



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS



“To Honor Those Who Serve, Past, Present & Future”

June 2010

Volume 11, Issue 6

**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). Guests always welcome!
 - a. JUNE 19
 - b. JULY 17 – PICNIC AT HINES VA HOSPITAL – CHRIS GAINES HAS DETAILS
 - c. AUGUST 21 – CORN ROAST AT REGULAR MEETING LOCATION – LARRY WARNKE AND DAVE CRIBBINS HAVE DETAILS
2. Duty Cook Roster:
 - a. June – Frank Voznak
 - b. July - Picnic
3. USSVI elections are coming. Add your voice by **voting**. Crash Dive encourages every member to do so.
4. Crash Dive invited to join USS Chicago Base at their annual **picnic** for IL WWII shipmates. Saturday, July 17. Reservations required; call or write to Chris Gaines. See contact info on page 8.

Crash Dive Meeting Minutes May 15, 2010

1. Attendees:
 - a. Glenn Barts
 - b. Herman Mueller
 - c. Joe Chevere
 - d. Dave Cribbins
 - e. Greg Miler
 - f. Bob Benn
 - g. Allan Tuidor
 - h. Martin Salvador
 - i. Frank Walter
 - j. Larry Heckelsmiller
 - k. Scott Jaklin
 - l. Frank Voznak
 - m. Larry Warnke
 - n. Bob Fleck
 - o. Clay Hill
 - p. Chris Gaines
 - q. Louis Llorca
 - r. Terry Elmeier
2. The meeting was called to order at 1209 by Clay Hill followed by the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and a round of introductions.
3. The Secretary's Report was given by Chris Gaines. Herman Mueller moved to accept; Larry Warnke seconded; vote was unanimous.
4. Treasurer's report given by Glenn Barts; checking account \$2686.17; shares account balance \$1173.69. Glenn reported that we received an acknowledgement letter

- from Honor Flight for our donation. Frank Walter moved to accept the treasurer's report; Larry Warnke seconded; vote was unanimous.
5. Old Business
 - a. Facebook – Due to recent privacy concerns, disinclined to setup a presence. Scott Jaklin uses one to advertise for a boat reunion and national has a presence. Can be another opportunity to get the word out. Revisit in a few months.
 - b. Base call tree – probably not going to happen. Likely will do among staff members but not ask for volunteers.
 - c. Newsletter article – publish notify chaplain article periodically.
 - d. Memorial Day Parade – Frank Voznak has info regarding car pool from Oak Brook Shopping Center. Route is about one mile.
 - e. Website – could post history, governance, newsletter, minutes, etc. Terry and Joe will work together.
 - f. Boat sponsorship – donate to their general fund and let BSP identify.

- Clay noted that shipmates may sponsor individually.
- g. Convention advertisement – Martin Salvador moves to donate \$200 Allan Tuider seconded; vote was unanimous
 - h. Charity List – Staff recommends we designate \$500/year for charities. Joe mentioned Veterans Day and the playground. Cost is \$29,000; Baxter donated \$14,000 and 50 employees to help build it; parish is donating \$7500; school needs another \$7500. Joe asks for \$100 from Crash Dive. Greg Miller moves donate \$100; Martin Salvador seconds; unanimous.
 - i. Associate Member – leave as honorary members since can have only two non-military associates.
 - j. Ball Financial Report – dipped into the treasury for about \$451.
6. New Business
- a. 50-50 – Dave Cribbins won \$40
 - b. KSC Corn Roast report by Dave Cribbins. Date is the same as our August

- meeting so Crash Dive will participate instead of having a meeting. Roasted corn, chicken, Italian beef or sausage, gobs of food. Tickets available from either Dave Cribbins or Larry Warnke.
- c. Herman Mueller moved to skip a 2011 Crash Dive ball in favor of CD2 convention in Muskegon; Terry Elmeier seconded; vote was unanimous.
 - d. Academy of Our Lady donation – see above.
7. Good of the Order
- a. Frank Walter notes that today is Armed Forces Day and it is the All Nation's Policeman's Memorial.
 - b. Frank Voznak is the duty cook for June.
8. Larry Warnke moved, Glenn Barts seconded adjourn at 1354.

Lost Boats

USS O-9	SS 70	6/20/41
USS S-27	SS 132	6/19/42
USS R-12	SS 89	6/12/43
USS HERRING	SS 233	6/1/44
USS S-28	SS 133	6/4/44
USS GOLET	SS 361	6/24/44
USS BONEFISH I	SS 323	6/18/45

It was a grand experience!

Submitted by: Pat Householder

I had the honor to attend the 46th Birthday celebration for USSVI, as well as a "Return to Sub School" the past few days in Groton.

Groton Base leadership deserves high praise for the smooth way the events progressed. I'm here to tell you that the active service submariners I met, to a man, were enthusiastic and very professional in their demeanor and actions.

The sub school graduates were excited and obviously high quality individuals. Their leadership is clearly of very high quality as well.

We, the legacy members of the sub force, can take great pride in the quality and dedication of these fine young men.

Also arranged was a burial at sea (off USS Nautilus) alongside the Sub Force Museum for SVWWII LCDR James Rankin and his wife. The honor guard of Groton Base did themselves and all of USSVI proud with their professionalism and obvious caring.

Tours of various trainers (Damage Flood Control, Damage Fire Control, Submarine Escape Trainer) were conducted by very able submariners, following by a

tasty lunch in the Sub Base crews dining facility.

Tours were available for two submarines, the USS Providence (a 688 class) and the USS Virginia (SSN 774). I have previously toured 688s, so I visited the Virginia. It is truly a 'inner space' ship, (still crowded) and the control room looks like video game central.

Towards the back of the control room are several seats for the "Optometrics" mast operators (The Video and IR displays that took the place of the traditional periscopes - alas, nobody dances with the one eye'd lady anymore.) There are no hull penetration by the masts, so the control room is on the mid-deck level. On the stbd side are the fire control consoles (3 if I recall correctly) and on the right side are all the sonar video display terminals (5 or six, I think) At the front is a two man pilot/co-pilot station with many multifunction video display terminals. Each pilot has a joystick and between them is a laptop computer for backup and monitoring secondary ship systems. The torpedo room is one deck below and features four tubes and LOTS of torpedos and tomahawks.

The whole tour left this diesel boat sailor's head a-spinning, but with the definite impression that our boats are in very capable hands.

I asked each of them how they felt about their ship and their service. Without exception, these guys love what they do, AND they have a hunger for the history of the sub force as well. (that's where we come in). These men will be our relief crew and no doubt, will look upon the submarines of the future with the same awe as this old diesel boater felt this weekend.

On a very hot and sunny afternoon, the Groton leadership conducted a very well done 52 boat memorial service at the SVWWII Submarine Memorial East. Sub School students manned the flags for the 52 lost boats, and the speeches were mercifully short.

It was personally important to me to publically thank our SVWWII members present, and to assure them that they will never be forgotten so long as USSVI exists to remember their glorious deeds. Several told me afterwards that they very much appreciated the sentiment (which I believe we all feel for our elder submarine statesmen)

The farewell banquet was held at the Port and Starboard room at New London's Ocean Beach where a very good time was to be had by everyone. The high point of the evening was the Mystic Bagpipers, who did a simply magnificent (and loud) performance there.

I recommend that anyone who can possibly attend a future event such as the Return to Sub School and USSVI Birthday party do so. It is a memorable experience for everyone, thanks to the dedication of our Groton Base shipmates.

Groton Base, Well Done!

Retirees May Be Gates' Toughest Military Foe

Dale Eisman, AOL News
WASHINGTON (May 11) -- In three and a half years as secretary of defense, Robert Gates has successfully challenged the bureaucracies of the Army, Air Force and Navy, along with their powerful friends in industry and on Capitol Hill. But now he may be taking on the toughest branch of the defense establishment: retirees and their health insurance.

Gates canceled the Army's "Future Combat System," a multibillion-dollar program linked to thousands of civilian jobs. He prodded the Air Force to end production of a coveted fighter

aircraft, the F-22 Raptor, and he got the Navy to turn away from a futuristic destroyer, the DDG-1000 -- both with important supporters in politically pivotal states.

On May 8, though, Gates called on veterans, and military retirees in particular, to pay a larger share of the cost of their health insurance. The retirees are known for their relentless advocacy and unbroken record of success on Capitol Hill.

"I'll be astounded if he's successful," said Gail Wilensky, an economist and former president of the Defense Health Board, a Pentagon advisory group on health care issues. Retirees and their advocates are "too strong, and the Congress is, shall we say, less so," she told AOL News.

No one disputes that the nation's veterans have made tremendous sacrifices and deserve generous benefits, Wilensky said. Her task force took care to recommend that troops on active duty and their families continue to receive full health care coverage at no cost, she added.

But with health care costs rising and the nation at war, it's reasonable to ask that those who've completed their service share in the increasing cost of their health care, she said.

"The majority of costs reside with retirees," Dr. William Winkenwerder, a former director of the Defense Department's health system, told AOL News. "And not unlike the Medicare program or

other government pension and benefit programs, people are now faced with issue of having to ask these populations to contribute more. ... It's not an easy matter."

Military retirees under age 65 pay an average of \$460 annually for health insurance, a figure unchanged since 1995. The bargain rates have induced thousands of retirees, who typically leave the service in their 50s, to retain their military coverage rather than bear the cost of more expensive and often less generous insurance plans provided by their new civilian employers.

While the rates have been frozen, the Pentagon's health care costs have skyrocketed. Those expenses "are eating the Defense Department alive," Gates observed May 8, "rising from \$19 billion a decade ago to roughly \$50 billion." Unless it can shift some of those increases to retirees through higher premiums, the Pentagon soon will be unable to afford new weapons and equipment that are needed, he warned.

Three years ago, Wilensky co-chaired a Pentagon task force that urged Congress to boost the average premium to \$1,100, spreading the increase over several years to lessen its impact.

"Americans everywhere are paying high costs for health care," the task force report noted. "While military retirees deserve a more generous benefit because of their sacrifices and years of service, relatively modest increases in out-of-

pocket costs will not only help stabilize the system and make it more accountable, but will also be looked upon as being appropriate by the American taxpayer."

Congress, however, would have none of it, as veterans and their advocates deluged lawmakers with e-mails and letters opposing any increase and warned of severe consequences at the polls for any member supporting higher premiums.

The retirees argue that low-cost health insurance is a benefit they earned, often with blood shed on the battlefield. Those over 65, many of whom were recruited in an era when the armed services promised free care for life to those who stayed in uniform for 20 years or more, have been particularly active in opposition to any premium increases.

Even before Gates' speech, the Military Coalition, which coordinates the lobbying efforts of 34 veterans' groups, had posted a warning on its website against any attempts to tamper with either Tricare, the health insurance plan for active duty troops and military retirees, or the benefits provided to all veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"All retired service members earned equal health care coverage by virtue of their service," the coalition asserted. The Defense Department "should make all efforts to provide the most efficient use of allocated resources and cut waste prior to imposing any additional or

increased fees on eligible beneficiaries. We believe the authority for DoD to increase or impose fees should be under the scrutiny of Congress as the overseer of the military."

The retiree lobby is "a very tough, aggressive group," Wilensky observed. "You're either their friend to the end or you're not."

The influence of the big health care lobbies in the civilian sector – the American Medical Association, hospital and nursing home associations -- pales alongside that of the military retirees, she said.

"The system is now totally unaffordable," agreed Winslow Wheeler, a former Senate staffer who now heads the Straus Military Reform Project at the Center for Defense Information.

While successfully battling proposals to increase premiums, the veterans' groups have pushed Congress to provide increasingly generous benefits, including "concurrent receipt," which allows service retirees to combine their pensions with disability benefits paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The most expensive of those new benefits is Tricare for Life, which supplements the Medicare benefits available to military retirees over 65.

When Congress passed the program in 1999, the Congressional Budget Office provided cost estimates "that made everybody gag," Wheeler recalled to AOL News. "They reacted by saying it couldn't be that much. And it turned out

that CBO was wrong -- they only caught about half the cost."

Combined IL USSVI / USSVWW II picnic

Submitted by Lenny Kleinmark, USS Chicago Base

Saturday, July 17 2010, 1000-????
Hines Va Hospital, 5th & Roosevelt Rd. Hines Il. 60141. Through main gate off Roosevelt Rd. continue south to almost the end, pavilion is on the left (east).

Famous Card Game, each person bring 1 white elephant gift

wrapped in newspaper. Anyone wishing to bring side dishes or sweets are welcome to do so.

Every one bring a smile, family if you got em, sea stories and maybe a lawn chair.

I hope its not hot and I hope it don't rain, picnic goes on no matter what, the pavilion is covered and breezy.

Contact Chris Gaines for reservations. Contact info page 8.

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 cggaines@mindspring.com

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

COB – Larry Warnke, lwarnke@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 cggaines@mindspring.com

Base Historian – Frank Voznak, franklin2@comcast.net

Knollwood Sportsman's Club

CORN ROAST



August 21, 2010

Noon-4:00p.m.

\$10.00

(children 7 and under free)

Food, fun and entertainment for all!

See Dave Cribbins or Larry Warnke for tickets



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