



Sculpin Base POD

USSVI Class 4

Newsletter of the Year-2023

2nd Quarter 2024

The Sculpin Base POD is a quarterly publication of the Sculpin Base, a proud base of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI)

USSVI CREED AND PURPOSE

The purpose/creed of USSVI is 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 may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments, and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, USSVI shall provide a way for all submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. The USSVI supports a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today.

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[USSVI Website](#)

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Lost Submarines—Second Quarter

April

USS Pickerel (SS-177)

Lost on April 3, 1943 with the loss of 74 men while on her 7th war patrol near the eastern coast of northern Honshu, sunk by a depth charge attack.



USS Snook (SS-279)

Lost on April 8, 1945 with the loss of 84 men while on her 9th war patrol off the east coast of northern Formosa. Her loss remains a mystery, but she may have been sunk by a Japanese submarine.



USS Thresher (SSN-593)

Lost on April 10, 1963 with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" - then, silence. Photos taken by Trieste proved Thresher had broken up in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.



USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

Lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men while on her 12th war patrol and most likely due to a combined air and surface anti-submarine attack north of the Mariana Islands.



USS Grenadier (SS-210)

Lost on April 22, 1943 with no immediate loss of life while on her 6th war patrol in the Lem Voalan Strait west of Malaysia. She dove after being spotted



by a plane, but was badly damaged by a bomb. After fighting back to the surface with no propulsion, she was attacked by another plane, which her crew shot down. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. 76 crew members were taken prisoner, 4 perished and 72 survived the war.

May

USS Lagarto (SS-371)

Lost on May 3, 1945 with the loss of 86 men while on her 2nd war patrol. She is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer, which was then sunk by the USS Hawkbill two weeks later. Lagarto's wreckage has been located in the Gulf of Thailand.



USS Scorpion (SSN-589)

Lost on May 22, 1968 with the loss of 99 men while returning to Norfolk, VA from a Mediterranean deployment. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined and her wreckage has been located about 400 miles southwest of the Azores.



USS Squalus (SS-292)

Lost on May 23, 1939 due to a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. 26 men drowned in the after compartments, 33 crew members were rescued. Later Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish.



USS Stickleback (SS-415)

During a training exercise with USS Silverstein (DE-534) on May 28, 1958, Stickleback experienced a loss of power and broached 200 yards in front of the Silverstein resulting in a collision with no loss of life. Stickleback sunk the next day, May 29, 1958.



June

USS Herring (SS-233)

Lost on June 1, 1944 with the loss of 83 men while on her 8th war patrol near Matsuwa Island, Kuriles. She was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made two direct hits on her conning tower and causing her loss.



visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore, 400 yards away, in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was then rescued by PBY aircraft.

USS O-9 (SS-70)

Lost on June 20, 1941 with a loss of 33 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH.



USS R-12 (SS-89)

Lost on June 12, 1943 with the loss of 42 men during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and two other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident. R-12's wreckage has been located off Key West, FL.



USS Runner (SS-275)

Lost between June 26 & July 4th 1943 with the loss of 78 men. Runner was on her 3rd war patrol probably due to a mine. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargoman off the Kuriles. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on June 26th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before July 4th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.



USS Golet (SS-361)

Lost on June 14, 1944 with the loss of 82 men while on her 2nd war patrol. She was apparently lost in battle with antisubmarine forces north of Honshu, Japan.



USS Bonefish (SS-223)

Lost on June 18, 1945 with the loss of 85 men while on her 8th war patrol in Toyama Bay off the northern shores of Honshu, Japan. After sinking a passenger-cargoman, Bonefish was subjected to a savage depth charge attack.



USS S-27 (SS-132)

Lost on June 19, 1942 with no loss of life while on her 1st war patrol when it grounded off Amchitka Island in the Aleutians. She was on the surface in poor



Please remember all who sailed before us on Eternal Patrol and their families.



The “POD” from the Engineroom Upper Level

Hey Shipmates,

Well, another winter behind us and I for one, am looking forward to warmer weather and to get outside more. Looking forward...

Me, being a nuke, looked forward a lot on the boat. Forward was where the sleep was; forward was where the food was; forward was where the entertainment was (movies, cards, and books); and most of all forward was where we exited and saw the sunshine.

Looking forward I see our Base as active as any others; enjoying the comradeship of others as we join together in parades, meetings at various venues, and other projects. Our Base is young, but growing and looking forward it will continue to grow.

Looking aft, I see a much younger version of myself with a lot of “could’ve, would’ve, should’ve”, but that is life. Looking aft at our Base’s life, there are also a few of the same.

Please don’t look aft, look forward. Look forward to be with those sharing your days as a NUB, those that also missed sleep or chow to get that “sigie” on a piece of paper. Come and share your stories and listen to theirs. Remember those who went before us. Commit to at least one meeting and you’ll come back. Double-dawg dare you.

From the ERUL, I stand relieved. - Moe(SS)

The “[Sculpin Base POD](#)” is the
Quarterly Newsletter of the

[Sculpin Base - United States Submarine Veterans.](#)

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Your Sea Stories and
Input are always
WELCOME!!

Next Deadline is 3 August 2022

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Other BS scattered about like “Gear Adrift”

**This is your Newsletter.
It requires your input. Please
write down a sea story and
submit it to:
donutdad53@gmail.com**





Commander— E. Dale “Moe” Moses

Shipmates,

I’m old school and like to read the American Submariner via

hard copy, but I always take a glance on-line before it shows up in the mail box.

One of the items in the “Mail Buoy” was a letter from Sculpin Base member Steve Alfrey. Steve was asking the rest of the USSVI on how to raise funds for a Memorial Bench in Topeka’s Gage Park. It was a very nice request for information, BZ Steve.

Since Steve wrote to the AS, there has been a development in the fundraising for the proposed bench. You should have all received a couple of emails on the park’s specifications for the bench. And since his letter, we have had an anonymous donor step forward and is willing to donate the remaining money to get the bench placed.

At the May meeting we will vote on the placement of the bench and the suggest engraving. Suggestions other than those sent in the emails need to be presented at the meeting, or prior to the meeting via email to me. I will distribute all suggestions to our Base membership via email. Please keep in mind the guidelines published in prior emails.

One of the first areas I look at in the AS is the list of new members; first for those on my boat; then those I may have gone to school with by looking at their qual year. Then I look at the Eternal Patrol listings. This time a shipmate of mine was listed. I know he signed my Ship’s and Engineering qual cards. Sad news,

but reality.

This is an election year at the National level, so I also looked at who is running, most unopposed. Our Central region has two candidates for Director (my boss as CD1 Commander). Voting two years ago in Central Districts 1 thru 6 was 11% of the membership. That is sad as we need to show support for all those who are running, even if they are running unopposed. Very, very easy for one to do. So please vote this year. On-line voting begins June 19th and ends August 17. I’ll be reminding you more during that period. I’d like the Sculpin Base to be at 100%, but I know some of you are “slackers” (lol).

Parade season is approaching. If you can join us riding or walking, please do. Our first parade will be in Shawnee with the Topeka-Jefferson City Base. Our goal is to raise public awareness that the USSVI exists and there are local Bases that “bubbleheads” can join. Nationally, we are just shy of the 12,000 members needed to be recognized by Congress as a Veterans organization. You can help, contact and encourage your SS friends.

Finally, our own Sculpin Base elections are coming up. Terry Romig is chairing the Nomination Committee. And will present a proposed slate of officers at the May meeting. Nominations can be made from the floor in May and in August prior to the vote. Officers will be installed prior to “new business” at the November meeting. Throw your “hat into the ring”, some of us are getting tired.- Moe(SS)





Vice Commander Ross Thomas

I am sure we have all played Trivial Pursuit. We on the Andrew Jackson Gold would play Trivial Pursuit on the mid-

watch with the Weapons Officer. Our twist was that the BQR-21 Passive Sonar had a greyscale button that would show up on the Officer of the Deck's repeater. We had two identical boards orientated the same way then the Weps or Sonar would pickup from the last time we played and would roll the dice. We would move to our space and using Morse Code, we would grey scale the Weps or he would grayscale Sonar the color and if it was for a pie piece we would then look at our card and morse code the question to the other person. We would have to then determine what the question was and then we would Morse code the answer back. If we were right then we would continue to play. If wrong then it was the others turn.

This was a good way to kill 3 hours of a mid-watch. - Ross



Shipmates, are you ready for some Parades!?

We have the magnetic signs; US and USSVI Flags; and a diving alarm; and a self-propelled mini-sub; we just need you. We are a young Base but ready for some public exposure. We don't have a large float, but we have members with pick-up trucks (or other parade worthy vehicles), so we need rides and walkers and we are ready. With time, we can build a large float, right now we just need your participation. Bring spouses, kids, and grandkids to ride/walk with us.

Your Execute Board came-up with the parades listed below. If you have any additional ones, please let us know. We'll also need volunteer vehicles and drivers; let us know if you can assist. Shipmates, we can do this.

June 8th (Saturday) – Shawnee Days - Shawnee

July 26th (Friday Evening) – Coffey County Fair Parade – Burlington

September 7th (Saturday) – Johnson County Old Settlers – Olathe

November 11th (Monday) – Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade – Leavenworth (joint parade with other KS Bases)

December 7th (Saturday Evening)?? - Burlington Christmas Parade - Burlington



Base Secretary/Treasurer Bret Cortright

Treasurer's Report: We have had no transactions since our previous meeting. We did however, obtain a pledge from an Anonymous Donor to fund the remaining balance of the Memorial Bench (Woo-Hoo!).

Secretary's Report: As far as the Secretary, nothing noteworthy, other than the bench pledge and a

potential new member has occurred since our last meeting. As better weather is upon us (I hope) I am quite sure that things will pick up.

Opinion Piece #1: At our next meeting on May 18th, nominations are to be submitted for individuals to run for the elected offices of the base with the election to be conducted in August. I encourage the membership to step up and run for an office. All positions are open and available. While the offices of Commander and Vice-Commander must be filled by a full submarine qualified member, the offices of Secretary and Treasurer can be filled by an associate member. Also, the offices of Secretary and Treasurer are unique in that they can be filled by one individual or they can be separate and filled by two individuals. Again, I strongly encourage the base membership to "step up" and take on a leadership role within the base.

Opinion Piece #2: In my previous Opinion Piece (see above) I mentioned stepping up. Speaking of "stepping up" we recently lost Richard Piezuch. Richard was the epitome of stepping up. I first met Richard in the spring of 1999. He was organizing and starting a USSVI Base in Kansas. At the time, I was the token submariner at my local VFW. I began searching for an organization solely for submariners. I eventually found USSVI. I contacted them and they advised that there were currently no bases located in the Kansas City area. They did however, put me in contact with a guy who was trying to change that. After a couple of phone calls, a meeting was set up in May of 1999. Seven guys got together and while he'd never admit it, Richard was leading the show. With input from everyone present, The Topeka-Jefferson City Base was born with Richard Piezuch elected its first Base Commander.

Richard not only "stepped up" and was instrumental in bringing USSVI to the Kansas City area, he was also involved in many other activities including his church, he was an Associate for the Ursuline Convent of Paola; the Archdiocesan Catholic Scouting Committee, Master Gardner's of Miami County; the Eastern Kansas Prescribed Burn Association; the Certification Committee for the Project Management Institute and establishing the Lazarus Project, a non-profit providing hundreds of donated and refurbished computers to Catholic needs throughout the United States and Mexico. Point made.



Richard made a difference in everything he was involved in. I consider Richard my friend and I will miss him. Sailor, Rest Your

Sculpin Base Binnacle List

None Reported

Can you host a meeting in your area?

Our area is large and to be fair to all members we agreed to have a "travelling base". This means that we move our meeting to different cities and towns in our membership area.

Unlike other Veterans groups that might own a building, the USSVI does not own property (w/e of Groton). We meet at restaurants, VFW's, American Legions, etc.. Membership is encouraged in these organizations. Can you host a meeting in your area? If so, let one of the Officers know.

**Next Base Meeting is
Saturday, May 18st**

**Amerian Legion Post 36
404 Delaware St.
Oskaloosa, KS**

**Lunch (if desired) will be
at the Walnut Street Cof-
fee and Deli, 409 Walnut St
(US 59). Lunch is on the
Commander! Lunch at
12:00, meeting to start at
about 1300 at the Post.**



Chief of the Boat Dennis Mosebey



COB CHALLENGE

I am foregoing the spray ponders story this quarter in favor of issuing the following challenge to our members who have not been to a meeting or helped in a parade in some time.

There are many things that cause all of us to put Subvets low on our to do lists. Grandkids, travel, even distance to meetings as none of us are getting any younger. In my own case those frequent trips to Kansas City to see grandkids are not getting easier.

My challenge is simple. Within the next year, resolve to come to at least one meeting and help with a parade. We see only the same members at all meetings and the same people at parades. I worry about how our base can continue to function with low participation rates at meetings and parades are fun.

The base of course is thankful for your financial support via dues, and my intent with this challenge is not to be critical of anyone and I hope I have not conveyed that I am.

If you wish to share some things that would improve the situation from your perspective, please send them to me or Dale Moses. I thank you for your kind consideration of this challenge. - The COB



HONOR FLIGHTS

Some of our members have alrighly been on an Honor Flight. I have applied for one through Wamego High School were some of my VFW members have gone. I also have an American Legion member in my Post go on through Ople/Hartford High School.

Many of the WWII guys have gone and now it's time for us Viet Nam Era guys to go. I urge you to apply. I am told it is a busy two days, but being submariners, we can that.

This is Steve's email to me: Moe, My buddy Bruce Couch, AMS1 who served aboard the Constellation CV-64 and our tour guide at the Combat Air Museum just returned from an Honor Flight that is for all veterans. He said the trip to Washington D.C. was a memorable experience that every veteran should take. The veterans are assigned a student sponsor who travels with each veteran throughout the trip. There are 2 Honor Flights a year. One in April and one flight in September. Bruce advised that if your interested in taking an Honor Flight to contact: Megan at 620-437-636. Megan works for USD#252 in Olpe, Kansas and is a coordinator for Veterans Honor Flights. There is also a Facebook site to view photos of past Honor Flights. Just type in USD#252HonorFlight. There is a National website at <https://www.honorflight.org> to get more information.

Steve Alfrey RM2(SS)



Base Chaplain Lamont "Monte" Schmidt



Beyond Reproach; Titus 2: 1 - 8

"But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. Older men are to be temperate,

dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance. Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored. Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us."

Titus 2:1-8 NASB1995

As most of us are, I am a member of several different organizations. One of the groups that I belong to has a policy that if you wear the colors of any other organization you are considered a guest, not an active member. I have been aware of this policy for many years but it didn't bother me.

Recently I have been doing a study and this topic stuck in my mind. Because of this I started looking at my own life and determined that there were areas that needed improvement. I determined that rules are rules and if you can't/won't follow them then you are not BEYOND REPROACH.

If you won't follow the rules then be a guest.

Which is following the rule.

Monte Schmidt, EM1(SS)
Sculpin Base Chaplain



We asked for Sea-Stories

I was stationed at NAVCOMSTA Adak, Alaska in 1965. It was a tradition among the spooks to initiate newcomers to the base. On a cold winter's night a newbie shows up for his first watch. I told him that at 2am the base bakery made a doughnut run to the operations building. As a rookie he was to make a list (names and doughnut orders) of all 70 spooks on watch. At 2am he was to go stand outside on the loading dock and wait for the bakery truck. He was told everyone on watch looked forward to the doughnuts so don't disappoint them. If after waiting 30 minutes and the truck didn't come he was to report back to me and I would call the bakery to find out what happened. After 30 minutes the kid shows up without any doughnuts. The whole watch section is yelling and cussing and he is now crying. I told him I would call the bakery and raise hell and that he would have to go back outside and wait for the truck. But this time to make sure the driver saw him he was to take a battle lantern and climb up on the huge pile of cinders and when he saw lights turn on the lantern and swing it.

I guess now I should tell readers that there was no bakery truck. As the base was involved in intelligence gathering there were Russian spy trawlers so the Marine MP's made a patrol of the base every 30 minutes. I had alerted the patrol of what was going to happen so they could play along. But our victim didn't know this.

After an hour he shows up and is furious. He said he saw lights, waved the lantern and the next thing he knew MP's jumped out of their jeep with guns drawn, threw him to the ground and handcuffed him. They wanted to know why he was signaling the trawlers. He was angry with me for a long time but got even on one mid watch by dipping my foul weather coat in water and then freezing it. - Al Anguish





Kansas became the 34 State. This is 33 Flag that flew when Kansas became a State. The 33rd State was Oregon (Feb 14th, 1859)



Kansas became the 34th State on Jan 29th, 1861. The 34-star flag lasted until 1863 when West Virginia was added as the 35th State.



Did you know that both of these flags deserve the same respect as today's 50-star flag? That is because we have never officially retired any of the 27 versions of the American flags.

With the late spring and summer on it's way, it is the start of our "Flags at Half-staff (or Mast) season. Many of these days did not exist when we were kids; so I thought I'd review them.

•**National Firefighters Memorial Day – May 4** - This day is also international Firefighters Memorial day.

•**Peace Officers Memorial Day – May 15th** - The holiday was created on October 1, 1961, when Congress authorized the president to designate May 15 to honor peace officers. John F. Kennedy signed the bill into law on October 1, 1962.

•**Memorial Day – last Monday of May** - Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day[1])



Assorted Flag Facts

is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. From 1868 to 1970, it was observed on May 30. Since 1971, it is observed on the last Monday of May.

•**Korean War Veterans Armistice Day – July 27th** - July 27 is National Korean War Armistice Day, a national day of recognition to commemorate the more than 35,000 U.S. Service members who lost their lives during the Korean War. The war began on June 25, 1950 when the North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th Parallel, which divides Korea into North and South.

•**Patriot Day – September 11th** - Patriot Day on September 11th honors the memory of the nearly 3,000 innocent victims who died in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Each year Americans dedicate this day to remembering those who died and the first responders who risked their own lives to save others.

•**Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day – Dec 7th** - To remember and honor the 2,403 Americans who were killed in the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, which led to the United States declaring war on Japan the next day and thus entering World War II. Created on August 23, 1994.

•**By order of the President or by order of the Governor of the State (or Territory)** - This is the one to remember. For the above, the Office of the President (and/or Governor) will issue a proclamation ordering flags to half staff.





Welcome New Holland Club Members

Jim Gilmore - USS James K. Polk SSBN-645

Ellis Dale Moses (who's he)- USS Will Rogers SSBN-659

Other Sculpin Base HC members: Ed Taylor (SSN-669), Monte Schmidt (SSBN-624), Steve Alfrey (SSN-583), Dale Martin (SSN-607), Jim Stambaugh (SSBN-629), Rocky Rockers (SS-405)

Welcome Aboard the Qualified in Submarines 50-year Club.

Navy Rating Badges

Editor's Note: For a few months in 2016 the Navy did away with the Navy rating system only PO3,2,1 and no Seaman, Airman, Fireman, etc. That did not last long after someone in the Pentagon pulled their head out of their butt. Give me back my "Screw".

In the 2nd Quarter POD last year, there was a Navy Rating Badge quiz. Some of old guys remembered these ratings. Here are some that no longer exist or that has been re-defined.

Journalist(JO), Photographer's Mate (PH), Illustrator/Draftsman (DM), and Lithographer (LI) have all been merged into the Mass Communication Specialist (MC). Technology changes things (otherwise there would still be lots of livery stables and blacksmiths). Non-submarine ratings, so who cares?

Signalman (SM) are now merged with the Quartermaster (QM) rating. No SM's on the Boats that I remember. Radioman (RM) are now Electronic Technicians (ET); "ET radio home".

Storekeeper (SK) and Postal Clerk (PC) are now LS's (Logistics Specialist). "The O-rings are in the mail". How many of you were your Division's RPPO?

When many of Nukes served, there were Electrician's Mates (EM), Interior Communication Electricians (IC), Electronic Technicians (ET), and good ol' Machinist's Mates (MM). In today's Navy, the Nuke EM's are now EMN (no more Nuclear IC's); the ET's are now ETN's; and the MM's are MMN's. Same Rating badges as we had.

Well that did away with "are you a nuke IC or a Forward IC" question while looking at the crow on a uniform. But the M-div MM or a A-ganger MM is still in question; and for a while it was even more of a question. From 1995 to 2017 there were MMW or MM weapons, i.e. the old Torpedoman rating. During this time the surface TM's were grouped with the Gunner's Mates (GM).

On another note, the surface navy "copied" the better submarine navy in adopting a pin in 1975 called the Surface Warfare Insignia. I guess they wanted the swab-jocky skimmers to feel good about themselves if they could find their battlestation, chow hall, and their bunk. We learned the A,B,C's of our boat; they learned the XYZ hatch crap. (Sorry Skimmers, this is a Dolphin driven publication).

Did you ever notice that Donald Duck was never rated? That's because he was in a Mickey Mouse unit (probably a skimmer).



Scuttlebutt

Members supporting other Veteran Organizations

On Friday March 29th I attended the Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony at Garfield Park in Topeka. March 29th was chosen to be commemorated because in 1973 the last U.S. combat troops departed the Republic of Vietnam. The local Vietnam Veteran Chapter read all 600 Vietnam Veterans names from Kansas who did not make it back home. There is also a memorial at Garfield Park that honors 12 North Topekans who perished in the Vietnam War. One of which is my 2nd cousin William S. Stewart AFQ2 of the U.S. Navy. I've included a few photos of the Garfield memorial as well as a few other photos.

Steve Alfrey RM2(SS)



Sculpin Base Memorial Bench Project

We have talked about this going on two years. We have had very few suggestions on a location that might get us exposure. The best being Topeka's Gage Park War Memorial. This was a pricey one and the we pledges we had was about half the money.

We have had a donor, who wished to remain anonymous, who has pledged the remainder of the funds required to place a memorial bench at the Gage Park location. The Memorial Association (MA) requires that this be a "war memorial" and that no engraving be on the bench seat.

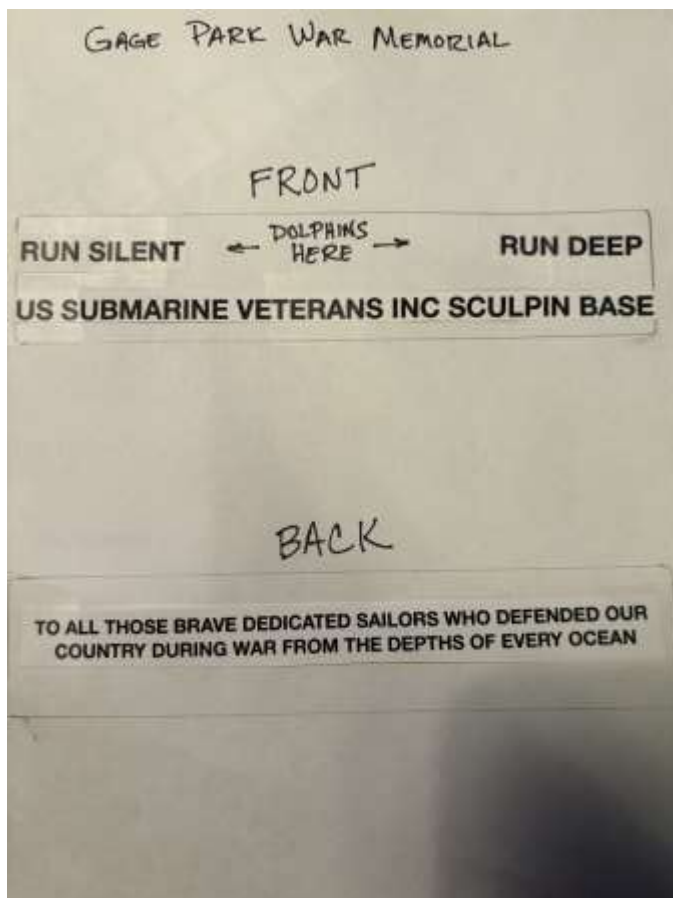
I have asked for suggestions for the engraving on the bench edges in various emails and got very little response. I received two, one from the COB: "For all submariners past, present, and future" and "Placed by Sculpin Base USSVI and put date". I like this, but the MA requires this to be a "War Memorial". Steve Alfrey has been working with the MA on this project. His recommendations are in picture form.

At our May 18th meeting (Oskaloosa), this project will be on the agenda. I hope to first, approve the location; and two, finalize the engraving.

I want to thank our shipmate, Steve Alfrey for taking the lead on this task. Come to the meeting and speak your mind. - MoSeS



The purpose/creed of USSVI is 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 may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments,...



USSVI School - Learn about our organization

Did you know that there is a USSVI Base Commander's Workbook? It can be found online in the Manuals section of the USSVI (ussubvets.org) website.

It is a great way for you to learn the duties of the Base Commander (and to see if I'm living-up to my duties). Within it is the Base Commander Qual Card (two four-letter words in a row). I filled out my first one when I was in the Carolinas. As our Base was forming the then District Commander, who had just revised the manual, said I should fill-out another one. (Re-qual?) I suggest that everyone just look at the qual card, you will learn.

Within that same Manuals area are manuals for the Chaplin, USSVI Awards Manual, Base Memorials and Ceremonies Handbook, a great PR guide, and more. Some light reading on a raining day this summer. You will learn something and maybe even get inspired. Something we should plan on after we get our bench installed is to hold a public Tolling of the Boats. Something to think about and the info is in the manual.

Since many of you will NOT look at the above manuals, even after a double-dawg dare, here is a Short History of the USSVI.

A Short History (Rev2/2009)

Our Purpose

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."

The United States Submarine Veterans was started by members of United States Submarine Veterans of World War II led by Dominic "Joe" Negri and others who shared a belief in the need for an organization open to ALL sub-

mariners from the very beginning of the Submarine Service through to the present and into the future – not limited to just those who served so ably in the Second World War.

A founders meeting was held October 12, 1963, in Orange, NJ and the United States Submarine Veterans organization was born. On May 24, 1964, the organization was officially chartered in New London. This charter granted the right to operate and conduct business in all fifty states. Since 1964 USSVI has grown to over 12,000 members, with over 150 Bases located throughout the U.S. and with an active Subvets Charitable Foundation established to carry out good works. Base #1, Groton Base has grown to over 2,000 members, far outstripping all other Bases, and the National Office has moved to Silverdale, WA, reflecting the National nature of USSVI. (This is from the original writing of the history (2009), see the last paragraph)

The purposes of USSVI can be defined as "Remembrance" of our departed submarine shipmates and the sacrifices they made in the name of freedom; Comradeship and good times with our USSVI Subvet brothers at meetings and conventions, and Benevolence, by doing charitable works in support of our creed for all submariners and our offspring.

Joe Negri and the other founders of USSVI would be proud and we honor our finest with the annual prestigious "Joe Negri" award in honor of this farseeing WW II Subvet who wanted to create an organization for all submariners, no matter when they served.

Many things have changed since 2009, including the recent move of the USSVI headquarters from Silverdale to Groton; but our purpose is still the same. We are the USSVI, sounds corny I know, but it exists because we care enough to remain members and remember those who have gone on Eternal Patrol.



POD Funny Page



•I woke up this morning determined to drink less, eat right, and exercise. But that was four hours ago when I was younger and full of hope.

I too was once a male trapped in a female body...but then my mother gave birth.

When a kid says "Daddy, I want mommy" that's the kid version of "I'd like to speak to your supervisor".

It's weird being the same age as old people.

If Adam and Eve were Cajuns they would have eaten the snake instead of the apple and saved us all a lot of trouble.

Now that COVID has everyone washing their hands correctly...next week...Turn Signals.

Some of my friends exercise every day. Meanwhile I am watching a show I don't like because the remote fell on the floor.

We celebrated last night with a couple of adult beverages Metamucil and Ensure.

Anyone who says their wedding was the best day of their life has never had two candy bars fall down at once from a vending machine.

If cats worked in shops . . .

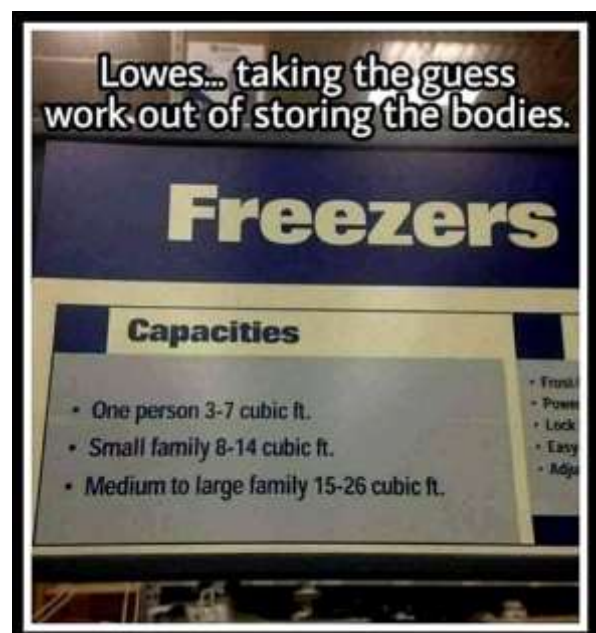


Today I donated my watch, phone and \$500 to a poor guy. You don't know the happiness I felt as I saw him put his knife back in his pocket.

I miss times when I was working at the zoo. My boss fired me just because I left the lion's gate open. I mean who would steal a lion?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavoring, and dish washing liquid made with real lemons?

If flying is so safe, *why do they call the airport the terminal?



GEDUNK from the Net

Service Records and other Archived Documents

[Article](#)

USS Sculpin "The Sculpin Story" - The Silent Service

[Article](#)

Lawmakers push for two submarines despite US Navy seeking just one

[Article](#)

US Nuclear-Missile Sub Delayed Up to 16 Months Over Bow, Generators

[Article](#)

China picks its lowest-scoring officers to command nuclear submarines

[Article](#)

Royal Australian Navy Sailors graduate Submarine Officer Basic Course

[Article](#)

Report to Congress on Navy Next-Generation Attack Submarine

[Article](#)

Navy delays next-generation submarine start to early 2040s

[Article](#)

France's Naval Group wins \$6 billion Dutch submarine project

[Article](#)

Japan Commissions Third Taigei-Class Submarine

[Article](#)

Nuclear-armed submarine suffered malfunction

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Touching History

[Article](#)

French Navy Gives Rare Tour of Nuclear Submarine

[Article](#)

List of Submarine Classes of the United States Navy

[Article](#)

Got Links or pictures you want to share with the Sculpin Base?

Send them to Moe at donutdad53@gmail.com

Wear your Dolphins - you sweated, got dirty, lost sleep, missed meals, were late for watch, lost your seat to a Qualified crew member, and much more. You EARNED them. Wear them to so others that you "walked the walk". Other Boat Sailors will see them on you and ask "what boat were you on?"; and a conversation will break-out. You might have just recruited a new USSVI member. Tell them about your Base, Base activities, when you meet and where. Other veterans might say hello, but the Bubbleheads will talk to you; they can't help themselves. That's the start in the recruiting process.





Richard J Piezuch , FT1(SS)



Richard qualified on the USS Sea Robin (SS-407) in 1953 and left the Navy as a FT1(SS). Richard was one of the founders of the Topeka-Jefferson City Base and served as the Base's first Commander.

Richard served his community in various organizations. He was a member of the Sculpin Base, TJC Base, and also a member of the USSVI Holland Club.

RIP Shipmate Richard-15 January 1934 - 23 February 2024

Rest the Souls of the shipmates of the USS Thresher (SSN 593) lost on April 10, 1963.

Rest the Souls of the shipmates of the USS Scorpion (SSN 589) lost on May 22, 1968.

