

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

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

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#### **Editor's Corner**

For those of you on Facebook, check out the Wisconsin Maritime Museum's ongoing posted coverage of USS *Cobia*'s (SS-245) drydocking evolution. Some great photos—she's looking all gorgeous again! Hoping we can get a good article about all this in a forthcoming issue of *American Submariner*.

Happy Halloween!

—Jeff

# Why the USS *Michigan* is America's Best Submarine Today

USS Michigan has displayed exemplary performance in challenging situations, and it should be a reminder to American leaders of the need to have many more submarines on hand.

(Reproduced from The National Interest website - Published May 17, 2025) https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/why-the-uss-michigan-is-americas-best-submarine-today by Brandon J. Weichert



USS Michigan (SSGN-727) docked in port. (Image: Wikimedia Commons.)

he submarine remains the most impressive, important, and underappreciated manned vessel in the United States Navy today. Not only is the submarine underappreciated, but it is in short supply—at a time when its stealth and reach are needed now more than ever.

As a result of this dearth of submarines—due in part to massive ongoing problems in America's shipyards—the Navy's existing subs are being made to operate on extended patrols. Some of the most famous extended patrols belong to *Ohio-c*lass guided-missile nuclear-powered submarines (SSGNs).

(concluded on page 10)



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www.socalsubvets.org

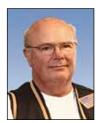
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# From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

I've much enjoyed my time in Los Angeles-Pasadena Base's BC job during two periods totaling eight of the last eleven years. Although we worked through

some tough challenges—the COVID shutdown, losing access to NWSSB, the commemorative bricks project, and establishing new meeting arrangements—the work has been comparatively easy. That's largely due to the willingness of capable folks among us to take responsibility and complete pieces of our base's business. They're careful to comply with USSVI requirements, and they keep us well engaged in civic and veterans' activities.

We're also fortunate that Chuck Senior, a long-time member and a Past Commander is Editor and Publisher of *American Submariner*, USSVI's outstanding magazine. Our newsletter, *The Periscope*, edited and published by Jeff Porteous, is among the best in the biz, although two other bases' publications were selected for Newsletter-of-the-Year awards in the past two years. In my opinion, "we was robbed" as we heard in old movies!

Our members who performed leadership jobs through the years have made L.A.-Pasadena Base one of the strongest in USSVI civically, financially, and in maintaining membership. That was tough to do through the pandemic and with the loss of our principle fundraising tool, the "White Elephant Auction," which had been part of the Leroy Stone Memorial Picnic at Bunker 33 on the Weapons Station. We were fortunate to add substantially to our treasury with proceeds from hosting the 2025 Western Region Roundup aboard RMS *Queen Mary*.

Altogether, I appreciate the men and women who are Los Angeles-Pasadena Base. I admire your professionalism as members and as leaders, and I'm proud to be associated with you.

Our next leadership team has some returning members and two new ones who'll be installed during our meeting on October 18th at 11:00 a.m. at Radiant Brewery in Anaheim. I even get to swear them in! I look forward to seeing you there!

Fair winds and following seas to us all.



Dave Vanderveen, Commander Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



# Sept. General Meeting Sailing List

Ed Barwick

Susan Bolton

**Dennis Bott** 

Darin Detwiler

Ken Dorn

Ioe Koch

Bill Moak

Chuck Senior

Mike Swanson

Ray Teare

Dave Vanderveen

Dennis Walsh

Stan Westrick

Gary Wing

Pat Zilliacus and wife Mercedes





# Minutes of September 20, 2025 General Meeting

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at the VFW Hall in Anaheim, CA at 1125 hours. Pat Zilliacus led the Pledge of Allegiance, then Dave made note of the USSVI's purpose, following it up with a request for a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates.

Dave explained that last month's meeting Minutes had been published in the prior issue of the newsletter and that they had been reviewed, approved and accepted into the base record during the E-Board meeting. (See E-Board Minutes elsewhere in this issue.—ed.)

#### Treasurer's Report:

Dave explained that the Treasurer's Report had been reviewed, approved and accepted into the base record by the E-Board, and that to comply with our By-Laws asked Treasurer Sue Bolton to present the report to the General Members attending today. (*The same report appears in the E-Board Minutes elsewhere in this issue as usual.—ed.*)

#### Membership Update:

Membership is static—we have 99 total members. We're working on a few new memberships, including two chiefs (both sub-qualified) on the Naval Weapons Station.

Dave Vanderveen discussed how we're healthy as a base in terms of financial standing. In terms of membership, we're behind only the San Diego and Bremerton bases. The national leadership wants all bases to focus on increasing membership.

#### **Memorial Update:**

Dennis Bott reported that the Memorial looks great but expressed concern regarding the newly placed bricks not having been installed with cement. The dirt is loose. This mortar concern needs to be addressed and fixed.

Darin Detwiler will discuss the monthly flower agreement with the leadership at the Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce.

#### **Election Results:**

Dave Vanderveen reported that the ballots are in and tallied. This year enjoyed a healthier return than in recent years.

New Base Commander: Darin Detwiler Base Vice Commander: Ray Teare

COB: Bill Moak Treasurer: Sue Bolton

New Base Secretary: Stan Westrick

Directors: Ken Dorn, Dennis Bott, and Chuck Senior

#### New Business / Good of the Order:

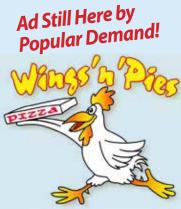
Darin Detwiler moved and Dennis Bott seconded a motion for the expenditure of no more than \$300.00 for a reusable, professional "Stand and Repeat"/Paparazzi panel to have the USSVI oval logo image and the USSVI L.A.-Pasadena Base logo image repeated on it. Much discussion ensued, covering how this would be great for photo ops, marketing, etc. The motion passed. Then Ken Dorn made a donation of \$250.00 to cover its cost and offered to make a future donation to cover any additional costs above the initial \$250.00 if needed.

(concluded on next page)

### **Binnacle List**

- Ed Arnold has suffered a mild stroke and is currently hospitalized, soon to be released. He's likely looking at Assisted Living as his new post-hospital HQ. cell: 714-797-9286
- Arthur Schwartz, newly hailed Holland Club member, reports his wife has recently undergone cancer surgery. *cell:* 562-972-7865 *email:* abschwartzjr@gmail.com
- Sally Moran is now on Home Hospice Care status. Her grand-daughter-in-law Sammi reads her your texts and emails, and then responds for her... cell: 951-603-4798 email: sallymoran80@gmail.com

All these fine folks could really use some positive thoughts sent out into the cosmos....



# 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)

The 2026 Western Regional Roundup (WRR) will be held in Las Vegas at Sam's Town. Joe Koch moved and Chuck Senior seconded a motion to offer a \$500.00 sponsor check to the 2026 WRR. Discussion included financial contributions to our base related to the 2025 WRR. The motion passed. Members indicated they're likely to attend the 2026 Roundup in Vegas.

The 2027 WRR will be held in Denver, whereas the 2028 event will be held in Pearl Harbor. Darin Detwiler is working on a planning meeting for the 2027 Memorial Day event (50th Anniversary) with the Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce, the Seal Beach City Council, our base leadership, and the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station senior/master chiefs.

Darin Detwiler will check with the Bay Theatre in Seal Beach regarding our percentage of ticket sales from the 4th of July event.

Gary Wing announced he and his wife have now both retired and that they'll be moving to Oregon. He'll remain a member of our base, but this is likely his last in-person meeting attendance. We wished him and his wife well in their move and next adventures. He left a number of engraved submarine ball glasses for us to enjoy.

Bill Moak discussed the USSVI Challenge Coins (USN 250th/Submarine 125th) and asked about interest in the 2026 USSVI Calendars.

Ken Dorn discussed data about surviving WWII veterans. According to Pat Zilliacus, only 20-30 WWII submarine veterans remain alive today.

Dave Vanderveen then discussed recruitment cards.

It was noted that after today's executive meeting, members worked to inspect, verify, and label state flags for the memorial.

#### **Upcoming Meeting Locations:**

- OCTOBER: Our 10/18 Meeting is our traditional New Officer Induction gathering. Darin Detwiler is working to reserve the Radiant Brewery, 1566 West Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801. (Drinks and light fare with menu for food and/or alcohol purchases.) Confirmation will be forthcoming via Darin.
- NOVEMBER: Our 11/15 Meeting will take place at Ed Barwick's residence; he has graciously offered to host us: 5408 East Lanai, Long Beach, CA 90808. Potluck format now planned.
- DECEMBER: Our annual Christmas Luncheon will take place at the Eagle's Nest, Navy Golf Course, 5660 Orangewood Ave., Cypress, CA 90630. Don't miss it! Signups forthcoming.
- JANUARY: We plan to meet at the L.A. County Fire Museum: 16400 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, CA 90706. We discussed restaurant/food truck/or other—but did not yet decide on food for this meeting. Ken Dorn is coordinating.

There being no further business, Joe Koch motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Dennis Bott and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1229 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Detwiler

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

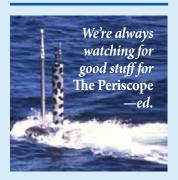
October Meeting ot Radiant Brewery! Oct. Meeting Date: Oct. 18, 2025

This month we're holding the Installation Luncheon for our newly elected officers at Radiant Brewery in Anaheim. (Your lunch is on you.) 10:00 E-Board; 11:00 General Meeting. See you there!

#### Opens 10:00 a.m.:

Radiant Beer Co. 1566 W. Lincoln Ave. Anaheim, CA 92801 (cross street: Loara)





# **Oct. Birthdays**

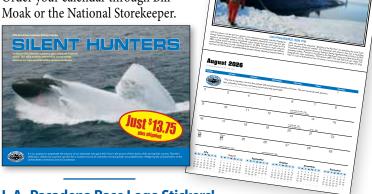
We hereby extend the happiest of wishes to all our celebrants. Elliot Rada ...... 10/13 Gregory Paulson ...... 10/14 Steven Diumenti...... 10/15 Harry Ross...... 10/15 Paul Riggs ...... 10/16 Vernon "Max" Murphy.. 10/18 Larry Long...... 10/20 George Wallace ..... 10/23

Willie Williamson...... 10/24

# Ship's Store

2026 Calendars Now Available!

Order your calendar through Bill



### 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 forehead—it's better tattoo! Show your and stock up

for more information!

US SUBMARINE VETERANS LOS ANGELES / PASADENA Get in touch with Storekeeper Bill Moak at golfnsurf46@aol.com

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

one on your

now!

than a

base pride



**USSVI Logo Patch**  $(9\frac{3}{4}\times6\frac{3}{4})$ \$11.00 ea.



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



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



Submarine Force Challenge Coin \$20.00 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) Mike Swanson

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

#### OCTOBER TOLLING OF THE BOATS



#### USS SEAWOLF (SS-197)

Lost on October 3, 1944 near Morotai, when she was attacked and sunk by the USS *Richard M. Rowell* (DE-403) while tragically mistaken for a Japanese submarine known to be in the area. *Seawolf* ranks seventh among U.S. submarines for enemy ships sunk. Her crew of eighty-three plus seventeen U.S. Army troops went down with her.



#### USS S-44 (SS-155)

Lost on October 7, 1943 when sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles, during her fifth war patrol. After attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, *S*-44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war. Fifty-six men were lost.



#### **USS WAHOO (SS-238)**

Lost on October 11, 1943 in La Perouse Strait. Commanded by one of the great sub skippers of all time, LCDR Dudley "Mush" Morton, she had been exiting the Sea of Japan on her seventh war patrol. Awarded a Presidential Unit Citation and ranking fifth in number of ships sunk, *Wahoo* was lost to Japanese air and sea forces after being spotted on the surface by shore batteries. Patrol aircraft were alerted and dropped many bombs, the *coup de grâce* delivered later by subchasers, an auxiliary, and more aircraft. Eighty brave men were lost with this legendary boat.



#### **USS DORADO (SS-248)**

Lost on October 12, 1943 when she was sunk in the western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, *Dorado* had departed New London, CT, en route to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane receiving faulty bombing restriction instructions—or by a German U-boat known to be in the vicinity. Seventy-seven men perished.



#### **USS ESCOLAR (SS-294)**

Lost on October 17, 1944 *Escolar* had been on her first war patrol and was most likely sunk by a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea. Her crew of eighty-two never came home.

#### USS SHARK II (SS-314)

Lost on October 24, 1944 when attacked and sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during WWII, she had been on her third war patrol. *Shark* was lost to escorts after sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the tragedy, the torpedoed freighter had carried 1,800 U.S. POWs aboard. All of *Shark II*'s eighty-seven men were lost.



#### **USS DARTER (SS-227)**

Lost on October 24, 1944 when she ran aground on Bombay Shoal off Palawan; she was later destroyed by cannon fire to keep from falling into enemy hands. *Darter*'s entire crew was safely rescued by USS *Dace* (SS-247). Awarded the Navy Unit Commendation, *Darter* had put a heavy cruiser on the bottom, damaged another, and was attempting an "end around" to gain an attack position on a battleship when she became stuck in the shallows.



#### USS TANG (SS-306)

Lost on October 25, 1944 in the Formosa Strait while conducting her fifth patrol. During a daring night surface attack, *Tang* fell victim to a circular run by her own faulty torpedo. Nine of her crew escaped the sinking and were taken prisoner—including CDR O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her spot on the bottom, 180 feet below. All survived the war. O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. *Tang* ranks second in ships sunk and fourth in tonnage, and was awarded two Presidential Unit Citations. Seventy-eight men were lost.

#### USS O-5 (SS-66)

Lost on October 29, 1923 when she was accidentally rammed and sunk by the SS *Abangarez* off the Panama Canal. TM2(SS) Henry Berault received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions. Three men were lost.



# Aboard a Nuclear-Powered Submarine, "Everything Changes on a Dime"

(Reproduced from the Siemens website - Published April 10, 2025.) https://www.reuters.com/world/aboard-nuclear-powered-submarine-everything-changes-dime-2025-04-10/ by Kirsty Needham



Virginia-class fast attack sub USS Minnesota (SSN-783) is seen off the coast of Western Australia, 3/16/25. (Colin Murty/Pool via Reuters/file photo.)

pril 10 (Reuters) - "The role of the fast attack submarine is so dynamic that everything changes on a dime," U.S. Navy Commander Jeffrey Corneille said off the coast of Western Australia on the nuclear-powered submarine USS *Minnesota* in March.

"As soon as my boss says go, we go," said Corneille, the ship's commander.

A 2018 letter from the U.S. secretary of defense hangs on a wall in the *Minnesota*, expressing gratitude for its antisubmarine warfare and intelligence gathering in Europe.

Giving pause for thought to an adversary is "not just important for the United States, it's important for all of our partners to work together to get to that," Corneille said.

The submarine recently moved its home port from Hawaii to Guam, the first forward deployment of a *Virginia*-class

submarine.

"In time of conflict, that is where we replenish, repair and rearm," said Captain Neil Steinhagen, Commander of Guam's Submarine Squadron 15, which includes four *Los Angeles*-class nuclear-powered attack submarines alongside the *Minnesota*.

A port call at HMAS Stirling is preparation for hundreds of U.S. Navy personnel arriving in 2027, and Australians joining the crew of U.S.-commanded *Virginia* submarines.

The *Virginia*'s "34-year gas tank" gives it the speed to run down its adversary, said Steinhagen, describing the difference between nuclear propulsion and Australia's aging diesel-electric submarine fleet, which lurk and listen in Indo Pacific chokepoints.

Reporting by Kirsty Needham. Editing by Gerry Doyle.

# **Keel Laid for HMS Dreadnought**

First of new class of ballistic missile submarines for the Royal Navy.

(Reproduced from the Navy Lookout website - Published March 20, 2025.)



oday the Prime Minister formally laid the keel for HMS *Dreadnought*. This is a ceremonial occasion only, since much of the boat has already been built.

The keel-laying ceremony took place in front of a section of the boat—well-covered, as was to be expected. The event took place in the Central Yard Facility, where units are fabricated, not the Devonshire Dock Hall, where the mega-blocks are in a more advanced state of fitting out.

The effects of COVID combined with political turmoil probably explain why this ceremony had been so delayed. Modern submarines are assembled in sections, so actual "keellaying" is not really part of the process anymore.

The first steel was cut for *Dreadnought* in as far back as October 2016, and construction of the boat is far more advanced than this event might suggest. The boats are being built in 16 sub-units around the Barrow site, which are then grouped into three mega-blocks and moved to the Devonshire Dock Hall for assembly. The first mega-block of *Dreadnought* was delivered in the fall of 2023.

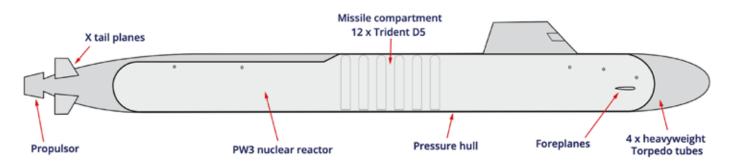
The MoD will not provide a target date for her to enter ser-

vice other than "the early 2030s" but information suggests before 2032. The *Dreadnought* class is designed from the outset to have a service life of 35-40 years. This is a significant increase over their predecessors, which should reduce through-life support costs but has contributed to the high initial price tag of at least £31Bn for the four vessels.

Despite being one of the largest public spending projects and involving some of the UK's finest engineering and manufacturing talent, the *Dreadnought* project has been underway largely out of sight until now. The ceremony today helps shine a light on the the scale of the achievement and celebrate the efforts of the workforce and supply chain involved in this vast and critically important national endeavour.

The *Dreadnought* programme will support more than 30,000 jobs from the shipyard to SMEs across the country. The workforce at BAE Systems' Barrow facility has expanded by over 1,000 people in the past six months, with employees in the defence nuclear sector earning around 20% more than the national average wage. His Majesty the King has agreed to confer the title "Royal" to the Port of Barrow in recognition of the town's special role in guaranteeing the nation's security.

# Dreadnought class submarine



# Russian Navy Commissions Sixth of Improved Kilo-Class Attack Submarines Intended for the Pacific Fleet

(Reproduced from the Zona Militar website - Published June 11, 2025.)

https://www.zona-militar.com/en/2025/06/11/the-russian-navy-commissions-the-sixth-of-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-pacific-fleet/liberal-sixth-of-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-pacific-fleet/liberal-sixth-of-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-pacific-fleet/liberal-sixth-of-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-pacific-fleet/liberal-sixth-of-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-pacific-fleet/liberal-sixth-of-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-pacific-fleet/liberal-sixth-of-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-pacific-fleet/liberal-sixth-of-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-pacific-fleet/liberal-sixth-of-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-pacific-fleet/liberal-sixth-of-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-pacific-fleet/liberal-sixth-of-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-pacific-fleet/liberal-sixth-of-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-pacific-fleet/liberal-sixth-of-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-pacific-fleet/liberal-sixth-of-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-pacific-fleet/liberal-sixth-of-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intended-for-the-new-improved-kilo-class-attack-submarines-intende



Improved Russian Kilo-class attack submarine design. (Photo credit unknown.)

s a new step in strengthening its submarine capabilities, the Russian Navy has recently commissioned the sixth of its new improved Kilo-class attack submarines (also known as Project 636.3), which will be assigned to the Pacific Fleet. In particular, it is the submarine that the institution has named *Yakutsk*, whose delivery is said to have taken place this morning at the Admiralty Shipyards JSC located in the city of Saint Petersburg.

The delivery ceremony of the new unit was attended by important naval authorities, among whom Admiral Vladimir Vorobyev stood out, who currently serves as Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy. During the ceremony, he was in charge of conveying his congratulations to the manufacturer for their work and wishing the crew to be up to the missions that will be entrusted to them.

It's worth recalling at this point that the submarine recently incorporated into the institution had begun construction in August 2021, with a keel-laying ceremony that stood out due to the participation of Russian President Vladimir Putin. By October 2024, the country's Ministry of Defense announced that the *Yakutsk* had been launched to enter the phase of installation of the final

sensors and equipment ahead of the corresponding acceptance trials, which—considering that the commissioning has taken place in less than a year since then—can be regarded as having occurred at a remarkably fast pace.

Reviewing some technical details, we can see the sub is presented as an improved design of the former Soviet Kilo class, which incorporates as its main advantages the ability to launch Kalibr-PL (SS-N-27 Sizzler) anti-ship missiles and new 533mm heavy torpedoes. In addition, although not described in detail, the Russian Navy has highlighted on more than one occasion that this is a class with greater stealth and range capabilities than its predecessors; the latter being around 7,000 nautical miles using a snorkel.

In terms of dimensions, each vessel has a length of about 73 meters and a beam of 9.9 meters, within which are contained the over 3,000 tons it displaces and the 52 people that make up its crew. Its propulsion system would consist of two diesel generators with a single seven-bladed fixed-pitch propeller, allowing it to reach maximum speeds of 17 knots on the surface and 20 knots when submerged (being capable of reaching depths of up to 300 meters), with an autonomy of approximately 45 days.

## Why Michigan is the Best U.S. Submarine

(concluded from page 1)

#### Why Did the Michigan Get a Navy Unit Citation?

Many naval buffs are aware of the exploits of the USS *Florida*'s (SSGN-728) mammoth 727-day deployment. Fewer know about her sister ship, the USS *Michigan* (SSGN-727). Between 2022 and 2024, *Michigan* engaged in a series of special operations missions, resulting in the mighty submarine receiving a Navy Unit Citation (NUC) in December of 2024.

According to Joseph Trevithick at *The War Zone*, who managed to gain access to the otherwise secretive text of the NUC, *Michigan*'s crew was awarded the NUC because of the crew's "superb operational planning and risk management and precise tactical execution [...] *Michigan* completed three highly successful missions vital to national security and several special warfare operations. [These] achievements contributed to multiple high priority national and theater objectives and significantly enhanced warfighting readiness in the Western Pacific."

But here's the most interesting part of the NUC language: "Michigan's performance advanced multiple naval special warfare and undersea warfare emerging capabilities as well as concepts, tactics, techniques, and procedures, particularly involving the [use] of unmanned undersea vehicles."

#### The Michigan Might Be Using Undersea Drones

Utilizing unmanned undersea vehicles—more commonly known as drones—on the *Ohio*-class guided-missile submarines is an excellent use of resources. It conditions the crew to employ those new systems in challenging situations, and merges the three most important assets the Navy will have if a great power war erupts in the Indo-Pacific region, where *Michigan* was operating when she received the NUC.

Undersea drones, manned subs, and Special Operations units deployed from the dry deck shelters of the *Ohio-*class SSGNs will be the key to any victory in a naval war with China. We do not know what the precise nature of the NUC was. We know only that it involved undersea drones and U.S. Special Forces, and that its missions were successful.

But we can surmise that the targets were likely either Chinese, North Korean, or even non-state actors who are based in the Indo-Pacific region. The reason that the drones were used was likely because the regions *Michigan* was operating in were hard to penetrate conventionally. This is where drones come in handy.

The USS *Michigan* has been the source of many historic events in recent history. She was involved with a major show of force off South Korea during significant tensions with North Korea in 2017. *Michigan* also made history in 2016, when the first enlisted female sailor to earn a submarine qualification on a U.S. boat did so aboard her.

#### The Importance of the Ohio-Class Submarine

USS *Michigan* is one of only four guided-missile submarines. Originally commissioned in 1982 as a ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), she was eventually converted to a guided-missile submarine in 2006. Built by General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Conn., and homeported in Bangor, Wash., *Michigan* has been a cornerstone of the U.S. Navy's strategic deterrence and power projection—notably in the Indo-Pacific.

As an SSBN, *Michigan* completed 66 strategic deterrent patrols, carrying up to 24 Trident II ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads, ensuring the United States maintained a credible second-strike capability notably during the Cold War. After its SSGN conversion at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, the submarine was equipped to carry up to 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles and support special operations, significantly enhancing its versatility.

Michigan is one of America's most innovative submarines. She has displayed exemplary performance in challenging situations, and it should be a reminder to American leaders of the need to have many more submarines on hand. Sadly, the Navy's lack of prioritization on submarines, coupled with the aforementioned broken shipyards in the United States, means that we will continue relying on relatively old—and too few in number—SSGNs like the Michigan. Let us hope China doesn't build more systems to overwhelm them!

Brandon J. Weichert is a Senior National Security Editor at The National Interest as well as a contributor at Popular Mechanics, who consults regularly with various government institutions and private organizations on geopolitical issues. Weichert's writings have appeared in multiple publications, including The Washington Times, National Review, The American Spectator, MSN, The Asia Times, and countless others. His newest book, A Disaster of Our Own Making: How the West Lost Ukraine is available for purchase wherever books are sold. He can be followed via Twitter @ WeTheBrandon.



# Pier 22 by Bob "Dex" Armstrong

Pier 22, Destroyer and Submarine Piers... 1959.

Somewhere well before my smokeboat days—a point sometime between World War II and shooting folks into space—the CE (old "Convoy Escort") piers became D&S (Destroyer and Submarine) piers. The United States Navy does this a lot. They have this master plan: The Naval Schedule of Constant Change. Somewhere in a tarpaper shack in East Jeezus, Nebraska, there are two hundred J.G.s and a brain-dead yeoman whose sole purpose is to rename stuff so old veterans can't locate a damn thing to reignite memories.

This, coupled with municipalities initiating aggressive civic improvement programs, forces old bluejackets to wander around in areas of old ports, constantly looking at each other and saying, "What'n the hell happened to...? The sonuvabitch used to be right about here."

Civic improvement translates into gin mill demolition. Tearing down bars, naval tailor shops, greasy spoons, tattoo parlors, and high volume cathouses. I never figured it out. Why doesn't the term "historic preservation" apply to structures that catered to the carnal requirements of the Second Fleet from World War I—until operating seaports went through their "born again" transformation in the late '60s? If you go to Norfolk today, you'll get the distinct impression that all we did was visit the U.S.O. and play a helluva lot of minature golf.

Old SUBRON SIX lads need to pass the raghat to collect enough funds to erect a fifty-foot high statue of a bigbusted, bleached blond in clamdigger pants two sizes too small and a white plastic pocketbook. Inscription to read: "Hey sailor, wanna party? Thirty-five buckos and you pay for the room."

Cold War dollies. They were good times.

Lads who missed the experience, lads who never paid dues, lads who rationalized and handbuilt self-serving perverted moral arguments against national service, are poor shortchanged bastards who must feel all alone in a voting booth. Kinda like how the good men who bought their tickets on salt water, in jungle heat, at high altitude, and on the miserable cold installment plan, slipped them a complimentary pass. I don't know about the rest of you, but when I close that curtain, it is pretty damned crowded in there. I'm in there representing a lot of good men who

will reside on the bottom of the sea until the last big "Morning Quarters" in the sky.

Pier 22: Dumpsters and fuel hoses. Telephone lines. Old busted topside watch shacks. Stacked stores awaiting assembly of a loading party. Boat sailors exchanging embellished bullshit like Bedouin traders.

"Good morning, sir."

"Good morning. Exec aboard?"

"Aye, sir. Dropped below 'bout thirty minutes ago."

"Did you guys have enough time to get in a full charge?"

"Aye, sir."

"Stores loaded?"

"We completed loading stores from *Orion* at 0300. Disconnected fuel hoses at 0345. Ran guard mail and picked up our traffic from the radio shack on the tender. Drew Notice to Mariners and updated charts from the squadron. Bummed ten 20-pound cans of coffee from *Kittiwake* and whatever rat-eaten blankets *Cubera* could spare."

"Ready for sea, then?"

"Aye, sir."

"Very well. Pass the word we'll be turning over the engines shortly—setting the maneuvering watch and singling up lines in thirty minutes."

That's how we went to work.

Pier 22 was our place. If you were single with no crow, it was the only place you had. When the "brown baggers" (khaki sackers) hauled for clean sheets, home cooking and an armload of mama, we owned "The Pier."

If you weren't on duty, you could wander out on the pier to catch a smoke and visit the point of informational exchange: the dumpsters. After evening chow, every messcook on every boat showed up to dump garbage.

E-3 intelligence was exchanged at this mini-oasis. In thirty minutes, you knew what boats were showing what movies, where all the card games would be held that night, and

(concluded on page 12)

#### Pier 22... by Dex Armstrong

(concluded from page 11)

the locations where night baking would take place. To the night nomads—those roaming, cross-pollinating, interboat hopping, non-rated idiots—this was the nocturnal roadmap. It was what made diesel boats a family. It didn't matter what boat you were on, if you were SUBRON SIX, you belonged. You could always count on a cup of coffee, a meal or a place to plant your worthless butt for any movie being shown on any boat alongside. In a single night, you could enjoy the honor of being verbally abused by chief petty officers of up to half a dozen smokeboats.

"Hey, kid. Don't you sonuvabitches on *Requin* know where you live? Hows come every time I turn around, I'm up to my ass in you guys?"

"We love you, Chief."

"Well, if I keep seeing your ugly faces, I'm gonna put you on our watch bill and issue you a damn qual card."

For those of you who never had the pleasure of engaging in conversation with a boat service chief, this translates to: "Welcome aboard. It's nice to have you here to share our

hospitality and enjoy our gentlemenly convivial atmosphere."

When you left, these old crusty sonuvabitches would leave you with a friendly message for your Chief of the Boat: "Tell Dutch that Red said he's ugly and his mother dresses him funny. And tell him to kiss you and tuck you in real nice."

They were okay. This was the best they could do.

Pier 22 was a piece of the United States Navy that was ours. The exclusive domain of the Dolphin mob. It was a place where a red lead spattered, unshaven, raggedy-ass boat sailor could get a cup of coffee with a hydraulic oil slick floating in it, a stale doughnut, and an action-packed,

horseshit-loaded sea story...all for the price of a handshake. It was the play yard where the submarine force held recess.

In a word, it was home.

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!" —

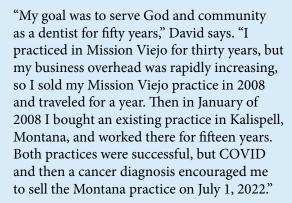
When News Breaks, We Pick Up the Pieces...

# **Know Your Shipmate Dept.**

<u>David D. Semrau</u> shared the following with our Membership Gal Marilyn Senior so we could get to know him better. Let's ALL get better acquainted!

Here are my early sub service photos. I joined the Navy at age 17 in 1961 and served seventeen years, leaving in 1978 as a Lieutenant 03-LT. I had ended my seven enlisted years as a YN2(SS) Yeoman, then got a Direct Commission as a Navy Dental Officer. I reported for duty as a Navy dentist with the Marines at El Toro Air Station July 1, 1972.

I qualified in 1964 on the USS *John Marshall* (SSBN/SSN-611) as a Sonar Technician (and Yeoman). I was attached to this boat in 1963 and 1964 as an YN3(SS), and also served on the USS *Angler* (SS/SSK/AGSS-240) from 1964-1965 as a YN3(SS). (David's a Life Member of USSVI and Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, Marilyn tells us.)



Marilyn further explains that prior to retiring and moving back to California in 2024, David had indeed met his stated goal of being a dentist for fifty years to the day!

David volunteered his 1973 Caprice convertible for our use in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade. He really had it decked out with great signs and 4th of July bunting. It offered nice seating for our Bill



Dillon, Paul Riggs and Dennis Bott to cover the parade route without having to invest shoe leather. David also enjoyed attending the *Red October* screening afterward with some of our other subvets.

















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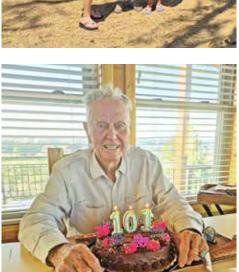


## **More Chapter News...**

# **Bill Dillon Turns 101!**

L.A.-Pasadena Base's Unstoppable SubVet Thinks He's the Energizer Bunny!











Our base's famous jetsetting centurian celebrated an extended 101st by creating plenty of birthday fun with family and friends in Hawaii and Utah. Eldest daughter Linda sent us these photos (care of, as usual, our membership gal, Marilyn Senior). Bill was joined by Linda and other daughter Tania during these adventures, and youngest son Joe while at Joe's home in Utah. We salute you as always, Bill!













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

(75-year members noted with \*) Arthur B. Schwartz...... 2025 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

(concluded next page)



# Los Angeles-Pasadena Base 2025 Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 20	Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Eagle's Nest, Navy Golf Course, Cypress
November 15	Monthly Meeting - Ed Barwick's Residence
October 18	Monthly Meeting at Radiant Brewery, Anaheim Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
September 20	ANNUAL BUSINESS MTG. at VFW Hall Election of Officers
August 16	Monthly Meeting - L.A. Fire Dept. Museum 2026 Base Officer Candidates Announced
July 19	LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic at Dennis Walsh's Residence
July 4	116th Annual Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
June 21	Monthly Mtg Simi Valley Military Museum Call for nominations for 2026 Base Officers
May 26	Memorial Day Service - 1100 Submarine Memorial, West
May 24	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 10	Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900
April 19	Monthly Mtg Clearman's Galley, San Gabriel
March 15	Monthly Meeting - Radiant Brewery, Anaheim
February 15	Monthly Meeting at VFW Hall, Anaheim
January 18	Monthly Meeting at Taco Surf, Los Alamitos

(Holland Club Roster, concluded)
Gary Wheaton2016
Lawrence R. Butler 2015
Samuel T. Higa 2015
Harry P. Ross2015
Charles H. Senior2015
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 Hoffer2013
Michael P. Klein2013
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. Riggs2008
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 Sept. 20, 2025

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted at the VFW Hall in Anaheim, CA on Saturday morning, September 20, 2025. A quorum was met so the meeting proceeded normally.

#### In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Ray Teare, Base Vice Commander
- Darin Detwiler, Base Secretary
- Sue Bolton, Base Treasurer
- Dennis Bott, Memorial Director
- Ken Dorn, Director
- Chuck Senior, Director
- Bill Moak, COB
- Stan Westrick
- Mike Swanson

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the meeting to order at 1005 hours. Minutes of the prior E-Board and General meetings were reviewed. Dennis Bott moved to accept the Minutes into the base record; this was seconded by Bill Moak and unanimously approved.

#### **Membership Report:**

Membership is static—we have 99 total members. We're working on four new memberships, including two chiefs (both sub-qualified) on the Naval Weapons Station.

#### Treasurer's Financial Report: Sue Bolton

The Treasurer's Report as of Sept. 19, 2025 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Sue Bolton.

Checking	\$26,489.34
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$0.00
Total	\$26,539.34

All bills have been paid.

Previous Month:

Income (Coins/T-Shirts): \$240.00 Expenses (Donation): \$100.00 (Five Coins to Fire Museum)

#### Flower/Booster Club Additions:

Ken Dorn	\$400.00
Mike Swanson	\$100.00

Dave Vanderveen made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$100.00 for the Challenge Coins gifted to the L.A. Fire Museum staff during our previous meeting. Chuck Senior seconded and the motion was passed.

There were no other questions nor corrections needed. Darin Detwiler moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and accept it into the base record; this was seconded by Ray Teare and passed unanimously.

(concluded on next page)

# HII Delivers Initial Lionfish UUV to U.S. Navy Under Multi-Year Program

Reproduced from the *Naval News* website; April 19, 2025

HII announced the delivery of its first two *Lionfish* small uncrewed undersea vehicles (SUUVs) to the U.S. Navy under a program that could scale to 200 vehicles, with a contract value exceeding \$347 million.

Lionfish is based on HII's RE-MUS 300 platform, a modular, open-architecture SUUV engineered for multi-mission adaptability; the program was developed in collaboration with the U.S. Navy and the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) to accelerate the adoption of dual-use commercial technologies into U.S. Department of Defense programs.

HII was awarded the U.S.
Navy's *Lionfish* system program contract in 2023, and its production is underway at HII's Uncrewed Systems facility in Pocasset. The *Lionfish* SUUV is the first, and only, cyber-compliant uncrewed underwater vehicle. It's designed to address critical undersea warfare needs, including mine countermeasures, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), anti-submarine warfare, and electronic warfare.

The REMUS UUV family delivers critical advantages across modern naval operations; their autonomous systems have been proven to operate independently or in conjunction with crewed platforms—such as *Virginia*-class nuclear submarines—to extend mission range, reduce detection risk, and limit personnel exposure.

### **E-Board Meeting Minutes...**

(concluded from previous page)

#### **Memorial Update:**

Dennis Bott reported that the Memorial looks great, but expressed concern regarding the newly placed bricks not having been installed with cement. The dirt is loose.

#### **Base Election Update:**

Election results will be announced during today's General Meeting.

#### New Business /Good of the Order:

Ken Dorn donated a variety of large USA, Navy, and submarine-related flags.

Bill Moak discussed the Challenge Coins (USN 250th/Submarine 125th) and asked about interest in the 2026 USSVI Calendars.

Ken Dorn discussed how the L.A. County Fire Museum in Bellflower is very interested in accommodating us to meet there again. We'll look into reserving there for our January 2026 meeting.

#### **Upcoming Meeting Locations:**

- OCTOBER: Our 10/18 Meeting is our traditional New Officer Induction gathering. Darin Detwiler is working to reserve the Radiant Brewery, 1566 West Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801. Confirmation will be forthcoming.
- NOVEMBER: Our 11/15 Meeting will take place at Ed Barwick's residence; he has graciously offered to host us: 5408 East Lanai, Long Beach, CA 90808. Food-related details to be forthcoming.
- DECEMBER: Our annual Christmas Luncheon will take place at the Eagle's Nest, Navy Golf Course, 5660 Orangewood Ave., Cypress, CA 90630. Don't miss it! Signups will be forthcoming.

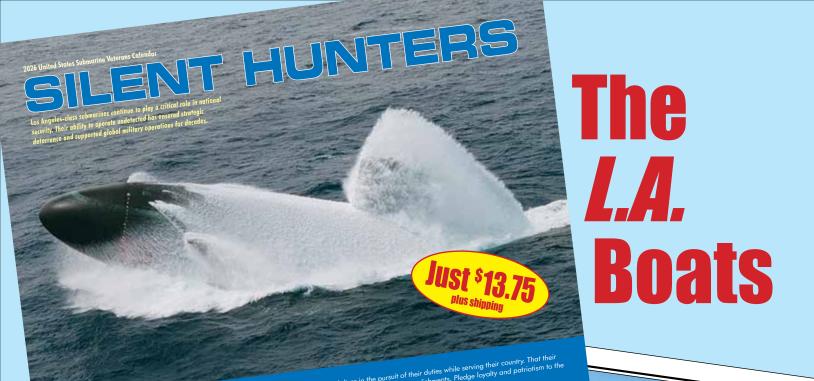
There being no further business, Ray Teare motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Bill Moak and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1043 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Detwiler

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI





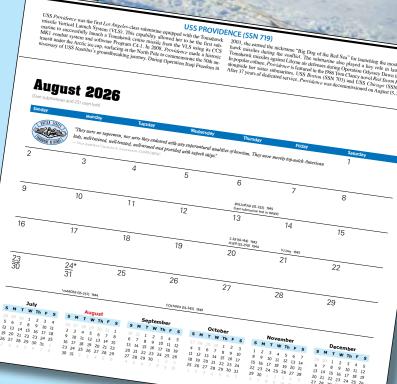
Los Angeles-class submarines continue to play a critical role in national security. Their ability to operate undetected has ensured strategic deterrence and supported global military operations for decades. Show your support for the Silent Service and these crucial hardworking boats with this latest

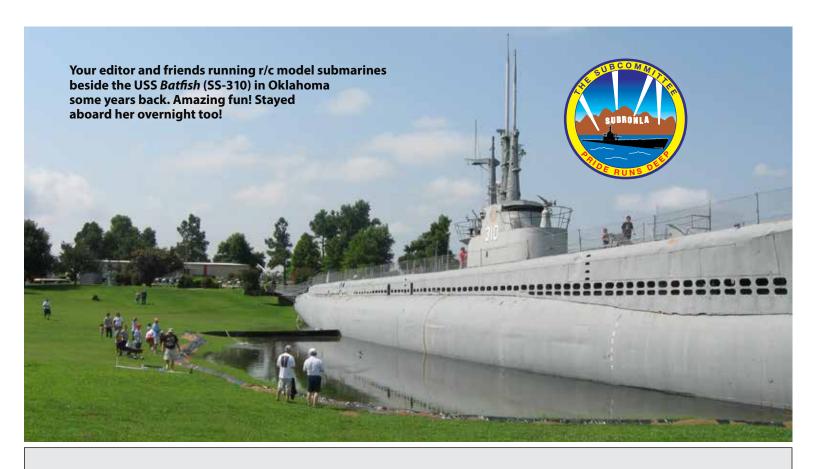
# **2026 Calendars Available Now!**

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Individual calendars are \$13.75 + \$4.63 shipping. Order yours today by credit card at ussvinationalstorekeeper.com or by sending your check or money order made payable to USSVI to:

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submarines
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S-36 **SCULPIN** S-26 **CAPELIN SHARK I SCORPION 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 WAHOO** 

**SEALION** 

SCAMP
SWORDFISH
BARBEL
KETE
TRIGGER
SNOOK
LAGARTO
BONEFISH
BULLHEAD