



February 2019
VOL MMXIX Issue 2

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."



Attendance at First Call to Morning Chow continues to grow



Next Meeting—February 23, 2019

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

First Call to Morning Chow

Monday March 11@ 9:30 at Brookfield's HWY 50
at Sunrise - 11135 Folsom Blvd. Rancho Cordova,
CA

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The Gold Country Base Master Mariner Award is the highest award presented by our base

(Vice Commander Regy Bronner presents the Master Mariner Award to Warren)

The 2018 winner is Warren Wiederhoeft; his contributions to the Gold Country Base and his Shipmates go well beyond his presence and thoughtful discourse, he seemingly never stops making things better that benefit us all. He is a founding member of our base who has always been of service to our members. He maintains our base history and continues to update the officers list from our inception to now. On his own he has printed and distributed business cards to base members for many years, never asking for compensation for his out of pocket printing expense. Whether it is creating cloth bags to store our flags and banners or designing a mechanism to serve as a flag holder for our parade float, he always takes the initiative and gets it done. On top of everything else Warren shows up and participates at almost every public event and attends our monthly eBoard and meetings regularly. He truly exemplifies the meaning and spirit of the word "Shipmate."



Now Hear This!

Monday February 18 9am-2pm Mount Vernon Memorial Park—17th Annual American Heritage Day 8201 Greenback Lane Fair Oaks, CA

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates, I apologize for not publishing a Newsletter last month. The process of selling our home, finding a new one and then moving was daunting to say the least. The good news is it is done and we are settling in to our new home. I have also made the transition from working full time to part time consultant. Congratulations to Warren Wiederhoeft on his award as Master Mariner 2018. This award was beyond well deserved. Warren was nominated and elected by his shipmates and, as those who came



before him, his name will be inscribed on the Master Mariner perpetual plaque which is displayed at our meeting hall. I am hoping to get the "Lost Boats Memorial" we will build on the West Sacramento River walk back on track soon. I have sent an email to the West Sacramento Parks Director to keep him updated and he is looking forward to us moving forward. Bravo Zulu to our Guest Speaker Coordinator Chad Clay, last month's speaker gave us a lot of great information on how to protect us from fraud. Thanks to our Secretary, Mark Elftmann's great note taking I have posted excerpts from his talk on page 8. This Monday we will display our Submarine Float at

the Mount Vernon Memorial Park 17th Annual American Heritage Day; the address and time information is listed on page 8. Our Membership Chair, Nick Sadowy, is working with our Web master, Rick Reineman, to up date our website; I am looking forward to seeing the progress to that and will let you all know when the new site is live. Tim tells me that attendance at First Call continues to grow; if you have not checked it out please join us in March.

Barry Wyatt, Base Commander

FROM
OUR
CHAPLAIN



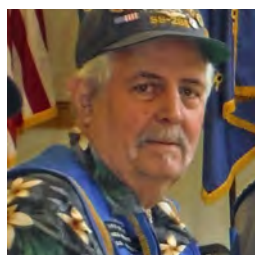
The time was 44 AD and Herod Agrippa I was King of the Israel region. When he hears people calling him "not a man but god". He does not deny he is God. Read what happens in Acts 12:19-21.

¹⁹ ... Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there. ²⁰ He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. After securing the support

of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king's country for their food supply.

²¹ On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. ²² They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man." ²³ Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

Blessings, **Howard Grover, Chaplain**



Shipmates, I still have a few of the new 2019 USSVI Calendars and the price is going down. The theme this year is "Submarine Squadrons of the Atlantic Fleet. Stop by the Stores Table and pick up your copy before they run out.

Tim Spoon Membership, Storekeeper



Lost Boats

February

USS Barbel (SS-316)

Lost on Feb 4, 1945 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 4th war patrol. Based on Japanese records, she was bombed near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage. The day before, she reported she survived 3 depth charge attacks.



USS Shark I (SS-174)

Lost on Feb 11, 1942 with the loss of 59 officers and men on her 1st war patrol. Shark was the 1st US submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific. She was most likely sunk by depth charges.



USS Amberjack (SS-219)

Lost on Feb 16, 1943 with the loss of 72 officers and men on her 3rd war patrol. Off Rabaul, she was attacked by a Japanese patrol plane, attacked by a torpedo boat and then depth charged by a subchaser.



USS Grayback (SS-208)

Lost on Feb 26, 1944 with the loss of 80 officers and men on her 10th war patrol. She appears to have been caught on the surface in the East China Sea by a Japanese carrier plane whose bombs made a direct hit. During this patrol she sank 4 ships totaling 21,594 tons and was tied for 11th in the number of ships sunk.



USS Trout (SS-202)

Lost on Feb 29, 1944 with the loss of 81 officers & men on her 11th war patrol. She was sunk by escorts in the middle of the Philippines Basin after sinking a passenger-cargoman & damaging another in a convoy. She carried out several notable special missions, including carrying over two tons of gold bullion out of Corregidor in February 1942.



February Birthdays

Don Carman Dennis Cline

Grant Riddle

Randall Woolley

Jim Mahon

William Johnson

Jeffrey Saenz



On The Lighter Side



Submarine Sailor's Prayer

WHETHER I WAKE UP IN THAILAND,
OR NORFOLK OR GUAM
OR WAKE UP IN SUBIC WITH HALF MY STUFF GONE,
WAKE UP IN A HOT TUB, BUTT-NAKED AND DRUNK,
LORD, LET ME FIND MY WAY BACK TO MY BUNK...

Gold Country Base Officers

Base Commander

Barry Wyatt (916) 600-1425
SacSubVet@barrywyatt.com

Vice Commander, Awards Chairman

Regy Bronner (916) 543-7370
regybear9@gmail.com

Secretary

Mark Elftmann
mark_elf@me.com

Treasurer

Les Jamison 407-509-7814
ljamison3049@gmail.com

Membership

Nick Sadowy (916) 601-8910
nick@sadowy.com

Storekeeper & POC

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

Chaplain

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

Chief of the Boat (COB)

Harry Beach (530) 677-9667
Hbeachcp@aol.com

Historian

Warren Wiederhoeft (916) 224-7168
Warrenw599@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor & PAO

J. Barry Wyatt (916) 600-1425

Web-Master

Rick Reineman
rick@reineman.com

Holland Club Commander

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

Eagle Scout Coordinator

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

Base Photographer

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

Navy JROTC Liaison

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

Kaps4Kids Coordinator

Les Jamison

Events Coordinator

John Mannix (707) 486-3305
jmannix57@yahoo.com

Guest Speakers Coordinator

Chad Clay 916-502-1623
chdclay@gmail.com

Folsom JVO Representative

Lee Kitchens (916) 500-9771
usscatfish@gmail.com

USSVI District 5 Commander

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

USSVI Western Region Director

James R. Denzien Sr (623) 547-7945
jdenzien@cox.net



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

Ed Alves* John Armitage* Bill Barron
 Harry Beach* Anita Bronner* Regy Bronner*
 Harvey Canter* Don Carman* Don Carter*
 Dennis Cline* Fred Dalbello* Mike Delleney*
 Ken Earls Winford Ellis* Frank Elliott*
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VA Information

eBenefits

Access Your VA
& DoD Benefits
24/7

www.ebenefits.va.gov

On Tuesday **January 22, 2019** the doors to the new Sacramento VA Satellite Office and our new DAV office will open. Our contact information is as follows:

Address: 3046 Prospect Park Drive, RM 116

Rancho Cordova, Ca 95670

Phone: 916-364-6797

Fax: 916-364-1530 (please call or e-mail before faxing since the fax is not operational yet—we expect it to be working any day)

E-mail:

VSODAVSAC.VBAOAK@VA.GOV

Sacramento VA Medical Center (Mather) - VBA Claims

10535 Hospital Way

Rancho Cordova, CA 95655

Sacramento, CA 95827

Public contact office

is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES 26 January 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 13:00 Base Commander Barry Wyatt read the USSVI Creed and Purpose, Jerry Wetland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave the Invocation.

TOLLING THE BELL: The Lost Boats for the month of January were read by the Vice Commander, Reggie Bronner, and COB Harry Beach tolled the bell for each Lost Boat; one additional toll in memory of those shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

MEMBER INTRODUCTION: There were 27 members and 5 guests in attendance including 2 new prospective members.

Guest Speaker Coordinator Chad Clay introduction of guest speaker: Mark Tucker—Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) (*see complete talk on page*)

FORMAL REPORTS:

(BC) FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Barry Wyatt

- Tim Spoon no longer has Membership Coordinator duties. He will continue his duties in the Storekeeper area. He is also the Point of Contact with National Base.
- Nick Sadowy has taken over the Membership Coordinator duties
- Harry Beach will replace Tom Rumsey as Chief of the Boat (COB)
- There was a motion to change the order of the meeting for this meeting. The motion was put forward by Regy Bonner and seconded by Howard Beach. The reason for the motion was to award the 2018 Master Mariner award to Warren Wiederhoeft.
- There is a plan that is moving forward for a possible new Veterans Hall at Mather Field
- Heritage Day is scheduled for Monday, February 18 at the Mount Vernon Memorial Park and Mortuary. There is no "heavy liftin" for volunteers who would be meeting the public. This would be good exposure for the Gold Country Base and submariners.
- The Western Region Roundup is scheduled in March in Laughlin, NV
- The National Convention will be held in August in Austin, TX

The Lost Boat Memorial in West Sacramento is moving forward. Barry will get in touch with the contractor working on the site.

VICE COMMANDER: Reggie Bronner –

The 2019 budget is essentially the same as the 2018 budget.

CHIEF OF THE BOAT (COB) Harry Beach – No Report

TREASURER Base Treasurer Les Jamison

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: Nick Sadowy

Total membership is 112 persons.

A couple of members have not paid 2019 membership dues. Letters will be sent to the members who have not paid dues for a unknown reason. It may be that some of these members will be dropped from the base member list

Last year 9 members passed away

8 new members joined the base

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STROEKEEPER: Tim Spoon

2019 Calenderers still available price is going down.

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt

No newsletter was published in January, but one will be published in February

HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR: Pat Noone

Five people will be eligible in 2019. Induction will occur in March.

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller – No report



MEETING MINUTES (continued)

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover –

Don Carmen has had double lung transplant problems; a Get-Well Card has been sent to him.

BASE PHOTOGRAPHER Roger Paul - No Report

NAVY JROTC LIAISON Max Schell

Not sure of the status of Max Schell with his moving to Monterey

The base donated \$500 to Max's Junior ROTC Color Guard for transportation to Sacramento for the Pearl Harbor Day event

We will "pass the hat" to raise funds to help other local youth military organizations such as Air Force, Marine, or Army Junior ROTC programs.

HISTORIAN Warren Wiederhoeft - No Report

WEB-MASTER Rick Reineman

Current website needs up dating and Nick Sadowy will put develop a new website

KAPS4KIDS COORDINATOR Les Jamison

- An article written by Les is in the Fourth Quarter American Submariner magazine.

The next visit will most likely be in April 2019

EVENTS COORDINATOR John Mannis

- Heritage Day is February 18, 2019

Barry and John will sit down to discuss the events for the base. Last year the base may have over scheduled events during April, May, and June

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR Chad Clay

Possible future guest speakers include:

A person from NASA

Retired Sacramento County Sherriff's Deputy who spoke in September 2018

US Navy Reserve Honor Guard and Funeral team

FOLSOM JVO REPRESENTATIVE Lee Kitchens

There was no meeting in January so there is nothing to report

WELLNESS CHECK Less Jamison

There are many dues paying members base members who do not attend base functions

We have a initial goal of checking on these members at least once per month

There will be a meeting at 11:30 before the February base meeting to discuss options for Wellness Check options

DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER Pete Juhos – No report

Old Business: Meeting minutes for the month of November. Moved and Seconded to accept and approved as written.

New Business: No new business

Good of the Order / Communications:

Folsom Veteran's Day Parade ribbons were available to participants

There would be a Crab Feed at the Vallejo Veteran's Hall. This Crab Feed is very good and cost is \$40

The base Bar-B-Que will be at the June meeting which is the fourth Saturday, June 22, 2019

First Call to Morning Chow: Date & Time 9:30 AM February 11, 2019 @ Denny's Roseville near the intersection of Sunrise Boulevard and Do Boulevard.

Next Base Meeting: Next meeting will be February 23, 2019

50/50 Won By: William Goble won 65

Meeting adjournment: Base Chaplin gave a closing prayer. Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat @ 2:21 PM

Submitted by Mark Elftmann, Base Secretary

BASE NEWS & EVENTS



Mount Vernon Memorial Park 17th Annual American Heritage Day

Mount Vernon Memorial Park
8201 Greenback Lane Fair Oaks, CA

Date: Monday February 18, 2019

Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM PST

Highlights of Guest Speaker Mark Tucker's Remarks:

TIGTA has oversight of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and audits its function and processes. It provides a report to the Congress. TIGTA investigates: Waste, Abuse, Fraud involving the IRS both internally and externally, Bribery of IRS employees, Situations that would prevent the IRS from doing its job, Fraud schemes against taxpayers and ID theft done to taxpayers Terrorism, Threats and liens against the IRS employees, either by telephone, in writing, and in person, that stops them from doing their jobs Even joking about these issues is against the law & results in an investigation and arrest/prosecution if necessary

Examples of cases TIGTA has investigated include white powder on tax returns which could have been toxic, hacking into IRS computers, misuse of the IRS/ Treasury department symbol. **The largest is a telephone scam** where people impersonate IRS personnel to instill fear in taxpayers to pay the scammers instead of the IRS. This is the biggest scam in five years at the IRS and originated at call centers in India.

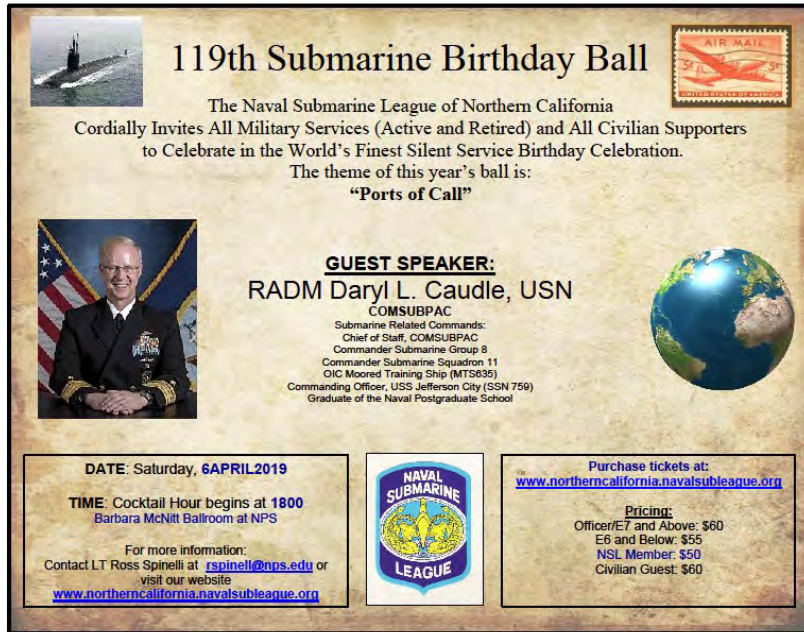
Clues that the phone call is a scam are: Calls with robo dialer leaving messages trying to get in touch with people Callers having a heavy Middle Eastern accent using a common US name such as Frank or Thomas Fake IRS badge numbers, case numbers, and arrest numbers. These callers may know the last four numbers of a Social Security Number but not the entire number. These numbers can be obtained off the web. Caller use spoofing telephone numbers with local area codes and prefixes claiming to work with the FBI or local authorities. There may be a demand for immediate payment and the caller tells the taxpayer to go to a local store such as 7-11 or Target to buy prepaid credit cards. The caller requires the taxpayer to remain on the phone during the trip to the store and purchase of the cards. The cards could include iTunes cards or gift cards.

TIGTA has received about 2.75 million dollars from victims. At least 15,000 victims have paid and been reported to TIGTA. There have been victim losses of about \$74 million so far. There have been arrest of about 61 people in Houston recently. People are usually not able to get the money back. There have been Public Service Announcements and YouTube videos but people still get stung. April as tax season winds down, then September/October as the extended time to file ends, and Christmas are peak period for these calls. Although the IRS may call taxpayers, they will send letters as a first contact. IRS Revenue Officers may call or even visit homes or businesses. They will show badges and give ID numbers. People are not required to let these people in. They can tell these IRS people they will call them back.

It is important to not give any information to these scammers or call the numbers back. The IRS requests taxpayers to visit the IRS website at irs.gov to report callers numbers. This will help to get the scammers shutdown.



REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS



119th Submarine Birthday Ball

The Naval Submarine League of Northern California
Cordially Invites All Military Services (Active and Retired) and All Civilian Supporters
to Celebrate in the World's Finest Silent Service Birthday Celebration.
The theme of this year's ball is:
"Ports of Call"

GUEST SPEAKER:
RADM Daryl L. Caudle, USN
COMSUBPAC
Submarine Related Commands:
Chief of Staff, COMSUBPAC
Commander Submarine Group 8
Commander Submarine Squadron 11
OIC Moored Training Ship (MTS835)
Commanding Officer, USS Jefferson City (SSN 759)
Graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School

DATE: Saturday, 6APRIL2019
TIME: Cocktail Hour begins at 1800
Barbara McNitt Ballroom at NPS

For more information:
Contact LT Ross Spinelli at rspinelli@nps.edu or
visit our website
www.northerncalifornia.navalsubleague.org

Purchase tickets at:
www.northerncalifornia.navalsubleague.org

Pricing:
Officer/E7 and Above: \$60
E6 and Below: \$55
NSL Member: \$50
Civilian Guest: \$60

It's that time again for the Annual Submarine Birthday Ball, hosted by the Navy Submarine League (Northern California Chapter) at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA on Saturday, April 6, 2019. This year's guest speaker is RADM Daryl Caudle who currently serves as COMSUBPAC. This year's theme is 'Ports of Call' which I'm sure has changed a-plenty since you last departed your last sea going command!

There is, of course, a golf tournament preceding the event on Friday, April 5th.

<http://northerncalifornia.navalsubleague.org/?event=naval-submarine-birthday-ball>

I spoke with the Gateway Inn this evening.

As you may recall from previous attendances, the Inn has been going through some updates / upgrades in facilities and accommodation and guests will be paying slightly more than what they've experienced. The new rates run between \$124 for their regular and Standard Queen Deluxe, \$134 for the Deluxe Queen Suite, and \$140 for an Executive Suite [no limitations as to rank/ rate for these rooms] The Executive gets a King bed; the Deluxe Queen Suite is two rooms; all have various degree of kitchenette w/microwave & coffee pot / refrigerator. And, to sweeten the deal, a continental breakfast is being served in the El Prado dining room (same level at the Trident Room).

Need more information let me know. Pete Juhos (916) 208-0667 dsv3.ss1@gmail.com



WESTERN REGION ROUNDUP

**Don Laughlin's Resort & Casino
March 25 –29,2019.**

www.wrroundup.com for a listing of things to do and shows while we are there.

FUN NIGHT Tuesday night is Fun Night. We will have the Traditional

Auction, so bring your excess memorabilia to donate. After the auction we are trying to arrange Karaoke.

SPEAKERS

FRANK HOOD author of "Poopy Suits and Cowboy Boots". A book about submarine life and operation aboard a Sturgeon-class submarine during the height of the Cold War. He will be available for book signing on Wednesday, March 27.

DICK NOREIKA, Capt. USN (Ret) CO of 2 submarines, CO of Trident Refit Facility, Bangor, WA, 22 years on consecutive Sea Duty after graduation from USNA in 1959. Over 7 years submerged in submarines., and more importantly Engineer on USS Tinosa SSN 606.

SHOW AT DON LAUGHLIN'S RESORT - The Lettermen: March 27- 31

Register today: www.wrroundup.com

National USSVI News

It is renewal time for the Boat Sponsorship Program (BSP)

The AMERICAN SUBMARINER is the quarterly magazine published by the US Submarine Veterans, Inc. and is a major benefit that all USSVI members receive.

Your contribution to BSP pays to send three copies of each issue of *American Submariner* magazine for the subscription year to the command, boat or other place where news of the Silent Service is welcomed.

The cost is \$30 per year or a total of 12 magazines (three each of the four annual volumes).

The subscriptions may be made in the name of a Base or an individual.

The Program Manager is Victor Van Horn (708) 609-9840 Questions on the program may be addressed to him.

Each sponsor will receive the special BSP patch the first time they sponsor. In addition, all sponsors will be



Boat Sponsorship Program

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Complete the form above and mail with payment of \$30 per donation to:

Make Checks payable to: USSVI Put BSP on the memo line.

Boat Sponsorship Program

c/o USSVI

P O Box 3870

Silverdale, WA 98383-3870



Clip & Mail

The Pentagon



- 1. Why is the Pentagon, you know, a pentagon?** The land the Pentagon was first planned to go on was bordered on five sides by roads, so the architects designed a five-sided building. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was worried putting the building at that location would interfere with the view of Washington from Arlington Cemetery, so he chose to move it to its present location, but he kept the five-sided design
- 2. Sept. 11 has a double significance for the Pentagon.** Builders broke ground for the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 1941, exactly 60 years before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.
- 3. The Pentagon is big. Reallllly big.** It's the world's largest low-rise office building. The entire U.S. Capitol building could fit inside any of the building's five wedges. It has 6,500,000 square feet of office space (three times the floor space in the Empire State Building !), 7,754 windows and 17 1/2 miles of corridors. Yet, its spoke-and-ring design means it takes only about 7 minutes to walk between the furthest two points in the building.
- 4. The builders were frugal with their materials.** During construction, the builders were able to conserve enough steel to build a battleship. And the 689,000 tons of sand and gravel used to make the building's reinforced concrete—including 41,000 concrete pilings—came from the nearby Potomac River.
- 5. Until 2011, there was only one passenger elevator in the Pentagon. And it was reserved for the defense secretary.** A 17-year-long renovation project that finished in 2011 saw 70 passenger elevators installed in the building. Until then, people who couldn't use stairs used long ramps to move between floors. The ramps are still there, but the rumors of office chair races are greatly exaggerated.
- 6. That renovation project? It probably saved thousands of lives.** The Pentagon is divided into five wedges, and the renovation project was going wedge by wedge when terrorists flew American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon, Sept. 11, 2001, killing 189 people. The plane hit in Wedge 3, where renovations had just completed, but only about 800 out of the 4,500 people who normally would have been working there had moved back into their offices. And the new sprinkler system, extra structural support and blast-resistant windows helped to keep the building damage to a minimum, likely saving additional lives.
- 7. The Pentagon was the first desegregated building in Virginia.** The Pentagon was designed when segregation was the law in Virginia. But Roosevelt had signed an executive order the previous year, which forbade discrimination against government workers on the basis of race, creed, color or national origin. So the Pentagon became the only building in Virginia where segregation was not enforced. Because segregation was state law, the Pentagon was built with twice as many bathrooms as needed for a desegregated building of its size.
- 8. It was constructed in record time.** More than 15,000 workers were on site around the clock, and wartime office space shortages meant that workers moved in before the Pentagon was fully finished. Construction finished on Jan. 15, 1943, just 16 months after it started. Speed costs money, though: Initially budgeted at \$35 million, the final cost was \$63 million, more than \$900 million in today's money.
- 9. The same guy oversaw construction of the Pentagon and the atomic bomb.** Col. Leslie Groves, an Army Corps of Engineer officer, took charge of the Pentagon's construction in August 1941. He worked six days a week in his office in Washington. Then on Sundays, he would visit the project he felt most needed his personal attention. Groves later said of his time at the Pentagon that he was "hoping to get to a war theater so I could find a little peace." Instead, he was assigned to direct the Manhattan Project—America's effort to build an atomic bomb.
- 10. For a while, there was a secret crash pad in the Pentagon.** Groves was widely known as a tough boss. One of his deputies, Army Maj. Robert Furman, had to be at the Pentagon at all hours of the day and night. Sometimes he'd go days without going home at all. In order to get some sleep, Furman had the Pentagon contractors build a secret apartment between the walls of what would become the Army's Ordnance Division. He and some of Groves's other deputies would use the apartment to grab a few z's, shower and get back to work. Furman continued to use the apartment on official trips back to Washington while he served as an intelligence officer on the Manhattan Project but was forced to hand over the keys in 1943 when he was discovered by ordnance officers while leaving the apartment. *Article submitted by Howard Grover.*



"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) 600-1425

February 2019 Newsletter