



## Naval Submarine League Pacific Southwest Chapter May 2024 Newsletter

<http://pacificsouthwest.navalsubleague.org>  
[nslpacsw@hotmail.com](mailto:nslpacsw@hotmail.com)



**There is no NSLPACSW luncheon / professional forum in May 2024.**

**Instead, please join Submarine Squadron 11, NSLPACSW and USSVI for the Tolling of the Boats Ceremony and Old Timer's Luncheon on Friday, 3 May 2024, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM, at the Bayview Restaurant and Catering Center on Marine Corps Recruiting Depot (MCRD) San Diego.**

**Details on the Tolling of the Boats Ceremony and Old Timer's Luncheon have been e-mailed previously to all NSLPACSW members and are posted on the NSLPACSW website [here](#).**

**The price is \$35 per person.**

**Please make your reservation no later than noon Friday, 26 April 2023 with the NSLPACSW Treasurer, Jim Piburn, by e-mail at this link: [treasurer.nslpacsw@yahoo.com](mailto:treasurer.nslpacsw@yahoo.com)**

**The guest speaker will be CDR Michael (Mike) Brown, USN, Commanding Officer, USS HAMPTON (SSN-767)**

Commander Mike Brown, a native of Groton, NY, graduated from Norwich University in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering and graduated as a Gravely Scholar from the Navy War College in 2010 with a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

Sea tours included various Division Officer assignments on USS PITTSBURGH (SSN 720) from November 2004 to October 2007, Engineer and Weapons Officer on USS TUCSON (SSN 770) from April 2011 to May 2014, and Executive Officer on USS CHICAGO (SSN 721) from October 2016 to December 2018 during which he completed an Engineering Overhaul in Portsmouth, NH, two Western Pacific deployments out of Pearl Harbor, HI, and Western Pacific operations out of Apra Harbor, Guam.

Shore tours included assignments as Submarine Watch Officer and Special Operations Officer for CTF-69, the submarine component of Sixth Fleet in Naples, Italy, the Submarine Squadron 16 Weapons Officer and N7/8/9 in Kings Bay, GA, and a Strategic and Theater Planner at Joint Interagency Task Force West of INDOPACOM in Camp H. M. Smith, HI.

Commander Brown assumed command of the USS HAMPTON (SSN-767) in December 2021. He is authorized to wear the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with Silver Star, Navy Achievement Medal with gold star, and various other unit and personal citations.



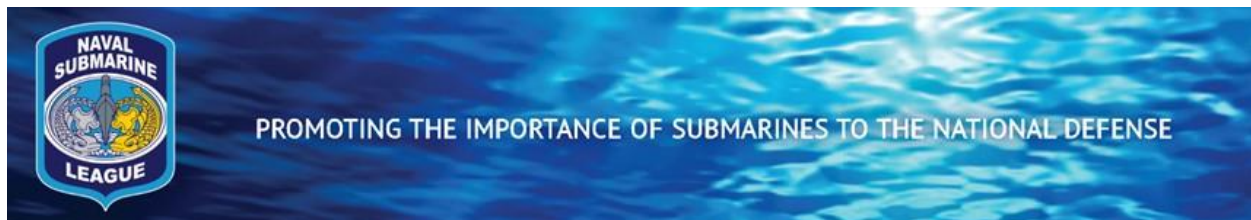
USS HAMPTON (SSN-767) departs Naval Base Point Loma for a Western Pacific deployment in June 2021. Source: COMSUBPAC

### Mark your 2024 calendars for these upcoming events

- 3 May (Friday): Tolling of the Boats Ceremony & Old Timers Luncheon
- 4 May (Saturday): Submarine Birthday Ball San Diego
- 11 June (Tuesday): NSLPACSW luncheon / professional forum & election of officers

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

Bruce Renne, President ([pres@nslpacsw.com](mailto:pres@nslpacsw.com))



**Highlights of the 9 April 2024 luncheon / professional forum with  
CAPT (ret.) Scott Tait, USN, President & CEO of Pacific Science and  
Engineering and former CO of the USS Zumwalt (DDG-1000)  
at the Oceanview Restaurant on Naval Base Point Loma**



*VADM Thomas, Jim Piburn & speaker Scott Tait*



*CMDCM Brandon Wallis & CDRE Ken Douglas*



*A strong NROTC contingent, (L to R) LCDR Eric Wootten, MIDN 4/C Maria Cornelius, MIDN 4/C Christian Maniego, MIDN 4/C Brayden Buchanan, MIDN 3/C Andrew Fredeluces, MIDN 3/C Andrea Brosas & LT Mark Egan*



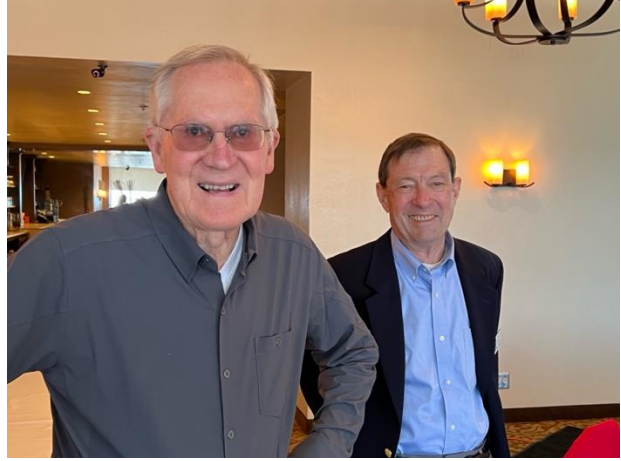
*VADM (ret) Thomas & LT Mark Egan*



*CAPT (ret) Don Mathiowetz & MIDN 4/C Cornelius*



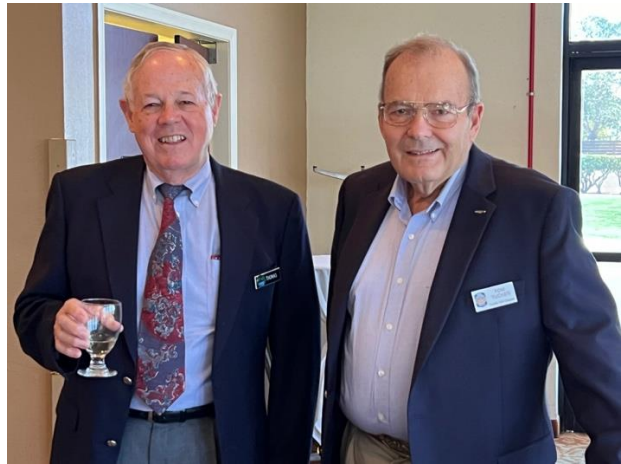
*Bill Gaines & Ron Flisher*



*Steve Allman & Rich McNeal*



*Dick Alborn & Don Mathiowetz*



*John Thomas & Tom Tucker*



*The head table: (L to R), VADM (ret) Thomas, CAPT (ret) Scott Tait (speaker), CDRE Ken Douglas (CSS-11), CMDCM(SS) Brandon Wallis, LCDR Eric Wootten, LT Mark Egan, CAPT Jeff Yacker (CO, NBPL)*



VADM Thomas called the meeting to order and introduced the NROTC contingent.



CAPT (ret) Scott Tait described the development of the USS Zumwalt (DDG-1000), its new technologies and his experiences as the ship's first commanding officer.



VADM Thomas presented our speaker with a copy of "A Century of Submarines in San Diego"

More luncheon photos and CAPT Tait's briefing slides are posted at the following links:

- [Slideshow](#) (with captions)
- [Gallery](#) (for individual viewing and/or downloads)
- [Briefing video](#)
- [Briefing slides](#)

You'll find an index to the past NSLPACSW luncheon guest speakers [here](#), with links to their bios, meeting photos and available videos.

## **COMSUBPAC Sailor of the Year (SOY) events in San Diego, 15 – 19 April 2024**

Thanks to several chapter donors, NSLPACSW hosted the COMSUBPAC SOY “Icebreaker” event at Gianni Buonomo Vintners in Ocean Beach, San Diego, which helped launch a week of SOY activities that started on Monday, 15 April 2024.



*The inviting venue*



*General Manager Al Dorvinen & Owner/Winemaker Keith Rolle*



*L. The powerhouse of SUBPAC Master Chiefs*



*Great Italian food from Luigi's of Ocean Beach*



*L. The 2024 COMSUBPAC Sailor of the Year candidates*

More photos from the Icebreaker are posted at the following links: [Slideshow](#) (with captions) and [Gallery](#).

The final event of the week was the COMSUBPAC SOY Awards Luncheon organized by CSS-11. This event was held on Friday, 19 April, 2024 at the Bali Hai Restaurant in San Diego. NSLPACSW had representatives at this event to recognize the 10 finalist Sailors, their spouses and the two 2024 COMSUBPAC SOY selectees:

- COMSUBPAC Sea Sailor of the Year ETV1(SS) Bryan Smith, and
- COMSUBPAC Shore Sailor of the Year MMA1(SS) Jack Nemeth



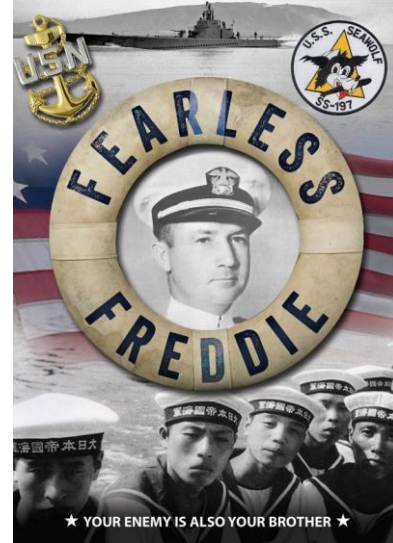
*The 10 CSP SOY finalists gather after the award ceremony with CSP Force Master Chief (SS) Matthew Schechter (R). The two awardees are in the front row: (L) CSP Sea Sailor of the Year — ETV1(SS) Bryan Smith, and (R) CSP Shore Sailor of the Year — MMA1(SS) Jack Nemeth*

### **San Diego NROTC Annual Pass in Review Ceremony, Friday, 19 April 2024**

NSLPACSW Vice President, VADM Robert Thomas, presented the NSL's "Rear Admiral Frederick B. Warder Outstanding Achievement Award" (AKA the "Fearless Freddy Warder Award") to the top graduating San Diego NROTC Midshipman headed for Submarine Service: MIDN 1/C Matthew Lee.



VADM Thomas congratulates MIDN 1/C Matthew Lee.  
Source: NROTCU San Diego



"Fearless Freddy" DVD cover.  
Source: Amazon

A 2020 documentary video entitled "*Fearless Freddy*" is available from various online retailers. The video is described as follows: "Rear Admiral Frederick Burdett Warder was known for both his bravery and his humility. Warder was Skipper of the USS Seawolf submarine during WWII. Then a Lieutenant Commander, Warder became known for his exploits during the battle of Corregidor in the Philippines in which the Seawolf sank several Japanese vessels and survived intense depth-charge attacks. For his efforts, the Commander was awarded the Navy Cross and ever after was known as "Fearless Freddie" (a nickname he disliked). A man who believed his enemy was also his brother, Warder ordered his crew to rescue enemy battle survivors from the sea even if they refused to come aboard."

### **124<sup>th</sup> Submarine Birthday Ball – Saturday, 4 May 2024**

The 124<sup>th</sup> San Diego Submarine Birthday Ball will be held on Saturday, 4 May 2024 at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina. Details have been e-mailed previously to all NSLPACSW members and friends and are available on the NSLPACSW website at the following links:

- [Announcement Flyer](#)
- [How to purchase tickets](#)
- [Menu](#)

### **Nominations for next year's NSLPACSW Chapter officers**

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

- John Grady, “AUKUS Partners Working Through Reality of Submarine Pact, Officials Say,” U.S. Naval Institute, 9 April 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/04/09/aukus-partners-working-through-reality-of-submarine-pact-officials-say>
- Sam Lagrone, “Late Turbines Have ‘Major Impact’ on Columbia Sub Delivery Schedule, Says SECNAV,” U.S. Naval Institute, 10 April 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/04/10/late-turbines-have-major-impact-on-columbia-sub-delivery-schedule-says-secnav>
- (Synopsis of) “2024 Australian National Defense Strategy,” U.S. Naval Institute, 17 April 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/04/17/2024-australian-national-defense-strategy>
- Mallory Shelbourne & Sam Lagrone, “Navy’s Single Sub Buy Plan Raises Concerns with Congress,” U.S. Naval Institute, 18 April 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/04/18/navys-single-sub-buy-plan-raises-concerns-with-congress>

## **Submarine force update from the Congressional Research Service**

- “Navy Columbia (SSBN-826) Class Ballistic Missile Submarine Program: Background and Issues for Congress.” Congressional Research Service, Report R41129, updated April 4, 2024: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R41129>

## **More naval & submarine news**

- David Axe, “The terrible problem facing the US Navy,” The Telegraph, 4 April 2024: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/the-terrible-problem-facing-the-us-navy/ar-BB1I07zV>
- Thomas Newdick, “Our Best Look At Taiwan’s First Homegrown Submarine,” The War Zone, 27 February 2024: <https://www.twz.com/sea/our-best-look-at-taiwans-first-homegrown-submarine>
- Hope Hodge Seck, “Navy Wants A Cheap Heavy Torpedo That Can Be Stockpiled Fast,” The War Zone, 10 April 2024: <https://www.twz.com/sea/navy-wants-a-cheap-heavy-torpedo-that-can-be-stockpiled-fast>
- The Australian Government 2024 National Defence Strategy (NDS) and 2024 Integrated Investment Program (IIP), released 17 April 2024: <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/strategic-planning/2024-national-defence-strategy-2024-integrated-investment-program>

