



April 2018
VOL MMXVIII Issue 04

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.

Spring Eggstravaganza Saturday March 31, 2018
Lembi Park, Folsom Gold Country SubVets were there



Base Commander Barry Wyatt and Guest Speakers Coordinator Chad Clay



(From L to R) Barry Wyatt, Tim Spoon, Harold Fisher, Janet Fisher Les Jamison

Under the direction of our Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Chairman Les Jamison we were able to put smiles on some faces of young patients and their love ones at the Children's Ward of Kaiser Hospital in Roseville on March 21st

Next Meeting—April 28 , 2018

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

First Call to Morning Chow

Monday May 14 @ 9:30 Denny's 122 Sunrise Blvd, Roseville

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Now Hear This!

23 -27 April Western Region Roundup, Sam's Town Las Vegas

26 April Navy JROTC Change of Command Ceremony
12:30—2:30 Luther Burbank High School (Football Field) 500 Florin Rd, Sacramento

30 April Deadline for National Awards committee chair to receive award submission.

2 June Orangevale Pow Wow Days Parade

2 June Land Sea Air Dinner Folsom Veterans Hall

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates, It has been a great month for Gold Country Base. Our members continue with their efforts to show our colors and support the greater community. After many years with no one willing to take on the responsibility Les Jamison picked up the task of overseeing and making all the arrangement for a Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) visit at Kaiser's children's ward in Roseville. The net results, detailed in Les's report, was we were able to give out 50 children's hats and caps to the patients and their siblings and 40 adult hats to their parents. We also gave out Honorary Submariner certificates and pictures of submarines for the children to color. It was a great experience and from all accounts a huge success. My deep appreciation to Les for all his hard work and to the rest of the crew Tim Spoon, Harold and Janet Fisher.



On the Saturday before Easter, Chad Clay and I joined other veterans from the Folsom hall at the "Folsom Spring Eggstravaganza". The fun was presenting a gold dollar to the lucky kids who had found a plastic egg during the hunt with a winner note inside.

Next on the agenda was the presentation of the "Good Shipmate Award" to the members of VFW, Banner Mountain Post 2655, Nevada City. The idea and fulfillment of this effort came from our Vice-Commander Regy Bronner. He, along with Associate Member Anita Bronner and shipmates Warren Wiederhoeft and Les Jamison, made the presentation at the Post's monthly meeting on April 6. The award was presented because, during our annual trek to Nevada City for their Constitution Day Parade, the Post has provided parking and a place for us set up our parade float. The award is our way of formally saying "Thank You" and to continue to reach out to other veterans groups.

I am off to the Western Regional Roundup in Las Vegas with Regy Bronner, Pete & Debbie Juhos, John & Tanya Mannix. Hope to see you all at our meeting next Saturday, we have a great guest speaker and some exciting to news to share about future events.

Barry Wyatt, Base Commander

FROM
OUR
CHAPLAIN



Going along with the National Chaplain's article in the latest American Submariner on biblical saying we still use today. Our own Base Commander used this quote in the *February* "Clear the Baffles" said this: "The

old saying goes "ask and you shall receive,"". Yes it is old Jesus Himself said that in John 16:24 "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." Similarly in Matthew 7:7 says: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

Blessings, Howard Grover, Chaplain

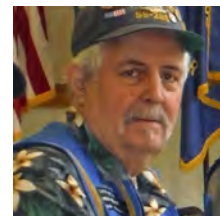


The Bowfin Base in Hawaii has produced these great Submarine shirts. You can order one direct at <http://bowfinbase.com> (click on Ship's



Store tab) or from me and save some of the shipping cost. I will have a sample at the next meeting. If you order direct pay attention to their caution on size and order one size larger than you normally take.

Tim Spoon Membership, Storekeeper.



Lost Boats

April

USS Pickerel (SS-177)

Lost on April 3, 1943 with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her 7th war patrol. She was lost off Honshu. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.



USS Grenadier (SS-210)

Lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, she planted a bomb causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 76 crew members taken prisoner, 72 survived the war.



USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

Was probably lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men SE of Iwo Jima, but may have been sunk on May 12, 1944 in another attack on an unidentified submarine and heard by several other submarines in the area. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely due to a combined air and surface antisubmarine attack. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack.



USS Snook (SS-279)

Lost on April 8, 1945 with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine.



USS Thresher (SSN-593)

Lost on April 10, 1963 with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" - then, silence. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.



April Birthdays

Charles Almgren

Ed Alves Richard Boyd

Ken Earls Harold Fisher

John Hintz Alvin Lehman

Gene Murphy Bill Vincent

Warren Wiederhoeft

John Leers



Gold Country Base Officers

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USSVI District 5 Commander

Pete Juhos (916) 208-0667

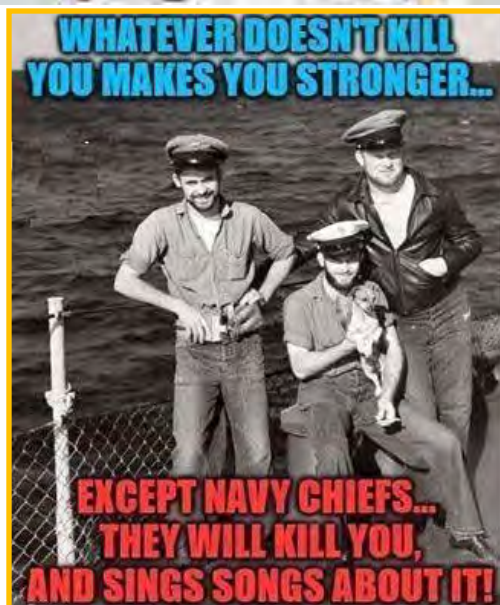
dsv3.ss1@gmail.com

USSVI Western Region Director

Robert J. Bissonnette (619) 644-8993

Rjbissonnette2011@gmail.com

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

Thank you

Charles Almgren* Ed Alves* John Armitage
 Harry Beach* Bill Bergstrom* Anita Bronner*
 Regy Bronner* Harvey Canter* Don Carman*
 Don Carter* Chad Clay Dennis Cline*
 Fred Dalbello* Mike Delleney* Winford Ellis*
 Frank Elliott* Gary English Harold Fisher*
 Janet Fisher* Ernie Frost* Howard Grover*
 Sudsey Hudson* Bill Hunt* Leslie Jamison*
 Pete Juhos* John Kitchens John Kuester*
 Richard Larson* Alvin Lehman* Steve Loomis*
 James Maclean* Jim Mahon* Chuck McKinley*
 Chuck Mitchell* Jerry Mitchell* George Miyao*
 Pat Noone* Paul Osborn* Roger Paul*
 Rick Reineman* Ron Rule* Evelyn Ritscher*
 Joe Ryan* Lon Schmidt* Howard Shaw*
 Tim Spoon* Fred Stiesberg* Warren Wiederhoeft*
 Roy Wilhite* Larry Williams* Ernie Woods*
 David Worth* Barry Wyatt* Frank Ziegeimann*

** Multi-year Donors*

VA Information

Mark the date: Monday, May 21, the DAV Mobile Service Office will be in Carmichael Park in the Veterans Memorial Bldg. at 5750 Grant Ave, Carmichael, CA 95608. Get your questions together and see your service officer for information on benefits and claims. If you have ques-



tions on VA correspondence, bring it with you. The National Service Officer staff from Oakland office will be there to help you with your questions. That day, the Sacramento National Service Office will be closed.

Many benefits and services available to you have been expanded and improved over the past decade. The California Veterans resource Book provides a comprehensive Guide for accessing your earned benefits. I encourage veterans and veteran families of every era to use this resource and take full advantage of the benefits and services you so richly deserve.



[www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Documents/Veteran %20Resource %20Book.pdf](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Documents/Veteran%20Resource%20Book.pdf)

Gold Country Base Meeting Minutes. March 24, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 1245 by a toll of the bell. Base Commander Barry Wyatt read the USSVI Creed and Purpose. Harold Fisher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave the Invocation.

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

MEMBER INTRODUCTION: There were 22 members and 1 guests in attendance.

HOLLAND CLUB INDUCTION: Warren Wiederhoeft inducted Gary Thomas

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER: Chad Clay introduced Ernie Shelton, Vice Mayor, City of Folsom

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Barry Wyatt reported the following:

Asked members to update their information on the National Website. Encouraged members to submit nominations for USSVI National awards. Announced the rescheduling of the June meeting to June 30. Expressed his gratitude for the membership support during his medical issue.

VICE COMMANDER: Reggie Bronner reported the following:

We are within the projected budget for the year.

Announced a date to make plaque presentation to the Nevada City VFW and ask for members to attend.

TREASURER: Base Treasurer 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.

MEMBERSHIP/STORES: Tim Spoon

Gold Country Base membership: 109 members in good standing, 7 associate members. Special order shirts now available.

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt reported the following:

Asked the membership for ideas on how we could make the newsletter better. Announced he had submitted it for the Newsletter of the Year Award.

HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR: Pat Noone was not in attendance.

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller had nothing to report.

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Chaplain Howard Grover had nothing to report.

NAVY JROTC LIASON: Max Schell reported JROTC Change of Command April 26th Luther Burbank High School.

KAP(SS)4KID(SS): Les Jamison reported on the successful Kaiser Hospital Roseville visit.

FOLSOM JVO REPERSENITIVE: Lee Kitchen reported June 2nd is the date set for the annual Land Sea Air Dinner.

DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER: Pete Juhos updated us on the progress on the National Wed Site and encouraged members to submit shipmates for National awards.

OLD BUSINESS:

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

GOOD OF THE ORDER/COMMUNICATIONS:

Announced that the Base would pay for 2 tables for the Land Sea Air dinner tickets for our members are \$40 each

We contributed \$500 to the Vet hall floor replacement fund.

First Call to Morning Chow: 0930 April 16 @ Denny's, Hwy 50 & Howe

Next Base Meeting: April 28, 2018

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: Base Chaplin gave a closing prayer. Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat @ 1355 hrs.

Submitted by Barry Wyatt, Acting Base Secretary

Western Region News

From Our District Commander

This morning's venture into email reading was saddened to learn the Supreme Commander had issued final sailing orders for Shipmate Lenny Stefanelli to join the thousands of other shipmates who've accepted their Eternal Patrol. Shipmate Stefanelli held primary membership with the Mare Island Base, and dual membership with four of the seven Bases in Western Region District 5.

Lenny was a steadfast and true submarine veteran of an earlier generation, exceptionally passionate and dedicated to his US Navy service and to the Brotherhood of the Pin. In San Francisco, and throughout the Bay Area, there are several physical monuments attributed to the deft skill, heroism, courage, patriotism, and supreme sacrifice made by Submarine Service volunteers which will stand the test of time.

Not to negate or marginalize other contributors, but each of these, large and small, serve as a testament to this man's time, effort, courage, battle of wills, jousting by memorandum, grit, and personal expense to promote the message of pride of service, commitment to these United States of America, and an everlasting love and pride in the U.S. Submarine Force. **Stand relieved and rest your oar, Sailor. We have the watch!**

Respectfully Yours,

Peter T. Juhos

MMCS(SS/SS1), USN (Ret).

Commander, Western Region District 5

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.



Leonard D. Stefanelli
May 6, 1934—April 6, 2018



Leonard Qualified in submarines on the USS Catfish (SS-339) in 1954 and was a QM3(SS) when he left the Navy. He also served on the USS Perch (SS-313) and the USS Queenfish (SS-393) he joined USSVI in 2000 and was an active member of the Mare Island Base.

LOCAL, BASE NEWS & EVENTS



Luther Burbank Titan Battalion Navy JROTC
Change of Command

Thursday April 26, 12:30—2:30

Luther Burbank High School (Football Field)
500 Florin Rd, Sacramento, CA 95823

ALL GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEMBERS

Is your information on the National Web Site Current? Go to www.ussvi.org (click on Member Login) it is a really easy process just follow the instructions. If you have a problem contact Tim Spoon (916) 966-3354 spoon3@aol.com



News From National

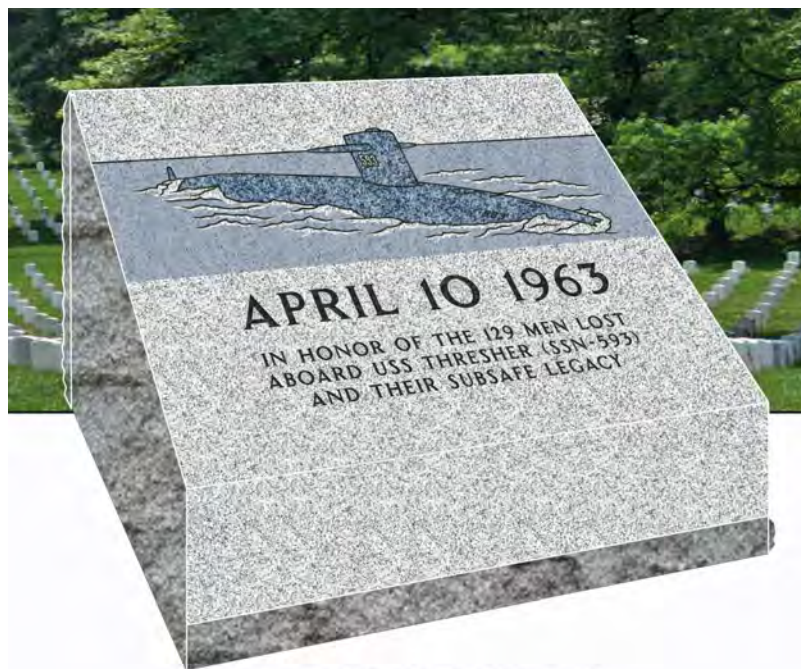
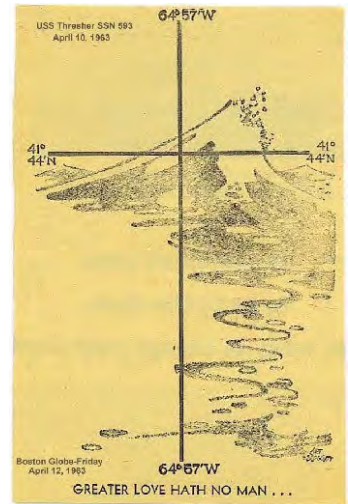
NEWS-01: USS THRESHER (SSN 593)

Submitted by: John E. Markiewicz, National Commander USSVI, on 4/10/2018

On this date in 1963, 55 years ago, the United States Navy had its first loss of a nuclear submarine, along with 129 crew members and shipyard civilian employees aboard in what has been termed the worst submarine disaster in U.S. Navy history. Its shattered hull resides at the bottom of 8,400 feet of water, approximately 220 miles east of Cape Cod.

After the disaster, the Navy accelerated safety improvements and a program called SUBSAFE, an extensive series of design modifications, training and other improvements, which has been largely responsible for making the operation of submarines much safer and has been credited with minimizing the loss of submarines since that date.

Sailors rest your oars. May we never forget them.



Proposed USS Thresher Memorial
Arlington National Cemetery

The **USS Thresher** Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Foundation needs our help to realize our mission of erecting a National USS Thresher Commemorative Monument on the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery to honor and perpetuate the memories, and SUBSAFE legacy, of the 129-men lost aboard USS Thresher on April 10, 1963.

A link to a more information about the project and a supporters template letter is available @ <http://threshermemorial.org/> please download the letter, fill it out and send to:

Ms. Karen Durham-Aguilera
Executive Director
Army National Military Cemeteries
Arlington National Cemeteries
Arlington, VA 22211-5003



USSVI 2018 Cruise Convention

The 2018 USSVI National Convention will be a Western Caribbean cruise, held aboard the MS NIEUW AMSTERDAM from Oct 21,2018 thru Oct 28,2018. <http://www.ussviconvention.org/2018/>

2018 brings a unique opportunity to combine the 55th annual USSVI National Convention with a fabulous Caribbean cruise! We'll sail on Holland America Line's beautiful *ms Nieuw Amsterdam*, round trip out of Fort Lauderdale, Florida!

Neglected Mare Island Naval Cemetery Declared “National Disgrace”

Shipmates, There is a movement underway to petition the federal government to revert ownership and restore and maintain the Mare Island Military Cemetery. This cemetery, which has over 1,000 veterans and three Medal of Honor recipients, has fallen into disrepair since the Navy pulled out 22 years ago as part of the base closures. There is a petition you can sign. All info is below. Please pass to every veteran and concerned citizen you know.

Mare Island was a Naval Base and a Navy shipyard for 150 years. It was closed during the BRAC program when many military bases in the US were also closed. The Mare Island physical land and facilities were deeded to the City of Vallejo in 1996 without the VA being involved. The ownership transfer included the on-base Cemetery which is the oldest Naval Military Cemetery in the Pacific. No funds were provided to perpetually maintain and care for the Cemetery. Shortly after the ownership transfer the City of Vallejo had to declare bankruptcy. While the City attempted to care for the cemetery, the lack of funds resulted in its deterioration of the over the last 22 years. The earth quake in Napa added to the damage at the cemetery by breaking and knocking over headstones.



Along with other Veterans, there are three Medal of Honor recipients interned at the facility. It is a shame that their interment does not enjoy the respect and recognition provided by a National Cemetery burial site. The facility should have the status of a shrine. First interment was in 1855 and the Cemetery was commissioned as a Naval Military Cemetery the following year. There are approximately 1000 persons buried there including the daughter of Francis Scot Key.

There is now an organized movement to have the U.S. Government resume the ownership of the Cemetery and begin restoration and continuous maintenance of the Facility. It will require the Federal Legislation to accomplish the reversal of the ownership. The City of Vallejo is agreeable and is formally requesting such a transfer, without compensation. A presentation was made to the City Council last week, they voted unanimously to request the ownership be transferred back to the Federal Government.

There already have been several meetings with Federal Legislative Representatives to encourage them to introduce the needed legislation. In order to get this accomplished, it will require a great deal of public and media attention and support, especially from Veterans, to influence the Legislators.

In order to document the opinions of California Veterans regarding this matter it is requested that as many Veterans, their family members and friends sign a petition, which has already been established on-line. Hopefully the petition will influence the media coverage, public opinion and political Leaders. Currently there are over 51,000 signatures recorded at the petition site.

Please sign the petition ASAP. Instructions on how to do so are below.

INSTRUCTIONS TO SIGN THE PETITION TO REQUIRE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO REVERT OWNERSHIP AND RESTORE AND CONTINUOUSLY MAINTAIN THE MARE ISLAND NAVAL MILITARY CEMETERY

(This should take about two minutes, the petition is to the right of the article)

Step #1: From your internet browser key in a search for <http://chn.ge/2BUHBjl>

Caution- the BUHB and the I (i) are capital letters, the “j” is not

Step #2: Type in your first Name in the first box

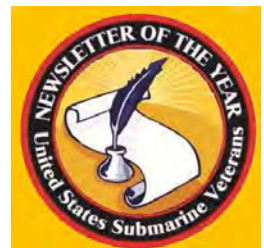
Type your Last Name in the second box

Type your e-mail address in the third box

Step #3: Click on “Sign this Petition



April 2018 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