



The Snorkel Exhaust

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, TN





UNITED STATES SUBMARINE SERVICE VETERANS, INC.

The USSVI Submariners Purpose and Creed:

"To honor those who serve, past, present and future."

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.

We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the

United States of America and its Constitution.



**OUR
ORGANIZATION**

**OUR
FOUNDERS**

**OUR
BROTHERHOOD**





Our Mission

The organization will engage in various projects that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyles we enjoy today.



Scheduled Meetings

Base meetings are scheduled on the 3rd Thursday of each month at:

MIMI'S CAFÉ,
10945 PARKSIDE DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
Dinner & Social Hour @ 1800
Meeting @ 1900
 (Guests are Invited)

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SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS



BASE COMMANDER
Marlin E. Helms, Jr.
Holland Club Chairman



MM1(SS) USS Spadefish SSN-668 '74



BASE VICE COMMANDER
Robert (Bob) Childs



MMC(SS) USS Nautilus SSN-571 '67



BASE SECRETARY
Ernie Ball



MMC(SS) USS LaFayette (SSBN-616) '75



BASE TREASURER
Jim Rock



MM1(SS) USS Andrew Jackson SSBN-619 '76

Smoky Mountain Base Committee Chairmen



BASE CHIEF OF THE BOAT
Terry McBride



MMC(SS) USS Woodrow Wilson (SSBN-624) '??



BASE PROGRAMS
Andy Armbrust



MM1(SS) USS Hammerhead (SSN-663) '75



BASE STOREKEEPER
Dick Mitchell



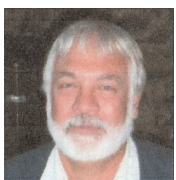
ET1(SS) USS Conger (SS/AGSS-477) '59



MEMBERSHIP / RECRUITER
Marlin E. Helms, Jr.



MM1(SS) USS Spadefish SSN-668 '74



WEBMASTER
Marlin E. Helms, Jr.



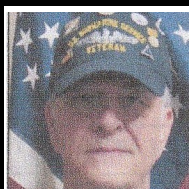
MM1(SS) USS Spadefish SSN-668 '74



BASE NEWSLETTER
Max Gildner



ET1(SS) USS Tullibee (SSN-597) '71



BASE PHOTOGRAPHER
Bruce Eltzroth
Associate Member

ET1(SU) USS Sculpin (SSN-599)



BASE CHAPLIN
David Pope, EAWS
Associate Member

OMSUBGRU-9, FP DET. 2



SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, USSVI

Meetings, Greetings, Gatherings & Calendar

OCTOBER - 2025

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Scheduled Meetings:

Base meetings are
on the 3rd Thursday of each month
at

MIMI'S CAFÉ, 10945 PARKSIDE DRIVE
located in Turkey Creek,
Knoxville, TN



Published by: Smoky Mountain Submarine Base

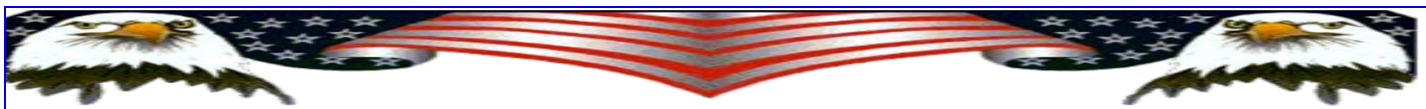
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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans/273222054302>

10/18—K-25 HISTORY MUSEUM & INTERPRETIVE CENTER TOUR

10/13 — COLUMBUS DAY **10/16 — SMB MEETING** **10/31 — HALLOWEEN**

OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



VETERANS ASSISTANCE & RESOURCES



Operation Vet Rescue

Rescuing & Rebuilding Lives of Homeless Veterans



(865) 284-3188

info@ovrtn.org

P.O. Box 23, Greenback, N 37742

VA Regional Office Benefits Assistance on every 4th Friday at 1557 Downtown West Blvd. Units 20-21 Knoxville, TN 0900-1400 Hours

East TN Military Assistance Council Calendar of Events web site: www.etmac.org/calendar



The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1078 meets at **The Redemption Church** located at **3550 Pleasant Ridge Road, Knoxville, TN** on the **2nd Tuesday** of



The Honor and Remember Flag has been designated as the official TN state symbol of remembrance to honor fallen military service members for their service.

For information on obtaining one refer to:
<http://www.honorandremember.org/the-flag/flag-presentation>.

U.S. Military Veterans Discounts

Tennessee State Discounted Fees and Taxes

- ☐ \$10 one-time fee for hunting and fishing license for eligible disabled veterans.
- ☐ Distinctive motorcycle and vehicle license plates; no fee for currently enlisted personnel.
- ☐ Exemption from motor vehicle privilege tax for eligible permanently and totally disabled veteran or former POW.
- ☐ Reduced fee state park lodging, camping, and golf.
- ☐ Veterans Designation on drivers license.



(SS) CHALLENGE COINS LLC
www.SSChallengeCoins.com

31889 Marshall Rd
Jacksonville, Missouri
65260-2011
816.261.7784



Shelly Saxton
CEO/Owner
SubmarineCoins@gmail.com

VETERAN'S HOTLINE

988#1

OR

(844) 647-1354

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Jenny Dugan - Sewing Wench
757-318-0138 B4 8pm



Base Commander's Report Marlin E. Helms, Jr. - MM1(SS)



I have registered us for the Knoxville's 100th Veteran's Day Parade. I entered with our float and several cars which is our normal configuration. This year's Veteran's Day Parade will be held on Tuesday November 11, 2025. Typically, I do not get the final lineup and additional instructions until the last week or two prior to the parade. We have changed the date of the K25 museum to October 18th due to a conflict with several of our members who typically participate.

BASE VICE-COMMANDER'S REPORT

Robert (Bob) Childs, EMC(SS)

No report submitted.



SMB Treasurer's Report - Jim Rock MM1(SS)



On **September 18th**, we had a balance of **\$3,212.38**



Program Chairman's Report - Andy Armbrust MM1(SS)



No picnic is currently scheduled. I intend to plan a picnic for the spring of 2026 subject to the Yacht Club availability.



Newsletter Editor's Report

Max Gildner ET1(SS) & Bruce Eltzroth ET1(SU)



The newsletter has been converted into a monthly publication to provide SMB members a more timely report of base activities, status, and future plans. Please let us know if there are any suggestions for improvements to the newsletter form or contents. Photos of base activities are always appreciated.



Storekeepers Report - Dick Mitchell ET1(SS)



We currently have the following items on hand for sale:

The 2026 USSVI Calendars have been ordered.. Cost \$8.00 at the meeting, but if mailed postage will be added. Baseball caps w/SMB patch (White or Blue) - \$14.00. Straw Hat w/SMB patch - \$12.00. SMB Iron on Patches - \$7.00. SMB Logo Magnetic Car Plates - \$12.00. SMB Window Stickers - \$3.00. Smoky Mountain Base battery quartz wall Clocks - \$15.00. The "Nuke, I am your father" coins are here.—\$20.00.

Remember, all purchases go to support your Smoky Mountain Base



Base Chaplain's Report David Pope EAWS



"Keep Your Heart with All Diligence: Thoughts on Social Media"

There have been several brutally graphic incidents broadcast across Social Media in the last month or so. It's easy to get in a dark place with too much attention to gruesome videos or what can only be called bickering with people whose minds are already made up.

Proverbs 4:23 (GB): "Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it (are) the issues of life."

This isn't just talking about the blood pump, it's talking about your inner man. What you're exposed to, you'll inevitably reflect.

James 1:19-20 (GB): "Wherefore my deare brethren, let euery man be swift to heare, slow to speake, and slowe to wrath. For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

Wisdom is to give due consideration to what the other person has to say. You never know, they might just have a point.

And a final thought for Facebook. There is a thought going around: "If you don't agree with (thing), unfriend me now." I suggest that's not constructive. Facebook has a powerful and almost unknown feature: "Snooze for 30 days." On any profile or page, there will be three dots at the upper left. Click or tap on them, go down the menu, and select for things you don't want to see. They'll never know that you muted them, and 30 days is plenty of time for any kind of crisis or scandal to simmer down. It will keep relationships (and you) mentally healthy.



Chief of the Boat Report Terry McBride MMC(SS)



Wellness Check on Associate Member Greg McKinney

In September, our Base Chaplain David Pope and I made a pair of wellness and comfort visits to Associate Member Greg McKinney. Greg is only 69 and, while not a submariner, served in submarine support roles in the Navy Reserve. He has previously been active in military organizations.

In August, Base Commander Marlin Helms grew concerned after receiving some unusual emails from Greg, one of which referenced an event from 2019. Knowing I have been friends with Greg for over two decades, Marlin contacted me, and I in turn contacted David—who also served with Greg in the reserve component. Together, we followed up and visited Greg in September.

Though Greg has not been active with our base for about a year, we are glad to report that he appears to be cared for: his home is clean, and he has food. Still, dementia presents challenges that can be difficult to navigate, and David is continuing to use his network within the veterans' services community to gather more information and ensure Greg's needs are being met.

Our submarine veterans' base exists not only to honor our shared heritage but also to look out for one another. Whether shipmate or associate member, we remain committed to keeping watch over those in our ranks.



SMB Meeting Minutes



Date: September 18, 2025

Presiding: Marlin Helms Base Commander

Meeting called to Order at 1900 hours

The Base Chaplain presented the Invocation.

The Base Commander led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and Treasurer read the USSVI Creed.

Ernie Ball and Bob Childs led the Tolling of the Boats.

COB hosted member/guest introductions.

Number of Attendees: 14 members, 7 guest/wife's

Base Secretary. Minutes read

Base Treasurer reported - \$3212.38 in the account.

Correspondence/Discussion - None

Committees -

- Newsletter – Man Gildner- news letter will be each month
- Library – Marlin Helms - nothing new
- Storekeeper – Dick Mitchell- Calendars will be ordered this month
- Membership – stable
- Scouting – Marlin Helms- still no contact
- Media Manager – Marlin Helms- working on store keeper unit
- Social Committee - Andy Armbrust – nothing new

Old business –

Butterflies outing was great

New Business –

Sunshine lady to get together a outing at K25 next month

Greg McKinley needing help

Good of the Order

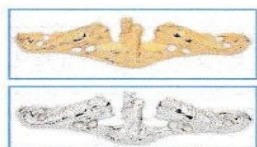
- 50/50 - \$72.00

Next Meeting: 1900 hrs. Thursday, October 16, 2025, at **MiMi's Café, 10945 Parkside Dr., Knoxville, TN 37934.**

Meeting Adjourned at 2000 hrs.

Boat surfaced.

Ernie Ball , Base Secretary
Secretary



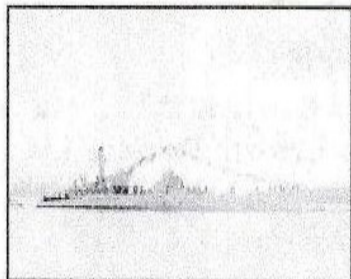
Lost Boats of September



Pre WW-II Lost Boats-

Pre WW-II Photos and write-ups
(courtesy of Wikipedia.)

USS S-5 (SS-110) September 1, 2, and 3, 1920 No loss of life



S-5 (SS-110) was a "Government-type" S Class Submarine of the United States Navy. Her keel was laid down on 4 December 1917 by the Portsmouth Navy Yard – Kittery Maine. She was launched on 10 November 1919, sponsored by Mrs. Glenn S. Burrell, and was commissioned on 6 March 1920 by Lieutenant Commander Charles M. Cooke, Jr. She accidentally foundered and started to sink during full-power trials (10 months after launch) on 1 September 1920, but due to actions by her crew and the crews of other ships, the entire crew was rescued and no lives were lost. She was partially refloated on September 2, and then was lost when she sank again while under tow on 3 September 1920.

USS S-51 (SS-162)

September 25, 1925

33 Men Lost



On the night of 25 September 1925, *S-51* was operating on the surface near Block Island, with her running lights on. Merchant steamer *City of Rome* spotted the submarine's red sidelight and realized that they were on collision courses. She turned and backed her engines, but it was too late. Twenty-two minutes after first spotting the submarine's masthead light, the steamer rammed her. Only three of the 36 men in the submarine were able to abandon ship before she sank.

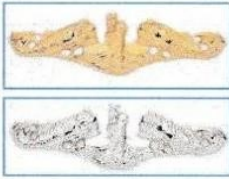
LOSS OF USS CISCO (SS-290) - SEPTEMBER 28, 1943 - 76 Men Lost



On September 18, 1943, the *Cisco*, captained by Commander James W. Coe, departed Port Darwin for her first and final war patrol. After a return to that base the same day for repairs to her hydraulic system, she got underway again on September 20, 1943, and headed for her assigned patrol area in the South China Sea between Luzon Island and the coast of French Indochina. She was never heard from again.

Japanese records reviewed after the war documented an antisubmarine attack made on **September 28, 1943**, at coordinates 9°- 47' N, 121°- 44' E, slightly north and east of *Cisco's* expected position on that date. The report of the attack stated; "Found a sub tailing oil, commenced bombing...the oil continued to gush out even on tenth of October." The *Cisco* was the only U. S. submarine operating in the area at that time. The *Capelin* (SS-289) and the *Cisco* (SS-290) were consecutive products of the Portsmouth Navy Yard. The *Capelin* had sailed from Darwin on November 17, 1943, and disappeared sometime after December 2, 1943. The next ship off the same production line was the *USS Crevalle* (SS-291). Significant construction problems that could have been fatal were found by one of her officers before she was launched. The problems related to weaknesses in two vent pipes that could have caused the *Crevalle* to sink if she was depth-charged. The crews of other boats from this same shipyard production series began to wonder if construction flaws had played a role in the losses of both the *USS Capelin* and the *USS Cisco*.





Lost Boats of September



LOSS OF USS GRAYLING (SS-209) - Between Aug. 27 and Sept.30, 1943 - 76 Men Lost

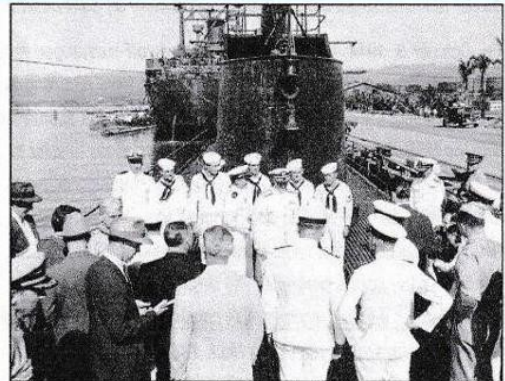


On July 30, 1943, the USS *Grayling*, captained by Lieutenant Commander Brinker, departed Fremantle for her eighth and final war patrol. On August 19, 1943, Brinker reported damaging a 6,000-ton freighter near Balikpapan. The next day he reported sinking a small tanker of the *Taki Maru* type in the Sibutu Passage with the *Grayling's* deck gun and taking one prisoner. This was the last report received directly from the *Grayling*. The circumstances of the *Grayling's* loss remain a mystery. All that can be said with certitude is that the *Grayling* disappeared sometime after she sank the *Meizan Maru*, on August 27, 1943. On September 30, 1943, the *Grayling* was listed as lost in action with all 76 officers and men. *Grayling* was awarded six battle stars for her service during World War II.



An Interesting Side Note:

Following the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor, Admiral Chester Nimitz, was selected as the new Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet. He made the submarine base at Pearl Harbor his temporary headquarters and was sworn in as CINCPAC on the deck of the USS *Grayling*, which he chose as his flagship. The first and only time that a submarine was the "flagship" of the entire Pacific Fleet.



LOSS OF USS PAMPANO (SS-181) - Between Sept. 17 and Oct. 5, 1943 - 77 Men Lost



The USS *Pompano* was a *Perch* class submarine built in the Mare Island Navy Yard. She was commissioned in June of 1937 and operated in the Eastern Pacific for the rest of the 30s. She arrived in Pearl Harbor shortly after the start of WW-2. She completed six war patrols compiling a good record of vessels sunk earning 7 battle stars. She departed her seventh war patrol commanded by LCDR W.M. Thomas. Japanese records show that a submarine was sunk in her patrol area on Sept. 17th by air and depth charge attacks. Her operating area was also recently heavily mined so she could have been sunk after hitting a mine.



Robert Fulton's "Nautilus"

American engineer and inventor Robert Fulton is best known for his creation of the first commercially successful steamboat, the *Clermont* in 1807. However, he is also credited with the creation of the first practical submarine *Nautilus* in the late 1790s.

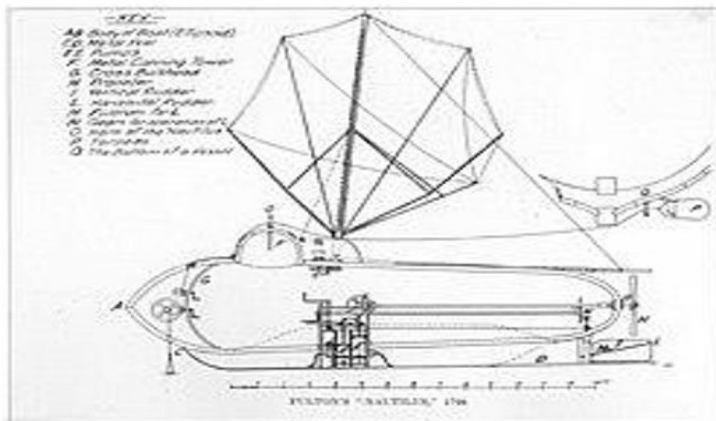
While traveling in Europe for health reasons, Fulton went to Paris, France to study mathematics and chemistry. He proposed the French Navy a submersible vessel to county the formable British Armada but was turned down twice. He eventually approached the Minister of Marine and was granted permission to build his submarine at his own expense.

Fulton's *Nautilus* was built in the Perrier boatyard in Rouen adjacent to the Seine River. It was tear drop shaped and consisted of copper sheets over iron ribs. It was 21.25 feet long and 6 .5 feet in the beam. Propulsion was provided by a hand-cranked helical screw propeller. The hollow iron keel was the ballast tank that was flooded and emptied change buoyancy. Two horizontal fins on the stubby rudder controlled the angle of dive. It had an observation dome on the front deck and a collapsible sail for surface propulsion. Ventilation was provided through a snorkel made of waterproof leather.

The boat had a spiked eyelet on top of the observation dome. A rope attached to a mine ran through the eyelet. The boat would surface under a wooden vessel ramming the eyelet spike into the hull of the surface ship. The mine was released from the boat and the boat would move away from the ship thus pulling the mine into contact with the ship and exploding.

Nautilus's first test dive was in the Seine River at Rouen in July of 1800. The dives were successful but hampered by the rive current. The screw was changed from the helical to a four bladed fan. Further tests were conducted at Le Havre harbor in July.

The tests had the three-man crew down to a depth of 25 feet and stayed there for one hour. With the addition of a cooper compressed air flask of 200 cubic feet, the dive was extended to four and half hours. A test of the mine instrument sunk a 40-foot slope test ship. Sadly, the boat had leaked badly and was dismantled and important items lost. The *Nautilus* never saw actual combat use.





University of Tennessee Arboretum Society 10th annual Butterfly Festival



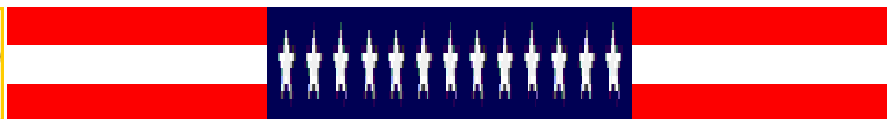
On Saturday, September 6, 2025, Smokey Mountain Base members and families attended the 10th Annual University of Tennessee Arboretum Society's Butterfly Festival on the UT Arboretum just outside Oak Ridge. The weather was less than ideal with storms and some light rain in the area. It was well attended by both members and the general public despite the weather.

The event offered opportunities to interact with butterflies in a butterfly tent; lots of informational displays on the benefits of butterflies; educational speakers; face painting for children; and plants that attract pollinators like butterflies.

After the event, base members and their families regrouped at Aubry's Restaurant in Oak Ridge to warm up and enjoy lunch. Here are some photos taken during the event:



Photos submitted by Bruce Eltzroth and Marlin Helms





USSVI APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular ☐ Life ☐ Associate ☐

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 & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S.N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate member and my sponsor is indicated below.

- ☐ I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Year)
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)
- ☐ I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in _____ (Year)

Name: (Print /Type) _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ - _____ Tel: (____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your E-Mail Address _____ Base/Chapter Desired: Smoky Mountain Base

Nat'l Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____

Nat'l Dues: 5 Year term: \$ 140.00; 3 Year term: \$ 85.00; 1 year term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 30.00;

(Oct thru Dec adds the next year): \$ 35.00

National Life: 76+ yrs = \$120.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$240; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$ 360.00; 46 thru 55 = \$500.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 600.00

Smoky Mountain Base dues are \$ 15.00 (\$ 10.00 after Aug. 1st)

How did you find USSVI? ☐ Friend, ☐ Boat Assn, ☐ Local Event/News, ☐ Internet, ☐ Other (_____)

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?: (Mandatory for Assoc Members.) _____

Associate Applicant is: ☐ Veteran ☐ Spouse of Veteran ☐ Other (specify) _____

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) -- ____ / ____ / ____ If other military service, What Branch? _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ Mil Retired (Y/N): _____ On Active Duty? (Y/N): _____

YR entered Mil Service: _____ YR left Mil Service _____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

- ☐ Check if your Military Service falls within any of these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946;
June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7, 1975; and from August 2, 1990 to date.
- ☐ Check if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____
2. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____
3. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____
4. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____
5. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

Next of Kin: Name: _____ Relationship: _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Daughter, Parent, Other)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Tel: _____

(Leave this address line blank if the same as your home address)

home address.

Upon completion, please deliver to: Marlin Helms at the monthly meeting (on the third Thursday of each month) or, **Applicants on active duty are requested to provide a permanent mail to:**

Marlin Helms Smoky Mountain Base Commander, 732 Old Hen Valley Road Oliver Springs TN 37840 (865) 387-5625