Volume 20, Number 7 • July 2024





"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**

Dave mentions the discovery of the wreck of the *Harder* (SS-257) in his Base Cmdr.'s column. For those interested, we proudly covered that development in the previous *Periscope*, including some photos. Having seriously studied Harder while building a very accurate scale model of her, I easily recognized the wreck photos as Sam Dealey's famous ride. She was a very special boat, and I'm so glad she's been found.—*Jeff* 

## How a Los Angeles-Class Navy Sub "Sank" a British Aircraft Carrier

In a 2013 NATO anti-submarine exercise in the Arabian Sea, the American Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Dallas successfully "sank" the British aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious in a simulated battle.

(Reproduced from the National Interest website - Published March 5, 2024.) by Stavros Atlamazoglou



Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine. (U.S. Navy photo.)

Tummary: In a 2013 NATO anti-submarine exercise in the Arabian Sea, the American Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Dallas successfully "sank" the British aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious in a simulated battle. Despite efforts by the *Illustrious* and its support vessels to detect the *Dallas* using advanced systems and sonar buoys, the submarine managed to breach the carrier's defenses undetected, demonstrating the stealth and striking capability of submarines. The USS Dallas, equipped with torpedo tubes and capable of launching Tomahawk cruise missiles, highlighted the strategic advantage submarines possess in naval warfare, emphasizing their role as formidable and stealthy predators beneath the waves.

Sub Stealth: How USS Dallas "Sank" HMS Illustrious in NATO Exercise

Under proper guidance, submarines can be powerful weapons. A well-placed torpedo can sink or severely damage even the most powerful aircraft carrier.

(concluded on page 13)



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

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#### From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

Summer is here! I can tell because here along the Orange County shoreline, it is gray and gloomy in the morning and then "heats up" to a balmy seventy-five degrees by midday. I lived in California's central valley and in south Texas

for many years, so I will happily enjoy summertime where I live now.

We had a good turnout for the June meeting and steakfest, and still had some meat remaining to auction off. Ron Jones bought most of it and donated it to VFW because they do so much for us. BZ and thank you, Ron!

A major topic of discussion at that meeting was our memorabilia currently stored in Greg and Vanessa Paulson's garage. Ray Teare has our ceremonial and parade gear stored in the back of his truck. Several of us contacted groups which may accept donations of plaques and photographs or have space which we can use.

Bill Moak learned the Simi Valley Military Museum wants the bulk of it, and VFW Post 3173 will arrange space for what remains. As soon as we have information about timing, we will organize a working party to move the materials to their new locations.

The Independence Day Parade in Huntington Beach is upon us, and we will participate along with Bonefish Base. We will welcome all who want to join us, especially those who can "march" the entire parade route—which is about two miles long. There will be some space in the two vehicles for those who need to ride, and of course we ask that you bring a portable chair, water, and sun-cover. You'll find information on page 14 of this issue regarding timing and location for parking and muster. Come join us for a great time!

This year, we'll hold the LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic and auction in August for our regular meeting on the 17th. We'll attempt to secure space in a neighborhood park and information will be forwarded to you well in advance. The "white elephant auction" will be a great opportunity to shift the stuff you want to move to a new home but are not ready to throw away!

We have some opportunities for participation. There are two base leadership roles for which the Elections Committee members are seeking candidates. If you are interested in working as Secretary or Treasurer, please contact either Marilyn Senior or Joe Koch. Additionally, work's underway for the Western Region Roundup: we'll host March 5th through 8th. If you can help as co-Chair, as Website Coordinator, or as Transportation Coordinator, please let me know.

On a somber note, the Lost 52 Project located the wreck of USS *Harder* (SS-257) shortly before Memorial Day this year. (*See details in the previous* Periscope—*ed.*) She lies 3,700 feet deep off the west coast of Luzon in the Philippine Islands. The multi-dimensional graphic produced by the Lost 52 Project clearly shows a large hole above the port side of the Control Room and includes details which enabled the Naval History and Heritage Command to confirm the wreck as the *Harder*. I have poured over submarine history since I was a kid, and over time, the names, places and events have become commonplace. Seeing the wrecks and the damage which caused them to sink has riveted my attention and focused my thoughts on the crews, what they were doing, and how quickly their lives ended. I appreciate the work being done by the Lost 52 Project and what it means to lost crew members' families and to the submarine community.

As always, please protect your health and safety!



Dave Vanderveen, Commander Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



## June General Meeting Sailing List

Tony Bland

Kathleen Carder

Ron Jones

Joe Koch

Laurie Ann Mabry

Jack Mahan

Bill Moak

Brooke Bland Nafarrete

Carlo Nafarrete

Greg Paulson

Jeff Porteous

Chuck Senior

Marilyn Senior

Mike Swanson

Ray Teare

Cindy Teare

Dave Vanderveen

George Walrath





## Minutes of June 15, 2024 General Meeting

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at the VFW Hall in Anaheim at 1110 hours. Joe Koch then led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Dave followed that with a request for a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates.

Dave explained that the Minutes of the May meetings had been reviewed during the E-Board meeting and accepted into the base record. They're published in the previous issue of *The Periscope* for members who wish to review them.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Mike Swanson provided the Treasurer's Report—as of June 15, 2024—to the members in attendance, and Dave noted that the E-Board had already reviewed and accepted it into the base record. (*The report appears in the E-Board Meeting Minutes elsewhere in this issue as usual.*—ed.)

#### Membership Update:

Dave reported that we now have 98 members, fifteen of whom are Associates. He also noted that Darin had asked the National office to enhance its social media presence to benefit recruiting efforts.

#### Memorial Day Ceremony Recap:

Dave explained the E-Board's Plus/Delta results and the actions for next year (see E-Board Meeting Minutes for 6/15 elsewhere in this issue).

#### 2025 Western Region Roundup:

Dave noted for attendees who were not here last month that we will host the WRR on March 5th-8th on the *Queen Mary* with the Tolling the Boats ceremony to be conducted on the battleship *Iowa*, closed by a gun salute from a 5"/38-caliber mount. He explained that the Region Planning Committee has asked our base to raise funds to offset the catering cost to reduce the cost to individuals who register. Darin Detwiler has agreed to head that effort. They also asked for:

- A co-chair in case Dave goes out of commission
- A Transportation Coordinator to arrange for movement between the *Queen Mary* and the *Iowa* (work to begin in September).
- A Region Webmaster

There were no volunteers for these positions.

(concluded on next page)



# Ad Still Here by Popular Demand!



# Just the Place for Killer MidRats!

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



#### **General Meeting Minutes...**

(concluded from previous page)

#### The Good of the Order:

Dave fielded clarifying questions about the Roundup and July 4th parade.

Dave further noted that 50/50 raffle ticket sales would take place immediately after our meeting.

There being no further business, Joe Koch motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Mike Swanson and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1145 hours.

The raffle drawing was held during lunch, and the winning ticket was drawn by Jeff Porteous, who collected \$25, with the base receiving the other \$25.

There were a dozen steaks remaining which were auctioned at \$5 apiece. Dave bought two and Ron Jones bought ten which he donated to the VFW Post. The base made about \$20 on the deal!

Respectfully submitted,

#### Dave Vanderveen

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



July Meeting
Date: July 20, 2024
This month...

This month we're back at Anaheim's VFW Hall with our standard potluck arrangement. So please bring your own plates & utensils, plus your own drinks and a dish to share (see below). Parking's behind the building.

#### **Location:**

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

#### Times:

• E-Board Meets: 10:00-11:00

• General Mtg.: 11:00-Noon

• Lunch: Noon

(must vacate premises at 1:00)

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

A-H —Dessert

I-R — Main DIsh

S-Z—Salad or Vegetable



# **July Birthdays**We hereby extend the happiest

 of wishes to all our L.A.-Pasadena Base birthday celebrants!

 Mike Kish
 7/5

 Beauchamp Tran
 7/7

 Chuck Senior
 7/9

 John Weisenberger
 7/11

 Larry T. Lovett
 7/12

 Susan Bolton
 7/14

 Bill Moak
 7/14

 M. Mark Hoffer
 7/15

 Scott Hultner
 7/18

 Michael Grubbs
 7/21

 Michael Polis
 7/23

 David Nates
 7/29

 Ron Wagner
 7/30

# Two of L.A.-Pasadena's Own SubVets Fly to Normandy to Commemorate D-Day

"You Were Worth It" Foundation combines financial and logistical efforts with our USSVI base here to see to it that William "Bill" Dillon (99) and Pat Zilliacus (98) could travel to France and take part in the June 6 ceremonies.

A handful of WWII soldiers and their escorts, including two submariners from the L.A.-Pasadena USSVI base, gathered recently at the Proud Bird Restaurant in Hawthorne to meet and pose for photos with actor Dennis Quaid before being whisked off to the airport by shuttle to catch a flight to Paris. From there it was on to the beaches of Normandy to take part in the official international D-Day ceremonies held there on June 6th.

Membership Chairwoman Marilyn Senior toiled countless hours organizing and following through with local logistics to make this exciting excursion happen; just one wrench in the works was a last-minute scramble to cover for a cancelled flight—ultimately replaced, thank goodness, through the "You Were Worth It" Foundation\*. Base member Ron Jones was fortunately then able to alter prior plans made with the Proud Bird Restaurant to ultimately make the sendoff schedule still work before the trip.

We are so lucky to have three WWII subvets still with us as members of our base. Unfortunately, Harold Staggs, our oldest at nearly 100, wasn't up to making the trip. However, Bill Dillon and Pat Zilliacus did so with proverbial flying colors, enjoying their Normandy tour, and witnessing the impressive ceremonies—in Pat's case, from a seat just behind President Biden's speaking position.











Our boys, Bill and Pat, together at the Proud Bird before departure. Upper right, Dennis Quaid joins them; lower left, Ron Jones was on hand too. Note Pat's prime seat for the D-Day remembrance ceremonies just over the president's shoulder.

\*Funding: A check was deposited in the Los Angeles-Pasadena Base bank account from the USSV Charitable Foundation's Brotherhood Fund—a non-profit 501 c3 Charitible Foundation. Profound thanks to George Palmer for stepping up to help fund our two WWII subvets' trip to Normandy. Thanks also to L.A.-Pasadena Base for matching the donation that the Brotherhood Fund authorized and sent to us. Our Treasurer, Mike Swanson, has now transferred these funds to the "You Were Worth It" Foundation.

# UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE LOSSES ON ETERNAL PATROL

"I can assure you that they went down fighting and that their brothers who survived them took a grim toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths."

— Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, USN

#### **JULY TOLLING OF THE BOATS**







#### USS S-28 (SS-133)

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

#### **USS ROBALO (SS-273)**

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

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

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

# Newport News Shipbuilding Delivers First Virginia-Class Sub Built for Women Crew Members

(Reproduced from The Virginian-Pilot website - Published April 26, 2024; Updated May 1, 2024) by Caitlyn Burchett, Staff Writer



Virginia-class attack submarine New Jersey completed sea trials off the Virginia coast in February. New Jersey spent several days at sea to test the boat's systems and components. (Photo courtesy of Lexi Whitehead/HII.)

ewport News Shipbuilding recently delivered fast-attack submarine USS *New Jersey* to the Navy, officials announced Thursday.

The 7,800-ton submarine was built as part of a team agreement between Newport News Shipbuilding and General Dynamics Electric Boat in Connecticut. The *New Jersey* is the 11th *Virginia*-class submarine to be delivered by the Newport News shipyard to the Navy, the company said.

The delivery comes as the companies face major ship-building delays. Blocks Four and Five of *Virginia*-class submarines, the Navy said earlier this month, are now delayed 24-36 months.

The *New Jersey*, which is part of the Fifth Block, was delivered roughly two years late. Construction began in March 2016, according to Newport News Shipbuilding. The company said in March 2021 the ship was scheduled to be delivered in 2022.

According to the USS *New Jersey* Commission Committee, the ship will be put into active service in September with a commissioning ceremony.

It is the first submarine designed to accommodate coed crews after the Navy announced in 2011 the inclusion of women in the submarine community. The ship is part of the class of nuclear-powered submarines that will replace the Navy's aging *Los Angeles*-class submarines as they are retired.

"The mission ahead for *New Jersey* and her crew is clear, and we applaud our shipbuilders for delivering this critical capability to the fleet, while maintaining our highest standards of safety and quality," said Jason Ward, Newport News Shipbuilding vice president of *Virginia*-class submarine construction.

Caitlyn Burchett, caitlyn.burchett@virginiamedia.com

# The End of the *Ohio*-Class SSGN Submarines is Big Trouble for the Navy

The U.S. Navy plans to retire four *Ohio*-class SSGNs between 2026 and 2028, raising concerns about a potential missile gap with China.

(Reproduced from the National Interest website - Published April 26, 2024.)

by Harrison Kass



U.S. Navy Ohio-class SSGN missile submarine (U.S. Navy photo.)

submarines during the Cold War, four *Ohios* were converted to guided missile submarines capable of carrying 154 Tomahawk missiles each. These submarines also support special forces operations and serve as underwater command centers.

Their retirement is part of the broader strategic adjustments post-Cold War, where the U.S. reduced its submarine ballistic missile force. However, with the current pace of producing the new Block V *Virginia*-class submarines, which carry fewer missiles, there is a projected shortfall in missile capacity. This transition highlights challenges in maintaining U.S. undersea and strategic missile capabilities during a critical period of naval modernization.

# U.S. Navy to Retire *Ohio*-Class Submarines, Facing Missile Gap with China

The U.S. Navy is planning to retire two *Ohio*-class SSGNs (guided missile submarines) in 2026 and two more in 2028. The retirements could exacerbate the missile gap between the United States and China.

While the Block V *Virginia*-class fast attack submarines can be outfitted with four vertical launch tubes (and 28 TLAMs), the Navy will still experience a shortfall once the *Ohio*-class SSGNs are taken offline.

#### **Cold War Conversions**

The SSGN *Ohio*-class submarines in question were converted to guided missile submarines during the Cold War, expanding their tactical profile. Each *Ohio* SSGN can carry

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#### Navy to Retire Four Ohio-Class SSGNs

(concluded from page 8)

up to 154 Tomahawk missiles while supporting special forces operations and serving as an underwater joint command center thanks to advanced communications systems.

The *Ohio* is an important part of the U.S. nuclear deterrence strategy, which relies upon the "nuclear triad." The nuclear triad consists of, naturally, three components. One is the U.S. Air Force's land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles. Two, the USAF's strategic bombers. And three, the U.S. Navy's ballistic missile submarines. The *Ohio* has been a crucial part of the nuclear triad, providing the Navy with a reliable, nuclear-armed submarine.

#### Introducing the Ohio

Built to allow for extended patrols, the *Ohio* was designed in the 1980s as the Cold War climaxed. Large and quiet, the *Ohio* could lurk in waters undetected, ready to launch a nuclear strike if called upon. Yet, after the Soviet Union collapsed and the Cold War ended, Washington reevaluated its military spending. In 1994, the Department of Defense completed a Nuclear Posture Review. The verdict: the United States could reduce its submarine forces to just fourteen ballistic missile submarines. And because the United States already had eighteen SSBNs, four were converted to SSGNs—the *Ohio*-class subs about to be retired.

The SSGN is capable of carrying 154 Tomahawk land attack missiles. However, the SSGN is a versatile platform; the SSGN can also carry torpedo-tube-launched Harpoon antiship missiles. Or the sub can be outfitted to enable special forces operations—with torpedo tubes that have been converted into swimmer lockout trunks. The SSGN *Ohio*-class is also capable of deploying a Dry Combat Submersible, a miniature submarine that special forces use for stealthy underwater transportation.

#### Ohio-Class SSGN

Each *Ohio* SSGN costs \$3.53 billion in 2023 dollars. Measuring 560 feet long, with a forty-two-foot beam and a thirty-five-foot draft, the *Ohio* displaces nearly 19,000 tons when submerged. The vessel relies on one S8G PWR nuclear reactor and two geared turbines capable of generating 35,000 horsepower and a top speed of twenty-five knots when submerged.

#### Headed for the Scrapyard

Two *Ohio* SSGN retirements are slated for 2026. Then, the remaining two *Ohio* SSGNs will be retired in 2028, effec-

tively eliminating the class. The retirements will create a reduction in missile strength, as the Block V *Virginia*-class submarines, which are expected to mitigate the missile loss, have been slow to produce.

Current projections hold that the *Virginia* will not be produced sufficiently to replace the missiles lost in the *Ohio* submarine retirement until the 2040s or so.

About the Author: Harrison Kass is a defense and national security writer with over 1,000 total pieces on issues involving global affairs. An attorney, pilot, guitarist, and minor pro hockey player, Harrison joined the U.S. Air Force as a Pilot Trainee but was medically discharged. Harrison holds a BA from Lake Forest College, a JD from the University of Oregon, and an MA from New York University.

#### A Place I Used to Be

by Phil Rody, CP01 (ret.)

There was a place I used to be, It seems so long ago.

A place where friends were always there, A place where we can go.

The friends are there around me still, Just not so close at hand.

Always ready, always there, We are a tight knit band.

We used to do some quite strange things, Like dive beneath the sea.

In a steel tube of dials and valves, A wonderous place to be.

The smell of diesel, the tinge of fear, You shared it every day.

You knew your job, you knew your mates, It's the submarine way.

The boats we loved are mostly gone, Just a few remain to see.

The boats are gone, the friends remain, It's just how things should be...

**Diesel Boats Forever!** 

Submitted from the internet by Bill Moak.

# **New High-Tech Navy Drone**

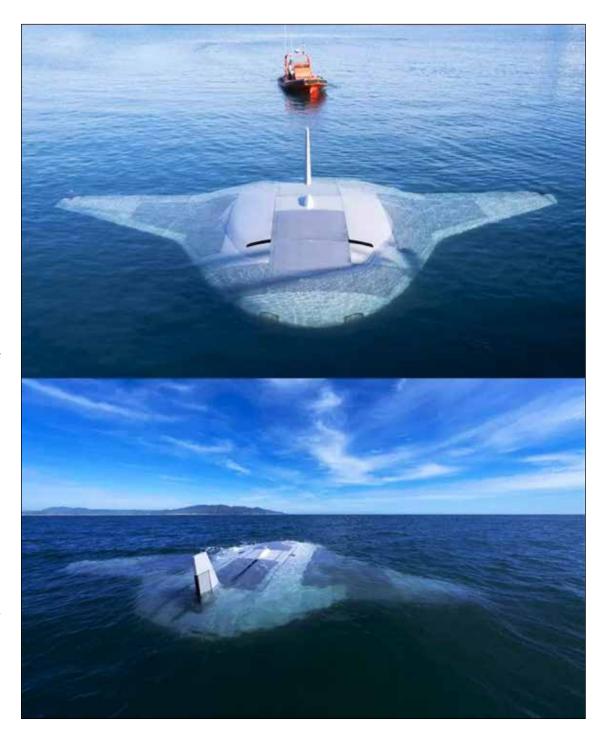
(Forwarded from Facebook; original source unknown.)

he United States has completed the first full-scale test at sea of a futuristic underwater drone able to hibernate on the seabed.

The Manta Ray prototype, produced by U.S. aviation giant Northrop Grumman, is part of a U.S. Navy project to develop a new class of underwater drones capable of carrying out much longer missions.

The autonomous craft, which dwarfed the small boat it was pictured with, has been designed to move through the ocean "for very long periods of time" without supervision or the need to refuel.

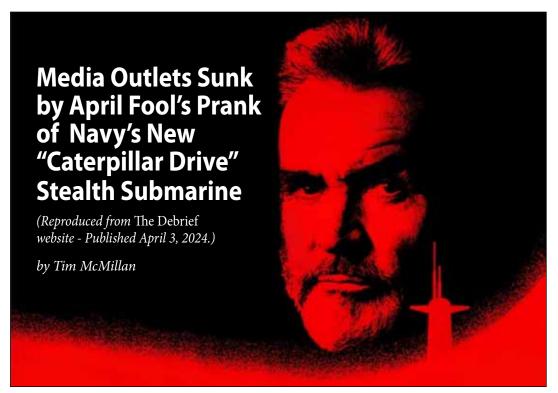
"Once deployed, the vehicle uses efficient, buoyancy-driven gliding to move through



the water," said Dr. Kyle Woerner, Manta Ray program manager at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, better known by its acronym, DARPA.

Defense analysts have speculated that the U.S. Navy wants to develop a drone capable of long missions to scour the seas for Russian and Chinese submarines.

"The craft is designed with several payload bays of multiple sizes and types to enable a wide variety of naval mission sets," said Dr. Woerner.



In a twist that would have made novelist Tom Clancy proud, several news outlets and social media users took a deep dive into fiction this past April 1st, falling for an April Fool's prank that the U.S. Navy had discovered the "Holy Grail of naval warfare," and the development of cutting-edge stealth submarine technology.

Naval News, a reputable source for maritime news, published a seemingly groundbreaking article claiming the U.S. Navy was outfitting its *Virginia*-class submarines with a revolutionary magnetohydrodynamic drive, or "caterpillar drive," that "promises to make the submarine virtually undetectable."

"Submarines use stealth to dominate the seas, presenting an illusive yet deadly threat," the *Naval News* article reads. "Now U.S. Navy submarines will take stealth to a new level. American submarines will now be fitted with magnetohydrodynamic drive."

Unfortunately, several niche media sites that later circulated the story didn't realize they were sharing a concept straight from fiction. Specifically, Tom Clancy's Cold War thriller *The Hunt for the Red October*, where a stealth submarine equipped with a magnetohydrodynamic drive is a crucial plot element.

The prank showcased the fine line between fact and fiction and served as a stark reminder of the importance of critical media consumption in the digital age.

In fairness, given the nature of today's technological prog-

ress, which frequently resembles science fiction, it's understandable why some could be misled by *Naval News*'s seemingly credible announcement. Equally, the idea of magnetohydrodynamic drive is more than just the stuff of imagination.

A Magnetohydrodynamic drive (MHD) is a conceptual method of propulsion that uses only electric and magnetic fields to accelerate a liquid or gas propellant using the principles of magnetohydrodynamics.

In recent years, engineers have been exploring the potential of plasma propul-

sion engines using magnetohydrodynamics for space exploration. The goal is that a magnetohydrodynamic drive would offer a more continuous propulsion system than traditional chemical rockets.

Furthermore, since the 1960s, scientists and military researchers have been studying the use of magnetohydrodynamic drives for submarine propulsion. This technology leverages the magnetic properties of water to move the submarine forward, thereby eliminating the need for moving parts, such as traditional propellers.

Another kernel of truth from the *Naval News* article is that the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is currently attempting to develop a workable magnetohydrodynamic drive under its "Principles of Undersea Magnetohydrodynamic Pumps" or "PUMP" program. However, the concept remains largely theoretical, and the leap from experimentation to an operational caterpillar drive, especially in the context of creating a "stealth submarine," is a significant one.

The idea of a completely stealth submarine, undetectable by enemy forces, has been a coveted goal for global navies and could justifiably be considered the "Holy Grail of naval warfare."

The concept of a magnetohydrodynamic-drive stealth submarine was popularized in the 1990 film adaptation of Tom Clancey's literary spy thriller *The Hunt for the Red October*. In the film, the Soviet Typhoon-class ballistic

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#### **Caterpillar Drive Sub Takes April Fools Honors**

(concluded from page 11)

missile sub the "Red October" is outfitted with a "caterpillar drive," which renders it undetectable to passive sonar.

Due to its lack of moving parts, a magnetohydrodynamic-driven submarine would theoretically significantly reduce noise levels, a key advantage in underwater stealth. However, a magnetohydrodynamic drive wouldn't make the vessel completely silent, nor would it result in a fully stealth submarine.

The electric currents required to generate the magnetic fields for a magnetohydrodynamic-driven submarine would produce detectable gasses and noise. The magnetic fields produced by the MHD would likewise create a distinct magnetic signature that could be easily traced by modern anti-submarine warfare (ASW) technology.

Moreover, contemporary anti-submarine warfare has evolved to include a range of detection techniques beyond just listening for the sounds a submarine makes. Today, leading sub-detection methods include measuring temperature gradients in the water, variations in the Earth's magnetic field caused by a sub's large metal hull, thermal imaging, chemical sensors, and airborne LIDAR that can identify changes in water depth or disturbances.

As part of its initiative to field "Non-Traditional Airborne Anti-Submarine Warfare" technology, the U.S. Navy is suspected of possessing a highly classified system that uses synthetic aperture radar to identify the wake caused by a submarine passing through water that would otherwise be invisible to the human eye.

In short, a magnetohydrodynamic drive would not suddenly render a sub "stealth," as *The Hunt for the Red October* or *Navel News*' prank article implies.

Nevertheless, this didn't stop a handful of publications from spreading the fictitious word about the Navy's supposed leap in stealth submarine technology.

One of the outlets that aggregated the story was *Marine Insight*. "World's No. 1 complete maritime information website," the "About" page reads on *Marine Insight*'s website. "Since 2010, *Marine Insight* has been informing and educating people around the world about the maritime industry."

Marine Insight has since removed the article about the fictitious magnetohydrodynamic drive. However, the head-line "U.S. Navy Unveils World's First Submarine Equipped with Silent Caterpillar Drive" still populates under the site

in Google News.

A YouTube channel called "Military Defense News" published a nearly three-minute video of a computer voice program reading the article, complete with still images of U.S. submarines and dramatic background music.

A Ukrainian news site, *GaGadget*, even added details not contained in the original article. "The submarine's appearance and characteristics are currently being kept secret, but it is known that the propulsion system is located inside the hull, which means there is no traditional propeller," *GaGadget*'s Mykhailo Stoliar wrote.

The fictitious article was mainly shared by social mediaonly "news" sites, with varying follower counts ranging from a few hundred to tens of thousands of followers.

Aside from the article's publication date, April 1st, some seemingly overlooked clues should have called to question claims of the U.S. Navy subs being outfitted with new stealth propulsion drives. Most prominently, editors posted, "Important update on this article: April Fool's" at the beginning of the article.

Less obvious, the article notes that the *Virginia*-class attack submarine, the USS *Montana* (SSN-794), was expected to conduct sea trials with the new caterpillar drive on the Penobscot River in Maine. In Clancey's fictional spy thriller, Soviet sub captain Marko Ramius stealthily navigates the Red October to the Penobscot River to defect to the United States.

It's important to note that the fictitious story caught traction primarily among smaller, niche publications rather than mainstream media. The incident underscores the critical need for media consumers to question and verify the sources of their information, particularly in an era where fly-by-night "news" outlets can easily and rapidly spread sensational claims thanks to social media.

Ultimately, *Naval News*' April Fool's joke served as a humorous reminder of the enduring allure of stealth technology in naval warfare and the importance of skepticism and due diligence in news consumption.

Tim McMillan is a retired law enforcement executive, investigative reporter and co-founder of The Debrief. His writing typically focuses on defense, national security, the Intelligence Community and topics related to psychology. Tim can be reached by email at: tim@thedebrief.org.

#### **USS Dallas "Sinks" Brit Flattop**

(concluded from page 1)

This is a lesson the Royal Navy learned the hard way in 2013, when an American submarine "sank" a British aircraft carrier during a simulation.

#### American Submarine versus British Aircraft Carrier

NATO that year was conducting a large-scale anti-submarine warfare exercise off the coast of Oman in the Arabian Sea. During the exercise, the HMS *Illustrious*, a British aircraft carrier, was pitted against the USS *Dallas*, an American *Los Angeles*-class attack submarine. The simulated goal of the *Dallas* was to find and sink the *Illustrious* while the British aircraft carrier and several support warships tried to track and destroy the submarine.

Using their onboard systems, helicopters, and sonar buoys, the HMS *Illustrious* and its protection detail tried in vain to find the American submarine. Meanwhile, the USS *Dallas* stealthily sneaked its way through the anti-submarine layers protecting the British carrier. Suddenly the American sub emerged within shooting range of the HMS *Illustrious*, signaling that in real hostilities, it would have been able to attack the aircraft carrier.

The *Illustrious* was the Royal Navy's largest ship at the time. (It has since been replaced by the modern HMS *Queen Elizabeth* and HMS *Prince of Wales* carriers.)

#### The USS Dallas

As a *Los Angeles*-class attack submarine, the USS *Dallas* packed four 21-inch (533mm) torpedo tubes capable of launching Mark 48 torpedoes. Later versions of the class received a vertical launch system capability that allowed *Los Angeles*-class subs to launch Tomahawk cruise missiles.

The USS *Dallas* could reach speeds of up to 25 nautical knots (over 28 miles per hour), with one nuclear reactor powering a single shaft. With a length of 360 feet, USS *Dallas* required a crew of 143 men to operate: 16 officers and 127 enlisted. There was also limited space on board the vessel for special operators.

Construction on the USS *Dallas* began in 1976, and the submarine was commissioned in 1981. For the next 36 years, the nuclear-powered submarine served in the Navy's Silent Service with quiet resolution, ready to counter any threat with stealth and force.

At around the middle of its service life, the USS *Dallas* received a drydock shelter. Essentially a small chamber attached to the top of the submarine, a drydock shelter is

designed to allow special operators like Navy SEALs and Army Green Berets to enter and exit a submerged submarine, thus increasing their stealthiness. Not all submarines are outfitted with such special equipment to support special operations forces.

In total, the USS *Dallas* completed fourteen operational deployments in every area of operations except the Pacific. More specifically, the nuclear-powered submarine completed seven deployments in the North Atlantic, four in the Mediterranean Sea, two in the Persian Gulf, and one in the Indian Ocean. These deployments translated to over a million miles sailed, a feat made easier by the submarine's nuclear fuel.

Stavros Atlamazoglou is a seasoned defense journalist specializing in special operations, and a Hellenic Army veteran (national service with the 575th Marine Battalion and Army HQ). He holds a BA from Johns Hopkins University and an MA from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

#### **Eternal Patrol**

by Luke Connole 4/29/2024

Never lost, but still on the eternal patrol
The submariners never forgotten for their crucial role
When the flag is flown at half-staff on the flagpole
We remember their dedication that was heart-whole

From foreign lands to unforgiving seas, They faced challenges with remarkable ease Through trials and tribulations They pushed forward with the strength of nations

Gallantly they fought in times of strife To defend their country, each gave his life In hardships, they stood tall and brave With their sacrifices, our freedom they saved

The heroes who served must be remembered Give thanks to veterans all through November Through the many hardships they overcame With honor in mind, not fame

Never lost, but still on the eternal patrol My Great Grandfather, David R. Connole

#### **More Cold War Secrets Revealed**

by Bob "Dex" Armstrong

Here are a few more smokeboat secrets now safe to expose.

- 1. You can steal anything not welded to the hull on a tender if it will fit in an empty mail bag and you can carry it off the lower brow.
- 2. If you can obtain an officer's hat with scrambled eggs on the visor, you can get any heavy equipment operator in any navy yard to do whatever you want. You just put it on your head, look up at the crane operator make a few aboriginal hand gestures and watch a two million dollar contraption the size of an office building pick up a skid of head paper and sit it on deck. It was like they saw teenage three-stripers every day.
- 3. At two a.m. (0200) Marine gate guards will accept a folded up one dollar bill and a blue laundry receipt as an authorized I.D. and liberty card—if you flash it and yell, "Make it quick I gotta pee."
- 4. On a slow night a Norfolk hooker will take you home so you don't have to pay for a room for an hour. In 1959, this secret was worth \$7.00.
- 5. The pay toilet at the Jolly Roger (last one from the door) took your fifteen cents and wouldn't open.
- 6. Coke machine at the main N.O.B. geedunk? Always empty.

Keep a zero bubble...

Dex.



- 7. For a box of Whitmans' chocolates the honeys at the Motion Picture Exchange would toss in a couple of decent sea print films reserved for bird farms with low hull numbers.
- 8. It was not smart to exit the Receiving Station with a still-warm DD-214 and ask the first four-striper you met outside the gate, "Hey sailor, you got a light?"
- 9. If you use a paint punt and crawl through the big limber holes up near the bow planes on a dark night, you can go pressure locker shopping for neat stuff. The topside watch on your boat has to lure the topside watch on the K-Mart boat aft and toss him a smoke and exchange a couple of bullshit-loaded sea stories for the length of the shopping expedition...if the Bear Trap access to escape trunk is open. Skip shopping if you are not an All-Navy Heavyweight Boxing Champion.
- 10. If you can steal a boat hook from a visiting boat from another squadron, paint it gray, and stencil "481-SPARE" on it, you can trade it back to the leading seaman on the visiting boat the next morning for at least five skin books. Do not do this with boats in your own squadron. They know the drill and always have a guy in the deck force big enough to give you a busted nose in trade.

None of this was in *Blind Man's Bluff*, a book with no practical information for bluejackets at the Rat Level.



## Fourth of July Parade in Huntington Beach

Take I-405 to Goldenwest Avenue south. Park in the lot on Goldenwest Avenue just south of Garfield Ave. near the Chase Bank. McDonalds and L.A. Fitness will be open for business and their staffs get a little tense when their customers can't park nearby.

Gather about 7:30. We will move with our parade vehicles to the staging area at 8:00. You will not be able to get there after we leave except on foot and it's about a mile and a half walk! The parade starts at 10:00 a.m., and we will begin to move forward about 10:30. We should finish about noon.

Please take water and sun protection, and if you cannot march the entire route, take a portable chair, too. There will be a handful of spaces on our two vehicles for riders, but it's best if you can walk the parade.

The parking area is adjacent to the parade ending point, so we can walk or ride to our vehicles. Hope to see you there!

#### **New Members**

We proudly welcome aboard:

#### 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

#### Kelly Van Wagner

Associate; niece of Shipwreck Kelly; sponsor: Stan Westrick Spouse: Bill 20244 Septo Street Chatsworth, CA 91311-3947 cell: 818-497-0988 email: kellyjvw@hotmail.com

#### Mari-Lynn Lake

Associate; niece of Shipwreck Kelly; sponsor: Gary Lee Wing Spouse: Tim P.O. Box 694 Snoqualmie, WA 90865-0694 cell: 425-445-7173 email: mlhlake@gmail.com

#### Roger K. Onaga

(LCDR - 04 - LCDR) No Spouse 600 N. Atlantic Blvd. Apt. 416 Monterey Park, CA 91754-7752 cell: 626-999-6878 email: rkonaga@yahoo.com Qualified in 2000 on USS Nevada (SSBN-733) - served twenty years: 1996-2016.

#### **Brooke Bland Nafarrete**

Associate; Anthony's daughter; worked on *Key West* in shipyard; sponsored by Mike Swanson Spouse: Carlo 6251 Ferne Avenue Cypress, CA 90630-4829 *cell*: 714-822-1025 BrookeBNafarrete@gmail.com

#### Anthony R. Bland

Associate; sub builder/ engineer & Air Force veteran; sponsored by Bill Moak 6251 Ferne Avenue Cypress, CA 90630-4829 cell: 714-822-1025 BrookeBNafarrete@gmail.com



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

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



Our own base Vice Commander Darin Detwiler recently wrote in from a lengthy trip to inform us that as of May 20th he'd clinched the Axe-Throwing Championship at The Great Alaskan Lumberjack Show in Ketchikan, Alaska! He admits to having no idea how he managed to beat out the seventeen other competitors in the field. His prize was the little wooden axe itself. Quite the trophy—one Jack Nicholson would no doubt covet. Hearty lumberjack congrats to you, Darin. Like the song says, "Oh, you're a lumberjack and you're okay!" Marilyn's convinced it must've been your time on the ol' *Billy Bates* (SSN-680) giving you the winning edge. Stay sharp—like your axe!

# More Chapter News...



# L.A.-Pasadena Base Puts on Its Traditional Memorial Day Ceremony

Our big annual event was another success story. Here are some photos.









Top Left: Truer words were never spoken.

<u>Top Right</u>: Prepping all around; reflecting pond gets a fillup.

Above Left: All in readiness.

Above Right: Dennis Bott oversees the crowd as the covered chair area fills up with dignitaries. Barely room for everyone!

That's our own Pat Zilliacus, back to us, on his cellphone.

A VIP...on a very important call, no doubt!

<u>Immediate Right</u>: CMDR Chris Rose delivers his inspiring talk.
Sub skippers give the best speeches!

Below: a cycling club stops by to inspect the proceedings before our ceremonies get underway. This is almost a tradition: such a group seems to roll in every year to check us out, but they rarely stay!





# US SUBMARINE VETERANS VIOS ANGELES PASAGENA

## **More Memorial Photo Coverage...**

Middle row below: With the discovery of the lost USS Harder (SS-257) at 3700+ feet off Luzon in the Philippines just days before Memorial Day, I thought it important to document her in these pages. Beside that same marker shown in the next shot stands the daughter of one of Harder's crewmen. And to the right of that is a personal favorite I like to stand with during the ceremony: USS Wahoo (SS-238)—because I became friends with the boat's longtime Yeoman, Forest J. Sterling, in the final years of his life. (Don't all the markers look grand since their cleanup work?) Lastly, I always loved that bell.



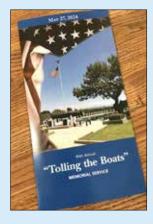
















At left, Chuck Senior's brand new eye-catching artistic design for our annual ceremonial program blows the tired old booklet of previous years right out of the water. I was so pleased to be a part of this classy redo by editing its copy for the new layout. Chuck and I make a great team, oh-yeah.—ed. ;-)



John P. Holland

# L.A.-Pasadena Base 50-Year

Holland Club
(75-year members noted with *)
Scott Hultner2024
Stanley O. Westrick 2024
Ronald R. Jones2023
Gerard A. Krudwig 2022
Gregory M. Paulson 2022
Michael J. Swanson 2022
Ralph J. Hansen 2021
Robert F. Schive, Sr 2021
Larry D. Long2021
G. Judson "Jud" Scott, Jr 2021
Edward E. Kushins 2020
Bruce Evan Neighbors 2020
David H. Vanderveen 2019
Dennis Bott2018
Robert "Mike" Cailor 2018
Robert Miller2018
John A. Anderson 2017
Roger C. Dunham, MD 2017
Richard McPherson 2017
Harry "Bill" Moak2017
Louis A. Myerson 2017
Elliot Rada2017
Ronald G. Wagner 2017
Dennis J. Walsh2017
Michael Kish 2016
Gary Wheaton2016

Lawrence R. Butler ...... 2015

(concluded next page)



December 21

# Los Angeles-Pasadena Base 2024 Calendar of Upcoming Events

2024 Care	endar of opcoming Events
January 20	Monthly Meeting - Marni's in Seal Beach (formerly Glory Days Beachside Grill)
February 17	Monthly Meeting - VFW Hall
March 16	Monthly Meeting - VFW Hall
April 20	Monthly Meeting - VFW Hall Call for Memorial Day Prep Volunteers
May 11	Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900
May 18	Monthly Meeting Nominating Committee Confirmed Call for nominations for 2025 Base Officers
May 25	Tarp Prep at the Memorial Site - 0900
May 27	Memorial Day Service - 1100 Submarine Memorial, West
June 15	Monthly Meeting - VFW Hall Annual "Steakfest"
July 4	115th Annual Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
July 20	Monthly Meeting - VFW Hall (Potluck)
August 17	LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic (Location TBD) 2025 Base Officer Candidates Announced
September 21	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - VFW Hall Election of Officers
October 19	Monthly Meeting - VFW Hall Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
November 16	Monthly Meeting - VFW Hall - Thanksgiving Theme

Annual Christmas Luncheon

## (Holland Club Roster, concluded) Samuel T. Higa ...... 2015 Harry P. Ross......2015 Charles H. Senior ...... 2015 Larry E. Smith......2015 Sam Aboulafia......2014 David Palagyi ...... 2014 Earl Thomas Peratt, Jr. .... 2014 David D. Semrau, DDS .... 2014 Ray Tracy Teare......2014 Milton Harry Boudov ..... 2013 Kenneth Jon Dorn.....2013 M. Mark Hoffer......2013 Michael P. Klein ..... 2013 Ronald L. Levenson...... 2013 Edward L. Arnold......2012 T. Michael Bircumshaw ... 2012 Raymond Cheesebrough. 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. Diumenti ...... 2009 David Whittlesey...... 2009 Dennis A. Yure......2009 Armen Bagdasarian...... 2008 Paul A. Riggs ...... 2008 Rex L. Shields ...... 2008 Francis R. Traser......2006 Ronald K. Thompson...... 2004 James Rogers ...... 2003 \*James E. Carter..... 1999 \*William F. Long...... 1999 \*Kenneth E. Chunn....... 1998 \*Patrick Zilliacus. ...... 1994 \*William J. Dillon ...... 1993

\*Harold Staggs ...... 1992



## E-Board Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2024

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted on the morning of Saturday, June 15, 2024.

#### In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Ray Teare, Base Vice Commander
- Mike Swanson, Treasurer
- Chuck Senior, Director
- Marilyn Senior, Membership Chairwoman
- Bill Moak, COB
- Jeff Porteous, Periscope Editor
- George Walrath, Member

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the meeting at the VFW Hall in Anaheim to order at 1009 hours with a quorum present. Minutes of both May 2024 meetings were reviewed with no revisions requested. Ray Teare moved to approve and accept the Minutes into the base record; this was seconded by Bill Moak and passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### Treasurer's Financial Report: Mike Swanson

The Treasurer's Report as of June 15, 2024 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Mike Swanson.

Checking	\$21,318.90
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$0.00
Total	\$21,368.90

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

Income:	\$465.00
Expenses:	\$142.00

#### Flower/Booster Club Additions:

Ken Dorn	\$200.00
Mike Swanson	\$35.00
Greg Paulson	\$20

#### **Inkind Donations:**

\$00.00

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

#### Membership Update:

L.A.-Pasadena Base now has 98 members, fifteen of whom are Associates. Chuck confirmed the national organization is limited to ten percent Associate membership, and several bases have none, so our Associate count does not impact the national group. We discussed an effort at National to increase social media exposure of USSVI and its bases.

(concluded on next page)

# U.S. Navy Attack Sub Breaks Thru Ice

(Reproduced from the NewsMaritime website published March 9, 2024.) by Dylan Malyasov

The U.S. Navy Commander, Submarine Forces (COM-SUBFOR) has officially launched Operation Ice Camp (ICE CAMP) 2024 in the Arctic Ocean, marking the beginning of a three-week operation aimed at researching, testing, and evaluating operational capabilities in the region.

The Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Hampton (SSN-767) has broken through the meter-thick ice of the Arctic Ocean and raised the national ensign at Ice Camp Whale on the Arctic Ocean.

ICE CAMP 2024, formerly known as Ice Exercise (ICEX), has evolved into a significant multinational endeavor involving personnel from various branches of the U.S. military as well as allied forces.

The operation, conducted in collaboration with the Arctic Submarine Laboratory, underscores the Navy's commitment to maintaining an enhanced Arctic presence, strengthening alliances, and building a more capable Arctic naval force.

Ice Camp Whale, serving as the temporary command center for the operation, provides a unique environment for conducting research and the testing of submarine systems. Named after the USS *Whale*, a submarine that made history by reaching the North Pole in 1969, the camp facilitates vital training essential for operating in the challenging Arctic conditions.

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

(concluded from previous page)

#### 2025 Western Region Roundup Update:

Dave noted he will ask for volunteers during the General Meeting for several tasks the Region Planning Committee has requested.

#### July 4th Parade Update:

We are registered for the Huntington Beach parade and will be accompanied by Bonefish Base with their mini-submarine float. Sue Bolton has the paperwork issued by the city of Huntington Beach.

#### Base Memorabilia Update:

Our ceremonial/parade tools and equipment do not fit into the Paulson's garage, so we discussed the following avenues to deal with the surplus:

- Dave will contact VFW Post 3173 about using a small space in their facility -*or* allowing us to place a container on the property which we would share with the Post.
- We will offer first right of refusal for the memorabilia to base members (shipping at their own expense).
- Bill will contact the Simi Valley Museum and the Reagan Library about their interest.
- Dave will contact the Squadron Eleven PAO regarding their interest.
- Ray has already researched commercial storage for the ceremonial/parade gear.

#### Memorial Day Ceremony Review:

<u>Pluses</u>: • Bill handled the bell tolling well • The Congressional representative delivered a nice speech, had a submariner in her family, and stayed for the entire ceremony for the first time (her successor will be encouraged to do the same) • Veterans of all services were recognized.

<u>Planned Improvements/Delta</u>: • Replace the small U.S. flags at the monuments with larger ones for uniformity (current small flags will be distributed at the 4th of July parade) • Directions/coaching on ceremonial duties for public guests will be given by subvets strategically placed at every fourth monument in the lineup; this will also be mentioned in the ceremonial script and appear briefly in next year's printed program too • Taps was played at the wrong time and will be corrected • WWII vets require specific recognition in the ceremony.

#### The Good of the Order:

Dave asked for a volunteer to grill steaks during the General Meeting. Ray and Bill stepped up! Dave then noted that the 50/50 raffle sales would occur after the General Meeting.

There being no further business, Mike Swanson motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Ray Teare and passed unanimously, adjourning the meeting at 1100 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

#### Dave Vanderveen

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



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

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

**CORVINA** 

**SEALION** 

**WAHOO** 

SCAMP
SWORDFISH
BARBEL
KETE
TRIGGER
SNOOK
LAGARTO
BONEFISH
BULLHEAD

