



1MC



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

Volume 2025, No. 4

In Memoriam – James Thelander



James Thelander, of Fort Gratiot, Michigan departed on Eternal Patrol on 4 August 2025 at the age of 80. He is the fifth member of Wolverine Base to leave on Eternal Patrol.

Jim was born August 27, 1944 in Mount Clemens, MI to the late Edwin F. Thelander and Patricia Helm Thelander. In 1966, he married his beloved wife, Pierrette Gravel, in Montreal, Canada, embarking on a 59-year love story.

Following graduation from Centerline High School in 1962 Jim proudly served in the U.S. Navy's submarine service for six years as a Missile Technician. He qualified in 1965 in USS Nathan Hale (SSBN-623), and subsequently served in USS Henry Clay (SSBN 625). He was a proud member of the Holland Club. For several years, he and Pierrette hosted the Wolverine Base July meeting at their lovely home on the beach at Lake Huron.

After leaving the Navy, Jim earned a bachelor's and a master's degree from Northern Michigan University and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. He was renowned for teaching electronics. As a dedicated member of the Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society (MITES), he championed industrial education. Jim was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, distinguished educator, passionate enthusiast of antique cars, John Wayne films, woodworking, and industrial education.

He leaves behind his wife, Pierrette; his sons, Edwin (Liliana), Matthew (Wendy), and Steve (Veronica); nine grandchildren, Thomas, Sandra, Peter, Autumn, Braeden, Hunter, Ava, Leah, and Miles; his brother, Fredric (Anne); and sister, Patty Helm. Jim was predeceased by his beloved son, Alan; and his brother, John.

A memorial service was held at Lakeshore Presbyterian Church in Fort Gratiot, MI on Saturday, August 23.

Sailor, rest your oar.



Ozzie's Bubblehead BBQ



Wolverine Base's Ninth Bubblehead Barbeque was hosted once again by Ozzie Osentoski at his Trenton, MI home on Sunday 17 August. Ably assisted by Jan McKim, and daughters Teresa and Becky, Ozzie put on a great party. As at past Barbeques, his extensive collection of USS Ronquil (SS-396) memorabilia was on display.



"The gang" at Ozzie's



Part of Ozzie's collection

New CNO and MCPON Are Both Submariners



Admiral Daryl Caudle was confirmed 31 July 1 by the U.S. Senate as the 34th Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). Caudle was serving as commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command when he was nominated by the president.

ADM Caudle is a native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina and a 1985 graduate of North Carolina State University (magna cum laude) with a degree in chemical engineering. He was commissioned after attending Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island.

His submarine sea tours included assignments as division officer, USS George Washington Carver (SSBN 656G); engineer, USS Stonewall Jackson (SSN 634B); engineer, USS Sand Lance (SSN 660); and executive officer of USS Montpelier (SSN 765). He commanded USS Jefferson City (SSN 759).

Other submarine-related assignments included Commander Submarine Squadron 3, Commander Submarine Group 8, COMSUBPAC, AND COMSUBLANT.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy John Perryman took the helm as the Navy's top enlisted sailor Monday, 8 September. Perryman assumed the role less than one month after the Navy announced his selection to be the 17th master chief petty officer of the Navy. As the top enlisted sailor, Perryman is responsible for advising Chief of Naval Operations ADM Daryl Caudle and advocating for the needs of the sea service's enlisted force.

Perryman enlisted in the service in 1994 and began his career as an electronics technician (submarines) with tours on USS Bremerton (SSN-698), USS Dolphin (AGSS-555) and USS Cheyenne (SSN-773). He served as Chief of the Boat (COB) on USS Hawaii (SSN-776).

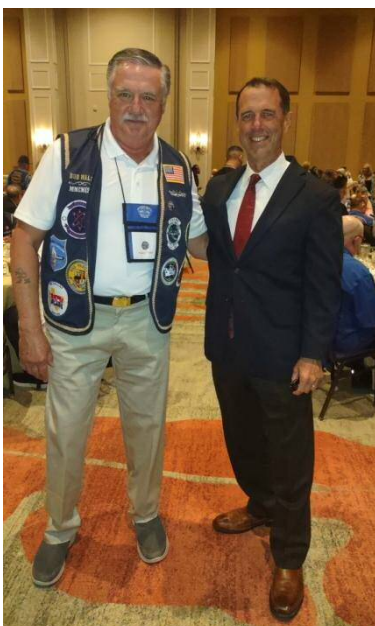
He previously served as the senior enlisted sailor of Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, Submarine Group Seven, Submarine Force Atlantic and U.S. Strategic Command. Additionally, Perryman served as the senior enlisted advisor to ADM Caudle while the pair led U.S. Fleet Forces Command.



Wolverine Base Members at National Convention at Orlando

The Rosen Shingle Creek Resort at Orlando, FL provided the venue for the 2025 USSVI National Convention. More than 400 submariners and guests attended the third USSVI convention held at this 5-star location, running from 31 August to 6 September. Highlights of the event included:

- Holland Club Breakfast
- A trip to the Kennedy Space Center
- A visit to the Hard Rock Casino in Tampa
- A trip to the Mall at Millenia
- Men's and Women's Luncheon
- A tour of Disney Springs
- An airboat tour of Wild Florida
- A tour of St. Augustine, the oldest city in Florida



Bob with ADM Richardson

Of particular note was having retired Admiral John Richardson as the keynote speaker for the Awards Banquet. The admiral, a former Chief of Naval Operations and Director of Naval Reactors, spoke of his junior officer tour in USS Parche (SSN-683) where Wolverine Base member Bob Walsh was his LPO.



Wolverine Base table at the Awards Banquet

Opportunities for the 2029 USSVI Convention

As discussed at the September base meeting, it is possible that Wolverine Base may host the 2029 USSVI Convention in Grand Rapids. Some members had questions concerning what support would be required from Base members prior to and during the convention. The following information is taken from the USSVI National Convention Manual, and has been validated by our own Ozzie Osentoski, who is the USSVI National Convention Chairman. It is included in this newsletter to provide background for discussion at future Base meetings.

Major Convention Leadership (in place for two years prior to the convention; major time commitments necessary):

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Treasurer

Committee Chairs (in place for two years prior to the convention; significant time commitments necessary):

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| • Registration | • Banquets | • Vendors |
| • Program | • Refreshments | • Boat reunions |
| • Convention book | • Tours | • Webmaster |
| • Advertising | • Travel & transportation | |

Committee members for the above committees (in place for one year prior to the convention; duties as assigned by the Committee Chair)

Support Personnel (during the convention, perhaps a few days before and after; a total of 20-25 people):

- Registration desk – 2 to 4 people throughout the convention, more on early days when most attendees will be arriving
- Tours – 2 people for each tour bus
- Hotel liaison – 1 person throughout the convention to provide a single point-of-contact with the hotel
- Hospitality Room – 1 to 2 people throughout the convention when the Hospitality Room is open
- Vendor Room – 1 to 2 people throughout the convention when the Vendor Room is open

Note: The registration form goes “live” right after the previous convention closes, so the schedule, tours, etc. need to be finalized at least a year in advance.

As you can see, there is plenty of work to do, both in preparation for and support during the convention.

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 Harder (SS-247) – confirmed discovery in the South China Sea
- 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 Grenadier and Albacore.

In addition, submarine F-1, lost over 100 years ago while conducting training off San Diego, has been found.

Grenadier

USS Grenadier (SS-210) was found in October, 2019, in 262 feet of water south of Phuket, Thailand. by an international group of technical divers. Her identity is under review by the U. S. Navy.

[Grenadier page on this site](#)

Albacore



USS Albacore (SS-218) was found in May, 2022, off Hokkaido, Japan. by group led by Dr. Tamaki Ura of Tokyo University.

[Albacore page on this site](#)

F-1

The USS F-1 submarine sank in seconds after it was badly damaged in a collision with another U.S. Navy submarine. Nineteen of its crew drowned in the accident, and three were rescued by the other sub.

The sub wreck was located by accident in the 1970s, but the expedition to the site earlier this year by researchers from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and the U.S. Navy was the first time it had been surveyed with high-resolution imaging since the sinking.



Image by Zoe Daheron, © Woods Hole Oceanographic



Image by Zoe Daheron, © Woods Hole Oceanographic

It now lies on the seafloor at a depth of more than 1,300 feet (400 meters). That's too deep for human divers, so the wreck was surveyed by operators in the human-occupied underwater vehicle (HOV) Alvin and the autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) Sentry, which were based on the WHOI research ship Atlantis.

"These two important oceanographic tools work extremely well together," Bruce Strickrott, manager of the Alvin group at WHOI, told Live Science in an email. "The combined strength of the two capabilities has transformed deep sea oceanographic

research and exploration, and is becoming a routine part of Alvin scientific missions."

Bradley Krueger, an underwater archaeologist for the U.S. Navy's Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHHC), was on board Alvin during some of the dives and outlined the fatal 1917 sinking.

"USS F-1 was conducting a 48-hour engineering run and performance test traveling from San Pedro and San Diego, CA, when the accident occurred," Krueger told Live Science in an email. "[Navy submarines] USS F-2 and USS F-3 were alongside performing similar testing when all three vessels entered a fog bank. USS F-3 collided with USS F-1, and following the collision USS F-3 remained on scene to help rescue survivors from the water."

The reconstruction shows the submarine's "conning" tower and the damage on the submarine's hull that caused it to sink. Strickrott said he had worked out the submarine wreck's rough location from Navy records and that the AUV Sentry was sent out to survey the area. It located the wreck on the first afternoon of searching.

[F-1 page on this site](#)

COMING EVENTS

19 Oct	1500	Monthly base meeting, Steve & Helene Ritter's Home (27805 Bertrand Dr, Chesterfield, MI)
TBD	1400	Base Thanksgiving Dinner, Steve & Helene Ritter's Home (27805 Bertrand Dr, Chesterfield, MI)
TBD	TBD	Annual Base Holiday Party – Location TBD

LOST BOATS [October - December]

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 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 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.

USS Albacore (SS-218)

Lost on Nov 7, 1944 with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her eleventh war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.

USS Growler (SS-215)

Lost on Nov 8, 1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 12th war patrol, and was lost while attacking a convoy, probably as a result of a depth charge attack or victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes.

USS Scamp (SS-277)

Probably sunk on November 16, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay. On her 8th war patrol, she may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate and destroy her with depth charges.

USS Corvina (SS-226)

Lost on Nov 16, 1943 with the loss of 82 men when she was sunk just south of Truk. Corvina was on her 1st war patrol and appears she was lost to the torpedoes of a Japanese submarine.

USS Sculpin (SS-191)

Lost on Nov 19, 1943 with the loss of 43 men near Truk. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, Sculpin continued to fight on the surface. When the captain was killed, the crew abandoned ship and scuttled Sculpin. 41 men were taken prisoner but only 21 survived the war. Among those not abandoning ship was CAPT Cromwell, aboard as a potential wolfpack commander, he rode the Sculpin down, fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture. For this, CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

USS Capelin (SS-289)

Lost on Dec 2, 1943 with the loss of 76 men. She was on her 1st war patrol, but her exact location, date and cause of loss remain a mystery. She may have been lost to mines or an operational casualty.

USS Sealion (SS-195)

Lost on Dec 10, 1941 with the loss of 4 men. To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack. One other Sealion man was later captured and died in POW camp.

USS F-1 / Carp (SS-20)

Lost on December 17, 1917 with the loss of 19 officers and men when it was sunk after collision with the USS F-3 (Pickrel(SS-22)) off San Clemente, CA.

USS S-4 (SS-109)

Lost on December 17, 1927 with the loss of 40 officers and men when it was sunk after being rammed by USCG Paulding. Salvaged in 1928 and recommissioned.

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) 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



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Volume 2025, No. 5

SPECIAL EDITION

In Memoriam – John Bond

With great sadness I report to the Wolverine Base that member John Bond has departed on Eternal Patrol. John was lost to us on Sunday 28 September, one of four victims of the tragic attack in Grand Blanc when an armed man drove his pickup truck into the Grand Blanc Township Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and started shooting.



John Qualified in Submarines in 1972 aboard USS Scamp (SSN-588). He left the Navy in 1975 as an FTG1(SS). He joined Wolverine Base in 2023, and was a proud member of the Holland Club.

John is survived by his wife JoAnne, six children, and ten grandchildren.

Additional information will be provided to Wolverine Base members as it becomes available.

Steve "Tex" Ritter
Base Commander

Sailor, rest your oar.



John and JoAnne at the 2024 Base Thanksgiving Dinner



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