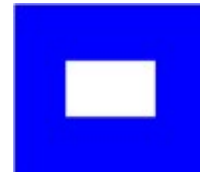
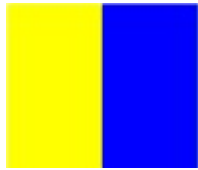
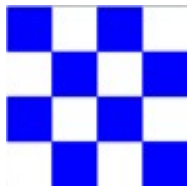


# SEA POACHER ASSOCIATION



**Dedicated to those who served on this incredible Submarine**

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## **1. Next USS Sea Poacher National Reunion 2024**

We're working with the ST. Mary's Submarine Museum , director Keith Post , to be in ST. Mary's Georgia October 30 to November 3 , 2024.

For now, please **put these dates on your calendar** and we'll send out more information in our April and July Newsletters.

Basically, the Sub museum and the US Navy King's Bay have held these events in the past :

**October 31 Thursday**

CMC/COB Breakfast and evening BBQ on the US Navy Base.

**November 1 Friday**

WW II Memorial ceremony

November 1 Friday ( continued ):

Trident Training Facility Tours

Lunch & Dinner

November 2 Saturday

Submarine Tours

USS Sea Poacher Banquet

January 29 , 2024 Up-Date:

1. I contacted Keith Post at the ST. Mary's Submarine Museum and he confirmed the dates of October 30 through November 2 ( Saturday ) for all the activities planned.

But, he said the actual registration forms and activities will not be sent until July or August 2024.

I'm attaching the 2023 Information and registration forms here so you can see last years activities and registration forms to help you plan.

**Obviously, don't fill out these forms and / or count on all of these 2023 activities happening in 2024 !**



## 2. Host Hotel

The Sure Stay Best Western Hotel ( former Cumberland Hotel ) at 912-882-6250 is the Host Hotel for the Week-end activities.

I called them and reserved a room ( October 31 – November 3 ) for \$ 82.99 per night with a credit card.

They don't charge the card until you check in.

Note that they have a restaurant and I'll see about having USS Sea Poacher having our Saturday November 2 Banquet there ( more later on this detail ).

Also note that many other hotels are listed on the attached 2023 forms .

Note that in 2023 buses took folks back and forth from the Sure Stay hotel , the Gateway ( TVG ) hotel and Suites and the Navy Lodge to the US Navy Base for the activities.



## **Richard Holtz , ET 1963-1965**

Richard ‘Dick’ C. Holtz, age 79 of Litchfield, MN died on Friday October 20, 2023 at his home in Litchfield, MN. Interment was held at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Military Honors were provided by the Litchfield Military Honor Guard.

Richard Carlton Holtz was born December 5, 1943 in Richmond, California. The son of Robert and Bernice (Kunze) Holtz. Richard was baptized as an infant and confirmed in his faith at Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield, MN. He graduated from Litchfield high school in 1961, and then enlisted in the United States Navy in June 1961. Richard attended various schools and graduated from submarine school in August 1962.

He served aboard USS Balao (SS285), USS Sea Poacher (SS406,) and USS Pickrel (SS524), and he also served in Washington DC for 2 years. Richard traveled entirely around the world, and was a Veteran

of the Vietnam war. He was honorably discharged from the US Navy on Dec 10, 1970.

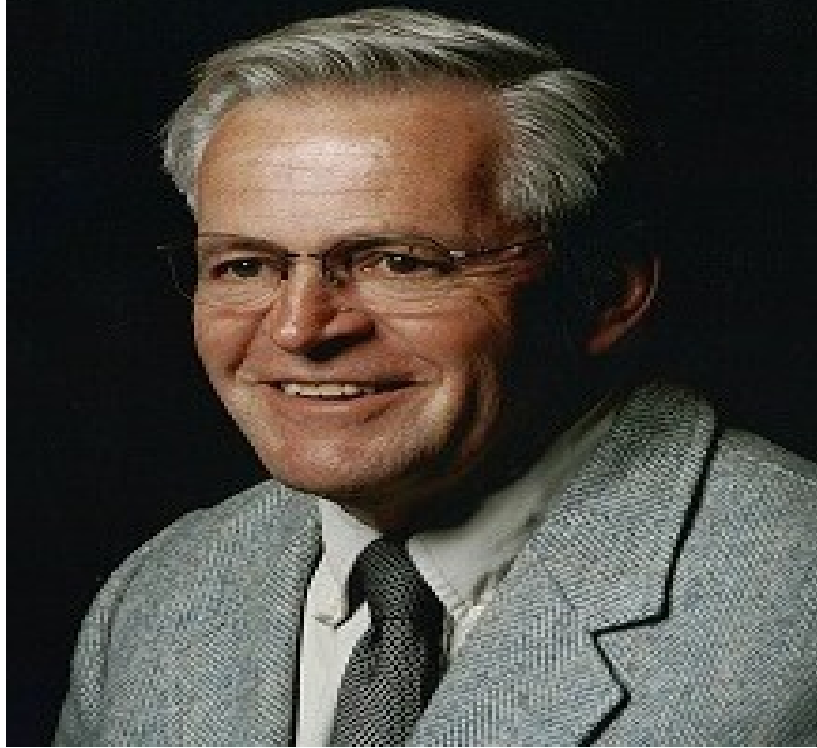
Richard married LuAnn Gimse in 1974 and they had three children together. Although they divorced in 1985, they were able to remain friends throughout the years. Returning home to Litchfield he had various jobs. He was employed by Cargill for 12 years, managed the Darwin elevator for 2 years, and then went to work for Sparboe Farm in 1989, where he worked in the Ag-tech department for 20 years. He retired from Sparboe Farms in May 2009. Richard worked part-time for Runnings starting in May of 2010. He loved this job and looked forward to going to work every day.

Richard was a life member of the VFW Post 2818, and a post commander. He was a life member of the USSVI, Holland Club, ISA, USS Sea Poacher, post commander of the USS Meeker County Navy Club, and a member of the Litchfield Military Honor Guard.

Richard loved politics, the Minnesota Vikings, NASCAR, playing poker and helping older Veterans. He also loved having morning coffee at Swans Cafe with his group of Veterans. He loved telling his "SO THERE I WAS" stories as his friends can attest to. He loved family gatherings, spending time with his daughters and watching his grandchildren grow up.

Richard loved music, either dancing with the grandkids or going out to bands with his friend Wanda! He especially loved the annual Holtz reunion picnic every year at Lake Ripley.

Richard is survived by his daughters; Jennifer (Craig) Fearing of Monticello, MN, Sadie Rae (Tim) Tyler of Mercer, WI. Son Orrin of Phoenix, AZ. Sisters; Karen (David) Winters of Byron MN, Mardell Starr and special friend Dale Johnston of Milford, IA. Sister-in-Law; Pat Holtz of WA. Grandchildren; Lucy, Lewis, Alex, Lilyan and Brayden. Many nieces and nephews, and his long-time friend Wanda Rath of Hutchinson, MN.



**Arne L. Weinfurter MM 64-67**  
**September 30, 1941 — January 13, 2024**  
**Sheboygan**

Arne L. Weinfurter, age 82, passed away on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at Countryside Manor where he had been a resident the past five years.

He was born in Marshfield, WI to the late Rudolph and Dorothy (Melson) Weinfurter. He graduated from Wisconsin Rapids High School. Arne proudly served his country in both the United States Navy and the United States Army Reserves, dedicating 27 years. He was employed at Plastics Engineering for over 34 years, retiring in 2004.

Arne enjoyed bowling, golfing, dancing, and spending time with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his children, Todd (Theresa Novak) Weinfurter and Toni (Dave) Neuhaus; grandchildren, Jonah and Jamison; siblings, Jim (Lois), Carl (Margaret), Francis (Clara), Carl (Doris), Tom (Lori), David (Katie), and David (Teresa) and **Larry (Jean)** and sister in-law, Sandra; nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

Along with his parents, Arne was preceded in death by his step-mom, Marie and brothers Bob and Howard.

A Memorial Service for Arne will take place at 1:00 PM on Friday, January 26, 2024, at Zimmer Westview Funeral and Cremation Care Center, W2132 Garton Rd in Howards Grove with Joe Zenk officiating. Family will greet visitors on Friday at the funeral home from 11:00 AM until the time of the service. Inurnment will take place at the Gardens of Peace Mausoleum in Kohler.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established in Arne's name.

The family would like to thank the staff at both Countryside Manor and Sharon S. Richardson Community Hospice for the excellent care given to Arne. They would also like to thank the nurses and doctors at St. Nicholas Hospital for the care given over the years.

**Editor's Note: Arne was able to serve with his brother Larry on the USS Sea Poacher as Larry served from 1962 through 1965.**

COB Edmond Eldred “Corky” Gibbons TM 49-52

(94), died peacefully on January 15, 2024. Corky was predeceased by his wife, Lillian Iacozza Gibbons and survived by his son, Edmond E. “Corky” Gibbons, II, his daughter-in-law, Wendy Rogler Gibbons, his grandsons Daniel L. Gibbons and Andrew E. Gibbons, granddaughter-in-law, SFC Deidre Eskildsen Gibbons, and longtime partner and companion, Kathy Gatlin.

Edmond was born in Prattville, AL to Eldred Gibbons and Cynthia Jane Jones, on January 17, 1929. He was an excellent multi-sport athlete but declined scholarships to join the military and in 1948, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Despite the hazards, Edmond volunteered for the submarine service. He served on the Sea Owl, the **Sea Poacher**, and the Bergall-twice (once on diesel sub SS 320 and on nuclear fast-attack submarine SSN 667). He had a long and distinguished career in the military earning numerous medals, promotions, and honors. Edmond eventually rose to the rank of Chief of the Boat (COB). He remained connected to his fellow submariners through numerous reunions, events, and social media.

After the navy, Edmond took a new direction-electronic journalist for NBC News. He worked as both a sound engineer and cameraman and often had a front row seat to history. He covered events such as Hank Arron’s record-breaking home run, political campaigns, and space shuttle launches collaborating with NBC News anchors and their benchmark news programs. Edmond met every U.S. President from Ford through George W. Bush. Edmond died on MLK day; a movement and a day he helped bring to the national forefront through his work. Edmond worked with some of the great leaders of the civil rights movement like Andrew Young, John Lewis, Maya Angelou, and Reverend Abernathy.

**Editor’s Note: Ed was my shipmate from 1959-1960 on USS Sea Owl SS 405.**



## **William Crozier , PHD SN 1953**

**Bill died peacefully surrounded by his family on September 23, 2023, a month shy of his 95th birthday. Bill was born in Beatrice, NE on October 23, 1928, the third son of Robert and Mary Elizabeth Crozier. His mother died when he was nine months old and his Aunt Julia Crozier came from Scotland to raise him and his brothers. Bill grew up in Omaha, NE and began working as a newspaper boy at the age of eight. Never lazy, at last count he had held over 50 jobs. During the Korean war he served in the Navy as helmsman of the USS Chopper and **USS Sea Poacher** submarines. Bill and Selma Gress were married on November 14, 1953; this was their 70th wedding anniversary year. They were blessed with eight children. Bill taught at both the high school and college levels. The family moved to Winona in 1968 where Bill taught history at St. Mary's University, eventually becoming chairman of the department. A creative thinker, Dr. Crozier developed innovative methods for teaching social history using computer data. He traveled to London, Montreal, Moscow, and Edinburgh to give talks on how to use these computer-based techniques. A successful grant writer, he applied for and received many grants to help promote the study of history. In addition to his academic career, he devoted himself to social justice issues in the Winona area and worked for Semcac. Bill happily spent time on the North Shore watching the ships, following the Delta Queen on the Mississippi River, playing tennis, reading, watching NE Huskers football and Twins baseball, and being with family. He also enjoyed his nightly Irish whiskey!**

**Bill was preceded in death by brothers Fr. Robert Crozier, SJ, and Jack Crozier and children Thomas and Mary. He is survived by his wife, Selma; children Dan (Roberta), John, Billy (Julia), Robert, Kathleen (David) Eikens, Jon Sauer (son-in-law), and Elizabeth; grandchildren Alice (Dan) Crozier, Bridgette (Phil) Miles, Theresa (David) Sieberg, Luka Crozier, David Crozier, Michael (Tamara) Sauer, Kieron Sauer, Patrick Eikens, William Eikens, Meghan Eikens; great-grandchildren Penny and Oliver Miles, Finn and Lars Crozier,**



**Leo Crozier, Roger Sieberg; sister-in-law Nancy Ryan, and many nieces and nephews.**

**Thank you to the staff at Callista Court, Good Samaritan, Shalom, and The Glenn Minnetonka for their compassionate care of Bill.**

