

# TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 4, No. 7

July 2008

## Newsletter of Charleston Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.



### USSVI Creed

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



Base web page: [www.ussvich.org](http://www.ussvich.org)  
National web page: [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org)

#### Base Meeting:

July 10, 2008  
Social hour 1800, General Meeting 1900

#### Location:

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269, Low Country Home  
99 Wisteria Rd.  
Goose Creek, South Carolina. Phone 843-569-2962

Special Officers		Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	Marty Sessler	843-871-1536
Public Affairs	Richard Cleeve	843-899-4563
Publicity	Open	
Sub Vets WWII	Barnwell Chaplin	843-762-6945
Nuclear Historian	Rick Carlson	843-875-4030
Veterans Affairs	Jim Morrison	843-832-9716
Chaplain	John Nichols	843-873-5897
Membership	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Holland Club	Terry Trump	843-873-9563
Little David Project	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Roving Reporter	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Scholarship	Jim Yates	843-873-0246
Newsletter	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Storekeeper	Paul Viering	843-797-2623
Alcohol & Gaming	Dave Mueller	843-553-2775

Base Officers		Phone Number
Commander	Steve Nelms	843-563-7115
Vice Commander	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Secretary	Rick Collins	843-851-3490
Treasurer	George Lisle	843-559-4242



## Minutes of the June 2008 meeting

Attendance for the June 12, 2008 meeting was 94

**Opening Ceremony:** Base Commander called the meeting to order. A Quorum was present and the meeting was commenced at 1900.

**Introductions:** New people were introduced; Tom Peterson, Charlie Hudson, A.T. McMullin. Welcome aboard.

**Secretary:** Secretary Rick Collins asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from last month. A motion was made and seconded. Minutes approved.

**Treasurer:** George Lisle gave the treasurer's report.

**Storekeeper:** Paul wants you to pick up what you ordered. He also has copies of both of Ken Sewell's books

**Chaplain:** June Report: Cards were sent as follows:

- To Harry Plank who is suffering thru sickness. Harry is not a member.
- To Danny Leonhart who is recovering from throat cancer. He is not a member of the base.
- To Mrs. Gayle Ammon and family sending our condolences on the death of their husband and father, LT Jeffrey Ammon who was killed in Afghanistan.
- To Tom Peterson and family sending our condolences on the death of his wife, Patsy.
- To Gene Simpo and family sending our condolences on the death of his wife, Concepcion.
- To Gary Semler who is having radiation treatments.
- To Ken Fuhr wishing him a speedy recovery from foot surgery.
- Mike Stuffle is having his prosthesis fitted

Several follow-ups were made on those who've had surgery or illnesses in the last couple of months along with the base sending additional cards.

If you know of shipmates or spouses from other bases who are having a difficult time, had surgery, etc. and would like for USSVI Charleston Base to send them a card please send their name and address to the Chaplain via email or phone call.

June 6, 1944 was VE Day.

June 14 is Flag Day.

**Scholarship:** We need pictures of recipients getting their scholarships. Buy base challenge coins to support the scholarship fund.

**Public Affairs:** Need a replacement for the Publicity Coordinator.

**Fleet Reserve:** No report

**Holland Club:** No report

**Membership:** Carl Chinn reports we have 297 members. Buddha stated that there are 3 new people here; the 1st to join will receive a "special" treat at the "The After Battery".

**Little David:** No report

**Newsletter:** Carl Chinn says if you have anything for the newsletter send it to him.

**Alcohol & Gaming:** No-Neck talked about giving his granddaughter base challenge coins that we sell for our scholarship fund. It helps the next generation know about us and what we did. He also talked about the need to replace damaged tents. We need (4). John Lookabill gave the base one so a motion was made, seconded, and passed to buy three (3) new replacement tents.

**Chief of the Boat:** Flag retirement 23 June 0830 Summerville Medical Center.

There will be a car show 21 June at The victory House in Waterboro.

18 Oct. is the hog roast. We need volunteers.

**Base Commander:** Victory House cookout will be sometime this fall. The Lady's Auxiliary from the Fleet has offered to assist with baked goods.

**Nuclear Historian:** Gave an inspiring report on the courage and compassion of a Navy Chief who, with no thought to his safety, saved a nuclear trained officer from certain injury by unplugging the pony ride at Wal-Mart when this officer could not hang on and slipped underneath the musical ride. GO Navy Chief!

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Proposed Amendments to our base bylaws:

1. Standing Rule #1-98 discretionary fund was explained, amendment motion was made, seconded, and passed.

2. Proposal was made to do away with Art. V section 3, associate members. Current associate members will be grandfathered. After a discussion a motion was made seconded and passed.

**Good Of The Order:** The depth charge drawing was held. The winner was Rick Carlson. He donated back \$100 for the scholarship fund.

On July 12 at Old Fort Baptist church a special service will be held with a guest speaker Cleve McClary. All veterans welcome.

**Sub Vets WWII:** Lee Allison invited everyone to the next Swamp Fox Chapter meeting at Ryan's Family Steak House 1314 North Main Street in Summerville on Thursday, June 19, at 1200 (noon). Associate members reminder: base dues are now due, \$20.

**Veteran's Affairs:** A move to Navy Hospital still in works.

Question: How will that affect the pharmacy?

Ans. The pharmacy will also move to the clinic at the Weapons Station.

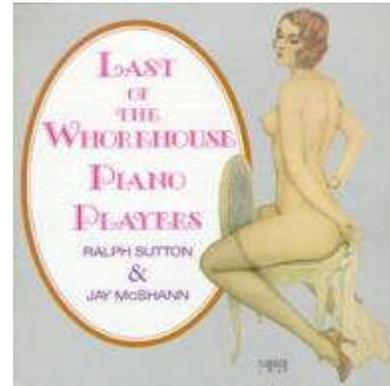
**District Commander:** Jerry Stout was not present but sent word that he will be driving to the National Convention and if anyone wants to ride and drive call him. Remember to vote in National elections, we will vote on a rewrite of National constitution and bylaws.

**Vice Commander Report:** No report

We now have two Sub Vets who are high ranking officers of the Fleet Reserve.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.

**\*\* End of the minutes for June 2008 \*\***



*"Don't tell mom I'm a submariner, she thinks I play piano in a whorehouse."*



Bognar	Cowman	Dasch	Daschle
Deal	Freshour	Gunnis	Hazard
Jenkins	Jones, R	Keller	Kennedy
Menefee	Owens	Petersen	Simpo
Smith, P	Snyder, R	Stoll	Stuffle

## July Happenings!

July 4 – Independence Day



July 10 – Monthly meeting; vote in USSVI National election

## Stop Medicare/TRICARE Payment Cuts

Unless Congress acts soon, Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors will be cut by 10.6% in July of 2008. That will hurt military families' access to

## July Submarines Lost:

USS S 28	SS 133	July 4, 1944
USS Robalo	SS 273	July 26, 1944

Sailor, rest your oar

When your final dive is made, and your battery's running low,

You'll know there lies a boat for you many fathoms here below.

With your annunciators jammed on full and your depth gauge needles bent,

Your accumulator's dry of oil and your air banks all are spent.

It's then you get to wonderin', "Is my life's boat rigged for dive?"

Your guessing drill commences, "Am I dead or still alive?"

You pace the flooded decks with scorn and curse the flaws of man.

Into realms of rex you've stepped, and here you'll make your stand.

To live your life, as sailors must, at the bottom of the sea.

There's one you'll have to reckon-that one, my friend, is thee.

Will your conscience do you justice when the final muster's in?

Did you lead the kind of life you should in every port you've been?

The answers to these questions and many, many more,

Are locked in the hearts of sailormen from Cannes to Singapore.

---

health care by causing more doctors to stop seeing Medicare and TRICARE patients.

In addition to cutting payments to doctors, hundreds of thousands of Medicare patients will lose coverage for their physical, speech, or occupational therapy unless Congress fixes the Medicare law within the next two weeks.

Please send a MOAA-suggested message urging your legislators to reverse these cuts. Follow this link to compose and send an email to the House and Senate members to get your message across.

<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=10534466&type=CO>

---

### **VA Veteran Population Estimate**

The Department of Veterans Affairs has updated the official estimate of the veteran population. Using its Veteran Population Model (VetPop), VA estimates a total veteran population of approximately 24,816,000 as of 30 SEP 07. Estimates are based on data from the Department of Defense (DoD), the Census Bureau and the Veterans Benefits Administration. VetPop, which was last updated in 2004, groups veterans into various demographic categories (age, sex, state, race, rank, military branch, and period of service) and projects results thirty years into the future. VetPop used the Census 2000 estimate of veterans 26,745,000 as of April, 2000 as a starting point. The population increases as service members separate from active duty and decreases through mortality. VetPop models these changes using DoD's reports of past and projected separations as well as DoD mortality rates. VetPop2007 results are higher than VetPop2004 results due to lower mortality rates and higher-than-expected separations. The difference is 1.2% in 2007 and grows to 2.8% by 2015. Results can be accessed at <http://www1.va.gov/vetdata/> by clicking on Demographics. The website includes results described above, estimates of veterans by county and by Congressional District, as well as descriptive documents and tutorials on how to access the data. Further questions regarding VetPop should be emailed to [VetPop@va.gov](mailto:VetPop@va.gov).

---

### **Cemetery Escort Duty**

I just wanted to get the day over with and go down to Smokey's for a few cold ones. Sneaking a look at my watch, I saw the time, 1655. Five minutes to go before the cemetery gates are closed for the day. Full dress was hot in the August sun. Oklahoma summertime was as bad as ever -- the heat and humidity at the same level -- both too high.

---

So, when your day for mast rolls 'round, the choice is up to you.

Sailor chart your course of life right now, chart it straight and true.

Now's the time to flood your tanks and trim up 'fore and aft.

It's a trifle late when the klaxon sounds to square away your craft.

Your final billet lies below, on "old ocean's" floor. So, be ready when that last word's passed.

Sailor, rest your oar!

---

### **Membership Dues**

2009 membership dues are payable on 1 October 2008. You can pay anytime. Let's make this easy and everyone pay on time or early!

If you're not sure what you owe, contact Carl Chinn at [carlc@sc.rr.com](mailto:carlc@sc.rr.com) or 875-3098.

There will be a list at the meetings starting in July.

---

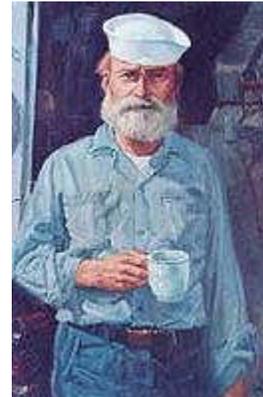


**Make sure you vote at the July meeting**

Ballots will be at the meeting. Make sure your voice is heard! We can make a difference!

---

### **Generational Difference**



We speak of generational differences between the old boats and the new. Each generation, each crew forges its memories, recollections, loyalty and love of the force based on the sum total of their experiences. It has always been that way. Most likely, always will.

We are linked. Each generation to each preceding and each following generation by the twin fish, silver and gold we wear or once wore over the pride in our hearts. We earned a designation that forever sets us apart. We are U.S. Submariners.

---

---

I saw the car pull into the drive, '69 or '70 model Cadillac Deville, looked factory-new. It pulled into the parking lot at a snail's pace.

An old woman got out so slow I thought she was paralyzed. She had a cane and a sheaf of flowers, about four or five bunches as best I could tell. I couldn't help myself.

The thought came unwanted, and left a slightly bitter taste: "She's going to spend an hour, and for this old soldier my hip hurts like hell and I'm ready to get out of here right now!"

But for this day my duty was to assist anyone coming in. Kevin would lock the "In" gate and if I could hurry the old biddy along, we might make the last half of happy hour at Smokey's.

I broke Post Attention. My hip made gritty noises when I took the first step and the pain went up a notch. I must have made a real military sight; middle-aged man with a small pot-gut and half a limp, in Marine Full Dress Uniform, which had lost its razor crease about 30 minutes after I began the watch at the cemetery.

I stopped in front of her, halfway up the walk. She looked up at me with an old woman's squint. "Ma'am may I assist you in any way?"

She took long enough to answer. "Yes, son. Can you carry these flowers? I seem to be moving a tad slow these days."

"My pleasure Ma'amser. "Wounded in action, I see. Well done, Marine I'll be as quick as I can."

I lied a little bigger. "No hurry, Ma'am."

She smiled, and winked at me. "Son, I'm 85-years old and I can tell a lie from a long way off. Let's get this done. Might be the last tim." Well, it wasn't too much of a lie.

She looked again. "Marine, where were you stationed?"

"Vietnam, Ma'am. Ground-pounder, '69 to '71."

She looked at me close I can do this. My name's Joanne Wieserman, and I've a few Marines I'd like to see one more time."

"Yes, Ma'am. At your service."

She headed for the World War I section, stopping at a stone. She picked one of the bunches out of my arm and laid it on top of the stone. She murmured something I couldn't quite make out. The name on the marble was Donald S. Davidson, USMC, France 1918.

She turned away and made a straight line for the World War II section, stopping at one stone. I saw a tear slowly tracking its way down her cheek.

She put a bunch on a stone; the name was Stephen X. Davidson, USMC, 1943.

I have my memories. And each of you has yours. Collectively, they are our history. The human history of the boats we rode, the squadrons we served in and the force we represented.

Submarines have evolved into giant technological wonders that roam the ocean depths at a range below the surface that many of us, the older coots, find damn near beyond comprehension.

As I sit here, I wonder what memories a modern day boat sailor will have. Will he hear the gentle slap, slap, slap of signal light shutters in his dreams? Will he remember the sound of chipping hammers and paint scrapers battling ever-present rust? The pride a young kid had in repainting the hull numbers of the boat he loved? Is there a modern day equivalent of the first night in battery charge? Does the crew stay up half the night playing hearts, watching movies, sorting laundry, telling lies and running hot coffee to Enginemen and Electricians?

Do COBs still cuss like creatures formed in the womb of Hell and then take time to come see if you are okay in sickbay? Do they still want to know if you can stand a little closer to your razor as their way of telling you that you look like shit and need a shave? Do they still meet the boats with fresh milk, mail sacks and guard mail?

Do barmaids still know your names and what boat you are off of? Does cheap perfume still hang in a pea coat and dress canvas long enough to get you in trouble with your true love? Does your neckerchief still dangle in a bowl of chili, your soup or your beer glass? Do you still own thirteen button blues and a jumper so damn tight it takes two of your mates to pull it on you? Do boat sailors still procure clean white hats from unsuspecting spark-shufflers who live in surface craft radio shacks?

Can you still get great scrambled eggs, bacon and hot toast at 0600 on the rescue vessel for a couple of boxes of fresh doughnuts and a worn out, dog-eared copy of last month's Playboy?

What benefit did Hyman and his boys, trade you for hijacking your sunsets, sunrises, coffee on the bridge, watching sea birds, passing merchant ships, riding heavy seas in lousy weather and filling your lungs with diesel exhaust?

What has the world economy, inflation and the change in sensitivity done to the commercial affection market? It can't still be two tens and a five and you pay for the room, can it?

What has the force substituted for junior officers taking morning sextant observations to figure out where in the hell you are?

---

---

She went up the row a ways and laid another bunch on a stone, Stanley J. Wieserman USMC, 1944.

She paused for a second, "Two more, son, and we'll be done"

I almost didn't say anything, but, "Yes, Ma'am. Take your time."

She looked confused. "Where's the Vietnam section, son? I seem to have lost my way."

I pointed with my chin. "That way, Ma'am."

"Oh!" she chuckled quietly. "Son, me and old age ain't too friendly."

She headed down the walk I'd pointed at. She stopped at a couple of stones before she found the ones she wanted. She placed a bunch on Larry Wieserman USMC, 1968, and the last on Darrel Wieserman USMC, 1970. She stood there and murmured a few words I still couldn't make out.

"OK, son, I'm finished. Get me back to my car and you can go home."

"Yes, Ma'am. If I may ask, were those your kinfolk?"

She paused. "Yes, Donald Davidson was my father; Stephen was my uncle; Stanley was my husband; Larry and Darrel were our sons. All killed in action, all Marines." She stopped, whether she had finished, or couldn't finish, I don't know. She made her way to her car, slowly, and painfully.

I waited for a polite distance to come between us and then double-timed it over to Kevin waiting by the car. "Get to the "Out"-gate quick. I have something I've got to do."

Kevin started to say something but saw the look I gave him. He broke the rules to get us there down the service road. We beat her. She hadn't made it around the rotunda yet.

"Kevin, stand to attention next to the gate post.

Follow my lead." I humped it across the drive to the other post.

When the Cadillac came pattering around from the hedges and began the short straight traverse to the gate, I called in my best gunny's voice: "TehenHut! Present Haaaarms!"

I have to hand it to Kevin, he never blinked an eye; full dress attention and a salute that would make his DI proud. She drove through that gate with two old worn-out soldiers giving her a send off she deserved, for service rendered to her country, and for knowing Duty, Honor and Sacrifice

I am not sure, but I think I saw a salute returned from that Cadillac.

Instead of "The End".... just think of "Taps".

Do guys still hang around the galley like vultures waiting for the night baker to pull a load of whatever you've been smelling for the last hour, out of his magic oven? Is ragging the cooks still the cheapest, best game in town? Is a smiling, big mouth mess cook still the best thing you've ever seen in the morning?

Can you still calculate how long you've been out by the diameter of the salt stains in the armpits of your last dungaree shirt and whether your socks stick when you throw them at the door of the medical locker?

Do they still produce independent duty Corpsman that can fix anything, cure anything, identify small crotch critters from every exotic location, make tight stitches in a state five sea and clean your clock playing Gin Rummy?

Do skippers still wear steaming hats that look like Noah sent them to the lucky bag? Is green cap brass and a torn visor still a mark of distinction? Do cats still try to cover up deck force foul weather jackets?

Are there still mail buoy watches and goofy Non-Quals roaming around trying to locate the main engine ignition key?

Do topside watches still pee on the screw guards on the 12 to 4? Does the geedunk truck hit the pier around 2200; the Krispie-Cream truck at 0400; the laundry truck at 0800; and the skipper five minutes before morning quarters?

Do boats still maintain illegal slush funds and hold non-reg anchor pools?

Are E-3s still the lads who know everything about every subject ever discussed, except their qual cards?

Do the boys from the forward nest still rob the tender slugs, blind? Can you still hijack anything that will fit in a mailbag?

Do folks in any squadron outside of Norfolk yell "Oh God, no!" when they see a boat come sliding into the slip with a SUBRON SIX pennant flying aft of the sail?

Can you still buy 'Sly Fox' wine? What in the hell does it cost now? Are Beer Nuts, Slim Jims, pickled hard-boiled eggs and pool cue dust in your beer still the 'Breakfast of Champions'?

Do barmaids still let you pin a set of Dolphins on the seat of their panties the night you qualify?

Do you still have to drink for your Dolphins?

Memories? Collect them... Remember, Remember the little things. They will form the composite of your old man's memories. They will connect you with whatever comes after you.

---



Don't forget to vote in the upcoming USSVI election!



## The Scuttlebutt

Who is this "Beanie Baby"?



If you think you have the answer, get a hold of Buddha and let him know. Maybe you will win a prize! Last winner is shown below on Buddha's lap...

One day, you will be parked in your old easy chair saying:

"These gahdam sailors today have no idea how damn tough we had it. In the old days we had to haul all those neutrons and protons in buckets and pour the damn things into our hydro-super-nuke-a-lator and polish all those gahdam magic wands, stack the pixie dust and rewind the Stairmasters. Jeezus, we sure had it rough."

But most of all, be sure to visit the old folk's home and help old smoke-boat sailors find their gahdam teeth.



### From the Storekeeper

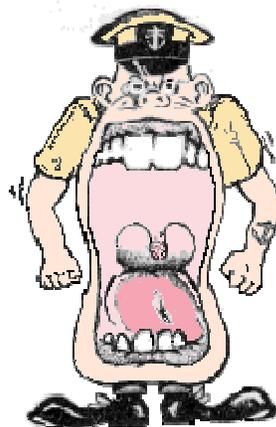
Your Base Store has Ken Sewell's Books "Red Star Rogue" both hardbound and softbound and "All Hands Down" hardbound.

For any orders that you have placed, please see if they are ready for pick up at the July meeting.

Boat patches are available; check out the store if you need a patch.

The store has golf and T-shirts, hats and a lot of other items.

### How to know when you are in the presence of a 'Real Chief Petty Officer'



- The CHIEF doesn't sleep with a night light. The CHIEF isn't afraid of the dark. The dark is afraid of the CHIEF.
- The CHIEF's tears can cure cancer.
- The CHIEF once visited The Virgin Islands. They are now simply called The Islands.
- The CHIEF has counted to infinity . . . twice!
- The CHIEF frequently donates blood to the Red Cross, just never his own.
- Superman owns a pair of CHIEF pajamas.
- The CHIEF has never paid taxes. He just sends in a blank form and includes a picture of himself.



How's this for a Secretary doing "her" job?

### Little Knows Submarine Facts

- a. At the end of WWII, Japanese submarine I-14 was given to Commander John S. "Junior" McCain, son of the carrier task force commander Vice Admiral John S. "Slew" McCain (and father of Arizona Senator John S. McCain, III).
- b. The George Washington sail on display at the Submarine Force Museum and Library outside the main gate at Sub Base/Groton is NOT 100% 598! Some of it is from the Abraham Lincoln sail. The 598 hit a Japanese ship and parts of the 602 were used in the repair.
- c. John Crouse (curator of St. Marys museum) won the first USSVI Ben Bastura Historical Achievement award. Jim Christly was the winner in 2007. Who will win in 2008? Find out first at Ft. Worth Convention.
- d. There was a Torpedo Factory in Washington DC in WWII. It is now an art museum of the same name in Alexandria, VA and draws some 500,000 people/year.
- e. The U.S. sold 74 Diesel submarines to 13 foreign countries. Turkey and Brazil bought 26 and 11 respectively. Little known was that Japan "borrowed" the Mingo, which was eventually returned and sunk as a target.
- f. The initial Scorpion was cut apart to build the George Washington. This was the only boat cut to build a boomer. However parts from other Skipjack Class boats went into the Patrick Henry and even some parts meant for the Shark were diverted to the Robert E. Lee.
- g. An SSGN, was similar in concept to the Halibut, but with the improved S5W reactor plant the basic Thresher class hull was in the works. SSGN 600 was to be one of these. It was to have (budgeted for in 1959) four hangers each carrying one or more modified Jupiter missiles in a configuration which had four missile tubes in an enlarged sail. This plan was scrapped when in 1956, the Jupiter equipped submarine program was scrapped and work turned to using a solid fueled missile (to become the Polaris).
- h. Workers at Electric Boat will christen the fifth submarine of the Virginia class, named New Hampshire, during ceremonies on Saturday at General Dynamics Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, Conn. Of the first 4 in the class, 3 were late and over budget. The New Hampshire, however, is 8 months ahead and \$120 million below budget.

- If the CHIEF is late, then time had damn well better slow down.
- The CHIEF actually died four years ago, but the Grim Reaper can't get up the courage to tell him.
- The CHIEF refers to himself in the fourth person.
- The CHIEF can divide by zero.
- If the CHIEF ever calls your house, be in!
- The CHIEF doesn't leave messages; he leaves warnings.
- The CHIEF can slam a revolving door.
- The CHIEF was sending an email one day, when he realized that it would be faster to run.
- When the Incredible Hulk gets angry, he transforms into the CHIEF.
- When the CHIEF exercises, the machine gets stronger.
- Bullets dodge the CHIEF.
- The CHIEF once took an entire bottle of sleeping pills. They made him blink. . . once.
- The first lunar eclipse took place after the CHIEF challenged the sun to a staring contest. The sun blinked first.
- The REAL CHIEF never used a question mark in his entire life. He believes that the interrogative tense is a sign of weakness.
- REAL CHIEFS think Ensigns should be seen and not heard, and never, ever be allowed to read books on leadership.
- REAL CHIEFS do not have any civilian clothes.
- REAL CHIEFS have CPO Association Cards from their last 5 commands.
- REAL CHIEFS do not remember any time they weren't Chief's.
- REAL CHIEFS favorite national holiday is CPO Initiation.
- REAL CHIEFS keep four sets of dress khaki uniforms in the closet in hopes they will come back.
- REAL CHIEFS favorite food is shipboard SOS for breakfast.
- REAL CHIEFS don't know how to tell civilian time.
- REAL CHIEFS call each other 'Chief.'
- REAL CHIEFS greatest fear is signing for property book items.
- REAL CHIEFS dream in Navy blue and gold, white, haze Gray and occasionally khaki.
- REAL CHIEFS have served on ships that are now war memorials or tourist attractions.
- REAL CHIEFS get tears in their eyes when the Chief' dies in the movie 'Operation Pacific.'
- REAL CHIEFS Don't like Certified Navy Twill. Wash Khaki is the only thing to make a uniform out of.

---

i. What submarine had a Steinway piano install from 61-86? That was the Edison, SSBN 610.

---

### **Medicare Reimbursement Rates 2008 Update 02**

The cut in Medicare payments to physicians that are scheduled to take place on 1 JUL. Unless legislation is passed before then, there will be a cut of 10% in Medicare physician payments. This is very important for military retirees because Tricare payments to physicians are the same as the Medicare payments. There is great concern that if the payments cuts are not reversed doctors will not take any new Medicare patients, and likely no new Tricare patients. On 12 June, by a vote of 54 yea (58%, 60% required for passage), 39 nay 7 not voting, the Senate failed to pass S.3101, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, which would have cancelled the 10% cuts in physician reimbursements and provided a 1% increase to those reimbursements. Inexplicably, Sen. Harry Reid switched his vote from Yea to Nay. Also, very interesting is that the three contenders for the Presidency: Sen. John McCain, Sen. Hillary Clinton, and Sen. Barack Obama did not vote on this important issue.

As always seems to be the case, the battle is over where to find the money to pay for the reversal of the cuts, since the Medicare (and military health care) budget for FY2008 was predicated on the cuts going into effect. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) has come up with a bill that would stop the cuts by replacing them with a 0.5% increase in physician payments this year and an additional 1.1% increase in FY 2009. His bill would also improve Medicare benefits by expanding subsidies for low-income people, reducing co-payments for mental health treatment and increasing coverage for preventive health services. However, his bill is opposed by most Republicans because it would be paid for by cutting costs in privately run Medicare Advantage programs that have been championed by GOP lawmakers and President Bush. Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA), ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, has drafted his own bill to fix the problem. The Grassley bill would give doctors the same increases as the Baucus bill, but would pay for them differently. Grassley's bill would eliminate bonus payments that some Medicare Advantage plans receive for operating in areas with teaching hospitals, a provision also contained in the Baucus bill. But Grassley would provide additional money by making cuts in some Medicaid provisions. Medicaid is the federal government health program for the poor. Both sides agree that fixing the pending cuts is the biggest health care priority they face this year, but they are

- REAL CHIEFS can find their way to the CPO Club blindfolded, on 15 different Navy Bases.
- REAL CHIEFS have pictures of ships in their wallets.
- REAL CHIEFS do not own any pens that do not have 'Property of U.S. Government' on them.
- REAL CHIEFS do not get the mandatory flu shots.
- REAL CHIEFS do not order supplies, they swap for them.
- REAL CHIEFS favorite quote is from the movie Ben Hur, 'We keep you alive to serve this ship.'
- REAL CHIEFS think excessive modesty is their only fault.
- REAL CHIEFS hate to write evaluations, except for their own.
- REAL CHIEFS turn in a 4 page brag sheet for their evaluation.
- REAL CHIEFS last ship was always better.
- REAL CHIEFS know that the black tar in their coffee cup makes the coffee taste better.
- REAL CHIEFS idea of heaven: Three good PO1's and a Division Officer who does what he is told.
- REAL CHIEFS think John Wayne would have made a good Chief, if he had not gone soft and made Marine movies.
- REAL CHIEFS use the term 'Good Training' to describe any unpleasant task such as scraping the sides of the ship or having to sleep on your seabag in the parking lot because there was no room in the barracks.

---

### **From District Commander**

Shipmates in Charleston Base,

I just returned from Mobile Bay, Alabama, where I attended the 38th reunion of the USS Drum SS-228. Only a handful of crewmembers attended this year, however the ones that were there are getting around very well. I was proud to among these heroes of our Submarine Fleet of World War II. On Saturday, the Drum Memorial Service was held in conjunction with the Mobile Bay Base USSVI Meeting. The family members of the crew read all names of former crewmembers and spouses, who have gone on Eternal Patrol, concluding with the tossing of a carnation into the Bay.

While there on Drum, a full-length movie was completing its filming about submarines in World War II Submarine Service, it is called the Blue Viper. In addition to the actual filming onboard the submarine, the film crew interviewed those Drum Sailors in attendance at the reunion. I sure did hear some great sea stories, including facts from the many successful war patrols. Drum was second in tonnage during the war. The Drum is in excellent

---

---

running out of time to fix it.

To see how your Senator voted on this legislation refer to <http://tinyurl.com/3z2yee>. After checking, you are encouraged to call and thank those who voted "Yea" and to ask why those who voted "Nay" did so. Calling your congressional representative in Washington D.C. is easier than you think. Our government and the AMA have provided the following no charge numbers for constituents to talk to their elected official's offices located in the Capital Building:

- 1-866-272-6622 Capital Operator Direct
- 1-800-833-6354 AMA Grass Roots Hotline - follow prompts
- 1-800-828-0498 Capital Operator Direct
- 1-800-833-6354 AMA Grass Roots Hotline - follow prompts
- 1-866-340-9281 Capital Operator Direct
- 1-866-220-0044 Capital Operator Direct

When the capitol operator answers:

1. Tell her which Senate or House office you want.
2. When the office answers, tell the staffer that you are a constituent and either thank the Senator for his Yea vote or ask why the Senator voted Nay. If Senator Reid's office, ask why he switched his vote from Yea to Nay.
3. Provide additional information requested by the staffer. Usually your zip code to confirm you are a constituent.
4. Be polite and courteous, remember the staffer is simply the "messenger".
5. For a listing of all other bills refer to <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

---

*Reprint from July 2006 newsletter*

### **Sticker Renewal Goes Online Navywide**

Release Date: 6/22/2006 11:49:00 AM

SILVERDALE, Wash. (NNS) -- Since July 2005, anyone trying to renew a regional vehicle decal has been able to do so online. The new process allows normal customers of Pass and I.D. to bypass lines and waiting times and conduct business with only a few clicks of the mouse.

Navy Region Northwest Webmaster Ray Mills developed the new program and said that within the next few months, all regions throughout the Navy will be able to renew their respective regional vehicle stickers online. Currently, six CNI Regions are online. Navy Region Midwest came online in April, and Mid-Atlantic is expected to be online soon.

"When Rear Adm. Len Hering was commander, Navy Region Northwest, he wanted to decrease the wait times at the gates," said Mills. "We don't even

shape on the inside, however soon the Hull will be sand blasted and then painted. All the material and some of the labor have been donated. This submarine looks, sounds and smells just like it was over 60 years ago.

Last week, I presented the Holland Club Membership to Andrew Palenchar who lives in outside of Columbia, South Carolina. Talk about a hero, he is. Andrew is the sailor that pulled George H.W. Bush out of the water when his plane went down, soon after submerging; the Finback attacked a five ship Japanese group. They were able to take out four of the five, and missed the warship. Over 20 hours of depth charging occurred and Drum eventually escaped. Andrew left the Navy and remained in the Army Reserves, being recalled to Korea and Vietnam. His career in the Army ended in 1979, retiring as a LTCOL. He has very high awards in his shadow box, including the Silver star, Legion of Merit and many others. I wanted to stay there longer and learn more about him, however had to run and make the USSVI meeting.

After the presentation, I attended the newest base in the District, Palmetto Base. If you get the chance, they have their meetings on the third Tuesday of the month.

In the coming weeks, the American Submariner will be mailed. In this issue will be the National USSVI Election Ballot. Please read the ballot very carefully as there are many decisions that we, as USSVI Members need to make. It contains the ballot, as well as instructions for either voting on-line via the internet or voting by mail. Please bring the issue with you to the July meeting. We are hopeful that these issues can be discussed at this meeting.

Salute with Pride and vote in the upcoming election,

Jerry K. Stout, USSVI Southeastern Region District 2 Commander

---

### **Real Submariner**

An old Submarine Sailor walked into a bar, sat down at the bar and ordered a drink. As he sat sipping his drink, a young woman sat down next to him. She turned to the Submariner saw his dolphins and asked, "Are you a real Submarine Sailor?"

He replied, "Well, my father, two brothers and a third cousin were on boats. I've spent my whole life, riding boats. Snorkeling, deep dives, Diesel Boats, Nuclear Power, Med Runs, Northern Runs, FBM Patrols, Arctic Runs, SPECOPS, WESTPACs, runs to the Caribbean, Halifax, Faslane, Holy Loch, Rota, Guam, 2 day runs,

---

look at the vehicles anymore. We just verify the data, so a system like this made perfect sense."

The site can be accessed by going to the local region Web page and clicking on the "Vehicle Decal Renewal" link on the left side of the page. Mills said that since the site began, his office has been receiving feedback from the users of the Web site and have begun implementing some of their requests.

"One person said they would like to receive an email confirmation saying they have successfully completed their registration," Mills said. "So now when you renew your decal online, you will get an email with all the pertinent information."

Wait times at Pass and I.D. have been up to two hours, so valuable man-hours have been lost. Since the Northwest region has gone to the Web, a number of other regions have followed suit. For Mills, the idea is to get everyone renewing their vehicle stickers on the Web, adding that man-hours will be saved by doing so, since using the system takes approximately 10 minutes.

It avoids waiting and drive times, said Mills.

Security is always a concern when using the Internet; therefore, your full social security number is not a necessity to renew your decal. With this in mind, Mills said that soon, customers will be able to attain decals of the new naval region they are transferring to. Currently, the system allows you to edit your personal information such as your phone number or address, saving the customer from doing so at the Pass and I.D. office itself.

"The vision to improve our way of life in and around the Navy made this happen," Mills said. "With a total team effort here in the Northwest, we will continue to improve projects such as this one."

The regional online decal applications can be found at these URLs:

Region South

<https://www.pid.cnic.navy.mil/form2.asp?region=cnrs>

Region Southwest

<https://www.pid.cnic.navy.mil/form2.asp?region=cnrsw>

Region Hawaii

<https://www.pid.cnic.navy.mil/form2.asp?region=cnrh>

Region Southeast

<https://www.pid.cnic.navy.mil/form2.asp?region=cnrse>

Region Northwest

<https://www.pid.cnic.navy.mil/form2.asp?region=cnrnw>

---

Blue Crew, Gold Crew, the other crew, 90 day patrols, 6 month deployments, been through the ditch, across the equator, under the ice, and up to the pole, Pearl, Yokosuka, Guam, La Madd, Fort Lauderdale, San Juan, tracking ruskies, dodging P-3s, been depth charged, torpedoed, tracked with active sonar, detected by SOSUS, built them, decommissioned them, overhauled them, re-commissioned them, been a Blue Nose, a Shellback, blown from test depth, gone emergency deep, rode Tridents, 688s, 637s, 594's, Skipjack and Franklin class, drug runs, liquor runs, crazy Ivans, been in trail, used a Steinke hood, been through the tower, dodged Russian air power, fought flooding, fires, reactor scrams, stood watch on the BCP, SCP, ECP, GDU, and TDU. I got dolphins, a combat patrol pin, deterrent patrol pin and a DBF pin tattooed on my chest, THRESHER on my left arm SCORPION on the right, missiles on my back, and twin counter rotating screws on my ass. I've drank beer at the Horse and Cow, Scotch in Dunoon, wine in Naples, puked at Beaman's, ate Chili at SUBVETS and I ain't missed a SUB BALL since 1952 so I guess I am a Submarine Sailor.

She said, "I'm a lesbian. I spend my whole day thinking about women. As soon as I get up in the morning, I think about women. When I shower, I think about women. When I watch TV, I think about women. I even think about women when I eat. It seems that everything makes me think of women."

The two sat sipping in silence.

A little while later, a man sat down on the other side of the old Submariner looked at his dolphins and asked, "Are you a real Submarine Sailor?"

He replied, "I always thought I was, but I just found out I'm a lesbian."

---

*Reprint from the March 2008 newsletter*

### **Its Official, DD-214's Are Now Online**

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be

---

---

## Shipyard Finally Preserved Forever



After a struggle of more than 20 years to beat back various development plans for the site of the nation's first submarine base on the waterfront in New Suffolk, Saturday marked a day to "celebrate, appreciate and dedicate" the acquisition of the 3.5 acres by the Peconic Land Trust.

A drenching early-morning rain and stiff wind didn't deter more than 60 New Suffolk residents from descending on the site to participate in a ceremony and then roll up their sleeves to begin a major cleanup.

But besides the physical work of cleaning up the site and the mental work of planning how to develop it for future public use, there's a very real challenge ahead -- raising the \$2.4 million needed for the New Suffolk Waterfront Association to buy the land from the PLT. Since the effort was conceived and begun last year, the association already has received pledges of \$650,000, one quarter of what's needed to pay for the purchase by the end of the year. (The article then goes on more about fund raising and clean up.)

From an observer:

I have been to the hamlet of New Suffolk several times over the past dozen or so years each time stimulating my interest to learn a little more about this first submarine base. In New Suffolk there is an historical marker stating:

### First Submarine Base

This marks the site of the first submarine base in this country where "U.S.S. Holland", commissioned by the U.S. Navy was based for trials. In the period between 1899 and 1905 six other submarines of the Holland Torpedo Boat Co. were based at this site which was known as the Holland Torpedo Boat Station. Naval Maneuvers between submarines and the U.S.S. torpedo boat destroyer "Winslow" of Spanish War Fame were held in these waters. More info about the history of submarines at New Suffolk can be found if you Google it. Or I am sure that Mike Carmody would be glad to forward more it

minimized.

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom processing time.

<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/>

---

## Social Security Debit Card

For millions of Americans, accessing their Social Security benefits is now just a card swipe away. A new debit card being offered by the Treasury Department gives nearly 4 million recipients who have no bank accounts an alternative to paper checks that they must cash, usually at a price. The new debit card, issued by Comerica Bank, was quietly marketed to nearly 3.5 million recipients of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) this spring. It's now available to any benefit recipient through enrollment at [www.usdirectexpress.com](http://www.usdirectexpress.com) States already load child support payments and unemployment benefits onto debit cards. The federal government has used prepaid debit cards, too, for disaster relief aid. But the Social Security debit card is the largest push to date to switch from costly paper checks to electronic payments. "Our goal is to move to 100% electronic payments," says Judy Tillman, commissioner of Treasury's Financial Management Service. "It's safer and more reliable for delivery" of funds.

The new debit card will eliminate the need for consumers without bank accounts to use costly check-cashing services, the Treasury Department says. It will also save the government money. The Treasury estimates that if all 4 million recipients without bank accounts signed up for the card, it would save \$42 million a year. As with any other debit card, using it won't always be free. For instance, holders will get one free ATM withdrawal per month. After that, they'll be charged 90 cents for each withdrawal. A fee of 75 cents per month also applies if cardholders want paper statements mailed to them. Still, the fees are among the lowest in the industry for such services, says Nora Arpin, director of government electronic solutions for Comerica. About 80% of the 57.3 million Social Security and SSI recipients have their benefits directly deposited into their bank accounts. The challenge will be to get the remaining consumers to switch from checks to electronic payments such as direct deposit or the new debit card. The card "might be confusing if they're not savvy about electronic payments and don't have (experience

---

you e-mail him.

From my sailing cruises to New Suffolk and my interest in history, followed by a fair amount of study of this subject, nearly two years ago I had published a letter to the editor of The Day on this subject. It follows:

Published on 10/31/2006 in Editorial » Letters to The Editor of THE DAY, New London, CT

Where Were Subs Prior To Groton Home Base?

To The Editor Of The Day:

"I note with sadness The Day's article about defacing the sign, "Groton: Submarine Capital of the World." ("Vandalized sign raises ire of the community," Oct. 20.) With the Naval Submarine Base and Electric Boat, Groton earned this distinction over many decades — an achievement of which we should take pride. I would like to comment, however, on the article's often-heard reference to Groton as "the first submarine base."

Our Navy's purchasing and commissioning of the Holland submarine in 1900 ushered in the modern submarine era. Built for the Holland Torpedo Boat Co., which became part of Electric Boat Co. the prior year, it had undergone sea trials off the company location at New Suffolk (Long Island), N.Y. With six "improved Holland" design submarines quickly purchased by our Navy, the hamlet of New Suffolk became the birthplace of the U.S. submarine force and site of our country's submarine base. Submarines were there through 1905, the year that Theodore Roosevelt also became the first president to descend in a submarine, the Plunger, off Long Island. The U.S. Navy had already acquired about 40 submarines during the 15 years before a tender with four submarines came to Groton's Navy yard in October 1915.

By that time, the Holland and Plunger had been decommissioned but our Navy had 30-plus submarines elsewhere. The Navy yard in Groton, fledgling since 1872, became a Navy submarine base in 1916 and began to grow.

Groton has since achieved many milestones of excellence in submarine history and claims "the Navy's first submarine base." But New Suffolk claims "the site of the first submarine base in our country." Its earlier association with the birth of modern submarine-force history is seemingly forgotten."

Tom Althuis  
Groton, CT

I am not in any way trying to take away from Groton's rich and outstanding history but simply promote that the history of submarines and where they were based be recorded accurately. It is

---

with) a bank account," says Chris Allen, a director for Hitachi Consulting.

---



A guy is driving around the back woods of Tennessee and he sees a sign in front of a broken down shanty-style house: "Talking Dog for Sale" He rings the bell and the owner appears and tells him the dog is in the backyard. The guy goes into the back yard and sees a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there. "You talk?" he asks. "Yep," the lab replies. After the guy recovers from the shock of hearing a dog talk, he says "So, what's your story?" The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA and they had me sworn into the toughest branch of the armed services...the United States Marines. You know one of their nicknames is "The Devil Dogs." In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders; because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running, but the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. So, I decided to settle down. I retired from the Corps (8 dog years is 56 Corps years) and signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals. I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired."

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog. "Ten dollars," the guy says. "Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?" "Because he's such a liar. He never did any of that stuff. He was in the Navy!"

---

### **Tree's Company For Subs**

Wood from the tallest trees in the world will be used to lift four submarines out of the water. The Navy base at Faslane is to be the home of new highly sophisticated Astute nuclear submarines costing more than £4billion. Each one of the 320ft long vessels weighs around 7800 tonnes leaving the problem of how to get them out of

---

troublesome to go through our National Submarine Museum in Groton and see many pictures and references to the "U.S.S. Holland" and even buildings in New Suffolk without any reference to where they were actually taken. In fact I can't even find the words New Suffolk in the public exhibit materials. When visitors are in Groton and there is no mention of other sites, they can't help but go away with the false impression that everything happened here. But it didn't and the "Holland" was never here, yet the exhibits would give visitors the impression that it was. The "Holland" had already been decommissioned before the first submarines came to Groton in 1915.

There may be a technical difference in the first official Navy owned submarine base being in Groton compared to the first base in New Suffolk which was not Navy owned, but on property leased by the Holland Torpedo Boat Company/Electric Boat, yet operated as a submarine base. In his chapter, "The Early Days" published in United States Submarines, Naval Submarine League, Sonalysis, Barnes and Noble 2002) Admiral William J. Crowe (p 38-- picture caption top left) shows a picture of the machine shop, drawing room, docking facilities, and basin at New Suffolk, New York (building also shown in pictures in our Submarine Museum but without identifying the location) was leased by the Holland Torpedo Boat Company (later to become the Electric Boat Company in 1899). Crowe states, "This small harbor was the nation's first operational submarine base."



Talk about Steel Ships and Iron Men!



---

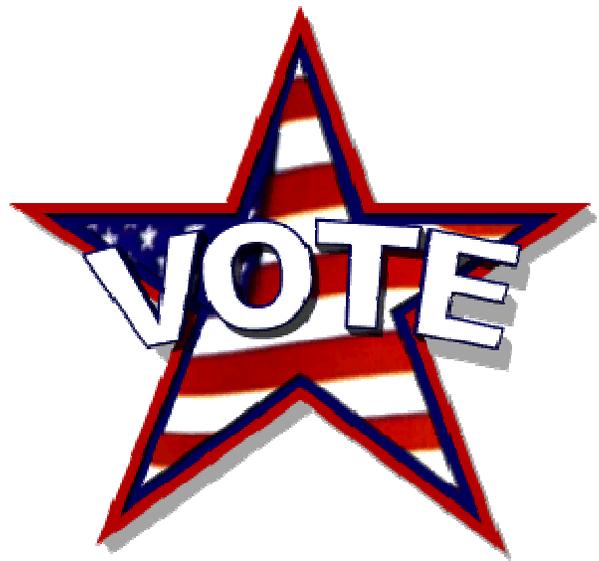
### Admiral Osborne Scholarship Fund

How about helping out the scholarship fund? We are

the water if they need repaired or servicing. The base already has the only boat lift in the world capable of lifting a nuclear submarine out of the water.

But the Astute posed Navy bosses with a special problem as it has a different shape of hull. As a result, 45 massive pieces of wood have been delivered to the Clyde base. They will be put together to create a cradle for the craft which will be sunk into the water allowing the Astute to sail in over the structure. Huge lifting machines will bring the wood support and the submarine out of the water. The support is made from Douglas Fir - the world's tallest tree was a 420ft Douglas Fir, chopped down in 1895. It will be tested when the first Astute arrives on the Clyde next year.

A floating jetty to support the new subs is being built in Greenock at a cost of £150m.



---

### More Scuttlebutt



It seems that recently the deposed Alcohol and Gaming Department Head decided it was FINALLY time to relinquish, for a good cause, his beloved reserved parking spot at The After Battery. This is definitely a good thing since it has caused much grief, heartache and has contributed to bad morale amongst the troops.

The story goes like this...

Neck told Clyde Peters that he really felt bad for

---

---

offering a Charleston Base Challenge Coin for sale. ALL proceeds go into the scholarship fund. Coins only cost \$7 each. Available for an additional \$1 is a protective plastic capsule. To get your coin(s) see Jim Yates, Julian Villegas or Carl Chinn. Make sure you have one for “when you get challenged”! Buy several for great gifts!



---

A-Ganger or Torpedoman...  
You be the judge



him given Clyde’s current condition. With that said, he also told Clyde, “Hey buddy, you can have my parking space so you won’t have to walk so far and you don’t even have to have a handicapped sticker.”

As it should be, Clyde graciously accepted the offer and assumed all was well in Cockaigne (guess you Torpedomen will have to look that one up) and went upon his merry way.

On a recent Wednesday, the first time Clyde shows up to park in this venerated location, lo and behold, Neck’s truck is pompously situated in said realm. Now Clyde, being the calm, cool, nonviolent creature that he is, kicked down the door, walked in the door of The After Battery and vehemently inquired of Neck, “What the hell are you doing in my parking spot!”

Neck replied with a haughty retort, “We don’t want you crippled %&\*\$suckers up here any more.” So much for Mister Niceguy. Refer to the last newsletter. This definitely looks like a predilection (again, Torpedomen to the dictionary) towards a mean and violent temperament for one individual.

---