



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



Tom Ramsay
USS Illinois Commander
MS1(SS), USN Retired

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving.

November is one of my favorite months. First and foremost, as a veteran, I consider Veteran's Day as my sacred holiday. Like me, many of you have had to bid farewell to a fellow sub sailor or to a good friend you knew in high school or met in the service. It is a time for reflection. It is time to give them all a "silent" thanks for their ultimate sacrifice.

November is also a month that gives us the opportunity to pause and enjoy our families during Thanksgiving, and it is an excellent time to express our thanks for the great country in which we live. I am proud of my service to this country, as I am sure each of you are.

Also, take time this season to give a special thanks to your family for the sacrifices and worry they endured while you were in the service. We as sub sailors remember the good times

riding subs and try not to relive bad situations. Remember that all was not "fun" back home for our families.

A case in point comes from a news bulletin, dated Nov. 11, 2017, from our National CDR John E. Markiewicz, who shows how blessed each of us are. He writes:

"Tonight, our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Argentina and the families of the missing submarine and its 44 crew members. The Navy confirms that contact was lost, but still does not speak of emergency. According to the force, there is a 'communication failure.'

"A large operation is underway to locate the ARA San Juan (S-42), which carried out surveillance exercises in the exclusive economic zone around Puerto Madryn."

The U.S. Navy reports that a NASA research aircraft and a U.S. Navy sub-hunting aircraft has joined in the search.



The best way to say
"Thanks" to me
is to eat BEEF!



Our Creed: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishment. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."

www.ussillinoisbase.org





Meeting called to order at 12:05 p.m. by CDR Tom Ramsay.

15 members present: Tom Ramsay, Bruce Pickering, Kate Ramsay, Dick Martin, Renee Martin, John Stines, Connie Stines, Jim Hessel, Dave Spencer, Terry Elmeier, Joseph Jones, Wayne Orrison.

Guests present: Jan Spencer, Josh Pickard

Tolling of Bells Ceremony: by Dick and Renee Martin.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation by Connie Stines.

Introductions of members/guests.

Minutes. Copy of minutes were sent to members via the newsletter and posted online. Motion made by Dave Spencer to approve the minutes as posted. Seconded by Bruce Pickering. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report by Bruce Pickering.

- Beginning bank balance as of October 1 was \$944.92. Closing balance as of October 23 was \$1,150.92. An outstanding check brings the balance at the end of October to \$910.92. Bruce reminded everyone it is time to pay both National and Base dues for 2018. He will be available to accept dues payments 15 minutes before and after the December and January meetings. Motion made by Wayne Orrison to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Terry Elmeier. Motion carried.
- Discussions held about National's 2018 1st year deferred National membership fees for active duty

members. A motion was made to join National's move to attract active duty personnel from any branch, by also deferring Base dues for 2018 for these new members. Motion made by Dick Martin and seconded by Terry Elmeier. Motion carried.

Storekeeper's Report by Terry Elmeier. The Base earns extra money from purchases made by Base Storekeepers through the National Storekeeper. Any submarine memento (flags, apparel, flags, hats, etc.) can be ordered by Terry at a price less than what you can get online on your own. Discussions held on making funds available to Terry to purchase some items to keep in the Base's store for members to purchase.

Membership Report by newly appointed Membership Chairman David Spencer. Current membership stands at 26.

Chaplains Report. None.

Event Committee Report by Richard Martin.

- Veteran's Day is November 11. Dick shared a declaration from President Donald Trump honoring all veterans.
- Tonight, the 77th Annual Veterans Dinner will be held at Giovanni's in Rockford. USSVI subvets will be in attendance with two tables.
- Volunteers are needed to help serve at the Christmas Day dinner in Loves Park for homeless veterans at the VFW in Loves Park. If you can help, let Dick know.
- He encouraged members to look for events we can attend throughout the winter to promote our Base. These events help us attract new members. We need to prepare printed materials to hand out

explaining who we are. Kate Ramsay has offered to provide designs.

Commander's Report. CDR Ramsay give an overview of the Board of Director's Meeting held prior to today's meeting:

- **USSVI Event/Parade Insurance.** National sent updated information regarding USSVI's liability insurance. Much discussion has been held nationwide about what the policy covers. Information about the coverage is on National's website. National requires all bases with 20 members or more to submit an annual payment of \$25, no later than Jan. 15, 2018. USS Illinois Base is paid up through 2017. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Dave Spencer to send USSVI a check for \$25. Seconded by Dick Martin. Motion carried.

Old Business. None.

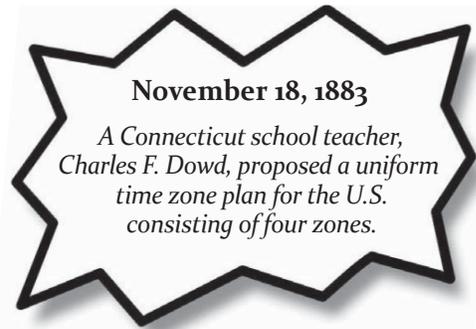
New Business.

- **Manitowoc Maritime Museum** is looking for volunteers for a working party Monday, Nov. 13 thru Nov. 15 to work on the sail of the USS Rasher. CDR Ramsay will be going. Let him know if you are interested in helping.
- **Holiday Party.** Discussions were held regarding member interest in a winter (after the holiday's) party or a family picnic in the spring. The Martins invited members to their house in Loves Park for a Pot Luck Winter party in January or February. Dates and food will be discussed at a future meeting.

Raffle. Kate Ramsay won the 50-50 Raffle, and donated the full \$57 back to the Base.

Adjournment/Next Meeting. Following a closing prayer by Connie Stines, a motion was made and carried to adjourn the meeting at 1:05 p.m. Next meeting is Dec. 2, 2017.





153-year Hunley mystery solved

Washington Post (D.C.)--Since the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley, was found in 2000 resting on the sea-floor off the coast of Charleston, S.C., researchers have been debating the demise of this 153-year old mystery.

When raised to the surface, the boat's "heavy iron hull" was not broken—only encrusted with barnacles and rust. The skeletal remains of the crew were found at their duty stations with no signs of external damage.

Rachel Lance, a Navy researcher, working on her PhD at Duke University, had the mystery dropped into her lap with her specialty in trauma

related underwater blasts. Over a three-year period, Lance and her colleagues conducted tests on a six-foot scale model of the Hunley, using time period metals and gunpower.

Their results pointed to shock waves from their own torpedo used to down the U.S. ship Housatonic.

"She and her colleagues calculated there was an 85 percent chance that the crew of the Hunley died of pulmonary problems caused by this dramatic wave of pressure. They could have died before they knew what was happening," the Post reports.

It's a bird, It's a plane No!—It's a fish

Independent (United Kingdom) – The Royal Navy challenged young British scientists and engineers, from UKNEST, a not-for-profit organization that promotes science, engineering and technology for UK naval design. Their challenge was to



image what a future submarine would look like in 50 years.

One of the series of designs mimicked real marine life-forms. Concepts included a "crewed mothership shaped like a manta ray, unmanned eel-line vessels equipped with sensor pods that dissolve on demand to avoid enemy detection." Others included fish-shaped torpedoes that could swarm against enemy targets.

Could it get any worse?

Telegraph Reports (London, UK)—It was a bad week for the Royal Navy's submarine force last month when nine British servicemen were removed from the HMS Vigilant, a nuclear submarine, after testing positive for cocaine while on duty.

But, that wasn't all.

It was only the latest scandal to hit the Vanguard class submarine. The drugs scandal comes after the submarine's commander and his second-in-command were both taken off HMS Vigilant earlier in the month for improper relationships with female colleagues on board.



stuff to remember

Time to pay your National and Base dues.

Your Treasurer, Bruce Pickering, reminds you he will be available 15 minutes before and after our December and January meetings for you to pay your 2018 National and Base dues.

Base dues are \$10. There are no multiple-year options for the Base.

USSVI National dues are as follows:

- \$25 for 1 year;
- \$70 dollars for 3 years;
- \$115 for 5 years.
- **Lifetime** USSVI Membership costs depend upon your age:
 - \$100 for ages 76+;
 - \$200 ages 66 thru 75;
 - \$300 for ages 46 thru 55;
 - \$500 for ages thru 45.

If you can't make it to the next meeting, you can send your dues payments to Bruce Pickering, 1702 Calumet Ave., Beloit, WI 53511.

Save at Your Base Store

Help your Base. Buy your submarine shirts (from dress to tee shirts), patches, hats, and other memorabilia from your Base store.

Your Storekeeper, Terry Elmeier, can buy the items directly from the USSVI store at a considerable discount and can pass a low rate to you, plus have



Don't tell me what I can or can't do!

a little extra to pass on to our Base treasury.

Help us build our Base treasury by "buying local."

American Submarine goes electronic

National announced that the electronic version of the latest issue of the *American Submariner* magazine is now available through the USSVI.org website.

On the 'Home Page' click on the second bright blue button along the left edge near the middle of the page to bring up the *American Submariner* web page.

On the *American Submariner* web page click on the top red button on the left edge of the page to bring up the current (new) issue of the magazine.

To make it easier to work with the magazine is broken into two sections. Clicking on either of these two links will open a new browser tab to display the Adobe (.pdf) version of that half of the magazine.

You can also bring up any back issue (back through 2005) of the *American Submariner* for review by using the buttons along the left edge of the *American Submariner* web page.

If you are still receiving a hard copy the *American Submariner* magazine through the mail and are willing to forego it to see the electronic version of the magazine only, thus saving our organization the postage fee, please send an email to ASOptOut@ussvi.org requesting the change.

USS Illinois Base Contacts

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Tolling of the Bells for Lost Boats

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in pursuit of their duties while serving their country."



November



USS Sculpin (SS-191) on Eternal Patrol)

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

USS Sculpin (SS-191) lost on November 19, 1943 north of Grolok Island near Truk. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, the Sculpin continued to fight on the surface. Due to damage, a decision was made to abandon ship and scuttle Sculpin. CAPT J.P. Cromwell remained aboard fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture—he was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. 41 officers and men were taken prisoner; only 21 survived the war.

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

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

crew. when it was sunk in South China Sea.

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

Story within the Story

If you have the time, it is worth the trip to visit Henry, IL, located along the Illinois River, north of Peoria. This quaint little farm town is the birthplace of J. P. Cromwell, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, and hometown hero.



CAPT Cromwell was born Sept. 11, 1901 in Henry, and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1924. He died on Nov. 19, 1943 aboard the USS Sculpin (SS-191), choosing to go down with a sinking submarine rather than becoming a Japanese POW.



Torpedo in Central Park, Henry, IL In Honor of Captain John P. Cromwell



Mark your calendar for the next USS Illinois Base, USSVI, meeting. We meet monthly on the 1st Saturday of the month.

Next USSVI Illinois Base Meeting

Date: Saturday, December 2, 2017
Time: Noon
Location: Mustangs Bar & Grill
 482 Gardner St. • South Beloit, Illinois
www.ussillinoisbase.org





National Veterans and Military Families Month, 2017

Office of the President of the United States of America

During National Veterans and Military Families Month, we honor the significant contributions made by American service members, their families, and their loved ones. We set aside this month surrounding Veterans Day to hold observances around the country to honor and thank those whose service and sacrifice represent the very best of America. We renew our Nation's commitment to support veterans and military families. They deserve it.

Our veterans are our heroes. Our Armed Forces have preserved the security and freedom that allow us to flourish as a Nation. They have braved bitter winters, treacherous jungles, barren deserts, and stormy waters to defend our Nation. They have left their families to face danger and uncertainty, and they have endured the wounds of war, all to protect our Nation's interests and ideals established during the Founding.

Our military families endure many hardships along with those who defend our Nation. They are separated from their loved ones for months on end and frequently relocated across the country and around the world. They often live far from their extended families, and they know what it is like to celebrate holidays and milestones with an empty seat at the table. Many military spouses face the task of making ends meet while their loved ones are away and of securing new employment with each change in duty station. Children of service members often grow up living a nomadic life—periodically calling a new place “home”

and adjusting to different schools, trying out for new sports teams, and making new friends. In these lives of frequent change and transition, however, our incredible military families not only survive, they thrive.

It is our patriotic duty to honor veterans and military families. As part of our efforts to answer President Lincoln's charge to care for those who have “borne the battle,” I have asked the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to lead the Nation in a month of observances across the country to honor our veterans.

As veterans and military families attend these events, they will see the reforms and improvements that we have made at the VA. Over the last 9 months, we have made important changes that enable better service for our veterans. We increased accountability and enhanced protections for whistleblowers. We have improved transparency, customer service, and continuity of care. We are working every day to ensure a future of high quality care and timely access to the benefits veterans have earned through their devoted service to a grateful Nation.

This month, in which Americans traditionally pause to give thanks for our blessings, it is fitting that we come together to honor with gratitude our extraordinary veterans and military families and their service to our country. May God continue to bless our Armed Forces and those families that love and support them.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2017 as National Veterans and Military Families Month. I encourage all communities, all sectors of society, and all Americans to acknowledge and honor the service, sacrifices, and contributions of veterans and military families for what they have done and for what they do every day to support our great Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.

-- *Signed: Donald J. Trump*



Share this application with a fellow submariner!



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 & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

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

I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in _____ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) _____ Address: _____

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your E-Mail Address _____ Base/Chapter Desired: _____

Nat'l Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____
Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$ 115.00; 3 Yr term: \$ 70.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 25.00;
(Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$ 30.00
Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$ 300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00
Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Consult the local base for those figures.

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

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?: (Mandatory for Assoc Mbrs) _____

Associate Applicant is: Veteran Spouse of Veteran Other (specify) _____

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____ / ____ / ____ If other military service, What Branch? _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ Mil Retired (Y/N): ____ On Active Duty? (Y/N): ____

YR entered Mil Service: ____ YR left Mil Service ____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

- Check if your Military Service falls within any of these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946; June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7, 1975; and from August 2, 1990 to date.
- Check if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
2. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
3. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
4. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
5. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

Next of Kin: Name: _____ Relationship: _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Dau, Parent, Other)

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

Upon completion, please deliver to: Your Base Chapter Secretary, or if you do not know of a base location near you,
Mail to: USSVI National Office, P.O. Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870

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

