

# USSVI Special Insert

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## USSVI Organization & Next Convention

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Many of you already know about the USSVI organization, but for those of you who do NOT know about it, this special “one time” flyer is included for your benefit.

Originally, there was an organization of WWII Submarine Veterans called (for short) SubVets. In order to be in this organization, you had to have served aboard a submarine during WWII. As time went on, there were submarine veterans who wanted to have their own organization (rather than just being an “associate member” of SubVets), so the USSVI (which stands for United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.) was created. This organization welcomes ALL submariners from WWII AND also welcomes ALL submariners from Post-WWII period IF you are qualified in submarines. This “Qualified in Submarines” restriction does NOT apply to WWII SubVets who want to be part of USSVI, but does apply to the vast majority of us on the USS Sirago.

If you are an “on-line” person with a computer, you can go to [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org) and poke around to find out what the organization is all about. Basically, it consists of “Bases” that are formed in many different cities throughout the U.S. to try to attract submariners to join the ranks. If you were to “join” this organization, a typical cost for the first year would be \$30 total and then \$20 per year thereafter. This is the cost if you join a local base, which I would recommend if you consider joining this organization. For your money, you will get a subscription to a fantastic magazine called **American Submariner** and you will enjoy the comradeship of other submariners in your area.

I took a “poll” of some of the “online” guys to see who was active in what bases around the U.S. and here are some of the results:

There are some Sirago-ites who are VERY active and

hold offices in the USSVI, such as myself and Paul York (both of the 6972 Duty Section) who are Base Commanders of our local bases (Mobile Bay Base in Mobile, Alabama, for Paul, and USS Springfield Base in St. Louis, Missouri, for me.) David Glaser (Duty Section 6568) is the Vice-Commander of Tullibee Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, and Prentice (CUSH) Cushing is Treasurer for the Hampton Roads Base in Virginia. Many others are also officers and active members and have good bases that are active in their area. Others have joined but are not as active. However, with more and more bases forming all over the country, if you haven’t joined the USSVI and if you ARE qualified in submarines, then I would highly recommend you check out the base nearest you and try to “link up” with the organization. Let me tell you why I feel the USSVI is critical for submariners.

First of all, you may not know it, but the whole Sirago Reunion thing (and newsletters, comradeship, etc.) all started with a few USSVI guys, who were also Sirago crewmates, who decided to get the old Sirago crew together. “Ray” (Wendell) Rausch (DS6568) actually had the idea and worked with a few other fellows like Bill Gerber, CUSH Cushing, Carl Trost (ex-CNO), to do some of the earliest reunions. Our Sirago reunions started in 1992 with the National USSVI Convention and then to 1994 (ditto). The first Sirago reunion that DIDN’T involve a convention was 1995. Then in 1998, the Sirago Reunion was held in the same city as the convention, but in a different hotel. By 1999, the Sirago crew didn’t need a “convention” to attract enough people to come from our boat, so starting in 1999 we have held our reunions in “odd” years, rather than “even” years like USSVI does. This allows our people to do BOTH if they desire. Please refer to the back of this sheet for information on the Duluth National Convention and “Web” Webster’s invitation to have a mini-Sirago Reunion at such a convention.

By going to the website, you can get any/all information you need, but if you are NOT an online person, you can call 1-877-542-DIVE to get an application form. There are benefits like being a member of the Holland Club after 50 years of being Qualified, etc. DO IT! ♦♦

# Now Hear This!

All Sirago Vets Are Invited to Attend the SubVets National Convention in Duluth

September 16-22, 2002

**Harold Webster** (duty section 5760) is hoping to conduct a **Sirago mini-reunion in Duluth** to hold us over until we can all get together in 2003. It's a chance to swap yarns, splice the main brace, see the beautiful north shore of Lake Superior and visit Mall of America.

For those of you who are members of USSVI, registration forms are available in American Submariner magazine. If you're not a member, download a registration form online:

<http://members.aol.com/wlsussvi/conventn.html>

Webster says you're welcome whether you're a member or not, but if you become a member you can get special hotel rates in Duluth that will more than save you the cost of membership. "You'll love Duluth. It's like San Francisco without the crime," he says.

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