

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 6, No. 10

October 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 Government"



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

Base Meeting:

October 14, 2010
Social hour 1800, General Meeting 1900

Location:

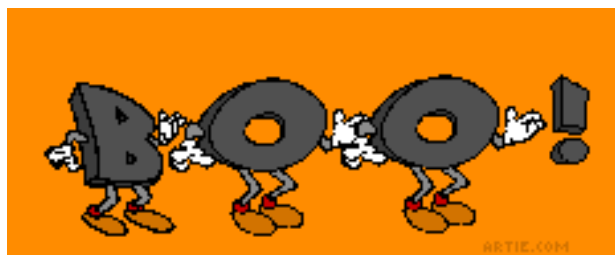
Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269, Low Country Home
99 Wisteria Rd.
Goose Creek, South Carolina. Phone 843-569-2962

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	843-452-3189
Membership	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Holland Club	John Lookabill	843-797-2991
Scholarship	Jim Yates	843-873-0246
Newsletter	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Storekeeper	Ken Fuhr	803-413-3657
Webmaster	John Nichols	843-452-3189
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



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Minutes of the September 2010 meeting

Attendance for the September 9, 2010 meeting was 112

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; TMC(SS) David Perkins, ETC(SS/AW/SW) Perry LoFriend Sr, IC2(SS) Steven Curtis, EMC (SEL)(SS) Kevin Lancaster, ETC (SEL) (SS) Daniel Rosenberger, EMC (SEL) (SS) Alexander Smerz, and EMC (SEL) Corey Carpenter. Welcome aboard.

Secretary: Asked for and received approval for last month's minutes.

Treasurer: Not present

Storekeeper: We're alright.

Chaplain: Nick Nichols presented the chaplain report and requested that the membership update their Page 2, get your pictures taken at the conclusion of the meeting and take a look at the Website as updates are very frequent.

Cards were sent as follows to:

Pauline Stank, wife of Ed Stank, was hospitalized pneumonia in WV while on a trip to Ohio. She is home and improving.

Glen Little's mother passed away on August 24th. Glen is a member of Charleston Base.

The family of Arthur Ward. Arthur departed on Eternal Patrol August 27th. He was not a member of Charleston Base.

Sharon Sessler has had surgery on both eyes and Marty on one as of this past Tuesday. They are recovering just fine. Marty also had a colonoscopy this morning. He is doing well but is heeding the advice of the doctor to take it easy the rest of the day.

Jon Sutton continues to improve from his stomach surgery and get ready for the next surgery in a couple of months.

John Hill is improving and recovering well, although slowly, from his bladder surgery.

Bob Bruce will be having cancer surgery on September 30th.

Holly Ann Shanks is our COBs' great-granddaughter. She is 1 year old and was hit by a truck on August 27th. Holly is currently in the Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City OK. Most recent update is: She has been moved out of ICU into a private room and after they determine she can eat solid food she should be coming home. It has been remarkable how well she is doing after have a 10,000 lb truck on top of her. She is undergoing methadone treatment to help with withdrawal from the morphine she was on for 10 days and she will be undergoing physical therapy for 6 months to a year. I want to thank the base for

Fleet Reserve: Larry Cox introduced as the new Base Commander for FRA Branch 269. A 70's night is being held Saturday the 14th with prizes. Update the membership on upcoming events:

August 14th – 70's Dance & Costume contest

September 6th – Labor Day Indoor picnic

September 11th – Luau

October 2nd – Car wash to support Honor Flight

October – Oktoberfest

October 30th – Halloween Party

November 11th – Veteran's Day indoor picnic

Dec 31st – New Year's Eve – The Barbara Harrell Group

Holland Club: John Lookabill attended the national convention in Cincinnati He reported that the last year for WWII Submarine Veterans was planned to be 2012. We currently have 18 members in South Carolina many who are not mobile. Holland Club hats may be purchased for \$10, see the storekeeper. All amendments passed and election results may viewed on the National Web Site. After reviewing the results of the election organization it was reported that John Peters is out and a committee will be organized to conduct follow on elections. After the 2014 Convention, the event will be held every two years.

Membership: Currently 334 members. Pay your dues!

Little David: Berkeley County Tractor Show is November 21 and 22.

Newsletter: No report

Base Historian: No report

After Battery: Tom Beach reported After Battery hats are available for \$18.00.

Chief of the Boat: Will be out of area from 1-22 September. Next meeting of WWII Subvets at Ryans in Summerville on August 19th. The See-Saw Parade in Harleyville on the 11 of September and we will have two units in the event. Our USS Thresher (SSN 593) float and also a convertible provided for the members of the WWII Submarine Veterans. Line up for the parade is at 0930 and maps to the event may be found on the USSVICB Web site. A Hog Roast is scheduled for October 9th and we need volunteers for the event.

Base Commander:

Nuclear Historian: Recently the navy has been consolidating rates. We used to have Quartermasters (QM), Radiomen (RM), Interior Communication Technicians (IC) who are now Electronic Technicians (ET). In past years we had Enginemen on submarines who were converted to Machinist Mates (MM). And the final blow came when Torpedomen were converted to Machinist Mate (Weapons). How big a screw job

all the prayers and good wishes that were offered. My wife and I truly believe they made a difference.

John Hill's wife, Madeline, is in the hospital with an attack of meningitis. It has moved to her brain and John reports that it might take up to two years for her to regain some of her memory.

John Crouse, MMCM (SS) Retired, curator of St. Mary's Submarine Museum and member of the Kings Bay Base, had a massive heart attack while at the USSVI National Convention and departed on Eternal Patrol on 4 September. The last I heard were that final arrangements are pending but plans are that his remains will be returned to St Mary's for a memorial service and burial at sea from one of the submarines he loved so much. Found out tonight:

Ben McDonald is having knee replacement on Tuesday, 15 September.

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

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

Vice Commander Report: Christmas Party scheduled for the 4 of December. Tickets are \$15/each for SUBVET members and one guest and \$20 for all others.

Sub Vets WWII: Meeting at Ryan's in Summerville on the 21st of October at 11:30 AM. WWII Submarine Calendars and Lost Boat Cards are available for \$8.00/ea or both for \$15.00.

Scholarship: The USS Cobia model donated by Ken Hutchinson will be raffled off at the annual Christmas Party. Tickets are \$5/ea and 6 for \$20.00. Challenge coins used to support the Scholarship fund are also available.

Public Affairs: No report

Webmaster: No report

Veteran's Affairs: No report

District Commander: National Elections have been completed.

was that?

Old Business: A new CPO Breakfast for the SUBVETS will be held at the Crackerbarrell in Summerville at 0600. We are looking for speakers for the event. A Car Wash will be held at the AutoZone on Saturday and Sunday from 1100-1700 on Saturday and 1000-1600 on Sunday.

New Business: "Patriotism in the Park" will be held in Summerville on November 7. The Submarine Veterans will be conducting a tolling of the boats between 1330-1400.

Good Of The Order:

Rodney McKanna (ETC/SS) thanked the membership for the underwear donated in support of the Undy 500. Additional donations may be dropped off at the FRA until Saturday. The Undy 500 is a motorcycle charity ride that covers just over 100 miles of the beautiful Tri-county area and helps to cover our homeless and struggling veterans as well! 100% of the proceeds goes towards events and programs designed to benefit local veterans!

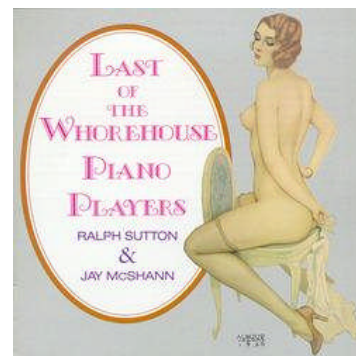
The annual Hog Roast will be held at the After Battery on 9 October and volunteers are needed to assist. We will have a lot of out of town visitors and let's put on our best roast ever. Contact R. Sparger if you wish to help.

The new Navy Health Care Clinic will open in two weeks which bring to an end of most services provided by the old Naval Hospital. Reminder to all; A base sticker is required to gain access to the new clinic and they are now available at Pass and ID.

Jerry Stout reported that his daughter Rebecca has been awarded \$1500.00 from the National Submarine Veterans.

Depth Charge drawing \$350 to winner FTCS(SS) Chris Hayden who donated \$50 back to scholarship fund. Thanks Chris!

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.



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



Alfano	Alkire	Bailey, W	Bonow
Britton	Camp	Campbell, N	Esch
Feller	Forbes	Gnodle	Hall
Harden	Hayes	Holzel	Hostetter
Johnson, E	Lindberg	Lookabill	Lord
Nathan	Niebeling	Palenchar	Peters
Pruitt	Rohrssen	Roup	Skorepa
Tolbert	Wilson, B	Yingling	

October Submarines Lost:

USS Wahoo	SS 238	October 11, 1943
USS Dorado	SS 248	October 12, 1943
USS Seawolf	SS 197	October 3, 1944
USS Escolar	SS 294	October 17, 1944
USS Darter	SS 227	October 24, 1944
USS Shark II	SS 314	October 24, 1944
USS Tang	SS 306	October 24, 1944
USS O-5	SS 66	October 11, 1923

The Final Patrol

*Lord, these departed shipmates with dolphins on their chest,
 Are a part of an outfit known as the very best.
 Make them welcome and take them by the hand,
 You'll find without a doubt they were the best in all the land.
 So, heavenly Father, add their names to the roll,
 Of our departed shipmates still on patrol.
 Let them know that we who survive,
 Will always keep their memories alive.*

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS!

- October 9 – Hog Roast at The After Battery, starts 1200, \$5 each, bring a side or dessert
- October 14 – Regular Monthly Meeting
- October 21 – Sub Vets of WWII Meeting, at Ryan’s on 17A in Summerville; 1200



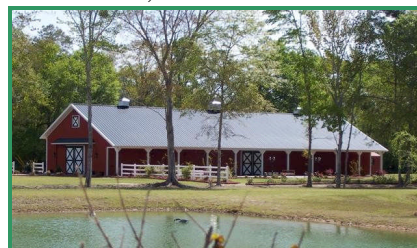
Membership Dues

2011 membership dues were payable on 1 October 2010. If you have not paid your dues you are on the Dink List! We have about 120 members on the Dink List. **Please pay your dues!** If you're not sure what you owe, contact Carl Chinn at membership@ussvicb.org or 875-3098. There will be a list at the meeting.

Annual Christmas Party



The Charleston Base Christmas Party will be on 4 December 2010. It will be held at the same location as the past several years; **Gatherings** in beautiful downtown Dorchester, SC.



Same rules as always... **you must have a ticket to attend** and **THERE WILL BE NO TICKET SALES AT THE DOOR!**



Hog Roast

The Charleston Base annual hog roast will be held on October 9, starting at 1200. \$5.00 each, pay at the gate. Cole Slaw and Baked Beans provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share with all.



A New Nuclear Submarine?

A U.S. Navy plan to update the naval leg of the nuclear triad with a new nuclear-armed submarine is about to come under scrutiny, with potential implications for the future of the U.S. nuclear force posture.

The Department of Defense is slated to review the plan in November to determine if the new submarine is both cost-effective and strategically necessary.

The U.S. Navy currently deploys 14 Ohio-class submarines, SSBNs, which carry nuclear ballistic missiles (SLBMs) to fulfill the Navy's mission of nuclear deterrence. Ronald Rourke, a Congressional Research Service (CRS) naval affairs specialist, explains the purpose of these submarines,

The SSBNs' basic mission is to remain hidden at sea with their SLBMs, so as to deter a nuclear attack on the United States by another country. Navy SSBNs form one leg of the U.S. strategic nuclear deterrent force, or "triad," which also includes land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and landbased long-range bombers.

The new submarine program under review, referred to as the SSBN(X), is set to replace the current set of Navy SSBNs. The SSBNs have a 42 year life span, which puts the first SSBN retirement date at 2027. To maintain the Navy's nuclear deterrent, the Navy plans to build 12 new nuclear-armed submarines. The first SSBN(X) would be procured in 2019, put it into service in 2028, and one additional SSBN(X) would be put into service every consecutive year, for 12 years.

The two major areas of scrutiny are cost and strategic necessity. The Obama administration has requested \$493 million for preliminary work on the submarine, such as design and engineering. However, program costs will increase substantially when construction of the submarine begins. The Congressional Budget Office issued a report in May 2010, which assesses the overall cost of the SSBN(X) program,

Overall, 12 SSBN(X)s would cost a total of about \$99 billion in CBO's estimation, or an average of \$8.2 billion each. Another \$10 billion to \$15 billion would be needed for research and development, for a total program cost of more than \$110 billion. Those estimates appear to differ from the Navy's mainly because the Navy priced the SSBN(X) as though it were being built today, whereas CBO incorporated the effects that higher shipbuilding inflation would have on submarines built 10 to 20 years from now.

The Navy appears to take the cost issue seriously, as it will have important implications for the Navy's ability to fund other programs in the hopper. As a result, Secretary of Defense Gates is tackling the cost issue head-on. Global Security Newswire reports that the program is being scaled back, but that costs will likely remain high,

An "emphasis on affordability is already being applied to the next-generation ballistic missile submarine, where we

Cocktails at 1700, Dinner at 1830

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

Tickets will be available starting September meeting.

Last day to buy tickets is 10 November meeting. Buy early! Ticket price: \$15 per person for member and spouse/girlfriend. \$20 per person for all other guests.

Navy Weighs Large-Diameter UUV Options; Ioc In Fy-14 Possible

The Navy is in the midst of developing a concept for a large-diameter unmanned underwater vehicle, a program that was abandoned years ago but could come to fruition in just a few years, Capt. Duane Ashton, program manager for unmanned maritime vehicles, told Inside the Navy in a Sept. 29 interview and in written responses to questions.

The program has been working on the initial science and technology phase for the vehicle to determine what kind of capabilities such a platform could offer before pushing forward with a prototype and then pursuing a program of record. When the Navy might field such a UUV would depend largely on upcoming budgets, "but we could see interim capability demonstrations over the next few years," with an initial capability "fielded as early as [fiscal year 2014]," Ashton said.

The Navy wants to find out through the science and technology process what kind of endurance and sensor capabilities could be placed on a large-diameter UUV, the largest of the four UUV classes. The LDUUV could do mine countermeasures and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions, for example.

"The Navy is currently considering options for establishing a funding line for initial operational capability of LDUUVs in various roles, including above- and below-the-water-line ISR," Ashton said.

"We could see new investment in [science and technology] budget lines primarily focused on increasing the state-of-the-technology in LDUUV energy as well as vehicle reliability and autonomy beginning in as early as FY-12.

"Starting up these efforts will be a challenge in today's budget environment, but the Navy sees unmanned systems as key to the future," he said.

Ashton said the current thinking on LDUUV, since it would have extended endurance and on-station time, is that it would be a prime ISR asset.

"It can provide greater options for payload deployment and servicing of undersea networks and, in the longer term, can serve as both sensor and shooter," he said.

"But again, those decisions haven't been made yet, and operational and cultural challenges would need to be addressed."

The program is developing an interim LDUUV to inform a permanent large-diameter UUV concept.

are trimming [design] requirements without compromising critical capability," said Defense Secretary Robert Gates, appearing alongside Carter at a Sept. 14 press briefing.

"The per-unit estimated cost had risen as high as \$7 billion. It is now roughly \$5 billion," Gates said. "The goal is a reduction of fully 27 percent in a program where total cost is expected to be more than \$100 billion."

Either way, the new SSBN(X) program is expected to draw on a substantial number of resources from the Navy ship-building budget. The Navy will have to weigh the relative importance of new submarines for the nuclear deterrent against other shipbuilding efforts. Rourke reported that a 2009 draft of the Navy's 30-year shipbuilding plan found that the trade-off between the SSBN(X) program and other programs will not be insignificant,

Funding the 12 SSBN(X)s within the Navy's shipbuilding budget without an offsetting increase to the shipbuilding budget would reduce the number of ships in the 30-year plan from 278 to 222—a reduction of 56 ships. The 56 eliminated ships included 19 destroyers, 15 Littoral Combat Ships (LCSs), four SSNs, three amphibious ships, and 15 auxiliary ships.

Therefore, in the November review the Pentagon will have to scrutinize the SSBN(X) plan, realistically assess the potential of cost reductions in design alterations, and determine if 12 replacement submarines are necessary, or if the Navy can suffice with fewer.

The Pentagon will also have to determine to what degree the SSBN(X) program is strategically necessary. The SSBN program began during the Cold War, and other than reducing the number of submarines from 14 to 12 (which derives from New START reductions in D-5 Trident missiles from 288 to 240), the SSBN(X) program signals a continuation of current nuclear doctrine and planning. That decision is either a point of pride or criticism, depending on the camp.

The Global Security Newswire interviewed Hans Kristensen, a nuclear expert at the Federation of American Scientists, who made the case for more significant change in U.S. naval nuclear policy,

"For the foreseeable future, it simply makes no sense to design an SSBN with a capability similar to what was needed to evade Soviet attack submarines, equip it with long-range SLBMs [submarine-launched ballistic missiles] to maximize patrol areas, and deploy these SSBNs with two crews at an operational tempo that is similar to what we did during the height of the Cold War," said Kristensen, who directs the Nuclear Information Program at the Federation of American Scientists.

"Given the enormous price tag, Russia's problems in fielding its next SSBN and SLBM, China's slow SSBN program and recent SLBM development problems, Britain's inability to afford a new SSBN, and India's growing SSBN plans, I think it is time to think about how

"Potential interim LDUUV options are being considered for the purpose of development employment concepts and concept of operations (CONOPS); for evaluating the value of potential capabilities to the warfighter; and to conduct realistic evaluations of technical and supportability risks associated with fielding LDUUVs," Ashton said. "We would expect interim options to have capabilities limited by existing and near-term technologies (energy/persistence, autonomy, communications, payloads, stealth, etc.). Technologies exist at sufficient maturity levels now to help demonstrate and quantify these concepts."

The long-term vision for LDUUV "stretches capability in every dimension" of persistence, communications, autonomy, stealth, survivability and other areas, the captain said.

"The possibilities are really quite astounding," he said. "We see LDUUV as a game-changer technology for providing increased reach and awareness into the undersea environment."

Science and technology is one of four legs necessary to support the "stool" of the program, Ashton said, the other three being requirements and programmatic, certification and experimentation.

"The science and technology piece is being funded and we are working with the resource sponsors, N2/N6 [information dominance directorate] and the [chief of naval operations' staff], to work on the other three legs," he said.

The timeline for the effort could change, and the program remains in discussion with the resource sponsors.

"That dialogue is occurring," the captain said. "We expect in the near future that those things will be addressed," he said.



GAO Eyes Retirement Pay After 10 Years

By Rick Maze, Military Times, 31 August 2010

Eliminating retirement benefits for 20 years of service would hurt the military ? but allowing troops to earn reduced retirement benefits after 10 years of service, as long as they wait until age 65 to receive the pay, might

to limit deployment and operations of nuclear weapons at sea, rather than continuing business as usual but with more [international] players," he said.

Predictably, others disagreed strongly with his assessment. However, one retired submarine officer said it is imperative that the Navy effort embrace new technologies and avoid getting mired in delays. The source asked not to be named in this article because he was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

"We need to move forward with the new submarine. There is no plausible future where it isn't required," he told Global Security Newswire last week. "The last ships of the [new] class will still be in service 60 to 70 years from now. That puts a great premium on building in flexibility and adaptability and using the best technology available. That costs money."

The upcoming Defense Department review of the SSBN(X) plan could have significant implications for U.S. nuclear force structure. If cost issues are overcome, as they likely will be, then the Navy will continue to serve as a key player in U.S. nuclear deterrence. However, in the unexpected event that the project is not fully funded, the naval leg of the triad would face substantial reform over the next 20 years. Regardless, the review could be an important event to renew discussion.

Actor and former sailor Tony Curtis dead at 85

By Mark D. Faram - Staff writer

Posted : Thursday Sep 30, 2010 15:45:00 EDT

Famed actor and former sailor Tony Curtis died Wednesday in Henderson, Nev. He was 85.

Before he became Tony Curtis, he was Bernard Schwartz, born June 3, 1925, in New York City to Hungarian immigrants.

After the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Curtis wanted to fight in the war. After seeing Cary Grant play a submarine commander in "Destination Tokyo" and Tyrone Power in "Crash Dive," he decided to join the Navy and be a submariner.

"I knew then that I wanted to be a submariner," Curtis said in a 2004 interview during the commemoration of the 62nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway at the Navy Memorial at Washington. "In fact, I knew even earlier that I wanted to serve in subs."

He recalled how as an even younger child, he'd make his own "submarines" out of wooden broom handles, fashioning makeshift screws from scraps of tin cans and powering the boats in a nearby pond with rubber bands. His first stop was Great Lakes, for recruit training, followed by signalman "A" school — then being conducted in Champaign, Ill. — before heading on to sub school in Groton, Conn. After school, he was ordered to the Pacific theater for duty.

The young signalman headed west and got some additional training at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard,

give a boost to recruiting and retention, according to the Government Accountability Office.

The idea, which could increase the military's retirement costs, comes at a time when Congress is looking for ways to cut federal entitlement programs.

An independent commission appointed to look at federal spending is expected to report in December on cutting benefits, potentially including military benefits.

GAO's input came in response to questions posed by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee's personnel panel, about whether retirement benefits would be a greater boon to recruiting and retention if people were vested in benefits earlier in their careers.

He asked whether promising retirement benefits after 10 years of service would be a good way to encourage people to serve in time of war beyond one or two enlistments. Under most discussions about 10-year retirement vesting, benefits earned after 10 years of service would be less than those earned after 20 years, because retired pay still would be based on a combination of years of service and rank.

GAO said it is hard to see the immediate recruiting and retention benefits of promising retired pay after 10 years because the services are not having recruiting and retention issues.

GAO said deferred compensation such as retired pay or health benefits for retirees is "a relatively inefficient way" to influence people; it would be less expensive to just offer immediate cash bonuses. That is the same argument the Pentagon has used to try to hold down the size of military pay raises.

There are reasons to keep full retirement vesting in return for 20 or more years of service, GAO said. The current system "is meant to create a strong incentive for military personnel who stay beyond eight to 10 years to complete 20 years and leave soon thereafter," analysts said.

But changing the initial vesting point from 20 years to just 10 might make sense if the goal is to keep people in the military who otherwise would get out after five years, GAO said.

St. Marys Museum Manager On Eternal Patrol



Calif., before reporting to the submarine tender Proteus in Guam.

On the Proteus, he became a member of Submarine Relief Crew 202.

Relief crews would clean and repair submarines as they returned from patrol.

“They would tie up alongside us and the crew would go on liberty,” Curtis said. “That’s when our job should start ... we would go aboard and clean it up and scrape the barnacles off the hull,” he said. “Getting those submarines ready to go back out on patrol was great work, great practice for us, but make no mistake, it was very hard work, too.”

The war’s end would cut short his dream of actually qualifying in submarines, though he did get a small taste as a replacement sailor on the submarine Dragonet in mid-1945 as that boat made a short runs in the Western Pacific. “I wanted to qualify submarines badly,” remembers Curtis, “but it ended up the only thing I didn’t get to do while I was in.”

But he did get to witness history.

The Proteus became one of the armada of ships that steamed into Tokyo Bay in August 1945 for the formal Japanese surrender.

Anchored not far away, Proteus had a number of submarines nested alongside her. Their crews joined Proteus’ own, packing the decks to get a look at what was happening onboard the battleship Missouri.

“I was a signalman, and naturally I went to the signal bridge to watch,” he said. “We took turns looking through binoculars at the surrender onboard the Missouri — we were all so happy, the war was over.”

Within a few months, he was discharged from the Navy and back in New York, but he credits the Navy and the GI Bill for jump-starting his acting career.

“I can’t thank the Navy enough, as it was like a mother to me, feeding me and even fixing my teeth,” he said. “They kept me out of trouble and let me see the world, and when I came home I had the GI Bill and I was able to go to school and study acting — I really can’t thank them enough.”

Curtis’ Hollywood career would take him back to submarines in 1959, when he starred with Cary Grant in the submarine comedy “Operation Petticoat,” a World War II story about a submarine that was painted pink and had Army nurses as part of the crew.

“Years before, I had watched Cary wrapped around the periscope in ‘Destination Tokyo’ and wanted to be him,” Curtis said. Then not only did he become my friend, when we did ‘Operation Petticoat,’ there I was in a movie with Cary — and there he was again, wrapped around a periscope again — it was a wonderful and amazing thing for me.”

Later in life, Curtis worked to give back to the Navy he said he owed so much to by becoming a staunch supporter

ST. MARYS - Hundreds gathered Friday to pay tribute to John Crouse, a retired Navy master chief who died of a heart attack Sept. 4 while promoting the St. Marys Submarine Museum at a national Navy veterans’ convention in Cincinnati.

Mourners, many dressed in Hawaiian shirts and leis, gathered at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church to pay tribute to the only manager the St. Marys Submarine Museum has had since its creation in 1995.

Crouse, who was seldom seen wearing long pants or button-down shirts, specified in his will that he wanted everyone to wear Hawaiian garb.

The 58-year-old Michigan native and lifelong bachelor was described as the driving force behind the museum and a passionate supporter of an annual submarine veterans convention held at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base.

Former national Navy League president Sheila McNeill chronicled his Navy career, which included tours of duty on three submarines and 13 years in Hawaii. The audience laughed as she described Crouse’s claim that she taught him to be a civilian.

“He was all things Hawaiian after those years in Hawaii and proper dress to him was flip-flops and shorts,” she said. “He just might put long pants on at a formal event or between January and March, but only after a lot of coercion or begging.”

McNeill praised Crouse’s admiration of World War II submarine veterans.

“You always knew when he was telling a sea story,” she said. “He spoke with authority about the service of our WWII veterans.”

McNeill’s voice cracked with emotion after reading tributes to Crouse from retired admirals, veterans and those still serving in the Navy.

“Rest in peace,” she said. “You stand relieved for the last time. We have the watch.”

After the service, many gathered at the museum Crouse helped establish in downtown St. Marys.

“This was his love, the submarine museum,” said Toby Mohrman, a retired command master chief who served with Crouse aboard the USS Canopus at Kings Bay.

Retired Capt. Bill Weisensee, former commander at Kings Bay’s Trident Refit Facility, said Crouse deserves much of the credit for the museum’s success.

“He meant everything,” he said. “He was always here to do the job and make sure it succeeded.”

Doug Cooper, the museum board’s president, said it will be impossible to find a replacement who has Crouse’s passion and enthusiasm.

“This wasn’t a job for John: it was his life,” Cooper said. “He was the museum.”

St. Marys Councilman Keith Post, a retired sailor, will be the museum’s interim manager for the next six months.

of the Navy Memorial in Washington.

He was present at the memorial's dedication in 1987 and served as an official host for the organization's first Lone Sailor Dinner, where the organization honors former sea service veterans for their service both in and out of the military.

In 1994, he was given that award by the memorial and often returned for events, such as the 2004 Midway celebrations, which included a showing of "Operation Petticoat." Curtis introduced the film and answered many questions from the audience about his Navy service as well as about the movie.

His willingness to give back to the Navy also helped him achieve his World War II goal.

At a 1998 Submarine Birthday Ball, Rear Adm. Jerry Ellis, who then commanded Submarine Forces Pacific, presented Curtis with his silver "dolphins" warfare pin, along with the title "submariner."

Bernard Schwartz had realized yet another dream, but never forgot how he got there.

"I was proud to serve in the South Pacific and proud to be a World War II veteran," he said. "Though that era has long since passed, I look back with fond memories of the fellowship, dedication and hard work that enabled us to win the war."



Tony Curtis in 1943

Navy Offers Incentives To Senior Sub Officers

By Mark D. Faram, Navy Times, 6 September 2010

Navy officials are sweetening the pot to entice some senior officers in the submarine support community to stay in uniform.

Members of the community are no longer qualified for submarine duty at sea, but offer a wealth of experience to submariners, both at sea and ashore.

Submarine support incentive pay previously was used to retain lieutenant commanders.

"We've changed the demographic we're targeting now to those who have screened for commanding officer ... at the O-5 and O-6 levels," said Rear Adm. Tony Kurta, head of manpower policy and plans for the chief of naval

"The best thing I can do is keep the doors open and keep the museum moving forward in a positive way," Post said.

Crouse's remains were cremated and will be buried at sea during a ceremony aboard one of the Trident submarines at Kings Bay, McNeill said.

She shared some of the comments Crouse wrote in his will.

"Well, if you are reading this it looks like I've completed my last transfer of duty," he wrote. "Eternal patrol is a submarine term used by subvets who have departed on their last eternal patrol. Sometimes I still act like a kid, which I think is why I had so much fun in the Navy."

Navy Changes Incentive Pay To Retain Senior Submariners

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs, Navy News, September 1, 2010

WASHINGTON -- Adjustments to the Submarine Support Incentive Pay (SSIP) program were announced Aug. 31 in NAVADMIN 293/10.

The changes described in the new policy will improve the effectiveness of the program by retaining Submarine Support officers at key career milestones.

After a careful review of the SSIP program, retention trends, and Submarine Force manpower requirements, the Navy determined that an adjustment to the program was required to target a different officer demographic. The goal now is to improve retention of Commanding Officer Submarine Support (COSS) personnel between 20 years of service and 25 years of commissioned service, which ultimately improves the overall health of the submarine force.

"These officers are in extremely high demand in the private sector and we must be able to compete to retain them -- not just for their knowledge, but the leadership they bring to the submarine community," said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, chief of naval personnel.

Although COSS personnel are no longer qualified for nuclear duty, they possess extensive experience in submarine operations and can continue to provide valuable submarine support functions both at sea and ashore.

New SSIP contract rates have been targeted with contract awards at \$15,000 for one year, \$20,000 annually for two years and \$25,000 annually for three years.

To be eligible for the SSIP, applicants must possess the 1120 designator, must currently serve in pay grades O-5/6, be worldwide assignable, and must be previously nuclear trained and screened for COSS, among other qualifications. Those officers currently under an SSIP contract, who do not meet the new eligibility requirements, will have their contracts honored but will

personnel.

To qualify, officers must have 20 to 25 years of service, be eligible for assignment worldwide and have nuclear training, according to NAVADMIN 293/10, released Aug. 30.

Under the program, a one-year contract will net \$15,000, up from \$10,000. A two-year deal will net \$20,000 annually for a total payout of \$40,000, nearly double the previous \$11,000 annual payment.

A three-year deal will net \$75,000, with \$25,000 paid each year, up from \$12,000 each year under the old program.

Kurta said the changes will not impact those currently under an SSIP contract.

“All existing contracts will be honored,” he said. But those contracts will be honored at the old rates of pay.

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 Rick Collins, Julian Villegas or Carl Chinn.

Make sure you have one for “when you get challenged”!

Buy several for great gifts!



be ineligible for new contracts.

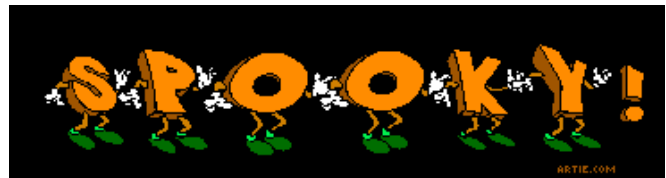
For more details regarding eligibility, administrative procedures and a sample application, visit <http://www.npc.navy.mil/officer/submarinenuclear/incentive+programs.htm>.

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/.

2010 Medal of Honor Convention

Please check the following link for a real treat:

<http://www.photoshow.com/watch/pm2gc2Rv>



Flag Presentation Update 06:

The United States Flag Code establishes advisory rules for display and care of the flag of the United States. It is Section 1 of Title 4 of the United States Code (4 U.S.C. § 1 et seq). The following guidelines should be followed during periods when the flag is being paraded, the Pledge of Allegiance is given or the national anthem is played, and when the flag is in mourning: Parading and saluting the flag

- When carried in a procession, the flag should be to the right of the marchers.
 - When other flags are carried, the flag of the United States may be centered in front of the others or carried to their right. When the flag passes in a procession, or when it is hoisted or lowered, all should face the flag and salute.
 - To salute, all persons come to attention.
 - Those in uniform give the appropriate formal salute.
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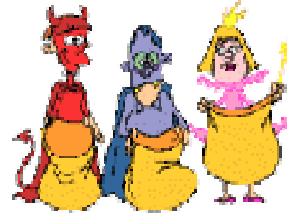
Remember,

If you haven't got a smile on your face

And laughter in your heart,

Then you're just a sour old fart!

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- Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute.
 - Citizens not in uniform salute by placing their right hand over the heart and men with head cover should remove it and hold it to left shoulder, hand over the heart.
 - Members of uniformed organizations in formation salute upon command of the person in charge. The Pledge of Allegiance. All present except those in uniform should stand at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart; National Anthem.



The composition consisting of the words and music known as the Star-Spangled Banner is the national anthem. During a rendition of the national anthem when the flag is displayed:

- All present except those in uniform should stand at attention.
 - Men not in uniform should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold the headdress at the left shoulder.
 - Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present and not in uniform may render the military salute.
 - Individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note; and When the flag is not displayed, all present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed. The flag in mourning
 - To place the flag at half-staff (or half-mast, on ships), hoist it to the peak for an instant and lower it to a position half way between the top and bottom of the staff.
 - The flag is to be raised again to the peak for a moment before it is lowered.
 - On Memorial Day, the flag is displayed at half-staff until noon and at full staff from noon to sunset.
 - The flag is to be flown at half-staff in mourning for the death of designated, principal government leaders.
 - The flag is to be flown at half-staff for thirty days in mourning for the death of the current or former President of the United States.
 - The U.S. flag is otherwise flown at half-staff (or half-mast, on ships) only when directed by the President of the United States, a state governor (within that state), or the mayor of Washington D.C. (within the district).
 - When used to cover a casket or coffin, the flag should be placed with the union at the head and over the left shoulder. It should not be lowered into the grave.
 - The U.S. Flag is to be flown half staff on Patriot Day (11 SEP)
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