

CLEVER BOY

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N X Y O



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Editor Emeritus—Ronald Gorence, QMC(SS), Ret. (Final Patrol-Apr 2018)

Effective in January, the Post Office changed the regulations for "Folded, Self Mailers" (i.e. no envelope) which is how past issues have been configured. Additionally, the postage rate was increased by 10% in February. Thus the mailing of Clever Boy expenses had to be reviewed. Only those who specifically responded to requests in 2018, or others who communicated indicating they wish to continue to receive hard copy, will be sent one. Blind mailing will be discontinued. Please help control future costs. If you no longer have interest, please communicate.



***Blue Water Navy Defined**—With respect to the Viet Nam War the term has been applied to mean those vessels that were in the war zone, but never actually made port there, or entered the actual coastal waters of V.N. A list of all those ships considered to have done either of the two conditions, and are currently considered for benefits relating to Agent Orange is found online at:

<https://www.va.gov/shiplist-agent-orange.pdf>

More info: Blue Water Navy Association: <https://www.bwnvva.org/>

Info about this organization's fight for Agent Orange benefits—pg 5 & 9



**AS I WAS GETTING INTO BED, SHE SAID, "YOU'RE DRUNK."
I SAID, "HOW DO YOU KNOW?"
SHE SAID, "BECAUSE YOU LIVE NEXT DOOR!"**

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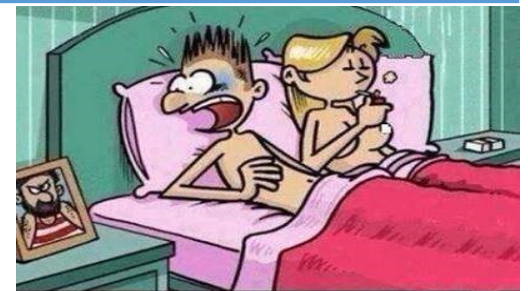
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<https://ussabalo.org/USSVI.html>



Oh relax silly, thats not my husband.
That's me before the operation.

USS SABALO
SS - 302



*She made her missions
We did our best
We served our country
This has been done*

San Diego Reunion November 2018

2018 REUNION RECAP


Thank you all for the great Sabalo plaque and the very generous contributions presented to me at the main banquet. As I always do, any money received will be dedicated solely to future expenses for the web site and maintaining communications. My efforts for the Association are strictly in service to Sabalo shipmates. My reward comes from keeping in contact with those I served with, and connecting men from all the other times, and toward preserving the history and assembled mementos donated.

The background image of this page was used to create a souvenir print for all attendees. An 8 1/2 x 11 glossy copy was sent by USPS mail with other post reunion correspondence.

Reunion Photos: My camera batteries failed at some point, and the replacements I brought were the wrong kind. I failed to get to the store in time for other opportunities. Dick Port & Will Kaefer sent me some of theirs. Selections of a few of both are on page X. If you took some, please send a disc or email attachments so they can be included in the Sabalo collection. I will put them up on the web site.

Special Thanks to Peter Lary who did all of the procurement and running around to stock the hospitality room with beverages and snacks. His time and effort before the arrival of all in town, and his work in keeping everything on hand, and then taking charge of the leftovers for a good cause, made things go perfect. (see below)

See reunion pics on pg 11

 **Email From SAN DIEGO BASE—USSVI** Thank you to your Sabalo Shipmates for the “residuals” from last November’s Sabalo Reunion which you so graciously donated to San Diego Base. Peter Lary brought them to the December meeting and we successfully raffled and auctioned it all off to the benefit of the Base’s Scholarship Fund. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. Warren Branges ETC(SS)/CDR, USN(Ret.), Base Commander

THANK YOU GENEROUS DONOR!

One of our reunion attending shipmates, who has asked for anonymity, donated a really nice souvenir for each shipmate. This 1 5/8” challenge coin, which was distributed at the main banquet. I believe that I gave one to each of the main banquet Sabalo vet attendees, but If you missed getting one, I can send one for postage costs.



LAST REUNION? Never say never, but this time one thing is for sure. The ability to get enough men with the will and health to attend a stand-alone reunion is no longer possible. This doesn’t rule out a small group tagging along at some other boat’s reunion, or the USSVI national convention, or other USSVI function with a small get together of Sabalo vets. Expenses and requirements for arrangements like past Sabalo reunions rule out something similar. Should anyone come up with any possibility, I’ll put in on the web site.

FROM OUT OF THE TOMATO BASKET

By Editor Jeff Owens—*still fakin' it after all these years!*

This issue will be my second effort since assuming the duties vacated by the passing of our shipmate, Ron Gorence. Last issue was primarily aimed at getting out the word about our November 2108 Reunion in San Diego. (see pgs 2 & 11) Ron had a high standard both in his layout and his written pieces. I will try to do as well as Ron did in his 27 issues over 9 years, but in my own style, and strive to approach his quality within this humble newsletter format.

New columns explained— A new feature begun in this issue is the use of some specialty columns to categorize various content. Some will have a new focus, and other stuff will be similar to the familiar inclusions of Ron G. in the past.

Material from shipmates needed— Many of you forward me pieces of interesting content from time to time and many have been considered, and many used in the past. I hope that when anyone comes across something they find online, or in a magazine, you will pass it along to me, and in some way I will mention it in the newsletter, or include it in future issues. Clever Boy is your forum for sub vet material to inform and be enjoyed by all.

Newsletter Future — The success and response from this issue of the newsletter will determine the future. In July, Prior to the reunion a post card was mailed to each of the shipmates that don't have email capability and requested a response predicated on continuation of receiving further, mailed hard copies of the newsletter. The response was less than 25%. Various reasons could be attributed, but likely age and health of many are related to not responding. Ron had been producing two newsletters. One for Sabalo and one for his other boat, Razorback. Because of his expanded duties, and his other service to his fellow sub vets as membership chair of San Diego Base—USSVI, he ultimately opted to have the printing and distribution of the newsletters done by a professional service. This became somewhat costly for such a limited circulation publication. I hope to contain the costs some by doing the mailing and addressing function myself with maybe just the printing to be done by a commercial shop.

★ For those who don't remember why this column is so named: In preparing for deployment, all departments ordered 'off-the-books' spares for items that experience taught might be more inclined to break down than Navy predicted spares might have in on-board inventory back in #7MBT. In the control room, the E.T. gang had a couple small lockers where many of these items were stored. One day, my boss, Fred Holcomb ET1 spied a cardboard box with a hoop handle that had been used for fresh tomatoes. It fit perfect in one of the lockers. In it we kept a spare or two for just about every tube* used in the relic, SS-1 radar. It made it handy to carry the items up to the conning tower where the transmitter-receiver unit and console were located. We always improvised repairs by quickly swapping tubes, and in most cases had the radar back in operation quickly. Once we spent a couple days troubleshooting a problem in one of the other units in the system that was located in the control room until our eyeballs fell out. But that's a story for another day.

(*Some younger readers may ask— What's a tube?)

Accordingly, the continuation of the newsletter will shift over to more emphasis on online aspects as time passes.

Past Issues—

<https://ussabalo.org/RN-Clever%20Boy%20Index.html>

This is the index of the newsletters beginning from the first that Ron G. was editor. The one's I issued prior to 2009 are not online, and due to a hard drive crash are lost.

SHIP'S STORE STILL HAS A FEW ITEMS: Hats, Patches, Lapel Pins, Wheel Books, Luggage Tags, & T-shirts. All are limited supply and may never be reordered.

Editorial Philosophy— As the sole editor, my inclusion in Clever Boy of any self-authored comments, or subjects found in the news has no strict rules on content. Based on discussions with Ron G., and respect for shipmates who may have different opinions, certain limits on political subjects have historically been applied. I am a conservative patriot and therefore will express myself with that slant to subjects and language. Direct attacks on political figures, or any uncensored descriptions of debauchery will be avoided. However, subject matter common to diesel submarine life, and some language may be vulgar. I make no apologies for what appears.

Are You One of the Lucky Ones? By Mike Barbour

Of the 2,709,918 Americans who served in Vietnam, fewer than 850,000 are estimated to be alive today, with the youngest American Vietnam Veteran's age approximated to be 60 years old.

So, if you are a Vietnam Veteran and reading this, how does it feel to be among the last one-third of all the U.S. Veterans who served there? I don't know about you, my brothers, but it gives me the chills. This is the kind of information I'm used to reading about WWII and Korean Veterans.

In Vietnam, 2,709,918 Americans served. This number represents 9.7 percent of their generation.

1 to 1.6 million (40-60 percent) either fought in combat, provided close support or were at least regularly exposed to enemy attack.

In Vietnam, 7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5 percent were nurses) served. Eight nurses died, one was KIA.

Peak troop strength was 543,482 (April 30, 1968).

Agent Orange is taking a huge toll on Vietnam Veterans with most deaths currently somehow related to Agent Orange exposure. No one officially dies of Agent Orange, they die from one of the 15 presumptive diseases associated with this nasty chemical.

Hostile deaths were 47,378, non-

hostile deaths 10,800. That number changes because some have died from wounds suffered while in country.

61 percent of the men killed were 21 or younger. The average age of men killed was 23.1 years.

88.4 percent of the men who actually served in Vietnam were Caucasian: 10.6 percent (275,000) were black; 1 percent belonged to other races.

86.8 percent of the men killed as a result of hostile action were Caucasian; 12.1 percent were blacks 1.1% belonged to other races.

82 percent of Veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was lost because of lack of political will. 75 percent of the public agrees that it was a failure of political will.

Over 90 percent of actual Vietnam Veterans are proud to have served their country and 74 percent would serve again even knowing the outcome.

Yes, I do consider myself one of the lucky ones. I struggled through some bad years with PTSD. My lovely, caring and understanding wife stood by me. In my declining years I want to make her happy and celebrate life every day.

Mike Barbour is Naperville Township Veterans Advocate, a Service Officer, American Legion Post 43, and regular contributor to PN. Also contact him at mbarbour@wowway.com.

Nobody has a "right" to serve in the Military.

Nobody. What makes people think the Military is an equal opportunity employer? Very far from it.

The Military uses prejudice regularly and consistently to deny citizens from joining for being too old or too young, too fat or too skinny, too tall or too short. Citizens are denied for having flat feet, or for missing or additional fingers. Poor eyesight will disqualify you, as well as bad teeth. Malnourished? Drug addiction? Bad back? Criminal history? Low IQ? Anxiety? Phobias? Hearing damage? Six arms? Hear voices in your head? Self-identify as a Unicorn? Need a special access ramp for your wheelchair? Can't run the required course in the required time? Can't do the required number of pushups? Not really a "morning person" and refuse to get out of bed before noon? All can be reasons for denial.

The Military has one job. War. Anything else is a distraction and a liability.

Did someone just scream "That isn't Fair"? War is VERY unfair, there are no exceptions made for being special or challenged or socially wonderful. YOU change yourself to meet Military standards. Not the other way around. I say again: You don't change the Military... you must change yourself. The Military doesn't need to accommodate anyone with special issues. The Military needs to Win Wars.

If any of your personal issues are a liability that detract from readiness or lethality... Thank you for applying and good luck in future endeavors.



Care In The Community—using non-VA doctors

In Scranton, PA a group of urologists and cancer specialists stopped accepting VA patients because the delay in getting paid was excessive—up to a whole year.

Q: My provider has not been paid by the VA for **Community (Choice) Care** and it is impacting my credit score; who can I reach out to?

A: VA Adverse Credit Helpline: 877-881-7618 VA will help you resolve adverse credit reporting and debt collection issues as a result of using the Veterans Choice Program.



Court has temporarily upheld military transgender restrictions

On 22 Jan 2019 the Supreme Court ruled to allow plans of the military to restrict transgender people while further court challenges continue. This reverses earlier injunctions by lower courts preventing these plans. The Trump administration had urged the justices to take up cases about the plan directly, but the court declined for now. Those cases will continue to move through lower courts. The high court split 5-4 in allowing the plan to take effect.

Until a few years ago service members could be discharged from the military for being transgender. That changed under President Obama in 2016, and allowed transgender individuals already serving to serve openly. Also set for 1 July 2017 transgender individuals would be allowed to enlist. But after President Trump took office, the date was delayed for 'further study'. Later in July the president tweeted that transgender individuals would not be allowed to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military and directed return to its policy before the Obama administration changes.

In March 2018, the Trump administration announced that after studying the issue it revised its policy with rules that generally bar transgender individuals from serving unless they serve "in their biological sex" and do not seek to undergo a gender transition. The policy has an exception for transgender troops who relied on the Obama-era rules to begin the process of changing their gender, allowing them to continue to serve. The military said last year that over 900 men and women have done so.

[Abridged by **CB** Editor from the RAO Bulletin 190201; Orig. Source: The Associated Press | 22Jan2019]

SENIOR PARACHUTE CLUB

Recently one of my well-meaning friends e-mailed me, again, asking why I didn't do something useful with my time. -- "like sitting on the porch, and drinking beer isn't a good thing."

(Talking about my "doing-something-useful" seems to be her favorite topic of conversation.)

She is "only thinking of me," she said, and suggested, I go down to the Senior Center and hang out with the fellas. So, I did and when I got home, decided to play a prank on her.

I sent her an e-mail saying that I had joined the Senior Parachute Club, and she replied, "Are you nuts? You're 75 years-old and now you're going to start jumping out of airplanes?"

I replied that I even had a Membership Card and e-mailed a copy to her. Immediately, she telephoned me and yelled, "Good grief, you need new glasses?! That's a membership to a Prostitute Club, not a Parachute Club."

"Oh man, am I in trouble," I said, "I signed up for five jumps a week!" The line went dead. Life as a Senior Citizen isn't getting any easier, but sometimes it can be fun.

Blue Water Navy*—Updates

DEC 2018 Hopes for a deal this year to extend disability benefits to thousands of "blue water" Navy veterans who claim toxic exposure while serving in the Vietnam War were all but ended 10 DEC after supporters could not get unanimous

Exposure to Agent Orange has special meaning for Sabalo Vets who visited the Tonkin Gulf. Numerous incidences of rare and common cancers have been reported. The response by the VA up to now has been negative in recognizing any connection. Some info is included in our newsletter that may be important to those who still survive.

support in the Senate for a potential fix. The measure, passed by the House overwhelmingly earlier this year, would require Veterans Affairs officials to automatically assume about 90,000 veterans who served in ships off the coast of Vietnam were exposed to Agent Orange for benefits purposes. That move would bring that group in line with hundreds of thousands of other Vietnam veterans who served on the ground there or on ships traveling upon inland rivers. VA officials have objected to the plan, saying the available scientific evidence does not support extending the benefits.


Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakso (R-GA) and other supporters had hoped to bring the issue directly


to the chamber floor for a quick passage, but that parliamentary move was blocked by Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY) who cited VA's cost concerns about the measure. "VA's analysis shows the costs could be nearly five times what Congress assumed it was when the House of Representatives passed it," he said.


[[\$250 million to account for the additional veterans that would be affected. Since the original estimate was prepared in May, CBO has obtained new information that would affect future estimates of similar legislation. In total, we expect that accounting for this new information would increase the estimate of the legislation's effect on direct spending by at least 1 billion over 10 years.]] "So there's clearly more work to do just on figuring out the spending." Under current department rules, the blue water veterans can receive medical care for their illnesses through VA, but must prove toxic exposure while on duty to receive compensation for the ailments. Advocates have argued that VA officials are systematically denying those claims despite cases of rare cancers and respiratory symptoms already linked to Agent Orange because not enough study was done decades ago to support the toxic exposure connections.

The bill was reintroduced in Jan. as the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. HR-299. Write your representative and tell him/her to get the bill out of committee and voted upon. (more on pg 9)

MAILBAG

 Correction to mailbag Dec 2016— msg recd: 11/22/16— from Dan Danielson, SN(SS)'(58-59) —To: Jeff : "I'm retired with nothing better to do, so while fooling around with my computer I came across you. I qualified on Sabalo in 1958. Tell me about yourself." [Dan was wrongly recorded on 302 Eternal Patrol roster as deceased.] Dan has since donated two ship's patches to the Sabalo 'Museum'. These are reproductions of the special one-of-a-kind patch... etc.

 24Nov2018—Dear Jeff, Another year has passed and I watch my kids grow older and wonder what my father would have thought of my parenting. Trying to pass on the dedicated fatherly guidance that he gave me. I read your newsletters over and over. I am building a new fishing boat for the waters of Alaska and even thinking of naming her Sabalo with the call sign Clever Boy. Thank you for keeping the memories alive for my dad and all the other shipmates. Merry Christmas. Keith Singleton (his father: Joseph M. Proshuto TM1(SS) abd Sabalo 1956, d. 1986) kieth_singleton@msn.com

 17July2018—Thanks for e-mailing the latest issue of the Sabalo newsletter. I just finished reading it and thought I'd drop you a few lines to say "thank you" for all you and Ron have done over the many years with planning reunions and issuing Clever Boy to keep Sabalo memories alive for many of us. I was one of the short-timers you referred to in the newsletter. Even so, I regret not having attended any of the conventions or reunions held east of the Mississippi. Now it looks like it's too late. It would have been great for Linda and me to be able to attend in San Diego. San Diego holds many fond memories for me. That's where I went to Radioman Class "A" school and where Linda and I "eloped" to get married (on the Base, by a Navy Chaplain, with a classmate and his wife as witness). Linda and I will be taking a cruise with my brother and his wife in mid-September. We leave on the cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, transit the Panama Canal, and arrive in San Diego 15 days later. Too bad the cruise didn't leave (4) weeks later or the reunion was (4) weeks earlier. -Dieter Dauber, RMCS(SS), Ret.

Eternal Patrol Notices

Baker, John Alexander — d. 12 Sep 2018. John had been battling brain cancer and other problems. John qualified on the Sea Devil in 1963. He served on Sabalo Mar 64-Feb 68. & left 302 after his 4 years as MM2(SS). He returned to Cape Girardeau, MO to manage his hardware, paint and industrial glass installation business and remained in the reserves retiring 20 Mar 2003 as MM1(SS). He was a USSVI member.

Boyd, Harry Allen Jr. — of Stockton, CA, d. 12 Jan 2017. He was ENDFA(SS) abd Sabalo 9/51-10/52; later EMC(SS, Ret.

Boyd, James Hunter — of S..Rockwood, MI, d. 5 Mar 2018 was ENDFN(SS) abd 10/52-1/54 USSVWWII & USSVI HC-Life

Carey, Chris Allan — d. 17 Apr 2018, last Res. Orange Beach, AL , EM2(SS) on 302 8/68-1/70

Hedges, Donald A., Jr. — of Wenatchee, WA d. 18 Apr 2018. He was SN(SS) abd Sabalo 9/54-6/55. Condolences to his wife, Minnette, 1715 Lower Monitor Rd, Wenatche, WA 98801

Hubbell, Carl D. — of San Diego, CA, d. 26 Apr 2017 from glioblastoma (brain tumor), ETR3(SS) abd Sabalo 5/61-12/61. He was a USSVI member. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Adele via email: aehub@aol.com

Hull, John Dennis — of Sacramento, CA, d. 9 Feb 2018 in Virginia after recovering from a stroke two years earlier. Condolences may be sent to his son, Steve Hull, Capt., USN, 119 Mountain Rd., Haymarket, VA 20169.

Lipham, John Clarence — of Whittier, CA d. 14 Jan 2018. He was YN2 abd 3/54-6/54,

Parks, William Harley — d. 19 December 2018 in the Tyler, Texas hospital. (abd Sabalo 4/66-7/68 as Ops Offcr/Navigator) He had COPD and has been in poor health for a couple years; apparently had a heart attack. He was cremated and remains buried with his first wife, Sue. If you want to send a card or something in memory of Will, send to: Will Parks, 2112 Highmont Cr, Tyler, TX 757703

Piatek, Ralph Stanley — of Rio Rancho, NM d. 11 Mar 2018. Served on 302 as EMC(SS). Ret. 8/60, was WWII Vet; USSVI-Holland Club member

Wambold, Lester Leo — of Tacoma, WA d. 12 April 2018. He served on Sabalo 2/54-12/55 as EN1(SS). Condolences to wife Patricia, 23 62nd NE Ave, Tacoma, WA 98422

Weisensee, William J., Jr. — of Groton, CT d. 11 Aug 2018. He was ET1(SS) on Sabalo 5/57-6/58; later CAPT., Ret. 6/93 USSVI Holland Club member.

Yackle, John Thomas — of College Grove, TN d.2 May 2018. FN(SS) abd 12/64-?/66

Story as told by a loving wife.....

The pastor asked if anyone in the congregation would like to express praise for an answered prayer. Suzie stood and walked to the podium.

She said, "I have some praise. Two months ago, my husband, Frank, had a terrible bicycle accident and his scrotum was completely crushed.

The pain was excruciating and the doctors didn't know if they could help him."

You could hear a muffled gasp from the men in the congregation as they imagined the pain that poor Frank must have experienced. "Frank was unable to hold me or the children," she went on, "and every move caused him terrible pain."

We prayed as the doctors performed a delicate operation, and it turned out they were able to piece together the crushed remnants of Frank's scrotum, and wrap wire around it to hold it in place with metal staples."

Again, the men in the congregation cringed and squirmed uncomfortably as they imagined the horrible surgery performed on Frank.

"Now," she announced in a quivering voice, "thank the Lord, Frank is out of the hospital and the doctors say that with time, his scrotum should recover completely."

All the men sighed with unified relief. The pastor rose and tentatively asked if anyone else had something to say.

A man stood up and walked slowly to the podium. He said, "I'm Frank." The entire congregation held its breath. "I just want to tell my wife that the word is sternum."



One hour of life, crowded to the full with glorious action and filled with noble risks, is worth whole years of those mean observances of paltry decorum.

....Walter Scott, writer and historian

Surfin' Submariner

Find these sites online

The Role of USS Halibut in The Cold War

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/us-navy-submarine-terrified-russia-simple-reason-42377>

RAO Bulletin— **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** - A very complete gathering of articles of topical military interest. Issued bi-monthly. Instructions on how to subscribe to notices of publication and the web sites where it is viewable are on the last page of each issue. One site to view :

<http://www.nhc-ul.org/rao.html>

And some thought the elimination of the Quartermaster rating was a big deal. No crew is even required for this one.

Navy Ship Sailed to Hawaii and Back With No One on Board—A 132-foot-long self-driving ship made history by traveling from San Diego to Pearl Harbor and back again without sailors aboard to guide its way, steer or man the ship. Named *Sea Hunter*, it's an autonomous trimaran developed for submarine hunting and counter-mine missions.

<https://www.military.com/defensetech/2019/02/15/navy-ship-sailed-hawaii-and-back-no-one-board.html>

How to subscribe to **military.com**:

<https://www.military.com/about-us/help-and-feedback>

MEET YOUR SHIPMATE

Otto Husack, TM1(SS), Ret. '74, Was the oldest shipmate at the 2018 reunion at 92. He is a WWII vet, enlisting 25 Oct 1944. On 12 Apr 1945, while supporting the invasion of Okinawa, his ship the USS Zellers DD-777 was attacked by 3 kamikazes. One made it through the intense gunfire and struck the destroyer. Inflicting 44 casualties. During the Korean war he was on USS Laffey DD-724. He was aboard Sabalo Jul '60-Jun '66, one of the longest serving men on board the 302, and also had time in Medregal & Gudgeon. Otto and Sharon now reside in Omaha, Neb.

Howard Venezia, CAPT, Ret. '88, enlisted USN 1952, after 4 years in the Merchant Marine. As ET1(SS) left Sabalo for OCS in 1957; thence to Balao and was aboard '59 during the making of *Operation Pettycoat*. (He played the part of a "soldier") Never making it as an actor, his submarine qual's were also threatened after he dumped a tube full of water on Janet Leigh during her visit to the set. After OCS had a tour on Bream SSK-243 as Engr., and as skipper of Marlin SST-2 and Tigrone AGSS-419. Interspersed were marriage to Barbara McLean, kids, an electronics engineering degree at Monterey, more kids, and shore duty at the War College, SUBLANT, and OPNAV. Followed by a most welcome trip to Sardinia as XO of the tender Gilmore, and return to OPNAV, Still later, CO of Hector AR-7 ('81-'83); then CO of Surface Squadron One ('84-'86). Last duty was the PG School. Still with a desire to return to sea he obtained his masters license and returned to the Merchant Marine. The Venezia's now live in Winter Park, Col. and have 5 children and 6 grandchildren.

Q: How do I know if I am eligible for Community Care Programs through the VA?

A: Veterans may be eligible to receive care through the VA Community Care Program (formally known as the Choice Program), if a Veteran faces an excessive burden in traveling to the nearest VA medical facility (such as geographic challenges, environmental factors, or a health problem that makes it hard for you to travel), lives more than 40 miles (driving distance) from the nearest VA medical facility, or can't make an appointment for the Veteran at the nearest VA medical facility within 30 days of the clinically indicated date.

<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/VCP/index.asp#new>

Choice Program Support Line: 866-606-8198.

Women on submarines

The stationing of women on subs began in 2010. Because this is a firm plan to integrate women to much higher levels than exist today, a short synopsis of a few sources on where the program is headed and what are the problems encountered and comments from and acceptance of today's sub crews. The reason circulated by the highest ranking officers for integrating sub crews is that the supply of qualified persons for sub personnel, which are almost always volunteers, is getting harder and harder to satisfy. Thus, tapping the pool of women that can meet the requirements is necessary.

In 2017 a record 16 out of 100 Navy women are reassigned from ships to shore duty due to pregnancy, according to data [obtained](#) under the Freedom of Information Act ...up 2 percent from 2015. ...a single transfer can cost the Navy up to \$30,000 for each woman trained for a specific task, then evacuated from an active duty ship and sent to land. That figure translates into \$115 million in expenses for 2016 alone.

Read More | <https://stream.org/deployed-us-navy-pregnancy-problem-getting-worse/>

Feb 2018 Ohio-class USS Florida, of Kings Bay Sub Base, is the second sub to have an integrated male-female crew. She follows USS Michigan from Bangor, WA.

Read More | <https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2018/02/21/second-submarine-welcoming-enlisted-female-crew-members/>

Mar 2018- Of the first 19 female officers, 5 women signed sign a contract to go back to sea as a department head, which keeps them on the career path for a submarine officer. The other 14 women have either left the military, will soon leave, or are serving elsewhere in the Navy, That's a retention rate of 26 percent for the first female officers, just shy of the roughly 27 percent of male officers selected for submarine service in 2010 who signed a department head contract. The Navy had been looking for at least 15 percent for women.

Read More | <https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Military/2018/0308/Navy-hits-major-milestone-for-women-in-submarines>

Ship's New Female Quarters Regulations

Department of the Navy has assigned females to quarters in a separate private "OFF LIMITS" area on all Subs.

While addressing ship's personnel at quarters The COB advised, "Female sleeping quarters will be "out-of-bounds" for all males. Anyone caught breaking this rule will be fined \$50 the first time."

The COB continued, "Anyone caught breaking this rule the second time will be fined \$150. And being caught a third time will cost you a fine of \$500. Are there any questions?"

At this point, an unidentified bubblehead somewhere in the back of the ranks blurted, "How much for a season pass?"

Do navy men have sex with their fellow sailors?

...Of course they do. Humans desire sex. No big secret. Most sailors are under 25 years old. Hormones are running rampant when you're 18–25. Even Bill Clinton couldn't keep it in his pants at work and he was older, married and probably a genius with the most high profile job in the world.

... adultery and fraternization are rampant.

...Many male sailors opted to ruin their lives with their female counterparts. [Those who get caught can face demotion and possible discharge.]

...It's not politically correct to say so, but women in the military cause a lot of problems. It's expensive, inefficient, and a detriment to morale without much upside other than the feel good PC.

Selected comments from the blog found on this link |

<https://www.quora.com/Did-navy-men-have-sex-with-their-fellow-sailors>

Currently, 18 submarine crews include female officers, and four of these crews have female enlisted sailors. By the end of 2024, the Navy will have 21 crews with female officers, and 14 of these crews will include female enlisted sailors,

<https://news.usni.org/2018/04/18/33022>

* * *

CB Editorial Comment: My personal experience comes from talking with crew and officers on a boat in the Los Angeles attack class. These older boats do not have women aboard and there is no plan to do any conversions to these older boats. It has been expressed that training about this subject includes the caveat to keep opinions private. Officers, particularly, are completely mum about whether women on the boats is a good thing. Based on various service policies, the opinion is that any reluctance expressed could have a severe career and advancement effect.



VA Agent Orange Benefits Update

► VA Continues Opposition to Extending Benefits

The Department of Veterans Affairs shows no signs of backing off opposition to extending Agent Orange health care and benefits to "Blue Water Navy" Vietnam veterans, setting up another major battle this year with veterans groups and overwhelming majorities in the House and Senate. The VA still lacks "sufficient evidence" to prove a presumptive link between service off the coast of Vietnam and the illnesses caused by the widespread use of the defoliant Agent Orange, Paul Lawrence, the VA's under secretary and head of the Veterans Benefits Administration, said 17 JAN. "In terms of presumptives, they come with a real requirement of sufficient evidence to indicate it's warranted," he said in a panel discussion on a VA Town Hall webcast.

Veterans who served on the ground or on the inland waterways of Vietnam are now eligible for Agent Orange health care and benefits. But existing studies do not show definitive causation between the illnesses suffered by the estimated 90,000 Blue Water Navy veterans and the use of Agent Orange, Lawrence said. "We understand the situation," he said. "We talked about having more studies in 2019 that would give us more insight into what the causation was and the definitive conclusions behind it." He gave no indication of when the studies might be completed.

Blue Water veterans can file a claim, which will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, Lawrence said, but they "must be supported by science." He took a similar position on claims by veterans that they suffered illnesses from the toxic fumes of the burn pits used in Iraq and Afghanistan, saying those claims also must be supported by scientific evidence.

On 14 JAN, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an appeal by veterans for damages against companies that managed the open-air burn pits. Last August, Lawrence and VA Secretary Robert Wilkie stunned Congress by announcing their opposition to a bill extending Agent Orange benefits to Blue Water sailors that had overwhelming bipartisan support in the House and Senate. The bill had passed 382-0 in the House and appeared headed to easy passage in the Senate with the support of Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Georgia, chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. However, Lawrence, at a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing, said, "It's difficult to hear from veterans who are ill," but "there is no conclusive science" from a report by the Institute of Medicine to show a service connection. Major veterans service organizations (VSOs) disputed Lawrence on the evidence, but the bill failed in December when Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyoming, citing the costs, blocked a Senate vote. The Congressional Budget Office had estimated that about 90,000 sailors could be covered by the bill, which would likely cost about \$1.1 billion over 10 years. Last week, House Democrats reintroduced the "Blue Water Navy" bill, setting up another lengthy battle with the VA on extending Agent Orange benefits. In a statement, Rep. Mark Takano, (D-CA), the new chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, said, "We must get to work and finally secure the benefits our Blue Water Navy veterans earned over 40 years ago."

On 17 JAN, three VSOs -- the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars -- said that passage of the Blue Water Navy bill would be at the top of their legislative agenda for 2019. "One of our key legislative concerns is ensuring that veterans who were exposed to dangerous toxic chemicals and other environment hazards during their service receive full compensation and other earned benefits," DAV National Commander Dennis Nixon said in a statement. [Source: Military.com | Richard Sisk | 18 Jan 2019]

► Federal Court Rules VA Cannot Deny Benefits

A federal court ruled 29 JAN that the VA cannot deny disability benefits to thousands of Vietnam veterans who claim exposure to cancer-causing chemical defoliants simply because those vets served in the waters off the country's coastline, and not inland. The ruling in favor of Alfred Procopio, Jr., 73, who served on the USS Intrepid during the Vietnam War .marks a major victory for so-called "blue water" Navy veterans who have fought the department for years over the denials. But the 9-2 decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit overturns past court opinions backing up VA, saying that Congress never intended to exclude service members in the seas around Vietnam when they awarded presumptive benefits for certain illnesses related to Agent Orange exposure.

Under current department rules, the blue water veterans can receive medical care for their illnesses through VA, but to receive disability benefits, they must prove that their ailments are directly connected to toxic exposure while on duty. That's not the case for other Vietnam veterans, who are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and other defoliants known to cause serious and rare cancers. So while a veteran who served on the shoreline could receive disability payouts after contracting Parkinson's Disease or prostate cancer, another vet who served on a ship a few miles away would have to provide evidence of direct contact with hazardous chemicals. Advocates have said that, given the time that has passed since the war, obtaining such proof is impossible and unfair. In their ruling, the federal judges agreed. "These statutes cast no doubt on our conclusion that, by using the formal term 'Republic of Vietnam,' Congress unambiguously referred, consistent with uniform international law, to both its landmass and its 12-nautical-mile territorial sea," the ruling states. If VA officials opt not to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court in the next 90 days — or if the court decides not to hear the case — the result means that up to 90,000 blue water veterans could see disability payouts as early as this year.

(The VA) is reviewing this decision and "will determine an appropriate response." Advocates hailed the news as a major step ahead in their effort to win benefits for the aging veterans. "This is a big win," said John Wells, retired Navy commander and the executive director of Military-Veterans Advocacy. Bart Stichman, executive director of the National Veterans Legal Services Program, said the decision "unequivocally rights a wrong that is a terrible injustice to all veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange in the waters of Vietnam."

Legislation that would have awarded presumptive status to the blue water veterans was blocked by a small group of senators at the end of last year, disappointing advocates who saw the legislative momentum as their best chance for a victory in years. VA officials have insisted the total cost is closer to \$5.5 billion. Disagreements over whether to use new home loan fees to pay for the costs stalled the previous legislation. If the court order stands, VA will be forced to cover the costs regardless of whether an offset is agreed upon, a potential drain on the department's annual budget. Several new bills on the issue are already pending before Congress, and the chairmen of both the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees have promised to deal with the topic quickly this year. In a statement, Senate chairman Johnny Isakson (R-GA) said that he was pleased with the court decision and would work closely with VA on the next steps. The full decision is available at the appeals court's web site <http://www.cafc.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/opinions-orders/17-1821.Opinion.1-29-2019.pdf>.

[Source: MilitaryTimes | Leo Shane III | 29 Jan 2019]

Veterans Targeted in Benefits Scams U.S. veterans who receive calls or recorded messages claiming to be from "veterans services" should have their guard up. Scam callers are attempting to elicit financial and other personal information from veterans. The callers are telling vets there is a new type of veterans benefit related to home loans. The report says the scammers use caller ID spoofing to deceive their intended victims. The scammers often leave voice messages, following a script that goes something like this: Your VA profile was flagged for two potential benefits to the changes in the VA program. These are time sensitive entitlements. Please call us back at your earliest convenience. The voicemail includes a fraudulent call-back number for "veterans services." Potential victims who call the number are offered "benefits," such as loan modifications to their mortgages, then asked for personal information, including social security numbers, dates of birth and bank account numbers. Scammers who gain access to such information can use it to steal money from bank accounts or credit cards, or sell the information to other bad actors for use in identity theft fraud. Other recurring phone scams preying on veterans include the "Update Your Military File" scam, the "Veteran Charity" scam and the "Veterans Choice Program" scam, according to a recent article in Forbes. If you get a call that offers any of the above "services," hang up immediately. If you get a voice message, write down the callback number and contact law enforcement to report the scam. [article contributed by Dick Port IC3(SS) abd 302 '62-63]

<https://www.fcc.gov/veterans-targeted-benefits-scams>

Afghan Bombings. The United States dropped more bombs and other munitions in Afghanistan during the first ten months of 2018 than in any other full year since documentation began, new Air Force data shows 5,982 bombs. Despite the uptick in air-strikes, the Taliban hold more territory than at any time since the war began in 2001.

Reader's Puka* - Book recommendations and reviews— {send in yours for sharing}

Liberty Ship Trip: Steaming West to the Far East by Howard Venezia — This novel set during the Korean War tells of the adventures of young Joey Vincenzo doing his challenging job in the Engine Room of a reactivated WW II, Liberty Ship. He has to learn the peculiarities of the steam driven, reciprocating engine propelling this ship. He does so... and so will the reader. His romantic forays in ports visited, are another story. It is in this latter realm that we hope he will attain the maturity needed to properly handle unexpectedly arising "adult" issues. 'Howie' knows whereof he speaks. He spent 48 years at sea in both the Navy and the Merchant Marine. He was there! [sounds semi-autobiographical— see "Shipmates" column, CB Ed.]

Steel Boat—Iron Hearts: A U-boat Crewman's Life Aboard U-505 by Hans Goebeler and John Vanzo [The U-505 is now a land-based static museum at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry.]

Both available on Amazon.com

***Puka:** "Allegedly adopted from the Hawaiian word for "hole."

[Specifically, Hawaiians always had necklaces made from small shells which had a small hole in them. The holes are called 'puka'. How this became to be used in sub jargon is a mystery. Only thing that can be said is that probably some Pearl Harbor sailor had something to do with it. -Jeff]

"Puka is a hiding place or stash. You'd think that, space being at such a premium on a sub, there would be no good hiding places. On the contrary, a sub is an industrial environment. People need to be able to get to every valve, panel, and piece of gear. A sub may look like a tube on the outside, but on the inside it's like a honeycomb, with many nooks, crannies, hideaways, and caches. Subs are so horribly crowded because none of those Pukas fit people. Puka can also be used as a verb, e.g. "Puka that shit before chief gets back here."

Want to know lots more sub lingo? Some is nuke-puke stuff I never heard of, but if you belong to USSVI, you can brush up and talk the best shit with fellow members from times after the diesel boats were scrapped.— Ed.

LINK: <https://foxtrotalpha.jalopnik.com/even-more-wacky-submarine-terms-you-never-knew-you-want-1711910869>

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: A married man should forget his mistakes. There's no use in two people remembering the same thing!

REUNION 2018 PIX — 45 attendees at Luau—54 at main Banquet— To see who’s pictured below, the web site will soon be revised with many photos, the final attendees list and more. - Standby [If you took some— send them to be posted.]



**Long we've tossed on the rolling main, now we're safe ashore, Jack.
Don't forget yer old shipmate, faldee raldee raldee rye-eye-doe!**
*.....from the song: "The Far Side Of The World", sung in the wardroom scene
in the film Master and Commander*



USS SABALO SS-302

BALAO CLASS

DIESEL ELECTRIC SUBMARINE

IN SERVICE: 1945-1971

A PROUD WORKHORSE

OF THE FLEET



*She made her missions.
We did our best.
We served our country.
This has been done.*

* * * * *



CLEVER BOY is a privately authored and published newsletter of the **USS Sabalo Association**.

The Association is an informal group for the preservation of the submarine's history, the assemblage of the list of all who served in her, chronicling her exploits and missions, and celebrating the memories of those who manned her. "Clever Boy" was the radio call sign for Sabalo, and NXYO was the flag identification code.



TO

USS SABALO ASSOCIATION
JEFF OWENS
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FROM

This could be the last newsletter you receive.
Expenses and preparation of a hard copy news-
letter require that only those who have a need
for a personal mailed copy will be kept on the
mailing list. **ANYONE WHO HAS NOT VERIFIED
THAT THEY ARE RECEIVING HARD COPY AND
WISH TO CONTINUE SAME WILL BE REMOVED
FROM THE MAILING LIST.** Shipmates that previ-
ously responded last year were recorded and will
be kept on the list. Persons for whom there is an
email address listed on the Sabalo web site will
also not receive hard copy after this issue unless
otherwise requested. Issues will continue to be
posted on the web site, and announcement of
posting will be by email as in the past.

WARNING