Norman Lavigne Patrol Norman Lavigne Patrol See Page 161 1 1 E

PERISCE PE

A monthly publication of the Los Angeles/Pasadena Base • United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Volume 21, Number 6 • June 2025





"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."

What's Inside

2
3
6
7
8
9
13
14
17
18
19

Memorial Day Ceremony 20

Editor's Corner



U.S. Navy's Oldest Active Submarine —the Missile-Packed USS *Ohio*—is Back in Action for Unrestricted Pacific Ops

(Reproduced from the Business Insider website - Published March 19, 2025) by Chris Panella



USS Ohio (SSGN-726) is due to retire next year. (USN photo by Wendy Hallmark.)

- The U.S. Navy's oldest active submarine, the USS *Ohio*, is back for operations in the Pacific after a three-year maintenance period.
- Ohio is a first-in-class nuclear-powered guided missile submarine.
- The repairs were major, including interior work and modernization efforts.

he U.S. Navy's oldest submarine still in active service has returned to the fleet after three years of maintenance.

The USS *Ohio* (SSGN-726) finished major repairs last month and is now certified for unrestricted operations in the Indo-Pacific region, a priority theater where more than half the U.S. Navy submarine fleet is positioned to respond to regional threats.

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Bremerton, Washington, announced the completion last week, writing in a release that the nuclear-powered guided missile submarine had undergone interior mechanical repairs

(concluded on page 12)



BASE COMMANDER - CO

Dave Vanderveen

6061 Broadstone Circle Huntington Beach, CA 92648 714-374-7349 d.s.vanderveen@hotmail.com

VICE COMMANDER - XO

Ray Teare

602 E. Mountain View Ave. Glendora, CA 91741-2765 626-831-5463 rtteare@yahoo.com

SECRETARY - OPS

Darin Detwiler

205 Seventh Street Seal Beach, CA 90740-6180 425-232-5743 ddetwiler680@gmail.com

TREASURER - WEPS

Sue Bolton

13561 Iowa Street Westminster, CA 92683-2637 714-932-6222 sbolton714@gmail.com

CHIEF OF THE BOAT - COB Bill Moak

2865 Helm Street Simi Valley, CA 93065 805-660-4776 golfnsurf46@aol.com

MEMORIAL DIRECTOR

Dennis Bott

202 Berth Slip #7 Wilmington, CA 90744-6722 562-355-0230 dbottsailor@gmail.com

IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER Bill Moak

L.A.-PASADENA BASE WEBSITE www.socalsubvets.org

The Periscope is a monthly publication of the Los Angeles-Pasadena Base of USSVI

Newsletter Editor

Jeff Porteous

15127 Matisse Circle La Mirada, CA 90638-4733 714-709-6584 jefftytoo@ca.rr.com

From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

Our Memorial Day ceremony this year drew a lot of appreciation, particularly from several family members of submariners who were lost on their boats during the war. Many more audience members said they attended because

they served on boats during or since the war, or because some of their family members had served. Despite a couple of glitches which were probably not even noticed by the audience, the ceremony was poignant and reflects well on the many of our members who invested a lot of effort into its preparation and execution.

The June meeting will be held at the Simi Valley Military History Museum; 1555 Simi Town Center Way, Ste. 220, Simi Valley, 93065. The phone number there is 805-578-1539. The Board meeting will begin at 10:00 followed by the General Meeting at 11:00. We have purposely chosen different parts of the Los Angeles Basin for some meetings to alleviate travel difficulty for members. I hope you who live in the SoCal area can join us on June 21st. Thank you to Bill Moak for arranging with VFW Post 10049 and the museum to host us.

Preparation is well underway for our part in the Huntington Beach Independence Day Parade. It's billed as "the biggest July 4th parade west of the Mississippi River"—and typically draws about 400,000 spectators. I encourage you to come and walk the parade route (about three miles) with us. It's a lot of fun chatting with people along the route, and gratifying to see so many veterans among them. If you cannot attend, Los Angeles ABC-TV affiliate (Channel 7) broadcasts and streams their video of the parade.

The formal Elections Committee work will begin in August, and I encourage any member who wants to help our base conduct its business to let any current base leaders know of your interest. Due to term limits in our By-Laws, the Base Commander job will be open this year. It is a pretty easy job with good guidance in the USSVI website, and the new BC will get a solid turnover from me. Our By-Laws also provide that the Past BC will participate in the base's work as a coach for the "new" BC, so you would have good support if you choose to accept this mission!

As always, please continue to follow your own good sense in protecting your health and safety. We don't want to lose you!



Dave Vanderveen, Commander Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



May General Meeting Sailing List

Frank Bereznay

Dennis Bott

Ken Dorn

Ron Jones

Joe Koch

Bill Moak

Chuck Senior

Mike Swanson

Ray Teare

Dennis Walsh

Stan Westrick

Gary Wing





Minutes of May 17, 2025 General Meeting

Vice Commander Ray Teare called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at the VFW Hall in Anaheim at 1100 hours. Ray then recited the USSVI Purpose, adding a request for a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates. Next, the group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ray indicated that April's Meeting Minutes had been published in the prior issue of the newsletter and had been reviewed, approved and accepted into the base record during the earlier E-Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Chuck Senior read the Treasurer's Report to the group, and Ray noted it had been reviewed, approved and accepted into the base record by the E-Board. (See the E-Board Meeting Minutes for details as usual.—ed.)

Memorial Report:

Dennis Bott gave his report on the Memorial, indicating the memorial brick installation will take place on June 20. He had elaborated further for the E-Board, so see those Minutes for details.

Memorial Day preparation will include a field day on Saturday May 24. Dave Vanderveen will retrieve the necessary items from the Anaheim VFW Hall the day before. Please arrive at 0900 if you are assisting. Scouts will be present to assemble the tarps along the fence.

Membership Update:

Chuck indicated we are now at 100 members, and Marilyn is still working on bringing in two potential new members. Marilyn continues to recover well, as does Bill Dillon after a hospital stay—and the same for Mercedes Zilliacus.

Bill Dillon and Patrick Zilliacus were absent, since they were attending an Armed Forces Day event in Los Angeles.

(concluded on next page)

Binnacle List

Keep these shipmates in your thoughts—better yet, get in touch!

• Anne Higa has suffered a fall and broken a wrist. Sam reports she recently had surgery to insert a plate and screws to stabilize it and will continue under a surgeon's care. She also had to have a cast on it. Who wants to sign it? You can reach Anne through Sam's contact info. below:

cell: 949-216-0883 email: sth19999@gmail.com

- Marilyn Senior continues on the mend. Contact her at: cell: (310) 503-3915 email: marilyn.senior@gmail.com
- Sam Aboulafia's cancer is apparently back, according to tests. He could use some comforting words.

cell: 702-274-7256 email: Aboulafiasam@gmail.com

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!

General Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

4th of July Parade:

We're still awaiting confirmation of parade participation by Bonefish Base. David Semrau will drive his 1976 Chevrolet Caprice convertible in the parade, replacing our usual black pickup.

June Meeting and July Picnic Updates:

Our June meeting will take place in the VFW Military Museum in Simi Valley, CA, on June 21. Details and maps will be be provided. Bill had arranged for an 1100 start for the general meeting, since the museum normally opens at 1300. He'll see if we can arrange 1000 instead, so the E-Board can meet beforehand, or perhaps hold a Zoom meeting. Again, details are to follow. Dennis Walsh has once again volunteered his residence for our annual LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic in July. Thank you, Dennis. He asked that those planning on attending bring chairs and pop-ups, if you happen to own the latter.

There being no offered Good of the Order comments or further business, Dennis Bott motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Gary Wing and passed unanimously by voice vote, ending the meeting at 1113 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Moak, COB In Relief of *Darin Detwiler*, Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI



June Meeting in Airill Valley Military Museumi

This month, courtesy of Bill Moak's efforts, we're meeting in the VFW Simi Valley Military Museum—which displays some of our former memorabilia.

Directions: From the East, 210 Fwy. west to the 118 Fwy. west. Exit Erringer Road. South on Erringer to Town Center Way west to parking.

From the South, 405 Fwy. north to 118 Fwy. west, to Erringer, and follow as previous.

Alternatives could be 5 Fwy. north to 118, and 605 Fwy. north to 405, then same as shown.

Enter Center between Ted Robinson and California Pizza Kitchen, into middle of center, east to museum on north side.

Address:

1555 Simi Town Ctr. Way #220 (See map on front page.)

Times:

• E-Board Meets: 10:00-11:00

• General Mtg.: 11:00-Noon

• Lunch: Noon

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

June Birthdays

We hereby extend the happiest of wishes to all our L.A.-Pasadena Base birthday celebrants. Brooke Bland Nafarrete ... 6/2 Milt Boudov 6/3 Kathleen A. Carder...... 6/6 Bob Frazier 6/23 Ken Dorn.....6/26 Angus McColl 6/29

Ship's Store



Clearance Price on T-Shirts!

Our ever-popular L.A.-Pasadena Base "Submarine Veterans" 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 Bill Moak for yours, or just bring a few extra bucks to the next meeting, you skinflint!



USSVI Logo Patch $(9\% \times 6\%)$ \$11.00 ea.



L.A.-Pasadena Base Patch (3% x5)\$5.00 ea.



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

L.A.-Pasadena Base Logo Stickers!

They're not just for the refrigerator, bubblehead! Stick 'em on cars, trucks, RVs, motorcycles, clipboards, notebooks, laptops, desktop computer backs, old steamer trunks...hell, even slap one on your forehead—it's better than a tattoo! Show your base pride

US SUBMARINE VETERANS

and stock up

Get in touch with Storekeeper Bill Moak at golfnsurf46@aol.com for more information! LOS ANGELES / PASADENA L.A.-Pasadena **Base Sticker** (3% x5)

now!

\$5.00 ea.

LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

2025 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:

- Bill Dillon Bud Fox Bob Schieve Ken Dorn (multiple) Sally Moran
- Scott Hultner Willie Williamson Greg Paulson Dennis Bott (multiple)
 - Harold Staggs estate Dave Vanderveen Ed Barwick (multiple)
 - Robert Cailor (multiple)

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 Sue Bolton at 13561 Iowa Street, Westminster, CA 92683-2637. To ensure proper credit, be sure to indicate Booster Club or Flower Fund on your check. Thanks!

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

JUNE TOLLING OF THE BOATS



USS HERRING (SS-233)

Lost on June 1, 1944 near Matsuwa Island on her eighth war patrol. *Herring* was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and scored two direct hits on her fairwater, dooming the boat. *Herring* was the only U.S. submarine sunk by a land battery. Eighty-three men were lost.



USS R-12 (SS-89)

Lost on June 12, 1943 near Key West, Florida during a practice torpedo approach. The loss was likely due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and two other men on the bridge survived, as did eighteen crew members on liberty at the time of the accident. Forty-two went down with the boat, including two Brazilian officers aboard as observers.



USS GOLET (SS-361)

Lost on June 14, 1944 during her second war patrol when she came up short in a pitched battle with Japanese anti-submarine forces north of Honshu. Eighty-two men perished aboard the submarine.



USS BONEFISH (SS-223)

Lost on June 18, 1945 *Bonefish* was sunk near Suzu Misaki while subjected to a savage depth charge attack after sinking a passenger-cargoman. A recipient of three Navy Unit Citations, *Bonefish* had been on her eighth war patrol. She took eighty-five men with her on Eternal Patrol.



USS S-27 (SS-132)

Lost on June 19, 1942 when she ran aground off Amchitka Island. S-27 had been on the surface in poor visibility, charging her batteries, when she drifted onto the shoals. Once determined she could not free herself, and with a dangerous list beginning as well, the captain evacuated the entire crew to shore—some 400 yards distant—in relays using a three-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescued.

USS O-9 (SS-70)

Lost on June 20, 1941 when she foundered off the Isle of Shoals, fifteen miles from Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Thirty-three men were lost.



USS RUNNER (SS-275)

Lost sometime between June 26 and July 4, 1943, *Runner* had been on her third war patrol when she went down, probably due a mine. Prior to her loss, she had reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargo ship off the Kuriles. Her last known attack and ship sinking had taken place on June 26, so she probably struck the mine on or after that date but before July 4, when she was scheduled to return to Midway. Seventy-eight men never came home.

Navy's New Block V Virginia-Class Submarines Will Unleash 400 Tomahawks

The U.S. Navy is accelerating upgrades to its Block V Virginia-class submarines to replace the firepower lost when its four Ohio-class guided missile (SSGN) submarines retire in 2028.

(Reproduced from the 19FortyFive website - Published March 26, 2025.)

by Kris Osborn



U.S. Navy Virginia-class submarine under construction. (USN photo.)

Block V Virginia-class Submarines, Explained

- The Virginia Payload Module (VPM) adds an 80-foot hull section, increasing missile capacity from 12 to 40 Tomahawks per submarine.
- This upgrade will enable mass, long-range precision strikes critical to deterrence and warfare against powerful adversaries such as China.
- With a total of ten Block V submarines planned, commanders could unleash up to 400 advanced Tomahawk missiles simultaneously, significantly boosting the Navy's ability to engage both fixed and moving targets from safer distances.

The United States Navy is fast-tracking a massive firepower upgrade for its undersea attack capability. The move is a key measure to compensate for the anticipated retirement of its large and heavily armed SSGN guided missile submarines.

According to Navy developers, the answer to this expected loss of firepower is the addition of the Virginia Payload Module for Block V Virginia-class attack submarines.

SSGN Guided Missile Submarines

The U.S. Navy operates four *Ohio-*class submarines, each designed to carry up to 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles. They are 1980s-era boats that carry large amounts of conventional undersea attack firepower. These submarines have been used with impressive tactical effect in several key conflicts, such as the Persian Gulf War and the 2011

(concluded on page 11)

U.S. Runs Two Pacific Submarine Drills; Chinese Surface Group Operating Near Australia

(Reproduced from the USNI News website - Published March 6, 2025.) by Dzirhan Mahadzir



Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Montana (SSN-794) gets underway from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in preparation for exercise Black Widow 2025, March 3, 2025. (U.S. Navy photo.)

he U.S. Navy began anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercises in Hawaii and Guam on Tuesday. Meanwhile, a Chinese and a Russian surveillance ship have been conducting separate sails around Japan's southwest islands and Australia has now tasked three frigates to shadow a People's Liberation Army Navy task group that has been operating around Australia since mid-February.

On Tuesday, U.S. Navy submarines, ships and aircraft began exercise Black Widow 2025 off Hawaii, reads a Navy release. The drill combines submarines, surface ships and aircraft into a team tasked to track and engage a simulated adversary submarine.

Commander, Task Force (CTF) 34 will serve as the unit

commander during Black Widow 2025, responsible for exercising command and control over exercise units.

"The Black Widow exercise series is our annual pinnacle event to deliver high-end integrated theater undersea warfare tactical development and combat readiness. It's incredibly valuable to work across domains to deliver cutting edge capabilities that make us more capable and more lethal," said Rear Adm. Rick Seif, commander of the Pacific Submarine Force and CTF 34, in the release.

Commander, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 23 will embark aboard destroyer USS *Frank E. Petersen Jr.* (DDG-121). Other units participating in the exercise are

(concluded on page 10)

North Korea Unveils Work on Nuclear-Powered Sub for First Time

"It would be absolutely threatening to us and the U.S.," said Moon Keun-sik, a South Korean submarine expert who teaches at Seoul's Hanyang University.

(Reproduced from AP via the NBC News website - Published March 8, 2025.)

by The Associated Press



Undated Getty Images photo from official Korean Central News Agency shows leader Kim Jong Un (front center) inspecting a shipbuilding project at a major shipyard in North Korea. (Photo: NKOREA-POLITICS by STR/KCNA via KNS/AFP.)

orth Korea unveiled for the first time a nuclearpowered submarine under construction, a weapons system that can pose a major security threat to South Korea and the U.S.

State media on Saturday released photos showing what it called "a nuclear-powered strategic guided missile submarine," as it reported leader Kim Jong Un's visits to major shipyards where warships are built.

The Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, didn't provide details on the submarine, but said Kim was briefed on its construction.

The naval vessel appears to be a 6,000-ton-class or 7,000-ton-class, one which can carry about ten missiles, said Moon Keun-sik, a South Korean submarine expert who teaches at Seoul's Hanyang University. He said the use of the term "the strategic guided missiles" meant it would carry nuclear-capable weapons. "It would be absolutely threatening to us and the U.S.," Moon said.

A nuclear-powered submarine was among a long wishlist of sophisticated weaponry that Kim vowed to introduce during a major political conference in 2021 to cope with what he called escalating U.S.-led military threats. Other weapons were solid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missiles, hypersonic weapons, spy satellites and multiwarhead missiles. North Korea has since performed a run of testing activities to acquire them.

North Korea obtaining a greater ability to fire missiles from underwater is a worrying development because it's difficult for its rivals to detect such launches in advance.

Questions about how North Korea, a heavily sanctioned and impoverished country, could get resources and technology to build nuclear-powered submarines have surfaced.

Moon, the submarine expert, said North Korea may have received Russian technological assistance to build a nuclear reactor to be used in the submarine in return for supplying conventional weapons and troops to support Russia's war efforts against Ukraine. He also said North Korea could launch the submarine in one or two years to test its capability before its actual deployment.

North Korea has an estimated 70-90 diesel-powered submarines in one of the world's largest fleets. However, they are mostly aging ones capable of launching only torpedoes and mines, not missiles.

In 2023, North Korea said it had launched what it called its first "tactical nuclear attack submarine," but foreign experts doubted the North's announcement and speculated it was likely a diesel-powered submarine disclosed in 2019. Moon said there has been no confirmation that it has been deployed.

North Korea has conducted a slew of underwater-launched ballistic missile tests since 2016, but all launches were made from the same 2,000-ton-class submarine which has a single launch tube. Many experts call it a test platform, rather than an operational submarine in active service.

In recent days, North Korea has been dialing up its fiery rhetoric against the U.S. and South Korea ahead of their upcoming annual military drills set to start Monday.

During his visits to the shipyards, Kim said North Korea aims to modernize water-surface and underwater warships simultaneously. He stressed the need to make "the incomparably overwhelming warships fulfill their mission" to contain "the inveterate gunboat diplomacy of the hostile forces," KCNA reported Saturday.

Two Submarine Drills Run in the Pacific

(concluded from page 8)

destroyers USS *Michael Murphy* (DDG-112), fast-attack submarines USS *Mississipp*i (SSN-782) and USS *Montana* (SSN-794), P-8A Poseidon aircraft from Patrol Squadron (VP) 4, and an MH-60R Sea Hawk from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 37, embarked aboard *Michael Murphy*, according to the release.

In Guam two U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft operating under CTF 72, one from VP-16 and one from VP-47, joined Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance (MPRA) communities from Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), Indian Navy (IN), Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) for the Sea Dragon 25 exercise according to a Navy release on Tuesday.

The exercise, which has been held annually since 2019, will see pilots and aircrew from the participating countries coordinate to build plans and discuss tactics incorporating their respective capabilities and equipment for ASW with the exercise culminating in a final battle problem in the vicinity of Guam, during which participants will track a live U.S. Navy submarine.

The "War Eagles" of VP-16, part of CTF 72, are stationed in Jacksonville, Florida, and are currently forward-deployed to Misawa Air Base in Misawa, Japan. The "Golden Swordsmen" of VP 47, also a part of CTF 72, are stationed in Whidbey Island, Washington, and are currently forward-deployed to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. While deployed, both squadrons will conduct maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations, according to the release.

A JMSDF release stated that a single P-1 Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) will participate in the exercise while a ROKN release stated that it is participating with a P-3 Orion MPA. Both the RAAF and Indian Navy have not disclosed details of their participation, but the RAAF is likely to send a P-8A Poseidon MPA while the Indian Navy will deploy a P-8I Poseidon MPA.

Meanwhile, Chinese and Russian surveillance ships have been operating around Japan's southwest islands according to Japan Joint Staff Office (JSO) releases this week. On Monday the JSO issued a release stating that on Feb. 28 at 1 p.m, PLAN Dongdiao class surveillance ship Tianshuxing (795) was sighted sailing west in an area 87 miles northeast of Cape Sata, which lies on the southern tip of the Ōsumi Peninsula of the main island of Kyushu and subsequently sailed west through the Osumi Strait to enter the east China Sea on the same day.

The release added that on Monday, Tianshuxing sailed

southeast through the waters between Miyako Island and Okinawa to enter the Philippine Sea. JMSDF destroyer JS *Harusame* (DD-102) and JMSDF P-3C Orion MPA of Fleet Air Wing based at Naha Air Base, Okinawa, shadowed the PLAN surveillance ship, according to the release.

A Wednesday JSO release stated that on Tuesday at 11 a.m., Russian Navy surveillance ship *Kareliya* (535) was sighted sailing west in an area 49 miles southwest of Okinawa and subsequently sailed within the contiguous zone southwest of Okinawa to west of Iotourishima Island. The contiguous zone is a band of water which begins at the 12 nautical mile (nm) territorial sea limit to up to 24nm from a country's baseline and countries are given limited jurisdiction in the contiguous zone to enforce laws relating to customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary matters.

Kareliya left the contiguous zone in an area west of Iotourishima Island and sailed into the East China Sea. A JMSDF P-3C Orion from Fleet Air Wing 5 carried out surveillance on the Russian ship. The release noted that *Kareliya* earlier sailed southwest through the Tsushima Strait on Feb. 16-17, sailed through the contiguous zone from north of Iotourishima to southeast of Okinawa on Feb. 19 and then left the contiguous zone southeast of Okinawa on Feb. 20.

On Wednesday, Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles in a media interview stated that three Royal Australian Navy (RAN) frigates, namely HMAS Warramunga (FFH152), HMAS Stuart (FFH153), and HMAS Toowoomba (FFH156) were shadowing the PLAN task group comprising of cruiser CNS Zunyi (107), frigate CNS Hengyang (568) and fleet oiler CNS Weishanhu (887), "They'll continue to be on the task of surveilling this task group whilst it's in the vicinity of Australia. We've also had over flights of P-8 aircraft to keep a close eye on what this task force is doing," said Marles, according to a transcript.

Marles stressed that the PLAN task group had been complying with international law in its movements but Australia had the right under international law to carry out surveillance to monitor what the PLAN task group was doing, "We will continue to stay with them so long as they are within the vicinity of Australia, so that we can completely understand what it is they were trying to achieve with this mission," said Marles.

Australia's Department of Defence's running update on the PLAN task group stated on Thursday that the PLAN task group was operating 630 nautical miles northwest of Perth, Western Australia.

Navy's New Block V Virginia-Class Submarines

(concluded from page 7)

conflict in Libya.

However, after forty years of service, these SSGN submarines and many of the nuclear-armed *Ohio*-class SSBN ballistic missile submarines are nearing obsolescence.

All four SSGN submarines—the USS *Florida*, USS *Georgia*, USS *Ohio*, and USS *Michigan*—have been in service for at least four decades. While they have been upgraded and modernized to extend service life, they are fast-reaching obsolescence and will need to retire fully. This retirement of the SSGNs, slated for 2028, removes a massive amount of conventional firepower for the Navy.

Block V Virginia-Class Firepower

To offset the expected firepower deficit generated by the retirement of the U.S. Navy SSGNs, the Navy has for many years been engineering Block V *Virginia*-class attack submarines, boats specifically built to accommodate a significant increase in firepower. Block I through IV *Virginia*-class submarines, which have been under construction for many years, are armed with the ability to fire twelve Tomahawk missiles from missile tubes.

Block V *Virginia*-class submarines, however, are engineered with an additional 80-foot section designed to add as many as 28 more Tomahawks to the boats. With Virginia Payload Modules, Block V *Virginia*-class boats increase Tomahawk carrying capacity from 12 to 40 missiles per boat.

The U.S. Navy has acquired 10 Block V *Virginia-*class submarines between 2019 and 2023, several of which are already under construction. The tactical and strategic advantage associated with additional Tomahawks is highly significant concerning the deterrence equation and possible readiness for great power warfare. There are several key reasons for this, one simply being an ability to place "mass" fires on target. While future warfare is expected to incorporate advanced AI, long-range precision sensors and weapons, and fast-moving multi-domain combat, there would likely still be a need for massive fires in a great power conflict.

This is particularly true in the case of the Tomahawk missile, as they are often the first used in any major military engagement. Capable of traveling as far as 900 miles at 550 mph, Tomahawks can exact massive destruction upon targets from undersea locations from safer distances.

In terms of pure contingencies or the realm of theory, Tomahawk missiles would likely be needed to reach mainland China, the South China Sea, and other areas of the Pacific simultaneously. Future great power warfare will likely require range, precision, and "mass," something a large salvo of Tomahawks would be positioned to accomplish.

400 Tomahawks

Looking at a simple mathematical equation, ten Block V Virginia Payload Module boats with 40 Tomahawks each could give commanders the ability to fire as many as 400 Tomahawk missiles. This capacity means several hundred could be fired at one time, should that be necessary in a large-scale engagement.

The ability to mass fire Tomahawks is particularly relevant in light of the extensive upgrades the missile has received in recent years. Block IV Tomahawks travel with a two-way data link and can loiter and change targets in flight if needed.

Advanced Tomahawks can also, therefore, perform certain levels of drone-like ISR or target acquisition functions as well. Some of the most current Tomahawks, such as the U.S. Navy's Tactical Tomahawks, are upgraded with radio-throughput technology sufficient to enable the weapons to attack "moving" targets. The ability to reach moving targets is significant, as Tomahawks have historically been used to hit fixed infrastructure such as command and control facilities, weapons depots, or force locations. Tactical Maritime Tomahawks, however, can adjust in flight to hit moving targets such as land convoys or ships at sea.

Therefore, the ability to bring mass precision fires at long ranges against moving targets introduces a significant tactical advantage for undersea forces, mainly because they are harder to detect than surface ships.

Kris Osborn is the Military Affairs Editor of 19 FortyFive 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.



USS Ohio Back in Action After Three Years

(concluded from page 1)

and shaft replacement.

The main ballast tanks and superstructure were also fixed, and the submarine underwent several modernization tweaks, including torpedo tube upgrades.

The *Ohio* was commissioned in 1981 as a ballistic missile sub, part of the fleet of so-called "boomers" which make up the strategic undersea leg of the U.S. nuclear triad, before she was converted to a guided missile sub packed with cruise missiles.

During the recently concluded maintenance, her age meant that the team faced hurdles in overcoming some obsolete materials and designs.

Restoring the *Ohio* was a top Navy priority. Rear Adm. Thomas Wall, commander, Submarine Group Nine, said the submarine's "operational readiness plays a direct role in our undersea warfighter's continued ability to achieve peace through strength."

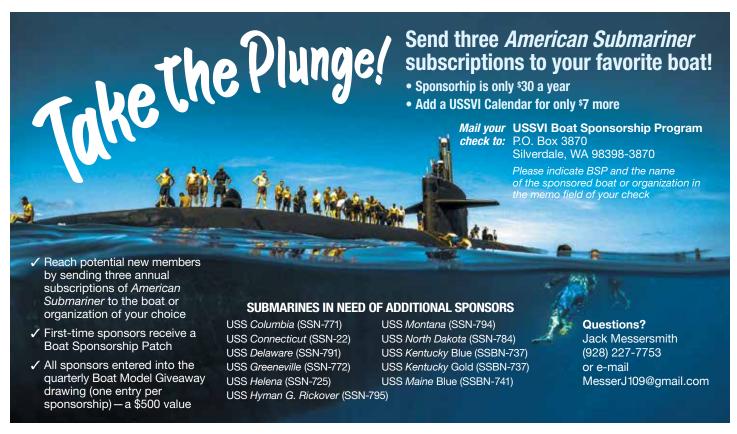
The *Ohio* will now be returning to the Pacific. The region is significant in U.S. force posturing amid concerns about China, which is building up its naval forces by leveraging its massive shipbuilding juggernaut.

Nuclear-powered guided missile subs, also known as SSGNs, like the *Ohio* are critical to U.S. undersea capabilities. As a boomer, or SSBN, *Ohio* conducted strategic deterrence patrols with nuclear-armed Trident submarine-launched ballistic missiles. After she underwent an overhaul between 2002 and 2006, she was equipped to carry 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles.

As an SSGN, *Ohio* has been a part of a number of notable deployments, though not always highly publicized. In June 2010, she was one of the three *Ohio*-class submarines to surface simultaneously in different parts of the Indo-Pacific, a surprisingly visible event that sent a message to China.

Although the *Ohio* has rejoined the fleet, her future remains unclear. The Navy's shipbuilding plan would retire her and the USS *Florida* in 2026, as well as the USS *Michigan* and USS *Georgia* in 2028, severely depleting the submarine force's capabilities.

Improvements to *Virginia*-class attack submarines are expected to replace the lost *Ohio*-class SSGN capabilities, but delays have hamstrung related submarine projects, including new *Columbia*-class submarines, as the Navy grapples with a range of shipbuilding challenges that have set back top programs by years.



Memory Flashes by Bob "Dex" Armstrong

Lectrician Guy Peto always kept a Windex spray bottle filled with Varsol in his side locker. You see, he had a new bride. When we came in, after we doubled up all lines and put our brow over, Peto pulled out his Varsol loaded Windex bottle and sprayed the front of his blues.

"What the hell you do that for?!"

"Last year, I slow-danced with some honey in Montevideo. When I got home, Jill swore she smelled perfume in my blues. Damn if I'm gonna hop in that trick bag again anytime soon."

Jack Snider—"Sonargasket"—was from Arizona or New Mexico. Our sonar shack was below the control room, and Jack damn near lived in there. All by himself, in a space the size of an average linen closet. He made hand-tooled leather stuff down there, since listening with headphones left his hands free. Jack had great ears. Used to brag that he could hear tick farts in Tokyo. When he wasn't making wallets, pocketbooks, holsters, moccasins, belts and other stuff, he was sorting out sounds.

One night, Jack opened the manhole cover to the shack. The diving officer closed it, so no one would inadvertently step into the opening, fall in and wreck Jack. Immediately it flew open again.

"What the hell's wrong, Jack?"

"Mr. Caldwell, I had three helpings of lima beans tonight, sir, and can't stand it down here in this jack-in-the-box hole, living with the post-consumption byproducts of those limas. Just had to share it with my shipmates."

Within minutes, it became evident he had a major methane production problem.

Dusty Hamilton, from Nebraska, was engaged to a hometown girl who wrote him letters. Perfumed correspondence that read like pages torn from a nymphomaniac's logbook. Intended for Dusty's eyes alone, they were read aloud to a devoted fan club that would assemble in the crews' mess for the dramatic reading of each installment.

"I miss you so, Dusty. If you were here, I would..."

We were a long way from anything wearing a skirt and lacey skivvies. We *loved* it.

Barnacle Bill Jackson was a torpedo-pusher First. Returning from leave on a Trailways bus, B.B. heads aft to use the little john in the rear of the bus. Parks himself on the head. Bus stops for a red light. Large truck bangs into the rear of the bus. B.B. slams into forward head bulkhead, compounds right arm while contents of head chemical tank erupt and cover him. Rescue people get him out and immobilize his arm. At some point, the lady rescue tech gets a whiff of Barnacle Bill and recognizes what he's coated in.

"Oh sir, we've got to get you out of those nasty clothes."

"Don't worry about it, darlin'. I've smelled worse. I'm a submarine sailor."

B.B. runs an auto supply outlet now and plays banjo in a hillbilly band. They never made a finer boat sailor.

A new cook—who will remain nameless—ordered catsup. Thought unit of issue was by individual bottle. Turned out to be by the case. We are loading stores at 0730 for 0800 underway when we find ourselves up to our eyeballs in cases of catsup. Deck force loads excess onto a torpedo trolley, goes to the pier head parking lot and loads it into automobiles to store it until we return in two weeks. Stupid move: it becomes damn near impossible to get the shore duty Dick Tracy force to understand that the crew hadn't conspired in wholesale catsup theft. I never figured out what these shore duty geniuses thought we were going to do with sixty cases of catsup. We finally convinced them to start worrying when we tried to get out the gate with five tons of hot dogs and a couple of truckloads of buns.

We all have 'em—boat memories. They return at weird times when you're in the company of people who'd never understand them, much less believe 'em.

Keep a zero bubble...





New Members

We proudly welcome aboard:

Frank M. Bereznay

SK2(SS) E-5 Petty Officer (2nd) Contact: daughter Catherine 528 S. Cardiff Street Anaheim, CA 92806-4334 cell: 714-337-3936 email: frank.bereznay@gmail.com Qualified in 1969 on USS Spinax (AGSS-489); served 1967-1971. Also on Greenfish and Gudgeon.

Brian M. Senior, Life Member (EM1-SS E6—Petty Officer 1st Class) Son of the Seniors; Spouse: Tamar 2015 Windmill Lane Alexandria, VA 22307-1951 cell: 202-594-2050 email: briansenior@hotmail.com Served '82-'94; qual'd on Silversides (SSN-679) in '86; Nuc Operator; in Navy Reserves 1990-1994.

Kathleen A. Carder

Associate; Significant Other of Bill Moak; sponsor: Ray Teare 2865 Helm Street Simi Valley, CA 93065-5257 *cell*: 662-335-5602 *e*: KathleenCarder@Outlook.com

David "Dave" Geske

(ICC-SS) E-7 Chief Petty Officer) Spouse: Evelyn 4567 Pennyroyal Drive Corona, CA 92878-3283 cell: 801-889-0178 email: dave.geske@outlook.com Served '75-'86; qualified on Thomas Jefferson (SSBN-618) in '77. Also aboard Ohio (SSBN-726) '79-'82.

Charles B. "Charlie" McCarthy, Jr. (LCDR - 04 - LCDR) Spouse: Anita 19068 Shadow Ridge Lane Yorba Linda, CA 92886-2763 cell: 714-720-3837 email: cbmatylca@aol.com Qualified in 1966 on Geo. Bancroft (SSBN-643); served 1959-1976.

Laurie Ann Mabry

Associate; niece of Shipwreck Kelly; sponsor: Ron Jones Spouse: Harry 5923 Mildred Avenue Cypress, CA 90630-4631 *cell*: 714-309-2367 laurieannmabry7082@gmail.com



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

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

Eternal Patrol Notice



Norman "Normie" Omer Lavigne 11/28/1932 — 3/27/2025

Norman's daughter Jennifer Lavigne contacted us recently to let us know her dad had passed in March. He was 92. In recent years she had moved Norman, an L.A.-Pasadena Base member, from Santa Paula, CA, to an assisted living facility in Hurricane, Utah, to be near his son. Sadly, Jennifer had also just lost her mother back in November.

Jennifer informs us Norman will not be interred at a veteran's cemetery, but rather at a family plot in Hampton, New Hampshire.

Those wishing to offer condolences can contact:

Jennifer Lavigne 9934 West Progress Place Littleton, CO 80123

Following high school, Norm joined the U.S. Navy at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. He served as an EN3 engineman on the USS Sea Robin submarine during the Korean War from 1952 to 1954. He shared fond memories of his sub service with anyone willing to listen. Until the day he passed, Norm proudly wore his USS Sea Robin jacket, ring, and belt buckle. As submariners say when losing one of their own, "Sailor, rest your oar." Norm will be much missed by many.





More Chapter News...

Base Member Attends 125th Anniversary Submariner Ball

Dr. David Semrau heads down to San Diego, paints the town red, and files this brief report with our Membership Gal Marilyn...



David and daughter Welagun.

Member David Semrau informs us he attended the 125th Submarine Birthday Ball in San Diego last month, indicating there were over 700 in total attendance there. Of course, for a celebratory birthday bash, a big cake must also be on hand! The oldest qualified submariner in attendance cut the cake, as did the youngest; in fact, three more submariners who'd qualified in 1964 also cut the cake. There certainly was a lot of cake cutting going on!

David's daughter Welagun from Thailand also joined him at the Ball. They further made a point of later driving to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego to remember "all the boats and Navy people lost in total since 1900," participating in a traditional bell tolling ceremony. Way to go, Dr. Dave!



The bell tolls in San Diego.



David and Welagun and officer attendees.







And Still More Chapter News...

Michael "Willie" Williamson Appears on Channel 7 News

Attends "Rancho Remembers: Connecting Veterans and Students" event and makes TV news coverage...



Left: L.A.-Pasadena/Bonefish Base dual member (and former District 6 USSVI Commander) Michael "Willie" Williamson is shown participating in an event connecting students with veterans held in the Rancho Cucamonga High School gymnasium. We salute you, Willie! As our Membership Gal Marilyn pointed out, it looks like some good community veteran awareness took place there for USSVI and our local bases!

Below Left: Bonefish Base members Jay Cass and Dan Rowland also get into the act.

Below Right: Willie and a friend pose for the Channel 7 cameras. Note the choice of evening fare on the table before them: a very particular type of sandwich: "A Sub Above!"







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

(75-year members noted with *) Scott Hultner......2024 Stanley O. Westrick 2024 Ronald R. Jones......2023 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 Frank M. Bereznay 2019 David H. Vanderveen...... 2019 Dennis Bott 2018 Robert "Mike" Cailor 2018 Robert Miller..... 2018 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 Charles B. McCarthy, Jr.... 2016 Gary Wheaton.....2016

(concluded next page)



Los Angeles-Pasadena Base 2025 Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 18	Monthly Meeting at Taco Surf, Los Alamitos
February 15	Monthly Meeting at VFW Hall, Anaheim
March 15	Monthly Meeting - Radiant Brewery, Anaheim
April 19	Monthly Mtg Clearman's Galley, San Gabriel
May 10	Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900
May 17	Monthly Meeting at VFW Hall, Anaheim Nominating Committee Appointed Call for participants in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
May 24	Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900
May 26	Memorial Day Service - 1100 Submarine Memorial, West
June 21	Monthly Mtg Simi Valley Military Museum Call for nominations for 2026 Base Officers
July 4	116th Annual Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
July 19	LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic at Dennis Walsh's Residence
August 16	Monthly Meeting - "Hawaii" Theme 2026 Base Officer Candidates Announced
September 20	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Election of Officers
	Licetion of Officers
October 18	Monthly Meeting Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
October 18 November 15	Monthly Meeting

(Holland Club Roster, concluded)
Lawrence R. Butler 2015
Samuel T. Higa 2015
Harry P. Ross2015
Charles H. Senior 2015
Larry E. Smith2015
Sam Aboulafia2014
David Palagyi2014
Earl Thomas Peratt, Jr 2014
David D. Semrau, DDS 2014
Ray Tracy Teare2014
Milton Harry Boudov 2013
Kenneth Jon Dorn2013
M. Mark Hoffer 2013
Michael P. Klein 2013
Ronald L. Levenson 2013
Edward L. Arnold2012
T. Michael Bircumshaw 2012
Raymond Cheesebrough . 2012
John V. Mahan 2012
Lee Melody2012
Clyde Matthew Turner 2012
George R. Walrath2012
John L. Weisenberger 2012
Edward A. Barwick 2011
Joseph W. Koch, Jr 2011
Stephen D. Diumenti 2009
David Whittlesey2009
Dennis A. Yure2009
Armen Bagdasarian 2008
Paul A. Riggs 2008
Rex L. Shields2008
Francis R. Traser2006
Ronald K. Thompson 2004
James Rogers 2003
*William F. Long 1999
*Kenneth E. Chunn 1998
*Patrick Zilliacus 1994
*William I Dillon 1993



E-Board Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2025

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted on the morning of Saturday, May 17, 2025.

In attendance:

- Ray Teare, Base Vice Commander
- Dennis Bott, Memorial Director
- Chuck Senior, Director
- Ken Dorn, Director
- Bill Moak, COB

Base Vice Commander Ray Teare called the meeting at the VFW Hall in Anaheim to order at 1005 hours. Minutes of April's E-Board and General meetings were reviewed. Dennis Bott moved to accept the Minutes into the base record; this was seconded by Chuck Senior and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Financial Report:

In Treasurer Sue Bolton's absence, the Treasurer's Report as of May 14, 2025 was read into the Minutes by Chuck Senior.

Checking	\$27,282.22
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$359.94
Total	\$26,972.28

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

Income:	\$3,772.86
Expenses:	\$29.20

Flower/Booster Club Additions:

Ken Dorn	\$200.00
Robert Cailor	\$100.00
Dennis Bott	\$20.00

Other Donations:

Ed Barwick - 50/50 winnings	\$30.00
Western Region Roundup:	\$3,243.72

There were no questions nor corrections needed. Dennis Bott moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and accept it into the base record; this was seconded by Bill Moak and passed unanimously.

(concluded on next page)

General Dynamics Gets \$1 Billion Navy Contract Modification for Virginia Materials

Reproduced from the GovConWire website. March 26, 2025 by Jane Edwards

The U.S. Navy has awarded a General Dynamics subsidiary a \$1 billion contract modification to provide long lead time materials to support the construction of Block VI Virginia-class nuclear-powered attack submarines.

The Dept. of Defense said General Dynamics Electric Boat will perform work on the undefinitized contract action in California, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Connecticut, Minnesota, Arizona, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, New York and other locations through Sept. 2035.

"This contract modification drives continuation of the crucial demand signal that the submarine industrial base needs to invest in the capacity and materials required to increase production volume," Mark Rayha, president of General Dynamics Electric Boat, said in a statement.

Virginia-class subs are designed to support special operations, anti-submarine and surface ship warfare missions.

Electric Boat serves as the prime contractor on the Virginia-class program and builds the underwater vehicle through a partnership agreement with HII's Newport News Shipbuilding business.

E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

Memorial Report:

Dennis Bott covered the latest on the coming Memorial Day ceremony, indicating that those we pay have had their checks prepared, i.e. Flowers, Chaplain, Singer, Buglers and Piper. Also, the Seal Beach Police have been alerted. To prep for the event, Dave Vanderveen will procure the necessary items from the VFW Hall on Friday, May 23, and a field day will follow on May 24. Scouts will be available to hang fence tarps that day. Please arrive at the Memorial at 0900 if you plan to help.

Membership Update:

Chuck advised that our total membership now stands at 100. Marilyn is recovering, progressing well. We were also notified that Bill Dillon and Patrick Zilliacus were absent from today's meeting because of their attendance at Armed Forces Day activities in Los Angeles.

4th of July Parade:

Bonefish has yet to confirm their parade participation. David Semrau will drive a 1976 Chevrolet Caprice convertible in place of the black pickup used in the past. Darin Detwiler is creating a panel of subvets to do a Q&A after a screening of *The Hunt for Red October* at 1630 hours at the Bay Theater in Seal Beach on July 4th.

June Meeting and July Picnic Updates:

Our June meeting will be conducted at the VFW Military Museum, Simi Valley, CA; Bill Moak has arranged our meeting there with the curator. Further details will be provided. Our annual LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic in July will be discussed in the followup General Meeting.

There being no offered Good of the Order comments or further business, Chuck Senior motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Ken Dorn and passed unanimously, adjourning the meeting at 1028 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Moak, COB In Relief of Darin Detwiler, Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

Addendum:

Bill Moak later motioned to the E-Board via email that a sum of \$100 be donated to the Simi Valley Military Museum in consideration of their cooperation in housing and displaying much of our memorabilia and for also agreeing to our holding a meeting next month on their premises. The motion was carried virtually by a quorum of Board Members and will be listed as approved retroactively in next month's Minutes.

And Still More Chapter News...

Memorial Day Photo CoverageA few from your Editor's own shutterbugging. I'm sure you snapped your own favorites!



Mark Maynard's grandson Michael proudly joins us, posing by the magnificent 'fish' still standing guard after all these years.



Gotta love this tree. Still one of the coolest things about our Memorial site overall.



The modern lost boats get their due.





Bill Moak before the duty: a humdinger of a bellringer! Above, a visiting cyclist gets into the spirit with his colors of the day.



And Still More Chapter News...

More Memorial Day Photo Coverage A few more random shots from your Editor's phone.

There's always so much more going on than I can capture!



One of our base's two remaining WW2 guys, the buoyant and boyish Pat Zilliacus, asked me if I wanted his autograph on an old Periscope issue. Shoulda taken him up on it!



The crowd starts to gather before the official ceremonies begin.



Darin Detwiler takes the podium; a skilled public speaker!



Ret. Capt. Jim Bryant talks of Thresher's loss.



Ann Grennan sings her heart out.



Bagpiper Chrissy Orcholski.



Claudia Ritchie joins Michael for a warm talk.



Anne G. & Sue B. mingle afterwards.



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

S-36 **SCULPIN** S-26 **CAPELIN SCORPION SHARK I PERCH GRAYBACK TROUT** S-27 **GRUNION TULLIBEE** S-39 **GUDGEON ARGONAUT HERRING AMBERJACK GOLET GRAMPUS** S-28 **TRITON ROBALO PICKEREL FLIER GRENADIER HARDER RUNNER SEAWOLF DARTER** R-12 **SHARK II GRAYLING POMPANO TANG CISCO ESCOLAR** S-44 **ALBACORE DORADO GROWLER**

CORVINA

SEALION

WAHOO

SCAMP
SWORDFISH
BARBEL
KETE
TRIGGER
SNOOK
LAGARTO
BONEFISH
BULLHEAD