

MINUTES OF USSVI TARHEEL BASE MEETING
SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2021
AMERICAN LEGION POST #67 IN CARY, NC

Tarheel Base Meeting was held in person for the first time in 14 months. Coffee and donuts were served prior to the start of the meeting. Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Base Commander Jim Davis. Chaplain Gene Rutter stated this is Easter weekend and urged members to remember to renew their faith in the risen Christ. Base Secretary Bill Lowe lead the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commander Jim followed with a reading of the Purpose of USSVI: Our purpose 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

No WWII Subvets were present. First introduction was afforded to the newest Tarheel Base member- Keith Simson, MT2(SS). He qualified in 1991 aboard the USS Pennsylvania (SSBN-735). Keith served from 1991 until 1996 and has lived in Apex since 1998. A following introduction was by a first time visitor and prospective Base member Philip Morgan who qualified on the George Washington Carver (SSBN-656). Introductions by the remaining 21 Subvets in attendance followed. As a note, all present welcomed former Tarheel Base Vice Commander John Cunningham "back into the fold". He has recently moved back to North Carolina from Georgia and now resides in Youngsville, NC.

LOST BOATS

While showing a slide presentation, Tom McFadden read the list of the 8 boats lost in March- USS Perch (SS-176); USS Grampus (SS-207); USS H-1 (SS-28); USS

Triton (SS-201); USS Kete (SS-369); USS F-4 (SS-23); USS Trigger (SS-237); USS Tullibee (SS-284) and the 5 boats lost in April- USS Pickerel (SS-177); USS Snook (SS-279); USS Thresher (SSN-593); USS Gudgeon (SS-211) and USS Grenadier (SS-210). Chuck Jensen rang the bell for each of them.

SPEAKER

The speaker was Tarheel Base member Jerry Leppart. He covered the history of the MK14 Torpedo Parade Float from procurement of the torpedo from WWII Subvet Ollie Thompson; refurbishing the torpedo by the Roush Racing Team; having a custom trailer made for the torpedo by Kauffman's Trailer in Ramseur, NC that will allow room for seating a total of 16 Subvets during a parade. Several slides were shown covering the development of the torpedo float. At the end of Jerry's presentation, Commander Jim read the following letter from Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal dated October 27, 1945 and sent to all Navy personnel upon their separation from service:

My dear Mr. _____

I have addressed this letter to reach you after all the formalities of your separation from active service are completed. I have done so because, without formality but as clearly as I know how to say it, I want the Navy's pride in you, which it is my privilege to express, to reach into your civil life and to remain with you always.

You have served in the greatest Navy in the world.

It crushed two enemy fleets at once, receiving their surrenders only four months apart.

It brought our land-based airpower within bombing range of the enemy, and set our ground armies on the beachheads of final victory.

It performed the multitude of tasks necessary to support these military operations.

No other Navy at any time has done so much. For your part in these achievements you deserve to be proud as long as you live. The Nation which you served at a time of crisis will remember you with gratitude.

The best wishes of the Navy go with you into civilian life. Good luck!

Sincerely your,

James Forrestal

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Wellness Program Report/Binnacle List- Chaplain Gene Rutter-

- 1- The loss of Butterbean on March 19, 2021 has saddened all of us. His wife, Barbara, has support from her neighbors.
- 2- Paul Hiser is off O-2 and has recovered from COVID-19.
- 3- Dan Wall's wife Ann is taking chemo treatments for cancer.
- 4- Subvet Jack Jeffries has cancer and is taking chemo and radiation treatments. Dick Kanning and his wife Marge have visited Jack and report he is in good spirits- no surprise knowing Jack!
- 5- Wayne Powell has visited Anne Whelan and reported she has on-going back problems.

Holland Club Awards- Per Commander Jim, he has mailed a Holland Club Award to Dave Campbell.

No Longevity Pins were handed during the meeting.

REPORTS

Base Commander- Jim Davis- No new comments.

Vice Commander- Rich Cimino- He is thankful for having an in- person meeting at last!

Secretary Bill Lowe: Entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the last Base meeting held on February 6, 2021 by way of a Zoom type meeting with 15 Subvets logged on as sent out on the Tarheel email buoy and posted on the NC Subvets. Org Website. Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer- Tom McFadden- USSVI Tarheel Base Treasurers Report as of February 6, 2021. Membership Report: Base Membership is at 97 with 96 regular members and 1 associate member: Financial Report- Current Balances- Regular Account- \$4,510.89; Savings Account- \$6,115.86; Total Balance- \$10,626.75; Previous Balance (reported December 2020)- Total Balance- \$10,673.63- NOTES: Only expenses in this period was a reimbursement to Dan Wall for a replacement battery for the diving alarm (\$31.69) and a payment to the National Storekeeper (\$18.00).

COB- Dan Wall- Not Present.

ALL-CLEAR/WebMaster- Joe Peek- Joe stated the NC Subvets. Org Website is currently down and he hopes it will be up and running soon.

Storekeeper/PR Officer- Jim Wallace: No new Storekeeper info.

Adopt-A-Spot Update- On hold for now by the Town of Cary. Jim will relay any updates when received.

Comments By (If Present)

NC Subvets Commander- Jerry Emerson- Not Attending.

District Commander- Vince Sievert- USSVI Website- A lot of money has been expended on this project. Currently, they are giving it a try by outsourcing the problem to a French group.

Regional Commander- Ken Nichols- Not Attending.

National Office Information- Paul Hiser- National Treasurer- Not Attending.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1- SE Regional Conference is cancelled.
- 2- Moonshine Mountain Memorial Ceremony, May 15, 2021, (Event May 14-16 with dinner on the 15th). Planning a normal weekend as in the past with modifications for COVID-19.
- 3- Thomasville Memorial Day Parade (Convoy) May 31, 2021 TBD
- 4- USSVI National Convention, August 30- September 4, Orlando, FL (Go/NoGo 6-15-2021).
- 5- Tarheel Base Picnic- October Location/ Date TBD- Jim Wallace reported all the October dates for the Lake Crabtree Park are booked up. An alternative location is under consideration- such as Cary Bond Park.
- 6- NC State Fair October- On the schedule- TBD
- 7- Asheboro Veteran's Day Parade November 11, TBD
- 8- Fuquay- Varina Christmas Parade TBD
- 9- Pearl Harbor Dinner Scheduled for December 4, 2021
- 10- Next Tarheel Base meeting will be held-in person- on Saturday, June 5, 2021.
- 11- Per Tom McFadden, the Cary Youth Baseball season is on for this year. Details will be forth coming.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1- Revision #9 to the NC Subvets Charter- Commander Jim stated the roll of the NC Subvets Organization is to hold the 7 NC Bases together. As for the Revision #9, Jim made a motion for the Tarheel Base to support this change to the NC Subvets Charter. Motion was approved by Tarheel Base members in attendance.
- 2- MK14 Float Covered Storage Location- Currently, the float is secured under a heavy duty tarp on Dan Wall's property in Archer's Lodge, NC.

All are asked to keep an eye out for a structure that is big enough to store the torpedo float under building cover.

NEW BUSINESS

1- Odd month breakfast new location- The Golden Corral on Glenwood Ave. has closed. It was suggested to hold the next informal breakfast at the Golden Corral located at 3424 Capital Blvd.; Raleigh, NC- on Saturday, May 1, 2021.

50/50 Raffle-

Winner- Gene Rutter- Amount- \$55.00 Gene donated all of his winnings to the Jack Jeffries Ramp Fund and all agreed the other \$55.00 should go to this fund also. Dick Kanning brought a case of packs of Double Stuf Oreo cookies to the meeting and sold them for \$5.00 per pack. All proceeds went to the Jack Jeffries Ramp Fund. Donations for this fund were accepted during the Base meeting. Treasurer Tom McFadden reported a total of \$515.00 was collected for the Jack Jeffries Ramp Fund and these funds will be forwarded to the Carolina-Piedmont Base.

BENEDICTION- Chaplain Gene offered up the closing prayer for divine guidance for all to keep marching on with caution and safety during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Motion made to adjourn until the next meeting on June 5, 2021.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.

Chuck Jensen - Surface the boat with 3 blasts of the diving alarm!

