



United States Submarine Veterans Bremerton Base

P. O. Box 465, Silverdale, WA 98383-0465
<http://gertrude-check.org/>



2018 Scholarship Fund

Dear Manager,

This letter serves to introduce you to the Bremerton Base Submarine Veterans (the Subvets). We are a non-profit veterans' organization dedicated to perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. It is by means of our shared fellowship that we honor and preserve the proud tradition of the Silent Service.

The Bremerton Base Subvets endeavor to promote our submarine heritage through our participation in community parades, veteran celebrations, memorials, and military functions. As part of our efforts to support our submarine shipmates we have established a scholarship fund for the children and grandchildren of both active duty and veteran submarine sailors.

As a chapter of the United States Submarine Veterans (USSVI), Bremerton Base, chartered in late 1981, commenced a base scholarship program, awarding its first scholarship in 1982, one for \$500.

In 1993 a retired lieutenant named Willie Spoon took on the leadership of the scholarship program. He coordinated a lunch schedule to induce restaurants to contribute prizes for our scholarship raffle and he was able to increase the number and amount of the scholarships. In the last few years of Willie's scholarship program leadership, he was afflicted with cancer and passed away in late 2002. However, he worked on the program to the end. Immediately the base voted to name the scholarship program after Willie.

In 2017, the raffle + donations exceeded \$5,000 (nearly half in direct donations). We were able to provide eight, \$1000 scholarships to children or grandchildren of qualified submariners. Nearly half of our 264 members have contributed in one way or another to the scholarship program.

We honor Willie Spoon by continuing to have lunch every Friday at various restaurants in the local area. We ask participating establishments to support our annual scholarship raffle by donating a gift certificate or a direct monetary contribution to the scholarship fund. Each donor is recognized as a supporter on our "Gertrude Check" web newsletter, available at the web site shown in the header of this letter. We hope that you will consider including the Lt. William "Willie" Spoon Memorial Scholarship in your community based charitable contributions. The drawing for the 2018 raffle will be held on Tuesday, June 19th. Contributions and certificates should be made out to USSVI, Bremerton Base.

We look forward to including your restaurant in our 2018 Friday "Soup Down" schedule.

Sincerely,