

# TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 6, No. 6

June 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](http://www.ussvicb.org)  
 National web page: [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org)

#### Base Meeting:

June 10, 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	Ed Stank	843-569-6012
Treasurer	Terry Trump	843-873-9563

## Minutes of the May 2010 meeting

Attendance for the May 13, 2009 meeting was 105

**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; James Graham HM (SS), 2. Harry Feller MMCS(SS), 3. Bob Graham FTB1(SS), Marty Silvers, Burrel T. Boatwright TMC(SS), David Saari MM1(SS). Welcome aboard.

**Ceremony:** Holland Club Commander John Lookabill inducted 4 new people into the Holland Club. Bob Deschaine, Warren "John" Kratz, James F. Loveday, Ovie M. Mulkey. All qualified in 1960 except Deschaine in 1959. A special induction will be held for Al Addington at his home on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. Congratulations!

Commander and Vice Commander made the presentation of this year's Charleston Base Distinguished Submariner Award. This year's winner is Lee Allison. Lee was also able to ring the Ships Bell from the USS AMBERJACK SS 522. The bell was donated to Charleston Base by a widow of a crew member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amberjack before it was delivered to the Brazilian Navy.

**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.

**Chaplain:** I would like to personally thank all of the shipmates who have made calls, visits and contacted our sick and shut-ins, and thank you for keeping myself and the Charleston Base officers informed.

**Cecilia Henderson**, Pappy's wife, passed away on Tuesday. At present there are no plans for Charleston Base to participate in the funeral except to be there to show our support for Pappy and the family. Please plan on attending the family visitation and funeral wearing your Charleston Tuxedo uniform (Blue blazer, light blue shirt, khaki pants, dolphin/dark tie if you have one). Uniform is not required for attendance. Your presence is what Pappy will remember.

Family visitation: Friday, 14 May, 0900 - Carolina Memorial Funeral Home Chapel, 7113 Rivers Ave, N. Charleston

Funeral: Friday, 14 May, 1000 - Carolina Memorial Funeral Home Chapel, 7113 Rivers Ave, N. Charleston  
Internment: immediately following the funeral

**Marty Sessler** had surgery for his kidney stone problem this afternoon. I have not heard from Sharon as to how he is doing.

**Roger Rader** is in Trident Hospital rm 711 and is doing well following his surgery. He welcomes visitors at any

**Historian:** No report

**Public Affairs:** No report

**Sub Vets WWII:** The next meeting will be 17<sup>th</sup> of June at Ryan's at 12 noon.**Storekeeper:** Doing good.

**Webmaster:** No report

**Scholarship:** Winners have been selected and the presentation will be at the next meeting.

**Fleet Reserve:** Larry Cox is running for Branch 269 president, lets support our shipmate. FRA Memorial Day Program is 31 May at plantation Memorial Gardens 20y<sup>th</sup> of June is Father's day breakfast at the FRA Home.

**District Commander:** The Denizens of the Deep is having another get together, more info to follow.

**Vice Commander Report:** No report

**Holland Club:** No report

**Membership:** No report

**Little David:** No report

**Newsletter:** No report

**After Battery:** Bob Bruce a VFW member and Larry Simms bought a 26 X 22 metal carport for the After Battery. It has fans and speakers installed. We all thank them for this gift.

**Chief of the Boat:** Our picnic is Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> of May.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> we have a parade in Moncks Corner.

**Base Commander:** The Denizens of the Deep is having another get together, more info to follow.

**Nuclear Historian:** Gave a nice report about nuclear trained personnel talking common sense?

**Old Business:** Sub Ball tickets are available.

**New Business:** Base elections were held and Carl Chinn was re-elected as Vice Commander and Ed Stank was elected as Secretary.

15 - 19 July is the USS John C. Calhoun reunion here in Charleston. See Tom Yingling

May 31st is a Memorial Day Service at Parks Memorial Cemetery in Summerville. The Charleston Base is involved with this one and after the ceremony the VFW post will serve food.

**Good Of The Order:** The depth charge drawing was held with \$332 to the winner, Clyde Peters. Clyde gave \$100 back to Charleston Base scholarship fund.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2010.

**\*\* End of the minutes for April 2009 \*\***

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time. He is recovering well. *Rick Carlson just reported he stopped by on his way to the meeting and Roger is doing very well.*

**Frank Young** is in LifeCare rm 113 Morning Star Wing. He is doing better and also welcomes visitors at anytime.

**Margie Deal**, wife of Walt Deal, was discharged from the hospital on the 9th and is home recovering.

**Al Addington** is at home but, as he calls it, on 'house arrest' tethered to a 40' O2 tube. He really welcomes visitors (please call first) or phone calls.

**Bill Jennings** is at home (114 Driver Ave, Summerville in Corey Woods) and is taking visitors but call first (851-1866). Tawnya has said she will need some members to help when she has to be away from Bill. Please contact the COB If you would like to volunteer to help.

**Bob Isaman** had a kidney stone removed today. *Carl Chinn took him home and Bob is doing well.*

Cards were sent as follows:

**Stacy Power.** Stacy's sister passed away on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Bob Stoffel.** Bob has had cancer for several months and the doctors have given him two to three months to live. Bob was an EN2(SS) on the CHARR 52-55. He is not a member of Charleston Base.

**Cecilia Henderson**, wife of Pappy Henderson. She is in Roper taking chemo at present and in a lot of pain. Cecilia has been diagnosed with terminal cancer.

**Bill Jennings.** Bill has been release to home with trips back to Health South for rehab. He has done very well in his first week and is seeing steady improvement.

**Frank Young.** Frank has been cycling between LifeCare Rehab and Trident and is now in Trident rm 708. Please try to get by to see him if you have a chance.

**Al Addington.** Al was admitted to the hospital again this time with low O2 level. He is in Roper for testing to see why this is happening.

**Abel Jennings.** Abel is now home continuing his recovery from back surgery.

**Steve Curry.** Steve had a bad fall last month and was laid up for a while. He is now back to work for a few hours per day and has a doctors visit next week.

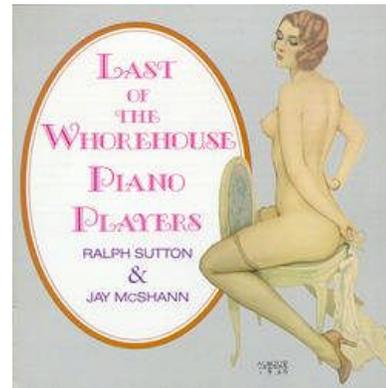
**Roger Rader.** Roger has had a recurrence of his cancer. the family of William H. Jacobsen, a WWII SUBVET and member of Groton Base. William departed on Eternal Patrol on April 22, 2010 at the age of 87.

**Judy Hutchison,** Ken's wife, has been diagnosed with a small tumor on her thyroid.

**Margie Deal,** wife of Walt Deal. Margie was in the hospital for dehydration, low sodium and a hernia problem. She is now home and recovering.

**Marty Sessler.** Marty had his final surgery on his kidneys on 13 May.

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.



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

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.



Abbott	Becker	Brown, A.	Burton
Grabowski	Hance	Heinle	Jones, W.
Kirtley	Kratz	Loveday	Lowe
McDonald, B.	Morris	Murphy	Rein
Schaffer	Smith, P.M.	Suddeth	Williams, J.
Yates, J.			

### June Happenings

June 10 – Monthly meeting

June 14 – Flag Day

### **Flag Day**

Flag Day was first observed in 1877 on the 100th anniversary of the Continental Congress' adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States. In that year, Congress asked that all public buildings fly the flag on June 14. The idea quickly caught on and many people wanted to participate in waving the flag. One early supporter was B. J. Cigrand, a Wisconsin schoolteacher who wanted June 14 to be known as "Flag Birthday." In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Flag Day as a national celebration. However, the holiday was not officially recognized until 1949 when President Harry Truman signed the National Flag Day Bill. Although Flag Day is not celebrated as a Federal holiday, Americans everywhere continue to honor the history and heritage it represents. The longest-running Flag Day parade is held annually in Quincy, Massachusetts, which began 1952 and will celebrate its 59th year in 2009. The largest Flag Day parade is held annually in Troy, New York, which bases its parade on the Quincy parade and typically draws 50,000 spectators. In 1996, President Bill Clinton issued the following proclamation:

By The President  
Of The  
United States Of America

### A Proclamation

There is no better symbol of our country's values and traditions than the Flag of the United States of America. Chosen by the Continental Congress in 1777, it continues

### **June Submarines Lost:**

USS S 27	SS 132	June 19, 1942
USS R 12	SS 89	June 12, 1943
USS Herring	SS 233	June 1, 1944
USS Gudgeon	SS 211	June 7, 1944
USS Golet	SS 361	June 14, 1944
USS Bonefish	SS 223	June 18, 1945
USS O-9	SS 70	June 19, 1941

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*

**Sioux Falls Woman To Be Assigned To Navy Sub**  
SIOUX FALLS, S.D. - A Sioux Falls native has been selected as 1 of the first women to ever be assigned to submarine duty for the U.S. Navy.

Kimberly Roe is a graduating senior at the University of San Diego.

Roe will spend the next year in training and will find out next year where she will report in the fall of 2011. The newly established program that enables women to be assigned to duty on a Navy submarine was recently passed by Congress.

Roe is a math major and a midshipman in Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps. Once on board, she'll be assigned as a nuclear engineer.

### **Port Angeles Couple's Daughter Picked Among First Women On Subs**

PORT ANGELES -- When the first women are commissioned onto submarines in the near future, a Port

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to exemplify the profound commitment to freedom, equality, and opportunity made by our founders more than two centuries ago. Our flag's proud stars and stripes have long inspired our people, and its beautiful red, white, and blue design is known around the world as a beacon of liberty and justice.

Today, America's Flag graces classrooms, statehouses, courtrooms, and churches, serving as a daily reminder of this Nation's past accomplishments and ongoing dedication to safeguarding individual rights. The brave members of our Armed Forces carry "Old Glory" with them as they fulfill their mission to defend the blessings of democracy and peace across the globe; our banner flies from public buildings as a sign of our national community; and its folds drape the tombs of our distinguished dead. The Flag is a badge of honor to all -- a sign of our citizens' common purpose.

This week and throughout the year let us do all we can to teach younger generations the significance of our Flag. Its 13 red and white stripes represent not only the original colonies, but also the courage and purity of our Nation, while its 50 stars stand for the separate but united States of our Union. Let us pledge allegiance to this Flag to declare our patriotism and raise its colors high to express our pride and respect for the American way of life.

To commemorate the adoption of our Flag, the Congress, by joint resolution approved August 3, 1949 (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as "Flag Day" and requested the President to issue an annual proclamation calling for its observance and for the display of the Flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings. The Congress also requested the President, by joint resolution approved June 9, 1966 (80 Stat. 194), to issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 falls as "National Flag Week" and calling upon all citizens of the United States to display the Flag during that week.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 14, 1996, as Flag Day and the week beginning June 9, 1996, as National Flag Week. I direct the appropriate officials to display the Flag on all Federal Government buildings during that week, and I urge all Americans to observe Flag Day and National Flag Week by flying the Stars and Stripes from their homes and other suitable places.

I also call upon the people of the United States to observe with pride and all due ceremony those days from Flag Day through Independence Day, also set aside by Congress (89 Stat. 211), as a time to honor our Nation, to celebrate our heritage in public gatherings and activities, and to publicly recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the

Angeles couple will stand proud as their daughter makes history.

Amber Pfeifer, 22, was selected as one of the Navy's first women to serve on submarines.

Although she spent her childhood in Colorado, the daughter of Ray and Laura Lavine spent many summers in Port Angeles.

Considers PA home

She considers it her home when she is not in class at the University of Washington, where she is graduating with a double major in political science and economics.

She's spent all four years of college in the Reserve Officer Training Corps and will be commissioned into the Navy on June 11, the day before her graduation.

Then she will take off for the Navy's nuclear power program school in South Carolina.

The school lasts about 18 months, after which she will be stationed aboard a submarine, she said.

Laura Lavine said her daughter has always pushed herself.

"She has always set the bar high for herself -- challenged herself in every way," Lavine said.

"When she did a session with the Navy for the ROTC, she got to spend a couple days on a submarine as part of the training, and it was a cool thing, but at that point it wasn't an option [for women].

Let them know of interest

"So when they started talking like it was actually going to happen, she made sure they knew she was interested."

After several cross-country trips to Washington, D.C., for interviews, Pfeifer was officially accepted as one of eight women picked out of the ROTC program in the U.S.

Eleven other women were selected out of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., to participate in the program.

The Navy first began to consider allowing women on submarines in 2007. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced the intention to Congress in February.

He said unless Congress took action against it he would lift the ban, so with no action by the end of April, the ban was lifted.

Close quarters

Some objections because of close quarters with male officers have arisen in the media, but Pfeifer said she isn't concerned.

"I feel that being in an organization like the Navy, I don't have to worry," she said.

"There is a level of professionalism, and it isn't going to be an issue.

"I'm aware there are concerns of other people, but I don't have any at all myself."

Most people are very supportive, Pfeifer said.

"I'm extremely excited," she said.

"This is not only that I'm one of the first females on

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### **Charleston Base New Holland Club Members**

During the May 13th meeting of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc (USSVI), Charleston Base 4 new members joined the Holland Club. This is a very special occasion for all Submarine Veterans. The Holland Club is named after John P. Holland, designer of the first US Navy submarine. It is an exclusive group within the US Submarine Veterans organization, where the core requirement for eligibility is the designation "qualified in submarines" for a minimum of fifty years.

These men are the pioneers who led the way and set the standards for excellence for the Sailors in our submarine fleet today. When these men qualified, diesel powered submarines were state of the art. Some earned their dolphins prior to and others during, World War II, and still others during the Cold War period immediately following. Many, and in some cases most, of those they served with have departed on their final and eternal patrol. They saw the war winning diesel submarines go through radical conversions into many specialized and exotic designs. They witnessed and in many cases participated in the development and testing of the highly successful GUPPY snorkel conversions. Some went on to serve later in attack and ballistic missile nuclear submarines.

When we meet a Holland Club member, we are in the presence of the institutional memory of the U.S. Submarine Force. They, along with all their 'brothers of the dolphin', are the historical connection and inspiration for the Submariner of the future. There are no ex-submariners. Submarine qualification passes a man into a mystic brotherhood of undersea warriors, and it marks him forever as one of a special breed. Although they no longer sail beneath the seas, they still wear their 'dolphins' with honor and pride. These Shipmates and those who have gone before served our Nation extremely well. They have justly earned the honor and respect we show them today. WE, indeed, are honored by THEIR presence, and we look forward to the day when we too may qualify for membership in their special group.

The new inductees are:

**ICCS (SS) Ovie (Mike) Mulkey** who qualified on the USS Robert E. Lee (SSBN-600) in 1960 and retired from the navy in 1977.

**QMCS (SS) James F. Loveday** qualified on the USS Clamagore (SS-343) in 1960 and left the navy in 1973.

**TMCM (SS) Warren (John) Kratz** qualified on the USS Sabalo (SS-302) in 1960 and retired from the navy in 1983.

**TMCM (SS) Robert J. Deshaine** qualified on the USS Carp (SS-338) in 1959 and retired from the navy in 1975.

**EMC (SS) Alvin (Al) Addington** became the fifth member to join the Holland Club during a special ceremony at his home on Saturday, May 15, 2010 due to a

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submarines, but I'm graduating college and being commissioned into the Navy.

"I'm excited for all of that and to officially begin my career."

Show and tell

Laura Lavine said the entire family also is excited for Pfeifer.

"All of her brothers love her to death -- one even wants to take her for show and tell to school," Lavine said.

"I always tell her that every time she does something to make me proud and I just think there is no way I could be any more proud than this, and then she does something else and I am even more proud."

Ray Lavine is a private contractor in the Middle East and will be returning in time for Pfeifer's graduation.

Laura Lavine said her husband has raised Pfeifer since she was a small child, and her biological father who shares her last name is not in the picture.

Pfeifer said she would want to serve in the Navy whether or not it were for the submarine program.

"I've always wanted to serve in the military for as long as I could remember," she said.

"I've just always known that being an officer in the military is exactly what I wanted to do."

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### **First Women Selected For Submarines. What Was The Process?**

The first women selected to serve onboard submarines have been identified. Some questions are worth asking, and they deserve answers. In the interest of transparency, the Navy owes the public - at the very least the sub community - an explanation of how these ladies were chosen for this elite duty. How many competed for selection? And how will future female submarine assignments be made?

USNI Blogger MIDN Jeff Withington recently described the rigorous screening process he completed for selection to nuclear power and the submarine community. Considering that annual nuke power and sub assignments were made last October, was a similar selection process held recently for these female candidates? Was some other process used?

Because the first group of females did not compete for assignment in October, they apparently didn't compete against anyone except themselves. Until we know how many women applied, we won't know how tough (statistically at least) the competition was. In the future, women should compete against for assignment to the submarine community without quotas, on equal footing against men and each other. Certainly the 'right' number of women need to be selected to fill staterooms and not leave a ship's manning unbalanced, but otherwise, women should compete against every other applicant for assignment to this community.

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serious medical condition. He qualified on the USS Thornback (SS-418) in 1960 and served for 10 years.



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### **Distinguished Submariner Award**

Each year the Charleston Base recognizes one its members for their outstanding contributions to the Submarine Force and the Charleston Base. The annual Distinguished Submarine Award for 2010 was presented to CS2 (SS) Lewis (Lee) Allison. Lee contributions while serving the Commander of the World War II Submarine Veterans, Swamp Fox Chapter, and a member of the USSVI, Charleston Base were impressive. His efforts lead to the design, construction and dedication of a new “Lost Boats” Memorial at Patriots Point in Mt. Pleasant. Lee’s personal contributions and devotion to this project resulted in an impressive state of the art memorial. The opening of the “Lost Boats” Memorial was attended by over 300 people including the Mayor of Mt Pleasant. Lee’s contributions included participation included chairing the annual “Lost Boats” dedication held at Patriots Point each year including a television appearance on a local community show describing the significance and importance of honoring those who gave their lives during WWII. Lee is one of the 16 remaining WWII Veterans in South Carolina and continues to support the submarine force through participation in events including the WWII Veterans Honor Flight and Patriotism in the Park.



### **Eternal Patrol**

Alvin “Al” Addington departed on Eternal Patrol on Wednesday, May 26.

Al was a member of Charleston Base and was inducted into the Holland Club on 15 May 2010. He qualified in 1960 on USS THORNBAC (SS418). He also served onboard USS TROUT (SS566) and USS AMBERJACK (SS522).

There will not be a viewing or funeral, only a Memorial Service at some future date. The service will be held at the Chapel on the Weapons Station where Al and Barbara attended.

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### **Sole Survivor Of Submarine Crew To Lead Forestville Parade**

BRISTOL — After watching the Forestville Memorial Day parade from the sidelines each year, World War II Navy submarine veteran Allen Bingham will have a different perspective this holiday as the grand marshal. “I’m really honored to be able to do that,” said Bingham, who served on the original U.S.S. Seawolf as a yeoman second class, or petty officer.

Bingham said he spent two years on the submarine, patrolling in the Pacific, “looking for ships to sink.” The Seawolf “sank a few,” according to Bingham. He liked the submarine and just the idea of living under water and being able to come to the surface.

“I enjoyed it,” he said. “I didn’t mind it at all.” But while on leave off the ship in late 1942, Bingham got sick with tuberculosis, and couldn’t go back aboard. A few days later, the sub sank, and everyone aboard — all his shipmates, many good friends — died.

It was tough to take, Bingham said, and the TB cost him a lung, but he was grateful to survive.

“At least I wasn’t on it,” he said. “We’re thankful for that, I guess.”

A native of Omaha, Neb., Bingham came to New London for his Navy training. He said he liked New England and after more than four years in the service, he attended college in Willimantic and became a teacher. While in college, he met his wife, Lorraine. They had two sons and a daughter and were married for 49 years before she died more than a decade ago.

Both sons live out of state, but his daughter Cheryl McNeal, lives in Plainville.

Early in his career, he taught in Southington, Bingham said, then moved to Nebraska and taught there for a few years before returning to Bristol and teaching upper elementary students at O’Connell School for about 20 years.

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Bingham, 89, said he used to march in the Memorial Day parade with the Disabled American Veterans, but in recent years, he's been a spectator.

He's never been a parade marshal, and was surprised and delighted to be asked.

"I'm looking forward to it," he said.

Bingham said he's not exactly sure what he'll be doing as parade marshal, but said he'll wait to see what parade organizers ask of him. But he does plan to blow a kiss to a special friend watching from the sidelines.

"I can still do that," he said, chuckling.

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### Giving Back to Vets

Millions of deserving veterans are missing out on generous VA benefits. Are you one of them? Here are eight programs that could help you secure your future. Last Memorial Day, Sue Christensen had a revelation. A retired nurse administrator, Christensen, then 83, was laying a wreath at the veterans' monument in East Norriton, Pennsylvania, when she heard a speaker at the remembrance ceremony say that many vets suffer lingering problems from their wartime service—and don't realize they could receive help from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). "It suddenly hit me," recalls Christensen. "For 57 years I've suffered from panic attacks. Could it be from my time in the Navy?" After the ceremony she approached the speaker, John Nowak, who works with the Montgomery County Office of Veterans Affairs in suburban Philadelphia. She explained that she had been a Navy nurse in a plastic surgery clinic at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, during the Korean War. Her duties included patching up the disfigured faces of young Marines who had just returned from the front. Did he think that this experience could account for her suffering?

Nowak suggested she visit his office, where she met with the director of veterans' services, who referred her to a counselor at the VA Medical Center in nearby Coatesville, Pennsylvania. There, she was diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and given a 30 percent disability rating, a disability-compensation payment of nearly \$5,000 a year, and free psychological counseling.

Thanks to this support, the veteran nurse has begun to heal. "I'm already doing much better," she says. "I finally feel like a full person."

Christensen is one of 23 million veterans in the United States today, some 8 million of whom receive VA benefits. But congressional sources and critics say that many other deserving veterans are not availing themselves of assistance. Some, like Christensen, simply don't know they are eligible for benefits. "It never occurred to me that the VA could do anything for me," she says, noting she had never served in a war zone.

As Christensen learned to her advantage, Congress has expanded veterans' benefits—including disability

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### 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 Julian Villegas or Carl Chinn.

Make sure you have one for "when you get challenged"!

Buy several for great gifts!



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### Simon Bolivar Reunion

USS Simon Bolivar SSBN 641 Reunion 7-11 June

Questions or information please contact Thom Beach:

[thombeach@yahoo.com](mailto:thombeach@yahoo.com) or 843-761-7134



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### Corning intros submarine optical fiber

Corning Inc. (NYSE: GLW) has announced the commercialization of a new ultra-low-loss, large-effective-area submarine optical fiber designed to address the needs of next-generation, high-data-rate

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compensation, pensions, and health care—over the past two decades and has eased eligibility standards. This is a vitally important development. For many veterans, VA benefits could mean the difference between a life of abject poverty or a secure old age. For others it can mean the difference between suffering from an undiagnosed service-related illness or receiving treatment from a specialist in war trauma.

So, what are the benefits available to veterans?

**Disability compensation**

Misconceptions about this program abound. First of all, a service-connected disability need not be a combat injury. Any injury suffered or aggravated while in uniform can be considered—even injuries incurred while traveling to or from National Guard duty.

Second, compensation payments are unrelated to income, and they are also available, at a reduced level, to surviving spouses. Monthly payments are based on the degree of disability, which can range from 10 percent (for tinnitus, for example) to 100 percent (unable to work or function normally), as determined by a doctor and subject to appeal. A 30 percent disability rating currently merits \$376 per month in compensation (\$421 if the veteran is married); vets who are 100 percent disabled receive \$2,673 per month (\$2,823 if married). To view compensation levels for various disability ratings, visit the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Representative John Hall (D–New York), who chairs the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs for the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, says the VA has a new attitude regarding disabilities.

Under previous administrations, he explains, VA evaluators were encouraged to reject all but the most serious cases involving service-related disabilities. Today, led by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki (a Purple Heart recipient with a prosthetic foot), the department is reaching out to vets with disabilities. This means, says Hall, that World War II–, Korea–, and Vietnam-era veterans who may have been turned down by the VA in the past should reapply—especially because the department is now much more aware of (and sympathetic to) service-connected illnesses such as PTSD and ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease.

**Pensions for war veterans**

Although pensions were designed to help low-income veterans, the big surprise here is how much vets are allowed to deduct from income to determine if they meet the qualifying threshold. The Veterans Benefits Administration allows veterans to subtract all care-related costs, including the costs of assistance with activities of daily living, nursing home care, and Medicare premiums. If the net income at that point is below \$11,830 for a single vet (or \$15,493 for a married one), the VA will provide a pension to bring the veteran's income up to that level.

submarine networks.

Vascade EX2000 optical fiber has a typical effective area of 112 square microns and average attenuation of 0.162 dB/km at 1550 nm. This design attribute enables system designers to extend system reach and reduce the number of amplifiers in repeatered submarine networks, Corning says. In unrepeatered submarine networks, Vascade EX2000 fiber can accommodate higher optical launch power and increased system span length.

Corning says it will use this new optical fiber to develop its next-generation dispersion-managed fiber, Vascade R2000 fiber, which will be engineered to enable 40- and 100-Gbps systems to reach transoceanic distances.

“Large effective area and ultra low loss are essential fiber attributes that improve system performance and bring cost-saving benefits to any system operating at very high data rates. Today, we face the first deployment of 40-Gbps systems in submarine networks, and we expect that Vascade R2000 fiber and Vascade EX2000 fiber will play a critical role,” said Barry Linchuck, director, worldwide marketing, Corning Optical Fiber. “Industry trends point to the deployment of higher line rates and higher capacity. This drives the need to develop and offer new submarine optical fibers and unique dispersion-managed optical fiber solutions.” Vascade EX2000 optical fiber is fully qualified and is being sampled and tested by submarine-system vendors around the world.

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### **Manitowoc museum offers submarine sleepovers**

The Wisconsin Maritime Museum, 75 Maritime Drive, is offering submarine sleepovers starting at 7 p.m. July 17, 24 and Aug. 7.

Families, individuals and couples can spend the night aboard the USS Cobia, the nation's most fully restored World War II submarine, anchored in the Manitowoc River alongside the museum.

The sleepover will be filled with submarine challenges, including a race against the clock to unscramble code words, a test to sink enemy vessels and the opportunity to reenact a battle. Participants receive a guided tour of the sub, overnight accommodations and a tour of the museum. Cost is \$39 per person. Call (920) 684-0218 for reservations.

Other museum activities include:

-- Join the Navy for the Night overnight program for youth groups.

-- American Society of Marine Artists Exhibit, “Between the Shining Seas,” June 26-Aug. 10.

-- Experience Sub Culture on Aug. 14 will feature a 315-foot Subway submarine sandwich as long as the USS COBIA. Visitors can snack on the sub, interact with World War II re-enactors and listen to maritime tunes.

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Another common misconception is that pensions go only to people who served in wars overseas. In fact, the pensions are available to anyone (other than those dishonorably discharged) who served even a single day during wartime, even if that service was stateside. What's more, wartime periods extend beyond the end of hostilities (for a definition of wartime periods, visit U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Periods of War page). Widowed spouses of war veterans may also be entitled to pensions, even if they later remarried.

#### Health care

Eligibility to receive health care at any of the VA's 1,400 hospitals, clinics, and care centers is based on an income test (except in the case of veterans who have service-connected disabilities) and is not limited to veterans who served during wartime. The current national health-care income cap is \$32,342 for a single veteran, \$38,812 for a married vet. But this figure is adjusted for higher-cost regions, using the geographic means test (GMT) established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The GMT can push those limits much higher; in San Francisco, for instance, the income limit for eligibility is \$69,685 for a single veteran.

Again, all family medical expenses, including Medicare premiums, are deducted in calculating income. Veterans with disability ratings of 50 percent or higher receive free care at the VA. In today's VA system each veteran is assigned a specific primary care doctor who tracks that patient's treatment—a big improvement over the old days, when vets were assigned whichever doctor was available when they came to the clinic.

#### In-home care

Another surprise. Limited homemaking services and assistance with basic health needs, provided by private companies contracted by the VA, are available to all veterans who need in-home care and who meet the income test (subject to availability in the area where they live). Unless there is a hardship finding, single veterans with an income above \$29,402 (\$35,285 if married) may be assessed a \$15 copay if medical services are provided. Also available: respite care to provide a break for a spouse or family members who are caring for an eligible veteran. Depending on income, copays range from \$0 to \$90 per day.

#### Assisted living

Vets and their spouses who reside in an assisted living facility may qualify for an aid and attendance pension/allowance to help pay for the costs of additional care. This benefit is based on the level of disability. The income thresholds for eligibility are \$19,736 for a single vet in assisted living or \$23,396 for a couple, after all allowable deductions.

#### Prescription drugs

Here's how good the VA drug plan is: all drugs are provided free or for an \$8 copay, depending on income.

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### House Votes to Change the Name of the “Department of the Navy”

It could be anchors aweigh for a new name for the Department of the Navy.

The House voted Tuesday to rename the Department of the Navy and call it the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.

After all, supporters of the measure point out that in Marines' Hymn, the lyrics indicate that Marines “fight our country's battles in the air, on land and sea.”

Which is where the Department of the Navy comes in. Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C., is one of the main authors of the proposed change. He represents Camp Lejeune, a key Marine base situated along the North Carolina shoreline. The Marines have long been tucked inside the Department of the Navy. But Jones says this change just recognizes the Marines on an equal footing with the Navy.

The House has approved similar bills for the past eight years. But it's never made it through the Senate.

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### NAVSEA Concludes Water Piercing Missile Launcher Testing

A team from the US Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) has successfully completed testing on the Water Piercing Missile Launcher (WPML) with a successful launch and fly-out of an AIM-9X surrogate missile at the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) in Crane, Indiana.

The WPML effort, while not a Department of Defense programme of record, is designed to test and validate the ability of a submerged submarine to engage hostile aircraft and small, fast surface ships with a slightly modified AIM-9X air-to-air missile that could be integrated into the attack and guided missile submarine fleets. A Raytheon-led team is in parallel separately pursuing the Littoral Warfare Weapon (LWW) programme, designed to prove the adaptation of the AIM-9X air-to-air missile for submerged launch. According to NAVSEA's Undersea Technology Program Office (NAVSEA 073R), WPML technology could provide the submarine force with a universal underwater launch technology capable of employing currently deployed weapons and payloads without significant modification to the weapon itself. This requires a 'hole' to be punched through the water column to the breach point at the sea surface.

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### US Naval Academy Final Exam

One last class before graduation at the Naval Academy and the instructor gave out one final assignment.

"Given one metal pole, two bags of cement, a selection of shovels, a wheel barrow, and other tools necessary, One Navy Chief, one Petty Officer and a selection of

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"So veterans may not need any Part D plan at all," says Tom Pamperin, acting associate deputy undersecretary for benefits and programs at the VA. Additionally, pension recipients are exempt from copays for VA health services, including drugs.

#### Nursing home care

The VA owns and runs 132 nursing home facilities, and contracts with another 2,500 private homes in locations where it doesn't own one. Congress has mandated that the VA find a place for those veterans with disability ratings of 70 percent or higher. Vets with lower disability ratings are eligible as well, but they could be placed on a waiting list because of limited availability in many areas. Most states also operate veterans' nursing homes, some with more lenient admission requirements.

#### VA-guaranteed mortgages

Many veterans—and many mortgage lenders—wrongly think you can take out only one VA mortgage in a lifetime. The fact is, you can get multiple mortgages, but usually just one at a time, and you must have paid off the old one. These VA mortgages provide 100 percent financing—no need for a down payment. Older vets seeking to buy a unit in a senior-housing community may find this benefit useful—particularly in these days when home values are depressed and mortgages, especially mortgages with no down payment, are harder to come by. (The cost of the required funding fee—typically 2.15 percent—can be added to the total mortgage amount, so it isn't necessary to pay this fee up front.)

In determining eligibility for all veterans' benefits, the VA is less restrictive than Medicaid regarding personal assets and income. Federal aid (such as food stamps or Supplemental Security Income) is not counted. Also, unlike with Medicaid, the VA's goal is to keep people in their own homes, so homes and cars are not counted as assets. Veterans are generally allowed to have \$80,000 in household savings and investments and still qualify for pensions and health care. There is also no "look-back" period for signing over assets to relatives.

One word of advice, though. Navigating the VA bureaucracy can be tricky. Even registering with the VA can be daunting for some (you'll need to have your discharge papers in hand or ask the government to locate them). Fortunately, every state and most municipalities and counties in the nation have an Office of Veterans Affairs, staffed with trained people who can help you register and make your case for benefits. Various veterans' organizations—the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, among them—do this, too; lawyers certified by the VA tackle more complex issues.

Even the VA itself recommends that people take advantage of such outside help. "I would encourage people seeking VA benefits to utilize the free services of veterans' organizations or county veterans' affairs people," says Pamperin. "It's a good idea to have an advocate."

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#### Seamen.

Describe the process you take to erect the pole so that a flag hung from it can be seen from X number of feet away.

You have two hours to complete this assignment.

Begin!

The almost Ensigns began to write with concentration. At the end of two hours, the Instructor called time and collected the papers.

Paging through the papers, he announced the grades.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, there are some thorough and detailed responses here, but only one response ranks an "A." I would like to read it to you. I predict that this young man will go far in his Naval Career. Here is his paper:

In order to erect the flag pole, I would do the following:

I would say, "Chief, put up the flagpole" and then I would leave the area.

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