

# CORVINA BASE

January 2012

# NEWSLETTER



Meetings are held on the first Saturday  
Of each month at Denny's Coffee  
Shop, 205 E. Nugget Ave. Sparks NV  
At 1400 hours.

Base Commander	Dan Moran	853-1126	<a href="mailto:morandk61@hotmail.com">morandk61@hotmail.com</a>
Base Vice Commander	Dennis Wiley	972-0388	<a href="mailto:mdvwiley@sbcglobal.net">mdvwiley@sbcglobal.net</a>
Past Base Commander/POC	Don Brown	853-5309	<a href="mailto:donbrownss322@sbcglobal.net">donbrownss322@sbcglobal.net</a>
Base Secretary / Historian	Pete Akerson	851-8825	<a href="mailto:peteakerson@hotmail.com">peteakerson@hotmail.com</a>
Base Treasurer	Dave Aunkst	883-7276	<a href="mailto:mdaun.nv@att.net">mdaun.nv@att.net</a>
COB	Bob Heaps	424-6829	<a href="mailto:renoheaps@yahoo.com">renoheaps@yahoo.com</a>
MAL	open		
MAL	open		
Base Storekeeper	Frank Urbani	882-6421	<a href="mailto:urbiess567@sbcglobal.net">urbiess567@sbcglobal.net</a>
Base Chaplain	Paul Allen	882-7971	<a href="mailto:pmgjallen1@att.net">pmgjallen1@att.net</a>
Recruiting	Dennis Wiley	972-0388	<a href="mailto:mdvwiley@sbcglobal.net">mdvwiley@sbcglobal.net</a>
Newsletter/Webmaster	Norm Peterson	322-5193	<a href="mailto:1971tr6@charter.net">1971tr6@charter.net</a>
Base Web Site			<a href="http://www.usscorvinabase.org/">http://www.usscorvinabase.org/</a>



## 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.

Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.



# COMMANDERS LOG

Our January meeting was very good, a large number of members attended. My main topic was about planning this year' coming events.

The wonderful annual picnic, this year will again be at Davis Creek, on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Christmas afternoon party will be at The Nugget in Sparks. All had a Great time, see old friends and meet new ones. Both events where arranged by Terry Bolen. He did so good.

Thanks from all of us. He has agreed to do it this year, how nice is that.

We talked about Parades. May 19<sup>th</sup> is Armed Forces day, as you know we have been going to Hawthorne. Last year not too many members attended. The price for gas cost us \$100.00 to have our Submarine Float towed. (A special thanks to the Akerson Family.)

I'm asking all of our members and family that would to go to the Hawthorne Parade to E-mail or call me, or let me know at the February Meeting. It's a Super Parade in a Military Town.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, we talked about Reno. I checked **NO PARADE THIS YEAR.**

I'm checking other locations. Fernley looks good; we had a great turnout last year.

October 27<sup>th</sup> is Nevada day parade, the best parade in the Whole State.

November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day. We went to VC last year. What a gathering of Sub sailors and family.

Our Member at Large, Rick Dentino had to resign. He accepted a full time job as a manager of a Casino in Fallon, god love him.

A short story, I have noticed more and more people listen with ear buds while walking, driving or on a bike. With the buds in your ears, you can not hear anything around you. In public this is a danger. Always know what is happing around you.

I was stopped at a signal light recently. I looked to the car on my right. The driver had ear buds in her ears. She was moving to her music. Her baby was crying in the back seat. I opened my window and called to her, no response. I tooted my horn a few timed, no response.

I opened my passenger door, this she noticed. She pulled out her plugs. I told her that the police station is one block away. She said why? I told her that a hand was sticking out of her truck. When the light changed she drove fast the Police Station. I do not know what happened! **(This is true.)**

If you must use ear phones, try to get the kind that hang on the ear, not in the ear channel. Test them, listen to music and try to talk with others.

Please bring another member to a meeting. Bring your wife or girlfriend, but not both at the same time!  
Fly the COLORS. Buy American made.

See Ya,  
Dan Moran



# Minutes of Corvina Base Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Commander Moran at 1402. COB Heaps, lacking adequate adult supervision, failed to sound the usual two blasts of the klaxon. The Invocation by Chaplain Allen, Pledge of Allegiance, reading of the USSVI Creed, Tolling of the bell for January and moment of silence for all departed shipmates followed in their usual order. There were 21 members and guests present.

New member Russ Noragon introduced himself to the group, followed by all members present introducing themselves.

There were no minutes of the Christmas Party/Installation to approve or correct. Secretary Pete Akerson reports the base has received the annual request for a report verifying that the torpedo at the Corvina Memorial at NNVMC still exists.

Treasurer Dave Aunkst reports that the base is still in very sound financial condition.

Storekeeper Frank Urbani reported he has an ample supply of 2012 USSVI calendars in stock.

Chaplain Paul Allen reports no significant changes in the respiratory rates or body temperatures of current base members.

Commander Moran and all members present thanked Terry Bolen for his fine work arranging last month's Christmas party/meeting.

This years Christmas Party/Meeting will be held on December 8, 2012 rather than on the first Saturday of the month.

Corvina base will be participating in the following parades in 2012:

Fourth of July - Reno, NV

Nevada Day - Carson City, NV

Veterans Day - Virginia City, NV

Vouchers for dinners at Gold Dust West which had been inadvertently left out of the raffle at the Christmas party were raffled off to the members who had been present at the party.

Vice Commander Dennis Wiley talked to the group and described his active duty career including details of his path to Master Chief, Master Diver and Master Spud Peeler.

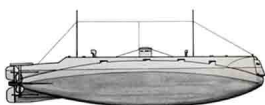
After a brief recess the usual 50/50 raffle was held with the following results: Flashlight - Dan Moran Framed Base Logo - Dennis Wiley Car Magnet - Bill Sweetwood Tool - Jack Quade Popcorn - Frank Urbani NYPD Calendar - Dave Aunkst USSVI Calendar - Terry Bolen - USSVI Calendar - Smokey Jordan Wine - Terry Bolen The \$51.00 cash prize was won by Bob Salling, who very generously donated a part of his winnings to Corvina Base. Thanks, Bob! The year is young, but the Booster List is growing rapidly!

After the Benediction by Chaplain Allen, the meeting adjourned at 1515 with the sounding of three blasts of the klaxon by a competently guided COB Heaps.

Respectfully,

Pete Akerson

Secretary



## The origin of Sub Pay

Should Teddy Roosevelt be the patron saint of submariners? Roosevelt was the first American President to go aboard a submarine and to make a dive. Roosevelt ventured beneath the waters of Long Island Sound aboard USS Plunger (SS 2) on March 25, 1905. Plunger was the United States' second submarine, commissioned in September 1903....

Beyond this historical first, however, is the fact that Roosevelt was the man directly responsible for submarine pay. The Naval hierarchy in 1905 considered submarine duty, neither unusual nor dangerous, and classified it as shore duty. Therefore, submariners received twenty-five percent less pay than sailors going to sea in Destroyers, Cruisers and similar surface ships.

Roosevelt's two-hour trip on Plunger convinced him that this discrimination was unfair. He described submarine duty as hazardous and difficult, and he found that submariners "have to be trained to the highest possible point as well as to show iron nerve in order to be of any use in their positions..."

Roosevelt directed that officer service on submarines be equated with duty on surface ships. Enlisted men qualified in submarines were to receive ten dollars per month in addition to the pay of their rating. They were also to be paid a dollar for every day in which they were submerged while underway. Enlisted men assigned to submarines but not yet qualified received an additional five dollars per month.

Roosevelt did not dilly-dally once he made a decision. He issued an Executive Order directing the extra pay for enlisted personnel. This was the beginning of submarine pay!

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**I haven't failed, I've found 10,000 ways that don't work.**

Thomas Edison (1847-1931).



# Treasurers Report

1. Account balances are available at Base Meetings.

2. Deposits:

From January meeting- \$332.00

Miscellaneous/Dues- \$560.50

3. Checks issued in January:

Capital U.S. Flag (Gift to CO)- \$ 17.05

Dues paid to National Office- \$355.00

Refund life dues overpayment- \$140.00

Postage for Treasurer- \$ 17.60

Thanks,

Dave



## Lunch bunch



Feb 17th Bamboo Gardens, 3747 S. Carson, Carson City

Mar 16th Rosita's Cocina, 7689 S Virginia, Reno.

Apr 20th BJ's, 425 Sparks Blvd., Legends, Sparks



# Chaplains Corner

In loving memory of Josephine A. Casten

October 20, 1913 - January 7, 2012, Reno, Nevada:

It is with sadness we report the passing of the wife of Corvina Base member Joe Casten. Joe had retired from the New York City transit system and Jean from the New York Telephone Co. when they moved to Reno on July 23, 1992. Joe and Jean had no children, but had a close relationship to Jean's niece, Arlene and her daughter, Lisa. Jean will be missed by her family.

During the month of February, there are holidays which we celebrate influential people in the history of the USA and also other special days such as Valentine's Day, Ash Wednesday, Groundhog Day, Black History month, and people who were born on Leap Year (Feb. 29), their once every 4 years birthday. I grew up in a small rural community called Volta in Central California, near Los Banos, where the Volta Elementary School had 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, with approximately 90 students and no kindergarten.

Mrs. Lillian Negra was my school teacher in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades and loved history. At 65, she would tell us stories that as a child their transportation was horse and buggy and before flood control the San Joaquin River could flow up to 20 miles wide during spring runoff. From the highest point in the Sierras to the ocean the river flows 366 miles. The main reason I am telling this story is because in February we celebrate the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, two of our countries greatest presidents. In Mrs. Negra's classroom there were displayed paintings honoring these two presidents. In this newsletter I would like to honor the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. Last year, 2011, was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Civil War. President Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4, 1861 and the Civil War began on April 12, 1861 and ended April 9, 1865, then 6 days later on Good Friday, he was tragically assassinated.

Lincoln was familiar with the Bible, quoting it and praised it, but his faith in God to help him to be president in such a difficult time evolved over a period of years. After the death of his second son, Eddie, on February 1, 1850, at 3 years and 9 months of age, Lincoln more frequently acknowledged his own need to depend on God. Before the Civil War was even one year old, his third son Willie (at 11 years old) died, which broke their hearts. In April 1864, discussing Emancipation, Lincoln wrote, "I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events controlled me. Now, at the end of a three year struggle the nation's condition is not what either party, or any man devised, or expected. God alone can claim it." When John Wilkes Booth, an actor, assassinated Lincoln, he somehow thought he was helping the South. The opposite was the result, for with Lincoln's death, the possibility of peace with magnanimity died.

Note: Nevada was admitted to the Union on October 31, 1864 during the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the Civil War and the only submarine used in combat in the Civil War was the Confederate submarine, the Hunley. The first U. S. Navy submarine was bought in 1900 which was the USS Holland SS-1 10/1900 - 11/1910.

Prayer: Almighty God, we ask for your wisdom and guidance for our nation in these challenging times just as you helped President Lincoln. Thank you, Lord!

A movie, "Lincoln (2012)", directed by Steven Spielberg, will be released at the of this year.

Corvina Base Chaplain - Paul Allen



# Bob's Safety Tips

I was recently reading one of Dan Moran's letters on staying safe when I had a "moment of clarity". I thought it might be helpful to the members if I passed on some of the things I had learned and/or observed in nearly 30 years of fighting fire and making Emergency Medical Calls. So, I approached Dan with the suggestion that on occasion, not monthly, I pass on what I recalled with the hope it might spare you or your family a moment of discomfort or save you a dollar or two. He agreed, so this is the first. I hope it helps someone stay safe.

Just before Christmas, many of us were saddened by the national news story about a family in New England who lost 3 small children and 2 grandparents to a really vicious fire. Investigators determined that the fire started from embers taken from the fireplace and placed aside so Santa Clause could come down the chimney. The embers were set aside in a non-fireproof container and the fire resulted. Could this deadly fire have been prevented? It very easily could have been.

First, always go on the assumption when dealing with embers or fire place remains, that they will continue to smolder for at least 3 to 4 days. That is right, DAYS. This is not like turning off the gas valve or the electric switch. The embers continue to smolder until they consume all the fuel they encounter, run out of oxygen, or you put water on them to extinguish them. Even then, they can retain enough heat to ignite a combustible container. Paper ignites at about 450 degrees. Those glowing embers may have hot spots over 1000 degrees.

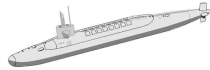
Simple rule, get a metal trash can with a lid and use it only for this. Yes they still make them. I just checked on line and a 20 gal commercial quality can and lid were less than \$40. Yes this is a little money. If you just use it for this purpose, it will probably out last you. But think a moment. This is a whole less than the deductible on your insurance if you have even a very small fire. A small 20 gallon can is sufficient for most homes. Place all waste from the fireplace into it, put the metal top on securely, remove it from inside the house or garage. The reason for placing it outside is there may still be some combustion occurring producing Carbon Monoxide gas. This is a very deadly killer which you do not want in any amount in your home. Set the can outside away from any other combustible material where it cannot tip over. Remember it is may still have very hot embers in it. If the can were tipped over, the embers could start a fire in dead leaves or dead grass.

Before disposing of the fireplace waste in the trash or the flower beds, give them a few weeks to completely consume the fuel and cool down. Then and only then, dispose of them. This is also a safe way to dispose of ashes and coals from a bar-b-que. Every Good-old-boy from Texas knows this. Hope this helps to keep you safe.

Bob

*Editor: Bob Salling asked to write some articles on fire safety. This was wrote two weeks before*

*The Washoe fire.*



**New Members**

Welcome to two new members:

Gabe Freitas (SK3(SS)) of Verdi, NV. He qualed on the Wahoo in 1962.

Harry Cousins (LT. (SS)) of Reno. He qualed on the Chopper in 1954.

**Chester MacDowell**

**Members Bio**

I was born and raised in Grand Ledge, Michigan a town of about 3,500 people. Grand Ledge is located about 12 miles west of Lansing. Until the age of 16 I worked at farms in the area. After turning 16, during the summers I went to Detroit and worked on FHA construction and the next year went to work for a small company manufacturing windows and doors.

Lacking 1 year plus 2 subjects from getting my High School diploma I joined the Navy in December of 1940, when I was 18. I had to go to Detroit to join up. They sent me up to Great Lakes for recruit training and of course, since it was the middle of winter, I got sick and ended up in the sick-bay for a short period of time.

As with all recruits I was assigned my service number of 3115741. The last 2 numbers indicated the year I graduated from boot camp. Prior to leaving boot camp they came through looking for volunteers to volunteer for submarine duty. They got 31 people to volunteer.

After finishing boot camp I went directly to Submarine School in New London. I remember my first dive in the school boats I was so focused on what I had been instructed to do we were underwater before I really realized it. After going through the escape tower and the rest of the training I went to the R-17 boat. The R-17 was in Panama at the time so I went down there on an ammunition carrier. In route we stopped at Guantanamo and dropped off a sea going barge and then continued on to Panama where I reported aboard R-17. For a raw recruit like myself Panama was quite an experience. It's pretty sedate there now compared to what it was then. While we were pulling out the anchor chairs to clean and repaint them, we ended up in the dry dock. Now I don't know if you've ever been in a dry dock that's below ground level in Panama, but it's hot. After the first day it was decided that we would work at night so they rigged up lights so we could see what we were doing. After completing that, the R boat was leaving and going back to the states. What happens? I get sick again. So I was transferred over to the 18 boat which was leaving later.

After leaving Panama on the R-18 we pulled into New London just about 2 weeks before Pearl Harbor. I was in the second leave party, the first leave party took off just as we got in. So the first party was on leave and Pearl Harbor hit and I never got a chance to go on leave and the first party was called back. A Quartermaster in the first leave party; I can't remember his name; got home to Colorado, he lived in some small town in the mountains, and they couldn't get to him to authorize him to come back because he got snowed in.

When we began operations after all hands came back we became decoys (targets) for the tin cans and Canadian Corvettes. We were assigned to operate in a certain area which we had to stay in. This went on for a short time until we got orders to go down to the Virgin Islands. While down there we continued to act as a target for awhile. We then returned to New London.

We barely had time to turn around when we went up to Casco Bay which lies Northeast of Portland Maine. You speak about cold it was so cold up there we had to use the fire axe to clear the ice off of the hatches so we could close them. While there we once again acted as a target to train the ASW ships. We left New London so fast we didn't even have a chance to get our foul weather gear so all we had for liberty were our white summer uniforms. In order to make liberty they sent out a launch from the edge of ice, picked us up off the sub and then took us to the edge of the ice and from there we had to walk across the ice to get ashore. Once we got ashore the Marine on duty wouldn't let us go since we didn't have on the proper uniform and sent us back to the boat. Once our captain found out about it he grabbed his foul weather jacket, no telling what rank he was, and he talked to the Marine on duty and he still wasn't going to let us go ashore. Our captain told him I'm the captain of that submarine out there and I want to talk to your Commanding Officer now. The Marine made the call and our captains talked to one another. The Marine got back on the phone and was told in no uncertain terms that he was to let us go since we had no other clothes with us. We went on liberty in whites. After 2 or so months there we returned to New London and then were sent down to Bermuda.

We spent about 5 months down there and once again were the target for ASW training for the fleet. We had to stay in a certain area and after about 2 weeks they got pretty good at pinging in on us. Once they got good enough to find us when we came up we found practice depth charges on us. The depth charges didn't have any explosives in them but they did have the detonator and we could hear it when it went off.

I was striking to be a diesel mechanic. The COB came and called five of us over. He had slips of paper in his hat with our names on it. He told us he didn't need 5 diesel mechanics as they do

Torpedoman now. So he had one of the guys draw and name out of the hat. I was one of the lucky ones that got sent to torpedo school.

The thing was it paid off for me because I got the second highest marks in my class. The guy that came in first was already a 3rd Class Torpedoman and already had experience. So they made me a third class at that time I went on up to first class. I'd put in for new construction but they wouldn't turn me loose, the stinkers. With the war winding down I wanted to go out there and do something but they said I was a darned good instructor and they didn't want to lose me.

In February of 44 I got married to Laura we've been together ever since. I finally got new construction, the Torsk, two weeks before our daughter was born. She was born in December and you can bet the ladies from our town were counting on their fingers. I think I got to see the little squirt about 3 times before we left the states. I went back through Panama again on to Pearl Harbor, to Midway and on to Guam. From there we went on my first war patrol up along the coast of Japan in early 45. We had quite a time there in Guam. We were restricted to the base because of all the snipers that were still there. I recall that a group of guys and I went over to the floating dry dock just messing around, when one of the guys got the bright idea that it would be great to jump off of the top of the dry dock into the water. Well the top of the dry dock was about 100 feet or so from the water but we weren't going to chicken out. So off we went in cannon balls. The officer in charge of the dry dock saw what we were doing and gave us the what for and told us he didn't want to see us again. The war was winding down and they let me take test for chief and I passed it but they wouldn't let me have it since I didn't have enough time in grade. I told them that you guys want me to ship over well I'll ship over if you give me the hat. Well they wouldn't do that so I told them they might as well fix up my discharge papers because I'm going home. After the war ended they transferred me to the Carp since my enlistment was over and I went back to the states.

While the Carp was in San Diego my wife and daughter would visit us on weekends and come aboard for dinner and movies. They had to cross the tender and then about 3 boats out in the nest to get to the Carp. I'd warned my wife about wearing slacks but the first time out she wore a skirt. She had the baby bag in one hand and the baby in the other and had to up those ladders. The guys sure got an eyeful. The next time she came out she wore slacks.

I received my discharge papers December 1946 in San Diego. We bought an old Ford and drove it through to Connecticut. My first job there was at a wool spinning mill. The guy I worked for was a little short guy with a big mouth and I didn't get along with him at all. The union took over the shop and shortly thereafter a larger drive was installed on the mill I was responsible for and made the machine a lot faster. Well I had just gotten used to the old speed and maintaining the 1 and 1/2 machines I was responsible for and could pretty well handle it. With the faster machines I just couldn't keep up I was having one heck of a time. So I told the other guy that was working by me that I was shutting down my machines and he could do whatever he wanted to with his 1/2 of machine. Well the boss saw me shutting down the machines and starting to walk away when he yelled at me to come over there. I told him I wasn't coming over there and that if he wanted to talk to me he could come over here. I'm going to punch and go home. He said you can't do that I'll fire you and I told him it was too late since I had already quit.

After quitting there I got a job with my brother-in-law in a spaghetti factory. I kept that job until we went back to Michigan. There I worked in Fisher body division of General Motors. I worked there for about 5 months. I hated it the whole time I was there. They worked you on a rotating shift basis, one week days, then swings and then graveyard shifts. At the end of my graveyard shift my wife wouldn't even talk to me I was really grumpy. After quitting there we went out to the West Coast.

My aunts lived in Vancouver, Washington and said they had a job for me. It was a flunky job in a tool and die shop. I was there almost a year and things slowed down and I was let go.

So I went over to Portland and got a job with the Postal Service as a substitute carrier which was better than nothing. My boss said it may not last too long but I worked 3 years as a substitute and finally made regular. I stayed with them from 1948 until 1964. Because of health reasons I had to move to a dryer climate. So I put in for a transfer to several places in the Southwest.

Las Vegas gave me the best response but I would have to start as a substitute carrier until there's an opening to put you up to a regular carrier again. They didn't want me to start until after the holidays and so in February we moved to Las Vegas. I put in my 30 years and retired as a level 16. I went to work for Tropicana Hotels for about 5 years so I got my time in for Social Security and became a double dipper. After that I went to work for my son-in-law for 4 years. He has a company putting in street signs, road striping and guardrails and I hauled material to work sites with offices in Las Vegas and Reno. After this I finally retired and moved to Fallon, Nevada for 8 years and then moved to Reno. We've been here 5 years now.

My daughter and son-in-law have 4 children and they all work in his company in Reno. One boy has degrees in mechanical engineering and does any engineering needed, another is a draftsman who does all the layouts of work to be done, the other boy works with the crews on site and his daughter works in the office.

Right now we're in an apartment but we'll be moving into a house up in Golden Valley that my son-in-law owned. We just can't wait to get out this apartment.

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# Calendar of Events

JANUARY	3	E-BOARD MEETING	0900
	7	BUSINESS MEETING	1400
	20	LUNCH BUNCH	1130
	31	E-BOARD MEETING	0900
FEBRUARY	4	BUSINESS MEETING	1400
	13	CORVINA BASE 12 <sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY	
	17	LUNCH BUNCH	1130
	28	E-BOARD MEETING	0900

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## Editor error!!!!!!

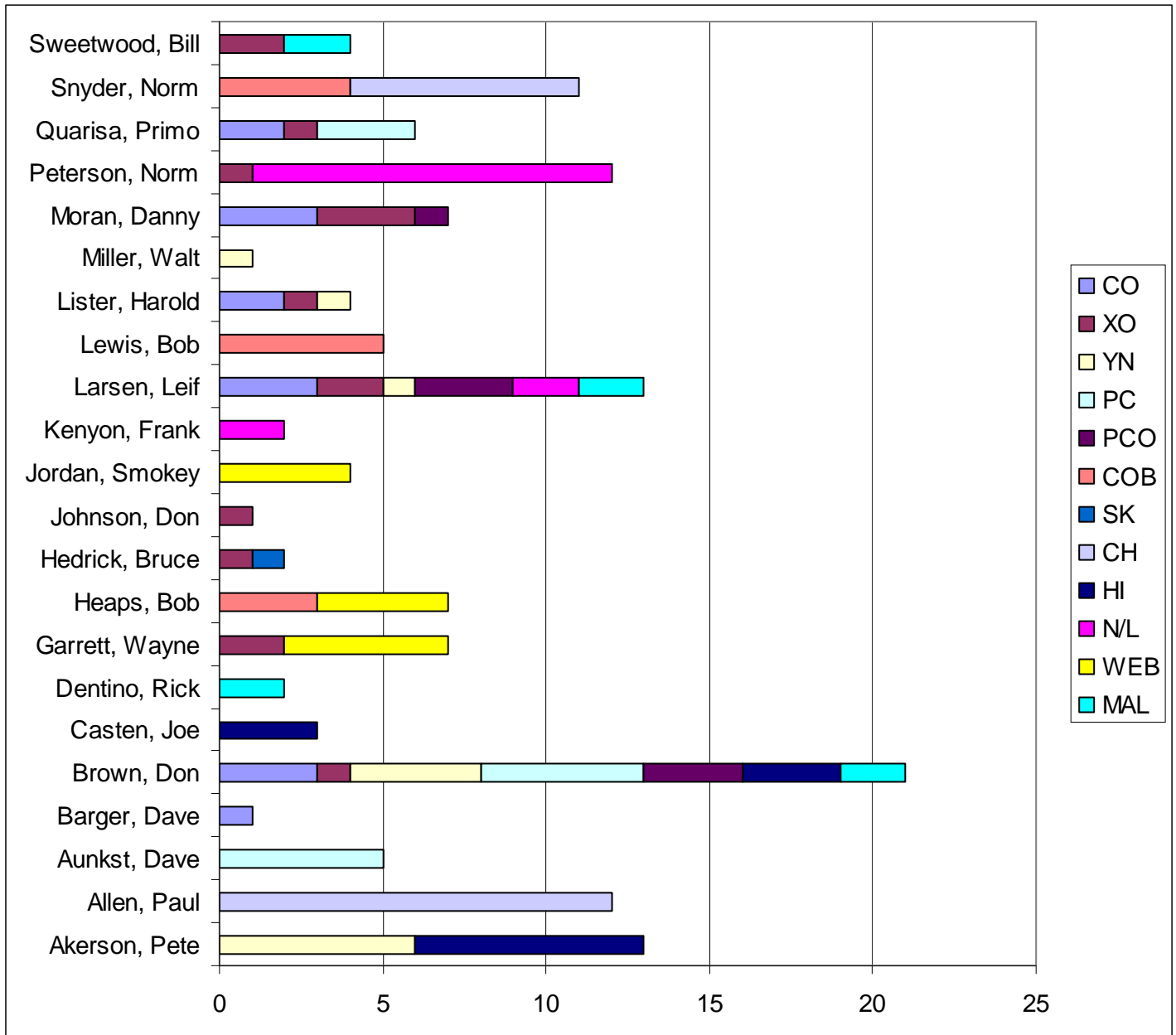


Last month in the Birthday list I gave David Barger a new first name , sorry.

The chart of officers did not print correctly. Correction on next page.

## Interesting chart of base officers and years in each position

put together by Leif Larsen



**Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open.**

Sir James Dewar, Scientist (1877-1925).

**Imagination is more important than knowledge.**

Albert Einstein.

**Do just once what others say you can't do, and you will never pay attention to their limitations again.**

James R. Cook.

### SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

Harry Wellman CS1 (SS)	Harry Sembagh EN3 (SS)
Melvin Phillips ET1 (SS)	Boyd Tieslau TM3 (SS)
Russel Scofield TMCS (SS)	Robert Rich EN1 (SS)
Donald Campbell TM2 (SS)	Francis Signore CSC (SS)
Harold Lister EN3 (SS)	Stanley Blair ICC (SS)
James Avitt RM1 (SS)	Richard Burdette LT. (SS)
Charles H. Massie TM1 (SS) (SS)	Wayne F. Garrett ET2
Elvin L. Morrison FTC (SS)	Larry Garrelts ETCS(SS)
Erick Bjorum CWO(SS)	Melvin Schreckengost ET2
Norm Snyder EM1(SS)	Charles Hyman MM2(SS)
James T. Wright III	Gordon Lane RMC(SS)

# Birthday List

## February

3 Daniel Heinemann

16 Chester Mac Dowell

27 Jack Hartley

29 Don Brown

This is a great story even if you don't follow football. Editor

## I believe in Tim Tebow

By Rick Reilly  
ESPN.com

I've come to believe in Tim Tebow, but not for what he does on a football field, which is still three parts Dr. Jekyll and two parts Mr. Hyde.

No, I've come to believe in Tim Tebow for what he does off a football field, which is represent the best parts of us, the parts I want to be and so rarely am.

Who among us is this selfless?

Every week, Tebow picks out someone who is suffering, or who is dying, or who is injured. He flies these people and their families to the Broncos game, rents them a car, puts them up in a nice hotel, buys them dinner (usually at a Dave & Buster's), gets them and their families pregame passes, visits with them just before kickoff (!), gets them 30-yard-line tickets down low, visits with them after the game (sometimes for an hour), has them walk him to his car, and sends them off with a basket of gifts.

Home or road, win or lose, hero or goat.

Remember last week, when the world was pulling its hair out in the hour after Tebow had stunned the Pittsburgh Steelers with an 80-yard OT touchdown pass to Demaryius Thomas in the playoffs? And Twitter was exploding with 9,420 tweets about Tebow per second? When an ESPN poll was



naming him the most popular athlete in America?

"Here he'd just played the game of his life," recalls Bailey's mother, Kathy, of Loveland, Colo., "and the first thing he does after his press conference is come find Bailey and ask, 'Did you get anything to eat?' He acted like what he'd just done wasn't anything, like it was all about Bailey."

More than that, Tebow kept corralling people into the room for Bailey to meet. Hey, Demaryius, come in here a minute. Hey, Mr. Elway. Hey, Coach Fox.

Even though sometimes-fatal Wegener's granulomatosis has left Bailey with only one lung, the attention took her breath away.

"It was the best day of my life," she emailed. "It was a bright star among very gloomy and difficult days. Tim Tebow gave me the greatest gift I could ever imagine. He gave me the strength for the future. I know now that I can face any obstacle placed in front of me. Tim taught me to never give up because at the end of the day, today might seem bleak but it can't rain forever and tomorrow is a new day, with new promises."

I read that email to Tebow, and he was honestly floored.

"Why me? Why should I inspire her?" he said. "I just don't feel, I don't know, adequate. Really, hearing her story inspires me."

It's not just NFL defenses that get Tebowed. It's high school girls who don't know whether they'll ever go to a prom. It's adults who can hardly stand. It's kids who will die soon.

For the game at Buffalo, it was Charlottesville, Va., blue-chip high school QB Jacob Rainey, who lost his leg after a freak tackle in a scrimmage. Tebow threw three interceptions in that Buffalo game and the Broncos were crushed 40-14.

"He walked in and took a big sigh and said, 'Well, that didn't go as planned,'" Rainey remembers. "Where I'm from, people wonder how sincere and genuine he is. But I think he's the most genuine person I've ever met."

There's not an ounce of artifice or phoniness or Hollywood in this kid Tebow, and I've looked everywhere for it.

Take 9-year-old Zac Taylor, a child who lives in constant pain. Immediately after Tebow shocked the Chicago Bears with a 13-10 comeback win, Tebow spent an hour with Zac and his family. At one point, Zac, who has 10 doctors, asked Tebow whether he has a secret prayer for hospital visits. Tebow whispered it in his ear. And because Tebow still needed to be checked out by the Broncos' team doctor, he took Zac in with him, but only after they had whispered it together.

And it's not always kids. Tom Driscoll, a 55-year-old who is dying of brain cancer at a hospice in Denver, was Tebow's guest for the Cincinnati game. "The doctors took some of my brain," Driscoll says, "so my short-term memory is kind of shot. But that day I'll *never* forget. Tim is such a good man."

This whole thing makes no football sense, of course. Most NFL players hardly talk to *teammates* before a game, much less visit with the sick and dying.

Isn't that a huge distraction?

"Just the opposite," Tebow says. "It's by far the best thing I do to get myself ready. Here you are, about to play a game that the world says is the most important thing in the world. Win and they praise you. Lose and they crush you."

And here I have a chance to talk to the coolest, most courageous people. It puts it all into perspective. The game doesn't really matter. I mean, I'll give 100 percent of my heart to win it, but in the end, the thing I most want to do is not win championships or make a lot of money, it's to invest in people's lives, to make a difference."

So that's it. I've given up giving up on him. I'm a 100 percent believer. Not in his arm. Not in his skills. I believe in his heart, his there-will-definitely-be-a-pony-under-the-tree optimism, the way his love pours into people, right up to their eyeballs, until they believe they can master the hopeless comeback, too.

Remember the QB who lost his leg, Jacob Rainey? He got his prosthetic leg a few weeks ago, and he wants to play high school football next season. Yes, tackle football. He'd be the first to do that on an above-the-knee amputation.

Hmmm. Wonder where he got that crazy idea?

"Tim told me to keep fighting, no matter what," Rainey says. "I am."

=====

I will never give up  
No matter what the odds are  
No matter what people say  
No matter how far  
I will never give up

If I throw it away time after time  
If I am one step behind try after try  
If I miss dime after dime  
I will never give up

Even when it seems all over  
Even when no one else believes  
Even when it seems I can go no further  
I will never give up

For I know I have strength within  
For I know I can persevere  
For I know that I can win  
I will never give up

Because it's someone else's fault  
Because I am settling for good enough  
Because I fear that I will fall short  
I will never give up

There is so much I can still do  
There is too much talent to waste  
There is so much in me that I want you to see  
I will never give up

Why squander all of my hard work and dedication  
Why not show the world that I am a fearless baller  
Why quit when I still have the opportunity to go on  
I will never give up

If I do, I will not be the best me that could live  
If I do, I will never know what I am capable of  
If I do, I am not giving the world all I can give  
I will never give up

Written in 2004 by K.D., Age 15 --- Oregon



Holland Club members are those submarine veterans of USSVI (United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.) that qualified on a submarine 50 or more years ago. When qualified, a sailor earns the right to wear, and responsibility of, the dolphin insignia of submarine service.

 <p>Gerald Stratton ENC(SS) USS Blenny SS_324 Qual Date 1948</p>	 <p>James Tiernan QMC(SS) USS Irex SS-482 Qual Date 1958</p>	 <p>Frank Urbani EN2 (SS) USS Gudgeon SS-567 Qual Date 1958</p>				
 <p>Lowell Wapelhorst MOMM2(SS) USS Angler SSK-240 Qual Date 1944</p>	 <p>Clyde Webber ETNSN (SS) USS Trumpefish SS-425 Qual Date 1954</p>	 <p>Phillip Zeddies ENFN (SS) USS Caiman SS-323 Qual Date 1960</p>				
 <p>Arthur Akerson LCDR USS Carbonero SS-337 Qual Date 1949</p>	 <p>Gerald Baer ENFN (SS) USS Charr SS-328 Qual Date 1959</p>	 <p>Richard Barringer SOSN (SS) USS Bang SS-385 Qual Date 1952</p>				
 <p>Joseph Casten EM3 (SS) USS Baya AGSS-318 Qual Date 1954</p>	 <p>Dave Craig ETC (SS) USS Croaker SS-246 Qual Date 1961</p>	 <p>Terry Critchett EM3 (SS) USS Bluegill SS-242 Qual Date 1955</p>				
 <p>Richard Dentino EM3 (SS) USS Tigrone SS-419 Qual Date 1955</p>	 <p>Richard Ekenberg ETC (SS) USS Growler SSG-577 Qual Date 1960</p>	 <p>Bruce Hedrick EM2 (SS) USS Sea Dragon SS-584 Qual Date 1961</p>				
 <p>Donald Johnson RMC (SS) USS Charr SS-328 Qual Date 1958</p>	 <p>James Jordan TMSN (SS) USS Toro SS-422 Qual Date 1948</p>	 <p>Frank Kenyon EM3 (SS) USS Skate SS-305 Qual Date 1944</p>				
 <p>Walter Lewis IC1 (SS) USS Rasher SS-269 Qual Date 1961</p>	 <p>Frank Lipera EM2 (SS) USS Greenfish SS-351 Qual Date 1960</p>	<p>Chester McDowell Tm1 (SS)</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>USS R-18 SS-95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Patch</td> <td>Qual Date 1941</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No	USS R-18 SS-95	Patch	Qual Date 1941
No	USS R-18 SS-95					
Patch	Qual Date 1941					

## Holland Club Members (cont)

<p>Kenneth McCray EN1 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Blackfin SS-322</p> <p>Qual Date 1951</p>	<p>Daniel Moran EN3 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Jallao SS-368</p> <p>Qual Date 1959</p>	<p>Raoul Noland EM2 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Trutta SS-421</p> <p>Qual Date 1945</p>
<p>William Parsons RM1 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Thresher SS-200</p> <p>Qual Date 1941</p>	<p>Jack Quade SN (SS)</p>  <p>USS Skipjack SS-184</p> <p>Qual Date 1943</p>	<p>Primo Quarisa EN3 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Aspro SS-309</p> <p>Qual Date 1952</p>
<p>Oscar Rambeau Qm3 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Carp SS-338</p> <p>Qual Date 1954</p>	<p>James Saunders SOS3 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Greenfish SS-351</p> <p>Qual Date 1960</p>	<p>Edwin Schalbert TMC (SS)</p> <p>No Patch</p> <p>USS S-23 SS-128</p> <p>Qual Date 1939</p>
<p>Lionel Schmidt STS1 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Seafox SS-402</p> <p>Qual Date 1955</p>	<p>Jon Schoenfeld ET2 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Sea Cat SS-399</p> <p>Qual Date 1960</p>	<p>Delmar Schwichtenberg CWO3 (SS)</p> <p>No Patch</p> <p>USS O6 SS-67</p> <p>Qual Date 1941</p>
<p>Albert Skidmore YN2 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Diodon SS-349</p> <p>Qual Date 1947</p>	<p>Herbert Stamer HMC (SS)</p>  <p>USS Cobia SS-245</p> <p>Qual Date 1944</p>	<p>Leonard Stefanelli QM3 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Catfish SS-339</p> <p>Qual Date 1954</p>