

# COLUMBUS BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS

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August 2011



## The Green Board



ALL SEAS ARE NAVIGABLE



### Awards & Recognition Dinner August 6, 2011



Pictured above is Lee Mather receiving his Holland Club award from Base Commander Koogler and VC Tolson.



Pictured at left is Leroy "Red" Downard being presented his Holland Club award by Base Commander Koogler and VC Tolson.

The annual Columbus Base Awards and Recognition dinner was held Saturday August 6th at the Westerville American Legion Post. Dinner was provided by Pasquale's Italian restaurant.

Thirty members and guests were in attendance for the presentation of the Holland Club award to Lee Mather and Red Downard.

Also presented was the Rick Larson Shipmate of the Year Award. This year's award was a dual recipient, Jim and Karla Tolson.

The Commander's award went to eight members of the Base for their Tolling Ceremony at the National Convention in Cincinnati last year. Those recipients were Tim Barker, Marv Pastor, Bob Frier, Galin Brady, Dave Creekmore, James Williams, Bob McDaniel and Jim Tolson.

BZ award went to Walt Fleak for his work on the "Caps for Kids" project.

The Green Board Editors award was presented to Jim Tolson for his article on the USO.

Jim Koogler was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his work with the Base.

## Tolling of the Boats



**USS S-39 (SS-144)** Lost on 14 August 1942 when it was destroyed after grounding on a reef south of Rossel Island Louisande Archipelago. All the crew were rescued.



**USS Flier (SS-250)** Lost with 78 men on 13 August 1944 when sunk by Japanese mine in the Balabac Strait south of Palawan. Eight men survived and were later rescued by USS Redfin (SS-272)



**USS Harder (SS-257)** Lost with all hands (79 men) during a Japanese depth charge attack off Luzon, Republic of the Philippines, on 24 August 1944.



**USS Bullhead (SS-332)** Lost with all hands (84 men) off the Bali Coast by a Japanese air attack on 6 August 1945



**USS Cochino (SS-345)** Lost with one man lost on 26 August 1949 off the coast of Norway due to a battery explosion and fire. Six men from the USS Tusk (SS-426) were also lost in the rescue operation.



**USS Pompano (SS-181)** Lost with all hands (76 men) by possible Japanese mine off Honshu, Japan between 8 August and 27 September 1943.

### 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 and its Constitution.”

## Commander's Corner

By Jim Koogler



First, I want to thank you all for the Certificate of Appreciation plaque and personalized bottle of “gilly” presented to me “by my Columbus Base shipmates” at the awards dinner. I must admit to being totally surprised and unprepared... but certainly honored. I can assure you that both will be proudly displayed in my family room for all to see.

After some deep soul searching and long discussions, I've decided to step down from the Columbus Base “bridge” and turn the helm over to Vice Commander Jim Tolson. Since moving to Lexington, it's become evident that I can't meet the needs of my family here while trying to direct Columbus Base operations from a distance. It's not fair to you, my shipmates... not fair to my family... not fair to USSVI... and not fair to me.

It has truly been my honor to serve my Columbus Base shipmates over the past... well, almost 8 years now. I guess I've stuck my nose in things pretty much since our base formation meeting in November 2003. But whether as Base Commander, Vice-Commander, Treasurer, COB, Storekeeper, or just “Shipmate Clutch”, it's been great fun. Hopefully I've helped to make it enjoyable for you too. I'll be back from time to time. I plan to continue chairing the awards ceremony/dinner and Holland Club inductions (if that's OK with the new Base Commander), and hope to continue my involvement with the Tolling Ceremony... plus any other dinners and/picnics I can make it back for. And I'm only as far away as an email for phone call,

I have no doubt that Vice-Commander... belay that... I mean COMMANDER... Tolson will do an excellent job. As a 2011 Rick Larson Shipmate Of The Year Award co-recipient (along with wife Karla), it's evident that he CARES about Columbus Base and will do all in his power to continue to lead, innovate, and improve the base. I'm equally confident that you, his shipmates, will give him the same support that you've always given to me. Nobody can successfully lead the base alone. There has to be a support structure and shipmate involvement. I know Jim will get that from you all.

Is that a Bosun's Pipe I hear? Piping me over the side? I guess it's time to go. So to you, my shipmates, I again say “thank you”. And to Commander Tolson I say “Sir... I stand relieved. You have the conn.”

### Deep-Diving Submarine ‘Triton’ Introduced

*The News International, August 10*

NEW YORK: An American manufacturer has created a submarine which is capable of reaching the deepest point of the ocean. The Triton 36,000 is capable of descending at a rate of 500 feet per minute which allows it to reach those parts of the ocean which have never been seen by man.

## Vice Commander's Corner

By Jim Tolson

A good meal was expected at the Awards Dinner because I know Pasquale's (14 N State St, Westerville) has great Italian food. I didn't realize we would be served by Joe Testa and his daughter Shelby. Thank you to both Joe and Shelby for a great dinner and great service! The Young Budd American Legion Post in Westerville where we held the meeting is a good option for a place to meet.

I didn't expect the Editor's Award, Commander's Award for the Tolling Ceremony or the Co-Shipmate of the year award and am humbled by the honor. Thank you! Karla and I have found the folks in Columbus Base to be a warm caring family. We are glad to be part of the Columbus Base and together enjoy serving Columbus Base.

As I related at the Awards Dinner, Jim "Clutch" Koogler is one of the names that kept coming up from the first base meeting I attended. I have enjoyed working with Clutch and want to thank him again for all he has done over the years for Columbus Base. As Clutch turns over commander responsibilities to me, I want everyone to know I am not making any changes. "I have the conn." I am looking forward to seeing Clutch at next year's Awards Dinner.

### **Bucyrus Parade**

Columbus Base is participating in the Bucyrus parade this year. Dave Creekmore will be at 775 Taylor Rd, Gahanna on Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup> and will be leaving at 3 PM with the submarine. If you want a ride, let Dave Creekmore or me know. The submarine needs to be in Bucyrus before 5 PM. The parade starts at 7 PM from South Sandusky Ave. and Perry St. Between 5 PM and the start of the parade, we are going to sample the brats. If you are interested in carpooling, let Dave Creekmore or me know.

### **Highway Cleanup**

Our next highway cleanup is Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup>. Capt. Lennon related that he expects several NJROTC cadets to be present. Part of the Columbus Base job is to host these young folks. During the last highway cleanup, Karla and I took 3 of the cadets and cleaned up a mile of the highway. The cadets get Community Service credit for helping us so this is a win-win situation. Final highway cleanup is October 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **USSVI National Convention**

The Ozark Runner base will be hosting the USSVI Convention in Springfield Missouri September 5-11, 2011. You can find more information at <http://www.ussvispringfieldmo.com/> The web site has good reports showing who is attending and their boats. Bob Frier and Galin Brady are planning to attend and will be on the October meeting agenda to give a report.

By, Jim Tolson

AUGUST- 13th Adopt-A-Highway went well even though the turn out was not great, it was adequate to get the job done. I'm sure more help would have been an improvement, the rains held off so the day turned out good. Thanks to all that gave up a few hours to help the cause in the name of the Columbus Base.

*The following email is a Copy of Jim Koogler's letter of resignation to the USSVI Officers. Sent August 11th 2011*

Gentlemen:

This note is to inform you that I am stepping down as Commander of Columbus Base USSVI, effective immediately.

I recently moved from Columbus, Ohio to Lexington, Kentucky. The 200+ mile distance makes it impossible for me to continue as a "hands on" commander. I believe that is unfair to my Columbus Base shipmates.

Effective immediately, Vice-Commander Jim Tolson will assume the conn as Columbus Base Commander and Point of Contact. Jim's many skills make him imminently qualified to lead Columbus Base. I'm sure Jim can rely on all of you to make his transition a smooth one. And I'm equally sure that you can rely on Jim to continue to provide support to the national organization. In short.... only the names have changed.

I'm in the process of updating the national database... which should be completed within the next couple of days.

Respectfully,

James "Clutch" Koogler

Immediate Past Commander

Columbus Base USSVI

**14 August 1945** — the last torpedo sinking of WWII by a U.S. submarine was fired by *USS Torsk (SS-423)*. Coast Defense Vessel #47 was the last ship sunk by U.S. submarines in the war.

### Holland Club Inductees - 2011

**Leroy "Red" Downard**  
1960  
USS Cutlass SS-478

**Lee Mather**  
1954  
USS Crevalle SS-291

### Current Holland Club Members

Al Albergottie: 1960, USS Blenny SS-324  
John Alexander: 1945, USS Haddock SS-231  
Bill Dumbauld: 1957, USS Caiman SS-323  
Ed Ellsworth (EP): 1944, USS Blackfin SS-322  
Dick Estell (EP): 1944, USS Scabbardfish SS-397  
Russ Ferguson: 1946, USS Haddo SS-255  
Bob Frier: 1960, USS Menhaden SS-377  
Ben Grimes: 1944, USS Raton SS-270  
"Gus" Hoehl: 1944, USS Flounder SSS-251  
Bill Holly (EP): 1957, USS Ray SSR-271  
Gene Horton: 1951, USS Chivo SS-341  
Bernie Kenyon: 1954, USS Hardhead SS-365  
John Leers: 1954, USS Sea Owl SS-405  
"Butch" Leffin: 1957, USS Hardhead SS-365  
Chuck Martin: 1956, USS Pomfret SS-391  
Bill McCorkle: 1956, USS Dogfish SS-350  
"Doc" Morin: 1957, USS Raton SSR-270

Joe Murphy: 1947, USS Bugara SS-331  
Marvin Pastor: 1955, USS Razorback SS-394  
Clement O'Brien: 1944, USS Albacore SS-218  
Dave O'Carroll: 1957, USS Salmon SSR-573  
John Palmer: 1951, USS Guavina SSO-362  
John Pendleton: 1954, USS Toto SS-422  
Phil Philipps: 1949, USS Segundo SS-398  
Ron Rossington: 1954, USS Conger SS-477  
"CO" Smith (EP): 1944, USS Nautilus SS-168  
Denver Smith: 1943, USS Grayling SS-209  
Ken Strahm: 1960, USS Bream SS-243  
Sam Templeton: 1956, USS Trutta SS-421  
George Trace: 1951, USS Caiman SS-323  
Lynn Trump: 1960, USS Sea Cat SS-399  
Ron Waldron: 1953, USS Charr SS-328  
Robert Wells: 1947, USS Capitaine SS-336  
John Woodmansee: 1956, USS Hardhead SS-365

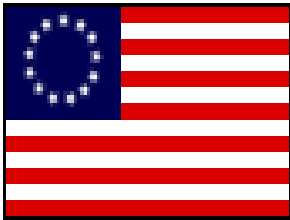


Karla & Jim Tolson being presented the *2011 Rick Larson Shipmate of the Year Award* by last year's recipient Jan Creekmore.

Pictured at right from left to right receiving the Base Commander's award are: Dave Creekmore, Galin Brady, Bob Frier, Marv Pastor, James Williams, Jim Tolson, Bob McDaniel and Tim Barker. They presented an outstanding Tolling Ceremony at the National Convention last year.



Jim Tolson being presented the Editors Award.





## Columbus Base Meeting Minutes Awards And Holland Club Induction Dinner

August 6, 2011

Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Jim Koogler. COB Marv Pastor led the salute to the Flag. The invocation was conducted by the Base Vice Commander Jim Tolson. Tolling of the bell for the lost boats of August was performed by Marv Pastor and Jim Koogler. There were 31 members and guests present. The BC welcomed everyone.

The Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster, and Chaplain reports were deferred due to awards ceremony. The BC announced the base submarine will be in the Bucyrus Bratwurst Festival Parade August 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>. The USS Columbus will have a change of command September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cmdr. David Youtt relieves Cmdr. Dave Minyard. Cmdr. Youtt is from Avon Lake, Ohio – West of Cleveland. USSVI Convention for 2011 will be held September 5-11. Galin Brady and Bob Frier plan to attend and can give a report during the October base meeting.

**Awards Ceremony** The BC presented the Base Commander Award to Galin Brady, Dave Creekmore, Jim Tolson, James Williams, Tim Barker, Marv Pastor, Bob Friar, and Bob McDaniel for their work on the Tolling Ceremony at the national convention last year. The BC said he will make arrangements to present the BCA to Jon Barker of the Cincinnati Base for his work as Chaplain on the Tolling Ceremony. Walt Fleak was given a 'Bravo Zulu' Award in absentia for his work on Kaps4kids. Jan Creekmore presented the *Green Board* Editor's Award to Jim Tolson. Jan Creekmore presented the Rick A. Larson Shipmate of the Year Award to Jim and Karla Tolson. Jim Koogler and Jim Tolson inducted base members Lee Mather and Leroy 'Red' Downard to the Holland Club.

**Unfinished Business**- none.

**New Business** –none. 50/50 – Jim Tolson won \$61.00. Leroy 'Red' Downard won a water bottle. Lee Mather won the book *Seal Team 6*. Jan Creekmore won a bottle of wine. George Trace won the book *Walking Point*. Carol Henry won a bottle of wine. Bob Wells won the book *Point Man*. Joe Murphy won a Bottle of wine. Jim Koogler won the book *Loon*. James Williams won a bottle of wine. Tim Barker won a bottle of wine. Linda Dotson won the book *To the Limit*. Bill McCorkle won the book *The Loot*. Dave Creekmore won a package of golf balls. Highway cleanup will be August 13<sup>th</sup>. Meet at Don Gentile American Legion Post 532 at 1571 Demorest Road, Columbus Ohio, 43228 at 0830 and leave for cleanup locations by 0900. The BC reported we need a good turnout next week. It could still be hot, and it is not right to put that load on two or three guys and a few cadets. This base as a whole made a commitment to do this and it is time that as many as able bodied members as possible step up and honor that commitment.

**Announcement of next meeting** – September 10, 2011-1200 Social Hour, 1300 meeting at Amvets Post #89 at 3535 Westerville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224. Next Officer meeting TBA. Closing Remarks – Jim Koogler said he will be stepping down as Base Commander due to his moving to Lexington, Ky. He said he has enjoyed the time he has spent with and serving the Columbus Base. He said thought about other ways he could serve but the time and distance would not make it feasible. He said he would be glad to come back this time next year to put on the Awards Ceremony. Jim Tolson gave Jim a bottle of official 'Torpedo Juice' and a Certificate of Appreciation plaque for James 'Clutch' Koogler's service to the Columbus Base.

Closing prayer was conducted by Jim Tolson.

Submitted by Bob McDaniel

Base Secretary



## U.S. Coast Guard Catch Traffickers With 232 Bales Of Cocaine At Sea

WFMY, August 2

Miami Beach, FL -- Tuesday, a U.S. Coast Guard ship pulled into the harbor in Miami Beach with over 200 bales of illegal drugs and a story to tell.

It started nearly two weeks ago when a plane noticed what appeared to be a submarine in the Western Caribbean. The U.S. Coast Guard was sent to check it out.

What they found off the coast of Honduras was a semi-submersible boat loaded with drugs. The Coast Guard crew was able to arrested the traffickers but before they could confiscate the drugs the submersible sank, which is a tactic traffickers use to protect their cargo.

Using sonar the Coast Guard was able to locate the submersible in about 65 feet of water. Working with the FBI, it took divers three days to bring up all the bales of drugs.

In all, the submersible was carrying 232 bales of pure cocaine with a street value of 180 million dollars.

This was the first time a drug submersible was discovered and caught in the Caribbean. Submersibles are typically used on the west coast. It is estimated that nearly a third of illegal drugs shipped to the U.S. are coming in to the country on these submersibles because of their stealth.

Once the Coast Guard crew is finished unloading the drugs, they will be taken to be destroyed.

Link to video: <http://www.digtriad.com/news/article/185600/175/US-Coast-Guard-Drug-Bust-At-Sea>



### Upcoming Events

Aug. 18,19	1900	Bucyrus Bratwurst Festival Parade, Bucyrus, Ohio
Aug, 20	1600	Bucyrus Bratwurst Festival Parade, Bucyrus, Ohio
Sept. 10	1200	Regular monthly meeting at the AmVets Post #89
Oct. 1	1200	Regular monthly meeting.
Oct. 8	0830	Last Highway clean-up for the year. Meet at the Don Gentile American Legion Post.



**September Birthdays**

Tom Tobin	09-05
Bill McCorkle	09-09
Ken Strahm	09-09
Richard Martin	09-10
JoAnne O'Carroll	09-12
Ron Rossington	09-16
Bob McDaniel	09-27



**The Conn**

**Base commander**

Jim Tolson

**Vice Commander**

**Treasurer**

Dave Creekmore

**Secretary**

Bob McDaniel

**Chaplain**

Sharon Lloyd / Walt Fleak

**COB**

Marv Pastor

**Membership Chairman**

Jim Koogler

**Storekeeper**

Frank Lloyd

**Web Master**

Cliff Dodson

**Editor**

Jan Creekmore

**Activates Chairmen**

Joe Testa



**Editor's Note**

If you have comments or articles, please contact the base newsletter editor.

Jan Creekmore at e-mail  
[creek636@columbus.rr.com](mailto:creek636@columbus.rr.com)

# USS Henry L. Stimson (SSBN 655)

Keel laid: April 4, 1964

Launched: November 13, 1965

Commissioned: August 20, 1966

Sponsor: Mrs. Thomas J. Dodd

Decommissioned: May 5, 1993

Recycled: August 12, 1994

Builder: Electric Boat, Groton, Connecticut

First Commanding Officers

CAPT. Richard E. Jortberg (Blue)

CDR. Robert H. Weeks (Gold)

USS HENRY L. STIMSON fouls the fishing nets of a Spanish trawler while undergoing refresher training in the Rota area off Spain.

USS HENRY L. STIMSON (SSBN-655), a Benjamin Franklin-class ballistic missile submarine, was the only ship of the United States Navy to be named for Henry L. Stimson (1867-1950), who served as Secretary of the State and War.

Following shakedown, USS HENRY L. STIMSON was assigned to Submarine Squadron 16 and departed Charleston, South Carolina, on 23 February 1967 on her first deterrent patrol.

In 1971, USS HENRY L. STIMSON began her first overhaul, at Newport News Shipyard and Dry-docking. In 1973, when she returned to duty, she no longer carried Polaris AS missiles, but rather the new Poseidon C3 missiles. Back in service, the boat was based at Rota, Spain, while her crew lived in Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1980, USS HENRY L. STIMSON was converted pier side at Port Canaveral, Florida, from Poseidon missiles to Trident-1 missiles. Following that conversion, the boat changed homeports to Kings Bay, Georgia, where she was based for the rest of her career.

Both decommissioned and stricken from the Naval Vessel Registry on May 5th 1993, USS HENRY L. STIMSON went through the Navy's Nuclear Powered Ship and Submarine Recycling Program in Bremerton, Washington, and ceased to exist on August 12, 1994



Remember to bring your donations of coffee, tea, or hot cocoa to the monthly meetings.

Your donations are very much appreciated by the veterans at the Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Clinic.