

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 4, No. 11

November 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.ussvicb.org

National web page: www.ussvi.org

Base Meeting:

November 13, 2008

Social hour 1800, General Meeting 1900

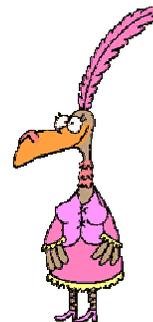
Location:

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269, Low Country Home
99 Wisteria Rd.

Goose Creek, South Carolina. Phone 843-569-2962

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

Special Officers		Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	Marty Sessler	843-871-1536
Public Affairs	Richard Cleeve	843-899-4563
Sub Vets WWII	Sy Mabie	843-871-9713
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
Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843-873-5897



Sub Vets WWII: Thursday the 16th at Ryan's.
The discussion will be for the Amberjack memorial

Minutes of the October 2008 meeting

Attendance for the October 9, 2008 meeting was 101

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; Nathan Dozier, Lawrence Latta, and David Burns (Commander of Grayback Base). 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: New items and new ball caps.

Chaplain: September Report: Cards were sent as follows to:

John Kratz on the death of his brother in Florida on September 3rd.

Family of Thomas Walsh via the George Funeral Home and Cremation Center. Tom was a member of the Aiken Base, a WWII Subvet who rode the DRUM SS-228. Tom went on eternal patrol on September 16th.

Whitey and Joan Mack. Whitey's suffering with pancreatic cancer and Joan is having a difficult time with her health also.

Family of ETCM (SS) Robert McCulley of a Florida Funeral Home. He was a veteran of WWII, the Korean War and Vietnam War.

Steve Morris and family on the death of his brother, Michael on September 25th.

Thomas Barnes showing concern for his illness. He is a friend of Gary Semler who reported that after the convention Thomas was coughing up blood. It has been determined that it is not cancer.

Joan Mack and family on the death of Chester M. (Whitey) Mack, Captain, USN (Ret.) on September 25th.

Janet Blackford and family on the death of Edwin Blackford on September 25th. He served onboard the Archerfish.

Rae Holtz and family on the death of Captain Arnold 'Ike' Holtz on September 26th. Captain Holtz was one of the five oldest living graduates of the U.S. Naval Academy. He served in battleships, destroyers, submarines, and amphibious ships. World War II service was spent in command of three different submarines the O6, the Tuna and the Baya. He was in command during eight submarine war patrols in all areas of the Pacific. His war time decorations include the Silver Star Medal and the Bronze Star Medal.

George Lisle as he goes through chemo treatments for his bone cancer.

Ben Heber as he continues to undergoes treatment for his cancer. Ben Heber is not doing well and has been in bed the last few days. The radiation treatment is complete and

at Patriots Point.

Scholarship: Tolling of the Bell went great. We also just received an anonymous donation of \$1200 to fund. Also we still have challenge coins.

Public Affairs: Look at your picture on the web site. We are taking pictures so we know what you look like.

Webmaster: The web site has new information on it you need to take a look at it.

Veteran's Affairs: No report

District Commander: Good job on the Henry Clay reunion.

South east convention in St. Augustine Beach, 30 April through 3 May. Holiday Inn \$49 a room Gulf Coast Christmas party coming up.

Fleet Reserve: No report

Holland Club: No report

Membership: 315 members and as of this moment 122 have not paid dues yet.

Little David: No report

Newsletter: No report

Alcohol & Gaming: There are new baby goats at the After Battery. Buddha is the "Mid-wife" of the year for his fast action and assistance in the delivery. There is no truth to the rumor about the "alleged" parentage of the goats.

Chief of the Boat: Hog roast coming up, do not bring cole slaw or baked beans, it is taken care of.

Thank you for helping out on the working party at "The After Battery". Working party for set on Friday in PM. Sunday morning @ 0800 breakfast then cleanup.

Summerville "Taste of the Town" Sunday the 9th of November at 1400. Be there by 1330

Veterans Day ceremony 11 November at 1000 Summerville County Services building.

Submarine memorial in Galveston was damaged by hurricane Ike.

Base Commander: Base Commander spoke on the subject of the past national elections. Presented an outline of our response to national and was given permission by those present to proceed.

Nuclear Historian: Shocking, he had no report!

Old Business: Christmas party coming up on 6 December, \$15 per person, member and wife, and \$20 per guest.

New Business: Nov. 8th breakfast at the "Fleet, 0930 to 1300.

The FRA is in the Charleston Veterans Day parade

starts chemo in 3 or 4 weeks.

Barney Chaplin as he continues his treatments for cancer.

Curly Houck as he continues to go through this time with inoperable cancer.

Rick Wise when he underwent a cardiac cath procedure recently.

Paul Walsh on the death of his brother Steven. Paul is an honorary member of Charleston Base and has volunteered a lot of work at the After Battery.

Concerns told at the meeting:

John Sutton just had leg surgery.

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.

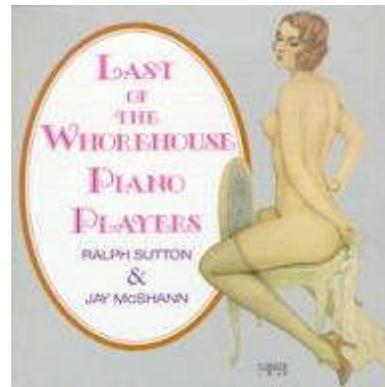
Vice Commander Report: No report

Good Of The Order: Still have a Holland Club ball cap that was lost at the Weapons Station.

Depth Charge drawing \$302 to winner who donated \$100 back to scholarship fund. The winner was George Dale.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.

**** End of the minutes for October 2008 ****



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



Barnette, G	Bergamo	Buxton	Campbell, G
Gomez	Hubert	Kerstetter	LaForce
Lehmann	Litzenberge	McKanna	McLochlin
Miller, M	Morrison	Mueller	Munoz
Narowski	O'Brien	Pease	Power
Rader	Seal	Starland	Stevenson
Viering	Wells	Wolfe	Wright
Yates, W			

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS!

November 4 – Election Day

November 9 – Patriotism In The Park, Azalea Park, Summerville. 1200 to 1600. We will have a Boat Tolling at 1400.

November 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony, Summerville County Services building on Main Street. Starts at 1030.

November 13 – Regular meeting

November Submarines Lost:

USS Corvina	SS 226	November 16,
USS Sculpin	SS 191	November 19,
USS Capelin	SS 289	November 23,
USS Albacore	SS 218	November 7, 1944
USS Growler	SS 215	November 8, 1944
USS Scamp	SS 277	November 9, 1944

The Final Patrol

Lord, these departed shipmates with dolphins on their chest,

Are a part of an outfit known as the very best.

Make them welcome and take them by the hand,

You'll find without a doubt they were the best in all the land.

So, heavenly Father, add their names to the roll,

Of our departed shipmates still on patrol.

Let them know that we who survive,

Will always keep their memories alive.

Membership Dues

2009 membership dues were payable on 1 October 2008.

If you're not sure what you owe, contact Carl Chinn at carlc@sc.rr.com or 875-3098.

The following members are on the **DINK LIST**:

Last Name	First Name	2009 Amount Due
Andersen	Douglas	35.00
Bailey	Walter	35.00



Navy Confirms Sunken Submarine is Grunion

PEARL HARBOR (NNS) -- Commander, Submarine Forces Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC), Rear Adm. Douglas McAneny announced today that a sunken vessel off the coast of the Aleutian Islands is in fact the World War II submarine USS Grunion (SS 216).

"I am honored to announce that, with records and information provided by the Abele family and assistance from the Naval Historical Center, USS Grunion has been located," said McAneny. "We are very grateful to the family of Grunion's Commanding Officer Lt. Cmdr. Mannert L. Abele for providing the underwater video footage and pictures that allowed us to make this determination. We also appreciate the efforts of the USS Cod Submarine Memorial for their assistance in this matter. We hope this announcement will help to give closure to the families of the 70 crewmen of Grunion."

The submarine Grunion arrived at Pearl Harbor on June 20, 1942. The vessel completed pre-patrol training before departing on its first war patrol June 30. Grunion's commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. Abele, was ordered to proceed to the Aleutian Islands and patrol westward from Attu on routes between the Aleutians and the Japanese Empire. On July 10, Grunion was reassigned to the area north of Kiska. Over the next 20 days, the submarine reported firing on an enemy destroyer, sinking three destroyer-type vessels, and attacking unidentified enemy ships near Kiska.

Grunion's last transmission was received on July 30, 1942. The submarine reported heavy antisubmarine activity at the entrance to Kiska, and that it had 10 torpedoes remaining forward. On the same day, Grunion was directed to return to Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base. There was no contact or sighting of the submarine after July 30, and on August 16, Grunion was reported lost.

Abele was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for heroism. A destroyer, USS Mannert L. Abele (DD 733), was commissioned in his honor, and was later lost in action off Okinawa in 1945. Japanese anti-submarine attack data recorded no attack in the

Baker	Tim	35.00
Barber	Bruce	35.00
Barber	Willis	35.00
Bonow	David	35.00
Campbell	Gary	35.00
Clark	Jeffery	35.00
Comp	Ralph	15.00
Corcoran	Gerald	35.00
Coutu	Girard	15.00
Crookston	Robert	35.00
Davis	Danny	15.00
Daschle	Val	35.00
Douglas	Travis	35.00
Dygert	Kevin	35.00
Edwards	Kyle	35.00
Farrell	Kenneth	15.00
Fletcher	Stephen	15.00
Giannetto	Joseph	15.00
Gleason	David	35.00
Grassman	Bobby	35.00
Griggs	Dewey	35.00
Gunnis	Glenn	35.00
Habhegger	Dean	35.00
Hines	Charles	35.00
Hix	Carol	15.00
Hodges	Jimmy	35.00
Hopkins	Robert	15.00
Horton	Richard	35.00
Houston	John	35.00
Hubert	Robert	35.00
Hunter	William	35.00
Ianuzzi	Michael	35.00
Johnson	Edwin	35.00
Jones	Rick	35.00
Kennedy	Bill	15.00
Kratz	Warren	35.00
LaForce	Christian	35.00
Lavergne	R.J.	35.00
Lehmann	Howard	35.00
Mathis	Barry	35.00
McDonald	Benjamin	35.00
McRae	F.C.	35.00
Medert	David	35.00
Miller	Carl	35.00
Miller	Marvin	15.00
Minaudo	John	15.00
Moore	Robert	15.00
Morgart	Mark	35.00
Naert	Steve	35.00
Narowski	William	35.00
Nathan	Norris	35.00
Nettles	Harry	35.00
Neufeld	Wayne	35.00
Ougourlian	Gregory	35.00
Owen	Kirk	35.00
Peters	Clyde	15.00
Pickett	Russell	15.00
Rackley	Emmett	15.00
Rice	Thomas	35.00

Aleutian area at the time of Grunion's disappearance, so the submarine's fate remained an unsolved mystery for more than 60 years.

After discovering information on the internet in 2002 that helped pinpoint USS Grunion's possible location, the sons of Grunion's commanding officer, Bruce, Brad, and John Abele, began working on a plan to find the submarine. In August 2006, a team of side scan sonar experts hired by the brothers located a target near Kiska almost a mile below the ocean's surface. A second expedition in August 2007 using a high definition camera on a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) yielded video footage and high resolution photos of the wreckage of a U.S. fleet submarine.

"This discovery has come about through a stream of seemingly improbable events; it's like we won the lottery 10 times in a row," said Bruce Abele, eldest son of Grunion's commanding officer. "It is so dramatic to see the underwater photo and be certain it was in fact Grunion; not only is this announcement important for the families of the crew members, it's also important for the Navy and the country."

The Abele brothers then contacted the USS Cod Submarine Memorial for assistance in identifying the wreckage. The vessel is lying at a depth of about 3,200 feet. Very cold water and lack of significant currents has preserved much of the wreckage.

Dr. John Fakan, director of the USS Cod Submarine Memorial, remarked about the importance of having an unmodified example in USS Cod, a fellow Gato-class submarine, in identifying the wreckage of USS Grunion.

"USS Grunion and USS Cod shared the same blueprints," he said. "It is very gratifying for me and my crew to help with the identification of the submarine."

With the information provided by the Abele family and the USS Cod Submarine Memorial, COMSUBPAC and the Naval Historical Center examined the evidence and historical records and determined that the submarine found at the reported position could only be USS Grunion.

"The synergy of our group working together with the Navy for the common cause has been a wonderful group effort," Bruce Abele said. "The teamwork combined with everyone's compassion and wisdom has resulted in our success."

According to Bruce's brother John Abele, those responsible for contributing to this discovery included historians and engineers from the United States, Australia, Israel and Japan. Of particular note was the involvement of Japanese naval architect Yutaka Iwasaki, who provided information critical to pinpointing the location of the submarine.

Robinson	John	35.00
Shipman	Robert	35.00
Sickle	James	35.00
Smith	Mike	35.00
Smith	Pinckney	35.00
Spagone	Daniel	35.00
Spotts	Rick	35.00
Stank	Edward	35.00
Stuffle	Michael	15.00
Upchurch	Walter	15.00
Vacher	Matthew	35.00
Van Swearingen	Joseph	15.00
Villegas	Julian	35.00
Votta	Alan	35.00
Wardean	John	15.00
Weiland	Ralph	20.00
Wickenhoffer	Douglas	15.00
Willis	Ronald	35.00
Wright	S. Phillip	35.00
Yates	Gerald	35.00
Yingling	Thomas	35.00



Annual Christmas Party



The Charleston Base Christmas Party will be on 6 December 2008. It will be held at the same location as the past 2 years; *Gatherings* in beautiful

Bruce and John's brother, retired Lt. Brad Abele, who recently passed away, also played a significant role in the find. As his brother John explained, "Brad's experience as a Naval aviator helped a great deal by helping us to plot the strategy for the discovery."

Unfortunately, the cause of Grunion's sinking remains a mystery. No matter what the cause, the end result was the loss of all hands. As the Naval Historical Center noted, "no amount of analysis or speculation will change or alter the fact that families lost fathers, husbands, uncles and brothers... the Navy and the nation will always be grateful for their service and their sacrifice."

Former Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz once said, "When I assumed command of the Pacific Fleet on 31 December 1941 our submarines were already operating against the enemy, the only units of the Fleet that could come to grips with the Japanese for months to come. It was to the Submarine Force that I looked to carry the load until our great industrial activity could produce the weapons we so sorely needed to carry the war to the enemy. It is to the everlasting honor and glory of our submarine personnel that they never failed us in our days of great peril."

By the end of World War II, submarines had made more than 1,600 war patrols. Pacific Fleet submarines like Grunion accounted for more than half of all enemy shipping sunk during the war. The cost of this success was heavy: 52 U.S. Pacific Fleet submarines were lost, and more than 3,500 submariners remain on "eternal patrol."

A representative of the submarine force will speak on behalf of the U.S. Navy at a memorial service in Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 11. The service, hosted by the USS Cod Memorial, will honor the 70 crewmembers killed when USS Grunion was sunk near the Aleutian Islands on or about July 30, 1942.

"To provide ourselves and the families this closure, it's icing on the cake," said John Abele. "The memorial service is a symbolic event; we've discovered family we didn't know we had. Not only is this an honor for all of us, it increases the feeling of community we've been able to achieve."

New Submarine Rescue Asset Joins Fleet

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Submarine Rescue Diving and Recompression System's (SRDRS) Rescue Capable System (RCS) replaced the Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle Mystic (DSRV-1) as the U.S. Navy's deep-submergence submarine rescue asset on Sept. 30. Mystic and the DSRV program began deactivation on Oct. 1.

downtown Dorchester, SC.



Same rules as always...

you must have a ticket to attend and **THERE WILL BE NO TICKET SALES AT THE DOOR!**

Cocktails at 1700, Dinner at 1830

Dress is not prescribed, come comfortable, as you desire. Coat and tie, slacks and shirt, etc.

Tickets will be available at the September meeting.

Last day to buy tickets is 13 November meeting.

Buy early! Ticket price: \$15 per person for member and spouse/girlfriend. \$20 per person for all other guests.

If you cannot get to the November meeting but want to attend the Christmas Party call Paul Viering (797-2623) no later than 1 Nov 2008.

From the Storekeeper

2009 USSVI calendars are available. \$10 each.

These calendars have pictures of the museum boats from around the country.

Alert

If you were aboard the USS Carbonero (SS-337) during any of the following dates: May & June 1965 August & September 1966 or April & May 1968, you should contact the nearest VA Medical Center and request an evaluation from their Environmental Agents Group.

This was the boat that was used for the SHAD testing to determine vulnerabilities to chemical and/or biological warfare.

For more information contact Ted McAnly - his email address is thmjmac@netzero.net

Charleston Base WWII member

"On Eternal Patrol"

CHAPLIN, JR., Barnwell Barnwell Rhett Chaplin, Jr., husband of Ethel Mae Dobson Chaplin, passed away at his home in Charleston, SC, on Friday, October 17, 2008. The funeral services will be Tuesday at eleven o'clock in Harbor View Presbyterian Church. Interment, Magnolia Cemetery. Friends may call at J. HENRY STUHR, INC., DOWNTOWN CHAPEL, Monday from five-thirty until seventy-thirty o'clock. Barney was born September 27, 1925 in Charleston, SC, the son

SRDRS is a rapidly deployable rescue asset that can be delivered by air or ground, installed on pre-screened military or commercial vessels of opportunity (VOO) via a ship interface template, and mated to a distressed submarine within a 72-hour time to first rescue period.

Mystic is a small rescue submarine capable of deploying via air or ground to a port where it is mated to a specially configured submarine which serves as the host platform for the voyage to the disabled submarine.

"Mystic has served the United States and the international submarine community admirably for the last 31 years," said Steve Schulze, executive director, Undersea Warfare, Naval Sea Systems Command.

"Mystic brought new capabilities to the fleet when she entered service in 1977; now SRDRS builds upon those innovations, delivering even greater capabilities to the international submarine community."

SRDRS is a three-phased acquisition program that will deliver advanced submarine rescue and treatment assets to the fleet. The first phase of the program was the Atmospheric Dive System 2000 (ADS2000) which was delivered to the Navy in 2006. ADS2000 is a manned, one-atmosphere dive suit capable of inspecting disabled submarines and clearing debris from escape hatches. The RCS constitutes SRDRS' second phase.

SRDRS-RCS consists of Falcon, the tethered, remotely-operated Pressurized Rescue Module (PRM), its launch and recovery system, and its support equipment; all of which are controlled from a VOO.

The final phase of the SRDRS program is the Submarine Decompression System (SDS), scheduled for delivery in late 2012. SDS will allow rescued submariners to remain under pressure during the transfer from the PRM to hyperbaric treatment chambers aboard the VOO.

Unlike Mystic, which could only be transported to the disabled submarine via modified submarines, SRDRS is a "fly-away" system that can quickly and easily be mobilized via large military or civilian transport aircraft and installed aboard a variety of VOOs within hours of notification of a submarine in distress.

Falcon can conduct rescue operations to a depth of 2,000 feet, can mate to a disabled submarine at a list and trim of up to 45 degrees, and can transfer up to 16 personnel at a time. Mystic required its own power source – necessitating a two-hour battery charge between cycles. Because SRDRS-RCS receives its power from a VOO via an umbilical, it can operate around the clock without pause.

"SRDRS has been a tremendously successful

of Barnwell Rhett Chaplin and Marie Greer Chaplin. He served in the US Navy from 1943-1946 on the USS Sea Lion in the South Pacific during World War II. He was a 1951 graduate from the University of South Carolina. He was a retired District Engineering Manager for Bellsouth (Southern Bell) from 1951 until 1985. He was a certified Professional Engineer. He was a former member of the Rotary Club in both Charleston and Columbia and served on the Chamber of Commerce in Charleston, Columbia and Orangeburg. He served on the advisory board as an Electrical Representative for Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College. He was a member of the US Submarine Veterans Association as a World War II representative. He was the treasurer of the WW II Submarine Veterans, and a member of Harbor View Presbyterian Church. He also served on many other local and business clubs. He is survived by his wife of Charleston, SC; one son: B. Rhett Chaplin, III and his wife Laura of Charleston, SC; one daughter: Jayne C. McDaniel and her husband Jim of Columbia, SC; five grandchildren: Bess Burkhardt, Jenny Granger, Bobby, Adam and Matthew McDaniel; two great grandchildren: Maddie and Laura Granger; one brother: Robert W. Chaplin of Mt. Pleasant, SC; and one sister: Rosalie C. Mixson of North Charleston, SC. He is predeceased by one brother: Edwin G. Chaplin. Memorials may be made to Harbor View Presbyterian Church, 900 Harborview Road, Charleston, SC 29412. Visit our guestbook at www.charleston.net/deaths .

Sailor, Rest Your Oar

Food For Thought

- Some people grumble because the roses have thorns instead of being grateful that the thorns have roses.
 - We must learn from the mistakes of others because we won't live long enough to make them all ourselves.
 - Don't look down on another person unless you are leaning over to help them up.
 - What a different world this would be if people would magnify their blessings the way they do their troubles.
 - The largest room in the world is the room for improvement.
 - Winners - people who tell you what they did and not people who tell you what they think you ought to do.
-

program to date," said Rear Adm. William Hilarides, program executive officer for submarines. "We took this platform and exercised it in some difficult conditions on the world stage and it performed up to our very high expectations."

SRDRS underwent a unique test and operational evaluation during the international submarine rescue exercise Bold Monarch in May-June 2008. During Bold Monarch, SRDRS demonstrated its ability to mate and transfer personnel from three participating submarines, one each from Norway, the Netherlands, and Poland. Personnel from the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Russia, Pakistan, India, Norway, Italy, Israel, Sweden, Spain, Singapore, the Netherlands, France, and China spent time aboard SRDRS. More recently, SRDRS demonstrated its capabilities during an exercise with the Chilean submarine CS Simpson (SS-21) Sept. 17-18.

"From a testing and certification standpoint, SRDRS has delivered on all of its initial expectations," said Capt. Gary Dunlap, program manager for Advanced Undersea Systems. "This system provides not only the U.S. Navy, but all navies, with a flexible, capable, and – most importantly – rapidly deployable rescue asset."

SRDRS will be based out of San Diego, and operated by the Navy's Deep Submergence Unit.



VOTE

Admiral Osborne Scholarship Fund

How about helping out the scholarship fund? We are 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!

Rules for the Non - Military Dear Civilians

'We know that the current state of affairs in our great nation has many civilians up in arms and excited to join the military. For those of you who can't join, you can still lend a hand. Here are a few of the areas where we would like your assistance:

1. The next time you see any adults talking (or wearing a hat) during the playing of the National Anthem - kick their ass.
 2. When you witness, firsthand, someone burning the American Flag in protest - kick their ass.
 3. Regardless of the rank they held while they served, pay the highest amount of respect to all veterans. If you see anyone doing otherwise, quietly pull them aside and explain how these veterans fought for the very freedom they bask in every second. Enlighten them on the many sacrifices these veterans made to make this Nation great. Then hold them down while a disabled veteran kicks their ass.
 4. If you were never in the military, DO NOT pretend that you were. Wearing battle dress uniforms (BDUs) or Jungle Fatigues, telling others that you used to be Special Forces, and collecting GI Joe memorabilia, might have been okay when you were seven years old. Now, it will only make you look stupid and get your ass kicked.
 5. Next time you come across an Air Force member, do not ask them, 'Do you fly a jet?' Not everyone in the Air Force is a pilot. Such ignorance deserves an ass-kicking (children are exempt).
 6. If you witness someone calling the US Coast Guard 'non-military', Inform them of their mistake - and kick their ass.
 7. Next time Old Glory (the US flag) prances by during a parade, get on your damn feet and pay homage to her by placing your hand over your heart. Quietly thank the military member or veteran lucky enough to be carrying her - of course, failure to do either of those could earn you a severe ass-kicking.
 8. Don't try to discuss politics with a military member or a veteran. We are Americans, and we all bleed the same, regardless of our party affiliation. Our Chain of Command is to include our Commander-In-Chief (CinC). The President (for those who didn't know) is our CinC regardless of political party. We have no inside track on what happens inside those big important buildings where
-



2009 COLA for Retired Pay

Each year military retirement pay is adjusted to meet the increased cost of living. This Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) varies from year to year based on the previous year's Consumer Price Index (CPI).

2009 Update: The 2009 military retired pay cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be 5.8%. This increase, which goes into effect on December 1, 2008, also applies to SBP annuities, Social Security checks, and VA disability and survivor benefits. Retirees will see the increase in their January 2009 checks.

Note: This annual Cost-of-Living-Adjustment is NOT in anyway related to the annual military pay raise for active duty and reserve service members. In fact, this year's COLA increase is larger than the 2009 military pay raise of 3.9%.

All retirees who retired before January 1, 2008 will receive the 5.8 percent Cost-of-Living-Adjustment.

Retirees who first became a member of the uniformed services before Sept. 8, 1980 and retired on or after January 1, 2008 will receive the 5.0 percent Cost-of-Living-Adjustment.

Retirees who first became a member of the uniformed services on or after Sept. 8, 1980, and retired in 2008 will receive a Partial COLA on a prorated basis as follows:

Jan. 1, 2008, and March 31, 2008, will receive 5.0%

April 1 - June 30, 2008 will receive 3.8%

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2008 will receive 1.2%

Those who retired after Oct. 1, 2008, will see no COLA this year.

Retirees who first entered the military after Sept. 8, 1980 and retired before Jan. 1, 2008 will also receive the 5.8 percent COLA.

Retirees who first became members of the uniformed services on or after Aug. 1, 1986 and elected to receive a Career Status Bonus at 15 years, and retired on or before Jan. 1, 2008, will receive an increase of only 4.8 percent.

Navy Commissions Submarine New Hampshire

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy's newest attack submarine New Hampshire (SSN 778) will be

all those representatives meet. All we know is that when those civilian representatives screw up the situation, they call upon the military to go straighten it out. If you keep asking us the same stupid questions repeatedly, you will get your ass kicked!

9. 'Your mama wears combat boots' never made sense to me - stop saying It! If she did, she would most likely be a vet and therefore could kick your ass!

10. Bin Laden and the Taliban are not Communists, so stop saying 'Let's go kill those Commies!' And stop asking us where he is! Crystal balls are not standard issue in the military. That reminds me- if you see anyone calling those damn psychic phone numbers, let me know, so I can go kick their ass!

11. 'Flyboy' (Air Force), 'Jarhead' (Marines), 'Grunt' (Army), 'Squid' (Navy), 'Puddle Jumpers' (Coast Guard), etc., are terms of endearment we use describing each other. Unless you are a service member or vet, you have not earned the right to use them. Using them could get your ass kicked.

12. Last, but not least, whether or not you become a member of the military, support our troops and their families. Every Thanksgiving and religious holiday that you enjoy with family and friends, please remember that there are literally thousands of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen far from home wishing they could be with their families. Thank God for our military and the sacrifices they make every day. Without them, our country would get it's ass kicked.

'It's the Veteran, not the reporter, who has given us the freedom of the press.' 'It's the Veteran, not the poet, who has given us the freedom of speech.' 'It's the Veteran, not the campus organizer, who gives us the freedom to demonstrate.' 'It's the Military who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.'

13. If you ever see anyone either standing for or singing the national anthem in Spanish - KICK THEIR ASS.

OMSI Submarine Listed On National Register

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry's submarine USS Blueback has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A Barbel class submarine commissioned in 1959, the USS Blueback is the last non-nuclear powered submarine built by the U.S. Navy. She is considered nationally significant for her transitional

commissioned Oct. 25 during a 10 a.m., ceremony at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine.

U.S. Sen. Judd Gregg will deliver the ceremony's principal address. The ship's sponsor, Cheryl McGuinness of Portsmouth, N.H., is the widow of Lt. Cmdr. Thomas McGuinness, a veteran Navy pilot and co-pilot of American Airlines Flight 11 which was flown into the North Tower of the World Trade Center by terrorists Sept. 11, 2001. The ceremony will be highlighted by a time-honored Navy tradition when McGuinness gives the order to "man our ship and bring her to life!"

The fifth submarine of the Virginia-class, New Hampshire was delivered eight months early thanks to the Navy's on-going cost-reduction initiatives. This will mark the first time since 1996 that the Navy has commissioned two submarines of the same class in the same year. USS North Carolina (SSN 777) was commissioned in May.

Through their unique capabilities of stealth and endurance, Virginia-class submarines directly enable the Maritime Strategy core capabilities of forward presence, deterrence, sea control, power projection and maritime security. Equally adept at operating in the world's shallow littoral regions and deep waters, New Hampshire will significantly contribute to the mission areas of anti-submarine warfare; anti-surface warfare; special operations forces; strike; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; irregular warfare; and mine warfare.

Cmdr. Mike Stevens, a native of Tacoma, Wash., will become the ship's first commanding officer, leading a crew of approximately 134 officers and enlisted personnel.

The 7,800-ton New Hampshire was built under a unique teaming arrangement between General Dynamics Electric Boat and Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding. New Hampshire is 337 feet in length, has a beam of 34 feet and can operate at depths greater than 800 feet and at speeds exceeding 25 knots submerged. New Hampshire is also designed with a reactor plant which will not require refueling during the planned life of the ship, reducing lifecycle costs while increasing operational availability.

Looking to the Future Five more Virginia-class submarines are under construction, and each is expected to be delivered between eight and 12 months early. The sixth ship of the class, New Mexico (SSN 779), will be christened on Dec. 13 at Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding's Newport News site.

The Navy is negotiating a five-year, eight-ship Virginia-class contract that will build one ship per year in 2009 and 2010 before transitioning to two ships per year in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Scheduled to

engineering and design.

Only three Barbel class submarines were ever built. The vessels combined World War II-era diesel/electric motor technology with a tear-drop hull shape and other improvements that were incorporated into later submarine designs.

As the last surviving Barbel class, OMSI's submarine represents an important transition in maritime technology and naval warfare.

The USS Blueback served in the Navy's Pacific Fleet for 31 years and made the longest-ever submerged voyage by a diesel/electric submarine, traveling 5,340 miles from Yokosuka, Japan, to San Diego. And she's a movie star, appearing in the 1990 movie "The Hunt for Red October."

Forty-five minute guided tours of the submarine are available during regular museum hours.

The USS Blueback joins more than 500 historic Portland properties listed in the National Register.

Transplant Complete, Attack Sub Floats Again

More than three years after a devastating underwater crash killed one sailor, injured 100 more and crushed the bow of the fast-attack submarine San Francisco, the ship has returned to the water after a first-of-its kind overhaul.

In the maritime equivalent of a major organ transplant, workers at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Wash., amputated more than 1 million pounds' worth of the bow section of the decommissioned attack sub Honolulu and grafted it onto the ailing San Francisco.

"The engineering and production teams proceeded to manipulate the mammoth structure with orchestrated precision," according to an announcement from Naval Sea Systems Command. "In some areas, the bow of this massive structure was moved to within 1/16 of an inch of the original structure."

With the surgery complete, the San Francisco floated off its dry dock for the first time Oct. 10. The ship has been in the yard since December 2006.

The systems transferred from the Honolulu a newer Los Angeles-class sibling commissioned in 1985, four years after the San Francisco included its active sonar sphere and its forward ballast tanks. Although the Honolulu is four years younger than the San Francisco, the older sub's nuclear reactor had been refueled three years before the accident at a cost of roughly \$170 million.

The Honolulu was scheduled to be decommissioned in 2006 even before Navy planners decided to use its bow section on the older

be awarded in December 2008, this will be the third Virginia class contract.

In 2005, the CNO stated that the Navy would buy two Virginia-class submarines in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 if the per-unit cost came down from \$2.4 billion per hull to \$2 billion as measured in FY05 dollars. That cost-reduction goal remains in place today. Considering inflation, the actual goal per submarine in FY12 is \$2.59 billion. The program is on track to meet this goal.



Charleston Base Boat Tolling Ceremony at 1400



Submarine Heroes

Captain John Cromwell

Captain Cromwell was a senior naval officer aboard the submarine Sculpin in November of 1943. He was ordered aboard Sculpin to take charge of a group of submarines (called a wolf pack) that was sent to attack Japanese shipping north of the island of Truk. It was during one of these ninety-day patrols that Sculpin was attacked by a Japanese destroyer and driven to the surface as a result of some damage to her depth gage. The Destroyer's deck guns pounded the submarine continually causing enough damage to force one of the remaining officers on the deck to order "abandon ship". Captain Cromwell possessed vital information about the dispositions of all of our submarines operating in the Pacific and fearing this

sub.

Navy engineers determined it would be cheaper to transplant the Honolulu's forward equipment to the San Francisco, for an estimated \$79 million, than it would have been to refuel the Honolulu, for another estimated \$170 million, if it were kept in commission.

The San Francisco crashed into an undersea mountain Jan. 8, 2005, suffering damage so severe that the warship almost sunk. The ship struggled to Guam, and after temporary repairs, the ship sailed 5,600 nautical miles to Puget Sound on the surface, the longest trip a U.S. submarine has made without submerging.

Although the San Francisco is the first submarine to get another submarine's bow, the procedure is common with surface ships. In 1956, for example, the battleship Wisconsin collided with a destroyer in heavy weather off Norfolk. To repair it, Navy engineers sliced the bow off one of the two unfinished Iowa-class battleships, the Kentucky, and replaced the Wisconsin's original bow.

Went out with Style

Published: October 9, 2008

SIESTA KEY - A simple act of paying respect to the flag and the men and women who served in uniform turned retired Navy Capt. Ralph Styles into something of a folk hero.

Day after day, year after year for perhaps 15 years, Styles has ceremoniously raised and lowered the flag at his beachfront home accompanied by patriotic music on his boom box. A neighborhood bugler and drummer eventually joined in, and in recent years the twice-a-day tribute to Old Glory drew fellow patriots, curious onlookers and applause.

Styles, a Pearl Harbor survivor and, at 98, one of the oldest living graduates of the Naval Academy, died Tuesday of pneumonia and congestive heart failure during a brief hospitalization.

He proudly raised and lowered the flag at his Beach Road home as recently as last Friday.

"He became quite a celebrity in his old age," said his daughter, Anne Overbeck of Hingham, Mass., and Sarasota.

Neighborhood residents and beachgoers often gathered at sunset to watch the 15-minute ceremony unfold on his front lawn. After a bugler played taps and the flag was lowered and folded, Styles invited onlookers to sing along with "Amazing Grace" to honor those who lost their lives, or to join in as each military branch's song was sung.

"Some nights there will be about 10 people, and other nights there will be as many as 200," his daughter said. The former naval officer's patriotic routine drew television and newspaper reporters over the years and was featured on "A Gulf Coast Journal with Jack

information could possibly fall into enemy hands if he were tortured, elected to "go down with the ship". He was awarded the medal posthumously

Name: John Phillip Cromwell
Rank and Branch: Captain, U.S. Navy
Place and Date: Truk Island area 19 Nov 1943
Born: 11 Sept 1901, Henry Illinois
Other Navy Awards: Legion of Merit

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Commander of Submarine Coordinated Attack Group with Flag in the USS Sculpin, during the 9th war patrol of the vessel in enemy controlled waters off Truk Island 19 November 1943. Undertaking this patrol prior to launching our first large scale offensive in the Pacific, Captain Cromwell, alone of the entire task group, possessed secret intelligence information of our submarine strategy and tactics, scheduled fleet movements and specific attack plans. Constantly vigilant and precise in carrying out his secret orders, he moved his underseas flotilla inexorably forward despite savage opposition and established a line of submarines to southeastward of the main Japanese stronghold in Truk. Cool and undaunted as the submarine, rocked and battered by Japanese depth charges, sustained terrific battle damage and sank to an excessive depth, he authorized the Sculpin to surface and engage the enemy in a gunfight, thereby providing the crew an opportunity to abandon ship. Determined to sacrifice himself rather than risk capture and subsequent danger of revealing plans under Japanese torture or use of drugs, he stoically remained aboard the mortally wounded vessel as she plunged to her death. Preserving the security of his mission at the cost of his own life, he had served his country as he had served the Navy, with deep integrity and an uncompromising devotion to duty. His great moral courage in the face of certain death adds new luster to the traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

Commander Richard O'Kane

Commander O'Kane was skipper of USS Tang in October of 1944 when a circular running torpedo he had just fired came back and sunk his submarine. Tang was leading all submarines in the number of ships sunk when that accident occurred. On October twenty third nineteen forty-four he had attacked a convoy and hit seven ships with his torpedoes. The next day, on the twenty fourth another

Perkins" and another Tampa Bay-area public television broadcast, which featured World War II veterans. During his 30-year military career, Styles was awarded a Legion of Merit, two Navy Crosses and eight Naval Unit Citations for his heroism. He commanded a submarine during World War II that destroyed a Japanese submarine and five Japanese merchant ships in Tokyo Bay in 1944.

After retiring to Sarasota in 1962, Styles helped establish New College as its first planning director before the formerly private, liberal arts college opened in 1964.

In addition to his daughter, Styles is survived by another daughter, Linda Styles, of Sarasota; a sister, Virginia Price of Thomasville, N.C.; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Thank You

A special thank you goes out to YNC(SS) Phillip Fettig, USNR Ret., and members of the USS Corporal SS 346 reunion. Corporal recently had a reunion in Charleston and borrowed our bell and klaxon.

We received a nice thank you letter from them and they also donated two jars of pork and chicken rub for our use. Additionally, they donated a quantity of left over adult beverages from their reunion hospitality room.

Thanks to the Corporal and her crew!



Rumor has it that this gorilla arm (shown below) will some time in the near future be transplanted on a well known troll who is a member of Charleston Base.



Ever wonder what Roger Gibson is doing up at The After Battery?

convoy appeared and once again O'Kane went in for the attack. His first shot hit a tanker; the second hit a troop transport and stopped her dead in the water. A third shot hit a destroyer trying to protect the other two vessels.

With two torpedoes left in the tubes Captain O'Kane went in on the surface to finish off the crippled troopship. The first torpedo headed straight for its mark but the second made a hairpin turn and headed back towards Tang. O'Kane called for a hard rudder and emergency speed, but it was too late. The torpedo struck Tang in the stern sending the Captain and other deck personnel into the ocean, and the submarine to the bottom in 180 feet of water. A total of five people survived the sinking. They were picked up by a Japanese destroyer escort that was retrieving survivors of the ships Tang had just sunk. The submarine survivors were clubbed and beaten unmercifully. Commander O'Kane and the other survivors spent the remainder of the war in various Japanese prison camps.

Name: Richard Hetherington O'Kane
Rank and Branch: Commander, U.S. Navy
Place and Date: Vicinity of Philippine Islands 23-24 Oct 1944
Born: 2 February 1911, Dover N.H.
Other Navy Awards: Navy Cross with three gold stars, Silver Star (3), Legion of Merit, Purple Heart

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the USS Tang operating against two enemy Japanese convoys on 23 and 24 October 1944, during her fifth and last war patrol. Boldly maneuvering on the surface into the midst of a heavily escorted convoy, Cmdr. O'Kane stood in the fusillade of bullets and shells from all directions to launch smashing hits on three tankers, coolly swung his ship to fire at a freighter and, in a split second decision, shot out of the path of an onrushing transport, missing it by inches. Boxed in by blazing tankers, a freighter, transport and several destroyers, he blasted two of the targets with his remaining torpedoes and, with pyrotechnics bursting on all sides, cleared the area. Twenty four hours later he again made contact with a heavily escorted convoy steaming to support the Leyte campaign with reinforcements and supplies and with crated planes piled high on each unit. In defiance of the enemy's relentless fire, he closed the concentration of ship and in quick succession sent two torpedoes each into the first and second transports and an adjacent tanker, finding his mark with each torpedo in a series of violent explosions at less than 1,000 yard range. With



Why don't you!

ships bearing down on all sides, he charged the enemy at high speed, exploding the tanker in a burst of flame, smashing the transport dead on the water, and blasting the destroyer with a mighty roar which rocked the Tang from stem to stern. Expendng his last two torpedoes into the remnants of a once powerful convoy before his own ship went down, Cmdr. O'Kane aided by his gallant command, achieved an illustrious record of heroism in combat, enhancing the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

