

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE  
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019**

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1111 on May 11, 2019 at American Legion Post 177, Fairfax, VA and welcomed all members and guests. The Base Officers introduced themselves as did our guest, Robert Maydwell from the Capitol Base.

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:** George Billy, Stephen Bishop, **Debbie Bishop**, **Art Bivens**, Howard Chatham, **Bob Glover**, Brian Haller, **Pat Haller**, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, **Ed Mattran**, Robert Maydwell, **Paul Nelson**, Tim Oliver, Mark Riethmeier, **Anthony Velarde**, George Wallace, and **Woody Woodworth**. (18 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The VCDR, Brian Haller, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Base Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

The Base Chaplain then 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

The VCDR tolled the ship's bell for each boat and then twice in remembrance of the 25 members of the USSVI NOVA Base on Eternal Patrol.

**IN MEMORIAM:** CAPT William Ratliff, USN, Ret. – 4/19/19 and RADM Henry Herrera, USN, Ret. – 4/25/19.

**BASE HISTORIAN:** Woody Woodworth read excerpts from various articles and a biography of Admiral John S. McCain, Jr. whose father was also an Admiral and was father to the late Captain and Senator John S. McCain, III. A copy of this material is included at the end of these minutes.

**MEETING MINUTES:**

The minutes from the April 2019 meeting were disseminated to the membership. There was no discussion. The minutes were accepted.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Steve Jaeger read the reported which was accepted as read.

- Beginning Cash on Hand \$ 8,457.03
  - Receipts: \$ 81.37
    - Donations-Base
    - Interest/Dividends
    - Revenue-Raffles (50/50)
- Expenditures: \$ 268.64
  - Other-Advertising (Business Cards/Tri-fold)
  - Base Events (2019 HC)
- Ending Sub-Total \$ 8,269.76
  - Minus Remaining Walmart Grant rest. use funds (\$ 1,169.40)
- Grand Total (Discretionary) \$ 7,100.76
- NOVA USSVICF K4K Total: \$ 1,672.44

**MEMBERSHIP:** Steve Jaeger reported that the Base has 79 members:

- 41 Holland Club members (3 of which are WW II veterans)
- 27 Regular members
- 9 Associate members

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The Executive Board meeting was held electronically on May 1<sup>st</sup> and discussed committee reports, meeting related items, old business, new business, and meeting/event planning.

**VICE CDR:** Brian Haller congratulated the Base's 2019 Holland Club initiates for this year: **Rodey Batiza** and **William Waylett**. As both members now live out of state their Holland Club memberships, certificates, hats, coins, etc. will be sent to them in the coming week. Brian also reported that he had the pleasure and honor to present a Naval Submarine League award at last month's NROTC awards ceremony at Savannah State University in Savannah GA.

**KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS):** Howard Chatham reported on the K4K visit to UVA Charlottesville Children's Hospital last month noting that they saw 12 children. They also made the new Child Life Specialist, Danielle, an honorary submariner as well as presenting her with two USSVI 2019 calendars donated by Joe Phoenix and Woody Woodworth. The next K4K visit will be to **Walter Reed Military Medical Center (aka Bethesda) on June 27<sup>th</sup> at 1030**. Contact Howard at 703-573-1523 if you would like to participate.

**Scouting Recognition:** Chuck Martin reported that he and the COB (Mike Varone) participated in the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Mason Miller in Staunton, VA on April 6<sup>th</sup>. They will be joining representatives from the Capital Base in another Court of Honor on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Storekeeper:** Howard Chatham reported that he has a number of submarine and Navy related stickers/decals/patches and USSVI NOVA Base patches and coins for sale.

**Naval Submarine League:** George Wallace, President of the NSL Capitol Chapter, reported on upcoming NSL events:

- Battle of Midway Dinner - June 4, 2019 at the Army Navy Country Club, 1700 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA. Reception at 1800, Dinner at 1900
  - o Dinner speaker is Liza Mundy, the author of "Code Girls"
  - o Visit <http://www.bomcommemoration.org/> for online registration;
- 2019 classified Submarine Technology Symposium - May 14-16, 2019 at Johns Hopkins APL;
- 2019 Annual Symposium and Industry Update - November 6-7, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City;
- Submarine Races the last week in June at NSWC Carderock, volunteers are needed to assist in the activities.

Tim Oliver, NSL Executive Director, thanked all the USSVI (and NSL) members (Chuck Martin, Brian Haller, Mike Varone, Paul Nelson, and Howard Chatham) who helped to man their booth at the Navy League Sea-Air-Space Expo earlier this week.

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR AND/OR DISTRICT CDR REPORT** – The CDR and Robert Maydwell reported that the USSVI Capitol Base will hold their annual Tolling of the Boats ceremony on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the F-4 gravesite in Arlington National Cemetery commencing at 1100. The alternate location in the event of bad weather is Church of Christ At Manor Woods, 5300

Norbeck Rd, Rockville, MD 20853. USSVI Capitol Base will decide the location of the event on May 15, 2019. The CDR will distribute the news on the location to the Base.

**Submarine Reunions:** Brian Haller read the list of upcoming reunions:

- USS Salmon (SSR 573) – 5/13-16/2019; Branson, MO
- USS Picuda (SS 382) – 5/13-17/2019; Savannah, GA
- USS Quillback (SS 424) – 5/13-17/2019; Savannah, GA
- USS Trutta (SS-421) – 5/13-17/2019; Savannah, GA
- USS James Madison (SSBN 627) – 5/15-18/2019; Rapid City, SD
- USS Birmingham (SSN 695) – 5/24-26/2019; Columbus, OH
- USS Sea Owl (SS 405) – 6/7-9/2019; Groton, CT
- USS Tullibee (SSN 597) – 6/20-23/2019; Branson, MO
- USS Hammerhead (SSN 663) – 6/27/2019-7/1/2019; Waukesha, WI
- USS Spadefish (SSN 668) – 7/10-14/2019; Norfolk, VA
- USS Kamehameha (SSBN 642) – 10/21-25/2019; Jacksonville, FL

**OLD BUSINESS**

- The 2019 USSVI Awards nomination period has ended.
- The 2019-2020 USSVI Scholarship Program application submission period has ended.
- The USSVI 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, sponsored by USSVI Groton Base, was held on 2-4 May 2019. Our Base was represented at the event by Howard Chatham, PCDR. He noted that Groton intends to hold another reunion in 2024.
- The USSVI Buffalo Base held a USS Croaker (SS/SSK 246) 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Commissioning and 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Arrival in Buffalo ceremony on April 27, 2019. Our Base representative for the event was Chuck Martin, CDR.
- The Base CDR also thanked the members of the Base who helped out at the Sea-Air-Space Expo. He then brought the attendees attention to the new USSVI NOVA Base business cards and recruiting trifold brochure that were first made available at the Expo. See the CDR for copies of these items.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Radnor Studio 21 published an interview video about USS Thresher (SSN 593). The host John Ricciutti spoke with Neal Collier, son of Lieutenant Merrill Collier of USS Thresher. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S47dqJUWdVo>.
- The Base is seeking volunteers to participate in the Dale City 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. We would like to have enough participation to have a Color Guard, Banner, and a vehicle.
- The USS Thresher memorial dedication ceremony is preliminarily planned for September 26, 2019 at Arlington National Cemetery. The specific location in the cemetery is still to be determined.
- Community service opportunity at Serving Our Willing Warriors (SOWW) (<https://willingwarriors.org/>)
  - The Base is seeking volunteers to participate in SOWW Beautification Day on July 6 from 0900-1200 at 16013 Waterfall Road, Haymarket, VA 20169-2126
  - SOWW provides cost-free retreat stays and other programs that positively impact the lives of wounded, ill, or injured military service members and disabled veterans.
  - SOWW is a publicly funded community-supported 501(c)(3) leveraging strategic partnerships with individuals, businesses, corporations, and other organizations.

Doc (Nate) Compton stopped in to welcome us to Post 177 and invited members to participate with them in the Rolling Thunder motorcycle ride and other Post activities on Memorial Day weekend.

**BINNACLE LIST:** Please keep the following in your prayers: Steve Bishop, Barbara Harmody, Tony Poblete, Ray Stone, Tom Perrault, and Lorraine Sargent. Debbie Bishop expressed her, and Steve's thanks, for all the cards that our members sent to Steve noting that they were really appreciated. Tim Oliver reported that he had visited with Tom Perrault earlier today and he seems to be doing well. Visits by other members are highly encouraged.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:** The VCDR read the list of birthdays for May: Bill Clement, Mike Harmody, Robert Miller, Joanne Pasquinelli, Mark Riethmeier, Noland Smith, Anita Varone, Penny Wallace, Ron Williams, and Ruri Wootten.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Woody Woodworth who donated his winnings back to the Base.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The CDR reminded ALCON that the next meeting will be on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 1100. It will be at American Legion Post 364 in Woodbridge, VA and will be followed by a picnic.

The meeting was formally adjourned at 1157.

The staff of the Mare Island Museum developed a presentation they give to local community activities around Vallejo on the history of the Shipyard. Since none of the volunteers at the Museum really wanted to travel to our area to give us this briefing, Howard Chatham coordinated with them to get the photos and script and provided us with an entertaining presentation.

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Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted,  
Howard Chatham for Stephen C Bishop  
Secretary, USSVI Northern Virginia Base

## **SUBMARINE HISTORY**

### **JOHN MCCAIN, JR.**

**“UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II VOLUME 4, BIOGRAPHIES SECTION, PAGES 161 & 162 FOR JOHN S. MCCAIN, JR.”**

**(FATHER OF THE LATE RETIRED USN CAPTAIN/SENATOR JOHN S. MCCAIN III)**  
{DISCLAIMER – “ALL THE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES WERE WRITTEN AND SUBMITTED BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, RELATIVES, OR CLOSE FRIENDS. THE FACTS AS THEY APPEAR ARE THE BEST RECOLLECTION OF THE WRITERS. NEITHER THE U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II ASSOCIATION NOR TAYLOR PUBLISHING COMPANY HAS ENDEAVORED TO RESEARCH OR EDIT THE MATERIALS. IN MOST INSTANCES, THE STORIES APPEAR AS THEY WERE ORIGINALLY WRITTEN.”}

“HIS FATHER, ADMIRAL JOHN S. MCCAIN HAD LED THE POWERFUL TASK FORCE 38 UNDER FLEET ADMIRAL WILLIAM F. HALSEY IN THE PACIFIC. THE ELDER MCCAIN WITNESSED THE SURRENDER OF THE JAPANESE ABOARD THE MISSOURI ONLY TO DIE TRAGICALLY OF A HEART ATTACK THREE DAYS LATER, JUST ONE DAY AFTER HE HAD ARRIVED HOME FROM THE MEMORABLE SEA BATTLES OF WORLD WAR II.”

“MCCAIN AND HIS FATHER WERE VERY CLOSE, AND THE ASSOCIATION GENERATED SO MUCH ADMIRATION THAT THE SON’S PRIDE IN HIS FATHER, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, CAUSED HIM TO DECIDE ON A NAVAL CAREER. “JUNIOR” ADMITS, TODAY, HOWEVER, THAT FOR A TIME BOTH HE AND HIS FATHER WONDERED WHETHER OR NOT THE CHOICE WAS PROPER. THE YOUNGER MCCAIN WAS ONLY 16 YEARS OLD WHEN HE ENTERED THE NAVAL ACADEMY.” “AND THAT WAS TOO DAMNED YOUNG,” HE NOW SCOWLS IN REMINISCENCE.

“HE WEIGHED A MERE 106 POUNDS, TOO, A FACT THAT WOULD HARDLY CONTRIBUTE TO ANY ATHLETIC CALIBER. AND BY HIS OWN ADMISSION, HE WAS “IN SOME SORT OF TROUBLE MOST OF THE TIME.” “I JUST ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE AT ODDS WITH HIGHER AUTHORITY ON MATTERS OF DISCIPLINE, HE LAUGHED. “I WAS LUCKY TO GRADUATE I SUPPOSE.” “AS IT WAS, HE WOUND UP NEAR THE BOTTOM OF THE LOWER HALF OF HIS CLASS IN 1931, AND HIS FATHER HAD REACHED THE POINT “WHERE HE WAS DARN HAPPY TO SEE ME GRADUATE AT ALL.”

“LIKE EVERYONE ELSE IN THOSE DAYS, MCCAIN BEGAN HIS SEA-GOING EXPERIENCE IN BATTLESHIPS, WHERE HE REMAINED FOR TWO YEARS. HE THEN WENT TO SUBMARINE SCHOOL AND STAYED IN SUBMARINES UNTIL 1938, WHEN, IRONICALLY, HE WENT BACK TO THE NAVAL ACADEMY AS AN INSTRUCTOR IN PHYSICS.”

“IN 1940, MCCAIN WENT BACK TO SUBMARINES AND SOON TOOK COMMAND OF HIS OWN SUBMARINE. AS SKIPPER OF THE USS GUNNEL” (SS-253), “HE LED HER INTO THE WATERS OF MOROCCO PRIOR TO THE D-DAY BOMBARDMENT TO PHOTOGRAPH THE PROPOSED BEACHHEAD AND MAKE GENERAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE AREA. LATER, DURING THE ACTUAL NORTH AFRICAN LANDINGS, HIS SUB SERVED AS THE BEACON SHIP FOR THE SHIPS TAKING THE TROOPS ASHORE.”

“LATER HE TOOK THE GUNNEL TO THE PACIFIC, WHERE SHE SANK CONSIDERABLE SHIPPING, INCLUDING ONE DESTROYER. DURING THIS PERIOD,

MCCAIN ALMOST SUNK HIMSELF. MAKING AN APPROACH ON A CONVOY, HE FIRED HIS TORPEDOES, BUT THEY WERE FAULTY, AS WERE MANY OF THOSE EARLY IN THE WAR, AND THE ENEMY WORKED HIS SUB OVER FOR 36 HOURS BEFORE THEY FINALLY GAVE UP.”

{INSERTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE ON JOHN S. MCCAIN JR.}

CDR. JOHN S. MCCAIN JR. LEFT COMMAND OF THE USS GUNNEL IN AUSTRALIA AFTER 5 WAR PATROLS. ON HIS RETURN TO PEARL HARBOR, THE NAVY ORDERED HIM TO COMMAND THE UNDER CONSTRUCTION USS DENTUDA SS-335 STARTING OCTOBER 1944, WITH COMMISSIONING TWO MONTHS LATER. DURING HIS ONE PATROL ON DENTUDA HE DAMAGED A LARGE FREIGHTER AND SANK TWO GUARDBOAT-STYLE PATROL CRAFT IN THE EAST CHINA SEA AND THE TAIWAN STRAITS. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE WAR, MCCAIN SAILED DENTUDA INTO TOKYO BAY AND HAD ONE LAST MEETING WITH HIS FATHER.

{BACK TO USSVI WW II VOL. 4, BIO.}

“AFTER A TOUR IN WASHINGTON, THE ADMIRAL TOOK COMMAND OF THE FIRST SUBMARINE DIVISION TO HAVE GUIDED MISSILE SUBMARINES – THE CARBANERO AND CUSK. LATER, IN KOREA, HE SERVED AS EXECUTIVE OFFICER ABOARD THE CRUISER ST. PAUL. HE RETURNED TO WASHINGTON FOR DUTIES AS DIRECTOR OF THE UNDERSEA WARFARE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BRANCH OF THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS. IN 1953, HE ASSUMED COMMAND OF SUBMARINE SQUADRON 6 AT NORFOLK, AND FROM THAT POST HE BECAME SKIPPER OF THE ATTACK TRANSPORT MONROVIA.”

“AFTER DUTY WITH THE PROGRESS ANALYSIS GROUP, HE TOOK COMMAND OF THE ALBANY AND LATER WENT TO THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS.”

“HE AND HIS WIFE, ROBERTA, HAVE THREE CHILDREN: A DAUGHTER, MARRIED TO A SUBMARINER, JOHN S. III, A 1958 AND THIRD GENERATION GRADUATE OF THE NAVAL ACADEMY, AND A YOUNGER SON.”

“IN LEGISLATIVE LIAISON ADMIRAL MCCAIN CONTINUED AS A DISCIPLE OF SEA POWER. AND UPON THAT ROCK, THE GOSPEL IN SURE TO SPREAD.”

{THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS SOURCED FROM A WASHINGTON POST OBITUARY BY MARTIN WEIL DATED MARCH 24, 1981.}

“RETIRED NAVY ADMIRAL JOHN S MCCAIN JR., 70, A BLUNTLY OUTSPOKEN FOE OF COMMUNIST AGGRESSION WHO SERVED AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF U.S. FORCES IN THE PACIFIC AT THE PEAK OF THE VIETNAM WAR, DIED SUNDAY OF A HEART ATTACK HE SUFFERED WHILE RETURNING FROM A VACATION TRIP IN EUROPE.” “ADMIRAL MCCAIN, RETIRED SINCE 1972, WAS THE NAVY’S FIRST FULL ADMIRAL WHO WAS THE SON OF ANOTHER FULL ADMIRAL. HIS FATHER COMMANDED A CARRIER TASK FORCE IN THE PACIFIC DURING WORLD WAR II. ONE OF ADMIRAL MCCAIN’S SONS, CAPT. JOHN S MCCAIN III, WAS A PRISONER OF WAR IN INDOCHINA FOR FIVE YEARS AFTER BEING SHOT DOWN WHILE A NAVY PILOT.”