



# USSVI Thresher Base News



November 2005

## James Kondrat Passes Away

James "Jim" Kondrat, 86, died August 29, 2005. He was born in Chicago on June 24, 1917 son of Zigmund and Katrina Kondrat. He grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan where he attended school and worked in his father's store. He joined the U.S. Navy before the outbreak of World War II. During the war he saw action as a submariner in the Pacific Theatre and was chief on the USS Pacuda. He was awarded the Bronze Star by Adminal Chester Nimitz, as well as receiving numerous other awards and commendations.

For many years he lived in Kittery, Maine, while stationed at the Portsmouth Naval Station. He retired in 1961 and moved to Freedom, NH, where he started a home maintenance business taking care of summer cottages and camps around the lake. He was a master plumber and electrician.

Mr. Kondrat was a founder and past president of Southern Maine Archers Association and was past president and active member of Squalis Chapter of the World War II Sub-Vets Association. He belonged to Freedom Community Club and had been a

leader for 4-H.

The family includes four sons James P. Kondrat of Middleton, Thomas Z. Kondrat and Michael S. Kondrat, both of Freedom and Peter A. Kondrat of Conway; his dog, Hunter; grandchildren; nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a daughter Kathy Kondrat.

A Memorial Mass was held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Center Ossipee on Thursday, September 8. Donations may be made to Conway Area Humane Society, 123 East Main Street, Conway, 03818

## Paul M. Ilsley on Eternal Patrol

Paul Moody Ilsley, U.S. Navy, retired, 91, of Atkinson, died Thursday, Aug. 25, 2005 in Exeter.

Born on the Ilsley family homestead in Newbury, Mass., he was the son of the late Paul H. and Charlotte A. (Child) Ilsley and graduated from Newburyport High School with the Class of 1931.

He joined the U.S. Navy in 1934 and served as a chief warrant officer 3rd class during World War II and the Korean conflict. He attended the Norfolk Naval School and served aboard several ships including the USS Roper, USS Argonaut, and USS Mont Vernon. He also served as bosun's assistant aboard the USS Charo and as officer in charge of the USS PC780 Training Ship.

Following World War II, he served in Japan as captain of an oiler with the rank of commander of the sea and later trained as a hard hat diver at the US Naval Training School of Salvage Officers. He served as a Naval subma-

riners and was inducted into the Holland Club in 1992 after qualifying in submarine service more than 50 years.

His several medals and awards included the World War II Victory Medal, American Defense Medal with Bronze Star, The American Area Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, National Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal, and U.N. Service Medal.

Following his discharge from the Navy after 24 years of service, he worked as the captain of a ferry boat at Newport Beach, Calif. He returned to New England in 1990 and has been a resident of Atkinson for the past several years.

Mr. Ilsley was a member of the U.S. Submarine Veterans' Inc. Tin Can Sailors, Thresher Base in Portsmouth, the National Association of Fleet Tugs, the Navy League, the Carl Davis Post of the American Legion, Plaistow, and a charter member of the Navy Memorial Foundation.

He was also a member of the First Baptist Church of Plaistow, the Plaistow Historical Society, the Sons and Daughters of the First Settlers of Newbury, Mass., and past treasurer of the Association of Historical Societies of New Hampshire.

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## Commander's Message

Greetings,

Well, how quickly the days of Summer pass and now we're into what I feel is the best time of the year. The temperature is comfortable during the day and cool at night, making for some great Fall weather. I always seem to start these messages off with talk of the weather, and why not? After all, when you live in New England the weather is constantly changing and a great starting point for any conversation.

Speaking of changing, our September meeting was held on the fourth Saturday of the month rather than our traditional third Saturday of the month and our location changed to accommodate some of our on the other side of the state. Kevin arranged for our meeting to be conducted at the American Legion, Merrill Follansbee Post #37 in Hooksett, New Hampshire. I personally think this was a great idea since our membership reaches out to such a broad area. The only problem is getting use to the change. We will have to try it out a couple of times though to get a good read on the idea. This is your senior leadership's attempt to be fair on the travel for all members.

Our meeting with our WWII Shipmates at the annual Lobster Bake was a huge success. We may not have completed a lot of business, but you can't beat the company for a great afternoon, and to me that is why I am a member of Subvets. I think the annual Lobster Bake is one of our best times together and I wouldn't change a thing. Kevin and Robin have agreed to head up the event for next year as our WWII vets have requested we relieve them of the arrangements. Thanks Kevin and Robin.

As most of you are aware, Kevin and Robin are always volunteering for something to help keep Thresher Base afloat. I really appreciate that, as I am sure you all do too.

Well, that's about it for now.  
Gary Hildreth

## July Lobsterbake Joint Meeting Minutes

The July meeting of Thresher Base was a joint meeting with the WWII Subvets at the Seabrook American Legion. The meeting was called to order followed by a prayer and pledge of allegiance.

A sound off of all those present was conducted:

Larry Oiler, Phil Gouzie, Michael Geletka, Bill Grady, Bob Atkins, Luther Perkins, Gordon Weitzell, Jack Ryan, James Butterworth, Real Cyr, Armand Legare, Adam Balwierzak, Bill Seaward, Ed Taff, Gene Guilbault, George Thomas, George Albert, Waldo Rankin, Donald Baker, Carl McCargo, Bob Flannery, John Taylor, Fred Pietrowski, Bill Severn, John Cavanagh, Bob Cellupica, Harry McCleavy, Kevin Galeaz, Carl Weber, John Brazil, Nick Caldero, Dave Dickey. I apologize for any spelling errors, it was difficult reading some signatures.

WWII Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read. Negotiations to

name a bridge between Stratham and Newfields after WWII Subvets - bill before NH state congress

in January 2006. Lost boat plaque

bids have been more than expected. Trying to work with National to pay a portion of the plaque and memorial for Boscawin Cemetary. It will probably cost us \$10,000 for 2 plaques. A card was passed around for Bob Coates, who has Parkinson's and is unable to attend meetings. Paul Ilsley is ill and is not doing well. Grave markers 5" x 3" are available for \$40. Sample was available to view.

Thresher Base minutes of May's meeting were read by Kevin Galeaz. Gary must be stuck in traffic. Larry will contact Jack McNally,

*Continued on page 3*



*WWII and Thresher Base members participate in the July 2005 meeting*



*While waiting for lunch, there was an opportunity to gather everyone together for this group photo.*

## September Meeting Minutes

The September meeting was held at the American Legion Hall in Hooksett, NH. The meeting was called to order followed by introductions of those present. A special welcome was given to new member, John Gill, USS Diablo.

• Roy Pierce gave the Treasurer's Report.

May 21, 2005 balance	\$5009.54
Base Expenses	-11.12
Newsletter expenses	-140.84
Interest credit	+1.71
Dues received	+60.00
Sept. 24, 2005 balance	\$4908.84



September Meeting Attendees: (l to r) Jack McNally, Kevin Galeaz, Roy Pierce, Bill Severn, John Gill (new member), George Albert, Larry Oiler

- Kevin Galeaz read the Secretary's Report.
- Paul Ilsley passed away on August 25. Bill Tebo, Gary Hildreth, Larry Oiler attended the service.
- Holland Club - Ed Storer will be inducted at the next meeting.
- January 2006 will be a combined meeting with WWII Subvets and recognition of Senior Submariners. This new award will recognize those members who qualified prior to 1949. The following individuals will be recognized in January: Bob Bryant; Mike Geletka; Paul Ilsley; Don McIssac; Ar-

mand Minutelli; Bill Seaward; Carl Webber; Bill Tebo.

• The National Office of USSVI gave \$10,400 to the Salvation Army for the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

• Discussion was then held about

Thresher



Roy Pierce prepares for the September meeting in Hooksett, NH.

Base making a donation to the Charitable Foundation for the Brotherhood Fund for the Katrina Relief. 1) Gary recommended \$100 2) Larry recommended \$200. A discussion was held as to whether there were enough members present to hold a Quorum and make this decision. It was determined that at least 5 members must be present with 2 of those present being officers. A vote was held and it was decided to donate \$200.

• The meeting was adjourned.

## July Meeting *continued from page 2*

Chaplin regarding National's website and the need to update the Final Patrol listing to include Stu MacGregor, Dick Godbout and Bob Bellisle.

We have two members who have qualified to be inducted into the Holland Club - Ed Store will be inducted at the next meeting if he can attend and Ralph Devoid will be inducted at the National Convention in Kansas City. If anyone is going to the Convention and you are given documents to bring back to the base, please make sure that Larry Oiler receives these materials. Issues arose from last year's convention and Holland Club materials were misplaced.

World War II next meeting will be held on October 22 at Newicks in Dover. Carl Weber has 2006 calendars for sale.

Thresher base will have its next meeting at an alternate location in Hooksett at the American Legion on Saturday, September 24, in an attempt to draw members from other parts of New Hampshire. Larry Oiler has offered transportation to up to 3 people if it is needed.

Thresher base is still looking for a storekeeper. The store will be closed until someone takes on the job.

At the last meeting, Bob Bryant had just gotten out of the hospital after

double pneumonia, does anyone have an update.

Those present were asked if anyone was going to the USSVI convention in Kansas City - a couple of people responded.

WWII convention is in Buena Vista, Florida. The delegate will be Mike Geletka.

WWII is no longer holding a January meeting, due to weather concerns. If you wish to attend the Thresher base meeting, you are welcome to attend.

Reminder to those present to sign in. The Tolling of the Bells was conducted for those boats lost in July and August.

Meeting was adjourned.



**Paul Ilsley** *continued from page 1*

He is survived by his wife, Mildred F. (Penney) Ilsley; a stepson, Tristin E. Ellison and his wife, Gayle, of Apple-gate, Ore.; granddaughters Denise Ellison of Grant's Pass, Ore., and Michelle Jock of Kent, Wash.; grandsons Tristin N. Ellison and Keith Ellison of California; five great-grandsons, great-nieces and nephews and several cousins.

He was predeceased by his first wife, P. Alexandra (Ellis) (Ellison) Ilsley.

After a funeral service in the First Baptist Church of Plaistow, he was buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Newbury, Mass.

Memorial donations may be made to the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation, 710 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC or to the First Baptist Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 144, 122 Main St., Plaistow NH 03865.

**Hurricane Katrina Donation**

The Thresher Base made a \$200 donation to the US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation which was applied to the Brotherhood Fund for the Katrina Relief. The base's donation was recognized with a Thank You letter from Patrick Householder dated October 5, 2005.

**New Member**

Welcome aboard John C. Gill. John resides in Hampstead, New Hampshire and joined USSVI and THRESHER Base Chapter on 24 September. He qualified in submarines in 1964 on USS DIABLO (SS 479). John also served on USS ANGLER (SS 240) and USS DOGFISH (SS 350).

**Holland Club**

Ralph Devoid was inducted into the Holland Club during the USSVI National Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri 29 August-4 September. The only person left to induct into the Holland Club in year 2005 is Ed Storer. Ed hopes to be able to attend the November Meeting.

Thresher Base members eligible for induction into the Holland Club during year 2006 are John A. Broderick, Charles H. Horne, Richard W. Seedner and Bruce W. Hauschel. Larry will be contacting these individuals to determine if they will be able to attend an induction ceremony during the January or March 2006 base meeting.

**Camaraderie – Sea Stories**

*by Larry Oiler, Senior Vice Commander*

The primary purpose of USSVI 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." THRESHER Base members excel in this area.

However, a secondary purpose is to provide a way for all Submariners to gather for enjoyment, i.e., camaraderie. In my opinion, we don't do well in this area. This is my primary reason for attending our meetings. Members routinely show up just as the meetings are starting and they are out the door as soon as they adjourn. There is a group of about 5 or 6 that stick around for an hour or so after the meetings to tell sea stories. You are invited to attend and I'll buy the first round (beer, soda, bottled water, whatever).

**Thanks to American Legion Post 37 in Hooksett, NH**

It took me about 1 hour to drive from North Berwick, Maine to attend the meeting at the American Legion in Hooksett, New Hampshire. The scenery was beautiful at this time of the year, which made for a most relaxing drive. What a gorgeous day! Only seven (7) shipmates attended the meeting, but we all enjoyed the get-together. Our host was very gracious and accommodating, the facilities were excellent.

**The Goody Locker**

We are still looking for a volunteer for the position of Base Storekeeper.

**USSVI Meritorious Award Nominations**

Do you know of any THRESHER Base Member that you feel should be nominated for a USSVI Meritorious Award? This Award is presented to the Shipmate, Base, or group within our organization who most exemplifies the motto, "Pride Runs Deep," who by his (their) efforts and involvement in local veterans affairs, parades, school activities etc. have promoted the concept of Honor, Duty, and Pride of US Navy Submarine Force to the general public. Any USSVI member can nominate any other member in good standing for this award. All you have to do is submit the name of your choice and a short evaluation to the District Commander. If you want help in preparing the submittal, contact our Senior Vice Commander (Larry Oiler).



## To Perpetuate the Memory



**Fred Philip Abrams**  
**Civilian Inspector**  
**Portsmouth Naval Shipyard**

Fred Philip Abrams was born in Kittery, Maine. He attended public school in Maine, and was graduated from Traip Academy in 1938.

During World War II, Fred served in the U. S. Army and was a member of the 360th Engineers General Service Regiment, serving in the European theater. He was honorably discharged on December 29, 1945, after completing 38 months of service. Fred earned the Army Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal and Marksmanship Medal

during his Army service.

He was employed by the U. S. Naval Shipyard at Portsmouth, N. H., as an inspector, ship's mechanical system, quality assurance branch of the Production Department. It was in this capacity that Fred was embarked in the Thresher when she was lost at sea.

He is survived by his wife, the former Shirley Astbury and two children; a daughter Carol, and a son, James. In addition, he leaves his father, Mr. Fred T. Abrams; a brother, Charles, both of Kittery, Maine; and a sister, Mrs. Ada Torrey of Newburyport, Mass.

Born in Columbia Falls, Maine, on May 23, 1931, Daniel W. Beal, Jr., received his early education in the public schools of Jonesport, Maine. In June 1950, he was graduated from Jonesport High School. After graduation, Daniel enlisted into the Air Force and underwent basic training at San Antonio, Tex. He completed 4 years of service, and was honorably discharged with the rank of staff sergeant.

Returning home, Daniel enrolled in the University of New Hampshire, and was graduated with a bachelor of science degree in electronic engineering.

After graduation, Daniel became associated with the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard as an electronic engineer with the polaris submarine program,

in the combat system division (sonar).

Daniel was active in scouting with Cub Scout Pack 269 of Somersworth, where his son Daniel, III, was a Webloe. He and his family were also active in church affairs, and were members of the First Parish Congregational Church, in Somersworth, N. H.

Besides his wife Joan, he left two daughters; Cathy Lee and Carol Ann; and two sons, Daniel III, and Harold Lee. He is also survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel W. Beal, Senior, of Dover, N. H.



**Daniel W. Beal, Jr.**  
**Electronic Engineer**  
**Portsmouth Naval Shipyard**



## Subvets WWII



*The Squalus Chapter of Subvets World War II was chartered to perpetuate the memory of those shipmates who gave their lives in submarine warfare; to further promote and keep alive the spirit and unity that existed among United States Navy submarine crewmen during World War II; to promote sociability, general welfare and good fellowship among its members; and pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States government.*

### Meeting Minutes

Just got off the phone with Mike Geletka and he gave the happenings at National.

Robert Devore is now the new National Recording Secretary, Everyone else moved up a chair.

The 2006 National convention will be Laughlin, Nevada. From what I hear it is a going town and has had SUBVET State and Regional conventions that were enjoyed by all who attended. Details will follow at a later date.

Billings, Montana will be the site for the 2007 National Convention.

We are in the process of obtaining

price quotes for the New Hampshire WWII boat, USS Capelin SS289 and the Maine WWII boat, USS Sculpin SS191. Info will be provided at the meeting on Saturday, 22 October 2005.

I have one 2006 Submarine Calendar left, cost is \$5.00 plus \$1.50 P/H if you want it mailed.

More calendars can be obtained from: Harry Alvey, N9324 Campbell lake Rd., Ogdenburg, WI 54962-9998 (502) 244-7780

Cost will be \$6 plus \$2 P/H for 1 calendar. If you want more than one check with Harry

### Officers

State Commander, Maine & New Hampshire - William Tebo

Deputy State Commander Maine Real Cyr

Deputy State Commander New Hampshire - David Dickey

Chapter Officers

President - David Cahill

Vice-President - Michael Geletka

Secretary/Treasurer - Carl Weber

Chaplain - Gordon Wentzell

### New Book out by a USSVI Member (Paperback)

*Tales from Da Bronx Submariner* is a new submariner book out by Groton Base member and author Don "MUFF" Kamuf. He takes his readers on a whirlwind tour of his life as a Navy submariner. From his experience growing up in the Bronx and going to Catholic schools to Kamuf joining the U.S. Navy and entering submarine school at Groton Connecticut.

He tells of his experiences serving on USS Bang (SS 385), USS Sea Poacher (SS 406), USS Abraham Lincoln (SSBN 602), USS Dace (SSN 607) and USS Fulton (AS 11). Retiring from the Navy, Kamuf was hired by General Dynamics Electric Boat as a construction engineer.

This book is available from amazon.com.

### The 2007 USSVI Convention - Cruise Alaska - Sept. 15-22, 2007

On Saturday, September 15, 2007, the ms Oosterdam will depart Seattle with the 2007 USSVI Convention onboard. The ship has 900 cabins that can accommodate about 1800. Over half the cabins are booked. You do not have to be a USSVI member to join the fun. All submariners, their families, and friends are invited. Don't wait---register now!

A \$350 dollar per person deposit is due when booking your cabin. It is fully refundable until September 2006 when the balance is due. Insurance is available that will refund most of your money in case you are unable to sail in 2007. The price includes: A seven night cruise, all shipboard meals and entertainment, port tax, gratuities,

and registration for the 2007 convention.

At <http://www.aaawa.com/submarine/index.htm>, you will find the cruise itinerary, port info, onboard experiences, deck plans, pricing, photos, contacts, and FAQ. View the deck plans and pricing then contact our AAA Travel Agent Kim either by email at [www.aaawin.com/submarine](http://www.aaawin.com/submarine) or toll free at (877) 802-6894 and book your cabin and Boat Reunion before September 2006. For current (updated weekly) 2007 Convention News and the Cruise Roster go to <http://gertrude-check.up-scope.org>. Click on the Cruise Roster to see if you have shipmates attending.



## “Early Bird” Dues Renewal Program

Announcing the USSVI “Early Bird” national and base dues renewal program.

**Start Date:** September 1st, 2005

**End Date:** December 31st, 2005

**Purpose:** To encourage annual members to renew earlier and for longer periods, both at the national and local level. This program is for current annual members and for new members joining after Sept 1st.

**Prize:** Two Life Memberships will be awarded no later than Jan 15th 2006; one to members who have renewed both base and national dues on or after Sept 1st and no later than December 1st and the second to members who have renewed both base and national dues by December 31st. In

other words, the first group gets two chances at the life membership prize.

**Terms:** The National renewal must be for 3 or 5 year terms to qualify and base dues must be renewed at the same time. If the local base offers 3 or 5 year base terms, that renewal term must be made the same as the National Renewal.

**How it works:** Base members must renew national and base membership through your local primary base. Your Base membership chair or other designated Base representative must have the name list and dues payment at the National Office no later than Dec 1st to qualify for the first list drawing and no later than Dec 31st for the second drawing.

## Scholarship Announcement

The USSVI National Scholarship Committee is now issuing the call for all high school seniors and college students who are presently in school to apply for the application.

We are proud to announce there will be a minimum of 18 scholarships of which one will be worth \$1500 in memory of Past National Commander John Fredericks, six \$1000 and 11 \$750 divided between two groups. There will be additional scholarships, which will depend on the donations we receive through the next year.

Eligibility is as follows: the student sponsors “Must be a member in Good Standing” at a base or a member-at-large (MAL). The sponsor must be “qualified in submarines” or been a “relief Crew member” in USSV WWII group. The student can be the son or daughter, stepchildren, grand children, or a court appointed to a guardian of the sponsor.

The Sponsor must be a member of a base or “member at large” (MAL) in “good standing”. Each sponsor standing will be verified by the National office on or about 20 April 2006.

Application requests will be taken up till March 15, 2006 and must be returned to the scholarship chairman and postmarked by April 15, 2006.

## New Base Formed in Nebraska

Catfish Western Plains base was launched on September 20, 2005 in Gering, Nebraska. A total of six boat sailors attended the first meeting. I would like to thank the shipmates from Nebraska base that actually were on hand to open the new base. They were Dan Whitney-past commander of Nebraska base, Bob Kantner- commander Nebraska base, and Larry Anderson- past commander of Nebraska base.

## New Base Forming in Northwest Arkansas

“We are pleased to announce that a new Base is in the initial formation stages in the Arkansas Community Areas of Fayetteville and Bentonville.

For application information, contact Paul Orstad at hogan343@aol.com or by snail mail: Paul Orstad, 30 Surrey Lane, Norwich, CT 06360-6541. Tell him if the student is a high school senior or a college student.

He is also happy to answer your questions by phone: (860) 889-4750 or (860) 334-6457.

### Renewal Costs

#### National

1 year: \$20 3 years: \$55 5 years \$90

Life dues: 76 years of age or older - \$100; 66 to 75 - \$200; 56 to 65 - \$300; 46 to 55 - \$400; under 45 - \$500

#### Thresher Base

\$10 per year for any National Member, National Life, or National Associate Member.

Send payments to Roy Pierce, Subvets Thresher Base Treasurer, PO Box 44, Woodstock, NH 03293-0044. Please make checks payable to Subvets-Thresher Base. Check should include both dues and the money will be forwarded to the National Treasurer.

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

**Next Thresher Base Meeting  
Saturday, November 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).

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### Upcoming USSVI Conventions

Here is a list of next five USSVI Conventions so you can start making plans to attend.

**2006 - Little Rock**  
**2007 - Alaska**  
**2008 - Dallas**  
**2009 - San Diego**

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