



USSVI Thresher Base News



September 2007

July 2007 Lobsterbake Minutes

The July meeting of Thresher Base was held at the Seabrook American Legion on July 21, 2007. The meeting was called to order followed by a prayer and pledge of allegiance. The Tolling of the Bells was conducted for those boats lost in July and August. A sound off of all those present was conducted. Secretary's report was read by Kevin Galeaz. The Treasurer's Report was read by Dennis O'Keeffe. The current balance is \$5765.58.

Old Business -

- Gary Hildreth delivered a check to the R.W. Traipp Academy. The money will be used for their Project Graduation which is an alcohol free event for graduates. They were very appreciative of the gift.
- District 1 Meeting was attended by Larry Oiler and Gary Hildreth. The



big issue of discussion is the expiration of the USSVI insurance policy. This means that there is no more nationwide coverage and each base is being asked to purchase individual policies at about \$500. This lack of group coverage may cause problems

for the Thresher Memorial Service and may force the service back on the shipyard.

New Business -

- Base elections to be held at September meeting. Two officers are stepping down due to family and time commitments - Junior Vice Commander and Senior Vice Commander. If you are interested in running for this position, bring your nomination to the September meeting.

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Lori Arsenault & the USS Thresher Featured on PBS History Detectives

On September 10, PBS' History Detectives ended its fifth season by featuring a story about the USS Thresher. The show featured an interview with Lori Arsenault, daughter of ENCA(SS) Tilmon Arsenault along with the Thresher Base website. The show focused on authenticating engineering notes for a submarine that referred to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, as well as to the USS Thresher (SSN 593). These papers were in the possession of the great grand nephew of Leonard E. Morgan and he wanted to know what the papers represent, if his uncle worked on the USS Thresher and he would like to know more about the history of the Thresher.

In late May, Thresher Base Secretary

Kevin Galeaz was contacted by Kyle Silveri from Lion TV regarding the PBS documentary series History Detectives. Kevin explained the USSVI Creed and Thresher Base's practice of the Creed by holding an annual memorial service for the family members of those lost aboard the USS Thresher. Kevin also offered to put her in contact with Lori Arsenault.

Kevin described how the loss of Thresher led to the creation of the SUBSAFE Program. Kevin provided a description of the SUBSAFE Program along with additional references, including one that links USS Thresher with the Space Shuttle Columbia.

Check your local listings for rebroadcast dates and times.



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Base News



May 2007 Minutes

The May meeting of Thresher Base was held at the Portsmouth VFW on May 19, 2007. The meeting was called to order followed by a prayer and pledge of allegiance. The Tolling of the Bells was conducted for those boats lost in May and June. A sound off of all those present was conducted. No meeting was held in March due to snow storm.

Old Business – Thresher Service

- Gary Hildreth said it was excellent and he received many family compliments.
- Will work on timing of pictures and reading names – recommend holding a dress rehearsal.
- Consider laying wreath from bridge on yard or have younger members throw.
- Custodian was paid \$50

- Motion to donate \$200 to R.W. Traip Academy was made. Discussion on who to give the donation to followed including the school, senior class or junior class. Motion was changed to give money to the junior class to use during their senior year.
- Will look into having all lights on in the auditorium.

Barry Metcalf passed away.

Gary Hildreth asked if anyone was going to the Eastern District Meeting on June 2.

New Business –

1. Gary Hildreth received a photo of a Thresher Memorial in Marlborough, Ma. at the entrance to the middle school.
2. Gary Hildreth received a certificate regarding our boat sponsorship of the USS Hampton.

3. Gary Hildreth received a copy of a book “And the Baker’s Boy Went to Sea.”
4. Lobsterbake will be on Saturday, July 21. Prices are the same as last year - \$25 double, \$20 single and \$20 steak. See Robin Galeaz to sign up.
5. Dan MacIssac attended the Sub ball and he had a great time.
6. Memorial Day service is all set to be held on May 28 at 1000 at Albacore Park. Key Address will be delivered by CDR David Kelly, Deputy Commander, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.
7. Ship store is open – hats, patches, etc. See Tom Young to purchase items or for any special requests.
8. Juliet sub sunk in Rhode Island during the recent storm due to flooding.

50/50 raffle was held and the meeting was adjourned.

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- Photos are available from the 2006 lobsterbake. See Kevin to place orders.
- The 2008 year is the last year that WWII Calendar will be printed. Carl Weber has a few for sale at \$5 each.
- Kevin Galeaz had a conversation with Mike Geletka about how there were 18000 submariners in WWII and there are only 3700 remaining. This conversation led to Kevin offering his personal thanks to all



WWII members. All those present gave a standing ovation and added their own thanks.

- The meeting was adjourning following a closing prayer.

Note from the Treasurer

To all members,
Dues are due on or before January 1st. Annual members dues are \$20.00 National and \$10.00 Base. Holland Club and Life members dues are \$10.00 Base. Dues can be paid one year at a time or for longer terms if you wish.





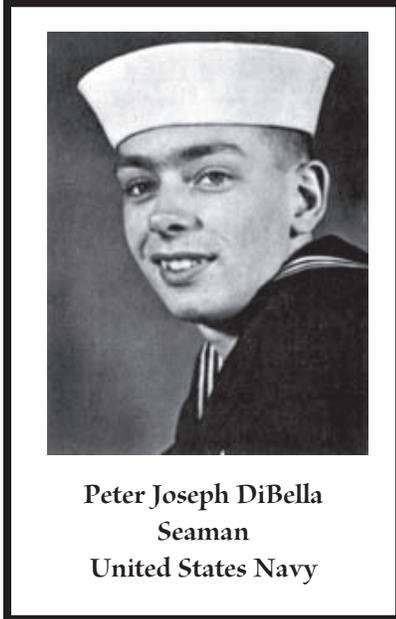
To Perpetuate the Memory



Peter Joseph DiBella was born on July 14 1943, in Portsmouth, N.H., the son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. DiBella.

During his youth in Portsmouth, Peter's interests were always with the sea, and his ambition was to be a man of the sea.

When he was graduated from high school, his school's yearbook featured a photograph of the submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593).



Peter Joseph DiBella
Seaman
United States Navy

On January 16, 1962, Peter enlisted in the Navy, and received his basic

training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill. Upon completing his training, he was enrolled in the Navy's Electronic Technicians School at the great Lakes.

Peter volunteered for submarine duty, and being accepted, he was enrolled as a student in the Submarine School at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn. Following graduation,

he was assigned as a crew member of the nuclear-powered submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593). He reported for duty at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on January 5, 1963.

Peter had been awarded a letter of commendation from the commander of Submarine Development Group 2, for his outstanding performance of duty.

Peter is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs John J. DiBella, a brother, Frank and a sister, Elizabeth Ann, all of Portsmouth, N.H. He also leaves his aunts, Miss Antonette DiBella of Hartford, Conn., and Mrs. Mildred Saffell of Portsmouth.

Don Roy Dundas was born on July 21 1940, in Dodge City, Kans. During his early school years, he became interested in electronics, and was a licensed "ham" operator at age 14. He was a member of the American Relay League. While attending high school, Don was the chief electrician for the school's dramatic department where he was responsible for lighting and sound effects. He also worked for a local radio station prior to enlisting in the Navy on August 29, 1958.

He received his basic training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., and later attended the Navy's Electronics Technician School, and the Sonar Plotting School at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn. Don volunteered for

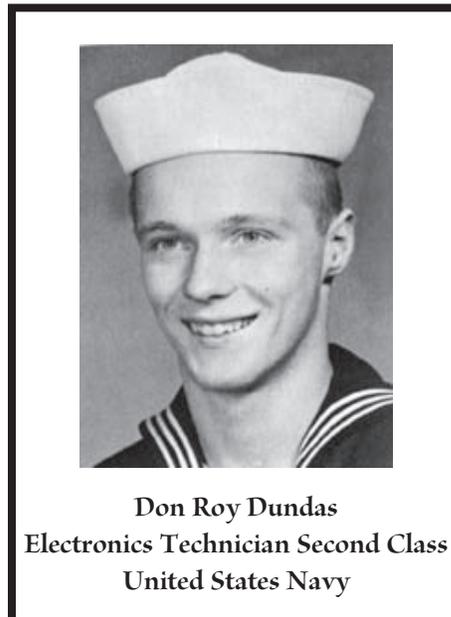
submarine duty and upon being accepted, he was enrolled as a student in the Navy's Submarine School at the submarine base.

On March 18, 1960, he was graduated from the school and assigned to his first submarine, the U.S.S. Balao (SS 285). While serving in the Balao, he became qualified as a submariner and was awarded his silver dolphins. Don had also earned the Navy's Good Conduct

Medal.

On November 17, 1961, Don received his orders to the nuclear-powered submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593).

He is survived by his widowed mother, Mrs. Gladys Carol Dundas of Russell, Kans., and a grandmother, Mrs. Clarence Blakeway of Colby, Kans.



Don Roy Dundas
Electronics Technician Second Class
United States Navy

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

Next Thresher Base Meeting
Saturday, September 15, 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, 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

2008
Fort Worth, TX

2009
San Diego, CA

2010
Cincinnati, OH-
Covington, KY