



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

Ring in long-overdue recognition



One of five USS Illinois Base members joined the ranks of the Holland Club this year. Let's begin their saga with the person who waited the longest for his recognition – none other than TM3(SS) Rudy Kraut, of Pecatonica. This WWII submarine veteran, is 94-years young. He earned his Dolphins in 1945, making his Holland Club induction only 22 years in arrears. Better late than never, we always say!



Rudy Kraut aboard the USS Cobia following Holland Club ceremony on July 13, 2018.

His Holland Club induction was held aboard the USS Cobia during the 2018 SubFest activities in Manitowoc this past July. This initiation location was fitting for Rudy, who had the honored distinction of being a member of the commissioning crew of the Manitowoc-built Lizardfish SS-373, on which he qualified. But, we are getting ahead of our story.

He left high school after his junior year and volunteered in the Navy on Sept. 25, 1943. He was sent to the Naval Training Station in Farragut, ID for basic training. During this base's 30-month activation, some 293,000 recruits passed through its gates, leaving with boat rowing skills learned from a nearby lake.

Rudy grew up on a farm on the outskirts of Freeport, just east of the Titan (Springfield) Plant off of Rte. 20.

After bootcamp, Rudy was sent to torpedo school in San Diego, CA. Leaving school with a TM rank, Rudy was transferred to New London, CT
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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





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

We have completed a lot this past year, from participating in five area parades, the 2018 SubFest in Manitowoc, several USS Cobia working parties, and a really fun family picnic earlier this month. Thank each of you for your enthusiasm. I had a good time, and I hope you did too.

Having said that, we still aren't done yet! Your Base, and USSVI, needs your continued support for several other activities yet to come.

First and foremost, I need each member to go to USSVI.org, login on the member page, and VOTE for this year's USSVI Officers! Do it before the end of the month.

On the local level, this weekend (Sept. 22-23) is WWII Days at Midway Village in Rockford. Several of you have volunteered to help man our booth over this two-day event. Let me tell you now "thanks!"

We can't rest yet, because we again need volunteers for the upcoming Veterans Stand Down event. We talked about it in the last newsletter, but just in case you missed it, *see page 4* for full details. Volunteering for this event supports the many homeless veterans in our communities.

Finally, don't forget that we again this year want to participate in the Christmas for Vets program, where we bring gifts to veterans at local rest homes and assisted living centers. We hope this year to expand this efforts into Wisconsin, but we need some help and guidance from members who live in Wisconsin or near the border. We will be talking more about this at future meetings.

I am proud to be your Commander, but our successes have been and always will be because of your support and participation in Base meetings and events.

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Treasurer's Report

Bruce Pickering
 USS Illinois Base Treasurer

Reminder: It's time to pay your 2019 National and Base membership dues for the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI). I will be available to accept your 2019 dues 15 minutes before and after our October, November, and December base meetings.

Dues are the same as last year:

National dues for both qualified members and associate members:

- **1-year term is \$25.**
- **3-year term is \$70.**
- **5-year term is \$115.**
- **Life-time memberships** available--cost associated with your age:
 - **Age 76+ is \$100.**

- **Age 66-76 is \$200.**
- **Age 56-65 is \$300.**
- **Age 46-55 is \$400.**
- **Age 45 and below is \$500.**

Note: Several members have multiple year memberships. If you have questions about your term, please contact me.

USS Illinois Base dues are \$10. Multi-year options are not available.

You can pay me at a meeting: make checks out to "USS Illinois Base," or mail it to my attention at 1702 Calumet Ave., Beloit, WI 53511. Make your payment before Dec. 15, 2018 to ensure time for your dues to reach National before USSVI's December 31 cut-off. Send it to my attention at 1702 Calumet Ave., Beloit, WI 53511.

Bases cannot accept credit card payments. On National's website you can make credit card payments for National dues only.



Lizardfish sailor saga continues

(continued from page 1)

to report to a new submarine, the USS Lizardfish. But, since the boat was not ready for the crew as yet, Rudy was sent to Key West, FL, aboard the SS-R4, a WWI submarine, which was patrolling the Florida Straits.

Rudy states that this diversion gave him added gunnery practice training in Newport News, VA.



Icy plankowners of the Lizardfish (SS-373) line the boat's stern during the commissioning ceremony on Dec. 30, 1944.

Photo courtesy of Manitowoc Maritime Museum.

“When the orders came for the USS Lizardfish,” Rudy states, “the crew was sent to Manitowoc as a group.” The boat was not yet completed, which gave them time to train, to assist in the final construction of the boat,

and to learn about the equipment before the boat was activated. During this time, the crew was set up barracks style in a warehouse on the northside of the Manitowoc River.

He recalls the Dec. 30, 1944 commissioning of the boat, and the 221-foot test dives they took on Lake Michigan. “I was cold. It was cold in town, but much colder in Lake Michigan.”

Leaving near Manitowoc, gave him an opportunity to slip home on occasion. A couple of times hitchhiking home and back. “I brought my Dad’s car for the commissioning party, picking up one ‘fella’ who lived in Rockford.”

As you know, upon completion the Mani-

towoc boats left by barge, traveling down the Calumet-Sag Channel in Chicago, to the Illinois River, to the Mississippi River, and then to New Orleans for launch.

Rudy was slated to go with the boat on this part of the venture, but as luck would have it, Rudy recalls, “a shipmate, who was going through a divorce, wanted out of town.” He offered Rudy his 9-day liberty and \$20, if he could trade places with him. Rudy never did discover what life was like during the boat’s first liberty port in Peoria, IL. Instead, he flew down to meet the boat in New Orleans—to his delight it was Mardi Gras time. “I had fun!” he smiled.

Battle Star action

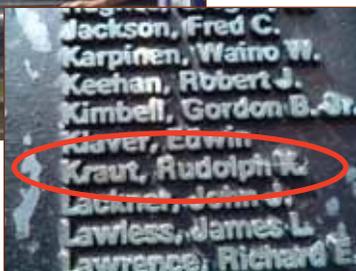
After passing through the Panama Canal, the Lizardfish headed toward Hawaii. They left for their first war patrol on Apr. 7, 1945. It was during their second war patrol that the Lizardfish saw considerable action, earning her a Battle Star for her WWII action.

After the war, the crew brought the boat back to San Francisco, and later San Diego for decommissioning. For his last three months in the Navy, Rudy served aboard the USS Blueback (SS-326).

Rudy has fond memories of Manitowoc. “Living as a wharf rat” during the final construction of the boat, hitchhiking back home to the boat on weekends, and as he describes being around “a great bunch of people” living in Manitowoc. It is no wonder that Rudy and his wife, Caroline, who passed away in 2013, and their two kids spent many summers in Northern Wisconsin and Manitowoc. In fact, Rudy and Caroline’s 50th Wedding Anniversary was held in Two Rivers, WI.



Rudy (left) visits the Lizardfish Plaque honoring commissioning crew members.





Top of Illinois Stand Down



Photo by Brad Rachford, Independence KY, U.S. Marine Corps, Gulf War Era. Part of a VA image contest to help raise awareness for Homeless Veterans. Photo credit: VA.GOV

The USS Illinois Base has dropped anchor to participate in the 2018 Top of Illinois Veteran's Stand Down. Leading the charge are USSVI members Richard and Renee Martin, who have been volunteer partners in prior Stand Downs. The Base elected to join their efforts on behalf of area veterans and their immediate families.

The Top of Illinois Veterans Stand Down will be held at the Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center, at 406 N. Main St., Rockford, IL, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on October 27.

Birth of Stand Down

The original Stand Down for homeless veterans, held in San Diego, CA, in 1988, was modeled after the Stand Down concept used during the Vietnam War to provide a safe retreat for units returning from combat operations.

At secure base camp areas, troops were able to take care of personal hygiene, get clean uniforms, enjoy warm meals, receive medical and dental care, mail and receive letters, and enjoy the camaraderie of friends in a safe environment. Battle-weary soldiers had the opportunity to renew their spirit, health and overall sense of well-being.

The program is successful on the local level because it brings outreach services to one location. But, achieving these objectives requires a wide range of support, services, and volunteer time.

Outreach services

Many dedicated local service providers, volunteers, military service organizations, community-

based organizations and representatives from city, county, state and federal agencies will be available to assist our nation's veterans. Homeless veterans will find assistance in the areas: health, counseling, employment; vocational rehabilitation counseling, and assistance with VA claims.

The Winnebago County Health Department will be offering free blood pressure checks and flu shots, and free haircuts will be provided by area professionals. The Illinois Secretary of State Mobile Unit will be onsite to issue Drivers Licenses and State ID's. The Social Security Administration will also have a representative on hand.

New underwear, socks and personal hygiene items will be available to registered veterans, as well as free "New to you" jackets, coats, sweaters, blue jeans, gloves, hats, scarves, sweat-pants and shirts, shoes and boots.

How can USSVI help?

"Here is where our USSVI Base can help out," states Richard Martin our event coordinator. USS Illinois Base members are asked to look through their closets for coats, sweaters, blue jeans, gloves, hats, or other clothing that can be distributed to veterans and their families in need (ladies' clothing is also needed). In addition to assistance on that day, Richard explains that a number of people are needed prior to the event to help segregate the clothing by size for ease in later distribution.

Mark your calendar today for the main event on October 27, and watch for future newsletters and other communications about support opportunities. We may be a Base small in size, but let's show our communities that we are large in heart--volunteer to help.



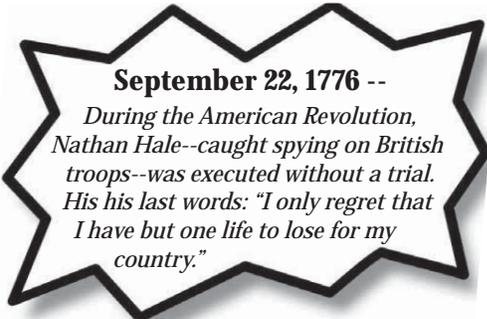
This may sound like "Old News" to some, but we still have a call out for help for this important base event. More information will be coming at the Base's October meeting, or you can contact Dick Martin directly at pops1945@comcast.net or (815) 505-7674





Tidbits of Knowledge from
around the world

A Bit of History
on right



September 22, 1776 --

During the American Revolution, Nathan Hale--caught spying on British troops--was executed without a trial. His his last words: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Swordfish catches submarine

Smithsonian.com (Washington, D.C.) -- How's this for a bad day? At 2:30 p.m. on July 6, 1967, the sub ALVIN was working off the coast of Florida down about 2,000 feet. It was diving towards a large-sea coral specimen to examine, when the two men inside the sub heard a strange scraping noise.



'Wee," said the lil' fishy,
"look what I found!"

One of the crew members, Edward F. K. Zarudzki, recalled the events of that day: "Thinking that the noise had been caused by the submarine drifting and scraping over the sea floor, I looked down and saw that we were stationery and on the bottom. Simultaneously with the noise, the co-pilot who was watching out through the starboard porthole, recoiled from it exclaiming: 'We have been hit by a fish!' Indeed, outside the starboard porthole I saw a large fish, apparently captive, violently

trying to disengage itself and in the process tearing some of the skin and flesh off its back."

According to the *Smithsonian*, once the two-man crew realized that the swordfish was, in fact, stuck in their submarine, there was a series of conference calls and tests to assess any damage to critical equipment on the sub that now sat at the bottom of the ocean. They decided it was best to "surface the submarine and remove the swordfish before proceeding again with the dive."

When they got to the surface, they found an 8-foot long, 196 pound swordfish attached to the sub. The fish had apparently been lying on the bottom of the ocean and been startled by ALVIN. It immediately attacked ALVIN without hesitation, aiming its sword just below the starboard porthole. The inclined surface of the fiberglass hull deflected the sword towards the joint in the hull and the sword thus became wedged at its base.

Navy pilot earns Distinguished Flying Cross



Military.com (San Francisco, CA) -- A Navy pilot, who took out a Syrian attack jet (the service's first air-to-air kill since the end of the Cold War) that was dropping bombs on friendly forces last year, was recently recognized for his heroism.

LCDR Mike Tremel, an F/A-18E Super Hornet pilot with the Strike Fighter Squadron 87, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on September 8 during the Tailhook Associa-

tion's annual conference. The medal is awarded for heroism or extraordinary achievement during aerial flights.

Tremel identified a Syrian SU-22 FITTER closing quickly on the coalition ground force. He executed three warning passes with flares, but the FITTER disregarded them and delivered ordnance on the coalition ground force. To protect the coalition, LCDR Tremel fired two air-to-air missiles that destroyed the FITTER.



**Look what we've been doing?
Find the picture that doesn't belong!**



A Bruce Pickering we don't often see--now on film. Keep smiling!



Roscoe Fall Parade



Joe Jones proudly carried our banner



Special Thanks to Ron DeGraff (lft), historian for Fairbanks Morse, for making our picnic memorable.,

Family Picnic Thresherman's Park



Time to talk and laugh with friends & family.

What picture didn't belong?
If you chose Bruce Pickering smiling in the upper left-hand corner, you were WRONG!



Diesel engine from 'old' USS Enterprise .



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."



September

USS S-5 (SS-110) lost on September 1, 1920 during sea trials when she accidentally sank 40 miles off the Delaware Capes. The crew escaped through a hole cut in her hull in the tiller room. All crew escaped. Refloated, she was lost when she sank again five miles from the accident point while being towed by the battleship USS Ohio. Metal from the hole rests in Navy Memorial Museum.

USS S-51 (SS-162) lost on September 25, 1925 when it sank after colliding with the SS City of Rome off Block Island, Rhode Island. Loss of 33 crew.

USS Grayling (SS-209) lost on September 9, 1943 on her 8th war patrol when it was sunk in or near

Tablas Strait, Philippines. Her loss remains a mystery. Loss of 76 crew

USS Pompano (SS-181) lost on her 7th war patrol, possibly on September 17, 1943, when it was sunk off the northeast coast of Honshu. The exact cause is unknown. Loss of 77 crew.

USS Cisco (SS-290) lost on September 28, 1943 on her 1st war patrol when it was sunk in the Sulu Sea west of Mindanao Island group in Philippines. Based on Japanese reports, Cisco appears to have unknowingly had a leaking fuel tank that created an oil slick trail. On a calm sea, this "trail" enabled a combined air and surface antisubmarine force to locate and sink her. Loss of 76 crew

Story within the Story



On Eternal Patrol
USS S-51 (SS-162)

USS S-51 (SS-162) was a fourth-group (S-48) S-class submarine of the United States Navy.

Her keel was laid down on Dec. 22, 1919 by the Lake Torpedo Boat Company of Bridgeport, Conn. She was launched on Aug. 20, 1921 sponsored by Mrs. R. J. Mills, and commissioned on June 24, 1922 with Lieutenant W. S. Haas in command.

Based in New London, Conn., she operated out of her homeport, visiting Newport and Providence, R.I. She

departed from New York City on Jan. 4, 1924 for the Panama Canal area to participate in winter fleet maneuvers, and made several visits to local Caribbean Island ports during her cruise.

On the evening of Sept. 25, 1925, while operating near Block Island, R.I. with running lights on, she was rammed by the merchant ship *City of Rome*. Only 3 of the 36 men aboard the submarine were able to abandon ship before she sank. She was raised on July 5, 1926, and removed from the Naval Vessel Register on Jan. 27, 1930. She was sold for scrap in June of that year.

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, October 6, 2018
Time: Noon (lunch available during or after meeting)
Location: Mustang 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

