



October 2021

Published Monthly

STEEL VALLEY DOLPHINS
USSVI REQUIN BASE NEWSLETTER



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

November 13, 2021 @ 1230 hours

At Baden American Legion

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.

Lou Hamill - itgeek8088@gmail.com

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, ATTEND A MEETING!

Our Website

For additional information about what is happening at **YOUR** base, go to

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



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USS Requin Base Officers

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Secretary	Jeff Simon	724-502-4505	jeffsimon@zoominternet.net
Treasurer	Lee M. Bookwalter	412-795-8337	booky143@verizon.net
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Eagle Scout Chair	Vince Metz	412-613-5554	vincemetz007@hotmail.com
Awards Chair	Dick Geyer	724-637-2995	dqdiving@gmail.com
Master at Arms	Bat Masterson	724-869-1938	mastersoncf@aol.com
Public Affairs Chair	Ed Derr	724-854-0781	redde@gmail.com



Tolling of the Boats for October

USS Seawolf (SS-197)

Lost on Oct 3, 1944 with the loss of 83 officers and men and 17 US Army troops when she was sunk just north of Moritai by USS Rowell, a Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another Destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.

USS S-44 (SS-155)

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

USS Wahoo (SS-238)

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

USS Dorado (SS-248)

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

USS Escolar (SS-294)

Lost on Oct 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. She was on her 1st war patrol and was most likely lost to a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea.

USS Shark II (SS-314)

Lost on Oct 24, 1944 with the loss of 87 men when she was sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was on her 3rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the tragedy, it turned out that the freighter had 1,800 U.S. POW's on board.

USS Darter (SS-227)

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

USS Tang (SS-306)

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

USS O-5 (SS-66)

Lost on October 29, 1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Abangarez off the Panama Canal.



Dick Geyer	Carsten "Carl" Stigers MMC (SS)	Lee Davenport	RMCS (SS)
Gerry Gaylor	Robert "Pete" Watson MOMM2 (SS)	Major Galloway	FTG2 (SS)
Linda Gaylor	Dallas Beauregard (son of Richard)	Charles Schwertfeger	EM2 (SS)
Mike Peligrino		Lloyd Alfred	EMC(SS)
Rick Elster		Charles B. Tolbert	CSC(SS)
Judy Elster		John I. Clarkin	FCSN(SS)
Harry Sills		Thomas J. Whalen	MM2(SS)
Jeff Simon		Eugene M. Camarota	QMC(SS)
David Bonnett		Salvatore A. Nigido	TM3(SS)
		Jack E. Hart	EM1(SS)

Birthdays

Member		Spouse		Anniversaries	
Daniel Spencer	6-Nov	Agnes Strang	23-Nov	Ruth Ann & Christopher Shal	1-Nov
Terry M. Swinney	17-Nov	Patricia (Patsy) Bookwalter	25-Nov	Christine & Bruce Ladrie	2-Nov
James W. Wendell	24-Nov	Adrienne Corcoran	27-Nov	Jennifer & Stephen Cuddy	10-Nov
		Betty Dubar Simpson	28-Nov	Cathleen & Angelo J. Naso	11-Nov
		Renee Stuebgen Coker	30-Nov	Eileen S. & Jeffrey B. Simon	14-Nov
				Carrie & Daniel Spencer	14-Nov
				Sandy & R Graham Dunlop	19-Nov
				Trude S. & Fred E. Hayes	20-Nov
				Cynthia & Ronald A. Weaver	20-Nov
				Priscilla & William A. Hawk	21-Nov
				Joan & Rufino L. Guntang	22-Nov
				Patricia (Patsy) & Lee M. Bookwalter	30-Nov





Shipmates: It has been a very sad month! I lost my younger brother, Edie lost her younger sister and the base lost our very good shipmate, our Base and National Chaplin, Carl Stigers. Carl was truly our brother of the Phin! He did so much for the base as Chaplin, but also our 1st vice commander. We had a record number of shipmates and first mates attend his military ceremony at the Cemetery of the Allegheny, which totalled over thirty. Carl will be sorely missed and we will keep him in our daily prayers.

Its dues collection time. As of today, all officers and committee persons have paid. There are 5 associate members that have not responded. Speaking of not responding, there are 5 base life members, 36 pa. members and 35 out of state members waiting to be put on the dink list – Ha Ha! As of today, we have a total of 115 members who have paid their dues and calendars. Thanks to everyone who has already sent in their dues, and also to the shipmates that will be sending in their dues.

We sailed with our Nautilus float in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and I know its hard for everyone to believe, but the Requin Base won the BEST NON-COMMERCIAL float in the parade. This makes the 2nd time that we won! Back in 2019 we won best float in the Canonsburg's parade.

There were six shipmates that attended the Navy Ball. We did not take any of our first mates to the ball because we had to leave early. The reason being, was that we were in the Columbus Day Parade the next morning.

Its election time for the officers of the Requin Base along with appointed committee-persons. Anyone interested on becoming an officer of the Requin Base, please contact Huey Dietrich, Jeff Simon or Lee Bookwalter. The positions that will be voted on in December will be Commander, Secretary and Treasurer.

The positions that are open are first Vice and second Vice. Carl was serving as first vice and Dick Elster was serving as second vice. We all know that Carl sailed on eternal patrol and Dick, thought it was time to step down, because of his health issues. We will miss them both and their professionalism.

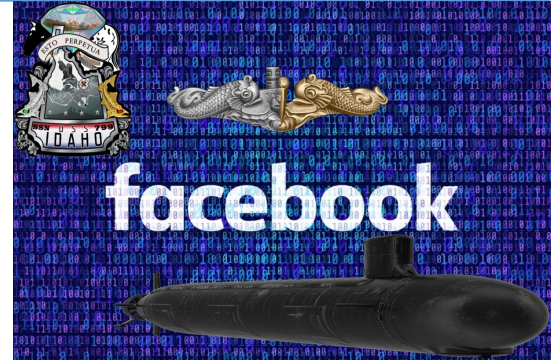
Also appointed positions to be filled are as follows: Chaplin, Eagle Scout Co-Ordinator, Audit Committee Person & News Letter Distribution.



"NO, YOU CAN'T BE A SUBMARINEER ON LIBERTY FOR HALLOWEEN!"



SSN 799
USS IDAHO
COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE
<https://ussidahocommittee.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/SSN799>

USS Idaho Support Fundraiser

Oct 16, 2021

Thank You, to everyone who has helped us reach our initial goal of \$10,000. Our fundraising efforts are going so well that we decided to increase the goal to 15,000. We are Submariners and by nature, we are over achievers. Keep it up. The crew and their families appreciate the support.



If you would like to order a challenge coin holder or a Submarine Beer Tap Handle [with or without the stand]

contact [Huey Dietrich](#) or

Place your order for these and other USS Idaho items at <https://requinbase.org/product-category/uss-idaho/>



The owner of the Hermitage Golden Corral William Weaver, hung our USSVI flag along with the other military flags in their banquet room. The Golden Corral also has a POW/MIA table.





Month in Review



Columbus Day Parade
10/9/2021



USS Requin Base won the best non commercial float for the St. Patrick's Day parade.



USS Requin Base co-sponsored the 2021 Navy Ball. Joe Campisi read the POW/MIA table and Huey Dietrich (with the assistance of the midshipman) cut the cake.





I hope these words from Retired Cmdr. Maurice Kaprow will inspire us and help us to be better individuals

- **Practice gratitude.** Each day, either on paper, in a digital note, or simply in your head, list the things you are grateful for. They can be big accomplishments or the little things you have every day—food, shelter, water, love, acceptance, etc. Take a moment to be thankful for all the good that you have in your life and appreciate how it impacts you.
- **Serve others.** Take a moment to do a small (or big) thing for others each day. Pay someone a compliment or call someone to tell them you love them. Buy the person behind you in line their coffee or write an email thanking a coworker for their job well done. In doing so, you will make yourself feel better and help make this world a better place.
- **View your problems through a new lens.** Try looking at your problems as opportunities rather than difficulties. While this is often easier said than done, by doing this, you can instill new confidence in yourself by focusing on obstacles as challenges you can overcome, rather than them being insurmountable. If you are struggling to find a solution—ask someone for help. Remember, you are a part of a team, not alone, in your struggles.
- **Let go of negativity.** Do not hold on to hatred or ill feelings. Forgive yourself for your mistakes and shortcomings. Anger and hatred, whether directed outward or inward, will only keep you shackled to your pain. When you choose to forgive, you are putting down the heavy weight of anger and refusing to let it dictate your decisions any longer. You may not forget what happened, but by forgiving you are choosing to let joy be the center of your life—not anger.
- **Live out your values.** Let your values paint the picture of who you are each and every day, by striving to live out your values. When faced with a decision, use your values as a touchpoint for making the choice that best reflects and exemplifies your character.



Store Keepers 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.





Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2021
Hermitage, PA

Base Commander Huey Dietrich called the meeting to order.

Attendees: John Bistolos, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Don Bright, Clair & Nancy Bouts, George Brown, Joe Campisi, Tom Clark, Dave Cochenour, Ed & Mary Jane Derr, Huey & Edie Dietrich, Sandy Ellis, Gerry & Linda Gaylor, Dick & Beverly Geyer, Lou Hamill, Bill Lindsay, Bat Masterson, Vince Metz, Frank Nicotra, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Jack Sutherin, Chad Underkoffler, Charlie Warren.

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: Quotes of the day: “Not everyone gets to learn a new way of being stupid.”

Requin History: On October 1, 1947 Requin moved north for exercises with her sister radar picket submarine Spinax SS-489. On October 1, 1966, Requin cruised around the South American continent with various South American navies. On October 20th Requin was dedicated as a memorial and exhibit and opened for tours.

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.

USS SEAWOLF (SS 197) October 3, 1944

USS S-44 (SS 155) October 7, 1943

USS WAHOO (SS 238) October 11, 1943

USS DORADO (SS 248) October 12, 1943

USS ESCOLAR (SS 294) October 17, 1944

USS SHARK II (SS 314) October 24, 1944

USS DARTER (SS 227) October 24, 1944

USS TANG (SS 306) October 25, 1944

USS O-5 (SS 66) October 29, 1923

We also wish to remember our shipmates of the Requin Base: Jack Hart, Salvatore Nigido, Eugene Camarota, Thomas Whalen, John Clarkin, Charles Tolbert, Lloyd Alfred, Charles Schwertfeger, Major Gallo-way, and Kato Davenport. Finally let us remember all the brave submariners who died performing their duties aboard submarines, some individually and some in groups, but where the submarine itself was not lost.

Shipmate Bill Lindsay gave the Invocation

Members introduced themselves and the boats they qualified 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 detailed report not given but is available upon request. With no objections, the report was approved.

Other Reports:

Binnacle List: Gerry & Linda Gaylor, Dick Geyer, Mike Pellegrino, Rick & Judy Elster, Harry Sills, Jeff Simon, David Bonnett

Eternal Patrol: Carl Stigers, Dallas Beauregard

Membership stands at 196

Storekeeper Frank Nicotra new items available from BC Patch.

Shipmate Vince Metz reported on Eagle Scout court of honor presentations.

Memorial and Ceremonies

Veterans Day Parade Pittsburgh Nov 11th

Old Business:

Wake for Carl Stigers was discussed

Nautilus Float won best float award during St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Six members attended Navy Ball.

Many members and several wives attended the Columbus Day Parade.

New Business:

Rick Elster has resigned his positions with the base. Openings on the board are now First Vice and Second Vice.

Nominations are now open for all executive board officer positions: Commander, first Vice, Second Vice, Secretary, Treasurer

Appointed positions available include Chaplin, Eagle Scout Coordinator, Audit Committee, News Letter Distribution.

Good of The Order:

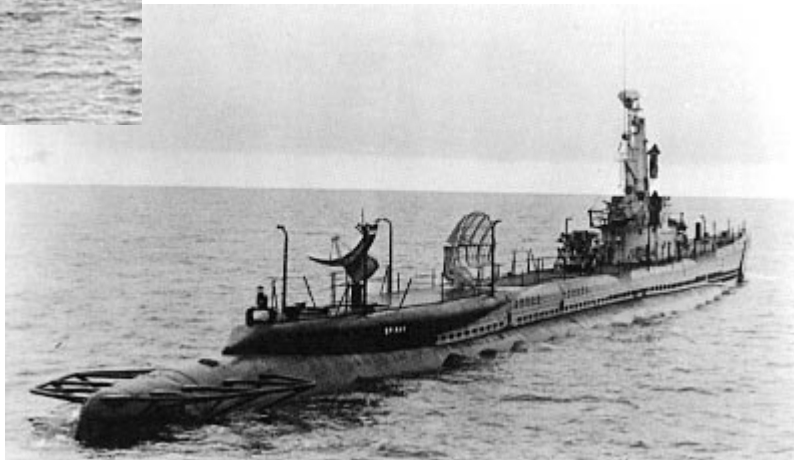
Idaho fund donations stand at \$11,776.

Members are asked to include Shipmates and their families in your prayers

Shipmate Bill Lindsay gave the Benediction and blessing of today's meal.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: American Legion Post 641, Baden, PA at 1230 hours on November 13, 2021





Upcoming Events

Events

Nov 11th – Veterans Day Parade – Downtown

Meetings

Nov 13th - Baden, American Legion

Dec 11th - Baden, American Legion



Membership

Regular Members	181	Holland Club	89	USSVI Life Members	75
Associate Members	13	WWII	5	Base Life Members	50
Total Members	195				



New Members

No new members to report



Eagle Scouts

Please direct all Eagle Court of Honor requests to <https://requinbase.org/eagle-coh>


Congratulations to:

- Jacob Morgan T1300
- Johnathon Ulery T560
- Paolo James Domenic Sirianni T1300
- Jacob Morgan T743



Featured Boat

Class overview

Builders	<u>General Dynamics</u>
Operators	 <u>United States Navy</u>
Preceded by	<u>Tang-class submarine</u>
Succeeded by	<u>USS Seawolf</u>
Built	1952
In commission	1954–1980

History

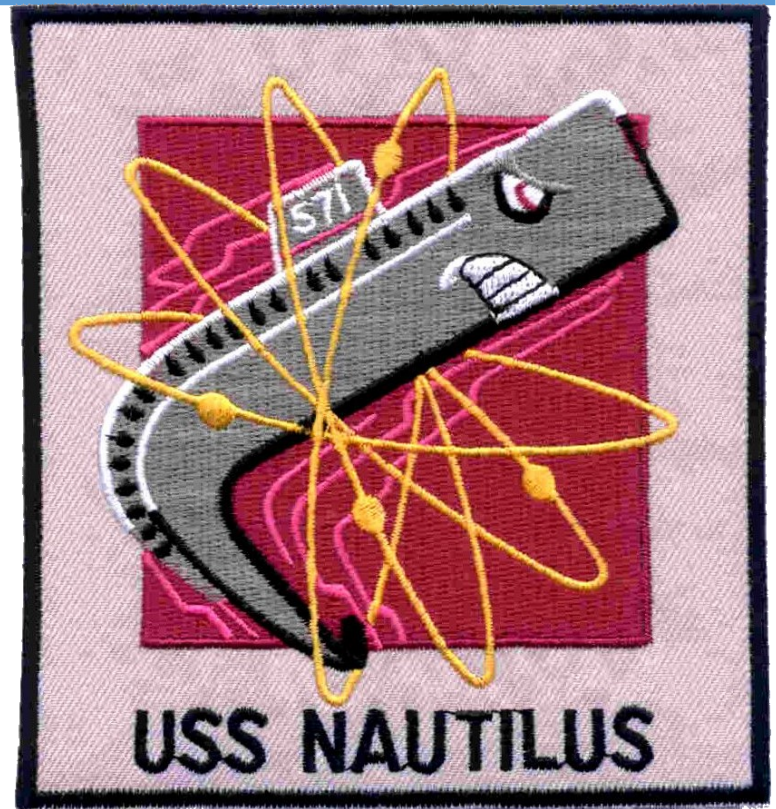


United States

Name	<u>USS <i>Nautilus</i></u>
Namesake	Captain Nemo's " <u>Nautilus</u> " submarine ^[1]
Awarded	2 August 1951
Builder	<u>General Dynamics</u>
Laid down	14 June 1952
Launched	21 January 1954
Sponsored by	<u>Mamie Eisenhower</u> (<u>First Lady of the United States</u>)
Completed	22 April 1955
Commissioned	30 September 1954
Decommissioned	3 March 1980
Stricken	3 March 1980
Status	<u>Museum ship</u>

General characteristics

Type	<u>Nuclear submarine</u>
Displacement	3,533 tons surface 4,092 tons submerged ^[2]
Length	320 ft (98 m)
Beam	28 ft (8.5 m)
Draft	26 ft (7.9 m)
Installed power	13,400 hp (10,000 kW) ^[4]
Propulsion	STR nuclear reactor (later redesignated <u>S2W</u>), geared <u>steam turbines</u> , two
Speed	23 kn (43 km/h; 26 mph) ^[3]
Complement	13 officers, 92 enlisted
Armament	6 torpedo tubes



10/02/1943

A mine laid by USS Silversides (SS 236) four months earlier damages Imperial Japanese Navy mine-sweeper W 28 off Kavieng Bay, New Ireland, Bismarck.

10/02/1944

USS Pomfret (SS 391) attacks a Japanese convoy in Luzon Strait, sinking an army transport about 75 miles southeast of the southern tip of Formosa.

10/06/1944

USS Whale (SS 239) sinks the Japanese merchant tanker Akane Maru while under the escort of Japanese Coast Defense Vessel No. 21 west of Balintang Channel, Philippines. USS Seahorse (SS 304) then sinks Coast Defense Vessel No.21 as the ship is rescuing survivors from Akane Maru, 140 miles northwest of Cape Bojeador, Luzon.

10/06/1958

USS Seawolf (SSN 575) completes a record submerged run of 60 days, logging more than 13,700 nautical miles.

10/07/1944

USS Hawkbill (SS 366) and USS Baya (SS 318) attack a Japanese convoy and sink the Japanese cargo ship Kinugasa Maru about 400 miles west of Manila, while USS Cabrilla (SS 288) sinks Japanese transport No.8 Shinyo Maru off Vigan, Luzon.

10/07/1944

USS Greenling (SS 213) sinks the Japanese transport No 8 Kiri Maru and the merchant tanker Kotai Maru.

10/07/2017

The Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Washington (SSN 787) is commissioned in a ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk. Washington, named in honor of the 42nd state, is the 14th Virginia-class, fast-attack submarine to join the Navy's operational fleet.

10/08/1943

USS Guardfish (SS 217) sinks Japanese army cargo ship Kashu Maru north-northwest of the Admiralty Islands while USS Gurnard (SS 254) sinks the Japanese army cargo ship Taian Maru and transport ship Dainichi Maru off the northern tip of Luzon.

10/09/1943

USS Kingfish (SS 234) torpedoes and sinks Japanese oiler Hayamato in Sibu Channel. Also on this date, USS Rasher (SS 269) sinks Japanese army cargo ship Kogane Maru 28 miles from Ambon, while USS Wahoo (SS 238) sinks Japanese cargo ship Hankow Maru off Oga Peninsula.

10/10/1943

USS Bonfish (SS 223) sinks the Japanese army cargo ship Isuzugawa Maru and merchant transport Teibi Maru off Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina.

10/11/1944

USS Tang (SS 306) sinks Japanese freighters Joshu Go and Oita Maru in the Formosa Strait. Also on this date, USS Trepang (SS 412), in an attack on a Japanese convoy south of Honshu, sinks landing ship T.105 about 105 miles southwest of Tokyo Bay.

10/14/1942

USS Greenling (SS 213) sinks the Japanese army cargo ship Takusei Maru six miles off Todo Saki near the northern coast of Honshu and USS Sculpin (SS 191) sinks the Japanese army cargo ship Sumiyoshi Maru 75 miles southwest of Kavieng, New Ireland.

10/14/1965

The 1,200-nautical-mile range Polaris A-1 fleet ballistic missile is retired from service when submarine Abraham Lincoln (SSBN 602) returns to the United States for overhaul and refitting with 2,500-nautical-mile range Polaris A-3s.

10/15/1943

USS Tullibee (SS 284) attacks a 10-ship Japanese convoy in Formosa Strait and sinks the transport Chicago Maru.

10/16/1942

USS Thresher (SS 200) mines the approaches to Bangkok, Thailand, the first US Navy submarine mine plant during World War II.

10/17/1942

USS Trigger (SS 237) sinks the Japanese freighter Holland Maru near the mouth of Bungo Strait off Kyushu, Japan. Lost in action with all hands later in the war, Trigger receives 11 battle stars for her World War II service and the Presidential Unit Citation for her fifth, sixth, and seventh war patrols.

10/17/1943

USS Tarpon (SS 175) sinks German auxiliary cruiser Michel (Schiffe No. 28) off Chichi Jima, Bonin Islands.

10/18/1944

USS Bluegill (SS 242) and USS Raton (SS 270) attack a Japanese convoy in the South China Sea. Bluegill sinks the army cargo ships Arabia Maru and Chinsei Maru and freighter Hakushika Maru. Raton sinks the army cargo ships Taikai Maru and Shiranesan Maru.

10/20/1991

USS West Virginia (SSBN 736) is commissioned at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, GA. It is the third U.S. Navy ship to be named for West Virginia, and the 11th of 18 Ohio-class submarines.

10/21/1942

USS Guardfish (SS 217) sinks Japanese freighter Nichiho Maru about 120 miles north-northeast of Formosa while USS Gudgeon (SS 211) attacks a Japanese convoy in the Bismarck Sea and sinks the transport Choko Maru.

10/21/1989

Los Angeles-class submarine USS Topeka (SSN 754) is commissioned at Groton, CT

10/23/1942

USS Kingfish (SS 234) sinks Japanese gunboat at the entrance to Kii Suido, Honshu, Japan.

10/23/1961

Submarine Ethan Allen (SSBN 608) makes the first underwater launch of a Polaris A-2 fleet ballistic missile. The Polaris soars 1,500 miles down the Atlantic Missile Range.

10/23/2004

USS Virginia (SSN 774) is commissioned at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., the sixth U.S. Navy ship named Virginia; she is the first of its submarine class.

10/24/1944

USS Shark (SS 314) is lost in the vicinity of Luzon Strait while participating in a coordinated attack by Task Group 17.15 with USS Seadragon (SS 194) and USS Blackfish (SS 221). Also, USS Richard M. Rowell (DD 403) sinks Japanese submarine I-54, 70 miles east of Surigao, and USS Tang (SS 306) is lost when she runs into her own torpedoes.

10/25/2008

Virginia class submarine USS New Hampshire (SSN 778) is commissioned at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine.

10/25/2014

Virginia class submarine USS North Dakota (SSN 784) is commissioned at Groton, Conn.

10/26/1944

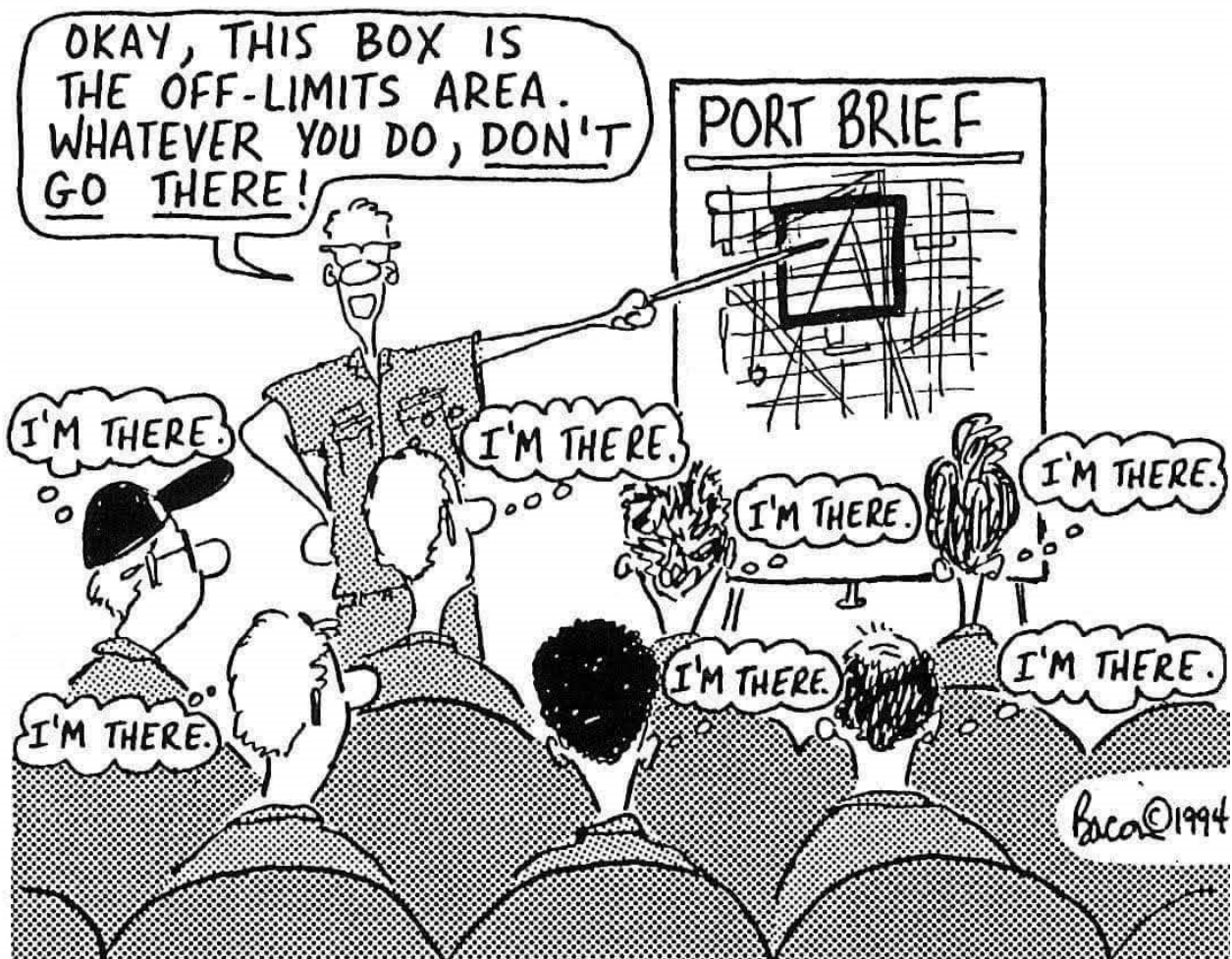
Three U.S. Navy submarines sink a number of Japanese vessels: USS Drum (SS 228) sinks freighter Taishu Maru, cargo ship Taihaku Maru and damages transports Aoki Maru and Tatsura Maru; USS Icefish (SS 367) sinks freighter Taiyo Maru and USS Rock (SS 274) sinks Takasago Maru.

10/26/1963

USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN 619) launches the first Polaris A-3 missile while cruising submerged 20 miles off Cape Canaveral, Fla.

10/29/2011

Virginia class submarine USS California (SSN 781) is commissioned at Norfolk, Va.





USS Pickerel (SS-524) was caught by the camera at the moment she surfaced from a depth of 150 feet with a 48-degree up-angle during training exercises off Oahu, T.H. Sonar came to the aid of Navy photographers to produce the cover for the May 1952 cover of ALL HANDS magazine.

The purpose of this operation was to enable the Navy's submarine experts to evaluate the sub's capabilities and characteristics of the Guppysnorkel type submarine.

This picture was taken from USS Sabalo (SS-302). Her sonarmen kept Pickerel under observation while she was submerged and preparing to surface. During Pickerel's maneuvering the sonar gear delivered the constantly changing relative bearing which enabled the photographers to make this shot as she broke the surface.

Pickerel was commissioned 4 April 1949 at Portsmouth, N.H. In April 1950 she established what is believed the world's record for submerged operations by snorkeling from Hong Kong, China, to Pearl Harbor, T.H. She made the trip of 5200 miles in 21 days.

Nautilus IV (SSN-571) 1954-1980

(SSN-571: displacement 3,533 tons (surface); 4,092 tons (submerged); length 323'9"; beam 27'8"; draft 22'; speed 22 knots (Surface), 20+ knots (submerged); complement :105; armament: 6 torpedo tubes; class *Nautilus*)

A Greek derivative meaning sailor or ship; a tropical mollusk having a many chambered, spiral shell with a pearly interior; and the namesake of Jules Verne's submersible in his novel *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

IV

The fourth *Nautilus*, the first nuclear powered submarine, was laid down 14 June 1952, President Harry S. Truman officiating, at the Electric Boat Co., Division of General Dynamics Corp., Groton, Connecticut; launched 21 January 1954; sponsored by Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, wife of President Eisenhower, and commissioned 30 September 1954, Comdr. Eugene P. Wilkinson in command.

Following commissioning *Nautilus* remained at dockside for further construction and testing until 17 Janu-

ary 1955. Then, at 1100, her lines were cast off and she was underway on nuclear power. Sea trials followed, including an overnight dive on 21-22 March with the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy in the wardroom for a hearing with Rear Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, Assistant Chief to the Bureau of Ships for Nuclear Propulsion. After preliminary acceptance by the Navy on 22 April, the submarine headed south for shakedown on 10 May. She remained submerged while enroute to Puerto Rico, covering 1,381 miles in 89.8 hours, the longest submerged cruise, to that date, by a submarine, and at the highest sustained submerged speed ever recorded for a period of over one hours duration. In July and August, *Nautilus* conducted rigorous exercises with hunter-killer (HUK) groups in Narragansett Bay and off Bermuda. The submarine finished out the year conducting visits to east coast Navy bases, a battery of torpedo firing tests and Bureau of Ships standardization trials.

Over the next year, the submarine served as a test platform out of New London, Connecticut, investigating the effects of the radically increased submerged speed and endurance on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) practices. Such changes in submerged mobility virtually wiped out contemporary ASW techniques, as aircraft and surface radar, which helped defeat diesel-electric submersibles during World War II, proved ineffective against a submarine which did not need to surface, could dive deeper and could clear a search area in record time. In between exercises, *Nautilus* conducted press tours for such luminaries as Edward R. Murrow's "See it Now" program and hosted various distinguished visitors from the Navy and Congress.

On 4 February 1957, *Nautilus* logged her 60,000th nautical mile to bring to reality the achievements of her fictitious namesake in Jules Verne's *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. It also marked another first for the boat, as the submarine put in to Electric Boat at Groton, Ct., to replace the nuclear fuel core in her Westinghouse Electric submarine thermal reactor. After completing the availability on 11 April, *Nautilus* operated with her sister boat *Seawolf* (SSN-575) off Bermuda before departing for the Pacific Coast on 15 May. There, the submarine participated in coastal exercises and fleet exercises designed to acquaint the units of the Pacific Fleet with the capabilities of nuclear submarines.

Nautilus returned to New London 21 July and departed again 19 August for her first voyage under the Arctic polar ice pack. The voyage, of some 1,383 miles, was of great strategic significance, as the frozen northern oceans had previously been a "no mans' land" since diesel-electric boats could not travel freely under ice. The opening of the Arctic to U.S. Navy submarines allowed access to the previously protected waters of the Soviet Union, a not insignificant capability given the tense relationship between Moscow and Washington during the height of the Cold War.

From the Arctic, *Nautilus* headed for the eastern Atlantic to participate in NATO exercises off Norway and conduct a tour of various British and French ports where she was inspected by defense personnel of those countries, including Lord Louis Mountbatten, First Sea Lord of the Admiralty and the engineers responsible for building HMS *Dreadnought*, the first British nuclear submarine then under construction. *Nautilus* arrived back at New London 28 October, underwent upkeep, and then conducted coastal operations until the spring.

On 25 April 1958 she was underway again for the West Coast. Stopping at San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle, where the crew began their history making Polar transit, Operation Sunshine, departing the latter port 9 June. On 19 June the submarine entered the Chukchi Sea, but was turned back by deep draft ice in those shallow waters. On the 28th she arrived at Pearl Harbor to await better ice conditions. By 23 July her wait was over and *Nautilus* set a course northward. She submerged in the Barrow Sea Valley 1 August and on 3 August, at 2315 (EDST) became the first ship to reach the geographic North Pole. From the North

Pole, the boat continued on and after 96 hours and 1,830 miles under the ice, she surfaced northeast of Greenland, having completed the first successful voyage across the North Pole. Proceeding from Greenland to Portland, England, *Nautilus* received the Presidential Unit Citation, the first ever issued in peace time, from American Ambassador J. H. Whitney, and then set a westerly course which put her into the Thames River estuary at New London 29 August. After a short visit, the submarine sailed for home and spent the remainder of the year operating out of New London.

Following fleet exercises in early 1959, *Nautilus* entered the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, for her first complete overhaul (28 May 1959-15 August 1960). Repairs and modernization included the second replacement of the reactor core, overhaul of almost all machinery and new sensors and other equipment. This was followed by refresher training in September 1960 and on 24 October she departed New London for her first deployment with the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean. The tour was short, as it was designed to investigate how well nuclear submarines could operate in shallow waters, and she returned to her homeport 16 December after visiting Rota, Spain; Valleta, Malta; and La Spezia, Italy.

By the beginning of 1961, there were almost a dozen nuclear-powered submarines in service. *Nautilus*, the first of these boats, continued to focus on evaluation tests for ASW improvements and participating in various NATO exercises in the Atlantic. This pattern was broken only during the fall of 1962, when she participated in the naval quarantine of Cuba during the missile crisis. Finally, in August 1963, she headed east again for a two month Mediterranean tour before entering the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for her second boat overhaul on 17 January 1964, a task not complete until 27 months later, in late April 1966. The submarine returned to her homeport at New London to resume operations with the Atlantic Fleet on 2 May.

For the six months she conducted a special operations cruise for ComSubLant, as well as several fleet exercises. During one of the latter, *Nautilus* closed *Essex* (CVS-9) to conduct a simulated attack but rapid course changes by multiple ships resulted in a collision with the carrier, heavily damaging the submarine's sail. Following repairs at Electric Boat, the submarine shifted back to New London on 15 February 1967. The rest of the spring and summer were spent conducting ASW exercises off the east coast. On 15 August, she again returned to Portsmouth for another year's refueling overhaul, before returning to New London on 12 December 1968.

The submarine spent most of the next two years in an extended upkeep and restricted availability status, carrying out independent submarine type training while intermittently tending to new equipment troubles. *Nautilus* also conducted half a dozen ASW exercises with other surface ships and submarines in the Narragansett Bay, Virginia Capes and Jacksonville operating areas. In October 1970, she also participated in ASW Exercise "Squeezeplay VI", an evaluation of the new AN/SQS-26 sonar system and the effectiveness of coordinated air, surface and submarine forces against an "opposing force" (i.e. *Nautilus*) of nuclear-powered enemy submarines. The submarine participated in three more iterations of those exercises in the spring and summer of 1971, as well as providing evaluation services for aircraft-mounted ASW systems, with a final role in Exercise "Squeezeplay XI" conducted in June 1972. She then entered the General Dynamics Shipyard at Groton for an overhaul on 15 August

After completing post-overhaul sea trials on 23 December 1974, *Nautilus* conducted an outstanding shake-down and refresher training cruise followed by Fleet Exercise "Agate Punch" in April. Success in both endeavors allowed the submarine her first Mediterranean deployment in a decade, with the boat visiting La Spezia, Italy, soon after her arrival there on 6 July 1975. The cruise took the submarine into the central

Mediterranean and Ionian Sea, where she trained 6th Fleet units in ASW techniques, and then on to the North Atlantic. After participating in a special operation the warship returned home, returning to New London via Holy Loch, Scotland, on 20 December.

Following a holiday standown period, *Nautilus* began a year long series of West Indies cruises in the spring of 1976, conducting weapons certification tests, supporting special forces exercises and conducting equipment development evaluations for the Chief of Naval Operations. The following April, the submarine departed New London for another Mediterranean cruise, where she participated in "Dawn Patrol" and other NATO exercises. During the cruise she visited Lisbon, Portugal; Sousse, Tunisia; La Maddalena, Sardinia; and Taranto and Naples in Italy before returning to New London in September 1977.

Nautilus began 1978 slowly, with a six-week upkeep followed by a short dependents cruise in early March. Later that month, the submarine conducted a six-week oceanographic research deployment cruise, which included a port visit to Bermuda. After a summer of interim repair work to replace faulty hydrophones, the crew observed the twentieth anniversary of the historic polar voyage to the north pole on 3 August. This milestone was followed by another in December, when *Nautilus* logged her 500,000 mile on nuclear power.

On 9 April 1979, *Nautilus* departed Groton on her final voyage, steaming south to the Panama Canal via Guantanamo Bay and Cartagena, Columbia. From there she cruised north and reached Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, Ca., on 26 May, her last day underway on nuclear power, to begin inactivation procedures. *Nautilus* decommissioned at Mare Island on 3 March 1980.

In recognition of her pioneering role in the practical use of nuclear power, *Nautilus* was designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior on 20 May 1982. Following an extensive historic ship conversion at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, the submarine was towed to Groton, Connecticut, arriving on 6 July 1985. There, on 11 April 1986, eighty-six years to the day after the establishment of the U.S. Submarine Force, historic ship *Nautilus* and the Submarine Force Museum opened to the public as the first exhibit of its kind in the world. The unique museum ship continues to serve as a dramatic link in both Cold War-era history and the birth of the nuclear age.

Published: Wed Aug 12 13:17:27 EDT 2015
<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/n/nautilus-ssn-571-iv.html>





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