



Vol. 22 No. 1

January 2026

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

Base Meeting:

Newsletter & Little David Phil Nunnally 843.518.8301

BOD: Jan 5, 2026

Membership: Jan 8, 2026

Location:

FRA Branch 269
Low Country Home
99 Wisteria Rd.



ELECTED

Base Commander	Dave Harvey	812.773.1312
Vice Commander	Art Sattler	843.813.6899
Secretary	Gordon Long	843.214.2353
Treasurer	Ricky Collins	843.934.3754

APPOINTED

Chief of the Boat	Greg Landry	843.813.4361
Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Veterans Affairs	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
Scholarship	Tom Lawson III	843.813.0244
Membership	Larry Knutson	843.860.1155
Storekeeper	Woody Woodsmall	304.676.8356
Nuclear Historian	Rick Carlson	843.875.4030
CF Ambassador	Bob MacPherson	717.606.7047
Navy League Coord	Bob MacPherson	717.606.7047
Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.729.3524
Social Media Coord	Lewis Leal	843.270.8870
Kaps for Kids	Art Sattler	843.813.6899
FRA Rep	Ken Hutchinson	843.793.4896
Base Photographer	Glenn Little	843.797.1867
Comptroller	Tom Holcombe	843.607.9610
Hunley/Housatonic	Tom Holcombe	843.607.9610
Special Events Coord	Tom Holcombe	843.607.9610
Patriots Point POC	Rusty Pickett	843.762.3888
Cold War Mem POC	Rodney McKanna	843.851.3415
Scout Recog Prog	Dick Koehler	843.553.2171
Recreation Comm.	Johnny Brown	843.276.8264
License Plate Coord	Ed Stank	843.568.2148
NNPTC POC	Anthony Mazza	912.322.8224
Float Coordinator	Dave Harvey	812.773.1312
SE Regional Coord	Dave Harvey	812.773.1312
PAO	VACANT	
National Awards Co	VACANT	
Base Historian	VACANT	
ADM Osborn Sch Comm	VACANT	

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Submarines lost during the month of January

USS Scorpion (SS-278)	5 Jan 44	77 Souls lost
USS Argonaut (SS-166)	10 Jan 43	102 Souls lost
USS Swordfish (SS-193)	12 Jan 45	89 Souls lost
USS S-36 (SS-141)	20 Jan 42	No loss of life
USS S-26 (SS-131)	24 Jan 42	46 Souls lost, sunk by her escort vessel

5 Boats Lost, 314 Men Died

Shipmates Lost or Reported Lost Since our 2025 Base Christmas Party Bell Tolling

NONE



UPCOMING BASE EVENTS
See www.ussvicb.org for details

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Board of Directors Meeting	January 5	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Base Meeting	January 8	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Nuclear Power School Grad	January 30	Meet at NWS NEX

**NNPTC Graduation
30 January**

- Friday 0900
- If you plan to attend please contact Phil Nunnally at 843.518.8301 or email pbnunnally@gmail.com
- We will muster at and leave from the NEX parking lot at 0800



From the Editor
Contact me at newsletter@ussvicb.org

I am re-adding the announcement about toxic exposure and the information from VA Rep Jennifer Allison-Oord to insure everyone has seen these topics. These are most important for everyone to see.

You've Got Homework

As we start the new year it's a good time to review your important documents like a will or trust, power of attorney, medical directives and other VA resources.

Nick has a list of resources on our [base website](#) to get started.

[VA burial resources.](#)

Don't leave your family unprepared.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Distinguished Submariner Award Nominations

Transmitted at the request of Greg Landry "The COB". All replies to this email will go to the COB.

Shipmates,

All nominations for the Distinguished Submariner Award are sent to the COB NLT 2 FEB to be voted on at the February BOD Meeting. Attached is the form to be completed. If you would like to nominate a Base Shipmate for the Award, complete the form with the candidates name, bullets explaining why he deserves the award and sign (not required).

Here is a list of those who have received the DSA from 2008 when the base began giving it out. You can view pictures of each ceremony at:

[CB Distinguished Submariner Award](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new SC submarine veterans license plate will be available soon.
Thanks Ed!



Opportunities to Serve our Base

- Openings for
 - ◊ Public Affairs Officer (PAO)
 - ◊ Base Historian
 - ◊ ADM Osborn Scholarship Committee
 - ◊ National Awards Coordinator

Contact the Base Commander, the COB or any officer if you can help

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Unseen Burden: Toxic Exposures and Health Impacts on US Navy Submarines by SAG

During our recent November Base meeting, our Base Commander Dave Harvey, made us aware of the "Submariners' Advocacy Group" (SAG). Below, I quote directly from the home page of the SAG website. I encourage each of you to head to this site and read the information it contains.

Submariners' Advocacy Group

Submariners Helping Submariners

Welcome to the Submariners' Advocacy Group

Formed in June 2024, the Submariners' Advocacy Group (SAG) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for US Navy Submariners, both veterans and Active Duty. Members of the Silent Service have been faithful to their oaths and training and have been silent for far too long. SAG will advocate for all Submariners.

The Submariners' Advocacy Group (SAG) is to a voice for US Navy Submariners, both veterans and Active Duty.

Featured Information

- **NEW:** Read our groundbreaking report [The Unseen Burden: Toxic Exposures and Health Impacts on U.S. Navy Submariners](#) - exposing the chronic toxic exposure crisis affecting submariners and the systemic failures that have left veterans without proper care.
- Join our Public Facebook Group: [Submariners' Advocacy Group](#) to stay up to date on the latest news and information and to connect with other Submariners.
- Do you feel connected to this cause? Consider [donating](#) to help us continue our mission.
- Want to share the message? Try sharing our highly anticipated white paper [Submariners' Advocacy Group White Paper 02-13-2025](#) with your friends and family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Unseen Burden: Toxic Exposures and Health Impacts on US Navy Submarines by SAG

- Our Executive Director is headed to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of the Wyoming Congressional Delegation as a guest of the Wyoming VFW as well as the staff for both Missouri Senators and One of the Oklahoma Senators. It's going to be a busy trip! See the [calendar](#) for more details.
- Looking for more information or have a question? Drop us a line at public-affairs@subadvocates.org.

Vision

- To ensure that all Submariners are respected, receive all earned benefits and entitlements, and are properly recognized for the sacrifices they and their families have made as members of the greatest Submarine Force in the world.

Mission

- To advocate on behalf of all US Navy Submariners by undertaking all efforts to initiate required research and studies to facilitate proper medical care for submarine-connected health conditions and disabilities.
- To lobby the US Congress and state legislatures to pass and enact laws to provide for proper medical care of Submariners.
- To be a resource for Submariners, their families, survivors, and the medical community to obtain proper and adequate information regarding submarine-related atmospheric contaminants, toxic chemicals, radiation hazards, and related health issues.
- To provide appropriate materials and education to all interested Submariners.

Editor's Note: I also found this related article in the [Start and Stripes](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

READ THIS!!

We were pleased to have VA Rep Jennifer Allison-Oord at our November base meeting with an important announcement related to nuclear submarines and the revised PACT act.

ALL submariners who served on nuclear subs are automatically eligible to be seen within the VA system due to the changes in the PACT act.

Here's a link to the primary VA health [page](#).

[Eligibility requirements](#).

How to get [started](#).

Call Jennifer Allison-Oord 843-252-7824 or [email](#).

It's January Time to Renew Your Dues, Don't be Dink

- Current membership—249
- \$40 national
- \$20 base
- PayPal not longer accepted

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CPR & AED Training

- 31 January 2026
- 0900—1200
- FRA home
- Register [here](#), pay at the class

Transmitted at the request of Art Sattler, Charleston Base Vice Commander

Charleston Base Members,

As was discussed at our November meeting, we will be holding a CPR & AED training class on Saturday, January 31st from 9-12, at the FRA Home. The cost will be \$10 per person. Use the link below to register and you can pay the day of the class.

If you have any questions please contact me at
vicecommandercb@ussvicb.org or ffinst@msn.com

Submarine Museums in the US

As you start making plans in 2026, check out these sites for submarine museums.

<https://www.submarinemuseums.org/>

<https://navalsubleague.org/submariner-support/museums-memorials/#museums>

<https://www.thetravel.com/best-submarine-museums-in-the-us/>

<https://www.wonderfulmuseums.com/museum/submarine-museums-in-us/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YouTube video for WWII submarines

This is really a good movie about the submarines role in WWII and also explains the different phases of the war as the Navy changed strategies and tactics. Lasts About 45 minutes.

Thanks Shipmate Tom Holcombe for passing this along.

View the video [here](#).

Adm. James B. Osborn Memorial Scholarship

It's not too early to have your graduating high school family member write their essay for this award to be due no later than May 2026

See the link to the article and forms [here](#).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

LINKS TO ALL 2025 PICTURES POSTED TO THE WEBSITE

2025 Mt. Pleasant Christmas Parade
2025 Goose Creek Christmas Parade
2025 CB Christmas Party
2025 Pearl Harbor Day USS Yorktown
2025 CB Scholarship Rummage Sale
2025 Veterans Day Bell Tolling @ Coffee Roasters
2025 Base Meeting November 13th
2025 CB @ Coastal Carolina Fair
2025 250th Navy Ball Participation
2025 CB Scholarship Trash To Treasures @ Elloree SC
2025 Base Meeting October 9th
2025 USSVI National Convention & CB Award Recipients
2025 NNPTC/SUBVET Chief Selectee Brunch
2025 Base Meeting September 11th
2025 Base Meeting - Sessler Clock Presentation August 14th
2025 SUBVET/FRA Picnic July 19th
2025 Base Meeting July 10th
2025 Riverdogs Baseball Game June 13th
2025 Base Meeting June 12th
2025 Fish Fry Fund Raiser May 24th
2025 Base Meeting/Distinguished Submariner Award Dave Harvey May 8th
2025 NNPTC FCPOA Ramp Build for CB Shipmate May 3rd
2025 Lost Boats Bell Tolling Memorial April 12th PICS VIDEO
2025 CMC Hurtiak Presentation/Holland Club Induction/Base Meeting Apr 10th
2025 Holland Club Induction Apr 10th PICS VIDEO
2025 125th Submarine Birthday Ball Apr 5th
2025 After Battery Hog Roast Apr 3rd
2025 CB Meeting Mar 13th
2025 February USSVI Southeast Conference
 13 Feb: Day1- Registration & Meetings
 13 Feb: Day1- Base Meeting & FRA Meal
 14 Feb: Day2- HL Hunley Tour
 14 Feb: Day2- After Battery Meal
 15 Feb: Day3- Amberjack Bell Tolling
 15 Feb: Day3- Closing Banquet
2025 January SE Conference Fund Raiser Jan 18th Fish Fry & 25th BBQ Dinner
2025 January SE Conference Fund Raiser Jan 4th Breakfast
CB YouTube Videos posted in 2025 (base meetings not included)
 Cindy Huratiak Award <https://youtu.be/tts5iqmgu1Q>
 April 2025 Holland Club https://youtu.be/P_v8oKbQwEY
 April 2025 Lost Boats <https://youtu.be/YvJ-0Q8Gb38>

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

If you don't see your birthday listed, maybe Nick needs your Page 2.

Jan 3	Robert 'Skip' Moore	Jan 22	Thomas Scott
Jan 5	Gregory Wood	Jan 23	Kenneth 'Ken' Lux
Jan 6	James 'JJ' Fortier	Jan 23	Edward 'Ed' Stank
Jan 8	James 'Lew' Lewis	Jan 25	William Davy
Jan 11	Thomas 'Tom' Holcombe	Jan 25	Michael Kay
Jan 14	Richard 'Dick' Pasnak	Jan 25	Kirk Owen
Jan 14	Gordon 'Willie' Williams	Jan 26	Kenneth 'Wayne' Farrell
Jan 16	Thomas 'Tom' Thompson	Jan 26	David McNeely
Jan 18	Harry Kirk	Jan 30	Michael 'Mike' Welch
Jan 18	Edward 'Ed' Simokat		



PAST EVENTS

84th Annual Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony with Wreath Laying 7 December

251207 Pearl Harbor Day



PAST EVENTS

Charleston Sub Base Christmas Party 12 December 251212 CB Christmas Party



PAST EVENTS

Goose Creek Christmas Parade 13 December 251213 Goose Creek Christmas Parade/



PAST EVENTS

Mount Pleasant Christmas Light Parade 14 December

251214 Mt Pleasant Christmas Parade



NON-BASE EVENTS

Hunley – Housatonic Memorial Service 17 February 2026

- H.L. Hunley Memorial Invitation to all Submariners
- The Confederate Heritages Trust, Inc. Hunley/Housatonic Memorial Service INFO
- [Map to Breech Inlet](#)
- 1830 Muster at beach - 1900 Memorial begins
- Participant uniform will be Charleston Tuxedo (Blue blazer with dolphins, light blue shirt, dark or dolphin tie and khaki pants.)
- Please bring a warm coat and a small flashlight...it's usually cold & dark on the beach.

2026 USSVI SOUTHEAST REGION CONFERENCE 26—28 February 2026

- **Centennial Plaza Resort, Gulfport MS**
- Thursday 26 FEB - Saturday 28 FEB 2026
- Registration Deadline: TUESDAY, 20 JAN 2026
- Contact: [2026 USSVI SE Conference](#)
- Link to: [REGISTRATION PKG](#)

NON-BASE EVENTS

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**Four Nuns Were Rescued from Behind Enemy Lines
By the USS Nautilus (SS-168)
New Years Day 1943**

Read the entire story [here](#).



25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

I am starting a new feature in 2026 to acknowledge the contribution made by the submarine force in WWII. They held the line against the Japanese until our fleet could be rebuilt after the attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941.

I will start with the 23rd through the 25th, three this month, most successful submarines and highlight two more each month throughout the year.

Submarine Warfare Played Major Role in World War II Victory

In all, U.S. submarines destroyed 1,314 enemy warships in the Pacific, representing 55% of all Axis power warships lost and a total of 5.3 million tons of shipping

Out of 16,000 U.S. submariners, the force lost 375 officers and 3,131 enlisted men in 52 submarines, and "although this was a tragic loss, it was still the lowest casualty rate of any combatant submarine service on either side in the 1939-1945 conflict," Weir noted. In the final months of the war, American submarines had difficulty finding targets because the Japanese had virtually no ships left to sink.

During World War II, U.S. submarines sank more Japanese ships than did U.S. surface vessels and planes, but at a high cost: a twenty percent casualty rate

Read the entire stories [here](#) and [here](#).



25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

25. USS Archerfish (SS-211)

59,800 tons

USS Archerfish was a Balao-class submarine. She was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the archerfish. Archerfish is best known for sinking the Japanese aircraft carrier Shinano in November 1944, the largest warship ever sunk by a submarine. For this achievement, she received a Presidential Unit Citation after World War II.

- Commissioned 4 September 1943
- First war patrol 23 December 1943
- Fifth war patrol, December 1944, sunk Japanese Carrier Shinano, receiving the Presidential Unit Citation for this action
- Archerfish had 7 war patrols and survived the war
- Decommissioned 12 June 1946
- Archerfish received seven battle stars and one Presidential Unit Citation for her World War II service.
- Recommissioned 7 January 1952 during the Korean War
- Archer fish was decommissioned three times, last on 1 May 1968

See her entire history [here](#).



25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

24. USS Sunfish (SS-281) 59,815 tons

USS Sunfish was a Gato-class submarine, was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the ocean sunfish, *Mola mola*, a plectognath marine fish, having a deep body truncated behind, and high dorsal and anal fins.

- Commissioned 15 July 1942
- First war patrol 23 November 1942
- Second war patrol sunk her firsts ship the 3262 ton Kosei Maru 13 March 1943
- Sunfish 11 war patrols and survived the war
- Decommissioned 26 December 1945
- Sunfish received nine battle stars for her WWII service

See her entire history [here](#).



25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

23. USS Wahoo (SS-238) 60,038 Tons

USS Wahoo (SS-238) was a Gato-class submarine, the first United States Navy ship to be named for the wahoo. Construction started before the U.S. entered World War II, and she was commissioned after entry. Wahoo was assigned to the Pacific theatre. She gained fame as an aggressive and highly successful submarine after Lieutenant Commander Dudley Walker "Mush" Morton became her skipper. She was sunk by Japanese aircraft in October 1943 while returning home from a patrol in the Sea of Japan.

- Commissioned 15 May 1942
- First war patrol 23 August 1942
- 31 December, Lieutenant Commander Dudley W. "Mush" Morton took command of Wahoo
- Fourth war patrol sunk 6 enemy vessels
- On 21 October, Wahoo was to head for home, but nothing was ever heard from Morton or Wahoo again
- "Mush" Morton sank 19 ships
- Wahoo earned six battle stars for World War II service

See her entire history [here](#).



French Sub News

Drones fly over French strategic nuclear submarine base, media report

Read the entire story [here](#).

Australian Sub News

Australia says it will meet 'challenges' of AUKUS nuclear submarine timeline

Read the entire story [here](#).

Unleashing AI, Growing Australian Partnership, Breaking Ground for Future Spacecom Home

Includes buying three Virginia class submarines

Russian Sub News

Ukrainian Underwater Drones Blow Up Russian Submarine

Read the entire story [here](#).

English Sub News

Royal Navy shadows Russian submarine through English Channel

Read the entire story [here](#).

U.K. Wants New Hybrid Fleet to Counter Russian Submarines

Read the entire story [here](#).

Chinese Sub News

Is China testing submarine drones that could threaten US west coast or Panama Canal?

Read the entire story [here](#).

Canadian Sub News

Beneath the Surface: Sustaining Canada's Submarine Fleet

Read the entire story [here](#).

South Korea just changed the game and Canada needs its own grand bargain

Read the entire story [here](#).

Korean Sub News

South Korean contractors on Taiwan submarines jailed for leaking documents

Read the entire story [here](#).

Swedish Sub News

Rare access to Saab's A26 submarine under construction

View the video [here](#).

Polish Sub News

Poland's Submarine Rescue & Seabed Warfare Vessel: ORP Ratownik

See the video [here](#).

Norwegian Sub News

Norway to Expand Submarine Fleet With Two Additional German-Built Boats to Counter Rising Russian Threat

Read the entire story [here](#).

NATO Sub News

Thales Launches Sonar 76Nano to Meet NATO Underwater Battlespace Requirements

Read the entire story [here](#).

Taiwanese Sub News

Taiwan-built Attack Sub Holds Sea Trials Amid Program Delays

Read the entire story [here](#).

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

The 2026 COLA for Military Retirement and Social Security is 2.8%

General Dynamics Electric Boat Delivers Attack Sub USS Idaho to U.S. Navy

Read the entire article [here](#).

New Bill Authorizes \$26B for Shipbuilding, Adds Flexibility for Navy Acquisition

Read the entire article [here](#).

Navy, Palantir Announce \$448M 'Ship OS' AI Tool for Shipbuilding and Repair

Read the entire article [here](#).

CNO Caudle's 'World-class Fleet' C-Note to the Navy

Read the entire article [here](#).

Senate passes major policy bill authorizing \$900 billion for Pentagon

Read the entire article [here](#).

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

CNO dishes on sailor wellbeing, US Navy success in era of competition

Read the entire article [here](#).

BAE Systems secures contract to equip U.S. Navy submarines with Multifunction Modular Masts

Read the entire article [here](#).

US submarines are outnumbered in the Pacific. South Korea has a plan to help

Read the entire article [here](#).

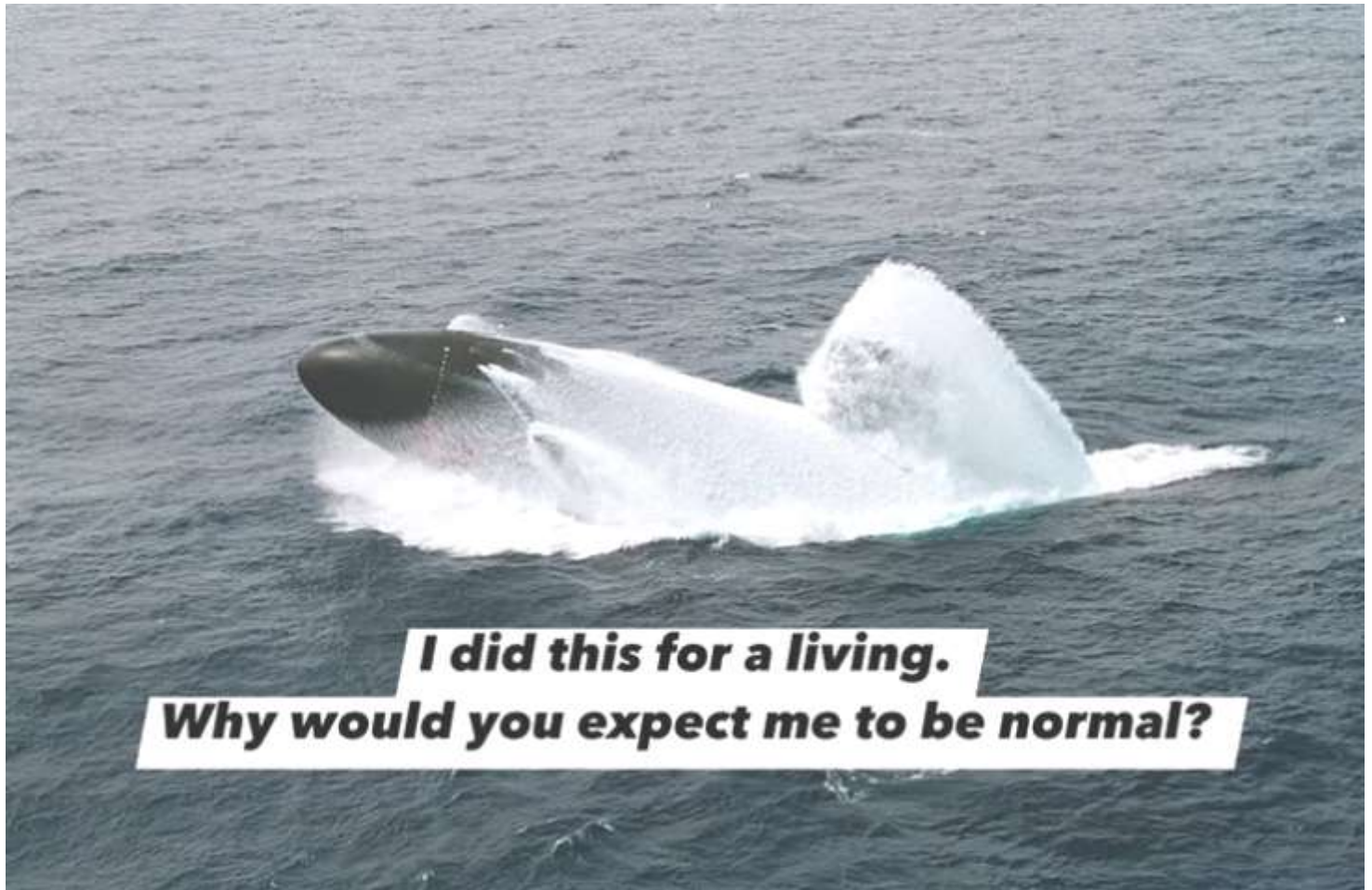
US 18,750-ton missile submarines to get boosted nuclear warheads for undersea deterrent

Read the entire article [here](#).

Vice Adm. Robert Gaucher Nominated as New Navy Sub Czar

Read the entire article [here](#).

After politics, we all need a little humor



Thanks to Shipmate Jim Lewis for providing this picture