

American Submariners Inc.  
4370 Twain Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92120-3404



## *The Silent Sentinel*

September 2017



### *Our Creed and Purpose*

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.



**Swim Call in the Bahamas**  
Courtesy of BUBBLEHEADS on Facebook

## U.S. Submarine Veterans San Diego Base

**Base Commander**  
Warren Branges  
*wgbranges@gmail.com*

**Membership – Change of Address**  
Ray Ferbrache  
2955 Lloyd St.  
San Diego, CA 92117  
arayz@san.rr.com  
619-972-4474

**Treasurer**  
Joe Peluso  
jpeluso@pacbell.net

**Senior Vice Commander**  
Robert Golembieski

**Newsletter Editor**  
Mike HYMAN  
3639 Midway Drive, B-320  
San Diego, CA 92110-5254  
(619)223-9344  
stamps@fortunefwar.com

**Assistant Editor / Photographer**  
Jack Kane  
619-602-1801  
jkane32@cox.net

**Junior Vice Commander**  
*Manny Burciaga*  
*8406 Alado Place*  
*El Cajon, CA 92021-2003*  
*619-921-5877*  
*mpburci@cox.net*

**Base Storekeeper**  
Phil Richeson  
Phillip92071@aol.com  
619-922-3230

**Chief of the Boat/Middle East Liason**  
Fred Fomby  
858-735-0026

**Secretary**  
Jack Kane  
619-602-1801  
jkane32@cox.net

**Chaplain**  
David Ball  
3804 Wildwood Road  
San Diego, CA 92107-3750  
619-225-0304  
davidball@cox.net

**Parade Chairman**  
Joel Eikam  
**Scholarship Chairman**  
Paul Hitchcock

### The Silent Sentinel via Email

To all of my Shipmates and families who currently receive our Great newsletter via the mail who would like it sent via email or continue to receive it via mail, please fill out the form and mail it to the base or myself. We are trying to cut the cost of the newsletter down from \$3700 to about \$1900 a year. By receiving the Silent Sentinel via email will cut down the printing and mailing cost. The other plus to receiving it via email is you can save it on your computer and not have the paper lying around the house.

*A subscription to the Silent Sentinel newsletter will be available to surviving family members via internet email, at no charge, upon notification of the Membership Chairman. If a printed hard-copy is preferred, via US Post Office delivery, an annual donation of \$5.00 will be requested to cover costs.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Would like the SILENT SENTINEL emailed: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

USSVI Base Commander  
c/o VFW Post 3787  
4370 Twain Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92120-3404

*DUE TO LOGISTICS CONSTRAINTS, ALL INPUTS FOR THE SILENT SENTINEL MUST BE IN MY HAND NO LATER THAN **ONE WEEK** AFTER THE MONTHLY MEETING. IF I DO NOT RECEIVE IT BY THIS TIME, THE ITEM WILL NOT GET IN. NO EXCEPTIONS! MIKE*

## ***September 2017 MEETING***

**Our monthly meeting is held on the second Tuesday of the month at VFW Post 3787, 4370 Twain Ave., San Diego. Our next meeting will be on *September 12, 2017*. The post is located one-half block West of Mission Gorge Road, just north of I-8. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. The E-Board meets one hour earlier at 6 p.m.**

*Check us out on the World Wide Web  
[www.ussvisandiego.org](http://www.ussvisandiego.org)*

### ***Binnacle List***

***Harry Humpreville, Frank Walker, Glen Gerbrand, Ron Gorence,  
Everett Mauger, and Marie Tate (Wife of WWII VET Charlie)***

## ***Submarine Losses in September***

Originally Compiled by C J Glassford



#### 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 Mindanao.



## ***San Diego Base, United States Submarine Veterans Inc. Minutes of Meeting – 8 August 2017***

1906- Base Commander Warren Branges called the meeting to order.

Conducted Opening Exercises - Pledge of Allegiance lead by Past Commander Fred Fomby

Acting Chaplain David Ball lead the prayer.

Acting Chaplain David Ball conducted Tolling of the Boats for boats lost in the month of August. Junior Vice Commander Manny Birciaga recognized Past Commanders, dignitaries and guests.

Base Secretary Jack Kane announced 18 members 3 Guests present.

Base Treasurer Joe Peluso gave his report. A copy of the Treasurers Report will be filed with these minutes.

Minutes of June and July meetings were published in the Sentinel. No changes noted. Minutes stand as published.

Base Commander Warren Branges called for Committee Reports

Binnacle List - Acting Chaplain David Ball Reported Harry Humpreville, Glen Gerbrand and Ed Farley on Binnacle.

Parade Committee - Next Parade is 9 September at Poway Heritage Days Celebration. Parade starts at 0900.

Membership Committee - Chairman Ray Febrache. We have currently have 252 base members.

Scholarship Committee - Three Scholarships were awarded. Committee Chairman Paul Hitchcock will provide names and paperwork at September meeting.

Storekeeper - Paul Hitchcock has volunteered to become Storekeeper. Base Commander Warren Branges, Past Commander Bob Bissonette will meet with Paul sometime after National Convention to inventory all current Storekeeper holdings for turnover to Paul.

Breakfast Committee - Chair Base Commander Warren Branges. The last Breakfast netted \$119.00 + \$11.00 donation mailed to the Treasurer. Next Breakfast is 29 October.

52 Boat Memorial - Chair Base Commander Warren Branges- The City will start landscaping in October. Bushes will be placed near each plaque to minimize inadvertent damage to each. Some volunteer labor may be needed to help with the plantings. More info at next meeting. The next "ALL FLAGS DAY" - will be 15 September 2017, POW MIA Day.

Float Committee - Chair David Kauppinen - No Report.

Eagle Scout Program - Nihil Smith and Glenn Gerbrand. No Report.

1931 - Base Commander called for a break. 50/50 Raffle held. \$45.00 was raised for the Base General Fund.

1945 - Unfinished Business

Baja Fishing Trip Fund Raiser - David Ball volunteered to act as POC for this Fund Raiser. Tickets are \$10 each. 1st Prize - Choice of 2 Day Fishing Trip for 2 with 3 night stay at Old Mill Hotel in San Quintin, Baja California, Mexico or \$500. 2nd Prize: Prize not claimed by Prize winner. 3rd Prize: \$100. Drawing will be held at monthly meeting when 300 Tickets are sold, but not later than the SUBVETS Christmas Party on 2 December 2017. See Dave Ball for tickets. Tickets are available in blocks of 10. No need to be present to win.

National Convention in Orlando. The National Convention will be held in Orlando FL 1-6 September 2017. Attendance is down. USSVI National may take a large hit if a last minute surge of registration does not materialize. NEXT YEAR' S Convention is a

Caribbean Cruise from Fort Lauderdale, 28 October - 4 November 2018. More information about this meeting at our September meeting. The National Convention will be in Austin TX.

Annual Subvets Picnic - Held at Smugglers Cove, Naval Base Point Loma on 8 July 2017. The Picnic cost to San Diego Base was \$293.00. We feed 103 Adults and 10 to 20 children. Both morning and afternoon Submarine Tours were full.

Annual Christmas Party - Will be held at the VFW Hall, 4370 Twain Avenue, San Diego on Saturday, 2 December 2017. More information at future meetings.

#### 1955 - New Business

Review of By-Laws - We will do a review of our By-Laws. One resolution for consideration is eliminating one Vice Commander Position. We would have only Base Vice Commander instead of a Junior Vice and Senior Vice. More information and procedures at future meetings.

#### 1956 - Good of the Order

Change in Meeting time and place - Base Commander asked for a show of hands in favor or holding one or two meetings a year being held on a Saturday morning Family Breakfast format. The show of hands was favorable. The Commander will ask volunteers to look into this proposal at the next meeting.

The Base Commander was asked about a field trip to Terri Ulmer's Naval Exhibit in Pautz Valley (near Alpine). The COB Bob Bissonnette is working on setting this up for early next year.

Funeral Services for WWII Subvet Lee White will be held on 14 August 2017 at 1100 at Miramar National Cemetery. Anyone who can attend and act as a pallbearer is asked to contact the Base Commander.

Celebration of Life will be held for Joann Hogan on 19 August at 1200 - Information available on the back table.

Black and White Submarine Magnets are available for purchase - 4' magnets for \$10, 10" magnets for \$25.

We Welcome Julie Biewer to our meeting tonight. Julie's father, Francis Biewer was a WWII and Cold War Submariner. He served on Perch in WWII and on Chopper and Queenfish after the war. He was Commanding Officer of Catfish.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2008.

/s/ Jack E. Kane  
Jack Kane, Secretary

### *Sailing List for 8 August 2017*

Members  
Fred Fomby  
Joe Peluso  
Bob Farrell  
David Ball  
Jack Kane  
Warren Branges  
Manny Burciaga  
Matt Baumann

David Martinez  
 Chris Stafford  
 Dennis Mortensen  
 Mert Weltzien  
 Don Mathwiowitz  
 Ray Febrache  
 Joel O. Eikam  
 Ron Gorence  
 Phillip J. L. Richeson  
 Peter Lary

Guests  
 Dianne Branges  
 Brian Keith Richeson  
 Julie Biewer

### Current News

*“Plataginet, I will; and like thee, Nero,  
 Play on the lute, beholding the towns burn” (Henry VI, Shakespeare)*

*Rain, hurricanes, and a big, fat smuck residing North of the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel who needs to be converted “in a flash” into an elementary particle.*



**PT. LOMA**   
**POSTAL PLUS**

3639 Midway Drive, Suite B  
 San Diego, CA 92110  
 plpp@rocketmail.com

Quinlin R. Holmes  
 Owner / Notary Public

M-F 9-6; Sat 9-5  
 TEL 619 221-8004  
 FAX 619 221-8006



**APPLIANCE PARTS & SUPPLY**  
 A Don Erickson Incorporated Company  
 Est. 1958

<http://www.coastparts.com>

M-F 8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
 Sat 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

4408 Twain Avenue  
 San Diego, CA 92120  
 619 584-1192  
 619 584-0188 Fax



**Phone:** 858-373-8985  
**Email:** [gwetzel@pacilending.com](mailto:gwetzel@pacilending.com)  
**Efax:** 480-223-6375  
**NMLS#:** 1382521

**Gary Wetzel**  
 Mortgage Loan Officer  
 1490 South Price Road, Suite 207, Chandler, AZ 85286  
 Pacific Lending LLC/NMLS 1156766  
 1 Corporate Park - Suite 100  
 Irvine, CA 92606  
 OFFICE: 1-866-431-4328