



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

*You don't
need to be
crazy to join
the submarine
service. We'll
train you!*

insight article
written by
Patrick O'Brien,
Base Treasurer

USS Illinois Base: Who are we?

The most obvious answer is we are a group of US Navy veterans who served on submarines.

Any more than that? Yes. I am glad you asked. Doing a “deep dive” (bad pun intended) through the profiles we provided when we joined this base yielded some interesting observations:

REGARDING THE BOATS WE SERVED IN:

Our members have served on 56 different submarines: (21) **Diesel Boats**; (16) **Fast Attacks** and (16) **“Boomers”**.

The oldest boat served on was the **USS Bluefish (SS-222)** commissioned in 1943.

The newest boat served on was the **USS Columbus (SSN-762)** commissioned in 1993.

(3) members served on **USS Gato (SSN-615)**.

(3) members served on the **USS Ulysses S Grant (SSBN-631)**.

(2) members served on the **USS Barbel (SS-580)**.

USS Barbel (SS-580) was the lead ship in a class of three; **USS Blueback (SS-581)** and **USS Bonefish (SS-582)**. Commissioned in 1959, these three boats were the last built diesel electric submarines intended for service. The **USS Dolphin (AGSS-555)** was commissioned in 1968, but was designed and deployed as an experimental vehicle.

(2) members made **Regulus** missile patrols.

From 1959 to 1964 five **Regulus** boats, (1) SSGN and (4) diesel-powered SSG, provided the first US missile deterrence patrols. These early patrols are qualified for the “Boomer” pin. After the Regulus program was terminated these boats were all repurposed.

(Continued on page 3)



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





Base Contacts

Commander Mark Dykstra

& Kaps 4 Kids Coord.
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Sr. Vice Commander Greg Miller

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Jr. Vice Commander Tom Ramsay

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Treasurer Bruce Pickering

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Chaplain Richard Martin

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Storekeeper/ Facebook Coord. Terry Elmeier

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Editor/Webmaster Kate Ramsay

kateram@jcwifi.com

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Base CDR Mark Dykstra at 12:04 p.m.

12 Members present – Patrick O'Brien, Bruce Pickering, Tom Ramsay, Kate Ramsay, Greg Miller, Dick Martin, Daryl Rorabaugh, Frank Brown, Phil Owens, Jim Helsell, Mark Dykstra, and Tim Deneen.

1 Guest - Mary Miller.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag by all hands.

Invocation was given by Base Chaplain Dick Martin.

Member/guest introductions.

Recitation of the USSVI Creed was given by Base CDR Mark Dykstra.

Tolling of Bells ceremony – Dick Martin read the list of lost boats and tolled the bell.

Secretary's Report – Base Sec. Pat O'Brien asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as distributed by e-mail. Dick Martin pointed out an error in the Oct. minutes. The October minutes stated the recitation of the USSVI Creed was given by Greg Martin. The creed was given By Greg Miller. The October minutes will be reissued. Phil Owens made a motion to accept the corrected minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom Ramsay. The corrected minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Base Treasurer Bruce Pickering made the monthly treasurers report. Pat O'Brien made a motion to accept the report; seconded by Kate Ramsay. Treasurer's report was approved. Treasurer Pickering advised that annual dues must be received by him before Dec. 12. Members who will pay by mail are advised to be aware frequent delays by USPS.

Chaplain's Report – Chaplain Dick Martin reported he had sent a get-well card to Mike Barney, whose wife is ill. He asked all members to contact him if a Chaplain's contact (e.g.; send a card) is necessary. Chaplain Martin asked the base roster be expanded to include member's birthday. **ACTION ITEM:** Kate Ramsay to expand base roster to include member's birthday.

Store Keeper's Report – No report

Scouting Report – No report

Kaps(ss) 4 Kids(ss) – no update

Old Business:

- Bruce Pickering is evaluating potential **venues for Holiday Party**. The Holiday Party will be held after the New Year. He is currently evaluating the "Butterfly" in Beloit.
- Jim Helsell said he is agreeable to **storing Base books and memorabilia** in his shop. He has a concern regarding how to safely display and avoid potential pilfering.
- Focused discussions regarding the **"yard sale"** will begin in February 2023.
- Martin advised only 2 couples from USS Illinois Base will be attending **Veterans Day dinner** at the Embassy Suites in Rockford on November 5th.
- Vice CDR Greg Miller reported that the **Cobia Dry Dock Fund** has approximately \$.7 million of the estimated \$1.5 million required.

New Business:

- Kate Ramsay reported that while sending out the **newsletter** she occasionally gets an e-mail "bounce." Problem is prevalent with AOL and Yahoo addresses. She suspects some providers may limit the size of incoming email. She is investigating. A suggested "work-around" was offered, i.e., do not send the whole newsletter but a link to the newsletter on the base website.
- The new **USSVI Membership tools** should not be used until next year.

Good of the order:

--Loves Park Veteran's Day celebration will be at the Loves Park City Hall on November 10th from 2-4 p.m.

--The **Christmas for Vets** visits will return this year. Current plans will be for fewer visits than in the past.

Next meeting on Dec. 3 at Mustang Bar and Grill South Beloit, Ill., at noon.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.





Illinois Base

Who are we?

(continued from page1)

(1) member served on the **USS Halibut (SSGN 587)**. The USS Halibut, commissioned in 1960, is oldest nuke served on by one of our members.

USS Halibut (SSGN 587) was specifically designed to carry the **Regulus** missile. After the **Regulus** program was terminated, **USS Halibut (SSGN 587)** was repurposed and be-

came one of the most noted "spy ships" of the Cold War.

REGARDING OUR USS ILLINOIS BASE MEMBERS:

Our members have been qualified in submarines from **1944 to 2000.**

Our members by paygrade:

(5) E4; (11) E5; (6) E6;
(1) E7; (4) E8; (1) E9; (1) O5

Our members, by rate and rank, looks like we may have a full duty section:

(5) **Electrician Mates**; (5) **Engine Men**; (7) **Machinist**

Mates; (2) "Cooks"; (1) **Quartermaster**; (2) **Radio Men**; (2) **Sonar Men**; (3) **Torpedo Men**; (1) **Yeoman**; (1) "XO."

Statistically our "typical" member is an **MM2(SS)** (*Full Disclosure - I am a MM2(SS)*)

To me, the "take away," in spite of our small numbers, is that we are a big part the amazing breadth of submarine operations and history.



As Spock would say:
"Fascinating."

USS Cobia receives large grant from National Park Service

WLUK-Fox News 11 in Manitowoc, Wis. reported recently that the Wisconsin Maritime Museum received a \$500,000 award from the National Park Service as part of their Save America's Treasures grant program. The award will go toward the critical hull maintenance project for the USS Cobia, estimated to cost \$1.5 million.

The restoration effort centers on towing the USS Cobia to Sturgeon Bay for dry docking at Fincantieri Shipyard for necessary hull inspection, they report. The last time the USS Cobia was in drydock was in 1996.

"Historic naval vessels around the country have seen the dire consequences of not conducting regular maintenance on the hull. USS Cobia has been lovingly restored by staff and volunteers here for over 50 years.

With this momentous project, we are ensuring that Cobia will be preserved for another generation," said Wisconsin Maritime Museum Executive Director Cathy Green.

The USS Cobia was launched Nov. 28, 1943, in Groton, CT. It served a total of six war patrols in the Pacific Theater during WWII, sinking 13 Japanese vessels.

In 1970, the USS Cobia was brought to Manitowoc to serve as an international memorial to submariners. In 1986, the Cobia was incorporated as a

USS Cobia arrived in Manitowoc on Aug 17, 1970. She was first docked on the opposite site of the river where she sits today.



Today, the USS Cobia is in pristine shape, awaiting a needed haul restoration.

part of the Manitowoc Maritime Museum, declared a National Historic Landmark, and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The USS Illinois Base salutes submariners past and present who devote their time and love for this national treasure. If you want to know how you can contribute to this important fund, or for volunteer information, contact Greg Miller at our next Base meeting. His contact information is the "Contact Box" located on page 2 of this *Green Board* issue.



LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Sub Vet groups throughout Illinois have received this message regarding Illinois House Bill 4528 which will authorize the Illinois Secretary of State to issue specialty license plates honoring Illinois submarine veterans.

This bill passed in the House on Mar. 3, 2022. It was then handed off to the Senate on Mar. 4, 2022 where it is still in committee.

We have been following this bill from the start, and I have contacted many House and Senate legislators to express my support for this important piece of legislation. I was very optimistic that it would pass the Senate back during the spring legislative session, but during the closing weeks of session the bill sponsor called me personally and explained that no more license plate bills were going to be voted on before the session ended.

As I later learned specialty license plates for fans of the Chicago Sky, Red Stars, and the Fire, was voted on and passed on Apr. 7, 2022– just before the Spring Legislative session adjourned.

When we enlisted, we raised our right hands and swore to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, we didn't expect more than what the Navy promised us for our service: a paycheck and the honor and privilege of serving our country. That being said, I don't think the opportunity to be recognized on a license plate by our home state for our service and our sacrifices for our country is asking too much, especially when professional sports teams take that kind of recognition as a daily perk.

During this upcoming veto session, we need to make sure this bill makes it out of committee and onto the Senate floor for a vote. When it makes it to the floor, this bill should pass on its own merit, as supporting veterans should be a non-partisan issue.

The USSVI Illinois membership can help by flooding the bill sponsor's office with phone calls.

The sponsor is Senator Don Harmon, who also happens to be the Senate President:

His District phone number is 708-848-2002, and his Springfield Senate Office phone number is 217-782-8176.

Tell him you want House Bill 4528 out of committee and on the Senate Floor for a vote, before the Veto Session ends after the Thanksgiving break.

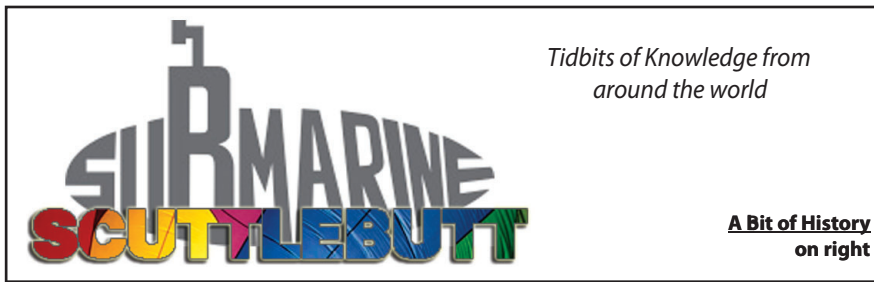
Members can start calling ASAP as all of the senators have voicemail.

If anyone needs any additional information, please call me and I will help however I can.

Thanks for your support,

William Doerr, 618-334-7999



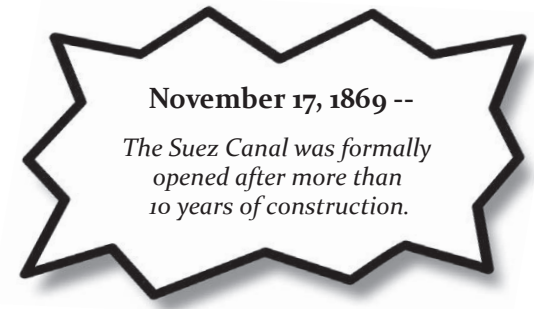


New Sweden sub focuses on undersea warfare

NAVY.MIL (Washington, DC) – A news release from H. I. Sutton notes a wake up call for western Navies following the September 26 attack on the Nord Stream pipelines of Sweden and Denmark.

He writes that Sweden is ahead of the game as Navies begin focusing on seabed warfare with the development of the SAAB SubROV. “This form of ROV can be launched and operated from a torpedo tube of any submarine,” he states.

The ROV performs intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance, as



November 17, 1869 --

The Suez Canal was formally opened after more than 10 years of construction.

well has feeds “high-resolution data back to the submarine in real time via cable without the risk of signal detection.”

The timing of Sweden’s new A-26 Blekinge class may be very relevant, he adds. “And, fortunately for NATO inherently well suited.”

The A-26 class takes things to another level. It has a flexible payload lock that allows it to carry larger equipment, to inspect and repair undersea infrastructures, and to defend against undersea threats.

Forgotten medals seeking owners



In April 1942, the War Department declared that the modern day Purple Heart would be issued to service members who were killed in action as recognition of their sacrifice.

JOURNAL-COURIER (Jacksonville, IL) – The State of Illinois is trying to find eleven (11) Purple Heart recipients, writes David Bauer, editor of the local Jacksonville, Ill. newspaper. As of Nov. 17, 2022 they have found the rightful owners or heirs of seven lost Purple Hearts, but they have 11 more people to locate.

When property is considered abandoned in safe deposit boxes in Illinois, it is turned over to the State Treasurer’s Office where an attempt is made to locate the owner. In the case of the medals, several have been in the state’s care since the 1990s,” Bauer reports.

Making this task difficult is that in many cases they are uncertain when the metal was awarded, and if the name associated with the safe deposit box is the same as the medal recipient. The State of Illinois needs your help in finding the below individuals:

- **Robert Cawthon**, collected from Fifth-Third Bank in Oak Park in 1992.
- **Raymond Wilson**, collected in 1995 from Chicago Community Bank.
- **Lawrence M. Burns**, collected from Advanced Bank in Homewood in 1997.
- **Linda K. Moore**, turned over to the state in 2001 from National City Bank in Peoria.
- **Bernice Smith**, collected from MB Financial Bank in Oak Park in 2002.
- **David Gorski**, submitted to the state in 2003 from Hinsbrook Bank & Trust.
- **Vincent G. Tuttle**, collected from Busey Bank in Pekin in 2018.
- **Toni Alexander**, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer’s Office in 2018 from First Midwest Bank in Shorewood.
- **Isbell Servina, Mary A. Shayer or Vincent P. Shayer**, collected in Chicago in 2018.
- **Michelle Steward or Patricia VanHasselaere**, possibly of Round Lake, submitted in 2018.
- **Kenneth Wiest**, possibly from O’Fallon. The Purple Heart was turned over to the state in 2019.

Info? Go to illinoistreasurer.gov/icash.”





News from National

Dr. Alan G. Fickett, Ph.D.
Chairman, USSVCF
Academic Scholarship
Program

Announcing 2023 Submarine Veterans scholarships available

The United States Submarine Veterans Inc. and the United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation have sponsored educational scholarships for nearly four decades. These scholarships, given to submarine veterans and their families, have had a huge impact on their continuing education.

The program has expanded eligibility this year. This expansion includes vocational training, trade schools, and apprenticeships for submarine veterans, their children, and grandchildren. The application period for the next academic year is open now.

Interested individuals can visit the link below to view information about eligibility and the application process.

Application - United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc. (ussvcf.org)



Dick Martin, EM3 (SS)
Chaplain,
USS Illinois Base

Here we go again, the beautiful colors of Autumn have disappeared, and the grizzly bite of winter is showing its teeth. We are once again having to change our driving habits and learning how to walk all over again, the slippery roads and walkways are a very danger especially to the elderly like many of us are becoming, we all need to have faith not only in our abilities but in the Lord God.

JAMES; 1: 3-6

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liber-

Thanksgiving Message from National CDR



Shipmates,

Thanksgiving is a time to gather with our families, friends, and loved ones to give thanks for all our blessings. Many, if not most of us, have spent Thanksgiving, among all the other holidays, at sea on patrol, defending our country's freedoms. Please pause a moment to give thanks to those currently serving and ensure that we, too, can enjoy those very same freedoms.

Here's hoping everyone has a safe, healthy, and happy Thanksgiving.

Bill Andrea
National Commander

ally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and sea.

PS: If anyone in our base membership is having hardship through illness or a death in the family, please contact me so the Base can express our feelings for you with a card or flowers.

My wife, Renee, has been going through a lot since her knee replacement in which she is still recovering from and has had eye surgery during this time also. The eye surgery hasn't turned-out well, and she may have to have surgery again, so please keep her in your prayers.



TODAY'S MENU



EAT IT OR STARVE



If you have heard it once, you have heard it a hundred times, from Tom Ramsay, MS aboard the USS Temcumseh (T-CUP): "Never trust a skinny cook. It means they don't eat their own cooking!!!" Enjoy this official Navy recipe.



Perfect Meal for the Perfect Season -- 'Sub Style'
The perfect recipe for a large family gathering!

Navy Bean Soup

YEILD: 6-1/4 Gallons or 100 portions, each portion: 1 cup

INGREDIENTS	WEIGHTS	MEASURES	PORTIONS	METHOD
Beans, white, dry	6 lbs.	3-1/2 qt.	--	1. Pick over and wash beans.
Ham stock Home bones		7 gal. 8 bones	--	2. Add ham stock and ham bones. Heat to boiling point; cover and simmer 2-3 hours or until beans are tender. If necessary, add hot water. 3. Remove ham bones.
Carrots, shredded Onions, finely chopped Pepper	1 lb. 2 lbs.	2-3/4 cups 4-1/2 cups 2 tsp.	--	4. Add carrots, onions, and pepper. Simmer for 30 minutes.
Flour, hard wheat, sifted Water, cold	1/2 lbs.	2 cups 3/4 qt.	--	5. Blend flour and water to a smooth paste. Stir into soup, and cook 10 minutes longer.

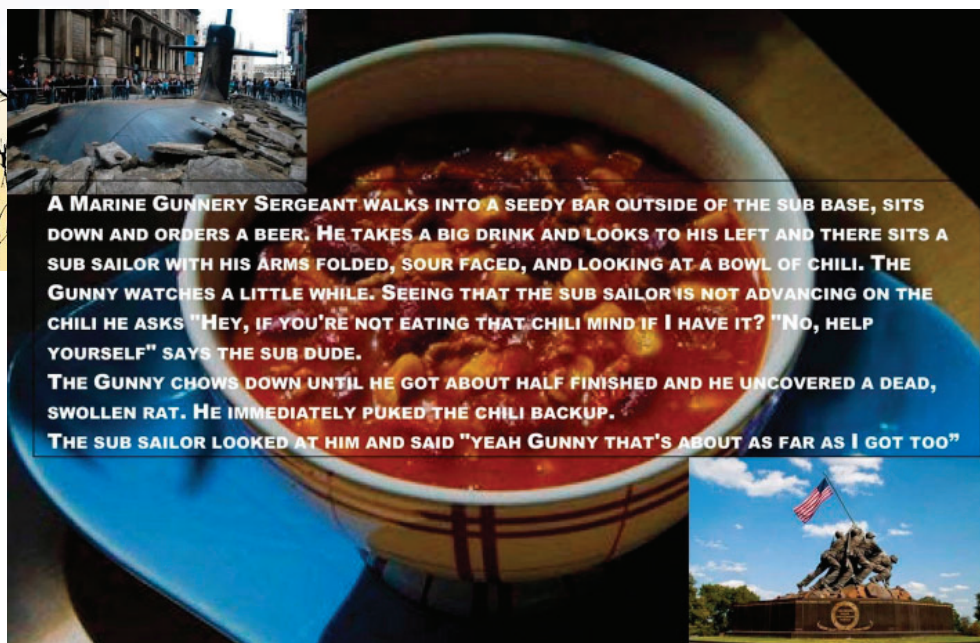
NOTE:

1. If beans are old, soak 3 to 4 hours prior to cooking
2. Add salt and additional pepper if desired.

VARIATION:

Old Fashioned Navy Bean Soup: Add one No. 10 can of tomatoes in Step. 4.

Don't mess with the Cook.
Your stomach will notice it tomorrow.



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."



November

USS Corvina (SS-226) lost on Nov. 16, 1943 on her 1st war patrol when sunk from torpedoes from a Japanese submarine just south of Truk Island (an atoll hosting a massive Japanese naval and air base. Loss of 82 crew.

USS Sculpin (SS-191) lost on Nov. 19, 1943 north of Oroluk Island near Truk. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, the Sculpin continued to fight on the surface. Due to damage, a decision was made to abandon ship and scuttle Sculpin. The CAPT J.P. Cromwell remained aboard fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture—he was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Loss of 43 crew; 20 more died as POWs,

and only 21 crew members survived the war.

USS Albacore (SS-218) lost on Nov. 7, 1944 on her 11th war patrol, when she struck a Japanese mine while running submerged in the channel between Hokkaido and Honshu. Loss of 85 crew.

USS Growler (SS-215) lost on Nov. 8, 1944 on her 12th war patrol when sunk while attacking a convoy in the South China Sea between Honshu and Hokkaido

USS Scamp (SS-277) lost on Nov. 16, 1944 on her 8th war patrol, when it was sunk east of Tokyo Bay from progressive damage in multiple air and sea attacks. Loss of 83 crew.



Bruce Pickering
USS Illinois Base Treasurer

\$20
USS Illinois Base Dues
note increase in
Illinois Base dues from
\$10 to \$20

\$25
USSVI National Dues

It is time to pay your **2023 National and Base membership dues** for the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI).

I will be available to accept your 2023 dues 15 minutes before and after our December Base meeting.

If you plan to mail me your dues, **I must receive them before Dec. 12th** to ensure they are received at National before year end. Reminder that the post office can be slower this time of year, so mail early.

You can mail your dues to my attention at: **Bruce Pickering, 1702 Calumet Ave., Beloit, WI 53511.** Make your check out to "USS Illinois Base."

Need to pay your National dues by credit card? Then you must contact the USSVI Office Manager directly at (360) 337-2978.

Dues payments (Base or National) cannot be paid by credit card at the base level. Questions? Call me at (608) 365-3108.

Mark your calendar for the next USS Illinois Base, USSVI, meeting.

Next USSVI Illinois Base Meeting

Date: Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022
Time: Noon
Location: Mustang Bar & Grill
482 Gardner St. • South Beloit, Illinois

www.ussillinoisbase.org



Share this application with a fellow submariner!



AMERICAN SUBMARINER (USSVI) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

OUR PURPOSE: "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 Purpose 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 and when required by the National Membership Chairman. If I am not yet discharged, the discharge requirement is waived.

- ☐ I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard USS _____ 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)
- ☐ I understand I am applying for membership 'at large' and I may also later affiliate with a local chapter if I wish.

Full Name: _____ **Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____ - _____ **Tel:** (____) _____ - _____

Emailing this completed form to ussvi@telebyte.net constitutes my electronic signature. Date: _____

Your E-Mail Address _____ **Base/Chapter Desired:** MEMBER AT LARGE

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

How did you find us? ☐ Friend, ☐ Boat Assn, ☐ Local Event/News, ☐ Internet, ☐ Other (_____)

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 here 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 here if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

Submarines served aboard as ship's company

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 email this completed form to ussvi@telebyte.net or mail to USSVI National Office, P.O. Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870. You will be contacted for dues payment arrangements.

Questions: Call 1-877-542-DIVE or email office@ussvi.org

