



May 2017
VOL MMXVII 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."

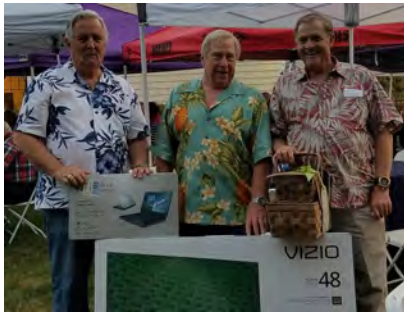


Warren Weiderhoeft conducts the induction of Joe Ryan and Denton Mitchell into the Holland Club.



USSVI Western Regional Roundup in Las Vegas. Gold Country Base members attendees from left to right Regy Bronner, Mariah & Barry Wyatt and Frank & Bernice Elliott (page 11)

WINNER! WINNER! WINNER!



For the 3rd year in a row Base members take home the Grand Prizes at the Land Sea Air Dinner. Tim won the Laptop, Tom the TV & Barry a gift basket. (more pictures page 11)



Burbank High School Titan Battalion Navy JROTC Change of Command. (more pictures page 10)

Next Meeting — May 27, 2017

Potluck @ 1200 hrs Meeting Starts 1300 hrs
Folsom Veterans Hall 1300 Forrest Street Folsom

First Call to Morning Chow

Monday June 12 @0930

Brookfield's Hwy 50 and Sunrise Blvd.

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Now Hear This!

27 May --USSVI 2017 Charity Golf Tournament Brentwood Golf Club, 100 Summerset Drive, Brentwood, CA (page 8)

29 May --Memorial Day

***Folsom Memorial Day Service** 11:00 Lakeside Memorial Lawn 1201 Forrest St Folsom CA 95630 Potluck following at the Hall

***Sacramento's Vietnam Veterans of America** "Reading of the Names" Starting at 7am California Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Capitol Park.

3 June — 54th Annual Orangevale Pow Wow Days Parade 7:30am Main Avenue & Madison Avenue Orangevale.

24 June Gold Country Base Charter Day BBQ. Folsom Veterans Hall

4 July — Carmichael Elks 59th Annual 4th of July Parade.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates,

It has been an active month for the Subvets. Myself, Regy Bronner and Frank Elliott attended the USSVI Western Region Roundup (April 23 – 27) in Las Vegas. It was very well organized with the upside of the opportunity to spend some time with Subvets from around our region, sharing some sea stories and discussing base operations in other areas. The downside was the unanswered questions regarding USSVI operations as it relates to insurance and Base autonomy. (More to come on these subjects)

I want to thank Les Jamison for representing us at the Navy JROTC Change of Command ceremony at Luther Burbank High School on April 27th.

I want to apologize to the membership for the fiasco over the free tickets for Salute to Armed Forces Night at Raley Field. Many of you signed up and I was unable to deliver. I will be glad to explain to any of you what went wrong one on one. My promise to you is to take a different approach to events such as this in the future.

The Land Sea and Air dinner was a very successful event with SubVets and their wives filling 2 tables. The dinner was excellent, the camaraderie outstanding and following a well-established tradition Gold Country Base members won both Grand Prizes in the raffle.

On Saturday June 3rd, we will have our Submarine Float in the "Pow Wow Days" parade in Orangevale. John Kelley has made all the arrangements and will tow the float with his tractor. Members need to arrive between 7:30 and 8am. Tim will email where to meet early next week. This is our first time at this event so please try to attend.

Our registration is in for the Carmichael 4th of July parade, the last time we were there many of us had to march as it was the maiden voyage for our not-quite-completed float. The 2 mile long parade route will be much nicer now that we can ride.

Barry Wyatt, Base Commander



FROM
OUR
CHAPLAIN



Can God Use an Army Veteran? A true Story from Acts 10.

Acts 10 verses 1 & 2: There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, ² a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. This takes place about 44AD. A centurion was a leader of 100 soldiers and in today's term would be somewhere between a Master Sergeant and a Major. He was paid about 11 times more than the newest recruits. His authority was so great he could almost do anything he wanted. In short being a centurion was a license to steal. But in the half dozen times centurions are mentioned in the new testament they are portrayed in a positive sense. Caesarea was the Roman capital of Israel named after Caesar Augustus. This story involves a 4-day time period and 2 significant visions that make a big change to the early church. **More next time.**



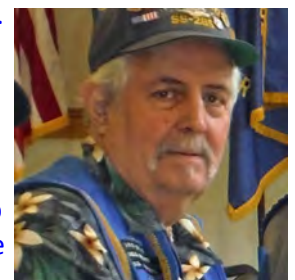
In Christ, Howard Grover, Chaplain

Shipmates, The Storekeeper has acquired a couple of new designs in the Cap Department.



Stop by and check them out along with the varied assortment of pins and patches.

We also carry USSVI 16 oz glasses, wine glasses, and shot glasses. All with the USSVI log etched on the side. I do carry more than the couple on display, please ask.



**Tim Spoon
Treasurer, Storekeeper & Membership**

Lost Boats

May

USS Lagarto (SS-371)

Lost on May 3, 1945 with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. On her 2nd war patrol, she is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk by the USS Hawk-bill (SS-366) 2 weeks later.



USS Scorpion (SSN-589)

USS Scorpion (SSN-589) was returning to Norfolk, VA. from a Mediterranean deployment. On May 22, 1968 she reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Scorpion was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined. 99 officers and men were lost.



USS Squalus (SS-192)

On May 23, 1939 USS Squalus suffered a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. Partially flooded, the submarine sank to the bottom and came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR-2) rescued 33 survivors using the diving bell he invented. 26 men drowned in the after compartments. Later Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish. In an ironic turn of fate, Sailfish sank the Japanese aircraft carrier carrying surviving crew members from Sculpin, which had located Squalus in 1939. Only one of survived after spending the rest of the war as slave laborers in Japan.



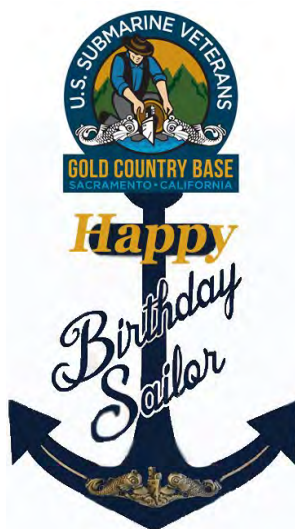
USS Stickleback (SS-415)

Lost on May 28, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while under tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to sinking.

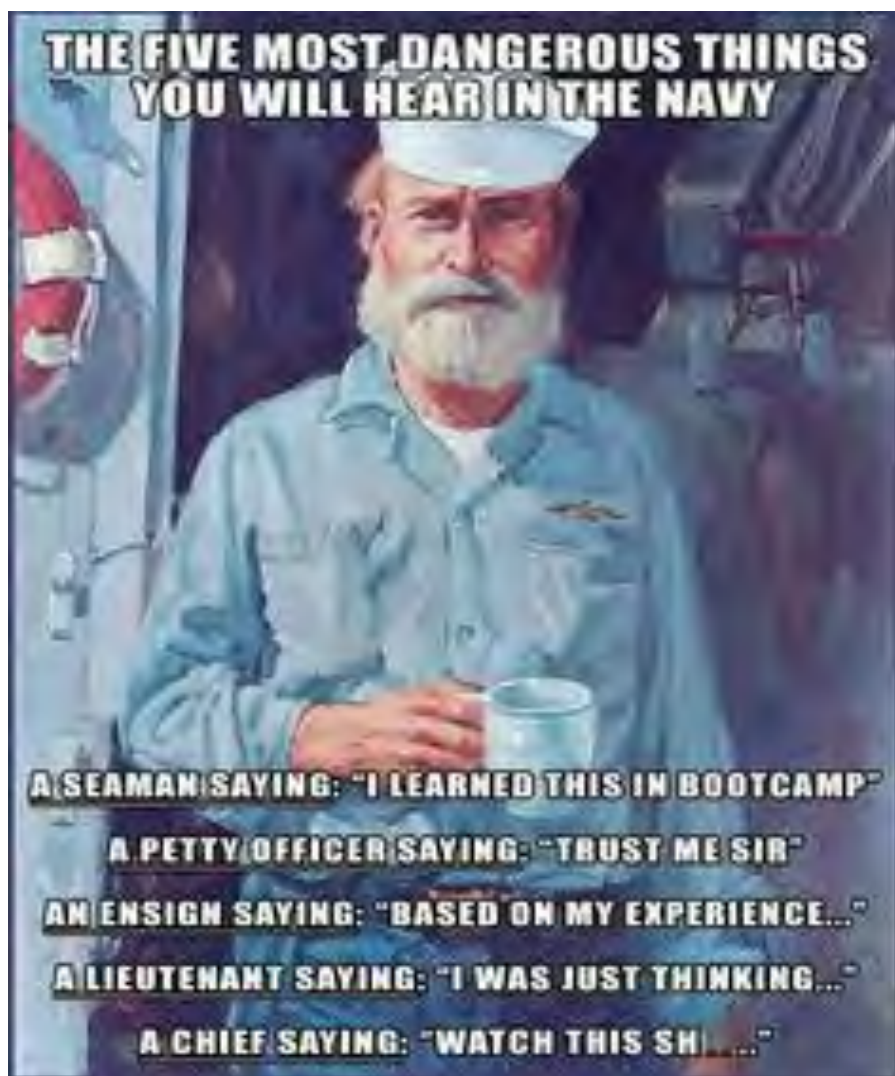


May Birthdays

Al Amaro Jim D'Orso
Larry Davis Jim Foster
John Kelly Arnold Lee
Jim MacLean Paul Reed
Lenny Stefanelli
Arthur Rutkowski



On The Lighter Side



Gold Country Base Officers

Base Commander

Barry Wyatt (916) 485-6464
SacSubVet@barrywyatt.com

Vice Commander

Regy Bronner (916) 543-7370
regybear@aol.com

Secretary

Bill Hunt (916) 768-8057
bikerbill@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Tim Spoon (916) 966-3354
spoon3@aol.com

Membership, Storekeeper & POC

Tim Spoon (916) 966-3354
spoon3@aol.com

Chaplain

Howard Grover (209) 245-4067
hgrover@jps.net

Chief of the Boat (COB)

Tom Rumsey (415) 652-3745
tomrumsey@gmail.com

Historian

Warren Wiederhoeft (916) 771-4876
Warrenw599@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor & PAO

J. Barry Wyatt (916) 485-6464

Web-Master

Rick Reineman
rick@reineman.com

Holland Club Commander

Pat Noone (916) 638-1728
patgrandpa@yahoo.com

Eagle Scout Coordinator

Gill Miller (916) 354-1008
gemcap646@ranchomurieta.org

Awards Chairman

Regy Bronner (209) 848-8409

Base Photographer

Roger Paul (916) 844-7059
rapaulplus@msn.com

Navy JROTC Liaison

Max Schell (619) 208-6622
max@maxschell.com

Kaps4Kids Coordinator

Sean Wright (413) 351-1122
seanwright2016@gmail.com

District 5 Commander

Pete Juhos (916) 208-0667
dsv3.ss1@gmail.com

Western Region Director

Robert J. Bissonnette (619) 644-8993



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

Thank you

Charles Almgren* Ed Alves* David Bates
 Harry Beach* Anita Bronner* Regy Bronner*
 Steve Buchroeder* Sam Burks Harvey Canter*
 Don Carman* Dennis Cline* Jim D'orso
 Winford Ellis Frank Elliott* Harold Fisher*
 Janet Fisher Ernie Frost Howard Grover*
 Sudsey Husaon Bill Hunt* Tony Jacobs*
 Leslie Jamison* Bill Johnson Pete Juhos*
 Richard Larson* Alvin Lehman* Steve Loomis*
 James Maclean* Jim Mahon* Chuck McKinley*
 Jerry Mitchell* George Miyao* Pat Noone*
 Paul Osborn* Gene Ratto Rick Reineman*
 Max Rhinehart* Robert Robinson Ron Rule*
 Bernie & Evelyn Ritscher* Tom Rumsey*
 Joe Ryan* Lon Schmidt* Howard Shaw
 Tim Spoon* Fred Stiesberg* Warren Wiederhoeft*
 Roy Wilhite* Larry Williams* Ernie Woods*
 Barry Wyatt*

** Multi-year Donors*

VA Information

VA Partners to Increase Medical Providers:

In May, the Department of Veterans Affairs entered into a partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services. This partnership will allow medical professionals from the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps to provide care to veterans at VA medical facilities. Effective immediately, the partnership agreement allows up to 20 medical professionals from the Commissioned Corps to provide treatment in VA facilities deemed to be in the most need of staffing support. An additional 10 officers from the Commissioned Corps are able to assist in support coordination for veterans receiving VA community care.



Gold Country Base Meeting Minutes. April 22, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 13:00 by two alarms from the diving klaxon. Base Commander Barry Wyatt read the USSVI Creed and Purpose and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave the Invocation.

TOLLING THE BELL: The Lost Boats for the month of April were read by Vice Commander Regy Bronner and the Chief of the Boat Tom Rumsey tolled the bell once for each Lost Boat with an additional toll for those shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

MEMBER INTRODUCTION: There were 19 members and no guests in attendance.

FORMAL REPORTS:

TREASURER / MEMBERSHIP/STORES: Base Treasurer Tim Spoon was not in attendance and Les Jamison reported the following:

The books are in balance. Gold Country Base does not publicly release financial information in the Newsletter. Any Base member can request a report from Base Treasurer via email.

Gold Country Base membership: 108 members in good standing and 7 associate members.

2017 Calendars are available now.

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt reported the following:

USSVI Award nomination submissions are due at end of month.

Barry solicited donations for the completion of the Sub Float and the storage building for the float.

Member biographies are needed for the Base Newsletter. This is a good way to become familiar with the background of the membership.

HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR: Pat Noone was not in attendance due to health issues. Warren Weiderhoeft conducted the induction of Joe Ryan and Denton Mitchell into the Holland Club.

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller reports that Timothy Loveridge is to receive an award at his Court of Honor, Tuesday, April 25.

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Chaplain Howard Grover reported that Bernie Richter is on the mend. Pat Noone continues with health issues.

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the March meeting and seconded. The membership voted in favor of approval.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

GOOD OF THE ORDER/COMMUNICATIONS:

The Annual Land Sea and Air Dinner will be held on May 20 at the Hall. Cocktails @ 1700. Dinner @ 1800. Tri-Tip and Chicken are on the menu. Tickets are still available. Single tickets are \$40. Table of 10 is \$35 per person.

The Float storage building project is progressing. John Kelly has procured some of the building materials and is working with vendors on donating other materials. Barry suggested creating a GoFundMe account to raise the funds needed to complete the job. Direct donations are welcome as well.

Guest speaker Dick Shultz presented information about Cochlear Implants as a means to improve the hearing of hearing impaired persons. Many base members suffer from this condition.

River Cats Military Appreciation Day is May 6.

NJROTC Awards night is May 26. Contact Max Schell for more information.

USSVI Charity Golf Tournament is May 27. Max also has more information regarding this.

Harry Beach won \$58 in the 50/50 raffle and donated the proceeds to the building fund.

First Call to Morning Chow: 0930 May 15 @ Denny's in Roseville

Next Base Meeting: May 27, 2017

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: Base Chaplin gave a closing prayer. Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat @ 1420 hrs.



Bill Hunt, Secretary

Submitted by Bill Hunt, Base Secretary

News From National

USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION

Orlando, Florida
September 1 – September 6, 2017
USSVI Central Florida Base
is your host for the 2017
USSVI National Convention



2017 USSVI National Convention in Orlando, Florida

Rosen Shingle Creek is a 4-star hotel with tons of amenities, including:

- Rooms for \$105.00 per night
- Free parking for hotel guests
- Free valet parking for handicapped guests with handicap license/sticker
- \$2.00 beer and reduce price mixed drinks in the hospitality room
- 25% discount at various hotel restaurants for guests

Hotel and Convention Registration can be done on line "www.ussviconvention.org/2017/"

Click on the "Hotel Registration" or "Convention Registration"

Our annual convention is one of the largest and most exciting annual gatherings of submarine veterans in the U.S. This event offers attendees the environment, the setting and the unique opportunity to meet with fellow submariners to exchange ideas, reminisce and keep up to date on important information. Details about the convention, available services and calendar of events can be found on the convention web site.

Message from the American Submariner Editor Chuck Emmett

The American Submariner magazine is now available by subscription to the general public. For \$24 a year (cover price of \$6.00 x four issues = \$24) anyone can get the American Submariner mailed to their address. They'll have the full rights to write letters to the editor but of course everything must go through me. I assure you the public will not take over our magazine.



I need a new volunteer. This individual will be a true backup to me that can step in to take over the American Submariner at a moment's notice. This requires that person to be very knowledgeable of the following software: Adobe-Illustrator, -Photoshop, -Acrobat, and most importantly "-InDesign." USSVI has a full copy of "InDesign" for the backup individual to use but the other programs you pretty much have to get on your own. This is a great way to serve USSVI no matter where you live, so give me a call as soon as possible so that we can talk about this. Thanks. If you have questions about these three items, don't hesitate to email or call me on either my dedicated or cell phone lines. As always, thank you for your support

Chuck Emmett 7011 W. Risner Rd. Glendale, AZ 85308 (623) 455-8999 American-Submariner@cox.net

Regional & Local Events



**54th Annual
Orangevale
Pow Wow Days
Parade
Saturday
June 3, 2017**



**Folsom Veterans Hall
Memorial Day Service**
Muster at the Hall—1000
Service Begins 1100
Lakeside Memorial Lawn
1201 Forrest St Folsom CA
**Potluck Lunch following
at the Veterans Hall**



USSVI 2017 Charity Golf Tournament



May 27th, 2017
12 pm—Tee Time
Registration 1000

Sponsored by USSVI Mare Island Base

Brentwood Golf Club
100 Summerset Drive
Brentwood, CA 94513
\$125 per player—\$30 dinner only

\$125 Entry
Includes Lunch/
Dinner & Golf

Contact our Golf Committee Members for Add'l Info.
Barry Connors 925-925-7093
Jerry Marks 925-240-5047
Larry Fox 707-448-4184

**PRIZES
CONTEST
DRAWINGS**

**RAFFLE
DRAWINGS
AND MORE**

All Proceeds Benefit

USSVI Mare Island Base Charities

Bill Dornik, 751 Rollingwood Rd., Vallejo, CA 94591-5707
Make check payable to: USSVI Mare Island Base

Please register by May 13, 2017.

USSVI 2017 Memorial Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 27, 2017
Registration Begins at 10:00 am
Shotgun Tee Time is 12:00 am
Where: Brentwood Golf Club
Cost: \$125 per player includes dinner
Guest: \$30 for dinner only (8pm)

Foursome (if applicable)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

This side of the ticket is to be kept by golfer

Name _____
Address _____
City, St Zip _____
Phone _____
Cost: \$125, includes 18 holes with cart and dinner
Guest for dinner only will be charged \$30 per person
Golfer: _____
Dinner Guest: _____
Total _____
Foursome (if applicable) _____

This side of the ticket is held by USSVI Committee

Carmichael Fourth of July Parade

Patriots young and old will gather to mark an annual Carmichael tradition – the Carmichael Parade – on Tuesday, July 4.

The parade, which has been hosted by the Carmichael Elks for more than half a century, begins at 10:30 a.m., at the



corner of Marconi and Fair Oaks Boulevard in Carmichael. The 59th annual parade will garner more than 100 entries (or 600-1,100 participants). The Carmichael Parade is one of the oldest parades in Sacramento.

The Last Ride on the Kamehameha

A Sea Story by Howard Grover

The date was the middle of January 1969. I was due to get out of the Navy in a couple weeks. I had just finished my last patrol on the Kamehameha. We turned the boat over to the Blue Crew and were filing off the Kam. On the Proteus, I took a last look at the Kam below. I was thinking that was the last 41/2 years of my life. Then somehow, I just knew I would see the Kam again. A couple months later another strange thing happened. I dreamed my Kam Captain called me and told me; "Grover, I need you to make one more patrol". The dream ended with me reporting aboard. That same dream repeated itself about every 2 to 3 months for 32 years.

The last date I mentioned was 1969. Now jump forward 30 years to April 1999. For family reasons, I was on Oahu. My wife and I were at the Bowfin Museum. We spent several hours there and got to meet the retired Captain, Manager. I mentioned to the Captain I had been a part of the crew that brought the Kam to Hawaii. He told me she was in port and if I wanted to see her I better do it quickly. The next day I called Base information. I told the receptionist I want to come on Base. After some run around I said I was a member of WWII Sub Vets (Associate Member). She then said: "Mr. Grover when do you want to come out."

As instructed we went to the vender building out outside the main gate. As soon as I waked into the building I recognized that it had been the Bank of Hawaii where I had my first checking account. At the counter, I told the lady there why I was there. She looked in a notebook and did not find my name. She slides a phone over to me and fortunately I remembered the phone number of the lady at COMSUBPAC I had talked to the day before. She answered and then told me to come out to the parking lot and she would be there shortly. She was a civilian driving her own car. She said follow me and went to the gate and said something to the Marine guard. She drove ahead. The Marine handed us a pass and waved us on. We followed her car to Sub Base.

As we drove through the Base I pointed out land marks to Lila. Pretty soon we turned on to Sub Base. We turned and drove down between what looked like warehouses. We came to a stop sign. We were at pier C and tied up there was the Kamehameha. It had been just over 30 years since I saw her last in Guam. Tears welled up in my eyes as I realized what had just happened. There was two way traffic on the pier so we had to drive to the end of the pier then turn around. The ComSubPac lady parked right across from the Kam. We pulled next to her. I got her email address and thank her. She drove off. I walked over to the loading party at the Kam and talked to the Chief in charge.

I told the Senior Chief in charge of the loading party that I was one of the original crew and I would like a tour. He said, we'll see what we can do for you but we need to finish loading stores. I got in line and started handing boxes down the line. The Chief called over to the topside watch and asked him to call down to get permission for a plankowner tour." In a few minutes word came up, "Permission granted after the stores are off the deck. The next word was there would be an E6 Nav ET for the tour. Just wait. The crew topside and below decks asked several times, "Do you know Capt. Dickieson?" He was my Gold crew CO. He was retired and lived on the other side of the island. He would occasionally eat lunch on board.

I went down into the control first followed by Lila and our tour guide. The control room hadn't changed much but the Nav area had changed. The rear end of the Nav area had been converted to Special Ops control. The refrigerator sized SINS were small boxes in the overhead. Down the ladder to the middle level the COB greeted us. After visiting the chow hall and torpedo room I showed Lila my first of many racks in the lower level. In the crews area we began meeting the electricians 2 or 3 at a time. They all had questions for me as a one-time LPO. In the missile compartment racks for the SEALs replaced missile equipment. We met the present LPO and more electricians. One of them told me they would be decommissioned a couple years. Why don't you come to that? We went out the AMR1 hatch.

Both of the dry-dock shelters were open and we got to look in both. They were full of equipment for the SEALs. That was the tour but the Senior Chief we first met came off the boat and we talked for a good 15 minutes or more. I had been overwhelmed by the attention I had received on board. Lila has mentioned many times since; that the crew just wanted to see what kind of wheel chair I was using. Since I was old enough to have been a grandfather to most of them. We were now free and with our visitor pass we drove all over Sub Base. First, we went to Beeman's Center for lunch. Then looking at all the boats that were in. Next to the WWII Memorial and then I climbed all over the old Parche sail despite the sign that said NO! What a day! **TO BE CONTINUED**



Burbank High School

Titan Battalion

Navy JROTC

Change of Command





Folsom Veterans Hall Land Sea Air Dinner



USSVI Western Regional Roundup Las Vegas





May 2017 Newsletter