

**Remarks given by Rear Adm. Jay Deloach, USNR (Ret.)  
Armed Forces Day Commemoration of US Submarine Veterans  
Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va.  
May 15, 2010**

Ladies and Gentlemen - members of Capital Base of the United States Submarine Veterans.  
Thank you for the invitation to speak with you today.

I am honored to talk on behalf of the submarine force and the Navy, but it is especially humbling to stand here today at Arlington National Cemetery – at the memorial to the crew of the of submarine F-4 and to speak about the many lost shipmates we honor today – those submarines on Eternal Patrol. Here we are on these hallowed grounds on a gorgeous spring day and it's Armed Forces Day. A special day created in 1949 as a means of expressing the unification of all the military forces under a single department- what we know today as the Department of Defense. It was created as an educational program for civilians to increase their awareness about our armed forces.

The theme of that first Armed Forces Day in 1949 was “Teamed for Defense” ... the theme for 2010 is “United in Strength” ... what is unmistakable here is that we have an armed forces that throughout history has been unmatched ... and it is because of this common theme of unity- even before the establishment of the Defense Department- that has made us the superior fighting force we are ... One Team, One Fight!

When we think about Armed Forces Day, we sometimes think about air shows, static displays of military hardware, or visiting a ship or submarine. It is an occasion for the American citizen to meet firsthand the brave and highly competent Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and airmen who defend our country and our very way of life. It is very important for our citizens to have this opportunity and understanding – it puts them in touch with their military.

However, Armed Forces Day is more than just parades and fanfare. It is also intended to be a day to honor the men and women who serve our country and those who have made the ultimate *sacrifice* in the service to our Nation. We continue to remember and honor them in our hearts, our prayers and in solemn ceremonies such as this one.

As we stand here today on this hallowed ground, not only do we see the stone monuments that memorialize our heroes, we see the faces of all those who, over the years, have sacrificed their lives in defense of our freedom.

We see the many young men who perished with their ships in Pearl Harbor. We see the faces of Navy nurses who, through many wars and conflicts, provided care amidst chaos. We see the brave faces of those men and women who died in Vietnam and Korea -- whose sacrifices went unrecognized for years because of the unpopularity of those conflicts.

... and we see Petty Officer Michael Monsoor and Lieutenant Michael Murphy, Navy SEALs who sacrificed their lives in the long war against global terrorism. They are also the most recent recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor – our Nation's highest award for valor.

Today, we are once again at war ... and the reality of the young lives lost in battle is hitting home every day for each of us. All across this nation, many others are gathering to pay tribute to those who died defending freedom and preserving peace.

*(Pause) ...*

We also remember our shipmates from the Silent Service – especially those continuing to serve on Eternal Patrol.

It is quite fitting that we honor our shipmates here – at the gravesite of the seventeen crewmembers who perished in submarine F-4, also named USS Skate. The F-4 went down in 51 fathoms of water off the coast of Honolulu on March 25, 1915. Despite valiant efforts of naval authorities in Hawaii to locate the missing boat and try to save her crew, all 21 aboard perished.

The actions that followed this tragedy exemplify and are typical of our Navy Ethos. The first example comes from Navy divers who went down to examine F-4 for recovery and salvage. Chief Gunner's Mate William Loughman became entangled and fouled by his lifeline. Realizing his shipmate's desperate situation and that his life was in peril, Chief Gunner's Mate Frank Crilley acted without hesitation, donned a diving suit and went in to save Loughman. Crilley acted with coolness, endurance and fortitude. He untangled his buddy and brought him to the surface – still alive. Because of his bravery and service-before-self, Chief Crilley was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The ingenuity, engineering skills, and can-do attitude displayed by naval constructor J.A. Furer, Rear Admiral C.B.T. Moore and, Lieutenant C. Smith resulted in the design of special pontoons that were used to raise F-4 in August 1915 – 5 months later.

Because of the lengthy recovery time only four crew members could be positively identified. The remaining 17 were properly laid to rest, where we stand today.

These are but two examples that typify our Navy Ethos. They exemplify the highest standards of service to our Nation - at home and abroad - at sea and ashore.

In many instances, we are not always able to bring our shipmates home. We believe that it is important though to determine where these submarines went down – so that we can remember and properly memorialize those perished souls.

During World War Two, over 52 submarines were lost at sea. Through the years, the locations of seven of those subs have been positively verified and we have good location information and co-ordinates for 34 other subs. The remaining eleven subs we just have a very general are

where they may have gone down. The U.S. Navy, as well as civilian mariners – some from foreign nations – have played a key role in locating and identifying some of these wrecks.

USS Lagarto, sunk by a depth charge in May 1945, was found in the Gulf of Thailand in May 2005 in 280 feet of water by Jamie Macleod and Stewart Oehl from the diving boat M/V Trident. Navy officials identified and confirmed the wreck, and families of the crew attended a memorial service at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in May 2006.

USS Wahoo, sunk by the Japanese in LaPerouse Strait in October 1943, was found by a team of Russian divers in July 2006. Again, the U.S. Navy positively identified the vessel. In October 2007, over 200 family members attended a memorial service for the crew at USS Bowfin submarine museum.

USS Grunion was sunk by the Japanese in July 1942. The sons of her commanding officer, LCDR Mannert L. Abele, led an expedition to find Grunion. In August 2006, they discovered a probable wreck about ten nautical miles northeast of Kiska in the Aleutian Islands at a depth of over 2000 feet. The Abele brothers subsequently went down on a Remotely Operated Vehicle to photograph the wreckage. After detailed analysis, the Navy positively identified the vessel as Grunion.

In August 1944, USS Flier, while transiting on the surface, struck a submerged mine and sank in less than a minute. The aftermath of Flier and the harrowing tales of its surviving crew is a story in itself. Because her commanding officer (CDR John Crowley), radar operator, and officer of the deck survived, they were able to recreate a fairly accurate reconstruction of the sequence of events and officials had a relatively good idea of where Flier went down, recounted in a book by Michael Sturma.

Because of this information and additional research by Al Jacobson, one of the surviving crewmembers, and his two sons, as well as YAP films, Flier was ultimately found last Spring.

For those subs and that we haven't located, their significance is no less important and their service and sacrifice is not forgotten. President Kennedy once said "A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers."

Today we equally honor service men *and women*. A key component of our nation's greatness lies in our ability to honor, appreciate, and cherish, through our actions and our memories, all those who died to ensure our freedom.

Our Navy is one of the greatest instruments of peace and humanitarian assistance. For 235 years, the Navy has proudly served our Nation with pride and heroism around the globe. We serve today in Iraq and Afghanistan; we defend the seas piracy, and we provide food, medicine, and comfort when natural disasters strike.

Our Navy executes the same mission whether or not we are at war. We provide protection, deterrence, and assistance -- whenever and wherever needed. And in the course of that duty, we have lost many of our fellow shipmates through the years -- gone, but never forgotten. We happily embrace the responsibility of promoting service to one's country and we do it all in their names -- commemorating their lives and their legacies on this beautiful Armed Forces Day. Thank you