

Subject: Memorial Day

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To: Powell Barber <powbar2106@gmail.com>

Powell,

I was in Norfolk last week for the Hyman G Rickover SSN-709 hall of fame induction ceremony. There is a submarine hall of fame as it turns out both Bergall and HGR members. As part of that ceremony the subvets and the active duty submariners have a memorial service for the 52 lost submarines.

But my main purpose of the trip was to go to Amelia and say good bye to my good friend and shipmate Izzy. Izzy was on the boat 1978-1983. Izzy was a Puerto Rican from the Bronx and he made it from nothing to Sonar Chief on Submarines and then CIVLANT and a brief retirement on a Virginian farm.

I got really luck in C school because Izzy was guiding and instructing me for weeks, over six months I think, that along with describing the Bergall history including the 13s. Copied below is a new picture along with a diary entry that has been posted on my website since the 1990s.

Remember Bergall and the 13s? Even when ASR-13 hit us it was good because we got a new dome, some new sonar stuff, and a clean hull.

Izzy is in section 13. Amelia Virginia Veterans Cemetery May 27 2022



I went to the cemetery office and spoke with the caretaker who remembered Izzy's service even though it was two years ago. The place is immaculately maintained by the VA so that was nice to see.

So off to San Diego for the summer. I am pipe-line (six year tour) so I automatically get A-school, and if I am a good boy C-school. Don't know what B-school is/was but submariners must skip it now. Did pretty good in A- and C- school, I chose the stuff that would put me on fast attacks, as I just knew that was where I wanted to be and got a chance at the 'super-tech' school for another ~XX weeks. Now San Diego is nice all year round, but these class rooms did not have air conditioning and it Was summer time. I remember one time....never mind. Anyhow I met a really good person, and a friend, IZZY De Jesus. Izzy had already been on missions and was back to get his reward, super-tech school in lovely San Diego. Izzy introduced me to the Commodore 64 games, weekly haircuts, dry cleaners, and some activities that I will not reveal until certain statutes of limitations have expired. We graduated near the top, got the boat/command we wanted (he had just come from Bergall) and drove cross country in his Fiat to Norfolk, VA. Well the Fiat had a bad alternator somewhere in the desert. After coaxing the old girl into what looked like a repair place we got the bad news, no parts, they will be on the Greyhound, sometime. Oh boy. We split the cost, enjoyed the local bar for about 10 minutes, and got the hell out of dodge. Of course it was the wrong diode set in the alternator but at least we made it as far as my families place near San Antonio were we could rest and get some real Fiat service. It was fall again, I remember skidding across the ice outside Atlanta, and Izzy informing me that >30 over the speed limit and they don't bother taking you to jail. Overall a real good, career guiding experience. Izzy got me through school flying high. Thanks Buddy.

Norfolk, VA....ahhhh....seems colder here than in Great Lakes. I reported on board Bergall and was immediately classified as A NON-QUAL PUKE *.

Here is what back I wrote about Izzy in my diary. I think that I wrote this after 1988 sometime. Izzy followed me, as it were, and when I got a NAM on Bergall he came and found me. When I bought my first house it turns out that he lives a mile away, he came and visited me. I sure do miss Izzy.