



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

USS Cobia Overhaul
Keeping our heritage alive

We at the USS Illinois Base are fortunate to live and meet just a few hours away from one of our country's greatest submarine treasures, the USS Cobia (SS-245), docked at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, WI.

Below is an article that appears on the Wisconsin Maritime Museum's website about the history and restoration story of the USS Cobia.

History

"USS Cobia (SS 245) was launched Nov. 28, 1943 in Groton, CT. In June 1944, she began the first of six war patrols in which she sank thirteen Japanese vessels. By July 1944, Cobia had established herself in the annals

Continued on Page 3



USS Cobia towed into Manitowoc in 1970 to become a local treasure.



USSVI Creed:
Our Base's Purpose

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."

www.ussillinoisbase.org





Meeting called to order at 12:05 by CDR Richard Martin

15 members present: Patrick O'Brien, Phil Owens, Bruce Pickering, Jim Hill, Terry Elmeier, Mark Dykstra, Tom Ramsay, Kate Ramsay, Don Bosetti, Sherman Buetsch, Michael Barney, Dick Martin, Renee Martin, Chuck Mongan Daryl Rorabaugh

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Invocation by Phil Owens.

Reading of the USSVI Creed and Tolling of the Bells Ceremony.

Moment of Silence in memory of attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

Member/guest introductions

Secretary's report: Secretary Pat O'Brien requested a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the Base newsletter. Phil Owens made the motion. Terry Elmeier seconded. Motion to accept last meeting minutes as published was accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bruce Pickering made the Treasurers Report. Dist. CDR Phil Owens commended him for ensuring that the Base liability insurance premium was paid to National.

Chaplains Report: Chaplain Bob Fleck has asked to be removed as chaplain. A volunteer is needed to assume this post.

Storekeepers Report: No report.

Kaps(ss) 4 Kids Report: JVCDR Mark Dykstra proposed a return visit to American Children's Hospital for March if available.

Unfinished business:

- The planned **Gary Sinise Concert** Oct. 23, 2020 has been postponed due to a medical emergency in Gary Sinise's family. A new date has not been set.
- No new report on the **Cobia Overhaul Project.**

New Business:

- The **VFW Christmas dinner** for veterans requested a \$100 donation. Motion to donate \$100 was made by Terry Elmeier and seconded by Mike Barney. The motion was passed.
- The January meeting will be the Base **Holiday Party** to be held at Boundaries Restaurant at 6 p.m. on Jan. 4, 2020. Phil Owens asked any planning to attend to email him so he can advise the restaurant of the number of tables needed.

50-50 Raffle was won by Tom Ramsay. He donated his share back to the base.

Closing Prayer by Phil Owens

Notices: **January Holiday Party** will be held at Boundaries Restaurant, in Beloit at 6 p.m. on Jan. 4, 2020. Spouses invited. **Next Business Meeting:** Feb. 1, 2020. Board meeting at 11:00 am; members meeting at noon.

75-year-old mystery solved

Closure has come for the family of the USS Grayback (SS-208). It has been found off the coast of Okinawa.

It was hidden from discovery all this time by a single "errant digit."

An amateur researcher in Japan detected a mistake in the latitude and longitude of



the spot where Japanese war records showed the Grayback probably sank. The records were off by a single digit — about 100 miles.

The mystery began on Jan. 28, 1944, when the Grayback, one of the most successful American submarines of World War II, sailed out of Pearl Harbor for its 10th combat patrol. By late March it was more than three weeks overdue to return, and the Navy listed the submarine as missing and presumed lost.



USS Cobia story continues

(Continued from Page 1)

of World War II sub history by attacking an enemy convoy bound for Japanese-held Iwo Jima. Cobia sank two vessels, including a troop transport carrying a Japanese tank battalion of twenty-eight tanks. U.S. Marines considered this sinking critical to their success in capturing Iwo six months later.

“In 1970, Cobia was brought to Manitowoc to serve as an international memorial to submariners. In 1986, Cobia was incorporated as a part of the Manitowoc Maritime Museum, declared a National Historic Landmark, and placed on the National Register of Historic Places. As a National Historic Landmark, Cobia has been restored to her original 1945 configuration. Visitors of all ages can enjoy a guided tour through the boat and see where the crew slept, ate, and prayed to make it out alive.

Restoration

“USS Cobia is a major exhibit at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, requiring thousands of man-hours of maintenance and restoration. Cobia was dry docked in 1996 and went through an intensive interior restoration over the next few years. Staff and volunteers focused on returning the submarine to her 1945 look. In 1998, the Museum was awarded a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation’s Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP). This grant helped underwrite interior restoration that included installation of WWII era flooring, bunks, metal trim, and crew lockers.

“After many years of meticulous research, cleaning and repair, some of the submarine’s systems have come on-line. Two specific volunteer-led projects were the installation of a DC power drive on board the submarine

and the rebuilding of main engines #1 and #2. Other recent successes include the restoration of Cobia’s SJ-1 radar, thought to be the oldest operational radar in the world, and the return of the WWII radio shack to operational status.”



Today, the Cobia needs our help through the Operation Overhaul Project. The boat’s haul has taken a toll in the waters just off Lake Michigan, and the boat needs extensive repairs to its undercarriage. This means taking her to drydock to fix and reinforce her aging haul.

The USS Illinois Base is joining its sister USSVI Bases and the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in helping to solicit money for this expansive overhaul. We will be asking members to help in the setup of a Cobia Overhaul Project booth at community events throughout Illinois and Wisconsin. Millions of dollars will be needed to complete this project.

We all need to help spread the word about this living memorial throughout our respective communities. Help keep this submarine alive.

Too, if you are interested in helping the Cobia as a volunteer. Visit www.wisconsinmaritime.org/join-and-give/volunteer/volunteer-form/. Complete this online form and join other subvets and USS Illinois Base members in sharing your knowledge and “elbow grease” to keep the Cobia in its pristine shape.

Base Contacts

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

**Sr. Vice Commander
Wayne Orrison**
wjacob@yahoo.com

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

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

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

**Storekeeper
Terry Elmeier**
insp184@yahoo.com

**Chaplain
Bob Fleck**
bobfleck@ameritech.net

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





NEWS from NATIONAL

Charitable Fund Donations

Your United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation wishes you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We ask that you consider a donation to the USSV-CF or one of its funds when you are doing your charitable giving this Christmas Season.

The US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation is an I.R.S. approved 501(c)(3) charitable foundation, and our tax identification number is 95-4830806.

*--John E. Markiewicz
President, USSV-CF*

Delays in new Commissary Benefits

Having prior access to a base won't be enough to allow newly eligible veterans to shop at its commissary and exchange January 1, *Military.Com* has learned.

Beginning January 1, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, veterans with any service-connected disability will be eligible to shop at on-base facilities -- if they hold a Veterans Health Identification

Card. But access will be delayed for those who do not have a VHIC as military officials negotiate access to secure military facilities for what may potentially be millions of new shoppers.

And that delay applies even to those prospective customers who are able to get on base under other forms of Defense Department or Coast Guard identification, such as contractors and DoD civilian employees.

The DoD and Dept. of Veterans Affairs announced last month it will let eligible veterans gain access to these facilities in two phases.

The first group to be able to shop on bases are veterans with a VHIC that displays their status. They are joined by veteran caregivers registered in the VA's caregiver program and equipped with a letter certifying their eligibility.

It has not yet been announced when the second group, veterans without this VA health insurance card, will be allowed base access.

*--John Dudas,
USSVI Veterans Service Officer*



**Richard Martin, EN3(SS)
USS Illinois Base Commander**



Hi, to all of our great USSVI Illinois Base members. We have made it thus far without a lot of bad weather with Christmas behind us and New Year' Days close behind.

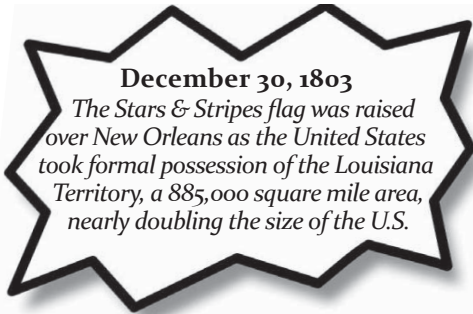
Starting off in January we will come together for our Holiday Party on Jan. 4, 2020 and then on with the new year--and hopefully a busy one for our Base. We need to work on a few events this year to bring in some cash for our base. In the past few years with the parades, we have gotten our name out there. We need to keep that up, but maybe pick

and choose which ones in which we want to participate.

We need to also concentrate on the fundraising for the USS Cobia dry dock maintenance in any way possible. We have a lot to look into this year, and all I can say is it's going to depend on how healthy and accident free we stay, none of us are teenagers anymore and it gets harder and harder to do things, so just be careful and we'll do fine.

We already have events to bring before our membership so we will see you in the new year.





December 30, 1803

The Stars & Stripes flag was raised over New Orleans as the United States took formal possession of the Louisiana Territory, a 885,000 square mile area, nearly doubling the size of the U.S.

Next subs to honor Pearl Harbor Battleships

Navy Times--The Navy’s two next Virginia-class fast-attack submarines will be named in honor of the crews of two battleships sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor nearly eight decades ago.

Acting Navy Secretary Thomas B. Modly announced the decision to name the boats after the battleships Arizona and Oklahoma.

Navy Times writes that this is the first time since the Dec. 7, 1941 raid “that the Navy will put boats with those names into active service. However, there currently is a Los Angeles-class attack submarine named the Oklahoma City.

The new submarine Oklahoma, SSN-802, is already under construction at General Dynamics.

In remembrance

More than 1,100 crew on the Arizona died during the Pearl Harbor attack and many remain entombed in the battleship’s submerged wreckage. Another 477 crew members from the Oklahoma were lost.

More than 2,400 Americans — including Marines, soldiers and civilians — died in the assault, which plunged the United States into War World II.

The majority of the Pearl Harbor dead — 2,008 — were sailors. Several hundred others were wounded.

DOD warns against consumer DNA testing

Military.Com (Dec. 27, 2019) --The nation’s craze for DNA testing has the Defense Department concerned. Top military brass received a memo signed by the Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence, and the Asst. Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

“U.S. troops are being advised to steer clear of popular genetic-testing kits over what Pentagon leaders say is a growing concern that the personal information could be exploited or tracked,” they stated.

The warning came when it was discov-

ered that Defense Dept. personnel were being offered “genetic-ancestry or health-information products” last week with a promise of a military discount.

These direct-to-consumer DNA tests are “largely unregulated,” the memo added, “potentially leaving their personal data or genetic information at risk.” They added, that use of these products could “create unintended security consequences and increased risk to the joint force and mission.”

New in 2020

Military hospitals and clinics in Europe and the Indo-Pacific regions will begin to transition to Defense Health Agency management in 2020.



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."



December

USS F-1 [ex-CARP] (SS-20) lost on December 17, 1917 when it was sunk after collision with USS F-3 off San Clemente, Calif. Loss of 19 crew.

USS S-4 (SS-109) lost on December 17, 1927 when sunk after ramming by USCG Paulding off Provincetown, Mass. Loss of 40 crew. All but 4 men died within hours in engine room and motor room due to asphyxiation. Four trapped in torpedo room survived for possibly 60 hours. Hull raised and used for study in submarine escape. Scuttled off Hawaii.

USS Sealion (SS-195) lost on December 10, 1941 when it was scuttled in Manila Bay after damage at Cavite Navy Yard during bombing. Damage was sufficient to preclude removal to home waters when Philippines surrendered. Scuttled on December 25, 1941. Loss of 4 crew.

USS Capelin (SS-289) lost on or after December 3, 1943 on her 1st war patrol, sunk in the Celebes Sea in western Pacific. Cause of loss unknown. Loss of 76 crew.



Lest we forget!

Moment of Silence for all those killed during the Attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. With special prayers for the 52 submarines and their crews lost during WWII.

"We, who survived World War II and were privileged to rejoin our loved ones at home, salute those gallant officers and men of our submarines who lost their lives in that long struggle. We shall never forget that it was our submarines that held the lines against the enemy while our fleets replaced losses and repaired wounds."

--Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, U.S. Navy

USSVI can grow only if we all reach out to fellow submariners.



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 Event

Date: January 4, 2020 - Base Holiday Party
Time: 6 p.m. (Spouses invited--order from the menu)
Location: Boundries Bar & Grill
 3807 S. Riverside (Rt. 51) • Beloit, Illinois

www.ussillinoisbase.org



A holiday party invitation card with a brown and gold color scheme. The background features gold swirls and starburst patterns. A diagonal banner in the top right corner reads "RSVP Required". The text is centered and reads: "USS Illinois Base invites you and your spouse/guest to join us for our HOLIDAY PARTY". Below this, the details are listed: Date: Saturday, January 4, 2020; Time: 6:00 p.m.; Where: Boundries Bar & Grill, 3807 Riverside Dr., Beloit, WI; Cost: Order from Menu (Prime Rib their specialty). A note at the bottom states: "(Restaurant located on Hwy 51, on Beloit's northside)".

USS Illinois Base invites you
and your spouse/guest to join us for our

HOLIDAY PARTY

Date: Saturday, January 4, 2020
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Boundries Bar & Grill
3807 Riverside Dr., Beloit, WI
Cost: Order from Menu
(Prime Rib their specialty)

(Restaurant located on Hwy 51, on Beloit's northside)

RSVP to Phil Owens (email: powens1937@gmail.com)
as soon as possible so we can guarantee seating arrangements.
Spouses are welcome!

Note the change in location from our regular meetings.
There will be no business meeting in January -- Just FUN!

**JOIN US as we welcome in the New Year
at our annual Holiday Party!**



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 1st thru Dec 31st. 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

