

Carolina-Piedmont Base Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: August 27th, 2022

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Carolina Piedmont Base Vice-Commander Jim Goins called our meeting to order at 1822 hrs. at VFW Post 9138 located in Fort Mill, SC.
- The meeting followed a wonderful potluck meal brought in by our base families.

INVOCATION

- Jim Goins 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 Jeff Nieberding.

TOLLING OF THE BOATS

- Tolling for 5 boats lost during August was presented by Tom Kelly and bell rung by Bill Strand.

MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

- 9 members were present at today's base meeting.

AWARDS

- No awards were given out today, however, Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient Bob Bunney shared with us a snapshot into his past when he was in the Army in Vietnam and was shot down and wounded while onboard an army helicopter during a mission.
- Bob described how a second helicopter was also shot down during a rescue attempt of the men from Bob's helicopter. 6-hours later a third helicopter arrived which was a rescue/ambulance helicopter and they were able to finally rescue Bob, his crew and the crew from the 2nd helicopter that was shot down.
- The story continued of how that same helicopter that rescued Bob was one-week later involved in another rescue mission where they came under heavy enemy fire and crashed. A second helicopter came to rescue personnel from the first crash and they also came under heavy enemy fire. The crew chief from the first chopper waved off rescue for himself due to continued enemy fire to allow that second chopper to safely lift off.
- That crew chief's name who rescued Bob and who stayed behind on that later mission was Specialist Fifth Class Dennis M. Fujii. Fujii himself was unable to be rescued until 4 days later due to severe enemy fire in the area. Fujii, during his 4-days on the ground, was administering care to other wounded personnel plus he was able to obtain a radio and then direct air strikes onto enemy positions he observed – all while using his own rifle to return enemy fire.
- Because of Specialist Fifth Class Dennis M. Fujii's actions he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross back in 1971. The story doesn't end there however; just this year Fujii's award was upgraded by Congress to the military's highest honor when he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor which was presented to him in a special-awards ceremony at the White House by President Joe Biden.
- Bob's story included many enlightening and sometimes hilarious times during that event that showed the other side of military life that we might never know unless we've experienced enemy fire ourselves.
- Fujii's complete story of being awarded the Medal of Honor can be obtained by clicking on the link below: <https://www.cmohs.org/index.php/recipients/dennis-m-fujii>

REVIEW OF LAST BASE MEETING MINUTES

- Members were reminded that the meeting minutes for July were posted on our Carolina Piedmont website at carolinapiedmont.org for their review.
- No corrections were received at today's meeting, so July's base meeting minutes stand as-is.

READING OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT

- Base Treasurer Bill Strand presented our latest treasurer's report stating there was a total of \$7,598.95 currently in the base treasury.

BASE STOREKEEPER REPORT

- Jeff stated starting at next month's meeting he will begin taking orders for 2023 submarine calendars.
- Jeff Nieberding is our contact for ordering USSVI items, including patches, vests, challenge coins, calendars, parking signs, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

- Donations for Jack Jeffries's Memorial Service
 - ❖ A follow-up discussion occurred regarding the certificates of appreciation and donation of 200 dollars each that were voted on at last month's base meeting to the Lanes Creek Volunteer Fire Dept and to the Indian Land VFW for their participation at Jack Jeffries memorial service last month.
 - ❖ Jim Goins stated that Rick Petitt is in the process of obtaining addresses for each organization and working with base member Clarence Jordan to have the certificates of appreciation written. Bill Strand also announced that two (2) 200-dollar allocations from the base's general fund have been set aside for these two donations.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- **USSVI National Elections**
 - Elections for National Officers officially closed August 24th for all USSVI members to vote.
 - Jim Goins stated that out of all Carolina Piedmont members only 17 online votes were cast which was just 22.67 of our base membership.
 - Members present at today's meeting also stated there were website issues challenging them from voting online ranging from having to attempt to vote 3 times before finally being successful to just not being able to successfully enter their votes.
- **Dues Collection Will Begin in September**
 - Jim Goins and Bill Strand both stated we want to start collecting base and if appropriate National Dues starting at next month's meeting in September.
 - Contact Jim Goins who maintains the official base listing of members' dues standings if you're unsure of where you're at for 2023 dues payment.
 - Base Holland Club members are reminded that last year our base voted that all Holland Club members would begin to pay base dues of \$10 per year just to assist in maintaining funds in our general fund because over half of our base members are now Holland Club members and Holland Club members were previously exempt from having to pay annual base dues.
 - Our goal is to get all members renewed for next year before the end of the year to prevent losing members from National's rolls in 2023.
- **2022 Kings Bay Submarine Veterans of WWII Memorial Week - Nov 2 - 6**

- Jim Goins reminded us that registration for the King's Bay subbase WWII memorial weekend is now open. Jim sent out an email today, August 27th, to all base members with all registration and event information.

NEXT BASE MEETING

- Our next base meeting (which will be our second base picnic of 2022) will be on Saturday, September 24th at the Catawba Nuclear Station park, in York SC. Times and directions will be sent out in a specific email to base members in September with all the details.
- Jim also announced that our October meeting at the Ft. Mill VFW will be moved to the 5th Saturday of October (the 29th) because our room at the VFW will not be available due to a previous commitment.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1904 hours. Motion passed.

BENEDICTION

- Today's Benediction was given by Jim Goins.

RAFFLE RESULTS

- Tonight's 33/33/33 raffle was won by Susan Kelly!

NOTE: The list of meeting attendees follows below.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:
Tom Kelly
Base Secretary

August 27, 2022 Meeting Attendees:

- Bob Bunney
- Jim Goins
- Jim Harris
- Mike Hubbell
- Tom Kelly
- Jeff Nieberding
- Zeke Rybczyk
- Bill Strand
- Kevin Walker