



The 7MC

A Publication of
Wahoo Base USSVI
June 2017



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Our Creed

“To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in 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. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its constitution”.

From The Commander

Shipmates, I told you in my last write up for the 7MC that there were big changes taking place in the Wahoo Base. We are updating our Base By-Laws in order to stay up with the USSVI. We also have to get rid of our Base Constitution because of the IRS. The problem is that only 5 to 7 people are suggesting and making the changes. I am afraid our Base is going downhill because we have only a few opinions and few people attending the meetings. We now are at a point that we won't have a float or people trailer in the Veterans Day Parade. The reason is that it cost \$50.00 to be in the parade and now the Parade is asking for insurance for the Parade. If the Insurance cost \$100.00 then we are spending \$150.00 but with only 4 or 5 members. Yes I know we have more than 4 or 5 people on the people float but they are not members. Also we have only two money making function. The dues we all pay and the Bus trip to the Pampanito. We

need 5 docents on the bus to get the guests together as a group. Right now we have only three. Plus the docent is often on the Pampanito most of the day. Also we need your help to sell tickets for the trip. I know the tickets appear to be expensive but we do need to make some profit. So please buy a ticket and use it or buy a ticket and give it to someone else. All juveniles need to be with a parent or guardian. Don't forget to attend a Memorial Day Ceremony.

Jim Van Vranken Base Commander

Wahoo Base Members on Eternal Patrol

Robert Owens, Wilson Westbury, Raymond Mann, Ted Dick, Gene Heckathorn, Fred Maynes, Charles Venezio, J.W. Waters, Charles Manuel, Paul Geisler, Bob Stone, Hal Mulnix, Jack Guzman, Guy Hardin, Ray Rickson, Pat Barron, Richard Hoe, Larry Curtiss, Harry Mellon, Thearo Snyder, Charles Wassung, Lee Stoner, Dana Hughes, Robert Hotalen, Wally Kinchen, Russel Pinkerton, Eugene Ford, Lloyd Green, Francis Arntz, Charles Mitchell, Jan Dyer, Basil Pratt, Gary McLaughlin, Gerald Hobbs and Daniel Toomey.

June Meeting

The June meeting will be again at the Seven Bar & Grill in Clovis at 11:00 am on the 20th of June

June Anniversaries

Tom & Barbara Barrans 6/16

June Birthdays

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Lynn Bowlby | 6/10 |
| Tom Lewis | 6/12 |
| Marcie Howk | 6/15 |
| Ronald Reek | 6/22 |
| Carol Lanigan | 6/23 |



May Sailing List

Russ Alford, Arlene & Tom Adams, Robert Howk, Jim Van Vranken, Glenn Booth, Annette & Del Bowlby and Glen Hunt

Boats lost in June



USS S - 27 (SS 132) Lost June 19, 1942 the crew were all rescued when it grounded off Armchitka Island.



USS O – 9 (SS 70) lost June 20, 1942 with a loss of (33 men) when it floundered off the Isle of Shoals 15 miles from Portsmouth, New Hampshire.



USS Bonefish (SS 223) lost June 18, 1945 with the loss of all hands (85 men) when it was sunk in Toyama Wan in the Sea of Japan



USS R -12 (SS 89) Lost June 12, 1943 with the loss of (42 Men 3 men survived) off Key West, Florida to unknown causes.

The following is something I learned just before I went to Robert Owens’s Funeral I was given the second part of the article by our Web Master Stan Cook.
Editor

Why We Fire Rifle Volley Over the Grave



USS Runner (SS 275) lost June 26, 1943 with the loss of all hands (78 men) by possible Japanese mine between Midway and Japan

The practice of firing three rifle volleys over the grave originated in the old custom of halting the fighting to remove the dead from the battlefield. Once each army had cleared their dead it would fire three volleys to indicate that the dead had been cared for and they were ready to fight again. The fact that the firing party consists of seven riflemen firing these volleys does not constitute a 21 gun salute. It is the three volleys that are significant not the number of rifles. The three volleys fired over a casket have become a tradition to mean our dead have been cared for. It has evolved into a military salute for the deceased serving of country. Firing three volleys over the casket is one of the highest honors to give a deceased military veteran. Our countries highest honor is a flag draped over the casket, folded and presented. Tradition is to place the three spent shells inside the folded flag to prove now and forever more that the deceased and his flag have had a proper military honors. Nothing else is placed inside the flag. All personal salutes may be traced to prevailing use in earlier days to ensure



USS Herring (SS 233) Lost June 1, 1944 with the loss of all hands (83 men) by a Japanese shore battery and surface craft off Matsuwa Island, Kuriles



USS Golet (SS 361) lost June 14, 1944 with a loss of all hands (82 men) during a Japanese surface attack off Honshu, Japan.

that the salute placed him in an unarmed position. Salute by gunfire is a most ancient ceremony

There are many gun salutes and depending on who or what it may be less than 21. Today, the USN Regulations proscribe that only those ships and stations designated by SECNAV (Secretary of the Navy) may fire gun salutes. A national salute of 21 guns is fired on the following: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day & Independence Day, to honor the President of the United States, to honor heads of foreign states. Additionally, ships may, with approval from the office of SECNAV, provide gun salutes for naval officers on significant occasions, using the following protocol:

Admiral.....17 guns
Vice Admiral.....15 guns
Rear Admiral (upper half).....13 guns
Rear Admiral (lower half).....11 guns
All gun salutes are fired at five second intervals. **Gun salutes will always total an odd number.**

Thought For The Month

Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts it is about one life influencing another

John C. Maxwell

The following poem brings out two things we should be thinking about this week end and three weeks from now. They are Memorial Day & Father's Day
Editor

Daddy's Poem

Her hair was up in a pony tail,
Her favorite dress tied with a bow.
Today was Daddy's Day at school,
And she couldn't wait to go.

But her mommy tried to tell her,
That she probably should stay home;
Why the kids might not understand,
If she went to school alone.
But she was not afraid;
She knew just what to say.
What to tell her classmates
Of why he wasn't there today.
But still her mother worried,
For her to face this day alone.
And that was why, once again,
She tried to keep her daughter home.
But the little girl went to school,
Eager to tell them all.
About a dad she never sees, a dad
who never calls.
There were daddies along the wall in
Back, for everyone to meet.
Children squirming impatiently,
Anxious in their seat.
One by one the teacher called
On a student from the class.
To introduce their daddy,
As seconds slowly passed.
At last the teacher called her name,
Every child turned to stare.
Each of them was searching,
A man who wasn't there.
"Where's her daddy at?"
She heard a boy call out.
"She probably doesn't have one,"
Another student dared to shout.
And from somewhere near the back,
She heard a daddy say,
"Looks like another deadbeat dad,
Too busy to waste his day."
The words did not offend her,
As she smiled up at her Mom.
And looked back at her teacher, who
Told her to go on.
And with hands behind her back,
Slowly she began to speak.
And out from the mouth of a child,
Came words incredibly unique.

"My Daddy couldn't be here,
Because he lives so far away.
But I know he wishes he could be,
Since this is such a special day.
And though you cannot meet him,
I wanted you to know
All about my daddy,
And how much he loves me so.
He loved to tell me stories,
He taught me to ride my bike;
He surprised me with pink roses,
And taught me to fly a kite.
We used to share fudge sundaes,
And ice cream in a cone.
And though you cannot see him.
I'm not standing here alone.
'Cause my daddy's always with me,
Even though we are apart;
I know because he told me,
He'll be forever be in my heart"
With that, her little hand reached up,
and lay across her chest.
Feeling her own heartbeat,
Beneath her favorite dress.
And from somewhere there in the
crowd of dads, her mother stood in
tears. Proudly watching her daughter,
Who was wise beyond her years.
For she stood up for the love
Of a man not in her life.
Doing what was best for her,
Doing what was a right.
And when she dropped her hand back
down, staring straight into the crowd.
She finished with a voice so soft,
But its message clear and loud.
"I love my daddy very much,
he's my shining star.
And if he could, he'd be here,
But heaven's just too far.
You see he is an American Soldier
And he died just this past year,,
When a roadside bomb hit his convoy
And taught Americans to fear.

But sometimes when I close my eyes,
it's like he never went away."
And then she closed her eyes,
And saw him there that day.
And to her mother's amazement,
She witnessed with surprise,
A room full of daddies and children,
All starting to close their eyes.
Who knows what they saw before
them; who knows what they felt inside.
Perhaps for merely a second,
They saw him at her side.
"I know you're with me Daddy,"
to the silence she called out.
And what happened next made
believers, of those once filled with
doubt.
Not one in that room could explain it,
for each of their eyes had been closed.
But there on the desk beside her,
was a fragrant long-stemmed pink rose.
And a child was blessed, if only for
a moment, by the love of her shining
star. And given the gift of believing,
that heaven is never too far.

There must be many children in the
same boat as this little girl, thanks to
our servicemen and their families for
the sacrifice they are making to keep
our country free.

The ULTIMATE sacrifice is being left
behind. Don't forget them

**This is Part 4 of an Article
about the World War II Era Written
by Michael Skurat**

Originally, the entire submarine base
was literally below the railroad tracks.
Later as the base expanded it was called
"lower base". Most of the upper base
buildings, i.e., Morton Hall, Dealey

Center, etc., were constructed for WWII. The road from the present main gate past the golf course was the Groton-Norwich road. About half way up the road was an overhead railroad bridge. The entrance to the base was under the bridge and the Marine guard stationed there in a guard shack. The base commander's office was housed in a small brick building about half way between the training tower and the Torpedo Shop. Submarine School - six weeks enlisted and three months for officers. Of some 250,000 men who applied for submarine duty less than 10% made it to Sub School and many of those washed out. Submarine School was the sole tyrannical domain of one Chief Torpedoman Charles Spritz. Submarine School was called "Spritz's Navy". He ruled with an iron hand and was feared by instructors and students alike. He had little regard for rate whether you were a Seaman First Class or a Petty Officer First Class. To call him eccentric was a gross understatement. He did not smoke, did not drink and was single. It is open to debate as to if he ever even pulled a liberty. His total devotion was to the Submarine School. It was universally conceded that he had gone "asiatic", not 100% stable and perhaps as a youngster he might have been dropped on his head. He insisted that personnel, at all times, be properly and neatly attired in the regulation "Uniform of the Day" without exception. No tailor mades, proper rolled neckerchief down to the "V" in the Jumper with immaculate white T-Shirt showing, shoes well shined, etc. He did not permit smoking nor any type of horseplay. He demanded that all personnel move at a fast pace. Chief Spritz had the uncanny ability to be everywhere at all times and pity the poor individual who crossed his path.

His discipline was swift and sure. He felt it was his personal mission to ascertain that anyone leaving sub school for submarine duty was in every respect ready. He had many axioms but his favorite was "There is room for anything on a submarine except a mistake". Sub school students were not "boots", many, if not most, had time in the U.S. Navy and were rated. There is an article in POLARIS issue of August, 2000 (Submarine Saga segment) which delves into more detail relative to Chief Spritz and is briefly incorporated here as it is a definite part of the Diesel Boat Era. Sub Vets of WWII in recognition of respect, and a fealty obligation to this once feudal lord and master, wear a "Spritz's Navy" patch on their vests. It would seem that the screening at Sub School served us well. Friction between members of the crew was unbecoming and unacceptable. If an individual demonstrated an inability to "get along" he could be transferred to another boat. If the same conduct prevailed there he would be transferred out of submarines. The training tower caused many a wash out for both physical and mental reasons. If a person could not "pop" his ears it could cause pain and even bleeding from the ears. Your voice changed dramatically to a high pitch under pressure. All personnel had to qualify from the 100' lock with the Momsen Lung. Right after the war it was noted that some German submariners had made emergency escapes using free ascents. A number of crews from boats went to the tower and made free ascents. We had less pomp insofar as the ceremony observed when a member of the crew qualified than is apparent today. The individual, thrown over the side then sewed dolphins on his uniforms and wore them with pride.

They have always been, and always will be, a badge of honor regardless of manner in which bestowed.

There was less reverence on some other occasions also. e.g., when a "Good Conduct Medal" was awarded to a member of the crew it would be given by the Captain (or perhaps the Exec) at quarters amid "hoots and hollers" with cries of "Undiscovered Crime". There was also a bonus system for awards ranging from \$1.00 per month for the Good Conduct Medal to \$5.00 per month for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

On the Lighter Side

An elderly couple had just learned how to send text messages on their new mobile phones.

The wife was a romantic type and a retired English teacher of the classics. The husband a retired Navy Chief was more of a no-nonsense guy.

One afternoon the wife went out to meet a friend for coffee. She decided to send her husband a romantic text message and she wrote: "If you are sleeping, send me your dreams. If you are laughing, send me your smile. If you are eating, send me a bite. If you are drinking, send me a sip. If you are crying, send me your tears. I love you."

The husband texted back to her: "On the toilet. Please advise."

A balding, white haired man walked into a jewel ry store this past Friday evening with a beautiful much younger gal at his side. He told the jeweler he was looking for a special ring for his girlfriend.

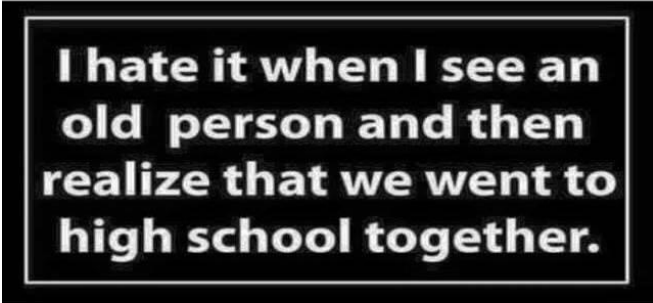
The jeweler looked through his stock and brought out a \$5,000 ring.

The man said, 'No, I'd like to see something more special.' At that

statement, the jeweler went to his special stock and brought another ring over.

'Here's a stunning ring at only \$40,000 the jeweler said.

The lady's eyes sparkled and her whole body trembled with excitement. The old man seeing this said, 'We'll take it.' The jeweler asked how payment would be made and the man stated, 'By check. I know you need to make sure my check is good, so I'll write it now and you can call the bank Monday to verify the funds; I'll pick the ring up Monday afternoon.' On Monday morning, the jeweler angrily phoned the old man and said 'Sir...There's no money in that account.' 'I know, said the old man...'But let me tell you about my weekend



I hate it when I see an old person and then realize that we went to high school together.

Why I Like Retirement !

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Two hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.