

# The Deep Dive News

September/October 2024



## Our USSVI Creed

*To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their 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.*

*In addition, to perpetuate the memory of our shipmates, we shall provide a way for all submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie.*

# USSVI Minneapolis/St. Paul Base Sep/Oct 2024Newsletter

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**Access (back to 2019) to MSP DDN's on our Website. Click on the following link:**  
<https://minneapolisubvets.com/news-header/newsletter/>

## In Every DDN

From the Commander and Chaplin

### Commander's Corner

One of my goals since taking the Base Commander position was to increase membership participation our Base sponsored events. The challenge was to find the answer to the question, what type of events would entice members to participate? Discussions with long time members about participation decreases provided the frequent answer that events and meetings lacked time to talk to members and were not interesting. Leadership members were ready for the challenge but required more input from members in making changes. John Barnes put a lot of time and effort into parades and static events attempting to get members involved with some success. John did provide the advantage of adding new members to the Base but we need your help to answer the question.

Your Base Leader Team members are looking for remedies responds to ensure we plan for the “right” solutions. We planned to invite guest speakers at our Base Membership Meetings. For October, we invited two well-known speakers to present their experiences with PTSD. We anticipated a well-attended meeting but the expected attendance did not materialize. We were unsure of the lack of attendance with ideas such as our minimal advertising, busy summer events and lack of interest in PTSD. We are unsure of how we missed the mark and are determined to discover what we need to increase membership participation.

Now that the busy summers are over with colder weather approaching and the holidays on the horizon, we look forward to seeing you at our next event, our annual Christmas Party. Our Base survey suggested holding the Christmas Party at a restaurant with a charming setting. I feel we found a great location centrally located with a tasteful setting. By now you have received the Christmas Party announcement detailing the event. The December 14<sup>th</sup> event will have the first hour dedicated to a social hour, also a survey suggestion. Our Base 2024 Christmas Party will be held at an event center with linen tablecloths, a room surrounded with windows, and at a moderate buffet price. The October bonfire event described in the last DDN cannot take place due to our dry weather conditions and fire restrictions. We are looking forward to a unique event in 2025 proven to be a lot of fun, a murder/mystery dinner event.

PLEASE take a few minutes to provide us with your comments and suggestions letting us know **WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE?** You can contact me anytime and/or provide your input via the online Base Survey at <https://minneapolisubvets.com/survey/> .

Thank you in advance,  
Ken Tibesar - 651-263-0522, KenTibesar@msn.com

## **Chaplains Corner**

Greetings Shipmates.

Our Base Commander Ken emailed me and asked me to write something for the DDN. As you probably remember, Our Base is still looking for someone to take over the Chaplain's job. As John Barnes wrote a while back, "we are seeking an assistant who can learn the function and become their replacement in the future." If you're interested, contact me.

*This following text uses various images to illustrate how damaging the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it is to reflect our faith.*

### **James 3:1-12**

#### **Taming the Tongue**

Not many of you should become teachers; my siblings of faith, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle.

If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder where ever the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species can be tamed by the tongue –a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My siblings, this ought not to be so.

A reading from our church service.

Joel Bergstrom  
Base Chaplain, Retired

Quote:

What did your mom and dad say? "If you can't say something good about someone, then don't say anything"

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## Contact List USSVI District and MSP Board

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Tom Williams III	Central Regional Director	<a href="mailto:texsubvet@yahoo.com">texsubvet@yahoo.com</a>	(512) 632-9439
David Farran*	CR-D3 Commander	<a href="mailto:dfarran@gmail.com">dfarran@gmail.com</a>	(319) 269-7389
Ken Tibesar	Commander	<a href="mailto:KenTibesar@msn.com">KenTibesar@msn.com</a>	(651) 263-0522
Tim Martinson	Vice Commander	<a href="mailto:martinsonti@gmail.com">martinsonti@gmail.com</a>	(860) 734-6957
David Harms	Secretary/K4K	<a href="mailto:dmh538@gmail.com">dmh538@gmail.com</a>	(651) 246-1661
Jack Fay	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:jedwardfay@gmail.com">jedwardfay@gmail.com</a>	(651) 491-9476
George St. Martin	MAA	<a href="mailto:stmarting@centurylink.net">stmarting@centurylink.net</a>	(952) 446-6249
Open	Chaplain / Librarian		
Joel Bergstrom	COB	<a href="mailto:bergieja@usfamily.net">bergieja@usfamily.net</a>	(651) 631-0091
William Benzick	Recruiting Officer	<a href="mailto:kcizneb@gmail.com">kcizneb@gmail.com</a>	(651) 503-6495
John Barnes	Past Commander	<a href="mailto:jbblastit@gmail.com">jbblastit@gmail.com</a>	(612) 251-2260
Ken Tibesar	MSP Website	<a href="http://www.MSPUssvi.com">www.MSPUssvi.com</a>	651-263-0522

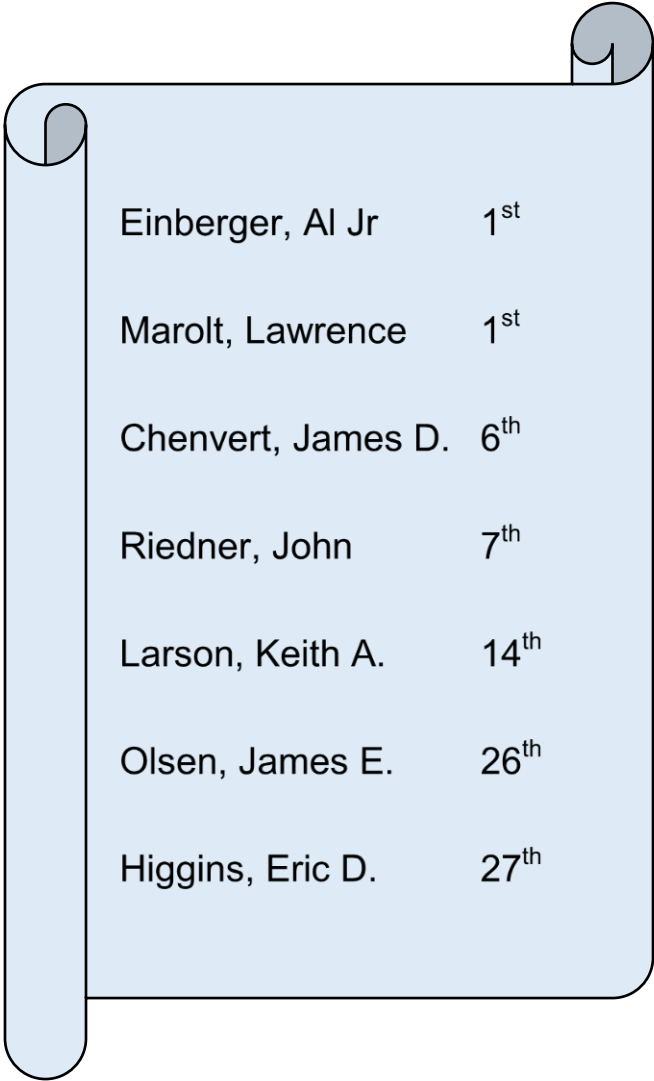
\* NOTE, from David Farran:

Any base member can contact me with requests or questions about USSVI at any time.  
I am your link to the USSVI National Board of Directors.

Happy Birthday Bubbleheads

***Happy Birthday,  
Bubbleheads!!***

**September**



Einberger, Al Jr	1 <sup>st</sup>
Marolt, Lawrence	1 <sup>st</sup>
Chenvert, James D.	6 <sup>th</sup>
Riedner, John	7 <sup>th</sup>
Larson, Keith A.	14 <sup>th</sup>
Olsen, James E.	26 <sup>th</sup>
Higgins, Eric D.	27 <sup>th</sup>

**October**



Koenig, William J.	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Beadell, Kenneth M.	9 <sup>th</sup>
Sellars, Robert A	9 <sup>th</sup>
Thomton, Brent	10 <sup>th</sup>
Potvin, Dennis E.	14 <sup>th</sup>
Barnes, John A.	16 <sup>th</sup>
Hagen, John Tucker	20 <sup>th</sup>
Sharpe, Robert G	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Ratte, David Scott	29 <sup>th</sup>

## Lost Boats List for September and October



Submitted by Joel Bergstrom

The "Tolling the Boats" ceremony was originally established by the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II. It is a unique and time-honored memorial service and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Navy. The tolling of the ship's bell reminds us of the debt of gratitude we owe to both our departed shipmates and to those in active service. We shall never forget the ultimate sacrifice they made so we all, and especially our families and loved ones, enjoy the fruits of freedom.

### ***Tolling of the Boats for September***

#### **USS S-5 (SS-110)**

Lost on September 1, 1920 when a practice dive went wrong and she sank bow-first, with her stern showing above the water. In a dramatic adventure, her exhausted crew was rescued during the next few days. Salvage attempts were unsuccessful, S-5 settled to the bottom and was abandoned.

#### **USS Grayling (SS-209)**

Lost on Sept 9, 1943 with the loss of 76 men near the Tablas Strait. Grayling was on her 8th war patrol and sank two ships before being lost.

#### **USS Pompano (SS-181)**

Pompano was sunk (between Sept 17 and Oct 5) with the loss of 77 men while on her 7th war patrol. Possibly lost on Sept 17, 1943. Japanese records show that a submarine was sunk in her patrol area on 17 September by air & depth charge attack off the Aomori Prefecture near Shiriya Zaki. Before being lost, she sank two enemy cargo ships. The exact cause of her loss remains unknown, but she probably was sunk by the air/sea attack above or fell victim to a mine on or after 9/25/1943. This boat's last recorded ship (Taiko Maru) sunk happened on Sept 25th, so she probably hit a mine on or after that date but before Oct 5th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.

#### **USS S-51 (SS-162)**

Lost on Sept 25, 1925 with the loss of 33 men when it was sunk after collision with SS City of Rome off Block Island.

#### **USS Cisco (SS-290)**

Lost on Sept 28, 1943 on her first war patrol with the loss of 76 men in the Sulu Sea west of Mindinao.

### ***Tolling of the Boats for October***

#### **USS Seawolf (SS-197)**

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

#### **USS S-44 (SS-155)**

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

#### **USS Wahoo (SS-238)**

Lost on Oct 11, 1943 with the loss of 80 men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of one of the great sub skippers of World War II, LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo was on her 7th war patrol. Wahoo had

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won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was lost to depth charges dropped by a Japanese patrol aircraft.

## **USS Dorado (SS-248)**

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

## **USS Escolar (SS-294)**

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

## **USS Shark II (SS-314)**

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

## **USS Darter (SS-227)**

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

## **USS Tang (SS-306)**

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

## **USS O-5 (SS-66)**

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

## Helping Others



USSVI and our MSP Base, have programs designed to help others. If there is someone you know that needs assistance or there is an organization you would like to pay tribute to, please contact:

Tim Martinson, Base Vice, 860-734-6957 (Phone & Text), [martinsonti@gmail.com](mailto:martinsonti@gmail.com)

## Armed Forces Service Center

The Armed Forces Service Center has 53 years of service for traveling military at the Minneapolis Airport. It is similar to a USO with the same mission: however, we are an independent organization started by a mom who lost her son in Vietnam.



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We are always looking for volunteers to work a 4-hour shift of their choice at least once a month. Members are encouraged to volunteer at the center.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, go to our website, and complete the volunteer sign-up at the website; navigate the menu selection to 'volunteer'.

## Mail Buoy

If you want to share your news with the Base Members, send us an email to be in the next DDN. There was no email from you for this DDN. As your leadership team, it is difficult to know how we are doing as your Base Leaders without your input on suggestions for changes.

**If there is anything on your mind you would like to share, send your, stories,** suggestion, requests, etc. to Tim Martinson, Base Vice, 860-734-6957 (call or send a or text msg), [martinsoni@gmail.com](mailto:martinsoni@gmail.com)



## Eternal Patrol

We do not have anyone to report for this DDN. If there is anyone we missed, please let us know. **Please help us in updating this list.** It is difficult to keep track of our MSP Base members that have regrettably joined the External Patrol.

## MSP Base Meeting Minutes



### Meeting Minutes

## USSVI Minneapolis-St Paul Base E-board Mtg Minutes

Held: September 14th, 2024, at the VFW in Richfield

Attendees: Ken Tibesar, Jack Fay, Tim Martinson, Bill Benzick, Dave Harms, Joel Bergstrom, John Barnes

The October Membership meeting was a very short business meeting and then onto the Guest speakers Col D Wayne Quist, USAF-RET and Dr. Steve Lansing who is a practicing Psychologist who specializes in working with veterans and emergency responders dealing with PTSD.

At the September Board meeting Jack Fay the Treasurer gave his report and we currently have \$5952.46 balance. The board as requirement to make charitable contributions voted to donate \$500.00 to the Fisher House, and \$500.00 to the USO.

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THE Board determined that a Zoom Account would be something that we should have for those who cannot attend meetings and for special meetings and possibly board meetings in the future. The cost is about \$219.00 annually,

The board had a discussion of who was a voting member on the board. It was determined that the Commander, Vice Commander, Secretary, Treasurer, COB and MAA were voting members, and the board also Added by resolution that the Chaplain would be a voting member of the board.

## Base Income and Outflows

Here are the details of the activities discussed at the E-board meeting.



### MSP Base Booster and Super Booster Club

To raise funds for our Base, the E-board passed the implementation of a Booster and Super Booster Club. If a Base member donates to MSP, their name will be listed in the DDN with the month/year of the donation. Since USSVI is a 501c13 organization, donating is tax deductible. You will need a receipt from our Base Treasure for you tax records. Thanks to all members for your financial support!!

A donation of less than \$50 will be considered a Booster donor and a donation of \$50+ is considered a Super Booster. The names of the Booster and Super Booster donors will be listed in the DDN for 1 year (booster) and 2 years (Super Booster). Super Booster will have the boats they served on also listed.

There following are Super Booster within the past 2 years.

### Super Booster Donors

Donor	Donation	Boat(s)	Date
Joel Bergstrom	Cash donation	SS-331 USS Bugara	Oct 2024
John Sellek	Donated the meat for the October 2024 picnic	SSNB-628 USS Tecumseh SSBN-657 USS Francis Scott Key	Aug 2024
Dale & Deb Steinke	Picnic food donation	SSBN- 598 USS George Washington	Aug 2024
Bill Benzick	Paid for Holland Breakfast food	SS-373 Lizardfish, SS-282 Tunny, SS480 Medregal	May 2024
Mike Maliniak	Cash donation	SSN-685 Glenard Lipscomb, SSN-702 Phoenix, SSN-693 Cincinnati, SSN-708 Mpls/Stp	Dec 2023
Dale Steinke	Picnic food donation	SSBN- 598 USS George Washington	Aug 2023
Dale Steinke	50/50 proceeds donated to MSP	SSBN- 598 USS George Washington	Oct 2023
Mike Maliniak	Cash donation	SSN-685 Glenard Lipscomb, SSN-702 Phoenix, SSN-693 Cincinnati, SSN-708	Dec 2022

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		Mpls/Stp	
Dave Ratte	Cash donation	SSBN-634 Stonewall Jackson, SSBN-728 Florida, SSN-753 Albany, SSN-686 L Mendel Rivers	Dec 2022
Bill Benzick	50/50 proceeds donated to MSP	SS-373 Lizardfish, SS-282 Tunny, SS480 Medregal	Dec 2022
Dale Steinke	Float trailer donated to Base	SSBN- 598 USS George Washington	Aug 2022

In each of our future Deep Dive News publications, we will be featuring one of our members who are Base Booster and Super Boosters. This addition of the DDN features Dale and Deb Steinke.

Dale and Deb Steinke have been members of the USSVI MSP Base for as long as most of our memories are capable of remembering. They have been staunch supporters of the organization and good friends to many of us. Organizers of the base meeting 50/50 auctions, the annual picnic with John Selleck and many other outings, events and initiatives over the years. The Base would not be what it is today without them. Thank You Dale and Deb.

**THANK YOU everyone for your generous donations!**

## Base Charitable Donations

Our MSP (Minneapolis/St. Paul) Base is a 501(c)(19). The IRS specifies several requirements for an organization to be given 501(c)(19) tax exemption status. The activities of a 501 c19 must be in operation to serve one or more of these purposes:

- Support the overall welfare of veterans.
- Assist disabled veterans and current members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their dependents.
- Assist the widows and/or orphans of deceased veterans.
- Provide care (including entertainment!) to hospitalized veterans or members of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Create and run programs to uphold the memory of deceased veterans.
- Sponsor or assist with activities of a “patriotic nature.”
- Provide insurance benefits for members of the organization and/or their dependents.
- Provide recreational activities for members of the organization

Based on the requirement for a 501(c)(19) to donate a portion of their proceeds to one of the listed types of organizations, donations were made to two veteran based veteran based groups. Our MSP Base recently donated to the Armed Forces Service Center located at the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport and the Minneapolis Fisher House. The following *Thank Your Letters* received.

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## Armed Forces Service Center

10/21/2024

United States Submarine Veterans Inc.  
2536 Cottage Grove CRST  
Woodbury, Minnesota 55129-9752

Dear Donor,

Thank you so much for your kind and generous donation of \$250.00 to the Armed Forces Service Center (AFSC), located at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport.

As we celebrated 50 years of service in 2020, your funds will go into our general operations fund to assist us in providing free food and shelter for our traveling military personnel and their families. To date, we have welcomed over 1 million guests.

In addition to the services provided to service members as they transit through the airport, the AFSC assists the military with recruits enroute to basic training, arrival of the fallen and military charters to/from the Middle East. During our temporary shutdown from March 18<sup>th</sup> to November 9<sup>th</sup>, for COVID19 precautions, our 'troop greeters' have continued to assist the military with essential movements.

We greatly appreciate the ongoing support of our mission to serve those who serve. The AFSC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. No goods and services were received by the donor in return for this charitable contribution.

In gratitude,

  
Debra Cain  
Executive Director  
Armed Forces Service Center  
4300 Glumack Drive – A 2021  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55111  
(612) 726-9156 (Off)  
(612) 726-9232 (Fax)  
Web Site: [www.mnafsc.org](http://www.mnafsc.org)

FORM AFSC – 68 (1/12/2021)

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VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Minneapolis VA Health Care System

One Veterans Drive  
Minneapolis, MN 55417  
www.minneapolis.va.gov

October 21, 2024

In Reply Refer To: 618/135

United States Submarine Veterans Inc.  
2536 Cottage Grove Crest  
Woodbury, MN 55129

Dear United States Submarine Veterans Inc.:

On behalf of the Minneapolis VA Health Care System patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of \$250.00, check number 3011. As requested, this donation has been deposited in the following General Post Fund:

8209 Fisher House                      \$250.00

The Minneapolis Fisher House provides a "home away from home" so families can support their loved ones while they receive specialized VA care. This allows patients and families to focus on what is most important, the healing process. We are proud of the services we can provide because of donations such as yours.

The commitment you have shown to our Veterans demonstrates your concern for America's heroes.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Hammer".

Rachel Hammer  
Director, Center for Development & Civic Engagement

## Base Dues Increase



Our MSP E-board discussed the need for an increase in our Base dues. Base operating costs have increased resulting in a **vote to increase the Base dues starting in 2025.**

There is now available a Base Lifetime membership fee. As with the USSVI Lifetime membership, our Base Lifetime fee is based on the Submariners current age. There was a concern discussed that the steady income from annual base dues may cause future funding shortages. Our Base budget will have to be carefully managed to avoid the impact of the loss of income in the future.

Base dues will be increased from \$15 to \$20 per year starting in 2025.

1. Over 75 pays no base dues. These members must continue to pay USSVI dues.
2. We will initiate the use of a Base Lifetime membership. The below chart defines the costs for each age group. Prices were calculated based on the increased percentages per age group used by USSVI.

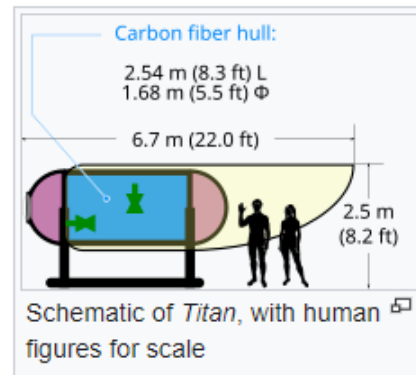
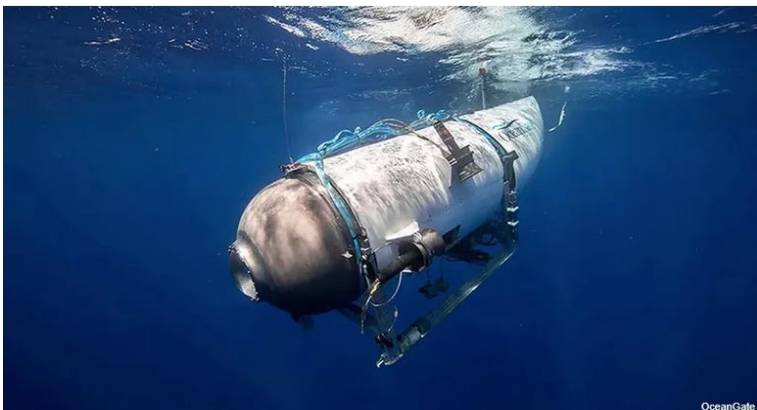
Age	/Year	75+	66-75	56--65	46-55	<46
USSVI Life dues	\$30-35	\$120	\$240	\$360	\$500	\$600
MSP Base dues	\$20	\$0	\$137	\$206	\$286	\$343

## Articles of Interest

### The Failure of the Oceangate Titan Submersible

by Ken Tibesar

The Titan submersible was designed and operated by the American underwater-tourism company OceanGate to carry customers into the ocean depths to view the Titanic. It was the first privately-owned submersible using a hull constructed of titanium and carbon fiber composite materials. In 2021, the Titan begins transporting paying customers to the Titanic wreckage. During the thirteenth expedition in 2023, the vessel imploded killing all 5 occupants.



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During my first ever patrol on the USS Edison, SSBN 610, the captain ordered a deep dive test. The procedure was to descend in 100 foot intervals holding to give observers stationed throughout the sub time to report on any integrity problems. It was my first deep dive and I was assigned as the observer for our navigation center. We were in the initial phases of the test when a hull penetration in my area sprung a leak spraying high pressure salt water on our equipment. With an alarming tone to my voice I reported, "Con Nav, we have a leak." An A-ganger from control center with many years of experience moseyed back to the navigation center to take a look and stated the obvious, "Yup, you have a leak and it's getting your computers wet." He then turned around and started walking back to control when I asked, "So what are you going to do?" He said, "Nothing, it will stop when we go deeper." As we descended the seal was compressed by the steel hull shrinkage and the spraying water stopped as predicted. I'm sure those in the control center and observers on the sound-powered-phones had a good laugh at the rookie's frantic announcement of the leak.

The Titanic shipwreck is located at 12,500 feet where water pressure presents an extreme danger, an assertion well known by all submariners. There is 44.5 pounds-per-square-inch for every 100 feet of salt water yielding 5,563 pounds-per-square-inch at the Titanic depth. When the news broke concerning the implosion of the Titan in June 2023, the cause of the failure became the focus of the 15 month Coast Guard research. With my deep dive experience and leak event on the Edison, I was interested in what caused the failure of the Titan dive.

With the tremendous ocean pressure at the sight of the Titanic, I was surprised that the Titan had survived twelve descents before the fatal (unlucky) number 13 dive. The shape of the Titan was much different than previous spherical shaped steel deep submergence vessels. I speculated that the large seals between the carbon fiber hull and titanium end caps were very vulnerable. It was the shape of the Titan end caps and their dependence on their large connection to the hull that seemed to be a weak point. When compared to openings on US submarines used for human access and the missiles, the hatches are smaller and a slight domed shape with a flat external covering. As sea pressure increases, the forces on the US Sub hatches are exerted from one direction assisting the seal with increased sea pressure. With the half spherical shape of the Titan end caps, sea pressure would be exerted from multiple directions (refer to the picture) making end caps dependent on the hull to prevent cap warping and seal failure. Titanium had been tested for use by submarines but there was minimal data available on the performance of carbon fiber. Even though there were numerous warnings concerning the Titan design and materials dangers, Oceangate owner Stockton Rush, refused to go through radio flux inspections of the Titan between dives.

It was not until the release of the most recent article that there were details about the seals characteristics; they are made using an adhesive. That had to be a very strong adhesive to survive the first 12 successful dives. Did the multiple dives cause fatigue of the adhesive and carbon fiber hull or was there some unknown, to cause the fatal 13<sup>th</sup> dive? My suspicion of the seals was confirmed with the following statement from the #1 below referenced article; "*The testimony of experts said the seal may have caused the implosion but the carbon fiber hull is not entirely off the hook.*" We will have to wait for the final report from the investigation for the full analysis of the experts and their theory of the cause. The only good news is the minimal

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suffering of the occupants. The implosion was suspected to happen so quickly that those onboard did not have time to register pain.

For more information on the Titan, the following is a list of videos available on YouTube.

1. A 12 minutes video about the carbon fiber hull and the bond using glue between the hull and the titanium end caps.  
[Why OceanGate Titan Imploded - A Carbon Fiber Composites Perspective](#)
2. It is a 15 minute video - Focus on the use of a carbon fiber hull and its strength. Carbon fiber used for aircraft with pressure on the inside exploits its strength and has the advantage of being light weight. When the carbon fiber is pushed with external pressure from the ocean depths, the strength is less with minimal statistics available.  
[The Questionable Engineering of Oceangate](#)
3. This is 20 minute *60 Minutes* video about the events for the search and rescue of the Titan. [James Cameron reveals new information about Titanic sub disaster](#)

## Excerpts from Reference #1

The owner Stockton Rush was arrogant refusing to listen to experts and chose to engineer the sub himself. Lochridge, an engineer not involved with the design or construction, was asked to inspect the sub and described what he considered to be “an abomination of a sub.” Following his termination for his findings, he contacted the OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) resulting in Rush suing him. Kohnen, another engineer also confronted Rush about potential safety issues which were ignored. He and other engineers signed a letter to Rush in 2018 formally warning him that his submersible would be susceptible to a disaster.

Even though the Titan experienced dozens of malfunctions in the two years before the disaster, Rush pressed forward. He focused on getting Titan underway with paying clients. Throughout 2021 and 2022, Titan experienced 118 malfunctions. An employed engineer Tony Nissen refused an offer to pilot the sub due to concerns about the design. With only pieces of the hull recovered near the Titanic, the end caps were intact.

The American Bureau of Shipping testified that carbon fiber is “susceptible to fatigue failure.” The Titan operational dives without confirming the Titan’s soundness may have weakened the structure resulting in its failure. **The carbon fiber hull may be at the center of the issue, but it could also be a faulty seal between the hull and end caps or an unrelated manufacturing flaw not yet discovered.** The release of an official report will no doubt impact how the industry proceeds.

## References:

1. WHAT WENT WRONG IN OCEANGATE'S TITAN SUB DISASTER <https://flip.it/ONbHSF>
2. **Wikipedia** *Titan* (submersible)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titan\\_\(submersible\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titan_(submersible))



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## Free Golf Classes for Veterans

By Tim Martinson



The PGA of America has a program to engage veterans in the game of golf. This is the **PGA Hope** (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) program. In it, they offer classes at no-charge to veterans. Any veteran. They are conducted around the country at local golf courses and golf training centers. In Minnesota the courses are run by the PGA REACH Foundation Minnesota. It is a 6-8 week program and is taught by PGA Golf Professionals. Equipment will be supplied or you can bring your own

Upon completing the program, Veterans are considered “graduates” and will remain engaged every year through other PGA HOPE activities and events provided by PGA of America REACH Foundation Minnesota.

They can be reached at: <https://www.pgareach.org/services/military>  
<https://www.minnesotapga.com/pga-reach-mn/military/>

I signed-up for the program and have been impressed by the content and the instructors. Very professional, well-paced, and thorough. They even have a physiologist that takes you through germane exercises to help with your mobility, range of movement and strength.

Those in the class I’m in range in age from the late 20s into their 80s. Some disabled, Some have golfed all their lives while others, like me, are neophytes.

I can’t recommend this enough. Give it a try.

## New on Our MSP Website

If you have not visited our [www.MSPUSSVI.COM](http://www.MSPUSSVI.COM) website, be sure to check out the information on our site. Here is a sample of what you will find.

- About Us – A new survey
- Join Us – Online membership forms. New is the EClub membership.
- DDN’s - DDN’s back to 2019 are available.

Notes on our website:

- If you see any MSP Website errors or suggestion for changes, please contact the MSP Base webmaster.

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- **Looking for a Webmaster.** If you have experience with Micro Soft Word and Excel, you will not have any problems in supporting any website. This is a good opportunity for anyone to learn about the tools used for website management. If you are interested, please contact the website master.

## Rickover Award Patch Available

By Tim Martinson

We have a stock of Rickover Award patches for those Nukes among us who've been qualified for 25 years or more. It'll look great on your USSVI vest. \$10.00 will get you one.



## Scams on the Increase

By Ken Tibesar

A newsletter focusing on submarines may not be the best place for an article about scams but I wanted to share the latest schemes to assist you in recognizing and avoiding them. The number of crooks has increased and the scams are increasingly sophisticated. I have some experiences I want to share to assist you identifying the signs and avoiding the consequences.

## Scam Statistics

According to government, scams have increased in recent years due to the rise of new technologies and the use of more channels to target consumers. In 2023, the US Consumer lost a record \$10 billion to fraud, a 14% increase from 2022. In the first half of 2024, the number of scam cases increased by 16.3%. The total amount lost to scams in the first half of 2024 increased by 24.6%. The amount lost per scam case increased by about 7.1% to an average of \$14,503. I'm sure a number of you have been solicited with one of the Popular Scams listed below.

## Personnel Experiences

- **Account Fraud Call from Bank** – This was one of the most advanced schemes with multiple steps and a detailed scam story. I was using my desktop computer when my screen locked up stating that I had to call a listed number to release the lock. I did not call a number listed by the scam. I used my smart phone and Googled a Microsoft Technical Support number. The MS support contact said he sent an email to my bank so they could review my bank account status for any fraudulent charges. I soon got a call from someone that claimed to be a member of my banks fraud unit (which turned out to be a fake). Their story claimed they were attempting to catch a bank employee that was responsible for stealing customer funds. To safeguard my assets, I was asked to withdraw the balance of my checking account and redeposit the funds into an account they designated. I asked why they could not put the money into another new account under my name versus using an account they specified. The caller provided me with an answer did not make sense. I did not transfer the funds and hung up. The next day I met with a bank official and reported the incident. They verified that my account was fully intact and never exposed.

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- For Sale List – Recently I received a Facebook message from someone I used to work with listing a number of items For Sale. The Messenger note said her mother lived alone, and it was time for her mom to move into assisted living. They were downsizing and listed a number of items that were for sale. The items included cars, trailers, a riding lawn mower, appliances, furniture and more, all with pictures and a price. I showed the list of items to a friend and he expressed interest in purchasing some of the items. Since I knew the person, I called her directly versus calling the phone number listed with the posting. She told me her FB account was hacked and the sale was a fraud. If you contacted the number provided, you were told that the items were being prepared for sale, there were a large number of calls, and the item would be reserved for the first person they received a deposit from.

## 2024 Popular Scams

- Impersonator scam. – using AI (artificial intelligence) with a voice of someone you know asking for financial assistance. They get a sampling of the voice by calling the person using the sample to mimic the voice in the call to you. To verify the caller ID, ask them a family question that only the real person would know the answer.
- Charity scams. For any charity, always ask “What percentage of your income is donated to the charity your support?” It should be above 75%. You can then check out the charity with a Google search.
- Extended vehicle warranties. After a recent purchase of a pickup, I’ve received multiple warranty offerings some stating “this is your last opportunity to participate”.
- “Free” trials or equipment such as the Solar Panels paid by the government. The catch was a very low payment that was a 25 to 30 year loan where you would payback 3x’s the cost.
- Cybercriminals send their targets an overpayment and then later request the difference back. The extra payments are actually counterfeit.
- Credit Card Denied. When using a credit card for an online purchase your payment is denied. They then call you impersonating a bank employee that asks about personnel and alternative credit card information.

## Avoiding Scams

While scammers' delivery methods and messaging can quickly change, a few basic security measures can help protect you from the latest and most common scams.

- When answering the phone, be skeptical when someone you don't know contacts you. Scammers can [spoof calls](#) (make them appear to be a local area code) and emails including government agencies, charities, banks and large companies.
- Don't share personal information, usernames, passwords or one-time codes that others can use to access your accounts or [steal your identity](#).
- Don't have files on your computer with sensitive information such as your Social Security number. If you want to maintain that type of information such as tax records, maintain the files on a separate device such as a jump drive and plug it in only when not online.
- Don't click unknown links. Whether the link arrives in your email, a text or a direct message, never click on it unless you're certain on the sender.

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- If the message says it's from a company or government agency, lookup the number (Google) and call the company on your own to confirm its legitimacy.
- [If you suspect a spam call](#), don't respond or press a button. Look up the organization and initiate a call if you're worried there may an issue.
- Enable multifactor authentication. Add this feature to your online accounts.
- Research companies before taking any actions. Before you make a purchase or donation, take a few minutes to review the company. Perform a web search for its name and research charities on [Charity Navigator](#) and [Charity Watch](#).
- Be careful whenever a company or person asks you to refund or forward part of a payment.
- Look for suspicious payment requirements. Scammers often ask for payments via [wire transfer](#), [money order](#), cryptocurrency or gift cards. These payments are harder to track and cancel leaving you stuck without recourse.
- Create a family password. Create a family password that you can all use to verify that it's really one you know on the phone. If no password has been set, ask a question only the real caller would know.
- Invest in a SCAM DETECTION software package for your computer. I've used Norton Antivirus for many years.

Be careful of anyone that calls and asks you for any private information or a payment that you for a product or service you never received. Don't accept any investment opportunity unless you check it out first. Purchase of a software anti-virus software package for your computer such as Norton Anti-virus. It may be somewhat expensive but consider the cost of losing your social security number and its long term damage. The bottom line, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

## Base Recent Events

### PTSD Guest Speakers

*The following includes excerpts from the book authored by our guest speakers.*

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> Dr Lansing and Colonel Quist attended MSP Base Membership Meeting as our guest speakers. Each of them described experiences as PTSD victims and their current journeys help others. They provided free copies of their first book and have since published a second book.

Dr. Lansing joined the Air Force in 1966 as an intelligence analyst. In 1968 he volunteered to go to Vietnam for two years. He experienced horrors that even half a century later still caused nightmares. After experiencing the acts of inhumanity that people render to others, he decided to go back to college with a different motivation. He obtained a PhD in counseling with focus on trauma, suicide and cult psychology.



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After leaving the Air Force and returning to the US, completing his degree, he enjoyed his counseling work but something was missing. He was drinking heavily and using that as a method to numb the pain and nightmares from his experiences in Vietnam. In 1984 while attending a conference in Washington DC, he visited the Vietnam Memorial in the middle of the night. It was the moment that his healing began, after 14 years of feeling lost.

In 1986 Dr. Lansing moved to Rochester, Minnesota and became the clinical director of a faith-based suicide crisis line. One out of every three calls was from a veteran, often in the middle of the night. The tortured souls fit all of the high-risk suicide indicators of hopelessness. His book explains PTSD symptoms have existed since the beginning of time but the official diagnosis did not occur until 1980. Once he read PTSD in a booklet from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), he focused my next 30 years on learning more and becoming a PTSD specialist.



In 2021, he met his co-author Colonel Quist through a tragic event the Colonel experienced. He was tormented by his Vietnam demons for over 56 years. Together in his office, the reality set in that he was not crazy or defective but was someone with PTSD. They joined their efforts to help those suffering from similar trauma that is neither their fault nor is in any way hopeless.

In 2021, Colonel Quist was involved in a car accident resulting from his PTSD and driving drunk. Experiencing the sight of a teenage girl bleeding and taking her last gasping breath, he experienced flashbacks that put him into therapy. He was finally being treated for his PTSD which had gone untreated.

As a result of the accident, he was arrested and booked and offered a plea bargain. He was transferred into the Minnesota's Veteran Treatment Court as one of the conditions of his probation. He served a short six month jail term and was introduced to Dr. Lansing. His eyes were opened to a new world. He discovered that he was not crazy but was suffering from complex untreated PTSD.

As a result of what the Colonel describes as "out of body" PTSD derealization experiences, he suffered many sleeplessness nightmares and flashbacks of his prior trauma. He hid his condition as he advanced through the ranks fearing exposure of his condition would result in a medical discharge. Alcohol became his offset to his recurring "out of body" episodes.

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The Colonel felt that PTSD was just for sissies. It was his plea bargain that forced him to see Dr. Lansing and the healing process finally began. Dr. Lansing had him realize the folly of his ignorance and what trauma actually does to rewrite the brain.

## Base Coming Events

### Base Christmas Party

The following is an abbreviated copy of the flyer sent to Base Members on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Christmas party and cookie exchange will be on Saturday December 14th**, at the Lost Spur Golf and Event center.

**Starts at 10A** ending at 2P. Lunch will be a buffet includes Chicken Marsala, Caesar salad, garlic bread, beef lasagna, Italian sausage, and coffee. This buffet is offered at **\$25.00 per person** which includes all service charges and taxes.

There will be a cookie exchange and, a 50/50 drawing for donated articles. Deadline for your reservation is **Monday December 9th**.

Please complete the following form and send it in along with your check to: (no printer, provide name(s) & total on a note)

**George St. Martin**  
**5551**  
**9231 Audubon Rd**  
**Chanassen, MN 55317**



**?’s: Call or text George (952) 446-**

**Make check payable to:**  
**United States Submarine Veterans Inc.**



<b>Sub Base Christmas Party</b>	
10a-2p December 14th 2025 Lost Spur Golf and Event - Eagan, Mn	
<b>Name</b>	<b>\$25/person</b>
<b>\$ Total</b>	

## Future Activities in Development

Here are some future plans for MSP Base Events and Activities.

### Paddle Boat on the St. Croix

A paddle boat ride requires advanced planning and our new MAA, George St. Clair with assistance from John Selleck are already planning for 2025 ride on the St. Croix. A paddle boat company located in Stillwater has been contacted for details. The plan is to ride the paddle boat in June on a weekend with a noon ride with brunch.



### Bonfire Cancelled due to Dry Conditions

The bonfire and potluck planned for October had to be cancelled since our dry conditions prohibited open fires. A burn permit could not be approved due to the lack of rain and fire restrictions.

### Murder Mystery In May/June 2025

Our Members have asked for the traditional Christmas Party in December versus combing the event with a Murder Mystery event. We will still have the Murder Mystery but we will wait until the *Snow Birds* return in late spring of 2025. A theater group will help us with the fun event and involving us with clues in solving the question on *who did it*. More details will be provided as we get closer to the event date. It is assured to be a lot of fun for the evening, one that won't be forgotten.



Our MAA George St. Martin is already making plans for this event. He has found a theater company that provides this service at a good price. We now have to find an event center.

## Sea Stories and More

### Subic Bay Paradise

by George St. Martin

Back in the late 1990's and early in the 2000's the Minneapolis/St. Paul Base had a cable TV show, "The Deep Dive News on the Air." The base would interview interesting members of the base and anyone with a great story about their navel experience. The show was hosted by Mike Kodluboy. On a Saturday afternoon we had the honor of interviewing Master Chief Gunners Mate (SS) Darrell Nelson USN retired. Darrel joined the Navy in 1942, and qualified on the USS 04 SS-65. He spent his first 20 years in the Navy serving on diesel submarines during WWII, the Korean War, and the Cold War. Later in his career he had duties on aircraft carrier; the USS Oriskany CVA-34, and the USS Constellation CVA-64 during the Vietnam War in the Gulf of Tonkin, Yankee Station, and in South Vietnam. It was on the Constellation that he served as the Command Chief. As a favor from the Navy, Darrell retired off the deck of the USS Tang SS-563 on June 30, 1974. Darrell was the "Old Salt" of the base.



After typing the show I asked Mike Kodluboy, ETCS (SS) retired, with 22 years of service and Darrell Nelson with 32 years of service, what was the best liberty port they ever visited. Darrell without hesitation said Olongapo City, Subic Bay naval station in the Philippine Islands. Mike said it was Holy Loch Scotland. Darrel looked at Mike and said, "Mike you been to the Subic Bay?" This is where the story begins....

Was it a place that had a reputation that was overly exaggerated by the thousands of Sailors and Marines who had frequented it? Or maybe it was just a Dream!

In actuality what it WAS a town in the Philippines with a seemingly unending row of Night Clubs and other establishments located in a tropical paradise that was situated just outside the Gates of one of the most critical and important U.S. Military Bases in the World. Most all of the Bars and Nightclubs there came complete with some of the best music I've ever heard anywhere, and each club had a bevy of beautiful women present who seemed to be almost Angelic.....all there to provide company and comfort to lonesome sailors who had been too long at sea, and to help them relax and feel human again.

Each Night it was much like a carnival atmosphere for Adults Only...Music blasting from every doorway, Glaring Lights, Jeepneys and Tricycles belching Carbon Monoxide fumes and sounding their horns while transporting folks all around town, the Spicy Aroma of the many different foods being prepared along the sides of the road filling the Air, Occasional fist fights and altercations between Sailors and Marines that generally lasted no longer than it took for each side to realize that it was much more fun to drink beer and get laid than it was to fight with each other. Then there came the PARADE shortly before midnight. A nightly event where all who were going back aboard the base needed to get it in gear lest they wind up being too



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late for the Gate, the rest finding their way to other domiciles in order to spend the night with their HoneyCo.

Each Day awakened with the sounds of roosters crowing, and the hawking of vendors selling cold Orange Sodas and such to soothe the thirsts of many who were making their way back to their Ships after partying too heavily the night before. For the record, I for one think it WAS Paradise.....true, it was a bit "Rough around the Edges" type of Paradise, but nonetheless, it was indeed what I suppose many would classify to be a Paradise,

There was absolutely no place like it on earth..... Good People, Good Food, Cold Beer, Smiling Faces, Beautiful Women... and plenty of them, almost everywhere you looked. Not only were there many beautiful women there, most everyone encountered was super nice and hospitable.

I vividly recall my first trip there, I was but a young Sailor experiencing his first exposure to a foreign port, upon exiting the gate we were first greeted by the almost gagging smells emitting from "Shit River", a stagnant and barely flowing open sewer with a bridge over it that connected Olongapo to the Base, a river in which kids dove from small boats into the rancid water in order to retrieve coins tossed to them by the sailors crossing the bridge into town, and then finally.....after listening to all the stories from my shipmates for many weeks.....I entered Olongapo for the first time and I could not believe my eyes. Oh sure I had been told many times by the Old Hands of the many unique attractions of this Port but quite frankly I believed them mostly to be nothing but overly glorified memories of the ones relating them to me, WOW was I ever wrong, and I discovered that ALL they had told me was True.

In the later years of my Naval Career, while crossing the pond we often "Pumped Up the Newbies" with tales of what they could expect when we hit Subic Bay. It was during these times that I remembered back to when I was once like these young Sailors.....and now it was their turn, many of them had never even left their hometowns, and now in what seemed like they went at warp speed after exiting Boot Camp, they found themselves riding a fully armed US Navy Warship manned by a crew of seasoned sailors, churning across the big pond and traveling into adventures that they could never really conceive of without actually experiencing them. In being there with these young Sailors as they first exited the Gate at Naval Station Subic Bay, then crossed the RIVER and "The Bridge" that in many cases initiated their graduation from Boys into Men, I found great pleasure in escorting them into one helluva Port and at the same time recalling the days when I had first had that amazing experience.

Now unfortunately, gone are the days of Seventh Fleet Liberty in the World's Greatest Port.....now changed and "Civilized" immeasurably from the way it was back in the days when young Sailors and Marines first met Dr. San Miguel, Fell in Love way too many times, and experienced the greatest Liberty Port in the World....Those days that I experienced long ago were extremely happy days, and when we got Liberty it generally involved maximum exposure to lots of Mud, Blood, and Beer as the Streets were unpaved and things got really WET and WILD during the Monsoons. They were happy days spent with beautiful people in a place that seemed to me to be a Paradise on Earth! I always have, and always will love ALL of the Philippines and I still visit there as often as I can.

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## Be No Ego

Author unknown

Ego defined

- Noun, they self
- an inflated sense of self-significance

Imagine a world without ego – No.....

- Toes to step on
- Feeling to hurt
- Fair shares to grab
- Territory to defend
- Fault to allocate
- Back to watch
- Last words to get
- Ideas to hold back
- Embarrassment to bear
- Battles to win
- Knowledge to prove
- Entitlement to have
- Encouragement to withhold
- Credit to seek
- Grudges to hold
- Jealousy to feel
- Revenge to take
- Hidden meanings to construe
- Just pure care

To be no ego...

- 1) Be humble. Understand you are a (small) part of the world. Service and patience should be your top priorities.
- 2) Be teachable. Focus on what you can learn, rather than what you know. Remember that almost everything you learn comes from the work of someone else.
- 3) Listen more. Make every effort to truly understand what others are saying ( beyond just words). Allow a gap of silence before responding. Ask a question (and listen, again)
- 4) Appreciate people. Enjoy others contributions. Don't squelch ideas or defend territory. Encourage more.
- 5) Relax. Let go of the need to be right or win every time.

## Shipmate Helicopter Extraction

By Ken Tibesar

*The following article was published in the American Submariner Magazine third quarter, 2021.*

In June of 1972, I was at sea on the USS Thomas A. Edison (SSBN 610) operating out of Rota Spain. We were on our assigned two-month patrol when we received a radio message

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instructing us to surface and rendezvous with a helicopter for the extraction of one of our crew members. The crew member's uncle was critically ill, not expected to survive, and the family requested his presence. This was a very unusual order since as submarine volunteers; we were told that a Polaris Submarine patrol was designated as a mission-critical operation. It was imperative to maintain the "mission critical status" and the death of even a parent did not justify the interruption of this operational status condition. We were surprised to hear that "the rule" did not apply to this sailor, and even more confusing, it was an uncle. Things made more sense once we learned that he was the nephew of a US Senator. We surfaced at the specified coordinates, at the designated time, and found a hovering helicopter. They dropped a harness; our crew member was hoisted to the safety of the helicopter and on his way home.

In 2012, I was in Canada with friends on an annual fishing trip. A member of the group that I had known for many years, brought along his friend Denny. Denny was a Marine Helicopter Pilot assigned to duty in Vietnam during the war. While talking about our military experiences, Denny told me, "The only time I had anything to do with you Bubble Heads is when I had to pick one of you up in the middle of the ocean." Denny was on a helicopter carrier heading for Vietnam when the ship's captain came to him and instructed him to fly his helicopter to specific coordinates at a designated time. Denny asked the captain the purpose of the order, and the captain said, "You'll know when the time arrives." Denny was at the coordinates, and a submarine surfaced beneath him. Was this the guy that flew the helicopter that picked up the nephew of the US Senator? I could not believe the odds of ever meeting the guy who picked up one of our shipmates. I asked Denny the approximate event date, the general location, and the reason for retrieving the submarine sailor. He had the right answers for all three questions. The more we talked, the more I was convinced that Denny was the pilot that flew the helicopter that recovered the US Senator's nephew.

Meeting Denny was unlike meeting someone from your hometown while on vacation, running into military friend years later, or working with someone and discovering a common acquaintance. The only other transfer during a patrol of an FBM submariner that I had heard about was a life-and-death situation. Our submariner's extraction was an extremely rare, if not unique, occurrence. I was astonished at the likelihood of ever meeting Denny, so I told the story to a mathematics major friend. I asked him to calculate the odds of meeting Denny. The mathematician said, "An excessive number of variables make the odds extremely rare. The large number of variables makes odds calculations impossible. Your odds of winning the lottery are much better than the odds of you ever meeting Denny." So, I have tried my luck at the lottery, but I am still waiting to win!

And Finally



INSTA: @COLMSCOM165



**United States Submarine Veterans**  
*Minneapolis/St Paul Base*



**Pride Runs Deep**



**U.S. Submarine Force**