

he Snorkel Exhaus



SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, TN



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.

OUR **ORGANIZATION** **FOUNDERS**









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

Base meetings are scheduled on the 3^{rd} Thursday of each month at: MIMI'S CAFÉ, 10945 PARKSIDE DRIVE KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE Dinner & Social Hour @ 1800 **Meeting** @ 1900

(Guests are Invited)

SNORKEL EXHAUST INDEX

NOVENIDER 2023	
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THIS ISSUE	1
SMB BASE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN LISTING	2
CALANDERS, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND NEW MEMBER'S INFO.	3
VETERAN'S ASSISTANCE AND RESOURSES	4
BASE OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS	5
NOVEMBER BASE MEETING MINUTES	6
LOST BOATS OF NOVEMBER	7-9
VETERAN'S DAY ACTIVITIES	10
IDAHO'S SUBMARINE FACILITY	11
KINGS BAY WW2 SUBMARINE VETERANS MEMORIAL GATHERING	12-13
APPLICATION FOR USSVI MEMBERSHIP FORM	14



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Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans-273222054302

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS



BASE COMMANDER
Marlin E. Helms, Jr.
Holland Club Chairman



MM1(SS) USS Spadefish SSN-668 '74



BASE VICE COMMANDER
Robert (Bob) Childs



MMC(SS) USS Nautilus SSN-571 '67



BASE SECRETARY
Ernie Ball



MMC(SS) USS LaFayette (SSBN-616) '75



BASE TREASURER
Jim Rock



MM1(SS) USS Andrew Jackson SSBN-619 '76

Smoky Mountain Base Committee Chairmen



BASE CHIEF OF THE BOAT
Terry McBride



MMC(SS) USS Woodrow Wilson (SSBN-624) '??



BASE PROGRAMS
Andy Armbrust



MM1(SS) USS Hammerhead (SSN-663) '75



BASE STOREKEEPER





MEMBERSHIP / RECRUITER
Marlin E. Helms, Jr.



MM1(SS) USS Spadefish SSN-668 '74



WEBMASTER
Marlin E. Helms, Jr.



MM1(SS) USS Spadefish SSN-668 '74



BASE NEWSLETTER
Max Gildner



ET1(SS) USS Tullibee (SSN-597) '71



BASE PHOTOGRAPHER
Bruce Eltzroth
Associate Member

ET1(SU) USS Sculpin (SSN-599)



BASE CHAPLIN
David Pope, EAWS
Associate Member

OMSUBGRU-9, FP DET. 2



SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, USSVI

Meetings, Greetings, Gatherings & Calendar

NOVEMBER - 2025

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Scheduled Meetings:

Base meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of each month at

MIMI'S CAFÉ, 10945 PARKSIDE DRIVE located in Turkey Creek, Knoxville, TN











Published by: Smoky Mountain Submarine Base

A Subsidiary of USSVI, a non-profit - 501(C)(19) Corporation. Published monthly on the Base's website. http://www.facebook.com/pages/Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans/273222054302

12/7—Pearl Harbor Day

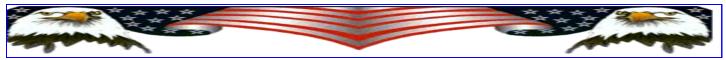
12/13—Army/Navy Game

12/18-= - SMD Meeting

12/25—Christmas

12/31—New Years Eve.

S	M	т '	DECEMBER W	2025 T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



VETERANS ASSISTANCE & RESOURCES

Operation Vet Rescue

Rescuing & Rebuilding Lives of Homeless Veterans



(865) 284-3188 info@ovrtn.org P.O. Box 23, Greenback, N 37742

VA Regional Office Benefits Assistance on every 4th Friday at 1557 Downtown West Blvd. Units 20-21 Knoxville, TN 0900-1400 Hours

East TN Military Assistance Council Calendar of Events web site: www.etmac.org/calendar

<u>U.S. Military Veterans Discounts</u> Tennessee State Discounted Fees and Taxes

- □ \$10 one-time fee for hunting and fishing license for eligible disabled veterans.
- ☐ Distinctive motorcycle and vehicle license plates; no fee for currently enlisted personnel.
- ☐ Exemption from motor vehicle privilege tax for eligible permanently and totally disabled veteran or former POW.
- ☐ Reduced fee state park lodging, camping, and golf.
- ☐ Veterans Designation on drivers license.





The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1078 meets at The Redemption Church located at 3550 Pleasant Ridge Road, Knoxville, TN on the 2nd Tuesday of







The Honor and Remember Flag has been designated as the official TN state symbol of remembrance to honor fallen military service members for their service.

For information on obtaining one refer to: http://www.honorandremember.org/the-flag/flag-presentation.

VETERAN'S HOTLINE 988#1 OR (844) 647-1354

SUBVEST Serving those

Serving those
Who Already Have.

The only place to get CUSTOM SEWN

Submarine Vests, Hats, Jackets, Shirts & MORE!

A Base Storekeepers Dream... Discounts & No Stock to order Call to set up an account!

www.SUBVEST.com

757-318-0138 B4 8pm





Base Commander's Report Marlin E. Helms, Jr. - MM1(SS)



Just1More is under new management but there will be no change in our visit to the Army/Navy game there this year. The game is the 13th of December with kickoff at 3:00 (1500). Some of us will roll up at 1:00 (1300) to set up please come to help decorate the float and set up if able. I will email more by email with any updates and directions prior to the game. There have been lots of Army there in the past so please come out to support Navy. We need a new storekeeper please contact me if interested. We have a few budget items to be considered float repairs, possible new order of Darth Rickover coins, website updates, and new flagpoles. I think in that order of importance I can duct tape and staple the flagpoles to delay a new purchase.



BASE VICE-COMMANDER'S REPORT

Robert (Bob) Childs, EMC(SS)



No report submitted.



SMB Treasurer's Report - Jim Rock MM1(SS)



On November 20th, we had a balance of \$3,397.83



Program Chairman's Report - Andy Armbrust MM1(SS)



No picnic is currently scheduled. I intend to plan a picnic for the spring of 2026 subject to the Yacht Club availability.



Newsletter Editor's Report

Max Gildner ET1(SS) & Bruce Eltzroth ET1(SU)



Please let us know if there are any suggestions for improvements to the newsletter form or contents. Photos of base activities are always appreciated.



Storekeepers Report -



We currently have the following items on hand for sale:

The 2026 USSVI Calendars have arrived.. Cost \$8.00 at the meeting, but if mailed postage will be added. 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. The "Nuke, I am your father" coins are here.—\$20.00.

Remember, all purchases go to support your Smoky Mountain Base



USSVI SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE MEETING

Date: November 20, 2025

Presiding: Marlin Helms Base Commander

Meeting called to Order at 1900 hours

The Base Chaplain presented the Invocation.

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

COB and Chaplain led the Tolling of the Boats.

COB hosted member/guest introductions.

Number of Attendees: 11 members, 5 guest/wife's

Base Secretary. Minutes of October Meeting read and approved

Base Treasurer reported - \$3397.83 in the account.

Correspondence/Discussion - None

Committees -

- Newsletter Man Gildner- nothing new
- Library Marlin Helms new book Critical Mass
- Storekeeper need new storekeeper
- Membership Dues 2026
- Scouting Marlin Helms- still no contact
- Media Manager Marlin Helms- cost for storekeeper items on site
- Social Committee Andy Armbrust nothing new

Old business - none

New Business -

- 2026 Dues
- Army/Navy Game Dec. 13 @ Just 1 More Bar and Grill
- Budget; Float Repairs, New Flag Poles and stands, Reorder Coins, Web update for Storekeeper
- Location, day and time of meetings in the future. Saturday @ 4pm at MIMI's.
- Talked about Dinner/lunch East and West
- Dick talked about trip to Kings Bay trout up Submarine Advocacy group on Facebook.

Good of the Order

· 50/50 **-** \$52.00

Next Meeting: 1900 hrs. Thursday, December 18, 2025, at MiMi's Café, 10945 Parkside Dr., Knoxville, TN 37934.

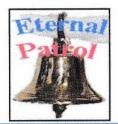
Meeting Adjourned at 2000 hrs., Boat surfaced.

Ernie Ball, Secretary



WW-II Lost Boats

Lost Boats of November



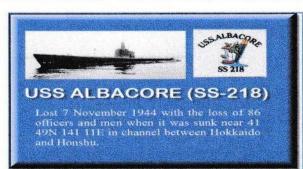
USS Albacore SS-218 - November 7,1944

86 Men Lost

On October 24, 1944, the **ALBACORE**, captained by Lieutenant Commander Hugh R. Rimmer, left Pearl Harbor for her eleventh and final war patrol. On October 28, 1944, she stopped at Midway Island to top off her fuel tanks. She then headed for her assigned patrol area northeast of Honshu and southeast of Hokkaido. After leaving Midway, she was never heard from again. Based on a review of Japanese records recovered after the war, it was learned that on November 7, 1944, near the geographic coordinates 41° 49′ 0.000″ N, 141° 11′ 0.000″ E, the **ALBACORE** struck a mine very close to the shore off southeastern Hokkaido. The underwater explosion was witnessed by the Japanese auxiliary minesweeper Fukuei Maru No. 7, which was conducting an antisubmarine sweep in the area. On December 21, 1944, the **ALBACORE** was listed as lost in action; the official announcement was made on March 27, 1945.

SS-218-BattleStars





Lieutenant Commander H.R. Rimmer



USS Growler SS-215 - November 8,1944

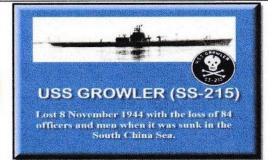
85 Men Lost

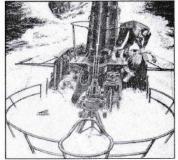
On October 20, 1944, a wolf pack headed by the **GROWLER'S** captain, Commander Thomas "Ben" Oakley, with **USS HAKE (SS-256)** and **USS HARDHEAD (SS-365)**, departed Fremantle. Their destination was west of the Philippine islands where they would operate as a coordinated search and attack group. This departure would mark the beginning of the **GROWLER'S** eleventh and final war patrol. On November 8, 1944, the wolf pack prepared to close a convoy to attack it. The **HAKE** and the **HARDHEAD** were on the opposite side of the convoy from the **GROWLER**. The order to begin attacking the convoy was the last communication ever received from the **GROWLER**. The two other submarines heard what sounded like a torpedo explosion and then a series of depth charges on the **GROWLER'S** side of the convoy. The **HARDHEAD** lined up and sank a 5,300-ton tanker. She was depth-charged heavily by the convoy's escorts. The **HAKE** saw the tanker sink, but was forced to evade and go deep because of the escorts, who kept her on the bottom for sixteen hours, dropping 150 depth charges. After the barrage was over later that night, they attempted to contact the **GROWLER** without success. All additional efforts to contact the **GROWLER** over the next three days also proved futile. She was listed as lost in action.



SS-215-Battle Stars











WW-II Lost Boats

lost Boats of November



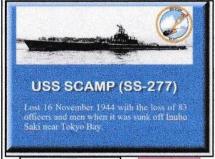
USS Scamp SS-277 November 16,1944



SS-277 Battle Stars

83 Men Lost

On October 16, 1944, the **SCAMP**, captained by Commander John Hollingsworth, departed Pearl Harbor for her eighth and final war patrol. On October 20, 1944, she refueled at Midway Island then proceeded to her assigned patrol area near the Bonin Islands. On November 9, 1944, she acknowledged receipt of a radio message ordering her to move to an area off Tokyo Bay. At that time she reported her position to be about 150 miles north of the Bonin Islands, with all twenty-four torpedoes aboard and 77,000 gallons of fuel remaining. The **SCAMP** was never heard from again. On December 21, 1944, she was reported as presumed lost on war patrol in enemy waters. The **SCAMP** was struck from the Navy list on April 28, 1945.







USS Corvina SS-226 November 16,1943

82 Men Lost

On November 4, 1943, the **CORVINA**, captained by Commander Roderick S. Rooney, left Pearl Harbor for her first and final war patrol. She had been ordered to patrol near the Japanese stronghold at Truk Atoll. In particular, she was ordered to be on the lookout for a sortie of Japanese warships, which could possibly endanger the forthcoming American invasion of the Gilbert Islands. On November 6, 1943, the **CORVINA** topped off her fuel tanks at Johnston Island and then headed for her assigned patrol area. The **CORVINA** assumed her station south of Truk together with sister submarines **USS Blackfish (SS-221)** and **USS Drum (SS-228)**. Lieutenant Commander William Kinsella, **BLACKFISH'S** executive officer, recalled the key events as follows: "We were south of Truk with **DRUM** and **CORVINA** when we got a Ultra stating that a Japanese submarine was coming through the area. We were supposed to rendezvous with **DRUM** and **CORVINA**. Just after sunset we got into position where this Japanese submarine was supposed to pop up and sure enough, just at sunset, while we were submerged, it surfaced just to the south of us, not more than 5,000 yards away. It was starting to get dark, and we really could not see through the periscope well enough to ascertain that it was a Japanese submarine. Remembering that **DRUM** and **CORVINA** were in the vicinity we elected not to shoot....As it turned out, we later established contact with **DRUM** and determined it was not him. It was Japanese. We never did see **CORVINA** again....The Jap sub got her."

Japanese records examined after the war indicated that the IJN submarine I-176 fired three torpedoes at a surfaced American submarine south of Truk Atoll on November 16, 1943. The torpedoes hit the submarine "causing a great explosion sound." The **CORVINA** thus became the only American submarine to be sunk by a Japanese submarine during the war. Ironically, she was the victim of the submarine she was sent to sink.











ETERNAL PATROL



lost Boats of November



USS Sculpin SS-191 November 19,1943

63 Men Lost

On November 5, 1943, the **SCULPIN** departed Pearl Harbor for her ninth and final war patrol. She had been ordered to patrol north of the Japanese stronghold at Truk Atoll and to attack Japanese forces sortieing from Truk's northern passage during the Gilbert Islands campaign (Operation Galvanic). On November 7, 1943, she topped off her fuel tanks at Johnston Island, and then headed for her assigned patrol area with the **SCULPIN'S** new captain, Commander Fred Connaway, at the helm.

At the direction of Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, Captain John P. Cromwell was aboard the **SCULPIN** to coordinate wolf pack operations, as necessary. If activated by Cromwell, the pack would consist of either the **SCULPIN** and the **USS SEARAVEN** (SS-196) or the **SCULPIN** and the **USS APOGON** (SS-308). Cromwell possessed extensive knowledge of the Operation Galvanic plans and of the Ultra intelligence system. Lockwood had cautioned him not to disclose any information about Operation Galvanic to the **SCULPIN'S** crew to eliminate the possibility of it being extracted from them by the Japanese.

On November 19, 1943, while making a surface end-around run to attack a Japanese convoy, the SCULPIN was detected by the IJN destroyer Yamagumo and fatally damaged by depth charges. Due to the heavy damages she was forced to surface and fight the Yamagumo with her deck guns. It was a one-sided engagement. The ensuing gun battle killed Commander Connaway, his executive officer, and the gunnery officer, and inflicted additional damage to the SCULPIN. Command of the SCULPIN passed to the remaining senior officer, who ordered the boat scuttled and abandoned. After most of the surviving crewmen had escaped, the SCULPIN was deliberately flooded with Captain Cromwell and eleven other men still aboard, some dead and others there by choice. Cromwell chose to go down with the boat to prevent the enemy from obtaining the secret information he possessed. For this action, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Forty-two of the SCULPIN'S crew members were picked up by the Yamagumo. One badly wounded sailor was thrown back in the sea by the Japanese. Two groups of crewmen were embarked on separate aircraft carriers returning to Japan. One group had twenty-one crewmen, and the other twenty. One of them, the escort carrier Chuyo, which was carrying the group with twenty-one crewmen, was sunk by the USS SAILFISH (SS-192) and twenty of the American prisoners perished. The one survivor was able to grab hold of a ladder on the side of a passing Japanese destroyer and haul himself aboard it. He was eventually sent to the Ashio copper mines. On December 5, 1943, the other twenty survivors arrived at Ofuna, Japan and were also eventually detailed to the Ashio copper mines for the duration of the war.







VETERAN'S DAY ACTIVITIES



Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Smoky Mountain Base of the USSVI did not participate in the Knoxville Veteran's Day parade this year. However, not to be defeated by circumstances, we continued our tradition of meeting for dinner at Calhoun's Restaurant at Turkey Creek. We had a good turnout of members and family to enjoy fellowship and good food. It was a great time being social outside of our usual USSVI topics of conversation. Once again, Calhoun's honored veterans with free dinners with a nice selections of dinner favorites..

A representative of the Viet Nam Veterans organization was stationed at the entrance with information for Knox County residents about a Home Title Fraud Prevention Program offered by the Knox County Register of Deeds office. This free program available on-line registers the owners of property in Knox County with contact information so that if someone attempts to fraudulently transfer title to your property to someone else, the REAL owners of the property would be contacted to verify the legitimacy of the title transfer. Fraudulent title transfers are the biggest SCAM being currently perpetrated in the United States. Marlin checked to find if Roane County had a similar program and they do.











IDAHO'S SUBMARINE FACILITY

Most submariners, especially "Nukes", think that Idaho's only connection to the U.S. Submarines Service was the now decommissioned nuclear propulsion prototypes used for development and training. Surprisingly, this is not the case, and the facility is vitally important to all submariners currently serving the fleets.

Nestled in the Selkirk Mountains northeast of Spokane, WA lies Lake Pend Oreille. The lake was part of the former WW2 4,000-acre Farragut Naval Training Center. In 1946 most of the site was shut down and made into Farragut State Park. The remaining facility of just 22 acres at the south end of the lake is currently the home of the Navy's Acoustic Research Detachment. The lake has some very unique features. It is 43 miles long; 1,159 feet deep and has a constant sub-surface temperature of 39.5 degrees.

The facility is neither new nor secret. It is here that large-scale models of our submarines are tested. Testing is done in a 26 square mile area in the middle of the lake and at night to reduce spurious noise from people and boating activities.

The facility started in the 1960s in an effort to reduce the acoustic signature of our submarines. They were instrumental in the development of the USS Sturgeon Class and every subsequent class since then. Using an array of 158 hydrophones and 36 projectors, the models are evaluated for their acoustic stealth. Testing involves not only hull shapes, but also appendages to the hull such as rudders, diving planes, and propellers. Different sonar systems have also been tested in the lake.

Current testing is using a model of the under development "Columbia Class" ballistic missile submarine. It is about a 1/5th scale and named "Pike". Another test model is called "Cutthroat" and was named by a contest of the local Athol Elementary School to honor a local trout. Cutthroat was built jointly by Newport News Shipbuilding and Electric Boat. The Navy refers to Cutthroat as the world's largest unmanned submarine. It is 200 tons, 111 feet long, and has a 3,000 shaft horsepower electric motor. It is fully autonomous and can replicate any maneuver you could do in a full sized submarine.





37th ANNUAL KINGS BAY WW2 SUBMARINE VETERANS MEMORIAL GATHERING



Article and photos by Richard (Dick) Love



The Memorial event was held on the Sub Base from November 5th through 9th, 2025. The event was well attended and coordinated. The event was hosted by the base commands and the Saint Mary's Submarine Museum. Some of the activities were impacted by the Shumer Shutdown, and require the SECNAV approval to continue. These are different times in our government and the memorial carried on with a few adjustments to the schedule. Boat tours were cancelled.

We enjoyed a BBQ cooked by the SQDN 36 Chiefs mess one evening, followed by steaks cooked by the TTF Chiefs mess the following evening. Lt. Patrick Zilliacus, WWII Veteran, also pinned the newest qualified sailor off one of the boats.

On Thursday, we had an update on the fleet by Commander Submarine Group 10. The SSBN's are still on watch and the SSGN's do forward refits to stay online. Group Ten spoke of his experience in the Columbia Diving Trainer in New London. They have some tricks so you can wrap your head around the X-Planes configuration control, since the computer does all the compensation to change the direction and angle on the boat. Not your simple order to the helm or plainsmen we are used to hearing commanded.

The CMC's and COB's hosted breakfast at the Sub Base Galley, aka The Pirates Cove. A lot has changed since the last time I went to a galley.

On Friday, November 7th, we held the Memorial at the World War II Memorial located in front of TTF. It was impressive with all the WW II boat flags all hanging around the pavilion. The base did an outstanding job and honored our WW II shipmates and their widows. Commander Submarine Group 10 and Commanding Officer of Trident Refit Facility lead the ceremony. The key speaker was Lt. Patrick of the USS Spot SS-413.

The ceremony concluded with fully military honors, a twenty-one-gun salute followed by Taps. After the memorial ceremony we enjoyed a Low Country Boil at the Eagles Club. We were well taken care off by the St Mary's crew.

On Saturday, we had a presentation by Bill Mumford about Submarine exposures and health risks. He is a member of the Submarine Advocacy Group (SAG) and has compiled and published a report: THE UNSEEN BURDEN: Toxic Exposures and Health Impacts on US Navy Submarines.

I encourage you to join the Submarine Advocacy Group on Facebook to stay abreast of all that is going on. Take a look at the VA Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA) report. The objective of the SAG is to get the presumed exposures on submarines added to the pact act to provide qualified presumptive conditions.

The base has quite a lot to see.





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.

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(Honorary designations regard				reanth, in n	allitanı ooni	an) in (Va)
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Name: (Print /Type)						
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Your E-Mail Address						
The Member Dues year ru						
Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$140 Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$120.0						
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How did you find USSVI?						
Who is your sponsoring US						
Associate Applicant is: \[\]						
			BIOGRAPHICA			
Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) _						
Highest Rate & Rank Attai						
YR entered Mil Service: _	YR left Mil Se	ervice (<i>A</i>	Active/Inactive rese	erve time a	lso counts.)	
□ Check here if your № 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955	lilitary Service fa ; Aug 5, 1964, thr	lls within thes u May 7,1975;	e time periods: I and from Aug 2	Dec 7, 194 , 1990 to d	1, thru Declate.	31, 1946, June 27,
☐ Check here if you have	been awarded an I	Expeditionary N	ledal.			
Submarin	es and ships serve	ed aboard as sh	ip's company (Use	back if yo	u need more	e space.)
1.	н	ull#	Rank/Rate		From Yr	to Yr
2	н	ull#	Rank/Rate	1	From Yr	to Yr
3	н	ull#	Rank/Rate		From Yr	to Yr
4	н	ull#	Rank/Rate		From Yr	to Yr
5	н	ull#	Rank/Rate		From Yr	to Yr
Next of Kin: Name:		Relations	hip:	(Spouse,	Partner, Son,	Daughter, Parent, Othe
			State:			

Upon completion, give this form, including your National <u>and</u> Base membership DUES to Marlin Helms, or if you do not know of a base near you, mail to: <u>USSVI National Office</u>, P.O. Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870. Questions: Call Marlin Helms @ (865) 387-5625.