

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, 13 APRIL, 2024

The Base CDR, Brian Haller, called the meeting to order at 1035 on 13 April 2024 at American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Ron Grabowski, Pat Haller, Brian Haller, Jim Kraut, Randy Tran, Mike Varone, Penny Wallace, George Wallace, Woody Woodworth, and Mark Riethmeier (via Zoom). (12 attendees)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

The Base CDR delivered the Invocation.

The list of boats lost in the month of April and a historical moment were not read due to the nature of today's Tolling of the Boats ceremony honoring all lost boats.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBER WHO DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL IN APRIL:

- **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.
- **Margaret Williams**, wife of Ron Williams and an Associate Member. Departed on her Eternal Patrol on 25 April 2013.
- **Arthur C. Esposito**, Qualified onboard the USS Dogfish (SS-350), 1964. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 21 April 2005.

THE BELL WAS TOLLED TWICE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 42 USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBERS ON ETERNAL PATROL.

IN MEMORIAM:

Dr. Eyo Ita, III – 6 March 2024

CAPT Christopher P. Anklan, USN (Ret.) – 15 March 2024

CAPT Frank Visted, USN (Ret.) – 20 March 2024

CDR Richard Emmett, USN (Ret.) – 26 March 2024

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the March meeting were distributed by e-mail/USPS. There was no discussion of them and they were accepted as promulgated.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Base Treasurer, Howard Chatham, reported:

NOVA Base Treasurer's Report for April 13, 2024

● Beginning Cash on Hand:	\$13,046.03
● Plus Receipts:	
● NFCU Checking Account Dividends (March)	\$0.07
● NFCU CD Dividends (March)	\$20.62
● Donation to Base from March 50/50 Raffle	\$25.00
● Donation to Base from C. Martin	\$20.00
● Donation to USSVCF Scholarship fund – C. Martin	\$20.00
● SK sales	\$30.00
● Minus Expenditures:	
● Payment to National for USSVCF Scholarship Fund	\$20.00
● Payment to National for Boat Sponsorship Program	\$60.00
● Reimbursement to H. Chatham for ToB programs	\$33.70
● Reimbursement to B. Haller for HC certificate folders	\$202.20
● Reimbursement to B. Haller for printing of Base cards	\$48.61
● Ending Cash on Hand:	\$12,797.21
Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	\$1,379.40
Minus NFCU 12-month Share Certificate (CD)	\$5,000.00
● Total Local Discretionary Funds	\$6,417.81
● USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	\$2,135.41
● Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	\$3,514.81

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

BASE MEMBERSHIP – Howard Chatham reported the following information:

- 89 Members
 - 49 Holland Club Members
 - 1 WW II Member
 - 31 Regular Members

- 12 – Base Life Members
 - 19 – Base Annual Members
- 9 Associate Members
- Our Newest Member remains Jeff Leonard.

In order to allow time for the Tolling of the Boats ceremony the following information was not addressed at the meeting but is included in these minutes for your situational awareness.

USSVI National/NE Regional/NE District 4 News -

- National Officers and Regional Directors election is this year.
 - NE Regional Director candidates are:
 - Jeff Walsh – National Awards Chair, NE One District CDR
 - Chuck Martin – 2023-2024 District Commander of the Year, NE Four District CDR
- Upcoming NE4 District Base Events
 - May 11 – NOVA Base – Holland Club Induction Luncheon
 - May 18 – Capitol Base – Tolling of the Boats at Arlington National Cemetery
 - May 18 – Chesapeake Base – Tolling of the Boats at USS Torsk in Baltimore, MD
 - May 26 – Chesapeake Base – Tolling of the Boats at USNA
 - May 27 – Capitol Base – Memorial Day Wreath Laying in Rockville, MD
- NE4 District Good of the Order drawing will be held on 1 June. The winner will receive 80% and the winner’s base 20% of the ticket revenue. Tickets are \$10 for one or \$50 for six. Chuck has tickets available if you are interested.
- The 2024 National Convention, hosted by Cod Base, will be in Cleveland (Independence), OH, August 19 – 24, 2024 (<https://subvetconvention.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/codbaseussvi>).
 - The Convention Hotel is the Embassy Suites by Hilton Cleveland Rockside with a room rate of \$109 per night.
 - The room rate includes free breakfast and a Manager’s Reception (2 complimentary drinks).

Naval Submarine League (NSL) –:

- The Base VCDR and Penny Wallace attended the recent Sea-Air-Space Expo and helped man the NSL booth.

- The upcoming Submarine Technology Symposium will be held at JHU/APL 14 - 16 May 2024 and will be a classified event.
- NSL Capitol Chapter
 - Next Capitol Chapter Luncheon Meeting will be held 26 April 2024 at the Army-Navy Country Club.

International Submarine Association (ISA)/USA –

- The 2024 Congress is planned for 26 – 30 May in Ireland sponsored by ISA/USA with two more days (30 – 31 May) in Northern Ireland hosted by the UK.
- To join the International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA Inc.) visit their website at <http://www.isausa.org/> for an application. Lifetime Membership is \$50.00.

Upcoming Submarine Reunions –

- USS Batfish (SSN 681) May 7-10, 2024, Nashville, TN
 - USS Spinax (SS 489) May 14-16, 2024, North Little Rock, AR
 - USS Hawkbill (SSN 666) May 20-24, 2024, Galveston, TX
 - USS Louisville (SSN 724) July 24-27, 2024, Louisville, KY
 - USS Nathan Hale (SSBN 623) August 23-27, 2024, Cleveland, OH
 - USS Growler (SSG 577) September 20-22, 2024, New York, NY
 - Navy Deep Submergence Group Assn. September 27-29, 2024, Silverdale, WA
 - USS Angler (SS 240) September 29 – October 3, 2024, New London, CT
 - USS Cavalla (SS 244/SSN 684) September/October 2024 (Dates TBD), Groton, CT
 - USS Patrick Henry (SSBN/SSN 599) October 3-6, 2024, San Antonio, TX
- Call or email the POC listed in the American Submariner to determine the status of the reunion.

STOREKEEPER:

- Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, Holland Club pins and decals, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.
- 2024 USSVI Calendars are still available from the Base SK. The price is now \$7 per calendar plus postage if mailed.
- USSVI 60th anniversary coins/patches can be ordered from the SK.
- Contact Base SK, at storekeeper@ussvinova.org if interested in any items.

OLD BUSINESS

- USS Groton Sail Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax exempt nonprofit organization focused on building a lasting public monument to celebrate their region's contribution to our nation's defense. The centerpiece of the monument will be the USS Groton's sail and rudder, which will serve as a permanent tribute to the Navy's submarine community, past, present, and future. The Foundation is now attempting to raise \$2 million to secure a site in Groton, Connecticut and to build the monument. They are selling pavers and taking donations at <https://grotonsail.com>.

NEW BUSINESS - None

THE BINNACLE LIST currently includes:

Steve Jaeger, Terry McNamara, Tom Perrault, and Tim Shannon.

For the Good of the Order, the COB read the list of birthdays for April: Jim Beavers, Robert Frick, Rufino Guntang, Paul Nelson, Tim Oliver, Patrick Peterson, Willie Petruy, Randy Tran, and the U.S. Submarine Service. [A submarine birthday greeting from RADM Steven Maas, SC, USN (Ret.), President, Board of Directors, Dolphin Scholarship Foundation is included at the end of these minutes.]

The **50/50 raffle** was won by Pat Haller who donated her winnings back to the Base.

TOLLING OF THE BOATS:

“The "Tolling the Boats" ceremony was originally established by the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II. It is a unique and time-honored memorial service and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Navy. Custom has established that this ceremony be formal, and it honors the memory of those submariners who lost their lives in the line of duty, and especially those who perished during World War II. In the heart of the ceremony the names of each of the U.S. submarines lost, along with the fate of its crew, are read aloud as a bell is tolled for each in turn.”

The solemn Tolling of the Boats ceremony was conducted using the Base presentation with candles being extinguished at tables by the attendees after each boat's name was read. The Treasurer and VCDR split the duties of reading the script and the COB rang the ship's bell after each boat's name was called. The ship's bell was then rung for the 42 NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

After the ceremony, a sparkling wine/cider toast to the past, present, and future U.S. Submarine Service was offered by the Base VCDR.

The next meeting will be at 1100 on May 11th for the 2024 Holland Club Induction and Luncheon Ceremony at Amphora Diner Deluxe, 1151 Elden St., Herndon, VA 20170). Dress is Service Dress Blue, Equivalent Civilian Business Attire, or USSVI vest and tie. The invitation to the membership will be sent out by the Base CDR this week.

The Benediction was delivered by the Secretary.

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 1121.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by
Howard Chatham
Secretary, USSVI Northern Virginia Base



Happy 124th Birthday, Submarine Force!

Yesterday morning I was walking our sheepdog on a nearly deserted beach. I encountered another walker, who noticed my "NAVY" ball cap and thanked me for my service. I replied, "thank you, it was an honor to serve." She said her son was an Army Major and he currently flies Apache helicopters along the DMZ in Korea. She then asked me what I did in the Navy, and I said I was a Supply Corps Officer, and spent over half my career in the Submarine Force. She responded, "That seems so dangerous, I don't know how you all do that." As we parted ways, I reflected on her comment. Her son is in about as dangerous a place as I can imagine, with a high danger potential job, and she wondered how we submariners can do what we do.

We do it because we love the challenge and the camaraderie of submarining, and for the most part, we take the danger, isolation, and the demands of operating our ships in a hostile and unforgiving environment as "routine." The Submarine Force has been a cornerstone of our Nation's defense for over a century. We were a key to victory in our war in the Pacific in World War II, and paid a terrible price in the loss of 52 submarines. We may well be called upon to secure the blessings of freedom in the future, and must never take our importance or contribution for granted.

I wish all of the men and women who have served or are serving in the Submarine Force, and the families who support them a Happy Birthday!

RADM Steven W. Maas, SC, USN, (Ret.)
President, Board of Directors
Dolphin Scholarship Foundation