



March 2005

## Holland Club Induction Ceremony

by Larry Oiler

On 15 January, we inducted thirteen (13) Thresher-Base members into the Holland Club. Their names have been added to the Holland Club Muster Lists located on the USSVI Web Site (<http://www.ussvi.org/hc/hc-index.htm>) and the Thresher Base Web Site (<http://www.thresherbase.org/>). If you puruse the USSVI Holland Club



*Gary Hildreth (Thresher Base Commander) Edward J. O'Neill (qualified 1953), Daniel R. MacIsaac (qualified 1941), Thomas Young (qualified 1955), Eugene E. Franceware (qualified 1950), and Roger E. Babcock (qualified 1953) and Larry Oiler (Thresher Base Senior Vice Commander & Holland Club Coordinator)*

Muster List you will find many distinguished veterans of the Submarine Service are members; Seaman to Admiral, many heroes and legends of our Submarine Force, past and present. It is an honor and privilege to be included on the same roster with these men, and to be part of the Holland Club. To all of our Holland Club inductees, we salute you and thank you for your fifty (50) plus years of devotion and service. "Pride Runs Deep"

Gary Hildreth (Thresehr Base Commander) and Larry Oiler (Thresher Base Senior Vice Commander & Holland Club Coordinator) presented Holland Club Certificates, Welcome Aboard Letters, Membership Cards and 50 Year Patches to Edward J. O'Neill (qualified 1953), Daniel R. MacIsaac (qualified 1941), Thomas Young (qualified 1955), Eugene E. Franceware (qualified 1950), and Roger E. Babcock (qualified 1953) during the ceremony. At the begin-

ning of the ceremony, Gary Hildreth read an article written by Doctor Joyce Brothers titled "Who are submariners?" Even though the article is several years old, it hit the nail on the head in light of the recent incident involving a submarine that ran into what apparently was an underwater mountain and the heroic actions taken by the crew to get the ship home and in their caring for injured shipmates." Extract of the article appears on page 2.

Holland Club Packages have been mailed to Robert J. Anderson (qualified 1953), Charles D. Bennett (qualified 1955), Leo L. Cloutier (qualified 1952), John W. Czajkowski (qualified 1943), Norman J. Dineen (qualified 1955), Carl I. Furlong (qualified 1954), Donald V. Simpson (qualified 1955), and Michael L. Yates (qualified 1955). They were not able to attend the ceremony for various reasons (out of the area, health, etc).

## USS San Francisco Grounding takes life of Joseph Allen Ashley

Copy credited to:

The John Taylor Funeral Home and Robert Hamilton of The Day

Joseph "Joey" Allen Ashley, Machinist Mate 2nd Class (U.S.N.), a lifelong resident of Manchester, Ohio, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, January 9, at the age of 24.

Machinist Mate 2nd Class Ashley, who had just re-enlisted for a second four-year term, was in the main seawater bay at the back of the sub when the nuclear submarine U.S.S. San Francisco, home-based in Guam, ran aground while out on maneuvers in the South Pacific. He was thrown forward 20 feet into the propulsion lube oil bay, striking his forehead against a large metal pump. He was knocked out and died the next day without regaining consciousness.

He leaves parents, Daniel and Vicki Ashley of Manchester; brothers,

*continued on page 3*



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# January Meeting Minutes

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The January meeting of THRESHER Base was held at the Portsmouth VFW on 15 January 2005. This was joint meeting with the WWII Submarine Veterans, SQUALUS Memorial Chapter; minutes for the SQUALUS Memorial Chapter portion of the meeting will be published in their newsletter.

The meeting was called to order followed by the Chaplin leading us in a prayer and the SVC leading the pledge of allegiance. The Tolling of the Bells for all boats lost in January and February was conducted by the Base CDR, followed by a moment of silent prayer. A sound off of all those present was conducted. Past National Commander, John Brazil, RI, was introduced. In all, 31 Shipmates Introduced themselves at the meeting. Secretary's Report was accepted as printed in the last newsletter.

Treasurer's Report - Roy Pierce will provide input.

There were no committee reports to be read, Larry Oiler identified the Holland Club Induction Ceremony would be conducted following the meeting.

## Old Business -

Larry Oiler intends to nominate the newsletter for USSVI's Newsletter Award in the large base category. Nominations are due in May, which means the March newsletter is the last edition that can be used by the National Awards Committee during the evaluation process. Larry again stressed the importance of members providing input to the newsletter. Larry then singled out WWII Veteran Mike Geletka to complete the writing of his bio for publishing in the next newsletter. Mike promised to provide

it soonest (Mike, don't forget your wife now knows about this commitment.).

## New business -

Good of the Order: G. Hildreth requested volunteers for the Base positions, COB and Storekeeper.

The Chaplin lead us in a closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned, and everyone flocked (a better description might be stampeded) to the chow line for the pot-luck luncheon. There was an abundance of vittles, and the comradery was very much enjoyed by all in attendance. Sea stories, upon sea stories, upon sea stories; it would be impossible to decide who had the best story.

Our hats off to the ladies, they did a super job.

## Who are Submariners?

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Dr. Joyce Brothers

"There is nothing daredevilish about the motivation of a man who decides to dedicate his life to the submarine service. He does indeed take pride in demonstrating he is quite a man, but he does not do so to practice a form of foolhardy brinkmanship to see how close he can get to failure and still snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. On the contrary, the aim of the Submarine Service is to battle the danger to minimize the risk, to take every measure to make certain that safety, not danger, is maintained at all times.

Are the men in submarines braver than those in other pursuits where the possibility of sudden tragedy is not constant? The glib answer would be that they are. It is much more accurate from a psychological point of view, to say they are not necessarily braver, but that they are men who

have a little more insight into themselves and their capabilities. They know themselves a lot better than the next man. This has to be so with men who have a healthy reason to volunteer for a risk. They are generally a cut healthier emotionally than others of a similar age and background because of their willingness to push themselves a little bit further and not settle for an easier kind of existence.

We all have tremendous capabilities, but are rarely straining at the upper level of what we can do; the United States can be proud and grateful that so many of its sound, young, eager men are confident enough about their own status in life and the welfare of their country to pool their skills and match them collectively against the power of the sea."

## Base Storekeeper Sought

A volunteer is being sought to take over the base store. This position requires someone who is willing to sell goods at base meetings, be the point of contact with the USSVI storekeeper and place special orders for the members. This position will remain open and the base store will remain closed until someone comes forward to take over. If you are interested in giving your time, please contact Gary Hildreth, base commander.

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## New Member

We would like to welcome George Livendale, Marshfield, VT, to the USSVI Thresher Base. George joins us as his second base as he is a primary member of the Green Mt. Base. We look forward to seeing George at future meetings.



## To Perpetuate the Memory



Richard James Carkoski was born on July 28, 1938, in Ord, Nebraska, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Carkoski.

Attending local schools, Richard was graduated from Central Catholic High School, Grand Island, Nebraska in 1957. During his school years he was active in athletics and earned letters in football and track.

Richard enlisted in the Navy on July 19, 1957, and received his basic training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois. He also attended the Navy's Engineman School at San Diego, California. Richard volunteered for submarine duty and underwent training at the Submarine School located at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London,



**Richard James Carkoski  
Engineman First Class  
United States Navy**

Connecticut. Following graduation in January 1958, he was assigned to the submarine U.S.S. Sirago (SS 485).

In December of the same year, he became qualified as a submariner and was awarded his silver dolphins.

On February 27, 1961, Richard was reassigned to the nuclear-powered submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593). During his time in the naval service he was awarded the Navy's Good Conduct Medal, and a letter of commendation from the commanding officer of the U.S.S. Sirago (SS 485) for his outstanding performance of duty.

Richard is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Carkoski; sisters, Eleanore and Joan, and Mrs. Mary Picthall, all of Grand Island, Nebraska; and a brother, Eugene Carkoski of the U.S. Navy.

### **Joseph Allen Ashley** *continued from page 1*

Daniel, Jr. (Dawn) of Canal Fulton, Ohio; PFC Benjamin (Kati) of Fort Bragg, North Carolina; grandparents, Joseph Jr. and Helen Ashley of Reedy, West Virginia, Rev. Dallas and Ellen Smith of Harrisville, West Virginia; aunts and uncles, Linda June (Ashley) Fleisher of Akron, Ohio, Les (Debbie) Ashley of Doylestown, Ohio, Jim (Lyneen) Ashley of Reedy, West Virginia, Dallas, Jr. (Teri) Smith of Rossville, Georgia, Alfred (Kathy) Smith of Mason, Ohio, and Aaron (Barb) Smith of Manchester. He also leaves many close and loving cousins, shipmates and friends.

Joey was a 1999 graduate of Manchester High School, where he was a member of the marching band and was also a member of Boy Scout Troop 118. After graduation he chose



**Joseph Allen Ashley  
Machinist Mate 2nd Class  
United States Navy**

to follow his father's footsteps and joined the Navy in 2001. He was also a member of both the Canal Fulton Baptist Church and the Akron Baptist

Temple and frequented many other churches in the area. Wherever he was based, he found a church to attend. Joey never met a stranger. His personality captured and affected each of us in its own way, and his memory will remain in our hearts forever. Joey was loved by all who knew him and we are all blessed to have had him in our lives, even for such a short time.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, January 15 at 8:00 p.m. at the Akron Baptist Temple, Manchester, Ohio. An additional funeral service was held Sunday, January 16 at 1:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Roane County High School, Spencer, WV, Burial with military honors was at the Fox

## USS San Francisco Fundraising Report

by John Carcioppolo

I had good intentions of shutting down the USS SAN FRANCISCO Fund Raising on the 7th of February.

Every time I got ready to shut it down, I would get another check in the mail. I think that I have everything that I'm going to get, except for a donation coming from BOWFIN Base, and the SV WWII in Hawaii. I plan on closing out the fund raising once those checks are received.

Based on everything that has come through Groton Base to date there has been a total of \$8,287.00 raised, and donated to the MM2(SS) Joseph Ashley Memorial Fund.

Please pass along my sincerest thanks to all who supported this worthwhile endeavor, and in addition to my personal thanks, at the bottom is an email I received from Mr. Dan Ashley.

In addition I received the following email from Dan Ashley, the father of Joseph Ashley:

You all are so good. And much good will come out of this. Your donation to his Fund will make it topple \$ 25,000 and more money is still being sent in. We've set it up to help 2 students a year and if it continues to grow we will add a student or two to it. Probably 90% of the contributions came from the Navy and most of that was Sub Vets and Sub Commands even the Canadian Sub Forces have given graciously. God Bless you all. Joseph's name will live on a long long time thanks to your good hearts.

In great Appreciation,  
Dan & Vicki Ashley

## Groton Base to Hold SUBVETS 41st Anniversary Celebration and District 1 Meeting

The weekend will be running from Thursday April 28, 2005 through Saturday April 30, 2005. Our 2005 theme is our the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII, our 41st Anniversary and 41 For Freedom. Registrations are already coming in and we are way ahead of past years registration. If you want to be part of either the Return to Submarine School, or the Boat Tours, your registration must be received by April 14, 2005.

In honor of those Submarine Veterans of WWII we will give them and their guests a special discount for our Banquet and Dance Registration information can be found by visiting our website [www.subvetsgroton.org](http://www.subvetsgroton.org).

The following is a brief schedule of events. It is our intention to update our website weekly when additional details available.

## American Submariner Editor Sought

by Tom Conlon

Jim Terrell, our National Editor of The American Submariner, has resigned his position effective the end of this year. Jim has done admirable work as our National Editor for the last several years. We will miss him.

National Senior Vice Commander Jim Foote and I are conducting a search for a new National Editor.

We are looking for volunteers to take on this large job. Jim had put together a team of members from his Base to edit copy and layout, assemble the mailing list and get the magazine to the printer and mailer.

If you or anyone in your Base are interested, please contact either me or Jim Foote. Jim Terrell has said that he will work closely with his relief to get him (them) up to speed.

### 28 April Thursday

10 a.m. Scholarship Golf Tournament  
Pequot Golf Club Stonington

### 29 April Friday

7:30 a.m. Return To Submarine School  
Muster at Nautilus Museum  
TBD Tommy Cox Performance Clubhouse

### 30 April Saturday

8:00 a.m. District 1 Business Meeting  
Registration & Coffee  
8:15 a.m. Submarine Tour  
Muster at Nautilus Museum  
1:00 p.m. Navy Band Northeast Concert  
National Submarine Memorial East  
6:00 p.m. Anniversary Banquet

### 01 May Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday Brunch (\$6 Pay at Brunch)  
Steak and Eggs Breakfast

## Improved VA Healthcare Website Available

by John Dudas

Harnessing the power of the Internet, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is improving its Web-based system for providing health care information to its patients. Under the latest improvement to VA's "My HealthVet" Web site, veterans will be able to update personal information and record medical data such as prescriptions. A new capability now added to the site allows veterans to record their personal information and medical data -- including emergency contacts, health care providers and insurance, prescriptions, tests and allergies -- in a private, secure Internet environment. Eventually, veterans will be able to receive their medical records from VA online. The site is located on the Internet at [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)

*You are Invited to Attend the  
42<sup>th</sup> USS THRESHER (SSN 593)  
Anniversary Commemorative Service*

Saturday, April 9, 2005  
1:00 p.m.  
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard  
Kittery, Maine



*USS THRESHER (SSN 593) was lost at sea on 10 April 1963 with all hands. Each year we hold a memorial service to pay tribute to those 129 sailors, shipyard workers and contractor representatives who paid the ultimate price in serving their country.*

Due to PNSY security access restrictions, attendance to the Memorial Service is limited to the family members of those lost aboard USS Thresher, former USS Thresher crew members and their spouses, and USSVI members and their spouses. If you are planning on attending the Memorial Service, your name and the names of each member in your party must be added to the PNSY Security Access List. To be added to the list, please contact Gary Hildreth, USSVI Thresher Base Commander & PNSY Public Affairs Specialist by mail, phone or email.

Gary Hildreth, Code 100PAO, Bldg 86 1st Floor, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, NH 03804-5000  
Phone: (207) 438-3975 • FAX: (207) 438-1266 • Email: HildrethGR@mail.ports.navy.mil

**Directions To The Shipyard**

**From the South:** Take Route 95 North into Maine. Take Exit 2, in Maine (Route 236), to the Kittery Traffic Circle.

**From the North:** Take Route 95 South through the York, Maine tollbooth and exit at Exit 2 (Route 236) in Kittery. Turn right onto Route 236 and enter the Kittery Traffic Circle.

**From the Kittery Traffic Circle to Gate #1:** Take Route 1 South (State Road) to first stop light. Turn left onto Walker Street, which runs directly to Gate #1.

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

**Next Thresher Base Meeting  
Saturday, March 19, 2005 @ 1300  
Portsmouth VFW - Deer Street**



**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).

**Mark Your Calendar**

The USSVI 2005 CONVENTION will be held in Kansas City, MO 29 August - 4 September. Convention information is available at [www.tjcsubbase.org/convention](http://www.tjcsubbase.org/convention). Look for more information in the next newsletter.

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