



The Snorkel Exhaust

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, TN





UNITED STATES SUBMARINE SERVICE VETERANS, INC.


The USSVI Submariners Purpose and Creed:

"To honor those who serve, past, present and future."

To 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.

We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the




United States of America and its Constitution.



OUR ORGANIZATION

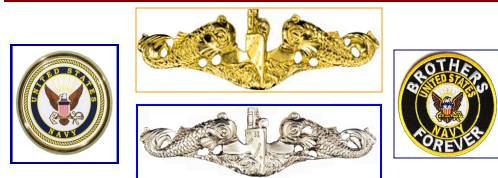
OUR FOUNDERS

OUR BROTHERHOOD

Our Mission

The organization will engage in various projects that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyles we enjoy today.




Scheduled Meetings
Monthly meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of each month at:
GOLDEN CORRAL
6612 CLINTON HIGHWAY,
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
Dinner & Social Hour @ 1800
Meeting @ 1900
(Guests are Invited)

SNORKEL EXHAUST INDEX

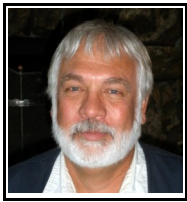
March & April 2020

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SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS



BASE COMMANDER
Marlin E. Helms, Jr.
HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR



Qualified MM1(SS)
USS SPADEFISH (SSN-668)
Qualified MM1(SS)
USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN-663)



BASE VICE-COMMANDER
Robert (Bob) Childs



Qualified MMC (SS)
USS Nautilus (SSN 571)
November 1967
USS Theodore Roosevelt
(SSBN 600 - Blue Crew) July 1970



BASE SECRETARY
Martin Wesley



Qualified QM2(SS)
USS CUBERA (SS-347)
in 1968



WEBSITE MASTER
Stuart McGlassen



Qualified ET2 (SS) 1988
USS TENNESSEE (SSBN-734)



CHIEF OF THE BOAT
Terry McBride, EMC(SS) (Ret.)



Qualified EM3(SS)
USS WOODROW WILSON (SSBN-624)
Qualified EM1(SS)
USS MARYLAND (SSBN-738)



BASE CHAPLIN
David Pope, EAWS
USS T. Roosevelt (CVN-71)
COMSUBGRU-9, FP DET. 2

David is an Associate
Member of Smoky Mountain
Submarine Base



SMB STOREKEEPER
Dick Mitchell



Qualified ET1(SS)
USS Conger (SS/AGSS-477)



BASE TREASURER
JIM ROCK



Qualified MM1(SS)
USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN 619)



PROGRAM CHAIRMAN
Andy Armbrust



Qualified MM1(SS)
USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN-663)
in 1975



**NEWSLETTER EDITOR &
BASE PHOTOGRAPHER**
Bruce Eltzroth ET1(SU)
USS SCULPIN (SSN-590)

Bruce is an Associate
Member of Smoky Mountain
Submarine Base.





SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, USSVI

Meetings, Greetings, Gatherings & Other Stuff

MARCH & APRIL - 2020

Scheduled Meetings

Monthly meetings are scheduled for the
3rd Thursday of each month at:
Golden Corral
 6612 Clinton Hwy.
 Knoxville, Tennessee 37912



Meetings and Happenings



New Members:

Eugene Masters - Lt. (SS) USS Angler (SS-240) - June '63

March 8 - Daylight Savings Time Starts
 March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
 March 19 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
 March 19 - Vernal Equinox
 March 31 - May/June Newsletter Deadline



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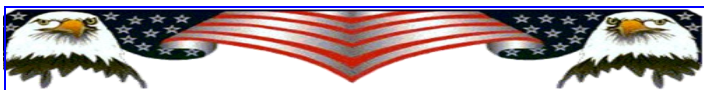
April 4 - Smoky Mountain Base Picnic
 April 5 - Palm Sunday
 April 10 - Good Friday
 April 11 - Submarine Force Birthday [(SS-1) purchase].
 April 12 - Easter Sunday
 April 16 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
 April 22 - Earth Day

March 2020

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

April 2020

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 26 | 2 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |



LOCAL HAPPENINGS



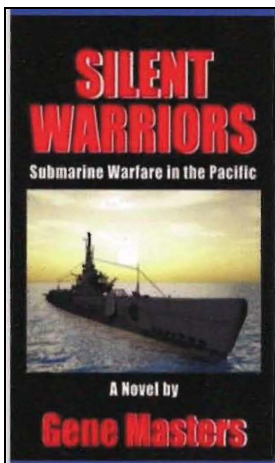
Base Librarian

Ed Sandifer
ENSIGN (SS)



SMB Library Books, DVD's and Magazines

Ed has agreed to bring several items to our monthly meetings. Check some out!



Gene Masters made a presentation at our January SMB meeting about two fiction books that he has written. One called "Silent Warriors" is about submarines during WWII, and the other called "Operation Exodus" is about US Navy seals. Both books are autographed by Gene and are in the Base's library. If you would like an autographed copy of one (or both) for your own, you can purchase them directly from Gene at a reduced price.

Follow the exploits of Lt. Cmdr. Jake Lawlor and the crew of the USS Orca as they bring the war to the enemy in the Pacific.

www.genemasters.net



New Scouting Program Chair - Thom Peschke



Thom Peschke has volunteered to chair the SMB Scouting Program. This primarily involves speaking at an Eagle Honor Court and presenting a certificate to the new Eagle Scout. If you have or know of an Eagle Scout candidate who would like the USSVI to participate please contact Thom or Marlin. For additional information see the story on page 16.



Notice: This years United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. 2020 National Convention - is going to be held in Tucson, AZ, August 23 thru 30. For info contact: Dennis Ottley: dottley888@comcast.net or call (520) 237-7874.



**VETERANS
INFORMATION FOR
SMOKY MOUNTAIN
BASE MEMBERS**



The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1078, meets at The Fellowship Church located at 3550 Pleasant Ridge Road, in Knoxville, TN on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6PM (1800 Hrs.)

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BASE COMMANDERS REPORT MARLIN E. HELMS, JR. MM1(SS)



It's time to start looking at your calendars. We have a number of events scheduled and some proposed.

| Event | Date(s) | Contact(s) |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| Picnic at the Yacht Club | April 4th | Andy Armbrust & Dick Love |
| Music in the Mountains Parade | May 1 st ??? | Will discuss at next meeting |
| Secret City Festival* | June 12 th and 13 th | Marlin Helms |
| Gatlinburg 4 th of July Parade | July 3 rd & 4 th ??? | Will discuss at next meeting |
| Holland Club Ceremony | August meeting | Marlin Helms |
| Haddo base picnic/ horseshoe tournament | August??? | Marlin Helms |
| Veterans Day Parade | November | Marlin Helms |
| Picnic at the Yacht Club | TBD in the Fall | Andy Armbrust & Dick Love |
| Army Navy Game | December | Marlin Helms |

Some of the events are still in the planning stages and input for venue or date would be appreciated by the contacts for the events. If anyone would like to volunteer to assist in any of the above events, please notify the listed contact (or me and I will pass it along).

*The Tolling of the Boats ceremony will be in the middle of the festival and I expect more outside visitors. We need to explore funding for repairs and upgrades to the float. Some donations over and above money from our treasury will be needed to be discussed at our next meeting. We have a few members who are dink on their base dues if you are not a life member National has dropped you from the rolls. If you are a life member but have not paid base dues we are still carrying you (in name) on ours. Please restore your membership in good standing status. Fraternally Yours, Marlin Helms, Smoky Mountain Base Commander.



NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT—BRUCE ELTZROTH - ET1(SU)



This issue contains information on new inputs to our Library - there are 2 newly added autographed books by author Gene Masters (who is also a new member of SMB). Thom Peschke has offered to be the SMB Scouting Program Chair - see info on pages 4 and 16 for details. We have a new page 14 entitled "Spotlight On" about current events or issues in the submarine Navy - this month is about the USS Tennessee (SSBN-734). Also a big thank you to John Augustine for this month's Boondoggle of the Month - a visit to the USS Croaker (SS-246) located in Buffalo NY. We also wish to report with regret, the passing of Bobby Anderson, on 2/24/2020 (see page 17 for details).



PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - ANDY ARMBRUST MM1(SS)



Andy Armbrust, Picnic Committee Chairman - (865) 300-3934 - The picnic will be Saturday April 4th at the Concord Yacht Club. This date is firm with the Yacht Club. The address is 11600 Northshore Drive; Knoxville, TN. The picnic will start at 12:00 Noon and we will plan on eating at 1:00 PM. The cost will be \$5.00/person. Pulled pork, buns, table service, condiments, coffee, iced tea, and lemonade will be provided. Each family should bring a dish to share. You can bring alcoholic beverages to the Yacht Club if you like. E-mail reminders will be sent closer to the event.



STOREKEEPERS REPORT - DICK MITCHELL ET1(SS)



We currently have the following items on hand for sale:

2020 USSVI Calendars are now available, you can pick them up at the next meeting. Cost \$8.00 at the meeting, but if mailed \$9.00 to cover postage. Makes a nice Christmas present. Baseball caps w/SMB patch (White or Blue) - \$14.00. Straw Hat w/SMB patch - \$12.00. SMB Iron on Patches - \$7.00. SMB Logo Magnetic Car Plates - \$12.00. SMB Window Stickers - \$3.00. Smoky Mountain Base battery quartz wall Clocks - \$15.00.

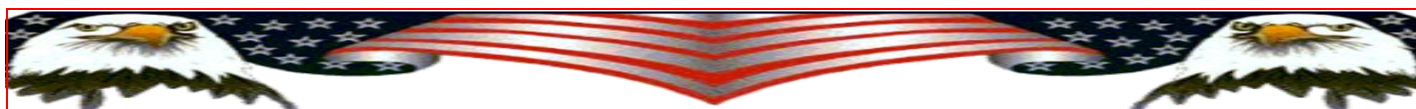


SMB TREASURERS REPORT - JIM ROCK MM1(SS)

Treasurers Report: Jim Rock

On Jan. 7th, 2020 our bank balance was **\$1,634.55**.

As of March 1st, 2020 we have a balance of **\$1,902.49**.





SMB Meeting Minutes **By - Martin Wesley (SMB Base Secretary)**



Date: February 20, 2020

Presiding: Marlin Helms - Base Commander - Meeting called to Order at 1910 hours.

Dave Pope presented the Invocation.

The Base Commander led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and the reading of The USSVI Creed.

COB Terry McBride and Marlin led the tolling of the bell for lost boats of February:

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Feb. 04, 1945 | USS BARBEL (SS-316) | 81 Men Lost |
| Feb. 11, 1942 | USS SHARK (SS-174) | 59 Men Lost |
| Feb. 16, 1943 | USS AMBERJACK (SS-219) | 72 Men Lost |
| Feb. 27, 1944 | USS GRAYBACK (SS-208) | 81 Men Lost |
| Feb. 29, 1944 | USS TROUT (SS-202) | 81 Men Lost |

Members and guests were asked to sign in and introduce themselves and their significant others.

Meeting Minutes - Minutes from January's meeting were read by base secretary Martin Wesley.

Treasurer's Report - \$ 187648.49.

Committees Reports:

- Newsletter- Bruce Eltzroth - Discussed the criteria for our newsletter to be sent to National for recognition. More from Bruce.
- Library- Ed Sandifer - If you want a book from the library, just notify Ed or Marlin and it will be delivered to the next meeting.
- Storekeeper - Dick Mitchell - (Not present).
- Membership - Keep recruiting more members.
- Webmaster - Stuart McGlassen - (Not present).
- Social Committees - Spring picnic is April 4th at the Concord Yacht Club, more from Andy Armbrust later. Also, Marlin is looking for a volunteer to coordinate entertainment activities at the picnic.

Old Business - John Augustine handed out a nomination form to be filled out for nomination of our Base Officers. (Base Commander, Base Vice-Commander, Secretary and Treasurer. Contact John or Marlin with names for each position.

Discussion on float revisions and upgrades will be tabled until the March meeting.

New business/Good of the Order - Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS), Marlin is looking for dates and volunteers for a KKap(SS) 4 Kid (SS), visit to the Children's Hospital in Knoxville.

Next Meeting; 1900 hrs, Thur. March 19, 2020 at Golden Corral 6612 Clinton Hwy. Knoxville, TN.

Motion to adjourn made and seconded. Accepted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1950 hours.

John Augustine will be the lead Nominating Committee member for the May, 2020 Base Officers elections, with the assistance of Bruce Eltzroth. (Sample Ballot Below)



Smoky Mountain Base Submarine Veterans **Election of Officers 2020**

(SAMPLE BALLOT)



Please write in the name of a nominee for each position in the blanks below:

Base Commander: _____

Base Vice-Commander: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: _____

Please return these nominations to John Augustine at or before the meeting on (**April 16, 2020**).





Lost Boats of March



Pre WW-II Lost Boats

USS H1 (SS-28) (Seawolf I) - 12 March 1920 - 4 Men Lost - Ran aground while in transit near Santa Margarita Island, Baja, Mexico.

USS F4 (SS-23) (Skate I) - 21 March 1915 - 19 Men Lost - Failure of lead lined battery compartment. Her hulk was raised and reburied off Sierra 13 north of Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor.

WW-II Lost Boats

USS PERCH I (SS-176) - 3 MAR. 1942

SS-176 Battle Stars



8 MEN LOST (as POW's)

On March 1, 1942, while on patrol in the Java Sea, the *Perch* was depth charged and heavily damaged by the Japanese destroyers *Amatsukaze* and *Hatsukaze*, at 6-30S, 113-50E. The *Perch* was attacked again on the following day with thirty depth charges by the Japanese destroyer *Ushio*, thus incurring additional heavy damage. On **March 3, 1942**, the *Perch* was caught while surfaced by the Japanese destroyers *Ushio* and *Sazanami* and was pounded with battery gunfire from both vessels. Facing a hopeless situation, the *Perch's* captain, Lieutenant Commander David A. Hurt, ordered the boat scuttled to prevent any usage by the enemy. The entire crew was picked up by the Japanese and sent to Prisoner of War camps for the duration of the war. *Perch* received one battle star for her World War II service.

USS GRAMPUS I (SS-207) - 5 Mar. 1943

SS-207 Battle Stars



71 MEN LOST

On **February 18, 1943**, the *Grampus* damaged the Japanese transport and aircraft ferry *Keiyo Maru* off New Britain. The submarine closed the damaged ship and torpedoed her again the following day at 04°-55'S, 152°-26'E. The attacks by the *Grampus* provoked an aggressive enemy response and the next day Japanese naval aircraft of the 958th Air Group reported bombing and sinking a submarine southeast of New Britain at 05°-40'S, 152°-18'E. They reported one direct hit on the conning tower and a large amount of oil on the surface after the attack. It is possible that this submarine was the *Grampus*.

Grampus received three battle stars for her World War II service.

USS TRITON I (SS-201) - 15 Mar. 1943

SS-201 Battle Stars



74 MEN LOST

On February 16, 1943, the *Triton*, captained by Lieutenant Commander George K. MacKenzie, Jr., left Brisbane for her sixth and final war patrol. Her orders were to search for and destroy enemy shipping in the area between the Shortland Islands and Rabaul. On March 6, 1943, the *Triton* reported a battle with a Japanese convoy of five ships escorted by a destroyer during which she sank the 3,057-ton freighter *Kiriha Maru*. During this encounter one of her torpedoes made a circular run that had forced her to go deep to evade it. Two days later she reported she had fired eight torpedoes at another convoy and that an escorting destroyer had forced her to go deep, so she had not been able to observe the results. She also reported damaging another freighter. The *Triton's* last message reached Brisbane on **March 11, 1943**, and it said, "Two groups of smokes, 5 or more ships each, plus escorts...Am chasing." She was never heard from again. The *Triton* received five battle stars for her World War II service.



Lost Boats of March



USS KETE (SS-369) - 20 Mar. 1945

SS-369 Battle Stars



87 MEN LOST

The *Kete*, captained by Lieutenant Commander Edward Ackerman, left the submarine base at Guam on March 1, 1945, for her second and final war patrol. Her orders were to patrol in the waters surrounding the Nansei Shoto (Ryukyu Islands). While patrolling west of the Tokara Retto islands on the night of March 9-10, 1945, the *Kete* reported she had torpedoed and sank three enemy cargo ships. During the night of March 14th, she reported making an unsuccessful attack on a cable-laying vessel. On March 19th, the *Kete* acknowledged orders to depart the area on March 20th, refuel at Midway Island, and proceed to Pearl Harbor for refit. On March 20th, she sent a weather report from a position south of Tokara Kaiko (Colnett Strait). This was the last transmission ever received from the *Kete*. Scheduled to arrive at Midway Island by March 31, 1945, she was never heard from again. The *Kete* earned the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with one campaign star for participation in the operation involving the assault and occupation of Okinawa from March 6-16, 1945.

USS TRIGGER (SS-237) - 26 Mar. 1945

SS-237 Battle Stars



89 MEN LOST

On March 11, 1945, the USS *Trigger*, captained by Commander David R. Connole, left the submarine base at Apra Harbor on Guam on her twelfth and final war patrol. Commander Connole's operation order for the *Trigger's* twelfth patrol instructed him to hunt for enemy shipping in the Nansei Shoto Archipelago (Ryukyu Islands) area and to serve as a lifeguard during a scheduled carrier air strike on Okinawa. On March 18, 1945, the *Trigger* reported she had made a seven-hour end-around attack on a convoy and had sunk a cargo ship. On March 20th, the *Trigger* replied she had been held under by antisubmarine vessels for three hours after attacking the convoy and when she re-surfaced had been unable to regain contact on the escapees. Four days later, ComSubPac directed her to patrol west of the Nansei Shoto chain, to avoid restricted areas, and to stay outside of the 100-fathom curve. On March 26th she sent a weather report that day, but never confirmed receiving the March 26th message. On May 1, 1945, the *Trigger* was reported as presumed lost. The *Trigger* received eleven battle stars for her World War II service and the Presidential Unit Citation for her fifth, sixth, and seventh war patrols.

USS TULLIBEE I (SS-284) - 26 Mar. 1944

SS-284 Battle Stars



79 MEN LOST

On March 5, 1944, the *Tullibee* left Pearl Harbor for her fourth and final war patrol with Commander Charles F. Brindupke at the helm. After fueling at Midway Island on March 9, 1944, she headed for the Palau Islands to join other Pearl Harbor and Brisbane submarines assigned to Operation Desecrate One. She was never seen or heard from again. The *Tullibee* was expected to return to Majuro for a refit around May 4, 1944. When she failed to arrive by May 15, 1944, she was presumed lost. The *Tullibee* received three battle stars for her World War II service.





Lost Boats of April



USS PICKEREL (SS-177) - 3 Apr. 1943

SS-177 Battle Stars



78 MEN LOST

On March 18, 1943, the *Pickerel*, captained by Lieutenant Commander Augustus H. Alston, Jr., sailed from Pearl Harbor on her seventh and final war patrol. On March 22, 1943, she stopped at Midway Island to refuel, and then headed to her assigned patrol area along the eastern coast of northern Honshu. She was never heard from again. The *Pickerel* was possibly lost on April 3, 1943, off Aomori Prefecture, south of the Hachinohe Sea and near the Shiranuka Lighthouse, on the eastern coast of northern Honshu. At 0020 hours that day, *Pickerel* had sunk the 460-ton Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 13* at 41° 2' 60.000" N, 141° 58' 0.000" E. Later that day a Japanese patrol plane from Ominato spotted an oil patch on the sea near the Shiranuka Lighthouse. The patrol plane summoned the IJN Minelayer *Shirakami*, the submarine chaser *Bunzan Maru*, and additional aircraft to the spot. A total of 53 depth charges and 23 aerial bombs were dropped at the location causing a larger quantity of oil to rise to the surface. No other American submarine was operating in or near the area of the attacks. The *Pickerel* received three battle stars for World War II service.



USS SNOOK (SS-279) 8 Apr. 1945

SS-279 Battle Stars



88 Men Lost

On March 25, 1945, the *Snook* left the submarine base at Guam for her ninth and final war patrol with Commander John F. Walling at the helm. She departed Guam in company with USS *Burfish* (SS-312) and USS *Bang* (SS-385), all part of the wolf pack *WHALERS* under Commander Walling's leadership. On March 27th *Snook* returned to Guam for emergency repairs. She left to rejoin the group the following day. The group was under orders to conduct a coordinated patrol in the Luzon Strait area and to perform lifeguard duty if so directed by dispatch. On April 1, 1945, *Snook* was ordered to disband the *Whalers* pack and join a new group, *HIRAM'S HECKLERS*, under Commander Hiram Cassidy in USS *Tigrone* (SS-419). On April 8th *Tigrone* had been fired at by an unseen opponent and had dodged two torpedoes. He suspected that the *Snook* might have fired the torpedoes at him. Cassidy raised the *Snook* by radio that night and Walling said he had not yet fired any torpedoes. Cassidy cautioned Walling to be on guard for the enemy submarine that had fired the torpedoes at *Tigrone*. The next day Cassidy could not raise the *Snook* by radio. She was never heard from again. There are two possible causes for the *Snook's* loss, neither with sufficient evidence to be deemed conclusive. The first possibility is that on April 14, 1945, she was detected by enemy patrol planes off the Chusan Archipelago and attacked with depth charges. Surface vessels were called in and attacked the submarine with depth charges over the next two hours until a widening oil slick was sighted. The second possibility is that on April 14, 1945, while the *Snook* was on lifeguard duty near the Sakishima Islands, she was torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-56*. The *Snook* earned seven battle stars for World War II service.



Lost Boats of April



USS GRENADIER (SS-210) - 22 Apr. 1943

SS-210 Battle Stars



4 Men Lost

On March 20, 1943, *Grenadier* departed Fremantle for her sixth and final war patrol with Lieutenant Commander John A. Fitzgerald at the helm. On April 21, 1943, while on station in the Strait of Malacca, between the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra *Grenadier's* lookouts spotted a twin-engine enemy bomber on her port quarter. Fitzgerald gave the order to crash dive. As *Grenadier* passed 120 feet, a bomb exploded directly above the boat near the bulkhead between the maneuvering room and the after torpedo room. *Grenadier* sank until she hit the bottom at around 270 feet. After thirteen hours on the bottom, the crew managed to coax the heavily damaged submarine to the surface. With the deck gun inoperable, and only the bridge machine guns available, Fitzgerald knew fighting was not an option. He gave the order to scuttle the boat. The radio, radar, sound and TDC gear, and decoding machines were destroyed, and the codebooks were weighted and sunk. A Japanese merchant vessel with a small escort came into sight headed for *Grenadier*. As the IJN ships came closer, Fitzgerald lined his men up on the deck in their life jackets, the vents were opened and *Grenadier* sank by the stern, at the approximate geographic position 5° 30' 60.000" N, 98° 45' 0.000" E. They were taken aboard the Japanese merchant ship and transported to Penang, Malaysia. There the Japanese captors tortured them for many weeks in an unsuccessful effort to extract intelligence information. Next they would be sent to Singapore. Eventually, all of the men were transferred to the prison camps in Japan, where they underwent additional relentless interrogation. Four of *Grenadier's* men died while prisoners. The rest were freed following Japan's surrender more than two years later. The *Grenadier* received four battle stars for her World War II service.



USS BONEFISH (SS-582) Fire At Sea - April 24, 1988

1 Officer & 2 Men Lost



On April 24th, 1988, the Charleston based **USS BONEFISH SS-532** experienced a fire so intense that the ship had to be abandoned and subsequently towed back to port. BONEFISH was providing ASW services to the **USS CARR, FFG-52** and to the **USS JOHN F. KENNEDY, CVA-67** off the east coast of Florida. As part of the exercise CARR requested that BONEFISH go to 250 feet. After securing the battery charge, BONEFISH began diving to 250 feet. Investigators later determined that a sea water leak in the TDU allowed sea water into the battery compartment, followed by a loud bang. Instantly the boat filled with smoke. The order to abandon ship was given and Eighty-nine crew members were rescued by whaleboat and helicopter crews from CARR and the aircraft carrier JOHN F. KENNEDY. One Search and Rescue Swimmer from HS-7, Anti-Submarine Warfare Operator Third Class (AW3) Larry Grossman spent over three hours in the ocean and was credited with saving 19 lives. He later received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for Heroism. Three crewmen: **Lieutenant Ray E. Everts, Jr., Robert W. Bordelon RM2(SS), and Marshal Todd Lindgren YN3(SS)** were overcome by smoke and were killed. The investigation that followed the incident determined that the BONEFISH was damaged beyond repair and she was decommissioned on September 28, 1988 and scrapped on August 17, 1989.



ETERNAL PATROL

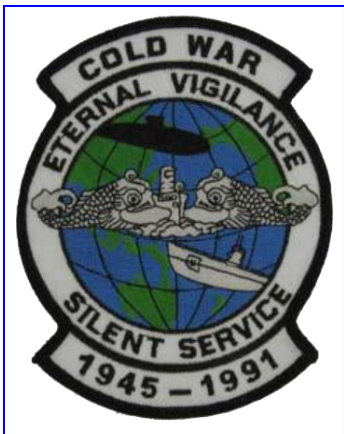
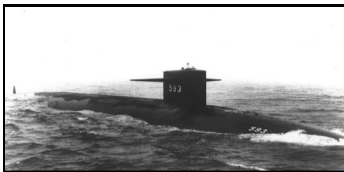


Lost Boats of April



USS THRESHER (SSN-593) - 10 April, 1963

112 Crew and 17 Civilians LOST



The keel of the second **THRESHER** (SSN-593) was laid down on 28 May 1958 by the Portsmouth (N.H.) Naval Shipyard; launched on 9 July 1960; sponsored by Mrs. Frederick B. Warder; and commissioned on 3 August 1961, **Comdr. Dean W. Axene** in command. Following trials the nuclear attack submarine took part in Nuclear submarine Exercise (NUSUBEX) 3-61 off the northeastern coast of the United States from 18 to 24 September.

On 18 October, the submarine headed south along the east coast. After calling at San Juan, Puerto Rico, she conducted further trials and test-fired her torpedo system before returning to Portsmouth on 29 November. The ship remained in port through the end of the year and spent the first two months of 1962 evaluating her sonar system and her Submarine Rocket (SUBROC) system.

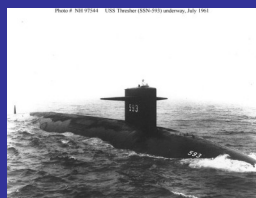
Off Charleston, the ship undertook operations observed by the Naval Antisubmarine Warfare Council, before she returned briefly to New England waters from whence she proceeded to Florida for SUBROC tests. However, while mooring at Port Canaveral, the submarine was accidentally struck by a tug which damaged one of her ballast tanks. After repairs at Groton, Connecticut, by the Electric Boat Company, the ship returned south for more tests and trials off Key West. **THRESHER** then returned northward and remained in dockyard hands through the early spring of 1963.

In company with **SKYLARK** (ASR-20), **THRESHER** put to sea on 10 April 1963 for deep-diving exercises. In addition to her 16 officers and 96 enlisted men, the submarine carried 17 civilian technicians to observe her performance during the deep-diving tests. Fifteen minutes after reaching her assigned test depth, the submarine communicated with **SKYLARK** by underwater telephone, apprising the submarine rescue ship of difficulties. Garbled transmissions indicated that far below the surface things were going wrong. Suddenly, listeners in **SKYLARK** heard a noise "like air rushing into an air tank", then, silence.

Efforts to reestablish contact with **THRESHER** failed, and a search group was formed in an attempt to locate the submarine. Rescue ship **RECOVERY** (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Eventually, photographs taken by bathyscaph **TRIESTE** proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 5,500 feet of water, some 220 miles east of Boston. **THRESHER** was officially declared lost in April 1963.

Subsequently, a Court of Inquiry was convened and, after studying pictures and other data, opined that the loss of **THRESHER** was in all probability due to a casting, piping, or welding failure that flooded the engine room with water. This water probably caused electrical failures that automatically shutdown the nuclear reactor, causing an initial power loss and the eventual loss of the boat. **THRESHER** is in six major sections on the ocean floor, with the majority in a single debris field about 400 yards square. The major sections are the sail, sonar dome, bow section, engineering spaces, operations spaces, and the tail section.

The death toll was staggering; 16 officers, 96 enlisted men, and 17 civilian technicians died that day. We submariners who followed them into the Silent Service owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to their memory because their death was the reason for the "Sub-Safe" program.



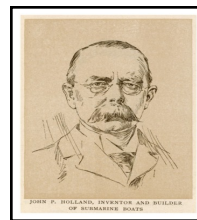
4/10/1963

USS Thresher (SSN-593)

Lost 10 April 1963 with the loss of 129 officers and men when it was sunk while on sea trials near Isle of Shoals.



2019 SMB Holland Club Inductee Biographies



Fred Baker (CS3-SS)

Fred enlisted in the U.S. Navy in June of 1968 and attended "boot camp" at Great Lakes Recruit Training Center Illinois. After "boot camp" he attended Submarine School at New London Connecticut. Upon completion of Submarine School in 1969, he was assigned to the USS George Washington Carver (SSBN 656) Gold Crew. In late 1969, Fred attended Culinary School where he earned the rate of "Commissary Man". Fred received his Dolphins while on the G.W. Carver on December 7, 1969. In June of 1970, Fred was transferred to the USS Grampus (SS 523) where he served until his next transfer to the USS Sargo (SS 495) in June of 1971. When the Sargo was decommissioned in June of 1972, Fred (having made Petty Officer third class) decided to separate from the Navy as Commissary Man Third Class.

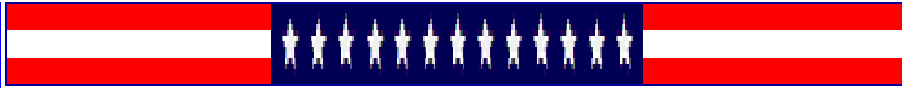
(Story Write-ups by Marlin Helms)

Everett Jenkins (ETC-SS)

Everett (Rett) Jenkins enlisted in the U.S. Navy on June 29, 1964 as a Polaris Field Electronics (PFE) seaman recruit. Following Basic Training, he went to Missile Technician "A school" in Dam Neck Virginia and then to Submarine School at New London Connecticut. After successful completion of Sub-School, he was assigned to the USS Oglethorpe (AKA-100) since the Missile Technician rate was filled on existing submarines. So he was subsequently reassigned to the pre-commissioning unit of the submarine USS George Washington Carver (SSBN 656) and his rate was changed to ET (Electronics Technician) as a 3rd class petty officer. He was then transferred to the USS Sargo (SSN 583) and was stationed at Pearl Harbor, HI. Finally, after being shuffled around the fleet for several years, he was transferred to the USS Grayling (SSN 646), where he qualified submarines. Everett then completed a half-tour of Shore Duty at NAS Jacksonville where he made ET1 (SS) with no job code and no additional assignments. He made the decision to attend WLR-6 school and was subsequently assigned to the USS Seahorse (SSN 669) with the new job code. Everett applied for and was accepted to the Deep Submergence Program where he made Chief Petty Officer. His final assignment was on the DSRV-Mystic (DSRV-1) and he remained there 9 years until his retirement in June of 1984.

Marty Luther (MT1-SS) / (Capt. Naval Reserves)

Marty Luther enlisted in the U.S. Navy in April 1967. Upon completion of Recruit Training at Great Lakes, IL in July 1967, Marty reported to Guided Missile School at Dam Neck, VA where he attended Polaris Electronics "A School" and Missile Technician "C School". In August of 1968 he reported to the USS Abraham Lincoln (SSBN 602) Gold Crew in Groton Connecticut where he qualified submarines in July 1969. Marty Completed seven patrols and a refueling overhaul at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. He was discharged in June 1974 as an MT1 (SS). In 1975 Marty joined the Navy Reserve and was assigned to Naval Electronics Systems Engineering Center, Charleston, where he was commissioned as LDO Ensign in April, 1980. From April 1980 to June 2008, Marty's assignments included: Naval Electronics Systems Engineering Center, Charleston; Naval Control of Shipping (Med/Africa); Trident Refit Facility at Kings Bay U.S. Naval Central Command; Mobile Mine Warfare, Guantanamo Bay; and Volunteer Training Unit, Naval Sea Systems Command. In June of 2008, Captain Luther retired from the Naval Reserve. And in June of 2015, he retired from Appalachian Electric Cooperative after 40 years in the electric utility industry.



2019 SMB Holland club inductions (October 17, 2019)

We take this opportunity to show our appreciation, recognize, and to thank several of our shipmates by inducting them into the prestigious USSVI HOLLAND CLUB. The HOLLAND CLUB is named after John P. Holland, designer of the first US Navy submarine. It is an exclusive group within the U.S. Submarine Veterans organization, where the core requirement for eligibility is the designation "qualified in submarines" for a minimum of fifty years. Today we recognize these Sub Vets for all of their contributions to and support of the U.S. Submarine force, and to say to them "Well Done, Shipmates! Thank you for your splendid and devoted service (Marlin E. Helms Jr. - SMB Holland Club Chairman)

Once again the Smoky Mountain Base Submarine Veterans conducted their annual Holland Club Inductions. **(Photo #1)** shows this year's inductees (Left to Right) Fred Baker (CS3-SS), Everett (Rett) Jenkins (ETC-SS) and Marty Luther (MT1-SS)/Captain (USNR). In **(Photo #2)** are each member's presentation plaques, Holland Club Patch, pin and challenge coin. **(Photo #3)** shows COB (Terry McBride) making the presentation to Marty Luther while Bob Childs reads the proclamation. **(Photo #4)** shows COB making the presentation to Fred Baker after Bob Childs had read Fred's proclamation. In **(Photo #5)** are Fred Baker and his wife Norma in front of the SMB Banner. **(Photo #6)** captures COB making the presentation of the patch to Rett Jenkins. In **(Photo #7)** (Back Row Left to Right) are the existing SMB Holland Club members present at this ceremony: Dick Mitchell, Wes Wesley, Bob Childs, (In the Second Row are): Duie Swicegood, Fred Baker, Everett Jenkins and Marty Luther. In front & center is 1995 Holland Club member Charlie Weller (RMSN-SS), WW-II Veteran.



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)



(6)



(7)

All Photos and story by Bruce Eltzroth



SPOTLIGHT ON:

AN AGING & HARD-WORKED FORCE

Article by: Sydney J. Freedberg Jr., deputy editor for Breaking Defense.



USS Tennessee (SSBN 734)



USS Tennessee (SSBN 734) Underway

Nuclear submarines are used hard every year, and this one is 32 years old. In fact, Tennessee was the first SSBN home ported at King's Bay and the first boat to test-fire the Trident D5 missile. The other 13 *Ohio-class nuclear missile subs* stationed here and in Bangor, Washington were all commissioned between 1981 and 1997, and the US hasn't built another SSBN since. (The newer Seawolf and Virginia submarines are relatively small attack boats that don't carry nuclear missiles). The Navy's now hustling to design and build the \$128 billion replacement program, the Columbia class, with no slack left in the schedule.

Even so, Tennessee and her sisters will have to stay in service 42 years apiece before they can be replaced in the 2030s. The land-based Minuteman ICBM, the B-1 and B-2 bombers, and the Air-Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM) will also need replacements about the same time. The force also needs upgrades to aging nuclear warheads, Trident missiles, and the nuclear command, control, and communications network (NC3), as well as refurbishment of crumbling Energy Department buildings that in some cases date back to the Manhattan project. All that will put tremendous pressure on the Pentagon budget.

"Everything in that program delivers just on time to replace the old stuff," said Gen. John Hyten, the four-star Air Force officer in charge of Strategic Command, to the nuclear weapons conference here.

"Every leg of the triad is up against the red line in terms of recapitalization," agreed Rear Adm. John W. Tammen, director of undersea warfare (N97) on the Navy staff. "The green-eyeshade people...have repeatedly delayed and delayed each of the programs. (Now), the bottom line is there's no additional margin for construction and delivery of Columbia." To reduce the risk, defense contractors have already started building missile tubes — some of which will go to the Royal Navy's SSBN program — as well as a full-up prototype of the new design's electric drive.

Is there any way, I asked, to squeeze some more years out of the Ohio's, originally designed to last 30 years? "We have sharpened the pencils to get to 42 years," he said. "I don't think there's anything past 42." So "we have to get Columbia done on time, (and) we are on plan to do that," Tammen emphasized. "With the current leadership designating the strategic mission as DoD's No. 1 mission, the resources are there."

In the meantime, there's some money to keep upgrading the existing equipment, but very selectively. So, like much of the US military, the sub is a strange mix of cutting-edge and vintage. There are plasma screens on the wall of the galley, the petty officer's "Goat Locker," and the captain's office/stateroom/tiny cells, that display the condition of the sub in real time, all the time, once underway. But a lot of technology dates from the 1980s when the boat was built, including key components of the fire control system for the ballistic missiles. It turns out "clunky but tried and tested" beats "new hotness that's mostly been debugged" when you're working with nuclear weapons. And no, the crew told us, one man can't launch the missiles: It takes at least two people turning keys at once in two different parts of the ship.

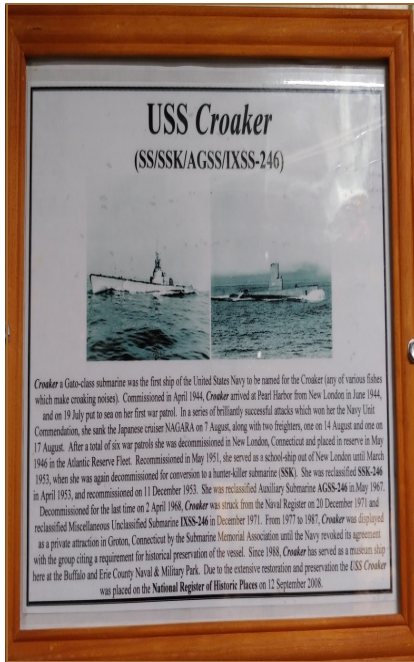




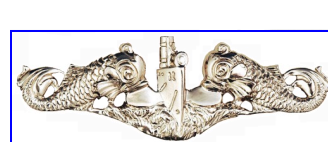
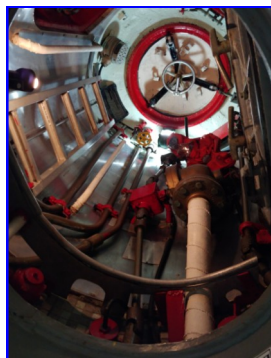
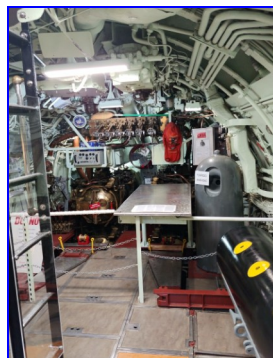
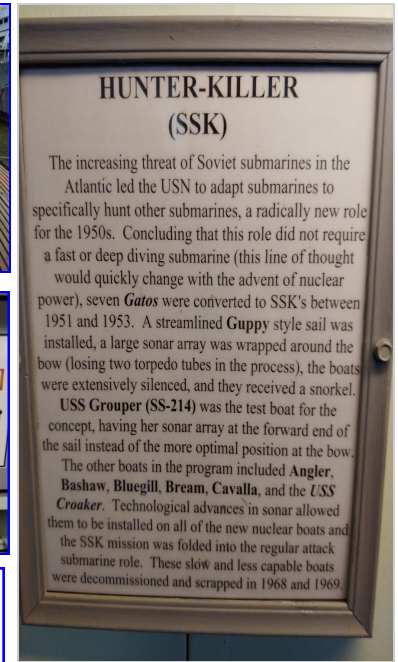
BOONDOGGLE OF THE MONTH

USS CROAKER SS-246

Info at: <http://www.buffalonavalpark.org/> (PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JOHN AUGUSTINE)



In October 2019, John Augustine MM2-(SS) visited the USS Croaker (SS-246) located in Buffalo, NY and provided these photos and information for this Boondoggle of the month.





LOOKING BACK FROM 2020 (Leap Year)



The fast attack submarine **USS Jefferson City (SSN-759)** turns 28 years old this month (Feb)...or is she only seven? It depends on how you look at it! *Jefferson City* is a “leap year boat” — a submarine commissioned on leap year day. Commissioned on February 29, 1992, she has been in service for 28 years yet has only marked seven birthdays. *Jefferson City* is just the second U.S. Navy submarine to begin service on a leap year day. The first leap year day boat, **USS Cavalla (SS-244)**, was commissioned February 29, 1944.

(Story and photo of SSN-759 courtesy of Under Sea Museum)

(Photo of SS-244 from Wikipedia)

USS JEFFERSON CITY (SSN-759)



USS CAVALLA (SS-244)



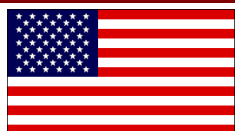
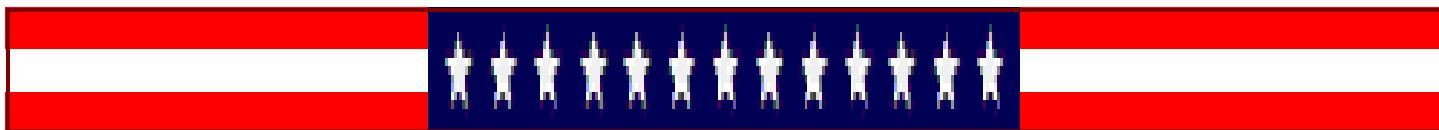
Scouting Chair Introduction
 Thomas Peschke, MMCM(SS) USN, RET.
 Qual Boat. - USS Vallejo (SSBN-658) 1971



Thom Peschke has been named the new Scout Chair for the Smoky Mountain Base. He has contacted the local BSA scout headquarters and asked that he be informed of ANY Eagle ceremonies in the future. Thom informed us that he will attend and celebrate the Scout receiving the rank of Eagle. He stated that: “if you are not aware of the meaning, **“Eagle Scout”** is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Scouts BSA program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of Scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process. The Eagle Scout rank has been earned by over 2.5 million youths”. Requirements to become and Eagle Scout include earning at least 21 merit badges. The Eagle Scout must also demonstrate **Scout Spirit**, an ideal attitude based upon the Scout Oath and Law, service, and leadership. This includes an extensive service project that the Scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages. Eagle Scouts are presented with a **medal** and a **badge** that visibly recognizes the accomplishments of the Scout. Additional recognition can be earned through Eagle Palms, awarded for completing additional tenure, leadership, and merit badge requirements. Those who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout also become eligible, although are not required, to join the [National Eagle Scout Association](#).” (Wikipedia)

If any SMB Subvet member knows of an upcoming Eagle Scout ceremony, please let Thom know ASAP by texting him on his cell phone at (301) 712-5095 or emailing him at tpeschke@gmail.com. If you call, please leave a message. He went on to say: “I usually don't answer phone calls from numbers I don't recognize” (don't we all?) and “I will be thrilled to make a USSVI Eagle Scout presentation”.





Bob Anderson ETCS (SS) on Eternal Patrol

(Photo by Bruce Eltzroth)



Bobby Anderson ETCS (SS) went on Eternal Patrol on 2/24/2020. Bobby retired from the Navy in 1973 as an ETCS (SS) he qualified in 1954 on the USS Manta SS-299. Boats Bobby also served on were: USS Amberjack - SS-522, USS Dace - SSN-607, and USS Guardfish - SSN-612. Bobby joined the USSVI and the Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans base in 2008. Bobby was also a Holland Club Member of the USSVI, having been qualified in submarines for 50 Years.

Knoxville, TN - Bobby Mack Anderson, Sr. born, January 17, 1930 in Farmersville, TX passed away peacefully at his home in Knoxville, TN on February 24, 2020 where he has lived for the last 48 years. Bob retired from his career in the Navy, then went on to retire from Oak Ridge Nuclear Labs (ORNL), after which he graduated from East Tennessee School of Preaching. He was also a member of the Smoky Mountain Base Submarine Veterans Club. He was preceded in death by his mother, Alma Anderson; sister, Anne Atterbury; wife, Shirley Sparks Anderson, wife, Rachel Russell Anderson; son, Bobby M. Anderson, Jr.; son-in-law, John W. Hubbard. Survived by daughters, Judy D. Hubbard, Kimberly R. Tindal; son-in-law, Darryl A. Tindal; step sons and spouses, Barry D. Russell (Kim), Stephen Russell (Becky); grandchildren, Shane Bufkin, David Anderson (Cassica), Connor Tindal, Sasha Russell, Andy Ballard and several great-grandchildren. Visitation will be at Weaver's Chapel, Saturday from 5:00-7:00 pm with service to follow at 7:00 pm. Bobby's wishes were to be cremated; burial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies, (formerly known as East TN School of Preaching at Karns Church of Christ).



Photo by Marlin Helms





USSVI APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular ☐ Life ☐ Associate ☐

OUR CREED: "To 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 & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

☐ I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Yr)

(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

☐ I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in _____ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ - _____ Tel: (_____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Your E-Mail Address _____ Base/Chapter Desired: _____

The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____

Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$115.00; 3 Yr term: \$70.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$25.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$30.00;
Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00;

Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Consult the local base for those figures.

How did you find USSVI? ☐ Friend, ☐ Boat Assn, ☐ Local Event/News, ☐ Internet, ☐ Other (_____)

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member? (Mandatory for Associate Members) _____

Associate Applicant is: ☐ Veteran, ☐ Spouse of Veteran, ☐ Other (specify) _____

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____ If other military service, What Branch? _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ Mil Retired (Y/N): _____ On Active Duty? (Y/N): _____

YR entered Mil Service: _____ YR left Mil Service _____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

☐ Check here if your Military Service falls within these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946, June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7, 1975; and from Aug 2, 1990 to date.

☐ Check here if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

2. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

3. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

4. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

5. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

Next of Kin: Name: _____ Relationship: _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Daughter, Parent, Other)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Tel: _____

(Leave this address line blank if it is the same as your home address)

Upon completion, give this form, including your National and Base membership DUES to the appropriate base officer, or if you do not know of a base near you, mail to: USSVI National Office, P.O. Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870. Questions: Call 1-877-542-DIVE or email office@ussvi.org.