

Steel Valley Dolphins

May 2018



The official newsletter of the
USS Requin Base of the USSVI
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

USSVI 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."



Meetings held on the second Saturday of the month normally in BADen at the American Legion Post and quarterly meetings held around our membership area.

- **Make a difference, get to a meeting!**

----- Pride Runs Deep -----

Next Meeting: 1230 9 June American Legion in Columbiana Ohio. .

2017 USS Requin Base Officers

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----- Pride Runs Deep -----



Binnacle List

Aaron Ellis
Ron Goron
John Stewart



Eternal Reefs Honors 4,000+ U.S. Submariners From 65 Lost Boats

Staff, Newswire, May 23

SARASOTA, FL. — Since 1900, the United States has lost 65 submarines and more than 4,000 officers and crew who remain On Eternal Patrol. They will be honored this Memorial Day weekend with full military honors at the dedication of the On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 27, at Ken Thompson Park, 1700 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34236.

The On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef is the first and only memorial dedicated to the entire submarine service in the environment where these servicemen rest - the ocean. The new reef will be a collection of 65 Eternal Reef balls with plaques identifying each of the submarines still On Eternal Patrol and one additional Eternal Reef ball representing those crews and boats lost in non-sinking incidents. The 66 Eternal Reefs will be deployed to the ocean floor off the coast of Sarasota this summer to significantly boost the marine environment in which these submariners served and made the ultimate sacrifice.

A reef ball is a designed artificial reef, specifically engineered to mimic Mother Nature and quickly assimilate into the ocean environment; new marine growth begins in as little as three months. The reef balls in the On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef each weigh about 1,300 pounds and stand three feet tall.

Many military service personnel and veterans from around the nation are expected to attend the dedication and the public is invited. In all, 25 governors have issued special recognition for the On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef with proclamations, letters and certificates; they are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

The Scorpion (SSN-589) was the last submarine the United States lost on May 22, 1968, so, nearly 50 years ago to the day, it is an appropriate time to remember, honor and celebrate the history and sacrifice of the Silent Service.

“We can think of no more fitting memorial to these heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice serving our country beneath the waves, and it’s particularly impactful that we will make the dedication at the 50-year anniversary of the loss of the Scorpion,” said George Frankel, Eternal Reefs CEO. “These submariners will continue to serve and protect our marine environment for the benefit of future generations in the On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef.”

A Sarasota-based 501c3 memorial organization, Eternal Reefs Inc. has planned the ambitious project in partnership with Reef Innovations and The Reef Ball Foundation. View a video of the On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef project, including a full listing of all submarines with their date of loss, on YouTube. Find a complete list of the 65 boats On Eternal Patrol and the boats lost in non-sinking events at www.OnEternalPatrol.com. Eternal Reefs is accepting outside funding to support the On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef. Interested parties should call 888-423-7333 or email info@EternalReefs.com.

About Eternal Reefs:

The Genesis Reef Project dba Eternal Reefs Inc. is a Sarasota-based non-profit organization that provides a creative, environmentally enhancing way to memorialize the cremated remains of a loved one. Eternal Reefs incorporates cremains into a proprietary concrete mixture used to cast artificial reef formations which are then dedicated as permanent memorials which bolster natural coastal reef formations. Eternal Reefs pioneered the concept of reef memorialization

and, since 1998, the organization has placed nearly 2,000 Memorial Reefs in 25 locations off the coasts of Florida (North Atlantic, South Atlantic, Gulf Coast and Panhandle), Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia, substantially increasing the ocean's diminishing reef systems. Memorial reefs can only go in properly permitted locations by the U.S. government. Eternal Reefs has strategic partnerships with the Reef Ball Foundation and Reef Innovations. The company secured 501c3 status in January 2017. Learn more at www.EternalReefs.com or on the company's Facebook page.

Brandywine, Brandywine this is Singing Bush. Gertrude Check.”³

American History, Remembrance, Service and Sacrifice, Submarine, US Navy, USS Scorpion Tags: Cold War, submarine, USS Scorpion, USSVI

There should be no question in anyone's mind that submarines are one of the most challenging duties any person could ever volunteer for. The men and now women who sail on these unique ships do so with the understanding that all care has been taken to provide for their safety but in the end, safety takes a place in line behind the word “mission”. I have spoken with combat veterans who faced live fire who told me that they could not see themselves serving on board one of these underwater craft. Yet year over year since 1900, American Bluejackets and Officers have raised their hands and taken an oath to defend the country while serving within the confines of a steel tube, closed on both ends, surrounded by the darkness of the world's largest battlegrounds: the oceans. When things go according to plan, the crew submerges the ship, conducts their business in silence and returns to some port with stories they are not permitted to tell. Like the contents of a black hole, you are aware that something happened there, but it is only for those who participate to understand the whole story. Some spend a few years in this life and some spend a career. All have a unique story and all have seen and done things that range from the tedious to the terrifying.

Sadly, some join a special group that is known to the submarine family as “On Eternal Patrol”. The unfortunate members who gain this status gain entry in ways that are the stuff of every submariner's nightmares. Whether it was fire, flooding, loss of propulsion, an enemy attack, or any of a hundred things that went wrong, the boat often serves as a forever resting place for their physical remains. <http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-scorpion-589.htm>



The Navy marks this day, May 22nd as the official loss date of the USS Scorpion. This is the official US Navy History of the USS Scorpion

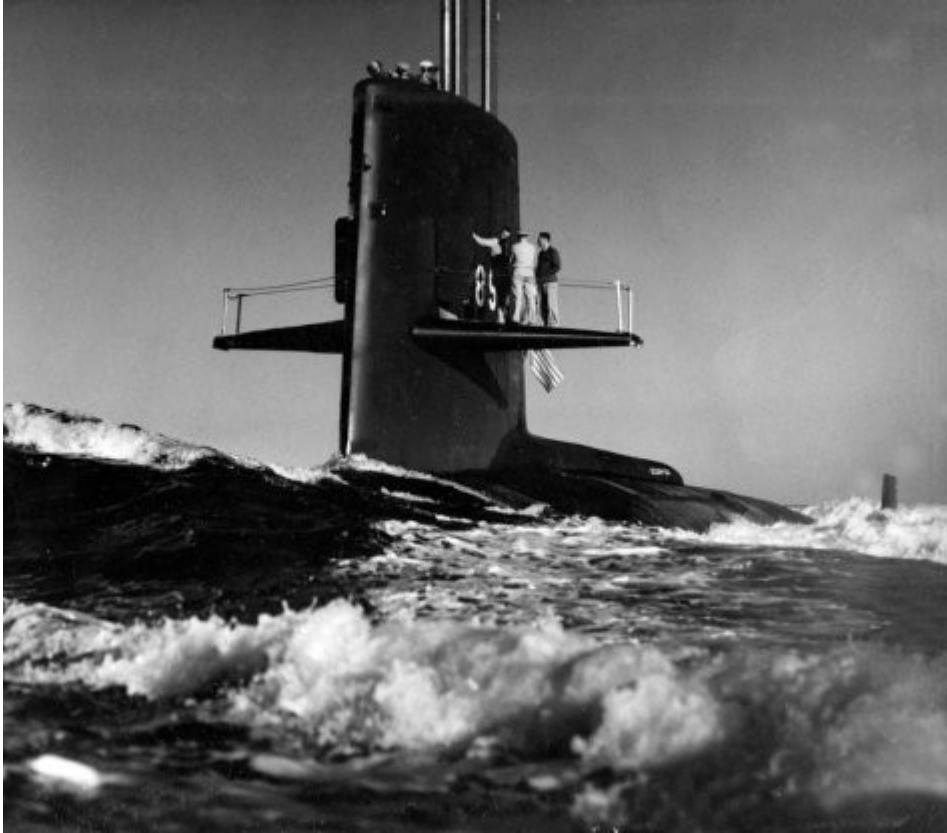
“USS SCORPION was laid down on 20 August 1958 by the Electric Boat Division, General Dynamics Corp., Groton, Conn.; launched on 19 December 1959; sponsored by Mrs. Elizabeth S. Morrison; and commissioned on 29 July 1960, Comdr. Norman B. Bessac in command.



Assigned to Submarine Squadron 6, Division 62, SCORPION departed New London, Conn., on 24 August for a two-month deployment in European waters. During that period, she participated in exercises with units of the 6th Fleet and of other NATO navies. After returning to New England in late October, she trained along the eastern seaboard until May 1961, then crossed the Atlantic again for operations which took her into the summer. On 9 August, she returned to New London and, a month later, shifted to Norfolk, Va.



With Norfolk her home port for the remainder of her career, SCORPION specialized in the development of nuclear submarine warfare tactics. Varying her role from hunter to hunted, she participated in exercises which ranged along the Atlantic coast and in the Bermuda and Puerto Rican operating areas; then, from June 1963 to May 1964, she interrupted her operations for an overhaul at Charleston, S.C. Resuming duty off the eastern seaboard in late spring, she again interrupted that duty from 4 August to 8 October to make a transatlantic patrol. In the spring of 1965, she conducted a similar patrol.



During the late winter and early spring of 1966, and again in the fall, she was deployed for special operations. Following the completion of those assignments, her commanding officer received the Navy Commendation Medal for outstanding leadership, foresight, and professional skill. Other SCORPION officers and men were cited for meritorious achievement.



On 1 February 1967, SCORPION entered the Norfolk Naval Shipyard for another extended overhaul. In late October, she commenced refresher training and weapons system acceptance tests. Following type training out of Norfolk, she got underway on 15 February 1968 for a Mediterranean deployment. She operated with the 6th Fleet, into May, then headed west. On 21 May, she indicated her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Six days later, she was reported overdue at Norfolk. A search was initiated, but, on 5 June, SCORPION and her crew were declared "presumed lost." Her name was struck from the Navy list on 30 June.

The search continued, however; and, at the end of October, the Navy's oceanographic research ship, MIZAR (T-AGOR 11) located sections of SCORPION's hull in more than 10,000 feet of water about 400 miles southwest of the Azores. Subsequently, the Court of Inquiry was reconvened and other vessels, including the submersible TRIESTE were dispatched to the scene, but, despite the myriad of data and pictures collected and studied, the cause of the loss remains a mystery."

For an unusually long period, beginning shortly before midnight on 20 May and ending after midnight 21 May, Scorpion attempted to send radio traffic to Naval Station Rota, but was only able to reach a Navy communications station in Nea Makri, Greece, which forwarded Scorpion's messages to ComSubLant. Lt. John Roberts was handed Commander Slattery's last message, that he was closing on the Soviet submarine and research group, running at a steady 15 knots at 350 feet "to begin surveillance of the Soviets". Six days later the media reported she was overdue at Norfolk.

The message read: "Brandywine, Brandywine this is Singing Bush. Gertrude Check."



Over the years, many stories have emerged from people who were on active duty at that time that tell of a harrowing choice of alternatives to explain the "mystery". I will wait to go on my own personal "Eternal Patrol" and try and find the crewmembers themselves to find the real answer. Until then, I just know they are gone. They are heroes in the sense that they gave their all for their country. For that reason, I salute their memory and pray for those who still traverse the oceans in these underwater vessels. May the number of dives and surfaces always be equal in the end.

Mister Mac

Commanders Column (May 2018)

I want to thank George Brown who assisted me on arranging the articles in our display case. The Legion graciously provided the base with space. Anyone who has any submarine articles that they want to add to the display case, please let me know. The case is very decorative and will make us all proud when its filled with submarine artifacts.

MEMORIALS & CEREMONIES

May 27 – Sunday Memorial Service on Requin (10:00) hours on board the Requin

Arrive at 09:30 hours – Muster at 09:45 at Carnegie Science Center.

May 27 – Carnegie Parade – (14:00) hours

Muster at (13:00) at Carnegie Borough Building Parking Lot – By the VFW Post 331

May 28 – Sewickley Parade – 10:00 Hours

Muster at (-09:30) – at flag pole – Frederick Ave & Broad Street

May 28 – Coraopolis Parade – (13:00) hours

Arrive on Main Street by (12:30) hours

BIRTHDAYS

Members

Benson, Carl 6/18/44
Campisi, Joey 6/29/49
Cochenour, David 6/25/75
Hollingsworth, Herb 6/15/24
Lindsay, Robert 6/21/44
Lukasik, John 6/18/46
Messner, James 6/14/52
Nicotra, Frank 6/01/47
Simmons, Bill 6/03/81
Sipes, John 6/23/59
Stoner, Charles 6/11/31
Sutherin, John, Jr. 6/17/66
Taylor, Don 6/21/75
Wiehagen, James 6/14/68

Spouses

Benson, Carol 6/07
Burdin, Shiela 6/04
Ellis, Sandy 6/17
Greenwald, Danelle 6/07
Hoag, Adriana 6/13
Hollingworth, E. 6/01
Wykoff, Tina 6/02

ANNIVERSARIES

Bates, Tom & Tammy 6/04
Bookmiller, Eric & Maggie 6/01
Bouts, Clare & Nancy 6/01
Greenlee, Bill & Donna 6/16
Iden, Larry & Helga 6/30
Mack, John & Vivian 6/01
McKinney, Steve & Kelly 6/07
Schmidt, Bob & Vivian 6/01
Shook, Ron & Alice 6/25
Sipes, John & Holly 6/12
Swords, John & Kimberly 6/07
Welts, Robert & Joane 6/17

NEXT BASE MEETING – SATURDAY JUNE 16, 2018

Our next base meeting will be held in Columbiana, Ohio, at the American Legion Post 290. It is located at 44403 State Route 14, Columbiana, Ohio. Coming from Pa Route 60 at Chippewa, Pa – turn west on Rt 51 to Ohio Line – road turns into Ohio Rt 14. About 14 miles you will come to Rt 17 intersection with Rt 14. The Legion is on the left, about a half mile west of rousts 7/14 intersection. From Ohio turnpike, take the second exit and go south on Rt 7 to 7/14 intersection, turn right about a half mile on the left.

We are in the process on organizing a road trip to Groton to visit the USS PITTSBURGH. I will be sending an e-mail to the Captain and let him know, that we will be visiting the Pittsburgh. Leaving from home (Pittsburgh) on Monday, June 18th and returning Wednesday, June 20th. Hopefully a retired military Requin sub-vet will decide to go and make it easier to make room reservations. As of now, we have nine (9) base members that are interested on going. We have 150 Steeler Terrible Towels for the Captain and Crew.

Veterans Bus Trip – Washington, D.C. – Any veteran who served prior to May, 15, 1975 is eligible for the Free trip. The next trip is scheduled in October. Please call Gary Fisher at (724)-709-3614 to Register.

BOOK RAFFLE – “Poopie Suits & Cowboy Boots”

Frank Hood, who was a member of the Requin Base and his brother wrote the book. They autographed it and it is very entertaining. Tickets are \$1.00 apiece or 8 for \$5.00. We ordered two books, one for the raffle and one for the base library. Proceeds will go into the base account. The raffle will be held at our June Base Meeting.

Requin Base Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2018

Baden PA

Base Commander Huey Dietrich called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Mike Allen, Tino Bolcato, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Clair & Nancy Bouts, George Brown, Ron Campbell, Joe Campisi, Huey & Edie Dietrich, Reno Farina, Gerry & Linda Gaylor, Dick & Beverly Geyer, Ron Goron, Bob & Lynn Gourley, Bill & Donna Greenlee, Lou Hamill, Bill & Sandra Lindsay, Jim & Charleen List, Charles & Nancy Loshkosh, Bat Masterson, Jim Messer, Frank Nicotra, Mike Pellegrino, Chip & Sharon Porter, Harry Sills, Jeff Simon, George Stass, Carl Stigers, John Swords, Jack & Ginny Sutherin, Chad Underkoffler, Mike & Tina Wyckoff

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: Quotes of the day: "These dolphins, once you pin them on your chest, leave a deep mark right over your heart, long after the uniforms have been put away."

History of the Requin: May 1, 1949 Requin sailed east for her first deployment with the Sixth Fleet. May 14 1949 arriving at Gibraltar, Requin operated in the Mediterranean Sea. May 2 1955 Requin sailed for her 5th Mediterranean deployment. Detached at the end of July, she returned to Norfolk VA and remained on the east coast with cruises to the Caribbean until November 1957 when she resumed duty with the Sixth Fleet. May 28 1968 Requin departed Norfolk VA as part of search efforts for the missing nuclear attack submarine Scorpion SSN-589. May 24 1990 Requin was towed to Tampa Shipyard for dry docking and hull repairs in preparation for her move to Pittsburgh PA.

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: 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. 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.

Boats Lost:

USS LAGARTO (SS 371) May 3, 1945

USS SCORPION (SSN589) May 22, 1968

USS SQUALUS (SS 192) May 23, 1939 (Re-commissioned as USS SAILFISH (SS 192) 1940)

USS STICKELBACK (SS 415) May 30, 1958

We also remember our departed shipmates of the Requin Base Donald Trombolo, Ed Figas, Richard Tat, John Yaksich, and Robert Lindsay. 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 Carl Stigers gave the Invocation.

Chief Of The Boat Chip Porter led the Base in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members introduced themselves and the boats they qualified on.

Base Secretary Jeff Simon reported that Minutes of the previous meeting were published in the SVD and on the Requin Base website. With no objections, the minutes will stand as published.

Treasurer Lee Bookwalter gave an accounting of base assets, expenditures, and deposits which was approved by the members present.

Other Reports:

Binnacle List: Ron Goron, John Steward

Membership stands at 186

Storekeeper Frank Nicotra reported on available small stores at the meeting and online (RequinBase.org).

Social Events:

Base donated 25 honorary submariner hats to the VFW 3945 Vets Fish Fry

Memorials, Parades And Ceremonies:

Memorial service USS Reguin – Sunday May 27, muster 0900 hours

Carnegie parade – Sunday May 27, muster 1300 hours

Sewickley parade – Monday May 28, muster 0830 hours

Coraopolis parade – Monday May 28, 1330 hours

Canonsburg parade – Wednesday July 4, muster 0830 hours

Leetsdale parade – Wednesday July 4, 1400 hours

Washington Parade – Saturday November 10, 1400 hours

Beaver Veterans Day – Sunday November 11, muster 0900 hours

Old Business:

Base received patches and coin from our donation to the USS Scorpion memorial

Two copies of the book "Poopie Suits And Cowboy Boots" written by Frank Hood were received. One copy placed in the Base library, the other will be raffled off at next month's meeting.

Committee to design and purchase "You gotta earn them" patch formed (Underkoffer, Campisi, Nicotra)

Holland Club Cards given to Campbell, Goron, Loshkosh, Davis, Gresh, Guntang

Members are encouraged to attend Veterans Bus Trip to Washington DC in October.

New Business:

Base members are invited to travel to Groton CT week of June 18 to deliver Terrible Towels to the USS Pittsburgh

Base received Booster donations from VFW 214 and VFW 694

For The Good Of The Order:

Base meeting on July 14 will be in River Forest Country Club in Freeport PA.

Efforts underway to locate a venue for the Base meeting on October 13 near New Castle.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Columbiana OH at 1230 hours on June 9, 2018