

FEB 2024

All Veterans Exposed to Toxins and other Hazards during Military Service Eligible for VA Health Care beginning March 5

February 29, 2024 - VA is expanding health care eligibility to millions of Veterans — including all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after 9/11 — years earlier than called for by the PACT Act
WASHINGTON — VA announces that all Veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving in the military — at home or abroad — **will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care beginning March 5, 2024.** ,

We’re making millions of Veterans eligible for VA health care years earlier than called for by the PACT Act,” said **VA Under Secretary for Health Shereef Elnahal, M.D.** “With this expansion, VA can care for all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11. for [MORE DETAILS CLICK HERE](#)

CHECK IT OUT NOW—see more info on page 11 about why you should do this no matter what kind of health plan or insurance you presently use. Call and arrange a free screening and to learn details about eligibility.

Northrop Grumman’s prototype of Penn State’s design for the Very Lightweight Torpedo (VLWT). Details on page 6



2024 Christmas Ornament honoring President Jimmy Carter
upper pic=front; lower pic=back
See story on pg 17



USS SABALO SS-302

BALAO (SS-285) CLASS DIESEL-ELECTRIC SUBMARINE

IN COMMISSION: 1945-46 & 1951-71

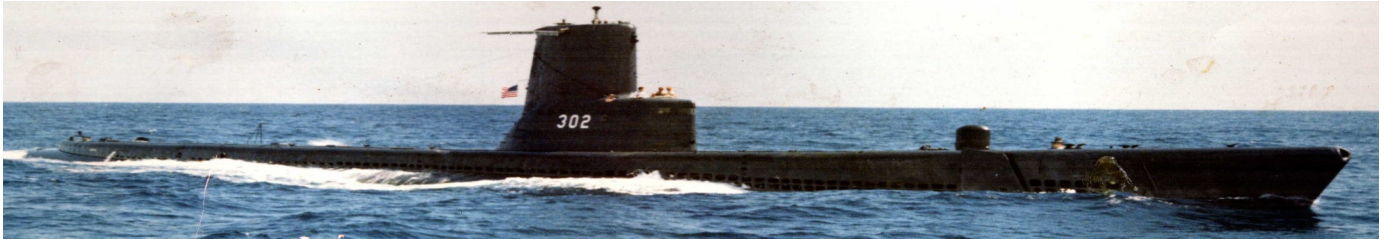
A Proud Workhorse of the Fleet

She made her missions.

We did our best.

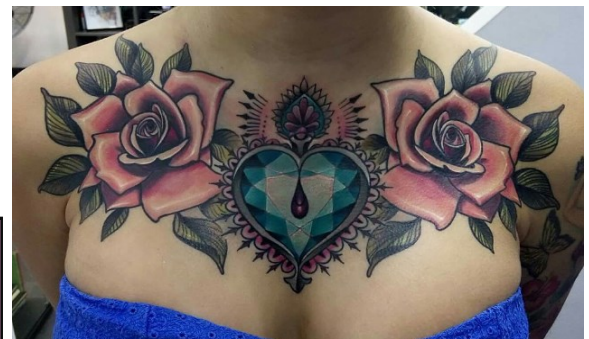
We served our country.

This has been done.



WHAT DO SUB SAILORS WEAR?
Key to pics—see page 14 for explanation
using these number references:
Top L-R: 1, 2, 3, 4 & Left: 5

Remember when we went to the circus to see the fat lady for a woman with tattoos? Now they're everywhere.





Vol. III No. 17 February 2024

CLEVER BOY is a privately authored and published newsletter of the **USS Sabalo Association**, an informal group for the preservation of the history of the U.S. Navy Submarine, USS Sabalo SS-302, and including the assemblage of the list of all who served in her, chronicling her exploits and missions, and celebrating the memories of those who manned her.

"Clever Boy" was the radio call sign for Sabalo, and NXYO was her flag identification code.

CB is currently distributed via online and hard copy to 187+ veterans of the sub.

📄 Online viewers—Follow the links with each item for the full story.

📄 Hard copy readers only get the first two pages in color. On the Sabalo web site all pages have color possible.

WEB SITE: <http://ussabalo.org> For more information about the men who served in her, the ship's details and exploits, and copies of past *Clever Boy* newsletters beginning from 2009

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PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR OF ANY CHANGES OF ADDRESS EITHER USPS OR EMAIL.

If you can no longer receive email, please remember to communicate so that you can be switched to receive a hard copy. The cost of those who receive hard copies is supported by donations.

If you have no interest in this newsletter, please communicate so funds can be conserved.

THANKS TO RECENT DONORS

(with rank/rating & dates aboard 302 -may have been higher later)

Bates, Joe EM2(SS) Aug59-Sep62
Egan, John EM2(SS) Jun63-Aug65
Gilson, Chuck YN1(SS) Jan66-Jun67
Huckfeldt, Larry YN3(SS) Aug60-Aug61
Hudson, George IC2(SS) Jun69-Mar70
Sanborn, Chris EN3(SS/DV) Jan67-Nov68
Thompson, Dave EM3(SS) Jun60-Oct62

COST INFLATION: IPower, the web site host for Sabalo.org increased its annual rate to \$299 which was just paid. If anyone can recommend one that has lower rates with no ads or popups, it will be investigated for a change.

USPS: The 2 oz postage rate is now 90 ¢; 1 oz= 68¢; post cards= 53¢.

Thankfully, many Sabalo vets have been generous to support expenses of communication, the web site, and newsletter. In fact, there is now enough to cover the next issue after this, so additional donations are not needed for a spell.

AGENT ORANGE -THE PACT ACT AND YOUR VA BENEFITS

In the June 2023 issue, it was advised that anyone with any of the maladies covered by the PACT Act and its predecessor bill fill a claim before 9 August to have any possible benefit from disability be retroactive to the date the act was passed when a final determination was made. Otherwise, any claim would only be retro to the date of filing.

I received a note from one shipmate who questioned why he should do that. Without getting too detailed on the whole claim process, I want to focus on the fact that many Sabalo men have reported health problems that are related to Agent Orange caused diseases, and many others will likely in the future develop some of the same issues. Many have already passed from diseases on the list.

Everyone has had some exposure if they drank water made in the Tonkin Gulf. Congress has set certain rules that specify where the exposure is considered to be significant. Some deployments of Sabalo have already been proven to be within the rules. My searching to prove the remaining places, especially during the '67-68 WesPac are still in process.

One distinct event was when we were near in-shore to observe the shore bombardment activities of one of the rocket firing ships of type LFR & LFMR. An analysis to compare positions of four of these who roughly match dates in the zone is tedious and time consuming, but I remain committed to do this in relation to my own claim. Please reply if you have memories of this. — ed.

FROM OUT OF THE TOMATO BOX

By Editor Jeff Owens

Not a day goes by, in which my mind doesn't slip away to those days on the Sabalo.

THE SEARCH IS OVER

A full review of the AWOL and missing has been completed. In a last attempt to determine the whereabouts of the 247 men who have never been located or lost, and the 66 AWOL listings, a direct mail approach has been conducted. More than 40 sample, past issues of hard copy CB's and 45+ post cards or questionnaires have been mailed. Some additional attempts via email have also been sent. If you read this, and haven't mustered in, I hope you will check in to keep the sailing list up-to-date. Keeping the CB alive requires an audience.

Sabalo Sailing List Stats -as of 28 Feb

Total shipmates listed	1453
Known Deceased	904
Known USPS address	321
Receives Clever Boy by email or hard copy & contact since Jul 2018	186
AWOL- Known address but Not heard from since July 2018	66
Known address but has declined or does not receive Clever Boy	60
Lost Contact—last known address NG & unable to relocate	10
Never located + Lost Contact	237

A Man and a Woman-

Wife: I have a bag of used clothing I'd like to donate.

Husband: Why not throw it in the trash? It's easier.

Wife: There are poor, starving people who can really use these clothes.

Husband: Honey, anyone who can fit your clothing isn't starving.

P.S. I'm taking up a collection to help with my hospital bills.

Marking Time

Most people don't think I'm as old as I am until they hear me stand up."



⌚ Don't count the days.
Make the days count.

...Muhammad Ali

One minute you're young and fun. And then the next minute you're predicting the weather with your bad knee.

The majority of Sabalo vets are 80+. Those reading this are to be thankful for reaching that level. Only 33% do. The great outlook these days is that 24% of the world population get to 90.

FEEDBACK PLEASE—

TNX to all who sent some stuff for inclusion. A number of items are included in this issue.

I didn't receive any specific notes about the kind of material interesting for future issues.

Hope to hear from a few more of you to keep the pages full of good stuff.

Accepting reality is not always convenient,
but it is a worthy goal.

You can't help anyone who refuses to vacate their delusional reassurances, who refuses to yield their comforting concepts, and who lacks the ability to acknowledge the villainy in reality.

...plagarized and modified from something found on a blog -ed.

**MAILBAG**

[rank/rating as aboard, may have diff later]

24Feb24 eml recd

With much sadness I am informing you of **Paul J. McPolin SK3(SS) Aug60-Sep61**, my father's passing. He passed away on 2/19/24 peacefully at home. 81 Ladd Ave Staten Island NY 10312. He loved the Navy and loved his time on the USS Sabalo. He told me when he joined the Navy "Raymond, it was great, for the first time I had my own clothes and shoes and can eat whenever I wanted". He loved the white tee shirts.

Sincerely,

Raymond McPolin

Captain E158 FDNY

P.S. He enjoyed your newsletter and I did as well.

* * *

27Feb24Eml fm **Jim Kent RM2(SS) Aug63-Jun65**. "You may not be able to help me, but I could not think of anyone else that might be able to. Here is my question: It has been about 58 years since I walked away from the sub base in Pearl Harbor. My daughter and two grandchildren age 10 and 13 want to go to Hawaii this July and she wants my wife and I to go with them. They want to see where I served on the sub base and I would love to show them. I would like to walk with them to the pier where the Sabalo tied up with the rest of the subs. Do you know if we would be allowed to do this? If not, is there a way to get permission? Thank you for all you do in keeping up with the USS Sabalo history and information."

===

Reply: Ahoy Jim,

I don't know the answer to your question, but I think all you want to know about sub stuff in Hawaii can be answered by contacting the sub museum of the Bowfin.

The web site: <https://www.bowfin.org/>

I believe the periscope is operational. So a tour would certainly have more to offer than just the place where the subs tied up.

Point of interest- The Bowfin installed configuration was the substance of the qualification manual for original Balao class. When they made the manual the Balao wasn't available for pics and any photos were on Bowfin - least that's what I heard somewhere.

Not sure just where the nukes tie up now, but if it's the same place, then security on the pier is way different than the old days. I have visited boats in Norfolk and San Diego and that was only through contact with CO's of the boats, and in advance. Like I say, contact the museum.

Sounds like a fun trip.

DBF, Jeff

**After thought: I have toured a number of the museum boats. If memory serves (My memory fails on this.), the

access to the conning tower was secured—probably due to tourists not being able to safely scale vertical ladders. Entrance to the boats has been modified with slanted stairway ladders. Some museum boats have discount for USSVI members. They all survive on donations. Perhaps if the conning tower is secured, slipping one of the docs an extra donation might gain a special access to the conning tower for an old salt.

28Nov23 eml fm **Frank Redford TM3(SS) May60-Sep63** -

Thank you, Jeff. Your research and continued efforts help keep in mind the memories of the devoted past and need for restored dedication today.

30Nov23 fm **Bob Vincent TM3(SS) Sep60-Oct62** - Jeff I enjoy reading the newsletter. It takes me a couple of days to go thru it and look up some of the sites that you present. I look at the info on subs, va info, and general information about former Sabalo folks. I also follow the list of people who have left us. Two this month are Robisch and Cofer. Robisch was exec when I came aboard and Cofer was a new ensign just before I departed. You provide a lot of good information and I do follow it so keep up the good work. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

At the 2003 reunion in Reno. **Larry Hall** had made up a large sign board (~4' x 6') with some of his photos enlarged to regular copy paper size and mounted them. Larry's brother, Fred Wilson reported that most of Larry's had been lost sometimes during his moves. After copying the pics, I took apart the sign boards and sent the pics to Fred in February.

Eml 1Dec23 In September this year, I wrecked my wife's Hyundai Sonata. A few aches and pains that took a few weeks to get over, but nothing serious. The car was T-boned and totaled. I was driving her car because our 17-year-old great-grandson is living with us and has adopted my truck.

Great job on the Newsletter. It was worth the wait. Great picture of Roy and Tom. Keep 'em coming!

I've been watching the youtube movies you mentioned. As you know, watch one war movie and a bunch more suggestions show up. One was about the WWII battle, **Anzio**. At Ingalls Shipbuilding we built the USS ANZIO (CG 68), a Ticonderoga class guided missile cruiser. One of my fun jobs was conducting tours of the shipyard. It was my pleasure to tour with the survivors of the battle at the commissioning, May 1992.

Fred Holcomb ET1(SS) Oct66-Oct89 *Matthew 6:20*

HEADLINE NEWS

Follow links for full story

FEEDBACK NEEDED—Your editor searches far and wide for topical info to pass along. **If you see some cool stuff, send it in for inclusion.**

USS Georgia Submarine Commander Arrested and Relieved of Duty Due to 'Loss of Confidence'

16Jan24 The CO of the sub's blue crew -- Capt. Geoffry Patterson -- was relieved by Rear Adm. Thomas Buchanan, the commander of Submarine Group 10

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/01/16/navy-relieves-guided-missile-submarine-skipper-following-arrest-driving-under-influence.html>

Navy Will Ask for 1 Virginia-Class Sub in FY 25 Shipbuilding Budget, Increase Amphib Production 20Feb24

USNI-THE PENTAGON – The Navy's Fiscal Year 2025 budget will ask Congress to fund one Virginia-class attack boat, a break from a steady two-per-year demand signal from the service and a sign that industry is still catching up to the current demand, three sources familiar with the proposed budget submission confirmed to USNI News. While the Navy plans to only ask for one Virginia attack boat, the request will include one submarine's worth of advanced procurement materials to maintain demand for the limited amount of suppliers for submarines, the sources confirmed to USNI News this week. The decision, initially [Read More »](#)

Report to Congress on Columbia-class Ballistic Missile Submarine Program 19Feb24 fm USNI

The Feb. 16, 2024, Congressional Research Service report, Background and Issues for Congress. From the report The Navy's Columbia (SSBN-826) class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) program to design and build a class of 12 new SSBNs to replace the Navy's current force of 14 aging Ohio-class SSBNs. The Navy procured the first Columbia-class boat in FY2021. The Navy's proposed FY2024 budget requests the procurement of the second boat [Read More »](#)

Report on Virginia-class Attack Submarine Program, AUKUS Proposal fm USNI 14Feb24

Issues for Congress regarding the Navy's Virginia (SSN-774) class (SSN) program include the FY2024 procurement funding request for the program and the proposal for selling three to five Virginia-class boats to Australia and transferring U.S. submarine and naval nuclear propulsion technology to Australia. The AUKUS security partnership was agreed to in September 2021, between the U.S., UK, and Australian governments.

[Read More >>](#)

Navy Awards \$1.2B Repair Contract for Attack Sub USS Boise More Than 7 Years Late 23 Feb 2024

The Navy awarded a contract to start repair work on a sub that returned from its last deployment nine years ago. Hill's Newport

News Shipbuilding won the \$1.17 billion contract modification to start the long-overdue overhaul of Los Angeles-class USS Boise (SSN-764)

Biggest Military Pay Raise in 2 Decades 7 Dec 2023

Service members will get a 5.2% [pay raise](#) come January under the compromise annual defense bill, the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/07/military-pay-raise-2024-will-be-52-under-newly-unveiled-defense-bill.html>

Development of the Compact Rapid Attack Weapon System

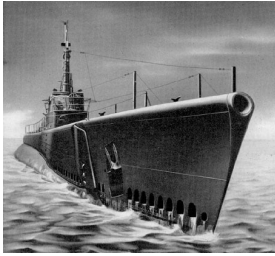
The U.S. submarine force's torpedo inventory will be its most significant constraint in a war in the western Pacific. Given the policy and industrial limitations on Mk 48 torpedo production and the physical limits of SSN torpedo loadouts, the Navy needs to consider alternative weapon systems.

The Navy's attack submarine force is built around the Mk 48 heavyweight torpedo. Introduced in 1972, Despite all its capabilities, however, the Mk 48 is a weapon for a different war. U.S. SSNs of course need to maintain the capability to destroy capital warships and submarines, but much more will be asked of them in the next conflict.

The ability of U.S. submarines to approach and attack capital warships with heavyweight torpedoes is without match. The problem with such a plan is that it fails to account for China's center of gravity—its ground invasion force—matching instead the U.S. Navy's center of gravity, the SSNs, against China's surface combatants, a supporting element. During the weeks U.S. submarines would spend hunting down and destroying the PLAN battle fleet, the invasion would continue, enabled by logistical support from hundreds or thousands of other boats and ships. Therefore, U.S. attack submarines need to carry more weapons—enough to significantly disrupt the Chinese invasion and logistics seatrian.

A Virginia-class SSN typically deploys with 20 to 26 Mk 48's. The CRAW prototypes, due to smaller size and different launching schemes would up the number of weapons by maybe a factor of ten for subs. Full article: <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2024/march/torpedoes-get-smaller-think-bigger>

Navy Lingo- "Puke" – People, or person. Most commonly used in the sub reference as "Non-qual puke". One who hasn't earned dolphins. **"Nub"** = "Non-Usable Body", someone who does not stand most watches and is therefore useless-deadweight.



THE OLD BOATS

U.S. Submarine Production in WWII

_____ excerpted fm <https://247wallst.com/investing/2023/08/26/this-was-the-most-used-american-submarine-in-wwii/>

CORRECTION: The condensation of the article linked above in last CB issue failed to include the **S-Class boats**, and that exclusion was not noted when preparing the synopsis in the last issue. Below info condensed from Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_S-class_submarine

In World War II, **S-class boats** did not use the newer **Mark 14 torpedo**, standard in fleet submarines, due to shorter torpedo tubes, relying on the World War I-vintage **Mark 10** instead. (Due to production shortages, many fleet boats used Mark 10s, also. Since the Mark 14 suffered from a high failure rate early in the war, this was not necessarily a disadvantage.)

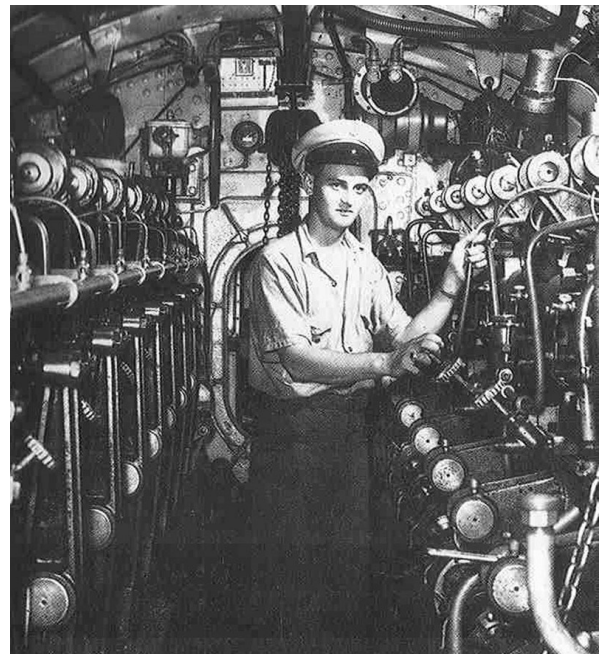
The most notable combat success for the class was by the **USS S-44 (SS-155)**. In the aftermath of the disastrous defeat of the USN and RAN at the **Battle of Savo Island**, the S-44 encountered the withdrawing Japanese force near Kavieng on the morning of 10 August 1942. Having found themselves in the perfect position, the crew of the S-44 launched a spread of four **Mark 10 torpedoes**, three of which hit the heavy cruiser **Kako**. The mortally wounded cruiser sank in seven minutes and the S-44 escaped.

USS S-44 (SS-155) was lost to enemy action enroute to her patrol area near the **Kuril Islands**. Sunk by the **Japanese escort ship Ishigaki**, 7 October 1943.

Built	1918–1925	Pic above: Jun 1943 leaving Phila after overhaul, on Rt– S-44 engine rm
In commission	1920–1946	
Planned	65	More Pics: http://www.navsource.org/archives/08/08155.htm
Completed	51	
Cancelled	14	
Lost	9	
Retired	42	

General characteristics

Type	Submarine
Displacement	At most 906 tons surfaced, 1230 Submerged
Length	219–240 ft (S-2 207 ft)
Beam	21–22 ft
Draft	13 ft 1 in – 16 ft 1 in
Speed	14 -15 knots surfaced
Range	5,000 nmi at 10 knots surfaced
Test depth	200 ft
Complement	38
Armament	4 × 21 inch torpedo tubes (bow), 12 torpedoes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (some boats had an additional 21 inch stern tube with 2 additional torpedoes) • 1 4-in/50 caliber deck gun



NAUTICAL TRADITION — *OVER THE SIDE— what's that ? says 756 sailor*

During the recent visit of six men from USS Scranton to NE Penna., there was a lot of discussion about the way life is on one of the Los Angeles Class attack boats.

One of the subjects that came up was about throwing people over the side when some celebrate-able event comes about - e.g. *qualifying, promotion, marriage, a baby, or many times during the frenzy, just getting too close to the side.* These nukes swabbies said they never heard of such a thing, and it never happened in their experience. (Poor guys have missed a lot of fun.)

THIS IS NO B.S.

I remember some epic battles between the prospective swimmers and the forces mounted against him.

Wally Horsman once got his fingers between the deck boards, and even if he wanted to let go, he got stuck. Luckily that got under control before his fingers were ripped off. Ron Paterson, a sizable guy, was also another fighter who took a half dozen guys to get him wet, and when that happened a few were likely to be taken with him.

The most amazing scene was when we tied up in the middle of no where, at a pier near Silverdale, Washington shortly before the '67 WesPac. The water was still cold from winter. Promotion announcements came in and having been read at quarters, the battles started at dismissal. Those who went over right away attested to the frigid water by almost 'walking on water' once the cajones got wet, and wasted no time coming up the tank tops and down below to dry off.

One sailor, Sonarman Bob Phelps, who I think had just made third, had managed to get below before being caught. He was finally cornered in the forward torpedo room. As he wound himself around the bottom of the ladder up to the escape trunk, his captors called up for someone to lower a heaving line. Trying to get it tied on him, it was finally accomplished, but around Phelps' neck. It was probably in the minds of the mob that this would have maximum inductive effect.

Participants topside had no idea just what rigging had been made and when told to heave around, Phelps was starting to turn blue. Some shouting occurred - maybe to ease off, but he was really choking. Luckily, the ruckus drew the attention of LT Brian Baumruk, who stepped thru the hatch and immediately ordered the party to desist.

Bob, who was in my watch section for that WesPac, must have liked the fight. From stories I heard from before my time, during the previous WesPac, when the boat crossed the equator, he also fought to the end with the battle between the Shellbacks and Pollywogs. He got himself into the sonar room, and in an attempt to get him out on in that episode, they got a big can of black pepper from the galley above and tried to incapacitate him using that. Only the interference this time by Doc Davis prevented some kind of breathing mishap.

One last tale about how taking a quick swim can happen when it isn't a special event. One night late, while tied up in Subic, the duty officer, Ron VanNest had come topside to view the harbor and catch some open air. Max Moon just at that point in time was returning from a stint in Olongapo and may have had enough beverages to press him into action. Having some animosity to another officer, who had the same stature as VanNest, Moon misidentified him. As he stood there in his khakis with his back to the brow, he was an easy push for Moon who then scrambled along the sail and disappeared down the after battery hatch. Ron called for assistance from the topside watch and then went to officers quarters. Once sufficiently drained off, he summoned the below decks watch and instructed him to find who pushed him and bring him to the wardroom.

Moon, the culprit, was finally brought forth. Moon apologized, and explained who his real target was. VanNest, with some understanding of the matter, decided that no punishment would be the result. He was most annoyed because he was wearing a newly procured (Hong Kong or Yoko) pair of brown Wellington boots, which would now, for the rest of their life, be bleeding salt from the leather.

IT'S ALL TRUE, AND THAT'S THE WAY I REMEMBER IT., JEFF OWENS



**2024 USSVI Convention —
Cleveland 19-24 Aug, hosted by the Cod Base.**

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/codbasesuvi/>
Or <https://subvetconvention.org/>



VA NEWS

This page is consolidated from past issues rather than repeating web links and information. Readers should consult past issues for information about VA benefits and other news.

APPLY FOR VA HEALTH CARE- [HTTPS://WWW.VA.GOV/HEALTH-CARE/APPLY/APPLICATION/INTRODUCTION](https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction)

Veterans Burial Allowance Benefits Explained

<https://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/burial-allowance.html>

988 Veterans Crisis Line

988, this three-digit number is used to access both the National Suicide Hotline and Veterans Crisis Line. Veterans can also call the Veterans Crisis Line directly, at 877-267-6030, or call any VA facility and press 7 to reach the Veterans Crisis Line. VCL text messaging (838255) and Live Chat are also available.

⇒ **[VietNam-era Deck Logs— ‘Can’t remember where you were or when it was?’](#)**

⇒ The NARA’s and VA’s collaboration and efforts have digitized more than 29 million images from U.S. Navy and Coast Guard deck logs.

⇒ Details: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/79052/vas-collaboration-nara-digitizes-vietnam-era-deck-logs/>

⇒ To access the logs: <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/logbooks/navy-online>

[Finding particular dates involves some searching once the ships under “S” has been accessed. And then once Sabalo has been isolated, each file covers one month (which is how the logs were kept and submitted for retention). However, they are not indexed chronically, so some searching is needed to find and download a particular time period.

It is hoped that some of you might undertake to organize your time aboard and summarize the movements and activities into a daily calendar that could be incorporated into the Sabalo History’ pages on the web site.

I have downloaded and date ordered the 67, 68, & 69 files, but not yet refined them for posting. If you want to delve into this project for any time frame, contact me and I’ll help to get you started.—ed]

DISABILITY CLAIM FILING

Tim Williams (abd Oct61-Sep63) made comments in last issue Mailbag about why he should file a claim. This question can apply to any Viet Nam Vet from the Sabalo.

My advice -“Don’t assume shit” Call the VA and get answers about Agent Orange exposure. -ed.

On page 16 in this issue the subject of deceased Sabalo vets accounted for since Feb 2020 is elaborated. The number discovered is **149**, and among the never located the probability is there are more. The missing detail about most of these men is what was the cause of death. The question to be asked is ‘how many died from diseases linked to Agent Orange possibilities?’.

A count of men from the 1962 WesPac in the Sabalo database gives the following numbers: **Aboard=68; known dead=41; never located=5.**

Deduction: *Time is running out, or as my neighbor used to say, “It’s later than you think.”*

Have questions? 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)

<https://news.va.gov/127968/what-can-va-disability-compensation-do-for-you/>

New benefits announced for survivors:

<https://www.military.com/benefits/what-survivors-of-veterans-need-know-about-pact-act.html>

What To Do When A Military Retiree Dies—Re Disability & Retirement Pay

The time surrounding the death of a loved one is a difficult period in anyone's life. In addition to grief, the time is full of uncertainties and change. At DFAS (Defense Finance and Accounting Service) Retired & Annuitant Pay, the status of pay and entitlements is recognized as one of those areas of uncertainty. To help smooth the process for survivors and beneficiaries, a shareable PDF checklist for the process has been created, and includes all the pertinent information about the required forms and supporting documents. Along with important reminders, the checklist also provides helpful tips on how to submit the documents to DFAS.

You can find the "What to Do When a Military Retiree Dies" Checklist on the Quick Tools page.

<https://www.dfas.mil/raquicktools>

more information to our webpage on DFAS.mil for reporting the death of a retiree and the next steps your family will need to take. <https://www.dfas.mil/retdeath>

Also for survivors of military retirees who previously chose to cover one (or more) family members, there are instructions for annuitants on how to claim and begin their Survivor Benefit Plan annuity.

Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) provides low-cost coverage to Veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Find out if you're eligible and how to apply. <https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/valife/>

If you have trouble finding insurance because of military disability there is a program that became effective 1 Jan 2023. It isn't necessarily a bargain, and like most policies, it has an initial two year period of limited benefit amount, but is issued without physical

The VA is raising awareness of little-used benefits for veterans:

Burial at a VA, state or tribal veterans cemetery, and headstones or markers for veterans buried in private cemeteries.

According to VA officials, just 20% of eligible veterans who died last year were buried in a VA-managed or -supported cemetery, a benefit that comes at no cost to the veteran's family. And fewer than half who qualified for a burial allowance or headstone used the opportunity,

The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) is raising awareness of little-used benefits for veterans: burial at a VA, state or tribal veterans cemetery, and headstones or markers for veterans buried in private cemeteries.

The VA manages 155 cemeteries nationwide and funds an additional 121 state, territorial and tribal veterans cemeteries. Veterans who are eligible for VA burial benefits include all who were discharged under something other than dishonorable conditions; spouses or surviving spouses of eligible veterans; dependent children; and some others. The VA has a goal to ensure that 95% of the nation's 19 million veterans live within 75 miles of a VA or VA-supported cemetery; currently, the department is "just shy" of 94%. <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/01/25/va-wants-vets-use-their-benefits-when-choosing-final-resting->

Some clickable links—call if you want a hard copy of the info

[2024 VA Disability Pay Rates](#)

[2024 Veterans Pension Rates](#)—You don't need 20 years if your assets and income qualify.

[Retirees, Civilians, Want to Live in Base Housing? Yes, You Can!](#)



Movie Night in the After Battery

HUNTER KILLER—An untested American submarine captain teams with U.S. Navy SEALs to rescue the Russian president, who has been kidnapped by a rogue general. 2 hrs, made 2018

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1846589/>

Exciting, well made, I give it 4 stars. One drawback: the after battery crowd would have a lot of hooting and hollering over the many technical gaffs and strategy baloney.—ed. -

More info : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hunter_Killer_%28film%29

SURFIN' SUBMARINER

Update to sinking of Chinese Nuclear sub. Originally suspected lost on 15 Mar 2023, details have not been forthcoming from the Chinese. This video provides some very plausible and likely information on what happened. The 22 min vid also has other sub news. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=3X2BjWnq9R8>

Submarines lying close off San Diego beaches, including the amazing S-37, Lie down in darkness

Author: [Bob Owens Sept. 10, 1992](#)

Project Subsearch : the names of 13 such subs beneath local waters: S-37, Slapjack, Searaven, Tuna, Moray, Sabalo, Skate, Aspro, Archerfish, Burrfish, Red-fish, Sea Devil, and Trepang.

<https://www.sandiegoreader.com/news/1992/sep/10/lie-down-darkness/>

[Author is no relation. I tried to update the information of the article and "project subsearch, but nothing was found. —ed.] More on the S-37 and submarine factoids about submarine things around San Diego, including the Maritime Museum. https://www.ussjpkennedyjr.org/submarines-in-san-diego-protecting-american-interests-in-the-pacific/#google_vignette

Soviet sail-less super-sub—[Project 673 sub](#)

In the early 1960s Russian engineers started to design the follow-on attack submarines which would close the gap or exceed the American boats. Rather than stealth, they focused their attention on speed. Several innovative solutions were designed into the **Project 673** boat. It was to be built from titanium alloys which are both lighter and stronger than steel and do not corrode.

The nuclear reactor was to be a high-power lead-bismuth liquid-metal-cooled nuclear plant which had the feature of solidifying in case of a leak. This was both an effective safety feature and an Achilles' heel as the reactor could not be brought back into operation if this occurred. The Project 673 submarine was designed as an interceptor boat, to be kept in port and sent out in the event of an intruding NATO submarine. It was therefore designed for speed. <http://www.hisutton.com/Project%20673%20sub.html>

Pinatubo's 1991 eruption served as shattering finale to US basing in Philippines

Stars and Stripes • June 14, 2021

"Ash, smoke and mayhem descended onto Clark Air Base when nearby Mount Pinatubo erupted three decades ago in the Philippines."

"Such was the power of Pinatubo's eruption, ripping a hole in the earth, tearing a community apart and, ultimately, severing America's longtime ties with Clark. Within a year, the United States would abandon the base devastated by thick ash from "the most powerful eruption of the 20th century that occurred in a populated area,"

Read more at: https://www.stripes.com/theaters/asia_pacific/2021-06-14/Mount-Pinatubo%E2%80%99s-1991-eruption-served-as-shattering-finale-to-US-basing-in-Philippines-1680522.html

and [Complete History-](https://www.paf.mil.ph/bases/clark-air-base) <https://www.paf.mil.ph/bases/clark-air-base>

Clark Air Base was formerly transferred to Philippine control on 26 November 1991. Clark Air Base was reopened and renamed the "Clark Special Economic Zone" in 1993 as a tax-free area meant to encourage an influx of business and economic growth. The airfields and directly related buildings were renamed "Clark International Airport" and were put under the management of the government-run "Clark International Airport Corporation" and reopened for traffic in 1995. In 2003, Philippine President Gloria Arroyo renamed the airport "Diosdado Macapagal International Airport" in honor of her father, who had also been president. Currently usage includes operation of Philippine AF.



BINNACLE LIST ☞ *Send your health reports so shipmates can know how you're doing.*

It is a family report this issue.

Roy Owens (my brother) QM3(SS) 66-68 got the wanderlust and went on a trip to Viet Nam and Thailand where he got very sick, had a bladder and bowel blockage. The learning experience gives a new appreciation for the medical system in the U.S. Returning home on the 22nd of Feb, he still has many symptoms and today is on the way to the VA emergency room in Grand Junction (5 Mar)

* * *

Jeff Owens—I am still doing physical therapy for a whiplash injury from being rear ended on the interstate in Scranton. My treatment was interrupted by a case of RSV from 29 Dec to 29 Jan. Getting back to feeling 80 again. Thankfully, it's been unseasonably warm and no snow shoveling has been needed.

Submarine Wrecks

<https://laststandonzombieisland.com/tag/submarine-wreck/>

Interesting web site describing a number of sub wrecks. One story told is that of the **Stickleback** sinking which most of you know that Sabalo was on scene.

What I found fascinating was the many pics.

Above pic is the crew's quarters of the S-4 in 1919. ...It's a real dance hall! I imagine it wasn't always so sterile while in operations underway. Wonder what happened during up & down angles? -ed.

RECENT TELCONS ☎

4Dec23 Bob Herrold QM3(SS) Oct54-Dec55 moved & downsized and now resides in Homestead Twp, OH
5Mar24 John Belew SO3(SS) Jun52-Jun54 muatered in fm Ankeny , IA -ag 91 and doing well.



Enlisted Sailors Report High Levels of Stress in New Navy Survey 16Feb24 USNI

Nearly two in five enlisted sailors say they feel severely or extremely stressed, according to newly released data from the Navy's Health of the Force survey.

Approximately 41 percent of enlisted sailors with ranks between E-1 to E-6 reported feeling severely or extremely stressed, with 36 percent of enlisted sailors E-7 to E-9 saying the same

"The [stress] rates are going up as gaps at-sea increase, as well. According to the latest numbers, there are now 22,000 gaps at-sea for enlisted sailors between E-1 to E-4, while overall the gaps at-sea were about 21,000, [USNI News previously reported](#). The reason the overall number is lower is due to an overabundance of sailors E-5 and above in some billets."

[Full Article](#) [When evaluated along with recruiting shortages, poses a big problem in manning ships with qualified and competent personnel. Is this just a result of general societal norms being poorer than the past? - ed comment]

No Diploma? No Problem! Navy Again Lowers Requirements as it Struggles to Meet Recruitment Goals
The U.S. Navy is starting to enlist individuals who didn't graduate from high school or get a GED, marking the second time in about a year that the service has opened the door to lower-performing recruits. Last year, the Navy's enlistment goal was 37,700, but the service brought in just 31,834. This year the goal is higher — at 40,600. The total size of the Navy for 2024 is set at 337,800. ... [Read more: https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/01/27/no-diploma-no-problem-navy-again-lowers-requirements-it-struggles-meet-recruitment-goals.html](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/01/27/no-diploma-no-problem-navy-again-lowers-requirements-it-struggles-meet-recruitment-goals.html)

Military leaders do what makes them look good
<https://highlandcountypress.com/opinions/military-leaders-do-what-makes-them-look-good#gsc.tab=0>

_The link provides an excerpt from Bruce Fleming's new book, *Saving Our Service Academies*

"Leaders to Serve the Nation," say banners placed all over the Yard of the US Naval Academy, where I have been an English professor since 1987, and that pop up on the Web. This implies perhaps that all graduates are leaders? That leaders cannot be got elsewhere? That only Naval Academy graduates serve the nation? That all of them do?

"We present ourselves as a leadership institution – though, of course, West Point claims the same. Its website says, "The Preeminent Leadership Development Institution." I guess "leadership" is what you learn at a military institution."
..."Commanding officers (and keep in mind that people change places continually in the military, so many of these "rotate in" after the fact and have no knowledge of the specific cases they are asked to deal with) are unwilling, especially as new arrivals, to seem at all approving of those who have even been accused

¹³ (even if found innocent) of any of the marquee offenses of our day. These newly arrived commanding officers, rather like the eternally new superintendents at the US Naval Academy, will almost always protect their own careers by throwing these young—and frequently innocent—officers to the sharks. The mere accusation was enough for someone in charge to refuse to forward the junior officers' promotion papers. The young officer is not merely guilty until proven innocent, he (as it most likely is) is guilty although found innocent."

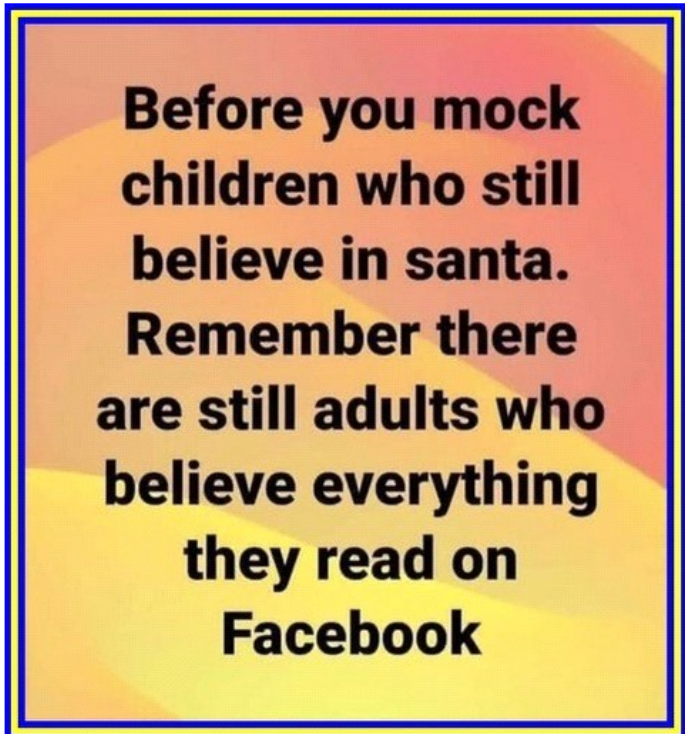
[The entire article must be read to get the full impact of the author. Bruce Fleming has taught at USNA since 1987. ...makes one wonder if his tenure and age allows him the position of the very critical observations he has made without personal fear of repercussion. - ed.]

Cell Phones at Boot Camp: Navy Will Let Some Recruits Use Their Devices 29Nov23 (excerpts below)

"This is a terrible idea," another commenter, whose profile had pictures of him in a Navy chief petty officer uniform, wrote before noting that the point of basic training is "to harden young men and women to defend our country, to break them of old habits and toughen them up for the job ahead."

Meanwhile, the Navy's social media post said that the service's intent "is to expand this same opportunity to all Recruit Divisions over time," and the service promised a Frequently Asked Questions page "in the near future to answer questions."

While the motivation behind this change is not clear from the post, the move comes at a time when the service is [not only struggling](#) to make [recruiting](#) numbers but is also making changes to existing policies to help recruits in the door and into uniform. <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/29/>



.....
If voting made any difference, they wouldn't let you.
.....
. . . Mark Twain . . .

SHIP'S STORE

Sabalo Patch

\$ 11 includes 1st Class Mail



Battle Flag Posters—
REDUCED PRICE \$20 includes shipping (16 1/2" x 21" fits std 16x20 frame) - *a number of you guys asked for these and never responded, so I am just trying to get back some of the money I spent to get them !*

- https://usssabalo.org/Ship's_Store.html See web site for other current items available. If you are looking for something specific, not on the web site, please contact me.



T-SHIRT

Submariner

noun. Sub-mah-ree-ner

1. someone who operates stuff you can't.

***** Hurry! LAST CALL! *****

Still taking orders to get enough for a sizable batch. If you want one or more get on the list **ASAP**. Design is borrowed from similar found on the 'net. Planning for 2 variations: white lettering on navy blue or on [Rothco blue digital camo](#) (similar to the Navy blueberry) Expected price ~\$20 +shipping

What sub sailors wear: (explanation of pics on page 2)

<https://thesubmergedlife.com/2022/09/08/the-ultimate-guide-to-submarine-uniforms/>

1. In my day this was the regulation uniform - the dungaree uniform goes way back, but at some point it was determined that it was difficult to 'care for' (only because some people wanted tight creases and no wrinkles. - it could also stain easy being mostly cotton material.) Dungarees were the work uniform from 1913 until 1999. Transitions between uniform changes were gradual and many times on a command -by-command shift. For a while the uniforms required seem to be more numerous than a teenage girl's closet.

In 2010, the Navy adopted the current service uniform with black slacks and a pleated khaki top. Traditionally, khakis have distinguished chief petty officers and officers from junior enlisted Sailors. The Navy service uniform (NSU) that Sailors wear now was implemented to reduce the number of seasonal uniforms each Sailor needed to own. (pics have been published in past issues of the Clever Boy.) History of Uniforms: <https://www.doncio.navy.mil/chips/ArticleDetails.aspx?ID=7904>

2. About 2012- 2019 "Blueberry" camo

3. What submariners wore in 2022 - Stupid 'land colored' camo. "No trees to hide behind on a sub." (justified on the basis that they "hid stains". <https://thesubmergedlife.com/2022/09/08/the-ultimate-guide-to-submarine-uniforms/>)

4. The "poopy (alt sp poopie) suit" in different versions has been used as far back as the 1960's, These are strictly for shipboard use, and cannot be worn off base. They may even be limited in certain on base locations.

Early versions used wrinkle free polyester with a knit collar for comfort. Then they figured out that polyester melts easily and these things were a fire hazard. (I had one when I was on Sabalo that I traded a nuke boat guy for. Might still be in one of my bins somewhere around here.) Various versions improved on it over time. It has been used in a one piece coverall and a two piece shirt and pants version. They are now made from a flame resistant material.

5. This is the current uniform. There was a time when they were worn without insignia. Lower enlisted wore a blue web belt; chiefs and officers wore a khaki belt. These new versions are now used on both subs and surface vessels.

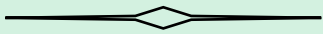
Jimmy Carter

Becomes First Living President Honored With A White House Christmas Tree Ornament

The one-of-a-kind ornament features numerous symbols relating to Carter's legacy. Read article in Southern Living: <https://apple.news/A96S-EOAwRPyvUDDrVR4llw>

The White House Historical Association has created the Official White House Christmas Ornament since 1981. According to the association, "each ornament sequentially focuses on a president's time in the White House or a significant White House anniversary."

The Official 2024 White House Christmas Ornament was made in America by a veteran-founded business. It retails for \$24.95 and is available [online](#) and in select Washington D.C. stores.



President Carter's Navy Experience

In early 1949, just out of sub school he went to POMFRET (SS-391), She operated in the Pacific for the rest of 1949 and 1950. In the summer of 1950 she changed homeports to San Diego.

In the fall of 1950 LT Carter received orders as senior officer to the pre-commissioning crew of USS K-1, (later called BARRACUDA), then under construction at Electric

Boat in Groton. After USS K-1's commissioning on November 10, 1951, LT Carter served as Operations and Gunnery Officer. The sub operated off the New England coast and made occasional trips to the Caribbean. Carter later described his service on K-1 as "tough, dangerous, and demanding." He earned his coveted command qualifications while onboard.

After interviewing with then-Captain Hyman Rickover in 1951, LT Carter was accepted into the Navy's nuclear power program. He was assigned to the pre-commissioning crew of USS SEAWOLF (SSN-575), under construction at Groton, but the crew was in Schenectady to be close to Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory where General Electric was building a prototype of SEAWOLF's reactor. Carter was the senior officer on the pre-com crew. His work involved observing the reactor's construction, teaching advanced mathematics to SEAWOLF's enlisted crewmembers, and traveling to different sites involved in reactor planning and construction. He served in SEAWOLF from 1951-53. He then decided to leave the Navy and return to peanut farming in Georgia.

[As President, the full impact of his Presidency requires more years of reflection to develop a complete view of his legacy. He does have the distinction of being the only President to have actually served on submarines. -ed.]

PRESIDENTS ON SUBS

Teddy Roosevelt was the first president to go aboard a boat, and since FDR (prevented from going aboard due to his polio disability) every president has, at one time or another in his life, been aboard a submarine. Only a few have actually been to sea and submerged.

Harry Truman was vacationing in Key West, Florida, in November 1946 when he went to sea on the former German submarine U-2513. Ike was on S-32 and Seawolf.

Read about all the various President's sub experiences:

<https://archive.navalsubleague.org/1992/presidents-and-submarines>

2nd part: <https://archive.navalsubleague.org/1992/presidents-and-submarines-2>

"Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell 'em, "Certainly, I can!" Then get busy and find out how to do it."

... THEODORE ROOSEVELT

There's nothing scarier than that split second when you lose your balance in the shower and you think, "They are going to find me naked."

Today I was a hero. I rescued some beer that was trapped in a bottle.

Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity. Henry Van Dyke

On Eternal Patrol



SAILORS
REST YOUR OAR



Abbott, Ernest Lee, Jr. d.17 Dec 2016, ag 91,Napa, CA, was IC1(SS) in 302; later ICC(SS), then LT Ret. 1972, also in 565, 574, 566

Banks, Joseph Lewis, Sr. d.5 Dec 2019, ag 83, Conyers, GA, was HM2 in 302 Apr61-Nov61

Buttita, Thomas James, Jr., d.12 May 2021, N.Las Vegas, NV, was FN on 302 Feb68-2q68

Espana, Francisco Javier 'Frank', d, 22 Nov 2023, ag 87 , SanMateo, CA, was IC3(SS) in 302, later in 282, 317, 311, 323, 585, 484, 591, 615, 605, 595, changed rating to ET; Retired as ETC(SS) 1975

Everhart, Joseph Douglas, d. 14 Oct 2023, ag 83, Ladson, SC, was QM3(SS) in 302 Jun64-Apr65; also in 612

Gunter, James Raymond, d. 17 Jun 2022, ag 79, Fayetteville, GA, was FTG3(SS) in 302, also in 282, bur. Georgia National Cem.

Kotrola, Joe Sheldon 'JoeDon' (alt sp. Surname: Kotrla-Chipps), d. 25 Jan 2018, ag 79, Round Rock, TX was EM1(SS) in 302 Jun64-?64, other boats 269, 337, 351, 349, 348, 20 yrs service. Ret,?

Obit w/pic: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23546266/joe-sheldon-kotrla>

McPolin, Paul J., d. 19 Feb 2024, ag 82, Staten Is, NY, was SK3(SS) in 302 Aug60-Sep61

Obit w/pic: <https://www.scaliahome.com/obituaries/Paul-Mcpolin/#!/Obituary>

Rufo, Eugenio Balcita, d. 20 Oct 2023, ag 90, N. Las Vegas, NV, was EMC(SS) in 302 Aug67-Sep68, other boats: SS-489, SS-390, SS-282, SSG-577,

Obit w/pic: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/las-vegas-nv/eugenio-rufo-11508534>



EDITOR'S NOTE: STATISTICS : In Feb 2020 I corresponded with one of the Sabalo men about the database. At that time the number of known deceased was 755. As of this issue the number is 904. More than half of the increase is from those who died in the past 3 years, the remainder are those men who's information comes from continued 'net searching and a few from notice by other shipmates or relatives.

From time to time, I do a comprehensive search to verify those on the list, and to extend the search for those who have never been located to date. In the process, I sadly find many have passed away.

Previously reported : As we age, time has a way of slipping away from us, faster and faster as the years pass. That's how it feels to me anyway. "Herding Cats" is how Ron Gorence and I have referred to trying to keep track of Sabalo vets. And Gorence was even further involved with chasing down submariners. He was the membership chair of San Diego Base of USSVI with over 250 members, and he was also the principle organizer of the USS Razorback Association. "Cats don't herd", we always said.

I try to record in the Sabalo database every time I have a contact with anyone just so I know who is still kicking, and where they were last, so in case I lose contact I know where to start looking. Before finishing composition of this issue, a final attempt to fully revise the list and check on many not heard from for maybe 8 years or more resulted in the mailing of more than 40 sample back issue copies of the Clever Boy and about 45 post cards were sent to those without email or not responding to previous emails sent. Next issue will include the report of results.

ON THE SUBJECT OF SUNKEN SUBS:

Found on a blog: "Last time I saw my ship was 50 years ago when I got out of the USN. I had always hope to see her again, but never did before it was decommissioned and scrapped. I can't imagine what it would be like to see your ship....your home...with your friends, young forever, entombed in it at the bottom of the ocean."

This brought to mind the fact that searching for the resting place of lost boats continues and modern technology has made possible the discovery of many in recent years.

Every time I see the [pic of Sabalo in her final resting place](#), I also get feelings of my home for almost three years and the exciting travels, great relationships and knowledge gained. For those who may have also experienced the loss of shipmates, it seems like a mighty emotion.

I have had conversations with a few, who were transferred, or missed movement for one reason or another, and then their old boat went down. It's a haunting thought. -ed.

THE LAST ONE by Mike Hemming

Out of the morning mist she appears, a still sinister, low black shape. As she goes, two men get out of a car and walk to the water's edge. Both are in uniform, the oldest put her in commission and fought a war in her. Then he returned at the end of his career to make her last cruise and decommission her. Retired now, he puts on his uniform once more to say goodbye. All the boats he served on are decommissioned and gone now.

The younger man, his son, qualified on her and sailed on her for 4 years before returning to civilian life. He too wears his uniform for one last goodbye.

They both watch silently as she slips by, headed down river to the sea one last time. From this distance, softened by the low fog, she looks well cared for like she was when they sailed her. The man-years they and others spent on her are over now and will only be memories fading away. Father and son salute for the others as she passes abreast of them. The black hull moves on and fades back into the mists of her last journey. Slipping quietly through calm glassy water, she becomes a black ghost of steel.

The father and son hold their salutes as she fades from black to gray to gone in the mist. The tugs mournful foghorn is the last evidence they hear of her. Dropping their arms and turning away, they both catch the sadness in each other's eyes. But as they walk side by side, without words, smiles and twinkles return to their eyes. A memory of shipmates, and of times good and bad, but mostly good, return. Memories of her steel, strong and true, that protected her men from the dangers of the deep oceans and her country's enemies. Memories that remind them how much they owe this deep-sea lady.

Because these men and others remember her, she will not yet die. Because men loved her, she became more than steel, she became alive to them. Because men loved her, will she ever fade completely from men's hearts?

"Buddy Check" ☞ DO IT TODAY !!

In the last issue it was emphasized to make a call or send an email to an old shipmate:

"TO ALL SABALO VETS: WHY DON'T YOU TRY CONTACTING SOMEONE YOU HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO IN YEARS. It's great food for the soul. [Call me for contact info for your shipmate-ed.]"

No reports have been received that anyone did this. Maybe you didn't have the full contact info. If you couldn't make contact with someone using the web site info, then give me a call and I'll get it even if he isn't indicated to have been located previously.



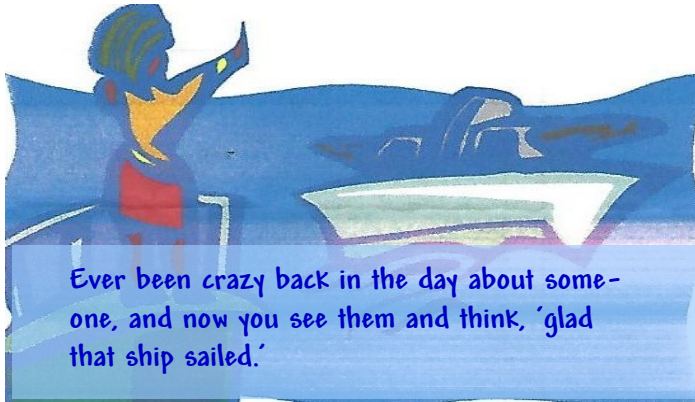
READER'S PUKE

"Spy Ships", by Norman Polmar and Lee J. Mathers.

Review fm Fred Holcomb ET1(SS)'66-69 *Matthew 6:20* -I have just started reading this book. Part of it gives a good summary of submarine spy missions during the Cold War including collisions with Russian subs. I skipped ahead to read the Pueblo details and the EC-121M Navy Recon aircraft lost to North Korea. (sse below**) I recommend this book for some interesting reading. For instance, did you know that we tapped two telephone lines? The Halibut tapped one in the Sea Of Okhotsk. Parche tapped another off Kola Peninsula near Severodvinsk shipyard. The Magadan-Kamchatka one was lost to Soviet salvage operations after its location along with other secrets were sold to them by Ronald Pelton, an NSA analyst.

**14 Apr. 1969 - A Navy EC-121M aircraft from Squadron VQ-1 was shot down by North Korean aircraft over the Sea of Japan. Thirty Naval personnel and one Marine were killed. Sabalo was on station in the Tonkin Gulf at the time and shortly afterward was dispatched with a large battle group of surface craft, and possibly two or three other subs, to the Sea of Japan in waters off the coast of North Korea as a response to this act of aggression.

Addtl info on the subject: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Ivy_Bells
<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2018/08/16/book-wiretapping-changed-cold-war/>



Ever been crazy back in the day about someone, and now you see them and think, 'glad that ship sailed.'

"The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history."

GEORGE ORWELL

**If you ain't the lead dog,
the scenery never changes.**

LEFT IN THE WAKE

Correction: In the last issue the link was for a site that required registering. So an easier link is below.

Especially for those who have actually been 'under sail', or anyone who may feel the serenity of calm seas and smooth sailing:

The Soul of a Sailor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ee5L55cX888>

— a song by Kenny Chesney
Great song—give it a listen

And another site about the song

[Meaning of Soul of a Sailor \(w/ piano only music\)](#)

[Piano playing isn't that great, but the text is worth time to read. —ed.]

He walked in with a salty sway
Lookin' like Blackbeard in his day
A brother in arms just like me
I was born a son of the sea
I can't be still, I can't be tied
The only time I feel alive is

When the wind fills my sail
Riding on a lifelong swell
Let my heart take me where it wants to go
That's the soul of a sailor, the soul of a sailor

He slid a stool and a beer to me
Said, you know, we're both a dying breed
Here's to love lost and new found friends
And living out life in the boat we're in
I can't be still, I can't be tied
The only time I feel alive is

When the wind fills my sail
Riding on a lifelong swell
Let my heart take me where it wants to go
That's the soul of a sailor, the soul of a sailor

Let my heart take me where it wants to go
That's the soul of a sailor, the soul of a sailor