

**NATHANAEL GREENE Meeting Minutes for 5 March, 2016.**

Meeting called to order 1300.

**INVOCATON:** by Chaplain Jim Schenk.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** by COB Dale Paterson.

**INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS PRESENT:** 18 members were present out of the 98-member Base. Guests included: Active Duty Petty Officer Miguel Almazan, the current Navy Recruiter for the Asheboro area, his wife Julie, and young son, Giovanni, as well as the son of (Holland Club Member), Jim Balderas..

**TOLLING OF THE BOATS:** by Chaplain Jim Schenk and Vice Commander Fred Gunter. Chuck Jensen projected the names and pictures of the boats on Eternal Patrol for May and June from his laptop computer.

**MINUTES:** were unanimously approved as previously posted on our Base Webpage. Base Secretary Ed Galaviz could not be present, so Jim Schenk is serving at this meeting as absentee Base Secretary.

**Vice Commander's Corner:** Fred Gunter commented about giving a young person one of his "Pride Runs Deep" bracelets. There was discussion of the possible future ordering of a lot (made in the USA) for dissemination to deserving kids, (eg: Kaps-4-Kids). Fred had the pricing for a lot of 100.

**Treasurer's Report:** was read by Chuck Jensen and approved by the membership. We were updated on the problem of whether we need Certificate of Authority for Nonprofit Corporation from North Carolina for the base checking account with New Bridge Bank. Our National Year-End Report was received by the National Office on schedule and our Region was in compliance.

**Storekeeper's Report:** our storekeeper, Gary Vernon had a table full of available items for sale to the benefit of Nathanael Greene Base. He had an itemized pricing list of the items for all members present. There are some 2015 Calendars left over and Jim Myers suggested that the submarine pictures be taken from them and use them as gifts for K-4-K. We have NAVY pens available now. We are currently looking for a volunteer for relief of Gary as Base Storekeeper by our next meeting. Thank you to Gary for his long-time service in this capacity and a Job Well Done.

**Kaps-4-Kids Report:** Chairman Daniel Newcomer had no recent events to report on, and asked for more group participation in the upcoming events, yet to be scheduled. He noted that

WalMart and Sam's Club have been instrumental in forwarding donations for this cause. Daniel will send in the request form for their future consideration.

**Chief of the Boat:** Dale Patterson announced that the "Veterans Helping Veterans Heal" organization is in need of bath towels. A motion was made to allot \$150.00 for VHVH to purchase white bath towels; the motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Mark McCray, a resident at VHVH, reported on his personal knowledge of an Honorably Discharged USAF airman recently obtaining an automobile with the help of VHVH.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Ray Moore spoke of the four Holland Club qualifiers that have not yet been inducted:

1) William D. McCormick, of Greensboro, NC, who's Qual Boat, was USS TRUTTA (SS-421) in 1962, and was unable to make this meeting due to his long-time commitment as a Race Official in the Iditarod in Alaska.

2) Roger D. Bjerke, of Hampton, VA, who's Qual Boat, was USS NATHANAEL GREENE (SSBN-636). Ray is in touch with him and trying to arrange for the Hampton Roads Base to honor him.

3) Lee Eubanks, of Hampton, VA, who's Qual Boat, was USS FRANCIS SCOTT KEY (SSBN-657). Ray is in touch with him and trying to arrange for the Hampton Roads Base to honor him.

4) James Martell, of Murphy, NC, who's Qual Boat, was USS NATHANAEL GREENE (SSBN-636). He has declined induction at this time.

Chris Bridges – Lapel Pin Chairman, will contact the vendor on Monday for the Nathanael Greene Base lapel pins that were approved at a previous meeting.

Jim Myers – Updated the members present on the "Highway Naming" formerly discussed. The nominations will close on March 15<sup>th</sup> and the contract for the new name awarded in July. The chosen name will be announced after the summer. Commander Ray Moore will email the information for voting.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Base member, Charlie C. Dye, Sr. went on Eternal Patrol on 27 February. He served on Qual Boat USS POMPON (SS-247) in 1954 as RM3(SS). Chaplain Jim Schenk is putting together a Book of Remembrance for presentation to his family.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Dale Paterson asked on behalf of the daughter of Louis (Lewis) R. Payne, former TM1(SS) aboard USS TRIGGER (SS-237), if any base member might have information for this lady. Her name is Gail Miller and she lives in Tennessee. Email contact is [halmil99@yahoo.com](mailto:halmil99@yahoo.com).

We were addressed by local Navy Recruiter, Miguel Almazan, and were apprised of the current status, recruitment motivation, and nature of the challenging recruitment picture in today's world for all military recruiters. He spoke of the current "College Assistance Program" offered and the "G.I. Bill" (which is now transferrable to a Vet's children). School Guidance Counselors are hindering recruitment by attempting to get the students enrolled in college (that they have to pay for themselves) versus the U.S. Government Veterans' assistance provided. The School Guidance Counselors are doing this for school prestige and personal professional gain. He presented the Base with NAVY pens to the Storekeeper. He also has U.S. Flag pins and U.S. Navy pins.

Chuck Jensen spoke on the Longevity Pins. Some were lost in the mail to persons that were not in attendance for the January meeting. The mailings will henceforth be "Hand Cancelled" at the Post Office to avoid their sorting machine from eating the contents of our envelopes. A proposal was approved to continue the "Longevity Pin" program. This year 20 members will be eligible to receive their pin, among which; six are for the 15-year pin and 5 for the 20-year pin.

There is a USS NATHANAEL GREENE Reunion upcoming in Cocoa Beach, FL soon.

Our \$225 "Sailor of the Year" contribution was sent in.

Our membership is now at 98 having lost Jim Effinger who recently went on Eternal Patrol and Boyce Klein not renewing. We lost Charlie Dye last week and the Chaplain is compiling a Book of Remembrance for the family.

The South East District One Commander will request a meeting of all six base commanders in North Carolina to come up with a plan regarding the Torpedo Float on how to better utilize it. The current problem is finding a truck to pull it

Ray Moore reminded the membership of the book, "Where is Your Boat, Today," for which he recently sent out a Base All Hands memo via email. He has ordered the book and will bring it to the next meeting after he receives the book.

There is a new book on the market, "Underway on Diesel Power" by Jack Gallimore (priced at \$17.00).

Jim Myers spoke about “Joshua’s Angel Center of the Carolinas.” Owner and operator, Tammy Hazelwood has had donated to the organization a yearly basis, 20-acre hay-lot, harvested and baled to help with the feeding of the horses. Her organization is now providing Equine Therapy for sick and handicapped children of the Carolinas (1000-1500 on Fridays and Saturdays). This year has seen the addition of riding therapy for local handicapped schools. There is an area Church that has been helpful in fundraising, also. The Base is looking forward to arranging another Springtime Kaps-4-Kids event there.

Jim Myers also spoke of Charlie Johnson, USS GRENADIER (SS-210) who was a prisoner of war in Japan during WWII. He and his wife have been laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

March 29 – The Rowan County Veterans’ Council, in cooperation with the Director of the National Cemetery is conducting a ceremony to honor all living U.S. Armed Forces - Vietnam Era Veterans who served from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. There is no requirement to have served “in country” to be eligible to receive one lapel pin. The ceremony will begin at 1130 at the National Cemetery located adjacent to the Salisbury VA Hospital. Participants will receive this distinguished Vietnam Veterans’ Lapel Pin. Base Commander Ray Moore email the information of the ceremony details along with a picture of the lapel pin.

April 20-23 – South East Regional Conference in Mobile, Alabama

May 20-21 – The annual visit to Moonshine Mountain for the Tolling of the Boats Ceremony hosted by Asheville Base-USSVI. The Bilge Rats floor-show will provide for the entertainment. The Big Lynn Lodge is the host hotel.

July 4 – Bob Hopkins will obtain a volunteer float puller for the Faith Parade. Albemarle Base, meeting today, is discussing the possibility of borrowing the floats for the Nag’s Head and St. Patrick’s Day parades. Marvin Beaver of Carolina Piedmont Base has requested the floats to attend the Third Annual Mooresville, NC Veteran’s Day Parade (no determination or firm plans are yet forthcoming).

July 9 – Our meeting will be held at the Field of Honor. The meal will be served at 1100 and the meeting at 1300. Larry Hauser is being contacted to supervise the food for the get-together.

August 15-20 - USSVI National Convention will be held in Reno, NV. Registration by 17 July, 2016.

**Next Meeting:** will be on the SECOND Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**BENEDICATION:** by Chaplain Jim Schenk.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 1430.

50/50 raffle was won by Charlie Cross.