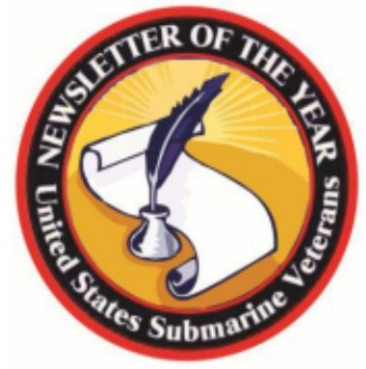


Piedmont Periscope



Piedmont Periscope

February 2014

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| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| USS SHARK (SS 174) | February 11, 1942 |
| USS AMBERJACK (SS 219) | February 16, 1943 |
| USS GRAYBACK (SS 208) | February 27, 1944 |
| USS TROUT (SS 202) | February 29, 1944 |
| USS BARBEL (SS 316) | February 4, 1945 |

USSVI Purpose/Creed

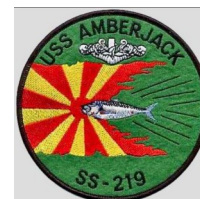
Our Purpose: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various pro-

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

Lost Boats for February



"Sailors, rest your oars"

CO's Stateroom— Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Steve Bell



Well if you were not there you missed one heck of an evening. That pretty much sums up our last meeting. The wedding for Bob and Kathy went off really well. I would like to thank everyone involved for pulling together such a wonderful ceremony. You guys did a great job! Even the Base Commander had a small part in it all. Our 2014 membership renewal season is over. I do not have the final count as I write this (some checks are in the mail, at least I am told). Yes, we lost a few members. I hate that but there is not much more we can do. Even so, we did reasonably well. It

is never too early to start thinking about your 2015 membership dues. For those that this seems to be a difficult thing to remember to do, there are three and five year programs that could help you out some on that. Something for you to consider.

There are a couple of events that are just over the horizon so you need to plan accordingly, that is if you plan to participate. Our Regional Convention is 7-10 April in Cary, NC. We have a really good guest speaker coming, Admiral Al Konetzni. If you are planning on attending, please get your reservations at the hotel and your registration in. You do not have to attend each day (that is reserved for folks like me, I get that privilege) but you can come for any combination of days

you desire. This will be followed by the NC Subvets participation in the Azalea Festival Parade in Wilmington, NC on 12 April. We normally have a NC Subvets meeting and lunch on the Battleship North Carolina after the parade and a short meeting.

We will not be participating in the St Patty's Day Parade in Charlotte this year. We alternate with the parade in Raleigh when they are held on the same day. But you can attend up there if you desire. The floats will leave Raleigh and go to the Outer Banks for that parade on the 16th of March. More on parade schedules as the season approaches. There will be plenty of information regarding the National Election in the very near future. Please stay tuned on that. I will be attending

the USSVI BOD meeting in Dallas in March and should be providing you with a reasonable detail of who is running for what and all the proposed amendments to the C&B. I ask each of you to participate in that election. It is online and very easy to do. We did extremely well two years ago but it would be nice to even do better.

It is time for the Bilge Rat Productions to start season number 4. That is really hard to believe. I suspect it will be a good one, as usual. There has been a lot of effort put in on building the props for this one. Do you want to participate, give Moe a jingle, I am sure he can always use some assistance. Do you need to be talented? I don't think so. If I can do it, and there is not talent there, then so can you. And we can always

Carolina Piedmont Contacts

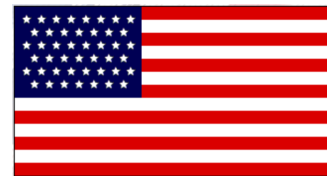
| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Base Commander | Steve Bell | usnret82@carolina.rr.com | 704-824 3510 |
| Vice Commander | Jack Jeffries | jckjeffries@interlink-café.com | 704-764-5211 |
| Base Secretary | Mike Hubbell | Mleohub@aol.com | 803-628-1908 |
| Base Treasurer | Ray Zieverink | ziev_ssn661@yahoo.com | 803-324-1414 |
| Chief of the Base | Rick Petitt | chirp@ctc.net | 704-784-1654 |
| Base Chaplin | Raymond Fritz | raysabode@bellsouth.net | 803-618-1121 |
| Base Storekeeper | Jeff Nieberding | jan7334@comporium.net | 803-366-9255 |
| Holland Club | Walt Sealy | walt_sealy@yahoo.com | 803-327-5661 |
| Coordinator | | | |
| Newsletter Editor | E. Dale Moses | editor_periscope@att.net | 704-248-7610 |

use backups. Sometimes it is very difficult for one to be able to make all the commitments we have. Just something for you to think about.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next meeting. Come on out and have a nice evening with our gang here. Yes, we do have to do a little business, but the camaraderie prior to the meeting is priceless. May God bless you all.— Steve



Colleen Moses shows-off the Hee-Haw Donkey she painted on part of the “Fence” for the upcoming Halfway Night IV season.



When did this Flag fly in Our Nation’s History? Find out on Page 9. Did you know that no US Flag has ever been retired? All are still “legal” Flags to fly and represent our Country.



XO’s Stateroom — Vice Commander Jack Jeffries

CAROLINA PIED-MONT ROCKS-
Well we are all settled in after our big meeting in January where we were honored to have a wedding joining Bob Bunney and Kathy Wolfe, I am sure that all who attended enjoyed the ceremony. The drive for collecting Base and National dues went well and hope that now we

ALL can get to recruiting. Each and every member is on the membership committee.

The base is waiting for confirmation from Levine Children’s Hospital for the dates we can once again bring our KAP(SS) 4KID(SS) program there. We are scheduled to attend Victory Junction once again the middle of March. Yesterday we had the initial rehearsal for our Bilge Rat Production skit for 2014, the program this year is

based on the TV program HEE HAW. A BIG BZ to Howard Dachs, Monica Dachs, Dale Moses and Colleen Moses for constructing the sets that are needed, a lot of work and ingenuity went into this project, I don't know how Dale can come up with the skits but they sure are good. We plan to open this season at Burnsville this year. Speaking of Burnsville, I have sent out information and registration for the gath-

ering, please make this a successful showing for the USS Asheville base that is running the program this year.

I Pray that all is well with you and hope to see you at our February meeting on the 22nd - Jack



Machinery One — Mike Hubbell, Base Secretary**Carolina-Piedmont Base Minutes****For January 25, 2014****-Call Meeting to Order**

1730 hrs. Base Commander Steve Bell called the meeting to order.

-Invocation

Base Chaplin Ray Fritz gave the Invocation.

-Pledge of Allegiance

Steve Bell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

-Tolling of the Boats

The Tolling for January was presented by Ray Fritz and Rick Pettit.

-Member Introductions

There were 22 members present and 8 quests.

-Reading/Approval of the last meeting minutes

The motion was made to accept the minutes for the November, 2013 meeting as posted in Emails sent to the membership. The motion carried. There was no formal meeting for the month of December, 2013.

-Reading/Approval of the Treasurers Report

Base treasurer Ray Zieverink gave the report for January 2014. The Motion was made to accept the report as read, the motion passed.

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Current Balance | \$7,478.65 |
| Kapss4Kidss | \$2,490.67 |
| Memorial Restoration Fund | \$ 552.50 |
| USSVI Scholarship Fund | \$ 23.00 |
| General Base Funds Available | \$4,412.48 (\$250.00 approved 11/16/2013 for Sailor of the Year) |

-Old Business

None

-New Business

None

Base Minutes — Mike Hubbell, Base Secretary

-SK Report

Members were reminded if they needed anything to see Jeff Nieberding.

-Good of the Order:

-Loss of Shipmates

Ray Fritz and Rick Pettit reviewed the services held for Ed Erb, who passed during the Christmas Holidays.

Jack Jeffries reported on the Base participation for the funeral services for Medal of Honor Recipient and Base Associate Member Rudy Hernandez who also passed during the Holiday Season. Sailor rest your oar.

-Membership Renewal Status

Jack Jeffries and Raymond Zieverink reminded all hands that Base and National dues must be in prior the January 31st. Failure will result in the National Office dropping those who have not paid their dues from the National Roster.

-Memorial Brick

Steve Bell reviewed the success of the Carolina Field of Honor efforts and stated we will cover this under new business at the February meeting.

-Save the USS Clamagore

Jack Jeffries reported on the efforts to prevent the Board of Directors at Patriots Point from disposing of the USS Clamagore. It is their intention to scuttle the boat as an artificial reef. Efforts are being made to save the boat and raise the necessary funds to restore the boat. Jack will be emailing a form letter to the membership to be sent by each member to the Governor of South Carolina voicing our support for the restoration of the USS Clamagore.

-Benediction

The benediction was given by Chaplin Ray Fritz.

-Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made and passed.

-Post Meeting Activity

The wedding for member Bob Bunney and Kathy Wolf was conducted followed by the meal the fellowship. Ray Fritz (Base and National Chaplain) (who is also an ordained minister) conducted the services.

Respectfully Submitted by

Michael Hubbell

Base Secretary

Chaplain's Corner - Ray Fritz, National Chaplain



Phone 803-619-1121

Cell (New) 803-487-2965 (Oops! Number last month was wrong!)

February, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Fourteen.



On a happy note, here are a couple of pictures of Bob and Kathy (Wolf) Bunney's wedding at our last meeting.



The Ceremony went well, the food prepared by the ladies was exceptional, and the time together was fun! (You can see Bob really likes cake!)

Bob and Kathy: God bless you with many, many years of love, happiness, and adventure together.

On a sad note, we lost a shipmate in December. Ed Erb left on Eternal Patrol on 19-Dec-2013. Shipmates and spouses from the Carolina Pied-

mont Base and other USSVI bases attended his memorial service. We presented a "Book of Remembrance" to his two sons from the Carolina Piedmont Base.

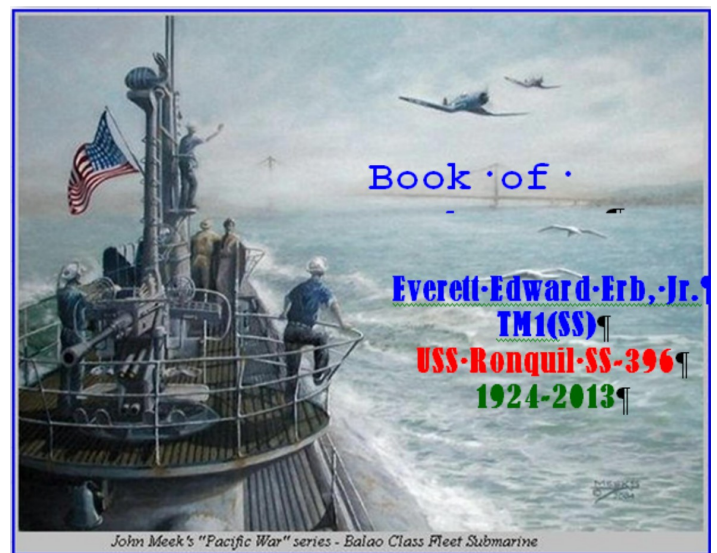
Ed was a 'Plankowner' on the USS Ronquil SS-396 and made War Patrols 1-2-3-4-5 on her. He was a member of the Carolina Piedmont Base, USSVI, a Life Member of USSVI, and a member of the Holland Club, having been

qualified in submarines for more than 50 years.

Ed, with his sense of humor and smile, is greatly missed. Sailor, rest your oars.



To contact Ray for your Chaplain needs —
Chaplain Ray - raysabode@bellsouth.net



USS Ronquil (SS-396) Ship's Log

| Year | Date | Historical Events |
|------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1943 | Sep 9 | Keel laid down by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME. |
| 1944 | Jan 27 | Launched. |
| | Apr 22 | Commissioned with LCDR. Henry S. Monroe in command. After shakedown off the New England coast, Ronquil sailed for Hawaii. |
| | Jul 8 | Ronquil arrived at Pearl Harbor, HI. to prepare for 1st war patrol. |
| | Jul 31 | Ronquil sailed on her 1st war patrol in the Northeastern Formosa-Sakishima Gunto area. |
| | Aug 24 | Ronquil sank two attack cargo ships, the Yoshida Maru No. 3, 4,646 tons and the Fukurei Maru, 5,969 tons. |
| | Sep 30 | Ronquil began her 2nd war patrol, which was carried out in two phases. She first operated with a coordinated submarine attack group in the Bungo Suido area, and then joined 6 other submarines to carry out an antipatrol ship sweep off the Bonin Islands. |
| 1945 | Jan 1 | Ronquil began her 3rd war patrol. She patrolled the Bonins and did lifeguard duty in that area for Army bombers hitting the Japanese home islands. |
| | Mar 11 | Ronquil began her 4th war patrol. She rescued 10 Army aviators from a B-29 bomber downed between the Bonins and Japan. |
| | May 19 | Ronquil began her 5th war patrol, which took her into the East China Sea and the Yellow Sea. The end of the war in the Pacific found Ronquil off Pearl Harbor, HI., training for another war patrol. |
| | Oct 1 | Ronquil returned to San Diego, CA. and engaged in training exercises off the California coast. |
| 1947 | Jan 1 | Ronquil departed San Diego, CA. for her first peacetime Western Pacific deployment. This patrol lasted 114 days and took her to Tahiti, the Carolines, the Marianas, Japan, and the Yellow Sea. |

Until we meet again.¶

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2·Corinthians·1:2¶

Ray Fritz, Chaplain Carolina Piedmont Base, USSVI and National Chaplain USSVI¶

From the COB - Rick Petitt



Well the New Year is well on its way and many of us are planning all the exciting events coming up in 2014. I have been invited to attend the Nathanael Greene Boat reunion in Charleston this April. May brings us the "Moonshine Mountain" trip to Burnsville, NC. Spring and summer will include the regular pa-

rades, Color Guard events, visits to Levine Children's hospital and Victory Junction, and certainly the "Half-way Night" skits across the metro area. September is the national SubVet convention in San Francisco. I will be there and then spend another week touring Northern California. I for one can't wait to get rid of the cold weather and start really enjoying 2014.

Last month I ended with a quote from Ma-

hatma Gandhi. It wasn't the one I had wanted to print but couldn't remember the one I wanted. (Memory isn't what it used to be.) Now what was I saying?Oh yeah. I remembered whom I wanted to quote, so here goes.

From the great philosopher Alan Jackson; ***"your greatest contributions are the ones you leave behind".***

Rick Petitt, COB

**Got
A
Story
For
The
Periscope?
Sent it to
Moe(SS)
at
editor_periscope
@att.net**

Holland Club Member in the Spotlight— Robert “Bob” Howell



This month's Holland Club Member in the Spotlight is Robert Howell. Bob was an EM1(SS) and Qualified aboard the USS Darter (SS-576) back in 1963. Bob is retired and lives in Charlotte with wife of 52 years, Emma. Good job, Bob. Or should we say, Emma for keeping the old Boat Sailor around. (Just kidding). Bob was raised in Cartersville, Georgia. After graduating high school in 1958, Bob, while attending Georgia Tech in Atlanta, worked in the mail room at AT&T in downtown Atlanta, delivering mail within the Atlanta area for AT&T. Since Bob was attending night school, he did not receive a deferment from the draft and soon receive a notice from "Uncle Sam". When Bob received this invitation, he went to see the Air Force recruiter, but they were "full-up". But wouldn't you know it, some Navy chief gave him the "high sign" and soon he was being told all about Nuclear Power pro-

gram and was signed-up after getting draft notice from the Army. Bob wanted something with some training benefits, and he surely got it with the "Nuke" program. Bob enlisted in the Navy Oct. 18, 1961 and was sent to San Diego, CA for boot camp and A school. After completing boot camp he then attended Electrical A School in San Diego. I asked Bob why he chose the submarine service. He said that he had watched submarine movies as a kid, but training was the biggest issue. In fact, while in line at the draft, a man in front of him was an ex-boat sailor trying to get back in. Bob later found it ironic that that man was rejected, probably due to age, and Bob was accepted. Bob was sent to Submarine School in New London, Conn. After Sub school Bob was assigned to the USS Darter SS576 out of Charleston. At this time they required all sailors for nuclear power training to spend one year on a diesel boat. Bob was assigned to Darter during the Cuban Missile Crisis. While on the Darter we

made a Med. cruise. On the way over they were first went up the east coast and then over to Ireland. While off the east coast of the US, they were informed of the USS Thresher SSN593 being lost. After the Thresher was lost they were restricted to 500 feet and above for all operations. Bob remembered the Captain saying to not make any entries in the log if they went lower than 500 ft. They then did some NATO exercises with the French, British and Dutch boats. Bob was sent back to the states from Italy to attend Nuclear Power School in Bainbridge, MD. After the class room training in Bainbridge Bob was sent to S1C prototype training in Winsor Locks, CT. Bob was picked -up as staff and retained at S1C for two years as an Instructor. Bob then received orders to the USS Woodrow Wilson SSBN624 in 1965 for the duration of his service. While on the Woodrow Wilson he operated out of Rota, Spain and Holy Loch, Scotland. This was in 1965 and Bob left the Wilson in August of 1968 in the naval yards in Newport News. While in the yards at Newport

News, Bob saw the families of the crew of the Scorpion SSN589 come to pier to welcome the boat back home. Of course she never arrived. Bob says it was sad seeing the families at the pier. He guesses we all know where we were when these two boats were lost. Bob was temporarily assigned to the USS Odax SS484, but never went to sea with her. Bob was discharged on October 18, 1968 and went to work for Duke Power in Charlotte, NC for 32 years in design engineering department designing/modifying/building Duke's nuclear hydroelectric plants. Also Bob finished his degree at night and earned his Electrical Engineering degree from UNCC. Bob also maintained a professional association with the IEEE (International Electrical and Electronic Engineers). He joined the IEEE after he went to work for Duke Power and was an active member for 30 years. He was involved in various groups that wrote Electrical Standards for the Power Industry. He was also fortunate to be a

member of CIGRE (International Council on Large Electric Systems) which shared practices within the industry by the engineers from all over the world. Bob retired in 2001 and now enjoys spending time with his daughter and son, the grandson and granddaughter; all who live in the Charlotte

area. Bob and Emma also enjoy travelling. In fact, when I interviewed Bob he was in Orange Park, Florida, just outside Jacksonville. Thank you, Bob. Being a former "Nuke" instructor myself, I know that you taught many young sailors, both submariners (and those other guys) many valu-

able traits that you learned from shipmates on the Darter and carried them forward in your training. Enjoy your retirement, and happy travels shipmate.



Answer to the Flag Trivia:

The 45-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1896. A star was added for the admission of Utah on January 4th, 1896, and was to last for 12 years. The Presidents to serve under this flag were Grover Cleveland (1893-1897), William McKinley (1897-1901), and Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909).

Common Tools Defined

SKIL SAW: A portable cutting tool used to make boards too short.

BELT SANDER: An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

WISE-GRIPS: Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

PHILLIPS SCREW-DRIVER:

Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

STRAIGHT SCREW-DRIVER:

A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws and

butchering your palms.

HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.

"S-O-B" TOOL: Any handy tool that you grab and throw across the garage while yelling 'Son of a b*tch' at the top of your lungs. It is also, most often, the next tool that you will need.

New members

IT'S A BRAND NEW YEAR!

AND GUESS WHAT?

EVERYONE IS ON THE
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

February
Meeting
Feb 22th

Carry-in Dinner
At 1730
Meeting at 1900

At VFW Post
9138 in

Ft Mill, SC

Come on out

And join us

See what you

Been missing

A Carolina Piedmont Wedding

Another milestone was met at the Carolina Piedmont Base; our first base wedding. At our January 25th meeting in the Fort Mill VFW we celebrated the Marriage of Robert Bunney and Kathryn Wolf. The Bunney's had the special opportunity to be married by none other than our own Base Chaplain Raymond Fritz, whom also happens to be the currently serving National Chaplain of USSVI. The bride was given away by Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Steve Bell and his wife Ma. Also, Tom and Susan Kelly served as best man and matron of honor for the Bunney's ceremony. Table settings were beautifully done by Cindy Pettit and ceremony decorations were a special touch added by Glenna Hubbell. The ladies transformed our meeting room into a beautiful setting for the wedding and reception to take place.

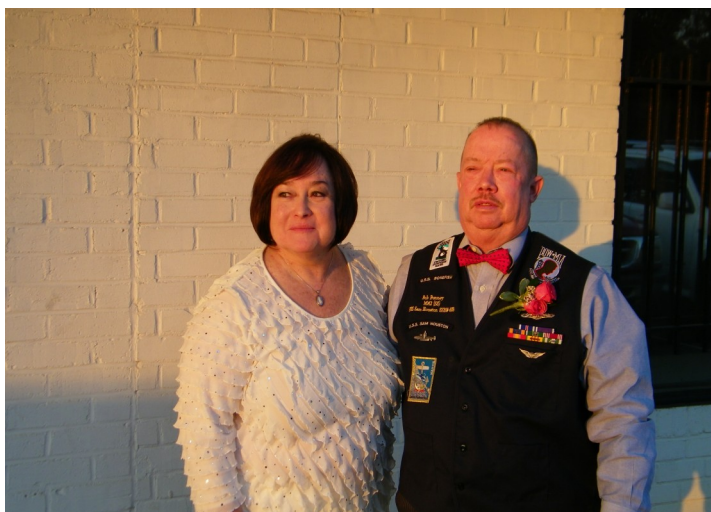
After the ceremony, a fantastic meal was provided by the generous members of the Carolina Piedmont base. Many hands made for light work; and a heartfelt thanks goes out to all who helped with set-up, tear-down and cleanup afterwards.

The January 2013 meeting of the Carolina Piedmont Base was a time of remembrance to those men and submarines that had departed on eternal patrol followed by a joyous time of celebration where two lives have now started anew. It was apparent from all family and friends who attended that it was a very special meeting one to remember for a long time to come.—Susan and Tom Kelly



Bob with Best Man Tom Kelly

Kathy with Matron Susan Kelly



The Bride and Groom

The
guys
with the
Chaplain





Cmdr. Bell gives the Bride away.



Cutting the Cake!



Tables by
the
Sub-
Vettes



Pinning of the "mini" Dolphins on a Submariner's Wife
Photos by Tom Kelly and Rick Pettit

Binnacle List

Dee Rutter

Hal Rutter

Jim Schenk

February

Sandi Wardean 2/03

Ruth Ann Worth, Hal Rutter 2/09

Jack Jeffries, Jerry Paciorek 2/13

Cindy Petitt 2/17

Monica Dachs, Sandra Myers 2/18

Jim Harris 2/26

Happy Birthday



“The income tax has made more liars out of the American people than golf has.”- Will Rogers

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:

February

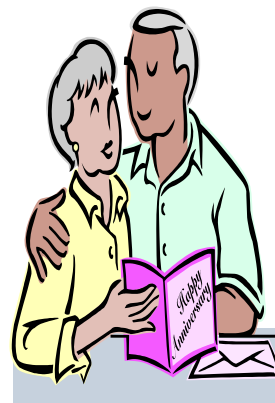
Toie and Perry Blake – 50 years!!

Linda and Greg Crystal - 2/5

Janet and Tom Krpata – 2/23

Tatiana and Mike Ward – 2/23

Linda and Raymond D. Zieverink - 2/24



SubVettes—President Sandra Myers

Hello Sassy Sisters,
Hope you all are
doing well. Paul
and I have been do-
ing a lot of travel-
ing but have not
forgotten our group.
We just want to do
a few things before
our age catches us.
We will miss our
February meeting

due to cruising to
Hawaii. We will
be meeting our
sisters from the
North Carolina,
SSN 777 and I am
really excited.
The February and
March meal will
be our usual "this
and that". Please
be thinking of ser-

vice projects for
our group for the
coming year. We
will be at March
meeting. Thanks
for your under-
standing.
May God bless you
and yours.— Love,
Sandra



Raw Kale Salad with Feta and Dried Cranberries

Ingredients

About 2 cups of fresh kale with stems removed
1 parsnip sliced thin - 1 carrot sliced thin
1/4 of a red onion sliced thin
3 tbsp red wine vinegar 2 tsp olive oil
2 pinches of Kosher salt and a pinch of ground black pepper
1 tsp dried oregano 1 tsp minced garlic or 1 large clove minced
2 tbsp of dried cranberries 2 oz feta cheese



Directions

Pull the stems off and wash the kale leaves.
Grab a bunch of the kale and slice it into thin ribbons. Add the cut kale to a large bowl.
Slice the parsnip, carrot and onion as thin as possible and add them to the bowl.
In a small bowl add the vinegar, salt, pepper, oregano, garlic, and dried cranberries.
Whisk and mash the cranberries a bit letting them flavor the dressing.
Pour the dressing over the kale and veggies.
Toss everything together making sure to coat all the leaves with the dressing.
Cover and let sit in the fridge for at least 2 hours.
Once you're ready to eat add the feta and toss.

VETERANS NEWS
by the RAQ Bulletin

Deadline for the
next issue of the

Piedmont

Periscope

will be

March 13th. Please
have all items to

Moe(SS) at

Editor_periscope@

Att.net

by then.

Your Veteran News From the RAQ Bulletin

Commissary User Savings Update 02

► Study's 30.5 %

Questioned

A new study conducted by the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) found that shoppers save an average of 30.5 percent when using the commissary instead of other grocery sources. The study compared the prices of 37,000 products with UPC symbols at 30 randomly selected stateside commissary stores with prices at surrounding grocers — both traditional ones like Safeway or Publix and non-traditional ones like Sam's Club or Dollar General. They found that, on average, those items were 30.5 percent cheaper at the commissary during the study period. Whether or not the commissary actually saves shoppers money is a constant source of debate. Is the 30.5% savings realistic considering the guidelines under which the study was conducted. Here is how DeCA officials arrived at this 30.5 percent number.

The comparison only looked at products with UPC symbols. That means, DeCA officials confirmed, that they

were not comparing the prices on any store packaged meat. Thus, the steaks or ground beef you regularly buy that really are so much less expensive at the commissary (and the focus of the meat rush that occurred on Shutdown Day in October) were not even considered in this study.

The study was done stateside. Thus it not take into account OCONUS pricing.

The study only examined products both stores carried. Thus, it did not capture any potential savings you could get by going generic at other stores.

The study did factor in both the 5 percent surcharge and any sales tax at civilian retailers near the randomly selected test stores. Thus those living in tax free states would have less savings. The study did not factor in the voluntary bagger tip. While not mandatory, most whoppers feel obligated to give a tip and do thus reducing their savings.

So, if officials were to add in the savings commissary shoppers already know they see from meat and the savings they already know they DON'T

have thanks to the availability of generic brands elsewhere and to include the voluntary-but-likely bagger cost, would they still arrive at an average 30.5 percent savings?

There's really no way to know without actually doing the study over again. [Source: Spouse Buzz | Amy Bushatz | 13 Jan 2014 ++]

DoD Mobilized Reserve 24 JAN 2013

► Decrease of 1923

The Department of Defense announced the current number of reservists on active duty as of 24 JAN 2014. The net collective result is 1923

fewer reservists mobilized than last reported in the 1 JAN 2014 RAO Bulletin. At any given time, services may activate some units and individuals while deactivating others, making it possible for these figures to either increase or decrease. The total number currently on active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 29,639; Navy Reserve 3,881; Marine Corps Reserve 1,916; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve 6,626;

and the Coast Guard Reserve 391. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel who have been activated to 42,454 including both units and individual augmentees. Since 9/11 there have been 889,010 reservists activated for duty. A cumulative roster of all National Guard and Reserve personnel currently activated is available at <http://www.defense.gov/documents/Mobilization-Weekly-Report-01-22-2014.pdf> [Source: DoD News Release No. NR-049-14 dtd 27 Jan 2014 ++]

DoD/VA eBenefits Portal Update 02 ► 15 Jan Glitch Impact on Vet Data

The software glitch that forced the Department of Veterans Affairs to take down the eBenefits Web portal over the weekend may have affected far more veterans than initially reported and enabled anyone who was logged in to alter the personal information contained in an unknown number of records. VA has been investigating a problem with the joint VA-Defense Department

eBenefits system since 15 JAN when several veterans reported being able to see the personal information belonging to other veterans when they logged into the system. An internal VA memo obtained by FedScoop showed approximately 10,000 veterans had logged into the system during the time frame when the glitch was discovered. Subsequently it was revealed that slightly over 5,000 vets were online during the time and could have been affected.

New video footage obtained by FedScoop from Eric Grzelak, a disabled veteran who has tried unsuccessfully to alert VA to the problems, shows the glitch exposed the private records of multiple veterans for every person who was logged in. In addition, Grzelak's video evidence shows it was possible to alter the records, placing at risk the private information of potentially tens of thousands or more veterans. "I could see someone's name, date of birth, Social Security number, what disabilities they had [and] how much they got paid," Grzelak told FedScoop.

"Everything you would look at would pull up

someone else's info. It would change every time you refreshed the page." FedScoop has agreed not to show the video footage because it reveals the private information belonging to Grzelak and other veterans. Grzelak first became aware something was wrong with the system when he logged into the portal to check on the status of a claim. But instead of showing Grzelak's benefits summary, it displayed an application for an increase in compensation based on unemployment belonging to a different veteran. The application included the veteran's name, address, telephone number, Social Security number and VA file number. Grzelak immediately tried to edit his own claim. But that page asked him to verify an address he didn't recognize. "I thought it was a security thing to verify it was me, so I said no," Grzelak said. "Then, I put my address in. When I hit next, it pulled up some random guy with all his info, [but] with my address that I just updated. So you could change people's info if you wanted. So I'm not sure if this poor guy's stuff is going to start coming to my house."

The eBenefits portal is managed jointly by VA and DOD, and allows veterans and their dependents to access their medical and edu-

cational benefits, claims and a wide variety of forms and military documents. Included in that information is the ability to update direct deposit information, generate home loan certificates of eligibility, view DOD TRICARE medical information, military personnel records and VA payment histories. More than 2.8 million veterans living in 180 countries have registered with the portal, which recorded more than 4.3 million visits in 2013. The eBenefits portal was back online late Sunday night, but there was no mention of why the site had been down or if veterans should check their accounts for accuracy. Grzelak said he did not see any problems when he logged in around 11 p.m. ET. "I think it's a huge deal that I was able to change someone's info," Grzelak said. "Everyone needs to check now to make sure all their information is correct. I mean, you could change anything — bank info, home address. It was all open." [Source: FedScoop | Dan Verton | 20 Jan 2014 ++]

VA Claims Backlog Update 124 ► WWII Vet Approved after 28 Years

John Brenan rolled his Jeep into freshly bombed

VETERANS NEWS

by the RAQ Bulletin

Hiroshima in 1945 on a reconnaissance mission to see if there was any enemy left to fight. The only enemy the Army sergeant found in the miles of rubble pulverized by America's atomic attack was the one he couldn't see - radiation. The fallout surrounded his body, and that is almost surely why he got colon cancer four decades later, his doctors told him. Brennan managed to beat the disease, but then came the follow-up battle - filing a disability claim with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It took until mid-JAN for him to win that battle. And victory only came with the help of a member of Congress. On 24 JAN, Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Hillsborough, stood in her office with the 90-year-old Brennan and said his case is an example of the vexation that can come with filing for veteran disability benefits. But it's also evidence,

she said, that the VA is making progress on clearing its infamous backlog of claims. "This kind of thing should never happen, and we are working hard to make sure it doesn't," Speier said, as Brennan sat next to her in a walker-chair, a World War II veteran's cap on his head. "John's claim was denied over and over again, mistakes were made over and over, and he only finally got his benefits because we wouldn't take 'no' for an answer."

Brennan said he was always happy with the care he got at the VA Palo Alto hospital. It was both saddening and mystifying to him, however, that it took so long to get monthly disability payments that now help him stay in his Millbrae home with his daughter as caretaker. He said he had no idea of the invisible danger he was rolling into back in 1945. The obliviousness is starkly represented in one photo of him standing in Hiroshima's ruins, eagerly drinking from a Japanese vase filled with water he'd just pulled from a nearby well. There's little doubt that the water was contaminated with radiation from the bomb that had just killed more

than 80,000 people in the Oakland-size city. "I was just doing my duty," Brennan said, tears filling his eyes as he recalled those days. "I'm sorry, it's just been so hard. I just hope my case helps make things easier for a lot of other soldiers." When Brennan first filed for disability in 1986, while being treated, he wasn't eligible for payments because the VA didn't cover radiation-caused colon cancer in World War II veterans. After being rejected, he filed again in the 1990s, and was again denied. Then, in 2002, federal law changed to cover Brennan's type of cancer. But he didn't know about that change until after his daughter, Jill Pell, moved in to take care of him, and she read a notice about it that came in the mail from a veterans group. The family filed again for disability in 2010 - but was rejected again. This time, Speier's office said, it was because the VA mistakenly determined he had the wrong type of cancer. That's when Brennan contacted the congresswoman, and with the help of her office, the claim was finally approved last week. VA spokesman Sean Mitsky said he couldn't com-

ment on Brennan's case, citing health privacy laws. But he did say the department appears to be on track to fill its goal of eliminating a huge backlog of long-term claims by its goal of 2015. The Oakland claims office, which processes disability filings from all over Northern California, has cut its files of unresolved claims from 34,000 in 2012 to 12,000 today, Speier said. Nationally, the backlog of claims waiting for more than a year has been reduced from hundreds of thousands to tens of thousands. "With bravery and perseverance," Speier said, "wrongs can be righted." [Source: San Francisco Gate | Kevin Fagan | 24 Jan 2014 ++]

Vet Census ► No Nationwide Census Since 2000

The United States has not accounted for its veterans in a nationwide census since 2000 and both Montana veterans and U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., are imploring the U.S. Census Bureau to get it done. Since 2000, the Veterans Administration has provided what it calls "official estimates and projections" by using a mathematical model. "How can America care for its veterans when America doesn't know how many veterans it has?" asked Edward E. Saunders, adjutant of Billings Chapter

10 of Disabled American Veterans. Saunders, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel from Laurel, first raised the issue with Tester and VA Secretary Eric Shinseki during a town hall meeting in Billings in 2011.

Saunders has since continued to urge Tester to fight for a count. This week, saying he believes the nation's veterans may be undercounted, Tester called on the U.S. Census to conduct an official count of veterans in the 2020 Census.

With approximately 2.5 million Americans having served in Iraq and Afghanistan, including a historically high number of Guardsmen and reservists, it is imperative to have an accurate count of American's veterans, especially in historically undercounted rural areas, Tester said. With more accurate data, Congress could better ensure that adequate funding is appropriated for community services, such as nursing homes for aging veterans, as well as employment and job services programs that remain in high demand, Tester said. "In order to provide veterans the services they earned, we have to know how many there are and where they live," Tester

told the Billings Gazette. "Getting an accurate count of veterans in rural America helps us live up to the promises we made to the men and women who put their lives on the line to defend our country."

Montana has the nation's second-highest per capita veteran population, as well as a large population of military retirees. Additionally, it is home to many American Indian veterans, a historically undercounted group, according to Tester. He implored the U.S. Census Bureau to make counting American Indian veterans a "top priority." "The short of it is, America doesn't know for sure how many veterans it has and VA makes it sound like VA knows," Saunders said. The U.S. Census Bureau did not return phone calls on the issue 29 JAN. [Source: Billings Gazette | Cindy Uken | 29 Jan 2014 ++]

Telemarketing Call Elimination Update 12 ► Suggestions

What is the best way to deal with telemarketers including the robotic kind like "Rachel from cardholder services." Most of you are not only fed up with these pests, you're more than happy to exact a little revenge in the form of pranks and time-wasting tactics." A few

suggestions

1. Stretch the call out as long as possible, once you get a real person on the phone.

Tell the caller you need to get a pen and paper, then say you need to find your wallet, etc., etc. — each time putting the phone down for an extended period of time. Tell the telemarketer your going to get your spouse on the phone, then puts the phone down and occasionally asks if the wife has picked up yet.

When they ask how you are, make up a story — a very long story. For instance, manufacture health problems and share in great detail.

Use an air horn. Ouch.

The purpose is, of course, to get the telemarketer to remove you from the call list. Apparently the Federal Communications Commission rules and regulations written to protect us from telemarketers are being ignored by many of these folks — so you want them to never want to call you again. The new rules are: Verbal consent doesn't count. The new rules require businesses to get your "prior express written consent," which can be made through an Internet form, an email or a text message. Calls that are manually placed by a real person are exempt from the written consent rule.

Consumers should now be able to opt out at any point in a call, even if they've already given consent. Each call or text message should contain information telling the consumer how to opt out."

An exemption that allowed businesses you've had prior dealings with to skip getting consent for robo-calls has been removed.

2. Screen out screen out these annoying calls using the free online NOMOROBO service at

www.nomorobo.com.

By using *simultaneous ringing*, when someone calls your phone, Nomorobo is able to instantly screen the call for you. If it's a robo-caller, Nomorobo answers and immediately hangs up. The only thing that you'll hear is a single ring on your phone. Once you have enabled and verified Nomorob on your phone just use your phone like normal. The only thing that you should do is to wait for the second ring to answer the phone (Nomorobo needs the first ring to detect robo-callers). If you only hear one ring and then (con't on Page 24)



SS *Grayback* (SS-208), a *Tambor*-class submarine, was the *first* ship of the United States Navy to be named for the lake herring. Her keel was laid down by the Electric Boat Company in Groton, Connecticut. She was launched on 31 January 1941 sponsored by Mrs. Wilson Brown, wife of Rear Admiral Wilson Brown, Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy, and commissioned on 30 June 1941 with Lieutenant Willard A. Saunders in command. Attached to the Atlantic Fleet *Grayback* conducted her shakedown cruise in Long Island Sound out of Newport, New London, and New York City. In company with *Grampus* (SS-207) she departed New London, Connecticut, on 8 September for patrol duty in the Caribbean Sea and Chesapeake Bay; then arrived Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on 30 November for overhaul. With the United States's entry into the war, *Grayback* sailed for Pearl Harbor on 8 February.

Lost Boats— USS *Grayback* SS-208

First patrol - *Grayback*'s first war patrol from 15 February to 10 April took her along the coast of Saipan and Guam. There she had a four-day encounter with an enemy submarine; the enemy I-boat fired two torpedoes at *Grayback* on the morning of 22 February, then continued to trail her across the Pacific. *Grayback* spotted the enemy conning tower a couple of times, and the Japanese ship broached once; but the *Grayback* could not get into position to attack. After four days, *Grayback* shook the other sub and continued on patrol. On 17 March she sank her first ship, a 3291-ton cargo ship off Port Lloyd.

Second patrol - *Grayback*'s second war patrol met with a dearth of targets although she even took the unusual and risky measure of patrolling surfaced during the day. On 22 June she arrived at Fremantle, Australia, which was to remain her home base for most of the war. On her third and fourth war patrols, in the South China Sea and St. George's Passage, *Grayback* was hampered by bright moonlight, shal-

low and treacherous water, and enemy patrol craft. Despite these hazards, she damaged several freighters and an enemy submarine. However, the very presence of *Grayback* and her sister ships in these waters—the threat they presented to shipping and the number of enemy escorts they tied up—was an important factor in the successful conclusion of the Guadalcanal campaign, America's first offensive campaign in the Pacific war.

Fifth patrol -The fifth war patrol began as *Grayback* sailed from Australia on 7 December 1942. Only a week out of port, Pharmacist's Mate Harry B. Roby was called upon to perform an emergency appendectomy, the second to be done on a patrolling submarine. With *Grayback* running a hundred feet beneath the surface, the untutored Roby successfully removed the infected appendix, and his patient was back standing watch by the end of the patrol. Then, on 25 December, *Grayback* surfaced to sink four landing barges with her deck guns. Four days later she was again fired on by an enemy subma-

rine but maneuvered to avoid the torpedoes. On 3 January 1943 sunk *I-18*, one of 25 Japanese submarines destroyed by western submarines during the war.

On 5 January *Grayback* served as beacon ship for the bombardment of Munda Bay and also indulged in rescue work. Lying off Munda early in the morning of 5 January, she received word that six survivors of a crashed B-26 *Marauder* bomber were holed up on the island. *Grayback* sent ashore two men, then submerged at dawn to avoid enemy aircraft. The submariners located the downed aviators, three of whom were injured, and hid out with them in the jungle. As night fell, *Grayback* surfaced offshore and by coded light signals directed the small boat "home safe" with the rescued aviators. For this action skipper Edward C. Stephan received the Navy Cross as well as a Silver Star from the US Army.

Grayback continued on patrol, torpedoing and damaging several Japanese ships. On 17 January she attacked a destroyer escorting a large

maru, hoping to disable the escort and then sink the freighter with her deck guns. However, the destroyer evaded the torpedoes and dropped 19 depth charges on *Grayback*. One blew a gasket on a manhole cover, and the submarine, leaking seriously, was ordered back to Brisbane where she arrived 23 February.

Sixth patrol - On her sixth war patrol from 16 February to 4 April 1943, *Grayback* again had a run of bad luck and from the Bismarck Islands-Solomon Islands area without any military success. Her newly installed SJ radar had failed to function; and although she had taken several shots at *marus*, none were sunk.

Seventh patrol - The seventh patrol was more successful. Departing Brisbane on 25 April, *Grayback* intercepted a convoy whose position had been radioed to her by *Albacore* (SS-218) on 11 May. In a night surface attack *Grayback* fired a spread of six torpedoes at the seven freighters and their three escorts. The three escorts charged and she had to go deep to elude the attacking enemy. She was credited with the sinking of cargo ship

Yodogawa Maru. On 16 May she torpedoed and seriously damaged a destroyer. The following day *Grayback* intercepted four *marus* with one escort and sank freighter *England Maru* and damaged two others before she was forced to dive. She arrived Pearl Harbor on 30 May, then proceeded to San Francisco, California, for a much needed overhaul.

Eighth Patrol - Arriving Pearl Harbor on 12 September 1943, *Grayback* prepared for her eighth war patrol, now under the command of John Anderson Moore. Sailing 26 September with *Shad* (SS-235), she rendezvoused with *Cero* (SS-225) at Midway Island to form the first of the Submarine Force's highly successful wolfpacks. The three submarines under Captain "Swede" Momsen in *Cero*, cruised the China Sea and returned to base with claims of 38,000 tons sunk and 3300 damaged. *Grayback* accounted for two ships, a passenger-cargo vessel torpedoed 14 October and a former light cruiser, *Awata Maru*, torpedoed after an end-around run on a fast convoy 22 October. Wolf pack tactics came into play 2 October as *Grayback* closed a convoy al-

ready attacked by *Shad* and sunk a 9000-ton transport listing from two of *Shad*'s torpedoes. The submarines had now expended all torpedoes, and on 10 November they returned to Midway. Grayson CO, John Anderson Moore was awarded after this mission by Navy Cross (see Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 329 (August 1944)) **Ninth patrol** - With almost a quarter of her crew untested in battle *Grayback* departed Pearl Harbor for the East China Sea on 2 December for her ninth war patrol. Within five days of her first contact with Japanese ships, she had expended all her torpedoes in a series of attacks which netted four ships for a total of over 10,000 tons. On the night of 18 December to 19 December *Grayback* attacked convoy of four freighters and three escorts. She sent freighter *Gyokurei Maru* and escort *Nu-makaze* to the bottom and damaged several others in surface attack. Two nights later, 20 December to 21 December, she spotted another convoy of six ships; and, after an end-around run she fired a spread of nine torpedoes into the heart of the Japanese formation. This

first attack sunk one freighter and damaged another before *Grayback* dived to elude depth charges. Three hours later she surfaced and sank a second freighter. After an unsuccessful attack the following night had exhausted her torpedo supply, *Grayback* headed home. The submarine surfaced 27 December and sank a good-sized fishing boat with deck guns before reaching Pearl Harbor on 4 January 1944. Grayback's CO, John Anderson Moore was awarded after this mission by second Navy Cross (see Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 330 (September 1944)) **Tenth Patrol** - *Grayback*'s tenth patrol, her most successful in terms of tonnage sunk, was also to be her last. She sailed from Pearl Harbor on 28 January 1944, for the East China Sea. On 24 February *Grayback* radioed that she had sunk two cargo ships 19 February and had damaged two others (*Taikei Maru* and *Toshin Maru* sunk). On 25 February she transmitted her second and final report. That morning she had sunk tanker *Nanho Maru* and severely damaged *Asama Maru*. With only two torpedoes re-

maining, she was ordered home from patrol. Due to reach Midway on 7 March, *Grayback* did not arrive. On 30 March ComSubPac listed her as missing and presumed lost with all hands. From captured Japanese records the submarine's last few days can be pieced together. Heading home through the East China Sea after attacking convoy Hi-40 on 24 February, *Grayback* used her last two torpedoes to sink the freighter *Ceylon Maru* on 27 February. That same day, a Japanese carrier-based plane spotted a submarine on the surface in the East China Sea and attacked. According to Japanese reports the submarine "exploded and sank immediately," but antisubmarine craft were called in to depth-charge the area, clearly marked by a trail of air bubbles, until at last a heavy oil slick swelled to the surface. *Grayback* had ended her last patrol, one which cost the enemy some 21,594 tons of shipping.

Grayson CO, John Anderson Moore was posthumously awarded after this mission by third Navy Cross (see Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 336 (March 1945))

Grayback ranked 20th among all submarines in total tonnage sunk with 63,835 tons and 24th in number of ships sunk with 14. The submarine and crew had received two Navy Unit Commendations for their seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth war patrols. *Grayback* received eight battle stars for World War II service.



Halfway Night IV—Hee Haw is on the “Ways”

Well Shucks! We took the camera, but forgot to break it out. We were having so much fun during the “walk-thru” and revising of the draft script that we forgot to record the events in Carolina Piedmont history. But we’ll get it next time on the dress rehearsal. It’s hard to believe that we are starting our fourth season. We have done various small skits the first two seasons and a full play last season. This year we decided to do Hee Haw. Going to the area Assisted Living Homes, we need to keep the themes with something that the residents can relate to. The Hee Haw TV Show started back in the late 60’s and continued on into the 70’s. Our show will not try to

duplicate only but a few of the characters on that show. We have “borrowed” some of their routines, but our characters are our own. We have singers, some pickers, and plenty of comedy from the “cornfield” to the “fence” to “Grandpa’s window”. We even have a moonshine still that bubbles and explodes! We have “Rumors”; “Gloom, Despair”; “Where, Oh, Where”; a snake-oil salesman; and more. We have about a 50 – minute show in store. Of course the membership is always welcome to attend any of the shows on the circuit as well as the Base presentation in September at Jack’s Ranch. We’ll more than likely put a show on for the VFW after one of our regular

meetings if you missed the picnic at Jack’s or want to catch an encore performance. We are always looking for help, and believe me, you don’t need talent. You just need to be brave. And SubVettes, we need you too! We have many of your Sassy Sisters on the Halfway Gang right now. It’s fun, and it’s rewarding. I just hope when it’s my turn to sit in a “home” that someone comes through every now and then to entertain me. I hope I’m “paying it forward” now. — Moe(SS)



USSVI Constitution and Bylaws

Constitution (continued from January issue)

The last of the USSVI Constitution. We will start with the Carolina Piedmont Base next month.

ARTICLE XVI – DISSOLUTION

Section 1. In the event that the organization dissolves, all assets and monies will be donated to a non-profit organization determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. If the Board of Directors cannot agree on a non-profit organization, or if the Board of Directors cannot muster a quorum at the time of dissolution, all assets and moneys will be turned over to the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society, except that items of historic value and all records will be turned over to the Submarine Force Museum in Groton, CT.

Section 3. In the event of a Base, District, or Regional dissolution, all assets and moneys of the same shall be turned over to the National Senior Vice-Commander.

Bylaws (continued from January)

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

Section 3. SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

A. The Scholarship Committee shall be a self-supporting Standing Committee. Annual dues receipts are not to be used to fund the committee unless certified as “excess funds” at the end of the accounting year. The Scholarships awarded by this committee shall be funded by contributions to the US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation (USSVCF). An administrative budget may be funded through an annual budget request to the National Senior Vice-Commander for inclusion in the USSVI National Budget.

B. The Scholarship Committee shall be chaired by a member appointed by the National Commander and approved by the Board of Directors and consist of the National Senior Vice-Commander, the USSVCF Scholarship Fund Chairman, and each of the Regional Directors. The committee Chairman shall annually submit a report of the operations of the committee to the National Secretary for inclusion in the committee reports; such report is to be submitted no later than 30 days prior to the pending National Convention.

C. The duties of the Scholarship Committee shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Publish a “Call for Applications”, including eligibility requirements, in the fourth quarter issue of the National Publication.
- b. Fill all requests for applications received by March 15th of the year in consideration.
- c. Place in consideration all applications received from eligible applicants by April 15th of the year of consideration.
- d. Select the recipients of the scholarship by a majority vote of the committee members.
- e. Notify recipients and publish in the National Publication.

Section 4. WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A. The Ways and Means Committee shall be a Standing Committee.

B. The Ways and Means Committee shall be chaired by the National Senior Vice-Commander and shall have as regular members the National Junior Vice-Commander, the National Treasurer, and other members, deemed necessary by the National Commander, and approved by the Board of Directors. An administrative budget may be funded through an annual budget for this committee, to be set by the National Senior Vice-Commander. The Committee Chairman shall annually submit a report of the operations of the committee to the National Secretary for inclusion in the committee reports; such report is to be submitted no later than 30 days prior to the pending National Convention.

C. The duties of the Ways and Means Committee shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Prepare and submit an annual USSVI budget to the Board of Directors.
- b. Monitor performance of operating units against the approved budget throughout the year.
- c. Prepare recommendations to the Board of Directors on items of expenditure not within the approved budget.

Note: It may take a while longer to get through the USSVI Bylaws than it did the USSVI Constitution. This series was started in January of 2013. There were 10 issues of the PP in 2013, so do the math.

Piedmont Funnies Page

A few days ago my best friend from high school sent me a 'Viet Nam Veteran' cap. I never had one of these before, and I was pretty hyped about it, especially because my friend was considerate enough to take the time to send it to me.

Yesterday, I wore it when I went to Wal-Mart. There was nothing in particular that I needed at the world's largest retailer; but, since I retired, trips to Wally World to look at the Walmartians is always good for some comic relief. Besides, I always feel pretty normal after seeing some of the people that frequent the establishment. But, I digress... enough of my psychological fixations.

While standing in line to check out, the guy in front of me, probably in his early thirties, asked, "Are you a Viet Nam Vet?"

"No," I replied.

"Then why are you wearing that cap?"

"Because I couldn't find the one from the War of 1812." I thought it was a snappy retort.

"The War of 1812, huh?" the Walmartian queried, "When was that?"

God forgive me, but I couldn't pass up such an opportunity. "1936," I answered as straight-faced as possible.

He pondered my response for a moment and responded, "Why do they call it the War of 1812 if it was in 1936?"

"It was a Black Op. No one is supposed to know about it." This was beginning to be way fun!

"Dude! Really?" he exclaimed. "How did you get to do something that COOOOL?"

I glanced furtively around me for effect, leaned toward the guy and in a low voice said, "I'm not sure. I was the only Caucasian on the mission."

"Dude," he was really getting excited about what he was hearing, "that is seriously awesome! But, didn't you kind of stand out?"

"Not really. The other guys were wearing white camouflage."

The moron nodded knowingly.

"Listen man," I said in a very serious tone, "You can't tell anyone about this. It's still 'top secret' and I shouldn't have said anything."

"Oh yeah?" he gave me the 'don't threaten me look.' "Like, what's gonna happen if I do?"

With a really hard look I said, "You have a family don't you? We wouldn't want anything to happen to them, would we?"

The guy gulped, left his basket where it was and fled through the door. By this time the lady behind me was about to have a heart attack she was laughing so hard. I just grinned at her.

After checking out and going to the parking lot I saw Dimwit leaning in a car window talking to a young woman. Upon catching sight of me he started pointing excitedly in my direction. Giving him another 'deadly' serious look, I made the 'I see you' gesture. He turned kind of pale, jumped in the car and sped out of the parking lot.

What a great time! To-morrow I'm going back with my Homeland Se-

curity cap.

Then the next day I will go to the license agency and wear my Border Patrol hat, and see how long it takes to empty the place.

Whoever said retirement is boring just needs the right kind of cap!

Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said, "Fried chicken." She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right, because everyone else laughed.

My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal. I told my dad what happened, and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA. He said they love animals very much. I do, too. Especially chicken and beef.

Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office. I told him what happened, and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again. The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favorite live animal was. I told her it was chicken. She asked

me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken. She sent me back to the principal's office. He laughed, and told me not to do it again.

I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am.

Today, my teacher asked us to tell her what famous person we admire most. I told her, "Colonel Sanders." Guess where I am now...



How children perceive their Grandparents.....
Provide by Walt Sealy

. She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without

thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye....

2. My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 80. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

3. After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

4. A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods."

The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in.

At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

5. My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

6. A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked.

"I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

7. I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these colors yourself!"

8. When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy

whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

9. When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised "Mine says I'm 4 to 6."

10.. A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said... "How do you make babies?"

"It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

11. A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

12. Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!

13. My Grandparents are funny, when they bend over, you hear gas leaks and they blame their dog.

- Thanks Walt

Member Book Review—Jim George read “LAWRENCE IN ARABIA”

Book Reviews by Jim George
LAWRENCE IN ARABIA – War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East

\$28.95, 577 pages with numerous period photos and maps

Scott Anderson

This is a very well written journey following the life of T.E. Lawrence as well as other players in the intelligence community of the Middle East during World War I. Lawrence actually started out as a young archaeologist, studying the ruins of modern day Israel and Syria (back then – all Syria) who was drafted by British intelligence at the outbreak of WWI to find advantages in the war

against the German allied Turkish Empire. Lawrence found himself in the military only because the general he reported to in the British High Command didn't want to have to deal with civilians. Lawrence finds himself swept up in the drama of the Great War and is tasked with going among the tribes of the Arabian Peninsula, a place where no non-Arab had ever been allowed, to find ways to get Arabs to rebel against their Turkish overlords. How he transitions from a purely intelligence gathering effort to become the ground commander of the entire combined Arab forces is amazing. His true exploits, while

certainly portrayed in grand Hollywood style on the silver screen by the late Peter O'Toole, where, nonetheless, amazing to read.

This story is also cross-cut with the fascinating adventures of American William Yale, a speculator for standard oil; Aaron Aaronsohn, a Jewish agriculturalist who held the keys to successfully settling the desert...and ran a daring spy-ring against the Turks; and Curt Prufer, a young German spymaster intent on using the same Arab forces to rebel against the British presence in Egypt.

The only downside to this non-fiction epic is the ultimate back-stabbing he faces from his own government and the govern-

ment of France at the close of the victorious campaign. Deals and treaties worked out between himself, the various Arab tribesmen, and the burgeoning Jewish population seeking statehood, are cut short by a French government that decided ahead of time that these people wouldn't be worthy of self-rule. Imagine a present day scenario where Saudi-Arabia, Egypt, Syria and even Israel would be close allies. That was the dream Lawrence worked for and was denied and has led to the mistrust and tensions of today. I give this book a solid 'thumbs up'.

(Con't from Page 17)

Telemarketing -

it stops, you know a robocaller was just blocked. If the phone continues ringing, you should answer it. Doctor's office, prescription reminders, school closings, weather advisories, etc. will not be blocked. Nor will political and charity calls. [Source: Los Angeles times | David Lazarus | 15 Jan 2014 ++]



Howard and Monica Dachs along with Moe in the Hee Haw “Cornfield” - Picture by Colleen

The Supply Shack- Jeff Nieberding

Carolina Piedmont Jackets are still available to order, several members have ordered theirs already. USSVI vests are also available to order thru the SK.

Patches, the SK is now able to order patches from BC Patch LLC at wholesale prices. This is usually \$2 - \$3 less per patch than we normally see. Let the SK know what you need.



Carolina Piedmont Base Calendar of Upcoming Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 SubVets Meeting 1730 Dinner 1900 Meeting |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | Mar 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 St. Paddy's Day Parade —Raleigh, NC |
| 16 St. Paddy's Day Parade —Nags Head, NC | 17  | 18 | 19 | 20 PP dead-line for March issue | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 SubVets Meeting 1730 Dinner 1900 Meeting |
| 30 | 31 | Apr 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

One way to support VFW Post 9138 is to attend their **Sunday Morning Breakfast** held on the **second Sunday** of each month from **8am to 11am**— Come on out! -

