

STEEL VALLEY DOLPHINS



USS Idaho SSN-799



The USSVI Requin Base supports the National Creed

"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."

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MEETING INFORMATION

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month, normally at the Baden PA American Legion. Quarterly meetings are held around our membership area.

Our next meeting will be

09 MAY 2026 @ 1230 hours

American Legion Post 641

BASE LOCATION



American Legion Post 641

271 State St

Baden PA 15005

FROM THE EDITOR

Please send ideas for articles or copies of art-icles, with full credit information to me for con-sideration of submission in the SVD.

We are a SUBMARINE group. As such, the art-icles should be SUBMARINE or NAVY-related.

Frank T. Vereb - fvereb2@gmail.com

OUR WEBSITE

For additional information about events and fundraisers at YOUR Base, please visit

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



USSVI NATIONAL OFFICERS

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National Commander	Jon Jaques	615-893-7800	jjagues@bellsouth.net
Senior Vice Commander	Timothy Carlisle	925-812-4239	Timothybwcarlisle@gmail.com
Junior Vice Commander	Thomas Williams	512-632-9439	texsubvet@yahoo.com
Secretary	David Farrugia	813-951-1898	DFarrugia@tampabay.rr.com
Treasurer	John Sidlovsky	757-328-9796	treasurer.ussvi.hrb@gmail.com
Past Commander	William Andrea	561-790-1287	wcandrea@bellsouth.net
Chaplain	James Sandman	615-975-4792	Jsandman85@gmail.com
Region Director NE	Jeffrey Walsh	860-449-2103	Neregiondir@yahoo.com
District Commander EN3	Thomas Denton	301-845-0049	gcmfish@verizon.net
National Office	Sharon Walsh	360-337-2978	ussvi@telebyte.net



USS REQUIN BASE OFFICERS

Office	Officer	Phone	eMail
Base Commander	Lou Hamill	412-445-3998	itgeek8088@gmail.com
1st Vice Commander	Vince Metz	412-613-5554	vincemetz007@hotmail.com
2nd Vice Commander	Rick Flaugh	412-779-0497	flaughre@comcast.net
Secretary	Jeff Simon	920-217-8633	jeffsimon@zoominternet.net
Treasurer	Lee M. Bookwalter	412-795-8337	booky143@verizon.net
Storekeeper	Frank Nicotra	412-835-6540	nicotrafrank@gmail.com
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Photographer	Rick Flaugh	412-779-0497	flaughre@comcast.net
Holland Club Chairman	Joe Campisi	412-322-3201	jcampisi654@comcast.net
Asst. Holland Club	Dick Geyer	724-822-0401	dqdiving@gmail.com
Technology Chair	Lou Hamill	412-445-3998	itgeek8088@gmail.com
Eagle Scout Chair	Eric Greenwald	412-770-7329	ericjgreenwald@gmail.com
Awards Chair	Dick Geyer	724-822-0401	dqdiving@gmail.com
Public Affairs Chair	Ed Derr	724-854-0781	rredde@gmail.com
Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Chair	Bob Meyers	724-282-1524	bmeyers@zoominternet.net
Charitable Foundation Chair	Dave Halliday	412-537-6841	dwh724@yahoo.com
USS Requin Restor. Chair	Kyle Glaser	309-333-9409	kyle.glas@gmail.com



Tolling of the Boats for April

USS Pickerel (SS-177)

Lost on April 3, 1943 with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her 7th war patrol. She was lost off Honshu. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.

USS Snook (SS-279)

Lost on April 8, 1945 with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly 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. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.

USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

USS Gudgeon (SS-211) was probably lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men SE of Iwo Jima, but may have been sunk on May 12, 1944 in another attack on an unidentified submarine and heard by several other submarines in the area. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely due to a combined air and surface antisubmarine attack. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. On her first patrol, she became the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the submarine I-173.

USS Grenadier (SS-210)

Lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, Grenadier was bombed, causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 76 crew members taken prisoner, 72 survived the war.



Man Our Ship and Bring Her to Life!



Submarines Commissioned During the Month of April

Boat	Commissioned	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
L-1 SS-40	4/11/1916	Wikipedia	NavSource	
L-3 SS-42	4/22/1916	Wikipedia	NavSource	
R-3 SS-80	4/17/1919	Wikipedia	NavSource	
R-5 SS-82	4/15/1919	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-12 SS-117	4/30/1923	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-18 SS-123	4/3/1924	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-33 SS-138	4/18/1922	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-36 SS-141	4/4/1923	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Argonaut SS-166	4/2/1928	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Seal SS-183	4/30/1938	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Saury SS-189	4/3/1939	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Gar SS-206	4/14/1941	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Gudgeon SS-211	4/21/1941	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Grunion SS-216	4/11/1942	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Halibut SS-232	4/10/1942	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Croaker SS-246	4/21/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Pargo SS-264	4/26/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Puffer SS-268	4/27/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Billfish SS-286	4/20/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Skate SS-305	4/15/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Barbel SS-316	4/3/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Barbero SS-317	4/29/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Entemedor SS-340	4/6/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Chivo SS-341	4/28/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Dogfish SS-350	4/29/1946	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Hardhead SS-365	4/18/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Mapiro SS-376	4/30/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Razorback SS-394	4/3/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Redfish SS-395	4/12/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Ronquil SS-396	4/22/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Scabbardfish SS-397	4/29/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Tusk SS-426	4/11/1946	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Medregal SS-480	4/14/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Requin SS-481	4/28/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Sarda SS-488	4/19/1946	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Pickrel SS-524	4/4/1949	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Sailfish SSR-572	4/14/1956	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Skipjack SSN-585	4/15/1959	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Patrick Henry SSBN-599	4/11/1960	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Dace SSN-607	4/4/1964	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Lafayette SSBN-616	4/23/1963	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Daniel Webster SSBN-626	4/9/1964	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Daniel Boone SSBN-629	4/23/1964	Wikipedia	NavSource	
James K. Polk SSBN-645	4/16/1966	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Ray SSN-653	4/12/1967	Wikipedia	NavSource	
George C. Marshall SSBN-654	4/29/1966	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Will Rogers SSBN-659	4/1/1967	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Flying Fish SSN-673	4/29/1970	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Drum SSN-677	4/15/1972	Wikipedia	NavSource	
San Francisco SSN-711	4/24/1981	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Albany SSN-753	4/7/1990	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Annapolis SSN-760	4/11/1992	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Delaware SSN-791	4/4/2020	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Vermont SSN-792	4/18/2020	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Iowa SSN-797	4/5/2025	Wikipedia	NavSource	

[illegible][illegible]



Requin Base Commanders Column April 2026

Shipmates,

I want to thank Vince Metz for stepping up and running the April meeting while I was away at a wedding. I would also like to thank everyone that was able to make it to the meeting.

Congratulations to our new Holland Club members, Scott Holzworth, Mark Winters, Mike Wychoff.

Currently the Requin Base Endowment for the maintenance and operation of the USS Requin SS-481 stands at \$28,050. Of this amount, 11 out of 182 members have contributed. Our goal is to reach a floor level of \$50,000 for the endowment to be "Named".

Shipmates, I respectfully request your support for this initiative. Your contribution to the endowment will have a lasting impact, enabling future generations to appreciate and learn about submarines while demonstrating the commitment of USS Requin Base submariners.

A copy of the endowment letter is attached to this copy of the SVD. You can also reach out directly to myself or Kyle Glaser.

Please share the endowment letter with individuals or corporations who may be interested in supporting our initiative.

I'm requesting that every member mark May 24, 2026 on their calendars for the annual Tolling of the Boats ceremony aboard USS Requin SS-481. This event is dedicated to honoring lost submarines and submariners, embodying the core of our mission statement. I encourage everyone nearby to attend—all hands on deck. For those unable to stand, seating will be provided.

Pride Runs Deep

Lou Hamill

Commander USS Requin Base



Lou Hamill
Commander USS Requin Base
4984 Apple Ridge Drive, Allison Park PA 15101
itgeek8088@gmail.com
412-445-3998
<https://requinbase.org>



February 05, 2026

Dear Sir or Madam:

The United States Submarine Veterans of the "USS Requin Base" in Pittsburgh PA is sponsoring an endowment to support the maintenance and operation of the USS Requin SS-481 at the Kamin Science Center. Our desire is that this fund will be inclusive of all veterans' organizations and individuals. Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$50,000 this calendar year to ensure the fund is "named" and invested for use. The fund can be contributed to at any time in the future.

With the help of our shipmates and supporters like you, USS Requin SS-481 will continue to be an artifact of history and science that young and old alike can learn from.

Your donation to this fund is tax deductible.

An annual report on the status of the fund and how it was used will be available to all donors from USS Requin Base.

We cannot do this alone, please consider becoming a member of the USS Requin Base endowment fund. Personal presentations by Science Center staff and myself are available by request.

Send donations (check - made payable to Carnegie Institute) to:

Kamin Science Center
ATTN: Kyle Glaser
1 Allegheny Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Respectfully

Lou Hamill
USS Requin Base Commander

Please include the information below with your check.

Donor	
Donor Address	
Donor email	
Donor Phone	
Amount	
Fund	USS Requin Base



Lou Hamill
Commander USS Requin Base
4984 Apple Ridge Drive, Allison Park PA 15101
itgeek8088@gmail.com
412-445-3998
<https://requinbase.org>



January 13, 2026

Dear Sir or Madam:

The United States Submarine Veterans of the "USS Requin Base" in Pittsburgh PA is having our annual Booster Drive for 2026.

There are six giving levels: Shipmate: Less than \$100.00, Silver: \$100.00, Gold: \$200.00, Platinum: \$300.00, Diamond: \$400.00 and Nuclear: Greater than \$500.00.

We are made up of submariners from sixteen (16) states, with the core of our base, from the Tri-State area. We participate in community events and parades, with our float, "The Nautilus" and as needed, a specially designed people mover for our shipmates that can't walk the entire parade route.

Our base activities include the "KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS)" program where we give honorary submarine hats and certificates to boys and girls who have cancer or other medically challenging situations.

We are also involved with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who attain the rank of Eagle Scout or Gold Award. We present the scout with a patch, certificate and a Requin Base challenge coin to honor them in their accomplishment.

Every year on the Sunday before Memorial Day onboard the USS Requin SS481, the Requin Base conducts a tolling of the boats memorial service to honor the memory of all submariners who lost their lives in the line of duty. The Marine Detachment of the Three River Leather-Necks and the VFW Post 9199 supply the color and honor guards for this ceremony.

Additionally, we support the crew and families of the USS Idaho SSN-799.

With the help of our shipmates and supporters like you, we will be able to continue our programs and hopefully add more. Please consider becoming a BOOSTER of the Requin Submarine Base for 2026.

Send Booster donation (check - made payable to Requin Base) to:

Lou Hamill - Commander USS Requin Base
4984 Apple Ridge Drive
Allison Park PA 15101

Respectfully


Lou Hamill





MEETING MINUTES

These are the minutes as recorded at the base meeting and are not edited or moderated by the newsletter editor. You can address any issues or concerns in the minutes with the [Base Secretary](#).

Requin Base Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2026

American Legion Post 641 Baden PA

First Vice Commander Vince Mertz called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Mike Allen, Willard Ashmore, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Clare & Nancy Bouts, Don Bright, George Brown, Joe Campisi, Joe Capito, Ken Crosby, Larry & Patti Day, Huey Dietrich, Reno Farina, Lyle Farmer, Dick Geyer, Kyle Glazer, David Halliday, John Held, Scott Holzworth, Jean Lemieux, Bill & Sandy Lindsey, Bat Masterson, Vince Metz, Bob & Jude Meyers, Frank Nicotra, Ed Perlowitz, Chuck Shrump, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Jack & Karen Sutherin, Jim Taylor, Scott Thomas, Chad Underkoffler, Frank Vereb, Craig Volland, Mark Winters, Mike & Tina Wychoff.

COB Bob Meyers led the Pledge Of Allegiance.

First Vice Commander Vince Mertz: We dedicate this meeting to our Shipmates on Eternal Patrol, to perpetuate their memories in our lives and to honor our Shipmates on active duty in the service of the first line of defense of our Nation. Let us at this time, with a moment of silent prayer, remember our Shipmates who made the supreme sacrifice that we may gather here in Peace.

Boats Lost:

- USS PICKEREL (SS 177) April 3, 1943
- USS SNOOK (SS 279) April 8, 1945
- USS THRESHER (SSN 593) April 10, 1963
- USS GUDGEON (SS 211) April 18, 1944
- USS GRENADIER (SS 210) April 22, 1943

We also remember our departed members of the Requin Base David Helms, Jack Kordes, and Larry Simon. Let us also remember the brave submariners who died performing their duties aboard submarines, some individually and some in groups, but where the submarine itself was not lost.

Chaplain Frank Vereb gave the Invocation.

Quote Of The Day: "Every day may not be good... but there's something good in every day"

Requin History: April 28, 1945, commissioned with Commander Slay D. Cutter in command. April 4, 1967, Requin departed for 6th Fleet deployment.

Members introduced themselves and the boats they served on.

Secretary Jeff Simon reported that Minutes of the previous base meeting were published in the SVD. With no objections, the minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer Lee Bookwalter gave an accounting of base assets, expenditures, and deposits. With no objections, the report was approved.

Other Reports:

Binnacle List: Ron Zahner, Edie & Huey Dietrich, Bob Gourley

Eternal Patrol: Ron Lucas

Base membership stands at 182.

Storekeeper, many submarine items on

Eagle Scouts

PA License Plates

Kap(SS)4Kids(SS), May 11th at 1100 at Children's Hospital, two teams needed see Bob Meyers for details.

Mush Morton awards, next presentation May 1, Lawton Gaines presenting.

Charitable Foundation

Requin Endowment, fund raising stands at approximately \$27,050 towards a goal of \$50,000.

Holland Club Induction: Scott Holzworth, Mark Winters, Mike Wychoff

Past Events

March 14th, Veterans Day Parade Pittsburgh PA

Upcoming Events

- April 25 - USS Idaho SSN-799 commissioning in Groton CT.
- May 5 - Base meeting at American Legion Post 641 Baden PA.
- May 11 - Kap(SS)4Kids(SS) at Children's Hospital
- May 13 - Fish Rodeo sponsored by VFW 3945
- May 16 - Armed Services Day 1000 to 1800 at Baden Municipal Complex
- May 24 - Tolling of the Boats on USS Requin SS-481, all hands on deck
- May 24 - Carnegie Parade
- May 25 - Sewickley Parade with People Mover
- May 25 - Lawrenceville Parade with Nautilus float
- May 25 - Coraopolis Parade
- May 29 - CSS-2 Change of Command, CAPT Jason Deichler departing

Old Business:

- Letter from Gaylor family
- Letters from Geyer family
- 2026 Boster donations are \$3850

New Business:

- USS Requin Base donated two American Submariner subscriptions to USS Idaho SSN-799
- Spring 2026 ad will be placed in VBC magazine

Good of The Order:

Jack Sutherin donated dolphin shaped candle holders to the Base

Chaplain Frank Vereb gave the Benediction.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: American Legion Post 641 Baden PA at 1230 hours on May 9, 2026

MONTH IN REVIEW

Welcome Appalachian Base!

Shipmates,

I would like you to join me in welcoming our newest base, the Appalachian Base, located in the Bristol, TN/VA area.

BZ to Brian Reick (current VC) for his efforts getting this started, along with Ron Bennet (BC) and many others who pitched in with this effort. The base plankowners consist of 25 members of which 20 of them are new members of USSVI.

Their next meeting will be held this Saturday, March 14th, 1400 HRS at the AmVets Post 5 / 3170 Linden Dr. / Bristol, VA 24202

This base will fill a much-needed hole in our area and will allow for continued growth of our organization and opportunity for more shipmates to gather to continue to live out our purpose and creed. Please join me in congratulating the entire crew of the Appalachian Base for making this happen!

Respectfully,

Jon Jaques,

NC

USSVI Web Site Update

Dear Shipmates,

Welcome to our new website, which you can reach at <https://ussvi.org> or <https://ussubvets.org>. Your email address is your username, and you can use the forgot password option to reset your password. The email takes 3-5 minutes to arrive and provides a temporary password, which you should change.

This system is very similar to our old one, except with modern technology. Your role as a Member, Base, District, Region, or National Officer is already configured, so that portion of your onboarding should be seamless. In the upper-right-hand corner, three horizontal lines indicate the menu for the dashboards you have access to. There are menus for Guest, Member, Base, District, Region, or National Officer. We will likely require two-factor authentication for any "Tools Users" in the near future.

Another major future is to find a base, which is located under advanced search. Here you can find almost any type of search available.

Dues and renewals can be paid online, plus a 3.5% fee from Stripe.

There is a [Bug Report](#) and a [New Feature/Change Request Report](#). While we had 39 bug reports during testing, we believe we have resolved 30 of them so far.

Thank you to our testers for Phase III Final Testing: Tom Williams, NJVC, Sharon Walsh, National Officer Manager, Fred Borgmann; Dennis Nardone, Past National Office Managers, Pete Juson, WRD, Rick Mitchell, CRD, Jeff Walsh, NERD, Jim Sandman, National Chaplain, Fernando Borges, SE-5, Jim DeMott, WD4, Brian Bell, WD2, Charlie Murray, Groton Base, Bill Dornik, Mare Island Base, Nick Nichols, Charleston Base, and Ileene Davis Bremerton Base Commander.

Our core Tech Team on this project was Gil Aguilar (Developer), Gerry Smith (Wyoming Base), Bill Stuple (Snug Harbor Base), Nick Sadowy (Gold Country Base), and me (Mare Island Base).

All of our volunteers - Bravo Zulu! Your efforts are a game-changer!

Please explore our site and enjoy!

Respectfully,

Tim Carlisle,

CTO

US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation Newsletter for March 2026

Shipmates,

This month, I have some distressing news to report as well as some good news to share. Let's do the bad news first.

House Fires Aren't Fun

Shipmate Dave Halliday of Requin Base, in Pittsburg, woke up on February 19th to find his house on fire. Thank God he, his wife, and his pets were able to get out of there safely, even though he suffered significant smoke inhalation effects. But the house sustained significant fire damage. The cause was traced to old electrical wiring, and much work will be necessary before it is habitable again. Unfortunately, Dave had no homeowner's insurance, and the costs to restore the house will be substantial.

We've established a "GoFundMe" page and contributed \$1,000 as seed money already. Mike Ferranti, our Brotherhood Fund Manager, has also set up with Home Depot to provide doors, millwork, and other necessary materials to help in restoration. But we need the support of all our shipmates to defray expected expenses. To help Dave goes to:

www.gofundme.com/f/rebuilding-after-the-fire-support-our-friend-the-Halliday's there, you can donate with your plastic. If you don't feel comfortable donating online, write out a check and send it to USSVCF at P.O. Box 1063, Groton, CT 06340 and mark it for "Halliday Housefire" on the first line. Helping our shipmates in need isn't something reserved for natural disasters and medical problems.

Anyone Got a Story to Tell?

Our venerable Interview Lady reports that she had a wonderful time at the Southeastern Regional Conference in Gulfport. She was able to take three interviews there and has received fifteen requests for more. She feels honored and privileged to help capture the stories of our lives in the Submarine Service. As she is quick to point out, scholars, educators, historians, and our great-great-grandchildren will be able to access our interviews for generations to come. A heartfelt thank you to all who participated, and to those who've expressed interest. We are adding a section on our website to store them in addition to sending them to the Library of Congress. Keep in mind that SubVet spouses and significant others are encouraged to tell their stories, too. Reach out to Jess Hult at: pr@ussvcf.org. We are requesting a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to help defray the cost of our program.

We Must Be Doing Something Right

In the last weeks, I've written thank-you letters for significant donations to the Charitable Foundation. One was from the Cops Voters Guide, a Sacramento, CA-based An organization that advises law enforcement personnel about candidates is [COPS Voter Guide](#). It's pretty interesting. We also received a donation from the Making a Difference Foundation, a Utah organization. See their website at: <https://makingadifferencefdn.org>.

Respectfully,

Robert J. Bachman, U.S. Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation President



Veterans Breakfast Club

Vietnam Anniversary



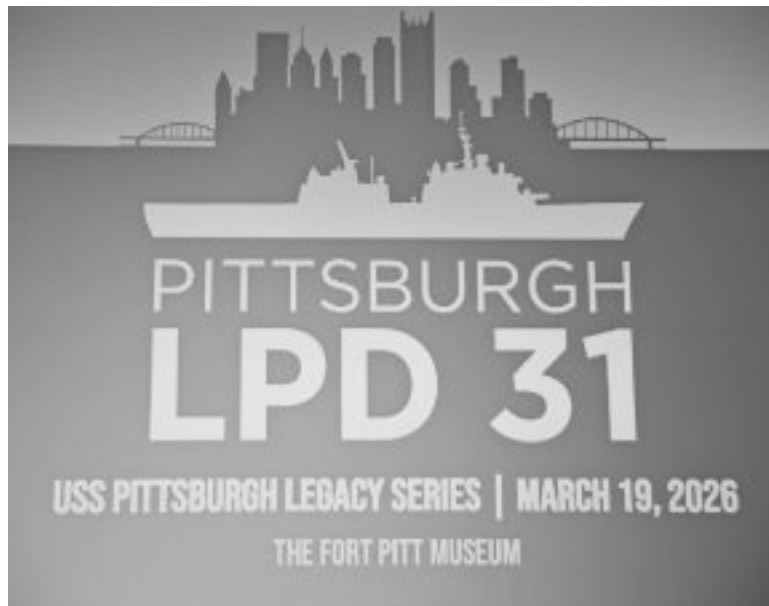




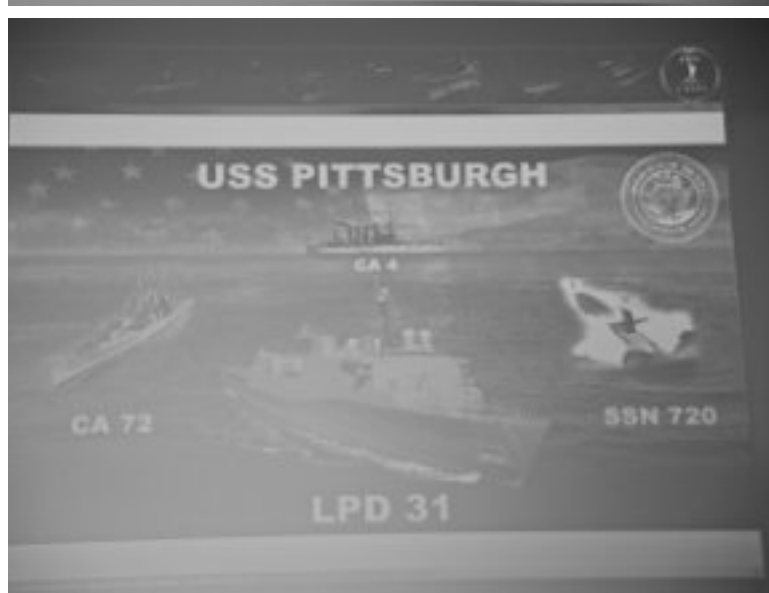
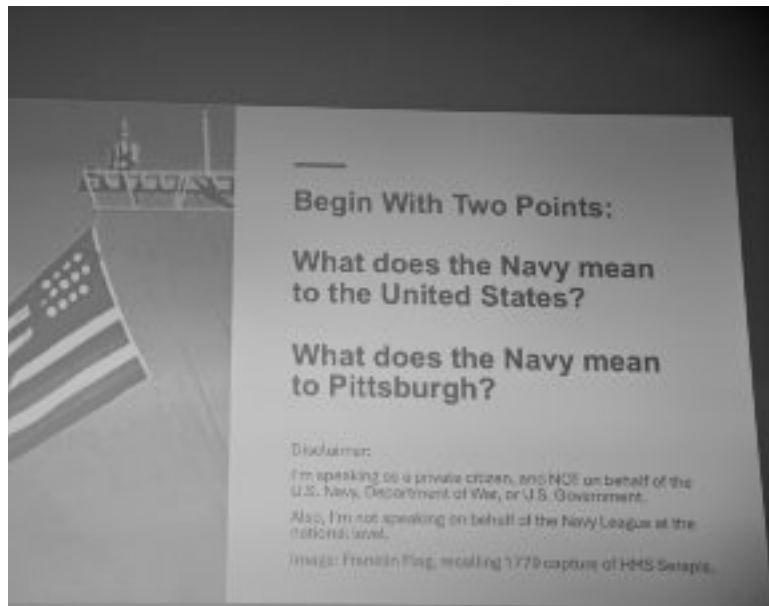








USS Pittsburgh LPD-31 Presentation





Holland Club Induction 2026





BADEN BOROUGH

ARMED SERVICES DAY

★ RECOGNITION ★

AMERICA 250



SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

BADEN MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

149 STATE STREET, BADEN, PA 15005



Food - Entertainment - History



- ◆ Honoring The Legacy.
- ◆ Helping Those Who Served..
- ◆ Supporting The Future...

Learn more at ussvcf.org or scan the QR Code



Brotherhood Fund



- ◆ Mike Ferranti can help with grants up to \$3000
- ◆ Disaster relief
- ◆ Medical emergencies
- ◆ Help when most needed



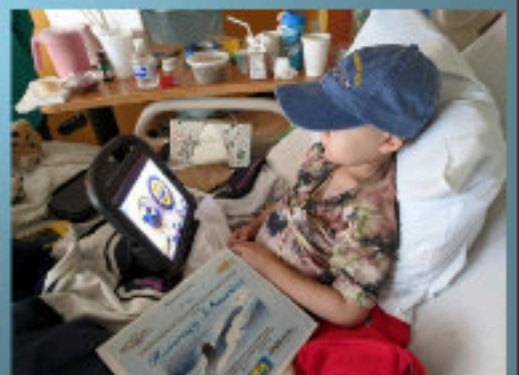
Building Fund

- Supports any building owned by or serving USSVI
 - Maintenance
 - Expansion
- Can serve as a “bank” to collect project donations until ready to be used
- Fund manager (Steve Day) can authorize up to \$3000 in expenditures



Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss)

- ♦ Respite for the sickest children
- ♦ Since 2007
- ♦ Over 25,000 children served
- ♦ John Riley has expanded program
- ♦ 10 bases now sponsor programs



Legacy Fund

- ♦ Opportunity to invest in what USSVI stands for
- ♦ Contribute by participating in the CF's *Living Legacy Fund*
 - ♦ \$10,000 pledge spread over 10 years
- ♦ Generates sustainable income to support programs preserving the heritage, dignity, and future of submarine veterans
- ♦ You decide which fund your contribution supports
- ♦ Supporting the CF is easy
 - ♦ Direct donations, planned giving, or a *Living Legacy* donation
- ♦ Contact Mike Talpai (legacy@ussvcf.org) for more information and assistance



Library Fund

- ♦ Over 2500 collected books & items
- ♦ Currently dormant and in storage
- ♦ Moving to St Mary's Submarine Museum spring 2026
- ♦ Fund managed by Joe Mathis



Monuments & Memorial Funds

◆ Perpetuating our Legacy.

- ◆ Supporting maintenance
- ◆ Adding new memorials
- ◆ Fund manager (Don Young) can authorize grants up to \$3000



Scholarship Fund



- ◆ Any member's child, step or grandchild, or legal ward may apply
- ◆ Awards (59 last year) based on applicant's merit and financial need
- ◆ Student must apply (www.ussvcf.org choose the "MORE" dropdown and find "APPLICATION") for the process
- ◆ Cutoff date is May 19th
- ◆ Dr Alan Fickett manages



CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

Friends,

By the time you read this, Easter will have passed and hopefully the geopolitical landscape will have improved significantly. In just a few hours I will be attending Mass and breaking bread with my family, which got me to thinking about Grace. Typically my youngest daughter says Grace before meals, but I want to amplify prayers for the US military that are deployed and currently in harm's way, including submariners.

I can remember once being deployed on a Northern Run over Easter and, somewhere, I have a photo of myself and two shipmates on the mess deck with our Easter meal remnants: pizza crust and dyed hard-boiled egg shells. I always liked the photo because it captured our comradeship even under the surreal circumstances of our strange Easter cuisine. Talk about roughing it!

But now, for the first time in a long time, our Navy is involved in a shooting war that has included the first US torpedo fired in hostility since WW2. I know that today, April 5, 2026, clergy and chaplains will do their best to lead prayer groups and mass under atypical circumstances. As I am sure you all remember, when you are away, all you do is think about those back home. And I know that is what they are doing, over there. Please take some time to think about them, all of them, and pray for their safe return and an end to hostilities.

Happy Easter to you and yours. God bless our armed forces and give them strength in their hour of need.

Amen.

In His Service,

Frank T. Vereb

412-328-3390 fvereb2@gmail.com



STOREKEEPER'S REPORT

Please visit our online store at
<https://requinbase.org/shop/>

You can have your items shipped to you at home via USPS [for a small fee], or pick them up at the next USSVI meeting.



SAY AGAIN?

On Station: See you in 3 months, hopefully

POM Workup: Code for a planned 4-week stay, all expenses paid, in Rotten, CT.

ZO-SO: An invented cocktail (circa 1994) when your intrepid Editor turned 21 in Rotten, CT, and spent an evening mixing Zima and Southern Comfort. This resulted in a case of alcohol poisoning so vile that your editor spent three (3) days in the rack and was excused from field day. Do not drink ZO-SO.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Base Meeting

American Legion Post 641
09 MAY 2026 @ 1230

Base Activities

April 25 - USS Idaho SSN-799 commissioning in Groton CT.
May 5 - Base meeting at American Legion Post 641 Baden PA.
May 11 - Kap(SS)4Kids(SS) at Children's Hospital
May 13 - Fish Rodeo sponsored by VFW 3945
May 16 - Armed Services Day 1000 to 1800 at Baden Municipal Complex
May 24 - Tolling of the Boats on USS Requin SS-481, all hands on deck
May 24 - Carnegie Parade
May 25 - Sewickley Parade with People Mover
May 25 - Lawrenceville Parade with Nautilus float
May 25 - Coraopolis Parade
May 29 - CSS-2 Change of Command, CAPT Jason Deichler departing



MEMBERSHIP

Primary:	152	National Life:	84	Holland Club:	97
Secondary:	13	Base Life:	80	WWII:	1
Associate:	16	Joined Base Last Year:	6	Eternal Patrol:	92
Total Members:	181	Joined Base This Year:	1		

NEW MEMBERS:



FEATURED BOAT: USS Idaho SSN-799



The future USS Idaho (SSN 799) will be officially commissioned on April 25, 2026, at 11 a.m.

History		General characteristics	
	United States	Class & type	<i>Virginia-class submarine</i>
Name	USS <i>Idaho</i>	Displacement	7,800 tons
Namesake	State of <i>Idaho</i>	Length	377 ft (115 m)
Ordered	28 April 2014 ^[1]	Beam	34 ft (10.4 m)
Builder	<i>General Dynamics Electric Boat, Groton, Connecticut</i>	Draft	32 ft (9.8 m)
Laid down	24 August 2020 ^[2]	Propulsion	<i>S9G reactor</i> auxiliary diesel engine
Launched	6 August 2024 ^[3]	Speed	25 knots (46 km/h)
Sponsored by	Teresa Stackley ^[4]	Endurance	will be able to remain submerged for up to 3 months
Christened	16 March 2024 ^[4]	Test depth	greater than 800 ft (244 m)
Identification	<i>Hull number</i> : SSN-799	Complement	15 officers 120 enlisted men
Motto	Esto Perpetua	Armament	12 VLS tubes, four 21 inch (530 mm) torpedo tubes for <i>Mk-48 torpedoes</i> <i>BGM-109 Tomahawk</i>
Status	Delivered		



THIS MONTH IN US SUBMARINE HISTORY

04/01/1943

USS Shad (SS 235) torpedoes and damages the Italian blockade runner Pietro Orseolo, shortly after the Italian ship reaches the Bay of Biscay and her escort of four German destroyers.

04/02/1943

USS Tunny (SS 282) sinks the Japanese transport No.2 Toyo Maru west of Truk.

04/02/1991

USS Chicago (SSN 721) arrives at San Diego, Calif., homeport following Operation Desert Storm. During the six-month deployment, the attack submarine works with US and coalition forces deployed to the Southwest Asia area of operations, conducting surveillance and reconnaissance operations.

04/03/1943

USS Haddock (SS 231) sinks Japanese fleet tanker Arima Maru north of Palau, and USS Pickerel (SS 177) sinks Japanese submarine chaser Ch 1.

04/04/1943

USS Porpoise (SS 172) sinks the Japanese whaling ship Koa Maru near Eniwetok.

04/06/1945

USS Besugo (SS 321) and USS Hardhead (SS 365) sink ships in Japanese convoy HOMO-03.

04/07/1990

The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Albany (SSN 573) is commissioned at Naval Station Norfolk.

04/07/1979

USS Ohio (SSBN 726), the first Trident submarine, launches at Groton, Conn. She is commissioned into the Navy in November that same year. Following a conversion to a guided-missile submarine in 2006, she is now SSGN-726.

04/08/1944

USS Seahorse (SS 304) and USS Trigger (SS 237) successfully attack a Japanese convoy off Guam, damaging a Japanese destroyer and a tanker.

04/10/1942

USS Thresher (SS 200) torpedoes and sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship Maru six miles north of Oshima, near the entrance to Tokyo Bay, Honshu, Japan.

04/10/1963

During diving tests, USS Thresher (SSN 593) is lost with all hands east of Cape Cod, Mass., including commanding officer and 17 civilian technicians.

04/11/1900

United States Navy Acquires USS Holland (SS-1)

04/11/1944

USS Redfin (SS 272) sinks the Japanese destroyer Akigumo in the eastern entrance to Basilan Strait.

04/11/1992

USS Annapolis (SSN 760) is commissioned at the Electric Boat Division at Groton, Conn. The 10th of her Los Angeles "Improved" class of attack submarines.

04/12/1944

USS Halibut (SS 232) sinks Japanese army passenger/cargo ship Taichu Maru despite the presence of at least three escort vessels.

04/13/1942

USS Grayling (SS 209) sinks the Japanese freighter Ryuji Maru off southeast tip of Shikoku, Japan.

04/13/1944

USS Harder (SS 257) sinks the Japanese destroyer Ikazuchi, 180 miles SSW of Guam.

04/14/1945

USS Tirante (SS 420), commanded by Lt. Cmdr. George L. Street III, attacks a Japanese convoy in the approaches to the Yellow Sea and sinks a transport ship and two vessels. Street earns Medal of Honor for his actions.

04/16/1942

USS Tambor (SS 198) sinks the Japanese stores ship Kitami Maru 50 miles southeast of Kavieng, New Ireland.

04/17/1942

USS Searaven (SS 196) begins rescue of stranded Australian sailors, airmen, and soldiers from Japanese-occupied Timor, N.E.I.

04/20/1944

USS Seahorse (SS 304) torpedoes and sinks Japanese submarine RO 45 off the Mariana Islands.

04/20/1964

USS Henry Clay (SSBN 625) launches a Polaris A-2 missile in the first demonstration to show that Polaris submarines could launch missiles from the surface as well as from beneath the ocean.

04/22/1945

USS Hardhead (SS 365) sinks Japanese cargo vessel Mankei Maru off Chimpson and USS Cero (SS 225) sinks the Japanese guardboat Aji Maru west of Tori Jima and damaged the guardboat No.9 Takamiya Maru.

04/24/1943

USS Seawolf (SS-197) sinks Japanese Patrol Boat #39 off east central coast of Formosa, while the enemy warship is screening the towing of the wrecked Nisshin Maru.

04/23/1945

USS Besugo (SS 321) sinks the German submarine U 183 in the Java Sea.

04/24/1981

USS San Francisco (SSN 711) is commissioned at Norfolk Naval Station, Va.

04/25/1944

USS Crevalle (SS 291) sinks Japanese army cargo ship Kashiwa Maru, north of Borneo and USS Guvania (SS 362) sinks Japanese army cargo ship Tetsuyo Maru, northwest of Chichi Jima.

04/26/1960

USS George Washington (SSN 598) conducts a Polaris missile test firing in Long Island Sound in the Atlantic Ocean.

04/27/1944

USS Bluegill (SS 242) torpedoes the Japanese light cruiser Yubari west of Sonzorol Island, while USS Halibut (SS 232) sinks Japanese minelayer off Okinawa.

04/27/1963

USS Daniel Webster (SSBN 626) is launched at Groton, Conn. Commissioned a year later, she serves until decommissioned in August 1990.

04/28/1945

USS Sennet (SS 408) sinks the Japanese cable layer Hatsushima off Kii Strait, south southeast of Miki Saki; USS Springer (SS 414) sinks the Japanese submarine chaser CH 17 west of Kyushu as she is escorting landing ship T.146, and USS Trepang (SS 412) sinks T.146 off Ose Saki, Japan.

04/29/1944

USS Pogy (SS 266) sinks the Japanese submarine I 183, 30 miles south of Ashizuri Saki, Japan.

04/30/1944

USS Bang (SS 385) attacks a convoy engaged the previous night and sinks the Japanese merchant tanker Nittatsu Maru off the northwest of Luzon. Also on this date, USS Flasher (SS 249) sinks the Vichy French gunboat Tahure in the South China Sea off Cape Varella, French Indochina.



ARTICLES OF INTEREST

USS Massachusetts joins Navy fleet as first Bay State submarine

By Michael Casey

Published 29 MAR 2026



Sailors stand at attention on the USS Massachusetts during a rehearsal ahead of the commissioning of the Navy's newest nuclear-powered attack submarine, Friday, March 27, 2026, in Boston. (AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

BOSTON (AP) — The USS Massachusetts officially joined the Navy fleet on Saturday after a commissioning ceremony, making it the first submarine named after the Bay State.

The newest Virginia-class fast attack submarine, which can dive to depths greater than 800 feet (240 meters), was christened on May 6, 2023, by the ship's sponsor, Sheryl Sandberg, the former COO of Meta. This is the 25th Virginia-Class submarine co-produced by General Dynamics Electric Boat and Newport News Shipbuilding and the fifth U.S. Navy vessel named after Massachusetts.

"To be able to take a ship from new construction and watch it be built together by the ship yard, train with our team and bring into Boston Harbor for the first time, it's very amazing," the sub's commanding officer, Mike Siedsma, a 21-year Navy veteran who has spent time on four different classes of submarines, said Friday ahead of the ceremony. "I looked at the history books. I don't think we've had a submarine in Boston Harbor since sometime in the late '80s or early '90s."

During Saturday's commission ceremony on the Boston Harbor, Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey said the event showcases the state's "deep ties to our nation's maritime and military history, and we are proud to see that legacy continue with this next generation of service."

"The commissioning of the USS Massachusetts is a proud moment for Massachusetts and our country, especially as we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation," she said. "This ship carries forward a long tradition of service and reflects the strength and dedication of the sailors who will serve aboard it."

Siedsma did not say where the sub — which cost over \$2.8 billion, weighs about 8,000 tons and can carry 24 Tomahawk cruise missiles — is headed. A U.S. submarine sank an Iranian warship off the coast of Sri Lanka earlier this month in the war with Iran.

"The geopolitical situation is very interesting," Siedsma said. "What is important to remember is what we are doing is proving the power of the United States Navy."

The crew of 147 also includes 39 women, 16 years after a ban on women serving on submarines was lifted. The USS New Jersey, which was commissioned in 2024, was the first sub designed and built with modifications for a gender-integrated crew.

"The ship is intentionally designed to be served on by both women and men. That is pretty exciting. Twenty five percent of this crew is female," Sandberg said. "Those sailors just don't inspire me. They inspire every little girl out there to believe that she could do anything."

This is the fifth Navy vessel named after the state. The first was the USS Massachusetts, a steamer built in 1845. The last was USS Massachusetts, BB 59, commissioned in 1942 as a South Dakota-class fast battleship. Most of its time was spent in the Pacific during World War II.

For Sandberg, the commissioning also brought to mind the role the state has played in the founding of the United States and how "people are still fighting for the same freedoms that the original colonists were fighting for."

Reporters touring the sub on Friday were led past the control room, down into the torpedo room and into the dining hall. The ward room, where officers eat, also features a mug rack featuring wood from counties in Massachusetts. It was donated by "This Old House," the television home improvement show.

"It was an incredible donation. Very great connection to the state and the commonwealth," Siedsma said. "It's beautiful."

[Viral parrot explores the Bahamas in a custom built bird submarine](#)

By Callum Doyle

Published 05 APR 2026

A pet parrot named Bebe is going viral after his owner took him snorkeling in the Bahamas using a homemade, bird sized submarine. Speaking directly with his owner, Steven Lawyer, it is clear that Bebe is no ordinary pet.



The custom submarine was built out of a clear food storage container equipped with two air fittings and a one way valve. Fresh air is supplied by a 3000psi paintball cylinder strapped to the bottom, alongside lead weights carefully trimmed to achieve neutral buoyancy.

To ensure absolute safety, Lawyer installed an O2 meter inside the front of the container that would alarm if oxygen levels dropped.

“I wanted to be sure our beloved Bebe had plenty of fresh air,” Lawyer explained.

The team ran extensive safety tests before hitting the open water, including a trial run with Bebe in a bathtub. Once in the Bahamas, they took no chances with the ocean conditions.

“The coral where we snorkeled is in a sheltered harbor that we know well with no rip currents,” Lawyer said. “So we knew there was no risk of him getting whisked away.”

Amazingly, deep sea exploration might be Bebe’s tamest hobby.

“Bebe loves to go everywhere with us and join us in all activities,” Lawyer noted. “He goes on a 500 mile, 20,000 participant, week long bicycle ride with us every year where he has become a celebrity of sorts.”

His wildest activity, however, is skydiving. Bebe has already logged 15 jumps since last fall. He voluntarily

hops into a plastic bubble strapped to Lawyer's belly for the freefall. At around 1,000 feet, Lawyer opens the bubble, allowing Bebe to fly out and happily chase the parachute all the way down to the landing zone.



Editor's Note: With all the heartache, war, and misery occurring in the world right now, I thought maybe come levity was in order. So I decided to include this ridiculous article about a skydiving, submarine-qualified parrot named Bebe. Enjoy!

-FTV

REQUIN BASE SUPPORTERS



The task of perpetuating the memory of our lost shipmates is forever and cannot be done alone. This task takes time, money, dedication and patriotism from all walks of life, both veteran and civilian. USS Requin Base would like to recognize all those that help us fulfill the task of remembering and honoring those we have lost to secure the freedoms we enjoy today. <https://requinbase.org/customer-photos/>



American Legion Posts

80 106 249

290 368 481

641 902

VFW Posts

191 249 311

1821 3945 7505

8168 9199



Stinky's Bar & Grill
4901 Hatfield Street
PGH, PA 15201

Teutonia Männerchor
857 Phinneas Street
PGH, PA 15212

Huntz's Tavern
645 Butler Street
PGH, PA 15223

Talor Garden Scaping
1728 Crosby Avenue
PGH, PA 15216

Nox's Tavern & Grille
720 Blaw Ave
PGH, PA 15238

Allegheny County Rifle Club
99 Schuetzen Park Rd
PGH, PA 15209

The Bulldog Pub
1818 Morningside Ave
PGH, PA 15206

Main Street Bar & Billiards
604 Main Street
Sharpsburg, PA 15215

Z Florist
804 Mt Royal Blvd
PGH, PA 15223

Monte Cello's Italian Restaurant
2198 Babcock Blvd
PGH, PA 15209

Cavaliere Brothers
1412 Mt Royal Blvd #1
Glenshaw, PA 15116

Verdetto's Bar & Restaurant
814 Madison Avenue
PGH, PA 15212

The Blue Goose Saloon
605 Mt Royal Blvd
PGH, PA 15223

Danny's Bar & Grill
1511 Center Ave
West View, PA 15229

Nox's on 8
3008 William Flinn Hwy
Allison Park, PA 15101

*** 2026 BOOSTERS***

NUCLEAR

VFW Post 764

American Legion Post 785

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American Legion Post 490
American Legion Post 862
American Legion Post 902
American Legion Post 641
American Legion Post 764
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VFW Post 214

VFW Post 1409

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Rick Elster

American Legion Post 935

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PLATINUM

Ron Zahner

Joe Campisi

Lou Hamill

Ralph Stroede

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American Legion Post 156

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SHIPMATE

Jason Rinker (State Farm)