



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

Hey, everyone, sorry to be a few days late with this issue. Had some pressing issues, plus a case of our new officers getting their feet wet with new responsibilities. Now that it's November I guess the holiday season has officially started, eh? And wow—how 'bout those Dodgers?! As usual, I'll be in the Yeoman's Shack if you need me.

—Jeff

## "007"-Grade Armored Submarine is an Underwater Hollywood Hotrod!

*(Reproduced from the Athlon Outdoors website)*

by Will Dabbs, MD *(Note: Just for fun!—ed.)*



*The Kronos armored submarine from Highland Systems is the ultimate aquatic recreational vehicle.*

It's a tired trope, but the Kronos armored submarine from Highland Systems looks like something out of a James Bond movie. Fast, powerful, capable, and mean, the Kronos submarine is the sort of machine to set a guy apart from his peers. If you can afford to buy yourself a ride into space, you might be able to add one of these to your stable. Possibly you own the company that flies people into space, then you could buy one outright. If you're just a normal guy like me, then whip up some popcorn and take a seat. We're about to do some dreaming.

### Looking for the Ultimate Watercraft? Here It Is!

The Kronos armored submarine sports a curb weight of 22,000 pounds and a payload of more than three tons. It will carry you and ten of your closest friends to a working depth of 100 meters and keep you there in style, safety, and comfort for a day and a half. It is also breathtakingly fast. If Bruce Wayne needed a commercial off-the-shelf batsub, this is the place he'd look. (Expect to see the Kronos armored submarine on the big screen eventually. Something this epic will inevitably earn a little Hollywood attention.)

*(continued on page 10)*



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## From the Wardroom...



Darin Detwiler,  
*Base Commander*

Pride! That's the first word which comes to mind when I think about the honor of stepping into the role of Base Commander for the Los Angeles-Pasadena Base of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

I'm Darin Detwiler, and I served as a nuclear machinist's mate aboard the USS *William H. Bates* (SSN-680) from 1986 to 1992, followed by two more years in the Naval Reserves. Like many of you, my time in uniform didn't just fill a chapter of my life—it shaped who I became. It gave me a lifelong sense of purpose, responsibility, and service to others.

Since then, the mission hasn't changed—only the uniform. I've been a public school teacher, a university professor, and a global advocate for food safety. But no matter the path, I've never stopped being a submariner. I'm proud to be a life member of both the Los Angeles-Pasadena Base and USSVI National.

Over the years, I've had the chance to give back—whether as Vice Commander, Secretary, contributor to *American Submariner*, or Executive Director of the USSVI Charitable Foundation. Each of those roles taught me something different. Each one prepared me for this one.

Being elected Base Commander isn't just an honor—it's a responsibility I take seriously. This is about more than tradition. It's about keeping that legacy alive, building something that lasts, and making sure this base continues to serve those who served—past, present, and future.

We've got meaningful work ahead. Among the milestones on the horizon is the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Submarine Veterans WWII National Memorial West in 2027. That's not just a date on the calendar...it's a chance to show what this base stands for.

We will continue to build on the foundation that's been laid: to strengthen our connections, to honor our history, and to ensure that every submariner and their family knows they belong.

It's my privilege to serve alongside you.

*Darin*

*Darin Detwiler, Commander*  
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



## Oct. General Meeting Sailing List

Frank Bereznay  
Susan Bolton  
Kathleen Carder  
Ken Dorn  
Ron Jones  
Joe Koch  
Jack Mahan  
Bill Moak  
Jeff Porteous  
David Semrau  
Chuck Senior  
Mike Swanson  
Ray Teare  
Cindy Teare  
Dave Vanderveen  
Dennis Walsh  
Stan Westrick  
Pat Zilliacus  
Mercedes Zilliacus



## Minutes of October 18, 2025 General Meeting

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at the Radiant Brewery in Anaheim, CA at 1100 hours. Dave then led the Pledge of Allegiance, following that with a recitation of the USSVI Purpose and a request for a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates.

Dave explained that last month's meeting Minutes had been published in the prior issue of the newsletter and that they had been reviewed, approved and accepted into the base record during the E-Board meeting. *(See E-Board Minutes elsewhere in this issue.—ed.)*

### Treasurer's Report:

Dave explained that the Treasurer's Report had been reviewed, approved and accepted into the base record by the E-Board, and to comply with our By-Laws, asked Treasurer Sue Bolton to present the report to the General Members attending today. *(The financial report appears in the E-Board Minutes elsewhere in this issue as usual.—ed.)*

### Membership Update:

Dave Vanderveen reported he's working on bringing in two prospective new members.

### Memorial Update:

Dave Vanderveen suggested the base take over providing the flowers at the memorial site. He pointed out that four volunteers from the base could handily take care of this. It would include our base purchasing replacement flowers.

### New Business / Good of the Order:

Several members reported having received scam/phishing e-mails via Dave Vanderveen's e-address. Dave noted that the national organization is aware of the problem and that a law enforcement case on it has been opened.

*(concluded on next page)*



## Binnacle List

Keep this shipmate in your thoughts—better yet, get in touch!

• **Ed Arnold** is out of the hospital now and residing in an assisted living facility in Yorba Linda—though still suffering from a couple of ongoing medical issues. But he's alert and able to communicate, so please give him a call to cheer him up. He also has his computer in his room for e-contacting.

Ed Arnold  
17803 Imperial Hwy. Rm. 227  
Yorba Linda, CA 92886-2377  
cell/text: 714-797-9286  
email: earnold725@aol.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)*

David Semrau offered to present a slide show at our next meeting.

Our new base officers were officially sworn in for the coming year by Dave Vanderveen, acting in his role as District Commander. *(See photos on page 18.—ed.)*

### Upcoming Meeting Locations:

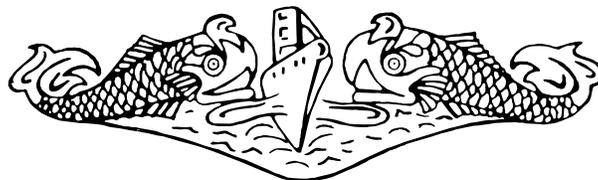
There was a discussion about the location of our upcoming meetings. Ken Dorn offered to look into having our November meeting take place once again at the Fire Museum, then get back to base officers with a final approval. *(This was later confirmed; see information on page 5.—ed.)*

There being no further business, Joe Koch motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Chuck Senior and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1136 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stan Westrick*

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI



**PRIDE RUNS DEEP**

**Nov. Meeting at L.A. Cty. Fire Museum**

**Nov. Meeting**

**Date: Nov. 15, 2025**

*This month we're back at The L.A. County Fire Museum: 16400 Bellflower Blvd. (just north of Oak Ave.) in Bellflower. The museum opens at 9:00 a.m.; we'll hold an EBoard Meeting at 10:00 and follow it with a General Meeting as usual.*

**Location:**

**16400 Bellflower Blvd. Bellflower, CA 90706**

**Time:**

- EBoard Meeting 10:00 a.m.
- General Meeting 11:00 a.m.

*(No host lunch at a nearby restaurant afterwards; location to be decided at the time.)*



**Nov. Birthdays**

We hereby extend the happiest of wishes to all our celebrants!

- Bill Long..... 11/1
- Rex Shields ..... 11/1
- Gary Lee Wing..... 11/4
- David Detwiler..... 11/6
- Wally Walrath ..... 11/7
- Dick Traser ..... 11/11
- Jud Scott..... 11/16
- Ed Arnold..... 11/21
- Matt Turner ..... 11/22
- Cheese Cheesebrough.. 11/22
- Dave Geske..... 11/28
- Larry Butler ..... 11/29
- Ray Teare ..... 11/30

**Ship's Store**

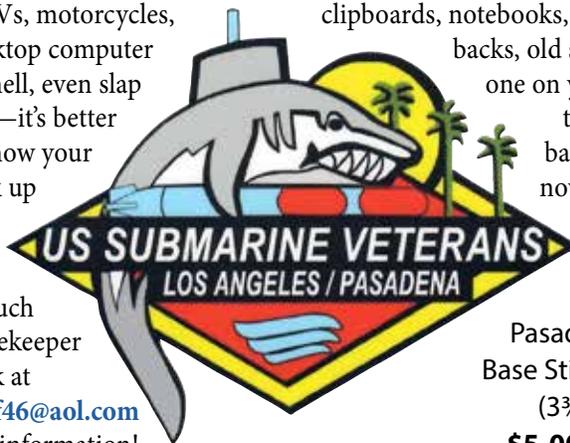
**2026 Calendars Now Available!**

Order your calendar through Bill Moak or the National Storekeeper.



**L.A.-Pasadena Base Logo Stickers!**

They're not just for the refrigerator, bubblehead! Stick 'em on cars, trucks, RVs, motorcycles, clipboards, notebooks, lap-backs, old steamer one on your than a base pride now!



Get in touch with Storekeeper Bill Moak at [golfnsurf46@aol.com](mailto: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

**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 • Ken Dorn (multiple) • Sally Moran
- Scott Hultner • Willie Williamson • Greg Paulson • Dennis Bott (multiple)
- Harold Staggs estate • Dave Vanderveen • Ed Barwick (multiple)
- Robert Cailor (multiple) • William Long • Darin Detwiler



*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

## NOVEMBER TOLLING OF THE BOATS



USS ALBACORE (SS-218)



USS GROWLER (SS-215)

### USS ALBACORE (SS-218)

Lost on November 7, 1944 off northern Hokkaido. A recipient of two Presidential Unit Citations, *Albacore* had been on her eleventh war patrol when she struck a mine while running submerged. A nearby Japanese patrol craft had detected her and bore witness to her loss as she entered the minefield. Eighty-five officers and crew perished.

### USS GROWLER (SS-215)

Lost on November 8, 1944 when she went down in the South China Sea. *Growler* had been awarded two Navy Unit Commendations and was on her twelfth war patrol when sunk while attacking a convoy—likely the victim of either a depth charge attack or the circular run of one of her own torpedoes. Eighty-six men went down with the boat.

### USS SCAMP (SS-277)

Probably lost on November 9, 1944 near Tokyo Bay. Evidence indicates that during her eighth war patrol *Scamp* had been trailing oil—perhaps from mine damage—which had helped Japanese coastal defense vessels locate and destroy her with depth charges. Her full complement of eighty-three never came home.

### USS CORVINA (SS-226)

Lost on November 16, 1943 when sunk just south of Truk during her first war patrol. *Corvina* is suspected of having been destroyed by torpedoes from a Japanese submarine. All eighty-two officers and men were lost in the attack.

### USS SCULPIN (SS-191)

Lost on November 19, 1943 also near Truk. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, *Sculpin* continued her fight on the surface. Once the captain was killed, the crew was forced to abandon ship and scuttle the boat. Forty-one men were taken prisoner, only twenty-one of whom survived the war. Among those choosing not to abandon ship, Captain John Cromwell, aboard as a potential wolfpack commander, rode *Sculpin* to the bottom, fearing that vital information he was carrying might be compromised under torture. For this, Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Forty-three men were lost when *Sculpin* went down.



USS SCAMP (SS-277)



USS CORVINA (SS-226)



USS SCULPIN (SS-191)



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

# Museum Brings Decommissioned Sub Home to Minnesota

(Reproduced from The Subcommittee Report - to be published December 1, 2025.)

by Tim Smalley (TMSmalley@yahoo.com / Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum)



Sail of the USS *Minneapolis-Saint Paul* being prepped for display (along with her rudder) at the new Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum. (Photo by Tim Smalley.)

The USS *Minneapolis-Saint Paul* is home. The decommissioned nuclear-powered fast attack submarine's towering sail and rudder have been transported to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum in Little Falls from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington.

The disassembled pieces arrived at Camp Ripley, Minnesota on Aug. 29, 2024 and the artifact will be a distinctive feature at the new 32-acre Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum & Library that opened May 1, 2025.

"While there is a great deal of restoration to make sure these pieces are ready for display, the addition of the sail and rudder of the USS *Minneapolis-Saint Paul* to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum is an important step in continuing to build a world-class museum," said Randal Dietrich, Executive Director of the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum. "Minnesota is mobilizing to honor the veterans of all branches of service."

The USS *Minneapolis-Saint Paul* was a nuclear-powered *Los Angeles*-class submarine in service between 1984 and 2008. She was the first vessel of the United States Navy to be named for the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Known with the hull classification of SSN-708, the submarine served with distinction in Operation Desert Shield and the First Gulf War. She was the first submarine to carry

Tomahawk missiles specifically designated for use in strikes against Iraq.

"Preserving this vital Naval artifact is important to the men who served on her, but also to the history of Minnesota," said Bill James, United States Navy League Minnesota Council President. "The USS *Minneapolis Saint Paul* admirably served from 1984-2008 and took part in Operation Desert Shield and the Gulf War. The Navy League and submarine veterans continue to mourn the deaths of two SSN-708 sailors who died in rough seas on the coast of southwestern England in 2006. Along with the Minnesota Submarine League, we look forward to the restoration of the sail and rudder and [their] placement at the new Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum."

Transported by St. Cloud, Minn.-based Anderson Trucking Service, and expertly unloaded by Camp Ripley logisticians, the pieces will receive extensive renovation over the next two years. "This project is a great opportunity to show our support for veterans and military personnel," said Scott Anderson, Executive Vice President and Chief Administration Officer of Anderson Trucking Service. "We are honored to assist with this amazing addition to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum and can't wait to see it come to fruition. Many of our drivers and employees are veterans, and this is one way that we can honor their service and show how grateful we are."

## **I AM A VETERAN**

*by: Andrea Christensen Brett*

You may not know me the first time we meet  
I'm just another you see on the street  
But I am the reason you walk and breathe free  
I am the reason for your liberty

## **I AM A VETERAN**

I work in the local factory all day  
I own the restaurant just down the way  
I sell you insurance, I start your IV  
I've got the best-looking grandkids you'll ever see

I'm your grocer, your banker  
Your child's schoolteacher  
I'm your plumber, your barber  
Your family's preacher  
But there's part of me you don't know very well  
Just listen a moment, I've a story to tell

## **I AM A VETERAN**

But I knew I was doing what had to be done I joined the service while  
still in my teens  
I traded my jeans for camouflage greens  
I'm the first in my family to do something like this  
I followed my father, like he followed his  
Defying my fears and hiding my doubt  
I married my sweetheart before I shipped out  
I missed Christmas, then Easter  
The birth of my son

I served on the battlefield, I served on the base  
I bound up the wounded  
And begged for God's grace  
In the jungle, the desert, on mountains and shores  
In bunkers, in tents, on dank earthen floors  
While I fought on the ground, in the air, on the sea  
My family and friends were home praying for me

*(concluded on page 9)*

For the land of the free and the home of the brave  
I faced my demons in foxholes and caves  
Then one dreaded day, without drummer or fife  
I lost an arm, my buddy lost his life

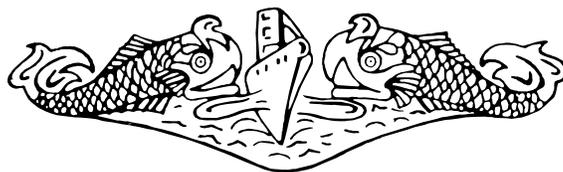
I came home and moved on  
But forever was changed  
The perils of war in my memory remained  
I don't really say much, I don't feel like I can  
But I left home a child, and came home a man

There are thousands like me  
Thousands more who are gone  
But their legacy lives as time marches on  
White crosses in rows  
And names carved in queue  
Remind us of what these brave souls had to do

I'm part of a fellowship, a strong mighty band  
Of each man and each woman  
Who has served this great land  
And when Old Glory waves  
I stand proud, I stand tall  
I helped keep her flying over you, over all

## **I AM A VETERAN**

Copyright Andrea C. Brett 2003  
First appeared in the *Periscope* - December, 2018



**PRIDE RUNS DEEP**

## Futuristic Kronos 007-Style Private Submarine

(continued from page 1)



### What's the Point?

The adult human brain weighs around three pounds and is mostly fat. It's the most complicated contrivance in the known universe. When slaved to human fingers this remarkable computer has explored every crevice of our own blue orb, crafted remarkable examples of art and literature, devised machines to do the most extraordinary tasks and deployed robots on Mars.

This same gooey CPU has built weapons capable of destroying all life on planet earth several times over, engaged in graft, corruption and greed on a simply breathtaking scale, melted a substantial portion of the polar icecaps and created a floating garbage island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean twice the size of Texas (No kidding. It has its own Wikipedia page. Google it.) How do you think the rest of Earth's creatures might feel about that?



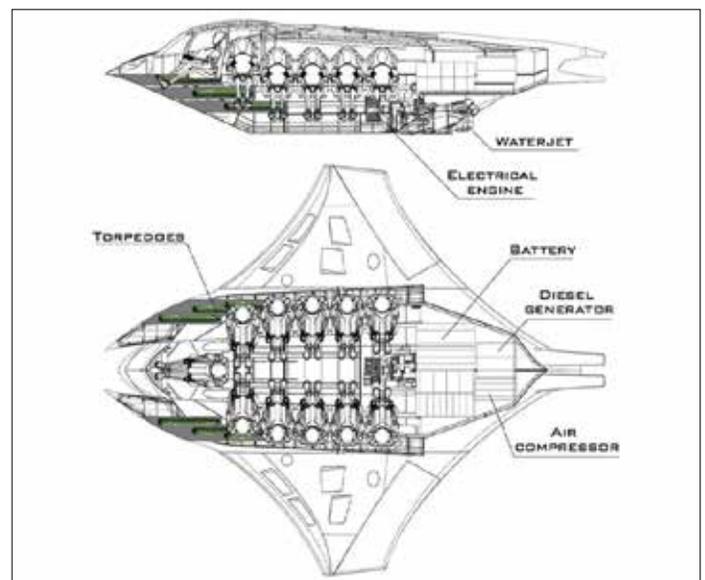
### Smart Dolphins

The brain of the Bottlenose Dolphin is actually larger than that of humans (1,600 versus 1,300 grams). Its brain-to-body weight ratio exceeds that of the great apes. Dolphins are the second most encephalized creatures on planet

Earth. For all their speed, agility, and intellectual prowess, dolphins are also surprisingly easy to get along with. They don't build massive death machines or pollute their world to the point that it becomes uninhabitable. Aside from a little poop, they're actually quite tidy.

So long as we don't drown them in our fishing nets, the interactions between dolphins and humans are monotonously cordial. They thrive in captivity and will perform regularly and enthusiastically in exchange for the occasional fish. However, what if all that is just a ruse?

What if the dolphins, instead of being innately docile, are actually just biding their time? What if climate change is all part of their nefarious scheme? To hear the scientists talk, global warming and rising sea levels will soon inundate everything up to the American Midwest. What if, once they can reach SAC Headquarters at Nebraska's Offutt Air Force Base, the dolphins intend to launch a coordinated aquatic assault, subjugate all humans, and make us their slaves?



*Note the torpedo tubes above. Holy crap, but that's cool!*

### Kronos Armored Submarine

Suppose the Dolphin Uprising turns out to be a real thing. In that case, the Kronos armored submarine might be the only hedge standing between you and a lifetime spent in scuba servitude ferrying sardines by the bucketful to your new dolphin masters. When that day comes, you will certainly regret turning up your nose at this article as "ludicrous" or "farcical." Now that I have your attention, do please proceed.

(continued on page 11)

## Futuristic Kronos 007-Style Private Submarine

(continued from page 10)



### Technical Details

The Kronos armored submarine is 29.5 feet long and 24.2 feet wide. It is 6.6 feet thick at its greatest point. Like the famed German U-boats of World War II, the Kronos armored submarine is powered by a hybrid diesel/electric propulsion system. Unlike those relatively primitive vessels, the Kronos is really, really fast.

How fast, you might ask? How about 48 miles per hour on the surface and 30 miles per hour submerged? That sort of performance really *was* previously reserved for hypothetical spy gear in Hollywood movies.

### Dives to 100 Meters

Working depth is 100 meters, while critical depth is 250 meters. It takes ninety minutes to charge the onboard batteries fully. These batteries power a 1,200-horsepower electric waterjet drive system. Endurance is 26 hours on battery power alone and 54 hours on both battery and diesel. An onboard air compressor helps recharge the life support system.



*The interior of the Kronos armored submarine resembles that of a Star Trek shuttlecraft.*

The interior looks like something out of *Star Trek*. Adaptive lighting adjusts to ambient conditions, and the cabin is air-conditioned. Critical life support functions are all automated. The vessel can stay safely submerged for 36 hours.

### Dream On

So, what can you really do with it? Well, I don't know. How imaginative are you? Research is an obvious application. Visual inspection of underwater objects and equipment is on the menu as well. The Kronos could be used for exploration of the seabed or monitoring of underwater cables and pipes. Underwater rescue, exploration, and advanced eco-tourism would also be in its wheelhouse. But that's just the beginning.

Optional equipment includes samplers, manipulators, and sundry external underwater cameras, as well as mission-specific analyzers and scanners. The submarine can be fitted with external connectors for both air and power. Underwater tow gear and a pressure lock for launching divers are also available. The Kronos can be modified for arctic operations around sea ice, too.



*Despite oozing pure unfiltered awesome, the Kronos armored submarine will ride on a boat trailer behind a large pickup truck.*

### Civilian Use and More

In addition to its obvious civilian utility, the Kronos armored submarine also has military applications. The vessel's speed and endurance make it a viable vehicle for covert combat insertions. Additionally, the sharp-eyed observer will note that the Kronos can be equipped with six tubes to accommodate Black Scorpion torpedoes. These weapons weigh 11 kilograms each and sport a range of 3,000 meters. Wow.

(concluded on page 12)

## Futuristic Kronos 007-Style Private Submarine

(concluded from page 11)

The Kronos armored submarine is a large vehicle that seems cumbersome on land. However, both wings fold vertically for transport. In this configuration, the Kronos can be moved safely and easily via standard rail or truck lines. As such, the submarine can be readily trailered from one area of operation to another without a lot of expensive teardown. It can even be pulled behind a large pickup truck and launched via a substantial boat ramp.



*The Kronos armored sub looks like an underwater stealth fighter.*

### Ruminations

Just study this thing and tell me it doesn't look like something 007 might use to infiltrate Spectre's evil lair. I think

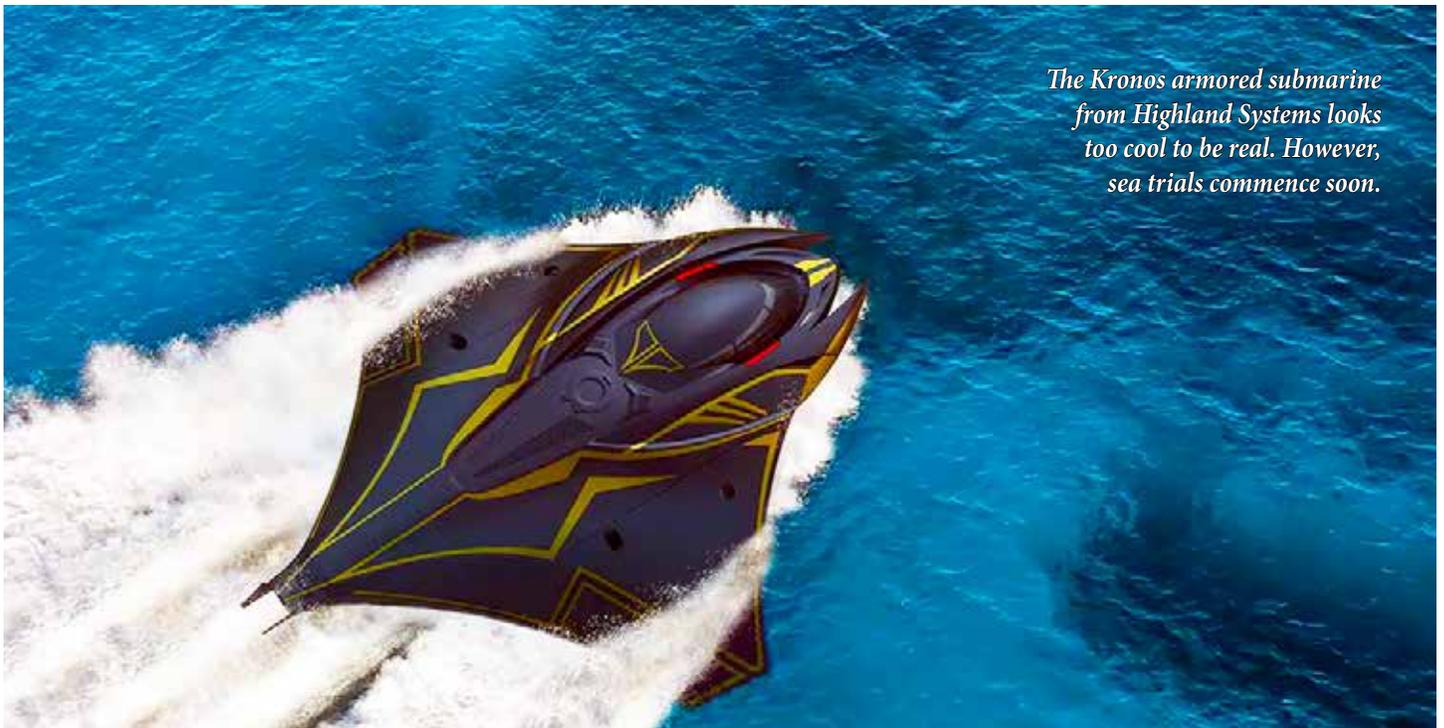
this is the coolest watercraft I've ever seen. The graceful lines and slightly sinister ambience rival anything seen in the movies. Hollywood make-believe imagery notwithstanding, the Kronos is quite real. My buddies at Highland Systems tell me sea trials will begin soon in Italy.

### Armored Submarine

The Kronos armored submarine is a joint venture between the UK and the UAE. I have no idea what such a beast would cost. They don't advertise a price. You know the old adage—if you have to ask, you can't afford it. However, it's all fun and games until Flipper knocks on your window, demanding a tummy rub. When the day of the Dolphin Uprising finally arrives, and you know it will, only those with a Kronos armored submarine of their own will prevail.

### KRONOS ARMORED SUBMARINE

Length:	29.5 feet
Width:	24.2 feet
Height:	6.6 feet
Weight:	22,000 pounds
Payload:	6,000 pounds
Endurance:	36 hours
Top Speed (surface):	48 mph
Top Speed (submerged):	30 mph
MSRP:	Seriously? Does It Matter?



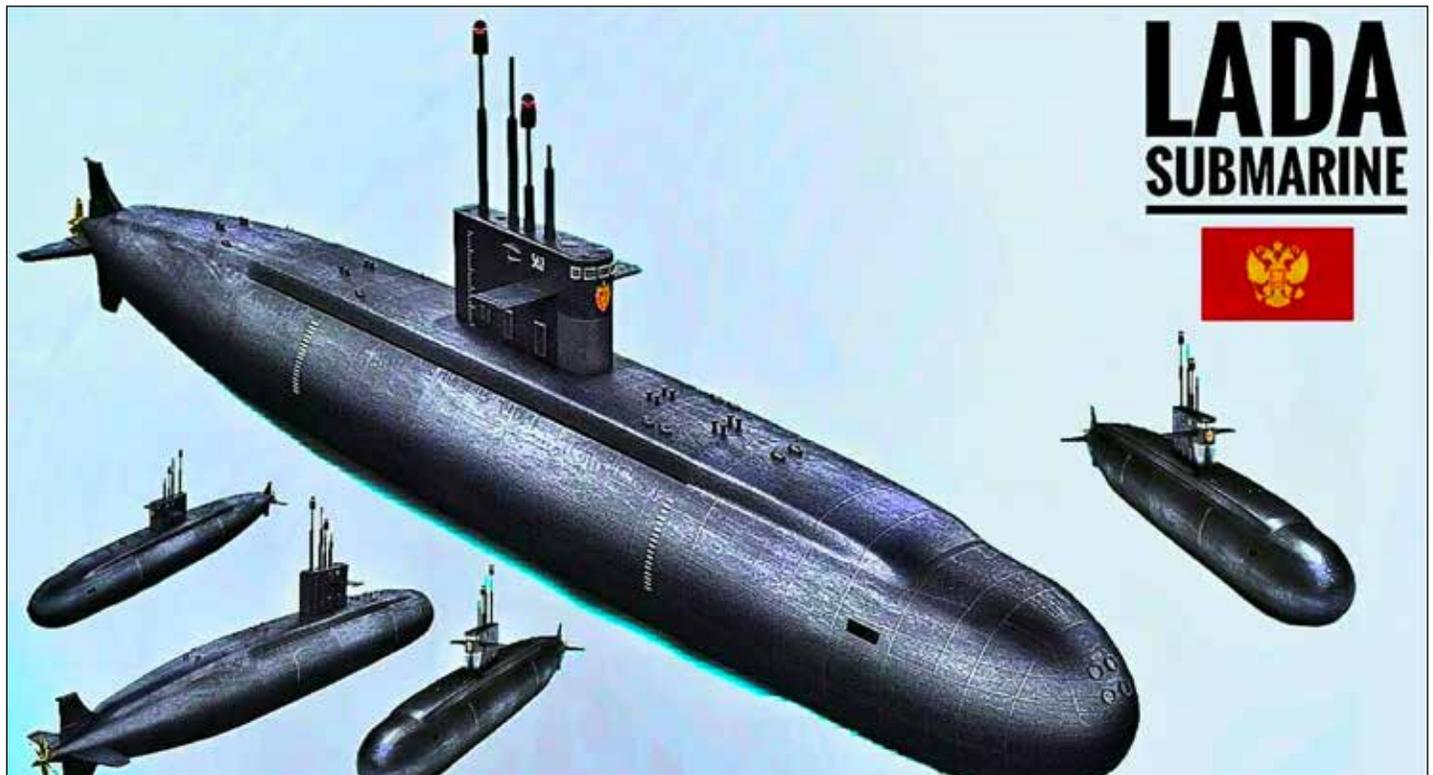
*The Kronos armored submarine from Highland Systems looks too cool to be real. However, sea trials commence soon.*

# Russia's 'New' Lada-Class Submarine Has Just One Mission

(Reproduced from the National Security Journal website - Published June 2, 2025.)

<https://nationalecurityjournal.org/russias-new-lada-class-submarine-has-just-1-mission/>

by Reuben Johnson



Lada-class submarine. (Image Credit: Creative Commons.)

## Russia's Newest *Lada*-Class Submarine

The Russian *Lada*-class submarine design has recently undergone a redesign to produce a brand-new, modernized variant, the B-586 *Kronstadt*. The launch of this model took place slightly more than a year ago in St. Petersburg.

The new *Lada* class are conventional multipurpose submarines built by the Admiralty Shipyards according to a plan for a modified Project 677 *Lada* class. *Kronstadt* is the first unit produced after the prototype B-585 *St. Petersburg*. Following its launch, *Kronstadt* was assigned to the 161st Submarine Brigade of the Kolsk Flotilla based in Polyarnyy as a part of the Northern Fleet.

Project 677 *Lada* was initially developed by the Central Design Bureau of Maritime Technology "Rubin" in St. Petersburg, one of the oldest and most well-known Russian submarine design centers. Rubin is not only Russia's leading developer of strategic nuclear submarines, such as Project 955 *Borei*, but also non-nuclear multipurpose submarines, like Project 636 *Varshavyanka*, in addition to Project 677 *Lada*.

These new boats are to replace older submarine designs, specifically the Project 613, 641, and 877 series.

These subs were built to be operated in the "enclosed" seas of Russia (and formerly the USSR), specifically the Baltic and Black Seas. They were not designed for operation on blue-water missions.

Plans were originally to serially produce twenty *Lada*-class submarines for the Russian Naval Fleet (VMF). The designers and shipyards also hoped for a sizable export market for these boats.

## Design Heritage

The *Lada* design was seen as a revolutionary innovation when it was first developed, compared to previous-generation submarines. It was the first time, according to a profile written in January 2024, that a submarine "was designed with a single-hull, combined with a pressure hull made of a new AB-2 industrial classification strength steel, a new Molniya hull anechoic covering to absorb sonar signals, and a new SED-1 synchronous electric motor with permanent magnetic excitation."

(concluded on page 14)

## Russia's Lada-Class Submarine

(concluded from page 13)

Additionally, reads the same report, the sub featured “the Lira sonar system (this was the first time a Russian bow sonar had been equipped with a conformal antenna), the Litiy automated combat management system, the Parus-98 optronic mast, the Distantiya integrated communications system” and other onboard new-age systems.

The *Lada* class was initially intended to replace aging *Kilo*-class submarines but ran into numerous developmental bottlenecks. Most serious among all of these was the design and integration of an Air-Independent Propulsion (AIP) system, which was never fully realized per the original design requirements.

The first submarine in the class, the *Sankt-Peterburg* (B-585), was launched in 2004 but encountered numerous significant technical difficulties during sea trials, resulting in multiple delays in its introduction into service and ultimately leading to a temporary halt in the program's production schedule.

### Drone Missions

What is also unusual about this submarine design is that according to reports from August of last year, these latest non-nuclear submarines of the Project 677 *Lada* class could soon be equipped with both maritime and aerial drones.

The *Lada* class, as well as other submarines, could be modified to launch aerial drones for use on reconnaissance missions, as well as autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) that can be employed for mine detection or even hunting other submarines.

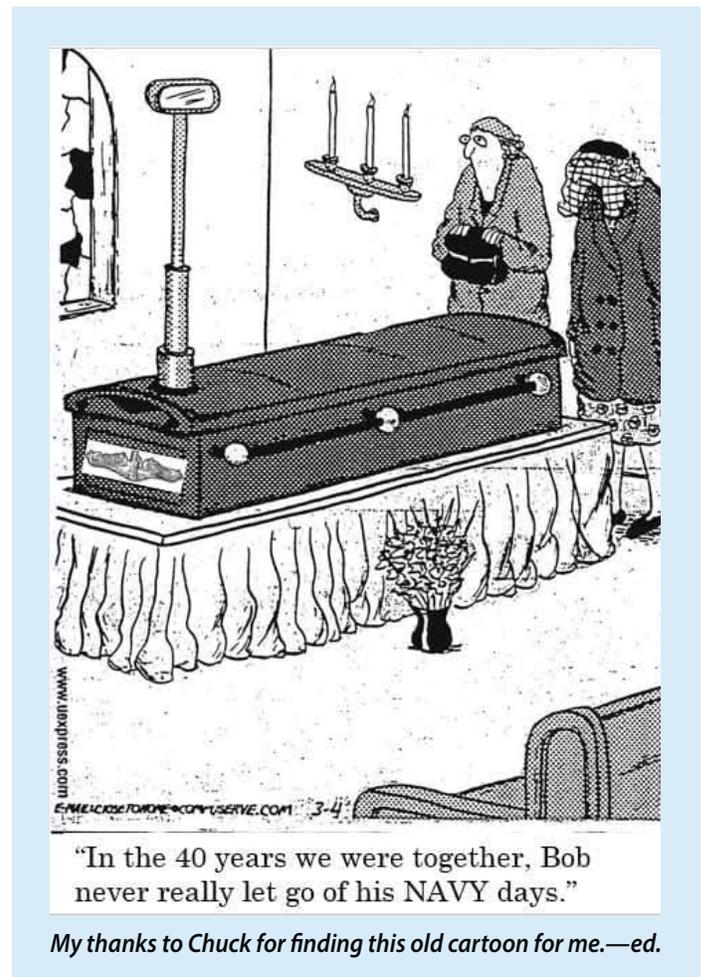
The drones, whether airborne or underwater, would be compatible with the dimensions of the submarine's torpedo tubes. According to other reports, they would be fired from the tubes either as standalone vehicles or housed within specialized launch containers.

This kind of deployment method would have to be used, as the torpedo tubes are the only launch systems on these submarines with large enough dimensions to deploy these devices.

The third submarine in the *Lada*-class, the *Velikie Luki* (B-587), was launched in late 2022. Construction for additional models in the series is ongoing, and the overall plan is to complete eight of this model submarine. However, technical issues still hang over the program.

Whether all eight will be produced or whether they will have to be refitted remains undecided. The primary issue is that there is still no finished and functional AIP system, as the original design called for. Competition from other submarine designs, both domestic and international, is also calling this program's future into question as there are more advanced and better-designed subs with functional AIP systems now on the market as well.

*Reuben F. Johnson has thirty-six years of experience analyzing and reporting on foreign weapons systems, defense technologies, and international arms export policy. He is also a survivor of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. He worked for years in the American defense industry as a foreign technology analyst and later as a consultant for the U.S. Department of Defense, the Departments of the Navy and Air Force, and the governments of the United Kingdom and Australia. In 2022-2023, he won two awards in a row for his defense reporting. He holds a bachelor's degree from DePauw University and a master's degree from Miami University in Ohio, specializing in Soviet and Russian studies. He lives in Warsaw.*



## Boat Deck Movies on *Orion* by Bob “Dex” Armstrong

*Orion*...

Known to the animals of Squadron Six as “Mother On-ion,” the tender provided what in a municipal jurisdiction would be known as “Community Services.” It was our medical clinic, hospital, shopping center, entertainment venue, payroll office, and the home of our corporate management—or voodoo master magicians who moved submarines around the North Atlantic like bathtub toys.

We also used to go over to *Orion* after dark to watch movies up on the boat deck when we had good weather.

At about 1930, a couple of idiots hoisted a screen and unstacked a load of gray folding chairs, then they rigged up a projector. And at around 2000, a mob of “stay aboard” bluejackets collected there and the movie opened with the obligatory official Navy bullshit short subjects: *Sailors in Spain* or *Men of the USS What’s-Its-Name Visit an Orphanage* or some other such stuff we were always forced to gape at before the movie started. Just the standard Navy propaganda force-fed to the whole fleet, of course.

What you had under these conditions was an all-male audience given to socially unacceptable comment, wiseass remarks, and uniquely verbalized stupidity.

“Hey! He didn’t stick him with that sword! The sonuvabitch went under his arm—hell, I saw it!”

“You dumb bastard, they’re actors. You think they actually kill each other, you Arkansas hayseed?”

“Who you callin’ hayseed, you Yankee dumbass?”

There was always some kid among us filled with facts on cowboy actors, owboy horses, sidekicks, or every sonuvabitch who ever sung with the “Sons of the Pioneers” and Roy Rogers’ dog.

When any good-looking woman waltzed onto the screen, it triggered a complete breakdown in social decorum. In less than a half-second, elevated thoughts deteriorated and descended to a sub-cave-dweller level.

“Hey Stuke, get a load of that gal’s ho-ho’s. Man, that child musta been born on a dairy farm.”

“Naw. Corn-fed farm—Midwest. Big tit country.”

It didn’t get any better than that. Sitting out under the stars with your shipmates, jawin’ on a couple ham sandwiches the cook threw together for ya—stowed in your foul weather jacket pockets—watching some film and passing wise ass comments back and forth.

Lads who bypassed their military obligation in favor of State U or playing house with their high school squeeze, missed out on all that. We didn’t know it at the time (at nineteen there’s no way to recognize it), but it was one of those recollections that when connected to thousands of others, made up the collective memories ensuring you were different from lads who never stood in a service pay line or ended up with a DD-214.

“Hey darlin’, find a gahdam seat and plant your ass. We can’t see through you, ya big ape.”

“Down in front!”

“Did anyone tell you submariners that you’re guests, you loudmouth bastards?”

“Guests? Sweetheart, if it wasn’t for us, this floating machine shop and grocery wagon would be out of work.”

“Hey, if you guys want to exchange love notes, take it below...”

We were all Subron Six. In the final analysis, we were all family. Sitting there on a summer night with a light breeze coming in from off Craney Island, pinning light-hearted hell on each other in a never-ending verbal custard pie fight, we became what was simply known as “The Squadron.”

I don’t know what officers did to become part of the Squadron. I never saw them stand on the edge of the fleet landing, peeing off the pier and singing the “Barnacle Bill” song. We never had to pick them up from the sidewalk in front of Bells. They never hung around the pier dumpsters, bumming smokes and solving the world’s problems. And they never turned up in a fuel hose free-for-all.

Boat deck movies were a big part of it—“it” being what was a gradual ritual of Squadron adoption.

“Hey, you! Yeah, you—off the gahdam *Carp*! Haven’t they heard of friggin’ deodorant where you come from, you hillbilly hay shaker?”

(concluded on page 16)

## Boat Deck Movies on Orion... by Dex Armstrong

(concluded from page 15)

“Why, sweetcakes? Ya wanna take me to bed, you cute, unshaven gorilla?”

“Knock it off! I can’t hear the movie!”

“Don’t tell me you’re actually watching that pathetic excuse for entertainment?”

“What’s wrong? Don’t ya believe in talking mules?”

“You’re damn right there are talking mules! You ever see a Panamanian barmaid?”

Most nights, the exchanges from the audience were far more entertaining than the feature film.

“How many of you bastards seen *The Cattle Queen of Montana* over thirty times?”

“Me!”

“You don’t count if you made a Northern run on the *Sirago* last fall.”

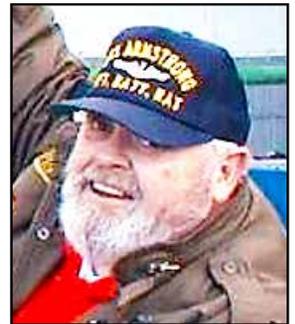
“No, but I’ll bet every sonuvabitch on *Requin* holds the world record for watching *Around the World in Eighty Days*!

If none of this makes any sense to you, then you never parked your worthless, good-for-nothin’ ass on a steel folding chair on the boat deck of the USS *Orion* and counted blobs of dried-up seagull crap while waiting for the opening scene of *Tammy and the Bachelor*.

There were nights when they announced over the IMC, “Navy mobile canteen truck now on the pier”—and the entire audience instantly evaporated.

Keep a zero bubble...

Dex.



# Take the Plunge!

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

### SUBMARINES IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

USS *Columbia* (SSN-771)  
USS *Connecticut* (SSN-22)  
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:

### 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...*



Regular *Periscope* reader from Colorado Chapters, Jennifer LaVigne, reports in with news and a photo of their participation in the Littleton Days parade some weeks back. Their impressive-looking fleetboat float took First Place in their class category. That's Jennifer in the middle, smiling. Way to go, Jenn and crew!

**Our own Food Safety Czar, Darin Detwiler, reports in with this latest local accolade for his recent efforts.**

**Congrats, Darin— we're so proud of you, shipmate!**



**WHEREAS**, food safety is a matter of vital importance for the health and well-being of all residents, as millions of Americans are affected by foodborne illnesses each year, resulting in preventable hospitalizations and loss of life, and,

**WHEREAS**, National Food Safety Education Month, observed every September, provides an important opportunity to raise awareness about safe food-handling practices, highlight the role of consumer education, and strengthen efforts to prevent foodborne illness across communities, and,

**WHEREAS**, Seal Beach is proud to be home to Dr. Darin Detwiler, an internationally recognized leader in food safety, author, professor, and policy advisor whose decades of tireless advocacy have shaped stronger food safety laws, informed industry practices, and saved lives through education and awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Detwiler has worked relentlessly to advance consumer protection through his scholarship, his service on federal advisory committees, his teaching of future leaders in food regulation and policy, and his dedication to honoring the memory of those lost to preventable foodborne illnesses; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Seal Beach acknowledges the invaluable contributions of Dr. Detwiler, not only as a trusted voice in food safety nationwide, but as a resident whose commitment to public health, education, and community service reflects the values we hold as a city; and,

**WHEREAS**, National Food Safety Education Month serves as a call to action for residents, businesses, schools, and organizations to learn more about food safety, practice safe food handling at home, and join in efforts to build a healthier, safer community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Seal Beach do hereby recognize September 2025 as **National Food Safety Education Month** in the City of Seal Beach, and further honor the relentless efforts of Dr. Darin Detwiler for his extraordinary contributions to food safety education and public health.



More Chapter News...

## New Slate of Base Officers Sworn In at October Meeting

*Only Darin D. was MIA at the event (prior travel commitment), but the rest made for some good photo ops. With thanks to Cindy Teare & Ron Jones for those below.*



Dave Vanderveen officially swears in our 2026 L.A.-Pasadena Base officer contingent at the Radiant Brewery. The tall cold ones came later.



**Our Officers (L-R):** Sue (Treasurer), Ray (Vice Cmdr.), Chuck (Director), Dave (Past Cmdr.), Ken (Director), Stan (Secretary), Bill (COB). Congrats to the whole crew! (Memorial Director Dennis Bott—an appointed position—was absent.)



Nearly all in attendance get into the act; quite the meeting turnout today! (See Sailing List on page 3.)



More Chapter News...

## Darin's "Paparazzi Screen" Arrives to Take L.A.-Pasadena's Media Image Up a Notch

*Donated to us by Ken Dorn, this logo'd screen will be used as a photo background at meetings and during any media-attended events. Thanks, Ken!*





[More Chapter News...](#)

## Sally Moran Departs on Eternal Patrol

*Beloved WWII Wives Organization Member Will Be Much Missed*

### Eternal Patrol Notice



**Sally Flowers Moran**  
**7/11/1932 — 9/28/2025**

We recently learned that Sally Moran, after receiving comfortable and loving home hospice care since late August, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 28. She was 93 and one of the last two remaining WWII SubVet Wives from our group meeting regularly for years at the NWSSB.

When their apartment complex in Long Beach was converted to condos, Sally, her mother, and her partner, Harry Watson, moved to Temecula to be close to Sally's daughter, Arlene Gray. Sally's mother passed not long afterward, and Harry departed on Eternal Patrol April 10, 2015. Sally then moved in with her daughter and son-in-law. Arlene sadly passed in October of 2018 at age 59. Sally, devastated, continued to live with her son-in-law until he sold his house to join out of state family. Sally and her dog Rosie were then welcomed into her grandson and granddaughter's home in Indio in 2022.

Having purchased a Memorial Brick for Harry Watson, Sally so wanted to have her picture taken with it once it was finally installed. Alas, she was ultimately unable to make that happen. Photos were sent to her, however, of the brick while it was still in storage in Building 6.

Sally, her mother, and Harry had all planned that their ashes be scattered at sea with no service and no family in attendance on the boat. Their desire was that everyone remember them as they were in life.

We'll never forget Sally's smile and shining face. Rest in Peace, dear Sally and Harry. Our condolences to your extended family.

Sympathies may be offered to Sally's family:

Steven and Samantha Paixao  
82089 Highland Drive  
Indio, CA 92203-3217



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
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. Berezney.....	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

(concluded next page)



## 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, Anaheim
March 15	Monthly Meeting - Radiant Brewery, Anaheim
April 19	Monthly Mtg. - Clearman's Galley, San Gabriel
May 10	Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900
May 17	Monthly Meeting at VFW Hall, Anaheim 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 Mtg. - Simi Valley Military Museum Call for nominations for 2026 Base Officers
July 4	116th Annual... Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
July 19	LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic at Dennis Walsh's Residence
August 16	Monthly Meeting - L.A. Fire Dept. Museum 2026 Base Officer Candidates Announced
September 20	ANNUAL BUSINESS MTG. at VFW Hall Election of Officers
October 18	Monthly Meeting at Radiant Brewery, Anaheim Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
November 15	Monthly Meeting - L.A. Fire Dept. Museum
December 20	Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Eagle's Nest, Navy Golf Course, Cypress

*(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  
 Stephen D. Diumentì ..... 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 October 18, 2025

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted at the Radiant Brewery in Anaheim, CA on Saturday morning, October 18, 2025. A quorum was met so the meeting proceeded normally.

### In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Ray Teare, Base Vice Commander
- Stan Westrick, Base Secretary *Elect*
- Sue Bolton, Base Treasurer
- Ken Dorn, Director
- Chuck Senior, Director
- Bill Moak, COB
- Jeff Porteous, *Periscope* Editor
- Mike Swanson, Immediate Past Treasurer
- Joe Koch, Member
- Kathleen Carder, Associate Member
- Cindy Teare

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the meeting to order at 1000 hours. Minutes of the prior E-Board and General meetings were reviewed. Ray Teare moved to accept the minutes into the base record; this was seconded by Ken Dorn and unanimously approved.

### Treasurer’s Financial Report: Sue Bolton

The Treasurer’s Report as of October 16, 2025 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Sue Bolton.

Checking	\$27,044.34
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$00.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,094.34</b>

All bills have been paid.

Income (Coins):	\$140.00
-----------------	----------

### Flower/Booster Club Additions:

Ken Dorn	\$200.00
William Long	\$100.00

*(concluded on next page)*

## The Silent Front: Submariners of the Cold War

by Andrew Dingley  
(from the internet via Bill Moak)

*The Cold War beneath the sea  
was a silent battlefield. No  
headlines, no glory, no medals.  
Yet it was perhaps the most  
dangerous service of all.*

They served where  
sunlight never shone,  
In steel-bound halls  
they called their home.  
No maps, no tales, no letters home,  
Their war was fought  
in pressure's dome.

They slipped through oceans,  
shadows drawn,  
Where Soviet hunters  
stalked till dawn.  
A game of silence, nerve, and steel,  
Where one wrong move  
the deep would seal.

No family knew, no word was said,  
Their missions locked,  
their silence fed.  
Classified, unseen, untold,  
Their secrets tighter than the cold.

They trailed the enemy's unseen line,  
Through hostile seas,  
through edge and brine.  
At times so close their hulls could kiss,  
One shiver more,  
we would be swallowed by the abyss.

They bore the weight of nations' fate,  
With nuclear fire at their gate.  
One error, one mistake of sound,  
Could turn the whole  
world underground.

The sea was hazard, cruel, and stark,  
Valves could flood,  
a spark could mark.  
Claustrophobia, no space, no air,  
And yet they stood, together there.

No medals gleamed,  
no songs were sung,  
But in the deep  
their souls were strung.  
For every dive, each watch they keep,  
Was for the millions fast asleep.

Only Cold War veterans,  
remember it well,  
Those who served where silence fell.  
The Cold War's front, unseen, unsaid,  
The Silent Service, steel and dread.

## E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

### Other Donations:

Darin Detwiler	\$60.00
50/50 Drawing	\$55.00

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

### New Business / Good of the Order:

Dave Vanderveen suggested the base take over providing the flowers at the memorial site. He pointed out that four volunteers from the base could handily take care of this. It would include our base purchasing replacement flowers.

### Upcoming Meeting Locations:

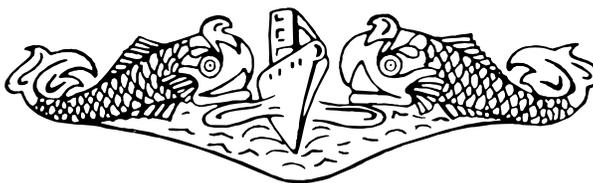
There was a discussion about the location of our upcoming meetings. Ken Dorn offered to look into having our November meeting take place once again at the Fire Museum, then get back to base officers with a final approval. (*This was later confirmed; see information on page 5.—ed.*)

There being no further business, Chuck Senior motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Bill Moak and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1050 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stan Westrick*

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI



## PRIDE RUNS DEEP

*Editor's Note: Marilyn's letter below was submitted before the recent passing of Sally Moran. See Sally's obituary from Marilyn on page 19.*

## An Open Letter from Our Membership Gal

Dear Membership,

I'm thinking about our old friend Bill Thomas and his wife Flora—remembering the good ol' days when there were so many WWII members and their wives still active. Such fond memories. It really breaks my heart that they're no longer with us, having departed on Eternal Patrol. Flora lived to be over a hundred years old and just passed fairly recently. While she was alive, she never missed having her hair done every week. When she could no longer drive, she had someone take her to her beauty shop. Chuck just sent me this Bill Thomas obituary (below), and I wanted to share it with our members.

Some know this stuff already, but to refresh a few memories, and inform newcomers of some history....

I was the Treasurer and Secretary of the Wives of WWII Submarine Veterans after I first joined Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, helping out until attrition caused them to fold in 2012, along with the Submarine Veterans of WWII. I was also Treasurer and Membership Gal for Los Angeles-Pasadena Base in the first years of my membership, which began in 2007. Those early years with the WWII Wives and Veterans were the most fulfilling and fun times in my memory. Below also is a photo of some of our Wives. As far as I know, only three of us from the photo are still around: Sally Moran, Shawn McPherson and myself.

Rosa Hagendorn, a longtime member of the Wives group as well, is also still around, but doesn't appear in the photo. She and her husband Bill had moved to Temecula by then and could no longer regularly attend our meetings. Both were prime figures in helping to get our WWII Submarine Memorial - West built; Bill departed on Eternal Patrol back on Nov. 8, 2009. Happily, I just talked with Rosa yesterday!

Shawn is Richard McPherson's wife—much younger than the rest of us. Richard was one of our base commanders prior to moving to Idaho. He attended the Western Region Roundup hosted by our base this year on the *Queen Mary*.

Sally and Rosa are so pleased the memorial bricks they purchased so long ago have finally been installed at our Memorial site; I'm hoping they'll come to see them in person soon. Rosa still lives in Temecula, but Sally has now moved from Temecula to Indio. Sally's husband, Harry Watson, departed on Eternal Patrol back on April 10, 2015. (Sally and Rose had each purchased bricks to honor their spouses.)

Back in the beginning, we enjoyed three separate monthly meetings in Building 6 at the Naval Weapons Station—with a great lunch afterwards. The Wives were such great cooks!

Just some historical tidbits, me to you!

Warm regards,

*Marilyn*

Marilyn Senior  
1278 W. Sepulveda Street  
San Pedro, CA 90732-2948  
Email: marilyn.senior@gmail.com  
Phone: 310-503-3915



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



# THE L.A.-PASADENA BASE, USSVI ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

On Saturday, December 20, 2025, the USSVI L.A.-Pasadena Base will hold its annual Christmas luncheon for the 2025 holiday season. The party will take place at the Los Alamitos Golf Course: On the Greens Conference Center, 5660 Orangewood Ave., Cypress, CA 90630.

It's the time of year to visit with our submarine friends and guests, and you won't want to miss it!

Social Hour: 11:30a.m. - Luncheon served: 12:15p.m.

***This Year's Menu is as Follows:***

*Tossed Garden Salad with Ranch and Italian dressings on the side*

***Entrée Selection:***

***Chicken piccata***

*Oven-roasted Potatoes and Green Beans Almondine, Dinner Rolls and Butter*

***Grilled flat iron steak***

*Oven-roasted Potatoes and Green Beans Almondine, Dinner Rolls and Butter*

***Vegetarian Option***

*Mushroom Raviolis  
Dinner Rolls and Butter*

***Beverage: Coffee, Iced tea***

***Dessert: Cheesecake with Raspberry Drizzle***

***Sparkling Cider/Champagne Toast***



As always, it's very important to get your reservations in ASAP so we can give the golf course a firm head count no later than twelve days before the luncheon.

The cost of the meal is \$50.00 per person. Cocktails will be for sale at the main bar.

Please send your check and reservations (checks made out to LA-Pasadena Base USSVI) to the address shown below. Be sure to indicate your choice of entrée and how many of each.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Sue Bolton  
13561 Iowa Street  
Westminster, CA 92683  
Phone: 714-932-6222

Chicken piccata \_\_\_\_\_

Flat iron steak \_\_\_\_\_

Mushroom ravioli \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of dinners \_\_\_\_\_ X \$50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_



2026 United States Submarine Veterans Calendar

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Los Angeles-class submarines continue to play a critical role in national security. Their ability to operate undetected has ensured strategic deterrence and supported global military operations for decades.



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**USS PROVIDENCE (SSN 719)**  
2003, she earned the nickname "Big Dog of the Red Sea" for launching the most Tomahawk missiles during the conflict. The submarine also played a key role in launching Tomahawk missiles against Libya air defenses during Operation Odyssey Dawn in 2011. In popular culture, *Providence* is featured in the 1986 Tom Clancy novel *Red Storm Rising*, alongside her sister submarines, *USS Boston* (SSN 703) and *USS Chicago* (SSN 721). After 37 years of dedicated service, *Providence* was decommissioned on August 15, 2022.

**August 2026**  
(Five submarines and 251 men lost)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24*	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

*"They were no supermen, nor were they endowed with any supernatural qualities of heroism. They were merely top-notch American lads, well-trained, well-treated, well-armed and provided with superb ships."*  
—THE HONORABLE CHARLES A. LINCOLN, CONGRESSMAN

\*WARREN (SS-267) 1944  
 BILLWAD (SS-332) 1940 (Last submarine lost in WW2)  
 S-39 (SS-146) 1942 (PLER (SS-250) 1944)  
 VI Day 1945  
 COCHINO (SS-345) 1949

July	August	September	October	November	December
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
26 29 30 1 2 3 4	26 27 28 29 30 31 1	30 31 1 2 3 4 5	27 28 29 30 1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	29 30 1 2 3 4 5
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30 1 2 3	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30 1 2 3 4 5	27 28 29 30 31 1 2
4 5 6 7 8 9	30 31 1 2 3 4 5	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Proceeds to benefit USSVI operations and projects.

Museum boat USS *Cobia* (SS-245) in tow to a drydock refit back in September. (Tugboat conveniently removed from image in celebration of the old days.)



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

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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

