



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

### Letter to Shipmates

## USS Base members shine at Warbirds



See photos on page 3

**Important!**  
**Attend August 7th**  
**meeting for**  
**Installation**  
**of new**  
**Base Officers!**



*by Wayne Orrison*  
*Senior Vice CDR, USS Illinois Base*  
*STSC (SS), USN Retired*

I want to say thanks to all of you from the bottom of my heart for all your hard work and long hours this hot, past weekend. We survived the experience, and I think we did a super terrific job.

I have addressed this to all of you individually by email that worked this weekend, except for Mary Miller, whom I do not have an email address for. So, Greg, please be sure to let Mary know she is also included here and very much appreciated.

While I was tired Sunday afternoon and slept very well Sunday night, on reflection, I had a good time helping the CAF with their War Bird weekend airshow. I think the folks we interacted with at all levels, who had a part in putting this show together, were very appreciative of our significant contributions and the attending public also gave us many

thanks for our helping make their experience a very positive one.

Sure, I wish they were a little more organized, but the 'show' did come off successfully and whatever obstacles we or they encountered were overcome and lessons learned. Clearly, there are things that can be done more efficiently, and I hope that as part of the learning curve, we and they will be better prepared for next year.

So once again, thank you very much for all of your can do, positive attitude, help in making the War Bird Weekend Air Show a success and helping our base get some positive attention, as well as the fund raising we accomplished on behalf of the USS Cobia.

**A well done for those manning Warbird ticket booth and our Base booth:**  
**Mark Dykstra, Richard and Renee Martin, Phil Owens, Bruce Pickering, Wayne & Phyllis Orrison, Tom and Kate Ramsay, Greg & Mary Miller, and friend Paul Habel (hopefully a new mbr soon!).**

**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)





**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** at 12 noon by CDR Dick Martin.

**12 members present** -Patrick O'Brien, Richard Martin, Renee Martin, Tom Ramsay, Kate Ramsay, Phil Owens, Mark Dykstra, Greg Miller, Sherm Buetsch, Don Bosetti, Chuck Mongan, Jim Helsell.

**Pledge of Allegiance** to the flag.

**Invocation** given Chuck Mongan.

**Member/guest introductions** - none.

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

**Tolling of Bells ceremony**- Don Bosetti recited the roll of lost boats and rang the bell.

**Secretary's Report** - Secretary Pat O'Brien asked for a motion to accept the minutes as published in the base newsletter (Green Board). Phil Owens made the motion; seconded by Don Bosetti. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer's report was made by Asst. Treasurer Kate Ramsay. Don Bosetti made a motion to accept; seconded by Pat O'Brien. Treasurer's report as given was accepted.

**Chaplain's Report** - none.

**Storekeeper's Report** - none.

**Kaps(ss) 4 Kids** - no new news.

**Unfinished business:**

- Election of officers: The Nominating Committee presented a slate for Base officers. Since none of the offices were contested, a motion was made by Phil Owens to accept the Committee's slate, seconded by Don Bosetti. That motion was passed. The new officers were unanimously approved. The new officers are:

CDR - Mark Dykstra

Vice CDR- Jim Hill

Jr. Vice CDR - Gregg Miller

Secretary - Pat O'Brien

Treasurer- Bruce Pickering

- Janesville War Bird Days: Mark Dykstra provided information regarding ticket taking procedures during the event.

#### **New Business:**

- Commander Dick Martin advised the Base may want to participate in WWII days at Midway Village, Rockford (September 18 & 19). He also advised he is looking for a location to hold a tag sale.
- Phil Owen asked if the base would consider contacting the "**Beloit Snappers**" about hosting a "Sub Vets Appreciation Day."
- Kate Ramsay and Wayne Orrison provided a review of the combined **Manitowac SUB DAYS and FOURTH OF JULY festival**. They reported this combined festival downplayed the Manitowac submarine heritage as opposed to the honoring of this heritage as in previous SUB DAYS celebrations. Wayne Orrison reported that the USS Grant reunion group were so dissatisfied they were uncertain if they would return for next year's SUB DAYS.

-- **ACTION ITEM**: Wayne Orrison to draft a letter to the editor of local newspaper. This letter will express negative criticism of the operation of the last SUB DAYS from a submarine veteran's point of view. A draft of this letter will be presented at the next base meeting

- Chuck Mongan reported he will be attending the **National Convention**. It was suggested that he try to attend the Base Commander's meeting

**50-50 Raffle** -None.

**Closing Prayer** given by Dick Martin.

**Meeting adjourned** - 12:45 p.m.

*Next meeting - Aug. 7, 2021, at Mustangs, South Beloit, Ill.*

**No one has done more to prevent conflict - no one has made a greater sacrifice for the cause for Peace - than you, America's proud missile submarine family. You stand tall among our heroes of the Cold War.**

*Colin Powell*

#### **Base Contacts**

**Commander**  
**Richard Martin**  
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**Sr. Vice Commander**  
**Wayne Orrison**  
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**Jr. Vice Commander &  
Kaps 4 Kids Coord.**  
**Mark Dykstra**  
dykstra.mark89@gmail.com

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

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

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

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





# Why would you find submarine sailors at an AIR SHOW?



Pictured lt to rt: Greg Miller, Paul Habel, Wayne Orrison, & Phil Owens.

Event ticket booth (lt to rt): Tom Ramsay, Bruce Pickering, Phyllis Orrison, & Renee Martin.

Below (rt): Mark Dykstra assisting with wraistbands.



## Did you know? During World War II ...

- **28** U.S. submarines were built in **Manitowoc, Wis.**
- **241** pilots from downed U.S. planes were rescued by submarines.
- **504** other airmen were pulled from the sea in enemy territory.
- By war's end **2,400** people owed their lives to being rescued by U.S. submarines.
- **88** U.S. submarines made a total of **104** war patrols in which air-sea rescue played a part.

**Mission: Lifeguard**







# ★ WORLD WAR II DAYS ★

AT MIDWAY VILLAGE MUSEUM



★ **SPECIAL ADMISSION** ★  
Discount for ALL Veterans  
WE HONOR YOUR SERVICE!

**Midwest's  
Largest!**

- ★ Over 60 Authentic Military Vehicles
- ★ Over 1,000 Reenactors
- ★ Battles with Pyrotechnics
- ★ Skirmishes, Demos & Displays
- ★ Militaria Sales Vendors
- ★ Affordable Local Food Vendors

**ADMISSION:**

- ★ \$16 Adults
- ★ \$12 Veterans and Active Duty Military\*
- ★ WWII Veterans Free
- ★ \$9 Children (3-17) ★ Infants (0-2) Free
- ★ Museum Members Free

\*With Military ID, Veterans Affairs ID Card, or Military Discharge Papers

*NOTE: Registered wristbanded reenactors are the ONLY guests admitted into the event in vintage military uniform. Visitors to the event may dress in 1940s civilian costume if they wish as long as the Visitor sticker is worn prominently.*



**SAVE THE DATE!**

INFO:  
815-397-9112

**Saturday, September 18 | Sunday, September 19**

10 am - 5 pm      10 am - 4 pm

MIDWAY VILLAGE MUSEUM | 6799 GUILFORD ROAD, ROCKFORD IL 61107

TICKETS:  
MidwayVillage.com



The USS Illinois Base has another opportunity to introduce United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI) and the work and camaraderie of this Base to thousands of people at this year's World War II

Days at Midway Village in Rockford (September 18-19). We invite members to come and help us man our information booth. It is a fun and enjoyable event for the whole family. Watch for more details soon.







## Report to Congress U.S. Navy ship naming rules



Think twice before  
naming your boat!

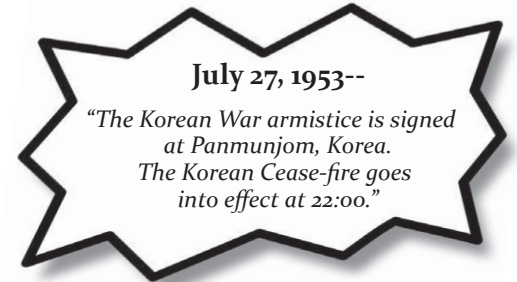
*USNINEWS* – Some observers have perceived a breakdown in the rules for naming Navy ships, it was reported. “Section 370 of the FY2021 NDAA (R.R. 6395/P.L. 116-283 of Jan. 1, 2021) established a commission regarding the removal and renaming of certain DOD assets (including ships).”

In a report to Congress this would impact U.S. navy ship names, that commemorate the Confederate States of America or any person who served voluntarily with them. The report noted naming rules for recently procured ships as follows:

- The first and second SSBN-826 class ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) have been named Columbia (in honor of the District of Columbia) and Wisconsin. The Navy has not stated the naming rule for this class of ships.
- Until recently, Virginia (SSN-774) class attack submarines have generally been named for states, but the four most recently named Virginia-class boats have instead been named in honor of earlier U.S. Navy attack submarines.
- Of the Navy’s 15 most recently named aircraft carriers, 10 have been named for past U.S. Presidents and 2 for Members of Congress.

## Philippines recommit to U.S. force operations

*USNI NEWS (Manila)* -- Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin’s first official trip to the Philippines on July 29, 2021, was met with success after meeting with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte.



- Destroyers named for deceased members of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, including Secretaries of the Navy.
- The first three FFG-62 class frigates have been named Constellation, Congress, and Chesapeake, in honor of three of the first six U.S. Navy ships authorized by Congress in 1794. No naming rule for this class of ships has been made.
- Littoral Combat Ships (LCSs) were named for regionally important U.S. cities and communities.
- Amphibious assault ships are being named for important battles in which U.S. Marines played a prominent part and for famous earlier U.S. Navy ships.
- San Antonio (LPD-17) class amphibious ships are being named for major U.S. cities and communities and cities attacked on Sept. 11, 2001.
- John Lewis (TAO-205) class oilers are being named for people who fought for civil rights & human rights.
- Navajo (TATS-6) class towing, salvage, and rescue ships being named for prominent Native Americans or Native American tribes.

After the meeting, President Duterte “retracted the notice of termination of the Visiting Forces Agreement,” it was reported. It will let U.S. forces continue to operate from the Philippines



## 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."



July

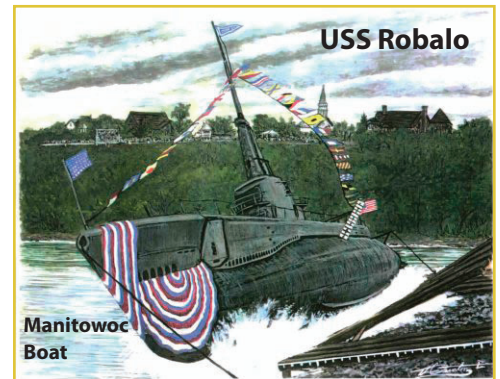
Lost 52 Project 4D photo  
of USS R-12 when found in  
2010/2011.

USS Grunion (SS-216) lost on July 30, 1942 near the entrance to Kiska (Alaska) Harbor due to unknown causes. Loss of 70 crew.

USS Runner (SS-275) declared lost July 1, 1943 during her 3rd war patrol. She sank one freighter and one passenger-cargoman off the Kuriles, when it was sunk possibly by mines somewhere between Midway Island and Hokkaido, Japan. Loss of 78 crew.

USS S-28 (SS-133) lost July 4, 1944 when it foundered off Hawaii during training exercises with the USCGC Reliance. After diving for a practice torpedo approach, the Reliance lost sound contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. The cause of her loss remains a mystery. Loss of 49 crew.

USS Robalo (SS-273) lost on July 26, 1944 on her third war patrol when she struck a mine about 2 miles off the west coast of Palawan. Four



men survived the sinking and swam ashore. They were captured and imprisoned by the Japanese, but managed to get a note smuggled out via local guerrillas. Unfortunately, they were removed by a Japanese destroyer on August 15 and subsequently were lost when that destroyer was sunk. Loss of 77 crew.



'Rest in Peace'  
USS Robalo

This graceful memorial is dedicated to the WWII submarine U.S.S. Robalo (SS-273). Robalo was a Gato-class submarine built in Manitowoc, Wis. and launched on May 9, 1943.

The memorial is located in Lindenwood Park on Roger Maris Drive in Fargo, North Dakota.



After the end of World War II, the U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII assigned each of the 52 submarines lost during the war to a state. It was hoped that appropriate memorials would be constructed by each state to their assigned submarine. While most states have not constructed memorials, some have. On the back of the memorial are the names of all the crew members lost at sea on the Robalo. The front of the memorial contains a brief history of the boat.



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, Aug. 7, 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)**

