



USSVI Thresher Base News

March Meeting to be a Joint Meeting with USS Maine Base

This month's meeting will be held on Saturday, March 17 as a joint meeting with the USS Maine Base. The meeting will be held in Biddeford, Maine at Mulligan's Bar at 1200. Tom Young, Larry Oiler and Bob McAlpine have offered to drive members. Contact Kevin Galeaz if you are in need of a ride.

Patriot's Day Parade

The Marblehead Base voted unanimously to have Thresher Base join them for the Patriot's day parade in Lexington, MA on Monday, April 16. Check in starts at 11:45, and units must be in place at 1:45 and the parade kicks off at 2pm.

Marblehead members march in their "parade" uniform which is navy blue or black slacks, black shoes, white shirt, submarine tie, and the standard issue Blue USSVI jacket. Their cover is their individual boat or USSVI baseball hat. However we may wear our own particular parade uniform.

In addition to Thresher Base, Adm. Breckinridge COMSUBGRP2 from Groton marching with Marblehead Base so we should present a marching unit the good people of Lexington will be talking about for a long time to come. Marblehead Base is very glad that we will be joining them. If you are interested in participating in this event, contact Base Commander Kevin Galeaz at 603.785.6464 or thresherbase@comcast.net.

Groton Boat Tour

The Marblehead Base had such overwhelming positive feedback about these boat tours that they will be conducting them on all 3 Saturdays: April 28, May 19 and June 9. It was decided at the January meeting that Thresher Base will put together a group for June 9. Lookout for more details in the upcoming months.



United States Submarine Veterans Thresher Base

cordially invites you to the

*49th Memorial Service for
USS Thresher (SSN 593)*

*Saturday, April 14, 2012
1:00 p.m.*

*R. W. Traip Academy
Kittery, Maine*



RSVP by April 1

*Kevin Galeaz
ThresherBase@comcast.net
or 603.232.6201*

Please include the names of all attendees .

Table of Contents

March Meeting in Maine.....	1	Member Birthdays.....	2	USSVI News.....	6
Groton Boat Tour.....	1	Thresher Base on Facebook..	2	Photo Gallery.....	7
Thresher Service Invitation..	1	Thresher Challenge Coins.....	2	Calendar of Events.....	8
Patriot's Day Parade	2	Meeting Minutes.....	3 & 4	USSVI Conventions.....	8
Commander's Message	2	To Perpetuate the Memory..	5	Next Meeting.....	8



Base Happenings



Base Commander's Message



Shipmates,

Help perpetuate the memories of those lost aboard USS Thresher by attending Thresher Base's 49th Annual USS Thresher

Memorial Service. This year's service will be held on April 14, 2012 @ 1300 at the R.W. Traip Academy, located at 12 Williams Avenue, Kittery, Maine. Doors will open @ 1130.

Each year, USS Thresher family and former crew members from all over the Nation invest in attending our service - to remember and to heal.

Your attendance and interaction is greatly appreciated by the USS Thresher Family members. Some of the children were too young to know their Fathers in 1963. Help make their trip informative and memorable, and you will have done much to meet our

charter of perpetuating the memories of those lost.

This year's guest keynote speaker will be Vice Admiral Kevin M. McCoy, Commander Naval Sea Systems Command. Opening Remarks will be given by Captain L. Bryant Fuller III, Commander, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, followed by former USS Thresher crew member Fern Wagner, Lieutenant Commander, USN Retired, who will "share some stories of every day life and times" during his time aboard USS Thresher.

This month's meeting will be a Combined Thresher Base & USS Maine Base Meeting. It will be held on Saturday, March 17 @ 1200, at Mulligan's in Biddeford, Maine.

At your service,
Kevin Galeaz
Thresher Base Commander

Member Birthdays

March

3- Tom Young
22 - Jack Gill
24 - Charles Horne

April

1 - Peter Joy
10 - Carl Weber
17 - Gordon Wentzell
17 - Ed Lyons
19 - Rick Cecchetti
24 - Michael Yates
24 - Gregory Hankin
29 - Bruce Hauschel
30 - Roger Miller

Thresher Base now on Facebook

Thresher Base United States Submarine Veterans Facebook page was launched on March 1. This page will be one more way to get the message out about Thresher Base, Thresher Memorial Service and USSVI. If you have not had a chance, go and check it out and "Like" the page.

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.

USS Thresher Challenge Coins

For those who aren't aware the Thresher

Family is currently having a fundraiser with a portion of the proceeds going towards the 50th USS Thresher Memorial Service fund. If you would like to order a coin (\$20 each) please contact Victoria Sallade at bobj36@aol.com





January 2012 Meeting Minutes



- The meeting was called to order by Commander Kevin Galeaz
- Tolling of the boats lost during December and January, followed by a moment of silence for departed shipmates.
- Attendees, - 11 Thresher base members, w/ guests, and 3 gentlemen from the Town of Kittery Memorial Circle Dedication Committee: Gary Beers, Don Kerr and Gerry Mylroie
- Secretary Bob McAlpine read the minutes from the 11/19/11 Thresher Base meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes as read.
- Treasurers Report from Dennis O'Keeffe

\$3,518.40 Last meeting balance
 \$1,285.00 deposit from Dues
 \$ 670.00 sent to National for dues
 \$4,134.38 Balance

We rec'd a thank you from Groton Base for the Thanksgiving donation. We rec'd and thank you from the NH & ME Veterans homes for our donation. A motion was made, 2nd and passed to accept the Treasurers report.

Committees:

Holland Club: Larry Oiler

Holland Club Coordinator Larry Oilier listed 4 members eligible for induction this summer at the July base meeting / lobster bake. They are:

- Howard J. Dmytro, Qualified in submarines in 1962 aboard USS Diablo (SS 479) -Regular Member
- Thomas E. Farnon, Qualified in submarines in 1962 aboard USS Becuna (SS 319) -Life Member
- Roland E. Miller, Qualified in submarines in 1962 aboard USS Bluegill (SS 242) -Life Member
- George D. Snow, Qualified in submarines in 1962 aboard USS Daniel

Webster (SSBN 626) -Regular Member

Mr. Miller is behind on dues and will be contacted by Larry. A copy will be sent to Thresher Base Commander and Secretary.

49th USS Thresher Memorial Service Planning Committee: Kevin Galeaz

- April 14, 2012
- An invitation has been sent to Vice Admiral Kevin McCoy, Naval Sea Systems Commander to be our Keynote Speaker.
- Invitations will be sent out to family members about 2/1/12.
- Kevin is asking for volunteers to escort family members at the Memorial Service.
- Marblehead Base's USS Thresher Model Float - Kevin was contacted by Tom Shannon, D1 Commander about displaying their submarine float at the 49th USS Thresher Memorial Service. Marblehead Base brought the float to the Lobster bake at the July meeting and it was very nice. A discussion was held and it was considered to be a good idea. A motion was made, seconded and passed to have the Marblehead Base bring their USS Thresher submarine float.

50th USS Thresher Memorial Service Planning Committee: Kevin Galeaz

- April 6, 2013
- An invitation has been sent to CNO Admiral Greenert to be the Keynote Speaker. Former Thresher Base Gary Hildreth recommended that Vice Admiral McCoy be Cc'd the invitation. Kevin Cc'd Gary a copy of the invitation. Gary forwarded it to Vice Admiral McCoy and asked him to speak with Admiral Greenert regarding our service and our invitation to be the Key Note speaker.

- Current estimates for attendance could be as high as 750 - 800. We are looking at the possibility of two locations, PSNY (cap 500) and Traip Academy (cap 800). Traip has better parking and handicap accessibility. All but a few family members like Traip better. Additional parking could be used at Kittery PO with bus service provided to Traip.
- Potential 2013 USS Will Rogers (SSBN 659) Reunion in Portsmouth to coincide with 50th. Thresher Base was contacted by former crew member Bob Fields re: holding the Will Rogers reunion in Portsmouth during the 50th. Kevin is looking for volunteers to act a liaisons to their group for possible tour of PNSY, Albacore Park and they would like to spend some time w/ Thresher Base SubVets. Former USS Albacore crew member Herm Stolzenburg offered to do the Albacore Park tour. Kevin will ask former Thresher Base Commander Gary Hildreth about the PNSY tour as Gary works for the PNSY Public Affairs Office. Larry Oilier questioned the reunion at the 50th Memorial Service because we have to take into consideration the number of people. A normal reunion is approx. 125-150 people and we will have to consider priorities for the Memorial Service.

Old Business:

- Combined Base meeting w/ USS Maine Base - On 3/17/12 we will have a combined meeting w/ the USS Maine Base at Mulligan's in Biddeford Maine. Former Thresher Base Commander Tom Young and Holland Club Coordinator Larry Oiler have volunteered to help with driving if

continued on page 4



January 2012 Meeting Minutes



anyone needs someone to drive.

Tom said that the Maine base has offered to bring their ship's bell to the Memorial Service for "tolling of the boats".

• Tom also remarked about the great time some of the Thresher Base members had at the 4th of July parade in Bath along with the USS Maine Base members last summer and encouraged attendance.

New Business:

• Tour of Groton Lower Base

An invitation to Thresher Base to join Marblehead & Boston USSVI Bases for a tour of Groton Lower Base including an in-port boat was received from District 1 Commander Tom Shannon. Available dates are 4/28/12, 5/19/12 and 6/9/12. Commander Galeaz asks if there any interest from the members to attend? Kevin, Galeaz, Denny Byrne and Bob McAlpine said they would like to go. There were no stated date preferences, but 5/19/12 is our regularly scheduled meeting, so that was ruled out. Kevin Galeaz will contact the Marblehead base to set a date.

• Dennis O'Keefe made a motion for consideration to donate \$100.00 annually to the Portsmouth Young Marines for all they do for Thresher base for the Memorial day and Memorial service events. They are always there when we need them and they do a great job.

• Kevin rec'd a letter about the passing of Mrs. Harry Fisher, wife of Harry Fisher a Holland Club inductee, July of 2010.

• A list of members having birthdays in January and February was read.

• National Officer Nominations for 2012 are underway. Any Member in good standing may nominate any other member in good standing for any elected office provided they meet the qualifications set forth by Article XI Section 1 paragraph (b).

• Kevin asked what people thought about putting a bit of the bylaws in the newsletter. The consensus was that it was a good idea. A discussion was held, a motion was made, seconded and passed by all.

• Storekeeper Tom Young has some envelopes from the USS Thresher. A discussion was held about giving them to family members at the 50th Memorial service. They will be on the table w/ the name tags. Tom also said that new Holland club patches are available for "55", "60", "65" and so on. Contact Tom if you are interested.

Gerry Mylroie requested that the **Town of Kittery Memorial Circle presentation** be included in the meeting minutes.

• Gary Beers indicated that this was a group of individuals from Kittery, endorsed by the town for a Memorial of the USS Thresher at the circle in Kittery. They distributed a draft of a resolution looking for an endorsement by Thresher Base and assistance for fund raising. The date for the dedication on the draft resolution was incorrectly listed as "April 10, 2013" but should read, 4/7/13, the day after the 49th USS Thresher Memorial Service.

• Gerry Mylroie then made a presentation of the unapproved conceptual plan for the project, a 129' flagpole, lit 24 hours/day. A question was raised about parking. That isn't determined

at this point, but is under consideration. Road construction is slated to start April of 2012 per Gary Beers.

• Kevin noted that 4/6/2013 is the date of the 49th USS Thresher Memorial Service.

• Town of Kittery Councilman Gary Beers indicated that the USS Thresher Flag Pole Dedication Ceremony would be held the morning after the USS Thresher Memorial Service on Sunday 4/7/2013 out of respect to Thresher Base.

• Kevin informed the representatives from the Town of Kittery that he had been in contact w/ former USS Thresher Crew Member John Cook about the possibility of purchasing bricks to be laid around the base of the flag pole as part of the fund raising effort.

• Gerry Mylroie requested a letter expressing support for the project from the Commander, Thresher Base.

• A motion to generate a letter was made, 2nd and passed.

A final prayer was given by Denny Byrne.

Meeting adjourned.



To Perpetuate the Memory



Marvin Theodore Helsius was born on November 18, 1939, in Painesville, Ohio. At an early age his family moved to a farm in Trout Creek, Mich., where he attended local schools. He was graduated from Trout Creek High School as salutatorian in June 1958.

During his school years, Marvin was active in sports and participated in basketball, and he also held several class offices. He was interested in farming, and after graduat-

ing from high school he farmed for a year, prior to entering the Navy on September 10, 1959.

Marvin received his basic training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., where he volunteered for submarine duty. He was accepted for training, and later graduated from the Submarine School at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn. He was selected for advance training in nuclear power, and successfully completed the year-long

course of study at the submarine base in New London; and at the nuclear power training unit located at Windsor Locks, Conn.

On November 9, 1961, Marvin was assigned as a crewmember of the nuclear-powered submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593).

Marvin is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bruno B. Helsius; a sister, Sandra, of Trout Creek, Mich.; another sister, Mrs. Joan Sandri of Wildwood, Ill.; and his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Helia Helsius of Trout Creek.



Marvin T. Helsius
Machinist's Mate Second Class
United States Navy

James John Henry, Jr., was born in Brooklyn, New York, on October 14, 1938. He spent his early boyhood in Brooklyn, and attended St. Vincent Ferrer Grammar School and Regis High School, where he was graduated, second in his class, in June 1956.

He was awarded a U.S. Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps scholarship to Cornell University, and two additional scholarships from the Knights of Columbus Society, and the New York State Regents. However, James received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. While undergoing training there, he was a member of the Newman Club and Altar Boy Society and was executive officer of Fourth Company, first class year, fall and spring midshipmen staffs. James was first in the depart-

ments of English, history and government, and also lead in his leadership class. He had been awarded a proficiency award in boat handling.

Graduating with a class of 1960, James was recommended as an instructor in science, weapons, English, history, and government, and as translator of French.

He volunteered for submarine duty and upon being accepted, he attended the officers' basic course at the Submarine School, U.S. Naval

Submarine base, New London, Connecticut. Successfully completing the

course, he was selected for advanced training in nuclear power. After a 1-year-long course of instruction, James was assigned to his first submarine USS Thresher (SSN 593) in November 1961.

He is survived by his parents, Col. James John Henry, USAR, Mrs. James John

Henry of Brooklyn, New York.



James J. Henry, Jr.
Lieutenant Junior Grade
United States Navy



National Officer Nominations

In accordance with the requirement of our Constitution & Bylaws, this is a call for 2012 National Election nominations for the following offices:

National Commander, National Senior Vice Commander, National Junior Vice Commander, National Secretary, National Treasurer, NE Region Director, SE Region Director, Central Region Director, Western Region Director.

Any member in good standing may nominate any other member in good standing for any elected National Office, provided that the Nominee's qualification for National Office shall be in accordance with Constitution Article XI Section 1 paragraph (b) and the nomination is accompanied by a letter from the Nominee indicating his willingness to accept the nomination and willingness to serve if elected.

The prerequisite for National Office is that a Nominee must be a Regular Member in good standing a minimum of thirty consecutive months.

a. Nominees for Senior and Junior Vice-Commander must have completed at least two years as a Member of the Board of Directors. (This includes all District Commanders, past and present, who have met the two years in office requirement.)

b. Nominees for National Commander must have completed at least two years as a voting member of the Board of Directors by the time they take office as National Commander (NC). (This includes all National Officers and the District Commander of the Year, past and present, who have met the two years as a voting member of the board requirement.)

The term of office for all National officers will be two years or until a successor is elected.

Your nomination must be received by Patrick Householder, Nomination Committee Chair on or by April 30, 2012 by email at householderp@comcast.net or by mail at 25003 SE 146th St, Issaquah WA 98027.

Sub Plan Expected to Boost Hawaii's Economy

HONOLULU (WTW) — A plan by the U.S. Navy to base more submarines at Pearl Harbor is expected to bring a boost to Hawaii's economy. U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye's office says that over the next two years, up to five submarines will be added to Hawaii's 19-boat fleet, the Honolulu Star Advertiser reported Saturday.

About 90 percent of the work done at the Navy's shipyard is on submarines, the newspaper reported. With a total of about 4,900 employees and an economic impact of \$907 million a year, officials say each additional

submarine will pump millions of dollars into the local economy in salaries, spending and repair work.

"Submarine work is good work. It's the kind of jobs you want — well-paid, highly technical jobs," said Robert Lillis, president of the International Association of Machinists Local 1998, which represents mechanics in Hawaii's private ship repair industry.

Among the additions planned are two more Virginia-class attack submarines, one in fiscal year 2013 and another in 2014, Inouye's office said.

The additional submarines will

Nominations for 2012 National Awards Recognition

The Purpose of the Awards Recognition program is to recognize those members who have performed above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of USSVI and in living up to the intent and purposes of our national creed.

THE USSVI AWARDS MANUAL is for members and bases to use to submit nominees for the 2012 USSVI Award Program. Award Nominations may be submitted starting now through APRIL 30, 2012.

All Award nominations (with exception of Newsletter Award) must be received by the National Awards Chairman by APRIL 30, 2012. May 15 2012 is the deadline for submission of Newsletters for Newsletter of the Year Award.

Royal Navy Submariners Visit Charleston Base

Four Royal Navy Submarine Veterans Visit Charleston Base for Feb 2012 Social. They were in Charleston to attend the Huntley memorial service.

expand what is already the greatest concentration of Navy submarines in the Pacific. The Navy said no submarine retirements are planned out of Pearl Harbor over the next two fiscal years.

The planned increase in the number of submarines comes as the Navy also plans to reduce Pearl Harbor's surface fleet from nine from 11 ships. But Inouye's office says the additional submarines will increase the total number of ships and subs based at the harbor.



Photo Gallery - January 2012



Thresher Base officers: Bob McAlpine, Secretary; Kevin Galeaz, Base Commander; Dennis O'Keeffe, Treasurer



Kittery Traffic Circle Plans - USS Thresher Memorial Flag Pole Project Presentation



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 @ 1200
Mulligan's • 23 Lincoln Street • Biddeford, Maine

Calendar of Events

March

17 - 1200 - Joint Base Meeting with
Maine Base at Mulligan's,
Biddeford, Maine

April

14 - 1300 - Thresher Memorial Ser-
vice at Traip Academy,
Kittery, Maine

May

19 - 1200 - Base Meeting - TBD
28 - 1000 - Memorial Day Service at
Albacore Park

June

9 - TBD - Groton Boat Tour with
Marblehead Base

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