

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

### 'Bubblehead' one of kind at 2021Chicago Bears Vietnam Veterans Event

Our shipmate, Daryl Rorabaugh (TM2-SS), hobnobbed with the Chicago Bears on Nov. 16 for the Bears 2021 Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Event held at Halas Hall, in Lake Forest, IL.

The event was staged as part of the NFL's Salute to Vietnam Veterans programs held throughout the country. This year marked the 50th Anniversary of National Vietnam War Veterans Day (March 29), which is being commemorated throughout the year by the NFL in recognition of Vietnam Veterans and their families.

Daryl received an invitation with about 30 Vietnam Veterans and guests for a breakfast with members of the Bears Management Team and several veteran





Daryl Rorabaugh TM2 (SS)

Bear players. The veterans were allowed to bring one guest. Accompanying Daryl for this celebration was his wife's brother-in-law, John Meyers.

The event started at 8:30 a.m. "We had a mini-tour of Halas Hall," Daryl explains, and they had the opportunity "to shoot the breeze" with former players like Jay Hilgenberg (of Super Bowl XX fame) and seven-time Pro Bowl player, and Jason McKie, whose father served with the Air Force for 21 years and was in the Pentagon at the time of the September 11 attacks.

Daryl explains that the attendees were mostly Marines with a few Army veterans. "But, there was only one 'Bubblehead' in attendance—ME!"

Before breakfast they were greeted via a video com by George Halas McCaskey, the current Chairman of Board for the Bears. George is the fourth CEO, following in the feet of his grandfather George Halas, his father Edward, and his brother Michael.

Members of the Bears Organization who were themselves veterans shared personal stories on "how they got to where they are today," Daryl states.

Besides good food, Daryl and the other veterans received a "swag" bag, which included a Bears blanket, hat, magnet and

(Continued on page 3)

Don't miss the life and times of Daryl Rorabaugh (TM2-22)



**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





#### November 6, 2021 -- Minutes of the USS Illinois Base



**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** at noon by Base CDR Mark Dykstra

13 Members present – Patrick O'Brien, Bruce Pickering, Mark Dykstra, Greg Miller, Phil Owens, Kep Preble, Tom Ramsay, Kate Ramsay, Roger Mekka, Victor Buchholz, Gary Walters, Jim Helsell, John Wankowski.

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

**Invocation** was given by Bruce Pickering.

Member/guest introductions: None.

**Recitation of the USSVI Creed** by CDR Dykstra.

**Tolling of Bells ceremony**: Phil Owens read the list of lost boats and tolled the bell.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Pat O'Brien asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the base newsletter. Motion was made by Phil Owens; seconded by Kep Preble. Motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bruce Pickering presented the monthly financial report. Phil Owens made a motion to accept the report; seconded by Kep Preble. Motion was approved

**Chaplain's Report:** None.

**Storekeeper's Report:** None.

**Kaps(ss) 4 Kids(ss) Report:** CDR Dykstra stated that there is still need for a volunteer to take over this Base activity.

#### **Unfinished business:**

• The Holiday Party will take place in January (date is TBD) in lieu of a January meeting. The venue will be Boundaries Bar and Grill in Beloit. The plan is to hold the party on a Saturday afternoon. Phil Owens will coordinate with Boundaries at 3807 S Riverside Dr, Beloit, Wis.

#### **New Business:**

• With respect to messages from National, CDR Dykstra offered: 1) Our National Chaplain has passed; 2) CDR to forward all information from National to our membership; 3) USSVI scholarships are open for applications; and 4) The National website is still "Flaky."

- Kate Ramsay reported the Donation Page on the Wisconsin Maritime Museum's website is now set up to allow automatic recurring donations for the USS Cobia Dry Dock fund.
- Gary Walters reported the **Submarine** Float would not be participating in the Milwaukee Veteran's Day parade. He explained several details with respect to space requirements for staging and display. He also explained man-power requirements for parades.
- Bruce Pickering advised the Culvers in Belvidere has a veteran's celebration every Spring. This could provide an opportunity to display the submarine.
- Kate Ramsay reported she will not submit a bill to the Base for the past three months for website hosting charges reflecting the outages she recently encountered.

**50-50 Raffle** was not held.

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

Next meeting will be held at Mustangs Bar and Grill, South Beloit IL on Dec. 4, 2021 at noon.

**Meeting adjourned** at 1245 p.m.



#### Treasurer's Note

It is time to pay your 2022
National & Base membership dues
by Dec. 31!

You can pay Treasurer Bruce Pickering at the December meeting, or mail it to his attention at 1702 Calumet Ave., Beloit, WI 53511.

National dues are \$25 a year and Base dues are \$10 a year. See USSVI Member Application on back page for multiple national dues options.

#### **Base Contacts**

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Editor/Webmaster Kate Ramsay kateram@jcwifi.com





# **Torpedoman Rorabaugh** *The story continues*



Tormedoman Daryl Rrabaugh, 1971.







On a very dark night while approaching a "sampan", the officer of the deck asked TM Kelly one of the gun crew, can you see the target?

Kelly replied: "Target, damned if can see the horizon."

--Submitted by Mike Walsh, U.S.S. Peto (SS265) (6th patrol, April 1944) (continued from page 1) other Bears products. They also were presented with a Vietnam War Era Veteran pin.

They had a drawing for a box seat at the next Bear's game, Daryl explains. "I needed to win that . . . but . . . didn't!" However, he did come home with some fun memories.

#### Daryl the 'Torpedoman'

Let's shift gear (or rudder, if you wish) for a few minutes and learn a little more about Illinois Base Member Daryl Rorabaugh.

He joined the Navy on October 1, 1970, from Wichita, Kan., and volunteered for submarine duty. Upon enlisting, he was sent to Boot Camp in sunny San Diego. He graduated from Boot Camp one week before Christmas, so he was able to go back home for a visit. His comment on coming home in late December: "It is COLD!"

Like many young men during the Vietnam Era, he received a draft number and was hoping for a big number. "I got a 2," he explains. With that fact in place, Daryl explains he had three choices: 1) Join the Army and go to Southeast Asia; 2) Go to Canada; or 3) Join the Navy to avoid Vietnam.

When he discussed his choices with his mother, "she said she would disown him if he went to Canada. And, she would have," he added. "My mother was English and lived through the bombings of London during WWII. It was simple, 'NO' Canada." The Navy seemed like the best choice for young Daryl.

Decision made, he headed to Sub School in New London, Conn. Upon completion he was sent to the USS Ulysses Grant (SS-631) on the Blue Crew. After "A" School the new Torpedoman was stationed aboard the Von Steuben (SS-632). He found sailing on the North Atlantic at best – rocky in rough "cold" water.

It was hard to stand up in rough seas at times, he explains, "You just hung on." One time the boat was taking 10-15% rolls at about 700 ft. below the surface. "We heard there was a Russian boat caught on the surface during this storm. How they made it, I don't know," he added.

When the ship was doing its "angles and dangles," he said, all you heard was the crashing of pans and plates, and the "cook" cussing loudly.

Before he left the Navy, he found himself in South Carolina on Shore Patrol for six months. He tells a story of the time a British ship came to port and a fist fight started between a British Petty Officer and others. "Once the fist fight started, every Paddy Wagon was called out," he recalls.

He also shares another memorable adventure when he had a lady in the back of the Paddy Wagon who was having a baby. "When I heard that, I put my foot to the pedal and drove fast to get help," he said. "She did have the baby in the back of the wagon, but I was able to find her a doctor and nurse who helped in the delivery."

Daryl was discharged from the Navy in April 1975. He and his wife, Mary, live in Loves Park, IL.





### Veterans Memorial Plaza Dedication - Byron, Illinois



We are the lucky ones as veterans and veteran family members. When Veterans Day comes near, we all personally understand the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform and the sacrifices of their families.

This year was no different but what made it a little more special was the invite USS Illinois Base members received to be part of Byron, Illinois' history in the dedication of their new Veteran's Memorial Plaza on November 22. The ceremony took place at 6 p.m. at the Byron Township Cemetery located at 405 E. 5th St.

We were guests of one of our newest USS Illinois Base members, Ret. CDR Steve Jones (SS). Representing our Base at the Byron ceremony were Dick Martin, and Tom and Kate Ramsay. We received a big welcome from CDR Jones and all the veterans at the event.



Dick Martin, left, had the honor of helping to post the American Flag as part of the ceremony.

"I appreciated that they raised separate military flags representing the Army, Marine Corp, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines," Tom Ramsay said "I smiled as they played each service song as their flag was raised. Dick Martin stepped in and helped raise the American Flag. "But what brought a few tears to my eyes was the raising of the POW-MIA flag with striking music. I want to thank the veterans, business owners, and residents, for such a wonderful ceremony," Tom added.

It was dark by the time the ceremony started, and lots of people were in attendance. "I want to go back in the daylight one day and share a picture of this plaza with my local Legion Post," Tom said.

He added they even had two Battle Cross memorials for two young Lance Corporals who died in battle during the Afghanistan War.

Everyone there agreed that the Memorial was WELL DONE!

CDR Steve Jones (ctr) greets other USS Illinois Base members: Tom Ramsay (Ift) and Kick Martin (rt).



### Get to know our new member

CDR Steve Jones (SS) is a retired submarine officer, who served from 1976 to 1996 in various capacities, including duty on four submarines. He started as a junior officer aboard the USS Lafayette (SSBN-616), as the weapons officer on the USS Phoenix (SSN-702) and was also a plankowner on that boat.

He then served aboard the USS Boston (SSN-703) as operations officer and navigator; and topping off his sea duty he served as executive officer on the USS Tennessee (SSBN-734).

During his 20 years of service, CDR Jones' shore duty consisted of schools, radiological controls officer in at the Naval Submarine Shore Facility in Groton, work with the Office of Naval Intelligence, and served as Area Coordinator N8 for Commander Submarine Group 10.

He retired from the Navy as a Commander in August 1996. Today, Steve and his wife, Annette, live in Byron, IL. He is the president of the Crossroads Blues Society, which Rockford residents may be familiar with from their Annual Blues Festivals and Blues Music Shows.

Welcome CDR Jones to the USS Illinois Base!







The Chairman and Board Members of the USSVI Charitable Fund Academic Scholarship Program announces that on Oct. 13, 2021 the 2022-2023 Academic Year Application Period and application website has opened.

The USSVCF Scholarship Procedure with eligibility and application requirements and specific actions is provided for distribution to all members and to their eligible children, grandchildren, and legal dependents.

This procedure is posted on the USSVI Website (Charitable Fund Documents/Scholarship Application page), and on The USSVCF Website (Under the "Funds" and "Application Down Tabs").

The student applicant must be related to and sponsored by a USSVI "SS" qualified regular member in Good Standing or, if not "SS" qualified, must in addition be a current regular member of Submarine Veterans of WWII. The student can be

the son or daughter, stepchildren, grandchildren, or a court appointed to a guardian of the sponsoring member. (Applicants must be unmarried and a high school senior or graduate under age 21, or a student under age 23 enrolled in a full-time course of study at an accredited institution of higher learning.)

Sponsors, Parents, and Applicants should read this procedure prior to registration of the applicant to ensure a smooth, accurate and successfully completed application. More information and the application can be found online at <a href="https://www.ussvc.nc">www.ussvc.nc</a>.

Questions or issues reaching the Application Document should be submitted to the Scholarship Chairman Robert E. Frick, by email or phone. His contact information is email: *refrickussvcf@gmail.com*; or phone (703)772-3304. Applications must be completed on or before May 15, 2022.

# S<sub>EA</sub> S<sub>TORIES</sub>

**Editor's Note**: I find it odd that Sub Sailors cannot remember even one funny story about their life on the boat. I need help if you enjoy reading this newsletter, so cough up some Sea Stories. I given you some ideas below: Email stories to **kateram@jcwifi.com**.



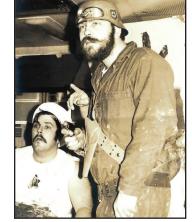


Holiday celebrations -- food / of lack there of?

Friends



calls?

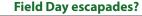


**Weird Navy traditions?** 

9 didn't do it! or, it wasn't me!

Funny shipmates

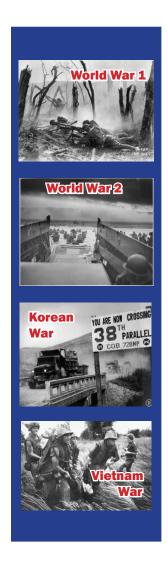






#### Do you remember?

### Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers



To find out more facts about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and its Honor Guard's customer, check out:

https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/71005/10-facts-about-tomb-unknown-soldier.

#### By Stacy Conradt--(mentalfloss.com)

On Veterans Day 1921, Pres. Warren G. Harding presided over the first interment ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery for an unknown soldier who died during World War I. Since then, three more soldiers have been added to the Tomb of Unknown Soldiers Memorial. Below, a few things you might not know (or remember) about this historic site.

## There were four candidates for the WWI Crypt.

To ensure a truly random selection, four unknown soldiers were exhumed from four different WWI American cemeteries in France. U.S. Army Sgt. Edward F. Younger, who was wounded in combat and received the Distinguished Service Medal, was chosen to select a soldier for burial at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington.

After the four identical caskets were lined up for his inspection, Younger chose the third casket from the left by placing a spray of white roses on it. The chosen soldier was transported to the U.S. on the USS Olympia, while the other three were reburied at Meuse Argonne American Cemetery in France.

## There were two candidates for the WWII Crypt.

One candidate served in the European Theater and the other in the Pacific Theater. The Navy's only active-duty Medal of Honor recipient, Hospitalman 1st Class William R. Charette, chose one of the identical caskets to go on to Arlington. The other was given a burial at sea.

### There were four candidates for Korean War Tomb

The soldiers were disinterred from the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii. This time, Army Master Sgt. Ned Lyle was the one to choose the casket. Along with the unknown soldier from WWII, the unknown Korean War soldier lay in the Capitol Rotunda from May 28 to May 30, 1958.

#### Vietnam War's unknown soldier selected on May 17, 1984

Medal of Honor recipient U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Allan Jay Kellogg, Jr., selected the Vietnam War representative during a ceremony at Pearl Harbor.

However, this Vietnam Veteran wasn't unknown for long. Thanks to advanced DNA testing, he was later identified. On May 14, 1998, his remains were exhumed and tested, reveling the "unknown" soldier to be Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie. He was shot down near An Loc, Vietnam in 1972. His family moved him to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis.

Instead of adding another unknown soldier to the Vietnam War crypt, the crypt cover has been replaced with one bearing the inscription, "Honoring and Keeping Faith with America's Missing Servicemen, 1958-1975."

## Guards do not wear their rank while on Honor Duty

Service members wear an insignia on their uniforms denoting their rank—but, not the Tomb Guards. Since the identities and ranks of the soldiers within in the tomb are not known, the guards don't wear their insignia to avoid potentially outranking the soldiers they're watching over.









Tidbits of Knowledge from around the world

A Bit of History on right



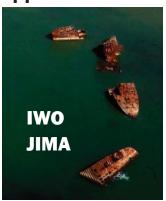
## Navy christens USS New Jersey

USNI News - On Nov. 13, 2021, the nuclear attack boat "New Jersey (SSN-796)" was christened at Newport News.

Due to the impact on the workforce during the pandemic the shipyards made some prioritization decisions to focus on those "vessels that were closest to delivery," Jason Ward, Hunting Ingalls Industries VP of Virginia-class submarine construction," told USNI News.

Builders Newport News and General Dynamics Electric Boat each build components of the Virginia-class submarines and barge the sections to each other's yard for final assembly.

# Ghost ships appear



Stars and Strips — Recent volcanic activity beneath Iwo Jima, site of a defining World War II battle between American and Japanese forces, is pushing up sunken naval vessels to the surface.

"Two dozen World War II-era ships in the waters just off the island's black-sand beaches were photographed from above last month," according to the All-Nippon News Network. "Although ships have resurfaced before, these new photos has brought "fresh attention to the ghost fleet."

There are questions as to the ownership of the ships. The U.S. Navy sank some ships off shore to create a breakwater to shield an artificial harbor for other vessels to unload troops and supplies.

Other reports noted the Imperial Japan sank vessels for the same purpose "prior to the cataclysmic battle in February-March 1945."

# China now has largest Navy

USNI.ORG -- A new US Defense Department report Inoted that China now has the world's largest Navy "with 355 ships and counting." In the next few years this number is expected to reach 460 ships.

The 355 estimation accounts for "major surface combatants, submarines, aircraft carriers, ocean-going amphibious ships, mine warfare ships, and fleet auxiliaries," according to the report.

The report, which is mandated by Congress each year, describes China's navy as having growing ambitions to operate with more versatile platforms beyond the Indo-Pacific region.

The People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) throughout 2020, "continued to pursue its ambitious modernization objectives, refine major organizational reforms, and improve its combat readiness in line with those goals," the report reads. "This includes developing capabilities to conduct joint long-range precision strikes, increasingly sophisticated space, counterspace, and cyber capabilities, and accelerating the large-scale expansion of its nuclear forces."





## 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 November 16, 1943 on her 1st war patrol when sunk just south of Truk Island (an atoll hosting a massive Japanese naval and air base) from torpedoes from a Japanese submarine. Loss of 82 crew.

USS Sculpin (SS-191) lost on November 19, 1943 north of Groluk 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 compro-mised under torture—he was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. 41 officers and men were taken prisoner; only 21 survived the war.

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

USS Growler (SS-215) lost on November 8, 1944 on her 12th war patrol when sunk while attacking a convoy in the South China Sea. Loss of 85 crew.

USS Scamp (SS-277) lost on November 16, 1944 on her 8th war patrol. when it was sunk off Inubo Saki near Tokyo Bay. She may have been damaged by a mine prior to her loss, since she was trailing oil. This leak helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate her and destroy her with depth charges. Loss of 83 crew.



"I will no longer allow the negative things in my life spoil all the good things I have. I choose to be happy."







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, December 4, 2021

Time: Noon

**Location: Mustang Bar & Grill** 

482 Gardner St. • South Beloit, Illinois

www.ussillinoisbase.org





### Share this application with a fellow submariner!



#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular Life Associa

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  (Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)					_ in (Yr)	
□ I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in (Yr)						
ame: (Print /Type) Address:						
City:	State:	Zip Code:		Tel: ()		
Signature:				Date:		
Your E-Mail Address	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 fall 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 196 □ Check if you have been awarded Submarines and ships serv	s within an 64, thru Ma an Expedi	y of these tim y 7, 1975; and tionary Medal	e periods: Dec 7, d from August 2,	, 1941, thru Dec 3 <sup>,</sup> 1990 to date.	1, 1946; June 27,	
1	Hull#		Rank/Rate	From Yr	to Yr	
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5	Hull#		Rank/Rate	From Yr	_ to Yr	
Next of Kin: Name: Relationship: (Spouse, Partner, Son, Dau, Parent, Other)						
			e: Zip: same as your home			

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



