

# TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 10, No.12

December 2014

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

### Base Meeting:

BOD: None for December

Membership: Christmas Party  
13 December, 1800

### Location:

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 26  
Low Country Home  
99 Wisteria Rd.  
Goose Creek, South Carolina. Phone 843-569-2962



Base Commander	<u>Ed Stank</u>	843-568-2148
Vice Commander	<u>Don Mook</u>	843.499.5727
Secretary	<u>Rick Wise</u>	843.875.5559
Treasurer	<u>Steven Morawiec</u>	360.473.8883

Chief of the Boat	<u>Rick Sparger</u>	843.553.5594
Veterans Affairs	<u>Ken Curtis</u>	843.797.1268
Membership	<u>Don Mook</u>	843.499.5727
Scholarship	<u>Julian Villegas</u>	843.871.6135
Storekeeper	<u>Ken Hutchison</u>	843.553.0935
Historian	<u>George Scharf</u>	843.873.3318
Public Affairs	Tom Clark	843.871.8923
Chaplain	<u>Nick Nichols</u>	843.452.3189
Holland Club	<u>Bill Freligh</u>	843.553.1115
Newsletter	<u>George Fuchs</u>	941.580.2333
Webmaster	<u>Nick Nichols</u>	843.452.3189
Kaps for Kids	<u>Walt Deal</u>	843.871.4143

### 2015 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday – December 13<sup>th</sup>  
1800 to 2200

Red Bank Club | Naval Weapons Station

Sponsored by  
United States Submarine Veterans, Charleston Base



## BOATS LOST IN DECEMBER

BOAT NAME	HULL NR.	DATE LOST	SOULS LOST
USS F-1 [ex-CARP]	(SS-20)	17 Dec. 1917	19 Officers & Men
USS S-4	(SS-109)	17 Dec. 1927	34 Officers & Men
USS Sealion	(SS-195)	10 Dec. 1941	5 Lives Lost
USS Capelin	(SS-289)	On or Aft. 1 Dec. 1945	76 Officers & Men

### *Chaplain's Corner*

#### PROBLEMS IN PERSPECTIVE

*It is important to look at things from God's point of view. 1 Corinthians 4:6*

If a temporary loss of perspective has left you worried, exhausted, or both, it's time to readjust your thought patterns. Negative thoughts are habit-forming; thankfully, so are positive ones. With practice, you can form the habit of focusing on God's priorities and your possibilities. When you do, you'll soon discover that you will spend less time fretting about your challenges and more time praising God for His gifts to you.

When you ask the Lord and prayerfully search for His will, He will give you wisdom and perspective. When you make God's priorities your priorities, He will direct your steps and calm your fears. So today and every day hereafter, pray for a sense of balance and perspective. And remember: no problems are too big for God – and that includes yours!

--A Prayer for Today--

*Lord, sometimes, the world's perspective can lead me off course. Help me, Lord, to see the world through Your eyes. Give me guidance and wisdom. And keep me ever mindful, Father, that Your reality is the ultimate reality, and that Your truth is the ultimate truth, now and forever. Amen.*

### USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

**Opening Ceremonies:** The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ed Stank. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1906. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in November was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Vice-Commander Don Mook. Ed welcomed the members and guests to the meeting. He then turned the podium over to base Chaplain Nick Nichols.

**Karl Humbertson Memorial Service:** Base Chaplain Nick Nichols performed our standard Memorial Service for MMC(SS) Karl Edwin Humbertson who departed on Eternal Patrol on October 21, 2014. Following the service the family and guest left the room so that the Business Meeting could continue.

**Introductions:** There were no guests at the meeting.

**Secretary:** Base Secretary Rick Wise called for a motion on the October Meeting minutes. Jay "Doc" Pierce made a motion to accept the minutes as published. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

**Treasurer/:** Base Treasures Steve Morawiec gave a report on the base finances. The report is available on the Charleston Base website [www.ussvicb.org](http://www.ussvicb.org). An analysis of the October Butt Roast showed a loss of \$257.

**Vice-Commander/Membership Chairman:** Base Vice-Commander Don Mook had no report but as Membership Chairman reported that there are 339 members of Charleston Base. 61 base members owe national dues (\$20) and 100 members owe base dues (\$15). He will be available to take dues for 30 minutes after the meeting. Dues can also be paid on-line at the base website, [www.ussvicb.org](http://www.ussvicb.org).

**Chaplain and Webmaster:** Base Chaplain and Webmaster Nick Nichols gave the following report:

#### November Report

##### Highlighted boat of the month:

Albacore was lost on Nov 7, 1944 with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her eleventh war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.

- **MMC(SS) Karl Humbertson** departed on Eternal Patrol October 21<sup>st</sup>.
- **FTB2(SS) Charlie Rook** departed on Eternal Patrol October 23<sup>rd</sup>. His wife, Gloria, is planning a very small service on the battery to spread Charlie's ashes in the harbor. This will be on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon. I will be saying a few words at the service. We will not be holding our normal bell tolling or presentations due to her not wanting to attract a crowd.
- **NOTE:** *I would like to stress the importance of giving the Chaplain a Page 2. When there isn't one it does make it harder to assist the family with the funeral. We currently have 339 members. Of those, I only have a page 2 for 118 members or 35% of the base.*
- **David Knaub**, Mike and Debbie Knaub's son was placed on the lung transplant list. This is significant because as soon as lungs become available for him he will go in for his transplant. Please keep him in your prayers as he may have been given a new chance for a normal life. **UPDATE:** *Lungs were located in Nebraska and flown to Charleston four days later, and successfully transplanted into David's chest. He is still in the ICU at MUSC, but is up and alert as of 22 Nov. The Knaub family thanks everyone for their prayers, and requests that you keep up the good work!*
- **Harry Feller** is NHC West Ashley rm 102 recovering from a hospital stay in which he had to have three units of blood due to a bleeding ulcer. Talked to Mary this afternoon and she said he is doing better and can stand on his own but is still retaining a lot of fluid.
- **"Frenchy" Fuqua** continues to recover from his stroke. I was able to talk with Barbara this afternoon and she informed me he is doing well. French will be released next Friday, 21 Nov. and be able to go home. Not sure at this point if it will be home or outpatient therapy.
- As most of you know I volunteer on Tuesday evening at Summerville Medical Center. This past Tuesday like some of you, I spent a full morning of Veterans ceremonies causing me to feel good about myself and my service in the Navy. On Tuesday evening my feel good came crashing down around me. A 93 year old Army vet came to the hospital and I was able to shake the hand of an original member of Merrill's Marauder's. He was with them from their beginning to their end, 1943-1944. If you know WWII military history you know what I'm talking

about. Merrill's Marauders or Unit *Galahad*, was a United States Army long range penetration special operations jungle warfare unit, which fought in the South-East Asian theatre of World War II, or China-Burma-India Theater (CBI). The unit became famous for its deep-penetration missions behind Japanese lines, often engaging Japanese forces superior in number. Look them up and you'll realize why I had goose bumps all over my body when I shook this veterans' hands.

- **NOTE:** *I would like to stress the importance of making sure you, and your family, know the location of your DD214. This is required to prove veteran status if you are seriously ill or in case of death.*
- **NOTE:** *Please pickup one of the pages on the table where I'm sitting. Put one of these with your important papers so that your loved one knows who to contact with the SUBVETS.*

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.

#### **WEBMASTER NOTES:**

Website is updated constantly.

**Veterans Affairs:** Ken Curtis reported that restriction on means testing for VA health benefit will be dropped on January 1, 2015. If you have tried to get in the system and been told you are not eligible because of your income apply again after 1 January.

**FRA:** Larry Cox told the base about the National Veterans Day Ceremony he attended at Birmingham, Alabama. The honored guest at the banquet was the co-pilot on plane #1 plane of the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo.

**Holland Club:** Holland Club Chairman Bill Freligh asked that members who qualified in submarines in 1965 to contact him so he can start setting up next year's Holland Club induction.

**Storekeeper:** Base Storekeeper Ken Hutchison stated that he still had 2015 calendars for sale for \$9 each. USSVI has 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary coins available for \$7. If you would like one or need anything else contact the storekeeper at [storekeeper@ussvicb.org](mailto:storekeeper@ussvicb.org).

**Submarine Veterans of World War II:** Swamp Fox President George Scharf described the Veterans Day Memorial Service at Stratford High School. He said it was one of the most impressive services he had attended.

**Recreation Committee:** Charlie Hudson reminded the base of the Christmas Party on 13 December at the Red Bank Club. There will be two pony kegs (one Miller Lite and one Bud Lite) as well as drink tickets.

**Nuclear Historian:** Rick Carlson made the following report:

Engineers.....They are not what I remember an engineer looking like. If you recall when someone said he was an engineer the first thing you looked for was the blue and white striped cap. (You know....Trains or as a young NUC would say.....Choo-Choos!)

Engineers were responsible for most of the following.....

Equipment Malfunctions..... Missed movements (late underways)..... Miscommunications (why isn't the number 11 pronounced onty-one?)....Wanting to control the whole ship:

They would like to have the Control Room back in Maneuvering. They would also like a periscope installed in Maneuvering. And they don't want you to talk across the chain!

They don't allow you to have a coffee pot in Maneuvering, but you can drink coffee on watch. You just can't spill a whole pot on the panels! Cavitation.

All Co's were engineers but less that 25% of the engineers become CO's. Why? Because they also have to be successful Executive Officers, people and paper pushers.

The engineers that do not stay in the military, retire and become executives in the business world. They work for beverage companies....Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?

The work for pharmaceutical companies.....

Whatever happened to Preparations A through G?

They work in corrections....Why do they use sterilized needles for lethal injections?

Or, go back to school and get their Masters degrees and become Historians.....

In 1272 Arabic Muslims invented the condom, using a goat's lower intestine.

In 1873 the British refined the idea by taking the intestine out of the goat first!

Yet some engineers go into the medical field....So ask yourself if one out of four persons suffer from mental illness....Do the other three enjoy it?

**The After Battery:** Steve "Buddha" Nelms reminded the base of the After Battery in Dorchester, SC. The website with a map and information is

[www.theafterbattery.com](http://www.theafterbattery.com) . The annual Hog Roast will be Saturday, April 11, 2015.

**Chief of the Boat:** Rick Sparger thanked Marty Sessler, Terry Trump and Rick Wise on their work getting the float ready.

Rick talked about how disappointed he was for the attendance at the Butt Roast. A lot of base members and their wives did a lot of work hold the event.

**Base Commander:** Ed Stank talked about the Veterans Day Ceremony in Summerville on November 11.

He reminded the base members that they can go on line to the Combined Base Charleston site and set up for wills, living wills and power-of-attorney at no cost.

He asked if any members had suggestions on changes to the by-laws please let the Board of Directors know. Stratford High School has contacted the base about having veterans come in and talk to the students. If you are interested contact Rick Wise ([secretary@ussvicb.org](mailto:secretary@ussvicb.org)).

(Secretary Note: I was contacted by Steve Morawiec and Ralph Rhorssen as volunteers.)

**Old Business:** Fisher House Donation: After the October meeting Ed determined that the donations would not go to building the Fisher House but for Administration and Training. Ed made a motion that the money collected be contributed to buying the property, which must be done before the building can start. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

**New Business:** Rick Wise made the following motion: The Treasurer of USSVI-Charleston Base may transfer funds annually from the Investment Fund to the General Fund not to exceed the product of the number of base life members multiplied by the amount of the annual base membership dues, as required, with the concurrence of the Board of Directors.

The motion was seconded and after some spirited discussion that did not apply to the motion presented was rejected by the membership.

**Good of the Order:** Julian Villegas resigned as chairman and a member of the Scholarship Committee. Rick Collins also resigned as a member of the Scholarship Committee. If you are interested in serving on the Scholarship Committee please contact Ed Stank.

**Depth Charge:** The depth charge was won by Ed Stank. He donated \$160 to the General Fund.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2015.

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## VETERAN'S DAY IN THE SCHOOLS

**Flowertown Honors Veterans**  
Sunday, November 30, 2014



Flowertown Elementary hosted a Veterans Day parade and invited the members of their school family who served, or continue to serve, their country. Students, faculty members, and families stood with American flags and posters and cheered for the veterans and families as they walked through the school. The event ended with veterans reciting the pledge of allegiance for the school's WBEE Morning Show.

Joe O'Saben at Flowertown Elementary with grandson Alex O'Saben



Nick Nichols at Summerville Elementary with great granddaughter Maddie and her class

## [New Nanomaterial Takes the Stink Out of Submarine Air](#)

On a US Navy submarine, every breath you inhale has been repeatedly exhaled from the mouths of about 120 other people. This isn't as suffocating, or gross, as

it sounds, because submarines have ventilation systems that take the CO<sub>2</sub> out of the air, and recirculate it with chemically catalyzed oxygen.



I take that back, the air is gross, because the chemical used to remove CO<sub>2</sub> smells like old diesel mixed with a dash of sulphur, and it permeates everything on board. This chemical, called amine, is known by every submariner (I was one for 3 years), as well as every submariner's wife, husband, or anyone else who encounters that sailor's laundry. However, a new CO<sub>2</sub>-capturing nanomaterial could bring an end to this most notorious of submarine smells (trust me, there are others).

Unlike amine, which is a liquid, the new material looks like sand. In fact, it is sand, except it is covered with tiny pores, each filled with molecules that selectively pull CO<sub>2</sub> out of the airstream. Together, sand grain and molecule are called Self Assembled Monolayers on Mesoporous Supports, or SAMMS. The pores create nooks and crannies that let even a small amount of the material soak up an incredible amount of CO<sub>2</sub>—a teaspoon of the material has slightly less surface area than a football field. And it's reversible. "With a slight amount of heat, you can also open that molecule back up and release the CO<sub>2</sub>, making it possible to use the same material over and over again," said Ken Rappe, an engineer at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory who worked on SAMMS.

There are many different types of SAMMS, each designed to bind with a specific molecule. They were originally engineered to pull mercury and other contaminants out of industrial waste streams, Rappe says. The CO<sub>2</sub>-binding version was identified by accident over a decade ago, when a scientist accidentally dropped a sample of the stuff in a glass of water. The sample started fizzing. Some experiments showed that this fizzing was the water dissolving stored carbon. At the time, carbon capture and storage wasn't a huge research interest (besides,

SAMMS likes its CO2 cool, and coal power emissions or automobile exhausts are too hot to capture), and the researchers searched for an application before a colleague pointed them to the problem of funky sub air.

Amine doesn't just stink; it's also highly corrosive and will ruin anything not made of stainless steel. This makes it a huge maintenance burden, as it needs to be flushed and moved into storage whenever it gets saturated with CO2. The sandy SAMMS would alleviate this, as it doesn't need special storage.

"When you go from a liquid to a solid, you're able to get rid of all the pumps and tanks," said Jay Smith, an engineer at the Naval Ships Engineering Station, Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division (NAVSSSES) in Philadelphia who has been getting the SAMMS-based replacement ready for deployment. "It's also safer, and more environmentally friendly to dispose of," she said.

Changing out life support equipment on a submarine isn't trivial (no matter how reviled the piece of equipment). Rappe and his research partners spent years improving the material before turning it over to the Navy. Since then, Smith and her colleagues have been testing the prototype SAMMS ventilation system specifically for submarines. She says the prototype is currently going through long-term testing with lab-simulated sub air. It could then be deployed on future submarines joining the fleet. Smith also noted that the SAMMS technology has already been evaluated successfully at sea through small scale test units.

And as long as the Navy's switching out gear on the sub, how about a margarita machine in the crew's mess?

## **GENERAL INTEREST: FEEL THIS IS WORTH PASSING ALONG**

With the holidays coming up, this could be a real problem.

The newest virus circulating is the UPS/Fed Ex/USPS Delivery Failure. You will receive an e-mail from UPS, Fed Ex, or USPS along with a packet number.

It will say that they were unable to deliver a package sent to you on such-and-such a date. It then asks you to print out the invoice or label copy attached.

**DON'T TRY TO PRINT THIS.  
IT LAUNCHES THE VIRUS!**

Pass this warning on to all your PC operators at work and home. This virus has caused Millions of dollars in damage in the past few days. Snopes confirms that it is real.

<http://www.snopes.com/computer/virus/ups.asp>

## **Sole Survivor of USS Tullibee Speaks About Being a POW *The Sun Herald, Nov. 5***

OCEAN SPRINGS -- The last thing Cliff Kuykendall remembers hearing before the explosion was a crewmate saying, "Well, there they go. We'll see what happens now."

"We found out about 20 seconds later," Kuykendall said Monday. "Boom."

When Kuykendall came to -- possibly a few minutes later, he's not sure -- he watched helplessly as his submarine, the USS Tullibee (SS 284), slowly sank into the Pacific Ocean and out of sight.

"I thought, 'Oh my God, I just lost my home,'" he said. "It was a long way from there to Wichita Falls, Texas."

Kuykendall, the 2014 Gulf Coast Veterans Day Parade grand marshal, was a 19-year-old submariner in the early hours of March 26, 1944, when the Tullibee launched two torpedoes meant for a Japanese transport ship. Instead, the torpedoes ran a circular route and struck the submarine.

He was the lone survivor of a crew of 80.

"The concussion was terrific. I was on the starboard during lookout. It was a real dark night, drizzling. I was almost unconscious," he recalled as he stood in front of the USS Tullibee memorial in Ocean Springs. "I remember looking down and I could see the stern of the submarine gradually go below the waves. Those World War II diesel submarines were 312 feet long and I must have been way up there in the air, I don't know. When I came to, I was submerged in the ocean.

"I fought my way to the surface. I had swallowed so much water that I could taste salt and diesel fuel for at least a year after that."

Kuykendall said he could hear voices for about 10 minutes after he regained consciousness. Then nothing.

He floated for several hours alone, except for an empty Sunkist orange crate that bumped into him.

He credited his shipmate, Louis Joseph Hieronimus, for saving his life. Hieronimus had forced him to take a lifebelt before going on lookout.

The partially inflated lifebelt kept him afloat long enough to be spotted.

Unfortunately, it wasn't by Americans.

About 10 a.m., he saw a destroyer coming in his direction, flying the rising sun flag.

"They made a circle around me, to my starboard, and opened up with a machine gun, firing at me," he said. "Fortunately, they never got a lethal shot in, but bullets were flying all over the place."

The Japanese brought him aboard, pulling him up with a net because he was too weak to climb aboard. That's when he had his third brush with death in less than 24 hours.

A Japanese officer, holding a sword, called him a coward for not drowning himself rather than being captured. The officer swung the sword over Kuykendall's head four times, missing each time.

"Each time he swung it -- there were two Japanese sailors on either side of me holding me up -- I collapsed and fell to the deck and the sword passed over my head," he said. "I did that intentionally because I knew if that sword hit my neck it would chop my head off."

A short time later, Kuykendall heard something in Japanese over the PA system and the harassment stopped -- for the time being.

He was dragged into a deck house and tossed onto a mat.

"Another Japanese sailor came in and he was carrying a small cup of sweet tea in his hand," he said. "He lifted my head and was giving me this sweet tea. He said in English, 'Don't worry, everything will be all right.' I said, 'Well, they're not all alike.'"

He was taken to a small seaplane base among the Palau Islands. Eventually, he was tied to a tree atop a hill while Americans bombed the island as part of Operation Desecrate. After three days of abuse tied to the tree, he was put into a foxhole behind a Japanese navy commander's home.

"Two days later, the owner of the house came up and got me and they took me to the dock. I could see all of these hangars had been leveled and it made me feel good. He could speak English. Well, he saved my life. I know he did. They would have killed me if it hadn't been for him," Kuykendall said, reenacting several captors punching him while he was tied up.

"He took me out on the dock. A Japanese navy plane landed and he told me, 'There you go. Good luck.' Just like that. I looked at him and said, 'Sir, good luck to you. I hope you make it.' He said, 'I'll need it.'"

The next 17 months or so, Kuykendall bounced among labor camps until World War II ended.

His final days as a captive, he worked in a copper mine in Ashio.

He recalled food rations increasing and American planes flying overhead.

"They were sending out fighters to locate all of the prison camps so they could drop them food because they knew we were probably starving," he said.

When he returned to Texas, Kuykendall would stare at the ceiling at night and try to figure out how he survived so many brushes with death.

"I'd say, 'I can't figure this out. How did this happen?' That went on for a couple of months, 'Why little ole me?' I suddenly realized that if I kept doing that I'd just worry myself to death. I had to stop. I never did figure it out. I've never been superstitious in my whole life -- and I'm still not. What is, is."

"To this very day, like I have told many people, I'm just lucky."



## TRICARE's Nurse Advice Line

### Holiday Travel Just Got Easier with TRICARE's Nurse Advice Line

The holidays are here TRICARE beneficiaries! As you go over the river and through the woods to visit friends and family, remember that you are more likely to get the common cold, flu or any other illness that comes with cold weather. Illnesses and ailments can happen anytime, anywhere, especially when traveling to and from our loved ones for the holidays.

You should always make sure to get all routine care before you travel. If you or a member of your family becomes ill at Christmas dinner, suffers a mishap while cooking that holiday meal, or just have a health concern while you are traveling, you can call the Military Health System's new Nurse Advice Line (NAL) for advice and assistance.

When you call the NAL, the nurse on the line will ask you questions about the symptoms that you or your family member are experiencing. These

questions were developed by physicians to help the NAL's Registered Nurses (RNS) provide you with the best, most accurate advice on whether you need to seek care and when you should seek care. If you need medical care while you're traveling, the NAL nurse will help you find a safe, high-quality health care facility in the TRICARE network. If you are a military hospital or clinic enrollee, the NAL will send a follow-up note to your primary care manager and medical team back home so they know how you are doing and if they need to submit an urgent care referral for you. Please remember, the patient who has the health problem needs to be present either on the phone or in the same room as the person calling on his or her behalf during the NAL call in order for the Registered Nurse to provide the best assessment. The NAL is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You and your family can safely travel this holiday with TRICARE and the NAL. For more information on accessing the NAL while on the go, visit the [TRICARE website](#) or call **1-800-TRICARE (874-2273), Option 1**, to talk to a registered nurse who can:

- Answer your urgent care questions
- Give you health care advice
- Help you find a doctor
- Schedule next-day appointments at military hospitals and clinics
- *If you have an emergency, call 911 or go to the emergency room.*

#### Do you have a sick child?

- You can talk to nurses with specialized pediatrics training.
- We will call you back after a few hours to check on your child.
- If you still need an appointment, we can help.

#### Do you have other health insurance?

- You can call us for help. But if you need to see a doctor, remember:
- You must follow the rules of your other health insurance plan first.
- Your other health insurance is the primary payer.
- If we help you find a doctor, make sure they're in your other plan's network or your care may not be covered.

**SOURCE:** TRICARE News Release at <http://www.tricare.mil/HolidayNAL111914> and <http://www.tricare.mil/ContactUs/CallUs/NAL.aspx>



**Pride Rings Out For 'Silent Service'**  
*Portsmouth Herald, Nov. 17*

Down in Georgia's Camden County, home of Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base, they've coined a term known as "Ediccimad."

The word is an acronym to represent the phrase "Every Day in Camden County is Military Appreciation Day." Keith Post, director of the St. Marys Submarine Museum, state president of the Navy League and former St. Marys city councilor, likes to say that while the term sounds Japanese in origin (e-DEE-see-mod), it's actually a Southern way of life there.

He ain't kidding.

Last week, I had the privilege of speaking at the annual World War II Memorial Week festivities in St. Marys, a picturesque little coastal city near the Florida border. Every year, U.S. Navy submarine veterans from across the country gather there to commemorate those who served beneath the waves some 70 years ago.

Some of the sailors who fought in that war are still among us today, although their ranks are dwindling. It was an amazing and humbling experience to hobnob with these old salts, who are now in their 90s, although you would swear most of them were about 20 years younger.

The highlight of this annual event is a solemn ceremony held at the neighboring Navy base, home to the Atlantic Fleet's Ohio-class ballistic missile and guided-missile submarines. A tolling of the bells pays tribute to the 52 subs lost during World War II, as well as four others lost afterward.

The ceremony is held in the stately Submarine Veterans of World War II Memorial Pavilion at Kings Bay.

But even Rear Adm. Charles Richard, who oversees two squadrons as commanding officer of Submarine Group 10, could barely contain his schoolboy enthusiasm to be addressing these “legends and heroes” he had always read about as a kid. During his remarks to the hundreds in attendance, Richard emphasized that while technology has advanced significantly over the past several decades, the core mission remains the same. “We carry the culture,” he said. “We owe you a debt for teaching us that.”

I share the admiral’s awe. On my first night in town, I chatted with a 91-year-old veteran named Paul who had a diamond stud in his left ear. Paul survived nine war patrols during World War II and three more during the Cold War. He served on 10 different submarines during a career of nearly three decades – although he noted a couple were just temporary assignments.

He described how, on the morning of his 19th birthday in 1942 aboard the USS Narwhal, the crew sank a Japanese ship at 0400. At 0500 they sank another.

At about 0800 they fired on a third but missed. This alerted Japanese aircraft of Narwhal’s position, so the vessel submerged for the next 24 hours to avoid the enemy’s attacks.

“That’s a hell of a way to celebrate your 19th birthday,” I said.

He shrugged and said, “That’s what you had to do.”

USS Narwhal (SS-167), was the lead ship of her submarine class and was originally named V-5 when her keel was laid down on May 10, 1927, at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

Another World War II vet, named Charlie, attributed his vigor at age 92 to his wife, who’s 29 years younger. I calculated that they married when he was 56 and she was 27.

I had to shake the man’s hand. “God bless ya,” I told him.

He acknowledged having to skirt through enemy depth charges more than once during the war. I suggested this had to be a pretty terrifying experience. Charlie chuckled. “It definitely got your attention,” he said.

As inspiring and entertaining as these guys were, encountering the sailors of today’s “Silent Service” was revelatory. This may sound corny, but by the

time I returned home I felt immense pride in these young warriors, and reassurance that our safety is in good hands.

They all looked like kids to me, but they are the sentinels who consistently go out on strategic deterrent patrols to keep our enemies at bay. We were permitted to tour one of the modern-day subs berthed at Kings Bay, and let’s just say Adm. Richard was quite apt when he described them as “tin cans of whupass.”

To a man (and woman), every uniformed individual I encountered came across as intelligent, courteous, dedicated, capable, and in great physical condition. But what impressed me the most was the reverence and respect they showed to those who had gone before them.

They clearly relished the sea stories of the old veterans, and you could see in their unlined faces that they were looking forward to the years when they will have their own tales to spin.

Organizers of this event were generous enough to fly me down and put me up for a few days so I could give a couple of talks about the lost crew of USS Thresher, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard-built vessel that sank more than 51 years ago in the worst submarine disaster of all time. The goal was to share the stories of these Cold War pioneers, and folks were very welcoming. At one point during the memorial ceremony, I was surprised and somewhat embarrassed when a copy of my book “Silent Strength” was presented on stage to Capt. James Jenks, the Kings Bay commanding officer.

But I came back home feeling as though I had learned more than I had taught. I also returned feeling very envious of the open spirit of communication shared between the Navy and its neighboring community down in Georgia.

### **Help Wanted in the U. S. Congress.** **Members of Congress with Military Experience.**

The number of Representatives with military experience in the upcoming 114th Congress, which starts in January, 2015, will decline from 84 to 81.

The number of Senators with military experience will actually increase from 19 to 20. This will be the first Congress in a very long time that does not have any World War II veterans.

The 2016 Presidential year is closing in on us, in which, besides electing our next President, we’ll also elect a new Congress. All members of the House of Representatives, and 1/3 of the U.S. Senate is up for election.

Our country is calling again for Patriotic, dedicated American Veterans to run for election to political office. Accept the challenge. We submariners are qualified!

**Lt.j.g. Joseph Holleran,**  
**USS Columbia Public Affairs, Nov 6**

YOKOSUKA, Japan – The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Columbia arrived in Yokosuka, Japan, Nov. 5, for a visit as part of its deployment to the Western Pacific. With a crew of 150 Columbia Sailors will conduct a multitude of missions and showcase the latest capabilities of the submarine fleet.

"The ship and crew performed very well during our deployment to the 7th Fleet AOR (area of responsibility)," said Cmdr. John Friedman, Columbia's commanding officer. "Columbia successfully completed several missions vital to national security and participated in several multinational exercises, which improved the overall warfighting readiness of U.S. and allied forces in the Western Pacific and supported ongoing theater security objectives."

"Our short visit here to Yokosuka will provide us the opportunity to make a few needed repairs as we prepare for our return to Pearl Harbor," continued Friedman. "Our time here in the Western Pacific has been productive and the crew has honed their warfighting skills."

"Columbia has been eagerly looking forward to visiting Yokosuka from the time we departed on our Western Pacific deployment in May," said Master Chief Machinist's Mate Wayne Fetterley, Columbia's chief of the boat.

For some of the crew members, this was their first time visiting Yokosuka.

"Visiting Yokosuka for the first time was really amazing, hopefully I'll get the opportunity to see this amazing city again," said Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Christopher Alvarez.

"They have been exemplary ambassadors of the United States and represent the best that our country has to offer," said Friedman. "I am very proud of their accomplishments and consider it an honor to have served beside them."

Measuring more than 360 feet long and weighing more than 6,000 tons when submerged, Columbia is one of the stealthiest submarines in the world. It is capable of supporting a multitude of missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike, Naval Special Warfare involving

special operations forces, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

## **Israel's Quiet Doomsday Submarines Are Almost Ready**

*Robert Beckhusen, The Week, Oct 31*

The Israeli navy is a bit of an odd duck. It's designed largely for coastal and eastern Mediterranean warfare. But among all of Israel's small corvettes and missile boats are some seriously mighty submarines.

Israel is also investing heavily in growing its submarine fleet. It's a reflection of Tel Aviv's increasing reliance on the underwater boats for a range of operations — including nuclear deterrence. Right now, three Dolphin II-class submarines are under construction at Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems shipyards in Kiel. Once the submarines complete their trials and head towards the Mediterranean, they will become the most powerful Israeli submarines ever.

More than 225 feet long, the diesel-electric Dolphin II class is part attack submarine, part nuclear strike ship and part commando taxi. They're also painted in an unusual combination of black, blue, and green colors. That's "meant to make the ship less visible, and thought to be especially effective in Mediterranean waters," Defense News noted after recently publishing photographs of the fat, oddly-shaped boats in dry dock and on sea trials.

In terms of weapons, the three boats of the Dolphin II class — the Tannin, Rahav, and a third unnamed submarine — contain 10 torpedo tubes capable of launching fiber optic cable-guided DM-2A4 torpedoes. Germany has already handed over the Tannin.

Four of these tubes are larger 26-inch tubes — the size is rare for a Western-built submarine — capable of launching small commando teams or firing larger cruise missiles. The remaining six tubes measure at 21 inches.

Although not admitted by the Israeli government, the Dolphin II is widely believed to soon possess nuclear-tipped Popeye Turbo cruise missiles. The submarine's armament includes non-nuclear anti-ship Harpoon and anti-helicopter Triton missiles.

In 2012, German news magazine Der Spiegel interviewed several German defense ministry officials, all of whom were under the assumption that Israel intends for these submarines to carry nuclear weapons. The missiles can also be launched "using a previously secret hydraulic ejection system," the

magazine reported.

The photographs at Defense News also reveal horizontal planes for trailing communications gear and sonar buoys. But the classified propeller is covered by a tarp to keep out prying eyes.

For sensors, the Dolphin II comes with the German-made CSU-90 active radar, a PRS-3 passive ranging sonar, and a FAS-3 flank sonar. These sensors are in addition to an Israeli-made surface search radar.

Of course, submarines need to be stealthy — and the Dolphin II is indeed quiet. The trick is in the submarine's air-independent propulsion fuel cells, which provide power under the surface as the diesel engines — used for running on the surface — rest and recharge.

This system is quieter than the nuclear-powered engines on American and Russian submarines, which must constantly circulate engine coolant. Nuclear submarines are virtually unlimited in terms of range, and are better used for deep-water operations. But Israel has no need for nuclear-powered subs when quiet diesel subs can do the same job.

The Dolphin II's top speed maxes out at 20 knots when submerged. But the maximum distance before needing to be refueled is around 9,200 miles at a speed of eight knots underwater. This puts the submarines in range of Iran.

And that's why Israel is investing in an up-armed submarine fleet. The Israeli military wants to maintain its undeclared nuclear strike force. Given Israel's small size, a nuclear deterrent promises massive retaliation if Israel's homeland is threatened. Plus, submarines are very useful for littoral operations off the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

Israel has also boosted its submarines' operational tempo. In 2013, Israeli submarines spent 58 percent of their time at sea compared to 36 percent from 2010 to 2012, according to the Times of Israel. This not only included secretive missions off Lebanon, but "deployments lasting several weeks that took the submarines thousands of kilometers from Israel," the paper reported.

In July 2013, a series of mysterious explosions occurred at the Syrian port of Latakia. Though Israeli aircraft were likely responsible for the attack — which targeted a shipment of Russian Yakhont anti-ship missiles — such operations can be carried out by submarines.

