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BLOW NEGATIVE

VETERANS FREE PRESS

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Publisher/Editor Timothy Blevins



MEETINGS
BOD 11/12
MEMBERS 11/20

The Official Newsletter of
South Lake Florida
Chartered chapter of USSV

United States Submarine Veterans



SOUTH LAKE FLORIDA CHAPTER, CLERMONT

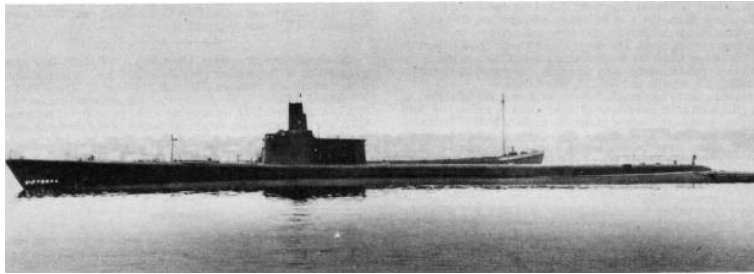
USS *Albacore* (SS-218)

A *Gato*-class submarine which served in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II, winning the Presidential Unit Citation and nine battle stars for her service. During the war, she was credited with sinking 13 Japanese ships (including two destroyers, the light cruiser *Tenryū* and the aircraft carrier *Taihō*) and damaging another five; not all of these credits were confirmed by postwar Joint Army-Navy Assessment Committee (JANAC) accounting. She also holds the distinction of sinking the highest warship tonnage of any U.S. submarine.

Following shakedown, the submarine proceeded via the Panama Canal to Pearl Harbor and, from that base on 28 August 1942, began her first war patrol which took her to waters of the north and northeast pass through the coral reef which surrounds Truk. On 13 September, *Albacore* sighted two cargo vessels sailing in a column formation and prepared for her first combat action. Lake made a submerged approach and fired three torpedoes at the leading ship and two at the second. One or possibly two torpedoes hit on the first ship; but none struck the second. *Albacore* claimed to have damaged the leading vessel.

Beginning on the mid-morning of 11 October, *Albacore* was depth charged numerous times. At 1548, the conning officer finally spotted the Japanese attackers, two submarine chasers and an airplane. A third ship

equipped with sound gear joined the group and continued the hunt. The ships crisscrossed over *Albacore*, close enough for propeller noise to reverberate throughout her hull and compelled her to proceed at silent running, with her ventilator fans shut down. After a chase of nearly seven hours, the Japanese ships



disappeared astern, and *Albacore* then surfaced to clear the immediate area. The next day, *Albacore* headed for Midway Island. Although she had had several opportunities to score during the patrol, *Albacore* was not credited with any damage to Japanese shipping. The submarine arrived at Midway Island on 20 October and commenced a refit.

On 6 November 1943, she received a report of a convoy which had been spotted by *Steelhead*, and began to search for it. On 8 November, the submarine found the convoy and started to track it. However, a plane from the United States Army Air Forces Fifth Air Force bombed and strafed her 130 nautical miles (241 km; 150 mi) north-northwest of Mussau Island at 00°17'N 149°00'E and caused her to lose contact with the Japanese ships. Four bombs landed close alongside *Albacore* as she submerged in escaping the attack, but she sustained no damage.

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On the morning of 18 June, two days after American forces began landing on Saipan, *Albacore* shifted from her position west of the Mariana Islands to 100 miles (160 km) further south. Admiral Charles A. Lockwood (ComSubPac) ordered this move in the hope of enabling the submarine to intercept a Japanese task force (under command of Admiral Jisaburō Ozawa) reportedly steaming from Tawi Tawi toward Saipan. At about 0800 the next morning, *Albacore* raised her periscope and found herself in the midst of Ozawa's main carrier group. Blanchard allowed one Japanese carrier to pass by and selected a second one for his target. Once inside 5,300 yards (4,800 m), the submarine's Torpedo Data Computer started giving false information. To maximize the odds of a hit, Blanchard fired all six bow tubes. The carrier was in the

process of launching an air strike, and one of the pilots (Sakio Komatsu) intentionally dove his plane into a torpedo, setting it off early. Three Japanese destroyers immediately charged *Albacore*. While the submarine was diving to escape, her crew heard one solid torpedo explosion. About that same time, 25 depth charges began raining down on the submarine. Then Blanchard heard "a distant and persistent explosion of great force" followed by another.

One of Blanchard's torpedoes had hit the carrier. It was Ozawa's flagship, Japanese aircraft carrier *Taihō*, 31,000 tons, the newest and largest in the Japanese fleet. The explosion jammed the ship's forward aircraft elevator; its pit filled with gasoline, water, and fuel. However, no fire erupted, and the flight deck was unharmed.

The one torpedo hit on *Taihō* caused little concern on board. Ozawa still "radiated confidence and satisfaction" and by 11:30 had launched raids Three and Four. Meanwhile, a novice took over the damage-control work. He thought

the best way to handle gasoline fumes was to open up the ship's ventilation system and let them disperse. When he did, the fumes



spread all through the ship. Unknown to anybody on board, *Taihō* became a floating time bomb.

About 3:30 that afternoon, *Taihō* was jolted by a severe explosion. A senior staff officer on the bridge saw the flight deck heave up. The sides blew out. *Taihō* dropped out of formation and began to settle in the water, clearly doomed. Though Admiral Ozawa wanted to go down with the ship, his staff prevailed on him to survive and to shift his quarters to Japanese cruiser *Haguro*. Taking

the Emperor's portrait, Ozawa transferred to *Haguro* by destroyer. After he left, *Taihō* was torn by a second thunderous explosion and sank stern first, carrying down 1,650 officers and men.

Albacore put into Majuro on 15 July. She was praised for an aggressive patrol and received credit for damaging a *Shōkaku*-class carrier. American codebreakers had lost track of *Taihō* after the Battle of the Philippine Sea and, while puzzled, did not realize she had gone down. Only months later did a prisoner of war reveal her sinking.

According to Japanese records obtained after the war, a submarine (presumed to be *Albacore*) struck a naval mine very close to the southeastern shore of Oshima Peninsula on 7 November 1944. A Japanese patrol boat witnessed the explosion of a submerged submarine and saw a great deal of heavy oil, cork, bedding, and food supplies rise to the surface.

USSVCF

Scholarship News The lead story this month is about the Wayne and Jo-Lynn Standerfer scholarship. During the National Convention they set up a legacy scholarship of donations totaling \$3,600. What's special about this scholarship is that we're trying to make this our very first fully endowed scholarship. If we succeed in raising \$25,000 or more, the return on that investment will allow us to award it in perpetuity. It will be a fitting tribute to a most beloved National Leader and his beloved organization. We also feature a vocational & apprenticeship scholarship that will appeal to those wishing to apply their skills in the commercial sector. Individual and base donations are welcome, just go to www.ussvcf.org select funds on the pulldown menu, slide down to scholarship and make your choice. Speaking of scholarships, the 2026-27 season begins October 31st. Details for applying are there too. Get your grandchildren's application completed.

Combined Federal Campaign. Now we've finally managed to make the big time as an actual charity that the government offers as a choice for Federal workers to select as the recipient of their donations. Well, they've finally made us go live and your friends can select us to contribute to USSVCF. We're CFC number 96644 and we proudly display their logo on our website. But join me in recognizing this, the



ultimate irony. It'll be tough donating during the government shutdown, while contributors aren't getting paid.

VA news, When that time comes.

Veteran

You may wish to contact an accredited Veteran Service Officer to assist you with your application. For a list of accredited veteran's service organizations go to <https://www.va.gov/vso/>. You may also contact your state office of Veterans Affairs at <https://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>, should you need further assistance with the application process. To assign a VSO as your power of attorney for the claims process please submit VA Form 21-22, *Appointment of Veteran Service Organization as Claimant's Representative*.

FDC Program Criteria

To qualify for the FDC Program you must:

1. Submit your claim on a completed, signed and dated VA Form 21P-534EZ, *Application for D.I.C., Survivors Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits* (Attached).
2. Submit simultaneously with your claim: If claiming Survivor's Pension: If claiming D.I.C.:
 - A copy of the veteran's death certificate (unless the veteran died on active duty); AND
 - All necessary income and asset information; AND
 - Any additional forms and evidence as the situation requires. Special Circumstances below indicate the most common circumstances. The application and other VA Forms may require additional evidence.
 - All, if any, of the veteran's relevant, private medical treatment records and an identification of any of the veteran's treatment records available at a Federal facility, such as a VA medical center, that supports your claim that a service-connected disability caused the veteran's death or the veteran's death was caused by the VA;
 - Any and all Service Treatment and Personnel Records in the custody of the veteran's Guard or Reserve Unit(s) if applicable; AND
 - Any additional forms and evidence as the situation requires. Special Circumstances below indicate the most common circumstances. The application and other VA Forms may require additional evidence.
3. Report for any VA examinations VA determines are necessary to decide your claim.

A Farewell Reflection
Cry not at my demise,
I have loved and been loved.
Cherish the memory. tdb

USSVI Creed

The purpose/creed of USSVI 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 may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments, and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, USSVI shall provide a way for all submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. The USSVI supports 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 the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today.

Chapter Officers

Commander: Carlos Martinez
Vice-Commander: Fred Walter
Secretary: Tim Blevins
Treasurer: Sam Goodwin
Storekeeper: Bill Bish

Foundation Officers

President: Sam Goodwin
Secretary: Bill Bish
Treasurer: Paul Enrandez
E-VP: Tim Blevins

Honoring Veterans

Monday, 10 November, at 0830. The students, faculty, and staff of Cypress Ridge Elementary School located at 350 East Ave, Clermont FL 34711 will be honoring our local Vets with a Veterans' Day Celebration. It begins at 8:30 (I suggest get there by 0800, there will be breakfast, light refreshments for the Vets in our Media Center starting at 8:30.) check in at the front office. We look forward to seeing you!

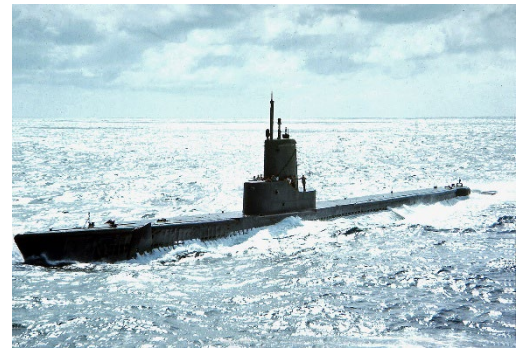
Cypress Ridge Elementary, 350 EAST AVE. CLERMONT, FL 34711

2025 VETERANS Day

November 11th, a Tuesday. Bobby Mock is still looking for volunteers to assist him in making this another chapter event. On Veterans Day, you will have some activities beginning at 0900 and you can stay and eat after which you will be home by 1400. Contact Bobby at rmock3@icloud.com.

USS Spinax (SS/SSR-489)

Spinax arrived to New London, Connecticut, on 15 November and was assigned to Submarine Force, Atlantic Fleet. On 15 December 1946, she sailed for the Caribbean Sea to begin her shakedown cruise which lasted until 28 January 1947. She returned to New London and participated in local operations until November when a fleet exercise took her north of the Arctic Circle near Labrador. In January 1948, designated a radar picket submarine, her hull classification symbol was changed from SS to SSR. After conducting operations in the Caribbean during the first part of the year, she returned to her home yard, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, in



May for an overhaul which lasted until the end of October. In addition to the installation of much radar and communication equipment, the work included the removal of her aft torpedo tubes, demilitarization of two forward tubes, installation of a snorkel system, and conversion of the after room into a combat information center. When she emerged from the yard, Spinax possessed the capabilities of a radar picket destroyer.

Spinax deployed to the Mediterranean Sea from 3 January to 3 March 1949, as the first postwar submarine unit of the Sixth Fleet. Upon her return to New London, she was assigned to Submarine Squadron (SubRon) 6 based at Norfolk, Virginia—the first time since World War I that submarines had been scheduled to operate from that base. She conducted operations along the east coast until again being deployed



to the Sixth Fleet from 6 January to 23 May 1950. She returned to Norfolk until 12 June when she was transferred to the West Coast.



Eternal Patrol

USS Growler (SS-215)	November 8, 1944, South China Sea
USS Scamp (SS-277)	November 16, 1944. Tokyo Bay
USS Corvina (SS-226)	November 16, 1943, Near Truk.
USS Sculpin (SS-191)	November 19, 1943. Near Truk

SOUTH LAKE FLORIDA BASE MEETING

Membership Meeting at the Minneola Town Hall Thursday, October 16, 2025



Call the meeting to order at 1800 – Fred Walter Invocation by Doug Rapone

Pledge of Allegiance – Fred Walter. USSVI Creed - Sam Goodwin.

Moment of Silence and Tolling the Boats – Rollin Patrick and Bobby Mock.

Determine if a quorum to conduct business is present -Tim Blevins. (2 officers + 5 members). Attendees sign muster. – Tim Blevins.

Approval of September meeting Minutes as summarized by Tim Belvins Treasurer's Report & Storekeeper's Report (SK) Status: - Sam Goodwin and Bill Bish. Foundation Report: Sam Goodwin.

Business/Administrative Items

-November base meeting will include election of VCDR and Treasurer for 2026-2028 Term; Submit names of candidates.

Announcement made – Fred Walter.

-Base dues of \$25 due by Nov base meeting. Announcement made – Fred Walter,

-Outstanding invoices/receipts/other financial documents need submitted to Treasurer to aid in preparation of Base Annual Financial Report. Announcement Fred Walter. Foundation announcement made by Tim Blevins.

-Carlos reports that National Convention ended in the RED [primarily due to additional Food & Beverage Contract cost & lack of Sponsors.]

-Clermont Memorial Project update by Bobby Mock. Unchanged, still ongoing, Receipts from Veteran Day event to Veterans & First Responders project.

-VCDR Inquire if meeting attendees review email from CDR providing a partial checklist for Actions upon Death of a Veteran/Retiree. Make a comment that VA.ORG website is a resource for WILLS preparation which can be notarized by Lt. Calica of Sea Cadet Battalion. Announcement made by Fred Walter.

Previous Items:

1. "Portillos" fund raiser < logistics being worked out by CDR; our split would be 20%, Carlos to meet with Manager by end of October. Noted.
2. Determine Date for next Marketplace participation: Oct 26; Nov to be planned. – Tim Blevins & Bill Bish. Contact Jenn at 352-217-4359 to confirm.
3. Bobby needs volunteers for Veterans Day. Bobby Mock passed a signup sheet.
4. Chris Singh is looking for volunteers to setup for Minneola Halloween Safe Nite Oct 31 5:30-8:30pm. Only one volunteer, Tim Blevins. Map was requested.
5. Base Xmas Party > from preliminary research BOD voted to make the event a social gathering at Ruby Tuesdays. Tim to check with restaurant on available dates. Discussion identified potential cost of a separate party too high, Tim Blevins will identify Date.
6. Base needs to vote on whether to participate in upcoming events:
 - Clermont Xmas Parade: Dec 6th @ 10am No voted was taken.
 - Minneola Xmas Parage: TBD Traditional participation by SLF. No vote was taken.
 - MLK Parade: TBD Booby Mock stated he would be in parade.

It was noted that SLF no longer has a float to be used in parades. Carlos to contact west coast source (NOTU).

- **New Discussions/Information**

-From Carlos > For those obtaining Rx from Military Facilities (i.e., Patrick AFB Pharmacy) or Express Scripts, make sure you keep personal information updated in Tricare. Aids in obtaining prescriptions filled more quickly. Example, Patrick requires outside providers to send RX Prescriptions electronically and member needs to use "Get In Line" text program to activate the prescription request which can take up to 3-4 days before pharmacy responds. Announcement made – Fred Walter.

- Rollin Patrick announced his plan to fire up new steam locomotive. All were invited.
- Paul Kenard announced SHP build for Saturday, 10/18, beginning at 0800 at Windermere Town Hall.
- Chris Singh announced availability of meeting location in downtown Clermont for \$100.00/mo. No vote taken.
- Bobby Mock said he had spent \$500.00 on Veteran Day items. Doug Rapone motioned to reimburse Bobby. Motion passed and Treasurer Sam Goodwin wrote check to Bobby.
- Fred Pando purchased bottle of red wine. Shawn Newman purchased bottle of white wine. Money given to Sam Goodwin for transfer to Foundation.

Good of the order (VCDR)

1. Weekly Breakfasts continue at Keke's on Wednesday at ~0730.
2. Birthdays: Tom Barber, Jeff Brinkman, Paul Kenard, Bobby Mock,
3. Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov 20th, 1800hrs., at Minneola Town Hall.
4. 50/50 raffle. Winner was Tom Barber for \$40.00.
5. Adjourn at 1915.
6. Benediction by Doug Rapone.

Submitted by Date: 10/16/2025

Timothy D Blevins

Print a copy, complete and mail with your check or money order to the address below.

2026 USSVI SOUTHEAST REGION CONFERENCE

Hosted by "Tullibee Base" Event Registration

Dates: 26-28 February 2026

Contact person: Dave Harvey (812)773-1312 bigdumydave587@gmail.com Steven Walmsley (228) 324-4309
walmsleysc@aol.com

PRIMARY CONFERENCE HOTEL IS CENTENNIAL PLAZA RESORT

200 East Beach Blvd, Gulfport Mississippi

BOOKING BY PHONE ONLY: (228)206-7880 use Code SUB2026

Thursday 26 th , Welcome Visitors Dinner & Dance "Blast from the Past" in the Clubhouse	Friday 27 th , Comedy Dinner Show in the Chapel Banquet Hall "Michael Joiner"	Saturday 28 th , Banquet Dinner in the Chapel Banquet Hall Guest Speaker, 50/50, Auction
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REGISTRATION DEADLINE JANUARY 20TH, 2026

Rate \$116 plus Tax: 100 Room block good until January 10th. (228)206-7880 use Code SUB2026 for our Rate.

Bunk Beds Available

Complete (print legibly), print the form and mail along with a check or money order payable to:

David Harvey, 779 Fourwind Rd, Holly Hill, South Carolina 29059

USSVI MEMBER: _____ NO ___ YES if yes Name of Base: _____

Shipmate Name: _____ Name on Tag: _____

Guest/Associate Name: _____ (circle one) Guest Y N Associate Y N

Street Address: _____

_____ City: _____ State: _____

_____ Zip: _____ Phone: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

Event attendance will be through advance payment only.

Package: (includes Registration Fee & Welcome Dinner Dance * Comedy Dinner Show & Banquet) \$250 each X Number:

_____ = \$ _____

Or one can individually select

Registration Fee: (**required** for all attending SEC Events) \$65 ea

**NO Charge for Children brought along and not attending SEC Events

Thursday Welcome Visitors Light Dinner & Dance \$50 ea No Limit

Friday Comedy Dinner Show Michael Joiner \$65 ea LIMITED SEATING 170 Saturday

AMOUNT INCLUDED: _____

2026 USSVI South Eastern Conference

February 26-28th, 2026

Hosted by USSVI Tullibee Base Theme: "Togetherness

"You can bring your kids/grandkids to The most Family friendly resort on the Gulf Coast"

(Centennial Plaza Resort) 200 East Beach Blvd Gulfport Ms.

ROOM RATES: \$116 plus tax

100 room block til January 10th, 2026

Thursday-February 26th

1000-1600 Hospitality in the Lobby of the Hotel -

0700-1100 Registration Desk in the Lobby -

1000- 1130 Base/District CDR Member Workshop in the Clubhouse

1300-1430 Increasing Membership & Improving Meetings Workshop in the Clubhouse

1500-1430 Planning Committee Meeting for 2027 SEC

1730-2200 **Welcome Visitors Dinner & "Blast from the Past, Music from the 50's & 60's" -
`Cash Bar- in the Clubhouse (Unlimited Seating with Advance Registration
\$50 Required)**

Friday-February 27th:

1000-1600 Hospitality in the Lobby of the Hotel -

0800-1000 Registration Desk in the Lobby -

0900- Recommended Tours: TBA

1630-1800 **Comedy Dinner Show in the Chapel Banquet Hall: Comedian, Michael Joiner
(Limited to 170 Persons with Advance Registration \$65 Required)**

*** A Second Showing and Dinner can be scheduled beginning at 1830 if needed.

Saturday-February 28th:

1000-1600 Hospitality in the Lobby of the Hotel -

1000 "Tolling of the Boats Ceremony", At the Fountain

1630-1800 Social hour & Live and Silent Auctions in the Chapel Banquet Hall

1830-2100 **Banquet dinner - Announce 50/50 winner, Guest Speaker (Limited to 170
Persons with Advance Registration \$70 Required)**

Registration Cost for 2026 SEC: \$65 Per Person (Children and Guest not attending SEC functions are Free)

Sunday- March 1st: Check out.
Have a safe journey home and see you next year in TBD.