

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, March 8, 2025

The Base CDR, Brian Haller, called the meeting to order at 1034 on March 8, 2025 at American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Bishop, Bruce Byrd, CAPT Burt Canfield, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Ron Grabowki, Brian Haller, Pat Haller, Jim Kraut, Chuck Martin, Ron Rempert, Mark Riethmeier, Aaron Stroeh, Mike Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, Woody Woodworth, and, via Zoom, Paul Nelson and Tim Oliver. (19 total).

 Holland Club Member

 Associate Member

 Guest

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

The Chaplain, Mike Varone, delivered the Invocation.

The Vice Commander, George Wallace, read the list of boats lost in the month of March. These were:

USS F-4 (SS-23)	25 March 1915
USS H-1 (SS-28)	12 March 1920
USS Perch (SS-176)	3 March 1942
USS Grampus (SS-207)	5 March 1943
USS Triton (SS-201)	15 March 1943
USS Tullibee (SS-284)	26 March 1944
USS Kete (SS-369)	20 March 1945
USS Trigger (SS-237)	26 March 1945

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBERS WHO DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL IN MARCH:

- **Raymond R. Gillin**, Qualified aboard USS Sea Poacher (SS-406), 1958. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 31 March 2005.
- **David R. Gallagher**, Qualified aboard USS Gato (SS-212), 1944. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 30 March 2002.

The COB tolled the bell twice in remembrance of the 43 USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

- **IN MEMORIAM:** CAPT Richard Hugh Farnfield, USN (Ret) - 16 January 2025, CAPT Jim Tregurtha, USN (Ret) – 25 January 2025, VADM N. Ronald Thunman, USN (Ret) – 27 January 2025, CDR Elmer "Buzz" Joseph Galbraith, Jr., USN (Ret) – 29 January 2025, CDR Robert F. Wise, USN (Ret) – 7 February 2025, CDR Michael James Showers, USN (Ret) - 8 February 2025, and ET1(SS) Stuart Alan Berman, USN (Vet) – 25 February 2025.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the February 2025 meeting were distributed by e-mail and USPS. There was no discussion or comments. The minutes were accepted as promulgated.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Howard Chatham, presented:

NOVA Base Treasurer's Report for March 8, 2025

• Beginning Cash on Hand:	<u>\$13,113.97</u>
• Plus Receipts:	
• NFCU Checking Account Dividends (February)	\$0.06
• NFCU CD Dividends (February)	\$17.16
• Donation to Base from 50/50 raffle	\$31.00
• Donation to Base – C. Martin	\$31.00
• SK sales - calendars	\$20.00
• Donation to USSVCF Scholarship Fund – C. Martin	\$20.00
• Base Dues – P. Scala & A. Stroeh	\$70.00
• Minus Expenditures:	
• Payment to National for USSVCF Scholarship Fund	\$20.00
• Ending Cash on Hand:	<u>\$13,283.19</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>\$6,903.79</u>
• USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	\$2,315.59
• Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	<u><u>\$3,694.99</u></u>

There was no discussion on the Treasurer's report and it was accepted as read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE BOARD – The Executive Committee met on 26 February via Zoom. The meeting agenda included committee reports, meeting-related items, old business, new business, and meeting/event planning.

CDR –

- The CDR welcomed Ron Grabowski as our new Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) representative and Jim Kraut as our new Assistant to the Treasurer and thanked them both for volunteering for these positions.

VCDR –

- The Holland Club Induction and Luncheon will be held on 3 May 2025 at the Amphora Diner Deluxe in Herndon, VA. ADM Jonathan Greenert, 30th Chief of Naval Operations will be the guest speaker. Inductees this year are Steve Bishop, Cliff Whitener, and Phil Davis who was unable to participate last year.

Secretary –

- Howard Chatham reported that it has been determined that members and Base officers are unable to post photos to member's profiles in the USSVI database. According to the National JVCDR there are only two persons in the organization that can do that. Further investigation has determined that the District CDRs can also do this. Base members that want to add or update a photo in their profile should send them to secretary@ussvinova.org and our Secretary will coordinate with Chuck Martin (the NE District 4 CDR) to get them posted.

Membership – Howard Chatham reported the following membership information:

- 92 Members
 - 51 Holland Club Members
 - 01 WW II Members
 - 32 Regular Members
 - 16 – Base Life Members
 - 16 – Base Annual Members
 - 09 Associate Members
- Newest Member – Aaron Stroeh

National/NE Regional/NE District 4 News – Chuck Martin reported:

- He is still seeking candidates for NE4 District Commander for the 2025-2027 term. He is stepping down as our District Commander. He noted that it has been an honor to serve as our District Commander.
- The 2025 National Convention will be in Orlando, FL, September 1 – 6, 2025.
 - The convention website is <https://subvetconvention.org>.
 - The convention hotel is the Rosen Shingle Creek, and the room rate is \$120 per night.

- Several folks provided their experiences trying to register for the convention and making hotel reservations. It was noted that registering on-line costs \$25 more than printing the form and mailing it in. In addition, there are some extraneous markings on the printed form that need to be whited-out. This error has been pointed out to the convention registration chairman. George Wallace also noted that they had to call the hotel to make reservations as the on-line link showed there were no more rooms at the convention rate.

NAVAL SUBMARINE LEAGUE –

- The DC Area Submarine Birthday Ball will be held on Saturday, 29 March 2025 from 1730-2300 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Sea-Air-Space Expo is 6-9 April 2025. USSVI may or may not be able to share and help staff the NSL table. We are awaiting further info from Steve Fischer, the NSL Executive Director.

The Chaplain read the **BINNACLE LIST**: Steve Bishop, Steve Jaeger, Terry McNamara, Tom Perrault, Joe Phoenix, Tim Shannon, Diane Whitener, Woody Woodworth and Bruce Miller (who is recovering very slowly from his very serious illness, is in rehab and back on solid food; we will continue to monitor his progress and report as often as possible to keep you all informed).

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER, the Chaplain read the list of birthdays for the month of March: David Gault, Steve Jaeger, John Lindstedt, Terry Nelson, Tom Perrault, Marie Phoenix, and William Truslow.

BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS: Our next meeting will be on 12 April at American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA, and on Zoom, followed by our annual Tolling of the Boats ceremony.

Steve Bishop made some remarks as the outgoing Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) chair recognizing the various members of the Base who were instrumental in setting up the program (notably Cathy Chatham) and who made visits to the three hospitals we “sponsored” over the years.

The meeting was adjourned at 1056 and the 50/50 raffle was won by Ron Rempert who donated his winnings to the Base Treasury. Thank you, Ron!

THE BELOW INFORMATION WAS NOT PRESENTED AT THE MEETING IN ORDER TO ALLOW TIME FOR OUR GUEST SPEAKER’S BRIEFING BUT ARE INCLUDED IN THE MINUTES FOR YOUR

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

National/NE Regional/NE District 4 News -

- USSVI National is seeking candidates to fill the positions of USSVI Nomination Chair and New Base Development Chair. If you know someone who may be interested in one of the positions let our District CDR know.
- The current website contract with Blackbaud ends in March. USSVI National will be using MailChimp to send out emails until the new website is operational.
- USSVI Mid Atlantic Base will be hosting their Tolling of the Boats ceremony at Kete Monument Delaware Memorial Park on 20 March 2025 (USS Kete was lost 80 years ago on that date).
- 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 -

- The NDIA 2025 Undersea Warfare Spring Conference will be held in San Diego CA 17-19 March 2025.
- The Submarine Technology Symposium: “Lethality Today and Innovation for Tomorrow” will be held 13-15 May 2025 in Laurel, MD (classified meeting).
- Submarine History Seminar: 125th Anniversary of the United States Submarine Force. In-person date and location details will be coming soon.

ISA/USA –

- The 60th International Submariners Congress in Gdynia, Poland has been cancelled due to lack of attendees. The next congress will be held in Scotland in May 2026.
- 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 George Bancroft (SSBN 643), 13-16 March 2025, St. Marys, GA
- 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

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 and Houston reunions.



After a short break, the Base CDR introduced our guest speaker, CAPT Burt Canfield, who is serving as the NAVSEA Chief of Staff. His presentation was entitled Building and Maintaining America's Navy. His briefing can be found on the Presentations link on our website. His biography is included at the end of these minutes.

Following his presentation the CDR presented him with a Base challenge coin (and an application to join USSVI and our Base).

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

CAPTAIN BURT J. CANFIELD

NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND, CHIEF OF STAFF



A native of Damascus, Pennsylvania, Captain Burt Canfield graduated with honors from New York Maritime College in 1998, earning a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering and a U.S. Coast Guard Third Mate's License. He earned a Master of Aerospace Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in 2005.

Captain Canfield has served in the Atlantic and Pacific submarine fleets. His first assignment was aboard USS CONNECTICUT (SSN 22), where he completed two under-ice operations and a Northern Atlantic deployment. He served as Operations Officer on USS OHIO (SSGN 726) (GOLD) from June 2006 to January 2009. While serving aboard OHIO, he helped prepare and execute the

United States' first OHIO-class SSGN for her inaugural deployment to the Western Pacific. Commander Canfield's Executive Officer assignment was on board USS LOUISVILLE (SSN 724), where he completed one Western Pacific deployment. He assumed command of USS JOHN WARNER (SSN 785) in September 2015, preparing and leading the ship through its first deployment including the first-ever combat launch of Tomahawk cruise missiles from a Virginia-class submarine. While CAPT Canfield led the Warner, the ship earned the Submarine Squadron SIX Battle Efficiency Award for 2018, and was nominated for the Battenberg Cup by Commander, Submarine Forces, Atlantic Fleet.

Ashore, Captain Canfield has served on the staff of Commander U.S. Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet as a Regional Employment Officer and later as Director for Special Operations, at US Fleet Forces Command as Senior Member of the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board (NPEB), the Program Manager for the Compatibility Test Facility at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, Test and Evaluation Director and MK 48 MOD 9 Program Manager for PMS 404, and Program Manager for Undersea Special Mission Systems (PMS390). CAPT Canfield is privileged to serve as the NAVSEA Chief of Staff.

Captain Canfield has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, and various other awards.