

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Was Naming the USS Gabrielle Giffords a Mistake?

From the blog: *Innocent Bystanders*



After naming the USNS *Cesar Chavez* and the USS *John P. Murtha*, it's no wonder people feel that "It is a very clear statement that naming warships has become more politicized than at anytime in our past..." But that's just par for this administration's course. According to a number of former and current military members, however, the decision to name the LCS after Giffords was not, in fact, "very appropriate." I had wondered if this would bug people. Retired Rear Admiral George Worthington, former commander of the Naval Special Warfare Command, told *The Daily Caller* that there are many people more worthy of a ship bearing their name. "Here is the issue. There are a lot of dead Marines out there whose names could go on anything that appears to be an amphibious ship," he said, explaining that a past recipient of the Medal of Honor, Dakota Meyer, might be a good candidate. Worthington added his email "inbox" has been filled with messages from military friends who are "shocked and angered" by the decision.

Famous submarine Alvin DSV-2 comes to Gulfport

By WLOX Staff - email
GULFPORT, MS (WLOX) -

A well known submarine has taken up temporary residence in Gulfport. The submersible

vehicle, known as Alvin, was built back in the 1960s. Since then, it has been an invaluable tool for deep sea research and exploration. Alvin recently went through a complete renovation, and has yet to go on a research trip since, until now. Alvin will spend the next few months exploring the Gulf of Mexico to research things such as the impact of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.



University of Southern Mississippi Dr. Vernon Asper says this is not his first experience with the vehicle. "I have been privileged to make six dives in Alvin back in the 80s in the Pacific Ocean down to about two and a half miles," said Asper. "There is a whole new world, a whole other world down there in the bottom of the ocean that most people never get to see. Alvin is about the only game in town for getting down to see these things." Among its many accomplishments, Alvin found a missing hydrogen bomb in the Mediterranean Sea in 1966, and it was the first submersible to explore the Titanic in 1986. Alvin also contributed to the discovery of the hydrothermal vents that lie thousands of feet under the ocean's surface.

Russian Black Sea Fleet gives up Ukrainian submarine Zaporizhzhya

Voice of Russia, Interfax

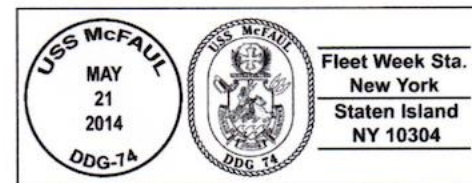
The diesel-electric submarine Zaporizhzhya, project 641, which earlier formed part of Ukraine's

Navy, is out of order and will not be used by the Russian Black Sea Fleet, the Russian Navy Main Staff told the Interfax-AVN news agency on Saturday. The news agency interlocutor said the sub may be handed over to Ukraine's Navy for further use or scrapping. According to him, the submarine was built 44 years ago. The submarine is morally obsolete and has failed to leave the harbour to carry out combat missions for decades. The submarine has mostly lain alongside, while the crew did their best to keep her afloat, according to the source. The Russian Navy has long since decommissioned submarines of the project 641.



Some of these have since been used as museums. The crew of the *Zaporizhzhya* submarine has been offered military service as part of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, which is due to get six new submarines shortly. The submarines are being built by St. Pete's shipyard, according to the agency interlocutor.

Ed. note. Little known fact above on some of the moves taking place in and around the Ukraine.



Postmarks are in the works for Fleet Week NY at Staten Island and New York City post offices. S.I. is approved. NYC cancels will be processed in Kansas City MO. The pictorial honors USCGC Campbell.