



August 2026
VOL MMXXVI Issue 06

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."



Larry Williams IC2 (SS)

March 19, 1933 - July 24, 2026

Past Gold Country Treasure

USSVI Life and Holland Club Member
Gold Country Base Plank Owner



Base Commander Les Jamison and shipmates Bill Sugnet & Ed McCarthy receive the check for our portion of the proceeds from the American Legion fireworks stand from Legion Commander Kerry Kopp.

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Now Hear This!

Base Meeting—August 22, 2026 Potluck @ 12 noon Meeting Starts 1pm Folsom Veterans Hall - 1300 Forrest St., Folsom

eBoard Meeting (On Zoom) September 19, 2026 0900 Meeting ID: 902 151 4965 Passcode: Sub-Vet

First Call to Morning Chow September 8, 2026 0930 Dennys Restaurant 1000 N. Sunrise, Rose-

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates, The elections of USSVI national officers have begun. All of our members should have received a personal election e-mail. The voting deadline is September 5, 2026 11:59 PM Eastern Please vote as soon possible to avoid the late voting traffic. If you have not received voting ballot, please let me know. Please vote we need to be counted.



Last Monday August 10th Bill, Ed and myself attended the American Legion meeting at the VFW hall. They were very appetitive with our support of their Fireworks booth and they presented us with a check of nearly \$1,800 to be deposit into our base funds.

Last Saturday August 15th Ed, Penny and myself attended a "250" year picnic celebration at the VFW hall in Folsom put on by the American Legion. All veteran groups were in attendance. It was nice to mingle and visit with other veteran group members.

Our upcoming events:

West Sacramento Veteran's Day Parade – November 11.

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.

God Bless You All!!

Next Meeting – September 26, 2026

Les Jamison - Base Commander

From Our Chaplain



Celebrations



Celebration Have you ever forgot an important birthday? Whoops!

Celebration takes away focus off our troubles and puts it on God's blessing. He who gives reason to celebrate because he rescued us from the consequences of sin and shows us the beautiful wonders of eternity.

Blessings, Howard Grover, Base Chaplain

2026 USSVI National Officers and Regional Directors Election

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

Mail in Ballots must be received by September 4th. Complete instructions can be found the paper Ballot on Page 13, Down-load it and mail it in Today.

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.

If you have questions regarding this vote, please email Michael Bost at subvet635@aol.com.



Gold Country Base Officers



Base Commander
Kaps4Kids Coordinator
Les Jamison
Qualified 1969
USS Greenfish SS 351
Holland Club
(407) 509-7814

basecommander@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
(209) 245-4067 hgrover@jps.net



Base Photographer
Bill Barron
Qualified 1970
USS Haddock SSN 621
Holland Club
(530) 863-0987
willy621@yahoo.com



Newsletter Editor/PAO
J. Barry Wyatt
Qualified 1965
USS Henry Clay SSBN 625
Life Member
Holland Club
(916) 600-1425
sacsubvet65@gmail.com



Holland Club
Commander
Base Historian
Lenard Lee
Qualified 1961
USS Salmon SS 573
Life Member—Holland Club
(510) 928-8500 len@trawlers.com



Eagle Scout
Coordinator
Gil Miller
Qualified 1963
USS Becuna SS 319
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 354-1008
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



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 Coordinator
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 1983 USS
Bergall SSN 667
Life Member
(916) 995-5196
eddie105@yahoo.com



USSVI Western District 5
Commander
J. Barry Wyatt
Qualified 1965
USS Henry Clay SSBN 625
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 600-1425
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

August

USS Bullhead (SS-332)

Lost on August 6, 1945 with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane. Bullhead was the last submarine lost during WWII.



USS Flier (SS-250) Lost on August 13, 1944, with the loss of 78 crew members while on her 2nd war patrol. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days



USS S-39 (SS-144)

Lost on August 13, 1942 after grounding on a reef south of Rossel Island while on her 3rd war patrol. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS Katoomba.



USS Harder (SS-257)

Lost on August 24, 1944 with the loss of 79 crew members from a depth charge attack by a minesweeper near Bataan while on her 6th war patrol. Harder had won a Presidential Unit Citation for her first 5 war patrols and CDR Dealey was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. Harder is tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk.



USS Cochino (SS-345)

Lost on August 26, 1949 after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway caused an electrical fire and battery explosion that generated hydrogen and chlorine gasses. In extremely bad weather, men of Cochino and Tusk (SS-426) fought to save the submarine for 14 hours. After a 2nd battery explosion, Abandon Ship was ordered and Cochino sank. Tusk's crew rescued all of Cochino's men except for one civilian engineer. Six sailors from Tusk were lost during the rescue.



USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MINUTES MEETING: July 25, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 12:49 pm. By Commander Les Jamison who read the USSVI Creed and Purpose.

INVOCATION: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave invocation.

TOLLING OF THE BELL: The Lost Boats for the month of July were read by Vice Commander Mark Elftmann. There were 3 lost boats in the month of July. Acting Chief of the Boat Ed McCarthy tolled the bell for each Lost Boat and one additional toll in memory of those shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

MEMBER INTRODUCTION: There were 26 members 0 associate members and 2 guests in attendance.

HOLLAND CLUB: Lenard Lee No report.

GUEST SPEAKER COORDINATOR CHAD CLAY INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER:

Guest speaker: Joseph Sivadon, Officer with American Welding Society.

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Les Jamison

Debbie Juhos came to thank our base for helping out at the fireworks booth. They will present our base with a check next month. Our base will also help out on Sept 18. They need 6 submariners for security. Our base will get a donation for helping. Tickets are \$35 for admission. Les brought up that our members need to remember Robert's Rules when attending a meeting. We also would like our meeting to be more enjoyable. Alonzo has agreed to try to bring fun to the meeting. Kaps 4 Kids has also gone to the wayside since Covid. He wants to get this part back on.

VICE COMMANDER: Mark Elftmann

The newsletter shows some veterans that could be considered for a visit or phone call.

SECRETARY: Diana Clay - No report

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 the Base Treasurer via email.)

MEMBERSHIP: Bill Sugnet

We have 85 members. We may have 2 more members, we are looking into it further.

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt

Western Region Roundup in 2027 will be in Denver 2028 will be TBD. Brick laying ceremony is intended for next spring and meeting with the one responsible next week. There is a change in staffing at the VA which has affected the laying of the bricks. We don't want to have a celebration until the bricks are laid. Bricks are ordered and received. They are ready for the VA to move forward. Ed and Barry are in constant communication with them. It will be a stand alone event for our base only. Input in newsletter requested. He would like to publish this next week. He would like a basic bio of the new members. American Legion fireworks, we put in 75 hours of work. Thanks for those that turned out. Rear Admiral Winfred "Jerry" Ellis passed away June 23, 2026. He was a long time member of the Submarine service. A funeral Mass will be celebrated locally. He will be laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. Dates and times to be announced soon. The signage for the airshow to announce the December 7 event is in the works. We are also asking for donations to the base.

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller -No report

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover

He called Larry Williams but has no response.

BASE PHOTOGRAPHER: Bill Barron

He has pictures available.

NAVY YOUTH LIASON: Chad Clay -No report

HISTORIAN: Lenard Lee

He is working on the history of the boat launch and finalizing the article.

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.

(continued on next page)

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MINUTES MEETING: July 25, 2026 (continued)

STOREKEEPER: Jerry Wentland

There are still some glasses, hats and ties available. Sale on additional supplies. Rain jackets are available to order if wanted. (cost about \$55) If interested in yellow base cap, contact Jerry for price.

KEEPER OF THE BOAT: John Kelly -No report

EVENTS COORDINATOR: Ed McCarthy

Lost Boats Memorial, TBD

State Fair, we decided not to attend it this year.

Air Show, we will attend the airshow in October 2026 with the float. Ed has a signup for attending the airshow. It is passed around the group. He is checking on the equipment needed to take with us.

Veteran's Day parade will be in West Sacramento.

December 7 event is in the works. Is on a Monday. December 8 is our breakfast and gift exchange.

December holiday event is at lunch time at the Officers Club. December 19, Saturday. It will probably cost around \$50 per person.

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR: Chad Clay

August speaker is referred by John Kelly. She is speaking on PTSD and would like to speak for half hour instead of 15 minutes.

Sea Cadet speaker anticipated for September.

Sea Cadets would like training in firefighting. Les will look into that.

WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR: Pete Juhos

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. 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 Election for National positions is available online. A proposed amendment to include National Life membership if in good standing for 3 years. Associate members are not allowed to vote for national positions.

Good of the Order / Communications:

January meeting will be the change of command and Les will provide the lunch. Elections for Base Commander and Treasurer will be in October. September will be the nominations.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes from June approved.

SUBVET SUPPORT GROUP: Penny Jamison

Would like to have a food drive for the Northern California Health organization. Members can bring non-perishable items or cash.

First Call to Morning Chow: 8/11/2026 9:30 am @ Denny's Restaurant, 122 N. Sunrise Ave., Roseville, CA

E-board Zoom meeting: August 15, 2026 at 9:00 am

Next Base Meeting: August 22, 2026 noon for potluck lunch and meeting at 1:00

50/50 Won by: \$59 Ed McCarthy

Sea Cadets: \$58

Meeting adjournment:

Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave a closing prayer. Chief of the Boat surfaced @ 2:14pm

Submitted by Diana Clay, Base Secretary

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY Eboard MINUTES MEETING: August 15, 2026

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

INVOCATION: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave invocation and prayer for our men and women in the Gulf as their service is extended.

ATTENDEES: Les Jamison, Ed McCarthy, Barry Wyatt, Howard Grover, Mike Goble, Bill Barron, John Kelly, Jerry Wentland, Diana Clay, Pete Juhos

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Les Jamison

Les brought up the issue that we repeat our monthly meetings in the e-board and then the General meeting. He would like to resolve any issues during the e-board and then brief the members at the General meeting. We will vote on this change at the General meeting.

Les went to a meeting at the American Legion along with Bill Sugnet and Ed McCarthy to receive a check for our members working the fireworks booth. Our portion amounted to 1,750 dollars.

The Rotary will also be giving us funds for our support at the September 18 event.

Les asked Alonzo to be the Activity Director for our base meetings. We will issue a survey to the members to give him ideas of interest.

SECRETARY: Diana Clay -No report

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 the Base Treasurer via email.)

MEMBERSHIP: Bill Sugnet

We have 87 members.

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt

Input in newsletter requested. He would like to publish this next week. He would like a basic bio of the new members. Nominations for Base Commander and Treasurer will be in September. Our by-laws state you must be a member in good standing for a year. We have a new member that is interested in running for a position. I will make a motion In new business to waive the 12-month requirement for this election.

The amended by-laws are ready for signature by the District Commander, Base Commander, and Secretary. He will have it ready at the next meeting,

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller No report

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover

Service for Larry Williams was held on Thursday, August 13, 2026. We had 5 base members in attendance.

BASE PHOTOGRAPHER: Bill Barron -No report

NAVY YOUTH LIASON: Chad Clay -No report

WEB-MASTER: Ed McCarthy -No report

STOREKEEPER: Jerry Wentland

There are still some glasses, hats and ties available. Sale on additional supplies. Rain jackets are available to order if wanted. (cost about \$55) If interested in yellow base cap, contact Jerry for price.

KEEPER OF THE BOAT: John Kelly

The float is ready to roll. The leveling jack works fine with a block the wheels.

(continued on next page)

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY Eboard MINUTES MEETING: August 15, 2026 (continued)

EVENTS COORDINATOR: Ed McCarthy

Air Show, he is working on the permit for the airshow in October 2026. Ed has a sign-up for attending the airshow. It is passed around the group. He is checking on the equipment needed to take with us.

Veteran's Day parade will be in West Sacramento. After the parade there will be complimentary food for all the attendees.

December 7 event is in the works. Is on a Monday. He asked if it is necessary to bring the float to this event. We can bring the posters but the event is a memorial and not necessary for the float. We will vote on this at the General meeting. December 8 is our breakfast and gift exchange.

December holiday event is at lunch time at the Officers Club. December 19, from 11:00 – 3:00. Saturday. After discussion, the cost will be \$75 per person. We had a motion, 2nd and passed for this amount.

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR: Chad Clay

August speaker is referred by John Kelly. He has not been able to connect with her. She might not be attending. Sea Cadet speaker anticipated September. Sea Cadets would like training in firefighting. Les will look into that.

WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR: Pete Juhos

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 national website is up and running and looks great.

Election for National positions is available online. Deadline is September 3, 2026. Associate members are not allowed to vote for national positions.

Good of the Order / Communications:

Elections for Base Commander and Treasurer will be in October. September will be the nominations. Some members are interested in collecting our cans and plastics for recycling and add it to our treasury. Les is going to make sure it is okay with the Hall.

SUBVET SUPPORT GROUP: Penny Jamison

December holiday event is at lunch time at the Officers Club. December 19, from 11:00 – 3:00. Saturday. After discussion, the cost will be \$75 per person. We had a motion, 2nd and passed for this amount.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Barry Wyatt made a motion to waive the 12 month membership requirement for members who are nominated for this election as provided by Article X Section 1 Paragraph B of the Gold Country Base Bylaws. The motion was seconded by Les Jamieson. Passed by the Acclamation.

Meeting adjournment:

Chief of the Boat surfaced @ 10:15 am

Submitted by Diana Clay, Base Secretary

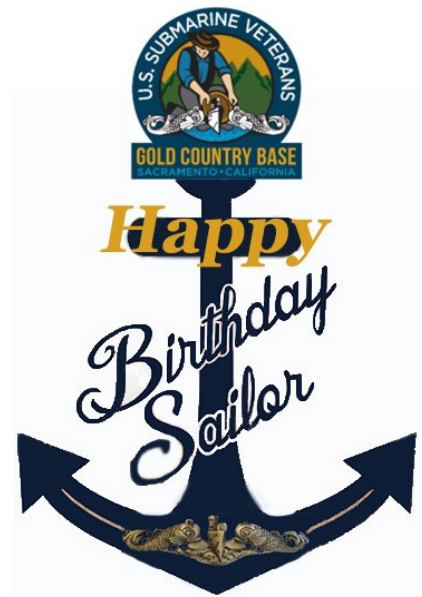
Birthdays

August

Anita Bronner Jack Everett Glynis Eftmann

Gene Ratto Rick Reineman Ed McCarthy

Mike McCoy Alonzo Brewster Matt Lettau



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**

Alonzo Brewster Anita Bronner**

Chad & Diana Clay Dusty Clark*

Ken Earls Mark Elftmann* Mike Goble*

Dennis Hill Bill Hunt Jack Everett*

Howard Grover Burna Jamieson**

Les & Penny Jamison Pete Juhos**

John Kelly Lenard Lee Alvin Lehman**

Matt Lettau James MacLean**

Tom Moniz Harry Pagett Roger Paul**

Gene Ratto Joe Ryan* William Sugnet**

*Steve & Suzanne Thomas Jerry Wentland**

*Randall Wolley Barry Wyatt**

** Multi-Year Donors*



Veterans Benefits Banking Program

Free Financial Counseling Sessions

Veteran-focused financial counselors are available to provide personalized coaching, counseling, and financial education tailored to your needs.

Take the first step toward greater financial well-being and discover how you can build a sustainable foundation for your future.

Our financial counseling services are designed especially for veterans, their family members, caregivers, and survivors seeking to take control of their financial future. Financial counselors offer a range of services tailored to your needs, including:

- Creating customized budgets
- Developing strategies to reduce debt
- Improving your credit

Setting realistic savings goals

Whether you're looking to pay down debt, improve your credit, save for emergencies, or prepare for homeownership, **our free and confidential services empower you** to achieve stability and confidence in your financial journey.

For questions about financial counseling please contact:

855-598-1853

or vbbp@zeiders.com

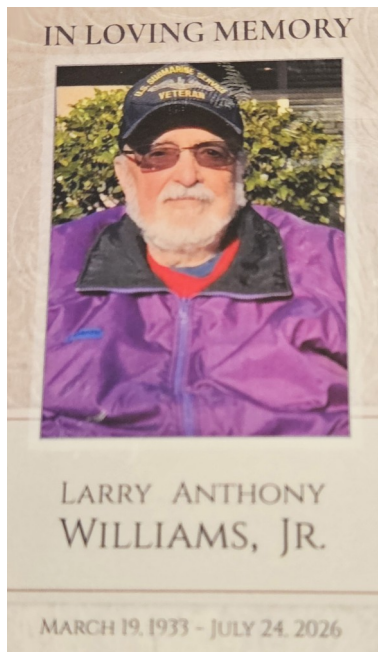
Gold Country News & Events



*First
Call to
Morning
Chow*



**First Call is the Second Tuesday
of Every Month. Join us next
month and bring a friend**



USSVI National & Regional Election

Deadline Approaching, Must be received no later than Sept. 4th



VOTE



**2026
NATIONAL ELECTION**

VOTING INFORMATION

Voting online on the USSVI website ussubvets.org is preferred.

Online voting will begin at 0001 on June 19, 2026 and end at 2359 on September 4, 2026.

Whether voting online or by paper ballot, each member must complete their own ballot.

Proxy voting, where members cast ballots for other members) is not allowed. While members can assist other members in preparing their ballots, the member must fill out their paper ballot in their own hand. Proxy ballots will be rejected.

Mail completed ballots to:

Michael Bost, Election Master
USSVI Election Master
4 Sandy Lane
Farmingdale, NJ 07727

Paper ballots must be received by the Election Master no later than September 4, 2026, to be counted. Ballots received after this date will not be counted.

The duties of the various officers are outlined in the USSVI bylaws and can be found on the USSVI website.

As specified in the USSVI Constitution:

- The term of office for all National officers will be two years or until a successor is elected.
- No individual shall serve more than two consecutive terms as National Commander.
- The term of office for a National elected officer will begin immediately after the annual business meeting.

2026 ☆ USSVI OFFICIAL BALLOT ☆ 2026

VOTE FOR ONLY ONE CANDIDATE FOR EACH OFFICE

National Officer Candidates

National Commander

☐ Jon Jaques, Volunteer Base

Write-in _____

National Senior Vice Commander

☐ Tim Carlisle, Mare Island Base

Write-in _____

National Junior Vice Commander

☐ Tom Williams, Brazos Valley Base

Write-in _____

National Secretary

☐ David Farrugia, Tang Base

Write-in _____

National Treasurer

☐ John Sidlovsky, Hampton Roads Base

Write-in _____

Regional Director Candidates

**Vote for a Director in your region only.
Any other vote will be rejected.**

Northeast Region Director

☐ Jeff Walsh, Groton Base

Write-in _____

Southeast Region Director

☐ Fernando Borges, Pelican Harbor Base

☐ Jerry K. Stout, Palmetto Base

Write-in _____

Central Region Director

☐ Rick Mitchell, Central Texas Base

Write-in _____

Western Region Director

☐ Pete Juhos, Gold Country Base

Write-in _____

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE USSVI CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Vote either "For" or "Against" the proposed change

PA 2026-1

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VII — MEMBERSHIP

Green = proposed wording • Red = current/removed wording

Section 3. LIFE MEMBERS

B. National Life Members (Regular or Associate) will pay no further National dues, but may be required to pay Base dues, per Base Bylaws.

D. Associate Members may become Life Members by paying the National Life Membership Fee established by the Board of Directors after 3 consecutive years of Annual membership in Good Standing along with the recommendation of their Primary Base.

Section 5: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A.

1. A family member up to two degrees of consanguinity (blood line relationship) of a Regular Member, including adoptive children of the Regular Member. (No limit.)
2. A non-family member who has demonstrated a strong interest and support of the U.S. Submarine Service by their deeds or actions and is at least sixteen (16) years of age, subject to prior approval by the National Membership Chairman. (Limit one (1).)
3. A non-family U.S. Military service member, Active or Veteran, who has demonstrated a strong interest and support of the U.S. Submarine Service by their deeds or actions, subject to prior approval by the National Membership Chairman. If separated from service, it must have been under honorable circumstances. (Limit one (1).)

G. Upon becoming a Life Associate Member, the member's Primary Base becomes the sponsor of the Associate Member.

H. To protect the organization's current 501(c)(19) status as a Non-Profit Veterans Organization, it may become necessary to place temporary limits on new Annual or Life membership for Associate Members. This would be promulgated through a National Bulletin with approval of the Board of Directors for a defined temporary period not to exceed one (1) year at a time. Associate Members already an Annual or Lifetime Member would not be affected by a temporary Associate membership limit put in place.

Submitted by: John "Sid" Sidlovsky, NT; Pete Juhos, WRD; Rick Mitchell, CRD; Ileene Davis, BC Bremerton

Intent of the Authors: We have many outstanding Associate members who contribute significantly to USSVI and are not currently allowed life membership. This change would allow life membership to those associates who meet the requirements.

Cost to the Organization: Negligible to none.

Accepted By: USSVI BOD during the 2025 mid-term BOD Meeting. The USSVI BOD recommends the membership approve this change.

☐ FOR

☐ AGAINST

NAME: _____ **BASE:** _____

Civil War Submarine News

Louisiana Uncovered

They built the future in an iron coffin and sank it rather than surrender it to the enemy.

Long before the world had proper submarines, a strange iron fish was being built secretly on the New Orleans waterfront. They called it the Pioneer, and it was one of the first combat submarines ever made.

The year was 1862, and the Civil War was raging. The Confederacy, desperate to break the Union naval blockade strangling its ports, turned to daring and unproven ideas. In a New Orleans machine shop, a group of engineers and investors, including James McClintock and Baxter Watson, set to work on a submersible vessel that could slip beneath enemy ships and destroy them from below.

The Pioneer was a riveted iron cylinder, narrow and dark inside, propelled by a hand cranked propeller turned by the men packed within. It carried a towed explosive charge meant to be dragged into the hull of a Union warship. In tests on Lake Pontchartrain, the little craft actually worked, reportedly sinking a target in a trial run. It was crude, cramped, and terrifying to operate, but it was real.

Then the war caught up with it. When Union forces captured New Orleans in the spring of 1862, the builders scuttled the Pioneer to keep it out of enemy hands rather than let their secret weapon be seized.

But the men behind it did not give up. They fled and kept working, and their next efforts led directly to the H.L. Hunley, the submarine that would become the first in history to sink an enemy warship in combat. The line runs straight from that New Orleans machine shop to a milestone in naval history.

It is easy to forget that this leap into the future was cranked by hand in the Louisiana heat by men who could barely breathe inside their own invention.



Supporting California Lost Boat Memorial



PASTA FEED

Benefiting the
California Lost Boat Memorial Fund



**Pasta: There will be
vegetarian gravy on the
pasta with the peppers and
sausage on the side.???**

For tickets call

**Bill Dornik: 707-315-6090
Jim Garvey: 408-250-4040
Mike O'Brien: 650-743-9894**

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19**

**NEW TIME !!!!
No host bar: 11:00
Lunch: 12:00**

\$25.00

**Hayward Veterans Memorial
Building
22737 Main Street (between C & D)
Hayward, CA 94541**

PRE-SOLD TICKETS ONLY

**Make checks payable:
USSVI Mare Island Base**

**Lost Boat Memorial:
501(c)(3) EIN: 04-3788883**



2016



2017



2018



2019



2020



2021



2022



2023



2024



2025

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[USSVI-Gold Country Base](#)



August 2026

"Clear the Baffles" is the official newsletter of the Gold Country Base of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. Published semi monthly. Please submit ideas or articles to the publisher Barry Wyatt at sacsub-vet65@gmail.com or contact me by phone at 916-600-1425