



HAMPTON ROADS BASE

≈ CURRENTS ≈



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01 October 2020

Issue No: 20-10

What's Inside:

<i>Our Creed:</i>	<u>1</u>
<i>Greetings from the Base Commander</i>	<u>2</u>
<i>Passing of John "Rock" Pedroni</i>	<u>3</u>
<i>Editor's Note</i>	<u>4</u>
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	<u>4</u>
<i>Boats Lost in October</i>	<u>5</u>
<i>Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) News</i>	<u>7</u>
<i>HRB October Birthdays</i>	<u>8</u>
<i>September Historic Events</i>	<u>9</u>
<i>Why Vote</i>	<u>9</u>
<i>Updated Contact Information</i>	<u>12</u>

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.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds 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 lifestyle we enjoy today."



Greetings From the Commander

I am sure by now that everyone has heard of the passing of TMC (SS) John (Rock) Pedroni. If you look in the dictionary for the definition of Shipmate, you will see a picture of Rock. He was the ultimate shipmate and will be missed by all who knew him.

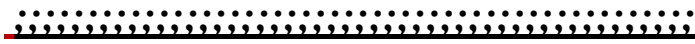


I know that he is at the Warriors Table telling sea stories and catching up with those that have gone before him. Please keep Stephanie and the Pedroni family in your prayers as she navigates through the months ahead of her.

I am looking at the possibility of having a meeting in October. I think we all are ready to get together again as an organization. We must all keep in mind that masks will be required and we will have the tables set up to adhere to the social distancing rules. Prayers to you and your families.

Stay safe - Ted





TMC (SS) John (Rock) Pedroni

Shipmate TMC (SS) John “Rock” Pedroni departed on Eternal Patrol 20 September 2020. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 45 years, Stephanie Hedvig Pedroni of Virginia Beach; his special “kids”, niece, Sarah Wrangham (Travis); nephews, Brian Pinkham (Jocelyn) and Jason Pinkham (Allison); his sisters-in-law, and brothers-in-law, Heidi Hedvig Lamy and Mike Lamy, Della Hedvig Scarbrough and Del Scarbrough; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and a daughter, Gina Pedroni Cullen. He will be missed by many friends, shipmates, and his Submarine family.

“Rock” retired from the U. S. Navy after 20 years of service. His duty stations included USS Nautilus SSN-571, USS Ray SSN-653, USS Baton Rouge SSN-689, Commander Submarine Force Atlantic Staff, and USS Phoenix SSN-702.

During his naval career, he was awarded three Navy Achievement Medals, two Navy Unit Citations, a Meritorious Unit Citation, two Battle “E’s”, two Navy Expeditionary Medals, five Good Conduct Medals, four Sea Service Deployment ribbons, National Defense Service Medal, Expert Rifle Medal, and Expert Pistol Medal. He was a life member of the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 60, a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3160 in Norfolk, Virginia, and a member of the United States Submarine Veterans, Hampton Roads Base and the U.S. Submarine Veterans Holland Club.

Rest easy Rock, we have the watch...



From the Editor

Shipmates,

This is my first edition as editor of HRB CURRENTS with many more to follow. This is going to be tough to do a job as well as Marlin has done for six year. I understand it's a bigger task than expected following Marlin.

I finally have reviewed all the documents Marlin provided through the turned over and now the new journey begins. It saddens me that my first edition I have to put a passing note about John (Rock) Pedroni. John was the first person I really felt close to when I joined and was the person you feel you want to grow up and be like.

I will miss you Rock as well as the group.

Additional Note from Marlin,

His nickname "ROCK" came with him when he joined Hampton Roads Base. It is especially fitting as he was a solid and steadfast member of the brotherhood for so many years. Rock will be sorely missed by all. To Stephanie and the rest of the family, our hearts go out to you. Only say the word and ROCK' s shipmates will be there to help.

Upcoming Events

October 2020

October 17: Were Back!!! Monthly Meetings



We remember....



Boats Lost in October

USS O-5 (SS-66): Lost on October 29, 1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Ababgarez off the Panama Canal.

USS S-44 (SS-155): Lost on Oct 7, 1943 with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles. S-44 was on her 5th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, S-44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.



USS Wahoo (SS-238): Lost on Oct 11, 1943 with the loss of 80 men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of one of the great sub skippers of World War II, LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo was on her 7th war patrol. Wahoo had won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was lost to depth charges dropped by a Japanese patrol aircraft.



USS Dorado (SS-248): Lost on Oct 12, 1943 with the loss of 77 men when she was sunk in the western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she had departed New London and was enroute to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane that received faulty instructions regarding bombing restriction areas or a German U-boat that was in the vicinity.



USS Seawolf (SS-197): Lost on Oct 3, 1944 with the loss of 83 officers and men and 17 US Army troops when she was sunk just north of Moritai by USS Rowell, a Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another Destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.



USS Escolar (SS-294): Lost on Oct 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. She was on her 1st war patrol and was most likely lost to a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea.



USS Shark II (SS-314): Lost on Oct 24, 1944 with the loss of 87 when she was sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was on her 3rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the tragedy, it turned out that the freighter had 1,800 U.S. POW's on board.



USS Darter (SS-227): Lost on Oct 24, 1944 when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan and was then destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by USS Dace. Winner of one Navy Unit Commendation, Darter had sunk a heavy cruiser and damaged another and went aground while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation in hopes of getting in an attack on a battleship.



USS Tang (SS-306): Lost on Oct 25, 1944 with the loss of 78 men in the Formosa Strait. Tang was on her 5th war patrol. Tang ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage, and had won two Presidential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR. O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.





Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) News

Unfortunately, we have had to suspend the monthly visits to NMCP for the duration.

Many thanks and Bravo Zulu to the Base Members who have made these visits. **AND**, a REAL BIG BRAVO ZULU to the medical staff at NMCP and to all the others in the front lines. As of now, there are no projected dates for future visits.



HRB October Birthdays

Robert E. Vincent	10/1
Harold S. Weston, Jr.	10/2
John Procida	10/2
Bradford D. Sargent	10/3
Edwin F. Atkins	10/5
Walter Kreger	10/6
Edward F. Wegiel	10/8
David L. Snyder	10/10
Eugene M. Roberts	10/13
Joseph A. Pepperman	10/13
Michael P. McGinn	10/14
Richard Moore	10/14
Gregory E. McRae	10/16
Paul R. Williams	10/16
Jeffrey A. Briggs	10/16
Michael A. Noftsger	10/17
William R. Ralston	10/20
David K. Cosgrove	10/22
Michael R. York	10/26
Charle R. W. Davidson	10/27
Bobbie H. Holt	10/29
Harry W. Hampson	10/30



October Historic Events

1 October 1844 - Naval Observatory, headed by LT Matthew Fontaine Maury occupies its first permanent quarters. (*Lake Maury and Maury HS are named after the "Pathfinder of the Seas"*)

16 October 1885 - Capt. Alfred Thayer Mahan becomes the superintendent of the Naval War College at Newport, R.I.

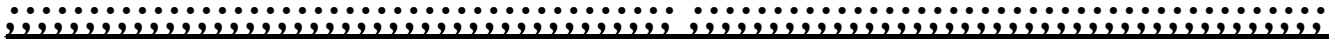
19 October 1915 - The Naval Submarine Base at New London, Conn. is established

5 October 1943 - USS Wahoo (SS 238) sinks the Japanese army transport Konron Maru in the Tsushima Straits.

17 October 1943 - USS Tarpon (SS 175) sinks German auxiliary cruiser Michel (Schiffe No. 28) off Chichi Jima, Bonin Islands.

7 October 1955 - USS X-1, the Navy's only midget submarine, is placed into service and conducts numerous scientific tests for the Naval Research Laboratory.

31 October 1966 - While serving as boat captain and patrol officer on board River Patrol Boat (PBR) 105 in Vietnam, Boatswains Mate 1st Class James E. Williams and his crew are taken under fire, and facing a superior number of enemy vessels. Williams leads his men to sink 65 enemy craft and inflict numerous casualties among the enemy. He is awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions. USS James E. Williams (DDG 95) is named in his honor.



Why Vote???

In 1800 – Thomas Jefferson was elected President by one vote in the House of Representatives after a tie in the Electoral College.

In 1824 – Andrew Jackson won the presidential popular vote but lost by one vote in the House of Representatives to John Quincy Adams after an Electoral College dead-lock.

In 1845 – The U.S. Senate passed the convention annexing Texas by two votes (27/25).

In 1846 – President Polk's request for a Declaration of War against Mexico passed by one vote.

In 1867 – The Alaska purchase was ratified in the Senate by two votes: 37-2, paving the way for future statehood.

In 1868 – President Andrew Johnson was Impeached but not convicted because the Senate was one vote shy of the necessary two thirds required.

In 1876 – Samuel Tilden won the presidential popular vote but came up one electoral vote shy and lost to Rutherford B. Hayes.

In 1941 – Congress amended the active-service component of the Selective Service Act from one year to two-and-a-half years by one vote, 203 to 202.

In 1948 – A Texas Convention voted for Lyndon B. Johnson over ex-Governor Coke Steven in a contested Senatorial election.

In 1962 – Governors of Maine, Rhode Island and North Dakota were elected by an average of one vote per precinct.

In 1977 – Vermont State representative Sydney Nixon was seated as an apparent one vote winner, 570 to 569. Mr. Nixon resigned when the State House determined, after a recount, that he had actually lost to his opponent Robert Emond 572 to 571.

In 1989 – A Lansing, Michigan School District millage proposition failed when the final recount produced a tie vote 5,147 for, and 5,147 against. On the original vote count, votes against the proposition were ten more than those in favor. The result meant that the school district had to reduce its budget by \$2.5 million.

In 1994 – 1.1 votes per precinct in Alaska elected Tony Knowles as Governor and Fran Ulmer as Lieutenant Governor out of 216,668 votes cast in the General Election.

In 1994 – Republican Randall Luthi and Independent Larry Call tied for a seat in the Wyoming House of Representatives from the Jackson Hole area with 1,941 votes each. A recount produced the same result. Mr. Luthi was finally declared the winner when, in a drawing before the State Canvassing Board, a ping pong ball bearing his name was pulled from the cowboy hat of Democratic Governor Mike Sullivan.



In 2000 – The Presidential election was decided by an extremely narrow margin. George W. Bush won the state of Florida by just 537 votes, making him the next President of the United States. Close to 6 million voters went to the polls in Florida. It might not have been by one vote, but certainly every vote counted.

In 2006 – Connecticut's 2nd U.S. Congressional seat was won by Joe Courtney with 121,252 votes to Rob Simmons' 121,158; a difference of only 94 votes.

In 2008 – Stockton, California: The Stockton Unified School Trustee Area No. 3 seat was won by one vote. Jose Morales received 2,302 votes while Anthony Silva received 2,301.

In 2008 – Minnesota voters cast 2.9 million votes in their US Senate race that may be decided by as few as 200 votes (1/1000th of one %)

In 2010 – In Nevada, the Nye County Primary contest for County Commissioner District IV was a dead heat with both Butch Borasky and Carl Moore receiving 381 votes. In the Lincoln County Primary, the District Attorney race was decided by only 3 votes.



Updated Contact Information

Here is an updated list of contact information for the base officers and other key personnel.

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2020 SPONSORS

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Gary Merryman
Lynn Merryman
Ken Swan
Anonymous Member

