



July 2026
VOL MMXXVI Issue 05

Clear The Baffles

GOLD COUNTRY BASE



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 be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."



City of Lincoln 4th of July Parade

Lincoln California FOURTH of JULY Parade

Bravo Zula City of Lincoln
Thousands of cheering family's line the parade route in what has to be the best attended event in the region.
All of the Gold Country Shipmates who participated could not help but feel the positive energy and the

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Now Hear This!

Base Meeting—July 25, 2026 Potluck @ 12 noon
Meeting Starts 1pm Folsom Veterans Hall -1300
Forrest St., Folsom

eBoard Meeting (On Zoom) August 15, 2026
0900 Meeting ID: 902 151 4965 Passcode: Sub-Vet

First Call to Morning Chow August 11, 2026 0930
Dennys Restaurant 1000 N. Sunrise, Roseville

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates, Wow, what a great month and very busy 4th of July holiday. The parade in Lincoln this year seemed bigger than last year. I understand it was longer to accommodate the larger crowds expected due to the 250th year national Anniversary. It was over 3 miles long and some reports there were nearly 60,000 people to see the wonderful Patriot celebration. To see people standing 4 or 5 deep was a great example of the spirit of our great nation. Special thanks to Jack Everett for setting this connection with the Lincoln's Kiwanis. They treat us outstanding and make sure we are on the lead leg of parade each year. The yelling of the crowds and the waving of the flags made this old submarine sailor tear up a little.



We also logged over 30 plus hours to support the TNT Rotary fireworks booth. This effort will add to our base bank account and it wasn't very heavy lifting. A big thanks to all those that spent time manning the fireworks booth. We also helped with American booth in Folsom.

We have a few new members that joined Gold Country base in the last month. Welcome aboard

The elections of USSVI national officers have begun. All of our members should have received a personal election e-mail. Please vote as soon possible to avoid the late voting traffic. If you have not received voting ballot, please let me know.

Our upcoming events:

- Security support for Rotary event - Friday - September 18
- California Capital Airshow - Saturday and Sunday - October 10th and 11th. (Further details will be shared as we receive them.)
- West Sacramento Veteran's Day Parade – November 11

God Bless You All!!

Next Meeting – August 22, 2026

Les Jamison - Base Commander

From Our Chaplain



Distractions

This article is taken from the Life App



Matthew 14:28-31: ²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹ So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him and said to him: "O you of little faith. Why did you doubt?"

Distractions can be from every day activities. I can relate to that. So, do you relate?

Blessings, Howard Grover, Base Chaplain

2026 USSVI National Officers and Regional Directors Election

The voting deadline is September 5, 2026 11:59 PM Eastern Time (US & Canada).

INFORMATION REGARDING VOTING

The preferred voting method is on-line via the USSVI web site (ussubvets.org). This will be available starting 0001 on July 7, 2026. Whether paper or electronic, each member must complete **his/her own ballot**. Proxy voting (members casting ballots for other members) is not allowed. Members may assist other members in preparing their ballots, but the member must complete his/her paper ballot in their own hand. Proxy ballots will be rejected, and your vote will not count.

We are using an online election system to tabulate the vote. You have been assigned a unique access key which can only be used to vote once and your voting choices will remain anonymous. Do not forward this email. Do not reply to this email to vote, as your vote will not be registered.

If you have questions or want to be removed from notifications regarding this vote, please email Michael Bost at subvet635@aol.com.

Gold Country Base Officers



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Les Jamison
Qualified 1969
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Holland Club
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SubVet Check-in Chair
Mark Elftmann
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Life Member
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Qualified 1983 USS
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USSVI Western
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Lost Boats

July

USS S-28 (SS-133)

Lost on July 4, 1944 with the loss of 49 crew members. She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the US Coast Guard Cutter Reliance.



After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two days later, an oil slick was found near where S-28. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery.



USS Robalo (SS-273)

Lost on July 26, 1944 with the loss of 81 crew members while on her 3rd war patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Four men survived and swam ashore, then were imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk.



USS Grunion (SS-216)

Lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in 2006 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.



USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MINUTES MEETING: June 27, 2026

Meeting called to order by Base Commander at 1:08 PM

Base Commander, Vice Commander, COB, Chaplain, Stores, Holland Club, Treasurer, Photographer, Past Base Commander/Base Newsletter and WebGuy/Events Coordinator attending. 27 total ppl in attendance.

Bill lead us in Pledge.

Vice Commander read Lost Boats, 7 boats lost in the month of June.

No guest speaker this month.

Barry Wyatt shared recognition gift presented to him from Western Region Roundup after completing many terms as WRR Coordinator. Barry shared USSVI magnets. District 5 Commander report - spanning from Redding to San Diego. Fresno base struggling with membership. Sad because over time they have done great things – Memorial at Fresno State College and planting of 52 trees (signifying one for each lost boat) among other things. Base members aged out. Wear your vest and or ball cap, be seen. Base Commander brought up contact cards, see COB if you need some.

Base Commander shared new contacts made during course of daily life. More and more Veterans organizations are struggling with membership, let's do what we can to bolster our membership.

Vice Commander report: Acknowledged contributions of past and current base members. Please reach out to base members that cannot attend in person.

Treasures Report:

National website shows 83 members (working on this should be 86).

Two perspective members - one from VA Center event, one from National Website. So, we could be back up to 88.

Took in \$220 from the Memorial Day Bass Pro, \$25 credit from Rust Insurance (we overpaid for a year).

Out: \$100 for VFW Hall and \$247 for Venmo, Mail Chimp, etc

Business Item: Read proposed Bylaws change to reword Article VI-Membership. Summary: eliminating base life time membership.

Vote: Approved unanimously, next step Barry review (WD5 level of review) then take it to next level for approval (Western Region Director).

COB: No report

Chaplain: Called Larry but couldn't get through. Vice Commander noted Larry took a serious fall and injured himself. Keep Harold and Larry in your prayers.

Holland Club: No report

Stores: 2 ties and many glasses left, no calendars. Showed off \$40 lightweight jacket from SubVest Lady ... they are very reasonably priced and very nice that can be ordered. Should we order more base stickers? (Later in the meeting it was noted we are out of Base Patches as well) Base Commander will work on this with Jerry.

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USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MINUTES MEETING: June 27, 2026 (continued)

Scouting Report: Things fading, Eagle Scout program being re-thought out. More to follow.

Penny: Holiday Party, eboard recommended luncheon O-Club \$25-\$75/person for meal or lunch sandwiches about \$50/person. A proposal was made to switch to breakfast for gift exchange back to Dec, January base meeting awards ceremony, new officers, wives supply food.

Discussion: Barry, annual meal/banquet ought to be more focused on awards and presentation, also we cannot do without January Base Meeting. Les, O-club lacks audio visual, it would be nice to bring back presentation / year in review.

Numerous topics, a lot of discussion – big picture bring this back to eBoard.

Actions to be taken: Reserve O-Club at McCullum (as approved at eBoard Mtg) and form committee. Penny, Naomi, Mark E., Barry and Les to on the be committee, with Les being in charge of the committee.

Penny requested \$50 to refresh to revitalize frames for base events. Barry presented motion to allocate up to \$100, Vice seconded. Motion approved.

Brick Project: Barry gave update, Kim at VA is in charge at VA for our event. Brick installers in a flux. Needs resolution by the VA. VA having issue getting contractor. Our bricks will be together. We need date for our standalone event. Congressmen Berra wants to attend event. Timeline of our event most likely being pushed to spring.

Fireworks Booth starts tomorrow at Winco on Blue Ravine. Ed will email instructions for those signed up.

4th of July: Jack, parade at Lincoln, 7am meet up at Burger King. Parade uniform contact Jack or see Newsletter.

Airshow: Airshow will be October 10th and 11th at Mather Air Field. Process to secure our participation will get underway after the 4th of July Parade.

Motion to pass last month's minutes from newsletter 1st / 2nd and approved by all in attendance.

Next meeting(s) ...

First Call to Chow: Denny's on July 14, 2026

eBoard Zoom Mtg: July 18, 2026

Next Base Mtg: July 25, 2026

Meeting closed at 2:45 by Base Chaplain.

Ed won raffle: \$52 / \$52 split goes to base.

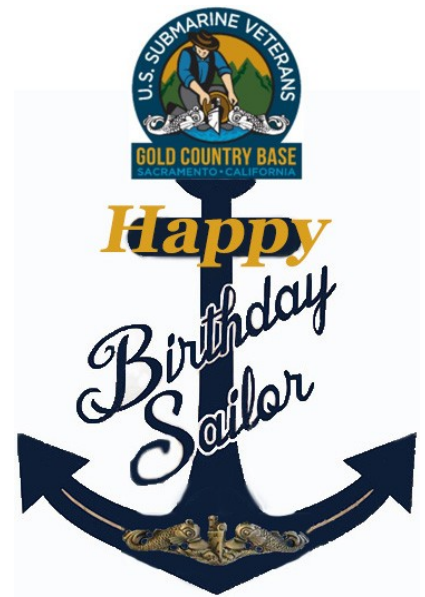
Sea Cadets: \$57 in this month's collect

Submitted by Ed McCarthy.

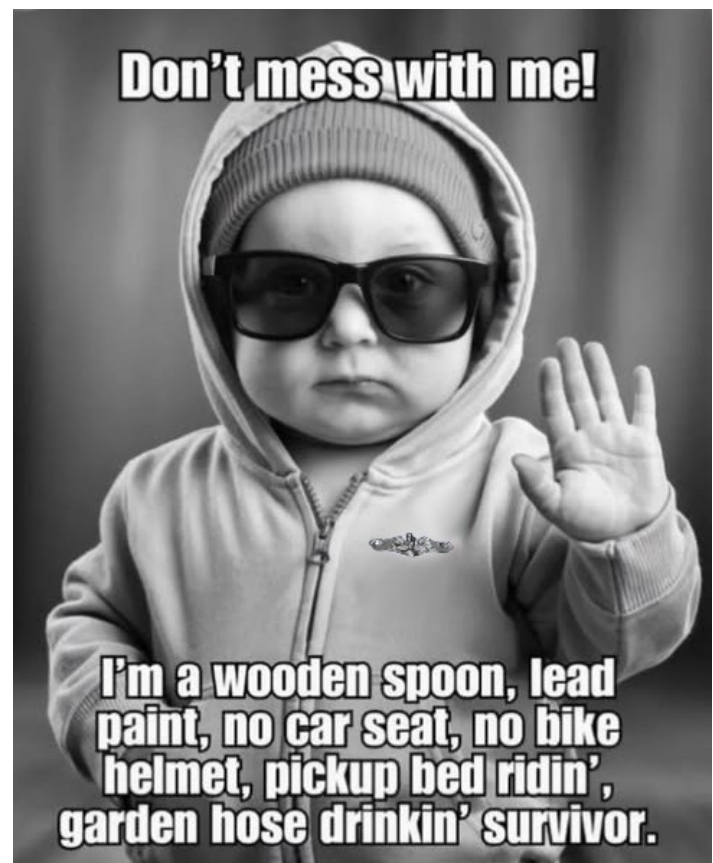
Birthdays July

Dennis Henderson Roger Paul

Mark Elftmann



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 Alonzo Brewster Ken Earls**

Mark Elftmann Harold Fisher**

*Burna Jamieson * Les Jamison**

Penny Jamison Pete Juhos Lenard Lee*

Alvin Lehman Matt Lettau**

James MacLean John Mannix**

Tom Moniz Harry Pagett Joe Ryan**

Nick Sadowy Bill Sugnet* Barry Wyatt**

**Multi-Year Donors*

Booster Fund Support Needed

Gold Country Base has always taken pride in honoring our heritage, supporting our ship-mates, and keeping our traditions alive. To continue doing that, we need your help.

If you are able, please consider making a Booster Fund contribution. Every donation — large or small — directly supports our mission and helps ensure we can continue honoring the legacy of the submarine service.

VA Information

VA to invest all-time high of nearly \$5B to improve health care infrastructure.

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced it will spend \$4.8 billion in fiscal year 2026 to modernize, repair and improve health care facilities as part of the Veterans Health Administration's Non-Recurring Maintenance program, which makes infrastructure improvements to health care facilities to ensure safe and effective patient care. This is the largest single-year NRM investment in VA's history.

The NRM program funds one-time maintenance projects for facilities, equipment or infrastructure that are not part of routine, recurring maintenance. These projects include significant maintenance, replacements or upgrades needed to maintain operational capability and advance health care delivery.

"Under President Trump, VA is putting Veterans first, and this historic investment underscores that fact," said VA Secretary Doug Collins. "Improved facilities, equipment and infrastructure mean better care for Veterans, and these funds will enable VA to achieve that goal."

The funding will cover projects at VA facilities across the nation and includes: \$2.8 billion to repair and upgrade outdated infrastructure systems in medical facilities. \$1 billion for maintenance and modernization of electronic health record systems, including facility preparation for future EHRM updates. \$500 million for major building upgrades like elevators, electrical systems, and boiler plants.

Gold Country News & Events



Gold Country Base members volunteered to help both the American Legion and the Rotary Club of Historic Folsom by working in their fireworks stands. In total 30 hours for Rotary and 75 hours for the American Legion. BZ to those who participated



Gold Country News & Events



**Downtown
Lincoln
Parade**
July 4, 2026
9:00 AM



Memorial brick project update. Through the efforts of your shipmates Bill Sugnet and Ed McCarthy the funds were raised and the Bricks were ordered, paid for, and delivered to Mather VA. The next step is for installation and the process for that is moving forward. The operations of the Mather facility will undergo the finalization of a change in command next week, that and the efforts of the engineering department we'll establish a target date for our ceremony. All the staff have been extremely helpful are excited about our project and are keeping us informed.

USSVI National & Regional Events

USSVI 2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
OMNI HOTEL
SEPTEMBER 6-11, 2026

COME JOIN YOUR SHIPMATES
FROM AROUND THE WORLD IN
THIS ANNUAL EVENT!



<https://subvetconvention.org/>

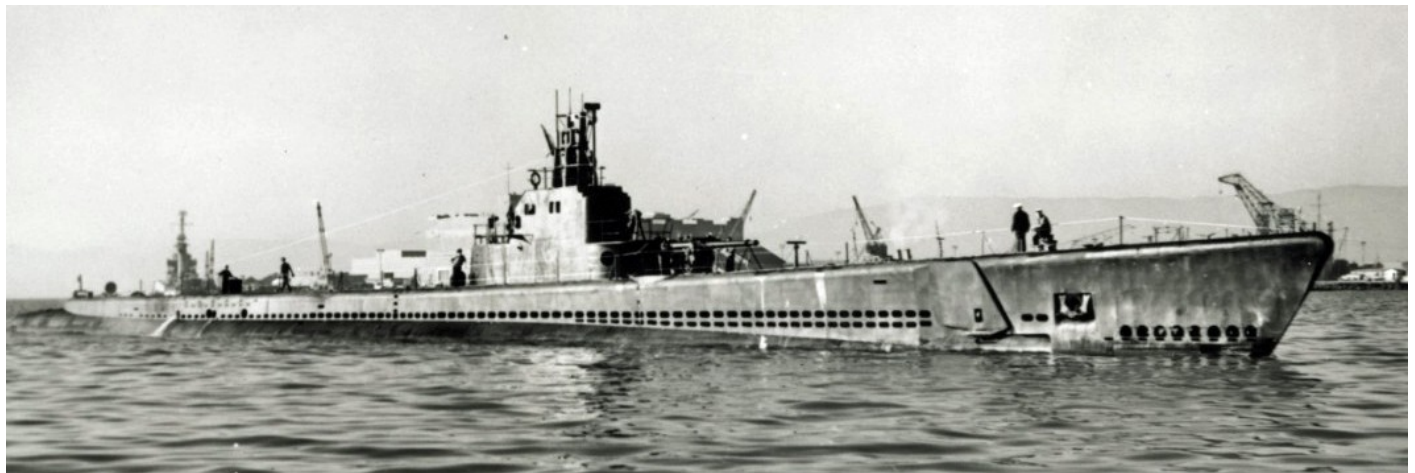


WWII Submarine News

Wreck Site Identified as USS Herring (SS-233)

June 1, 2026

Naval History and Heritage Command confirmed the identity of the wreck site of USS Herring (SS-233), World War II submarine, lost off the coast of Matsuwa Island, Japan, on June 1, 1944.



USS Herring (SS-233) passes Hunters Point Naval Shipyard in San Francisco on 12 October 1943

WASHINGTON NAVY YARD -- Using data collected and provided by the Russian Geographic Society (RGS) and analyzed by two U.S. volunteer researchers and one Japanese researcher, NHHC's Underwater Archaeology Branch confirmed the wreck site as the final resting place of USS Herring (SS-233), which was believed lost at sea on June 1, 1944. Resting at a depth of over 300 feet, the vessel sits upright on its keel and maintains a high degree of integrity. The submarine displays battle damage around the conning tower and evidence of grounding at her bow, correlating with the historical record.

Herring was launched on Jan. 15, 1942, at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and commissioned on May 4, 1942. Before her loss in 1944, she completed eight war patrols in the Atlantic and Pacific theatres during World War II and is credited with sinking seven enemy ships, including four Japanese cargo ships during her final patrol. She was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two battle stars, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three battle stars, and the World War II Victory Medal.

(continued on next page)

USS Herring (SS-233)

(continued)

On 21 May 1944, USS HERRING (SS-233) began her eighth war patrol, setting out from Midway en route to the Kurile Islands, an archipelago that stretches over 800 miles from Hokkaido, Japan, to Kamchatka, Russia. On the morning of the final day of the month, she met up with USS BARB (SS-220). "Held megaphone conference," the commanding officer of BARB wrote in his patrol report. "Decided Barb would cover area south and west of lane, Herring to north and east to Matsuwa." At 1120: "Secured conference and headed south for roving patrol along lane." HERRING would never be seen or heard from again.

Spirits aboard the boat must have been high as she turned away from BARB: Japanese records reveal that HERRING had sunk two enemy vessels the night before, one of which, *Ishigaki*, had been responsible for the loss of USS S-44 (SS-155) back in October of 1943. Unfortunately, the records also reveal how HERRING died. The day after she rendezvoused with BARB, the boat arrived at Matsuwa Island to find two more ships at anchor. She promptly sank them but was spotted in the process. , Japanese shore batteries reported sighting and firing upon a submarine that had grounded near the site of the two sinkings. Records indicate the batteries scored two direct hits on the conning tower as the submarine backed away into the fog. Evidence of both the grounding and the conning tower hits are visible on the Herring's surviving wreckage. Herring was presumed lost when she failed to report to Midway on July 13, 1944.



Eighty-three men perished aboard HERRING on what was simultaneously her most and least successful war patrol. The boat was awarded five battle stars for her wartime service.

A joint expedition between RGS and the Russian Military in 2017 reported the discovery of a submarine wreck in the area and initially reported it as Herring based upon its location and appearance. In 2022, a subsequent joint expedition returned to the wreck to document its status and honor the lost crew. A commemorative plaque was placed on site during this expedition.

The wreck of USS Herring (SS-233) is a U.S. sunken military craft protected by U.S. law and under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy. Most importantly, the wreck represents the final resting place of Sailors who gave their lives in defense of the nation and should be respected by all parties as a war grave.

Supporting Veterans Groups



A vibrant poster for 'Island Nights' at American Legion Post 362. The background features a tropical beach scene with palm trees, a sunset, and hibiscus flowers. The American Legion logo is in the top left. The event title 'ISLAND Nights' is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title, a banner reads 'A Tropical Evening of Food, Fun & Fellowship!'. The event details section includes the date 'SATURDAY AUGUST 1ST, 2026', time '5:00 PM', and ticket price '\$30 PER TICKET'. A 'FEATURED MENU' section lists 'CHEESEBURGERS IN PARADISE', 'SLOW-SMOKED PULLED PORK SANDWICHES', 'ISLAND-INSPIRED SIDE DISHES', and 'TROPICAL TREATS & OTHER ISLAND FARE', accompanied by images of food. The 'JOIN US FOR:' section lists 'ISLAND VIBES & MUSIC', 'GREAT PRIZES', 'HAWAIIAN ATMOSPHERE', 'GOOD FOOD & GOOD FRIENDS', and 'PLENTY OF ISLAND SPIRIT!'. At the bottom, it states 'TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW' and 'PURCHASE TICKETS IN THE VETERANS HALL CANTEEN', followed by the slogan 'Make sure to wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt!'. The footer includes 'Good Food, Prizes and That Island Spirit!', the address 'AMERICAN LEGION POST 362 - FOLSOM VETERANS HALL - 1300 FORREST STREET • FOLSOM, CA 95630', and a small graphic of a boat on the water.

AMERICAN LEGION
★ **POST 362** ★

ISLAND Nights

A Tropical Evening of Food, Fun & Fellowship!

SATURDAY
AUGUST 1ST,
2026

5:00 PM

\$30
PER TICKET

FEATURED MENU

-  **CHEESEBURGERS IN PARADISE**
-  **SLOW-SMOKED PULLED PORK SANDWICHES**
-  **ISLAND-INSPIRED SIDE DISHES**
-  **TROPICAL TREATS & OTHER ISLAND FARE**

JOIN US FOR:

-  **ISLAND VIBES & MUSIC**
-  **GREAT PRIZES**
-  **HAWAIIAN ATMOSPHERE**
-  **GOOD FOOD & GOOD FRIENDS**
-  **PLENTY OF ISLAND SPIRIT!**

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

PURCHASE TICKETS IN THE VETERANS HALL CANTEEN

Make sure to wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt!

Good Food, Prizes and That Island Spirit!

★ **AMERICAN LEGION POST 362** ★
— **FOLSOM VETERANS HALL** —
1300 FORREST STREET • FOLSOM, CA 95630



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2017



2018



2019



2020



2021



2022



2023



2024



2025

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July 2026