

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, 12 APRIL 2025

The Base CDR, Brian Haller, called the meeting to order at 1030 on 12 April 2025 at American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Bishop, Bruce Byrd, Erlinda Byrd, Howard Chatham, Bob Glover, Brian Haller, Pat Haller, Ray Huckeba, Chuck Martin, Paul Siegrist, Aaron Stroeh, Mike Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, Woody Woodworth, and, via Zoom, Cathy Chatham, Bud Cunnally, Bruce Miller, Paul Nelson, Mark Riethmeier, and Cliff Whitener (21 attendees).

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

Mike Varone, the Base Chaplain, 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 THE MONTH OF 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.
- **Michael L. Harmody**, Holland Club Member, Qualified on USS Nautilus (SSN-571) in 1959. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 23 April 2020.
- **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 43 USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBERS ON ETERNAL PATROL.

IN MEMORIAM:

- CAPT John (Jack) Walter Renard, USN (Ret) – 25 March 2025

- MMCM (SS) Carl Haines, USN (Ret) - 21 March 2025
- LCDR Scott Franklin Baer, USNR (Ret) - 25 February 2025
- LCDR Lance Leon Zahm, USN (Ret) – 16 February 2025
- CAPT Mike Camp, USN (Ret) – 4 February 2025
- CAPT Barton E. Bacon, III, USN (Ret) – 25 January 2025
- CAPT James H. Seaton, USNR (Ret) – 30 December 2024
- VADM George R. Sterner, USN (Ret) - 29 November 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 12, 2025

• Beginning Cash on Hand:	<u>\$13,283.19</u>
• Plus Receipts:	
•NFCU Checking Account Dividends (March)	\$0.07
•NFCU CD Dividends (February)	\$19.06
•Donation to Base from 50/50 raffle	\$40.00
•Donation to Base – R. Rempert & B. Canfield	\$45.00
•SK sales – calendar & patch	\$20.00
•Donation to USSVCF Scholarship Fund (Martin & Stroeh)	\$30.00
•Base Dues – B. Canfield & S. Fischer	\$30.00
• Minus Expenditures:	
•Payment to National for USSVCF Scholarship Fund	\$30.00
• Ending Cash on Hand:	<u>\$13,437.32</u>
Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	\$1,379.40
Minus NFCU 12-month Share Certificate (CD)	\$5,000.00
• Total Local Discretionary Funds	<u>\$7,057.92</u>
• USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	\$2,315.59
• Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	<u><u>\$3,694.99</u></u>

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

BASE MEMBERSHIP – Howard Chatham reported the following information:

- 93 Members
 - 51 Holland Club Members

- 1 WW II Member
- 33 Regular Members
 - 16 – Base Life Members
 - 17 – Base Annual Members
- 9 Associate Members
- Our newest member is Steve Fischer

THE BINNACLE LIST currently includes:-Cathy Chatham, Steve Jaeger, Terry McNamara, Bruce Miller, Tom Perrault, Tim Shannon, Diane Whitener, and Woody Woodworth. Bruce thanked ALCON for their prayers during his recent illnesses.

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, and Willie Petruy, and the U.S. Submarine Service. [Note: 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.]

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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE BOARD – The Executive Committee met on 2 April via Zoom. The meeting agenda included committee reports, meeting-related items, old business, new business, and meeting/event planning.

CDR – Nothing to Report (NTR)

VCDR –

- Penny and I attended the Sea-Air-Space Expo and passed out USSVI flyers and business cards to ~two dozen people. Several said they were definitely interested. A couple of these were local and said they planned to attend a meeting.

Secretary – NTR

National/NE Regional/NE District 4 News -

- The USSVI website contract with Blackbaud ended in March. The USSVI National website can now be reached by using either www.ussvi.org or

www.ussubvets.org. Once the new website is operational it will be assigned to the www.ussvi.org URL. The Target Goal for the new website to be operational is 30 June for the National Office and by the end of 2025 for Members.

- USSVI National will now be using MailChimp to send out emails until the new website is operational.
- USSVI Capitol Base will be hosting their Tolling of the Boats ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery on 17 May 2025 (USS F-4 gravesite).

Naval Submarine League (NSL) –:

- Submarine History Seminar: - *The American Submarine: 125 Years of Defending America at Sea* will be held on 24 April 2025 at the U. S. Navy Memorial in Washington D.C. The Memorial will also be showcasing The Submarine Wall, a new interactive exhibit dedicated to the Navy's Submarine Force and to the Maritime Industrial Base (MIB) that creates and sustains it.
- The Submarine Technology Symposium: “Lethality Today and Innovation for Tomorrow” will be held 13-15 May 2025 in Laurel, MD (classified meeting).
- NSL Capitol Chapter
 - The date for the next Capitol Chapter Luncheon Meeting is TBD.

International Submarine Association (ISA)/USA –

- The next Congress is planned for 25 – 29 May 2026 in Edinburgh, Scotland.
- The 2027 Congress is planned to take place in the Republic of Korea.
- 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 Finback (SSN 670), 30 April–4 May 2025, Reno, NV
- USS Sam Rayburn (SSBN 635), 4-9 May 2025, Kerrville, TX
- USS Spadefish (SSN668), 9-11 May 2025, Smithfield, VA
- USS Tigrone (SS 419), 15-18 May 2025, Pittsburgh, PA
- USS Scamp (SSN 588), 1-7 June 2025, Punta Gorda, FL
- USS Houston (SSN 713), 10-13 July, Groton, CT
- USS Boston (SSN 703, CA 69, CAG 1), 10-13 July, Annapolis, MD
https://www.ussboston.org/Reunions/2020s/2025_Annapolis/Reunion_2025_Home.html

- USS Sea Leopard (SS 483), 11-15 August 2025, Groton, CT
- USS Sargo (SSN 583), 21-29 September 2025, Seattle, WA
- USS John Adams (SSBN 620), 2-5 October 2025, Portsmouth, NH
- USS Seawolf (SSN 575), 6-9 October 2025, Henderson, NV.
- USS Dace (SSN 607), 5-9 November 2025, San Diego, CA.

Call or Email the POC listed in the American Submariner to determine the status of the reunion. You can also contact the VCDR for information on the Spadefish, Houston and John Adams reunions.

STOREKEEPER:

- Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, Holland Club pins and decals, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.
- 2025 USSVI Calendars are also still available from the Base SK.
- Contact Base SK, at storekeeper@ussvinova.org if interested in any items.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- None

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 Base VCDR, George Wallace, conducted the ceremony and the COB rang the ship's bell after each boat's name was called. The ship's bell was then rung for the 43 NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

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

The next meeting will be at 1100 on May 3rd for the 2025 Holland Club Induction Ceremony and Luncheon at Amphora Diner Deluxe, 1151 Elden St., Herndon, VA 20170). Dress is Summer White, Equivalent Civilian Business Attire, or USSVI vest and tie. The speaker will be ADM Jonathan W. Greenert, 30th Chief of Naval Operations. The invitation to the membership has been sent out by the Base CDR.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

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

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 1128.

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



Happy 125th Birthday, U. S. Navy Submarine Force!

The history of the U.S. Submarine Force “officially” traces back to 1900, when the Navy purchased the 54 foot long Holland VI and commissioned it as USS HOLLAND. John Phillip Holland would design seven more with similar design but 64 feet in length, and to put them in perspective, if these hulls were laid athwart ship an OHIO class submarine there would barely be 11 feet “hanging over” each side of the beam.

During the early 20th Century, there were discussions that submarines were vulnerable, not practical, of limited use, and barbaric to use in warfare. German submarine successes in World War I inspired the United States to continue to build submarines, despite the naysayers. The navy's submarine advocates saw the need for a school to train submariners and the Naval Submarine School was established and New London Submarine Base in Connecticut became “home from the sea” for submariners.

The Submarine Force continued to grow, and new, more modern ships were built. Some were poorly designed, several were lost with all or most of the crew perishing. We continued to improve our ships with each new class. The success of our submarines in World War II is legend: our submarines made over 1600 war patrols sinking over 1000 Japanese ships and almost completely eliminating their ability to wage war without fuel, raw materials, and food. This victory came at a great cost: the loss of 52 submarines and over three thousand Officers and Sailors.

Following World War II the development and building of nuclear powered submarines began under the leadership of Admiral Hyman G Rickover. The role of these ships during the Cold War and the importance of strategic submarines as a deterrent to war until the present is well known.

Our submarines are on patrol today, often for extended periods, preserving our nation's security. On our submarine tenders and shore-based maintenance activities, our military and civilian team works day and night to keep our submarines ready for the fight. One constant from the early Submarine Force to today has been

our people: from the machinist mates and electricians to yeoman, culinary specialists and quartermasters, they are our strength.

On this 125th birthday, we recognize the elite men and women whose bravery, intelligence, and dedication have made the Submarine Force the fighting power it is today. From all of us here at Dolphin Scholarship Foundation, we wish the Submarine Force a Happy 125th Birthday and look forward to where new technology and developments will take us next.

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