



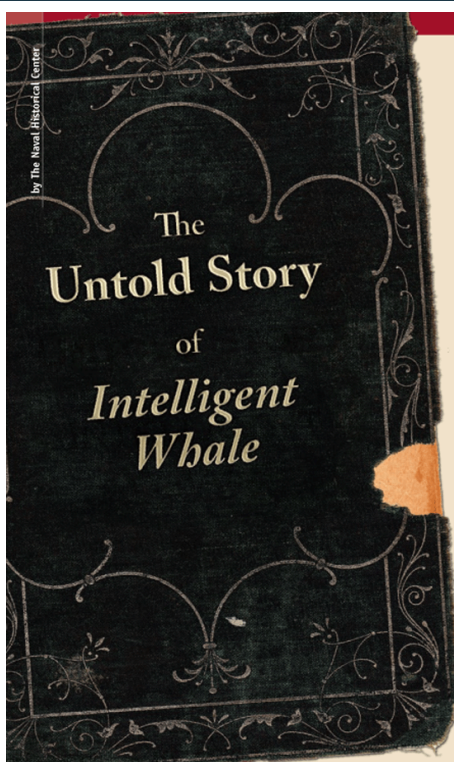
April  
2017

# CORVINA BASE NEWS

## Newsletter of the Year Awards

2014 Class 2 First Runner Up  
2012 Western Region Class 2 Winner

2013 Western Region Class 2 Winner  
2011 Class 1 Honorable Mention



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Denotes a Holland Club Member



## 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.

DeDe and I had a great time at the 117<sup>th</sup> Submarine Birthday Ball hosted by the NSL-NorCal Chapter at the Naval Postgraduate School. Of the 250 people in attendance, there were 25 USSVI shipmates including Western Region District 5 Commander, Mare Island Base Commander and members of Gold Country, Mare Island and Dolphin Bases. Pete Juhos and Max Schell presented the POW/MIA and Tolling of The Boats ceremonies. Mare Island shipmate Capt. Maurice Worthington, D.C. (Retired) was recognized as the Senior Qualified Submariner present – qualified in 1944 aboard USS Haddo (SS-255) As a Chief Pharmacist Mate. Capt. Worthington is 101 years old and when asked how one gets to be 101 years old, he flatly replied “Just Wait”.

The keynote address was presented by CNO Admiral John Richardson, and he spoke of the U.S Navy Submarine Force history in the context of generations and technology. From the very first U.S. Navy submarine powered by a gasoline engine to the latest attack submarines powered by nuclear power, he spoke of them all. The U.S. Navy, and the Submarine Force, is in good hands with his leadership.

In front of the ballroom was a small reserved table, set for one. On it was this:

*“The military caste is full of symbolism.*

*The vacant table is our way of symbolizing the fact that members of this profession of arms are missing from our midst.*

*They are commonly called POW or MIA.*

*We call them brothers or sisters. They are unable to be with us this evening and so we remember them because of their incarceration.*

*The table set for one is small, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his aggressors.*

*The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country’s call to arms.*

*The single rose is displayed in a vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades-in-arms who keep the faith, awaiting his return.*

*The red ribbon tied so prominently to the vase is reminiscent if the red ribbon worn on the lapel and breast of those who bear witness to the unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing.*

*A slice of lemon in on the bread plate to remind us if their bitter fate.*

*There is salt upon the bread plate, symbolic of their families’ tears as they wait.*

*The glass is inverted-they cannot toast with us tonight.*

*All of you who served with them and called them comrades, who depended on their might and aid, and relied upon them, for surely, they not forsaken you.”*



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## April Meeting Minutes



Minutes of Corvina Base Meeting held at Sparks Denny's on April 1, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Commander Salzman at 1400 as the Co-COBS sounded two blasts on the klaxon. After an Invocation by Chaplain Paul Allen, the Pledge of Allegiance, Reading of the USSVI Creed, Tolling of the Bell for boats lost in April and Moment of Silent Prayer for all departed family, friends, shipmates, and fellow submariners followed in their usual order. There were 30 members and guests present.

After the introduction of guests, all members present introduced themselves and stated their qualification information for new members and guests.

Our Guest Speaker was Mr. Brad Platt, Director of Geothermal/Solar Operations and Maintenance for Enel Green Power North America, Inc. Mr. Platt gave a very informative and interesting presentation discussing Geothermal and Solar Power Facilities with particular emphasis on local facilities and others in Northern Nevada. His presentation was followed by a 'question and answer' session that provided a lot of further valuable information.

The minutes of the March meeting were accepted after a brief discussion.

XO Bill Conklin made a brief report.

Past Commander Dennis Wiley had no report.

Secretary Pete Akerson reported that the presentation of our Annual 'Pride Runs Deep' Award should take place in May. The name of the cadet receiving the award and date for the presentation ceremony will come from the Damonte Ranch High School NJORTC Office.

Note: The presentation will take place at the Damonte

Ranch High School Gymnasium at 1900, Wednesday, May 10, 2017. All members are urged to attend wearing your Corvina Base Caps and vests.

Treasurer Dave Aunkst reported the Corvina Base Financial status.

Chaplain Paul Allen gave an update on the status of member Del Schwichtenberg.

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster Norm Peterson had nothing to report.

There was no Co-COB report.

There was a brief discussion/report regarding the Base participation in the Nevada Veterans And Military Day.

The Corvina Base Bi-Annual Garage Sale will be held in conjunction with the Hidden Valley Homeowners Association Annual Garage sale in September. It will be at the Akerson residence at 7269 Bold Venture Court, Hidden Valley. The exact Date will be announced at the May meeting.

The Holland Club induction ceremony has been deferred until the May meeting.

A Base trip to the USS Pampanito in San Francisco this summer was briefly discussed and will be a subject at a future meeting/meetings.

After a brief recess, the monthly 50/50 raffle/drawing was held with the following results: Wine - Frank Urbani Whiskey - Dale Poe Tool Kit Gene Murphy Wine - Norm Peterson Wine - Dale Poe Navy Magazine - Don Brown Sticker Sheet - Frank Urbani Wine - Mercedes Parsons The 50/50 cash prize was won by Paull Allen.

After a Benediction by Chaplain Allen, the meeting adjourned at 1527 as the Co-COBs sounded three blasts on the klaxon.

Note: I humbly apologize for any errors in these minutes. My best days are WAY behind me and there are times when I have trouble deciphering my own notes.

Respectfully,

Pete Akerson, Secretary



## Treasure's Report

- All account balances are available at the Base meetings.
- Deposits for April:
 

Base Meeting Raffle/Memorial Fund	\$ 105.00
Booster Club	60.00
Transfer from Money Market Savings Account	1500.00
USSVI/Base 2017 Dues	35.00
- Checks issued in April:
 

Prototype Concepts/Sub Float Repairs	1500.00
USSVI/ 2017 Dues	50.00
Steve Salzman/Reimburse Sub Float Labor	83.69

## Welcome to new member

Rick Johns of Minden. He is a retired MMC(SS) and first qualified on the USS Michigan in 1982. He puts the Base at 91 members now.







## Chaplains Report

### **Binnacle List as of April 25, 2017**

Del Schwichtenberg: Del had to have surgery on April 15, to stop bleeding on the brain after several days of steroid treatment that did not work. He was released to go home on April 21, and is happy to be home. The surgeons could not completely stop the bleeding and he has been put on hospice care with a hospital bed in their home. Mary Ellen is his caretaker along with some help from the hospice nurses and family. Del is cognizant of family and friends and as I write this (4/25/17) he was concerned about his emails that are piling up on his computer. Del and Mary Ellen are at peace with God about their circumstances and appreciate your concern and prayers. Mary Ellen said Del can have visitors but to call first. 775 841-5293.

Linda Ely: Linda is feeling well and is able to eat even though she is going through another series of chemotherapy. After having another examination that revealed more cancer and having a heart attack her doctors recommended another round of chemotherapy, dialed back about 20% so as not to trigger any problems. The doctors saw success with the first rounds and felt this was the best way to proceed. Linda and Frank have an upbeat attitude trusting for the best with God's blessing. When I called their home they had just bought a set of tires because a round trip to Renown Hospital, Reno for them is about 160 miles.

Bobbie Heaps: Bobbie is doing fine after bringing her diabetes under control but now has made a decision to leave Nevada and relocate to Washington to be near her daughter. We will miss you, Bobbie, but we will never forget your willingness to help at the 2016 USSVI Convention and the excellent job you did! We wish you "Fair winds and following seas".

### **Memorial Day, Monday, May29, 2017**

My wife, Gloria, and I recently took a trip to San Antonio, TX for a full week to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> year of marriage which happened to be about one year after I left the USS Blackfin in Pearl Harbor. We stayed in a hotel downtown San Antonio where we could walk to most of the main sights, such as the Alamo, the River Walk, Buckhorn Saloon, walking distance to get the bus to take us to the zoo, the missions, botanical gardens, etc. This was our first trip to Texas and this was a wonderful city to visit. We took a full day bus tour to see Fredericksburg, President Lyndon Johnson's ranch, Lukenbach "pop. 3", and Sisterdale country store that had a sign that stated, "We only sell Ketchup". That part of Texas was settled by German immigrants about 1850, hence the name Fredericksburg, which was named after Prince Frederick of Prussia and as the years evolved they even had



. Alamo Cenotaph (empty tomb) honors all 189 men who perished at the Alamo. Santa Anna burned all the bodies so there are no graves.

their own dialect call "Texas German" spoken by Germans who refused to learn English. They also had some problems during the Civil War when some were leaning toward the Union and again in WWI when some were questioned about their loyalty to the U.S. December 4 2017 will be the 100 year anniversary of the U.S. entering into WWI. Germany started WWI on July 2, 1914 and it ended on Nov. 11, 1918 for a total of 4 years, 3 months, and 2 weeks and the US was in the war for about 11 months. Nine million combatants died along with 7 million civilians and 116,516 were lost from the United States. One of my uncles was attacked with mustard gas and never did fully recover. President Woodrow Wilson kept America out of the war for 3 years but the German Submarines kept sinking our merchant and passenger ships. One unusual story from WWI was when the British Naval Intelligence intercepted and decrypted a telegram sent by Germany to Mexico that if they would assist Germany in the war they would help Mexico recover the territory it had ceded to the U.S. following the Mexican-American War.

Fredericksburg, TX was the birthplace of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz in 1885 and now the home of The National Museum Of The Pacific War and his grandfather's hotel, built to look like a steamship, is now the Admiral Nimitz State Historic site. His grandfather was a con-

federate but had also been a seaman in the German Merchant Marine, a Texas Ranger, and told his grandson "the sea-like life itself- is a stern taskmaster. The best way to get along with either is to learn all you can, then do your best and don't worry – especially about things over which you have no control". I believe Admiral Nimitz followed his advice.



His grandfather's hotel-now a museum



Nimitz bronze – feet planted on ground. He said "don't put me on a pedestal"



.Memorial grounds behind the museum. It takes a whole day to see everything.

**Memorial Day is a "Remembrance Day" and is called a "holiday" and probably most Americans don't even think about "the price of freedom is never cheap". The birth of this nation is not an accident of history. American's Revolutionary army in 1776 made up of volunteers, farmers, tinkers, along with a few professionals, defeated the greatest nation on earth at that time. Coincidence? Fate? or Divine Providence at work. Let's remember those sailors and soldiers who paid for our freedom with their sacrifice of blood. Because we are able read these words, we as submariners, can be proud of our part to keep America free and honor the ones that gave their lives. "God Bless America".**

**Scripture:** John 15:13 "*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*"

**Prayer:** Father God, we pray for America that she will recognize that we need your help to continue to be a free nation and a nation of influence for good. We pray for our leaders that wisdom will be given to lead this great nation. May we never forget those who sacrificed their lives for America and the price of freedom. We also pray for the Corvina Base families that need physical help, for healing, strength, and rest for them and the loved ones serving as caretakers. Thank you Lord for hearing and answering our prayers. Amen!

**Paul Allen, Corvina Base Chaplain**

## Pictures from the Submarine Ball



left to right; USSVI members Mike Lipscomb, Steve Salzman, Jim Gardner and Pete Juhos flank CNO ADM John Richardson at the 117th Submarine Birthday Ball, Monterey CA, April 22, 2017



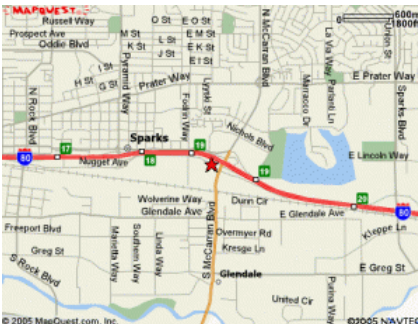
Steve and DeDe at the Ball!

### 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)	Wayne F. Garrett ET2 (SS)
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)
Chester E. MacDowell TMI (SS)	Edwin V. Schalbert TMC (SS)
Jerry D. Noma MM2(SS)	Richard Ekenberg, ETC(SS)
Gerald Stratton ENC(SS)	Richard C. Barringer SOSN(SS)
Lowell Wapelhorst MOMM2(SS)	Jack Quade SMSN(SS)
Bert Skidmore YN2(SS)	Walter Lewis IC1(SS)
Frank Kenyon EM3 (SS)	Bob Heaps IC2 (SS)
James Jordan TMSN (SS)	

### Corvina Base Booster Club

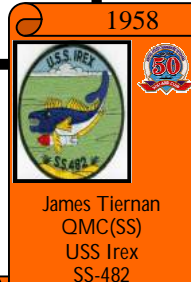
James Gibson  
Steve Salzman  
James Turner  
Bobbie Heaps  
Dave Aunkst  
Paul Young  
Ken Anderson  
R.Dennis Wiley  
Leif Larsen  
Pete Akerson  
George Little  
Bill Desormier  
Lon Schmidt  
Dave Chute  
Paul Allen  
Michael Uva



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







## CORVINA BASE KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS) TEAM VISITS ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER PEDIATRIC UNIT

On April 18, 2017 the K4K Team visited 2 year old Luke at St Mary's. He was clearly in some distress, and cried through much of our visit even though we could see flashes of a great kid. We kept our visit short, showing him a few pictures and leaving him with pictures, a coloring book, a stuffed polar bear and other goodies. We gave him a cap and certificate designating him as an "Honorary Submariner". Bill Conklin, and Steve and DeDe Salzman participated in the visit.

Soon after the visit, I received the following e-mail from Luke's parents:

Dear Bill,

I wanted to send a note and thank you and your staff for your Kap (SS) 4 Kid(SS) Program. My son Luke was hospitalized earlier this week with a respiratory infection and on his second day he was visited by your friendly team. Luke was very tired and cranky when you were there, but you were very patient with him while showing him photos of the submarines and gave him gifts. We weren't able to take a photo together but I wanted to send you a photo of Luke just a few hours after you left. When Luke was in a better mood I gave him the gifts and showed him the pictures and it really lifted his spirits for the rest of the day. It is so wonderful that you guys have created a program like this to help kids like Luke have a much more pleasant hospital stay. Thank you so much!

Sincerely, Luke's parents, Garrett and Megan



That's why we do what we do...we welcome you to come and join us!

### Corvina Base Kap(SS) 4Kid(SS) Booster Club

Paul Young  
Terry Bolen  
Bill Conklin  
Pete Akerson  
Jim Turner  
Frank Urbani  
Dennis Wiley  
Dale Poe  
Frank & Linda Ely

### Lost Boats in May

*USS Squalus (SS-192)* was lost on **23-May-1939** with a loss of **26 crew, 33 rescued** when it flooded and sank off Portsmouth, NH

*USS Lagarto (SS-371)* was lost on or shortly after **4-May-1945** with the loss of **88 crew** when it was sunk in off Malay Coast in or near the Gulf of Siam

*USS Stickleback (SS-415)* was lost on **30-May-1958** when it sank off Hawaii while being towed, after collision with *USS Silverstein (DE-534)*

*USS Scorpion (SSN-589)* was lost on **27-May-1968** with the loss of **99 crew** when it was sunk while in transit from Med, West of Azores

### BIZARRE COINCIDENCES

-Hitler was born 129 years after Napoleon. He also came to power 129 years after Napoleon, invaded Russia 129 years after Napoleon, and was defeated 129 years after Napoleon.

-There were only two cars in the state of Ohio in 1895. They ran into each other. Then there were no cars

-The first worker to die during the Hoover dam's construction was J.G. Tierny on December 20, 1922. The last person to die there was J.G. Tierny's son, who died on December 20, 1935.





## Corn from the COB

Students in an advanced Biology class were taking their mid-term exam. The last question was, 'Name seven advantages of Mother's Milk.' The question was worth 70 points or none at all. One student was hard put to think of seven advantages. He wrote:

- 1) It is perfect formula for the child.
- 2) It provides immunity against several diseases.
- 3) It is always the right temperature.
- 4) It is inexpensive.
- 5) It bonds the child to mother and vice versa.
- 6) It is always available as needed.

And then the student was stuck. Finally, in desperation, just before the bell rang indicating the end of the test he wrote:

- 7) It comes in two attractive containers and it's high enough off the ground where the cat can't get it. He got an A.

### Diminutive drug-sniffing dog training at Norfolk naval base



#### **NORFOLK, Va. — An unusual drug-sniffing dog is joining the ranks of Naval Station Norfolk.**

The Virginian Pilot reports Puskos, a 15-pound Jagdterrier, has been in training since January and is expected to be certified to search for narcotics by the end of the month.

His handler, Petty Officer 2nd Class Jordyn Japoc, says there are less than five small-breed dogs in the Navy.

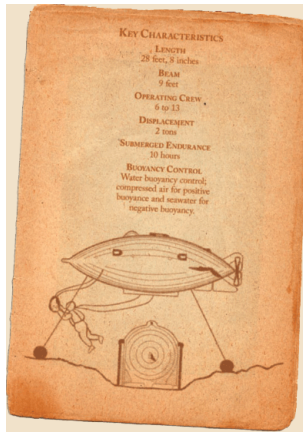
Puskos is around a fifth the size of most working dogs like German shepherds and Belgian Malinois, and that comes with some advantages. It makes it easier to fit into tight spaces aboard ships and submarines and allows him to be carried down steep stairwells. Japoc says his 2-year-old partner is a little stubborn, just wants to work and "has no fear."

## Off Limits

Addressing all boat personnel at Pearl Harbor, Admiral advised, "The female sleeping quarters will be out-of-bounds for all males. Anybody caught breaking this rule will be fined \$50 the first time."

He continued, " Anybody caught breaking this rule the second time will be fined \$150. Being caught a third time will cost you a fine of \$500. Are there any questions? "

At this point, a Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant from the security detail assigned to the ship, stood up in the crowd and inquired: "How much for a season pass?"



**THE** submarine, *Intelligent Whale*, which has a tangled and complex history, was displayed at the Washington Navy Yard, D.C., from 1968 until its recent move to the New Jersey National Guard Militia Museum in Sea Girt, N.J. The wrought iron, hand-cranked craft originated amid the turmoil of the Civil War, but legal disputes prevented it from reaching the U.S. Navy until 1870. Having failed to impress naval inspectors, the vessel became an historical curiosity first at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, then at the Washington Navy Yard. *Intelligent Whale* was not the first submarine purchased by the Navy, but it exemplified the service's continuing interest in submarine warfare in the post-1865 period.

The submarine's history began in the midst of the Civil War as new inventions pushed to the fore in an effort to provide combatants a winning edge. On Nov. 2, 1863, the designer Scovel S. Merriman contracted with Augustus Price and Cornelius Bushnell to build *Intelligent Whale* for \$15,000.

In April 1864, the American Submarine Company replaced Price and Bushnell as the builder. The craft measured 28 feet eight inches long, nine feet high and seven feet wide and was made of half-inch thick boiler iron. The building cost overran the initial estimate by 400 percent. The additional \$45,000 cost led to a series of lawsuits that prevented completion before April 1865.

By Sept. 23, 1865, the trustees of General Nathaniel Norris Halstead and Col. Edward W. Serrell in Newark, N.J., had received a decision granting them control of the "Submarine or Torpedo boat...Merriam's Submarine Boat." In 1865, a lawsuit between the lawyer and lobbyist Oliver S. "Pet" Halstead, Jr., and Thomas M. King of New York City ended on Dec. 22, 1865, when King sold \$1,000 of equipment from *Intelligent Whale* as part of the settlement of the ship construction debt owed to King. Problems characterized Halstead's ownership of the boat. For instance, a bill from the Hewes & Phillips Engineers and Machinists of Ogden Street, Newark, N.J. remained unpaid for four years.

Nevertheless, Halstead managed to bring the project to completion by April 18, 1866. To propel the submarine, four men turned cranks attached to a four-bladed propeller, achieving a speed of four knots. The submarine carried enough compressed air in two tanks located fore and aft for ten hours of submerged operations. Two large ballast tanks fore and aft were connected to the air tanks and to the water surrounding the craft. A rudder and aft trim planes allowed the pilot to control the boat's course, diving, and surfacing. A short conning tower with bull's eye glass provided the skipper with limited visibility while partially submerged. Other navigational aids included a compass, a depth gauge, and air pressure indicator. The crew embarked via a central hatch topside, but the craft's divers deployed through two wooden "gates" in the floor. To submerge *Intelligent Whale* the crew filled the water tanks by opening a valve. To anchor the submerged craft the crew deployed two 15 inch shot (weighing 350 pounds each) by working windlasses attached to wire cable in two watertight boxes. To maintain air quality while submerged, the craft had a device for spraying water through the air, and thumb valves at the top of the boat, which could be opened to release foul air. To surface, the crew pumped the water from the tanks by hand or forced it out with compressed air.

*Intelligent Whale* undertook several tests using the following method. The crew flooded the ballast tanks, which allowed the boat to sink slowly. The crankshaft crew propelled the boat while the pilot maintained course and trim. Upon reaching the target area, the crew released two anchors. They then released enough compressed air until the pressure gauge showed a higher pressure than the water pressure gauge. The disequilibrium in pressure allowed the crew to open the floor gates without permitting water to enter. A man in a hard-helmet diving suit would then leave *Intelligent Whale* with a (torpedo) mine wired to the craft through holes in her sides. Once he planted the mine beneath the target vessel and returned to the craft, the gates would be closed. The crew then detonated the mine with a battery, sinking or damaging the target. Afterwards, the craft would return to base.

## Freedom Is Not Free

I watched the flag pass by one day.

It fluttered in the breeze.

A young Marine saluted it,  
and then he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform

So young, so tall, so proud,

He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him

Had fallen through the years.

How many died on foreign soil?

How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down?

How many died at sea?

How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?

No, freedom isn't free.

I heard the sound of TAPS one night,

When everything was still

I listened to the bugler play

And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times

That TAPS had meant "Amen,"

When a flag had draped a coffin

Of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,

Of the mothers and the wives,

Of fathers, sons and husbands

With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard

At the bottom of the sea

Of unmarked graves in Arlington.

No, freedom isn't free.

