



March/April 2025
VOL MMXXV Issue 02

Clear The Baffles

GOLD COUNTRY BASE



Class 1 2024
First Place

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

Reginald G. Bronner, Jr. STS3 (SS) (Regy Bear) Eternal Patrol April 9, 2025

ETERNAL PATROL

Regy qualified on the USS
Baya AGSS-318 in 1961
and also served on the
USS Seafox SS-402.



See page 17



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Now Hear This!

Next Meeting—April 26, 2025 Annual Picnic 10am
to 3pm Folsom Veterans Hall -1300 Forrest St., Folsom

**First Call to Morning Chow Tuesday May 13,
2025 0930 @ Denny's Restaurant, 100 North Sunrise,
Roseville**

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Shipmates, The Air Show at Mather Airfield turned out to be a signature event for Gold Country Base. The two-day event produced a potential total of 14 new members that displayed interest in getting involved with our Gold Country Submarine Base. Our location was outstanding as we were part of the Navy section and placed right next to the Navy recruitment booth. The flow of visitors was constant as our handsome submarine float stood proud and attracted many guests and veterans. We handed out "Submariner for the Day" stickers to the kids that stopped to visit. I really enjoyed placing a sticker on the chest of marine veterans and announcing to everyone, we awarded them with the honor of being an official "Submariner for the Day."

Wear your submarine veteran hat, as it attracts other submarine veterans that are not part of USSVI and are potential new members of our Gold Country Base! Carry your base cards and get their name, e-mail address, and their cell number. Invite them to our next meeting, "First Call to Chow at Dennys in Roseville, or our next event.

As a prelude event to the Airshow, over 20 of our members had lunch at the Spaghetti Warehouse on Watt Avenue with 4 active-duty Airedale sailors. It made us all feel a lot younger as we shared our many sea stories and enjoyed the news of the new Navy practices.

We are in the process of planning our annual picnic. We plan to host the picnic for our Sea Cadets and their families on Saturday April 26 from 10am to 3pm. We will have a Taekwondo demonstration, K-9-unit demonstrations and Dog training sessions. Just as a reminder there will be plenty of food and desserts.

Remember if your last name begins with A through L – Bring a bag of green salad and if M through Z bring Cookies or Cupcakes.

We are getting ready for our Bass Pro Day, Memorial weekend, on Saturday May 24 from 10 am to 2 pm. We are taking our Submarine float, staffing the games, and serving hot dogs.

On a sad note, we lost one of our founding members, Reggie Bronner, as he received his orders to go on Eternal Patrol. He will be sorely missed as he guided our organization and our members to expand and develop our base to grow. Our prayers go out to Anita and Reggie' family for their loss.

Upcoming Events - April 26 – Saturday – Annual Picnic, May 24 – Bass Pro Day, 4th of July Parade in Lincoln

Les Jamison, Base Commander

VICE-COMMANDER

Hello Shipmates, Since the Holiday Party in December to the recent Air Show event I have been impressed and proud of our shipmates. The participation of the members of Gold Country Base has been great. It seems like during every event including the eBoard meeting there have been at least 10 to 15 members present. Gene has stepped up as Chief of the Boat and has been doing logistical tasks very I. Jerry is always stepping up to get things done. The planning of events by Ed has been great and Chad was involved in making the change from the location of the Holiday Party from the Folsom Veteran's Hall to the Officer's Club at McClellan very enjoyable, Chad also stuck with getting the Base to the Air Show at Mather Field. This event was a great success and identified 16 potential new members. Bill Barron shows up for all of the events. Even our eBoard meetings have been well attended and productive. The change of Treasurer from Nick to Bill Signet has been smooth. The leadership from Les and Barry has been great as usual. I have been very proud to be part of such a great group of people.



Mark Elftmann , Vice Commander



SubVet Check In

This program continues to be in need of help. I continue to encourage that we contact members who are unable to attend our meetings and events. Please see the list on page and make a commitment to at least make one call this month.



Greetings Shipmates,

So nice to finally get into spring, some great weather and just in time for our yearly picnic. Hope to see you all there. We had a wonderful time at our very first appearance at the California Air show at Mather field this year and what a showing we had; we meet so many submariners and hopefully we are getting some new members. Can't wait for next year!

Looking forward to another fantastic year at all our events this year and everyone please stay safe and stay healthy.



Gene Ratto, (COB) Chief of the Boat

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Shipmates! Spring is upon us and are the many deadlines and events as we forge ahead into the 125th Anniversary of the birth of the U.S. Navy Submarine Force. While the ever-changing world events move in the outer perimeter of our influence, there are the many connections to our Shipmates and our service than we might account. It was April 10, 1963, that the world learned of the loss of USS



Thresher (SSN 593), for which we remember those lost on Eternal Patrol, and how this tragic incident changed the way we do submarining going forward. Fast forward to 2025; it was barely 30 days ago that Shipmates from across the Western Region gathered in Long Beach for the Western Region Roundup hosted by the LA/Pasadena Base with the coordination of WRR Standing Committee members: WD5 Barry Wyatt (Chair/GCB), WD4 Jim DeMott (Vice Chair/Bremerton Base), Mike Swanson (Treasurer/LA Pasadena Base), Mike O'Brien (Secretary/Dolphin Base), Mike Cosgrove (Contract Negotiator/San Diego Base), Ed McCarthy (Webmaster extraordinaire/GCB) and a host of others whose names would easily fill the first page of the newsletter. Lodging and dining aboard the Queen Mary, we engaged in the camaraderie afforded by our Creed, received information and training on improving base operations, writing better awards, and community engagement, and meeting new and reconnecting with shipmates. Our banquet guest speaker, RADM Charlie Brown (Ret), served as CHINFO to the CNO, reminded us of the threats our submarine building and repair capabilities remain very slim as compared to our adversaries and the importance of encouraging those who follow in our footsteps to pursue training and careers in support of revitalizing those efforts and skill sets. The WRR planning committee is already looking ahead to Las Vegas (2026) and Denver (2027).

The 125th Submarine Force anniversary will be celebrated at Submarine Birthday Ball events across the Western Region; you'll find Gold Country Base, Dolphin, and Mare Island Base members representing USSVI at the Naval Postgraduate School event on April 19th. Other noteworthy events for the calendar: (1) Want to recognize the exceptional vs. the expected performance of Shipmates or the Base by the USSVI National Awards program? Time to get your thinking / award writing hat. Particulars regarding award criteria, and the submission process can all be found on the national website: www.ussubvets.org under Awards; nominations must be emailed to the National Awards Chair, Gary Galles, no later than April 30, 2025 to nac.ussvi@gmail.com (2) The 2025 USSVI National Convention will be held in Orlando, FL at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort. You can register, sign up for offered tours and events, and see who else has already registered at www.subvetconvention.org

Pride Runs Deep! Pete Juhos, USSVI Western Region Director

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Shipmates, 2025 is proving to be an active year for the Gold Country Base and Sub Vets all over the western region. For me I will continue my efforts to produce our award-winning newsletter, serve as the public voice for our base, continue my responsibilities as the Chairman of the Western Region Roundup



and do the best I can to fulfill my responsibilities in my new position as the USSVI Western Region 5 Commander.

With the holidays season behind us, the first major event of the year, the Western Region Roundup, was held aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach in early March. The Roundup, which was highly successful, was hosted by the LA/Pasadena base and had attendance close to 150

Gold Country kicked their activities into flank speed later in March. After finding out that Sacramento would host Navy week this year, we discovered that a group of active-duty submarine sailors from the USS California would be attending. I went to work to put together a lunch that we would host so that our members could spend some time with the new generation of dolphin wearing sailors. In the end because the bureaucrats in Washington DC could not get their act together the crew members from the USS California were unable to make the trip. At that point Base members had already paid for the lunch so we asked the Navy are there any other are there any other hungry sailors wandering around our town. The Navy supplied us with four Airedales and the lunch went forward with 16 Gold Country Base members in attendance. Next was our attendance with a booth and our submarine float at the air show. After years of our request being denied one member, Chad Clay would not take no for an answer. His due diligence not only got us in but got has placed next to the US Navy display and brought us more exposure than any event we had attended in the past. Bravo Zulu Chad

In my new role as District Commander, I attended my first base visit in Red Bluff with the Cuttlefish Base in early April. This group, which covers a geographically huge area, Chico to the Oregon Border needs support. They meet monthly but rotate their meeting location Anderson, Red Bluff, and Chico. If you know go to any bubbleheads living in this vast area please let them know about USSVI and the Cuttlefish Base. Next month will be at the Mare Island Base in Vallejo.

Barry Wyatt, USSVI Western Region District 5 Commander

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Are Angels Real?

Yes they are, there are many sources both secular and biblical. Below is a Easter Day example.

Matthew 28: 1-6 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.



² There was a violent earthquake, for an **angel** of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The **angel** said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

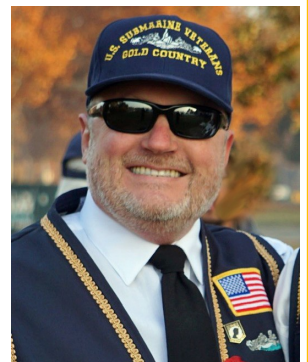
Angel or angels are mentioned in almost a hundred verses in the Bible.

Howard Grover, Base Chaplain



Shipmates, the Treasurer and Membership transition is going well. We have completed all but the transfer of bank account access. Our Vice Commander and his team are performing the annual financial audit, and we hope to provide results soon.

We had a great time out at the airshow, positively fantastic to see all the support for our Six Branches!



The Navy had a great showing with several recruiting booths. The Submarine Veterans were prominently displayed alongside our proud active-duty brothers and sisters. Our presence uncovered several potential new members and drummed up \$150 in donations to the Memorial brick fund and \$93 for the Sea Cadets. This was a fantastic success, and I look forward to next year.

In the coming months I'll be working with Ed and Nick to come up with options to improve our communications and technology. Looking forward to our Picnic and working with you all to continue this mission.

Bill Sugnet, Base Treasurer/Membership Chair

OFFICER'S COUNTRY

Historian



As the Base Historian, I'm still finishing the article that I'm writing about the history behind how the "USS Gold Country Base" submarine float came into being. That effort has to be one of our Gold Country Base most amazing accomplishments because there is nothing else that has been built out of steel to the exact scale of a Sturgeon class fast attack submarine. And it



has brought us many new submarine members into our crew, as well as a quality place for some of our members to sit and ride during parade excursions. We are lucky to have it and very fortunate to have the members who contributed to its building and upkeep. It is a symbol of our pride in being submariners. Later this month I will be meeting with Pete Juhos to go over what I've written so far and to get additional details as needed.

Photographer



As the Gold Country Base Photographer, I continue to attend as many Gold Country Base events as I am able to. I was able to attend some of our base events in March to take photographs of the U.S. Navy Week California Airedale sailors at the Spaghetti Factory and our Gold Country Base members that attended. I'm also very happy to have attended the California Capital Airshow at Mather Field, where I got several good photos of our crew members at the event and dozens of photos of all the airborne aircraft in their flight formations which I could pre-

sent in a slide show at the next meeting if there's enough interest. I attended the March First Call to Morning Chow at Denny's restaurant and had the Denny's waitress take photos with my camera. I am also very thankful to Bill Barron for covering the photography on the second day of the airshow and for Naomi Wentland for covering the April Morning Chow.

The months are going by faster now that Kathy and I have committed to moving to Santa Barbara in a year. There is so much to get done to make that happen that I know I will have less and less time to continue as the Gold Country Base Historian and Photographer. I will continue to attend the Gold Country Base events as best I can over these next several months, but I would greatly appreciate it if any of our members or associate members would be interested in training with me to take over as base historian and photographer when the time comes.

My wife Kathy and I have needed to travel frequently to Santa Barbara to help family with health and other transitional issues. We are scheduled to be there again in late May and June to assist them. I'm very thankful to be available for most of our Gold Country Base events and I appreciate those who can fill in for me in my absence.

Roger Paul, Historian / Photographer

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Hello Ladies,

Hey Ya'll,

Well, it seems like summer weather is approaching us. Remind our veterans to drink plenty of water and avoid getting dehydrated.

The picnic is coming up on April 26 from 10am to 3pm. We will start setting up at 9 am and do need help with the food preparation and arranging the tables. The members are asked to bring the following: Last name begins with A though L brings a green bag of salad, and M though Z brings cookies or cupcakes.

Our next event is Bass Pro Day on May 24 from 10 am to 2pm. We will be cooking and serving hot dogs that day. We also will be staffing the Bass Pro Shop provided games. We need Ladies to help with the games and serving.

You can also e-mail me at pjamison1050@gmail.com or call me at 352-598-9611.

Be Safe,

SubVet Support Group Commander, Penny Jamison



Shipmates,

Happy Easter from the Dry Dock. We hope the best to you and your family.

We had a successful event at the air show this year. We have minor damage to some of the picture frames that need to be repaired. The float performed flawlessly. She is back in Dry Dock for SRF maintenance.

We are expecting to be adding storage tubes under the float soon and they will be called Torpedo tubes 1-6. This will be a great addition.

Hope all have a good spring and happy mowing.

John Kelly, Dry Dock Manager



OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Shipmates, The USSVI Scouting and Sea Cadets Achievement Awards program welcomes our first 2025 award presentation on April 26th.

With the United States Naval Sea Cadets and their leaders attending, a presentation will be made at our annual Base Spring Picnic Day . Sea Cadet Luca

Bortoletto will be recognized for achieving the rating of "Cadet Chief Petty Officer."

Gil Miller, Eagle Scout Coordinator



Shipmates, We will be presenting a Sea Cadet CPO award certificate at the Base picnic on April 26. Also, there will be a short retirement ceremony for one of the Sea Cadet advisors.

As for the guests at the picnic; we have invited the Sacramento Sheriff Department, CHP and Park Police K-9

units, Sea Cadets and their families and a Taekwondo group for a demonstration. There will be plenty of games, food and fun. We hope everyone will bring their friends and families.

Chad Clay, Guest Speakers Coordinator & Naval Youth Liaison



Air Show: *Upon completion of the air show I sent a thank you note to the organizers, please see below my comments and their response.*

I wish to thank you for allowing us to be a part of your Capital Air Show 2025. It was a very rewarding experience.

I would especially like to thank you Bob for all your help in getting us set up.

We were able to make contact with area Submarine Service personnel and potentially increased the membership in our veteran's organization.

Hopefully, we will be welcomed back in 2026 Again, Thank you, Chad

"Chad, Glad your organization could participate. Your ability to 'connect' with other vets and the community at large is exactly why we invite organizations like yours to participate. Check in next year for the 2026 CCA which will be at Mather Airport, 10,11 October 2026. We'll be celebrating America's 250th birthday. Best regards, Bob"

Gold Country Base Officers



Base Commander
Kaps4Kids Coordinator
Les Jamison

Qualified 1969
USS Greenfish SS 351
Holland Club

(407) 509-7814

basecommander@goldcountrybase.com



Vice Commander
Awards Chairman
Folsom JVO Rep.

Mark Elftmann

Qualified 1975

USS William H Bates SSN 680

(916) 243-9265



Base Secretary
Diana Clay
Associate Member

(916) 832-0936

dianac5353@gmail.com



Base Treasurer
Membership Chair
Bill Sugnet

Qualified 1989
USS Augusta SSN 710
(916) 934-9277

me@billsugnet.com



Chief of the Boat (COB)
Gene Ratto

Qualified 1978

USS Abraham Lincoln
SSBN 602

(279) 600-9400

gene_ratto1@comcast.net



Base Chaplain
Howard Grover

Qualified 1963

USS Spikefish SS 404

Life Member

Holland Club

(209) 245-4067 hgrover@jps.net



Base Photographer
Base Historian
Roger Paul

Qualified 1972
USS Haddock SSN 621

(916) 390-3569 rapaulplus@msn.com



Newsletter Editor/PAO
J. Barry Wyatt

Qualified 1965

USS Henry Clay SSBN 625

Life Member Holland Club

(916) 600-1425

SacSubVet@barrywyatt.com



Holland Club
Commander
Lenard Lee

Qualified 1961

USS Salmon SS-573

Life Member Holland Club

(510) 928-8500 Len@trawlers.com



Eagle Scout
Coordinator
Gil Miller

Qualified 1963
USS Becuna SS 319
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 365-6721

beowaweman319@gmail.com



Guest Speakers
Coordinator
Naval Youth Liaison
Chad Clay

Qualified 1965

USS Daniel Boone SSBN 629

Life Member Holland Club

(916) 502-1623 chdclay@gmail.com



Dry Dock Manager
John Kelly

Qualified 1976

USS Pogy (SSN-647)

Life Member

(916) 989-8500

thejbark@gmail.com



Storekeeper
Jerry Wentland

U.S. Army

Associate Member

(530) 613-6729

wentlandn2014@gmail.com



First Call to Morning
Chow Coordinator
Harold Fisher

Qualified 1965

USS Medregal AGSS 480

Life Member Holland Club

(916) 782-5748 navigator@surewest.net



SubVet Support
Group Commander
Penny Jamison

Associate Member

(352) 598-9611

pjamison1050@gmail.com



Web Master
Events Coordinator
Ed McCarthy

Qualified 1983

USS Bergall SSN-667

Life Member (916) 995-5196

eddie105@yahoo.com



USSVI Western
District 5 Commander
J. Barry Wyatt

Qualified 1965

USS Henry Clay SSBN 625

Life Member Holland Club

(916) 600-1425



USSVI Western
Region Director
Pete Juhos

Qualified 1980

USS Bergall SSN 667

Life Member

(916) 208-0667 dsv3.ss@gmail.com

Lost Boats

April

USS Pickerel (SS-177)

Lost on April 3, 1943 with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her 7th war patrol. She was lost off Honshu. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.



USS Grenadier (SS-210)

Lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, the plane planted a bomb causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 76 crew members taken prisoner, 72 survived the war.



USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

Was probably lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men SE of Iwo Jima, but may have been sunk on May 12, 1944 in another attack on an unidentified submarine and heard by several other submarines in the area. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely due to a combined air and surface antisubmarine attack. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack.



USS Snook (SS-279)

Lost on April 8, 1945 with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine.



USS Thresher (SSN-593)

Lost on April 10, 1963 with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" - then, silence. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.



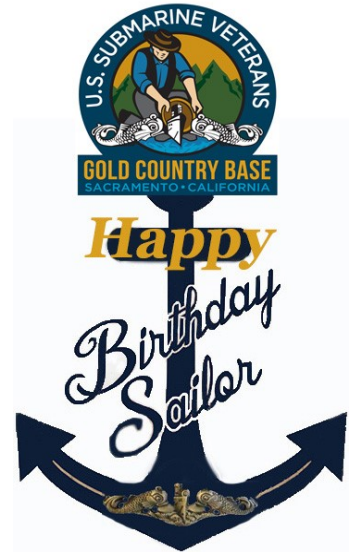
Birthdays

March

Bill Bergstrom John Clark Bill Hunt Joe Ryan
Max Schell Larry Williams David Worth Leslie Jamison
Michael Goble John Kitchens Sheila Brashler
Richard Brashler

April

Ken Earls Harold Fisher Alvin Lehman



On The Lighter Side



DON'T POKE THE BEAR...HE DOESN'T PLAY FAIR!



Gold Country Base would not be able to continue to operate without the generous contribution from those Members, Wives and Friends who donate to

Gold Country Base Booster's

Bill Barron Jerry Bowers* Regy Bronner**

Anita Bronner Dennis Cline* Ken Earls**

Mike Delleney Mark Elftmann* Bill Hunt**

Frank Elliott Jack Everett Howard Grover**

Dennis Henderson Burna Jamieson*

Les Jamison Pete Juhos* John Kelly*

Alvin Lehman Matt Lettau* Mike McCoy*

James MacLean John Mannix**

George Miyao Tom Moniz* Alan More**

Ed Myers Hans Nettel Roger Paul**

Gene Ratto Gary Robinson* Joe Ryan**

Nick Sadowy William Sugnet**

*Barry Wyatt**

** Multi-Year Donors*

VA Information

VA S.A.V.E. TRAINING FOUR WAYS YOU CAN HELP A VETER- AN IN CRISIS

What is VA S.A.V.E. Training? VA S.A.V.E. Training is a free, brief online or in-person course that will help you act with care and compassion if you come across a Veteran who is in crisis or having thoughts of suicide. The acronym S.A.V.E. helps you remember the important steps involved in suicide prevention:

S Know the Signs that indicate a Veteran might be thinking about suicide

A Ask the most important question of all — “Are you thinking of killing yourself?”

V Validate the Veteran’s experience

E Encourage treatment and Expedite getting help

Do you want to take VA S.A.V.E. Training?

Go to: learn.psycharmor.org/courses/va-save to take the course online or contact your local suicide prevention coordinator to schedule in-person training: VeteransCrisisLine.net/LocalResources.



USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE EBOARD MINUTES April 19, 2025

.CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 9:00. Commander Les Jamison.

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Les Jamison

NO MEETING IN APRIL due to the base picnic on April 26, 2025

Our dear shipmate, Regy Bronner, went to eternal patrol. He will be interned at the National Cemetery in the near future. The date is to be determined. We said a prayer and had a moment of silence in respect for Regy.

The Air Show was a success. A few perspective members were interested in Gold Country Base. They were invited to our base picnic. Thank you to Chad for orchestrating our participation in the Air Show. Chad received a positive response from the Air Show hosts after submitting a sincere thank you for allowing our participation. They indicated they would like to have us again next year. Lenard Lee had a stroke last month. He was transferred to Vallejo. He is recovering well but still has some minor speech issues. Pray for Lenard.

VICE COMMANDER: Mark Elftmann

National award nominations are due no later than 4/30/25. More information is in the newsletter.

SECRETARY: Diana Clay -No report

CHIEF OF THE BOAT (COB) Gene Ratto -No report

TREASURER Base Treasurer: Bill Sugnet

(The books are in balance. Any base member can request a report from Base Treasurer via email.)

MEMBERSHIP: Bill Sugnet We have 94 members

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt

The newsletter will be published next week board members who have not submitted there report please do so.

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller

Thanks to Ed for giving him the templates for the awards. He is having trouble it communication to National USSVI for Scout awards. His contact is Tim Passel. Barry will get involved.

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover

Howard called Larry Fisher and wife. Neither of them drive so they are relying on their son to help them as he lives on their property.

BASE PHOTOGRAPHER: Roger Paul

Roger sent a flash drive with all the pictures to Barry. Naomi took pictures of the last breakfast.

NAVY YOUTH LIASON: Chad Clay

Sea Cadets will be at our picnic. They would like to present some awards to members of their crew. We would like their time limited to 20 minutes. Sheriff's dept. and Folsom Police dept. are planning to attend with their canine unit. The CHP will try to provide a horse mounted officer demonstration.

HISTORIAN: Roger Paul

He is working on the history of the boat launch

WEB-MASTER: Ed McCarthy

Ed is working on setting up a way for new recruits to sign up for Gold Country Base on the website. He is working on the Veteran's Day Parade in Auburn or Folsom. He is also working on the application process for attending the State Fair in July.

STOREKEEPER: Jerry Wentland

There are still some calendars, hats and ties available. The glasses that did not sell at the Western Round Up are to be returned.

Minutes continued on next page

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY EBOARD MEETING MINUTES April 19, 2025(continued)

EVENTS COORDINATOR: Ed McCarthy

Annual base picnic April 26. Arrive at 9:00 for set up. Event starts at 10:00.

Bass Pro Day, Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 24. Meeting to be prior to the event at Bass Pro.

July 4th parade in Lincoln.

State Fair Veterans appreciation on July 24 begins at 4:00 to ?

Veteran's Day parade in Folsom, or Elk Grove, TBD

Holiday party event, lunch or evening, TBD, we will take a survey with the members to determine if we want to change the event to the daytime.

Lost Boats Memorial, TBD

December 7 event

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR: Chad Clay

Chad has a few prospects.

WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR: Pete Juhos

National convention is at Orlando, FL August 31 thru September 6, 2025.

Awards nominations are open 2/1 thru 4/30. The link to the manual https://ussubvets.org/Documents/Awards_Manuals_2025_USSVI_Awards_Manual.pdf Awards manual PDF

Good of the Order / Communications:

We are looking to have someone take over the newsletter duties. Barry will assist anyone that will step up.

We need someone to take over the photographer duties as Roger is planning a move in the near future.

John Kelly has purchased supplies to fix the storage in the float.

Western Region Roundup in 2026 will be in Las Vegas at Sam's Town, 2027 will be in Denver. We have received interest for 2028 from Hawaii, New Mexico and Idaho.

The District Commander position is open. Barry is interested in running again.

Sacramento Stand Down is conducting a 1-day event on 5/2/25 from 9:00-1:00 at the Sacramento Stand Down Warehouse, 5931 Recreation Way, McClellan Park, CA 95652

SUBVET SUPPORT GROUP: Penny Jamison

Would we like to change the holiday dinner event to a luncheon rather than dinner so more people could attend. A questioner will be put out to ask for any suggestions. The Base Picnic menu as follows: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and baked beans are provided by the base, members A-L please bring a bag of salad, M-Z please bring cookies or cup cakes. Penny will also bring a popcorn machine with bags. Chad will bring the buns for hamburgers and hot dogs. Gene and Les will provide the condiments.

First Call to Morning Chow:

Date & Time – 05/13/2025 9:30 am @ Denny's Restaurant, 122 Sunrise Ave., Roseville, CA

E-board Zoom meeting: May 17, 2025 9:00 am

Next Base Meeting: May 24, 2025 at Bass Pro.

Meeting adjournment: @ 10:30 am

Submitted by Diana Clay, Base Secretary

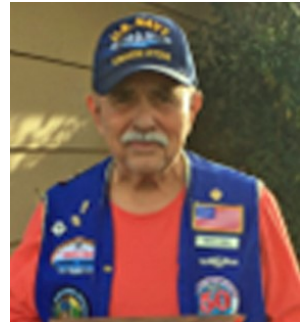
Gold Country Base SubVet Check-In

Many of our Shipmates are unable to attend monthly meeting or participate in the events. Please take the time to let them know we are thinking about them. Theirs no doubt that a few minuets of your time will be greatly appreciated.

Harold Fisher QMC(SS)

Harold qualified in 1965 aboard the USS Medregal (SS-480). He is a plank owner of the Gold Country Base and a USSVI Life and Holland Club member. He took on the position of "First Call to Morning Chow" Coordinator in the fall of 2019 and continued with that responsibility until recently. For his efforts on behalf of his shipmates he was awarded the Base Commanders Commendation in 2020.

**Harold lives with his wife Janet in Roseville.
(916) 782-5748 navigator@surewest.net**



Ronald	Eggert	916-685-9799	George	Miyao	916-427-8512
Frank E.	Elliott	530-391-1583	Thomas E.	Moniz	916-682-9306
Kevin T	Fillhouer	916-545-5193	Harry	Pagett	916-410-7537
Larry A.	Williams	530-344-8075	Rick	Reineman	209-952-1481
Dennis E.	Henderson	209-772-9052	Grant C.	Riddle	530-432-2037
Tony	Jacob	209-476-9008	Jerry	Sidebot- tom	916-475-4258
Alvin A.	Lehman	916-983-2147	Louie J.	Slayton	916-835-2993
Matt	Lettau	916-952-3687			

Just one phone call can make a shipmates day better.

***More Information; contact Base Vice-Commander
Mark Elftmann (916) 243-9265.***

Eternal Patrol

Reginald G. Bronner, Jr. STS3 (SS)



Born 9-21-1942 in Oakland, California. And grew up in the bay area. Regy joined the USNR

in 1960 and was discharged in 1965. He qualified on the USS Baya AGSS-318 in 1961 and also served on the USS Seafox SS-402.

After the Navy Regy attended College of San Mateo (AA), University of California, (BA), Utah State University (MA), and attended Graduate School of Business, Boston University, Lincoln School of Law in San Jose.

During his professional career he spent 30 years in Sales and Business, acting as a Development Executive for Internet and Information Management Products and Services. His experience includes computer data-information services and products developing Strategic Partner, OEM and VAR channel management programs. The companies he worked for and with included Computer Sciences Corporation, Grumman Data Systems, First Data, Image Resources, and Dorado Systems. Some of the positions he held were VP Sales, Director of Business Development, Branch Manager, and Account Manager.

Regy joined USSVI in 1998 and was a founding member (Plank Owner) of our base. In 2016 Regy was elected as Gold Country Base Vice Commander where he served until 2020. He also served as the founding Chairman of the Gold Country Base Awards Committee. Regy was a member of the Holland Club and a USSVI Life member. Regy is survived by his wife Anita Bronner and two sons Ray and Hamid Bronner.



Regy and Anita Bronner

**Reginald G. Bronner, Jr. STS3 (SS) you have served us well and accepted your final orders.
We salute you. Calm winds and following seas.**



March



First
Call to
Morning
Chow



April

Navy Week Lunch



Gold Country Base members hosting a lunch at the Spaghetti Factory for crew members of the Amphibious Assault Ship USS Tripoli (LHA-7). We fed these young Airdales a good lunch and made them Honorary Submariners for the day.



California Capital Airshow 2025



Saturday Crew

Jerry Wentland, Bill Sugnet,
Gene Ratto, & Les Jamison

Sunday Crew

Jerry Wentland, Bill Barron,
Barry Wyatt, & Pete Juhos



United States Submarine Veterans Gold Country Base



Annual



Bar-b-Que and Family Picnic

Saturday April 26
10am to 3pm



*Food *Fun *Games



Folsom Veterans Hall
1300 Forrest St.
Folsom, CA

More Information Contact Chad Clay (916) 502-1623

Gold Country Base Memorial Brick Project

Gold Country Memorial Brick Fund

Your Contribution is Tax Deductible

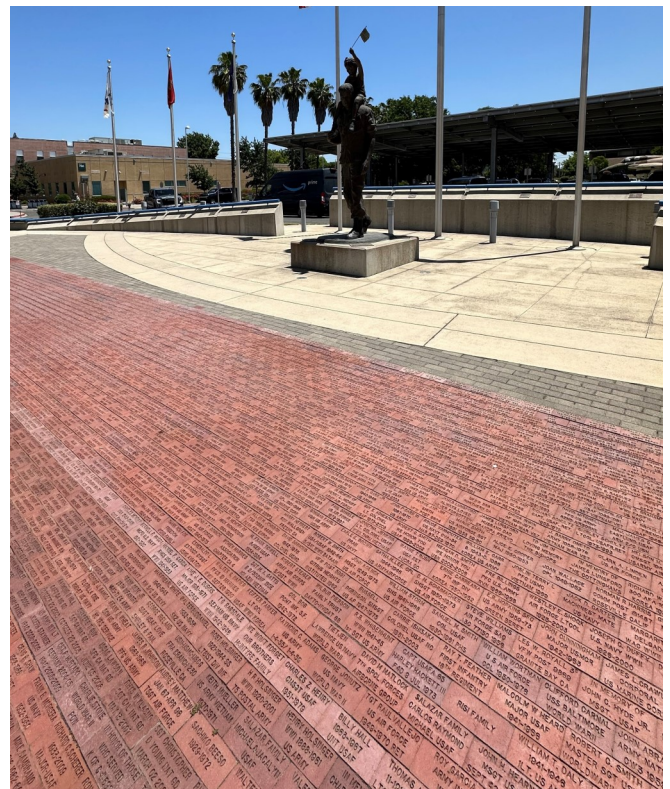
Gold Country Base was originally chartered by USSVI as “USS Holland (SS1) Gold Country Base” in September or October of 2000 and was re-chartered “Gold Country Base” in 2014. During our almost 24 years we have lost a total of 63 Members to Eternal Patrol.

We have created a project to raise funds to purchase a Brick at the Mather Veterans Memorial for each of those 63 members. The total Current cost for the project is \$5850 so a goal to raise \$6000 has been set.

Our National Charitable Foundation (USSVCF) has set up a link on their site which will allow for all **contributions to be tax deductible.**

<https://www.ussvcf.org/gold-country-base-memorial-brick-fund.html>

Or Use This QR Code



USSVI National News

USSVI NATIONAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Dead Line April 30

The USSVI National Awards and Recognition Program recognizes members or bases whose contributions to the organization, or their local community stand out. Any USSVI Member (Regular or Associate) in good standing may nominate any other Base, Member (Regular or Associate) in good standing. Only the Ben Bastura Historical Achievement Award nominee may be a non-member.

Awards will be presented during the at the USSVI National Convention.

The following are the USSVI National Awards considered for nominations each year.

Joe Negri Award (Submarine Veteran of the Year) **

Robert Link National Commander Commendation Award

District Commander of the Year Award **

Meritorious Award

Golden Anchor Award

Silver Anchor Award

Ben Bastura Historical Achievement Award

Newsletter of the Year Award



** These are Lifetime Awards, presented only once per Shipmate.

AWARD PROCESS TIMELINES

Award nominations will be processed according to the following timeline:

FEBRUARY 1: Award Nomination period opens and all USSVI Members in good standing submit Award nominations to the National Awards Chair.

APRIL 30: All nominations must be received by the NAC no later than 2359 hours (EST).

[https://ussubvets.org/Documents/
Online_Manuals_2025_USSVI_Awards_Manual.pdf](https://ussubvets.org/Documents/Online_Manuals_2025_USSVI_Awards_Manual.pdf)

USSVI National News



USSVI
2025
National
Convention

The main promotional image features a large, multi-story hotel building with a central fountain in the foreground. The building has a warm, orange-brown facade and many windows. The fountain is a large, ornate structure with water spraying upwards. In the sky above the building, there is a NASA logo, a Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex logo, an astronaut floating, and a "WILD FLORIDA" logo. To the right of the building is the "SEMINOLE Hard Rock HOTEL & CASINO TAMPA" logo. Overlaid on the bottom left of the image is a circular logo for the "USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION ORLANDO FLORIDA 2025". To the right of the fountain is a QR code with the text "Scan Here for discounts and Deals around the Orlando Area". At the bottom of the image, the text "USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 6, 2025" is displayed, followed by the website "https://subvetconvention.org/".

NASA Kennedy Space Center VISITOR COMPLEX

WILD FLORIDA

SEMINOLE Hard Rock HOTEL & CASINO TAMPA

ORLANDO & ROSEN SHINGLE CREEK WELCOMES YOU

USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION ORLANDO FLORIDA 2025

Scan Here for discounts and Deals around the Orlando Area

USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

<https://subvetconvention.org/>

US Naval Sea Cadets



2025 NLUS ANNUAL INSPECTION [of year 2024]

By: PO1 Maylin Liu (Sacramento Division)

"Anchors Aweigh,

my boys, Anchors Aweigh" rang out through the air, as Sacramento Division and T.S. California marched proudly in the pass and review, the final step of their Annual Inspection. This timeless hymn, sung with deep pride, perfectly embodies the spirit and unity of our unit, capturing the essence of esprit de corps that defines us as Sea Cadets. On the 16th of February 2025, we gathered for our Annual Inspection—a day that holds special meaning for everyone involved: cadets, inspectors, and spectators alike. This is a day that takes months of preparation, and this year was no different. For weeks leading up to the event, cadets worked hard to perfect the skills that define us as Sea Cadets.



From long drill days to community service events and training sessions, each experience has shaped us into the cadets who stood proudly before you on inspection day. Every weekend, we give our absolute best even when it's tough—because we know that the effort we put in will shine through, especially on days like this. We are deeply thankful for the incredible staff who support us in every way, helping us reach our full potential. Special thank you to LT Kelleher, our commanding officer, whose leadership and guidance inspires us all. We are truly fortunate to have such a remarkable team of officers behind us. It required all hands-on deck to ensure everything ran smoothly. Our officers worked diligently to keep cadet paperwork up to date, while the supply team made sure every uniform was perfectly prepared. Invitations for distinguished guests were coordinated, and countless other details were handled with care. It was a collective effort, with each person playing a crucial role in making the inspection a success. In full Dress Blues, every cadet took great care to ensure his and her uniform was in perfect condition—shoes gleaming, ribbons meticulously aligned, and covers worn with pride. Cadet leadership took the time to inspect each uniform individually, ensure that every piece fit perfectly and met the required standards. Uniforms were carefully ironed, with creases placed precisely where they should be. Cadets worked together to double-check that all pieces were accounted for, holding each other accountable and demonstrating the teamwork that defines us. We look forward to our next inspection, let us carry this wonderful momentum forward...Standing in formation, we showcased the precision and discipline expected of us. Captain Rebecca Dunavent and other esteemed officers, LCDR Duong, HMC "Chief" Manoogian, and LT Gordon conducted a thorough inspection, carefully evaluating everything from uniform presentation to drill proficiency.

(continued on next page)

US Naval Sea Cadets

Their keen attention to detail reminded us all of the importance of upholding high standards and continuously striving for growth.

Under the guidance of Petty Officers First Class Alex Kasel, NSCC LPO of Sacramento Division and Sydnie Hoeltje, NSCC Company Commander of Training Ship California, our cadets exhibited exceptional dedication and professionalism. It's worth noting that PO1 Kasel was honored with the inaugural NSCC Junior Cadet of the Year award. This accomplishment serves as an inspiration to us all, reinforcing the values of hard work and perseverance. Furthermore, Chief Petty Officer Bortoletto was honored as the NSCC Cadet of the Year, a well-deserved recognition of his leadership and commitment to excellence. This recognition is a reflection of his exceptional leadership and unwavering dedication, qualities he has exemplified throughout his years with us. Chief Bortoletto's influence goes far beyond his words, his actions have inspired and guided countless cadets, always with a heart committed to their growth and success. As he embarks on his final year with our unit, his impact is felt more profoundly than ever. Alongside PO1 Kasel and PO1 Hoeltje, Chief Bortoletto has shaped the lives of so many cadets. Their leadership will continue to resonate within the Sacramento/TS California combined unit, and we are beyond grateful

for the lasting mark they've made. PO1 Joy Rothberg led the Honor Guard team, proudly guiding the Sea Cadets onto the main deck as they presented the colors with great honor. The team, made up of SA Thinh Le (right rifle), PO3 Rex Levinson (TS California flag), PO1 Angelina Zha (the ensign), PO3 Shelby Mantzouranis (Sacramento Division flag), and SA Evieanna Lopez (left rifle), performed their duties with the utmost precision and respect. A military honor guard is entrusted with the important task of carrying and presenting the national flag at ceremonies and parades. They symbolize our unit and our country, carrying the flag with honor and performing movements to show respect. At this moment, they protected and displayed the colors, embodying the pride and tradition we hold dear. In conclusion, the inspection was a resounding success and a moment of immense pride for all who were present. A heartfelt HOOYAH to all the cadets for their unwavering dedication and hard work! As we look forward to our next inspection, let us carry this wonderful momentum forward...



T.S. California and Sacramento Division in formation, ready for inspection

Featured Boat

USS *Spikefish* (SS/AGSS-404), a *Balao*-class submarine, was a ship of the United States Navy, named for the spikefish. She was the first United States submarine to record 10,000 dives.

World War II Service

Spikefish was laid down on 29 January 1944 by the Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery, Maine; launched on 26 April 1944, sponsored by Mrs. Harvey W. Moore, and commissioned on 30 June 1944.

She outfitted there until 31 July when she moved to the Portsmouth-New London area for training. The submarine departed Portsmouth on 16 September and proceeded via the Panama Canal to the Hawaiian Islands. Upon arriving at Pearl Harbor on 23 October, she began preparation for her first war patrol.

USS SPIKEFISH



SS-404



Spikefish got underway on 15 November 1944 for the Kuril Islands and the Sea of Okhotsk. She encountered no enemy shipping during the patrol which ended at Midway Island on 1 January 1945. On

26 January, she sailed for the Ryukyus and began patrolling westward of that group.

On 24 February, the submarine made a submerged attack on a convoy of six cargo ships with four escorts. She fired six torpedoes at two of the freighters, three of which were heard to hit, but results were not observed as *Spikefish* was forced to go deep and weather out a four-hour attack of about 80 depth charges. She sighted another convoy on 5 March and expended six torpedoes in a fruitless attack which led to another pounding by escorts.

Builder	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard , Kittery, Maine ^[1]
Laid down	29 January 1944 ^[1]
Launched	26 April 1944 ^[1]
Commissioned	30 June 1944 ^[1]
Decommissioned	2 April 1963 ^[1]
Stricken	1 May 1963 ^[1]
Fate	Sunk as a target off Long Island , 4 August 1964 ^[2]
General characteristics	
Class and type	<i>Balao</i> class diesel-electric submarine ^[2]
Displacement	1,526 tons (1,550 t) surfaced ^[2] 2,391 tons (2,429 t) submerged ^[2]
Length	311 ft 6 in (94.95 m) ^[2]
Beam	27 ft 3 in (8.31 m) ^[2]
Draft	16 ft 10 in (5.13 m) maximum ^[2]
Propulsion	4 × Fairbanks-Morse Model 38D8 - ¹ / ₈ 10- cylinder opposed piston diesel engines driving electrical generators ^{[3][4]} 2 × 126- cell Sargo batteries
Speed	20.25 knots (38 km/h) surfaced ^[6] 8.75 kn (16 km/h) submerged ^[6]
Endurance	48 hours at 2 knots (3.7 km/h) submerged ^[6] 75 days on patrol
Test depth	400 ft (120 m) ^[6]
Complement	10 officers, 70–71 enlisted ^[6]
Armament	10 × 21-inch (533 mm) torpedo tubes 6 forward, 4 aft 24 torpedoes ^[5] 1 × 5-inch (127 mm) / 25 caliber deck gun ^[5] Bofors 40 mm and Oerlikon 20 mm cannon

Featured Boat

Spikefish was ordered to terminate her patrol on 6 March, and she returned to Pearl Harbor on 19 March. One month later, *Spikefish*, under Cdr. Robert R. Managhan, sailed with *Dragonet* (SS-293) for Guam, topped off with fuel, and proceeded independently, on 3 May, toward an area off the east coast of Formosa where she assumed lifeguard station duties. She made no rescues during this period and sighted only one enemy ship. That occurred on the night of 14 May, and all four torpedoes that she fired missed the target. On 29 May, *Spikefish* was ordered to take station off Sakishima Gunto and act as lifeguard for carrier planes in the area. On 5 June, she bombarded Miyara airstrip on Ishigaki Jima with her 5-inch (130 mm) gun. Two days later, the submarine rescued a downed pilot whose plane had crashed after taking off from escort carrier, *Sargent Bay* (CVE-83). She returned to Guam on 13 June.

Spikefish began her last war patrol on 8 July with an uneventful patrol in the Yellow Sea and lifeguard duty off Shanghai. On 24 July, she bombarded Surveyor Island, off the China coast, in an attempt to destroy an enemy radar station. Shortly after midnight on 11 August, she located a small Japanese cargo ship near her lifeguard station but could not make positive identification at night. The ship was dead in the water, so *Spikefish* waited until morning, identified it as enemy and sank it with gunfire. Three survivors were brought on board. On the night of 13 August about 190 nmi (350 km) southeast of Shanghai, she made radar contact with a surfaced submarine. After tracking it for about an hour, the submarine submerged and disappeared from *Spikefish*'s scope. At 00:07, contact was regained and the submarine was tracked until morning, when she was sighted on the surface. Her silhouette proved her to be Japanese. *Spikefish* fired six torpedoes. Two hit the target, which sank in a cloud of smoke at 29°02'N 123°53'E.^[8] The sole survivor who was taken prisoner identified the submarine as *I-373*; she was the last Japanese submarine sunk in the war.

Post War service and fate

After the war she returned to New London, her home port, she was assigned to Submarine Squadron 2 and trained personnel of the submarine school. Her training duty was interrupted by an overhaul from 7 April to 22 September 1947; a cruise to Bermuda from 25 September to 2 October 1947; and another overhaul at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard from 16 May to 8 July 1948. *Spikefish* operated from New London making training cruises along the east coast from Bermuda to Nova Scotia until 30 April 1955. On that day, she and *Piper* (SS-409) sailed for the Mediterranean and deployment with the 6th Fleet. *Spikefish* returned to New London on 8 October 1955 and resumed her normal training duties until early 1963. On 18 March 1960, *Spikefish* became the first United States submarine to record 10,000 dives.

Spikefish was redesignated an Auxiliary Research Submarine and renumbered AGSS-404 (auxiliary, submarine) in 1962. She was decommissioned at Key West, Florida on 2 April 1963 and was stricken from the Navy list on 1 May 1963. She was subsequently sunk as a target in August 1964 off Long Island, New York.

***Spikefish* received three battle stars for World War II service.**

Spikefish was the Qual Boat for
Gold Country Base Chaplain
Howard Grover



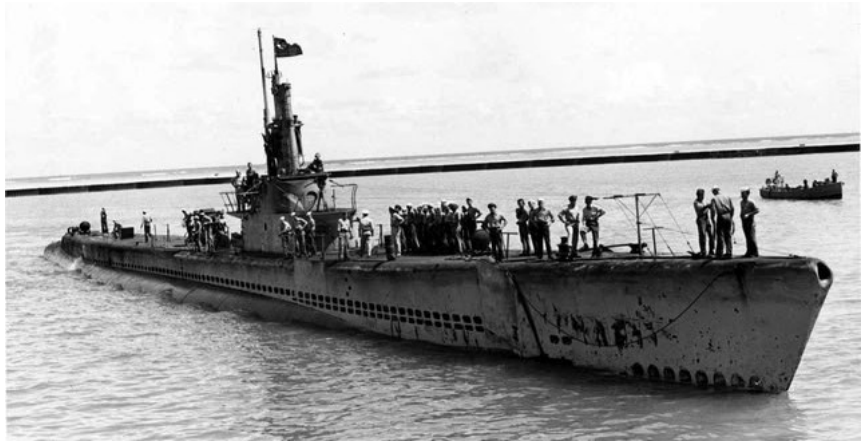
WW II Submarines

Memorial to 84 WWII U.S. Sailors Lost Aboard USS Bullhead Unveiled in Australia

As dates go, Aug. 6 is especially important to commemorate of the end of World War II. On that day in 1945, the American bomber Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, thus setting in motion the steps that would lead to the surrender of Japan.

Less well known is the fact that the U.S. Navy suffered an important loss on that same date. Just after 8 a.m. Aug. 6, at roughly the same time that Enola Gay was beginning her bomb run, a Japanese plane on patrol off the island of Bali caught an American submarine on the surface of the Java Sea. The pilot attacked, his bombs found their mark, and the sub sank with all hands. Eighty-four brave submarine sailors perished when Bullhead sank.

The USS Bullhead (SS 332) turned out to be the last of 701 U.S. Navy ships lost in World War II. The loss of an entire submarine crew at the end of a long and awful war was a sad story in its own right, yet the submarine has never rated more than a footnote in the history books. As storylines go, it's hard to compete with the atomic bomb.



A memorial to the 84 officers and crew of the last U.S. Navy ship lost in World War II, USS *Bullhead* (SS-332), was recently unveiled in Fremantle, Western Australia, a vital homeport to American, British and Dutch submarines in the Pacific theater.

The memorial, located outside the Western Australian Maritime Museum, was dedicated Aug. 6., the 76th anniversary of the submarine's sinking by Japanese aircraft in the Java Sea, off the coast of Bali near the mouth of the Lombok Strait.

American consul-general David Gainer said at the dedication ceremony that the memorial underscored the United States' unwavering commitment to Australia. "Lives aboard USS *Bullhead* were lost defending Australia. This memorial is a powerful symbol of their courage and the unbreakable alliance between our two countries."

US Navy Submarine News

This is Puget Sound Naval Shipyard's First Reactor Compartment Removal, and it is from the SSBN 599 Patrick Henry. Photo taken circa late 1985. Distinctive SSBN 598 Class "shoulder" Missile Compartment Superstructure transition seen at the bottom of the Sail. The 599 Reactor Compartment was the first to be placed in the Hanford R/C Storage Trench on 9 April 1986.



Aboard a nuclear-powered submarine, 'everything changes on a dime'

By [Kirsty Needham](#); April 10, 2025 1:22 AM PDT

"The role of the fast attack submarine is so dynamic that everything changes on a dime," U.S. Navy Commander Jeffrey Corneille said off the coast of Western Australia on the nuclear-powered submarine USS Minnesota in March.

"As soon as my boss says go, we go," said Corneille, the ship's commander.

A 2018 letter from the U.S. Secretary of Defense hangs on a wall in the Minnesota, expressing gratitude for its anti-submarine warfare and intelligence gathering in Europe.



Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Minnesota (SSN-783) is seen off the coast of Western Australia, March 16, 2025.

Giving pause for thought to an adversary is "not just important for the United States, it's important for all of our partners to work together to get to that", Corneille said.

The submarine recently moved its home port from Hawaii to Guam, the first forward deployment of a Virginia-class submarine.

"In time of conflict, that is where we replenish, repair and rearm," said Captain Neil Steinhagen, Commander of Guam's Submarine Squadron 15, which includes four Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered attack subs alongside the Minnesota.

A port call at HMAS Stirling is preparation for hundreds of U.S. Navy personnel arriving in 2027, and Australians joining the crew of U.S.-commanded Virginia submarines.

The Virginia's "34-year gas tank" gives it the speed to run down its adversary, said Steinhagen, describing the difference between nuclear propulsion and Australia's ageing diesel-electric submarine fleet, which lurk and listen in Indo Pacific chokepoints.

Support Gold Country Base Business



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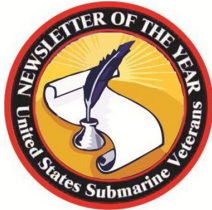
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**Overall
2016**



**Class 2—2017
First Place**



**Class 2—2018
First Place**



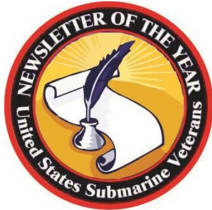
**Class 2—2019
First Place**



**Class 1—2020
First Place**



**Class 1 - 2021
First Place**



**Overall
2022**



**Overall
2023**



**Class 1—2024
First Place**



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March/April 2025 Newsletter