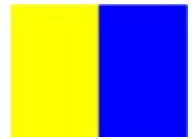
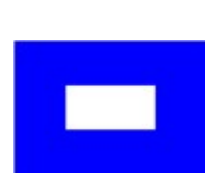
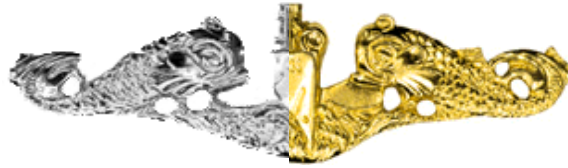
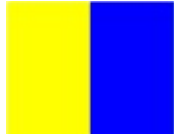


SEA POACHER ASSOCIATION



DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO SERVED ON THIS INCREDIBLE SUBMARINE!

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2016

EDITOR: LANNY YESKE LTJG 1961-63








PUBLISHER: BILL BRINKMAN EM 1960-62

UNDERSTANDING SUBMARINES

- * **When** the diving alarm sounds and the order to CLEAR THE BRIDGE AND LOOKOUTS BELOW is given things move very quickly, the upper hatch closes over your head, the QM does it as you hold the lanyard, the OOD says “**Last man down - Hatch secured**” to the Conning Officer and slides rapidly down the ladder into Control and becomes the Diving Officer and lookouts become the planes men, and the COW calmly (and hopefully) says **GREEN BOARD**, down you go, make your depth 200 feet, 20 degrees down bubble, blow Negative to the mark, trust that the Engineer has made the correct ballast corrections, THEN you understand the meaning of [adventure](#) and [exhilaration](#).
- * **When** the only thing between when you submerge and millions of gallons of seawater is a hull less than two inches of steel and hundreds of closed valves, THEN you understand the meaning of [courage](#).
- * **When** submerged in hostile waters the Sonar Technician calls out on the 7MC or 1MC to the Conning Tower “**High Speed Screws in the Water and Close Aboard**”, THEN you understand the meaning of [fear](#).
- * **When** the Radioman passes out the only family grams the satellite could catch and yours is not one of them, THEN you understand the meaning of [loneliness](#).
- * **When** after four cold wet hours on the **Bridge Mid-Watch**, you are met at 0400 by the Duty Cook with hot soup or fresh baked sticky buns, THEN you understand the meaning of [gratitude](#) and [teamwork](#).
- * **When** you return from patrol and see **family on the dock** waving, THEN you understand [love](#).
- * **When** you have completed an in-port 10 hour **Equalizer** (paralyzer) battery charge, gone through five training exams with crew looking for DOLPHINS, THEN you understand the meaning of [satisfaction](#).
- * **When** you hear the **quick grating and rasping sound** that a curtain makes on your rack that indicates your watch is about to begin, THEN you understand the meaning of [irritation](#).
- * **When** you see a **submarine brother** standing at attention with the entire crew and the CO pins on the coveted DOLPHINS he worked so hard to earn, THEN you understand the meaning of [pride](#).
- * **When** you retire from the force and **they pipe you over the side** for the last time and a final salute, THEN you understand the meaning of [sadness](#) as well as for a job **well done**.
- * **When** your eyes grow dim and your **strength ebbs** with age, THEN you understand the meaning of [envy](#) every time you see a submarine getting underway **that never goes away**.
- * **When** a **shipmate** from a long time ago passes to **Eternal Patrol** and you want to say many things not said before he departed, THEN you understand [regret](#).

Just a few thoughts from Jack Ensminger, Bill Buckley, and Lanny Yeske

EARLY APRIL 2017 REUNION THOUGHTS

| USS SEA POACHER NORFOLK REUNION APRIL 25 - 29, 2017 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| APRIL 25 TUESDAY | APRIL 26 WEDNESDAY | APRIL 27 THURSDAY | APRIL 28 FRIDAY | APRIL 29 SATURDAY |
| Check in at THE HOLIDAY INN VIRGINIA BEACH/ NORFOLK  | Breakfast  9:00 a.m. RIDING NORFOLK CITY TOUR, NAUTICUS, THE NATIONAL MARITIME CENTER, BATTLESHIP WISCONSIN AND NAVAL STATION NORFOLK TOUR WITH LUNCH | Breakfast  9:00 a.m. VICTORY ROVER HARBOR CRUISE WITH LUNCH, MACARTHUR MEMORIAL and DOUMAR'S ICE CREAM  | Breakfast  9:00 a.m. BUSINESS MEETING Lunch on your own | Breakfast OPTIONAL COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG TOUR |
| 12:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Open  5:30 p.m. "WELCOME ABOARD" DINNER In Hospitality Room | Return to hotel by 3:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Open | Return to hotel by 3:30 p.m. Hospitality Room Open TATTOO 7:30 PM |  6:30 p.m. FINAL EVENING BANQUET at Hotel | |

The Virginia International Tattoo was named by the American Bus Association as the top event in North America. It involves the call of the trumpets, beat of the drums, wail of the pipes, and other mighty sounds. A centuries old Scottish tradition now with a 21st century American soul. There are over 1,500 international performers from 10 countries and many of our favorite groups from the U.S. Navy and the other four services. It has been part of the Virginia Arts Festival for 20 years and takes place in the Scope Arena. You can preview the highlights of the 2015 show at www.visitnorfolktoday.com/virginia-international-tattoo-named-top-event-U.S.-for-2016. One of the outstanding international groups is the Top Secret Drum Corps from Basel, Switzerland. They are performing in 2016 and are expected to be there in 2017. Check them out at www.youtube.com/embed/HW3QVLIK-ke?feature=player_embedded. If the slightest mistake is made they exit. This is not to be missed.

Note that our Holiday Inn hotel is only a few miles from CITY center, and there is a complimentary shuttle from the Norfolk Airport. There will also be our well stocked hospitality room, games, displays, silent auction, business meeting, banquet, and surprises. Lots of items on the plate. With Sea Owl, we expect a 100 attendees.

AGAIN THIS IS AN APRIL 2017 REUNION - DO NOT SHOW UP IN APRIL 2016!

Following a Norfolk city tour, there is the Battleship Wisconsin. The last one built and who served in Operation Desert Storm. When we were there as part of our Virginia Beach 2006 there were no interior tours due to classified equipment still on board. Things have now changed. Available in a self-guided tour, where one can now go inside and inspect the wardroom, officers quarters, message center, public affairs, legal affairs, dispersing, chapel, health care, post office, ships store, main galley and mess deck with a large buffet restaurant, three other open restaurants, master-at-arms office, marine areas, waste disposal, supply, weapons, repair shops, and crews quarters. There is also an optional 90 minute guided tour for about \$21 more that takes you to the captains cabin, admirals cabin, combat information center, flag bridge, navigation bridge, quartermaster spaces, and many of the places on the self-guided tour. Costs include the Nauticus Hampton Roads Naval Museum.

We are also planning on a two hour Victory Rover harbor cruise with lunch and a detailed narrated Naval Base commentary. Following the cruise, it is on to the General Douglas MacArthur Memorial with its recently completed \$6M expansion. There we will view the life and times of the General and museum with many artifacts and memorabilia. Both the General and his wife are entombed here. Then we stop at Doumar's Cones and BBQ, home of the world's first ice cream cone machine in 1904. It is still being used today and will be sampled by all.

Skipper James Wilson has been in touch with Commander Submarine Force Atlantic and while too early to schedule definitely, a tour of a fast attack submarine tour on the 26th in conjunction with our Naval Base tour has been penciled in. It will be after 1600 to not interfere with the workday. They will again be in contact in April 2016.

And the Newport News Maritime Museum with the remains of the Ironclad Civil War Monitor has not been ruled out. We are also considering a tour of the Newport News Shipyard. This is the only place where aircraft carriers are being built in the U.S. and with Electric Boat, the only shipyard where submarines are being constructed. This one is somewhat iffy, but we are working on it. We are also considering an optional tour on Saturday to Colonial Williamsburg. Your Editor has been there several times and always a most interesting and enjoyable visit. We should have all the loose ends on the schedule, costs, and registration form by the July 2016 Newsletter or if earlier, we will likely send a special email out to the Association. Now sadder news!

STELLA (DOROTHY RUTH) MURDOCH

8 JAN 1939 - 26 JAN 2016

We just lost another special one. Her given name was Dorothy Ruth, but the Sea Poacher family only knew her as Stella. An unexpected cancer took her in 19 days in Naples, Florida. She was extremely active with the Sea Poacher Association and attended most all of our reunions; made major financial contributions to our Association; assisted Hubby Joe (ET62-63) in coordinating both of our Branson reunions in 2010 and 2015 plus at least 24 other veteran reunions in Branson, Florida, and elsewhere; worked on the Wounded Warriors Project; and even made the Sea Poacher pilgrimage to Peru in 2009, where among major events Frances and Lanny had the pleasure to fly exclusively with her and Joe over the NASCA Lines far south of Lima in a private aircraft. A major experience for all!

Stella was active with the North Naples United Methodist Church and the Republican Women of Southwest Florida Federated. She is survived by Joe who were married for 57 years, two sons



Ron and Randy (and Louisa), two grandchildren Tyler and Kate, and other family. That she will be missed by the Sea Poacher, other submarine associations such as the Nathan Hale, and her family goes without saying. You never saw her (or Joe) without a smile. That her Guest Book has 50 text and photo entries speaks of the character of this wonderful woman. There is also a 15 minute video on her life. Several Sea Poachers were at the funeral including Ivan and Marjorie Joslin with daughter Lessie, John and Annette Snook, Jack Merrill, and Ron Godwin. We cannot thank you enough for the services rendered not only to us,



but also to the other submarine and veteran's organizations. **You are remembered. Rest In Peace Stella!**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT-BILL BRINKMAN

1. Dues: We have 209 Life and 24 Regular members (including 34 widows). If you're a Life Member or have paid your 2016 dues, thank you. If not, please pay \$10 for each year or become a Life Member for \$100. Life Members no longer get annoying letters from me or our Treasurer Hubert Jackson, receive a free patch, and we continue Life Membership status for your widow. Make checks payable to Sea Poacher Association and mail to me at 4500 Tiffany Nicole Street, Round Rock, TX 78665-9466 or email me at seapoacher@austin.rr.com with questions.

2. Address and e-mail changes: Please send us changes. Remember, we do not show your mailing address and telephone number on our newsletters or our website. When shipmates request them, we do put them in touch with you.

3. Sea Poacher Memorial Fund: When a shipmate passes on, we present to the next of kin a Memorial Plaque. The framed and matted picture of Sea Poacher underway at sunset includes a Final Prayer and service years. Funding for this stands alone, so we appreciate check contributions made out to Sea Poacher Association and mailed to me. Please indicate "Memorial Fund" on your check.

4. Submarine Shipping Over: From Bill Buckley. A short but very good submarine promotional at www.navy.mil/media/multimedia/silentsub/silentservice.mp4

5. Wreaths Across America Appreciation to Sea Poacher: From Joe Murdoch. For 2015, we sent in \$1,770 thanks to the work of Joe, Richard Clubb, and John Snook. We are receiving back from them \$570 including an unexpected \$100 from the USSVI Base in Scranton, PA. Our 183 wreaths were placed at Arlington National Cemetery on 12 December 2015. These funds returned will be used to support our newsletter publications. Well done to all of you.

6. COLA Relief Bills Introduced: From Lanny. VA and Social Security benefits are scheduled for no increase in 2016. This may create difficulties for some. To solve this, bills have been introduced in Congress to provide a one-time payment of \$581 to VA and Social Security beneficiaries. Contact your Senators and Representatives to request their support at: <http://capwiz.com/vfw/dbq/officials/> or elsewhere.

7. Ohio Class Submarine Replacement Program: From Bill Buckley. The Navy has started prototyping these and will begin new construction in 2021. These will be 560 feet long and house 16 Trident D5 missiles. The first is to be completed in 2018 at a cost of \$12.4B. A total of 12 are planned for at a cost of \$4.9B each. These boats are expected to be used into the 2080s. The current Ohio Class are planned for 42 years of service into the 2023 time frame at least. More details are on the Internet if you search on Ohio Replacement Submarine.

8. Das Boot Movie: From Lanny. There are five different versions of this 1981 film that run from 2.5 to 5 hours with all leading to the same result. There is a version on Crackle for free that focuses mostly on the crew and their psychological well being instead of the depth charges. Well worth your time and very well done.

9. The Horse and Cow: From Jack Enslinger. Find some memories on three of these establishments in a 1998 LA Times Newspaper at articles.latimes.com/1998/dec/24/news/mn-57252.

10. Key West 874 Photos: From my Son Andrew. Here is a bunch from James Brooks, Public Affairs Director of the George C. Marshall European Center. You might find yourself on display or other events that will jog your memory. Go to www.flickr.com/photos/keys/libraries/535714253/in/photolist-9aoKMK-9aoNfp

11. News Letter Inputs: From Lanny. He says we have been doing okay until now, but stories from shipmates are at rock bottom for the first time. Like ZERO after this issue! Lanny has absolutely no interest in reviving WWII submarine tales which are nice to do, but they are told elsewhere. So, maybe in an old box in your closet there is a story, and he would like to have it. Lanny will work closely with you to make certain it will be a thing of beauty. Our Association membership is the focus of our newsletters. If no inputs, we might drop to an issue every four months or an eight page newsletter. Up to you! The time to step up to the Conning Tower Hatch is now!

12. Russian Diesel Class Submarine Construction: From Bill Buckley. They planned to make three LADA Class diesel electrics in 2010, but only one has been delivered and still involved in operational evaluation. It may be until 2022 for the rest, but they are considering a new improved Kilo Class. Believe it or not! LOL! This is true!

13. Wounded Warriors Project: From Lanny. Like many of us, he has been a contributor for years. However, this is an enigma. Some reports say only 4 percent goes to the Warriors and the rest management. Others say much higher, but it is difficult to really know what is happening. Investigate it for yourself.

ANALYSIS OF SUBMARINE LOSSES WWII

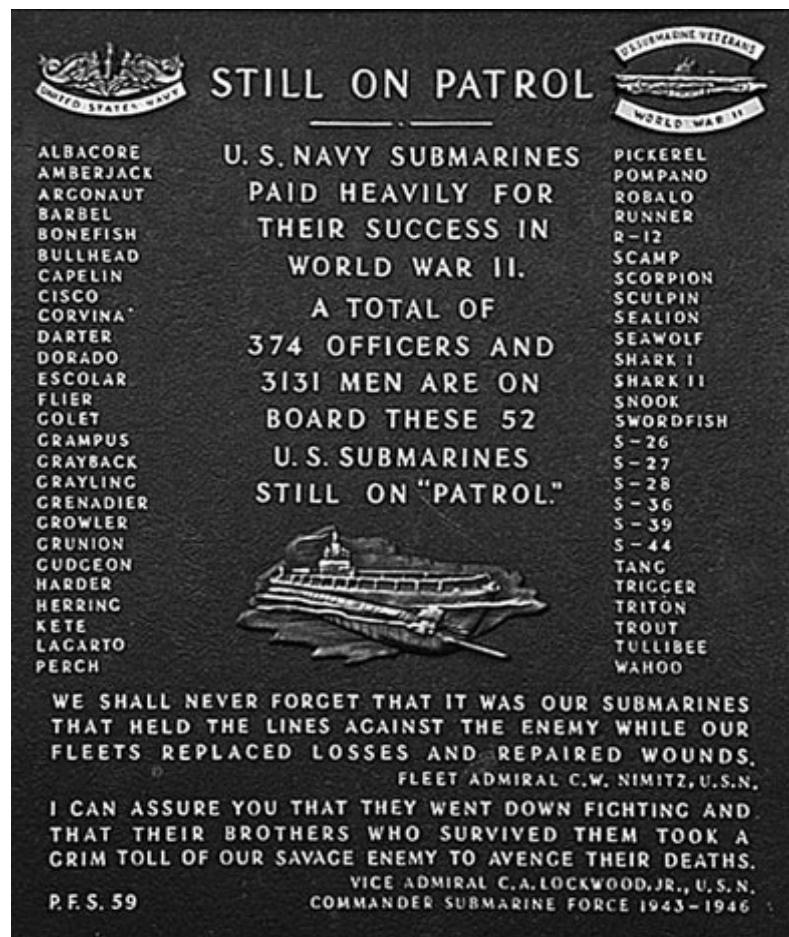
The 52 boats lost by the U.S. in WWII represented 18% of our submarines which saw combat duty. This loss, while high in comparison to the losses sustained by our other types of ships, is low considering the Germans lost 767 submarines with another 238 scuttled by their own crews at the close of the War plus another 156 that surrendered to the British and were also scuttled. The Japanese lost 128 submarines in WWII. The Royal Navy lost 79 boats. Analyst Kenny Strode from Great Britain in 2014 suggested three reasons for the U.S. success.

First, the excellent mental and physical condition of U.S. submarine personnel and high state of training. There was two weeks of R&R between patrols while the boat was being refitted, and no official duties. Crews returned mentally and physically alert with little tension. There was also a high level of refresher training between patrols that kept pace with enemy ASW measures.

Second, the U.S. superiority in radar. The U.S. had both the SD Aircraft Warning and the SJ Surface Search while the Japanese had nothing. When the Japanese finally started to produce efficient radars, the U.S. developed the APR, ST, and SV radars which combated them successfully.

Third, was the weakness of Japanese ASW measures. The War started on a comparable ASW basis. While great copyists the Japanese were poor inventors. With espionage services cut off, they rapidly fell behind in ASW. They could find a U.S. submarine pretty easily, but did not know where to drop the depth charges. They were not persistent, and any sort of nebulous evidence as a positive proof of a sinking and sure kill, they were off about their business elsewhere, to let the submarine surface. The U.S. can thank God for their superiority complex.

At the end of the War, the Japanese furnished the U.S. with information that showed 468 positive sinking of U.S. submarines. And the U.S., in a wise policy of total censorship of submarine operations, encouraged them in their successful belief by not announcing any successful attacks by its own boats. The Japanese assumed they never got home. Thanks to Bill Buckley for surfacing with this information.



EMERGENCY RATIONS

Fran and I went through an awful time with Hurricane Katrina over 10 years ago with extensive damage. Afterwards for a week we lived on the Military Meal Ready to Eat (MRE). Not great but not bad. Lots of food in one container, enough for two, and 24 varieties. We were recently cleaning out the lower level and came across 15 MREs left over. Fran was going to trash them, but decided to open one to check it. We ate the entire thing including the Sloppy Joe Mix Main Entrée still excellent after 10 years. We are keeping the remaining 14 packages with a marking of 5123, meaning 2005 and the 123 day of the year. You can buy a box (12) on the Internet for \$100 including shipping. These are great for any emergency. Most recently the flooding in South Carolina comes to mind.



Just be careful as there are many variants, with substitutes I would be skeptical of. EBay has lots of MREs for sale and while not supposedly legal, there have not been any bans imposed by the Military. Look for a heavy medium brown plastic container with a Menu Number such as No.21 Chicken Tetrazzini by Ameriquel Packaging Evansville, IN 47710 (there may be a new provider). The package should say US Government Property/Commercial Resale is Unlawful. Try and ascertain if there is a flameless chemical heater in the package to warm up the entree, but this is not always apparent yet likely present inside. Getting a date for it is also important as well.

SOME RARE WORLD WAR II FACTS

Thanks to former Navy Supply Corps Lieutenant Richard Raish in Chicago for this information which can be found at mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/1516848b5153f304. Some very interesting items. Here are just a few.

The youngest person in the military was Calvin Graham who at age 12 in 1942 enlisted in the Navy. He was wounded on USS South Dakota (BB-57) in the Battle of Guadalcanal but saved several shipmates. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He made First Class in three years. Because he lied about his age, he spent several months in a brig. His medals were also taken away, but all were eventually restored in the 1990s with some after his passing in 1992. This is an age 12 photo.



The nephew of Adolph Hitler, William Patrick Hitler, served in the U.S. Navy for three years in WWII as a Pharmacists Mate. He described his Uncle Adolph as a "Frankenstein" and fled Nazi Germany in 1939. Adolph referred to him as "his loathsome nephew." After the War, he changed his last name to Stuart-Houston, and tried to disappear. He was not successful in the effort.

Pilot Paul Tibbets over Hiroshima had only 40 seconds to turn the Enola Gay 159 degrees to be tangent to the shock wave of the first atomic bomb and avoid their own destruction. He was 10.5 miles away from the detonation and brought his crew/aircraft safely home.

Only one of four men who served on German U-boats survived World War II.

In 1941 three million cars were made in the U.S. but only 139 more until the War was over in 1945.

British soldiers were issued three sheets of toilet paper per day. Americans received 22 sheets. I have absolutely no idea why this difference existed and am content to leave it that way.

MORE ON SCRAPPING USSR SUBS

Trust West Coast Posse Crusher John Savory EN 58-61 for following up on the story of scrapping the Akula/Typhoon submarines as in the last newsletter. There is a 46 minute National Geographic video of one of these being dismantled, complete with gym and swimming pool, at www.youtube.com/watch?V=eAVFMDoaUDo on this and well worth your time. Done by the Russians but with an overly dramatic British narrator giving the entire year plus operation from removal of the control rods and cooling water, to lightening it and towing it to a dry dock 8 km away. The dry docking operation was dangerous as there were still two radioactive reactor rooms that could have been breached. Then the boat is cut by hand into pieces, valuable copper removed from its insulation, and all that remains are the still highly radioactive reactors. These are then towed to a nuclear waste facility 800 km away. The Russians make a big show of this, but who really knows? Also, Jack Ensminger provided a website of Russian, Japanese, and other submarine gravesites at www.urbanghostmedia.com/2011/08/forgotten-soviet-submarine-graveyard-kola-peninsula/ and not a pretty site. Both John and Jack are major contributors to our newsletter and most appreciated.

SUBMARINER ISSUES FROM NAVY TIMES

Thanks to Bill Buckley, another prime contributor to our newsletter, for this recent information, initially forwarded by Jack Ensminger. First, four women recently passed the intensive enlisted submarine course and will join the Blue and Gold crews of Michigan. Berthing spaces are being modified. A 49 page plan in excruciating detail was issued on what to wear on the treadmill and how to manage the head has been issued. It was said we will treat each other with dignity and respect because we are professionals. Everyone knows that setbacks are likely, and some bumps will happen. However, we will recover from those and good things will happen. The submarine force will adapt. Jack Ensminger and Charles Roberts also added that despite a bonus of \$30K per year for 3-5 years, only three of the original officer women selected for submarines have signed up. The reasons include the nuclear engineering demands, balancing careers with a spouse also in the military, and disgust over the submarine showering videos. The retention rate is about 16 percent right now. The Navy is working on the problem, but many comments just go back to it being a too demanding lifestyle. Second, a submariner today is medevaced from its boat every 14 days for mental health issues. This accounts for about 30 percent of the unplanned losses, mostly from the E-6 and below levels. The submarine community is trying to tackle the problem, but there are flaws in the system. Crisis lines have been improved and mental health professionals have been embedded to better address the issues.

TAIWAN AND U.S. BUILT DIESEL SUBS

From the 5 December 2015 Defense News and Jack Ensminger. In 2001, President Bush released an arms package to Taiwan including four destroyers, 12 patrol aircraft, and eight diesel submarines. It was all done except for the diesel submarines which we had not built since 1959. Taiwan was frustrated with the situation in lieu of China's rapidly growing submarine force. Little relief was in sight, and Taiwan is now working with the Japanese for a possible deal for Soryu-class submarines. It would be an outright sale at about \$500M per submarine - significantly less than the \$800M for just the U.S. design stage. The Chinese submarine fleet now numbers over 70, and Taiwan calls their growth "aggressive."

INVOCATION SUBMARINE BALL

At the Great Lakes Naval Training Center on 24 April 1982, and provided by Bill Buckley.

O God, it's rumored that you're a little upset with submariners. They have the annoying habit of topping some of your finest efforts. You walked on the water. They found a way to walk under it. You divided the Red Sea amid noise and clamor, leaving behind a gaping wide trench. They divide the sea silently, leaving behind no trace at all. Then, in one of your finest hours, when you were really on a roll, you took the first submariner, Jonah, submerged him in the sea for three days in the belly of a whale, and then dramatically let him live to tell the tale. Now, these showoffs submerge themselves in their steel fish for months at a time, and without batting an eye, come home, hale and hearty. They're a determined lot, Lord. I can understand your being testy; no one likes to be upstaged. But, in your heart of hearts, I know you like their style. We are grateful for them in the Navy and I know that you are too. The world is a better place, a freer place for what they do. They are the silent sentinels around the world. Bless those serving on lonely patrols this evening; unite us in spirit with them. And, on this, their birthday, grant these submariners your most special blessing. Amen.

ARMY - NAVY FOOTBALL 2015



At the 116th meeting on December 12, the Midshipmen wore seven different helmets and uniforms in respect to our ships. Here is part of the uniform worn. This was our 14th straight victory over Army. Navy now leads the series with 60 victories - 49 losses - 7 ties. Their record for the year including the bowl win over Pittsburgh is 11-2 with losses only to highly ranked Notre Dame and Houston. Thanks to Ron Godwin.



GOD BLESS AMERICA

Maybe seen before but worth repeating. Here is the first public showing of "God Bless America" in 1940. We were in a state of awful economic depression. Hitler was taking over Europe and most Americans were afraid of war. Radio was huge and no entertainer was bigger than Kate Smith (also large at 5 foot 10 inches and 235 pounds). She was also very patriotic and wanted to cheer up the Americans. She approached Irving Berlin of White Christmas fame, and asked him to write a song that would make American feel good. After her description, Irving said he had just the right song for her. He had written it 22 years earlier unpublished, gave it to her, and worked with her studio orchestra. They both agreed that any profits would only go entirely to the Boy Scouts of America where millions of dollars have been received to date. Kate passed away in 1986 at age 79 and was never married.

The video starts with an introduction, and after the first few verses there are scenes from the movie You're In The Army Now including Ronald Reagan. Check it out at www.youtube.com/embed/TnQDW-NMaRs?rel=0. As an aside on Kate Smith her song hits included White Cliffs of Dover, The Last Time I Saw Paris, Seems Like Old Times, Now is the Hour, Rose O'Day, and When the Moon Comes Over The Mountain. She was often at the Philadelphia Flyers hockey games and a good luck charm. When she sang "God Bless America" they reacted with an outstanding 94 win - 26 loss - 4 tie record. This hockey team coined the phrase: "It ain't over 'til the fat lady sings."

NAVY GENDER INTEGRATED RATINGS

From Jack Enslinger. The Secretary of the Navy has now directed that position titles must be gender integrated, removing "man" were appropriated. A working group has been appointed to do this by order of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens and must report on it by April 2016.. If on the group you are required to read a "Battling With Words" document to get a better understanding of the impact and the importance of semantics. He also notes that this will have a significant, tangible impact on generations of Sailors. GAG! Jack and I concur that replacing "man" by "woman" or "it" for "Sea Woman" or "Sea It" is bizarre, but nothing seems too outlandish for our Navy leaders in Washington, DC. The term "Midshipman" is also under review with major opposition in the thousands at Annapolis and Academy alumni. Some call it "political correctness run amok." Regards the civilian world, we have both women as police and firefighters, but they are referred to as "police" and "firefighters" without the gender notation. Our tax dollars are again at work.

LCDR DAVID BALME, RN 1 OCT 1920 - 3 JAN 2016

He helped change the course of WWII and shorten it by two years. He was the leader of the Destroyer HMS Bulldog boarding party in 1941 during the forced surface of German U-boat 110 they had depth charged. It was an extremely dangerous situation with uncertainty as to whether there was any crew still aboard or scuttling charges were set to go off. Searching for six hours, LT Balme recognized a funny sort of typewriter below decks and removed it as a possible coding machine along with documents on settings and procedures. It was the Enigma machine. Then Bulldog was towing the submarine towards Iceland when it floundered and sank the next day. King George VI called it the most important event in the war at sea. In 1999 LCDR Balme was the Historical Advisor for the making of the film U-571 which had been recast as an American victory in recovering the Enigma which it was not. British Prime Minister Tony Blair total objected to the depiction. Balme just called it a great film and that the American credits acknowledged the role of the Royal Navy. He said he was glad the story had been told. There are many more stories of his heroics and life after that on the Internet. RIP Commander and thank you! Appreciation to Bill Buckley from providing this story and many others in the past.



A SEA POACHER IN THE FIJI ISLANDS

Terry Kopansky missed the Branson reunion due to a 10 day diving adventure to Fiji. Notice his Sea Poacher shirt as well as your Editor's golf book. He reported the diving was spectacular with healthy and colorful reefs, abundant fish of all types including barracuda, shark, sea turtles, and eels. There is an excellent 10 minute video of one of his dives at YouTube. Type in volivoli dive resort, scroll down and click on the pirate flag to find World Dive Buddies, with some of his band of cutthroats shown below. One major highlight was a visit to a local village to take school supplies. Terry said they were greeted with shouts of "Bula" by the village folk who directed them to a meeting hall where they were presented with leis, entertained with song and dance, and participated in a "kava" drinking ceremony. The food and accommodations were first rate. It is said that the Fijian people are the "happiest on earth", a fact that seemed true despite the lack of electricity, running water, and meager living conditions in the village. Terry also said it was wonderful object lesson that material wealth is not a prerequisite for happiness. On the downside it is a killer 11.5 hour non-stop flight from LA alone, so from Nashville to the diving resort figure 24 hours. Terry sends his sincere best wishes to the Sea Poacher family, and plans to be in Norfolk for the next reunion.



A BIT OF SUBMARINE HUMOR

In a pub near the New London Submarine Base, a group of surface sailors (targets) came in. One of the skimmers said in a loud voice: "I hear you Bubble Heads think you're great. I will bet \$5,000 that no one here can drink 20 pints of Guinness in 30 minutes." The bar was silent, but the skimmer noticed one old Chief leaving. No one took up on the bet. Forty minutes later, the Chief who left returned and said: "Hey target, is your bet still on?" "Sure" said the skimmer: "20 pints in 30 minutes for \$5,000." "Outstanding" replied the Chief, "so pour the pints and start the clock!" It was very close but the last drop was consumed with two seconds to spare. "Ok, buddy, pay up," said the Chief. "I'm happy to pay, here's your money" said the skimmer, "But tell me, when I first offered the wager, I saw you leave. Where did you go?" "Well sonny, replied the old Chief: "\$5,000 is a lot of money to a man like me, so I went to the pub across the road to see if I could do it first..." From Jack Enslinger who also provided:

... On the 8th day, God created Submariners — and the Devil stood at attention...

AND THEN SOMEWHERE ON 23 AUGUST 1963



**I am a United States
Military Veteran**

**I once took a
SOLEMN OATH
to defend the
CONSTITUTION**

**against ALL enemies,
foreign and *Domestic***

BE ADVISED

**No one has ever
relieved me of my duties
under this Oath!**

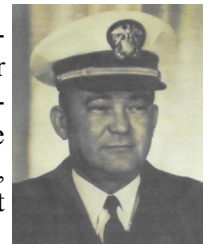
MEMORIAL PLAQUES

GARL EUBANKS, TM 1950-51, entered Eternal Patrol on 4 October 2015 at age 84 in Hornitos, CA. He would later become a CPO and retire after 25 years in the submarine force as a Lieutenant Commander. He later operated a cattle ranch in Cathey's Valley. He was a Life Time Member of the Sea Poacher Association, and passed away only five months after wife Claire departed in May 2015. They are interred at John Lord Cemetery in Hornitos.



Leroy E. Blanchard, ET 1952, at age 85 also departed for Eternal Patrol in 2015 at Escondido, CA. He was the first naval reservist to earn his dolphins, and this was on Sea Poacher. With a Master's Degree from USC, Leroy designed the camera for the Surveyor spacecraft that took the first color photos on the moon as it landed by Astronauts Armstrong and Aldrin. He was awarded a \$1M bonus for this with the camera now on display at the Smithsonian. Leroy was featured in Life Magazine and worked on numerous classified spy satellites. After retirement from Hughes Aircraft, he owned a real estate firm and was a certified financial planner. No other details were available.

Ralph C. Beardslee, Jr., QM 1949. Thanks to Jack Merrill for finding this 2009 obituary. Ralph entered Eternal Patrol at age 86. He was on the Northhampton (CA-26) on 7 December 1941, and later in battles in the Marshalls and Gilberts, Coral Sea, Tokyo raid, Midway, Santa Cruz, and Cape Esperance, and at Savo Island when the Northhampton was sunk. He then transferred to the submarine service and made three war patrols on Flying Fish (SS-229). After receiving his commission in 1955, he also had tours on two destroyers, commanded LST Cheboygan County, and then served in Viet Nam. His last assignment was CO of LST Wood County. Not other details were found.



Joseph W. Fennell, LT 1967-68 of Tequesta, FL and Franklin, NC departed for Eternal Patrol at age 76 in Tequesta on 7 December 2015. He was a Seabee before Sea Poacher. In 1976, he established Liberty Yachts where he designed and built ocean going sailboats. Joseph was an avid sports fisherman, canoeist, and was happiest as a nature lover when in the woods or paddling down a river. Jack Merrill presented

our plaque to wife Nancy, son-in-law Brian Cullen, and daughter Katie Cullen.



Glenn E. Suttle, FN 1954, of Fairlawn, OH, entered Eternal Patrol on 16 December 2015 at age 81. He qualified on Sea Poacher and served on Odax (SS-484), Volador (SS-490), Guardfish (SSN=612) and had a tour in Vietnam. He retired after 20 years as a Chief Engineman. He then became a Maintenance Foreman with B.F. Goodrich and retired after 18 years. Glenn is survived by his wife Karen, four children, six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. He is interred at Rose Hill Burial Park.



William Hayes, Jr. IC 1956-59 from Collinsville, IL departed for Eternal Patrol on 12 May 2015 at the age of 77. Following his Navy service he worked at the Federal Reserve Bank in St. Louis. He was a member of several shrine organizations, American Legion, VFW, and National Guard. He is survived by his wife Patricia and eight children. He was a Life Time member of Sea Poacher Association, and is interred in the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis.

Hal R. Ellis III, LT 1959-62 entered Eternal Patrol at age 81 in Virginia Beach on 29 December 2014. He retired after 22 years as a Commander and served on three submarines including a tour in Vietnam. Hal later taught tennis, managed the Little Creek Tennis Pro Shop, ran with the Tidewater Striders including several marathons, was active with the Tidewater Bicycle Association, and was an amateur nature photographer. Survived by wife Barbara and three children, he is interred at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.



John F. Chaich, EM 1956-59, of Sagamore Hills, OH, departed for Eternal Patrol at age 77 on 2 January 2016. He was a Life member of our Association, and after the Navy became an Engineer and retired from the Ford Motor Company. John is survived by two of his three children and other family. He was very proud of his submarine service and, requested his dolphins and Navy ring be placed in his urn. This was done. No photo was available.

SEA POACHER ASSOCIATION

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MYSTERY PHOTO IDENTIFIED

CO Bill Gibson 1951-53 dredged through his pirate chest and forwarded this photo with no idea as to the occasion. With his help and undercover agents Peter Amunrud FT3, Bill Buckley TM3, Bill Brinkman EM2, and Diane MacPherson, after several days and many emails, we nailed it. Sea Poacher was in Galveston for Splash Day 3-6 May 1952 and open for visiting. There was a crowd of 200,000 including Governor Allen Shiner. See Jan 2015 Newsletter for story. This photo by Jackson D___ shows from L to R #1 Lee Yonts, #2 a TM, #3 a QM, #4 J.B. Carson TM1, #5 Frank Caufield CS1, #6 Peter Amunrud FT3, #7 Dusty Rhodes TM1, #9 Bob Abbott EM1, #13 Willie Austin EM1, #19 Josephino Bugarin CS3, #26 EMC Thomas Kemp AKA Hatuey, and the rest are not yet identified. Any one want to own up to it?

