



PRIDE RUNS DEEP



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

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Editor's Corner

Welcome to my swan song issue!
 L.A.-Pasadena shipmates, I've enjoyed my time here in the Yeoman's Shack. But after helming the last 85 issues (count 'em!), a sudden change in my circumstances at home has dictated it's time for someone else to step behind the *Periscope* editor's desk. That someone, at least for now, shall be our acclaimed Base Cmdr., Darin Detwiler. Please give him a warm round of applause and do what you can to help him take over this monthly rag and make it his own—whatever that turns out to be. Darin: Standby to dive!
 I'll be seeing you guys around.—Jeff

U.S. Navy to Receive First Columbia-Class Ballistic Missile Nuclear Submarine in 2028

The U.S. Navy plans to receive its first Columbia-class nuclear sub, the USS District of Columbia (SSBN-826), in 2028 as part of the replacement program for the aging Ohio-class fleet.

(Reproduced from the Global Defense News website - Published February 14, 2026)

by Jérôme Brahy

<https://www.armyrecognition.com/news/navy-news/2026/u-s-navy-to-receive-first-columbia-class-nuclear-submarine-in-2028>



The U.S. Navy confirmed that the first Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine, USS District of Columbia (SSBN-826), is approximately 65 to 66 percent complete and is expected to be delivered in 2028. (Artist's Rendering: U.S. Navy.)

As reported by *Breaking Defense* on February 12, 2026, the U.S. Navy plans to receive its first *Columbia*-class nuclear submarine in 2028 as part of the replacement program for the aging fourteen *Ohio*-class ballistic missile submarine fleet. The lead submarine, *USS District of Columbia* (SSBN-826), is currently approximately 65–66 percent complete, with full module delivery achieved at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut, with full-rate production targeted for 2031 to sustain continuous at-sea nuclear deterrence.

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From the Wardroom...



Darin Detwiler,
Base Commander

Shipmates,

April was a month that reminded me of two things: the strength of our community—and the weight of what it means to be part of it.

We had a strong presence at the **Western Regional Roundup** in Las Vegas. I was proud to stand alongside Executive Board members Ray Teare, Dave Vanderveen, Chuck Senior, Mike Swanson, and base member Glen McNeece.

This wasn't just a gathering—it was progress. Important conversations moved forward around the responsible use of Memorial funds, strengthening membership, and building sustainable fundraising efforts. Dave and Mike both stepped forward in regional leadership roles during the event and will continue serving in those capacities in the coming year. That kind of leadership matters. It reflects not just commitment, but continuity.

Last month, we reached an important milestone, returning to a base membership of 100. That number represents momentum. It reflects engagement, visibility, and the simple truth that when we show up, we grow. But growth and loss often stand closer together than we expect.

On April 18, we learned of the passing of our shipmate, **Sam Aboulafia**.

I never had the opportunity to meet him, yet I knew him. We wore the same Dolphins. We accepted the same responsibility that comes with earning them. We stood watch in different times, on different boats, but under the same standard. Also, we both believed in the mission of USSVI.

When we speak of "Eternal Patrol," it is not just a phrase. It is a recognition. A reminder. A moment to pause. Behind every set of Dolphins is a life—marked by service, sacrifice, and story. Behind every name is a family.

We honor Sam not only in remembrance, but in how we continue to show up—for each other, and for the mission we share.

Finally, I want to ensure everyone is aware of an important change.

This year's **Memorial Day Ceremony** has been relocated due to national security considerations. We will gather on **Monday, May 25**, at **Eisenhower Park in Seal Beach**, just north of the pier, from **11:30 to 1:00**. We will join the City of Seal Beach's ceremony, including our **Tolling the Boats**. This remains one of the most important things we do—not just as a base, but as submariners.

Presence matters: what we do, how we remember, how we lead, and how we carry forward.

I look forward to standing with you there.

Respectfully,

Darin

Darin Detwiler, Commander
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



Minutes of April 18, 2026 General Meeting



April General Meeting Sailing List

(In person and via Zoom)

Ed Barwick

Susan Bolton

Bruce Danielson

Darin Detwiler

Sam Higa

Bill Moak

Arthur Schwartz

Chuck Senior

Mike Swanson

Ray Teare

Dave Vanderveen

Dennis Walsh

Stan Westrick



Base Commander Darin Detwiler called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at 1114 hours via Zoom from the USSVI Western Regional Roundup in Las Vegas. The nuances of the remote meeting with attendees both in-person or online resulted in the foregoing of the flag salute and prayer. Detwiler recited the USSVI Creed and read the list of boats lost in the month of April followed by a moment of silence for our departed shipmates and submarines lost.

Darin Detwiler stated that March's meeting minutes had been reviewed and approved as published in the April newsletter and accepted into the base record by the E-board. (*See E-Board Minutes elsewhere in this issue.—ed.*)

Treasurer's Report:

Darin Detwiler noted that the E-Board had reviewed, approved, and accepted the treasurer's report into the base record and, in compliance with our by-laws, asked Treasurer Sue Bolton to present the report to the general members in attendance. As of April 16, 2026, our checking account balance is \$27,077.06. (*The complete report appears in the E-Board Minutes.—ed.*)

Membership Update:

Darin Detwiler reported that the base membership now stands at 99. Holland Club has 66 members, 68 USSVI Life Members, 67 Base Life Members, with one Eternal Patrol notice—that of Sam Aboulafia (Chuck Senior shared a text he received prior to the meeting bearing the news of Sam's passing within the previous 24 hours). Our thoughts and prayers are with Sam's family. We will share more information as we learn more. (*See page 4.—ed.*)

Memorial Update:

Detwiler discussed the completion of the work on a new podium door and frame. Detwiler then discussed the May 23 light clean-up scheduled at the Memorial from 10-12. This is an effort spearheaded by the Seal Beach Lions Club. Detwiler was able to gain approval from the Naval Weapons Station leadership (during this period of no "public events" at the Memorial). He noted that some NWS base leadership plan to join us as well as some from the local Naval Recruiting Office. Detwiler then reminded us how we cannot hold our Memorial Day ceremony at the U.S. WWII Submarine Veterans National Memorial West. The E-Board had voted in March to collaborate with the Seal Beach Lions Club to combine with their Memorial Day ceremony at Eisenhower Park, connected to the north side of the pier in Seal Beach. This event is blending elements from our USSVI ceremony (including Tolling the Boats) with the city's ceremony on May 25, 2026, 1130—1300 Hours. Stan Westrick shared that he is scheduled for the June flower detail.

Old Business:

Darin Detwiler said he had many volunteers for the Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce "Pop-up at the Pier" events in June and December. If anyone else is interested in participating in these or in the July 4th Huntington Beach Parade, please contact Darin Detwiler at (425) 232-5743 or ddetwiler680@gmail.com.

There were suggestions on what to have at the table. Detwiler reminded everyone about an opportunity Ron Jones shared in March for placing flags at the LA Memorial Cemetery on May 23 at 0700.

Darin Detwiler is still looking into options on buying and distributing new Challenge coins. One option is to use the Charitable Foundation (CF) to purchase the coins. Discussion was tabled until we have more information. (This was discussed later at the Western Regional Roundup with the Executive Director of the USSVI Charitable Foundation...more information to share later!)

(concluded on next page)



Eternal Patrol Departure Notice

We're so sorry to have to report we've recently heard from **Sam Aboulafia's** good friend Mike Cailor that Sam departed on Eternal Patrol on April 16 of pneumonia. A service for Sam with full military honors will take place on April 28, 2026 at 1:30 at Bay Pines Veterans Cemetery. Coverage to come in the next *Periscope* issue.

The Last Time You'll See This Ad!



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)

New Business:

Detwiler discussed the passage of a motion to direct this year's base charitable donation to the Charitable Foundation (CF) General fund. Earlier, the Executive Board passed a motion to direct the Treasurer to transfer \$2500.00 from the Base's treasury to the Charitable Foundation (CF) General fund.

Ray Teare discussed insights gained from a session on fundraising. We learned about the benefit of placing a limited portion of our funds into a USSVI Charitable Foundation "savings account" to earn interest. We can always withdraw our funds as needed.

The May 16 meeting will be at Marni's (formerly "Glory Days") at 620 PCH in Seal Beach. 1000 Hrs. for Executive Board, 1100 Hrs. for general meeting.

Stan Westrick will look into renting a trailer for the Huntington Beach 4th of July parade. He will report back the E-Board at the next meeting.

Good of the Order:

Sam Higa brought up the sales of poppies at the Memorial Day Ceremony. Normally, when we hold the ceremony at the Memorial on the Naval Weapons Station, we are not allowed to sell anything or raise money on military grounds. However, as this year's ceremony is being held off-site, we can sell the Poppies without breaking any such rules. Sam Higa will work to make this happen.

No 50-50 drawing this month.

There being no further business, Chuck Senior motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Bill Moak and passed, ending the meeting at 1120 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Westrick

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

Upcoming Events:

May 16 - Monthly Meeting - Marni's Restaurant (formerly "Glory Days") 620 Pacific Coast Hwy., Seal Beach, CA 90740

May 16 - All Members Invited: Pat Zilliacus' 100th birthday party: 2:00 pm at Westchester Sr. Center, 8740 Lincoln Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045 (For more info, please call 310-649-3319).

May 23 - Volunteers Requested: Flag Laying at L.A. National Cemetery (950 South Sepulveda BLVD Los Angeles, CA 90049) Check in 0700, Ceremony starts 0800. For more information, email mauiglen@icloud.com

May 23 - Volunteers Requested: Light Clean-up at the US Submarine Veterans WWII National Memorial West. Time: 1000-1200

May 25 - Participation Requested: Memorial Day Ceremony - Coordinated with Seal Beach Lions Club - Eisenhower Park (north side of Seal Beach Pier). Time: 1130 - 1300.

June 13 - Volunteers Requested: Seal Beach Health Expo Pop-up Event. Times: 1000 - 1400. Some volunteers already signed up for shifts. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Darin Detwiler at ddetwiler680@gmail.com or call/text him at (425) 232-5743

June 20 - Monthly Meeting - Los Angeles County Fire Museum - 16400 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, CA 90706

June 27 - Volunteers Requested: Pop-up Event at the Seal Beach Pier. Times: 1100 - 1500. Some volunteers already signed up for shifts. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Darin Detwiler at ddetwiler680@gmail.com or call/text him at (425) 232-5743

July 4 - Participation Requested: Annual Fourth of July Parade in Huntington Beach. Walking or riding options are available. If you are interested in joining us, contact Darin Detwiler at ddetwiler680@gmail.com or call/text him at (425) 232-5743

May Meeting at Marni's in Seal Beach

May Meeting

Date: May 16, 2026

This month we're meeting at Marni's (formerly "Glory Days") Restaurant in Seal Beach. See you there!

Address:

Marni's
620 Pacific Coast Hwy.,
Seal Beach, CA 90740
<https://www.marnisoc.com>

Times:

- E-Board Meets: 10:00-11:00
- General Mtg.: 11:00-Noon
- Lunch: Noon



May Birthdays

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

- Jeff Porteous 5/4
- David Palagyi 5/7
- Robert Miller..... 5/7
- Doc Dunham, MD 5/10
- Pat Zilliacus..... 5/11
- Bruce Evan Neighbors ... 5/17
- Michael Bircumshaw..... 5/18
- Dennis Bott 5/19
- Dr. Darin Detwiler 5/19
- Mike Swanson..... 5/21

Ship's Store



Clearance Price on T-Shirts!

Our ever-popular L.A.-Pasadena Base "Submarine Veterans" 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!

L.A.-Pasadena Base Logo Stickers!

They're not just for the refrigerator, bubblehead! Stick 'em on cars, clipboards, notebooks, lap-tops, desktop computer trunks...hell, even slap one on your forehead—it's better than a tattoo! Show your pride and stock up now!



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

L.A.-Pasadena Base Sticker (3¾x5) **\$5.00 ea.**



USSVI Logo Patch (9¾x6¾) **\$11.00 ea.**



L.A.-Pasadena Base Patch (3¾x5) **\$5.00 ea.**



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



Submarine Force Challenge Coin **\$20.00 ea.**

LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

2026 FLOWER FUND and BOOSTER CLUB

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

- Ken Dorn (multiple)
- Stan Westrick • Bill Moak
- Dennis Bott (multiple)



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

MAY TOLLING OF THE BOATS



USS LAGARTO (SS 371)



USS SCORPION (SSN 589)



USS SQUALUS (SS 192)

USS LAGARTO (SS-371)

Lost on May 3, 1945 near the Gulf of Siam during her second war patrol, *Lagarto* was sunk by the radar-equipped minelayer HIJMS *Hatsutaka*—which was subsequently sent to the bottom by the USS *Hawkbill* (SS-366) twelve days later. Eighty-six men went down with *Lagarto*.

USS SCORPION (SSN-589)

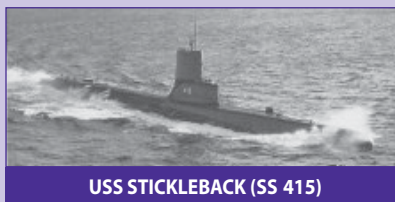
Lost May 22, 1968 while returning to Norfolk from a Mediterranean deployment; the nuclear-powered *Scorpion*'s last reported position had been about fifty miles south of the Azores. She was never heard from again, though her wreck was discovered in October of that same year. The exact cause of her loss has never been definitively determined, yet various operational casualty and other theories still abound. Ninety-nine officers and men perished in the tragedy.

USS SQUALUS (SS-192)

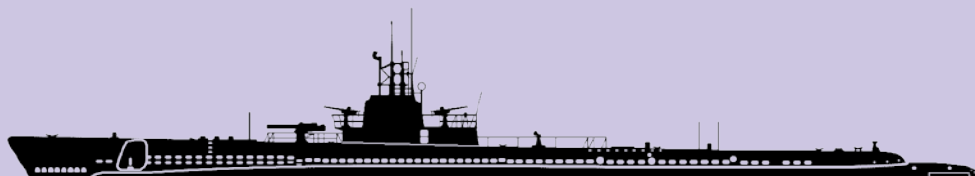
Partially flooded as a result of a major valve failure during a test dive, *Squalus* went to the bottom off the Isle of Shoals on May 23, 1939, coming to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers from the USS *Falcon* (ASR-2) rescued thirty-three survivors using the diving bell Momsen had himself invented. Tragically, twenty-six men had already drowned in flooding contained in the boat's after compartments. Later, *Squalus* was raised and recommissioned as the USS *Sailfish* (SS-192). In a cruel twist of fate, *Sailfish* later sank the Japanese aircraft carrier *Chuyo*, which had been carrying some of the surviving crew members from USS *Sculpin* (SS-191)—the very boat which had located the sunken *Squalus* and stood by her during rescue operations. Only one of the twenty-one *Sculpin* crew members aboard *Chuyo* survived the carrier's sinking.

USS STICKLEBACK (SS-415)

Lost on May 30, 1958 when she sank off Hawaii while under tow after colliding with the USS *Silverstein* (DE-534). The entire crew had been taken off prior to her loss.



USS STICKLEBACK (SS 415)



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

First *Columbia*-Class Boat Due in '28

(continued from page 1)

The U.S. Navy confirmed that the first *Columbia*-class ballistic missile submarine, USS *District of Columbia* (SSBN-826), is expected to be delivered in 2028 following the implementation of an acceleration plan intended to recover schedule margin. Rear Admiral Todd Weeks, Program Executive Officer Strategic Submarines, stated at WEST 2026 in San Diego that the *Columbia* class is progressing toward full-rate construction in 2031 while maintaining a Fiscal Year 2028 delivery objective for the lead ship. The submarine had originally been scheduled for delivery in 2027, but earlier production assessments identified insufficient progress and negative schedule trends, prompting coordinated corrective measures with General Dynamics Electric Boat and Huntington Ingalls Industries' Newport News Shipbuilding.

In 2024, the U.S. Navy indicated that workforce shortages and supply chain constraints were affecting multiple shipbuilding programs and could generate a twelve- to sixteen-month delay for the USS *District of Columbia*, and Weeks told lawmakers in April that a twelve- to eighteen-month delay was possible. The revised plan is structured to support a delivery in 2028, followed by entry into service in 2031 and a first deterrent patrol targeted for Fiscal Year 2030 as *Ohio*-class retirements begin. The acceleration effort required the delivery of all twenty-six major modules forming the USS *District of Columbia* to the final assembly yard at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut, by the end of 2025, an objective that the U.S. Navy stated was achieved.

The last major module, the bow section produced by Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia, was delivered in November 2025, several months earlier than the acceleration plan's internal schedule, which had projected its delivery in June 2026. With all primary sections at Groton, final assembly and integration activities could proceed in sequence within the purpose-built facility on the Thames River. The construction of *Columbia*-class submarines follows a teaming arrangement similar to the *Virginia*-class model, with Electric Boat responsible for the central hull sections and final assembly. Newport News constructs the bow and stern modules, and subcontractors provide propulsion components and other long-lead items.

The Navy intends to achieve pressure hull completion for the lead ship by the end of 2026, conduct water entry in 2027, and complete trials ahead of delivery in 2028. The *Columbia* class will replace the fourteen ballistic missile submarines of the *Ohio* class, whose retirements are scheduled at a rate of one per year beginning in 2027 and 2028 as they reach the end of extended forty-two-year service

lives. The new class consists of twelve planned submarines, each designed for a forty-two-year operational lifespan without mid-life nuclear refueling, enabling greater availability per hull and reducing the total number of submarines required to maintain a continuous at-sea deterrence. Each *Columbia*-class submarine is expected to complete up to 124 deterrent patrols during its service life, supporting the sea-based leg of the U.S. nuclear triad into the 2080s.

The U.S. Navy's force structure planning assumes approximately ten operationally available SSBNs at any given time to meet patrol requirements across both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. To mitigate potential schedule shortfalls during the transition period, the U.S. Navy has examined extending the service life of selected *Ohio*-class submarines, including a discussion of extending up to five hulls if required to avoid a coverage gap. The USS *Wisconsin* (SSBN-827), the second submarine in the class, is now reported as approximately 35 percent complete and remains aligned with an on-schedule delivery objective in 2030. The third boat, USS *Groton* (SSBN-828), is approximately ten percent complete as the production capacity ramps toward a one-submarine-per-year cadence beginning in Fiscal Year 2026, before reaching full-rate construction in 2031.

On October 10, 2025, the U.S. Senate passed the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by a 77 to 20 vote, authorizing the procurement of up to five *Columbia*-class submarines beginning in FY2026, with payments for subsequent years subject to appropriations. On November 20, 2025, the U.S. Navy awarded a \$2.283 billion contract modification to General Dynamics Electric Boat for advanced procurement and early construction work on SSBN-828 through SSBN-832, with performance extending through December 2031. FY2026 budget figures include \$10.543 billion in procurement funding and \$1.925 billion in reconciliation funding, with \$1.352 billion allocated to Maritime Industrial Base initiatives supporting infrastructure, suppliers, and workforce growth.

Each *Columbia*-class submarine will measure approximately 171 meters in length with a beam of 13 meters and a submerged displacement of about 20,810 long tons, equivalent to roughly 21,140 metric tons. The class incorporates sixteen ballistic missile launch tubes with an 87-inch diameter, compared with twenty-four tubes on the original *Ohio*-class configuration, and is compatible with the Trident II D5LE missile family, with D5LE2 integration planned to begin with the ninth hull. The Common Missile Compartment is jointly developed with the United Kingdom for compatibility with the Royal Navy's *Dreadnought*-

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First Columbia-Class Boat Due in '28

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class submarines and uses modular quad-pack arrangements that standardize launcher interfaces and manufacturing processes.

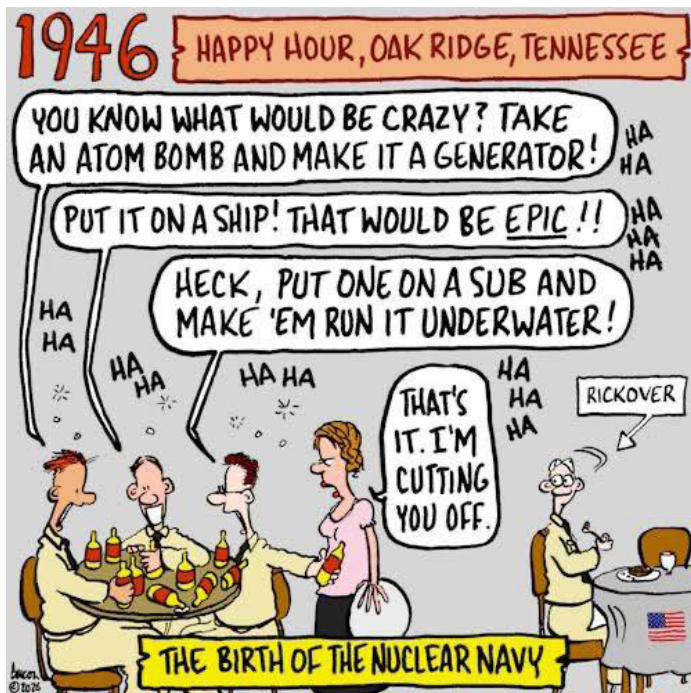
The sonar suite includes an enlarged Large Aperture Bow array derived from the *Virginia* class, supported by flank and towed arrays for wideband passive detection. The *Columbia* submarines also retain Mk 48 heavyweight torpedoes for self-defense, while the planned crew complement is approximately 155 personnel, with accommodations designed for extended patrol cycles. Propulsion is based on the S1B nuclear reactor, engineered to power the submarine for its full 42-year service life without refueling, thereby eliminating the need for mid-life overhauls required on earlier classes. Steam generated by the reactor drives turbine generators supplied by Northrop Grumman, converting thermal energy into electrical power distributed throughout the vessel.

A permanent magnet propulsion motor supplied by Leonardo DRS, delivered in August 2022 for the lead ship, drives a pump-jet propulsor through a turbo-electric system that eliminates reduction gears and reduces mechanical noise signatures. Earlier schedule pressure was linked in part to late turbine generator deliveries and to sequencing challenges involving bow module completion, which affected the timing of pressure hull closure, now expected by the end of 2026. Reactors for the first three submarines are in serial production, and naval nuclear propulsion officials have stated that the life-of-ship cores remain aligned with a water entry in 2027 for the *USS District of Columbia*

(SSBN-826), which will be followed by subsequent trials leading to FY2028 delivery.

Cost figures for the *Columbia*-class program vary by fiscal year baseline. One projection cites \$109.8 billion in FY2021 dollars for twelve *Columbia*-class submarines, with an average unit cost of \$9.15 billion, while another figure references approximately \$136 billion in total for the class. The lead submarine, the *USS District of Columbia*, has been cited at \$15.03 billion, including program planning costs, while earlier FY2010 estimates projected \$4.2 billion for design and technology development, \$6.2 billion to construct the lead boat, and a target of \$4.9 billion for each of the remaining eleven submarines. The total lifecycle cost for the *Columbia* class has been estimated at \$347 billion, reflecting procurement, operations, and sustainment through 2085. The *Columbia*-class program, the Navy's primary long-term acquisition effort for sustaining the sea-based nuclear deterrent, is directly tied to avoiding any reduction in the number of deployable ballistic missile submarines available to sustain continuous deterrent patrols as the *Ohio*-class fleet retires.

Jérôme Brahy is a defense analyst and documentalist at Army Recognition. He specializes in naval modernization, aviation, drones, armored vehicles, and artillery, with a focus on strategic developments in the United States, China, Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, and Belgium. His analyses go beyond the facts, providing context, identifying key actors, and explaining why defense news matters on a global scale.



The U.S. Navy Has a New *USS Massachusetts*

The new *USS Massachusetts* submarine shares a name with a “lucky” battleship of World War II—and an exceptionally unlucky one a half-century earlier.

(Reproduced from The National Interest website - Published March 31, 2026.)

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/us-navy-has-new-uss-massachusetts-ps-033126>

by Peter Suci



SSN-798 is the 25th submarine of the *Virginia* class and the 12th boat delivered by NNS.

“*Massachusetts* is playing an incredible role in our security,” said Admiral William Houston, director of Naval Reactors, who highlighted the crew’s hard work and the unit’s role in national defense on Saturday. “Your crew represents the best that our Navy and our nation has. You

In the 250-year history of the U.S. Navy, eight warships have been named after the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including a topsail schooner, a sloop, a wooden steamer, an iron crew steamer, and two battleships. The eighth *USS Massachusetts*—the seventh Block IV *Virginia*-class fast attack submarine—was commissioned at a ceremony in Boston Harbor on Saturday.

“To the crew, the plankowners, the Iron Patriots of the *USS Massachusetts*, we did it,” said Commander Michael Siedsma, commanding officer of the newly commissioned nuclear-powered boat. “Your hard work and unshakable dedication are evident. I am amazed and humbled by what we have accomplished.”

USS Massachusetts (SSN-798) could be described as a “team effort,” with General Dynamics Electric Boat and HII-Newport News Shipbuilding each contributing to her construction. Even so, the submarine’s delivery to the U.S. Navy was more than a year late—a reminder of the challenges the service faces in maintaining a modern and capable fleet.

train relentlessly to bring this warship to life and earn the trust placed in you.”

The *Virginia*-Class Submarine’s Specifications

Year Introduced: 2004
Number Built: 24 (69 planned)
Length: 377 ft (115 m)
Beam (Width): 34 ft (10.4 m)
Displacement: 7,800 tons
Propulsion: S9G nuclear reactor; auxiliary diesel engine
Top Speed: 25 knots (28.8 mph, 46 km/h)
Range: Unlimited
Armaments: 12 VLS tubes;
four 21” (530mm) torpedo tubes for Mk-48 torpedoes;
BGM-109 Tomahawk missiles
Crew: 135 (15 officers, 120 enlisted)

The Block IV boats incorporate design changes focused on reducing total ownership cost. By making these smaller-scale design changes to extend the component-level life-cycle of the submarine, the U.S. Navy was able to increase

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New Massachusetts Joins the Submarine Fleet

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the rate of depot maintenance availability and the number of deployments. The main improvement of the Block IV over the preceding Block III is the reduction of major maintenance periods from four to three, increasing each boat's total time available to be spent at sea. Plus, each of the Block IV boats can dive to more than 800 feet.

The *Virginia*-class boats are the U.S. Navy's primary attack submarine for land, surface, and anti-submarine attack missions, and their armaments include cruise missiles and torpedoes. Each is also equipped with large lock-in/lock-out chambers that allow Navy SEALs to operate from the boat, and plans call for using it to launch underwater drones. Instead of traditional periscopes, this class of submarines uses two photonics masts that host visible- and infrared-band digital cameras atop telescoping arms.

Two Battleships Have Been Named After Massachusetts

Of the two battleships named for the state of Massachusetts, one—the *South Dakota*-class USS *Massachusetts* (BB-59)—is fondly remembered for her meritorious service. The other *Massachusetts* (BB-2) is a battleship that the U.S. Navy would probably rather forget altogether.

USS *Massachusetts* (BB-2) was a battleship in name only, as she was fitted with heavy armor and ordnance. However, the *Indiana*-class pre-dreadnought had been designed for coastal defense, and her decks were not safe from high waves on the open ocean!

USS *Massachusetts* (BB-2) was authorized in 1890 and commissioned six years later, becoming the second “modern” battleship built for the U.S. Navy. In addition to barely being able to head out to sea, her turrets lacked counterweights, and if both of the twin 13-inch guns were turned to one side, she would list severely to that side. Similarly, the vessel's main belt armor was placed too low to be effective against enemy fire.

In addition to her poor design, the ship could be described as being truly “unlucky.” During a training maneuver and gunnery practice, an explosion in one of her 8-inch gun turrets killed nine sailors. She also ran aground twice, requiring months of repairs each time.

She spent much of her service laid up in the reserve fleet and was recommissioned to serve as a training ship for gun crews during World War I. Arguably the ship's most valuable service to the Navy came in 1921, when she was scuttled in shallow water off Pensacola, Florida, and used

as a target for experimental artillery. The wreck remains a popular diving spot, regarded as the oldest battleship still in existence in any form.

The second USS *Massachusetts* (BB-59) is the centerpiece of, and the largest vessel in, the museum fleet at Battleship Cove in Fall River, Massachusetts. Known as “Big Mamie” to her crewmembers, she was the seventh ship of the United States Navy to be named for the Bay State. Her keel was laid down in July 1939, and she was launched in September 1941. Commissioned in May 1942 with Captain Francis E. M. Whiting in command, the battleship went on to receive a total of eleven battle stars for her service during World War II.

Built by Bethlehem Steel Company in Quincy, Massachusetts, the warship measures 681 feet in length with a 108-foot beam, and weighs 35,000 tons. She is representative of the *South Dakota* class of American battleships that fought against Japan in World War II.

It has been reported that “Big Mamie” fired both the first U.S. Navy's 16-inch (406mm) guns for the first time during the war when the U.S. battlegroup attacked the Vichy French battleship *Jean Bart* during the Battle of Casablanca in November 1942 as part of the Allied invasion of Vichy France-controlled North Africa during Operation Torch. The warship also had the distinction of conducting the last firing of 16-inch guns during World War II, when the warship targeted a Japanese steel works facility in Hamamatsu just hours before the Japanese surrender.

The ship earned the reputation “Work Horse of the Fleet.” Unlike her cursed predecessor, the *Massachusetts* also acquired a reputation for good luck; during the war, no U.S. Navy personnel were ever killed in action on board the warship. After the war, she was transferred to the reserve fleet, and while plans were drawn up to convert the vessel into a guided missile battleship, she was instead stricken from the Naval Vessel Register. A group of her former crew successfully lobbied to have her preserved as a museum ship.

The newest USS *Massachusetts* will carry on the tradition of BB-59—and hopefully have a more successful career than BB-2!

Peter Suci has contributed to dozens of newspapers, magazines and websites over a 30-year career in journalism. He regularly writes about military hardware, firearms history, cybersecurity, politics, and international affairs. Peter is also a contributing writer for *Forbes* and *Clearance Jobs*.

Blackbeard the Smokeboat Snipe by Bob "Dex" Armstrong

When Flo Hemming dies, God will put her in the Express Lane to Paradise. This poor lady has had all the hell on earth that God assigns to any one human being. You see, Flo Hemming is the lovely lady Mike Hemming, a.k.a. "Boy Throttleman," hypnotized into marriage. No parole. No time off for good behavior. Hell, Flo could shoot him and do less time.

Flo has never taught Mike the intended concept of sleep. The idea that God created night and day for specific purposes, and that the dark part was to be spent putting a download on a Serta.

At reunions, there are always five or six long-range liars who hang around the bar in the hospitality room, unloading load after load of historically inaccurate horse manure. And putting a helluva dent in the "toss the hat" liquor stores. Like injured race horses, the only way you can put Hemming down is to blow a hole in his head with a large caliber handgun. When señor Hemming starts consuming brewed products in multiple can increments, there is a resulting rapid erosion of truth. After twelve or so cans, Mike will swear to the historical accuracy of Dr. Seuss.

At the first *Requin* reunion, I felt that I should stay up and drink with the heavy hitters. But in the ensuing years I had learned when to switch to Pepsi and when to say "to hell with it" and toss my car keys on the roof. I stayed up until a drunk ran down the corridor in a white hat and skivvies yelling, "Take 'er down to six-five feet and report yer leaks!"

This was followed by two guys yelling, "Paint locker, manned and ready!"

Anticipating the not too far off arrival of the local Gestapo or guys from the local asylum with nets, I gathered up my confused Norwegian submariner's wife and went to our room—the one Bob Garlock

put me in right next to some sonuvabitch who'd checked in with a dog which could've easily qualified for the Budweiser beer wagon team. Damn dog barked all night. And every time he barked, a couple of fillings fell out of my teeth.

When we got back to the room, I found that my innocent foreign-born bride was wide-eyed shocked. She had been listening to Mike Hemming and was trying to deal with the revelation and discovery that she was contractually cohabiting with a perverted heathen.

"Darling, Hemming lies. Don't believe a word the sonuvabitch says. There's no such thing as a six-story cathouse. And if there was such a place and I'd jumped out of a six-story window with a nekkit blond, I would be dead. D-E-A-D. Deader'n hell."

"No, no one ever had to use a high-pressure hose to get me out of a tree."

"Mom, Hemming is a master bullshit artist. He and Stuke. When presented with a choice between truth and fabricating something out of ten pounds of pony shit, they'll go for the pony crap every time."

"No, neither of them ever developed an appreciation for what became known as the concept of sleep. They never figured out that the Lord's original idea of dividing the day into two sections of twelve hours was so tired bastards could sleep."

"Dex?"

"Yes, sweetpea?"

"Did you ever make love to a zebra?"

"Who'n hell told you that!?"

"Mike Hemming."

(concluded on page 12)

Blackbeard the Smokeboat Snipe... by Dex Armstrong

(concluded from page 11)

“Darlin’, I could go around this hotel and round up a couple of hundred sworn affidavits that Mike Hemming hasn’t been closer than five miles to the truth in ten years.”

Hemming doesn’t care whose reputation he flushes down the ceramic dumper.

I love Mike a.k.a. “Boy Throttleman.” Proud to call him shipmate, in fact. Love Flo too. Maybe someday this lovely lady will knock off Mike’s rough edges and file his horns down enough to turn him loose in polite society.

Mike lies, sure. I, on the other hand, only deal in the gospel truth. Never prone to exaggeration nor concocted horseshit. I should be writing Little Golden Books for kiddies.

Hemming lies, but all the stories told on him are true. He is a totally unrepentant corrupting influ-

ence who needs salvation in the worst way. When he was assigned to the *Carp*, they say he tossed his seabag over the brow, saluted the colors and the quarterdeck and said, “What the hell is ‘C-A-R-P’? Don’t you idiots know how to spell crap?”

Mike, if you’re reading this, know we love you. And after your invitation to the *Carp* get-together, I spent the better part of a month pulling your harpoons out of my butt. Consider this a love note.

A kind of a belated Valentine. A big, wet kiss from Stuke and Dex.

Keep a zero bubble...

Dex.



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USS *Delaware* (SSN-791)
USS *Greenville* (SSN-772)
USS *Helena* (SSN-725)
USS *Hyman G. Rickover* (SSN-795)

USS *Montana* (SSN-794)
USS *North Dakota* (SSN-784)
USS *Kentucky Blue* (SSBN-737)
USS *Kentucky Gold* (SSBN-737)
USS *Maine Blue* (SSBN-741)

Questions?

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

New Members

We proudly welcome aboard:

Larry Roger Duncan
 ETR2(SS) E-5 Petty Officer (2nd)
 Contact: daughter Koa
 cell: 714-394-4330
 email: LarryDuncan00@gmail.com
 Qualified in 1972 on USS Pogy (SSN-647); served 1968-1974.
 Also on USS Neches (AO-47).

Bruce William Danielson
 EM2(SS) E-5 Petty Officer (2nd)
 Contact/Spouse: Jerilyn
 cell: 626-221-1840
 email: Buster@LogRoom.com
 Qualified in 1973 on USS Gurnard (SSN-662); served 1970-1976.
 Audio production; motorcyclist.

Scot Michael Schuman
 RM2(SS) E-5 Petty Officer (2nd)
 Contact/Spouse: Arenia
 cell: 909-525-0718
 email: scot.schuman@yahoo.com
 Served on *Thomas Jefferson* (SSBN-618) and *Jacksonville* (SSN-699).
 Active Reserve duty too. Diver.

Bradley N. Proffitt
 Life Associate. Contact: Brother, George. Sponsor: Bill Moak. (Brad's dad Floyd was a WWII subvet.)
 cell: 805-705-3137
 email: bradsabbfan@gmail.com

Bach Ngoc Fleming
 Associate; spouse: Rob Fleming
 cell: 714-357-0293
 email: bachfleming@gmail.com

Robert "Rob" Fleming
 O3-LT(SS) Spouse: Bach Ngoc
 cell: 714-334-0552
 email: robflem@yahoo.com
 Qualified in 1960 on *Segundo* (SS-398); served 1958-1987.



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

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

Recently, NWS Base Command Chief Paul Workman was officially promoted to Master Chief. Our own Darin Detwiler was on hand for the Pinning Ceremony. He also presented Paul with a certificate of recognition from L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI.



Warm kudos from Paul's family. BZ, Master Chief!

While enjoying clearance to be on the base, Darin stopped by to say hello to our big donated generic fleetboat model! She's still lookin' good!





More Chapter News...

Base Leadership to Space Leadership

Here's the latest reporting from our own Darin; you'll be seeing more like this from him as he takes over The Periscope starting with the next issue!

Many members of our USSVI LA-P Base will remember Captain Jessica J. O'Brien from her time as Commanding Officer of Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. She was not just a leader in title. She showed up, stood with us, and spoke at our Memorial Day ceremony at the U.S. Submarine Veterans WWII National Memorial West, honoring those who never returned.

During her tenure at Seal Beach from 2022 to 2025, Captain O'Brien led a series of significant accomplishments. These included completion of a critical ammunition pier project, improvements to quality of life for sailors and their families, and recognition with the Navy Region Southwest Installation Excellence Award. She also made history as the first woman to command the installation, setting a standard defined by both performance and progress.

On April 10, 2026, Captain O'Brien supported *Artemis*

II crew recovery operations following splashdown off the coast of San Diego. Alongside crews from USS *John P. Murtha* (LPD-26) and teams at Naval Base San Diego, her leadership helped ensure mission success in an operation where precision, coordination, and accountability were essential.

For those of us who earned our dolphins, her story feels familiar. Different mission, different environment, same expectations. Attention to detail. Ownership of outcomes. The understanding that small decisions can carry lasting consequences.

From standing with us in remembrance to supporting the safe return of astronauts, Captain O'Brien reflects the kind of leadership that carries forward the values we share.

There is, in that, a quiet point of pride.



Top row: NWS Seal Beach entrance sign and CO (2022-2025) Captain Jessica J. O'Brien.

Middle row: Capt. O'Brien speaks at the 2023 USSVI LA-P Memorial Day Ceremony at the U.S. Submarine Veterans WWII National Memorial West.

Bottom row: Image from April 10, 2026 splashdown of *Artemis II* and Capt. O'Brien with other Naval Base San Diego leaders on the local news.



John P. Holland

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

*(75-year members noted with *)*

Arthur B. Schwartz..... 2025
 Scott Hultner..... 2024
 Stanley O. Westrick 2024
 Bruce Danielson 2023
 Ronald R. Jones..... 2023
 Larry Duncan..... 2022
 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. Bereznyay 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
 Elliot Rada 2017
 Ronald G. Wagner 2017
 Dennis J. Walsh..... 2017
 Michael Kish 2016
 Charles B. McCarthy, Jr.... 2016

(concluded next page)

Los Angeles-Pasadena Base **2026 Calendar of Upcoming Events**

January 17	Monthly Meeting - "Hobo Stew Day"
February 21	Monthly Meeting - Firefighter Museum
March 21	Monthly Meeting - Simi Valley Military Museum
April 16-19	Western Regional Roundup (Las Vegas)
April 18	Monthly Meeting - VIRTUAL only - 1100 hours LINK: https://northeastern.zoom.us/j/96442001535 Meeting ID: 964 4200 1535
May 16	Monthly Meeting - Marni's Restaurant (formerly "Glory Days") 620 Pacific Coast Hwy., Seal Beach, CA 90740 https://www.marnisoc.com . Nominating Committee Appointed
May 16	Pat Zilliacus' 100th birthday party: 1:00 pm at... Westchester Sr. Center, 8740 Lincoln Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045 (For more info., please call 310-649-3319).
May 23	Light cleanup Field Day at the Memorial site from 10:00 to noon
May 25	Memorial Day Ceremony - Coordinated with S.B. Lions Club Eisenhower Park (north side of Seal Beach Pier)
June 13	Seal Beach Health Expo Pop-up Event
June 20	Monthly Meeting - Los Angeles County Fire Museum 16400 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, CA 90706 https://www.lacountyfiremuseum.com/ Call for nominations for 2027 Base Officers
June 27	Pop-up Event at the Seal Beach Pier
July 4	Annual Fourth of July Parade in Huntington Beach
July 18	Monthly Meeting (Location TBD)
August 15	Monthly Meeting - "Hawaii" Theme - Dennis Walsh's home in Brea 2027 Base Officer Candidates Announced
September 6-11	USSVI National Convention in Corpus Christi, Texas
September 19	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Election of Officers (Location TBD)
October 17	Monthly Meeting Annual Officer Installation Luncheon (Location TBD)
November 21	Monthly Meeting - "Thanksgiving" Theme (Location TBD)
December 5	Pop-up Event at the Seal Beach Pier
December 19	Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Navy Golf Course 5660 Orangewood Ave., Cypress, CA 90630

(Holland Club Roster, concluded)

Gary Wheaton..... 2016
 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
 Robert E. Fleming 2010
 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
 *Patrick Zilliacus. 1994
 *William J. Dillon 1993



E-Board Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2026

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted on Saturday morning, April 18, 2026, via Zoom from the USSVI Western Regional Roundup in Las Vegas. A quorum was met.

In attendance:

In Las Vegas:

- Darin Detwiler, Base Commander
- Ray Teare, Base Vice Commander
- Chuck Senior, Director
- Dave Vanderveen, Immediate Past Commander
- Mike Swanson, Immediate Past Treasurer

Virtually via Zoom:

- Sue Bolton, Base Treasurer
- Stan Westrick, Base Secretary
- Bill Moak, COB

Base Commander Darin Detwiler called the meeting to order at 1001 hours. Minutes of the prior E-Board and General meetings were reviewed. No changes or corrections were identified. Mike Swanson moved to accept the Minutes into the base record; this was seconded by Chuck Senior. The motion carried.

Treasurer’s Financial Report: Sue Bolton

The Treasurer’s Report as of April 16, 2026 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Sue Bolton.

Checking	\$27,027.06
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$0.00
Total	\$27,077.06

Expenses:

Stamps, National, Web Hosting, VFW Donation,
 Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce, Badges and Pins \$1,234.64

All bills have been paid.

No questions nor corrections were requested. Mike Swanson moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report and accept it into the base record; this was seconded by Chuck Senior. The motion carried.

Membership Update:

Darin Detwiler reported that the base membership now stands at 99. Holland Club has 66 members, 68 USSVI Life Members, 67 Base Life Members, with one Eternal Patrol notice—that of Sam Aboulafia (Chuck Senior shared a text he received prior to the meeting bearing the news of Sam’s passing within the previous 24 hours). Our thoughts and prayers are with Sam’s family. We will share more information as we learn more. (See page 4.—ed.)

Memorial Update:

Detwiler discussed the completion of the work on a new podium door and frame. Detwiler then discussed the May 23 light clean-up scheduled at the Memorial from 10-12. This is an effort spearheaded by the Seal Beach Lions Club. Detwiler was able to gain approval from the Naval Weapons Station leadership (during this period of no “public events” at the memorial). He noted that some NWS base leadership plan to join us as well as some from the local Naval Recruiting Office.

Detwiler then reminded us how we cannot hold our Memorial Day ceremony at the U.S. WWII Submarine Veterans National Memorial West. The E-Board had voted in March to collaborate with the Seal Beach Lions Club to combine with their Memorial Day ceremony at Eisenhower Park, connected to the north side of the pier in Seal Beach. This event is blending elements from our USSVI ceremony (including Tolling the Boats) with the city’s ceremony on May 25, 2026, 1130—1300 Hours.

Stan Westrick shared that he is scheduled for the June flower detail.

(concluded on next page)

Russia's Kilo-Class Stealth Subs Sold to China and Iran

(from the 1945 website; published 1/22/26)

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2026/01/russias-kilo-class-black-hole-stealth-submarines-were-sold-to-both-china-and-iran/>

by Caleb Larson

Though originally designed during the Cold War, the Soviet Navy's Kilo-class submarine's relatively small size, its optimization for operations in shallow coastal waters, and its conventional propulsion made it an attractive platform for countries wanting a sub force who lacked the means to build one themselves.

Called Project 877 by the Soviets, the first Kilo-class design was intended, at least initially, exclusively for the Soviet Navy rather than for the export market.

Envisioned as an anti-submarine warfare ship, the Kilo class was also intended to locate and sink enemy warships. Thanks to its low acoustic signature, the design also lent itself to clandestine missions: intelligence-gathering, surveillance, and the tracking of NATO warships and U.S. Navy carrier strike groups.

While the Kilo-class began life in Soviet dockyards, the class has since become an important part of Russian arms sales abroad, with submarines sold to Algeria, India, Vietnam, Iran, Myanmar, Poland, and China. Central to the class's success in the export market has been the Kilo's relative affordability, operational simplicity, and small, straightforward design.

Eventually, the class will likely be supplanted by China's own much more capable diesel-electric submarines, particularly the *Yuan* class, a highly capable submarine boasting air-independent propulsion.

India, too, is phasing out its Kilo-class submarines. By late last year, the Indian Navy had decommissioned the INS *Sindhughosh*, its lead submarine, after four decades of service. Other Kilos in the Indian Navy rapidly approach obsolescence as well..

E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

Old Business:

The design acquisition of coins (pertaining to the Memorial) was revisited, and the Board will table this discussion in order to gain information from the USSVI Charitable Foundation.

Detwiler shared that he had contacted the 2026 National USSVI Convention (regarding the previously approved half-page ad in the convention program magazine at a cost of \$175.00). We have plenty of time to get this ad submitted. After the Western Regional Roundup, Detwiler will draft a few options for this ad for the board to view and select.

New Business:

We discussed this year's base charitable donation and how we had a 10% limit on our base funds that we could vote on before needing the general membership's vote. Ray Teare moved to direct the Treasurer to transfer \$2500.00 from the Base's treasury to the Charitable Foundation (CF) General fund. Chuck Senior seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The board indicated a preference for holding the July meetings at the Anaheim VFW. Detwiler will work to secure the venue for July.

Ray Teare discussed the benefits of using the Charitable Foundation to improve how we hold our funds. 1645 bases put money into the Charitable Foundation "savings account" to gain interest (historically 5%-11%). The base would be able to withdraw as needed. The board discussed keeping \$7000 in our checking account and putting the rest into our "savings" account.

There being no further business, Dave Vanderveen motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Ray Teare. The motion passed, ending the meeting at 1101 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Westrick

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

National Sub Day Plus a "New Look" for the Memorial

On NATIONAL SUBMARINE DAY, I am happy to share about the completion of a work package USSVI LA/P submitted through the Navy base leadership.

This week, the fine folks at NAVAL WEAPONS STATION, SEAL BEACH replaced the aging door and frame for the permanent podium at the U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS WWII NATIONAL MEMORIAL WEST. Yesterday, I took these attached photos of the fruits of this 'overhaul.'

We thank them for their quality work and a job well done.

Bravo Zulu to the base leadership and shop personnel who helped make this project a success!



Dr. Darin Detwiler
USSVI LA/P Base Commander
(425) 232-5743



Bow of USS *Helena* (SSN-725). Photo taken from her bridge during the March 16, 2001 Distinguished Visitor Embark enthusiastically experienced by moi, your now-former *Periscope* editor! What an amazing day!



*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

