



Newsletter Date January 2003
Volume 1, Issue 1

"National Award Winning Newsletter"

Marblehead 1MC January Newsletter

USSVI: sandavc@comcast.net

Lost Boats November:

S-36	(SS-141)	1/20/42
S-26	(SS-131)	1/24/42
USS ARGONAUT	(SS-166)	1/16/43
USS SCORPION	(SS-278)	1/05/44
USS SWORDFISH	(SS-193)	1/12/45

"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 Government."



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Base Officers 2003

Commander Don Femino
USS Pickerel (SS-524) 1960
46 Pierson Street
Beverly, MA 01915
(978) 922-5439
Femino@rcn.com

Vice Commander Stan Dixon
USS Grenadier (SS-525) 1958
16 South Pond Street
Newburyport, MA 01950
(978) 465-3948
NESVFL@aol.com

Secretary Tom Shannon
USS TREPANG (SSN-674) 1983
15 Jackson Road
Burlington, MA 01803
(781) 229-2254
trshannon674@hotmail.com

Treasurer George LeBlanc
USS BANG (SS-385) 1968
17 Mello Parkway
Danvers, MA 01923
(978) 774-4027

COB Dave Campbell
USS Sam Houston (SSBN609) 1975
8 Bradford Court
Marblehead, MA 01945
(781) 631-1324
sandavc@comcast.net

Store Keeper Dana Sweeter
USS Thomas Edison (SSBN610)
60 Burley Street
Danvers, MA 01923
dana610skss@aol.com

Secretary's Report December 2003

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC. MARBLEHEAD BASE SECRETARY'S REPORT December 1, 2003

Call to Order

Commander Don Femino called the regular monthly meeting to order at 1930 hrs. He began the meeting with the reading of the Creed. The ship's bell was tolled for the lost boats in December. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the 35 shipmates present sounded off with their names and their qual boats. Special guests – **Art Ober**, Boston Base Treasurer and **Paul Orstad**, District 1 Commander

Reports

The Secretary's and Base Financial reports were read and accepted.

Old Business

S-4 Memorial – Scheduled for December 7 at St. Mary of the Harbor in Provincetown, Ma at 10:30AM. The ceremony will follow the church service. It will conclude with a tossing of a wreath into the harbor and a collation in the church hall.

New Business

Dates for future events – Lexington parade, April 19; Submarine Birthday Ball, April 24; District 1 meeting, May 14-15 in Augusta, Maine. USSVI Charitable Foundation. National is trying to build up the Charitable Foundation to a goal of \$100,000. There are currently over 10,000 members in USSVI. If everyone could donate \$10 to the fund, we could reach the goal. Please give your donation to **George LeBlanc** or Mail it to USSVI-CF PO Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870.

Communications

Rhode Island Base is holding a submarine film festival December 6&7. They will show a number of sub movie classics, watch the Army/Navy football game, and hold a Pearl Harbor memorial

service. If interested contact base commander Bob Rogers at 401-364-6375.

2004 convention in Saratoga. **Don Femino** has a promotional tape for the Saratoga convention in September See Don if you want to see it. A Thanksgiving message from **Pat Ulmen**, Eastern Regional Director and **Paul Orstad**, District 1 Commander was read to the group.

District 1 Commander

Paul Orstad addressed the group on the following topics:

1. USSVI-CF Caring and Sharing
2. USSVI-CF \$10 donation
3. D1 Commander to step down
4. ERD to step down
5. D1 meeting in May
6. Saratoga convention

Nomination Committee

Base Officers for 2004 were nominated:
Commander – **Don Femino**
Vice Commander – **Stan Dixon**
Secretary – **Tom Shannon**
Treasurer – **George LeBlanc**

Since no other nominees were named, a motion was passed to close nominations. The officers were elected by a single vote **from the base secretary**

For The Good of The Order

Shipmate **Hooper Cutler** related a story of the USS Flyer and a survivor of the sinking, **Jim Russo**, who was a Marblehead native.

Adjourn

Corning Pevear gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 2030. Close the Hatch Award to **Craig Upton** courtesy of **Jeff Howlett**.

*Tom Shannon,
Base Secretary*



Next Meeting
Jan 5, 2003
1930 Hrs
Gerry 5 Hall
Marblehead



ANNUAL DUES.

Annual dues payment is due prior to January 1, 2004. The dues is \$35 for non USSVI life members (\$10 of which is forwarded to National) and \$25 for USSVI life members. (The \$25 stays in the Marblehead Base treasury) As an incentive to get dues paid prior to the due date, all members who pay early will be eligible for a drawing, 2 winners of the drawing will be reimbursed \$25 each.

3rd Place Undersea Warfare Photo



This image was captured during Memorial Day observances at the "Flasher" World War II Submarine Memorial in Groton. A submarine veteran and a Naval Submarine School student share a moment before the Wall of Remembrance, which commemorates the Sailors who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II.

HERO's... Capt Charles Rush

A ceremony April 5 at the U.S. Navy Academy's Memorial Hall honored a recipient of the Navy's highest decoration

Retired Navy Captain Charles W. Rush, Jr., of Port St. Lucie, Fla., and a 20-year veteran of the submarine service, was awarded the Navy Cross 59 years after the event for his heroic efforts during combat patrol aboard USS Billfish during World War II.

Under the banner in Memorial Hall emblazoned with the famous admonishment "Don't give up the ship," Rear Admiral Paul F. Sullivan, Director, Submarine Warfare Division, who represented Secretary of the Navy Gordon England for the presentation, told the heroic story of the stricken submarine. Then-Navy Lieutenant Rush was the chief engineer and diving officer aboard Billfish in enemy-controlled waters of Makassar Strait November 11, 1943, off the coast of Indonesia when the submarine was attacked by a series of depth charges. As the assault burst stern tubes, hull fittings and the after pressure hull, the attack also incapacitated all officers senior to Lt. Rush; many of the crew gave up hope of survival. The young officer coolly assumed command of damage control efforts and spent 12 exhausting hours under continual depth charge assault by courageously directing actions that saved the ship, including efforts that maintained the boat almost 170 feet below test depth. He understood if the Billfish sank much further, the ocean pressure would crush the ship. After another officer relieved him from damage-control leadership, he rushed to the conning tower only to discover no one available to direct evasive action. Realizing the enemy had been tracking the submarine from oil leaking from explosions that ripped open the ship's fuel ballast tanks, he directed the ship to retrace its path through the strait and into its own oil slick, confusing efforts from the surface to track his submarine. Four hours later, the submarine safely surfaced far from the attacking enemy forces, where he charged the ship's depleted batteries with a single operable generator to complete the escape.

"I was not alone when this attack happened," the retired Captain remarked during the

ceremony, "and I'm not alone today." He smiled as he looked over the audience at several members of his former crew aboard Billfish as well as friends from his 1941 Naval Academy class who visited Annapolis for this event.

The story of then-Lieutenant Rush's even-headed leadership under the difficult stress of enemy attack came to light when the officer began steps to honor his friend, Navy Chief Electrician's Mate John D. Rendernick, for his emergency repair efforts that terrible day. As an independent investigation led to awarding a Silver Star to the Chief before he passed away in December, facts eventually were revealed that led to the Navy Cross for Captain Rush.

Over the years, Captain Rush never lost the pride he had as a member of the silent service.

"Submarines did the job when no one else could do it. I think it's important today to maintain our undersea fleet because it is very important to the security of the U.S.," he said during the ceremony. During Captain Rush's 20-year career, he served aboard five submarines, including Billfish, and began the program leading to the successful transarctic journey of the Navy's first nuclear-powered submarine, USS Nautilus.

Since his retirement from the Navy in 1961, Captain Rush has served as a representative for a major aviation business and has served as a consultant for ocean systems and submarine safety matters.



View From the Bridge

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all. You may or may not receive this before Christmas, but the thoughts are the same. I hope all of you and your families and loved ones are healthy and safe at this time for year.

We all send our thoughts and prayers to the men and women who are on active duty, and particularly those that are serving in the hot spots, or are away from home, or at sea during the holiday period. I know that we all have spent holidays at sea, away from home, and/or on duty during our military service and know how it feels.

It was great to get the news of the capture of Saddam Hussein and hope that this will be one step closer of achieving our goals in Iraq. Now if we could only find the remains of that other fugitive, Osama bin Laden. I know our guys will get him eventually.

It was good to have a couple of SubVet guests at our Dec. meeting. **Paul Orstad, District 1 Commander**, was present and gave us some information on running for District Office (you only need to have the desire to be qualified for office); and that he will be stepping down as Dist. 1 Commander; and **Pat Ulman** is stepping down as Eastern Regional Director. He also reminded us of the great services we provide when we contribute to the USSVI Charitable Foundation. I believe that we raised \$240 at the meeting for the Foundation. **Art Ober**, Treasurer of Boston Base, joined us for the meeting and it was good to see him. He came down with **Stan Dixon** and **Ray Brooks**.

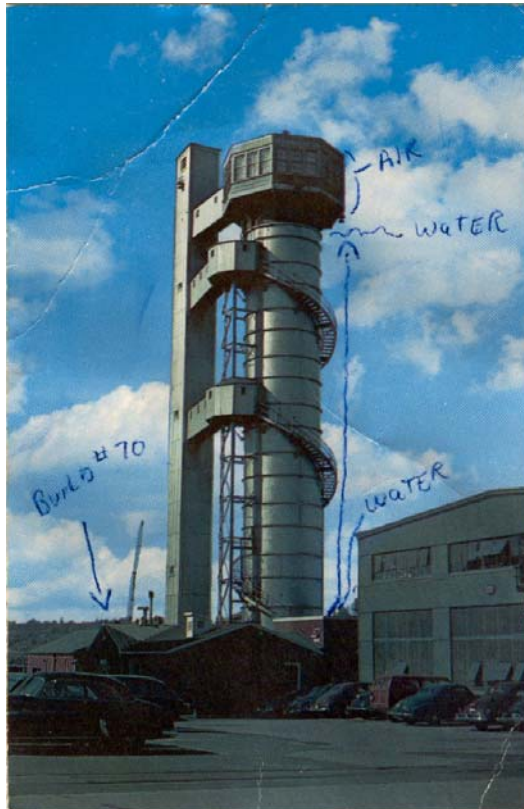
A reminder that dues for 2004 are due to be paid prior to January 1, so if you haven't done so, send a check to are able Treasurer, **George LeBlanc** soon.

Chief MacIntosh call me last week to mention that he will be having his usual after Christmas--Christmas Party and Yankee Swap in January. I think he said it would be held on January 18 and that all who attend this annual event usually have an enjoyable time.

The S-4 memorial service was to be held on Sunday, Dec. 7 in Provincetown.

Many of us were planning to attend. But with the a major Nor'East storm raging at that time, most of did not make it. So I am not able to report on the memorial service.

January 5 will be our Annual Meeting and swearing in of Base Officers as well as our next regular meeting. Our future activities do not heat up until next April, I'm sure we will have many inches of snow and cold days between now and then. April 3 will be the date of the Thresher Memorial Ceremony in Portsmouth, NH; The Patriots Day Parade in Lexington will be April 19; our submarine Birthday Ball is scheduled for April 24; The Return to Submarine School/USSVI 40th Anniversary/50th Anniversary of Nuclear Power weekend will be held on the weekend of April 30-May 1 in Groton; the District 1 Meeting will be held on May 14 in Augusta, ME (I can't wait for that one); Memorabilia/and Cookout night will be June 7; and the USSVI Annual Convention in Saratoga-Springs, NY, Sept 14-19.



Remembering the good old days



A code used during the Korean War. Not sure how accurate that is, but it is supposed to have been used for communications with the friendly allied troops. If nothing else, it has its benefits.

"FALCON CODES"

101 You've got to be shitting me
 102 Get off my fucking back
 103 Beats the shit out of me
 104 What the fuck, over
 105 it's so fucking bad, I can't believe it
 106 I hate this fucking place
 107 This place sucks
 108 Fuck you very much
 109 Beautiful, just fucking beautiful
 110 That goddamn 'O' Club
 111 Here comes another JG or a fucking .CDR
 112 Let's talk to that S.O.B.
 113 Big fucking deal
 114 Get your shit straight
 115 You bet your sweet ass
 116 Short: Fuck it
 117 If you think I'm shitting you, try it
 118 What are you trying to do, kill somebody
 119 Shit hot!
 120 You piss me off
 122 I just got fucked
 123 Same to you fella
 125 I think I'm going to puke
 131 Go stuff a buff up your ass with the training wheels hanging
 135 Fuck yourself and the horse you rode up on
 169 Fuck it! Just plain Fuck it!'
 170 Merry fucking Christmas!
 269 Excuse me Commander, but I think you have me confused with someone who gives a shit.
 888 You may not love the fucking Staff but the Staff loves fucking you

Contributions to the USSVI Charitable Fund can either be given at the next meeting to George LeBlanc, or sent to:

**US Submarine Veterans – Charitable Foundation (or, just USSVI-CF)
 P.O. Box 3870
 Silverdale, WA 98383-3870**

Please identify our base if sent in separately and mark donations for specific funds you want to support if any.

Submarine Veterans Donate \$8,000 to Submariners for Holidays



WWII Submariners Honored at Navy Memorial

A bronze and stained-glass window honoring World War II submariners was recently unveiled at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, DC. The unique window includes intricate bronze scenes depicting the dangerous conditions and combat operations of WWII submariners. Guest speaker ADM Skip Bowman, Director, Naval Reactors, said the window "commands your attention."

The window was given as a gift by the family of retired CAPT N.J. Nicolas, former Commanding Officer of USS Spikefish (SS-404). While the focal point of the window is an image of Spikefish, the display honors all WWII submariners, especially the more than 3,500 who remain on eternal patrol.



By Chief Journalist (SW/AW) Mark O. Piggott, Commander Submarine Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI) donated \$8,000 to the Naval Submarine Force in November for distribution to the families of submariners in need during the upcoming holiday season. "Sailors take care of their own" is a saying that has lived throughout the Navy since its inception. This can be especially true for that special breed of Sailor known as submariners.

USSVI lived up to its creed, "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country," by supporting the submariners of today. "USSVI and our Charitable Foundation serve the needy families in our active submarine force worldwide through this donation to the 'Caring and Sharing' program," said John D. Peters, national commander of USSVI and the U.S. Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc. "When we found that some young families or our junior troops were unable to provide a Christmas dinner for their families, we stepped in to assist," he continued. "When our young shipmates, particularly in the high cost areas, need a hand, we try to help."

Peters, 67, a resident of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, served in the U.S. Navy for more than 31 years, including five years as commanding officer of USS John Adams (SSBN 620). Today, he leads USSVI down a very familiar path. "We are merely continuing the very old tradition in the submarine service of taking care of shipmates," he said. "We hope that our active-duty submariners benefit by having the holiday they deserve with their families while serving our great country."

According to Force Master Chief, Atlantic Fleet Submarine Force Master Chief Donald R. Kultti, USSVI's generous gift, accepted by Commander, Naval Submarine Forces on behalf of the Navy, will be put to good use. "USSVI has been

very generous to us this year," he said, "and I know I speak for us all when I say that we appreciate their concern for our folks." "We will put this money to good use in accordance with its intended purpose," Kultti added.

The \$8,000 donation was divided in half, between the Atlantic and Pacific Submarine Force. From there, it will be divided amongst the various submarine groups, squadrons, submarines and the various commands that support them, and on to the submariners and their families in need. All of this just in time for the holidays. "As long as we have shipmates in need, we expect to try to help. Every submariner is in the brotherhood," Peters said.

This Day in Naval History -

Dec. 04 - 1944 - USS Flasher (SS 249) sinks Japanese destroyer Kishinami and damages a merchant ship in the South China Sea. Flasher is only U.S. submarine to sink over 100,000 tons of enemy shipping in World War II.

Dec. 09 - 1941 - USS Swordfish (SS-193) makes initial U.S. submarine attack on Japanese ship.

Nov. 29, 1944 - USS Archerfish (SS 311) sinks Japanese carrier Shinano, world's largest warship sunk by any submarine during World War II.

Nov. 11, 1981 - Commissioning of first Trident-class Nuclear Powered Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine, USS Ohio (SSBN-726).

Nov. 15, 1960 - First Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine, USS George Washington (SSBN-598), leaves Charleston, SC, on initial fleet ballistic missile patrol.

Nov. 16, 1963 - President John F. Kennedy on USS Observation Island witnesses launch of Polaris A-2 missile by USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619).

Nov. 19, 1943 - USS Nautilus (SS 168) enters Tarawa lagoon in first submarine photograph reconnaissance mission.



"Benevolence is the binding virtue of Society the good men may do separately is small compared to the good they may do collectively."

Benjamin Franklin

Unsung Hero's continue.... Nestor Palugod Enriquez

On Saturday (11-22-03) morning, Army Spc. Rel A. Ravago IV was in Iraq, online with his mother, Maryann, in Glendale, wishing her a happy birthday and telling her that he had met a Filipina who worked in the Army mess hall. "He was asking his mom to teach him something in Tagalog so he could

impress the girl," said his namesake uncle, Rel Allen Ravago, who, like many in his family, was born in the Philippines. "We were all teasing and laughing about it Saturday night."

Ravago was excited about his new job as a driver in the 101st Airborne Division. "That was a big deal," continued his uncle. "He's an adventurous young man." He also said that he was fine and that he just wanted to find out how the family was doing. He told them that he was having fun in Iraq.

On Sunday (11-23-03), Ravago was performing that new task, driving Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry L. Wilson, 45, between two American bases.

I watched that Sunday's news about two US casualties, which reminded me of the Mogadishu scene: the dragging of dead U.S. servicemen through the Somali capital's streets in 1993 after a gun battle with warlords. I felt an eerie feeling as the early report indicated a gruesome and violent death. The media came down on the breaking story like a pack of vultures. The Ravago family was watching.

That evening, the family received news of Ravago's death. Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry L. Wilson, 45, of Thomson, Ga., was also killed.

U.S. officials on Monday rejected Iraqi accounts of the grisly deaths of two U.S. soldiers over the weekend, an attack that raised fears of a new level of anti-American violence.

A knowledgeable American official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the troops died of gunshot wounds in a surprise ambush, which took place on a congested street in the middle of the day Sunday. He added that their throats were not cut nor were they otherwise mutilated, as some reports had suggested.

On Monday (11-24-03), dozens of family members and friends gathered at the Ravago household on Fairfield Street to mourn the 21-year-old soldier, one of two killed Sunday as they drove in the Iraqi city of Mosul.

Ravago was born at Queen of Angels Hospital in Los Angeles, grew up in Glendale and attended Hoover High School. At 5-foot-2, Ravago was able to pull off flips and other gymnastic stunts that made him a popular student.

"He was the shortest of them all, but he was the big brother. He had a huge personality and a huge heart," said Kathy Angers, a Hoover High teacher whose daughter was one of Ravago's closest friends. "He was effervescent, very lively."

The woman Ravago called "Mama Angers" slowly flipped through her daughter's photo album Monday, showing pictures of the smiling young man on prom night, during a phase when he dyed his hair orange, and doing flips while celebrating his birthday at Tony Roma's

restaurant.

"He was at the house all the time with the kids doing what teenagers do," Angers said. "He loved to dance, to sing and do martial arts."

Ravago was artistically inclined, so his family was shocked when he announced he planned to enlist in the Army after high school.

"We didn't expect him to," said Ravago's grandfather, Rel Ravago. "But it was his final decision to join the Army because he wanted to serve his country."

The family's patriarch moved to Glendale from the Philippines in 1970, and instilled in his children and grandchildren a sense of patriotism for their adopted country. A large American flag surrounded by miniature lights is displayed from the window of his apartment - one he put up after Sept. 11, 2001, and does not intend to remove. As a child, he showed talent as an artist. "When he was 7, he was already painting really nice watercolors," his uncle said. "We were so proud, we would frame them."

Ravago continued to paint in high school and planned to continue to study art afterward. But at 18, he enlisted.

"His father, my brother, was going to send him to art school, but then, all of a sudden, Rel enlisted in the Army," the uncle said. "He just wanted to serve his country."

"We were in shock," Ravago's uncle said. "His mom is not doing well. And my brother, I don't know, maybe he's just hiding it from me. He's trying to be strong."

Some in the family said Ravago's decision to join the military had been puzzling, because he was a talented artist who they expected would attend art school. But they understood his decision better when he wrote from Iraq, saying he felt he was making life better for the people there. He was the first Ravago born in the United States and die for his natural country.

His death "will be a source of pain to me and my family forever," said grandfather Leopoldo Ongcapin. But "I'm very proud of my grandson for his bravery and love of country for the sake of freedom."

Not the kind of shocking or scandalous reasons that the national media is looking for. News broadcast of his story was therefore limited only to the southern California. Finding no fault or obscenity, the liberal media trivialized the modest man with a big heart and proud family. An undoubtedly patriotic performance by a young man, regardless of the degree of our reservations on Operation Freedom.

PS Did you know that one of the early casualties of Iraq Operation was the son of a Submarine COB.

You probably heard about the Tragic Ferry Accident in New York last month. The Captain of the Ferry boat is a former submariner.



A Submarine Poem

Born in the shops of the Devil,
 Designed in the brains of a
 fiend,
 Filled with acid and crude oil,
 And christened "a Submarine"

The poets send in thier ditties,
 of Battleships spick and clean,
 But never a word in thier
 columns,
 Do you see of a Submarine

So I'll try to depict our story,
 In a very laconic way,
 So please have patience to
 listen,
 Until I have finished my say

We eat where'er we can find it,
 and sleep hanging up on the
 hooks,
 conditions under which we're
 existing,
 are never published in books

Life in these boats is obnoxious,
 and that is using mild terms,
 We are never bothered by
 sickness,
 there isn't any room for germs

We are never troubled with
 varmint,
 there are things even a cockroach
 can't stand,
 and any self-respecting rodent,
 quick as possible beats it for
 land

And that little one dollar
 per dive,
 We receive to submerge out of
 sight,
 is often earned more than
 double,
 by charging batteries at
 night

Machinist get soaked in fuel
 oil,
 Electricians in H2SO4,
 Gunnersmates with 600W,
 and torpedo slush galore

When we come into the Navy
 Yard,
 We are looked upon with
 disgrace,
 and they make out some new
 regulations,
 to fit our particular case

Now all you Battleship
 Sailors,
 When you are feeling
 disgruntled and mean,
 just pack your bag and
 hammock
 and do to "A Submarine."

Anonymous
 Originally published in 1918
 in a New London Subbase
 Newspaper

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*"To perpetuate the
 memory...."*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.geocities.com/Marbleheadbase

Soup down for the monthly meetings are by sign up the following is the list through May

- Nov. Dick Teas
- Dec. Don Femino & Don Fortunato
- Jan. Stan Dixon & Ray Brooks
- Feb. Jim Hanson
- March Ed Lynch
- April Jim Hanson
- May Vinny Messina & Rob Whitten

If you are interested I'm sure the Feb, Mar and Apr guys would not mind if you wanted to assist one of them. If I'm wrong they will let me know.

Reminder personnel conducting the soupdown are required to supply all essentials paper plates, dinner ware, etc.

January 2004

S M T W T F S

				1	2	3
4	5 USS Scorpion (SS278) 44	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 USS Swordfish (SS193) 45	13	14	15	16 USS Argonaut (SS166) 43	17
18	19	20 S-36 (SS141) 1942	21	22	23	24 S-26 (SS131) 1942
25	26	27	28	29	30	31