



1MC



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

Volume 2023, No. 2

In Memoriam – Carl Stramer



Shipmate Caramello (Carl) Stramer, of Utica, Michigan departed on Eternal Patrol on 1 March 2023 at the age of 98.

Born on 13 January 1925 in Detroit, Michigan, Carl enlisted in the U.S. Navy as soon as he turned 17, just a few weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Volunteering for submarine duty, he was assigned to the commissioning crew of USS Puffer (SS-268), being built at Manitowoc, Wisconsin. He rode the boat through the Illinois canal system, down the Mississippi River to New Orleans, through the Panama Canal and on to the southwest Pacific. There he took her on her first four war patrols as a Motor Machinist's Mate (MoMM), the rating now known as Engineman.

Following transfer to USS Ray (SS-271), another Manitowoc boat, Carl completed another four war patrols. He mustered out at the end of the war as a MoMM2(SS) and returned home to Detroit, not yet 21 years old! Receiving \$300 from the State of Michigan for being a war veteran, Carl

bought a set of tools and became an automobile mechanic. He worked for General Motors for 30 years, much of that time at the GM Tech Center in Warren, MI. He was awarded several patents for automotive-related inventions.

He and his wife Mildred (who passed away last year) were married for 78 years, and had four children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Qualified in Submarines for more than 75 years, Carl was a Holland Club member, and an active member of Wolverine Base, attending the Base meeting less than two weeks before his passing.

A memorial service was held on 16 March 2023 at Resurrection Funeral Home in Clinton Township, MI with many of Carl's shipmates from Wolverine Base in attendance. The Base has made a Memorial Donation to Vets Returning Home in memory of Carl.



St Clair Shores Memorial Day Parade

Sailor, rest your oar.



Qualified in Submarines for 75 years!



Memorial service

EAGLE SCOUT PRESENTATION



On 4 February 2023, Frank Woechan and Phil Klintworth attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Aiden Baugh of Boy Scout Troop 199 at Marimont Community Church in Pontiac MI. Frank, an Eagle Scout himself, gave a great presentation explaining how skills learned in pursuing Eagle Scout rank are beneficial throughout life. After Phil explained the many similarities between qualifying in submarines and attaining Eagle Scout rank, they presented Aiden with his USSVI certificate.

Congratulations, Aiden!

BROTHERHOOD FUND



Recently a member of BARB Base (Ft Myers, FL) received help from the Foundation's Brotherhood Fund. His grant will go a long way toward helping to restore his Pine Island home. Thanks to all the Shipmates who donated so generously for hurricane Ian relief.

Did you know that the USSV Charitable Foundation has a Brotherhood Fund? Managed by Ken Nichols, the fund supports members in good standing who identify issues where funds can help end their suffering. If you or a shipmate knows of a member who could benefit, let your Base Commander know. Submissions begin when the Commander determines the situation and passes the word on to the Fund Manager.

NAMES OF NEW SSNs TO HONOR WORLD WAR II BOATS

Four new Block V Virginia-class boats will reprise the names of submarines that performed great feats in the Pacific during World War II.

SSN-804 to be named USS Barb after SS-220



Barb made five war patrols in the European theater before transiting to the Pacific, where she made seven more war patrols. In the Pacific she sank 17 enemy ships and blew up a train. For her 11th patrol, the boat was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation and her Commanding Officer, CDR Eugene B. Fluckey earned the Medal of Honor. In December 1954, Barb was

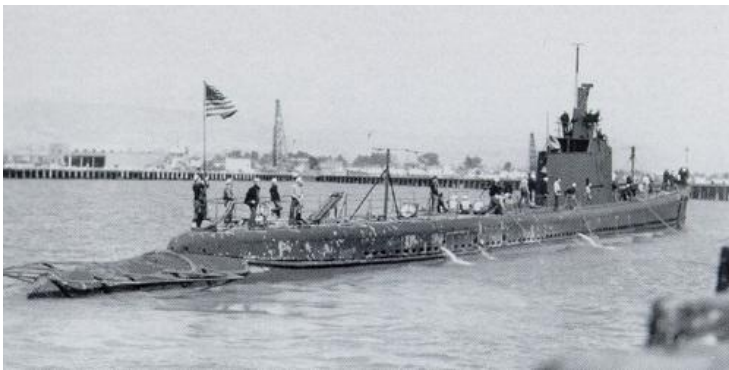
decommissioned and sold to the Italian Navy. She was eventually sold for scrap in 1972.

SSN-805 to be named USS Tang after SS-306

Tang made five war patrols, all in the Pacific, sinking 33 enemy ships. On 25 October 1944 she was sunk by her own circular-running torpedo. Nine crewmembers survived the sinking and spent the remainder of the war in prison camps. Tang was awarded two Presidential Unit Citations during her service, and her Commanding Officer, CDR Richard O'Kane, earned the Medal of Honor.



SSN-806 to be named USS Wahoo after SS-238



Wahoo made seven war patrols, all in the Pacific, sinking 19 enemy ships. Her Commanding Officer, CDR Dudley W. "Mush" Morton exemplified the new breed of aggressive submarine skippers who took the battle to the enemy in the Pacific. Wahoo was lost with all hands to an enemy air attack on 11 October 1943 near La Perouse Strait, between Hokkaido and Sakhalin Islands. In 2005, electronic surveys of the region located a Gato-class submarine in the strait, and in July 2006 additional

images from submersibles verified the submarine as Wahoo.

SSN-807 to be named USS Silversides after SS-236

Silversides made fourteen war patrols, all in the Pacific, sinking 23 enemy ships (third among US boats in number of ships sunk) and was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. She made the history books in December 1942, when Pharmacist's Mate First Class Thomas Moore, performed a successful emergency appendectomy at sea on Fireman Second Class George Platter, using ether as anesthesia and rudimentary instruments fashioned from kitchen utensils. Decommissioned in 1969, she has been a museum ship since 1973, initially berthed at Chicago, and since 1987 at Muskegon, MI.



USSVI Convention: 28 Aug – 3 Sep 2022, Tucson, AZ

The USSVI annual convention is one of the largest and most exciting annual gatherings of submarine veterans in the U.S. This event offers attendees the environment, the setting and the unique opportunity to meet with fellow submariners to exchange ideas, reminisce and keep up to date on important information. Details about the convention, available services and calendar of events can be found at <https://www.ussvi.org/2023-ch>

El Conquistador Tucson, Tucson, AZ

\$99.00 per night per room



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	parks.cityofomaha.org/.../281-freedom-park
USS Cod	(SS-224)	Cleveland, OH	Fleet boat	www.usscod.org/
USS Drum	(SS-228)	Mobile, AL	Fleet boat	www.ussalabama.com/
USS Silversides	(SS-236)	Muskegon, MI	Fleet boat	www.silversidesmuseum.org/
USS Cavalla	(SS-244)	Galveston, TX	Guppy II	www.galvestonnavalmuseum.com/
USS Cobia	(SS-245)	Manitowoc, WI	Fleet boat	www.wisconsinmaritime.org/
USS Croaker	(SS-246)	Buffalo, NY	Guppy II	www.buffalonaivalpark.org/
USS Bowfin	(SS-287)	Pearl Harbor, HI	Fleet boat	www.bowfin.org/
USS Ling	(SS-297)	Hackensack, NJ	Fleet boat	www.njnm.org/
USS Lionfish	(SS-298)	Fall River, MA	Fleet boat	www.battleshipcove.org/
USS Batfish	(SS-310)	Muskogee, OK	Fleet boat	www.warmemorialpark.org/
USS Becuna	(SS-319)	Philadelphia, PA	Guppy IA	www.phillyseaport.org/
USS Pampanito	(SS-383)	San Francisco, CA	Fleet boat	www.maritime.org/
USS Razorback	(SS-394)	North Little Rock, AR	Guppy II	www.aimmuseum.org/

USS Torsk	(SS-423)	Baltimore, MD	Fleet snorkel	www.historicships.org/
USS Requin	(SS-481)	Pittsburgh, PA	Fleet snorkel	www.carnegiesciencecenter.org/
USS Dolphin	(AGSS-555)	San Diego, CA	Deep diving	www.sdmaritime.org/
USS Albacore	(AGSS-569)	Portsmouth, NH	Experimental	www.ussalbacore.org/
USS Nautilus	(SSN-571)	Groton, CT	SSN	www.ussnautilus.org/
USS Growler	(SSG-577)	New York, NY	SSG	www.intrepidmuseum.org/
USS Blueback	(SS-581)	Portland, OR	Teardrop hull	www.oms.edu/submarine

Featured in this issue is USS Razorback (SS-394)

USS Razorback (SS-394), a Balao-class submarine, was the only ship of the United States Navy to be named after the razorback, a species of whale found in the far southern reaches of the Pacific Ocean. She is arguably the longest-serving combat front-line submarine still existing in the world, having been commissioned by two different countries for 56 years of active duty. She was in Tokyo Bay during the surrender of Japan. In 2004, the state of Arkansas adopted the submarine (although she was not named after the University of Arkansas mascot) and she is now a museum ship at the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum.



Built at the Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery, Maine, she was launched on 9 September 1943 along with USS Redfish (SS-395) and USS Ronquil (SS-396). USS Scabbardfish (SS-397) was launched a few hours later, making 27 January 1944 the only time the U.S. Navy has launched four submarines at one shipyard in a single day.

Following five successful war patrols in the Pacific during World War II, Razorback was one of twelve submarines to take part in the Japanese surrender ceremony in Tokyo Bay on 2 September, 1945. She continued to operate as a member of the Pacific Fleet until 1952 when she was taken out of commission for conversion to the GUPPY II configuration. Recommissioned in 1954, she again operated in the Pacific. On 30 November 1970 she was decommissioned and transferred to the Turkish Navy, where she became TGC Murat Reis (S 336). She served as a front-line submarine of the Turkish Navy until 8 August 2001.

The city of North Little Rock, Arkansas purchased the boat from Turkey on 25 March 2004 for \$37,500. Private donations provided the funds for the purchase and all towing costs. The submarine departed Turkey under tow on 5 May 2004, crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Gibraltar, and then across the Atlantic Ocean, arriving in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 19 June 2004 following a stop at Key West, Florida. From there she was towed up the Mississippi River and the Arkansas River to her permanent berth in North Little Rock.

On 29 August 2004, Razorback reached her berth in North Little Rock, at the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum. She officially opened to the public on 15 May 2005.

Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum



The Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum is located in North Shore Riverwalk Park along the shore of the Arkansas River in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Since its opening in 2005 nearly 300,000 families from all 50 states and 81 countries have visited the museum. The museum is the only place in the world where one can see two floating naval vessels that

bookend World War II: the tugboat Hoga, a veteran of the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941; and the submarine USS Razorback, which was in Tokyo Bay during the formal surrender of Japan, ending the war.

The North Shore Riverwalk surrounding the facility features two memorials dedicated to submarines USS Snook (SS-279) and USS Scorpion (SSN-589). There is also a Peace Garden for the community to celebrate the ideal of peace in this war-torn world.

COMING EVENTS

16 April	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)
21 May	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)
28 May	1300	St. Clair Shores Memorial Day Parade (meet at 11:00 at Chapaton Pumping Station Jefferson & Nine Mile Rd)
18 Jun	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)
28 Aug - 3 Sep		USSVI Convention, El Conquistador Tucson, Tucson, AZ



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) 945-8561

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

Base Commander: Fred Kinzel

Sr. Vice Commander: Phil Klintworth

Secretary: Denise Walsh

Treasurer: Bob Walsh

Chaplain: Steve Ritter

Storekeeper: Frank Woechan

Chief of the Boat: Sam Ritchie