

The 2025 USSVI Bremerton Base Holiday Party (Taco Salad and Chili Bar) was a great success!

We enjoyed the camaraderie of approximately 81 adults and children at the VFW Henry Bryner Post 4992 (9981 Central Valley Rd, Bremerton, WA).

A video of the meeting, courtesy of Dave Bowman, may be found on the Base Website (Gertrude Check) <https://gertrudecheck.org>.



A BIG BZ to all the Set Up/Kitchen/Clean Up Crews: Jason & Angela Chamness, Steve Corcoran, Ileene Davis, Dan & Nichelle Inman, Allen Keyser, David & Rose Pittman, Thelma Ruiz, Jose Luis, Waylan Shropshire, Rusty & Rokki Staub, Mike Talpai, Roy Wildes, and Mike Friend.

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.

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Another BIG BZ to the Decorations Committee (Angela Chamness and Rose Pittman) for their table favors and gifts for each attending family.

Rose hand-crafted 90 Christmas socks with candy and Angela created a decoration for each family. Angela is the owner of Chamness Crafty Corner <https://chamnesscraftycorner.com>



Crockpots of Chili were provided by: Gene Gihring, Gary Heitmann, Bob Hickman, Dennis Lawler, Richard Maddy, Dave Peterson, Rusty Staub, and John Perkins. An additional dish of chicken with rice and tortillas was provided by Allen Keyser.

Attendees brought a wide array of desserts to share with everyone, with enough that we prepared some to-go bags.

The Storekeeper Table was set up and manned by John Gardner.

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Mike Friend is in the process of setting up the Eternal Patrol Posters.

Base Members departing for Eternal Patrol 2025: [William T. McCance, HMCM\(SS\)](#), [Steven Hamm, MTC\(SS\)](#), [John Hertzberg, MM3\(SS\)](#), [Craig A. Gross, ET1\(SS\)](#), and [Philip Douglas McGaughey, LCDR](#).

## Boats on Eternal Patrol for the Month of December

### [USS Capelin \(SS-289\)](#)

Lost on or after 1-Dec-1943, with the loss of 76 crew, when it was sunk off Celebes, possibly off Kaoe Bay; Halmahera or in Molukka Passage. No reports were made from boat after it left Darwin around 17-Nov-1943. Potential loss date spread given as 23-Nov-1943 to 9-Dec- 1943.

<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-capelin-289.htm>  
<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-capelin-289-loss.html>

### [USS Sealion \(SS-195\)](#)

Lost on 10-Dec-1941 when it was scuttled in Manila Bay after damage at Cavite. Bombed on 10 December 1941 with the loss of four crew. Damage was sufficient to preclude removal to home waters when Philippines were surrendered. First American submarine lost during World War II. Portions of wreckage remained in place until late 1950's when it was sold for scrapping.

<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-sealion-195.htm>  
<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-sealion-195-loss.htm>

### [USS F-1 \[ex-Carpl\] \(SS-20\)](#)

Lost on 17-Dec-1917, with the loss of 19 crew, when it was sunk after collision with USS F-3 off San Clemente, CA.

<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-f-1-20.htm>

### [USS S-4 \(SS-109\)](#)

Lost on 17-Dec-1927, with the loss of 40 crew, when it was sunk after ramming by USCG Paulding. Hull raised and used for study in submarine escape.

<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-s-4-109.htm>

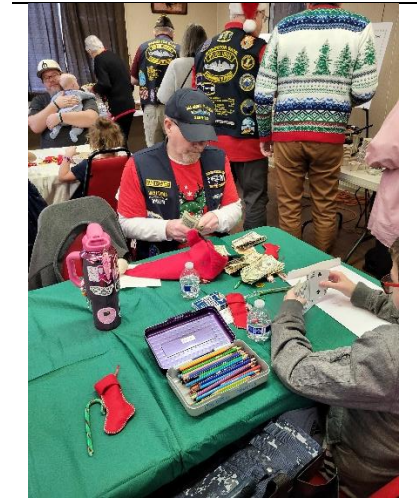


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During the meeting, Bob Hickman (not pictured) passed the hat for the Washington Veterans Home Port Orchard (Retsil) [Washington Veterans Home Port Orchard | WDVA](#) to support their Welfare and Betterment Fund; the collection yielded \$720.00 (as counted by Dan Inman), with the Base adding an additional \$500.00.



WD4 District  
Commander Jim DeMott  
presented the District  
Commander's Silver Star  
Award to Angela  
Chamness as the  
Bremerton Base Member  
of the Year for 2025.



The Greater Kitsap Chamber (Chamber of Commerce) presented the Event of the Year Award to the Kitsap Halloween Bash team. [We're especially thankful to Mike Talpai from [Patriot Roofing](#), whose leadership and dedication make this event possible year after year.]

View the video here

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/871579395666404>



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Photo Credits: Jason Chamness, Waylan Shropshire, David Pittman, and Navy League of the United States (Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council). Additional photos may be found on the Base Facebook page.

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T'was the night before Christmas, and what no-one  
could see,  
The men with the dolphins were under the sea.  
Most of the crew was flat on their backs,  
Snoring and dreaming all snug in their racks.  
Those men on watch were making their rounds,  
Some manning the planes or listening for sounds.  
Back in maneuvering or down in the room,  
They all hoped the oncoming watch would come soon.

I'd finished some PM's whose time was now due,  
And hoped for some sleep, even an hour or two.  
Against better judgment, I took a short stroll,  
And found myself wandering into control.

The Nav had the Conn, the COW was in place,  
The COB had the Dive and a scowl on his face.  
The helm and the planes were relaxed but aware,  
The QM and ET were discussing a dare.

To comply with the orders the Nav told the Dive,  
To bring the boat up with minimum rise.  
The orders were given and soon they were there,  
At periscope depth with a scope in the air.  
The QM confirmed our position with care,  
The broadcast was copied, we brought in some air.  
The Nav on the scope let out a small cry,  
He shook his head twice and rubbed at his eyes.

He looked once again to find what it was,  
That interrupted his sweep and caused him to pause.  
Try as he might there was nothing to see,  
So down went the scope and us to the deep.  
I asked what it was that caused his dismay,  
He sheepishly said, "I'm embarrassed to say."

It could have been Northern Lights or a cloud,  
Or a meteorite he wondered aloud.  
But to tell you the truth I guess I must say,  
Whatever it was it looked like a sleigh.  
And though it passed quickly and never was clear,  
I almost believe it was pulled by reindeer.

We laughed and teased him and I got up to go,  
When our moment was broken by "Conn, Radio."  
They told us a message was just coming in,  
We looked at the depth gauge and started to grin.  
"Radio, Conn, I feel safe to say,  
Your attempt at a joke is too long delayed.  
If it had been sooner it might have been neat,  
But I doubt we're receiving at four-hundred feet."

"Conn, Radio, you can come down and see,  
We're not playing games to any degree."  
I headed aft with nothing better to do,  
Surprised by the fact it was still coming through.  
It stopped and was sent to control to be read,  
The Nav read it slowly and scratched at his head.  
Then again he began but this time aloud,  
To those that now waited, a curious crowd.

"To you Denizens of the Deep and men of the sea,  
Who risk your life daily so others stay free.  
I rarely have seen you on this, my big night,  
For far too often you are hidden from sight.  
But purely by luck, I saw you tonight,  
As your scope coaxed the plankton to glow in the night.  
And lucky for me I've finally won,  
The chance to say thanks for all you have done.

I know that you miss your families at home,  
And sometimes you feel as if you're alone.  
But trust what I say and I'll do what's right,  
I'll take something special to your families tonight.  
Along with the gifts I'll take to your kin,  
I'll visit their dreams and leave word within.

They'll hear of your love, and how you miss them,  
I'll tell them that soon you'll be home again.  
It might not be much I know that is true,  
To thank you for all the things that you do.  
But I'll do what I can, while you do what's right,  
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

By Sean Keck

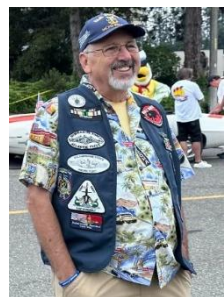
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(Left) A vision from the editor's past.  
USS Pintado (SSN-672)



**Puget Soundings Editor: David R. Pittman**  
[bremertonbaseussvi.cob.pseditor@gmail.com](mailto:bremertonbaseussvi.cob.pseditor@gmail.com)  
**Base Website (The Gertrude Check)**  
<https://gertrudecheck.org>  
**Base Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/ussvibremerton>



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