THE PUMP ROOM

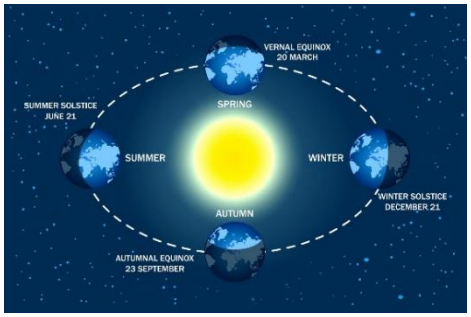
The Mare Island Base Newsletter

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."

Volume XXVI Issue 6 June 2026

Commanders Corner June 2026

Ahoy Mare Island Base Members,



The 2026 Western Regional Round-Up was in Las Vegas last month. For those who were not able to attend the round-up, you missed a good time. Besides the in-house entertainment, the Vegas strip was just 10 min. away with more shows and gambling. This year's event was very well attended, with over 160 Submarine Veterans and spouses. Next year's Western Regional Round-up will be in Denver.

Several good pieces of information and ideas were presented at this year's Western Regional Round-Up. There were several topical meeting groups at the round-up, a few of the ideas were presented at our last meeting. We learned about the app VetTix, a website for veterans that lets you purchase tickets for a large discount for hundreds of events. Two of the base members used this app to attend local Vegas shows. Several bases had some great ideas on how they raised money for their bases, how to find new members, and how to promote the base in the community. We hope to implement some of the ideas into Mare Island Base.

Several bases came up with the same comment on base membership and supporting base events. Basically, everyone that commented on it said, if you belong to a base, and if you attend base meetings, you should be attending all base functions that support the base. This does not seem to be happening at Mare Island Base. As an example, our need to cancel the annual base picnic for a second year in a row. If you have an idea for a base function, please let the board know, or bring it up at a meeting so we can float the idea with the other members there. A base cannot continue to function with the same four to six people doing all the work all the time.

Base elections will take place this year, nominations are now open for base elected officers. Elected officer positions to be filled this year are Base Commander, Vice Commander and Treasurer.

Appointed officer positions for next year, Pump Room Editor / POC, Base Website Monitor, Base Secretary, Base COB and Base Chaplin. Whether the same or new officers are in place for next year, all base officers will be sworn in during our annual Christmas lunch. Please submit your nomination for the elected offices no later than Saturday July 18th. Nominations can also be turned in during the next two meetings.

A ballot will be in the August Pump Room and mailed out to everyone on the base mailing list. Voting will be open for the offices as soon as the August Pump Room is published. Please turn in your ballots no later than Saturday, October 17th, 2026.

Our next meeting will be Saturday June 20th, back to our regular third Saturday.
Gary Peterson will be running the next two base meetings for June and July. I have family obligations for the next two meeting dates.

Dates to remember in June, Flag Day June 14th, Father's Day is June 21st. Summer Solstice June 21st and will be the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

"Volkswagen should bring back the Beetle as an electric car. They can call it the Lightning Bug."

Fair Winds and Following Seas.
Steve Paganelli
MIB Commander

MINUTES OF May 09, 2026, MEETING

Commander Steve Paganelli opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by our Creed.
Then Base COB, AL Cole read the lost boats for the month of May and rang the bell, then added one bell for William Louis Campbell who recently left on to eternal patrol and an additional bell for all the rest of our departed shipmates on eternal patrol.
Opening prayer was then given by Base Chaplin/ViceCmdr Gary Peterson.
Thank you to the Ladies for lunch.
Introduction of new member David Haily! Welcome Aboard!
Roll-call of all attending members with boat/year qualified.
Last month's meeting minutes were accepted as written by the base group.
Treasurer, Bill Dornik read the treasury report for May. It was accepted by base group.

Sick Call:

- None

Correspondence:

- None

Committee Reports:

- There was a recent District Commanders zoom meeting discussing several topics such as; (1) Raising funds by having base garage sales (2) Using social media to find new members in the area (3) Base recreation idea's such as attending local attractions (4) Extend thank-you to National Store keeper vendors (Barry & Carol) and everyone else who attended Regional Roundup.
- New Regional Roundup Committee is now in place for 2027's event in Denver next year, headed by Jim Demont from Bremerton Base. Their meetings will start soon.
- Notes from our recent roundup including (1) 50/50 raffle legal matters have never been a problem. (2) Future use of Base QR codes on websites & business cards. (3) Posting flyers and dropping off sub magazines with base business card attached at various locations. (4) Base VSO idea. (5) Base fund raising idea's such as flyers to hand out to local businesses asking for financial support. (6) Member booster financial support. (7) Base donation fund raising tables, at local businesses. (8) Presented Base business card idea. (9) Base membership retention. (10) Supporting your base by attending base meetings & functions. (11) Idea of posting new Holland Club members in local newspaper. (12) Download & use Vettix: https://www.vettix.org/ for discounted tickets to events such as sporting, concerts, shows etc. (13) Bases should have annual budgets. (14) Subvets National is looking for location to hold 2029 convention & Western Region looking for 2028/2029 locations for Roundups.
- Brian Woodson (VVMB Counsel Building Rep) gave update on latest Vallejo Vets Building accomplishments, issues, needs & overall status.

Old Business:

- Nothing mentioned

New Business:

- A position is opening in November for Base Treasurer to relieve Bill Dornik. Walt Young spoke up & sounded like he would like the job. Bill will train.
- A framed Base Commanders Commendation & gift certificate was awarded to Ron Triplett.

Announcements:

- Reminder of upcoming events; Memorial Day (May 25th) Ceremony onboard the USS Pampanito from 10:00AM to 12:00PM, or DAV Vallejo Waterfront Ceremony at 11:00AM.
- Future National Conventions are slated for 2027 in Reno & 2028 in Norfork
- Vice Commander Gary Peterson mentions that on June 13th at 10:30AM in Benicia there will be a plaque dedication ceremony at the Harold Bray statue on 1st street. Harold Bray is the last survivor from the USS Indianapolis (WW2) & is turning 99 years old this year. Harold Bray is Gary's father-in-law.
- Ted Kolda mentions that on May 17th at 3:00PM Solano Symphony Orchestra is putting on a concert in celebration of the country's 250th year anniversary. It will be held at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre and discounted tickets can be attained from Vettix. He will be playing the Cello.

Cont…

"Minutes" cont…

- Charles Butcher mentioned that Mare Island lost the drydock contract & Paramount Pictures has purchased all of the Mare Island north of the causeway up to highway 37.
- Dolphin Base has reported that the Moffett Field Museum & Commissary will be closing in the next 18 months. Not sure where they will be holding meetings once closed.
- Birthdays for May were announced.

Good of the Order:

- Whoever is thinking about going to the Corpus Christi National Subvet Convention, get registered soon as hotel rooms are going fast.

The 1st 50/25 cash raffle was won by Hank Hobbs! He donated all his winnings to the Base!
The 2nd 50/25 cash raffle was won by Walt Young!
Bottle of Wine raffle was won by William Parnell (Doc)!
250 Year USA Commemorative Coin won by Mike Bregandi!
Next official Base meeting will be June 20th at 11:00.
A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.
Closing prayer was given by Gary Peterson and the meeting was adjourned.

Ron Triplett receiving his Base Commander's Commendation Award
from Steve Paganelli

Mare Island Base Officer Elections

Nominations are now open for base officers.

Elected positions for 2027–2029-time frame are Base Commander, Base Vice Commander, Base Treasurer.

Please turn in any nominations you have for any of the base offices, no later than Saturday July 18th, 2026. Nominations can be mailed to the Vallejo Veterans building, 420 Admiral Callaghan Ln. and addressed to Mare Island Base. Or E-mailed to the Base POC or turned in at the next meeting.

A final Ballott will be published in the August Pump Room.

Voting will be open for the offices as soon as the August Pump Room is published. Please turn in your ballots no later than Saturday, October 17th, 2026.

No matter if there is only one person running for an elected position all base members should turn in a complete ballet, by the date noted.

The results of the vote will be published in the November Pump Room.

All new and old base officers will be sworn in during the 2026 Christmas Holiday Lunch.

Mare Island Base Officers & Contacts

Commander:

Steve Paganelli (650) 766-2156 2370 Rosewood Dr. San Bruno, CA 94066
spagnel@prodigy.net

Vice Commander:

Gary Peterson (707) 644-4229 825 Ashwood Ave. Vallejo, CA 94591
imppete@att.net

Secretary:

Ron Troutner (707) 290-3822 111 Hastings Ave, Vallejo, CA 94589
rontroutner@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

William Dornik (707) 315-6090 751 Rollingwood Rd. Vallejo, CA 94591-5707
wdornik@sbcglobal.net

Chaplain:

Gary Peterson (707) 644-4229 825 Ashwood Ave. Vallejo, CA 94591
imppete@att.net

Storekeeper:

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POC / Newsletter Publisher / Editor:

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Western District 5 Commander:

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SacSubVet@barrywyatt.com

Western Region Director:

Pete Juhos (916) 208-0667 194 Big Valley Rd. Folsom, CA 95630-4648
dsv3.ss1@gmail.com

National Senior Vice Commander:

Tim Carlisle (925) 812-4239 4100 Alhambra #1341 Martinez, CA
timcarlisle00@hotmail.com

COB:

Al Cole (707) 554-2120 2555 Flosden Rd. SP9 American Canyon, CA 94503
mouser1950@comcast.net

Mare Island Base Facebook Page: Facebook.com/Mareisland.USSVI

Mare Island Base Website: ***"Temporarily inactive"***

MEMORIAL DAY / VALLEJO WATERFRONT 2026

Mare Island Base attendees:

Bill (Doc) Panell, Bill Dirnik and John North

MEMORIAL DAY / USS PAMPANITO 2026

Coming Events

Mare Island Base Meeting June 20th , 2026 , 12 noon, Veteran's Memorial Building Vallejo, CA.
USSVI Annual Convention Corpus Christi Texas, September 6–11, 2026.

ANNUAL BOOSTERS

To become a booster, a donation of $60 per year or $5 per month is required

D. D'Ambrogio
J. Infanger
D. Boncore
W. Dornik
S. Paganelli
H. Hobbs
J. North
A. Cole
T. Kolda
W. Young

MONTHLY BOOSTERS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JUNE

Barry Commons
Hank Hobbs
Stephen Reem
Paul Smith
Thomas Foglesong
Nathan Padilla
Larry Sibiski

ETERNAL PATROL MARCH/APRIL/MAY

Frank McEneany – March 17, 2026
William Louis (Soupy) Campbell - April 29, 2026

Sailor Rest Your Oar

Shipmates

U.S. Submarine Veterans Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS)
Each Year K4K Week is celebrated around Veterans Day (November 11th).
Please contact Base Commander Steve Paganelli if you are interested in participating in this program.
Program Coordinator: John Riley (203) 668-9131 subvetss4kidss@gmail.com
United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation: Ken Earls (541) 879-3038
kenearls.ss@gmail.com
https://www.ussvcf.org/videos.html

2026 USSVI National Convention
September 6 - 11th, 2026
Corpus Christi, Texas
Registration Form Page 1

Use This Form Only if Paying by Check or Money Order. Use On-Line Form if Paying With Credit Card.
This is a Fillable PDF form. Download the form onto your computer. Click the cursor on the block to be filled in. Type in the applicable information. TAB to the next block or click the cursor on the applicable block.

Name (First):	(MI):	(Last):						
Name for Badge:	USSVI (✓ 1): Member		Associate		Guest			
Address:								
City:	State:	Zip Code:						
Phone:	E-mail:							
Base:	Position:							
Qual Boat:	Hull No:	Qual Year:						
Emergency Contact (Required):	Phone:							

Spouse / Guest 1

Name (First):	(MI):	(Last):					
Name for Badge:	USSVI (✓ 1): Member		Associate		Guest		
Emergency Contact (Required):	Phone:						

Guest 2

Name (First):	(MI):	(Last):					
Name for Badge:	USSVI (✓ 1): Associate				Guest		
Emergency Contact (Required):	Phone:						

Guest 3

Name (First):	(MI):	(Last):					
Name for Badge:	USSVI (✓ 1): Associate				Guest		
Emergency Contact (Required):	Phone:						

Note: The Registration, Challenge Coin and 50/50 fees are Non-refundable. You will receive your coins and remain eligable for 50/50 drawing. Refund requests for any of the above events must be made prior to August 01, 2026. Registration must be received NLT August 21st to guarantee seats at events and tours. After this registration can be made at the convention on space available basis.

Make Check/Money Order Payable to: United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. Memo: 2026 USSVI National Convention	Mail Registration Form (Pg. 1 & 2) and Payment to: 2026 USSVI National Convention PO Box 270100 Corpus Christi, TX 78427-0100

For Questions or Comments Please Contact

Barb Boyle 972-342-4761 barb.boyle@verizon.net	Glenn MacDonald 832-515-4825 gemlcdr@gmail.com	Rick Mitchell 512-639-0035 rick.ussvi@gmail.com

2026 USSVI National Convention
September 6 - 11th, 2026 Corpus Christi, Texas Registration Form Page 2

s Form Only if Paying by Check or Money Order. Use On-Line Form if Paying With Credit Card.

Click the cursor in the Registration Qty block.Type in the number and press Tab. The total is computed automatically. and the cursor moves down 1 block. When complete, print both pages.

Date	Event		Cost	Qty	Total
A registration fee is required for every person 18or older attending any of the events below. <18 Free. Note that alcohol will be available.		Registration	$ 30.00		0
Sun 9/6	Corpus Christi Hooks Baseball Game and Dinner (Minimum 40)	1600 - 2200	$ 55.00		0
Mon 9/7	Fishing Trip #1 (GULF) Port Aransas	0600 - 1400	$ 80.00		0
	Texas State Aquarium Trip	0800 - 1200	$ 50.00		0
	Historical Sightseeing & WWII Heritage Trail Tour #1	0830 – 1200	$ 30.00		0
	Railroad Brewery Luncheon (min 45)	1230 – 1430	$ 35.00		0
	Welcome Aboard Party-Stadium Fare Popcorn, ballpark nachos, cracker jacks, hot dogs and pizza	1900 - Till	$ 35.00		0
Tues 9/8	Fishing Trip #2 (BAY) Corpus Christi (max 35)	0600 – 1300	$ 60.00		0
	Grand Excursion Tour	0830 – 1500	$ 40.00		0
	Beer - BBQ & Spirits Tour (max 40)	1130 – 1630	$ 70.00		0
	Buccaneer Cruise - Sight Seeing Sunset Cruise (max 35)	1800 - 2100	$ 45.00		0
	Texas Tease Sunset Bay Cruise (Sold Out)	1800 - 2100	$ 50.00	Sold Out	0
Wed 9/9	Historical Sightseeing & WWII Heritage Trail Tour #2	0830 - 1200	$ 30.00		0
	Holland Club Luncheon 1130-1330 This event is open for everyone!	Chicken	$ 45.00		0
		Beef	$ 45.00		0
	Spirits - BBQ & Beer Tour #2 (max 40)	1400 - 1830	$ 70.00		0
	Half-Way Night Party & Ice Cream Social	1900 - Till	$ 35.00		0
Thur 9/10	Mens and Ladies Luncheon 1100 - 1300	Chicken	$ 45.00		0
		Beef	$ 45.00		0
	Tolling Ceremony	1530 - 1630	Free		
	Post Tolling BBQ Dinner on the Lex	1700 - Till	$ 25.00		0
Fri 9/11	Annual Awards Banquet *Special diet request please contact convention Chair	Chicken	$ 60.00		0
		Redfish	$ 60.00		0
		Beef	$ 78.00		0
50/50 Tickets (Drawn at Awards Banquet Attendence not required)		Each	$ 5.00		0
Extra Door Prize Tickets (prizes to be given away at all hotel events) (Each registration gets one ticket, these are extra chances)		Each	$ 5.00		0
Challenge Coin (Pre Order price only) $20 at Convention till sold out		Each	$ 12.00		0
		Total (if paying by check or money order)		=	0

LOST BOATS / JUNE

Please Fly Your Flag On Lost Boats Days

USS Herring (SS-233)

Lost on June 1, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Matsuwa Island. Herring was on her 8th war patrol and was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made 2 direct hits on her conning tower and causing her loss. Before being sunk, she had sank a freighter and a passenger-cargoman. Herring was the only US submarine sunk by a land battery.

USS R-12 (SS-89)

Lost on June 12, 1943 with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.

USS Golet (SS-361)

Lost on June 14, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. On her 2nd war patrol, Golet was apparently lost in battle with antisubmarine forces north of Honshu.

USS Bonefish (SS-223)

Lost on June 18, 1945 with the loss of 85 men when sunk near Suzu Misaki. Winner of 3 Navy Unit Citations, Bonefish was on her 8th war patrol. After sinking a passenger-cargoman, Bonefish was subjected to a savage depth charge attack.

Cont…

Lost Boats cont…

USS S-27 (SS-132)

Lost on June 19, 1942 when it grounded off Amchitka Island. She was on the surface in poor visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore (400 yards away) in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescued.

USS O-9 (SS-70)

Lost on Jun 20, 1941 with the loss of 33 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH.

USS Runner (SS-275)

Lost between June 26 & July 4th 1943 with the loss of 78 men. Runner was on her 3rd war patrol probably due to a mine. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargoman off the Kuriles. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on June 26th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before July 4th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.

Photos taken at the Submarine Birthday Ball
Monterey, CA

LT Noel K. Schilling, USN

by Bob 'Dex' Armstrong

He was, put simply, a submariner… Actually, a submariner's submariner. The man forgot more about submarines than most of us ever knew, and he held all the patents on unauthorized behavior as an enlisted man. Rumor had it that the Department of the Navy commissioned him for the return of an aircraft carrier and a couple of tin cans the CNO lost to him in a poker game… It was probably true.

We… The animals aft, learned that when it came to 'games of chance' it was simpler to figure out what you could afford to lose… Take it out of your wallet and mail it to him. It saved you a helluva lot of time and the embarrassment of having your clock cleaned.

When Noel K. trimmed the boat, you could shoot pool on the deck plates. He was a manifold magician… He dealt in increments pumped to forward and after trim that were the equivalent of a humming bird parade. The man was a planesman's dream. In the old smokeboat navy, you operated the bow and stern planes by turning contraptions that looked like stagecoach wheels… With most diving officers, you spent four hours wrestling those oversize bastards and sweating up your dungaree shirt.

When Noel K. had the dive, he would compensate the boat to a point where you could maintain a zero bubble by blowing on the operating gear every fifteen minutes. He was good… Damn good.

We entertained each other by telling Schilling stories. They could be total bullshit, but every lad aboard knew he was capable of doing everything that was told about him. He was one of those 'larger than life' characters that bluejacket's barroom legends are built around. The man was one helluva submarine sailor.

There was a downside to being an animal on a boat with Schilling in the wardroom. The sonuvabitch always knew what you were up to before you had actually figured it out yourself. He could abort a stupid stunt still forming in the womb of mental deviousness… And a little voice in your head would say to you, "Only some sonuvabitch who had successfully pulled off what you were going to do, would recognize the indicators."

The animals loved him… No erosion of respect. He commanded respect in the same way a master safe cracker would respect a guy who had picked the lock on Queen Elisabeth's chastity belt with a bluebird feather. He was good. Sailors always feel most secure when watching a master pulling rabbits out of weird hats.

I pity the guys who rode boats with lousy wardrooms… Musta been hell. Requin was a good boat forward and aft… Sure, we didn't ride a sea-going Sunday school… The wardroom was called upon to set us on fire on a regular basis… And we operated well beyond the limits of hormonal constraint… But it worked. Nothing hit the fan that we couldn't get out of… Or blame on some other boat.

Noel K. took time to square a kid away. I was 19… He pounded electrical and trim and drain quals into my low-level brain, encased in a tank turret skull. Anyone who could install knowledge between my ears was perfectly capable of teaching fleas to waltz.

I collected memories… Didn't know it at the time. At nineteen, next month was as far in the future as I gave a damn about. I was never growing old… My dad had the market cornered on that nonsense. No sir, I was going to master the panty elastic combination, keep the breweries working an extra shift and own the world someday… At 19, all of that seems possible… Old age was bullshit.

When it arrives, it is still major bullshit, but it is made much easier if you collected your seabag full of memories when you said, "Screw the future… When's liberty?"

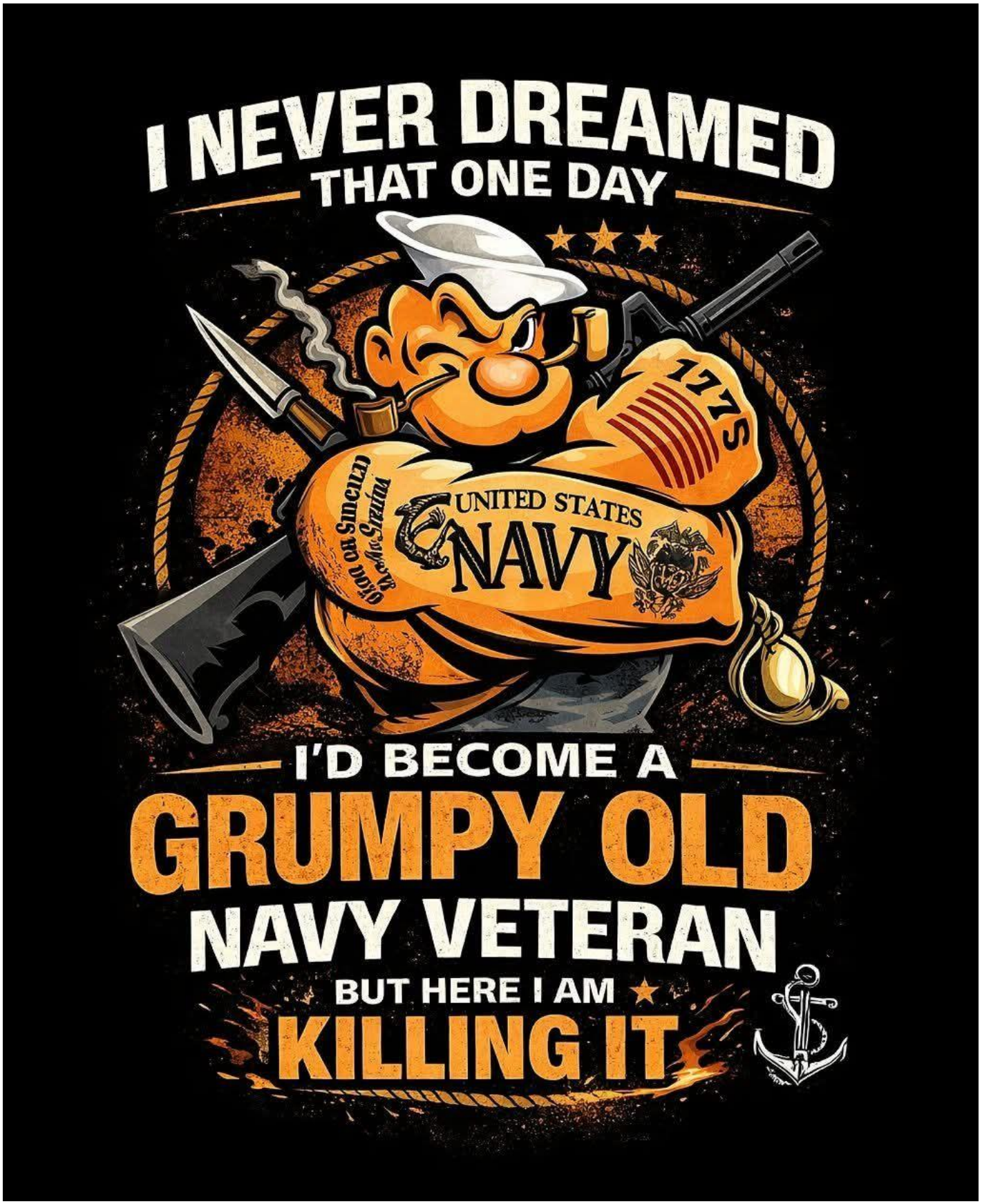
At 19, pissing against the tide is a full-time job… And it helps to have a LT Noel K. Schilling there to toss you a heavie when it gets over your head.

Noel K. Schilling and James A. Buckner… Aces back to back… USS Requin (SS-481).

☺

"Editor's Note"

It has been brought to my attention that every 3rd Monday & Wednesdays of each month, there is Dinner served at the Vallejo Vets Hall for $15 a person.
Mondays are run by VFW & starts at 7:00PM.
Wednesdays are run by Post 550 at 6:00PM.
We need to RSVP ahead of time to Ray at Post 550. Phone: 720548-7148 You can pay by Zelle or cash at the event.


I NEVER DREAMED
THAT ONE DAY
UNITED STATES
NAVY
I'D BECOME A
GRUMPY OLD
NAVY VETERAN
BUT HERE I AM
KILLING IT

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC. MARISLAND BASE
Application For Membership

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 the greater accomplishments. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States and its Constitution."

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

BIRTHDATE: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

BOAT QUALIFIED ON & DATE: _____

RANK/RATE ATTAINED: _____

CURRENTLY ON ACTIVE DUTY: YES ( ) NO ( )

USN or USNR RETIRED: YES ( ) NO ( )

OTHER BOATS SERVED ON (Name/Hull#/Dates): _____

_____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Annual dues are $10. Base Dues, and $40. National Dues. If you prefer you can renew 3 yrs. at $27. for Base Dues, and $113. National Dues, or 5 yrs. at $45. for Base Dues and $185. National Dues. Life Membership for National: Under 45=$750.00, age 46-55=$625.00, age 56-65=$450.00, age 66-75 =$300.00, age 76+ =$150.00. (Life Members must also pay Base Dues as stated above.) Please send your check made out to **Mare Island Base** to:

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