All Clear



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF NORTH CAROLINA SUBVETS

Fourth Quarter 2021



Photo of USS Gunnel (SS-253) - Marty was a crewmember for 2nd and 3rd War Patrols

Marty Kerwin



North Carolina Submarine Veterans Leadership

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USSVI CREED AND PURPOSE

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 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.

NC SubVets are proud members of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. - USSVI.org

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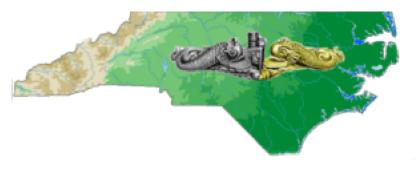
Newsletter Editor: Joe Peek MMCS/SS (ret.) email:ncsubvets.org@gmail.com

NC Submarine Veterans Events



•	November 6	Moorehead City Veteran's Parade	Albemarle Sound
•	November 11	Asheboro Veteran's Day Parade	Nat Greene
•	November 20	Asheville Parade	USS Asheville
•	December 1	Weaverville Parade	USS Asheville
•	December 4	Pearl Harbor Dinner	Tarheel
•	December 4	Bailey Christmas Parade	Old North State
•	December 5	Fuquay-Varina Christmas Parade	Tarheel
•	December 11	Marshall Christmas Parade	USS Asheville
•	December 12	Tarboro Christmas Parade*	Old North State
•	December 18	Wreaths Across America	

^{*} Both torpedo and submarine will be in this parade.



North Carolina Subvets State Commander

SHIPMATES: Here it is again, End of another year and time for the holiday season. The MK 14 Torpedo Float will be in many different parades and events. Starting with a Veterans Day parade in Moorhead city on 11/6. A Veterans Day parade in Asheboro on 11/11. The Bailey Christmas day parade on 12/4 and the Tarboro Christmas day parade on 12/12. The Float is still homeported in a pole barn in Marry City (near Edenton) Still looking for a more centralized location nearer the center of the state.

Change #9 to the NC Subvets Charter has been approved by six of the seven NC Subvets Bases. Again I ask that all NC Subvets Base Commanders discuss with their membership what should be done with the NC Subvets Charter. Should we disband the Charter? Operate with six of the seven bases? Request feedback at the Pearl Harbor Event 12/4. I will bring this item up at the Pearl Harbor event.

Looking forward to next year, Moonshine Mountain, various parades, convention in Buffalo NY, and many other events.

MY E-Mail nkiv368jle@gmail.com phone 252 235 2926 North Carolina Subvets State Commander Jerry Emerson

SHAMA

"SHIPMATE IS AN HONORABLE WORD THAT IS EARNED, NOT GIVEN. BEING ED A SHIPMATE IS T COMPLIMENT ONE CAN EARN IN HIS ATE IS A WORD EQUAL TO NONE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. IT IS FILLED WITH COURAGE, LOVE, HATE, Y, HONOR AND COUNTRY. IT IS A BOND FORGED IN STORMS, ADV AND VICTORY; AND IT IS EQUALED ONLY BY A MAN'S LOVE FOR HIS WIFE AND IT IS FORMED AT SEA A CAPTAIN OF C WHO CAUSES CAN-DO SPIRIT WN THE LINE; CAPTAIN, TO

TIVE OFFICER
TO JUNIOR OFFICERS;
CHIEFS, PETTY OFFICERS AND CREW.

USS Gunnel (SS-253)- History

A <u>Gato-class submarine</u>, USS-253 was the only ship of the <u>United States Navy</u> to be named for the <u>gunnel</u>. Her <u>keel was laid down</u> by the <u>Electric Boat Company</u>, <u>Groton</u>, <u>Connecticut</u>. She was <u>launched</u> 17 May 1942 (sponsored by Mrs. <u>Ben Morell</u>, wife of the <u>Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks</u>), and <u>commissioned</u> 20 August 1942, with <u>Lieutenant Commander John S. "Jack" McCain</u>, <u>Jr.</u> in command.

Atlantic Patrol

Gunnel's first war patrol: (19 October – 7 December 1942) covered a passage from the United States to the United Kingdom, during which she participated in Operation "Torch", the Allied invasion of North Africa. One of six submarines assigned to Admiral Henry K. Hewitt's Western Naval Task Force, *Gunnel* did reconnaissance off Fedhala 6 November 1942, 2 days before the invasion, and on D-day (8 November) made infrared signals to guide the approaching fleet to the beachheads. Missions well accomplished, the submarine departed for Rosneath, Scotland, 7 December to terminate her first patrol. *En route* home, the drive gears of her HOR engines failed, forcing her to complete the final 1,000 nautical miles (1,900 km) on her auxiliary diesel, leading to a major overhaul at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine.

Pacific patrols

Second and third patrols: Subsequently assigned to the Pacific Fleet, Gunnel sailed to Pearl Harbor, then to her second patrol (28 May – 3 July 1943) in waters west of Kyūshū in the East China Sea. Success crowned her efforts when cargo ship Kayo Maru (6,300 tons) was sunk 15 June, giving Gunnel her first kill, and four days later when another cargo ship, Tokiwa Maru (7,000 tons), was sent under. Both sinkings were confirmed by JANAC postwar. After overhaul at Mare Island, California, the submarine accomplished a third war patrol (17 November 1943 – 7 January 1944) in Japanese home waters off Honshū. This, too, was successful; on 4 December Gunnel sent passenger-cargo ship Hiyoshi Maru to the bottom.

Fourth, fifth, sixth patrols: The fourth war patrol (5 February – 6 April) took the boat from Midway to Fremantle and in the South China, Sulu, and Celebes Seas. Bad luck dogged *Gunnel* and she was forced to return to port having made no further kills. Her fifth and sixth patrols, (3 May – 4 July) and (29 July – 22 September 1944) found her again in the southern approaches of the Sunda Straits and cruising in the Sulu Sea-Manila area but failed to add to her score.

Seventh and eighth patrols: During her seventh patrol (21 October – 28 December) in the South China and Sulu Seas, she sank the Torpedo Boat Sagi (600 tons) between 4–8 November; passenger-cargo ship Shunten Maru (5,600 tons); and Torpedo Boat Hiyodori (600 tons) between 10–17 November. On this same patrol Gunnel evacuated 11 naval aviators at <u>Palawan</u> 1 December to 2 December after the fliers had been protected by friendly guerrilla forces for some 2 months.

She conducted her eighth patrol (13 June – 24 July 1945) in the <u>Bungo Suido</u> area. She attacked an unescorted Japanese submarine 9 July. The great range and speed of the enemy, however, caused *Gunnel's* torpedoes to miss. She returned from the patrol after duty as a lifeguard ship for <u>B-29s</u> flying toward Japan on bombing missions.

Postwar

Gunnel was refitting at <u>Pearl Harbor</u> and at war's end she was ordered to <u>New London</u>, <u>Connecticut</u>, where she decommissioned 18 May 1946. Her name was struck from the Navy List 1 September 1958 and she was sold for scrapping in August 1959. Gunnel received five battle stars for World War II service. Her first, second, third, and seventh war patrols were designated successful. In the <u>JANAC</u> accounting postwar, she was credited with six ships sunk for 24,624 tons.

Refernces - Wikipedia and Gunnel Tribute Website2



WORDS FOR MARTIN KIRWAN 100TH BIRTHDAY EVENT

Thanks to the Brookshire Bacility, and all attending this birthday event

My name is Gene Rutter. I serve as the chaplain for the Tarheel Base submarine veterans base group, of which Martin is a member. Martin served during wwii in the United States Submarine Force, which suffered the highest casualty percentage of all the american armed forces. about 16,000 submariners served during the war, of whom 376 officers and 3,131 enlisted men were killed.

Martin is truly a survivor, having survived WWII, the covid pandemic, and reaching the centennial milestone birthday of 100 years. he has seen so many things during his life, and the changes that have affected all of us. among the many ages...the radio age, the tv age, the computer age, the laptop age, the smartphone age, and today the social media age. including 21 presidents.

He is a WWII distinguished veteran, a member of the greatest generation, respected by all, and a hero to all of us.

Martin served aboard the USS Gunnel (SS253), in the pacific theater. the Gunnel carried out nine war patrols, and martin was on the second, third, fourth and fifth patrols.

The second and third patrols received the Presidential Merit of Honor for their performance, sinking many of the enemy's ship. during one of these patrols, the submarine was depth charged, which contributed to a hearing loss.

Attached are letters from:

- Senator John McCain III to the crew of the Gunnel
- Capt. James Kinney USNR (ret.) for Martin's help withthe course was "The History of Submarines"



JOHN MCCAIN UNITED STATES SENATOR WASHINGTON, DC 20510

U.S.S. Gunnel C/o R. Adm. L. R. Vasey, USN (Ret.) 404 Portlock Road Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

October 8, 1999

Dear Admiral Vasey and the men of the Gunnel,

I wish I could join you for the USS Gunnel reunion in Branson, Missouri, but my schedule simply does not permit it. Running for president does not allow for much leave time. I hope you will share this brief greeting with all the men and their wives in attendance.

My father took great pride in serving in the submarine service, and he felt privileged to command the Gunnel and its courageous men. Over the years, I heard him tell of the bravery and professionalism of all who served in Gunnel. He considered his five combat patrols in Gunnel as one of the high points of his long and distinguished career.

Most of all, he remembered the officers and men with whom he was fortunate enough to serve. He, and others, told me of the good times and of the harrowing experiences you all went through during your World War II exploits. He admired and respected each of you very much.

In my recent book, "Faith of My Fathers," I explain that he made a point of knowing the 80 men in Gunnel and considered the bluejackets with whom he served to be the backbone of the Navy. I'm told that you returned to him the affection and respect he had for you.

"Captain Jack" would be proud to know that you still are joining together as a unit.

I salute each of you and thank you for your brave service to our country during those perilous World War II years. You are true patriots. I wish I could be with you today to join in singing "Beautiful Midway" and anything else I'm sure you'd be happy to teach me – and to hear you recount the admirable exploits of the USS Gunnel and her crew.

Fair winds and following seas. With deep respect and warm personal regards,

John McCain

U.S. Navy Submarine Service Submariner Extraordinaire

Happy Birthday to Marty Kirwan

Several years ago, I taught a course to mostly retired people, part of the Duke Osher Learning Institute. The course was "The History of Submarines", and I reviewed the capabilities and exploits of submarines from the John Holland days up to current times. One of the highlights of the course was to invite guest speakers who had served on submarines to describe life aboard and the fellow submariners they had served with.

One of the favorite speakers was Marty Kirwan. I would pick up Marty at his home, and we would enjoy as lunch together before class. Once introduced, Marty was spellbinding. As we all know, Marty loves to tell stories, and his direct remarks and sly Irish humor made him a fascinating guest. Moreover, for the class to see and hear first hand from one of the greatest generation, his courage and dedication to the welfare of his fellow submariners, always was a high note in teaching the class.

Marty, I wish you fair winds and following seas as you reach your 100th year, You remain an inspiration to all of us submariners who have followed in your footsteps.

Captain James Kinney, USNR (Ret.)

THE THIRD USSVI TARHEEL BASE PICNIC AND BRIEF BASE BUSINESS MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021 AT THE CYPRESS SHELTER IN HARRIS LAKE COUNTY PARK IN NEW HILL, NC

Tarheel Base Commander Jim Davis called to order the "brief" Base meeting at 10:40 AM and Chaplain Gene Rutter offered up the opening prayer for a productive meeting and an enjoyable picnic. Also, Gene asked all present to observe a moment of silence in memory of the passing of the wives of two Subvets- Millie Gow, wife of Duane Gow and "Ma" Bell, wife of Steve Bell. Base Secretary Bill Lowe lead the group of 21 Subvets and 17 guests in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commander Jim followed with a reading of the Purpose of USSVI: Our purpose is "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country." 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. 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.

50/50 Raffle- Conducted by Jerry Leppart- Total- \$173.00

Winner- Bob Govern's granddaughter Lauren Gaither- Amount- \$86.50 She generously donated her winnings to the Tarheel Base Treasury.

BENEDICTION- Chaplain Gene offered up a prayer of thanks for upcoming meal.

Commander Jim adjourned the Base meeting so all could enjoy the meal and activities!

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

After Meeting Introductions

The 21 Subvets present were afforded the opportunity to introduce themselves and their guests. Those guests included 14 wives, 2 daughters, and 1 granddaughter.

TARHEEL BASE PICNIC- NOTES AND COMMENTS

- 1- All present thanked Jim Wallace and his First Mate for procuring the meal from Smithfield Chicken & Barbeque.
- 2- Rich Cimino came up with the idea for some of the wives to tell how they handled things on the home front while their husbands were deployed. A couple of the wives covered their experiences as head of the houeshold. Support from the other wives of shipmates was vital and welcomed.
- 3- Several games were available during the picnic: horseshoes; volleyball; a couple corn hole games; and a cribbage board.
- 4- All were in agreement that the Harris Lake County Park location is a great venue for the Base Picnic! by Tarheel Base Secretary William Lowe







September 11,2021

It is with a great deal of sadness that I report the passing of MA BELL, wife of Steve Bell. I talked to Steve this morning, and offered my prayers and deepest condolences.

He reported that Ma had done well at the National Convention, but when they got home, she had a headache, and they went to the hospital. Ma died in Steve's arms yesterday. The doctor reported to Steve that the cause was heart failure. Arrangements are not known at this time.

We all thought the world of Ma, a friend to all, and very supportive of all submarine veteran activities.

I ask all to keep Ma and Steve in their thoughts and prayers.

Chaplain Gene Rutter

USSVI Tarheel Base



Obituary - Margie "Ma" Bell

Gastonia - Margie "Ma" Bell passed away on Friday, September 10, 2021 at the age of 74. Born on October 25, 1946 in Ramsay County MN, "Ma" was the daughter of the late Gorman Linus Vail and Margaret Lucille Stronberg Vail. She now joins her parents; brother, Chuck Vail; sister, Mary Vail in Heaven.

"Ma" was a homemaker. She was married to her beloved husband of 56 years, Steve Bell. Together they served their country during Steve's tenure in the US Navy living in Cali-

fornia, Hawaii, Maryland, Texas, Connecticut and Virginia. "Ma" was an active member of Lutheran Chapel Church where she served in various capacities. She was also one of the matriarchs of the church. She never met a stranger and made friends quickly. She was beloved by her family and friends and will be deeply missed.

In addition to her husband, "Ma" is survived by her children and their spouses, Mike and Amber Bell of Gastonia, and Michele and Mike Shaw of Spotsylvania, VA; grandchildren, Ashley Bell, Andrew Bell, Jon Shaw and Cameron Bell; great-grandchildren, Luna Bell and Zeya Finley.



Obitary Everett Houston Morgan, 97, died Tuesday, October 5th. Born in Johnston County, He was the son of the late Jada and Merdie Denning Morgan December 13,1923. Mr. Morgan served as a member of the US Navy. After retiring from the NCSU School of Forestry as a research mechanic, he moved to Cape Carteret.

Survivors include his sons, Ronald E. Morgan and Donald E. Morgan and wife, Brenda, all of Cape Carteret and Timothy Morgan and wife, Sara of Rolesville; grandchildren, Heather

Seildman, Carrie Falcon, Shannon Lord, James Manuel, Laura Downs Doss, James Morgan, Melissa Wrenn, Donald Morgan, Jr., Christy Morgan, Robert Hunter, Tosha Robin-son, as well as 12 great grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 78 years, Margaret Tomlinson Morgan; brothers, Jada Morgan, Jr., Truitt Morgan and Curtis Morgan.

Everett qualified on the Blueback SS-326 in 1945 and left the Navy as a MOMM3(SS) USSVI.org -

Eternal Patrol

From Gene Rutter - I am saddened to hear about the passing of WW II Tarheel and Cape Carteret Base Veteran Everett Houston Morgan. Had been in regular contact with him and just a few weeks ago, and, he was looking forward to the upcoming Pearl Harbor Dinner. He had attended our last event in 2019, his two sons provided the transportation.

His wife, Margaret, died in December 2020.

Lost Boats - October

USS Seawolf (SS-197)	Lost on October 3, 1944 with the loss of 83 crew members and 17 U.S. Army person-
	nel on her 15 th war patrol when she was sunk just north of Moritai by USS Rowell, a
	Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese
	submarine that had just sunk another Destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships
	sunk
USS S-44 (SS-155)	Lost on October 7, 1943 with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru,
	Kuriles. S?44 was on her 5 th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a mer-
	chant on the surface, S?44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed
	Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.
USS Wahoo (SS-238)	Lost on October 11, 1943 with the loss of 80 men near La Perouse Strait. Under com-
	mand of one of the great sub skippers of World War II,LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo
	was on her 7 th war patrol. Wahoo had won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5 th
	in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was sunk by combined air and surface attack.
USS Dorado (SS-248)	Lost on October 12, 1943 with theloss of 77 men when she was sunk in the western
	Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she had departed New London and was en
	route to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane that received faulty
	instructions regarding bombing restriction areas.
USS Escolar (SS-294)	Lost on or after October 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. She was on her 1st war pa-
	trol and was lost to a mine in the Yellow Sea.
USS Shark II (SS-314)	Lost on October 24, 1944 with the loss of 87 men when she was sunk in the Luzon
	Strait near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was
	on her 3 rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone
	freighter. Compounding the trag?edy, it turned out that the freighter had 1800 U.S.
	POWs on board.



USS Darter (SS-227)	Lost on October 24, 1944 while on her 4 th war patrol when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Pala wan and was then destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by USS Dace. Winner of one Navy Unit Commendation, Darter had sunk a heavy cruiser and damaged another and went
	aground while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation in hopes of getting in an attack on a battleship
USS Tang (SS-306)	Lost on October 25, 1944 with the loss of 78 men in the Formosa Strait while on her 5 th war patrol. Tang ranks 2 nd in the number of ships sunk and 4 th in tonnage, and had won two Presi?dential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR. O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

USS O-5 (SS-66)	Lost on October 29, 1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Abab-
	garez off the Panama Canal. Torpedoman's Mate 2 nd Class (SS) Henry Berault re-
	ceived the Congression?al Medal of Honor for his heroic actions.

November

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USS Albacore (SS-218)	Lost on November 7, 1944 with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her 11 th war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.
USS Growler (SS-215)	Lost on November 8, 1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 11th war patrol, and was lost while attacking a convoy as a result of a depth charge attack
USS Corvina (SS-226)	Lost on November 16, 1943 with the loss of 82 men on her 1 st war patrol when she was sunk just south of Truk. Corvina was lost to the torpedoes from a Japanese submarine.
USS Scamp (SS-277	Lost on November 16, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay on her 8th war patrol. She may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate her and destroy her with depth charges.
USS Sculpin (SS-191)	Lost on November 19, 1943 with the loss of 43 men near Truk on her 9th war patrol. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, Sculpin continued to fight on the surface. When the captain was killed, the crew abandoned ship and scuttled Sculpin. 41 men were taken prisoner; only 21 survived the war. Among those not abandoning ship was CAPT Cromwell, aboard as a potential wolf pack commander, he rode the Sculpin down, and fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture. For this, CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

December

USS Capelin (SS-289)	Lost on or in the days prior to December 3, 1943 with the loss of 76 men on her 2nd war patrol, but her exact location in the Celebes Sea and cause of loss remain a mystery. She may have been lost to mines or an operational casualty.
USS Sealion (SS-195)	Lost on December 10, 1941 with the loss of 4 men. To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack
USS F-1 / Carp (SS-20)	Lost on December 17, 1917 with the loss of 19 men when it was sunk after collision with the USS F-3 (Pickerell) (SS-22) off San Clemente, CA. 5 men survived the collision
USS S-4 (SS-109)	Lost on December 17, 1927 with the loss of 40 and men when it was sunk after being rammed by USCG Paulding off Cape Cod near Provincetown, MA. Salvaged in 1928 and recommis?sioned

