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The official newsletter of the Wolverine Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

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MEMORIAL DAY 2019:

WOLVERINE BASE AT SALINE



For the second consecutive year the Saline community saw the “Tolling of the Boats” ceremony on Memorial Day, 2019. Wolverine Base members marched in the parade through downtown Saline to Oakwood Cemetery where the post-parade ceremonies took place. The large crowd, which traditionally follows the parade to the cemetery, stood in silence, many with their hats off, while Bob Walsh rang the bell as Phil Klintworth read the roster of lost boats.

As an added attraction this year, the idea of Base Commander Fred Kinzel, the SubVets passed out flags to children watching the parade.

Photos courtesy of Tran Longmore, *The Saline Post*

Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef

An artificial reef will be created over the next few months honoring the 65 submarines and more than 4,000 submariners lost at sea since the Navy's undersea force was created in 1900. Scattered across the world's oceans, these boats are said to be on "Eternal Patrol" because they never came back. And that's why a proposed living tribute to them is called the "On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef." The culmination of a five-year effort by United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. and the Florida-based nonprofit Eternal Reefs, planners hope to place it on the ocean floor in the Gulf of Mexico, about 60 feet under the waves and nine miles off the coast of Sarasota.



A composite photograph that indicates how organizers plan to lay out the On Eternal Patrol Reef, minus the flags.

Supporters want it to not only become a site where loved ones can entomb the ashes of submariners forever but also a diving attraction so visitors can pay their respects in person. "This is the first and only memorial honoring the sacrifice of these submariners in the environment in which they served — the ocean," said George Frankel, the chief executive officer of Sarasota-based Eternal Reefs. Since 1998, Eternal Reefs has created nearly 2,000 underwater memorials in 25 locations along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, according to the organization.

The idea is a marriage between environmentalists and submarine veterans. To submariners, it keeps the memories of fallen sailors alive; by creating coral reefs, environmentalists help protect shorelines from storms and erosion, preserve wetlands and provide shelter to marine organisms at risk from global climate change and pollution. The project is slated to kick off on 22 MAY, the 51st anniversary of the loss of the Norfolk-based fast-attack submarine *Scorpion*. It went down in the Atlantic in 1968, taking all 99 of its crew.

Frankel told *Navy Times* the reef will be created by laying 67 concrete domes close to each other on the seabed. Vented, they look like giant gray Whiffle Balls. Because their weight is concentrated at the bottom of the dome and holes let water flow through them, they're designed to withstand the force of heavy seas. "The concrete is specially formulated to be neutral chemically, much like that natural strata where natural reefs form," Frankel said. "This, along with a textured surface, encourages marine life to grow quickly, really, and you can see it growing usually after just a few days." Affixed to the balls will be brass plaques that identify the lost submarine, its last known location and the number of officers and crew on board when it began its eternal patrol.



One of the 67 "reef balls" that will be placed underwater at the On Eternal Patrol Reef off Sarasota (l) next to a ball that's been underwater elsewhere

Frankel said that 65 of the domes will be dedicated to specific boats. Another will pay homage to United States Submarine Veterans Inc. — or USSVI — and a second will honor the entire community of submariners, including those killed in non-sinking incidents. Most of the balls will recall World War II losses, when 52 boats never came home. Before the conflict ended, 3,506 officers and submariners were killed. On May 22, four domes are scheduled to be lowered to the ocean floor. Each honors the boats lost since World War II — Cochino, which sank off the coast of Norway in 1949; Stickleback, lost after a 1958 collision with the destroyer escort Silverstein off Hawaii; the nuclear powered Thresher, which never came up from a deep-diving test off Cape Cod in 1963; and Scorpion. The other balls commemorating lost boats will be added during the summer.

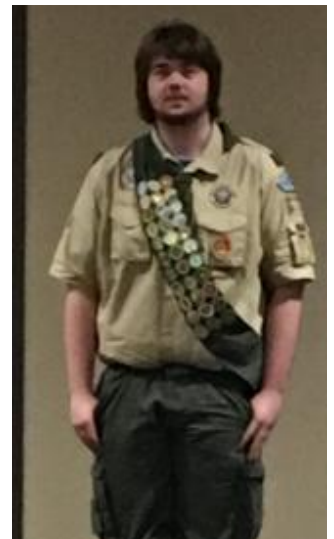
“Really our whole purpose is to honor those of us who never came home,” said William Andrea, a former National Junior Vice Commander of USSVI. “The idea of recognizing those on eternal patrol with something that will live on forever — and being under the ocean, too — is something that resonates with our members.” Submarine veterans have contacted the organizations asking to rest eternally at the reef, too. The idea is to bring a string of pearls to the scattering of balls. “The site has already been approved for this and along with the balls, we have what we call ‘pearls,’” Frankel said. “We mix the same proprietary concrete with cremains that can be shaped and decorated by family members.” On the seabed, the pearls also will attract marine life and become mini-reefs, Frankel said.

[Source: NavyTimes | Mark D. Faram | May 17, 2019 ++]

EAGLE SCOUT RECOGNITION

Eagle Scout Ethan MacDonald, of Troop 364 in Livingston County was honored by Wolverine Base at his Court of Honor on April 28.

Ethan’s grandfather was a submariner.





Ethan, with other members of Troop 364, visits USS Silversides.

COMING EVENTS

12-14 Jul		SubFest – Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Manitowoc, WI
21 Jul	1300	3rd Annual Bubblehead BBQ (Ozzie's house - 3701 Brookshire St., Trenton, MI 48183) BYOBeer and a small dish to pass. Please call Marcia (734-775-3202) for hints on what to bring Spouses / guests invited [Please RSVP before 15 Jul : 734-671-3439 / ussronquil@yahoo.com]
14-20 Aug		USSVI National Convention - Renaissance Hotel, Austin, TX
15 Sep	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)



LOST BOATS [July – September]

USS S-28 (SS-133)

Lost on July 4, 1944 with the loss of 49 crew members. She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the US Coast Guard Cutter Reliance. After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two days later, an oil slick was found near where S-28 had been. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery.

USS Robalo (SS-273)

Lost on July 26, 1944 with the loss of 81 crew members while on her 3rd war patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Four men survived and swam ashore, then were imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk.

USS Grunion (SS-216)

Lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in 2006 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.

USS Bullhead (SS-332)

Lost on August 6, 1945 with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane. Bullhead was the last submarine lost during WWII.

USS Flier (SS-250)

Lost on August 13, 1944, with the loss of 78 crew members while on her 2nd war patrol. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days later friendly natives guided them to a Coast Watcher and they were evacuated by the USS Redfin (SS-272).

USS S-39 (SS-144)

Lost on August 13, 1942 after grounding on a reef south of Rossel Island while on her 3rd war patrol. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS Katoomba.

USS Harder (SS-257)

Lost on August 24, 1944 with the loss of 79 crew members from a depth charge attack by a minesweeper near Bataan while on her 6th war patrol. Harder had won a Presidential Unit Citation for her first 5 war patrols and CDR Dealey was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. Harder is tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk.

USS Cochino (SS-345)

Lost on August 26, 1949 after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway caused an electrical fire and battery explosion that generated hydrogen and chlorine gasses. In extremely bad weather, men of Cochino and Tusk (SS-426) fought to save the submarine for 14 hours. After a 2nd

battery explosion, Abandon Ship was ordered and Cochino sank. Tusk's crew rescued all of Cochino's men except for one civilian engineer. Six sailors from Tusk were lost during the rescue.

USS S-5 (SS-110)

Lost on September 1, 1920 when a practice dive went wrong and she sank bow-first, with her stern showing above the water. In a dramatic adventure, her exhausted crew was rescued during the next few days. Salvage attempts were unsuccessful, S-5 settled to the bottom and was abandoned.

USS Grayling (SS-209)

Lost on Sept 9, 1943 with the loss of 76 men near the Tablas Strait. Grayling was on her 8th war patrol and sank two ships before being lost.

USS Pompano (SS-181)

Pompano was sunk (between Sept 17 and Oct 5) with the loss of 77 men while on her 7th war patrol. Possibly lost on Sept 17, 1943. Japanese records show that a submarine was sunk in her patrol area on 17 September by air & depth charge attack off the Aomori Prefecture near Shiriya Zaki. Before being lost, she sank two enemy cargo ships. The exact cause of her loss remains unknown, but she probably was sunk by the air/sea attack above or fell victim to a mine on or after 9/25/1943. This boat's last recorded ship (Taiko Maru) sunk happened on Sept 25th, so she probably hit a mine on or after that date but before Oct 5th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.

USS S-51 (SS-162)

Lost on Sept 25, 1925 with the loss of 33 men when it was sunk after collision with SS City of Rome off Block Island.

USS Cisco (SS-290)

Lost on Sept 28, 1943 on her first war patrol with the loss of 76 men in the Sulu Sea west of Mindinao.

Lost Harbor

by Leslie Nelson Jennings

**There is a port of no return, where ships
 May ride at anchor for a little space
 And then, some starless night, the cable slips,
 Leaving an eddy at the mooring place . . .
 Gulls, veer no longer. Sailor, rest your oar.
 No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore.**



Our purpose is 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.



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Officers

Base Commander: Frederick J Kinzel

Sr. Vice Commander: Philip G. Klintworth

Secretary: Denise Walsh

Treasurer: Robert S. Walsh

Chief of the Boat: Dan Fay