

**The Birth of USSVI
as recalled by Ron "Warshot" Smith
Posted 3 October 2002**

Images and text transferred to USSVI National website by Myron Howard

Since the early days of the organization there have been US Submarine Veterans of WWII who felt that full membership in the organization should be open to "non-veterans".

They felt that opening full membership to non-veterans would be necessary in order to accomplish the long term recognition of the efforts of those who were veterans and especially those shipmates who were on Eternal Patrol.

At the National Convention of US Submarine Veterans of WWII at Dallas, Texas in August, 1963, an attempt to open full membership in the organization to "non-veterans" was made. That attempt was defeated by 2 votes. It was then that Joe Negri announced that he was going to start USSVI.

Below are a few photos of some folks with ADM Lockwood and his wife in Dallas for that convention.



August 1963

L-R: Joe and Shirley Sanger, ADM and Phyllis Lockwood, and Ron and Georgianna Smith



August 1963

In the American Airline Lounge at Love Field in Dallas.

**L-R, seated: Phyllis Lockwood, Bob Burell, Ron Smith, and Charlie Cook.
Ron says his CRS kicked in and he can't recall the others.**



August 1963

**In the American Airline Lounge at Love Field in Dallas.
Left to right, Bob Burell, Joe Negri, Ron Smith, and two guys from
California.**

**Ron says they were the State Commander and State Sec/Treas.
He just can't remember their names.**