

# 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 FEBRUARY 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 February 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 February**

<b>Name of Submarine</b>	<b>Approximate Date of Loss</b>	<b>Number of Men Lost</b>
<u>SCORPION (SS-278)</u>	1-Feb-43	77
<u>BARBEL (SS-316)</u>	4-Feb-45	81
<u>SHARK (SS-174)</u>	11-Feb-42	59
<u>AMBERJACK (SS-219)</u>	16-Feb-43	72
<u>GRAYBACK (SS-208)</u>	26-Feb-44	80
<u>TROUT (SS-202)</u>	29-Feb-44	81

**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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Fernando Borges

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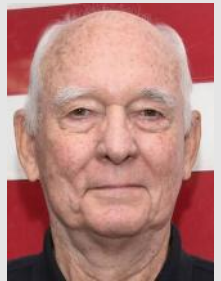
Tang Base Website & Facebook

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

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



Command Corner  
By Commander Mike Cailor  
and Vice Commander Robert Brady



Well, the first meeting of 2025 is in the book. We are starting off on a high spot. Member Sam Aboulafia is out of Hospice. Prayers do work. Sam is now in the long-term ward. Sam is receiving occupational and physical therapy.

Thank you to Al Amack for the sloppy joe lunch. Feb. lunch will be purchased individually by members from the Post 7 concessionaire. Bob Brady and Jerry Anderson visited the chef, and he has agreed to start the galley early so we can start our meeting on time. **Bring Cash**, the chef **does not have a credit card terminal**. Fives and ones would be appreciated. Members can purchase drinks at the bar.

Preparations are underway for the **Submarine Memorial on April 19, 2025**, at the **Hillsborough Veterans Park Memorial** commences at 11:00. Same location as last year, 3602 US 301 Bldg. 3610 Tampa FL. 33619.

We had the fourth meeting of the 805-commissioning committee. Goals were set. Zoom meeting number 5 will be at 1600 on Feb 4, 2025.

The 125<sup>th</sup> Submarine Ball will be April 5<sup>th</sup> at Trident Technical College in Charleston, South Carolina.

See you all on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. in Feb. 2025 at Post 7.

From Your Librarian.

Shipmates the holidays are behind us and I hope you are ready to donate those good readers to your base library. Our donate, read, bring back library works very well for all of us. Thank you to all of our members who bring books for your shipmates to enjoy. Happy New Year.

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



**Up Coming Events**

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

**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**



**February Birthdays**

Tom Donan	2/3
Wayne Fernandez	2/6
James A. Frantz	2/6
Anthony Glaude	2/6
Roland W. Pelletier	2/7
John Beebe	2/9
Orin Ebersold	2/13
Dennis Zipay	2/15
Sherman Alexander	2/16
Annetta S Kraus	2/20



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



I presented the National Commanders Challenge Coin with a Letter Of Appreciation to RMC Bill Monfort at the Tampa Bay Chief Petty Officers Association meeting, which Bill is a member of. He is the oldest Navy Veteran in the state of Florida at 108. He wanted me to thank you for the coin. Dave Farrugia, National Secretary



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS  
NATIONAL COMMANDER  
CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION  
Chief Petty Officer Bill Monfort  
United States Navy

The USSVI is proud to present this certificate to Chief Petty Officer Bill Monfort.

It is with great pleasure I would like to present to Chief Petty Officer Bill Monfort a National Commanders Challenge Coin to honor and thank you for your service to the United States Navy. Your service prior to and during WWII, and as a Pearl Harbor survivor who just celebrated his 108<sup>th</sup> birthday in December 2024 is an inspiration to all men and women of the armed forces. Your continued participation in events of the local Tampa Bay Chief Petty Officer Association and your counsel to new Chief Selectees prior to their initiation is nothing short of amazing.

David E. Farrugia  
National Secretary

Jon Jaques  
National Commander



**This is a old one that I am sure we have all seen before but I think it is worth sharing again I hope you enjoy.—Joel**

### Life on a Submarine

So lots of my friends and family have asked me what it was like to serve on a submarine over the years. Well with this quarantine situation going on, this is a great time for you to see for yourself. The following list is things that you can do at home to experience what every submariner had.

1. Sleep on the shelf in your closet. Replace the closet door with a curtain. Every 2 hours after you go to sleep, have someone whip open the curtain, shine a flashlight in your eyes, and mumble "Sorry, wrong rack" or "Sign this!"
2. Don't eat any food that you don't get out of a can or have to add water to.
3. Pull all the blinds down in the windows and close the curtains. Use a paper towel roll to peep between the curtains to simulate periscope liberty.
4. Renovate your bathroom. Block off half of your bathtub and if possible, move the shower head down to chest level. When you take showers, make sure you shut off the water while soaping. Squeegee and wipe down the stall when done.
5. Repeat back everything anyone says to you. Repeat back everything anyone says to you.
6. Disconnect your cable, phone and Internet. Connect a VCR to a small TV. Pick the 6 worse movies on video and only watch them on a rotating basis.
7. Put lube oil in your humidifier instead of water and set it to "High".
8. Wash all of you clothes in the same load. When you dry them, set the dryer heat setting on INCENERATE.
9. Announce "Commence Snorkling" Setup your lawnmower in your living room and run for at least 1 hour. Periodically hold your nose and mouth shut and try to blow out your eardrums.
10. Have your family give each other haircuts.
11. Get a clipboard, paper, and leaky black ink pen, then take hourly readings on anything in your house that displays numbers.
12. Sleep with your dirty laundry at your feet.
13. Get some broken exercise equipment and mount it to the floor in your basement.
14. Store up all garbage for a week in an open can beside the air return on your ventilation system to allow the aroma to waif through the house. Compact and dispose of it once a week.
15. Wake up every night at midnight and have a peanut butter and jelly sandwich on stale bread.  
(Optional: Breakout a #10 can of ravioli or cold soup)
16. Make up your family menu a week ahead of time without looking in your food cabinets or refrigerator.
17. Set your alarm clock to go off at random times during the night. When it goes off, announce "Fire in the garage!" Jump out of bed and get dressed as fast as you can. Run into your garage and break out the garden hose. Since there really wasn't a fire and everyone is up anyway have the kids clean the house.
18. Once a month take every major appliance completely apart and then put them back together (just in case they were about to break).
19. Use 18 scoops of coffee per pot and allow it to sit for 5 or 6 hours before drinking.
20. Store your eggs in your garage for two months and then cook a dozen each morning.
21. Have a fluorescent lamp installed on the bottom of your coffee table and lie under it to read books.
22. Put a complicated lock on your basement door and wear the key on a lanyard around your neck.
23. When making cakes, prop up one side of the pan while it is baking. Then spread icing really thick on one side to level off the top.
24. Every so often, yell "Emergency Deep!" or "Torpedo in the Water!" Run into the kitchen, sweep all pots/pans/dishes off of the counter onto the floor.
25. Put on the headphones from your stereo (don't plug them in). Go and stand in front of your stove. Say (to nobody in particular) "Stove manned and" Stand there for 3 or 4 hours. Say (once again to nobody in particular) "Stove secured." Roll up the headphone cord and put them away.
26. Make the kids learn the location and operation of every light switch, outlet, circuit breaker, valve, appliance, fire extinguisher etc. Don't let them watch any TV/movies until they can recite same from memory.
27. Buy all food in cases and line the floor with them.
28. Use fresh milk for only two days after each port visit.
29. Buy 50 cases of toilet paper and lock up all but two rolls.
30. Install a multi-channel entertainment system over your bed that doesn't work.



# 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

Dress Code:

Military: Service Dress Blues or Whites and above.

Civilian: Formal Attire.



Commanders Welcome



Base Vice —  
Commanders Welcome



Cob and Klaxon



Pledge of Allegiance



USSCF Report



Treasure's Report



Secretary's Report



Membership Report





50/50 Raffle Winner



Raffle Ticket Sales



Good of the Order



Tolling of the Boats



Chow



January Meeting Guests



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

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — The nuclear submarine Arkansas was christened Saturday December 10th 2024, almost a decade in the making since the U.S. Navy announced that a Virginia-class submarine would bear the state's name.

Carlotta Walls LaNier, one of the nine Black students who desegregated Little Rock Central High School in 1957, launched a bottle of sparkling wine into the hull of the Virginia-class submarine at Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia. In 2018, then-Navy Secretary Ray Mabus named the six women of the Little Rock Nine as sponsors of the boat. Besides LaNier, Elizabeth Eckford and Gloria Ray Karlmark also attended the ceremony. All the sponsors had their initials welded into steel plates when the submarine's keel was laid in 2022.

"History is full of groups of collective people who come together to make something happen," the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported that LaNier said in a speech before the crowd at the shipyard. "Many people are behind the submarine that we christened today. It's similar to the quote on our currency, E pluribus unum — 'Out of many, one.' We have SSN 800, but many participated in the reality of it being here today."

Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro called the boat "the very best of our submarine force capabilities." "She will always be propelled by the proud legacy of her namesake, represented here today by three of her courageous sponsors, who overcame tremendous adversity as members of the Little Rock Nine," Del Toro said.

A number of speakers also noted the 83rd anniversary of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, the event that launched the United States into World War II.

The submarine is the fifth naval vessel named for Arkansas, including a battleship. The most recent was a guided-missile cruiser that was decommissioned in 1988.

The Arkansas is the 27th in a series of Virginia-class submarines and the 13th built at Newport News, a massive shipyard owned by Huntington Ingalls Industries. The other submarines are built at General Dynamics Corp.'s Electric Boat shipyard in Connecticut.

The Arkansas is expected to launch in 2025.



# VA Information

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, today, announced several Trump Administration political appointees.

**Chris Syrek** will serve as chief of staff. Syrek rejoins VA after serving as deputy chief of staff during the first Trump Administration. In this role, he oversaw significant reforms, including the successful implementation of the VA MISSION Act, the implementation of the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act and a historic reduction in the backlog of disability and compensation claims.

**Cheryl Mason** will serve as senior advisor to the secretary. Mason rejoins VA after serving as chair of the Board of Veterans Appeals during the first Trump Administration. In this role she implemented technology and change management strategies, achieving a 95% increase in decision output and a 92% quality measure. She also played a crucial role in reducing the backlog of legacy appeals from 472,000 to 96,000 cases, an 80% decrease over five years. Mason is also a military spouse and published author.

**Lynda Davis** will serve as the chief officer with VA's Veterans Experience Office. She previously served in this role during the first Trump Administration. In that role, she led the team that hardwired VA's Customer Experience framework, increased Veteran's trust, implemented department-wide VSignals surveys for real-time customer feedback, launched the White House VA Hotline and published the CX Cookbook, which has become a whole-of-government model for government application of CX.

**Karen Brazell** will serve as senior advisor to the secretary. She returns to VA after previously serving in the Office of Enterprise Integration and as principal executive director and chief acquisition officer for VA's Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction during the first Trump Administration. In the latter role, she oversaw acquisition processes, contract administration and supply chain management, managing a budget over \$30 billion and supervising more than 1,700 employees.

**Curt Cashour** will serve as senior advisor to the secretary. He returns to VA after serving as press secretary and later deputy assistant secretary for the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs in the first Trump Administration. In the latter role, he led all of VA's major communication initiatives, including media relations, internal communications, and public outreach. Previously, Cashour served as communications director for the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, where he spearheaded communication efforts that helped lead to the passage of landmark VA reform legislation, the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act. Cashour is an Iraq War Veteran and Bronze Star Medal recipient.

**Lavin Gartland** will serve as senior advisor to the secretary and VA White House liaison. With extensive expertise in government affairs, political strategy, fundraising, and public relations, she focuses on health care, education, technology, transportation, and organizational effectiveness. Her achievements include advising states on the allocation of over \$100 million in federal COVID-19 funding, supporting those most impacted by the pandemic, and raising more than \$10 million for clients, including local, state, and federal entities, political action committees, and organizations across Georgia and nationally.

**Danielle Runyan** will serve as senior advisor to the Office of General Counsel. She comes to VA from the First Liberty Institute in Texas where she held the position of chair for both the Military Practice Group and the Public Arena Practice Group, as well as serving as senior counsel. In this capacity, she advanced both class-action and individual religious liberty litigation within federal and state courts.

**John Bartrum** will serve as senior advisor to the secretary for management. He joins VA from Brightstar Innovations Group, where he held the position of chief executive officer. In this capacity, he provided strategic counsel and delivered public presentations on matters pertaining to public policy, health care, government finance, defense, and leadership to clients in both the public and private sectors. Additionally, he was accountable for the overall leadership, strategic vision and daily operations of the organization.

**Morgan Ackley** will serve as director of Media Affairs for the Office of Public Affairs. She previously served as communications director for the Georgia Senate Republican Caucus, where she developed social media and communications strategies, managed platforms, and crafted press materials for the state senators. In August 2024, she became the Georgia communications director for the Donald Trump for President Campaign, focusing on building relationships with journalists and organizing media events to promote President Trump's agenda.

Today's VA announcements follow a Jan. 20 White House announcement naming **Todd Hunter** as acting secretary of Veterans Affairs.



Shipmates,

Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation Newsletter - January 2025

This month's focus is on the Legacy Fund managed by Mike Talpai

The USSVCF is more than just a charitable organization; it is a community united by shared values of service, sacrifice, and patriotism. Donors, volunteers, and veterans come together to preserve the legacy of those who served beneath the waves before us, creating a powerful network of support and gratitude. By contributing to the CF, you become part of this community, joining others who are dedicated to honoring the past, supporting the present, and building a stronger future.

The CF's mission spans a range of initiatives designed to honor the past, address present needs, and ensure a strong future for the submarine veteran community. Whether by direct grants to those in members in need, providing scholarships to our members children and grandchildren, providing comfort to sick children or helping to develop and maintain memorials to those whose shoulders we stand on today your contributions help to directly support these vital programs:

Our Legacy Fund is an opportunity for all our shipmates to invest in what USSVI stands for. One of the most impactful ways to contribute is by participating in the CF's Living Legacy Fund, a \$10,000 pledge spread over 10 years. Unlike traditional donations, this fund is never spent. Instead, it is invested, generating sustainable income to support programs that preserve the heritage, dignity, and future of submarine veterans. As a donor, you can decide which initiative (fund) your contribution supports, creating a deeply personal and lasting impact.

Supporting the CF is easier than you might think. Whether through direct donations, planned giving, or a pledge to the Living Legacy Fund, or one of our other alternatives, your involvement makes a profound difference. To learn more, visit [www.ussvcf.org](http://www.ussvcf.org) or contact Mike ([legacy@ussvcf.org](mailto:legacy@ussvcf.org)) at the foundation for personalized assistance. He can explain how your tax-advantaged donation can best fit you and your estate plan.

#### Ambassador Program News

As you know we've been on a campaign to recruit and install CF Ambassadors at each of our bases. With the recent addition of Steve Juskiewicz (Mid-Atlantic Base), Dave Halliday (Sculpin Base), Brian Schnurr (Scorpion Base), Dave Sturm (S. Florida Base) and Bob MacPherson (Charleston Base), we are happy to announce that we've reached 40% of all USSVI bases. Please continue to volunteer, our goal is to place an Ambassador at every base.

#### Search for New Ideas

We are seeking to adopt a "Mascot" for use in each of our advertisements. The idea is to find a symbol that is instantly recognizable as representing the USSV Charitable Foundation. We all know that "Smoky the Bear" represents the US Forest Service and its mission to prevent forest fires. That's the kind of mascot we are looking for. The mascot idea that is finally chosen will earn a drink ON ME at our Orlando Convention in September. Email me your ideas at [VP-ED@USSVCF.Org](mailto:VP-ED@USSVCF.Org).

**USSVCF**                      **George Palmer Editor**

George Palmer  
Vice-President & Executive Director  
USSV Charitable Foundation  
[vp-ed@ussvcf.org](mailto:vp-ed@ussvcf.org)

[www.ussvcf.org](http://www.ussvcf.org)





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



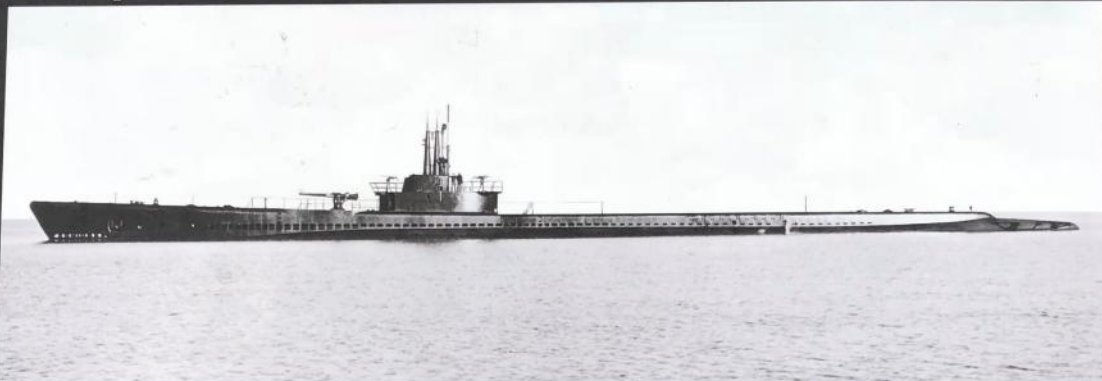
Launched  
17 August 1943

# 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.	RM3	WADSWORTH, Charles W.	Qm3
BRESETTE, Bernard V.	QM3	HAINLINE, Howard W.	QM3	LLEWELLYN, Lindley H.	RM2	WALKER, Howard M.	SM1
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.	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 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**