



# 1MC



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

Volume 2023, No. 1

## WOLVERINE BASE HOLIDAY PARTY



The sixth annual Wolverine Base Christmas Party was held on 18 December 2022. Members, spouses, significant others, and guests gathered at the Hamlin Pub in Shelby Township for the gala, organized by Bob and Denise Walsh, and presided over by Base Commander Fred Kinzel.

Although for the most part a festive occasion, the meeting included a "Tolling of the Boats" for those boats lost in December, in honor of our shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

The meeting also included the awarding of 5-year longevity pins to Winter Hill, Steve "Tex" Ritter, and Jim Thelander.



## WOLVERINE BASE SUBMARINE VETERAN OF THE YEAR

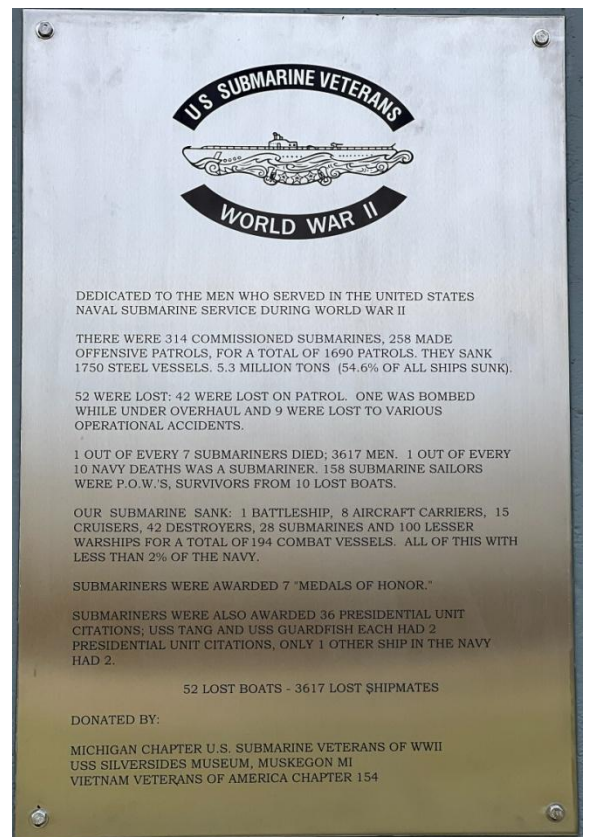
The November meeting included the presentation of the second Wolverine Base “Submarine Veteran of the Year” award. The recipient was Wolverine Base member Steve “Tex” Ritter, who was recognized for his

efforts in building the USS Scorpion (SSN-589) float used in the 2022 St. Clair Shores Memorial Day Parade. See Volume 2022 No. 3 of the **1MC** for details of this major project. WELL DONE Steve!



## FREEDOM HILL

The War Memorial in Freedom Hill Park in Macomb County consists of several military artifacts, including an F-4 Phantom aircraft, a “Huey” helicopter, and an Army tank. Representing the submarine force are a Mk 14 torpedo and plaques honoring



DEDICATED TO THE MEN WHO SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL SUBMARINE SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

THERE WERE 314 COMMISSIONED SUBMARINES, 258 MADE OFFENSIVE PATROLS, FOR A TOTAL OF 1690 PATROLS. THEY SANK 1750 STEEL VESSELS. 5.3 MILLION TONS (54.6% OF ALL SHIPS SUNK).

52 WERE LOST: 42 WERE LOST ON PATROL. ONE WAS BOMBED WHILE UNDER OVERHAUL AND 9 WERE LOST TO VARIOUS OPERATIONAL ACCIDENTS.

1 OUT OF EVERY 7 SUBMARINERS DIED; 3617 MEN. 1 OUT OF EVERY 10 NAVY DEATHS WAS A SUBMARINER. 158 SUBMARINE SAILORS WERE P.O.W.'S, SURVIVORS FROM 10 LOST BOATS.

OUR SUBMARINE SANK: 1 BATTLESHIP, 8 AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, 15 CRUISERS, 42 DESTROYERS, 28 SUBMARINES AND 100 LESSER WARSHIPS FOR A TOTAL OF 194 COMBAT VESSELS. ALL OF THIS WITH LESS THAN 2% OF THE NAVY.

SUBMARINERS WERE AWARDED 7 "MEDALS OF HONOR."

SUBMARINERS WERE ALSO AWARDED 36 PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATIONS; USS TANG AND USS GUARDFISH EACH HAD 2 PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATIONS, ONLY 1 OTHER SHIP IN THE NAVY HAD 2.

52 LOST BOATS - 3617 LOST SHIPMATES

DONATED BY:

MICHIGAN CHAPTER U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS OF WWII  
USS SILVERSIDES MUSEUM, MUSKEGON MI  
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 154



the submarines lost during World War II. The submarine part of the memorial was provided initially by the Michigan Chapter of the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II, the forerunner of Escolar Base, USSVI. After more than 30 years of Michigan weather, the memorial was showing its age, so Wolverine Base held a working party the first weekend of October to refurbish the submarine parts of the memorial. Supported by Steve and Helene Ritter and their world-class RV, base members cleaned and repainted the F-4 pedestal, reinstalled the refurbished plaques, and cleaned and repainted (using proper colors) the Mk 14 torpedo. Funding support was provided by USSVI Wolverine Base, USSVI Escolar Base and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #154.

## HOLLAND CLUB

Recent Wolverine Base inductees into the Holland Club include Gary Irwin (a former shipmate of Steve Ritter) who qualified in USS Daniel Webster, (SSBN-626) in 1972, and Don Cook who qualified in USS Triton (SSN-586) in 1967.



Steve Ritter and Gary Irwin



Don Cook and Phil Klintworth

## WINE TASTING

In an attempt to reach out to folks outside the submarine community as well as to do some fundraising, Wolverine Base sponsored a Wine Tasting event on September 19, 2022. Organized by Base members Ron Mexicott and Frank Woechan, the event was held at Infinity Hall in Fraser. A local wine merchant, PRP Wine International, provided the tasting sample and explained the nuances of each vintage.



A particular highlight of the evening was the individual wine glass provided to each attendee. Each glass was laser-etched with submarine dolphins on one side and the Wolverine Base logo on the other. The etching was done by John Kasprus, a friend of Frank Woechan. He is a U. S. Army Vietnam Veteran and a farmer, who got into laser etching to fill in downtime during the winter months. He now etches informational tags used on machinery, for companies throughout the United States. When he learned of our need, he enthusiastically got to work.



The event was a success – we introduced the submarine force to members of the community, and raised more than \$800 for the Base’s charitable causes.

## MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT AT JIMMY JOHN'S FIELD

Jimmy John's Field, home of the United Shore Professional Baseball League, hosted their annual Military Appreciation Night on September 3, featuring a game between the Birmingham/Bloomfield Beavers and the Utica Unicorns. Four stalwart members represented the Wolverine Base.



## CHARITABLE CAUSES

From Bob Walsh, Base Treasurer:

I am pleased to announce that we contributed a total of \$1960 to charitable causes in 2022 as follows:

\$1518 to Veterans Returning Home

\$442 to the USS Silversides Museum

Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated by both of these organizations and reflect the serving character of who we are as a base.

Ah-OO-GAH!

## 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].

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,	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.buffalonavalpark.org/">www.buffalonavalpark.org/</a>
USS Bowfin	(SS-287)	Honolulu, HI	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.bowfin.org/">www.bowfin.org/</a>
USS Ling	(SS-297)	Hackensack, NJ	Fleet boat	
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 Clamagore	(SS-343)	Mount Pleasant, SC	Guppy III	Recently "recycled"
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 Clamagore (SS-343)

Unfortunately, this is a sad story. After nearly 4 decades as a museum ship in Charleston, SC, Clamagore was towed to Norfolk, VA in late 2022 for "recycling" (a more polite term for "scrapping").

Clamagore was built by Electric Boat Co. in Groton, Connecticut near the end of World War II. She was launched on 25 February 1945 and commissioned on 28 June 1945. In 1962 she became one of nine boats to undergo conversion to the GUPPY III configuration. A 15 ft hull section was added at the forward end of the control room, the conning tower was lengthened by 5 ft, and the



AN/BQG-4 PUFFS passive ranging sonar was installed, made obvious by the three “sharkfin” hydrophone enclosures topside. [Ed. Note: USS Remora (SS-487), my qual boat, was also a Guppy III.]

Clamagore was decommissioned on 12 June 1975, having served in the Navy for thirty years. She was donated as a museum ship on 6 August 1979 and arrived at Patriot's Point Naval & Maritime Museum, Charleston, South Carolina in May 1981 where she was moored along with aircraft carrier Yorktown and destroyer Laffey. She was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated a National Historic Landmark on 29 June 1989. The boat was the only Guppy III to survive as a museum ship, so her loss is significant.

The submarine was closed to the public in December 2021 because of a leak in a main ballast tank. Estimates of the cost to repair and restore the boat were several million dollars, well in excess of the resources of the Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum. Therefore, the museum board voted in March 2022 to “recycle” the submarine. Museum staffers are working to save many artifacts from the boat -- some of them will be used to create an exhibit about the Clamagore onboard the Yorktown, and others will be offered to other institutions.

## COMING EVENTS

15 Jan	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)
19 Feb	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)
19 Mar	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)



## LOST BOATS [JANUARY – MARCH]

### **USS Scorpion (SS-278)**

Lost on Jan 5, 1944 with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.

### **USS Argonaut (SS-166)**

Lost on Jan 10, 1943 with the loss of 102 officers and men off Rabaul, on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Jap destroyer who along with 2 other destroyers depth charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sank her by gun fire.

### **USS Swordfish (SS-193)**

Lost on Jan 12, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. Probably was lost to a mine.

### **USS S-36 (SS-141)**

Lost on Jan 20, 1942 with no loss of life, on her 2nd war patrol. She ran hard aground on a reef and radioed for help.

The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch ship after they scuttled her.

### **USS S-26 (SS-131)**

Lost on Jan 24, 1942 with the loss of 46 officers and men in the Gulf of Panama, on her 2nd war patrol. She was rammed by the USS PC-460 and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO and one lookout on the bridge, were the only survivors.

### **USS Barbel (SS-316)**

Lost on Feb 4, 1945 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 4th war patrol. Based on Japanese records, she was bombed near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage.

### **USS Shark I (SS-174)**

Lost on Feb 11, 1942 with the loss of 59 officers and men on her 1st war patrol. Shark was the 1st US submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific. She was most likely sunk by depth charges.

**USS Amberjack (SS-219)**

Lost on Feb 16, 1943 with the loss of 72 officers and men on her 3rd war patrol. Off Rabaul, she was attacked by a Japanese patrol plane, attacked by a torpedo boat and then depth charged by a subchaser. One additional man was killed earlier on the last patrol.

**USS Grayback (SS-208)**

Lost on Feb 26, 1944 with the loss of 80 officers and men on her 10th war patrol. She appears to have been caught on the surface in the East China Sea by a Japanese carrier plane whose bombs made a direct hit. During this patrol she sank 4 ships totaling 21,594 tons and was tied for 11th in the number of ships sunk.

**USS Trout (SS-202)**

Lost on Feb 29, 1944 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 11th war patrol. She was sunk by escorts in the middle of the Philippines Basin after sinking a passenger-cargoman and damaging another in a convoy.

**USS Perch (SS-176)**

Lost on March 3, 1942 near Java with no immediate loss of life, while on her 1st war patrol. She survived 2 severe depth chargings in less than 200 feet of water by 3 Japanese destroyers. The crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the 59 officers and men taken prisoner, 53 survived the war and six died as POWs.

**USS Grampus (SS-207)**

Lost on March 5, 1943 with the loss of 71 officers and men, on her 6th war patrol. She was lost in Vella Gulf, sunk after engaging 2 Japanese Destroyers.

**USS H-1 (SS-28)**

Lost on March 12, 1920 with the loss of 4 men as they tried to swim to shore after grounding on a shoal off Santa Margarita Island, off the coast of Baja California, Mexico. Vestal (AR-4),

pulled H-1 off the rocks in the morning of 24 March, only to have her sink 45 minutes later in some 50 feet of water. She was originally named the USS Seawolf before becoming H-1.

**USS Triton (SS-201)**

Lost on March 15, 1943 with the loss of 74 men. She was sunk north of the Admiralty Islands during a fight with 3 Japanese Destroyers. Triton was the 1st boat to engage the enemy in December 1941 off Wake Island, sinking 9 ships, 1 submarine and a destroyer.

**USS Kete (SS-369)**

Lost on March 20, 1945 with the loss of 87 officers and men at the end of her 2nd war patrol. Probably sunk near Okinawa, by a Japanese submarine that itself was subsequently lost.

**USS F-4 (SS-23)**

Lost on March 25, 1915 with the loss of 21 men. She foundered 1.5 miles off of Honolulu when acid corrosion of the lead lining of the battery tank let seawater into the battery compartment, causing loss of control. She was raised in August 1915.

**USS Tullibee (SS-284)**

Lost on March 26, 1944 with the loss of 79 officers and men, on her 4th war patrol. It's believed she was a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. The lookout was the only survivor and he survived the war as a Japanese prisoner.

**USS Trigger (SS-237)**

Lost on March 26, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men, on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese antisubmarine vessels and aircraft. Trigger ranked 7th in total tonnage sunk and tied for 8th in number of ships sunk.

## Lost Harbor

by Leslie Nelson Jennings

**There is a port of no return, where ships  
May ride at anchor for a little space  
And then, some starless night, the cable slips,  
Leaving an eddy at the mooring place . . .  
Gulls, veer no longer. Sailor, rest your oar.  
No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore.**



**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/>**

#### Officers

Base Commander: Fred Kinzel

Sr. Vice Commander: Phil Klintworth

Secretary: Denise Walsh

Treasurer: Bob Walsh

Chaplain: Steve Ritter

Chief of the Boat: Sam Ritchie