



USSVCF Newsletter

August 2026

The Convention is only three weeks away!

**Last day to register and get the
USSVI hotel rate is August 18th!**

Come visit us in Corpus Christi!



Come and meet our team.

Grab some bargains in the silent auction!

Get chances to win prizes in our drawing!

Pick up some great new USSV CF merchandise!

**Remember to get a coin and
one of Ileene's new cookbooks!**

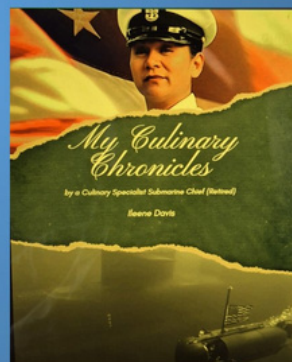
HELPING THOSE WHO SERVED

Honoring the Legacy
Supporting the Future

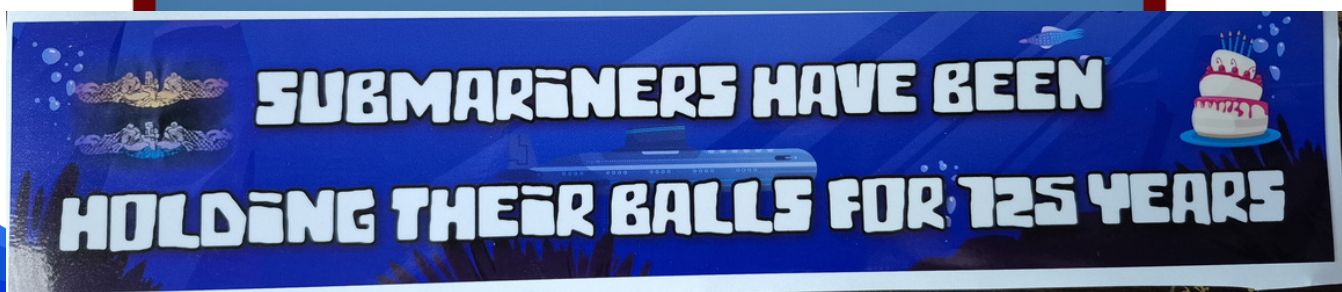


Don't wait another 125 years to get this one-of-a-kind coin!

Get yours while they last at
ussvcf.org/commemorative-coin.html



Learn more at ussvcf.org or scan the QR Code





Monuments & Memorials News

Scott Gerber Fund Mgr.



What is it about a memorial to our lost shipmates that makes it so easily ignored?

That's exactly what shipmate John Murphy of Groton and Marblehead Bases asked himself when he undertook revitalizing the monument to USS Trout SS-202 and all Massachusetts WWII submariners lost to eternal patrol. Located on Scenic Highway at Bourne Mass, John was concerned that people seem to speed by without pausing to learn about the exploits of one of the most illustrious US submarines ever built ... or revere the men who were lost. He decided to do something about it.

The problem is that the monument itself is a cold piece of granite. It honors Trout and her three Presidential Unit Citations, earned during eleven terrifying war patrols, and lists her date of loss, February 29th, 1944. But other than the list of Mass submariners who were lost during the war there is nothing in the stone that speaks of the individuals who served in her. Nothing personalizes them or their exploits.

John has developed a proposal to change all that. His idea is to provide a QR code at the monument which will take a visitor to a host of information about Trout, her people and their brave efforts to bring the Japanese Empire to its knees.

Trout's isn't the only monument to benefit from the effort. Any of our monuments could benefit from this kind of treatment and what John learns along the way toward completing this effort will be available to share with all our monument keepers. Click on the link below to see his proposal which was just approved. He's still working on phase two of the project and we'll keep you up to speed on his progress.

<https://ussvcf.org/wp-content/uploads/newsletters/Trout%20Proposal.docx>

Along a similar vein, several museum efforts have expressed interest in obtaining surplus submarine uniforms and memorabilia to create meaningful displays featuring mannequins dressed in authentic uniforms - I've shown three examples (next page)- authentic uniforms, accompanied by the sailor's name and the boat on which they served.

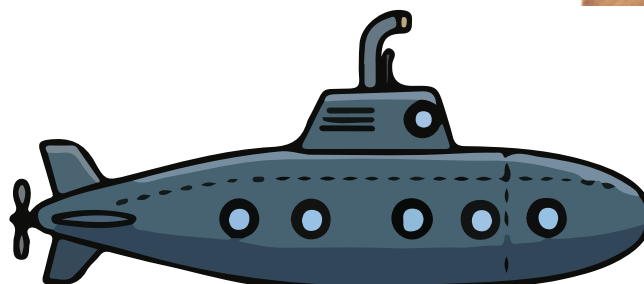


John and his bride Bonnie
at the Trout Memorial

These exhibits can be enhanced through our ongoing video documentary project, run by Jess Hult, interviewing members and spouses. By incorporating QR codes linked directly to these recorded interviews and histories, visitors can engage with a more complete and interactive account of a submariner's service and legacy.

If you have surplus , memorabilia—such as uniforms, insignia, photographs, or other artifacts—and would like to contribute to this effort, please contact me at memorials@ussvcf.org for information on how to donate.

Together, we can preserve these stories and honor the service of our submariners. Let us ensure these treasured memories are not lost to time or allowed to slip away into the abyss.





Qual Quiz Question for August



There has been a healthy rivalry between US Navy submariners ever since the advent of (shudder) nuclear power in 1954. Yes, USS Nautilus marked a turning point in how we looked at our submarine brethren. It even spawned an unauthorized-but-widely-circulated breast device. You've seen them I'm sure. **Diesel Boats Forever** was more than just a device; it was a mantra.

If you look into the history of submarines and how we "make them go" it seems that the two main methods are summed up by the rivalry between the DBF submariners and the Nukes. That may be the crux of things today but it ignores the pre-diesel era and the things we learned that culminated in what we have now. This month's qual question is written to make you delve into that history.

What method of submarine propulsion has been most influential in the design of our current US Navy submarines (those still at sea and those currently on the building ways)?

- A. Even though the gasoline (petrol for the Brits) engine was considered dangerous at the time, it accounted for all the early classes of submarine mobility.
- B. The adoption of the Diesel engine in 1912 aboard the E Class was the forerunner of the engines that would allow US submarines to defeat the Japanese empire.
- C. Heavens no! It was the adoption of steam powered engines aboard USS Nautilus in 1954 that would be the forerunner of all US submarine power plants from the 1960s until today.
- D. Don't dismiss the contributions of manual mechanical powered submarines in our history. Turtle and Hunley both had their successes.
- E. You all missed the crux of the question. The electric motor drive has been most influential and the proof is that the Columbia Class submarines will have electric motor drive.

When you think you know the answer go to our website www.ussvcf.org and click on the Answers to Qual Questions button for the explanation. Hint: there are elements of correctness in each answer but only one is totally correct. Make sure to browse our store while you're there.



Turtle photo courtesy of Wikipedia
Hunley photo courtesy

https://greatamericanship.com/submarine_history/





Bits & Pieces

August is Make A Will Month

Last year we began offering a free will making service to our members and their family members over 18 years of age. So far only 103 of you have taken advantage of it. Some of those who have even decided to leave bequests to our community after they embark on Eternal Patrol. To use the service all you have to do is go to our website ussvcf.org and find the Free Will Preparation button at the bottom of the white section of the home page (just scroll down you'll find it). The button takes you directly to the service. From there out it's pretty easy. Just fill in the blanks and at the end you can print out your new will. Just make sure you have it notarized.

Need help with mortgage costs?

Veterans facing financial hardship now have another option to help them avoid foreclosure and stay in their homes. VA recently launched the VA Partial Claim Program, authorized by the VA Home Loan Reform Act signed into law on July 30, 2025. Veterans having trouble making mortgage payments should contact VA at 877-827-3702, option 6, for assistance.



The guy who started it all.

A Bit of Nostalgia

The Shooting Solution Heard 'Round The World

It was just after 0700 on July 10th, 1975, when my friend Jack, OOD aboard *USS Finback*, gave the order. "Let the festivities begin." With that the infamous Cat Futch - noted Cork Club go-go dancer at Port Canaveral, FL - incident occurred on the port sail plane. Her topless dance lasted a mere ten minutes but the repercussions played out for years. Finback's CO, CDR Connely (Connie) Stevenson, was relieved in an overabundance of bombastic bureaucracy. But that wasn't the end of it.

Almost immediately the Navy sent the elephants around to trumpet displeasure with whatever smacked of the appearance of a casual attitude toward anything with the word NUCLEAR in its nomenclature, principally nuclear weapons and nuclear submarines.

I'd just gotten off watch as Duty Officer aboard *USS John Marshall* - then in the Mare Island Naval Shipyard for a 15-month refueling overhaul - and was looking forward to a Hollywood shower and a leisurely lunch with my family when the XO stopped me. "George get cleaned up and be at the O-Club for lunch with the wardroom by 1100. Admiral Cowhill will have lunch with us after his address." That didn't sound like an invite to a fun thing at all but I knew enough to be there on time and in my best khakis. Our family quarters were on the way so it wasn't a big imposition, besides lunch would be on the mess.

I arrived almost at the same time as the admiral and we chose seats opposite each other across the table. I wasn't on the XO's golden list at the time so I resolved to be seen but silent. The admiral had brought another officer along with him and I noted his collar devices: a Legal Officer, CDR. I didn't give it much thought at the time.

After the soup the admiral began his short speech. "Who knows about the 'Cat Futch Incident?'" I did. My friend Jack had written me about the sad event and how he'd tried to talk his CO out of giving the crew what they'd wanted as a reward for months of hard work during their own shipyard overhaul. The admiral's eyes rested on mine when he noted my nod and drew me out. "Yes, Admiral. The CO was relieved for displaying bad judgement regarding the serious business of operating a nuclear submarine." He smiled warmly as if to say; "My work here is done."

But his next words were. "Good. Who wants to talk about something else?" Throwing caution to the wind and notwithstanding the daggers the XO was casting my way I jumped in with both feet. "Well, Admiral I do. What are we doing about the drug problem in submarines?"

I could tell I'd touched a nerve when he responded. "What's your name Lieutenant" - I was a JG at the time. "George Palmer, Admiral."

He nodded and smiled. "Well, George what's your solution?"

I had to admit I liked his style. Get a stupid question, toss it right back at the questioner. So I shot from the hip. "I think we should shoot the bastards and stack their bodies on the pier like cordwood as examples to others, Admiral."

He absorbed my words and quickly turned to his JAG officer. "Think you could get him off?"

I could see bad news on JAG guy's face even before his words came. "No, Admiral. I can't think of a defense that would come close to working."

Nostalgia cont.

Admiral Cowhill shook his head sadly but his facial expression was warm. “Sorry, George that’s probably a non-starter. But at least you came up with *something*.” I can’t remember what they served for dessert but the rest of the lunch was excellent even though the XO continued to mentally eviscerate me.

Three things happened as a result of that short exchange between Admiral Cowhill and me. The first was “shoot the bastards and stack their bodies on the pier like cordwood ...” became the go-to charade at every wardroom party for the rest of my tour on board. The second was the warm personal note he included with my Weapons Officer Qualification Certificate a year later.

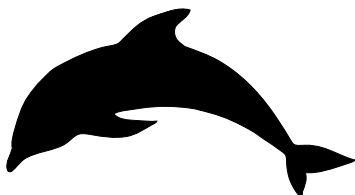
I had to wait another year for the third. It happened when a visiting admiral passed through the headquarters at SUBGRU Eight in Naples, Italy. He was asked his impression of things at the end of our morning Ops Briefing. He answered: “I think overall we’re doing better and I just heard our solution to the submarine drug problem. We’re gonna shoot the bastards and stack their bodies on the pier ...” He was more than a little curious when every officer in that room turned – and looked straight at me.

I like to think of it as the “shooting solution heard ‘round the world.”



I turned up this photo on Google but there was no attribution so I’m not sure it’s genuine. Only the *Finback’s* and *Alexander Hamilton’s* crews know for sure.

Know a shipmate in distress because of a natural disaster or a run in with Murphy’s Law? Contact your Base Ambassador and have him contact our Brotherhood Fund Manager. Members at Large email Mike directly at brotherhood@ussvcf.org.



Mike Ferranti
Fund Mgr.



A Nifty Idea

Thank Ileene Davis for this nifty tip. It's a little plastic "vial of life" that you can tailor to your own situation. All your essential documents (wills, birth certificates, etc.) are loaded on the flash drive and essential tools and survival gear go in with it. Keep it on top of your fridge ready to grab if you have to evacuate in an emergency. A checklist follows on the next page. We'll also put on our webpage in the Brotherhood Fund section..



VIAL OF LIFE – EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

Tailor this checklist to your family/household and individual emergency needs.

Vial will be kept: _____

Ensure it is accessible but not easily found for intruders.

Item	Purpose / What to Include	Included?	Review / Update
USB Flash Drive	Store scanned copies of important documents: will, Social Security card, insurance cards, deeds, identification, medical information, emergency plans, and other essential records.	☐	Review regularly
Reusable Zip Ties	For securing, organizing, fastening, or temporary emergency repairs.	☐	Inspect periodically
Emergency Whistle	Use to signal rescuers or attract attention when calling out may be difficult.	☐	Test periodically
Military-Style Can Opener	Compact manual can opener for emergency food supplies.	☐	Keep in Vial- no need to check
Glow Sticks / Glow-in-the-Dark Fishing Floats	Portable emergency markers or low-light visibility aids. Floating glow items may also help mark a location.	☐	Check expiration
Permanent Marker (Sharpie)	For labeling, leaving emergency messages, marking supplies, or writing important information.	☐	Check ink
Small Mirror	For signaling or attracting the attention of rescuers, especially in daylight.	☐	Protect from breakage
Written Emergency Contacts	Paper copy of important phone numbers and contacts in case a phone is unavailable, damaged, or loses power.	☐	Update as needed
Compressed Towel	Compact towel that expands with water; useful for basic hygiene, cleanup, or other emergency needs.	☐	Keep sealed/dry (replace if needed)
Out-of-Area Contact Sheet	Include an out-of-area contact person, phone numbers, household meeting locations, and other emergency communication information.	☐	Update as needed: Ensure you OOA Contact is aware they are your POC for Emergencies

Other Items you added:	Purpose / What to Include		Notes:
		☐	
		☐	
		☐	
		☐	