

CROATIA

Dear friends, dear submarine fellows, dear guests

At this festive moment, and at this memorial place, we recollect in our memories numerous peacetime and wartime victims. We are doing this to their honour and glory, and to hold up as an example to us.

RUN SILENT – RUN DEEP TO ETERNITY!

Let our memories and love of your dearest ones follow you on this way!

GLORY TO YOU!

Andrej Korbar

GERMANY

50th International Submariners Convention – Preliminary events

1960

President **Amédée AUFRAY**, Le Havre Section of the French Submariners Association (AGAASM), established contact with **Adalbert SCHNEE**, president of Hamburg Submariners Association, and submariners of other nations.

14 and 15 January 1961

Adalbert SCHNEE took part in the National French Submariners Convention in Paris.

24 – 26 March 1961

7 French submariners and 3 ladies made a return visit to Hamburg Submariners Association.

16 September 1961

Foundation of German Submariners Association, first president **Adalbert SCHNEE**

17 – 19 February 1962

National French Submariners Convention in Paris

with 16 guests from Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and USA

Later we considered this convention as the **first International Submariners Convention**.

We have to thank all pioneers and participants of this convention:

- **Amédée AUFRAY**, president LE HAVRE section of AGAASM
- Commander **Wacogne**, president AGAASM and his successor vice admiral **ROSSET**
- **Adalbert SCHNEE**, president German Submariners Association
- Capt **Domenico ROMANO**, Italian Naval Association (ANMI)
- Admiral **Angelo PARONA**, at that time commanding officer Italian submarine flotilla
- **Paul STOLPMAN** and **Grover MC LEOD**, U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II
- The representative of the **Dutch** submariners. I am very sorry that I could not find out his name.

We commemorate all deceased friends we were allowed to meet during the past International Submariners Conventions.

But of course we also commemorate all submariners on eternal patrol, who lost their lives during war and peacetime – often as very young men.

Juergen Weber

German Submariners Association

ISRAEL

A Prayer for Submariners

May it be your will, God of our ancestors, to provide a path through the sea and a route through the mighty waters so that you allow us to submerge in peace, direct us in peace, and permit us to resurface in peace.

Bring us alive to our desired destination.

We have sailed through the depths of the sea; The waters threatened our lives. The deep engulfed us. All our breakers and your waves swept over us.

Let the current not sweep us away, nor the depths swallow us, nor the mouth of the pit close over us.

O God save us and rescue us from the hand of every enemy lying in ambush in the depths of the sea and in the sky and from all kinds of traps and raging disasters which could come upon us.

Strengthen us to be courageous enough to protect the sea routes and their passages. Envelope us within the shield of your deliverance and the crown of victory. Through our deeds, send blessing and success since you are the one who hears the prayer of your people, Israel, with compassion.

Praised are you who hears prayer.

Ivan Dror

JAPAN

Dear World Submariners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to both represent Japan and to be able to speak to you all. I have three important words that I'd like to say.

These words are "respect," "gratitude," and "blessing." I would like to convey these words to three groups of people.

The first group are the Italian hosts who have given us a great welcome with their generous hospitality. "Arigatou Gozaimasu (Thank you very much)!"

The second group are all the people who have gathered from around the world to attend this 50th International Submariners Congress. Without your attendance, there is no congress. "Arigatou Gozaimasu!"

The third group are all the people who have successfully continued this wonderful congress for half a century. Thanks to their hard work and sincere effort, we are now celebrating and enjoying this important gathering of world submariners today. "Arigatou Gozaimasu!"

I believe that empathy is the most important key to keep a peaceful relationship between people and countries. To accomplish this, we have to endeavor to understand each other, communicating with all cultures and religions. All of the world's great religions preach same three values, which are "peace," "love," and "forgiveness." I hope this congress continues for another 50 years and the spirit and purpose of this congress will contribute to world peace.

Let's work together! May God bless you all! Arigatou gozaimasu and thank you very much.

Akira Tsurukame

RUSSIA

Dear Colleagues!

At the 50th Congress in Catania Russian delegation was the most numerous, so we all are very proud for our country and its submarine forces. Russia has always been, is now and will be known in future as great naval

power. We, as all those gathered here, grieve about our lost comrades, whichever country they were protecting. We wish to all submariners always to have equal numbers of divers and surfacings. We express our gratitude to all organizers of the Congress, to Headquarters of Italian Navy for the wonderful program we have had and invite all our colleagues for the Congress 2017 in naval capital of Russia - Saint-Petersburg.

Head of Russian delegation, Hero of Russia, Rear admiral (ret)
Alexander Berzin

SLOVENIA

Dear Sirs and Madam,

On behalf of the Association of Slovenian submariners and me I would like to thank you for the heartfelt welcome and the attention given to me during my visit to Catania. For me this was a wonderful opportunity to meet with submariners - veterans from countries that have a large submarine tradition. Since this has been the first time to participate in the International Congress of Submariners and since I have not officially announced all HoD, I take this opportunity to do this in short.

My name is Mirko Rebselj and I was the Commander of the submarine diesel Electric power YU P-832 Drava and I represent the Slovenian Submariners Association from Ljubljana. I spent over 10 years in the submarine units because that was the best part of my life. During the service in submarine units I was a trial commander on the submarine YU P-832 Drava which is very proud of it. Now I work as a professor in a Belgrade Maritime School.

Thanks again for the friendship and a wonderful time spent with my fellow submarine veterans. I am looking forward to our meeting on Greece.

Yours sincerely,
Mirko Rebselj
HoD of the Association of Slovenian submariners, Ljubljana

TURKEY

Dear friends,
As head of delegation of Turkey, I brought greetings and wishes of well-being of Turkish submariners to you.

On behalf of all Turkish submariners, I have the honour to attend this ceremony. I cordially extend my deepest appreciations to ones who initiated first and then organized traditionally such a meaningful and impressive ceremonies for remembering our deceased colleagues every year all together no matter what their nationalities and religions are.

One of the main purposes of annual congresses is to perpetuate the memory of those who have lost their lives in submarine service. Therefore in my opinion these ceremonies are the most important part of our conventions.

By representing all Turkish submariners, I bow with respect in front of the memories of the submariners from all host and participating countries who lost their lives during operations or accidents for their sacred missions in war or peacetime.

God bless all submariners."
Dogan Hacipoglu
President, Turkish Submariners Association

UKRAINE

We thank the Italian sailors and the city of Catania for hearty welcome.

We greet all participants of the 50th Congress of the submariners.

Glory living and eternal memory of the dead submariners in the hot and cold wars.

Alexander Kuzmin

President Ukrainian Submariners Association

USA

Short Talk for Catania

It is a pleasure to meet here in Catania, Italy with friends from around the world. As submarine veterans, we have common experiences, experiences that very few others in the world share with us.

It is important that at these gatherings, we remember our shipmates who are on Eternal Patrol. Nearly all of them were young, healthy, intelligent and full of life. We have all gone through that stage of our lives and have enjoyed the fruits of a lovely life. We have families, friends and comradeships. So, as we enjoy our wonderful welcoming to this beautiful place in the Mediterranean Sea, we must keep in mind those who served with us and never returned.

This is also a wonderful time to renew friendships with those who served in different Navies. In short order we find that we have a great deal in common with each other and that makes these events a friendly and welcoming place.

Thank you to the Italian Submariners who are hosting this 50th International Submariners Association Convention.

Ken Earls

President

International Submariners Association - United States of America