



January/February 2025
VOL MMXXV Issue 01

Clear The Baffles

GOLD COUNTRY BASE



Class 1 2024
First Place

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 may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."



**Base Commander Les Jamison
presents the 2024 Tim Spoon
Achievement Award to Diane Clay
for both her and Chad.**

**Michael Goble receives the
Base Commander Commendation**



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Now Hear This!

Next Meeting—February 22, 2025 Potluck @ 12 noon Meeting Starts 1pm Folsom Veterans Hall -1300 Forrest St., Folsom

First Call to Morning Chow Tuesday March 11, 2025 0930 @ Denny's Restaurant, 100 North Sunrise, Roseville

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Shipmates, Wow what a way to finish the year and kick off the new year. We tried something new this year for our Xmas holiday party. We held our Xmas holiday party at the McClellan's Officer's Club. It was great and all really enjoyed it. It was great food, and the set-up and tear down was included. (Which we all enjoyed as we could relax and really enjoy it!). Looks like this is a keeper!!

The December 7th event went well and was well supported by the Yolo County sheriff marine team, the VFW Folsom Marine Honor Guard Rifle unit, the Sea Cadets, our favorite bugler, and bagpiper. The weather cooperated as our heavenly team of Tim, Warren, and Harry watched over us again this year as they always do!

The year is shaping to be a busy one as we start with the Air Show – March 22 & 23.

We are also planning a luncheon with active submarine members of the USS California on Tuesday March 18 at the Spaghetti Factory on Watt Ave – Cost per base member is \$35 and get your payment on the website as soon as possible so we have a good count.

Many other events are in the works and will be discussed in further detail at the base meeting this month:

April 26 – Saturday – Annual Picnic

May 24 – Bass Pro Day

4th of July Parade in Lincoln

Lost Boats Memorial Celebration – To Be Determined

Other upcoming calendar events in the works.

So please attend this month's meeting and help with the event planning.

Les Jamison, Base Commander

VICE-COMMANDER

Hello Shipmates,

Here are some of our shipmates we haven't seen at our activities

These are people we should be in contact with to see how they are doing, let them know what we are up to

If we could contact these members and see how they are doing, we could provide support and camaraderie.

Both the person receiving the call and those making the call can benefit just by talking with each other. Everyone has a sea story to tell. I like to hear sea stories and the calls usually make me feel good too.

I encourage everyone to make a call of two per week

I know there are some telephone numbers missing but hopefully someone may know the person and will be able to provide contact information.

Also, I don't know many of the people on our member list; I included mostly people I am familiar with. if there is a member you might think we should add, please let me know. I see names but I don't many of these members. Anything we can do to keep in contact with our shipmates is welcome. If anyone on the list is not available we can remove names to clean up the list.



Ronald	Eggert	916-685-9799	George	Miyao	916-427-8512
Frank E.	Elliott	530-391-1583	Thomas E.	Moniz	916-682-9306
Kevin T	Fillhouer	916-545-5193	Harry	Pagett	916-410-7537
Janet	Fisher	916-782-5748	Rick	Reineman	209-952-1481
Dennis E.	Henderson	209-772-9052	Grant C.	Riddle	530-432-2037
William F.	Hunt	707-460-1056	Ron	Rule	916-761-0875
Tony	Jacob	209-476-9008	Jerry	Sidebottom	916-475-4258
Alvin A.	Lehman	916-983-2147	Louie J.	Slayton	916-835-2993
Matt	Lettau	916-952-3687	Larry A.	Williams	530-344-8075

Mark Elftmann , Vice Commander

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Accountability

The title can be very uncomfortable because it requires us to be honest, and moral. It urges us to be on the right path and willing to do what we prefer not to do. It is really doing things, in our every day life, the way God desires us to perform. Being accountable yourself, family, bosses and friends good and bad.



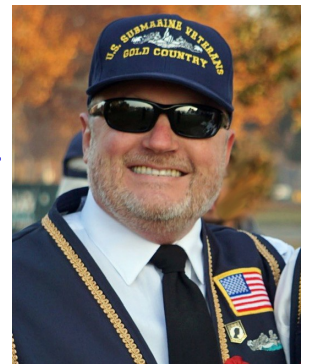
Just a few examples are Noah, of the flood fame. David who was accountable most of the time. Daniel was accountable to the point even the lions wouldn't eat him because he was accountable.

But God will forgive us if we do fail but repent our bad actions.

Howard Grover, Base Chaplain



Shipmates, I am working with Nick to transition the Treasurer and Membership roles and am thinking about some potential interaction with the GCB website and for membership invoices in the coming year. I have a few questions and suggestions that might help us to streamline operations.



- I'd like to understand how I can access treasurer and membership email accounts? Can you help get me set up?

- Is it possible to create a landing page on our site for links in the invoices where payment options could be available?

- I might also like to add some "donation" functionality to the site that would allow us to earmark one-time or recurring donations to specific charitable funds or to the base itself. It seems our site is built on WordPress so I was wondering if it is possible to add paypal shopping cart functionality to our site to enable this?

Presently our accounting and records are kept in Nick's personal google account. When we make the final transition, they will be hosted in mine. Going forward, could we host a Google workspace for GCB (I think it's free for nonprofits) and put all our email addresses and files there also? We could even Google Meet for free instead of paying for Zoom. This would also enable better sharing/access to our records for audit purposes and create an opportunity for some better separation of duties and controls.

I am grateful for any information or assistance you can provide.

Bill Sugnet, Base Treasurer/Membership Chair

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Shipmates, The New Year has begun with some new decisions for Kathy and me. We were able to tour an exceptional retirement community called Covenant Living at Samarkand which is in Santa Barbara (<https://www.CovLivingSamarkand.org>). What was so remarkable for us was that we have been trying to plan a move to Santa Barbara for many years now. Kathy and I were married in Santa Barbara in 1981 after I graduated from Brooks Institute of Photography and most of her family and even some



of mine still live there. But it was just too expensive to buy anything there until we discovered Samarkand. Kathy has had to be separated from most of her family for too long and traveling 400 miles south to Santa Barbara is not getting any easier the older we get. Samarkand will not cost us any more than we are currently paying for our mortgage, all utilities, insurance and meals. Our residency application has been accepted, and we are on a waiting list for the apartment we are interested in. So, it is now time to downsize, finish some house and yard improvements, and be ready to sell our house and move possibly by next year. That process has already begun.



As the Base Historian, I'm finishing the article that I'm writing about the history behind how the "USS Gold Country Base" submarine float came into being. That effort has to be one of our Gold Country Base most amazing accomplishments because there is nothing else that has been built out of steel to the exact scale of a Sturgeon class fast attack submarine. And it has brought us many new submarine members into our crew, as well as a quality place for some of our members to sit and ride during parade excursions. We are lucky to have it and very fortunate to

have the members who contributed to its building and upkeep. It is a symbol of our pride in being submariners.

As the Gold Country Base Photographer, I continue to attend as many Gold Country Base events as I am able to. I was able to attend some of our base events in December and January to take photographs. I am also very thankful to Bill Barron for covering the photography at the Pearl Harbor Attack Remembrance event on December 7th, and for Naomi Wentland for covering the Bass Pro Veterans Day event photography and the Holiday Morning Chow Gift Exchange event photography. I attended the January First Call to Morning Chow at Denny's restaurant and had the Denny's waitress take photos with my camera so I could actually be in one for a change. She's getting very good at it. I will continue to attend the Gold Country Base events that I can over this next year, but I would greatly appreciate it if any of our members or associate members would be interested in training with me to take over as photographer when the time comes.

My wife Kathy and I have needed to travel frequently to Santa Barbara to help family with health and other transitional issues. We are scheduled to be there again in late February to assist them. I'm very thankful to be available for most of our Gold Country Base events and I appreciate those who can fill in for me in my absence.

Roger Paul, Historian / Photographer

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Hello Ladies, Hey Ya'll,



There is nothing happening for us right now. Our next event is our annual picnic. The base will provide hot dogs and burgers along with water and juice boxes. I have suggestions on other food items and will forward the suggested list to Chad to pass on to Sea Cadets families. If your last name begins with A

through L – Salads or Vegetables – Potato Salad, Baked Beans, mixed green salads. M through Z – Chips or Desserts. The date is Saturday April 26, and we will start setting up at 9:00am.

You can also e-mail me at pjamison1050@gmail.com or call me at 352-598-9611.

Be Safe, **SubVet Support Group Commander, Penny Jamison**



Shipmates, Greetings from the depths of the Dry Dock. This is my first opportunity to update everyone for the new year.



We have been talking about extra storage lockers for the trailer. Dry dock appropriations have been approved \$500.00 to add PVC tubes below the trailer to carry our flags, poles and banners and whatever else we can fit/stuff into them. This should make the float 98.3% ready for any event other than 7 December. This will make it easy for anyone that takes the float out without having to add much if anything for events. Not to mention a lot simpler for the Dry Dock crew, as we have had layoffs and down to 1 employee and he is lazy!

Jerry our welder is seeing if we can get the PVC pipe storage at a discount to save some money for the treasury.

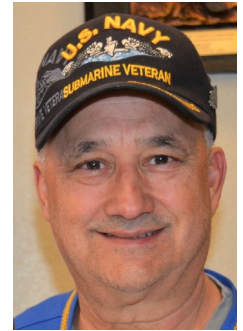
Our next outing for the float is at the Sacramento Air show at Mather in March. I will be delivering the float on Friday and returning it on Monday. It should be a great outing as we are right next to the Navy Recruiters, so if you feel like going back into the Navy, the air show is your opportunity! I hope to see everyone at the airshow.

John Kelly, Dry Dock Manager

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Greeting Shipmates, Well, I think we can take the shed leaking off the table now since we've been having not just days and days of rain but just a few days here and there of torrential down pours that have tested our sheds integrity. Jerry and I have a few things left to do and we will get to them as soon as we can. Looking forward to going to the Mather Air show next month, just love watching the military airplanes perform and watching the best pilots in the



world (Go Navy) do their thing! It's so fun to have our submarine at the many events that we participate in and talk about what we all have done in our past careers of being Navy submariners. I hope everyone can make it to our April spring picnic and look forward to seeing everyone. Everyone take care and be safe and I'll see you soon.

Gene Ratto, (COB) Chief of the Boat



Shipmates, So far this year, the USSVI and Gold Country Base scouting program has had no requests for awards. In that the title/name "Boy Scouts of America," a 100+ year old organization, has recently been changed to "Scouting in America," the status of awards may be under review. Since Girl Scout Cookies are due out this week, I suspect



"inclusiveness" has not affected that organization. At such time as additional information regarding USSVI Scouting Awards becomes available, I will make a report of same. As to the Sea Cadet program, the base expects CPO Award activity later this year.

Gil Miller, Eagle Scout Coordinator



Welcome Base Members. Keep an eye on the website and Facebook page as the weather starts to change base sponsored activities will start up too. In March and April we will host a group of sailors from the USS California SSN-781 for a luncheon on March 18th at the Watt Ave Old Spaghetti Factory. Also during this year's 2025 celebration of Navy Week we'll be bringing our float to the Capital Airshow at Mather Air Field March 22 & March 23. In April we will hold our Annual Base Picnic on Saturday April 26th.



Ed McCarthy, Web Master/Events Coordinator

Gold Country Base Officers



Base Commander
Kaps4Kids Coordinator
Les Jamison

Qualified 1969
USS Greenfish SS 351
Holland Club

(407) 509-7814

basecommander@goldcountrybase.com



Vice Commander
Awards Chairman
Folsom JVO Rep.

Mark Eftmann

Qualified 1975

USS William H Bates SSN 680

(916) 243-9265



Base Secretary

Diana Clay

Associate Member

(916) 832-0936

dianac5353@gmail.com



Base Treasurer
Membership Chair

Bill Sugnet

Qualified 1989

USS Augusta SSN 710

(916) 934-9277

me@billsugnet.com



Chief of the Boat (COB)

Gene Ratto

Qualified 1978

USS Abraham Lincoln

SSBN 602

(279) 600-9400

gene_ratto1@comcast.net



Base Chaplain

Howard Grover

Qualified 1963

USS Spikefish SS 404

Life Member

Holland Club

(209) 245-4067 hgrover@jps.net



Base Photographer

Base Historian

Roger Paul

Qualified 1972

USS Haddock SSN 621

(916) 390-3569 rapaulplus@msn.com



Newsletter Editor/PAO

J. Barry Wyatt

Qualified 1965

USS Henry Clay SSBN 625

Life Member Holland Club

(916) 600-1425

SacSubVet@barrywyatt.com



Holland Club

Commander

Lenard Lee

Qualified 1961

USS Salmon SS-573

Life Member Holland Club

(510) 928-8500 Len@trawlers.com



Eagle Scout
Coordinator

Gil Miller

Qualified 1963

USS Becuna SS 319

Life Member Holland Club

(916) 365-6721

beowaweman319@gmail.com



Guest Speakers
Coordinator
Naval Youth Liaison
Chad Clay

Qualified 1965

USS Daniel Boone SSBN 629

Life Member Holland Club

(916) 502-1623 chdclay@gmail.com



Dry Dock Manager

John Kelly

Qualified 1976

USS Pogy (SSN-647)

Life Member

(916) 989-8500

thejbark@gmail.com



Storekeeper

Jerry Wentland

U.S. Army

Associate Member

(530) 613-6729

wentlandn2014@gmail.com



First Call to Morning
Chow Coordinator

Harold Fisher

Qualified 1965

USS Medregal AGSS 480

Life Member Holland Club

(916) 782-5748 navigator@surewest.net



SubVet Support

Group Commander

Penny Jamison

Associate Member

(352) 598-9611

pjamison1050@gmail.com



Web Master
Events Coordinator
Ed McCarthy

Qualified 1983

USS Bergall SSN-667

Life Member (916) 995-5196

eddie105@yahoo.com



USSVI Western
District 5 Commander
J. Barry Wyatt

Qualified 1965

USS Henry Clay SSBN 625

Life Member Holland Club

(916) 600-1425



USSVI Western
Region Director
Pete Juhos

Qualified 1980

USS Bergall SSN 667

Life Member

(916) 208-0667 dsv3.ss@gmail.com

Lost Boats

February

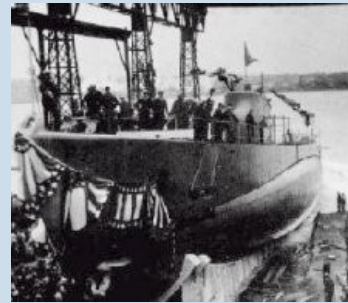
USS Barbel (SS-316)

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



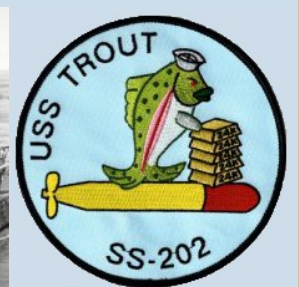
USS Grayback (SS-208)

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



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.



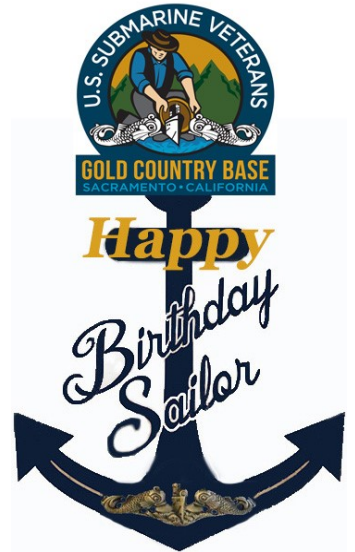
Birthdays

January

Tony Jacobs Tom Rumsey Lenard Lee Alan More
Patricia Everett Sharon Frost Debbie Juhos

February

Grant Riddle Randall Woolley Glenn Booth
Dennis Cline Hans Nettel Ed Myers



On The Lighter Side





Gold Country Base would not be able to continue to operate without the generous contribution from those Members, Wives and Friends who donate to

Gold Country Base Booster's

Bill Barron Jerry Bowers* Regy Bronner**

Anita Bronner Dennis Cline* Ken Earls**

Mike Delleney Mark Elftmann* Bill Hunt**

Frank Elliott Jack Everett Howard Grover**

Dennis Henderson Burna Jamieson*

Les Jamison Pete Juhos* John Kelly*

Alvin Lehman Matt Lettau* Mike McCoy*

James MacLean John Mannix**

George Miyao Tom Moniz* Alan More**

Ed Myers Hans Nettel Roger Paul**

Gene Ratto Gary Robinson* Joe Ryan**

Nick Sadowy William Sugnet**

*Barry Wyatt**

** Multi-Year Donors*

VA Information

California Veterans Board

Mission Statement

The California Veterans Board serves as an advocate for Veterans affairs identifying needs and working to ensure and enhance the rights and benefits of California Veterans and their dependents.

The Board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor, subject to the confirmation of the State Senate. All Board members shall be veterans.

Any person deeming himself or herself a veteran and who applies for benefits may appeal any decision made by a division of the department to the Board. This pertains to state benefits only such as denial of a home loan, student waiver, or admission into a veterans home.

The Board meets several times each year in different communities throughout California. Meetings are open to the public, and meeting notices and agendas will be posted ten days prior to each meeting.

Contact: California Veterans Board

California Veterans Board

1227 "O" Street, Suite 103

Sacramento, CA 95814

CalVetBoard@calvet.ca.gov



USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES January 25, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 13:07. Commander Les Jamison read the USSVI Creed and Purpose.

INVOCATION: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave the Invocation.

TOLLING THE BELL: The Lost Boats for the month of August were read by the Vice Commander, Mark Elftmann, and Chief of the Boat, Gene Ratto tolled the bell for each Lost Boat and one additional toll in memory of those shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

MEMBER INTRODUCTION: There were 22 members in attendance.

GUEST SPEAKER COORDINATOR CHAD CLAY INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER:

Jerry Wentland, Base Storekeeper, welder, Army veteran.

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Les Jamison

Voted and approved to bring float to California Capital Airshow March 22 and 23, meeting will be postponed. Annual picnic, voted and passed for April 26 to be at our VFW hall. Voted and approved to have our float at Bass Pro Day May 24, 2025, meeting will be prior to the event at Bass Pro. Voted and approved to have July 4th parade in Lincoln.

VICE COMMANDER: Mark Elftmann

Committee is formed to include Les, Mark and Chad to search for another hall after 12 months. Treasurers to provide the information for an internal audit. Mark would like volunteers to help with the audit. Michael, Chad, and Gene volunteered.

SECRETARY: Diana Clay

Tim Spoon achievement award were given to both Chad and Diana Clay.

CHIEF OF THE BOAT (COB) Gene Ratto - No report

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP: Bill Sugnet

The books are in balance. Any base member can request a report from Base Treasurer via email. The National dues have increased from \$30 to \$40 as of January 1, 2025. Associate members, wives, do not have to pay, either. Base dues are \$25 and are due by the end of the year. Associate members, wives, also do not have to pay. Contact the treasurer for your amount due. We have 95 members

PAO/NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt

Anyone with a sea story is welcome to contribute it to Barry for the newsletter

HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR: Lenard Lee - No report

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller - No report

CHAPLAIN REPORT/BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover Larry Williams is now at a facility. Howard has the address for interested people. Regie Bronner no longer recognizes people keep him in your prayers.

BASE PHOTOGRAPHER: Roger Paul - No report

NAVY YOUTH LIASON: Chad Clay

Sea Cadets are having an inspection on February 16 at 1:00pm, 3205 Hurley Way. Base members are invited to attend. No awards are expected to be presented. Airshow is asking for dimensions of our float.

Sea Cadets will be at our picnic. Sheriff's dept. and Folsom Police dept. are planning to attend with their canine unit. The CHP will try to provide a horse mounted officer demonstration.

HISTORIAN: Roger Paul

Naomi took pictures from the morning chow. He is working on an article for the newsletter for next month.

Minutes continued on next page

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES January 25, 2025(continued)

WEB-MASTER: Ed McCarthy

Reported on future events.

STOREKEEPER: Jerry Wentland

Base hats available for \$10. Several different items available

KAPS4KIDS COORDINATOR: Les Jamison—No report

SUBVET CHECK-IN PROGRAM: Mark Elftmann

Feedback would be appreciated for anyone making calls. A couple of members that were on the call list attended the meeting today. Larry Williams is called by Mark and Howard. Mark has the list of people that would appreciate a call.

EVENTS COORDINATOR: Ed McCarthy

Western Region update: March 6 – 9, 2025, Queen Mary in Long Beach. Registration is \$60, lunch \$50, dinner \$80. Group Room Rate is \$209 per night. 70 people have registered. Our goal is 100. Details for registration are in the newsletter. California Capital Airshow, March 22-23

Bass Pro Day, Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 24. Meeting to be prior to the event at Bass Pro.

July 4th parade in Lincoln. State Fair in July, TBD. Veteran's Day parade in Folsom, or Elk Grove, TBD

Veteran's Day at Bass Pro Shop lobby, Veteran gathering, not mandatory.

September 11 event at Bass Pro will be presented by VFW. All welcome.

Holiday party event, lunch or evening, TBD, we will take a survey with the members to determine if we want to change the event to the daytime.

Lost Boats Memorial, TBD and December 7th

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR: Chad Clay

January speaker was going to be from OES but is working the fires in Southern California. Jerry Wentland got up to speak on his organization.

February Dean Prodromos, retired IRS officer and attorney.

WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR: Pete Juhos—No report

SUBVET SUPPORT GROUP: Penny Jamison

After receiving \$3,205.02 for tickets, the base was billed \$1,750.02. 49 tickets were sold, 47 attended.

Would we like to change the event as a luncheon rather than dinner so more people could attend. A questioner will be put out to ask for any suggestions.

Good of the Order / Communications:

Chad is working with the people in charge of the Capital Air Show for us to have a booth. There is a Navy recruiting booth that might allow us to join them.

Old Business:

Minutes from November approved.

First Call to Morning Chow:

02/11/2025 9:30 am @ Denny's Restaurant, 122 Sunrise Ave., Roseville, CA

E-board Zoom meeting: February 15, 2025, 9:00 am

Next Base Meeting: February 22, 2025, noon for potluck lunch and 1:00 meeting

50/50 Won By: \$43 Chad Clay

Sea Cadets: \$55

Meeting Adjournment:

Base Chaplin, Howard Grover, gave a closing prayer.

Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat @ 14:25

Submitted by Diana Clay, Base Secretary

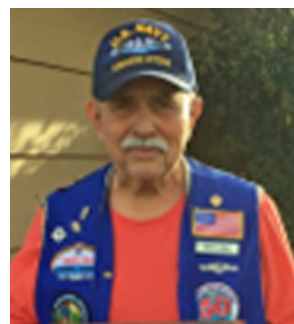
Gold Country Base SubVet Check-In

Several of our Shipmates are unable to attend monthly meeting or participate in the events. Both of the men below gave there all to our base. Please take the time to give them a call or a visit. .

Harold Fisher QMC(SS)

Harold qualified in 1965 aboard the USS Medregal (SS-480). He is a plank owner of the Gold Country Base and a USSVI Life and Holland Club member. He took on the position of "First Call to Morning Chow" Coordinator in the fall of 2019 and continued with that responsibility until recently. For his efforts on behalf of his shipmates he was awarded the Base Commanders Commendation in 2020.

Harold lives with his wife Janet in Roseville.
(916) 782-5748 navigator@surewest.net



Larry Williams IC2 (SS)

Larry joined USSVI in 2012 and is a Life and Holland Club member. He is a Plank Owner of Gold Country Base. He served as Base Treasurer from 2013 through 2016.

Larry and his wife Diana

Larry lives at home 1630 Pheasant Run Dr. Placerville, CA 95667 (530) 435-8281. Best time to call or visit Larry is early afternoon.

Some of our members have no way to get to a Base Meeting or First Call. If you would be willing to give them a ride contact Base Vice-Commander Mark Elftmann (916) 243-9265 and he will set it up

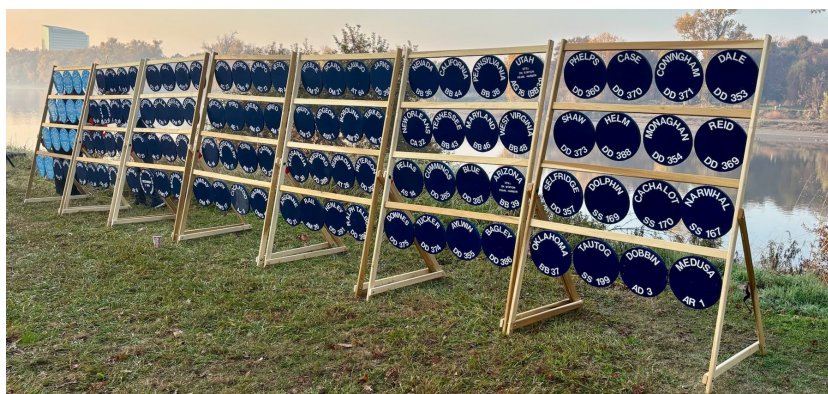


Gold Country's 2024 Holiday Party



Gold Country Base News

Continuing the
Tradition
Saturday December
7th, 2024 the 83rd
Anniversary of the
attack on
Pearl Harbor.



Gold Country Base News



Holiday Gift Exchange



Gold Country Base News



Gold Country Base Members will host a lunch for members of the crew of the USS California SSN-781 who are representing the Submarine Service during Navy Week in Sacramento. Sign up to attend on line or at the meeting Saturday, Tuesday March 18 1200 noon Old Spaghetti Factory 1625 Watt Ave.

This year's Sacramento Navy Week holds

special significance as it coincides with the U.S. Navy's 250th birthday — a historic milestone celebrating a quarter-millennium of maritime excellence, national security and global leadership.

"America is a maritime nation and 90% of commerce travels through the seas that the Navy has protected for 250 years," said Cmdr. Julie Holland, Navy Office of Community Outreach director. "We're thrilled to bring your Navy Sailors to Sacramento. Though America's Navy operates the world's most sophisticated weapons systems, it is our highly skilled people – at sea and ashore – who provide an unmatched advantage. Sacramento hosted four previous Navy Weeks, most recently in 2018. This year promises an impressive lineup designed to inform, educate and inspire the Sacramento community:

- Senior Navy Leaders: Meet and hear from senior Navy officials, including those with local ties to Sacramento.
- Namesake Sailors: Interact with Sailors serving aboard the USS California (SSN 781), a Virginia-class submarine.
- U.S. Navy Band Southwest: Enjoy live musical performances and masterclasses led by talented Navy musicians.
- Naval History and Heritage Command: Explore the rich connection between Sacramento and the Navy through interactive presentations and educational programs.
- USS Constitution: Witness demonstrations featuring the Navy's oldest commissioned ship and its enduring legacy.
- U.S. Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command: Engage in STEM-focused sessions highlighting oceanographic and atmospheric science.
- Navy Talent Acquisition Group: Discover opportunities within the Navy through community projects, displays, and career discussions.

Gold Country Base Memorial Brick Project

Gold Country Memorial Brick Fund

Your Contribution is Tax Deductible

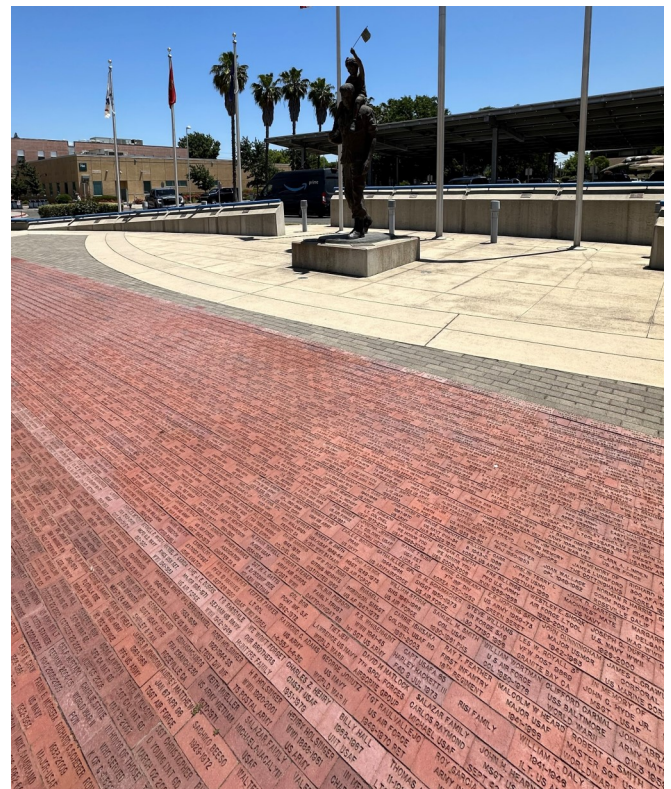
Gold Country Base was originally chartered by USSVI as “USS Holland (SS1) Gold Country Base” in September or October of 2000 and was re-chartered “Gold Country Base” in 2014. During our almost 24 years we have lost a total of 63 Members to Eternal Patrol.

We have created a project to raise funds to purchase a Brick at the Mather Veterans Memorial for each of those 63 members. The total Current cost for the project is \$5850 so a goal to raise \$6000 has been set.

Our National Charitable Foundation (USSVCF) has set up a link on their site which will allow for all **contributions to be tax deductible.**

<https://www.ussvcf.org/gold-country-base-memorial-brick-fund.html>

Or Use This QR Code



USSVI National News

USSVI NATIONAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The USSVI National Awards and Recognition Program recognizes members or bases whose contributions to the organization, or their local community stand out. Any USSVI Member (Regular or Associate) in good standing may nominate any other Base, Member (Regular or Associate) in good standing. Only the Ben Bastura Historical Achievement Award nominee may be a non-member.

Awards will be presented during the at the USSVI National Convention.

The following are the USSVI National Awards considered for nominations each year.

Joe Negri Award (Submarine Veteran of the Year) **

Robert Link National Commander Commendation Award

District Commander of the Year Award **

Meritorious Award

Golden Anchor Award

Silver Anchor Award

Ben Bastura Historical Achievement Award

Newsletter of the Year Award

** These are Lifetime Awards, presented only once per Shipmate.



AWARD PROCESS TIMELINES

Award nominations will be processed according to the following timeline:

FEBRUARY 1: Award Nomination period opens and all USSVI Members in good standing submit Award nominations to the National Awards Chair.

APRIL 30: All nominations must be received by the NAC no later than 2359 hours (EST).

[https://ussubvets.org/Documents/
Online_Manuals_2025_USSVI_Awards_Manual.pdf](https://ussubvets.org/Documents/Online_Manuals_2025_USSVI_Awards_Manual.pdf)

Eternal Patrol

U.S. President, Nobel Peace Prize recipient and Submariner James Earl Carter, Jr., died in his home on Sunday December 29, 2024 in Plains, Ga.



Jimmy Carter the only US President to have graduated from the US Naval Academy (1946) and become a Qualified Submariner. Carter qualified for



command of a submarine and served on the USS Pomfret and later was assigned to the pre-commissioning crew of the USS K-1. He worked under Admiral Hyman G. Rickover in the nuclear submarine program.

Jimmy Carter (James Earl Carter, Jr.), thirty-ninth president of the United States, was born Oct. 1, 1924, in the small farming town of Plains, Georgia, and grew up in the nearby community of Archery. His father, James Earl Carter, Sr., was a farmer and businessman; his mother, Lillian Gordy Carter, a registered nurse.



He was educated in the public school of Plains, attended Georgia Southwestern College and the Georgia Institute of Technology, and received a B.S. degree from the United States Naval Academy in 1946. In the Navy he became a submariner, serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets and rising to the rank of lieutenant. Chosen by Admiral Hyman Rickover for the nuclear submarine program, he was assigned to Schenectady, New York, where he took graduate work at Union College in reactor technology and nuclear physics and served as senior officer of the pre-commissioning crew of the Seawolf, the second nuclear submarine.

(Continued on next page)

Eternal Patrol

(continued)

On July 7, 1946, he married Rosalynn Smith of Plains. When his father died in 1953, he resigned his naval commission and returned with his family to Georgia. He took over the Carter farms, and he and Rosalynn operated Carter's Warehouse, a general-purpose seed and farm supply company in Plains. He quickly became a leader of the community, serving on county boards supervising education, the hospital authority, and the library. In 1962 he won election to the Georgia Senate. He lost his first gubernatorial campaign in 1966, but won the next election, becoming Georgia's 76th governor on January 12, 1971. He was the Democratic National Committee campaign chairman for the 1974 congressional and gubernatorial elections.

President Jimmy Carter

On Dec. 12, 1974, he announced his candidacy for president of the United States. He won his party's nomination on the first ballot at the 1976 Democratic National Convention and was elected president on Nov. 2, 1976.

Jimmy Carter served as president from Jan. 20, 1977 to Jan. 20, 1981. Significant foreign policy accomplishments of his administration included the Panama Canal treaties, the Camp David Accords, the treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel, the SALT



Former president James E. Carter (D) (left) speaks with Navy Vice Admiral Charles L. Munns, Commander, Submarine Force, US Atlantic Fleet (COMSUBLANT), as they ride out to sea on the bridge aboard the Seawolf-class attack submarine USS Jimmy Carter (SSN-23).



II treaty with the Soviet Union, and the establishment of U.S. diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. He championed human rights throughout the world. On the domestic side, the administration's achievements included a comprehensive energy program conducted by a new Department of Energy; deregulation in energy, transportation, communications, and finance; major educational programs under a new Department of Education; and major environmental protection legislation, including the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which doubled the size of the national park system and tripled the wilderness areas.

Sea Story From The Crew

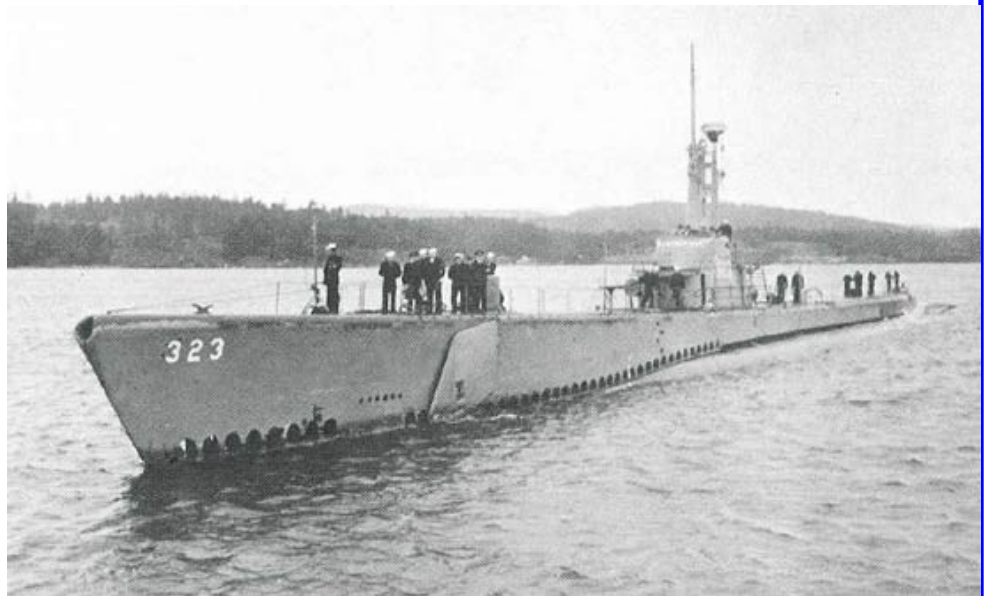
My First Sub Visit



I was about 6 or 7 years old (1949 or 1950). My father told me there was a submarine in North Bend, Oregon. We lived in Coos Bay, Oregon, just a few miles away. He asked if I would like see it. I said: "YES". I still vividly remember that day standing in line to go aboard. It was down into the forward Torpedo Room and out of the after Torpedo Room. Our guide was dressed in dungarees with a first class crow.

After that I have told this story many times. But over the years I forgot the boats Name and hull Number.

Fast forward to about June 1999. I was at a WWII Sub VET picnic in Sacramento. I told the my first visit to a submarine story to a group of WWII guys. But I ended by saying I had forgot the Sub's Name and Number. Standing in the group was Grant Riddle. He spoke up and said: I was on that boat in North Bend and the Name & Number was **USS Caiman SS 323**.



Story Submitted by
Gold Country Base
Chaplain
Howard Grover



Featured Boat

USS California (SSN-781), is the eighth *Virginia*-class submarine, and the seventh United States Navy ship named for the state of California. The contract to build her was awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding (then called Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co.) in Newport News, Virginia, on 14 August 2003. Construction began in December 2006. *California*'s keel was laid down on 1 May 2009. She was christened on 6 November 2010, sponsored by Donna Willard, wife of Admiral Robert F. Willard. She was launched eight days later, on 14 November 2010.

California is the first *Virginia*-class submarine built with the advanced electromagnetic signature reduction system; although it will be retrofitted into older submarines of the class.



California was delivered to the Navy on 7 August 2011, eight and a half months ahead of schedule. The \$2.3 billion ship was commissioned on 29 October 2011 in Norfolk, Virginia.

Name	USS <i>California</i>
Namesake	State of California
Awarded	14 August 2003
Builder	Huntington Ingalls Industries - Newport News Shipbuilding
Laid down	1 May 2009
Sponsored by	Mrs. Donna Willard
Christened	6 November 2010
Launched	14 November 2010
Commissioned	29 October 2011
Homeport	Groton, Connecticut ^[1]
Motto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Silentium Est Aureum</i> ("Silence Is Golden")
Status	Ship in active service
Class and type	Virginia-class submarine
Displacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7,800 tons light 7,900 tons full
Length	114.9 m (377.0 ft)
Beam	10.3 m (33.8 ft)
Propulsion	<p>1 × S9G PWR nuclear reactor^[2] 280,000 shp (210 MW), HEU 93%^{[3][4]}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 × steam turbines 40,000 shp (30 MW) 1 × single shaft pump-jet propulsor^[2] 1 × secondary propulsion motor^[2]
Speed	greater than 25 knots (46 km/h) ^[5]
Range	Essentially unlimited distance; 33 years
Test depth	greater than 800 ft (240 m) ^[6]
Complement	134 officers and crew ^[5]

Story of Interest

Sea Dog's

They padded aboard submarines and proved themselves steadfast in boredom and in battle. During the worst of war, these canine mascots brought their shipmates some of the comfort of home.

SAILORS HAVE BEEN TAKING DOGS TO SEA SINCE A PAIR OF canines shipped out with Noah. Nevertheless, the picture of the floppy-eared poodle, looking as jauntily and confident as the young submariners who surrounded her, surprised me. What was the dog's name? I wondered. Why was it on a submarine? A scrawl on the back of the photo revealed only that this was the crew of the USS Whale after its return from its eighth war patrol in the Pacific.

The Submarine Force Library and Museum in Groton, Connecticut, where I'm the director, has thousands of books, documents, and photographs about U.S. submarine operations but no file, I realized, about mascots.

Were there dogs on board other submarines? If so, could we find enough information about them to perhaps mount an exhibit for the museum?

For the next six months the curator, the archivist, and I kept a watch for



pictures and stories of what we came to call sea dogs. Our finds were infrequent; once in a while we'd turn up a picture in a folder or a brief reference in a yellowed news clipping.

Then, I published an appeal in *Polaris*, the monthly magazine of the Submarine Veterans of World War II. It poured letters with photographs, ID cards, service records, and newspaper stories. The replies showed that after nearly fifty years the veterans' feelings for their pets remained strong. One wrote: "She was truly one of our crew, and we all loved her. She was a comfort. . . when we were in silent running and getting a good depth charging." Another recalled: "Some chief from one of the seven hundred-odd ships in the anchorage (at Ulithi) decided to abscond with our dog, and I interceded and got a broken nose for my efforts. Hope Garbo appreciated it!" A third remembered: "Since I left the boat before Betty did, I cannot tell you of her final fate. May her soul rest in peace."

From this correspondence, I discovered that during World War II many United States submariners carried mascots with them in the Pacific. We did put together an exhibit called "Sea Dogs: Mascots of the Silent Service." Still on display, it is as popular with the public as the mascots were with their crews and for the same reason: The dogs touched their hearts.

Story of Interest

(continued)

Submariners' pets were usually small and of mixed breed. Crews acquired them through purchase and gift or in trade for a case or two of beer. One dog even dashed aboard a sub as the boat was getting under way. The dogs cheered and amused the men during their long war patrols. They helped relieve the tension and weariness of hours of silent running or nights of surface attacks. The men doted on their dogs. They fed them steak and bacon; they gave them ID cards and service records; they took them on liberty all over the Pacific, and more than one mascot acquired a taste for beer. Crews made their pets leashes and collars, complete with combat submarine insignia and service stars. Some dogs wore special coats emblazoned with their boat's war record. At least one miscreant even went to captain's mast.

Garbo was the perfect submarine mascot. A mongrel puppy so small she could be concealed in a white sailor's hat, she came aboard the USS Gar (SS 206) in Hawaii about the time of the boat's tenth war patrol. She and the crew took an immediate liking to each other, and she remained on board for the rest of the Gar's fifteen war patrols. The puppy made her home in the forward torpedo room. Whenever the sub got under way, Garbo stationed herself all the way forward on the bullnose and barked. Once each patrol she toured the Gar from stem to stern; as she arrived in each compartment, the crew there would come to attention. "She owned the boat and knew it," recalled Motor Machinist Mate Second Class Jim Bunn.

Garbo earned the combat submarine insignia that she wore on her collar, along with a star for each successful patrol she made on the Gar. Under the heaviest depthcharge attacks, when the gauges were leaking, light bulbs breaking, and fires breaking out, Garbo remained as playful as ever. Bunn said, "She should have gotten a medal for keeping our spirits and morale up when we needed it most." Anyone was welcome to pet her, but only the skipper, Lt. Cmdr. George Lautrup, Jr., and the cook, Red Balthorp, could pick her up. The skipper would put her on his shoulder and carry her up the ladder to the bridge at night for fresh air.

One night while the Gar was running on the surface during a war patrol in the Palau Islands, Garbo stepped off the cigarette deck and vanished into the darkness. The C.O. immediately began a dogoverboard search. With the boat making frantic circles in enemy waters, a lookout finally spotted the mascot below the bridge, safe on the main deck.

Between patrols Garbo stayed with the crew at their hotel in Pearl Harbor. She joined in the ship's parties, and like some of her two-legged shipmates, she didn't know her limit. After lapping up too much beer, she tended to blunder into furniture.

Garbo gave birth to two pups while the sub was en route to Ulithi; the father belonged to the USS Tambor (SS 198). The Gar's crew traded the pups to other submarines for cases of beer. At the end of the war, when the Gar returned to the States, Chief Motor Machinist Mate Jim Ellis took Garbo home with him.



Story of Interest

(continued)

Sugie joined the crew of the USS Besugo (SS 321) when he was six weeks old. At the sub's commissioning party in June 1944, the puppy, wearing a custom-made sailor's blue jumper, looked on from the arms of the exec.

Sugie made the shakedown cruise and all five war patrols during which the Besugo sank more than forty thousand tons of enemy shipping. He liked beer and whiskey, disdained gilly (a vile beverage distilled from the alcohol in torpedo fuel), and would, in a pinch, drink a pink lady. Submarine food suited him fine, and he especially enjoyed sitting in a chair while the crew spoon-fed him.

His appetite didn't stop there: he chewed gum (and swallowed it), he would eat soap if someone didn't keep an eye on him, and he liked to chew up socks whenever he could, especially the skipper's.

Skeeter, mascot of the USS Halibut (SS 232), was a swashbuckler too. The crew acquired him in Lefty's bar in San Francisco while the sub was undergoing overhaul in 1944. During his tour on the Halibut, Skeeter appeared at captain's mast twice, perhaps a canine record. He was first charged with disturbing the peace in the forward battery compartment and with being surly and belligerent. Cmdr. I. J. Galantin, the Halibut's C.O., dismissed the case with a warning. Skeeter's second trip to mast came when he mistook a chief petty officer's leg for a fire hydrant. But the dog eventually received an honorable discharge and was mustered out of the Navy in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in July 1945.



Others were not so fortunate. Potshot survived three war cruises aboard the USS Hoe (SS 258) only to be run over and killed by a torpedo truck during a routine stop at Pearl Harbor. Myrna, the mascot of the USS Sawfish (SS 276), another casualty of war, was one of a litter of six pups born to Luau, the mascot of the USS Spadefish (SS 411). Myrna still wasn't weaned when her crew smuggled her aboard the Sawfish; the corpsman fed her a formula of milk, Karo syrup, cod-liver oil, and vitamin pills. At the end of the Sawfish's ninth war patrol, the sub went to Camp Dealy on Guam for rest and recreation. Myrna was sleeping under a table on which several sailors were sitting; when another man joined them, the table collapsed, crushing their mascot. The accident left the crew depressed for weeks.

Myrna's mother, Luau, was a plank owner on the Spadefish, having come aboard in February 1944, lured from the landlubber's life by a large, tender steak after the crew discovered her in a Vallejo, California, bar. She distinguished herself in the service. When writing up the Spadefish's first war patrol, Lt. Cmdr. G. W. Underwood noted that Luau "contributed greatly to the morale with her ready playfulness with all hands. She was a bit perturbed by the depth charges, but soon recovered with only a slight case of depth charge nerves."

Story of Interest

(continued)

If Hollywood had dreamed up a sea dog, it would have been Betty, a white toy poodle who was the mascot of the USS Whale (SS 239). She came aboard in Honolulu in September 1943, prevailing over the protests of the Whale's executive officer by licking the captain's hand. She was then designated Dog First Class, issued service and medical records, and given the run of the ship. She avoided the noisy engine rooms and hid in the control room during gunnery practice.



The men liked to take their dog on liberty in Pearl Harbor because, as Lt. Emmett Fowler, Jr., recalled, Betty was a “girl getter”; it didn’t take long for the poodle’s escorts to strike up conversations with their mascot’s attractive admirers.

The weather was bad at Midway when the Whale returned from one patrol, and the port captain ordered the sub to remain outside the harbor till conditions improved. Unwilling to linger where his vessel might become a target for Japanese submarines, the C.O. entered port anyway. The irate port captain met the sub at the pier and yelled at the C.O. while the Whale was going alongside, then came aboard and continued to argue. Tiring of the stream of abuse, Betty slashed an eight-inch rip in the port captain’s pants leg. A subsequent admiral’s inquiry in Pearl Harbor exonerated the Whale’s C.O. Betty had only been defending her crew. The port captain was relieved of his duties.

Victory and the end of the war meant the breaking up of most submarine crews. Garbo, Skeeter, Betty, and other dogs went home with crew members. Porches, lawns, and the occasional cat replaced steel hulls, tile decks, and depth charges. Gabby, mascot of the USS Gabilan (SS 252), proudly represented all submarine sea dogs when he marched with his crew in a welcome-home victory parade in Mobile, Alabama, in October 1945.

WW II Submarines

WW II Submarine Special Missions in the Pacific

Aiding Guerillas in the Philippines

At the beginning of 1943, a whole new phase of special operations began. In January, six agents were landed on Negros in the central Philippines by USS *Gudgeon*. Code-named Planet Party, the group was led by Captain Jesus Villamor, a much decorated Filipino pilot and war hero. The unit's task was to set up a communications network that could radio intelligence back to General Douglas MacArthur's Southwest Pacific Area headquarters (SWPA GHQ) in Brisbane, Australia.

Villamor discovered a flourishing guerrilla organization in desperate need of arms, ammunition, and more. That news excited GHQ, which made arrangements in February for USS *Tambor* to deliver 70,000 rounds and \$10,000 in cash to the rebels on the southern island of Mindanao while en route to her patrol area. Even as she was sailing north, commanders in Brisbane were discussing the feasibility of establishing a regular submarine transport service to the Philippines. "It is suggested that every effort be made to provide [the Philippine] sub-section with undersea boats," wrote Lt. Col. Allison W. Ind, deputy controller of the Allied Intelligence Bureau on February 25, 1943.



USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

Like *Gudgeon*, *Tambor* was also carrying a group of agents, led by an unassuming naval reserve officer, Lt. Cmdr. Charles "Chick" Parsons. He was an old Philippine hand, arriving there in 1921. Before the war he had been an executive at Luzon Stevedoring Company in Manila and seemed to have knowledge of every channel and bay and inlet throughout the islands. He was widely connected and widely respected. After disembarking from the sub, he began an island-by-island investigation of the situation, talking to rebel leaders, observing daily life, forming opinions on the state of the country. He would become, in a very real way, MacArthur's eyes and ears in the Philippines.

SWPA continued to send men and supplies north—but in ad hoc dribs and drabs. In April, *Gudgeon* went back with four men and three tons of supplies for Panay Island. And that July, *Trout* put ashore another reconnaissance party on Mindanao, evacuated four escaped POWs and, after four months in country, Chick Parsons.

On August 20, 1943, Parsons submitted a lengthy report to MacArthur on the state of the Philippines. There were sections on political and economic conditions, on military and civilian internees, and on the morale of the nation under Japanese occupation. Parsons then offered up some thoughts on how the United States might aid the resistance movement. Among them he recommended submarines be employed to supply the guerrilla districts. This idea had been kicking around GHQ for months, but it took another old Philippine hand, Colonel Courtney Whitney, a close friend of MacArthur's, and before the war a very sharp Manila lawyer, to get the ball rolling.

US Navy Submarine News

US Sends Nuclear-Powered Submarines to China's Backyard

The United States has recently sent two of its nuclear-powered submarines to the Western Pacific Ocean, where they visited an island that can project military power against China.

Why It Matters

The island of Guam, which is the westernmost U.S. territory, is about 1,500 miles east of the Philippines and south of Japan, making it an ideal staging area to deliver U.S. military power to the contested Taiwan Strait, as well as the East and South China Seas.

Guam is home to American Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps bases. It also forms a blockade known as the second island chain, one of the layers of a U.S. defense concept that seeks to constrain the Chinese military in wartime with allied or friendly territories.



The United States Navy Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS "Columbia" pulls into Naval Base Guam on January 12, 2025.

What To Know

Photos released by the U.S. Navy show USS *Columbia*, a Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine, and USS *Vermont*, a Virginia-class fast-attack submarine, visited Guam on January 12 and 20, respectively, during their deployments supporting the Seventh Fleet.

This is America's largest forward-deployed numbered fleet and has an operating area that covers the Western Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean. It works with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region, the U.S. Navy said.

Both the *Columbia* and the *Vermont* are homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii. They are conventionally armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles that can hit targets on land from 1,000 miles away, as well as torpedoes to sink hostile ships and submarines.

US Navy Submarine News

Nuclear-Powered Submarines to China's Backyard *(continued)*

Guam upgraded its fast-attack submarine force last November. The Submarine Squadron 15, which is based on the island, received its first-ever Virginia-class submarine, USS *Minnesota*, in addition to the four older Los Angeles-class submarines.

The U.S. fleet of fast-attack submarines is a major threat to the Chinese navy, which is the world's largest by hull count, Brian Hart, deputy director and fellow of the China Power Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told *Newsweek* previously.

While China is investing in its submarine fleet and in anti-submarine warfare capabilities, there is still a "considerable capability gap" in this area that favors the U.S., Hart added.



The United States Navy Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS "Vermont" transits near Naval Base Guam on January 20, 2025.

What People Are Saying

U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Samuel Boyle, spokesperson for Task Force 74, told *Newsweek*: "Guam is a strategic outpost and linchpin of U.S. maritime strength in the Western Pacific, playing a vital role in maintaining deterrence and stability in the region.... Our stealthy, undersea arsenal is constantly present in the Indo-Pacific, working side by side with our allies and partners and deterring potential adversaries across one of the most dynamic and consequential theaters."

The U.S. Navy said: "Fast-attack submarines are multi-mission platforms enabling five of the six Navy maritime strategy core capabilities—sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security and deterrence."

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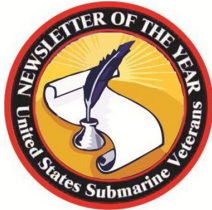
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**Overall
2016**



**Class 2—2017
First Place**



**Class 2—2018
First Place**



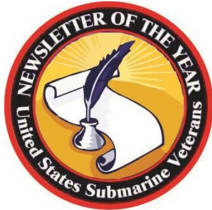
**Class 2—2019
First Place**



**Class 1—2020
First Place**



**Class 1 - 2021
First Place**



**Overall
2022**



**Overall
2023**



**Class 1—2024
First Place**



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“Clear the Baffles” is the official Newsletter for the Gold Country Base of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. Published semi-monthly. Please submit ideas or articles to Publisher Barry Wyatt at ; sacsubvet@barrywyatt.com or contact me by phone at (916) 600-1425

October/November 2024 Newsletter