



"To Honor Those Who Serve, Past, Present & Future"

November 2018

Volume 19, Issue 11

**Lest We Forget —
"The USSVI Submariner's 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.

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News Brief

1. **Next Meeting:** At 1100, third Saturday of each month at the Knollwood Sportsman's Club. Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates:
 - a. NOVEMBER 17
 - b. DECEMBER 15
 - c. JANUARY 19, 2019
2. Duty Cook Roster:
 - a. NOVEMBER – FRANK WALTER FAMOUS FISH FRY
 - b. DECEMBER – TED ROTZOLL
 - c. JANUARY – NINTH ANNUAL CHILI DUMP
3. **November Birthdays:** Gary Walters 7th; Len Wass 10th; Bill Stannard 15th; Tom Steinman 21st; David Fitzgerald 23rd. Happy Birthday, Shipmates!
4. Great sub movie **Hunter Killer** coming October 26. See the trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PGdkzfbYI>. Supported by the USN.
5. Crash Dive is committed to **keeping the Cobia healthy**. You can help too, even from afar. Join the WI Maritime Museum; www.wisconsinmaritime.org.
6. **Legacy pavers** for our memorial are on sale now until Dec. 31. Have you done your part? Get 'em while they're hot. See the order form on our Website.
7. Get ahead of the curve by sending **your dues check** to Chris Gaines; see page 9 for his address.

Crash Dive Meeting Minutes October 20, 2018

1. Attendees:
 - a. Clay Hill
 - b. Chris Gaines
 - c. Herman Mueller
 - d. Ted Rotzoll
 - e. Frank Walter
 - f. Larry Warnke
 - g. Maurice Young
 - h. Frank Voznak, Jr.
 - i. Greg Miller
2. Meeting was called to order by Clay Hill at 1116 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Secretary's Report was given by Chris Gaines. Minutes are published in the newsletter that is posted on the Website.
4. Treasurer's Report given by Chris Gaines. Savings \$1,173.69; Checking \$4,254.72; Sub Memorial Checking \$102,850.11, Savings \$5.00 and held by national \$94,117.43. Herman Mueller moved to accept; Frank Voznak seconded. Vote was unanimous.
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Newsletter – Posted on Webpage.
 - b. Membership – Send dues to Tom Polzin at 1305 Winslow Circle, Woodstock, IL 60098.
 - c. Charitable Service –
 - i. Discussed Operation Santa letter from Karen Duvalle. It will benefit children of deployed people. Greg Miller will allocate \$100 of the already-approved Charitable budget. Herman Mueller moved to add \$100 from our operating funds. Maurice Young seconded. After discussion, Herman amended his motion to increase the amount to \$400 in addition to \$100 from the Charitable Services budget; seconded by Maurice Young. Vote was unanimous.
 - ii. Greg will work with Glenn to write checks in the amount of \$100 each for Fisher House, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, USO, and Lutheran Kare 9 Ministries.
 - d. Community Outreach – No News.
 - e. Hospitality – No news.
 - f. Webmaster – If you have something to post on the Website, send it to Frank Voznak.
 - g. Storekeeper – Calendars are available; \$8 each plus shipping. Contact Herman Mueller.
 - h. Procedures – No news.
 - i. Eagle Scout – Three upcoming presentations.

- j. Memorial – Resolving some final details to enable better maintenance should there be vandalism; permits are applied for. Deadline for pavers is December 31, 2018. City of Chicago is unable to accept future requests.
- 6. Old (Unfinished) Business
 - a. Holland Club Class 2018 – Clay will mail the materials.
- 7. New Business
 - a. Election planning. Frank Walter and Larry Warnke agreed to form a Nominating Committee.
 - b. Greg made a motion to buy a small paver for Ed Dowling. Frank Voznak seconded. Ed already bought a small paver so this will change it to full size. Frank will research funding as part of the Charlie Wedel and Harry Alvey pavers. Vote was unanimous.
- 8. Good of the Order item:
 - a. Duty Cook
 - i. November – Frank Walter Famous Fish Fry.
 - ii. December – Ted Rotzoll.
 - iii. January – NINTH Annual Chili Dump
 - b. Make Some Noise; Ed had \$187.78 plus two \$100 checks that Glenn has. Ed's widow Penny located the can but not the money. Clay Hill offered to replace the \$187.78. Larry Warnke, Frank Walter, and Chris Gaines will add enough to total \$500.
- c. Chris discussed an inquiry from the Chicago International Shipmasters Association. **ACTION:** Chris Gaines to contact Tom Blakely for a future meeting.
- d. Cobia Working Party the Monday after November election.
- e. 786 Club –
 - i. Visited in Pearl Harbor October 5-12.
 - ii. 26 Club members made the trip, two of whom live in HI.
 - iii. Attended Bowfin Base meeting on October 5. Working with Navy to install the sail of the KAMEHAHA in an appropriate location. Offering gorgeous Tori Richard Aloha shirts for \$75 as a fundraiser (about \$50 under retail price).
 - iv. Held family event at Honolulu Zoo on Sunday. Hawaiian feast, presents for each child, private animal presentation by zoo staff.
 - v. Hosted wardroom at dinner, a luau at the Hale Koa Hotel, on Monday.
 - vi. Met with officers of the Family Readiness Group on Wednesday. Our Club will create packages with letters from children for the

- single sailors for Half Way Night.
- vii. Attended a dinner hosted by the Commodore at his home on Wednesday; met COMSUBPAC two star RADM Daryl Caudle.
 - viii. Underway on Thursday; submerged to 786 feet at a 25 degree down angle whereupon the Club's president used the TMC to thank the crew for all that they do.
 - ix. Cooked breakfast in the galley for the onboard crew on Saturday.
 - x. Quarterly luncheon at the Union League Club with guest speaker RADM Daryl Caudle who gave an outstanding presentation regarding our readiness for threats in the Pacific.
 - xi. Very intense testing and examination period prior to first deployment, likely in November. Boat and crew are performing very well.
- f. Frank Voznak noted that we have a history of holding Submarine Birthday Balls. We previously discussed the concept of a picnic. Suggest forming a committee to evaluate holding a picnic. It could serve as a recruiting tool. Evaluate a joint picnic with Great Lakes Base. Sites to

- consider include IL Beach State Park, and KSC.
- g. Frank Voznak renewed the conversation of base communication. Dick Anderson has had the same idea. Could be used to support a Binnacle List. We discovered that USSVI contact info for our members is not always current. **ACTION:** Chris Gaines to research copying the Website info for each individual and sending it to them for review and update.
 - h. Frank Voznak asked about interest in parades and whether it would aid in membership. Maybe we could piggyback with Great Lakes Base. **ACTION:** Chris Gaines will inquire at their Nov. meeting.
 - i. Considerable interest in buying USS ILLINOIS memorabilia. Chris Gaines and the FRG are evaluating the feasibility and how it can work.
 - j. Staff meeting November 7, Brat Stop, 1030.
9. Adjourn. Frank Walter moved to adjourn; Maurice Young seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:56.

Lost Boats

USS ALBACORE (SS 218) 11/7/44
USS GROWLER (SS 215) 11/8/44
USS SCAMP (SS 277) 11/16/44
USS CORVINA (SS 226) 11/16/43
USS SCULPIN (SS 191) 11/19/43

Greater Chicago Chapter Christmas Party

(Area WWII Submarine Veterans)

December 16, 2018
Silver Stallion Restaurant
Lee & Algonquin, DesPlaines, IL
1300-1600 hours

Dinner includes Beef and Chicken,
Family Style w/Trimmings
Includes Hot Coffee and Tea

50/50 Raffle – 75 Raffle Prizes

ALL SubVets Free others \$10 per
person

Wives of WWII Members are also
Free

Checks and Reservations to:
Please RSVP and send checks by
December 6th to:

Gene Weisbecker
Phone # 630-390-9561
8181 Hess Avenue, LaGrange, IL
60525-5217
E-mail: annjw1@aol.com

Note: Bring a gift Manteno Vets
Home and/or Fisher House at Hines

The True Story of the Only Underwater Submarine Battle Ever

So what happened?

by [Sebastien Roblin](#)

He was waiting for U-864 to surface before launching his torpedoes, but thanks to its snorkel, *U-864* could operate underwater for extended periods of time. The German submarine began zigzagging side to side, likely having detected the British sub.

After three hours of pursuit, the *Venturer* was running short on battery and would soon have to surface itself. Launders decided he would simply have to attack *U-864* while it remained submerged. He calculated a three-dimensional intercept for his torpedoes, estimating his adversary's depth by the height of the snorkel mast protruding above the water. However, he knew the enemy submarine would quickly detect a torpedo launch, and planned his firing solution to account for evasive maneuvers.

At 12:12, *Venturer* ripple-fired all four of its loaded torpedoes in a spread, with 17.5 seconds between each launch. Then the British submarine dove to avoid counterattack.

The U-Boat immediately crash dove as well, then swerved evasively. After four minutes, it had managed to duck under three of the incoming torpedoes. But Launders had launched the second pair of torpedoes at lower depths. The fourth torpedo struck *U-864*, breaking it in two; the gruesome sound of popping rivets and cracking metal filled the *Venturer's* hydrophones. The U-Boat fell 150 meters to the bottom of the ocean, taking with it all seventy-three onboard and sinking Operation Caesar along with it.

More than a half century later, the wreck of *U-864* was found in 2003 by the Norwegian Navy, two miles off Fedje. It was discovered that the cargo of poisonous liquid mercury had been slowly seeping from the flasks into the surrounding ocean. After spending fifteen years evaluating the risks of raising the wreck and its dangerous, unexploded torpedoes, in February 2017 the Norwegian government finally “entombed” the broken submarine with a half-meter of sand and 160,000 tons of rocks to prevent further contamination, thus forming a cairn for the German submarine that had met its terrible fate under unique circumstances.

Sébastien Roblin holds a Master’s Degree in Conflict Resolution from Georgetown University and served as a university instructor for the Peace Corps in China. He has also worked in education, editing, and refugee resettlement in France and the United States. He currently writes on security and military history for [War Is Boring](#).

Navy Creating Attack Sub Aggressor Unit to Train to Fight Against Russia, China

By: [Megan Eckstein](#)

November 8, 2018 4:00 AM • Updated:
November 7, 2018 8:58 PM



Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Missouri (SSN-780) on May 31, 2018. US Navy Photo

ARLINGTON, Va. — The U.S. Navy submarine force is creating an aggressor squadron as one initiative to ensure all subs are combat-ready as the service trains to take on China and Russia, the commander of

Naval Submarine Forces said on Wednesday.

Vice Adm. Charles Richard, who took command in August, drew attention during the change of command ceremony by [telling the force to “prepare for battle.”](#)

He has backed up those words with actions in the months since, moving ahead with a plan – updated in March to reflect the National Defense Strategy – that includes refocusing training and certification on combat and developing new tools and concepts to support high-end warfighting.

The plan – called the [Commander’s Intent for the United States Submarine Force and Supporting Organizations](#) – led to an overhaul of training for the attack submarine force, Richard said today while addressing the Naval Submarine League at its annual conference.

“We have restructured and retuned the fast attack training period to ensure that we’re ready for that high-end fight, including restructuring what we used to call the Tactical Readiness Evaluation, and it is now a Combat Readiness Evaluation to ensure we’re focused on warfighting,” he said. “We’ve updated the deployment certification process to eliminate duplication, put the right focus in the right place. I’ll tell you that I am driving to put competition in everything we do inside the submarine force. I want to produce winners and losers just like we do in battle; it does you no good to be at standards if your opponent is more at standards than you are. You still lose, and in this competition, you may not come home.”

The new aggressor squadron fits in with the desire to create more high-end sub-on-sub competitions and ensure the Navy is ready to win. Richard said the plan mimics what the naval aviation community has at “Top Gun.”



Vice Adm. Charles A. Richard, the incoming commander of Submarine Forces, walks through the side boys during the Submarine Forces change of command ceremony aboard the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Washington (SSN-787) in Norfolk, Va. on Aug. 3, 2018. US Navy Photo

Navy spokeswoman Cmdr. Sarah Self-Kyler told USNI News at the event that, unlike Top Gun, the squadron won't have its own submarines dedicated to training the squadron and fighting other submarines in training events. Instead, the squadron will include a yet-to-be-determined number of personnel – which Richard said would include active and reserve sailors and civilians – and that personnel would get to work with submarines and sub crews as allowed by operational and training schedules.

Richard, calling the new group “a cadre that does nothing but emulate red in all of our training and certification exercises, said “we’re taking a page from naval aviation and we’re establishing an aggressor squadron with a team that will become experts in employing our adversaries’ potential capabilities and then set them up to be able to go head-to-head with our units so that we’re always training against what we think is the highest fidelity simulation I can give them in terms of what they might be able to expect when they go into combat.”

The Commander’s Intent plan also outlines an Undersea Rapid Capability Initiatives (URCI) program that Richard said not only

delivers “stuff” but also concepts of operations, tactics, maintenance strategies and more.

“I can’t go into a lot of detail given the nature of the work – it is classified – but I am able to tell you that we are working on 26 major future projects, including the Navy’s number-one priority of strategic deterrence; 13 URICIs; 11 operational initiatives; and a series of advanced workshops and military exercises designed to expand our capabilities in the undersea domain. We are pursuing next-generation weapons, multi-domain sensors, comms systems, navigation aids, and unmanned and autonomous technologies. In some cases, these capabilities are revolutionary and will inform future programs of record.”

On the hardware side of this rapid development, Richard highlighted the work the Navy’s Digital Warfare Office is helping them do to move full speed ahead with “the employment and naval application of artificial intelligence and machine learning.” He also cited DARPA and the Office of Naval Research and their work with prototypes of unmanned systems and advanced sensors that have made significant progress in development and testing in just the past couple of years.

Lastly, he cited the ingenuity of the fleet in embracing additive manufacturing as a means of boosting readiness and helping reduce their logistics footprint.

“Onboard our submarines, we are embracing the future of at-sea maintenance and repair. We are actively experimenting with additive manufacturing and working expediently to provide this capability to all of my ships – all of my boats will get 3D printers in the near-term,” Richard said.

He noted that SUBSAFE standards would still apply but that the printers could still prove to be a useful asset to the crews. The

crew of attack submarine USS *Virginia* (SSN-774) bought their own 3D printer and “in using that, built themselves a part at sea and helped keep their boat on deployment. It is that type of initiative and problem-solving that happens daily across the force.”

Navy Submarine Programs Facing Many Pressing Challenges, Deadlines

Otto Kreisher, Seapower Magazine, November 8
<http://seapowermagazine.org/stories/20181108-NSL.html>

ARLINGTON, Va. - The Navy's submarine production enterprise is besieged by growing demands as it moves Virginia-class construction to two a year, is building payload models for future Virginias and is designing new models, and is working on refueling some of the Los Angeles-class attack boats, while focusing on the No. 1 priority - keeping the Columbia-class program on the tight schedule to replace the aging Ohio-class boomers.

On top of all that is the urgent requirement to overcome the "debacle" of faulty welding in new ballistic-missile tubes that has taken 10 months from the narrow schedule margin to meet the Columbia's firm 2031 start of patrols, and the possibility that Virginia production could be increased to three a year in the near future.

Adding to that staggering array of challenges described by the top submarine program officials Nov. 7, the Navy program managers and the sub building industry are confronted with a need to not only expand their workforces to meet the growing demands, but to find new skilled builders and designers to replace an aging cadre of workers.

But during their presentations at the Naval Submarine League's annual symposium, the Navy officials returned

repeatedly to the crucial requirement to have the first Columbia-class ballistic-missile submarines ready for their nuclear-deterrence missions before the current Ohio-class boats hit their already extended service life.

"We're doing everything we can to deliver Columbia on patrol, on time," said George M. Drakeley, executive director in the submarine program executive office. "Beside keeping the Columbia program at an affordable cost, "our biggest challenge is to deliver on time."

History shows that the first of class in any ship program does not deliver on time, Drakeley said, noting "We don't have that luxury."

"It's very important we get the Columbia out by 2031 as the Ohios retire," he said, because "we've extended the Ohios [service life] from 30 to 42 years."

Navy officials have said that they cannot guarantee that the oldest of the Ohio boomers would be able to submerge for a strategic patrol after 2031.

Earlier in the day, Adm. Frank Caldwell, director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion, showed the importance of the Columbia program by noting the ballistic-missile submarines were "the only survivable component" of the nuclear deterrent triad and would carry 70 percent of the warheads allowed by the New Start treaty with Russia.

Capt. Jonathan Rucker, program manager for Columbia, said they were "in full swing" with detailed design and advanced procurement underway and would be ready to start construction in 2021. In addition to focusing on keeping on schedule, Rucker said, "to ensure the Navy gets 355 ships . we need to get Columbia down to an affordable program cost."

To do that, he said, "my staff is working on how to get to 'no,' which means don't change requirements."

To get a head start on Columbia construction, the program started production of the common missile compartments, which also will be used in the Royal British Navy's Dreadnaught ballistic missile submarines.

But last year, inspectors discovered "this missile tube debacle," he said, referring to a large number of substandard welds. The program office is working with industry to address the flawed welding and to impose a more stringent oversight regime, but correcting the flaws has taken 10 months from the schedule.

Capt. Christopher J. Hanson, program manager for the Virginia submarines, noted that they were now

steadily producing two boats a year, were building the first of the Virginia Payload Modules, which will increase the boats' strike capabilities, and were working on designs for improved future versions.

And Drakeley noted that "Congress has put into law" the requirement to negotiate with industry on increasing the construction rate to three a year, which might happen by 2022 or '23.

Meanwhile, they are working on ways to refuel the nuclear reactors on five of the older Los Angeles-class attack boats to extend their service lives as part of an effort to expand the sub fleet from 48 to 60 to meet the demands from regional combatant commanders.

Crash Dive Base Contact Information

Commander – Clayton Hill, 195 Clover Lane, Cedarburg, WI 53012; 262-377-5332 (work number) or bisi@ameritech.net

Vice-Commander – Greg Miller, 964 Fischer Drive, Addison, IL; (630)543-7855 or fourkats4me@yahoo.com

Secretary (POC) – Chris Gaines, 513 West Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60506; 630-892-5718 or ccgaines@mindspring.com

Treasurer – Glenn C. Barts, Sr., 2000 Jamestown Drive, Palatine, IL 60074; 847-934-7418; gcbarts@msn.com

COB – Larry Warnke, lwarnke@msn.com

Chaplain – Cris Pascual; crispasses@aol.com; 285 Southridge, Gurnee, IL 60031; 847-855-0772

Membership – Tom Polzin, 1305 Winslow Circle, Woodstock, IL 60098; 847-867-8668; tapolzin@aol.com

Storekeeper – Herman Mueller, 503 Lynn Terrace, Waukegan, IL 60085; 847-445-5034; hermanandlorimueller@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor – Chris Gaines

Base Historian – Frank Voznak, Jr. 9 South 255 Madison, Burr Ridge, IL. 60527; 630 986-0175 franklin2@comcast.net



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular Life Associate

OUR 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 & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Yr)
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in _____ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) _____ **Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____ - _____ **Tel:** (_____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____ / _____ / _____

Your E-Mail Address _____ **Base/Chapter Desired:** _____

The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____
Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$ 90.00; 3 Yr term: \$ 55.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 20.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$ 25.00
Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$ 300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00
Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Crash Dive Base dues are \$15 annually.

How did you find USSVI? Friend, Boat Assn, Local Event/News, Internet, Other (_____)

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?: (Mandatory for Assoc Mbrs) _____

Associate Applicant is: Veteran Spouse of Veteran Other (specify) _____

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____ **If other military service, What Branch?** _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ **Mil Retired (Y/N):** ____ **On Active Duty? (Y/N):** ____

YR entered Mil Service: ____ **YR left Mil Service** ____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

2. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

3. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

4. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

5. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

Next of Kin: Name: _____ **Relationship:** _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Dau, Parent, Other)

Addr: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____ **Tel:** _____

(Leave this address line blank if the same as your home address)

Applicants on active duty are requested to provide a permanent home address.

Upon completion, give this form, including your National and Base membership dues to the appropriate base officer. or mail to: Crash Dive Secretary. Chris Gaines. 513 W. Downer Place. Aurora. IL 60506: 630-892-5718