

# Steel Valley Dolphins

Monthly Newsletter



USS Polk SSBN-645 / SSN-645



## 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**

May 13, 2023 @ 1230 hours

At Baden American Legion Post 641

### Base Location



American Legion Post 641  
271 State St  
Baden PA 15005

### From the Editor

Please send ideas for articles or copies of 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](mailto: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/>



## USSVI National Officers

Office	Officer	Phone	eMail
National Commander	William Andrea		<a href="mailto:wcandrea@bellsouth.net">wcandrea@bellsouth.net</a>
Senior Vice Commander	Jon Jaques	615-893-7800	<a href="mailto:jjaques@bellsouth.net">jjaques@bellsouth.net</a>
Junior Vice Commander	Steven Bell	704-824-3510	<a href="mailto:usnret82@carolina.rr.com">usnret82@carolina.rr.com</a>
Secretary	Raymond Wewers	479-967-5541	<a href="mailto:raywewers@gmail.com">raywewers@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Paul Hiser	910-691-5650	<a href="mailto:paulhiser664@gmail.com">paulhiser664@gmail.com</a>
Past Commander	Wayne Standerfer	972-298-8139	<a href="mailto:lwaynes@charter.net">lwaynes@charter.net</a>
Chaplain	James Sandman	615-975-4792	<a href="mailto:Jsandman85@gmail.com">Jsandman85@gmail.com</a>
Region Director Northeast	Leslie Altschuler	917-748-2275	<a href="mailto:CdrNJNorthBase@hotmail.com">CdrNJNorthBase@hotmail.com</a>
District Commander EN3	Thomas Denton	301-845-0049	<a href="mailto:gcmfish@verizon.net">gcmfish@verizon.net</a>
National Office		360-337-2978	<a href="mailto:office@ussvi.org">office@ussvi.org</a>



## USS Requin Base Officers

Office	Officer	Phone	eMail
Base Commander	Hubert C. Dietrich	412-486-2635	<a href="mailto:hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com">hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com</a>
1st Vice Commander	Joe Campisi	412-322-3201	<a href="mailto:jcampisi654@comcast.net">jcampisi654@comcast.net</a>
2nd Vice Commander	Chuck "Bat" Masterson	724-869-1938	<a href="mailto:mastersoncf@aol.com">mastersoncf@aol.com</a>
Secretary	Jeff Simon	920-217-8633	<a href="mailto:jeffsimon@zoominternet.net">jeffsimon@zoominternet.net</a>
Treasurer	Lee M. Bookwalter	412-795-8337	<a href="mailto:booky143@verizon.net">booky143@verizon.net</a>
Storekeeper	Frank Nicotra	412-835-6540	<a href="mailto:nicotrafrank@gmail.com">nicotrafrank@gmail.com</a>
Chaplain	Eric Bookmiller	724-485-2341	<a href="mailto:ebookmiller@comcast.net">ebookmiller@comcast.net</a>
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Holland Club Chairman	Joe Campisi	412-322-3201	<a href="mailto:jcampisi654@comcast.net">jcampisi654@comcast.net</a>
Asst. Holland Club	Dick Geyer	724-822-0401	<a href="mailto:dgdiving@gmail.com">dgdiving@gmail.com</a>
Technology Chair	Lou Hamill	412-445-3998	<a href="mailto:itgeek8088@gmail.com">itgeek8088@gmail.com</a>
Eagle Scout Chair	John Held	724-331-2479	<a href="mailto:petecompost@aol.com">petecompost@aol.com</a>
Awards Chair	Dick Geyer	724-822-0401	<a href="mailto:dgdiving@gmail.com">dgdiving@gmail.com</a>
<b>Master at Arms</b>			
Public Affairs Chair	Ed Derr	724-854-0781	<a href="mailto:rredde@gmail.com">rredde@gmail.com</a>



## Tolling of the Boats for April

### USS Pickerel (SS-177)

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

### USS Snook (SS-279)

Lost on April 8, 1945 with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine.

### USS Thresher (SSN-593)

Lost on April 10, 1963 with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" - then, silence. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.

### USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

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

### USS Grenadier (SS-210)

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



## Submarines commissioned during the month of

L-1 SS-40	4/11/1916	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
L-3 SS-42	4/22/1916	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
R-3 SS-80	4/17/1919	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
R-5 SS-82	4/15/1919	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
S-12 SS-117	4/30/1923	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
S-18 SS-123	4/3/1924	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
S-33 SS-138	4/18/1922	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
S-36 SS-141	4/4/1923	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	<a href="#">Eternal Patrol</a>
Argonaut SS-166	4/2/1928	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	<a href="#">Eternal Patrol</a>
Seal SS-183	4/30/1938	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Saury SS-189	4/3/1939	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Gar SS-206	4/14/1941	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Gudgeon SS-211	4/21/1941	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	<a href="#">Eternal Patrol</a>
Grunion SS-216	4/11/1942	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	<a href="#">Eternal Patrol</a>
Halibut SS-232	4/10/1942	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Croaker SS-246	4/21/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Pargo SS-264	4/26/1943	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Puffer SS-268	4/27/1943	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Billfish SS-286	4/20/1943	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Skate SS-305	4/15/1943	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Barbel SS-316	4/3/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	<a href="#">Eternal Patrol</a>
Barbero SS-317	4/29/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Entemedor SS-340	4/6/1945	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Chivo SS-341	4/28/1945	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Dogfish SS-350	4/29/1946	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Hardhead SS-365	4/18/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Mapiro SS-376	4/30/1945	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Razorback SS-394	4/3/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Redfish SS-395	4/12/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Ronquil SS-396	4/22/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Scabbardfish SS-397	4/29/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Tusk SS-426	4/11/1946	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Medregal SS-480	4/14/1945	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Requin SS-481	4/28/1945	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Sarda SS-488	4/19/1946	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Pickerel SS-524	4/4/1949	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Sailfish SSR-572	4/14/1956	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Skipjack SSN-585	4/15/1959	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Patrick Henry SSBN-599	4/11/1960	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Dace SSN-607	4/4/1964	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Lafayette SSBN-616	4/23/1963	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	

Daniel Webster SSBN-626	4/9/1964	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>
Daniel Boone SSBN-629	4/23/1964	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>
James K. Polk SSBN-645	4/16/1966	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>
Ray SSN-653	4/12/1967	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>
George C. Marshall SSBN-654	4/29/1966	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>
Will Rogers SSBN-659	4/1/1967	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>
Flying Fish SSN-673	4/29/1970	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>
Drum SSN-677	4/15/1972	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>
San Francisco SSN-711	4/24/1981	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>
Albany SSN-753	4/7/1990	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>
Annapolis SSN-760	4/11/1992	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>
Delaware SSN-791	4/4/2020	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>
Vermont SSN-792	4/18/2020	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>





### Binnacle List

### Eternal Patrol

### In Remembrance

Gerry Gaylor  
Rick Elster

All hands present  
and  
accounted for.

Jack M. Kordes  
Lawrence H. Simon  
David K. Helmold

ETN3(SS)  
SN(SS)  
TM2(SS)

4/2/2012  
4/3/2015  
4/23/2008

### Birthdays

#### Member

#### Spouse

#### Anniversaries

Bruce Ladrie 5/4  
Daniel Plunkett 5/8  
Randall Leslie 5/9  
Vincent Metz 5/9  
Charles Warren 5/20  
Edward Lyons 5/23  
John Stewart 5/23  
George Pilley 5/25  
Larry Boutelle 5/27  
Sean Williams 5/31

Gosia Humes 5/13  
Stephanie Foster 5/17  
Carrie Spencer 5/17  
Alexandra Good Linville 5/18  
Donna Greenlee 5/19  
Sandra Lindsey 5/20  
Cathleen Naso 5/20  
Gail Warren 5/20  
Judith Underkoffler 5/22  
Robin McGovern 5/23  
Kimberly Masterson 5/25  
Connie Bruce 5/30  
Nita Campbell 5/31

Beverly & Richard Geyer 5/8  
Lisa & Shawn McGinty 5/8  
Renee Stuebgen & Jess Coker 5/11  
Mary Ann & Robert Fleck 5/12  
Carolyn & Harry Sills 5/16  
Jill & Joseph Campisi 5/18  
Kimberly & Charles Masterson 5/18  
Frances & Russ Osborne 5/21  
Barbara & Edward Zdarko 5/27  
Beverly & James Bence 5/28  
Jude & Robert Meyers 5/29  
Tina & Brian Siege 5/29





Shipmates – Congratulations to the 2023 holland club inductees – Crosby, Pellegrino, Plunket, Swords, Warren, Bruce. Mack. Laird and Monteleone, who were out of town and could not attend. Chair, Joe Campisi and Vice Chair, Dick Geyer did an outstanding presentation.

The inductees were given certificates, pins, patches and membership cards, along with yellow Holland club ball caps, which the base provided.

In addition, we want to thank, Bookmiller, Underkoffler, Bouts and Masterson for hosting our traveling meeting in Houston and also to Marge Bookmiller, who conducted a special RABBIT HOLE GAME, which was enjoyed by all!

Special Notice – USSVI Thresher Base invites us to join virtually with 300 USS Thresher family, the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual USS Thresher Memorial Service on Saturday, April 15, at 1300. – we will send out the notice with all the information to each of you.

### HERE IS A LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS!

April 24<sup>th</sup> (1900) – St. Patrick's Day Parade Award Ceremony will be held at the Harp & Fiddle. Our base will be HONORED with an AWARD! Let me know if you want to attend – limit is around 5 members?

April 28<sup>th</sup> (1600-18:30) Requin 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party. The Science Center is only inviting 5 to 6 Requin Base Members. We are requested to TOAST the Requin! This was a difficult task picking who should go. I suggested that the Board to go to represent us. Two of our members gave up their spaces so we could reach out to 2 REQUIN SAILORS – THANKS SHIPMATES!

May 10<sup>th</sup> – time? – Veterans Fish Rodeo – If anyone wants to participate, please e-mail me and hopefully I should have the correct time. The Rodeo is held in Aspinwald at Gyasuta lake for all hospitalized and nursing home vets – all vets are welcome – there will be a D.J. ice cream truck, free hair cuts, delicious barbeque and prizes for the largest fish. Also each veteran receives a bag full of socks, coupon books, toiletries and other items to make their life a bit easier in the hospital. The base has made a contribution!

May 13<sup>th</sup> – Extending an invitation to Admiral Foggo to try and meet with the base members of the Requin Base, after he attends the commencement ceremony at CMU. We will enjoy a happy hour with the Admiral, after our meeting.

May 20<sup>th</sup> – (13:00) Arm Forces Day celebration by the Keystone Base is inviting our base to attend, at the INDIANTOWN GAP NATIONAL CEMETERY, RR2, INDIANTOWN GAP ROAD (RT. 934), Annville, Pa 17003-9618 – MEMORIAL PATHWAY – SECTION 24d. Complimentary reception to follow at 1500!

August 12, (11:00/16:00) North East District 3 is holding a conference in Harrisburg, Pa. Due to space, only Base Commanders, Vice Commanders, Secretaries and Treasures are invited. If any of the officers can't attend then we will ask our members.

**DON'T FORGET THE PARADES COMING UP IN MAY!!!!**





# Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2023  
American Legion Post 902 Houston PA

**Base Commander Huey Dietrich** called the meeting to order.

**Attendees:** Willard Ashmore, Eric & Margie Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Clair & Nancy & Isaac & Sara Bouts, Don Bright, George & Cindy Brown, Eric Bruce, Greg & Gwen Bushko, Tom & Deneen Calabrese, Ron Campbell, Joe Campisi, Ken Crosby, Huey & Edie Dietrich, Dick & Beverly Geyer, Lou Hamill, Bill & Sandy Lindsey, Chuck & Nancy Loskoch, Bat Masterson, Bob & Jude Meyers, Frank Nicotra, Mike Pelegrino, Dan Phelps, Dan & Elaine Plunkett, Bill Puchi, Greg & Maggie Rebane, Brien Siege, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Keith & Connie Small, John & Kim Swords, Scott Thomas, Charlie & Gail Warren, Mike Wyckoff, Chad Underkoffler.

**Base Commander Huey Dietrich:** Quotes of the day: "Take your sub quals serious. Just remember when you get to your boat that submerging is no big deal. Any ship in the navy can do that. It's your ability to make the other part happen that counts."

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

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

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

**Chaplain Eric Bookmiller** gave the Invocation

**COB Chad Underkoffler** lead the base in the Pledge Of Allegiance  
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** no report given as this is an away meeting.

**Other Reports:**

- Binnacle List: Jerry Gaylor, Rick Elster
- Eternal Patrol: Several non-base members were recognized including the service dog at Baden American Legion and Joe Heiser (Sea Bee)
- Base membership stands at 196.

**Storekeeper Frank Nicotra** reported on available small stores items.

No report on Eagle Scouts presentations.

**Holland Club Induction:**

Crosby, Pellegrino, Plunkett, Swords, Warren, Bruce (honorable mention from Groton Base), Laird/Mack/Monteleone (not attending)

**Old Business:**

Report on model submarines built for the transporter float.

**New Business:**

Yellow beer tap handle mounted on bulkhead of VFW Post 9199  
Base is offered \$500 to be in Lawrenceville parade on Memorial Day which conflicts with Sewickley parade.  
Shipmate Peltier's daughter is attending Sub School.

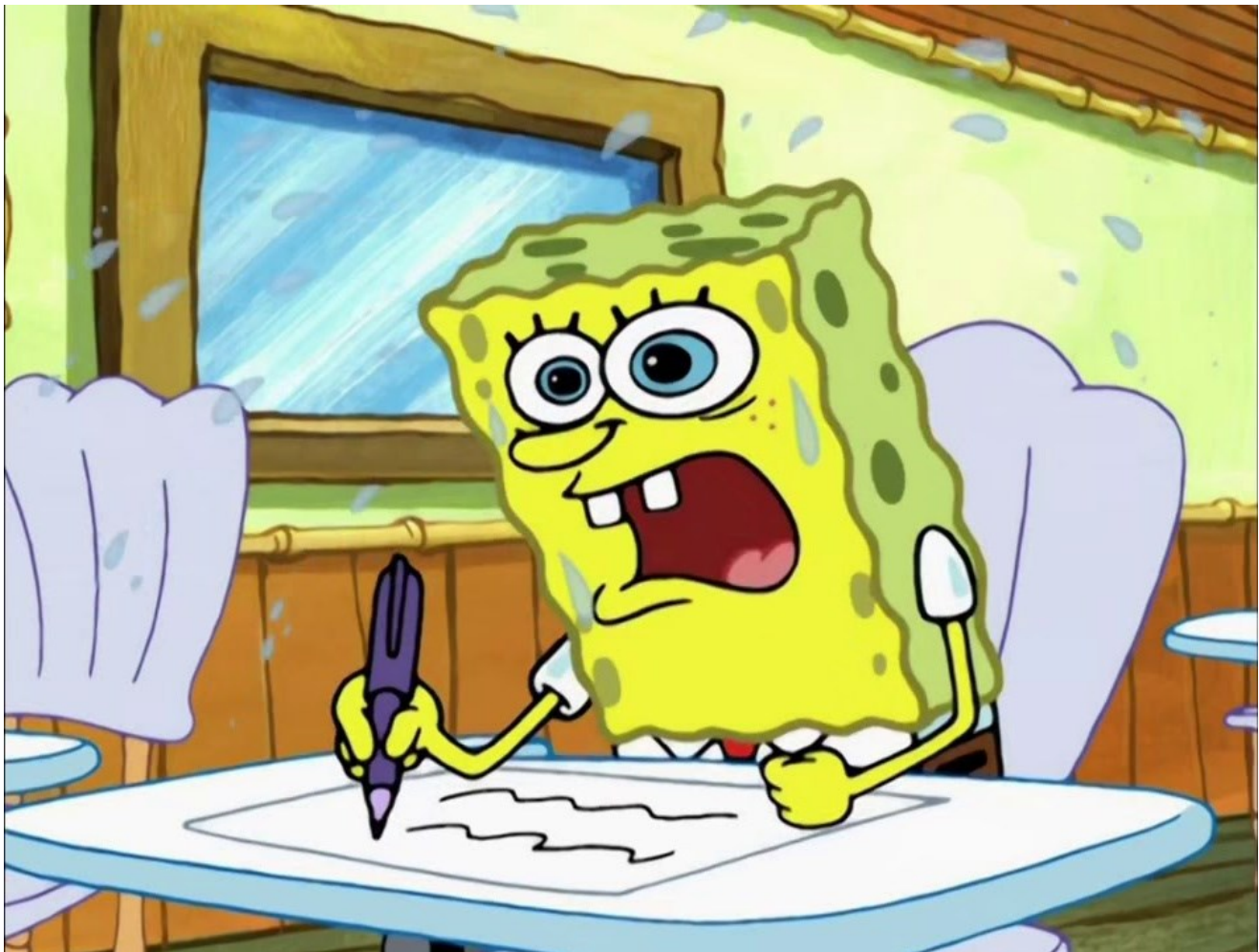
**Good of The Order:**

St. Patrick's Day Parade awards ceremony on April 24<sup>th</sup>  
Requin Base 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party aboard USS Requin on April 28<sup>th</sup>  
Fish Rodeo at Morningside VFW on May 10<sup>th</sup>  
Admiral Foggo visit May 13<sup>th</sup>  
Memorial service at Keystone Base on May 20<sup>th</sup>  
North East District 3 conference on August 12<sup>th</sup>

**Chaplain Eric Bookmiller** 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 May 13, 2023

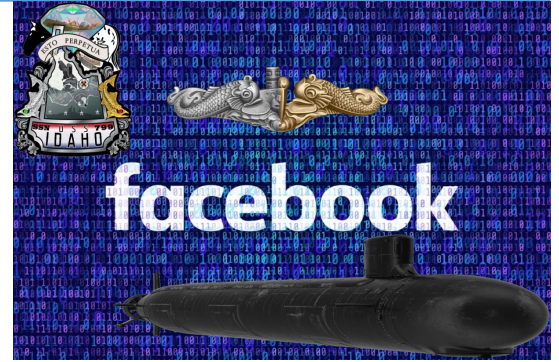




**Congratulations to all of this years inductees to the Holland Club**

Ken Crosby, Mike Pellegrino, Dan Plunkett, John Swords, Charlie Warren, Jon Bruce, Bob Laird, John Mack, and Joe Monteleone

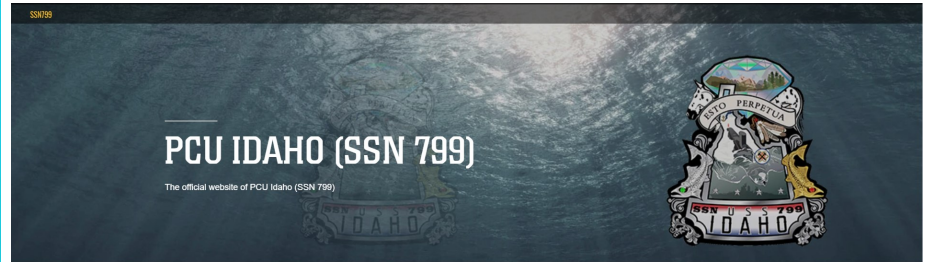




<https://www.facebook.com/SSN799>

**USS Idaho Support Fundraiser**  
 Jan 8, 2022

As I said, we are Submariners, and by nature, we are over achievers.  
 Thank you to everyone that helped us reach our goal of \$15,000  
 The crew and their families appreciate the support.



<https://www.sublant.usff.navy.mil/SSN799/>

Here is the link to the customer photos.  
<https://requinbase.org/customer-photos/>



If you would like to order a submarine beer tap handle [with or without the stand], a challenge coin holder or a newly added cribbage board.

contact [Huey Dietrich](#) or

Place your order for these and other USS Idaho items at

<https://requinbase.org/product-category/uss-idaho/>





# Say What???

**Blow and Go** – To emergency blow the main ballast tanks.

**Rig ship for lady visitors** - Before women were allowed on submarines the crew would be informed of women visitors so as to not say or do anything inappropriate and to put away all smut locker material.



## Chaplain's Column

Greetings to all my fellow Requin Base shipmates, spouses, and associate members.

As always, I would like to ask everyone to keep those on the binnacle list in our thoughts and prayers this month.

Remember we are only as good as the information we get. If we don't know of a member passing, we cannot provide the appropriate honors for a fallen shipmate. If you know anyone who is sick or goes on eternal patrol, please give me a call at 724-485-2341 or email at [ebookmiller@comcast.net](mailto:ebookmiller@comcast.net). If you call and I don't answer, please leave a message. This is a land line phone so do not text this number.

If you wish to be placed on the binnacle list but do not want to disclose the specifics, I will maintain your confidentiality.

Eric Bookmiller



## 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.





## Upcoming Events

### Meeting

May 13, 2023  
1230 hours

American Legion Post 641  
271 State St  
Baden PA 15005

### Base activities

St. Patrick's Day Parade awards ceremony on April 24<sup>th</sup>  
Requin Base 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party aboard USS Requin on April 28<sup>th</sup>  
Fish Rodeo at Morningside VFW on May 10<sup>th</sup>  
Admiral Foggo visit May 13<sup>th</sup>  
Memorial service at Keystone Base on May 20<sup>th</sup>



## Membership

Primary Members	166	Holland Club	88	USSVI Life Members	76
Secondary Members	13	WWII	2	Base Life Members	57
Associate Members	16	Eternal Patrol	75	Joined Last Year	13
Total Members	195			Joined This Year	4



### New Members



## Eagle Scouts

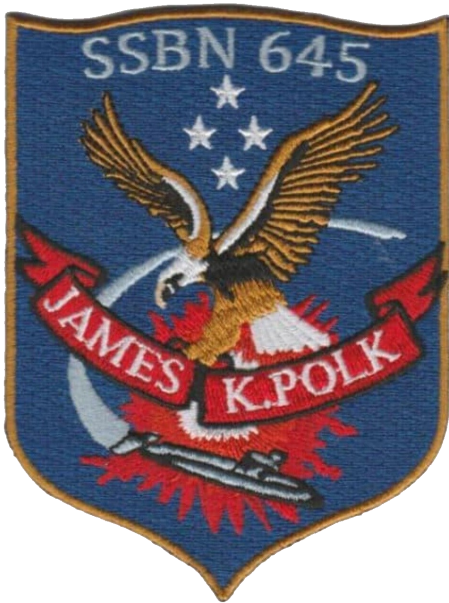
Please direct all Eagle Court of Honor requests to <https://requinbase.org/eagle-coh>

Congratulations to:

Jason Andrews T17

Liam Butler T17

Colin McKern T17



In August 1992, *James K. Polk* began a nineteen-month shipyard conversion that removed her ballistic missiles and deactivated her missile tubes, converted her into an attack submarine, and installed Dry Deck Shelters on her deck which would allow her to support special warfare operations. Upon completion of this conversion in March 1994, her hull classification symbol was changed from SSBN-645 to SSN-645 to reflect her conversion from a fleet ballistic missile submarine to an attack submarine.

History	
<b>Name</b>	USS <i>James K. Polk</i>
<b>Namesake</b>	James K. Polk (1795–1849), 11th President of the United States (1845–1849)
<b>Awarded</b>	1 November 1962
<b>Builder</b>	General Dynamics Electric Boat, Groton, Connecticut
<b>Laid down</b>	23 November 1963
<b>Launched</b>	22 May 1965
<b>Sponsored by</b>	Mrs. Horacio Rivero, Jr.
<b>Commissioned</b>	16 April 1966
<b>Decommissioned</b>	8 July 1999
<b>Reclassified</b>	From <u>fleet ballistic missile submarine</u> (SSBN-645) to <u>attack submarine</u> (SSN-645) March 1994
<b>Stricken</b>	8 July 1999
<b>Fate</b>	Scrapped via <u>Ship and Submarine Recycling Program</u> 26 April 2000

General characteristics	
<b>Class and type</b>	<u>Benjamin Franklin class fleet ballistic missile submarine</u> 1966–1994; <u>attack submarine</u> 1994–1999
<b>Displacement</b>	6527 <u>tons light</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7345 tons full</li> <li>818 tons dead</li> </ul>
<b>Length</b>	425 feet (130 m)
<b>Beam</b>	33 feet (10 m)
<b>Draft</b>	31 feet (9.4 m)
<b>Installed power</b>	15,000 shp (11,185 kW)
<b>Propulsion</b>	One <u>S5W pressurized-water nuclear reactor</u> , two geared <u>steam turbines</u> , one shaft
<b>Speed</b>	Over 20 <u>knots</u>
<b>Test depth</b>	1,300 feet (400 m)
<b>Complement</b>	Two crews (Blue Crew and Gold Crew) of 14 <u>officers</u> and 129 <u>enlisted men</u> each
<b>Armament</b>	16 × <u>ballistic missile tubes</u> (removed 1994) with one <u>Polaris</u> , later <u>Poseidon</u> missile each 4 × 21 inches (530 mm) <u>torpedo tubes</u>

**04/01/1943**

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

**04/02/1943**

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

**04/02/1991**

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

**04/03/1943**

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

**04/04/1943**

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

**04/06/1945**

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

**04/07/1990**

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

**04/07/1979**

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

**04/08/1944**

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

**04/10/1942**

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

**04/10/1963**

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

**04/11/1900**

United States Navy Acquires USS Holland (SS-1)

**04/11/1944**

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

**04/11/1992**

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



**04/12/1944**

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

**04/13/1942**

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

**04/13/1944**

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

**04/14/1945**

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

**04/16/1942**

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

**04/17/1942**

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

**04/20/1944**

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

**04/20/1964**

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

**04/22/1945**

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

**04/24/1943**

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

**04/23/1945**

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

**04/24/1981**

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

**04/25/1944**

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

**04/26/1960**

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

**04/27/1944**

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

**04/27/1963**

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

**04/28/1945**

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

**04/29/1944**

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

**04/30/1944**

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



Tench class USS Pickerel (SS-524) performing an emergency surface test from a depth of 150 feet with a 48° up-angle off the coast of Oahu, Hawaii, 1 March 1952.



## How the US plans to expand its submarine industrial base for AUKUS

By [Megan Eckstein](#), [Joe Gould](#) and [Bryant Harris](#) Wednesday, Mar 15

<https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2023/03/15/how-the-us-plans-to-expand-its-submarine-industrial-base-for-aukus/>



A crew member watches as various sensors and antenna deploy during the commissioning commemoration ceremony for the Virginia-Class submarine USS Delaware at the Port of Wilmington in Wilmington, Delaware, on April 2, 2022. (Photo by Brendan Smialowski / AFP) (Photo by BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP via Getty Images)

WASHINGTON — Defense officials are optimistic that billions of dollars of investments in the U.S. submarine industrial base will increase capacity to and even above the required two-a-year attack sub construction rate, allowing the U.S. to build for Australia under a new international agreement without restricting the American fleet.

On Monday, the U.S., Australia and the United Kingdom unveiled new details about their partnership to produce for Australia its own nuclear-powered submarine by 2040, known as the SSN AUKUS. The U.S. is offering an interim capability of three to five Virginia-class submarines, either newly built or used, in the 2030s.

To meet the U.S. Navy’s undersea warfare needs under a 2021 force structure assessment, the submarine industrial base must sustain a minimum construction rate of two Virginia-class attack submarines and one Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine per year throughout this decade and into the next — without counting any additional submarines for Australia. So far, builders have not been able to keep up with that workload and are years behind schedule on some Virginia submarines.

This week, senior defense officials, granted anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, told Defense News a series of investments from Congress and Australia, with the AUKUS pact in mind, are meant to help industry “get to that 2.0 delivery cadence that we’re expecting” on the Virginia program and even achieve rates “north of 2.0” while working on the Australian boat or boats.

However, one of those officials said the Navy was not expecting to see “sustained 3.0 production” of these attack submarines in the long run.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday on Wednesday said the investment would help the shipbuild-

ers and their suppliers “sustain that 2.0 cadence, which by the way needs to go above 2.0 attack boats a year if we’re going to be in a position to sell any to the Australians.”

And Naval Sea Systems Command commander Vice Adm. Bill Galinis confirmed industry is still delivering about 1.2 submarines a year — reflecting that the Navy is buying two a year and industry is delivering them late.

At a Pentagon press conference Tuesday, the assistant secretary of defense for strategy, plans and capabilities, Mara Karlin, said the pact would “lift all three nations’ submarine industrial bases and undersea capability, enhancing deterrence and promoting stability in the region.”

“Australia’s acquisition of SSNs will bolster the capabilities of one of our strongest allies by increasing the Royal Australian Navy’s range, survivability and striking power, thus strengthening deterrence in the Indo-Pacific,” Karlin said.

Before Australia acquires its own Virginia-class subs, a new collaborative entity known as Submarine Rotational Forces-West will establish a rotational presence of one UK Astute class submarine and up to four U.S. Virginia-class SSNs at Australia’s Stirling military base near Perth.

Amid the concerns of U.S. lawmakers that AUKUS will make it more difficult to meet U.S. submarine needs, defense officials say the industrial base investments will also cut maintenance timelines, making the submarines the U.S. Navy has more operationally available.

## **A history of industrial base challenges**

The Navy was already ramping up its financial support of the submarine industrial base well before AUKUS was decided. The sea service spent more than \$1 billion between fiscal 2018 and 2022 on bolstering the two nuclear shipbuilding yards and their thousands of suppliers, and kicked off another five-year, \$2.4 billion investment in FY23 — on top of the annual cost of procuring submarines.

The Navy this year is also launching a separate \$2.2 billion investment in Virginia-class maintenance and readiness, which will also benefit many of the same parts suppliers.

The industrial base is facing a range of challenges after shrinking by about 70% when the Navy took a break from buying submarines following the end of the Cold War. A smaller industrial base began Virginia-class construction in 1998 at a rate of one boat a year, but in FY11, the Navy moved to a two-a-year rate, and by 2019, it was clear industry had fallen behind.

Attack sub construction fell even further behind as the Navy asked industry to prioritize the growing Columbia-class workload. And the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent labor market disruption left the Virginia production line in a dire situation, with industry delivering no submarines to the Navy between April 2020 and February 2022.

The attack submarine fleet has shrunk to 49, compared to a 2021 assessment’s requirement for 66 to 72. For the fleet to reach that required size, industry would need to get back on track and then increase its production rate to something closer to three a year.

There was a time when Navy officials thought a couple-billion-dollar infusion into the submarine industrial base could help expand production from two Virginias a year to three. In June 2021, then-acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition Jay Stefany told senators it would take “a major investment of effort, capital and workforce” and cited an internal study that called for \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion – plus industry’s own investments – to get to that higher rate.

The Navy will ultimately spend more than that just to secure on-time production of two Virginias a year.

But AUKUS could change that.

A senior administration official told Defense News last week the Navy investments so far “are down payments on what needs to be done for the U.S. submarine industrial base,” adding the administration would “work with Congress to get very substantial lifts in the U.S. submarine industrial base, lifts that go significantly beyond the \$4.6 billion we will have submitted with the president’s budget submission,” referring to the \$2.4 billion effort that began last year and the \$2.2 billion effort kicked off with this week’s FY24 request.

“In an unprecedented move, Australia has agreed to make a proportional contribution to the U.S. submarine industrial base to help lift our production and maintenance capabilities to offset the loss of those submarines,” the official added, noting this undisclosed sum would come on top of paying the “full and fair price” for the used and the new submarines.

The official called the American and Australian investments “generational” and said they would have “a huge impact on our overall defense posture.”

Though the senior administration official would not say the amount of Australia’s contribution to the industrial base, Reuters reported Australia would invest \$3 billion in the U.S. and U.K. submarine industrial bases over the next four years. That includes funds for U.S. workers to help Australia set up its own nascent submarine industrial base in Adelaide and for their Australian counterparts to work in U.S. shipyards across the country.

Here’s a closer look at what’s been invested so far:

### **Submarine industrial base and workforce development**

The Navy last year made the first payments of a five-year, \$2.4 billion investment in industrial base and workforce development support, including nearly \$750 million in FY23 for the submarine industrial base.

Rep. Joe Courtney, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee’s seapower panel, noted the newly released FY24 budget proposal seeks \$647 million more to expand the submarine industrial base.

Courtney’s Connecticut district includes the General Dynamics Electric Boat submarine construction yard, one of only two shipyards in the nation that build nuclear-powered submarines. (The other is Hill’s Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia.)

“I’ve been in Congress now 17 years, we’ve never seen a number like that in terms of workforce, supply chain and facility” investments, Courtney told reporters on a Tuesday call, noting previous submarine capacity investments ranged from \$100 to \$200 million per year prior to FY23.

The FY23 funding included \$541 million for supplier development, workforce development, shipyard infrastructure and strategic outsourcing to other shipyards – which Courtney noted benefitted not just the Connecticut and Virginia shipyards, but suppliers around the country.

For instance, Austal USA’s Alabama shipyard recently started to build Command and Control Systems Modules and Electronic Deck Modules for Virginia- and Columbia-class submarines.

“The strategic outsourcing like what’s happening down in Alabama can be replicated in other parts of the country to take some of the pressure off of man hours” at the construction yards that don’t have the workforce or the facilities to accept more work, said Courtney.

During the Tuesday interview, the senior administration official said some of these investments are aimed at vendors deep in the supply chain, for hard-to-get metals, machine tooling or, say, an air conditioning unit unique to nuclear-powered ships.

“The supplier base investment goes all the way down [the supply chain] to better access to the right types

of alloys, the right types of metals for material procurement,” one senior administration official said.

Congress designated the remaining \$207 million in FY23 submarine industrial base funding for workforce development initiatives to help the shipyards cope with labor shortages that have hindered production.

“The pursuit of people and investments is almost like The Hunger Games out there right now,” said Courtney, referencing the dystopian novels and movies. He noted Electric Boat made almost 4,000 new hires last year and has set an ambitious target to hire an additional 5,700 workers this year alone.

The Department of Labor has also funds a manufacturing pipeline program that trains the welders, mechanics and electricians that shipyards rely on in as little as eight to 10 weeks.

### **Virginia-class readiness spending**

Another challenge stemming from the industry output is the lack of spare parts for in-service Virginia submarines, leading the Navy to have to cannibalize parts from one submarine to finish up another boat’s repairs.

In fact, a 2021 Congressional Budget Office report showed the number of parts taken from one Virginia submarine to complete maintenance on another skyrocketed in 2019 and remained high since.

That’s where the new \$2.2 billion investment in Virginia-class spares and maintenance will come into play.

The Navy is asking for \$541 million in FY24 for spare parts, according to Rear Adm. John Gumbleton, the deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for budget and director of fiscal management.

“This is a dramatic increase that we’ve never done before,” he said, noting the remainder of the investment will come across the next five years.

Gumbleton said the Navy did not want to wait to start fixing the problem. Even as Congress works through the FY24 budget process, the service will use its Navy Working Capital Fund to purchase \$200 million to \$350 million in spare parts so that they’re waiting on the shelves in FY24 and the Navy can use its appropriated funds to buy those parts for immediate use.

This funding is meant to give parts suppliers an increased but stable demand while also helping address widespread maintenance delays. These delays have led to 18 submarines in or awaiting maintenance, instead of what should be 10 under operations and maintenance planning assumptions.

This means the Navy has 31 attack subs available to conduct training, global operations and tactics development work, compared to 39 if today’s fleet saw on-time maintenance, or 53 to 58 if the submarine fleet was the required size.

# US Navy Awards Leonardo \$1B Columbia Sub Propulsion Contract

INDER SINGH BISHT APRIL 10, 2023

[HTTPS://WWW.THEDEFENSEPOST.COM/2023/04/10/US-NAVY-LEONARDO-COLUMBIA/](https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/04/10/us-navy-leonardo-columbia/)



The US Navy has awarded Leonardo a more than \$1-billion contract to provide integrated electric propulsion components for the future Columbia-class submarine.

The ballistic missile submarine class will feature the stealthier electric-drive propulsion system, unlike the mechanical-drive propulsion system outfitted on other US submarines.

The navy and General Dynamics Electric Boat selected Leonardo to design and manufacture the submarine's electric drive propulsion components, including the main propulsion motor.

Leonardo delivered the propulsion motor to General Dynamics Electric Boat in September.

## **Nuclear-Powered Sub**

The 560-foot (170 meters) submarine will have a displacement of nearly 21,000 tons, making it the largest ever built by the US.

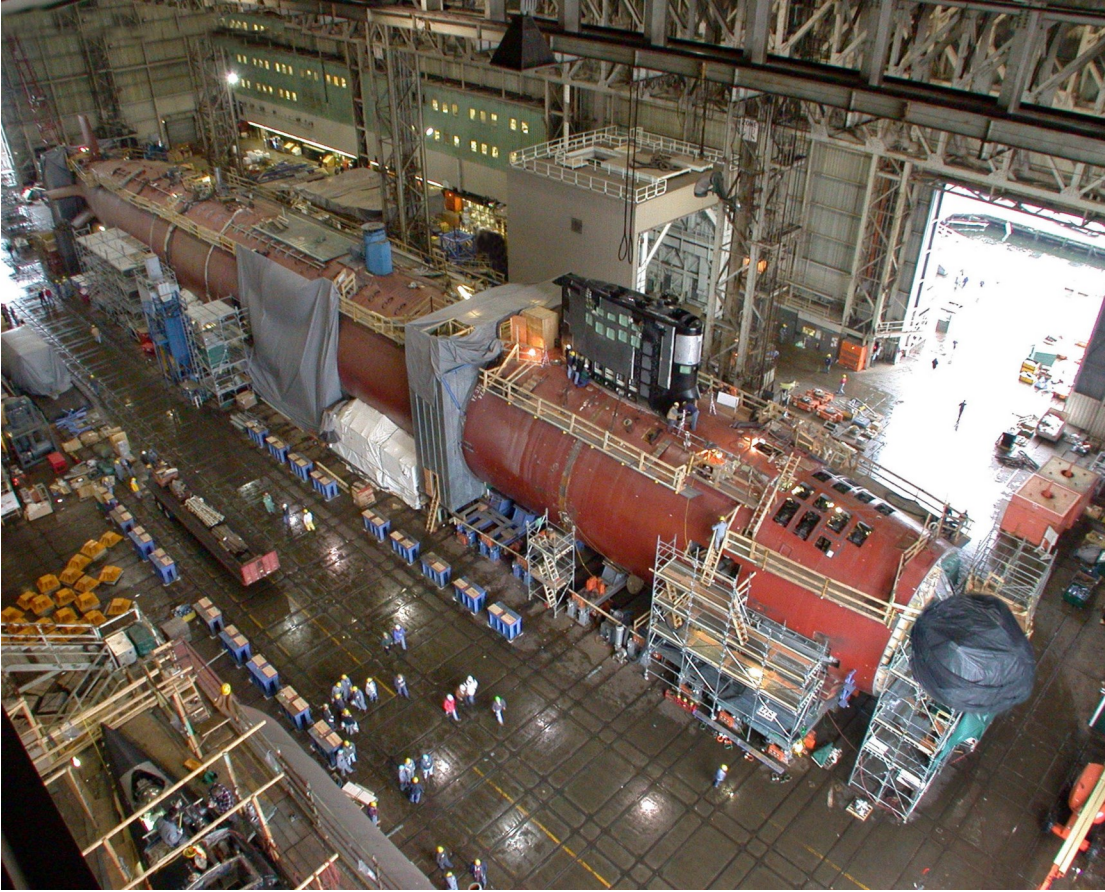
A total of 12 submarines will be built to replace the Ohio class, starting at the end of the decade.

The submarine will be equipped with 16 Trident II intercontinental ballistic missiles, eight fewer than Ohio. Columbia's nuclear reactor will have a lifetime operation of 42 years, unlike its predecessor, which requires mid-life nuclear refueling.

The submarine's "fly-by-wire" navigational systems will ensure more precise speed and depth monitoring.

# Shipbuilding 101

<https://www.navsea.navy.mil/Home/Team-Ships/Shipbuilding-101/>



USS Virginia (SSN-774) under construction at the General Dynamics Electric Boat shipyard in 2003. Electric Boat Photo

“So the ship’s been Christened, so now it goes out to sea, right? Or, is that the Commissioning? Have they put the ship into the water yet? And, when do they break the champagne bottle?”

Just as there are many milestones in the life of a Navy ship, there are a number of significant milestones and evolutions involved in bringing that ship to life.

## Ship Naming

On March 3, 1819 an act of Congress formally placed the responsibility for assigning names to the Navy's ships in the hands of the Secretary of the Navy, a prerogative which he still exercises. This act stated that "all of the ships, of the Navy of the United States, now building, or hereafter to be built, shall be named by the Secretary of the Navy, under the direction of the President of the United States, according to the following rule, to wit: those of the first class shall be called after the States of this Union; those of the second class after the rivers; and those of the third class after the principal cities and towns; taking care that no two vessels of the navy shall bear the same name." The last-cited provision remains in the United States Code today.

How will the Navy name its ships in the future? It seems safe to say that the evolutionary process of the past will continue; as the Fleet itself changes, so will the names given to its ships. It seems equally safe, however, to say that future decisions in this area will continue to demonstrate regard for the rich history and valued traditions of the United States Navy. More information on [Ship Naming](#).

## Pre-Commissioning Crew

The sailors who will eventually crew the ship are selected and ordered to the ship starting about 12-18 months prior to delivery. They establish a pre-comm detachment at the ship's prospective homeport and a pre-comm unit (PCU) at the construction site. The prospective crew will phase transfer to the construction



site starting with the nucleus crew about 12 months before delivery through to the arrival of the balance crew shortly before delivery.

### **Keel Laying**

This is the formal recognition of the start of a ship's construction. In earlier times it was the "laying down" of the central or main timber making up the backbone of a vessel. Today, fabrication of the ship may begin months before and some of the ship's bottom may actually be joined before the official keel is laid. However, the Keel Laying ceremony (also referred to as the keel authentication ceremony) symbolically recognizes the joining of modular components and the ceremonial beginning of a ship.

### **Stepping the Mast**

The placement of the mast into the hull in ancient times signified the moment when a "shell" truly became a ship. To commemorate that moment, the Romans placed coins under mast for good luck or to help deceased sailors into the afterworld. Today, coins, often reflecting the ship's hull numbers, are typically placed under or near the mast for good luck in a small ceremony.

### **Launching**

This is the point when the ship enters the water for the first time. Traditionally, it coincides with the ship's Christening with the ship sliding down the ways into the water with a splash. Today, many launchings, such as the one for San Antonio (LPD 17) take place separately from the Christening. For example, San Antonio was moved from the ways into a dry-dock, which when lowered enabled the ship to "float" for the first time.

### **Christening**

The official launching ceremony recognizing the "floating" of a ship by name and marked with the traditional breaking of a bottle of champagne across the bow.

The blessing of ships dates as far back as the third millennium BC, when the ancient Babylonians, according to a narrative, sacrificed an oxen to the gods upon completion of a ship. Throughout history, different cultures developed and shaped the religious ceremony surrounding a ship launching.

Today the Christening is often conducted after the launching. The ship's sponsors, who are most often women, break a bottle of champagne against the ship's bow and ceremonially give the ship its name. The first recorded Christening of a United States Navy ship is USS Constitution, on October 21, 1797 in Boston, where the ship's sponsor, Capt. James Sever, broke a bottle of wine across the bow as "Old Ironsides" slid into the water.

### **Sea Trials**

Sea trials are an intense series of tests to demonstrate the satisfactory operation of all installed shipboard equipment. Sea Trials ensure that the performance of the ship as a whole is in accordance with its plans and specifications. New construction ships undergo Builder's Trials and Acceptance Trials prior to a ship's delivery. Final Contract Trials are conducted after delivery.

### **Delivery**

The official turnover of custody of a ship from the shipyard to the U.S. Navy. This private ceremony involves the Prospective Commanding Officer actually signing for and accepting the ship on behalf of the U.S. Navy from the builders. This event normally coincides with Move Aboard when the Pre-Commissioning crew moves aboard and starts living, eating, standing watch, training and working aboard the ship while final work continues in the shipyard.

### **Sail Away**

The ship's final departure from the construction yard for its homeport or Commissioning site. It signifies the end of the new construction period and the beginning of its life preparing to perform the mission it was designed to undertake.

### **Commissioning**

The Commissioning ceremony marks the acceptance of a ship as a unit of the operating forces of the United States Navy. At the moment of breaking the Commissioning pennant, the ship will "come alive" and the crew will ceremonially run aboard ship. Thereafter, the ship is officially referred to as a United States Ship (USS).



# 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.



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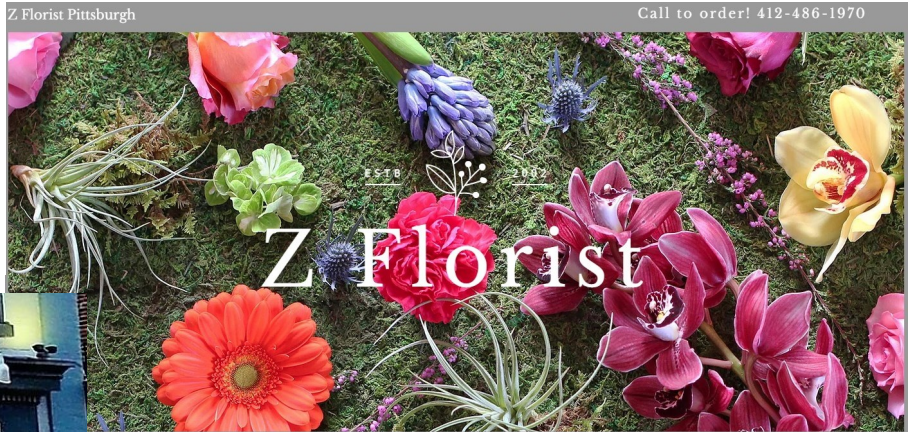


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