



October 2017
VOL MMXVII Issue 10

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."



Base members receive the Commemoration



Vietnam Veterans lapel pins presented by Air Force Veteran and Rancho

Cordova City Councilman, Bob McGarvey and Sacramento County Supervisor, Don Nottoli.



From left to right Les Jamison, Supervisor Don Nottoli and Councilmember Bob McGarvey.

Base Commander & Newsletter Editor Barry Wyatt

receives the national award of Class II Newsletter of the Year Award from USSVI District 5 Commander Pete Juhos.



Next Meeting—October 28 , 2017

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

First Call to Morning Chow

Monday October 16 @0930 Denny's 7900 College Town Dr. Hwy 50 and Howe Ave

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Base members Jerry Wentland and his wife Naomi receive volunteer service recognition plaques from the Luther Burbank Navy JROTC presented by Base Commander Barry Wyatt.

Bernhart Nathanael Ritscher
TM2 (SS)

May 25, 1925—October 8, 2017



Now Hear This!

31 October Master Mariner Nomination submission deadline

4 November Navy JROTC Drill Meet Luther Burbank High School

11 November Veterans Day Parade Capitol Mall Sacramento 1100

Officers Country

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates, We were honored at our last meeting to have Rancho Cordova City Councilman, Bob McGarvey and the Chair of Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, Don Nottoli attend and present our members who served during the Vietnam War era with the "Commemoration Lapel Pin", a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" certificate signed by all 5 members of the Board of Supervisors and a personalized of "Veteran Recognition" certificate from the California State Senate signed by Senator Tom Berryhill. For our members who were unable to attend I have your items and will either hold on to them to give to you at a later date or send them to you in the mail.

For the October meeting our Guest Speaker will be Ryan Peterson, Airforce JROTC Instructor, Hiram Johnson HS, Chairman of the Board Capitol City K9 which is a non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing local shelter dogs and training them to become service dogs for veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).



I would like to welcome aboard our 2 newest members Matt Lettau, Qualified aboard the USS Pasadena SSN-752 in 1995 and Jeffrey R. Saenz, Qualified aboard the USS Florida SSBN-728 in 1988.

Up coming events: the NJROTC drill meet Nov 4th (see page 11) and the Sacramento Veterans Day parade Nov 11 (see page 9). Our Dec. 7th event will have a great guest speaker, thanks to Pete, who reached out to Rear Admiral Bonnie Potter who has agreed to take on that honored role. **Barry Wyatt, Base Commander**

Can God Use an Army Veteran?

A true Story from Acts 10. (continued)

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

FROM
OUR
CHAPLAIN



This event was the Gentiles (all non-Jews) being grafted into the Church of Jesus Christ

which up to this point had been almost all Jewish believers of Jesus.

The 1st part of Acts 11 discusses the meeting of the Church leaders questioning Peter about what had happened. Their conclusion is given in Acts 11:18: When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

We gentiles have Cornelius to thank for our salvation. Yes, God can use an Army Veteran! Cornelius is not mentioned in the bible after this but early church history says he became a traveling preacher followed by miracles. All verses NKJV

To Be Continued, Next time Jonah

Blessings, Howard Grover, Chaplain



early copy to be ready for 2018.

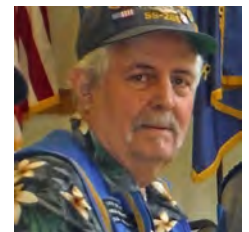
"The theme for this years calendar is Submarine Squadrons of the Pacific Fleet"

Also your friendly Storekeeper has a variety of glass ware for your enjoyment. I have shot glasses, wine glasses, and 16 oz beer glasses. Each has the USSVI logo on them.

Stop by the stores table and check them out. There are only a couple of each type on display and I have more in storage.

Tim Spoon

Treasurer, Storekeeper & Membership



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.



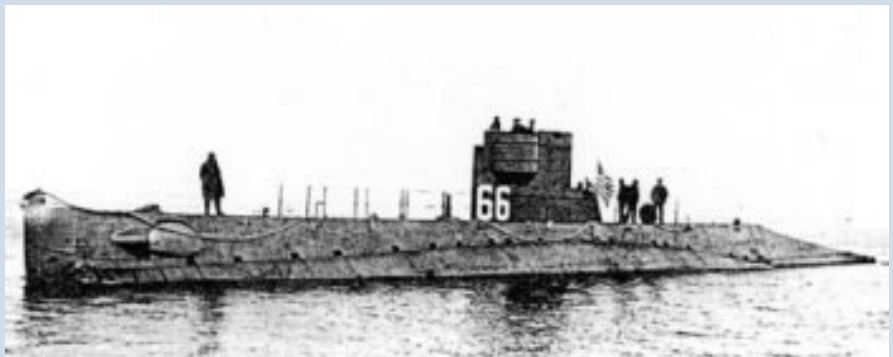
USS Tang (SS-306)

Lost on Oct 25, 1944 with the loss of 78 men in the Formosa Strait. 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.



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.



USS S-44 (SS-155)

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



USS Wahoo (SS-238)

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



USS Dorado (SS-248)

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



USS Escolar (SS-294)

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



October Birthdays

Fred Dalbello

Mitchell Denton

Pete Juhos Ron Rule

Barry Wyatt

Frank Ziegelman



Gold Country Base Officers

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On The Lighter Side

A young seaman began a tour of duty at the induction center. He was assigned the task of doing the initial screening of recruits who wanted to join the Navy.

"Would you mind telling me, Doctor," he asked, "how do you detect a mental deficiency in somebody who appears completely normal?" "Nothing is easier," the Doctor replied. "You ask him a simple question which everyone should answer with no trouble. If he hesitates or gives you the wrong answer that gives you a pretty good indicator."

"What sort of question?"

"Well, you might ask him, 'Captain Cook made three trips around the world and died during one of them. Which one?'"



The Seaman thought for a moment, then said with a nervous laugh, "You wouldn't happen to have another example would you? I must confess I don't know much about history."



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

Flu Shots available at the VA

Influenza or the flu is a serious illness that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. The flu is different every season and even healthy people can get very sick from the flu and spread it to others. During a regular flu season, about 90 percent of deaths occur in people 65 years and older, but the rates of infection are highest among children. The "seasonal flu season" in the United States can begin as early as October and last as late as May. Flu vaccines are the best way to reduce the chance of getting the flu and lessen the chance of spreading the flu to others. It is spread by coughing, sneezing or nasal secretions.

Everyone who is at least 6 months of age should get the flu vaccine.

McClellan Clinic

5342 Dudley Blvd McClellan Park, CA 95652
Monday–Friday, 8:00am–11:30am and
12:30pm–3:30pm–Primary Care Clinic.

Sacramento/Mather

10535 Hospital Way, Mather, CA 95655
Monday-Friday 8am–3:0pm (Lobby Area of
Building 650) beginning October 1, 2014 until
January 31, 2015.

***Sacramento VAMC will also be offering Drive-Thru Clinic on the 27th of October 9:00am–2:00pm at the front entrance of the hospital. Directions are available at the front desk lobby of Bldg. 700 and Bldg. 650.*

Walgreens is also offering Free Flu shots to Veterans.

Gold Country Base Meeting Minutes. September 23, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 1300 by a toll of the bell. Base Commander Barry Wyatt read the USSVI Creed and Purpose and Warren Weiderhoeft led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave the Invocation.

TOLLING THE BELL: The Lost Boats for the month of September were read by Vice Commander Reggie 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 25 members and 4 guests in attendance.

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Barry Wyatt reported the following:

Gold Country Base won the 1st Place award for Base Newsletter at the National Convention.

Event Coordinator position is still open. Need a volunteer to assume the role.

Sacramento Standown for homeless Vets is Sept 28 at Gibson Ranch. Max Schell has details.

Burbank NJROTC Drill Meet will be held on November 4. Snack bar volunteers are needed.

The Holiday Party has been relocated to the Veterans Hall on Dec 14. A caterer has been selected. The cost will be \$30/person, \$60/couple.

Guest speaker at the next meeting will be Ryan Peterson from Capital K9s.

The Base will participate in the Sacramento Veteran's Day parade on Nov 11.

Pearl Harbor Ceremony will be at Discovery park on Dec 7.

VICE COMMANDER: Reggie Bronner reported the following:

We are within the projected budget for the year. Master Mariner candidates are due by the end of October.

TREASURER / MEMBERSHIP/STORES: Base Treasurer Tim Spoon 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: 111 members in good standing, 7 associate members.

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt reported the following:

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. No report.

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Nothing to report.

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Chaplain Howard Grover reported that Bernie Richter is still having health issues.

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

NEW BUSINESS: No New Business

GOOD OF THE ORDER/COMMUNICATIONS:

Rancho Cordova City Council member Robert McGarvey and Sacramento County Supervisor Don Nottoli presented a certificate and lapel pin to those Base members who were on active duty during the Vietnam War as authorized by The US Congress.

Les Jamison met with the national Kaps4Kids program chairman at the National Convention. Les procured some samples of the items that will be handed out to the kids and also proposed a budget for the program.

Burbank NJROTC Drill Meet will be held Nov. 4. Snack bar volunteers are needed. Max also has the details.

Sacramento Veterans Day parade will be held 11 November.

Pearl Harbor Ceremony will be held Dec, 7 at Discovery Park.

Holiday Party will be held on December 14 at the Vets Hall. Capital Sierra Catering will be providing the meal. \$30/person, \$60/couple.

Larry Davies won the 50/50 raffle in the amount of \$72.

First Call to Morning Chow: 0930 Oct. 16@ Denny's, Hwy 50 and Howe Ave.

Next Base Meeting: Oct. 28, 2017

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: Base Chaplin gave a closing prayer. Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat @ 1407 hrs.

Submitted by Bill Hunt, Base Secretary



Bill Hunt, Secretary

News From National

Shipmates,

US Submarine Veterans Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Week is just around the corner!

"No one stands so tall as when they stoop to help a Child" - Abraham Lincoln

Each year K4K Week is celebrated around Veterans Day (November 11th).

In addition to other K4K visits made during the year, I encourage USSVI Bases to schedule and make a K4K visit to Kids as close to Veterans Day as they can.

This is done to:

1. Obtain local and national recognition of USSVIs Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Program. This in turn will let our communities learn about the USSVI and why we exist.
2. Take advantage of a period when Child Care Facilities are more likely to welcome visits by Veterans.
3. Have Sub Vets interact with Children, their families and facility staff at a time when the appreciation for Veterans is at its highest.
4. Bring joy to sick Children and to the Sub Vets who visit them!

Please order any supplies early so that the USSVI National Storekeeper, or whoever your supplier is, has time to fill your orders.

Thanks for all that you do for sick Children by participating in this Life Changing USSVI Community Outreach Program!

John Riley

National Chairman -

Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Program

US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation



Shipmates,

We now have 2 Hurricane Relief Funds. One for those who were hit by Harvey and one for those hit by Irma. You can donate to either or both by sending a check made out to the USSV Charitable Foundation with a note in the memo line as to which fund you want to donate to. Send your checks to: USSVI National Office, POB 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383

For those shipmates requesting assistance please send your request to Brotherhood Fund Chairman Ken Nichols at ken2lorna@bellsouth.net



Thanks for your support.

Pride Runs Deep,

Al Singleman, Jr. Charitable Foundation President



Regional & Local News

7TH ANNUAL CITY OF SACRAMENTO VETERANS DAY PARADE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017
PROGRAM ON THE 5TH ST. MAIN STAGE AT 10:00 AM

- "SALUTING OUR VETERANS" PROGRAM ON THE 5TH STREET
- PARADE STARTS AT 11:00 AM



CAPITOL MALL
BETWEEN 3RD AND 9TH STREETS

For more information visit
<http://bit.ly/2fuZoRa>, call (916) 808-6789, or
email sacvetparade@cityofsacramento.org

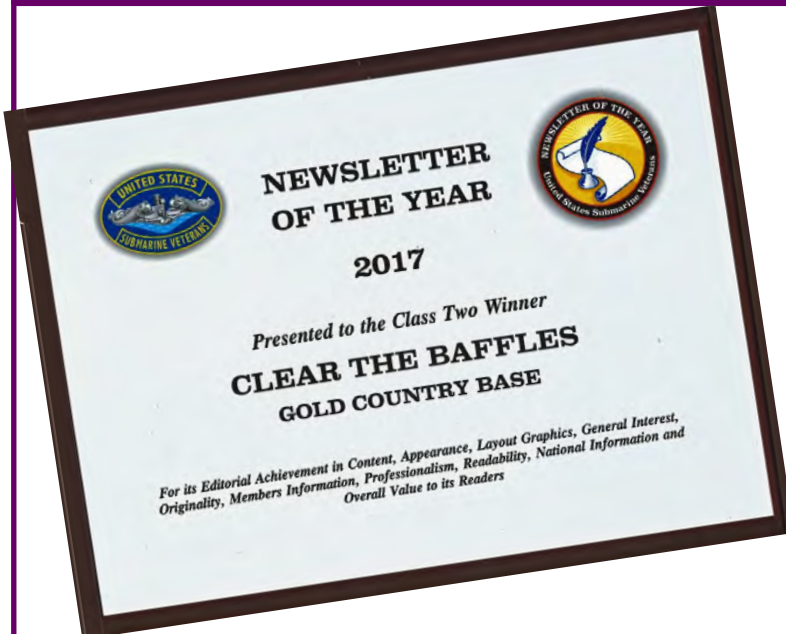
City of
SACRAMENTO
Neighborhood Services Division



Our award winning float continues with wining our thanks to the Base members who show up to crew her.

Save the Date

Gold Country Base Holliday Party - Thursday
Dec 14th Folsom Veterans Hall \$30 per person \$60
per couple. CATERED BY Capital Sierra Catering.



For the 2nd year in a row our Gold Country Base Newsletter "Clear the Baffles" took top honors' at the USSVI national convention in Florida last month.

California Wildfires October 2017 - Relief Information

<http://www.redcross.org/about-us/our-work/disaster-relief/wildfire-relief>

The Red Cross honors donor intent and all donations earmarked for the California wildfires will be used for our work to support this disaster. Americans work hard for their money, and we're committed to being the very best stewards of our donors' dollars. The Red Cross keeps our expenses low, and 91 cents of every dollar we spend for this disaster will go to help people affected by the California wildfires.



Luther Burbank High School Navy JROTC Drill Meet

Volunteers Needed

Saturday November 4

The history of our support for the Titan Battalion Navy Junior ROTC unit located at Burbank High School.

In 2012 members of our base began an effort to expand our reach into the community by finding a youth group that we can support. After several attempts and with the help of Max Schell, who at the time was directing the Navy JROTC unit from Soledad High School, we linked up with the NJROTC Unit at Burbank High School and invited them to participate as part of the color guard at our December 7th Pearl Harbor Memorial ceremony. Their participation, along with that of Max's unit from Soledad, not only added structure and color but also created a formal military feel to our event.



At our base meeting in January 2013 our members voted to support the Titan Battalion financially with a



commitment of \$1000 per year donation to be distributed in \$500 semi-annual payments. The funds would be raised by passing the hat at base meetings. Since that time, we have continued to meet that obligation and the bond between our members and this amazing group has continue to grow. Under the leadership of Commander Tom Jones USN (Ret), and in one of the most economically depressed neighborhoods of our area, almost 200 young men and women participate in this program annually.

There is no doubt that the members of our base take great pride in knowing that our donations

are going to a program that not only benefits our community today, but helps to produce a path to keep our country strong in the future. It is my belief that our support of the Titan Battalion and its members is one of the most important functions we do as a group.

2 years ago Commander Jones asked if we would be able to participate as a volunteer force in their annual Drill Meet. Gold Country Base members showed up in force to help. We staffed the snack bar and the results were that operation made a major profit for the first time in many years. It is our hope that our members will support this event again this year with the same enthusiasm. Please contact Max at (619) 208- 6622 max@maxschell.com to volunteer.



Bernhart (Bernie) Nathanael Ritscher TM2 (SS)

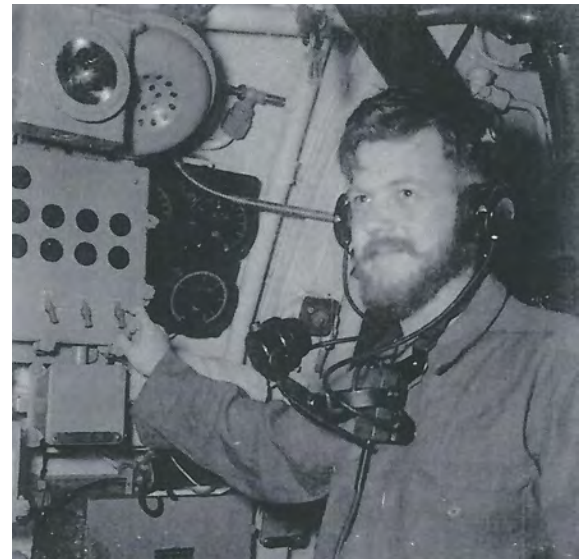
Bernie was born on May 25, 1925 in Seattle, Washington. He enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17 in 1943 and went to boot camp in Farragut, ID. After Boot he attended Torpedo School in San Diego and then to Sub School in New London, CT. He was a member of a relief crew which formed in New London that moved to Mare Island. He did temporary duty on the USS Spearfish (SS-190).

His relief crew went to Pearl Harbor as passengers on a baby flat top. Bernie was transferred to the USS Caiman (SS-323); in 1944 he qualified on her and did three war patrols. He also did duty on two sub tenders, the USS Clytie (AS-26) and USS Nereus (AS-17), in Australia and Subic Bay, Philippines. Bernie discharged in June of 1946 and went back to Sacramento and married his wife of 70 years Evelyn.

In 1946 he joined the V.F.W. and registered for the USNR Submarine Unit in Seattle and was activated for Korea in 1950. I served aboard the USS Volador (SS-490) mostly out of San Diego, did one tour in West Pac and patrols to Seto Inland Sea with hunter killer group south to Okinawa. He was discharged in 1952.

After the Navy Bernie worked for, and retired from, the US Postal Service as a mail carrier. He was an adult scouter for 20 years, a square and round dancer, and a UC Master food preserver and a Master gardener for 30 years.

Bernie was a proud and active member of the Gold Country Base of the United States Submarine Veterans.

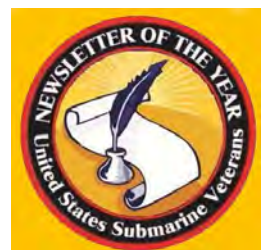


Services will be held for Bernie at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery 5810 Midway Road Dixon, CA 95620 Monday November 6 at 12:30 with a celebration of life reception to follow at 1700 (5:00pm) at the Veterans Memorial Building 130 Placerville Dr. Placerville, CA

Evelyn has requested that if you have a story about Bernie that you would like to share please write it down so that it can be read at the reception.



October 2017 Newsletter



"Clear the Baffles" is the official Newsletter for the Gold Country Base of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. Published monthly. Please submit ideas or articles to Publisher Barry Wyatt at sacsubvet@barrywyatt.com or contact me by phone at (916) 485-6464