

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 6, No. 4

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

April 2010



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: <http://www.ussvicb.org/>
National web page: www.ussvi.org

Base Meeting:

April 8, 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

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	Julian Villegas	843-871-6135
Newsletter	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Storekeeper	Ken Fuhr	803-413-3657
Webmaster	John Nichols	843-873-5897
Historian	George Scharf	843-873-3318

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



Minutes of the March 2010 meeting

Attendance for the March 11, 2009 meeting was 99

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; LCDR Louis Roehm, MTCS(SS) Dan Hunt, HNCS(SS) Frank H. Carroll, Jr. 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 gave the treasurer's report.

Storekeeper: I have 8 calendars left and I will sell for \$6.

Chaplain: Cards were sent as follows:

Lois Lehmann on the death of her step-mother.

Marylyn Fenton. Marylyn had surgery on Feb. 19th.

Don Fenton. Don had surgery on Mar. 4th.

Marty Sessler. Marty will be having his aortic aneurysm surgery on Mar. 18th. He is not here tonight since he's been told to avoid crowds and not get sick.

Bill & Tawnya Jennings. Bill had a stroke at work on Sunday, Feb. 21st. He was sent to MUSC with no right side movement. On Tuesday, Feb. 23rd, he was alert, no right side movement but some movement on the left side.

Soupy Campbell. Soupy had some complications from his recent prostate surgery. He ended up in the Roper ER on Sunday, Feb. 2.

Gainey Maxwell. Gainey's close friend passed away and Gary Semler requested he be sent a card. Gainey is a WWII Subvet and member of Pelican Harbor Base in Fort Lauderdale.

Richard Cleeve. Richard has completed his MOHS surgery for cancer.

Pat Davis. Pat was recently in MUSC for complication from surgery last year and had a follow-up today.

Tammy Stump. Tammy is the daughter of Rich Stump. She underwent surgery on Monday, Feb. 22nd, and had a double-mastectomy.

Abel Jennings. Abel had back surgery on Feb. 24th.

The family of Harry Plank. Harry went on Eternal Patrol on Mar. 4th. He was not a member of Charleston Base.

John Crouse. John Crouse of the St Mary's Submarine Museum had a mild heart attack but is doing well now.

Larry Hendrix. Larry was in a coma at the VA hospital last week but is now awake. He has liver and kidney failure and needs a liver transplant. Currently in ICU and no visitors but when he moves to a room he can have visitors.

Larry Paris. Larry has been diagnosed with bone cancer.

The family of CAPT George William Kittredge. Capt Kittredge went on Eternal Patrol on Feb. 23rd. He was a WWII Subvet and not a member of Charleston Base.

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.

Veteran's Affairs: No report

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. Tickets are \$20. Drawing March 26th.

District Commander: April is the Se regional convention. If you want to run for national office get you information in soon.

Vice Commander Report: Gave reports on:

1. Nick Nichols and his nomination for the 2009 National Frist Humanitarian award and winning the Summerville Medical Center award for 2009.
2. Requested nominees for our "Distinguished Submariner Award".
3. National elections

Holland Club: John gave an update on the induction rules and the proposed changes to them.

Membership: We have 320. I have the date you joined if you want to know.

Little David: Gave report on the Little David for new members. We will have a working party in April probably on a Wednesday.

Newsletter: Send me anything you want in the newsletter by the 3rd week of the month and I will try to get it in.

After Battery: Budda gave report on After Battery which donated \$200 to the Charleston Base.

- Chief of the Boat:**
1. Thank you for participating in the Hunley Memorial.
 2. The Amberjack memorial service will be on the 20th of March at the new Lost Boats Memorial at Patriots Point.
 3. April 17 Grits Festival parade in St. George.
 4. The NPTU picnics are starting up again.
 5. We do not have a mandatory uniform for events, we have requested ones. The primary object is to show up.

Base Commander: Base elections in May with nominations due for Vice Commander and secretary. They are up for election. Get your picture taken by Richard Cleeve so we know you.

Nuclear Historian: No report

- Old Business:**
1. Amberjack Memorial at 11 AM. Lee Allison is trying to get at least 10 WWII vets there
 2. ET Bowles gave report on Medal of Honor convention.
 3. ET also has 2 rooms reserved for the convention in Panama City if any one wants them.

- New Business:**
1. Chief Neufield gave report on Sub Ball at the North Charleston coliseum ball room, WWII vets are free.
 2. Ed Simokat spoke of a V.A. program called Aid and Attendance benefit. \$1900 a month if you qualify. He has the details.
 3. If you contract MS within 8 years of discharge it is considered service connected.
 4. Roy Morrow spoke of the Patriot Guard and what they do. They will be at a veteran's funeral if requested. He also has 4 tickets for a 2009 Harley being raffled off

Public Affairs: Lee Allison and I will be on the 10 am news on channel 4 for a story about the Lost Boats Memorial.

Sub Vets WWII: The 20th of March is the Amberjack Memorial service. We want to educate people about the Submarine Force during WWII. Lee Allison has calendars and lost boat cards for sale.

Webmaster: If anyone knows of military discounts given by the local community let me know and I will post them on a discount page of the website.

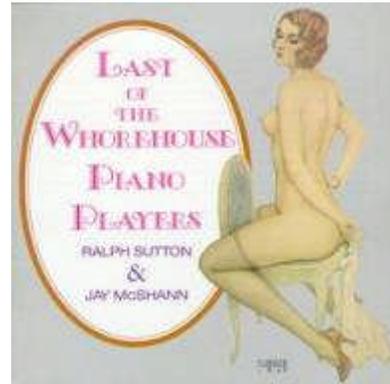
Scholarship: We have a Jade Chess set from China donated to us by Jack Harden, Thank you. We will raffle it off after the meeting. The purpose of the scholarship was and is to honor Admiral Osborne who fully supported education.

from the Rolling Thunder riders.

Good Of The Order:

1. 15 – 19 July is the USS John C. Calhoun reunion here in Charleston.
 2. Chess set was won by Carol Hix.
 3. The depth charge drawing was held with \$300 to the winner, Gary Samples. Gary gave \$100 back to Charleston Base scholarship fund.
- The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.

**** End of the minutes for March 2009 ****



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



Carlson, E	Carlson, R	Cochrane	Comp
Detwiler	Erickson	Giannetto	Gibson
Hill	Hurd	Little	Mason
McDonald	Nettles	Olsen	Oser
Pepper	Randall	Shoemith	Slattery
Smith, M	Sparger	Vlam	Walsh
Watson	Wood, D		



- April 8 – Monthly meeting
- April 11 – Submarine Day Ceremony, 1330 at the Cold War Memorial
- April 17 – St. George Grits Festival Parade line-up at 1000; starts at 1100
- April ?? – Little David working party TBA
- April 15 – WWII meeting/lunch at Ryan's 1200
- April 25- April 29 – Southeast Region Convention in Panama City, FL

April Submarines Lost:

USS Pickerel	SS 177	April 3, 1943
USS Grenadier	SS 210	April 22, 1943
USS Snook	SS 279	April 8, 1945
USS Thresher	SSN 593	April 10, 1963

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

Grit Festival Parade



Charleston Base will participate in the annual World Grits Festival Parade on April 17, in St. George. Parade

New Movie

"DIVE THE MOVIE" If the movie is anything like the web site...it's going to be a real hit with us.

This ought to be a good flick. Check out the trailer:

<http://www.divethemovie.com/>

From the Storekeeper

Several people have wanted vest clasps, but (like me) didn't like the \$24.00 price. I have made some with larger chains, both shiny silver and oxidized, that will be available at the April meeting. No, the price isn't the famous \$18.00, I will let them go for \$15.00. I have six made, three of each type. If Gold dolphins are wanted, I can make them, the problem being the clips and chain are silver.

Thanks,
Ken

Submarine Priorities Are Success, Survival

From a retired Submariner:

We are missing the point. Equal opportunity is wonderful, but when there is a mission to accomplish we should implement policies that optimize potential for success and survival.

The article "Base commander: Women on subs OK," published Feb. 25, foreshadowed women on submarines. Capt. Marc Denno walked on egg shells as he "supported" the inevitable decision to "welcome" women on board. We noted a wife's concerns about the trysts and dating that might occur. Make no mistake, the dating scene would immediately move on board.

Leaders involved in these decisions ought to revisit reality before we bring women into every isolated and close-quarters combat role because we are under pressure to do so.

My brief stint on submarines has been over for a decade, but every decision-maker on this matter should (prior to deciding precipitously):

- Carry a submersible pump to the engine room, lower level.
- Open main steam-1 in less than one minute.
- Manually override a major hydraulic actuator.
- Rig a fire hose to the hydraulic plant while wearing full-protective breathing gear.
- Operate a knocker-valve.
- Quickly reload a signal ejector.

Ten percent of men on board get pushed out of the way so somebody else can expeditiously execute these emergency procedures. Think.

Distinguished Sailors Stamps Unveiling in Southern Georgia

KINGS BAY, Ga. (NNS) -- Naval Submarine Base (NSB) Kings Bay and United States Postal Service (USPS) South Georgia District officials gathered at the NSB Kings Bay Conference Center Feb. 19 for a Distinguished Sailors Stamp Unveiling ceremony for the Southern Georgia District.

The new 44-cent commemorative first-class stamps commemorate four Sailors who served with bravery and distinction during the 20th century; Adm. William S. Sims,

will start at 1100. Line up is at 1000 on Highway 15, far side of town. The float will leave The After Battery at 0930.

Nick Nichols, The Compassionate Man

In every organization there are individuals who are recognized for their contributions and support without ever thinking about themselves. Nick Nichols MTCM (SS) of the United States Submarine Veterans Incorporated, Charleston Base, is one of those men. Nick serves as the Chaplain and Webmaster for Charleston Base and his leadership and commitment are highly respected. Over the years Nick has organized and led numerous Charleston Submarine Veterans events including many funerals for our lost shipmates that have gone on Eternal Patrol. He provides the families of the loved ones with great care and sympathy in addition to offering a military ceremony if requested. Each month he provides hope and comfort to our shipmates with medical issues including visits to the member and the family. He sends cards of condolences or cheer to submarine sailors and their families in time of need.

This year is a special one for Nick and his family as he has been selected to receive the Summerville Medical Center 2009 Frist Humanitarian Award, and nominated for the 2009 National Frist Humanitarian Award. The awards, created in 1971, honor individuals for their outstanding humanitarian and volunteer activities. The Humanitarian Awards are given each year in recognition of the caring spirit and philanthropic work of the late Dr. Thomas Frist, Sr., and a founder of HCA (Hospital Corporation of America). Employees and volunteers who demonstrate extraordinary commitment and dedication to care giving and their community are selected around the country and honorees are recognized at the local and national levels. The two national winners are selected from the local honorees. Nick is a member of Old Fort Baptist Church and is also an active participant of Summerville Medical Center's blood drives, Heart Walk and The Susan B. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer teams. Nick's involvement with the community and the hospital makes him an extraordinary individual who is always willing to help those in need. His generosity and sincerity are two of his many values that made his selection for the 2009 National Frist Humanitarian Award.

As part of Nick's commitment to the community, he actively delivers meals for The Palmetto House and volunteers at the CEC Health Clinic. He is an asset to our healthcare team and community; the examples mentioned above are a highlight of all the endeavors and projects that Nick has taken on to make his community stronger.

Nick does all these things without presumption and with humility. He is one of the 20 percent that does 80 percent of the work and brings to life the phrase "if you want something done ask a busy person to do it".

Female Midshipmen Could Become First Female Sailors in US Navy Subs

Aside from Adm. Mike Mullen, another Navy bigwig is a staunch supporter of allowing women to serve in

Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, Lt. Cmdr. John McCloy and Officer's Cook 3rd Class Doris Miller.

"As we stop to commemorate these four gentlemen," said Julius Locklear, USPS district manager of the south Georgia district, "we are also remembering the efforts of those who serve us around the world to protect the great freedoms that we enjoy."

Capt. Ward Stevens, commanding officer of NSB Kings Bay, also reflected on the Sailors featured on the new stamps and the continued tradition of the Sailors today. "It's another chance where the community recognizes the contribution of the military and the country," said Stevens. "I think it's important that we did it here today, because they were Sailors and they gave a lot for their country, but also in recognition of what we continue to do today." The diverse group of Sailors immortalized by the USPS is tied together by their love of country and their fearless courage under fire. Their diversity is reflected in today's Navy mission.

Customers may purchase the new stamps at their local post office, at The Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop or by calling 800-STAMP-24.

House Votes To Exempt TRICARE From Health Reform Bill

House lawmakers over the weekend voted to protect TRICARE and Defense non-appropriated fund health care beneficiaries from unintended consequences of national health reform.

The exemption (H.R. 4887) applies to the health care coverage provided by the Defense Department to military service members, retirees and their families. It clarifies the tax code to stipulate that coverage provided by Defense is treated as minimal essential coverage, ensuring that service members and their families will not need to purchase additional coverage to meet new health insurance requirements.

The legislation was introduced late Friday by Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. The full House approved it by a vote of 403-0 on Saturday afternoon.

Skelton opposed the health reform bill and planned to vote against it Sunday. In a floor speech Saturday, he acknowledged that the bill under consideration in Congress was unlikely to have any negative effect on military personnel or their dependents.

"However, to reassure our military service members and their families and make it perfectly clear that they will not be negatively affected by this legislation, my bill, H.R. 4887, explicitly states in law that these health plans meet the minimum requirements for individual health insurance."

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!

submarines is Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. According to a feature on the Navy website, Mabus had been lobbying for changes to the Navy policy since he took office in May of last year.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates has notified Congress of the Navy's intention to change its policy regarding allowing women to serve on submarines, and the first crop of female submariners may come from the pool of female graduates of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Mabus gave the following statement: "We think we learned a lot about integrating women in the services years ago, and those lessons are relevant today," with the feature adding that Mabus said further that this included "having a 'critical mass' of female candidates, having senior women to serve as mentors and having submarines that don't require modifications: the SSBN ballistic missile and SSGN guided-missile subs."

Mabus concluded by saying that the Navy has a "lesson learned to make sure any questions are answered... and we're very open and transparent on how we'll do this. We think this is a great idea that will enhance our war-fighting capabilities."

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead also supported the changes and told the Senate committee on February 25 that the Navy has a "great plan" in terms of how integration will be done and that it was ready to welcome female Sailors on board subs by the end of 2011. He further told the committee that allowing women on subs will "leverage the tremendous talent and potential of our female officers and enlisted personnel."

Those Who Sail Beneath the Swells

by Bob 'Dex' Armstrong

In every generation, the navies of the world always seem to find the necessary number of that 'special breed of man' needed to man their undersea ships... Those truly magnificent fools with the requisite pride and spirit of adventure needed to voluntarily crawl into an iron cylinder full of similar mental defectives and take the contraptions to sea.

I can't speak for the rest of the Navy. The only 'rest of the Navy' I ever met, were perpetual shore duty shore patrols. Looking back I can't remember one positive interaction I had with any sonuvabitch sporting an SP armband. The last thing they were interested in, in the old days, was spreading goodwill.

My entire short-lived naval service career was spent with like-minded jaybirds who actually liked going to sea in what closely resembled a sinkable septic tank.

I actually thought that to be a sailor, one had to go to sea. Sailing had to involve stuff like seagulls, saltwater and large metal objects that were painted gray, displaced tons of water and bounced around a lot in heavy weather.

How guys who interpreted photographs in a windowless building in Omaha, Nebraska called themselves sailors was way beyond the level of comprehension of a seventeen-year-old who cut his teeth on books about Pacific submarine action.

Lads who turned up at New London back in the 1950s weren't the kind of young men whose sense of naval adventure could be satisfied inventorying jocks and socks in some damn quonset hut in East Rat's Ass,



Growing Old

One of the benefits of growing old is the gift of time... Time to look back and revisit your collective 'Life Experiences':

For old smokeboat sailors, that means time to shuffle through memories of pissing against the wind in faded soft dungarees, frayed raghats and zinc chromate-spattered broghans. You can close your eyes and be transported back to a time when men wore acid-eaten uniforms, breathed air worse than the primate house at a poorly managed zoo, whittled mold and rot off food of advanced age being reclaimed by the gods of putrefication, and surgically carving off the stuff and eating it. You survived and built up an immunity that could handle leprosy, lockjaw and cobra bites. We survived. Submarine duty was rough.

Many of us 'hotsacked'. For those of you who missed that life experience, hotsacking was sharing sleeping arrangements (to put it in easily understood terms). A system that required lads at the entry level of the undersea service profession, to crawl onto a sweat-soaked flashpad just vacated by another bottom-feeding shipmate. Lads of today's modern technically advanced undersea service would find it damn near impossible to imagine a day when lads who hadn't showered in weeks, climbed a tier of racks sharing sock aroma on par with three-day old roadkill, with his bunkmates... A time when raghats communally shared blankets that looked like hobo camp hand-me-downs.

It was a time when the common denominator of the naval supply system was the cockroach, with the longevity of Jack LaLanne. Cockroaches that could deflect claw-hammered blows and could reach rodeo entry size. In the late 50's, the submarines built in the twilight years of World War II were rapidly approaching an advanced age comatose state. The navy quit making many of the replacement parts for these seagoing antiques, so we cannibalized the boats in line heading to the scrapyard. It was like harvesting organs from a dead Rockette to keep the chorus line going. After decommissioning, the old boats would have electricians and machinists crawling all over them with shopping lists and wrenches.

Memory is a wonderful God-given gift. There were sunrises and sunsets, rolling seas, visits to exotic places, and ladies with loose panty elastic and no AIDS. There were consumable combustibles on par with the liquids that propel hardware to outer space.

It was a time when the world's population loved the American submariner. Boatsailors in port meant good times, hell-raising and calling in the night shift at the local brewery. It was a time when the United States Navy had

Minnesota, or typing liberty cards at some shore station where they hot-patched weather balloons.

Submariners had no desire to belong to any organization that issued clothing designed to blend in with poison ivy plants... required you to dig holes and own a personal shovel... or any desire to eat unidentifiable food out of little green cans in the rain. We liked hydraulic oil-laced coffee, crawling up on a pre-warmed flash pad and freely exchanging insults with men as equally ugly as ourselves. We enjoyed knowing that in any unscheduled altercation, our entire crew would show up to extract our drunken fanny and chastise those we had stirred up.

Back in the old days, (before any of you modern day techno undersea swashbucklers get a twist in your bloomers, I only know about the old days. I never rode anything that was intended to go below 412 feet or stay down for several months at a time.) So, as I started to say...

Back in the old days, the old leather-faced, hardboiled Chiefs used to say, "Gahdam sailors belong on ships and ships belong at sea."

There was some kind of selection process that they put you through at New London that eliminated the fainthearted, the not totally committed, guys lacking desire to engage in intimate cohabitation with members of the opposite gender, communists, bedwetters, whiners, and anyone who entertained the slightest desire to be stationed in Omaha, Nebraska.

The system, God bless it, sorted out the true believers and packed the rest off to the surface fleet, Omaha and God knows where else.

And they put us on boats. A lot of us went to old, late in life, boats with combat histories. They were old World War II boats with racks, that once bunked our heroes... the men we wanted to be accepted by and to be exactly like.

We qualified and in so doing we joined the continuous chain that is and will always be the U.S. Submarine Force.

I don't know what the dreams and aspirations consist of for the young men of today. Ours was a far simpler time. We grew up chasing fireflies, shooting marbles, spinning tops, teaching each other yo-yo tricks, shooting each other with BB guns, playing two hands below the waist tag football, neighborhood kick the can and pick-up-game after school hardball. Nobody cried, tattle-tailed or went home to pee.

Back then, you didn't have to have made all 'A's in diathermic razz-a-ma-tazz physics or have a working understanding of the components in the formulation of the universe, to ride submarines.

You had to have an understanding of honor, loyalty, faithfully performed duty, obedience to command, respect for leadership, and total and absolute faith in your ship and shipmates.

Added to these qualities, a true boatsailor had to have a wide-screen sense of adventure and the same brand of curiosity that has lived in the hearts of those in every generation who ventured beyond known limits.

And you had love dancing with the devil. Somewhere, real major-league devil dancing got shot out the garbage gun.

But some things never change. It's still pitch black dark

no recruitment problems, paid no incentive money and had to kiss no butts to entice grown men into accepting their manly obligation to their nation. Men signed up for undersea service, motivated by patriotic obligation, a sense of history and adventure, and to follow the gallant submariners who rode the boats against the Japanese empire. We wanted to wear the distinctive insignia universally recognized as the symbol of the most successful and demanding submarine service on earth. We were proud. We had a right to be. We were accepted as the downline fraternity brothers of the courageous men who put Hirohito's monkey band all over the floor of the Pacific. We rode their boats, ate at their mess tables, slept in their bunks and plugged the ever-increasing leaks in the hulls they left us. We patted the same barmaid butts they had patted when they were far younger and half as wide. We carved our boats names and hull numbers on gin mill tables in places that would give Methodist ministers cardiac arrest.

We danced with the devil's mistress and all her naughty daughters. We were young, testosterone-driven American bluejackets and let's face it... Every girl in every port establishment around the globe both recognized and appreciated the meaning of a pair of Dolphins over a jumper pocket. Many of these ladies were willing to share smiles and body warmth with the members of America's undersea service.

It was a time when the snapping of American colors in the ports of the world stood for liberation from tyranny and the American sailor in his distinctive uniform and happy-go-lucky manner, stood for John Wayne principles and a universally recognized sense of decency, high ideals and uncompromised values.

It was in every sense of the term, 'A great time to be an American sailor'.

There were few prohibitions. They were looked upon as simply unnecessary. It was a time when 'family values' were taught at family dinner tables, at schools, the nation's playing fields, scout troops, Sunday school or other institutions of worship. We were a good people and we knew it.

We plowed the world's oceans guarding her sea lanes and making her secure for the traffic of international commerce. But at eighteen, let's face it... We never thought much about the noble aspect of what we were doing. Crews looked forward to the next liberty port, the next run, home port visits, what the boat was having for evening chow, the evening movie after chow, or which barmaids were working at Bell's that evening. We were young, invincible and had our whole lives ahead of us. Without being aware of it, we were learning leadership, acceptance of responsibility and teamwork in the finest classroom in the world... A United States submarine.

It was a simpler time. Lack of complexity left us with clear-cut objectives and the 'bad guys' were clearly defined. We knew who they were, where they were and that we had the means, will and ability to send them all off to hell in a fiery package deal. We were the 'good guys' and literally wore 'white hats'.

What we lacked in crew comfort, technological advancements and publicity, we made up for in continuity, stability and love of our boats and squadrons. We were a band of brothers and have remained so for over half a century.

Since we were not riding what the present day submariner

below 150 feet, a boat is always no farther than 9 miles from land (straight down) and the skipper's word is law. And so far, every generation has worn the same insignia and nobody ever forgets the hull number of their qual boat or the name of their first COB.

There are many common denominators among the worldwide community of undersea sailors.

When the Kursk went down, I was struck and frankly dumbfounded by the genuine outpouring of sympathy for the families and loved ones of the lost boat sailors.

To me, they had always been our enemy. Up to then, I had given no thought to the similarities found in our manner of service and the commonality of the danger of operating deep within a hostile environment surrounded by potential death on all sides.

Likewise, I never cease to be surprised by the way that submariners embrace their adversarial counterparts.

There appears to be a universal acceptance with implied forgiveness of all German U-boat crewmen.

You never hear the term 'Nazi' U-boatmen. The term 'German' has become substituted for the term 'Nazi'.

America has a short national memory and everybody gets out of the penalty box in one generation.

I sat in a theater rooting for the former 'bad guys' in the film DAS BOOT. What we were seeing on the screen, was a boat full of sons of Hitler sneaking around and sinking our citizens. But the fact that we, having lived a similar life inside a recognizably similar pressure hull, elicited a sympathy and irrational forgiveness. In short, we related to both the characters and their circumstances.

I guess that in the final analysis, all submariners are brothers when you look into the depth of their souls.

That is good. In times of war, nobody who transits the surface of the world's oceans loves submarines.

Submarines and submariners are viewed as implements and practitioners of the black arts... backstabbing, bushwhacking sonuvabitches. We slip up from hiding below the waves and blow ships to pieces in a totally unfair, unsportsmanlike fashion. Any way you cut it, that's the way we made our living.

We black sheep... we predatory sharks... we saltwater sneaky Petes stick together.

We are a very small group when you consider the total world population and the percentage that never had any desire to crawl into a steel tank and sink out of sight. Submariners, when all is said and done, are special unique people who are the only ones who truly understand each other and ever will.

The old warhorses who fought submarine wars are leaving us. These submersible sea dogs passed down the lethal reputation we carried and the awesome respect our boats were given.

I for one have been both honored and extremely proud to have been a part of this fine body of extraordinary adventurers and patriots.

WWII Sub Memorial Opens At Liberty Station

SAN DIEGO -- It took 14 years of fundraising, planning and dealing with bureaucracy, but a memorial to submariners lost in World War II has opened at Liberty Station.

The memorial, called the 52 Boats Memorial, honors the 52 submarines that were lost in World War II. It consists

would call 'true submersibles', we got sunrises and sunsets at sea... The sting of wind-blown saltwater on our faces... The roll and pitch of heavy weather swells and the screech of seabirds. I can't imagine sea duty devoid of contact with these wonders. To me, they are a very real part of being a true mariner.

I'm glad I served in an era of signal lights... Flag messaging... Navigation calculation... Marines manning the gates... Locker clubs... Working girls... Hitchhiking in uniform... Quartermasters, torpedomen and gunner's mates... Sea store smokes... Hotsacking... Hydraulic oil-laced coffee... Lousy mid rats... Jackassing fish from the skids to the tubes... One and two way trash dumping... Plywood dog shacks... Messy piers... A time when the Chief of the Boat could turn up at morning quarters wearing a Mexican sombrero and Jeezus sandals...

When every E-3 in the sub force knew what paint scrapers, chipping hammers and wire brushes were for... When JGs with a pencil were the most dangerous things in the navy... When the navy mobile canteen truck was called the 'roach coach' and sold geedunk and pogeey bait... When the breakfast of champions was a pitcher of Blue Ribbon, four Slim Jims, a pack of Beer Nuts, a hard-boiled egg, and a game of Eight Ball.

It was a time when, if you saw a boatsailor with more than four ship's patches on his foul weather jacket, he was at least fifty years old and a lifer. A time when skippers wore hydraulic oil-stained steaming hats and carried a wad of binocular wipes in their shirt pockets. In those days, old barnacle-encrusted chiefs had more body fat than a Hell's Angel, smoked big, fat, lousy smelling cigars or 'chewed plug', and came with a sewer digger's vocabulary.

It was a time where heterosexuals got married to members of the opposite sex or patronized 'working girls', and non-heterosexuals went Air Force... Or would Peace Corps.

It was a good time... For some of us, the best time we would ever have. There was a certain satisfaction to be found in serving one's country without the nation you so dearly loved having to promise you enlistment bonuses, big whopping education benefits, feather bed shore duty, or an 'A' school with a sauna and color TV. It was a time when if you told a cook you didn't eat Spam or creamed chipped beef, everybody laughed and you went away hungry... And if you cussed a messcook, you could find toenail clippings in your salad.

Our generation visited cemeteries where legends of World War II undersea service were issued their grass blankets, after receiving their pine peacoats and orders to some old hull number moored at the big silver pier in the sky. We were family... Our common heritage made us brothers. There came a point where we drew a line through our names on the Watch, Quarter and Station Bill, told our shipmates we see them in hell, shook hands with the COB, paid back the slush fund, told the skipper 'goodbye', and picked up a disbursing chit and your DD-214. We went up on Hampton Boulevard, bought a couple of rounds at Bells, kissed the barmaids, gave Thelma a hug, then went out to spend the rest of our lives wishing we could hear, "Single up all lines...", just one more time.

CNO: Smoking Ban For Subs In The Works

The smoking lamp will soon be out aboard all subs, according to the Navy's top officer.

of 52 American Liberty Elm trees, 52 flags and 52 granite memorials to the ships and men who were lost. "Oh, it means a great deal. We're not looking for glory. It's a remembrance for most of us," said World War II submarine veteran C.J. Glassford.

Hundreds turned out for Thursday's dedication, including around two dozen men who served in subs in World War II. Along with the 52 boats lost, 3,505 men lost their lives.

The project was driven by Doug Smay, whose father served in submarines during World War II. He was also a submariner years later.

"They used to say if you saw five submariners in Honolulu during the war, one of them wasn't coming home. One in five were lost," said Smay.

The memorial is two long sidewalks, flanked by the trees, flags and plaques. People looking at them Thursday said they were moving and appropriate. For those who served in the Silent Service, they meant even more.

"Submarines have been my life; always have been and I guess they always will be," said Glassford.

Ninety percent of the money for the project was raised through private donations.



Impactical Folly Of Coed Submarines

Unless Congress intercedes, the U.S. Navy plans to station women on submarines. The change in policy was announced with no fanfare and has stirred almost no debate. Won't some wizened old salt please speak out? No? OK, then I'll take the plunge.

The only sure benefit of stationing women on subs is establishing equality of opportunity. Essential to realizing this ideal is the professionalism of military personnel. Never mind allegations that sexual harassment is rampant.

The practical concern the new policy aims to address has to do with smarts. Sub duty requires personnel of above-average IQ. Intelligence is everywhere in short supply, so the Navy is always in a pinch to staff the sub fleet. Adding women to the candidate pool might help. But there is a catch.

The military fervently woos women, but with little success. Just 15 percent of Navy personnel are women.

"We're going to stop smoking on submarines," Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead told Navy Times on March 23.

The move is not yet official, so Lt. Cmdr. Mark Jones, a spokesman for Submarine Force, would say only that Vice Adm. John Donnelly "is examining the options of changing the policy of smoking in a submarine to improve the overall health of the entire crew."

Jones would not speculate on when a decision will be made, but a final order likely will come soon. The catalyst for change is the effect of second-hand smoke on crew members who remain submerged for months at a time.

"That atmosphere moves around the submarine," Roughead said. "You don't smell it, but the damaging things from the smoke are still present."

Veterans Are Exempt From HR 4887 Healthcare Legislation

Some veterans groups were concerned about the healthcare legislation that was signed into law this morning with regard to how it might effect our nation's veterans.

In separate press releases from The White House and Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki, the new healthcare bill exempts veterans.

The press releases stated that veterans can be assured that this legislation will not affect their health care systems.

The Chairmen of five house committees including Veterans' Affairs Chairman Bob Filner and Armed Services Chairman Ike Skelton, issued a joint letter reaffirming that the health reform legislation as written would protect those receiving care through all TRICARE and Department of Veterans Affairs programs.

The TRICARE Affirmation Act, made it crystal clear that our veterans – in particular those who depend on TRICARE – will not be harmed by this bill.

While it remains unclear how veterans will provide documentation proving their status, disabled veterans should be prepared to provide a copy of their award letters received from the VA.

To put everything in plain language, veterans can continue receiving medical care through the VA system.

Disabled veterans will not be required to purchase medical insurance nor will they be taxed or fined for not purchasing medical insurance as outlined in HR 4887.

Fired Skipper Was Drinking With Cadets

The skipper of a Pearl Harbor-base submarine, who was fired Monday for "drunkenness," had been drinking with a dozen Navy ROTC cadets at a pizza restaurant near Cornell University last week.

It was the commanding officer of Cornell University's NROTC unit who told Pearl Harbor officials about the incident involving Cmdr. Jeff Cima.

On Monday, Cima, commander of the USS Chicago since August, was relieved for "drunkenness" and "conduct unbecoming an officer" at a captain's mast conducted by Capt. Daryl Caudle, commander of the Pacific Fleet's Submarine Squadron 3.

Cima is the second Pearl Harbor-based submarine skipper to be sacked in six months and the seventh Navy officer to be relieved this year, triple the usual rate of

As a rule, women are more difficult to entice into the military, harder to keep and generally less available for duty (e.g., because of pregnancy) than men are. I don't see how the Navy's difficulty in staffing subs would be affected much by adding women to the mix - there simply aren't many to begin with.

At least some of the few women who are suitable for sub duty will opt out. Submariners must endure a weird and claustrophobic environment. "The total living area for more than 130 people is equivalent to a medium-size house," states a report prepared for the Navy. And, while at sea for months, one can't leave the house to go for a walk or visit family. Not everyone can put up with this.

In general, women tend to avoid high-stress jobs, particularly those that involve travel. Psychologists suggest that women are especially vulnerable to social stress. So how will they adapt to the forced camaraderie of life on a sub combined with the isolation that comes from being trapped at the office for months at a time, 20,000 leagues under the sea, with a boatload of men?

Apparently, cost is no barrier to conducting this experiment. The only estimate I've come across (from 10 years ago in a newspaper column) is that reconfiguring subs for coed service would cost in the neighborhood of \$4.5 million per ship. Reuters news agency reports that the Navy has 71 subs, but it doesn't say how many are scheduled to be retrofitted. So the final cost, which appears to be prohibitive, is a mystery. Well, I don't suppose we have a choice, given the sorry performance record of the sub fleet.

What's that you say? The fleet is performing adequately if not splendidly? Hmm. The handyman code instructs, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." So why are we doing this? The reason the Navy is going down this ill-advised path is political correctness. Officers know that speaking out against PC nonsense is career suicide. So only a few (usually disgruntled malcontents with one foot out the door) even contemplate raising the appropriate questions.

Political correctness has a way of putting certain values on a pedestal while making other concerns vanish.

When considering whether to put women on subs, gender equity is in the first category, practicality is in the second.

Touching base with reality, one might wonder: Can we afford this? Does it make sense even to attempt what heretofore has been considered imprudent if not foolish?

Luckily, the military has a policy that can be adapted to quell these concerns: Don't ask, don't tell.

(Michael Farady served as a Navy clinical psychologist and now conducts independent research on sex and gender. His article on the girl-crisis movement appears in the March issue of Review of General Psychology.)

firings.

In October, Cmdr. Doug Sampson, who had commanded the Los Angeles-class submarine USS La Jolla since October 2007, was relieved of duty after leaders lost confidence in his ability to command, the Navy said at the time.

Pearl Harbor officials have refused to talk about Cima's firing, citing privacy issues.

However, Capt. Larry Olsen, professor of naval science and commanding officer of Cornell's NROTC unit, told the Star-Bulletin that Cima was at the Ithaca, N.Y., campus on March 10 to talk about the nuclear power program.

After the talk, Cima and a lieutenant junior grade from the Chicago joined about a dozen Cornell cadets for a pizza and alcoholic drinks, said Olsen, also a submarine officer. "The commander and the lieutenant had way too much to drink," Olsen said.

As midnight approached, the cadets were unsure what to do.

"They (the cadets) did the right thing and called my staff lieutenant, who took the two officers back to the hotel,"

Olsen said.

Olsen said the lieutenant reported the incident to him the next day, and he turned the matter over to officials at Pearl Harbor.

Olsen, who commanded the submarine USS Miami from 1996-98, praised the actions of his cadets, saying, "They did the right thing by not allowing the officers to go off on their own."

He described the incident as "a very unfortunate event" and said no laws were broken.

U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Dave Benham said the Navy will neither identify the lieutenant who accompanied Cima nor say what kind of punishment he received before a captain's mast Monday, again for privacy reasons.

At Cornell, Olsen said these "O calls," or "officers calls," are held after formal sessions where Navy officers come to the campus two or three times a semester to discuss various career fields open to Navy officers. Generally, he said, he and his wife attend, but they had a conflict last week.

"But I shouldn't have to be there to police the actions of my cadets," he said.

The 9,600-ton Chicago is in dry dock at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard on a 21-month major maintenance overhaul.

Eternal Patrol

Larry Hendrix MMCS(SS)

Andrew L. Hendrix LADSON - Andrew L. Hendrix, 62, of Ladson, passed away at his home on Saturday, March 13, 2010. He was a retired MMCS (SS) in the United States Navy and a member of Bikers Helping Bikers, the Fleet Reserve of Goose Creek and a member of the Sub Vets. He is survived by Jan Moore of Ladson; a great uncle, Carroll Hendrix and great aunt, Sue Tucker of Statesboro, GA; adopted grandchildren: Dominick Bradley and Savannah Smith, two adopted nephews: Grant and Nick Spaulding and all of his many friends. A visitation and funeral service with full military honors will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m., with the funeral service beginning at 7:00 p.m., at MCALISTER-SMITH FUNERAL HOME, GOOSE CREEK CHAPEL, 869 James Ave., Goose Creek. Condolences may be sent to the family via <http://www.mcalister-smith.com/>. Visit our guestbook at www.postandcourier.com/deaths

