



February 2018

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



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

The USS Illinois Base has joined efforts in support of USSVI's Scouting Program initiated in 2004. This program was founded by then National CDR Tom Colton, and the late Art Randall of the USS Columbia Base and past Central Region Director.

I had the opportunity to meet Art Randall, while I was Commander of the Great Lakes Base.

Art was a unique individual (his own person in action and drive). He was a go-getter, so it was no surprise to me that USSVI's Scouting Program jumped off and has reached the pinnacle it is at with most bases participating.

Leading the charge for USSVI's Scouting Program on the national level today is none other than our current USSVI Central Region Director Dave Farran, of the USS Iowa Base. Our Base got involved in the Scouting Program after I received



Terry Elmeier (ctr) and Tom Ramsay (rt) present Burke Curtis (lft), of Rockford, with a USSVI achievement certificate and patch during Burke's Eagle Scout Honor Court on Feb., 18, 2018.

a message from Dave, requesting our participation in a local Rockford Eagle Scout ceremony. I am pleased to report that Terry Elmeier, our Base Storekeeper, stepped forward and volunteered to serve as our Base's Scouting Program Coordinator.

What is the USSVI Scouting Program? USSVI publicly recognizes

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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 12:03 p.m. by Tom Ramsay, Base Commander.

15 members present: Tom Ramsay, Bruce Pickering, Kate Ramsay, Terry Elmeier, Bob Fleck, Jim Helsell, Richard Martin, Renee Martin, Kep Preble, John Stines, Connie Stines, Dave Spencer, Wayne Orrison, Bob Bates, Don Bosetti.

Guests: Jan Spencer, Deb Elmeier

Tolling of Bells Ceremony by Dave and Jan Spencer.

USSVI Creed by Bob Fleck.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation by Chaplain Bob Fleck.

Introductions of members and guests.

Minutes by Secretary Kate Ramsay. Copy of minutes posted in Base newsletter (emailed to members and posted online). Richard Martin Motion made a correction to the minutes noting that the group in which he represents USSVI is the Winnebago Veterans Association, and not the Veterans Administration Commission (VAC). Motion to accept the minutes as corrected by Terry Elmeier and seconded by Bob Bates. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report by Bruce Pickering.

- **End-of-Year (EOY) Report** filed with USSVI. Balance on 1/1/2017 was \$1,065.77. Ending balance 12/31/2017 was \$1,519.92. We took in \$1,637 in deposits and spent \$1,182. A 2017 deposit of \$275 for National dues was sent to National in mid-January 2018.

- **January Report.** Balance as of 1/1/2018 was \$1,519.92. January deposits: \$195. Uncleared checks: None. Cleared checks: \$275 from USSVI Dues. Available balance at month-end was \$1,439.92.

- Terry Elmeier made a motion to accept the reports as presented, and seconded by Richard Martin. Motion carried.

Commander's Report by Tom Ramsay. CDR Ramsay announced that today's meeting would be shortened, foregoing normal reports, to allow time for members to share their memorabilia and stories with others.

- **New USSVI Website.** USSVI announced it is getting ready for the transfer to their new website. Bases were asked not to post new information on ussvi.org as data is being transferred. Once the new website is up, USSVI will notify members through their new communication system. Bases will receive new Tool Manager training. POCs will come from National to individual members, rather than coming from National, to District, to Base Commanders, and then to individual members. It is important that you let Dave Spencer, our Membership Chairman, know of changes to your email and other mailing addresses.

- **Holiday Party success.** Richard and Renee Martin were thanked for opening their home for the Base's Annual After-Holiday Party. We all had a good time.

Good of the Order.

- Bob Fleck introduced a fundraising idea developed by friends in the McHenry area. They were decals (small \$5 and large \$10). Several members purchased decals from him. \$2 from each decal was returned to the USS Illinois Base treasury. Dave Spencer purchased one to be placed on the Base Trailer.

- **Fairbanks-Morse Tour update.** Bruce Pickering reports that management appears to be holding up tour requests. The Union president is still trying to make this happen. Bruce mentioned that we might consider a Base outing to Thresherman's Park in Edgerton, WI to see the Morse Fairbanks motor they have in their collection.

50-50 Raffle. Money collected--\$85. Kep Preble won the Raffle and donated the full amount to the Base.

Closing Prayer by Chaplain Bob Fleck.

Formal Business Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. Motion was made by Wayne Orrison, and seconded by Bruce Pickering to adjourn the business meeting and go into an informal social gathering to "dive down" memory lane. Motion carried.

Next meeting March 3, 2018 at Mustang Bar & Grill, South Beloit, IL, at noon.

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CDR's Column continued

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and supports young men who have reached the coveted Eagle Scout rank. Bases contact local scout troops letting them know we would welcome the opportunity to come and pay homage to these young men at their Court of Honor. Part of our presentation includes introducing this new Eagle Scout to a fellow Eagle Scout and Medal of Honor recipient, RADM Eugene Fluckey, commander of the USS Barb in WWII. If you have forgotten the particulars of RADM Fluckey life, I have a copy of his biography attached to this newsletter.

Your Base was called into action by the parents of Burke C. Curtis,

of Troop 123, Rockford. Terry and I attended his Honors Court on Feb. 18, 2018, joined by our wives. Terry presented a USSVI Scout Program certificate and badge to Burke on behalf of the USS Illinois Base. He also provided him with a photo of the USS Illinois (SSN-786).



It was a moving and "fun" program that attracted not only Burke's family, scouting mentors and friends, but local and state representatives.

Terry will be reaching out to Boy Scout Councils throughout our region letting troops know how to obtain applications and information about USSVI's Scouting Program.

Breaking News



The keel of the USS Cobia (SS-245) was laid on March 17, 1943—75 years ago this year.

Today, as you know, the USS Cobia regally rests (restored to its 1943 perfection) in Manitowoc at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, located at 75 Maritime Dr., Manitowoc, Wis.

You are invited to join in the celebration of the USS Cobia's 75th Anniversary on Saturday, March 17, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission will be \$7.50 a person.

The Cobia re-enactors will be on the sub for self-guided tours. There will be educational displays, music, crafts and games, a scavenger hunt, and a raffle.

The official cake-cutting ceremony will take place at Noon with a limited number of cupcakes to share.

Many USSVI members from Illinois and Wisconsin have volunteered numerous hours on the Cobia Restoration Project over the years. Join them in marking this Diamond Jubilee.



SEA STORIES



by Terry Elmeier,
TM1 (SS)
nickname: "Fudd"

The 'ol saying "Good friends don't let friends do stupid things . . . alone." Should be a line in the official Submarine Hymn. True, submarine sailors know that on a sub, it is an "all hands evolution," but who would have "thunk" it followed them off the boat too.

In the case of Terry Elmeier, then a TM₃(SS), he learned an important lesson about the buddy system. "Trouble comes in twos."

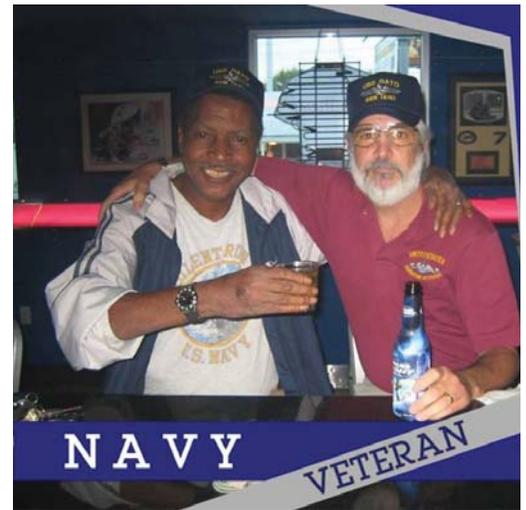


I re-enlisted in the Navy for MK-48 School, and then the 48-Shop in Hawaii. A year later here comes Andy!! The picture of us with the motorcycles was taken at the 48-Shop ballfield.

His partner in crime was TM₂(SS) Charles "Andy" Andrews, who qualified on the USS Haddo (SSN-604). He and Terry met and became best of buddies when they both served aboard the USS Gato (SSN-615).

"Me and my best buddy, Charles "Andy" Andrews," he tells, "were at the Sub Base in Groton, while the USS Gato was attached to the State Pier in New London. We were walking past the theatre on base, when an Ensign (who was not qualified) walked by us.

Andy whispered to me, "Don't salute this guy," so as the Ensign approached, we did not salute.



Andy (lt) and Fudd (rt) have remained "brothers" since they first met in 1973.

The Ensign said, "Hey, sailors! Don't you salute officers?"

Andy just looked him up and down and then calmly replied, "Well, not a non-qualified one." The Ensign's jaw dropped, and he just walked right on by us.

Andy and I had a good laugh about that one for many years!!

Good buddies sometimes don't get caught. On other occasions, however, Terry admits that they did get caught and faced the music— together, the buddy way.

*"If you have crazy friends,
you have everything."*

Get ready for Subfest 2018



Mark your calendar for July 13-15, 2018 for the 4th Annual Subfest in Manitowoc, Wisc.

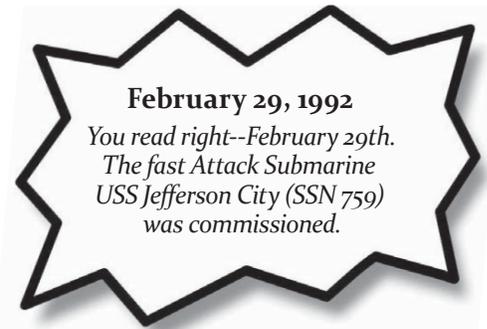
For you Submarine Veterans, your families and special guests, the Museum is again hosting an Open House event for you on Thursday evening, July 12th, on the Museum's Roof Deck from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. A cash bar will be available. During this time, the USS Cobia will be closed to the regular public, but submarine

veterans are invited to explore the sub for as long as they want during the Roof Deck social.

If you haven't been to Subfest, there is something for everyone: music, food, sidewalk sales, self-guided submarine tours, fireworks, kid-friendly activities, and much more.

Keep an eye on the "Schedule of Events." Visit the [Wisconsin Maritime Museum website](#) for full details.





\$5 million reward for missing sub

Spacewar.com (Buenos Aires)— A \$5 million reward has been announced by Argentina for information leading to the recovery of their missing submarine San Juan, which disappeared without a trace in the South Atlantic in November, with the loss of 44 crew.

Argentina made the announcement hoping to generate added interest from private companies to participate in the search for the

missing San Juan. At the peak of the search, more than a dozen countries were involved in search efforts, providing military assets, oceanographic vessels and planes.

The Argentina Defense Ministry said the reward will be granted “to those persons who provide information and useful data that will allow us to find the whereabouts and precise location of the submarine.”

Old, Obscure Navy Ratings



Powder Monkey on board USS New Hampshire off Charleston, S.C., circa 1864.

United States Naval Institute— (Annapolis, Md.) Here are some Navy ranks made mostly obsolete by advances in technology and occasionally by more modern stances, and—at least in one case—child-labor norms.

Powder Monkey

The primary duty of a ship’s powder monkeys was to carry gunpowder from the storage magazine to the crews manning cannons. Regulations in the 19th century did not allow boys younger than 13 to join the Navy, (though that was rarely enforced) and children as young as 6 were documented as having served as powder monkeys during the Civil War.

The name most likely comes from the boys’ ability to quickly scamper like monkeys over and under obstacles on the cramped decks of a ship. The rate was disestablished in 1893

Pigeon Trainers

The Navy began to use “pigeoneers” at the dawn of the 20th century, task-

ing them with the feeding and caring of the flocks of birds used to deliver messages.

The development of radio soon brought more efficient forms of communication, but the Navy continued to include pigeon trainers in the ranks until 1961 in case of some type of technical failure.

Loblolly Boy

In the late 18th century, U.S. Navy ship crews usually included loblolly boys, young men who had the grim task of assisting surgeons by collecting amputated limbs, hauling the buckets of tar used to cauterize stumps, and spreading sand to absorb blood.

In a practice adopted from Britain’s Royal Navy, they were also responsible for feeding sick and wounded sailors a thick meat and vegetable porridge known as “loblolly.”

Loblolly boys remained until 1861, when the rating eventually evolved into hospital corpsman.

Other Obsolute ranks

- Chemical Warfareman
- Schoolmaster
- Airship Rigger
- Intr’l Business Machine Operator
- Jack of the Dust
- Aviation Carpenter’s Mate
- Coal Heaver
- Steward
- Ship Cooper



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."



February

USS Shark (SS-174) lost on her 1st war patrol on Feb. 11, 1942 off Menado, Celebes Island, believed to be the result of one of three Japanese antisubmarine attacks in the area. Loss of 59 crew. Evidence of her loss is not conclusive, and the cause remains unknown.

USS Amberjack (SS-219) lost on Feb. 16, 1943 off Rabaul in the Solomon Sea. Loss of 72 crew. On her 3rd war patrol she was sunk by Japanese aerial bombs and surface craft.

USS Grayback (SS-208) lost on Feb. 27, 1944 off Okinawa on her 10th war patrol. Loss of 80 crew. She was caught on the surface and bombed by a Japanese carrier plane, followed up by depth charges from a surface antisubmarine craft. During her last patrol, she cost the enemy 21,594 tons of shipping.

USS Trout (SS-202) lost on her 11th war patrol on Feb. 29, 1944 in the middle of the Philippine Sea during a Japa-



They are more than lost boats -- they are lost men.
"May they rest in peace," from a grateful nation.

nese surface attack. Loss of 81 crew. She was the recipient of eleven battle stars and three Presidential Unit Citations.

USS Barbel (SS-316) lost on Feb 4, 1945 during a Japanese air attack off the entrance to Palawan Passage. Loss of 81 crew. She was the recipient of three battle stars for her World War II service.

VA now offers same-day services

NOTE: USSVI is working to get kinks out of its new web-site. The old site was reactivated to correct programming issues.

You will see an error regarding our base meeting date in the MC1 box on our base page--this is a template--We didn't have a base page before. The correct date info is under "Meeting Information" on this page. Bases cannot correct this info as yet. Bear with us!

The Veterans Administration (VA) announced a major milestone on Jan. 12, 2018, that 100% of its more than 1,000 medical facilities across the country now offer same-day services for urgent primary and mental health-care needs.

Same-day services means a Veteran with an urgent need for primary care and mental health-care receives services that may include: a face-to-face visit with a clinician; advice provided

during a call with a nurse; a telehealth or video care visit; an appointment made with a specialist; or a prescription filled the same day, depending upon what best meets the needs of the Veteran.

The VA Secretary said: "We made a commitment to our nation's Veterans that we would work to reduce wait times and improve access, and we are doing it."

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, March 3, 2018
Time: Noon
Location: Mustangs Bar & Grill
482 Gardner St. • South Beloit, Illinois

www.ussillinoisbase.org



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



Meet Eagle Scout Eugene B. Fluckey



Rear Admiral Eugene B. Fluckey
March 12, 1963

Place of Birth	Washington, D.C. October 5, 1913
Allegiance	USN
Years of Service	1935-1972
Rank	Rear Admiral
Battles/Wars	World War II
Awards	Medal of Honor Navy Cross (4)
Other Ranking	Eagle Scout

Rear Admiral Eugene Bennett Fluckey (born October 5, 1913; died June 28, 2007) is a former United States Navy submarine commander, who received the Medal of Honor during World War II.

Fluckey was born in Washington, DC, in 1913, and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1935.

Fluckey's initial assignments were aboard the battleship Nevada (BB-36) and the

destroyer McCormick (DD-223). Following those assignments, he entered the submarine service in 1938 and served on the S-42 (SS-153) and later completed five war patrols on Bonita (SS-165). On 27 April 1943, Commander Fluckey assumed command of the Barb (SS-220).

As commanding officer of the Barb, he established himself as one of the greatest submarine skippers, being credited with the most tonnage sunk by a U.S. skipper during World War II, including (17 ships: a carrier, cruiser, and frigate). In one of the strangest incidents in the war, Fluckey sent a landing party ashore to set demolition charges on a coastal railway line, which destroyed a 16-car train. This was the sole landing by U.S. military forces on the Japanese home islands during World War II. Fluckey ordered the landing party be comprised of crewmen from every division on his submarine. He asked for as many ex-Boy Scouts as possible, because Fluckey knew they would know how to find their way in unfamiliar territory.

Fluckey received four Navy Cross Medals for extraordinary heroism during the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 12th war patrols of the Barb. During his famous eleventh patrol, he continued to revolutionize submarine warfare, inventing the night convoy attack from astern by joining the flank escort line. Two convoys at anchor 26 miles inside the 20 fathom (37 m) curve on the China coast, totaling more than thirty ships, were attacked. With two frigates pursuing, the Barb set a world speed record for a submarine of 23.5 knots (44 km/h) using 150% overload.

For his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, Fluckey received the Medal of Honor. The Barb received the Presidential Unit Citation for its 8th, 9th, 10, and 11th patrols and the Navy Unit Commendation for its 12th patrol.

Fluckey later served as Commander, Submarine Flotilla SEVEN (now Submarine Group 7) from October 14, 1955 to January 14, 1956. He was selected for flag rank in 1960 and reported as Commander, Amphibious Group 4. He served as Commander, Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet (COMSUB-PAC) from June 1964 to June 1966. He also had tours as the head of the Electrical Engineering Department at the U.S. Naval Academy and as the U.S. Naval Attaché in Lisbon, Portugal.

When asked “What are you most proud of?” He replied, “Though the tally shows more shells, bombs, and depth charges fired at BARB, no one received the Purple Heart, and Barb came back alive, eager, and ready to fight again.” His book,



Thunder Below! (1992), depicts the exploits of his beloved Barb.

Fluckey retired in 1972 to Annapolis, Md. He died on June 28, 2007 to join the fleet on Eternal Patrol. Half his ashes are interred at the Naval Academy, and the remaining ashes buried at sea by the USS Pasadena (SSN-572) on January 24, 2008 off the coast of Japan at the exact location Fluckey and the crew of USS Barb saved 14 prisoners of war during World War II.

This highly decorated American, is an Eagle Scout — At this time, only five other Medal of Honor recipients hold the highest Boy Scout honor. Joining Fluckey in this distinction are Aquilla J. Dyess, Robert Edward Femoyer, Mitchell Paige, and Leo K. Thorsness,

Medal of Honor Citation

“For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the U.S.S. Barb during her 11th war patrol along the east coast of China from 19 December 1944 to 15 February 1945.

“After sinking a large enemy ammunition ship and damaging additional tonnage during a running 2-hour night battle on 8 January, Comdr. Fluckey, in an exceptional feat of brilliant deduction and bold tracking on 25 January, located a concentration of more than 30 enemy ships in the lower reaches of Nankuan Chiang (Mamkwan Harbor). Fully aware that a safe retirement would necessitate an hour’s run at full speed through the uncharted, mined, and rock-obstructed waters, he bravely ordered, ‘Battle station torpedoes!’

“In a daring penetration of the heavy enemy screen, and riding in 5 fathoms [9 m] of water, he launched the Barb’s last forward torpedoes at 3,000 yards [2.7 km] range. Quickly bringing the ship’s stern tubes to bear, he turned loose 4 more torpedoes into the enemy, obtaining 8 direct hits on 6 of the main targets to explode a large ammunition ship and cause inestimable damage by the resultant flying shells and other pyrotechnics.

“Clearing the treacherous area at high speed, he brought the Barb through to safety and 4 days later sank a large Japanese freighter to complete a record of heroic combat achievement, reflecting the highest credit upon Comdr. Fluckey, his gallant officers and men, and the U.S. Naval Service.”