



# SUBMARINERS' ADVOCACY GROUP

Submariners Helping Submariners

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## Why Submariners' Advocacy Group?

Submariners make up about 1.7% of the veteran population of the US. This equates to an estimated **300,000 Submariners** in the US, making submarine veterans one of the smallest veteran cohorts. That means that 98.3% of veterans and 99.9% of US citizens have NO clue and no understanding of what it's like to serve on a US Navy submarine. More importantly, they cannot even imagine what it's like.

As a result, Submariners are often overlooked when it comes to Veteran Service Organizations advocating for veteran benefits. Why? There just aren't that many of us. Also, others don't want to confront their claustrophobia, fears, and lack of knowledge when it comes to submarines and submarine duty. If they can't even imagine AND are afraid of entertaining thoughts about submarines, why would they strive to advocate for submarine veterans? Why would they attempt to understand the particulars of our duty when it simply is beyond their ability to comprehend?

Then add to this that **we** are members of the Silent Service. **We** are veterans who keep our mouths shut about what happens on submarines. We just can't tell you where we've been and what we did. After all, we were never there, and we didn't do what we did when we weren't where we were when we did what we didn't do.

The response is often, "The Navy can declassify a submarine's location. Besides, the 'higher ups' always knew where the submarine was." This just adds to our motivation to keep our mouths shut. "Normal" veterans cannot conceive the fact that even higher authority never knows exactly where a submarine is or was until sometime after the Patrol/Mission Report is submitted. Then the report becomes classified SECRET, at least, for a very, very long time.

**This** is why **Submariners' Advocacy Group** (SAG) exists! Every SAG Board member or advocate is "Qualified in Submarines." We know what we can and cannot say or share. We've been there and done that. Our Board members include veterans of diesel boats, Fast Attacks, the 41 for Freedom FBMs, and the Trident boats.

SAG is here to advocate for Submariners before the US Congress to get needful legislation passed that will result in proper recognition of our service and bring necessary acknowledgments, concessions, and presumptives from the VA. We're here to help bring attention to toxic exposures that make our submarine atmospheres hazardous, and to lobby for changes that will make **all** boats (submarines) safer for their crews.

In short, **Submariners' Advocacy Group** is "Submariners Helping Submariners."