



PRIDE RUNS DEEP



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

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Editor's Corner

Two articles on *Tang* this time—plus all the usual flotsam and jetsam. Meanwhile, I'm surely finding it a challenge to operate with one (temporarily) clipped wing, but am indeed managing. Still chained to my chair in the Yeoman's Shack in any case. I definitely raise my mug o' joe in deep respect to all those dealing with permanent disabilities.—Jeff

What Being a Navy Nuclear Sub Officer Taught This Goldman Sachs Executive

(Reproduced from CNBC "Make It" website - revised version published Fri., Nov. 20, 2021)

by Jade Scipioni (@JadeScipioni)



Wes Slagle as a naval officer on USS Helena (SSN-725). (Photo courtesy of Wes Slagle.)

Wes Slagle, region head for Goldman Sachs' Mid-Atlantic Private Wealth Management unit, says he has "a pretty demanding job." But he says his previous career as a nuclear submarine officer in the United States Navy prepared him for it.

"I learned a lot of lessons through the school of hard knocks, which are sometimes the best teachers," Slagle tells CNBC Make It.

Slagle, 40, and a father of three, says the experience of working on a fast attack nuclear powered submarine was "very taxing" on his personal life because of the time spent away, but it was a "fantastic leadership opportunity."

After graduating from United States Naval Academy in 2002, Slagle spent five years as a naval officer, three of which were aboard USS *Helena* (SSN-725), a fast attack nuclear-powered submarine, according to the Navy's website.

"At a very young age, I was responsible for a nuclear reactor," Slagle says.

And "whenever it was my turn to stand watch, I was the Officer of the Deck. I was the per-

(concluded on page 27)



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From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen,
Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

Two weeks ago, I met and chatted with Allen Franz at the Battleship *Iowa*. He lives in the Los Angeles area and had offered to donate his father's submarine memorabilia to the *Iowa* Museum. The Curator there directed Allen to me, because *Iowa*'s collection of artifacts, documents, etc., is focused on that ship and on the upcoming National Museum of the Surface Navy, which will be on and inside the *Iowa*. I told Allen our base is anxious to have his dad's memorabilia. He delivered the first batch to me, with more to come.

His dad graduated from the Naval Academy in 1942, then served on USS *Caiman*, USS *Lamprey*, USS *Seal*, and ended his submarine service as Executive Officer of USS *Boarfish*. The balance of his Navy career focused on electrical engineering related to sonar development for shipboard use and seabed use (SOSUS). He was also involved in developing equipment used in the search for and attempted recovery of the Soviet boat, *K-129*.

When all of Mr. Franz's material is in-hand, I will write a synopsis for Jeff to consider for an issue of *The Periscope*. His family's generosity in offering his memorabilia to us is heartening, because it helps us as a veterans' organization to recognize his place in submarine history, and it allows them to know knowledgeable people will protect and value it. We will store the documents and place the several boat photographs in Building 6 when we can finally get back in!

That event may be approaching, too. As the COVID intensity decreases, more constraints are being lifted, and routines are slowly returning to "normal." To-date, Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station continues to restrict access to active and retired military personnel. We do not know when we will be able to get on-base, so we will continue holding video meetings via Zoom for now.

As you likely heard, one of our World War II sailors, Jack Herron, has departed on Eternal Patrol. He was just short of his 94th birthday. Jack was one of the guys who greeted and welcomed me during my initial visit to L.A.-Pasadena Base. I was struck by his bright, pleasant disposition and was impressed by his focused attention in conversations with his shipmates. Later, Jack and I worked together to ensure that the material our base loaned to the Los Angeles Maritime Museum for their submarine section would come back to us. His charm and easygoing manner helped relieve the defensiveness and worry among LAMM's folks that we were demanding immediate return of the material. Jack was a gracious gentleman. He became my friend, and I will miss him.

Dave Vanderveen

Commander

Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



March Zoom Mtg. Sailing List

Armen Bagdasarian
Ed Barwick
Herb "Bo" Bolton
Joe Koch
Jack Mahan
Bill Moak
Jeff Porteous
Chuck Senior
Mike Swanson
Ray Teare
Dennis Walsh
Gary Wheaton
Mike "Willie" Williamson
Gary Wing



General Minutes of March 20, 2021 Zoom Mtg.

Base Vice Commander Ed Barwick called the General Zoom Meeting to order at 1105 hours in Base Commander Dave Vanderveen's absence.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Mike Swanson provided monetary details for the account as of March 19, 2021. The specific numbers have been approved by, and are reported within the E-Board Meeting Minutes.

Memorial Report:

Paul Riggs, Memorial Director, was absent and no information was subsequently available.

Christmas Luncheon:

Mike again covered the difficulty in obtaining a contract (see the E-Board Meeting Minutes. COVID considerations have made establishing specifics difficult.

National Website:

Willie discussed the progress, or lack thereof, on the revamp of our national website. No dates have been firmed up as to when the new site will be operational, and Willie suggested that bases maintain copies of any reports submitted until such time as the new site demonstrates ability to retain same.

National Convention:

Willie provided an update. Again it is to be held in Orlando, FL, August 30 through September 4—using the same hotel as last time, due to credits provided because of previous losses incurred. The 2022 convention is now set for Buffalo, NY, August 24 through 28, and the 2023 convention is to be held in Arizona. Some questioned the timing of the Florida convention, as hurricane season is in full swing during the summer months.

In-Person Meetings:

The Weapons Station continues to restrict access to active duty personnel, so it is expected that our meetings will continue via Zoom for some time to come. When we do ultimately have access and can meet face-to-face, Jeff suggested simultaneous Zoom access for those perhaps still concerned about and uncomfortable with large group gatherings.

(concluded on next page)

AmazonSmile Charity Update

Good news, shipmates—just got this in from AmazonSmile: “This is your quarterly AmazonSmile donation notification to inform you that U.S. Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc. received a new donation of \$428.88. **AmazonSmile’s impact to date: \$4,623.61 to U.S. Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc.** Thanks for supporting U.S. Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc. and continuing to generate donations by shopping at smile.amazon.com.” *(Note: it’s easy to set up your account to donate small amounts to this charity through your regular Amazon purchases. Check it out!—ed.)*

**Ad Still Here by
Popular Demand!**



Just the Place for Killer MidRats!

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

General Minutes of March 20, 2021 Zoom Mtg....

(concluded from previous page)

Scam Gift Cards:

Ed reiterated the warning broadcast by Wayne Standerfer concerning this scam using members’ names illegally. Prudence is suggested concerning any mysterious or potentially damaging emails.

Good of the Order:

Jack mentioned he still has t-shirts for sale at a discounted price: \$10.00 each.

Willie indicated he would not be running again for District Commander, and asked for anyone interested to step up. Willie is now involved in a number of activities that require more time than would be allowed if he continued as District Commander.

Joe Koch inquired as to the status of Harold Staggs. Both Ed and Bill mentioned recent communication with Harold, and reported he is doing well, or at least as best he can under current circumstances.

Discussion turned again to vaccinations, with many reported completion or at least starting with the process.

Joe asked about the Riverside National Cemetery, in reference to having a service for his late wife. Willie mentioned that currently services are limited to twenty persons, but that he had seen services exceeding that number, and thought the limit not vigorously enforced.

With no further comments, Gary made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jack, approved by voice vote and we ended our meeting at 1142 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Moak

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI



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

April Meeting

Date: April 17, 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!

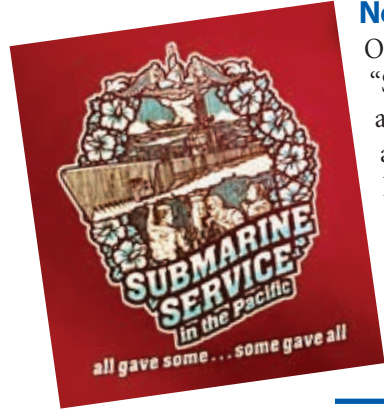
April Birthdays

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

- Gary Krudwig.....4/1
- Tom Peratt.....4/7
- Ken Chunn.....4/13
- Bob Conboy.....4/15
- Jack Higgins.....4/15
- Ed Barwick.....4/28



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 (x4!) • 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

APRIL TOLLING OF THE BOATS



USS PICKEREL (SS-177)

Lost on 3 April 1943 with the loss of 74 officers and men. *Pickerel* was lost off Honshu while on her seventh war patrol. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained several minefields.



USS SNOOK (SS-279)

Lost on 8 April 1945 with the loss of 88 officers and men. *Snook* ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for ninth in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine.



USS THRESHER (SSN-593)

Lost 10 April 1963 with the loss of 112 crewmembers and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. Fifteen minutes after reaching test depth, *Thresher* communicated with *USS Skylark* that she was having problems. *Skylark* heard noises like "air rushing into an air tank" — then silence. Rescue ship *Recovery* (ARS-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by *Trieste* proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.



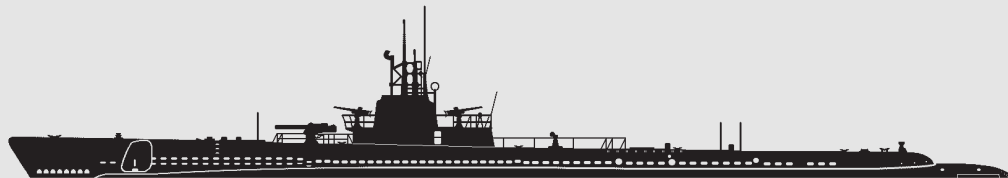
USS GUDGEON (SS-211)

Lost on 18 April 1944 with the loss of 80 officers and men off Saipan. Winner of five Presidential Unit Citations, *Gudgeon* was on her 12th war patrol when she was most likely lost to a combined air and surface antisubmarine attack. *Gudgeon* was the first U.S. submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. On her first patrol, she became the first U.S. submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the submarine *I-173*.



USS GRENADIER (SS-210)

Lost 22 April 1943 near Penang with no immediate loss of life. Stalking a convoy during her sixth war patrol, *Grenadier* was spotted by a plane and dove. As she passed 130 feet, the plane dropped a bomb causing severe damage. Lodged on the bottom at 270 feet, the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When *Grenadier* surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane, which she shot down. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 61 crewmembers taken prisoner, 57 survived the war.



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

“Battle Stations Surface!”

The First and Last Recorded U.S. Submarine Service Surface Gun Actions

by LCDR R.J. Hansen, USNR(RET) – former TM2(SS)

COB, San Luis Obispo Base, USSVI (Submitted by Bill Moak)



USS Sea Dragon (SS-194). (Wikipedia.)

I have recently been reading *Silent Victory: The U.S. Submarine War Against Japan* by Clay Blair Jr. The book is an extraordinary two-volume set that covers what appears to be the most complete history of the U.S. Submarine Force during WWII. From the information put forth, I am of the belief that the author surely had to have read every submarine war patrol report, along with a myriad operational reports generated by the Submarine Force Commands. The details of the events reported are astounding.

What caught my attention though, was a passage about the USS *Pollack's* attack on a surface ship. A sentence on pages 188 and 189 read: “Stan Moseley, patrolling the Formosa Strait in *Pollack*, sank one by torpedo and then surfaced to damage another with his three-inch deck gun, making the second recorded gun attack (after Ferrel’s in *Sea Dragon*).” Well, that prompted me to immediately review the index to find any information about the USS *Sea Dragon* (SS-194), and that “first” deck gun attack by a U.S. submarine.

The impetus to conduct further research was the fact that I have met and spoken with a U.S. submariner who was engaged in the “last” reported U.S. submarine “surface gun action.” The engagement occurred during operations conducted by the USS *Perch* (APSS-313) off the coast of Vietnam in August of 1966.

The first recorded surface gun action

The USS *Sea Dragon* (SS-194) was the first U.S. submarine to be engaged in a combat surface gun action. The *Sea Dragon* was one of the ten-boat *Sargo* class, commissioned in 1939. On December 10th, 1941, she was in overhaul at the Cavite Submarine Base, in Manila Bay, Republic of the Philippines, when Japanese aircraft attacked and bombed the shipyard. Though her crew manned their .50 caliber machine guns, the bombing became so intense that her CO, Lt. Cmdr. William Edward “Pete” Ferral, ordered the decks cleared, and a dozen crew members took cover in the conning tower. The *Sea Dragon* had been moored alongside the USS *Sea Lion* (SS-195), which had received two direct bomb hits that sent shrapnel through *Sea Dragon's* conning tower, injuring a number of crewmen and killing Ensign Samuel Howard Hunter, Jr.

Next to *Sea Dragon*, a massive fire erupted aboard the minesweeper *Bitten*. Fearing that her magazine would explode, Ferral ordered his crew to abandon ship to a nearby ballpark. Quickly though, he rescinded the order and brought his crew back aboard. The submarine rescue ship *Pigeon* then moved in, tossed a line, and hauled *Sea Dragon* clear. *Sea Dragon* was towed over to the submarine tender *Canopus* at Manila Harbor for initial emergency repairs. Once seaworthy, she got underway for Surabaya, Java, for further repairs.

On December 30th, 1941, *Sea Dragon* left Surabaya to set out on her first war patrol. She was ordered to patrol Cam Ranh Bay, Indochina (present day Vietnam), arriving on station on January 10, 1942.

On January 14, *Sea Dragon* was patrolling the area off Cape Varella (present day Mui Dein, Vietnam). On January 15 she shifted southward, and on the 16th, she stood off Hon Lon to await a convoy. At 11:15, after a periscope observation, she was spotted and bombed from the air. She returned to Cape Varella where the depth of the water permitted her to patrol closer to the shoreline.

During the next six days, she sighted several targets but had no luck with her torpedoes. Early on January 23, she sighted a four-ship convoy and stalked it until daylight,

(concluded on page 8)

First and Last U.S. Submarine Gun Actions

(concluded from page 7)

then attacked. At 08:06, she fired at the lead ship and scored a hit on the target's port quarter, causing disabling damage. She then fired two more torpedoes at another ship and missed. Captain Ferral returned to the damaged lead ship and ordered "Battle Station Surface." Upon surfacing, the gun crew manned the *Sea Dragon's* three-inch .50-caliber deck gun and commenced firing. The gun crew was able to get off twelve rounds before a plane drove *Sea Dragon* under. This gun action was the first combat surface gun action recorded in the history of the U.S. Submarine Service.

Last recorded surface gun action

A year or so ago, while at a U.S. Submarine Veterans, San Luis Obispo Base meeting, Rich Pescatore and I were BS'ing about our time on the boats. Rich related that in 1966, off the coast of Vietnam, he was engaged in a surface gun action while his boat was retrieving a U.S. Navy UDT team and an ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) force from a "beach survey" mission, which came under fire from the Viet Cong...

(Excerpt from "Surface Gun Action – Submarine Support Special Ops" by John M. Dyer, *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, May, 1987, follows...—ed.)

"Rich" Pescatore was a Sonarman striker serving on the USS *Perch* (APSS-313), a WWII *Balao*-class diesel-electric fleet submarine commissioned on January 7th, 1944. The original USS *Perch* (SS-176) had been lost during WWII (in March of 1942) after being severely depth charged during an attack on a Japanese convoy. While forced to surface to make repairs, she came under fire from two cruisers and three destroyers. With no hope for escape, the captain ordered the crew to abandon ship and scuttle the boat. There was no loss of life.

The *Perch* (APSS-313) had been converted to a troop-carrying Special Operations submarine. She had retained her external WWII configuration and was the last gun-armed U.S. submarine in commission. She was armed with a wet mount 40mm cannon on a sponson forward of the bridge and a 40mm on the cigarette deck.

There were .50-caliber machine gun mounts on the port and starboard bridge fairing, as well as stanchion gun mounts on the port and starboard cigarette deck railing. Topside, aft of the fairwater, the main deck had been widened to accommodate the launching and retrieval of inflatable rubber boats.

Below decks, the engines in the forward engine room

had been removed and the compartment converted into berthing for embarked units.

Rich's surface battle station was manning one of the .50-caliber machine guns.

On August 21, 1966, Rich was off watch and asleep below after the previous night's surface gun action providing fire support to ARVN forces ashore threatened by encroaching Viet Cong units. Rich was awakened by the sound of gunfire topside and immediately rolled out of his rack, dressed, slipped on a pair of flop-flops and raced topside to his battle station at the .50-caliber gun.

The *Perch* was off the beach near Qui Nhon, Vietnam, and engaged in the insertion and retrieval of a UDT "beach survey" team and a small ARVN force to and from the beach, which had come under fire from the Viet Cong. Her captain, Lt. Cmdr. Dykers, ordered *Perch* to open fire with both 40mm's and the .50-caliber machine guns to assist with cover and suppression fire during the extraction.

The significance

As a qualified U.S. submariner, I've always had a keen interest in (and have read extensively about) the submarine service, as well as having researched a number of historic events U.S. submarines have engaged in. When researching these first and last gun actions, I was quite surprised to discover where both events had occurred. Though U.S. boats operated in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Pacific during WWII, and participated in many recorded surface gun engagements, it's interesting to note that the first and last of these actions occurred off the coast of Vietnam—24 years, 6 months and 29 days apart—within a distance of less than 100 miles from one another.



USS *Perch* (APSS-313). (Wikipedia.)

Working Girls

by Bob "Dex" Armstrong

If you were the mother of young lady within a fifty-mile radius of a submarine anchorage, a pool-shooting, beer-swilling, line-handling, paint-chipping sonuvabitch did not look like a hot marriage prospect. The fair girls of Norfolk were more inclined toward lads who understood that a slide rule had more uses than to stir jungle punch in a galvanized bucket.

So, if you were a red-blooded American North Atlantic bluejacket, you either had to consign yourself to a monastic life of self-imposed celibacy, or dabble in the world of commercial lovemaking. It was either that, turn queer or start winking at furry critters.

That brings us to what I have always felt were the most misunderstood and wrongly stereotyped class of girls on earth: the pierhead working girl.

I'm not talking about the organized crime whore, the pimp-sponsored prostitute or the "My husband is in the Med" hobby hooker. I'm talking about the barmaid or that little gal from East Jeezus, North Carolina who dropped her bloomers for the brass Balboas it took to put together a down payment on a mobile home. A gal who would toss in a freebie if your boat pulled in late Friday night when the disbursing office was closed until Monday. The girls you gave all your money to before shoving off. Girls who knocked big dents in the lonely world of E-3 boatsailors.

"Hey sailor, how 'bout a fifteen dollar hobby horse ride?"

"Darlin', sounds' great... Hell, I can get my laundry outta hock on Tuesday."

They weren't fancy. They sure as hell weren't sophisticated. But any history of the diesel boat service not including their great contribution to America's Cold War victory would be chronically flawed by the ungrateful sin of omission—and the author would be either a fellow who missed a wonderful part of service in submarines or a despicable hypocrite. They costumed themselves in plastic barrettes, black lace pop-up bras, high heels and fancy lace panties. They would give you a tantalizing peek-a-boo as a preview of coming attractions—pre-release advertising known in the trade as a 'tantalizer.'

We all remember them: "Peggy," "Dixie," "Tiger" and the rest. We bought 'em beer and gave 'em jukebox change. We told them our stories, patted their fannies and they took us in like stray cats.

We weren't the first. It went back a long time. An old World War II torpedoman told me that in those days it was "Three dollars for three minutes" and you had to stand in line. In the ensuing years, the rates had gone up and you didn't have to stand in line. But cab fare and cash layout for the room and a hot shower had worked their way into the equation.

They weren't old hardcase veterans who had become cynical, worn and heartless. They were bouncy-bouncy, full-of-life kids who truly liked idiots who rode submarines. Most of them left after they bankrolled whatever it was they were dropping their bloomers for. One gal announced that she had her tuition for "hairdressing school" and bought us a round, tossed a quarter in Bells' jukebox and kissed us goodbye.

"Hey Jack, did you ever run with her?"

"Yeah, she was different. Used to finish you off then try'n sell you stuff outta 'n Avon catalog... Some kind of scaly skin oil, after shave that smelled like the inside of a French girl's lingerie drawer, and deodorant. Bought some of that damn deodorant. Got my armpit hair all wrapped around the gahdam roller ball so I shot the sonuvabitch out the GDU."

"She seemed nice enough... What was her name?"

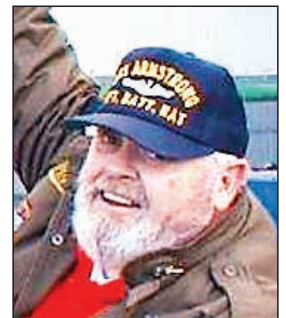
"We just called her the Avon Lady. The guys off the *Runner* called her Alice."

They were a part of it. They knocked the edge off of being a long way from folks who knew you or had any idea what you were up to. They taught you the value of human companionship. And if you were any part of a worthwhile man, you never forgot them and what it felt like to wrap your peacoat around one who came down to Pier 22 to tell you goodbye.

Ladies, I truly hope you got what you were looking for and that life has been as good to you as you made it for us. You were a piece of our screwball history.

Submarine professional ladies: a very important part of After Battery history. Maybe the best part.

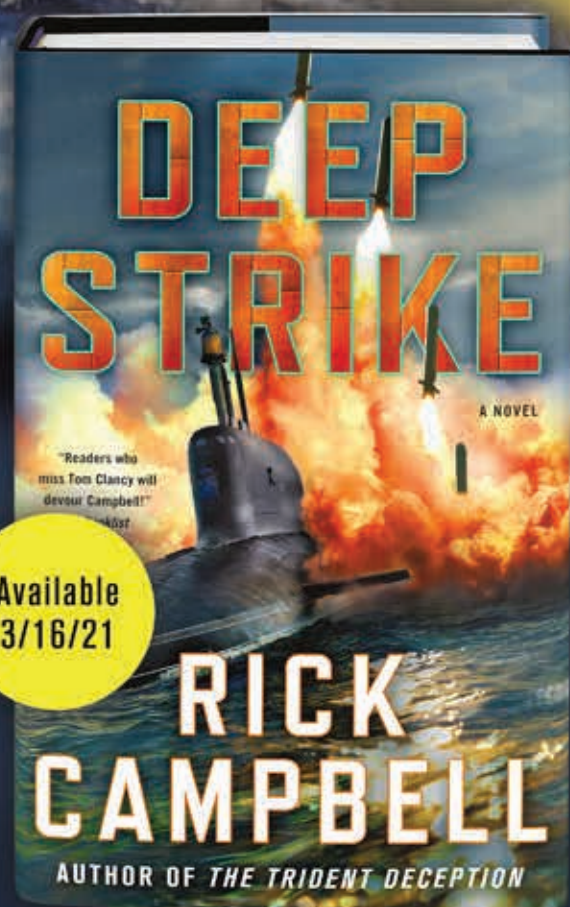
Keep a zero bubble... Dex.



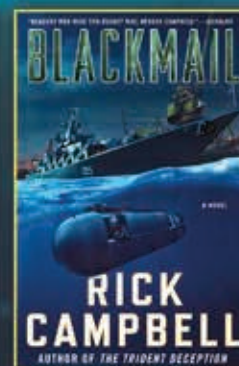
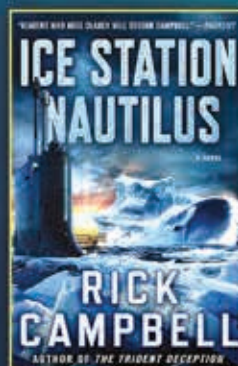
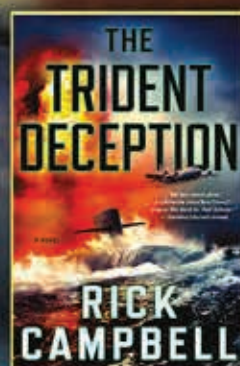
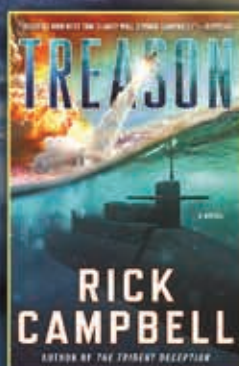
"Readers who miss Tom Clancy will devour Campbell." —*Booklist*
WHO WILL STRIKE FIRST IN A RACE TO STOP A ROGUE RUSSIAN
SUBMARINE FUNDED BY ISIS FROM HITTING AMERICAN SOIL?

DEEP STRIKE

NOW IN PAPERBACK!



Available
3/16/21



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(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)

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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-ST51SS 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 April 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.***

Custom-Made Deluxe Rare Wood Ballpoint Pens from Dennis Bott

Everyone’s favorite craftsman—our woodworking shipmate, Dennis Bott—hereby announces his latest project: a selection of custom-made deluxe submarine-themed twist-type ballpoint pens, now for sale as a base fundraiser. They are made of exotic hardwoods and feature Dolphin pocket clips in silver or gold. Cost is \$35 each (half goes to the base, the other half covers Dennis for his materials). They are available to order now. Please contact Dennis directly at 562-355-0230 with your interest and to arrange payment and shipping or pickup.

- 6) Bahia Rosewood (Patagonia)
- 5) Olivewood (Jerusalem)
- 4) Lacewood/Leopardwood (Aust.)
- 3) Brazilian Rosewood
- 2) Rosewood (Indonesia) 1) Ebony (Gabon)



Fundraiser for the Base



John P. Holland

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

(75-year members noted with *)

- Larry D. Long2021
- G. Judson "Jud" Scott, Jr....2021
- Edward E. Kushins2020
- Bruce Evan Neighbors2020
- David H. Vanderveen2019
- Philip J. Jaskoviak.....2019
- Dennis Bott2018
- James A. Burnett.....2018
- Robert Miller.....2018
- John A. Anderson.....2017
- Roger C. Dunham, MD....2017
- Richard McPherson2017
- Harry "Bill" Moak2017
- Louis A. Myerson2017
- Elliot Rada2017
- Ronald G. Wagner2017
- Dennis J. Walsh.....2017
- Michael Kish.....2016
- Gary Wheaton2016
- Lawrence R. Butler2015
- Samuel T. Higa2015
- Harry P. Ross2015
- Stephen C. Rowe2015
- Charles H. Senior2015
- Larry E. Smith2015
- Sam Aboulafia2014
- David Palagyi.....2014
- Dennis Neal Parr2014
- Earl Thomas Peratt, Jr.....2014
- David D. Semrau, DDS2014
- Ray Tracy Teare.....2014
- Milton Harry Boudov2013

(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 as Zoom Conference**
- 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)

Kenneth Jon Dorn..... 2013
M. Mark Hoffer 2013
Michael P. Klein..... 2013
Ronald L. Levenson..... 2013
Edward L. Arnold..... 2012
T. Michael Bircumshaw.... 2012
Raymond Cheesebrough . 2012
Bobby O. Mahaffey..... 2012
John V. Mahan..... 2012
Lee Melody 2012
Clyde Matthew Turner..... 2012
George R. Walrath..... 2012
John L. Weisenberger 2012
Edward A. Barwick..... 2011
Joseph W. Koch, Jr. 2011
Stephen D. 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
Berry S. Yolken 2002
James E. Carter 1999
William F. Long..... 1999
Herbert J. "Bo" Bolton 1998
Kenneth E. Chunn..... 1998
*Clifford Bernard Murr ... 1996
*Royal Harrison, Jr..... 1995
*Sterling F. Higgins 1995
*Robert Clair Koplín..... 1995
*Mark Maynard..... 1994
*William J. Dillon..... 1993
*Harold Staggs..... 1992



E-Board Zoom Conference Minutes of March 20, 2021

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., E-Board Zoom Conference was conducted on the morning of Saturday, March 20, 2021.

In attendance:

- Ed Barwick, Base Vice Commander
- Bill Moak, Secretary
- Mike Swanson, Treasurer
- Ray Teare, COB
- Herb "Bo" Bolton, Committee Chair
- Chuck Senior, Committee Chair
- Jeff Porteous, *Periscope* Editor

Base Vice Commander Ed Barwick called the Zoom Conference to order at 1008 hours in Base Commander Dave Vanderveen's absence, and the February meeting Minutes were approved via motion from Mike, seconded by Ray, and approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Financial Report: Mike Swanson

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

Checking	\$7,961.25
Savings	\$14,884.53
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$00.00
Total	\$22,895.78

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

Income:	\$325.00
Expenses:	\$2,600.00

Flower/Booster Club Additions:

Ken Dorn	\$100.00
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Inkind Donations:

Dave Vanderveen - Funeral Flowers	\$120.00
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Bill made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ed, and accepted as reported.

Memorial Report:

Paul Riggs was not in attendance, and Ed had no information to report. The hope was that Paul might join the General Meeting.

(concluded next page)

Sailor Pilots Drone Thru Sub's Narrow Corners with Ease

(From the Interesting Engineering website, published Jan. 28, 2021.)

Submarines are not exactly drone-friendly places, so you wouldn't ordinarily think of a sub sailor wandering around his cramped confines piloting a camera drone. This is probably why you also wouldn't expect a Google search to bring up a link to a fun drone tour of inside a modern submarine.

But put those expectations aside, for even with their close quarters indeed making them not ideal places for drone piloting, sometimes the right person at the right time can navigate those closely packed passageways just fine.

Click on this YouTube link...

<https://youtu.be/DeGxo5Z7TMM>

...and you'll be watching a video from the Royal Netherlands' Navy—one in which a talented drone pilot controls a small drone inside a submarine, providing a flying tour unlike any you've likely seen before. The video, which took place in October of 2020, was shot for the country's 2020 Onderzeedienst (Royal Netherlands Navy Submarine Service) Live event, with recruiting campaign purposes in mind to encourage more Navy signups.

You can watch the pilot, wearing a face mask in true 2020 fashion, navigate his drone through every nook of the submarine, and if his video gets you questioning how nuclear submarines remain submerged for months, you can copy/paste this link to another fun video for that answer.

<https://interestingengineering.com/video/how-nuclear-submarines-remain-submerged-for-months>

E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

Christmas Luncheon:

Mike reported that no contract had been signed, as the caterers were unsure of availability for our selected date, time and room requirement. Mike will continue to follow up with the venue.

Web Hosting:

Mike reported that a five-year term for continuing our website domain(s), to be split between the base site and the Memorial site, had been paid by him. He is going to check with Dave Vanderveen, absent today, to determine how the Memorial payment will be made, essentially reimbursing Mike for the expense incurred.

Jack Herron's Passing:

Chuck mentioned he would look for biographical information on Jack for recognition in *The Periscope*—he believes he has some from the 2014 WWII Vet recognition ceremony. Bill brought up perhaps acknowledging the loss over the previous twelve months of our WWII submariner members during our Memorial Day ceremony.

National Convention:

It was hoped that Willie Williamson would join the General Meeting to provide updated information.

In-Person Meetings:

The information from Weapons Station Command is that it doesn't yet allow for any non-active duty presence on the base. Expected change to that is unlikely for some time, so Zoom base meetings will continue for an unknown duration.

For the Good of the Order:

Chuck mentioned the recent recognition of 75-Year Holland Club achievers being published in *American Submariner*, and that our base needs to submit our members so achieved.

With no further items, Bill made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mike, approved by voice vote and adjournment occurred at 1033 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Moak

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

Meet the Last Survivor of a Legendary WWII Submarine

(From the San Diego Union Tribune website, published Aug. 31, 2020.)

by Diane Bel (from Bill Moak)

Only nine crew members survived when the submarine *Tang* sank in 1944 in the Formosa Strait. Bill Leibold, 97, now the last remaining survivor, lives in Escondido.

September 2 marks the 75th anniversary of the formal Japanese surrender ceremony that officially brought World War II to an end.

Navy veteran William “Bill” Leibold remembers that time well. He had just been released from a secret Japanese military compound, known as the “torture farm,” after ten months in captivity. His weight, he recalls, had dropped from 172 to less than 100 pounds.

“I try not to think of those days,” says the Escondido resident, 97. “We weren’t fed regularly.”

Leibold was one of nine survivors of a crew of 87 on the Navy submarine, USS *Tang*. The sailors were plucked out of frigid ocean water by a Japanese patrol boat after the sub had aggressively attacked its convoy in the Formosa Strait en route to the Philippines.

After sinking to her watery grave on Oct. 25, 1944, the *Tang* was later credited with taking out 33 enemy ships, carrying out daring attacks and rescuing numerous downed airmen. It earned the WWII reputation as the most lethal Allied sub in the Pacific.

In a tragic quirk of fate, as the *Tang* fired her 24th and final torpedo before heading home that October night, the torpedo malfunctioned. Leibold was stationed on the bridge.

“When we fired, the torpedo surfaced instead of running as

(continued 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,

Mike Cailor has surfaced in Florida, and he’s dealing with some tough circumstances as you’ll see in Marilyn’s note below.

Dave

From: Marilyn Senior <marilyn.senior@gmail.com>

Date: February 27, 2021

Subject: Robert Michael Cailor

Dear E-Board members:

Our Shipmate, Robert Michael Cailor, is in Florida awaiting a kidney transplant. He could probably use a phone call and/or card or email from our members.

Many of our members may not remember him. He was one of our Base Commanders during our base’s early years. He then moved to Nevada and has recently resided in Panama.

Robert Michael Cailor

2514 Elm Street

Seffner, Florida 33584-5812

Phone: 813-585-7615

email: rmcgfish@gmail.com

Qualified on the USS *Guardfish* (SSN-612)

Regards,

Marilyn Senior, Membership

email: marilyn.senior@gmail.com

cell: 310-503-3915

Shipmates and Ladies,

Matt Turner sent this to me, with the story discovered by an Air Force Cadet about Bill Crawford that is well worth knowing.

Cheers,

Dave

From: Matt Turner <cmtu1942@verizon.net>

Date: Monday, March 1, 2021

Subject: Being Humble

This is a long read, but I hope you all find the time to read it. It speaks volumes about today’s times and how we can ALL make a difference.

Who is an example of a humble Medal of Honor recipient? This man: William Crawford. He is as humble as they come.

(continued on next page)

Last Tang Survivor...

(continued from previous page)

it should have. It flew out of the water and then went back down,” he recalls. The erratic torpedo continued to splash up and down like a porpoise in a semi-circle on the port side, as the sub built up speed to move out of harm’s way.

“All of us on the bridge were concerned, but I don’t think any of us fully realized it was heading back to hit us in the stern,” says Leibold, who served as chief boatswain’s mate. “No one to this day knows what caused it to run erratic. Something just went wrong with the torpedo itself. Possibly it was damaged during loading into the tube. Any number of things could have happened. No one will ever know.”

The rest is naval history. And the details are clearly imbedded in Leibold’s memory:

“When it hit our stern, we went down fast. The aft torpedo room flooded. Half the compartments flooded rapidly.... I went down with the ship. I don’t know how far. I was able to swim back to the surface. I could see the bow of the *Tang* still out of the water, but I couldn’t swim against the current to get to it. None of the men on the bridge were able to swim back to the bow.”

The disaster unfolded in the 2:30 a.m. darkness. Leibold guesses that maybe he was submerged about 50 feet before he felt a thud and started swimming upward.

Trying to stay afloat, Leibold kicked off his shoes and took off his trousers. He tied the pant legs together, tried to inflate them and slip them over his head to use as a lifesaver-like flotation device as the crew had been instructed, but they didn’t hold air.

Eventually he heard a nearby voice call out. It was Floyd Caverly, a radio technician who, by luck, had been dispatched to the bridge to resolve a communication problem moments before the sinking.

“He told me he couldn’t swim,”

(continued on next page)

USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

(continued from previous page)



He was born in Pueblo, Colorado, in 1918 and served in the Army until 1967, when he retired. After that, Crawford took up a job as a janitor near his hometown at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

Most cadets barely noticed this quiet, unassuming man who blended into the background as he quietly did his job. They knew him only as the shy janitor, Mr. Crawford.

This all changed in 1976. Cadet James Moschgat was studying the Allied campaign in Italy when he began reading about

the accomplishments of one private William Crawford. There was an old photo of Crawford in the book, and Moschgat thought he resembled the reclusive janitor.

He read that private Crawford was presumed killed in action and his father had received the Medal of Honor for his son. As it turned out, Crawford had been captured by German soldiers and been held prisoner for nineteen months until the end of the war.

Cadet Moschgat shared his finding with fellow cadets and finally approached the janitor to ask if he was the same man in the story. Crawford simply replied, “Yep, that’s me.” The cadets asked him why he never talked about his accomplishments and he said:

“That was one day in my life and it happened a long time ago.”

Word of Mr. Crawford’s exploits quickly spread among the cadet corps and he was given newfound respect when they also discovered he had returned from a war where he had been presumed dead and voluntarily served for another twenty years.

For more than four decades William Crawford never had one ceremony recognizing his Medal of Honor. The cadets of the graduating class of 1984 decided to put an end to that. At their graduation, Crawford was invited to be an Honored Guest.

President Reagan arrived and formally presented William Crawford with his Medal of Honor. In his remarks, the president noted some leadership lessons the newly appointed officers had learned from their janitor. These lessons were later formalized and written down by the man who first discovered the hero among his fellow cadets, Col. (ret.) James Moschgat.

Bill Crawford, our janitor, taught me many valuable, unforgettable leadership lessons. Here are ten I’d like to share with you.

1. Be Cautious of Labels. Labels you place on people may define your relationship to them and bound their potential. Sadly, and for a long time, we labeled Bill as just a janitor, but he was so much more. Therefore, be cautious of a leader who callously says, “Hey, he’s just an

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Last Tang Survivor...

(continued from previous page)

says Leibold. "I told him he could float."

Leibold continued to coax him on when to inhale and exhale in the choppy water to keep from drowning. Leibold later received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroic conduct for supporting a shipmate in the water for 8 hours.

It was discovered later that half of the 87 members were killed upon impact. Others were trapped in what had become a metal tomb on the ocean floor 180 feet deep. The incident made naval history because this was the only sub to have survivors ascend during an emergency without surface assistance by using the Momsen lung, a crude breathing device stored on the sub for use in such emergencies. Some who reached the surface could not swim and drowned, Leibold says. In the end, only nine of the original 87 crew, including Leibold and three others from the bridge, survived the night and were picked up by the Japanese.

They were placed in solitary confinement in a navy compound in Ofuna, Japan, but not classified as prisoners of war, Leibold says. "They referred to us as captured enemy."

Nearly every day they were taken out to "swab the halls," he recalls, explaining it was really a ruse to give the guards "an opportunity to exercise what we called their baseball bats. We were beaten almost every time we were taken out of the cells."

When asked what kept him going, Leibold said: "I don't know. It was just the determination to survive. Staying alive was the one thing we had to do."

Just before their liberation on Aug. 22, 1945, they were moved to a separate section of a POW camp run by the Japanese army.

Leibold has recorded an oral history of his ordeal and was extensively interviewed by Alex Kershaw, an author who specializes

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USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

(continued from previous page)

Airman." Likewise, don't tolerate the O-1 who says, "I can't do that, I'm just a lieutenant."

2. Everyone Deserves Respect. Because we hung the "janitor" label on Mr. Crawford, we often wrongly treated him with less respect than others around us. He deserved much more, and not just because he was a Medal of Honor winner. Bill deserved respect because he was a janitor, walked among us, and was a part of our team.

3. Courtesy Makes a Difference. Be courteous to all around you, regardless of rank or position. Military customs, as well as common courtesies, help bond a team. When our daily words to Mr. Crawford turned from perfunctory "hellos" to heartfelt greetings, his demeanor and personality outwardly changed. It made a difference for all of us.

4. Take Time to Know Your People. Life in the military is hectic, but that's no excuse for not knowing the people you work for and with. For years a hero walked among us at the Academy and we never knew it. Who are the heroes that walk in your midst?

5. Anyone Can Be a Hero. Mr. Crawford certainly didn't fit anyone's standard definition of a hero. Moreover, he was a private on the day he won his Medal. Don't sell your people short, for any one of them may be the hero who rises to the occasion when duty calls. On the other hand, it's easy to turn to your proven performers when the chips are down, but don't ignore the rest of the team. Today's rookie could and should be tomorrow's superstar.

6. Leaders Should Be Humble. Most modern day heroes and some leaders are anything but humble, especially if you calibrate your hero meter on today's athletic fields. End zone celebrations and self-aggrandizement are what we've come to expect from sports greats. Not Mr. Crawford—he was too busy working to celebrate his past heroics. Leaders would be well-served to do the same.

7. Life Won't Always Hand You What You Think You Deserve. We in the military work hard and, dang it, we deserve recognition, right? However, sometimes you just have to persevere, even when accolades don't come your way. Perhaps you weren't nominated for junior officer or airman of the quarter as you thought you should; don't let that stop you.

8. Don't pursue glory; pursue excellence. Private Bill Crawford didn't pursue glory; he did his duty and then swept floors for a living.

9. No job is beneath a Leader. If Bill Crawford, a Medal of Honor winner, could clean latrines and smile, is there a job beneath your dignity? Think about it. Pursue Excellence. No matter what task life hands you, do it well. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "If life makes you a street sweeper, be the best street sweeper you can be." Mr. Crawford modeled that philosophy and helped make our dormitory area a home.

10. Life is a Leadership Laboratory. All too often we look to some school or PME class to teach us about leadership when, in fact, life is a leadership laboratory. Those you meet everyday will teach you enduring lessons if you just take time to stop, look and listen. I spent four years at the Air Force Academy, took dozens of classes, read hundreds of books, and met thousands of great people. I gleaned leadership skills from all of them, but one of the people I remember most is Mr. Bill Crawford and the lessons he unknowingly taught. Don't miss your opportunity to learn.

Bill Crawford was a janitor. However, he was also a teacher, friend, role model and one great American hero. Thanks, Mr. Crawford, for some valuable leadership lessons.

William Crawford died on March 15, 2000, at the age of 81. Upon hearing of his passing,

(continued on next page)

Last Tang Survivor...

(concluded from previous page)

in military history. Kershaw wrote the dramatic story of the *Tang* legend and tragedy in his 2008 book, *Escape from the Deep: The Epic Story of a Legendary Submarine and Her Courageous Crew*.

"Bill is (the) last survivor of (the) greatest U.S. submarine in history," Kershaw tells me. "He helped found Navy Seals. He's a living legend in the U.S. Navy. Brave, honorable, selfless, the best example of the greatest generation."

Kershaw credits Leibold with helping win the war through his role in the "silent service" — the submarine force that strangled the Japanese Empire through its sinkings and blockades. "He's also a star of my book," Kershaw notes.

After being liberated, Leibold returned to the United States to find that his wife, his high school sweetheart, Grace, was still waiting for him. A less lucky fate greeted four of the seven married ex-prisoners. Having received a telegram notifying them of the ship's loss, their brides, understandably, had moved on with their lives and remarried.

Despite his ordeal, Leibold completed a 40-year career in the Navy, returning several times to Japanese waters as commander of a submarine service/rescue ship.

Having previously been homeported in San Diego, he and Grace stayed and raised their three children in Chula Vista. The couple later built a home on Palomar Mtn., aptly nicknamed the "Ship House" for its shape and windows.

Several years later, they bought a house in Escondido. After Grace passed away, he moved into an independent living facility.

Leibold stayed in touch with his *Tang* crew mates and even held a reunion in the Ship House. Floyd Caverly died in 2011, just shy of his 94th birthday and is buried here at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Leibold is the last survivor.

USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

(continued from previous page)

the Governor of Colorado ordered all state flags to be flown at half-staff.

Mr. Crawford was buried at the United States Air Force Academy Cemetery in Colorado Springs. He is the only U.S. Army enlisted soldier to be buried there.



His hometown of Pueblo honored him with a bronze statue of his likeness in Heroes Plaza.

His Medal of Honor citation reads as follows:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy near Altavilla, Italy, 13 September 1943. When Company I attacked an enemy-held position on Hill 424, the 3rd Platoon, in which Pvt. Crawford was a squad scout, attacked as base platoon for the company. After reaching the crest of the hill, the platoon was pinned down by intense enemy machine-gun and small-arms fire. Locating one of these guns, which was dug in on a terrace on his immediate front, Pvt. Crawford, without orders and on his own initiative, moved over the hill under enemy fire to a point within a few yards of the gun emplacement and single-handedly destroyed the machine-gun and killed three of the crew with a hand grenade, thus enabling his platoon to continue its advance. When the platoon, after reaching the crest, was once more delayed by enemy fire, Pvt. Crawford again, in the face of intense fire, advanced directly to the front midway between two hostile machine-gun nests located on a higher terrace and emplaced in a small ravine. Moving first to the left, with a hand grenade he destroyed

one gun emplacement and killed the crew; he then worked his way, under continuous fire, to the other and with one grenade and the use of his rifle, killed one enemy and forced the remainder to flee. Seizing the enemy machine gun, he fired on the withdrawing Germans and facilitated his company's advance.

This unassuming, humble man was an American hero in every sense of the word.

Matt Turner
cmtu1942@verizon.net

*Shipmates and Ladies,
Forwarding USSVI correspondence to L.A.-Pasadena Base members.
Dave*

From: USSVI POC: William C. Andrea <NJVC@ussvi.org>
Date: Saturday, March 6, 2021
Subject: USSVI National Awards Bulletin
Submitted by: Harold W (Bill) Scott II, USSVI National Awards Chair

[This is a Rebroadcast of the USSVI National Awards Program email since the original did not transmit 100 percent correctly...]

(continued on next page)

USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

(continued from previous page)

National Awards Nominations opened as of 1 February and the timeline is as follows:

April 30 – All nominations except the NLOY awards are due to me NLT close of business on that day.

May 15 - All NLOY nominations are due to me NLT close of business on that day. I then will send all nominations to the on- committee chairs for tabulation and selof award winners. Refer to the Awards Manual for other deadlines.

Nominations received after those deadlines will not be considered, and the sender will be notified. If mailing nominations via snail mail, they must be postmarked no later than that day to be considered.

When preparing your nominations, be creative and don't use the "cookie cutter" method of taking a previous writeup, changing the names of previous nominations and adding new activity. This applies particularly for those shipmates who were previously nominated, but did not get selected and who are still deserving of that particular award, or for a different award this year. Remember, no photos and font size 12pt, and preferably in Word Document format for all nominations except for NLOY. See the Awards Manual for NLOY guidance.

When sending your nominations, be sure to include the nominee's base, base position, BC's name and address. In addition for the NLOY award nominations, include the editor's name. I'm also suggesting the inclusion of the District Commander's name and address also for mailing awards to the recipient in case the recipients aren't at the convention.

Nominations as of 3/5: 1 – Negri Award, 4 – Link Awards, 1 – Meritorious Base Award, 1 – DCOY, and 1 – NLOY. I am looking for someone familiar with the Awards program who might be interested in assisting me at the convention to organize the awards (plaques, patches, certificates, etc.). Thanks go out to those members at the meeting for volunteering to help me at the convention.

Honored to Serve,
Harold W (Bill) Scott II, STSCS(SS) USN RET.
USSVI National Awards Chair
Central District 4 Commander
Chief of the Boat, USSVI Central Texas Base CTB Newsletter Editor,
512-826-8876

Shipmates,

Who's interested in becoming a District Commander? As you'll see in Willie's note below, nominations are open. Willie won't be running again since he has new commitments and less time available.

Please let me know if you want to run or to nominate a shipmate so we can complete the paperwork!

*Thanks,
Dave*

From: Michael Williamson <williess582@gmail.com>
Date: Wed., March 3, 2021
Subject: District Commander Elections

WD6 Base Commanders Group and Bonefish Base,

It is time to select a new District Commander for WD6. Please submit this to your base members, and follow the directions.

You all have been doing a great job the last two years. It is time for you to select one of your base officers to carry on what you have accomplished.

(continued on next page)

USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

(continued from previous page)

Thank you.

/R
Willie

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Victor VanHorn, WRD
Date: Monday, March 1, 2021
Subject: District Commander Elections

Hello all...

You will find attached the info. for nominations for DC. Pass this info. to all bases so everyone is aware of it. Copy me when you have done this. Stay safe and well.

Nominations can be submitted from March 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021.

Regards,
Vic VanHorn, WRD

Shipmates and Ladies,

Forwarding USSVI correspondence to L.A.-Pasadena Base members. Please note the break in serial numbers; number 10 had corrupted links and number 11 cancelled #10. There's no need to clog up your inbox, so I didn't forward those two numbers to you.

Dave

From: USSVI POC: William C. Andrea <NJVC@ussvi.org>
Date: Monday, March 8, 2021
Subject: USSVI VSO NEWS for March 2021
Submitted by: John Dudas, USSVI VSO

Your 2021 State Veterans Benefits

<https://bit.ly/3by4lq0>

Biden Signs Executive Order Delaying VA Debt Collections

<https://bit.ly/38n33fS>

After Years of Fighting, the Military Has Started Phasing Out 'Widow's Tax'

<https://bit.ly/3qww7rp>

Agent Orange Exposure Doubles Risk of Developing Dementia, Study Finds

<https://bit.ly/2PDJ0D9>

Dependents of Some Disabled Veterans Can Now Fly Space-A

<https://bit.ly/3bysf54>

Tricare Waives Referrals for Prime Enrollees Seeking COVID-19 Vaccine

<https://bit.ly/3eqfT0y>

Congressional Pressure Adds 'Urgency' to Agent Orange Claims, VA Secretary Says

<https://bit.ly/2PKu3ij>

COVID-19 vaccines at VA

<https://bit.ly/3epjo7t>

(continued on next page)

USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

(continued from previous page)

I hope everyone is in line or has already received their COVID-19 vaccine! I had COVID in January and came out fine with only a four-day fever, but finally got the vaccine at the local VA thirty days after testing positive.

Good Luck to All!

Shipmates and Ladies,

Here's more information related to nominations for District Commander.

Dave

From: <vmjvanhorn@aol.com>

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Subject: DISTRICT CDR. ELECTIONS

Ahoy!

I had a question from a prospective DC, regarding whether or not I was going to publish a statement about the nominees...or could he go ahead and send one out himself?

I ask candidates that they *not* send any out, just so other prospective candidates would not feel slighted for time or recognition during the nomination process.

Please pass this along to your bases. Remember, the open-nomination period is until April 30, 2021. Voting will be from June 1-30, 2021. The month of May will be available for canvassing.

Regards,
Vic, WRd

Shipmates and Ladies,

Attached is an invitation to the dedication of Arizona's Submarine Service Memorial. (Note: Includes correction update from later version.—ed.)

Dave

From: Arizona Silent Service Memorial (ASSM) Foundation Committee <info@arizonasilentservicememorial.org>

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Subject: ASSM Dedication Ceremony Invitation

THE ARIZONA SILENT SERVICE MEMORIAL

honoring ALL submariners who served...



The Arizona Silent Service Memorial (ASSM) Foundation requests the pleasure of your company at the Public Dedication Ceremony on Saturday, April 17th, 2021 at 1000. Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza 1700 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona. Please RSVP to: info@arizonasilentservicememorial.org



ASSM Official Logo

The ASSM is an 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all proceeds are used for the maintenance of the monument. Donations made are tax deductible. Please send all written communications to: ASSM Foundation, Attn: Marcus Hensley, 6952 W. Remuda Drive, Peoria, AZ 85383 or use Email to: info@arizonasilentservicememorial.org.

(continued on next page)

USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

(continued from previous page)

Shipmates and Ladies,

Forwarding USSVI correspondence to L.A.-Pasadena Base members. This one has information about a new scam.

Dave

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

Date: March 13, 2021

Subject: Beware of Emails requesting Gift Cards

Submitted by: Wayne Standerfer, National Commander on 3/13/2021

Shipmates,

Be aware of a scam that is going through our ranks presently. *(This one's been around awhile, actually.—ed.)*

If you receive a message like or similar to the one below, it is a scam. The base commander and base may be different than the one in the example below:

"Are you available to assist? I am out of the state now, and I've got credence in you to take care of this. The Hawkbill Base of the USSVI needs some gift cards for donation to Veterans at Hospice and Palliative care units for the purchase of preventive items from Corona Disease (COVID-19). I am liable for reimbursement. Need more info.?"

Frederick Reinisch

Base Commander,

The Hawkbill Base of the USSVI"

Do not respond to any emails of this sort.

Wayne Standerfer, National Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

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

Dave

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

Date: March 20, 2021

Subject: Eternal Patrol Notice

Submitted by: Wayne Standerfer, National Commander on 3/20/2021

With deep regret, I wish to pass along the message below from Tarheel Base Commander, Jim Davis.

Bill, or "Butterbean" as he was known among his friends, was a past National Chaplain, great shipmate, and a friend to all who knew him.

Take care and be safe,

Wayne Standerfer, National Commander

Shipmates,

It is with profound sadness that I pass on this notification from Chaplain Rutter of TM1(SS) Bill "Butterbean" Dixon's departure on Eternal Patrol. Butterbean was a devoted and beloved long-time member of Tarheel Base. He surely will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Barbara as she grieves her loss.

Sailor rest your oar. We have the watch.

Jim Davis

Commander, USSVI Tarheel Base

(concluded on next page)

USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

(concluded from previous page)

Shipmates and Ladies,
Forwarding USSVI correspondence to L.A.-Pasadena Base members.
Dave

From: "USSVI POC: William C. Andrea" <NJVC@ussvi.org>
Date: March 21, 2021
Subject: 2021 Orlando Convention
Submitted by: Jay Mack, Convention Chair on 3/21/2021

All Hands,

In a conversation I had yesterday afternoon with staff members at the Rosen Shingle Creek, they told me that there is a very high probability that the hotel will be sold out when our convention is there in August. Space will be at a premium. Keep that in mind if you have any conversations with potential attendees or boat reunion coordinators. They will want to reserve early.

Jay D Mack
District Commander
Convention Chairman



Take the Plunge!

Send three *American Submariner* subscriptions to your favorite boat!

- Sponsorship is only \$30 a year
- Add a USSVI Calendar for only \$7 more

Mail your check to: USSVI Boat Sponsorship Program
P.O. Box 3870
Silverdale, WA 98398-3870

Please indicate BSP and the name of the sponsored boat or organization in the memo field of your check

✓ Reach potential new members by sending three annual subscriptions of *American Submariner* to the boat or organization of your choice

✓ First-time sponsors receive a Boat Sponsorship Patch

✓ All sponsors entered into the quarterly Boat Model Giveaway drawing (one entry per sponsorship) — a \$500 value

SUBMARINES IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

USS <i>Columbia</i> (SSN-721)	USS <i>Montana</i> (SSN-794)
USS <i>Connecticut</i> (SSN-22)	USS <i>North Dakota</i> (SSN-784)
USS <i>Delaware</i> (SSN-791)	USS <i>Kentucky Blue</i> (SSBN-737)
USS <i>Greeneville</i> (SSN-772)	USS <i>Kentucky Gold</i> (SSBN-737)
USS <i>Helena</i> (SSN-725)	USS <i>Maine Blue</i> (SSBN-741)
USS <i>Hyman G. Rickover</i> (SSN-795)	

Questions?

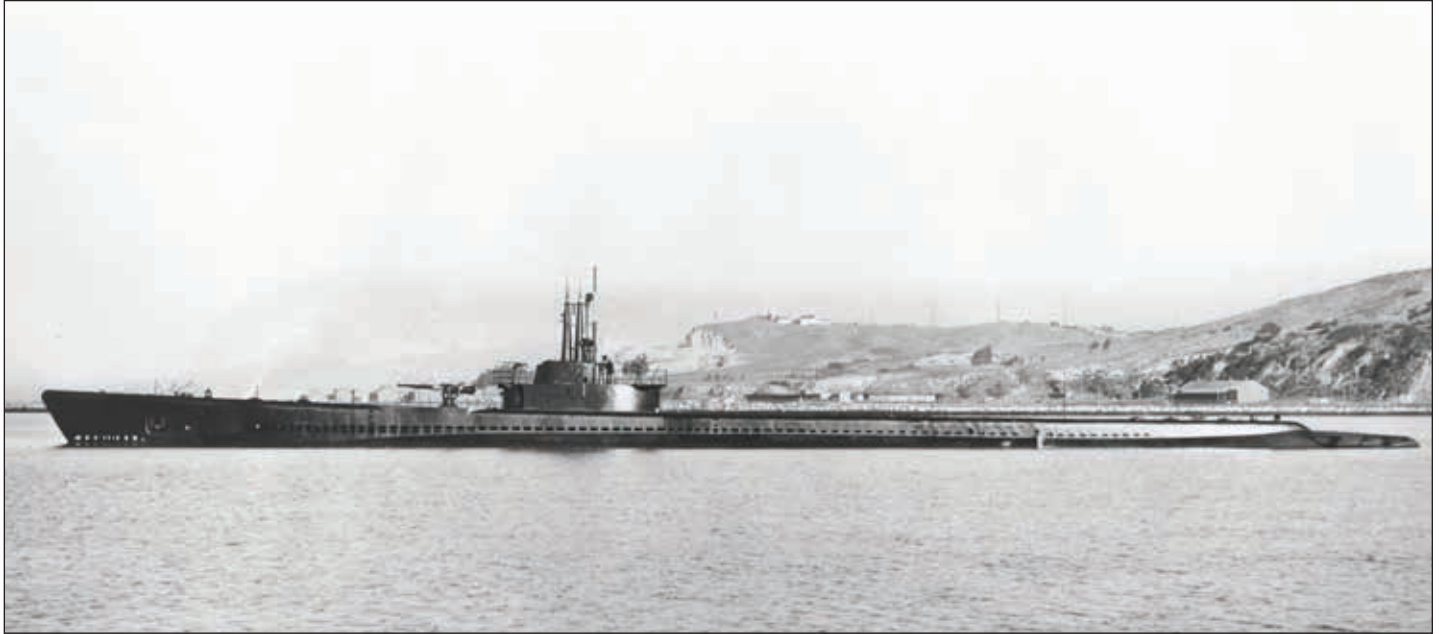
Jack Messersmith
(928) 227-7753
or e-mail
MesserJ109@gmail.com

How the Most Successful Submarine in U.S. Navy History Ended Up Sinking Herself

(A familiar story to us all, but one that never gets old and certainly bears repeating. See also page 15.—ed.)

(Reproduced from the Business Insider website—published October 20, 2020.)

by Benjamin Brimelow



U.S. Navy submarine USS Tang (SS-306) off the Mare Island Navy Yard in California, December 2, 1943. (US Navy photo.)

By October 1944, the USS *Tang* had racked up the best record of any U.S. Navy submarine, sinking Japanese ships across the Pacific.

But the *Tang*'s run came to an end in clash with a Japanese convoy—not from a Japanese weapon, but from the sub's own errant torpedo.

On the night of October 24, 1944, U.S. Navy submarine USS *Tang* was in the Taiwan Strait shadowing a massive convoy of Japanese tankers and transports.

Tang was by then on her fifth war patrol, and as she sailed on the surface, her crew selected three targets and moved in to attack.

Tang fired two torpedoes at each target, sinking one and crippling another. A third ship, a destroyer that had moved to attack *Tang*, suddenly exploded, either from one of *Tang*'s torpedoes or from friendly fire by other Japanese ships.

With two torpedoes left, *Tang* doubled back to finish off the crippled tanker. At 2:30 a.m., she fired her last torpedo, but something went wrong. The torpedo suddenly breached the surface and turned, heading straight for the *Tang*.

Twenty seconds later, the torpedo struck *Tang*'s aft torpedo

room. It was a tragic and unfitting end for the most successful submarine in U.S. Navy history.

The best record of any U.S. submarine

Commissioned in 1943, USS *Tang* was a Balao-class diesel-electric submarine with a crew of 87 and an arsenal of 24 torpedoes. Her commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. Richard O'Kane, had served on five war patrols as the executive officer of the highly successful USS *Wahoo*.

There were only two years left in the war, but *Tang* would achieve the best record of any U.S. submarine.

On her first war patrol around the Caroline and Mariana islands, *Tang* sank six Japanese ships, amounting to 18,000 tons of shipping, with 16 of her 24 torpedoes hitting their targets. Her second war patrol was around Palau, the Philippines, and the Japanese naval base at Truk. Though it didn't sink any ships, the sub rescued 22 U.S. Navy airmen who had been shot down during attacks on Truk.

Her third war patrol was in the Yellow and East China Seas, during which she wreaked havoc on shipping between the Asian mainland and Japan. She sank 10 ships—two of which were hit by torpedoes *Tang* had actually fired at other ships—including four in a single engagement. The losses totaled 16,292 tons of

(continued on page 25)

USS Tang's Remarkable Story

(continued from page 24)



U.S. Navy submarine USS Tang takes on a downed aircraft crew off Truk, May 1, 1944. (US Navy photo.)

enemy shipping.

Now a seasoned veteran, *Tang* was ordered to operate directly off the Japanese main island of Honshu for her fourth war patrol. In little over a month, she sank seven ships, including one with her deck gun.

Fifth war patrol

Tang's fifth and final war patrol was in the Taiwan Strait, an extremely important shipping route connecting Japan to the rest of its empire. O'Kane was given the option of joining a larger U.S. attack group with three other subs but chose to go it alone.

The patrol began with a number of successes. *Tang* sank two cargo ships on October 10, and almost two weeks later happened upon a large convoy of five ships with numerous destroyer escorts.

In a daring attack on the night of October 23, *Tang* charged into the convoy, firing torpedoes in all directions which sank or damaged a number of ships.

Two Japanese vessels attempted to ram the sub but collided with each other after *Tang* had taken evasive maneuvers. As she withdrew, she fired four torpedoes from her stern, sinking both of them.

A malfunctioning torpedo

The next morning *Tang* discovered another large convoy and shadowed it until that night, when she conducted her final attack.

The final torpedo launched was a Mark 18 electric model, an American copy of the German G7e which was known to have issues. The cause of the malfunction that forced it to turn has never been established and will likely never be known.

By the time *Tang* realized the torpedo was heading straight for her, there were only about 15 seconds left until impact. O'Kane immediately ordered *Tang* to accelerate at full emergency power to get ahead of the torpedo, but it was already too late.

The Mark 18's 570-pound warhead hit *Tang's* empty aft torpedo room and detonated. Half of the 87-man crew died instantly. With most of the rear compartments flooding quickly, *Tang's* stern section sank. The sub was longer than the water



USS Tang submarine crew. (Photo source not listed.)

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USS Tang's Remarkable Story

(concluded from page 25)

was deep, and the buoyancy of the unflooded forward compartments kept the bow above the surface.

Of the nine men on the bridge, three were able to successfully swim to the surface. One officer managed to swim out of the conning tower but was unable to close the hatch. *Tang* eventually sank and hit the sea floor 180 feet below.

About thirty men were trapped in the forward torpedo room. They burned sensitive documents and endured a Japanese depth charge attack before attempting to escape. This was the first time survivors escaped a sunken U.S. submarine without assistance from the surface, and the first time a breathing device known as the Momsen lung was used.

Of the 13 sailors who managed to escape, just eight made it to the surface, and only five would survive.

Prisoners of war

Nine sailors, including O'Kane, were picked up by a Japanese frigate the morning of October 25. The frigate was also carrying survivors of the ships *Tang* had sunk the previous night—who mercilessly beat the submarine's survivors.

"When we realized that our clubbing and kickings were being administered by the burned, mutilated survivors of our handiwork, we found we could take it with less prejudice," O'Kane said later.

The survivors were taken to the Ōfuna prisoner-of-war camp



USS Tang in her just-built configuration. (US Navy photo.)

on Honshu, where they were often held in solitary confinement, beaten, and interrogated until their release after the war ended.

Tang was credited with sinking 33 enemy ships, totaling 116,454 tons, making her the most successful U.S. submarine in history both in number of ships sunk and total tonnage. She received four battle stars, two Presidential Unit Citations, and her Commanding Officer received the Medal of Honor.

Bill Leibold, *Tang*'s chief boatswain's mate and her last living crew member, recorded an oral history of his experiences for the National World War II Museum.

"That last run—all in all, it was a pretty successful run, except for the final loss. That was us," Leibold said.



USS Tang returning to Pearl Harbor after her second war patrol, May 15, 1944. (US Navy photo.)

What Big Banker Learned on Nuke Boat

(concluded from page 1)

son on the periscope or on the bridge navigating the ship trying to keep 160 people safe while trying to accomplish missions that were very important for our national security,” he says.

Though working at Goldman Sachs isn't the same type of “pressure cooker” as it was being on the submarine, there is still a lot of pressure and competition that comes with working at one of the largest investment banks in the world.



Wes Slagle, Mid-Atlantic Region Head at Goldman Sachs. (Photo from Wes Slagle.)

“We are still working with very complex and sophisticated clients,” Slagle says. “And it’s a very competitive marketplace, so the pressure is real.”

Here are the lessons Slagle learned about leadership in the Navy that have helped him succeed:

There’s no one person

Though it may seem obvious, Slagle says teamwork is one of the most important skills you can develop whether you’re working on a submarine or trying to climb the corporate ladder.

“Even if you had the most courageous and inspirational Commanding Officer possible, that one person cannot physically do all the tasks that are required to take the ship to sea and to submerge it and to accomplish the mission right,” Slagle says.

Instead it takes an entire crew, with each person focused on a certain part of the mission—just like in the office.

At Goldman, if someone tries “to do it all themselves,” says Slagle, “there’s just no way that the client can be served as well as they could be and should be.”

No substitute for hard work

The Navy teaches pretty early on about the value of hard work, Slagle explains. There’s no taking time off until the mission is accomplished. Period.

“You have got to lean in and work really, really hard with not a lot of rest,” he says.

Slagle says in order to get a new client (or keep one), it requires all of his advisors to bring their “A-game every single day.”

“They can’t take the proverbial holiday on the relationship,” he says.

A collective sense of accountability

The best and most successful cultures are those where “there’s really a collective sense of accountability,” Slagle says.

Whether you are on a submarine or in a boardroom, it is important to hold your co-workers to a very high standard, no matter your title or status, and vice versa.

At Goldman, for example, Slagle says there is no such thing as someone being “too junior to make an impact or too senior to not be able to learn from and really benefit from something that a junior person brings to the table.”

As a leader, Slagle says he tries to reinforce this with his team to ensure everyone is contributing and being heard.

In fact, the best way for someone to advance in their career is not to be overly focused on pleasing their boss, but to instead focus on the people that report to you and are looking to you for leadership.

“At every point in my career, whether it be in the Navy or a year at Goldman, I have just found that the more attention, time and effort that I apply to the junior people and helping to bring them up to my level or just to help them advance in their careers, the ship operates better,” he says.

So Slagle often gives people the advice of “looking behind them” instead of forward, to find people who they can help “pull up.” By doing that, he says, it will help you create a better team and ultimately help you get noticed at work.



Wes Slagle as a naval officer on USS Helena (SSN-725) from 2002 to 2007. (Photo courtesy of Wes Slagle.)



PRIDE RUNS DEEP

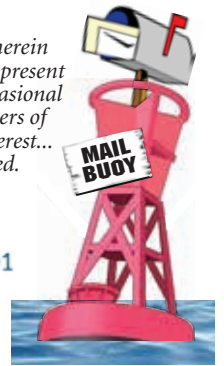
We can always be proud of the good charitable work our base continues to contribute to the community. Here's another fine example.—ed.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Voluntary Service

Long Beach VA HCS
5901 East 7th St
Long Beach, CA 90822-5201

Wherein
we present
occasional
letters of
interest...
—ed.



November 17, 2020

In Reply Refer To: 600/03/135

MICHAEL A SWANSON, TREASURER LA/PAS BASE USSVI
LOS ANGELES/PASADENA BASE OF USSVI
1149 W SANTA CRUZ ST.
SAN PEDRO, CA 90731

Dear MICHAEL A SWANSON:

I wish to extend my personal thanks to you on behalf of the Long Beach VA HCS patients and staff for your recent donation of \$250.00, check number 2127. A receipt is enclosed.

As requested, this donation has been deposited in the following General Post Fund account(s):

1143 - FISHER HOUSE

\$250.00

100% of your donation will be used to supplement the excellent care and services provided to our Veteran patients and their families. We are very grateful for your generosity and support of our Nation's Veterans.

Sincerely,


Andrea Lennon
Acting Chief, Voluntary Service

In accordance with VHA Directive 4721, we are required to state "The Department of Veterans Affairs did not provide you, the donor, any goods or services in consideration in whole or part for your contribution."



USS Pasadena (SSN-752)

One of our base's two namesake boats, looking the grand dame she obviously is.

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



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

CISCO
S-44
DORADO
WAHOO
CORVINA
SCULPIN
CAPELIN
SCORPION
GRAYBACK
TROUT
TULLIBEE
GUDGEON
HERRING
GOLET
S-28
ROBALO
FLIER

HARDER
SEAWOLF
DARTER
SHARK II
TANG
ESCOLAR
ALBACORE
GROWLER
SCAMP
SWORDFISH
BARBEL
KETE
TRIGGER
SNOOK
LAGARTO
BONEFISH
BULLHEAD

