

## USSVI COMMANDER CORNER



Shipmates,  
A lot of activities have occurred since reporting to you in my commander's corner from the last issue of the All Clear. At the May 14<sup>th</sup> China Grove Working Meeting, Mike Burkholder arrived in a 16-passenger bus he had bought at a local car auction. It was beige and brown and had belonged to the state of Virginia as you could see where the state seal had been painted over. Since then it has been repainted to look like a Navy bus with the help of Pat Collins and myself. However, Mike has done the majority of the restoration. The "base bus" made its debut in Greensboro's Fun Fourth Parade, the 3<sup>rd</sup> time the NC Subvets have participated in this parade. We had a good turnout from our base members and in our marching unit in addition to the "base bus", we had the parade submarine and Bill Morris' car decked out with the WWII information. By the time that this issue of the All Clear is received by you, 18 of our base members will have visited the North Carolina (SSN 777) under construction in the Newport News Shipyard. In conjunction with our visit, Miss North Carolina (a Miss Universe participant) will also be there. Of the 18 members going, 14 of us will be riding the "base bus", so there is potential for some good sea stories coming from this adventure.

In addition to Greensboro's Fun Fourth Parade, we also participated for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in Thomasville's



## **COMMANDER U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS OF WWII OF NORTH CAROLINA**



Talk about a fish out of WATER!!!! This Submariner is trying to become a FARMER. Don and Rosemary have been torn between family, farm, subvets and illness plus (RAIN) but they send their LOVE and will see everyone in Rocky Mount.

Memorial Day Parade. In June we met for the second time in Burnsville. Had a really good turnout and the Nu-Wray did a great job with Saturday's luncheon. The fate of Chief Flower's Memorial is still up in the air. Dick Kanning, Joe Martin, and myself met with the Chairman of the Yancy County Commissioners to discuss if the county or a local organization would be interested in pursuing with the Flower family to try and obtain the memorial. It was a positive meeting with the Chairman agreeing to have the Yancy County Manager pursue this course of action. While visiting the memorial the next day, Joe Clark found out that the property had been sold and there are now new owners. Joe Martin has found out who the new owners are, but to date, I am not aware of any further action being taken by the county. Hopefully, there will be some good news to report later on this year. I will continue to support having the June meeting at Burnsville as long as the memorial still exists.

Jim Myers and Hugh Andrews are working to get Ollie's Mk-14 torpedo sandblasted and painted. They are also working to get replacement access covers fabricated. The near term goal is to get the torpedo in a restored condition. What we do with it after that is still open for suggestions.

I have been working with Don Small and Bill Whelan to have a S-28 Memorial Marker as part of the WWII initiative to have permanent memorials for each state. Currently, we are getting cost estimates from several monument companies. Probably looking at having it installed at the Salisbury National Cemetery, which at this time appears to be the best location. This location is the type recommended by the WWII National Organization.

Brian Flynn has volunteered to be the NC Subvets new webmaster. He has redone the website and it really looks good. He has established a procedure which clearly assigns responsibility among some of the base officers that will help keep the website current. This has been the biggest problem with it in the past. The website also has a new address which is [www.ncsubvets.org](http://www.ncsubvets.org), so those members having internet access, you can check it out and give any comments you may have to Brian.

We have another parade coming up on August 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm in Newton. It is the Old Soldiers Parade and Harold Brazzle has signed us up for it. I will put out additional information in early August about it.

CHUCK

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## DISTRICT THREE COMMANDER



Wow! What a busy 3 months! With my swearing in and assumption of duties as YOUR District CDR (ED3) I have to remember which hat I'm wearing when communicating.

While in VA Beach for the D-3 annual meeting and changing of the guard, I invited ETCM(SS) 'Bubba' Jones, SSN-777 COB to come over. He did and presented a bunch of SSN-777 goodies for our ships store. Wasn't sure we were ready to assume the monetary burden, but my fears were unfounded, based on subsequent sales at our May business meeting as well as in Burnsville. Bubba related as to how he managed to get a free wash and polish on his 'Vette as well as a house cleaning by his crew for his success in getting Miss North Carolina/Miss USA to visit the boat. I saw an opportunity here for we Tarheel Members to do the same, and put the wheels in motion for us to visit the 777. After many trials,

changes and challenges, by the time you read this, our visit on 13 July will be history. Our storekeeper and “Mr. gets it done” Mike has managed to acquire an 18 passenger bus, has it painted haze gray and adorned with noteworthy scripts that broadcast our Base. Mike had help, but the primary efforts go to him! BZ, Mike! We’ll see if we can get you a true 72!

The May Business meeting was well attended and the presentation by the Salisbury Nat’l Cemetery Rep. was very informative regarding burial there for Vets and spouses, as well as in support of our efforts for a NC SubVet Memorial. I’ll let Chuck expand on that!

Burnsville provided a wonderful atmosphere for all of those in attendance. The NuWray Inn maintains its historic atmosphere and good service. An opportunity to meet with Yancy County officials regarding the preservation of the Flowers memorial provided some inspiration for its preservation by the county. Thanks Joe Martin for spearheading this. A visit on Saturday to the Flowers site was made by all. Chaplain Bill again expressed his wonderful words of benevolence. We are honored to have Bill in our midst.

Chuck again arranged for us to march in the Greensboro 4<sup>th</sup> parade. Not sure of the count, but those in attendance got to see and/ride in the NC SubVets 18 passenger limo (aka Mike’s Bus) While he is an astute driver, his navigation needs improvement. Pat is tasked with that duty. The bus does not corner like Mary Ann’s’ Vette.

To those who sent me donated books, I sent 3 dozen to the 777. I presented the remainder to SubLant PAO for distribution to units of the SubForce.

The license plate count remains around 215. There is a now bill in the NC House to drop the 300 requirement and require only 25. I’m setting up an appointment with my state rep to get clarification on this and will post same as developments occur.

As ED3, I add the following.

I’ve initiated the issuance of a periodic newsletter, “District Soundings”. This is not issued on any set frequency, but as items of interest for the bases AND their members.

One item is my establishment of a District CDR

award, for person or persons who best exemplify the traditions and purpose of USSVI and has/have performed accomplishments that are exemplary within or for your base. This will be awarded at the annual D3 meeting.

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, Marge and I were in attendance at Johnny Lipes internment in Arlington National Cemetery. A separate article covers this. For those who have never been to a Full Honors military funeral, it is a moving experience. Having served in some military funerals during my USN tours, it was impressive to be an attendant and witness.

In closing, I can’t emphasize enough that your elected board of officers exist to serve YOU! We are NOT rulers, but are your trusted servants. Our success as a base rests in the members hands. No base can survive without the input support and participation of all.

Remember, we ALL Volunteered for Submarine Duty, what ever the reason. Continue that tradition and be active!

Dick Kanning

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## CHAPLAIN’S CORNER



These words flow amidst the aftermath of Sunday's patriotic sermon, a dip in a generous neighbor's pool, barbecued ribs, patriotic music, fireworks, seasonal

communication with our children Michael and Nancy, verbal reminders of what preceded and followed the penning and signing of our Declaration of Independence, and several other proofs that at least some of us haven't forgotten what we celebrate each year on the Fourth of July. Forgive us as our attention varies from subject to subject in the following space.

## **Why Independence Day?**

Our e-mailed message to Michael and Nancy was brief but sincere, "...Have a happy Independence Day. Others call it the Fourth of July, but we prefer the former designation. Love to all of you. Dad."

Son Michael's response was equally brief, "Why do you prefer the other designation?"

That was all we needed. We responded, "Michael: we're sure you know why, but, since you asked, we'll respond. The Fourth of July to us is simply a calendar date. No more, no less than the Fifth of July or the Sixth of July. However, Independence Day reminds us that, way back when (before 1776), we were enslaved by a government that didn't permit us to have a say in how we were being governed. Something like taxation without representation was how they voiced it. That was when a group of oppressed people banded together, knowing the possible consequences, and decided to do something about it, rather than to just complain about their being mistreated. They put their comforts, their homes, their purses, their families, and yes, their very lives on the line. What they achieved was independence, the opportunity to make their own decisions, and to work to make worthwhile lives for themselves based on those decisions. We feel the same way about Christmas (Christ mass): we feel equally deprived when we hear that observance referred to as the 25th of December. It's kinda like the shortened expression, Xmas. "X" being the traditional unknown quantity, it's like taking the "Christ" out of Christmas. Call it semantics if you want, but the more we take the easy way out of life, the easier it is to devalue life. Whether we are concerned with independence or Christ, life's too short and too valuable to risk losing it or lessening the good that we are meant to enjoy from it. Now see what your question "Why..." led me into? Love. Dad."

I grinned to myself as I read Michael's prompt and, again, brief response, "I'm sorry I asked." I knew that it was his semi-humorous way of saying, "I know all that, Dad."

## **Good Before Leaving the Boats**

We just received Bulletin No. 44 from the Submarine Research Center. It made reference to "Submariners who made good after leaving the boats." Maybe our skin is getting thinner as we age, but we reacted to that statement with the thought, "That's only because all submariners were good before leaving the boats." Thanks to Spritz and

others like him who weeded out those who weren't so good.

## **Meditation in Burnsville**

We had a great time with our fellow North Carolina submariners in Burnsville, memorializing not only our North Carolina Lost Boat, the S-28, but also Harrell Flowers' USS GATO, the 52 boats lost during World War II, and the crews of boats lost both before and since that War. We appreciate your allowing us a brief meditation at Harrell's impressive memorial on Moonshine Mountain.

As a reminder, using Genesis 28: 10-22 (inspired by The S-28) as a text, we likened Jacob's experience (on his journey from Beersheba to Haran) to Harrell's experience that resulted in his impressive memorial. Read the following and see if you don't think their experiences are similar: "...That night, when he stopped to camp at sundown, Jacob found a rock for a headrest and lay down to sleep and dreamed....(God said) the ground you are lying on is yours....Then Jacob woke up. 'God lives here' he exclaimed. 'I've stumbled into His home. This is the awesome entrance to Heaven.' The next morning he got up very early and set his stone headrest upright as a memorial pillar....And Jacob vowed this vow...'If God will help and protect me on this journey...this memorial shall become a place of worship...'" We likened Jacob's stone memorial to Harrell's stone memorial, and the sanctity of that spot where Jacob slept to that spot on Moonshine Mountain.

We also pointed out the significance of the words on Captain Otway Burns' statue on the Burnsville Square, as they apply to the Moonshine Mountain submarine memorial: "He guarded well our seas, let our mountains honor him." Translate that into, "Our submarines guard well our seas, let our mountains honor them." Amen.

## **S-28 Newsletter**

We are delighted to report that the initial issue of a newsletter has been mailed to 39 former S-28 crewmembers, in honor of their boat which was lost on 4 July 1944 off Hawaii. The newsletter, titled "*The Y.D. Dandy-Gram*," was mailed the week prior to 4 July 2005, and is in memory of the 50 S-28 sailors who set sail on that day on their eternal patrol.

We have already heard from four 28-boat sailors or family members: George Dinsmore of DePue, IL; Connie McPherson (Howard's widow) of Mystic, CT; Pat Noone of Rancho Cordova, CA; and Fred Smith (Fred's son) of Cool, CA. All four were delighted to receive the "*Dandy-Gram*," and said they hoped it would be continued. We look forward to hearing from other S-28 sailors and/or their families in the days to come, and will relay their reactions to the newsletter to you as we receive them.

The newsletter is one more effort by the Submarine Veterans of North Carolina to perpetuate the memories of the S-28 sailors who gave their lives during World War II.

### ***Memorial to Submariners' Wives***

Mary Evans, the Widows Liaison between U.S. SubVets of WWI and that organization's Ladies, told us last week of a new memorial in Ocean Springs, MS, to submariners' wives. It is located beside a memorial to that state's lost boat, and includes: an image of a symbolic submariner's wife, daughter, and son bidding farewell to a departing submarine; entwined wedding rings surrounding a pair of dolphins; and a touching inscription, with just the right touch of levity. The son, dressed in a sailor suit, is saluting the departing submarine.

When we get our plans for an S-28 lost boat memorial squared away, we also might consider the possibility of a memorial to the equally heroic families impacted by the loss of our undersea heroes.

### ***Ladies Auxiliaries?***

Seriously, we hope that our lady readers will pick up on this and lower the boom, if the boom needs lowering.

Bless you and Bless the United States of America.

### ***THANKS!***

We take this means of thanking shipmate Bill Lowe for coming to our rescue, on very short notice, and delivering our traditional Book of Memories to the Family of James L. Leloudis of Raleigh. James, who served aboard USS PIPEFISH (SS-388) during World War II, set sail on his eternal patrol on 27 June 2005.

Chaplain Bill

**USSVI MEMBERSHIP**  
**CHAIRMAN**

Tarheel Base dues are \$10.00 annually and non-life USSVI members will also owe an additional \$20.00 for USSVI National dues for a total of \$30.00. For all Tarheel Base or USSVI National Dues make your check payable to "USSVI TARHEEL BASE". Send your check for either Tarheel Base or USSVI National dues to Bob Werner 150 Wood Wedge Way Sanford, NC 27332. I will forward your annual national dues to USSVI. Holland Club Members who are annual USSVI member no longer pay USSVI National dues after they are inducted into the Holland Club. WWII members who are non-life USSVI members owe \$10.00 national dues. WWII members of USSVI do not pay Tarheel Base dues (just WWII Tarheel Chapter dues).

If you have questions call me at (919) 499-2210 or send an email to me at [bobwerner150@hotmail.com](mailto:bobwerner150@hotmail.com).

Paying your dues on time will keep your American Submariner Magazine and the All Clear newsletter coming without any interruption. **NOTE: when an address change occurs, including email address changes, you must notify me (Bob Werner at (919) 499 2210 or 150 Wood Wedge Way, Sanford NC 27330 or bob werner @hotmail.com) immediately so I can forward the changes to the National Headquarters.**

Bob Werner  
Membership Chairman.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER**

NOTE: If you do not see your Name in the appropriate month or missing please update your file on the Rosters of WWII and USSVI.

**JULY**

ROBERT ANDREWS

MICHAEL BURKHOLDER

JOHN CLARK

PATRICK COLLINS

ROBERT DABBS

PAUL GREENE

WILLIAM GOLLEHON

THOMAS HOLLAND

ELVIE JACKSON

JONES KENNEDY

GEORGE KNOFF

RICHARD LEWIS

DONALD LeDUC

JOE MARTIN

WILLIAM MORRIS

CLIFTON SNOW

JESSE STEWART

FRANS VAN BAARS

BRYCE YOW

**AUGUST**

ARTHUR BARKER

ALFRED BREMER

PAUL CZELUSNIAK

WOLFGANG FRIEDRICH

KENNETH GUSTAFSON

ROBERT E. HOPKINS

ROBERT HUIE

WILLIAM LANE

**SEPTEMBER**

WILLIAM BRADBURN

JERRY EMMERSON

EVERETT ERB

ERNEST EVANS

JOHN GRAY

LEWIS GROOME

HENRY HAGWOOD

JOHN HERINA

LARRY JOHNSTON

JEFF JOYNER

HAROLD STEED

MICHAEL TOOMEY

**BOOSTER CLUB DONATIONS - 2005**

NAME	DATE	AMOUNT
=		
BILL BRADBURN	8/7/04	25.00
<b>NC USSVI</b>	<b>10/5/04</b>	<b>672.00</b>
EVERETT ERB	10/22/04	10.00
ROBERT BLACK (CAPT)	11/10/04	10.00
SHORTY LEBONVILLE	12/04/04	20.00
BILL MORRIS	12/04/04	20.00
CHARLES MEYER, JR.	2/04/05	10.00
HAROLD STEED	2/09/05	5.00
JOHN BLOM	2/12/05	5.00
DONALD LE DUC	2/12/05	25.00
KARL EVANS	2/15/05	10.00
BILL BRADBURN	4/02/05	25.00
<b>NC USSVI</b>	<b>4/15/05</b>	<b>233.00</b>
EDWARD LLOYD	5/11/05	15.00
SHORTY LEBONVILLE	5/14/05	20.00

RAMONA YOST	6/4/05	20.00
OLGA LATHROP	6/4/05	20.00
CHARLES JOHNSON	6/30/05	15.00
JOE MORGAN	6/30/05	10.00
JIM HARBIN	6/30/05	10.00
JONES KENNEDY	6/30/05	10.00
TOTAL		1190.00

## NC WWII TREASURER'S CORNER

### IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN RENEWAL OF WWII SUB VET 2006 DUES ARE NOW DUE as of AUG 1st,

Life members owe \$10, Annual members owe \$15 and Associates owe \$20, if you have not already paid your dues please forward all payments to Jim Myers, 4905 Reidsville Rd. Walkertown, N.C. 27051. If you look at your address on the front of the All Clear and the date at the end of your name is 2005 or earlier then your DUES ARE DUE.

We now have 26 members that have not paid their dues. 25 are WWII and 1 is an Associate member Please be vigilant and pay your dues, if you need assistants just let Jim Myers or Don Small know and we'll help

At the Reno Convention the WWII Executive Board voted to increase all ASSOCIATE and SUBSCRIBER member dues to \$10 vice \$5 in order to defer the cost of the POLARIS, this will be retroactive to Sept. 1, 2003.

## USSVI TREASURER REPORT

Carry-over from 2004:	\$3,955.68
Income:	\$3,740.68
Expense:	\$4,518.18
Balance:	\$3,178.18

Base membership is: 115. 90 Life Members, 25 Annual Members

## USSVI HOLLAND CLUB NEWS

Pat Collins and Paul Greene were presented their Holland Club Awards at the Burnsville meeting by Chuck JensEn USSVI Tarheel Base Commander

Ken Gustafson received his Holland Club award, after Pat Collins, Mike Burkholder and Chuck Jensen took a Maiden Voyage on the new BUS that Mike Burkholder and the gang has refurbished.

Pat Collins has sent a check to the Holland Club Fund for \$70 from the Tarheel Base Members.

## ALL CLEAR EDITOR'S NOTE

The All Clear has been turned in to the USSVI National Newsletter Award Committee again for the 2005 Newsletter award. Hoping good comes from it, we will be entered with the Large base group this year.

The All Clear and all other projects of the NC Subvets ( WWII and USSVI) are continued with the help of the Booster Club but the WWII Dues and the USSVI dues are what really matters. The USSVI group have 100% participation again this year but the WWII group need 26 more members to renew their dues for the 2006 year which begins AUG 1, 2005. Let's be active and renew our dues ASAP.

## **SAILOR REST YOUR OARS**

RALEIGH

James Leloudis, 82, set sail on his eternal patrol on 27 June 2005. Born and raised in Rocky Mount, NC, Jim was a member of U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II, having served in the Pacific Theater of Operations as a Quartermaster First Class, aboard the submarine USS PIPEFISH (SS-388). The condolences of the Submarine Veterans of North Carolina have been extended to the Family and the traditional Book of Memories and Eternal Patrol Certificate are being prepared for the Family.

Jim returned to Rocky Mount after the War and worked as a fireman with the Rocky Mount Fire Department, before beginning a career in the insurance industry. He moved with his family to Raleigh in 1965 and continued his career until his retirement.

Jim is survived by his loving and patient wife of 54 years, Virginia. Also surviving are son Jim and wife Diane of Chapel Hill and their daughters Kirsten and Rebecca; son George and wife Dayna of Asheville and their children John and Callie; brother George of Orlando, FL; a number of nieces and nephews; and countless friends.

A memorial service, at which the Submarine Veterans of North Carolina was represented, was held Thursday, 30 June, at the Cremation Society of the Carolinas in Raleigh. The Family greeted friends following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Interfaith Council of Chapel Hill, 100 West Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

## **MEMORIAL ON THE MOUNTAIN**

High in the North Carolina Mountains above the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway lies the historic and picturesque town of Burnsville, NC. Here for the second time in the past three years the combined Submarine veterans of WWII and the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. of North Carolina met together at the Nu-Wray Inn to visit the submarine memorial built by the late Harrel Flowers TMC (SS), a crewmember of the USS Gato (SS-212) during WWII, on nearby Moonshine Mountain.

Brought to our base's attention, the memorial is constructed entirely of a native white stone with a large war patrol submarine plaque in the center bottom tier, and above that a standing anchor and chain. On the third tier is a yardarm with lanyards for flags, all surrounded by mountain laurels. It was reported that the Chief did not like his first

construction attempt. So, he tore it down and started all over again. That's dedication!

Since the Chief's passing, the property has been for sale and the prospect of keeping this a permanent memorial has been in doubt. Joe Martin, a former Sunfish SSN649 sailor, who works for an agency of Yancy County, has been instrumental in getting our base commander Chuck Jensen and District #3 Commander Dick Kanning together with local officials to see how this memorial could be saved. In a positive meeting on June 3, 2005 the Yancy County Commissioners gave assurances that every effort will be made to save Chief Flowers' Memorial.

On Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, all the veterans and guests gathered at the historic Nu-Wray Inn located on the commons in downtown Burnsville. The Nu-Wray Inn opened in 1833 which is the oldest continuously operating Inn in western North Carolina and is a registered National Historic Landmark. The Inn even has its own "Elvis Room" to remember the 1969 visit of the "King" himself.

After the luncheon and a business meeting, all gathered including Bill Bradburn EM2(SS) who was a shipmate of Chief Flowers on the USS Gato (SS-212) during WWII, at the memorial. Tarheel Base Chaplain Bill Whelan, who rode the USS Brill SS330 during WWII, gave a very heartfelt sermon. In his sermon he drew many comparisons among scripture Genesis: 28, Chief Flowers' Memorial and the Tarheel Base Memorial Boat S-28. The sermon was quite moving.

On a personal note, when you visit a monument like this one, you realize that you need not have to have been a WWII sub sailor, or a career sub sailor to know that just being a Submarine Sailor in service to your country may well be the most memorable time of your life.

**By Will Harvey  
Tarheel Base**





## OLLIE'S MARK 14 TORPEDO

The Torpedo has been sandblasted and primer coated by C & C Sandblasting of Kernersville NC. Roy Teague's (owner of C & C) father was a WWII Veteran and did the sandblasting and primer coating for labor and material cost only. Thanks Roy.

Here is the latest update concerning the Mk-14 torpedo and the WWII ordnance trailer.

On Saturday 16 July Chuck Jensen and Jim Myers met Hugh Andrews at the Aerodyne facility where

Hugh works. Jim had brought the torpedo down there during the week after it had been sand-blasted and painted with primer in Walkertown.

We moved the torpedo over to one of the local NASCAR team crew member's private body shop where it will have the finished coat of paint applied. Prior to the final coat of paint being applied, all the openings on the torpedo that are now missing their hand hole covers will be patched using foam and auto body filler. All this work is being done at no cost to us by several of the NASCAR team crew members located in the Mooresville area who have volunteered their time and the materials being used. **We can thank Hugh Andrews for using his racing contacts to set this all up.** The torpedo's final paint color will be black on the body and bronze for the nose and propellers.

After we dropped off the torpedo, we then went to Hugh's friend's property who had found the WWII ordnance trailer there. We loaded it on to Jim's trailer and took it back to Jim's house in Walkertown. The next step with the trailer is to get it sand-blasted and a coat of primer on it. After that, we will need to evaluate what areas will need to be repaired as the trailer is heavily rusted in specific areas to determine what materials will be needed to make the repairs. It has the potential with some modifications to be able to carry the torpedo on for local parades or to be exhibited at a temporary locations.

On the next to last page of the All Clear are pictures of the torpedo in its present condition and also the WWII ordnance trailer now at Jim's house.

## Trip to Newport News

On Tuesday morning July 12<sup>th</sup>, with great expectations we left Mike's car lot on our way to Newport News to visit the North Carolina (SSN-777). However, as we proceeded to our first scheduled stop at Pat Collins' house to pick additional base members the bus's engine water temperature started to rise. After some deliberations, it was decided to leave the bus at Pat's house and not take the chance of breaking down on the road. Mike is planning on solving the water temperature problem so the bus will be ready for our next planned activity, which is the Old

Soldiers Parade in Newton on Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup>. I will put out the details, as the parade date gets closer.

On Wednesday, eighteen of us met for the scheduled tour of the North Carolina (SSN-777) and to meet Miss North Carolina/USA (Chelsea Corley from Charlotte). We did go down to the shipyard area where the boat is being assembled. Most of the crew was there as this was a photo opportunity to be with Chelsea. Because of last minute decision from the on-site Naval Reactors' representative, the tour was severally limited so we didn't get to see very much. However, we had plenty of opportunity to interact with the crew both at the boat's assembly area and later back at the shipyard entry point. Also, we all got an autograph picture from Chelsea.



## **WWII Hero Laid to Rest**

*By Dick Kanning ED3 CDR*

On a sultry 28 June 2005, USSVWWII and Tarheel Base member Wheeler 'Johnny' B. Lipes, LCDR USN (Ret) made his final journey on to eternal patrol at Arlington National Cemetery. Solemnly traveling by the honored caisson, escorted by the rider less steed, his remains were proudly draped with our national colors. With over 100 family and numerous guests in attendance and full military honors rendered by the Navy Band and Ceremonial Guard, the emotional sounding of Taps bought true meaning to all. As the colors were formally presented to his widow, Audrey Lipes, the final honor was rendered. Red roses were laid on the casket by family members as a symbol of true affection.

Johnny is best remembered for the heroic appendectomy operation he performed on his shipmate Darryl Rictor in 1942 while submerged in the South China Sea in Seadragon. He was belatedly awarded the Navy Commendation Medal in Feb 2005.



Among the family and guests proudly marching behind the caisson were USSVI members from Tarheel & North Virginia Bases and Art Killiam, the planesman on Seadragon when Johnny performed his operation.

A special thanks to Jan Herman, BuMed Historian, in arranging the Honors Service desired by Johnny and his family.

Dick Kanning

### **JIM HARBIN**

On our way back from Mooresville Saturday Chuck Jensen and Jim Myers stopped at Mocksville say hi to Jim Harbin. He looked real good and is keeping the women at bay. He wanted to tell everyone that he misses our meetings and get together but his legs and knees just will not let him motivate. He said to tell everyone hello and keep him in your prayers.

### **TORPEDO ARRIVES IN MOORESVILLE TO BE PAINTED**



### **TORPEDO PRIMED AND READY FOR PAINT**



### **ORDINANCE TRAILER READY TO BE WORKED ON**



### **4<sup>th</sup> FUN FEST PARADE GREENSBORO**

The following pictures are of the group and Bill Morris in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fun Fest Parade in Greensboro