

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE  
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019**

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1105 on March 9, 2019, at American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA, and welcomed all members and guests. He recognized Guest Speaker Bill Ashton and thanked American Legion Post 364 First Vice Commander Dan Eubank for Post 364's hosting of our meeting. Base officers present introduced themselves.

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Bill Ashton (Guest Speaker), George Billy, Art Bivens, Joe Castell, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Anthony Ennis, Delbert Ennis, Linda Ennis, Daniel Eubank, Gary Grimes, Brian Haller, Pat Haller, Darlene Jaeger, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Ed Mattran, Paul Nelson, Tim Oliver, Mark Riethmeier, Mike Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, and Woody Woodworth. (24 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The COB, Mike Varone, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Base Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

The Base Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, read the list of boats lost in the month of March. These were:

USS Perch (SS-176)	March 3, 1942
USS Grampus (SS-207)	March 5, 1943
USS H-1 (SS-28)	March 12, 1920
USS Triton (SS-201)	March 15, 1943
USS Kete (SS-369)	March 20, 1945
USS F-4 (SS-23)	March 25, 1915
USS Tullibee (SS-284)	March 26, 1944
USS Trigger (SS-237)	March 26, 1945

The COB then tolled the ship's bell twice in remembrance of the 25 USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

**IN MEMORIAM: CAPT Frank "Mick" O'Beirne, Jr., USN (Ret.) – 2/4/2019  
CAPT Leo Charles Wright, USN (Ret.) – 2/8/2019  
SCPO Rufino P. Ibarra, USN (Ret.) – 2/11/2019  
CAPT George Woodworth, Jr., USN (Ret.) – 2/13/2019  
CDR Thomas R. Conrey, USN (Ret.) – 3/2/2019.**

**BASE HISTORIAN**

Base Historian, Woody Woodworth, gave an account of the loss of USS TULLIBEE (SS 284).

## **Sub History: USS TULLIBEE (SS 284)**

The latest “American Submariner” (2019 FIRST QUARTER Edition) page 34 in the ETERNAL PATROL section contained the announcement that Clifford Weldon Kuykendall, the sole survivor of the WW II lost U.S.S. Tullibee SS 284, joined his shipmates on “Eternal Patrol” on 26 February 2016. The following is an excerpt of his story as provided in “U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS WORLD WAR II, Volume Four, page 340, paragraphs 3,4,5, and 6 of the TULLIBEE (SS-284) section”.

“The following story of TULLIBEE’s loss is taken from a statement made by the lone survivor, C.W. Kuykendall, GM2c. He reports that the boat arrived on station, 25 March, and on the night of 26 March a radar contact was made. The contact was found to be a convoy consisting of a large troop and cargo ship, two medium sized freighters, two escort vessels and a large destroyer.

Having solved the convoy’s speed and course, TULLIBEE made several surface runs on the large transport, but held fire, being unable to see her due to squally weather. The escorts had detected the submarine’s presence and dropped 15 to 20 depth charges. The submarine came in to 3,000 yards, still unable to see the target, fired two bow tubes. A minute or two later a terrific concussion shook the boat, and Kuykendall, who had been on the bridge, soon found himself struggling in the water. Since range and bearing of the escorts was known, the survivor states that he is sure the explosion was the result of a circular run of one of TULLIBEE’s torpedoes.

There were shouting men in the water when Kuykendall first regained consciousness after the blast, but after about ten minutes everything was silent, and he never saw or heard any of the other TULLIBEE men. At 1000 on 27 March, an escort vessel located the swimming man, and after firing on him with machine guns, came in and picked him up. He learned here that the transport they had fired at had sunk.

The story of his captivity is much the same as the stories of survivors of GRENADIER, SCULPIN, TANG, PERCH, and other U.S. submarines. He was questioned assiduously by English speaking officers and beaten when he refused to give any more information than international law required. In April 1944, he was taken to Ofuna Naval Interrogation Camp, where he stayed until 30 September. From that date until rescue on 4 September 1945, he was forced to work in the copper mines of Ashio.”

## **MEETING MINUTES**

- The minutes of the February meeting were distributed by e-mail. There was no discussion or any comments. The minutes were accepted as distributed.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, provided the monthly report for March 2019:

Beginning Cash on Hand	\$ 8430.87
Receipts:	\$ 177.36
2019 Dues-Annual, Base	
2019 Dues-Annual, National	
Donations-USSVICF	

Interest/Dividends	
Revenue-Sale of Items	
Revenue-Raffles (50/50)	
Expenditures:	\$ 25.00
Dues to National	
Ending Sub-Total	\$ 8583.23
Minus Remaining Walmart Grant restricted use funds for K4K	
	(\$1169.40)
Grand Total (Discretionary)	\$ 7413.40
NOVA USSVICF K4K Total:	\$ 922.44

## MEMBERSHIP

- Steve Jaeger provided the following Membership Information:
  - 79 Members
    - 41 Holland Club Members (3 WW II Members)
    - 28 Regular Members
    - 10 Associate Members
  - One member dropped for non-payment of 2019 dues.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Executive Board:** The Base Commander presented a summary of the Executive Board Meeting held on 27 February. Discussions included: membership; plans for upcoming meetings and events; K4K program; updates to the website; Holland Club Luncheon; NJROTC program, Eagle Scout program, and American Legion Post 162 fire.

**Chief of the Boat:** Mike Varone reported that the highway naming initiative for submarine veterans never made it to a vote in the Virginia legislature.

**Public Relations:** See COB above

**Storekeeper:** Howard Chatham reported that there are still Base Challenge coins, stickers, and base patches available for sale. The 2019 USSVI calendar theme is "Submarine Squadrons of the Atlantic Fleet." Calendars can still be obtained but must now be ordered singly at a price of \$14.00 each.

**Webmaster:** Howard Chatham reported that, because of the fire at our American Legion Post 162 meeting site, he will be posting our temporary meeting location(s) on the website.

### Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS):

- Our next visits are:
  - INOVA Falls Church on March 21, 2019 at 2:30 PM.
  - UVA on April 23, 2019 at 1:00 PM.
- Walmart Grant funds. The local Management has approval authority and the Base has already received over \$800 in checks and Gift Cards.

**Scouting Coordinator:** Chuck Martin reported:

- Recent Eagle Scouts recognized for their accomplishment are:
  - Eagle Scout Shanne Gallagher on February 16, 2019.
  - Eagle Scout Jacob Domikis on February 16, 2019.
- Upcoming Eagle Scout Courts of Honor:
  - Eagle Scout Lane Tomlinson on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 1:00 PM in Haymarket, VA.
  - Eagle Scout Mason Miller on Saturday April 6, 2019 at 5:00 PM in Staunton, VA.
- Contact either the COB or Base CDR if you are interested in attending/ participating.

**Youth Outreach Programs (NJROTC/Sea Cadets/School Program) Coordinator:**

- The base is seeking a volunteer for this position.

**Chaplain:** Nothing to report.

**Navy Submarine League (NSL):** George Wallace announced:

- Upcoming NSL Events
  - NROTC RADM Frederick B. Warder award presenter volunteer - various colleges/ universities still need a presenter
  - Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Gala with book signings by George Wallace and Rick Campbell – March 23, 2019 at National Park
  - NSL Capital Chapter Spring Luncheon – April 26, 2019 at ANCC (Speaker TBD)
  - Sea Air Space Expo - May 6-8, 2019 at Gaylord National Convention Center. Seeking volunteers to ‘man the rail’ (table) in a joint NSL and USSVI marketing effort. Howard C., Mike V., Brian H., and Paul N. volunteered during the meeting.
  - 2019 Submarine Technology Symposium – May 14-16, 2019 at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (SECRET/NOFORN)
  - Battle of Midway Dinner - June 4, 2019 (more information to follow when available)
  - 2019 Annual Symposium and Industry Update - November 6-7, 2019.
  - 2019 DC Area Submarine Birthday Ball – April 6, 2019 at Crystal City Hyatt Regency, 1800 - 2400. ADM Richardson (CNO) is the speaker.

**Upcoming Submarine Reunions**

- USS JALLAO (SS 368) – 3/13-17/2019; Tuscumbia, AL
- USS ROBERT E LEE (SSBN 601) - 4/25-28/2019; San Diego, CA
- USS CROAKER (SS/SSK 246) – 4/27/2019; Buffalo, NY
- USS GUITARRO (SSN 665) – 5/3-5/2019; Little Rock, AR
- USS SCAMP (SSN 588) – 5/6-8/2019; Fredericksburg, TX
- USS GRAYBACK (SSG/LPSS/SS 574) – 5/7-9/2019; Reno, NV
- USS SALMON (SSR 573) – 5/13-16/2019; Branson, MO
- USS PICUDA (SS 382) – 5/13-17/2019; Savannah, GA
- USS QUILLBACK (SS 424) – 5/13-17/2019; Savannah, GA
- USS TRUTTA (SS-421) – 5/13-17/2019; Savannah, GA
- USS JAMES MADISON (SSBN 627) – 5/15-18/2019; Rapid City, SD
- USS BIRMINGHAM (SSN 695) – 5/24-26/2019; Columbus, OH

- USS SEA OWL (SS 405) – 6/7-9/2019; Groton, CT
- USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN 663) – 6/27/2019-7/1/2019; Waukesha, WI
- USS SPADEFISH (SSN 668) – 7/10-14/2019; Norfolk, VA
- USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN 642) – 10/21-25/2019; Jacksonville, FL

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 2019 USSVI Awards nomination submission period is from February 1 until April 30, 2019.
  - Submit nominations to John G. Stanford, National Awards Committee Chairman, 3026 Cesery Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32277-3527.
  - American Legion Post 162 Fire update. EXCOM has retrieved and attempting to restore the salvageable Base items from Post 162.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- WELL DONE to the COMSUBLANT Battle E boats!
  - SUBRON 4 - USS NORTH DAKOTA (SSN 784)
  - SUBRON 6 - USS JOHN WARNER (SSN 785)
  - SUBRON 12 - USS PROVIDENCE (SSN 719)
  - SUBRON 16 - USS FLORIDA (SSGN 728) (BLUE)
  - SUBRON 20 - USS ALASKA (SSBN 732) (BLUE) and (GOLD)
- Congratulations to RADM Blake Converse, new COMSUBPAC, and RADM Daryl Caudle, a post with the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- The Navy announced March 6 the establishment of Program Executive Office Columbia (PEO CLB) to focus entirely on the Navy's number one acquisition priority. Rear Adm. Scott Pappano will assume the first office of PEO Columbia.

**The Binnacle List** currently includes:

Barbara Harmody, Tony Poblete, Ray Stone, Tom Perrault, Lorraine Sargent, ADM Kirk Donald, and Steve Bishop.

**For the Good of the Order**, the CDR read the list of birthdays for March: Arthur Dunn, David Gault, Norman Griggs, Steve Jaeger, John Lindstedt, Terry Nelson, Tom Perrault, Marie Phoenix, and William Truslow.

Mark Riethmeier won the 50/50 raffle.

Base Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Benediction.

**OUR NEXT METTING WILL BE ON APRIL 13th FOR OUR ANNUAL TOLLING OF THE BOATS CEREMONY AND WILL BE HELD AT THE NAVAL SUBMARINE LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS, 1737 KING STREET, SUITE 600, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314.**

**THE RECOMMENDED "UNIFORM" IS SUIT OR VEST AND TIE; NO T-SHIRTS AND JEANS PLEASE.**



Photo by Mark Riethmeier



Photo by Mark Riethmeier

After a short break, the Base COB introduced our guest speaker:



**William B. Ashton**  
**Military Veteran Liaison for the United States Department of Agriculture**

William B. Ashton was named the first permanent Military Veteran Liaison for the United States Department of Agriculture in January 2018. In his role as liaison, Ashton will guide USDA efforts to support veterans learn and succeed through agriculture, agribusiness, in rural communities, and beyond.

Prior to joining the USDA's Office of Public Policy and Engagement, Ashton served as the Security Director for the Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command Headquarters. Additionally, Ashton was a Virginia Governor's appointee as the Fleet Reserve Association's representative to the Joint Leadership Council. The council facilitates collaborations between veteran service organizations and the Department of Veterans Services to meet the needs of Virginia veterans. In 2004, Ashton was selected to serve on the Secretary of the Navy's Retiree Council for three years.

A New York City native, Ashton joined the U.S. Navy after graduating from St. Francis Prep in 1976. Throughout his 23-year career in the United States Navy, Ashton advanced from Seaman Recruit to Lieutenant Commander. Ashton has served aboard USS L. Mendel Rivers (SSN-686), a Sturgeon-class attack submarine, as an officer onboard the USS MCKEE (AS 41), a submarine tender, and at Submarine Squadron SIX, Norfolk, VA. He has also served as Administrative Secretary to the Chief of Naval Personnel, the Administrative Assistant/Aide to the Deputy for Naval Training and as the Military Assistant to the Director of Defense Reform in the Office of the Secretary of Defense in Washington, D.C.



Photo by Mark Riethmeier

Bill Ashton's presentation covered several topics and he stressed the importance of filing for a disability claim. He started his presentation with a show of hands of USSVI NOVA members that have an eBenefits account.

eBenefits is the one-stop website for information and access to all the Veterans Affairs programs. From eBenefits, the Veteran has access to their VA medical record, disability claims and status, education benefits, and records such as Veteran ID cards, benefits letters, and even requesting your DD Form 214.

Bill demonstrated the financial benefit of applying for your entitled disability claims.

The VA funding is for and available to all Veterans. For example, if you are a Veteran with a 30% VA disability rating, you would receive \$428.83 per month as the Veteran only and \$479.83 for the Veteran and Spouse. For military retirees, if the VA disability rating is greater than 50%, then you will receive your full retirement and a separate disability payment. If your VA disability rating is less than 50%, your retirement payment is reduced by the disability payment amount you receive.

It is important that you apply for the disability claim because even a VA disability rating of 0% will potentially make you eligible for benefits, e.g., hearing aids.

Bill then moved from the Department of Veterans Affairs benefits to discuss the Virginia Commonwealth benefits available to Veterans. For example, were you aware that Virginia has two Veterans homes, one in Richmond and one in Roanoke; or that if you are 100% disabled, then there is an exemption from home property taxes and even the surviving spouse may be eligible? Plus many more benefits, like the VA Caregiver support program.

Next, Bill provided the Base with updated status of the various initiatives being considered by the Virginia legislature. He ended his presentation to the Base by providing several helpful links for reference.

The presentation will be emailed to Base members.

After all questions, the Base CDR, Chuck Martin, thanked Bill Ashton for his informative presentation and Dan Eubank for Post 364's hosting of our meeting and presented each with a USSVI NOVA Base Challenge coin.



Photo by Mark Riethmeier



Photo by Mark Riethmeier

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by  
Brian Q. Haller  
Vice Commander, USSVI Northern Virginia Base