

# Holland Club



The HOLLAND CLUB is named after John P. Holland, designer of the first US Navy submarine. It is an exclusive group within the US Submarine Veterans (USSVI) organization, where the core requirement for eligibility is the designation “qualified in submarines” for a minimum of fifty (50) years.

The Holland Club recognizes Submarine Veterans inducted for all of their contributions to and support of the submarine force, and to say to them “Well Done, Shipmate! Thank you for your splendid and devoted service. These men are justifiably proud of their accomplishments. They represent the living historical memory of our rich submarine heritage. We would not be where we are today in submarines without them.

They are the pioneers who led the way and set the standards for excellence for the Sailors in our submarine fleet today.

When these men qualified, diesel powered submarines were state of the art. Some earned their dolphins prior to and others during, World War II, and still others during the Cold War period immediately following. Many, and in some cases most, of those they served with have departed on their final and eternal patrol. They saw the war-winning diesel submarines go through radical conversions into many specialized and exotic designs. They witnessed and in many cases participated in the development and testing of the highly successful GUPPY snorkel conversions. Some went on to serve later in attack and ballistic missile nuclear submarines.

When we meet a Holland Club member, we are in the presence of the institutional memory of the U.S. Submarine Force. They, along with all their ‘brothers of the dolphin’, are the historical connection and inspiration for the Submariner of the future. There are no ex-submariners. Submarine qualification passes a man into a mystic brotherhood of undersea warriors, and it marks them forever as one of a special breed. Although many inductees no longer sail beneath the seas, they still wear their ‘dolphins’ with honor and pride as do all present Holland Club members.

These Shipmates and those who have gone before served our Nation extremely well. They have justly earned the honor and respect we show them. We, indeed, are honored by their presence, and all submarine sailors look forward to the day when they too may qualify for membership in this special group.