

# 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 APRIL 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](http://TangBaseTampaBay.com)

**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 April 19th 2025**

**Annual Submarine Memorial Service and  
Celebration of the Submarine Force Birthday  
Veterans Memorial Park & Museum  
3602 N US Highway 301  
Tampa, FL 33619**



#### Table of Contents

Cover Page, Next Meeting	PG.1
Lost Boats, Binnacle List	PG.2
Wardroom, Command Corner	PG.3
Up Coming Events, February Birthdays	PG. 4
Submarine Developments	PG 5
Tang Base Baseball Pregame	PG 6
Trigger Maru Poem	PG.7
Submarine Ball Invitation	PG.8
March Meeting Pictures	PG 9 - 11
Tang Base Boosters	PG .12
Eternal Patrol Page's	PG .13 -14
US Navy News	PG .15
VA News	PG .16
USSVI News	PG .15
USS Tang SS 306 Memorial Plague	PG .17
Membership Application	PG .18

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

**Lost Boats for April**

Name of Submarine	Approximate Date of Loss	Number of Men Lost
<u>PICKEREL (SS-177)</u>	3-Apr-43	74
<u>SNOOK (SS-279)</u>	9-Apr-45	84
<u>THRESHER (SSN-593)</u>	10-Apr-63	129
<u>GUDGEON (SS-211)</u>	18-Apr-44	79
<u>GRENADIER (SS-210)</u>	22-Apr-43	4

**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

### Commander

Robert (Mike) Cailor (813)585-7615  
rmcfish@gmail.com

### Vice Commander

Robert Brady (727)807-1012  
bradyrobert305@gmail.com

### Secretary

David Frazier (417)268-8538  
davidfrazier594@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Neil A. Kimes (727)251-9011  
neilakimes@gmail.com

### Membership / Holland Club Chairman

Rich Geyer (727)935-2246  
Subrich598mm2@gmail.com

### COB

Jerry Anderson (727)494-2425  
mvllassabia@gmail.com

### Storekeeper

Donald "Terry" Hershman  
(727)743-1652  
caperry08@yahoo.com

### Public Relations / Webmaster Open Position

### Historian / Chaplain

#### Kaps 4 Kids Chairman

Joel Grainger  
(813) 713-1587  
landman.grainger@gmail.com

#### Historian

Rick Connoles (727) 372-5290  
ricconnoles@aol.com

### USSV-CF Ambassador

Al Aumack (813)434-7298  
alaumack@me.com

### Librarian / National Secretary

Dave Farrugia (813) 951-1898  
dfarrugia@tampabay.rr.com

### Photographer / Tools Database Manager

Gerry Pollack (727) 940-8036  
gapollack@user-services.com

### Immediate Past Cmdr - POC

Bob Sommer (941)780-1136  
bobsommer@icloud.com

### SE District 5 Commander

Fernando Borges  
fborges59@hotmail.com

### Tang Base Website & Facebook

Website: [Tang Base Tampa Bay](http://Tang Base Tampa Bay)

Facebook: [2 Tang Base](https://www.facebook.com/2TangBase) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TangBase)

## Command Corner

By Commander Mike Cailor  
and Vice Commander Robert Brady



## April 2025 Commander's Corner

Another fabulous meeting at the American Legion Post 7 in Clearwater. The American Legion café provided the lunch. Commander asked, "are the lunches satisfactory?" No negative comments.

Bill Strand Jr. and wife Denise are leaving the Tampa area. We wish them well and they will be missed. Bill was our webmaster and did a great job. Tang base needs a volunteer to take on the duties.

We have up to date business cards. They will be available at the Submarine Memorial. Pick some up while you are there.

The Submarine memorial is **April 19, 2025**. The services will commence at 10:00. Location is **Veterans Memorial Park 3602 US 301 Amphitheater, Tampa Florida 33619**. Refreshments before and after. There will be a speaker, USSVI National Secretary, **YNMC David Farrugia**.

Bob Brady, Jerry Anderson, and Bob Dunn have been busy fund raising for 805. They set-up a table on the American Legion opposite the Dunedin grapefruit league ballpark. They are doing well on contributions. We need **volunteers** to help and *press the flesh*. It pays to *advertise*. Wear your hat and vest,

The spring PICNIC will be at **Constitution Park, Redington Shores. May 17, 2025**. This will be a monthly meeting. Bar-b-Que.



**From Your Librarian.** During WW2 X-Class submarines were used by the British to scout out the invasion beaches. These midget submarines were powered by a 4 cylinder diesel engine and a 30 hp electric motor. Maximum surface speed was 6.5 knots and less submerged. The crew of three, the Commander, the Pilot, and the Engineer operated the boat. Occasionally a diver would be onboard for special operations. This craft was 52 feet long and 5 feet in diameter, making very tight quarters. Until next month, see you around the library.

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



## April Birthdays

Gerald A. Pollack	4/11
Douglas Stutzman	4/12
Lenny Zuriff	4/13
Sergio Guerra	4/15
Thomas Schiffgens	4/15
Donald Terry Hershman	4/18
Robert Bachman	4/25

## Up Coming Events

**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

**September 20th, 2025. September Monthly Meeting**  
Meet at American Legion Post #7 at 12 PM

**October 18th, 2025. Fall Picnic**  
Constitution Park, Redington Shores FL.



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](mailto:spar-nonjagang@gmail.com)



---

## Summary of Some Early Historic Submarine Developments

### Drebbel: 1620-1624

British mathematician William Bourne made some of the earliest known plans for a submarine around 1578, but the world's first working prototype was built in the 17th century by Cornelius Drebbel, a Dutch polymath and inventor in the employ of the British King James I. Drebbel's sub was probably a modified rowboat coated in greased leather and manned by a team of oarsmen. Sometime around 1620, he used it to dive 15 feet beneath the River Thames during a demonstration witnessed by King James and thousands of astonished Londoners. Unfortunately, none of Drebbel's plans or engineering drawings has survived to today, so historians can only guess about how his "diving boat" actually operated. Some accounts say it submerged via a collection of bladders or wooden ballast tanks, while others suggest that a sloping bow and a system of weights were used to propel the boat underwater when it was rowed at full speed.

### Turtle: 1775

During the American Revolution, inventor and Yale graduate David Bushnell provided the colonists with a secret weapon in the form of an experimental submarine called the "Turtle." This one-man wooden craft relied on a human-powered hand crank and foot treadle for propulsion. A pedal-operated water tank allowed it to submerge and surface, and lead ballast kept it upright in the water. If operated properly, it could approach an enemy ship undetected and use a screw to plant a mine filled with 150 pounds of gunpowder. In the early morning hours of September 7, 1776, Continental Army soldier Ezra Lee launched history's first submarine attack when he piloted the Turtle underneath the British warship HMS Eagle in New York Harbor. Lee had only received minimal training, however, and after failing to attach a time bomb to the ship's hull, he aborted the mission and detonated his mine in the open water. Bushnell later abandoned the submarine project after several other missions also failed to sink an enemy ship, but his invention earned him the respect of his fellow Patriots. When later asked about the Turtle, George Washington replied, "I then thought, and still think, that it was an effort of genius..."



The USSVI Tang Base participated in 3 spring training baseball pregame events at the VFW in Dunedin for the Toronto Blue Jays. Jerry Anderson, Bob Dunn, John Ranes, Frank Klier, TJ Barr, and Bob Brady manned the Table and Model/Trailer (see below) to explain about the three USS TANG submarines and their activities - plus give out brochures and sell hats. The people parking at the VFW (directly across from the Ballpark) and having lunch before going to the game were very engaging with us. It was a great experience. We hope to do similar activities during the Tampa Bay Rays games at their new home for the 2025 season at Steinbrenner Field in Tampa. Everyone would have a great time interacting with the fans about Tampa Bay and the new USS TANG SSN-805, that we hope to get Commissioning in Tampa Bay in 2030. We can start planning for summer Ballpark activities during the first part of April after the MLB season gets underway. Let us know if you want to help – and you could even attend the game at the same time.



The Trigger Maru – the famous poem 1943, I'm the Galloping Ghost of the Japanese Coast, by Constantine Guinness, Motor Machinist's Mate First Class, (MOMM 1/c), United States Navy

I'm the galloping ghost of the Japanese coast.  
You don't hear of me and my crew  
But just ask any man off the coast of Japan.  
If he knows of the Trigger Maru.

I look sleek and slender alongside my tender.  
With others like me at my side,  
But we'll tell you a story of battle and glory,  
As enemy waters we ride.

I've been stuck on a rock, felt the depth charge's shock,  
Been north to a place called Attu,  
and I've sunk me two freighters atop the equator  
Hot work, but the sea was cold blue.

I've cruised close inshore and carried the war  
to the Empire Island Honshū,  
While they wire Yokahama I could see Fujiyama,  
So I stayed, to admire the view.

When we rigged to run silently, deeply I dived,  
And within me the heat was terrific.  
My men pouring sweat, silent and yet  
Cursed me and the whole damned Pacific.

Then destroyers came sounding and depth charges pounding  
My submarine crew took the test.  
Far in that far off land there are no friends on hand,  
To answer a call of distress.

I was blasted and shaken (some damage I be taken),  
my hull bleeds and pipe lines do, too  
I've come in from out there for machinery repair,  
And a rest for me and my crew.

I got by on cool nerve and in silence I served,  
Though I took some hard knocks in return,  
One propeller shaft sprung and my battery's done,  
But the enemy ships I saw burn.

I'm the galloping ghost of the Japanese coast,  
You don't hear of me and my crew.  
But just ask any man off the coast of Japan,  
If he knows of the Trigger Maru.







# CHARLESTON

## SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY BALL



### 125<sup>th</sup> Submarine Birthday Ball

Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 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) 2025 Charleston Submarine Birthday Ball

Dress Code:

Military: Service Dress Blues or Whites and above.

Civilian: Formal Attire.





Base  
Commanders Welcome



Base Vice —  
Commanders Welcome



Cob and Klaxon



Pledge of Allegiance



Moment of Silence







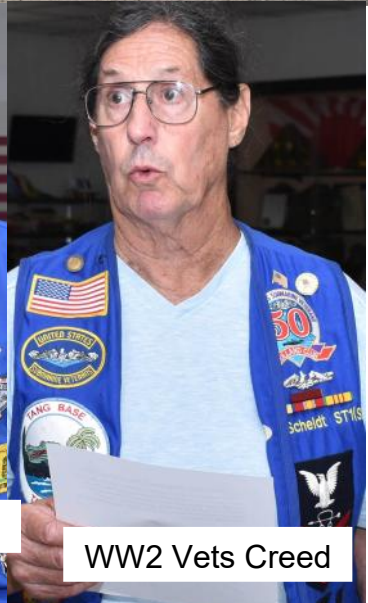
Historian presentation on The USS Trigger with His Special Guests



Kaps4Kids Bears



USSVICF Report



WW2 Vets Creed



Tolling of the Boats



USSVICF Tang BaseReport





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		
Annetta Krauss	Special Fund		
Debbie Vingin	Associate Member		
William Vingin	Associate Member		
Dan Craw	Kaps 4 Kids		
Bill Ogburn	Christmas Luncheon Donation		
James Schiebrel	Special Fund		
Annetta 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. Lilenfeld 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 S-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	Ostiglio 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 Tigrone 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

## Hegseth orders review of military grooming and fitness standards

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth issued a memo Wednesday ordering senior Pentagon leadership to conduct a review of military standards related to health and appearance across all services.

The message calls for the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness to collect information pertaining to physical fitness, body composition and grooming, so that the department can conduct a thorough overview of how and why those standards have changed since Jan. 1, 2015.

“We must remain vigilant in maintaining the standards that enable the men and women of our military to protect the American people and our homeland as the world’s most lethal and effective fighting force,” Hegseth wrote. “Our adversaries are not growing weaker, and our tasks are not growing less challenging.”

The memo specifically highlights beards as an area of focus.

Currently, military personnel can only grow facial hair with a waiver or exemption for a medical condition, religious accommodation or other approved reason.

Some services have signaled that they might be more receptive to loosening those rules.

The Air Force granted five-year medical waivers for beards in 2020, whereas previously it had only given one-year waivers, and has weighed establishing a pilot program that would allow participating airmen and guardians to grow out their facial hair.

For some service members, growing out a beard is a health issue.

Certain troops experience a medical condition called pseudofolliculitis barbae, which leads to unwanted bumps and painful ingrown hair from shaving regularly. About 60% of Black men are affected by the condition, according to the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology.

But there is still tension surrounding the issue.

In May 2024, an Army master sergeant with the 25th Infantry Division alleged he lost out on a position because of his beard.

Hegseth’s focus on physical fitness also comes several weeks after a federal watchdog criticized the Army for admitting trainees into a fitness course whose body fat composition exceeded the course’s standards and should’ve barred them from entering.

The report raised questions about the health of recruits, as well as the Army’s understanding of its own standards for physical fitness.

The Army announced in 2024 its intention to expand its Holistic Health and Fitness program, established in 2018, to the entire service by 2032. The program seeks to educate service members on the best ways to improve the physical, mental, and sleep aspects of their lives.



# VA Information

## **VA Secretary Doug Collins Welcomes Employees Back to In-Person Work**

February 24, 2025

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins delivered an uplifting message today as VA employees nationwide returned to in-person work.

This transition follows President Trump's January 20, 2025, presidential memorandum directing federal agencies to phase out telework and resume office-based operations, reinforcing the importance of collaboration and efficiency in delivering services to Veterans.

"This is an exciting day, VA employees are coming back to work all across the nation," Secretary Collins said, "and I think that's a great thing."

In his video message, Secretary Collins emphasized the benefits of in-person work and the positive impact it will have on the VA's mission to serve Veterans with excellence.

VA's phased approach ensures a smooth transition while taking individual circumstances into account

The department is committed to balancing adherence to the President's directive with necessary accommodations for employees currently on telework agreements. By July 2025, all VA personnel are expected to be working on-site, creating a dynamic and engaging work environment.

"At the end of the day, it's about getting us back to work, focused on the mission and that mission is the Veteran," Collins said.

VA remains committed to supporting its workforce through this transition while ensuring the highest level of service for Veterans.







Shipmates,

Our Blackbaud Contract ends on 3/14/25, so on 3/15/25 the [ussvi.org](http://ussvi.org) website will go down. Please use <https://ussubvets.org> for any of your website needs. We are working hard on the replacement website and will announce updates soon.

Respectfully,  
Tim Carlisle  
NSVC

Newsletter Editor Note: To Clarify for the good of the membership the newer web site which was handled by Blackbaud will disappear but the older [ussubvets.org](http://ussubvets.org) website will still be available please look and make sure you understand where to get your information.







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



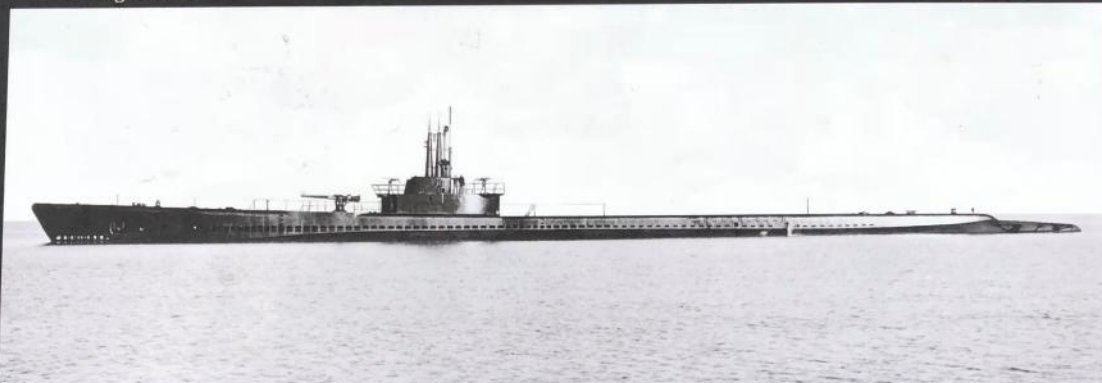
Launched  
17 August 1943

## 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

ACCARDY, John G.	SM3	DeLAPP, Marvin V.	CMoMM	IMWOLD, Stewart S.	MoMM2	RAIFORD, Rubin M.	Ck3
ADAMS, Ralph F.	StM2	DORSEY, William E.	MoMM1	JENKINS, Donald M.	Y3	REABUCK, Francis J.	F1
ALLEN, Dwayne D.	MoMM2	ENOS, Fred M., Jr.	LTJG	JONES, Sidney W.	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.	QM3
BAUER, Edwin C.	Y3	FOSTER, John M.	TM1	KNAPP, Ralph B.	FC3	SPRINGER, Frank H.	LT-XO
BEAUMONT, Edward H.	LT	GALLOWAY, William C.	TM2	KROTH, Richard J.	LTJG	STAPIEN, Edward F.	F1
BERGMAN, Edwin F.	RM1	GENTLE, Thomas E.	F1	LANE, Le Roy R.	EM1	SUNDAY, Fred L.	EM3
BISOGNO, Frederick N.	TM3	GORAB, George J., Jr.	EM3	LARSON, Paul L.	CPhM	VAUGHN, Paul B., Jr.	Cox
BOUCHER, Wilfred J.	TM3	GREGG, Osmer D.	COX	LEE, Robert P.	RM3	WADSWORTH, Charles W.	TM3
BRESETTE, Bernard V.	QM3	HAINLINE, Howard W.	QM3	LLEWELLYN, Lindley H.	RM2	WALKER, Howard M.	StM1
BUSH, John	EM2	HARMS, Frank G.	MoMM2	LONDON, Charles W.	F1	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.	CMoMM	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 1<sup>st</sup> thru Dec 31<sup>st</sup>

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](mailto:subrich598mm2@gmail.com) or phone: (631) 312-1795

**Or BRING TO A MEETING**