



**the NEW
STIMSON
DRAFT!**



PRICE : ONE
JAR TOEJAM
60z.



VOL. 2026 #8

AUGUST 2026

USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER

Association Officers & Board of Directors 2025 - 2027

PRESIDENT <u>Jerry [CJ] Blevins</u>	VICE PRESIDENT <u>Paul Clark</u>	SECRETARY <u>Nick [Linda] Nichols</u>	TREASURER <u>Ken [Diane] Meigs</u>	PAST PRESIDENT <u>Tom [Marie] Krauser</u>
---	--	---	--	---

Other Positions 2023 - 2025

HISTORIAN / CUSTODIAN <u>Larry [Linda] Knutson</u>	WEBMASTER / NEWSLETTER <u>Nick [Linda] Nichols</u>	CHAPLAIN <u>Bruce [Vicki] Stefanik</u>
--	--	--

REUNION CONTROL CENTER

2027 Stimson Reunion #14

HOTEL: Hilton Garden Inn
Indianapolis South/Greenwood

DATE: Oct 6-10, 2027

LOCATION: Indianapolis IN

Reunion Committee:

Gary & Mary Owen and Doug Cooper

The hotel is undergoing a complete renovation this coming winter. They have obtained a bank of 55 reserved rooms for \$140/night with breakfast included. RV parking is permitted in the hotel parking lot.

**WATCH FOR THE REGISTRATION
FORM IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER**



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

As you can see in the Reunion Central, Gary Owen and Doug Cooper have finalized the location and dates for our 2027 Reunion. Time for us to

get serious and begin thinking about attending the 2027 Reunion.

I give my heartfelt condolences to my dear friend Paul Clark for his loss. Margaret's sudden illness and death and the many shipmates appearing on our binnacle list sadly reflects the fact that we are all getting older. It makes the past times we have had together and future plans to meet again even more important to me.

Please keep all our shipmates in your thoughts.



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

Let us think and pray for those in various parts of our country that are dealing with extreme heat. Let us give thanks for all that are safe. Being safe gives us a chance to love each other.

I will sing of your love and justice; to you, O Lord, I will sing praise. Psalm 101:1
May you and your families be blessed as we think of each other this month. //Bruce



Ship's Historian - Larry Knutson
**[MMCS(SS) B 79-81 USSVI/
 Holland Club Charleston Base]:**

Some of you
may remember
many



irreplaceable items were stolen from our storage locker back in Nov 2020. Pictures may be of items we no longer have.

Many of you still haven't asked for a copy of your check-in card. If you were on the Gold Crew during the time when Bob Weeks was the CO you had to complete a check-in card for him. If you're interested in receiving your card please mail the secretary 655webmaster@ssbn655.org.



**From The Editor & Secretary -
Nick Nichols [TM1(SS) G/SY1/B 70
-75; FTCS(SS) B COB 85-89,
Assoc Life Member, USSVI/
Holland Club Charleston Base]:**

[illegible]

On August 20, 1965 USS Henry L. Stimson SSBN-655 was Commissioned...and we all had a new home at some point in our career. My sincere and heartfelt appreciation goes to all those shipmates who brought life to the boat through the years it was active. And to those who continue to support the Stimson Association.

BRAVO ZULU to all !!!

[illegible]

Fred Melvin is listed as our only Eternal Patrol this month. He was reported by his wife, Kristal, after she checked his email box and saw the newsletters from the Stimson. She sent me some

pictures and a nice note on Fred. It is on his Memorial Page on the website and also printed at the back of this newsletter.

[illegible]

PICTURES with Names: Recently Chuck Linhart [QM1(SS) G 68-74] sent me several pictures he received from Nora Bolstad who has passed away. Her husband, Dennis Bolstad [MM3(SS) G 69-71] [Eternal Patrol March 30, 2010] took the pictures during his time onboard.

Chuck took the time last month to add names to all the pictures. When I saw the picture with the name my memory started working again. Looking at those pics it was like I was transported back to those days again. Hope it does the same for you. They are at the end of the newsletter.

[illegible]

SHARING PICTURES WITH SHIPMATES:

If anyone has pictures you would like to share with your shipmates please either email them to me or contact me and I will send you directions to upload to our Stimson Dropbox file.

655webmaster@ssbn655.org

[illegible]

SUBMARINE QUALIFICATION CARD & CERTIFICATE

In addition to the qual card page, I am now adding your qual year (if I have it) to the online Sailing List. This can be whether you qualified on the Stimson or another boat. Take a look at the list and if your qual date is missing send it to me with the qual year and command info to

655webmaster@ssbn655.org

No cards or pictures were added last month.

It would be great if any of you can send me an email with copies of your SS qual cards and pictures of getting your dolphins. Check out the

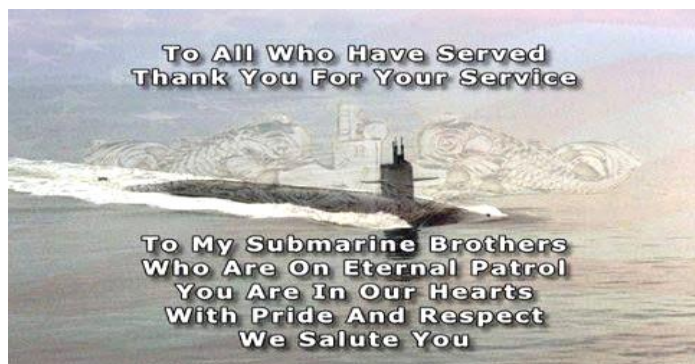
Submarines Lost During the Month of August

USS BULLHEAD (SS 332)	August 6, 1945 – 3 rd War Patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 84 SOULS
USS FLIER (SS 250)	August 13, 1944 – 2 nd War Patrol	LOST WITH 83 SOULS; 8 MEN SURVIVED
USS S-39 (SS 144)	August 14, 1942 – 3 rd War Patrol	NO LOSS OF LIFE
USS HARDER (SS 257)	August 24, 1944 – 6 th War Patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 79 SOULS
USS COCHINO (SS 345)	August 26, 1949	NO NAVY LOSS OF LIFE; ONE CIVILIAN LOSS; TUSK LOST 6 SOULS DURING THE RESCUE

FIVE Boats and 253 Men Lost

August 14, 1945 - VJ Day – Victory in the Pacific

SS Qual Card & Certificate webpage. When you find your card either scan it or take a good picture and send it to me at 655webmaster@ssbn655.org. Your name will be added to the new page with a link to your certificate. This is for all Stimson shipmates, not just the ones who qualified on the 655. No matter what boat you qualified on if you were on the Stimson send me a scan or picture and it will be



added to the website.

You can include any item related to your SS qualification: Qual Certificate; Qual card, picture receiving your dolphins; etc.

Qualification Cards of Stimson Sailors



Stimson Shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

=====

SN(SS) Fred A. 'Ted' Melvin B 72-75

Eternal Patrol 30 October 2025

=====

The direct link to the Association Eternal Patrol page is: <http://ssbn655.org/eternal-patrol/eternal-patrol.html>



WELCOME ABOARD: Found & Updated

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

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

None

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

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

=====

Margaret Clark [wife of **Paul Clark**, Association Vice President]

Cards to: 6 Birkdale Ct., E. Aiken, SC 29803

"Margaret passed away just after midnight last night (July 11). The hospice people took very good care of her. Her obit and details on visitation and funeral are on the website for Shellhouse Rivers Funeral Home in Aiken, SC."

Visitation will be Tuesday afternoon, July 14th from 2 until 4 o'clock at Shellhouse-Rivers Funeral Home

The graveside service will be Tuesday afternoon, 21st at 1 o'clock in Beaufort National Cemetery, Beaufort, SC with the Nightingale Tribute by the Nurses Honor Guard of South Carolina.

Margaret Clark Obituary Jul 10, 2026 - Shellhouse Funeral Home, Inc

=====

Timothy Breit [ETN3(SS) G 75-77]

Cards to: 500 NW Island Lake Rd Poulsbo WA 98370

5.25.26: Email from Tim: I have been diagnosed with non alcohol related cirrhosis of the liver. also suffered a dislocated shoulder. This required reverse joint replacement.

=====

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

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

7.30.26: Email from Vicki: I am cleared for my surgery but I have to wait for his scheduler to call to give me a date. If she doesn't call today I am supposed to call his office tomorrow.

He did tell me it will be at the Prisma Health Hillcrest Hospital in Simpsonville. We did look at him and ask where that is. This procedure does include one overnight but he thinks he may have me stay an extra night or 2 because of my history.

On the other part, our daughter Lynn was born in December 74 while the Stimson was still on patrol. She was 5 weeks old when you returned home. Her husband won his 5 year battle with melanoma on the 20th when he transitioned peacefully into the presence of his Savior. His memorial service will be next Tuesday so we will be back in Lawrenceville all next week.

6.18.26: Email from Vicki: I received a call yesterday from the surgeon in Greenville that the surgeon here referred me to. What he sent must have stressed how much I need what they can't do locally. They rearranged a few other patients to get me in for the appointment next Wednesday. They found when doing my knee pre-op that my large hiatal hernia had allowed my stomach to move up into my lungs. A follow up barium swallow test by my gastroenterologist confirmed that this was impeding my ability to eat so they sent me to the surgeon here. I will definitely be having surgery, just have to find out when.

=====

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

Cards to: 5914 Ruby Dr Pearland TX 77581-8926

5.7.26: Email from John: I am now home again after multiple hospital in (109) and out (21) of the last 130 days. A December 2, 2025 stroke (my second) started it off. Only the left side was affected as I received the clot busting shot right away so only minor residual affects.

Next.... I damaged my left Achilles tendon so was non-weight bearing for most of January through the middle of April. During this time, on February 23, 2026 I had a third stroke which was centered in the portion of the brain that controls my vision leaving me totally blind.

Thank The LORD!!! It has improved to the point that I have a limited kind of short-ranger tunnel vision on most days while other days I am left with shapes and shadows. Doctors say the eyes are fine, it is the Parkinson's and Stroke affecting the brain. However, it now seems that the biggest concern is the COPD and heart failure that is leaving me short of breath.

'If It's Not One Thing Its Another', Getting Older Is Not for the Faint at Heart That's for Sure! We pray that all are doing much better and can get off the Binnacle List soon. V/R, John & Susan Cole

Bye for now, Very Respectfully. John F. Cole Cdr., U. S. Navy Retired, 100% Disabled 05/12/1964 To 08/01/1994, E1-E9 & O1E-O5 Vietnam through Desert Storm

=====

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

Cards to: 2600 Eberly Street, Hatboro, PA 19040

4.17.26: Email from Elaine: Doc was admitted for the 3rd time this year on March 25 and discharged on April 7. He is on 24/7 oxygen. He continues to struggle with breathing whenever exerting any type of energy. Just going 2 or 3 feet is a struggle even with having oxygen. He is scheduled for an Ablation on May 21. This is usually an outpatient and also considered a low-risk operation. However, with Doc's weakened condition this will be high risk and also involve at least an overnight stay in the hospital with the chance he might be in for 3-5 days. Hopefully this will help with his breathing problem although the doctor only gives it a 60% chance of helping. All prayers are greatly appreciated.

=====

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

Cards to: 1537 Pebble Beach Ct Medford OR 97504

6.25.26: Email from Ken: Diane's cancer has grown a little bit from the beginning of the year to the end of May and was now found in her liver and in 1 kidney but a separate MRI brain scan did not show it being there. That it is in her kidneys and liver is the first time that it has gone beyond her lung. Her oncologist is on vacation but on July 1st, we will be meeting to determine what her treatment plan will be.

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

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

=====

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

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

NO RECENT UPDATES

12.29.25: Email from Sandy & Donna:

Dear Family and Friends,

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

Donna continues to have severe chronic back and leg nerve pain. No doctors we have seen are able to offer a reliable solution, which is depressing but, as we understand it, is not an unusual occurrence. She saw the doctor that did her EMG and he thought a spinal epidural in the "hot spot" that showed on her EMG could provide some relief. He believes this spot is causing some, if not the majority of her pain. The injection is scheduled for early February, first available appointment. She is on the wait list in case an earlier appointment comes available. As often is the case, doctors are often booked up four to eight weeks ahead and that is the case here. The other option is a spinal stimulator, which has limited effectiveness and is not strongly recommended because of the metal rods in her back. However, that remains a possibility down the road.

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

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

With love and thanks, Donna and Sandy

=====

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

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

No Recent Updates

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

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

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

=====

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

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

No Recent Updates

1.19.26: Email from Hal: Feb 15 2024 was told to see a cancer surgeon by Dr. after colonoscopy. Went to Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center in Jacksonville, FL. Oncologist said that biopsy indicated I have colon cancer of the type Goblet Cell carcinoma. A very aggressive type at stage 4. I had surgery and the tumor and 2.5 ft of my colon was removed including the appendix and 19 lymph nodes. I healed in 5 weeks and I began 2 different types of chemotherapy consisting of infusion and home chemo over a period of a year or so. CT scan indicated chemo was not working and we began Immunotherapy consisting of 2 nasty home meds and infusion. During all of this I

had various side effects from it all such shortness of breath, tiredness, water retention which caused my legs and feet to swell. the swelling caused the water circulation to stop and collected in my legs, with water blisters which broke draining liquid down my legs constantly. I am going to wound care. I was having trouble breathing and was in the hospital for that and various other things for two days. I had a ct scan while in the hospital. I was released after 2 days. I was taken off the home immunotherapy meds because my kidney functions were not good. I continued with infusion therapy 2 more times. On my last Oncologist visit about 1.5 weeks ago, The Oncologist said that the Immunotherapy was no longer working and the last CT scan was showing that the cancer was spreading and at this time no other type of treatment would be effective and they would like to switch treatment to quality of life. I was told that I have about 6 months to live. I would like you all to keep me in your prayers.

=====

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

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

No recent updates

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

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

DID YOU KNOW??

+++++

3-second tech genius: Next time a website is glitching, don't just refresh. Press **Ctrl + Shift + R** (or **Cmd + Shift + R** on Mac). This triggers a "**hard reload**," forcing the browser to ignore the cache and download a fresh version of the page code. Go to a web page and try it, so you know how to do it when you need to.

+++++

Never miss a thing on Android: Waiting on an important text? You can have your camera flash

or screen light up in a custom color when a notification comes in. Go to **Settings > Notifications > Flash Notification** and toggle on **Camera flash** or **Screen flash** (or both). Apply it on all apps or specific ones.

+++++

3-second tech genius: If your cell service drops, swipe down and turn on Airplane or Flight mode. Wait 10 seconds, then turn it back off. Your phone will reconnect to the nearest tower, which can bring your signal back from the dead. You can also turn on Airplane or Flight mode while charging in a hurry. It shuts off Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and other background connections, so your battery can fill up faster.

GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH

655 Association Website

www.ssbn655.org

USS Silversides ships off to drydock 2.45 video

For the first time in more than 50 years, Muskegon's USS Silversides is on the move.

<https://share.google/Ox2SrSXXsphHRWyb7>

USS Silversides prepares to depart for \$3.5M preservation in Wisconsin 4.30 video

The project will clean the hull, complete repairs, inspect the vessel's structure and apply protective coatings. The historic submarine will return in October.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEXDH5Hmevk&t=16s>

Send-off for USS Silversides happening Monday 3 min video

It will make a voyage to Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. (July 13, 2026)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdYAPf8aNTQ>

Moving USS Silversides 14 min video

The USS Silversides was towed from its mooring in Muskegon, Michigan, and departed for Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, where it will undergo maintenance and repairs in dry dock.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2zSqMo2PAw>

Unfinished Dream, and the Mystique of Mount Rushmore

The world-famous American icon—which almost wasn't built—will likely endure for millennia. It's a major focal point for America's 250th birthday this year.

Each year, about 2 million people flock to see the four famous faces carved into Mount Rushmore. But few visitors may be aware that a mysterious rectangular opening hides behind President Abraham Lincoln's image.

Blasted into the mountainside, that passageway is closed to the public; it's a vestige of a planned feature that was never completed.

[Read full story here](#)

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

The Real Story Behind the Star-Spangled Banner, the Flag That Inspired the National Anthem

How the flag that flew proudly over Fort McHenry in September 1814 made its way to the Smithsonian.

[The Real Story Behind the Star-Spangled Banner, the Flag That Inspired the National Anthem](#)

SEA STORIES, COMMENTS and JUST GOOD THINGS From Our Shipmates

=====



The Lean Submariner

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

<https://theleansubmariner.com/>

From the wayback machine: Submarines in 1952

By **Mister Mac** on July 6, 2026

All that was new in 1952 – Submersibles – yesterday, TODAY, TOMORROW?

Reaching back once more into the time vault, we find the Navy struggling to determine what the next step for submarine warfare will be in 1952. The successes of the Second World War were obvious. A de...

[Continue reading](#)

“Every man seen was at his station” – The tragic lass of the S-51

By **Mister Mac** on July 9, 2026

Every man seen was at his station – The tragic lass of the S-51

Caution - The descriptions are pretty graphic.

I have written about the sinking of the S-51 before but today is the hundredth anniversary of the beginning of her recovery and restoration. In their day, the U. S. submarines **S-50** and **S-51** were the latest and largest type of undersea craft, built by the Lake Torpedo Boat Company. The boats were 248 feet long and of the most modern type. They were doubled hulled, differing in many particulars from other craft of the new *S-class*. The plans on which they were built were drawn after a careful study of German U-boat construction had been made and some German practices proved in the war were adopted.

The S class boats were certainly an advance in submarine design for their day but like all early boats, they were not equipped with the types of electronic equipment that is taken for granted today. Neither was the vessel City of Rome which had the misfortune of colliding with her on that dark night.

[Continue Blog here](#)

Happy 711 Day 2026

By **Mister Mac** on July 11, 2026

There will always be that one love that defines you – Happy 711 Day

This is a love story. As someone who still

considers himself a sailor, I also consider it one of my greatest love stories. (With apologies to my beautiful wife whom I have loved for almost as long as...

[Continue reading](#)

THE TRIP TO THE SUBMARINE – Key West 1960

By Mister Mac on July 13, 2026

Field Trips are Fun

I remember as a kid we used to go to businesses on field trips to get a glimpse into what our parents and others did for a living. One year it was a bakery with all of the delicious smells you might expect. Another trip brought us to Menzie Dairy where we all got free samples. Of orange juice. I was grateful for the gift but have to admit being a bit confused why it wasn't milk.

If I remember correctly, we all got one of the paper hats the employees wore.

I was cruising through the archives the other day and saw this story in The Key West Citizen newspaper (Key West, Fla.), dated Monday February 15, 1960. In the section where school news was reported, a nice story about a recent field trip by the second-grade class got to visit a submarine. *But not just any submarine. This one was a very special submarine.*

The interesting thing about this particular submarine was that it wasn't just any submarine. I had to do some research about the boat because frankly I had never heard of this type of boat before. It was called a T-1 Boat.

[Read BLOG here](#)

Submarine Memorials

By Mister Mac on July 19, 2026

Like a phoenix rising from the waves – the sail rises once more

The phoenix is a mythical bird that derives from Greek mythology. It was described as a feathered creature of enormous size with talons and wings. The plumage was radiant and beautiful. The story goes...

[Continue reading](#)

The First American Legion and the Preparedness Day Bombing of 1916

By Mister Mac on July 22, 2026

2019 is the Centennial of the American Legion.

But did you know that there was another organization that claimed that name first? Not only that, but one of the founders of that earlier group was a Roosevelt too. Only this time, it was Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, former President of the United States of America.

That first organization was founded in the wake of the beginnings of the First World War. In August of 1914, Germany began a conflict which would soon entangle most of Europe and eventually the entire globe either directly or indirectly. This savage war was a conflict that would see the evolution of the warfare in ways no one had even dreamed possible on the day it began.

[Continue reading](#)

Hide and Seek at Sea – 1961-1962

By Mister Mac on July 18, 2026

Ever since the launch of the Nautilus, advances in nuclear propulsion helped catapult the American naval efforts ahead of the rest of the world. Adding the technology surrounding the Polaris program was critical in answering a growing Soviet land and space program. From 1961-1962, the explosive growth of the fleet meant that the United States could enjoy a comfortable lead in this new technology.

POLARIS WILL GIVE US POWER FOR PEACE

If John Philip Holland, who gave the Navy its first submarine, could see the George Washington or any of her sister Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines, he would probably stare in disbelief.

[Continue Reading....](#)



The Computer Corner

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

Voice-assisted document creation and system control on Windows 11

Greetings Shipmates, and Welcome back! This month we will look at a useful feature in Windows 11 – voice-assisted typing. Keyboards these days seem to have smaller keys that don't work smoothly with our fingers at times. And if you didn't take a typing class in high school, the

challenges are even greater. But what if you could speak to your computer and have it write down what you say? Well technology has delivered such a capability – Voice Typing in Windows 11.

There are a few things you must have to make this work. Your PC or laptop must have a microphone capability. Sometimes it is built-in and sometimes you will need an add-on microphone via a USB connection or Bluetooth (assuming your laptop or PC supports Bluetooth, otherwise a USB microphone is your only option). If your microphone is built-in to your laptop/PC, you may need to enable it in the BIOS settings for your system. Once you have the microphone hardware available it's time to get started.

It is pretty easy to set up as the following videos show:

How to Setup Your Computer for Speech to Text Dictation (Voice Typing) - Updated for WIN11

How to use Voice Typing in Windows, Microsoft 365, & Google Docs

The second video shows how to control your PC with Voice commands to launch apps, go to websites, and more. If you need an external microphone for your PC, then Amazon, Best Buy, and Walmart all offer potential solutions.

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



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

Phone Scams and information on how to avoid them

Greetings Shipmates, and welcome back! I hope your summer is going well and relaxing, and you are not being annoyed with the almost constant stream of scam calls that come to our phones.

By now we all know that we should not answer phone calls from unknown numbers. Also, numbers we expect calls from should be programmed into our phones to identify our friends

and family when they call. It's also good to program numbers in for service providers we use for our homes.

But what if the message left seems to indicate a valid call? The following article from AARP discusses a number of scam methods that arrive by phone calls that are designed to invoke a fear reaction and immediate response without considering the validity of the call more carefully:

How to Spot a Phone Scam

And here is an article about how scammers use the time of day and day of week to do their evil deeds:

Research Shows When Phone Scammers Are Most Likely to Succeed

And finally, some additional tips you may find useful from the FCC.

Stop Unwanted Robocalls and Texts

At the bottom of this webpage, be sure to look at the Related Resources link for more helpful information.

I hope you find this information useful and informative in protecting yourself from these scammers. Their use of AI to constantly change their methods will change what we know today, so staying informed is critical.

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



VETERANS AFFAIRS - RETIREE INFO - AARP

<https://www.va.gov/>
And FLEET RESERVE

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

CARDIO-VET Network Brings Cardiac Care to Rural Veterans

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of hospitalization among Veterans — and one of the top drivers of costly community care referrals. The Cardiology Access and Resources for Delivery of Integrated Outreach to Veterans Network (CARDIO-VET) is a VHA Office of Rural Health Enterprise-Wide Initiative (EWI) using a hub-and-spoke model to connect rural Veterans with expert cardiology care close to home.

By linking high-complexity VA medical centers with smaller VA facilities and community-based outpatient clinics, CARDIO-VET reduces travel burdens, keeps care within VA, and delivers better outcomes for the rural Veterans who need it most.

[Read more about the ORH CARDIO-VET Enterprise-Wide Initiative. »](#)

When to choose urgent or emergency care Don't wait for an emergency to know the difference

When you need medical care quickly, choosing the right provider can save you time, money, and stress. Learn when to choose urgent care, when to call 911 or go to the emergency room, and when to consider other types of care.

[Learn more](#)

Help for insomnia—you're not alone

Many people have trouble falling asleep, staying asleep, and/or waking up too early. VA offers many effective treatments to help you get back to healthy sleep.

[Learn more about treatments for insomnia](#)

3 tips to keep moving this summer

It can be a challenge to stay active in the summer heat. Here are 3 tips to help you keep moving safely.

[Check out our 3 tips to stay active this summer](#)

HISTORIC: VA & HHS TEAM UP ON DRUG TRIALS

Discover how **[VA and HHS are teaming up](#)** to explore whether psychedelic drugs might play a role in saving the lives of Veterans and others with serious mental illness. Learn how research,

safety, and innovation are transforming mental health care.

[Learn more](#)

SURVIVING SPOUSE BENEFITS

Learn about key benefits for surviving spouses, including financial support and caregiver programs. Find out what you may qualify for and get expert tips!

[Watch](#)

AGING HOMELESS HELP

As more Veterans age, a growing number face homelessness alongside complex health challenges. VA's Homeless Aging and Disabled Veterans Initiative combines housing, healthcare, and supportive services to ensure older, homeless, and disabled Veterans receive the support and care they've earned.

[Learn more](#)

VA burial benefits and memorial items

VA burial benefits can help service members, Veterans, and their family members plan and pay for a burial or memorial service in a VA national cemetery. Family members can also order memorial items to honor the service of a Veteran. Find out how to apply for the burial benefits you've earned, and how to plan for a burial in advance or at time of need.

On this page

[*Get Veterans burial benefits](#)

[*Plan a burial](#)

[*More information and resources](#)

[*Other VA benefits and services](#)

[Learn More](#)

Tips for Surviving a Heat Wave

Extreme heat—temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit for at least two consecutive days—can cause serious medical problems, emergencies, and even death. Heat cramps, including muscle pain or spasms, are often the first warning sign that heat is affecting the body. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke can cause heavy sweating, paleness, fatigue, lightheadedness, headache, nausea, vomiting, or fainting.

Stay Cool

- Stay indoors during peak heat, usually 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- If outside, wear loose, light clothing, use SPF 30+ sunscreen, and stay in the shade.
- Avoid hot-day exercise; schedule outdoor tasks for cooler hours.
- Drink extra water; avoid caffeine and alcohol. If overheated and unable to move, use wet cloths to cool down.

Fans may not help above 90 degrees indoors; go to an air-conditioned place, such as a library, a shopping mall, a friend's home or a designated cooling center.

[Read More...](#)

=====

VA Claims Backlog Drops Below 70,000 For First Time in Six Years

The VA's disability claims backlog fell below 70,000 this week for the first time in six years, reaching a level not seen since before the COVID-19 pandemic. VA officials said Monday that backlogged claims—those pending for 125 days or more—have dropped 74 percent since President Donald Trump took office on Jan. 20, 2025. They said 11.6 percent of pending claims are now older than 125 days, compared with 70 percent of 600,000 pending claims more than a decade ago. VA has invested millions in automated systems, including Automated Decision Support, which gathers medical records and other evidence for claims adjudicators. [Read More...](#)

=====

GET VA ANSWERS FASTER!

Need help with a VA disability claim, pension, education, benefit, or home loan? This little-known VA tool lets Veterans and family members schedule time directly with VBA staff to get answers about their benefits and claims.

[Watch](#)

=====

The 2026 hurricane season begins

June 3, 2026

Kurt M. Raushchenberg

VA Public Affairs Specialist

Picture a Veteran you know. They've ridden out storms before, but maybe they're a retiree living alone in a Gulf Coast apartment, or a disabled Veteran in the Carolinas depending on powered medical equipment. Trained for hard situations and accustomed to pushing through, they believe they are ready.

Then a Category 2 storm knocks out the power for nine days. By day four, a critical medication runs out. The pharmacy is closed. Roads are flooded. The phone battery is dead. It happens every season... not to a headline, but to real people in real homes across the Gulf Coast, the Carolinas and the mid-Atlantic. The gap between feeling prepared and being prepared is where emergencies become crises.

"It only takes one," said Assistant Secretary Reginald Neal, leading VA's Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP). "One storm. One week without power. One heat wave. That's all it takes."

[Read More...](#)

=====

Use It or Lose It: Joint Mobility

Your body needs regular movement to stay healthy. Activity strengthens muscles, keeps joints flexible, and supports independence as we age. Good ankle mobility can improve balance, while strong, flexible hips help you stay steady. It is never too late to regain some mobility lost due to age. Follow this chair-based, twelve-minute workout.

[Watch Here...](#)

=====

Hearing aids and supplies made easy Supplies and adjustments at no cost

Did you know VA provides comprehensive hearing health care with in-person and virtual options? You can even order things like batteries and cleaning supplies through VA at no cost. Untreated hearing loss can have serious impacts on your health. Find out how you can get started with hearing health care at VA.

[Learn more](#)

=====

Protect against heat stroke

Extreme heat can be dangerous for anyone. But it can be especially dangerous for those with chronic medical conditions.

[Learn what you can do and how VA can help](#)

=====

Support for caregivers

Caring for a Veteran? Let VA care for you. VA's caregiver program offers training, respite care, counseling, and financial support.

[Learn about the VA Caregiver Support Program](#)

=====

NEW VA APP FEATURES

The VA Health and Benefits app just got even better. Veterans can now view lab test results and benefits overpayment information directly in the app, making it even easier to manage health care and benefits on the go. Join the more than 4.6 million Veterans already using the VA Health and Benefits app and discover what's new.

[Learn more](#)

=====

VA Study Finds Possible New Treatment for Melanoma

As reported July 22 by Brandon Wile for Military Times, a VA research team in Madison, Wisconsin, has identified a protein that plays a central role in driving melanoma growth, finding that genetically silencing it dramatically slows how quickly the cancer spreads and survives. The findings, published in the journal *Cancers* in February 2026, open a potentially new treatment pathway for one of the most aggressive and treatment-resistant forms of skin cancer — and one that carries specific relevance for veterans. Melanoma is a presumptive condition under the PACT Act for veterans with qualifying toxic exposure during military service.

[Read More...](#)

=====

VA Warns Vets About Free Shoe Scam; Confirms Real Benefit

As Adam Gramegna reports on July 20 for *Military Times*, a VA-branded graphic promising veterans free athletic shoes has circulated online since June. The VA later posted the image with a red “scam” stamp. The notice said scammers were using the offer to collect personal information and warned veterans not to respond. What the advisory did not explain is why the fake offer works so well: the underlying benefit is real. The VA provides medically necessary therapeutic footwear and in-shoe orthoses to eligible veterans under VHA Directive 1173.9. Eligibility may include a high foot risk score, amputation, or mismatched sizing after limb loss. Related programs, including Prevention of Amputation in Veterans Everywhere for patients with diabetes or vascular disease, may reinforce the misconception that free shoes are broadly available.

[Read More...](#)

US Navy Fears Ballistic Missile Subs Can Be Hit By Drones, Anti-Tank Rockets

(NAVY TIMES 07 JULY 26) ... Michael Peck

When hidden deep in the vastness of the ocean, America’s ballistic missile subs are practically invulnerable.

But berthed in port — or sailing on the surface while transiting to and from port — these powerful yet fragile boats can be sitting ducks for drones, mines and even anti-tank rockets.

What once seemed the plot of thriller novels has become reality. Ukraine claims it successfully used an underwater drone to damage a Russian submarine in the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk last year. Guerrillas and terrorists lurking along a waterway could use anti-tank guided missiles or handheld anti-tank rockets to ambush an unwary sub.

To face the new threat, the U.S. Navy is looking to develop better methods of protecting its missile subs, as well as the shore installations that support them.

These defenses include “prototype technologies to detect, track, identify, deny, and defeat unmanned systems across all domains,” according to a Sources Sought announcement. “This area seeks scalable solutions for shore-based installations and afloat operations in Port, Harbor, Littoral, and Waterways (PHLW) and open ocean environments.”

The Navy is also searching for ways to escort and protect its missile subs as they transit to and from port.

The goal is to “ensure the zero-failure secure movement of strategic maritime assets,” the announcement said. “This area seeks advanced maritime situational awareness, physical security enhancements for escorting SSBNs [nuclear missile subs], and the detection, avoidance, and mitigation of maritime mines, and the defeat of direct-fire kinetic threats (e.g., shore-launched ATGMs/RPGs) during transit through PHLW to and from dive points.”

The threat of anti-tank weapons even extends to the truck convoys hauling ICBMs to sub bases. The Navy is interested in active protection systems — sensors and shotgun-like launchers mounted on armored vehicles to destroy incoming

anti-tank rockets — “for ground transport and convoy operations of strategic weapons and equipment.”

Other security items in the Sources Sought announcement, which lists 22 “focus areas” that the Navy’s Strategic Systems Program wants to address, include sensors to protect harbors. The Navy is also interested in security robots, including “Unmanned Surface Vehicles (USVs) for waterside patrol, Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGVs) for perimeter screening, and robotic inspection platforms that seamlessly integrate with existing response forces.”

Artificial intelligence has also emerged as a threat in the form of drone swarms or cyberwarfare.

The Navy is searching for countermeasures that “focus on defeating autonomous swarms, disrupting AI-enabled Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) directed at nuclear facilities, and hardening strategic security networks against AI-driven cyber-physical attacks or spoofing.”

The best defense for submarines is simply not to be detected in the first place. To that point, the Navy is seeking “prototype technologies that may mitigate the generation, radiation, propagation, and scatter of a variety of signal types (acoustic, chemical, optical, electromagnetic, radiological, hydrodynamic, and cyber) associated with submarine and unmanned system operations, to include both peacetime and wartime operations.”

<https://www.navytimes.com/industry/techwatch/2026/07/07/us-navy-fears-ballistic-missile-subs-can-be-hit-by-drones-anti-tank-rockets/>

The New Generation Of US Submarine Workers Wants More Work-Life Balance And Isn't Afraid To Leave A Job, Navy Workforce Official Says

(BUSINESS INSIDER 30 JUNE 26) ... Chris Panella

US shipbuilders are trying to bring younger workers into their yards, and that means adapting to a generation with different expectations and a willingness to walk away if the job isn't the right fit.

The priorities of younger workers are prompting changes in how the US Navy's Submarine Industrial Base Program Office, alongside federal

and local partners, approaches recruiting. While there are no overnight fixes to a problem that's been growing for decades, progress is being made on meeting workers where they're at and recognizing gaps.

Over the next 10 years, the Navy estimates it will need to hire 250,000 skilled workers to meet its shipbuilding goals. The hiring also accounts for potential attrition, including the retirement of older workers. About 27% of the US maritime workforce is over 55 years old.

Erica Logan, deputy director for workforce at the office, said that the program office and its partners are trying to attract a new generation of workers who see shipbuilding as a stable, long-term career, which means paying closer attention to what younger employees value.

"When I look at what the younger worker is attracted to, I think of work-life balance, I think of flexible schedules, I think of this mentality where you don't want to take a lot of work home with you, right?" Logan said, adding that a strong starting wage, financial stability, and a good company culture are also important.

Some of those expectations can fit naturally with submarine construction and repair. Workers may have set shifts on a "four-on, three-off" schedule, giving them more predictable time away from the job, for example.

Younger workers also appear to be seeking greater control over how work fits into their lives. Logan pointed to gig jobs like driving for Uber or Lyft as examples of work that can appeal to people who value flexibility, even if it does not offer the same stability as a shipyard career.

"We actually had a campaign on careers built to last that addressed this sort of gig economy," she said. The campaign asked: "Why have five jobs when you can have one good job at the shipyard?"

But the program office and the broader submarine supply chain also recognize a challenge in recruiting for trade jobs. The work is hard and physically demanding. Logan said younger workers need "a realistic job preview" before they sign on.

"We don't want to be disingenuous," she said.

Yard work can expose workers to tough conditions and laborious work with heavy materials, tools, and extreme temperatures.

Younger workers who leave jobs quickly after being hired often find the conditions were different from what they expected. These younger employees are generally more willing to leave their positions after only a few years if pay isn't competitive or if there's a better quality of life elsewhere.

But the recruiting environment remains ripe, especially for people interested in the technology and mission, Logan said. "I think some young people would really be passionate about this mission, this national security imperative," she added.

There are pipelines to move recent high school graduates directly into trade training, but Logan said these jobs appear to have particular appeal for workers in their early to mid-20s — people who may have tried gig work and are looking for something more permanent, better paying, and more stable, including benefits like reliable health insurance.

Workforce issues have been one element of the Navy's larger shipbuilding problems. In recent years, the sea service has been pushing to revitalize its industrial base and get major programs back on track and budget, but many of these issues trace back decades and will take time and investments to fix.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/young-us-submarine-workers-want-balance-arent-afraid-leave-jobs-2026-6>

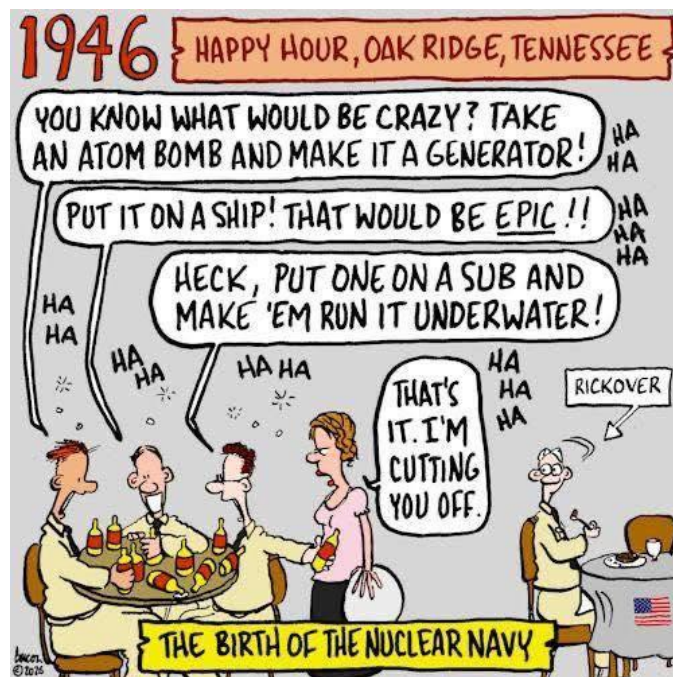
U.S. Nuclear Attack Submarines Can Now Serve as Motherships For Underwater Drone Fleets with New Launch and Recovery System Military Watch Magazine Editorial Staff **July-11th-2026**

The U.S. Navy has improved the capabilities of its attack submarines to conduct reconnaissance, mine warfare and seabed operations with the introduction of the new Iver4 900 autonomous underwater vehicle and the Torpedo Tube Launch and Recovery (TTLR) system into limited service. The new system allows submarines not only to launch drones through their 21-inch torpedo tubes, but also to recover them afterwards while remaining submerged. The ability to repeatedly launch and retrieve an autonomous underwater vehicle from a submerged submarine without requiring the submarine to surface is entirely

unprecedented, and significantly expands the underwater fleet's reconnaissance capabilities and allowing ships to preserve their stealth.

The introduction of the new recovery capability is arguably more significant than recent advances in the capabilities of new submarine-launched underwater drones. For well over a century, virtually every weapon or payload fired from a submarine torpedo tube - whether a torpedo, cruise missile, mine or decoy - has been designed as a one-way system. Recovering a vehicle after launch has presented a far greater technical challenge than launching it. The TTLR system overcomes this by enclosing the drone within a removable launch-and-recovery sleeve inserted into a standard torpedo tube, allowing submarines to effectively operate as underwater drone motherships.

[Read Article Here](#)



Michael Stracke, Stan Penning, Ray Kreul

Pictures & Captions from Chuck Linhart



655 QMs 1970-Chuck Linhart, Steve Ball, QMC
Claude Owens, Warren Fillius, NAV Fred (Gus)
Gustavson



William Vidulich, Captain Smith, Viculich Mom



Rusty Harding?



Rusty Harding



William R. Warren, Denny Bolstad, Dennis Varell,
Sam Anderson



Chief Stumpy



Alan 'Chip' Paulding, Gerard



Bob Barker



Dan Neil



Danny Neil



Denny Bolstad



John 'Papa' Pessoney



Denny Bolstad, Richard Key

From Kristal Melvin, LTC (Ret) USA

I am Kristal Melvin, spouse of Frederick Melvin III. He died 30 October 2025, so this email is not being monitored. Please add my email to your list as it is a way to keep in touch with the submarine part of his legacy.

He was a sonarman and also drove the boat during most drills. He was still only 17 when he first went aboard and he got in trouble often. CDR Knight was the XO, I believe, and taught him self-hypnosis to deal with stress. That skill helped him deal with all the pain he experienced years later when his skeleton in general and his spine in particular started to fall apart from the radiation exposure. He had the Nasal Irradiation treatment to his sinuses in Rota, Spain in 1973 and the radiation was too much.

I don't have an obituary, because he didn't want anything like that, just a simple cremation and scattering of ashes by family and friends in places that had meaning to him.

I will look for some photos of him to send you, but I think everyone who served at that time has seen at least one picture of him. The photo of the Stimson underway shows him clearly standing on the starboard plane with an orange lifejacket almost as big as he was. He remembered being yelled at by the Captain at the time for pointing out the airplane without giving bearings.

I have not found any other photos to share yet, but this is the one I was talking about before. That's him at about age 18 on the left side of picture. Somewhere I have a picture taken of him

in the garbage shooting room, with a Playboy magazine. Those are the only photos of his submarine service.

I am also attaching a photo of him gold dredging in the hills of western NC in the early 1980s. That was a favorite hobby between boat projects, and 2 of our 3 sons carry on that tradition in the mountains of Idaho to this day.

In later years, as he became too disabled to get around without a wheelchair, he continued to work on boats. The last photo was taken in late 2024 or early 2025, as he repaired his final boat, a power Catamaran.

In between those 2 photos, he worked as a commercial fisherman, earned Bachelor and Masters degrees from Western Carolina University, worked as a Field Engineer, then became a teacher (his true calling) at College, High School and Middle School levels. He loved teaching middle school and probably would have continued for many more years, but his disabilities became too much of a burden in 2006, and he was forced to take an early retirement.

Thank you for asking me about my hubby, Kristal



The Makin Island Raid on 17Aug42

This was the first time an amphibious attack was launched, by the U.S., exclusively from submarines. The USS Argonaut (SS-166) and USS Nautilus (SS-168) delivered 222 U.S. Marine Raiders to the shores of Makin Atoll.

The main goals of the Raiders were to destroy installations, take prisoners, and depart. The primary operational goal was to force the Japanese to divert forces to protect other isolated islands, and provide positive propaganda for U.S. citizens.

Heavy seas and strong surf made both the landing and retrieval very difficult. The high surfs swamped and flipped the rubber boats used to move men and equipment. Men and equipment were lost before reaching shore. When the Marines tried to leave the island, the outboard engines did not work and attempting to paddle the boats through the surf quickly exhausted the Marines.

The Marines contacted the subs and arranged for a successful pickup on the opposite side of the island. The toll was 18 dead and 12 missing. It was determined after the war that 9 of the missing were captured and beheaded by the Japanese.

Lessons learned included that significantly more live drills with actual equipment and people under realistic conditions were necessary to evaluate method, skills, and equipment for amphibious landings.

The **NAUTILUS** and **ARGONAUT** were designed as minelayers.

NAUTILUS was laid down on 02Aug27 at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. She was launched on 15Mar30 and commissioned on 01Jul30.

The V-class submarines were originally equipped with highly unreliable MAN diesels for main propulsion. One source described them as “capricious, even finicky, vibrating much, and had dangerous crankcase explosions.”

Fortunately, these engines were replaced with 6,000-hp Fairbank-Morse diesels just before WWII. The subs also had two 450-hp diesel generators for charging batteries. They had a maximum speed of 17.5 knots (kt) surface and 8-kt submerged. The subs were capable of traveling 18,000-miles, at 10-kt, on 732-tons of fuel.



January 2026

Dear Friends,

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

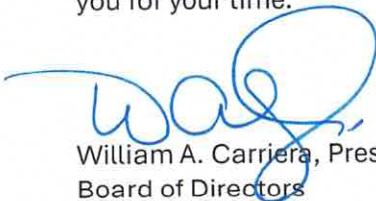
In the early 90's a group of citizens led by Sheila McNeill and John Crouse, community leaders, retired military folks, elected officials and base leadership banded together for a common goal and fantastic vision of establishing what we have today. This has been an amazing 30-year partnership between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

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

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

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

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



William A. Carriera, President
Board of Directors



Brenda Spencer, Chairperson
Capital Campaign Committee



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



SUBMARINE MUSEUM ST. MARYS, GA. CONCEPT SKETCH



BECOME A PART OF HISTORY HERE IN ST. MARYS!

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

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONATION FORM

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

DONATION LEVELS

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



Turtle - \$100

\$ _____.



WWII Fleet Boat - \$500

\$ _____.



USS NAUTILUS - \$1000

\$ _____.



USS VIRGINIA - \$5000

\$ _____.



USS DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - \$10,000

\$ _____.

Other Amount:

\$ _____.

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

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

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



2026 National Convention Update

Shipmates,

The 2026 convention is 6 short weeks away. Registrations wrap up on Aug 20th. Please note that last-minute walk-ins to the various luncheons and Banquet will likely not be possible. Make sure you have registered for everything you want to attend. If you want to add anything to your registration, please email the convention chairman with your desires. We have had overwhelming support from local vendors and many bases with our souvenir program, and it is full, but we will take last-minute adds up until Monday, July 27th. Our guest speakers and entertainers are set, and much of that info is on the webpage subvetconvention.org, but here are some details:

Welcome Aboard Party - Band, The ChillBillies 70/80/90 country and rock covers, food, think Labor Day picnic, and cash bar. Attendees will receive an event shot glass or tumbler.

Holland Club Luncheon - Open to all, and we have WWII Subvet Bill Dillon scheduled to speak along with author Stephen Moore. A few Holland Club Inductions also. This will be a special event.

Halfway Night Party - Musician Randy Mattson and Comedian Steve Mazan (both Subvets) along with an ice cream social and cash bar. Attendees will receive an event shot glass or tumbler.

Luncheon on Thursday - Guest Speaker Capt. Roncska, former skipper of the USS Texas and carried the nuclear football for George Bush. Gives a great talk on leadership and motivation.

Tolling Ceremony onboard USS Lexington - Will be a special BBQ on Lex - This is a fundraiser for the USS City of Corpus Christi Sail project.

Awards Ceremony - VADM Gaucher and his wife Rene Gaucher are our scheduled speakers. Each attendee will also receive a 15oz. white ceramic coffee mug)

Attendance at all these events will also allow for possible winning of door prizes, everything from books, hats, gift certificates, bottles of various spirits, and even a helicopter ride.

Come join us in Corpus Christi! Sign up for the events and plan for a great time! 50/50 is approaching \$1500 too!

Respectfully,
Rick Mitchell,
2026 Convention Co-Chair
Rick.USSVI@gmail.com