



The Fast Cruise



US Submarine Veterans, Inc. – Cincinnati Base

U.S. Navy Commissions First Submarine Designed for Coed Crews

The U.S. Navy commissioned its newest fast-attack Virginia-class submarine, *USS New Jersey (SSN 796)*, in a ceremony held September 4, 2024 .

The vessel marks a significant milestone as the first U.S. Navy submarine specifically designed to accommodate both male and female crews. Commanding Officer Cmdr. Steve Halle called the event “a truly historic moment.”

While the *USS New Jersey* is the 23rd Virginia-class submarine to be built and delivered, it is the first of its kind to be designed from the keel up with specific modifications for gender integration.

The submarine features modifications to enhance privacy in berthing compartments and improve overall living conditions for all sailors, including steps for reaching triple-high bunk beds and adjustments to overhead valve heights. These changes reflect the Navy’s commitment to gender integration, which began in 2010 when the ban on women serving aboard submarines was lifted.

The 377-foot-long submarine, capable of diving to depths greater than 800 feet and operating at speeds exceeding 25 knots, joins a fleet of fast-attack submarines designed for multiple missions, including anti-submarine warfare, strike warfare, and special operations.

The submarine also becomes the third U.S. Navy ship named after the state of New Jersey, the most recent being the decorated battleship *BB-62* which saw action during WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

<https://gcaptain.com/uss-new-jersey-commissioned-first-u-s-navy-submarine-designed-for-coed-crews/>

Winter 2025

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“These dolphins, once you pin them on your chest, leave deep marks, right over your heart, long after the uniforms have been put away.”

Base Commander

David Ashley

commander@cincysubvets.com

Vice Commander

Tom Fisher

COB

Daryl Beiter

Treasurer

Joe Koize

Yeoman

Steve Hayes

Chaplain

Earl Wafford

Member's Page

Happy Birthday

January

8 – David Self
18 – David Ashley
25 – Tim Rich
27 – Angelo Naso

February

23 – Joe Roszmann

March

9 – Keith Hayden
13 – Bobby Rogers
15 – Patrick Martin
19 – Bill Schaefer
25 – Joe Dean

If you don't see your birthday, or if there is any other event you would like to commemorate, please send me an email at wtl@fuse.net

We seek ways to locate other former submariners in our area who might like to join us. If you know of someone in the Cincinnati area who served in submarines (or still does!) please tell them about the USSVI and the Cincinnati Base. Direct them to the Base website at www.cincysubvets.com for more information.

The Fast Cruise

EDITOR

wtl@fuse.net

Editor: Wayne Laib



**We thank the Sailors
aboard the USS Ohio SSGN
726 and the USS Kentucky
SSBN 737 for their service
to our country and for
protecting our freedoms.**



Meetings

The Cincinnati Base of the USSVI meets at
American Legion Post #256 located at
897 Oakland Road, Loveland, OH 45140

Unless otherwise noted, our meetings are on the 4th Saturday of each
month beginning at 1300hrs.

If you need a ride to the meeting or event contact Dick Young, we will
match you with someone in your area. Call enough ahead of time to allow
us to make the arrangements.

Dick Young - (513) 615-2910



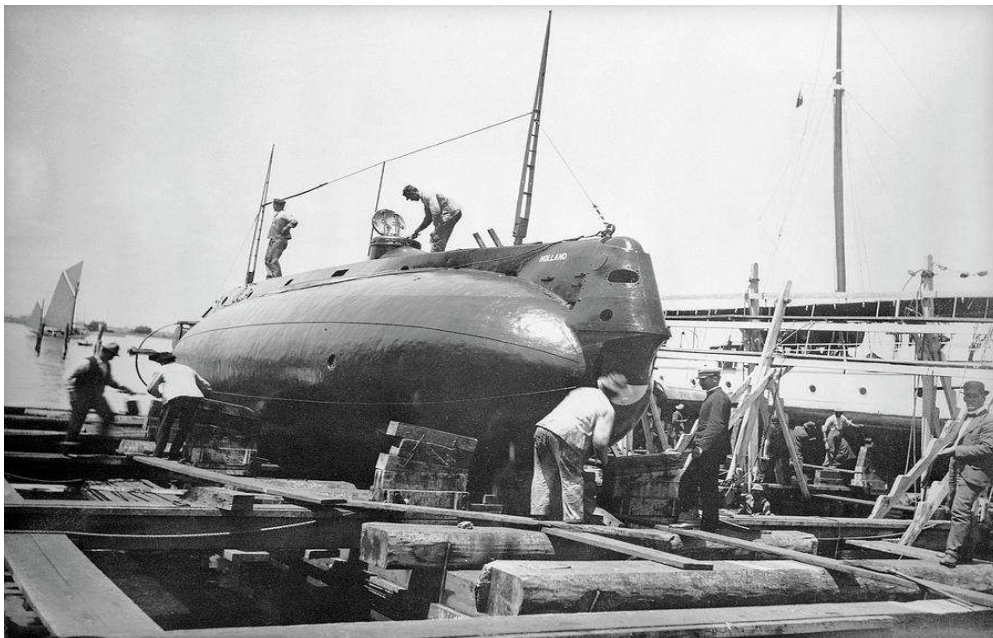
Membership



We welcomed aboard 1 new shipmate so far this year. Please welcome Bob Askins MM1(SS) who qualified on the USS Von Steuben SSBN 632 in 1978.



I must offer a correction to information regarding the Holland Club in the last issue. I mistakenly busted Walt Meyer one pay grade. I apologize to **SENIOR** Chief Sonar Technician (Submarine) Walter Meyer.



2025 CALENDAR

April 26 @ 1300 – Meeting. Special guest speaker Henry Rausch

May 26 is Memorial Day – Details of Base activities related to the holiday will be conveyed via email once confirmed.

June 28 @1300 – Meeting

July 4 – Details of Base activities related to the holiday will be conveyed via email once confirmed.

July 26 @1300 – Meeting

August 23 @1300 – Meeting

September 27 @1200 – Meeting and usually Base picnic

October 25 @1300 – Meeting

November 27 Thanksgiving – No Meeting

December – Annual Christmas lunch details to follow as date approaches

ANCHORS AWEIGH

Anchors Aweigh, my boys, Anchors Aweigh!

Farewell to foreign Shores, we sail at break of day-ay-ay-ay:

Through our last night ashore, drink to the foam,

Until we meet once more, here's wishing you a happy voyage home!

Base Activities

On March 17 six Base members participated in the Seton High School Oral History Project Day. Students were broken into groups where they listened to stories and asked questions to better understand the veterans' experiences. To prepare for this, veterans supplied a brief history of their service experiences and then the students spent class time researching and developing specific questions for each person prior to the event. Ultimately, though, the day was about students and veterans developing connections with one another in order to make the history that they have learned in the classroom more personal and real.

It was a great pleasure spending time with the students and encouraging to see their enthusiasm for hearing our stories.



Left to right Base members Mike Burba, Dick Young, Wayne Laib, Steve Hayes, Walt Meyer and Bob Viney.



Opening Day Parade

The 2025 parade season began on March 27 when winter drydocking ended and the *USS Cincinnati* float made its way down Elm Street past tens of thousands of cheering Reds fans.



Ron Payne, Steve Hayes, Wayne Laib, Patrick Leedom, Tom Fisher, Dick Young, Ken Adams and Mike Wolber (who wasn't present when this photo was taken) formed this year's crew.



<https://www.wlwt.com/article/opening-day-parade-preparations-uss-cincinnati-memorial-reds/64290117>

USS CINCINNATI NUCLEAR SUBMARINE COLD WAR MEMORIAL PEACE PAVILION UPDATE



Base members Bob Viney, Dick Young, Earl Wafford, Wayne Laib and Steve Hayes (who took the photo) hung the project banner on the construction fence in February.

If you drove past the VOA Museum recently you saw that not much appears to have happened on the site since the last report. Weather has a lot to do with that.

The live wires traversing the site to the UC Health Fieldhouse in the VOA Metro Park were relocated underground but the poles remain in place waiting for the ground to dry so they can be removed.

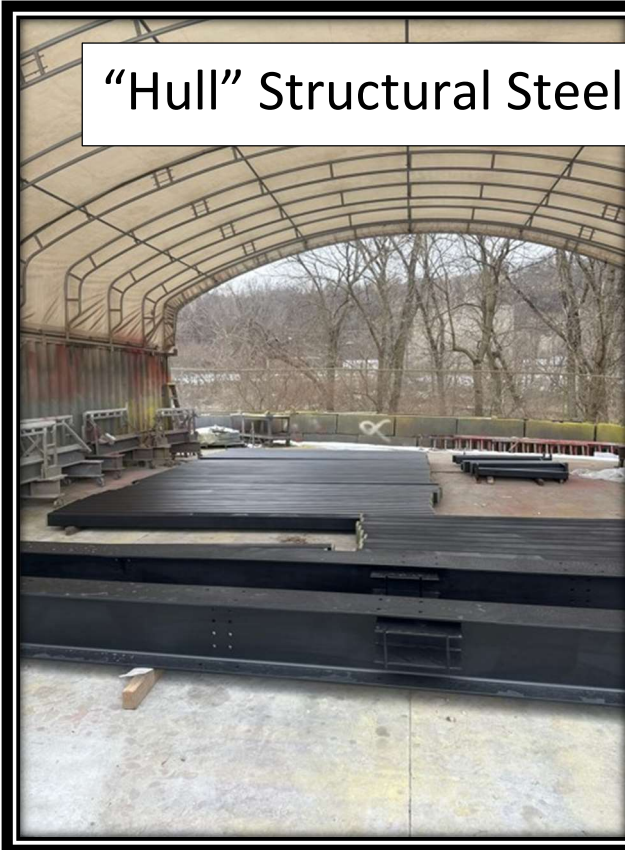
Work continued on painting and prep of the sail, rudder and fairwater planes while fabrication of the "hull" sections, some of which are finished and painted at Rizzo Brothers, is ongoing at the William Lang & Sons Iron Works Company in Cincinnati. The engine is painted and being configured for display in Indianapolis.

Current plan is to move the parts at Rizzo to the site via convoy escorted by as many base members as can be mustered sometime in April. We want to put on a show for the local news media. Stay tuned for details.

Engine Before and After



“Hull” Structural Steel Members at Fabricator



Sail Before and After



Fund raising efforts continue, the membership voted to donate \$1,500.00 to the project at the January meeting. Members can make donations individually or ask that their donation be credited to the Cincinnati Subvets Base of USSVI. As reported at the March meeting the base's donation currently totals \$9,300.00. Thanks to all who donated!

Donations can still be made via the project website at <https://subcincy.org/> or through base treasurer Joe Koize. If you do donate via the website notify them it is to be credited to the Base and let Joe know.



Submarines on Eternal Patrol

Spend a moment in silence for these departed shipmates.

January

USS S-26 (SS-131) lost on 24-Jan-1942
 USS Argonaut (SS166) lost on 10-Jan-1943
 USS Swordfish (SS-193) lost after 12-Jan-1945
 USS S-36 (SS-141) lost on 20-Jan-1942

February

USS Barbel (SS-316) lost 4 Feb-1945
 USS Shark I (SS-174) lost 11 Feb 1942
 USS Amberjack (SS-219) lost 16 Feb 1943
 USS Grayback (SS-208) lost 26 Feb 1944
 USS Trout (SS-202) lost 29 Feb 1944

March

USS Perch (SS-176) lost 3 March 1942
 USS Grampus (SS-207) lost 5 March 1943
 USS H-1 (SS-28) lost 12 March 1920
 USS Triton (SS-201) lost 15 March 1943
 USS Kete (SS-369) lost 20 March 1945
 USS F-4 (SS-23) lost 25 March 1915

ETERNAL PATROL PREPARATIONS

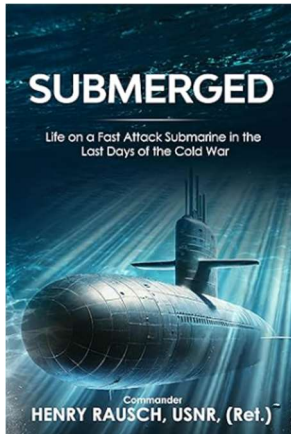
Shipmates, while we hope your day and those of your shipmates is far off in the future, we must nevertheless prepare. Please copy this notice and place it with your will or important papers.

IMPORTANT

In the case of my death, please immediately notify the U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc., (USSVI) at 877-542-3483 or 360-337-297 and give the person on duty the information regarding my death, funeral, and burial arrangements, plus who they can contact for follow-up and support. This information can alternatively be E-Mailed to the National Office at office@ussvi.org.

Also, contact my local chapter's Base Commander with this information as well.

Guest Speaker

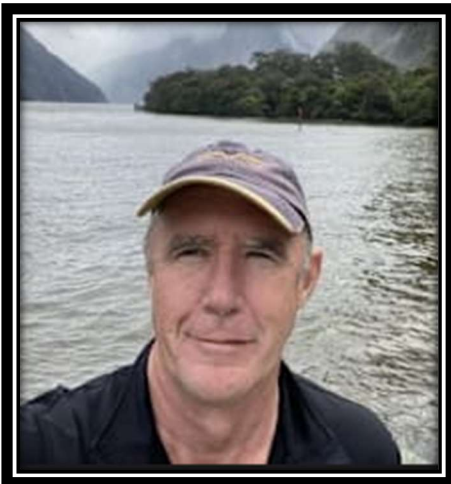


The Cincinnati Base of USSVI welcomes fellow submariner and author Henry Rausch to the April 26 meeting.

The introduction to his book reads: “Henry Rausch graduated from Stanford University and after earning a commission at Officer Candidate School reported to USS L Mendel Rivers (SSN-686) in August 1985. There he served as Engineering Assistant, Communicator, and Sonar Officer. The ship conducted four classified missions for which they were awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation, two Navy Expeditionary Medals, and the Arctic Service Ribbon. After that tour he served as Weapons Officer onboard USS Sunfish (SSN 649) which conducted deployments in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean. He left active service and served in the Reserves, primarily

in NATO Submarine Command and Control. He retired as a Commander in 2005 with 22 years of service and lives with his wife in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. He enjoys outdoor activities and flying small planes and has over 3800 hours of experience as a pilot in command.”

“The novel is derived from the experiences of someone who has “been there”. It is a snapshot of an attack boat’s missions during the late days of the Cold War. It describes the personal sacrifices of crew members as well as those left behind while emphasizing how people cope with hardship, and how when things are “at their worst, people are at their best”. It is a testament to the human spirit, especially the sailors who manned these ships, and the families who were left behind.”



Henry will fly his plane into Cincinnati to attend our April 26th meeting. He will discuss his book and provide insight into writing for publication. Copies of his book will be available.

It looks to be an interesting presentation so let’s show him our appreciation by making a special effort to attend this meeting and welcome him to Cincinnati.

