



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS, INC
USSVI GROTON BASE MEETING MINUTES
June 7, 2021

THIS MEETING IS THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND CHANGE OF COMMAND FOR USSVI GROTON BASE. THIS MEETING IS AN IN-PERSON MEETING AND BROADCAST ON ZOOM FOR OUT OF AREA MEMBERS.

YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST USE THIS LINK, FOR THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING AS THE PHONE NUMBER / LOG IN HAS CHANGED!

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MEETING ID: 824 0869 6144

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CALL TO ORDER 6:30 pm by the OUT-GOING BASE COMMANDER JEFF WALSH

ETERNAL PATROL

USS Herring (SS-233) Lost on June 1, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Matsuwa Island. Herring was on her 8th war patrol and was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made 2 direct hits on her conning tower and causing her loss. Before being sunk, she had sank a freighter and a passenger-cargoman. Herring was the only US submarine sunk by a land battery.

USS R-12 (SS-89) Lost on June 12, 1943 with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.

USS Golet (SS-361) Lost on June 14, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. On her 2nd war patrol, Golet was apparently lost in battle with antisubmarine forces north of Honshu.

USS Bonfish (SS-223) Lost on June 18, 1945 with the loss of 85 men when sunk near Suzu Misaki. Winner of 3 Navy Unit Citations, Bonfish was on her 8th war patrol. After sinking a passenger-cargoman, Bonfish was subjected to a savage depth charge attack.



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USS S-27 (SS-132) Lost on June 19, 1942 when it grounded off Amchitka Island. She was on the surface in poor visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore (400 yards away) in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescued.

USS O-9 (SS-70) Lost on Jun 20, 1941 with the loss of 33 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH.

USS Runner (SS-275) Lost between June 26 & July 4th 1943 with the loss of 78 men. Runner was on her 3rd war patrol probably due to a mine. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargoman off the Kuriles. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on June 26th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before July 4th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Steve Ricard

CREED: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country, that their dedications, deeds, and supreme sacrifice serve as a constant source of motivation towards greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution"

2. **CHAPLAIN – OPENING PRAYER**

3. **OPENING EVENTS**

4. **INTRODUCTION AND RECOGNITION OF VIP AND GUESTS**

A. NERD JEFF WALSH; NATIONAL JR. VICE STEVE BELL; HOLLAND CLUB NATIONAL CHAIRMAN BUD ATKINS; KAPS4KIDS NATIONAL CHAIRMAN JOHN RILEY.

5. **CHANGE OF COMMAND AND SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

BASE COMMANDER – STEVEN A RICARD – Conducted by out-going Base Commander Jeff Walsh,

JR. VICE COMMANDER – PATRICK SULLIVAN-Conducted by USSVI NERD1 Jeff Walsh,

TREASURER – CHARLIE MURRAY-Conducted by Conducted by USSVI NERD1 Jeff Walsh

- CHARLIE MURRAY RESIGNATION ACCEPTED BY EBOARD
- ALVIN G KINSALL APPROVED BY EBOARD

SECRETARY – ALVIN KINSALL Conducted by Conducted by USSVI NERD1 Jeff Walsh



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1. **MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE** -- 30
 2. **AWARD PRESENTATION**
 - **PRESENTATION** to out-going Base Commander Jeff Walsh; conducted by Base Commander Steve Ricard
 - **SPECIAL AWARDS:** Charlie Murray was presented his Chris Q plaque by out-going Base Commander Jeff Walsh
 - **REMARKS** by past commander – Jeff Walsh
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BUSINESS PORTION OF THE MEETING (All non-members are excused)

a. ACTION ITEMS

- i. Secretary Report
 1. Correspondence
 2. Minutes on the website
- ii. Treasurer Report
 1. 2021 monthly reports on the website
 2. All bills including taxes have been paid
 3. Funds available for club expenses \$22,670
 4. Pending obligations:
 - a. Exterior foundation brick work \$2000 – *targeting end of week to be complete*
 - b. Exterior doors \$2000 – *all on order*
- iii. Membership Chair Report: *Renewals are slow coming in. Targeting to start renewals in September to improve renewals by end of year.*
Renewal Application can be found at <https://www.ussvigroton.org/docs>
- iv. Junior Vice Commander Report: *Reported he is working to sign up more active duty members*
- v. Senior Vice Commander Report
 1. Opportunity to participate in 2021 Finance Committee – Audit (**need volunteers**)
 2. Saturday morning clean-up 0900 to noon (**need volunteers**)
 3. Reported working to create list of Preventative Maintenance items
- VI. Commander - Executive Board Report
 1. EBOARD will meet the Monday before the Monthly Membership meeting at 1700 (5:00PM)
 2. Brunch schedule dates are 6/13, 7/11, 8/1. EBOARD will cook and serve if no other crews are available.
 3. July Member/Guest Dinner 7/17 1730-1900 – \$12.00 - Picnic Style with to-go orders as requested - Burgers, Hotdogs, Fries, Chili and Desserts
 4. In-person Groton parade, Starts at 1300. Reception to follow – CDR to discuss with SUBVETS Auxiliary to provide sides and desserts.
 5. BAR HOURS Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 1100-1700. Thursday and Friday hours 1100 - 1900. Lunches to be served daily.
 6. Base broadcasts are to be every two weeks. Next broadcast is 6/6 and 6/20. Individual broadcasts e.g., Holland Club, Veterans Affairs, etc as necessary.



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COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT:

HOLLAND CLUB (Rich Cheatham)

Use new email (holland@ussvigroton.org) to communicate with new Holland Club Chair, Rich Cheatham
2021 Holland Club Induction preparation is on going
Scheduled for October 2 at Dealey Center n

o **MEMORIAL** (Marian Galbraith)

The Memorial Committee has been hard at work during the month of May. The Memorial has a new look. 52 new bushes have been planted, the flowers are in and the mulch has been laid. A flag inventory was conducted and new flags were purchased. Many thanks to the committee members and other volunteers who joined us for any or all of our for work parties. Special thanks are owed to the City of Groton. The Parks and Rec Department has done a beautiful job keeping up the grounds and Groton Utilities sent a bucket truck to replace an eye hook on the yardarm. Jenkins Landscaping not only did a great job of planting the new shrubs, but went above and beyond by providing a water tank while the irrigation system was temporarily unavailable.

The Committee supported the Memorial Day Ceremony by coordinating participants and setting up and breaking down the event. Naval Submarine School and NSS Ceremonies were out in force to help with the event.

A painting party is being planned for June. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to contact Marian Galbraith at mktgalbraith@gmail.com. n

o **KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS)** (John Riley)

On May 25th, 16 Kids in Yale New Haven Hospital's Inpatient Child Psychiatric Unit for 4-12 year-olds, were made Honorary Submariners by Groton Base's Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Team of Bob Dulin, Bob Sharpe and John Riley. n

o **CHAPLAIN** (Jack Gallimore)

Eternal Patrol in May - none for Groton Base

o **VETERANS AFFAIRS** (Al Kinsall)

Copayment refund notification letters mailed

As of 5/27/2021 The American Rescue Plan (ARP), passed in March 2021, included a provision that canceled VA copayments for medical care and pharmacy services received between April 6, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2021.

Refunds will be sent to Veterans who paid copayments for health care and pharmacy services received during this period.

On May 12, VA began mailing letters to each Veteran with information on refunds, timing of when informational patient statements will resume, and when VA will begin normal collection of copayments.

"We want to make sure Veterans who made payments on their account are aware their refund is on its way," said Susan Reed, executive director of Revenue Operations, VHA's Office of Community Care. "This will provide clarity on what you can expect, and a few other reminders in terms of when you will begin to see monthly statements."

Veterans will not be charged copayments for medical care and pharmacy services received between April 6, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2021.

Monthly statements will resume in July 2021, but the July, August and September statements will be informational only. They will include an insert reminding you that if you have a balance for services received prior to April 6, 2020, you can voluntarily make payments now.



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VA will resume normal billing and collections Oct. 1, 2021.

3 Agent Orange Presumptive Added

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced three conditions will be added to the list of those presumptively associated with exposure to Agent Orange herbicide. Those conditions are **bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism**. This expansion is a result of many Veteran organization who supported legislation that was added to the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L.116-283). Vietnam War era veterans and their survivors, who previously filed and were denied benefits for one of these three new presumptive conditions, will have their cases automatically reviewed without the need to refile a claim. n

o SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (Greg Kane)

2021 – 2022 Groton Base USSVI Scholarship Awardees

STUDENTS NAME

Attending

Lucas Nelson	Macalester College, Minnesota
Reece Harding	Lafayette College, Pennsylvania
Benjamin Perrin	Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Massachusetts
Sarah Hodgdon	The George Washington University, DC
Griffin Snell	Colorado Mountain College, Colorado
Megan Bost	University of North Florida, Florida
Nicholas Solt	Northern Essex Community College, Massachusetts
Shelby Myers	Bowling Green State University, Ohio

OLD BUSINESS

A. NATIONAL ELECTIONS: Elections National Nerd1

NEW BUSINESS: None

CLOSING EVENTS:

A. Good of the Order

B. Closing Prayer

ADJOURN 7:35PM (1935)

NEXT MEETINGS: *Membership meeting Monday July 5, 2021*

RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE MEETING

Immediately after the Membership meeting on 7 June there will be a small reception, in the Pump Room, to thank Jeff Walsh for his dedication to USSVI Groton Base and the Submarine Community during his 5 years tenure as Base Commander. Jeff has done a fantastic job managing the affairs of the club and keeping us on track to achieve where we are today.

So please join us for SubVets Chili, hotdogs, finger foods, and desserts.