



April/May 2024  
VOL MMXXIV Issue 03

# Clear The Baffles

## GOLD COUNTRY BASE



Overall 2023  
First Place

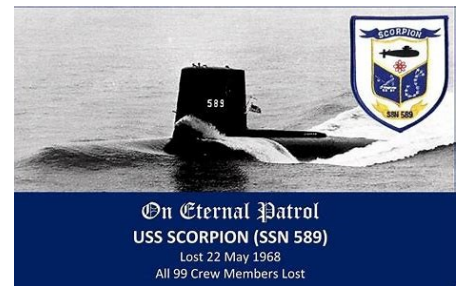
*Our purpose is "Perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.*



**Dog's, Cadet's, Cop's, Taekwondo, Hamburgers, Hotdogs and more side dishes then we could eat. All in all the best Gold Country Base Barbecue we have ever had.**



# We Honor We Remember



### Inside

- Page 2- Commander's Corner
- Page 3-5 Officers Country
- Page 6- Base & National Officers
- Page 7- Lost Boats - March
- Page 8- Birthdays, Lighter Side,
- Page 9- Booster Club, Vets Information
- Page 10- SubVet Check-in
- Page 11-14 Gold Country Base News
- Page 15- Upcoming Events
- Page 16- Regional & National News
- Page 17- Story From The Crew
- Page 18-20 Story of Interest USS Darter
- Page 21-23 Story of Interest Buffalo, NY
- Page 24-25 Featured Boat
- Page 26 WW II Submarine News
- Page 27- US Navy Submarine News
- Page 28- Support Base Members Business



### Now Hear This!

**Next Meeting—June 22, 2024** Potluck @ 12 noon  
Meeting Starts 1pm Folsom Veterans Hall -1300 Forrest St., Folsom

**First Call to Morning Chow Tuesday June 11, 2024**  
**0930 @ Denny's Restaurant, 100 North Sunrise, Roseville**

## COMMANDER'S CORNER



**Shipmates,** Wow, what a great annual picnic with our Sea Cadets and their families. How much fun it was watching 100+ kids and others enjoying the beautiful weather and great entertainment. The Taekwondo demonstration was pure perfection and filled with skills and trills. The talent of the students was performed with quick precision and demonstrated their hard work. Thank you, Nicholas Sadowy, for arranging that great demonstration of the skills. Next came the Folsom K-9 unit and CHP K-9 unit. The control of K9 units was hugely enjoyable and gave us a better insight of how much these K9 units were utilized. Thank you, Chad Clay, for your hard work and follow up to arrange the visits by both K9 units. The demanding work of all the members that cooked the burgers and hot dogs allowed the Sea Cadets to get filled up. I do not think any of our guests went away hungry. Thanks to all our ladies that worked so hard to get the food tables prepared and refilled as the day went on. This had to be one of the best family events we have had in the past few years.

We will have a busy summer of parades and visits so plan your schedule.

I have listed our events that we have plugged into our 2024 calendar:

- Bass Pro Day – May 25 – 10am to 2pm – CONFIRMED.
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Lincoln – times to be announced when available.
- California State Fair – Wednesday July 24.
- Lost Boats memorial celebration –
- National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio – August 19 – 24
- Holiday Party – Possible at Officer's Club at McClellan air base  
December 11, 12, or 13.

**Les Jamison, Base Commander**



# Vice-COMMANDER

## Folsom JVO



The Folsom VFW Post Chaplin, Sean Montcalieri has been selected as the VFW National Chaplin of the Year because of his outstanding service to the community Veterans. Gold Country Base issued a Bravo Zulu to Chaplin Sean.



The Elk Grove-Laguna American Legion Post 55 is having a Career and Resource Fair on June 18, from 10:00 to 2:00 in Elk Grove. There will be a BBG lunch as well. This is free outdoor event.



## SubVet Check-In

I spoke with Larry Williams. His wife Diana is still in the care home and Larry tries to spend every day with her. Larry is always very happy and grateful to hear from me or anyone from the base. I encourage calls to him.

Our Chaplin Howard Grover deserves a good word as he not only calls shipmates, he visits them as well.

Another person who deserves a "Well Done" is Les who picks up Jack and Pat Everett and brings them to our events.

Howard and Les are great examples of what "Shipmate" means. Great job Howard and Les.

## **Mark Elftmann , Vice Commander**



A recent example is the recent Universities Student and Staff protests.

A question to think about. Can knowledge be trueful if there is little or no wisdom?

## **Proverbs 1:1-7 New Living Translation**

These are the proverbs of Solomon, David's son king of Israel. Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise. These proverbs will give insights to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young. Let the wise listen to the proverbs and become even wiser. Let those with understanding receive guidance by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and parables, the words of the wise and their riddles. **Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge.**



**Blessing to all, Base Chaplain, Howard Grover**

# OFFICER'S COUNTRY



## Hello and greeting Shipmates,

As we come into the end of May and begin are summer run we are starting to get busy with events, parades and are normal social activities together. I look forward to these events and getting together with all of you. If there's anything I can do to help with anything, please reach out to me and I would be happy to assist. I look forward to seeing all of you soon.

**Gene Ratto, (COB) Chief of the Boat**



Shipmates, At our outdoor gathering in April, the SubVets enjoyed a beautiful day with the Sea Cadets, their families and leaders. As the Scouting Award Program Chairman, on behalf of the base, I had the pleasure of presenting a check for \$500.00 to the Sea Cadets. On another note, the scouting program in the United States is going through some significant changes and unification. For the first time in its 114-

year history, the organizations' name change will be known as "Scouting in America." At this time, it is not anticipated that USSVI will be impacted by any changes in our scouting activities. The USSVI Awards Recognition Program embraces all organized scouting groups in the United States.

**Gill Miller Eagle Scout Coordinator**



## Hello Ladies,

This year is moving very quickly. We have been remarkably busy working on the plans for the holiday celebration. I will have the final plans by the next newsletter.

We are looking for a community project that we can support and attach our name to. If you have any ideas, please bring them to our luncheon or to the general meeting. Listed below are several suggested project examples:

- Food drive
- Collect sundries for the Blue Star Moms
- Easter baskets
- Support Toys for Tots
- School supplies drive

You can also e-mail me at [Pjamison1050@gmail.com](mailto:Pjamison1050@gmail.com) or call me at 352-598-9611.

Parade season has started. The weather is getting warmer. Let us make sure our vets are prepared. Make sure your vet has a water bottle, snacks for Diabetics, hats to keep their heads cool, and sunscreen.

Next Committee meeting on June 8 at the Red Lobster in Citrus Heights at 11am,

Be Safe, **Penny Jamison, Chairperson Gold Country Base Wives Support Group**



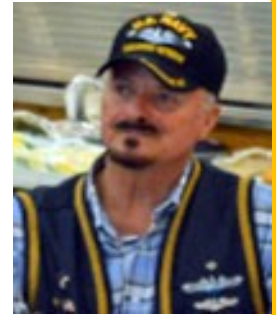


# OFFICER'S COUNTRY

## Historian



**Shipmates,** I've continued updating the MS Excel documents for "Gold Country Base Officer & Appointed History, Positions". However, my computer became infected and crashed several days ago and I had to bring it into Best Buy Geek Squad to salvage whatever I could. Some of my files were corrupted and were unrecoverable. So, this setback has negatively affected my progress.



I have already printed a copy of all our Gold Country Base Officers lists from each of our "Clear The Baffles" newsletters along with taking note of the dates when transitions of various positions took place. This week I'll be connecting and working with our Webmaster, Ed McCarthy to start out with an uncorrupted original file and then make the necessary entries into the MS Excell document. I hope to have this all completed by the end of May.

## Photographer



As the Gold Country Base Photographer, I continue to attend as many Gold Country Base events as I am able to. It was fun for me to attend Gold Country Base Meeting & Picnic on April 28<sup>th</sup> with all of the younger people attending from the Navy JROTC and from Nick Shadowy's Tai Quan Do Karate class. I enjoy taking photos, so I took over 200 photos at that event, but edited it down considerably before I delivered the flash drive to Barry Wyatt at the Gold Country Base 1st Call to Morning Chow on May 14<sup>th</sup>. I'm looking forward to attending the Bass Pro Day event next Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Roger Paul, Historian / Photographer**

## Newsletter Editor



**Shipmates,** my goal with our newsletter is to make sure that it's published every two months and get it out before the end of the month. Well, I made it, May ends at midnight. Once again I want to sing the praises of our Shipmate Roger Paul. Almost every picture in this edition was taken by him. His efforts make our Newsletter come alive. **Thank you Roger.** This is your newsletter, and your contributions



make it better for everyone. I hope you take the time to read the back story about the USS Harder (SS-257) and one of her crew from Buffalo, NY

**Barry Wyatt, Newsletter Editor/ PAO**

# Gold Country Base Officers



**Base Commander**  
**Kaps4Kids Coordinator**  
**Les Jamison**

Qualified 1969  
USS Greenfish SS 351  
Holland Club

(407) 509-7814

[basecommander@goldcountrybase.com](mailto:basecommander@goldcountrybase.com)



**Vice Commander**  
**Awards Chairman**  
**Folsom JVO Rep.**

**Mark Eftmann**

Qualified 1975

USS William H Bates SSN 680

(916) 243-9265



**Base Secretary**  
**Diana Clay**  
**Associate Member**

(916) 832-0936

[dianac5353@gmail.com](mailto:dianac5353@gmail.com)



**Base Treasurer**  
**Membership Chair**  
**Nick Sadowy**

Qualified 1991  
USS Sturgeon SSN 637

(916) 601-8910 [nick@sadowy.com](mailto:nick@sadowy.com)



**Chief of the Boat (COB)**  
**Gene Ratto**

Qualified 1978

USS Abraham Lincoln  
SSBN 602

(279) 600-9400

[gene\\_ratto1@comcast.net](mailto:gene_ratto1@comcast.net)



**Base Chaplain**  
**Howard Grover**

Qualified 1963  
USS Spikefish SS 404  
Life Member  
Holland Club

(209) 245-4067 [hgrover@jps.net](mailto:hgrover@jps.net)



**Base Photographer**  
**Base Historian**  
**Roger Paul**

Qualified 1972  
USS Haddock SSN 621

(916) 390-3569 [rapaulplus@msn.com](mailto:rapaulplus@msn.com)



**Newsletter Editor/PAO**  
**J. Barry Wyatt**

Qualified 1965

USS Henry Clay SSBN 625  
Life Member Holland Club

(916) 600-1425

[SacSubVet@barrywyatt.com](mailto:SacSubVet@barrywyatt.com)



**Holland Club**  
**Commander**  
**Lenard Lee**

Qualified 1961  
USS Salmon SS-573

Life Member Holland Club

(510) 928-8500 [Len@trawlers.com](mailto:Len@trawlers.com)



**Eagle Scout**  
**Coordinator**  
**Gil Miller**

Qualified 1963  
USS Becuna SS 319  
Life Member Holland Club

(916) 365-6721

[gemcap646@ranchomurieta.org](mailto:gemcap646@ranchomurieta.org)



**Guest Speakers**  
**Coordinator**  
**Naval Youth Liaison**  
**Chad Clay**

Qualified 1965

USS Daniel Boone SSBN 629  
Life Member Holland Club

(916) 502-1623 [chdclay@gmail.com](mailto:chdclay@gmail.com)



**Sub Float Manager**  
**John Kelly**

Qualified 1976  
USS Pogy (SSN-647)  
Life Member

(916) 989-8500

[thejbark@gmail.com](mailto:thejbark@gmail.com)



**Storekeeper**  
**Jerry Wentland**  
U.S. Army

Associate Member

(530) 613-6729

[nwentland@att.net](mailto:nwentland@att.net)



**First Call to Morning**  
**Chow Coordinator**  
**Harold Fisher**

Qualified 1965

USS Medregal AGSS 480  
Life Member Holland Club

(916) 782-5748 [navigator@surewest.net](mailto:navigator@surewest.net)



**SubVet Support**  
**Group Commander**  
**Penny Jamison**

Associate Member

(352) 598-9611

[pjamison1050@gmail.com](mailto:pjamison1050@gmail.com)



**Web Master**  
**Events Coordinator**  
**Ed McCarthy**

Qualified 1983  
USS Bergall SSN-667

Life Member (916) 995-5196

[eddie105@yahoo.com](mailto:eddie105@yahoo.com)



**USSVI District 5**  
**Commander**  
**Tim Carlisle**

Qualified 1983

USS Sea Devil SSN 664  
Life Member

(925) 812-4239

[timcarlisle00@hotmail.com](mailto:timcarlisle00@hotmail.com)



**USSVI Western**  
**Region Director**  
**Pete Juhos**

Qualified 1980  
USS Bergall SSN 667  
Life Member

(916) 208-0667 [dsv3.ss@gmail.com](mailto:dsv3.ss@gmail.com)

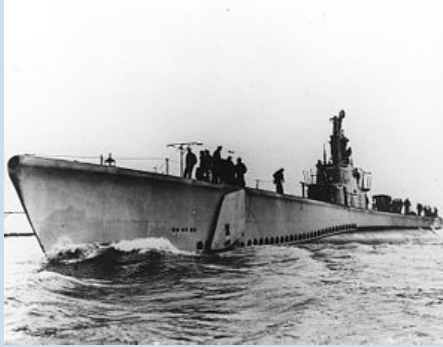


# Lost Boats

## May

### USS Lagarto (SS-371)

Lost on May 3, 1945 with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. On her 2nd war patrol, she is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk by the USS Hawk-bill (SS-366) 2 weeks later.



### USS Scorpion (SSN-589)

USS Scorpion (SSN-589) was returning to Norfolk, VA. from a Mediterranean deployment. On May 22, 1968 she reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Scorpion was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined. 99 officers and men were lost.



### USS Squalus (SS-192)

On May 23, 1939 USS Squalus suffered a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. Partially flooded, the submarine sank to the bottom and came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR-2) rescued 33 survivors use the diving bell he invented. 26 men drowned in the after compartments. Later Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish. In an ironic turn of fate, Sailfish sank the Japanese aircraft carrier carrying surviving crew mem-



### USS Stickleback (SS-415)

Lost on May 28, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while under tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to sinking.



# Birthdays

April

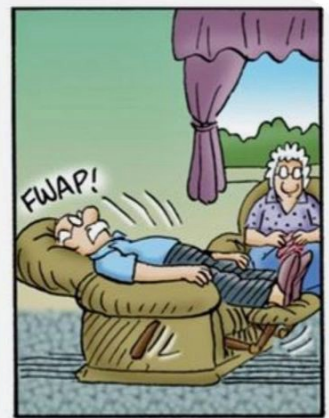
Ken Earls Harold Fisher Alvin Lehman

May

John Kelly Jim MacLean



# On The Lighter Side







Gold Country Base would not be able to continue to operate without the generous contribution from those Members, Wives and Friends who donate to

## Gold Country Base Booster's

*Ed Alves\* Janet Alves\* Bill Barron\**

*Jerry Bowers\* Richard Brasher Regy Bronner\**

*Anita Bronner\* John Clark\* Dennis Cline\**

*Mike Delleney\* Mark Elftmann\**

*Glynis Elftmann Frank Elliott\* Ken Earls\**

*Kevin Fillhouer Howard Grover\**

*Dennis Henderson\* Bill Hunt\* Les Jamison*

*Penny Jamison Pete Juhos\* Debbie Juhos\**

*Alvin Lehman\* Matt Lettau\* James MacLean\**

*John Mannix George Miyao\* Tom Moniz\**

*Alan More Ed Myers Harry Pagett\**

*Roger Paul\* Gene Ratto\* Elvin Ritscher*

*Gary Robinson Nick Sadowy Louie Slayton\**

*William Sugnet Jarry Wentland*

*Barry Wyatt\**

*\* Multi-Year Donors*

## VA Information

### You or a Loved One Can Become Part of the California Veterans Memorial

The California Veterans Registry is a permanent record of all California Veterans, past and present, who have served our nation since statehood was established in 1850. Whether cook or fighter pilot, mechanic or chief of staff, this memorial will honor them all, and forever immortalize the contributions that California veterans have made to their nation.

Each California veteran is entitled to the basic information of name, rank and branch of service. To create a truly living memorial, California veterans are encouraged to expand on the basic information by contributing to the enhanced registry.

#### The Enhanced Registry

California veterans can be truly immortalized by including a photograph (preferably in military uniform) for a donation of \$35 and/or a 100-word statement for a donation of \$15. Any veteran who considers California to be their home is eligible to participate.

There are other memorials in California, but none that represent all who have served, whether in peacetime or during war, and from all branches of military service.

The California Veterans Memorial was built with money raised solely through private contributions such as your donation to the enhanced registry. The memorial receives no state money for this project. Your financial support will go directly to the memorial fund.

Enroll today! <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/CVRRegister.aspx>

# Gold Country Base SubVet Check-In

*Several of our Shipmates are unable to attend monthly meeting or participate in the events. Both of the men below gave there all to our base. Please take the time to give them a call or a visit. Let them know we are grateful for there service and miss seeing them. Also Some of our members have no way to get to a Base Meeting or First Call. If you would be willing to give them a ride and follow the example set by our Base Commander contact Mark (916) 243-9265*

## Reginald "Regybear" Bronner

Regy joined USSVI in 1998 and is a Life and Holland Club member. He is a Plank Owner of Gold Country Base. He served as Base Vice Commander from 2016 through 2020.



Regy is residing at Atria Rocklin 3201 Santa Fe Way, Rocklin CA 95765 (916) 435-8281.  
Best time to visit or call Regy is early afternoon.

Regy Bronner SOG3 (SS) and his wife Anita

## Larry Williams

Larry joined USSVI in 2012 and is a Life and Holland Club member. He is a Plank Owner of Gold Country Base. He served as Base Treasurer from 2013 through 2016.



Larry Williams IC2 (SS) and his wife Diana.

Larry lives at home 1630 Pheasant Run Dr. Placerville, CA 95667 (530) 435-8281.  
Best time to call or visit Larry is early afternoon.

**Need a ride to a Meeting of First Call contact Mark (916) 243-9265 and he will set it up.**





# Gold Country Base News

**Tim Spoon**

**Achievement Award 2023**

**John Kelly**

John joined the Navy in 1974 and qualified on the USS Pogy (SSN-647) in 1976. He was discharged as a Machinist Mate First Class in 1980. He joined the USSVI and became a Life Member at our base in 2003. John is plank owner of the Gold Country Base. After the completion of the construction of our parade float in 2015, we began a search to find safe storage for it. John stepped up with an offer to construct a building that



*Base Commander Les Jamison present the 2023  
Tim Spoon Award to shipmate John Kelly*

would serve as our permanent dry dock on his property in Orangevale. From that point forward, it was full speed ahead. John laid out the design, produced a materials list, framed, and poured the stem walls and then recruited shipmates to help pour the slab. Throughout the project John gave us countless hours of his labor and personally donated much of the needed supplies. He also used his construction connections to get us donations and discounts on the building materials which saved the base hundreds of dollars.

The USS Gold Country Dry Dock was completed in August 2015. Since that time, it not only housed our float but also served as a storage facility for Gold Country Base supplies and event items all kept in good order by John. Also, since that time John has served as a caretaker/engineer for our float. On a continuous basis he has made the repairs and improvements (too many to list) when needed. Prior to a parade or public showing he puts in the time and effort to make sure the float is ship-shape.

This year John began an effort to redesign and construct new plaque frames for our December 7th display. John Kelly is a shipmate that continues to support Gold Country Base by his presence and work ethic. He definitely meets the criteria set for the Tim Spoon Achievement Award and is more than deserving of having his name added to the perennial plaque next to the other honored shipmates that have come before.

# Gold Country Base News

## March Base Meeting



VFW members present to joint banner to be used in the parades and other events

**Guest Speakers, Ross McKee, flight paramedic and Jeremy Farfan helicopter pilot at REACH, a medical emergency and air ambulance service are greeted by Speaker Coordinator Chad Clay**



District Director Pete Juhos helps a new member complete the USSVI application



# Gold Country Base News

## Base Annual Barbecue

Scout Coordinator Gil Miller & Commander Les Jamison present the Base \$500 contribution to the Sea Cadet's





## Gold Country Memorial Brick Project

Gold Country Base was originally chartered by USSVI as “USS Holland (SS1) Gold Country Base” in September or October of 2000 and was re-chartered “Gold Country Base” in 2014. During our almost 24 years we have lost a total of 65 Members to Eternal Patrol.

At the eBoard meeting held on May 18th a motion to create a project to raise the funds to purchase a brick at the Mather Veterans Memorial for each of those member. That motion received unanimous approval.

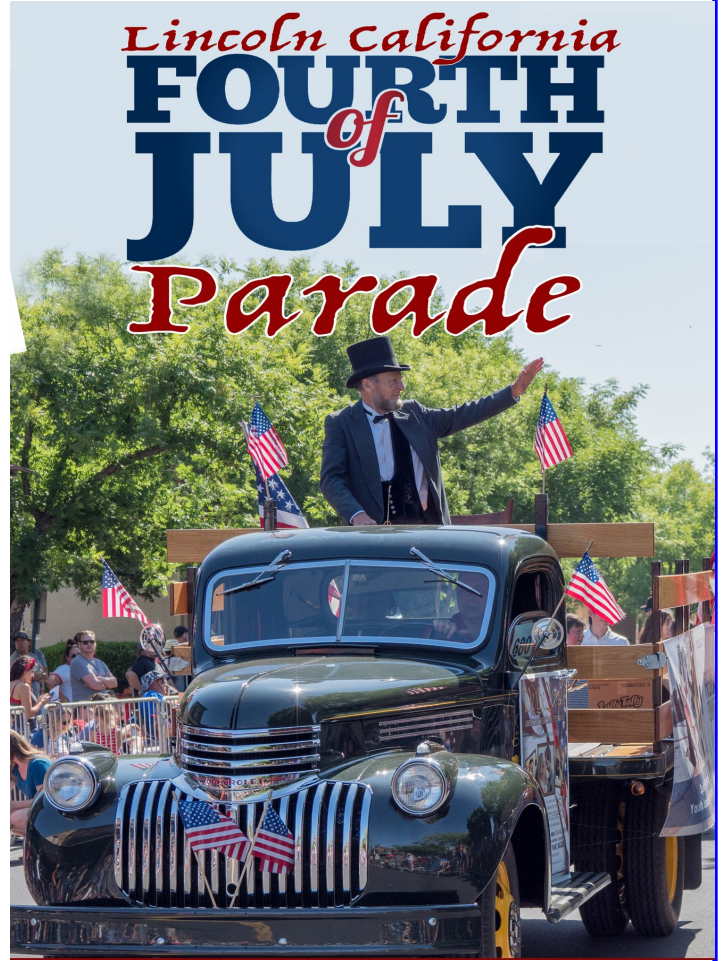


The total Current cost for the project is \$5850 so a goal to raise \$6000 has been set. We have asked our national charitable foundation (USSVCF) to set up a link on their site which will allow for contributions that are tax deductible. That site should be available within the next week, at which point we can begin taking donations. Base member Bill Sugnet has volunteered to head up the effort. Once the funds have been raised, we will begin the process of ordering the bricks with our expectation that they will all be placed together in one section.

New bricks are placed in the plaza twice a year on Memorial Day or Veterans Day depending on the date of purchase.



## Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendar



*California*  
**STATE ★ FAIR**

**Wednesday**  
**July 24, 2024**

## MILITARY, VETERAN & FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION DAY

Request your free tickets through Veteran Tickets Foundation at [www.vettix.org](http://www.vettix.org) or First Tickets at [www.1sttix.org](http://www.1sttix.org). You must create a new or use an existing account.

Alternatively, veteran, military personnel and first responders may present valid military ID, proof of service, or ID showing active first responder status at the California State Fair Admission Gates.

# USSVI Western Region News

## USSVI Western Region Roundup

*A Gathering of Submariners*

**March 6 - 9, 2025**

**Queen Mary  
Long Beach, California**

**www.wrroundup.com**



**SAVE THE DATE**

# USSVI National News

## USSVI NATIONAL 2024 CONVENTION



**AUGUST 19-24 2024**

**<https://subvetconvention.org/>**



# Story From The Crew

Remembering and honoring my father Carl and his youngest brother George who both served in WWII. Carl was a master sergeant, engineering line chief with the 8th Army Air Force where he and his crew repaired the B-17's that were able to make it back to their English base after their missions into Europe.



George was a private first class with the 1st Marine Division who fought at Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester, Peleliu and Okinawa in the South Pacific and was on the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay during the Japanese surrender. Two brothers on opposite sides of the world during WWII both played their part in that war. Thank you for your service!

Story Provide By  
Gold Country  
Base Shipmate  
Roger Paul



# Story of Interest

## After nearly 80 years, the wreck of the USS Harder SS-257 has been found

The wreckage of the submarine Harder has been found, nearly 80 years after it was sunk by Japanese forces during World War II. Some of the 79 men who died aboard the boat are shown here earlier in the war. (Navy)

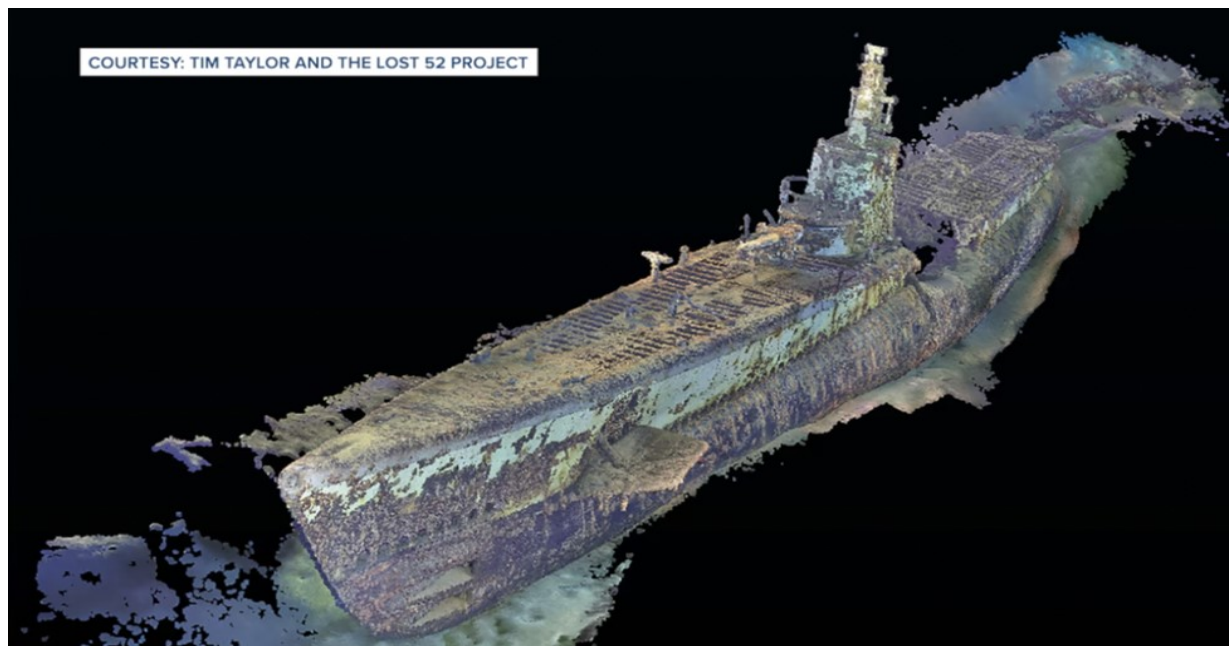
The final resting place of the 79 sailors aboard the submarine Harder has been found.

The boat was sunk by Japanese depth charges on Aug. 24, 1944, while Harder was on patrol. Its last known location was in the South China Sea, near the Philippines, according to the Naval History and Heritage Command.

The command's underwater archaeology branch confirmed Harder's location with the help of Tiburon Subsea CEO Tim Taylor and the Lost 52 project, a group that works to find and memorialize the 52 U.S. submarines lost during World War II.

In addition to Harder, the group has located fellow fallen subs Grayback, Stickleback, R-12, S-26, S-28 and Grunion, according to the Navy, and Taylor received the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award in 2021 for his efforts.

Harder was found sitting upright with its keel "relatively intact" at a depth of more than 3,000 feet, with depth charge damage aft of the conning tower, the Navy said.



A 4D photogrammetry model of the submarine Harder's wreck site, provided by The Lost 52 Project. The group is dedicated to finding U.S. subs sunk during World War II.

*(continued on next page)*



# Story of Interest

*USS Darter (continued)*

Lost 52 scanned the entire boat and stitched all the images together in a multi-dimensional model used to study and explore the site. (Image courtesy of The Lost 52 Project via Navy) While it can be challenging to identify subs in such situations, the Navy credited the data collected by Lost 52 and the “excellent state of preservation of the site” as key to confirming that the wreck is Harder.



*The Navy submarine Harder was commissioned on Dec. 2, 1942, with Cmdr. Samuel D. Dealey in command, and lost at sea with 79 souls aboard on Aug. 24, 1944  
(Naval History and Heritage Command)*

“Harder was lost in the course of victory,” Navy History and Heritage Command’s director, retired Adm. Samuel J. Cox, said in a statement. “We must not forget that victory has a price, as does freedom.”

“We are grateful that Lost 52 has given us the opportunity to once again honor the valor of the crew of the ‘Hit ‘em HARDER’ submarine that sank the most Japanese warships – in particularly audacious attacks – under her legendary skipper, Cmdr. Sam Dealey.”

Harder played a key role in disrupting Japanese forces in the lead up to the Battle of the Philippine Sea in June 1944, according to the Navy.

During its fifth and most successful patrol in May and June of 1944, Harder sunk three Japanese destroyers and crippled two others over the course of four days, attacks that prompted Admiral Jisaburo Ozawa to depart his fleet from Tawi-Tawi, Philippines, a day early, according to the Navy.

*(continued on next page)*

# Story of Interest

USS Darter (continued)

That earlier departure mucked up Japanese battle plans and forced Ozawa to slow down his carrier force in the Philippine Sea, which contributed to the Japanese defeat in the battle. The final days of the Harder and its sailors began during the boat's sixth war patrol, when it joined fellow sub Haddo SS 255 in attacking and destroying three Japanese escort ships off Bataan, Philippines, on Aug. 22. As the sun rose the next day, Haddo attacked until it needed to leave for torpedo replenishment, and Harder and Hake stayed off Dasol Bay, prowling for new targets.



On Aug. 24, Hake went deep and silent to avoid a Japanese attack, and reported hearing 15 rapid depth charges at about 7:30 a.m.

Japanese records later showed that Harder fired three torpedoes at an escort ship, and that the ship sunk Harder with the fifth depth charge that it dropped, according to the Navy.

*The Navy submarine Harder was commissioned on Dec. 2, 1942, with Cmdr. Samuel D. Dealey in command, and lost at sea with 79 souls aboard on Aug. 24, 1944. (Naval History and Heritage Command)*



CDR Samuel Dealey

Harder's commanding officer, Cmdr. Dealey, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for Harder's fifth war patrol, and the sub received a Presidential Unit Citation and six battle stars for its service in World War II.

The Navy said the Harder's final resting place is protected under U.S. law and

falls within the Navy's jurisdiction.

Any activity around the site must be cleared by the Navy as well.

"Most importantly, the wreck represents the final resting place of sailors that gave

their life in defense of the nation and should be respected by all parties as a war grave," the Navy said.





# Story of Interest

## 'He died for our country': Buffalo WWII Navy sailor's sunken submarine located after 80 years.

A World War II Navy veteran from Buffalo was lost at sea when his crew's submarine sank in battle. After 80 years lost to the bottom of the ocean, that local sailor's ship has been found.

### Vincent L. Dallessandro TM1 (SS)

Rank/Rate Torpedoman's Mate, First Class

Service Number 234 30 68

Birth Date January 2, 1919

From Buffalo, New York

Decorations Legion of Merit, Purple Heart

Submarine USS Harder (SS-257)

Loss Date August 24, 1944

Location Off Caiman Point near Bataan, RPI

Circumstances Probably sunk by depth charge attack

Remarks

The Enlisted Men's Club on the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut, is named "Dallessandro Hall" in his honor.

Legion of Merit Award Synopsis: Torpedoman's Mate First Class Vincent L. Dallessandro (NSN: 2343068), United States Navy, was awarded the Legion of Merit (Posthumously) for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as Torpedoman in charge of the forward torpedo room aboard the submarine U.S.S. HARDER (SS-257) during World War II.



TOWN OF NIAGARA, N.Y. — A World War II Navy veteran from Buffalo was lost at sea when his crew's submarine sank in battle. After 80 years lost to the bottom of the ocean, that local sailor's ship has been found.

One Niagara County family is celebrating the life of their late uncle, Vincent Dallessandro, after the rediscovery of his ship.

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Vincent Dallessandro was just 25 years old when he was declared missing in action.

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# Story of Interest

*Buffalo, NY WWII Navy Sailor continued)*

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"We heard what a great person he was, but never really knew him," Donald said.

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The USS Harder was struck by a Japanese depth charge attack and sunk off the coast of the Philippines, sinking the ship and its entire crew

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For nearly 80 years, his sub was never seen again until now.

"I just couldn't believe it, that's 80 years ago," another one of Dallessandro's nephews, James Mullen, said.

Donald's brother James saw that the Lost 52 Project, which was founded to discover and memorialize the 52 submarines lost during World War II, had just identified their uncle's sub, more than 3,000 feet below sea level.

The USS Harder has mostly held together after 8-decades at the bottom of the South China Sea.

It's moments like these, the Mullen brothers will forever pass on to honor their uncle's legacy. "I think that's something he deserves. He died for our country and that's our responsibility to keep his memory alive," James said.





# Story of Interest

Buffalo, NY WWII Navy Sailor continued)

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“Can you just image how these guys felt, all of a sudden, their ship is just blown apart and they’re going to die. They’re in their last few minutes of life,” James said. “I’m sure he was thinking about his sisters, his brothers, his mom and dad.”

Dalessandro has since earned a Legion of Merit and Purple Heart for his service.

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# Featured Boat



## USS Augusta (SSN-710)

a *Los Angeles*-class submarine, was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for Augusta, Maine. The contract to build her was awarded to the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut on 31 October 1973 and her keel was laid down on 1 April 1983. She was launched on 21 January 1984 sponsored by Mrs. Diana D. Cohen, wife of U.S. Senator William Cohen and commissioned on 19 January 1985.

Augusta carried out her shakedown training in the western Atlantic and in the West Indies with Submarine Squadron 2, including visits to the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, until mid-June 1985. The attack submarine completed her post-shakedown repairs during an availability at the Electric Boat yard where she was built (14 June 1985-26 January 1986, she conducted sea trials from 21-24 January). The shipyard treated Augusta's hull, and outfitted her with the CCS Mk 1 Combat Control System, an advanced development of the AN/BQG-5D Wide Aperture Array System, and the Thin Line Towed Array. The following month (10-22 February), she sailed to the Virgin Islands for weapons certifications and technical evaluations.

During a surge deployment to the North Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Red Sea (10 February - 11 August 2003), Augusta took part in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. She launched UGM-109 Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAMS) against Iraqi military targets on 21 March, and Cmdr. Mike A. Haumer, Augusta's commanding officer, received the Bronze Star for his "extraordinary leadership and operational skills" in command of the boat during the fighting.

*(continued on next page)*

General characteristics	
Class and type	<a href="#">Los Angeles-class submarine</a>
Displacement	5,786 tons light, 6,927 tons full, 378 tons dead
Length	110.3 m (361 ft 11 in)
Beam	10 m (32 ft 10 in)
Draft	9.7 m (31 ft 10 in)
Propulsion	<a href="#">S6G nuclear reactor</a>
Speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Surfaced:</b>20 knots (23 mph; 37 km/h)</li> <li>● <b>Submerged:</b> +20 knots (23 mph; 37 km/h) (official)</li> </ul>
Complement	15 officers, 115 enlisted
Sensors and processing systems	BQQ-5 passive <a href="#">sonar</a> , BQS-15 detecting and ranging sonar, WLR-8 fire control <a href="#">radar</a> receiver, WLR-9 acoustic receiver for detection of active search sonar and acoustic homing torpedoes, BRD-7 radio direction finder <sup>[1]</sup>
Armament	4 × 21 in (533 mm) bow tubes, 10 <a href="#">Mk48 ADCAP torpedo</a> reloads, <a href="#">Tomahawk land attack missile</a> block 3 SLCM range 1,700 nautical miles (3,100 km), <a href="#">Harpoon anti-surface ship missile</a> range 70 nautical miles (130 km), mine laying Mk67 mobile Mk60 captor mines
Service record	
Operations:	<a href="#">Iraq War</a> (2003)



# Featured Boat

*USS Augusta (SSN 710) continued*

## 1986 Collision

The Department of Defense reported that *Augusta* required \$2.7 million worth of repairs due to damage in an undersea collision while on a routine training patrol. On 31 October 1986 *Augusta* entered dry-dock at Electric Boat to have her sonar dome replaced and the repairs were completed on 13 December 1986.

The Soviet Navy claims that on 3 October 1986, *Augusta* collided with the 667AU Nalim (Yankee-I) class ballistic missile submarine *K-219*, commanded by Igor Britanov, off the coast of Bermuda. The U.S. Navy states that *K-219* was disabled by an internal explosion.

CBS news reported that *Augusta* "very possibly" collided with a Soviet submarine.



## Later Service

In July 1987, *Augusta* began service as a trials boat for the BQG-5D Wide Aperture Array (WAA) passive sonar system and carrying the prototype BQQ-10 ARCI sonars, which incorporate off-the-shelf computer components, allowing easy introduction of modular upgrades.

In 2003, *Augusta* was part of a small group of submarines participating in Tomahawk Strikes against Iraq in the opening of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The boat successfully launched missiles against all assigned missions leaving the theater with 100% completion.

*Augusta* underwent extensive maintenance during 2006 to prepare for six-month deployment in 2007, which began in March and completed in September.

*Augusta* changed her homeport to Norfolk Naval Shipyard, where she began decommissioning in January 2008, and completed the

disassembly of her reactor on 24 November 2008.

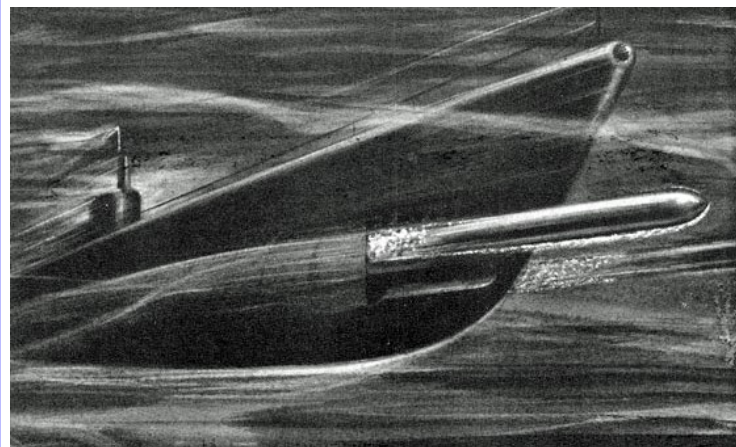


**USS Augusta (SSN 710) was the Qual Boat of Gold Country Base Shipmate Bill Sugnet**

# WW II Submarine News

## WWII Submarine Torpedo Problems

U.S. steam torpedoes Mk. 14 and Mk. 23 commonly fired in World War II had a number of faults. One was that the exhaust valves often leaked causing the after-body to flood if firing was delayed too long when the torpedo tube was flooded for firing. A corrective step in "routining" torpedoes was to seal the exhaust valves with wax. This was partially successful. A more serious problem was that too many of those which should have been hits were adjudged to be misses. At the start of the war they ran deeper than set causing them to run beneath the target. Tests showed that they ran 10 to 11 feet too deep. By August 1942 the depth problem was corrected by setting the torpedoes to



run at shallower depths than originally designated for various types of ships. Also many torpedoes did not explode when seen to hit a target broadside. This major problem with the Mk. 14 and Mk. 23 torpedoes was identified on July 24, 1943 in the war's twentieth month by TINOSA's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander L. R. (Dan) Daspit. He spotted the unescorted TONAN MARU No.3 west of Truk in broad daylight. She was Japan's largest tanker, rated at 19,262 tons. Daspit initially fired at long

range on a large track angle and put two hits into her stopping her dead in the water. He then hit her with two more torpedoes causing her to settle slightly by the stern. Next he closed to less than a thousand yards and fired eight more fish at the tanker's broadside. Although he witnessed eight more hits, none of the warheads exploded. The problem was obviously in the exploder. Tests conducted by the Submarine Force at Pearl immediately thereafter finally pinpointed the problem with the exploder mechanism.

Other problems were that a few made circular runs, on occasion hitting the firing submarine and some exploded prematurely on their way to the target. In addition, the Mk. 6 magnetic exploder was unreliable. On June 24, 1943, Admiral Nimitz sent a message to all submarines and destroyers directing them to deactivate the magnetic exploder and fire all torpedoes for impact hits.

Production of steam torpedoes early in the war did not keep up with expenditures. The MK. 18 electric torpedo, copied from a German torpedo that ran up on the beach, was put into production as a step in correcting this problem. The Mk. 18 had a top speed of about 30 knots compared to 45 of the Mk. 14 (in high speed) and the MK. 23. Its speed was not consistent, and it had shipboard maintenance problems.

Due to the steam torpedo shortage in late 1942 and in 1943 it became necessary to send some submarines on patrol with mixed torpedo loads, as well as mixed mine and torpedo loads. The higher speed Mk. 14s and Mk. 23s were generally preferred by Commanding Officers when there was a choice.



## HII DELIVERS VIRGINIA-CLASS SUBMARINE NEW JERSEY (SSN 796) TO U.S. NAVY

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., (April 25, 2024) — HII (NYSE: HII) announced today that its Newport News Shipbuilding division has delivered *Virginia*-class fast-attack submarine *New Jersey* (SSN 796) to the U.S. Navy.



*New Jersey* is the 11th *Virginia*-class submarine delivered by NNS, and the 23<sup>rd</sup> built as part of the teaming agreement with General Dynamics Electric Boat.

“It is a proud day for our entire team when we deliver a high-quality submarine like *New Jersey* to the fleet,” said Jason Ward, NNS vice president of *Virginia*-class submarine construction. “The mission ahead for *New Jersey* and her crew is clear, and we applaud our shipbuilders for delivering this critical capability to the fleet, while maintaining our highest standards of safety and quality.” More than 10,000 shipbuilders from NNS and Electric Boat participated in the construction of *New Jersey*, alongside thousands of suppliers across the country, including more than 100 in New Jersey who support submarine construction. It is the first *Virginia*-class submarine designed and built with crew gender integration.

*New Jersey* was christened in November 2021 at NNS by ship’s sponsor Susan DiMarco, a New Jersey resident, retired dentist and wife of former Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson. The submarine is expected to be commissioned later this year.

**New Jersey (SSN-796)**, a Block IV *Virginia*-class submarine, will be the third United States Navy vessel named for the state of New Jersey. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced the name on 25 May 2015, at a ceremony in Jersey City, New Jersey.

**Construction started:** March 25, 2019

**Christened:** 13 November 2021

**Launched:** April 14, 2022

**Builder:** Newport News Shipbuilding

**Length:** 377'

**Armament:** 12 x VLS tubes for BGM-109 Tomahawk; 4 x 21-inch (533 mm) torpedo tubes for Mk-48 torpedoes

**Motto:** Virtute Ignis pro Libertas; "Firepower for Freedom"

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## April/May 2024 Newsletter



**Overall 2023  
First Place**

“Clear the Baffles” is the official Newsletter for the Gold Country Base of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. Published semi-monthly. Please submit ideas or articles to Publisher Barry Wyatt at ; [sacsubvet@barrywyatt.com](mailto:sacsubvet@barrywyatt.com) or contact me by phone at (916) 600-1425