



Naval Submarine League Pacific Southwest Chapter June 2024 Newsletter

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Our program for **Tuesday, 11 June 2024:
Commodore Ken Douglas, USN,
Commander, Submarine Squadron 11**

Please plan to join us from **11:15 AM to 1:00 PM
at the Oceanview on Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL)
for this in-person luncheon / professional forum.**

CAPT Douglas hails from Long Island, NY and enlisted in the Navy in 1993. Following Nuclear Power training, he was selected for an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. He graduated with merit in 1998 with a major in Aerospace Engineering.

His afloat tours include the submarines USS MICHIGAN (SSGN-727), USS BREMERTON (SSN-698), USS CHEYENNE (SSN-773) and Executive Officer of USS ASHEVILLE (SSN-758). He commanded USS PASADENA (SSN 752) from July 2015 until October 2017, when the ship received the Submarine Squadron 11 Battle Efficiency award. He has completed six strategic deterrent patrols as well as several deployments to the Western Pacific and South America.

His assignments ashore have included an instructor tour at Tactical Training Group Pacific, Junior Board Member on the U.S. Fleet Forces Command Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board, Special Assistant to the Commander of United States Strategic Command, Deputy Commander of Submarine Squadron Eleven, and the Submarine Commanding Officer and Post-Commanding Officer detailer at Navy Personnel Command in Millington, TN.

CAPT Douglas is a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College and the Joint Forces Staff College. He holds a M.S. in Engineering Mechanics from Columbia University.

His personnel awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various campaign and unit awards.

CAPT Douglas assumed command of Submarine Squadron ELEVEN in May 2022.



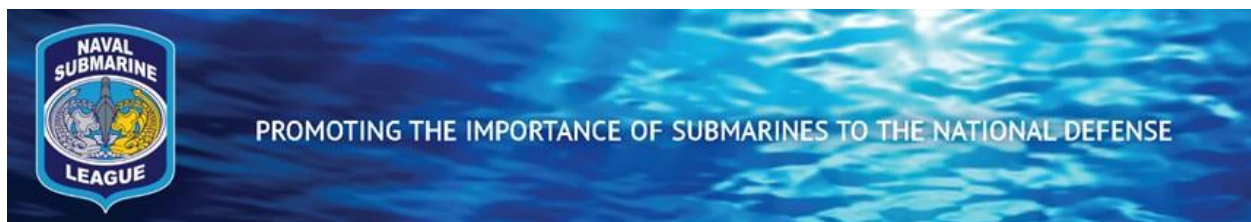
A rainbow above Submarine Squadron ELEVEN's Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarines USS Hampton (SSN 767) and USS Scranton (SSN 756) at Naval Base Point Loma in Nov. 2023.
Source: dvids

Mark your 2024 calendars for these upcoming events

- July – August 2024: **NSLPACSW Chapter summer recess**
- 10 September (Tuesday): **Next Chapter Luncheon**

Check the NSLPACSW website for a more complete [2023/2024 calendar of events](#).

Bruce Renne, President (pres@nslpacsw.com)



Highlights of the 3 May 2024 Tolling of the Boats Ceremony & Old Timers Luncheon at the Bayview Restaurant at MCRD San Diego

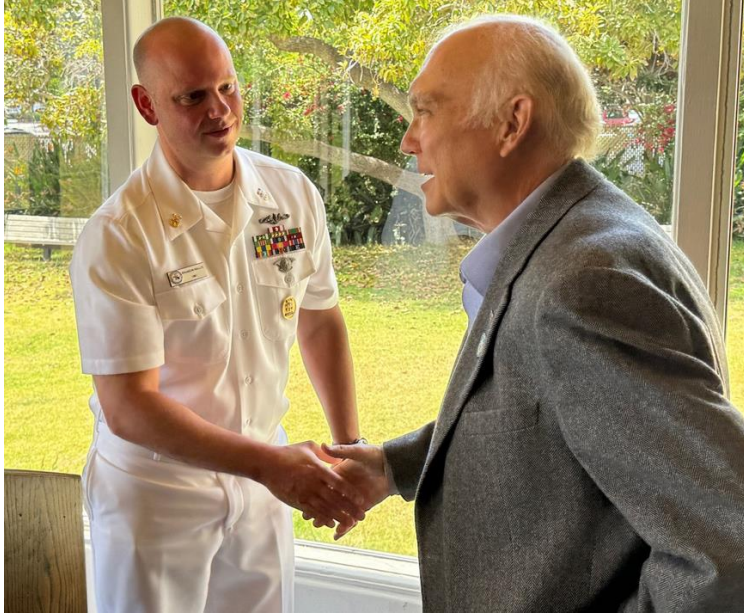
There was no NSLPACSW luncheon in May 2024. Instead, NSLPACSW members had the opportunity to attend the Tolling of the Boats Ceremony & Old Timers Luncheon on 3 May and the 124th San Diego Submarine Birthday Ball on 4 May.



Gathering at the Bayview before the Tolling of the Boats Ceremony.



(L to R at the head table): Jack Kane & Dean Hickman (USSVI) CDR Mike Brown (CO USS Hampton & guest speaker), CDR Lodmell & CDR Olsen (SubRon 11), Paul Hitchcock (USSVI), FTCM(SS) Tim Keams & CMDCM(SS) Brandon Wallis (SubRon 11)



Emcee CMDCM(SS) Brandon Wallis greets NSLPACSW President Bruce Renne



SubRon 11 Color Guard



Emcee CMDCM(SS) Wallis called the attendees to order



CDR Michael Brown, USN, CO, USS HAMPTON (SSN-767) was the guest speaker

CDR Brown acknowledged the long and distinguished history of the U.S. Submarine Service, which built the foundation for today's modern submarine fleet. He provided a brief synopsis of the recent, and extraordinary, operating cycle of the SubRon-11 Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS HAMPTON (SSN 767), which, under his command, operated in WESTPAC, off the west coast of South America with allied naval forces, and most recently in the Arctic Ocean, where HAMPTON surfaced at Ice Camp Whale, kicking off ICE CAMP 2024 in March.



FTCM(SS) Timothy Kearns narrated the Tolling of the Boats ceremony, calling out the name of each sub lost as COMSUBRON 11 Sailor of the Year ETN1(SS) Joseph Pierce tolled the bell one time for each of the 65 boats lost.



More photos from the Tolling of the Boats Ceremony & Old Timers Luncheon are on the NSLPACSW website at the following links: [Gallery](#) and [Slideshow](#)

124th San Diego Submarine Birthday Ball, 4 May 2024

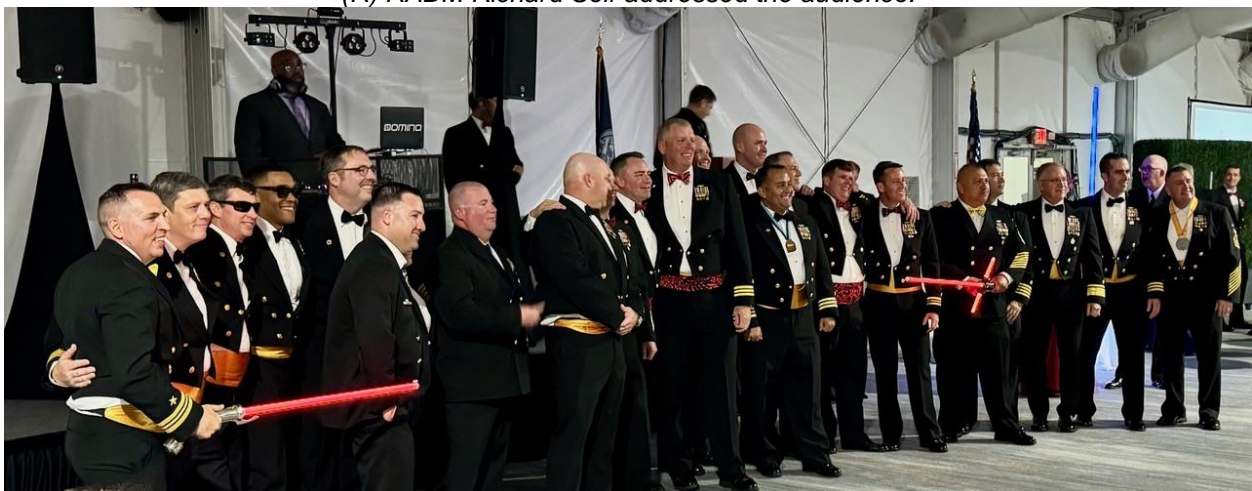
The San Diego Submarine Birthday Ball was held at the at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina on Harbor Island. The keynote speaker was Rear Admiral Richard Seif Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC).

NSLPACSW members Don Mathiowetz and Russ Filbeck were the longest qualified dolphin wearers (1964) who got to cut the birthday cake with the two newest qualified submariners and COMSUBPAC.

NSLPACSW supported the Ball with a donation of \$500.



*(L) NSLPACSW members Jim Bryant & Russ Filbeck in their full-dress regalia.
(R) RADM Richard Seif addressed the audience.*



The local leadership: COs, XO's and COBs of the local submarines and support commands.



(L) NSLPACSW members Don Mathiowetz & Russ Filbeck congratulated by RADM Seif as the longest qualified dolphin wearers (1964) at the Ball. (R) Don, Russ & RADM Seif cut the cake with the two newest qualified submariners.

Memorial Day events, Monday, 27 May 2024



USVVI San Diego Base will be placing a flag on each of the submarine monuments at the 52 Boats Memorial in Liberty Station, San Diego.



USSVI LA/Pasadena Base will hold its annual Tolling of the Boats ceremony at the Submarine Memorial West in Seal Beach on 27 May 2024 at 11:00 am. Their guest speaker this year will be CDR Chris Rose, CO of the San Diego-based Los Angeles-class fast attack sub USS ALEXANDRIA (SSN-757). All



Submariners and interested guests are cordially invited to attend. This memorial was constructed by the Submarine Veterans of World War II and now is maintained by the USSVI LA/Pasadena Base.



The USS Midway Museum is sponsoring *Legacy Week*, which will include guest speakers, a flyover, and concludes on Memorial Day with a memorial wreath cast off the bow of the ship to honor the fallen. This event is free and open to the public. Guests must arrive at the ceremony by 9:20 am to receive complimentary admission to the museum following the ceremony. See the [USS Midway Museum website](#) for more information on this event.

LA Fleet Week will be held in San Pedro and vicinity, starting on 22 May and culminating on Memorial Day. For details, see their website [here](#).

Nominations for next year's NSLPACSW Chapter officers

Nominations are still open for next year's Chapter officers. Please send your nominations by e-mail to Secretary, NSLPACSW at nslpacsw@hotmail.com.

Elections will take place during the 11 June 2024 Chapter luncheon meeting.

Submarine Force news reported by the U.S. Naval Institute (USNI)

- Sam Lagrone, "HII Delivers Attack Boat New Jersey to Navy," U.S. Naval Institute, 25 April 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/04/25/hii-delivers-attack-boat-new-jersey-to-navy>

USS NEW JERSEY (SSN-796) is the fifth Block IV Virginia-class attack sub and the first designed from the keel up to accommodate mixed gender crews.

- LCDR Travis Bean, USN, "The RAN, SSNs, and Nuclear-Trained Wardrooms," U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, April 2024: <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2024/april/ran-ssns-and-nuclear-trained-wardrooms>
- John Grady, "GAO Tells Senate Panel U.S. Shipyards Are Major Readiness Concern," USNI News, 7 May 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/05/07/gao-tells-senate-panel-u-s-shipyards-are-major-readiness-concern>
- Sam Lagrone, "SECNAV Del Toro Names Virginia-class Attack Sub USS Miami, Singer Gloria Estefan to be Sponsor, USNI News, 8 May 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/05/08/secnav-del-toro-names-virginia-class-attack-sub-uss-miami-singer-gloria-estefan-to-be-sponsor>

USS MIAMI (SSN-811) is the last of the currently-authorized Block V boats.

- Mallory Shelbourne, "HASC Chairman's Mark Authorizes Second Virginia-class Submarine, Cuts \$1B from Delayed Frigate Program," USNI News, 13 May 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/05/13/hasc-chairmans-mark-authorizes-second-virginia-class-submarine-cuts-1b-from-delayed-frigate-program>

Submarine Force update from Congressional Research Service (CRS) & GAO

- "Navy Columbia (SSBN-826) Class Ballistic Missile Submarine Program: Background and Issues for Congress," Congressional Research Service report R41129, updated April 29, 2024: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R41129>
- "Report to Congressional Committees – Navy Shipbuilding - Increased Use of Leading Design Practices Could Improve Timeliness of Deliveries," U.S. Government Accountability Office, Report GAO-24-105503, May 2024: <https://www.gao.gov/assets/d24105503.pdf>

More naval & submarine news

- “Russian nuclear-powered Losharik submarine to be tested in June or July after repairs, TASS reports,” Reuters, 12 March 2024: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russian-nuclear-powered-losharik-submarine-be-tested-june-or-july-after-repairs-2024-03-13/>

GUGI special operations sub Losharik is back in service after a fire at sea in 2019.

- Maxim Starchak, “Russia to start from scratch on some submarine parts amid sanctions,” DefenseNews, 1 April 2024: <https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2024/04/01/russia-to-start-from-scratch-on-some-submarine-parts-amid-sanctions/>
- Video: “Inside the Strategies That Made China a Shipbuilding Powerhouse,” The Wall Street Journal, 21 April 2024: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/companies/inside-the-strategies-that-made-china-a-shipbuilding-powerhouse/vi-AA1nq1nB>
- Video: Kenny Holston, “Inside a Navy Submarine Navigating the Arctic,” New York Times, 30 April 2024: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/30/us/politics/inside-navy-submarine-arctic.html>



A Times photojournalist embarked on the U.S nuclear-powered attack submarine USS HAMPTON (SSN-767) to see how the Pentagon is training for a potential war below the frozen sea. CDR Michael Brown was the HAMPTON’s CO for this operation.

- Olawale Abaire, “US Air Force A-10 Escort Nuclear-Armed Navy Ballistic Missile Submarine,” Warrior Maven, 13 May 2024: <https://warriormaven.com/air/us-air-force-a-10-escort-nuclear-armed-navy-ballistic-missile-submarine>



The Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine USS NEBRASKA (SSBN-739) transits the Strait of San Juan de Fuca on 6 May 2024 escorted by four U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft and U.S. Coast Guard screening escort vessels.



NSLPACSW Luncheon / Professional Forum Reservations Information

<http://pacificsouthwest.navalsubleague.org>

Luncheon / Professional Forum - Tuesday, 11 June 2024
Oceanview at Ballast Point, Building 501, Naval Base Point Loma.
Doors open 11:15 AM.
The meeting is called to order at 11:45 AM.
Lunch is served at 11:50 AM.
The presentation starts about 30 minutes later and the meeting concludes after a Q & A session, a bit after 1:00 PM.

For Members and Guests:
The Luncheon / Forum price is **\$30 per person**, payable at the door with cash, VENMO or check made payable to: NSLPACSW Chapter.

All active duty enlisted and officers O-1 to O-3 are guests of the Chapter and welcome to attend at no charge.

The NSLPACSW Treasurer, Jim Piburn, will send out the formal invitations for this luncheon. Please make your reservation with him by e-mail at this link: treasurer.nslpacsw@yahoo.com

- Make your reservation by **4 pm, Thursday, 6 June 2024.**
- Include the names of each member and guest attending.
- **BASE ACCESS PROCEDURES:**
 - Individuals with CAC / DOD Retired ID / other accepted base access ID may enter the base after showing their valid ID at the base access gate.
 - Individuals without such an ID require a 5512 form on file with NBPL Security OR registration in DBIDS. WITH A 5512 FORM ON FILE, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO STOP AT THE NBPL PASS & ID OFFICE AND PICK UP A ONE-TIME PASS EACH TIME YOU ENTER THE BASE. See Simone Reyes in the PASS & ID Office. Then show the ID at the base access gate.
 - If you are unsure of your base access status, please contact Jim Piburn at treas@nslpacsw.com at least 2 weeks prior to the luncheon to work out access details.
- Any cancellations are required by **4 PM, Thursday, 6 June 2024.**

