

**Minutes from the USSVI Tarheel Base Meeting
Held at American Legion Post #67, Cary, NC
04 October 2014**

Submitted by Base Secretary Bill Lowe

Before the start of the Base meeting, 8 Subvets and guests Susan and Brian Lynch plus their friends Ellen and Tim McBride, chowed down at the Golden Corral in Cary at or about 8:30 AM.

Tarheel Base Commander Bill (Butterbean) Dixon called the meeting to order promptly at 10:00 AM and Chaplain Bill Whelan rendered the opening prayer. Commander Butterbean led the 22 Subvets and 4 guests in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Commander Butterbean asked all Subvets to stand and introduce themselves with the usual pertinent comments. First introductions were afforded the 5 WWII Subvets present- Robert Andrews, Marty Kirwan, Joe Morgan, Don Moyer, and Bill Whelan. No new Base members were present. Visitors Susan and Brian Lynch and Ellen and Tim McBride were warmly welcomed.

TOLLING OF THE LOST BOATS:

Patch Paciorek and Dave Campbell conducted a reading of the names, recounts of the lost boats, and a picture slide presentation. Following was a tolling of the bell in solemn remembrance of the 14 US Navy submarines lost during the months of September and October - 5 in September and 9 in October.

SPEAKER

Susan Lynch covered the arrangements and the ceremony for the burial of her father's ashes, submariner MOMM1 George A. Gressman, at sea aboard the USS Helena (SSN-725) out of Norfolk, VA on June 9, 2014. He had sailed on his Eternal Patrol on February 27, 2013.

Susan passed out a copy of her dad's Bronze Star Medal Citation letter signed by Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal. He was awarded this medal for his heroic actions as the Auxiliaryman in Charge aboard the USS Sea Dog (SS401) during a WWII war patrol in 1945. Also, Susan made available copies of information pertaining to the U.S. Navy Burial at Sea Program for all Subvets present.

Displayed during the meeting was a picture of George Gressman in uniform, his flag from the burial ceremony, and a map showing the location where his ashes were sent to sea via a torpedo tube aboard the USS Helena (SSN-725).

With the assistance of COB Patch, a video was produced and shown of the burial ceremony topside and below decks. Susan thanked Patch for doing an outstanding job in putting together the video.

All present thanked Susan for an informative and touching presentation.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

HOLLAND CLUB

1. Holland Club Coordinator Jim Davis stated he has completed the Holland Club presentations for calendar year 2014.

REPORTS

1. Commander Butterbean, as usual, urged all Subvets to pay their 2015 dues. He also reminded those planning to attend the upcoming Pearl Harbor meeting to send Dave Campbell their registration form and money.
2. Base Vice Commander Gordon Banks was not in attendance. The word is that he is in Greenville for an ECU football game!

3. Base Secretary Bill Lowe entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the last Tarheel Base meeting held on August 2, 2014 as posted on the NC Subvets website. Motion was made, seconded, and passed for approval of minutes as posted.
4. Base Treasurer Dave Campbell covered the treasurer's report. Beginning balance CY 2014 was \$8,557.64, receipts totaled \$2,537.56, disbursements and commitments were \$2,175.46, and ending balance as of June 30th was \$8,919.74 with overall cash flow status of + \$362.10. Funds forwarded to Snug Harbor Base: \$2,285.00; Event Account balance: \$739.54. Currently Tarheel Base membership stands at 147 regular and 2 associate members for a total of 149 members.
5. COB/ All Clear Editor/ Website Extraordinary Patch Paciorek said he will be departing on a Caribbean cruise next Saturday and will return on October 17 and will be "unavailable" during that time. He plans on having the next edition of the All Clear finalized by October 19.
6. Tarheel Base Storekeeper and Public Relations Officer Jim Wallace - He has 2015 USSVI calendars on order and hopes to have them for sale during the Pearl Harbor meeting. Jim gave an update on the Cary Bond Park Adopt-A-Spot Project. Five showed up for the workday on September 13, but it was cancelled due to rain. The next workday is scheduled for Saturday October 25 (9-12) with one more date to be scheduled prior to the end of the year.
7. S.E. Regional Commander Dick Kanning was not present.
8. District 1 Commander Steve Bell was not present.
9. North Carolina Subvets Commander Jim Myers was not present.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Due to the annual Kings Bay WWII Memorial meeting scheduled during the first week of November, Jim Myers needs a headcount of Subvets that will possibly attend the following Veteran's Day parades: Winston-Salem on Saturday, November 8; High Point on Sunday, November 9; and Asheboro on Tuesday, November 11. Jim is requesting these numbers ASAP in order to file for participation applications.
2. Request by Earl Buffalo for funds to purchase some WWII books was tabled again due to Earl's absence.
3. Chaplain Bill gave a report on the Bonefish Grill Project. There are now a total of 13 Bonefish Grill restaurants in North Carolina with the addition of one in Fayetteville. Dick Kanning is in charge of arranging a presentation at the Fayetteville location. Jim Wallace has completed the task of presenting a framed picture of the USS Bonefish to the manager of the Bonefish Grill in Greenville. Jim will follow up and set a date for a Subvets photo op at this restaurant very soon. In addition, Chaplain Bill stated future plans are in the works to extend this project to include the 8 restaurants in South Carolina.
4. Tarheel Base Librarian Wolfgang Friedrich covered the titles of 4 submarine related books that he recently purchased for the Base library. He urged Subvets to check out books from his inventory for their reading enjoyment.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jim Davis covered the following two proposed Tarheel Base Constitution and Bylaws amendments. These changes have been checked against the USSVI C&B and are not in conflict with that document.

Proposed amendment - In order to provide a timely process for filling a vacant Elected Office and for the removal of a non-performing Elected Officer it is necessary to amend the Tarheel Base Constitution and Bylaws.

Constitution Article VII, Executive Board, Section 4, add paragraphs D and E

- D. In the event the Commander's office is vacated, the Vice Commander shall assume the duties of the Commander. Any other vacated office will be filled by appointment by the Executive Board to fill the balance of the term of that office. At the end of the term the appointee is eligible to be elected to and serve his own term of office.

- E. The Executive Board may remove any officer not fulfilling the duties of his office. That officer may appeal his termination to the Regular Base Members. The appeal will be by secret ballot and will be determined by a majority of votes received.

Proposed amendment - The requirement for 8 members of the Executive Board to constitute a quorum could, under certain circumstances, be unattainable. Currently several Appointed Offices are held by one person who only has one vote. At times an appointed office could be vacant. The combination of these circumstances could make it difficult, if not impossible, to convene an 8 member quorum.

Constitution Article IX, Quorum, section 2, change to read:

Section 2. Two thirds of the Executive Board eligible to cast 1 vote each, 2 of whom must be elected Base Officers, shall constitute a Quorum for approving Executive Board actions.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve so stated two changes to the Tarheel Base Constitution and Bylaws.

2. Commander Butterbean covered the nominations for 2015 Tarheel Base officers. The slate of officers are as follows: Base Commander - Jerry Emerson; Vice Commander - Dave Campbell; Treasurer - Tom McFadden; and Secretary - Bill Lowe. Motion was made and seconded from the floor for nominations to be closed. Election Master Jim Davis will handle the balloting prior to the end of October.

OPEN FLOOR:

1. Paul Hiser gave a brief report on the “ups and downs” at the USSVI National Convention held in San Francisco, CA during the first week of September 2014. The bottom line is San Francisco is an expensive place to visit and that fact may have cut down on the number attending the convention this year - approximately 350 Subvets. Paul thanked all Subvets that voted for him to be the new USSVI National Treasurer.
2. Robert Andrews stated he has made available 40 some old copies of the American Submariner magazine. Wolfgang Friedrich has them in his “library.”

BENEDICTION:

Chaplain Bill Whelan closed the meeting with a prayer for safe travel.

NEXT BASE MEETING:

The next Tarheel Base meeting will be held on Friday, December 5, 2014 during the annual Pearl Harbor meeting at the University Club in Raleigh, NC.

Meeting was adjourned at: 11:17 AM.

Raffle Czar Henry Hagwood conducted the 50/50 raffle drawing. Mike Zimmerman was the big winner of \$52.00. Mike proceeded to spend part of his winnings purchasing items from storekeeper Jim Wallace.