

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023

The Base CDR, Brian Haller, called the meeting to order at 1034 on June 10, 2023, at American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA 22192, and welcomed all members and guests attending in person and on Zoom.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Jim Beavers, Steve Bishop, Bruce Byrd, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Steve Fisher, Mickey Garverick, Pat Haller, Brian Haller, Chuck Martin, Bud Cunnally, Terry Nelson, Paul Nelson, Tim Oliver, Joe Phoenix, Barb Smith (Brian's sister), Penny Wallace, George Wallace, Mike Varone, and Lawrence Woodworth (20 total; 18 members). All hands introduced themselves and identified their qualification year and boat.

■ Holland Club Member

■ Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The COB, Mike Varone, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chaplain, Mickey Garverick, delivered the Invocation.

After a moment of silence, the VCDR, George Wallace, read the list of boats lost in June and July. These were:

USS Herring (SS-233)	June 1, 1944
USS R-12 (SS-89)	June 12, 1943
USS Golet (SS-361)	June 14, 1944
USS S-27 (SS-132)	June 19, 1942
USS Bonefish (SS-223)	June 19, 1945
USS O-9 (SS-70)	June 20, 1941
USS Runner (SS-275)	June 26, 1943
USS S-28 (SS-133)	July 4, 1944
USS Robalo (SS-273)	July 26, 1944
USS Grunion (SS-216)	July 30, 1942

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBER WHO DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL SINCE OUR LAST BASE MEETING:

- CAPT David S. Cooper, USN, Ret. – USSVI Holland Club and Life Member. Qualified aboard USS Dace (SSN-607), 1967. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on June 4, 2023. Information on a memorial service and burial will be provided when known.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBERS DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL IN JUNE AND JULY:

- **Richard S. Lowry**, Qualified on USS Ulysses S. Grant (SSBN-631) in 1968. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 24 June 2017.
- **William "Rod" Puffer**, Holland Club and USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Pickerel (SS-524) in 1953. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 20 June 2013.
- **William J. Douglas**, Holland Club Member. Qualified on USS Grampus (SS-523) in 1957. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 1 July 2020.

- **Robert “Dex” Armstrong**, Holland Club Member. Qualified on USS Requin (SS-481) in 1960. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 8 July 2014.

The COB then rang the bell twice in remembrance of the 38 USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIAM:

- CAPT Herbert Bauer, USN, Ret. – 25 April 2023
- CAPT Richard Mark Kadlick, USN, Ret. – 29 April 2023
- CAPT Aaron Bruce Johnson, USN, Ret. – 12 May 2023
- CAPT Thomas W. Turner, USN, Ret. – 15 May 2023
- CAPT Elmer "Sonny" Mann, USN, Ret. – 19 May 2023
- LCDR Karl Olin Shipps, USN, Ret. – 26 May 2023
- CAPT Marshall T. Slayton, USN, Ret. – 27 May 2023
- CDR William H. McGann III, USN, Ret. – 30 May 2023

The Submarine Historian, Woody Woodworth, read an article on Submarine History for us – Discovery of the Wreck of USS Albacore. This article is lengthy, so it is appended at the end of these minutes.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the May meeting were distributed by e-mail. Minutes were accepted as promulgated.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Howard Chatham, presented the following:

NOVA Base Treasurer's Report for June 10, 2023

● Beginning Cash on Hand:	\$11,229.41
● Plus Receipts:	
•NFCU Dividends (April)	\$0.10
•Donation to Base from Chuck Martin	\$1,000.00
•Donation to Base from Joe Phoenix	\$10.00
•Payment for J. Minich HC cert/coin from Joe Phoenix	\$90.00
•Holland Club Luncheon	\$1,000.00
•Donation to Base from Mike Varone for Dale City Ad	\$10.00
•Storekeeper sales	\$47.00
● Minus Expenditures:	
•Payment to Amphora for Holland Club luncheon	\$1120.00
•Reimbursement to SK for Longevity Pins	\$106.25
•Reimbursement to IPCDR for plaque engraving	\$118.72
Ending Cash on Hand:	\$12,041.54
Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	\$1,379.40
Total Local Discretionary Funds	\$10,662.14
● USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	\$3,054.10
Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	\$4,433.50

The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

An audit will be conducted by the Assistant Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, as soon as his health allows.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Howard Chatham reported:

- Membership information
 - 82 Members
 - 45 Holland Club Members
 - 02 WW II Members
 - 28 Regular Members
 - 15 – Base Life Members
 - 13 – Base Annual Members
 - 09 Associate Members

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD – The Executive Committee met on 31 May via Zoom. The meeting agenda included committee reports, meeting-related items, old business, new business, and meeting/event planning.

VCDR: Nothing To Report (NTR)

COB: NTR

Public Relations: NTR

Chaplain: Mickey Garverick called the meeting attendees' attention to the four chaplains who went down with the torpedoed SS Dorchester, an American troop ship, on February 3, 1943, after helping other soldiers to board lifeboats and giving up their own life jackets when the supply ran out.

Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS): Steve Bishop passed around a sign-up sheet for what times/dates are good or bad for members to participate in the K4K visits he wants to plan with the Child Life Specialists in the near future. He hopes that a July K4K visit is possible.

WEBMASTER:

With the current situation with the National websites, our Base officers recommend using the "old" website at: ussubvets.org.

BASE SK: The new NOVA Base SK Catalog has been distributed to All Hands. Contact the Base SK, at storekeeper@ussvinova.org if you are interested in purchasing any items in our or the National catalog.

NE Regional/NE District 4 News - EN4 District CDR Chuck Martin.

- The Northeast Region District Commanders election closes on 30 June. You can only vote for the District Commander for your primary Base. Ballots may be returned either via email to DirectorNERegion@outlook.com or by mail to Les Altschuler, 228 N Pondview Blvd, Monroe Twp., NJ 08831-5541. Emailed ballots must be received by June 30th and mailed ballots postmarked no later than June 30th to be counted.
- Summer is a busy time, so check the NE4 District events calendar to see if there is an event you may want to attend.
- The Annual Base Activities Report is due this month.
- The USSVI National Convention is from 28 August through 3 September in Tucson, AZ. To get the special room rate you must book your hotel reservation by 31 July.

NSL – [Tim Oliver and George Wallace spoke]:

- The next NSL Luncheon will be held on 23 June at the Army-Navy Country Club.
- Tim Oliver reported that a Zoom meeting was held with USSVI personnel regarding bases establishing or joining Submarine Clubs. He specifically noted that clubs are needed for USS Alexandria and USS Virginia.
- The new NSL Capitol Chapter President, John Newton, will assume office on 23 June.

- Volunteers needed! The NSL is hosting a cookout for the Biannual International Submarine Races on 30 June at NSWC Carderock Division. We need enough people to keep the grills going and the food line stocked for about 310 hungry people. Please contact Eric Holloway at eholloway@spa.com if you can assist. He will work directly with volunteers on base access and logistics. Come early and see some of the races. This is a fun event and a chance to interact with some great college teams. <https://internationalsubmarineraces.org/>
- 2023 Annual Symposium & Industry Update
 - 7-8 NOVEMBER 2023, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA

ISA/USA – [Bud Cunnally spoke]

- Future Congress Locations –
 - 2024 Ireland (hosted by ISA/USA) to be held the last two weeks in May. He needs volunteers to work on/at the congress. He noted that they have 250 attendees signed up so far.
 - 2026 France has expressed an interest.
 - 2025 Unknown
- To join the International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA Inc.) visit their website at <http://www.isausa.org/> for an application. Lifetime Membership is \$50.00.
- The Irish hotel situation is complicated because many Irish hotels have converted their rooms to accommodate refugees from Ukraine.

Upcoming Submarine Reunions – [VCDR read]

- USS Scamp (SSN 588) June 12-16, 2023, Groton, CT
- USS Sunfish (SSN 649) June 14-18, 2023, Nashua, NH
- USS Archerfish (SS 311/SSN 678) August 24-26, 2023, Groton, CT
- USS Bergall (SS 320/SSN 667) September 13-17, 2023, Cleveland, OH
- USS Rasher (SS/SSR/AGSS 269) September 13-17, 2023, Buffalo, NY
- USS Lapon (SSN 661) September 14-17, 2023, San Antonio, TX
- USS Angler (SS 240) September 24-28, 2023, Pigeon Forge, TN
- USS John Adams (SSBN 620) September 28 – October 1, Amelia Island, FL
- The reunions at the USSVI annual convention are appended to these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The NOVA Veterans Association and Dulles Area Transportation Association provide free transportation to medical appointments for Veterans who are disabled or over the age of 65.
 - Coverage areas are Alexandria, Arlington, Eastern Loudoun, Fairfax, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William.
 - Contact by phone at 703-659-0788 or by email at melissa@novavets.org

NEW BUSINESS:

- MOAA is encouraging their members to write to their congressmen opposing changes to eligibility for burial in Arlington National Cemetery.
- The Base is looking for volunteers to be walkers in the Dale City 4th of July Parade. The Base CDR requested that any volunteers identify themselves or contact him.

- The USS Hyman G. Rickover Commissioning Committee is soliciting contributions for support of the crew. If you would like to contribute to the committee in the name of the Base, we had a container at the meeting for contributions. If you care to contribute directly, the commissioning committee's letter with contribution information is attached to these meeting minutes.

The Base CDR awarded the USSVI Longevity pins to those in the audience who are celebrating the anniversary of their 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years as members of USSVI. Those who deserved pins, but were not present, had theirs mailed to them by the Base Secretary the week after the meeting. Awardees are:

- 1 Year
 - Jim Beavers
 - Bruce Byrd
 - Tom DeBenedetto
 - Bill Lawton
 - Nancy O'Brien
 - Stephanie Treece
- 5 Year
 - Joe Castell
 - Bill Lehan
- 10 Year
 - David Gault
 - Mike Harmody
 - David Oliver
- 15 Year
 - Al Anceravage
 - Ron Grabowski
 - Jim Kraut
 - Ed Mattran
 - Francis McNamara
 - Tim Oliver
- 20 Year
 - Rodey Batiza
 - Bill Clement
 - Chuck Martin
 - Bruce Miller
 - Mark Riethmeier
- 25 Year
 - Mickey Garverick
 - Louis Maruzo
 - Willie Petruy
- 30 Year
 - Tim Shannon



Jim Beavers, Bruce Byrd, and Mickey Garverick getting their pins.

Joe Phoenix requested a moment of new business to thank the Base officers and other volunteers for service to the Base.

BINNACLE LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers: Al Anceravage, Debbie Bishop, Art Bivens, Francis McNamara, and Tom Perrault.

For the Good of the Order, the CDR read the list of birthdays for June and July: Debbie Bishop, Marcy Bivens, Dan Burke, Bruce Byrd, Brian Haller, Jim Huck, William Lehan, Mike Niblack, Tony Poblete, Art Rosen, Lee Turner, William Decker, Thomas Fortier, and Robert Gilmore.

50/50 Raffle The raffle was won by Jim Beavers who donated his winnings back to the Base. Thank you, Jim!

OUR NEXT BASE EVENT WILL BE THE DALE CITY 4TH OF JULY PARADE.

ON JULY 8 AT 1800, WE WILL HAVE OUR INFORMAL DINING OUT AT KILROY'S SPORTS BAR, 5250A PORT ROYAL RD., SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151.

OUR NEXT BASE MEETING WILL BE AT:

AMERICAN LEGION POST 364

3640 FRIENDLY POST LANE

WOODBIDGE, VA 22192

AND ON ZOOM AT 1030 ON 12 AUGUST 2023. OUR AUGUST GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE RADM PAPPANO (PEO, STRATEGIC SUBMARINES).

Chaplain Mickey Garverick delivered the benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

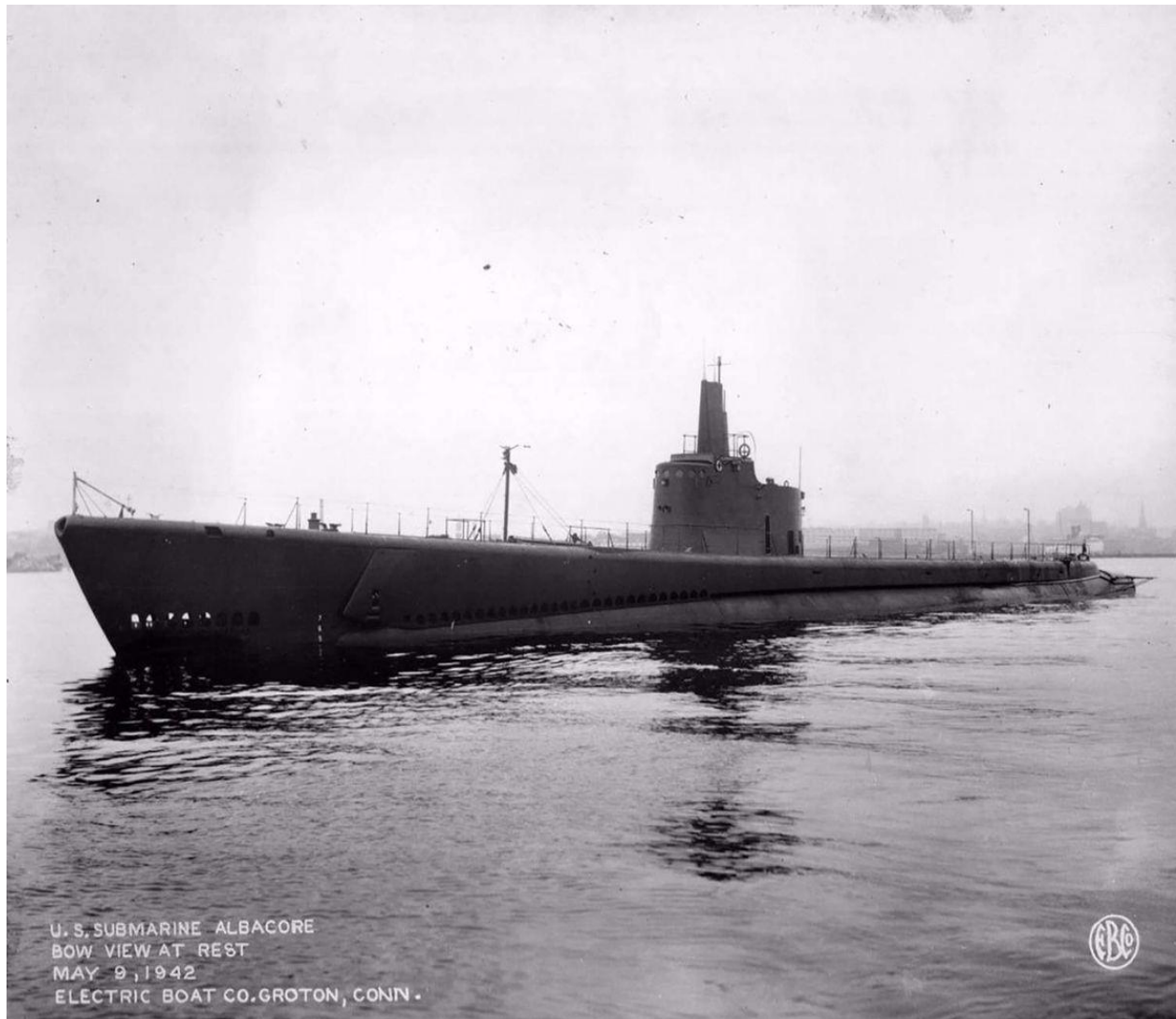
Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by
Stephen C Bishop
Secretary, USSVI Northern Virginia Base

SUBMARINE HISTORY

Wreck of WWII Submarine USS Albacore Discovered off Japan

By: [John Grady](#)

February 20, 2023



USS Albacore shortly after its launch in 1942. US Navy Photo

The Navy has confirmed the discovery of the missing World War II submarine USS *Albacore* (SS-218) off Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island by a team of Japanese researchers.

On Thursday, Naval History and Heritage Command said its Underwater Archaeology Branch used imagery and information from Tamaki Uki, a University of Tokyo specialist in developing autonomous underwater vehicles, to confirm the identity of a submarine discovered by the

researchers as *Albacore*.

Albacore had one of the most successful combat records of all Navy submarines in World War II when it sank near the strait between Hokkaido and Honshu islands, a leading shipping channel, on Nov. 7, 1944.

“As the final resting place for sailors who gave their lives in defense of our nation, we sincerely thank and congratulate Dr. Ura and his team for their efforts in locating the wreck of *Albacore*,” retired Rear Adm. Samuel Cox, the NHHC’s director said in a Navy release. “Through their hard work and continued collaboration, we could confirm *Albacore*’s identity after being lost at sea for over 70 years.”

The Gato-class submarine, built at Electric Boat and commissioned on June 1, 1942, earned nine battle stars and four Presidential Unit Citations. It is credited with sinking at least ten enemy vessels and six combatants in its service. That record included sinking IJN *Taiho*, Japan’s newest and largest armored aircraft carrier, in the Battle of the Philippines in June of 1944. The Navy added that the submarine may have sunk three other ships on its 11 combat patrols. Japanese military records report an underwater explosion, probably caused by a submarine striking a mine, at the time. Ura’s team searched those records with his specially designed, remotely operated vehicles and sensors. Volunteers working for NHHC were searching separately to establish the submarine’s wreckage location. NHHC’s release described the challenges facing the two searches: “Strong currents, marine growth, and poor visibility on site made it challenging to document the wreck or obtain comprehensive images fully. However, several key features of a late 1944 Gato-class submarine were identified in the video. Indications of documented modifications made to *Albacore* before her final patrol include the presence of an SJ Radar dish and mast, a row of vent holes along the top of the superstructure, and the absence of steel plates along the upper edge of the fairwater allowed UAB to confirm.” Ura, a fellow in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, has been recognized for his research and work in developing “valuable tools for deep-sea exploration.” This includes “a precise seabed positioning system with a resolution of a few centimeters” used in operations like those to identify the wreckage of *Albacore*.

Ura launched his *Albacore* exploration project in 2020 but stopped the work with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the online journal *Academist*, he wrote, “On May 25 and 26, 2022, we scanned the research area with multibeam sonar and discovered a 50-meter-long sunken vessel on the seafloor at a depth of 237 meters, about 7 km off the coast of Esan, Hakodate. A small ROV showed us the ship’s bridge, and we confirmed it was a submarine. We were convinced it was the U.S. Navy submarine “*Albacore*” based on a synthesis of information from 78 years ago.”

This discovery narrowed the team’s search, eventually leading to the confirmed identification. Ura told Japanese broadcaster NHK, “Using a high-performance sonar that searches underwater with sound waves, we discovered what seems to be a hull of about (164 feet) in the seabed of about (820 feet). ... When I submerged the underwater robot camera and took a picture, I caught a part that seems to be a bridge and a pillar that looks like a periscope.”

NHHC has jurisdiction over the wreckage, and U.S. law under the Abandoned Shipwrecks Act bars intrusion. The release added, “the wreck is the final resting place of sailors who gave their lives in defense of the nation and should be respected by all parties as a war grave.”



USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER Commissioning Committee

c/o Union League Club of Chicago
65 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604-3507
(312) 435-5945 • ussrickover@ulcc.org • www.ussrickover.org

HONORARY MEMBERS:

Admiral John M. Richardson (USN, Ret.)
*former Chief of Naval Operations and Director,
U.S. Navy Nuclear Propulsion Program
Honorary Co-Chair*

Admiral Cecil D. Haney (USN, Ret.)
*former Commander, U.S. Strategic Command and
Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Honorary Co-Chair*

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator, Illinois

Commander Eleonore B. Rickover (USN, Ret.)
(1930 - 2021)

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP:

William J. Nissen, Chairman
Jeffrey A. Sacks, Vice Chairman
Jeffrey Chen
Henry Chen
Michael Chioros
Brian Daley
Philip Dodson
Vice Admiral Jay Donnelly (USN, Ret.)
Bill Glynn
Jeffrey Gray
David Hanson
Tom Karaba
David Kohn
Steve Schlegel
Michael H. Traison
William Wigoda

Captain Leonard R. Wass (USN, Ret.),
Special Advisor

September 2022

To: Base Commanders of the U.S. Submarine Veterans

Dear Base Commander,

As a patriotic organization of submarine veterans who have served our nation in the submarine force, your Base is invited to join with other patriotic organizations and individuals in supporting the Commissioning Committee for the USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER (SSN-795). The Committee will provide civilian support to the RICKOVER and her crew as the RICKOVER begins service in defense of our nation, and will honor the legacy of Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, the Father of the Nuclear Navy. The specific date for the commissioning has not yet been scheduled, but it is currently expected to occur in Groton, Connecticut in May 2023.

As Chairman of the Commissioning Committee and a former Naval Officer with a desire to support those who are currently serving, I ask that your Base support the RICKOVER and its crew by making a tax-deductible donation to the Committee. Donors will achieve visibility by being recognized on our website (<https://ussrickover.org/>) and in the commemorative program for the commissioning. Depending on the level of the donation, your organization will also be entitled to an advertisement in the commemorative commissioning program and to send one or more representatives to attend the invitation-only receptions that our Committee will hold in conjunction with the commissioning. Because RICKOVER will be named for Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, who is a nationally recognized historic figure, and we expect the RICKOVER commissioning to draw a wide national group of attendees, including many submarine veterans who personally experienced the positive influence he had on the Navy.

The USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER (SSN-795) Commissioning Committee is a division of the Armed Forces Council of Chicago, which is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and your donation is deductible to the extent permitted by law. No goods or services were provided to you by the Committee in return for your donation. To the extent any goods or services that are not of insubstantial value are provided in the future, we will inform you of their estimated value at a later date.

Funds from patriotic donors such as your organization are needed for three reasons:

- The commissioning ceremony for a Navy ship is a long-standing and revered tradition that promotes patriotism among those who attend and shows the crew of the newly-commissioned vessel that the public appreciates the great sacrifices they make to defend our nation. A commissioning ceremony is costly, and Congress provides only very limited funds for basics such as bunting, attendee stands, and bus transportation from a local hotel to the ceremony. To give the crew and the public a proper ceremony, our Committee must raise funds and organize the ceremony and the accompanying celebrations.
- Donated funds are used to buy items for the crew that are not supplied by the Navy, including amenities that make life easier for the crew as they spend many months at sea in very close quarters, away from their homes and families in defense of our nation. Funds are also used for plaques and other memorabilia that honor the crew for being the "plank owners," which are the first personnel to man a ship.
- The commissioning ceremony and accompanying activities will also honor Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, an American success story who continues to inspire new generations. As a young boy, he and his family immigrated to the United States and settled in Chicago after leaving present-day Poland to escape anti-Jewish pogroms in what was then the Russian Empire. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1922, he was the driving force behind the development of the first nuclear submarine in 1955, and he became the "Father of the Nuclear Navy." With 63 years of service, he had the longest time on active military duty in U.S. history. He revolutionized Navy ship propulsion, quality control, personnel selection, and training and education to build the nation's nuclear fleet.

Please join our Committee in supporting our national defense and those who provide that defense, by donating to our Committee's work. Enclosed is a donation form with the details on how to make a donation and the recognition gifts that will be provided to donors at the various levels. If you have any questions or would like to discuss supporting the RICKOVER Commissioning Committee, please email me at wmjnissen@gmail.com or call me at 312-882-6338.

The Committee is a division of the Armed Forces Council of Chicago, which is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and your donation is deductible to the extent permitted by law. The Committee's Tax ID number is 36-3100750.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to hear from you.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William J. Nissen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'W' and 'N'.

William J. Nissen, Chairman

USSVI 2023 CONVENTION SUBMARINE REUNIONS

<u>Boat</u>	<u>Reunion Coordinator</u>	<u>Email address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
USS Gato SSN-615	Ed Sarlo	edsarlo@gmail.com	480-834-5615
USS Narwhal SSN-671	Buck Crouch	buckcrouch2@gmail.com	520-310-0181
USS Nautilus SSN-571	Roger Miller	rmiller1944@q.com	520-742-0650
USS Pintado SS-387/SSN672	Brad Seidel	bseidel57vet@yahoo.com	602-931-5298
USS Piper SS-409	Frank Whitty	whitty409@yahoo.com	508-946-5274
USS Ronquil SS-396	Richard "Ozzie" Osentowski	ussronquil@yahoo.com	734-658-9196
USS Theodore Roosevelt SSBN-600	Jim Irwin	subvetjim@gmail.com	518-383-2481
<u>T-BOATS</u>			
USS Barracuda SST-1/SSK-3,SS-550	John Delihanty	jo-lodel67@comcast.net	503-974-9305
USS Mackerel SST-204	John Delihanty	jo-lodel67@comcast.net	503-974-9305
USS Marlin SST-205	John Delihanty	jo-lodel67@comcast.net	503-974-9305
<u>PQT VETERANS ASSN.</u>			
USS Picuda SS-382	Bill Moak	golfnsurf46@aol.com	805-581-4419
USS Quillback SS-424	Bill Moak	golfnsurf46@aol.com	805-581-4419
USS Trutta SS-421	Bill Moak	golfnsurf46@aol.com	805-581-4419
USS Tang SS/AGSS-563	Jerry Predmore	chiefsailor1@gmail.com	575-740-0875
<u>CONTACTS</u>			
USSVI National Reunion Chairman	Richard "Ozzie" Osentoski	ussronquil@yahoo.com	734-658-9196
Tucson 2023 Reunion Chairman	Bob Bowe	bob_bowe@outlook.com	520-275-6712