



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1102 on December 12, 2020 and welcomed all members and guests. Due to social distancing requirements associated with COVID-19, the meeting was held using the Zoom web conferencing application. The CDR requested that members and guests provide him with an email to document attendance.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Les Altschuler (USSVI Northeast Regional Director), Steve Bishop, Joe Castell, Howard Chatham, John “Bud” Cunnally, Jr., Rufino “Ric” Guntang, Joan Guntang, Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Robert Maydwell (Base Commander, USSVI Capitol Base), Lou Maruzo, Bruce Miller, Paul Nelson, Mark Riethmeier, Mike Varone, and Woody Woodworth (17 total).

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

The VCDR read the list of boats lost in December. These were:

USS F-1/Carp (SS-20)	December 17, 1917
USS S-4 (SS-109)	December 17, 1927
USS SEALION (SS-195)	December 10, 1941
USS CAPELIN (SS-289)	December 2, 1943

The CDR then tolled the ship’s bell twice for the 28 USSVI Northern Virginia Base members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIAM: LT James T. McConnell, USN, Ret—10/26/2020; CAPT Robert Crafts, Jr., USN, Ret—11/7/2020; CAPT Colen Richard Lindell, USN, Ret—11/11/2020; CAPT Keith Gordon Nesbitt, CF, Ret—11/12/2020; CAPT Kenneth A. Lee, USN, Ret—12/6/2020.

MEETING MINUTES

The November 2020 NOVA Base meeting minutes were previously distributed to the membership. The CDR asked whether there were any additional comments or discussion for the November minutes. Hearing no additional comments or corrections, the minutes were accepted.

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, presented the Treasurer’s monthly report:

- Beginning Cash on Hand: \$ 9,578.16
- Receipts: \$ 135.40



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- Dues, Annual
- Interest/Dividends
- Expenditures: \$ 424.25
 - Dues to National
 - Donations Made (Not to National)(Groton Base Thanksgiving & Sharing Committee)
 - Base Operating Expenses (Website Hosting through 2023)
- Ending Sub-Total: \$ 9,289.31
 - Minus Remaining Walmart Grant Restricted Use Funds (\$1,169.40)
- Grand Total (discretionary) \$ 8,119.91
- NOVA USSVICF K4K Total: \$ 3,054.10
 - To date, we have received \$1000.00 in 2020
- Announcement: 2021 Base and National dues are due 31 December 2020. The “Early Bird” (dues paid for 2022) ended 11 Dec 2020.

The **CHAPLAIN**, Steve Jaeger, provided the following:

- MMC(SS) Delbert Ennis, USN, Ret. departed on eternal patrol on December 6, 2020

The **CDR**, Chuck Martin, provided the following on Chief Ennis:

- Navy Biography
 - Enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1950 and served 22 years before retiring in 1972
 - Served onboard the USS SAM HOUSTON (SSBN 609) from 1960-1964, where he achieved his SS qualifications.
 - Served onboard the USS NATHANAEL GREENE (SSBN 636) from 1964-1969.
- USSVI Biography
 - Joined USSVI in September 2010
 - Joint USSVI NOVA in February 2013
 - A Holland Club member
 - A USSVI Life member
- Services Information
 - Viewing will be held on **December 18, 2020**, at Lee Funeral Home (6633 Old Alexandria Ferry Rd, Clinton, MD 20735)
 - 2-4 pm (open viewing)
 - 6-8 pm (closed viewing)
 - Mass (Family only) will be held at 1100 on December 19, 2020
 - Burial service (Family only) will be held at about 1145 on December 19, 2020, at Resurrection Cemetery



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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **Executive Board** meeting was held on December 2, 2020, via Zoom. The meeting agenda included:

- Committee Reports
- Membership
- 2020 Holland Club
- 2021 Draft Base Budget
- 2021 Draft Base Event Calendar
- K4K Program
- Other Base events/calendar

The **VCDR**, Brian Haller, had nothing to report.

The **COB**, Mike Varone, had nothing to report.

The **PAO**, Mike Varone, provided the following:

- National Geographic Channel documentary series WWII Hell Under the Sea
 - SYNOPSIS – WW2: Hell Under the Sea is an event-based series charting the stealth game of subsea warfare from contact to attack of the greatest submarine patrols of World War II. From the rise of the Wolfpack to the drive for victory in the Pacific, meet the masterminds who brought together the strategy, technology, and tactics to make every Sailor's worst nightmare come to life.
 - EPISODES (Season 3) – Killer Strike; Enigma Capture; The Longest Journey: Torpedo Rampage; Commander Down; and Iwo Jima Pilot Rescue.
 - For more information visit <https://www.natgeotv.com/za/shows/natgeo/ww2-hell-under-the-sea>
 - Seasons 1 and 2 are also available.

The **CHAPLAIN**, Steve Jaeger, had nothing additional to report.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT presented by Steve Jaeger: 82 members comprised of:

- 44 Holland Club members,
 - Delbert Ennis left on Eternal Patrol on 6 December 2020
 - 4 WW II members
- 30 Regular members
- 8 Associate members

The Early Bird drawing was conducted by Steve Jaeger:

- Early Bird drawing winners for the 2022 Base Annual Membership fee were:
 - Regular Member: George Wallace
 - Associate Member: Cathy Chatham
- Congratulations to our Early Bird winners.



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- Outstanding 2021 Annual Membership fees:
 - 4 Base members for National Membership
 - 1 Base member for Base Membership
- Annual memberships expire on December 31, 2020.
- The CDR will be contacting those members who have not paid.

The **KAPS 4 KIDS** Chairman, Steve Bishop, reported that it has been 10 months since the Base conducted a K4K visit due to the COVID-19 crisis. Steve believes it will be another 10 months before we can reinstate visits. While there will be no WALMART Grant solicitations this year, Steve will stay in contact with WALMART for future solicitations.

The **STOREKEEPER**, Howard Chatham, reported:

- Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase
- The initial 2021 USSVI Calendars order has been placed.
 - If you missed the preorder deadline, contact the Base SK to order a calendar or you can place an order directly using the ordering information in the fourth quarter of the *American Submariner* (page 43).
 - Members are encouraged to order through the Base SK. The Base receives a discount on bulk orders and receives a small profit from the sale.
 - The initial order of calendars has been shipped and is expected to arrive soon. Howard will contact those who placed an order to arrange for delivery.
 - Cost:
 - From Base Storekeeper - \$10/calendar
 - From National Storekeeper - \$10.95 +\$2.75 shipping.
 - The calendar theme is “Let’s Go To The Movies.”
- Storekeeper also has access to National USSVI SK, Submarine Ships Store, and SubmarineShop.com items for purchase
- Contact Howard at storekeeper@ussvinova.org if you have interest in purchasing any submarine related merchandise

The **WEBMASTER**, Howard Chatham, reported no issues with the Base website.

Les Altschuler, **USSVI NE Region Commander**, provided the following:

- Encouraged applications for the USSVI Scholarship
- Informed the Base that the USSVI National Treasurer, Paul Hiser, is recovering from COVID-19 and requested that he be kept in our thoughts and prayers.
- Howard Chatham asked Les Altschuler when National would post the new bylaws, and Les indicated he didn’t have the information, but would research it.

The CDR, representing **USSVI NE District 4** Commander, Art Glover, provided the following:

- The NE4 District Commander will donate \$100 to the first Base in the district that gets 100% of its members to renew their annual dues by December 31, 2020.



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- USSVI Groton Base Thanksgiving Sharing and Caring Event was a huge success thanks to Groton Base Members and other Base members, like USSVI NOVA, that contributed and support the event. For local news video on the event go to the link:
<https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/pandemic-doesnt-stop-sailors-from-getting-a-taste-of-home-this-thanksgiving/2371034/>

On behalf of the **NAVAL SUBMARINE LEAGUE (NSL)** Executive Director, Tim Oliver, and Capitol Chapter President, George Wallace, the CDR provided the following information on upcoming NSL and related events:

- Naval Submarine League (NSL) and Related Events
 - NSL Capitol Chapter December meeting via Zoom
 - **December 17, 2020**
 - Time: 1530 EST
 - Guest Speaker: Don Keith will be reprising a presentation that he gave at the Nautilus Museum to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of ex-USS NAUTILUS' historic trip under the polar ice. Don is co-author with CAPT William Anderson of *THE ICE DIARIES: The True Story of One of Mankind's Greatest Adventures*. Don is co-author with George Wallace on the *HUNTER KILLER* series of novels.
 - Log-in information will be provided in the minutes
- NSL Brick Campaign
 - You can contribute to the Capital Campaign by purchasing a brick for the patio at the NSL headquarters. This is an opportunity to display your name, your boat's name, the NSL logo, or a message up to 3 lines of 18 characters each. At \$140 each, an NSL brick would make a great gift! And it's a donation, so tax-deductible to the extent you deduct charitable contributions.
 - To buy a brick, go to the NSL website...SUPPORT US...NSL SHOPPING...and place your order, or click on the link:
https://app.etapestry.com/cart/NavalSubmarineLeague_1/default/index.php
- Navy League Sea-Air-Space Expo
 - Scheduled for August 1-4, 2021
 - STEM Expo will be held on August 1, 2021
 - Location: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center

International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA),

President, John "Bud" Cunnally, provided the following:

- 2021 International Submarines Congress has been postponed.
- Upcoming International Submarines Congress:
 - 2022—Sweden (500th anniversary of the Swedish Navy)
 - 2023—Greece
 - 2024—Montenegro
 - USA has made a bid for hosting a future convention (2025/2026) to honor JP Holland in the Republic of Ireland with visits to his home in Clare.



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- Worldwide ISA/USA Zoom meeting
 - Topic: International Submariners—When did your country establish a Navy, and when did it begin Submarining? Any good sea stories?
 - Date: **Saturday, 19 December 2020**
 - Time: 09:00 AM Eastern Time (USA and Eastern Canada)
 - Join Zoom Link:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79752446617?pwd=YWRIRVVCM2hzU2w1T3hqMkRiZCtWdz09>
- To join the International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA Inc) visit their website www.isausa.org/
 - Life membership to the ISA/USA is \$50.00 and
 - The application is on the ISA/USA website.
 - There are 33 countries as members of ISA.

Upcoming submarine reunions:

- None
Call or Email the POC listed in the *American Submariner* to determine the current status of the reunion.

2021 USSVI NOVA Base Election, the CDR, and the 2021 Election Master, Howard Chatham, provided the following:

- The CDR expressed the Executive Committee's gratitude to Howard Chatham for being the Election Master for the 2021 Base election.
- Howard reported that he had received 20 ballots by the 2359, December 11, 2020 deadline.
- 2021 USSVI NOVA Base Officers are:
 - Base Commander—Chuck Martin (Votes: 19 for Chuck Martin; 1 for Howard Chatham)
 - Base Vice Commander—Brian Haller (Votes: 19 for Brian Haller; 1 for George Wallace)
 - Base Secretary—Joe Castell (Votes: 20 for Joe Castell)
 - Base Treasurer—Steve Jaeger (Votes: 20 for Steve Jaeger)
 - Base Officers will be sworn in at the January 2021 Base meeting
- 2021 USSVI NOVA Appointed Positions are:
 - COB—Mike Varone
 - Membership—Steve Jaeger
 - Chaplain—Steve Jaeger
 - Storekeeper—Howard Chatham
 - K4K—Steve Bishop
 - Scout Recognition—Chuck Martin
 - Submarine Historian—Woody Woodworth
 - Webmaster—Howard Chatham
 - PAO—Mike Varone



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OLD BUSINESS

- TRICARE Open Season (<https://www.tricare.mil/openseason>) begins November 9 and **ends December 14**. Any enrollment changes you make will go into effect on January 1, 2021. Open season applies to anyone enrolled in or eligible for a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select. You have three options:
 - **Stay in your plan.** If you want to stay in your current TRICARE health plan, you do not have to re-enroll.
 - Note: Are you a Group A retiree or family member enrolled in TRICARE Select? Act now to set up payment for a new monthly TRICARE Select enrollment fee to keep your TRICARE Select coverage. These fees go into effect on January 1, 2021. (<https://www.tricare.mil/Plans/Enroll/Select/EnrollmentFee>).
 - **Enroll in a plan.** If you are eligible for a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select but not enrolled, you can enroll in a plan now.
 - **Change plans.** If you are already enrolled in a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select, you can switch plans and switch between individual and family enrollment.
 - **Dental and Vision plans.** Outside of the Federal Benefits Open Season, you can only enroll in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) or make changes to your existing FEDVIP plan if you experience a FEDVIP QLE (Qualifying Life Event: Birth, Death, Marriage, Divorce). Remember, FEDVIP QLEs may be different from TRICARE QLEs. To learn more, visit www.benefeds.com.
- USSV Charitable Foundation (USSVCF) 2021-2022 Scholarship Program and Application Procedure and associated processes will be “launched,” and the application website was opened for applications.
 - USSVI Members in good standing may sponsor a child (including legal custody or stepchildren), grandchild, or great-grandchild for application for the USSV-CF Academic Scholarships.
 - <https://subforcescholarships.smapply.io/>
- Authors Frank Hood (USSVI member) and his brother, Charles Hood, have written a series of three submarine books: *Poopie Suits and Cowboy Boots*; *Sub Tales: Stories That Seldom Surface*; and *The Silent Service Speaks Vol 1*. Proceeds from the sale of the books go to our USSVI Scholarship Fund.

The CDR called for other items of old business and none were provided.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2021 USSVI Northern Virginia Base budget
 - Presented by the Treasurer
 - CDR opened the floor opened for questions; none heard
 - A vote was taken via poll; 14 votes for approval, none for disapproval
 - 2021 USSVI Northern Virginia Base budget approved
- 2021 USSVI Northern Virginia Base Event Calendar
 - Presented by the CDR
 - CDR opened the floor opened for questions; none heard
 - A vote was taken via poll; 14 votes for approval, none for disapproval
 - 2021 USSVI Northern Virginia Base Event Calendar approved



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- For the latest COVID-19 information in the Northern Virginia area visit one of the below websites:
 - Arlington County – <https://www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19/>
 - City of Alexandria – <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus>
 - Fairfax County – <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/>
 - Prince William County – <https://coronavirus.pwcgov.org>

The CDR called for any other items of new business, and none were heard.

The Binnacle List

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers: Brian Haller, Barbara Harmody, Mike Naughton, Tony Poblete, and Tom Perrault.

- A question was raised regarding Tom Perrault. He is in dementia care at the Sunrise Facility in Oakton.

For the Good of the Order, the COB read the list of birthdays for December: Sean Castell, John “Bud” Cunnally, Carol Fannan, Frank Fannan, Susan Frick, Mickey Garverick, Sheila Gilmore, Pat Haller, Darlene Jaeger, Thomas Lalor, Barbara Miller, Mary Lou Naughton, Mike Naughton, George Steeg, and Mike White.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be on January 9th via Zoom.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, the CDR wished everyone a merry and bright Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Chaplain delivered the benediction.

The CDR requested a motion to adjourn and it was seconded and so moved. The meeting was adjourned at 1155.

Submitted by Joe Castell
USSVI NOVA Base Secretary



NSL CAPITOL CHAPTER VIRTUAL MEETING INFORMATION

For a December Christmas present, we have another treat. Don Keith will be reprising a presentation that he gave at the Nautilus Museum to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of Nautilus' historic trip under the polar ice. Don is co-author with CAPT William Anderson of **THE ICE DIARIES: The True Story of One of Mankind's Greatest Adventures**. This is an excellent chance to get some real insights into what went into that voyage, from the preparations through to the political and strategic fallout after the voyage. Don's bio is below. (Truth in advertising. Don is my co-author on the HUNTER KILLER series of novels.)

Topic: NSL Capitol Chapter December Meeting

Time: **Dec 17, 2020, 03:30 PM Eastern Time** (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85028148896?pwd=aVRQNktJcSsxZmFFZEZuRnBoV3FDdz09>

Meeting ID: 850 2814 8896

Passcode: 006358

Award-winning and best-selling author Don Keith has published more than three dozen books, fiction, non-fiction, and biographies, including several national best-sellers. As a broadcast journalist, he won awards from the Associated Press and United Press International for news writing and reporting and was also the first winner of Troy University's Hector Award for innovation in broadcast journalism. As an on-the-air broadcaster, Don was twice named *Billboard Magazine* "Radio Personality of the Year."

His best-selling submarine thriller **FIRING POINT**—co-written with CDR (ret.) George Wallace--was the basis for the hit motion picture **HUNTER KILLER**, starring Gerard Butler and Gary Oldman. Keith and Wallace will release their sixth book in "The Hunter Killer Series" in Spring 2021. **THE ICE DIARIES: The True Story of One of Mankind's Greatest Adventures**, which Don co-authored with CAPT William Anderson was nominated for a Pulitzer. Don is one of the most prolific authors on submarine history currently writing several books on WW II boats in addition to **ICE DIARIES**.

Don's writing has also appeared in such publications as *The Washington Post*, *CQ Magazine*, *The American Legion Magazine*, *The K9YA Telegraph*, and *The Irish Times*. He has appeared on scores of documentaries and TV shows from Fox Nation to CSPAN's "Book TV." He also has written several movie scripts and has projects in various stages of pre-production for movies and television. His documentary film, **COLORS OF CHARACTER**, was recently released in select theaters nationwide. Among other topics, Don has written extensively about World War II history. He sponsors the **UNTOLD MILLIONS Project**, an effort to encourage the capture and archiving of eyewitness accounts of major historical events. The project web site is www.untoldmillions.net. Don's author website is www.donkeith.com.

V/R

George

George Wallace, CDR USN (Ret)

President Capitol Chapter

Naval Submarine League

415-672-0517

georgew@rmi.net



FEBRUARY 13TH BASE MEETING PRESENTATION FLYER



History of the U.S. Submarine Force In World War II

**John Lindstedt, LT, USNR (retired)
Base Historian
United States Submarine Veterans Inc.
Great Lakes Base
johnl@advancedplatingtech.com**



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VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER VETERANS INFORMATION

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/docs/VASurvivorsKit.pdf> - Planning your Legacy – VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit – this should be shared with every Veteran. This document helps you put all your important documents in one place and includes all the forms you or your spouse would need in the event of your death. I cannot tell you how many people I have helped when the death of a Veteran happened, and they could not find his/her DD214. Your DD214 is your gold card for all VA benefits.

<https://www.va.gov/va-welcome-kit-color.pdf> - This is a great document and is given to every service member when they separate from the armed forces. Of course, they may not have had this when you separated, but it can be immensely helpful to you.

Most Veterans believe they are entitled to Veteran Health Care – not necessarily true. First and foremost, there are 8 different subgroups you as a Veteran can be placed, mostly depending on your disability. You MUST register with the VA Health Care even if you are collecting a disability from VA. They do not automatically enroll you. If you are not collecting a disability from the VA, the following is for your information

In 2003, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) made the difficult decision to stop enrolling Veterans with household income exceeding the income thresholds who apply for entitlements after January 17, 2003, to ensure the provision of timely and quality medical care for those enrolled.

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/priority-groups/> - listing of all priority groups

1-877-222-8387 - This is the number to call to get your Veterans Health Benefits Handbook, it will tell you exactly what you are eligible for, but you must be registered in the Veterans Health Care to receive this booklet

<https://www.va.gov/find-locations> - Find a VA location or in-network community care provider.

<https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation/> - this benefit is for surviving spouses if the service member dies of a service-related disability, it is approximately 2,000 tax-free a month from the VA.

<https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory.html> - There are not only VA benefits but state benefits also. Check out your state on this website.