

**Eternal Patrol for  
Joe Lopez & Jack Herron**  
(Please See Pages 11 and 18)

# THE PERISCOPE

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

Volume 17, Number 3 • March 2021



**PRIDE RUNS DEEP**



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

## What's Inside

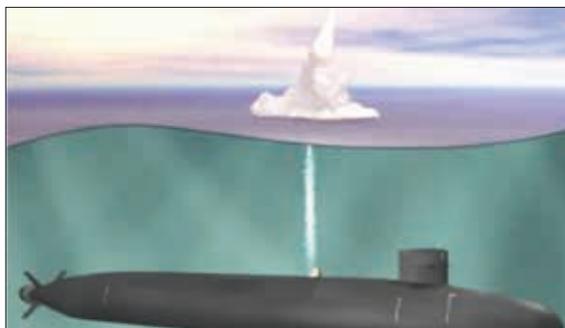
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## Editor's Corner

Hope you enjoy this issue...got some good stuff already lined up for the next one. Also hope you've been staying home and staying safe. That's my plan now more than ever—since snapping a collarbone in the grocery store parking lot the other day! So don't slap me on the back as you pass by the Yeoman's Shack, okay?—Jeff

## Lastest on *Columbia*-Class Nuclear Ballistic Missile Submarine Program

*(Reproduced from the USNI News website—published January 19, 2021—uncredited from the Jan. 15, 2020 Congressional Research Service report, Navy Columbia (SSBN-826) Class Ballistic Missile Submarine Program: Background and Issues for Congress.)*



*Artist's renderings of new Columbia class. USN.*

The *Columbia* (SSBN-826) class program is a one to design and build a class of 12 new ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) to replace the Navy's current force of 14 aging *Ohio*-class SSBNs. The Navy has identified the *Columbia*-class as the Navy's top priority program. The Navy wants to procure the first *Columbia*-class boat in FY2021. Research and development work on the program has been underway for several years, and advance procurement funding for the first boat began in FY2017. The Navy's proposed FY2021 budget requests about \$2.9 billion in procurement funding, \$1.1 billion in advance procurement funding and \$397.3 million in research and development funding for the program.

The Navy's FY2021 budget submission estimates the procurement cost of the first *Columbia*-class boat at about \$14.4 billion in then-year dollars, including about \$6.0 billion in costs for plans, essentially meaning the detail design/non-recurring engineering costs for the class. (It is a longstanding Navy budgetary practice to incorporate these costs for a new class of ship into the total procurement cost of the first ship in the class.) Excluding costs for plans, the estimated hands-on construction cost of the first ship is about \$8.4 billion. The boat has received about \$6.2 billion in prior-year advance procurement funding. The Navy's proposed FY2021 budget requests \$2,891.5 million in procurement funding, and the remaining \$5.3 billion in procurement funding needed to complete the boat's total estimated procurement cost is to be requested in FY2022 and FY2023.

The Navy wants to procure the second *Columbia*-class boat in FY2024. The Navy's FY2021 budget submission estimates the procurement cost of this boat at about \$9.3 billion in then-year dollars. The Navy's proposed FY2021 budget requests \$1,123.2 million in advance

*(concluded on page 21)*



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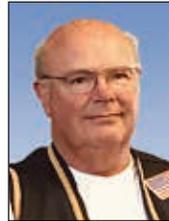
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## From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen,  
Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

It ain't "magic," but it's close! Jeff Porteous, Editor of the *Periscope*, has produced this issue singlehandedly. Well, someone may have helped him, but Jeff did his work with one hand. For those of you who have not heard, Jeff put one wing out-of-commission when he broke a collarbone a week ago. Now, he is moving a little slower, yet still producing the quality work we have seen from him for years. Bravo Zulu, Jeff! I admire the work ethic which drives you to keep this effort going despite your discomfort and diminished mobility, and we all appreciate what you have done for us for a long while. (*I'm touched by and grateful for your kind words, Dave. Thank you so much.—ed.*)

Last week, our shipmate Joe Lopez was laid to rest with his family and a few friends attending. He served on submarines during the Korean conflict, qualifying in 1952. Like so many submariners, he went on to a productive, admirable life after leaving the Navy, raising a close-knit family, and actively participating in his community. His son, Aaron, who is also qualified in submarines (Cold War era), presented a eulogy for Joe. Sailor, rest your oar.

Is that light we see ahead? The coronavirus curve is finally bending downward. The infection rate is declining, there are fewer COVID hospitalizations, and fewer lives are being lost to the virus. Increasing vaccinations are helping somewhat, but the proportion of the population vaccinated is not very large, yet so other factors are at work. All this together indicates state-mandated constraints should be decreasing in the coming months. No telling yet when life will be close to "normal," but things are "looking up!"

We will continue our monthly Base meetings via Zoom until two things happen: 1) Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station resumes allowing access to non-active duty people, and 2) a sufficient number of our members are comfortable gathering in-person for meetings in Building 6. By the way, the glitch in my computer which kept me from conducting our February meeting on Zoom has been fixed.

Springtime is coming, days are getting longer, and normality is nearer. Though sad events will always occur, I prefer to mark them appropriately and to savor the enjoyable things which make life happy. I hope that each of you can do the same, and I look forward to spending time together with you and swapping sea stories again.

### *Dave Vanderveen*

Commander

Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



## February General Mtg. Sailing List

Ed Barwick  
Sam Higa  
Joe Koch  
Ed Kushins  
Jack Mahan  
Bill Moak  
Bruce Neighbors  
Paul Riggs  
Mike Swanson  
Ray Teare  
Dave Vanderveen  
Ron Wagner  
Dennis Walsh  
Gary Wheaton  
Dave Whittlesey  
“Willie” Williamson



## Minutes of February 20, 2021 General Meeting

Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander, opened the meeting at 1105 hrs., on this occasion via telephone conference, due to computer issues which prevented our Zoom video conference.

COB Ray Teare then led us in prayer with an invocation, followed by Dave’s reading of the USSVI Purpose, further followed by a request for a moment of silence for our departed shipmates.

### **Treasurer’s Financial Report: Mike Swanson**

Mike Swanson provided monetary details for the account as of February 19, 2021. The specific numbers have been approved and appear within the Executive Board minutes.

### **Memorial Report:**

Paul Riggs indicated the nose of the torpedo has been refurbished with a copper-colored paint procured for that purpose, and that he has a sufficient supply for future use, if needed. Dave indicated all systems working, and Paul added he has a new flag—hopefully to be raised during the Memorial site preparation. Dave then asked if Paul would be willing to contact Greg Smith, Weapons Station PAO, in regards to the potential of conducting the Memorial Day Ceremony in 2021. Dave went on to explain for newer members that L.A.-Pasadena Base has the custodial responsibility for the upkeep and ceremonial duties for the memorial site.

### **Base Charitable Contributions:**

Ed and Mike reported that a thank you letter had been received from the Fisher House, with Ed mentioning the recent passing of Steve Kuykendal (sic). Steve, a retired Naval Officer, was instrumental in the establishment of Fisher House. Dave Whittlesey inquired as to the manner in which a personal donation could be made. Mike provided the names of those charities receiving 2021 donations from our base, and explained that personal donations should be made through the USSVI Charitable Foundation, with reference to the particular charities designated. This brought out the point that our members may submit charities for consideration, with Ed describing certain criteria which must be met to allow donations. Ed went on to describe how this year’s funds were distributed. Willie Williamson covered his establishment of a fund designated for the WWII Memorial site, distributed to all District Commanders. Thus far, he is sole donator.

### **Membership Update:**

Dave commented on the recent loss of Art Wilson and Joe Lopez, which has reduced our total base membership to 107. However, also reported were two potential recruits in the

*(concluded on next page)*



USS Alaska (SSBN-732).

(Yes, this is a filler shot you've seen before, but it's still pretty cool, isn't it?—ed.)

## Minutes of February 20, 2021 Meeting....

(concluded from previous page)

pipeline—expected to become members soon. Dave then discussed Ed Arnold's loss of any further activity within the base. Ed is no longer involved in the Boy Scouts Eagle program, nor in procuring Scout assistance for Memorial Day. Dave is asking for anyone willing to become involved in the reestablishment of our Eagle Scout program. Mentioned was Ed's wife Judy's prior involvement with our Memorial Day Ceremony and her deep commitment to our annual Christmas Luncheon. Paul emphasized how wonderful her contribution has been and what it's meant to our base, and Dave said he'd look into checking with Judy as to possible future involvement.

### Good of the Order:

Mike explained his intention to sign the contract for our Christmas Luncheon. Dave is hoping both Memorial Day and our Christmas Luncheon can become realities again this year. The topic turned to COVID vaccinations, with some expressing their experiences. Many members present had received their initial doses; and the many ways information is available was discussed at length. (The particular organizations and websites brought up were too numerous to detail here.) Dave Whittlesey thanked Dave for including other base newsletters in his email distributions. Dave thinks it's good to see what other bases are doing, and even reconnected with a shipmate as a result. Dave pointed to Phil Jascoviak's forwarding the Texas Base's newsletter, as he was once an L.A.-Pasadena member, and the fact that Willie has been circulating others as well.

With no further comments, Joe made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Willie, approved by voice vote and our meeting ended at 1146 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bill Moak*

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI



**March Mtg. to be Zoom Video Conference**  
 (See details on Chapter News page.)

## March Meeting

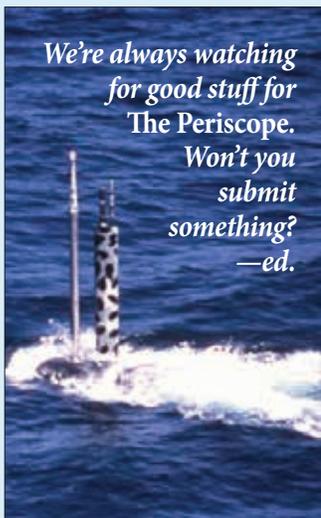
**Date:** Mar. 20, 2021

Again this month, our usual base meeting will be conducted as a Zoom video conference. This software for internet-based meetings has been working well for many groups wanting or needing to remain "face-to-face" during the global pandemic. See the Chapter News page for details. Hope to see your smiling face among the crowd!

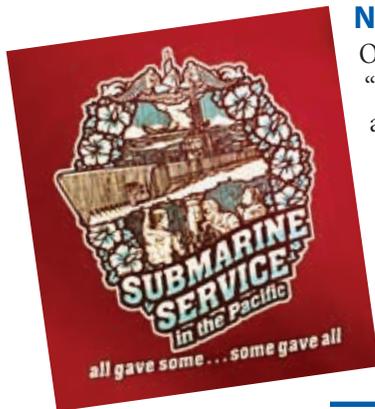
## March Birthdays

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

- Bill Soulé.....3/2
- David Rosenfeld .....3/2
- Richard McPherson .....3/4
- Judy Arnold .....3/10
- Ed Kushins.....3/15
- Michael Varalyai.....3/17
- William "Greg" Moore..3/18
- Lee Melody .....3/26
- Michael Klein. ....3/27



## Ship's Store



### 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!

### 2021 Calendars Now Available!

Get yours through the USSVI website or see details elsewhere in this issue. Don't miss it—they're selling fast!



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



USSVI Logo Patch  
 (9¾ x 6¾)  
**\$11.00 ea.**



L.A.-Pasadena Base Patch  
 (3¾ x 5)  
**\$5.00 ea.**



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

## LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

# 2021 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:

**Ken Dorn (x3!) • Jack & Marlene Mahan • Sally Moran  
 Ed Kushins • Skip Loveless • Mike Varalyia**



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

## MARCH TOLLING OF THE BOATS



### USS Perch (SS-176)

Lost on 3 March 1942 near Java with no immediate loss of life, while on her first war patrol. She survived two severe depth chargings in less than 200 feet of water by three Japanese destroyers. The crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Most of the *Perch* crew were taken to the Ofuna Naval Interrogation Camp at Ofuna, Japan, and were forced to work mines until the close of WWII. Of the 61 officers and men taken prisoner, 53 survived the war.



### USS GRAMPUS (SS-207)

Lost on 5 March 1943 with the loss of 72 officers and men, on her sixth war patrol. She was lost in Vella Gulf, sunk after engaging two Japanese destroyers.

### USS H-1 (SS-28)

Lost on 12 March 1920 with the loss of four men as they tried to swim to after grounding on a shoal off Santa Margarita Island, off the coast of Baja California, Mexico. *Vestal* (AR-4), pulled *H-1* off the rocks in the morning of 24 March, only to have her sink 45 minutes later in some 50 feet of water. She was originally named the USS *Seawolf* before becoming *H-1*.



### USS TRITON (SS-201)

Lost on 15 March 1943 with the loss of 74 men. She was sunk north of the Admiralty Islands during a fight with three Japanese destroyers. *Triton* was the first boat to engage the enemy in December 1941 off Wake Island, sinking nine ships, one submarine, and a destroyer.



### USS KETE (SS-369)

Lost on 20 March 1945 with the loss of 87 officers and men at the end of her second war patrol. Probably sunk near Okinawa, by a Japanese submarine that itself was subsequently lost.

### USS F-4 (SS-23)

Lost on 25 March 1915 with the lost of 21 men. She foundered 1.5 miles off of Honolulu when acid corrosion of the lead lining of the battery tank let seawater into the battery compartment, causing loss of control. *F-4* was the first commissioned submarine of the United States Navy to be lost at sea.



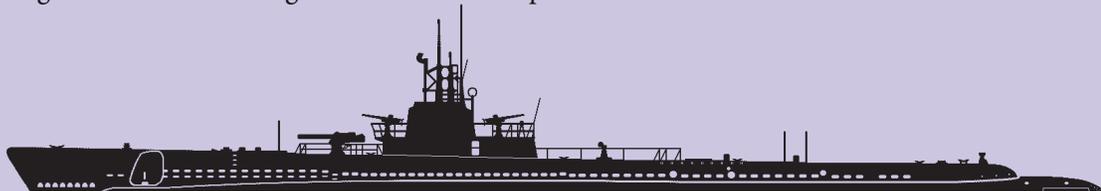
### USS TULLIBEE (SS-284)

Lost on 26 March 1944 with the loss of 79 officers and men, on her fourth war patrol. It's believed she was a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. The lookout was the only survivor and he survived the war as a Japanese prisoner.



### USS TRIGGER (SS-237)

Lost on 26 March 1945 with the loss of 91 officers and men, on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese antisubmarine vessels and aircraft. *Trigger* ranked seventh in total tonnage sunk and tied for eighth in number of ships sunk.



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



# DECEMBER 1941: JAPANESE SUBMARINE TORPEDOES SHIPS OFF SAN PEDRO

by Jim Shneer

(Reproduced from The Palos Verdes  
Pulse website - December 13, 2020)

After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, nine of the twelve Japanese submarines positioned in Hawaiian waters prior to the attack were ordered to the U.S. Pacific coast to attack merchant shipping. These submarines, all similar, had a range of about 14,000 miles at 16 knots (about 18½ mph), a maximum surface speed of about 23½ knots, carried up to seventeen torpedoes, and even featured a seaplane stored in a watertight hangar. Each were also armed with a 5.5” deck gun. Based on pre-war intelligence, the submarines were assigned to specific areas along the coast. From December 18th through December 24th, these underwater raiders attacked eight merchant ships—sinking two, damaging two and killing six crew members.

On December 24, Lieutenant Commander Narahara Shogo’s *I-19* launched a torpedo at the lumber ship *Barbara Olson* near the entrance to the Port of Los Angeles. The torpedo ran under the ship at 06:25, but

the plume from the exploding torpedo alerted the 350-ton submarine chaser *USS Amethyst*, which pursued *I-19* unsuccessfully.

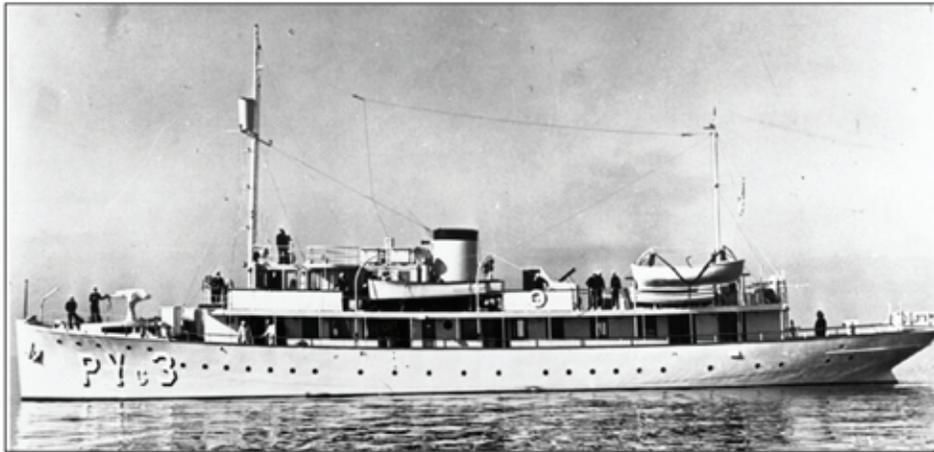
At 10:40, west of Point Fermin, *I-19* fired two torpedoes at the 5,695-ton freighter *Absaroka*, operated by the McCormack Steamship Co., with a cargo of lumber. The first torpedo missed, but the second struck the freighter at the No. 5 hold, causing extensive damage and ejecting the cargo from the hold into the air, killing one crew member. His name was Joseph Ryan, and he was crushed by a wall of displaced lumber as it and he were both thrown overboard. Captain Pringle then ordered a radioman, Walt Williams, to send out a distress call indicating they had been torpedoed. At this time, the crew took to the lifeboats, but stood by close to the ship.

Not long after Williams’ distress call, U.S. planes bombed the spot near where the sub had last been seen, and shortly

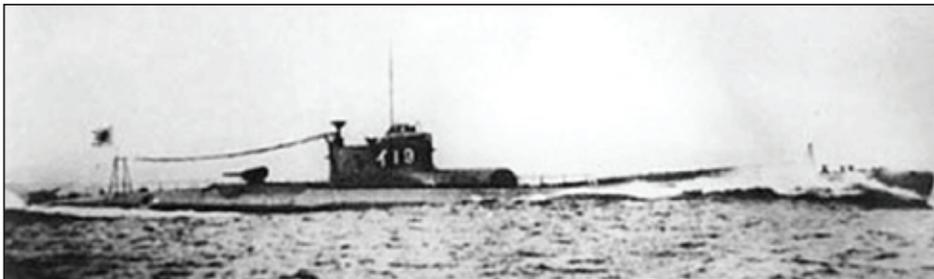
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## Japanese Sub Torpedoes Ships Off San Pedro

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1943 photo of the USS Amethyst (PYC-3) submarine chaser.  
(National Archives photo 80-G-457673)



1943 photograph of I-19. (Wikipedia)

thereafter, *Amethyst* arrived to deliver 32 depth charges to the same area. Despite these earnest retaliation efforts, none of the explosives apparently had *I-19*'s name on them. She escaped unscathed.

Later in the day, Captain Pringle and six of his thirty-three-man crew reboarded the stricken *Absaroka*. Seeing that the ship was not in any immediate danger of sinking, a U.S. Navy tug under the command of Lt. Commander Hans B. Olson took *Absaroka* in tow and beached her on a



*Absaroka* awash. (L.A. Examiner via Don Young)

strip of sand below Fort MacArthur.

On December 27th, with their fuel reserves running low, Vice Admiral Shimizu recalled his I-class submarines to refuel at Kwajalein Island in the Marshall Islands.

A month later, the full-page “Picture of the Week” appearing in the January 26, 1942 issue of *LIFE* magazine featured movie actress Jane Russell standing in the hole in *Absaroka*'s side created by the Japanese torpedo. In the photo she holds up a poster warning that “A slip of the lip may sink a ship”—with the words “may sink a ship” crossed out and “may have sunk this ship” written in their place.

*Jim is a former aerospace engineering manager who, since retiring, has become an author and speaker on a variety of military subjects. To read more about his work, please visit*

<https://easyreadernews.com/the-battle-that-didnt-happen/>. To learn about the military history of Fort MacArthur and

*Palos Verdes, please visit* <http://www.lulu.com/shop/james-shneer/exploring-the-military-history-of-fort-macArthur-and-palos-verdes/paperback/product-23784472.html> to purchase a copy of his recent book.



Jane Russell aboard the torpedoed *Absaroka*. (Life magazine)

# We Were the Last Rats Off the Old Tuna Can Boats

by Bob “Dex” Armstrong

At some point limber holes, walking decks and tubes aft disappeared. It was a slow process. The ‘tuna can navy’ just sort of disappeared in one’s and two’s.

The smokeboats went to the scrap yard like the longhorns on the Ponderosa were shipped off to Chicago. The nests in the squadrons started thinning out.

Displaced personnel began to run around like roaches hiding from the Orkin man, and some of the finest ship-handling submarine officers started getting dead-end “jocks and socks” assignments. Gold Dolphins began turning up in staff positions in locations a two-day Trailway’s bus ride from saltwater—men who had paid their national obligation dues early in their careers playing a very one-sided game of pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey with Hirohito’s Navy. It was sad to see Dolphins and a six-patrol Combat Pin over the pocket of some poor smokeboat bastard turkey-farmed out to a Naval Supply Depot in ‘Possum Pecker, Arkansas.

The rest of the diesel boat rats rarely heard the snap of the traps which were doing in their kind. No bloody shirts on the pier. No smokeboat sailors hiding stretched on racks, tanning in the sun on the tender’s boat deck. No content listing on the ingredients of dog food cans reading “Diesel-qualified sailor.” Just a silent reduction.

As the wallowing big, black, no-limber-hole monsters started turning up, we noticed a marked indifference to tribal reduction in the “Piston-powered Comanche Nation.” We sat on MEK cans topside and watched the high-powered, heavy shoulderboard SUBLANT haulers pass the brows leading to our sources of future Gillette blades, heading down the pier for mutual kitty licking sessions with the guys riding the submersible moonbeam barges.

The Navy stopped stocking repair and replacement parts for the old smokies—that should have been a major indicator making sense. The suits who run prisons rarely fund multiple organ transplants for guys on death row scheduled for the needle in a couple of months. So we cannibalized the boats being placed on the slaughterhouse conveyor as if removing still operational organs from Granny before jerking the plug on her respirator.

“Hey! They’re gonna scrap the USS *Snakefish*! Get over there and see if you can grab her DRT stylus assembly... Her damned coffee urn... GDU wench... Any neoprene hatch gas-kets... The volume knob off the RBO—and her boat hook!”

It always reminded me of animals in Africa ravishing the carcass of some freshly killed animal abandoned by the lion who brought it down.

There is nothing sadder than watching old combat work-horses heading for the scrapyard to be cut up and sold for the value of their metal content. I know that in all aspects of life, realism trumps sentimentality. I know that all ships have a finite useful mechanical life. I know that destruction of the equipment antiquated by progress is a normal and expected part of all mechanical life cycles.

Sure, only a blithering idiot doesn’t know that.

But... The Navy gives you ships that you care for, ships that become home and in most instances work their way into your heart. You would have to be one coldhearted sonuvabitch to watch an old girl who had hauled you safely through heavy weather and the oceans of the world head off for the ignominy of dismemberment. A good sailor will shed tears in his soul; the silent painful tribute men who love ships feel in their hearts. We had the additional pain associated with the knowledge that our boats had taken crews of brave Americans to war, survived the risks magnified by being constantly hunted and attacked, and yet had still hauled their victorious crews home to the euphoric welcome of a grateful nation.

We bobbed up and down tethered to the pier and each other by frayed mooring lines. From that vantage point, we viewed the future.

And what did this future look like? It was big—*damn*, it was big! Big, black and uglier than a fifteen-dollar whore. It may look sleek and streamlined at the incredible depths it was designed to operate at. But to lads who had grown accustomed to watching their own kind transit open expanses of saltwater by slicing through it with the ease and grace of a highly honed straight razor, such progress looked ugly.

Before you modern day techno bluejackets start jumping up and down and peeing in your poopie suits, I write for the lads of my era who rode the boats you guys replaced. I don’t know any other life.

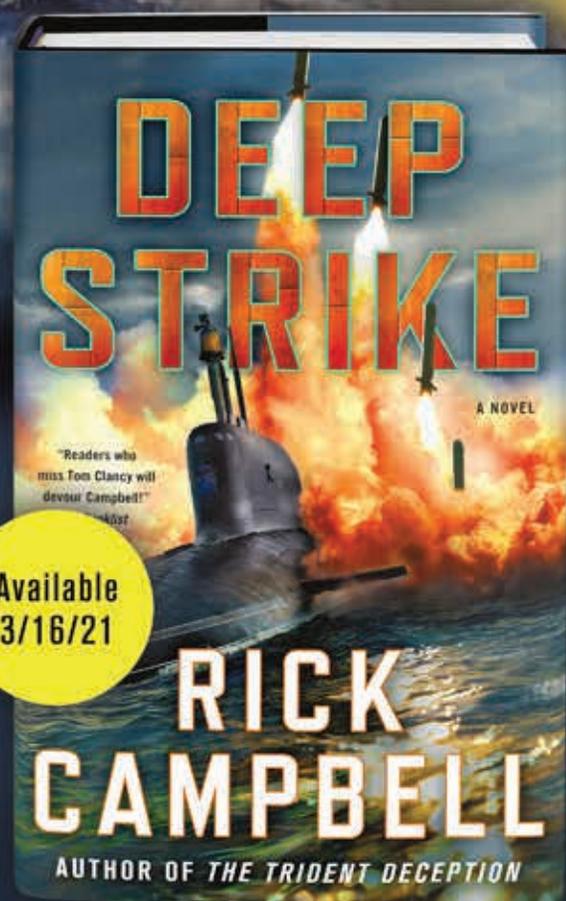
Let’s face it: The nukes are on TV damned near every night. There are books being published about them on a regular basis—about *every aspect* of the nuclear submarine force. There are movies exploiting every facet of the nuclear submarine experience.

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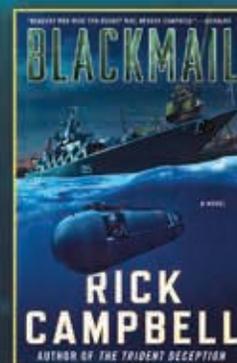
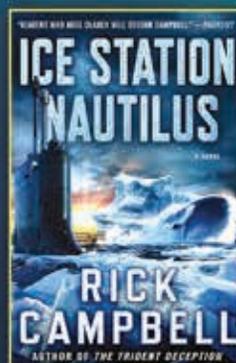
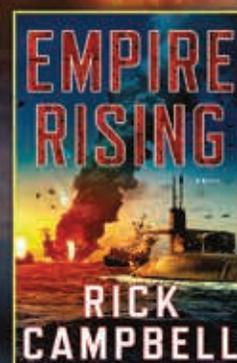
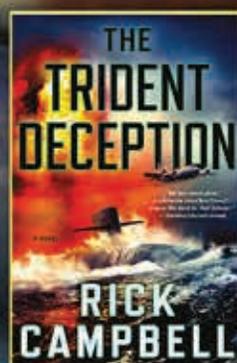
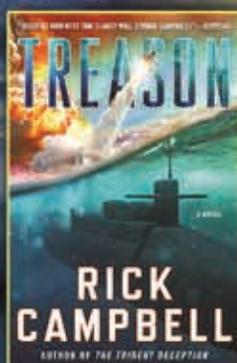
"Readers who miss Tom Clancy will devour Campbell." —*Booklist*  
WHO WILL STRIKE FIRST IN A RACE TO STOP A ROGUE RUSSIAN  
SUBMARINE FUNDED BY ISIS FROM HITTING AMERICAN SOIL?

# DEEP STRIKE

NOW IN PAPERBACK!



Available  
3/16/21



PRAISE FOR THE WORK OF NAVY COMMANDER (USN RETIRED) RICK CAMPBELL:

"Compelling and thrilling." —JACK COUGHLIN, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Shooter*

"A fistfight of a thriller. A masterpiece." —DALTON FURY, former Delta Force and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Kill Bin Laden*

"The best submarine novel since Tom Clancy's *The Hunt for Red October*." —*Booklist* (starred review)

"Fans of submarine thrillers will welcome Campbell." —*Publishers Weekly*

**DEEP STRIKE** — RELEASES MARCH 16, 2021 TO BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE  
(PRE-ORDER OR PURCHASE WHERE YOU BUY YOUR BOOKS — HARDCOVER, EBOOK, OR AUDIOBOOK)

## New Members

We proudly welcome aboard our newest base shipmates:

**Edward "Ed" Elliot Kushins**  
(LT-03SS; served '68-'79)  
Spouse: Mary Hamilton  
45 16th Street  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-3402  
phone: 310-345-3562  
edkushins@gmail.com  
Qualified on the USS *Flasher*  
(SSN-613)—'69-'71, LTJG.

**Ramon O. Aguilar** (returning)  
(E5-ET Radio Div.; 1996-2001)  
22736 Jody Lane  
Carson, CA 90745-3603  
cell: 562-303-0866  
octiviano89@gmail.com  
Qualified in 1998 on the USS  
*City of Corpus Christi* (SSN-705)

**Gary Lee Wing**  
(E6-STSS Sonar; 1985-1994;  
Air Force Reserve thru 2012)  
Fiancé: Megan  
612 Cooper Drive  
Placentia, CA 92870-2001  
cell: 707-373-8277  
beniciahawk@gmail.com  
Qualified in 1988 on the USS  
*Richard B. Russell* (SSN-687)

**Vernon Paul "Max" Murphy**  
(E5-EM2SS; served 1993-2000)  
Wife: Aom  
241 E. Elmwood Ave. Apt. 101  
Burbank, CA 91502-2662  
cell: 818-395-7154  
vernonmurphy@att.net  
Qualified in 1997 on the  
USS *Jefferson City* (SSN-759)

**Bruce Evan Neighbors**  
(E4-TM3SS; served '68-'70)  
Wife: Susan  
3417 S. Carolina Street  
San Pedro, CA 90731-6827  
cell: 310-347-2350  
bruceneighbors@gmail.com  
Qualified in 1969 on the  
USS *Ronquil* (SS-396)

**William "Greg" Moore**  
(E5-FT2SS; served '92-'00)  
309 Avenida Del Mar, Apt. A  
San Clemente, CA 92672-1608  
cell: 972-837-5020  
wgregm@gmail.com  
Qualified in 1993 on the USS  
*Richard B. Russell* (SSN-687)



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

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

### Now Hear This:

- **L.A.-Pasadena March meeting to be held as a Zoom conference. (Dave Vanderveen will also provide phone participation info. via e-mail for those wishing to again participate by teleconference call only.)**
- **To access Zoom, type "Zoom.US" (without the quotation marks) into your internet browser, then select "signup for free." Set up your user I.D. and passcode, then on meeting day prior to 11:00 a.m., just follow the steps to sign in. Or: *just click on Dave's e-mailed link to the meeting.***

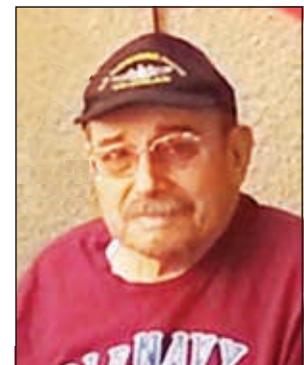
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### **Joe Leo Lopez, Jr. Departs on Eternal Patrol**

Longtime L.A.-Pasadena Base and Holland Club Member  
Joseph Leo "Pancho" Lopez, Jr., age 88, passed away Jan. 31, 2021.  
Any memorial service plans are currently pending.

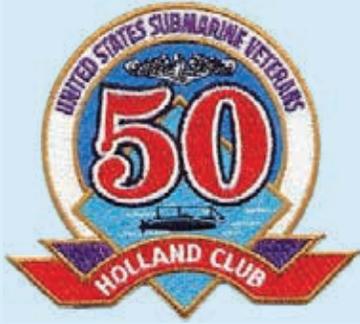
Joe attended Submarine School in New London after boot camp and reported for duty in San Diego. He qualified on the USS *Redfish* (SS-395) in 1952, and was on the boat from '52-'53. When the Korean War ended, he was released and Honorably Discharged a year later. Final rank: QMSN (SS) E-3. He'd been qualified 69 years.

Contact info.: Marie Lopez (Joe's wife)  
15939 Alta Vista Dr. Unit 603B  
La Mirada, CA 90638-3256  
Marie's cell: 562-328-6014  
Marie's email: m\_lopez1946@yahoo.com



(Photo taken July 4th, 2020.)

***Sailor, Rest Your Oar.***



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

*(75-year members noted with \*)*

- Edward E. Kushins ..... 2020
- Bruce Evan Neighbors ..... 2020
- David H. Vanderveen ..... 2019
- Philip J. Jaskoviak ..... 2019
- Dennis Bott ..... 2018
- James A. Burnett ..... 2018
- Robert Miller ..... 2018
- John A. Anderson ..... 2017
- Roger C. Dunham, MD ..... 2017
- Richard McPherson ..... 2017
- Harry "Bill" Moak ..... 2017
- Louis A. Myerson ..... 2017
- Elliot Rada ..... 2017
- Ronald G. Wagner ..... 2017
- Dennis J. Walsh ..... 2017
- Michael Kish ..... 2016
- Gary Wheaton ..... 2016
- Lawrence R. Butler ..... 2015
- Samuel T. Higa ..... 2015
- Harry P. Ross ..... 2015
- Stephen C. Rowe ..... 2015
- Charles H. Senior ..... 2015
- Larry E. Smith ..... 2015
- Sam Aboulafia ..... 2014
- David Palagyi ..... 2014
- Dennis Neal Parr ..... 2014
- Earl Thomas Peratt, Jr. .... 2014
- David D. Semrau, DDS ..... 2014
- Ray Tracy Teare ..... 2014
- Milton Harry Boudov ..... 2013
- Kenneth Jon Dorn ..... 2013
- M. Mark Hoffer ..... 2013

*(continued next page)*



**Los Angeles-Pasadena Base  
2021 Calendar of Upcoming Events**

- January 16: Monthly Meeting as Zoom Conference
- February 20: Monthly Meeting as Zoom Conference
- March 20 Monthly Meeting as Zoom Conference
- April 17 Monthly Meeting  
Call for Memorial Day Prep Volunteers
- May 15 Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900  
Monthly Meeting  
Nominating Committee Appointed  
Call for participants in the  
Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
- May 29 Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900
- May 31 Memorial Day Service - 1100  
Submarine Memorial, West
- June 19 Monthly Meeting - Annual "Steakfest"  
Call for nominations for 2020 Base Officers
- July 4 113th Annual...  
Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
- July 17 LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic  
Bunker 33, Seal Beach Weapons Station
- August 21 Monthly Meeting - "Hawaii" Theme  
2020 Base Officer Candidates Announced
- September 18 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
Election of Officers
- October 16 Monthly Meeting  
Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
- November 20 Monthly Meeting - Thanksgiving Theme
- December 18 Annual Christmas Luncheon  
at the Los Alamitos Golf Course

*(Holland Club Roster, continued)*

Michael P. Klein..... 2013  
 Ronald L. Levenson..... 2013  
 Edward L. Arnold..... 2012  
 T. Michael Bircumshaw.... 2012  
 Raymond Cheesebrough . 2012  
 Bobby O. Mahaffey..... 2012  
 John V. Mahan..... 2012  
 Lee Melody ..... 2012  
 Clyde Matthew Turner..... 2012  
 George R. Walrath..... 2012  
 John L. Weisenberger ..... 2012  
 Edward A. Barwick..... 2011  
 Joseph W. Koch, Jr. .... 2011  
 Stephen D. Diument ..... 2009  
 David Whittlesey ..... 2009  
 Dennis A. Yure..... 2009  
 Armen Bagdasarian..... 2008  
 Bernard M. Kauderer ..... 2008  
 Paul A. Riggs..... 2008  
 Rex L. Shields..... 2008  
 John L. Von Ulmen ..... 2008  
 Francis R. Traser..... 2006  
 Melquiades Mares, Jr..... 2005  
 Ronald K. Thompson..... 2004  
 Michael Varalyai..... 2004  
 Hughie T. Blackwell..... 2003  
 Robert L. Conboy..... 2003  
 James Rogers ..... 2003  
 John E. Savela, Jr..... 2003  
 Ben Van Devender..... 2002  
 Joe L. Lopez, Jr..... 2002  
 Berry S. Yolken ..... 2002  
 James E. Carter ..... 1999  
 William F. Long ..... 1999  
 Herbert J. "Bo" Bolton ..... 1998  
 Kenneth E. Chunn..... 1998  
 Jack L. Herron ..... 1996  
 Clifford Bernard Murr ..... 1996  
 \*Royal Harrison, Jr..... 1995  
 \*Sterling F. Higgins ..... 1995  
 \*Robert Clair Koplin..... 1995  
 \*Mark Maynard..... 1994  
 \*William J. Dillon..... 1993  
 \*Harold Staggs..... 1992



## E-Board Meeting Minutes of Feb. 20, 2021

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., E-Board Meeting was conducted via teleconference on the morning of Saturday, February 20, 2021.

### In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Mike Swanson, Treasurer
- Ray Teare, COB
- Sam Higa, Committee Chair

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the meeting to order at 1030 hours. The minutes from the January meeting were approved via motion from Mike, seconded by Sam, and carried by voice vote.

### Treasurer’s Financial Report: Mike Swanson

The Treasurer’s Report as of February 19, 2021 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Mike Swanson:

Checking	\$7,761.51
Savings	\$14,884.43
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$00.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,695.94</b>

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

Income:	\$225.00
Expenses:	\$2,600.00

### Flower/Booster Club Additions:

Ken Dorn	\$100.00
Sally Moran	\$25.00

Mike added the reading of a note accompanying Sally Moran’s donation, expressing her missing of all.

Mike also indicated that all checks forwarded to 2021 charities had been cashed, with one thank you received thus far.

Dave indicated he had purchased flowers, to be considered a donation, for both the Art Wilson and Joe Lopez funeral services. There was discussion concerning proof of such donations being published in *The Periscope*.

A motion to accept Treasurer’s report was made by Bill, seconded by Dave, and approved by voice vote.

*(concluded next page)*

## A Veteran...

(Once again Bill Moak sends us something interesting he's run across. Many thanks, Bill!—ed.)

by Anonymous

We left home as teenagers or in our early teens or twenties for an unknown adventure.

We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.

We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.

We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.

We found new friends and new family.

We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race or creed.

We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.

We didn't get enough sleep.

We smoked and drank too much.

We picked up both good and bad habits.

We worked hard and played harder.

We didn't earn a great wage.

We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.

We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.

We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.

(continued on next page)

## E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

### Memorial Report:

Due to Paul Riggs' absence, Dave discussed his viewing of the Memorial site, reporting that housekeeping was in good shape, with the flag in good condition, and all lights and irrigation in working order.

### Membership Report:

The recent loss of Art Wilson and Joe Lopez has dropped our total base membership to 107. However, Marilyn Senior reports two new members now in progress.

### Good of the Order:

Mike indicated that we had not signed a contract with the golf course caterers, but requested it be considered, since vaccines becoming available might open us up to parties, etc. Given such, signing the usual contract could lock in a date for our potential Christmas Luncheon.

Dave had attended Joe Lopez' funeral at National Cemetery, Riverside, so he reported on it for us. Members of *Scamp* and *Bonefish* Bases were also in attendance, with a military Color Guard, and the appropriate ceremony conducted. Dave mentioned the family's initial difficulty in obtaining the latter, with Sam indicating that such is normally arranged through the servicing mortuary. Sam also indicated that flags for these services can be acquired through the Post Office. Dave also was especially impressed with Joe's eulogy, provided by Joe's son, who also happens to be a submariner.

With no further items, Mike made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ray, and the motion was carried by an affirmative vote at 1047 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bill Moak*

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

## A Veteran...

(continued from previous page)

We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.

Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.

Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.

Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.

We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.

We participated in time-honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.

We counted on each other to get our jobs done and sometimes to survive it at all.

We have seen both victory and tragedy.

We have celebrated and mourned.

We lost a few along the way.

When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new, and some of us never came home at all.

We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.

We share an unspoken bond with each other, one which most people don't experience, and few will understand.

(concluded on next page)



Note that the following e-bulletins from Regional and National appear in these pages in the order received. The most recent information therefore appears toward the back.—ed.

## FOX Traffic:

## Bulletins from USSVI—Regional and National

*Shipmates and Ladies,*

*Forwarding USSVI correspondence to L.A.-Pasadena Base members.*

*Dave*

From: "USSVI POC: William C. Andrea" <NJVC@ussvi.org>

Date: February 2, 2021

Subject: Email scam warning

Submitted by: Wayne Standerfer, NC on 2/2/2021

Shipmates:

If you receive any email supposedly from another member (or *anyone* you may know) with the following (or similar) wording—

"Hello, how are you doing? May I ask you for a favor? ...Stay well!"

—it is a scam or phishing scheme and you should not reply to it. It will even show what appears to be the sender's correct email address, but it will go to the spammer instead.

Wayne Standerfer

National Commander

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*Shipmates and Ladies,*

*Forwarding USSVI correspondence to L.A.-Pasadena Base members.*

*Dave*

From: "USSVI POC: William C. Andrea" <NJVC@ussvi.org>

Date: February 6, 2021

Subject: Eternal Patrol Notice

Submitted by: Wayne Standerfer, National Commander

Shipmates,

With sadness I must report that past National Commander (1990-1992) Herbert H. Saunders MSCS(SS) departed on Eternal Patrol on Wednesday, February 3, 2021.

He has been a member of USSVI since 1/1/1968 and was a member of the Boston Base.

MSCS(SS) Saunders served in our Navy from 1958 to 1978 and was a crew member of the following submarines:

USS *Dogfish* (SS-350) 1963-64

USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (SSBN-600) 1964-65

USS *Grampus* (SS-523) 1965-67

USS *George Washington* (SSBN/SSN-598) 1968-71

(continued on next page)

## A Veteran...

(concluded from previous page)

We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.

We know however that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters—and stand together as one—in a heartbeat.

Being a Veteran was something to be *earned*, and it can never be taken away.

It has no monetary value, but at the same time, it is a priceless gift.

People see a Veteran and thank us for our service.

When we see each other, we give that little upward nod, or a slight smile, knowing we have shared experiences most people have not and will not.

So, from myself to the rest of the Veterans out there, I commend and thank you for all you have done and sacrificed for our country.

Try to remember the good times and make peace with the bad times.

Share your stories.

But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be called a *Veteran*.

I'm *proud* to be a Veteran!



PRIDE RUNS DEEP

## USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

(continued from previous page)

Please observe a few moments of your time in remembrance of this loyal old-time ship-mate.

Sailor, Rest Your Oar.

Wayne Standerfer  
USSVI National Commander

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*Shipmates and Ladies,  
For your consideration.  
Dave*

From: Michael Williamson <williess582@gmail.com>  
Date: Saturday, February 6, 2021  
Subject: USSVI Scamp Base Auction for Book  
Submitted by: Mike Patzius <patzius.mike@gmail.com>

All,

*First Patrol: A Cold War Chronicle at the Dawn of Submarine Missile Patrols* by Michael Pastore (as told to Philip Munck; first edition) is a book written by one of Scamp Base's members: Michael Pastore. The book has been autographed by the author and I will entertain bids starting at \$10.00. This will be a silent auction and all you need to do is send me an email with your bid. We will run this auction until Saturday February 13. Tell your wife it will be a gift from her to you for Valentine's Day. Hey, it sounds good to me. The proceeds will go to the Scamp Base treasury.

I read the book and it is an excellent read. Lots of information for those who have forgotten things about the boat. It made things I had forgotten about come back to memory. Michael talks about his first patrol and the challenges the boat faced. Imagine your first outing on a nuke boat and having things like a reactor shutdown, reactor scrams, the food on the boat, the XO's door, bluenose, and the list goes on. The book has some excellent notes that really go in depth that will truly jog your memory if it is not as good as it once was. It contains plenty of information and I will say you will enjoy this book. Anyone would enjoy it, in my opinion; it tells people what we did and continue to do to ensure peace through superior firepower.

If you are looking to purchase the book, it can be found online by searching... *First Patrol* by Michael Pastore.

Let the bidding begin, and good luck to the bidders.

Thanks,  
Mike Patzius  
Scamp Base Commander

(Sorry the above item appears too late in the Periscope for readers to participate in the auction; I include it here simply for the info. about the book in case anyone might wish to acquire it from a different source.—ed.)

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(concluded on next page)

## New Corpus Christi Sub Memorial is in the Works...

Submitted by our own Phil Jaskowiak of Dallas Base, for our info.—ed.)

Sea Turtle Base of Corpus Christi is working with their city to potentially bring the sail structure from the decommissioned USS *City of Corpus Christi* (SSN-705) to Sherrill Veteran's Memorial Park.

Sounds like a great addition to highlight our submarine heritage for both the city and the state. Here's more...

From: Sea Turtle Base  
P.O. Box 60014  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78466

The purpose of this letter is to acquaint your base with our ongoing project. The decommissioning of the USS *City of Corpus Christi* (SSN-705) has presented an opportunity for our membership and the City of Corpus Christi to approach the U.S. Navy requesting a structural transfer of the ship's sail to be used as a memorial. The Memorial is to honor our Submarine Veterans past and present, and recognize the service of this submarine that was the namesake of our city. The Sea Turtle Base has the cooperation of the City of Corpus Christi in this endeavor and they have already designated a site at Sherrill Veteran's Memorial Park.

The success of the Memorial will require design, engineering, transportation and construction. The cost of this endeavor will be borne by our base. We are not soliciting donations at this time; we are only asking that you pass the word on to your members.

We will keep your base informed of our progress. Our hope is for support from our community and corporate sponsorship for this project.

Respectfully yours,  
Glenn MacDonald,  
Base Commander

(concluded on next page)

## USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

(concluded from previous page)

(Old news by the time you read this, but still worthy of inclusion for any holdouts.—ed.)

Shipmates and Ladies,

Dennis's note highlights the fact that the Veterans' Administration and state agencies are scheduling appointments for COVID vaccinations. Many medical facilities and even pharmacies are involved as well.

If you want the vaccine and haven't tried scheduling, please check your state's health department website or try calling medical and pharmacy facilities.

Good luck!

Dave

From: <dj\_walsh@roadrunner.com>

Date: Friday, Feb. 12, 2021

Subject: Vaccine Availability

COVID-19 vaccine is available at Rite Aid Stores. Go to...

<https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-q>.

I signed up online and will get my first dose today at the Brea store.

Dennis Walsh  
925 Carlson Drive  
Brea, CA 92821  
H: 714-257-0443  
C: 714-624-2795

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Shipmates and Ladies,

Forwarding USSVI correspondence to L.A.-Pasadena Base members.

Dave

From: "USSVI POC: William C. Andrea" <NJVC@ussvi.org>

Date: February 24, 2021

Subject: 2021 National Convention News

Submitted by: Richard "Ozzie" Osentoski, National Convention Chairman

Shipmates,

The 2021 USSVI National Convention Committee is diligently working to make our 2021 National Convention an outstanding success.

The schedule of events and pricing information for the Convention are now resolved. The Convention Registration Form and the Plan of the Week were posted today on the Convention Website.

Shipmates, let's make our 2021 USSVI National Convention a truly exceptional event. Please make your Hotel reservations and submit your Convention Registration Form within the next couple of weeks. Also, contact your shipmates and encourage them to join us at our 2021 National Convention in Orlando.

Richard "Ozzie" Osentoski  
USSVI National Convention Chairman

## Corpus Christi Memorial

(concluded from previous page)

The Sea Turtle Base of Corpus Christi is sponsoring the SSN-705 Memorial in Sherrill Veterans Memorial Park. 501(c)(3) donations can be made by check to:

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
SSN-705 SUBMARINE  
MEMORIAL, INC.  
P.O. Box 60014  
Corpus Christi, TX 78466

Please write "USS City of Corpus Christi Submarine Memorial" on the check memo line. Thank you.



**PRIDE RUNS DEEP**

**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!

## Late-Breaking Local Chapter News:

### Jack Livingston Herron Departs on Eternal Patrol

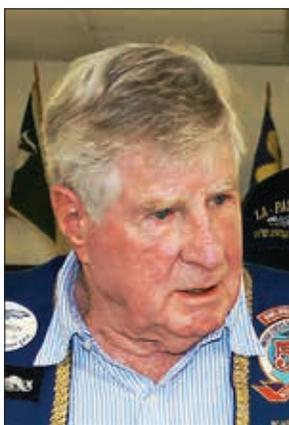
Longtime L.A.-Pasadena Base Life Member/  
USSVI Life Member/  
WWII SubVet group Life Member/  
Holland Club Member

Jack "Hot Rod" Herron, age 94,  
passed away February 26, 2021.

Any memorial service plans are pending.

Jack qualified on the USS *Atule* (SS-403) in 1946, serving on the boat from 1946-1947. He had also served on USS *Cusk* (SS/SSG/AGSS-348) from 08/45-09/45 and aboard USS *Toro* (SS-422) during 1947. Final rank: MOMM3(SS) E-4.

Jack joined USSVI in 1998 and had been qualified 75 years this year.



#### Contact info.:

Shirley Herron (Jack's wife)  
13671 Annandale Dr., Apt. 9G  
Seal Beach, CA 90740-5450  
Shirley's cell: 562-400-0047  
Shirley's email:  
snjherron@aol.com

***Sailor, Rest Your Oar.***

# Here Comes the U.S. Navy's First New Torpedo in Decades

*The CRAW will really stick it to enemy subs.*

*(Reproduced from the Popular Mechanics website—published January 1, 2021.)*

*by Kyle Mizokami*



*Northrop Grumman*

**T**he U.S. Navy plans to field its first new torpedo in decades, and one candidate is Northrop Grumman's Very Lightweight Torpedo (VLWT).

Originally designed to protect aircraft carriers from incoming torpedoes, VLWT could be used by aircraft, surface ships, and even submarines. The weapon can be used both as an offensive weapon against enemy submarines, or a defensive one against inbound torpedoes.

The VLWT, according to National Defense, was originally designed to defend the Navy's aircraft carriers from submarines. Installed on carriers, the mini-torpedoes would be launched at the first sign of enemy attack, homing in on the incoming torpedoes.

The Navy killed the carrier defense system, but Northrop Grumman decided to continue development. The company is now marketing the VLWT as a multi-mission torpedo, capable of both attack or defense, with specific mission software loaded into the weapon's electronic brain just before firing.

The torpedo's offensive mode, known as compact rapid attack weapon (CRAW), is designed to give even the smallest platforms the capability to hunt submarines. The small torpedo could be carried by helicopters, maritime patrol aircraft, small crewed or uncrewed surface ships, and even other subs.

Once the sub-hunter detects the presence of an enemy submarine, it drops a CRAW in the vicinity. The tiny torpedo's on-board sensors immediately start to hunt the enemy submarine, forcing it onto the defensive.

The VLWT's defense mode, known as countermeasure anti-torpedo (CAT), turns the torpedo into a torpedo interceptor. A ship or helicopter protecting an aircraft carrier or other capital ship could position itself in the path of an enemy torpedo, then launch a CAT. This is likely a better, more flexible defensive scheme than the now-canceled carrier defense system, allowing it to protect more ships.

Northrop Grumman believes the VLWT could be ready for production in as little as four years.

# Navy's Newest Submarine Christened in Connecticut

(Reproduced from Navy Times website - published October 5, 2019—by The Associated Press)



*The Navy's newest attack submarine, the future USS Oregon, is christened in a ceremony at Electric Boat in Groton, Conn. (Dana Jensen/The Day via AP.)*

**G**ROTON, Conn. — The U.S. Navy's newest attack submarine, the future USS *Oregon*, was christened in Connecticut Saturday.

Politicians, shipyard leaders and Navy officials gathered for a ceremony at the General Dynamics Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, where they spoke about the importance of *Virginia*-class submarines and praised the skills of the thousands of shipyard workers in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Virginia who built the *Oregon*.

Vice Adm. James Kilby said the *Oregon*, outfitted with the most modern weapons and sensors, will disappear beneath the waves and never be detected until a time and place of its choosing.

It "truly represents naval combat power," said Kilby, a deputy chief of naval operations.

The submarine is expected to cost about \$2.7 billion and join the fleet next year. She will officially become the *Oregon* (SSN-793) when commissioned.

Electric Boat, which has facilities in Connecticut and Rhode Island, builds attack submarines with Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia.

Jennifer Boykin, president of Newport News Shipbuilding, said the submarine represents the "very best of American innovation, quality and pride."

About 100 Electric Boat workers, upset over a proposed new contract, protested outside of the ceremony, according to *The Day* newspaper in New London.

A vote on their contract is scheduled for next week.

Inside the shipyard, the ship's sponsor, Dana Richardson, christened the nuclear submarine with sparkling wine from Oregon and water from Crater Lake National Park in Oregon.

Richardson, a native of Corvallis, Oregon, said the privilege of being a ship sponsor is beyond her wildest dreams. She's married to retired Adm. John Richardson, who served as the chief of naval operations from 2015 until this summer.

The submarine is the third Navy ship to honor the state. It will carry on the proud legacy of its predecessors, said Republican U.S. Rep. Greg Walden of Oregon, who delivered the keynote address. Walden said the submarine has the capability to prevent nuclear war.

*(concluded on page 21)*

## New Submarine *Oregon* Christened

(concluded from page 20)



*The crew of the Navy's newest attack submarine, the future USS Oregon (SSN-793), listens to one of the speakers during the vessel's christening ceremony at Electric Boat in Groton, Conn. (Dana Jensen/The Day via AP)*

Construction began in the fall of 2014. She's the 20th *Virginia*-class submarine built. This class of submarines, equipped with torpedoes and missiles, is designed to carry out a wide range of missions, including surveillance work and the delivery of Special Operations forces.

The *Oregon* is part of a new group of submarines designed to require one less period in the shipyard for maintenance over their lifespans, according to the Navy. Consequently, they will be able to do one more deployment over their lifetime, for a total of about fifteen deployments.

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## Latest on New *Columbia*-Class Boats

(concluded from page 1)

procurement funding for the *Columbia*-class program, of which about \$1.0 billion is for the second boat and \$95.2 million is for the third and subsequent boats in the program.

The Navy's FY2021 budget submission estimates the total procurement cost of the 12-ship class at \$109.8 billion in then-year dollars.

**Issues for Congress for the *Columbia*-class program include the following:**

- The risk—due to the COVID-19 situation, technical challenges, and/or funding-related issues— of a delay in designing and building the lead *Columbia*-class boat, which could put at risk the Navy's ability to have the boat ready for its first scheduled

deterrent patrol in 2031, when it is to deploy in the place of the first retiring *Ohio*-class SSBN;

- Whether the Navy has accurately priced the work it is proposing to do in the *Columbia*-class program in FY2021;
- The risk of cost growth in the program;
- The potential impact of the *Columbia*-class program on funding that will be available for other Navy programs, including other shipbuilding programs; and...
- Potential industrial-base challenges of building both *Columbia*-class boats and *Virginia*-class attack submarines (SSNs) at the same time.

## Armstrong - We Were the Last Rats Off the Old Tuna Can Boats

(concluded from page 9)

The boats we rode weren't whiz-bang sexy. The life we led wasn't an existence which Hollywood makes Richard Gere and Tom Cruise movies out of.

No replacement crews met us when we put our lines over. Nobody worried about the psychological implications of our operation. It was common knowledge that you had to be half nuts to ride diesel boats... And the Navy just let it go at that.

There were certain advantages to riding the boats with limber holes and walking decks though. You always knew your approximate depth by what was leaking and the rate at which the water was coming in. You didn't have to know a damned thing about fusion, thermal dynamics or rods in reactor cores. Uniform of the day could include a straw hat and dungarees with shirttails out. Sandals optional.

Most of us are "long ago" submarine sailors. Old late-in-life unsalvageable coots. When we attended Sub School, they were teaching boats with hull numbers that folks

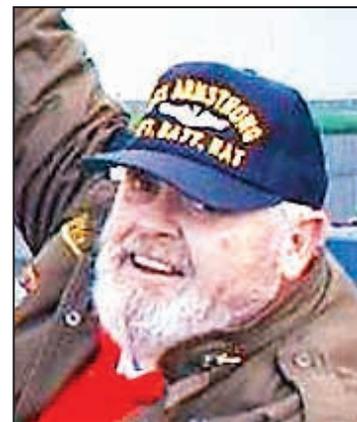
ended up shaving with in the mid- to late-1960s.

When we return to what we knew as New London Sub Base—now known as Groton Subbase—we wander around trying to find familiar landmarks... The escape tank has vamoosed; the geedunk metamorphed into a rather unkempt McDonalds; the old Basic Enlisted Submarine School is gone too, as is the White Hat Club...

After awhile, you feel like a returning resident of Nagasaki in 1946, trying to locate his previous neighborhood from the pattern of remaining outhouse holes.

Keep a zero bubble...

Dex.



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USS <i>Helena</i> (SSN-725)	USS <i>Maine Blue</i> (SSBN-741)
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### Questions?

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

# From the SUBMARINE BOOKSHELF



## Introduction

Periscope editor Jeff Porteous occasionally writes sub-related book reviews for The Subcommittee Report, the regular e-magazine publication of The Subcommittee, an international organization of hundreds of submarine history and modeling enthusiasts worldwide. Reprinted here is one of Jeff's reviews from a recent issue.

Our prolific shipmate, Rick Campbell, is at it again: his latest military thriller, *Deep Strike*, has just dropped anchor at bookstores. It's Number Six in this geopolitical submarine warfare saga—with more on the way, no doubt—and once again contains his page-turning short-chapter plotting along with some familiar characters from past books.

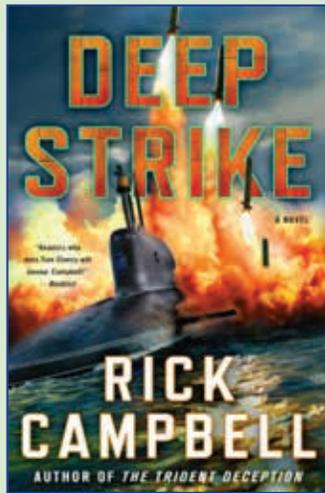
There's little I can tell you I haven't covered in previous Campbell reviews. As mentioned above, this story stands alone, but like his prior efforts, it's also part of a greater multi-novel scheme. Read it solo or after the preceding action—you'll enjoy it either way. Regardless, the Official Rick Campbell Sub Saga Timeline continues, this time confronting us with a race to stop a rogue Russian submarine en route to launch a missile attack against the U.S. East Coast. Tied into the plot is a disgraced former U.S. Special Services operative named Alperi who has already attacked a UN motorcade of diplomats with a shoulder-fired missile. Now, with funding from a

strongly hampered ISIS, he's planning an attack on the U.S. exponentially more devastating than 9/11.

Alperi bribes a desperate Russian sub commander with a rare experimental drug critical to his daughter's survival; the Russian, in return, agreeing to launch a salvo of missiles at targets along the U.S. Eastern seaboard from his rogue submarine operating in the Atlantic. Unknown to the Russian, though, is that Alperi has already arranged for some of the missiles' conventional warheads to be secretly swapped out for surplus nuclear ones instead—armed and ready to go.

Later, when the Russian boat sinks an American sub sent to track it, U.S. Intelligence discovers Alperi's plot and it becomes a desperate race to destroy the Russian before he can initiate his nightmare attack.

If this sounds like a thrilling yarn, it is, with the requisite Campbell action and suspense all coming into play. Also appearing is the usual military technology and the high-stakes submarine involvement we have come to expect. As I've said of Campbell's earlier work, *Deep Strike* is a worthy addition to the canon—certainly worth your time if you're into this sort of thing.—Jeff Porteous

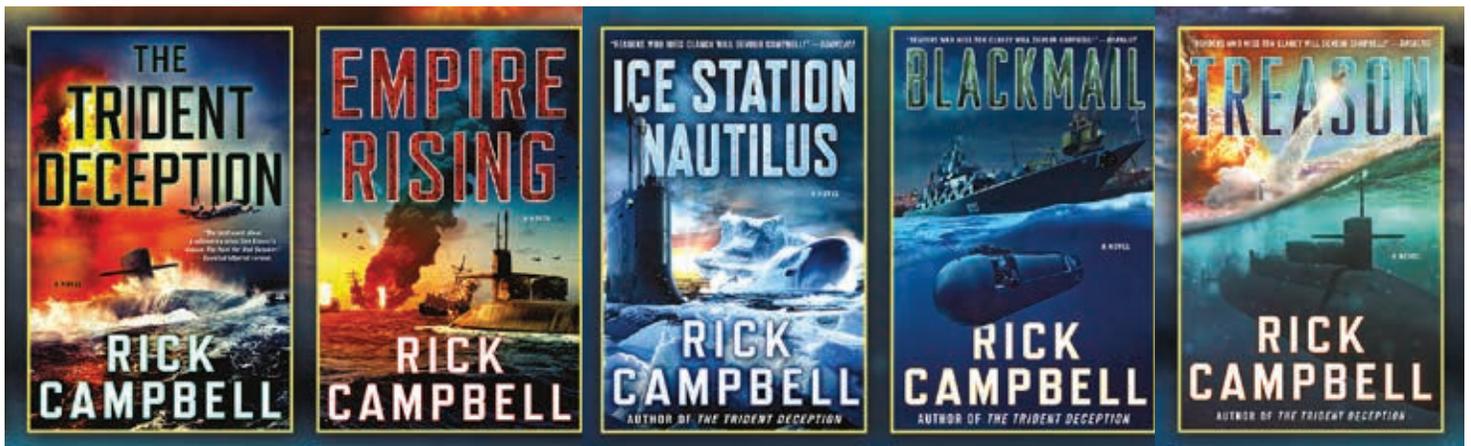


Just Out  
This Month!

**Deep Strike**  
By Rick Campbell  
©2021 by Rick Campbell  
St. Martin's Press  
ISBN: 978-1-250-164773.

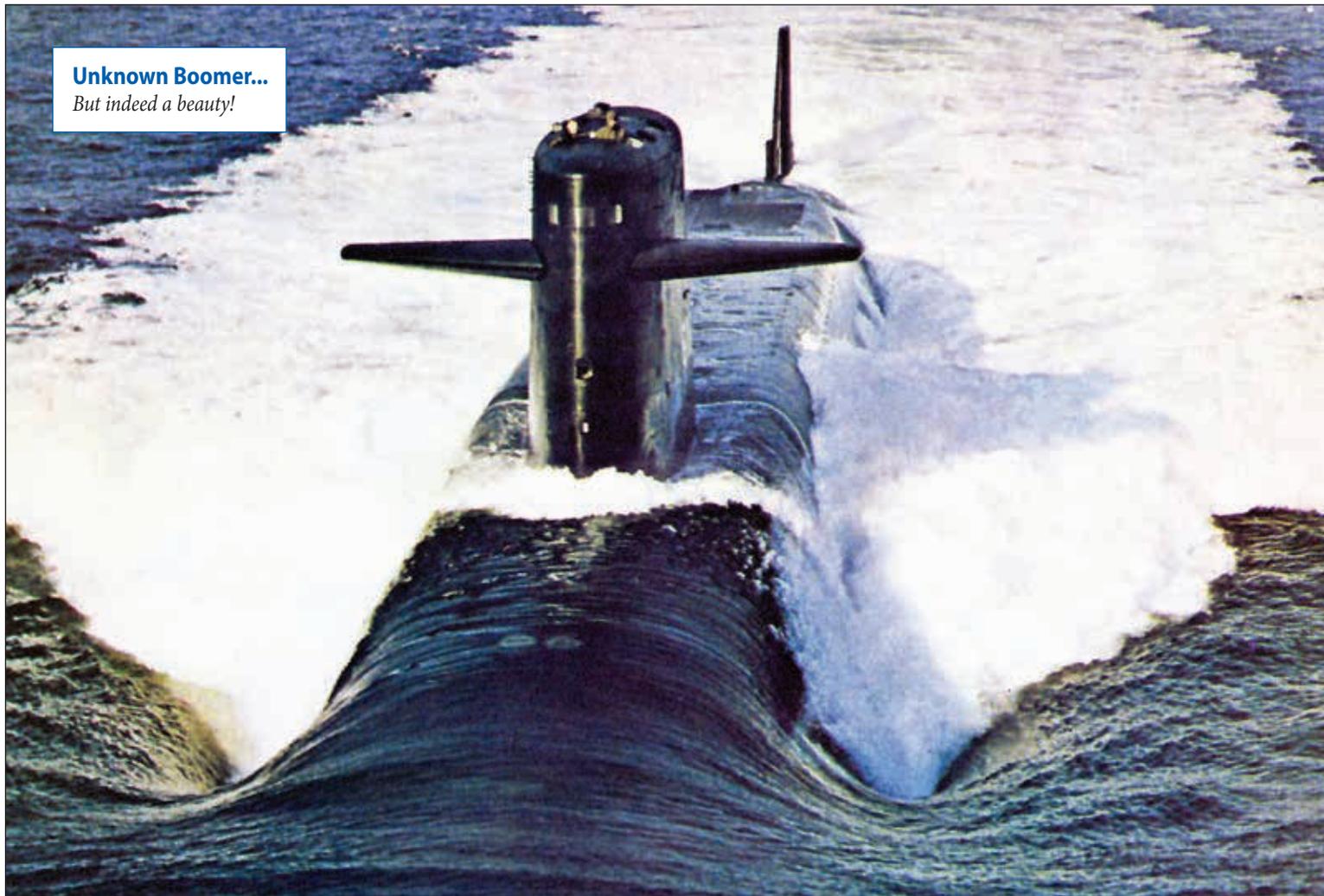
Available in hardcover online or from brick & mortar bookstores.

\$27.99 (full retail).  
Also available in e-book format; paperback forthcoming. Probably audio too.



## Other Books in this series by Rick Campbell

**Unknown Boomer...**  
*But indeed a beauty!*



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

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SEALION  
S-36  
S-26  
SHARK I  
PERCH  
S-27  
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