

# FOR I AM A SUBMARINER

I served on the Holland and Hunley over a century ago. I still serve to this day on the Trident, Los Angeles & Seawolf class boats and look forward to shipping on the Virginia, Texas, and Hawaii.  
Places like Fremantle, Rota, LaMadd, Chinhae, Pattaya, Sasebo, and Subic stir my soul.  
For I am a Submariner.

I rest in peace beneath many seas across this earth.  
I was on the Barbel off Palawan, the Scorpion off the Azores and the Bonefish in the Sea of Japan.  
We gave them hell in the harbors at Wewak and Namkwan.  
I am a Shellback, a Bluenose, a Plank Owner, a MCPO of the Navy, a CNO, and a President.  
For I am a Submariner.

I heard Howard Gilmore's final order, "Take Her Down."  
I heard the word passed, "Underway on Nuclear Power."  
I have done every job asked of me, from Messcook to Torpedoman to Motormac to COB to Skipper.  
I know "Snorkel Patty" and Admiral Rickover.  
For I am a Submariner.

I have twin Dolphins tattooed on my chest and twin screws tattooed on my ass.  
I know the difference between a Lady and a Hooker but treat both with equal respect.  
I know Georgia Street and Magsaysay drive.  
And although the Horse & Cow keeps moving I will always find her.  
I know the meaning of "Hot, Straight, and Normal."  
For I am a Submariner.

I have stood tall and received the Medal of Honor and been thrown in the Brig for being Drunk & Disorderly.  
I know the reverent tone of "Diesel Boats Forever" and the Gudgeon's "Find em, Chase em, Sink em."  
I was on the Spearfish evacuating nurses from Corregidor and the Skate when she surfaced at the North Pole.  
I have spent time in the Royal Hawaiian.  
For I am a Submariner.

I have gone by names like Spritz, Cromwell, O'Kane, Ramage, Breault, "Mush" and Lockwood.  
I have served on boats like the Nautilus, Thresher, Parche, Squalus, Wahoo and Halibut.  
On December 7th I was onboard the Tautog at Pearl Harbor.  
I was also on the Tusk in 49 and sacrificed myself for my shipmates on the Cochino.  
For I am a Submariner.

I have stood watches in the cold of Holy Loch and the heat of the South Pacific.  
I know what the "41 For Freedom" accomplished.  
I was on the Sealion at Cavite in 41 and the Archerfish in Tokyo Bay in 45.  
I have endured depth charges and POW camps.  
I was on the Seafox when we lost five sailors to a Japanese ambush on Guam.  
For I am a Submariner.

I tip beers over sea-stories with my shipmates at yearly conventions.  
We toll the bell and shed a tear for our buddies who are on eternal patrol.  
Many pilots have been glad to see me, including a future president.  
I have completed numerous highly classified missions during the Cold War.  
Because "Freedom Is Not Free," be assured that I am out there at this very moment.  
For I am a Submariner.

By John Chaffey  
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