**TOLLING FOR THE BOATS CEREMONY**

For those of you here today who are not familiar with submarines and submariners, I would like to offer an explanation of the ceremony you are about to witness.

Since the birth of our underwater Navy in 1900, many sacrifices, loss of life, and a universal dedication to duty, have made our volunteer service what it is today. These accomplishments did not come easy or without the “can do” spirit possessed by those who wear the coveted Dolphin Insignia with pride and dignity.

The U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War Two originally established the "Tolling for the Boats" ceremony. It is a unique and time-honored memorial service and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Navy. Custom has established that this ceremony is formal, and it honors the memory of those submariners who lost their lives in the line of duty, especially the majority who perished during World War Two. In the ceremony, the names of each of the U.S. submarines lost, along with the fate of its crew, are read aloud as a ship’s bell is tolled for each in turn.

The tolling of the bell reminds us of the debt of gratitude we owe to both our departed shipmates and to those in active service, who guard our country, while serving silently under the sea. In many ways the "Tolling for the Boats" ceremony formally reaffirms to serving Navy submarine personnel that their current "deeds and sacrifices" follow in the footsteps of those submariners who preceded them.

It is true that the sea has always taken its toll of seamen. This is especially true for the submariner. Over the years, almost four thousand young men have lost their lives serving our country in the U.S. Submarine Force. In all, a total of sixty-five U.S. submarines have been lost during war and peace.

No flags folded, no bugles played, no salutes fired, no gravestones mark their final resting place. They settled, not so quietly, to the bottom of some ocean - somewhere on some tragic day. Their unmarked grave – was the ocean itself. They’re our Shipmates and their patrol became an 'Eternal Patrol' on that fateful day.

The vast majority went down with all hands. Some crews died with a BANG! as depth charges imploded the hull or a mine detonated their own torpedoes. Still others were crushed when a damaged hull sank below its maximum limit. Still others died with a "whimper" as oxygen in their boat slowly ran out.

It is also true that no maritime power has ever survived unless its men have been willing to fight back with successively better ships manned by professional seamen who have profited by the lessons learned from the past. Those who have gone to sea in submarines and those who will do so in the future are forever indebted to those submarine sailors who gave their lives testing different innovations in submarine warfare during times of peace.

The significance of our ceremony of "Tolling for the Boats", which honors our fallen submarine heroes, is fundamental to our creed as members of U.S. Submarine Veterans, "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in pursuit of their duties while serving their country."

We shall never forget the ultimate sacrifice they made so we all, and especially our families and loved ones, enjoy the fruits of freedom.

We shall now proceed with the tolling ceremony.

**65 LOST BOATS OF THE SILENT SERVICE**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Jan. 20, 1942 | USS S-36 (SS-141) | no loss of life |
| Jan. 24, 1942 | USS S-26 (SS-131) | 46 men lost |
| Jan. 10, 1943 | USS Argonaut (SS-166) | 102 men lost |
| Jan. 5, 1944 | USS Scorpion (SS-278) | 77 men lost |
| Jan. 12, 1945 | USS Swordfish (SS-193) | 89 men lost |
| Feb. 11, 1942 | (1st) USS Shark (SS-174) | 59 men lost |
| Feb. 16, 1943 | USS Amberjack (SS-219) | 72 men lost |
| Feb. 26, 1944 | USS Grayback (SS-208) | 80 men lost |
| Feb. 29, 1944 | USS Trout (SS-202) | 81 men lost |
| Feb. 4, 1945 | USS Barbel (SS-316) | 81 men lost |
| Mar. 25, 1915 | USS F-4 (Skate) (SS-23) | 21 men lost |
| Mar. 12, 1920 | USS H-1 (SS-28) | 4 men lost |
| Mar. 3. 1942 | USS Perch (SS-176) | 6 men lost as POWs |
| Mar. 5, 1943 | USS Grampus (SS-207) | 71 men lost |
| Mar. 15, 1943 | USS Triton (SS-201) | 74 men lost |
| Mar. 26, 1944 | USS Tullibee (SS-284) | 79 men lost |
| Mar. 26, 1945 | USS Trigger (SS-237) | 89 men lost |
| Mar. 20, 1945 | USS Kete (SS-369) | 87 men lost |
| Apr. 3, 1943 | USS Pickerel (SS-177) | 74 men lost |
| Apr. 22, 1943 | USS Grenadier (SS-210) | 4 men lost as POWs |
| Apr. 18, 1944 | USS Gudgeon (SS-211) | 79 men lost |
| Apr. 8, 1945 | USS Snook (SS-279) | 84 men lost |
| Apr. 10, 1963 | USS Thresher (SSN-593) | 129 men lost |
| May 23, 1939 | USS Squalus (SS-162) | 26 men lost |
| May 3, 1945 | USS Lagarto (SS-371) | 86 men lost |
| May 29, 1958 | USS Stickleback (SS-415) | no loss of life |
| May 22, 1968 | USS Scorpion (SSN-589) | 99 men lost |
| June 20, 1941 | USS O-9 (SS-70) | 33 men lost |
| June 19, 1942 | USS S-27 (SS-132) | no loss of life |
| June 12, 1943 | USS R-12 (SS-89) | 42 men lost |
| June 26-July 4, 1943 | USS Runner (SS-275) | 78 men lost |
| June 1, 1944 | USS Herring (SS-233) | 83 men lost |
| June 14, 1944 | USS Golet (SS-361) | 82 men lost |
| June 18, 1945 | USS Bonefish (SS-223) | 85 men lost |
| July 30, 1942 | USS Grunion (SS-216) | 70 men lost |
| July 4, 1944 | USS S-28 (SS-133) | 49 men lost |
| July 26, 1944 | USS Robalo (SS-273) | 81 men lost |
| Aug. 13, 1942 | USS S-39 (SS-144) | no loss of life |
| Aug. 13, 1944 | USS Flier (SS-250) | 78 men lost |
| Aug, 24, 1944 | USS Harder (SS-257) | 79 men lost |
| Aug. 6, 1945 | USS Bullhead (SS-332) | 84 men lost |
| Aug. 26, 1949 | USS Cochino (SS 345) | 7 men lost(1 lost on Cochino)(6 sailors lost from Tusk during rescue) |
| Sep. 1, 1920 | USS S-5 (SS-110) | no loss of life |
| Sep. 25, 1925 | USS S-51 (SS-162) | 33 men lost |
| Sep. 9, 1943 | USS Grayling (SS-209) | 76 men lost |
| Sep. 25, 1943 | USS Pompano (SS-181) | 77 men lost |
| Sep. 28, 1943 | USS Cisco (SS-290) | 76 men lost |
| Oct. 29, 1923 | USS O-5 (SS-66) | 3 men lost |
| Oct. 7, 1943 | USS S-44 (SS-155) | 56 men lost |
| Oct. 11, 1943 | USS Wahoo (SS-238) | 80 men lost |
| Oct. 12, 1943 | USS Dorado (SS-248) | 77 men lost |
| Oct. 3, 1944 | USS Seawolf (SS-197) | 100 men lost |
| Oct. 17, 1944 | USS Escolar (SS-294) | 82 men lost |
| Oct. 24, 1944 | (2nd) USS Shark (SS-314) | 87 men lost |
| Oct. 24, 1944 | USS Darter (SS-227) | no loss of life |
| Oct. 25, 1944 | USS Tang (SS-306) | 78 men lost |
| Nov. 16, 1943 | USS Corvina (SS-226) | 82 men lost |
| Nov. 19, 1943 | USS Sculpin (SS-191) | 63 men lost(12 killed in action prior to sinking)(30 killed in the sinking)(1 killed in captivity)(20 POWs later died) |
| Nov. 7, 1944 | USS Albacore (SS-218) | 85 men lost |
| Nov. 8, 1944 | USS Growler (SS-215) | 86 men lost |
| Nov. 16, 1944 | USS Scamp (SS-277) | 83 men lost |
| Dec. 17, 1917 | USS F-1 (SS-20) | 19 men lost |
| Dec. 17, 1927 | USS S-4 (SS-109) | 40 men lost |
| Dec. 10, 1941 | USS Sealion (SS 195) | 5 men lost |
| Dec. 2, 1943 | USS Capelin (SS-289) | 76 men lost |

**(Two blasts on the klaxon)**

 **“Sailors, rest your oars.”**