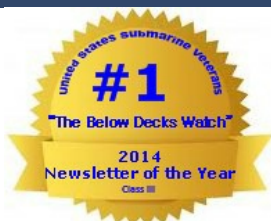




The Below Decks Watch

The Official Newsletter of the Coastal Carolina Base of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI)
2014 USSVI Class III Newsletter of the Year!



All Ahead Full For 2015!

USSVI

Creed and 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 projects 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.



The Coastal Carolina Base is full speed ahead with a full slate of activities planned for 2015. Commander Backes is actively setting up the calendar for incoming Commander Fletcher, Vice Commander Rowe, Base Treasurer Kuhn, Base Secretary Underwood, Base Chaplain Dixon, and Base COB Williamson. Commander Backes implemented several new activities during his command that incoming Commander

Fletcher intends to continue. Plans are well underway for the Azalea Festival Parade and Southeast NC SubVet District Meeting. Soon after the parade the Base will participate in the Belks Spring Charity Sale which raised over \$1,500 for the Base in 2014. Coming up following the Belks fundraising event, CCB Members and their families plan to enjoy a Memorial Day Memorial Service and picnic at the S-28 Memorial in Battleship Park. The 2014 event was a lot of fun with

Continued on Page 6

Qualified in U.S. Submarines?

*You are welcome to attend our meetings and join our Base!
Meeting Dates and Locations in Calendar on page 31
Bring your spouse!*

Newsletter Editor
Willam (Dog) Underwood

910-232-4209
bunder343@aol.com



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CCB Base Elected Officers



Commander
Charlie Backes
910-791-0844

backestc@charter.net



Vice Commander
Chuck Fletcher
910-523-0622

chuckandjoyf@live.com



Secretary
Bill Underwood (Dog)
910-232-4209

bunder343@aol.com



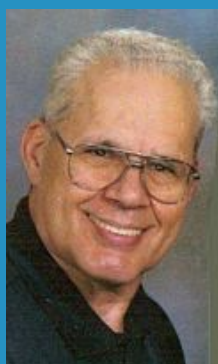
Treasurer
Terry Kuhn
910-251-5797

etkfixr@bellsouth.net

Coastal Carolina Base
Generally Meets Every Other Month
on the 3rd Thu or Sat of the Month
See Base Calendar on Page 33 for
More Details and Special Meetings

Base Commander's Corner

By Charlie Backes



By the time you read this I will no longer be your base commander. I want to let each of you know that it has been my pleasure to serve you in this position. I will miss some of the things that go with being the leader of a great group of men, and I will not miss at all some of the other things that happen, hopefully, behind the scenes. Thank you for the opportunity.

I have started work on the Belk Sale mail-outs. This is our primary fund raiser for the year and as such it deserves your attention. We are not asking much, but if we all chip in it will finance us for the upcoming year. We do have some additions we want to make to the float, some contributions to charitable causes, and other obligations in our budget that was passed a couple of meetings ago. Please return the money for the tickets and then go to the sale and spend the tickets like cash. If you need more tickets just call or email me for some. I will be glad to oblige.

We will install new officers at the meeting after the Azalea Festival Parade at the battleship. The meeting is going to be in the theater instead of the wardroom, as in the past. You can show your support for the incoming officers, of which three will be new to their office. The lunch promises to be great and a wonderful surprise will be there for desert. The surprise will help us celebrate the birthday of the submarine force. Hope you make it.

I hope that, as a unit, we continued to build on a strong foundation provided to us by the previous officers. Let us continue to build on that foundation and make the Coastal Carolina Base greater than we are now. Good luck to us and the incoming officers.

Charlie

\$ Dues \$

Are You Current on Your Dues?

2015

Base Dues = \$10

USSVI Dues = \$20

Send Checks made out to Coastal Carolina SubVets to Terry Kuhn at 5905 Downrigger Dr., Wilmington NC 28409



Base Gear Available

Story on Page 13



Do You Have Your SubVet License Plate Yet?

Forms available at meetings and at the following link:

<https://edmv.ncdot.gov/VehicleRegistration/SpecialPlate/Detail?PlateID=21#term=>



From The Vice Commander By Chuck Fletcher

I have been looking back over the last 63 years of military actions that have involved submarines. These activities span the theaters WWII to the present.

The roll of the SUBMARINE has varied from active combat to that of espionage. I have used excerpts from an article by the late Dr. Joyce Brothers

A SUBMARINER

The tragic loss of THRESHER with 129 men had a great impact on the Nation. One cannot mention the Thresher without observing how utterly final and alone the end is when a ship dies at the bottom of the sea...and what type of men accept this risk.

Togetherness is an overworked term, but in no other branch of our military service is it given such full meaning as in the so called "SILENT SERVICE". In an undersea craft, each man is totally dependent on the skill of every other man in the crew, not only for top performance, but for actual survival.

[Continued on page 6](#)

Coastal Carolina Base Donates Hot Water Heater to the Kramer House for Returning Veterans



Commander Backes presents check for \$350 to buy a hot water heater for the Step-Up-for-Soldiers Kramer House project. A plaque will be placed on the hot water heater indicating it was donated by the Coastal Carolina Submarine Veterans. The Kramer House will be a transitional home for returning veterans, along with their families, who are attending local universities.

Book of Members

The Book of Members project continues to progress. The base is collecting pictures of each member and autobiographical descriptions of each member's Submarine Service experiences. Base Secretary, Bill Underwood, is taking pictures of each member attending each meeting. Commander Backes displays the Book of Members at Base meetings to encourage participation.

We are still missing pictures and autobiographies for most of the Base Members. A suggestion was made at the last meeting to write the autobiography for those who don't submit one. In the true spirit of the submarine brotherhood, we have composed an autobiography for Dilbert Kilroy, TM3 (SS) ([page 14](#)). **Please get your write up in to Charlie so we don't have to write these for you!**

backestc@charter.net



Tolling of the Boats

**At Each Base Meeting We Honor the U.S. Submarines and Crews that were Lost at Sea
Following are the Submarines Honored in the First Quarter**

Boats Lost in January	
USS Scorpion (SS-278) Lost on January 5, 1944 with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.	
USS Argonaut (SS-166) Lost on January 10, 1943 with the loss of 105 officers and men off Rabaul, on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy she torpedoed a Japanese destroyer, who along with 2 other destroyers depth charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sunk her by gun fire.	
USS Swordfish (SS-193) Lost on January 12, 1945 with the loss of 83 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. Probably was lost to a mine.	
USS S-36 (SS-141) Lost on January 20, 1942 with no loss of life on her 2nd war patrol. She ran hard aground on a reef and radioed for help. The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch ship after they scuttled her	
USS S-26 (SS-131) Lost on January 24, 1942 with the loss of 46 officers and men in the Gulf of Panama, on her 2nd war patrol. She was accidentally rammed by the USS Sturdy (PC-460) and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO and one lookout on the bridge, were the only survivors.	
Boats Lost in February	
USS Barbel (SS-316) Lost on February 4, 1945 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 3rd war patrol. Based on Japanese records, she was bombed near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage. The day before, she reported she survived 3 depth charge attacks.	
USS Shark I (SS-174) Lost on February 11, 1942 with the loss of 59 officers and men on her 1st war patrol. Shark was the 1st US submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific. She was most likely sunk by depth charges.	
USS Amberjack (SS-219) Lost on February 16, 1943 with the loss of 72 officers and men on her 3rd war patrol. Off Rabaul, she was attacked by a Japanese patrol plane, attacked by a torpedo boat and then depth charged by a subchaser.	
USS Grayback (SS-208) Lost on February 27, 1944 with the loss of 80 officers and men on her 10th war patrol. She appears to have been caught on the surface in the East China Sea by a Japanese carrier plane whose bombs made a direct hit. During this patrol she sank 4 ships totaling 21,594 tons and was tied for 11th in the number of ships sunk.	
USS Trout (SS-202) Lost on February 29, 1944 with the loss of 79 officers and men on her 11th war patrol. She was sunk by escorts in the middle of the Philippines Basin after sinking a passenger-cargoman and damaging another in a convoy. She carried out several notable special missions, including carrying over two tons of gold bullion out of Corregidor in February 1942.	



Tolling of the Boats

**At Each Base Meeting We Honor the U.S. Submarines and Crews that were Lost at Sea
Following are the Submarines Honored in the First Quarter**

Boats Lost in March	
USS Perch (SS-176) Lost on March 3, 1942 near Java with no immediate loss of life, while on her 1st war patrol. She survived 2 severe depth chargings in less than 200 feet of water by 3 Japanese destroyers. The crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the 61 officers and men taken prisoner, 53 survived the war.	
USS Grampus (SS-207) Lost on March 5, 1943 with the loss of 72 officers and men, on her 6th war patrol. She was lost in Vella Gulf, sunk after engaging 2 Japanese Destroyers.	
USS H-1 (SS-28) Lost on March 12, 1920 with the loss of 4 men as they tried to swim to shore after grounding on a shoal off Santa Margarita Island, off the coast of Baja California, Mexico. Vestal (AR-4) pulled H-1 off the rocks in the morning of 24 March, only to have her sink 45 minutes later in some 50 feet of water. She was originally named the USS Seawolf before becoming H-1.	
USS Triton (SS-201) Lost on March 15, 1943 with the loss of 74 men. She was sunk north of the Admiralty Islands during a fight with 3 Japanese Destroyers. Triton was the 1st boat to engage the enemy in December 1941 off Wake Island, sinking 9 ships, 1 submarine and a destroyer.	
USS Kete (SS-369) Lost on March 20, 1945 with the loss of 87 officers and men at the end of her 2nd war patrol. Probably sunk near Okinawa, by a Japanese submarine that itself was subsequently lost.	
USS F-4 (SS-23) Lost on March 25, 1915 with the loss of 21 men. She foundered 1.5 miles off of Honolulu when acid corrosion of the lead lining of the battery tank let seawater into the battery compartment, causing loss of control. F-4 was the first commissioned submarine of the U.S. Navy to be lost at sea. She was raised in August 1915.	
USS Tullibee (SS-284) Lost on March 26, 1944 with the loss of 79 officers and men, on her 4th war patrol. It's believed she was a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. The lookout was the only survivor and he survived the war as a Japanese prisoner	
USS Trigger (SS-237) Lost on March 26, 1945 with the loss of 91 officers and men, on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese antisubmarine vessels and aircraft. Trigger ranked 7th in total tonnage sunk and tied for 8th in number of ships sunk.	



From the Vice Commander...continued

Each knows that his very life depends on others and because this is so, there is a bond among them. The risks are an inspiration rather than a deterrent.

It certainly is a test of man's prowess and power to know he can qualify for this highly selective service.

There is nothing dare-devilish about motivation of the man who decides to dedicate his life to the submarine service.

The country can be proud and grateful that so many of its sound young, eager men care enough about their own stature in life and the welfare of their country to pool their skills and match them against the power of the sea.

I earned my Dolphins June 1953 on USS BOWFIN, we were still playing clear the bridge and using practice torpedoes.

I went thru two other WWII boats, one a converted snorkel. Then I converted to Nuclear and was assigned to take the first nuclear submarine, Nautilus, to sea for the first time. I qualified on NAUTILUS and SKIPJACK.

My conclusion: I and all the rest of us who wear the DOLPHINS, retired or active are still qualified to perform the duties as required.

The mission of the boats today has changed, but qualifications of the personnel and the equipment are more than enough to meet the needs.

Pride Runs Deep!



All Ahead Full : continued

great food, great conversation and bocce ball. Please mark your calendar and plan to spend Memorial Day, May 25, with your Sub-Vet brothers. This year we are planning to start at 1300 hours and wrap up around 1630 in time for attendees to move over to the BB 55 Fantail to enjoy the Battleship Memorial Day festivities. Chuck & Joy attended the Battleship Memorial Service last year and said it was a first class event that members should not miss.

The 2015 June meeting will be held in Jacksonville at the Golden Corral Restaurant at 10:30. CCB members are encouraged to attend this special meeting for the convenience of our Base members from our northern territory.

Likewise members are encouraged to attend the August 15th meeting in Southport. The Coastal Carolina Base has members from a very wide territory (Raleigh to Morehead City to Shallotte). Consequently we are trying to make it easier for the members who live on the periphery of CCB territory to attend meetings and enjoy the comradery of their SubVet brothers. Please try to attend at least the meetings in your area. **A "Well Done" to BB and the SubVets from the Raleigh area who blaze the trail to make it to most CCB meetings where ever they are.** We always enjoy your presence and contribution to our meetings.

John Williamson has stepped up to take the COB role in the CCB and has also taken responsibility for organizing the CCB participation in various parades. John and Base Storekeeper Frank Blackmon are working on improvements to the CCB Float including additional signs and a sound system to play Submarine sounds like the Diving Alarm, Collision Alarm, etc. Riding the Float in the parades is great fun with a lot of positive feedback from parade attendees and is also a great recruiting tool. We always have a



Chaplain's Corner

By Bill (Butterbean) Dixon

JESUS MADE EVERYTHING



goldbow@att.net

Colossians 1-15: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.

Colossians 1-16: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.

Colossians 1-17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Ephesians 3-8: Unto me, (the Apostle Paul) who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the **Gentiles** (non-Jew) the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Ephesians 3-9: And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28-18: And Jesus came and spake unto them saying. All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Hebrews 1-1: God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.

Hebrews 1-2: Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.

Hebrews 1-3: Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.



Coastal Carolina Base Member Birthdays

January Birthdays

*Chuck Fletcher Dick Gudis Bill Underwood
Kevin Kesterson*

February Birthdays

*Charlie Backes George Stalker Jerry Leppart Dick Kanning
Barry Turano Richard Schrum*

March Birthdays

Bob Govern Charlie Patch George Roderick George Perhala

A Very Happy Birthday & Many Returns!

Coastal Carolina Base Members on Eternal Patrol

*James Tobin Lawrence H. Dunn
Phyl Hauck Chuck Troyon*

Navy Hymn for Submariners

*Bless those who served beneath the deep,
Through the lonely hours the vigil they had to keep,
May eternal peace their mission ever be,
Bless each one we ask of thee,
Comfort those who at home who waited and prayed,
For their return night and day.*



All Ahead Full : continued

few new SubVets come up to the Float and just want to chat with other Submarine Veterans. As you know, no one understands a submarine veterans stories like another SubVet.

Once again this year the CCB Float will be in the Official North Carolina 4th of July Parade in Southport. It is always a great event. This year Chuck & Joy Fletcher have invited parade attendees to join them on their 46 foot Yacht, Sea Nest, for lunch after the parade. We had a great time last year and many of us enjoyed the opportunity to feel the gentle waves while eating lunch. Chuck may even light off the diesels for those of us of pig boat heritage.

Commander Charlie has agreed to become the Base Historian when relieved as Base Commander. Charlie implemented the Base Historian role during his Command and Howard Crist got it off to a good start with submarine history lessons at several of the Base meetings. Charlie plans to bring an historical element to each meeting in 2015.

All in all the Coastal Carolina Base is planning many options for CCB members to get together and enjoy the fellowship with other submarine veterans and their spouses.

All You Have to Do is Attend CCB Events!



CCB Members Visit Member Jerry Leppart



**"MINI" TARHEEL BASE MEETING HELD AT JERRY LEPPART'S HOUSE
ON 19 MARCH 2015**

Meeting Roll Call: Gordon Banks; Jim Davis; But-
terbean Dixon; Bob Govern; Duane Gow; Arv
Klemp; Bill Lowe; and Chaplain Bill Whelan.

The main agenda item was offering "words of
encouragement" for Jerry after his front yard fall
and the resulting damage to his right leg and an-
kle.

Jerry had voiced regrets that his injury will not
allow him to attend the next Tarheel Base meet-
ing next month- the first meeting he will miss
since joining the Base. So, eight of the Base
members brought an early meeting to him. Jerry
was most appreciative of our visit.

Several of the Subvets present told some "sea
stories" relating to experiences they had while
handling the task of blowing sanitary tanks
aboard their boat.

Chaplain Bill figured that was enough of the "tall
tales" and closed the get-together with a prayer
for Jerry's speedy recovery.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Bill Lowe



Submarine Veterans from Tarheel Base and Coastal Carolina Base Visit Albemarle Sound Base

Coastal Carolina Base Chaplain, Bill (Butterbean) Dixon led a group of Submarine Veterans from the Tarheel Base and the Coastal Carolina Base to attend the March meeting of the Albemarle Sound Base.

The meeting was held at 1000 hours on Saturday March 7 at Frank Jones Soda Shoppe in Edenton, NC. BB reported that



the Soda Shoppe is very well decorated with submarine and veteran memorabilia.



Tarheel Base WWII Submarine Veteran Bill Whelan and Tarheel Base and Coastal Carolina Base members Bob Govern, Bill Lowe and Butterbean enjoyed the comradery and fellowship with the subvets of the Albemarle Sound Base. They were all somewhat envious of the meeting space that the Albemarle Base uses.



The Albemarle Base was founded in September 2008 and currently has 23 active members, 10 of which are Holland Club Members.





On 8 Jan 2005
SSN 711 Collided with
an Undersea Mount

San Francisco Visits Yokosuka During Western Pacific Deployment

By Lt. Jason House, USS San Francisco Public Affairs Officer
FLEET ACTIVITIES YOKOSUKA, Japan (NNS) -- The Los Angeles class fast-attack submarine USS San Francisco (SSN 711) arrived at Yokosuka Naval Base Jan. 6, for a port call as part of a deployment to the Western Pacific.

With a crew of approximately 140, San Francisco will conduct a multitude of missions and showcase the latest capabilities of the submarine fleet.

"I'm proud to be in command of such an outstanding crew on this very capable warship," said Cmdr. Jeffrey Juergens, San Francisco's commanding officer. "We are privileged to be able to contribute to the readiness of our nation while enhancing theater cooperation in this region."

San Francisco's deployment is part of an ongoing rotation of deployed forces to support maritime security operations and operations in international waters around the globe working with other coalition maritime forces.

"The crew has done a great job so far on this deployment," said Senior Chief Machinist's Mate Justin Gruber, San Francisco's chief of the boat.

For many of the crew members, this is their first time visiting Japan.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the Tokyo Tower, having some authentic Japanese food, and experiencing the Japanese culture," said Logistics Specialist Third Class Zach Ingle.

Measuring more than 360 feet long and weighing more than 6,900 tons when submerged, San Francisco is one of the most covert submarines in the world. This submarine is capable of supporting a variety of missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

San Francisco is one of five Los Angeles-class submarines home ported in San Diego, California.

Pilot Program to Let Navy Women Keep Their Hair

GREAT LAKES, Ill. (NNS) -- In an effort to standardize training and education across the military services, Recruit Training Command (RTC) and Officer Training Command (OTC) will run a pilot program, which will no longer require female accessions to cut their hair.

The pilot program, which will run from January through March 2015, comes after receiving fleet feedback that junior Sailors and officers are not taught proper grooming standards with longer hair.

This shift will align the Navy with every other armed forces service, which do not require female accessions to cut their hair. RTC and OTC required all females with long hair to cut it to the lower edge of the uniform collar. Now, female Sailors will have the ability to choose any hairstyle that meets uniform regulations. Females requesting a haircut may still receive one.

"We are constantly considering fleet feedback and policy changes to improve training and quality of life during initial accession and indoctrination into the Navy," said Rear Adm. Rich Brown, commander, Naval Service Training Command (NSTC). "We are here to serve the fleet and provide the initial training to our men and women so that they are mentally and physically prepared for the rigors of military service."

NSTC is considering a similar pilot program change regarding male recruits, following the pilot of the new female haircut program. Male accessions at Officer Candidate School and RTC are required to have their heads shaved to an eighth-inch upon arrival. They receive follow-up haircuts, which result in a regulation haircut by the time they reach graduation.



The Long Island Base Float
USS Spadefish SS 411



Base Hats, Shirts and Jackets Available

Due to the low volume of traffic and sales on the www.subvetsonline.com website The website has been discontinued.



However,
The base logo gear is still available and your
Base Storekeeper,
Frank Blackmon, can
get it for you!

Frank recommends that CCB Members visit the USSVI Storekeeper website and pick out what they want, then contact Frank at
cblackmon@ec.rr.com
Or 910-278-6581

Frank will order your item for you and the CCB will get a rebate of part of the price.

*A lady goes to her priest one day and tells him, 'Father, I have a problem.
I have two female parrots, But they only know to say one thing.'*

'What do they say?' the priest asked.

They say, 'Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?'

'That's obscene!' the priest exclaimed,

Then he thought for a moment...'You know,' he said, 'I may have a solution to your problem. I have two male talking parrots, which I have taught to pray and read the Bible...Bring your two parrots over to my house, and we'll put them in the cage with Francis and Peter. My parrots can teach your parrots to pray and worship, and your parrots are sure to stop saying that phrase in no time.'

'Thank you,' the woman responded, 'this may very well be the solution.'

The next day,

She brought her female parrots to the priest's house...As he ushered her in, She saw that his two male parrots were inside their cage holding rosary beads and praying...

Impressed,

She walked over and placed her parrots in with them...After a few minutes,

The female parrots cried out in unison:

Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?'

There was stunned silence...

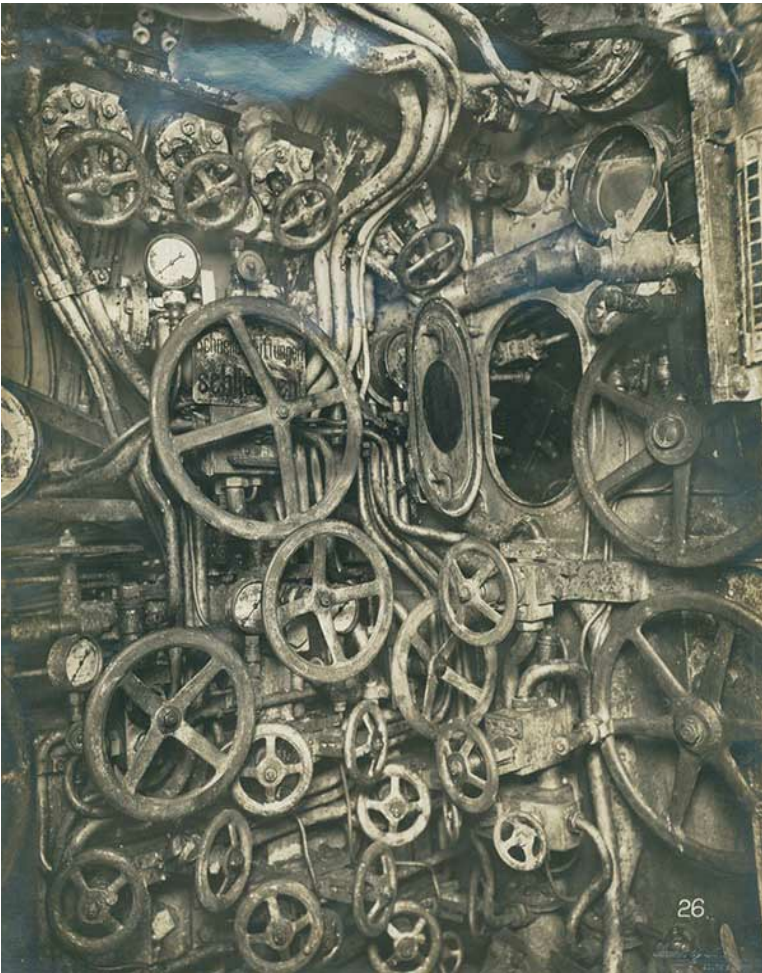
Shocked, one male parrot looked over at the other male parrot and says,

*'Put the beads away, Frank,
Our prayers have been answered!'*





**Control room of the UB-110
German submarine (1918).**



A veteran is someone who, at one point in his life wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America' for an amount of 'up to and including my life.'

***If You Can't Laugh at Yourself,
Call Me,
I Have No Problem Laughing At You!***



Book of Members Autobiography of the Quarter
Don't Make Us Write Your Story Like We Had to Write Dilbert's!

Dilbert Kilroy TM3 (SS)

I was going to the drug store and went in the wrong door into the Navy recruiter. Before I could get out, I had joined the Navy. I was in Great Lakes for 6 months and went through boot camp three times. For some reason I had trouble marching in time with the others. Finally, I got out

of boot camp and went to Torpedoman A school. To my surprise I graduated top of the class and then was sent to sub School in New London. While at sub school, I accidentally set fire to the Escape Training Tower and was immediately transferred to the *USS Pickle (SS 69)* which was in the Philadelphia shipyard. I spent most of my time there wandering the base looking for a nosepiece for a water slug. Apparently they are in high demand and very hard to find. I would get there just after the last one had been picked up. On the boat I stood topside watch for 4 years. The worst was in January and February on the 00-0400 or the 0400-0800 watches. It was so cold I had 5 sets of foul weather gear on. Once I fell overboard into the Delaware and bobbed around for an hour before the oncoming watch pulled me out. Finally, the Captain had a guard shack moved on to the deck for the topside watches. It was so warm that the first night I had watch, I fell asleep and, when the Engineering Officer came on board at 0315, I was startled and accidentally shot him in the foot. He threw the guard shack overboard. I finally got qualified 4 days before my enlistment was up. My mother was worried that I would get seasick, but I never did. It might have been because we never went to sea.



Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2015

Location: First Baptist Church Activity Center, Independence Blvd., Wilmington, NC

Coastal Carolina Base Submarine Veterans Meeting

When: February 19, 2015, at 1900 hrs

Location: First Baptist Church Activity Center, Independence Blvd., Wilmington, NC

Raffle Tickets: Gerry Rowe sold tickets to attendees for the raffle.

Call to Order: Commander Backes called the meeting to order at 1910.

Invocation: Commander Backes gave the Invocation.

Attendees: Charlie Backes (Base Commander), Bill Underwood (Base Secretary), Jim Simon, Gerry Rowe, John Williamson, Phil Kraus and Ron Bixby.

Pledge of Allegiance: Commander Charlie Backes led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tolling of the Lost Boats: Tolling of the Lost Boats was not done because the bell and the lost boat information were not present at the meeting.

Recognition of World War II Submarine Veterans in Attendance: No World War II submarine veterans were at the meeting.

Introductions: Each attendee introduced themselves giving their name, qualification boat and boats served on.

Holland Club Presentations: Commander Backes announced that he had a Holland Club Patch and Certificate for Elmer Norwood, but Elmer Norwood was not present so no presentation was made.

Parade Award: Commander Backes displayed the award plaque for coming in first

among non-business floats in the Wilmington Holiday Parade.

Motion to Approve Minutes from Last Meeting: Commander Charlie called for a motion to accept the published minutes from the October 16th meeting as written.

MOTION: Phil Kraus offered a **MOTION to accept the Minutes from the December 20th meeting of the Coastal Carolina Base as written and dispense with the reading of those Minutes.** Gerry Rowe **SECONDED the MOTION and the MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote of the attendees.**

Submission of Bills and Receipts: Secretary Bill said that he has receipts for the printing and mailing of the Q4 Newsletter. Since Treasurer Terry was not present, Bill will mail the receipts to Terry.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Terry Kuhn was not present, but submitted by email the following report:

Coastal Carolina Base USSVI		
Treasurer's Report for	12/18/2014 to 02/15/2015	
Beginning Balance: 3/7/2014		\$3,049.30
Income:		
Base Dues:		\$160.00
Prepaid Dues:		\$110.00
National Dues:		\$200.00
Raffle Income:		\$45.00
SK Sales:		\$0.00
Belk Fundraiser:		\$388.39
Wilmington Parade Prize		\$100.00
SOY refund:		\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME:		\$1,003.39
Expenditures:		
USSVI National Dues:		-\$200.00
Newsletter costs:		-\$307.28
Book of Remembrance:		-\$40.53
Sailor of the Year:		-\$50.00
Float Expenses:		-\$235.14
Parades:		-\$57.50
Fundraiser Expenses:		\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:		-\$890.45
Reconciliation:	Beginning Balance:	\$3,049.30
	Plus Income:	\$1,003.39
	Less Expenses:	-\$890.45
Ending Balance:		\$3,162.24

Continued on page 16



Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2015...continued

Treasurer Terry also submitted the 2015 CCB Budget (attached). The attendees reviewed the submitted budget and:

MOTION: Ron Bixby offered a MOTION to accept the 2015 CCB as proposed by the CCB Treasurer. Phil Kraus SECONDED the MOTION and it CARRIED by a unanimous vote of the attending members.

Terry also submitted a reconciliation of the Belk Charity Fund raisers in 2014 (attached). The reconciliation indicates that in the 2 Belk Charity Events CCB netted \$1,539.60.

Storekeeper's Report: The Storekeeper was not present so there was no Storekeeper report.

Membership and Recruitment: Butterbean was not present so there was no recruitment report.

CCB Annual Dues: Charlie reminded attendees that annual dues are due now. CCB dues are \$10/year (you can pay for one year or several years at a time). If you are not a USSVI Life member, USSVI dues are \$20/year. You should mail your dues to:

Terry Kuhn
5905 Downrigger Drive
Wilmington, NC 28409-8907

Old Business

2015 Southeast Regional Meeting: Commander Backes reminded attendees that the Southeast Regional Meeting will be April 20th-23rd in Cape Canaveral, Florida and asked if anyone planned to attend. No attendees planned to attend.

Kramer House Update: Charlie plans to deliver the check for \$350 to Step-Up-For-Soldiers for a hot water heater as soon as he gets the check from Terry.

Belk Fundraiser: Commander Charlie reported that combined net proceeds from the 2 Belk Charity events in 2014 was \$1,539.60. Charlie

encouraged the CCB to participate in this fundraiser in the Spring and Fall of 2015.

Funding of the USSVI Charitable Fund: The attendees reviewed the ATTACHED information regarding the various funds and suggested that members review the information and be prepared to vote on it at the next meeting.

Base Historical Record: The Base Historian was not present. Charlie informed attendees that he has contacted the USSVI Archives Office and asked for CCB archives. Charlie plans to take over as Base Historian responsibility when he steps down as Commander and will build the Historical Record.

Base Library: Base COB, John Williamson said that he is in the process of updating the list of items in the CCB Base Library. The updated list will be in the next issue of "The Below Decks Watch". Gerry Rowe donated "Thunder Below". Members interested in checking out something from the library should contact John at 910-371-3222 or johnwilliamson@ec.rr.com.

New Business

Improvements to the CCB Float: John Williamson reported that he would like approval to have another set of 2 banners made for the afterdeck sign with "Pride Runs Deep!" on it.

MOTION: Bill Underwood offered a MOTION to approve John to spend up to \$150 for two additional banners for the afterdeck sign. Ron Bixby SECONDED the MOTION and it CARRIED by unanimous vote of the attendees.

Parades for Base Participation in 2015: John Williamson proposed that the CCB participate in the following parades in 2015:

Azalea Festival Parade	Apr 11
Southport July 4 th Parade	Jul 4
Warsaw Veterans Day	Nov 8
Jacksonville Vets Day	?



Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2015...continued

Oak Island Holiday Dec 5

Wilmington Holiday Dec 6

He proposed that if the Warsaw and Jacksonville Veterans Day parades conflict, CCB alternate those parades each year. If not, do both because they are good recruiting opportunities.

Location for the March 21st CCB Meeting:

At the December meeting attendees suggested that the March meeting be in northern part of CCB territory. Since none of the members from Jacksonville were present, attendees decided to set the March meeting in Hampstead for the convenience of the members from the northern part of the territory. Bill was charged with finding a location in Hampstead.

Lamb Foundation: Commander Charlie introduced the Lamb Foundation event coming up on May 9th at the Miracle Field at Olsen Park in Wilmington. The event is to help mentally and physically challenged individuals. After a long discussion, attendees agreed that the Lamb Foundation Event wasn't a good fit for CCB. Individual members were encouraged to participate if they choose.

Past Documents National Chairman: Commander Charlie informed attendees that he has contacted the USSVI Historical Documents Chairman regarding CCB Historical Documents.

New State Commander Ipox Report: Charlie received a letter from Eugene (Pox) Ipox, the new NC Subvets Commander from the Asheville Base. The letter asked NC Subvets to feel free to email him with any questions or ideas. The letter also said that he is looking for an NC Subvet to step up to keep the Torpedo Float and tow it in various events. It would require at least a ¾ ton truck with electric brakes and 12 volt 7 plug trailer hookup.

Coastal Carolina Base Elections: Charlie informed attendees that the CCB 2015-2017 Officer Election ballots will be emailed soon.

The current nominees for 2015-2016 Base Officers is:

Commander	Chuck Fletcher
Vice Commander	Gerry Rowe
Secretary	Bill Underwood
Treasurer	Terry Kuhn

Voting will begin in late February and the new officers will be installed on April 11th at the Southeast NC Regional Meeting. It is important that each member **VOTE!**

Miscellaneous Veterans Information:

Step-Up-For-Soldiers:

Charlie informed attendees that our friends at Step-up-for-Soldiers have the following fund-raising events coming up:

Combat Mud Run	Apr 25
Backyard BBQ	Mar 7
Kids Fishing Tourney	Jun ?

John Williamson suggested that CCB members might plan to meet at the Backyard BBQ Event for lunch to support SUFS. To be discussed again at next meeting.

Base Awards and Plaques:

Charlie suggested that various CCB Awards and Plaques be loaned out to Members for display in their houses until CCB has a regular meeting place. He said that he was going to hang the Wilmington Holiday Parade Plaque in his home and that he loaned the Newsletter Plaque to Newsletter Editor Bill. Attendees agreed that we should take pictures of each award to include in the CCB Historical Record.

Review of the Proposed 2015 Base Calendar of Events:

Commander Charlie led the attendees down through the proposed 2015 CCB Calendar of Events and corrected the calendar as attached.

Good of the Order

The Base Historian was not present.



Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2015...continued

Open Floor

Business Cards or Brochure: John Williamson suggested that CCB purchase a set of business cards with CCB information on it to give to potential members when met.

A discussion ensued about having a brochure about the CCB that could be given to prospects. Gerry suggest making a membership application a part of the brochure. Bill said that he would draft something for the next meeting.

Attendees were reminded that even if they have a CCB business card or brochure, they still need to get the prospect's name, email address and phone number for Butterbean.

Float Sound Effects: John Williamson suggested that the CCB procure some kind of a sound system to project submarine sounds in parades. A discussion ensued about what was appropriate.

Raffle: Since the Storekeeper was not present, attendees decided that the raffle proceeds would be split between the CCB treasury and the winner. Gerry Rowe drew Secretary Bills Ticket and Bill received \$14. Congratulations Bill!

Adjournment:

MOTION: Ron Bixby offered a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Bill Underwood **SECONDED** the **MOTION** and the **MOTIONED CARRIED** by unanimous vote by the attendees and the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 2115.

Next Scheduled Base Event/Meeting

The next regular Base Meeting will be on Saturday morning, March 21st at 0900 at the Sawmill Grill at 15919 US Highway 17 in Hampstead, NC.

Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2015

Coastal Carolina Base Submarine Veterans Meeting

When: March 21, 2015, at 1030 hrs

Location: Golden Corral on New Centre Drive, Wilmington, NC

Raffle Tickets: Storekeeper Frank Blackmon sold tickets to attendees for a Base Logo Shirt raffle.

Call to Order: After a delicious breakfast, Vice Commander Fletcher called the meeting to order at 10:40.

Invocation: Base Chaplain, Bill Dixon, gave the Invocation.

Attendees: Charlie Backes (Base Commander), Chuck Fletcher (Base Vice Commander), Bill Underwood (Base Secretary), Butterbean Dixon (Base Chaplain), John Williamson (Base COB), Richard Schrum, Gerry Rowe, Kevin Kesterson, Ron Willems, Ron Bixby, Mickey Finn, Bill Lowe, Bob Govern, Bill Whelan, Doug Mays, John Norowsky, and guests Joy Fletcher, Diane Rowe and Trudy Williamson.

Pledge of Allegiance: Vice Commander Chuck Fletcher led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

Tolling of the Lost Boats: Gerry Rowe was assisted by John Norowsky in performing the "Tolling of the Lost Boats" for boats lost in the months of January, February and March.

Recognition of World War II Submarine Veterans in Attendance: Bill Whelan from the Tarheel Base was the World War II submarine veteran attending the meeting. Bill spoke for a few minutes about his time in the service.

Introductions: Each attendee introduced themselves giving their name, qualification boat and boats served on. Many introduced their wives as well.

[Continued on Page 20](#)



Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2015...continued

Holland Club Presentations: Vice Commander Fletcher announced that he had a Holland Club Patch and Certificate for Elmer Norwood, but Elmer Norwood was not present so no presentation was made.

Motion to Approve Minutes from Last Meeting: Commander Charlie called for a motion to accept the published minutes from the October 16th meeting as written.

MOTION: John Williamson offered a **MOTION** to accept the Minutes from the February 19th meeting of the Coastal Carolina Base as written and dispense with the reading of those Minutes. Mickey Finn **SECOND**ED the **MOTION** and the **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote of the attendees.

Submission of Bills and Receipts: No new bills or receipts were submitted at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Terry Kuhn was not present, but submitted the following report which Vice Commander Fletcher presented to the attendees:

Coastal Carolina Base USSVI		
Treasurer's Report for		
	02/15/2015 to 03/21/15	
Beginning Balance: 2/15/2014	\$3,162.24	
Income:		
Base Dues:	\$20.00	
Prepaid Dues:	\$0.00	
National Dues:	\$40.00	
Raffle Income:	\$13.00	
SK Sales:	\$0.00	
Belk Fundraiser:	\$0.00	
Wilmington Parade Prize	\$0.00	
SOY refund:	\$0.00	
TOTAL INCOME:	\$73.00	
Expenditures:		
USSVI National Dues:	-\$20.00	
Newsletter costs:	\$0.00	
Book of Remembrance:	\$0.00	
Kramer House:	-\$350.00	
First Baptist Church:	-\$100.00	
USSNC Battleship:	-\$150.00	
Fundraiser Expenses:	\$0.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES:	-\$620.00	
Reconciliation:		
Beginning Balance:	\$3,162.24	
Plus Income:	\$73.00	
Less Expenses:	-\$620.00	
Ending Balance:	\$2,615.24	

Storekeeper's Report: Storekeeper Frank Blackmon reported that he is taking orders for Base Logo Shirts, caps and jackets. Frank continued by announcing that the USSVI Store now has nice vests available for order. He encouraged CCB members to go on the USSVI store site and select the merchandise they want, **THEN ORDER THE MERCHANDISE THROUGH FRANK. IF YOU ORDER THROUGH FRANK THE CCB GETS A PERCENTAGE OF THE ORDER AS A REBATE TO THE BASE.**

Membership and Recruitment: Butterbean commented that members should **get any new subvet prospect's name, phone number and email address and get the info to BB ASAP** so he can follow-up with the contact. He said that we need to add about 15 new members in 2015 to the CCB.

CCB Annual Dues: Butterbean reminded attendees that he has sent out several notices that annual dues are due now. CCB dues are \$10/year (you can pay for one year or several years at a time). If you are not a USSVI Life member, USSVI dues are \$20/year. You should mail your dues to:

Terry Kuhn
5905 Downrigger Drive
Wilmington, NC 28409-8907

BB continued by saying that we will clean up the CCB Roster by removing those that are delinquent in paying their dues. Vice Commander Chuck said that he would try to contact CCB Member Mike Ryan to see if he still wants to remain a member.

Old Business

2015 Southeast Regional Meeting: Vice Commander Fletcher asked attendees if any of them planned to attend the Southeast Regional Subvet meeting in Cape Canaveral Florida. Bill Lowe, Bob Govern and Butterbean said that they plan to attend. Secretary Bill said that he just got back from Florida, but may decide to attend.

[Continued on Page 20](#)



Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2015...continued

Kramer House: Since the February 19 meeting Commander Charlie has presented a check for \$350.00 for a hot water heater for the Kramer House Project to Step-Up-For-Soldiers.

Vote on Funding of USSVI Charitable Fund:

At the last meeting a vote on funding a CCB donation to the USSVI Charitable Fund was deferred to this meeting to allow members to read about the various fund choices. The vote was once again deferred to the next meeting.

Historian Book Progress: No progress was reported at this meeting.

Base Library: CCB COB John Williamson reported that he has inventoried the Base Library and found that it contains 48 books and several videos. John passed around the new list of Library contents. Members interested in checking out something from the library should contact John at 910-371-3222 or jwilliamson@ec.rr.com.

Float Signs and Improvements: John Williamson updated the attendees on the status of the float signs. The Pride Runs Deep signs are ready for use in the Azalea Festival Parade. He reminded attendees that we also have a couple of magnetic signs to put on the doors of the truck towing the float. A discussion ensued about access to a diving alarm klaxon to use in the parade. Terry was not there to confirm if we could borrow the BB55 klaxon for the parade. John suggested that CCB consider funding a sound system for the float that would allow for broadcast of various submarine sounds during a parade.

Lamb Foundation Participation: At the Feb 19th meeting, Commander Charlie presented to option for the CCB to make a donation or participate in an event sponsored by the Lamb Foundation. The decision was deferred to this meeting for consideration. A discussion ensued about the fit for this charity with CCB. The attendees decided that it was not a good fit and decided not to participate in the event.

District Commander Nominations & Elections: Butterbean informed attendees that Dave Campbell from Garner was running for District Commander. He reiterated that it was important that CCB Members go on line and VOTE.

2015-2017 CCB Officer Elections: Butterbean reminded attendees that they need to respond to his email ballots by filling out the ballot and emailing it back to him ASAP. So far he has responses from only 31 CCB Members. It is important that you VOTE. The current nominees for 2015-2016 Base Officers is:

Commander	Chuck Fletcher
Vice Commander	Gerry Rowe
Secretary	Bill Underwood
Treasurer	Terry Kuhn

New Business

Logistics for the Azalea Festival Parade:

Vice Commander Chuck confirmed that CCB has been entered in the Azalea Festival Parade. Richard said that he will bring the Float down to the meeting site on Saturday morning. Secretary Bill said that he would meet Richard and ride with him to the meeting site. A discussion ensued about how many members plan to attend and where to meet. The Azalea Festival Committee is changing around the Parade this year for safety purposes. Secretary Bill will send out more detailed emails about meeting points and times when the information is available.

Logistics for the Southeast NC District Meeting:

Following the parade, members will make their way back to the Battleship Park for a brief memorial service at the S-28 Memorial and then the District Meeting at the BB55 Theater Room. The luncheon meeting will be catered by Golden Corral. Commander Charlie proposed that CCB fund a special cake for the meeting to celebrate the birthday of the Submarine Service. Procurement of the cake was approved with one member objecting.

[Continued on Page 21](#)



Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2015...continued

Belk Spring Charity Fundraiser: Secretary Bill reported that he had attended the kickoff meeting for the Belk Spring Charity Fundraiser this morning and had tickets for distribution. He invited attendees to purchase or pickup tickets to sell.

Memorial Day Service & Picnic: Vice Commander Chuck polled attendees to see if there was enough interest to schedule a Memorial Day Service and Picnic at Battleship Park. Attendees confirmed that they would like to have the event and schedule it for the mid afternoon so that attendees could attend the Battleship Memorial Service at 1715 hrs after our event. Chuck suggested that we work out the logistics after the District Meeting on the Battleship.

CCB Business Cards and Brochure: Secretary Bill passed around a draft copy of a brochure that he had made as requested at the Feb meeting.

June Regular Meeting in Jacksonville: Richard and Kevin are working on the logistics for the June meeting. Richard reported it will be at the Golden Corral in Jacksonville at 10:30 am.

Good of the Order

Base Historian was not present.

Raffle for the CCB Logo Shirt: Bernie Maguire had the winning ticket and won a personalized CCB Logo Shirt. Congratulations Bernie!

Open Floor Discussion: None

Next Scheduled Base Meeting

The next regular Base Meeting will be on Saturday morning, April 11th at Noon at the Theater room in the Battleship Entrance Building in Wilmington, NC

Adjournment:

MOTION: John Williamson offered a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. John Norowsky **SECOND-ED** the **MOTION** and the **MOTIONED CARRIED** by unanimous vote by the attendees and the meeting was adjourned.



THE SILENT SERVICE TV Series Now Available Free!

Thanks to the generosity of USSVI Northern VA Base member Ray Stone, the the 1957 and 1958 episodes of the TV series "The Silent Service" [are available for downloading at this site www.olgoat.com](http://www.olgoat.com). The Silent Service is a documentary styled anthology series about the U.S. Navy's submarine fleet and their missions during World War II and the Korean War. Every episode was fact based and the realism of the show was elevated by the use of actual combat footage from the files of the United States Navy. In addition to the episodes, Ray has included copies of the press kits that were issued to the stations along with the films. He also included episode summaries which are handy in preparing notices / programs for individual viewing. All episodes are in MP4 format. Ray suggests downloading to your device rather than trying to view online. Each episode is about 30 min. in length so consider that when trying to download.





Gems from Jim

Thought Provoking emails from Jim Brincefield



AMAZING, SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES: That really work!

1. Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold the vegetables while you chop.
2. Avoid Arguments with the females about lifting the toilet seat by using the sink.
3. For High Blood pressure sufferers – Simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure on your veins, but remember to use a timer.
4. A mouse trap placed on top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.
5. If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives, then you will be afraid to cough.
6. You need only two tools in life: WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and it should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and it does, use the Duct Tape.
7. If you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem.

Thought For The Day:

Some people are like Slinkies - Not really good for anything but they bring a smile to your face when they're pushed down the stairs!

Some Additional Advice:

Never, under any circumstances, take a laxative and sleeping pills on the same night!

"Life is a precious gift, enjoy it while you can."



2015 USSVI War Veteran Status

From: USSVI POC: William C. Andrea
[mailto:NJVC@USSVI.ORG]
Sent: Thursday, January 01, 2015 11:05 AM
Subject: USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet
News - #2015-002
Date: 1/1/2015
To: Distribution List

NEWS-01: 2015 War Veteran Status
Submitted by: William C. Andrea on 1/1/2015

First, let me wish everyone a "Happy New Year". Secondly, we have qualified for "War Veteran Status" for 2015, by having 90% or more of our membership serve during a wartime. This allows any donations to USSVI to be "Tax Deductible". We must requalify for this status every year, and our current status runs from January 1 st to December 31 st .

If you were in the Military (even the Reserves) during the following time frames: Dec 7, 1941 to Dec 31, 1946, June 27 1950 to Jan 31, 1955, Aug 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975 and from Aug 2, 1990 to present, you qualify as a War Veteran.

To insure that you are listed as a "War Veteran", go to ussvi.org and click on the "My Profile" button. Next, click on Update PROFILE. Next, click on "Naval Career", and halfway down the page, check the box under "Served During a War". You MUST then go to the bottom of the page and click on "Save changes made to this page" in order for the change to be registered. While you are in your profile, please check any other parts of your profile that need changing. (Be sure to go to the bottom of each page and save those changes.

Thanks, and Happy New Year again
Bill Andrea
NJVC

This is an official email communication from the United States Submarine Veterans.

USS Louisville Visits Okinawa During Western Pacific Deployment

By Lt. Hobart Kistler, USS Louisville Public Affairs Officer

WHITE BEACH, Okinawa, Japan (NNS) -- The Los Angeles class fast-attack submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724) arrived at Okinawa Naval Base Jan. 6, for a port call as part of a deployment to the Western Pacific.

With a complement of more than 140 officers and men, Louisville showcased the latest capabilities of the submarine fleet in its latest mission.

"Louisville brings to the theater a very capable multi-mission platform with nearly unlimited endurance for independent operations," said Cmdr. Bob Figgs, Louisville's commanding officer. "My highly trained crew is proficient in all core mission capabilities, from open ocean anti-submarine and anti-surface ship warfare; to intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, and precision land strike."

"They have worked tirelessly to prepare for and execute the first three months of our six-month deployment, and I could not be prouder of their accomplishments. I know that my officers and crew are looking forward to some well-deserved liberty here in Okinawa," said Figgs.

Measuring more than 360 feet long and weighing over 6,000 tons when submerged, Louisville is one of the stealthiest, most modern attack submarines in the world.

Louisville's stealth, mobility, endurance, and firepower allow this covert, multi-mission platform to operate independently or in conjunction with a Carrier Strike Group or joint forces to support the interests of the United States wherever and whenever needed.

"Each and every member of our crew has devoted a lot of time, hard work, and energy towards preparing themselves and Louisville for this deployment," said Chief of the Boat, Master Chief Fire Control Technician Larry Williams. "It is only because of the crew members that we are successful as a team. I am excited for the crew to be able to do what a lot of them have joined the Navy to do: see overseas countries and represent the U.S. Navy well. This port call is definitely well deserved by the crew, and each and every one of them has been looking forward to the visit."

For some of Louisville's crew, a visit to Okinawa means more than time at the beach.

"My family and I have studied Okinawa's Shuri-ryu martial arts for more than ten years," said Culinary Specialist Seaman Jarritte Bryant, of Columbia, South Carolina. "After so much hard work, I plan to take advantage of this great opportunity to visit a real-life dojo and meet one of the order's masters!"

Louisville is the fourth United States ship to be named for Louisville, Kentucky. Commissioned on November 8th, 1986, at Naval Submarine Base New London, Connecticut; Louisville is the 35th nuclear powered fast-attack submarine of the Los Angeles class. Louisville is home ported at Hawaii's Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



Base Membership Statistics

USSVI Life Members	23
Base Life Members	0
Holland Club Members	21
Primary Members	38
Associate Members	1
WWII Sub Veteran Members	2
Total Active Members in	51
Members on Eternal Patrol	4
Attendees at Last Meeting	27
% voting in Last Election	82



USS Pennsylvania SSBN 735

Ohio Class Ballistic Missile
Submarine

Largest & Most Powerful in the World

[Click Here to Watch Video](#)

Notable First Quarter History



USS Nautilus SSN 571

Launched January 21, 1954
Put to sea for the first time 1100
January 17, 1955 and sent the
historical message "UNDERWAY
ON NUCLEAR POWER". CCB
Commander Chuck Fletcher was
on board.



Today in Undersea Warfare History (Mar 21, 1989),
USS TENNESSEE (SSBN 734) made the first sub-
merged test launch of the 8-warhead Trident II missile
off Cape Canaveral, FL. [Click Here for Video](#)

Notable Q1 Actions in World War II

1943 - USS Gudgeon (SS 211) lands
six men, 2,000 pounds of equipment
and supplies on Negros Island for first
resupply mission for a submarine.

1944 - Five U.S. Navy submarines sink
five different Japanese vessels in and
around the Pacific Ocean. USS Albacore
(SS 218) sinks Japanese destroyer Sa-
zanami 300 miles off Yap; USS Scamp
(SS 277) sinks the tanker Nippon Maru
off Sorol Island; USS Guardfish (SS
217) sinks tanker Kenyo Maru south-
east of Palau; USS Seawolf (SS 197)
sinks tanker Yamazuru Maru off Okina-
wa, and USS Swordfish (SS 193) sinks
transport Yamakuni Maru off Hachijo
Jima.

1943 - Submarine Trigger (SS
237) sinks the Japanese destroy-
er Okikaze off Yokosuka, Japan.

1943 - Submarine Guardfish (SS
217) sinks Japanese Patrol Boat
No.1 about 10 miles southwest of
the Tingwon Islands, located just
southwest of the northern tip of
New Hanover, Bismarck Archipel-
ago

1944 - Submarines Seawolf (SS
197) and Steelhead (SS 280)
attack a Japanese convoy about
70 miles north of Naha, Okinawa,
sinking three ships, including one
while in the middle of a typhoon.



The Ditty Bag

Contribute to the "Below Decks Watch" Newsletter

Some Sub Sailor is Bound to Have a Good Sea Story!

Please submit News, a Sea Story, Jokes (clean), cartoons, humorous anecdotes, alerts, local event notices, comments, Letters to the Editor, etc. by the end of February, May, August, or November to get your contribution in the next Quarter's Newsletter!

Submit to bunder343@aol.com

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

Remember S*T*R*T

S * Ask the individual to SMILE.

T * Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently)

(i.e. Chicken Soup)

R* Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

New Symptom of a Stroke

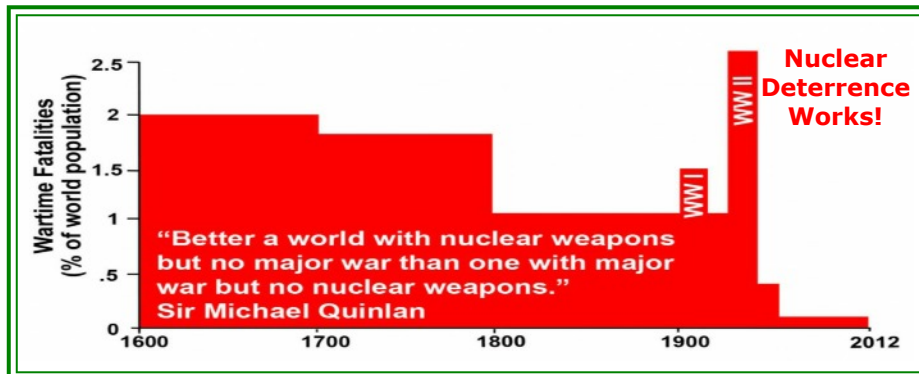
T* Stick out Your Tongue!

NOTE: Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue. *If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other that is also an indication of a stroke.*

Belay That!

If you find errors in an issue of this Newsletter, please tell us about it! Send comments or clarifications to the email below and we will publish the corrections in the next issue.

bunder343@aol.com



*Click Here for
Cool Video of the USS North Carolina SSN 777
Support for the UNC Tarheels in the Quicken
Loans Carrier Classic Shootout on Veterans Day
2011*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEuRYbjGkGc>

The Coastal Carolina Base (CCB) of the North Carolina Submarine Veterans is a Duly Sanctioned Chapter of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., a 501 (c)(19) Charitable Veterans Organization



Name:	USS North Carolina
Namesake:	The State of North Carolina
Ordered:	30 September 1998
Builder:	Northrop Grumman Newport News
Laid down:	22 May 2004
Christened:	21 April 2007
Launched:	5 May 2007
Acquired:	21 February 2008
Commissioned:	3 May 2008
Homeport:	Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

General characteristics

Class & type:	Virginia-class submarine
Displacement:	7,800 tons
Length:	114.9 meters (377 feet)
Beam:	10.3 meters (34 feet)
Depth:	800 ft (244 m)
Propulsion:	S9G reactor
Speed:	25 knots (46 km/h)+
Range:	Essentially unlimited distance;
Complement:	134 officers and men
Armament:	12 × VLS (BGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missile) & 4 × 533mm torpedo tubes (Mk-48 torpedo)

USS North Carolina SSN 777



In the First Quarter 2015 the Tarheels returned from sea just Wednesday, March 25, after another great run at sea. The Tarheels performed in unprecedented manner in this last underway and I continue to be amazed by the spirit of the crew to rise up and be awesome. I want everyone reading this to know that the Tarheel crew is responsible for the ship's success and now those inspecting us agree with what I have been saying for so so long. This is the best crew on the planet. With this success comes the burden of sustaining excellence. This crew is very humble and hungry and I could not be more blessed to serve alongside such top notch submariners. Gary Montalvo

The USS North Carolina SSN 777





Then vs Now. None of Us Should Have Ever Made It!

HIGH SCHOOL -- 1957 vs. 2014

Scenario 1:

Jack goes duck hunting before school and then pulls into the school parking lot with his shotgun in his truck's gun rack.

1957 - Vice Principal comes over, looks at Jack's shotgun, goes to his car and gets his shotgun to show Jack.

2014- School goes into lock down, FBI called, Jack hauled off to jail and never sees his truck or gun again. Counselors called in for traumatized students and teachers.

Scenario 2:

Johnny and Mark get into a fist fight after school.

1957 - Crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up buddies.

2014 - Police called and SWAT team arrives -- they arrest both Johnny and Mark. They are both charged with assault and both expelled even though Johnny started it.

Scenario 3:

Jeffrey will not be still in class, he disrupts other students.

1957 - Jeffrey sent to the Principal's office and given a good paddling by the Principal. He then returns to class, sits still and does not disrupt class again.

2014 - Jeffrey is given huge doses of Ritalin. He becomes a zombie. He is then tested for ADD. The family gets extra money (SSI) from the government because Jeffrey has a disability.

Scenario 4:

Billy breaks a window in his neighbor's car and his Dad gives him a whipping with his belt.

1957 - Billy is more careful next time, grows up normal, goes to college and becomes a successful businessman.

2014 - Billy's dad is arrested for child abuse, Billy is removed to foster care and joins a gang. The state psychologist is told by Billy's sister that she remembers being abused herself and their dad

goes to prison. Billy's mom has an affair with the psychologist.

Scenario 5:

Mark gets a headache and takes some aspirin to school.

1957 - Mark shares his aspirin with the Principal out on the smoking dock.

2014 - The police are called and Mark is expelled from school for drug violations. His car is then searched for drugs and weapons.

Scenario 6:

Pedro fails high school English.

1957 - Pedro goes to summer school, passes English and goes to college.

2014 - Pedro's cause is taken up by state. Newspaper articles appear nationally explaining that teaching English as a requirement for graduation is racist. ACLU files class action lawsuit against the state school system and Pedro's English teacher. English is then banned from core curriculum. Pedro is given his diploma anyway but ends up mowing lawns for a living because he cannot speak English.

Scenario 7:

Johnny takes apart leftover firecrackers from the Fourth of July, puts them in a model airplane paint bottle and blows up a red ant bed.

1957 - Ants die.

2014 - ATF, Homeland Security and the FBI are all called. Johnny is charged with domestic terrorism. The FBI investigates his parents - and all siblings are removed from their home and all computers are confiscated. Johnny's dad is placed on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly again.

Scenario 8:

Johnny falls while running during recess and scrapes his knee. He is found crying by his teacher, Mary. Mary hugs him to comfort him.

1957 In a short time, Johnny feels better and goes on playing.

2014- Mary is accused of being a sexual predator and loses her job. She faces 3 years in State Prison. Johnny undergoes 5 years of therapy.

It Is Amazing We Survived Without All This Protection!

Ceremony celebrates Colorado keel laying



Annie Mabus, ship sponsor of the Virginia-class attack submarine USS Colorado (SSN 788), delivers remarks during the ship's keel laying ceremony. Annie is the daughter of the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), Ray Mabus. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Armando Gonzales (Released) 150307-N-LV331-003

Story by Naval Submarine Base New London (SUBASE) Public Affairs

Photos by MC2 Armando Gonzales

Published: Wednesday, March 18, 2015

NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. – The keel for the future Virginia-class submarine, USS Colorado (SSN 788) was ceremoniously laid during a special event at General Dynamics Electric Boat Quonset Point Facility, March 7.

Navy, shipyard, and elected officials, including Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV)

Ray Mabus and Colorado Secretary of State Wayne Williams, gathered for the time-honored Navy tradition.

As today's submarines no longer have a traditional keel, the initials of the submarine's sponsor, Annie Mabus, daughter of the SECNAV, were welded onto a steel plate that will be permanently affixed to the submarine's hull.

"This makes me proud to be sponsor of this ship, proud to be here for this exciting time for women in the Navy," said Mabus. "And this is due in no small part to my father, who taught me that women belong everywhere, and those who do not think so are wrong."

While under construction, the submarine is known as Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Colorado and already has 100 crew members, of its full complement of 132 officers and enlisted personnel, assigned.

Upon commissioning, it will be the third Navy ship to bear the name USS Colorado. The first was an armored cruiser in 1905, while the second USS Colorado was a battleship that took part in the invasion of Tarawa during World War II.

SECNAV highlighted the future that the submarine Colorado and his daughter, as sponsor, will now share.

"She's the personal bond between the people who serve in this boat and the American people, who [those] in this boat, will protect," said SECNAV as he introduced his daughter. "There are a lot of stages to bringing a marvel like this submarine into existence. This ceremony and the actions that led us here today will transform steel and wire and electronics into a living boat."

"An important ship-building milestone, this keel-laying begins the building of a new ship, and continues the long tradition and strong connection between the people of New England and our Navy," wrote SECNAV in an open letter to the Providence Journal published the day of the keel-laying ceremony. "Today the partnership between our men and women in uniform and the people of New England is playing a vital role in maintaining America's seapower and presence around the world."

The keel-laying is the first of four celebrated events in the life of a ship or submarine; the others being: the christening, commissioning, and de-commissioning.

Construction of Colorado began in 2012. The submarine's christening ceremony is expected sometime in 2016 and the submarine is slated to be delivered in 2017.

USS Colorado (SSN 788) will be approximately 377 feet in length, displace some 7,800 tons while submerged, and able to operate at speeds greater than 25 knots (28 mph).

"This fast-attack submarine and the people who will build her here in the Electric Boat shipyard give us a technological edge," wrote SECNAV. "It is also an opportunity to highlight the strong commitment we continue to make to increase the size of our Navy fleet."



USS Maryland SSBN 738 Successfully Undocks at Norfolk Naval Shipyard



NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) successfully undocked USS Maryland (SSBN 738) Feb 21. SSBN 738 is now pier-side to finish its Engineered Refueling Overhaul (ERO), a complex, major shipyard availability at the submarine's mid-life point that enables the submarine to operate for its entire design service life. Maryland has been at NNSY since Dec. 2012.

Some of the major jobs during the availability include ship systems overhaul, specifically the replacement of distilling plants with a reverse osmosis unit; replacement of the service turbine generator rotor with a low-sensitivity rotor; installation of an upgraded 500 kilowatt motor generator; and local area network upgrades.

Undocking was achieved despite high winds challenging crane service, unusually cold weather preventing the normal process of washing down the dry dock, and several inches of snowfall. When it became apparent the effort might fall short of maintaining the planned undocking date, volunteers pitched in from around the shipyard to assist.

"The team has shown great perseverance and refused to give up," said Project Superintendent John Darlington. "It took the entire shipyard to help us get through the snow event, and we have proven that when everyone works together we can be successful. This is a proud project team and we will continue to work together to give the shipyard more successes in the future."

In addition to the small amount of production work to still be accomplished on the boat, system testing and certification and Ship's Force training will be conducted, culminating in sea trials later this year.

NNSY, a Naval Sea Systems Command field activity, is the oldest industrial facility belonging to the U.S. Navy, and specializes in repairing, overhauling and modernizing ships and submarines.

Colorado Keel Laying...continued

When complete, Colorado will be the nation's 15th Virginia-class fast-attack submarine.

Virginia-class submarines are built with a reactor plant that will not require refueling during the planned life of the ship, reducing lifecycle costs while increasing underway time.

The Colorado is also the fifth of eight planned Block III versions of the Virginia-class submarine.

The Block III versions are being built with a revised bow and new Virginia Payload Tubes (VPTs) designed to increase missile-firing and payload possibilities. Each of the two large VPTs is 87-inches in diameter and able to house six Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAMS).

General Dynamics Electric Boat and Huntington Ingalls Industries-Newport News Shipbuilding build Virginia-class submarines under a unique construction contract.

"The Colorado will soon sail the world's oceans in defense of our country, and her journey started right here," concluded SECNAV in his published letter.

CCB Officer Nominations



**Commander
Chuck Fletcher
Apr 2015-Apr 2017**



**Vice Commander
Gerry Rowe
Apr 2015-Apr 2017**



**Treasurer
Terry Kuhn
Apr 2015-Apr 2017**



**Secretary
Bill Underwood
Apr 2015-Apr 2017**



Presidents Who Were Veterans

Highest rank held by Presidents in uniformed service

George Washington

General and Commander in Chief

1775-1783

Thomas Jefferson

Colonel, Virginia Militia

1770-1779

James Madison

Colonel, Virginia Militia

1775-1781

James Monroe

Major, Continental Army

1775-1778

Andrew Jackson

Major General, U.S. Army

1814-1821

William Henry Harrison

Major General, Kentucky Militia

1812-1814

John Tyler

Captain, Virginia Militia

1812

James K. Polk

Colonel, Tennessee Militia

1821

Zachary Taylor

Major General, U.S. Army

1805-1815, 1816-1849

Millard Fillmore

Major, Union Continentals (home guard)

1861

Franklin Pierce

Brigadier General, New Hampshire Militia

1846-1848

James Buchanan

Private, Pennsylvania Militia

1814

Abraham Lincoln

Captain, Illinois Militia

1832

Andrew Johnson

Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Volunteers)

1862-1865

Ulysses S. Grant

General, U.S. Army

1866-1869

Rutherford B. Hayes

Major General, U.S. Army (Volunteers)

1861-1865

James A. Garfield

Major General, U.S. Army (Volunteers)

1861-1863

Chester A. Arthur

Brigadier General, New York Militia

1858-1863

Benjamin Harrison

Brevet Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Volunteers)

1862-1865

William McKinley

Brevet Major, U.S. Army (Volunteers)

1861-1865

Theodore Roosevelt

Colonel, U.S. Army (Volunteers)

1898

Harry S. Truman

Colonel, Army Officer Reserve Corps

1919-1945

Dwight D. Eisenhower

General of the Army, U.S. Army

1915-1948, 1951-1952

John F. Kennedy

Lieutenant, U.S. Naval Reserve

1941-1945

Lyndon B. Johnson

Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve

1940-1964

Richard M. Nixon

Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve

1942-1966

Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve

1942-1946

Jimmy Carter

Lieutenant, U.S. Navy

1946-1953

Ronald Reagan

Captain, U.S. Army

1942-1945

George Bush

Lieutenant (junior grade), U.S. Navy

1942-1945

George W. Bush

First Lieutenant, Texas Air National Guard

1968-1973



COASTAL CAROLINA BASE 2015 CALENDAR

Date	Day	Event
February 19, 2015	Thu	Regularly scheduled meeting at 1900 at First Baptist Church on Independence Blvd, Wilmington, NC
March 21, 2015	Sat	Pre-Azalea Festival meeting at 0900 at the Sawmill Restaurant at 15919 U.S. 17 in Hampstead, NC
April 11, 2015	Sat	Azalea Festival Parade in Wilmington, NC and hosting District Meeting at the USS North Carolina (BB55) Theater Room
April 20-23, 2015	Mon-Thu	Regional USSVI Convention hosted by Snug Harbor Base in Cape Canaveral, Florida
May 2, 2015		Spring Belk's Charity Sale 6:00 am - 10:00 am. Volunteers needed.
May 25, 2015	Mon	Memorial Day Ceremony at the S-28 Monument followed by a Base Picnic at 3:00 pm and Battleship Festivities
May 25, 2015	Mon	50th Annual Memorial Day Observance at the USS North Carolina Battleship at 5:45 pm.
June 20, 2015	Sat	Regularly scheduled meeting at Golden Corral in Jacksonville at 10:30 am, Kevin Kesterson and Richard Schrum to organize
June 24, 2015	Wed	0745 Salute to the Flag at City Hall in Wilmington, NC, 102 N 3rd St, Wilmington, NC
July 4, 2015	Sat	Official North Carolina 4th of July Spectacular & Parade in Southport, NC - Covered Dish luncheon on Chuck & Joy's yacht at the marina in Southport after the parade
July 11, 2015	Sat	Battleship USS North Carolina Legacy Series Tribute to the Submarine Service 0900 to 1600 hours
August 15, 2015	Sat	Regularly scheduled meeting in Southport at 1030 at the Trinity United Methodist Church at 209 E Nash Street, Southport, NC
Sept 7-12, 2015	Week	USSVI 51st Anniversary National Convention in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
October 15, 2015	Thu	Regularly scheduled meeting at 1900 at First Baptist Church on Independence Blvd, Wilmington, NC
November, 2015		Fall Belk Charity Sale from 6:00 am - 10:00 am at area Belk's stores
November 7, 2015		95th Annual Veteran's Day Parade in Warsaw, NC
November 11, 2015	Wed	CCB Member Veterans Day dinner at Bonefish Grill in Wilmington
December 5, 2015	Sat	Annual Pearl Harbor Dinner at the NC State University Club on Hillsborough St, Raleigh, NC
December 5, 2015	Sat	Oak Island Christmas Parade
December 6, 2015	Sun	Wilmington Holiday Parade
December 12, 2015	Sat	Leland Holiday Parade- Followed by Lunch at Charlie Macgrooders in Leland
December 19, 2015	Sat	Regularly scheduled meeting at 0900 at Golden Corral on New Centre Drive in Wilmington, NC



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular ☐ Life ☐ Associate ☐

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

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

☐ I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Yr)
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

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

Name: (Print /Type) _____ **Address:** _____

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

Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

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

The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____
Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$ 90.00; 3 Yr term: \$ 55.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 20.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$ 25.00
Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$ 300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00
Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. \$10.00 per year for the Coastal Carolina Base.

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

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?: (Mandatory for Assoc Mbrs) _____

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

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

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

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

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

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

1. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
2. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
3. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
4. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
5. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

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

Addr: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____ **Tel:** _____

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

Applicants on active duty are requested to provide a permanent home address.

**Upon completion, please deliver or mail your application with your check payable to
USSVI Coastal Carolina Base**

Mail to: Bill Underwood, 302 Tall Ships Lane, Hampstead, NC 28443