



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

'Three wise men said . . .'

In line with the season, we share some profound wise words shared with the editor by three "wise men" from the USS Illinois Base:

1. *Why men who have been to War Yearn to Reunite*

(Below submitted by Terry Elmeier, who saw this on a sign while attending a USS Gato reunion.)

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to weep or laugh.

"Comrades gather because they long to be with the people who once acted their best; who once suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity

"I did not pick these men, they were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust.

They were willing to guard something more

precious than my life. They would have carried by reputation . . . The memory of me.

"It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were all willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory. I will think of them all, every day.

"I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thoughts will be of my family, and my comrades.

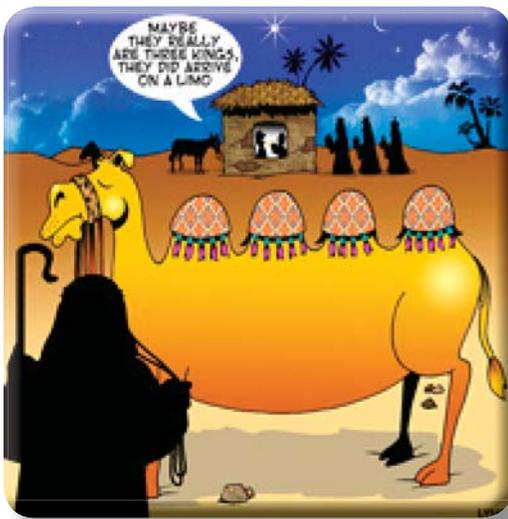
SUCH GOOD MEN!"

2. *Poem: 'Navy Coffee'*

(Below poem written by CDR Rod Mooney, USN (ret), and submitted by Kep Preble.)

For Greeks, ambrosia was OK,
But used up all a sailor's pay.
Tars worked for grog instead of wage
But as for me I love to hug
A good old Navy coffee mug.
Its fragrance cuts the salty air
and Wafts me far away from there
It's best when made so it can stand
Without the mug, just in your hand,
And crusted mugs from watches back
Are germ free if your coffee's black.

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www.ussillinoisbase.org





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

14 members present: Tom Ramsay, Mark Dykstra, Bruce Pickering, Kate Ramsay, Bob Bates, Don Bosetti, Sherm Buetsch, Terry Elmeier, Wayne Orrison, Phil Owens, Kep Preble, Dave Spencer, Jan Lindquist-Spencer, Daryl Rorabaugh.

2 Guests present: Theresa & Rose Dykstra.

Tolling of Bells Ceremony: Terry Elmeier & Kep Preble

USSVI Creed: Bruce Pickering.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation by Bruce Pickering.

Introductions of members and guests.

Minutes by Secretary Kate Ramsay. Motion made by Bob Bates to accept the November minutes as published in newsletter. Seconded by Kep Preble. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report by Bruce Pickering. Beginning balance on 11/1/2018 was \$1,959.26. Deposits: \$1,112. Cleared checks \$568.10. Ending balance: \$2,503.16. Motion made by Phil Owens to accept the report as presented and seconded by Richard Martin. Motion carried.

Commander's Report by Tom Ramsay.

- Eternal Patrol. Rudy Kraut's funeral on Dec. 1 was well attended. Representing our base were Tom and Kate, Phil and Evie Owens, Archie Holte, and Dick Martin, who played taps as part of the Honor Guard. Rudy's family was extremely appreciative for the friends he made at USSVI. Rudy will be missed. A motion was made by Terry Elmeier and seconded by Phil Owens to make a \$200 donation to the USS Cobia's Dry Dock Fund as a memorial to Rudy Kraut, a member of the commissioning crew of Manitowoc's USS Lizardfish. Motion carried.

- USSVI Website. National notified bases that USSVI cancelled contracts with past website development groups due to issues with data conversion. They are working with a USSVI member, who has experience in large scale information

technology and website development. He is working with a team of fellow submariners to help get National's new website up and running. Be patient.

District CDR's Report by Phil Owens.

- He shared a letter he has written and sent to USSVI members throughout our District who have not joined a local Base. The letter points members to existing bases, or encourages them to contact him if they are interested in starting a base in their area.
- The Crash Dive Base is following up on the Cobia Memorial. Chicago Base is no longer involved.
- He noted the success the Peoria Base is having with the Kaps4Kids program.

Events Committee Report by CDR Ramsay. Christmas for Vets program is off and running. A calendar of rest homes visits was sent to everyone. Please sign up for as many of these events as you can attend, as the residents enjoy visiting with other veterans. Kudos for Dave and Jan Spencer, as well as Wayne Orrison and his daughter for having kids create 475 Christmas Cards for these vets, and for making 70 dozen cookies, and providing other gifts for these visits. Great job!

Storekeeper's Report by Terry Elmeier. Terry shared a sample of a USSVI shirt (USS Illinois Base) from Jenny Dugan, of SubVest.Com. The shirts come in several colors, designed with or without pockets and nicknames on the right/front side. Terry is taking orders. Cost \$40 per shirt.

Chaplain's Report. Dick Martin has been quite ill these past couple of weeks with a severe viral infection. We hope he is up and at 'em soon.

Old Business. Base Holiday Party will be at the Mongan home on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019 at noon in lieu of the regular base meeting. The Mongan's will provide BBQ and pop. Other drinks are BYOB. Bring a dish to pass. Info was in the November newsletter. More information coming, including a map to the Mongan home.

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

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Year! This is the time of the year we look back at our many accomplishments, both with our family, work, and USSVI Base. It is also time to look forward to a new and prosperous year. Good cheer and smooth sailing to you and yours in 2019!



This past year we have met and welcomed many new friends here at the Base, we have also had the sad task of sending a member on his Eternal Patrol.

We have come a long way from just over three-years when we started with nine founding members. What I get so excited about in watching our membership grow is seeing an expanding sea story pool. We are still in our infancy as a USSVI base, but we now have well-attended meetings with an enthusiastic and committed group of individuals.

As you know Kate has been asked to chair National's Public Relations and Long-Range Planning Committee. She has several dedicated volunteers from around the country to help her, and National CDR Wayne Standerfer asked me to sit on this committee with them. I am very proud of Kate's willingness to take on this important task, since USSVI is having the same issues as our local veteran groups—aging membership and loss of members. We need to grow, and we need to be a viable source for information and fun to both young and old members.

I will be asking you to help in this endeavor this coming year. If you have ideas for USS Illinois Base meeting structure, we would like to know. We need to address questions: How can we involve our families

into USSVI? How can we restructure meetings to make it more valuable to you? Do we need to set apart more social time for sea stories and fellowship? Would you be open to outside events, like we did with Fairbanks Morse, or maybe a group heading to an Ice Hogs, Rockford Rivets or Beloit Snappers so we can also spend time fun time with our families. We might even be able to make a group trip up to the USS Cobia—for kids and grandkids to enjoy too. The floor is open to all ideas.

At a future meeting, I would like to open up half of our meeting time to obtain your individual thoughts on how we can improve our meetings and social activities. You will be helping not only our Base, but bases everywhere.

This doesn't mean that we shirk our current duties in support of parades, Christmas for Vets, Veteran Stand Down, and other such activities. As you know our new Vice CDR Mark Dykstra, who lives in Janesville, is working on ways that we can also make a difference with Wisconsin veteran groups. He is looking at parade opportunities as well. I want to also give a big Kudo to Mark and his wife, Theresa, who attended our last meeting. They volunteered and received approval by the Base, to explore involvement in USSVI's Kap-s4Kids program.



If your Mom or Dad said Submarines aren't safe. Here is something to think about:

Submarines are safer than airplanes. Proof in the fact is there are more airplanes in the water than submarines in the air!



Bruce Pickering
USS Illinois Base Treasurer

If you haven't paid National or Base dues THEY ARE DUE. Contact Bruce for specific information. Email him at: knuckleheadhack39@tds.net.



Wiser words never heard . . . (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Beware the canned milk on the bridge,
It's likely never seen a fridge,
And if it fails to pour or run,
It's left from World War Two (OR ONE).
But don't spill coffee on your boots
Your socks will soon start growing roots,
And if it penetrates the deck,
The panicked crew could cause a wreck.
Way down below, the engine crew
Prefers an even stronger brew,
And sometimes as they ply their craft,
They use the stuff to grease the shaft.
When Navy coffee's thick and black,
It guards against a heart attack,
And if it's strong enough, I'm sure

3. **PRIDE of the Services**

(Found on jokerz.com and submitted by **Tom Ramsay**.)

A Marine General, an Army General and a Navy Submarine Captain were discussing who had the toughest men. The Army General says, "All right, I'll prove the army has the toughest men in the country. Private, get over here!" The private reports as ordered, "Yes sir?" The general says, "See that man over there? Kill him!" Without hesitating, the private kills the man.

The general says, "See? That man has balls!"

The Marine General says, "That's nothing. Private, get over here!" The marine private reports, "Yes, sir?" The Marine General says, "See that man over there? Kill him and then kill yourself." Without blinking, the Marine Private pulls out his M-16 and blows away the guy, then turns the rifle on himself and unloads several rounds. The Marine General says, "See? Now that man has balls!"

The Submarine Captain says, "That's nothing." He calls to a seaman high up on the conning tower, "Hey, Seaman, jump off that tower!" The Seaman answers, "Excuse me, sir?" The Captain repeats, "JUMP OFF THAT TOWER!" The Seaman replies, "F... you, sir!" The Captain says, "See? That man has balls, and he's got brains too!"



Minutes continued

(continued from page 2)



New Business. Mark Dykstra had approached the CDR to see if the Base would be interested in getting involved in USSVI's Kaps4Kids program. Mark Dykstra and his wife, Theresa, have volunteered to pursue information for the Base if there is interest. A motion was made by Bruce Pickering, and seconded by Jan Spencer for the Dykstras to proceed with our involvement in this worthy program. Motion carried.

Good of the Order. None.

50-50 Raffle. \$65 collected. The raffle won by Dave Spencer, who donated his share back to the Base.

Closing Prayer by Bruce Pickering.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m. Motion made by Dave Spencer and seconded Mark Dykstra. Motion carried.

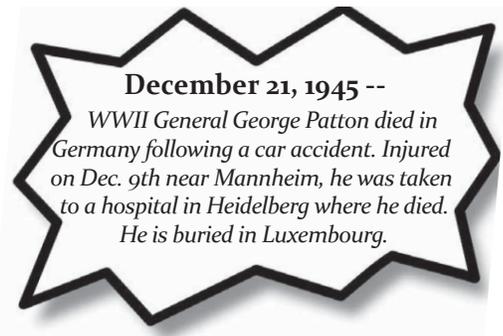
Next Meeting: Holiday Party, noon on Jan. 5, 2019, at the Mongan home, 3123 Nickolas Way, Rockton, IL.





Tidbits of Knowledge from
around the world

A Bit of History
on right



December 21, 1945 --

WWII General George Patton died in Germany following a car accident. Injured on Dec. 9th near Mannheim, he was taken to a hospital in Heidelberg where he died. He is buried in Luxembourg.

Maintenance backlogs hit hard

U.S. News (Dec. 13, 2018)--“Three of the Navy’s nuclear-powered attack submarines are not certificated to dive because of a maintenance backlog,” military officials say.

During a recent Senate Armed Service Committee hearing, Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. William Moran told lawmakers that one of the submarines, the USS Boise, will be sent to a private shipyard for

repairs next year due to backlogs at Navy shipyards.

At the hearing, Sen. Mike Rounds, a Republican from South Dakota, said Defense officials need to be open with the American public about the seriousness of the problem and that Americans need to understand ahead of any potential reductions in the defense budget.

Secret mission-- 'Incredible find'

Quad-Cities Times (Davenport, IL) – When CNN interviewed Robert Ballard, the man who led the expedition to find the wreckage of the RMS Titanic, he revealed the discovery wasn’t “purely scientific” but “was all a front for a secret Cold War Navy mission to find wrecked nuclear submarines.”

Ballard discussed this “now declassified” incredible discovery during a recent CNN interview. He explained that the expedition was part of a secret US military mission to recover the USS Thresher and the USS Scorpion.

“We knew where the subs were,” Ballard told CNN. “What they wanted me to do was go back and not have the Russians follow me, because we were interested in the

nuclear weapons that were on the Scorpion and also what the nuclear

reactors (were) doing to the environment.”

Ballard was a commander in the US Navy and a scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution at the time. “The Navy offered him the funding and opportunity to search for the Titanic, but only if he first explored the USS Thresher and the USS Scorpion, two American nuclear subs that sank in the 1960s,” he explained.

Luck was on his side. When they finished the exploration for the Scorpion and Thresher, they had 12 days left over from their primary mission, which led to the search and discovery of the Titanic.

The search for the Titanic served as a great cover story, and the press was “totally oblivious to what I was doing,” he said.

The true story of what happened now serves as a museum exhibit at the National Geographic Museum in Washington.



RMS Titanic was discovered on Dec. 1, 1985 over two miles below the surface.



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."



December

USS F-1 [ex-CARP] (SS-20) lost on December 17, 1917 when it was sunk after a collision with USS F-3 off San Clemente, Calif. Loss of 19 crew.

USS S-4 (SS-109) lost on December 17, 1927 when sunk after ramming by USCG Paulding off Provincetown, Mass. Loss of 40 crew. All but 4 men died within hours in the engine room and motor room due to asphyxiation. Four trapped in torpedo room survived for possibly 60 hours. Hull raised and used for study in submarine escape. Scuttled off Hawaii.

USS Sealion (SS-195) lost on December 10, 1941 when it was scuttled in Manila Bay after damage at Cavite Navy Yard during bombing. Damage



USS Sealion (SS-195) first submarine victim of enemy action in WWII.

was sufficient to preclude removal to home waters when Philippines surrendered. Scuttled on December 25. Loss of 4 crew

USS Capelin (SS-289) lost on or after December 3, 1943 on her 1st war patrol, sunk in the Celebes Sea in western Pacific. Cause of loss unknown. Loss of 76 crew.

IT'S A PUZZLE

See how good you are. Thousands of people were asked to rate the "Best Submarine Movies." See how your rating matches up—put your rating next to the name (1 thru 15). The actual survey results at bottom of this page.

Best Submarine Movies of all Times

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. The Abyss | _____ 9. Das Boat |
| _____ 2. Crimson Tide | _____ 10. Torpedo Run |
| _____ 3. Operation Petticoat | _____ 11. U-571 |
| _____ 4. The Hunt for Red October | _____ 12. Destination Tokyo |
| _____ 5. The Enemy Below | _____ 13. Run Silent, Run Deep |
| _____ 6. Up Periscope | _____ 14. Down Periscope |
| _____ 7. Ice Station Zebra | _____ 15. K-19 the Widow Maker |
| _____ 8. 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea | |



14=10, 15=6.
10=3, 11=8, 12=1, 13=12,
6=11, 7=15, 8=14, 9=7,
1=9, 2=4, 3=13, 4=5, 5=2,
Ratings tip: (#1 is top movie)

PUZZLE ANSWERS

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: January 5, 2019 -- No Business Meeting

HOLIDAY PARTY INSTEAD!!

Time: Noon (Bring your spouse/significant other. See attached flyer for full details.)

Location: Home of Chuck and Marge Mongan
3123 Nickolas Way, Rockton, IL

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

