

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023

The Base Vice Commander, (VCDR), George Wallace, called the meeting to order at 1110 on May 13, 2023, at Amphora Diner Deluxe Restaurant, 1151 Elden St, Herndon, VA, and welcomed RDML Robert Frick, Holland Club inductees, Chuck Martin, (USSVI Northeast District Four Commander), Holland Club members, regular and associate members, and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Jim Beavers, Stephen Bishop, Debbie Bishop, Bruce Byrd, Brenda Byrd, Joe Castell (Zoom), Bud Cunnally (Zoom), Howard Chatham, Cathy Chatham, Bob Frick, Bob Glover, Ron Grabowski, Eloise Grabowski, Brian Haller, Pat Haller, Ginger Haskell, Steve Jaeger, Darlene Jaeger, Jim Kraut, Bonnie Kraut, John Lindstedt, Cindy Lindstedt, Chuck Martin, Jere Minich, Nancy O'Brien, Tim Oliver, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, Mike Varone, Anita Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, and Woody Woodworth (33 total).

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

Steve Jaeger delivered the Invocation.

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

USS Lagarto (SS-371)	May 3, 1945
USS Squalus (SS-192)	May 23, 1939
USS Stickleback (SS-415)	May 30, 1958
USS Scorpion (SSN-589)	May 22, 1968

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBER WHO DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL SINCE OUR LAST BASE MEETING:

- **CDR Robert R. Miller, USN (Ret.)**, Holland Club and USSVI Life Member, Qualified on USS Baya (SS/AGSS-318) in 1957. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 23 April 2023.

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

- **Benny L. Parker**, Holland Club and USSVI Life Member, Qualified on USS Sea Owl (SS-405) in 1949. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 4 May 2014.
- **Ralph E. Chatham**, Qualified on USS Barbel (SS-580) in 1972. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 18 May 2013.
- **Arthur G. Smith**, Holland Club and Submarine Veterans of WWII Member, Qualified on USS Skate (SS-305) in 1944. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 30 May 2010.
- **Richard A. McSpadden**, USSVI Life Member, Qualified on USS Trigger (SS-564) in 1957. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 28 May 2009.
- **William Knull, Jr.**, Holland Club and Submarine Veterans of WWII Member, Qualified on USS Apogon (SS-308) in 1944. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 28 May 2008.

The COB tolled the ship's bell twice in remembrance of the 37 members of the USSVI NOVA Base on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIAM:

CAPT Louis Hughes, USN, Ret. – 27 February 2023
CAPT Burton M. Saft, USN, Ret. – 21 March 2023
CAPT Hugo Edward Marxer, USN, Ret – 2 April 2023
CAPT Richard John Noreika, USN, Ret. – 5 April 2023
CAPT Ed Morgan, USN, Ret. - 15 April 2023
ETC (SS) Frederick "Carl" Schmidt – 16 April 2023

BINNACLE LIST: Please keep the following in your prayers: Al Anceravage, Debbie Bishop, Art Bivens, Francis McNamara, and Tom Perrault.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: The VCDR read the list of birthdays for May: Joe Castell, Bill Clement, Mike Harmody, Cindy Lindstedt, Mark Riethmeier, Noland Smith, Anita Varone, Penny Wallace, Ron Williams, and The United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

The following items of normal committee reports and old and new business are included here for completeness, but were not discussed at the meeting:

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the April meeting were previously distributed by e-mail.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NOVA Base Treasurer's Report for May 13, 2023

● Beginning Cash on Hand:	<u>\$11,282.66</u>
● Plus Receipts:	
•NFCU Dividends (April)	\$0.09
•Donation to Base from April 50/50 Raffle	\$17.00
•Base Dues (5 years) from Duncan	\$75.00
● Minus Expenditures:	
•Reimbursement to George Wallace for two more Holland Club submarine prints	\$80.34
•Reimbursement to Brian Haller for Dale City 4 th of July Parade Souvenir Book Ad	\$65.00
● Ending Cash on Hand:	<u>\$11,229.41</u>
Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	<u>\$1,379.40</u>
● Total Local Discretionary Funds	<u>\$9,850.01</u>
● USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	\$3,054.10
● Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	<u><u>\$4,433.50</u></u>

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP

- Membership information
 - 83 Members
 - 46 Holland Club Members
 - 02 WW II Members
 - 28 Regular Members
 - 15 – Base Life Members
 - 13 – Base Annual Members
 - 09 Associate Members

K4K Program: Nothing to Report. (NTR)

Storekeeper: NTR

PAO: NTR

OLD / NEW BUSINESS

The Base VCDR turned over the podium to the Master of Ceremonies for the Holland Club Induction, Base COB, Michael Varone.



The COB then introduced our guest speaker RDML Robert Ellis Frick.

**OUR SPEAKER'S REMARKS WERE UNDER CHATHAM HOUSE RULES
– NO RECORDINGS AND NON-ATTRIBUTION.**

RDML ROBERT ELLIS FRICK, USN (RET.)

Bob Frick enlisted in the U.S. Navy in October 1961. After graduation from Boot Camp, ET “A” School, and Basic Submarine School, he reported aboard USS Sabalo (SS 302), where he Qualified in Submarines in 1963.

ETR3 (SS) Frick was selected for the NESEP program while at Nuclear Prototype Training and in August 1964, he enrolled at Purdue University. In January 1969, he was awarded concurrent Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in Mechanical Engineering.

After commissioning as an Ensign, he completed Nuclear Power School, Nuclear Prototype Training, and Submarine School.

As an officer, RDML Frick served on USS WILL ROGERS (SSBN 659) (GOLD), USS Haddock (SSN 621), USS Drum SSN 677, and USS Kamehameha (SSBN 642), and commanded USS Birmingham (SSN 695).

Following his command tour, RDML Frick completed tours as Deputy Commander for Readiness and Training, Submarine Squadron One and Senior Member of the Pacific Fleet Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board. Selected as a Material Professional, he transferred to the Acquisition Community in 1990 and then served as Assistant Major Program Manager for Los Angeles Class Submarine Design, Development, Construction and Delivery and as Senior Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology where he was selected for promotion to Rear Admiral (Lower Half).

RDML Frick’s initial Flag Officer assignment was as Deputy Commander, Submarines, Naval Sea Systems Command.

In January 1995, RDML Frick was assigned as the Program Executive Officer, Submarines, where he was responsible for the Design, Development, Construction and Delivery of the Seawolf and Virginia Class Submarines as well as the Submarine Safety Certification Authority for new construction submarines.

On 1 October 1997, RDML Frick retired from Active Duty. He was recognized by Congressman Sam Gjedeson (D, CT) on the floor of the House of Representatives for his “...exceptional contributions during his career to the United States Navy and the United States of America”. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) for his 36 years of highly successful and dedicated service to his country.

Following his retirement from the Navy RDML Frick has served in various leadership positions in the defense industry.

From August 2018 to June 2022, RDML Frick volunteered to modernize and expand the USSVCF ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM which provided nearly \$400,000 in scholarships to children and grandchildren of USSVI Member Sponsors.

Currently, RDML Frick is still serving our Navy and Nation as a member of the Board of Directors and VP Planning for Bartlett Maritime Corporation in a massive drive to provide rapid expansion and modernization of the U.S. Navy's severe and critical lack of maintenance modernization and skilled trades. Bob strongly believes that the lost operating days of our SSN Force over the past five years is a True National Security Crisis.

RDML Frick has been married to Susan Mitchell Frick since February 1971. They reside in Haymarket, Virginia and enjoy their children and five grandchildren.

The attendees then welcomed Rear Admiral Frick, who delivered his remarks.

After his speech, the COB thanked him and presented him with a NOVA Base challenge coin.



The COB and RDML Bob Frick

We then broke for the plated, served luncheon of salad, Steak Diane, Chicken Breast Piccata, or Poached Salmon, and various desserts.

After lunch, the Master of Ceremonies stated that the reason for this special meeting is to show our appreciation, to recognize, and to thank three of our shipmates by inducting them into the prestigious United States Submarine Veterans Holland Club: **MT2(SS) BRUCE BYRD, MT2(SS) RON GRABOWSKI, and LTJG BRIAN HALLER.**

Before the Induction, all Holland Club members in attendance were asked to stand so they too could be recognized. Holland Club members [Jim Beavers](#), [Howard Chatham](#), [Bob Frick](#), [Bob Glover](#), [Steve Jaeger](#), [Jim Kraut](#), [Tim Oliver](#), [Joe Phoenix](#), [Mike Varone](#), and [Woody Woodworth](#) all stood and received a round of applause.

The Master of Ceremonies called the three inductees forward to the head table. He read their biographies, and then the Secretary Steve Bishop read and presented the USSVI Holland Club certificates and cards; the Vice Commander George Wallace presented the Holland Club ball caps, patches, and coins; and the Base Treasurer Howard Chatham presented the large qualification posters.





Bruce Byrd



Ron Grabowski



Brian Haller

All three of the newly inducted Holland Club Members each spoke a few heart-felt words thanking the submarine force, their families, friends, and USSVI for their support over the years.

MTCS(SS) Bruce Byrd, USN (Ret.)

Bruce Byrd graduated from Stonewall Jackson Senior High School in 1970 and enlisted in the Navy. After Boot Camp, he was assigned to GMS Dam Neck, where he completed Polaris Electronics "A" and "C" Schools and proceeded to Submarine School. Following Sub School, MT3 Bruce Byrd reported to USS WOODROW WILSON (SSBN-624) (GOLD) in May 1972. He was promoted to MT2 in the Fall of 1972 and completed his required weapons and ship's qualifications during his first patrol. He was designated Qualified in Submarines in November 1972.

WILSON was subsequently transferred to Newport News Shipbuilding for overhaul and Poseidon conversion. During overhaul, Bruce was promoted to MT1(SS). After overhaul, Bruce served on WILSON's Blue crew.

In 1977, he transferred to Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine Training Center where he was an instructor.

From 1980 to 1983 MTC(SS) Byrd served aboard USS HENRY L. STIMSON (SSBN-655) (BLUE) and from 1983 to he was assigned to Submarine Squadron 16 Submarine Maintenance Monitoring Team Performance Monitoring Team.

Bruce attended the Senior Enlisted Academy in 1986 and was the MPS Richmond Command Senior Chief from 1986 to 1990.

In 1990, Bruce retired as MTCS(SS).

MT2(SS) Ron Grabowski, USN (Vet.)

Ron Grabowski enlisted in the Navy in June 1969. He completed boot camp at NTC Great Lakes where he volunteered for submarines.

After sub school, Ron was stationed aboard USS HOLLAND (AS-32) in Rota, Spain. In June 1972, he transferred to USS THOMAS A. EDISON (SSBN 610) (BLUE), where he Qualified in Submarines in March 1973.

After two deterrent patrols, EDISON was sent to Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, CA, for overhaul.

Following overhaul, EDISON changed home port to Pearl Harbor, where Ron participated in shake down operations for nine months.

Ron left the Navy in October 1975.

Captain Brian Q. Haller, SC, USN (Ret.)

Brian Haller graduated from Miami University, Oxford, OH, in 1971 with a B.S. in Applied Science (Systems Analysis) and was commissioned through the Contract NROTC program as an Ensign (Supply Corps). He completed the Supply Corps Basic Course in Athens, GA, with orders to USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN 642) (Blue). He completed the Submarine Officers Indoctrination Course and reported as Supply Officer aboard KAMEHAMEHA, then undergoing nuclear refueling, Poseidon conversion and overhaul at Electric Boat in Groton, CT.

He served on KAMEHAMEHA through overhaul, Demonstration and Shakedown Operation, missile shoot, sound trials, and Post-Conversion Availability before departing on patrol and change of refit site to Rota, Spain. He completed his submarine qualification aboard KAMEHAMEHA in July 1973.

After patrols on KAMEHAMEHA, he transferred to Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, SC, where he served as Control Division and Assistant Base Supply Officer.

After his Marine Aviation tour, Brian returned to the submarine force aboard USS SIMON LAKE (AS 33) in Submarine Squadron 16 in Rota, Spain. During his tour, SIMON LAKE changed homeport to Charleston, SC, underwent overhaul and Trident conversion at Charleston Naval Shipyard, completed Operational Propulsion Plant Examination, post-overhaul training and evaluation at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and transferred to operating in Submarine Squadron 18 at Naval Weapons Station Charleston.

Tours at Charleston Naval Shipyard, Polaris Material Office Atlantic, and Commander Submarine Force Atlantic followed before Brian moved over to tours in Full Time Support of Reserves (FTS).

Brian's FTS tours included Naval Reserve Readiness Command REGION FIVE, Naval Supply Center Charleston, SC, Naval Supply Systems Command Headquarters (2 tours), and Commander Naval Reserve Force Headquarters as Force N4. His final tour was as Reserve Coordinator (J9) for Defense Logistics Agency Headquarters (DLA HQ), where he was responsible for Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps Reservists for all DLA commands. Brian retired from DLA HQ in June 2001, completing a 30-year career.

After his naval career, Brian worked as an IT project manager for CACI for 17 years, retiring in 2018.

Brian has been married to the former Patricia Wyrick of Lancaster, OH, for 52 years. They have a son, Christopher, Daughter-in-Law Natalie, and granddaughter Evienne, who reside in Littleton, CO.

Northeast District Four Commander, Chuck Martin, had a special Holland Club presentation for one of our guests, FTB1(SS) Jere Minich, USN (Ret.). Jere is an at-large member of USSVI, as he lives in both Tennessee and Michigan. He is a long-time friend of, and is visiting, the Phoenix's. Chuck presented him a letter, coin, and poster for Holland Club.



Jere Minich

The **Benediction** was delivered by Steve Jaeger.

The Base COB thanked Penny and George Wallace, Cathy and Howard Chatham, and Mike Varone for coordinating this Holland Club Event.

The COB reminded ALCON that the next meeting will be on June 10th at 1030, at:
American Legion Post 364
3640 Friendly Post Lane
Woodbridge, VA 22192

The meeting adjourned at 1337.

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