18:	Monthly Meeting - Glory Days Beachside Grill	
March 18	Monthly Meeting - Glory Days Beachside Grill	
April 15	Monthly Meeting - Anaheim VFW Hall Call for Memorial Day Prep Volunteers	
May 20	Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900 Monthly Meeting - at the Memorial Site Nominating Committee Appointed Call for participants in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade	
May 27	Tarp Prep at the Memorial Site - 0900	
May 29	Memorial Day Service - 1100 Submarine Memorial, West	
June 17	Monthly Mtg Annual "SteakFest" at Anaheim VFW Post - Nominees for 2024 Base Officers	
July 4	116th Annual Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade	
July 15	LeRoy Stone Memorial "Picnic" and Auction - VFW Post in Anaheim	
August 19	Monthly Meeting - Location TBA 2024 Base Officer Candidates Announced	
September 16	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Election of Officers - Location TBA	
October 21	Monthly Meeting - Location TBA Annual Officer Installation Luncheon	
November 18	Monthly Meeting - Location TBA	
December 9	Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Los Alamitos Golf Course	

### (Holland Club Roster, concluded)

L . D. C. '-1
Larry E. Smith
Sam Aboulafia
David Palagyi
Earl Thomas Peratt, Jr2014
David D. Semrau, DDS 2014
Ray Tracy Teare2014
Milton Harry Boudov2013
Kenneth Jon Dorn
M. Mark Hoffer 2013
Michael P. Klein2013
Ronald L. Levenson
Edward L. Arnold2012
T. Michael Bircumshaw2012
Raymond Cheesebrough . 2012
Bobby O. Mahaffey
John V. Mahan
Lee Melody 2012
Clyde Matthew Turner2012
George R. Walrath 2012
John L. Weisenberger 2012
Edward A. Barwick
Joseph W. Koch, Jr
Stephen D. Diumenti 2009
David Whittlesey2009
Dennis A. Yure
Armen Bagdasarian
Paul A. Riggs
Rex L. Shields
John L. Von Ulmen 2008
Francis R. Traser
Ronald K. Thompson 2004
Robert L. Conboy
James Rogers
John E. Savela, Jr
Berry S. Yolken 2002
James E. Carter 1999
William F. Long 1999
*Herbert J. "Bo" Bolton 1998
*Kenneth E. Chunn 1998
*Royal Harrison, Jr1995
*William J. Dillon1993
*Harold Staggs1992



# E-Board Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2023

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted on the morning of Saturday, June 17, 2023.

### In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Darin Detwiler, Base Vice Commander
- Mike Swanson, Treasurer
- Ken Dorn, Director
- Ray Teare, COB

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the meeting at the VFW Post in Anaheim to order at 1027 hours with a quorum present. Minutes of the May meeting were reviewed with no revisions requested. Ray Teare moved to accept the Minutes; this was seconded by Ken Dorn and approved by voice vote.

### Treasurer's Financial Report: Mike Swanson

The Treasurer's Report as of June 16, 2023 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Mike Swanson:

Checking Cash On Hand Uncleared Checks: <b>Total</b>	\$20,759.03 \$50.00 \$403.84 \$20,405.19		
All vendors have been paid up-to-date.			
Income: Expenses:	\$585.00 \$1,286.00		
Flower/Booster Club Additions:			
Ken Dorn	\$200.00		
Inkind Donations:	\$00.00		

Again, there were no questions or corrections. Ray Teare moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; this was seconded by Darin Detwiler and approved by voice vote.

Dave then issued a call for L.A.-Pasadena Base officer candidates for the 2024 calendar year. He also shared that the Western Regional Dist. 6 Commander candidate is Rocky Rockers.

### **Memorial Report:**

On 6/19, an Eagle Scout candidate will work on planting four bushes in the location of the removed trellis. On 6/20 ,Dave will send a letter to the Seal Beach Weapons Station regarding the completion of this work.

The local USN JAG officer is now considering installation approval of our seventy memorial bricks still stored at NWSSB Bldg. 6. We are cautiously optimistic. More to come on this.

(concluded on next page)

# U.S. Denies Sub Forced to Surface in Persian Gulf

(Reproduced from the Bloomberg News website; published April 20, 2023.)

by Patrick Sykes & Omar Tamo

Iran said it detected U.S. submarine in Hormuz Strait
U.S. says none of its subs have recently transited area

The U.S. denied a claim by Iran's navy that it was forced to surface a nuclear-powered submarine in the Strait of Hormuz oil choke point.

In a statement published on Twitter on Thursday, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command said an earlier claim by the Islamic Republic was "absolutely false," adding that no U.S. submarines have recently transited the Strait of Hormuz, a key conduit for energy exports.

Admiral Shahram Irani, commander of the Iranian Army's Naval Forces, told state TV earlier on Thursday that an Iranian *Fateh*-class submarine detected the USS *Florida* with sonar after it partially entered Iranian waters in the Persian Gulf, forcing it to transit the strait at surface level.

Iran's claim is absolutely false. A U.S. submarine has *not* transited the Strait of Hormuz recently. The claim represents more Iranian disinformation that destabilizes the region. U.S. 5th Fleet continues to operate wherever international law allows.

Admiral Shahram Irani further said Iran expects an explanation from U.S. officials for the "dangerous and unprofessional" action.

The U.S. said on April 8 that it deployed the submarine capable of carrying as many as 154 Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles—to the region to "ensure regional maritime security and stability."

# E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

Rick Smith, the NWSSB Public Works contractor supervisor, is also looking into the continuing irrigation issues at memorial site.

### 2023 Memorial Day Ceremony:

Over 450 were noted in attendance—far more than that of the Seal Beach city-held event. The NWSSB Cmdr. impressed all with the high quality delivery and brevity of her speech. There was some reminder discussion with the politicians in attendance that they were invited to express support of the ceremony and its message, not to campaign for themselves. It was noted also that although the Scouts in attendance did have our plan for state flag placement ready during the ceremony, their leadership changed things to ill effect. Also, flower distribution was less than successful: some were left in large buckets, not making it to the individual marker locations as desired. It was observed that the Order of the Arrow scout troop did not participate in the tasks required at the site: only Troops 412 and 568 performed the work as called for.

It was agreed that for the 2024 ceremony next year, the traditional WWII subvet flag placement protocol will be reinstated. Also, proper traditional placement of the flowers will again be assured, and there will be directorial review of overall plans and guidance for the whole ceremony as well. Further, QR codes will be added to the ceremony's printed programs to link attendees with websites providing subvet and submarine information. Also: Scout Troop 568—contacted through Scoutmaster Paul Chen—has already committed to participate in the ceremony again next year.

### 4th of July Parade:

It was determined that L.A.-Pasadena Base will coordinate with Bonefish Base for participation in this year's parade. There will be two vehicles involved (one of ours, plus their truck pulling their trailer), with Harold Staggs riding as a celebrated VIP passenger on the TV camera side of the submarine. Muster for the parade takes place at 7:30 a.m. at the McDonald's on Golden West Avenue at Yorktown in Huntington Beach.

### Christmas Luncheon:

Our traditional annual holiday luncheon is tentatively slated for December 9 at the Los Alamitos Golf Course. A contract for same has been sent to us containing significant new twists, and negotiation about this is taking place between Mike Swanson and the Eagle's Nest establishment. Prices are set at a sharp increase, so there was a discussion about the possibility of seeking a new venue instead. Or, we may keep our current one for this year and revisit the idea of a new option for 2024. Stay tuned.

There being no further business, Ray Teare motioned the meeting be adjourned; Mike Swanson seconded and it was passed by all present, ending the meeting at 1103 hours.

Respectfully submitted, **Daria Detwiler** Filling in for Bill Moak as *Secretary*, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI



# A Letter from Alan Fickett, Chairman, USSVCF Scholarhip Program

June 27, 2023

Shipmates,

Next month every member of USSVI has a unique opportunity to support the USSVCF Scholarship Fund while enjoying and reliving great submarine tales.

Charles and Frank Hood have donated \$50,000 to our Scholarship Fund over the past several years.

These well-known submarine authors are offering to increase their support by donating 100% of the proceeds from the sales of their seven books in the month of July 2023 to the Scholarship Fund.

Everyone who buys a Hood brothers' book in July will be boosting the Scholarship Fund as well as enjoying memorable true-life submarine history and adventures.

We are encouraging all USSVI members to take advantage of this great opportunity.

- 1. Poopie Suits & Cowboy Boots
- 2. Sub Tales: Stories That Seldom Surface
- 3. More Sub Tales
- 4. Sub Tales 3
- 5. The Silent Service Speaks Vol. 1
- 6. The Silent Service Speaks Vol. 2
- 7. The Silent Service Speaks Vol. 3

All books are available from www.amazon.com.

USSVI membership, family and friends: remember to "Buy in July." Thanks!

Regards,

Alan

Dr. Alan G. Fickett, Ph.D. Chairman, USSVCF Academic Scholarship Program Past Base Commander 2019-2020 Central Florida Base United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. alan.cfsubvets@gmail.com 407-256-3638 Pride Runs Deep!





Your Periscope Editor's freshly painted and highly accurate new 1:72 scale 52" radio-controlled model of the USS Harder (SS-257).

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