Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST 2026

Steel Valley Dolphins

USS Requin Base
Pittsburgh, Pa
US Submarine Veterans

USS San Francisco SSN-711

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

12 SEP 2026 @ 1230 hours

American Legion Post 641
Baden, PA

BASE LOCATION

American Legion Post 641
271 State St
Baden PA 15005

FROM THE EDITOR

Please send ideas for articles or copies of articles, with full credit information to me for consideration of submission in the SVD. We are a SUBMARINE group. As such, the articles should be SUBMARINE or NAVY-related.

DEADLINE: NO LATER THAN 1600 ON WEDNESDAY AFTER POST MEETING

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

Office	Officer	Phone	eMail
National Commander	Jon Jaques	615-893-7800	jjaques@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
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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	dgdiving@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	dgdiving@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 August

USS Bullhead (SS-332)
Lost on August 6,1945 with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane. Bullhead was the last submarine lost during WWII.

USS Flier (SS-250)
Lost on August 13,1944, with the loss of 78 crew members while on her 2nd war patrol. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute.13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days later friendly natives guided them to a Coast Watcher and they were evacuated by the USS Redfin (SS-272).

USS S-39 (SS-144)
Lost on August 13,1942 after grounding on a reef south of Rossel Island while on her 3rd war patrol. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS Katoomba.

USS Harder (SS-257)
Lost on August 24,1944 with the loss of 79 crew members from a depth charge attack by a minesweeper near Bataan while on her 6th war patrol. Harder had won a Presidential Unit Citation for her first 5 war patrols and CDR Dealey was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. Harder is tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk.

USS Cochino (SS-345)
Lost on August 26, 1949 after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway caused an electrical fire and battery explosion that generated hydrogen and chlorine gasses. In extremely bad weather, men of Cochino and Tusk (SS-426) fought to save the submarine for 14 hours. After a 2nd battery explosion, Abandon Ship was ordered and Cochino sank. Tusk' screw rescued all of Cochino's men except for one civilian engineer. Six sailors from Tusk were lost during the rescue.

Man Our Ship and Bring Her to Life!

Submarines Commissioned During the Month of August

F-3 SS-22	8/5/1912	Wikipedia	NavSource	
K-5 SS-36	8/22/1914	Wikipedia	NavSource	
L-10 SS-50	8/2/1916	Wikipedia	NavSource	
L-9 SS-49	8/4/1916	Wikipedia	NavSource	
L-11 SS-51	8/15/1916	Wikipedia	NavSource	
L-8 SS-48	8/30/1917	Wikipedia	NavSource	
O-16 SS-77	8/1/1918	Wikipedia	NavSource	
R-16 SS-93	8/5/1918	Wikipedia	NavSource	
O-10 SS-71	8/17/1918	Wikipedia	NavSource	
R-17 SS-94	8/17/1918	Wikipedia	NavSource	
O-15 SS-76	8/27/1918	Wikipedia	NavSource	
R-22 SS-99	8/1/1919	Wikipedia	NavSource	
R-10 SS-87	8/20/1919	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-19 SS-124	8/24/1921	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-21 SS-126	8/24/1921	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-35 SS-140	8/17/1922	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-24 SS-129	8/24/1923	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Porpoise SS-172	8/15/1935	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Triton SS-201	8/15/1940	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Thresher SS-200	8/27/1940	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Marlin SS-205	8/1/1941	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Gunnel SS-253	8/20/1942	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Sawfish SS-276	8/26/1942	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Corvina SS-226	8/6/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Batfish SS-310	8/21/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Dorado SS-248	8/28/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Redfin SS-272	8/31/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Spot SS-413	8/3/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Sea Robin SS-407	8/7/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Blower SS-325	8/10/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Sennet SS-408	8/22/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Piper SS-409	8/23/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Blueback SS-326	8/28/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Threadfin SS-410	8/30/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Cobbler SS-344	8/8/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Sirago SS-485	8/13/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Mero SS-378	8/17/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Cochino SS-345	8/25/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Harder SS-568	8/19/1952	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Salmon SSR-573	8/25/1956	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Growler SSG-577	8/30/1958	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Thresher SSN-593	8/3/1961	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Ethan Allen SSBN-608	8/8/1961	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Barb SSN-596	8/24/1963	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Casimir Pulaski SSBN-633	8/14/1964	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Stonewall Jackson SSBN-634	8/26/1964	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Henry L. Stimson SSBN-655	8/20/1966	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Dolphin AGSS-555	8/17/1968	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Tautog SSN-639	8/17/1968	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Puffer SSN-652	8/9/1969	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Spadefish SSN-668	8/14/1969	Wikipedia	NavSource	

Man Our Ship and Bring Her to Life!

Submarines Commissioned During the Month of August

Trepang SSN-674	8/14/1970	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Parche SSN-683	8/17/1974	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Richard B. Russell SSN-687	8/16/1975	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Nevada SSBN-733	8/16/1986	Wikipedia	NavSource	
San Juan SSN-751	8/6/1988	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Tucson SSN-770	8/18/1995	Wikipedia	NavSource	
John Warner SSN-785	8/1/2015	Wikipedia	NavSource	

BINNACLE LIST	ETERNAL PATROL	IN REMEMBRANCE		
Dave Halliday	NONE	Bruce Ladrie	EN2(SS)	8/22/2025
John Swords		Ed Zdarko	EM2 (SS)	8/22/2025
		Edward W. Yoder	RM2(SS)	8/3/2015
		Robert A. Campbell	EM3(SS)	8/31/2014
		Samuel J. McGrew	LT	8/15/2013
		Francis Neal Sever	SM2(SS)	8/27/2012
		John W. Irons Jr.	EM1(SS)	8/27/2009
		Frank S. Gogul	MOMM1(SS)	8/7/2002
		Louis E. Kleinlein	SOC(SS)	8/29/1998

MEMBER BIRTHDAY		SPOUSE BIRTHDAY		WEDDING ANNIVERSARY	
Keith Small	9/2	Jude Meyers	9/1	Judith & Chad Underkoffler	9/5
Andrew Wolbrueck	9/3	Kelly Alters	9/2	Mary Jane & Edwin Derr	9/7
Phillip Elias	9/4	Eileen Klemz	9/6	Carol & Pete Poninsky	9/12
Nathaniel Bellavance	9/6	Carolyn Sills	9/6	Barbara & George Harrah, Jr	9/17
Brian Powers	9/7	Carol Cochenour II	9/8	Jacqueline & Robert Hall	9/20
George Harrah, Jr	9/8	Jill Campisi	9/11	Adriana & Mark Hoag	9/20
Michael Gasparovic	9/15	Barbara Boutelle	9/13	Patricia & Frederick Koppenhaver	9/23
Earl Riley	9/17	Janice Johnston	9/15	Karen & James Lewis	9/27
Hubert Dietrich	9/19	Mary Ann Fleck	9/20	Sandra & Edward Morgan	9/28
Edward Mason, Jr	9/19	Terrie Reed Reed	9/22	Rosemarie & Earl Riley	9/28
Harry Sills	9/19	Flo Hemming	9/23	Eva Mathews & Scott Holzwarth	9/29
Sandra Carman	9/23	Patricia Cantwell	9/24	Joan & James Hughes	9/30
David Howton	9/25	Barbara Harrah, Jr	9/25		
Daniel Klemz	9/25	Valerie Wendell	9/25		
Blaine Kuhn	9/25	Connie Small	9/29		
David Sawin	9/25	Yvonne McKenzie	9/30		
John Swords	9/26				
Richard McCarthy	9/27				
Thomas Burdin	9/29				

Requin Base
Commanders Column
August 2026

Shipmates,

Thank You Mike Pellegrino for organizing our away meeting.

Thank You Vince Metz for running the meeting in my absence.

I would also like to thank everyone that came to the meeting.

Our Requin Base Endowment is moving along. I am especially grateful to the shipmates whose tireless efforts continue to set the standard for our base and help ensure we succeed in our mission. A copy of the donation letter is included in this and every issue of the SVD. You may also contact me, and I will be happy to send one to you. Please complete your donation today, and consider sharing a donation form with your local VFW, American Legion, or other individuals and businesses who may wish to help ensure the USS Requin SS-481 remains a lasting artifact of history and science for people of all ages to learn from.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Summer Picnic on Aug 22nd.

The base has the following positions that need filled.

Ways and Means chair

Ways and Means Committee Purpose – To plan and implement activities that will bring funds to the Base beyond the collection of dues.

Responsibilities:

1. Create and implement plans for raising funds to benefit the base.

2. Work with other base members to carry out the fundraising plans.

People Mover driver

Responsibilities:

Transport the people to/from and during parades.

Must have a round 7 pin trailer hookup.

If you can fulfill either of these roles, please let me know.

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
August 8, 2026
Osteria Pasqualino, Murrysville, PA

First Vice Commander Vince Metz called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Willard Ashmore, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Clair & Nancy Bouts, Don Bright, Joe Campisi, Ken Crosby, Larry & Patti Day, Huey Dietrich, Dick & Brandy Geyer, Eric Greenwald, Dave Grudi, David Halliday, John Held, Bill & Sandy Lindsey, Chuck & Nancy Loskoch, Metz, Bob & Jude Meyers, Frank Nicotra, Mike Pelegrino, George Reed, Jeff & Eileen Simon, John Stewart, James Taylor, Scot Thomas, Frank Vereb, Chad Underkoffler, Ron Zahner.

COB Bob Meyers led the Pledge Of Allegiance.

First Vice Commander Vince Metz: 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 BULLHEAD (SS 332) August 6, 1945
- USS FLIER (SS 250) August 13, 1944
- USS S 39 (SS 144) August 16, 1942
- USS HARDER (SS 257) August 24, 1944
- USS COCHINO (SS 345) August 26, 1949

We also remember our departed shipmates of the Requin Base: Robert Campbell, Frank Gogul, John Irons, Louis Kleinlein, Sam McGrew, Neal Sever, and Edward Yoder. 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: "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it." – Charles R. Swindoll

Requin History: August 24, 1944, keel laid at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. August 14, 1945, two weeks after her arrival and three days before starting her first war patrol, WWII ended and the Requin was recalled and ordered back to the Atlantic. August 1, 1952, Requin was back in European waters, during September she visited the United Kingdom, then in October the submarine transited the Straits Of Gibraltar for regular 6th Fleet duty. August 15, 1959, upon her conversion to fleet snorkel configuration, the Requin was given hull classification SS 481 and rejoined Subron 6 in Norfolk VA for operations as a normal attack submarine, a role she retained until her decommissioning. August 7, 1990, Requin left International Ship Repair in Tampa FL under tow to Baton Rouge LA. August 11, 1990, Requin was lifted onto barges and began her ride up the Mississippi River and Ohio River to Pittsburgh PA.

Members' Introduction

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 No report given as this is an away meeting.

Other Reports:

Binnacle List: Dave Halliday, John Swords, Edie Dietrich

Eternal Patrol: None

Base membership stands at 180.

Storekeeper, many submarine items on sale

Eagle Scouts

PA License Plates

Floats

Kap(SS)4Kids(SS)

Mush Morton awards -

Requin Endowment, fund raising stands at $33,106.54 towards a goal of $50,000. A donation of $15,000 may be available if the $35,000 mark is met.

Charitable Foundation

Social Committee

Past Events
None

Upcoming Events

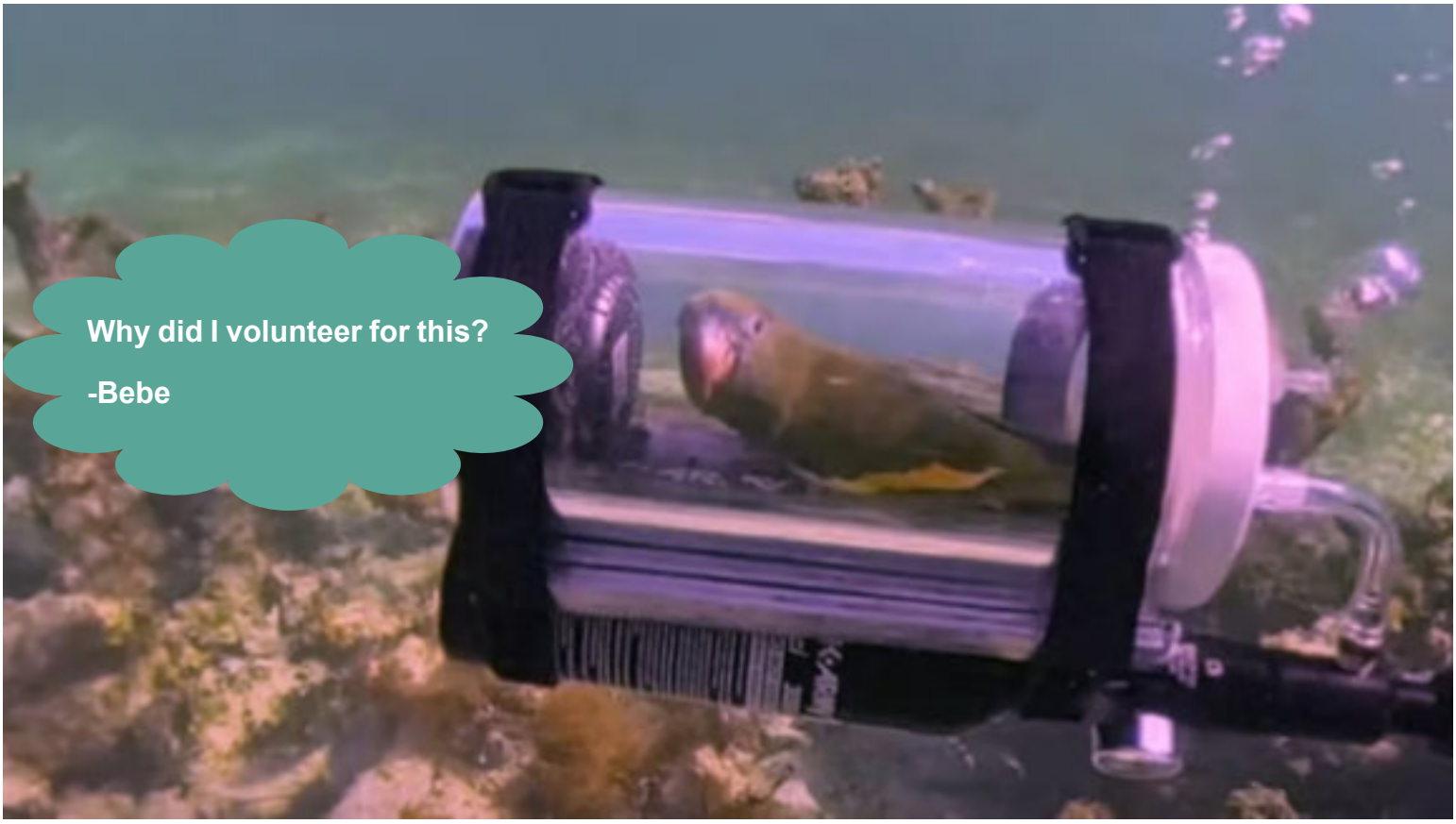
- August 22 - Summer Picnic at the home of Bob & Jude Meyers, 140 Woodcrest Rd, Butler PA 1600 starting at 1230 hours.
- September 26 - In honor of Shipmate Jerry Ondo, the Base will bring the Nautilus float to the Veterans Resource Fair.

Old Business:
None

New Business:
None

Good of The Order:
None

Chaplain Frank Vereb gave the Benediction.
Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.
Next meeting: American Legion Post 641, Baden PA at 1230 hours on September 12, 2026


Why did I volunteer for this?
-Bebe

MONTH IN REVIEW

Updates from National

A few website, technology, Voting and Convention items

Shipmates,

1. If you are signing up a previous member or a renewing member, please restore them from our archived records. If they are not a previous member of your Base, call the National Office and request Sharon's assistance.

2. If you are a Member-at-Large and moving to a Base, or transferring to another Base, this requires working with the National Office to move you.

3. If you are missing members from your base roster, it may be because they do not have their base selected. Either the National Office or Tim can fix that.

4. We have completed 91% of 229 bug reports. Add a Bug Report.

5. We are working on a new skills assessment with very specific technical, financial, and business skills here- please fill it out if you have interest in specified fields:

Skills Assessment

6. Please vote if you have not already – currently our voting is over 2% higher than the previous national election. Your votes were emailed to you - you can search your email for the following email address: invitations@mail.electionbuddy.com to find your ballot. If that doesn't work, email Mike Bost at subvet635@aol.com

7. Deadline to book a room for the 2026 National Convention is August 10th, and the deadline for convention Registration is Aug 20th. You can do both here: https://subvetconvention.org. Questions? Contact rick. ussvi@gmail.com

Respectfully,

Tim Carlisle,

NSVC

USSVCFNewsletter
July 2026

Hope your 4th was a blast!

Jess's Journey

Moonshine Mountain for Memorial Day

Southport NC for Armed Forces Day

Wilmington NC for the 4th of July

Jess Hult (our intrepid interview lady) made a healthy sweep through the Tar Heel State recently visiting USSVI members and lining up interviews. She's telling our story one interview at a time. We've submitted a request for a grant to cover the cost of Jess's effort from Navy Federal Credit Union. Until that comes thru please consider donating to this important endeavor.

Something for every base to consider

We announced our Base Outreach Program a few months ago and we're pleased to tell you that, so far, four bases have taken us up on it. They are: USS Sailfish Base, Rogue-Umpqua-Base, South Lakes Florida Base and Dolphin Base. Each base taking part in the program deposits an amount into our general fund and gets the following:

- A return on their invested funds at our current portfolio rate of ~15%.
- Ability to incentivize local donors with a 501(c)3tax-free status.
- Instant access to their deposited funds.

Go to our website at ussvcf.org/base-outreach-program/ and check it out!

Kap(ss)4Kid(ss) News

Hawaii Member at Large Jim Reisch (in his vest) joins retired Navy Capt. Jack Peters (left), Drew Graul, hospital administrator, right), Lee Gordon (in Shriner's hat) for a photo op after a visit to the local Shriner's Hospital. Jim was able to connect with some very ill children in true Kap(SS)-4-Kid(SS) fashion.

Qual Question of the Month

As submariners we take for granted that our efforts were noble - whether they really were or not. I suppose that's why I always strutted a little and my jaw got a little firmer whenever I heard the title of Mike Rindskoff's book *Steel boats - Iron men*. It was first published in 1994 and PBS did a TV movie on it afterward.

We take for granted that we were truly "Men of Iron." I guess we'll have to rethink it though, now that there are "Women of Iron" who've joined the submarine force, but let's all agree on one thing. Iron meant we could handle whatever got thrown at us by our enemies, or by something caused by Murphy's law.

But what of the other metal in the title? Steel. That's right, it's important, too. And it's the subject of this Qual Question. I've asked our resident sage, Dr. Alan Fickett, distinguished professor of physics and all things tricky to answer to help me with this question and here it is in his own inimitable style.

"No US Navy submariner ever went to sea in a US submarine whose pressure hull wasn't made of steel. There are other materials (i.e. Titanium, Aluminum, fiberglass and carbon fibers) that would do to build submarines, but ours have always been steel. Why?

A. Andrew Carnegie gave John Holland a deep discount on the price of the steel plate he forged and were later shaped into the hull of the first US Navy submarine, and the Navy got used to it.
B. Sure other materials could be used - in fact the Russians favor Titanium – but the technology for building with steel is mature and widely accepted.
C. The submarine builders are handed a set of specifications by the Navy well before the first plate, bolt, nut or piece of anything is approved and paid for. The Navy has always specified steel, including its strength and thickness.
D. Steel is the preferred material because it is plentiful and comparatively cheap. Other materials are often in scarce supply or expensive to come by.
E. Steel represents the optimum coalescence of strength, availability, workability and economy.

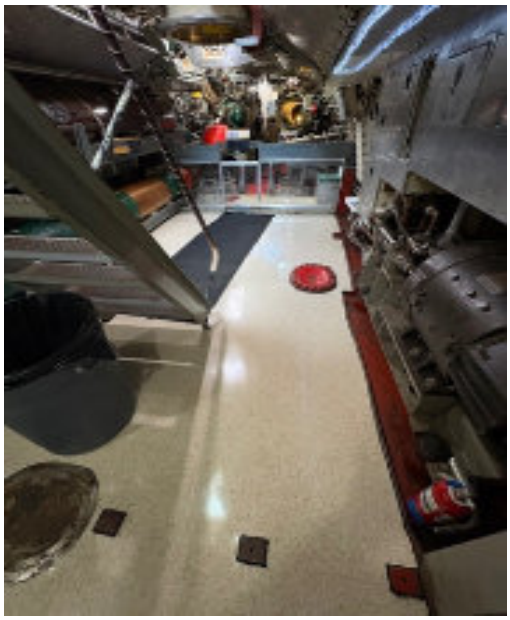
When you think you have an answer go to our website, www.ussvcf.org and click on July Qual Question for the right answer. While you're there, check out the new items in our online store.

If you have an idea for an August Qual Question email me at vp-ed@ussvcf.org and tell me about it. If yours is chosen you'll receive a prize.

Monuments and Memorials News

Scott Gerber Fund Mgr.

USS TORSK's Facelift



After Torped Room after refurb.

Maneuvering after refurb.

The Torsk Volunteer Association recently hosted hundreds of visitors to the boat during the SAIL250 celebration in Baltimore Harbor. Torsk herself was in fine fettle due to the untiring efforts of many of our members. Mike Eacho and his Torsk volunteers have done an amazing job. USSVCF supported their refurbishment with a cash grant and also provided a hundred of our commemorative coins which were gobbled up by the visitors. We sold them the coins at cost and they kept the profits. Fund Manager Scott Gerber came up with the idea and got Dave Weaver from Chesapeake Base onboard. They sold every one. If your base could benefit from a similar deal please give me a call at 860-886-3566.

Scholarship News

I know everyone has been waiting to see if their favorite scholarship applicant has been selected for one of our grants. Dr. Fickett is pleased to announce that all eighty of the complete applications have been chosen to receive one this year. There are thirty repeat winners and fifty first time awardees. He was especially pleased that none of the winners resorted to the use of artificial intelligence in completing their essays. Apparently the promise of loss of their birthdays as well as any chance to be selected worked well.

He has already thanked the members of his team for their work in assessing the applicants and our treasurer worked up a sweat cutting all 80 checks.

This year each scholarship grant is $2,500, $300 more than last year. Also we have two awardees who will attend vocational training, double last year's number.

The complete list of awardees follows this page.

AWARDEE		INSTITUTION	SPONSOR	BASE
Brandon	Abbott	Olivet Nazarene University	Christopher Abbott	Chicago
Alexander	Allen	Oklahoma State University	Clarence Elvert Allen, Jr.	Carolina
Madison	Arner	Utah Tech University	Stephen A. Arner	Las Vegas Base 51
Maia	Atkinson	University of Tennessee	James Kurtz	USS Carbonero
Brady	Bailey	North Idaho College	Jerry Parker	Farragut
Hannah	Baugh	Clemson University	Jonathan Baugh	MAL
Quincy	Boardman	University of Vermont	Pat Moore	Dorado
Julia	Bodien	LeMoyne College	Andrew C. Bodien	Albany-Saratoga
Benjamin	Carlson	University of Connecticut	Edward J. Carlson	New Jersy South
Daniela	Castillo	Pacific Lutheran University	Kevin P Sheehan	Bremerton
Grace	Cervone	University of Pittsburgh	Ronald Cervone	Northern Virginia
Elizabeth	Chinn	Clemson University	Carl Chinn	Charleston
Claire	Damiano	Marist University	Peter John Damiano	Rhode Island
Sullivan	Daniels	Champlain College	Kurtis Daniels	Albany-Saratoga
Juliann	Davies	University of Nevada-Reno	Leif Larsen	Corvina
Natalie	DeMoor	University of Toledo	Joseph Aubert DeMoor	USS Springfield
Hannah	Diener	University of Florida	Robert Moeser	Drum
Delaney	Dodge	Penn State University	Mark DeLany	Egg Harbor
Simone	Dotson	McGill University	Anthony L. Dotson	MAL
Cayden	Draeger	Florida Southern College	Kent S. Abernathy	MAL

AWARDEE		INSTITUTION	SPONSOR	BASE
Nikko	Dunsmore	Oregon State University	Ronald Dunsmore	MAL
Emily	Egna	Penn State University	Martin Egna	Chesapeake
Natalie	Egna	Penn State University	Martin Egna	Chesapeake
Elizabeth	Fabel	Point Loma Nazarene University	Michael Fabel	San Diego
Hannah	Finks	Joliet Junior College	Brian Corey Finks	USS Chicago
Morgan	Fomby	University of San Diego	Manfred Fomby	San Diego
Leah	Forry	Grove City College	Daniel L Forry	MAL
Samantha	Garner	UNC-Chapel Hill	Joesph Demnicki	Hampton Roads
Colleen	Gilbert	University of New England	Shannon N. Gilbert	Northern Virginia
Mercedes	Gonzalez	Grand Canyon University	Edward Fierro	Eternal Patrol
Tristan	Hernandez	James Madison University	Alvin Lee Hernandez	PC Stryker
Sophia	Hoffmann	Anderson University	Matthew Wade Hoffmann	Charleston
Gabe	Huff	Roger Williams University	Kenneth Huff	Groton
Bella	Johnston	Oregon State University	Mickaila Johnston	Bremerton
Maresa	Kanekkeberg	Virginia Tech	Christian Williams	Kings Bay
Charlotte	Klopfer	Montana State University	Timothy Allen Kensinger	SLO Sub vets
Emily	Koplin	Bucknell University	Larry Koplin	Lehigh Valley
Ava	LaPenna	Rochester Institute of T echnology	Joshua LaPenna	MAL
Natalie	Lentine	Morehead State University	Robert Kremer	Escolar
Lewis	Mains	Robert Morris University	George Shreffler	USS Toledo
Matt	Mareno	Wayne State University	Steve Mareno	Wolverine

AWARDEE		INSTITUTION	SPONSOR	BASE
Mary	Marsalek	Boston College	Matthew Peter Gallagher III	SLO Sub Vets
Ashtyn	Martin	Washington State University	Kevin P Sheehan	Bremerton
Sophia	Martin	Michigan State University	Robert Freeman	Escolar
Hadleigh	Martin	Arizona State University	Kevin P Sheehan	Bremerton Base
Brooke	Masoner	Auburn University	Michael Masoner	MAL
Grace	Mellen	Charleston Southern University	William E. Adams	Charleston
Cecilia	Mendez	Appalachian State University	Christopher Mendez	Tarheel
Owen	Mendez	NC State University	Christopher Mendez	Tarheel
Olivia	Merrill	UNC- Asheville	John E Merrill III	Sea Poacher
Jordan	Messing	Indiana University-	Dale Messing	Central Texas
Julia	Midbo	Central Michigan University	Robert Clyde Freeman	Escolar
Clay	Miller	University of Alabama	Bill Powell	Baton Rouge
Cecilia	Miller	William Paterson University	Michael Miller	MAL
Patrick	Neal	University of Texas-Arlington	Walter Hensey Simpson III	MAL
Rayden	Neff	Wichita State University	Daniel D Stark	Central Florida
Rebecca	Opperman	Millersville University	Charles H. Opperman, Jr.	Philadelphia
grant	orvik	Northern Arizona University	Ross Orvik	Tucson
Matthew	Parker	Gonzaga University	Timothy Parker	Bowfin
Addison	Petitt	Life University	Charles Richard Petitt	Carolina Piedmont
Max	Porter	Coastal Carolina University	Robert Porter	Sea Poacher
Edmund	Preuschoff	Whitworth University	Raymond Edgar Mitchell	Bremerton

AWARDEE		INSTITUTION	SPONSOR	BASE
Greyson	Pyatt	Penn State University	David Rifkin	First Coast
Bridgette	Reid	Penn State-Abington	Anthony Sturla	Pocono
Calvin	Reid	Hudson Valley Community College	Theodore Iljes	Keystone
Samuel	Reiss	NC State University	Daniel Reiss	Thresher
Oliver	Scott	University of New Hampshire	Gary R. Hildreth	Thresher
Kiersten	Smith	NOVA Southeastern University	Timothy S. Gaydos	MAL
Sophie	Swan	Mississippi College	John Richard Deveau	Tullibee
caleb	terrell	California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo	Bruce Terrell	SLO Subvets
Riley	T urner	UNM-Valencia Campus	Terry Lynn Turner II	Bullhead
Orin	T urner	Eastern New Mexico University	Terry Lynn Turner II	Bullhead
Emily	VanW ormer	Sam Houston State University	Thomas F. Stuhler Jr.	PC Stryker
Matthew	VanW ormer	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Thomas Stuhler	PC Stryker
Colby	Ward	University of Tennessee-Knoxville	Jeffrey Keith Ward	Volunteer
Kylie	Ward	University of Tennessee-Chattanooga	Jeffrey Keith Ward	Volunteer
Kate	W oods	SUNY-Geneseo	George Woods	Perch
Corbin	W right	Misericordia University	David Wright	Pocono
Miriam	Youel	University of Connecticut	Steven Youel	Groton
Lauryn	Zlotucha	University of Utah	John Zlotucha	MAL

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The United States Submarine Veterans
Shipmates Caring About Shipmates
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

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

Learn more at ussvcf.org or scan the QR Code

Brotherhood Fund

U. S. Submarine Veterans
Brotherhood Fund
Caring About Families
Charitable Foundation

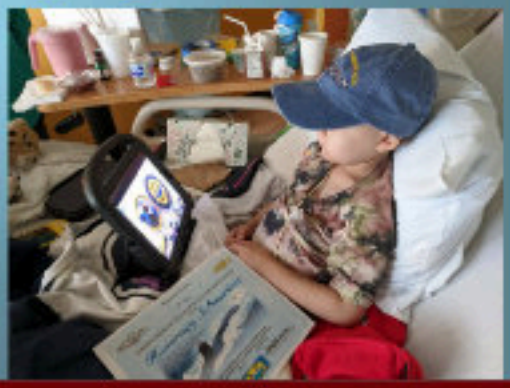
- Mike Ferranti can help with grants up to $3000
  - Disaster relief
  - Medical emergencies
  - Help when most needed

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

Hello, Shipmates!

I stumbled upon this article from Tim magazine dated 04 MAY 1959 with author listed as "Time." An interesting shorrt read about the first chaplain onboard a submarine and the guy hails from Pittsburgh to boot. Enjoy:

Religion: Underwater Parish

Brown-haired, blue-eyed John Laboon is a tall man for a submarine—6 ft. 5½ in. But the subs are what he picked when he graduated from Annapolis in 1943, and he fought the war in a slightly stooped position on board the Peto, was awarded a Silver Star for "gallantry and intrepidity in action" off Japan when he swam through the shelling of shore batteries to rescue a downed airman.

The Peto was decommissioned in 1946, and Pittsburgh-born Lieut. Laboon turned to the career he had decided on in his cramped bunk under the Pacific: the priesthood (one of his brothers is a priest; three of his sisters are nuns). He began his studies at the Jesuits' St. Isaac Jogues Novitiate in Wernersville, Pa., went on to Woodstock College in Maryland, was ordained in June 1956. After two more years of theological study, his superiors asked Father John Francis Laboon Jr., S.J., if he had any preference in assignment. Said he: "I'd like to get back into submarines."

Last week the Navy announced the appointment of the first chaplain to be assigned to active duty aboard submarines on patrol: the Rev. John Laboon Jr., lieutenant. His watery parish will consist mostly of nuclear-powered subs carrying ballistic missiles. "I hope to have a large parish before long," says Father Laboon. "At sea I'll care for the men; on the base I'll look out for their families."

Says Father Laboon, who is soon to be joined by a Protestant chaplain: "The 60-day patrol of the atomic sub Seawolf," he explains, "indicated a need for religious coverage. We have crews away from port for extended periods, weeks on end of living with an atomic reactor, and soon, ballistic missiles as well. These patrols are almost the equivalent of war, in the minds of all who are involved in them, and morale must be kept high."

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?

Admin Warfare Specialist: Joking, sometimes derisive term for Yeomen, Personnelmen or other Navy administrative ratings. Used especially in cases when said sailor does not have a warfare pin.

ADSEP: ADministrative SEParation - Involuntary separation from the armed services due to cirmumstances which are not deemed dishonorable.

A-Farts: slang for Armed Forces Radio & Television Service. A-Farts is received via satellite all over the world and offers a variety of shows. Some of the most entertaining offerings are the propaganda commercials it frequently airs since regular advertising is not permitted.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Base Meeting

American Legion Post 641

Baden PA

1230 hours on September 12, 2026

Base Activities

- August 22 - Summer Picnic at the home of Bob & Jude Meyers, 140 Woodcrest Rd, Butler PA 1600 starting at 1230 hours.
- September 26 - In honor of Shipmate Jerry Ondo, the Base will bring the Nautilus float to the Veterans Resource Fair.

MEMBERSHIP

Primary:	150	National Life:	83	Holland Club:	96
Secondary:	13	Base Life:	80	WWII:	1
Associate:	16	Joined Base Last Year:	6	Eternal Patrol:	95
Total Members:	179	Joined Base This Year:	2		

NEW MEMBERS:

Welcome aboard to our newest Requin Base member, David Grudi. David is so new that, as of the publication of this newletter, his personal information has not yet been entered into our records. Stay tuned to learn how to reach out to Shipmate Grudi to say hello, or just wait until the next meeting and offer him a laurel, and hardy handshake.

FEATURED BOAT: USS San Francisco SSN-711

History	
United States	
Name	*San Francisco*
Namesake	City and County of San Francisco
Awarded	1 August 1975
Builder	Newport News Shipbuilding
Laid down	26 May 1977
Launched	27 October 1979
Acquired	7 April 1981
Commissioned	24 April 1981
Decommissioned	15 May 2022[1]
Out of service	11 May 2017
Home port	Norfolk, Virginia[2]
Motto	*Oro en Paz, Fierro en Guerra* ("Gold in Peace, Iron in War")
Status	Currently a moored training ship at the Nuclear Power School
Badge	

THIS MONTH IN US SUBMARINE HISTORY

08/01/1944
USS Puffer (SS 268) damages Japanese oiler, Sunosaki, northeast of Borneo.

08/03/1958
USS Nautilus (SSN 571) becomes the first submarine to cross the "top" of the world during Operation Sunshine when the boat passes under an arctic ice cap at the North Pole. "For the world, our country, and the Navy - the North Pole," declared the boat's commanding officer, Cmdr. William R. Anderson. The mission had been personally authorized by President Eisenhower as a response to the USSR's Sputnik program.

08/04/1943
USS Finback (SS 230) sinks Japanese cargo ship Kaisho Maru in the Java Sea off the north coast of Java while USS Seadragon (SS 194) damages Japanese transport Kembu Maru east of Ponape.

0/05/1944
USS Barbel (SS 316) sinks Japanese merchant passenger-cargo ship, Miyako Maru, off Tokuno Jima while USS Cero (SS 225) attacks a Japanese convoy off Minanao and sinks oiler, Tsurumi, in Davao Gulf.

08/06/1988
USS San Juan (SSN 751) is commissioned at New London, Conn. The Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered fast attack submarine is the third to be named after San Juan, Puerto Rico. The boat is assigned to Submarine Group Two

08/08/1942
USS Narwhal (SS 167) sinks Japanese crab boat, Bifuku Maru, southeast of Shiriya Saki while USS S-38 (SS 143) sinks Japanese transport, Meiyo Maru, at the southern entrance of St. George Channel, between New Britain and New Ireland. Also on this date, USS Silversides (SS 236) attacks a Japanese convoy emerging from Kobe Harbor and sinks freighter Nikkei Maru in Kii Strait.

08/10/1942
Off Kavieng, New Ireland, USS S-44 (SS 155) torpedoes and sinks the Japanese cruiser, Kako, as she retires from the Battle of Savo Island.

08/12/1944
USS Pompon (SS 267) and USS Puffer (SS 268) attack Japanese convoys and damage and sink Japanese destroyers.

08/13/1945
USS Atule (SS 403) sinks Japanese Coast Defense Vessel No.6 and damages Coast Defense Vessel No.16 off Hokkaido. Also on this date, USS Torsk (SS 423) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship, Kaiho Maru.

08/14/1945
USS Spikefish (SS 404) sink the Japanese submarine (I 373), in the Sea of Japan. Also on this date, USS Torsk (SS 423) sinks Coast Defense Vessel (No.13), and Coast Defense Vessel No.47.

08/16/1944
USS Croaker (SS 246) sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper, Taito Maru.

08/16/1958
USS Seadragon (SSN 584) launches at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. USS Seadragon decommissions in 1984.

08/16/1986
USS Nevada (SSBN 733) is commissioned at Groton, Conn. The Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine is the fourth named after the Silver State.

08/17/1942
The submarines USS Nautilus (SS 168) and USS Argonaut (SM 1) land more than 200 Marines on Makin Island, Gilbert Islands, in the first amphibious attack made from submarines.

08/19/1943
USS Finback (SS 230) sinks the Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser (No.109) off the eastern Celebes.

08/22/1944
Submarines Haddo (SS 255) and Harder (SS 257) encounter three Japanese escort vessels off the mouth of Manila Bay. Haddo sinks Sado 35 miles west of Manila; Harder sinks Matsuwa and Hiburi about 50 miles west-southwest of Manila.

08/23/1944
USS Haddo (SS 255) torpedoes Japanese destroyer Asakaze as the enemy warship is escorting tanker, Niyo Maru, 20 miles southwest of Cape Bolinao, Luzon, Philippine Islands. Asakaze later sinks near Dasol Bay after attempts at salvage fail. Also on this date, USS Tang (SS 306) attacks a Japanese convoy off Honshu, sinking cargo ship, Tsukushi Maru off Hamamatsu.

08/24/2020
USS Idaho SSN-799 Keel is laid.

08/25/1944
USS Picuda (SS 382), in attack on Japanese convoy at the western entrance to the Babuyan Channel, sinks destroyer Yunagi 20 miles north-northeast of Cape Bojeador, Philippines and merchant tanker Kotoku Maru.

08/26/1949
While operating in stormy seas off northern Norway, USS Cochino (SS 345) suffers a series of serious battery explosions that result in her loss. Though Cochino's crew is successfully rescued by USS Tusk (SS 426), the submarine loses seven of her own men during this difficult effort.

08/27/1944
USS Stingray (SS 186), after being depth charged and lightly worked over while reconnoitering the designated spot lands a party of one Filipino officer, 14 men and 60 percent of the supplies earmarked for delivery to guerilla forces at Saddle Rock, Mayaira Point, on northwest shore of Luzon. Heavy Japanese shipping in the vicinity compels Stingrays departure before all stores land.

08/29/1915
After pontoons are brought to Hawaii from the west coast, and following extensive additional diving work, the submarine USS F-4 is raised from the bottom and taken into Honolulu Harbor for dry docking. Previously, in March 1915, during a routine dive a few miles off Honolulu, F-4 sinks in 51 fathoms of water, with the loss of her 21 crewmembers.

08/29/1944
USS Jack (SS 259) attacks Japanese convoy H3 and sinks minesweeper W28 and army cargo ship, Mexico Maru, northwest of Menado, Celebes.

08/30/1929
At New London, Conn., 26 men test the Momsen lung to exit an intentionally-bottomed submarine. The device was created by Lt. C.B. Momsen following the failure to save surviving crew members trapped in USS S-4 (SS 109) that sank after a collision with Coast Guard cutter USS Paulding in 1927.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Nautilus submarine travels under North Pole

By History.com Editors

Published 03 AUG 2026

Gamma-Keystone via Getty Images

Published: November 24, 2009
Last Updated: July 24, 2025

On August 3, 1958, the U.S. nuclear submarine Nautilus accomplishes the first undersea voyage to the geographic North Pole. The world's first nuclear submarine, the Nautilus dived at Point Barrow, Alaska, and traveled 1,830 miles under the Arctic ice cap to reach the top of the world. It then steamed on to Iceland, pioneering a new and shorter route from the Pacific to the Atlantic and Europe.

The USS Nautilus was constructed under the direction of U.S. Navy Captain Hyman G. Rickover, a brilliant Russian-born engineer who joined the U.S. atomic program in 1946. In 1947, he was put in charge of the navy's nuclear-propulsion program and began work on an atomic submarine. Regarded as a fanatic by his detractors, Rickover succeeded in developing and delivering the world's first nuclear submarine years ahead of schedule. In 1952, the Nautilus' keel was laid by President Harry S. Truman, and on January 21, 1954, first lady Mamie Eisenhower broke a bottle of champagne across its bow as it was launched into the Thames River at Groton, Connecticut. Commissioned on September 30, 1954, it first ran under nuclear power on the morning of January 17, 1955.

Much larger than the diesel-electric submarines that preceded it, the Nautilus stretched 319 feet and displaced 3,180 tons. It could remain submerged for almost unlimited periods because its atomic engine needed no air and only a very small quantity of nuclear fuel. The uranium-powered nuclear reactor produced steam that drove propulsion turbines, allowing the Nautilus to travel underwater at speeds in excess of 20 knots.

In its early years of service, the USS Nautilus broke numerous submarine travel records and on July 23,

1958, departed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on “Operation Northwest Passage”—the first crossing of the North Pole by submarine. There were 116 men aboard for this historic voyage, including Commander William R. Anderson, 111 officers and crew, and four civilian scientists. The Nautilus steamed north through the Bering Strait and did not surface until it reached Point Barrow, Alaska, in the Beaufort Sea, though it did send its periscope up once off the Diomedes Islands, between Alaska and Siberia, to check for radar bearings. On August 1, the submarine left the north coast of Alaska and dove under the Arctic ice cap.

The submarine traveled at a depth of about 500 feet, and the ice cap above varied in thickness from 10 to 50 feet, with the midnight sun of the Arctic shining in varying degrees through the blue ice. At 11:15 p.m. EDT on August 3, 1958, Commander Anderson announced to his crew: “For the world, our country, and the Navy—the North Pole.” The Nautilus passed under the geographic North Pole without pausing. The submarine next surfaced in the Greenland Sea between Spitzbergen and Greenland on August 5. Two days later, it ended its historic journey at Iceland. For the command during the historic journey, President Dwight D. Eisenhower decorated Anderson with the Legion of Merit.

After a career spanning 25 years and almost 500,000 miles steamed, the Nautilus was decommissioned on March 3, 1980. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1982, the world’s first nuclear submarine went on exhibit in 1986 as the Historic Ship Nautilus at the Submarine Force Museum in Groton, Connecticut.

Cold War Submarine Monument breaks ground in Phoenix

By Trisha Hendricks

Published 01 AUG 2026

PHOENIX — A piece of Cold War history is coming home to Steele Indian School Park.

On Aug. 1, city leaders and military veterans broke ground on a monument honoring the USS Phoenix, a nuclear-powered submarine that served the U.S. Navy for more than two decades during the Cold War.

The USS Phoenix was one of 62 Los Angeles-class fast attack submarines built during the Cold War era. It was launched in 1979 and decommissioned in the early 2000s.

For the veterans who served aboard submarines like the USS Phoenix, recognition rarely came easily.

"The submarine force does not get recognition for what they do, and that's one of the reasons they call us the 'silent service,'" said Jim Denzien, a veteran involved in the project. "We're not out to get credit or anything like that. We go out and do our job."

Denzien said he helped build a 1/15 scale model of the USS Phoenix in 2007 and 2008, working alongside a team that included a welder and a fiberglass specialist.

Phoenix City Councilwoman Laura Pastor, who represents District 4, said the monument is long overdue for a generation of veterans who served quietly.

"Many of the Cold War veterans have served without ever being recognized," Pastor said. "This is one way of recognizing them."

Pastor said the park's location — near the veteran's hospital — makes it a fitting site for both remembrance and education.

"It's an opportunity to preserve history and teach history," she said. "The veterans could come and sit, as I see them sometimes come and sit outside, and they can talk about their history and reminisce, but they can also teach the history. And I think that's what's very important."

The monument's centerpiece will feature salvaged components from the actual USS Phoenix, organizers said. The parts are currently being stored at the Papago Military Reservation until they can be installed.

"The fundraising actually started about 25 years ago, where they got really serious about moving forward with this once we had the parts in hand," said Chris Gahan, director of the Cold War Memorial Foundation.

Retired U.S. Navy Capt. Pete Lumianski said the groundbreaking marks the culmination of decades of planning.

"For us, this is truly a tremendous, momentous, even astonishing day to get to where we are," Lumianski said. "We've been thinking about this for over 30 years and talking about it."

Lumianski said the monument's purpose is twofold: to preserve history and to honor the submarine force's role in deterring adversaries during the Cold War.

"Our monument motto is: Learn, honor, remember," he said. "Learn about the Cold War, honor those who served and remember the lessons learned."

Organizers have not announced a completion date, and fundraising for the project is ongoing.

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Navy awards contracts for 14 new attack and ballistic missile submarines

By Gary Warner

Published 30 JUL 2026

The Columbia class would replace the 14 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines in the fleet. (U.S. Navy)

The Navy on Wednesday awarded nearly $77 billion in contracts to build 14 nuclear fast-attack and ballistic missile submarines, an investment expected to boost a shipbuilding industry stalled by supply-chain issues, labor shortages and aging infrastructure.

The awards to HII Newport News Shipbuilding and General Dynamics Electric Boat include $42.1 billion for nine Virginia-class Block VI advanced fast-attack submarines and $29.5 billion for five Columbia-class Build II boats that will carry nuclear-tipped Trident missiles. The companies build all subs for the Navy.

The contracts include $5 billion for shipyard renovations connected to submarine building at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Conn., and HII Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia.

The total package is for $76.6 billion.

“This historic investment underscores the Department’s continued commitment to undersea superiority and the recapitalization of our nuclear triad,” Vice Adm. Robert Gaucher, the Pentagon’s top submarine procurement officer, said in a statement.

Mark Rayha, president of General Dynamics Electric Boat, said in a statement that the new funding provides contractors and hundreds of subcontractors with greater certainty about the two submarine programs.

“We need to continue investing in capacity and hiring the workforce necessary to ensure we deliver these important national security assets on schedule,” Rayha said.

The USS Constitution sails past the Virginia-class nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine USS Massachusetts during Massachusetts' commissioning in Boston on March 28, 2026. Massachusetts is the newest Virginia-class fast-attack submarine. (Lucas J. Hastings/U.S. Navy)

U.S. Rep. Joseph Courtney, D-Conn., whose district includes the General Dynamics shipyard, praised the contracts. They follow delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, qualified worker shortages and disagreements between the Pentagon and the builders over insurance issues.

“Together, the Block VI and Build II contracts represent the biggest shipbuilding award in modern American history,” Courtney said in a statement. “These multiyear commitments by Congress and the Navy secure work at submarine shipyards and thousands of supply chain companies well into the late 2030s.”

Courtney said the contracts also put the AUKUS pact on firmer grounding. It would eventually allow the Navy to sell three older Virginia-class submarines to the United Kingdom and Australia in a significant technology transfer.

The Virginia-class Block VI submarines are the second block to be built with the Virginia Payload Module, an 84-foot hull extension that can be used to launch Tomahawk cruise missiles and future hypersonic weapons. Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman are working on missiles that travel at five times the speed of sound that could be launched from the Virginia-class submarines and converted Zumwalt-class destroyers.

The Virginia Payload Module can also be used for special operations troop deployment.

The Navy now has 26 Virginia-class submarines, with another 23 in various phases of planning and construction. The Virginia class is the most numerous type of attack submarine in the fleet, surpassing the Cold War-era Los Angeles class and late 20th-century Seawolf class.

USS District of Columbia, the first boat of the new Columbia class, isn’t slated to be delivered to the Navy until 2028, with the submarine expected to deploy in 2030. The class would replace the 14 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines in the fleet.

Columbia-class submarines will carry 16 vertical launch tubes, each with a UGM-133 Trident II D5 nuclear missile. The missile can have multiple independently targetable nuclear warheads (MIRVs), subject to arms control agreements.

Ballistic missile submarines represent what experts say is the most survivable of the three legs of the U.S. nuclear triad. The U.S. nuclear forces also include land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles launched from silos in the U.S., as well as manned strategic bombers.

Along with the Columbia-class submarines, the U.S. is modernizing the nuclear triad by building the B-21 Raider manned bomber. The Air Force plans on eventually retiring its current B-1 Lancer and B-2 Spirit bombers, leaving the manned bomber deterrent to the B-21 and B-52 Stratofortress bombers.

The Air Force broke ground in March on a prototype silo at Promontory, Utah, which will serve as a model and test facility for the eventual 450 launch silos to be built, for the next-generation LGM-35A Sentinel. The Sentinel would replace the Cold War-era LGM-30G Minuteman III. The nearly $141 billion program is expected to finish in the second half of the 21st century.

WAR PATROL!

Editor's Note: In this month's WAR PATROL!, we follow the S-36 (SS-141) as she takes on the Japanese right after Pearl Harbor by way of the Phillipines. Will she survive running aground in her second War Patrol from 30 DEC 1941 - 27 JAN 1942. Check it out in this issue of WAR PATROL!

History	
United States	
Name	USS *S-36*
Builder	Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation, San Francisco, California
Laid down	10 December 1918
Launched	3 June 1919
Sponsored by	Miss Helen Russell
Commissioned	4 April 1923
Fate	Ran aground 20 January 1942 Scuttled 21 January 1942
General characteristics	
Class & type	S-class submarine
Displacement	854 long tons (868 t) surfaced 1,062 long tons (1,079 t) submerged
Length	219 ft 3 in (66.83 m)
Beam	20 ft 8 in (6.30 m)
Draft	15 ft 11 in (4.85 m)
Speed	14.5 knots (16.7 mph; 26.9 km/h) surfaced 11 knots (13 mph; 20 km/h) submerged
Complement	42 officers and men
Armament	1 × 4 in (102 mm)/50 deck gun 4 × 21 inch (533 mm) torpedo tubes
Service record	
Operations	World War II
Awards	1 battle star

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
DIVISION OF NAVAL HISTORY (OP 09B9)
SHIPS' HISTORIES SECTION

HISTORY OF USS S-36 (SS 141)

USS S-36 was built by the Bethlehem Steel Company of San Francisco, California, sub-contractor for the Electric Boat Company. Her keel was laid on 10 December 1918 and she was launched 31 May 1919, under the sponsorship of Miss Helen N. Russell, daughter of Lieutenant George L. Russell, Assistant to the Inspector of Engineering Material. The fleet submarine was placed in commission on 4 April 1923, Lieutenant Leon O. Alford, USN, in command.

S-36 fitted out in the Mare Island Navy Yard and completed her shakedown training in local operating areas of San Pedro, California. She cleared that port on 9 June 1923 for maneuvers in waters of Alaska, then resumed tactics along the California Coast from San Pedro on 25 August. She was underway on 2 January 1924 for winter maneuvers and fleet problems in the Caribbean Sea which found her cruising from ports in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, British West Indies. Returning to San Diego on 24 April, she soon entered the Mare Island Navy Yard for overhaul until 15 September 1924. Two days later she steamed with Submarine Division Seventeen out of San Francisco Bay, bound by way of Pearl Harbor and Apra Harbor, Guam, to the Cavite Navy Base in the Philippine Islands. She reached the last named base on 4 November 1924 and joined the United States Asiatic Fleet.

S-36 spent the next seventeen years on Asiatic Station, alternating winter operations in Philippine waters, with summer and fall cruising on the China Coast from Shanghai or Tsingtao. Practice war patrols and scouting tactics were carried out off the west coast of Luzon and in areas extending to the coast of Borneo and Celebes. Her last practice patrol terminated off Tawi Tawi, southernmost island of the Sulu Archipelago, on 4 October 1941.

Some thirty minutes before the high noon of 2 December 1941, a dispatch was received on board S-36 directing her commanding officer to report on board the flagship. Her overhaul had started the day before and all machinery was put back in commission while Lieutenant James R. McKnight, Jr., USN, reported to Admiral Thomas C. Hart, Commander in Chief of the United States Asiatic Fleet. The crew worked near the limit of their endurance as they took on board water, stores and other special provisions. All machinery was in commission by 2000 and torpedomen toiled for thirteen hours without rest in making preliminary adjustments and loading torpedoes. One hour past midnight the submarine slipped away from alongside tender CANOPUS to carry out a secret mission outlined in verbal orders of Admiral Hart. The deterioration in relations between the United States and Japan

led Admiral Hart to believe Japan might attempt invasion of the Philippines without declaration of war. He prepared his small fleet accordingly. S-36 was on her way to Cape Bolinao Harbor where she would take secret cover, prepared to deal with any hostile force which might enter Lingayen Gulf for a surprise landing on Philippine shores.

S-36 gained entrance to Bolinao Harbor shortly after sunset of 3 December 1941. Lieutenant McKnight had been told that the entrance could not be made at night, but in the light of a full moon, experienced no difficulty. The coast pilot and chart was followed and frequent soundings were taken until she anchored about 800 yards from Bolinao Harbor light. The submarine was trimmed down with main ballast tanks flooded, batteries and air banks were charged, and torpedoes were checked.

S-36 was rigged for surface with hatches open for habitability of her crew and the watch was set. Standing watch with the officer-of-the-deck were a quartermaster and a radioman. Two lookouts, equipped with light and dark 7 x 50 power glasses were on the bridge with the quartermaster, armed with a machine gun, one rifle and one pistol. One man was on continuous station in the torpedo room, an electrician's mate remained at the motor control, a messenger always stood-by in the control room, and one man was on cold iron watch in the engineering spaces. Thus began a ceaseless virgil until the morning of the infamous raid on Pearl Harbor when S-36 received a plain language dispatch that Japan had started hostilities. She gained no sight of the enemy forces and heard Radio Cavite report that Japanese bombers were over Manila Bay near the noon hour of 10 December 1941. That radio went silent as the naval base underwent a blistering attack but was again heard near midnight. S-36 terminated her first war patrol on 20 December 1941 when she entered Mariveles Harbor.

S-36 was underway from Mariveles Harbor on 30 December 1941. She made a submerged sweep north and east of Batangas Bay, then turned to lanes west and south of Verde Island. On 1 January 1942 she let go a single torpedo which blasted a small cargo-passenger steamer which was moored to the stone quay at Calapan, Mindoro, Philippine Island. Another sweep around Batangas Bay netted no contacts and on 8 January she observed her victim at Calapan, lying on bottom, down by the bows with the upper deck awash back as far as amidships. She patrolled through the South Pass of the Verde Island passage without finding an enemy, then moved down the west coast of Panay. By midnight of 12 January S-36 was in the middle of the Sulu Sea on the lanes running between Cagayan Island and the Pearl Bank. This hunting ground was well within air range of Jolo where the Japanese had been reported in force. She commenced patrol of the Sibutu Passage at dawn of 13 January but was ordered to Balikpapan, Borneo, when her port motor went out of commission.

While preparing to dive the morning of 15 January 1942, S-36 had to stop her starboard shaft due to the failure of oil supply to her starboard main motor bearing. Lieutenant McKnight went below to investigate but raced to the bridge within minutes as a ship was reported on the starboard

bow. An enemy destroyer hove in sight as the submarine made a quick dive with no lubrication to the starboard main motor and the port main motor out of commission. She leveled off at 60 feet and lubrication was established as her men went to battle stations. The submarine turned to port to attack the enemy and was greeted by a pattern of seven depth charges on both quarters within one minute and a half. S-36 lost power control of her bow planes, starboard lighting circuits fuses blew, the gyro compass follow-up failed, and all lights in her motor room were broken. She went down one hundred and fifty feet, losing all sense of direction because her magnetic compass binnacle lights could not be lighted. Lieutenant McKnight attempted to steady his submarine by guessing the necessary amount of rudder to carry. When the gyro compass came into operation, he found she was again headed north by northeast.

S-36 was in a desperate struggle for her life. Running at one-third normal speed to keep the main motor bearing from burning out, she slowly swung around to put the hunting destroyer astern. Now she lost depth control and started sinking with her trim pump stalled. She continued on down until the high pressure pump on auxiliary, coupled with blowing the number two main ballast tank, started her on the rise. She fluctuated between one hundred and two hundred feet as the metal bearing in her starboard main motor began to give out. Life jackets and lungs were issued to all hands, and they prepared to man the deck guns and fight it out on the surface. A grim two hours passed before depth control was established. Meantime the temperature of the starboard main motor bearing was brought under control by backing off on the cap bolts and a jury rig was improvised to supply cooking water to the main motor cooling system.

S-36 soon left the enemy destroyer astern and made landfall on the Celebes Coast. She began to reassemble her port main motor, using bakelight spacers and supports for the commutating field coil instead of the fiber ones of the original design. This repair was originated and largely executed by Electrician's Mate First Class Dale Philip Schaumburg, USN, who for some months had been performing the duties of a Chief Electrician's Mate. Other men who earned special praise for exceptional qualities of leadership, courage, and technical knowledge which kept their submarine afloat, were Chief Torpedoman John Eugene Herandez; Chief Machinist Mate Walter Charles Kersting; Motor Machinist First Class Stephen Peter Gorski; Motor Machinist Mate First Class Hardy Barette Owens; and Motor Machinist Mate First Class Lyman Charles Bloom. These men gave services of inestimable value to Lieutenant McKnight during the enemy destroyer attack of 15 January 1942 and throughout the brief wartime career of the S-36.

A few minutes after midnight of 16 January 1942, S-36 was ordered to the submarine base at Soerabaja, Java, Netherlands East Indies. When she surfaced the night of 18 January, it was the first day since January 8th with no major parts of her engineering plant out of commission. She entered the Makassar Strait where currents are strong and hard to predict. The dawn of 20 January found her at standard speed, unaware of the imminent danger of Taka Bakang Reef, awash at low water and invisible to human eyes.

At 0404 she caught and grounded on its northwest edge and both motors backed full to no effect. She was driven further onto the reef by the treacherous currents and became locked in its coral grasp. The sea would pound her in a surging movement to rock her fore and aft, then come up hard for a jolt so severe it snapped one's head as though from a blow. An amphibious patrol plane appeared on the scene near daylight of 21 January after Lieutenant McKnight radioed that his submarine was sinking. Soon the small Dutch launch ATTELA from Makassar City was on the scene. She was unable to pull S-36 free. Some of the crew transferred to her, using her sampan and towing S-36's wherry. Two hours later the Dutch KMP line steamer SIBEROTE arrived and Lieutenant McKnight with 19 men and one other officer were taken off in her lifeboat which was commanded by SIBEROTE's First Mate L. W. Wakka. Some difficulty was experienced in getting the lifeboat alongside and clear of the submarine, but this was finally accomplished about 1330. Prior to leaving the S-36, all sea valves were opened and she filled in a short time.

Lieutenant McKnight and his men landed in Makassar, Celebes, during the twilight hours of 21 January 1942. After an overnight stay in hotels they again embarked in SIBEROTE who put them ashore at Soerabaya, Java. They reached that base on 25 January 1942 and reported for duty to Commander, Submarine Force, U. S. Asiatic Fleet.

S-36 earned one battle star and the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation Badge for her operations in Philippine waters during the period 8 to 20 December 1941.

LIST OF COMMANDING OFFICERS

Lieutenant Leon O. Alford, USN:	4 Apr 1923 - 1 Jul 1924
Lieutenant Walter A. Hicks, USN:	1 Jul 1924 - 7 Jul 1927
Lieutenant Willard M. Downes, USN:	7 Jul 1927 - 10 Jun 1929
Lieutenant Darrough S. Gurney, USN:	10 Jun 1929 - 27 Feb 1931
Lieutenant Samuel W. Du Bois, USN:	27 Feb 1931 - 12 Nov 1931
Lieutenant George L. Menocal, USN:	12 Nov 1931 - 16 Mar 1934
Lieutenant Marvin M. Stephens, USN:	16 Mar 1934 - 23 Oct 1934
Lieutenant (jg) Thomas M. Brown, USN:	23 Oct 1934 - 28 Oct 1935
Lieutenant Waldeman N. Christensen, USN:	28 Oct 1935 - 4 May 1937
Lieutenant Creed C. Burlingame, USN:	4 May 1937 - 21 Feb 1939
Lieutenant Robert R. McGregor, USN:	21 Feb 1939 - 31 Aug 1940
Lieutenant James R. McKnight, Jr., USN:	31 Aug 1940 - 21 Jan 1942

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/

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PGH, PA 15209

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Teutonia Männerchor
857 Phinneas Street
PGH, PA 15212

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Verdetto's Bar & Restaurant
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Huntz's Tavern
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Sharpsburg, PA 15215

The Blue Goose Saloon
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PGH, PA 15223

Talor Garden Scaping
1728 Crosby Avenue
PGH, PA 15216

Z Florist
804 Mt Royal Blvd
PGH, PA 15223

Danny's Bar & Grill
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West View, PA 15229

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

Monte Cello's Italian Restaurant
2198 Babcock Blvd
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Jason Rinker (State Farm)