



USSVCF Newsletter

July 2026

Hope your 4th was a blast!



Jess's Journey

Moonshine Mountain for Memorial Day



Southport NC for Armed Forces Day



Wilmington NC for the 4th of July



Jess Hult (our intrepid interview lady) made a healthy sweep through the Tar Heel State recently visiting USSVI members and lining up interviews. She's telling our story one interview at a time. We've submitted a request for a grant to cover the cost of Jess's effort from Navy Federal Credit Union. Until that comes thru please consider donating to this important endeavor.



Something for every base to consider

We announced our Base Outreach Program a few months ago and we're pleased to tell you that, so far, four bases have taken us up on it. They are: *USS Sailfish* Base, Rogue-Umpqua-Base, South Lakes Florida Base and Dolphin Base. Each base taking part in the program deposits an amount into our general fund and gets the following:

- A return on their invested funds at our current portfolio rate of ~15%.
- Ability to incentivize local donors with a 501(c)3 tax-free status.
- Instant access to their deposited funds.

Go to our website at ussvcf.org/base-outreach-program/ and check it out!



Kap(ss)4Kid(ss) News



Hawaii Member at Large Jim Reisch (in his vest) joins retired Navy Capt. Jack Peters (left), Drew Graul, hospital administrator, right), Lee Gordon (in Shriner's hat) for a photo op after a visit to the local Shriner's Hospital. Jim was able to connect with some very ill children in true Kap(SS)-4-Kid(SS) fashion.



Qual Question of the Month

As submariners we take for granted that our efforts were noble - whether they really were or not. I suppose that's why I always strutted a little and my jaw got a little firmer whenever I heard the title of Mike Rindskoff's book *Steel boats - Iron men*. It was first published in 1994 and PBS did a TV movie on it afterward.

We take for granted that we were truly "Men of Iron." I guess we'll have to rethink it though, now that there are "Women of Iron" who've joined the submarine force, but let's all agree on one thing. Iron meant we could handle whatever got thrown at us by our enemies, or by something caused by Murphy's law.

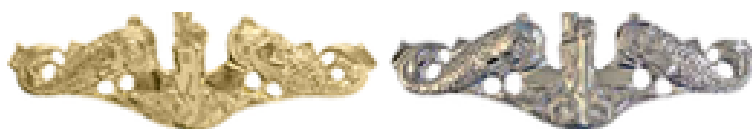
But what of the other metal in the title? Steel. That's right, it's important, too. And it's the subject of this Qual Question. I've asked our resident sage, Dr. Alan Fickett, distinguished professor of physics and all things tricky to answer to help me with this question and here it is in his own inimitable style.

"No US Navy submariner ever went to sea in a US submarine whose pressure hull wasn't made of steel. There are other materials (i.e. Titanium, Aluminum, fiberglass and carbon fibers) that would do to build submarines, but ours have always been steel. Why?

- A. Andrew Carnegie gave John Holland a deep discount on the price of the steel plate he forged and were later shaped into the hull of the first US Navy submarine, and the Navy got used to it.
- B. Sure other materials could be used - in fact the Russians favor Titanium – but the technology for building with steel is mature and widely accepted.
- C. The submarine builders are handed a set of specifications by the Navy well before the first plate, bolt, nut or piece of anything is approved and paid for. The Navy has always specified steel, including its strength and thickness.
- D. Steel is the preferred material because it is plentiful and comparatively cheap. Other materials are often in scarce supply or expensive to come by.
- E. Steel represents the optimum coalescence of strength, availability, workability and economy.

When you think you have an answer go to our website, www.ussvcf.org and click on July Qual Question for the right answer. While you're there, check out the new items in our online store.

If you have an idea for an August Qual Question email me at vp-ed@ussvcf.org and tell me about it. If yours is chosen you'll receive a prize.

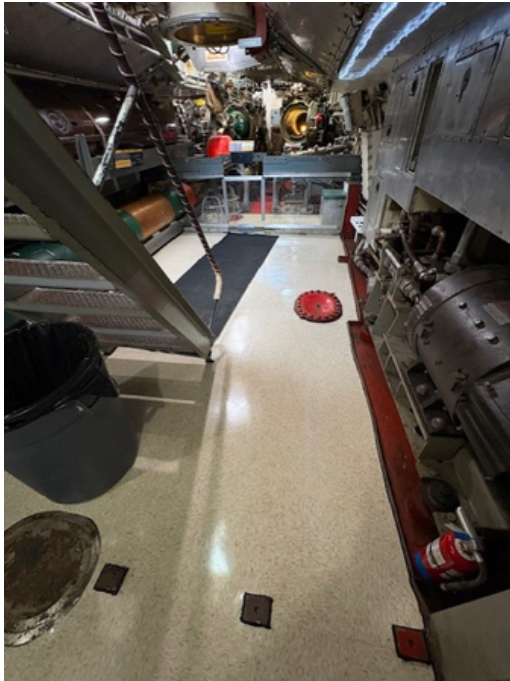


Monuments and Memorials News



Scott Gerber Fund Mgr.

USS TORSK's Facelift



After Torped Room after refurb.



Maneuvering after refurb.

The Torsk Volunteer Association recently hosted hundreds of visitors to the boat during the SAIL250 celebration in Baltimore Harbor. Torsk herself was in fine fettle due to the untiring efforts of many of our members. Mike Eacho and his Torsk volunteers have done an amazing job. USSVCF supported their refurbishment with a cash grant and also provided a hundred of our commemorative coins which were gobbled up by the visitors. We sold them the coins at cost and they kept the profits. Fund Manager Scott Gerber came up with the idea and got Dave Weaver from Chesapeake Base onboard. They sold every one. If your base could benefit from a similar deal please give me a call at 860-886-3566.

Scholarship News

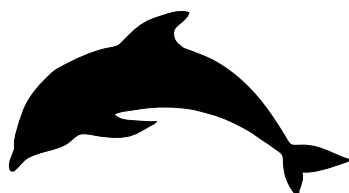


I know everyone has been waiting to see if their favorite scholarship applicant has been selected for one of our grants. Dr. Fickett is pleased to announce that all eighty of the complete applications have been chosen to receive one this year. There are thirty repeat winners and fifty first time awardees. He was especially pleased that none of the winners resorted to the use of artificial intelligence in completing their essays. Apparently the promise of loss of their birthdays as well as any chance to be selected worked well.

He has already thanked the members of his team for their work in assessing the applicants and our treasurer worked up a sweat cutting all 80 checks.

This year each scholarship grant is \$2,500, \$300 more than last year. Also we have two awardees who will attend vocational training, double last year's number.

The complete list of awardees follows this page.





AWARDEE		INSTITUTION	SPONSOR	BASE
Brandon	Abbott	Olivet Nazarene University	Christopher Abbott	Chicago
Alexander	Allen	Oklahoma State University	Clarence Elvert Allen, Jr.	Carolina
Madison	Arner	Utah Tech University	Stephen A. Arner	Las Vegas Base 51
Maia	Atkinson	University of Tennessee	James Kurtz	USS Carbonero
Brady	Bailey	North Idaho College	Jerry Parker	Farragut
Hannah	Baugh	Clemson University	Jonathan Baugh	MAL
Quincy	Boardman	University of Vermont	Pat Moore	Dorado
Julia	Bodien	LeMoyne College	Andrew C. Bodien	Albany-Saratoga
Benjamin	Carlson	University of Connecticut	Edward J. Carlson	New Jersey South
Daniela	Castillo	Pacific Lutheran University	Kevin P Sheehan	Bremerton
Grace	Cervone	University of Pittsburgh	Ronald Cervone	Northern Virginia
Elizabeth	Chinn	Clemson University	Carl Chinn	Charleston
Claire	Damiano	Marist University	Peter John Damiano	Rhode Island
Sullivan	Daniels	Champlain College	Kurtis Daniels	Albany-Saratoga
Juliann	Davies	University of Nevada-Reno	Leif Larsen	Corvina
Natalie	DeMoor	University of Toledo	Joseph Aubert DeMoor	USS Springfield
Hannah	Diener	University of Florida	Robert Moeser	Drum
Delaney	Dodge	Penn State University	Mark DeLany	Egg Harbor
Simone	Dotson	McGill University	Anthony L. Dotson	MAL
Cayden	Draeger	Florida Southern College	Kent S. Abernathy	MAL



AWARDEE		INSTITUTION	SPONSOR	BASE
Nikko	Dunsmore	Oregon State University	Ronald Dunsmore	MAL
Emily	Egna	Penn State University	Martin Egna	Chesapeake
Natalie	Egna	Penn State University	Martin Egna	Chesapeake
Elizabeth	Fabel	Point Loma Nazarene University	Michael Fabel	San Diego
Hannah	Finks	Joliet Junior College	Brian Corey Finks	USS Chicago
Morgan	Fomby	University of San Diego	Manfred Fomby	San Diego
Leah	Forry	Grove City College	Daniel L Forry	MAL
Samantha	Garner	UNC-Chapel Hill	Joesph Demnicki	Hampton Roads
Colleen	Gilbert	University of New England	Shannon N. Gilbert	Northern Virginia
Mercedes	Gonzalez	Grand Canyon University	Edward Fierro	Eternal Patrol
Tristan	Hernandez	James Madison University	Alvin Lee Hernandez	PC Stryker
Sophia	Hoffmann	Anderson University	Matthew Wade Hoffmann	Charleston
Gabe	Huff	Roger Williams University	Kenneth Huff	Groton
Bella	Johnston	Oregon State University	Mickaila Johnston	Bremerton
Maresa	Kanekkeberg	Virginia Tech	Christian Williams	Kings Bay
Charlotte	Klopper	Montana State University	Timothy Allen Kensinger	SLO Sub vets
Emily	Koplin	Bucknell University	Larry Koplin	Lehigh Valley
Ava	LaPenna	Rochester Institute of Technology	Joshua LaPenna	MAL
Natalie	Lentine	Morehead State University	Robert Kremer	Escolar
Lewis	Mains	Robert Morris University	George Shreffler	USS Toledo
Matt	Mareno	Wayne State University	Steve Mareno	Wolverine



AWARDEE		INSTITUTION	SPONSOR	BASE
Mary	Marsalek	Boston College	Matthew Peter Gallagher III	SLO Sub Vets
Ashtyn	Martin	Washington State University	Kevin P Sheehan	Bremerton
Sophia	Martin	Michigan State University	Robert Freeman	Escolar
Hadleigh	Martin	Arizona State University	Kevin P Sheehan	Bremerton Base
Brooke	Masoner	Auburn University	Michael Masoner	MAL
Grace	Mellen	Charleston Southern University	William E. Adams	Charleston
Cecilia	Mendez	Appalachian State University	Christopher Mendez	Tarheel
Owen	Mendez	NC State University	Christopher Mendez	Tarheel
Olivia	Merrill	UNC- Asheville	John E Merrill III	Sea Poacher
Jordan	Messing	Indiana University-	Dale Messing	Central Texas
Julia	Midbo	Central Michigan University	Robert Clyde Freeman	Escolar
Clay	Miller	University of Alabama	Bill Powell	Baton Rouge
Cecilia	Miller	William Paterson University	Michael Miller	MAL
Patrick	Neal	University of Texas-Arlington	Walter Hensey Simpson III	MAL
Rayden	Neff	Wichita State University	Daniel D Stark	Central Florida
Rebecca	Opperman	Millersville University	Charles H. Opperman, Jr.	Philadelphia
grant	orvik	Northern Arizona University	Ross Orvik	Tucson
Matthew	Parker	Gonzaga University	Timothy Parker	Bowfin
Addison	Petitt	Life University	Charles Richard Petitt	Carolina Piedmont
Max	Porter	Coastal Carolina University	Robert Porter	Sea Poacher
Edmund	Preuschoff	Whitworth University	Raymond Edgar Mitchell	Bremerton



AWARDEE

INSTITUTION

SPONSOR

BASE

Greyson	Pyatt	Penn State University	David Rifkin	First Coast
Bridgette	Reid	Penn State-Abington	Anthony Sturla	Pocono
Calvin	Reid	Hudson Valley Community College	Theodore Iljes	Keystone
Samuel	Reiss	NC State University	Daniel Reiss	Thresher
Oliver	Scott	University of New Hampshire	Gary R. Hildreth	Thresher
Kiersten	Smith	NOVA Southeastern University	Timothy S. Gaydos	MAL
Sophie	Swan	Mississippi College	John Richard Deveau	Tullibee
caleb	terrell	California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo	Bruce Terrell	SLO Subvets
Riley	Turner	UNM-Valencia Campus	Terry Lynn Turner II	Bullhead
Orin	Turner	Eastern New Mexico University	Terry Lynn Turner II	Bullhead
Emily	VanWormer	Sam Houston State University	Thomas F. Stuhler Jr.	PC Stryker
Matthew	VanWormer	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Thomas Stuhler	PC Stryker
Colby	Ward	University of Tennessee-Knoxville	Jeffrey Keith Ward	Volunteer
Kylie	Ward	University of Tennessee-Chattanooga	Jeffrey Keith Ward	Volunteer
Kate	Woods	SUNY-Geneseo	George Woods	Perch
Corbin	Wright	Misericordia University	David Wright	Pocono
Miriam	Youel	University of Connecticut	Steven Youel	Groton
Lauryn	Zlotucha	University of Utah	John Zlotucha	MAL