



Holland Club History (February 22, 2001) Rev 2012

The following information was compiled by William 'Bill' Britt.

"To the best of my knowledge and from information supplied from shipmates the Holland Club concept was originally proposed by Charlie Marin San Diego Base and Past National Commander 1994 - 1996.

The Holland Club was established in May 1994 and was adopted as part of the Constitution and bylaws that year to recognize those members

who had been qualified in Submarines 50 or more years. Just think, looking back from our founding in 1964 fifty years the Submarine force would only be 14 years old. Truly we are talking about the pioneers of our Submarine Navy.

The original Holland Club membership card was a paper membership card with the words "Holland Club" stamped on it. Later, about 1994, a newly designed card was introduced. This was a plastic card with the USSVI emblem and the words "Holland Club" and the members name embossed on it.

In 1996 the Perch Base submitted a Holland Club Patch designed by Frank Rumbaugh denoting the 50 years of service. This patch along with a Holland Club Membership card and Certificate is now presented to new Holland Club members.

The requirements for membership remained the same as originally adopted until 1998 when a change was voted to allow Sub Vets of W.W.II members who had been members in good standing for at least one year the opportunity to become Holland club members.

The first information I found concerning Holland Club was in the American Submariner January March 1996 issue where I found a Holland Club membership roster containing 68 names. To my knowledge these were the original plank owners and our commissioning crew.

This sailing list identifies our first Holland Club Commander Leroy Hoppe, Thresher Base, who qualified on USS S-39 in 1925.

Amongst the names listed were 4 Admirals and one Captain: Admiral B. L. Carr; Admiral Ignatius Joseph 'Pete' Galantin; Vice Admiral Phil Beshaney; Vice Admiral Eugene Fluckey (MOH); Rear Admiral John M. Barrett; and Captain Henry B. Sweitzer.

The earliest qualification date listed (Hoppe) is 1925, the latest was 1945. Some of these men qualified on such Boats as the O-4, R-4, SS-11, and SS-67."

Pride Runs Deep

William E 'Bill' Britt, Holland Club Commander 2000-2008
(Born Dec 25, 1927, On Eternal Patrol June 3, 2012)