

MINUTES OF USSVI TARHEEL BASE ZOOM MEETING

HELD ON-LINE ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2020

Tarheel Base Meeting was held for the second time via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. A total of 19 NC Subvets and one guest were logged on for the meeting. Meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM by Base Commander Jim Davis. Chaplain Gene Rutter rendered the opening prayer. Base Secretary Bill Lowe lead the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Then Bill read the Purpose of USSVI: Our prupose is "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country." In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice.

INTRODUCTIONS

Commander Jim stated no WWII Subvets or new Subvets have logged on and no new Tarheel Base members have signed up since February 1, 2020. All "attendees" were asked to introduce themselves by stating their qual boat and qual year. Subvets in attendance were as follows: Keith Bender; Mike Burkholder; Dave Campbell; Rich Cimino; Jim Davis; Mel Denis; Jim Jacobs; Chuck Jensen; Arv Klemp; Leland Kuntzman; Jerry Leppart; Gary Lew; Bill Lowe; Tom McFadden; Gene Rutter; Anthony Van Schaick; Dan Wall; Jim Wallace; and Al Zilinski. Guest speaker Andrew Hertel, Capt. USN was introduced later.

TOLLING OF THE LOST BOATS

Thanks to the help of Jim Wallace- the Tolling of the Lost Boats Ceremony for the five submarines, S-5; SS-209; SS-181; S-51; and SS-290 lost during the month of September was conducted via a Bremerton Base YouTube Presentation.

SPEAKER

The speaker for today's Tarheel Base Meeting was Andy Hertel, Capt. USN. He was introduced by Tom McFadden. Capt. Hertel is the Captain in Charge of the NROTC Programs for Duke, UNC, and NC State. He was the speaker at last year's Pearl Harbor Dinner. Capt. Hertel has been on active duty for 26 1/2 years and qualified in submarines in 1996 aboard the USS Tennessee (SSBN-734) Blue Crew. He covered various aspects of how COVID-19 has pulled the rug from underneath their program. Capt. Hertel stated they saw the pandemic coming in February and made plans to deal with it at the NROTC. This fell in line with the saying- "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"! All classes were conducted on Zoom and physical training was done in small groups. During May and June, the program commissioned 36 officers (Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants) with a good number of the Ensigns heading for duty on submarines. Capt. Hertel added- It is business as usual out there in the Real Navy. The mission hasn't changed! Our submarine forces are still deploying on patrols. All present thanked Capt. Hertel for an interesting and uplifting program.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Dave Campbell Blanket - Tom McFadden- Tom announced Dave received the blanket this past Wednesday along with a new Tarheel Base cap. Dave stated he was "beyond words" when he opened up the package and took a look at the blanket! He extended a hearty thank you to all the Tarheel Base members for this beautiful gift and displayed the blanket via Zoom for all to view who were "logged" in.

National Awards- Commander Jim congratulated the three Tarheel Base members who were presented USSVI National Awards recently: Tom McFadden- Meritorious Service Award; Gene Rutter- Robert Link Award; and Joe Peek- Robert Link Award.

Wellness Program Report- Chaplain Gene stated he continues to make calls to Base members and especially to those over the age of 80.

Binnacle List- Gene covered the Tarheel Base Subvets that are in need of our thoughts and prayers: Gary Lew's wife is recovering from shoulder surgery; Dick Kanning is experiencing hearing aid problems; Paul Hiser has a leg problem that is the result of an old injury he had in a car accident; Don Moyer is recovering from surgery on his back.

Holland Club- Presently, no awards are scheduled.

REPORTS

Base Commander Jim Davis- Jim thanked all Tarheel Base Subvets that took the time to cast their ballots in the USSVI National Election. All the candidates are continuing to serve in their respective positions. New ID's will be issued for retirees soon. Jim has requested Base Treasurer Tom McFadden to pay the \$25 per year for the USSVI Base Liability Insurance and make it a payment of \$100 for 4 years. This will help out National Treasurer Paul Hiser with his annual job of collecting those funds from each Base. Word has been received that we need to find a new location to store our torpedo and submarine floats. The Asheboro Air Museum needs the space for their use. Jim asked Base members to pass along any possible storage locations. Collection of National and Base dues will begin in October- Pay your dues in a timely manner!!

Vice Commander Rich Cimino- Rich asked all to pray that we will be able to meet again in person soon!! Also, Rich said it would be nice if we could come up with an enlisted person for a speaker. Someone mentioned the possibility of checking with the local Navy Recruiting Office to see if they had someone available and willing to do a program for us.

Secretary- Bill Lowe - Approve last meeting minutes for the Tarheel Base meeting held on August 1, 2020 via our 2nd Zoom meeting as sent out on the Tarheel email buoy and posted on the NC Subvets. Org website. Meeting minutes were approved with no changes or additions.

Treasurer - Per Tom McFadden, he had no treasurer's for this month. Tom reminded Tarheel Base Subvets of who has been scheduled to be the speaker for

the next Zoom Base meeting on Saturday, October 3rd - Frank Stewart, the former commanding officer of the USS Louisville (SSN-724) during the Gulf War.

COB - Dan Wall - No Comment

STOREKEEPER/PR OFFICER - JIM WALLACE - Jim said he has an extensive inventory of submarine related items for sale. Again, he urged Base Subvets to contact him via email or a phone call with their want lists and he will get those items delivered to them.

ADOPT-A-SPOT- Town of Cary has suspended our Base clean-up project at the North Harrison Ave. Veteran's Park and does not want us there presently. Jim has made a visit to the Park and he says it is "ship-shape"!

All Clear/Webmaster- Joe Peek- Not "Present"- Per Commander Jim, Joe has a plan to make our Facebook site private. It is a "work in progress".

Comments By (If Logged in):

NC SUBVETS COMMANDER - Jerry Emerson- Not "Present".

DISTRICT COMMANDER -Vince Sievert- Not "Present".

REGIONAL COMMANDER - Ken Nichols - Not "Present".

NATIONAL OFFICERS - Paul Hiser - National Treasurer - Not "Present"

UPCOMING EVENTS

1- Base Picnic- October 3, 2020- Lake Crabtree Park, Dogwood Shelter, Combined Base Meeting and Picnic. Per Jim Wallace, this event has been cancelled and the Base will be getting a reservations refund. An online Zoom Base meeting has been scheduled for that date.

2- NC State Fair- October 15-21, 2020, Military Appreciation Day on October 22- The NC State Fair has been cancelled for this year!

3- Kings Bay WWII Memorial Meeting in November- This year's WWII Kings Bay Memorial Week has been cancelled.

4- Asheboro Veterans Day Parade- November 9, 2020- This event is questionable at present. No update has been received.

5- Pearl Harbor Dinner- December 5th- Also in a questionable status.

6- 2021 USSVI National Convention is scheduled for August 31, 2021 in Orlando, FL.

OLD BUSINESS

Moonshine Mountain Banner- Tom McFadden stated the banner is in production this week and he ship the banner to the Asheville Base when received.

NEW BUSINESS

After a bit of discusion, a date for the next Tarheel Base Executive Board Meeting was finalized for Wednesday, September 23rd at 10:00 AM by way of Zoom.

RAFFLE- No raffle was conducted during this meeting.

BENEDICTION- Chaplain Gene offered up the closing prayer for all the submariners out on patrol.

Motion made to adjourn to the next meeting on October 3, 2020 via a Zoom On-line meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:44 AM.

COB Dan Wall - Surface the boat with 3 blasts of the diving alarm!