

USSVI Thresher Base News

USS Miami Sailor Michael Zito Earns Dolphins, WWII SubVet Bill Tebo Contributes In Pinning Ceremony

At the annual Lobsterbake, WWII SubVet and Thresher Member Bill Tebo had the opportunity to meet USS Miami crew member Michael Zito, Michael's wife Kimberly and their daughter Lilah.



Kimberly and Lilah had attended the Memorial Day Service at Albacore Park in May without Michael, as he was tied up dealing with recovery efforts due to the fire aboard USS Miami. Kim asked if Michael could attend a future meeting. Bob McAlpine, Thresher Base's superb greeter, invited Michael, Kim and Lilah to the July Lobsterbake

meeting. Commander Galeaz recommended that Michael take the time to meet the WWII SubVets that would be in attendance.

The family attended the Lobsterbake and enjoyed the company of our members. Our members were delighted that a young sailor and his family had attended one of our functions.

Michael was impressed with Bill Tebo and invited him to participate in his Dolphin pinning ceremony that was held on July 27, 2012. Bill read "The Submariner" and Michael's wife Kimberly pinned on his Dolphins.

Kudos and congratulations to Michael on this accomplishment, and to WWII SubVet Bill Tebo for passing along his legacy to a Submariner of the current generation.

Election Results

USSVI National Officers

Commander: Michael Bircumshaw
Sr Vice Commander: Carl Schmidt
Jr Vice Commander: Al Singleman, Jr
Secretary: Tom Conlon
Treasurer: Richard McPherson
Northeast Director: Michael Naughton

Thresher Base Officers

Commander: Kevin Galeaz
Vice Commander: Rick Cecchetti
Secretary: Frank Hood
Treasurer: Dennis O'Keeffe

Green Mountain Base Donates Thresher Plaque



At the September meeting, John Granger, Base Commander, Green Mountain Base, presented a handmade plaque of the USS Thresher emblem. Commander Galeaz was touched by the gift and thanked Commander Granger for his, and his base's generosity. A thank you card will be brought to the next meeting for members to sign before mailing.



Table of Contents

Dolphin Pinning Ceremony .	1	Member Bios Requested.....	5	Lost Boats.....	13 & 14
Green Mountain Base	1	New Member Welcome	5	Arlington Thresher Project	15
Base and National Elections .	1	Kittery Thresher Project	5	USSVI Scholarships	15
Commander's Message	2	Dues Reminder	5	Holland Club	16
Member Birthdays.....	2	National Convention	5	Eagle Scouts.....	17
50th Service Update.....	3	July Meeting.....	6 & 7	Calendar of Events.....	18
Students Honor Thresher	4	September Meeting	8 - 10	USSVI Conventions.....	18
Thresher Service Donations .	4	To Perpetuate the		Next Meeting	18
Website Updates.....	4	Memory	11 & 12		



Base Happenings



Base Commander's Message



Shipmates,
As I write this on Veterans Day, I am reminded of the cost of freedom that has affected a large number of families in our Nation. My Uncle

Francis Callahan was killed in action while on an US Army recon mission in Korea, in what would be known as "the forgotten war."

For years after Korea and the Vietnam War, the honoring of Veterans by those who did not serve was limited at best. This is thankfully no longer the case.

This past Friday at the Marshwood Middle School in Elliot, Maine, WWII SubVets Bill Tebo and Bill Seward, Korean War SubVet Bob Flannery, and Vietnam War SubVets Frank Hood & Bob McAlpine, were among the over 250 Veterans who were sincerely honored in a moving ceremony by the entire student body of 6th, 7th and 8th graders.

The two 7th grade teams focused their presentation on the men lost

aboard USS Thresher. I had the opportunity to assist the classes with their presentation earlier in the week. I was impressed with their questions and their ability to comprehend the loss.

Tom Shannon and Peter Koester from Marblehead Base brought their trailered parade float model of the USS Thresher to the event and I watched in appreciation as Tom & Peter answered numerous questions about the Submarine, questions that varied from "Where are the batteries located?" & "What is a nuclear reactor?" to "How do you operate the toilets?"

It's important to recognize our role in fostering and maintaining awareness and appreciation in those who have not served, for what we, as Submariners, have contributed to our Nation's defense.

Our WWII SubVets possess the richest histories. I encourage you to take the time to listen and remember their stories, as you are in the best position to serve as the link to maintain awareness and appreciation for their significant role in our Nations

freedom.

Robin and I wish you and your families a safe and joyous holiday season.

Fraternally,
Kevin

Member Birthdays

September

- 8 - Leo Cloutier
- 9 - Mark Franklin
- 12 - Kevin Galeaz
- 19 - Thomas Clayton
- 20 - Thomas Stewart
- 22 - Bob McAlpine & Joseph Barnofsky
- 24 - Don Simpson

October

- 1 - Al Page
- 18 - George Stevens
- 28 - Fern Wagner
- 30 - David Woodman
- 30 - Carl Bonenfant

November

- 1 - Michael Egan
- 4 - Vince Mahany
- 6 - Denny Bryne
- 9 - Chris Smith
- 10 - Linda Stewart
- 11 - Dennis Gallant & Robin Galeaz
- 13 - Elmer Flanagan
- 14 - Larry Goelz
- 15 - Dick Hillman

- 16 - Glenn Appleton
- 17 - Harlan Brown

December

- 1 - Thomas Murray
- 4 - Edward O'Neill
- 6 - Brian Lewis
- 8 - Joan Lyman
- 9 - Larry Oiler
- 10 - Dave Dickey
- 14 - Joseph Palmer
- 14 - Eric Lindstrom
- 17 - Frank Hood
- 22 - Carl Chase
- 28 - Charles Bennett
- 31 - Legs Legare

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.



50th USS Thresher Memorial Service Update

On October 31, Thresher Base Commander Kevin Galeaz received a call regarding location options for the 50th USS Thresher Memorial Service from former Thresher Base Commander Gary Hildreth. Gary works as a Public Affairs Specialist on PNS. The call was to notify the Planning Committee Chairman that PNS would be unable to repair the Building Ways in time to use for the upcoming 50th Annual USS Thresher Memorial Service. Gary indicated he, along with PNS Naval Facilities managers, had tried to secure two other locations, both of which did not pan out. Thus, Gary reports that the only option available is the Base Auditorium which has a seating capacity of ~500.

With an expected turnout of between 750-1000 guests, Memorial Service Planning Committee Chairman and Thresher Base Commander Kevin Galeaz met with Gary at PNS on November 5th to look at the approach suggested, discuss the impact and brainstorm.

Gary recommended that the Base Auditorium be reserved for the USS Thresher family & former crew members, dignitaries, media, and Thresher Base SubVets. Preliminary estimates vary between 350 to 400 family and former crew members, and ~40 dignitaries and media personal.

The USS Thresher family member storyboards will be setup in the recreation center known as "The Relief Valve" with the entrance in the front of building 22. The opposite end of "The Relief Valve" leads to the auditorium entrance. This area will also be used for registration and rose distribution.

Gary has indicated that memorial service will be broadcast live over the

internet by the Defense Video and Internet Distribution System.

Gary recommends reserving the Thresher Room located above Tirante Tavern to rebroadcast the service to the expected 100+ members of the USS Will Rogers Association who have already expended nearly \$10,000 in hotel room and banquet hall reservations for their annual reunion designed to coincide with the memorial service.

Gary reports that the only other facility on PNS will hold 80, still falling short of our expected turnout.



Instead of nearly eliminating or severely reducing the number of Submarine Veterans, Shipyard Workers and Civilians who can attend, I recommended that we reserve the R.W. Traip Academy, and rebroadcast the service there as Traip can easily accommodate the overflow. Gary concurs as it will eliminate sending guests to other facilities on PNS.

Guests at both locations (PNS Auditorium and Traip) will take part in the waterside wreath ceremony. PNS attendees will proceed to the bridge

near the closed back gate. Those at Traip will proceed to the waterfront behind the Academy. The tide is low at 1319. Provided the wreath is thrown away from the bridge piers, it should pass Traip within a few minutes of the time it is dropped off the PNS East bridge. I suggest that we consider a second piper and trumpet player to play echo taps at Traip. Gary concurs. In addition, Gary will ask one of the COB's to bring their crew members to Traip. Our goal is to help those who attend at Traip to feel they are part of the service.

Everyone who attends regardless of their location will have the opportunity to take part in the post-service reception that is planned for the Tirante Tavern. Gary will coordinate with the Base gate security to permit those at Traip to drive over to PNS immediately after the wreath laying ceremony to look at the storyboards, attend the reception and meet the family members and dignitaries.

The impact to Thresher Base of using Traip as the 2nd memorial service location will be to rent two video projectors and rear-projection screens, and one Thresher Base member to set it all up and monitor the computer rebroadcast and video projectors and a second member to direct operations. Secretary Frank Hood has volunteered to direct operations at the R.W. Traip Academy location.

For the reception, we will be serving very light hors d'oeuvres including cheese and crackers, fruit and veggie platters along with soft drinks and bottled water as the majority of family members are heading to dinner at 1630.



Elliot Maine Marshwood Middle School Seventh Graders Prepare USS Thresher Presentation As Part of Veterans Recognition

The Marshwood Middle School in Eliot, ME makes recognizing the Veterans in the community an annual tradition. This year, the 7th grade teams chose to learn about and honor the men lost aboard the USS Thresher.

Thresher Base Commander, Kevin Galeaz, had the opportunity to attend classes on November 5 to help the students with their slideshow for the November 9th assembly.

In addition to over 200 US Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Air Force and Navy Veterans, the event was attended by Thresher Base members Bill Tebo, Bill Seward, Bob Flannery, Bob McAlpine & Kevin Galeaz. Marblehead Base members Tom Shannon and Peter Koester also attended with their USS Thresher float parked in front of the school.

The moving event also featured coverage of Wounded Warriors and the Korean War.

An invitation has been extended to



Kevin Galeaz, Thresher Base Commander at Marshwood Middle School, Elliot, ME

Thresher Base Commander Galeaz to return with a small number of Thresher Base members at next year's assembly.

Commander Galeaz will show the 7th grade students USS Thresher presentation at the upcoming Thresher Base meeting.

Both Seacoast Online and Foster's online local newspapers featured articles regarding the event.

USS Thresher Memorial Fund Donations

Between June and November 2012, \$681.60 in donations were generously made to the USS Thresher Memorial Fund. Cards will be brought to the next meeting for members to sign in appreciation for the donations made.

- Donations made in memory of former Thresher Base Associate Member Hilda "Jill" Arsenault Robinson: (\$100) Ed & Georgia Arsenault, Dean & Cora Stevens; (\$50) Raymond & Bonnie Muse, Doris Doucette; (\$30) Manual S. Garganta; (\$25) Barbara McCoolle, (\$25) Lorraine Barnicle, (\$25) Elizabeth True-Gibb, (\$25) Bernice DeRoche & Theresa O'Driscoll, (\$25) Dannie & Jane Barrett
- Donation made in the memory of former Thresher Base member Jack Gill - (\$115) Audrey F. Gill & Family
- Donation made in memory of the family members of the men lost aboard the USS Thresher - \$111.60 from the USS Thresher Family Fund.

Webmaster Updates

118 photos have been edited and uploaded to Thresher Base's Flickr account for the July 2012 Lobster Bake and Holland Club Induction Ceremony; Keelan McCoolle Eagle Scout Court of Honor; and September 2012 Thresher Base meeting.

See Thresher Base Flickr website for access to the latest sets, as well as the 48 additional sets of photos that have been uploaded since the 41st Annual USS Thresher Memorial Service.



WWII SubVet Bill Tebo, Thresher Base Secretary Frank Hood, Steve Deven, Marblehead Base members EN1 Commander Tom Shannon & Peter Koester and the Marblehead Base USS Thresher Float at Marshwood Middle School, Elliot, ME



Members Photos & Biographies For USSVI National Website

by Kevin Galeaz

USSVI National has requested that all members include photos and a brief biography on their personal USSVI webpage. Thresher Base Secretary Frank Hood will be contacting each of you over the course of the next year to obtain the following:

- Two photos, one when you were in the Navy, and one current photo. If finding one from your Navy days is too difficult, just upload the current photo. One possible source for a cur-

rent photo is the Thresher Base Flickr website for those who have attended the meetings and functions.

- Your biography. Include a description of your Naval career such as the boats you served on, when you qualified, shore duty assignments, awards, Shellback, BlueNose, etc. Additional information to consider including in the biography is any post-Navy education, your post-Navy occupation or professional career, your fraternal associations, your family, your hobbies

and what activities you are currently active in now.

If you need assistance with uploading them to the website, please send your photos and biography to Vice Commander Rick Cecchetti at RECC@aol.com who has access to the database in his capacity as Membership Coordinator.

Thresher Base Welcomes New & Returning Members

by Kevin Galeaz

Thresher Base extends a welcome aboard to the following new and returning members:

- Bruce F. Aquizap, qualified on the USS Chopper (SS342) in 1954.
- Maurice R. Goodson, qualified on the USS Growler (SSG-577) in 1964.
- Brian G. Lewis, qualified on the USS George Washington Carver (SSBN-656) in 1982.
- Michael Gigliotti, Associate member.

2013 Dues Reminder

Thresher Base Dues and National Dues must be paid by January 1st. Annual members pay both the Base dues of \$15.00 and National dues of \$20.00 a year for a total of \$35.00. National dues are paid to the Base Treasurer who will forward them to National. Life members only pay Base dues of \$15.00. Please make your check payable to: USSVI-Thresher Base and send to Base Treasurer, 1 Eureka Ave. York, ME 03909.

Kittery USS Thresher Flag Pole Memorial Project

A letter of support has been sent to the Town of Kittery USS Thresher Flag Pole Memorial Project by Thresher Base Commander Kevin Galeaz.

Commander Galeaz will recommend to the membership that a donation to the project be made from Thresher Base. The amount approved will be submitted to the USSVI National Charitable Foundation with a request for matching funds, and then provided to the project director, Gary Beers. Any member who would like to have their donations included in the amount that will be matched are asked to send their check to Treasurer Dennis O'Keeffe, 1 Eureka Ave., York, ME 03909 no later than Dec. 1, 2012.

Reflections on the National Convention

by Tom Young

Shipmates,

A short note on my trip to the National Subvets convention in Norfolk this past Sept. They had a very good turnout for this convention, in part as it was in Norfolk which brought back many memories for shipmates who sailed from here.

I attended the Holland club breakfast and it was an outstanding event as they honored all the WW2 vets who were there. In addition we elected a new leader for the Holland Club. Bud Atkins a shipmate that I qualified with on the Wahoo was elected.

I also attended the final closing of the WW2 Subvets charter. This was a very moving event as they closed this chapter in their lives. They did vow to continue getting together when ever they are able. A wonderful group of shipmates.

The closing banquet was well done both with food, entertainment and the outstanding speaker Vice Admiral Big Al Konetzni





July 2012 Meeting Minutes



Bill Livendale, Green Mountain Base, WWII SubVet Bill Tebo, Michael (USS Miami), Kimberly & Lilah Zito, & Nicholas Ottomaniello III, Bay State West

was conducted. There were 23 members with a total of 62 people in attendance for the annual lobster bake.

Minutes of the May meeting were read by Robin Galeaz and approved by the members.

Due to the focus of this meeting being the lobster bake and Holland Club induction, the meeting component was intentionally short. Updates were given

The July 2012 meeting was called to order by Base Commander Kevin Galeaz. The meeting started with an opening prayer and the pledge of allegiance. The tolling of the bell was done for the boats lost in July and August,

- by Kevin Galeaz on:
- 50th USS Thresher Memorial Service
 - Kaps for Kids
 - Thresher Memorial @ Arlington National Cemetery
 - Town of Kittery Flag Pole Memorial Dedication

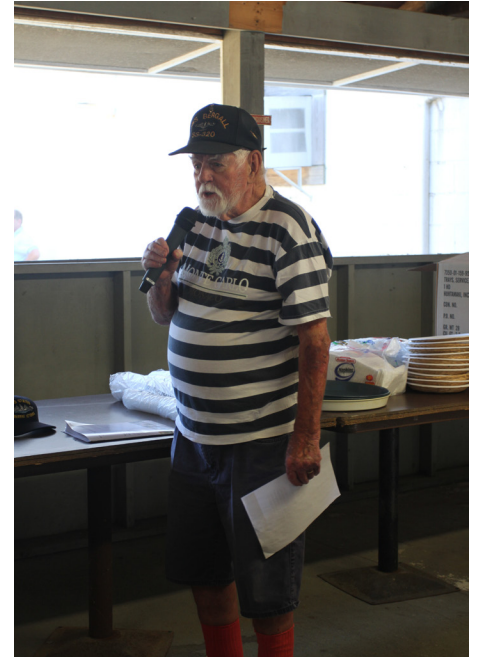
Carl Weber shared some information on medical assistance available through the VA.

Nominations were taken for Base Officers. It was agreed that the base would keep its current officers:

- Commander – Kevin Galeaz
- Vice Commander - Rick Cecchetti
- Treasurer - Dennis O’Keeffe
- Secretary – Position is open due to resignation of Bob McAlpine. Frank Hood has offered to take this position.

Holland Club Induction: Howard J. Dmytro and Roland E. Miller were inducted into the Holland Club. George

E. Snow was unable to attend and his certificate was mailed to him. Thomas E. Farnon passed away before he could



WWII SubVet Carl Weber

receive his certificate. It was presented to his wife and family graveside earlier in the summer.

The meeting was adjourned so all could enjoy another amazing meal prepared by the Sons of the American Legion.



Al Page, Thresher Base Chaplin

which was followed by a moment of silence.

A sound off of members and guests



Gordon Wentzell



Lobsterbake



Left to right: Ed Storer, John McCardle, Ian Johnston, Al Page, Bill Livendale, Bill Tebo, Nicholas Ottomaniello III, Tom Young, Larry Goelz, Charlie Manes, Harlan Brown, Carl Weber, Gordon Wentzell, Gary Hildreth, Bill Seaward, David Pratt, Bob Flannery, Herm Stozenburg, Ken Keegler, Dennis O'Keeffe, George Thomas & Kevin Galeaz. Photo by Bruce (Frenchy) DeFrehn.



Gary Hildreth and Harlan Brown



Sons of the American Leagion

Thresher Base thanks Bruce (Frenchy) DeFrehn for providing Lobster Bake photography services.



Charlie Manes



USS Will Rogers Reunion Association Members Bruce DeFrehn and Ken Keegler





September 2012 Meeting Minutes



The September 2012 meeting was held at Newick's Restaurant, Dover Point, NH. There were 21 Members attending, plus First Mates. The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Kevin Galeaz.

Opening

Chaplain Al Page gave the Invocation. Kevin led the Base in the Pledge of Allegiance. During the Member Sound Off, a new member, Bryan Lewis, who qualified on the George Washington Carver SSBN 656 in 1982 indicated this was his first meeting.



The Call of the Boats for September and October for Kevin with Rick Cecchetti sounding the ship's bell.

Robin Galeaz read the minutes from the July meeting. They were accepted as is and approved.

Dennis O'Keeffe gave the Treasurer's Report. The starting balance was \$3,269.92 and there were deposits of \$150.28 and expenses of \$1505 leaving a new balance of \$2,375.70. The Thresher Memorial Service Fund has a balance of \$5212.25. Dennis indicated the Groton Base has requested the traditional Thanksgiving donation of \$25 to support their annual dinner and Dennis recommended that be done. This motion was approved.

New Business

Kevin mentioned the Holland Club ceremony held in July where 4 shipmates were inducted.

Kevin asked shipmate Gary Hildreth to give an update on the location for the Thresher 50th Memorial coming up next April. Gary asked if the funds

in the Thresher Memorial Fund were to be used for invitations and flowers? Gary indicated that the family members were planning a reception type meal after the ceremony, so the Base would not have to cover that. Kevin said the PNS is covering creating and

printing the invitations and the Programs so that all our Base had to cover was the Flowers. Kevin also pointed out that this Fund was to be used for continuing the memorial ceremony year after year, not specifically for this one 50th anniversary event, although that was certainly very significant. Dennis pointed out that the Base had not tapped into any money from the Thresher Memorial Fund to date, but had always funded other expenses from the general operating fund.

Kevin asked Gary if the attendance by the CNO had been confirmed yet? Gary said that VADM McCoy at the PNS was handling all of those details. Kevin said he would send a formal letter from the Base because that would

require a formal response from the office of the CNO.

Kevin brought up the Thresher Flagpole project from the town of Kittery, ME. This has been going along very well and actually looks like they will raise the \$70,000 required to do it. Kevin noted that on their website, President Bush 41 had made a donation, and had given a quote of strong support. Kevin indicated that this flagpole ceremony would be held the day after the official ceremony sponsored by the Base, and that was a change from their original plans.

Kevin mentioned the Arlington Cemetery Thresher Memorial project. He has heard from Senator Shaheen's staff who are helping him make connections down in DC. He has learned that this would be a multi-year project and that about \$500,000 would be needed for all the design reviews from the local authorities. Kevin is attempting to contact a member on the Arlington Cemetery Board of Directors, Mr. Thomas Kelly, who was a Navy Vietnam Medal of Honor winner.

Kevin pointed out that the key to raising the funds was to have the big contractors donate and this would require a massive letter writing campaign from all subvets writing their local congress person.

Kevin clearly pointed out that NAVSEA cannot be mentioned in any of this correspondence. VADM McCoy is head of NAVSEA and no connection can be expressed or implied.

Al Page reported that one Eagle Scout Court of Honor had been performed by Kevin and that both the Scout and his family were very appreciative. The boy





September 2012 Meeting Minutes



was the grandson of Ray McCool, who was not on board the Thresher because of a freak accident where his wife got glass in her eye. He was allowed to attend to her when the Thresher was lost. The wife was there and most appreciative.

ing it a bit difficult for the attendees to hear. The next Convention will be in Rochester, MN (Minneapolis area) and the 2014 Convention will be in Burlingame, CA, near San Francisco.

Kevin said that all the proposed amendments to the National By-

Laws were passed, and that National Dues would stay at \$20 for next year. Tom also told Kevin that the National Website was going to receive some needed renovations. Rick Cecchetti indicated that the database available from the National Web Site was not up because someone had hacked into it. It would be down for a bit longer.



Kevin reported that in the recently concluded National Election for USSVI Officers, that only 24 of our 90 members voted. While this is an improvement from past years, this needs to improve in the future Kevin indicated.

Kevin gave a report on the recent National Convention that he received from Tom Shannon. He said a good time was had by all, especially the WWII sub vets. He indicated the Tolling of the Bells took place on the USS Wisconsin, and that the PA broke during the ceremony, mak-

John Granger, Base Commander, Green Mountain Base came up and presented Kevin a USS Thresher plaque that they had made up and asked if it could be used as a raffle item to help raise funds for the 50th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony. Kevin accepted the plaque with the thanks from our Base and said we would vote on an appropriate way to use it.

Since each Base Officer nominee was running unchallenged, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to vote for the nominees with a show of hands. Kevin then asked for a show of hands to approve the Base Officer Slate for the upcoming year:

Commander	Kevin Galeaz
Vice Comander	Rick Cecchetti
Treasurer	Dennis O'Keeffe
Secretary	Frank Hood

The hand vote approved the motion.

Old Business : Nothing was presented Meeting was adjourned at 1300 hours.

Submitted by Frank Hood





September 2012 Meeting





To Perpetuate the Memory



Kenneth Ray Corcoran was born on January 28, 1917, in Buffalo, Mont., the son of Charles Corcoran and Ethelyn Beatrice Richardson Corcoran.

He received his elementary schooling in various schools in South Dakota, and was graduated from Onida High School in June 1935.

Kenneth then enlisted in the naval service and served honorably for 20 years. He



Kenneth J. Corcoran
Field Service Engineer
Sperry Gyroscope Company

retired in 1956, with the rank of lieutenant. Upon retiring, he embarked upon a second career by enrolling in

Westchester Community College, White Plains, N.Y. In June 1958, he was graduated with an associate degree in electrical technology. He then accepted a position with Sperry Gyroscope Co. as a field service engineer in their marine division. Kenneth was assigned to submarine controls and navigational equip-

ment. He had worked aboard and participated in the sea trials of almost every nuclear-powered submarine built on the east coast.

For his outstanding service and performance while working aboard the nuclear-powered submarine U.S.S. Sea Dragon (SSN 584), he had received a letter of commendation from the Navy.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Priscilla Corcoran, and three sons, Kenneth R., Jr., an electronics technician serving in the U.S. Army, and Richard, who resides in Massachusetts.

John Smarz was born on July 11, 1929, in Shelton, Connecticut, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Smarz, Sr. He attended public school in Shelton, and during his high school years, he participated in both baseball and football in which he received letters for his managerial talents.

He was graduated from high school in June 1947, and in January of the following year, he enlisted into the naval service. He completed his basic training, and attended the Navy's electronics technicians school in 1949. John then volunteered for submarine duty and upon being accepted, he was enrolled in the Submarine School at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut. He successfully completed the course in 1951.

John rose through the ranks, and on August 14, 1958, he was commissioned an ensign. During the next

2 years he served in the submarine U.S.S. Sea Robin (SS 407), in which he became qualified as a submariner and was awarded his gold dolphins.

He later attended the Basic Nuclear Power School at the submarine base in New London, where he became qualified as a nuclear power reactor operator.

In August 1960, he was assigned to the precommissioning detail of the nuclear-powered submarine Thresher (SSN 593).

During his naval service, John had earned the Navy's Good Conduct Medal with three stars for three separate

awards; the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal.

In addition to his parents, John is survived by his widow, the former Joyce Wesley Mills of Gloversville, New York; and three sons, John, III, Richard Arthur, and James Michael.



John Smarz, Jr.
Lieutenant
United States Navy



To Perpetuate the Memory



Robert William Gaynor was born on August 25, 1939 in Boston, MA. He enlisted in the Navy on June 25, 1957 and volunteered for submarine duty. Following recruit training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, MD, he was enrolled as a student in the Submarine School at the U.S. naval Submarine Base, New London, CT.

His first assignment in submarines came in October 1957 when he reported to the



Robert William Gaynor
Engineman Second Class
United States Navy

USS Piper (SS 409) as a member of her crew. Robert was then assigned to the nuclear-powered submarine USS Sea Dragon (SSN 584) and it was while serving in this command that he became qualified as a submariner. He was awarded his silver dolphins on January 27, 1960.

Robert was awarded the Navy's Good Conduct Medal, a letter of commendation from the commanding officer of the USS Sea Dragon, and

another letter of commendation from the commanding officer of the USS Thresher (SSN 593), during his naval service.

On February 27, 1961, Robert was assigned to the USS Thresher.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Anita E. Gaynor and three children, Carolyn, Mark, and Robert. He also leaves his widowed mother, Mrs. Dorothy L. Gaynor; brother, Paul of Keyport, NJ; and another brother Joseph serving in the US Navy; a twin sister, Mrs. Peter Rushing of English-town, NJ; and another sister, Mrs. Burt Buetterfield of Lillian, AL.

George J. Dineen was born on May 26, 1920, in Biddeford, Maine, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Dineen. He attended local public schools, and was graduated from Biddeford High School.

George then enrolled in the Saco-Lowell Apprentice School where he pursued a course of study in electricity. After graduating, he became a member of the U. S. Army, and served 34 months in the European Area.

Completing his military service, he joined the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard where he was employed as an electrician in the electrical shop of the Planning Department.



George J. Dineen
Electrician
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

He is survived by his wife, the former Gabrielle Valliere, and three children; Michael George, Barbara Mary, and Lynn Catherine. He also leaves, in addition to his parents, two brothers, Charles and Robert; and a sister, Mrs. Mary Hagger, all of Biddeford, Maine.



Lost Boats



USS S-28 (SS-133)

Lost on July 4, 1944 with the loss of 49 crew members. She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the US Coast Guard Cutter Reliance. After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two days later, an oil slick was found near where S-28. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery.

USS Robalo (SS-273)

Lost on July 26, 1944 with the loss of 81 crew members while on her 3rd war patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Four men survived and swam ashore, then were imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk.

USS Grunion (SS-216)

Lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in 2006 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.

USS Bullhead (SS-332)

Lost on August 6, 1945 with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane. Bullhead was the last submarine lost during WWII.

USS Flier (SS-250)

Lost on August 13, 1944, with the loss of 78 crew members while on her 2nd war patrol. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days later friendly natives guided them to a Coast Watcher and they were evacuated by the USS Redfin.

USS S-39 (SS-144)

Lost on August 14, 1942 after grounding on a reef south while on her 3rd war patrol. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS Katoomba.

USS Harder (SS-257)

Lost on August 24, 1944 with the loss of 79 crew members from a depth charge attack by a minesweeper near Bataan while on her 6th war patrol. Harder had won a Presidential Unit Citation for her first 5 war patrols and CDR Dealey was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. Harder is tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk.

USS Cochino (SS-345)

Lost on August 26, 1949 after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway caused an electrical fire and battery explosion that generated hydrogen and chlorine gasses. In extremely bad weather, men of Cochino and Tusk (SS-426) fought to save the submarine for 14 hours. After a 2nd battery explosion, Abandon Ship was ordered and Cochino sank. Tusk's crew rescued all of Cochino's men except for one civilian engineer. Six sailors from Tusk were lost during the rescue.

USS Pompano (SS-181)

Lost on August 29, 1943 (between Aug 8 and Sept 27) with the loss of 77 men while on her 7th war patrol. Before being lost, she sank two enemy cargo ships. The exact cause of her loss remains unknown, but she probably fell victim to a mine. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on Sept 25th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before Oct 5th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.

USS S-5 (SS-110)

Lost on September 1, 1920 when a practice dive went wrong and she sank bow-first, with her stern showing above the water. In a dramatic adventure, her exhausted crew was rescued during the next few days. Salvage attempts were unsuccessful, S-5 settled to the bottom and was abandoned.

USS Grayling (SS-209)

Lost on Sept 9, 1943 with the loss of 76 men near the Tablas Strait. Grayling was on her 8th war patrol and sank two ships before being lost.

USS S-51 (SS-162)

Lost on Sept 25, 1925 with the loss of 33 men when it was sunk after collision with SS City of Rome off Block Island.

USS Cisco (SS-290)

Lost on Sept 28, 1943 on her first war patrol with the loss of 76 men in the Sulu Sea west of Mindanao.



Lost Boats



USS Seawolf (SS-197)

Lost on Oct 3, 1944 with the loss of 83 officers and men and 17 US Army troops when she was sunk just north of Moritai by USS Rowell, a Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another Destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.

USS S-44 (SS-155)

Lost on Oct 7, 1943 with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles. S-44 was on her 5th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, S-44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.

USS Wahoo (SS-238)

Lost on Oct 11, 1943 with the loss of 80 men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of one of the great sub skipers of World War II, LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo was on her 7th war patrol. Wahoo had won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was lost to depth charges dropped by a Japanese patrol aircraft.

USS Dorado (SS-248)

Lost on Oct 12, 1943 with the loss of 77 men when she was sunk in the western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she had departed New London and was enroute to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane that received faulty instructions regarding bombing restriction areas or a German U-boat that was in the vicinity.

USS Escolar (SS-294)

Lost on Oct 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. She was on her 1st war patrol and was most likely lost to a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea.

USS Darter (SS-227)

Lost on Oct 24, 1944 when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan and was then destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by USS Dace. Winner of one Navy Unit Commendation, Darter had sunk a heavy cruiser and damaged another and went aground while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation in hopes of getting in an attack on a battleship.

USS Shark II (SS-314)

Lost on Oct 24, 1944 with the loss of 87 when she was sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was on her 3rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the tragedy, it turned out that the freighter had 1,800 U.S. POW's on board.

USS Tang (SS-306)

Lost on Oct 25, 1944 with the loss of 78 men in the Formosa Strait. Tang was on her 5th war patrol. Tang ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage, and had won two Presidential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR. O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

USS O-5 (SS-66)

Lost on October 29, 1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Abagarez off the Panama Canal.

Memorials to Lost Boats by State

Alabama (4)	Hawaii (6)	Massachusetts (6)	New Mexico (1)	South Dakota (2)
Alaska (1)	Idaho (3)	Michigan (5)	New York (12)	Tennessee (3)
Arizona (1)	Illinois (6)	Minnesota (4)	North Carolina (2)	Texas (10)
Arkansas (3)	Indiana (3)	Mississippi (6)	North Dakota (1)	Utah (1)
California (25)	Iowa (4)	Missouri (8)	Ohio (2)	Vermont (1)
Colorado (2)	Kansas (3)	Montana (1)	Oklahoma (2)	Virginia (27)
Connecticut (5)	Kentucky (1)	Nebraska (3)	Oregon (4)	Washington (7)
Delaware (1)	Louisiana (1)	Nevada (2)	Pennsylvania (6)	West Virginia (2)
Florida (10)	Maine (3)	New Hampshire (7)	Rhode Island (1)	Wisconsin (4)
Georgia (5)	Maryland (8)	New Jersey (8)	South Carolina (7)	Wyoming (1)



USSVI National News

by Kevin Galeaz

All members are reminded to check the SubVet News link (<https://www.ussvi.org/POCNotices.asp>) located third from the bottom left on the USSVI National webpage often for the following posts:

1. SubVet News
2. Charitable Fund
3. Veterans News
4. Flash Traffic
5. Officer's Call
6. Navy News

The news articles can be viewed without logging into your USSVI National account.

The large number and long length of messages posted each week unfortunately preclude placement in the newsletter for those without computer access due to printing cost constraints.

USSVI Scholarships

The USSVI Scholarship Board is now accepting requests for scholarship applications. Send an request via mail to the National Scholarship Chairman at Paul Wm. Orstad, 30 Surrey Lane, Norwich, CT 06360-6541. Email via hogan343@aol.com or call 1-860-334-6457. Or go to ussvi.org and click on "Charitable Fund" in Blue, then click on "Scholarships" on top left side, Then Click on "Application" on top left side. Then Click on the application, cover letter and hint sheets.

USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Project Supporter's Letter Writing Campaign (POC)

The USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Project (<http://threshermemorial.org>) is seeking your help.

Our mission is to erect a privately funded National Commemorative USS Thresher Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery. This memorial will be designed to honor and perpetuate the memories of the 129 men lost in the line of duty on April 10, 1963 some 300 miles off the coast of New England during post-maintenance deep dive sea trials. In addition, the national commemorative memorial will help keep the story of USS Thresher alive in the hearts and minds of all those who contribute to minimizing the likelihood of another similar tragedy from occurring.

Show your support of this project by helping us gain approval from the Secretary of the Army to build a memorial within Arlington National Cemetery.

- Download a project supporter's template letter from <http://threshermemorial.org/template-letters.html>.
- Complete the template letter by filling in the date, name and address fields.
- Sign and mail the letter to:
Kathryn Condon
Executive Director,
Army National Military Cemeteries
Arlington, VA 22211

• Send an email with your name to ThresherMemorial@gmail.com indicating you have sent a project supporters letter to Ms. Condon. Your emails will be included along with the memorial architectural drawings & the results of an independent study in a binder that will be submitted to the Advisory Board at Arlington National Cemetery and the US Commission of Fine Arts for approval review.

Thank you for helping to make this memorial a reality.

Fraternally,
Kevin Galeaz
Project Director
USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Project

How to Contact Us:

Website:
<http://threshermemorial.org>

Facebook:
USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Project

Email:
ThresherMemorial@gmail.com

Phone:
603-232-6201

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 4811
Manchester, NH 03108



Holland Club Induction



Roland Miller being inducted into the Holland Club.
Roland qualified in 1962 on the USS Bluegill (SS/SSK/AGSS-242)



Holland Club Members Ed Storer, Al Page, Ian Johnston, Bill Tebo, Bill Livendale, Bob Flannery, Tom Young, Dennis O'Keeffe, Carl Weber, Howard Dymtro, Gordon Wentzel, Bill Seaward, Herm Stolzenburg & Roland Miller



Howard Dymtro being inducted into the Holland Club.
Howard qualified in 1962 on the USS Diablo (SS-479).



Eagle Scout of Court of Honor



“The path to becoming an Eagle Scout and wearing the coveted Eagle badge has similarities to the one we took to become “Qualified in Submarines” and wear our symbol, the “dolphins.” As Submarine Veterans we saw this as a means to recognize such scouts and show our support for the Boy Scouts of America and thus, instituted this recognition program.”

Keelan McCoolle Receives Eagle Scout



On August 25, 2012, Keelan McCoolle held his Eagle Scout Court of Honor at his home in Bedford, NH. Base Commander, Kevin Galeaz, had the honor of representing Thresher Base at this ceremony. Participation in the ceremony held special meaning to those associated with Thresher Base, because Keelan’s grandfather was Raymond McCoolle, USS Thresher (SSN 593). Mr. McCoolle was assigned to the USS Thresher when they were conducting sea trials and due to a family emergency, he was given last minute leave the day before the USS Thresher set sail in April 1963.

Commander Galeaz spoke about Keelan’s grandfather and presented Keelan with the USSVI Eagle Scout certificate and patch.



Keelan’s Eagle Service Project

“Following his heart, Keelan chose to do his Eagle Service Project benefiting St. Anne’s Clothing Closet at Blessed Sacrament Parish. St. Anne’s Closet gives free, gently used clothing to children in the greater Manchester area. Throughout his life Keelan has donated clothing and toys to this ministry. Keelan repainted and remodeled the existing space in order to give it a more welcoming feeling. He built additional shelving to triple its storage capacity and improve efficiency, also building a bench for clients to use while visiting.”



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

Next Thresher Base Meeting
Saturday, November 17 @ 1200
Newick's Restaurant • 431 Dover Point Road • Dover, NH

Calendar of Events - 2013

January 19 - 1200 - Base Meeting at Newicks	July 20 - 1200 - Base Meeting/Lobster-bake at Seabrook Legion
March 16 - 1200 - Base Meeting at Newicks	August 25 to 31 - USSVI Convention, Rochester, MN
April 6 - 1300 - 50th USS Thresher Memorial Service, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	September 1 to 2 - USSVI Convention, Rochester, MN 21 - 1200 - Base Meeting at Newicks
May 18 - 1200 - Base Meeting at Newicks 27 - 1000 - Memorial Day Ceremony at Albacore Park	November 16 - 1200 - Base Meeting at Newicks

USSVI Conventions

2013
 August 25 to September 2
 Rochester, MN

2014
 Burlingame, CA
 (SFO Area)