

Carolina-Piedmont Base Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: June 25th, 2022

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Rick Petitt called our meeting to order at 1832 hrs. at the VFW Post 9138 located in Fort Mill, SC.
- The meeting followed a wonderful potluck meal prepared and brought in by our base families.

INVOCATION

- Base Chaplain Raymond Fritz gave us the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- All joined in saying our nation's Pledge of Allegiance.

USSVI CREED

- The USSVI Creed was read today by Raymond Zieverink.

TOLLING OF THE BOATS

- Tolling for 7 boats lost during the month of June was presented by Ray Fritz and the bell was rung by Mike Hubbell.

MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

- 13 members were present at today's base meeting. We had a first-time visitor at tonight's meeting; Terry Draper qualified in 1974. Terry's wife's name is Jane. Welcome aboard Terry!

AWARDS

- Holland Club leader Steve Bell presented the prestigious Holland Club award to 2 shipmates tonight. Jim Goins and John McHugh received their induction into the Holland Club tonight, meaning it has been 50 years since they first earned their dolphins qualifying in submarines.
- Steve Bell also acknowledged several other members tonight who earned their rockers for extending their 50 years since being qualified by 5, 10 & 15-years meaning issuance of 55-year, 60-year and even one 65-year rocker.

REVIEW OF LAST BASE MEETING MINUTES

- The meeting minutes for April (which was our last meeting prior to Burnsville and our base picnic) were posted on the Carolina Piedmont Website at carolinapiedmont.org.
- No corrections were received at today's meeting, so April's base meeting minutes stand as-is.

READING OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT

- Rick Petitt presented our latest treasurer's report stating there was a total of \$7,564 in the base treasury.

BASE STOREKEEPER REPORT

- Jeff Nieberding is our base contact for ordering USSVI items, including patches, vests, challenge coins, parking signs, etc.
- Jeff still has USSVI calendars available for purchase.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

• Eternal Patrol Notifications

➤ **O. Walt Sealy**

- ❖ Carolina Piedmont Base member O. Walt Sealy passed away on Friday, June 17th, 2022. Walt joined the Navy right out of high school in 1954, first qualified in submarines aboard the USS Argonaut (SS-475) in 1956 and retired from the U.S. Navy after 20 years of service as Chief Petty Officer RMC(SS).
- ❖ Walt joined USSVI and our base in 2007, was a Life Member of USSVI and was also an honored member of the prestigious USSVI Holland Club. Walt's funeral was today, Saturday, June 25th at the Neely's Creek ARP Church, and Walt was sent off on Eternal Patrol with full military honors.

➤ **Jack Jeffries**

- ❖ Carolina Piedmont Base member Jack Jeffries passed away on Wednesday, June 22nd, 2022. In 2007, Jack was one of the founding and charter members of the Carolina Piedmont Base and was responsible for recruiting many submariners to join our base and USSVI.
- ❖ Jack served as Vice Commander of our base for many years, he was our first Base Secretary and was our Kapss-4-Kidss coordinator. He was a member of the base color guard, created the Submarine education program for JROTC units in the Charlotte area, and participated in many regional and national conventions and reunions.
- ❖ Jack joined the Navy in 1961, qualified in submarines aboard USS Nathanael Greene (SSBN-636) in 1965 in which he was a Plank Owner and was very active in the Nat Greene reunion group. Jack left the Navy in 1970 at the rank of RM1(SS). Jack was a Life Member of USSVI and was also an honored member of the prestigious USSVI Holland Club.
- ❖ Jack's memorial service will be held, Sunday, July 10 at 10:30 at the Sandhills Cowboy Church, 7195 SC Hwy 207, Pageland SC, and he will be sent off on Eternal Patrol with full military honors including playing of taps and a flag presentation ceremony.

• New (Temp) USSVI Website

- Rick and Steve Bell reported we have a new log in to our old USSVI website which will be of a temporary nature until the new national website is launched (expected sometime in August of this year). There is a new URL for the temporary website which is **ussubvets.org**, replacing the old ussvi.org login.

• USSVI National Elections

- Elections for National Officers are now open for all USSVI members to vote. Voting can be done by logging into the new (temporary) USSVI website at **ussubvets.org**. and clicking on the yellow "Vote Nat Election" button and it's easy to cast your ballot.
- In addition, there's one proposed amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws being asked which also requires your Yes or No vote. The question is regarding a change requiring the USSVI Board of Directors to approve the establishment of all new USSVI bases; currently they do not.

- **Volunteers Needed for Open Base Positions**

- Kapss-4-Kidss: Rick reported with Jack Jeffries' passing we have two open positions we need volunteers to fill. Jack was very proactive in the Kapss-4-Kidss program so a volunteer is needed to pick up this position for when we get start visiting special-needs-children facilities again.
- Eagle Scout Representative: This is our coordinator position for when we get notified of a request to participate at a scout troop preparing to honor a young person being presented with the prestigious Eagle Scout award. This open position involves ensuring supplies for presenting to Eagle Scouts are available and for coordinating and/or presenting honorary submariner certificates and patches at Eagle Scout ceremonies.
- Rick would really appreciate persons volunteering for either of these open positions.

- **Color Guard Charlotte Knights Game**

- Members of our base color guard had the privilege of presenting the colors at Truist Field in uptown Charlotte this past Memorial Day weekend. Members of our color guard who attended wish to say a special thanks to the Charlotte Knights organization who rolled out the hospitality carpet to our group after the opening game ceremonies.
- A suggestion was made that we might try to arrange to present colors at one of the Gastonia Honey Hunters games at Gastonia's new ballpark someday.

- **USSVI National Conventions**

- Base members were reminded of the 2022 annual USSVI National Convention to be held in Buffalo NY in August. Members were also provided a sneak peek that the 2023 convention would be held in Tuscan Arizona again and just announced the 2024 annual convention will be held in Cleveland Ohio and will be sponsored by the Cleveland local USS Cod base.

NEXT BASE MEETING

- Our next base meeting will be on Saturday, July 23rd at the Fort Mill VFW. Summer hours will still be in effect.
- VFW doors open at 1700, our meal starts at 1730 and base meeting starts around 1830.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1923 hrs. Motion passed.

BENEDICTION

- Today's Benediction was given by Base Chaplain Raymond Fritz.

RAFFLE RESULTS

- Tonight's 33/33/33 raffle was won by Kevin Walker!

NOTE: The list of meeting attendees follows on the next page.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:
Tom Kelly
Base Secretary

June 25, 2022 List of Meeting Attendees:

- Steve Bell
- Joe Brady
- Bob Bunney
- Terry Draper (newest member)
- Ray Fritz
- Jim Goins
- Mike Hubbell
- Tom Kelly
- John McHugh
- Jeff Nieberding
- Rick Petitt
- Kevin Walker
- Raymond Zieverink