

**Our Annual Steak Fest is Back!**  
 (Please See Pages 2 and 5!)

# THE PERISCOPE

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

Volume 18, Number 6 • June 2022



**PRIDE RUNS DEEP**



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

**What's Inside**

Commander's Message	2
General Meeting Minutes	3
Tolling of the Boats	6
Vandalism Investigation	7
S.D. Sub Training Head Fired	8
Dex Armstrong	12
Chapter News	14
Upcoming Events Calendar	15
E-Board Meeting Minutes	16
Nuclear Sub Secrets Sold	17
USSVI Update Bulletins	18
Mail Buoy: Ltr. from Marilyn	23

**Editor's Corner**

Since you last heard from me, Chuck Senior and I had a most productive lunch meeting with talented new base member Darin Detwiler. He shall soon be supplying much-needed material for the *American Submariner*—likely also *The SubCommittee Report* and even the esteemed chapter newsletter you see before you on your phone, tablet or computer at this very moment. Heartfelt thanks and a great big BZ to Darin for stepping up to help us out.—Jeff

## Sub Base Kings Bay Keeps Current Ohio Subs Ready While Also Prepping for Incoming Columbia-Class SSBNs

*(Reproduced from the USNI News website - published August 3, 2020.)*

by Megan Eckstein



*The Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine USS Alaska (SSBN-732) blue crew returns to its homeport at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia, in November 2018, following a strategic deterrence patrol. The boat is one of five ballistic missile submarines stationed at the base and is capable of carrying up to twenty submarine-launched ballistic missiles with multiple warheads. (U.S. Navy photo.)*

**A**board ballistic missile submarine USS Alaska at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, GA.: The East Coast's ballistic missile submarine hub is busy keeping up the readiness of its legacy *Ohio*-class boomers while also laying the groundwork to welcome the new *Columbia* class later in the decade.

The base's challenge with the *Ohio*-class ballistic missile (SSBN) and guided missile (SSGN) variants located here is twofold: most immediately, the base is located near the Florida-Georgia line, with both states being hotspots for the COVID-19 virus. More broadly, the base is supporting submarines that have started surpassing their original expected service lives, with the *Ohio* class originally being planned for thirty years of operations but some boats now well on their way to the revised forty-two-year life expectancy.

USNI News was invited to the base when Defense Secretary Mark Esper visited on July 30 to check on how the workforce was performing during the pandemic.

*(continued on page 9)*



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[www.socalsubvets.org](http://www.socalsubvets.org)

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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,

Well, we had some excitement related to our 43rd Annual Memorial Day Ceremony. We scheduled it to begin an hour earlier than in prior years, intending to help guests and speakers navigate other commitments that day. Television and press coverage had been arranged by NWSSB based on historic start time, so we found a *big* monkey wrench in the gears of our plan. We solved it by changing the start time back to 1100. It could have been worse; we could have needed to get everybody on site an hour earlier than announced rather than an hour later. This year's ceremony is the first since 2019 before the pandemic related lockdowns began, and I for one am happy we could do it!

Summer is nearly upon us, and our June meeting will be held at Bunker 33 Picnic Area on the Weapons Station. This will be our Steak Fest, and paperwork has been submitted to NWSSB for use of the BBQ pits. The Base will provide the meat, plates and utensils, and soft drinks. Please bring a dish to share, bread/butter, or a dessert. The meeting info. on page 5 of this issue defines which type dish to bring based on where your last name fits in the alphabet. This will be another "first" event after the lockdowns scuttled everything for the last couple of years.

Chuck Senior provided some good feedback about USSVI business conducted at the Western Region Roundup held last month in Reno. Organizers of the Roundup will provide an update soon.

If you have not been able to see the newly renovated WWII Submarine Memorial – West, please stop by to take a look. It is SPECTACULAR! The Seal Beach Lions Club did sterling work on refurbishment of the monuments and plaques, repainting all the fixtures, and scrubbing the walkways. They raised the funds, secured the expertise and materials and performed most of the labor. To top the project off, the Navy refurbished the flagstaff, including the halyard and attachments. The Memorial looks as good as it must have when completed nearly fifty years ago.

The City of Huntington Beach has registered us for the Independence Day Parade in that community. It is the largest July 4th parade west of the Mississippi River, and ABC news placed attendance in 2019 (the last regular parade) at over 400,000. We will partner with Bonefish Base and welcome all who wish to participate either marching or riding the *Bonefish* replica or a trailing vehicle.

Our Base continues to be strong in membership and financially, though we have lost several members in recent months to Eternal Patrol. To date, we have 100 members across the country with approximately half living in Southern California, many of whom attend our monthly meetings.

As always, protect your health and safety, and I look forward to seeing you soon at one of our upcoming activities.

*Dave*

Dave Vanderveen, Commander  
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



## Minutes of May 21, 2022 General Meeting

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at the WWII Submarine Memorial site at 1119 hours. Dave then led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by request for a moment of silence for our departed shipmates.

Dave began the meeting by bringing up the completion of the memorial restoration project by the Seal Beach Lions Club. The combined efforts of Restoration Art Techs, numerous Lions Club members, and Simple Green Corporation's donation of cleaning supplies (who Paul has since visited to thank for same) has left the site in the best shape it's been in many years. All the monument cleaning and painting has turned out magnificently. Paul went on to mention that the Seal Beach Lions chapter is the largest in the U.S.—also larger than any Canadian chapter. The work done by the Lions has even been recognized in the Lions Clubs List of Achievements. Further, our L.A.-Pasadena base has sanded and painted or replaced the flagstaff's hardware, which had also been needed for some time.

### Treasurer's Report:

Mike Swanson presented the status of the chapter treasury as of May 20, 2022. Its specific breakdown appears in the E-Board Meeting Minutes as usual.

### Memorial Report:

Dave again mentioned that Paul has been relieved as Memorial Director, due to family demands. He then had some good news for Paul and the base: that Dennis Bott has volunteered to relieve Paul, and this was applauded by all in attendance, none so much as Paul. Dave and Paul will meet with Dennis to assist in the turn-over process. BZ, Dennis, we all appreciate your commitment!

### Memorial Day Preparations:

Earlier on this same day, Boy Scouts from Troop 568 assisted with the hanging of tarps at the memorial site for sound deterrence. On May 28, the Scouts will again assist with this preparation, and will participate on Memorial Day as well. All the necessary items will be retrieved from the storage unit. The speakers, singer, bugler(s) and bagpiper are now set. The Mayor of Seal Beach, Congressperson Michelle Steel, SBWS Cmdr. Captain Sherman, and special speaker Joe Koch are likewise set to go. One mention of importance: Dave said the ceremony begins at 10:00 this year, due to a Weapons Base commitment. Be sure to arrive well before!

### 4th of July Parade:

Bo indicated our parade application has been approved. Bonefish Base will attend as in the past, along with their replica *Bonefish*. The suggestion of donating to the city for the parade was raised, but tabled until the next meeting—by which time the proper official recipient of the donation can be determined.

*(concluded on next page)*



## May General Meeting Sailing List

- Ramon Aguilar
- Ed Barwick
- Herb "Bo" Bolton
- Dennis Bott
- Joe Koch
- Jack Mahan
- Marlene Mahan
- Bill Moak
- Paul Riggs
- Chuck Senior
- Mike Swanson
- Ray Teare
- Dave Vanderveen
- Ron Wagner
- Stan Westrick



## Thanks So Much for All Your Help, Volunteers!

L.A.-Pasadena Base so appreciates your recent assistance in helping us move our memorabilia and Memorial Day gear from Building 6 into public storage. BZ, gents!

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## AmazonSmile Charity Update

Good news, shipmates—this just in from AmazonSmile: This is our quarterly notification to let you know that your selected charity, U.S. Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc., has received a **\$666.66** charitable donation from AmazonSmile. So far, AmazonSmile has donated:

- **\$6,544.59** to U.S. Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc.\*
- **\$334+ million** to U.S. charities
- **\$377+ million** to charities around the world

Remember to shop at smile.amazon.com or using the Amazon app with AmazonSmile turned ON within Settings.

Visit your AmazonSmile impact page to track donations generated, and more.

*(Note: it's easy to set up your account to donate small amounts to USSVI's charity program through your regular Amazon purchases. Check it out!—ed.)*



**PRIDE RUNS DEEP**



## General Meeting Minutes...

*(concluded from previous page)*

### Building 6 Update:

Please refer to specifics contained within the E-board minutes. Shipmate Darin Detwiler took photos and video of our memorabilia within Building 6, prior to its removal and transfer to the storage unit we have rented. Ron Wagner removed all the soda bottles, cans, and beer cans from the building, and enjoyed being bathed in it all as he was emptying the contents.

Our arrangement for storage will likely continue for no less than two years, as we await a possible alternative site on the base. Demolition of Building 6 has been postponed; in the interim it will serve as storage for Base Security while they await construction of a new building. We will utilize Bunker 33 during warmer months for meetings moving forward. When the weather changes, we will likely use the lounge adjacent to the Gymnasium. The exploration of off-base sites will begin in an effort to minimize our expenditure for the storage unit. This will be a primary focus in case no guarantee is forthcoming from the base about future plans for us.

### L.A.-Pasadena Access to Naval Weapons Station:

All but a few security pass applications have been approved. However, the latest were just approved Friday, 5/20, and applicants must be present for a photo, etc. Thus, our meeting was moved to the Memorial site for today.

### The Good of the Order:

Jack mentioned he still has t-shirts available for sale. Contact Jack if interested.

Dave encouraged all to participate in the July 4th parade.

There being no further business, Mike Swanson motioned the meeting be adjourned; Dennis Bott seconded and it was passed by all present, ending the meeting at 1158 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bill Moak**

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

**Steak Fest Mtg. at Bunker 33 Picnic Area!**

## June Meeting

**Date:** June 18, 2022

Until further notice our monthly meetings will take place at the Naval Weapons Station—**NOT AT BLDG. 6**, but at the Bunker 33 Picnic Grounds. We will be meeting at that site on the 3rd Saturday of every month until a new spot is found. **You must present two forms of gov't. I.D. to enter the Base.**

**Location:**

Bunker 33 Picnic Site  
Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station  
800 Seal Beach Boulevard  
Seal Beach, CA 90740

**Time:**

Social Hour: 10:30-11:30  
Lunch: 11:30-12:30  
General Meeting: 12:30

**Lunch:** Steaks plus Pot Luck.

Provision assignments by last name as follows:  
A-H —Dessert or Bread/Butter  
I-R — Salad/Vegetable/Snacks  
S-Z — (More of the above, since steaks will be provided.)



## June Birthdays

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

- Milt Boudov ..... 6/3
- Bob Frazier ..... 6/23
- Ken Dorn ..... 6/26
- Angus McColl..... 6/29

# Important: 6/18 Steak Fest Attendance Information!

**Do we have your attention? Our Base Commander, Dave Vanderveen, reminds everyone that in order to get on the NWSSB Base to attend this month's Steak Fest at the Bunker 33 picnic area, you must present TWO FORMS OF GOV'T.-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION at the gate. These can include your CA Driver's License, Social Security Card, official U.S. Passport, etc. If you have questions, check with Dave, but ...**

## STILL MORE IMPORTANT...

**Even WITH the above I.D., you will not be permitted on the base unless you have previously submitted your security background check application form to Dave. If you haven't yet done this, there's still time if you contact Dave right away at: [lapasadenabase@gmail.com](mailto:lapasadenabase@gmail.com). Hurry!**

**Note: Our Base will provide the steaks, plates, soft drinks and utensils. Please bring a dish to share based on the info. at left.**

### LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

# 2022 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:

Joe Dow (x2) • Ken Dorn (x4!) • Mike Varalyai (RIP)



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

## JUNE TOLLING OF THE BOATS



### USS HERRING (SS-233)

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



### USS R-12 (SS-89)

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



### USS GOLET (SS-361)

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



### USS BONEFISH (SS-223)

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



### USS S-27 (SS-132)

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

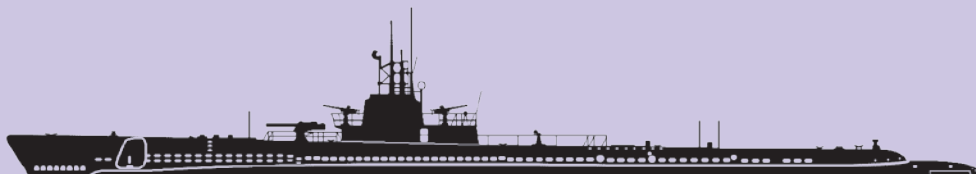
### USS O-9 (SS-70)

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



### USS RUNNER (SS-275)

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



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

# U.S. Navy Investigating Vandalism of Nuclear Sub

(Reproduced from the American Military News website - published April 22, 2022.)

by Ryan Morgan



A 34-ft. Dauntless-class patrol boat transfers supplies to the USS Texas (SSN-775). (U.S.N. photo by Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Kenji Shiroma.)

The U.S. Navy is investigating what they believe was an intentional act of vandalism that damaged equipment within the *Virginia*-class submarine USS *Texas* (SSN-775) in the last month.

The suspected vandalism took place as the USS *Texas* had been undergoing maintenance at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Maine. Shipyard spokesperson Danna Eddy said in a statement reported by the *Portsmouth Herald* on Thursday that federal government equipment on the submarine was damaged on or around March 29 of this year.

The USS *Texas* arrived at Portsmouth in September 2020 and has been undergoing scheduled maintenance and system upgrades since then.

Eddy did not specify what equipment was damaged or describe the extent of the damage, and said the shipyard was unable to comment further about the incident.

The case is currently under investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS).

“The Department of the Navy takes every act of vandalism seriously and we will hold individuals responsible to the fullest extent of the law,” Eddy said.

The USS *Texas* entered service with the Navy in 2006 and is the fourth U.S. Navy vessel and first submarine to bear the state’s name.

The *Virginia*-class submarines are nuclear powered and carry torpedoes, anti-ship Harpoon missiles and land-attack Tomahawk missiles, allowing them to attack other

submarines, surface vessels and land targets.

The *Virginia*-class submarines are designed for traditional submarine missions and operations in near-shore littoral zones. The submarines are also designed with the intent that they can be updated to adapt to future operational needs. The submarines were envisioned as a lower-cost answer to the Cold War-era *Seawolf*-class attack submarines and are currently replacing the older *Los Angeles*-class submarines.

In February, 43-year-old former Navy nuclear engineer Jonathan Toebbe plead guilty in a plot to sell classified military information about the *Virginia*-class submarines to a foreign government. Toebbe’s wife, Diana Toebbe, has also pleaded guilty in the plot.

Prosecutors did not reveal which foreign government the Toebbes were planning to sell the submarine information to, but court filings suggested the communication was with a nation friendly to the U.S. in an unsolicited offer. The *New York Times* later revealed that country to be Brazil when Brazilian officials said they’d received an offer from the Toebbes in a letter that they had turned over to the FBI.

The Navy is currently prosecuting a sailor for alleged vandalism of another ship, the USS *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD-6), related to a July 2020 fire that caused \$3 billion worth of damages to the *Wasp*-class amphibious assault ship, injured sixty-three people involved in the firefighting efforts and ultimately led the Navy to decommission the ship. Seaman Recruit Ryan Sawyer Mays, 20, faces a two-count court-martial case for aggravated arson of and willfully hazarding the ship. Mays denies starting the fire. His trial is set to begin in September.

# Navy Removes Head of San Diego Submarine Training Facility

(Reproduced from The Hill website - published April 29, 2022.)  
by Ellen Mitchell

The Navy has removed the head of its Submarine Training Facility (STF) in San Diego, the service said in a statement Friday.

Cmdr. Jared Severson, the commanding officer of the facility, was relieved of command on Thursday due to a loss of confidence in his ability to lead “based on the findings of a command investigation,” the service said.

STF San Diego, located at Naval Base Point Loma, provides basic training to Navy sailors in the submarine and surface communities.

The Navy did not reveal details of the investigation, only noting that Severson has been reassigned to Submarine Squadron 11 in San Diego.

Lt. Cmdr. Chris Lindahl, executive officer of STF San Diego, has assumed responsibilities of command, the service added.



Severson enlisted in the Navy in 1999 and was designated as a naval strategist in 2018, according to an archived biography on the service’s website.

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SUBMARINES IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

USS <i>Columbia</i> (SSN-771)	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?**  
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## Kings Bay Keeps Ohio Subs at the Ready

(continued from page 1)



Defense Secretary, Dr. Mark T. Esper, tours the Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine USS Rhode Island (SSBN-740) (Blue) with Rear Adm. John Spencer, Commander, Submarine Group Ten, during his visit to Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga., on July 30, 2020. The base is home to all East Coast Ohio-class boats. (U.S.N. photo.)

The base is home to six SSBNs and two SSGNs, as well as the Trident Refit Facility that performs repairs, modernization and overhauls on these boats; the Trident Training Facility; and the Strategic Weapons Facility, Atlantic that supports the submarine-launched nuclear weapons the submarines deploy with. Kings Bay was designed in the 1970s to be completely focused on supporting the Ohio-class boats and the nuclear weapons they carry on their stealthy patrols.

And yet, in just eight years, the base will have to take on a second class of submarine that is larger, has fly-by-wire control systems and will have different maintenance and modernization needs.

As a result, the base is busy keeping up maintenance work, crew training and deployment activities for the Ohio boats even as construction activities begin to make way for USS Columbia's (SSBN-826) delivery to the fleet at Kings Bay in 2028.

"America's ballistic missile submarines remain the most survivable and powerful deterrents on earth. Nuclear modernization is a top priority, especially in our efforts to implement the National Defense Strategy," Esper told *USNI News*.

"We have made great strides in recapitalizing the strategic nuclear triad, as well as maintaining the strength and reliability of our nation's nuclear deterrent."

### Readiness of Aging Subs

USS *Alaska* (SSBN-732) is pier-side at the submarine base, undergoing a major renovation that its designers never planned for. The Ohio class of submarines was built to last for 30 years,

but during the 1990s the Navy asked builder General Dynamics Electric Boat to look into what it would take to extend the service life out to 42 years. The calculations that were made 25 years ago are now proving themselves in real life, as the fleet continues to deploy boats that are well into their 30s now and have surpassed the longest service life of a previous U.S. submarine: USS *Kamehameha* (SSBN-642), which lasted 36 and a half years.

Cmdr. Adam Thomas, the commanding officer of the *Alaska* Gold Crew, told *USNI News* that his submarine is in a year-long maintenance and modernization period in which tanks are being blasted, inspected and re-coated; the sonar and fire control systems are being torn out and replaced with new systems; and the nuclear propulsion system is being maintained to ensure it can operate for the remaining eight years of its life.

This kind of year-long overhaul happens every ten years or so, meaning this third such overhaul was never originally planned for the sub.

"What we're seeing age-wise is what you'd expect from a thirty-four-year-old boat," Thomas said during a tour of the submarine, noting that nothing specifically was wrong with the sub but that there was a lot of routine maintenance work that needed to be done.

He added that there was additional pressure during maintenance periods like this one to get everything right: with the subs being so old and many parts manufacturers no longer in business, there's no room for error.



Defense Secretary, Dr. Mark T. Esper, bumps elbows with Capt. Bill Patterson, commodore, Submarine Squadron 16, prior to his tour aboard the Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Florida (SSGN-728) (Gold) during his visit to Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga., on July 30, 2020. Ohio-class guided-missile subs are capable of carrying up to 154 tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles. The base is home to all East Coast Ohio-class submarines. (U.S.N. photo.)

(continued on page 10)

## Kings Bay Keeps Ohio Subs at the Ready

(continued from page 9)

“This is all we have,” he said of the parts supply, adding that they can’t raid other submarines for parts either because the operational tempo of the fleet is so high.

Each of the *Ohio*-class SSBNs and SSGNs had to undergo a refueling at the thirty-year mark, since the subs’ nuclear reactors were built for exactly thirty years of service. The refuelings took place at Norfolk Naval Shipyard on the East Coast and at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility on the West Coast.

*USNI News* previously reported that each of the two public shipyards was working on its final SSBN refueling now. USS *Wyoming* (SSBN-742) will wrap up at Norfolk by the end of this summer, and then Puget will finish the very last refueling with USS *Louisiana* (SSBN-743).

The rest of the maintenance work for the East Coast *Ohio* subs falls to the workforce at Kings Bay’s Trident Refit Facility, which has a drydock for out-of-water work and helps ship crews conduct pier-side work as well.

### COVID Considerations

The boomers that deploy from Kings Bay have a Blue/Gold

Crew manning construct, and the crews swap out every three months or so to keep the submarine on station for long stretches of time while allowing the crew time at home with family and time for training and re-certifying for critical skills.

However, with COVID-19 posing a threat to personnel everywhere, and especially in hotspots with high positivity rates like Georgia, the Navy has to be particularly careful with personnel at this submarine base.

Thomas told *USNI News* that the deploying crews have a carefully scripted plan that involves going into an individual restriction of movement (ROM) period, quarantining together as a crew, and then finally deploying under the water—with several mandatory COVID tests along the way.

Masks are mandatory on the base, and for subs like *Alaska* that are undergoing maintenance work, temperature checks and health screenings are done for all personnel—sailors, contractors, visitors—that come aboard the sub pier-side.

Thomas said only about a quarter of the submarine’s crew is actually living aboard the sub right now during its year-long maintenance period, and so the dozen nine-person berthing rooms on the boat have been limited to three sailors apiece to

(concluded on page 11)



The Strategic Weapons Facility, Atlantic, is one of the commands at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga.. It handles the East Coast arsenal of submarine-launched nuclear weapons, which the *Ohio*-class SSBNs carry on their nuclear deterrent patrols. (USNI News photo.)

## Kings Bay Keeps Ohio Subs at the Ready

(concluded from page 10)

allow for social distancing.

“Max occupancy: 3. Limited Occupancy in this space as a COVID-19 mitigation,” reads a sign displayed in one of the bunk rooms.

Thomas said his sub at the beginning of the pandemic moved to a duty section rotation that further allows for physical distancing, and the lunch hour was expanded to a two-hour period to avoid gathering too many people at once.

“As a commanding officer, I feel that the Navy has given me the tools that I need” to keep the crew safe and virus-free, he said. “We’ve learned a lot [since the pandemic first started] and we’ve been very effective at managing it.”

### Looking Forward to *Columbia*

Work has already started on the base to prepare for the first-in-class *Columbia*, which is on a tight construction schedule with General Dynamics Electric Boat and Newport News Shipbuilding to deliver to the Navy by 2027 and head to Kings Bay in 2028 for post-delivery testing and trials—all in preparation for the all-important deadline of an October 2030 maiden deployment.

Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay spokesman Scott Bassett told *USNI News* during the visit that work to recapitalize the drydock had already begun, which was needed in part because the *Columbia*-class boats will be larger than their *Ohio*-class counterparts in terms of diameter and displacement.

The drydock modernization, which could cost as much as \$592 million, will “provide extensive repairs to and modernize the dock for use by Trident Refit Facility,” he said.

A contract for the project was awarded on March 20 to Alberici-Mortenson JV, based out of St. Louis, Mo.

Phase A includes construction of temporary facilities for operations that will be displaced during the overhaul of the dock;

overhaul and repair of the steel caisson; and procurement of long-lead materials for the recapitalization, Bassett explained. Phase A is expected to be complete in July, 2021.

Phase B provides for concrete repairs in various locations throughout the drydock; overhauls the bridge cranes; upgrades power distribution, chilled water and the fire detection and alarm system; replaces sluice gates and actuators; replaces all piping; and will upgrade control systems, electronic components and the auxiliary seawater system, he said. This phase will also repair corroded steel members of the drydock superstructure and re-coat the entire superstructure and replace roof and wall panels. Phase B is planned for completion in October of 2022.

Phase C, the final phase of the project, will repair the utility tunnel and replace utility service building equipment and the command, control, communications, computers and intelligence (C4I) infrastructure, Bassett said. Phase C is planned to complete in April 2023.

In order to meet the tight deadlines of this project, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast established a Construction Management Office onsite at NSB Kings Bay with dedicated resources capable of supporting twenty-four-hours-a-day activities.

In addition to the drydock overhaul, the Trident Training Facility will also be expanded to accommodate classrooms for two separate classes of submarine—something the base has not had to handle before. From the time *Columbia* delivers until the final *Ohio*-class SSBN decommissions around 2040, Kings Bay will have to support two classes of submarines simultaneously.

In Fiscal Year 2023, NAVFAC Southeast will build the *Columbia* Trainer Expansion onto the training facility, along with conducting mechanical and electrical systems repairs to the current training facility. The *Columbia* trainer and the mechanical repairs are expected to cost more than \$10 million each, with the electrical repairs expected to cost between \$5 million and \$10 million.

*Ohio-class SSBN submarine on surface. (U.S.N. photo.)*



# Injudicious Language

by Bob “Dex” Armstrong

**I**njudicious? Probably. Inappropriate? No. In fact, make that: *Hell no!*

This stuff is admittedly inappropriate for Little Golden Books, Mr. Rodgers and Captain Kangaroo. Never rode boats with either one of the gentlemen. If either one of them rode submarines, I can assure you the hull numbers were above 571.

There is a theory: The Law of Declining Social Acceptability. The formula states that male communication and gentlemanly behavior deteriorates in direct proportion to distance separating that body of men from mothers. Women... The ladies in our lives are the civilizing influences that keep sailors from living in trees and resorting to cannibalism.

I never met a Chief Petty officer who talked like William F. Buckley. There may have been a couple somewhere, but the bastards didn't ride smokeboats in Subron Six. Neither did anybody's mom. If she had, a lotta guys would have been gargling buckets of soapy water. No, living a life far beyond the gentle influence of the fairer gender led to a rapid vocabulary reduction where words like “frigging thing” and “that gahdam sonuvabitch” could be universally applied to damn near any object on the planet. And everyone understood exactly what you were talking about. For those of you who never found yourself stretched out under a piece of cantankerous machinery weighing more than your family car or a bank vault—with oil dripping in your face—it may be difficult to understand how pointing to something and saying, “Hey Jack, toss me that sonuvabitch,” can relieve you of the mental gymnastics involved in recalling its correct nomenclature.

“Somebody kick that frigging thing over here” and “Hey Topside, bear a hand and drop that big bastard down to me” are fully understood requests to any idiot who ever rode boats powered by the residue of decomposed prehistoric creatures.

Men who rode submersible craft propelled by cosmic pixie dust might have difficulty, but I can assure you that any lad who rode Jimmy and Fairbanks boats understood the universally applied vernacular of the diesel service.

I always wondered what a gal in a convent exclaimed if she happened to drop a bowling ball on her big toe. Boat sailors could have helped them out by providing them with

six or seven words they probably missed.

People say, “Dex, nobody would ever publish your stuff because of all the inappropriate language.”

Inappropriate to what? Sure as hell wasn't inappropriate to diesel submarines.

For those of you wading through this morass of idiocy, let me explain. Somewhere in the New Testament, God speaks to Barnacle Bill... Well, maybe it wasn't God, maybe it was Noah's Chief of the Boat. I can't remember, but it was somebody... And he said:

*“Ye who ride Diesel Boats will be forgiven the use of injudicious language for thou art engaged in toil inside some of the damndest contraptions ever created and ye shall receive blanket amnesty for verbal transgression in the performance of your assigned obligations.”*

That was later extended to cover all the bars on Hampton Boulevard, Naval Operating Bases, sea stories told anywhere, and on liberty anywhere other than within a hundred miles of where your mother and any other female relative were currently geographically located.

I hope this Biblical reference will eliminate—for those of you seeking to save my soul for the use of naughty words—the need to communicate your concern.

A lot of boat sailors have by this time stowed their gear in the “Golden Sidelockers of the Silver Smokeboats in the Sky.” The folks that run the squadron up there are pretty perceptive people. By now, some damned Machinist Mate has to have dropped a harp on his toe, so the language can't come as a startling revelation.

Keep a  
zero bubble . . .

Dex.



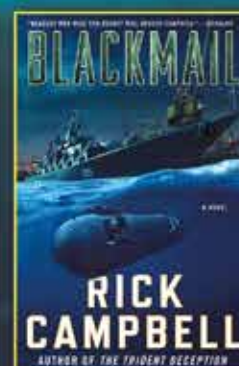
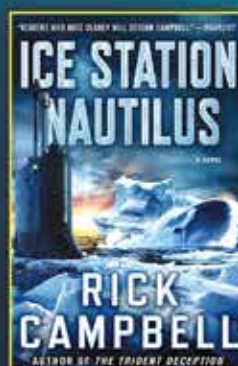
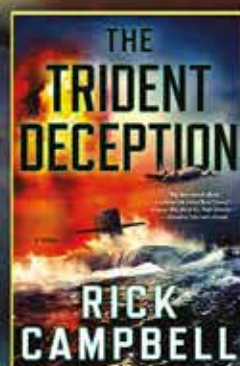
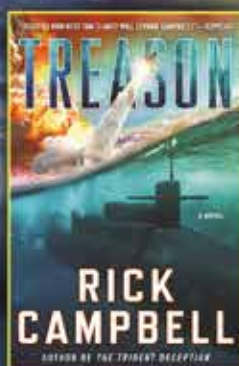
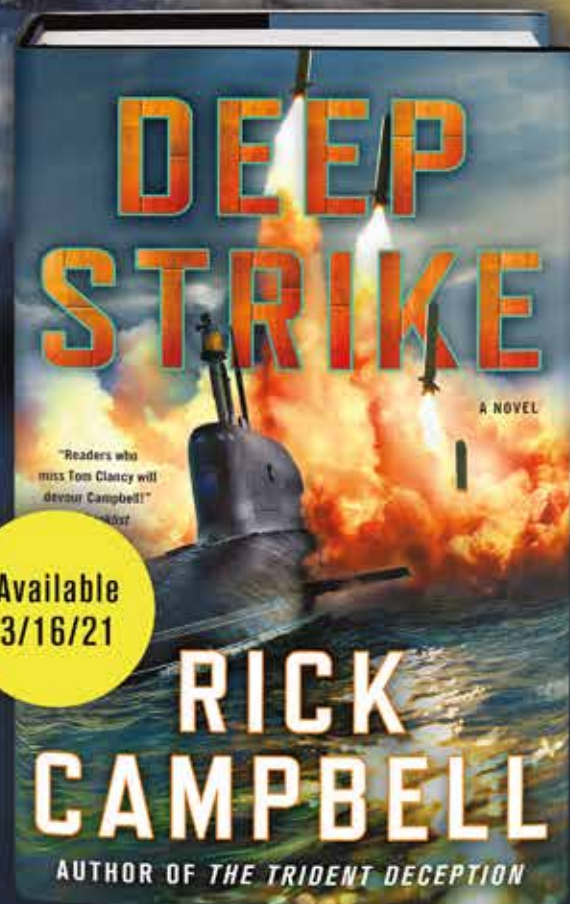
PRIDE RUNS DEEP



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

# DEEP STRIKE

NOW IN PAPERBACK!



Available  
3/16/21

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

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

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

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

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

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

## New Members

We proudly welcome aboard our newest base shipmates:

### Charles R. Hinman

(Associate Member)

Wife: Keiko

2015 Lime Street, Apt. #904  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826-3930  
cell: 808-561-2869  
charles.hinman@gmail.com  
Phone number at *Bowfin*  
Museum: 808-423-1341

### Dr. Darin Steven Detwiler

(E5-MM2SS; served 1986-1994)

Wife: Gennette Zimmer

205 7th Street  
Seal Beach, CA 90740-6180  
cell: 425-232-5743  
ddetwiler680@gmail.com  
Qualified in 1989 on the  
USS *William H. Bates* (SSN-680)

### Robert "Bob" John Frazier

EMC-SS E-7 CPO; served '78-'94)

4278 Hill Avenue  
Fullerton, CA 92833-3430  
cell: 714-931-8654

Uboatman@gmail.com

Qualified in 1981 on the  
USS *Tautog* (SSN-639)—'80-'85  
USS *Rich. B. Russell* (SSN-687) '89-'92

### Robert "Mike" Cailor (returning)

(EM1-SS E6; served '64-'71)

Wife: Rebecca

2514 Elm St., Seffner, FL 33584-5812  
cell: 813-585-7615  
rmcgfish@gmail.com  
Qualified in 1968 on the  
USS *Guardfish* (SSN-612)

### Edward "Ed" Elliot Kushins

(LT-03SS; served '68-'79)

Wife: Mary Hamilton

45 16th Street  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-3402  
phone: 310-345-3562  
edkushins@gmail.com  
Qualified on the USS *Flasher*  
(SSN-613)—'69-'71, LTJG.

### Ramon O. Aguilar (returning)

(E5-ET Radio Div.; 1996-2001)

22736 Jody Lane  
Carson, CA 90745-3603  
cell: 562-303-0866  
octiviano89@gmail.com  
Qualified in 1998 on the USS  
*City of Corpus Christi* (SSN-705)



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

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

*Marilyn Senior recently sent us this beloved bit of local subvet history: the last known group photo of the collected Los Angeles area U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII Wives' organization. Her comments are below. Many thanks for sharing, Marilyn!—ed.*



*Left to right, standing: Marilyn Senior, Sharon Kaye Bell, Barbara Hudspeth, Charlene Hughes, Bea Reynolds, Bonnie Ryerson, Ethel Chavis, Shawn McPherson, Jan Maynard and Barbara Bolton.*

*Left to right, seated: Dorothy Clobes, Kaye Staggs, Sally Moran and Flora Thomas.*

I'm forwarding this photo to those interested in one of the last pictures taken of the Wives of WWII Group. Shawn McPherson and I were Associate Members. Sadly, there are so few of us left in 2022.

I was fortunate enough to be Secretary of the Wives of WWII group one year and their Treasurer another year for before it was disbanded due to attrition. Loved every minute of it. I am currently also an Associate Member of United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. and our Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, and have been the Membership Recordkeeper for our group for the past fifteen years. I was also Treasurer for one-and-a-half years.

Kindest personal regards,

Marilyn Senior, Membership  
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base USSVI  
1278 W. Sepulveda Street  
San Pedro, CA 90732-2948  
email: marilyn.senior@gmail.com  
Cell: 310-503-3915



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

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

- Gerard A. Krudwig ..... 2022
- Gregory M. Paulson ..... 2022
- Michael J. Swanson ..... 2022
- Ralph J. Hansen ..... 2021
- Robert F. Schive, Sr. .... 2021
- Larry D. Long ..... 2021
- G. Judson "Jud" Scott, Jr. .... 2021
- Edward E. Kushins ..... 2020
- Bruce Evan Neighbors ..... 2020
- David H. Vanderveen ..... 2019
- Philip J. Jaskoviak ..... 2019
- Dennis Bott ..... 2018
- James A. Burnett ..... 2018
- Robert "Mike" Cailor ..... 2018
- Robert Miller ..... 2018
- John A. Anderson ..... 2017
- Roger C. Dunham, MD. .... 2017
- Richard McPherson ..... 2017
- Harry "Bill" Moak ..... 2017
- Louis A. Myerson ..... 2017
- Elliot Rada ..... 2017
- Ronald G. Wagner ..... 2017
- Dennis J. Walsh ..... 2017
- Michael Kish ..... 2016
- Gary Wheaton ..... 2016
- Lawrence R. Butler ..... 2015
- Samuel T. Higa ..... 2015
- Harry P. Ross ..... 2015
- Stephen C. Rowe ..... 2015
- Charles H. Senior ..... 2015
- Larry E. Smith ..... 2015

*(concluded next page)*



**Los Angeles-Pasadena Base  
2022 Calendar of Upcoming Events**

- January 15: Monthly Meeting via Zoom Conference
- February 19: Monthly Meeting at Taco Surf Restaurant
- March 19 Monthly Meeting at Taco Surf Restaurant
- April 16 Monthly Meeting Cancelled
- May 7 Lion's Club Memorial Plaque Refit Reception at the Submarine Memorial, West - 1600-1700
- May 14 Field Day/Prep at the Memorial Site - 0900
- May 21 Hang Up the Tarp at Memorial Site - 0900  
Monthly Meeting at the Memorial site  
Call for participants in the  
Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
- May 30 Memorial Day Service - 1100  
Submarine Memorial, West
- May 28 More Tarp Prep at the Memorial Site
- June 18 **STEAK FEST at Monthly Meeting at Bunker 33  
Picnic Area; Nominations for 2023 Base Officers**
- July 4 115th Annual...  
Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
- July 16 LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic  
Bunker 33, Seal Beach Weapons Station
- August 20 Monthly Meeting - "Hawaii" Theme  
2023 Base Officer Candidates Announced
- September 17 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
Election of Officers
- October 15 Monthly Meeting  
Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
- November 19 Monthly Meeting - Thanksgiving Theme
- December 10 Annual Christmas Luncheon  
at the Los Alamitos Golf Course

*(Holland Club Roster, continued)*

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  
 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  
 Paul A. Riggs..... 2008  
 Rex L. Shields..... 2008  
 John L. Von Ulmen ..... 2008  
 Francis R. Traser..... 2006  
 Ronald K. Thompson..... 2004  
 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  
 \*Royal Harrison, Jr. .... 1995  
 \*Sterling F. Higgins ..... 1995  
 \*Robert Clair Koplin..... 1995  
 \*William J. Dillon..... 1993  
 \*Harold Staggs..... 1992



## E-Board Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2022

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted on the morning of Saturday, May 21, 2022.

### In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Ed Barwick, Base Vice Commander
- Bill Moak, Secretary
- Mike Swanson, Treasurer
- Ray Teare, Base COB
- Herb “Bo” Bolton, Director
- Chuck Senior, Director
- Paul Riggs, Memorial Director
- Joe Koch, Member
- Dennis Bott, Member

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the meeting at the WWII Submarine Memorial site to order at 1020 hours. He began by covering the approval status of base security applications: all but a few have now been completed.

Minutes of the March meeting were reviewed with no revisions requested. Bill Moak moved to accept the Minutes; this was seconded by Ray Teare and approved by voice vote.

### Treasurer’s Financial Report: Mike Swanson

The Treasurer’s Report as of May 20, 2022 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Mike Swanson:

Checking	\$7,334.80
Savings	\$14,885.28
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$00.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,270.08</b>

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

Income:	\$100.00
Expenses:	\$224.00

### Flower/Booster Club Additions:

Ken Dorn	\$100.00
----------	----------

<b>Inkind Donations:</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>
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Again, there were no questions or corrections. Ed Barwick moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report; it was seconded by Dave Vanderveen and approved by voice vote.

Mike then made a motion to open a new account at Pacific Premier Bank, since Wells Fargo, our current bank, has lately been placing too many restrictions on us and making impossible requests. Dave requested Marilyn Senior be added to the list of signers with access to the new account, in addition to himself as Base Commander and Mike as Treasurer. Chuck Senior then seconded Mike’s motion—including Dave’s request to add Marilyn to the account—and it was approved by voice vote. Mike indicated the need to make a small deposit first, prior to transferring the account’s funds—then the Wells Fargo account will be closed.

*(concluded on next page)*



## Maryland Couple Tried to Sell Nuclear Submarine Secrets to Brazil, Report Says

(Reproduced from MSN News website; first published 3/16/22)  
by Alex Woodward

### Navy engineer accused of passing nuclear submarine secrets in a peanut butter sandwich...

A former U.S. naval engineer and his wife pleaded guilty to selling closely guarded nuclear submarine plans to a person they believed represented a foreign government, but federal prosecutors and court proceedings have shielded the name of that country over the last two years.

According to *The New York Times*, Jonathan and Diana Toebbe agreed to approach a country that sought such designs but did not pose a threat to the U.S.: Brazil.

In 2020, Mr. Toebbe negotiated the trade of *Virginia*-class nuclear submarine plans—hidden in memory cards stored in a sandwich, a Band-Aid and a gum wrapper—for thousands of dollars in cryptocurrency, according to federal prosecutors.

The FBI reportedly obtained a package intended for Brazilian officials that contained operational manuals and other information—all marked “CONFIDENTIAL”—as well as instructions to communicate with the sender in what appeared to be an attempt to establish a covert relationship, court documents revealed.

Court proceedings and

(continued on next page)

## E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

### Memorial Report:

Paul mentioned the base’s work done on the flagstaff. The sanding, painting and replacement of old hardware has turned out well.

Prior to this meeting, Boy Scouts from Troop 568 assisted in hanging the tarps along the fence facing Seal Beach Blvd.—only to have the base PD come by and insist all be removed except those within the grassy area at the Memorial. Dave will contact the Weapons Station concerning this in hopes of obtaining approval to extend the tarps as has always been done in the past.

### Director’s Relief:

Dennis Bott has volunteered to replace Paul Riggs as Memorial Director. BZ Dennis, and good luck! Your commitment to the base is both admirable and appreciated by all.

### 4th of July Parade:

L.A.-Pasadena Base’s parade application has been approved, and we will be joined by the Bonefish Base and their *Bonefish* replica, always a big hit with the crowd.

### Building 6 Update:

All our memorabilia, flags and other items have been removed and transferred to a storage unit. A change to the building’s demolition date has occurred, since Base Security will be using the building for the storage of some of their materials.

The only remaining items of ours are the bricks in the back room. We have received an okay to store them there until we can endeavor to move them as well.

The storage unit now housing our items is a clean, accessible place, in a good location. Once Security relocates, we hope to have space available in that vacated building, and hopefully our items can once again be displayed. That is two-to-three years down the road.

### L.A.-Pasadena Access to Naval Weapons Station:

Nearly all our security clearance applications have been submitted, with a large number already having been processed. While another large number had recently been approved, this did not occur in time for today’s meeting, so the Memorial site was chosen as an alternate.

### Good of the Order:

Joe Koch espoused looking for an off-base location for our future meetings. Chuck mentioned the potential outlay for storage at around \$8,000 as prohibitive, and alternatives must be made available. Dave asked if we wanted to formalize a motion to look for alternate sites. Joe Koch made the motion, it was seconded by Dennis Bott and approved by voice vote. Steps will begin to be taken to accomplish this issue.

Bill asked whether the final program had been established for this Memorial Day. Dave confirmed all is in place. Dave will do the tolling, Harold Staggs will be bellringer and all the other spots have been set. The program will include the Seal Beach Mayor, Congressperson Steel, Captain Sherman and Joe Koch as main speaker.

There being no further business, Bill Moak motioned the meeting be adjourned; Ray Teare seconded and it was passed by all present, ending the meeting at 1106 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bill Moak*

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

## Nuke Sub Secrets Sold

(continued from previous page)

officials with the U.S. Dept. of Justice did not reveal what country Mr. Toebbe tried to contact. But according to *The New York Times*, citing Brazilian officials and people briefed on the investigation, Mr. Toebbe sent a package to Brazil's military intelligence agency in April of 2020 with an offer to trade thousands of pages of classified documents about nuclear reactors he had obtained through the U.S. Navy. Brazilian officials then handed the letter to the FBI.

*The Independent* has requested comment from the U.S. Attorney's office for the Northern District of West Virginia.

Federal prosecutors have never alleged that the Toebbes ever actually managed to share submarine plans with a foreign power or that another country obtained the information they tried to sell, only that the couple believed they were sharing such information with a non-adversarial power.

One week before Russian forces invaded Ukraine, Brazil's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro reportedly discussed nuclear submarine technology with officials during a trip to Moscow, following Brazil's years-long programme to introduce nuclear-powered submarines into its naval fleet.

The meeting drew criticism from President Joe Biden's administration, with the White House press secretary saying that the Bolsonaro administration "appeared to

(concluded on next page)



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

## FOX Traffic:

### Bulletins from USSVI—Regional and National

*Shipmates and Ladies,*

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

*Dave*

## USSVI Western Region Roundup

A Gathering of Submariners



Shipmates,

Our goal for the Western Region Roundup in Reno last week was to provide a way for Submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. By all accounts from those who were there, the event was a huge success. The committee worked hard to produce a fun few days and took the time to listen for guidance on how we can improve as we move forward. We want to say thank you all those who attended, and to the bases, individuals and vendors who supported us. Bravo Zula!

The WRR Committee voted to accept the proposal from Gold Country Base to host the event in Sacramento next year. The planning will begin in a few weeks, and we will keep you posted on the date, time, and location.

Best Regards,  
Western Region Roundup Committee

Regional Director: Vic Van Horn, Perch  
Chair/Public Affairs: Barry Wyatt, Gold Country  
Vice Chair: Jim DeMot, Bremerton  
Trea./Reg./Contracts: Tim Carlisle, Mare Island  
Secretary: Pete Juhos, Gold Country  
Webmaster: Gene Kellar, Rocky Mountain

*Shipmates and Ladies,*

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

*Dave*

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

Date: May 1, 2022

Subject: USSVI VSO NEWS FOR May 2022

Submitted by: John Dudas, USSVI VSO

(continued on next page)

## Nuke Sub Secrets Sold

(concluded from previous page)

be on the opposite side of the global community.”

A senior Biden administration official said this week that “broadly speaking, we believe that seeking to acquire Russian military technology is a bad bet for any country.”

Jonathan and his wife Diana Toebbe, a teacher, both of Annapolis, Maryland, initially pleaded not guilty to charges against them on October 20th. An indictment accuses them of conspiracy to communicate restricted data and two counts of communication of restricted data.

In February, the couple pleaded guilty to conspiring to sell restricted data.

As part of her plea deal in U.S. District Court—which could come with a prison sentence of up to three years—Ms. Toebbe admitted that she “knowingly and voluntarily joined a conspiracy” with her husband, including acting as a “lookout” while he performed “drops” of restricted information.

Under his plea agreement, Mr. Toebbe could be sentenced up to seventeen years in prison and has agreed to assist federal investigators with recovering classified documents and cryptocurrency funds he received in exchange.

A sentencing date is set for August 16, 2022.



PRIDE RUNS DEEP

## USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

(continued from previous page)

Plans for Hospital Closures as Part of Military Health System Reform Forging Ahead After Pause

<https://bit.ly/37bwcgA>

Navy Halts Discharges of Sailors with COVID-19 Religious Exemption Requests

<https://bit.ly/376XBjE>

Defense Department Isn't Reviewing Doctors, Putting Patients in Danger, Watchdog Says

<https://bit.ly/3w0dqAZ>

Troops Slated for Largest Pay Raise in 20 Years Under Pentagon Budget but Inflation Looms

<https://bit.ly/3vXr5sz>

Five VA Facilities Chosen to Start Service Dog Program for Veterans with PTSD

<https://bit.ly/3Fgn2Ms>

VA Asks for 22% Increase in Spending on Medical Care as Part of Record \$301 Billion Budget

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

VA Was on a Path to Kick 90% of Legacy Caregivers Out of Program Before Review Suspension

<https://bit.ly/3s69rSC>

Tricare Expands Coverage for Laser Hair Removal

<https://bit.ly/3w0dFfn>

With Hour-Long Drives and Weeks Until Appointments, Pregnant Military Women Feel Pain of Medical Reforms

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

The Navy Is Deputizing Doctors to Enforce Drug Rules Even for Those Seeking Mental Health Help

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

Navy Medicine Still Trains Medics on Live Animals; Veterans Want It to Stop

<https://bit.ly/3vZd7Xd>

Navy Secretary Pulls Sexual Harassment Investigative Authority from Unit Commanders

<https://bit.ly/3Fa9MJ3>

Four New Burial Sites with Capacity for More Than 300,000 Veterans and Their Families Part of VA Plans

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

John Dudas

[john.dudas.ssn571@gmail.com](mailto:john.dudas.ssn571@gmail.com)

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*Shipmates and Ladies,*

*Here's info. for those of you who plan to attend the National Convention.*

*Dave*

(continued on next page)

## USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

*(continued from previous page)*

From: Rocky Rockers <rockymt1ss@gmail.com>  
Date: Monday, May 16, 2022  
Subject: Fwd: Convention hotel issues  
Submitted by: Fred Marazita <buffalocon2022@gmail.com>

To all:

Please share this information with your membership.

We have been having a number of issues with people trying to make hotel reservations at the Hyatt only to be told that there is nothing available.

This is incorrect.

We are trying to work with the hotel management to correct the issue. Please be patient and try again the next day or two.

I will send out another email when I believe the issue has been resolved

I look forward to seeing everyone in “The Buff.”

Fred “Fritz” Marazita  
Buffalo Base - Home of the 2022 USSVI National Convention  
Buffalo Base/EN5 District Commander  
“Do not interfere with the affairs of dragons  
for you are crunchy and good with ketchup!”

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*Shipmates and Ladies,*

*Forwarding USSVI correspondence to L.A.-Pasadena Base members. Please note that our base information is up-to-date on the current website. Marilyn stays on top of that very well.*

*Dave*

From: USSVI POC: William C. Andrea <NJVC@USSVI.ORG>  
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022  
Subject: New Website Monthly Briefing  
Submitted by: Tim Carlisle

Good morning, USSVI. Here is the monthly update regarding the website.

We have successfully combined the seven databases and appended them into one and delivered the backup to Blackbaud on May 5th—two days early. Our initial conclusion regarding size constraints was wrong; apparently, there was a different reason for the seven databases. This was a herculean effort to make this happen in six weeks. My cost estimate to have a company do this work would have been \$150-\$250K just to convert everything. Blackbaud’s estimate is twelve-sixteen weeks to go live after receiving the backup—based on that prediction, this would likely be August, 2022.

The website and database will be shut down on the current virtual server on 6/1/22. Action Item: For Base Commanders: please download all of your member data by 6/1/22 just to be safe.

There will be a dark period (no website) between 6/1/22 and 6/15/22. This will give us time to test the rebuilt old website. There are a lot of moving parts to make work and the work is tedious. This discussion took place 5/15 (yesterday). 726 connections between the website and the database will have to be changed out (obsolete), and over 1400

*(continued on next page)*

## USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

*(continued from previous page)*

web pages require modification. That's just for starters. I will provide more information as it becomes available.

One other thing our team will be doing: taking Eternal Patrol and Boat Reunion data (requiring updates as well as static data—Lost Boats, etc.) and placing that data on another website. This site will be linked to the main USSVI website. The primary reason is cost effectiveness. We have over 44,000 Eternal Patrol records as an example—adding those to the Blackbaud database would be extremely expensive.

We have a very inexpensive hosting site for this new website, maintained by one of our members. Most importantly, this will provide a level of maintenance that will allow us to take care of all USSVI data for the foreseeable future. The website team is committed to taking on all online USSVI data so that we don't wind up in the situation we have been in these past few years.

I recently briefed the Board of Directors and District Commanders with all this. Now I am coming to meet with Base Commanders and Membership Chairs by Region on Zoom. I plan to talk for 8-10 minutes, then will answer any questions you have until we are done. I have already spoken with the Western and Southeast Regions. I also will record one of the upcoming sessions and put it on Youtube and send out the link.

We also will be providing training as the project goes on—both on Zoom and through short, three- to four-minute (max) tutorial videos. These videos will include voiceovers and screen recordings to show you exactly what you will need to do for functionality. A manual is also in the works. All trainers will either be SubVets or close family of same.

If you have questions, please contact me at [ussviwebsitequestions@gmail.com](mailto:ussviwebsitequestions@gmail.com). I will be monitoring the email and be happy to answer any questions. I will also likely put together a Frequently Asked Questions file (FAQ) as time goes by. Talk to you next month!

Tim Carlisle

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*Shipmates and Ladies,  
Further info. regarding the convention.  
Dave*

From: Rocky Rockers <[rockymt1ss@gmail.com](mailto:rockymt1ss@gmail.com)>  
Date: Monday, May 16, 2022  
Subject: Fwd: Convention hotel issues update  
Submitted by: Fred Marazita <[buffalocon2022@gmail.com](mailto:buffalocon2022@gmail.com)>

I was able to discuss the registration issue with the hotel management this morning and they were able to discover the issue was with their link. I have been assured it is now fixed and everyone should be able to complete their hotel reservations for the convention.

Please pass this information on to your Base Commander for distribution to their membership.

Fred "Fritz" Marazita  
Buffalo Base - Home of the 2022 USSVI National Convention  
Buffalo Base/EN5 District Commander  
"Do not interfere with the affairs of Dragons  
for you are crunchy and good with ketchup!"

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

*(concluded on next page)*

## USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

*(concluded from previous page)*

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

Date: May 25, 2022

Subject: Memorial Day Message

Submitted by: Wayne Standerfer, National Commander

Shipmates,

Monday, May 30th is Memorial Day.

It is not a day of joyful celebration, but a unique American day of remembrance and honor for all of our military men and women from all branches of service who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our great nation.

Take a few moments during this day to read the wording of our USSVI Purpose/Creed, which conveys the reasoning for the special emphasis we put on our submarine shipmates who have departed on Eternal Patrol.

The purpose/creed of USSVI is "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."

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, USSVI shall provide a way for all submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. The USSVI supports a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today.

Stay safe and enjoy this very special day of remembrance,

All the Best,  
Wayne Standerfer  
USSVI National Commander

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*Shipmates,*

*Here's unpleasant information for those who knew Warren Branges of San Diego Base.*

*Dave*

From: Rocky Rockers <rockymt1ss@gmail.com>

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022

Subject: Eternal Patrol Report

San Diego Base USSVI Members,

I am sending this message with a very heavy heart. Our immediate past Base Commander, Warren G. Branges, commenced Eternal Patrol last evening.

Services are pending. I will send Service and Memorial details as they are received. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and family.

Jack E. Kane, YNC(SS), USN, (retired)  
Secretary, San Diego Base USSVI  
619-602-1801

Shipmates,

It is with deep sorrow that I must report yet another of our longtime members has departed on Eternal Patrol: Jim Burnett. He was 78 years old. For the past few years, Jim has lived in Idaho to be close to his son. It was Jim's daughter who notified me of his passing.

**James Lowell Burnett** was a Life Member of United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. for 23 years, and also an Annual Member of our Los Angeles-Pasadena Base.

He qualified on the USS *Greenling* (SSN-614) in 1968. He also served on the USS *Lafayette* (SSBN-616) and the USS *Andrew Jackson* (SSBN-619). He then reported for Naval Reserve Duty. Jim had joined the Navy in 1967; he left in 1973 with the final rank of E-6 Petty Officer 1st Class. He was a Holland Club Member for fifty-four years.

Jim received the National Defense Service Medal, plus the Polaris Deterrent Patrol Insignia and Navy Unit Commendation.

I will always remember Jim enjoying the fun at our Christmas parties; he was also always the hit of the parade with his vintage car on July 4th at our base's annual appearance at the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade. How everyone loved that old automobile.

He was certainly a beloved member of our Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, contributing greatly to our gatherings. He will be much missed.

Jim is survived by a daughter and a son. I'm including their contact information below so you can send a note, a sympathy card, and/or an email to let them know how we all cared for Jim. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. I know that their hearing from some of Jim's shipmates would be very much appreciated. They are planning a private ceremony on Memorial Day to return Jim's ashes to the sea. Our Base Commander, David Vanderveen, will of course be sending USSVI Eternal Patrol Certificates to Jim's family.

Daughter: Corine Macias  
10324 Shoech Way  
Elk Grove, California 95757-3530  
phone: (916) 714-5948  
email: corin.em@hotmail.com

Son: James W. Burnett  
28 Ridgeview Way  
Boise, Idaho 83716-2900  
phone: (208) 580-4317  
email: burnettster@gmail.com

May God Bless and keep you all safe.

Regards,

*Marilyn*

Marilyn Senior, Membership  
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, USSVI  
1278 W. Sepulveda Street  
San Pedro, CA 90732-2948  
email: marilyn.senior@gmail.com  
cell: 310-503-3915

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





**USS Seawolf (SSN-21)**

*The nation's most advanced attack submarine, Seawolf (SSN-21), puts to sea in the Narragansett Bay operating area for her first at-sea trial operations on July 3, 1996. The Seawolf represents the Navy's most advanced quieting technology, weaponry, tactical capability and communications. (U.S.N./General Dynamics photo.)*

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

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|-----------|----------|-----------|
| SEALION   | CISCO    | HARDER    |
| S-36      | S-44     | SEAWOLF   |
| S-26      | DORADO   | DARTER    |
| SHARK I   | WAHOO    | SHARK II  |
| PERCH     | CORVINA  | TANG      |
| S-27      | SCULPIN  | ESCOLAR   |
| GRUNION   | CAPELIN  | ALBACORE  |
| S-39      | SCORPION | GROWLER   |
| ARGONAUT  | GRAYBACK | SCAMP     |
| AMBERJACK | TROUT    | SWORDFISH |
| GRAMPUS   | TULLIBEE | BARBEL    |
| TRITON    | GUDGEON  | KETE      |
| PICKEREL  | HERRING  | TRIGGER   |
| GRENADIER | GOLET    | SNOOK     |
| RUNNER    | S-28     | LAGARTO   |
| R-12      | ROBALO   | BONEFISH  |
| GRAYLING  | FLIER    | BULLHEAD  |
| POMPANO   |          |           |

