



# USSVI Thresher Base News



March 2007

## 2007 Holland Club Induction

Thresher Base nominated David Dickey and Herman Stolzenburg for induction into the Holland Club. David V. Dickey - Qualified in submarines in 1944 aboard USS PICUDA (SS 382). Herman H. Stolzenburg - Qualified in submarines in 1957 aboard USS CONGER (SS 477). The 2007 Holland Club Ceremony was held during the January 2007 meeting, followed by a potluck luncheon. Congratulations shipmates!



Above: Gary Hildreth presents Herm Stolzenburg with his Holland Club Certificate.



Left: Gary Hildreth presents David Dickey with his Holland Club Certificate.



Above: The new inductees join their fellow Holland Club members who attended the ceremony.

## Jane Simpson, Wife of Jr. Vice Commander Don Simpson, Passes

Jane A. Simpson, age 69 of Stoneham and Melbourne, FL, died February 9, 2007, in Florida surrounded by her family. She was the beloved wife of Donald V. Simpson. Born in Boston, MA; she was the daughter of the late Dennis and Ethel (McNeil) Flor. Jane was raised in Stoneham and graduated from Stoneham High School in the class of 1954. In 1957, she graduated from the Lawrence Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. For many years she worked as a pediatric psychiatric nurse at New England Memorial Hospital.

Jane was honored Stoneham's Outstanding Woman of the Year in the mid 70's, and with good reason. For years, she was the volunteer chairman of Stoneham's Red Cross Blood Drive and chairman of the Girl's Table at

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### January Meeting Minutes

The January 2007 meeting of Thresher Base was held at the VFW in Portsmouth. The meeting was called to order followed by a silent prayer where we were asked to keep in our thoughts the two sailors who were recently lost on a submarine. Our silent prayers were followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The tolling of the bell was sounded for those boats lost in January and February followed by a silent prayer for all those shipmates on final patrol. A sound off of all those present was conducted.

Thresher Base minutes of November's meeting were read by Kevin Galeaz. Dennis O'Keefe followed by reading the Treasurer's Report - current balance is \$6470.70

#### Old Business -

1) Thresher Service - John Cook has contacted Kevin Galeaz. At the moment, just under 20 people have expressed an interest in traveling this year. He does expect to hear from a few more, but it does not look like more than 30 family members. Travel is getting difficult for many and are waiting until the 45th. John Cook is considering attending an event closer to home in NY. Still has not heard from some families, including the DiNolla's, who would probably attend. An estimate of 150 people for

this year's event. Gary has heard from a number of people. One family is traveling out from Arizona and Anne Metcalf has stated she

will be attending. Gary added that maybe it is a good thing having a small number and trying out this new location. Send out invitations with directions and we are confirmed for April 14th at the Elks Club. Larry says to hold the 44th this year and then next year at the 45th to make the announcement that annual events will no longer be held, but rather every five years. Gary is taking care of rifle salute, Kevin will contact Piper Boyle, George Stevens and the media. 2) Newsletter Award - Honorable Mention for Thresher Base News. Larry will make a .pdf file of the award and send the original to Robin.

#### New Business -

- 1) USS Dolphin, the last diesel submarine in commission, was decommissioned on January 12, 2007. Larry presented Roger Miller, who served on board the Dolphin, with a hat that lists the dates it was in service.
- 2) It is suggested that the Holland Club Ceremony, which has been held in January for the past few years, be moved to the July Lobsterbake due to better attendance. Passed.
- 3) Albacore Park Road - Since the bridge is working, they have closed down the road due to the difficulty in turning, lack of light and turning lane. It will be a few years before this will be completed.
- 4) Navy League - Tom Young at-



tended the last dinner meeting with Commanding Officer of USS New Hampshire was the guest speaker. Gave presentation on the Virginia Class construction. It is done in sections and shipped up by barge. No

periscope - all electronics and video. The CO walked around the room with a wireless mike talking with everyone in the room. Boat patch was designed by some local school children. This is a multi-mission design with a universal module mast where electronics can be switched out for each mission. This is the first submarine build under a dual contract w/ Newport News working on the front section and Electric Boat works on the back section and the two sections are slipped together with tolerances of 1/4 inch. Herm had the chance to use the Virginia Class Simulator in Groton. The New Hampshire will be commissioned in 2008. The Navy League has to take the lead on forming a committee to fundraise for the commissioning, not the Navy or shipyard. Gary has passed along Bruce Clark's information to Senator Snow's office. 5) Bill Tebo announced the WWII NE Regional Convention will be May 9, 10, 11 in Groton. 6) USS Minneapolis-St.Paul lost two sailors taking the pilot off leaving England. COB Tom Higgins just finished up here in Portsmouth. He was a great guy and it is a great loss. This is a reminder of how dangerous a job it is. 7) Groton Anniversary Celebration to be held May 3-6. Meeting was adjourned to hold the Holland Club Ceremony and Potluck dinner.





**Jane Simpson** (continued from page 1)

the Christmas Fair for St. Patrick's. She was very active in St. Patrick's Mothers' Club. Jane was a talented artist and fabulous cook. Her prized acrylic and oil paintings have been auctioned at the WGBH Public Television Auctions and her family has her treasured paintings in their homes, as well as her festive ceramics, crocheted afghans and volumes of photos that she had taken and recorded through the years. Jane was also known for her sumptuous Portuguese cooking and her famous meatballs prepared for the neighborhood parties. Jane was always giving to others; she was the neighborhood nurse; she loved to entertain and hosted reunions for

her nursing school classmates. Not only did she donate her crafts to good causes, but she shared her talents by instructing others how to sew, paint, cook and enjoy the hobby of photography. Jane and her husband were ball room dancing partners and they also enjoyed bowling at the Sunlight Bowling Alleys. They shared their love for travel, as well, and sailed on several Caribbean cruises; flew to London, Vegas and Hawaii. Jane will also be remembered for her personal Christmas letters each year to her many friends and her beautiful singing voice. Since their retirement, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson have spent winters in Melbourne, Florida and their summers in

Northwood, New Hampshire. Besides her husband, she is survived by her loving children, Denise M. Simpson of Derry, NH, Donald Victor Simpson, Jr. and his wife Ellen of Gray, ME and Heidi Ann Simpson of W. Roxbury. She was the mother of the late Laura J. Simpson; sister of Nancy Powers of Stoneham, Susan Higgins of Derry, NH and the late Kathy Flor-Motoshige and grandmother of Nick Morse and his wife Sara, Daniel Morse and Kyle Simpson. Memorial tributes may be sent to the Joslin Diabetes Center, One Joslin Place, Boston, MA 02215 or the American Heart Association, 20 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

**USSVI E-gram #33 - Member on Mail Hold Status**

The National Membership Chairman, Pat Household, recently issued E-gram #33 concerning the importance of notifying USSVI or you Base Membership Recordkeeper of member address changes. The E-gram advises that "Each quarter the Editor of American Submariner pulls down from the database the latest and most accurate listing of member addresses to mail the magazine. After each mailing, the Editor receives back a listing of the Addresses in the database which are suspect or are no longer valid for various reasons.

These members are marked as mail HOLD, TEMP AWAY, SNOW BIRD, First Class Mail, Internet Edition and Foreign Mail, depending on the circumstances. IMPORTANT: The member WILL NOT receive his American Submariner so long as the CLASS field is set to MAIL HOLD." You can update your address yourself via the USSVI On-Line database or by contacting Thresher Base Treasurer, Dennis O'Keeffe, or Thresher Base Membership Recordkeeper, Larry Oiler.

**Base Chaplin Needed**

The base president has sadly accepted the resignation of the base chaplin, Jack McNally. If anyone is interested in taking on this position, please contact Gary Hildreth, (207) 676-9649 or ghildret@maine.rr.com

**John McCarthy**

Our best wishes go out to John and his family after he recently suffered a stroke. He is recovering at home.

**Thank You**

Thank you to Larry Oiler his time and hard work on maintaining the Thresher base database.

**WWII Subvets**

As of February 21, 2007 1,130 WWII Subvets currently belong to USSVI, but the attrition rate is high. (We have lost 52 WWII subvets just since Sept 4 2006) While there is still time, seek them out and thank them for their service in WWII, at a time when one of four did not return from Patrol. Honor them while they are with us to hear your thanks. They will appreciate it and you will be glad you did.

**Boats Lost in March**

- 3/26/45 USS Trigger (SS-237)
- 3/20/45 USS Kete (SS-369)
- 3/26/44 USS Tullibee (SS-284)
- 3/15/43 USS Triton (SS-201)
- 3/5/43 USS Grampus (SS-207)
- 3/13/43 USS Perch (SS-176)
- 3/12/20 USS H-1 (SS-28)
- 3/25/15 USS F-4 (SS-23)



### 44th USS Thresher Memorial Service Update

by Kevin Galeaz, 44th Memorial Service Planning Committee Chairman

On Saturday, April 14, 2007 a memorial service will be held at the R.W. Traip Academy honoring the loss of 129 crew members, US Naval Submarine Officer Observers, and civilian support personnel aboard the USS Thresher during sea trials off of the New England coast on April 10, 1963. The Memorial Service will begin at 1300. All SubVet WWII and USSVI members are invited along with their spouses and family members. The R.W. Traip Academy is located in Kittery directly across from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNS) at 12 Williams Avenue.

As discussed at the last meeting, holding the memorial service at the PNS was becoming too difficult from a security perspective in this current war time posture. We had hoped to use the Elks Club in Portsmouth; however a wedding was booked for April 14th.

Having sea kayaked past the R.W. Traip Academy a number of years ago, I remembered that the location and layout could be ideal to hold the Memorial Service. I contacted the

administrative staff who guided me through the process of writing a letter of request to the Kittery School Department and R.W. Traip Academy. It was approved within a day, pending receipt of event liability coverage. USSVI Eastern Region Director, John J. Carcioppolo approved a USSVI event insurance policy rider which I faxed to the Academy administrative staff.

Commander Gary Hildreth and Vice Commander Larry Oiler toured the R.W. Traip Academy and were both very impressed with the layout. Larry commented on the ease of access for parking and walking to the auditorium as well as the much shorter walk to the waterfront for the Wreath Laying Ceremony as the ramp leading to the River facing PNS is located directly behind the Academy.

Thresher Base extends our deepest gratitude to Patricia Garnis, R.W. Traip Academy Principal and to Larry Littlefield, Superintendent of Schools, Kittery School Department for hosting the 44th USS Thresher Memorial Service.

Robin and I designed the Memorial Service Invitation. A special thanks to Robin for printing and mailing 368 invitations on March 7. You should have received your invitation by the time you are reading this. Please RSVP with the number attending in your party to me by calling 603.268.0420 or sending email to [webmaster@thresherbase.org](mailto:webmaster@thresherbase.org). If you have not yet received an invitation and would like to join us, please contact me with your postal address.

John Cook, USS Thresher Crewmember, USS Thresher Family Member Coordinator & USSVI Member, will be using a laptop computer and portable projector to display the photos of those lost as the names are read during the Tolling of the Bell. This will greatly enhance the impact of this section of the Memorial Service.

Once again, we are honored by the attendance of Piper Pat Boyle and Trumpeter George Stevens. Gary Hildreth is locating Guest Speakers. Robin and I will generate the Memorial Service program as soon as the details have been worked out.



### 44th Anniversary Memorial Service for USS Thresher (SSN 593)

Saturday, April 14, 2007  
1:00 p.m.

R. W. Traip Academy  
12 Williams Avenue, Kittery, Maine

RSVP to Kevin Galeaz, (603) 268-0420 or [webmaster@thresherbase.org](mailto:webmaster@thresherbase.org)



## To Perpetuate the Memory



Philip Harcourt Allen was born on January 24 1924, in Milton, Mass., the son of Addie Rudd and the late Otis W. Allen.

Prior to entering the U.S. Naval Academy in 1942, Philip was graduated as salutatorian from Easthampton High School. A graduate with the class of 1945, at the academy, he was commissioned an ensign, and assigned to the destroyer U.S.S. Ault (DD 698).

While serving in Ault, Philip volunteered for submarine duty, and upon being accepted, he was enrolled in the Submarine School at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn., in January 1947. Successfully completing the basic officers course of instruction in June 1947, he was assigned to his first submarine, the U.S.S. Trum-



**Philip Harcourt Allen**  
**Lieutenant Commander**  
**UNITED STATES NAVY**

petfish (SS 425). Philip was qualified as a submariner and received his gold dolphins while serving in the Trumpetfish. In April 1950, he attended the Navy's electronic school in California, and completing the course in December, he reported to the U. S. S. Requin (SS 481).

He served in that command until April 1952, when he was selected for graduate study in electronics engineering at the Navy's Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif. He was graduated second in his class, and also earned his master's degree in applied physics at the University of California in Los Angeles.

Philip returned to the sea and submarines, and served in the U.S.S. Cavalla (SS 244) and the U.S.S. Sea Cat (SS 399), and in February 1957, he reported to the staff of the com-

mander, Submarine Squadron 4, where he served as engineering and later material officer.

From May 1958, to June 1960, Philip was assigned to the Bureau of Ships, Washington, D.C., in the Sonar Branch. In June, he was reassigned to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. After a tour in the planning department, he became the assistant design superintendent at the shipyard, and project officer for Thresher-class submarines.

During his naval career, he was awarded the American Campaign, World War II Victory, National Defense Service, and the Navy Occupation Service with Asia Clasp, medals. He was also qualified to command submarines.

Lieutenant Commander Allen is survived by his widow, the former Jane Whitham; three children, Scott Philip, William W., and Christian Allen, all of North Hampton, N.H. He also leaves his widowed mother, Mrs. Otis W. Allen of Easthampton, Mass.; and an aunt, Miss Fanny G. Allen of Northampton, Mass.

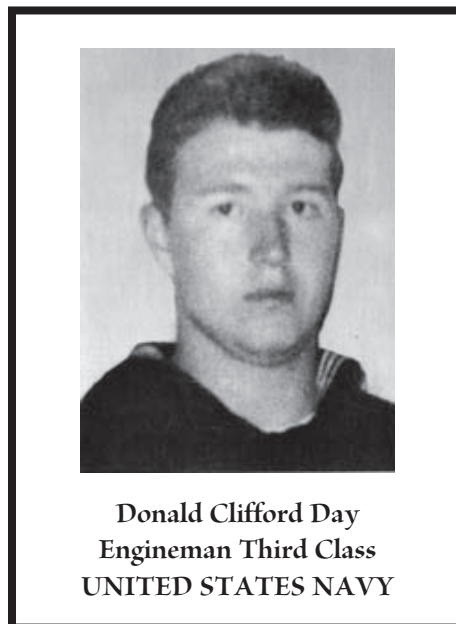
Donald Clifford Day, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Day, was born on September 12, 1942, in Kansas City, Mo.

He spent his early boyhood there, and attended local public schools. Donald enlisted in the Navy on September 18, 1959, at Chicago, Ill., and completed his basic training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill.

He volunteered for submarine duty, and upon being accepted, he was enrolled in the Navy's Submarine School at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn. Donald successfully completed the course of

instruction, and was graduated in May, 1960. He was then assigned to the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

On February 27, 1961, Donald was assigned to the nuclear-powered submarine, U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593). In October 1962, Donald be-



**Donald Clifford Day**  
**Engineman Third Class**  
**UNITED STATES NAVY**

came qualified as a submariner and was awarded his silver dolphins.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Jane Day and a daughter, Anita Dawn Day, of Newburyport, Mass., and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Day of Oak Lawn, Ill.

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

**Next Thresher Base Meeting**  
**Saturday, March 17, 2007 @ 1300**  
**Portsmouth VFW • Deer Street, Portsmouth**



**USSVI Thresher Base**

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."

The base newsletter, *Thresher Base News*, and base website, [www.thresherbase.org](http://www.thresherbase.org), are used to inform the membership and community about meeting happenings and upcoming events. Any member who has information to share with the membership is encouraged to submit articles to the editor for publishing. Send submissions to Kevin Galeaz, Editor, 1465 Hooksett Road #239, Hooksett, NH 03106 or [webmaster@thresherbase.org](mailto:webmaster@thresherbase.org).

**Groton Base USSVI  
Celebration**

This event begins with the Scholarship Golf Tourney on Thursday May 3 and ends with Steak N Eggs breakfast Sunday May 6. There will be golf, tours of Submarine School, most likely a tour of an active submarine and much more. There is a chance for your spouse or friend to get all dressed up to attend the Banquet on Saturday. Registration forms will be available on the Groton website.