Clear The Baffles

USSVI GOLD COUNTRY BASE

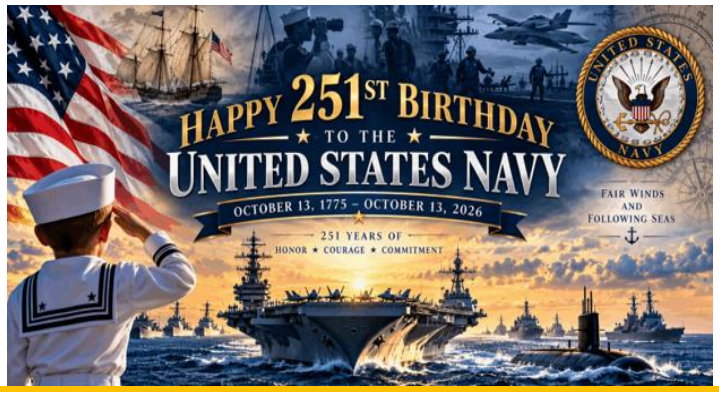
October 2026 VOL
MMXXVI Issue 07

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.

Tim Spoon Achievement Award Nominations Due October 31st

(See Submission Form on Page 15)





Inside

Page 2-	Commander's Corner
Page 3-	Chaplain & Recreation Dir.
Page 4-5	Lost Boats - October
Page 6-	Base & National Officers
Page 7-8	eBoard Meeting Minutes – Oct.
Page 9-10	Meeting Minutes - Sept.
Page 11-	Birthdays, Lighter Side
Page 12-	Booster Club, Vets Information
Page 13-14	Gold Country News & Events
Page 15-	Gold Country Awards
Page 16-	USSVI National & Regional News
Page 17-	WWII Submarine News
Page 18-	US Navy Submarine News
Page 19-	Publishing Information

Now Hear This!

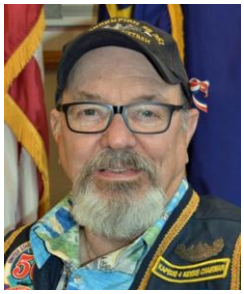
Base Meeting—October 24, 2026 Potluck @ 12 noon Meeting Starts 1pm Folsom Veterans Hall - 1300 Forrest St., Folsom

First Call to Morning Chow November 10, 2026 0930 Dennys Restaurant 1000 N. Sunrise, Roseville

Veterans Day Parade November 11, 2026 11:00 West Sacramento (Line-up Information to Follow)

eBoard Meeting (On Zoom) November 21, 2026 0900 Meet ID: 902 151 4965 Passcode: SubVet

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Shipmates, Good News, over the last couple of months we h
Gold Country bank account to over $10,000. We added ano
month to that balance as we received a Rotary Club donatio
Rotary club with gate security for their annual fundraising c
thanks to Debbie and Pete Juhos for their support and maki
with the Folsom Rotary and Gold Country base USSVI.
Timely reminders:

- Elections for Base commander and Base treasurer are scheduled for this month's meeting on Saturday October 24. Please attend and have your vote counted.
- Tim Spoon Base Achievement Award nominations are due by October 31st. Nomination forms are available on the base web site.
- Annual base and national dues for 2027 are due. You should have received a notification from the Base Treasurer in the past week.
- Tickets are on sales for the annual Holiday luncheon on Saturday December 19 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at McClellan's Officer's Club. The price is $65 per person or $130 per couple. Please see the flyer or call Penny Jamison for additional information. We need to get the head count as soon as possible for menu planning.
- 2026 Veterans Day parade in West Sacramento Wednesday November 11. See the flyer for additional details.
- Pearl Harbor memorial on Monday December 7th. Please see flyer for additional details.

Our upcoming events:

- West Sacramento Veteran's Day Parade – November 11.
- December 7th – Pearl Harbor Memorial event at Discovery Park
- December 19th 11am to 3pm.– Holiday Luncheon at McClellan Officer's Club

God Bless You All!!

Les Jamison - Base Commander

From Our Chaplain



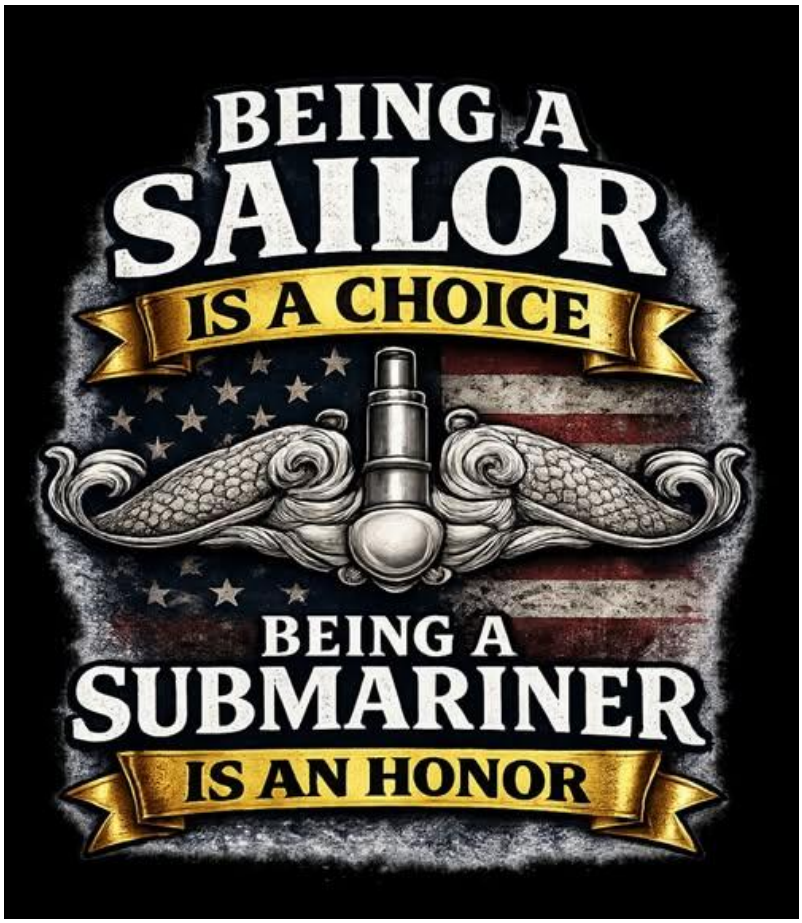
Revenge Verses Kindness

Revenge is the opposite of kindness and only escalates conflict. Looking back at my life I have to agree with that. How about you?

Kindness does not nullify justice. But choosing kindness includes trusting God's justice.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 See that no one pays back evil for evil but always try to do good to each other and all people.

Blessings, Howard Grover, Base Chaplain



Lost Boats

October

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 submarine 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 the war.

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.

Lost Boats

October (continued)

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.

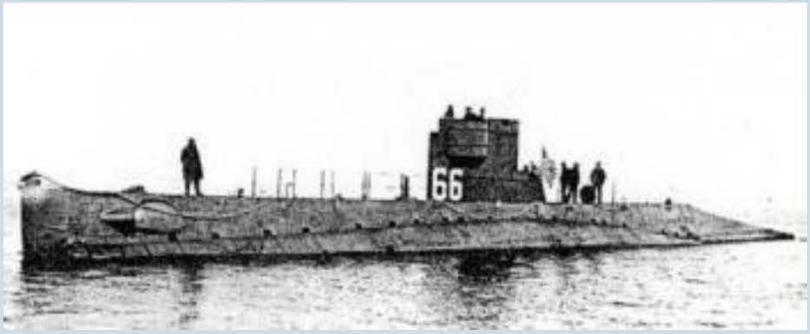
USS Tang (SS-306)





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.

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
(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 1983USS
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

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE E-BOARD MEETING MINUTES: October 17, 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, Diana Clay, Chad Clay, Pete Juhos, Penny Jamison, Bill Sugnet

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Les Jamison

Voting for Base Commander and Treasurer will be at the next meeting. Ballots will be handed out, only members are allowed to vote, not associate members. Write in will be available.

VICE COMMANDER: Mark Elftmann -No Report

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.) We will now be using a new payment platform Zeffy which has no fees required. We will still be using Zelle which also has no fees.

MEMBERSHIP: Bill Sugnet -We have 91 members.

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt

Western Region Roundup in 2027 will be in Denver

Brick laying ceremony plans are in process as there is a new director at the VA. They are working on the decision for who will be laying the bricks and such. It is intended for April 10, 2027.

Input in newsletter requested. He would like to publish this next week. He would like a basic bio of the new members.

HOLLAND CLUB: Lenard Lee -No report.

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller -No Report

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover

The eternal patrol documentation is now being controlled by National Office. Barry will send information to Bill Sugnet. Howard sent a text to Jim Sandman regarding problems with the list of those on eternal patrol. Pete will follow up.

BASE PHOTOGRAPHER: Bill Barron -No Report

NAVY YOUTH LIASON: Chad Clay -No Report

HISTORIAN: Lenard Lee -No Report

WEB-MASTER: Ed McCarthy -No Report

STOREKEEPER: Jerry Wentland

Jerry did inventory and will order calendars for next year. 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 breaks will need to be repaired as they were cut to be able to move to the air show.

(continued on next page)

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE E-BOARD MEETING MINUTES: October 17, 2026

KAPS4-KIDS: Mike Gobel

Mike is working on the inventory at hand, there are tattoos, coloring books, hats, etc. He needs more inventory. Syd Lapsky is the National Kaps-4Kids representative.

EVENTS COORDINATOR: Ed McCarthy

Air Show was a success. We have a couple of possible members. Next air show will be March 20 & 21. We need to get moving on this to ensure next time we are located closer to the Navy recruiters.

Veteran's Day parade will be in West Sacramento. Arrive between 8:30am and 0:00 am at 1100 Caradon Street, West Sacramento, for the parade. After the parade there will be complimentary food for all the attendees.

December 7, Monday, event is in the works. Tim Carlisle from Mare Island Base will be the guest speaker.

December 8 is our breakfast and gift exchange.

December holiday event is at lunch at the Officers Club. December 19, from 11:00 – 3:00. Saturday. The cost will be $65 per person or $130 per couple.

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR: Chad Clay

Sea Cadet speaker anticipated for the October meeting.

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

WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR: Pete Juhos

National convention for 2027 is in Reno at Grand Sierra Resort, 8/22-27/2027. National convention for 2028 is in Grand Rapids, MI.

New national website is up and running and looks great.

Good of the Order / Communications:

Elections for Base Commander and Treasurer will be in October.

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.

LD BUSINESS:

JBVET 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 $65 per person or $130 per couple.

First Call to Morning Chow: 11/10/2026 9:30 am @ Denny's Restaurant, 122 N. Sunrise Ave., Roseville, CA

E-board Zoom meeting: November 21, 2026 at 9:00 am

Next Base Meeting: November 28, 2026 noon for potluck lunch and meeting at 1:00

Meeting adjournment: Chief of the Boat surfaced @ 10:00 am

Submitted by Diana Clay, Base Secretary

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY MEETING MINUTES: September 26, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 12:50 p m 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.
TOLLING OF THE BELL: The Lost Boats for the month of September were read by Commander Les Jamison. There were 5 lost boats in the month of September. Chief of the Boat Gene Ratto tolled the bell for each Lost Boat and one additional toll in memory of those shipmates on Eternal Patrol.
MEMBER INTRODUCTION: There were 16 members 5 associate members and 3 guests in attendance.
GUEST SPEAKER: Chad Clay
Our guest speaker for today is Ingrid Villeda from the Alzheimer's Association.
FORMAL REPORTS:
BASE COMMANDER: Les Jamison
Nominations open for Commander, Barry nominated Steve Thomas, seconded, nomination accepted.
Nomination for Treasurer, Chad nominated Bill Sugnet, seconded, nomination accepted.
Nominations are closed the voting will be in October.
VICE COMMANDER: Mark Elftmann -No report
SECRETARY: Diana Clay -No report
CHIEF OF THE BOAT (COB) Gene Ratto
Congratulations on your new grandson, Kobyn. Gene has business cards to hand out. He will have some for the airshow. Gene was involved in the Rotary Event last week. They had a great time, plenty of music and dancing.
TREASURER: Bill Sugnet
(The books are in balance. Any base member can request a report from the Base Treasurer via email.)
We will have a new platform for payments on Zeppy where we will not be charged any fees so all income will be applied at 100%. He will send an email for details.
MEMBERSHIP: Bill Sugnet, We have 89 members.
HOLLAND CLUB: Leonard Lee -No report
PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt
Western Region Roundup in 2027 will be in Denver. Western Region Roundup in 2028 will be TBD.
He is trying to get members from other bases to attend our December 7 event. Tim Spoon Achievement award nomination closes at the end of October. Pancake breakfast for the VFW will be Sunday, September 27, 2026. Octoberfest tickets are $30 put on by the VFW on October 3 at the VFW hall by American Legion.
Brick laying ceremony plans are in process as there is a new director at the VA. They are working on the decision for who will be laying the bricks and such. It is intended for April 10, 2027.
KAPS4KIDS: Mike Gobel
Mike is working on getting the Kaps4kids doing and attended a meeting to work on it.
EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller No Report
CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover -No report
BASE PHOTOGRAPHER: Bill Barron -No report
NAVY YOUTH LIASON: Chad Clay -No report
HISTORIAN: Lenard Lee -No report
WEB-MASTER: Ed McCarthy -No report
STOREKEEPER: Jerry Wentland
Jerry did inventory and will order calendars for next year. Sale on additional supplies.
Rain jackets are available to order if wanted. (cost about $35) If interested in yellow base cap, contact Jerry for price.

(continued on next page)

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY MEETING MINUTES: September 26, 2026 (continued)

KEEPER OF THE BOAT: John Kelly -The float is ready to roll.

EVENTS COORDINATOR: Ed McCarthy

Air Show, Ed is working on the airshow in October 10 and 11 2026. Gene is picking up the float. Ed will return it. Setting up the booth on Friday at 10:00 am.

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. Tim Carlisle will be main speaker. December 8 is our breakfast and gift exchange, $20 amount. December holiday event is at lunch at the Officers Club. December 19, from 11:00 – 3:00. Saturday. After discussion, the cost will be $65 per person. We still want to have a discussion regarding the price.

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR: Chad Clay

Sea Cadet speaker anticipated a meeting for the future. Sea Cadets would like training in firefighting. Les will look into that.

WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR: Pete Juhos

National convention for 2027 is in Reno at Grand Sierra Resort, 8/22-27/2027. National convention for 2028 is in Grand Rapids, MI.

New national website is up and running and looks great.

The event at the Rotary Club was a success. Everyone had a great time. They said thanks to all who participated in helping the event go smoothly. Gene was a big help.

Pete shared that you can go to NAV source website to get pictures of submarines.

BASE ENTERTAINMENT: Alonzo Brewster

Number one game is Mexican Train Dominos, hobby is reading, then shooting, then Cribbage. He would like someone to bring a Mexican Train domino set. We will try for our meeting to be concluded by 2:00 so we can plan until 3:00.

Good of the Order / Communications:

Elections for Base Commander and Treasurer were nominated and will be voted in Octobber.

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.

Penny shared that you can order submarine shirts at boldshirts.com

LD BUSINESS:

Minutes from e-board meeting were approved.

JBVET 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 $65 per person. We had a motion, 2nd and passed for this amount.

First Call to Morning Chow: 10/13/2026 9:30 am @ Denny's Restaurant, 122 N. Sunrise Ave., Roseville, CA

E-board Zoom meeting: October 17, 2026 at 9:00 am

Next Base Meeting: October 24, 2026 11:00 for potluck lunch and meeting at 11:30

50/50: Won by $43 Gene Ratto

Sea Cadet donations: $58

Meeting adjournment: Chief of the Boat surfaced @ 2:20 pm

Submitted by Diana Clay, Base Secretary

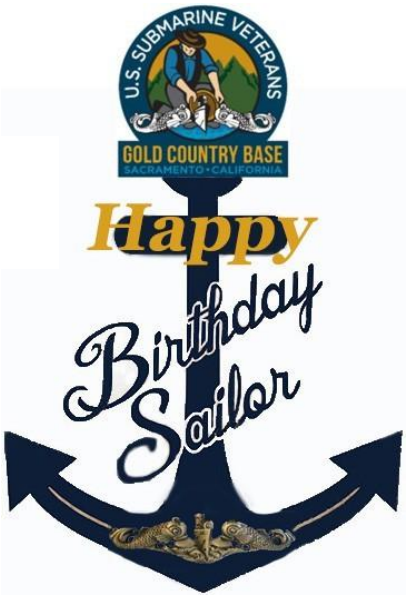
Birthdays

October

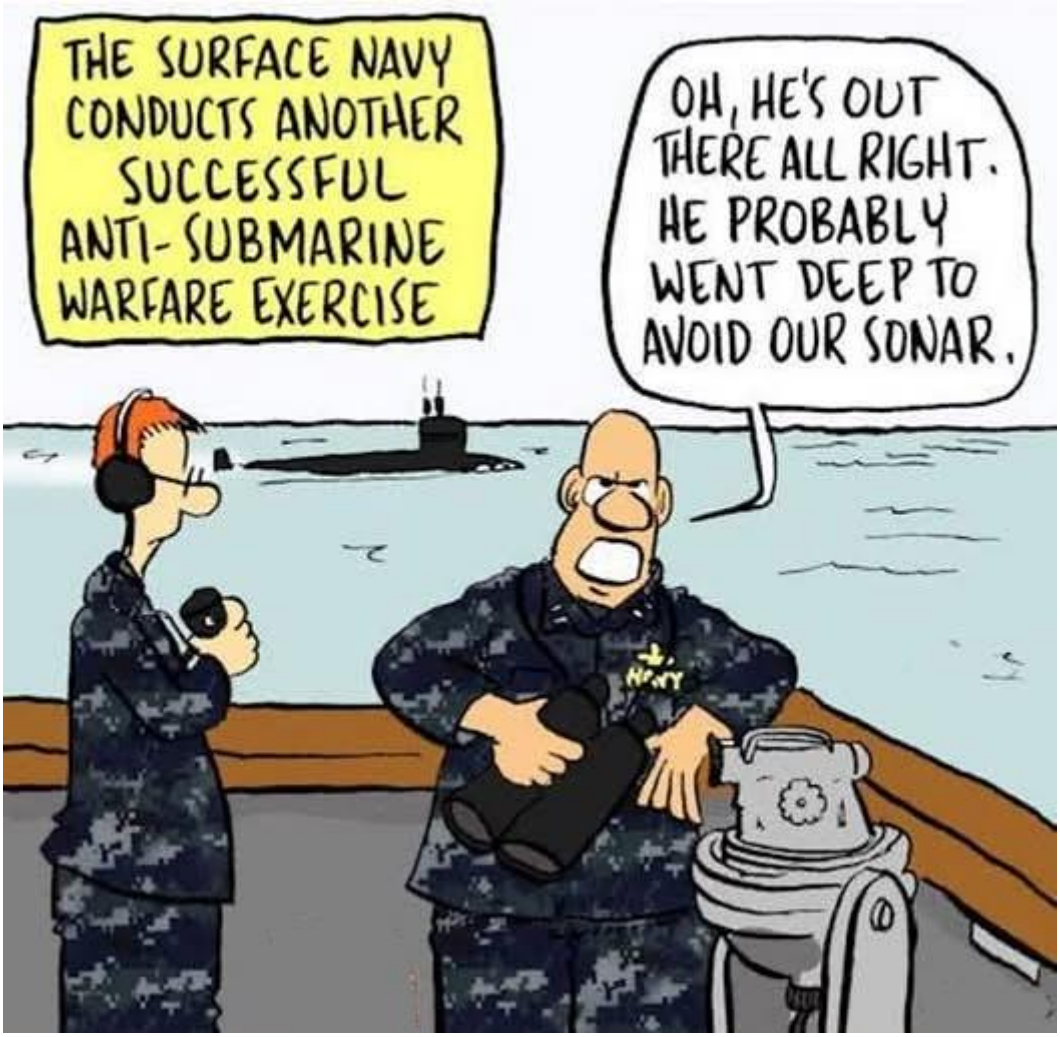
Fred Dalbello Pete Juhos Ron Rule

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

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***

VANEWS

VA announces $2.6B in infrastructure improvements in fourth quarter of FY 2026

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs approved $2.681 billion in VA infrastructure improvement projects in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2026.

These projects are being funded by VA's $4.8 billion non-recurring maintenance budget for FY2026, the largest in the department's history. The funds will be used by VA medical facilities for significant maintenance, replacements, and upgrades needed to maintain and improve operational capability and healthcare delivery.

VA obligated all the $4.8 billion that was available in FY 2026.

Maintenance projects approved in the fourth quarter of FY2026 include:

$1.183 billion to repair and upgrade outdated infrastructure systems in medical facilities.

$938 million for major building upgrades like elevators, electrical systems, and boiler plants.

$560 million for maintenance and modernization of facility infrastructure to support future electronic health record system updates

Gold Country News & Events

Veterans Day Parade 2026

This year's parade will be in West Sacramento. The West Sac Vets Day Parade is sponsored by VFW Post 8762. The Parade starts at 1100 with a free Veterans and Hero's Lunch afterwards at 905 Drever Street, West Sac 95691. Base Members are asked to show up no later than 0900 to prepare the float. The start of the parade is at 1100 Clarendon Street, West Sacramento. Our line up position hasn't been provided yet. More to follow.

December 7th Remembrance and Wreath Laying Ceremony

December 7th planning is well underway. Event permit filed, check. Trumpeter, check. Guess speaker / MC check! This year December 7th is Monday. Share the attached file on Facebook and Instagram with friends, family and neighbors. This year marks the 85 Anniversary of December 7th. See the event notice for additional details - https://www.goldcountrybase.org/event/pearl-harbor-dec-7th-memorial-and-wreath-laying-ceremony/

Base Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony

Christmas Party will be on Saturday December 19th at the McClellan Officer's Club from 11 AM to 3 PM. Cost is $65 per person. Menu: Tri-tip, Roasted chicken, Garlic Mashed potatoes, Roasted vegetables, Garden salad, Rolls, Dessert, Coffee , tea, iced tea. Cash bar. Let Penny know if you plan to attend and get your fees to Bill, Base Treasurer via Zeffy https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-awards-luncheon-and-holiday-party or at the Base meeting.

2027 Calanders
See our
Storekeeper



California Capitol Air Show







Gold Country Awards

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 Base Commander, Les Jamison @ BaseCommander@goldcountrybase.com prior to the submission deadline of October 31st. Award will be presented at the Annual Holiday Lunch.

Date_____

(Please Print) Nominee Name_____

Nominated by_____

Reason for the Nomination_____

_____

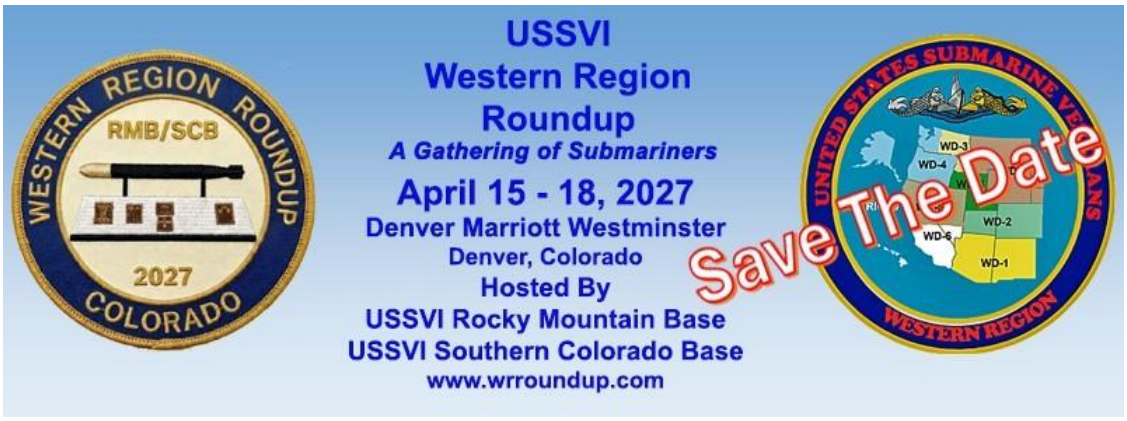
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USSVI National & Regional News



Registration Opening Soon

Registration will open soon for the USSVI Western Region Roundup scheduled for April 15 – 18 2027 at the Denver Marriott Westminster in Denver and hosted by USSVI Rocky Mountain Base and the USSVI Southern Colorado Base. The preparation for this year's event has been under way since last May, and the committee is looking forward to continuing the tradition of fellowship, camaraderie, and sharing enjoyable times together.

Please Save the Date.

As always, the goal of the Roundup is to provide a way for all Submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment.

https://wrroundup.com/



WW II Submarine News

USS Herring SS-233



The Navy Confirmed Her Wreck Exactly 82 Years After 83 Men Vanished on June 1, 2026, the Naval History and Heritage Command confirmed that a submarine wreck lying about 300 feet down off Matsuwa Island,
in the Kuril chain, is USS Herring, exactly 82 years after she was lost. The wreck was first located in 2017 by a joint Russian Geographic Society and Russian military expedition, which suspected her identity from her location and appearance. A 2022 return expedition documented the site and placed a commemorative plaque for her crew. The island has been under Russian control since August 1945 so the confirmation depended on data collected by Russian teams. That data was analyzed by two American volunteer researchers and one Japanese researcher before the Navy's archaeologists confirmed it. The wreck sits upright on her keel, and the Navy says she maintains a high degree of integrity. Her bow shows evidence of grounding and her conning tower shows hit damage, matching the historical record.

Herring left Midway on May 21, 1944, under Commander David Zabriskie Jr., bound for the Kurils. Early on June 1, she is credited with sinking two Japanese merchant ships anchored at Matsuwa. Then she ran aground. Japanese shore batteries spotted her and scored two direct hits on her conning tower as she backed away into the fog. She was never heard from again. When she failed to report to Midway on July 13, she was presumed lost with all 83 men aboard, a rare case of an American submarine sunk by coastal artillery. In her first seven patrols alone she had sunk nine ships totaling 45,200 tons. In 2005, a memorial sign to her crew and all lost submarines was placed on the nearby shore.

For 82 years, her crew's families had a date but no place. Now they have both.

US Navy Submarine News

The US Navy's decision to reclassify 19 Virginia-class submarines is a breakthrough. Here's why.



The Virginia-class Block V is a major evolution of the U.S. Navy's fast-attack submarine fleet, transforming stealthy hunters into floating missile arsenals to replace retiring Ohio-class guided-missile submarines.

Key Upgrades and Features

- **The** Virginia Payload Module **(VPM):** Block V integrates an 84-foot midbody hull section containing four large-diameter vertical payload tubes.
- **Massive Firepower Increase:** Each VPM tube holds seven Tomahawk cruise missiles, raising the total Tomahawk capacity from 12 on earlier blocks to 40 missiles per boat.
- **Size and Displacement:** The addition of the VPM extends the submarine's length to about 461 feet (from 377 feet) and increases submerged displacement to roughly 10,000 to 10,200 tons.
- **Acoustic and Combat Systems:** Block V incorporates advanced acoustic superiority enhancements, next-generation quieting, and specialized mission payload interfaces.
- **Contract and Cost:** Procured as part of multi-year Navy contracts (including a $22-billion-plus award for Block V boats), costs per unit have risen to around $4.3 billion when equipped with the VPM section.

Fleet Impact

- **Filling the SSGN Gap:** As aging Ohio-class guided-missile submarines retire, Block V restores and expands the U.S. Navy's ability to deliver synchronized, long-range "mass fires" of precision cruise missiles from an undetectable underwater platform.
- **Strategic Role:** Designed heavily around Pacific theater and anti-access/area-denial (A2/AD) deterrence, enabling covert intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR), and deep-strike capabilities. [1]

For official naval program updates and design sheets, check the U.S. Navy Attack Submarines Fact File.



2016



2017



2018



2019



2020



2021



2022



2023



2024



2025

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