



Sculpin Base POD

USSVI Class 4 NLOY for
4 Years in a row!

4th Quarter 2025

The Sculpin Base POD is a quarterly publication of the Sculpin Base; a proud Base of United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI). Keith Jeffers, Publisher. Send articles & pictures to kjeffers46@yahoo.com

Next Meeting—Tuesday—November 11 at Emporia, Kansas

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](#)

[Sculpin Base Website](#)

USSVI—Sculpin Base POD

Lost Submarines—Fourth Quarter

USS Seawolf (SS-197)

Lost on October 3, 1944 with the loss of 83 crew members and 17 U.S. Army personnel on her 15th war patrol when she was sunk just north of Moritai by USS Rowell, a Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another Destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.



USS S-44 (SS-155)

Lost on October 7, 1943 with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles. S-44 was on her 5th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, S-44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.



USS Wahoo (SS-238)

Lost on October 11, 1943 with the loss of 80 men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of one of the great sub skippers of World War II, LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo was on her 7th war patrol. Wahoo had won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was sunk by combined air and surface attack.



USS Dorado (SS-248)

Lost on October 12, 1943 with the loss of 77 men when she was sunk in the western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she had departed New London and was enroute route to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane that received faulty instructions regarding bombing restriction areas.



USS Escolar (SS-294)

Lost on or after October 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. She was on



her 1st war patrol and was lost to a mine in the Yellow Sea.

USS Shark II (SS-314)

Lost on October 24, 1944 with the loss of 87 men when she was sunk in the Luzon Strait near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was on her 3rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the tragedy, it turned out that the freighter had 1800 U.S. POWs on board.



USS Darter (SS-227)

Lost on October 24, 1944 while on her 4th war patrol when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan and was then destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by USS Dace. Winner of one Navy Unit Commendation, Darter had sunk a heavy cruiser and damaged another and went aground while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation in hopes of getting in an attack on a battleship.



USS Tang (SS-306)

Lost on October 25, 1944 with the loss of 78 men in the Formosa Strait while on her 5th war patrol. Tang ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage, and had won two Presidential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR. O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.



USS O-5 (SS-66)

Lost on October 29, 1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Ababarez off the Panama Canal. Torpedoman's Mate 2d



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Class (SS) Henry Berault received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions.

USS Albacore (SS-218)

Lost on November 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 11th war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.



USS Growler (SS-215)

Lost on November 8, 1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 11th war patrol, and was lost while attacking a convoy as a result of a depth charge attack.



USS Corvina (SS-226)

Lost on November 16, 1943 with the loss of 82 men on her 1st war patrol when she was sunk just south of Truk. Corvina was lost to the torpedoes from a Japanese submarine.



USS Scamp (SS-277)

Lost on November 16, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay on her 8th war patrol. She may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate her and destroy her with depth charges.



USS Sculpin (SS-191)

Lost on November 19, 1943 with the loss of 43 men near Truk on her 9th war patrol. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, Sculpin continued to fight on the surface. When the captain was killed, the crew abandoned ship and scuttled Sculpin. 41 men were taken prisoner; only 21 survived the war. Among those not abandoning ship was CAPT Cromwell,



aboard as a potential wolf pack commander, he rode the Sculpin down, and fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture. For this, CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

USS Capelin (SS-289)

Lost on or in the days prior to December 3, 1943 with the loss of 76 men on her 2nd war patrol, but her exact location in the Celebes Sea and cause of loss remain a mystery. She may have been lost to mines or an operational casualty.



USS Sealion (SS-195)

Lost on December 10, 1941 with the loss of 4 men. To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack.



USS F-1 / Carp (SS-20)

Lost on December 17, 1917 with the loss of 19 men when it was sunk after collision with the USS F-3 (Pickerell) (SS-22) off San Clemente, CA. 5 men survived the collision.



USS S-4 (SS-109)

Lost on December 17, 1927 with the loss of 40 men when it was sunk after being rammed by USCG Paulding off Cape Cod near Provincetown, MA. Salvaged in 1928 and recommissioned.



GOD BLESS all Sailors and Service Personnel that are away from their loved ones this Holiday Season. Many of us were away for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years and know exactly what they are feeling. Please Pray for them and their families. Thank them for keeping us safe.



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Stories from the Sonar Shack

Submarine At-Sea Tender—"Four Miles"

It was the first deployment for a West Pac for several of our new sailors, and one was my "sea-pup" in Sonar, NUB Jim. As all of us are familiar with getting underway and leaving port, there are numerous commands and rituals that a boat crew will go through and say as a normal dive routine. The Klaxon sounding, the Chief of the Watch announcing Dive!, Dive!, and the rigging of valves, pumps and so forth taking place throughout the various compartments.

One of the normal statements of the Officer of the Deck OOD was to announce upon reaching periscope depth, the sea state and how far he can see the horizon. Note that at sea level, the horizon is four miles to where it appears to drop away. NUB Jim heard the OOD announce that he could see "Four Miles" and asked about that. Quickly jumping on the question, someone answered him that 4 Miles is the name of our At-Sea Tender and the OOD was announcing that we were approaching the entrance to our At-Sea birth where we would ride safely to our next port of call at Japan.

Our Sonar crew began to explain to NUB Jim that since submarines are inherently unsafe, the Navy provides an At-Sea Tender to allow boats to dock inside and ride to their operating areas inside, much like the James Bond movies show. Jim seemed a bit unbelieving, but with the clanking of valves, air venting and other strange noises, we did our best to convince him that those were the sounds of the Tender crew attaching discharge and supply hoses to the outer hull and setting up cameras and other sensor equipment to allow us to train across the Pacific. Occasionally one "worker" would drop a wrench on the deck. (CLUNK CLUNK!)

NUB Jim kept telling us he knew better, but there was a bit of doubt in his voice. We carried the story as long as we could, until it came time for the Captain to take us into some Angles and Dangles to shake out any loose equipment. It was hard to explain those being done inside our At-Sea Tender Four Miles. Oh Well.

By the way, NUB Jim eventually made Master Chief and was the person to assign Special Riders to all boats from the Pentagon. Fun stories from Sonar! Keith, (SS)

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**The Next Deadline for News is
6 February 2026.
We would like someone to provide their
Navy Bio - or Sea Stories
Please send to kjeffers46@yahoo.com**

THANK YOU!

4th Qtr 2025



USSVI—Sculpin Base POD



Base Commander— Bret Cortright, Sr.

Greetings Sculpin Base Members!

Well here we are, all of sudden the temperatures in the 80's are gone and Fall has arrived. I like the Fall, the cooler temps, the color in the trees and I don't have to mow the yard for a few months.

It seems like forever since our last meeting. Other than a parade here and there it seems as if we never talk. I missed the last parade due to another obligation, I am sorry for that. I enjoy the parades. Not only is the interaction with fellow submariners enjoyable, but the interaction of the crowds along the parade route. To see the people standing as we pass, mother's pointing at us telling their children "look, submarine veterans" and the ever present "Thank You" yelled from the crowds in recognition of our service. Those reactions make it worthwhile but, back to my first point. The interaction with fellow submariners. When we are together, we share something that many in our communities cannot share. Sure, there are veterans, even Navy veterans, but it's not the same. At some point in our lives, we shared an experience that few others have. That is what makes it special.

We have another parade coming up. November 11th, Veterans Day in Emporia. It is always a good parade, Emporia does it up right, and for good reason. In 1953, Emporia resident and shoe repairman, Alvin J. King, suggested renaming Armistice Day as Veterans Day to include those veterans from World War II and Korea. It was his tribute to his nephew who was killed in action during World War II. The city liked the idea and actually held a celebration in November of 1953. Kansas Representative Ed Rees introduced legislation to officially rename the holiday and President Dwight Eisenhower signed it into law in 1954.

It sure would be great to see a large contingent of Sculpin Base members at the Veterans Day Parade on November 11. Following the parade, Sculpin Base will conduct its quarterly scheduled meeting at 627 Event Space Bar & Grill, 627 Commercial Street, Emporia, Kansas. It will be an abbreviated meeting with attendees ordering lunch from the menu and an opportunity just to be together.

Parade details such as lineup location, times, etc. are forthcoming.. (*see details page*)

I have been continuing my efforts to garner political support for our efforts of bringing the Sail and Rudder of the *USS Topeka* to the City of Topeka. I will be providing a full update at the post parade meeting in Emporia on November 11.

Looking forward to seeing each of you, until then, stay safe and take care.

The "[Sculpin Base POD](#)" is the

[Quarterly Newsletter of the](#)

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

Newsletter Editor:

Keith Jeffers, Editor
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Your Sea Stories and
Input are always
WELCOME!!

Next Deadline is 6 February 2026



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USSVI—Sculpin Base POD

Base Secretary/ Membership/Storekeeper E. Dale "Moe" Moses



Membership renewals will be sent out in the upcoming month. Membership status expires on the 31st of December for both the National and Base levels. Once you receive your specific membership status letter, please submit any dues to me with checks made out to SCULPIN BASE and I will then submit to National.

Storekeeper Items:

Sculpin Base Caps.....\$20.00
Sculpin Base Patch.....\$5.00
USSVI 2023 calendars.....\$8.00

If there is any sub related items that you may be interested in, please let me know and I will see about getting it.

P.S. We have some I-335 Submarine Memorial Hwy patches provided by our Sister Base, Topeka-Jefferson City. Just come to a parade/meeting.

See page 12 for more Storekeeper sale items.

ZOOM Meetings

Moe is coordinating a series of Zoom Meetings for the Sculpin Base members to be done in-between our regular meetings. The information to log in will be sent a few weeks before each session. This will allow us to visit with each other from the comfort from our homes and have everyone participate easier.

Look for the Zoom Meeting information in your emails soon.

Vice Commander Keith Jeffers, STS1(ss)



Ladies and gentlemen, I have assumed the duties from Moe—for the editing of the Quarterly Newsletters, and appreciate the input from each of you to share your stories and interests that we will put in each edition.

A little bit about me—I am the Emergency Manager for Jefferson County Kansas and have been doing this for 10 years in the county, 4 years for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management as a Training and Exercise Specialist and 4 years at Bourbon County as their Emergency Manager. I have deployed to 2 hurricanes in Louisiana (Gustav & Ike) and to the Joplin Tornado and the Missouri River Flooding in 2010 along with numerous other disasters and pandemics.

Before getting into my current career, I was the Executive Secretary / CFO for the Scottish Rite Masons of Southeast Kansas, Office Manager for the Linn County Extension Service, and owned an electronics repair company. I have also been a Title Insurance Officer and a Quality Assurance Auditor and Tech Writer for a company that manufactures black box recorders for submarines and jets in California.

I joined the Navy in 1980 and volunteered for Submarines and entered the Advanced Electronics field as a Sonar Tech for Auxiliary Equipment. I met my boat, USS William H. Bates, SSN-680 in Subic Bay during a West Pac in 1982 and qualified in 1984.

I got out in 1986 after several West Pac / Spec Ops missions and adventures that have been written about previously (The Bouncin' Billy B stories).

I am married to Liz (26 years) and our son Graecin lives with us in McLouth, KS.

My contact info is as follows:

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Thanks for your support, I look forward to serving as Vice Commander and Editor of the Newsletters

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Chief of the Boat Dennis Mosebey



Well not too much to report here. Our fourth quarter meeting will be held from 11-1 on Veterans Day after the parade. Our base will be taking part in the new little skate put together by Dale Mo-

ses. It is really a cool little machine, provided we can keep the propeller on. We can use members to be spotters and to walk and pass out candy. The meeting will be in 627 Event Space, 627 Commercial St. Emporia, Ks. upstairs. When you come in door to your right you will see steps going up to the next deck. Take them. It will be a short meeting, and we will order off their lunch menu. You can have a variety of alcoholic beverages, sorry no bug juice!

The last parade of the season will be the Burlington, Ks. Christmas parade. Separate info later. Pictures of Clay Center, Ks. Parade are on our website.

We still have the same members always coming to meetings and to parades. This is not a sign of a thriving base by any means. Please try to make at least one meeting and one parade in 2026.

It is my understanding two new Columbia class ballistic missile subs are under construction, and the Virginia class fast attack programs is getting a couple of new boats a year added to replace older Los Angeles class which are coming out of service. I have no updates on the project of getting the sail and rudder of USS Topeka a place in our capital city. No one in city leadership or the historical society seems interested.

I had hoped we would at least have our official request in by now, but it looks like that will not happen. Keith Jeffers may have a report on getting at least a torpedo. He may have more information in his column or at the meeting.

Well, all for this quarter!

Respectfully, **COB Dennis Mosebey**

Base Chaplain Monte Schmidt

Obedience

A quote by Oswald Chambers; "One step in obedience is worth than years of studying about obedience."

On the boats we were expected to obey orders.

Were we expected to be perfect; No. But we were expected to do the best we could every time. What would happen if someone didn't do their best? Not only did their life depend on it but so did everyone else's.

"But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you.'"

Jeremiah 7:23 NASB1995

God says in His word that we are to "OBEY" His commands. If we obey it will be well with us. Does this mean that we won't suffer? No! But it does mean that He will be with us in our trials. Are we expected to be perfect, No. God knows that because He has given us "freewill" that we will fail. But He has provided for our failure. Jesus died on the cross for our failures. He provided the blood atonement that was required for our sins.

Does this mean that we should not try to obtain perfection? No, just as you tried to please the Chief we should try.

We should spend our lives striving for obedience.

Yours In Faith, Monte Schmidt EM1(SS)
Sculpin Base Chaplain



USSVI—Sculpin Base POD



Welcome
New
Members

None this quarter,
but you never
know where you
find them. Wear
a Dolphin cap and they will come to
you!

**Next Base Meeting is
Tuesday, November 11th.
Emporia, Kansas
Veteran's Day Parade
0930 Start
Starting at Commercial
St., Emporia
Parade Line-up at 0845
at 4th & Commercial St.**

***Veteran's Memorial Service
Starts at 1100 at the
All Veteran's Memorial,
Soden's Grove
931 S. Commercial St 913,
Emporia, KS 66801***

**SCULPIN MEETING INFO:
627 Event Space Bar & Grill
627 Commercial St.
1130 to 1330 meeting**

***Lunch Orders on your own
Spouses - Welcome
and Encouraged***

**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 encour-
aged in these organizations. Can you
host a meeting in your area? If so, let
one of the Officers know.**

Burlington Kansas Christmas Parade

Theme: Gingerbread Lane

Saturday, December 6 at 6 p.m.

**This is a night parade, so Little Skate
will need to have lights onboard
as a requirement.**

**We will be working on decorations to
depict the theme of Gingerbread
Lane.**

**Donations of materials will be greatly
appreciated. Look for more infor-
mation in your emails.**

**Line up will be at the East River
Bridge Parking Lots.**



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USSVI—Sculpin Base POD

Cold War Boats

<https://coldwarboats.org>

Join your Shipmates at this Submarine Group page. - **ALL COLD WAR BOATS & CREWS**

Welcome aboard, shipmates!

The surrender of Axis powers at the end of World War Two brought an end to almost six years of death, destruction, and upheaval for a world starved for peace.

But far from the peace we had prayed for, the years following gave birth to what came to be known as the Cold War. Fearing a return to hostilities and conflict, the two principal contenders, the United States and the Soviet Union, found themselves engaged in an unprecedented and undeclared war, a war without an objective, other than conquering the fears that each protagonist imagined. It was a race without a finish line, a struggle for prestige and dominance, ostensibly without shooting, based on fear as a deterrent.

The prize for winning this bullet-less war? Survival and global supremacy. The key to victory? Intelligence and deterrence.

The means? The occasionally maligned, persistently effective, far-reaching, terror-inspiring denizens of the deep, the submarines.

Unseen, unheard, unafraid, and unacknowledged, it was the submarine that carried out surveillance and intelligence gathering. It was submarine that patrolled invisibly beneath the sea carrying missiles that were capable of delivering death and destruction to any location on the planet. It was the submarine that took the fight to the enemy, with the threat of swift and unambiguous consequences for any who dare challenge the intentions of those that had tasted freedom. In the end, it was the submarine, patrolling quietly and ubiquitously, that ensured that the balance of world power did not devolve into a shooting war.

Intelligence and deterrence. Survival and supremacy. Silence and invisibility.

Long referred to as the Silent Service, the men of the U.S. Navy that operated the only ships ever called "boats", conquered seeming-

ly insurmountable engineering problems, vast distances of dark and silent passage, and their own fear and trepidation to take their place as the point of the Cold War spear.

The men who fought the proxy-wars of the Cold War at places with names like Dien Bien Phu, the Golan Heights, and Chosin are remembered with honor because their stories are known, and recorded for generations. In contrast, the men of the Silent Service took the fight to places that cannot be named, through conditions that cannot be imagined, to do things that cannot be described, living out the tension-filled stories that will remain in the shadows forever.

Anonymity, silence, and, more than most are aware, their lives, were the price paid by those men for their service to our country. While their stories can never be fully revealed or understood, we honor them for the freedom that comes at such a high price.

This is a place to remember the boats, the exotic ports, the never-ending missions, and most of all, the iron men of the Cold War boats.

A message from the Executive Director:

If you served on a Cold War boat, the Cold War Boats Association exists for you!

If you were a spouse or family member of a Cold War submarine veteran, then the Association is for you as well.

If you supported Cold War submarines in deep submergence research, rescue, tenders, or the training pipeline, we couldn't have done it without you. You are welcome here.

As a friend or associate of a Cold War submarine veteran, what we did, we did for you, and those like you. You are also welcome.

The Cold War Boats Association cannot function without your support. Your photographs, your sea stories, your artifacts, your financial contributions, your volunteer hours in tracking down missing shipmates or administering the hundreds of boats represented here are required for the Cold War Boats Association to pursue our mission.

Please register, and consider a becoming a Patron, Sponsor, or Contributor. Visit the Sponsorships page in Disbursing for further information.

Brad Williamson, ET1(ss) Executive Director

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Parades and floats

For any Base within the USSVI the key to membership is exposure. Current members need to let other “Bubbleheads” and their families that we exist as a Veterans group. All of us are proud of our Dolphins, wear them on your hats, T-shirts, etc.

One way to “expose” our Base to the public is participate in area parades. Our Base has done this, and I personally think we need to expand. We need your input. Chuck Sibley suggested Clay Center at the last meeting and made the arrangements. It was a little trip out there, but what a great parade We need more suggestions for future parades. The Next parade is in Emporia on Veterans Day, if you can help, please consider it.

We currently have the “**USS Little Skate**” followed by pickup with flags and our USSVI and Base logos. Bret has been in many of our parades, and Bill Haug in the last one. All that participated in our parades had a great time. We are all getting older and many of us have problems walking any distance. We may have a solution.

We have had a pontoon boat trailer donated to our Base. With some ideas, a little work, and some funding we can produce a float for us and our families to ride on. We need a location to plan and work on this project. A place where we can hold a “working party” and work with our fellow members. We also need a location to store our finished float. We need your ideas. Together we can “GET-R-DONE”; just ask guys who did last minute fixes on the “Little Skate” in Clay Center; and they had the fun doing it. - Moe(SS)

doing it! - Moe(SS)

LITTLE SKATE—REPAIRS— NO DRYDOCK AVAILABLE



LITTLE SKATE ON THE ROAD



LITTLE SKATE—CAVITATES (Making bubbles!)



USSVI—Sculpin Base POD

Traveling Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall

By **Steven Alfrey, RM2(ss)**

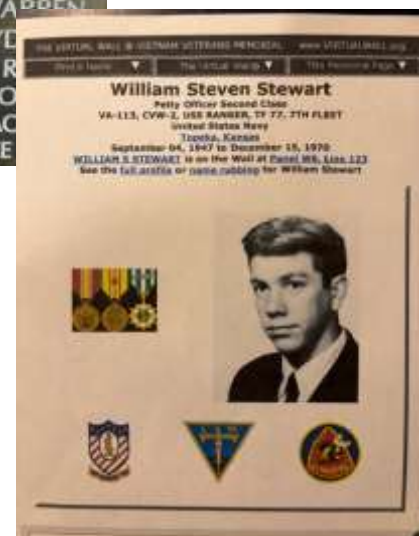
On August 15th I took a small trip down the United States Submarine Highway I-335 to Emporia, Kansas to visit the **Traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall**.

As a Vietnam Veteran myself I feel a connection to the wall. My service in the Tonkin Gulf was preceded by my cousin AQF2 (Aviation Fire Control Technician) William S. Stewart who was assigned to the USS Ranger CV-61 in the Vietnam war zone. William (Billy) Stewart lost his life under unforeseen circumstances while on patrol in the waters of Vietnam.

I had been in the Navy only a little over a year in December of 1970 when my mother called me while in port at Pearl Harbor with some sad news about my cousin Billy. My uncle, Billy's father, had passed away of a heart attack back in Topeka, Ks.

Billy's Commanding officer granted emergency leave for Billy to attend his father's funeral back home. Billy boarded a C2-A Greyhound, an aircraft designed to carry passengers and freight between the carriers and airfields ashore, along with 4 crewmen and one other passenger. A few seconds after the catapult launch the C2-A Greyhound went into the water. Two bodies were recovered, one was my cousin Billy. The funeral for Billy's father was postponed back in Topeka until Billy's remains was placed next to his father's in a double funeral. Billy did not die in combat but being on patrol in the Vietnam war zone meant that William S. Stewart as well as the other 5 sailors names were engraved on the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Garfield Park in North Topeka also has a memo-

Their names can be found on Panel 06W, lines 122, 123, Or 124. Garfield Park in North Topeka also has a memorial dedicated to Vietnam Veterans who lived in the North Topeka area. William S. Stewart is one of 17 names engraved on the memorial who lost their lives in the Vietnam War.



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New Items in the Storekeeper's Shack

Moe(SS)

We have several new items in our Base supply locker. We have our usual kids "Honorary Submariner" caps; our Base caps, and Base patches; but I've added some stickers, license plate frames, and some "Silent Service" pins for your label or cap.

I also have an outlet for 3D printed Dolphins and Patrol Pins. A member of the Topeka-Jefferson City Base makes these and charges only \$15.00 each plus shipping. If we order a quantity for the Base, we can get a discount and make some money for the Base. We would need to vote on the latter at a meeting prior to spending the money. For individual orders please contact Gene Jestus at Gene.Justus@gmail.com. Stars are also available. My set is pictured below.



New Pin



3x6 decal



4x3 decal for the outside of your wire



USSVI—Sculpin Base POD

4th Quarter U.S. Accident History

13 November 2002, [USS Oklahoma City](#) collided with the Leif Hoegh liquefied natural gas tanker *Norman Lady*, east of the Strait of Gibraltar.

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25 October 2003, the American *Los Angeles*-class submarine [USS Hartford](#) ran aground in the harbor of La Maddalena, Sardinia, in the Mediterranean Sea. This grounding caused about nine million dollars' worth of damage to *Hartford*.

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Four crew members were washed overboard from [USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul](#) by heavy waves on 29 December 2006 in Plymouth Sound, England. This resulted in the deaths of Senior Chief Thomas Higgins (chief of the boat) and Sonar Technician 2nd Class Michael Holtz.

Not submarines—but still our Navy Brothers:

Oct. 26, 1966, a tragic fire in the forward compartments killed 44 servicemen.



^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

[USS Montpelier](#) and the Aegis cruiser [USS San Jacinto](#) collided off the coast of north-eastern Florida on 13 October 2012 during an exercise while the submarine was submerged at periscope depth.

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

2 October 2021, [USS Connecticut \(SSN-22\)](#) was severely damaged^[67] by a collision with a seamount in the South China Sea. ^[68] About eleven sailors sustained injuries, though none were reported to be life-threatening



HELP WANTED

Wanted - Qualified in Submarine personnel and your Sea-Stories!. Must be able to document the events in your Naval career using simple typing skills. Some stretching of the facts to make output sound like a “no-shitter” is encouraged! Names can be changed to protect the guilty and to avoid any NCIS inquiries.

(HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)

Please send your “Sea-Stories” to kjeffers46@yahoo.com

Look for “hiring results” in the next award winning “Sculpin Base P.O.D.” - February 2026



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Nuclear Plants in Kansas—NEWS

Kansas could get more nuclear reactors. Here are 6 things to know about the proposals KCUR | By Celia Llopis-Jepsen

Two companies are pursuing two very different visions for building and operating nuclear reactors in Kansas.

Two companies have recently revealed plans to potentially install nuclear reactors in Kansas.

One plan comes from a company that proposes putting small reactors 1 mile underground to directly power facilities such as data centers. The other comes from a company envisioning a utility-scale plant with a battery design that makes it capable of storing power.

The two proposals are strikingly different, but both are part of the race to open a new chapter in the history of U.S. nuclear energy that will look very unlike past nuclear power plants.

Companies that are reimagining the nuclear sector want to roll out a variety of advanced, modular or small reactor designs to overcome challenges with traditional plants.

Here are some basics about the two recent proposals for nuclear reactors in Kansas.

The companies behind the proposals are **TerraPower** and **Deep Fission**.

TerraPower was co-founded by Bill Gates, the former CEO of Microsoft in 2008. Although a number of companies are in various stages of pursuing advanced nuclear energy, **TerraPower** is one of the leaders in the push to bring these ideas to fruition in the U.S.

The company recently broke ground on a \$4

billion nuclear facility in Wyoming as a demonstration project co-funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The company is interested in starting work on another facility in Kansas.

Deep Fission was founded in 2023 by a father-daughter team, entrepreneur Liz Muller and retired Berkeley physics professor Richard Muller. Its advisory board includes big names in the field of physics, including two Nobel laureates.

The company wants its first sites to be in Kansas, Utah and Texas. It went public last month and raised \$30 million, prompting TechCrunch to write that fundraising was not coming easy.

TerraPower is working with **Evergy** and state officials to explore the prospects for building a nuclear plant.

TerraPower has signed a memorandum of understanding with **Evergy** and the **Kansas Department of Commerce**.

In an interview, an official with the state commerce department said **TerraPower** is looking for somewhere in Kansas with stable geology, proximity to transmission lines and the necessary workforce. The official said **TerraPower** also wants to find a community where its nuclear facility would be welcomed.

Since it has signed a memorandum of understanding with **Evergy** to consider siting within the utility's Kansas service area, that would mean the company is looking at eastern or central Kansas.

Evergy currently operates one traditional nuclear plant, **Wolf Creek Generating Station**, about 60 miles south of Topeka.

TerraPower's plant differs greatly from traditional nuclear power plants.



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TerraPower would envelop the uranium in liquid sodium instead of water. This has a boiling point of 1,600 degrees Fahrenheit – much higher than water, which the company says adds extra safety.

The company says its design produces less waste than traditional nuclear plants, too.

TerraPower's plant would also be able to store energy for use when needed. A traditional nuclear power plant cannot do that.

This battery function would make it possible to increase the plant's output when demand peaks, for example, or to decrease the output on a windy day when wind farms are churning out plenty of power.

Deep Fission sees data centers and other electricity-hungry industries as its potential customers.

The other company, **Deep Fission**, aims to tap straight into the growing AI sector because data centers consume so much electricity.

It sees tech companies as potential customers, and says it could provide them with on-site power by drilling 30-inch bore holes 1 mile deep and putting nuclear reactors at the bottom of each hole.

The company says such deep placement contributes to the safety of nuclear energy because the earth provides billions of tons of natural shielding.

Deep Fission is working with an undisclosed partner on a site in Kansas.

The company recently signed a letter of intent with an undisclosed partner for an undisclosed site in Kansas.

The company hasn't answered questions about whether it has informed state or local government agencies about its intention to install an underground nuclear reactor in Kansas. State officials also haven't revealed whether they know anything about **Deep Fission's** plan.

A presidential pilot program recently sped up **Deep Fission's** timeline

Deep Fission was one of 11 projects picked in August for President Donald Trump's nuclear pilot program. The program seeks to expedite their testing and eventually their commercial licensing.

The Trump announcement came with an aggressive timeline that aims to get some reactors operating at a state of steady fission by the next Fourth of July. Before that announcement, **Deep Fission** was aiming for 2029.

Deep Fission is aiming to meet the president's Fourth of July goal, but it isn't saying whether it will move that fast specifically in Kansas or at one of its other potential sites, which are in Utah and Texas.

TerraPower proposed plant design



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Minutes of the last Meeting— 16 August 2025

Sculpin Base, USSVI Meeting Minutes 16 August 2025 Museum of the Kansas Na- tional Guard Topeka, KS

In Attendance:

Bret Cortright, Base Cmdr.
Keith Jeffers, Base Vice Cmdr.
Ellis Dale (Moe) Moses, Base Secretary
Colleen Moses, Base Treasurer
Monte Schmidt, Chaplain
Dennis Mosebey, COB
Steve Alfrey
Terry Romig
Chuck Sibley

The meeting was held on 16 August 2025, at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, in Topeka, KS.

At about 1230 hours, the meeting was called to order by Base Commander Cortright

Reading and Bell Tolling of “Lost Boats for 3rd quarter” conducted by COB Mosebey.

USSVI Creed by CDR Steve Alfrey

Pledge of Allegiance by all members present

Invocation by Base Chaplain Schmidt

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion made by COB Mosebey to accept minutes of the previous meeting as submitted electronically prior to the meeting, seconded by Terry Romig. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report:

Base Treasurer Colleen Moses gave the Treasurer Report covering May 18th to today. Motion made by COB Mosebey to accept minutes of previous meeting as presented, seconded by Monte Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Holland Club – No Report

Eagle Scout – Committee Chair Monte Schmidt stated he had not contact from the area Eagle Scout coordinator of the Heart of America Council.

Website – Website Chair was not present. No report given.

Membership – Membership Chair Moses stated that he had talked and received emails from two optional members. Current membership stands at 23. Three new members are needed for the Base to receive \$100.00 from USSVI National.

Storekeeper – Ellis Moses presented the items for purchase on the back table and discussed other items that the members may want. National Storekeeper allow us to purchase 5 USSVI Charitable Foundation Commemorative Coins and not the 20 voted on in May’s meeting. Coins are available for \$15 dollars.

History – History Committee Co-Chair’s Al and Tina Anguish were not present due to health reasons.

Old Business:

USS Topeka sail and rudder: The project seems to be stagnant. A Navy contact email was discussed. Vice Cmdr. Keith Jeffers suggested getting the City of Topeka to write a city resolution committing to the project.

The Combat Air Museum is another option And may have the backing of many donors. Ellis Moses suggested obtaining a torpedo as a starter project.

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Old Business (continued)

Parades: We have had two of the scheduled parades, Old Shawnee Days and the Coffey County 4-H rained out. Emporia Veterans Day Parade, November 11; and the Burlington Christmas Parade in December are still scheduled. Chuck Sibley has suggested expanding our area and doing the Clay Center “Piotique” parade and possibly setting up a information booth. Chuck and other members are looking into the event.

New Business:

Float Trailer – We have found an old pontoon boat trailer for free. It will need some work. Not sure if to be used to haul the “Little Skate” float or a sit on float for our ageing members. Chuck Sibley made a motion to obtain the trailer, seconded by Dennis Mosebey. The motion passed. Ellis Moses to coordinate the initial trailer recovery.

Base Meetings/ZOOM – District Cmdr. Moses has access to the Premium ZOOM application. A discussion followed of possibility of using ZOOM for mid-meeting (about 6 weeks after an in-per. It could be used for other committee meetings and planning meetings.

Static Displays – The Commander lead a discussion of having static displays at various events. A discussion started about doing this at the “Piotique” festival in Clay Center. Ellis Moses donated a 10 by 10 “E-Zup” to the Base for outside setups. A discussion ensued on what to display, but nothing firm. VC Keith Jeffers made a motion to obtain a 10x 20 foot space at the Piotique Festival for \$120.00. Chuck Sibley seconded the motion. The motion carried. Chuck to provide more information.

Newsletter Editor – Ellis Moses would like to step-down as the Editor of the Base newsletter. The Commander asked if anyone would like to take over the newsletter. VC Jeffers stepped forward and will take over the newsletter. Moses to supply information to the VC.

Binnacle List – Ed Taylor, Al and Tina Anguish.

Members are encouraged to notify Base Chaplain Monte Schmidt of any members that are needed to be placed on the Binnacle List.

Good of the Order/Crew:

Ellis Moses talked about the USS Batfish and the Batfish Base’s efforts to assist in the moving of the USS Batfish. He will be attending a meeting as DC on October 3rd. Monte Schmidt stated he would like to travel with the DC.

A motion was made by Steve Alfrey to donate \$50 to the Museum to allow us to meet there. The motion was seconded by Monte Schmidt. The motion carried. Ellis Moses won the 50/50 raffle and donated the winnings toward the Museum. A check for \$90 was issued to the Museum.

The Cmdr asked for a place to hold the November meeting. A suggestion was made to hold the meeting in Emporia after the Veterans Day parade. Everyone agreed. Dennis to try to obtain the 627 Restaurant in Emporia. Time and location to be supplied prior to the event.

Benediction by Chaplain Schmidt

Minutes submitted by
Ellis D. Moses, Base Secretary
Sculpin Base, USSVI



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Rules for Submariners

When we wear these, we need to remember:

We say Port and Starboard (not left or right)

We are conservative with our water and liberal with our Liberty

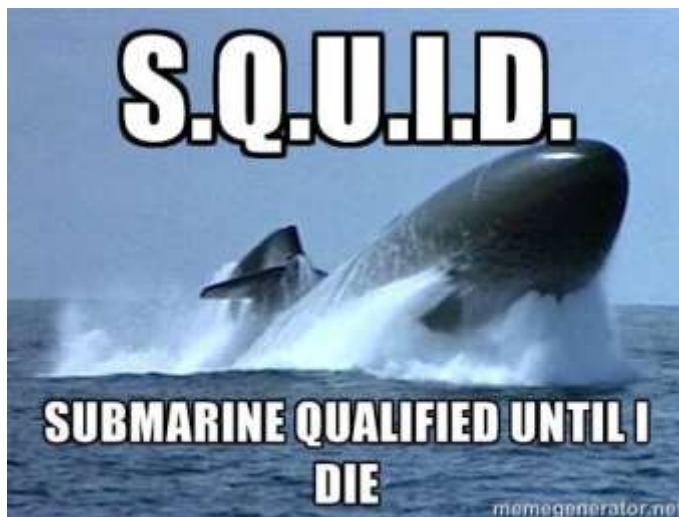
We respect fellow Submariners fore and aft; they have earned that with their hard work, sacrifice and devotion.

The only colors we see are Silver, Gold, Red, White and Blue.

We all submerge together and we all surface the same way.

Submarines are meant to be in the sea - but the sea is not meant to be in the submarine.

Politics are for surface dwellers with too much time on their hands.



The Submariner

Only a submariner realizes to what great extent an entire ship depends on him as an individual. To a landsman this is not understandable, and sometimes it is even difficult for us to comprehend, but it is so!

A submarine at sea is a different world in herself, and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of submarines, the Navy must place responsibility and trust in the hands of those who take such ships to sea.

In each submarine there are men who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to each other. These men (and now women) are ultimately responsible to themselves and each to the other for all aspects of operation of their submarine. They are the crew. They are the ship.

This is perhaps the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour as a submariner that he can escape the grasp of responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are almost ludicrously small, nevertheless, it is the spur which has given the Navy its greatest mariners - the men of the Submarine Service.

It is a duty which most richly deserves the proud and time honored title of . . .

Submariner



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Submarine NEWS from the Net

1st Columbia-Class Submarine 60 % Complete

[Article](#)

Russia's Submarine Problem is Much Worse than Many Imagine

[Article](#)

US Prepares to Arm Australia with 10K Ton Nuclear Submarines

[Article](#)

Pearl Harbor—Submarine Base Expansions

[Article](#)

U.S. Join Partners for Biennial Exercise in Philippine Sea

[Article](#)

Top 10 U.S. Submarine Secrets? YouTube video.

[Article](#)

U.S. Alliances get Submarine Boost Amid Russian & Chinese Threats

[Article](#)

Virginia class Attack Submarines—New Backbone of the Navy's Underseas

[Article](#)

USS Utah SSN-801 Christened October 25, 2025

[Article](#)

USS Ohio SSGN-726 Humiliates China's Navy

[Article](#)

YouTube—Life Aboard US Navy Attack Submarines

[Article](#)

The last salute: 3 volleys - (Repeat, but Veterans Day is almost here)

[Article](#)

"Taps": The History of the Bugle Call - (Ditto)

[Article](#)

Master Chief's Tour of Arlington National Cemetery -(Worth repeating)

[Article](#)

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

Send them to Keith at kjeffers46@yahoo.com

I am proud to have the (SS) designation; and so are you, or you would not be a USSVI member. We'd like very much for you to join in our meetings and assist us in what is stated in our Creed on Page one. If you haven't the Creed in a while, please take a few minutes to read and reflect. You did something only those who volunteer did. You may not feel like it, but you are a "special force". We, together with our "Brothers of the Phin", are heroes of the "Cold War". Let us educate our youth and those interested in Submarines, not only in our duties, but the duties of our fellow Veterans, and the greatness of these United States of America.

God Bless and have a great Veterans Day. You earned it.



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Shipmates leaving on Eternal Patrol this Quarter

Honoring the Sculpin Base Members

and our Sister Bases in Kansas; the Dorado Base and the Topeka-Jefferson City Base.

IF YOU KNOW OF ONE OF OUR BROTHERS OR SISTERS WHO HAVE PASSED, PLEASE SHARE THE INFORMATION AND WE WILL POST THEIR INFORMATION.

Please keep all of your Past Shipmates and their families in your Prayers.



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