

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022**

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1031 on 8 Oct 2022, at the American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA, and he welcomed all members and guests. The guests introduced themselves: Cheryl Smith, a friend of the Varones; Anne Street, a friend of the Bishops; and the three blood relatives of our speaker.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Les Altschuler, Jim Beavers, Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Bud Cunnally, Bob Frick, Mickey Garverick, Bob Glover, Brian Haller, Bill Lawton, Chuck Martin, Lou Maruzo, Nancy O'Brien, Tim Oliver, Ronald and Traci Penatzer (speaker's parents), Mark Riethmeier, Cheryl Smith, Anne Street, Steph Treece (guest speaker), Anita Varone, Mike Varone, Penny Wallace, George Wallace, Linda Woodley (speaker's grandmother), and Woody Woodworth. (28 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

The Base Chaplain, Mickey Garverick, delivered the Invocation.

After a moment of silence, the Base Treasurer, Howard Chatham, read the list of boats lost in October. These were:

USS Seawolf (SS-197)	Oct 03, 1944
USS S-44 (SS-155)	Oct 07, 1943
USS Wahoo (SS-248)	Oct 11, 1943
USS Dorado (SS-248)	Oct 12, 1943
USS Escolar (SS-294)	Oct 17, 1944
USS Shark (SS-314)	Oct 24, 1944
USS Darter (SS-227)	Oct 24, 1944
USS Tang (SS-306)	Oct 25, 1944
USS O-5 (SS-66)	Oct 29, 1923

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBER(S) WHO DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL IN OCTOBER:

- **Charles T. Mills**, Holland Club and Lifetime SUBVET Member. Qualified onboard USS Redfish (SS-395) in 1951. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 30 October 2017.
- **Ralph M. Ghormley**, Holland Club and Lifetime SUBVET Member. Qualified onboard USS Sea Fox (SS-402) in 1952. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 7 October 2012.
- **Alfred Friedrich**, Qualified onboard USS Sea Poacher (SS-406) in 1947. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 10 October 2005.

The Ship's Bell was rung twice for the thirty-five (35) USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIAM: Submarine sailors recently departed on Eternal Patrol are:
 CAPT Zachery Taylor Pate, USN, Ret. – 4 September 2022;
 LCDR Jeff Carroll, USN, Ret. – 7 September 2022

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the September 2022 meeting were distributed earlier by e-mail. The minutes were accepted as promulgated.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the following:

NOVA Base Treasurer's Report for October 8, 2022

• Beginning Cash on Hand:	<u>\$10,611.08</u>
• Plus Receipts:	
NFCU Dividends (September)	\$0.09
Donation to Base from September 50/50 Raffle	\$55.00
Sale of Calendars	\$280.00
·Base Dues	\$125.00
·National Dues	\$50.00
Donations to USSVCF - Martin, Phoenix, and Wallace	\$100.00
• Minus Expenditures:	
Reimbursement to CDR for Appreciation Lunch	\$216.03
Payment to USSVCF Scholarship Fund	\$100.00
·Payment to USSVI for Annual Dues	\$50.00
·Reimbursement to CDR for a speaker system	\$63.59
• Ending Cash on Hand:	<u>\$10,791.55</u>
Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	\$1,379.40
• Total Local Discretionary Funds	<u>\$9,412.15</u>
• USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	<u>\$3,054.10</u>
• Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	<u><u>\$4,433.50</u></u>

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

- Membership information
 - 79 Members
 - 45 Holland Club Members
 - 02 WW II Members
 - 27 Regular Members
 - 18 – Life Members
 - 09 – Annual Members
 - 07 Associate Members

- Annual membership renewal notices have been emailed to our Annual Base members. Annual membership for USSVI National and USSVI NOVA Base expires on 31 Dec 22 and membership renewal fees must be received before that date.

CHAPLAIN:

- LCDR Carl B “Reb” Wootten, USN (Vet.) departed on eternal patrol on 10 May 22. Reb’s Naval highlights included Special Ops on USS Gudgeon (SS-567), plank owner on USS Plunger (SSN-595), and Engineer on USS Robert E. Lee (SSBN-601). He served in the Naval Reserve from 1964 until 1968. Reb was a valuable member of the USSVI Northern Virginia Base. He joined USSVI and our Base in November of 1997. Reb was a USSVI Lifetime member and Holland Club member.

USSVI National News –

- **NE Regional Director, Led Altschuler**, reported that the Tools training sessions are available. The Tools part of the national website will be going live on November 1, 2022. NE4 District CDR, Chuck Martin, replied that all Tools people in this NOVA Base, plus the EN4 District CDR are tools trained and compliant with USSVI guidance.
- **The NE4 District CDR** reported:
 - The USSV Charitable Foundation Brotherhood Fund.
 - The SUBVETS Brotherhood Fund is set up to benefit both Active Service Submariners as well as Submarine Veterans. The purpose of this fund is to provide emergency relief to SUBVETS in the case of catastrophic situations and to annually provide additional financial support to Active Service Submariners through the SUBLANT and SUBPAC Caring and Sharing programs.
 - Over the past ten years (2011 - 2021) the Brotherhood fund has disbursed more than \$73,000 in support of our Submarine Veteran shipmates in need. These disbursements included payments to the Atlantic and Pacific Submarine Force Sailor of the Year programs, recurring donations to the Groton Base Thanksgiving Dinners project, recurring support in Caring & Sharing funds for personal shipmate medical & employment tragedies, substantial support in disaster relief for hurricanes and the California "Camp Fire."
- Contact the Base CDR at CDR@ussvinova.org if you need assistance.

Naval Submarine League News:

NSL Executive Director, Tim Oliver, reported that:

- The NSL History Seminar will be streamed on the internet on 20 October at 1900. The topic will be the new book about ADM Hyman G. Rickover. The author, 2 COs of the first submarine named for ADM Rickover, and the PCO of the current submarine named for ADM Rickover will participate in a panel discussion. Go to www.navalsubleague.org/events/history-seminar/ to register and receive a link to the event.
- The NSL Annual Symposium & Industry Update will be 1-2 November in Arlington. For the agenda and how to sign up to attend any and all of the symposium go to www.navalsubleague.org/events/annual-symposium/. Tim Oliver is encouraging the Base to help start a Sub Club to support USS ALEXANDRIA and/or USS VIRGINIA. Two current Sub Clubs will have tables at the Annual Symposium to help explain what they do for their boats and how they got started. If you're interested, contact Tim at

The following items are presented by the Base leadership, **but these items were not discussed at the meeting as we had a guest speaker.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

CDR: Board of Directors meeting was held on 28 Sep 22 and discussed:

- Membership
- Holland Club
- Plans for upcoming meetings and events
- K4K status and plans
- Updates to the website, and
- USSVI National Convention.

VCDR

- The Base will be inducting Anthony “Tony” Cunningham into the Holland Club at the December 2022 meeting.

SK

- Ordered 25 Base challenge coins from SS Challenge Coins.
- Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, Holland Club pins and decals, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.
- Three 2022 USSVI Calendars are available from the Base SK. The price is \$5 per calendar plus postage if mailed.
- 2023 USSVI Calendars are available from the Base SK. The price is \$10 per calendar plus postage if mailed.
- Contact Mike Varone, at storekeeper@ussvinova.org if interested in any items.

NSL Capitol Chapter President, George Wallace, reports:

- On behalf of the DC Submarine Association, the 2022 DC Submarine Area Fall Social is scheduled for Thursday, 17 November 2022 from 1730-2030+ at Bronson Bierhall in Arlington, VA. A formal invitation with RSVP instructions to follow. Direct any questions to either Schenk, Darren D LT USN DCNO N9 (USA) darren.d.schenk.mil@us.navy.mil or Shorts, Samuel D LCDR USN CNO (USA) samuel.d.shorts.mil@us.navy.mil.

ISA/USA – Base CDR for Bud Cunnally:

- Future Congress Locations –
 - 2023 Crete Greece
 - 2024 Ireland (hosted by ISA/USA); Montenegro declined to host the 2024 congress, USA host location year was changed from 2025 to 2024.
 - 2026 France has expressed an interest

- To join the International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA Inc.) visit their website at <http://www.isausa.org/> for application. Lifetime membership is \$50.00.

Upcoming Submarine Reunions:

- USS Chivo (SS-341) – 16-20 October; North Myrtle Beach, SC
- USS Tunny (SS-282/SSN-682) – 16-20 October; New Orleans, LA
- USS Sea Cat (SS-399) – 17-20 October; Little Rock, AR
- USS Robert E Lee (SSBN-601) – 26-30 October; Mystic, CT
- USS Sea Owl (SS-405) – 2-6 November; Memphis, TN
- USS Sea Poacher (SS-406) – 2-6 November; Memphis, TN
- USS Patrick Henry (SSBN-599) – 3-6 November; Kings Bay, GA
- USS Threadfin (SS-410) – 3-6 November; Jacksonville, FL
- **Call or Email the POC listed in the American Submariner to determine the status of the reunion**

OLD BUSINESS

- The 2023 USSVI Northern Virginia Base Officer Nominating Committee is being formed.
 - The Base is seeking one or two volunteers who can contact members. Please contact the CDR if you are interested in this important committee.
 - Someone from the committee may be contacting you to see if you are interested in being a candidate for one of the Base Officer positions. If you are interested in being a candidate and not contacted by a committee member, then send the CDR an email at CDR@ussvinova.org

NEW BUSINESS

- The 2022 TRICARE Open Season is an annual period where you can enroll in or make changes to your health, dental, or vision plans for 2023.
 - TRICARE Open Season (Health): 14 Nov – 13 Dec
 - Federal Benefits Open Season (Dental or Vision): 14 Nov – 12 Dec
- Secretary of Defense memorandum, “Taking Care of Our Service Members and Families,” 22 Sep 2022
 - Discusses several recent DoD initiatives in securing affordable basic needs for our active-duty service members and their families. One that retirees and veterans benefit from is fully funding our commissaries to cut prices at the register, with the goal of achieving at least a 25 percent savings on grocery bills compared to the local marketplace (see the second bullet under the fourth paragraph). No timeline was given, but this is great news. The entire memorandum is amended to the end of the minutes.
- USSV Charitable Foundation message for donations
 - USSV Charitable Foundation President, Ken Earls, sent a memorandum requesting donations to the USSV CF. It is critical that USSV CF meets the requests in response to Hurricane Ian for our shipmates. The entire memorandum is appended to the end of the minutes.
- The Fall-Winter edition of *Shift Colors*, a newsletter for Navy retirees, is now available online at www.shiftcolors.navy.mil. Check it out, there are some good articles in it.

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS.

Alvin Anceravage, Cathy Chatham, Earl Griggs, Steve Jaeger, Francis McNamara, Tom Perrault, and Tony Poblete.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

The 50/50 drawing was won by Bob Glover, who donated his winnings back to the Base treasury. Thank you, Bob!!

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER, BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

ARE: Al Anceravage, Louise Decker, Mike Kwiecien, Lou Maruzo, Ed Mattran, Mark Shafer, George Wallace, and the United States Navy.”

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE ON NOVEMBER 12TH AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 364.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 10:58 AM to set up for the guest speaker.

At 1106 The Base Commander introduced our guest speaker, Stephanie Treece. Here is her biography, followed by a synopsis of her comments.

STEPHANIE TREECE MEM, PMP



Stephanie Treece is the Director of Production Control at Jered LLC, a world leader in marine systems for over 60 years. Presiding over the operations and execution of hundreds of defense contracts, she oversees the manufacture and delivery of complex machinery to a variety of warships for the US Navy. Her love of the sea and passion for maritime vessels developed while serving aboard the USS Florida, a nuclear powered, guided missile submarine. On board, her duties included the standard submarine fare, damage control, mission planning, reactor safety and firefighting. BUT she had one responsibility that was unique - integrating an all-male crew as one of the first female submarine officers. It was during her time living beneath the ocean's surface that she learned the importance of diversity, the clarity that comes with purpose, and the power of self-confidence.

Stephanie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Engineering from Penn State, a Master's Degree in Engineering Management from Old Dominion, and is a certified Navy Nuclear Engineer.

She enjoys volunteering with Coastal Hospice as a Veteran Liaison; visiting with Veterans and their families to recognize and celebrate their military service. When she is not at work, her favorite place to be is camping with her husband Brandon and their 6-year-old son Graham.



Officer Of the Deck; Driving through the Suez Canal in 2014

Stephanie started her talk with a sea story. As a junior officer qualifying aft while the ship prepared for an Operational Reactor Safeguards Exam (ORSE), she was the leader at the decontamination station for a “contaminated spill with a contaminated sailor” drill. As the sailor approached the station, she oversaw the stripping off of his one-piece poopie suit. The Engineer was the drill monitor. The sailor looked up at the Eng and said he was not wearing any underwear today, so he didn’t want to strip completely in front of the female officer. The Eng secured the drill and came up with a new policy that all engineering personnel had to wear underwear on drill days.

Stephanie said that the talk she gives today is her story looking through her lens of experience. She has been out of the Navy for 5 years.

She has come up with four principles to live by and to be a good shipmate on a submarine:

1. Treat all with respect
2. Meet them where they are
3. See them as a person
4. Lead with compassion.

She was an ROTC student at Penn State. On a summer cruise, she spent time underway on the USS Newport News. In 2010 she went to her nuclear Navy interview with the four Star Admiral and the SEA 08 Staff. At the time of her interview, there were no women in the nuclear engineering pipeline. Nonetheless, she told the SEA 08 staff and the Admiral that if she were to be selected that “she very much wanted to serve on a submarine, not a surface ship.” The Admiral put that comment in her folder and four months later the US Navy rules changed and women could be assigned to submarines. She was selected for US Navy nuclear power pipeline training and was commissioned. She was a part of the second class of twelve (12) women going to submarines. Her submarine was to be the USS Florida, an SSGN, and she was to be one of three female officers- one chop, one forward officer, and Steph, the baby nuc.

She said the first few weeks of submarine life seemed like a first date – lots of awkward moments. She did not name any names to protect her shipmates. But she had fond memories of her Chief Petty Officers. When she was the Reactor Controls Officer, she calls the RC Chief “Chief Fussy Bunny.” He taught her that reviewing logs, observing preventive maintenance procedures, and being meticulous about everything were just part of the division officer’s job. “Submarines first and everything else second” was his motto.

She qualified as Engineering Officer of the Watch (EOOW) and Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) aft and then spent her off-crew period riding an SSGN sister ship to get qualified forward. **She learned during her qualification months that all submariners want from a shipmate (male or female) is competence and excellence. Submariners do not suffer fools.**

She earned her dolphins on the USS Florida’s long deployment. As OOD on the bridge going thru the Suez Canal, she spotted dolphins running on either side of the sub’s bow. She said to the Captain, who was also on the bridge, “Look, Captain, dolphins. Aren’t they cute?”

Her Captain always supported her on her journey from a lowly non-qual Ensign to a fully qualified Lieutenant. On the final leg of the return to home port, Stephanie was again on the bridge with her Captain. He said to her, “Look. Dolphins. Aren’t they cute.”

Some wise words to live by:

- Be a confident leader, wherever you are.
- She left the Navy for her family – her husband and son.
- Several of her contemporaries are still in and serving as dept heads and XOs on subs.
- We now have our first female COB on a submarine – USS Louisiana (SSBN 743)
- Rickover’s quote has stuck with her: “Sit down and face the facts with an open mind.”
- The Virginia class of SSNs is now integrated.
- There is no integration on the LA class subs as the women’s toilet/berthing issues can’t be solved on that class.
- She started dating her husband in the 10th grade so he had no issues with her being with men on a sub. She had been around boys and science / STEM stuff all her life. They have a relationship of trust.

Q&A period:

There is a recruiting and retention issue in today’s submarine force. How can we fix it? She opined that we should look to our leadership to be dynamic. People want to stay in a community where they are appreciated and trained and have the opportunity to grow. She was asked if anyone had pitched the Reserves to her when she was getting out. She said “No.”

She was asked if her qualification questions seemed harder or easier than her male peers. She had no idea, but she knew the crew wanted to talk face-to-face with her rather than another male shipmate.





Stephanie making her presentation, and then Chuck presented her with a 2023 USSVI submarine calendar and the NOVA Base Challenge coin. Ya gotta love her “Bubbehead” t-shirt!!

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by
Stephen C Bishop
Secretary, USSVI Northern Virginia Base

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MEMORANDUM



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

SEP 22 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Taking Care of Our Service Members and Families

The Department of Defense has a sacred obligation to take care of our Service members and families. Doing so is a national security imperative. Our military families provide the strong foundation for our Force, and we owe them our full support.

This is also personal for me. I have seen firsthand how much our military families sacrifice to keep our Force strong, healthy, and ready to defend this exceptional Nation. In the face of challenges and frustrations, our families show incredible resilience.

Over the past year, we have focused on ways to take even better care of our Service members and their families. I am proud of the progress that we have made, and we will keep driving hard to do even more. I understand the extraordinary pressures that our military families face — and we are determined to do right by them, every step of the way. The Department's leadership, including myself, will continue to listen, learn, and lead on issues that we know are critical to stability for our outstanding military families. This includes:

Securing affordable basic needs: Our Service members and families must be able to secure affordable basic needs. It is a matter of bedrock financial security and a critical individual readiness issue. The President's budget includes a 4.6 percent pay increase for Service members starting January 1, 2023. To further address this issue, I direct the Department to:

- Review the prospective 2023 Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) tables to ensure that calculations reflect the unusually dynamic fluctuations in the housing market. I further direct automatic increases in BAH for active duty Service members in the 28 Military Housing Areas that have experienced an average of more than 20 percent spike in rental housing costs this year above this year's BAH rates. These automatic increases will go into effect in October 2022.
- Fully fund our commissaries to cut prices at the register, with the goal of achieving at least a 25 percent savings on grocery bills compared to the local marketplace.
- Pay eligible Service members a Basic Needs Allowance starting January 2023, which is a supplemental allowance for Service members who qualify based on their gross household income.



OSD007603-22/CMD009738-22

Making moves easier: Service members and families are required to move frequently, and these moves often come with costs that can strain budgets and cause financial uncertainty. Last year, I directed the extension of Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE) beyond 10 days for Service members and families searching for housing in areas experiencing housing shortages. To further ease the process of permanent change of station (PCS) moves, I direct the Department to:

- Permanently increase standard TLE maximum coverage from 10 days to 14 days for CONUS moves and allow up to 60 days of TLE if a Service member is in a specified Military Housing Area with a housing shortage. This will give Service members and families significantly more flexibility to secure housing during a PCS move. This will take effect in October 2022.
- Increase the dislocation allowance (DLA) for E-1 to E-6 Service members to further help offset personal expenses for PCS moves. DLA payments for all Service members will now be paid automatically one month prior to their move date to preempt out-of-pocket expenses. This will take effect in October 2022.
- Continue improvements to Military OneSource, the Department's information portal for military families, through enhancements to the online moving and housing tools. These online resources must be clear, intuitive, and easy to navigate.

Further strengthening our support to families: We have made significant progress in this area, but I remain determined to do far more. We have expanded parental leave policies to cover non-chargeable leave following the birth or adoption of a child for both active duty and eligible Reserve Component Service members. The Department has broadened the New Parent Support Program to help parents through the joyous but often challenging transition to parenthood, and have updated policies to reimburse nursing Service members for shipment of breast milk when on mandated temporary duty travel for more than three days up to 24 months after giving birth.

We must continue to push hard to provide even more affordable child care options for military families. Military Child Development Centers have extended their hours to provide additional coverage for our Service members to account for the varied schedules of military service. The Department has reached out to additional high quality, community based child care providers who agree to provide care for military families using our fee-assistance program.

Yet with child care shortages affecting the entire country, we must do more to help our Service members and military children. To further support our military families with children, I direct the Department to:

- Make significant investments in Child Development Program (CDP) facilities and infrastructure to further expand our capacity to provide quality child care.
- Standardize a minimum 50 percent employee discount for the first child of our CDP direct-care workers to help attract more talented staff and to increase capacity. This will take effect in October 2022.

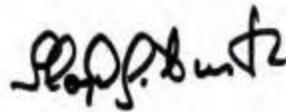
- Improve access to child care programs and resources such as Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood and expand the in-home child care fee assistance pilot program to additional states to provide more options to military families.

Expanding spousal employment: Military spouses provide the strong foundation upon which their loved ones in uniform stand — and our communities and our Nation rely on their resilience. We owe them our energetic, unwavering support. To further expand employment opportunities for military spouses, I direct the Department to:

- Accelerate the development of seven additional occupational licensure interstate compacts with organizations representing multiple professions. This will ease a burden for spouses who must go through the often challenging and frustrating process of transferring their professional licenses or credentials with each PCS move.
- Increase the use of noncompetitive, direct-hiring authorities for military spouses in the Department of Defense and further expand remote-work and telework options to help military spouses build portable careers.
- Launch a new career accelerator pilot initiative that will match military spouses with paid private-sector fellowships in a variety of career paths. This will take effect in January 2023.
- Increase the number of partners in the Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP) program by 10 percent before January 2023. MSEP is critical in connecting military spouses to organizations that have committed to hiring efforts.

The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness will oversee implementation of this memorandum, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and the Secretaries of the Military Departments. The Department will continue to monitor progress of these initiatives through the Deputy's Workforce Council and through regular updates to me.

These actions reflect the Department's sacred obligation to honor and support our Service members and families. We remain profoundly committed to doing right by our military families, just as our military families remain profoundly committed to their loved ones and to the Nation that they all do so much to defend.



Call for USSV CF Donations

A note about your recent USSVI signup request.



From the Desk of National Commander Bill Andrea

From our USSVI Charitable Fund President:

Shipmates,

As you are aware Hurricane Ian wreaked havoc on the state of Florida and the Carolinas last weekend.

What you may not know is how that has impacted over 1,000 Florida USSVI members and their families. In the southwest part of Florida alone, we have over 150 members who were in Ian's path of destruction. At the time of this email, there are still almost 600,000 Floridians without power.

We are already aware of some who lost everything! Many more will incur significant out-of-pocket expenses to meet deductibles and help with cleanup efforts. Officials are predicting total damage costs from the hurricane could top \$60 Billion.

What we're asking is for you to help these shipmates, your Shipmate by making a tax-deductible donation through the USSV Charitable Foundation. All donations will go directly to those affected by hurricane Ian.

Donations can be made by going to www.ussvcf.org and clicking on the hurricane relief

button.

Thank you for your help in this critical time of need for our shipmates; it's times like these that we pull together and demonstrate why the Brotherhood of the Phin is "a brotherhood like no other."

Ken Earls
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