



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

## Long-awaited recognition arrives at last: 'Welcome the USS Wisconsin SSBN-827'

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs shared some long-awaited news for local submarine veterans throughout the USS Illinois Base Region, which encompasses Southern Wisconsin and Northwest Illinois.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers proclaimed August 27, 2021 as USS Wisconsin SSBN 827 Day to mark the good news and to spread awareness about the naming of a new SSBN after the great State of Wisconsin. This moniker "USS Wisconsin (SSBN 827) aims to honor not only Wisconsin citizens, but also the state's valiant maritime history and shipbuilding ties to the U.S. Navy.

The efforts of many residents brought this dream closer to fulfillment when in October 2020,

the Secretary of the Navy chose the name USS Wisconsin (SSBN 827) for its newest ballistic missile nuclear submarine. Helping to make this happen were Wisconsin Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson.

Of course, there has been a long line of veterans throughout the state who started this drive several years ago, including our own Phil Owen, who has long been pushing local governments to help bring this honor to Wisconsin.

To help support the men and women who will one day operate and maintain the USS Wisconsin, a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, a group of Navy Veterans and Wisconsinites have formed the USS Wisconsin SSBN 827 Association, Inc., a nonprofit organization.

The Association brings together partners for educational and ceremonial activities. Key partners include: active supporters, Wisconsinites, and the crewmembers assigned during the ship's construction, her commissioning as a United States Ship (anticipated in 2031), and until the submarine is decommissioned (about 2072).

For more information about the USS Wisconsin SSBN 827 Association or the Wisconsin Minute of Recognition, contact CAPT Jim Harvey, USN (Ret) at [harvjrio@gmail.com](mailto:harvjrio@gmail.com).

As a reminder, in honor of the submarine for which our Base is named, the USS Illinois (SSN-785), there is a like association called the 786 Club. For information about the 786 Club, visit <https://www.786club.org/>.



**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 12 noon by CDR Dick Martin.

**16 members present** – Patrick O'Brien, Kep Preble, Phil Owens, Chuck Mongan, Daryl Rorabaugh, Terry Elmeier, Joe Jones, Greg Miller, Tom Ramsay, Kate Ramsay, Don Bosetti, Mark Dykstra, Richard Martin, Renee Martin, Mary Miller, Wayne Orrison.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.**

**Invocation** by Dick Martin.

**Member/guest introductions** – none.

**Recitation of USSVI Creed** by Dick Martin.

**Tolling of Bells:** Kep Preble recited the roll of lost boats and rang the bell.

**Installation of new officers:** The newly elected base officers took their oaths of office: CDR Mark Dykstra, Senior VCDR Jim Hill, Junior VCDR Gregg Miller, Secretary Pat O'Brien. Treasurer Bruce Pickering was absent.

The CDR's gavel was transferred to CDR Dykstra who then conducted the rest of the meeting.

**Secretary's report:** Secretary Pat O'Brien asked for a motion to accept the minutes as published in the base newsletter (Green Board). Dick Martin made the motion; seconded by Kep Preble. Motion accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** No report given. Treasurer was not in attendance.

**Chaplain's Report:** Immediate Past CDR Dick Martin accepted position of Chaplain.

**Storekeeper's Report:** None.

**Kaps(ss)-4-Kids(SS):** Mark Dykstra reported that his contacts with the hospitals stated they are not yet ready for new visits as yet.

**Unfinished business:**

- **Janesville Warbirds:** Mark Dykstra offered a "thank you" to the members who volunteered at the Janesville War Birds celebration. \$415 was raised for the Cobia Overhaul Project. Several members offered thoughts on how to improve the ticket sales operation, such as improving the cash handling by placing an ATM nearer the gate or setting up a phone swipe way of payment, improved signage, better

spacing of the tables to allow smoother entrance and egress, provide credentials to "fly-in" participants to avoid confusion regarding payment for their admission and lack of carts for the handicapped. Wayne Orrison offered a "thank you" to Mark Dykstra for his leadership regarding Base participation in this event

- **Letter to Manitowoc officials regarding Sub Fest:** Wayne Orrison offered the membership two drafts of a proposed letter to the mayor of Manitowoc, the executive director of the Manitowoc Maritime Museum and the local Manitowoc newspaper regarding the base critique of the recent Sub Fest celebration. The membership approved one of the letters. **Action Item:** Secretary Pat O'Brien will prepare a formal letter based on the letter approved by the membership. This letter will be signed by Mark Dykstra and mailed.
- **WWII Days at Midway Village:** Dick Martin reported he requires the names of volunteers by the next meeting. These are required in order to provide parking and entrance passes for the volunteers.

### New Business:

- **Potential parade:** Dick Martin reported the Roscoe Fall Festival on Labor Day could be an opportunity to join a parade.
- **Eagle Scout Presentation:** Terry Elmeier reported he will make a presentation to a new Eagle Scout on Sunday, August 8. Interesting note--the new Eagle Scout is a young woman.

**Cobia Dry Dock Fund:** Kate Ramsay reported the Manitowoc Maritime Museum has set up a fund specifically for the Cobia Overhaul Project. They are set up to accept recurring donations.

**Summer picnic:** Renee Martin asked if there was interest in a picnic. The consensus was 'no.'

**Christmas Party:** Don Bosetti asked if there will be a Christmas Party. Consensus was to take it up at a later time.

**50-50 Raffle** was won by Phil Owens. Phil split the pot with the base.

**Closing Prayer** was given by Dick Martin

**Meeting adjourned** at 1:15 p.m. Next meeting Sept. 4, 2021.





Mark Dykstra, EM2  
USS Illinois Commander

This revised letter, as discussed in the August Base meeting, was sent to the Mayor of Manitowoc, with a copy to the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Maritime Museum.



To: The Honorable Justin M. Nickels 900 Quay Street Manitowoc, WI 54220

Re: 2021 Manitowoc Sub Fest

Dear Mayor Nickels:

I am contacting you to express how much our submarine community has grown to value and look forward to the annual SubFest Celebrations. We have especially enjoyed the camaraderie and sharing in this special event with so many other submarine veterans and the fantastic welcome we feel in Manitowoc. As submarine veterans, we especially enjoyed the 2 - 3 day citywide family celebrations, crazy days sales by local merchants, the lighted boat parade, various bands performing music in various locations, vendors and military street displays, and especially the 'Tolling of the Bell' ceremony dockside of the USS COBIA on Sunday morning, honoring those lost 52 submariners and 3,500 submariners who gave their all for their country. Four of those submarines were built in Manitowoc.

That being said, I want to also want to tell you that we were greatly disappointed in this year's SubFest Celebration, because of its being combined with the Manitowoc 4th of July Celebration, instead of it being its own event during the second weekend in July, which in years past it has been.

On behalf of my shipmates in the USS Illinois 'Sub' Base, I want to encourage you to help guide the Maritime Museum leadership to once again celebrate SubFest as its own event. We know that having SubFest on a weekend following the 4th of July has been a very welcome event for local restaurants owners and merchants, many of whom told us that they too, were disappointed that SubFest had been combined with the cities 4th of July celebration.

Celebrating Independence Day on the 4th of July is a national event of historical significance and should be celebrated with pride everywhere on its own merit. Everyone loves the 4th of July and the opportunity to spend a day with family and friends celebrating this nation's birth in all the fun and crazy ways Americans celebrate; parades, BBQ's and fireworks and more.

SubFest has become another type of celebration and one that Manitowoc has a great historical investment in. It is one that honors the history of Manitowoc's shipbuilding in the past and the significant contribution to the victory in WW 2 and the submarine community in particular. As you know, 28 submarines were built in Manitowoc and 4 of them and their crew did not survive the war.

Sincerely,

**(Signed) Mark Dykstra, Commander**  
USS Illinois Base (USSVI)

CC: Cathy Green  
Executive Director Wisconsin Maritime Museum  
75 Maritime Drive Manitowoc, WI 54220







## Join us at World War II Days

Plan to bring your family and friends to the 25th Anniversary of World War II Days at Midway Village Museum, in Rockford, on Saturday, September 18 (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) thru Sunday, September 19 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.).

The USS Illinois Base will have an expanded presence at the event this year, and we need your help manning the booths. It's a fun time! Not only will we have our Base information booth, but also have a separate table next to us seeking support for the Overhaul (dry docking) of one of Wisconsin's WW II treasures, which is close to our heart—the USS Cobia (SS-245).

You can assist the Base by volunteering one day, both days, or just a few hours. Our Base project contact is Dick Martin. If you can volunteer for only a few hours on any of these two days, or can come a full day, or both days, let Dick know by the September Base meeting, so he can get

you free admission tickets and parking passes.

Festivities include encampments of Allied and Axis troops in the Midway Village woods. Plus, it includes elaborate and realistic battles complete with tanks, artillery, armored vehicles, and exciting pyrotechnic displays. This military re-enactment is the largest in the Midwest.

Ticket costs are \$16 for adults, \$9 for children (ages 3-17). Infants (ages 0-2) are free.

World WW II veterans are free, and Veterans and Activity Duty Military pay only \$12 by showing proof of military service with your Military ID card, Veterans Affairs card, or Discharge papers to receive discounted tickets.

For more information, visit the Midway Village website at <http://midwayvillage.com>.



'Help spread the news  
about submarines become  
a USSVI Boat Sponsor'



You know the value of reading your copy of *American Submariner*, and you also know that getting new members for USSVI is necessary for our organization to survive. What better way to reach Sub sailors than making magazines available to those in the fleet, in vet hospitals, and in public libraries, as well as reaching out to our youth in NROTC and JNROTC units and schools.

The USSVI's Boat Sponsorship Program is designed to do just that. The cost is only \$30 per year for a total of 12 magazines for the year (three each of the four annual volumes).

Both Bases and Individuals are encouraged to become sponsors. Bases can collect the money from all individuals and send one check. Subscriptions activated between now and December 31st will cover all of 2022.

Make Check payable to "USSVI". Write "Boat Sponsorship Program" on the memo line. On a separate sheet of paper list the boat or facility to whom you want the AS magazine to go. Mail check to: USSVI National Office, PO Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870.

### Help USSVI members each time you order online

Next time you place an online Amazon order, sign up for AmazonSmile and list the US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc. as your preferred charity at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Remember to shop for deals at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon app, and AmazonSmile will donate to the USSV Charitable Foundation at no cost to you!





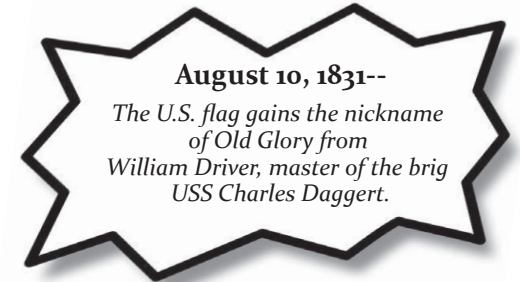
## Researchers find first modern sub in English Channel

*INDEPENDENT.CO (UK)* – British divers and a US-based naval historian discovered “the world’s first truly modern submarine” – at the bottom of the English Channel three miles off the coast of Devon.

“Marine archaeologists and divers have known for many years that the wreck of an early submarine lay off the south Devon coast, but they believed that it was a WWI German U-boat,” researchers stated.

Instead, after three years of study they found it not to be a German U-boat as they long expected, but the wreck of a “pre-War British prototype known as D1.

This 112-year-old vessel had a cruising range of 2,000 nautical miles,



which was 50 percent greater than any other British submarine of her time.

The wreck is of huge international importance because she was the world’s first genuinely offensive, rather than purely defensive, submarine. The British have now listed this find as a protected historical monument.

The irony of the D1 is that although she was the world’s first truly modern submarine, she met an ignominious end – being scuttled in the Channel to act as a detection target to help the Royal Navy develop top-secret submarine detection systems.

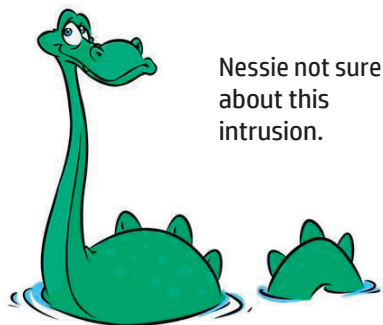
She was probably used during the navy’s very first experiments to develop sonar technology.

## Will they find Nessie?

*BBC News (UK)* – “Robot submarines, including one named Boaty McBoatface, are being tested in Loch Ness in preparation for deep sea research expeditions,” the BBC said. The Boaty McBoatface, earned its name from a public naming contest.

“These machines are equipped with sensors for detecting marine life around icebergs and under polar ice-caps, and are designed to dive to depths of 19,685 ft.”

The BBC notes that engineers are running trials in LockhNess because it offers a “large enclosed space where it is easier to recover a lost sub than at sea.”



*Editor’s Note:* We American’s really know the reason . . . don’t we! We know they are looking for proof of “Nessie” the Loch Ness Monster. Remember, if she is sighted, you read it here first!



The National Oceanography Centre (NOC) started the tests in May. The machines were launched into the loch from near Drumnadrochit. Some of its robot submarines have been controlled from the centre’s office in Southampton on England’s south coast.



## 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."



**August**



### August 6 -- a day to remember



A War Correspondent chatting with crewmen in the Bullhead's (SS-332) galley, during a Pacific war patrol, circa Spring 1945.

-- Official US Navy photo.

USS S-39 (SS-144) lost August 13, 1942 on her 3rd war patrol when it was destroyed after grounding on reef south of Rossel Island in the Louisiade Archipelago. The entire crew was able to get off and onto a reef, and was subsequently rescued by HMAS Katoomba.

USS Flier (SS-250) lost August 13, 1944 during her 2nd war patrol when she struck a mine while riding the surface in the Balabac Strait area of the Philippines. Fourteen of 68 crewmen escaped the sinking boat, but only 8 survived the subsequent long swim to reach shore. Protected by local people, the men were evacuated at the end of the month by the USS Redfin (SS-272). Loss of 60 crew.

USS Harder (SS-257) lost August 24, 1944 when was sunk off Caiman Point, Luzon during her 6th war patrol during a depth-charge attack. Loss of 79 crew.

USS Bullhead (SS-332) lost on August 6, 1945 on her 3rd war patrol when she fell victim to a depth charge attack by a Japanese Army plane in the West end of the Lombok Strait. Loss of 84 crew.

USS Cochino (SS-345) lost on August 26, 1949 after a battery explosion and fire forced her to be abandoned in the Norwegian Sea. The nearby USS Tusk came to her rescue. Loss during rescue operations: 1 crew member from Cochino and 6 from the Tusk.

How did the USS Bullhead (SS-332) sink? Japanese documents reviewed after the war refer to two possible scenarios.

The USS Bullhead left Freemantle on July 3, 1945, to begin her third patrol. On August 2 she rendezvoused with a Dutch Sub (Q 21) who transferred mail to her. Four days later the Bullhead reported she had safely passed through the strait and was in her patrol area.

Just after 8 a.m., August 6 at roughly the same time the Enola Gay was beginning her bomb run, a Japanese

plane on patrol off the island of Bali caught an American submarine on the service of the Java Sea. The pilot attacked, and his bombs sunk the sub with all hands lost. Other Japanese records refer to a sinking by a depth charge from a Japanese Army plane off the Bali coast near the northern mouth of Lombok Strait on August 6.

No further word was received following this date, according to Navy History and Heritage Command archives. "On August 24, she was reported overdue and presumed lost. The submarine went down with all hands "84 crew members". Her name was struck from the Navy list on Sept. 17, 1945."



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, Sept. 4, 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)**

