



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS



"To Honor Those Who Serve, Past, Present & Future"

April 2010

Volume 11, Issue 4

**Lest We Forget —
"The USSVI Submariner's Creed"**

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

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News Brief

1. **Next Meeting:** At 1200, third Saturday of each month at the Knollwood Sportsman's Club, Rondout, IL (near Lake Bluff). Includes lunch. Guests always welcome!
 - a. APRIL 17
 - b. MAY 15
2. Duty Cook Roster:
 - a. April – Bob Benn
 - b. May – Greg Miller and Frank Walter
 - c. June – Frank Voznak
3. Crash Dive's Monthly Meetings now start **one hour earlier at 1200**.
4. The Cincinnati Base will host the **2010 USSVI and WWII Submarine Veterans National Convention** at the Drawbridge Inn in Fort Mitchell, KY. The Convention will be August 30 through September 6. Despite rumors to the contrary, there is **no change** in hotel.
5. **Landing Zone Lambeau:** See www.lzlambeau.org for info about Wisconsin's Welcome Home for Vietnam vets at Lambeau Field May 21-23, 2010.

Crash Dive Meeting Minutes March 20, 2010

Attendees:

Glenn Barts
Herman Mueller
Alan Tuidor
Dave Cribbins
Larry Warnke
Bob Benn
Frank Voznak
Greg Miller
Joe Chevere
Clay Hill
Chris Gaines

1. The meeting was called to order at 1205 by Clay Hill followed by the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and a round of introductions.
2. The Secretary's Report was given by Chris Gaines. Herman Mueller moved to accept; Glenn Barts seconded; vote was unanimous.
3. Treasurer's report given by Glenn Barts; checking account \$4619.50; shares account balance \$1168.69. Herman Mueller moved to accept; Larry Warnke seconded, vote was unanimous.
4. Old Business
 - a. Facebook discussion was deferred until Fudd Elmeier can join us.
 - b. Clay Hill said the call tree concept is not developed yet.
 - c. Recruiter meeting idea – Heath Cimolka can tell us

how we can join recruiters to talk to the recruits. Bob Fleck will invite him to a future meeting.

5. New Business
 - a. 50-50 won by Brent Basara
 - b. Ball
 - i. Publicity – did get the word out
 - ii. Budget - 34 paid registrants
 - iii. Hotel pickup – 22 rooms Saturday night
 - iv. Reservations report – 38 attendees including band and keynote speaker.
 - v. Bob Fleck is making centerpieces; Frank will work on pictures; votive candles through Michael's for over \$100 for candles or 12-packs that have glass holders and candles for \$50; Glenn Barts moved to spend money for the 12-packs; Frank Walter seconded; vote was unanimous. Cherry wood veneer. Bob Fleck suggests selling these to other bases via American Submariner once we see the finished product.
 - c. Website – John Moody and Joe Chevere are absent; defer
 - d. Charity Plan – Bob Benn and Greg Miller identified a large number of worthy causes. There is plenty of need. USSVCF would like \$10/member annually.

USSVCF has several funds (memorial funds, scholarship funds, library fund, brotherhood fund); Greg reviewed their list of charitable organizations, vetted through Charity Navigator and all are 4-star rated;

- i. Can donate individually
- ii. Can support as a group.
- iii. Bob and Greg noted that we could become involved in a fundraising program for any of these.
- iv. April agenda to set criteria to select. Bob and Greg see the possibility that Crash Dive takes on the task of fundraising.
- e. Convention Support – Clay read the message from Cincinnati Base soliciting convention donations. Put in newsletter for individual donations. Bob Fleck suggests that Crash Dive buys a quarter-page ad – may use to promote the votive candle idea. Defer decision to purchase advertising to our April meeting.
- f. Agreed to publish information about the USSVI national election but not individual candidate letters.
- g. Newsletter improvement ideas from Frank Voznak suggests articles from Chaplin, VCDR, CDR, committee reports such as

charity, storekeeper, favorite recipes; birthdays, Booster Club, etc.

- h. Boat sponsorship – could be individual or group. In the past, CD donated \$100/year. May want several copies per boat such as wardroom, chief's quarters, and crew library. No decision on action.
 - i. Awards message from NC discussion – table to April meeting.
6. Good of the Order
- a. Brent said have new bakery; baker noticed his hat; mentioned shindig LZLambeauField.org May 21-23; open to anyone; mobile Vietnam wall will be there, food. USS Wisconsin will be there. Open to any veteran, any war.
 - b. Russ is guest from Great Lakes Base; USS Wisconsin will be at LZ.
 - c. Duty Cook
 - i. April – Bob Benn
 - ii. May – Greg Miller and Frank Walter
 - iii. June – Frank Voznak
 - d. Herman – Staff and stand for base flag difficult to adapt an outdoor flag to indoor use. For the Ball, just hang it as a banner and initiate discussion for a new flag for Rondout vs. Great Lakes. Herman will get the staff and we can consider a new flag.

- e. Herman Mueller described a Robert E. Lee statue; offer two raffle tickets for each \$5 spent on jewelry at the Ball. Chris Gaines moved grant permission to do it; Pete Almeroth seconded; vote was unanimous
- 7. Glenn Barts moved to adjourn, Martin Salvador seconded; vote was unanimous. Adjourned at 1327.

Lost Boats

USS PICKEREL (SS-177)	4/3/43
USS SNOOK (SS-279)	4/8/45
USS THRESHER (SSN-593)	4/10/63
USS GUDGEON (SS-211)	4/18/44
USS GRENADIER(SS-210)	4/22/43

NEW Meeting Time

Our monthly meetings now start one hour earlier at 1200. We think it will be good to get to lunch earlier.

Convention News

Dear Base Commander,

As you know the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. and The WWII Submarine Veterans are holding their Joint Annual Convention Monday August 30 through Sunday September 5, 2010 in the Greater Cincinnati area. The primary purpose of the convention is to conduct USSVI and WWII Submarine Veteran business. But most importantly it is intended to provide a venue in which we can reconnect with old shipmates and make new friends.

We at the Cincinnati Base have worked hard to keep convention costs down.

- 1) The various breakfast meetings have been priced very reasonably.
- 2) There is a free Continental Breakfast each day.
- 3) The shuttle to and from the airport is free.
- 4) The costs of the Banquet and the River Cruise are quite reasonable.
- 5) We have numerous organized tours throughout the convention week or you can explore Cincinnati on your own.

We ask for your support in this endeavor by one or more of the following means:

- 1) Bases and Individuals:
 - a) The purchase of an ad in the Convention Souvenir Program Magazine (form attached). Ad pricing ranges from as low as \$20.00 for a business card size to \$250.00 for the back cover.
 - b) By the sponsorship of the Convention through direct donation (a form is attached). Donations can range from \$10.00 to 1,000.00.

Additional forms can be obtained by downloading them from the 2010 Convention Web Site at www.2010convention.cincysubvets.com

Please pass the word to your base Membership.

Regards,
 Roger Crombie
 937-667-7479
www.pigboat1@woh.rr.com

(Crash Dive encourages supporting the convention as noted in this article and attending the convention. Forms mentioned in the article are available from the Newsletter Editor. Ed.)

DFAS Retired Pay Newsletter:

Learn More About Your Retired Pay

Welcome to the new DFAS Retired and Annuitant Pay! On February 1, we completed a very exciting transition; we brought Retired and Annuitant Pay back in house after outsourcing the function to a contractor for nearly eight years. Our goal was to make this transition seamless for you and to continue providing excellent customer service and timely, accurate pay.

Read more: <http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/march2010/directorscorner.html>

New and Improved Web Pages

On Feb. 1, DFAS launched new and improved web pages for our retired military and annuitant customers. We reviewed all of the information we were providing you and removed outdated or irrelevant material, reducing the number of web pages in the Retired Pay section of the site from 88 to 26.

Read more: <http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/march2010/newandimprovewebpage.html>

2010 Tax Updates

Two recent changes to the Internal Revenue Service tax tables have a lot of military retirees and annuitants asking questions. Find out how these changes may affect you.

Read more: <http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/march2010/2010taxupdate.html>

International Direct Deposit Information Restored

Many military retirees and annuitants who live overseas and receive their benefits through International Direct Deposit (IDD) have voiced concerns recently over missing information on their electronic fund transfers. International Treasury Services has restored this information to the electronic funds transfers.

Read more: <http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/march2010/iddinfo restored.html>

myPay Puts You in Control

Imagine it's March 30 and your appointment with the tax preparer is only 30 minutes away. You open the folder containing your financial information for the last year and discover that your retired pay 1099R is missing. What do you do?

Read this article to find out: <http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/march2010/mypayputsyouincontrol.html>

Retiree Seminars

Want to talk to an expert about your retirement benefits or annuity? DFAS representatives will be available at several retiree seminars in March and April.

Find out more:

<http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/march2010/retireeseminars.html>

Questions or Comments?

Do you have a question or feedback for us? Please call our Customer Contact Center toll free at 1-800-321-1080 or submit an inquiry online at <https://ca.dtic.mil/dfas/s-retired/ret-pay.htm>.

(The Retired Pay Newsletter is available here <http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news.html>. Ed)

Tardiness

Charley, a new greeter at the local WalMart, just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, really tidy, clean-shaven, sharp minded and a real credit to the company, always (and obviously) demonstrating store policies.

One day the store manager called him into the office for a talk. *"Charley; I have to tell you ... I like your work ethic. You do a bang up job, but your being late so often is quite bothersome."*
"Yes, I know boss, and I am working on that."
"Well, that's good. You are a team player. That's what I like to hear. It's odd though ... your coming in late, because I know you're retired from the Armed Forces. What did they say if you came in late there?"
"They said, Good morning, Admiral. Can I get you some coffee, sir?"

USSVI Convention at Drawbridge Inn

Contrary to what was published in the WWII Magazine Polaris there is NO change to the location of the USSVI 2010 National Convention. It is still in the Drawbridge Inn and all reservations are honored by the new owners without any action required by those going.

Navy Brings New \$2.3 Billion Submarine To Life In Norfolk

By Kathy Adams and Lauren King, Virginian-Pilot, March 28, 2010

NORFOLK -- It's been months since shipbuilders tightened the final bolts and completed the last welds on the Navy's newest fast-attack submarine, the New Mexico.

The Aztec-print curtains were hung on the sailors' racks and the sub's cooks trained in preparing authentic New Mexican cuisine. And last fall, the underwater war fighter passed its sea trials, a vigorous set of tests that cleared the way for the Navy to take ownership of the sub at the end of December.

But the final piece didn't fall into place for the New Mexico's new Navy career until Saturday, when the ship's sponsor, Cindy Giambastiani, gave the order: "Officers and crew of USS New Mexico, man our ship and bring her to life!"

With that cue, the crew of about 130 ran onto the submarine, marking its official entry into active service.

The Navy commissioned the New Mexico, the sixth submarine in the Virginia class, Saturday morning during a pier side ceremony at Norfolk Naval Station. The event drew about 3,000 people, including Navy brass, legislators, former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and the crew's families.

A contingent of proud New Mexicans, including legislators, Boy Scouts and veterans, were also in attendance.

The \$2.3 billion submarine took more than five years to complete and is the most technologically advanced in the fleet. For the next 30 years, it will patrol the seas, collecting intelligence, doing surveillance, taking part in special operations, and engaging in anti-ship and anti-submarine warfare, among other missions.

"Fast-attack submarines like the New Mexico strike fear in the minds of our adversaries," said U.S. Rep. Glenn Nye, a Virginia Beach Democrat.

Added Vice Adm. Jay Donnelly, the commissioning officer and Submarine Forces commander: "New Mexico is an investment by the American taxpayer in an uncertain world to protecting the freedoms we cherish."

The submarine is the second Navy vessel to bear the name New Mexico. During World War II, the battleship New Mexico earned six battle stars. It was decommissioned in 1946.

For the past decade, New Mexicans have fought for another

vessel, said Dick Brown, chairman of the New Mexico commissioning committee.

"Even though we're a long way away in New Mexico and we'll never get the sub up the Rio Grande to visit us, this is very important to us and we're very happy," he said. "It's just a great honor for the state of New Mexico."

Ken and Coni Groves traveled from the "Land of Enchantment" for the ceremony. Ken Groves retired from the Navy in 1986.

"We are very proud to have the sixth ship in the class named after our state," Ken Groves said. "We hope that the galley has a good supply of green chilies."

The sub's commissioning marked a milestone in the Virginia-class sub program. Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding, which constructed the sub at its Newport News shipyard, delivered the vessel four months ahead of schedule. The last two Virginia-class subs to come out of that shipyard, the North Carolina and the Texas, were several weeks and a year late, respectively.

It took 1,300 shipbuilders 70 months to construct the New Mexico. General Dynamics Electric Boat built the engine room and control room. It cost \$2.25 billion in 2004 dollars.

The New Mexico was originally slated for commissioning in November, but it was delayed because of mechanical quality issues in the torpedo room weapons-handling system.

The Virginia class includes a number of technological innovations. Extendable photonics masts with high-resolution cameras have replaced the traditional periscope. A lockout trunk allows for delivery of special forces while submerged. And a pump-jet propulsion system allows for quieter operation.

The subs can submerge below 800 feet and stay under for three months.

This summer, the submarine is scheduled to transition to its homeport of Groton, Conn., under the leadership of Cmdr. Mark Prokopius, its first commanding officer. He's been with the ship since before it left the shipyard.

Giambastiani serves as the ship's sponsor. She's the wife of retired Navy Adm. Edmund P. Giambastiani, former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and has been active in the submarine community.

Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Cooper, who's been on the sub for about three years, said he's excited to get back to work.

"You go through high points and low points. You're always getting ready for something," he said of preparing the sub for commissioning.

"I'm just ready to get back to the normalcy of submarining."

During the keynote address, Adm. Kirkland H. Donald, director of Naval Reactors, commended the crew for its hard work leading up to Saturday's ceremony.

"You've established a record of excellence in the short life of this ship," he said.

"Today, the New Mexico starts living up to its motto," Donald said. "Defendemos Nuestra Tierra: We defend our land."

Shipyard's Commander Deserved Promotion

By William Cole, Honolulu Advertiser, March 28, 2010

The good news for Capt. Gregory Thomas, commander of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, is that he's been selected to receive his first star as a rear admiral.

The good news for the shipyard is that Thomas will be sticking around a year longer to continue solidifying its future. Just five years ago, by contrast, the state's largest industrial employer was on the brink of extinction.

The Pentagon made the announcement Friday.

"I was very pleased to learn of the promotion and look forward to addressing him as Adm. Thomas," said U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, who had a thing or two to do with saving the shipyard.

Inouye said Thomas "without a doubt earned his 'star' for his leadership at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. Whether it was preparing for the Virginia-class submarines, or working on a capital improvement plan for the yard, Greg Thomas executed every task with diligence and distinction."

The last shipyard commander selected for flag rank while a

shipyard commander was Rear Adm. R.G. Camacho, who was promoted in 1985.

Thomas was picked in 2007 to help turn around the shipyard's efficiency problems and prepare the way for new Virginia-class subs. Submarines represent 90 percent of the shipyard's work.

Thomas served as the first Virginia-class program manager's representative at Northrop Grumman, and was operations officer at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

In 2005, the shipyard barely escaped inclusion on a list of military facilities to be shuttered. The shipyard employs about 4,700 men and women and has an operating budget of about \$687 million.

Getting surface ships and submarines out on time and within budget has become the new norm.

Thomas previously said his biggest emphasis was on "getting that sense of urgency to finish what you start —

what's scheduled to be done today, you've got to get it done today."

He also said the shipyard shifted from a mindset of "Hey, I'm a ship fitter, and the way my shop goes is the way I measure how well I'm doing," to a bigger-picture mindset of measuring performance by completed shipyard projects.

Thomas also has moved forward on an \$800 million shipyard modernization planned through 2035.

Rear Adm. Douglas McAneny, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet submarine force, recently passed on the latest thanks after the shipyard this month completed on time a four-month repair project on the USS Bremerton.

"This accomplishment is significant, and the efforts of each individual involved are truly appreciated," McAneny said.

Crash Dive Base Contact Information

Commander – Clayton Hill, 195 Clover Lane, Cedarburg, WI 53012; 262-377-5332 (work number) or bisi@ameritech.net

Vice-Commander – Bob Fleck, bobfleck@ameritech.net

Secretary (POC) – Chris Gaines, 513 West Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60506; 630-892-5718 or ccgaines@mindspring.com

Treasurer – Glenn C. Barts, Sr., 2000 Jamestown Drive, Palatine, IL 60074; 847-934-7418; gcbarts@msn.com

COB – Larry Warnke, l_warnke@msn.com

Chaplain – Glenn Barts, Sr.

Storekeeper – Herman Mueller, 503 Lynn Terrace, Waukegan, IL 60085; 847-445-5034; Herman.mueller@rosalindfranklin.edu

Newsletter Editor – Chris Gaines, 513 West Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60506; 630-892-5718 or ccgaines@mindspring.com

Base Historian – Frank Voznak, franklin2@comcast.net



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular Life Associate

OUR CREED: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

- I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Yr)
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)
- I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in _____ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) _____ **Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____ - _____ **Tel:** (_____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Your E-Mail Address _____ **Base/Chapter Desired:** _____

The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____
 Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$ 90.00; 3 Yr term: \$ 55.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 20.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$ 25.00
 Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$ 300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00
 Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Crash Dive Base dues are \$15 annually.

How did you find USSVI? Friend, Boat Assn, Local Event/News, Internet, Other (_____)

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?: (Mandatory for Assoc Mbrs) _____

Associate Applicant is: Veteran Spouse of Veteran Other (specify) _____

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____ **If other military service, What Branch?** _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ **Mil Retired (Y/N):** ____ **On Active Duty? (Y/N):** ____

YR entered Mil Service: ____ **YR left Mil Service** ____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

2. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

3. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

4. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

5. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

Next of Kin: Name: _____ **Relationship:** _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Dau, Parent, Other)

Addr: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____ **Tel:** _____

(Leave this address line blank if the same as your home address)

Applicants on active duty are requested to provide a permanent home address.

Upon completion, give this form, including your National and Base membership dues to the appropriate base officer. or mail to: Crash Dive Secretary. Chris Gaines. 513 W. Downer Place. Aurora. IL 60506: 630-892-5718