



PRIDE RUNS DEEP



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

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our own Darin Detwiler will be guest speaker at the Seal Beach City Rotary Club meeting on Tuesday, March 25. Don't miss it!

For more info., visit:

<https://sealbeachcity-rotary.com/event/club-luncheon-11/>

—Jeff

Block IV Virginia Class is the Best Submarine the Navy Ever Built

(Reproduced from the 1945 website - Published January 5, 2025)

by Brent M. Eastwood



Virginia-class attack submarine. (Image: Creative Commons.)

Key Points and Summary: The U.S. Navy's Block IV *Virginia*-class fast attack submarines, including the recently launched *Massachusetts* (SSN-798), are replacing *Los Angeles*-class submarines with superior speed, stealth, and versatility.

- Equipped for SEAL insertion, intelligence missions, and Tomahawk cruise missile strikes, these subs offer increased survivability and reduced maintenance downtime.
- Their *Virginia* Payload Module boosts firepower significantly, making them crucial for Indo-Pacific strategies.
- Amid debates over reallocating aircraft carrier funds to submarine programs, the U.S. faces pressure to balance its naval acquisitions, especially given China's growing maritime presence.
- A strategic focus on simultaneous submarine and carrier investments is vital for future maritime dominance.

(continued on page 11)



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From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen,
Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

Soon after you receive this month's newsletter, we will host the Western Region Roundup aboard RMS *Queen Mary*. This "Gathering of Submariners" totals 141 of us and some of our family members aboard a unique piece of maritime history. The *Queen Mary* had run many trans-Atlantic crossings as a luxury liner and during World War II as a troop transport. She carried passengers in stunning comfort for over thirty years until intercontinental jet aircraft made such trips quicker and less costly. She's now been a fixture on the Long Beach waterfront for over fifty years, and has recently been renovated to display much of her original opulence. We will include photographs of the Roundup in our April issue of the *Periscope*!

Recently, Sue Bolton transitioned into her job as our Base Treasurer and has quickly come up to speed in work that can sometimes be overwhelming because of the volume of activity during meetings. She was actually elected last September and installed in October, but as a Base we chose some years ago to have the outgoing Treasurer continue working through the end of the calendar year so End-of-Year tax reporting can continue smoothly.

The Treasurer job opened because Mike Swanson had served the maximum allowable term under our By-laws. His six years in that job were a huge challenge because of changes in banking regulations which led us to change some things we were doing and to move our accounts to another institution. He also streamlined and automated our accounting process to align better with USSVI's tax reporting tools. In late 2023, I found other bases in Western District 6 struggled with basic bookkeeping and tax reporting, so arranged with Mike to provide his tools to those bases. Altogether, Mike did sterling work as our Treasurer. Rather than retire, he took on the role of Treasurer for the Western Region Roundup Committee. Bravo Zulu, Mike, and thank you!

There is some kind of new respiratory "crud" among us, so as always please apply your good sense to protect your health, especially in crowds. We want to continue seeing you!

Dave

Dave Vanderveen, Commander
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



Feb. General Meeting Sailing List

Sue Bolton
Dennis Bott
Kathleen Carder
Ken Dorn
Ron Jones
Joe Koch
Jack Mahan
Bill Moak
Greg Paulson
Vanessa Paulson
David Semrau
Chuck Senior
Marilyn Senior
Mike Swanson
Ray Teare
Dave Vanderveen
Dennis Walsh
Stan Westrick



Minutes of February 15, 2025 General Meeting

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at the VFW Hall in Anaheim at 1115 hours. Dave then led the Pledge of Allegiance, following that with reciting the USSVI Purpose and adding a request for a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates.

Dave noted that the E-Board had reviewed and accepted the January meeting Minutes into the base record, and that they're posted in the *Periscope* as usual.

Treasurer's Report:

Sue Bolton presented her Treasurer's Report. Dave explained that our By-Laws require that the Treasurer's Report must be presented to the membership present at the General Meeting, and that it is also published in the *Periscope*. (*The report appears in the E-Board Meeting Minutes elsewhere in this issue as usual.—ed.*)

Memorial Report:

Dennis Bott reported that the Submarine Memorial is in good condition, and that he will discuss the Chamber of Commerce flower placement plan with Darin Detwiler. Also, Dave reported the Requests for Proposal which have been sent but which have been declined, and that we are working with three possible alternative companies for the placement of our Memorial bricks. More to come.

Membership Update:

Membership Chairwoman Marilyn Senior reported that as of February 14 our base has 99 total members, 66 Holland Club Members, 67 USSVI Life Members, and 64 base Life Members. One of our dual members, John Michael Lucio (Bonefish Base Commander) has not as yet renewed his membership to L.A.-Pasadena Base. Also, it was discovered after our previous meeting that one of our long-term members, John Allan Andersen, had departed on Eternal Patrol on November 10, 2024. Further information regarding John has been emailed around and will be reported in the *Periscope*. (*See page 15—ed.*)

Western Region Roundup, 2025:

Dave noted the folks who have committed to handle specific tasks at the Roundup, and several additional folks also stepped up for Registration work. **THANK YOU!**

(concluded on next page)



Binnacle List

Keep these shipmates in your thoughts; better yet, get in touch!

• **Sam Aboulafia** has moved out of hospice but has contracted COVID and is currently in quarantine.
cell: 702-274-7256
email: Aboulafiasam@gmail.com

c/o C.W. Young Veterans Hospital
10000 Bay Pines Blvd.
Bldg.71 CLC East
Bay Pines, Florida 33744-8200

• **Mike Cailor**, member and former base cmdr., has pneumonia while still on dialysis three days a week. He'd love some buddy contact at:
2514 Elm Street
Seffner, FL 33584-5809
cell: 813-585-7615
email: rmcgfish@gmail.com

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)

March Meeting News:

Dave noted the popularity of the October and January meetings held at restaurants and that the Board chose to return to the Brewery in Anaheim for our March meeting. If that cannot be done we'll return to Taco Surf in Los Alamitos. More to come.

The Good of the Order:

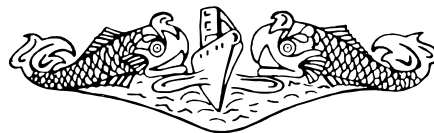
Dave will send out the Eternal Patrol guide for discussions with family members so they can know who to contact when one of us departs, and further know what assistance is available through USSVI. Also, a request was made to resume video meetings or to record our meetings and publish on a social media outlet. Dave will discuss this with Darin Detwiler.

There being no further business, Joe Koch motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Dennis Bott and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1150 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Vanderveen

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



PRIDE RUNS DEEP

**March Meeting
at Radiant Brewery!**

March Meeting

Date: Mar. 15, 2025

This month we're holding our reg. meeting at Radiant Brewery in Anaheim. There'll be craft beer and good eats, but remember to bring your wallet—your lunch is on you, not on the base. See ya there!

11:00 a.m.:

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

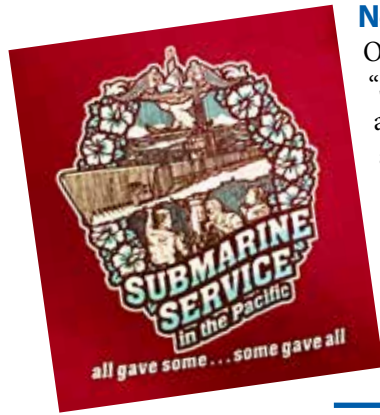


March Birthdays

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

- Bill Soulé..... 3/2
- Richard McPherson..... 3/4
- Arthur B. Schwartz, Jr. ... 3/11
- Ed Kushins..... 3/15
- Frank M. Berezney 3/22
- Mari-Lynn Lake 3/25
- Lee Melody 3/26
- Michael Klein..... 3/27

Ship's Store



New Reduced Price on T-Shirts!

Our ever-popular L.A.-Pasadena Base "Submarine Service" tees are once again selling like fresh whites after a fall down the pump room hatch! Now a mere **ten bucks** apiece, there's no reason not to have a closetful. Contact Bill Moak for yours, or just bring a few extra bucks to the next meeting, you skinflint!

2025 Calendars Still Available!

Order your calendar through Bill Moak or the National Storekeeper. See the ad elsewhere in this issue of *The Periscope*.



Get in touch with our base Storekeeper, Bill Moak, at golfnsurf46@aol.com for more information!



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



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



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

LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

2025 FLOWER FUND and BOOSTER CLUB

A special thank you to the following folks whose generous contributions this year have helped make our base activities and charitable functions possible:

- Bill Dillon • Bud Fox • Bob Schieve
- Scott Hultner • Willie Williamson • Ken Dorn
- Harold Staggs estate • Ed Barwick



Booster Club and Flower Fund donations are welcome in any amount and are often also popular with 50/50 Drawing winners at our base meetings. Contributions can be made in cash or by check payable to L.A.-Pasadena Base of USSVI. Checks may also be sent to Sue Bolton at 13561 Iowa Street, Westminster, CA 92683-2637. To ensure proper credit, be sure to indicate Booster Club or Flower Fund on your check. Thanks!

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE LOSSES ON ETERNAL PATROL

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

— Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, USN

MARCH TOLLING OF THE BOATS



USS PERCH (SS-176)

Lost near Java on March 3, 1942 during her first war patrol. There was no immediate loss of life. Forced to surface after two severe depth chargings by three Japanese destroyers in less than 200 feet of water, *Perch's* crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the fifty-nine officers and men taken prisoner, fifty-three somehow survived the deprivations of POW life while six of their shipmates perished.



USS GRAMPUS (SS-207)

Lost on March 5, 1943 during her sixth war patrol, *Grampus* was sunk while engaging two Japanese destroyers in Vella Gulf. Seventy-one officers and men were lost.

USS H-1 (SS-28)

Lost on March 12, 1920 after grounding on a shoal near Santa Margarita Island off Baja California. Four men drowned as they tried to reach the rescue vessel *Vestal* (AR-4), which had finally arrived to pull the stricken sub off the rocks on the morning of March 24. The *H-1* sank while under tow just forty-five minutes later in only fifty feet of water. She had originally been USS *Seawolf* before designated the *H-1*.



USS TRITON (SS-201)

Lost on March 15, 1943 north of the Admiralty Islands during a fight with three Japanese destroyers. *Triton* had been the first American submarine to engage the enemy in December of 1941, just off Wake Island. Her war record was an impressive nine ships, one submarine, and one destroyer sunk. Seventy-four men lost their lives when *Triton* went down.



USS KETE (SS-369)

Lost on March 20, 1945 at the end of her second war patrol. Eighty-seven officers and men were lost. *Kete* was probably sunk by a Japanese submarine near Okinawa, which itself was subsequently lost.

USS F-4 (SS-23)

Lost on March 25, 1915 when she foundered 1.5 miles off Honolulu. Acid had corroded her battery tank lining, allowing seawater into the compartment which ultimately caused her loss. *F-4* was the first submarine of the United States Navy to be lost at sea. Twenty-one souls went down with her.



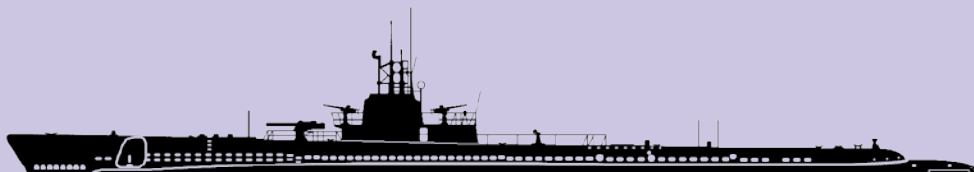
USS TULLIBEE (SS-284)

Lost on March 26, 1944 during her fourth war patrol. *Tullibee* was the victim of a circular run by one of her own malfunctioning torpedoes. A lookout was her only survivor; taken prisoner, he ultimately survived the war as a Japanese POW. Seventy-nine officers and men were lost aboard *Tullibee*.



USS TRIGGER (SS-237)

Lost on March 26, 1945 while on her twelfth war patrol. *Trigger* went down as a result of a combined effort by Japanese naval and air anti-submarine forces. She ranked seventh in total tonnage sunk and tied for eighth in number of ships sunk. Eighty-nine officers and men perished when she went down.



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

U.S. Navy to Receive Second Boeing Orca Autonomous Submarine in Early 2025

(Reproduced from the DefenseMirror.com website - Published December 7, 2024.)



Orca XLUUV autonomous submarine (Boeing photo.)

The U.S. Navy is scheduled to take delivery of its second *Orca* extra-large unmanned undersea vehicle (XLUUV) from Boeing in early 2025, following contractor-led testing and evaluations.

The *Orca* XLUUV is part of the Navy's initiative to expand its hybrid fleet with unmanned maritime systems. According to an official statement, the XLE-1 prototype has completed construction and is undergoing at-sea testing at Marina Shipyard. Once delivered, the prototype will undergo developmental and operational testing through the third quarter of fiscal year 2025. After testing, the Unmanned Undersea Vehicle Squadron (UUVRON) 3 unit will certify the crew for its deployment.

The *Orca* XLUUV is designed to perform missions including mine countermeasures, anti-surface warfare (ASuW), anti-submarine warfare (ASW), electronic warfare (EW), and strike operations. The system enables operations without direct personnel involvement, offering long-range autonomy and the ability to launch, recover, and communicate from remote bases.

Boeing delivered its initial *Orca* test asset, XLE-O, to the Navy after acceptance tests in December 2023. The Navy awarded design contracts for the XLUUV program to Boeing and Lockheed Martin in 2017, with Boeing later securing a \$43 million contract in 2019 to produce four vehicles and an additional prototype. These contracts totaled \$274 million.

The *Orca* XLUUV is based on Boeing's Echo Voyager, a 26-meter-long modular vessel with a hybrid power system capable of months-long autonomous missions. It features navigation, obstacle avoidance, and communication systems, including encrypted satellite and acoustic technologies for submerged operations.

Equipped with a modular payload bay, the *Orca* can carry eight tons of dry weight, supporting sonar systems such as Raytheon PROSAS for ocean mapping. Its hybrid propulsion system allows a range of 6,500 nautical miles, with autonomous surfacing for battery recharging via diesel generators.

U.S. Navy Takes Delivery of Advanced Attack Submarine USS *Iowa*

(Reproduced from the Defence Industry Europe website - Published December 24, 2024.)

by Defence Industry Europe



The U.S. Navy received its newest Virginia-class attack sub, the future USS *Iowa* (SSN-797), on Dec. 22, 2024. This marks the 12th battle force ship delivered to the Navy in 2024, strengthening the fleet's capabilities. (U.S. Navy photo.)

The U.S. Navy has officially received its newest Virginia-class attack submarine, the future USS *Iowa* (SSN-797), on December 22, 2024. This marks the 12th battle force ship delivered to the Navy in 2024, further strengthening the fleet's capabilities.

The USS *Iowa* is the 24th Virginia-class submarine (VCS) to be built under the collaboration of General Dynamics Electric Boat (GDEB) and HII-Newport News Shipbuilding. It also becomes the 13th attack submarine delivered by GDEB, exemplifying the enduring partnership between the shipbuilders.

This delivery signifies the transfer of the submarine from its builders to the Navy, moving it closer to operational status. The vessel and its crew will now begin trials and testing in preparation for its commissioning and integration into the active fleet.

"The Virginia-class submarine represents a Navy and industry commitment to deliver warfighting excellence to the fleet," said Captain Mike Hollenbach, Virginia Class Submarine program manager. "*Iowa* is the second Virginia-class submarine delivered this year. With each delivery, the Navy continues to strengthen our nation's undersea

advantage."

Designed for modern warfare, Virginia-class fast-attack submarines provide enhanced stealth, surveillance, and special warfare capabilities. They are a critical component of the Navy's ability to maintain undersea dominance in the 21st century.

The USS *Iowa* is the sixth of ten Block IV Virginia-class submarines, specifically configured to enhance readiness and reduce maintenance. According to NAVSEA, these submarines are vital to ensuring sustained readiness for high-end combat operations.

SSN-797 is the fifth U.S. Navy vessel, and the first submarine, named after the state of *Iowa*. Its predecessors include the USS *Iowa* (BB-61), a decorated battleship that served in World War II and later conflicts such as the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

The submarine was christened on June 17, 2023 at the GDEB shipyard in Groton, Connecticut, by its sponsor, Ms. Christie Vilsack. The commissioning ceremony is scheduled to take place on April 5, 2025 in Groton, marking its official induction into the fleet.

As It Transits to the Pacific Fleet, the Russian Navy's Kilo II Attack Submarine *Ufa* Completed an Official Visit to China

(Reproduced from the Zona Militar website - Published December 13, 2024)

per Redacción



Russian Kilo II attack submarine. (Image credit to its owner; unspecified.)

During the course of this week, the Russian Navy's Kilo II attack submarine *Ufa* completed its official visit to China while en route to its incorporation into the Pacific Fleet, escorted by the rescue tug *Alatau*, as it has been throughout its journey. Notably, both Russian naval assets visited the Chinese port of Qingdao, where various exchanges took place between personnel from the navies of both countries, followed by tours of the city for the crew.

It's worth recalling that *Ufa's* journey began in the Baltic Sea en route to its final station at the Russian Pacific Fleet base in Vladivostok. There, it will be stationed as the fourth in a group of six submarines of its class (Project 636.3) to operate from the base. The facility also hosts the nuclear-powered submarines *Emperor Alexander III* and *Krasnoyarsk*, which arrived in September from the Northern Fleet.

In terms of its known specifications, *Ufa* is a submarine

with a length of 74 meters and a displacement of approximately 3,900 tons, noted for its stealth capabilities. Additionally, the vessel is capable of withstanding depths of up to 300 meters and has an estimated range of 7,500 nautical miles. It is armed with modern Kalibr-PL missiles as its primary weaponry. Launched in 2022, the submarine underwent an extensive period of testing in the Baltic before its transfer to the Pacific.

Finally, it should be noted that the Chinese port of Qingdao has not only welcomed the *Ufa* (which also visited Indonesia and India as part of its journey) as representing the Russian Navy in recent days. The port also hosted a Russian naval group comprising the corvettes *Gromky*, *Rezky*, and Hero of the Russian Federation *Aldar Tsydenzhapov*. In both instances, the transit of these Russian platforms through southeastern Chinese waters was closely monitored by elements of Japan's Self-Defense Forces, with the former being detected south of Yonaguni Island by a P-3C Orion earlier this month.

UK's Last *Trafalgar* Submarine Makes Final Voyage

(Reproduced from the BBC News website - Published December 12, 2024)



Cmdr. of the Submarine Flotilla, Commodore Paul Dunn OBE, salutes HMS *Triumph* as she leaves HMNB Clyde. (RN photo.)

The Royal Navy's last *Trafalgar*-class attack submarine has completed its final voyage from Scotland to be decommissioned.

HMS *Triumph* sailed from HM Naval Base Clyde, at Faslane in Argyll, to HMNB Devonport in Plymouth to retire after more than twenty years in service.

It was the last remaining of seven *Trafalgar*-class attack submarines deployed in operations around the world, including Australia, Afghanistan and Libya.

Clyde tugboats fired water cannons to send off the submarine and its 110-strong crew on Tuesday, before being welcomed by waving well-wishers as it sailed into Plymouth Sound.

Commander Aaron Williams, HMS *Triumph*'s commanding officer, said the Royal Navy would reflect on the legacy of HMS *Triumph* "with immense pride."

He added: "The submarine has served not just as a vessel, but as a symbol of commitment, courage, and camaraderie.

"While this chapter of HMS *Triumph*'s story ends, her spirit will endure in the memories of all who served aboard her, and in the gratitude of the nation she helped protect."

HMS *Triumph* was laid down in Barrow shipyard in February, 1987 and commissioned less than five years later in

October of 1991.

The submarine deployed to Australia in 1993, travelling 41,000 miles submerged without support, which at the time was the longest solo deployment by a Royal Navy nuclear-powered submarine.

The vessel later served in Afghanistan, launching Tomahawk missiles at targets, and was further deployed to Libya—again firing her weaponry at positions from the Mediterranean Sea.

Royal Navy director of submarines, Rear Admiral Andy Perks, said the farewell stirred emotions of both "pride and sadness".

He added: "The last of the Cold War submarines, these vessels have helped keep our country safe for over thirty years."

Triumph will be officially decommissioned in a ceremony in 2025 as the baton is fully passed to *Astute*-class attack submarines.

Five vessels—HMS *Astute*, HMS *Ambush*, HMS *Artful*, HMS *Audacious* and HMS *Anson*—are all currently in service and operating from HM Naval Base Clyde.

A further two boats are under construction at BAE Systems in Barrow-in-Furness.

Block IV *Virginia* is Best U.S. Sub Ever

(continued from page 1)



U.S. Navy sailors stationed aboard new Virginia-class attack submarine Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Texas (SSN-775) stand topside as the boat gets underway from Naval Station Norfolk, VA, Aug. 22, 2006. Texas was the second Virginia-class submarine built and the first major U.S. Navy combatant vessel class designed with the post-Cold War security environment in mind. Texas was commissioned Sept 9, 2006 in Galveston, TX. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Kelvin Edwards.)

Block IV *Virginia*-Class Submarines: The Backbone of U.S. Naval Power

Last year, the U.S. Navy launched its seventh Block IV *Virginia*-class fast attack submarine, the *Massachusetts* (SSN-798) with another of these subs also launched in August. The Block IV *Virginia*-class boats are replacing the aging *Los Angeles*-class attack submarines. There will be ten submarines in this class.

What makes these submarines unique, and what some call the best subs on earth?

***Virginia*-Class Block IV: Versatile Sub Makes the Navy's Job Easier**

The Block IV *Virginia*-class is a more survivable and lethal boat. They are strong performers in subsea operations. Block IVs can sneak in Blue Water and Green Water loca-

tions and use their cruise missiles for land devastation or infiltrate a team of U.S. Navy SEALs to shore.

The Block IVs are designed to better eliminate enemy shipping, conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions, and take out adversarial submarines.

The *Virginia* Block IVs have excellent speed, maneuverability, and silence. They are upgraded at a reasonable cost (half the price of a *Seawolf*-class) with proven design changes to increase the submarine's lifecycle.

They are designed to stay out to sea and avoid lengthy maintenance periods.

Watch Out for SEALs Inserted by the Block IV

The first Block IV, the *Vermont*, was commissioned in April, 2020. So, the configuration is relatively new. Block

(concluded on page 12)

Block IV Virginia is Best U.S. Sub Ever

(concluded from page 11)

IVs specialize in SEAL delivery missions. The torpedo room is reconfigurable to allow a significant number of naval special operators to serve a long deployment and then head to shore to unleash their deadly brand of warfare. Divers have a large lock-out truck as well.

Virginia-class boats have two photonics masts with infrared digital cameras to give commanders better situational awareness.

Surprising Speed for Such a Big Boat

The Virginia class has one reactor and one shaft. They can achieve a speed of 25 knots. The length is 461 feet with the Virginia Payload Module with four additional large diameter payload tubes in the middle of the boat. The Virginia Payload Module enables the class to carry seven Tomahawk cruise missiles in each tube.

The Virginia class also comes armed with Mk 48 ADCAP torpedoes using four torpedo tubes.

The boats displace around 10,200 tons with the Virginia Payload Module. There is a crew of 132—fifteen officers and 117 enlisted personnel.

What's Next for U.S. Maritime Strategy?

Undersea warfare will be a huge component of U.S. battle plans in the Indo-Pacific. For the first time in decades, a Navy Carrier Strike Group is not currently deployed to East Asia. That means it depends much on the Block IVs to pick up the slack. They are now running stealthily around the globe ready to fire cruise missiles or insert SEAL teams.

Some analysts are even calling for a freeze on new aircraft carrier construction after the *Gerald R. Ford* supercarrier and re-allocating that savings to build more Block IV and Block V submarines and additional *Columbia*-class boomers.

I don't agree that aircraft carriers are obsolete, but they are compelling arguments, especially when the United States is dealing with current conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. China could make a move toward Taiwan at any moment and not having a carrier strike group in East Asia places too much pressure on the U.S. submarine fleet.



The Virginia-class attack sub Pre-Commissioning Unit Mississippi (SSN-782) conducts alpha trials in the Atlantic. (U.S.N. photo courtesy of General Dynamics Electric Boat.)

This means the future inhabitant of the White House, the Department of Defense, and Congressional lawmakers must make a maritime strategy decision. Can the United States continue to purchase and maintain both its carriers and submarines?

I think the Navy must walk and chew gum simultaneously—keep building submarines like the Block IV and purchase at least one more supercarrier of the *Ford* class. It will take leadership from Washington, DC and the steady investment into American shipyards to make this happen. That means the need for the biggest naval build-out since the Reagan administration.

Meanwhile, China will be watching how transformational naval acquisition strategy will be or whether the United States struggles with new submarine and carrier purchases.

Now serving as 1945's Defense and National Security Editor, Brent M. Eastwood, PhD, is the author of Don't Turn Your Back On the World: a Conservative Foreign Policy and Humans, Machines, and Data: Future Trends in Warfare, plus two other books. Brent was the founder and CEO of a tech firm that predicted world events using artificial intelligence. He served as a legislative fellow for U.S. Senator Tim Scott and advised the senator on defense and foreign policy issues. He has taught at American University, George Washington University, and George Mason University. Brent is a former U.S. Army Infantry officer. He can be followed on X @BMEastwood.

Cowboy Cooking

by Bob “Dex” Armstrong

I’d once visited a local hardware store while wearing a ball cap I’d picked up at a boat reunion. Some fellow asked if I was a submariner. I told him I rode the boats a long time ago. Then he said, “Do you know Ray Stone (Olgoat)?” That’s like saying, “Oh, you’re from Chicago. You know Bill Smith?” I’d never heard of Ray Stone. If he fell out of a tree and landed on me, I wouldn’t have known who he was. We exchanged cards and I forgot about the whole thing. I was living a quiet life in a quiet neighborhood where no one knew or gave a hoot in hell about submarines.

Ray later made contact. Within hours we discovered we’d chased the same gals, had an uncanny network of similar associations, and a past propensity toward engaging in conduct qualifying us for membership in the lunatic fringe.

He told me about this magic wonderland called Rontini’s BBS, and about his “treehouse,” the Stone’s Scurvy Skivvy Sack. It was Ray Stone who introduced me to this wonderful magic slate that Rontini has so generously provided. And it was Ray who talked me into what has been a magic carpet ride.

The posts on Rontini’s not only fuel this lunacy but knock the cobwebs off long-forgotten incidents that I’ve tried to daisychain into a romp through youthful indiscretion with the finest men I ever had the honor to associate with. And that includes Doc, the Harrisons, Old Gringo, Cowboy, RamJet, my old shipmate Hemming, and all the others whose tolerance and acceptance has come to be one of the finest presents an old worn out sonuvabitch can find on his doorstep. I keep wondering when the day will come—and it *will* arrive—when someone posts, “Someone shoot the bastard to make him pipe down.”

Cowboy, if you’re reading, I’m me: I’m not that fat, overindulgent fellow someone posted a photo of. I’m a 155-lb. nonrated qualified idiot who lives in that worn out carcass and who appears like the genie out of the lamp for all these stories. If Ray Stone would quit buying beer and stop screwing with the lamp, I’d crawl back in and secure the horsecrap valve.

But as long as you old pasted-together burnt-out smokeboat sailors keep saying it’s Ookay, I’ll crank ‘em out ‘til the stupidity locker runs dry.

Cowboy, did you ever eat Cowboy Meatloaf a *lá Requin*? We had a cook called Stumpy or something like that. He and a sonarman named Jac Snider wore cowboy boots. Funny, the dumb stuff you remember. Stumpy and Snider were from New Mexico, where folks eat stuff so gahdam hot it oughta be against the law.

We had been out doin’ stuff that forced us into operating at ultraquiet. You remember, where the old man passed the word to “Rig for ultraquiet: secure air conditioning and refrigeration.” You remember. It got hotter than the hubs of hell and you sat on the potato lockers in the crews mess in sweat-soaked dungaree shirts listening to your armpit hair grow, watching the reefer temperature gauge inch toward the point where the corpsman announced all the contents therein was now condemned and had to go over the side.

At some mystical point, the Navy had determined that when meat thawed out, rapid decomposition set in—and good steak suddenly became rotten shark chow. Just prior to “rig for rot,” Stumpy broke out three boxes of steaks and popped the metal bands. He handed out his collection of butcher knives and had us cutting the steaks in two inch wide strips. He couldn’t use the powered meat grinder so he set up his hand-cranked grinder and began grinding steak. “Whatcha doin’, Cookie?” “Makin’ Cowboy meatloaf.” If I’d had the ability to see into the future, I would’ve taken that knife and cut the sonuvabitch’s throat. But like the rest of the clowns in the after battery, I kept cutting strips and passing them into the galley. Anyway, the closest I’d ever been to cowboys had all taken place at the local movie house.

Stumpy had a mason jar full of little white jelly-bean-size peppers. As he cranked, he kept tossing in a couple of these blasting cap peppers. When he had a pile of ground meat and peppers a couple of feet high, he added shredded up stale Wonderbread, some eggs and

(concluded on page 14)

Cowboy Cooking... by Dex Armstrong

(concluded from page 13)

God knows what else. We just wandered around in the bliss of total ignorance while a cook who had direct links to the culinary arts of hell packed breadloaf pans and put them in the oven. If I'd had any inkling of what that diabolical sonuvabitch was pulling out of that jar and tossing in that hand grinder, I would've broken all known speed records moving aft, would have clawed my way through the after trim tank and done my damndest to swim back to Norfolk.

Cowboy meatloaf and arc welding had the same mother. You can duplicate the sensation by sticking a flame-thrower down your throat and squeezing the trigger until fire shoots out your hip pockets. Or you can lick the manifold of an Indianapolis race car during the victory lap. That stuff should not be circulated without a warning label reading: "DO NOT EAT WITHOUT ASBESTOS SKIVVIES AND A MIDAS-INSTALLED COLON."

We sat there eating that napalm loaf—each of us afraid that if we didn't eat it, we'd be big sissies and catch a lot of crap from all the other idiots eating it for the same reason. Given a choice between another helping of Cowboy meatloaf and French kissing a lightning bolt, I would go for the latter hands down. If you have to eat that concoction to be a cowboy, I'm signing up to be a sheepman.

Cowboying scares the hell outta me. Cowboy, if I ever get to Reno, I'll take you up on that beer. But if you eat that mason jar pepper seasoned stuff, I'll just be passing through hoping to link up with a can of Spam.

Thanks again. As I say I'll read your post again in the morning for a dose of mental Viagra.

Keep a zero bubble... *Dex.*



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USS <i>Delaware</i> (SSN-791)	USS <i>Kentucky Blue</i> (SSBN-737)
USS <i>Greeneville</i> (SSN-772)	USS <i>Kentucky Gold</i> (SSBN-737)
USS <i>Helena</i> (SSN-725)	USS <i>Maine Blue</i> (SSBN-741)
USS <i>Hyman G. Rickover</i> (SSN-795)	

Questions?

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

New Members

We proudly welcome aboard:

Frank M. Berezney

SK2(SS) E-5 Petty Officer (2nd)
Contact: daughter Catherine
528 S. Cardiff Street
Anaheim, CA 92806-4334
cell: 714-337-3936
email: frank.berezney@gmail.com
Qualified in 1969 on USS *Spinax*
(AGSS-489); served 1967-1971.
Also on *Greenfish* and *Gudgeon*.

Brian M. Senior, Life Member
(EM1-SS E6—Petty Officer 1st Class)
Son of the Seniors; Spouse: Tamar
2015 Windmill Lane
Alexandria, VA 22307-1951
cell: 202-594-2050
email: briansenior@hotmail.com
Served '82-'94; qual'd on *Silversides*
(SSN-679) in '86; Nuc Operator;
in Navy Reserves 1990-1994.

Kathleen A. Carder

Associate; Significant Other of
Bill Moak; sponsor: Ray Teare
2865 Helm Street
Simi Valley, CA 93065-5257
cell: 662-335-5602
e: KathleenCarder@Outlook.com

David "Dave" Geske

(ICC-SS) E-7 Chief Petty Officer)
Spouse: Evelyn
4567 Pennyroyal Drive
Corona, CA 92878-3283
cell: 801-889-0178
email: dave.geske@outlook.com
Served '75-'86; qualified on *Thomas
Jefferson* (SSBN-618) in '77. Also
aboard *Ohio* (SSBN-726) '79-'82.

Charles B. "Charlie" McCarthy, Jr.

(LCDR - 04 - LCDR) Spouse: Anita
19068 Shadow Ridge Lane
Yorba Linda, CA 92886-2763
cell: 714-720-3837
email: cbmatylca@aol.com
Qualified in 1966 on *Geo. Bancroft*
(SSBN-643); served 1959-1976.

Laurie Ann Mabry

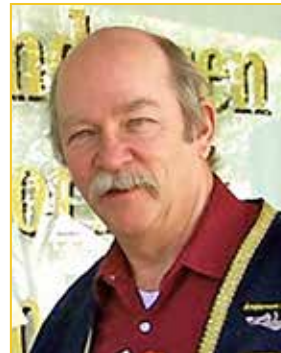
Associate; niece of Shipwreck
Kelly; sponsor: Ron Jones
Spouse: Harry
5923 Mildred Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4631
cell: 714-309-2367
laurieannmabry7082@gmail.com



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

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

Eternal Patrol Notice



John Allan Andersen 10/23/1945—11/10/2024

We recently learned from his son Erik that John Andersen departed on Eternal Patrol back in November. He was 79 years old. His wife Anne preceded him in 2018. John, a Life Member of USSVI, had also been its Treasurer, plus an L.A.-Pasadena Base plankowner and Life Member, as well as a Life Member of two other bases, Cyberspace Base and Mare Island Base. Furthermore, John also set up USSVI's 501 c3 Charitable Foundation. Many of our long-term members knew John as a hard worker and dedicated submarine veteran, and so appreciated all he'd accomplished. Over 26 years ago, he and Mark Denger applied for and received the charter which formed our Los Angeles-Pasadena Base. John was also our Base Treasurer for many years, working closely with our membership gal, Marilyn Senior. In civilian life, he'd been a CPA and Partner in Andersen, Horie & Company, CPAs, LLP in Monrovia, CA. He was very special to all of us and will be sorely missed.

John served in the Navy Reserves from November 1962 to August 1966, then went on Active Duty from August 1966 to November 1968. He qualified on USS *Bang* (SS-385) in 1967, and left the Navy a QM2(SS) - E5 - Petty Officer 2nd Class. John had been a proud Holland Club member for 57 years.

John's cremains will reside at Riverside National Cemetery; as of now there's no date set for a memorial service. Updates will follow by email.

Those wishing to express condolences may contact John's son:

Erik B. Andersen
2301 Carlson Blvd.
Richmond, CA 94804-5703
cell: 415-250-8473
email: erik@andersen-engineering.com
Sailor, Rest Your Oar



John P. Holland

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

(75-year members noted with *)

Scott Hultner.....	2024
Stanley O. Westrick.....	2024
Ronald R. Jones.....	2023
Gerard A. Krudwig.....	2022
Gregory M. Paulson.....	2022
Michael J. Swanson.....	2022
Ralph J. Hansen.....	2021
Robert F. Schive, Sr.....	2021
Larry D. Long.....	2021
G. Judson "Jud" Scott, Jr....	2021
Edward E. Kushins.....	2020
Bruce Evan Neighbors.....	2020
Frank M. Berezny.....	2019
David H. Vanderveen.....	2019
Dennis Bott.....	2018
Robert "Mike" Cailor.....	2018
Robert Miller.....	2018
Roger C. Dunham, MD...	2017
Richard McPherson.....	2017
Harry "Bill" Moak.....	2017
Louis A. Myerson.....	2017
Elliot Rada.....	2017
Ronald G. Wagner.....	2017
Dennis J. Walsh.....	2017
Michael Kish.....	2016
Charles B. McCarthy, Jr....	2016
Gary Wheaton.....	2016

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Los Angeles-Pasadena Base 2025 Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 18	Monthly Meeting at Taco Surf, Los Alamitos
February 15	Monthly Meeting at VFW Hall
March 15	Monthly Meeting - Radiant Brewery, Anaheim
April 19	Monthly Meeting Call for Memorial Day Prep Volunteers
May 17	Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900 Monthly Meeting Nominating Committee Appointed Call for participants in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
May 24	Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900
May 26	Memorial Day Service - 1100 Submarine Memorial, West
June 21	Monthly Meeting - Annual "Steakfest" Call for nominations for 2026 Base Officers
July 4	116th Annual... Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
July 19	LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic Location TBA
August 16	Monthly Meeting - "Hawaii" Theme 2026 Base Officer Candidates Announced
September 20	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Election of Officers
October 18	Monthly Meeting Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
November 15	Monthly Meeting - Thanksgiving Theme
December 20	Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Los Alamitos Golf Course

(Holland Club Roster, concluded)

Lawrence R. Butler 2015
 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. Diument 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
 *William F. Long 1999
 *Kenneth E. Chunn 1998
 *Patrick Zilliacus 1994
 *William J. Dillon 1993



E-Board Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2025

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted on the morning of Saturday, February 15, 2025.

In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Ray Teare, Base Vice Commander
- Sue Bolton, Treasurer
- Dennis Bott, Memorial Director
- Chuck Senior, Director
- Marilyn Senior, Membership Chairwoman
- Bill Moak, COB
- Ken Dorn, Director

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the meeting at the VFW Hall in Anaheim to order at 1003 hours with a quorum present. Minutes of January’s E-board and General meetings were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections needed. Ray Teare moved to accept the minutes into the base record; this was seconded by Bill Moak and unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Financial Report: Sue Bolton

The Treasurer’s Report as of February 13, 2025 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Sue Bolton.

Checking	\$23,262.43
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$0.00
Total	\$23,312.43

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

Income:	\$1,490.00
Expenses:	\$2,752.00

Flower/Booster Club Additions:

Ken Dorn	\$400.00
Harold Staggs	\$200.00
Ed Barwick	\$50.00

Sue was asked if the our base donation to the Western Region Roundup had been sent, and she responded that it will go out next week due to a delay at Pacific Premier Bank.

There being no further questions, Dennis Bott moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report and accept it into the base record; this was seconded by Chuck Senior and passed unanimously.

Memorial Update:

Dave reported that Requests for Proposal have been sent to eight masonry contractors to install our bricks at the WWII Submarine Memorial. None would commit because the job is small or because they’re located such a distance from Seal Beach that they don’t want

(concluded on next page)

Gen'l Dynamics Wins \$350M Deal to Aid Virginia Class

Reproduced from the *yahoo!finance* website, October 15, 2024

by Zacks Equity Research

General Dynamics Corp.'s Electric Boat recently clinched a modification contract to provide long lead time material for supporting the *Virginia*-Class Block VI submarines. The award has been offered by the Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington, D.C. Valued at \$349.8 million, the contract is expected to be completed by September 2035. A major portion of the work related to this deal will be carried out in Sunnyvale, CA.

Gen'l Dynamics is a renowned builder of subs that play a crucial role in offering naval security to the U.S. Notably, its Electric Boat division has been supplying nuclear-powered *Virginia*-class subs to the Navy for twenty years, along with its industry partner, Huntington Ingalls III. Moreover, EB is the prime contractor for the *Columbia*-class ballistic missile sub. EB also does sub maintenance and modernization, engineering & design services, fleet support for all sub classes, and contributes to concept and technology development.

Virginia-class boats excel in a wide range of missions and can collect critical intelligence using advanced surveillance and reconnaissance assets. All this helps the U.S. Navy maintain its undersea superiority. Gen'l Dynamics' latest contract win is a bright example of ongoing Navy success.

E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

their employees to have to commute that distance. We have one alternative who is clearing up a license issue before he can qualify. Ken Dorn offered to contact a local retired contractor. Dave said the SBNWS contract administrator has been asked to recommend a contractor. More to come. Dennis reported the site looks good, though he will discuss with Darin Detwiler about the Chamber of Commerce flower placement work.

Membership Update:

Membership Chairwoman Marilyn Senior reported that as of February 14 our base has 99 total members, 66 Holland Club Members, 67 USSVI Life Members, and 64 base Life Members. One of our dual members, John Michael Lucio (Bonefish Base Commander) has not as yet renewed his membership to L.A.-Pasadena Base. Also, it was discovered after our previous meeting that one of our long-term members, John Allan Andersen, had departed on Eternal Patrol on November 10, 2024. Further information regarding John has been emailed around and will be reported in the *Periscope*. (See page 15—ed.)

After some discussion about recruitment efforts, Dave noted that USSVI runs an outreach effort which also struggles to identify younger candidates for membership and to get any of them to sign-up. There will be a specific topic on membership at the Western Region Roundup.

Western Region Roundup, 2025:

Dave noted the members who have already committed to handle specific tasks at the Roundup and seven additional folks signed up to help with registration. *THANK YOU!* The Reagan Library had to cancel their presentation on the '80s Submarine Force work vs. the Soviet Union because several of their staff have been displaced by the recent fires. Charlie McCarthy will present his "41 for Freedom" material, and Chuck Senior suggested asking Capt. Rich Abele to present his family's successful search for USS *Grunion* (SS-216) lost off Alaska in July, 1942. Dave will arrange for that to occur.

March Meeting News:

Due to the popularity of the October and January meetings at restaurants, the Board decided to return to the Brewery in Anaheim for our March meeting. If that isn't available, we will arrange to return to Taco Surf in Los Alamitos.

The Good of the Order:

We decided to revitalize the "Sea Daddy" program, in which a few board members call a handful of members each month so we can maintain personal contact and prompt the flow of information to and from their families.

Stan Westrick asked for more business cards, and Dave will arrange to pick those up along with our flags from the Paulson's garage.

Dave will contact the Western Region Director and/or Squadron Eleven to determine if there will be a ceremony in San Diego commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Submarine Force.

There being no further business, Bill Moak motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Ray Teare and passed unanimously, adjourning the meeting at 1110 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*

SEALION
S-36
S-26
SHARK I
PERCH
S-27
GRUNION
S-39
ARGONAUT
AMBERJACK
GRAMPUS
TRITON
PICKEREL
GRENADIER
RUNNER
R-12
GRAYLING
POMPANO
CISCO
S-44
DORADO
WAHOO

CORVINA
SCULPIN
CAPELIN
SCORPION
GRAYBACK
TROUT
TULLIBEE
GUDGEON
HERRING
GOLET
S-28
ROBALO
FLIER
HARDER
SEAWOLF
DARTER
SHARK II
TANG
ESCOLAR
ALBACORE
GROWLER

SCAMP
SWORDFISH
BARBEL
KETE
TRIGGER
SNOOK
LAGARTO
BONEFISH
BULLHEAD

