

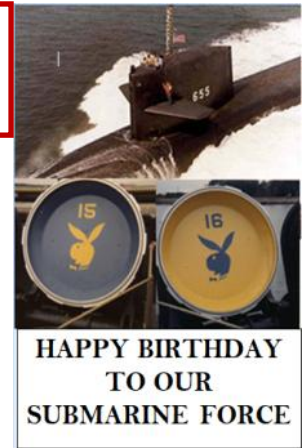
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VOL. 2026 #4

APRIL 2026

USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER

Association Officers & Board of Directors 2025 - 2027

PRESIDENT Jerry [CJ] Blevins	VICE PRESIDENT Paul [Margaret] Clark	SECRETARY Nick [Linda] Nichols	TREASURER Ken [Diane] Meigs	PAST PRESIDENT Tom [Marie] Krauser
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Other Positions 2023 - 2025

HISTORIAN / CUSTODIAN Larry [Linda] Knutson	WEBMASTER / NEWSLETTER Nick [Linda] Nichols	CHAPLAIN Bruce [Vicki] Stefanik
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2025 REUNION #13 WRAPUP

Between October 1-5 our Association held a very successful Reunion at the Holiday Inn Norwich CT.

The 2027 Reunion #14 will be held in Indianapolis IN.

Co-Chairs are Gary & Mary Owen [MT2/IC2(SS) G 70-75; Assoc. Life Mbr; USSVI-HC Hoosier Base] and Doug Cooper [TM2(SS) B 71-74].

The Meeting Minutes are on our website. You can read them **HERE**. These minutes will be voted on for acceptance at the 2027 Business Meeting.

Elected Association Officers for 2025-2027:

- President - Jerry Blevins
- Vice President - Paul Clark
- Secretary - Nick Nichols
- Treasurer - Ken Meigs
- Past President - Tom Krauser
- Appointed for 2023-2025:
- Chaplain - Bruce Stefanik
- Historian - Larry Knutson
- Webmaster - Nick Nichols

A VERY SUCCESSFUL REUNION INDEED!

The Reunion was very well attended with **97 registering** to attend and **93 attending**.

In the May newsletter you will see pictures and have links to a couple of videos that were taken. Those are still trickling in so if you attended and haven't sent in your pictures please get them to **655webmaster@ssbn655.org** as soon as you can.

Ron Testa [ETN2 [LCDR ret] G/SY1/B 70-73] made everyone proud with his speech to the SUBSCOL Graduating Class which, by the way was named after USS HENRY L. STIMSON.

Unfortunately due to the government shutdown the tour of the NAUTILUS Museum had to be cancelled. There was plenty to see at the Mystic Seaport and of course everyone really enjoyed their time at the USSVI Groton Clubhouse for lunch.

Congratulations to John & Gretchen Glaub and their committee for putting on a great reunion!



From the Association Treasurer - Ken Meigs [ETR2(SS) G Comm 65-70 Plank; USSVI-HC MAL Base, Assoc Life Member]:

Stimson Association Financial Health

I would like to give you some information about the Association's finances. As a group we are doing great and are very solvent.

Although it is not the purpose of the Reunions to put a lot of money back into the Association coffers, several of the reunion committees have been able to do that very thing. This is not due to overcharging for fees or events but in most all cases it is due to some unforeseen cancellation of an event or a mistake is made by the event venue and the reunion committee does not have pay what was expected. Additionally, many shipmates who have to cancel after registration will tell the committee to keep the funds and use them for the reunion. All those small things can add up to the committees returning not only the seed money fronted by the Association but substantial additional funds.

We have banked with Chase since 2012, primarily because they have given us a free checking account. In the earlier days before the Association began having sizable reunion attendance, we had struggled to keep enough in each one of the separate funds we had setup IAW the Bylaws. This is no longer the case. Each of the funds is listed below as well as where we're at right now. This is after sending the \$1400.00 to the St. Mary's Submarine Museum as voted on at the last business meeting [Thank you letter at the end of the newsletter]

Association	\$13,389.32
Reunion	\$4,100.00
Charity	\$4,300.00
Total	\$21,789.32

If you have any questions regarding the Association Finances, I will be happy to discuss these with you. Contact me via email:

ctw777kdm@gmail.com

As another note at the end of this newsletter, Nick has put in the Museum Capital Campaign

Packet for the St. Mary's Submarine Museum. If you would like to make a donation to this great museum this provides the needed information. This museum already has a large selection of Stimson equipment and memorabilia and will be the place we send anything we have whenever the Association is disbanded.



From the Association President - Jerry Blevins [LT(SS) B 76-79, USSVI Groton Base, Assoc Life Member]:

As always, CJ and I are looking forward to having the March storms behind and flowers of April. We wish a Happy 126th birthday to the U.S. Submarine force on April 11.



Chaplain's Corner - Bruce Stefanik [MS1(SS) B 73-77, 655 Assoc Life Member, USSVI/Holland Club USS Asheville Base]:

A Time For Everything

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

This is a great time for all Submariners to show love and care for each other.

May you and your families be blessed as we think of each other this month.

//Bruce Stefanik, Chaplain

Submarines Lost During the Month of April

USS PICKEREL (SS-177)	April 3, 1943 – 7th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 74 souls
USS SNOOK (SS-279)	April 8, 1945 – 9th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 84 souls
USS THRESHER (SSN-593)	April 10, 1963 – sea trials	Lost with all hands – 129 souls
USS GUDGEON (SS-211)	April 18, 1944 – 12th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 79 souls
USS GRENADE (SS-210)	April 22, 1943 – 6th war patrol	76 POWs; 72 survived the war

Five Boats and 370 Men Lost



WELCOME ABOARD: Found & Updated

(Shipmate has been added or information has been updated on our Sailing List. Please check the online Sailing List for shipmates contact info.)

NOTE: Don Ort [MM1(SS) G/SY1/G 69-74, CWO4 Ret], continues to locate our Stimson shipmates who are on our Sailing List be without an email address.

None added / changed this month

BINNACLE LIST UPDATES: If you know of a shipmate who should be on the binnacle list please let me know. I will contact the shipmate for permission to add them to this list. I only add those who have given permission.

I am using the binnacle list as an ongoing story for each person on it. This way you will be able to understand the update better than if you do not remember what their health issues were.

=====

Bob 'Doc' Dougherty [MM1(SS) G/SY1/G 70-74]

Cards to: 2600 Eberly Street, Hatboro, PA 19040

3.30.26: Email from Elaine via Gretchen: Doc was readmitted to the hospital on March 25. He is in the Cardiac Cardiovascular Critical Care IMU. Doc is still in Afib. He is on oxygen as he has been having trouble breathing. He had a thoracentesis to remove fluid from the lung. Once he is more stable, they will do more tests.

3.22.26: Email from Gretchen: from Elaine Dougherty: from Elaine: 'Doc' is Progressing slowly. Kidneys are back to normal. Liver taking a little longer but moving in the right direction. Doc is now able to take short walks but does get slightly tired but not out of breath. No swelling which is a good thing. He is on a low sodium diet with 64 oz of water/liquid allowed per day because of heart failure. Also, a low sodium diet which is taking him a while to get used to. Since the reunion he has lost almost 30 lbs. Next up is a nuclear test and possible scheduling of an ablation for the Afib.

2.26.26: Email from Gretchen Glaub: Robert 'Bob' 'Doc' Dougherty is in the hospital in Pennsylvania with Pneumonia and AFib. Thoughts and prayers would be greatly appreciated.

=====

Hal Smith [MM2(SS) G 68-69]

Cards to: 12050 Grand Lakes Dr., Jacksonville FL 32258

1.19.26: Email from Hal: Feb 15 2024 was told to see a cancer surgeon by Dr. after colonoscopy. Went to Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center in Jacksonville, FL. Oncologist said that biopsy indicated I have colon cancer of the type Goblet Cell carcinoma. A very aggressive type at stage 4. I had surgery and the tumor and 2.5 ft of my colon was removed including the appendix and 19 lymph nodes. I healed in 5 weeks and I began 2 different types of chemotherapy consisting of infusion and home chemo over a period of a year or so. CT scan indicated chemo was not working and we began Immunotherapy consisting of 2 nasty home meds and infusion. During all of this I had various side effects from it all such shortness of breath, tiredness, water retention which caused my legs and feet to swell. the swelling caused the water circulation to stop and collected in my legs, with water blisters which broke draining liquid down my legs constantly. I am going to wound care. I was having trouble breathing and was in the hospital for that and various other things for two days. I had a ct scan while in the hospital. I was released after 2 days. I was taken off the home immunotherapy meds because my kidney functions were not good. I continued with infusion therapy 2 more times. On my last Oncologist visit about 1.5 weeks ago, The Oncologist said that the Immunotherapy was no longer working and the last CT scan was showing that the cancer was spreading and at this time no other type of treatment would be effective and they would like to switch treatment to quality of life. I was told that I have about 6 months to live. I would like you all to keep me in your prayers.

=====

Diane Meigs [wife of Ken Meigs ETR2(SS) G Comm 65-70 Plank, SV MAL Base HC, Assoc. Treasurer & Life Member]

Cards to: 1537 Pebble Beach Ct Medford OR 97504

2.7.26: Email from Ken: Diane has had some post chemo (treatment #1) complications that we're working through with the help of friends from church who have gone through similar treatments.

1.30.26: Text from Ken: They found more cancer in Diane. She started her 1st of 4 chemo treatments on 30 Jan hopefully will remove the cancer that was uncovered in a PET scan a couple of weeks ago. There will be a 3-week interval between each of the treatments.

Prayers are greatly appreciated as well as to keep her on the ship's binnacle list.

11.29.25: Text from Ken: In early November, Diane had some serious surgery. Many of you have been praying for her as she recovers. I'm happy to let you know that as of Thanksgiving Day she has left the hospital and was able to spend the day with her family in Idaho. As of Friday, 28 Nov, she is safely at home and prepared to complete her recovery. We really appreciated all of your prayers that have got us to where we are now. Praise the Lord!!! Your continued prayers are greatly appreciated.

=====

Kim Sanner [wife of Bill Sanner Jr., ETN2(SS) B 73-77, SV/HC Cowtown Base]

Cards to: 2009 Glenda Ave., Haltom City TX 76111

NO RECENT UPDATES

10.14.25: Text from Bill: Kim has moved to Medical City Rehab, 900 8th Ave, Fort Worth. Room 316. They expect her to be there for 1 to 2 weeks. Nice place, nice room.

=====

Sandy Hastie [CAPT B 80 (Oct-Dec) CO-1 patrol]

Cards to: 75 Lambeth Dr., Asheville NC 28803-3425

NO RECENT UPDATES

12.29.25: Email from Sandy & Donna:

Dear Family and Friends,

We thank everyone who has faithfully prayed for both of us. 2025 has been a year of challenges; however, we also continue to find joy and gratitude each day and thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed on us. Here are our current statuses.

Donna continues to have severe chronic back and leg nerve pain. No doctors we have seen are able to offer a reliable solution, which is depressing but, as we understand it, is not an unusual occurrence. She saw the doctor that did her EMG and he thought a spinal epidural in the "hot spot" that showed on her EMG could provide

some relief. He believes this spot is causing some, if not the majority of her pain. The injection is scheduled for early February, first available appointment. She is on the wait list in case an earlier appointment comes available. As often is the case, doctors are often booked up four to eight weeks ahead and that is the case here. The other option is a spinal stimulator, which has limited effectiveness and is not strongly recommended because of the metal rods in her back. However, that remains a possibility down the road.

Sandy has had some positive news. Specifically, for his heart, he was approved for a procedure to replace his aortic heart valve. This was done a month ago and has helped with his fatigue, dizziness, and lymphedema swelling in his legs. On Wednesday this week, we saw the doctor who did the procedure and he said Sandy's heart was working well – a very positive outcome! His fractured right collar bone from a fall a month and a half ago is healing well and he has almost 100% use of his right shoulder and arm – another positive outcome as this is the arm he uses his cane to help him walk. He had a PET/CT scan on 30 November and, although he will never be cancer free, the scan showed the Keytruda was controlling the cancer well except for two spots in his right hip that were growing slowly. He may have to go back on chemo at some time; however, for now, that is not necessary – another positive outcome.

So, for now, Sandy will try to exercise more to maintain good health and we will continue to look for a solution or solutions to help Donna's challenges.

With love and thanks, Donna and Sandy

=====

Bruce Stefanik [MS1(SS) B 73-77, 655 Assoc Life Member, USSVI/Holland Club USS Asheville Base]:

Cards to: 50 Fairway View Dr., Etowah NC 28729

NO RECENT UPDATES

2.26.26: Email from Vicki: Surgery went well. Doctor said the knee was really bad. Lots of pain right now but they did have me stand and move a little sideways. Will have me walk tomorrow. Thank all of you for your prayers.

1.13.26: Email from Vicki: I [Vicki] am scheduled for left knee replacement surgery on February 26

with an overnight stay in the hospital.
11.11.25: Email from Vicki: Bruce had a good checkup at his ALS Clinic in October with only 2 very slight changes so he doesn't have to go back for another year.

I had an RFA ablation on lumbar nerves last week. It can take 6 weeks or more to fully take effect so I am in the waiting time. I also learned why I had such a difficult time with my knee during the reunion. We really like the new knee surgeon my PC doctor referred me to as he has had extra fellowship training in problem knees. It seems that my left knee has no ACL so I will need a replacement.

=====

George Stevens [MT2(SS) G 68-71]

Cards to: 3025 Winterhaven Dr., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404

1.23.26: Email from George: Ann is doing better but still in pain - so no real change there. Me, I tried boron and it didn't help my arthritis but then I realized I was already taking it with my multivitamin. I did find that turmeric seems to help. My heart has been up and down. Was doing better after giving up chocolate but then started back with aFib again. Realized that I ran out of cayenne about the same time. Have started taking it again and my heart is doing better again.

11.11.25: Email from George: My heart is doing better since I gave up chocolate but having a lot of pain from arthritis/muscle/joints - everything hurts. Ann is going for a consult for her back - pinched sciatic nerve.

9.22.25: Email from George: Ann's back is worse and there's nothing the doctors can do. Shots don't work and surgery is not an option in her case. Me - not much more the docs can do for me either. I am increasing my cayenne intake and that seems to help.

=====

John Cole [LT B WEPS 78-80, USSVI Member-at-Large, CDR Ret.]

Cards to: 5914 Ruby Dr Pearland TX 77581-8926

NO RECENT UPDATES

7.31.24: Email from John: We pray that you and your loved ones are healthy and happy. Susan and I are doing well as we fight the continuing battle against Parkinson's, Left Shoulder Surgery and now my C1-C6 surgery as well. It just seems like all of the parts are wearing out as time seems

to fly by faster and faster. The things I miss the most are hunting, hiking, gardening and just being in the mountains. I must be content with the flowers and a few pots of garden plants on our patio. Bye for now, Very Respectfully. John F. Cole Cdr., U. S. Navy Retired, 100% Disabled 05/12/1964 To 08/01/1994, E1-E9 & O1E-O5 Vietnam through Desert Storm

=====

Ron 'RG' Hyson [STS1(SS) B 70-75 (STSCM Ret), Assoc. Life Member, USSVI/Holland Club Hampton Roads Base]

Cards to: 3425 MacDonald Rd., Virginia Beach VA 23464

No recent updates

3.26.2024: Email from Jean: The results of Ron's evaluation on January 2024, compared to last year, scored significantly lower on a test of global cognition. His doctor reported that Ron has transition to the Moderately Severe Stage of dementia.

Thank you for all the prayers, caring thoughts, cards, letters, pictures, and memories Ron has received. They really brighten his day. Jean/Ron

DID YOU KNOW??

+++++

Free up space on Windows: Low on storage? Clear out temporary files. Go to **Settings > System > Storage > Temporary files**, check what you don't need, then hit **Remove files**. You might gain back a few gigabytes. FYI: Look inside your **Downloads folder** first. There might be something important in there.

+++++

Turn off sleep mode in Windows 11: Go to **Settings > System > Power > Screen, sleep & hibernation timeouts**. Set **Turn my screen off after**, **Make my device sleep after** and **Make my device hibernate after** all to **Never**. But if you're on a laptop, this will drain the battery when it's not charging.

+++++

Improve laptop performance: Windows 11 intentionally throttles your system to save battery, but you can fix that. Go to **Settings > System > Power & battery**. Under **Power Mode**, switch both **Plugged in** and **On battery** to **Best Performance**. Your laptop will feel smoother, though it may drain the battery faster when unplugged.

+++++

Windows 11 context menu fix: ICYDK, Microsoft hid some features that used to be in the right-click menu for files and folders under **Show more options**. If you want to see everything at once, hold **Shift** and **right-click**, and the full menu will pop up instead.

GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH

655 Association Website
www.ssb655.org

Veteran & Military Year-round Discounts

The VA has created a reliable discount list that has been newly updated and verified.

<https://news.va.gov/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/>

SEA STORIES, COMMENTS and JUST GOOD THINGS From Our Shipmates

=====

Submitted by a SUBVET Shipmate

A Veteran

To understand a Military Veteran, you must know:

- * We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.
- * We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.
- * We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.
- * We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.
- * We found new friends and new family.
- * We became brothers and sisters regardless of colour, race or creed.
- * We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.
- * We didn't get enough sleep.
- * We smoked and drank too much.
- * We picked up both good and bad habits.
- * We worked hard and played harder.
- * We didn't earn a great wage.
- * We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.
- * We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.
- * We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.
- * We fought for our freedom, as well as the

freedom of others.

- * Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.
- * Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.
- * Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.
- * We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.
- * We participated in time honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.
- * We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.
- * We have dealt with victory and tragedy.
- * We have celebrated and mourned.
- * We lost a few along the way.
- * When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.
- * We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.
- * We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.
- * We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.
- * We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.
- * Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.
- * It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.

=====

Submitted by Trin Rios [LCDR B NAV 76-78; SV-HC Tri-State Base]

On **Sunday, 29 March** we celebrated **Palm Sunday**, but it was also **Vietnam War Veterans Day**.

I have many friends and relatives that served in the Vietnam War, my brother served on the **USS CORAL SEA (CVA 43)** and spent two years on **Yankee Station** off the coast of Vietnam, four of my cousins served in the US ARMY in country, and I spend my Navy time in the submarine force and spend many days on patrol in the Pacific.
Here is a brief history of the Vietnam War:

-The US was involved in the Vietnam War from **1 November 1955-30 April 1975**, with **US Direct combat from 1965 until March 1973**.

-From **1 November 1955 until 1964**, the US provided, "**In Country Advisors**" to South Vietnam.

-The **GULF OF TONKIN** in 1964 was the escalation point of US involvement at a much greater scale.

-1968, the **TET Offensive** was a very costly to the communists, but a psychological/political turning point in the US eroding public support.

-1973, the **Paris Peace Accords** was signed and the US withdrew troops in **March 1973**.

-1975, Saigon falls to the North Vietnamese on 30 April 1975.

CASUALTIES:

-Vietnamese North and South lists estimated from **1-3 MILLION**.

-**US Deaths 58,220 and over 300,000 wounded and many more today continue to die due to the effects of AGENT ORANGE.**

THIS WAS A TERRIBLE WAR AND WE MUST NOT EVER FORGET THOSE THAT PAID THE PRICE WITH THEIR LIVES AND THE THOUSANDS THAT CONTINUE TO SUFFER TODAY THE EFFECTS OF THEIR SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY...

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS AND PROTECT UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THOSE THAT SERVE TODAY TO PROTECT HER!!

The Lean Submariner

Here's the latest posts on the blog. Still going strong. The link to his blog is

<https://theleansubmariner.com/>

Cold War Stories – “Look at that thing fly” – Submarine Design in the Modern Ages

By **Mister Mac** on March 12, 2026

Look at that thing fly – submarine design in the modern ages

The sleek submarines of today are powerful examples of the evolution of naval ship design. What were once awkward frames surrounding the simplest of motive engines, are now the deadliest

hunter killers that have ever ranged the oceans deep. The technology to create them largely did not exist when the United States Navy bought her first submersible in 1901 from Mr. Holland. Frankly, the materials used in the Holland were probably state of the art for her day but what we produce now is light years ahead of those pioneering adventures. I can almost hear Teddy Roosevelt exclaim his wonderment if he could step off the Plunger and onto a new Virginia class submarine. With his inordinate curiosity, he would probably slap his thigh and yell bully as the new boat performed her own version of porpoising through depths that would crush the first submarine he fearlessly rode.

Read BLOG here

Cold War Stories – Truman Joins the Royal Order of Deep Dunkers

By **Mister Mac** on March 15, 2026

The Royal Order of Deep Dunkers

Up until today, I had only known of a few US Presidents that had submerged on board a submarine.

The first was Theodore Roosevelt who rode an early sub called the Plunger.

August 21, 1905 - Plunger to Oyster Bay today

A partial list of modern Presidents that would have a connection with submarines is found here:

<https://archive.navalsubleague.org/1992/presidents-and-submarines-2>

Not all of the presidents listed would actually ride on a submerged submarine. But on November 21st, 1946, Harry S. Truman dove to 440 feet on board a submarine near Key West. But this wasn't just any ride. Truman tested the deep on board a captured German U Boat on a 44-minute undersea cruise.

The Key West Citizen, Thursday November 21st, 1946

President Submerges 440 Feet Below Surface Of Sea Aboard Captured German Submarine

For 44 minutes this morning. President Truman was far below the surface of the Gulf Stream off Key West aboard a captured German submarine. The Nazi ship, guided by an American captain and crew which drew high praise from their Commander-in-Chief reached a maximum depth of 440 feet.

The submarine submerged at 9:30 and surfaced at 10:14. A German device which permits the submarine to recharge its batteries under water and remain submerged indefinitely was used. The sea is about 1000 feet deep where the dive was made some seven miles out.

[Continue to Read Blog](#)

**And so, you master self then, laugh at fear –
The Story of a Sub Man and USS Grayback
SS 208**

By **Mister Mac** on March 21, 2026

**And so, you master self then, laugh at fear –
The Story of a Sub Man**

**There was a total of fifty-two American
submarines lost during World War 2.**

The damage that the submarine force had inflicted on the Japanese and naval forces was staggering. But losing that many submarines was also a very high cost. It is one thing to look at an after-war report and see the cold hard numbers on a page. But the real impact was on the families of the men who never returned home. These men were someone's sons and brothers and even in many cases fathers.

I wear my submarine veteran cap pretty regularly now that I am older. It's a matter of pride for me to have once sailed under the oceans surface with some of the finest men I have ever known. Where I live now, there are a lot of former submariners so its an easy way for us to identify each other. So many times, walking around a grocery store, a complete stranger will stop me and ask which boat I was on. That nearly always leads to a great conversation about which boats they served on and our favorite memories. Debbie will just roll her eyes and keep on shopping while two old veterans talk as if they have known each other for years.

But in 1946, as my own father was finally making his way home from the Pacific theater, too many families were just learning the final disposition of their sons or brothers. One of those families was the Shaw family. Their son was on a submarine that he had been a plank owner on called the USS Grayback.

This story is about Ralph Theodore Shaw, Chief Torpedoman's Mate, United States Navy who was born November 20, 1914, at Durango Colorado; and died in the service of his country as of 12 January, 1946. (Official notice.)

[Continue to Read Blog](#)

**Cold War Stories – “perhaps we’ll have an
aircraft carrier with the underwater body of
a speedboat.”**

By **Mister Mac** on March 25, 2026

**I’ve written before about the rush of the nation
to disarm after the second world war.**

The navy in particular was hard hit based on the emergence of the atomic bomb and the lack of a major sea going threat. The Soviets exited the war with a small blue water navy. That would not change until the growth of their ambitions around the globe later in the 1950's and 60's. So, a shrinking fleet was not exactly a place one would look to create an entirely new type of technology. The U.S. Navy experienced dramatic reductions in its force structure in the five years following the conclusion of the Second World War. The drawdown of forces after the demobilization was influenced by inter-service rivalries, the lack of a clear naval threat, and difficulties in developing a national military strategy.

[Continue to Read Blog](#)

Cold War Stories – Torpedo in the water

By **Mister Mac** on March 28, 2026

**From the beginning of the Cold War, the idea
of using nuclear power for propulsion was
something discussed on both sides of the
conflict.**

But just as important was the idea that having weapons delivery systems tied to submarines would be a game changer in any future hot conflict. The devastating effect of unrestricted submarine warfare was felt in the Atlantic and the Pacific. The German submarine force inflicted crippling damage on the allies and just as it had done in the first world war, the Kriegsmarine nearly brought England to her knees. In the Pacific, the American navy learned quickly how to use their submarine force in shutting down the free flow of commerce and supplies to an over extended Japanese empire.

The weapon used of course was the torpedo. Despite early challenges to the American weapons, by war's end, the deadly underwater missiles were responsible for choking Japan's supply chain and shortening the war. The end of the war brought revelations on a new breed of

torpedo on the German's side that was even more potentially devastating. Many lessons would be learned by both the allies and the Russians once captured German boats were closely examined.

[Continue to Read Blog](#)



The Computer Corner
By: George Birmingham [ET1(SS)
G/SY1/G 69-74, Assoc. Life
Member, USSVI/Holland Club
Carolina Piedmont Base]

The SSD spec you should never overlook

Greetings shipmates! By now, most of us have completed our migration to Windows 11 either by way of a new computer, or by doing the Windows 11 upgrade from Windows 10 using hardware that was noted as compatible.

Tom Krauser provided articles in December 2023 and January 2024 about upgrading your hard drives and SSD drives. As we perhaps have moved on to newer hardware in our Windows 11 journey, I thought it might be helpful to see what computer technology advancements have created for disk storage.

This article focuses on the newer NVMe style Solid-State Disk Drives, or SSDs. SSDs have replaced the more traditional spinning platter disk drives, offering faster speeds, reduces power consumption and heat, while reducing the need for frequent defragmentation activities. As with all technology, there are certain specifications you need to be aware of to make sure these new drives are compatible with your PC, whether desktop or laptop. The following article link provides information on connector styles, SSD Physical size, and issues with transfer speed for each type:

[This SSD spec is the one you should never overlook](#)

As the article notes, if you are considering a disk drive upgrade, go to your PC manufacturer's website and retrieve the specification sheet for your exact model. You can also go to:

Settings > System> Storage> Advance Storage Settings > Disk & Volumes

Then look for the item noted as **Disk 0** , click on the Properties button to the right and see all the details for your system drive. You can then search

for that specific drive information on the Internet to see the disk drive manufacturer's page with full specs for the drive you currently have, and see what other capacities they may offer.

In addition, if you scroll down that page just a bit, you will see a **Drive Health** section that tells you how much life is left in the drive, how much backup space has been used to replace failed cells, as well as the drive temperature. It's an interesting page to view, even if a drive replacement is not in your immediate plans. SSDs do not last forever, so drive life is something to be aware of to avoid unexpected drive failure and loss of data. And I know you do back up your drive from time to time to make sure your data is not lost, right?

As always, shipmates, comments and suggestions for future topics are welcomed. Contact me at **subvet_ssbnet@bellsouth.net**. And if you have a difficult computer or network problem you need help with, contact me. I'm always glad to help out if I can. //George



The Security Corner
By: George Birmingham [ET1(SS)
G/SY1/G 69-74, Assoc. Life
Member, USSVI/Holland Club
Carolina Piedmont Base]

Treat your IoT devices like a guest

Our digital world, for better or worse, is expanding at an incredible rate. The Internet of Things (IoT) ecosystem has provided us with many new devices such as smart thermostats, smart doorbells like Ring and Blink, baby monitors, and kitchen appliances. In addition, the IoT of Medical Things (IoT_M) ecosystem provides Internet connected devices like wearables, sensors, and smart equipment that collect, share, and analyze health data for real-time monitoring, remote care, and improved efficiency of services. All these devices use computing software of various types, like embedded firmware, or perhaps use an app that performs their function without our intervention. They connect to our home networks to provide their services. And AI now has the potential to pair with, or even replace, these devices for an even more interactive use of the technology. And that my

shipmates, is where the trouble can begin.

Many of these IoT and IoTM devices, which are all connected to the Internet in some fashion, often have minimal built-in security, or none at all. This leaves them, your home network, and your network attached devices like PCs, smartphones, security cameras, and even home medical equipment vulnerable to attack. These cybercriminals can even use breached devices to create botnets for other attacks.


But there is hope. Most all modern Internet access routers and gateways used by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) provide a network feature called the Guest Network. Originally, they were intended to allow your guests to have Internet access while in your home, or place of business. They provide a means to isolate your home or business network from these less secure devices while allowing them the necessary Internet access.

The following article will provide information about the pros and cons of using your router/gateway Guest Network features to isolate these less secure devices in your home:

The Pros and Cons of Using a Guest Network for IOT Devices

I hope you find the information it shares to be useful for your needs.

As always, shipmates, comments and suggestions for future topics are welcomed. Contact me at subvet_ssbm@bellsouth.net. And if you have a difficult computer or network problem you need help with, contact me. I'm always glad to help out if I can. //George



VETERANS AFFAIRS - RETIREE INFO - AARP
<https://www.va.gov/>
And FLEET RESERVE

THE LINKS BELOW WERE TAKEN FROM THE EMAILS I RECEIVE FROM MANY SOURCES. These are not in any order so take a look at each of them and decide what want to continue reading. You DO NOT have to have special accounts to view this information. There may be some general areas of information in here that will be of help to some of you.

VA Digital "Claim Assist Portal"

The Department of Veterans Affairs officially introduced the **Claim Assist Portal**, a new digital interface designed to streamline the evidence-gathering process for disability claims. This portal represents a significant step forward in the VA's modernization efforts, allowing veterans to track the specific status of medical evidence requests in real-time. By utilizing SMS and email notifications, the portal aims to shave weeks off the "Development" phase of a claim, which has traditionally been the longest part of the process.

The portal allows veterans to check boxes to confirm information, answer short questions, and digitally sign forms, all without the need for traditional mail. This functionality is a direct response to the advocacy for transparency.

[Access the Claim Assist Portal here.](#)

VA MOVES TO SPEED UP COMMUNITY CARE APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING

Technology that will help VA schedule community care appointments faster is up and running at all VA facilities. In 2026, VA is expanding its use so Veterans can more easily choose the health care they've earned.

[Learn more](#)

7 WAYS VETERANS CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM SOCIAL SECURITY SCAMS

New VSAFE info - protect yourself from fraud and know what to do if your Social Security information is compromised.

[Learn more](#)

VA RESOURCES, WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

For any questions or requests, [1-800-MyVA411](tel:1-800-MyVA411) ([1-800-698-2411](tel:1-800-698-2411)) is always the right number.

- [Veterans Crisis Line: 988](#) and press 1 , [Chat](#), or Text [838255](tel:838255)
- [Vet Centers: 1-877-927-8387](#)
- [Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838](#) or [Chat](#)
- [Ask VA](#)
- [Schedule a 1-on-1 Appointment with a VA Benefits Expert](#)
- [Find a VA facility near you](#)
- For non-urgent questions, you can reach VA using the [VA Health & Benefits App](#) or

[MyHealthVet](#) secure messaging to schedule an appointment, refill prescriptions, and access your medical records.

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VA NEWS FOR YOU

Want a short recap of VA's latest news? Check this YouTube short out and learn about VA's disability claim backlog reduction, VA restoring second amendment rights to Veterans, and how VA is speeding up survivor benefits.

[Watch](#)

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CUSTOM ADAPTIVE DEVICES BUILT FOR VETERANS - AT NO COST

Project S.E.R.V.E. has partnered with injured Veterans and emergency responders to design and build one-of-a-kind adaptive solutions.

Whether it can make everyday life easier or help a Veteran return to a sport or hobby, Project S.E.R.V.E. can help.

[Learn more](#)

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VA Awarded Authority to Appoint Legal Guardians for Impaired Veterans

As reported March 18 by Patricia Kime for *Military Times*, an agreement between the Justice Department and the VA allows the VA to put veterans under guardianship if they are unable to make their own healthcare decisions. A memorandum of understanding announced last week gives VA attorneys the legal authority to enter into state court guardianships or conservatorship proceedings in cases where veterans don't have family or legal representation to determine medical treatment.

[VA awarded authority to appoint legal guardians for impaired veterans](#)

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Text messages and VA appointments Easily confirm or cancel

It's easy to lose track of medical appointments. That's why VA has text message appointment reminders. Start or stop reminders at any time.

[Learn more](#)

NAVAL HISTORY:

Facing Death 275 Feet Beneath The Sea, This Pioneering Naval Diver Earned The Medal Of Honor

(*MILITARY TIMES* 12 MAR 26) ... Jon Guttman

In March 1915, the Great War was spreading like a plague across Europe, Asia and Africa, but the United States of America was still uninvolved and desperately striving to keep out of it.

While the menace of German submarines were becoming a growing threat in the Atlantic Ocean, nothing could be farther away from the U.S. Navy submarine F-4 (SS-23) as it performed maneuvers off Honolulu, Hawaii.

On March 25, however, the Navy was reminded that one didn't need a war to be imperiled by the sea, as F-4 sank with Lt. Alfred L. Ede and all 20 of its crewmen.

This was the first American submarine lost at sea and the Navy aimed to raise it and find out what went wrong. But the very act of doing so put two more lives in the balance, in a peacetime drama that would eventually be judged worthy of awarding Frank Crilley the nation's highest award for valor.

In March 1900, Crilley followed his brother into the Navy at the young age of 16 and soon focused his interest in deep sea diving. By March 1915 he had risen to Chief Gunner's Mate in the Navy's experimental diving team — a unit as prestigious as it was hazardous.

In mid-April, five of the divers, G.D. Stillson, Frederick Neilson, Stephen Drellinshak, William K. Loughman and Crilley, arrived at Honolulu with hard hat diving equipment, a recompression chamber and a physician, to seek the lost sub.

Making the first dive on April 16, Crilley located F-4 a mile and a half off Fort Armstrong, 304 feet below the surface — thereby setting a depth record that would stand for 25 years.

At that time the sub was upright, but Crilley determined that more cables would be needed to raise it. This would be no easy task. In order to get 20 minutes of dive time at 300 feet, about three hours were required for the descent and ascent due to the underwater pressures.

"Deep water divers need to descend slowly to allow air spaces, such as in the ears and mask, time to equalize to the pressure changes," according to the DOD. "Slow ascents are required, too, because divers can build up nitrogen in their tissue due to breathing pressurized air. A slow return to the surface gives the body time to eliminate that nitrogen and

reacclimate without risking decompression sickness.”

On April 17, Chief Gunner’s Mate William K. Loughman descended on the submersible and examined one of the wire hawsers attached to it. He then began his ascent, but at that point, things again began to go wrong. A ground swell caused the cable to jerk, fracturing his hip and causing the sub to turn over. Worse, at a depth of 275 feet his lifeline and air hose became so badly fouled by the hawser that he could neither ascend nor descend nor, for that matter, free himself.

What followed was described in Crilley’s citation:

“On account of the length of time that Loughman had already been subjected to the great danger due to the depth of water, and the uncertainty of the additional time he would have to be subjected to the pressure before he could be brought to the surface, it was imperative that steps be taken at once to clear him. Instantly recognizing the desperate case of his comrade, Crilley volunteered to go to his aid, immediately donned a diving suit and descended, after a lapse of time of two hours and 11 minutes, Crilley was brought to the surface, having by superb exhibition of skill, coolness, endurance and fortitude, untangled the snarl of lines and cleared his entangled comrade so that he was brought, still alive, to the surface.”

On Aug. 29, in a diving and engineering precedent, the Navy finally managed to raise F-4, which was found upside down. The fatal flaw turned out to be corrosion of the lead lining of the battery tank, which had let seepage of seawater into the compartment, causing the captain to lose depth control of his ship. Although the drama off Fort Armstrong made Crilley a legend in deep diving circles, his career had just begun.

He rose to ensign in the Naval Reserve and later a chief warrant officer in the U.S. Coast Guard. With the latter, he was awarded the Silver Lifesaving Medal in April 1916. In 1917 he held command of the derrick salvage barge *Salvor*.

Returning to active duty, Crilley assisted in the repair or raising of a variety of ships. This included the submarine S-51, and after submarine S-4 was sunk in a collision with Coast Guard destroyer *Paulding* in December 1927, his role in raising it

on March 17, 1928, earned him the Navy Cross.

Amid all that, on February 15, 1929, he was finally called to the White House to receive the Medal of Honor — 14 years late — from President Calvin H. Coolidge.

In 1931, Crilley served as second in command of the submarine *Nautilus* on its ultimately abortive 3,000-mile voyage to the North Pole, as well as salvaging the presidential yacht *USS Mayflower*. In 1939 he helped raise the submarine *Squalus*.

The pioneering naval diver died on Nov. 23, 1947 at the Brooklyn Naval Hospital. He was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/military-history/2026/03/12/facing-death-275-feet-beneath-the-sea-this-pioneering-naval-diver-earned-the-medal-of-honor/>

'Quiet Death': What To Know About The American Torpedo That Sank Iranian Warship, Killing 87

Torpedo carries a 650-pound high-explosive warhead

(FOX NEWS 05 MAR 26) ... Ashley Carnahan

The sinking of the Iranian warship *IRIS Dena* by a single Mk 48 torpedo has put renewed focus on the U.S. Navy’s primary undersea weapon, a heavyweight torpedo that first entered operational service in 1972 and has been steadily upgraded for modern naval warfare.

The strike on the *IRIS Dena* marked the first time since World War II that a U.S. submarine used a torpedo to sink an enemy ship.

"In the Indian Ocean, an American submarine sunk an Iranian warship that thought it was safe in international waters. Instead, it was sunk by a torpedo. Quiet Death," War Secretary Pete Hegseth said at a press conference on Wednesday.

The Navy says the Mk 48 has long served as its principal undersea weapon, designed to "defeat all threat surface ships and submarines in all ocean environments."

The Mk 48 is a submarine-launched torpedo that uses information from the launching submarine and its own sensors to find and strike submarines or surface ships.

Physically, the weapon is built for destructive

power. According to Navy specifications, the torpedo measures 21 inches in diameter, weighs about 3,744 pounds and carries a 650-pound high-explosive warhead.

According to the Department of the Navy's fiscal year 2025 budget estimates, a single Mk 48 torpedo costs approximately \$4.2 million.

Lockheed Martin, one of the Mk 48 torpedo program's primary contractors, says it can be guided in real time by wire from the launching submarine, allowing operators to update targeting information and adjust its course after launch.

If the wire connection is lost, the torpedo can switch to autonomous homing, relying on digital guidance systems and onboard signal processing to continue its pursuit independently.

Over time, the torpedo has evolved through hardware variants known as "Mods," each integrating upgraded sensors, guidance and control systems, and propulsion improvements.

The current fleet includes the Mod 7 configuration, developed in partnership with the Royal Australian Navy, while Mod 8 is in development and Mod 9 is being pursued as a rapid prototyping effort, according to the Department of War's Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report by the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation.

In addition to hardware upgrades, the Mk 48 undergoes recurring software updates known as Advanced Processor Builds, or APBs, which modify tactics, classification algorithms and operator interfaces to improve performance in increasingly complex undersea environments.

<https://www.foxnews.com/world/quiet-death-what-know-about-american-torpedo-sank-iranian-warship-killing-87>

U.S. Submarine Launches Its First Torpedo In Combat Since World War II

Since 1991, Navy subs have launched scores of cruise missiles in combat, but the torpedo attack off Sri Lanka is a return to form after 80 years.

(NEW YORK TIMES 04 MAR 26) ... John Ismay

For the first time since World War II, a torpedo launched from a U.S. Navy submarine struck a vessel in combat, sending the Iranian frigate Iris Dena to the bottom of the Indian Ocean near Sri Lanka.

The submarine, which the Pentagon has yet to identify, carried out the attack on Wednesday. Later that morning, the Defense Department released a video of a single torpedo detonating under the Iris Dena's stern, sending a large plume of water skyward. The frigate's hull can be seen tearing apart along its port quarter above the waterline.

At a Pentagon briefing, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth called the sinking "quiet death," while Gen. Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke about it more dispassionately, saying the torpedo achieved "immediate effect."

Sri Lankan officials said they had rescued 32 Iranian sailors from the Iris Dena, which is believed to have had a crew of 180.

The Navy referred questions about the submarine attack to U.S. Central Command.

According to the U.S. Navy's History and Heritage Command, the last American sub to fire a torpedo at an enemy vessel was the U.S.S. Torsk, which sank a 750-ton Japanese vessel on Aug. 14, 1945.

That ship, a patrol escort called the CD-13, was off the Japanese port of Maizuru when it spotted the Torsk via sonar. According to a Navy history of the engagement, the American submarine fired one torpedo in response, dived to 400 feet and launched a second torpedo. Both weapons struck the CD-13, killing 28 of its crew members.

Since then, U.S. submarines have carried out some of the nation's most dangerous and sensitive intelligence-gathering missions in enemy waters.

Navy subs have carried torpedoes in hostile waters throughout the Cold War to the present. And even though American subs had not been using torpedoes to sink ships from 1945 until the current war with Iran, they have regularly contributed to combat operations ashore.

The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine U.S.S. Louisville became the first to launch a land-attack missile in combat when it launched a Tomahawk missile at an Iraqi position during Operation Desert Storm, according to U.S. Submarine Force Pacific.

U.S. subs launched cruise missiles against targets in Iraq again in 1996 and in 1998, and during the opening salvos of the war in Afghanistan as well as the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

They were also used in 2008 against targets in Somalia, in the 2011 NATO air campaign in Libya, in 2024 against the Houthis in Yemen, and in the attack on the Iranian nuclear site in Isfahan last June.

General Caine said the sub that sank the Iris Dena launched a Mark-48 heavyweight torpedo, which has been the Navy's main sub-launched weapon for attacking ships and other submarines. Introduced in 1972 and built at a Navy base in Yorktown, Va., that torpedo has been updated periodically. The most recent version weighs nearly 3,800 pounds and can use sonar to find its target and dive down underneath it.

There the equivalent of roughly 500 pounds of TNT detonates, creating a large bubble of gases that rises upward and snaps the ship's spine, called the keel, through metal fatigue. That often rips the ship into two or more pieces, causing it to sink quickly.

A photo posted on social media by the Defense Department showed the Iris Dena's bow rising high in the water before the ship slipped beneath the waves.

American submariners who saw combat in World War II were awarded with a coveted pin called the Submarine Combat Patrol insignia. It is unclear whether the pin has been issued by the Navy for action since then.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/04/us/politics/submarine-torpedo-iran-ship.html>

This WWII Submarine Was The Last US Boat To Notch A Torpedo Kill — Until This Week (*MILITARY TIMES 04 MAR 26*) ... Claire Barrett and J.D. Simkins

A United States Navy submarine sunk an Iranian ship with a single torpedo this week as the frigate was transiting the Indian Ocean, marking the first such kill by a U.S. submarine since World War II, the Pentagon confirmed on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters at the Pentagon alongside Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth acknowledged the strike while discussing updates surrounding ongoing combat engagements in Iran, dubbed Operation Epic Fury.

"Yesterday, in the Indian Ocean ... an American submarine sunk an Iranian warship that thought it

was safe in international waters," Hegseth said. "Instead, it was sunk by a torpedo. Quiet death. The first sinking of an enemy ship by a torpedo since World War II."

Caine also confirmed the action on Wednesday, noting a fast attack submarine off the southern coast of Sri Lanka "sunk an enemy combatant ship using a single Mk-48 torpedo to achieve immediate effect, sending the warship to the bottom of the sea."

The last U.S. boat to notch a confirmed torpedo kill on an enemy vessel, meanwhile, was the Tench-class submarine USS Torsk, which sent two Japanese coastal defense frigates below the waves on Aug. 14, 1945, one day prior to the country's surrender in the Pacific.

Commissioned on Dec. 16, 1944, Torsk began its first war patrol under the command of Comdr. Bafford E. Lewellen in March the following year.

The submarine, however, did not find much action initially. By 1945, the U.S. had all but crippled Japanese shipping.

A postwar Joint Army-Navy Assessment Committee found that by August 1945, "American forces had sunk 611 Japanese naval vessels, totaling 1,822,210 tons; and 2,117 merchant vessels, of 7,913,858 tons. Of that, submarines contributed a huge part, accounting for 201 naval vessels (540,192 tons) and 1,113 merchant vessels (4,779,902 tons) — or about 33% of naval vessels by number and 30% by tonnage, and 52.5% of merchant vessels by number and 60% by tonnage."

By August, "Lewellen's Looters" were just beginning their second — and what would be their final — war patrol.

After spending the first two days of the month at Guam the submarine set course for the Sea of Japan, where the Torsk's entry into the WWII record books would be cemented.

On the morning of Aug. 14, the day after Torsk took out a small freighter, the submarine was operating off the coast when it spotted a 745-ton "Kaibokan"-class patrol escort vessel.

Torsk promptly found its target with a Mark 28 torpedo, bending "the stern of the frigate up to a 30-degree angle" before it sank soon after, according to Naval History and Heritage Command.

Around noon that same day another enemy

frigate appeared in Torsk's sights.

"Continuing her aggressive action, Torsk fired a Mark 28 torpedo at the frigate which had already detected the submarine's presence," NHHC notes. "Comdr. Lewellen then initiated deep submergence procedures and ordered the crew to rig for silent running. After a tense five minutes, she reached 400 feet and there she launched another torpedo, this time the new acoustic Mark 27.

"Almost immediately, a loud explosion announced that the first torpedo had found its mark, and a minute later a second explosion sounded, followed by strong breaking up noises. The secret new torpedoes had proven their worth in battle."

For seven more hours the submarine and its crew remained submerged, held down by enemy planes and patrol vessels before at last resurfacing and heading for the Noto peninsula off the coast of Japan.

The following day, Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's unconditional surrender.

The Torsk's sinking of the enemy vessel marked the last U.S. Navy submarine torpedo kill for eight decades — until U.S. actions against Iran on March 3, 2026.

The identity of the fast-attack boat which carried out the action this week was not revealed, as is custom for operational security surrounding submarine operations.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/military-history/2026/03/04/this-wwii-submarine-was-the-last-us-boat-to-notch-a-torpedo-kill-until-this-week/>

US Navy Sends Submarines Under Arctic Ice For 100th Time In Milestone Exercise

(MILITARY.COM 11 MAR 26) ... Allen Frazier

Two U.S. Navy fast-attack submarines dove beneath the Arctic ice cap on March 7, marking the 100th time the American submarine force has conducted under-ice operations since a World War II-era boat first navigated the polar depths nearly 80 years ago.

Commander, Submarine Forces, Vice Adm. Richard Seif, officially launched Operation ICE CAMP Boarfish from a drifting ice floe in the Arctic Ocean, with USS Delaware (SSN 791) and USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) serving as the operation's

two participating submarines.

A Base on Moving Ice

ICE CAMP Boarfish is a three-week mission to test submarine capabilities and conduct research in Arctic conditions. The camp itself is a temporary installation built on a drifting ice floe, equipped with sleeping quarters, a command center and supporting infrastructure for a multinational team of sailors, Marines and civilians.

Allied personnel joining the Americans include sailors and airmen from Australia, Canada, France, the United Kingdom and Norway, along with researchers from Japan's marine science agency and Norway's defence research institute. The U.S. Marine Corps and Air National Guard are also participating.

The Navy's Arctic Submarine Laboratory, the submarine force's designated center of excellence for polar operations, is running the mission under the broader umbrella of the Undersea Warfighting Development Center. The operation runs on a two-year cycle.

In a notable shift in how the Pentagon characterizes Arctic naval activity, the Navy elevated ICE CAMP from an exercise to a formal operation this year, a decision officials say signals the Arctic's growing place among the Navy's core strategic concerns.

From a WWII Submarine to the 100th Evolution

The camp's namesake is USS Boarfish (SS 327), a World War II submarine that earned a battle star in the Pacific for sending two Japanese ships to the bottom of the South China Sea. Three years after the war ended, Boarfish headed north for a different kind of mission.

In 1947, the Navy dispatched Boarfish as the lead vessel in Operation Blue Nose, sending her beneath the polar ice cap for the first time any submarine had attempted it. Crew members tested new sonar gear under the ice and demonstrated that a submarine could navigate Arctic waters and come home.

USS Nautilus (SSN 571) built on that foundation in 1958 with the first complete under-ice Arctic transit, and USS Skate (SSN 578) reached the geographic North Pole the following March, surfacing through the ice there for the first time.

ICE CAMP Boarfish is the 100th time the submarine force has sent boats beneath the Arctic ice since that initial voyage.

Why the Arctic Matters Now

The Navy has been explicit about why it is intensifying focus on the Arctic. Climate trends are reducing sea ice cover across the region, opening shipping lanes and making resource extraction viable at latitudes that were once inaccessible for most of the year. That commercial shift carries military implications.

"The Arctic is a critical region for national security and global stability," said Vice Adm. Seif. "Our commitment to a sustained presence and operational readiness here is unwavering. ICE CAMP Boarfish allows us to test and refine our capabilities, deepen our interoperability with key allies and ensure our submarine force can project power and defend our nation's interests in any environment, at any time."

Russia's Northern Fleet, headquartered on the Kola Peninsula, operates submarines and surface warships in the same waters, and Russian submarine activity near the GIUK Gap has been described by NATO commanders as equaling or surpassing Cold War levels. Trans-Arctic shipping routes are also becoming commercially active as ice cover recedes, adding an economic dimension to a region the Pentagon's 2024 Arctic Strategy identified as a strategic priority.

The biennial occurrence of ICE CAMP, combined with the Navy's decision this year to reclassify it as an operation rather than an exercise, reflects how much the strategic importance around the Arctic has shifted since Boarfish launched its historic mission in 1947.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/investigations-and-features/2026/03/11/us-navy-sends-submarines-under-arctic-ice-100th-time-milestone-exercise.html>

NATIONAL NEWS

First submarine named after Massachusetts joins the Navy fleet

Mar 28, 2026, 5:03 AM

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON (AP) — The USS Massachusetts officially joined the Navy fleet on Saturday after a commissioning ceremony, making it the first submarine named after the Bay State.

The newest Virginia-class fast attack submarine, which can dive to depths greater than 800 feet (240 meters), was christened on May 6, 2023, by the ship's sponsor, Sheryl Sandberg, the former

COO of Meta. This is the 25th Virginia-Class submarine co-produced by General Dynamics Electric Boat and Newport News Shipbuilding and the fifth U.S. Navy vessel named after Massachusetts.

"To be able to take a ship from new construction and watch it be built together by the ship yard, train with our team and bring into Boston Harbor for the first time, it's very amazing," said the sub's commanding officer, Mike Siedsma, a 21-year Navy veteran who has spent time on four different classes of submarines. "I looked at the history books. I don't think we've had a submarine in Boston Harbor since sometime in the late '80s or early '90s."

The crew of 147 also includes 39 women, 16 years after a ban on women serving on submarines was lifted. The USS New Jersey, which was commissioned in 2024, was the first sub designed and built with modifications for a gender-integrated crew.

"The ship is intentionally designed to be served on by both women and men. That is pretty exciting. Twenty five percent of this crew is female," Sandberg said. "Those sailors just don't inspire me. They inspire every little girl out there to believe that she could do anything."

The Navy said this is the fifth vessel to be named after the state. The first USS Massachusetts was a steamer built in 1845 and the last was USS Massachusetts, BB 59, commissioned in 1942 as a South Dakota-class fast battleship. Most of its time was spent in the Pacific during World War II.

For Sandberg, the commissioning also brought to mind the role the state has played in the founding of the United States and how "people are still fighting for the same freedoms that the original colonists were fighting for."

Reporters touring the sub were led past the control room, down into the torpedo room and into the dining hall. The ward room, where officers eat, also features a mug rack featuring wood from counties in Massachusetts. It was donated by "This Old House," the television home improvement show.

"It was an incredible donation. Very great connection to the state and the commonwealth," Siedsma said. "It's beautiful."

Story at [First submarine named after Massachusetts joins the Navy fleet - MyNorthwest.com](https://www.mynorthwest.com)

Submitted by Dick Young [SN(SS) G 69-71, Assoc. Life Member, SUBVET Cincinnati Base, Holland Club]

All Submariners in the Mid-West,

You are cordially invited to the Dedication Weekend of the Submarine Cincinnati Memorial which will take place during the weekend of May 15-17 at the Voice of America park just north of Cincinnati. The official dedication will be on Saturday May 16, time yet to be determined. This has been a 25 year project costing approximately \$10 Million. The memorial consists of an actual size (360 Ft) 688 class submarine using approximately 100 tons of the actual sub acquired from PSNSY in the state of Washington. These parts include the Sail, Upper Rudder, Diesel and Generator. We are starting off with a shell that you can walk under with various parts to be added such as a complete control room and maneuvering panels aft.

We have also built an Educational Building which will house a STEM-T (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math - Trades) program which will involve High Schools and local Universities. This building will also house memorabilia donated by the 693 crew. We will start with Kiosks in the sub that have a QR code to inform the public when Docents are not present, these will be eventually be replaced by AI interactive kiosks that will tailor the presentation to the age of the visitors. One unique feature will be the displays and site will be powered by Solar Cells (200 of them) that will also act as the upper hull. So this will be the only Nuclear, Battery, Diesel and Solar powered sub in the world!

You can visit our web site at www.subcincy.org for more information and to view our construction camera. If you assist us by donating our anonymous benefactor will match any donation up to \$500,000 until the dedication date. We are a 501(C)(3) entity and all donations are TAX DEDUCTABLE.

Thanks, Dick Young - Gold Crew 1970 usscincinnati693memorial@aol.com



Why USSVI?

by John "Gumba" Carcioppolo

This was posted July 25, 2001 on the BBS of Ron Martini

I joined USSVI 20 years ago. A first class Quartermaster Jerry Tighe brought me down to 40 School Street and introduced me to Joe Negri.

My first impression was pretty negative. I felt that it was an expansion of the Chief's club. It was just a bunch of "Old Farts". Why would I want to be part of this group. I saw no reason why a 22 year old, on Active Duty would want to be part of this.

Joe, saw in my eyes what I was thinking. He told me in his gruff voice "feel out of place kid?" "Feel like you don't belong here"? "Would rather be some where's else chasing some skirt wouldn't you"? I answered that he was correct in all of his assumptions. Joe then said "that there were 3,800 other sailors at the bottom of the ocean who served on Submarines that also felt out of place. Felt that they didn't belong there, and like me would rather be some where's else chasing some skirt".

He then went on "that Being a member of SUBVETS was all about remembering those guys at the bottom of the ocean, who had paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. He said sure they could have done something else, but they chose Submarines, just like I had". He said being a SUBVET was about pride in our dolphins, and making sure that those around us, knew what Submariners had accomplished, not just in WWII, but since the inception of Submarines, and commissioning of HOLLAND, and the sacrifices that we had paid".

Joe then went on to tell me that being a SUBVET was about dolphin wearing shipmates. Guys who had all had the same or similar experiences. He said I could join some other group like the VFW, or the FRA, but none of them have the uniqueness of all being Submariners. He said "When you go out, who do you go out with?" I said I go out with guys on my boat"? Guys that have served on Submarines." He said exactly. And in 20 or 30 or 40 years from now after you've long left the navy and look back on your life these days when you were having good times with Shipmates will be remembered as the best days

of your life.

He said that being a member of SUBVETS served two purposes. Remembering our Shipmates, and maintaining comradery with those who have done the same unique things as I have on Submarines are the two fundamental reasons why one should be a member of SUBVETS".

Papa Joe also cautioned me that the USSVI organization had it's share of Bullshit, and arguing, but to look through that crap, and keep the two fundamental reasons for this organization in mind.

I was convinced. I coughed up the \$15.00 bucks, and became a proud card carrying member of USSVI.

Over the years, Joe Negri and I would have many conversations, and I could see inside his head, where he was coming from. When people would say "Why do I want to be a member, I don't drink" Joe would go off and tell them being a member of SUBVETS was not about this club house at 40 School Street. The club house was just a nice thing that Groton had." "That drinking had nothing to do with being a member". That instead it was about remembering guys who died on Submarines with names like Scorpion, Thresher, Wahoo, and Growler and 50 other Submarines that weren't able to drink because they were lost serving their country.

Another favorite line was the guys who would say I'm getting out of the Navy, and moving across the country so I won't be able to attend meetings, or be involved. He would then talk about the many shipmates who lived all over the country who couldn't come to meetings, but would stay involved with the organization just by their membership. That their membership alone showed their support in our creed, and what we believed in.

Well those are my many reasons for joining and staying as a member of USSVI.

I guess that the bottom line reason was Joe Negri, but his philosophies were in the right place as far as I was concerned, and his visions were always 20 years down the road. Joe was liked by many, and disliked by many more because he was outspoken, and because he believed in what USSVI was all about. To me he was a friend, and a Shipmate that I had an awful lot of respect for, and I adopted many of his philosophies.

Gumba



Fraud Alert for Veterans

⚠ DO NOT PAY FOR VA OR COMMUNITY CARE APPOINTMENTS UP FRONT

Protect yourself from a recent scam targeting Veterans.

A Veteran recently received a fake letter claiming he had a VA appointment and was asked to pay for the visit.

- VA later confirmed he was not enrolled in VA health care, and no appointment had been scheduled.
- The letter and payment request were fraudulent.

Remember:

- Veterans should never pay for any VA or Community Care appointment before or at the time of the appointment.
- VA does not charge upfront fees for appointments.
- VA does not send payment requests by email, text message, or phone.
- Community Care appointments are authorized by VA and are free to Veterans except standard VA co-pays when applicable.

If you receive a suspicious letter, call, or message:

- Do not send money or share personal or financial information.
- Contact your local VA medical center directly to verify any appointment.
- Report suspicious activity to your facility's Integrity and Compliance Officer, Integrity and Compliance Helpline at (866) 842-4357 or VHAOICHelpline@va.gov, VSAFE at 1-833-388-7233 or the [VA OIG](https://va.ig) Hotline at 1-800-488-8244.

Your VA team is here to ensure your care is safe and legitimate.

SEE SOMETHING. SAY SOMETHING.

General instances of non-compliance, including potential fraud, waste and abuse:

Office of Integrity and Compliance Helpline

VHAOICHelpline@va.gov or 866-842-4357 (VHA-HELP)

Veterans who suspect they have experienced fraud:

VSAFE Fraud Hotline

<https://vsafe.gov/> or 833-38V-SAFE

Reports made to VA OIC or VSAFE may be referred to the independent Office of Inspector General (OIG) for investigation into fraud or other wrongdoing or for its oversight of VA programs and operations.



Choose VA

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



January 2026

Dear Friends,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! We are reaching out to you on behalf of the Capital Campaign Committee and the Board of Directors of the St. Marys Submarine Museum. The Museum has been dedicated to preserving and sharing with the public the rich history of the 'silent service' for nearly three decades since our doors opened on 30 March 1996. We were privileged to have a true hero from WWII, RADM Eugene Fluckey, Commanding Officer of USS BARB (SS 220) and recipient of the Medal of Honor, as our Commissioning Speaker.

In the early 90's a group of citizens led by Sheila McNeill and John Crouse, community leaders, retired military folks, elected officials and base leadership banded together for a common goal and fantastic vision of establishing what we have today. This has been an amazing 30-year partnership between the City of St. Marys and the Museum. Our Museum has been a vital resource for our community and the Kings Bay Submarine Base, offering programs and services that enrich the lives of our residents, visitors, veterans and our active duty Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen that call Camden County home during their time of duty here.

Built on the success of that partnership and the generosity of City Leadership, we are moving to a new location in the center of St. Marys. We will be next to what is becoming the new City Hall complex and Senior Citizen Center. This will double the size of our current location affording us the opportunity to grow and expand exhibits, display artifacts currently in storage, have plenty of parking, and be closer to the Submarine Base and Interstate 95.

We have engaged the services of an architect to design the facility and to assist in selecting a General Contractor to create and construct the new space in this 9000 square foot warehouse area.

We invite you to be part of this effort by becoming a Plankowner of the new Building and help make a difference in our community. Your support is crucial to helping us achieve our goal. Enclosed you will find more information about our project and how you can contribute.

Thank you for considering our request and together we can build a brighter future for our community while saluting the Silent Service. For any questions or further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your time.

William A. Carriera, President
Board of Directors

Brenda Spencer, Chairperson
Capital Campaign Committee

Keith F. Post, STSCS(SS)(USN-Ret)
Executive Director



SUBMARINE MUSEUM ST. MARYS, GA. CONCEPT SKETCH



BECOME A PART OF HISTORY HERE IN ST. MARYS!

We invite you to become a Plankowner of the new ST. MARYS SUBMARINE MUSEUM. Please fill out this form and send it with your donation to the Museum, or call us at 912-882-ASUB(2782) to make a donation over the phone. We appreciate your support!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONATION FORM

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell: _____ - _____ - _____ Email: _____ @ _____

DONATION LEVELS

Plankowner Certificates will be issued in the following levels for those who donate the minimum or more in the respective category. Certificates will be issued following the ribbon cutting of the new Museum, tentatively set for November 2026. All donations of any kind and size are welcome!



Turtle - \$100

\$ _____ . _____



WWII Fleet Boat - \$500

\$ _____ . _____



USS NAUTILUS - \$1000

\$ _____ . _____



USS VIRGINIA - \$5000

\$ _____ . _____



USS DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - \$10,000

\$ _____ . _____

Other Amount:

\$ _____ . _____

Direct donations with a credit card call 912-882-2782 or by check mail to:

St. Marys Submarine Museum
ATTN: CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
 Post Office Box #5640
 St. Marys, GA 31558-5640

The St. Marys Submarine Museum is a 501C3 non-profit entity.
 All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. Our EIN is 58-2179402.



STSCS(SS) Keith F. Post (USN-Retired)

Executive Director

St. Marys Submarine Museum

P.O. Box 5640

St. Marys, GA 31558-5640

www.stmaryssubmuseum.com

Where History Surfaces Every Day!

15 February 2026

Dear Ken and USS HENRY L. STIMSON Association -

Thank you so much for your wonderful donation to our Capital Campaign of \$1,400. We are most appreciative to all of you of your continued support of the Museum over the years with your generous donations.

Your gift will go a long way in assisting us in our efforts to raise funds for the construction of our new building and your continued support and belief in us makes us even more proud of our efforts at preserving submarine history day in and day out. We will keep you posted on our fundraising and building progress. In the coming weeks you will receive a formal letter from our Capital Campaign Committee as well.

Again, THANK YOU for your support. May we all have a HAPPY NEW YEAR ahead in 2026!

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Post".