



What is USS Chicago Base?

USS Chicago Base is a local chapter of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. Its membership is comprised of men who served on submarines in World War II and during the Cold War, to the present day.

The USS Chicago Base, named after the USS Chicago SSN-721, was established in March 2004 at the Tinley Park, IL VFW Post, with about ten submarine service veterans.

Since that time, we have grown to 100+ dedicated regular and associate members. We are well known in the Chicagoland South Suburban area.

USS Chicago Base is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of 4 elected and 8 appointed officers, and the USSVI charter.

Our members have served from World War II to the present time, on R and E boats, fleet boats, smoke boats, Guppy's through the sleek nuclear-powered attack and fleet ballistic missile boats of the Cold War onto the present.

Base members have served on submarines as enlisted men from seamen to master chief. We have several officers as members.

We share experiences with each other; fellow veterans and the local community through participation in various community events and programs.

We participate in local and suburban community parades; as well as Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

Numerous base members are volunteer facilitators at the U-505 exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry, in Chicago. New volunteers are welcome.

We have supported veterans residing in the State of Illinois Veterans Home in Manteno, several submarine museum boats and the NJROTC program at the Hyman G. Rickover Academy, in Chicago.

Through these and other activities in support of the USSVI creed we have earned thirteen USSVI Meritorious Base Awards in the fifteen years since the base was chartered.

In 2019 we just completed a successful Fundraising effort with Crash Dive Base, which raised approximately \$200K for the Chicago Submarine Memorial, constructed along the Chicago Riverwalk.

As a group we have continued to use the expertise developed during this project. First; We have completed raising funds to place our "first" memorial to THE MANITOWOC SUBMARINES in Morris, IL., along the water route they followed on the way to the Pacific Ocean & WWII.

We also will work with other local VET groups on worthy projects as they are identified.

Additional information about the base is available on our website: usschicagobase.org. Also, you can visit our Facebook page and see the