August 2023

# **Steel Valley Dolphins**

Monthly Newsletter







# USS Balao SS-285



# 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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# Articles of Interest

4 Generations Submariners	19
USS Tucson now available	23
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Sponsors

# **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

Sept 09, 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

# **MAKE A DIFFERENCE, ATTEND A MEETING!**

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# Our Website

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

https://www.requinbase.org/

# **USSVI** National Officers

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Eagle Scout Chair	John Held	724-331-2479	petecompost@aol.com
Awards Chair	Dick Geyer	724-822-0401	dgdiving@gmail.com
Master at Arms			
Public Affairs Chair	Ed Derr	724-854-0781	rredde@gmail.com





# USS Bullhead (SS-332)

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

### USS Flier (SS-250)

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

### USS S-39 (SS-144)

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

### USS Harder (SS-257)

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

### USS Cochino (SS-345)

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

Submarines commissioned during the month of August

	0/5/4040		Nex O	
F-3 SS-22	8/5/1912	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	
K-5 SS-36	8/22/1914	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	
L-8 SS-48	8/30/1917	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	
L-9 SS-49	8/4/1916	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	
L-10 SS-50	8/2/1916	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	
L-11 SS-51	8/15/1916	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	
O-10 SS-71	8/17/1918	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	
O-15 SS-76	8/27/1918	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	
O-16 SS-77	8/1/1918	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	
R-10 SS-87	8/20/1919	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	
R-16 SS-93	8/5/1918	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	
R-17 SS-94	8/17/1918	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	
R-22 SS-99	8/1/1919	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	
S-19 SS-124	8/24/1921	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	
S-21 SS-126	8/24/1921	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	
S-24 SS-129	8/24/1923	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	
S-35 SS-140	8/17/1922	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	
Porpoise SS-172	8/15/1935	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	
Thresher SS-200	8/27/1940	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	
Triton SS-201	8/15/1940	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	Eternal Patrol
Marlin SS-205	8/1/1941	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	
Corvina SS-226	8/6/1943	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	Eternal Patrol
Dorado SS-248	8/28/1943	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	Eternal Patrol
Gunnel SS-253	8/20/1942	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	
Redfin SS-272	8/31/1943	Wikipedia	<u>NavSource</u>	
Sawfish SS-276	8/26/1942	Wikipedia	<u>NavSource</u>	
Batfish SS-310	8/21/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Blower SS-325	8/10/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Blueback SS-326	8/28/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Cobbler SS-344	8/8/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Cochino SS-345	8/25/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Mero SS-378	8/17/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Sea Robin SS-407	8/7/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Sennet SS-408	8/22/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Piper SS-409	8/23/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Threadfin SS-410	8/30/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Spot SS-413	8/3/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Sirago SS-485	8/13/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Dolphin AGSS-555	8/17/1968	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Harder SS-568	8/19/1952	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Salmon SSR-573	8/25/1956	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Growler SSG-577	8/30/1958	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Thresher SSN-593	8/3/1961	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
	0,0,1001	<u>vviitipedia</u>		

Barb SSN-596 Ethan Allen SSBN-608 Casimir Pulaski SSBN-633 Stonewall Jackson SSBN-634 Tautog SSN-639 Puffer SSN-652 Henry L. Stimson SSBN-655 Spadefish SSN-668 Trepang SSN-674 Parche SSN-683 Richard B. Russell SSN-687 Nevada SSBN-733	8/24/1963 8/8/1961 8/14/1964 8/26/1964 8/17/1968 8/9/1969 8/20/1966 8/14/1969 8/14/1970 8/14/1970 8/17/1974 8/16/1975 8/16/1986	Wikipedia Wikipedia Wikipedia Wikipedia Wikipedia Wikipedia Wikipedia Wikipedia Wikipedia Wikipedia Wikipedia	NavSource NavSource NavSource NavSource NavSource NavSource NavSource NavSource NavSource NavSource NavSource NavSource NavSource
Parche SSN-683 Richard B. Russell SSN-687	8/17/1974 8/16/1975	Wikipedia	NavSource



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<b>Binnacle List</b> James Kontir George Brown Gerry Gaylor	An	Eternal Patrol I Hands Present d Accounted For	In Remo Edward W. Frank S. Go Samuel J. M Francis Nea John W. Iro Louis E. Kle Robert A. C	ogul AcGrew al Sever ns Jr. einlein	RM2(SS) MOMM1(SS) LT SM2(SS) EM1(SS) SOC(SS) EM3(SS)	8/3/2015 8/7/2002 8/15/2013 8/27/2012 8/27/2009 8/29/1998 8/31/2014
Member	Bi	rthdays Spou	se		Anniversarie	es
Keith Small Andrew Wolbrueck Phillip Elias Nathaniel Bellavand Brian Powers George Harrah, Jr Michael Gasparovid Earl Riley Hubert Dietrich Edward Mason, Jr Harry Sills Bradley Davis Sandra Carman David Howton Daniel Klemz Blaine Kuhn David Sawin John Swords Richard McCarthy Thomas Burdin	9/7 9/8	Pamela Lucas Jude Meyers Kelly Alters Beverly Bence Eileen Klemz Carolyn Sills Carol Cochenour Jill Campisi Barbara Boutelle Janice Johnston Christine Ladrie Mary Ann Fleck Flo Hemming Patricia Cantwell Barbara Harrah Valerie Wendell Mary Ann Kontir Connie Small Yvonne McKenzie	9/1 9/2 9/4 9/6 9/6 9/8 9/11 9/13 9/15 9/19 9/20 9/23 9/24 9/25 9/25 9/25 9/25 9/29 9/29 9/29	Mary Jar Dolly & F Carol & I Barbara Jacquelin Adriana Patricia & Karen & Sandra & Rosema Eva Mat	Chad Underkoffler ne & Edwin Derr Paris vonRabenau Pete Poninsky & George Harrah ne & Robert Hall & Mark Hoag & Frederick Kopper James Lewis & Edward Morgan rie & Earl Riley hews & Scott Holzy James Hughes	9/27 9/28 9/28

Steel Valley Dolphins 08/2023

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Commanders Notes:

I take my hat off to all the shipmates, first mates and guests that attended the Aug base meeting in Monroeville, Pa. And a special thanks to Mike Pellegrino as our host shipmate, who did a wonderful job.

I believe this is only the second meeting that I missed in 14 years. Joe Campisi and I traveled to Harrisburg to attend the District Three Meeting. It was well attended and a lot of information was shared with all the bases. All Base members will receive a copy of the minutes and any discussions will be held at the September meeting.

As of today, I have not heard back from the Science Center concerning placing the small crucifix, with the ashes, of plank owner Duffy, on board the Requin! If and when we receive a positive response, a notice will be sent out. So keep August 25 th on your calendar!

I hope everyone had a great meeting and I am looking forward to the September meeting at the American Legion in Baden. Meeting Minutes



August 12, 2023 American Legion Post 820 Monroeville PA

Shipmate Lou Hamill called the meeting to order.

Attendees: John Bistolas, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Clair & Nancy Bouts, Don Bright, Ron Campbell, Francis Certich, Ken Crosby, Dick & Beverly Geyer, Lou Hamilll, John Held, Bill & Sandy Lindsey, Chuck & Nancy Loskosh, John Mack, Bob & Jude Meyers, Frank Nicotra, Mike Pellegrino, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Keith & Connie Small, Jack & Karen Sutherin, John & Kim Swords, Scott Thomas, Chad Underkoffler, Andy & Emma Wolbrueck.

Shipmate Lou Hamill: Quotes of the day: "Congress passes bills the taxpayers pay them."

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

**Shipmate Lou Hamill:** 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 BULLHEAD (SS 332) August 6, 1945 USS FLIER (SS 250) August 13, 1944 USS S 39 (SS 144) August 16, 1942 USS HARDER (SS 257) August 24, 1944 USS COCHINO (SS 345) August 26, 1949 USS POMPANO (SS 181) August 29, 1943

We also wish to remember our shipmates of the Requin Base: Robert Campbell, Frank Gogul, John Irons, Louis Kleinlein, Sam McGrew, Neal Sever, and Edward Yoder. Let us also remember the brave submariners who died performing their duties aboard submarines, some individually and some in groups, but where the submarine itself was not lost.

# **Other Reports:**

Binnacle List: Brown, Kontier, Gayler Eternal Patrol: None Base membership stands at 199.

**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.

Report on available small stores.

Report on Eagle Scouts presentations was given.

A presentation was given on the Hero Hut organization which strives to effectively engage Veterans and First Responders at local events. Herro Hut will be attending an event being held August 22 to 26 in Hookstown PA.

# Old Business:

Members attended the Cod Base picnic in Cleveland on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **New Business:**

Motion to donate \$500 to Hero Hut organization for their tent rental at the Hookstown event was approved by the members present. Members are encouraged to attend this event. Details will be communicated to the members via email.

District meeting is being held this weekend at Keystone Base in Harrisburg PA.

# Good Of The Order

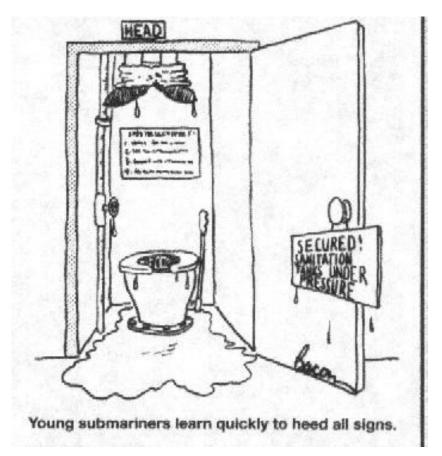
Mark Duffy, who is on eternal patrol, was a plank owner of the USS Requin. A small crucifix containing his ashes will be placed aboard the USS Requin on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Base donated a set of dolphins to the McDaniel family for the burial of a fellow submariner on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Chaplain Eric Bookmiller gave the Benediction and blessing of today's meal.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: American Legion Baden PA at 1230 hours on September 9, 2023





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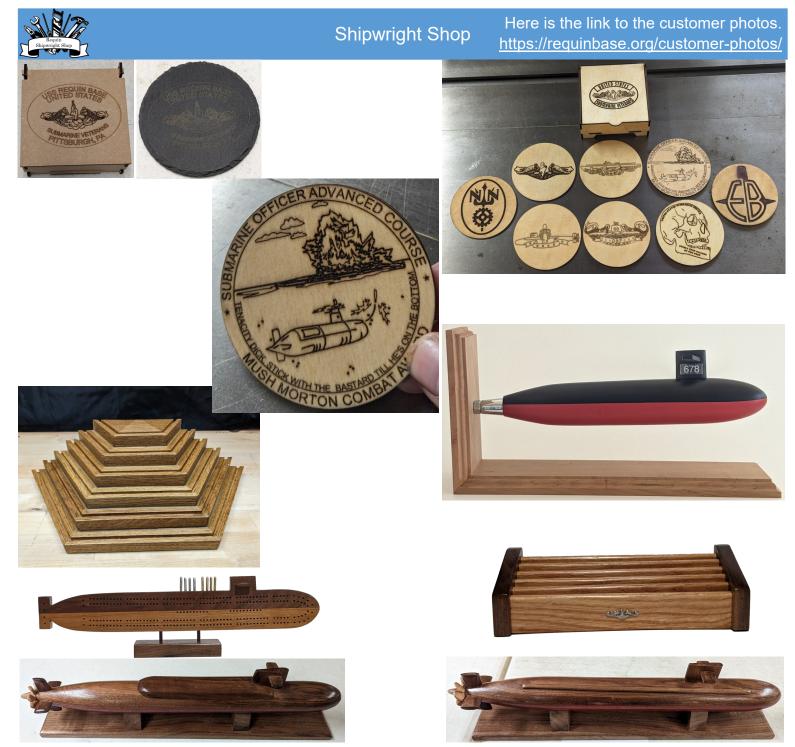
# PCU Idaho SSN - 799



https://ussidahocommittee.org/



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



If you would like any of these items, contact Huey Dietrich or Frank Nicotra. You may also place your order for these and other items at a base meeting.



Hero Hut will be at the Hookstown Fair <u>https://www.hookstownfair.com/</u>

# Aug 22, 10:00 AM EDT – Aug 26, 9:00 PM EDT

Hookstown Fair Grounds, 1198 PA-168, Hookstown, PA 15050, USA

Ron Campbell (724-513-5952) and Frank Nicotra (412-835-6540) are running point.

Please contact them to let them know when and how you can help.

# Mission:

Building community for veterans and first responders through collaborative spaces at events nationwide.

# Vision:

To strengthen the greater veteran and first responder community by establishing our community areas at events nationwide, and bringing together organizations that provide resources and support to those who have served.

# Values:

# Community:

Community drives us towards a sense of belonging and being a part of something bigger than ourselves. It allows us to connect and be there for each other. Community enables a group to share resources, help those in need, and collectively accomplish or overcome obstacles that would otherwise be more challenging alone.

# **Collaboration:**

We believe in promoting our partner Veteran Support Organizations! With MANY amazing organizations that exist today, too often, their message struggles to reach their target audience or their neighboring support organizations are unaware of their services. We believe that together we can make a lasting change on many of the issues plaguing the veteran community

# Service:

We believe that service for veterans does not have to stop after the military. It can and should continue after the transition to civilian life. Service is a contributing factor to being a part of something bigger than ourselves and key to community.

# **Respect:**

We value professionalism in all our efforts, from fundraising to volunteering at local events. Living by the golden rule of treating others how we want to be treated, respect is essential in establishing and maintaining a supportive environment for our veterans and volunteers.

# Humility:

We strive to tackle Veteran issues by reaching out to the strengths of our partners and feedback from our communities. We are a part of a larger mission that is shared amongst many other organizations and without those organizations, we cannot succeed, regardless of our own.



# USSVI ANNUAL CONVENTION 2024 CLEVELAND, OHIO HOME OF THE USS COD SUBMARINE MEMORIAL

- SHUTTLE SERVICE TO EVENTS
- LAKE & RIVER CRUISES
- HELICOPTER TOURS
- JACK CASINO
- CLEVELAND FLATS
- ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME
- PLAYHOUSE SQUARE
- CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
- SCIENCE CENTER
- CLEVELAND ZOO
- CLEVELAND AQUARIUM
- WOMENS AIR & SPACE MUSEUM
- CLEVELAND GUARDIANS
- FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME
- BREWERY TOURS
- INDOOR & OUTDOOR GOLF

REUNION DATES 8/17-8/19 & 8/25-8/27 CONTACT JOE MARANELLI 440-205-6089 M-F









# The perfect place for a convention

Central location easy access drive or fly / Embassy Suites Rockside host hotel Come meet fellow submariners SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 20-24 2024 WWW.THISISCLEVELAND.COM



Zulu 5 Oscar - Personnel making a deliberate attempt to board a ship unauthorized, usually at the direction of higher authority to test security procedures. The standard intruder drill.

There ain't no slack in a fast attack - In reference to the heavy sea time schedule fast attack sailors keep, and their thought that they do the job better than everyone else.



# 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. 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.

**Fric Bookmiller** 

USSVI meeting.



# **Store Keepers Report**

Please visit our online store at https://requinbase.org/shop/ Challenge Coins You can have your items shipped to you at home via USPS [for a small fee], or pick them up at the next Patches Requin Ba

Steel Valley Dolphins 08/2023



**Upcoming Events** 

# **Meeting** Sept 09, 2023 1230 hours

American Legion Post 641 271 State Street Baden, PA 15005 August 22-26 October 7th Noember 11th

# Base activities

Hero Hut Columbus Day Parade Veterans Day Parade

MEMBER MALER MALER		Member	ship		
Primary Members	170	Holland Club	88	USSVI Life Members	77
Secondary Members	13	WWII	2	Base Life Members	59
Associate Members	16	Eternal Patrol	79	Joined Last Year	7
Total Members	199			Joined This Year	9





**Eagle Scouts** 

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





History					
Builder	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine				
Laid down	26 June 1942				
Launched	27 October 1942				
Commissioned	4 February 1943				
Decommissioned	20 August 1946				
Recommissioned	4 March 1952				
Decommissioned	11 July 1963				
Stricken	1 August 1963				
FateSunk as a target off Florida on 6 September 1963. Conning tower is a memorial at the Navy Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.					
	General characteristics				
Class and type	Balao-class diesel-electric submarine				
Displacement	1,526 <u>long tons</u> (1,550 <u>t</u> ) surfaced, 2,414 long tons (2,453 t) submerged				
Length	311 ft 9 in (95.02 m)				
Beam	27 ft 3 in (8.31 m)				
Draft	16 ft 10 in (5.13 m) maximum				
Propulsion	<ul> <li>4 × <u>General Motors Model 16-278A V16 diesel engines</u> driving <u>electrical generators</u></li> <li>2 × 126-<u>cell Sargo batteries</u></li> <li>4 × high-speed <u>General Electric electric motors</u> with <u>reduction gears</u></li> <li>2 × propellers</li> <li>5,400 <u>shp</u> (4.0 <u>MW</u>) surfaced</li> <li>2,740 shp (2.0 MW) submerged</li> </ul>				
Speed	20.25 kn (23.3 mph; 37.5 km/h) surfaced, 8.75 kn (10.1 mph; 16.2 km/h) submerged				
Range	11,000 nmi (13,000 mi; 20,000 km) surfaced @ 10 kn (12 mph; 19 km/h)				
Endurance	48 hours @ 2 kn (2.3 mph; 3.7 km/h) submerged; <sup>[3]</sup> 75 days on patrol				
Test depth	400 ft (120 m)				
Complement	10 officers, 70–71 enlisted				
Armament	10 × <u>21 inch (533 mm)</u> torpedo tubes (six forward, four aft; 24 torpedoes) one [[4-inch/50-caliber gun  <u>4 in (100 mm)</u> /50]]/50 <u>caliber</u> deck gun one 40 mm (1.57 in) <u>Bofors antiaircraft</u> cannon two <u>.50 cal (12.7 mm) machineguns</u>				



### 08/01/1944

USS Puffer (SS 268) damages Japanese oiler, Sunosaki, northeast of Borneo.

### 08/03/1958

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

### 08/04/1943

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

### 0/05/1944

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

#### 08/06/1988

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

#### 08/08/1942

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

#### 08/10/1942

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

#### 08/12/1944

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

#### 08/13/1945

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

#### 08/14/1945

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

#### 08/16/1944

USS Croaker (SS 246) sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper, Taito Maru.

### 08/16/1958

USS Seadragon (SSN 584) launches at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. USS Seadragon decommissions in 1984.

# 08/16/1986

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

# 08/17/1942

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

# 08/19/1943

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

### 08/22/1944

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

### 08/23/1944

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

### 08/24/2020

USS Idaho SSN-799 Keel is laid.

### 08/25/1944

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

### 08/26/1949

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

### 08/27/1944

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

### 08/29/1915

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

### 08/29/1944

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

### 08/30/1929

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



# 4 Generations in the US Navy: This Family Has Seen 100 Years of Submarine History

13 Jul 2023 The Virginian-Pilot | By Caitlyn Burchett

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/07/13/4-generations-us-navy-family-has-seen-100-years-of-submarine-history.html?

ESRC=eb 230714.nl&utm medium=email&utm source=eb&utm campaign=20230714



Father and son, Lt. Adam Will and retired Capt. Alex Will, pose for a portrait on the front steps of the Will home in Hampton, Va. on Thursday, July 6, 2023. Adam is the fourth generation of Navy submariners to hail from the Will family following his father, his grandfather, Capt. John Will Jr., and great-grandfather, 4-star Admiral John Will Sr. (Kendall Warner/The Virginian-Pilot/TNS)

NORFOLK, Va. -- The grooves of the Will family's gold-plated dolphins have tarnished. But the submarine warfare insignia, having been pinned to the chests of four generations, shines nonetheless.

The dolphins have been handed down from Will to Will for 100 years, bearing witness to major conflicts and events — World War II, the Cold War, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Iraq War — and the U.S. Navy's shift from diesel ships to nuclear powered warfighters. That century of Naval submarine history is mapped out on walls of the family's Buckroe home in Hampton.

"This is submarine history, but it is our history too," said Alex Will, a retired captain and third-generation submariner.

Alex was pinned with the dolphins in 1988 when he was 26. The insignia, which is given to qualified submariners, belonged to his father and his father's father.

More than three decades later, those same dolphins belong to his son. Adam Will, 27, was pinned in May 2021 while assigned to the Norfolk-based USS Washington, a Virginia-class fast attack submarine. Although the Navy can't confirm it, Adam may be the only fourth-generation submariner.



Photos and memorabilia sit on display in the Will family home in Hampton, Va. on Thursday, July 6, 2023. The Will family is currently on the fourth-generation of family members to serve as submariners in the U.S. Navy. (Kendall Warner/The Virginian-Pilot/ TNS)

"It is a very special feeling," Adam said. "When I look at the photos at home, and see what my greatgrandfather, my grandfather and my dad have done, it is admirable. But I don't think of it as continuing a legacy — I am just doing my job."

Engraved on the back of the dolphins is the name of the first Will to join the silent service. John Will Sr. was one of the Navy's first submarine officers in the years before World War II, with his commissioning dating to 1923. He commanded three diesel S-class submarines and the fleet submarine Porpoise before World War II.

"Four generations, in any profession is noteworthy, particularly when that service is so important to our nation's defense," Alex said. "In my grandfather's day — World War II — submarines were critical to the outcome of that war, they were vital to winning the Cold War, and are arguably the most essential weapon system in these times of strategic competition."

John Mylin Will Sr. also commanded submarine divisions in the Pacific and Military Sealift Command, achieving the rank of vice admiral. Upon his retirement in 1959, he received a "tombstone promotion," and retired as a 4-star admiral. He died in 1981.

The second Will was the late Capt. John Will Jr., Adam's grandfather. John Will Jr. began his Naval career in 1953 as the Navy was on the cusp of introducing nuclear-powered propulsion.

"My dad wanted to go to the Naval Academy. As a kid, he moved around with his mom and dad so much that he went to 28 schools growing up. He wrote an essay about wanting to be a midshipman in the U.S. Naval Academy and he turned it in every time he changed schools," Alex said with a laugh.

John Will Jr. first worked on two destroyers and later entered the nuclear training program to transfer to submarines.



A newspaper article about the Will submariner family sits on display in their home in Hampton, Va. on Thursday, July 6, 2023. (Kendall Warner/The Virginian-Pilot/TNS)

In 1989, John Will Jr. told The Beacon: "I know I'm prejudiced, but I feel the nuclear submarine fleet is the current backbone of the Navy ... Not to take anything away from carriers or battle groups, but I think subs are slowly growing in prominence."

John Will Jr. went on to be the first commanding officer of the USS Puffer (SSN 652), putting it in commission in 1968. He then served the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as head of submarine research and development and returned to the Pentagon as a military advisor to the Department of Defense's Office of Naval Warfare.

"We are all submariners but it is an interesting distinction because my great-grandfather was a diesel boat guy, but in the '50s my grandfather shifted and spent his entire career as a nuclear officer." Adam said. "And then my dad and I followed that directional shift and became nuclear officers."

In 1985, Alex Will was commissioned as an officer and assigned to fast attack submarine USS Silversides, continuing what was affectionately dubbed "a family tradition." Alex served aboard the Norfolk-based submarine for three years before completing two years of shore duty and transitioning to the Navy Reserve. He retired as a captain in 2016 after a 30-year career.

While Alex left the active duty force, he still worked closely with submarines. He spent many years in the SSGN Program Office, overseeing the conversion of the capabilities of four Ohio-Class guided-missile submarines from launching nuclear missiles to launching guided missiles.

The Wills, Alex said, have always been drawn to subsurface warfare.

"It seems our family has always been connected to the submarine force in some way, shape or form," Alex said. "Even my oldest brother, he is an engineer, he works on acoustic programs. That is very important to the submarine force because our eyes and ears down there are the acoustics. There are no windows. Listening is all you've got."

Even so, it came as a surprise to him when his son asked about pursuing a Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship before heading to the University of Virginia in 2014. The program offers college tuition to qualifying students who sign on to be commissioned as a Navy officer upon graduation.

"We have never pushed the military to our boys," Alex said. "It was my thing, and it was my dad's thing. But we never said, 'Hey, why don't you go into the military?'

"So when Adam was applying to colleges and writing essays, he said he might go for an ROTC scholarship, and we were like, 'Where did that come from?' Joining the military had not been uttered by him up until that point."

Adam graduated from UVA in 2018 and went through two years of intensive nuclear training before he was commissioned in 2020. He was pinned with his dolphins in 2021.

"The Washington has a colloquial name — the Blackfish — and when we get pinned underway, we get pinned with black fish (dolphins), instead of silver or gold," Adam said. "But because I was pinned with my great-grandfather's dolphins, I was the only one with gold dolphins."

Adam was attached to the Washington for three years, and estimates he spent more than half of that time submerged.

"But the camaraderie you gain down there is ..." Adam began. "It's like 140 guys cooped up. Everyone comes from different backgrounds — not one person looks like the other. So, being able to understand where people come from, what their strengths are, what their weaknesses are, and be able to build a cohesive team, it's a pretty incredible thing."

Adam concluded his first sea tour aboard the Washington in March, and is now assigned to U.S. Submarine Forces Atlantic.

As for whether or not the Will family legacy will continue for a fifth generation, Adam said virtually the same thing his father told The Beacon in 1989.

"I am single so I have not really thought about it. But if my future son or daughter wants to be a submariner, they will have my full support."

# Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard completes USS Tucson availability.

By Ana Maring / Published Aug. 16, 2023 PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii,

https://www.navsea.navy.mil/Media/News/Article-View/Article/3495159/pearl-harbor-naval-shipyard-completes-uss-tucson-availability/



The USS Tucson (SSN 770) team successfully completes all planned maintenance and modernization work at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility, Hawaii, Aug. 15, 2023, delivering the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine back to the fleet.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY & IMF) successfully completed all planned maintenance and modernization work on USS Tucson (SSN 770) Aug. 15, delivering the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine back to the fleet.

Tucson entered dry dock at PHNSY & IMF in February 2021 for the submarine's engineered overhaul (EOH) availability. An EOH is a significant multi-year overhaul, which occurs near the mid-point of a Los Angeles Class submarine's service life. During this type of availability, the sub receives essential repairs and necessary modernization as well as routine maintenance to her systems, keeping the vessel at the fore-front of the fleet and "Fit to Fight."

"The Tucson Project/Ship's Force team faced some initial setbacks but persevered through challenges of difficult repairs and supply chain issues," said Devin Paiva, USS Tucson Project Superintendent. "The ship-yard drove to complete an aggressive end game schedule in 267 days when the 10-year average is 350 days. Truly amazing what a professional team of experts can accomplish!"

Tucson's successful undocking last November marked a significant step towards returning to sea. Once undocked, the project team finished additional maintenance and testing requirements pier side.

Ahead of EOH's final certification for unrestricted operations, USS Tucson's project team and ship's crew successfully completed sea trials ensuring the submarine can operate safely and deliver operational capability to the fleet. Successfully returning from sea trials and certifying in record time, the availability officially ended Aug. 15.

"Ship and submarine maintenance and repair is part of our national dialogue now because it is critical to

our Nation's defense; returning Tucson to the fleet provides a crucial asset in the Pacific Ocean," said Capt. Ryan McCrillis, who headed the shipyard Operations Department until June. "Submarine maintenance is extremely challenging and the need to return our ships to the fleet requires holding a tight schedule. This is a complex and challenging job and everyone who has a part of it should be rightfully proud to be part of this team."

Tucson's EOH required more than 440,000 man-days of production work with support from more than 800 PHNSY & IMF mechanics and engineers, Navy program offices, and contractors to complete more than 12,350 individual jobs.

"Tucson returning to the fleet highlights what can be achieved when a motivated group of personnel come together for a common purpose," said Tucson's Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Adam Matthews. "I commend the professionalism and dedication of PHNSY's workforce to make the EOH an overwhelming success. The Submarine Force is stronger today with Tucson back in the fight."

Commissioned in 1995, Tucson is the 59th Los Angeles-class attack submarine and the 20th of the improved Los Angeles-class attack submarines to be built. Tucson is currently assigned to Submarine Squadron 7 and homeported at the historic submarine piers in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

PHNSY & IMF is a field activity of NAVSEA and a one-stop regional maintenance center for the Navy's surface ships and submarines. It is the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawaii, with a combined civilian and military workforce of approximately 6,400. It is the most comprehensive fleet repair and maintenance facility between the U.S. West Coast and the Far East, strategically located in the heart of the Pacific, being about a week's transit time closer to potential regional contingencies in the Indo-Pacific.

# Navy Lays Keel for Future USS Oklahoma (SSN 802)

By Team Submarine Public Affairs Published Aug. 2, 2023

https://www.navsea.navy.mil/Media/News/Article-View/Article/3480837/navy-lays-keel-for-future-uss-oklahoma-ssn-802/



From left, Cmdr. Aaron Stutzman, commanding officer of the pre-commissioning unit, Newport News Shipbuilding President Jennifer Boykin, NNS welder Alex VanCampen, and ship's sponsor Mary "Molly" Slavonic at the keel authentication ceremony for Virginia-class attack submarine Oklahoma (SSN 802) at HII's Newport News Shipbuilding division on Wednesday, August 2, 2023 (Photo by Ashley Cowan/HII).

Welder Alex VanCampen welds the initials of ship's sponsor Mary "Molly" Slavonic onto a metal plate during the keel authentication ceremony for Virginia-class attack submarine Oklahoma (SSN 802) on Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at HII's Newport News Shipbuilding division. The metal plate will remain affixed to the submarine throughout its life (Photo by Lexi Whitehead/HII).

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – Senior Navy leaders and shipbuilders gathered at HII-Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS) Wednesday, Aug. 2, to attend a keel-laying authentication for the future Virginia-class submarine USS Oklahoma (SSN 802).

The keel laying signifies a major milestone in the life of a ship where the ship begins to transition from design to reality. The future USS Oklahoma will be the 29th Virginia Class Submarine and the first Block V submarine. It is the second Navy vessel, and the first submarine, to be named for the state of Oklahoma.

"Today represents a culmination of hard work and skill performed by a talented shipbuilding workforce and a strong foundation for future Sailors who will patrol the deep seas aboard Oklahoma in service of our nation," said Capt. Mike Hollenbach, Virginia Class Program Manager.

In a time-honored Navy tradition, the submarine's sponsor, Ms. Mary Slavonic, looked on as a NNS welder etched her initials onto a ceremonial steel plate that will be installed on the submarine at a later date. The bond symbolizes the enduring relationship between the sponsor, the ship, and her crew.

Slavonic has a long history of civic support to both her native state of Oklahoma and to the Navy. She worked alongside her husband, acting Under Secretary of the Navy Greg Slavonic, in building the USS Oklahoma (BB-37) Memorial in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to honor the 429 Sailors and Marines who perished aboard the ship December 7, 1941.

Virginia-class submarines are the most advanced attack submarines in the world, with superior stealth, firepower and maneuverability than previous classes. They can hit shore-based targets with highly accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles and are capable of long-term, stealth surveillance of sea forces, littoral waters or ground targets. Their design also provides for Special Forces delivery and support, mine delivery and minefield mapping, and anti-submarine and anti-ship warfare. These capabilities allow the submarine force to contribute to regional stability and preservation of future peace while operating everywhere international law allows.



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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. <u>https://requinbase.org/customer-photos/</u>





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