

Clear The Baffles GOLD COUNTRY BASE





September/October 2025 VOL MMXXV Issue 05 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.



Western District
Director Pete
Juhos Presents
Gold Country
Base Commander
Les Jamison with
the 2025 Class 1
Gold Anchor
Award



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Larry E Shamus MM1(SS)

See Eternal Patrol Notice on Page 14





eBoard Meeting (On Zoom) October 18 0900 Meeting ID: 902 151 4965 Passcode: SubVet

Next Meeting—October 25, 2025 Potluck @ 12

noon Meeting Starts 1pm Folsom Veterans Hall - 1300 Forrest St., Folsom

First Call to Morning Chow

November TBD

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates The last two months have been busy with traveling to the National Convention in Orlando and starting to get things lined up for the events scheduled for the next two to three months. Gold Country Base was honored and awarded (2) National Awards. (1) The Newsletter award for outstanding publication and as always Barry's continued dedication to leading the charge to spread Base and Western Roundup news to all members



of USSVI nationwide. (2) The Golden Anchor award to Gold Country Base for Best in Class for our continued efforts to support the goals of USSVI with our many community events with our support of the Sea Cadets. Congratulations to all Gold Country base members who worked so hard on all these events. Pete presented these awards to Barry and to Base members at our last meeting.

The Brick project took another step toward completion as the Base members voted to approve the wording on the "Gold Country Base center brick." Ed McCarthy and Bill Sugnet were given the approval to start the process to order the bricks and schedule to the dedication date for the installation of the 60 plus memorial bricks.

We held nominations for Base Vice Commander and Base Secretary. Mark Elftmann was nominated for Vice Commander and Diana Clay for Base Secretary; elections will take place at the October base meeting.

Our guest speaker for the September meeting was Penny and my daughter Nicole Demakas. She highlighted the current vaccination requirement for flu, Covid, and RSV. She stressed the adoption of the PACT act need to resubmit your denied VA disability claims.

Our Guest speaker at our October meeting is David West II, Veterans Service Officer from Grass Valley. I strongly suggest you bring a copy of your DD214 and a summary of your duty stations and job duties while in the service. A list of any treated illness and date of treatment. I have been working with David for the last 2 months and have recently been approved for an increase to 90% from 60% disability rating. It was not easy but we are moving forward and it is great to have someone on your side fighting with you and not against you. Next Meeting — October 25, 2025

Les Jamison - Base Commander

Vice-COMMANDER

Shipmates, Over the past few months, Gold Country Base has participated in numerous events.

We had another successful Memorial Day at Bass Pro, and we're seeing more people there every year.

Our annual picnic was a good day, and people who attended had a good time despite the threat of rain.

We were in Lincoln on the Fourth of July, where we are always welcomed with enthusiasm. It was no different this year.

We skipped the State Fair visit this year due to a change in the fair's schedule. The fair was only open in the evening this year, and it would not have been easy to move all our gear in, with the crowds. Especially since we only had three to four hours to be there.

We were able to go to the Capitol Air Show for the first time. The air show was a great success, with several potential members identified. There were about fifteen names, which were divided among several members who called them to encourage them to visit us and join the base. I don't think there was any success with these calls. I am running a few minutes late; my previous meeting is running over.

Sometime during this period, we hosted a group of young, active-duty sailors in town for Navy Week for lunch at Spaghetti Factory. These swabbies were from a helicopter carrier and were in town for several days. It was a delightful lunch to spend time talking with these young sailors.

We need to have Tim Spoon Achievement Award nominations at the next base meeting on October 25, 2025.

Voting for *Base* Secretary and Vice Commander is scheduled on October 25.





SUBVET CHECK-IN PROGRAM

The program is still with us, but it isn't very robust.

We have had a few members from the call list attend some meetings, and it was a pleasure to see them. Again, I encourage everyone to make some

calls to check in with our shipmates.

I was getting a flu shot at Kaiser recently, and a guy saw my hat, and we talked for a while. I got his name and email address, so I sent him an email and invited him to visit with us. He said he and his wife don't stick around in town very much because they enjoy traveling, so they likely won't join us except for occasional visits. I will contact him and invite him to First Call Morning Chow on October 14.

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Hatred

Is hating anyone or anything ever appropriate? Psalm 97:17 "Do not nurse hatred in your heart of your relatives. Confront people directly so willnot be held guilty for their sin." Note hating is okay for the right reasons.

Matthew 5:43-44 "You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies Pray for those who

persecute you!" We are to love all people and hate all sin. Sounds hard to do but if you love God He will help you do that.

Blessings Howard Grover Base Chaplain.



Shipmates- It's October already and still warm as I type this. Our base is still underfunded but thanks to a few booster donations, our treasury grew this month by nearly \$300. In November, I will be sending membership dues notices for the National and Base dues (for those who are annual members



at either) and would like to encourage the use of Zelle for payment

rather than PayPal or Venmo because there is zero cost to the Base to use Zelle. If your financial institution supports it we can be found at treasurer@goldcountrybase.org.

On October 13, 2025, the US Navy celebrated its 250th birthday. If you are out and about on that day proudly wear your hats, pins, and insignia. The US Navy pre-dates the United States and in our proud traditions is one of the foundations of this great nation.

Along those lines, the submarine service celebrated two historical firsts in September. On September 7, 1776 the Turtle attacked a British War Ship in New York Harbor. Funded by George Washington and built by a collection of patriots and engineers led by David Bushnell, this simple submersible started the path to modern undersea combat. The attack was not successful, but would be the beginning of the US Naval Submarine Warfare program which resulted in the commissioning of USS Nautilus, the first Nuclear Powered Submarine, on September 30, 1954.

Bill Sugnet, Base Treasurer Membership Chair

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Fellow Base Members—Planning and coordination to get the December 7th Remembrance Ceremony going are well underway. December 7th falls on a Sunday this year, so we hope the event will be well attended. Coincidently the CIM (California International Marathon) is running on December 7th this year. Avoid potential congestion and Google Map the north entrance to the



park. Parking pass information is still in the works. Keep an eye on the base website and e-mail blasts for more details. Everything is set for the Folsom Veterans Day Parade. We will form up to prep the float around 7 AM in the Home Goods parking lot where we will get our parade lineup position number. The parade starts sharply at 9 am in front of Target on Bidwell Street. The weather will be much better this year!

Ed McCarthy, Web Master/Events Coordinator



Shipmates, Our guest speaker for the October meeting will be David West the Veterans Service Officer (VSO) for Nevada County, CA. He is the president of the California Association of County Veterans Services Officers, an organization representing county-level VSOs across the state.



I have invited several to be guest speakers at our functions, but have found few that are willing. If any of you reading this have any sugges-

tions, PLEASE let me know.

Nothing new to report on the Navy Youth front.

Chad Clay, Guest Speakers Coordinator/Naval Youth Liaison



Shipmates, No activity to report for Eagle Scouts or Sea Cadets award program's.



Gil Miller, Eagle Scout, Sea Cadets Awards Coordinator

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Happy Fall y'all,

First things first, do not forget your flu shot. It is predicted to be a light year for the flu. But please do not be complacent.

Ed McCarthy and I have been working on a couple of ideas for fund raising. We are at the mercy of people calling us back, so it is moving slowly. We are looking into a spaghetti



dinner and a support night at a few local restaurants. If you have any

ideas, please see us at one of the meetings or call one of us.

For the "First Call to chow," we are back at Denny's on Sunrise in Roseville. Hope to see you there.

Our annual gift exchange will be at our monthly breakfast, January 13, 2026.

SAVE THE DATE.....

Annual Holiday Party and Award Dinner.

December 18, 2025, Thursday 5pm. to 10pm.

Officers Club, 3410 Westover St., McClellan Park (Same as last year)

5 pm – Meet and Greet 6pm – Dinner 7:30 pm – Award Presentation

Cost – \$60 per person, \$120 per couple, Cash Bar

Tickets will be sold at October & November meetings or Call Penny at 352-598-9611 or Les at 407-509-7814.

Penny Jamison, SubVet Support Group Commander



Shipmates, Our newsletter, Clear the Baffles, has come away with top honors again. This is the 10th year in a row that we have either won "Newsletter of the Year" first place in our class or taken the overall award. I put a lot of time and effort into producing a newsletter that we can all be proud of, but the final product would not be possible



without the many of the elements sent in by Gold Country Base members. Over the years members have contributed with their bi-

os, stories of their shipboard antics, games, book reviews, photography and more. As I begin my 11th year as publisher, with your support I hope to be able to continue are winning tradition. Also we have added a new feature I found a story that was to long to publish so I produced a teaser and Ed put the whole story on the web site. Check out the link on Page

Barry Wyatt, Newsletter Editor

Gold Country Base Officers



Base Commander
Kaps4Kids Coordinator
Les Jamison
Qualified 1969
USS Greenfish SS 351
Holland Club

(407) 509-7814 basecommaner@goldcountrybase.org



Vice Commander Awards Chairman SubVet Check-in Chair Mark Elftmann Qualified 1975

USS William H Bates SSN 625 (916) 243-9265 mark elf@me.com



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

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Base Photographer

Bill Barron

Qualified 1970

USS Haddock SSN 621

Holland Club

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Newsletter Editor/PAO
J. Barry Wyatt
Qualified 1965
USS Henry Clay SSBN 625
Life Member
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Holland Club Commander Base Historian **Lenard Lee** Qualified 1961 USS Salmon SS 573

Life Member—Holland Club (510) 928-8500 len@trawlers.com



Gil Miller
Qualified 1963
USS Becuna SS 319
Life Member Holland Club
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beowaweman319@gmail.com

Eagle Scout

Coordinator



Guest Speakers Coordinator Naval Youth Liaison Chad Clay Oualified 1965

USS Daniel Boone SSBN 629 Life Member Holland Club

(916) 502-1623 chdclay@gmail.com



Parade Float Manager

John Kelly

Qualified 1976

USS Pogy SSN 647

Life Member

(916) 989-8500 thebark@gmail.com



Storekeeper
Jerry Wentland
U.S. Army
Associate Member

(530) 613-6729 wentlandn2014@gmail.com



SubVet Support Group Commander Penny Jamison Associate Member

(352) 598-9611 pjamison1050@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



Web Master Events Coordinator Ed McCarthy Qualified 1983USS Bergall SSN 667 Life Member (916) 995-5196 eddie105@yahoo.com



USSVI District 5 Commander

J. Barry Wyatt

Qualified 1965
USS Henry Clay SSBN 625
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 600-1425
sacsubvet65@gmail.com



USSVI Western
Region Director
Pete Juhos
Qualified 1980
USS Bergall SSN 667
Life Member

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

Lost Boats

October

USS Shark II (SS-314)

Lost on Oct 24,1944 with the loss of 87 men when she was sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was on her 3rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone





freighter. Compounding the tragedy, it turned out that the freighter had 1,800 U.S. POW's on board.

USS Darter (SS-227)

Lost on Oct 24, 1944 when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan and was then destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by USS Dace. Winner of one Navy Unit Commendation, Darter had sunk a heavy cruiser and damaged another and went aground while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation in hopes of getting in an attack on a battleship.



USS Tang (SS-306)

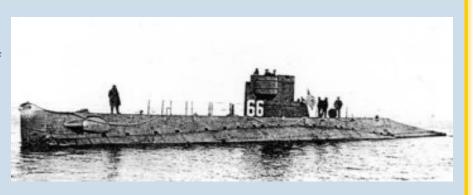
Lost on Oct 25,1944 with the lost of 78 men in the Formosa Strait. Tang was on her 5th war patrol. Tang ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage, and had won two Presidential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR.



O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

USS O-5 (SS-66)

Lost on October 29, 1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Abangarez off the Panama Canal.



(continued)

USS Seawolf (SS-197)

Lost on Oct 3,1944 with the loss of 83 officers and men and 17 US Army troops when she was sunk just north of Moritai by USS Rowell, a Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese subma-





rine that had just sunk another Destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.

USS S-44 (SS-155)

Lost on Oct 7, 1943 with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles. S-44 was on her 5th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, S-44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived.





USS Wahoo (SS-238)

Lost on Oct 11, 1943 with the loss of 80 men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of one of the great sub skippers of World War II, LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo was on her 7th war patrol. Wahoo had won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was lost to depth charges dropped by a Japanese patrol aircraft.





USS Dorado (SS-248)

Lost on Oct 12, 1943 with the loss of 77 men when she was sunk in the western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she had departed New London and was enroute to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane that received faulty instructions regarding bombing restriction areas or a German U-boat that was in the vicinity.





USS Escolar (SS-294)

Lost on Oct 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. She was on her 1st war patrol and was most likely lost to a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea.







USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MINUTES MEETING: September 27, 2025

<u>CALL TO ORDER:</u> Meeting called to order @ 13:00. Commander Les Jamison read the USSVI Creed and Purpose.

INVOCATION: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave invocation.

<u>TOLLING OF THE BELL</u>: The Lost Boats for the month of September were read by Vice Commander Mark Elftmann, and acting Chief of the Boat Mike Goble tolled the bell for each Lost Boat and one additional toll in memory of those shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

MEMBER INTRODUCTION: There were 21 members and 1 guest in attendance.

GUEST SPEAKER COORDINATOR CHAD CLAY INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER:

Guest speaker is Nicole Damakas, RN, daughter of Les and Penny. Works at the VA and spoke on vaccinations of flu, Covid, RSV. Re: the PACK Act has some changes. If you were denied you should resubmit your claim.

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Les Jamison

Barry was presented with the Newsletter of the Year award from the National Convention by Pete Juhos. Gold Country Base was presented with the Gold Anchor award from the National Convention by Pete Juhos. Les discussed the Kaps 4 Kids given at elementary school kindergartners. He is looking to do another option to give out the Kaps 4 Kids.

Nominations for Vice Commander: Mark Elftmann. No other nominations.

Nominations for Secretary: Diana Clay. No other nominations.

VICE COMMANDER: Mark Elftmann

We need to start thinking about nominations for the base awards. Nominations for Tim Spoon award will begin in September to be applied by October 31, 2025. Nominations are sent to Mark to be voted on. The form is in the newsletter. Also, on the website under "Posts".

The newsletter shows some veterans that could be considered for a visit or phone call. Mark called Larry Williams. He is always happy to hear from us.

SECRETARY: Diana Clay

Sharon Frost is collecting used eye glasses for the Lion's Club for refurbishing.

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

TREASURER: Bill Sugnet

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

Memorial Brick Fund Balance: \$7,392.49 goal is \$6,500.00 We would like this to be an ongoing fundraiser.

Sea Cadet balance: \$128.48

MEMBERSHIP: <u>Bill Sugnet</u> We have <u>95</u> members.

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt

Bulletin was issued for September this week. He is leaving for 2 weeks mid October and would like to have newsletter issued before he leaves. So he would like to get any information intended for the newsletter to be submitted by the 1st of October.

Region Roundup in 2026 will be in Las Vegas at Sam's Town, April 15-19. Registration is \$65. Information is in the newsletter. WRR in 2027 will be in Denver.

Nominations for Western Region Roundup officers will be opened in January.

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller - No report

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover

Spoke to Larry Williams at the nursing home. He has sold his house and will remain in the facility. He would love visitors. If going east on I50, stop in and see him.

BASE PHOTOGRAPHER: <u>Bill Barron</u> - No report NAVY YOUTH LIASON: <u>Chad Clay</u> - No report

HISTORIAN: Lenard Lee -No Report

(continued on next page)

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.

Working on the wording on the center brick at Mather. The vote was to input US NAVY SUBVETS, GOLD

COUNTRY, BASE. Once we know when the bricks are laid we will have a ceremony.

STOREKEEPER: Jerry Wentland

There are still some calendars, hats and ties available.

PARADE FLOAT MANAGER: John Kelly - No report

EVENTS COORDINATOR: Ed McCarthy

Veteran's Day parade in Folsom, Tuesday November 11, to meet at the Home Goods parking lot on east Bidwell at 7:00 am. Parade begins at 9:00 am. Bill Sugnet's brother will take photos of the event. Veteran's Day at Bass Pro Shop lobby, Veteran gathering, not mandatory. December 7 event, there is also the California Marathon on this same date. Guest speaker will be Rosario Rodriguez from Folsom City Council.Holiday party event, December 18 at 6:00 pm, happy hour at 5:00, at McClellan Officers Club. Cost to be \$60 per person as the base cannot afford to cover any other expenses this year. Lost Boats Memorial, TBD. Western Region Roundup will be in Las Vegas at Sam's April 15-19, 2026. Registration is open on the Website. Cost is \$65. Information is in the newsletter.

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR: <u>Chad Clay Speaker from Veterans Service Office in October to discuss disability claims.</u>

WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR: Pete Juhos

National convention in Florida had 410 attendees. Was a great event.

National convention for 2026 is in Corpus Christie \$142 per night 9/6/2026 -9/15/2026. 2027 is in Reno at Grand Sierra Resort, 8/22-27/2027. 2028 is in Grand Rapids, MI.

New website to be running in first quarter of 2026. Membership drive. We would like 15,000 members. Currently we have 11,681.

Two awards that can be awarded by the base, longevity pin when you maintain your membership for 5 years. Base or District can present a Rickover award at 25 years Holland club is 50 years.

Payment to National will change to Zelle. Charitable foundation issued 80 scholarship awards.

Charitable foundation also will help prepare your will at www.mylegacywill.com/ussvi

SUBVET SUPPORT GROUP: Penny Jamison

Would like to have a food drive for the Northern California Health organization. Members can bring non-perishable items. Discussion to have a pasta feed fundraiser to earn money for the base at the next meeting. Penny and Ed are working on a separate fundraiser to have a special night at a particular restaurant where the base will receive 10 or 15% of the proceeds that night, not including alcohol.

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 have a couple of pictures of the December 7 battle to be included for our December 7 event.

OLD BUSINESS: Minutes from August approved.

First Call to Morning Chow: 10/14/2025 9:30 am @ Denny's Restaurant, 122 Sunrise Ave., Roseville, CA

E-board Zoom meeting: October 18, 2025 9:00 am

Next Base Meeting: October 25, 2025 noon for potluck lunch and 1:00 meeting. 50/50 Won by: \$43 to Bill Sugnet donated back to base. Sea Cadets: \$55

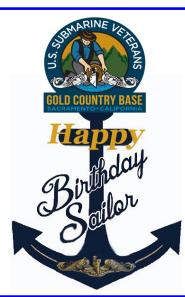
Meeting adjournment: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave a closing prayer. Chief of the Boat surfaced 15:00

Submitted by Diana Clay, Base Secretary

Birthdays

OCTOBER

Fred Dalbello Pete Juhos Ron Rule
Barry Wyatt Penny Jamison Nick Sadowy
Chad Clay



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



Current Events

Government Shutdown: Despite a partial shutdown, most essential VA services like healthcare and compensation benefits are still running, though some programs like transition services and certain hotlines have been impacted or suspended. Legislative action: The House has passed the first bill for fiscal year 2026, which fully funds VA healthcare and benefits.

Survivor benefits: The VA is streamlining benefits for survivors and dependents of deceased veterans by relocating the Office of Survivors Assistance and creating a survivor outreach team.

Vaccination access: The VA can now provide COVID-19 vaccinations to all veterans, their spouses, and caregivers under the SAVE LIVES Act.

Survivor benefit gap: A gap in survivor benefits is being closed for certain survivors of LGBTQ+ veterans who could not legally marry until the 2015 Supreme Court decision.

Disability ratings: Updates to the VA disability rating system for mental health, sleep apnea, and tinnitus are coming in 2025.

Homelessness: The VA awarded over \$84 million in grants to fight veteran homelessness.

Eternal Patrol

Larry E Shamus, MM1(SS)



Larry was born in Detroit Michigan in September of 1942. He graduated from Cass Technical High School and joined the United States Navy in 1960. After submarine school he was assigned to the USS Cavalla (SS-244) where he qualified in 1964. He then served on the USS Abraham Lincoln (SSBN-602) and discharged from the Navy as a MM1(SS) in 1970. After the Navy he moved to California and worked in the auto industry until his retirement. After retirement Larry and his current wife, Chalao, moved to her home country of Thailand where he has lived since 2012.



Larry is survived by his wife and his four adult daughters.

He loved his time in the Navy and until his dying day relived with joy his days of serving on a submarines.



Shipmate Larry Shamus MM1(SS) You have served us well and accepted your final orders. We Have the Watch- Fair Winds and Following Seas.



Gold Country News & Events

October 25th Meeting Guest Speaker

David West is the Veterans Service Officer (VSO) for Nevada County, CA, a role he took on in 2018. A former Marine, he advocates for veterans and has been instrumental in improving local services, which include initiatives to combat homelessness and suicide. In addition to his county-level work, West is also the President of the California Association of County Veterans Services Officers.



Role: As Nevada County's Veterans Service Officer, he assists veterans with services, benefits, and claims.

Veteran background: He is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served from 1996-2001 and was named Marine of the Year in 1999.

Leadership: He is the president of the California Association of County Veterans Services Officers, an organization representing county-level VSOs across the state.

Community impact: His work in Nevada County has led to significant results, such as reducing veteran homelessness by 90%, securing millions in funding, and launching the Veterans Outreach and Wellness Program.

Personal journey: West's own experiences with homelessness after his military service fuel his advocacy. He has also worked for the Veterans Benefits Administration and in the oil industry before becoming the VSO.

Folsom Veterans Day Parade

Tuesday November 11

Assemble 0730 - 0800 --- Parade Starts 0900

Start Location: Front of Home Goods (Target) parking lot, 1010 E. Bidwell Folsom (East Bidwell Street and Montrose Drive)

Parade Uniform Please.

More information contact: Ed McCarthy (916) 995-5196

Peral Harbor Dec 7th Memorial and Wreath Laying Ceremony

Sunday December 7th **2025 is the 84**th **Anniversary** of the attack on Pearl Harbor. For the past 37 years the greater Sacramento area United States Submarine Veterans have honored that date with a Memorial and Wreath-Laying Ceremony at Discovery Park.

Gold Country Base Holiday Party & Awards Ceremony

December 18, 2025, Thursday 5pm. to 10pm.

Officers Club, 3410 Westover St., McClellan Park

5 pm – Meet and Greet 6pm – Dinner 7:30 pm – Award Presentation

Tickets will be sold at October & November meetings and on line or Call Penny at 352-598-9611 or Les at 407-509-7814.

Gold Country News & Events

Gold Country Base was awarded top honors at the National Convention. In Class 1 (Large Base) Gold Anchor and Newsletter of the Year this recognition is something we can all be proud of.



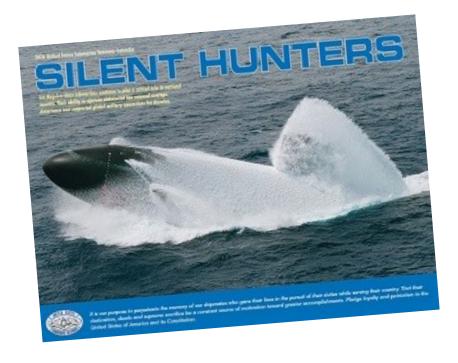


Gold Country Base Elections for Vice-Commander and Base Secretary will be held at the October Base Meeting.

Deadline for Submission for the Timothy H. Spoon' Achievement Award is OCT 31

The Timothy H. Spoon' Achievement Award is presented to a Gold Country Base crewmember who exemplifying the meaning and spirit of the word "Shipmate." **Nominations most be submitted by October 31st. Contact Vice-Commander Mark Elftmann (916) 243-9265 for more information.** (See the Nomination Application form on the next page).

2026 Calanders are in and will be available for sale at the October Meeting





'Timothy H. Spoon' Achievement Award Nomination

The Timothy H. Spoon' Achievement Award is presented to a Gold Country Base crewmember who meets the following requirements.

Nominees will be members in good standing; who have, by his or her personal individual effort and participation during the preceding year (or years) have demonstrably contributed to the advancement and embodiment of the Gold Country Base, and the USSVI creed and purposes; by his or her dedicated service and support to the same, and to his or her fellow submarine veterans and associated members exemplifying the meaning and spirit of the word "Shipmate."

Factors to be considered in nominating and assessing members for this prestigious award must take into consideration their demonstrable achievement in:

- Good Character. Provides a 'model' for others based on personal involvement in Base activities, including attracting and mentoring new members.
- Required due paid on time; attends regularly scheduled Base meetings.
- Performed assigned duties in such a manner as to positively reflect on the Gold Country Base, and USSVI, with the general public.
- Performed one or more specific difficult tasks in the minds of the membership which are considered 'above and beyond.'

Please complete and submit the information below to the Awards Committee Chair, Mark Elftmann mark elf@me.com prior to the submission deadline of October 31^{st.} Award will be presented at the Annual Holiday Dinner.

Date		
(Please Print)	Nominee Name	
	Nominated by	
Reason for the No	mination	

(If additional room is needed, please use the back side of this sheet.)

USSVI Regional News & Events

San Mateo County Veterans Commission





Dolphin Base Member "Veteran of the Year" Michale William O'Brien

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

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Registration is Open

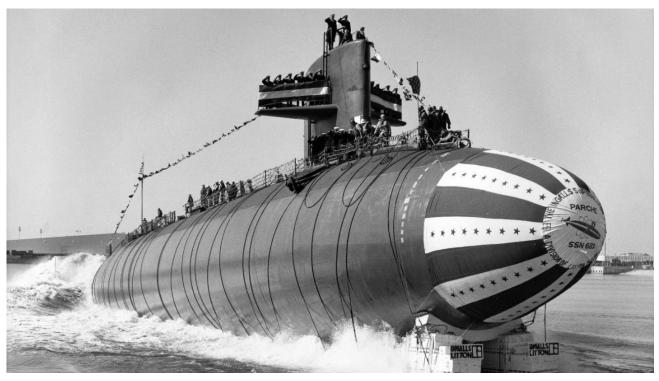
Registering is easy using our online Registration, Hotel and RV Park Booking and Payment system which makes short work of the process. Your early registration will be a great help as we continue with the planning. Register Online Today **www.wrroundup.com**

Featured Boat

USS Parche SSN 683

A U.S. Navy Nuclear Spy Submarine That Had Its Own Self Destruct

USS Parche began life as a Sturgeon-class fast attack sub, but an extensive late-'80s rebuild—adding a 100-foot section stuffed with sensors, cameras, sonar, and maneuvering thrusters—



transformed her into the Navy's signature espionage platform.

- -Operating under SubDevRon 5, Parche tapped Soviet seabed cables in the Sea of Okhotsk, likely retrieved foreign missile debris, and operated under ice with reinforced structures and specialized navigation gear.
- -The submarine also had a self-destruct mode if it was going to be captured.
- -Her legacy lives on with USS Jimmy Carter, while Parche's sail in Bremerton honors a record written mostly in secrets.

Meet USS Parche, Spy Submarine

In 1974, the Sturgeon-class nuclear submarine USS Parche (SSN-683) was officially commissioned into the U.S. Navy.

This vessel began its service life as a regular nuclear submarine, but by the time it was decommissioned in 2004, it had become a completely different beast.

1970, at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi. She was launched on January 13, 1973, and commissioned into service on August 17, 1974.

Featured Boat - USS Parche (continued)

How the Parche Becomes a Spy Submarine

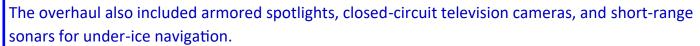
The submarine was ordered on June 25, 1968, and her keel was laid down on December 10, The submarine was ordered on June 25, 1968, and her keel was laid down on December 10, 1970, at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi. She was launched on January 13, 1973, and commissioned into service on August 17, 1974.

Named after the Parche, a small coral reef butterfly fish, the vessel initially served as a standard fast-attack submarine in the Atlantic Fleet before being reassigned to the Pacific Fleet in October 1976.

After the Parche's transfer to the Pacific fleet, the submarine took on a different role; she became a spy sub. Between 1987 and 1991, she underwent an extensive overhaul to make her more suitable for her mission. During this period, she received several modifications at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in California.

A 100-foot extension was added to her hull, increasing her total length to 401 feet. This new section housed advanced signals in-





These changes marked Parche's shift from a combat role to a research and development platform under Submarine Development Squadron 5, with a focus on intelligence gathering, surveillance, and reconnaissance.

Her torpedo armament was reduced to just four tubes, sacrificing firepower for stealth and data collection capabilities.

Operation Ivy Bells

One of Parche's most famous and daring missions, as told in the book Blind Man's Bluff, was Operation Ivy Bells, a joint effort with the National Security Agency (NSA) and the CIA. This operation involved tapping into Soviet underwater communication cables in the Sea of Okhotsk, a heavily guarded region near the Soviet Pacific Fleet's base in Kamchatka. The cables connected Soviet naval installations and carried sensitive military communications.

Parche's crew deployed sophisticated wiretap devices on the ocean floor, allowing the U.S. to intercept and record Soviet naval communications.

These missions required extreme precision and stealth, as detection by Soviet forces could have led to international incidents or loss of life. The submarine was reportedly equipped with 150 pounds of explosives for self-destruction in case of imminent capture.



Featured Boat - USS Parche (continued)

The Parche's Other Missions

Beyond wiretapping, Parche was also tasked with retrieving missile fragments from the seabed following Soviet and Chinese missile tests.

These fragments provided invaluable insights into the design, capabilities, and technological advancements of adversarial missile systems. During the Third Taiwan Strait Crisis in 1995–1996, China launched DF-21 and DF-15 ballistic missiles into the waters around Taiwan. It is suspected that Parche was deployed to recover fragments of these missiles, although the Parche was never (officially) confirmed to have been deployed to the region.

Parche's upgrades made her uniquely suited for under-ice operations, a capability crucial for missions in the Arctic and near Soviet territory.

Her reinforced sail and pivoting diving planes allowed her to surface through ice. The submarine's maneuverability was enhanced with additional thrusters, and her sonar systems were optimized for navigation in complex underwater environments.

These features enabled Parche to operate in some of the most hostile and remote regions on Earth,

often undetected. Her missions required not only technological superiority but also exceptional skill and discipline from her crew.

USS Parche: Retirement and legacy

The submarine's contributions to national security were recognized with an unprecedented number of awards.

She received nine Presidential Unit Citations, ten Navy Unit Commenda-



tions, thirteen Navy Expeditionary Medals, and fifteen Battle Efficiency Awards. These honors made her the most highly decorated vessel in U.S. Navy history. Her success was a testament to the bravery and professionalism of her crew, many of whom served without ever being able to publicly discuss their missions.

Upon her decommissioning on October 19, 2004, Parche's legacy was passed on to the USS Jimmy Carter (SSN-23), a Seawolf-class submarine modified to carry out similar "research and development duties." USS Jimmy Carter remains active to this day, probably carrying out a wide range of missions that will never be revealed to the public.

Parche's sail was preserved and moved to a maritime park near the Puget Sound Navy Museum in Bremerton, Washington.

It stands as a monument to the submarine's storied career and the silent sacrifices of her crew. The sail is adorned with stripes representing her numerous unit awards and commendations, serving as a visual reminder of her unparalleled service.

Story Of Interest

USS R-14 Under Way, Under Sail

R-14 – under acting command of Lieutenant Alexander Dean Douglas – ran out of usable fuel due to seawater contamination, and lost radio communications in May 1921 while on a surface search mission for the seagoing tug Conestoga about 140 nautical miles (259 km; 161 mi) southeast of the island of Hawaii. Since the submarine's electric motors did not have enough battery power to propel her to Hawaii, the ship's officers and chief petty officers came up with a novel solution to the problem. It was decided they should try to sail the submarine to the port of Hilo, Hawaii. A foresail was made of eight hammocks hung from a top boom made of pipe bunk frames lashed firmly together, all tied to the vertical kingpost of the torpedo loading crane forward of the submarine's superstructure. Seeing that this gave R-14 a speed of about 1 knot (1.2 mph; 1.9 km/h), as well as rudder control, a mainsail was made of six blankets, hung from the sturdy radio mast (the top sail in the photograph). This added 0.5 knots (0.6 mph; 0.9 km/h) to the speed. A mizzen was then made of eight blankets

hung from another top boom made of bunk frames, all tied to the vertically placed boom of the torpedo loading crane. This sail added another 0.5 knots (0.6 mph; 0.9 km/h). Around 12:30 on 12 May 1921, The crew was able to begin charging the submarine's batteries by dragging the propellers through the water while under sail. The windmill effect of these slowly turning propellers turned the generators providing a small amount of voltage that was directed to the batteries. The crew worked together to solve their various problems, and the boat sailed slowly for Hilo. After 64 hours under sail at slightly varying speeds, R-14 entered Hilo Harbor under battery propulsion on the morning of 15 May 1921. Douglas received a letter of commendation For the cruise innovative actions from his submarine division commander, Commander Chester W Nimitz, USN

Want More, Find the full Story written by Lt. Douglas's son Lieutenant Commander Robert G. Douglas, U.S. Navy (Retired) https://www.goldcountrybase.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/USS-R14UnderSail.pdf



WWII Submarines

Top Ten WW II Submarine's

While a definitive "top 10" list is subjective and can be based on different criteria, here are ten highly notable and successful U.S. submarines from World War II, often cited for their combat records, decorated crews, or command achievements.

- **USS Tang (SS-306):** Commanded by Richard O'Kane, it had the most successful record of any U.S. submarine, though it was lost in its final patrol.
- **USS Barb (SS-220):** Known for its aggressive and daring patrols, it sank numerous Japanese ships and is noted for its "firsts," including one of the few to launch a surface raid on the Japanese mainland.
- USS Harder (SS-257): Famous for its "fish-in-a-barrel" tactics, it sank numerous Japanese vessels, earning a reputation for its aggressive commander, Samuel D. Dealey.
- USS Wahoo (SS-238): A highly successful submarine that sank numerous enemy vessels, often described as a "one-sub" fleet.
- USS Gudgeon (SS-212): A Gato-class submarine that became the first U.S. submarine to go

on patrol in the Pacific and the first to sink an enemy vessel in the war.

- USS Archerfish (SS-311): Sank the Japanese aircraft carrier Shinano in the largest surface battle between a submarine and a capital ship.
- USS Growler (SS-

215): Commanded by Howard W. Gilmore, it was one of the early submarines to engage in combat with the Japanese Navy.





• **USS Tautog (SS-199):** A Tambor-class submarine that was known for its successful patrols and earning the Navy Unit Commendation.

USS Thresher (SS-200): The most decorated U.S. submarine of World War II, with 15 battle stars and a Navy Unit Commendation



US Navy Submarine News

US Alliances Get Submarine Boost Amid Russian, Chinese Threats

The United States and its key NATO and Pacific allies—the United Kingdom and Japan—recently received a boost in building submarine fleets as their major naval adversaries Russia and China continue to advance underwater warfare capabilities.

Why It Matters

Russia has maintained—and increased—its submarine operations across the world's oceans, including the northern Atlantic and the Arctic, which have raised concerns for the U.S. and its NATO allies, as well as in the Pacific, where it recently disclosed missions conducted by nuclear-powered submarines to signal its military capabilities. Meanwhile, China operates the world's largest navy by hull count, including a fleet of 60 submarines, in an effort to challenge America's naval dominance and its security alliance with Japan. The U.S. has deployed submarines across the western Pacific and supplied aircraft

capable of hunting submarines to regional allies as countermeasures.

What To Know

Huntington Ingalls Industries, the largest U.S. ship-



builder, announced on October 7 that its Newport News Shipbuilding division in Virginia completed initial sea trials for USS *Massachusetts*, the U.S. Navy's 25th *Virginia*-class nuclear-powered attack submarine.

The submarine's systems and components were tested during sea trials that lasted several days, marking its first submergence and high-speed maneuvers, both on the surface and underwater. It will conduct further tests before being delivered to the Navy.

The *Virginia*-class is the backbone of the U.S. submarine force, capable of carrying 25 torpedoes and 12 to 40 Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles. The U.S. also plans to provide Australia with three *Virginia*-class submarines under the AUKUS (the U.S., the U.K. and Australia) agreement.

The British Defense Ministry announced on Monday that its sixth *Astute*-class nuclear-powered attack submarine, HMS *Agamemnon*, recently completed its first dive at the defense contractor BAE Systems' dock in Barrow-in-Furness, England.

The dive, which tested the *Agamemnon*'s systems, including the ballast tanks that ensure it can surface, is a key phase of the submarine's testing and commissioning before its first sail and joining its five sister ships, according to the Defense Ministry.

Carrying a total of 38 weapons, including torpedoes and Tomahawk missiles, the *Astute*-class submarine is designed to protect the country's nuclear deterrent—its nuclear-armed submarines—and naval task groups, as well as to collect intelligence.

(continued)

In Japan, Kawasaki Heavy Industries launched the sixth *Taigei*-class diesel-electric attack submarine, JS *Sogei*—whose name means "blue whale" —at a shipyard in Kobe on Tuesday, according to the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and Naval News.

The *Sogei* and its sister ships can launch torpedoes and anti-ship missiles, which Naval News said gives Japan a counterattack capability. The submarine is also designed with compartments exclusively for female crew members, a first for a Japanese submarine.



What People Are Saying

Newport News Shipbuilding President Kari Wilkinson said in a press release on October

7: "Our entire team at Newport News Shipbuilding understands the importance of delivering capability to our fleet ... Proving capabilities through this first sea trial for *Massachusetts* is an important step in demonstrating this and we are honored to support the mission."

The U.K. Defense Ministry said in a press release on Monday: "The Astute Class are the U.K.'s current attack submarines. They protect the U.K.'s nuclear deterrent from hostile activity and detection, whilst supporting global operations. They also contribute to protecting maritime task groups and providing global strategic intelligence and reconnaissance gathering."

Naval News reported on Tuesday: "Nowadays, the Chinese Navy frequently passes through the so-called first island chain between Japan's Kyushu and Philippines ... and is most likely to operate more frequently in the Western Pacific Ocean around Japan. Japanese submarines, as the 'ninjas of the sea,' are expected to check the assertive actions of the Chinese Navy."

What Happens Next: The submarine race between U.S.-led alliances and the Russia-China partnership is expected to intensify as both sides jostle for dominance beneath the ocean's surface.

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