



Publication for members of USS Illinois Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## **SUBJ: Chief of Naval Operations Birthday Message to the fleet**

*(Editor's Note: This message retrieved from USNI.ORG, marked the 246th Birthday [October 13th] of the United States Navy. Take pride in the extreme sacrifices you and your shipmates endured on behalf of your Country! Share your stories of love for your service and country with friends and family—help to keep your heroic service in the submarine force in the minds of those we leave behind.)*

**From: ADM Mike Gilday,**  
*Chief of Naval Operations*

1. Shipmates, this year we are celebrating the **Navy's 246th Birthday.**

2. The theme of this year's Birthday celebration is "Resilient and Ready," which speaks to the service, dedication and strength of both our Sailors and their families.

3. America's need for a strong Navy is rooted in our past and has never been more important. Indeed, providing a safe, secure, and stable maritime system is an essential part of what our Navy does every day. We are not simply the "keeper of the seas" but the "keeper of the global way of life" as well. We are the primary guarantors of peace, prosperity, and maintain the open flow of goods on the oceans.

4. Through every deployment and PCS move, spouses often endure separations, as well as shoulder the day-to-day responsibilities of managing and running a household--along with their own careers.

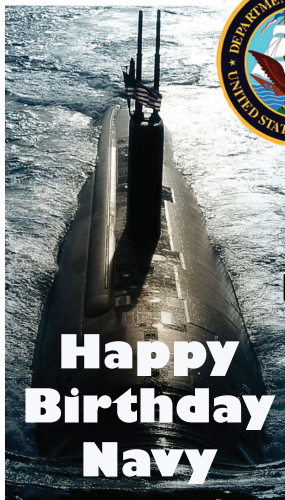
5. While our ships and submarines are made of steel, our Sailors and their families are the lifeblood of our force, and at the heart of our birthday celebration.

6. So today, for the seen and unseen responsibilities you ALL carry, and for the daily sacrifices you ALL make. Thank you.

7. Happy 246th Birthday, Shipmates. See you in the Fleet.

**Bravery is the capacity to perform properly even when scared to death.**

*-- General Omar Bradley*



**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 accomplishment. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."

[www.ussillinoisbase.org](http://www.ussillinoisbase.org)





### Base Contacts

**Commander  
Mark Dykstra**  
& Kaps 4 Kids Coord.  
dykstra.mark89@gmail.com

**Sr. Vice Commander  
Jim Hill**  
FJHill99@gmail.com

**Jr. Vice Commander  
Greg Miller**  
fourkats4me@yahoo.com

**Treasurer / Chaplain  
Bruce Pickering**  
knuckleheadhack39@tds.net

**Secretary  
Patrick O'Brien**  
pmtobrien@earthlink.net

**Chaplain  
Richard Martin**  
pops1945@comcast.net

**Storekeeper/  
Facebook Coord.  
Terry Elmeier**  
insp184@yahoo.com

**Editor/Webmaster  
Kate Ramsay**  
kateram@jcwifi.com

**Meeting called to order** at noon by CDR Mark Dykstra.

**8 members present:** Patrick O'Brien, Phil Owens, Terry Elmeier, Mark Dykstra, Bruce Pickering, Mike Barney, Jim Hellsell, Joe Jones.

**Visitors present:** Jonathan Lipscomb.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag** was recited by all hands.

**Invocation** was given by Bruce Pickering.

**Member / guest introductions.**

**Recitation of the USSVI Creed** was read by CDR Mark Dykstra.

**Tolling of Bells** Ceremony conducted by Terry Elmeier and Joe Jones.

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary Pat O'Brien asked for a motion to accept the minutes as distributed by e-mail, Phil Owens made the motion; seconded by Terry Elmeier. Motion to accept last meeting minutes as distributed was accepted.

**Treasurer's Report** was presented by Treasurer Bruce Pickering.

**Chaplain's Report:** None.

**Storekeeper's Report.** None.

**Kaps(ss) 4 Kids(ss):** Coordinator CDR-Mark Dykstra reported no activity.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Holiday Party. A location and date for the party have not been set.
- Persons planning to attend the Veterans Dinner at Memorial Hall need to contact Dick Martin so he can reserve the appropriate number of tables.

**New Business:**

- The Janesville VA office has moved.
- Model Sub Float--Jim Hellsell reported it will probably be Spring before his shop would be able to host the float.
- Phil Owens reported the new District Commander is John Connor from the Chicago Base.

**50-50 Raffle** was not conducted.

**Closing Prayer** was offered by Treasurer Bruce Pickering.

**Next meeting** will be at Mustang's Grill and Bar, South Beloit IL at 1200 hours on 6 Nov. 2021.

**Meeting adjourned** at 12:25 p.m. by CDR Mark Dykstra.

Don't forget to pay your **2022 National and Base membership dues** for the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc (USSVI). I will be available to accept your 2022 dues 15 minutes before and after our November and December Base meetings.



### Treasurer's Report

**Bruce Pickering**  
USS Illinois Base Treasurer

Need to pay your national dues by credit card? Then you must do so online at [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org). Base dues cannot be paid by credit card at the base level.

### Illinois Base Dues

USS Illinois Base dues are \$10. Multi-year options are not available.

### National Dues

National dues for both qualified and associate members are: 1-year term is \$25; 3-year term is \$70; 5-year term is \$115. Life-time memberships are associated with your age: Age 76+ is \$100; 66-76 is \$200; 56-65 is \$300; 46-55 is \$400; and 45 and under is \$500.

Make your check out to "USS Illinois Base" and bring it to our meeting, or mail it to my attention: **Bruce Pickering, 1702 Calumet Ave., Beloit, WI 53511.** Make your payment before Dec. 15, 2021 to ensure time for your dues to reach National before USSVI's December 31 cut-off.





## 'Tis the Season of Giving' -- Reach out to your Submarine Community

This past year has awakened all of us to the importance of looking into our hearts to find ways offer a helping hand to those charities near and dear to us, particularly those within our submarine community.

Below is insight into two worthy, tax-deductible, charities designed to help not only our submarine families, but also to touch on our passion for restoring treasured submarine memorials.

Learn how you can easily and quickly make donations to either the **United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation (USSVCF)**, or the **USS Cobia (SS-245) Over-Haul Project**.

### ***USSV Charitable Foundation***

USSVI represents veterans of the U.S. Submarine Force from World War II, The Cold War, The Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War and the War Against Terror has for more than 75 years focused on the support, health and welfare of our Submarine Veterans and their families as well as maintaining the legacy of the "Greatest Generation".

In 2000, a Charitable Foundation was created to further support our veterans and their legacy with the creation of a 501 (C)(3) Charitable Foundation (USSVCF). The USSVCF is a standalone fully certified charitable organization.

The USSVCF makes donating easy. Visit their website at [www.ussvcf.org](http://www.ussvcf.org). On this site, you can

make automatic monthly donations, or one-time donations, easily and quickly. Checks are also welcome. Just send your donation directly to the USSVCF, PO Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383. Make sure you designate the fund you wish your donation to be placed.

You can choose from the following funds:

- **Building Fund**--which supports the operation and maintenance of any buildings, property owned or used by USSVI.
- **Brotherhood Fund**--which provides emergency relief to active duty sub sailors and sub veterans.
- **Scholarship Fund**--which provides support to a sub veteran's candidate child. For full qualification details visit [www.ussvcf.org](http://www.ussvcf.org).
- **Kap 4 Kids Fund**--which is a charitable program in which sub veterans visit children suffering from challenging medical conditions/illnesses.
- **Monument & Museum Boat Funds**--was established as a tax deductible means to aid in the construction, maintenance and repair of submarine related memorials.
- **Library Fund**--which facilitates the procurement of submarine related books, videos and other media.
- **Legacy Fund**--established as an Endowment Fund and will last into perpetuity, with it's annual earnings contributing to the well-being of the Charitable

Foundation well into the future.

- **General Fund**--established to accept general donations to the Charitable Foundation.

### ***USS Cobia (SS-245) Overhaul Project***

When we say, "USS Cobia," local Submariners know what a treasure rests at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, Wis.

The USS Cobia is a major attraction at the museum and has been since it arrived in Manitowoc in the 1970's. It was not until 1986 that the Cobia was incorporated as part of the Maritime Museum, and "declared a National Historic Landmark."

It took countless hours from members of USSVI, Sub Vets Assoc. of WWII, and other volunteers to bring this treasure back to her 1945 look. Through grants and other fundraising efforts, the Cobia began its long road to restoration.

The Cobia was last dry docked in 1996 (25 years ago) where it then began its intensive interior restoration over the next few years to what it is today.

What makes this museum exhibit noteworthy is that the Cobia is docked in the Manitowoc River next to the museum. It is time for the Cobia to be brought out of water and sent for extensive cleaning and repairs to the boat's haul.

*(Continued on Page 4)*





Mark Dykstra, EM2  
USS Illinois Commander

Just like that, the weather has turned and the Holiday Season is coming up on us. I know I will not be ready for this since I haven't been ready for anything this summer.

I want to thank everyone for the work that they do, but I know that we could do better. Everyone knows of something in their community that has something going on. Go down there, show them the hat that



we all wear, we may be able to recruit others. Volunteer yourselves, I know we are all busy but if it is only a couple of hours it is something.

With a lot of thinking, I have decided to ask you all if someone is willing to take over the Kap(ss)4Kid(ss) chair. I just cannot keep up with this with everything else that I have going on.

Give some thoughts on when and where for a Christmas get together. There was a motion for Boundaries just waiting on a date for that.

With that, I hope to see you all at our next meeting November 6 at Noon.

**It case you missed the August meeting. Mark Dystra (left) was given the oath of office by out going Commander Dick Martin. Congratulations Mark!**

## Season of Giving (continued)

*(Continued from Page 3)*

This is where you as submariners and other lovers of submarines are needed. According to the Museum, it could run several million dollars. We have a responsibility to help them in their endeavors to reach the goal.

We are fortunate at the USS Illinois Base to have a number of the USS Cobia's "long-time" volunteers within our member base. But one member stands out as the "new" Mr. USS Cobia—it would be Greg Miller. He has been pounding the ground at community and veteran events for the past two years trying to gather donations for Operation Drydock.

You can help by stepping forward and making a donation yourself to this project.

Base members Tom and Kate Ramsay worked with the Museum to help make the donation process easier and painless. "We decided to make

an automatic monthly donation from our checking account," explains Tom Ramsay. This method allowed us to give more money over the year than we could have given with just one lump donation, he adds.

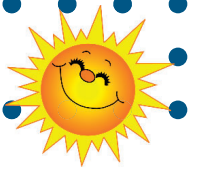
Step up donate today, and let Greg Miller know. He needs our kudos for a job well done! The application can be found on the Museum's website at [www.wisconsinmaritime.org/join-and-give/donate/](http://www.wisconsinmaritime.org/join-and-give/donate/). Make sure you check mark "Cobia-Dry-Dock."



**Greg Miller and his wife, Mary solicited donations at the 2021 WWII Days at Midway Village, Rockford.**







It wasn't just Submarine talk at this year's WWII Days at Midway Village in Rockford, Ill. Joe Jones (ctr) helped this young reenactor tie a Navy bow, gave him instructions on how to wash and iron his uniform, and to properly store his phone and lighter in his uniform. Greg Miller (left) joined in on the discussion.

## WWII Days

*"The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten."*

– Calvin Coolidge.



If you are a submariner's wife, and associate member of his USSVI Base, you are also a volunteer. Helping the Museum man its "free cookie" table for active duty and veteran military guests was Renee Martin.



Enjoying the sun and fun between visitors are (lft to rt): Phil Owens, Joe Jones, Wayne Orrison, Daryl Rorabaugh and his wife, Mary, and Tom Ramsay.

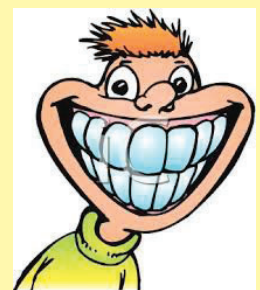
While everyone is out working hard, Dick Martin was strolling the avenues taking guests from spot to spot. "You lucky stiff!" Dick is a long-time member and volunteer for the Museum.

Bruce Pickering (lft) invited his brother Russ to join him at this Base event. Bruce brought along his "vintage motorcycle" which was drawing attention by itself.



## Want to feel really old?

Bonanza premiered 62 yrs ago.  
The Beatles split 52 yrs ago.  
Laugh-In premiered nearly 54 yrs ago.  
Elvis is dead 44 yrs. He'd be 84 today.  
The Thriller video is 38 yrs old.  
Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin dead 51 yrs.  
John Lennon dead 41 yrs.  
Mickey Mantle retired 53 yrs ago.  
ALF premiered 35 yrs ago.  
Back To The Future is 37 yrs old.  
Saturday Night Fever is 44 yrs old.  
Charles Angeles premiered 45 yrs ago.  
The Ed Sullivan Show ended 49 yrs ago.  
The Brady Bunch premiered 52 years ago.  
Tabatha from Bewitched is 57.  
If you were born in the 50's, you've had 13 presidents.



*'Just for Giggles'*

*Thank Wayne Orrison  
for this contribution!*



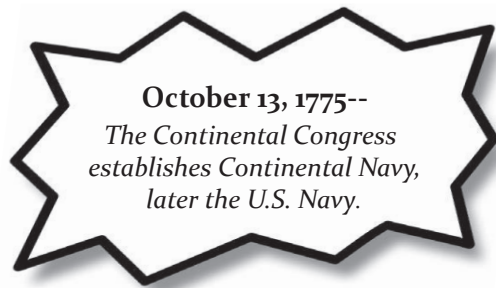
Greg Miller (ctr) is always on stage seeking donations for the USS Cobia Overhaul Project. Helping him, as always, is his wife, Mary. We couldn't do this without them.





Tidbits of Knowledge from  
around the world

**A Bit of History  
on right**



### Hot off the Press

## What's new with enlisted women on submarines?

NAVY.MIL (Washington, DC) – A Dept. of the Navy news release, dated Oct. 22, 2021, announced the “The Navy is actively seeking female sailors to convert into the force to fill open billets on submarines with integrated crews, as well as billets in crews slated for integration.”

Five years ago the Navy initiated a plan to bring enlisted women into the Submarine Force. Today, female sailors in pay grades E1-E8 are invited to apply, with no deadlines in place.

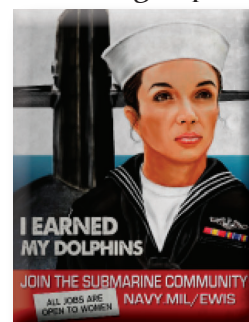
Female officers have been going to sea aboard submarines since 2011. “Three years later, the plan to incorporate enlisted women was announced, which took lessons from the past 40 years of integration of

women into other Navy communities,” the release noted.

“Between 2015 and 2018, the Navy made four separate calls for female sailors to convert into submarine ratings. Currently, there are over 200 enlisted female sailors serving as part of eight crews,” they report. The new call to convert to submarine service will be on a continuous basis.

By 2030, the Navy expects to have female officers on 33 submarine crews, and 14 crews with female enlisted sailors. Their long-term plan is to have all classes of submarines integrated with female officers.”

Today, only “current guided-missile subs (SSGN) and two ballistic submarines (SSBN) have women on board.” In the future, “all Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines and all Virginia-class fast attack subs, starting with the USS New Jersey (SSN 796), will have enlisted women in their crews.”



### **Submarine career field conversions open to women**

#### **For E-6 and Junior Sailors:**

- Service Support career fields: Yeoman (YNS), Culinary Specialists (CSS) and Logistics Specialists (LSS).
- Submarine Electronics career fields: Sonar Tech (STS), Fire Control Tech (FT), Electronics Technician-Navigation (ETV), Missile Tech (MT), and Information Systems Tech (ITS-Electronic Warfare and Communications career paths).
- Mechanical career fields: Torpedoman (TM), and Machinists Mate-Auxiliary (MMA).

#### **For E-7 and E-8 Sailors**

- Information Systems Tech Submarines (ITS-Electronic Warfare and Communications career paths), Yeoman Submarines (YNS), Culinary Specialist Submarines (CSS), Logistics Specialist Submarines (LSS).

Navy officials are hoping to entice female E-7 and E-8 Personnel Specialists to apply for conversion to the YNS rating as the needed skill sets are similar.

### **I DID A PUSH-UP TODAY.**



WELL, ACTUALLY  
I FELL DOWN, BUT  
I HAD TO USE MY  
MY ARMS TO GET  
BACK UP, SO ...  
CLOSE ENOUGH

**NOW I NEED CHOCOLATE**





## Tolling of the Bells for Lost Boats

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in pursuit of their duties while serving their country."



### October

USS O-5 (SS-66) lost on October 29, 1923 when it sunk after collision with SS Ababgarez (United Fruit) off Panama Canal. Loss of 2 crew. Torpedoman's Mate 2nd Class (SS) Henry Breault received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions.

USS S-44 (SS-155) lost October 7, 1943 when it was sunk during her 5th war patrol off Paramushiro, Kuriles (Northern) during a gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Loss of 56 crew. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.

USS Wahoo (SS-238) lost on October 11, 1943 during her 7th war patrol. She was lost to depth charges dropped by a Japanese patrol aircraft in or near La Perouse Strait off northern Japan. Loss of 80 crew.

USS Dorado (SS-248) lost on October 12, 1943 when it was sunk in the Southwestern Atlantic, possibly near Cuba. Cause of her loss remains unknown. Loss of 76 crew.

USS Seawolf (SS-197) lost on October 3, 1944 on her 15th war patrol in tragic error when sunk by her own forces in a submarine safety zone just north of Morotai, between Philippines and Indonesia. Loss of 82 crew and 17 U.S. Army troops.

USS Escolar (SS-294) lost on or after October 17, 1944 on her 1st war patrol when it was sunk in the Yellow Sea of China, most likely by a mine. Loss of 82 crew.

USS Shark (SS-314) lost on October 24, 1944 on her 3rd war patrol in the channel midway

between Hainan and Bashi when it 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. POWs on board. Loss of 87 crew.

USS Darter (SS-227) lost on October 24, 1944 when it became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation. The boat was destroyed. Entire crew rescued by USS Dace.

USS Tang (SS-306) lost on October 25, 1944 on her 5th war patrol. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes and sunk in the north end of Formosa Strait near Turnabout Island. Nine of the crew were saved and taken prisoner. Loss of 78 crew, all prisoners, including CDR R.H. O'Kane, survived the war.



### Medal of Honor Recipient: TM2(SS) Henry Breault

On Oct. 28, 1923 TM2 Breault was a crew member of the USS O-5 (SS-66) when it collided with the Steamship Abangarez and sank in less than a minute.

Breault was in the torpedo room when he realized the sub was sinking. Rather than leaping overboard to save his own life, he returned to the torpedo room to rescue a shipmate who was trapped on board. Closing

the room's hatch on them, they remained stuck in the compartment until rescued 31 hours later.

It was for this act of heroism that Breault was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Calvin Coolidge a few months later on Mar. 8, 1924. Breault served the US Navy for the rest of his life. He died at the Naval Hospital at Newport, Rhode Island, on Dec. 4, 1941.



Mark your calendar for the next USS Illinois Base, USSVI, meeting.  
We meet monthly on the 1st Saturday of the month.

### Next USSVI Illinois Base Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021  
**Time:** Noon  
**Location:** Mustang Bar & Grill  
482 Gardner St. • South Beloit, Illinois

[www.ussillinoisbase.org](http://www.ussillinoisbase.org)



## Share this application with a fellow submariner!



### 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nat'l Member Dues year runs from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> thru Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. Please indicate your term preference:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Nat'l Dues:** 5 Yr term: \$ 115.00; 3 Yr term: \$ 70.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 25.00;  
(Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$ 30.00  
**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. Consult the local base for those figures.**

**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.)

- ☐ Check if your Military Service falls within any of these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946; June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7, 1975; and from August 2, 1990 to date.  
☐ Check if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Hull#** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank/Rate** \_\_\_\_\_ **From Yr.** \_\_\_\_ **to Yr.** \_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Hull#** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank/Rate** \_\_\_\_\_ **From Yr.** \_\_\_\_ **to Yr.** \_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Hull#** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank/Rate** \_\_\_\_\_ **From Yr.** \_\_\_\_ **to Yr.** \_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ **Hull#** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank/Rate** \_\_\_\_\_ **From Yr.** \_\_\_\_ **to Yr.** \_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ **Hull#** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank/Rate** \_\_\_\_\_ **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)

Upon completion, please deliver to: Your Base Chapter Secretary, or if you do not know of a base location near you,  
Mail to: USSVI National Office, P.O. Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870

**Questions: Call 1-877-542-DIVE or email [office@ussvi.org](mailto:office@ussvi.org)**

