



1MC



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

Volume 2019, No. 4

World War II Vet Carl Stramer Inducted into the Holland Club



Motor Machinist's Mate Second Class (Submarines) Carl N. Stramer was inducted into the Holland Club at the Wolverine Base meeting on October 20. Carl qualified in USS Puffer (SS-268) in 1943, and made four war patrols in her. Subsequently, he made four additional war patrols in USS Ray (SS-271).

Carl joins the other Wolverine Base Holland Club members: Robert Buszta, Dennis Halstead, Winter Hill, Phil Klintworth, Richard (Ozzie) Osentoski, and Tim Redman.



Wolverine Base Represented at USSVI Convention in Austin, TX



SubVets at the Alamo



Phil & Fred, Marcia & Ozzie at the Awards Banquet, where Ozzie was recognized by the National Commander for his service as the National Convention Chairman

WHY WE WEAR DOLPHINS

Ed Kracker, WWII Submarine veteran

From "Gertrude Check" Issue/Date 20190923, published for American Submariners by USSVI Bremerton Base -Webmaster Don "Red" Bassler. Used with permission

I was looking at some old photos today of a submarine passing through the Panama Canal. The guys, both enlisted and officer roaming topside. Some drinking coffee, others in their dungarees, just enjoying the fresh air. At that point I realized what an honor it is, was, and had been, to serve with great men such as these. We were young and somewhat naïve but we were willing to travel around the world (and we did) with this rabble mess of gangsters. All at the behest of the old man we trusted as our captain. We believed in the mission at hand and believed it was righteous and honorable. We did it for our country, for our freedom, for our families, God knows it wasn't for the money. We packed up our sea bags, gave our best farewell to those we loved and headed out to sea in the black tube of mystery. There were Med Runs, West Pacs, Rim Pacs, Weekly Ops, On Station, and however many other acronyms there were for going out to sea.

Look around at the people that you know, your friends, family, and acquaintances. What have you accomplished together? Where have your lives taken you? If you mentioned a place you have been, does it bring back memories for them, of the sights, smells and culture of the area? Even if you were not there

together? Can you honestly say that you have a common bond, not just blood relation, with any of them?

As a submariner, and one of an elite group of men from ANY country, I can say that about my brothers. I can say that because I know what it takes to wear Dolphins on my chest. I know what it means when someones says they are qualified submarines. I know where they have been, I know what they have done and I can relate because I have been there and I proudly wear the Dolphins on my chest. I know the dangers that they faced and the liberties they put aside to protect the ones they love and the country they believe in and I respect that. These are men who volunteered their lives to do what less than 5% would dare attempt. Some would be required to pay that price in their service. My brothers and I understand because of this bond and because we wear the Dolphins on our chest.

The tension was there every time I heard "Station the Maneuvering Watch" over the 1MC. Was I ready? Was this the time we earned that coveted award? Was this the run that we got relived on because some of my equipment wasn't ready? And more importantly did I get the slack Maneuvering Watch or am I busting my ass

for the next two hours while the boat is on the surface? This is part of wearing Dolphins on my chest.

If I had any remorse for leaving the pier, it was gone by the time I heard the diving alarm. That was the clincher every time. That meant this was about to get real. No more second chances, we were going under, and those with the fish knew why it was important, their part was right. This is why we wear Dolphins on our chest. If things were not done after the double and triple check, lives were at stake, including yours. It was good to know there was someone there that I trusted to have my back. Someone whose back I had as well. It was and is still a bond that is just that, a bond. And no matter what the cost, they were there for me and I for them. You could always count on your shipmates to harass you, good or bad, whether for praise or punishment.

After the first twelve hours or so, most everyone was into the daily grind telling shore stories and dreaming of future escapades. We were officially underway for whatever reason and for however long. It didn't matter. We just started counting down the days till we returned. It's funny that I look back now and miss those days yet when I was there I couldn't wait till they were over. The grass is always greener I guess. But this is why I wear Dolphins on my chest.

I'm sad that all of life is not like on a submarine, but happy as well because that's crazy, some of those

people drove me crazy. Maybe that is the bittersweet of it. The submarine and it's crew were my family. It didn't matter that it was a rotating family with short timers leaving, nubs arriving and dig-it's quoting Navy scripture and sea stories all the time, these were my brothers and like it or not I had to accept who they were and they accepted me. Some adventured and could not complete what it takes. For them, we do appreciate the effort, but you are either qualified or you are not, there are no exceptions. That is why we wear Dolphins on our chest.

There may be others that have a connection based on where they attended college, or a hometown or even a common relative and they may even share a logo or address or a lapel pin. They don't have what we have, those of us that wear Dolphins on our chest. We know why we wear them. We know what is NOT said. We know the sacrifices made to be part of this elite group by us and others before us. Hopefully there will be men after us that can appreciate what it takes to wear Dolphins on their chest. They too will have our respect and we theirs, because of our common bond, that so few can share, this is why we wear Dolphins on our chest.

Matt Schmitz, Past CDR VFW 8645.Past Pres. FRA Branch229, Assoc US Subvets WW2, USSVI Hudson Valley Base Past CDR' Past USSVI D2 CDR. Member Holland Club. \\22 Pride Runs Deep\\22

THIRD ANNUAL BUBBLEHEAD BARBEQUE AT OZZIE'S

Rich "Ozzie" Osentoski and his wife Marcia Gronos again graciously hosted the Wolverine Base summer picnic at their lovely home in Trenton on 21 July. Great food and cameraderie!



The group poses for the camera



Plenty to eat

Editor's note: these are pictures from last year – nobody took any this time – my bad

COMING EVENTS

17 Nov	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)
15 Dec	1300	Base Christmas Party, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)
19 Jan	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)



LOST BOATS [October - December]

USS Seawolf (SS-197)

Lost on Oct 3, 1944 with the loss of 83 officers and men and 17 US Army troops when she was sunk just north of Moritai by USS Rowell, a Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another Destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.

USS S-44 (SS-155)

Lost on Oct 7, 1943 with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles. S-44 was on her 5th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, S-44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.

USS Wahoo (SS-238)

Lost on Oct 11, 1943 with the loss of 80 men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of one of the great sub skippers of World War II, LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo was on her 7th war patrol. Wahoo had won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was lost to depth charges dropped by a Japanese patrol aircraft.

USS Dorado (SS-248)

Lost on Oct 12, 1943 with the loss of 77 men when she was sunk in the western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she had departed New London and was enroute to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane that received faulty instructions regarding bombing restriction areas or a German U-boat that was in the vicinity.

USS Escolar (SS-294)

Lost on Oct 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. She was on her 1st war patrol and was most likely lost to a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea.

USS Shark II (SS-314)

Lost on Oct 24, 1944 with the loss of 87 men when she was sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was on her 3rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the tragedy, it turned out that the freighter had 1,800 U.S. POW's on board.

USS Darter (SS-227)

Lost on Oct 24, 1944 when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan and was then destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by USS Dace. Winner of one Navy Unit Commendation, Darter had sunk a heavy cruiser and damaged another and went aground while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation in hopes of getting in an attack on a battleship.

USS Tang (SS-306)

Lost on Oct 25, 1944 with the loss of 78 men in the Formosa Strait. Tang was on her 5th war patrol. Tang ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage, and had won two Presidential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR. O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Medal of Honor.

USS O-5 (SS-66)

Lost on October 29, 1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Abangarez off the Panama Canal.

USS Albacore (SS-218)

Lost on Nov 7, 1944 with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her eleventh war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.

USS Growler (SS-215)

Lost on Nov 8, 1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 12th war patrol, and was lost while attacking a convoy, probably as a result of a depth charge attack or victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes.

USS Scamp (SS-277)

Probably sunk on November 16, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay. On her 8th war patrol, she may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate and destroy her with depth charges.

USS Corvina (SS-226)

Lost on Nov 16, 1943 with the loss of 82 men when she was sunk just south of Truk. Corvina was on her 1st war patrol and appears she was lost to the torpedoes of a Japanese submarine.

USS Sculpin (SS-191)

Lost on Nov 19, 1943 with the loss of 43 men near Truk.

Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, Sculpin continued to fight on the surface. When the captain was killed, the crew abandoned ship and scuttled Sculpin. 41 men were taken prisoner but only 21 survived the war. Among those not abandoning ship was CAPT Cromwell, aboard as a potential wolfpack commander, he rode the Sculpin down, fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture. For this, CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

USS Capelin (SS-289)

Lost on Dec 2, 1943 with the loss of 76 men. She was on her 1st war patrol, but her exact location, date and cause of loss remain a mystery. She may have been lost to mines or an operational casualty.

USS Sealion (SS-195)

Lost on Dec 10, 1941 with the loss of 4 men. To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack. One other Sealion man was later captured and died in POW camp.

USS F-1 / Carp (SS-20)

Lost on December 17, 1917 with the loss of 19 officers and men when it was sunk after collision with the USS F-3 (Pickerel(SS-22)) off San Clemente, CA.

USS S-4 (SS-109)

Lost on December 17, 1927 with the loss of 40 officers and men when it was sunk after being rammed by USCG Paulding. Salvaged in 1928 and recommissioned.

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.



Wolverine Base Macomb County, Michigan

(586) 945-8561

<https://www.ussvimich.org/>

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