



May & June 2025  
VOL MMXXV Issue 02

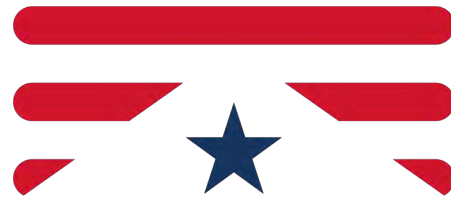
# Clear The Baffles

## 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."*



## Citrus Heights Veterans Memorial Project

The Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall  
at Calvary Cemetery in Citrus Heights  
will be a replica of the Vietnam  
Veterans' Memorial Wall  
in Washington, DC.

This Months Meeting Guest Speaker  
**Kermit Schayitz**  
Committee Member

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*Now Hear This!*

**Next Meeting—June 28, 2025** Annual Picnic 10am  
to 3pm Folsom Veterans Hall -1300 Forrest St., Folsom

**Lincoln July 4th Parade (See page 14)**

**First Call to Morning Chow Tuesday July 8, 2025**  
**0930 @ Denny's Restaurant, 100 North Sunrise, Roseville**



**Shipmates,** Our annual picnic with the Sea Scouts was again another successful event. We had to dodge raindrops and cancel the Taekwondo demonstration due to wet grass. We did not want to endanger the Taekwondo displayers and wanted to avoid any slips or falls. But Christy stepped up with her team of dogs and the Veteran trainers to fill the gap. The dogs were very patient and well behaved with a large room of people. The trainers explained their training methods and their bonding connections with their companion dogs. Of course, there were plenty of tasty food and ice cream treats for the Sea Scouts. Thanks for all that helped prepare and serve the food.

Next on our event schedule was The Bass Pro Days (May 24<sup>th</sup>). We took the float and planted it in front of Bass Pro Shops in Rocklin, California, we set up the inflatable archery range and the kids really enjoyed shooting the bows and arrows. There were also corn boards to evaluate one skill at tossing the bean bags. Thanks to our gourmet hot dog chiefs that cooked and distributed over 250 hot Dogs. It was a good day for donations as we collected over \$400 for the Brick Fund.

The kids loved to fire up and sound the Klaxon and pretend they were taking the submarine to the lower depths of big blue ocean waters. Met a lot of veterans and the families of Submarine veterans. It is always good for the spirit to hear those words "Thank you for your service."

## Upcoming Events

4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Lincoln

State Fair July 23.

Veteran's Day Parade

**Les Jamison, Base Commander**

# VICE-COMMANDER

**Shipmates,**

We had a good outing at Bass Pro over the Memorial Day weekend. As usual, it was a good event with a lot of participation from the base. Michael, as usual, was in charge of grilling the hot dogs at the grill. He has some helpers, including Bill. It was enjoyable speaking with the people who stopped by. We had one grandmother stop by to tell us about her grandson just starting out with his naval career. I enjoy meeting people who want to talk about submarines. We have a July 4 parade in Lincoln that is always fun and popular with the community.



**Mark Elftmann , Vice Commander**



## **SubVet Check In**

I haven't heard from anyone about any calls to shipmates. Again, do you have any suggestions on whom we can include on the list to call?

Pete gave me some guidance on some members I am not familiar with. Thanks, Pete.



## **.Humans, How Did We Get Here?**

Genesis 1:27 So God created human beings in his own image he created them; male and female he created them. Psalm 8:5 Yet you made them (people) only a little lower than God and crowned with glory and honor. Ephesians 2:10 We are God's

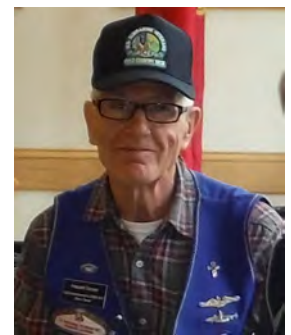
masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

If we are made in his image we have to be much valued. Which is why he sent his Son to die for our sins so we could live for ever forever in God's presence.

References from Chris Lee.

Hope this helped your understanding of the title. Because there are many other ideas about this on this subject.

**Howard Grover, Base Chaplain**





# OFFICER'S COUNTRY



**Hello Shipmates!** We had a great turnout this year at the Bass Pro Shop Memorial Day event. The crew was able to raise \$427 for the Memorial Brick Fund. Thanks to Bass Pro Shops for supporting our cause and thanks to the many who have donated thus far, our current balance in the fund is \$2778. We are nearly half way to our goal of \$6000 which will fund



one brick for each of our Shipmates who have gone on Eternal Patrol.

To help propel us towards our goal, I am contributing \$20 per month until our \$6000 goal is met. At that pace it will take nearly 13 years to raise the funds. If 11 of you join me we can do it in just one year.

If you prefer to make a one-time-donation, I will match the next 5 donors dollar-for-dollar up to and including any amount that reaches our goal. You donate \$1500 and I'll match it

**Bill Sugnet, Base Treasurer/Membership Chair**



**Shipmates,** Our guest speaker for June 28 will be Kermit Schayitz. He will be speaking about the Citrus Heights Veterans Memorial Project. The West Coast's first permanent 80-percent-scale replica of Washington D.C.'s Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.



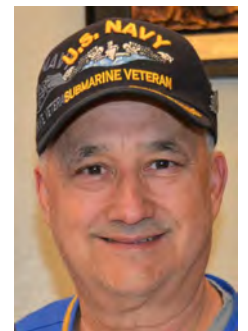
In July, our guest will be Andrew "Skip" Miller. He is the VFWCA District Commander. He will be speaking as to how veterans can make applications for medical and disability assistance.

**Chad Clay, Guest Speakers Coordinator & Naval Youth Liaison**



**Greetings Shipmates!**

I hope everyone is doing well and safe. I really don't have anything to report at this time. If anyone needs my assistance for anything please let me know and I'd be happy to help. Hope to see you all soon.

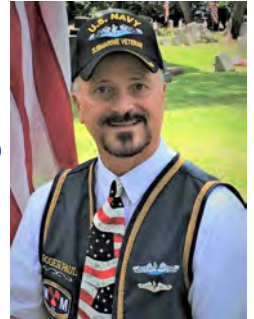


**Gene Ratto, Chief of the Boat (COB)**

# OFFICER'S COUNTRY



**Shipmates,** My wife and I are rapidly trying to down-size, sell or donate many things that we have accumulated over the 15 years we have been here. As I've said in previous messages, we have committed to moving to Covenant Living at the Samarkand in Santa Barbara and our waitlist number is coming up in a few more months. So, it's very important that we are ready to move when that opportunity arises. Therefore, I must



submit my resignation as Gold Country Base Historian and Gold Country Base Photographer effective June 30<sup>th</sup>. I am still very willing to train someone in what they may need to know to be effective in either one or both of those positions.



My wife Kathy and I are still needing to travel frequently to Santa Barbara to help family with health and other transitional issues. We are scheduled to be there again in July to assist them and prepare for this move. I've greatly enjoyed being actively involved in our Gold Country Base and getting to know so many of our members. I will miss the friendships and camaraderie that you have shared over these years. I'm very thankful to have contributed to the photographic and historical needs of our Gold Country Base events and I appreciate those who can fill in for me in my absence.

**Roger Paul, Historian / Photographer**



**Hello Ladies,**

Well summer weather is upon us and it is getting sunny and ridiculously hot. Just a friendly reminder to keep dehydrated and drink plenty of water.

The annual picnic with the sea scouts was an exciting time. The kids had an exciting time and we felt a little younger watching the run and play. The rain put a little

damper on things but we still had a wonderful time. There was plenty of food, cakes and of course ice cream.

I am planning a meeting in early July. Items on our Agenda are as follows: (1) Possible First Call to Chow change of location, looking at Black Bear Dinner in Citrus Heights (2) Setting up a food drive for homeless vets around Mather VA Hospital. (3) Start to plan for Holiday party – Dates and Location. (4) New events for the balance of the year.

You can also e-mail me at [pjamison1050@gmail.com](mailto:pjamison1050@gmail.com) or call me at 352-598-9611.

Be Safe,

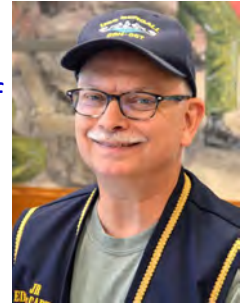
**SubVet Support Group Commander, Penny Jamison**



# OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Shipmates- Two upcoming items - Fourth of July Parade and the State Fair. Information in regard to where to form up for the City of Lincoln's 4th of July Parade will be posted on the Base Website.



Discussion between the eBoard Meeting and Base Meeting will be utilized to determine if we will be participating in the 2025 California State Fair's Military, Veterans and First Responders Appreciation Day

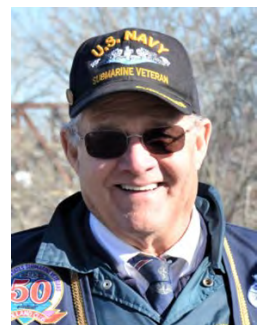
Event. Why the discussion? The California State Fair will only be open starting at 4 PM during the week at this year's fair. In the past with music events and other fair activities we're packing it in about 6 PM. Is it worth our efforts to get people together so late in the day for minimal opportunity of contacting folks during this short time window?

**Ed McCarthy, Web Master/Events Coordinator**

***Gold Country Base eBoard voted unanimously to not participate at the California State fair this year and to send a letter of condemnation expressing our disdain for the reduction of a time honored community recognition of service for both our veterans and our first responders by cramming the event into a couple of hours at the end of a day.***



**Shipmates**, Shipmates as most of you know I was appointed to the District Commanders position for our district last fall. Over the months since then I have been able to establish relationships with the Base Commanders from all the bases in Western District 5 and many of their members during my base visits.



There is currently an election for that position in progress. The election time frame began on June 1st and we'll run through July 15<sup>th</sup>. I am the only person on the official ballot so that probably means I have the upper hand on serving for the next two years. My hope is that I am able to continue to be a part of the pipeline that creates open communication and information sharing from our members, up the chain of command to the National Board of Directors and back again.

**Barry Wyatt, USSVI Western Region District 5 Commander**



# Gold Country Base Officers



**Base Commander**  
**Kaps4Kids Coordinator**  
**Les Jamison**

Qualified 1969  
USS Greenfish SS 351  
Holland Club

(407) 509-7814

[basecommander@goldcountrybase.com](mailto:basecommander@goldcountrybase.com)



**Vice Commander**  
**Awards Chairman**  
**Folsom JVO Rep.**

**Mark Eftmann**

Qualified 1975

USS William H Bates SSN 680

(916) 243-9265



**Base Secretary**

**Diana Clay**

**Associate Member**

(916) 832-0936

[dianac5353@gmail.com](mailto:dianac5353@gmail.com)



**Base Treasurer**  
**Membership Chair**

**Bill Sugnet**

Qualified 1989

USS Augusta SSN 710

(916) 934-9277

[me@billsugnet.com](mailto:me@billsugnet.com)



**Chief of the Boat (COB)**

**Gene Ratto**

Qualified 1978

USS Abraham Lincoln

SSBN 602

(279) 600-9400

[gene\\_ratto1@comcast.net](mailto:gene_ratto1@comcast.net)



**Base Chaplain**

**Howard Grover**

Qualified 1963

USS Spikefish SS 404

Life Member

Holland Club

(209) 245-4067 [hgrover@jps.net](mailto:hgrover@jps.net)



**Base Photographer**

**Base Historian**

**Roger Paul**

Qualified 1972

USS Haddock SSN 621

(916) 390-3569 [rapaulplus@msn.com](mailto: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](mailto:SacSubVet@barrywyatt.com)



**Holland Club**

**Commander**

**Lenard Lee**

Qualified 1961

USS Salmon SS-573

Life Member Holland Club

(510) 928-8500 [Len@trawlers.com](mailto:Len@trawlers.com)



**Eagle Scout**  
**Coordinator**

**Gil Miller**

Qualified 1963

USS Becuna SS 319

Life Member Holland Club

(916) 365-6721

[beowaweman319@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:chdclay@gmail.com)



**Dry Dock Manager**

**John Kelly**

Qualified 1976

USS Pogy (SSN-647)

Life Member

(916) 989-8500

[thejbark@gmail.com](mailto:thejbark@gmail.com)



**Storekeeper**

**Jerry Wentland**

U.S. Army

**Associate Member**

(530) 613-6729

[wentlandn2014@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:navigator@surewest.net)



**SubVet Support**

**Group Commander**

**Penny Jamison**

**Associate Member**

(352) 598-9611

[pjamison1050@gmail.com](mailto:pjamison1050@gmail.com)



**Web Master**  
**Events Coordinator**

**Ed McCarthy**

Qualified 1983

USS Bergall SSN-667

Life Member (916) 995-5196

[eddie105@yahoo.com](mailto:eddie105@yahoo.com)



**USSVI Western**  
**District 5 Commander**

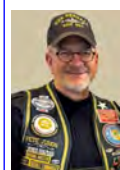
**J. Barry Wyatt**

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](mailto:dsv3.ss@gmail.com)

# Lost Boats

## June

### USS Herring (SS-233)

Lost on June 1, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Matsuwa Island. Herring was on her 8th war patrol and was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made 2 direct hits on her conning tower and causing her loss. Before being sunk, she had sank a freighter and a passenger-cargoman. Herring was the only US submarine sunk by a land battery.



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

Lost on June 12, 1943 with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.



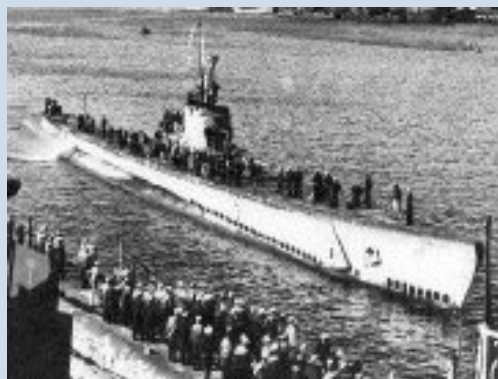
### USS Golet (SS-361)

Lost on June 14, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. On her 2nd war patrol, Golet was apparently lost in battle with antisubmarine forces north of Honshu.



### USS Bonefish (SS-223)

Lost on June 18, 1945 with the loss of 85 men when sunk near Suzu Misaki. Winner of 3 Navy Unit Citations, Bonefish was on her 8th war patrol. After sinking a passenger-cargoman, Bonefish was subjected to a savage depth charge attack.





# Lost Boats

## June

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

Lost on June 19, 1942 when it grounded off Amchitka Island. She was on the surface in poor visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore (400 yards away) in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescued.



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

Lost on Jun 20, 1941 with the loss of 33 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH.



### USS Runner (SS-275)

Lost between June 26 & July 4th 1943 with the loss of 78 men. Runner was on her 3rd war patrol probably due to a mine. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargoman off the Kuriles. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on June 26th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before July 4th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.



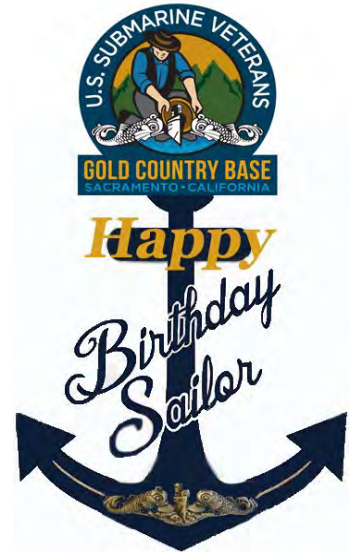
# Birthdays

May

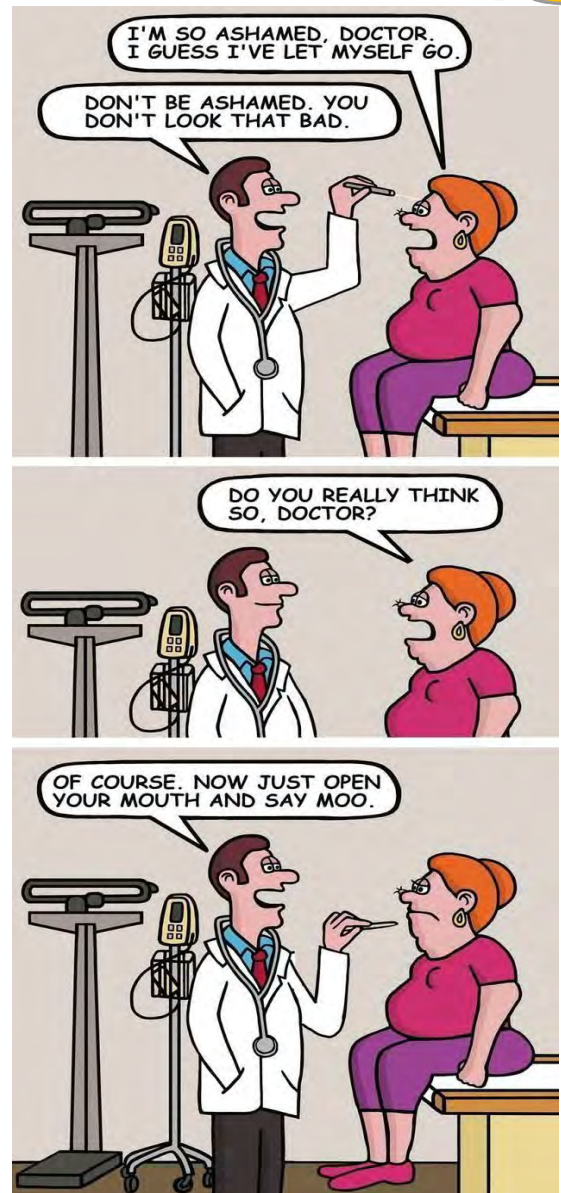
John Kelly Jim MacLean

April

David Black Gill Miller



## On The Lighter Side







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

## California Veterans Registry

### You Can Become Part of the California Veterans Memorial

The California Veterans Registry is a permanent record of all California Veterans, past and present, who have served our nation since statehood was established in 1850. Whether cook or fighter pilot, mechanic or chief of staff, this memorial will honor them all, and forever immortalize the contributions that California veterans have made to their nation.

Each California veteran can add basic information of name, rank branch of service. California veterans can be truly immortalized by including a photograph (preferably in military uniform) and a 100-word statement to create a truly living memorial.

The 100-word statement is your opportunity to describe your military experience, or that of a loved one. The written statement can include such information as medals awarded, duty stations, nicknames, anecdotes, hometown or other relevant information. Visitors to the memorial will be able to refer to this information forever and recall the military experience of a father or mother, grandfather or grandmother, sister or brother, cousin or friend.

There are other memorials in California, but none that represent all who have served, whether in peacetime or during war, and from all branches of military service.

<https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/CVRRegister1.aspx>



## 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.***

**Just one phone call can make a shipmates day better.**

			Date of Birth	Qual Boat
Ronald	Eggert	916-685-9799	1/9/1953	USS Lewis & Clark (SSBN-644)
Kevin T	Fillhouer	916-545-5193	7/7/1989	USS Hampton (SSN-767)
Dennis E.	Henderson	209-772-9052	7/9/1951	USS Abraham Lincoln (SSBN-602)
Tony	Jacob	209-476-9008	1/22/1956	USS Shark (SSN-591)
Alvin A.	Lehman	916-983-2147	4/23/1943	USS Kamehameha (SSBN-642)
Matt	Lettau	916-952-3687	8/15/1972	USS Pasadena (SSN-752)
George	Miyao	916-427-8512	11/14/1937	USS Pomodon (SS-486)
Thomas E.	Moniz	916-682-9306	11/4/1940	USS Salmon (SSR-573)
Harry	Pagett	916-410-7537	12/28/1965	USS Haddock (SSN-621)
Rick	Reineman	209-952-1481	8/10/1958	USS Pogy (SSN-647)
Grant C.	Riddle	530-432-2037	2/7/1929	USS Caiman (SS-323)
Jerry	Sidebottom	916-475-4258	7/14/1948	USS Finback (SSN-670)
Louie J.	Slayton	916-835-2993	4/13/1941	USS Charr (SS-328)
Larry A.	Williams	530-344-8075	3/19/1933	USS Diodon (SS-349)

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

# Gold Country Base News



## Gold Country Base Annual Bar-b-Que & Picnic

Gil Miller presenting the Sea Cadets CPO Certificate with Commander Les Jamison looking on

Christine Swindler Service Dog Training Demonstration



Taekwondo



WDD Pete Juhos & WD5 Barry Wyatt

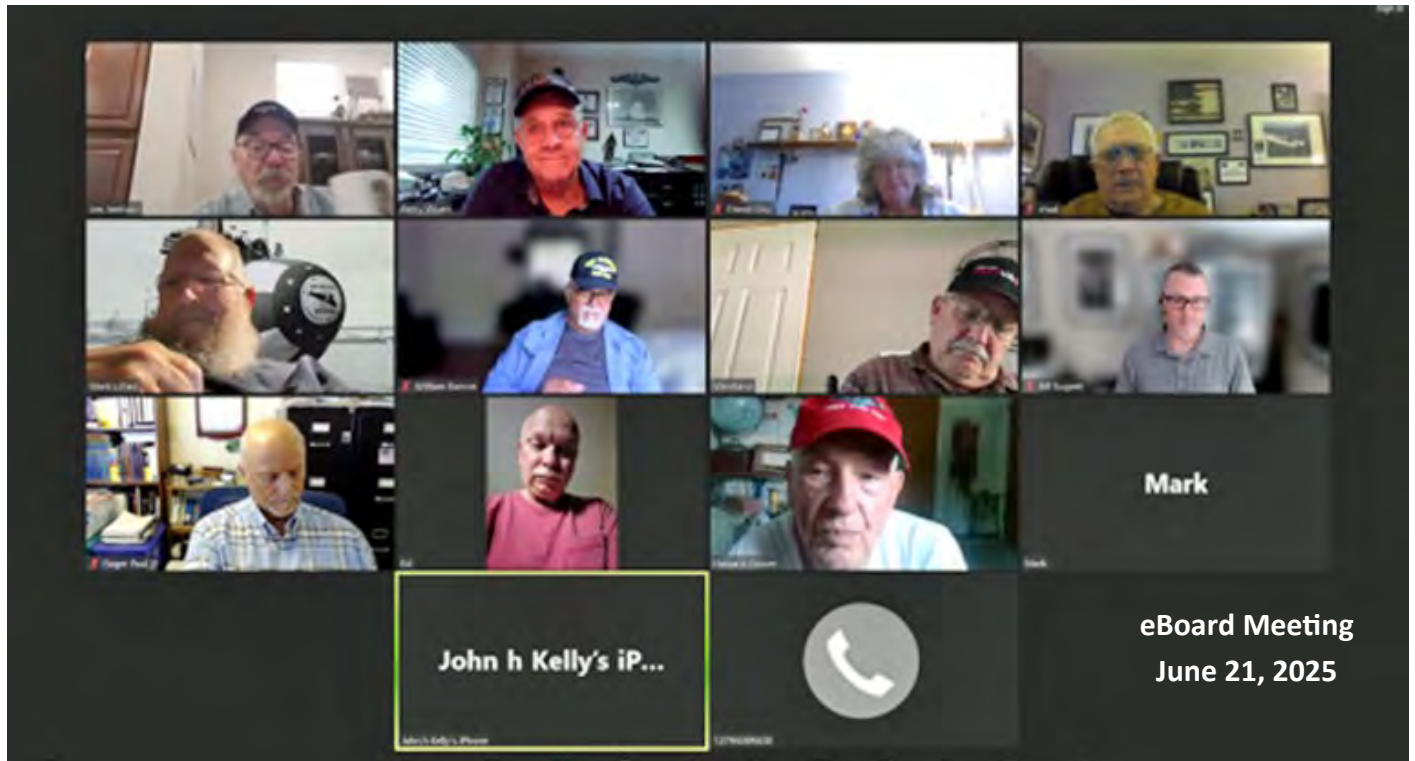


Bass Pro Memorial Day Weekend



## Gold Country Base News

### Gold Country eBoard at Work



## Upcoming Event

# *Lincoln California* **FOURTH** *of* **JULY** *Parade*

### Lincoln 4<sup>th</sup> of July Day Parade

Friday July 4th  
Arrival time 0700 for Float  
Set-up.

Parade Starts 0900  
Meet at Burger King Park-  
ing lot 115 Lincoln Blvd,  
Lincoln



# Base Member Bio

## John Dustin Clark (Dusty) QM2 (SS)

I was born in March 1947 and grew up in El Cerrito, CA. In 1964 while in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade of high school, to avoid being drafted, I enlisted in the Naval Reserve Base in Alameda CA. The training submarine at the base was the diesel boat USS Parche. I volunteered for submarine duty and during the Christmas and the following Easter, I attended submarine school at the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard. Passing the pressure testing and sea trial on a boat finishing dry dock at the Shipyard, I was designated for submarine duty.

My first boat was the USS Sterlet SS-392 at Pearl Harbor, reporting on board for 2 years active duty in March of 1966 as SN(SS). Serving as lookout, helm, and diving plane watches after my tour as a mess cook. Shortly after reporting on board, .50 caliber machine gun mounts were installed fore and aft, and volunteers were needed for gun crew and landing party. This for apparent future assignments. Volunteering for both, we practiced surfacing gun action and lowering the hot machine guns down the hatches with asbestos gloves during diving. The boat crew practiced inflating the rubber raft and the boat diving under us, and towing us with the periscope to a landing spot. We practiced day launching to Lahaina and rowing out at night to a general rendezvous location for pick up. The boat never received an assignment for this training, and the gun mounts were removed prior to WestPac 1966-1967 where I was qualified and struck for and made QM3.

Upon returning from WestPac, I was shortly transferred to the USS Remora SS-487, a Tench Class Puff Boat. We were at WestPac until late 1967, during which one of our missions earned the Navy Commendation Award for our actions. This award was the next to last diesel boat that received this award, ("Blind Man's Bluff").

I mustered out from active duty as QM2(SS) in April 1968, and as I did not attend any schools, I did not have to attend reserve meetings completing my 6-year enlistment.

*(continued on next page)*



# Base Member Bio Dusty Clark (continued)

I applied for Police Officer at Albany Ca., and was sworn in February 1969. My mother was one of the first five female police officers in the nation at Berkeley PD and my brother a police officer at El Cerrito PD. During my 11 years at Albany, beside patrol duties, I specialized in Crime Scene processing and latent fingerprint identification.

Realizing I could put more criminals behind bars with my eyes instead of my gun, I left Albany December 1980 and spent the next 3 years as a civilian latent fingerprint analyst at Sacramento PD. The next 9 years at Sacramento Sheriff, and the next 11 years at the Bureau of Forensic Services at the Calif. Dept. of Justice (DOJ). Forensic support was provided to local agencies of 48 counties, Calif. Prisons, Bureau of Narcotics, and DEA.

Duties included lecturing at classes on latent print development and comparison at the Calif. Criminalistics Institute (CCI) during those 11 years. While at DOJ in 1997, I met my Wife Jeanne, who has a BS in forensic science, at a Bay Area Identification Officers dinner. I later presented a forensic photography class where she worked at Rohnert Park DPS. Jeanne previously worked crime scenes at Placer County Sheriff and Napa PD. Jeanne came to work at DOJ in 1997 and worked with me in Latents and CCI until I left DOJ. We married March 2001.

I left DOJ February 2002 and went to the Western Identification Network, which manages the automated fingerprint databases for 8 of the Western States. Duties of Training on system use for increased accuracy of searches and QA of the NEC system.

From 1999-2014 I was elected to serve on the FBI sponsored Scientific Working Group on Fingerprint Science and Technology (SWGFAST). This group created national standards for several practices of the fingerprint science, meeting twice a year throughout the East Coast.

A highlight of my forensic career was after the 2004 FBI erroneous latent fingerprint identification of Brandon Mayfield in the Madrid Train Bombing. I was later selected by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) as the Subject Matter Expert to analyze the FBI work in the error. My analysis was extensively detailed in the OIG report, which resulted in changes of practices at the FBI Latent Lab.

On July 1, 2023 I retired from WIN after 54 years in criminal law enforcement. I enjoy retirement 10 years following Jeanne's retirement. We 5<sup>th</sup> wheeled for 20 years with many trips with our dogs. Jeanne enjoys gardening and quilting, and I enjoy cooking and Netflix now that I can't snow ski any longer. We take trips often to the Oregon Beach and Seattle.





# 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.

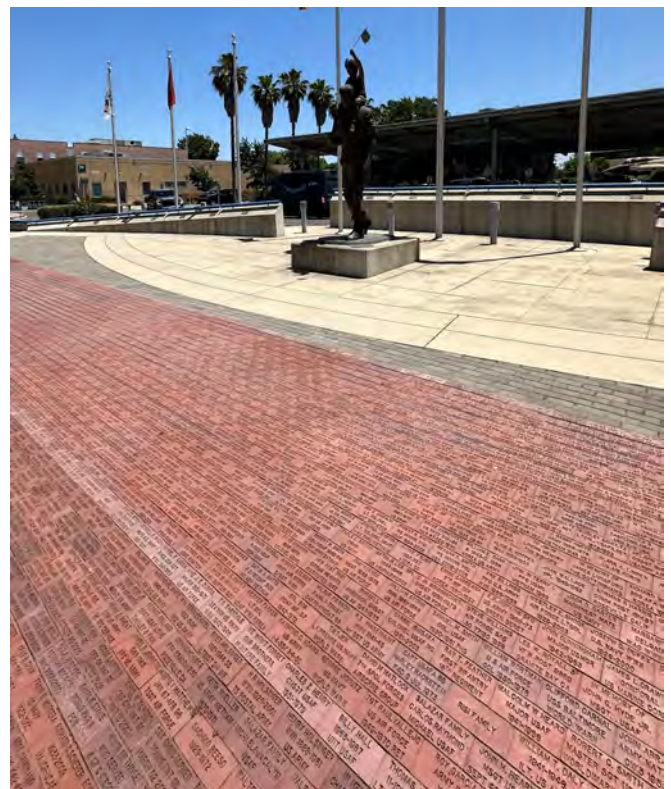
Our National Charitable Foundation (USSVCF) has set up a link on their site which will allow for all **contributions to be tax deductible.**

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

## Or Use This QR Code



**Challenge!** I will match the next 5 donors dollar-for-dollar up to and including any amount that reaches our goal. You donate \$1500 and I'll match it. **Bill Sugnet**





## USSVI Western Region News

### USSVI Western Region Roundup

*A Gathering of Submariners*

**April 16—19, 2026**

**Sams Town Hotel & Gambling Hall**

**Las Vegas, Nevada**

**Hosted by USSVI Base 51**

[www.wrroundup.com](http://www.wrroundup.com)



**Save The Date**

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## USSVI National News



### USSVI 2025 National Convention

**August 31 - September 6, 2025**

<https://subvetconvention.org/>



# Local Veterans News

I'm honored to share that I've been selected as the Military Friendly California Veteran of the Year! I'm now a finalist for the National Veteran of the Year, and I'd be grateful for your vote to help bring this recognition to our women veteran community. Every vote truly makes a difference. Voting is open through July 4.

**Click Here to Vote:** <https://victory.us.launchpad6.com/voy-2025/entry/262>



In celebration of this recognition and in support of women veteran entrepreneurs, we're extending the application deadline for the Melissa Washington Small Business Award through June 30, 2025. This award provides up to \$5,000 to help women veterans start or grow their businesses. If you or someone you know qualifies, don't miss this chance to apply. Please feel free to share this email with others who support women veterans or may benefit from this opportunity.

# Featured Boat

## USS Sterlet (SS-392)

<b>Commissioned</b>	<b>4 March 1944</b>
<b>End of Service</b>	<b>30 September 1968</b>
<b>History</b>	<b>Decommissioned 18 September 1948</b>
	<b>Recommissioned 26th August 1950</b>
	<b>Decommissioned 30 September 1968</b>
	<b>Stricken 1 October 1968</b>
	<b>Sunk as a target by the USS Sargo (SN-583) on 31 January 1969</b>



### Notable events involving Sterlet include:

#### 13 Jun 1944

With her trials and initial training completed USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. Orme Campbell Robbins) arrived at Pearl Harbor.

#### 4 Jul 1944

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. O.C. Robbins) departed from Pearl Harbor for her 1st war patrol. She was ordered to patrol off the Bonin Islands.

#### 4 Aug 1944

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. O.C. Robbins) sank the Japanese guard boats Miyagi Maru (248 GRT) and Zensho Maru (99 GRT) north-west of Chichi Jima in position 28°11'N, 141°43'E.

#### 8 Aug 1944

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. O.C. Robbins) torpedoed and sank the Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser Tama Maru No.6 (275 GRT) west of Chichi Jima in position 28°11'N, 141°06'E.

#### 26 Aug 1944

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. O.C. Robbins) ended her 1st war patrol at Midway.

#### 18 Sep 1944

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. O.C. Robbins) departed from Midway for her 2nd war patrol. She was ordered to patrol off the Ryukyu Islands.

#### 9 Oct 1944

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. O.C. Robbins) sank a Japanese sampan with gunfire off Okinawa in position 26°17'N, 128°12'E.

#### 25 Oct 1944

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. O.C. Robbins) torpedoed and sank the Japanese merchant tanker Jinei Maru (10241 GRT) south of Yaku Jima in position 30°15'N, 129°45'E.

#### 31 Oct 1944

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. O.C. Robbins) torpedoed and sank the Japanese merchant tanker Takane Maru (10021 GRT) south-west of Kyushu, Japan in position 30°09'N, 132°45'E.

#### 3 Nov 1944

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. Orme Campbell Robbins) arrived at Saipan for refueling and provisions.

#### 10 Nov 1944

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. O.C. Robbins) departed from Saipan to resume her 2nd war patrol.

*(Continued on next page)*



# Featured Boat

## USS Sterlet (SS-392) continued

**15 Nov 1944**

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. Orme Campbell Robbins) and USS Silversides damage the Japanese guard vessel Nachiryu Maru No.12 (97 GRT) with gunfire north-west of Ogasawara-Gunto in position 30°10'N, 137°23'E. Although the Japanese ship is heavily damaged, she is able to reach port.

**30 Nov 1944**

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. O.C. Robbins) ended her 2nd war patrol at Pearl Harbor.

**25 Jan 1945**

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. Hugh Howard Lewis) departed from Pearl Harbor for her 3rd war patrol, and was ordered to patrol off the east coast of Honshu, Japan.

**1 Mar 1945**

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. H.H. Lewis) torpedoed and sank the Japanese army cargo ship Tateyama Maru (1148 GRT) south of Honshu, Japan in position 34°11'N, 139°44'E.

**4 Apr 1945**

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. H.H. Lewis) ended her 3rd war patrol at Midway.

**29 Apr 1945**

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. H.H. Lewis) departed from Midway for her 4th war patrol. She was ordered to patrol in the Sea of Okhotsk.

**29 May 1945**

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. H.H. Lewis) torpedoed and sank the Japanese army cargo ships Kuretake Maru (1924 GRT) and Tenryo Maru (2231 GRT) east of the La Prouse Strait in position 46°46'N, 144°16'E.

**10 Jun 1945**

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. H.H. Lewis) ended her 4th war patrol at Midway.

**5 Jul 1945**

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. H.H. Lewis) departed from Midway for her 5th war patrol. She was ordered to patrol east of Honshu in Japanese home waters.

**23 Aug 1945**

USS Sterlet (Lt.Cdr. H.H. Lewis) ended her 5th war patrol at Midway.

In **September 1954**, Sterlet reported for duty to Submarine Squadron 1 at Pearl Harbor. For the remainder of her Navy career, *Sterlet* was home ported at Pearl Harbor. Between 1954 and 1968, she alternated operations in the Hawaiian Islands with nine deployments to the western Pacific with the 7th Fleet. On these cruises, usually of approximately six months duration, she participated in a host of exercises and war game problems and visited most major ports in the Far East, particularly those in Japan, Taiwan, China and in some of the Central Pacific islands.

After her return from her final deployment in the summer of 1968, *Sterlet* was found to be unfit for further naval service. Accordingly, she was decommissioned on 30 September 1968, and her name was struck from the Navy list on the following day. She rendered her last service to the Navy on 31 January 1969 when she was sunk as a target by the nuclear-powered submarine, *Sargo* (SSN-583).



**USS Sterlet (SS-392) was  
the Qual Boat for Gold  
Country Member  
Dusty Clark**



# WW II Submarines

## *A Bit of World War 11 History in the Pacific Theater*

The fifty-one submarines at Pearl Harbor, on the west coast of the U.S., and at Manila, Philippine Islands were the only ships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet able to retaliate after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. The attack put the U.S. Battle Force out of action. Our Fleet Class submarines had been designed as advanced scouts for that force. However, by good fortune, they had the speed, endurance, and weapon load to make them admirably suited for another role; attacking Japanese shipping throughout the Pacific. As a result they were immediately assigned the new role, and a basic military strategy of strangulation of Japan was fashioned about them.



**The Gato (SS-212) was the lead ship of its class (the Gato-class)**

## **Cutting the Japanese Jugular**

Japanese shipping routes spanned the Pacific from the Gilbert Islands in the east to the Malay Peninsula in the west, and from the Kuriles in the north to the Dutch East Indies in the south. This ocean traffic was the life blood of Japan's war effort for she had few natural resources and was dependent upon imports of oil, coal, iron, food and other materials for her war effort. Consequently, it was essential that the same Japanese ships that distributed food, fuel, war materials and troops to the many scattered Japanese outposts carry raw materials back to the Empire. Cold statistics on ship sinkings do not describe the plight of the Japanese outposts when guns, ammunition, tanks, fuel and food failed to arrive. Devastating, too, was the loss of thousands of troop reinforcements when they went down with the transports sunk by our submarines. These losses were serious, but a far more serious loss brought about by our submarines was the failure of the Japanese merchant marine to provide the Japanese home islands with critical war materials. They blanketed the areas around the Japanese home islands and outposts throughout the Pacific. They were active off Indonesia, the Philippines, the Gilbert, Marshall, Caroline and Mariana Islands, New Guinea, the Dutch East Indies, and the western Aleutians. They quickly began sinking Japan's merchant fleet, and prevented it from supplying their far-flung empire with arms, fuel, food and troops.

***(continued on next page)***

# WW II Submarines

(continued)

## Japanese Merchant Ship Losses

The Japanese cargo carrying capacity of 6 million tons at the start of the war was reduced to about 5 million tons by the end of 1943, and to less than 3 million tons by the end of 1944 despite a rigorous ship building program. At war's end in August 1945 Japan had less than 2 million tons of cargo shipping, but only 312,000 tons of it was in condition to haul cargo. Despite ship construction of 3 1/4 million tons during the war, replacement tonnage amounted to only about a third of losses due to all causes. Because of shipping losses, Japanese imports of bulk commodities fell from about 20 million tons in 1941 to about 16 1/2 million tons at the end of 1943, and further to 10 million tons in 1944. The importation of materials had essentially ceased by the time Japan surrendered in August 1945. By then Japan's war industry was stalled, and it was impossible for the military to wage war abroad. It was also nearly impossible for the civilian population to exist on the meager rations of food and energy available.

American submarines acted alone to destroy the Japanese ocean transport system during the first two years of the war. Thereafter, other elements of U.S. forces contributed to its destruction. However, our submarines deserve most of the credit, as revealed in the following table.

	Tons*	% of Total
Submarines	4,861,300	54.64
Navy Carrier Air	1,452,900	16.33
Army Air	910,100	10.23
Navy Land Based Air	383,200	4.31
All Other Causes	1,289,500	14.49
Total	8,897,000	100.00

## Japanese Merchant Ship Losses To Submarines

U.S. Submarines attacked 4,112 Japanese merchant ships\* during 1,474 war patrols. Of these, the number of ships sunk was:

Assessment	No.	Tonnage
Confirmed	1,113	4,779,902 or 1 out of 3.69 attacked.
Probable	65	225,872
Total	1,178	5,005,774 or 1 out of 3.49 attacked.



# Story of Interest

## Japanese Midget Submarines used in the Attack on Pearl Harbor

The first shots fired by the United States in the Pacific War were by the USS Ward against a Japanese midget submarine attempting to infiltrate Pearl Harbor. This occurred on the morning of December 7, 1941, before the main Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began. The USS Ward (DD-139), spotted the submarine's periscope and opened fire, sinking the vessel



As part of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy sent an attack group of submarines to surround Oahu and sink ships attempting to flee. Five of the submarines carried top-secret "mini submarines." These submarines, each armed with two torpedoes and carrying two crew members, were to penetrate inside the harbor under cover of darkness before the attack began. They were to surface and fire their torpedoes during the aerial attack. Then, they would dive and escape the harbor, and rendezvous with their "mother submarines," again under cover of darkness the night of December 7.

While the aerial attack was devastating, the mini submarines failed in their mission. Only one made it into the harbor, and it was quickly sunk during the attack that morning by the USS Monaghan (DD-354).

*(continued on next page)*

# Story of Interest

(continued)

Another submarine washed ashore on the morning of December 8, and its surviving crew member, Kazuo Sakamaki, was captured along with his craft. The submarine was studied and then toured the U.S. to promote the sale of War Bonds. It is now on permanent display at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas.

A third submarine was observed more than an hour before the attack trying to follow a U.S. ship into the harbor. It was quickly engaged and sunk by the crew of the destroyer USS *Ward* (DD-139). The

two other mini submarines disappeared

In 1951, **one** of the two missing submarines was discovered in shallow water off the entrance to Pearl Harbor. It had been partially destroyed by an internal explosive



**The mini submarine discovered in Ke'ehi Lagoon in 1960 is lifted to the surface by the U.S. Navy.**

charge, probably set off by its crew when they could not escape. Raised by the U.S. Navy, it was quietly taken out to sea and dumped in deep water.

In 1960, the second missing submarine was discovered. It, like the other submarine, lay in shallow water near the entrance to Pearl Harbor. It was raised by the Navy, and its bow, still armed with torpedoes, was taken off and dumped at sea. The rest of the submarine, at the request of Japan, was returned to Japan. It was restored and is now on display at the former Japanese naval academy at Eta Jima.

- **Size and Capacity:** These submarines were relatively small, with a length of around 78-79 feet and a displacement of about 46 tons submerged. They typically carried a crew of two or three.
- **Armament:** They were equipped with two torpedoes.
- **Purpose:** They were designed for close-in attacks, often launched from larger submarines (mother ships) near their targets.



# US Navy Submarine News

## General Dynamics wins \$987M Submarine Contract Modification

Electric Boat, a business unit of General Dynamics, has secured a \$987 million contract modification to advance the U.S. Navy's submarine industrial base. This infusion funds critical Component Development, Class Lead Yard Support (CLYS), and Submarine Industrial Base (SIB) supplier enhancements. The package covers procurement of long-lead-time materials, shipyard infrastructure modernization to support increased output, and the expansion of key suppliers to remove bottlenecks and accelerate delivery timelines. Approximately 70 percent of the work will occur at Electric Boat's Groton, Connecticut, yard, with the remaining 30 percent equally allocated to Newport News, Virginia, and Quonset Point, Rhode Island. The project runs through 2031.

The modification builds on a May 2025 \$12.4 billion contract covering two Virginia-class Block V submarines, SSN-812 and SSN-813, which incorporated the long-lead procurements necessary to sustain a higher construction tempo. Together, these investments reflect a decisive U.S. strategy to bolster undersea deterrence amid intensifying global naval competition, particularly in the Indo-Pacific.



**A Virginia-class Block V submarine at sea, supported by new funding to boost U.S. production capacity**

The original Block V Virginia-class submarines deliver major enhancements over earlier blocks.

With the Virginia Payload Module (VPM), these submarines extend to 460 feet and displace 10,200 tons, compared to 377 feet and 7,800 tons in Blocks I–IV. The VPM adds four large-diameter vertical-launch tubes, enabling each boat to carry up to 65 Tomahawk cruise missiles, a roughly 76 percent increase in strike capacity. They employ pump-jet propulsion powered by an S9G reactor, offering speeds over 25 knots and depths beyond 800 feet. Acoustic signature reduction is achieved through advanced hull coatings, UMM photonics masts with dual high-resolution optical and infrared sensors, and a comprehensive AN/BQQ-10 sonar suite with bow, flank, and towed arrays. Combat capabilities are managed via the AN/BYG-1 combat control system and modular architecture for streamlined upgrades.

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The technical scope of the original Block V contract included procurement of the VPM sections, integration of clock-driven modular construction techniques, and acquisition of critical systems such as advanced sonar, photonics masts, pump-jet propulsors, and UMM antennas. The new \$987 million modification is explicitly aimed at sustaining these capabilities by accelerating supply chain readiness, through infrastructure modernization, supplier capacity expansion, and improved delivery of long-lead components to maintain a steady build rate well into the 2030s.

The urgent need for these two additional Virginia-class submarines stems from a growing operational gap in the U.S. Navy's undersea fleet, as the service struggles to maintain its attack submarine force level amid increasing retirements of Los Angeles-class boats and production delays for new units. As peer adversaries



**Virginia class submarine underway during sea trials.**

like China continue to rapidly expand their naval capabilities, particularly in the Western Pacific, the U.S. requires a robust and modern submarine force capable of persistent intelligence, surveillance, strike, and anti-submarine missions. However, the necessity for a separate \$987 million industrial base enhancement contract exposes underlying fragilities in the American shipbuilding sector, including a limited number of skilled laborers, supplier shortages, and infrastructure that has not kept pace with strategic demands. This dual-contract approach reveals the Navy's dependency on supplemental funding to close capacity gaps and deliver strategic assets on time, underscoring the urgency of revitalizing the U.S. submarine industrial base to match geopolitical challenges.

General Dynamics Electric Boat designs, builds, repairs and modernizes nuclear submarines for the U.S. Navy. Headquartered in Groton, Connecticut, it employs more than 24,000 people.



# Support Gold Country Base Business



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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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