



# 1MC



The official newsletter of the Wolverine Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Volume 2025, No. 2

## In Memoriam – Elwood “Woody” Gunderson



Woody & Carole Gunderson

Elwood “Woody” John Gunderson, of Brownstown, Michigan departed on Eternal Patrol on 9 March 2025 at the age of 85. He is the fourth member of Wolverine Base to leave on Eternal Patrol.

Born on 8 August, 1939, Woody honorably served in the United States Navy from 1957 to 1964. He was a crewmember of USS Redfin (SSR-272) and USS Skate (SSN-578). After his service, he became a proud Detroit Police Officer, with a career spanning 25 years. He was a detective and had worked his way into the role of Sergeant. He was also on the mounted unit until his retirement in 1990.

Woody was very involved in many veteran organizations including American Legion Post 447, and US Submarine

Veterans (Escolar Base and Wolverine Base). He was a member of the Holland Club, having qualified in USS Redfin in 1959.

He is survived by his wife Carole Gunderson, sons Scott (Paulann) Lesko, Charles "Chuck" (Winnie) Adams and Keith Lesko, 12 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and 4 nieces and nephews.

A burial service is planned for June, 2025 at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan.



Woody (right) working on the Freedom Hill submarine memorial renovation project.

Sailor, rest your oar.

## Ozzie's Submarine Memorabilia Collection

Each August, the Wolverine Base meeting has been held at Richard "Ozzie" Osentoski's home in Trenton, MI, where he puts on a great "Bubblehead Barbeque." Besides the great food and camaraderie, base members have the opportunity to see Ozzie's significant collection of submarine memorabilia. Much of his collection is associated with his qual boat, USS Ronquil (SS-396), where he served from 1962 to 1966, achieving the rate of ETR2 (SS). Ronquil's XO during much of Ozzie's time on board was (then) LCDR Lloyd M. "Pete" Bucher, USN, who later was CO of the ill-fated USS Pueblo (AGER-2) and spent nearly a year as a POW in North Korea. Items from Ozzie's collection are shown as they were displayed at the 2024 Bubblehead Barbeque.



Ozzie with some of his collection



Ronquil builder's plaque



Ronquil's wardroom tablecloth  
[Did Ozzie ever see this at Captain's Mast?]



Ronquil's "mascot"

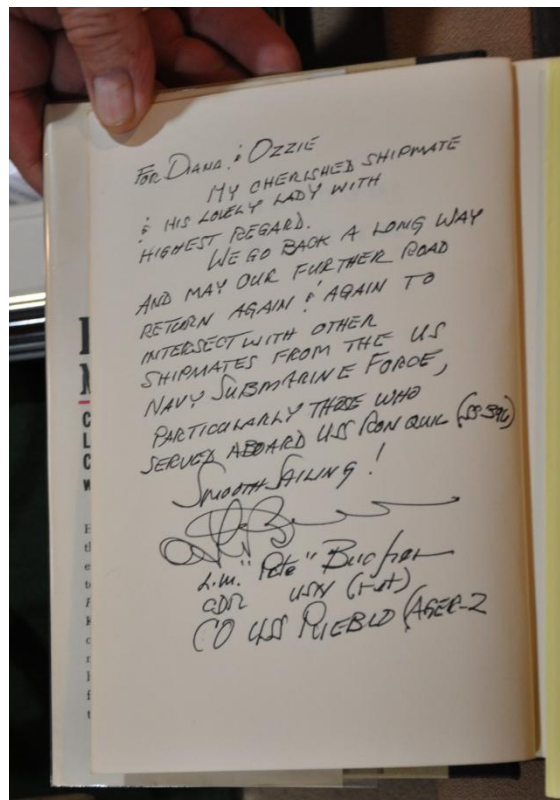
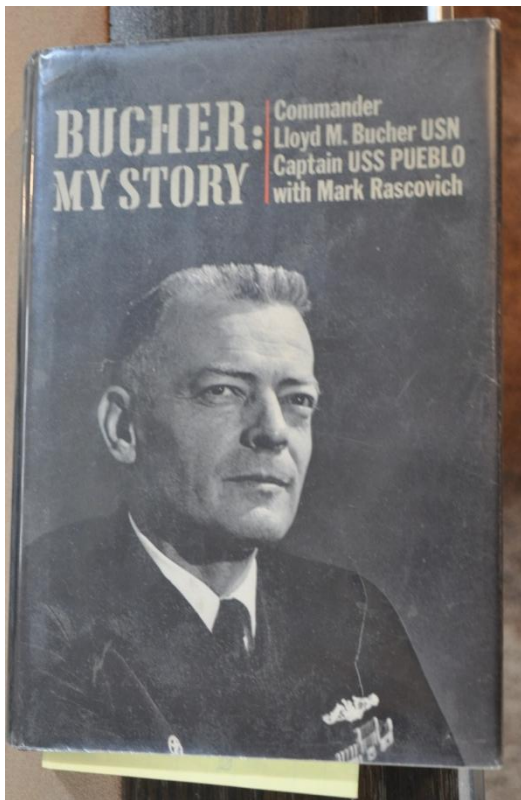


A Ronquil life ring.  
(The **1MC** editor has never heard of such a device on a submarine.)



ETR2 (SS) Osentoski  
getting his second-  
class "crow"

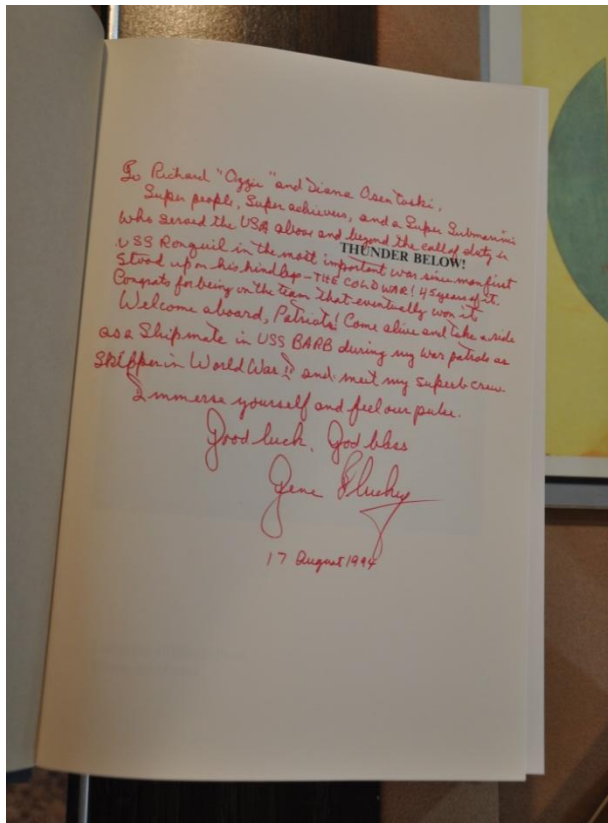




Ozzie's copy of Bucher's book, suitably inscribed.



Ozzie with an original watercolor of Ronquil painted by Lloyd Bucher



Another watercolor by CDR Bucher – this one of a generic  
 "Fleet Boat"



Inscription on **Thunder Below** by the author,  
 Medal of Honor recipient RADM Eugene Fluckey



A very young Ozzie and his SubSchool class

Thanks, Ozzie, for sharing your collection with us!



## LOST BOATS FOUND

Editor's note: The information in this article is taken from the website: <https://www.oneternalpatrol.com/>  
Thanks are due to Charles R. Hinman, Director of Education & Outreach at the Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum (formerly USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park).

Since 2005, ten U.S. Navy submarines that were lost in World War II and whose exact locations were not previously known have been discovered. One additional submarine that had been found soon after her sinking has recently been re-discovered. One submarine that was lost in 1958 has also been found.

These boats are:

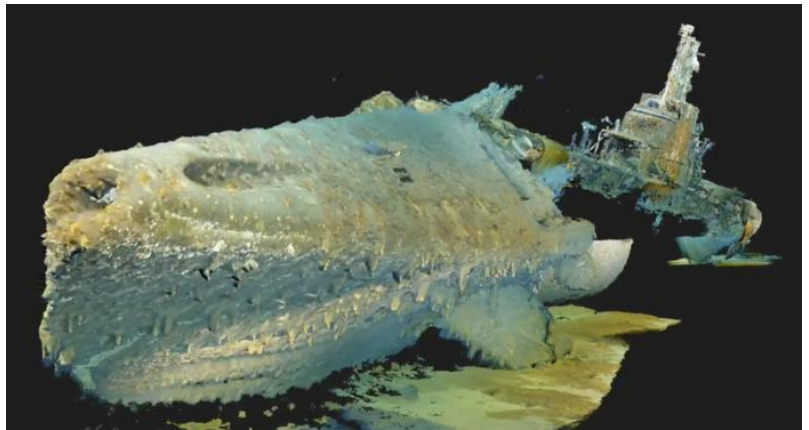
- USS Lagarto (SS-371) - confirmed discovery in the Gulf of Thailand
- USS Wahoo (SS-238) - confirmed discovery in the La Perouse Strait
- USS Grunion (SS-216) - confirmed discovery off Kiska Island in the Aleutians
- USS Perch (SS-176) - discovery in the Java Sea
- USS Flier (SS-250) - confirmed discovery near Palawan Island
- USS R-12 (SS-89) - discovery off Key West, Florida
- USS S-26 (SS-131) - re-discovery off Panama
- USS S-28 (SS-133) - confirmed discovery off Oahu, Hawaii
- USS Robalo (SS-273) - confirmed discovery off Philippine Islands
- USS Grayback (SS-208) - confirmed discovery off Okinawa, Japan
- USS Stickleback (SS-415) - discovery off Oahu, Hawaii
- USS Grenadier (SS-210) - discovery south of Phuket, Thailand (awaiting confirmation)
- USS Albacore (SS-218) - confirmed discovery off Hokkaido, Japan

This issue will provide details for Grayback, and Stickleback.

### Grayback

USS Grayback (SS-208) was found in June, 2019, in water greater than 1,400 feet deep off Okinawa, Japan. Tim Taylor once again led the group that made this discovery. Her identity has been confirmed by the U. S. Navy.

This is the 5th US WWII submarine discovery for Mr. Taylor and his Lost 52 Project Team. Utilizing pioneering robotics and methods at the forefront of today's underwater technology they apply a combination of autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV's), remotely operated vehicles (ROV's) and advanced photogrammetry imaging technology resulting in the most comprehensive historical archeological records to date.



USS Grayback, one of the most successful submarines of the war, was a Tambor-class submarine launched on January 31, 1941 and was under the command of Lieutenant Commander John Anderson Moore. She made 10 war patrols total and is credited with sinking 14 ships, totaling 63,835 tons, including an Imperial Japanese Navy submarine. Grayback was a major part of the submarine offensive from the very start of the war.

Post-war Japanese records indicated that on February 26, 1944, Grayback suffered damage when land-based Japanese naval aircraft attacked her in the East China Sea, but it was assumed she sank the naval transport Ceylon Maru the next day. That same day it was recorded that a Japanese carrier-based plane spotted a

submarine on the surface in the East China Sea and attacked. According to Japanese reports the submarine "exploded and sank immediately." Grayback received two Navy Unit Commendations honoring her seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth war patrols, in addition to eight battle stars for her World War II service.

The *On Eternal Patrol* web page for Grayback is [here](#).

## Stickleback



On 28 May 1958, Stickleback was participating in an antisubmarine warfare exercise with the destroyer escort USS Silverstein and a torpedo retriever in the Hawaiian area. In the course of these drills, the submarine had just completed a simulated torpedo run on Silverstein and was diving to a safe depth when she lost power and broached approximately 200 yards ahead of the destroyer escort. Although Silverstein backed full and put her rudder hard left but she could not avoid a collision, The resulting in a major breach of the submarine's pressure hull on the port side.

Stickleback's crew was removed by the torpedo retriever and combined efforts were made by several vessels to save the submarine. However, Stickleback sank in 1,800 fathoms of water.

Stickleback is the third submarine to be discovered of the four US Navy submarines lost since the end of World War II. The others were Cochino, Thresher, and Scorpion. Stickleback was relocated by Tim Taylor and the "Lost 52 Project" team early in 2020.

The *On Eternal Patrol* web page for Stickleback is [here](#).

Editor's Note: An article on the sinking of USS Stickleback was published in the 2021-1 edition of the **1MC**.

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## USSVI CONVENTION 2025



**USSVI  
2025  
National  
Convention**



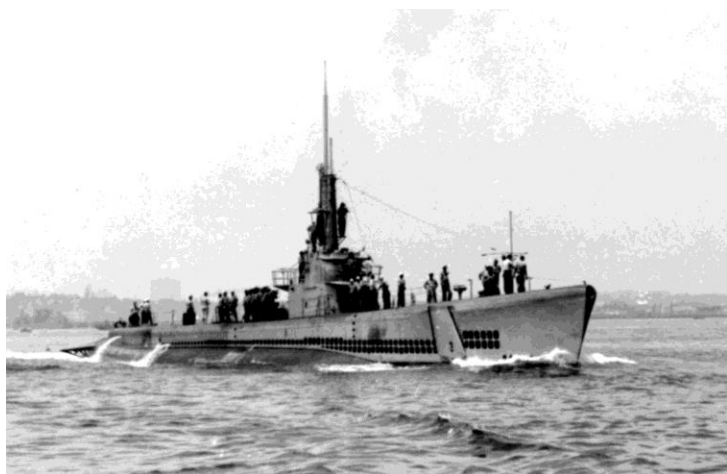
The 2025 USSVI National Convention will be held from 31 August to 6 September at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, FL. For further information, see the convention website: <https://subvetconvention.org/>

## MUSEUM SUBMARINES

A continuing feature of the *1MC* is a roster of current USN museum submarines, and some information about each. The current list follows. The data is taken mainly from the website of the Historic Naval Ships Association [www.hnsa.org] and the websites of the boats themselves as indicated below.

Name	Hull No.	Location	Configuration	Website
USS Marlin	(SST-2)	Omaha, NE	SST	<a href="http://parks.cityofomaha.org/.../281-freedom-park">parks.cityofomaha.org/.../281-freedom-park</a>
USS Cod	(SS-224)	Cleveland, OH	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.usscod.org/">www.usscod.org/</a>
USS Drum	(SS-228)	Mobile, AL	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.ussalabama.com/">www.ussalabama.com/</a>
USS Silversides	(SS-236)	Muskegon, MI	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.silversidesmuseum.org/">www.silversidesmuseum.org/</a>
USS Cavalla	(SS-244)	Galveston, TX	Guppy II	<a href="http://www.galvestonnavalmuseum.com/">www.galvestonnavalmuseum.com/</a>
USS Cobia	(SS-245)	Manitowoc, WI	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.wisconsinmaritime.org/">www.wisconsinmaritime.org/</a>
USS Croaker	(SS-246)	Buffalo, NY	Guppy II	<a href="http://www.buffalonaivalpark.org/">www.buffalonaivalpark.org/</a>
USS Bowfin	(SS-287)	Pearl Harbor, HI	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.bowfin.org/">www.bowfin.org/</a>
USS Ling	(SS-297)	Hackensack, NJ	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.njnm.org/">www.njnm.org/</a>
USS Lionfish	(SS-298)	Fall River, MA	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.battleshipcove.org/">www.battleshipcove.org/</a>
USS Batfish	(SS-310)	Muskogee, OK	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.warmemorialpark.org/">www.warmemorialpark.org/</a>
USS Becuna	(SS-319)	Philadelphia, PA	Guppy IA	<a href="http://www.phillyseaport.org/">www.phillyseaport.org/</a>
USS Pampanito	(SS-383)	San Francisco, CA	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.maritime.org/">www.maritime.org/</a>
USS Razorback	(SS-394)	North Little Rock, AR	Guppy II	<a href="http://www.aimmuseum.org/">www.aimmuseum.org/</a>
USS Torsk	(SS-423)	Baltimore, MD	Fleet snorkel	<a href="http://www.historicships.org/">www.historicships.org/</a>
USS Requin	(SS-481)	Pittsburgh, PA	Fleet snorkel	<a href="http://www.carnegiesciencecenter.org/">www.carnegiesciencecenter.org/</a>
USS Dolphin	(AGSS-555)	San Diego, CA	Deep diving	<a href="http://www.sdmaritime.org/">www.sdmaritime.org/</a>
USS Albacore	(AGSS-569)	Portsmouth, NH	Experimental	<a href="http://www.ussalbacore.org/">www.ussalbacore.org/</a>
USS Nautilus	(SSN-571)	Groton, CT	SSN	<a href="http://www.ussnautilus.org/">www.ussnautilus.org/</a>
USS Growler	(SSG-577)	New York, NY	SSG	<a href="http://www.intrepidmuseum.org/">www.intrepidmuseum.org/</a>
USS Blueback	(SS-581)	Portland, OR	Teardrop hull	<a href="http://www.oms.edu/submarine">www.oms.edu/submarine</a>

### Featured in this issue is USS Ling (SS-297)



Of all the current museum boats, Ling has the most tragic history. She was laid down on 2 November 1942 by the Cramp Shipbuilding Company of Philadelphia and launched on 15 August 1943. Moved to the Boston Navy Yard for completion and testing, she was commissioned on 8 June 1945. The 3 year 7 month period between keel laying to commissioning was unusually long for a World War II submarine.

After shakedown and further installations, Ling headed out to sea to test her equipment on 15 September 1945, 13 days after Japan had formally surrendered. The submarine was based at New

London, CT until she sailed on 11 February 1946 for the Panama Canal Zone, arriving eight days later. She operated out of Panama until 9 March when she sailed north. She completed inactivation on 23 October at

New London and was decommissioned on 26 October 1946. Ling entered the Atlantic Reserve Fleet, after having been in commission for only 1 year, 4 months and 18 days. She was struck from the Naval Register, 1 December 1971.

Six months later Ling was donated to the Submarine Memorial Association, a non-profit organization formed in 1972 with the purpose of saving Ling from the scrap yard. The Association petitioned the Navy to bring the boat to Hackensack, New Jersey to serve as a memorial "to perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country." Many citizens and corporations contributed time, professional services, and funds toward the restoration of Ling. She arrived at her present home in New Jersey in January 1973, where she was restored to near-mint condition—scrubbed, painted, and polished for public tours—through the efforts of the association. The compartments were refurbished and outfitted with authentic gear that recreated the bygone era of the World War II battle submarine. She was the centerpiece of the New Jersey Naval Museum at 78 River St., Hackensack, New Jersey.

X-rays showed that the submarine's five safes contained documents and metallic objects, but the combinations had long been lost. On 27 January 2006, Jeff Sitar, the eight-time world champion locksmith, opened the safes using only his fingers and an electronic sound amplifier, rather than drills or explosives. In the safes, he found a wide variety of objects, including a dozen pennies, two .45-caliber bullets, a ring of keys, many training and maintenance manuals and parts catalogs from the 1940s and 1950s, and two 1-US-quart cans of 190-proof ethanol.



From 1972 the Museum had paid one dollar per year to rent its riverside site for Ling. In January 2007, the North Jersey Media Group, owner of the site, informed the museum that the site was going to be sold for redevelopment within the year and that the museum and submarine would need to be relocated. Then, in September 2013 the museum itself was closed due to damage from Hurricane Sandy the previous year. The museum closed again for emergency repairs in late July, 2015, and the museum was expected to vacate the property in August 2018.

Adding insult to injury, Ling was vandalized in August 2018. Locks were cut on interior doors, and hatches were opened, allowing up to 14 ft of water to flood the interior of the ship. The boat was worked on by a group of volunteers, who pumped out the water and used compressed air to fill the ship's ballast tanks, allowing her to be refloated. Her final destination has yet to be determined as the original plans have fallen through. There are no plans to allow the USS Ling to be scrapped, and efforts were being made to find a new home for her, potentially in Louisville, Kentucky. The swing bridge south of her on the river is functional and is no longer an obstacle to moving her.

In September 2020 volunteers associated with the Louisville Naval Museum began to raise concerns on social media about improper accounting of donations made to the Louisville Naval Museum. The volunteers ceased working with the Louisville Naval Museum after one of the volunteers suffered a serious injury while working aboard the USS Ling in November 2020.

As of this writing, Ling's future is unclear and a permanent home has not been identified.



## COMING EVENTS

13 April	1500	Monthly base meeting, Buoy 12 (29161 Jefferson Ave, St Clair Shores, MI)
18 May	1500	Monthly base meeting, Buoy 12 (29161 Jefferson Ave, St Clair Shores, MI)
25 May	1100	St. Clair Shores Memorial Day Parade (meet at 11:00 at VFW Bruce Post 1146)
31 Aug – 6 Sep		USSVI Convention, Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, FL



## LOST BOATS [APRIL – JUNE]

### USS Pickerel (SS-177)

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

### USS Snook (SS-279)

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

### USS Thresher (SSN-593)

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

### USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

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

### USS Grenadier (SS-210)

Lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet,

Grenadier was bombed, causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 76 crew members taken prisoner, 72 survived the war.

### USS Lagarto (SS-371)

Lost on May 3, 1945 with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. On her 2nd war patrol, she is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk by USS Hawkbill (SS-366) 2 weeks later.

### USS Scorpion (SSN-589)

USS Scorpion (SSN-589) was returning to Norfolk, VA. from a Mediterranean deployment. On May 22, 1968 she reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Scorpion was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined. 99 officers and men were lost.

### USS Squalus (SS-192)

On May 23, 1939 USS Squalus suffered a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. Partially flooded, the submarine sank to the bottom and came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR-2) rescued 33 survivors use the diving bell he invented. 26 men drowned in the after compartments. Later Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish. In an ironic turn of fate, Sailfish sank the Japanese aircraft carrier carrying surviving crew members from Sculpin, which had located Squalus in 1939. Only one survived after spending the rest of the war as a slave laborer in Japan.

### USS Stickleback (SS-415)

Lost on May 28, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while under

tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to sinking.

#### **USS Herring (SS-233)**

Lost on June 1, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Matsuwa Island. Herring was on her 8th war patrol and was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made 2 direct hits on her conning tower and causing her loss. Before being sunk, she had sank a freighter and a passenger-cargoman. Herring was the only US submarine sunk by a land battery.

#### **USS R-12 (SS-89)**

Lost on June 12, 1943 with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.

#### **USS Golet (SS-361)**

Lost on June 14, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. On her 2nd war patrol, Golet was apparently lost in battle with antisubmarine forces north of Honshu.

#### **USS Bonefish (SS-223)**

Lost on June 18, 1945 with the loss of 85 men when sunk

near Suzu Misaki. Winner of 3 Navy Unit Citations, Bonefish was on her 8th war patrol. After sinking a passenger-cargoman, Bonefish was subjected to a savage depth charge attack.

#### **USS S-27 (SS-132)**

Lost on June 19, 1942 when it grounded off Amchitka Island. She was on the surface in poor visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore (400 yards away) in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescued.

#### **USS O-9 (SS-70)**

Lost on Jun 20, 1941 with the loss of 33 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH.

#### **USS Runner (SS-275)**

Lost between June 26 & July 4th 1943 with the loss of 78 men. Runner was on her 3rd war patrol probably due to a mine. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargoman off the Kuriles. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on June 26th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before July 4th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.



Eileen Mahoney's poem "In Waters Deep" sums up the loss of sailors at sea. It uses (intentionally) the same meter as "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae

### **IN WATERS DEEP**

In ocean wastes no poppies blow,  
No crosses stand in ordered row,  
There young hearts sleep... beneath the wave...  
The spirited, the good, the brave,  
But stars a constant vigil keep,  
For them who lie beneath the deep.

'Tis true you cannot kneel in prayer  
On certain spot and think. "He's there."  
But you can to the ocean go...  
See whitecaps marching row on row;  
Know one for him will always ride...  
In and out... with every tide.

And when your span of life is passed,  
He'll meet you at the "Captain's Mast."  
And they who mourn on distant shore  
For sailors who'll come home no more,  
Can dry their tears and pray for these  
Who rest beneath the heaving seas...

For stars that shine and winds that blow  
And whitecaps marching row on row.  
And they can never lonely be  
For when they lived... they chose the sea.

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**Our purpose is** 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 perpetuating the memory of departed 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. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today.



## **Wolverine Base Macomb County, Michigan (586) 212-6757**

**<https://www.ussvimich.org/>**

Base Commander: Steve Ritter  
Sr. Vice Commander: Phil Klintworth  
Jr. Vice Commander: Frank Woechan  
Secretary: Carol Carter

Treasurer: Sam Ritchie  
Chaplain: Robert Dickinson  
Storekeeper: Frank Woechan  
Chief of the Boat: Mike Loffreda