

BLOW NEGATIVE

The Official Newsletter of South Lake Florida Subvets



Our Creed: "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. We pledge loyalty and patriotism. to the United States of America and its Constitution."

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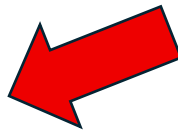
Board of Directors

C. Martinez, Ed. Lashbrook, T. Blevins, S. Goodwin, R. Mock, S. Newman



June Social Event

TEXAS ROADHOUSE WILL HOST
OUR NEXT BASE SOCIAL EVENT.
IT OCCURS ON JUNE 25
BEGINNING AT 1500 AND
RUNNING THROUGH TO 2200.
REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR
FLYER (SENT TO YOU LATER BY
SEPARATE EMAIL).



Elected Officers

Commander: Carlos Martinez
Secretary: Timothy Blevins
Treasurer: Sam Goodwin

Storekeeper: Bill Bish

2026 Meeting dates

Membership meetings are held at Minneola Town Hall, convening at 1800hrs.

June 18

July 16

August 20

September 17

October 15

November 19

December - Annual Social Event



Presentation of Sponsor Plaque to KeKe's



Board of Directors Meetings at KeKe's following breakfast,
July 8

USS Jimmy Carter (SSN-23))
Royal Navy M-class
WWI log gun
Cat-and-mouse
Pump to sea ..
Admiral Stockdale

Page 2
Page 3
Page 4
Page 4
Page 5
Page 11



The Submariner is Never Alone.

Unique as its namesake¹

USS Jimmy Carter (SSN-23)

USS Jimmy Carter is the third and final Seawolf-class nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine in the United States Navy. Commissioned in 2005, she is named for the 39th president of the United States, Jimmy Carter, the only president to have qualified on submarines. The only submarine to have been named for a then living president, Jimmy Carter, is also one of the few vessels, and only the third submarine of the US Navy, to have been named for a living person. Extensively modified from the original design of her class, she is sometimes described as a subclass unto herself.¹



Construction

The contract to build Jimmy Carter was awarded to the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut, on 29 June 1996, and her keel was laid on 5 December 1998. The original schedule called for Jimmy Carter to be commissioned in late 2001 or early 2002. Electric Boat was awarded an \$887 million extension to the Jimmy Carter contract on 10 December 1999 to modify the boat for testing new submarine systems and classified missions previously carried out by USS Parche. During modification, her hull was extended 100 feet (30 m) to create a 2,500-ton supplementary middle section that forms a Multi-Mission Platform (MMP). This section is fitted with an ocean interface for divers, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), and special operations equipment; a ROV handling system; storage and deployment space for mission systems; and a pressure-resistant passage between the fore and aft parts of the submarine to accommodate the boat's crew.



Jimmy Carter was christened on 5 June 2004, with former First Lady Rosalynn Carter serving as the ship's sponsor. As a result of the changes, Jimmy Carter was commissioned more than six years after

USS Connecticut and almost four months after the commissioning of USS Virginia, the first of the Virginia-class subs.

Jimmy Carter has additional maneuvering devices fitted fore and aft, allowing her to maintain station over selected targets in complex currents. Intelligence experts speculate that the MMP may be used in missions as an underwater splicing chamber for optical fiber cables.

Deployment

On 19 November 2004, Jimmy Carter completed alpha sea trials, her first voyage in the open seas. On 22 December, Electric Boat delivered Jimmy Carter to the US Navy, and she was commissioned on 19 February 2005 at NSB New London.

Jimmy Carter began a transit from NSB New London to her new homeport at the Bangor Annex of Naval Base Kitsap, Washington, on 14 October 2005, but was forced to return when an unusually high wave caused

Suggested response elsewhere in the newsletter

Smile or Growsns

How do you make a witch itch?
How do dolphins make bread?
Before going to bed, what does a ghost drink?



¹ Article suggested by Carlos Martinez.

damage while the submarine was running on the surface. The damage was repaired, and Jimmy Carter left New London the following day, arriving at Bangor the afternoon of 9 November 2005.

In April and September 2017, Jimmy Carter returned twice to her homeport at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, flying a Jolly Roger Flag, traditionally indicative of a successful mission.

Awards

- 2005 National Defense Service Medal
- 2007 Battle Efficiency Award, commonly known as a "Battle E".
- 2012 Battle Efficiency Award.



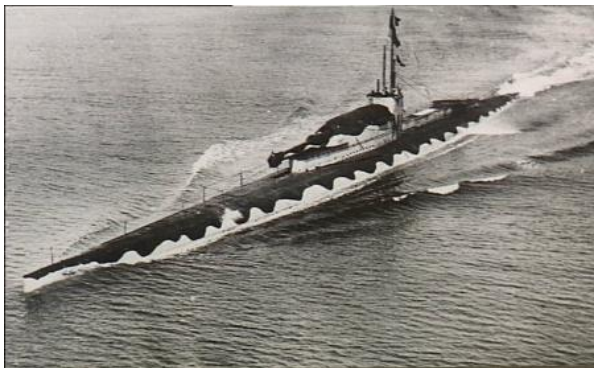
 Presidential Unit Citation, the equivalent to the Navy Cross for the entire ship, for what has been reported as mission 7."[[]



Royal Navy M-class

50 tons of Firepower

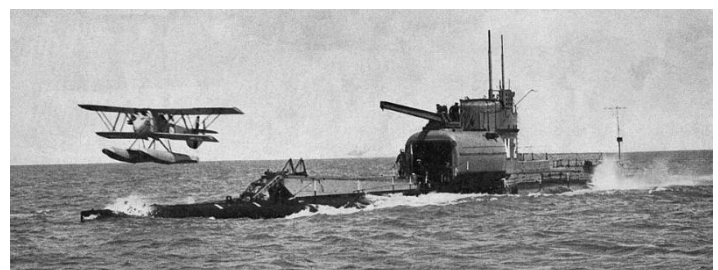
The Royal Navy tried an innovative approach in World War I with its three M-class submarines, which mounted a single 12-inch (305 mm) 40-caliber naval gun intended to be fired while the submarine was at periscope depth, with the gun's muzzle above water, primarily for shore bombardment. This design proved unworkable in trials because the submarine had to surface to reload the gun, and variable amounts of water entering the barrel before firing caused problems. The gun weighs 50 tons, and the completed mount was 153 tons.



The weapon was normally fired from periscope depth, using a simple bead sight on the end of the gun, with the target aligned through the periscope at a range of about 1,300 yards (1,200 m). The gun's exposure time above the surface was about 75 seconds. The submarine had to surface to reload the gun, which took about three minutes. In practice, the concept was not very successful, and only three of the four M-class boats ordered were completed, all between 1917 and 1918. M-class submarines are sometimes called submarine monitors.

After the accidental sinking of M1 in 1925, M2 and her sister M3 were taken out of service and reassigned for experimental use. Her 12-inch gun was removed and replaced with a small aircraft hangar, a conversion completed in 1927. The hangar could carry a small Parnall Peto seaplane, specially designed for the M2. Once its wings were unfolded, the aircraft could be lowered onto the sea alongside by a derrick for takeoff. On landing, the aircraft was hoisted back onto the deck and returned to the hangar. In October 1928, a hydraulic aircraft catapult was fitted to enable the seaplane to take off directly from the deck. The submarine was intended to operate ahead of the battle fleet in a reconnaissance role, flying off her unarmed seaplane as a scout.

M2 was converted to a seaplane carrier in 1925, with a hangar replacing the gun turret. She was lost off Chesil Beach, Dorset, on January 26, 1932. It is thought that the hangar door was opened prematurely. M2 lies in shallow water, 105 feet (32 m) down, with the top of the conning tower only 66 feet (20 m) below the surface at



low tide. She is a popular attraction for local scuba divers, with as many as six boats anchored above her on busy days.

Eternal Patrol

- **USS Golet (SS-361):** Lost on June 14, 1944, with 82 crew members during its second war patrol, likely sunk by Japanese forces.
- **USS Bonefish (SS-223):** Lost on June 18, 1945, in the Sea of Japan with 85 crew after a severe counterattack.
- **USS R-12 (SS-89):** Sank on June 12, 1943, near Key West, Florida, due to flooding, resulting in 42 deaths.
- **USS O-9 (SS-70):** Sank during a test dive on June 20, 1941, off Portsmouth, New Hampshire, with 33 crew members.
- **USS S-27 (SS-132):** Ran aground and was lost on June 19, 1942, off Amchitka Island, Alaska; all crew survived.
- **USS Scorpion (SSN-589):** Following its disappearance on May 22, 1968, the search was called off and the crew was declared "presumed lost" on June 5, 1968.

Conflicting Reports²

Dateline: Sunday, February 13, 2022, Moscow, Russia

A Russian anti-submarine destroyer chased off a US submarine near the Kuril Islands, forcing it to leave the country's territorial waters, Moscow said Saturday, amid rising tensions over Ukraine.

The US military, however, denied the account. Russia's defense ministry said that during planned military drills, the Marshal Shaposhnikov destroyer had detected a US Navy Virginia-class submarine in Russian territorial waters near the Kuril Islands in the northern Pacific. When the submarine ignored demands to surface, the frigate's crew "used appropriate means," and the US submarine left at full speed, the ministry said, without providing further details.

The ministry said it had summoned the US defense attaché in Moscow over the incident. "In connection

with the violation by the US Navy submarine of the state border of the Russian Federation, the defense attaché at the US embassy in Moscow was summoned to the Russian defense ministry", the defense ministry said. The statement from the US military, however, said: "There is no truth to the Russian claims of our operations in their territorial waters."



Captain Kyle Raines, the spokesman for the US Indo-Pacific Command, said he would not comment on the precise locations of US submarines. But he added: "We do fly, sail, and operate safely in international waters."

The Kurils, which lie north of Japan's Hokkaido island, have been under Moscow's control since Soviet troops seized them in the waning days of World War II. The

² <https://www.thejakartapost.com/world/2022/02/13/russian-warship-chases-off-us-sub-near-pacific-islands-moscow-.html>.

alleged incident occurred near the Kuril island of Urup, which Russia controls.

It comes amid rising tensions between Russia and the West that have seen Moscow surround Ukraine on three REALLY? Operating Instructions on the Reverse Side.

The Board Is Not Green

During the American Civil War, the CSS Hunley became the first “successful” submarine, capable of submerging, though it had trouble surfacing—and that ultimately cost the lives of its entire crew. During the Cold War, the Soviet Navy suffered a number of submarine accidents, many caused by fires; one involving the K-431 was later revealed to have been caused by mishandling the boat’s nuclear rods, which were lifted too high into the air. That led to the reactor reaching critical mass, triggering a chain reaction and an explosion. Other accidents have been what can only be described as “human error” of the most extreme kind. A German Type VIIC submarine sank on its maiden voyage during World War II because the boat’s new deepwater high-pressure toilet was used “improperly” by the captain, no less!

Yet none of those mishaps compares to what happened to INS Arihant, India’s first nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, in 2017. The brand-new \$2.9 billion submarine was left completely inoperative for nearly a year after a hatch was left open, allowing seawater to rush in and almost sinking the boat.

While the subs were advanced, the crew’s training certainly wasn’t.

sides with more than 100,000 troops. Washington has warned that an all-out invasion could begin “any day”. Russian leader Vladimir Putin on Saturday condemned such claims as a “provocation”.

That resulted in a hatch left open by mistake while the boat was in the harbor, flooding the propulsion compartments with seawater and causing substantial damage to the pipes running through the submarine. Given how corrosive seawater can be, the various pipes, including those that carry pressurized water

coolant to and from the ship’s eighty-three-megawatt nuclear reactor, all had to be cut out and replaced.

The six-thousand-ton INS Arihant remained out of service at the docks while the water was pumped out and the pipes were replaced. The entire process took ten months. Its absence was first noted during

the Doklam border standoff with China in the summer of 2017, and the Indian military only confirmed that the submarine had undergone repairs in early 2018.

As mishaps go, the Arihant may have been among the more embarrassing, but at least it didn’t result in the loss of life.



Smiles or Growns

How do you make a witch itch?

Take out the “w.”

How do dolphins make bread?

With all porpoise flour.

Before going to bed, what does a ghost drive?

Booze or Ghoul Ade.

June Birthdays	
Rollin Patrick	4
Carlos Martinez	5
Fred Walter	9
Richard Gerard	27



Christmas?

A couple of our members have mentioned ASAP Tickets as affordable and easily obtained the service they sought. A check of ASAP Tickets with the BBB reveals an A+ rating. They must be providing credible service. A check of customer reviews on the ASAP Ticket website has many users of ASAP as satisfied, even exuberant.

This is not an endorsement of ASAP or any other business. You may find you can go to, or attend, the places, and events for a few dollars less than full price. Because one of our Base members has said he gets his hockey tickets (Orlando Solar Bears) through ASAP at a discounted rate, I have included here as an information item.



The Second Law of Human

The probability that a certain person be characteristic of that person.



Stupidity

stupid is independent of any other

Is This Florida?

Pulling a sled behind a bicycle is not permitted in Palm Bay.

This really puts a damper on a Christmas parade.

Chickens are a protected species in Key West.

This must help with the marketing of hamburgers.

University of Florida students gather each evening at sunset to watch a colony of more than 100,000 bats leave their bat roost to eat insects. The school's bat house is the world's largest colony living in a structure especially made for bats.

Attend bat school, get a bat diploma, become Batman or Batgirl. Go on to earn a Dracula certificate.



What are they doing in Tallahassee?



TRICARE (<https://www.tricare.mil> or for OCONUS <https://www.tricare-overseas.com>) can also connect DOW beneficiaries of the Military Health System to mental health and counseling services.

Many of us received a text from Paul Kenard regarding the unsavory topic of veteran suicide. A week ago, I attended a VA help presentation that focused on veterans helping veterans who may be in crisis. The message is "a veteran does not have to believe they are alone with suicidal thoughts."

Here are five things to keep in mind when approaching this tough subject.

S - be aware of the signs that someone is a potential subject of suicide:

- Isolation – is this a person who has been interacting with others and is now standoffish? They remain at home and no longer attend gatherings of friends and family.
- Mood changes – that happy individual has lost their sense of humor OR has the individual now become overly joyous (a sign they are trying to cover up their depression).
- Alcohol or Drug use – has the person begun to drink to the point of passing out? Has the individual begun using recreational drugs?

A – ask pointed and definitive questions of the individual.

- Are you thinking of suicide?
- How did you get that wound/cut?
- I would like to talk to you about your recent mood swings. Can we talk about suicide?

V – validate the veteran's experiences (Note: Do not say to the person, "I know how you feel.")

- Your recent changes in not gathering for church/club/meetings can be signs of depression.
- Your daughter/friend/neighbor shared that you are staying inside all day. Are you lonely?
- Have you secured your weapons, given them to your daughter, or locked them?

E – encourage support.

- I have a magnetic calling card with the VA Crisis number on it. May I put this on your refrigerator?
- It may be convenient for you to drop into the local clinic. They will see you immediately.
- I know you are not being seen by the VA but you can ask for Community Outreach services.

Obviously, these are not the only suggested means to open a conversation with a veteran in crisis. When appropriate, a guided approach to the subject may **SAVE** that veteran.

VCL/MCL access is available in the Continental United States (**CONUS**) to service members, veterans, and their families.

- Call: 988 and press 1
- Visit: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>
- Chat: Text with a Crisis Line responder - Send a text message to 838255 or through (VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat).



The **988 Lifeline** is a national network of local crisis centers. The 988 Lifeline provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States. If callers are unable to reach the crisis support through phone dialing, the chat service is available online in all locations with an internet connection.

988 Suicide and Crisis Line (Anyone in the United States):

Pray For Them Even Now

I have one consolation that lives with me today.
That God is near to them, in his own special way.
So God in all Your mercy, keep near Thyself the soul,
Of every Submariner, still on his final patrol.



Lord, this departed shipmate with Dolphins on his chest
is part of an outfit known as the best.
Make him welcome and take him by the hand.
You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land.



So, heavenly Father, add his name to the roll
of our departed shipmates still on patrol.
Let them know that we who survive
will always keep their memories alive.

~ Anonymous

Consider the USSVCF Legacy Fund

Deposits to the Legacy Fund remain untouched; only earnings support USSVCF programs.

Giving Options

Charitable Gift Annuity (income for life)

Remainder Trust (estate distribution, then donation to USSVCF)

Lead Trust (donation to USSVCF then to heirs)

Donors can:

Create a named fund.

Support specific causes.

Contact the Legacy Fund Manager (blevinst@gmail.com)



New Feature

A monthly history site: <https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/june.htm>

Take the Lead

The need must be stressed for veterans using VA health care to have more information about medications they are prescribed before starting long-term mental health treatment plans. We need to advocate for the passage of H.R. 4837/S. 3314, the Written Informed Consent Act, to expand written informed consent requirements and ensure veterans receive clear written information about the benefits, risks, alternatives, and expectations associated with long-term use of psychiatric medications. This legislation is a key priority and is part of the organization's efforts to reduce veteran suicide.



Veteran suicide remains a crisis. An estimated 155,000 veterans have died by suicide since 2001, with nearly a third of these deaths occurring while under Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) care. Suicide rates among veterans ages 18–34 have more than doubled and remain significantly higher than among non-veterans. Approximately 70 percent of VA-treated veterans are prescribed psychiatric medications, and reporting shows that nearly half of those diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are prescribed multiple psychiatric medications at once, commonly referred to as “combat cocktails.”

These prescription rates are substantially higher than those of non-veterans. Many of these medications also carry Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Boxed Warnings related to suicidal thoughts and behaviors, making careful monitoring and clear communication essential. VA's Office of Inspector General has identified gaps in documentation of informed consent discussions and weaknesses in medication safety protocols.



These findings make clear that we must strengthen communication and oversight across the system. Psychiatric medications can be appropriate and life-changing when properly prescribed and monitored. But like any serious medical treatment, they require honest conversations and shared decision-making. Written informed consent is already standard for many high-impact therapies and has not been shown to discourage care. By clearly explaining benefits, risks, alternatives, and expectations up front, written informed

consent brings mental health treatment into the open and reinforces a simple truth-- mental health care is health care.

Transparency builds trust, keeps veterans engaged in care, and helps prevent avoidable crises. For these reasons, we should seek to support strengthening written informed consent and improving oversight of psychiatric prescribing practices to ensure veterans receive safe, informed, and high-quality care.

Contact your Congressional Representatives.

Well, I thought I knew

Can you identify the correct sequence of valve operation to use in the head?

- Sea Valve (Hull valve on newer subs.)
- Blow Valve (Sanitary tank blow.)
- Vent Valve (Sanitary tank vent.)
- Ball Valve.

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May and is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer.

Memorial Day is a time to visit cemeteries and memorials to mourn military personnel who died in the line of duty. Volunteers place American flags on the graves of those military personnel in national cemeteries.

The first national observance of what would become Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as Decoration Day, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic – a fraternal organization of veterans – to honor Union soldiers who had died in the American Civil War. This national observance followed many local observances begun between the end of the Civil War and Logan's declaration. Many cities and people have claimed to

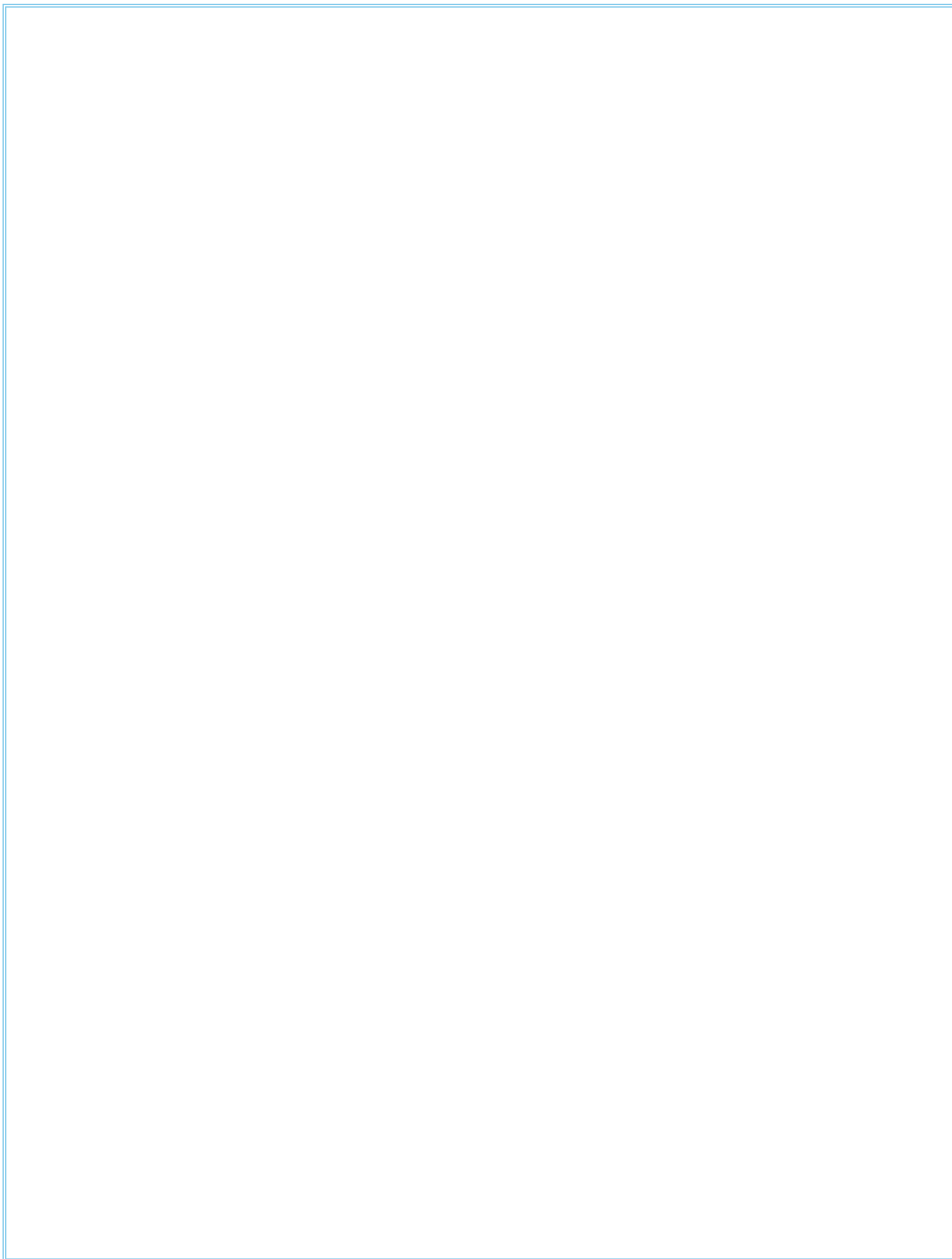
be the first to observe it; however, the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, credits Mary Ann Williams of the Ladies Memorial Association of Columbus, Georgia, with originating the idea of an annual date to decorate the graves of Civil War veterans with flowers.



Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states, beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890, every Union state had adopted it. The World Wars turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. military who fought and died in service. In 1968, Congress

changed its observance to the last Monday in May, and in 1971 standardized its name as "Memorial Day." Two other days celebrate those who have served or are serving in the U.S. military: Armed Forces Day, earlier in May, a ceremonial U.S. day of commemoration honoring those currently serving in the armed forces, and Veterans Day on November 11, a legal holiday that honors all those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

The Blue Jacket Manual
1. Only those who need to know should be informed.
2. Each person who knows is responsible for protecting the information



Plug a hole

Making It Better

A man was asked to paint a boat. He brought his paint and brushes and began painting the boat bright red, as the owner had asked.

While painting, he noticed a small hole in the hull and quietly repaired it. When he finished painting, he received his payment and left.

The next day, the boat owner came to the painter and presented him with a large check, far above the painting fee.

The painter was surprised and said, "You've already paid me for painting the boat, sir!"

"But this is not for the paint job. It's for repairing the hole in the boat."

"Ah! But it was such a small service... certainly it's not worth paying me such a high amount for something so insignificant."

So, no matter who, when, or how, continue to help, sustain, wipe away tears, listen attentively, and carefully repair all the 'leaks' you find. You never know when someone needs you, or when God holds a pleasant surprise for you to be helpful and important to someone.

Make a difference... be the best you.

Leadership, commitment

Vice Admiral James Bon Stockdale

Vice Admiral James Bon Stockdale, September 1965. James Stockdale was shot down over North Vietnam and captured. He would spend the next seven and a half years imprisoned in Hỏa Lò Prison—the infamous "Hanoi Hilton."

As the highest-ranking American POW, Stockdale became a major target for torture and propaganda. His captors wanted him to appear on camera and condemn the United States. He refused.

The consequences were severe. He endured repeated torture, years in solitary confinement, and long periods in leg irons. Yet he kept resisting.

When guards announced plans to parade him before foreign journalists, Stockdale made a shocking decision. He used a razor to slash his scalp and struck his own face with a stool until he

"My dear friend, you do not understand. Let me tell you what happened:

"When I asked you to paint the boat, I forgot to mention the hole.

"When the boat dried, my kids took the boat and went on a fishing trip.

"They did not know that there was a hole.

I was not at home at that time.

"When I returned and noticed they had taken the boat, I was desperate because I remembered that the boat had a hole.

"Imagine my relief and joy when I saw them returning from fishing.

"Then I examined the boat and found that you had repaired the hole!

"You see now what you did? You saved my children's lives! I do not have enough money to pay for your 'small' good deed."



was badly swollen and bleeding. The propaganda appearance was canceled because he was no longer fit to film. But his greatest contribution inside the prison was something else entirely.

Stockdale helped develop a tap-code communication system that allowed prisoners to “talk” through walls using patterns of taps representing letters. Men locked alone in tiny cells could suddenly exchange messages, encouragement, jokes, and ever seeing each other.

The code became a lifeline.

It gave prisoners structure, proof they weren’t alone. constantly reminded them to they could, recover after never lose faith that they would

JAMES STOCKDALE SHATTERED HIS OWN FACE WITH A STOOL TO STOP PRISON GUARDS FROM USING HIM IN PROPAGANDA FILMS. THE DEFIANCE SAVED HIS HONOR – THEN THE TORTURER GREW EVEN MORE BRUTAL.

orders without

morale, and Stockdale resist as long as breaking, and survive.

When he was released in 1973, he carried permanent injuries from years of abuse. Later, he received the Medal of Honor for his leadership and courage.

James Stockdale didn’t just survive captivity. He turned prison walls into a network of hope proving that even in isolation, resilience and human connection could endure.

The Blue Jacket Manual, revised 1959

What are the two basic security rules?



The newsletter is titled “Blow Negative” as a nod and hand salute to the earliest days of submariners. The earliest submarines, WWI, were built with a positive buoyancy, which included a “negative” tank. This tank was located within the submarine so that, when flooded with seawater, the submarine could dive.

Our meeting location is at Minneola Town Hall. Minneola, Florida. The newsletter is published and edited by Timothy Blevins, MM1(SS), blevinst@gmail.com. Suggestions, corrections, and submittals are always appreciated. Publication occurs once a month, with occasional email updates.

The South Lake, Florida chapter of USSVI consists of members living in and around Clermont, Florida. Our monthly meetings take place on the third Thursday of every month except December, when we hold a social event. Veterans from all services and submarine enthusiasts are always welcome at our meetings.

Currently, the newsletter does not solicit advertisers. The chapter is grateful to our local sponsors for their support.

Sponsors

Lakeridge Winery, Total Wines and More, Mission Barbeque, National Golf Course and Country Club, Legends Golf Course, Publix Supermarkets, Costco, Portillo's, Texas Roadhouse, KeKe's Margaritaville, Kings Ridge Country Club, and Culver's Hamburgers. Additionally, the chapters acknowledge the support of local businesses that offer our members discounts on their products and services.



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