

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 6, No. 2

February 2010

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 of America and its Constitution"



Base web page: www.ussvicb.org
National web page: www.ussvi.org

Base Meeting:

February 11, 2010
Social hour 1800, General Meeting 1900

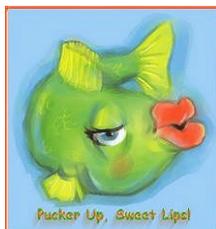
Location:

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

Base Officers		Phone Number
Commander	Paul Viering	843-797-2623
Vice Commander	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Secretary	Rick Collins	843-851-3490
Treasurer	Terry Trump	843-873-9563

Special Officers		Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Public Affairs	Ed Stank	843- 569-6012
Veterans Affairs	Jim Morrison	843-832-9716
Chaplain	John Nichols	843-873-5897
Membership	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Holland Club	John Lookabill	843-797-2991
Scholarship	Jim Yates	843-873-0246
Newsletter	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Storekeeper	Ken Fuhr	803-413-3657
Webmaster	John Nichols	843-863-8474
Historian	George Scharf	843 873-3318

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



Minutes of the January 2010 meeting

Attendance for the January meeting was 110

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; DeLyle (Dee) Ames MM1, Buddy Tolbert MMC, David Taylor EN2, Robert Harbison FTB, Bill Jones STS1, Fred Woodley ICC, William Pruitt EMC, Lance Morrison SK2, and Mike Connor MMC. There were 2 others who did not return cards. 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: Terry Trump presented the financial report.

Storekeeper: Please pick up what you ordered and pay for it.

Chaplain: We have had 4 funerals/memorial services since our last Base meeting.

24 cards have been sent since our last Base meeting.

Many cards were received thanking the SUBVETS for their participation in the funeral and memorial services of our departed shipmates.

Recent Cards were sent to:

Our condolences to Jack & Joyce Hardin. Their daughter, Carroll, passed away suddenly on Thanksgiving Day, November 26th, in Charlotte NC.

Marty Sessler. Marty had surgery on his foot on Tuesday and is doing very well.

Dave Rein. Dave went to Charlotte and had a heart valve repaired via an artery on January 6th. He was in ICU a day and he came home on Friday. Everything looks good.

Ralph "Dutch" Wieland. Dutch has recently had some clotting problems in his legs and must give himself shots in the stomach 3 times a day for 3 or 4 weeks. As of now he is doing well.

Cards were received as follows:

Dear Members of SubVets. The family of George Wells acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. Thank you so much for your participation in the memorial for George. The ceremony was one George would have wanted and everyone thought was appropriate. He loved being in the submarine service while in the Navy. Thanks again for everything.

To Nick and the Charleston SUBVETS. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the condolences sent me. Rex was indeed a great man and a true patriot. He devoted his life to serving this great country. I have many

Vice Commander Report: Read a passage from the Base By-Laws about committing the base to "obligations" and who can and cannot do so.

Sub Vets WWII: Stacy Power gave the date for next meeting which is 18th of February at Ryan's in Summerville @ 12 pm. Lee Allison thanked everyone for helping with "the most beautiful WWII Submarine memorial in existence". He also has WWII calendars for sale.

Scholarship: Jim Yates was not present. Rick Collins gave overview of the scholarship and who is eligible. Check the web site for the application; there are some changes that were made to it. The purpose of the scholarship was and is to honor Admiral Osborne who fully supported education.

Public Affairs: Gave report about our base activities that he sent to newspapers.

Webmaster: Gave report on what is new on the website.

Veteran's Affairs: No report

District Commander: Gave a report on the Aiken base and their new float. Aiken base has collar shirts for sale with Name, Base, and Dolphins on them for \$35. They are also planning another "Spring get together" like last year. There is going to be a new base in Greenville called "Golden Corner" base. The base commissioning ceremony is Wednesday, 20 January at 7pm.

Fleet Reserve: The FRA has a reserved seat for the next Honor Flight; they are holding a raffle for that seat. All proceeds will go to the Honor Flight program. Drawing will be on April 2nd.

Holland Club: Gave a report on the requirements of the Holland Club and plans for presenting the Holland Club challenge coin to widows of Holland Club members.

Membership: This is a new year. We dropped 18 members this past dues cycle. National has them on "dink" list till end of January when they will be dropped.

Little David: No report

Newsletter: No report

Base Historian: No report

Alcohol & Gaming: Rick Carlson gave the report.

Chief of the Boat: 1. Sunday January 24 a ceremony dedication for Fran Josephenson will be held at Pinewood Preparatory school and we are invited. If you want to attend let me know. She was a WW2 code breaker. Wife and mother to Submarine veterans.
2. Oyster roast will be on 27th of February \$5 and bring a dish.

years of memories to help me through this difficult time. Bless you all, Pat Carpenter.

Dear Carl. Please pass along my thanks to all Charleston Base members for the great card sent to my daughter in support of her fight with breast cancer. Sincerely, Rich Stump

The family of James Warren Eckles acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. I and our family cannot thank you enough for Jim's memorial. I know he would have been as proud as we were. Thanking you again, Sue & family.

Cards were sent as follows:

Elizabeth Mullins. Elizabeth had extensive foot surgery and is having difficulty with her recovery.

George Scharf. George had surgery on a pinched nerve in his elbow.

Art Hance. Art had disc surgery and is doing well.

Bill Kennedy after his 3x bypass. Bill moved into a regular room right on schedule and is steadily improving.

Joe & Lois Van Swearingen. Lois had a hip replacement which was followed by a stroke in March 09. She has been home since the middle of June with Joe taking care of her 24/7.

To the family of Jim Eckles. Jim departed on Eternal Patrol on November 12th in Charleston. Jim was a member of Charleston Base and Associate Member of Swamp Fox.

Tammara Butler, Rick Stump's daughter. Tammara is fighting aggressive breast cancer. Rick and Patti live in Macon GA. Rick is a member of Charleston Base.

The family of Ben Heber. Ben departed on Eternal Patrol on November 24th in Charleston. Ben was a member of Charleston Base and Associate Member of Swamp Fox.

The family of Zeb Dickey Alford. Zeb departed on Eternal Patrol on August 4th in Houston TX. Zeb served on three diesel subs, and then three nuclear subs and was the Commanding Officer of two boats, USS Shark and USS Sam Houston.

Vice Admiral Konetzni and family. Admiral Konetzni's son, Kyle, passed away on December 15th at the age of 35.

Tom Curry. Tom is fighting aggressive prostate cancer. He is the brother of Steve Curry, a Charleston Base member.

The sister of Mike Stuffle. In early December, Mike had cancerous material removed from his brain removed but his lung cancer surgery will be done later. He was moved to Sandpiper Rehab in mid-December. Mike was a member of Charleston Base.

The family of Gerry Pollard. Gerry departed on Eternal Patrol on December 19th in Gig Harbor WA. He was the COB on the SAND LANCE (SSN 660) Commissioning Crew and retired after 22 years. Gerry was not a member of Charleston Base.

Gloria Jenkins. Gloria was in the hospital with

3. The Amberjack memorial service will be on the 20th of March at the new Lost Boats Memorial at Patriots Point.

4. The Hunley Memorial will be 17 February at 7pm; we have no part this year.

Base Commander: No report

Nuclear Historian: A "true" story about a TM, MM "A" ganger, and a nuclear trained electrician facing execution in a Mexican jail. Wonder how it turned out.

Old Business: None

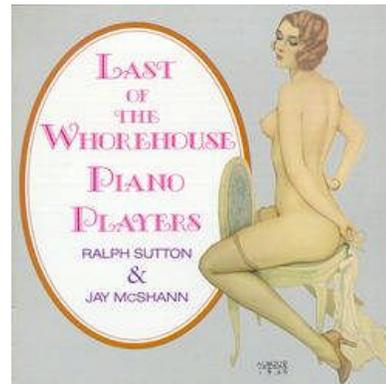
New Business: None

Good Of The Order: 1. Julian Villegas gave a report on how thankful the Victory House was for our donations over Christmas. The base also received a very nice thank you card from them.

2. Our favorite active duty nuke Chief Neufield gave a report on this year Submarine Birthday Ball. The exact date is still to be determined but this much is known, all WWII veterans will be Free their tickets paid for by NNPTU. And as an added bonus they are trying to keep out tickets down to a minimum.

Depth Charge drawing \$315 to winner, Buck Owens who donated \$100 to the scholarship fund.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.



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

pneumonia during the week before the Hog Roast. She is home doing well on the meds the doctor prescribed.

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.



Acton	Barwick	Bates	Burke
Cox	Curry	Gilmer	Grassman
Hamilton	Hayden	Jennings	Jones, W
Koebel	Koehler	Lavergne	Massey
Minaudo	Neff	Rash	Rogers
Rook	Sickle	Stout	Van Swearingen
Waller	Wickenhoffer		



February Happenings!

- February 11 – General Meeting; social hour 1800, meeting starts 1900
- February 19 – H.L. Hunley Memorial Service, 1900
Sunrise Presbyterian Church,
Sullivans Island
- February 27 – Sub Vets Oyster Roast, \$5 per person
Starts 1300, bring a side dish or dessert



February Submarines Lost:

USS Shark	SS 174	February 11, 1942
USS Amberjack	SS 219	February 16, 1943
USS Grayback	SS 208	February 26, 1944
USS Trout	SS 202	February 28, 1944
USS Barbel	SS 316	February 4, 1945
H.L. Hunley		February 17, 1864

Run silent, run deep
 For freedom we fought to keep
 How we spent so many days
 Beneath the shimmering waves
 A terrible foe we fought
 And gave our lives; and freedom bought
 Now our souls forever lie
 Restlessly beneath the waves
 So silent now, so deep
 For it is not enough for you to weep
 For we shall not have died in vain
 Lest you forget for what we gave
 We gave our lives, freedom to save
 For if you forget our deeds
 Then we shall never sleep
 Though we lie so silent, so deep

Al Alessandra, 2005

From the Base Commander

As a reminder to ALL HANDS:

Individual base members cannot make commitments for Charleston Base using base members, time, resources or money. If you get a request, you need to give that information to a member of the Executive Board where it will be discussed and then presented to the general membership if appropriate. A quote from our Base Bylaws:

Under Article III Policy

“Section 2. No member shall initiate any project that obligates the Charleston Base or any of its members without proposing said undertaking or project to the Board of Directors for approval and receiving a majority vote at a regular or special base meeting attended by the membership.”

If you need a copy of our Bylaws, they are one the web site under Base Documents in .pdf format for download/printing. If you cannot download, see the COB for a copy.

Donations to the Veterans Victory House

Charleston Base members Julian Villegas and Gary Semler delivered all of the items donated at the Christmas party to the Victory House in December. The staff of the home in Walterboro was very appreciative of our generous giving. In addition to numerous items, there was also cash of \$456 donated.



*Pictured (left to right):
Julian, LeeAnne Newton, Gary Semler*



H.L. Hunley Memorial Service

Date: February 19, 2009 (Friday)

Time: 1900 hours -- (Arrive 20 to 30 minutes early)

Place: Sunrise Presbyterian Church

3222 Middle Street

Sullivan's Island, S.C, 29482

Church located near intersection of Jasper Blvd. and Middle Street by Breech Inlet Bridge (Sullivan's Island side)

Uniform: Charleston Tuxedo

Blue Blazer w/Dolphins

White or Light Shirt

Dolphin Tie (or dark tie)

Kaki Pants

Black Shoes

Top Coat/Overcoat recommended

(its cold on the beach)

The Charleston Base Submarine Veterans and WWII Submarine Veterans are invited to attend a Memorial Service honoring the 8-man crew lost on the Confederate Submarine H. L. Hunley along with the 5 crewmen lost on the USS Housatonic during the night of February 17, 1864.

Our job (**15** men) will be to sit in front of the church (in the choir loft just right of the pulpit as faced from the congregation) and at the appropriate time in the program, to step to the table at the front of the church, select a white rose from a basket, turn to the Lady Mourners seated in the front pew and present the rose to a Lady Mourner.

WE WILL NOT provide escort service for the Lady Mourners down to Breech Inlet.

Attending the Inlet Conclusion of the Service is your choice. If you do go to the Inlet;

I would urge all SubVets to carry a mini-flashlight with them as well. The sandy path to the beach can be tricky to negotiate in the dark.

NOTE: It is on occasion very cold with strong winds this time of year so be sure to bring a heavy coat.

Please consider volunteering as a participant or at least attend as part of the congregation in support of the H.L. Hunley project.



Oyster Roast

Charleston Base annual Oyster Roast will be held 27 February starting at 1300. Only \$5.00 per person and bring a side dish or dessert.

In addition to oysters, there will be chicken, fish stew and chili.

Lots of fun with live entertainment by The Salty Dogs!

Health Care Reform Update 20

As you are most probably aware of by now, on the morning of 4 DEC, the Senate passed 60-39 a much amended H.R.3590, "The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This vote and the previous House passage of this legislation is contrary with the growing sentiments of 2/3 of the American People who are against this "stealth" legislation. Regardless of which national poll you might consider this public disapproval of this legislation varies little from poll to poll. As the next step in the process is reconciliation of the significantly different House and Senate versions, but which neither makes provision to protect Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense health-care from the provisions of this legislation. Such protection would

Contact for volunteering:
Charlie Rook
Home 843-763-2587
Cell 843-670-8588
charlesrook@att.net

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!



Coping With The Great American SSN Shortage

The U.S. Navy is facing a temporary SSN (nuclear attack submarine) shortage, and there is no solution that will not involve some pain. The problem is that new Virginia class subs cannot be built quickly enough to replace all the Cold War era Los Angeles class boats that have to retire. Even that will be delayed, at least for 16 Los Angeles class subs, that will get enough refurb to keep them at sea for up to two more years. Meanwhile, many of the shipyards used to build all those Los Angeles class boats, were discarded as part of the Peace Dividend for winning the Cold War.

The shortage will begin in 2022, when the number of SSNs will fall below 48. The bottom will be in 2028, when only 41 SSNs will be available, and the shortage won't end until 2034. While keeping boats at sea more than six months per cruise will insure that all current requirements (that need about ten boats at sea at any given time) are met, the navy won't be able to meet its wartime need for 35 boats. Keep in mind that a certain number of boats are always laid up for upgrades, maintenance or repairs. And some of this work can be speeded up, or even put aside, to get boats to sea in wartime, or a major crises. Keeping existing boats at sea for longer cruises also comes with a cost. For each additional day (beyond six months) you keep a crew at sea, a certain percentage of them will not stay in the navy. Those long months at sea are hard on the families, and sailors as well. Too much of that, and more of them leave. For submarine crews, the

fulfill President Obama's promise made last August that neither program would "be affected by our efforts at broader health-care reform." Unless Tricare, Tricare for Life, and VA health care programs are exempted from a proposed excise tax, veterans and military retirees face the very real prospect of paying a new tax on so-called "Cadillac" health care plans, which Tricare and VA health-care might easily be considered. As has been pointed out by a number of federal employee labor unions, such a tax would "have a discriminatory impact on plans that cover older workers and retirees ..." Such excise tax could result in a tax increase of as much as 1.4% on veterans and military retirees and our widows, many of whom are retired on fixed incomes with no way to offset that additional tax other than by cutting back elsewhere in their family budgets.

If you could be impacted by this you have the option to contact your legislator and let him/her know of your concerns. Especially the very real potential that the near \$500 Billion cuts in Medicare will adversely impact Tricare and Tricare for Life which are directly indexed to Medicare. If Medicare goes away then so do Tricare and Tricare for Life. Urge your legislator to immediately seek an amendment to H.R.3590 to make it clear that nothing in the reconciled bill act shall interfere with VA or DOD existing authorities and that VA and DOD health care programs are excluded from any excise tax on health care programs. If H.R.3950 is not so amended then request that he/she vote AGAINST this legislation when it comes to the House floor for a vote. To facilitate contacting your legislator USDR has provided an editable message at [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=14493596&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=14493596&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id]) that addresses the issue and can be automatically forwarded to your representative.

Liberty Bars

Our favorite liberty bars were unlike no other watering holes or dens of iniquity inhabited by seagoing men and women. They had to meet strict standards to be in compliance with the acceptable requirement for a sailor beer-swilling dump.

The first and foremost requirement was a crusty old gal serving suds. She had to be able to wrestle King Kong to parade rest, be able to balance a tray with one hand, knock bluejackets out of the way with the other hand and skillfully navigate through a roomful of milling around drunks. On slow nights, she had to be the kind of gal who would give you a back scratch with a fly swatter handle or put her foot on the table so you could admire her new ankle bracelet some "mook" brought her back from a Hong Kong liberty.

A good barmaid had to be able to whisper sweet nothings in your ear like, "Sailor, your thirteen button flap is twelve buttons short of a green board." And, "Buy a pack of Clorets and chew up the whole thing

most highly trained, with the highest standards, in the navy, this is no small problem.

There are other ways around the problem. The navy and the shipyards have found ways to build SSNs more quickly. Currently it takes 70 months to build a Virginia. But in the next few years, that will be coming down to 60 months. For the navy, the worst solution is to change war plans, and peacetime use patterns of SSNs, and adapt to a smaller number of attack boats. The navy would rather not think of this, but politicians often do, so the navy must.

HEALTH SCREENING

As you age, being aware of issues related to health becomes more important. Several illnesses appear more frequently with increasing age. For example, illnesses like high blood pressure (hypertension), diabetes, high blood cholesterol (hyperlipidemia) and some types of cancer. Screening is done to find a condition (or risk factor) in a person who has no signs or symptoms of that condition. The goal of screening is to identify conditions early. Treatment works better during an early stage of a condition. Guidance for screening varies, depending on age, gender, past medical history, family history and other factors. Talk with your health care team about the screening tests that are recommended for you. The United States Preventive Services Task Force has studied the effectiveness of screening and suggested the following tests and immunizations:

- Blood pressure for High Blood Pressure, also known as Hypertension - At least every two years.
- Lipid profile for High Cholesterol, also known as Hyperlipidemia - Every 5 years. May need to be more often if already diagnosed with diabetes or heart disease.
- Blood glucose for High Blood Sugar, also known as Diabetes - Periodically in patients with blood pressure of 135/80 or higher.
- Weight for being more than 20 pounds overweight, also known as Obesity - Periodically.
- Bone mineral density for loss of bone health, also known as Osteoporosis - At least once in all women at age 65. May need to screen at age 60 if at increased risk for osteoporosis.
- Ultrasound for Abdominal Aortic Aneurism Screening (for Alcohol Use and Depression) - Once in men ages 65 to 75 who have ever smoked
- Fecal occult blood test (FOBT) (or Colorectal Cancer - Annually for persons age 50 to 75.
- Sigmoidoscopy or Colorectal Cancer - Every 5 years
- Colonoscopy for Colorectal Cancer - Every 10 years
- Mammogram or Breast Cancer - Every 1-2 years
- Pap Smear for Cervical Cancer - At least every 3 years, stopping at age 65 if previous Pap Smears normal
- Influenza Vaccine - Annually
- Pneumonia Vaccine - Once at age 65. May be recommended earlier for persons at increased risk of

before you get within heaving range of any gal you ever want to see again." And, "Hey animals, I know we have a crowd tonight, but if any of you guys find the head facilities fully occupied and start urinating down the floor drain, you're gonna find yourself scrubbing the deck with your white hats!"

They had to be able to admire great tattoos, look at pictures of ugly bucktooth kids and smile and be able to help haul drunks to cabs and comfort 19 year-olds who had lost someone close to them. They could look at your ship's identification shoulder tab and tell you the names of the Skippers back to the time you were a Cub Scout. If you came in after a late night maintenance problem and fell asleep with a half eaten Slim-Jim in your hand, they tucked your peacoat around you, put out the cigarette you left burning in the ashtray and replaced the warm draft you left sitting on the table with a cold one when you woke up.

Why? Simply because they were one of the few people on the face of the earth that knew what you did, and appreciated what you were doing. And if you treated them like a decent human being and didn't drive 'em nuts by playing songs they hated on the juke box, they would lean over the back of the booth and park their soft warm breasts on your neck when they sat two Rolling Rocks in front of you.

Then there is the imported table wipe down guy and glass washer, trash dumper, deck swabber and paper towel replacement officer. The guy had to have baggy tweed pants and a gold tooth and a grin like a 1950 Buick. And a name like "Ramon", "Juan", "Pedro" or "Tico". He had to smoke unfiltered Luckies, Camels or Raleighs. He wiped the tables down with a sour wash rag that smelled like a skunk diaper and said, "How are choo navee mans tonight?" He was the indispensable man. The guy with credentials that allowed him to borrow Slim-Jims, Beer Nuts and pickled hard boiled eggs from other beer joints when they ran out where he worked.

The establishment itself. The place had to have walls covered with ship and squadron plaques. The walls were adorned with enlarged unit patches and the dates of previous deployments. A dozen or more old, yellowed photographs of fellows named "Buster", "Chicago", "P-Boat Barney", "Flaming Hooker Harry", "Malone", "Honshu Harry", Jackson, Douche Bag Doug, and Capt. Slade Cutter decorated any unused space.

It had to have the obligatory Michelob, Pabst Blue Ribbon and "Beer Nuts sold here" neon signs. An eight-ball mystery beer tap handle and signs reading: "Your mother does not work here, so clean away your frickin' trash." "Keep your hands off the barmaid." "Don't throw butts in urinal." "Barmaid's word is final in settling bets." "Take your fights out in the alley behind the bar!" "Owner reserves the right to waltz your worthless sorry ass outside." "Shipmates are responsible for riding herd on their ship/squadron drunks." This was typical signage

complications of pneumonia

- Shingles Vaccine - Once at age 60 or later for most people.
 - Tetanus Vaccine - Every 10 years.
-

TRICARE PRIME UPDATE 07

Maintaining healthy eyes and vision is an important part of personal safety and quality of life, say Tricare officials, and getting an eye exam is a smart idea for anyone, whether or not they have vision problems. Retirees and their family members using Tricare Prime can get an eye exam every two years. Routine eye exams for retirees and their family members using Tricare Standard and Extra, and Tricare for Life are not covered. These exams are more than the standard letter charts and include a check into the health of the eye. Retirees and their families enrolled in Tricare Prime can make an appointment with any Tricare-authorized optometrist or ophthalmologist for an exam. Tricare Prime beneficiaries do not need a referral unless they see a provider outside of their region's Tricare network.

EYEGASSES FOR RETIREES

Retirees may receive standard issue glasses each year from the Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Command (NOSTRA). To obtain go to the NOSTRA Web site

www.med.navy.mil/sites/nostra/Pages/default.aspx and select the "How to Order: Retirees" link for information. If you are retired military and eligible for other medical services, you are authorized to receive annually one clear pair of Bifocals and one tinted pair of Bifocals if prescribed by your Optometrist/Ophthalmologist. If you choose not to request Bifocals, you can receive one pair of Distance Vision and one pair of Near Vision spectacles. One pair of Distance Vision tinted spectacles is authorized if prescribed by your Optometrist/Ophthalmologist. Selectable frames MS9/S91A/Half Eyes/FS9 for all can be viewed on the website.

If you are less than 50 miles from a military health clinic with optometry services, you should take your prescription for spectacles to them so that they may measure you for proper fit. They will order your spectacles from the appropriate facility. If you are more than 50 miles from a military health clinic with optometry services follow these instructions to order your glasses.

- Open form DD771 at www.med.navy.mil/sites/nostra/order/Documents/DD771_2008.pdf and save it to your computer. This form is created to save the information you type into it.
- Fill out the top section with your "name, "retiree", and "last 4", along with your shipping and contact information.
- About halfway down the form, indicate which standard issue frame you desire. Make sure to save the form with

found in classy establishments catering to sophisticated as well as unsophisticated clientele.

You had to have a juke box built along the lines of a Sherman tank loaded with Hank Williams, Mother Maybelle Carter, Johnny Horton, Johnny Cash and twenty other crooning goobers nobody ever heard of. The damn thing has to have "La Bamba", Herb Alpert's "Lonely Bull" and Johnny Cash's "Don't take your guns to town" in memory of Alameda's barmaid goddess, Thelma. If Thelma is within a twelve-mile radius of where any of those three recordings can be found on a jukebox, it is wise to have a stack of life insurance applications within reach of the coin slot.

The furniture in a real good liberty bar had to be made from coal mine shoring lumber and was not fully acceptable until it had 600 cigarette burns and your ship's numbers or "FTN" carved into it. The bar had to have a brass foot rail and at least six Slim-Jim containers, an oversized glass cookie jar full of Beer-Nuts, a jar of pickled hard boiled eggs that could produce rectal gas emissions that could shut down a sorority party, and big glass containers full of something called Pickled Pigs Feet and Polish Sausage. Only drunk Chiefs and starving Ethiopians ate pickled pigs feet and unless the last three feet of your colon had been manufactured by Midas, you didn't want to get any where near the Polish Napalm Dogs.

No liberty bar was complete without a couple of hundred faded ship or airplane pictures and a "Shut the hell up!" sign taped on the mirror behind the bar along with several rather tasteless naked lady pictures. The pool table felt had to have at least three strategic rips as a result of drunken competitors and balls that looked as if a gorilla baby had teathed on the sonuvabitches. Liberty bars were home and it didn't matter what country, state, or city you were in, when you walked into a good liberty bar, you felt at home. They were also establishments where 19 year-old kids received an education available nowhere else on earth. You learned how to "tell" and "listen" to sea stories. You learned about sex at \$25 a pop! -- from professional ladies who taught you things your high school biology teacher didn't know were anatomically possible. You learned how to make a two cushion bank shot and how to toss down a beer and shot of Sun Torry known as a "depth charge." We were young, and a helluva long way from home. We were pulling down crappy wages for twenty-four hours a day, seven days a-week availability and loving the life we lived. We didn't know it at the time, but our association with the men we served with forged us into the men we became. And a lot of that association took place in bars where we shared the stories accumulated in our, up to then, short lives. We learned about women and that life could be tough on a gal. While many of our classmates were attending college, we were getting an education slicing through the green rolling seas in WestPac or the Med experiencing the

the information you added in your computer.

- Print the partially completed form, and take this with you to your eye exam.
- Ensure that the examining facility writes the prescription, and includes your pupillary distance (PD) on the form.
- If your examining facility needs eye size, bridge or temple information, they can find instructions on how to determine this info at www.med.navy.mil/sites/nostra/order/Pages/Fitting.aspx
- If you currently have Standard Issue frames provide the frame size and temple length. This can be found inside the frame.
- Forward one copy of the completed DD771 form along with your mailing address, a daytime phone number, and email address if available to NOSTRA.
- You can email your order to: NOSTRA-CustomerService@med.navy.mil; or
- You can Fax your order to: (757) 887-4647. Make sure you write: "Retiree Order" on the fax. Call NOSTRA Customer Service at (757) 887-7611 / 7152 / 7299 / 7476 right after you send your fax to insure it was received and that all the information is included to fabricate your orders; or
- You can mail your order to: NOSTRA, 160 Main Road, Ste 350, Yorktown, VA 23691-9984
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Ballistic Missile Submarine Exhibit Unveiled At Keyport

A new exhibit was unveiled in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the commissioning of the first ballistic missile submarine during a small ceremony held at the Naval Undersea Warfare Museum in Keyport, Wash., Jan. 8.

"This exhibit, titled 'Forty-One for Freedom,' honors the submarines and submariners who have kept the peace during the Cold War," said William Galvani, museum director.

"The submarine George Washington (SSBN 598) was the first of the 41 freedom submarines. It was commissioned in 1959, and shortly thereafter the United States built 40 similar submarines. These submarines were the backbone of strategic deterrence for the United States. They made sure our country was safe."

According to Galvani, when the exhibit was created, he wanted people to know how the program was originated, what the submarines were like, and how many submarines there were.

orgasmic rush of a night cat shot, the heart pounding drama of the return to the ship with the gut wrenching arrestment to a pitching deck. The hours of tedium, boring holes in the sky late at night, experiencing the periodic discomfort of turbulence, marveling at the creation of St. Elmo's Fire, and sometimes having our reverie interrupted with stark terror. But when we came ashore on liberty, we could rub shoulders with some of the finest men we would ever know, in bars our mothers would never have approved of, in saloons and cabarets that would live in our memories forever.

Long live those liberties in WestPac and in the Med! They were the greatest teachers about life and how to live it.

Bloedner Monument

The Bloedner Monument, the nation's oldest Civil War memorial, was removed in DEC 08 from Cave Hill National Cemetery in Louisville Kentucky and taken to a temporary facility where it was professionally conserved to arrest further damage. "The removal of an important monument from a national cemetery is rare and was not undertaken without great deliberation," said VA Secretary Shinseki. "However, the overwhelming significance of the Bloedner Monument and its failing condition warranted this unusual step." The monument was carved in January 1862 by Pvt. August Bloedner to commemorate his fellow soldiers of the 32nd Indiana Infantry, all of them German immigrants who fell in the Battle of Rowlett's Station near Munfordville, Ky. The monument's original location was on the battlefield, marking the graves of 13 soldiers who perished there. When most of these remains were removed to Cave Hill National Cemetery in 1867, the Bloedner Monument was moved there as well.

The monument was fabricated from St. Genevieve limestone, with a base of Bedford limestone added in 1867. It measures approximately 5 feet long, 1 foot deep and 3 ½ feet high. The monument is carved on one side with a relief of an eagle and an inscription in German in a rustic script. The text was approximately 300 words and 2,500 characters long at the time it was carved. Because of the poor quality of the limestone and effects of the environment, the monument has lost a significant amount of material. Only about 50% of the original carving and inscription remains. The monument was temporarily relocated to a University of Louisville facility for treatment while VA conducted a thorough evaluation of potential sites. The evaluation process included written proposals and site visits. VA posted information on the Internet, mailed information to Veterans and Civil War heritage groups and held a public information meeting to solicit suggestions. A new monument, with an interpretive sign explaining the significance of the original Bloedner Monument and indicating its location, will be placed at Cave Hill

Rear Adm. Frank Caldwell, commander, Submarine Group 9, gave remarks on the submarine's history and the significance this class of submarine had on the country. "To the submarine force, the George Washington meant a new mission," said Caldwell. "To the American people, it meant peace and security and ultimately contributed to the end of the Cold War."

Among the people who attended the ceremony were crew members of the George Washington.

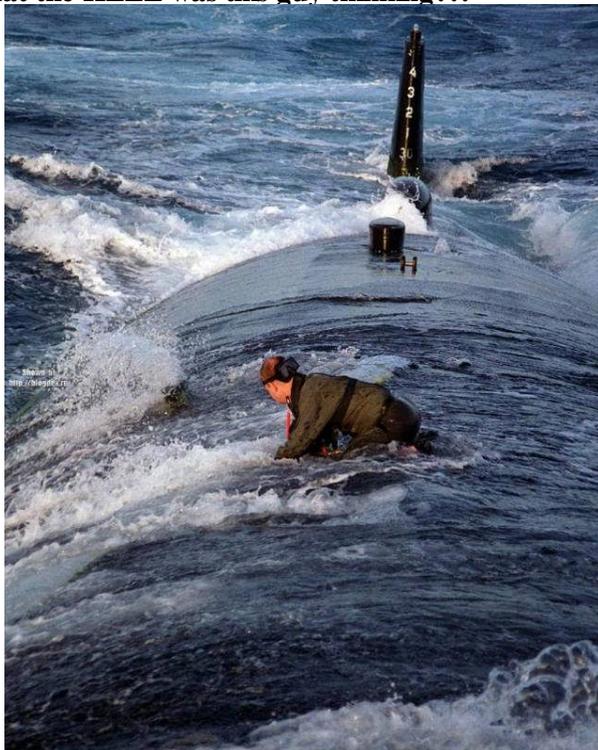
"Serving on board the George Washington was definitely one of the best experiences of my life," said former Radioman 2nd Class Rich Jacobson, who served aboard George Washington from 1976-1979. "The camaraderie you experience on board a boat is a unique and different experience. There was definitely sense of mission, and there was a deep feeling of pride among the crew, and we were doing something that was extremely valuable to the country. Everyone took their job seriously."

Jacobson said he felt the exhibit was a way to pay tribute to those who have served while giving them the recognition they deserve.

"There are so many people that have served over the years on this particular boat. Maybe they didn't get a lot of recognition, and this is an opportunity for us to really think about the people who have made those sacrifices to serve their country," said Jacobson. "To me, it's a great reminder of the value of our mission and an opportunity for us to show special appreciation for all of those who have served."

The exhibit features photographs of the "Forty-One for Freedom" submarines, the ships' crests, and the history of USS George Washington.

What the HELL was this guy thinking???



National Cemetery in 2010.

VA historians, in collaboration with the Kentucky Heritage Council and Heritage Preservation Inc., selected the Frazier International Museum as the new home from three interested facilities based on Civil War exhibit plans, controlled environment and security, financial stability, annual visitation and proximity to Cave Hill National Cemetery. The Museum brings history to life through live interpretations by costumed interpreters, multimedia presentations, educational programming and hands-on learning. Covering 1,000 years of history, their collection is housed in a 100,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility at 829 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202-2619 Tel: (502) 753-5663 or (866) 886-7103. They are open throughout the year Mon thru Sat 0900 - 1700 & Sun 1200 - 1700 except holidays. Admission Rates (without audio tour) are \$9 adults; \$8 military; \$7 seniors (60+); \$6 children under 14 and students with I.D; and no charge for children under 5. For details about exhibits and services offered refer to www.fraziermuseum.org/about.asp

EHR

Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems are the wave of the future in health care. The Defense Department soon will join a Veterans Affairs Department and Kaiser Permanente partnership designed to improve the way military veterans and the nation receive health care, the VA's top health affairs policy advisor said 6 JAN. For the past month, Kaiser Permanente and VA – the nation's two largest electronic medical records systems – have been working to integrate their standards for veterans through a pilot program in San Diego using the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN). The network was developed by the Health and Human Services Department in 2008, and allows government and several private sector health care providers like Kaiser to share health exchanges, such as integrated delivery networks, pharmacies, labs and patient information. More than 400 San Diego veterans are participating in the pilot. The partnership has been successful so far, and is the culmination of decades of work in the medical community, Dr. Stephen L. Ondra, senior VA policy advisor for health affairs, said in a press conference from Kaiser Permanente's Otay Mesa Outpatient Medical Center in San Diego.

The Defense Department plans to join those efforts in San Diego within the first quarter of this year. Ondra said, "It's a very exciting moment for us. This is the very first multi-party exchange to the nationwide health information network. [VA] feels committed and responsible to go forward to extend this to other providers and across the nation as we build on this effort." VA is the largest integrated health system in the nation, serving more than 5.4 million veterans. More than half of those veterans seek some of their medical

New Year's Eve Hackers

We can only hope that we are able to do this IF we get to be their ages...



Marshall "Pappy" Henderson and wife Cecilia loading up
New Year's Eve



Chowing down



Eating breakfast at the end of the party. Note the date on
the picture, Jan 1, it was taken at 0130

services outside the VA. Also, there are more than 1.5 million veterans who don't use VA health-care services at all. Although, VA and the Defense Department are leaders in health information exchanges, Ondra said, it's important for their systems also to be integrated into the private sector. "We've got to take care of those patients, and we really need to have the visibility ... to understand conditions and to understand what treatment they've had, what medications, what allergies they've had," he said.

"Those are all things that this exchange will do. It improves quality, safety and efficiency."

Ondra explained that the network isn't so much a system as it is a set of standards and protocols, meaning that no organization is tied to any single system.

Interoperability in sharing health record information and administrative data can occur in any system that follows the nationwide standard, he said. "[The network]

empowers the private sector with standards to develop more choices that are always good for consumers," he said.

"With a standard, it opens up space for new solutions and ultimately it aims to lower cost and better the health system for the public." Ondra noted that such an integrated system will relieve the burden on patients and families who are often ill. With the network, and with patients' consent, they won't have to "scurry back and forth between providers with records," he said.

"This is about making patients' lives and health better ... doing something that is sustainable for our country," he continued. "We are committed to making their lives better."

As the partnership moves forward and grows, Ondra said the medical community is one step closer to President Barack Obama's vision of a lifetime electronic records system. He called the initiative the embodiment of Obama's commitment to servicemembers, veterans and improving overall health care for the nation. Ondra also said their efforts are in keeping with VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki's commitment to transform VA into a 21st-century organization centered on patients. "This healthcare record-sharing initiative is the most exciting development I've seen in my [25-year] medical career," Ondra said. "This has the greatest potential to improve and change how we deliver care than anything that's happened in my lifetime." Along with the efforts in San Diego, a number of other private institutions have expressed interest in joining the VA and Defense Department partnership. Ondra expects several more pilot programs to be established this year.