



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

# Musical Salute to Veterans

A Special treat is in store for next month's meeting on April 7, 2018. USS Illinois Base members Richard and Renee Martin, have their talented granddaughter, Haven Wells, on board for a **Musical Salute to Veterans**. In fact, the event has become a fundraiser for the USS Illinois Base.



Haven Wells to perform at USS Illinois Base Fundraiser, April 7th.

Haven, is a talented, young vocalist who has performed beginning at age 11 for many veteran groups throughout northern Illinois, including a National VFW Convention. She told her grandfather, who raised her, that she would like to perform for his Submarine group.

Haven graduated from college with a degree in music and today teaches music at a Milwaukee area elementary school.

Because of Haven's popularity among area Veterans, we have

opened the event to other veteran groups throughout the Rockford region. Many have expressed excitement to hear her sing again. See the attached flyer that has been posted in veteran meeting places throughout the region.

The Base will have a short meeting at 11:30 a.m., (a half-hour earlier than normal), with the "Musical Salute" to Veterans following at Noon. We will ask attendees for a "free will offering" during the musical. One-half of the proceeds will go to the Base, and the other half to Haven. We will have two 50-50 raffles during the program, of which, proceeds will go to the USS Illinois Base.

Bring your friends and family and enjoy the music. Food and drinks are available for purchase during the "Musical Salute."



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](http://www.ussillinoisbase.org)





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

**15 members present:** Tom Ramsay, Chuck Mongan, Bruce Pickering, Kate Ramsay, Terry Elmeier, Bob Fleck, Mark Dykstra, Jim Helsell, Richard Martin, Renee Martin, John Stines, Wayne Orrison, Bob Bates, Don Bosetti, Sherm Buetsch.

**Guests present:** Patrick O'Brien (prospective member)

**Tolling of Bells Ceremony** by Wayne Orrison & Mark Dykstra

**USSVI Creed** by Chuck Mongan.

**Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Invocation** by Chaplain Bob Fleck.

**Introductions** of members and guests.

**Minutes** by Secretary Kate Ramsay. Minutes posted in Base newsletter (emailed to members and posted online). Motion to accept the minutes as published by Terry Elmeier and seconded by Chuck Mongan. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** by Bruce Pickering. Beginning balance on 2/1/2018 was \$1,439.92. January deposits: \$175. Checks issued: \$170. Uncleared checks: \$125.00. Cleared checks: \$45. Available funds at month-end was \$1,444.92. Richard Martin made a motion to accept the report as presented and seconded by Terry Elmeier. Motion carried.

**Commander's Report** by Tom Ramsay.

- USS Illinois Base joins USSVI's Scouting Program. The CDR received a message from Dave Farran, USSVI's National Scouting Program Coordinator asking the

Base to represent USSVI at a Feb. 18th Eagle Scout Honor Court in Rockford. Terry Elmeier presented the new Eagle Scout with a USSVI and USS Illinois Base certificate and achievement patch. Terry has volunteered to serve as the Base's Eagle Scout Program Coordinator. He and the commander will be speaking with the local Scout District to inform them of our interest in recognizing this scouting achievement. A motion was made by Wayne Orrison to reimburse Terry for Base business cards he can present as Program Coordinator. Motion seconded by Kate Ramsay, and carried.

- USS Cobia is celebrating its 75th Anniversary March 17 in Manitowoc. Members & their families are invited to attend this public event from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- USSVI Website. Kate explained that USSVI still has a couple of programming issues in trying to convert to their new website. Be patient if you see incorrect information on the site, as Base Tool Managers do not have access to the national site as yet to make changes.
- USSVI Annual Convention. Members were reminded about the Oct. 21-28, 2018 USSVI National Convention. It is a cruise departing from Fort Lauderdale. Visit [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org) for full details.

**Events Committee Report** by Richard Martin

- Parades 2018. The Base is set to participate in six parades this year (the same as last year). Wayne Orrison asked Richard to post the parade locations and dates on the Base Website and in the Newsletter.
- Planning for the 2018 Annual Veterans Dinner in Rockford is underway. Richard is on the planning committee for this event. Two guest speakers are being considered for this year's dinner.

- As part of the April meeting, the Base will be hosting a Musical Salute to Veterans as a special fundraiser. The Base meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. in April, with the "Musical Salute" beginning at noon. Haven Wells, Richard and Renee Martin's granddaughter, will perform. Haven has been singing to veteran groups since the age of 11. She is a music graduate and teaches music at a grade school in the Milwaukee area. She has sung before many veteran groups, including the National VFW Convention. The event is open to all veterans in the area. A "free offering" will be asked, with half the proceeds going to the Base and the other half to Haven. A flyer with details was distributed to members. (See page 9 for copy.)

**Storekeeper's Report** by Terry Elmeier. None

**Chaplain's Report** by Bob Fleck. He purchased cards from National that can be used to communicate with members. Let him know if one of our members, or family members is ill.

**Old Business.**

- Bob Fleck reminded us that he still has special Wounded Warrior decals for purchase. The base will receive \$2 from each decal sold. Contact him if interested.
- Bruce Pickering gave an update on the Fairbanks-Morse tour. Pat him on the back for never getting up. Some progress is being made on this one-year effort, but there is a hurdle about the day of the week. We need a Saturday tour—he will keep us posted.

**New Business.**

- Family Picnic. Discussion was held about a family picnic this summer at Thresherman's Park outside Edgerton, WI, where Fairbanks-

(continued on page 3)



# Minutes continued

## Base Contacts

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**"This is for real!"**

Share your stories for a future issue. Make a few notes about one of your best memories and send it to your editor at kateram@jcwifi.com. Don't worry if you aren't a writer, I can call you and put it together for you! Send pictures if you can.

(continued from page 2)

Morse has engines on display. Bruce Pickering will check on this location's availability for hosting a Base family picnic at this location.

### Good of the Order.

- Wayne Orrison advised those planning to attend Manitowoc's SUBFEST in July, to make their hotel reservations soon. Room prices are rising.
- Upcoming Submarine Reunions? Bruce Pickering suggested if you are attending a submarine reunion this year, make sure we promote USSVI membership.

**50-50 Raffle.** \$65 raffle won by a Mustang customer, he donated \$55 back to the Base.

**Closing Prayer** by Chaplain Bob Fleck.

**Meeting adjourned** at 12:58 p.m. Motion made by Terry Elmeier, seconded by Kate Ramsay. Motion carried.

(Next meeting April 7, 2018 at Mustang Bar & Grill, South Beloit, IL, at a different time. Base meeting at 11:30 a.m., followed by a special one-hour Base fundraiser [Musical Salute to Veterans.]

## USS Cobia (SS-245)

### Celebrating the birth of the USS Cobia

Friends of the USS Cobia (SS-245) met in Manitowoc, Wis., on March 17, 2018 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Cobia.

A cake cutting ceremony was held at noon honoring the date the USS Cobia's keel was laid (March 17, 1943).



Submarine Curator Karen Duvall cuts the Cobia's Birthday cake with an officer's sword. "Plenty of cake for everyone."



Damage to USS Cobia's conning tower from Japanese cannon fire after attack where crew member Ralph Huston was killed by enemy fire. US Navy Archives-- Photo courtesy of James P. Marion, III



CDR Tom Ramsay (ctr) pictured here with Paul Rutherford, Maintenance Supervisor, (lft) and Curator Karen Duvall., represented the USS Illinois Base.





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

### Interested in Weekend Work Parties???

I have listened to several of you who have expressed interest in working on the USS Cobia, but due to your job, you can't work week days. Back in the day while I was still in the Navy and joined USSVI, a group of us used to go up to the Cobia on weekends to work. We left early Saturday morning and then came home Sunday evening.

I talked to Cobia's Curator about the difficulty some members have in taking time off during the week, and she expressed interest in weekend work parties, if it would work for the Bases. This means guys, that if there is an interest, a group of us can go on a weekend to work.

Let me know if you are interested.

-- CDR Tom Ramsay

There's a lot to report this issue – so here it goes.

### *Musical Tribute to Veterans*

First, kudos for members Richard and Renee Martin, and especially for their granddaughter, Haven Wells, for willing to entertain area veterans at a special USS Illinois Base fundraiser following an abbreviated Base meeting on April 7.

Remember that the April meeting will start at 11:30 a.m. sharp, followed at Noon by a special one-hour Musical Tribute to Veterans. Since veterans from multiple services are familiar with Haven's wonderful voice have expressed interest in coming to hear her sing, they will gladly be in attendance.

Let's show them that submarine veterans are a vital part of this community: Come and support this event and bring your family and friends too. You can order lunch and drinks during the performance.

### *Cobia's 75th Birthday*

Second, Kate and I attended the 75th Birthday Party Celebration of the USS Cobia SS-245 on March 17 representing the USS Illinois Base. The party was well attended and a great deal of fun. Submarine Curator Karen Duvalle, and her team, did an exceptional job in coordinating this special day. She has agreed to come to a future base meeting to speak about the Cobia Restoration.

### *Call for Cobia working party*

I had a chance to speak with Karen about how we Submarine Veterans can support the ongoing maintenance of the USS Cobia—after all, it is our legacy on display.

Volunteers are vital to the USS Cobia's continued preservation. In fact,

a call to area USSVI Bases was made seeking support at a **Working Party, slated for April 9-11**. Those interested in attending should give me a call. Let's see if we can car pool.

Not everyone is a sub sailor that volunteers on these working parties—so if you have friend who would like to see what life was like on your sub, and who is willing to work side by side with you--then, by all means invite them too.

If possible, workers are asked to arrive by 4 p.m. Sunday, April 8th, so the work party can get right to work on Monday morning. The working party tries to wrap up at noon on Wednesday, or early afternoon, to allow everyone the chance to get home at a decent hour.

You can sleep on the boat—just like the old days, or there is a hotel next door to the museum.

### *Read the Base Minutes*

Just a reminder: To keep up what is happening at the Base, please read the meeting minutes printed in each copy of this newsletter. To keep our meetings short (so we have more time for sea stories), we ask for approval of minutes "as published." If you couldn't come to the last minute, it is a great way to find out what is going on. If you need additional information or clarification, then call me at 815-443-2535 or 815-291-2535—remember I have a "dumb phone," so phone calls and emails are the best way to contact me.

Let me know how we can make your meeting experience better.

**USS Cobia Working Party**  
**join me**  
**April 9-11, 2018**



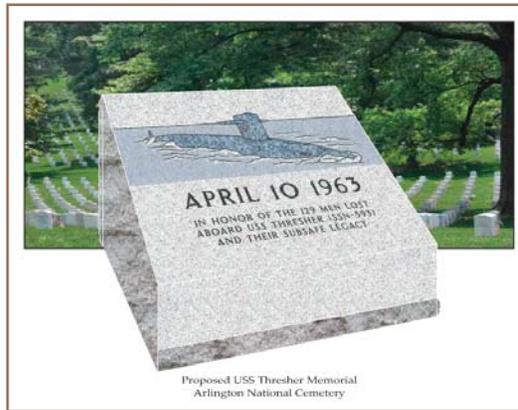


# NEWS from NATIONAL

**Call to arms:  
Support letters  
are needed!**

## Fellow USSVI Members,

The USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Foundation needs the help of Bases and USSVI members to help realize its mission of erecting a National USS Thresher Commemorative Monument on the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery to honor and perpetuate the memories, and SUBASFE (Submarine Safety Program) legacy, of the 129-men lost aboard USS Thresher on April 10, 1963.



You can help gain approval from the Secretary of the Army to build a National Commemorative Monument to the men who perished aboard USS THRESHER by mailing a USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery Commemorative Monument Project supporter letter to Ms. Karen Durham-Aguilera, Executive Director of Army National Military Cemeteries.

You can get a template of this letter by visiting <http://ThresherMemorial.org>. Click on the link “How You Can Help” tab. On this website, you also will be able to read more about the efforts of this Memorial Foundation.

## Couldn't have said it better!

Famous quote by Sir Charles Chichester



**“Any damn fool can navigate the world sober. It takes a really good sailor to do it drunk.”**

Sir Francis Charles Chichester KBE (September 17, 1901 – August 26, 1972) was a pioneering aviator and solo sailor.

He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for becoming the first person to sail single-handed around the world by the clipper route and the fastest circumnavigator, in nine months and one day overall in 1966–67.

## 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.” For full details, visit the Wisconsin Maritime Museum website.



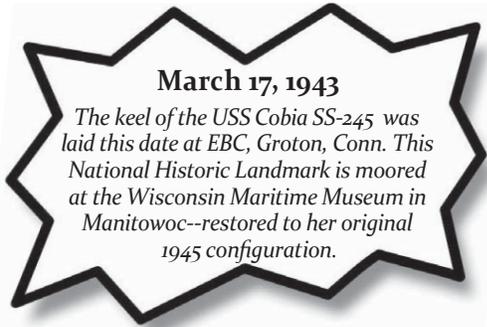


**How's this for new sleeping arrangements?**

*NavalToday.com*--“Royal Australian Navy submariners have developed a new solution for the temporary accommodation on board Collins-class submarines as an alternative to wooden beds,” reports *Naval Today*.

The sleeping module is “composed of two halves which can be folded together and fastened with a locking band for transportation.” The capsule interfaces with existing infrastructure, requiring no additional support equipment or modifications to be installed within the submarine.

Another practical addition was the inclusion of detachable “wings” for



the capsule, providing a wider, more generous sleeping area. They will be tested in upcoming sea trials aboard submarines. Storage is handled similar to storing a torpedo.



Sailors from Fleet Support Unit– West at HMAS Stirling designed and built the ‘Submarine Accommodation Capsule.’  
- Royal Australian Navy photo

**Are you serious?**



*Wall Street Journal (Chicago)*— On March 14, 2018, the *Washington Journal* reported what could be “good news” or “bad news,” depending upon how you read it.

They reported that a 22-year old Navy hospital corpsman, who is about to be deployed as a battlefield medic with the 2nd Marine Division, has orders first to Cook County’s Stroger Hospital in Chicago, Ill.

Since the corpsman will be serving in deadly battlegrounds in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Navy wanted him to

gain trauma experience at a hospital that is among one of the few in the country that can provide experience treating the types of wounds the corpsman will inevitably see on the battlefield.

For so long “the first time a corpsman got any trauma experience was when they were deployed, and some would just freeze up,” said Captain Paul Roach, the U.S. Navy surgeon who heads the program in the Great Lakes region. “We don’t want that to happen anymore.”

**Looming national security crisis**

Last month, the Heritage Foundation published a study finding that roughly 24 million of the 34 million Americans between 17 and 24 years old, or 71 percent, are unable to serve in the military due to obesity, criminal record, or lack of education. That leaves just a quarter of young Americans eligible to enlist in the armed services, posing an “alarming” threat to national security, the report found, citing Pentagon data.



## 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."



### March



USS Tullibee (SS-284)

USS F-4 [ex-SKATE] (SS23) lost on March 21, 1915. Loss of 19 crew when it floundered off Honolulu Harbor. Hulk raised and reburied off Sub Base, Pearl Harbor.

USS H-1 (SS-28) lost March 12, 1920 while being towed after grounding at Magdalena Bay, Mexico. Loss of 4 crew.

USS Perch (SS-176) scuttled March 3, 1942 near Surabaya, Java on her 1st war patrol. Depth charges badly damaged the boat. Crew survived sinking: 61 taken prison by Japanese forces, only 53 survived the war.

USS Grampus (SS-207) lost on or after March 5, 1943 in the Blackett Strait--possibly near Vella Gulf. Loss of 71 crew. Believe to be sunk by Japanese destroyers.

USS Triton (SS-201) lost on March 15, 1943 when sunk during Japanese surface attack with three Japanese destroyers north New Guinea, by the Admiralty Islands. Loss of 74 crew.

USS Tullibee (SS-284) lost March 26, 1944 while operating north of Palau. Loss of 79 crew. Believed to be a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes on her 4th war patrol. The only survivor, a lookout, was knocked off the boat with the explosion. He survived the war as a Japanese prisoner.

USS Kete (SS-369) lost on or after March 20, 1945 when sunk on return to Midway (probably near Okinawa) at the end of her 2nd war patrol. Loss 87 crew.

USS Trigger (SS-237) lost on March 28, 1945 in the East China Sea. Loss of 89 crew. On her 12th war patrol, this highly decorated boat was involved in operations leading to the Okinawa invasion when attacked by Japanese anti-submarine vessels and aircraft.

### Story within the Story

#### Sole survivor of USS Tullibee (SS-284)

C.W. Kuykendall was a gunner's mate aboard the USS Tullibee SS-284 on March 24, 1944 during the Tullibee's 4th War Patrol when it was lost to the sea. The young gunner's mate was thrown from the bridge during an explosion. The force of the impact knocked him unconscious.

When he regained consciousness, the submarine was gone. He heard machine gun rounds peppering the water around him, and head voices in the water for about 10 minutes before they stopped.

This sole survivor was picked up by the Japanese for questioning. After receiving a beating for refusing to disclose any information beyond what was required by international law, he was sent to the copper mines in Ashio. He remained there until he was rescued in September of 1945.



**NOTE:** Change of meeting time. We start 1/2 hour earlier this month only.

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, April 7, 2018  
**Time:** Business Meeting - 11:30 a.m.  
'Musical Salute to Veterans' - Noon-1 p.m.  
**Location:** Mustang's Bar & Grill  
482 Gardner St. • South Beloit, Illinois

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



# Musical Salute to Veterans



with a special appearance by  
**Haven Wells**  
a talented, young vocalist  
who has been entertaining  
veteran organizations for  
more than 14 years.

Special invitation  
to Veterans and their families.  
Come to a special musical  
tribute, sponsored by the  
USS Illinois Base,  
*a member of the*  
*United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.*

**APRIL 7, 2018**

**Noon - 1 p.m.**

**Mustang Bar & Grill**  
**482 Gardner St.,**  
**South Beloit, Illinois**

**Free will offering for attendance to help support  
USSVI veterans programs.**



**Delicious food, drinks available for purchase.**

Fundraiser for the USS Illinois Base (USSVI).



# 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 1<sup>st</sup> thru Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. 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**

