



Publication for members of USS Illinois Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Message from National CDR



**USSVI Commander
Wayne Standerfer**

We all are now aware the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic has severely impacted the operation of our USSVI Bases and our Charitable Foundation, as well as society in general. Just about all events have been cancelled or postponed, meetings and gatherings of more than 10 people have been discouraged, and in some cases prohibited, parks and beaches have been closed and we have all been advised to avoid travel that is not absolutely essential.

So, what are we going to do to help our members, their families, and other submarine veterans who are housebound or otherwise unable to fend for themselves? What can our Bases and the CF do in this age of COVID-19?

Check on your friends

A term that I am hearing a lot lately is "Buddy Check." Does your Base have a phone tree? Are your Officers calling their membership to check on how they are holding up and if they need any assistance, or if they know of family or other submarine veterans that need assistance? Sending out emails and posting on your websites is fine for getting the word out on who to contact and

where/how to get assistance, however, the personal call or "Buddy Check" is a very important tool to reach out to those who may not know what to do, or how to get help. Remember many of our older submarine veterans may not use email or the Internet. They are not getting the information being put out, and they are often the ones that need our help the most.

Reach out with help

Many of our members, their families and other submarine veterans need help in getting to the stores or getting food and medicines delivered to them, many of them have no way to get to the Doctor or other appointments.

In short, volunteer opportunities are available and very much needed. Our Base members do not have to sit around home feeling helpless with nothing to do while everything is shut down. Our members could be reaching out, as much as they are able, and offering our help in any way that they can. Our Bases and members should be doing this sort of thing all the time, it is part of what we are all about, but especially now when so many are in crisis and the

(Continued on page 3)



www.ussillinoisbase.org





17 Members present - Patrick O'Brien, Richard Martin, Renee Martin, Wayne Orrison, Kate Ramsay, Tom Ramsay, Mark Dykstra, Bruce Pickering, Nathan Heft, Mike Barney, Terry Elmeier, Don Bosetti, Chuck, Mongan, Jim Helsell, Daryl Rorabaugh, Joseph Jones, Tim Deneen.

2 Guests present - Stephen and Sherry Thompson, (CDR of Great Lakes Base and his wife).

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Invocation by *Bruce Pickering*.

Recitation of the USSVI Creed.

Member/guest introductions.

Central District 2 Commander Change of Command - Outgoing Dist. CDR Phil Owens gave the oath of office to the new CD2 Commander, Stephen Thompson.

Tolling of Bells ceremony -- Phil Owens recited the roll of lost boats and rang the bell.

Secretary's report -- Secretary Pat O'Brien asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the Base newsletter. Terry Elmeier made the motion. Phil Owens seconded. Motion to accepted.

Treasurer's Report -- Treasurer Bruce Pickering presented his report. Kate Ramsay made a motion to accept. Motion seconded by Don Bosetti. Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Chaplain's Report - None.

Storekeeper's Report - Storekeeper Terry Elmeier reported he has mouse pads, stickers and calendars available for sale.

Kaps(ss) 4 Kids Report -- JVCDR Mark Dykstra reported a scheduled visit to UW Hospital for April 2. He will advise the membership of changes in light of the current health crisis.

CDR's Report by *CDR Dick Martin*

- A volunteer is still needed to assume the office of Chaplain. Bruce Pickering volunteered to provide the Invocation and Closing Prayer until a new Chaplain is installed. Let him know if interested.
- He reminded the Base of our planned participation Memorial Day parades in

Beloit and Pecatonica. He will keep us posted as more information is known.

- He is also investigating a location for a Tag Sale. An info table about the Base would be set up with a contribution jar.

Unfinished business

- JVCDR Mark Dykstra reminded the Base that Warbirds Weekend in Janesville will be July 17-19, 2020. He made a call for volunteers. Volunteers will be required to attend a volunteer's meeting. The volunteer's meeting is also required if the Base wishes to sell Cobia memorabilia. Information will be forth coming. Discussion followed.

- Kate Ramsay reported on her research into the Base participating in the Monroe Cheese Days Parade, on Sept. 16. This event happens every two years. We are awaiting word back from the Parade committee.

New Business

- CDR Martin advised of several organized veterans' events (Heartland Hospice Vietnam Veterans Welcome home, VFW Bunny Breakfast etc.) in the community. He had brochures available.
- Kate Ramsay advised that all members are required to update their profile on the USSVI National website. Instructions on how to do this are on page 8 of the February "Green Board" base newsletter. This an action item for all hands.
- Don Bosetti advised that the VA will now provide eye glasses.
- SVCDR Wayne Orison reminded the members of the services provided by The Winnebago County Vet's Drop-in Center.
- Discussion held regarding marketing taglines on Base signage and brochures to incorporate "Serving submarine veterans in the Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin area" or similar wordage.
- JVCDR Mark Dykstra advised of a Janesville Community Yard Sale the 3rd weekend of June. He would accept

(Continued on page 3)

Base Contacts

Commander
Richard Martin
pops1945@comcast.net

Sr. Vice Commander
Wayne Orrison
wjacob@yahoo.com

**Jr. Vice Commander &
Kaps 4 Kids Coord.**
Mark Dykstra
dykstra.mark89@gmail.com

Treasurer
Bruce Pickering
knuckleheadhack39@tds.net

Secretary
Patrick O'Brien
pmtobrien@earthlink.net

Storekeeper
Terry Elmeier
insp184@yahoo.com

Chaplain
Bob Fleck
bobfleck@ameritech.net

Editor/Webmaster
Kate Ramsay
kateram@jcwifi.com



Welcome new Central District 2 Commander



Phil Owens (right), retiring Central Dist. 2 Commander, administers the Oath of Office to the newly appointed CD2 CDR, Stephen Thompson, from the Great Lakes Base. Congratulations!

At our March 7th Base Meeting, we were hosts to the official change of command for USSVI's Central District 2 Commander. Stepping down was our own Phil Owens. Thank you, Phil for your service.



Base CDR Richard Martin and Phil Owen welcomed our special guest: Stephen Thompson (2nd from left) and his wife Associate Member Sherry.

Minutes continued



NOTE:

April Meeting cancelled due to national health emergency.

(Continued from page 2)

items donated by members (proceeds to be donated to the Base).

50-50 Raffle -- Joe Jones won the raffle.

Closing Prayer -- offered by Bruce Pickering.

Adjourn -- Motion made and seconded to adjourn

Next Meeting -- April 7, 2020 at noon at Mustang's Grill and Bar, South Beloit, Wis. **(CANCELED)**

'USSVI here to help'

(Continued from page 1)

normal avenues for assistance may not be available.

Your Charitable Foundation is available to help as well and can provide financial assistance in matching the funds provided by the Base to assist or, in case by case situations, by providing direct grants.

If your Base becomes aware of needed financial assistance beyond what they may be able to provide, they should contact the Brotherhood Fund Manager, Ken Nichols, who will evaluate the need and discuss what assistance he can provide. If the need exceeds that which he can provide, he can bring it to the CF Board through the CF Treasurer for further consideration.

Just for Laughs Dept.

'PLEASE PRAY FOR TOM HANKS'
IT IS IN YOUR INTEREST !!!!!

Tom Hanks survived 4 years on an island as a castaway.

He spent a year in an airport without being able to leave.

Survived a volcano.

Caught AIDS in Philadelphia.

Survived an acute case of kidney stones.

Instead of drowning he's rescued by a mermaid, and is able breathe underwater.

He was in World War II and rescued Private Ryan.

He went to Vietnam and rescued Lieutenant Dan.

Was on a boat and kidnapped by Somali pirates.

Survived Apollo 13 trying to reach the Moon.

Landed a Boeing on the Hudson River.

If that son of a gun dies of Covid 19, we're ALL SCREWED !!!





Richard Martin, EN3(SS)
USS Illinois Base Commander



Greetings to all my fellow “quarantined”! Quarantining ourselves and our families certainly wasn’t what we expected for 2020, but here we are. Thanks to those of you who responded to my email to let me know how you are doing.

I want to share information about a conference call your Base participated in on March 16 with USSVI National Commander (NCDR) Wayne Standerfer. Our NCDR is scheduling similar district-wide conference calls throughout the country. The March 16 phone call included leadership from Bases throughout Central Region 2 (Wisconsin & Illinois). Joining me on the call were Board members Wayne Orrison and Tom Ramsay. I am told by long-time USSVI members that this is the first time a National CDR has made calls like this to inform and to gather input from local Bases.

Discussions included a National website briefing. USSVI has spent a lot of money on trying to capture data from its current website, including having two computer firms under contract who attempted to covert the data. But unfortunately, they have not been successful. What does the future hold? We were told we may have to do away with the deck log data and rely on our own USSVI member profiles. Our

information is only as good as the current information we have on USSVI’s Member Profile page. Members need to update their own personal profiles on USSVI’s website. Kate Ramsay provided directions on how to do that in our February newsletter.

I encourage you to read this if you haven’t, and call Kate if you need more help.

Second, NCDR Standerfer stressed that while new membership is important, it is even more critical that Bases work on membership renewal and retention. He challenged Bases to keep in constant personal contact with members, preferably by phone. Last year, National lost 700 to 1,000 members.

His data shows that those not attending meetings are those sub sailors who are two generations out from WWII. He encouraged Bases to include family activities and make sure these younger members feel welcomed at the meeting. Some Bases (I am happy we are not one of them) exclude women at their meetings. The NCDR re-

minded us that there are women on submarines now. In fact, the Bremerton Base’s Vice Commander is a female sub sailor.

We also received a lot of procedural information that will help Bases communicate with National. More importantly, he shared information about an upcoming USSVI Charitable Foundation fundraising drive. The Foundation has its own stand-alone website at www.ussvcf.org. I encourage you visit this site and read about the eight sections within the Charitable Foundation. The NCDR stated that unfortunately most members don’t know all that Foundation can do to help Bases and individual members.

As USS Illinois Base Commander, I want to thank you for understanding as we had to rearrange Base events this year. We don’t know yet when “normal” will return. But, until then, stay safe!

Feel free to contact me anytime with your suggestions about future meetings and base activities.



Hot off the press!

This month’s winner of the best response to CDR Martin’s email asking how you were doing during the COVID-19 ‘Stay at Home’ order is none other than . . .

Bob Bates

with the following words of wisdom:

“After spending 90+ days on a submerged patrol, this confinement is pretty much a “piece of cake”!

Makes you proud to be a submariner, doesn’t it! Good job, Bob!

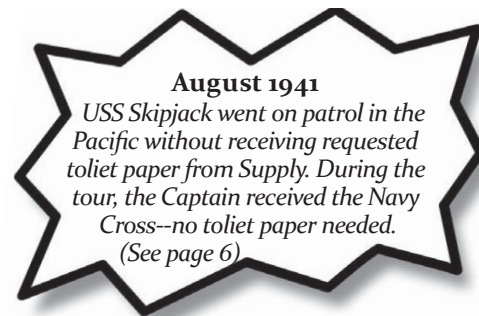




COVID-19 virus reported on ships

(USNI News)--This past week, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday "announced that three sailors aboard *USS Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71) had tested positive for COVID-19 following a rare port visit to Vietnam." PACFLEET Commander Adm. John Aquilino and his staff were part of a delegation visiting Vietnam, but they themselves have not shown symptoms for COVID-19. Since this report, USNI states that five more sailors have been diagnosed on the carrier for a total of eight.

While it isn't clear that the COVID-19 infection came from the port call, as aircraft have been coming and going from the carrier in the weeks since, the incident raises concerns on how quickly a ship could become racked with the virus.



August 1941

USS Skipjack went on patrol in the Pacific without receiving requested toilet paper from Supply. During the tour, the Captain received the Navy Cross--no toilet paper needed. (See page 6)

During the press conference, the Navy also noted that sailors from three other ships have proofed positive for the virus.

"When we do pull into port, we're at a point where we're not taking liberty," Aquilino said.

"We're ensuring that the ships are maintained, the crew is rested. But we're kind of locking down."

Sub sailors in the dark

(USATODAY.COM)--Sub sailors may be the only ones unaware of the scope of the COVID-19 pandemic. An article on French submarines reports, "a crew that left at the end of February wouldn't be expected back before the end of April." In that case, they will return to a world changed by the pandemic.

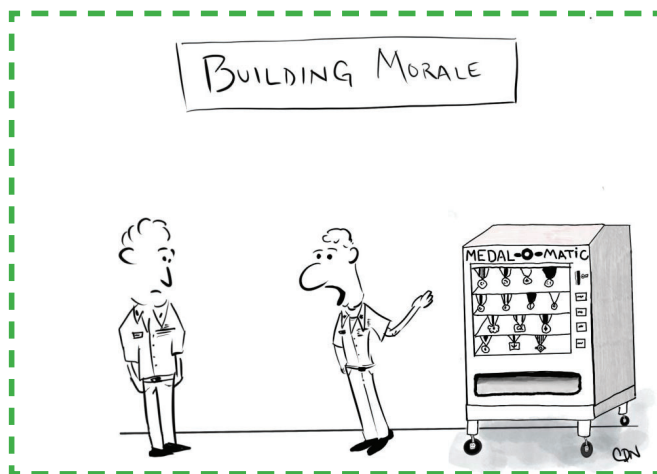
Check out U.S. Naval Institute

(USNI.COM)--At a time we are all looking for comic relief, check out the Vultur's Row in the U.S. Naval

Institute Blog. You will find it at: <https://blog.usni.org/>.

"Honing warfare skills, competing against great powers, and just staying alive at sea are serious challenges. Sometimes we need to laugh and blow off steam," they explain. "The Naval Institute is happy to add some comic relief in the form of "Vulture's Row"—a new cartoon series by CDR Chris Nelson, U.S. Navy. His style is evocative of the wry, understated cartoons in *The New Yorker*, mixed with some of the military irony from classics such as *Catch-22* and Jeff Bacon's "Broadside" cartoons. Enjoy.

"It's not exactly what I had in mind when I said, we need to give out more spot awards."



Toilet Paper: **You think you** **have problems?**

If you were an employee of the "California Psychic" organization and had advance foresight about the coming of COVID-19, you probably rushed right out and bought a lot of stock in the toilet paper industry. Or, you should have!

We joke about the toilet paper phenomena today for levity, but it is "old news" to the submarine service. Sharing insight is MMCM Karl Dye (USN-Ret), of Honolulu, who sent Tom Ramsay this historical (*hystarical*) story.

**GRANDPA....TELL US AGAIN
ABOUT THE GREAT TOILET
PAPER FAMINE OF 2020!**



Who knew it had already happened?

On 11 June 1942 - The captain of the USS Skipjack (SS-184), James W. Coe, sends his now famous letter up the chain of command. This letter which addressed the problem of obtaining toilet paper by his ship had an example of the desired material attached as Enclosure (B). Read actual letter on next page

But, here's the rest of the story!

The letter was given to the Yeoman, telling him to type it up. Once typed and upon reflection, the Yeoman went looking for help in the form of the XO. The XO shared it with the OD, and they proceeded to the CO's cabin and asked if he really wanted it sent. His reply, "I wrote it, didn't I?"

As a side note, twelve days later, on June 22, 1942 J.W. Coe was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions on the S-39.

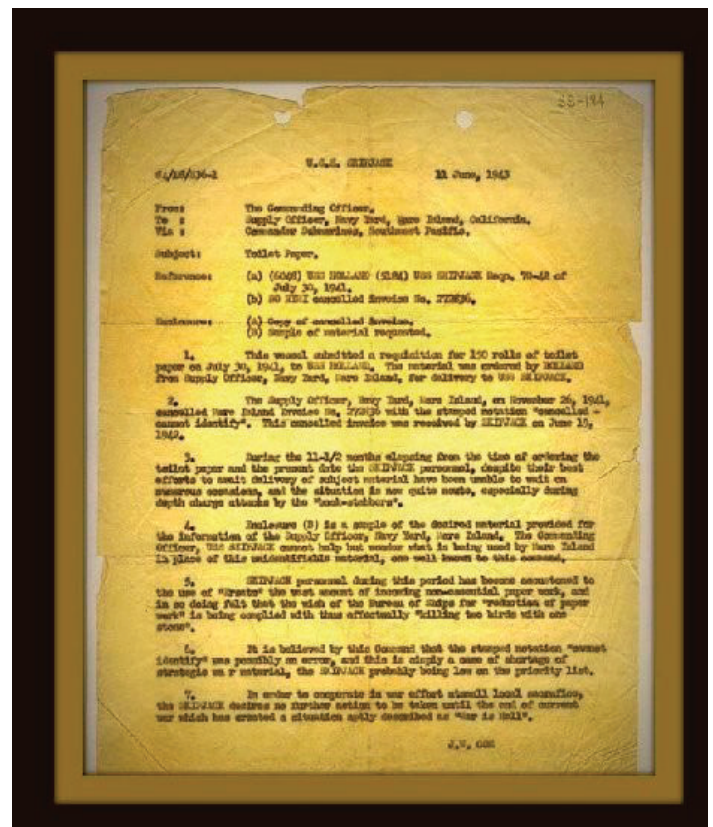
The "toilet paper" letter reached Mare Island Supply Depot. A member of that office remembers that all officers in the Supply Department "had to stand at attention for three days because of that letter." By then, the letter had been copied and was spreading throughout the fleet and even to the President's son, who was aboard the USS Wasp.

As the boat came in from her next patrol, Jim and crew saw toilet-paper streamers blowing from the lights along the pier and pyramids of toilet paper stacked seven feet high on the dock. Two men were carrying a long dowel with toilet paper rolls on it with yards of paper streaming behind them as a band played

coming up after the roll holders. Band members wore toilet paper neckties in place of their Navy neckerchiefs. The wind-section had toilet paper pushed up inside their instruments and when they blew, white streamers unfurled from trumpets and horns.

As was the custom for returning boats to be greeted at the pier with cases of fresh fruit/veggies and ice cream, the Skipjack was first greeted thereafter with her own distinctive tribute-cartons and cartons of toilet paper.

This letter became famous in submarine history books and found its way to the movie ("Operation Petticoat"), and eventually coming to rest (copy) at the Navy Supply School at Pensacola, Florida. There, it still hangs on the wall under a banner that reads, "Don't let this happen to you!" Even John Roosevelt insured his father got a copy of the letter.



U.S.S. SKIPJACK

11 June, 1942

From: Commanding Officer
To: Supply Officer, Navy Yard, Mare Island, California
Via: Commander Submarines, Southwest Pacific
Subject: Toilet Paper
Reference: (a) USS HOLLAND (5148) USS SKIPJACK Req. 70-42 of July 30, 1941.
(b) SO NYMI Canceled invoice No. 272836
Enclosure: (1) Copy of cancelled Invoice
(2) Sample of material requested.

1. This vessel submitted a requisition for 150 rolls of toilet paper on July 30, 1941, to USS HOLLAND. The material was ordered by HOLLAND from the Supply Officer, Navy Yard, Mare Island, for delivery to USS SKIPJACK.
2. The Supply Officer, Navy Yard, Mare Island, on November 26, 1941, cancelled Mare Island Invoice No. 272836 with the stamped notation "Cancelled---cannot identify." This cancelled invoice was received by SKIPJACK on June 10, 1942.
3. During the 11-1/2 months elapsing from the time of ordering the toilet paper and the present date the SKIPJACK personnel, despite their best efforts to await delivery of subject material, have been unable to wait on numerous occasions, and the situation is now quite acute, especially during depth charge attack by the "backstabbers."
4. Enclosure (2) is a sample of the desired material provided for the information of the Supply Officer, Navy Yard, Mare Island. The Commanding Officer, USS SKIPJACK cannot help but wonder what is being used in Mare Island in place of this unidentifiable material, once well known to this command.
5. SKIPJACK personnel during this period have become accustomed to use of "ersatz," the vast amount of incoming non-essential paper work, and in so doing felt that the wish of the Bureau of Ships for the "reduction of paper work" is being complied with thus effectively "killing two birds with one stone".
6. It is believed by this Command that the stamped notation "cannot identify" was possible an error, and that this is simply a case of shortage of strategic war material, the SKIPJACK probably being low on the priority list.
7. In order to cooperate in war effort at small local sacrifice, the SKIPJACK desires no further action be taken until the end of the current war which has created a situation aptly described as "war is hell."

J.W. Coe



Tolling of the Bells for Lost Boats

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in pursuit of their duties while serving their country."



MARCH

USS F-4 [ex-SKATE] (SS23) lost on March 21, 1915. Loss of 19 crew when it floundered off Honolulu Harbor. Hulk raised and reburied off Sub Base, Pearl Harbor.

USS H-1 (SS-28) lost March 12, 1920 while being towed after grounding at Magdalena Bay, Mexico. Loss of 4 crew.

USS Perch (SS-176) scuttled March 3, 1942 near Surabaya, Java on her 1st war patrol. Depth charges badly damaged the boat. Crew survived sinking: 61 taken prison by Japanese forces, only 53 survived the war.

USS Grampus (SS-207) lost on or after March 5, 1943 in the

Blackett Strait--possibly near Vella Gulf. Loss of 71 crew. Believe to be sunk by Japanese destroyers.

USS Triton (SS-201) lost on March 15, 1943 when sunk during Japanese surface attack with three Japanese destroyers north of New Guinea, by the Admiralty Islands. Loss of 74 crew.

USS Tullibee (SS-284) lost March 26, 1944 while operating north of Palau. Loss of 79 crew. Believed to be a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes on her 4th war patrol. The only survivor, a lookout, was knocked off the boat with the explosion. He survived the war as a Japanese prisoner.

USS Kete (SS-369) lost on or after March 20, 1945 when sunk on return to Midway (probably near Okinawa) at the end of her 2nd war patrol. Loss 87 crew.

USS Trigger (SS-237) lost on March 28, 1945 in the East China Sea. Loss of 89 crew. On her 12th war patrol, this highly decorated boat was involved in operations leading to the Okinawa invasion when attacked by Japanese anti-submarine vessels and aircraft.

APRIL

USS Pickerel (SS-177) lost April 3, 1943 when sunk off Honshu, Japan. Loss of 74 crew. The exact loss is unknown, but presumed to be the result of minefields.

USS Grenadier (SS-210) lost April 22, 1943 on her 6th war patrol, when scuttled after serious damage by aircraft near Penang in Indian Ocean. 61 crew taken prisoner by Japanese forces. 57 survived the war.

USS Snook (SS-279) lost sometime after April 8, 1945 when sunk near Hainan Island, China, possibly falling victim to a Japanese submarine. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. Loss of 84 crew.

USS Thresher (SSN-593) lost on April 10, 1963 when sunk while on sea trials near Isle of Shoals. The first of a new class of nuclear attack subs, the boat just completed an overhaul and was lost in a drive at test depth in over 8,000 feet of water. Loss of 129 crew and yard workers from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

USSVI can grow only if we all reach out to fellow submariners.



Mark your calendar for the next USS Illinois Base (USSVI) Meeting.
We meet monthly on the 1st Saturday of the month.



Next USSVI Illinois Base Event

Date: April Meeting Cancelled (next meeting TBA)

Other events on hold during COVID-19 Medical Emergency.
Follow posted precautions AND STAY SAFE! See you when we can!

Please check on your fellow USSVI and USS Illinois Base Members.



Share this application with a fellow submariner!



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular ☐ Life ☐ Associate ☐

OUR CREED: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

☐ I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Yr)
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

☐ I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in _____ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) _____ **Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____ - _____ **Tel:** (____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Your E-Mail Address _____ **Base/Chapter Desired:** _____

Nat'l Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____
Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$ 115.00; 3 Yr term: \$ 70.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 25.00;
(Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$ 30.00
Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$ 300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00
Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Consult the local base for those figures.

How did you find USSVI? ☐ Friend, ☐ Boat Assn, ☐ Local Event/News, ☐ Internet, ☐ Other (_____)

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?: (Mandatory for Assoc Mbrs) _____

Associate Applicant is: ☐ Veteran ☐ Spouse of Veteran ☐ Other (specify) _____

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____ / ____ / ____ **If other military service, What Branch?** _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ **Mil Retired (Y/N):** ____ **On Active Duty? (Y/N):** ____

YR entered Mil Service: ____ **YR left Mil Service** ____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

- ☐ Check if your Military Service falls within any of these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946; June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7, 1975; and from August 2, 1990 to date.
☐ Check if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____ **Hull#** _____ **Rank/Rate** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

2. _____ **Hull#** _____ **Rank/Rate** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

3. _____ **Hull#** _____ **Rank/Rate** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

4. _____ **Hull#** _____ **Rank/Rate** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

5. _____ **Hull#** _____ **Rank/Rate** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

Next of Kin: **Name:** _____ **Relationship:** _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Dau, Parent, Other)

Addr: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____ **Tel:** _____
(Leave this address line blank if the same as your home address)

Upon completion, please deliver to: Your Base Chapter Secretary, or if you do not know of a base location near you,
Mail to: USSVI National Office, P.O. Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870

Questions: Call 1-877-542-DIVE or email office@ussvi.org

