



## **USS Piper (SS409)**

### **PIPER REPORT**

**January 2024**



**Dear Shipmates:**

**The Holiday Season has passed, and I sincerely hope you and your families are okay. These days (at our ages) we can have issues jump up at us so unexpectedly. We, and many of us I'm sure, had our share in 2023, and we can only hope and pray for a better, healthier New Year.**

**First on the agenda is an update on Piper Reunion 2024. We will be once again doing so in conjunction with the USSVI National Convention being held in Cleveland.**

**Check out these links. Looks like the plans are for an awesome convention and Piper Reunion! August 19<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>.**

[USSVI National Convention 2024 \(subvetconvention.org\)](http://subvetconvention.org)

[2024 USSVI National Convention \(hilton.com\)](http://hilton.com)

**Our last visit to Cleveland for a reunion was an awesome success. This is Tom Kucharski's is our home-town guy, so you know it'll be a great time.**

[USS COD HOMEPAGE](#)

**Tentatively, we will have our reunion Dinner or Luncheon on Wednesday or Thursday.**

**Please make an effort to attend. We (I) never know when the final Piper Reunion may be held. I am hoping that with success in Cleveland, I would plan the next Piper Reunion at Groton Base. In 2025. Yes! I'm an optimist. 😊**

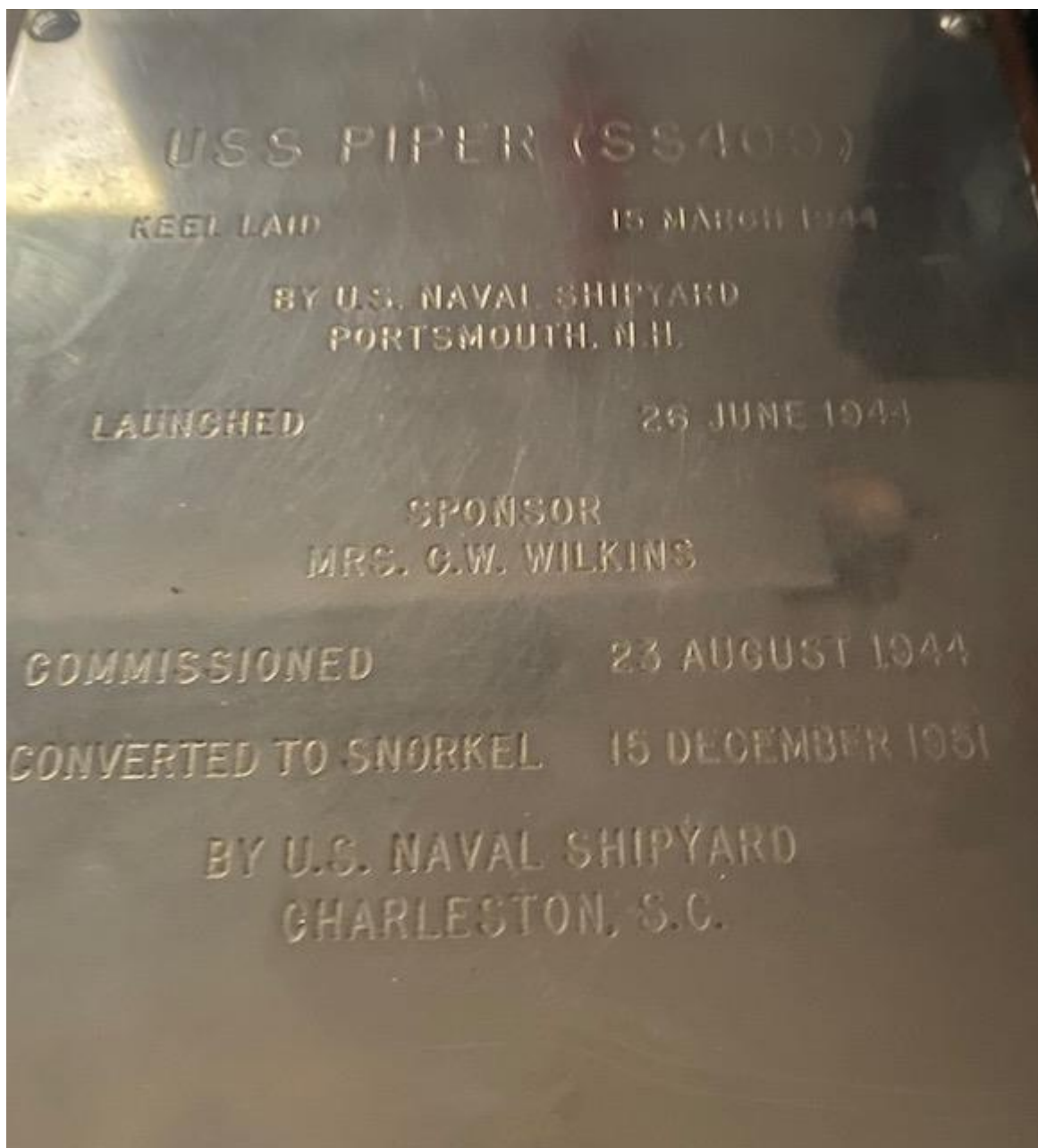
SO PLEASE SEND ME AN E-MAIL to [Piper 409@yahoo.com](mailto:Piper_409@yahoo.com) and let me know if you are planning to attend, even if it's a maybe at this time.

**The Piper Reunion in Tucson was small but really important to me. Being reunited with TM Ron Bonham and his bride made it a never-to-forget experience. My shipmate Bonham was on watch in the After Torpedo Room when the reserve Tin Can we were operating with launched a live ASROC on us. It acquired and attacked us aft at the screws and forward amidships, but even though it was loaded with high explosives, the detonator was absent or malfunctioned. I was training two non-quals on the planes and heard the destroyer's captain over the UQC announce "Live Weapon in The Water." Those two planesmen had no clue that we were likely to be sunk with all hands lost. Good grief.**

**Come to the Cleveland Reunion and we'll tell you more. Yes, the Navy covered it up, and I have proof.**



**Oh, by the way. Bonham presented us with the Piper Commissioning Plaque. Don't ask-Don't tell. Lousy picture so come to Cleveland and see it in person.**





Photos are deceiving. They are both same size, of course, but my photo program didn't cooperate. This is a really high quality, heavy 2" piece. The Piper Association will cover the postage, and I will send them out promptly. The cost is \$14.00 each.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please ship \_\_\_\_\_ Piper Coins at \$14.00. I have enclosed a check made out the USS Piper Association

Send to: Frank Whitty 269 Plymouth St. Middleboro, MA 02346-1213

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**ALL REMAINING PIPER MEMORABILIA WILL BE AVAILABLE IN CLEVELAND AND CONVENTION ATTENDEES WILL BE GIVEN HUGE DISCOUNTS SO BRING A FEW EXTRA DOLLARS TO HELP THE PIPER ASSOCIATION TREASURY SO WE CAN PLAN FOR THE FUTURE**

## Ralph Wiley Obituary

Ralph Henry Wiley

“Hank” Wiley, 69, of Santa Maria, CA departed on Eternal Patrol on February 2nd, 2012 after a courageous battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).

Hank was born to the late Joseph and Marian Wiley on January 4th, 1943 in San Bernardino, CA. Hank joined the U.S. Navy in 1965 and served his country for five years in the submarine service aboard the USS Piper and the USS Hardhead. As a Submarine Veteran he was a member of the San Diego Subvets Base.

Please send deceased member notices and any updates of contact information to:

Mike Hubbard    6184 Jeb Stuart Hgwy.    Meadows of Dan, VA 24120

**It would be really helpful to know in advance how many of you may be attending the Cleveland Reunion. Our membership number is dwindling, but we are committed to keep our get-togethers going as long as a handful of members are able to attend. I am full of gratitude for the wonderful times we've had together over the years, and mourn the passing of so many wonderful shipmates gone on eternal patrol. May they rest in peace knowing they were a part of one of the most exclusive branches of the U.S. Military, our beloved Silent Service.**

Regards,

*Frank*

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