

RIDING THE VENTS

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 and it's Constitution.

USSVI Tang Base News Letter

NEWS LETTER FOR MARCH 2025

Monthly news letter to keep base members, families and friends informed of the activities and events of the Tampa Bay, Tang Base. And most importantly to perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties aboard U.S Navy Submarines.



Visit our Website at:

[Tang Base Tampa Bay](#)

Visit our YouTube channel at :

[\(367\) Tang Base Tampa Bay - YouTube](#)

TANG BASE Meeting at Post #7

Tang Base meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month except April, May, October & December at
American Legion Post #7
1760 Turner St
Clearwater FL 33756



Next Meeting March 15th 2025

Monthly Meeting
American Legion Post #7
1760 Turner St,
Clearwater, FL 33756
Social time 11AM,
Meal 11:30AM
Meeting Starts at 12:00PM



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**In the Beginning, God Created Submariners
Submariners Created Submarines And Submariners Created the Brotherhood**

Lost Boats for March

Name of Submarine	Approximate Date of Loss	Number of Men Lost
<u>PERCH (SS-176)</u>	3-Mar-42	6
<u>GRAMPUS (SS-207)</u>	5-Mar-43	71
<u>H-1 (SS-28) (ex-Seawolf)</u>	12-Mar-20	4
<u>TRITON (SS-201)</u>	15-Mar-43	74
<u>KETE (SS-369)</u>	20-Mar-45	87
<u>F-4 (SS-23) (ex-Skate)</u>	25-Mar-15	21
<u>TULLIBEE (SS-284)</u>	26-Mar-44	79
<u>TRIGGER (SS-237)</u>	28-Mar-45	89

Sailors, Rest your Oars

Lord, these departed shipmates with Dolphins on their chests are part of an outfit known as the best. Make them welcome and take them by the hand you'll find without a doubt they were the best in all the land. So, Heavenly Father add these names to the roll of our departed shipmates on patrol. Let them know that we who survive will always keep their memory alive; and also, for all our shipmates currently serving and those of us still here and for all our futures

The Binnacle list, is any of our Shipmates, Families or Friends that could use a little help with good thoughts or prayer. Please Keep the Tang Base Chaplain and POC Updated for those that desire to have cards sent

**Base Chaplain : Joel Grainger,
(813)713-1587 , landman.grainger@gmail.com**

Prayer for our brothers and friends in need.

**Heavenly Father, we are so helpless, We care so much for our brothers and friends, They are special to all of us, It hurts us to see them suffering.
And while we cannot be with them Lord, You be with them please.
Be with those who attend them. Comfort those who love them and need them, As well as those who must wait.. Amen, William Ogburn, Chaplain Emeritus, Tang Base of USSVI**

Tang Base Wardroom

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Tang Base Website & Facebook

Website: [Tang Base Tampa Bay](#)

Facebook: [\(2\) Tang Base | Facebook](#)



Command Corner
By Commander Mike Cailor
and Vice Commander Robert Brady



From Your Librarian.

Nazi submarine U480 was the first stealth submarine. The hull was coated in rubber to elude allied ASDIC and sonar and did have some success in alluding the allies. She was sunk between 29 January and 20 February in a minefield in the English Channel with the loss of all 48 crew members. Until next month, see you around the library.

Dave Farrugia, Past Commander, National Secretary, and still your Librarian



Up Coming Events

**March 15th, 2025. March Monthly Meeting
Meet at American Legion Post #7 at 12 PM**

**April 19th, 2024. Annual Memorial Service
Hillsborough Veterans Memorial Park**

**May 17th, 2025. Spring Picnic
Constitution Park, Redington Shores FL.**

**June 21st , 2025. June Monthly Meeting
Meet at American Legion Post #7 at 12 PM**

**July 19th, 2025. July Monthly Meeting
Meet at American Legion Post #7 at 12 PM**

**August 16th, 2025. August Monthly Meeting
Meet at American Legion Post #7 at 12 PM**



March Birthdays

Thomas W. Sommer	3/1
Bill Strand JR.	3/16
Nickolas Fabrello	3/17
Richard W.Geyer	3/19



Traveling Dolphins



Happy Birthday

'Riding the Vents' is the monthly publication of Tang Base. The Editor is often guilty of plagiarizing anything he reads that he likes. Please also feel free to copy anything you like, but if he gets into trouble, so will you. If you would like to have a copy of this or any other issue emailed to a friend or to a potential new member, please contact the editor at spar-nonjagang@gmail.com



USS Tang (SS-306) was commissioned on 15 October 1943 at the Mare Island Navy Yard with Lieutenant Commander Richard H. O'Kane in command. On the boat's first war patrol, which began 22 January 1944, she was credited with sinking five enemy ships scoring hits on 16 of the submarine's 24 deployed torpedoes. On Tang's second war patrol, the boat did not have any contact with enemy vessels, but while on lifeguard duty near Truk, rescued 22 downed aviators.

Her third war patrol was one of the most devastating American submarine deployments carried out against Japanese shipping during World War II. In one day, on 24 June 1944, Tang was credited with sinking Japanese vessels Tamahoko Maru, Tainan Maru, Nansan Maru, and Kennichi Maru. Over the course of the war patrol, she sank 39,160 tons of enemy shipping. Tang's fourth war patrol was conducted in Japanese home waters off the coast of Honshu. On 11 August, Tang located two enemy freighters and two escorts. The submarine launched three torpedoes at the larger freighter and two at another ship. The larger freighter exploded after one of the torpedoes hit her boilers. After launching the attack, Tang went deep, and after 38 minutes of depth charges, resurfaced to periscope level. Two escorts were in sight, one was rescuing survivors. On 14 August, Tang sank a Japanese patrol yacht and eight days later sank a 225-foot patrol boat. On 23 August, Tang spotted a large enemy ship on which Japanese in white uniforms could be seen on its superstructure and bridge. Tang fired three torpedoes at the ship scoring hits on two of the torpedoes. The hits sent the 8,135-ton transport Tsukushi Maru to its watery grave. The submarine concluded the war patrol two days later sinking an enemy tanker and an escort.

After refit and overhaul at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Tang headed out for her fifth and final war patrol. On the night of 10–11 October, the boat sank cargo ships Joshu Go and Oita Maru, and then on the evening of 23–24 October, Tang made contact with a large Leyte-bound convoy consisting of three tankers, a transport, a freighter, and numerous escorts. Tang broke into the formation firing a barrage of torpedoes. Soon the targets were either on fire or sinking. As Tang prepared to fire at a tanker, a transport was spotted bearing down on her in an attempt to ram the submarine. Tang had no room to dive, so she whipped around causing the transport to swing to avoid hitting another tanker that was also trying to ram Tang, but the enemy vessels collided. Shortly thereafter, Tang fired four torpedoes into the tanker sending it to the ocean's floor. With escorts and a destroyer closing in, the submarine made way to the open ocean. When Tang was about 6,000 yards from the convoy, another huge explosion occurred sending yet another enemy vessel below the waves.

The following morning, Tang began patrolling at periscope level heading for Turnabout Island. Upon approaching the island, the ship's radar identified a multitude of blips representing a massive enemy convoy. Tang chose its first targets—a large three-deck transport, a smaller transport, and a large tanker—then fired torpedoes at each target. She then launched more torpedoes at another transport and tanker. As Tang tried to escape the subsequent enemy gunfire, an enemy destroyer headed for the submarine. The tanker blew up and the transport was hit. A few seconds later, the destroyer that was pursuing Tang blew up as well either from friendly fire or from one of the submarine's torpedoes. With its last two torpedoes, Tang made way to the stricken transport to finish it off. The first deployed torpedo was observed heading straight for the transport, but the second surfaced and curved to the left in a circular run heading straight for Tang. The submarine fishtailed in an attempt to avoid the rogue torpedo, but 20 seconds later, it hit Tang's torpedo room sinking the boat. Only nine of the crew, including the commanding officer, survived the incident. A Japanese destroyer picked up Tang's survivors the next morning. They spent the remainder of the war in prison camps.

Tang received four battle stars and two Presidential Unit Citations for service during World War II. Lieutenant Commander Richard H. O'Kane, the submarine's legendary commanding officer, received the Medal of Honor for Tang's final, heroic actions.





IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:

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NEW LOCATION FOR OUR MUSUEM

ST. MARYS, Ga., (04 March 2025) – On behalf of the Board of Directors of the St. Marys Submarine Museum itis my exciting duty to announce a new agreement between the City of St. Marys and the Museum’s Board of Directors to move the museum to a new location in the center of St. Marys. We have been operating in our current location in what was the old St. Marys Movie Theater, built in 1911, since 30 March 1996 when WWII Submarine Hero and Medal of Honor recipient RADM Eugene Fluckey christened and opened the Museum as our Guest Speaker. We have outgrown our current location, and this opportunity could not come at a better time for us. Our thanks to the city leadership including former Mayor John Morrissey, current Mayor Greg Lockhart and the City Council for approving this agreement during their March 3rd City Council Meeting.

A big shout out as well to City Manager Robby Horton, City Attorney Steven Blackerby as well as our Museum Board President Tom Lackner and our Board Member Allan Giese who took the lead in developing the agreement and Attorney Steven Kinney for his advice and insight in getting us to where we are with this agreement. The City of St. Marys purchased the abandoned Express Scripts Facility (formerly the old Wal-Mart) in the center of town to move the current City Hall complex and offices, as well as the St. Marys Senior Center. Part of the complex is a warehouse area, and the City of St. Marys is providing us with approximately 9000 square feet of space in that area. This is more than double the space in our current location. This new facility offers us the opportunity to build it out how we want it, repackage and re-display artifacts that we have currently have both on display and in storage, as well as planning for the future. This new location also has lots and lots of parking available, will be all on one floor, and close to both the Navy Base and Interstate 95. As of today, the Museum’s BOD has contracted with Larry L. Bryson, Architect, P.C. in Brunswick Georgia for architectural services in designing the floor plan and guidance in the construction and build-out of the new facility. We look for to this great partnership in the months ahead! We will soon be kicking off a capital campaign to build out and open the new facility and we look forward to your support! We thank everyone for their past patronage and commitment to the current Museum location, especially our original plankowners. We look forward to a great future ahead and we know we will be successful with the support of our members, visitors, friends and both current and former submariners. Stay tuned for many opportunities to support our fundraising efforts for the NEW Museum Building!!



CHARLESTON SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY BALL



125th Submarine Birthday Ball

Saturday, April 5th, 2025

Trident Technical College – College Center Ballroom

Doors open @ 1700, Ceremony @ 1800,

Dinner and Dancing @1900

Tickets:

≤ E-6 and SubVets \$70, E-7 to E-8 and O-1 to O-3 \$80, E-9 and ≥O-4 \$90

Open Bar available from 1700-2300 with purchase of \$20 wristband

Available on [EventBrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) 2025 Charleston Submarine Birthday Ball

Dress Code:

Military: Service Dress Blues or Whites and above.

Civilian: Formal Attire.



Base Vice —
Commanders Welcome



Chaplain



Cob and Klaxon



Binnicle List Update



Pledge of Allegiance



Moment of Silence





50/50 Raffle Winner



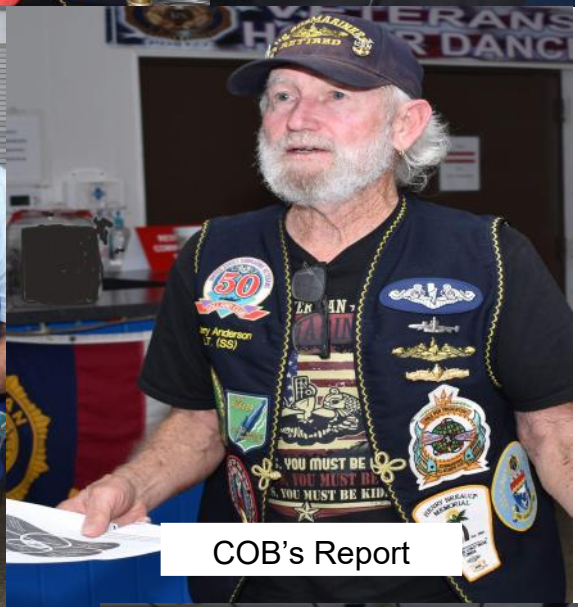
Raffle Ticket Sales



Guest Speaker



Tolling of the Boats



COB's Report



Socializing



TANG BASE BOOSTERS

2023		2024	
Sally Key	Special fund in Memory of Charlie Key	Bob Sommer	Special fund
Bob Sommer	Model Storage, Special Fund	Bob Brady	Special fund
John Poyer	Special fund	Bob Backmen	Special fund
Ken Burtner	USS Rock Fish SS274, Special Fund	Neil Kimes	Special fund
Pauline Burtner	In Memory of	Mike Cailor	Special fund
Robert Westfall	Special Fund		
William Brown	Special Fund		
Jim Franz	Special Fund		
AL Aumack	Model Storage		
Bill Ogburn	Kaps 4 Kids, Port St Lucie Memorial , Picnic Donation		
Jerry Lee Edwards	Special Fund		
Bob Brady	USS Dace SSN 607, Special Fund		
Bernice Brady	Friend of Tang Base		
Al Ryback	USS Cavalla SSN-684		
Colleen Rybak	Friend of Tang Base		
Jerry Anderson	Special Fund		
Anneta Krauss	Special Fund		
Debbie Vingin	Associate Member		
William Vingin	Associate Member		
Dan Craw	Kaps 4 Kids		
Bill Ogburn	Christmas Luncheon Donation		
James Schiebrell	Special Fund		
Anneta Kraus	Kaps 4 Kids		



Contributions Gratefully Accepted

Make your check out to 'USSVI Tang Base' and mail to:

Neil A. Kimes

1373 Curtis Drive E

Clearwater, FL 33764



Tang Base on Eternal Patrol - Sailors, Rest Your Oars

Robert Sheets USS Odax SS-484 5/10/1995	Dean Steinmetz USS Sea Owl SS-405 8/16/1997	Larry B. Moody USS Chopper SS-342 1/13/1998	Karl Hermann USS Odax SS-484 12/5/1999	Edward Wilson USS S-10 SS-115 1/12/2000	George Rocek USS Sculpin SS-191 Unknown
Joseph J. Lilienfeld USS Sailfish SS-192 8/8/2000	Werner Fridman USS Cavalla SSK-244 10/20/2000	Edgar A. Chase USS S-7 SS-132 10/24/2000	Rudy Burkett USS Flyingfish SS-229 5/15/2001	Doyle Rowell USS Pickerel SS-524 6/1/2002	John McNelis USS Spot SS-413 Unknown
John Scott Sr. USS Halfbeak SS-352 6/29/2002	Dean Brooks USS Rasher SS-269 8/19/2002	Donald Dubendorfer USS S-14 SS-119 9/6/2002	Clayton S. Scisco USS Crevalle SS-291 11/19/2002	Clifford Perry USS Bergall SS-320 5/15/2003	Joe Anderson USS S-11 SS-116 9/21/2003
John A. Burke USS Argonaut SS-166 1/31/2004	Norbert E. Ayres USS Diablo SS-479 2/18/2004	John Buczek N/A 4/10/2004	Robert Warnock USS Barracuda SS-163 8/3/2004	Gerhard R. Richter U-81 10/19/2005	Richard Hogan USS Baya SS-318 12/13/2005
Ernest Van Deventer USS Pompon SS-267 1/11/2006	Lester J Seaver USS Runner SS-476 4/13/2006	James L. Monte USS Sea Devil SS-400 4/19/2006	Robert H. "Bob" Collins USS Cavalla SS-244 7/1/2006	Donald L. Powell USS Cubera SS-347 7/21/2006	William J. Mayer USS Pomfret SS-391 11/17/2006
John P. Kulik USS Bowfin SS-287 11/29/2006	Mark A. Kohlhof USS Cod SS-224 12/30/2006	John H. Morrissey USS Sturgeon SS-187 1/15/2007	Thomas Harrow USS Argonaut SS-475 3/29/2007	Leon Marion USS Quillback SS-424 6/26/2007	Nickolas Manolas USS Grampus SS-523 10/21/2007
Robert W. Rose USS Pike SS-173 11/19/2007	Michael Porter USS Grouper SSK-214 12/3/2007	Arthur F. Hunsberger USS Conger SS-477 7/23/2008	James F. Rankin USS R-15 SS-92 10/15/2008	Charles Anderson USS Dolphin SS-169 10/18/2008	James Foley USS R-13 SS-90 10/22/2008
Donald C. Birch N/A 11/2/2008	Joseph A. Sabol USS Raton SS-270 11/3/2008	Grant Besser USS Requin SS-481 12/5/2008	Benjamin C. Davis USS Sea Dragon SSN-584 12/8/2008	Ostigio F. Carbonari USS Pogy SS-266 7/10/2009	Francis J. Higham USS S-12 SS-117 8/16/2009
Joseph Milner, USS Aspro SS-309 9/13/2009	Theodore McAnly USS Scabbardfish SS-397 10/22/2009	Thomas B. Dabney USS Plunger SS-179 5/21/2010	Harry Flagg USS Hoe SS-258 7/19/2010	Henry Kaskey USS Capelin SS-289 1/2/2011	James D. Tobin USS Steelhead SS-280 2/19/2011
Frank P. Dell USS Cachalot SS-170 4/3/2011	Archibald Warnock USS S-20 SS-125 5/31/2011	Robert Flaherty USS Torsk SS-423 7/30/2011	J. Read Gwyer USS Bluegill SS-242 2/2/2012	Howard Stein USS Becuna SS-319 4/30/2012	Harry Peché USS Lamprey S-372 6/2/2012
John Romeo USS Sea Poacher SS-406 5/30/2012	Rowland Brown USS Quillback SS424 8/12/2012	Charles W. Brink USS Icefish SS-367 10/27/2012	Gerhard Bultmann USS Chivo SS-241 12/16/2012	James W. Eubanks USS Drum SS-228 2/24/2013	Charles F. Miles, Jr. USS Bang SS-385 3/19/2013
Emmett D. Miller USS Pomfret SS-391 4/16/2013	Charles W. Crawford USS Raton SS-270 4/18/2013	Edward H. Frank USS Hoe SS-258 5/22/2013	Patrick J. McGee USS Threadfin SS-410 10/2/2013	Huie Thomas Dickey USS Trumpetfish SS-425 10/14/2013	Charles W. Boisvert USS O-6 SS-67 2/3/2014
Donald L. McCurley USS Sablefish SS-303 5/8/2014	Edgar W. Nordyke USS Croaker SS-246 5/24/2014	Robert Sundmaker USS Diablo SS-479 11/10/2014	Donald Van Dorn USS Barracuda SS-163 3/1/2015	Warren P. Johnson USS Sabalo SS-302 3/9/2015	Raymond C. Aldrich USS Irex SS-485 9/19/2015
Albert J. Dempster USS S-43 SS-154 10/2/2015	Robert E. Chambers USS Trigger SS-564 4/6/2016	James H. McCullough USS Sirago SS-485 8/13/2016	Claude (Wes) Gallaher USS Dragonet SS-293 11/26/2016	Albert Frederick Cabana USS Sea Cat SS-399 1/24/2017	John Benedict Gant- nier USS Por- poise SS-172 5/1/2017
Walter Ragan USS Grampus (SS-523) 12/10/2017	Richard "Dick" F. Mohl USS Aspro (SS-309) 1/29/2018	Douglas DeWitt USS Scorpion (SSN-589) 4/7/2018	Robert Gruschow USS Tirante (SS-420) 5/12/2012	Michael R. Jacqmin USS Sam Houston (SSBN-609) 8/25/2018	Robert C. Readell USS O-10 (SS-71) 10/9/2018
Charles T. Key USS Chopper (SS-342) 1/17/2019	Thomas "Tom" R. Rostan USS Abraham Lincoln SSBN 602 11/18/2019	James H. Sills USS Sea Fox SS 402 12/13/2019	John D. Fink USS Tigron SS 419 4/11/2020	James J. Schmidt USS Thomas Jefferson (SSBN 618) 9/11/2020	Edward R. White USS Bugara SS 331 11/15/2020
John E. Harrison USS Tilefish SS 307 2/1/2021	Charles "Charlie" E. Bond USS Spikefish SS 404 2/8/2021	Raymond J. Dennis USS Sealion SS 315 5/15/2021	C. Frank Wreath USS Quillback SS 424 8/2/2021	Leonard D. Greenwood USS Growler SS 215 11/23/2021	Allen C. Holt USS Tambor SS198 12/8/2021
Roland Creaser USS Grayback SSG 574 1/28/2022	Donald Edwards USS Jallao SS-368 6/1/2022	Vincent J San Filippo USS Theodore Roosevelt SSBN 600 USS John Marshall SSBN 611 11/9/2022	Leland B. Holmes Associ- ate Member 11/8/2022	William Gordon Hill USS Bonefish SS-223 Jan 1, 2023	Edwin W Thompson JR. USS Sea Poach- er 12/20/2022

Tang Base on Eternal Patrol - Sailors, Rest Your Oars

Ronald E. Clauson USS Blenny (SS-324) 6/12/2023	Ronald William Rivard 8/24/2023	William W. Strand USS Barracuda SSK-1/SST-3 1/11/2024	Eugene Ray Girtman USS Skate (SSN-578) May 22, 2024	Edward R Gaurich USS Requin SS/SSR/AGSS- 481 July 1, 2024	Dennis Zipay USS Nathan Hale SSBN-623 March 10, 2024
Phillip Edward Beals Sr. USS Bang (SS 385) 7/8/2024					



Prayer for our Departed Shipmates

Almighty God, our heavenly father, who art our refuge and strength and a very present help in times of trouble. Help us at this time to put our trust in thee, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to see us through our times of sorrow.

We thank thee for the life and love, of our shipmates and we ask that the work they started here on this earth be carried in the hearts and hands of their family and friends. They leave more than just memories.

Help us to go our way bravely. Even though alone and to do our tasks faithfully day-by-day. Make our true love and brotherhood be a constant inspiration to our lives and may their memory live on through us. Grant us peace and strength for the battle of life while it lasts, and rest at the close of day, when work is done.

Father, when we too are tired, and would prepare ourselves to slip beneath the final wave. Grant that we may let loose the moorings and sink slowly into the deep waters trusting like them, to wake with thee.

We commend into your hands of mercy, most merciful father, the souls of our departed shipmates may they be found acceptable in your sight.

They now sail under your orders on their eternal patrol, Shipmates rest your oars, Amen

US Navy News

Note: Whether it's health care, retirement benefits, family support and child care, VA benefits or other programs, getting smart about the rewards you have earned is worth your time. Although it is not yet clear to what extent federal cuts will affect DOD programs — including quality-of-life initiatives — these benefits were in place as of this writing.

[Visit this page for all of our latest coverage surrounding military and veteran pay and benefits.](#)

All service members entering the military are automatically enrolled in the Blended Retirement System, or BRS. Only those who served before 2018 remain in the legacy, all-or-nothing 20-year pension plan.

BRS combines the traditional monthly retirement checks of the legacy system with new features that let military members take some government benefits with them, even if they don't serve for 20 years to qualify for a pension. Historically, only 19% of active duty troops and 14% of Guardsmen and reservists in the legacy system stayed in uniform long enough to earn retirement benefits.

More than 400,000 eligible service members opted into the new BRS in 2018, out of the 1.6 million current active duty and Reserve troops who were eligible to choose between the legacy system and the new option.

Whether opting into the BRS or automatically enrolled, it's important to pay attention to the key elements of the BRS — a critical part of your financial future.

Retirement pay

Under the BRS, you'll get the traditional monthly retirement pay for life if you serve for at least 20 years to earn a full retirement from the military. But monthly payments under the BRS are 20% smaller than in the legacy system.

For BRS participants who retire after 20 years of active duty service, retirement pay is tallied by averaging the 36 highest months of active duty pay received while in uniform, then calculating 40% of that average.

That percentage increases by 2% for each additional year of service. (The legacy benefit provided 50% of the highest 36 months of pay.)

Thrift Savings Plan

The Thrift Savings Plan, or TSP, is like a private-sector 401(k) retirement savings account. The government began matching user contributions in 2018. While troops always have ownership of the money they put toward a TSP, they can't access the funds contributed by DOD until they've served for at least two years.

Here's how it works: A TSP account will be created after you have served for 60 days, and 3% of your basic pay is automatically deducted from each paycheck to fund it. You can change that amount, but by law, you will be reenrolled at 3% each year.

The Defense Department will automatically match 1% of that base pay, but can kick in as much as 5%. To make the most of your benefits, make sure you're contributing at least 5% to your TSP to get the matching federal contribution of 5% as well. Why turn down free money?

If preferred, troops can contribute more than 5%, up to a limit of \$23,000 in tax year 2024. For those with civilian retirement accounts such as a 401(k), as well as a TSP, contribution limits apply to the combined amounts.

Continuation pay

When troops hit 12 years of service, they qualify for another source of money: Continuation pay.

To receive that one-time payout, which is similar to a retention bonus, a person must commit to stay in their service branch for four more years.

Here's what that means for active duty, Guard and reserve troops in each service in 2025:



VA Information

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today it has processed more than a million disability claims in Fiscal Year 2025, reaching the milestone nearly two weeks faster than it did in FY24.

Despite receiving 15.6% more claims than last year, the department completed its one millionth FY25 claim Feb. 20 — faster than at any point in the department's history.

In fact, the 10 highest claims processing days in VA's history occurred within the last month, and the department's highest claims processing day ever was Feb. 12, when VA processed more than 12,000 claims.

Of the more than one million claims VA has processed in FY25, over 60% were granted.

Through January, VA has provided \$62 billion in compensation and pension benefit payments to 6.9 million Veterans and survivors. VA's claims accuracy rate has risen to more than 92%. To date, VA has completed 375,961 PACT claims in FY25.

“Under the leadership of President Trump, we are strengthening the department so it works better for Veterans, families, caregivers and survivors,” said VA Secretary Doug Collins. “VA's claims processing productivity is the highest it has ever been, and we look forward to continuing to provide record levels of service to Veterans and VA beneficiaries.”

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced today it will complete deployment of the Federal Electronic Health Record system at nine additional medical facilities, bringing the total to go live in 2026 to 13, with complete deployment of the EHR at all VA medical facilities as early as 2031.

Today's announcement follows [December 2024 news](#) that four VA sites in Michigan would go live in 2026. The nine additional VA facilities will be announced later this year following planning sessions among officials from VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization Office, regional and local VA medical leaders, VA clinicians, and EHR vendor Oracle Health.

The Federal EHR system seamlessly manages data exchange between VA and the Department of Defense, improving customer service and convenience for VA and DOD patients.

“America's Veterans deserve a medical records system that's integrated across all VA and DOD components, and that is exactly what we will deliver. We can and will move faster on this important priority. But we're going to listen to our doctors, nurses and vendor partners along the way in order to ensure patient safety, quality and customer service,” said **VA Secretary Doug Collins**.

VA is pursuing a market-based approach to site selection for its deployments going forward. This will enable the department to scale up the number of concurrent deployments, while also enabling staff to work as efficiently as possible.

VA will adopt a standard baseline of products, workflows, and integrations aligned with subject-matter-expert recommendations. The standardized national baseline will ensure successful Federal EHR implementation, accelerate deployments, simplify decision-making, and support future optimizations.

For more information about VA's overall EHR modernization effort, see [here](#).



Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation Newsletter February 2025

Shipmates! This month we welcome our two newest Ambassadors: Leah Torino, Tri-State Base and Frank Espinosa, Central Texas Base. Welcome aboard! Now the news.

Brotherhood Fund

As we move through another season weather continues to dominate and overwhelm many of us. From freezing, to wildfires, ice and snow, the Brotherhood Fund (BHF) is standing by, ready to assist any shipmate. I have been in contact with shipmates still recovering from Hurricanes Helene and Milton and they know that when they reach the point in their reconstruction efforts that they need our assistance, we are standing by and ready to go on helping. Thanks to all of you for your generous donations so far.

There are currently many areas of the country in need of some form of relief and it is a very daunting task to understand the exact geographical areas that are affected. I am asking all District and Base Commanders to stay as up to date as possible with what is happening in your areas and to stay in contact with our members. We need all eyes on these issues to ensure we can serve you as best we can. Remember, we are all in this together :ONE SHIP ONE CREW. Call-A-Buddy! if you know of a USSVI member who needs assistance, we have established a Home Depot Voucher Program to provide appliances that may have been damaged by storms and need to be replaced; please tell them about this program and have them contact me, Mike Ferranti, at brotherhood @ussvcf.org or call me at 407-45-2154.

Kaps 4 Kids

John Riley appreciates all members efforts related to K4K. To read his recent letter to all Base Commanders click on <https://www.ussvcf.org/k4k-letter.html>

Legacy Funds

See the January newsletter, if you missed it it's on our website.

Monuments and Memorials

Does your Base maintain a Submarine Memorial? If so, please send us a picture or two of your memorial(s) along with some basic information such as: address of the memorial, when built (if known), etc. We are building a directory of the Submarine Memorials and a lot of the information on the old website is out of date or has low-res photos. Please email your photos (preferably the highest res you can provide) along with any relevant information to Don Young, Memorials Fund Manager at: memorials@ussvcf.org.

Scholarship News

Since 2000, The USSVCF Academic Scholarship Program has been providing educational assistance to children, grandchildren and legal dependents of USSVI members across the nation. The 2025-26 Scholarship application window launched 31 October 2024, and applications are being accepted until 20 May 2025.

To date, more than 210 applications have been received and are in review. Applicants enrolled in trade, technical, career education and apprenticeship programs at accredited institutions are also eligible to apply. Age is not a limiting factor. (Just take a look at www.mikeroweworks.org on line to see the extent of available technical jobs!)

To register, go to bit.ly/ussvcf-scholarship2025. Only the student applicant may register and apply using their email address.

Expanding Our Reach

Last month we broached the subject (broached, I guess old habits die hard) of adopting a Charitable Foundation mascot. So far we have received mascot ideas from 7 of our members. They include: "CPO Sharky", "Charity Charlie", a tortoise, "Garbo the puppy" (after the famous dog who rode USS Gar during WWII), "Flipper", "Willie the Whale and Penny the Porpoise" (dual submissions by Mrs. Owen McCoy) and "Salty the Dolphin". We want to hear from you before we decide which way to go, and we're upping the ante on the reward. Not only will I buy the winner a drink during the Orlando Convention, but we'll also include a free submarine commemorative coin. It's our copyrighted design, celebrating the 250th anniversary of our Navy on the front side and the 125th anniversary of submarines on the reverse. See it at: <https://www.ussvcf.org/commemorative-coin.html> .We'll be offering them via our website soon. The coin is the brainchild of Bob MacPherson and the work of Barry Commons, our National Storekeeping whiz. One last thing. We are looking for submarine-related items for the silent auction we will have as part of our presence at the Orlando convention. Memorabilia of any type objects or documents (including that old qual card that showed you were Dink for the first few weeks of your first patrol aboard USS Usetafish) are fine.

George Palmer

Vice-President & Executive Director

USSV Charitable Foundation

vp-ed@ussvcf.org

www.ussvcf.org



USS Tang plaque at the NTC Park Submarine Memorial Point Loma at what was on the Grinder at RTC San Diego



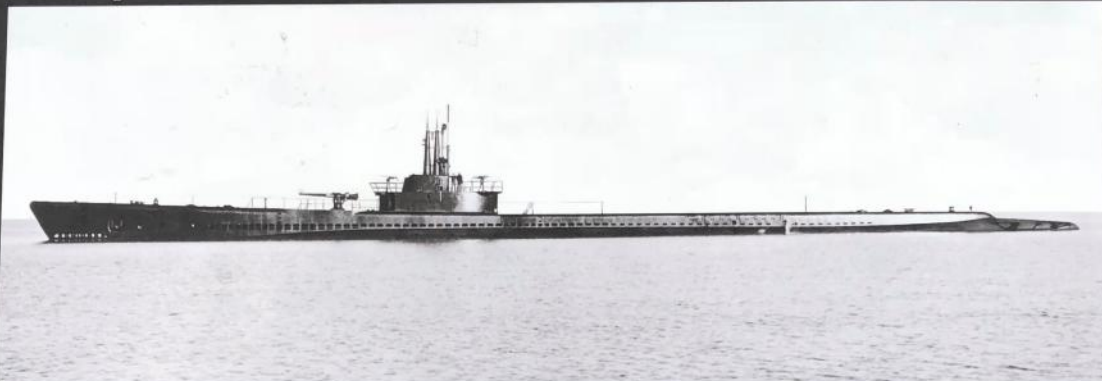
Launched
17 August 1943

USS TANG (SS-306)

CDR R. H. O'KANE, USN, COMMANDING OFFICER



Lost
24 October 1944



The exploits of *Tang* are legendary in submarine history. Under the bold leadership of CDR Richard H. O'Kane, *Tang* executed five brilliant patrols, sinking 24 ships for a total of 93,824 tons. *Tang's* rescue of 22 downed naval pilots off Truk Lagoon during her second war patrol made headlines and proved the value of submarine life guard duty. It was not the enemy but fate that finally ended *Tang's* career. Patrolling the Formosa Straits, *Tang* had already sunk seven enemy ships, when on 24 October 1944, she launched a nighttime surface attack on an enemy transport. Only two torpedoes remained on board. The first of these was fired and when it was observed to be running "hot, straight and normal", the second and last torpedo was loosed. It broached, curved sharply to the left, and circled. Emergency speed was called for and the rudder was thrown hard over, but the torpedo struck *Tang* in the after torpedo room. The explosion was catastrophic. People as far forward as the control room received broken limbs. The nine men topside were catapulted into the sea as the after three compartments flooded and *Tang* quickly sank by the stern in 180 feet of water.

One officer escaped from the flooded conning tower. The remaining men on board assembled in the forward torpedo room to escape. The escape was delayed by a Japanese escort vessel, which dropped depth charges and started an electrical fire in the forward battery. Thirteen men escaped from the forward torpedo room, and using Momsen Lungs, ascended 180 feet to the surface. By the time the last made his exit, the heat from the fire was so intense that the paint on the bulkhead was scorching, melting, and running down. Of the 13 men who escaped, only eight reached the surface and of these only five were able to swim until rescued. By morning just nine survivors including O'Kane remained to be pulled from the water by a Japanese escort vessel. They were imprisoned for the duration of the war, but lived to tell the story of their 78 shipmates' final battle aboard *Tang*. *Tang* is one of only two American submarines to twice receive the presidential unit citation, and her skipper CDR Richard H. O'Kane, earned the nation's highest award for valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

On Eternal Patrol

ACCORDY, John G.	SM3	DeLAPP, Marvin V.	CMoMM	IMWOLD, Stewart S.	MoMM2	RAIFORD, Rubin M.	Ck3
ADAMS, Ralph F.	SM2	DORSEY, William E.	MoMM1	JENKINS, Donald M.	Y3	REABUCK, Francis J.	F1
ALLEN, Dwayne D.	MoMM2	ENOS, Fred M., Jr.	LTJG	JONES, Sidney V.	COM	RECTOR, Darrell D.	GM3
ANDERSON, Philip E.	TM3	ERICKSEN, Lawrence H.	F1	KAISER, Louis C.	MoMM3	REINHARDT, Ernest	F1
ANDRIOLO, Charles L.	RM2	FELLICETTY, Daniel C.	Y3	KANAGY, John T.	EM1	ROBERTS, James L.	SC3
ANTHONY, Homer	F1	FINCKBONE, Bruce H.	EM2	KASSUBE, John T.	COX	ROBERTSON, George L.	MoMM2
BALLINGER, William F.	CTM	FLUKER, John W.	TM1	KEY, John A.	SC3	SMITH, Seymour G., Jr.	LT-XO
BAUER, Edwin C.	Y3	FOSTER, John M.	TM1	KNAPP, Ralph B.	FC3	SPRINGER, Frank H.	F1
BEAUMONT, Edward H.	LT	GALLOWAY, William C.	TM2	KROTH, Richard J.	LTJG	STEPHEN, Edward F.	EM3
BERGMAN, Edwin F.	RM1	GENTLE, Thomas E.	F1	LANE, Le Roy R.	EM1	SUNDAY, Fred L.	Cox
BISOGNO, Frederick N.	TM3	GORAB, George J., Jr.	EM3	LARSON, Paul L.	CPhM	VAUGHN, Paul B., Jr.	TM3
BOUCHER, Wilfred J.	TM3	GREGG, Osmer D.	COX	LEE, Robert P.	RM2	WADSWORTH, Charles W.	Qm3
BRESETTE, Bernard V.	QM3	HAINLINE, Howard W.	QM3	LLEWELLYN, Lindley H.	F1	WALKER, Howard M.	SM1
BUSH, John	EM2	HARMS, Frank G.	MoMM2	LONDON, Charles W.	EM1	WEEKLEY, Leland S.	CTM
CHIAVETTA, Benjamin	Y3	HAWES, Glen O.	MoMM2	LOVELESS, Chester	EM1	WELCH, Robert E.	QM2
CLARK, Walter J.	QM3	HENRY, John F.	F1	LYTTON, Ellroy	MoMM1	WHITE, James M.	GM1
COFFIN, Robert J.	EM3	HEUBECK, John H.	LTJG	McMORROW, Robert V.	MoMM1	WILLIAMS, Walter H.	Y2
CULP, James H.	CEM	HUDSON, Albert L.	LTJG	McNABB, John J.	F1	WINES, Paul T.	LTJG
DARIENZO, Arthur J.	EM2	IJAMES, Homer W., Jr.	RM3	PARKER, John J.	CCS	WUKOVICH, George	MoMM1
				PEARCE, Basil C., Jr.	ENS	ZOFCIN, George	MoMM1

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 and it's 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. Navy submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated

I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Yr).
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Printed Name: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Street Address: _____ Apt/Lot #: _____

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

Next of Kin {Name}: _____ Relationship: _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Daughter, Parent, Other)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____ Tel: _____
(Leave this address line blank if the same as your home address)

If Associate applicant: Veteran Spouse of Veteran Other (specify _____)

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member? {Mandatory for Associate Members}: _____

Addr: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Tel: _____
(Leave this address line blank if the same as your home address)

U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): --__ / __ / ____ If other military service, What Branch? _____ Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____

Mil Retired (Y/N): ____ On Active Duty? (Y/N): ____

Year entered Mil Service: _____ Year left Mil Service: _____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts)

◇ Check if your Military Service falls within any of these time periods: 7 Dec 1941 thru 31 Dec 1946; 27 Jun 1950 thru 31 Jan 1955; 5 Aug 1964 thru 7 May 1975; and from 2 Aug 1990 to date.

◇ Check if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company {attach additional sheets if necessary}

_____	Hull#:	_____	From: Yr	_____	to	_____
_____	Hull#:	_____	From: Yr	_____	to	_____
_____	Hull#:	_____	From: Yr	_____	to	_____
_____	Hull#:	_____	From: Yr	_____	to	_____
_____	Hull#:	_____	From: Yr	_____	to	_____

USSVI National Dues

Nat'l Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st

1 Year (Jan-Sep): \$30 ~ (Oct-Dec includes the next year): \$35

3 Years: \$85 5 Years: \$140

USSVI National Life Membership

(age 76 and up = \$120) (66 to 75 = \$240) (56 to 65 = \$360)
(46 to 55 = \$500) (46 and younger = \$600)

Note: You cannot belong to Tang Base unless you belong to National

Please indicate your National dues term preference: _____

Then combine **National and Base** dues making check payable to:

U.S. Submarine Veterans Tang Base

Send check with this form to: Richard Richie" Geyer, 2862 Matchlock Dr. Holiday, FL 34690-2909.

e-Mail: subrich598mm2@gmail.com or phone: (631) 312-1795

Or BRING TO A MEETING