

THE MIDWATCH

USSVI Perch Base Phoenix, Arizona Quarterly Newsletter Third Quarter 2024



Can You identify This Arizona Lake?

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"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.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment.

Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie.

We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice.

The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."



Perch Base Wardroom



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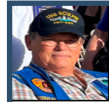
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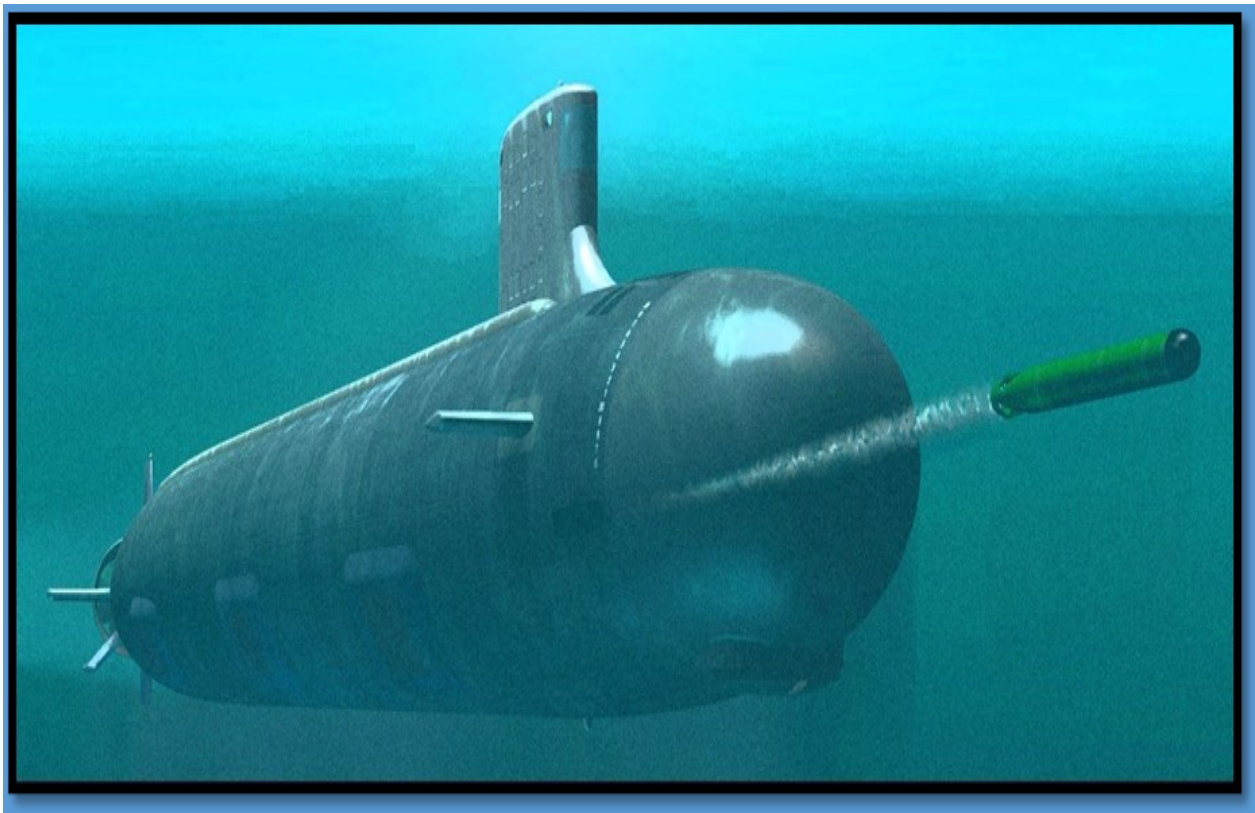
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Base Commander George Woods commander@perch-base.org

From the Wardroom:

As you read the current issue of the Midwatch we have reached the midway point of 2024. Perch Base has an active schedule in the second half of 2024 several parades and our monthly meetings. Base membership is up, at our June meeting we added 4 new members.

As per our Policies and Procedures Manual. Perch Base Board of directors needs several positions filled. We need a Secretary and Chaplain ASAP. Without a Board of Directors, we do not have a functioning Base.

Our annual picnic lunch was held on April 13th at the Paloma Community Park in Peoria, thanks to Don Robertson and Stan Reinhold for shopping and preparing most of the food, we had many side dishes prepared and donated by base members. Alice Woods and Georgianne Gahan donated gift baskets to be raffled to raise money for Perch Base. It was great to see friends from Gudgeon base attending as well.

The Western Regional Round Up, April 10th to 14th 2024 was held in Silverdale, WA. Perch base was represented by Dan Marks, Don and Marcia Unser, Carl Miner and Don Petty.

Perch Base members participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, presenting wreaths for WWII and Perch Base Submarine Veterans, as well as the Tolling of the Boats by Governor Joy and Howard Doyle at the Purple Hearts Circle. A well-deserved thank you to the members attending.

On July 6th. we will participate in the Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo Parade along with Gudgeon and Tucson bases in the parade. Our COB Don Robertson will tow the USS Phoenix float, after having a new paint job.

The 2024 National Convention will be held August 19th to August 24th 2024 in Cleveland OH. hosted by Cod Base in Cleveland, Ohio. The host hotel is the Embassy Suites by Hilton Cleveland Rockside. Convention website <https://subvetconvention.org/>.

Have a wonderful summer, enjoy your family and friends, and Be safe, see you in Prescott.

George Woods



From Snipes Castle:

As the thermometer passes 110 degrees, we can be assured that summer is close, followed by the "MONSOON" season; being old school I still think that the "MONSOON" doesn't start until the dew point is 51 degrees or greater for three days in a row. As I write this the temperature is "ONLY" 99 degrees with the humidity 11 % and a dew point of 37 degrees. *I LOVE LIVING IN THE ARIZONA DESERT!*

With summer being so close it means that Prescott is again having the July 4th rodeo parade; Perch Base has been privileged to take part in this parade [probably the second biggest in the state for a number of years. If you are planning on attending **[highly recommended]** you need to make your plans NOW! The motels and hotels fill up fast with the rodeo drawing large crowds. Check the Flash Traffic for the staging area and time for the parade to start.

BZ to Governor Joy for an outstanding reading of "The Tolling of the Boats" at the National Cemetery on Memorial Day, a big part of what the USSVI and Perch Base exist for.

Remember the ALAMO - FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!"
"PRIDE RUNS DEEP"
Howard



Webmaster

Dan Marks

webmaster@perch-base.org

I have been posting updates for all our events. If you have not been a participant at our events, I hope you are at least checking the website to see what you missed. Activity with the website since the last Midwatch included posting photos of the Memorial Day and Tolling of the Boats ceremony at the National Cemetery of Arizona, the Ray Marshall Tribute Banner in Gilbert, an invitation to the NOUS History Society presentation on "The Battle of Midway, June 1942 – from the Japanese Perspective," photos from the Melinda Piña presentation for Honor Flight Arizona at the May 11, 2024, Perch Base General Meeting, a photo of Joe Trotter meeting the USS Arizona Legacy Foundation's new President and CEO, Nicole LaSlavic, the Eternal Patrol Notice for Mike Baka, photos of the Joe Trotter presentation to the Our Lady of Joy Roman Catholic Church Military Veterans Ministry, installation of three new ASSM Memorial Brick Pavers at the ASSM, the Western Region Roundup, the Base Picnic, the "Submarine Force Birthday", and an advertisement for the USSVI 60th Anniversary patch and challenge coin. Similar updates have been maintained on the Perch Base Facebook Page. Since the last Midwatch, there were 25,464 page views on the Perch Base website during 12,260 visits by 6,138 users based on Aw/stats. Most of the traffic was to the home page followed by the Glossary and the Sailing Orders. Most of the page views were from the U.S., followed by Romania, China, then Russia. Our Facebook page Post Engagement (The number of reactions, comments, shares and clicks on your posts) was 1,629. Our Facebook page had 11 new Page Likes for a total of 193 and a 3 new Followers for a total of 277 Followers. All of these statistics are significantly higher, which appears to be influenced by the Phoenix Navy Week. If you have any suggestions or input for the website, send an email to: webmaster@perch-base.org.

Dan Marks



Treasurer

Joe Trotter

treasurer@perch-base.org

Several members have voiced their opinions in recent base meetings that we need to do more to increase participation and attendance at our meetings and events as well as increasing our membership. Some of you may be aware that there is a document on the USSVI website titled “USSVI Public Relations Media & Recruiting Guide” in which, chapter 5 deals specifically with this topic. I would like to highlight two of the suggestions from the manual that we can all do with just a little effort.

First, finding new members. We are all proud of our dolphins and proudly wear our ball caps and vests to the meetings. If you are not already doing it, consider wearing a ball cap or shirt with dolphins or the USSVI logo wherever you go (if it is appropriate for the occasion). I find that I run into strangers once or twice a month who see my hat and tell me they were, or know, a boat sailor. I always carry a couple of our base business cards with me for just such an occasion so I can provide them with our contact information. In the situations where they just know someone, I ask them to pass the card along. When you hand out these cards show true interest in the individual and explain who and what we are to try and pique their interest. Of course, you don’t want to be overbearing. If possible, get their contact information so you can follow up with them. See me if you need cards.

On the retention front, before our next meeting or event call one of our members you haven’t seen in a while and remind them of the time and place, we are meeting and let them know we would like to see them. If able, offer them a ride or direct them to our ride share program.

I hope to see a large turnout for the Prescott parade and hope you all have a great summer.



Vice-Commander

Dave Heighway

Vice-Commander@perch-base.org

The summer season is upon us. Typically, that means that many of our Perch Base members travel or head to their summer homes. This can lead to smaller attendance at our base meetings, so please make the meetings as you are able.

The one local event during the summer months is the Frontier Days parade in Prescott on the first Saturday of July. When this issue of the Midwatch is published, the photos from this event will be on our website, www.perch-base.org. Visiting this page often will provide you with the most current updates on events. It is also a great place to keep abreast of the Eternal Patrol notices for all submarines still on patrol. Dan Marks does a great job of keeping information that is important to our members at the forefront of this site.

The other main event is the National Convention from August 19 to August 24. This event will be hosted by the Cod Base in the Cleveland, Ohio, area. Get your attendance applications in and hotel reservations made now before it is too late.

(continued next page)

(events continued)

If you have an organization interested in either a static display or a parade with our float, have them contact me at vice-commander@perch-base.org . Our standards include that it must be a means for us to fulfill our purpose (I let you go to the webpage to read it again) and we do not pay for display space or participation. This standard was set early in our base's existence and has stood the test of time in getting our message out there.

If you have had to change your email address or got caught in the shift of cox.net emails being made into Yahoo emails, check with Chuck Luna, Membership Chair, and/or Chris Gahan, Communications Coordinator, to assure that your email is up-to-date. We use email as our primary means of keeping you informed through Flash Traffic notices and other messaging.



Communications Chris Gahan
communications@perch-base.org



An Update on the USS Phoenix (SSN-702) Cold War Foundation Monument

Let's review the progress to date on the monument project. Last April, the 702 CWMF sponsored a "Big Reveal" event at the proposed location in Steele Indian School Park (SISP). A 60 foot banner was revealed that was hung off the park's maintenance building wall to advertise the memorial project. Perch Base participated by displaying our Sub Float as a static display. The turnout by Perch Base was extraordinary for a weekday event. Many City of Phoenix dignitaries attended this event and it was well received. The following week, the 702 CWMF was notified by an assistant mayor and the director of the city's Parks Department that he city would fund and manage the project. After the elation had worn off, the realities of managing this project under these new circumstances was a sobering aftermath. It would take almost a year for the city's bureaucracy to complete their required internal reviews process before issuing the project's contracts and select a general contractor.

The city of Phoenix issued a "Notice to Proceed" last April and the Park's Department project team selected ARDURRA the general contractor. This firm had a hand in the USS Arizona (BB-39) memorial at Talking Sticks. J2 Design Landscaping Architect, MBJ/Structural Engineering, and Wright Electrical Engineering joined the team as sub-contractors. On June 11th, project management sponsored a "Design Kick-Off" meeting to introduce the project team and layout an schedule outline as the design develops. The design phase is estimated to be completed in 12 months with construction starting soon after. I will continue to provide updates on this project as appropriate.

Shipmates, this project has posted advertising in our newsletter and at Dillions BBQ for sometime. What was once a dream is now a reality. Learn-Honor-Remember is the theme for this memorial project and most of us are Cold War Submarine veterans that are being memorialized by this project. This monument will be a vehicle to tell our story. Nevertheless, the monument will continue to need support for improvements and maintenance even after it is completed. Besides myself there are other Perch Base members associate with the 702 CWMF. There are many ways to support this project and now is a great time to get serious about sponsorship. Honor yourselves or another veteran by purchasing "Brick" and space is filling fast.



Communications Chris Gahan

communications@perch-base.org

As the Perch Base Communications Officer my duties are primarily focused on the newsletter and email Flash Traffic. Nonetheless, I am in an unique position to monitor the Phoenix area veteran community as the Perch Base the representative to the United Arizona Veterans. This organization has 150+ veteran organizations under it's banner . This association provides a window into the Phoenix area veteran community's events, the special services each of these member organizations provide, and constant updates from VA. I share this information when its pertinent to our membership. Yet, what I wanted us to focus on is that there are four organization that are dedicated to submarine history, lore, and submariners: USS Phoenix (SSN 702) Cold War Monument Foundation, Arizona Silent Service Memorial, Arizona Legacy Foundations and of course Perch Base. The goals of all four of these organizations overlap in some shape and form. This became evident to me when all four of these organizations participated in a recent event. With mutual goals, It only makes sense that each organization support each other in any way they can. Some Perch Base members already participate or are members in the other organizations. So, check out these other organizations websites, review their purpose and goals, and get involved if you are so inclined to.

- **USS Phoenix (SSN-702) Cold War Monument Foundation** : www.ussphoenixmonument.org
(Classified Ads page 25)
- **Arizona Silent Service Memorial**: www.arizonasilentservicememorial.org: (This website is not up to date. For specific inquiries please contact Joe Trotter: jwt728@gmail.com)
- **USS Arizona Legacy Foundation**: www.ussazlegacy.org (Classified Ads page 26)

I want to endorse the previous comments of Joe Trotter and Dave Heighway regarding participation and recruitment with the Perch Base community and events. The Base's overall staffing and fiscal health is presently in good shape. Nonetheless, we must also keep an eye on the future. Recent recruitment has added four new members to the Base membership. This effort rested on Base members reaching out and sponsoring them to join Perch Base. This effort must be recognized and celebrated but must continue. The BOD is undergoing turnover cycle and we need new volunteers to step up and fill the open positions to keep our Base operating at its maximum efficiency. Give this some consideration and volunteer if you can. Whether you know it or not, Perch Base is one of the more active chapters in the USSVI in meeting the goals established in our creed. This effort requires dedicated participation by all of the chapter members. "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work".
(Thomas Edison)

UNDERSEA WARFARE NEWS

Pentagon to release Arctic strategy that outlines tech, presence needs

By [Megan Eckstein](#)

The U.S. military is staging at least three major exercises north of the Arctic Circle this month, even as the Defense Department seeks to define what its Arctic presence should be and the technology it needs to make it happen. The Pentagon will release an updated DoD Arctic Strategy this spring to help answer these questions, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Arctic and Global Resilience **Iris Ferguson** told Defense News. Not only do all the services have their own operational requirements and acquisition needs related to Arctic operations, but five combatant commands — U.S. Northern Command, European Command, Indo-Pacific Command, Transportation Command and Strategic Command — also have separate interests and priorities above the Arctic Circle. The Arctic and Global Resilience Office, established in September 2022, is meant to be a home and a clearinghouse for these issues, Ferguson said in a Feb. 21 interview. One of the office's first tasks was to understand which requirements overlap and which are distinct, and then to start to prioritize them. An Arctic Campaign Team, led by O-5 and O-6 officers but also looping in top service leadership, resulted from this requirements integration process. The DoD Arctic Strategy, which could be released by the end of April, will highlight how the Arctic has changed in the last five years, both in terms of climate change and its impact as well as Russia and China increasingly acting alone and together to destabilize the region. A "ways and means" section, Ferguson said, will for the first time try to unpack all the services' and combatant commands' acquisition needs so industry can begin to understand where they can help out. Each service's needs will look a bit different: the Army's 11th Airborne Division in Alaska needs additional cold-weather gear to operate in the Pacific side of the Arctic; the Air Force and Space Force are focused on homeland defense missions across the northern border; the Navy conducts submarine and anti-submarine patrols in European Arctic waters but is seeking ways to increase its surface ships' ability to operate there. (continued next page)



Sailors assigned to the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Hampton (SSN 767) raise the national ensign at Ice Camp Whale on the Arctic Ocean, on March 8 during Operation Ice Camp 2024. (MC1 Justin Yarborough/US Navy)

UNDERSEA WARFARE NEWS

(continued from page 8)

What's common, though, is the need for greater domain awareness and communications. Ferguson said DoD and industry can help define what communications they need and what architectures are best suited for that difficult high-latitude environment — be it satellite communications, high frequency communications, ground-based communications or something else. They can also tackle what intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance is needed to understand the full threat picture, from missiles coming across the top of the world to submarines lurking under the ice towards American shores. Ferguson said the bottom line is that the U.S. military needs the ability to monitor and respond to any threat from the north, and that means having the ability to detect. Once the strategy is released, and with it a prioritized list of acquisition and research needs, she said she intends to attend all the big trade shows this year to talk to industry about opportunities to tackle these challenges. Ferguson said the strategy would highlight three main points: enhancing U.S. capabilities with a focus on domain awareness; engaging with allies and partners not only for collective operations but also collaborative capability development; and “calibrated presence” in the Arctic to create a deterrent effect. These priorities nicely match what U.S. Fleet Forces Command wants for the Navy's Arctic efforts: maintain an enhanced presence, strengthen cooperative partnerships, and build a more capable Arctic maritime force. After giving a speech on the Arctic at an American Society of Naval Engineers' Arctic and Antarctic operations conference on March 6, **Fleet Forces commander Adm. Daryl Caudle** told reporters the Navy would need to take a look at its access, basing and overflight across the Arctic. He said the U.S. relies heavily on its European allies and partners for this, but the Navy needs to consider if it needs additional facilities to operate out of the Aleutian islands, for example, or how it may leverage a [deep water port that's coming to Nome](#), Alaska. Caudle said the key is to be able to monitor the Arctic, conduct replenishment operations to sustain forces operating there, and have some sort of personnel recovery capability. Today, the bulk of U.S. Navy Arctic presence comes from the submarine fleet that operates under the ice, and the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and anti-submarine warfare plane that flies above. As such, he said, Naval Submarine Forces is the type commander with Arctic responsibilities, the undersea warfare directorate on the chief of naval operations' staff (OPNAV N97) is the primary resource sponsor for Arctic operations, and the Undersea Warfare Development Center is in charge of Arctic doctrine. “Is that correct? Does that get after the total picture? No, it does not,” Caudle told reporters, noting these efforts didn't account for aircraft carriers, surface ships or amphibious ships with Marines operating in the region and what their needs were. He suggested the Navy might need to consider standing up an Arctic office to work across communities, to ensure the Navy is investing in the full breadth of requirements to support Arctic presence. Asked what that presence should look like from the surface ship community, the admiral said “nothing demonstrates presence better than a surface ship.” Though the presence of U.S. submarines does deter adversaries' military behavior, Caudle acknowledged surface ships flying the American flag sends a clearer signal. Going forward, he said he'd like to see some portion of every deploying carrier strike group spend at least a little time north of the Arctic Circle. “Zero [presence] is definitely not right, but I think a continuous presence is probably not right either,” he said. “I think the right amount is that amount necessary to build our strategic messaging campaign that we're not going to cede the Arctic to anyone. We're going to keep it free and open for the flow of commerce, we're going to protect people's [exclusive economic zones], and we're going to have the capability to be in those waters at our timing and tempo.”

Previous Quarter Highlights

ANNUAL PICNIC MEETING

Perch Base held its Annual Picnic meeting on Saturday, April 13, 2024. This was the second annual picnic at the Paloma Community Park in Peoria, AZ, instead of the White Tanks Park in Waddell and it was a great change. Many of the dishes were brought in by the membership, but the "duty chef," Stan Reinhold, who has a food handling license, cooked the burgers and hotdogs. Our Perch Base Chief of the Boat (COB,) Don Robertson also "mess cranked" for Stan. Special thanks to both Stan and Don for their contribution to the success of the picnic. Following lunch, our Base Commander, George Woods, opened the meeting, led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the USSVI purpose. George Woods introduced our visitors, including members from Gudgeon Base. George also read the Tolling of the Boats Ceremony for the boats lost in April.



VICE-COMMANDER INSTALLATION

Perch Base member David Heighway was installed as Vice-Commander on March 9, 2024. Congratulations to Dave, who was previously our Event Coordinator, and thanks to Carl Miner for his service as the past Vice-Commander since April 10, 2021 (not to mention Carl's contribution as Chief of the Boat (COB) prior to that.)

Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)



05/11/2024 MEETING PRESENTATION

Perch Base Submarine Veterans (USSVI) had a guest speaker, Melinda Piña, from Honor Flight Arizona at the May 11, 2024, Perch Base General Meeting. Melinda noted that application forms are available on their website, www.honorflightaz.org and also brought applications to the meeting. There are 124 Honor Flight hubs across the country. Melinda was representing Honor Flight Arizona. The cost to send a Veteran on the 3-day Honor Flight from Arizona is \$1,300 and includes airfare, hotel and food, but the Veteran pays nothing. The cost is covered by donations to the 501(c)(3) organization. Guardians that accompany a Veteran pay their own way. Spouses cannot be Guardians, but other family members are encouraged. They are presently sending mainly Korean and Vietnam War Veterans between 1950 to 1975, including Cold War Veterans. The latest flight (which included our Base Commander George Woods) that just returned on May 10 had 30 Veterans. The Honor Flight Arizona usually has 5 flights in the spring and 5 flights in the fall, but intends to increase to a total of 12 per year. Tour activities included the US Navy Memorial, Fort McHenry, the National WW2 Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Marine Corp Memorial, Military Women's Memorial, Maryland Museum of Military History, the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and a group picture at Fort Myer Air Force Base. George Woods was highly complimentary of his Honor Flight.



RAY MARSHALL TRIBUTE BANNER

Perch Base Submarine Veterans (USSVI) Life Member and Webmaster Dan Marks is honoring WW2 Submarine Veteran Ray Marshall, who went on Eternal Patrol on September 10, 2021, at the age of 101 years old. Gilbert, AZ, honors Veterans by displaying Military Tribute banners in the Heritage District along Gilbert Road! Banners will be hung from May 21st to July 8th to coincide with the display periods of Memorial Day and Independence Day. Banners will be taken down on July 8th and then put back up for Veterans Day. Ray Marshall's banner is located on the east side of Gilbert Road at the Gilbert Chamber of Commerce parking lot at 119 N Gilbert Rd. ENC(SS) Raymond Marshall, a WW2 veteran, made 12 war patrols on two different boats. Ray joined the Navy in January 1939 and retired as a Chief Engineman in 1959. His first assignment was on the destroyer USS Mahan (DD-364) from 1939 to 1940, but then was assigned to the Submarine Service in 1940. He qualified in submarines in 1941 on the USS Porpoise (SS-172). Ray made 12 war patrols during WW2 on two different boats. He served for six war patrols on the Porpoise, leaving as a Motor Machinist Mate First Class, then six more war patrols on the USS Guavina (SS-362) where he became a Chief Motor Machinist Mate.

Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)



JOE TROTTER MEETS NICOLE LaSLAVIC

Perch Base Submarine Veterans (USSVI) Life Member and Treasurer Joe Trotter met the USS Arizona Legacy Foundation's new President and CEO, Nicole LaSlavic on Thursday, May 2, 2024. Joe provided a general introduction to the submarine community and the USSVI. Established in 2021, the USS Arizona Legacy Foundation is dedicated to supporting the commissioning of the fourth U.S. Navy vessel in American history to bear the name Arizona. Their vision is to honor the memory of the USS Arizona battleship BB-39 while shaping the future legacy of the USS Arizona Virginia-class fast attack submarine SSN-803. People can find more information about Nicole on the Foundation's website ussazlegacy.org. Bravo Zulu to Joe for supporting our Creed to ". . . endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."

JOE TROTTER AT OUR LADY OF JOY

Perch Base Submarine Veteran (USSVI) Joe Trotter gave a presentation on 4/19/2024 to the Our Lady of Joy Roman Catholic Church Military Veterans Ministry. Bravo Zulu to Joe for supporting our Creed to ". . . endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today." The Military Veterans Ministry focuses on those in our community who have served in the U.S. military, on those who still are serving our nation, and on families of veterans and active duty military. It is open to all veterans, active duty military and members of the parish. The Ministry prays for those on active duty, assists our elderly and injured veterans who need a helping hand, listens to those who want to share their military stories with other veterans, aids in researching the right services and benefits for our veterans in a complex system, arranges for social activities, and annually honors those who served on Veteran's Day with a Mass. The Ministry honors all those who have served and wants to meet you. You are not forgotten.



Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)



MEMORIAL DAY:

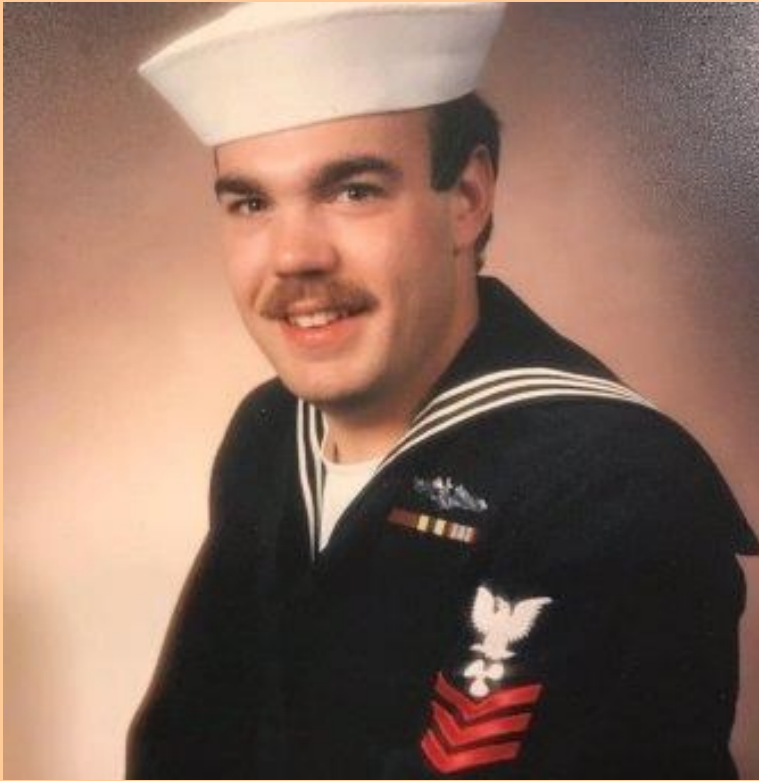
Perch Base USSVI participated in the Memorial Day Ceremonies at the National Cemetery of Arizona, including Tolling of the Boats, on Monday, May 27, 2024. Governor Joy and Howard Doyle conducted the Tolling of the Boats ceremony.



ASSM MEMORIAL BRICK PAVER INSTALLATION

Perch Base Submarine Veterans (USSVI) Joe Trotter and Dan Marks installed three new ASSM Memorial Brick Pavers on April 15, 2024, at the Arizona Silent Service Memorial (ASSM) in Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza in front of the Arizona State Capital building. Joe Trotter is the Treasurer and a Board Member of the ASSM Foundation Committee, a 501(c)3 Organization, as well as Treasurer of Perch Base Submarine Veterans USSVI. Dan Marks is the Perch Base Webmaster. Thank you for the generosity of those that bought new ASSM Memorial Brick Pavers, which support the upkeep of the ASSM Memorial: Mike Haler: 4" X 8" brick, Smith Hoffman and Buckman Family: 4" X 8" brick, John A. McKee, Jr: 4" X 8" brick. Joe and Dan installed the 3 bricks and also performed additional maintenance at the Memorial, including wire brushing rust off the handrails and recoating the rails, general cleaning and pulling weeds.

In the Spotlight



MIKE BAKA ETERNAL PATROL

Perch Base Life Member Mike (Chewie) Baka, MM1(SS), passed away onto Eternal Patrol, Friday, April 26, 2024. Mike was surrounded by his wife, Lisa, family and friends as he took in his last breath, and exhaled, "DAMN THE TORPEDOS!!!! FOUR BELLS!!! GO AHEAD!!! FULL SPEED!!!! Our condolences to his wife Lisa, son Keith, family and friends. Mike joined the Navy in 1980 and left in 1986. He served and qualified on submarines on the USS Flasher (SSN-613) in 1985. He was in the nuclear M-Div, Engineering Laboratory Technician (ELT), Ship's Quality Inspector, and Ship's Photographer on the Flasher. He also served as a staff instructor at the Nuclear Power Training Unit S1C in Windsor Locks, CT from 1981 to 1984, and as a Mechanic on the landing cargo ship USS Charleston (LKA-113) in 1981. Mike had been a member of Perch Base USSVI since October 27, 2022. More recently, Mike was Chief Operating Officer of Kinematics, a world leader in intelligent motion control. Services are being planned to take place at a later date and are expected to be in Wisconsin.

**SAILOR, REST YOUR OAR! YOUR WATCH HAS ENDED.
Your Brothers of the 'Phin Have the Watch.
Fair Winds and Following Seas, Shipmate.**



A graphic at the top of the page features two spotlights on the left and right, casting a yellow beam of light onto the title. The title 'Spotlight' is written in a large, black, serif font, with the word 'Spot' on the top line and 'light' on the bottom line. The word 'the' is smaller and positioned above the 'o' in 'Spot'.

Spotlight

Agnano Volcanoes

By Chris Gahan

How does a qualified nuclear submariner, who completed his first sea duty assignment, get the opportunity to start at right tackle for the Agnano Volcanoes semi-pro football team representing the Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy? When I look back on this odyssey, I am amazed at how all of this transpired.

In the summer and fall of 1976, I was finishing my first sea tour aboard the USS Sculpin (SSN-590). The boat was in Puget Sound Naval Shipyard undergoing a reactor refueling and major overhaul. As a nuclear machinist mate (E-6), I was fully submarine and nuclear qualified for all my watch stations and considered an old hand. The Command Career Counselor (CCC) and the Executive Officer (XO) were lobbying heavily for my re-enlistment. Their initial offers were for billets in either Nuclear Power School or one of the prototypes. I was more or less burned out on Nuclear Power. I had always coveted a shore duty station in Europe. The back and forth between all the parties was professional but intense. Finally, one day I was told to report to XO's office. The CCC & XO were both present and the XO immediately handed me the phone, "It's your detailer". My detailer offered me a shore duty assignments in either London, England or Naples, Italy with Human Resource Management (HRM) Program. The detailer wanted an answer that day, so I choose Naples.

It would be much later in my military career before I realized the significances of accepting a shore duty assignment in Naples. It was career changing but I digress.

I arrived at the Naval Support Activity Naples (NSAN) in the spring of 1977 as a HRM Specialist and reported to the HRM detachment. The detachment was made up of 6 Officers, 5 CPOs, and 8 Enlisted personnel. My first challenge was to find off-base housing and adapt to the Neapolitan Culture. My high school Latin and Spanish helped a lot with learning the language. The duties and responsibilities of the Naples HRM Detachment is a story in and of its own and clearly has nothing to do with football.

In the summer of 1977, I became aware that the NSAN was represented by an eleven man semi-pro tackle football team named the Agnano Volcanoes. The team was made up of sailors and marines stationed at the NSA. The Volcanoes were a member of the Armed Forces Europe Football league and in the Southern Italy division that consisted of three other teams. This league was a precursor that evolved into NFL Europe. Our closest rival was a team made up of mostly army and some air force personnel stationed at the Naples NATO base which was just over the hill from the NSA. Air force supported a team from its radar and communication station outside of Brindisi, Italy located on Italy's east coast and the Adriatic Sea. The fourth team was all Navy from USS Chicago (CG-11) homeported in Gaeta, Italy and the Flag ship of the Sixth Fleet at that time.

The Agnano volcano is an extinct volcano not far from the NSA facility. All of the games were played in the volcano crater. This was a huge recreational facility which was shared with the NATO partners.

(continued next page)

In the Spotlight

(continued from following page)

The Volcanoes were coached by a Marine Colonel who was a disciplinarian but not very knowledgeable or experienced at the game of football. Our playbook was fairly basic and not very creative but our style of play boarded on recklessness. The games were played in the fall of 77 & 78 were hard fought, rockum-sockum football and it was not uncommon that there was at least one serious injury every game. The players had different skill levels which was difficult for any coaching staff to meld into a winning team. Nevertheless, we played the games.

My athletic abilities were average but my technical skill top notch. I had some great coaching in high school and that training was the bedrock to my skill level as a football player in this league. I did incur a couple of minor injuries but nothing serious which I attribute to that high school skill training. I started at right tackle, was the special team center, and occasionally played nose guard on defense. Football is team sport which requires each team member to know his job and execute it to the best of his ability, complimenting his team effort to win the game.

Being a submariner demands these same attributes. Perform your job, support your teammates, and work as a team. There is also a correlation between playing football and submarining with the physical and mental demands each discipline require for success.

The Volcanoes placed second in the two seasons I played with them. I also was selected to be member of the Southern Italy conference All Star team which played the Northern Italy conferences All Star team in an exhibition game at a soccer stadium in Livorno Italy. My days of playing tackle football were numbered after I transferred back to sea duty but there was many more days of submarining still in my future.



Upcoming Events

Remember to check the [Perch Base website](#) and watch for **Flash Traffic emails for the most up-to-date information.**

Monthly General Meetings:

Saturday's, July 13th, August 10th & September 14th.

At Dillion's KC BBQ restaurant

[20585 North 59th Avenue, Glendale, Arizona.](#)

(Left click above address for a Google map.)

The official meeting starts at Noon but come join us at 1100 for lunch!

50/50 Raffle drawing (Must be present to win).

2024 USSVI National Convention, Cleveland, OH, from 8/19/24 — 8/24/24:

The Cod Base is hosting the 2024 National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. The convention will be held from Monday, August 19 through Saturday, August 24, 2024. Registration and the hotel room block is available on the convention website: <https://subvetconvention.org/>. Check the website out for many of the details. As more information is received the web site will be updated. The host hotel is the Embassy Suites by Hilton Cleveland Rockside:

[5800 Rockside Woods Blvd N, Independence, OH 44131](#)

Eagle Scout Court of Honor: July 27, 2024 at 10:30AM

The path to becoming an Eagle Scout and wearing the coveted Eagle badge has similarities to the one we took to become "Qualified in Submarines" and wear our symbol, the "dolphins." As Submarine Veterans, we saw this as a means to recognize such scouts and show our support for the Boy Scouts of America and thus, instituted this recognition program.

An Eagle Scout Court of Honor will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2024, at 10:30 AM for four scouts in Troop 2019 in Mesa.

The Eagle Scout Court of Honor will be held at the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at: [1430 N Recker Rd, Mesa, AZ 85205.](#)

(Left-click address, above, for a Google map to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.)

Deadline for the Midwatch Newsletter third 2024 edition

Friday, September 13th, 2024

All input must be into Chris Gahan, Perch Base Newsletter Editor, to be included in the next Midwatch Newsletter to be published on Wednesday, October 9th, 2024.

Please watch for updates on the [Perch Base website](#) and **Flash Traffic emails as events may be updated, added or amended.**

Third Quarter Birthdays

JULY

1 Dave Heighway
7 Benard Juracka
8 Carl Miner
8 Chuck Luna
8 Matthew McDonald
12 James Foote
16 Nick Povio Jr.
25 Larry Speight
29 Joe Trotter
30 Howard Goldman
31 Jack Messersmith

AUGUST

3 Bob Denton
5 John Carpentier
6 Joshua Whitmore
7 Joseph Foran
7 Bryan Pellegrini
8 Bob Smith
8 Charles Kotan
8 Bud Huber
9 Richard Hicks
10 Brad Seidel
10 Chris Urness
12 Bob Lancendorfer
15 Ray Villa Sr.
15 Vincent Degon
15 Janice Van Horn
18 John Zaichkin
19 Mike Bryant
19 Doug La Rock
19 Kelly Grissom
20 Bob Roberts
25 Chris Gahan
26 John Mannetti
29 Harold Heller

SEPTEMBER

1 Ed Wolk
4 Alan Miller
5 Fred Fuller
6 Wayne Kirk Smith
7 Heather Pittman
10 Bob Wright
12 James Koning
13 Steve Stanger
24 Howard Enloe
26 Gary Bartlett



Binnacle List

Keep these shipmates in your prayers

**Howard Doyle Jr., Wayne Hembree, DeWayne Lober,
Jim & Mary Denzien, Chuck Emmett, Davy Jones and
Richard Simmons**

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Base Ride Share

**In need of a ride to a base meeting or event? Like to help a shipmate
in need of a lift? Please contact: Dan Marks at**

webmaster@perch-base.org

Stan Reinhold wants to inform the membership that the US Navy Deep Submergence Group Association 2024 reunion will be held September 27th through the 29th. The event will be held at the Best Western Plus Silverdale Beach Hotel, 3937 NW Buckin Hill Silverdale, WA, 98383 (800-780-7234).

Tolling of the Boats



Tolling of the Boats for July

4	USS S-28 (SS-133)	1944	49 men lost
26	USS Robalo (SS-273)	1944	81 men lost
30	USS Grunion (SS-216)	1942	70 men lost

Tolling of the Boats for August

6	USS Bullhead (SS-332)	1945	84 men lost
13	USS Flier (SS-250)	1944	78 men lost
13	USS S-39 (SS-144)	1942	no loss of life
24	USS Harder (SS-257)	1944	79 men lost
26	USS Cochino (SS-345)	1949	7 men lost

Tolling of the Boats for September

1	USS S-5 (SS-110)	1920	no loss of life
9	USS Grayling (SS-209)	1943	76 men lost
25	USS S-51 (SS-162)	1925	33 men lost
25	USS Pompano (SS-181)	1943	77 men lost
28	USS Cisco (SS-290)	1943	76 men lost

2024 Perch Base Operations

These are the Base members and Friends who donate monies or efforts (1 October 2023 thru 30 September 2024) to allow for Base operations while keeping our dues low and avoid raising money through member labor as most other organizations do.

James Andrews	John Beckett	John Carpentier
Howard Doyle	Howard Enloe	Thomas Farley III
David Fyock	Chris Gahan	James Glass
Howard Goldman	David Heighway	Governor Joy
Douglas La Rock	DeWayne Lober	Chuck Luna
Laura Luna	Dan Marks	Paul Miller
Carl Miner	Curt Morgan	Cynthia Morgan
Noisy Can	James Paper	Michael Haler
Don Robertson	Donald Schafer	Richard Simmons
Joseph Trotter	Don Unser	Marcia Unser
Vic Van Horn	Janice Van Horn	Michael Weeks
Joshua Whitmore	George Williams	George Woods
John Zaichkin	Chuck Emmett	Georgianne Gahan
Linda Hayball	Stan Reinhold	Steven Stanger
Alice Woods		

CLASSIFIEDS

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Ad size limit: 300 characters, including spaces. Pictures may be included, and are encouraged. Please provide the picture as a separate file in one of the following formats: jpg or png. If you are not sure which one to use or the file is over 600kb, email the editor at newsletter@perch-base.org for assistance and to discuss options.

If your ad can not be formatted in Word, it will not run.

Send your ad to:

*Perch Base, the Board Members, and the MidWatch editor or not responsible for the collection, exchange or storage of items advertised here or any fees exchanged for goods.

**Exceptions: alcohol, drugs, anything illegal, commercial items or anything deemed by the Base Board and/or MidWatch editor to be inappropriate. Decisions of the Board and editor are final.



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This Firestone card is from the store that graciously gives us space to stage the trailers and park for the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. Give them a thought the next time you need tires or service.

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MAKE IT HAPPEN!



USS Arizona Legacy Foundation

The USS Arizona Legacy Foundation is dedicated to supporting the commissioning of the fourth U.S. Navy vessel to bear the name Arizona. Our vision is to honor the memory of the USS Arizona BB-39 while shaping the future legacy of the USS Arizona (SSN-803) Virginia-class fast attack submarine.

OUR MISSION

Celebrate

We are thrilled to celebrate the addition of the USS Arizona submarine to our Naval Fleet. Join us for a series of grand festivities and community events as we honor this monumental occasion.

Educate

We strive to educate future generations about the history and significance of the Pearl Harbor, USS Arizona battleship, and the brave men who served aboard her. Through our educational programs and resources, we keep their legacy alive.

Support

We are committed to supporting the crew of the USS Arizona submarine and fostering a lasting bond between them and the citizens of Arizona. Our initiatives ensure ongoing support throughout the life of the boat.

**Donate
Today !**

P.O. Box 10802, Tempe, AZ, 85248

Ussazlegacy.org

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