

Minutes of the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner and Tarheel Base Meeting.
December 9, 2023

The annual December Base Meeting and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner was held on December 9, 2023 at the NC State University Club in Raleigh, NC. There were 87 members and guests present. Three Bases: Tarheel, Old North State, and Nathanael Greene were represented. The USSVI National Secretary and ES1 District Commander were also in attendance.

Members of the Tarheel Executive board and their wives arrived early to assist in the setup of A/V System, Base Banner, Registration Table, Raffle Tables, and placing napkins with Submarine Logo's on the dinner Tables.

A social hour was held from 1700-1800 with a cash bar. Tickets were sold for raffle items and name tags, and table place cards were handed out as members and guests arrived.

The meeting was called to order at 1800 with the sounding of the Diving Alarm klaxon by the COB, Anthony Van Schaick.

Base Commander Davis welcomed the guests and recited the Purpose of USSVI.

Chaplain Gene Rutter offered the Invocation followed by the singing of God Bless America by Diana Blaine.

Colors were presented by Wade Cooper followed by the National Anthem sung by Diana Blaine.

The Remembrance Ceremony was conducted starting with Chaplain Rutter remembering the 8 NC submarine Veterans who departed on Eternal Patrol in 2023.

A new Tolling the Boats Audio/Video presentation, including the short preamble, created by Anthony Van Schaick, was projected on the screen and narrated through the speaker system. The presentation memorialized the 66 boats and the nearly 4000 men lost since the inception of the US Submarine Force in 1900. A moment of silence was observed at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Introductions started with the two WWII Veterans in attendance. Martin Kirwan, 102 year old Submarine Veteran, who made 4 War Patrols on the USS Gunnel, and Don Moyer, 95 year old Submarine Veteran who entered service in 1945 and Qualified on USS Chopper in 1947. The remaining Subvets introduced themselves and their guests.

A short USSVI Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) video was shown and comments on the program were given by Dennis Cloutier, Old North State Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Chair.

A buffet was served at 1900.

At 2000, Guest Speaker, Command Master Chief Matthew R. Harris, from the Office of the Vice Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Lisa M Franchetti gave a presentation on the State of the Submarine Force. He fielded numerous questions from the audience. He also presented sealed letters from the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Master Chief of the Navy, to WWII Veterans Marty Kirwan and Don Moyer.

USSVI National Secretary Dave Campbell provided an update on growing USSVI membership and the status of the USSVI website redevelopment.

The Southeast District 1 Commander, Mike Sears, offered comments and administered the USSVI Oath of Office to incoming Tarheel Base Commander Anthony Van Schaick, and incoming Vice Commander Wade Cooper.

Base Commander Davis presented a Holland Club Certificate, Cap, and associated items to Norman Everhart, who qualified on USS William S. Bates, SSN-680 in 1973.

Base Commander Davis presented the Base Commander's Lifetime Submariner Emeritus Award to Chaplain Gene Rutter and Base Storekeeper Jim Wallace.

Tom McFadden presented Base Commander Jim Davis a dual pet stroller for his "kids"; his two Maltese dogs.

The final raffle drawing for 30 great items donated by Tom McFadden, and a hand-made stained glass memory box made by Myrna Cooper was held.

The Benediction was given by Chaplain Rutter.

The COB Surfaced the Boat at 2145.