

# COLUMBUS BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 6

July 2014



# The Green Board



ALL SEAS ARE NAVIGABLE

## Upper Arlington 4th of July Parade



Above: Jim Koogler and Clem O'Brien



Above: Karen Thurston at the back of the sub





## Tolling of the Boats



**USS Grunion (SS-216)** Lost with all hands (70 men) on 30 July 1942 off Kiska Island, Aleutians (Alaska) to unknown causes.



**USS S-28 (SS-133)** Lost with all hands (50 men) when she foundered off the Hawaiian Islands 4 July 1944.



**USS Robalo (SS-273)** Lost with 77 men by possible Japanese mine off Palawan on 26 July 1944. Four men survived as POWs but they were never recovered.

“Sailor rest your oar.”



### 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 Tolson



July 4<sup>th</sup> was a beautiful day for the Upper Arlington July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. It was good to see Clem O'Brien and have him with us in the parade. Clem is the senior member of Columbus Base and was on USS Albacore (SS-218) during WWII. Thanks to all who participated in the parade.

Columbus Base was recently part of Jared Knight's Eagle Scout Court of Honor in Reynoldsburg. This award is presented as a way to remember Eagle Scout Gene Fluckey, Commander, USS Barb (SS-220) during WWII when the crew members of USS Barb 'sank a train'. The story is told in [Thunder Below](#) about how USS Barb revolutionized submarine warfare during WWII. Today, a lot of these lessons are taken for granted.

Our National Election started on the 1st of June. It looks like only 15% of our members have voted. It is really easy. Just log in on the USSVI website and click on "Vote Nat Election" (a green button on the left almost at the top). It is your organization so please take the couple of minutes necessary to vote. Votes must be received by August 27.

Welcome to our newest member, Rick Freeman. Rick was a missile tech and qualified on Francis Scott Key (SSBN-657). Welcome aboard!

Don't forget the Central Crossing NJROTC Blanket Raffle being handled by Jim Koogler. Tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10.

Woody Cook provided an excellent presentation on his Honor Flight guardian experience. Dave O'Carroll also shared his experience. Honor Flight is always looking for qualified guardians. If you are interested, let one of the officers know and we can get you in contact with the Columbus Honor Flight volunteers.

### Activities

- August 9, 2014 Highway Cleanup starting at 0830 at Don Gentile, American Legion Post #532, 1571 Demorest Road, Columbus, OH 43228
- Aug 16, 2014 Annual Picnic – steaks and pot luck with Columbus Base providing steaks at VFW #4931, 2436 Walcutt Road, Columbus OH 43228 Start 1400. Steaks will be cooked to order. Last name A-M bring desserts and N-Z bring side dishes. Post Canteen will be open.
- Sept 1-7, 2014 USSVI National Convention, San Francisco, CA
- Sept 13, 2014 Columbus Base Monthly Meeting at American Legion Leasure-Blackston Post 239, 700 Morning Street, Worthington, OH 43085.  
1200 social & sea story hour, 1300 meeting





# RAFFLE

## USS Columbus Throw/Blanket

\$2.00 per ticket, or 6 tickets for \$10.00. Tickets can be purchased from Jim Koogler: (clutch617@gmail.com) or 614-620-9445... or contact any Columbus Base officer (Jim Tolson, Tim Barker, Woody Cook). Tickets are available for sale to EVERYONE... not just Columbus Base members.

Proceeds will be donated to Central Crossing High School NJROTC to help fund the cadets' participation in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade on December 7<sup>th</sup> in Honolulu, HI.

The drawing will take place at the Columbus Base Cookout/Picnic at Hilliard VFW Post #4531 on Saturday August 16, 2014. Winner need NOT be present. Blanket will be delivered/mailed to winner as necessary.

Mail Orders: Send check or money order (payable to Columbus Base USSVI) to:  
Columbus Base USSVI  
c/o Jim Koogler  
2402 Lyncross Street  
Grove City, Ohio  
43123-8438

Blanket is approximately 45" X 70". The picture below does not do it justice: on the left is of the actual blanket; on the right is the image from which the blanket was made.





# COLUMBUS BASE MEETING MINUTES

12 July 2014



## Call to Order:

1300 – Commander, Jim Tolson called the meeting to order. Dave Creekmore, COB led us in the salute to the flag. Co-Chaplain Sharon Lloyd conducted the invocation. Tolling of the lost boats was conducted by Co-Chaplain, Sharon Lloyd and COB, Dave Creekmore. Welcome to all by Commander Jim Tolson. There were 25 members and guests present.

## Secretary's Report:

June report is in the Green Board and no corrections were submitted. No new correspondence has been received.

## Treasurer's Report:

Jim Koogler reported on the status of the Treasury through the end of June 2014.

## Webmaster's Report:

Cliff Dodson reported no problems with the website. The base Commander reiterated that members can have a site set up by Cliff since the base has unlimited space available on the site.

## Chaplain's Report:

Sharon Lloyd had no sick bay or family reports.

## Membership Report/Introductions:

Jim Tolson recognized our guest, Rick Freeman, who earned his dolphins aboard the Francis Scott Key (SSBN657) Gold. Jim introduced his Navy career and then asked all of us to do the same. Rick then described his time in the Navy aboard the USS Francis Scott Key.

## Committee Reports:

### Activities-

- |           |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|
| August 9  | Highway Cleanup   | Wade Kiger, 0830 Don Gentile,<br>Demorest Road, Columbus OH 43228 |
| August 16 | Picnic Pavilion VFW #4931 , Hilliard, 1400<br>2436 Walcutt Road, Columbus, OH 43228                     |   |
| Sept 1-7  | USSVI National Convention, San Francisco  |   |
| Sept 13   | Base Meeting, American Legion Leasure-Blackston Post 239, 700 Morning Street,<br>Worthington, OH 43085. |   |

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

*For the good of the Order:*

Woody Cook provided a Power Point presentation of his guardian trip with Syracuse Honor Flight on 5 April 2014. Dave O'Carroll provided comments from his recent trip with Honor Flight from Columbus.

Bruce Sanderson – applying to OCS

USSVI National Election – Who needs help?

Correction AS, pg. 32, PA 2014-3 should read National Jr. Vice Commander

USS Columbus Blanket Raffle - Clutch

Storekeeper Frank Lloyd –

50/50 drawing

50/50 drawing - Bill Myers

Woody Cook - note board

Bill Anderson - bread ball

Bob McDaniel - loaf of bread

Robert Frier - loaf of bread

Bill Dumbauld - Loaf of bread

Russell Schaeffer - wooden puzzles

Mark Goyer - loaf of bread

Frank Lloyd - loaf of bread

*Announcement of the next meeting:*

Next Columbus Base meeting

- **August 16, 2014**, Annual Picnic Steaks and Pot Luck Picnic Pavilion VFW #4931, Hilliard

2436 Walcutt Road, Columbus, OH 43228 1400

Start until ?

Steaks paid by base, cooked to order, RSVP by **August 8** to define steak count

Last name A-M bring desserts, N-Z bring side dishes Bar will be open or BYOB, bring your own water / sodas

Base Commander will email all to RSVP for the picnic.

Closing prayer (Benediction) was given by Co-Chaplain, Sharon Lloyd.

Adjournment of meeting – Commander, Jim Tolson



Commander Jim Tolson presenting Eagle Scout Jared Knight a certificate for outstanding achievement from the Columbus Base.



## The Death Dance of the American SSNs

Strategy Page, July 13

The U.S. Navy is adjusting the retirement schedule of its elderly Los Angeles (SSN 688) class SSNs (nuclear attack submarines) to maximize the number of years the remaining Los Angeles boats will be available for service as well as save money and spread around the SSN upgrade and maintenance work more evenly to eliminate bottlenecks and reduce these costs. Thus the recent announcement to delay the retirement of the 32 year old USS Dallas (SSN 700) while retiring the 31 year old USS Norfolk (SSN 714) sooner. More of this sort of thing is expected. Meanwhile there are some special cases that require even more drastic action. Thus earlier in 2014 the navy decommissioned the USS Miami (SSN 755) as part of this program. Entering service in 1990, Miami was not supposed to be decommissioned so soon and the navy has been trying to keep the boat in service after the sub was damaged by a shipyard fire in 2012. But no solution worked. In 2013 the navy concluded that recent budget cuts were making it impossible to spend half a billion dollars to repair the fire damage.

It was not for want of trying and some innovative thinking. In late 2012 the navy thought it had a way to keep those Miami repair bills affordable. The plan was to salvage components from the recently (2011) decommissioned USS Memphis (SSN 691). This boat entered service in 1977, 13 years before the Miami. While the Memphis was one of the "original" 31 Los Angeles boats and the Miami is one of the third generation (Improved Los Angeles) designs, both share many common components, especially in the forward part of the boat where Miami suffered most of its fire damage.

The 2012 Miami blaze occurred while the sub was in the Portsmouth (Maine) Naval Yard for maintenance and upgrades. This is a normal event for a Los Angeles class SSN. The fire was unexpected and initially the navy estimated that the sub suffered \$400 million in damage. But a more detailed examination revealed that it would cost at least \$450 million and probably north of half a billion to fix the sub. The navy thought cannibalizing the similar Memphis would help, but the savings were not sufficient and the budget cuts forced the navy to prioritize. Getting an elderly and burned-out SSN back into fighting trim no longer looked like a good investment.

The USS Miami fire (set by a deranged shipyard worker) took place in May 2012, and early on there were fears that the 22 year old Miami might be scrapped because of the high cost of repairs. It's not just fires that these old Los Angeles class boats have to worry about. In 2009 a 25mm (one inch) hairline crack was found on the pressure hull of the (then) 14 year old USS Toledo (SSN 769). The crack was in the metal plate, not a weld, which was replaced.

Above the crack there was a 53 cm (21 inch) hairline crack in the outer (non-pressurized) hull, which was under the sail. The USS Toledo had just undergone a three year refit, costing \$179 million, when these cracks were discovered. The sub was sent to a nearby (to New London, Connecticut) shipyard for repairs. At first it was thought some of these cracks were related to a recent scandal where shipyard workers failed to check for sub-standard welds but that was not the case with the Toledo. The navy began having doubts about the reliability of its aging fleet of Los Angeles class subs.

Such a crack in the pressure hull is a serious problem because it makes it more likely that the pressure hull would fail and flood the boat, at less than the "test depth" (about two thirds the "design depth," which is the maximum depth the sub can operate at). Going a little deeper gets you to the collapse (or "crush") depth, at which the pressure hull is crushed and implodes. The deepest diving U.S. subs, the Seawolf class (SSN-21), are believed to have a test depth of 490 meters (1,600 feet) and a collapse depth of 730 meters (2,400 feet). During World War II collapse depths were never more than 300 meters (a thousand feet). Since then, larger boats, built of stronger metals, have greatly increased the depth subs can operate at. But that only works if the crew knows the limits of their boats and discovering cracks in the pressure hull reduces those limits. Using Memphis components for the Miami repairs would have made possible close inspection of those items, to see if there was any more unexpected deterioration. The Miami hull has already been checked for any damage from the fire and none was found. But the older a sub gets, the more likely metal fatigue and years at sea will cause undiscovered weaknesses.

Both the Miami and the Toledo were among the latest "improved Los Angeles" boats. With the Miami being retired, a much older (in terms of technology) boat may have to delay retirement and fill in. Upgrading one of these older boats would also be expensive. If the repairs for the Miami did indeed cost less than half a billion, then it was worth keeping the Miami in service. But as much as the navy wants to maintain the size of its SSN force, there is no major threat for these SSNs in the foreseeable future. Retiring the Miami a decade early will not be a major loss.

The navy is putting most of its cash into building new Virginia (SSN-774) class boats to replace the 40 (of 62) remaining Los Angeles subs. The most recent Los Angeles boats entered service in 1996, and all will be gone by the end of the 2020s. Ten Virginias are in service and another 20 are planned. If the navy can scrounge up enough cash it can build two a year and they can have all the Virginias in service before the Los Angeles class is gone.

## Hagel Visits With Female Submarine Officers in Ga.

Marcus Weisgerber, militarytimes.com, July 11

**NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE KINGS BAY, GA.** — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel met with 15 female submarine officers earlier this week to hear about the progress of the undersea force's integration, hull by hull and class by class.

As the Navy prepares to integrate enlisted women into submarine billets in coming years, Hagel said during a Wednesday visit here that he wanted to meet with these officers to hear about how the integration is affecting their personal and professional lives.

Women began integrating into seven submarine crews back in late 2011. There are now 14 crews with women on three Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarines and four guided-missile subs.

The Navy next will integrate women into four Virginia-class submarine crews, two in 2015 and two more in 2016.

In a DoD News television interview Wednesday, one female officer said mixed-gender subs made little difference in performing the mission.

"The transition has been very smooth," Lt. Marquette Leveque said.

Leveque was assigned to the ballistic-missile submarine Wyoming in November 2011 and was able to "hit the ground running on Day 1," she said.

"It took [male sailors] a few weeks to get used to female voices on submarines," Leveque said, "but I think that was one of the biggest differences."

## Upcoming Events

Aug. 9th 0830 Highway cleanup, meet at the Don Gentile American Legion Post

Aug. 16th 1400 Annual picnic at the Hilliard VFW, Columbus base providing the meat

Sept. 13th 1200 Base meeting at the Leasure—Blackston Post 239



**August Birthdays**

Mike Wilson	08-02
Dick Young	08-02
Woody Cook	08-04
Ken Sewell	08-08
Lee Mather	08-19
John Probst	08-24
Galin Brady	08-26



**The Conn**

**Base commander**

Jim Tolson

**Vice Commander**

Tim Barker

**Treasurer**

Jim Koogler

**Secretary**

Woody Cook

**Chaplain**

Sharon Lloyd / Walt Fleak

**COB**

Dave Creekmore

**Membership Chairman**

Jim Tolson

**Storekeeper**

Frank Lloyd

**Web Master**

Cliff Dodson

**Editor**

Jan Creekmore

**Activates Chairmen**

**Remember to bring your donations of coffee, tea and / or hot cocoa to the monthly base meeting. Your donations are very much appreciated by the veterans at the Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Clinic**



**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)



## Holland Club



Al Albergottie: 1960 USS Blenny SS-324  
 John Alexander: 1945, USS Haddock SS-231  
 Galin Brady: 1962, USS Swordfish SSN-579  
 "Red Downard: 1960, USS Cutlass SS-478  
 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 (EP): 1944, USS Raton SS-270  
 "Gus" Hoehl (EP): 1944, USS Flounder SS-251  
 Bill Holly (EP): 1957, USS Ray SSR-271  
 Gene Horton (EP): 1951, USS Chivo SS-341  
 Bernie Kenyon: 1954, USS Hardhead SS-365  
 John Leers: 1954, USS Sea Owl SS-405  
 "Butch" Leffin: (EP) 1957, USS Hardhead SS-365  
 Chuck Martin: 1956, USS Pomfret SS-391  
 Lee Mather: 1954, USS Crevalle SS-291  
 Bill McCorkle: 1956, USS Dogfish SS-350  
 Randy McWilliams: 1963, USS Tiru SS-416  
 Bill Meyer: 1963, USS Tigrone SS-419  
 "Doc" Morin: 1957, USS Raton SSR-270  
 Jim Morton (EP): 1963, USS Baya SS-318  
 Joe Murphy (EP): 1947, USS Bugara SS-331  
 Angelo Naso: 1963, USS Bluegill SS-242  
 Marvin Pastor (EP): 1955, USS Razorback SS-394  
 Clem 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 (EP): 1949, USS Segundo SS-398  
 Bruce Rinehart: 1963, USS Tigrone SS-419  
 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-42  
 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

