

US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation Newsletter for May 2026

Hello my fellow SubVets,

I've been thinking a lot about old shipmates lately. I guess it has something to do with the founding principles for USSVI. Remembering those of us who've gone on before. If you haven't looked lately, it's the first phrase in our creed.

I like watching old movies sometimes, especially old war movies. How many of us remember the Darryl F. Zanuck movie *The Longest Day*? It was his masterpiece and he made it to remember the sacrifices of those who *carried out and opposed* the D Day landings in June of '45. He brought in a cast of 42 world-acclaimed stars for his epic and many of them worked for free.

One of the scenes in that movie stands out to me. It's the one with Richard Burton (playing Flying Officer David Campbell, an RAF veteran of the Battle for Britain). He and a squadron mate are bemoaning the recent loss of "Johnny" - another chum who has just "bought it." Campbell's pal brings up the fact that he's one of the few remaining members of the "1940 Mob." Burton's answering line goes like this:

"Something's always worried me about
being one of the few – we keep on getting ... *fewer*."

What brought this on is learning that two of my shipmates from *USS John Marshall* days just passed away within days of each other. First it was Rich Crockford, the epitome of a professional submariner. Rich was an ETCM who ran our Nav Center like a Swiss Watch. I remember learning many things from him and he was the most capable Duty Chief you ever saw.

The other was Denny Dykeman. He was our Navigator but because of some personnel tomfoolery he also served as our Engineer and even briefly as Exec. Talk about your capable officers! Dennis was the guy you called on when something just didn't look right. Whatever it was, operationally or from a personnel standpoint, Denny always had an answer that made sense.

We all remember shipmates who made us feel a little hesitant about crawling into our bunks when they had the watch. Not the case with Rich and Denny. You could sleep with confidence when they had the watch.

Which brings me to the point of this newsletter. Memorial Day is only a week away. It offers the opportunity to remember all our shipmates, the ones who have embarked on Eternal Patrol and the ones still with us. It's worth trying to think of them all, even the drifts guy who couldn't remember it was "right-to-tight" or was it that he

just didn't know his right from his left? It's also worth trying to connect with them, even with just a note or an email.

And don't forget the young Fireman who thought that the fuel in the reactor was "Truetonium." And amazingly, the fuel in the missiles and the stuff in the warheads that made the big boom was Truetonium, too! To hear that young Fireman explain how things aboard the submarine worked was an education in itself! It always amazed me how someone could be fed so much bum dope and not even guess that he was being totally put on.

One last thought about the inevitability of Eternal Patrol. I notice that our National Convention in Corpus Christi only has 166 people signed up – 167 counting me. That's not even 2% of our members! Think about signing up and coming. As old as many of us are we may not get another chance. And **if you do** sign up and come I'll promise you two things. First, you can sit down with Jess Hult and record your favorite sea story for posterity. Second, I'll buy you a drink that you can savor as you're telling it.

Final Thoughts about Embarking

Remember that we've made a free will service available. Check it out on our website. Click the scrolling link on the home page and it will take you to the will service page. It's easy and you can get started right away. Many of our members who have used it are happy they did. Also we're posting a guide on the website that will lead you through the things you should do to tidy up your affairs so that your loved ones won't be scrambling at the last moment. The key to anything having to do with the VA is to have a copy of your DD 214 available.

BZ

Congratulations to Golden Corner Base the latest recipient of our Generous Base Award. They dug deep and sent a princely sum to help the Hallidays after their fire.

Finally, congratulations and many thanks to Clay Studebaker for his fully funded recent Living Legacy donation.

Scholarships

The window for scholarship applications closes this week so if there are any members' progeny still sitting on the fence, now is the time. Our Scholarship Guru reports that the number of applications is significantly less than last year and sadly there have been no career education applications.