



December  
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.

December is always a busy month, mainly because everyone is preparing for the upcoming Christmas and New Year's Holiday. And it was a busy month for Corvina Base as well. Our Christmas Holiday Lunch was excellent and the recent remodel of the gathering room made it extra festive and very nice. If you were not able to attend, please make it your New Years' resolution to participate next year. You will not be disappointed, I assure you. We are told that we will probably be in a new venue next year, but our Special Events Coordinator is already on the caper. I will take this opportunity to thank Terry Bolen for arranging this years' lunch. It was outstanding.

The annual Christmas Lunch is more than just getting together to dine and socialize. We conduct the swearing in ceremony for the newly elected Base Officers. For 2018 they are: Mike Augenstein, Secretary; Dave Aunkst, Treasurer; Dale Poe, Vice Commander, and yours truly, Commander. We also introduced the Appointed Positions for 2018 and they are: Dennis Wiley, Recruiter and Past Commander; Paul Allen, Chaplain; Paul Young, Chief of the Boat; Dave Chute, Assistant Chief of the Boat; Norm Peterson, Newsletter, Webmaster and POC; Bill Conklin, Kaps4Kids Chairman; Terry Bolen, Special Events Coordinator; and Rick Johns and Leif Larsen in the Ad-Hoc Member positions. I think we have an outstanding Board of Directors for 2018 and I know we will strive to serve you well. Please do not hesitate to call upon anyone of us if you have an issue that needs attention, along with your recommendations for resolution. Or better yet, your suggestions to help us to better serve the organization. We look forward to your input.

Speaking of serving the organization, the December lunch also is where we recognize those crewmembers who, by their individual effort and participation during the preceding year (or years), have contributed to the advancement and embodiment of Corvina Base and the USSVI Creed and exemplified the meaning and spirit of the word "Shipmate". As you know, the award is named after our Base founder, Mr. Don Brown. This year, we had three recipients of the "Brownie"; they were Mr. Frank Ely, for his many contributions to the graphic arts and printing needs of the Base and the Kaps4Kids Program; Mr. Paul Allen, for his many years serving as Base Chaplain and attentiveness to our membership; and Mr. Dennis Wiley, for his past and present leadership as Base Commander and contributions to the Board of Directors as Past Commander. All were well deserved. In addition to the Founders Award, we also recognized Nancy Ackerson for her service to the Corvina Base for her many years of towing the Corvina float to various parades, and for hosting (numerous times) the bi-annual Garage Sale at her home in Hidden Valley.

If you recall, we again voted to contribute the base share of the 2017 Christmas Holiday Lunch 50/50 Raffle to the Nevada Veterans Coalition to support the Wreaths Across America effort. Our donation this year was over \$300. I want to express a big Thank You to all who attended the lunch and contributed gifts for the raffle. On December 16, approximately 1000 people turned out to place wreaths on the gravesites at the Northern Nevada Veterans Cemetery in Fernley. Corvina Base was well represented. Unfortunately, only about one third of the wreaths arrived in time for the event on Saturday and the remainder were placed on the gravesites the following Monday. I believe the delay was caused by the winter weather the Midwest and east were experiencing then, while we were basking in glorious sunshine.

We were fortunate to have two of our World War II service Base members attend this years' Christmas Holiday lunch; Mr. Bill Parsons and Mr. Del Schwichtenberg, and their family members.

One more thing I want mention. Thanks to Dave Aunkst, the names of our members recently departed on Eternal Patrol, have been engraved on our memorial monument at the Veterans Cemetery in Fernley. Please stop by and take a look if you are in the area. It looks outstanding.

On behalf of the Corvina Base Officers and Board of Directors, I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Steve Salzman  
Commander



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## December Meeting Minutes



*No minutes for December.  
 It was the Christmas party.*

*Pete, thank you for all your work as secretary the last many years.  
 Everyone in the base appreciates everything you did.*

*Editor*

## Wreaths Across America

On December 16, approximately 1000 people turned out to place wreaths on the gravesites at the Northern Nevada Veterans Cemetery in Fernley.



**SNOWMAN, BEEN IN STORAGE, NEEDS A  
 LITTLE WORK BUT IT'S ALL THERE.**





# Treasurer's Report

1. All account balances are available at the Base meetings.

2. Deposits for December:

Base Raffle Proceeds	\$ 310.00
USSVI/Base 2018 Dues	95.00
Booster Club (Designated to Wreathes Across America)	90.00

3. Checks issued in December:

USSVI National Office-Renewing member dues	\$ 75.00
Tripp Plastics/Founders Awards(3)	132.00
Donation to Wreaths Across America (From Lunch Raffle)	405.00
Donation to Nevada Veterans Coalition(4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter)	125.00
Donation to USSVI Brotherhood Fund (Annual)	204.00
JA Nugget/Christmas Lunch Banquet	1552.96
Granite Mountain Multi/Fernley Engraving	250.00



## DK Details:

1. Thanks to all that have paid their 2018 Dues. The remaining members (5) that haven't paid the 2018 dues, will receive a final notice via E-mail. Dues must be paid before January 31st, or you will go on the "dink" list. It is vital that we maintain all current members as the "pool" for potential new members has been slowly decreasing, mostly due to the overall reduction in the Submarine Force. Nationally there are 12,873 members with about 173 Bases. We are barely increasing this count because the new recruitment is offset by those going on EP. Do your part, renew now and keep the organization strong, so that we can continue to support our programs.

2. Of the 90 current Corvina Base members, we have: 33 (37%) in Reno/Sparks Area; 21 (23%) in Carson/Douglas Area; 10 (11%) in Fernley/Fallon Area; 12 (13%) in California; and 14 (16%) out of state (One of these is on active sub duty). Also, in case this has been keeping you up at night, we have: 15 regular annual members; 61 USSVI life members; 52 Base life members; 49 Holland Club members; 5 associate members; 74 war veteran status members; 82 members with E-mail; 13 (of 32) Base plank owners left; 5 WWII members left; 38 have departed on EP; and 7 honorary Base members. Only about 28 (31%) Base members pay annual dues, which is why the Booster Club is so important.

3. Hope you all had a Merry Christmas, and will have a happy and healthy New Year!



## Chaplains Report



### Eternal Patrol

Herbert "Doc" L. Starmer: HMC (SS) 5/23/1923 – 5/26/2016

The Corvina Base was sorry to learn that Doc had passed away 18 months ago but we did not know about his passing until a few days ago because his family didn't know about his membership in the Corvina Base. Once we made contact with Doc's son Bill, he was very cooperative with giving the information we needed. Bill said his Dad had been struggling physically for about a year and had been to see his cardiologists, came home and laid down and shortly passed away of a heart attack three days after his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Bill also said his Dad's mind was sharp until the day he died. His body was cremated and the cremains were scattered upon the Pacific Ocean's water.

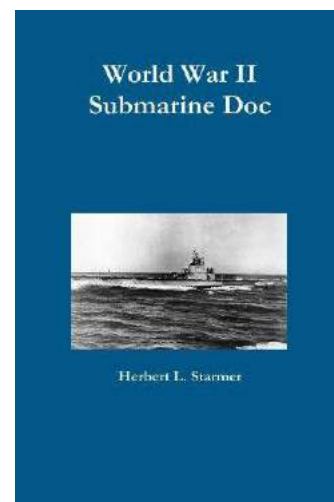
Doc was born in White Oak, Harrison Co., Missouri and joined the US Navy 8/12/1941 before WWII started and just a few months after his father had died. The name Starmer is an English name and means "famous stone". Doc retired from the navy in 1961 as a Chief Hospital Corpsman having served 20 years on 7 submarines and 1 sub tender and having qualified on the USS Cobia (SS-245) in 1944 it is easy to see that it being the boat that he did war patrols on it was the boat he mostly was connected to and also wrote 2 books about his experiences on the Cobia. Doc was a proud submarine veteran. He had 7 children (5 boys and 2 girls), 14 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren.

Doc was a member of the WWII Submarine Veterans and in 2008 joined USSVI and the Corvina Base and was Holland Club member. He wrote articles for the Polaris Magazine (WWII Submarine veterans) and Reminisce Magazine plus writing 2 books in his 80's about the Cobia and his experiences being a Hospital Corpsman on submarines. Doc was well known and appreciated by the staff at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, Wisconsin where 28 WWII Submarines were built and where the Cobia is part of the museum.

After retiring from the navy Doc worked for the state of California in weights and measures retiring in 1976. The navy ships he served on were the:

USS Cobia (SS-245)	USS Nereus (AS-17)
USS Capitaine (SS/AGSS-336)	USS Carp (SS-338)
USS Remora (SS-487)	USS Tilefish (SS-307)
USS Segundo (SS-398)	USS Spinax (SS/SSR/AGSS-489)

Doc, thank you for your service to the people of The United States of America!  
"Sailor, rest your oars"



Linda Suzanne Ely: 2/7/1949 – 12/3/2017

After over a year bravely battling cancer Linda sadly passed away on Sunday a few hours after our Christmas Luncheon. Linda is the wife of Corvina Base member Frank Ely who he dearly loved, and she will be missed by the Corvina Base also. When Frank came to a base function Linda was by his side. It is about 75 miles from where they live to Sparks but being faithful members, they very seldom missed a meeting. We can see by the photos of Linda that she was involved in a lot of activities in the years her and Frank were together especially the beautiful house they built together in Wellington, NV. They were also involved together in Falconry for some years. Linda had 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren. Thank you, Linda, for your love for submarine veterans and she also expressed her faith in the saving power of Jesus Christ that when crossing over the river she knew where she was going. Linda, "Rest in Peace".



Scripture: *Psalms 46:1-4: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.*

Paul Allen Corvina Base Chaplain







## **CORVINA BASE KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS) TEAM VISITS ST. MARY'S AND RENOWN AND DELIVERS CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

During December the Corvina Base Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Team conducted visits to St. Mary's Medical Center Pediatric Unit and Renown Children's Hospital. Three children were visited to discuss submarine life and operations. Each was presented with gifts including coloring books and crayons, wrist bands, stickers and temporary tattoos. Each child also received a cap and certificate designating them as "Honorary Submariners".

Additionally, during these visits the hospitals were each presented with 36 books designed for readers from Kindergarten through Second Grade, and with Amazon Kindle Readers. Each Kindle was loaded with 18 books designed for Pre-teen and Teenage readers, including the entire Harry Potter Series of seven books. The gifts were very well received by the Hospital Administrators, who remarked on how unique the gifts were, and that they will bring many hours of joy to their patients.

Many thanks to the Corvina Base Members and other donors who have given so generously to enable the Team to provide these gifts. Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Team Members Bill



Conklin, Paul Young, Claudia Quarisa and Primo Quarisa participated in the visits along with great support from Shipmate Rick Johns.



K4K team Christmas party



Renown Christmas Gift



St Mary's Christmas Gift

## Boats Lost in January

[USS S-36 \(SS-141\)](#) was lost on **20-Jan-1942** when it was destroyed after grounding on Taka Bakang Reef in Makassar Strait, Indonesia, Near Makassar City, the **crew were all rescued**.

[USS S-26 \(SS-131\)](#) was lost on **24-Jan-1942** with the loss of **46 crew** when it was sunk after ramming by [USS PC-460](#) in the Gulf of Panama, 14 miles west of San Jose Light.

[USS Argonaut \(SS166\)](#) was lost on **10-Jan-1943** with the loss of **105 crew** when it was sunk off Rabaul

[USS Swordfish \(SS-193\)](#) was lost on or after **12-Jan-1945** with the loss of **90 crew** when it was sunk near Yaku Island off Kyushu

## 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  
Dan Moran  
Frank Urbani  
Ted Henson  
Clyde Webber  
Frank Ely  
Rick Johns  
G. Robert Little

The Corvina Base News is published monthly for the use of the Corvina Base Members. Distribution is by E-mail along with 14 copies sent by the USPS.

Submission of articles must be received by the 25th of the month.

Holland Club Members are denoted in the newsletter with the symbol:  
Each member will show up about every fourth month.

For any questions or corrections contact:

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## SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

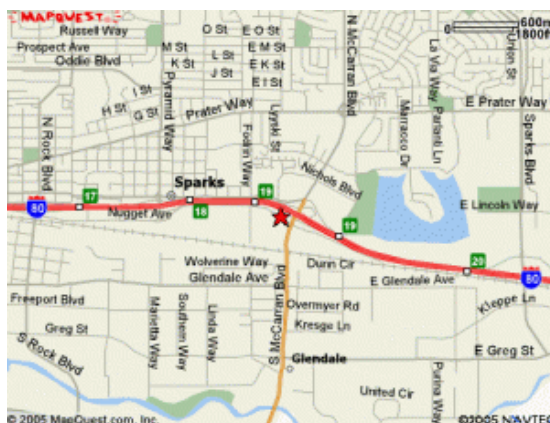
Harry Wellman CS1 (SS)  
Melvin Phillips ET1 (SS)  
Russel Scofield TMCS (SS)  
Donald Campbell TM2 (SS)  
Harold Lister EN3 (SS)  
James Avitt RM1 (SS)  
Charles H. Massie TM1 (SS)  
Elvin L. Morrison FTC (SS)  
Erick Bjorum CWO(SS)  
Norm Snyder EM1(SS)  
James T. Wright III  
Chester E. MacDowell TMI (SS)  
Jerry D. Noma MM2(SS)  
Gerald Stratton ENC(SS)  
Lowell Wapelhorst MOMM2(SS)  
Bert Skidmore YN2(SS)  
Frank Kenyon EM3 (SS)  
James Jordan TMSN (SS)  
Don Brown FTGC(SS)

Harry Sembagh EN3 (SS)  
Boyd Tieslau TM3 (SS)  
Robert Rich EN1 (SS)  
Francis Signore CSC (SS)  
Stanley Blair ICC (SS)  
Richard Burdette LT. (SS)  
Wayne F. Garrett ET2 (SS)  
Larry Garrelts ETCS(SS)  
Melvin Schreckengost ET2  
Charles Hyman MM2(SS)  
Gordon Lane RMC(SS)  
Edwin V. Schalbert TMC (SS)  
Richard Ekenberg , ETC(SS)  
Richard C. Barringer SOSN(SS)  
Jack Quade SMSN(SS)  
Walter Lewis IC1(SS)  
Bob Heaps IC2 (SS)  
Rudolph (Rudy) Massenzi  
Herbert "Doc" L. Starmer: HMC (SS)

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

Paul Young  
Norm Peterson  
Pete Akerson  
Wesley Rece

Primo Quarisa  
Bill Conklin  
Ted Henson & Rocky



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





## Christmas Party 2017



## New officers and Founders Award





## Additional Christmas Party Pictures 2017





## My New Year's resolution

I will not throw the cat out the window  
 Or put a frog in my sister's bed  
 I will not tie my brother's shoelaces together  
 Nor jump from the roof of Dad's shed  
 I shall remember my aunt's next birthday  
 And tidy my room once a week  
 I'll not moan at Mum's cooking (Ugh! fish fingers again!)  
 Nor give her any more of my cheek.  
 I will not pick my nose if I can help it  
 I shall fold up my clothes, comb my hair,  
 I will say please and thank you (even when I don't mean it)  
 And never spit or shout or even swear.  
 I shall write each day in my diary  
 Try my hardest to be helpful at school  
 I shall help old ladies cross roads (even if they don't want to)  
 And when others are rude I'll stay cool.  
 I'll go to bed with the owls and be up with the larks  
 And close every door behind me  
 I shall squeeze from the bottom of every toothpaste tube  
 And stay where trouble can't find me.  
 I shall start again, turn over a new leaf,  
 leave my bad old ways forever  
 shall I start them this year, or next year  
 shall I sometime, or .....?

By Robert Fisher

