



USSVI Thresher Base News



May 2009

46th USS Thresher Memorial Service

The 46th anniversary memorial service of the loss of the USS Thresher was held on April 18, 2009. This year's service was held in Kittery at the R.W. Traip Academy. As family members arrived at the ceremony, long-stemmed red roses were passed out to all female family and wives. Each person was asked to place a single rose petal in a basket, so they could be released into the water with the wreath.

The ceremony started with a greeting by Mr. Gary Hildreth, Commander, Thresher Base which was followed by the Presentation of Colors



LT Daniel Whitaker, USN Chaplin performed the Invocation.

This year's ceremony had two speakers: Dawn Herrmann, daughter of FTG1(SS) Charles L. Wiggins and keynote speaker Captain Robert Mazzone, Commander, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.


This set the stage for the somber Tolling of the Bells for the 129 men who lost their lives on April 9, 1963. While Kevin Galeaz, USSVI Thresher Base and John Cook, former crew member, read the names and Bob Flannery, USSVI Thresher Base, tolled the bell, the melodic sounds of a bagpipe, played by Patrick Boyle, could be heard in the distance.



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and the Pledge of Allegiance. The National Anthem was performed by Ms. Lori Arsenault and Mrs. Debra (Arsenault) Henderson, daughters of ENCA (SS) Tilmon J. Arsenault.



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March Meeting Minutes

The March 2009 meeting was held at Newick's Restaurant, Dover on March 21, 2009. It was called to order followed by a prayer and pledge of allegiance. The Tolling of the Bell was conducted for boats lost in March and April followed by a sound off of all present.

The Secretary's Report was read by Kevin Galeaz and the report was approved.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Dennis O'Keeffe.

Balance	\$3786.68
Dues	+1166.69
Dues National	- 400.00
Ending Balance	\$4553.37

USS Thresher Memorial Service will be held on April 18, 2009 at the R.W. Traip Academy. Arrangements have been made for Pat Boyle to play the bagpipes and George Stevens will play

the trumpet. The school will be open on Friday to set up the gym. There is a need to purchase insurance for the day which will cost around \$200. A motion was made and unanimously passed to purchase the insurance. The tides are coming in so this should work. Larry Oiler and Herm Stolzenberg are handling the wreath. Kevin asks if there is anyone who is interested in helping run the computer slide show. Greg Baker offers to help. Invitation will be sent out on Monday, March 23. Continuing to work out the details on speakers 1) Rear Admiral Mooney 2) Admiral Grooms 3) Captain Mazzone.

Memorial Day Ceremony will take place on Monday, May 25 at 1000 at Albacore Park.

Old Business - Wheels of NR1 - Bill

Tebo will look into this.

New Business -

Gary thanked Peter Joy for looking at other meeting locations. Decision was made to hold May meeting at Newick's.

Lobsterbake will be held on July 18 with the meeting starting at 1200 and lunch at 1330. The price is being held at \$20 for single lobster or steak and \$25 for double lobster.

The Flaghill Winery in Lee is being considered for the November meeting. Will look into food options and will keep cost in mind.

Denny Byrne won the 50/50 raffle of \$34 and donated the money back to the base.

Combined Meeting & Lobster Fest USSVI Thresher Base & SubVets WWII Sqaulus Chapter 2009 Holland Club Induction Ceremony

Saturday, July 18, 2008 @ 1200

All USSVI SubVets, SubVets WWII, Spouses, Family Members & Guests Invited

American Legion Post #70 • 169 Walton Rd, Seabrook, NH

Menu Options & Cost

Single lobster, steamed clams, chowder & corn on the cob for \$20 p/p.

- or -

Double lobsters, steamed clams, chowder & corn on the cob for \$25

p/p.

- or -

Steak with baked potato for \$20 p/p.

Reservations

Reservations are required by Saturday, July 11. Mail check (USSVI Thresher Base) with menu selection to:

Kevin Galeaz

1465 Hooksett Road #239

Hooksett, NH 03106

603.715.1093

thresherbase@comcast.net

Directions

Take Rt. 95 to NH Exit 1, Rt. 107 East. Proceed to Rt. 1, and turn right heading South. Continue to Traffic Circle completing 3/4 of the circle.

Turn right onto Walton Rd. and proceed for ~ 1/2 mile. The Raymond D. Walton American Legion Post #70 is located on the left. If you need more directions, call the American Legion at

603.474.8387



To Perpetuate the Memory



Charles Louis Wiggins was born on December 7, 1933, in El Paso, Tex. He was an "A" student at Central High School where he was graduated at age 16. While in school, Charles was on the swimming team and earned many awards in swimming competition.

Having moved with his family to Spokane, Wash., he enlisted in the Navy there in June 1952. After completing recruit training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif., he was assigned to the U.S. Naval Receiving Station, Washington, D.C. Continu-

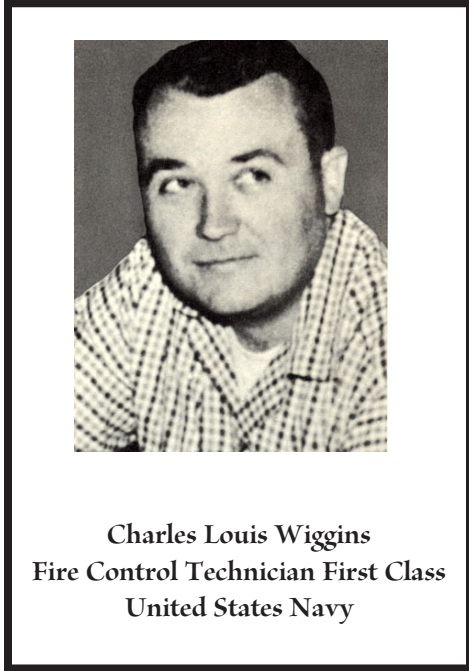
ing to demonstrate the qualities of a good student, he was graduated from the Navy's Fire Control Technician School, and the Mark 25 Class "C" School in 1954.

After tours of duty at sea in the U.S.S. Achernar (AKA 53), the U.S.S. Fort Snelling (LSD 30), and the U.S.S. Courtney (DE 1021), Charles attended and was graduated from the Class "B" Fire Control Technician School

at the Great Lakes in 1960. He then volunteered for submarine duty and

was accepted for training at the Submarine School located at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn. He successfully completed the course of instruction and was graduated in 1961. In January 1962, Charles was assigned to the nuclear-powered submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593). During his naval service, Charles had earned the Navy's Good Conduct Medal (three awards), and a letter of commendation from the commanding officer of the Thresher.

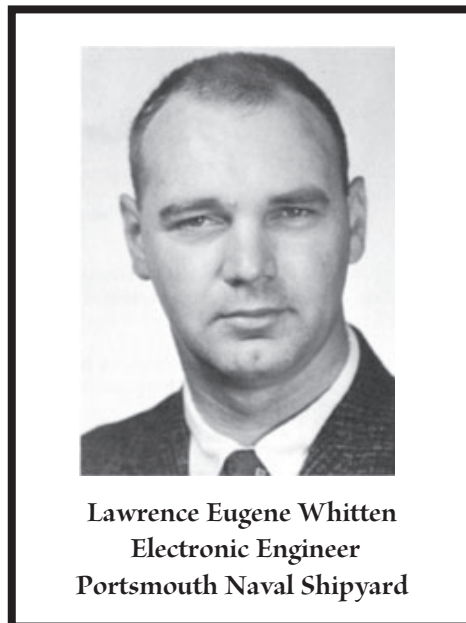
Charles is survived by his widow, Mrs. Patricia A. Wiggins of Exeter, N.H.; three children, Joy L., Dawn M., and Charles L., Jr., and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Wiggins. He also leaves to married sisters, Mrs. R. Fechner, and Mrs. T. Ledbetter; and a brother, Mr. D. Wiggins, all of Spokane, Wash.



Lawrence Eugene Whitten, 33, was born and spent his early boyhood in Waterboro, Maine. He attended school in that city, and was graduated from Waterboro High School as an honor student, in 1948.

After completing high school, Lawrence enrolled in the University of New Hampshire, and was graduated with a bachelor of science degree in engineering.

Active in both community and church affairs, Lawrence was an avid fisherman, and an amateur flyer. He devoted most of his free time to his family.



He became associated with the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, after graduating college, where he served as an electronic engineer in the Sonar Section of the Combat Systems Division.

In addition to his wife, Elizabeth L. Whitten, he is survived by two daughters, Ann R., and Sharon L., and his widowed mother, Mrs. Flora Whitten.



46th USS Thresher Memorial Service

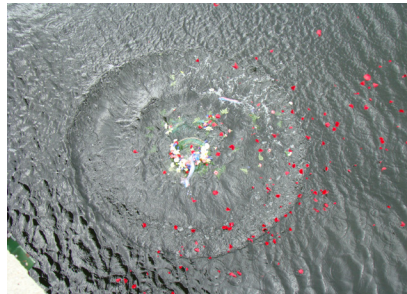




46th USS Thresher Memorial Service



After Chaplain LT Daniel Whitaker's Benediction, the service continued down at the waterfront. At the water's edge, Lt. Whitaker led us in a prayer which was followed by a gun salute from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Rifle Team. While the wreath was being prepared, Mr. George Stevens played taps. Shirley Abrahms, wife of Fred P. Abrams, had the opportunity to release the wreath off the shipyard bridge while Ashley Mann, Mr. Abrams granddaughter tossed the rose petals collected from the female family members. Piper Boyle concluded the ceremony with the Navy Hymn.



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

**Next Thresher Base Meeting
Saturday, May 16, 2009 @ 1200
Newick's Restaurant • Dover, NH**



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 of

America and its Constitution."

The base newsletter, *Thresher Base News*, and base website, 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.

USSVI Conventions

**2009
San Diego, CA**

**2010
Cincinnati, OH-
Covington, KY**
