

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

The Base CDR, Brian Haller, called the meeting to order at 1033 on September 9, 2023 at the American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Bruce Byrd, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Bob Glover, Ron Grabowski, Brian Haller, Pat Haller, Jim Kraut, Chuck Martin, Mark Riethmeier, , Mike Varone, Penny Wallace, George Wallace, and Woody Woodworth. (16 total)

Our apologies go to the following members who had logged onto Zoom, but were dropped during the meeting: Nelsons, Niblack, Oliver, Jaegers, and Tran. Sorry.

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

The Secretary, Steve Bishop, delivered the Invocation.

After a moment of silence, the CDR read the list of boats lost in the month of September. These were:

USS S-5 (SS-110)	Sep 1, 1920
USS Grayling (SS-209)	Sep 9, 1943
USS Pompano (SS-181)	Sep 25, 1943
USS S-51 (SS-162)	Sep 25, 1925
USS Cisco (SS-290)	Sep 28, 1943

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBERS DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL IN SEPTEMBER:

- Arthur “Art” Raymond Dunn, Jr., USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Chivo (SS-341), 1964. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on September 29, 2018.
- Randall Dean Buss, USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Plunger (SSN-595), 1967. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on September 25, 2012.

The COB rang the ship’s bell twice in remembrance of the 41 NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIUM:

- CDR Nathaniel French Caldwell Jr, USN (Ret) – 8 June 2023

- QM1 (SS) Joseph Michael Base (WWII Veteran) – 26 June 2023
- YNCS (SS) Dennis Edward Barrington, USN (Ret) – 10 August 2023
- CAPT Carl Thomas Berry Jr, USN (Ret) – 16 August 2023

HISTORICAL MOMENT

Our Base Historian, Woody Woodworth, presented a short synopsis of the USS Besugo (SS-321) as she sank a German U-Boat in Japanese waters. This story and deck log is appended at the end of these minutes.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the August meeting were distributed by e-mail. The minutes were accepted as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Howard Chatham, presented the following:

NOVA Base Treasurer's Report for September 9, 2023

● Beginning Cash on Hand:	\$12,154.27
● Plus Receipts:	
●NFCU Dividends (August)	\$0.10
●Donation to Base from August 50/50 Raffle	\$40.00
●Donation to Base from Woodworth & Kenny	\$25.00
●Donations to USSV CF Scholarship Fund from Woodworth, Wallace, Martin, and anonymous	\$80.00
●Base Dues Kenny, Tran, and Kelly	\$45.00
●SK sales	\$5.00
●National Dues Life membership Kelly	\$240.00
● Minus Expenditures:	
●Reimbursement to Chaplain - EP cert mailing	\$19.00
●Reimbursement to Martin for Zoom account	\$157.40
●Payment to National for USSV CF Scholarship Fund	\$80.00
●Payment to National for Richard Kelly Dues	\$240.00
● Ending Cash on Hand:	\$12,092.97
Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	\$1,379.40
● Total Local Discretionary Funds	\$10,713.57

● USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	\$3,054.10
● Total K4K Funds (Local + USSV CF)	<u>\$4,433.50</u>

The Base CDR accepted the Treasurer’s report as presented.

Steve Bishop and Chuck Martin explained the reason for the two separate buckets of K4K monies above. All of these monies came from generous donations from local Walmart stores. Before ~4 years ago, we the NOVA Base accepted the funds directly from each Walmart store. That is the \$1,379.40 chunk of money. We hold that in our NFCU account, but it is restricted for only K4K use.

USSVI is a 501(c)(19) Non-Profit Veterans Organization. As such, USSVI is tax-exempt, i.e., it does not have to pay taxes.

Tax treatment of donations: Donations to war veterans' organizations are deductible as charitable contributions on the donor's federal income tax return. At least 90% of the organization's membership must consist of war veterans. The term war veterans means persons, whether or not present members of the United States Armed Forces, who have served in the United States Armed Forces during a period of war (including the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, the Persian Gulf war, and later declared wars). About 4 years ago it was determined that USSVI had fallen below the 90% threshold and had lost their War Veterans Organization status for IRS purposes. Therefore, donations to USSVI are not tax-deductible as charitable contributions on the donor’s federal income tax return.

The USSV Charitable Foundation (USSV CF) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and donations to USSV CF are tax-deductible.

The Base established a sub-account within the USSV CF K4K fund. That is the \$3,054.10 chunk of money. These funds reside in the USSV CF coffers, earmarked for NOVA Base K4K, as we raised the money. **BOTTOM LINE:** In total we have \$4,433.50 to use for K4K, but our shelves are fully stocked with the materials we give out and the hospitals are not allowing us in at present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

The Executive Committee met on 6 September via Zoom. The meeting agenda included committee reports, meeting-related items, old business, new business, and meeting/event planning.

VCDR: George will be doing a book signing event at the St. Marys Submarine

Museum on September 28. All sales proceeds will be donated to the museum.

CHIEF OF THE BOAT: Nothing to Report (NTR)

PAO: NTR

MEMBERSHIP:

- Membership information
 - 86 Members
 - 44 Holland Club Members
 - 01 WW II Members
 - 33 Regular Members
 - 14 – Base Life Members
 - 19 – Base Annual Members
 - 09 Associate Members

STOREKEEPER: Chuck Martin reported:

- The Base has ordered 32 USSVI National calendars. Please let me know if you are interested in purchasing any calendars. The cost is \$10 per calendar plus any shipping cost, as applicable.
- 2024 is the USSVI's 60th Anniversary (Diamond). There is a commemorative patch and challenge coin available for ordering through the Base SK. The patches are \$6, and the challenge coins are \$15, and the Patch & Coin purchased together as a set are \$18.

CHAPLAIN: NTR

K4K: NTR

SCOUTING COORDINATOR: Chuck Martin reported:

- USSVI National has added Sea Scout official recognition for those attaining the rank of Chief Petty Officer in the Sea Scouts.

NE Regional/NE District 4 News - NE Regional Director, Chuck Martin, reported:

- Highlights of 2023 USSVI National Convention (detailed notes will be sent to the Base Commander)
 - George Wallace was the keynote speaker at the Holland Club Breakfast

- The ISA/USA held a meeting to discuss the ISA 59th Congress being held in Ireland
- The National Office will be moving to Groton, CT in 2024
- John "Sid" Sidlovsky (Hampton Roads Base) has been appointed as USSVI National Treasurer to finish out Paul Hiser's office term. **Paul had to resign due to health reasons.**
- Jeff Walsh (NE1 Dist. CDR / Groton Base) has been appointed as the 2024 National Awards Chairperson. **Bill Scott had to resign due to health reasons.**
- USSVI is sponsoring a vendor table at the 2023 NSL Annual Symposium on 7-8 November.
- There is a revised Public Relations Media and Recruiting Guide that will be published on the USSVI National website soon.
- There will be a revised Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM) published online shortly.
- Clarification on the IRS statutes applying to USSVI and USSV CF was provided. (See the discussion in the treasurer's report section.)
- The approved 2024 USSVI budget is \$298,505.
- The National Treasurer reported that USSVI investment accounts are up about \$60K this year.
- **2024 USSVI National Convention will be held 20-24 August in Cleveland OH. The COD Base is the host and the Embassy Hotel rate will be \$109 per night. That includes free breakfast and two free drinks at Happy Hour.**
- USSVI Chief Technology Officer is currently working on developing a new USSVI National website to replace the current one hosted by Blackbaud. ETA to going live is one year from now.
- The USSVI BOD approved raising the maximum fee for registering for the National Conventions to \$30.
- USSV CF Ambassador program was announced.
- Steve Bell, National Jr Vice Commander, membership report stated that we have gained 770 members since the last convention. **But USSVI is averaging 2-3 members on eternal patrol daily.**
- James "Jim" Sandman, National Chaplain stated that the revised Navy Hymn is on the websites.
- **Bill Andrea, National Commander, stressed the importance of having assistance/backups for key leadership positions. (See the Hiser and Scott health issues above.)**
- The newly elected District Commanders were sworn into office.
- **The District Commander of the Year was awarded to NE4 District Commander (Chuck Martin!!!) BZ.**



Chuck Martin being awarded the District Commander of the Year at Annual Convention in Phoenix, AZ (Brian Haller Pix)

- USSVI Chesapeake Base meeting will be held on 16 Sept at 1215 in Severn, MD. The guest speaker will be VADM (Ret) Joe Leidig who will talk about his experiences conducting Arctic operations. Contact Chuck if you are interested in attending so he can provide a head count for lunch.

NAVAL SUBMARINE LEAGUE: George Wallace reported:

- 2023 Annual Symposium & Industry Update 7-8 NOVEMBER 2023, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA

ISA/USA – Brian Haller reported:

- Future Congress Locations –
 - 2024 - May 26–30, Ireland (co-hosted by ISA/USA and UK)
 - 26-30 May hosted in Ireland by US; 30 and 31 May in Northern Ireland hosted by UK.
 - 2025 – No further information.
 - 2026 – Currently not scheduled.
- 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 – VCDR read the list:

- USS Bergall (SS 320/SSN 667) September 13-17, 2023, Cleveland, OH
- USS Rasher (SS/SSR/AGSS 269) September 13-17, 2023, Buffalo, NY
- USS Lapon (SSN 661) September 14-17, 2023, San Antonio, TX

- USS Benjamin Franklin (SSBN 640) September 19-22, 2023, Philadelphia, PA
- USS Angler (SS 240) September 24-28, 2023, Pigeon Forge, TN
- USS John Adams (SSBN 620) September 27 – October 1, Fernandina Beach, FL
- USS Clamagore (SS 343) October 2-5, 2023, Huntsville, AL
- USS Ethan Allen (SSBN 608) October 4-7, 2023, Bremerton, WA
- USS Lewis and Clark (SSBN 644) October 11-14, 2023, Kings Bay, GA
- USS Henry L. Stimson (SSBN 655) October 11-15, 2023, Charleston, SC
- USS Glenard P. Lipscomb (SSN 685) October 13-15, 2023, Nashville, TN
- USS Halibut (SSGN/SSN 587) October 15-19, 2023, Branson, MO
- USS Grayback (SS/SSG/LPSS 574) October 16-20, 2023, Las Vegas, NV
- USS Daniel Webster (SSBN 626) October 31-November 5, 2023, Kings Bay, GA
- USS Dace (SSN 607) November 2-5, 2023, Pensacola Beach, FL
- **Call or Email the POC listed in the American Submariner to determine the status of the reunion.**

OLD BUSINESS

- The NOVA Veterans Association and Dulles Area Transportation Association provide free transportation to medical appointments to Veterans who are disabled or over the age of 65.
 - Coverage areas are Alexandria, Arlington, Eastern Loudoun, Fairfax, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William.
 - Contact by phone at 703-659-0788 or by email at melissa@novavets.org
- The USS Hyman G. Rickover Commissioning Committee is soliciting contributions for support of the crew. The commissioning is scheduled for next month on October 14. If you care to contribute directly, the commissioning committee's letter with contribution information is included in the meeting minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

None

BINNACLE LIST

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS.

Francis McNamara, Bruce Miller, and Tom Perrault.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER ARE: Howard Chatham,

Tom DeBenedetto, James Kraut, Woody Woodworth, Chuck Martin, Dave Oliver, and the words that became the National Anthem written in 1814.

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 11:21 AM.

BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FOLLOWING THIS MEETING, WE HELD OUR BASE MEMBERS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON AT TEXAS ROADHOUSE, 14389 POTOMAC MILLS RD, WOODBRIDGE, VA 22192

OUR NEXT BASE MEETING WILL BE AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 364 IN WOODBRIDGE AND ON ZOOM AT 1030 ON 14 OCTOBER 2023. OUR AUGUST GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE LOGAN FOLEY (SP201255).

The Secretary delivered the Benediction.

50-50 DRAWING was held, and James Kraut was the winner. He donated his winning back to the Base. Thanks, Jim.

Twelve base members met at about 12:00 at Texas Roadhouse Restaurant in Woodbridge for a luncheon hosted and paid for by the Base.

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

SUBMARINE HISTORY BY WOODIE WOODWORTH

USS BESUGO Sinks U-Boat

While skimming the "Ship's History and Patrol Reports" section of "United States Submarine Veterans of World War II, Volume IV", for a history presentation, I ran across a tidbit, on page 239, that occurred on USS BESUGO (SS-321) during her fourth war patrol. She sank a German U-Boat.

I have been frustrated because I couldn't access the patrol reports. Mike Varone provided me with a future history topic "Why the Navy needed the Smithsonian to name new construction submarines". During my search for "why the Navy needed the Smith" I found out that you can now access the WW II patrol reports and deck logs of post war Navy vessels via the internet. So, don't have to travel to the Archives building. Instead, just have to use the link:

<https://catalog.archives.gov>, then sign up using an email address and provided a password & a second authentication method (i.e., receive phone call that provides a six-digit verification #). Then log in after that. After getting access, you can just use the search feature by entering the ship name. It comes back with a list of all available archives that include the name entered. I SOLVED MY PROBLEM OF NOT BEING ABLE TO VIEW PATROL REPORTS. SO.

This history reading is the USS BESUGO (SS 321) war patrol report concerning the sinking of the U-Boat.

The area being patrolled by BESUGO was the Central Java Sea in a wolf pack with USS BLOWER and USS PERCH.

"23 April 1945

0400 (I) Arrived on station, commenced converting #4 F.B.T.

0505 (I) Dove to flush out tank. Surfaced at 0542(I), patrolling north and south on station until

0731 (I) Dived for submerged patrol during day.

1200 (I) Position 04°-56'S, 112°-52'E.

1350 (I) Sighted submarine bearing 262°(T), commenced submerged approach. (SC #15) Target zigging radically about 50° each side of base course 085°(T), making 10 kts over the ground Turn count 240 RPM.

1414 (I) Identified submarine as GERMAN with JAPANESE merchant flag painted on upper side of the conning tower and flying enormous JAPANESE warship colors.

1427 - 29 (I) Commenced firing spread of 6 Mk. 18 torpedoes, set depth 8 feet. Range 1500 yds, speed 10, angle on bow 90° Port.

1429 (I) One hit. Looked no more than 4 seconds later, but sub had disappeared. Nothing visible but smoke, a slick of air bubbles and the beginning of an oil slick. LAT.04°-56'S, Long. 112°-55'E.

1436 (I) Surfaced to recover survivors.

1440 (I) Rescued GERMAN war prisoner Warrant Officer KARL WISNEIWSKI, # UN2101/343, GERMAN NAVY: who had been navigator of the sunken submarine and who identified her as the U183, of 740

ton class. He was the only survivor in the large oil slick and was treated for the following injuries: Dislocated left knee, broken right collar bone, lacerated bridge of nose, lacerated lips and mouth, and three missing teeth.

1510 (I) Recovered what we thought might be a "burn" bag. It turned out to be a large rubber boat in a canvas bag. The prisoner says his ship sank in one second, taking him far under water with her."



USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER Commissioning Committee

c/o Union League Club of Chicago
65 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604-3507
(312) 435-5945 • ussrickover@ulcc.org • www.ussrickover.org

HONORARY MEMBERS:

Admiral John M. Richardson (USN, Ret.)
*former Chief of Naval Operations and Director,
U.S. Navy Nuclear Propulsion Program
Honorary Co-Chair*

Admiral Cecil D. Haney (USN, Ret.)
*former Commander, U.S. Strategic Command and
Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Honorary Co-Chair*

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator, Illinois

Commander Eleonore B. Rickover (USN, Ret.)
(1930 - 2021)

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP:

William J. Nissen, Chairman
Jeffrey A. Sacks, Vice Chairman
Jeffrey Chen
Henry Chen
Michael Chioros
Brian Daley
Philip Dodson
Vice Admiral Jay Donnelly (USN, Ret.)
Bill Glynn
Jeffrey Gray
David Hanson
Tom Karaba
David Kohn
Steve Schlegel
Michael H. Traison
William Wigoda

Captain Leonard R. Wass (USN, Ret.),
Special Advisor

As Chairman of the Commissioning Committee and a former Naval Officer with a desire to support those who are currently serving, I ask that your Base support the RICKOVER and its crew by making a tax-deductible donation to the Committee. Donors will achieve visibility by being recognized on our website (<https://ussrickover.org/>) and in the commemorative program for the commissioning. Depending on the level of the donation, your organization will also be entitled to an advertisement in the commemorative commissioning program and to send one or more representatives to attend the invitation-only receptions that our Committee will hold in conjunction with the commissioning. Because RICKOVER will be named for Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, who is a nationally recognized historic figure, and we expect the RICKOVER commissioning to draw a wide national group of attendees, including many submarine veterans who personally experienced the positive influence he had on the Navy.

September 2022

To: Base Commanders of the U.S. Submarine Veterans

Dear Base Commander,

As a patriotic organization of submarine veterans who have served our nation in the submarine force, your Base is invited to join with other patriotic organizations and individuals in supporting the Commissioning Committee for the USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER (SSN-795). The Committee will provide civilian support to the RICKOVER and her crew as the RICKOVER begins service in defense of our nation, and will honor the legacy of Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, the Father of the Nuclear Navy. The specific date for the commissioning has not yet been scheduled, but it is currently expected to occur in Groton, Connecticut in May 2023.

The USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER (SSN-795) Commissioning Committee is a division of the Armed Forces Council of Chicago, which is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and your donation is deductible to the extent permitted by law. No goods or services were provided to you by the Committee in return for your donation. To the extent any goods or services that are not of insubstantial value are provided in the future, we will inform you of their estimated value at a later date.

Funds from patriotic donors such as your organization are needed for three reasons:

- The commissioning ceremony for a Navy ship is a long-standing and revered tradition that promotes patriotism among those who attend and shows the crew of the newly-commissioned vessel that the public appreciates the great sacrifices they make to defend our nation. A commissioning ceremony is costly, and Congress provides only very limited funds for basics such as bunting, attendee stands, and bus transportation from a local hotel to the ceremony. To give the crew and the public a proper ceremony, our Committee must raise funds and organize the ceremony and the accompanying celebrations.
- Donated funds are used to buy items for the crew that are not supplied by the Navy, including amenities that make life easier for the crew as they spend many months at sea in very close quarters, away from their homes and families in defense of our nation. Funds are also used for plaques and other memorabilia that honor the crew for being the “plank owners,” which are the first personnel to man a ship.
- The commissioning ceremony and accompanying activities will also honor Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, an American success story who continues to inspire new generations. As a young boy, he and his family immigrated to the United States and settled in Chicago after leaving present-day Poland to escape anti-Jewish pogroms in what was then the Russian Empire. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1922, he was the driving force behind the development of the first nuclear submarine in 1955, and he became the “Father of the Nuclear Navy.” With 63 years of service, he had the longest time on active military duty in U.S. history. He revolutionized Navy ship propulsion, quality control, personnel selection, and training and education to build the nation’s nuclear fleet.

Please join our Committee in supporting our national defense and those who provide that defense, by donating to our Committee’s work. Enclosed is a donation form with the details on how to make a donation and the recognition gifts that will be provided to donors at the various levels. If you have any questions or would like to discuss supporting the RICKOVER Commissioning Committee, please email me at wmjnissen@gmail.com or call me at 312-882-6338.

The Committee is a division of the Armed Forces Council of Chicago, which is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and your donation is deductible to the extent permitted by law. The Committee’s Tax ID number is 36-3100750.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to hear from you.

Very respectfully,



William J. Nissen, Chairman