

# USSVI Thresher Base News

## National Elections

USSVI National Elections started on June 15 and will run until one week before the Convention in Norfolk in September. Online voting is available at [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org) or a paper ballot can be found on page 6 of this newsletter. All paper copies must be received by August 31, 2012. As of July 19, approximately 1400 USSVI members have cast their vote including 18 Thresher Base members.

## Thresher Base Nominations

Interested in running for office? Nominations for base officers will be taken at the July meeting. You must be present at the the meeting to make a nomination. Elections will be held at the September meeting.



Lila Zito, daughter of Michael and Kimberly Zito, on Memorial Day at Albacore Park. Michael is serving on the USS Miami which is at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

## Jill Arsenault Robinson, Thresher Base Associate Member Passed Away on June 28

On July 3, eight Thresher Base members attended calling hours to pay their respects, say a prayer and give a hand salute in her honor.

Hilda Arsenault "Jill" Robinson was born Dec. 4, 1926, in East Boston, Mass. She was the widow of the late Tilmon J. Arsenault, who died aboard the USS Thresher lost at sea on April 10, 1963.

She was a 1947 graduate of East Boston High School, Portsmouth Beauty College of Hair Design and Blair Hair Cutting School, Boston. As a young woman, she was an avid roller-skater and competed in team dance with success in several Massachusetts amateur competitions.

She worked as a decorator-seamstress in Dorchester, Mass., and later as a bookkeeper for attorney Seth Junkins in Hampton. For several years she worked as a hairdresser before she owned and operated Salon Professional in Hampton from 1979 to 1990. She retired in 1996 from Resee Hair Salon in Hampton and continued to serve her patrons on a freelance basis for several years.

She was a communicant of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, active in the Outreach Ministry, was a member of the Albacore Park Society, the Gold Star Wives of America,

Navy Relief Society and the Thresher Base chapter of the U.S. Submarine Veterans.

She is survived by her lifelong friend and companion, Ted Robinson of Hampton; one son, William



J. Arsenault of Santa Monica, Calif.; four daughters, Marie R. Absmeier of San Jose, Calif., Lorraine C. Arsenault of Gorham, Maine, Donna M. Pennel of Bedford, Pa., and Debra J. Henderson of Stratham; 12 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one stepson, Thomas T. Robinson of Carver, Mass.; one sister, Grace Venezia of Revere, Mass.; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was predeceased by her three brothers, Joseph, George and Edward; one sister, Regina; and her stillborn son, Robert "Robbie" Arsenault.

In lieu of flowers, the family selected Thresher Base as one of three organizations to make memorial donations in Jill's honor.

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# Base Happenings



## Base Commander's Message



Shipmates,

It's time again for the WWII Submarine Veterans Lobster Fest and Holland Club Induction Ceremony, an event I look forward to each year. Two Thresher Base members will be inducted into the Holland Club on Saturday, Roland Miller and Howard Dmytro.

The ranks of our WWII Submarine Veterans members have been reduced by one with the recent loss of Captain Robert J. Anderson. They continue to be dedicated supporters of Thresher Base's fraternal and memorial service activities. I encourage you to take the opportunity to get to know these brave men and listen to the history they provide.

Eight members of Thresher Base attended the calling hours and performed a brief ceremony including hand salute for associate member

Hilda (Jill) (Arsenault) Robinson, widow of ENCA(SS) Tilmon J. Arsenault, USS Thresher. I will always remember Jill enjoying the company of former Thresher Base member and Secretary Stu McGregor at Thresher Base meetings held a number of years ago at the Legion and VFW. Jill was a strong supporter of Thresher Base's Annual USS Thresher Memorial Service. Five relatives and friends of Jill donated a total of \$280 to the Thresher Memorial Fund.

Finally, 18 of our 94 full members have voted. If you are one of the 76 members who have not yet voted, please log into USSVI's website and vote now, or vote by hand using the form included in the latest copy of American Submariner magazine.

Fraternally,  
Kevin

## Member Birthdays

### July

- 3- Ian Johnston
- 11 - Twig Armstrong
- 13 - Daniel Nicholson
- 16 - Bill Livendale
- 22 - George Thomas
- 24 - Mike Remington
- 29 - Carl Furlong

### August

- 2 - Bill Niland
- 4 - George Albert
- 6 - Bill Seaward
- 7 - John McCarthy
- 9 - Sam Witham
- 15 Bob Rawlins
- 18 - Earl Hansen
- 19 - Bill Severn
- 22 - Bill Tebo



## Thresher Base Charter

USSVI Thresher Base was chartered on 15 November 1989 in the memory of those 129 gallant men who at 9:17 AM on 10 April 1963 lost their lives in the performance of their duties aboard USS THRESHER (SSN 593).

Our mission is "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 Government."

## Newsletter Information

The base newsletter, *Thresher Base News*, is published 6 times a year to inform the membership and community about meeting happenings and upcoming events. All members are welcome to submit non-political articles for inclusion in an upcoming issue. Send submissions to Kevin Galeaz, Editor, 1465 Hooksett Road #239, Hooksett, NH 03106 or [thresherbase@comcast.net](mailto:thresherbase@comcast.net).





# May 2012 Meeting Minutes



Call meeting to order at 12:40 by Commander Galeaz followed by a prayer lead by Al Page

Pledge of Allegiance was led by COB Bob Flannery followed by Moment of Silence for Boats on Eternal Patrol in May & June, by Commander Galeaz

Binnacle list: none



Sound Off: New member, Frank Hood, Ron Miller and other members of Thresher Base

Introduction of Guests: None

Reading of the last meeting minutes: Minutes were read by Secretary Bob McAlpine. Motion was made to accept minutes as read, 2nd and passed.

### Treasurer's Report:

Last month's balance	\$4,425.08
Deposits	\$30.70
Expenses	\$310.00
Current balance	\$4,145.78
50th Memorial Fund	\$4,204.43

A motion was made to accept Treasurers report, 2nd and passed

Committee Chairman Reports: None

### OLD BUSINESS:

Commander Galeaz thanked all Thresher Base members and spouses who helped w/ the 49th Memorial Service. He has received many posi-

tive comments from family members. The speakers were absolutely superb this year. Vice Admiral McCoy's speech was the best the Commander has heard from an active duty officer. He deeply understands and fully supports our efforts. It was moving to hear that he uses the memory of Thresher when making key shipbuilding decisions. Joy McMillan's speech is now the template for family speakers.

Vice Admiral McCoy has hand delivered our invitation to the CNO to be the keynote speaker at the 50th. The commander is excited to have the 50th webcasted to allow family and crew member to view the service if they can't attend along with other USSVI bases around the country. Former Commander Gary Hildreth spoke about the 50th being held at PSNY in the building way. Thank you to Gary, for stepping up and helping us to secure the location. The sub tour on 6/9/12 is still a go as far as the Commander knows. He will be checking w/ District Commander Shannon to confirm details. An e-mail will be sent out as further information becomes available. The annual Memorial Day service at Albacore Park is set for Monday, 5/28/12 at 10:00. The guest speaker will be Commander Mayer, USS Miami which is at the shipyard for overhaul.

Thresher Base received a thank you note from Audrey Gill, wife of Jack Gill. We also received two checks from the Thresher family from the sale of shirts and coins in the amount



of \$400.00 for the Memorial Service Fund. Information was given by Commander Galeaz re: the Thresher Memorial being considered at Arlington National Cemetery for the 50th. Mr. Al Ford and NAVSEA are pursuing this and have asked Thresher Base to spearhead this project. The Memorial will be dedicated on 4/10/13, the actual date which is after our Memorial Service which is 4/6/13.

### NEW BUSINESS:



Al Page spoke about the Eagle Scout presentation that he, Kevin and Robin attended. They were very impressed with the presenta-

tion and the young men receiving the award. Robin spoke about a specific project and how impressed she was. Al then spoke about the Patriots Day parade the he, Tom Young and Bob McAlpine marched in at Lexington Mass along with members from Marblehead Base and Rear Admiral Breckenridge. It was hot but a good time by all.

### GOOD OF THE ORDER:

CLOSING PRAYER: Given by Peter Joy.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Motion was made, 2nd and passed. Meeting adjourned at 13:10



## Lost Boats



**USS Lagarto (SS-371)** was lost on May 3, 1945 with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. On her 2nd war patrol, she is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk by the USS Hawkbill 2 weeks later.

**USS Scorpion (SSN-589)** was returning to Norfolk, VA from a Mediterranean deployment. On May 22, 1968 she reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Scorpion was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined.

**USS Squalus (SS-192)** suffered a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. Partially flooded, the submarine sank to the bottom and came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR-2) rescued 33 survivors using the diving bell he invented. 26 men drowned in the after compartments. Later Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish. In an ironic turn of fate, Sailfish sank the Japanese aircraft carrier carrying surviving crew members from Sculpin, which had located Squalus in 1939. Only one survived after spending the rest of the war as slave laborers in Japan.

**USS Stickleback (SS-415)** was lost on May 30, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while under tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to sinking.

**USS Herring (SS-233)** was lost on June 1, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Matsuwa Island. Herring was on her 8th war patrol and was con-

ducting 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)** was 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)** was 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 Bonefish (SS-223)** was lost on June 19, 1945 with the loss of 85 men when sunk near Suzu Misaki. Winner of 3 Navy Unit Citations, Bonefish was on her 8th war patrol. After sinking a passenger-cargoman, Bonefish

was subjected to a savage depth charge attack.

**USS S-27 (SS-132)** was 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)** was lost on June 20, 1941 with the loss of 34 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH.

**USS Runner (SS-275)** was lost between June 26 and July 4th with the loss of 78 men, probably due to a mine. Runner was on her 3rd war patrol. 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.





## To Perpetuate the Memory



Anthony Alexander Rushetski was born on April 6, 1940, in Maspeth, Long Island, N.Y. He attended elementary school in Maspeth until 1948, when he moved with his family to Allentown, Pa.

In Allentown, Anthony attended Jefferson Grade School, South Mountain Junior High School, and William Allen High School. Throughout his school days, he was an honor-roll student graduating among the first five students in



**Anthony Alexander Rushetski  
Electronics Technician Second Class  
United States Navy**

his class. Active in sports, he earned a letter in football.

Anthony was a member of the St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church in Allentown, where he was a crucifer and a choir boy until he entered the active naval service.

Having enlisted in the Naval Reserve in September 1957, while still in high school, he enlisted in the regular Navy on November 3, 1958, after graduating from high school. He completed his basic training at the U.S. Naval Training

Center, Great Lakes, Ill.

Anthony subsequently served at the Headquarters, Fourth Naval District, Philadelphia Naval Base, and in the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Independence (CVA 62), and the nuclear-powered cruiser, U.S.S. Long Beach (CG(N) 9). Having been selected for advanced training in nuclear power, he underwent training at the nuclear power training unit, Idaho Falls, Idaho, in early 1962. Anthony was assigned to Thresher on May 19, 1962.

In addition to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Rushetski of Allentown, Pa., Anthony is survived by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Smith of Maspeth, Long Island, N.Y.

James Michael Schiewe was born on October 11, 1939, in Hot Springs, Ark. During his school years, and later while in the Navy, James enjoyed many sports including fishing, hunting, bowling and target shooting.

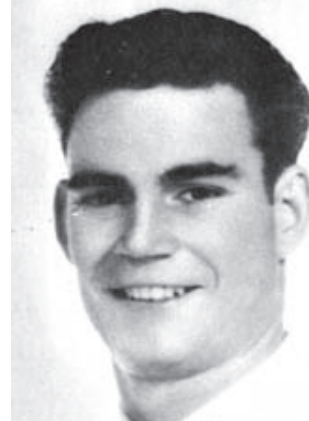
On June 4, 1957, he enlisted in the Navy at Little Rock, Ark., and received his recruit training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif. Completing his basic training in September 1957, he was ordered to the Navy's Electrician's Mate Class "A" School at San Diego. Graduating from the school in February 1958, he volunteered for submarine duty and upon being accepted, he entered the U.S. Naval Submarine School at New London, Conn.

In December 1958, James was assigned to his first submarine, the U.S.S. Jallao (SS 368). While a member of the crew of Jallao, he was

awarded a letter of commendation from the commanding officer, and was qualified as a submariner. He was then awarded his silver dolphins, the badge of the qualified submariner.

An ambitious and energetic student, James volunteered for nuclear power training, and completed the 1-year course of instruction. He was then assigned to the commissioning crew of the nuclear powered submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593), at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. While a member of the crew, James was again presented with a letter of commendation for his out-

standing performance of duty by the commanding officer. He also earned the right to wear the Navy's Good Conduct Medal.



**James Michael Schiewe  
Electrician's Mate First Class  
United States Navy**

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Joan M. Schiewe, and a daughter, Jeri Ann, born on May 12, 1963. He also leaves his mother, Mrs. Pearl Haisler of Houston, Tex.; a sister, Mrs. Lola Fay Franchitto of Hyde Park, Mass.; and a younger brother, Wesley A. Schiewe, a member of the U.S. Navy.



# 2012 USSVI National Election Paper Ballot



Candidates for office are listed in alphabetical order per the C&B's.

National and Regional Candidates biographies are printed in The American Submariner and on the USSVI website. The current USSVI Constitution and Bylaws are available on the USSVI website. If you do not have access to the web site, you may ask a Shipmate or your Base Commander to print a copy for you. The Proposed Amendments are also available in this issue of The American Submariner and on the USSVI website.

When you vote for Regional Director, vote ONLY for the Regional Director in which your Primary Base is located. If you are not sure of the Region where your Primary Base is located, ask your Base Commander or check the USSVI web site.

### ELECTIVE OFFICERS

#### NATIONAL COMMANDER

T. Michael Bircumshaw  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### NATIONAL SR. VICE-COMMANDER

William Andrea  
 Carl Schmidt  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDER

Al. Singleman, Jr.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### NATIONAL SECRETARY

John W. Clear  
 Tom Conlon  
 Leonard W. Heiselt  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### NATIONAL TREASURER

Richard McPherson  
 James E. Van Vranken  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

#### YES NO CONSTITUTION PAs

PA 1 Associate Members  
  PA 2 Alternative Names

#### YES NO BYLAWS PAs

PA 3 Regional Director Election  
  PA 4 Base Cdr Group Revision  
  PA 5 Biennial Elections  
  PA 6 Date Changes  
  PA 7 District Cdr Elections  
  PA 8 Convention Revisions

### REGIONAL DIRECTORS

ERN  Michael Naughton  
ERN  \_\_\_\_\_

ERS  Diedrick Kanning  
ERS  \_\_\_\_\_

CRD  Wayne Standerfer  
CRD  Harold Kenneth Recoy  
CRD  \_\_\_\_\_

WRD  John G. Mansfield, Jr.  
WRD  Robert J, Miller  
WRD  \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ BASE/MAL: \_\_\_\_\_

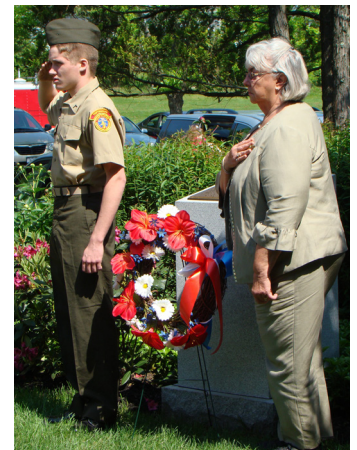
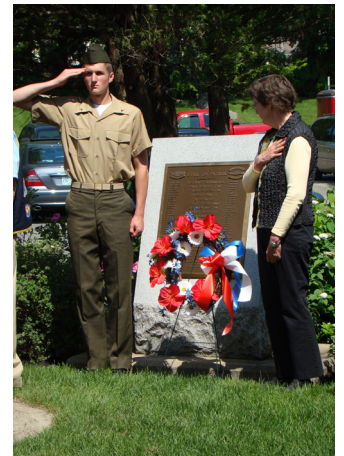
(You must enter your name on this ballot to have it entered into the system and counted.)

Mail your completed ballot (with legible signature and Base name or MAL) to:

Patrick Householder, USSVI Election Master, 25003 SE 146th St, Issaquah WA 98027



# Memorial Day at Albacore Park



THRESHER Base  
United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.  
c/o Kevin Galeaz  
1465 Hooksett Road #239  
Hooksett, NH 03106

**Next Thresher Base Meeting**  
**Saturday, July 21 @ 1200**  
**American Legion Post #70 • 169 Walton Rd, • Seabrook, NH**

### *Calendar of Events*

#### July

21 - 1200 - Base Meeting/Lobster-  
bake at Seabrook Legion

#### September

2 to 9 - USSVI Convention, Norfolk,  
VA  
15 - 1200 - Base Meeting at Newicks

#### November

17 - 1200 - Base Meeting - TBD

### *USSVI Conventions*

#### **2012**

September 2 to 9  
Norfolk, VA

#### **2013**

August 25 to September 2  
Rochester, MN