



# USSVI Thresher Base News



November 2008

## Tour of the USS New Hampshire (SSN 778)

On Tuesday, October 21, Gary Hildreth coordinated tours of the USS New Hampshire for a group of 45 subvets. A bus met the group at the Kittery Post Office and drove them to the shipyard. The tours were enjoyed by all. Thank you to Gary for arranging these tours



Dave Dickey and Bill Tebo



John Wheeler, Doug Burnell, and LT Jason Anderson



Dan MacIsaac and Kevin Galeaz



Dan MacIsaac, Bill Tebo and Dave Dickey



Frank Reinhold, Kevin Galeaz, Dan MacIsaac, ET1(SS) Benjamin Greenwood, and Bill Tebo



MM1(SS) Brian Gauger and Elijah Niemi, nephew of Rick Cecchetti

## September Meeting Minutes

The September meeting of Thresher Base was held at the Portsmouth VFW on September 20, 2008. 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 September and October. A sound off of all those present was conducted. The Secretary's Report was read by Kevin Galeaz. The Treasurer's Report was read by Dennis O'Keeffe.

### New Business -

- Holland Club - In 2009 there will be six new members inducted into the Holland Club: Irvin Searles, Lawrence N. Beekler, Harry T. Fisher, Thomas S. Naleway, Dennis J. O'Keeffe, Donald L. Scanlon. Making preparations for ceremony, it will be held in January followed by a potluck luncheon.
- Bill Tebo had a discussion with Commander Kelly regarding "first day cover" envelopes to commemorate the

Old Business - None

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## September Minutes *(from pg 1)*

USS New Hampshire Commissioning. According to Gary Hildreth, the Commissioning Committee is taking care of these arrangements. Bill suggested that Gary talk with Commander Kelly regarding these arrangements.

• 2009 Convention will be in San Diego. The Town and Country Resort is rather impressive. This will be a national convention to attend. Kevin Galeaz will post information on the website. Rick Cecchetti suggests that members head over to North Island to see the rescue vehicle.

• Albacore Park - Up and going well. Good summer attendance. Just starting work, groups have been in to help with pruning and clean up. The boat was recently painted by the USS Louisville crew.

• Web - Brad Lunt, QA Instructor Kings Bay GA, sent the following email:

*ALCON, I thought you should know a little about what takes place every year at Kings Bay Trident Refit Facility. As a QA instructor here we conduct refresher training to all hands. I show the Thresher film and lecture on the merits of the SUBSAFE program. Our latest testimony to it's effectiveness is of coarse, the grounding of the USS San Francisco in 2005. I believe that had the Thresher not been lost, the San Francisco would not have been engineered to handle such a catastrophe. The Thresher's lessons have not been lost, we are using them as a continuous reminder to perform our work on Trident, Virginia and Los-Angelos class Subs with the greatest of care. Thanks for the great web site.*

• Web - Sherry Mayfarth, sent the following email:

*I just discovered your website about the Thresher. A friend sent me the Unknown Father poem and I fol-*

*lowed the link back to your website. I would like more information about the next memorial for the Thresher. My father, James Snider, perished on the Thresher. I do not even know if my mother, Phyllis Snider, is aware of the memorials. Her email address is ukie-grandma@gmail.com. I will be sending her your site address and would love to attend a memorial for my father and the crew of the Thresher. I would appreciate it if you would be so kind as to connect me with whomever I need to contact to receive more information regarding future memorials.*

Kevin Galeaz forwarded this information to John Cook and Lori Arsenault.

• A two Dallas, Texas base members lost everything in the recent hurricane. USSVI is looking for donations of any amount. Is anyone interested in assisting them? Kevin Galeaz suggests there be a motion. The money would be going straight to the members. The Brotherhood Foundation will match all funds raised. Carl Weber made a motion to send \$200 per person for \$400. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

• Base elections - Gary Hildreth announced that nominations would be taken today and voting to be held in November. He asked if there were any new nominations? A motion was made to keep the current officers. Motion was seconded. Gary Hildreth will remain base commander for one more year. Motion was carried with one negative vote.

• USS New Hampshire Commissioning - Have any invitations been received? They are being sent out in small batches. When it is received you must still RSVP for tickets. 3500 invitations sent for 3200 tickets. Responding via the internet is the best method to RSVP. The base officers and a few

other names were submitted. The commissioning will be on October 25, 2008. Tours being set up for Tuesday, October 21. More details will be on the website.

Closing prayer. Meeting adjourned.

## Note from the Treasurer

To all members,  
DUES ARE DUE NOW!!!

Please submit a check to the Base Treasurer Dennis O'Keeffe, 1 Eureka Ave., York, ME 03909-1403

Members still non renewed after Jan 1st become not in good standing, they will no longer have access to the members only section of the [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org) website, and will receive the American Submariner magazine only after they have made their membership current.

Anyone not renewed by April 1st is automatically dropped from the organization. Such members can rejoin after that date but will lose their membership seniority.

### Annual Dues National Renewal:

5 Yr period: \$90.00 (save \$10)

3 Yr period: \$55.00 (save \$5)

1 Yr period; \$20.00

### Convert to National Life Membership:

Under 45 yrs: \$500.00

45-55: \$400.00

56-65: \$300.00

66-75: \$200.00

76+: \$100.00

Base dues are \$10.00 for Annual & Life Members.

## Treasurer's Report

as of September 20, 2008

Balance as of July 19, 2008 \$5220.50

Deposits Received: \$1452.83

Monies Expended: \$2299.04

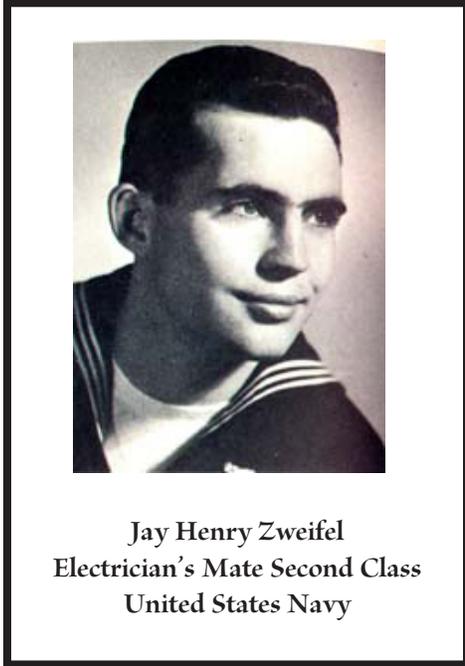
Balance as of Sept 20, 2008 \$4374.29



## To Perpetuate the Memory



Jay Henry Zweifel was born on September 11, 1940, in Black River Falls, Wis., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Zweifel. He attended local schools there, and was graduated from Central High School in June 1959. During his high school years, Jay was an active member of his school's stage crew and choir, and the La Crosse Civil Air Patrol.



After graduation, he enlisted in the Navy, having been a member of the Naval Reserve Unit at La Crosse for some 6 months. Jay underwent his basic training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif., which was followed by Electrician's Mate Class "A" School. He then volunteered for submarine

duty, and entered the Submarine School at New London, Conn.

Upon graduating, he was assigned to the submarine U.S.S. Grouper (SS 214) in which he became qualified, and received his silver dolphins, in September 1961. Jay then volunteered for nuclear power training, and successfully completed the 1-year course of instruction. On November 12, 1962, he received his orders, assigning him to the nuclear powered submarine Thresher.

Jay, in addition to his parents, is survived by a brother, Dennis W. Zweifel, a machinist's mate on duty with the U.S. Navy.

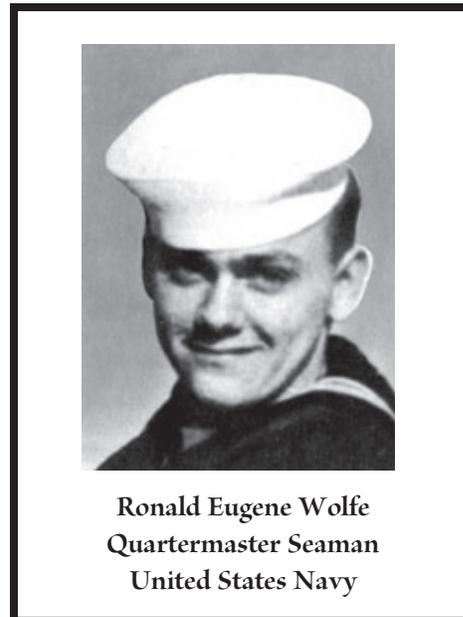
Ronald Eugene Wolfe was born on July 16, 1942, in Bethel Township, Pa. He attended Scott High School in Toledo, Ohio, where he played football and was active in other school sports. He was an avid fisherman and like hunting, swimming, skating, and surf riding. He also participated in target shooting competition.

He enlisted in the Navy from California, and received his basic training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, prior to volunteering for submarine duty. He was accepted for training and marine duty. He was accepted for training and was enrolled as a student in the Submarine School at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn. He successfully completed the course of instruction and was graduated on

March 22, 1961.

Ronald was assigned to the submarine U.S.S. Cavalla (SS 244), and on December 13, 1961, he became qualified as a submariner and was awarded his silver dolphins. He was selected for training in the sonar-plotting course at the submarine base and completed the course on August 10, 1962. On January 27, 1963,

Ronald was assigned as a member of



the crew of the nuclear-powered submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593).

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Patricia Louis Wolfe of Jewett City, Conn., his father, Mr. Charles Albert Wolfe of Blythe, Calif., and his mother, Mrs. Virginia Wolfe of Phoenix, Ariz.



# USS New Hampshire Commissioning



*New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg*

The USS New Hampshire was officially inducted into the Naval fleet on Saturday, October 25 before a large group of VIPs, crew families, subvets, shipyard employees and the general public that gathered at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

The ceremony featured remarks from several high ranking Navy officials, New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg and the submarine's sponsor, Cheryl McGuinness.

Several Dover schoolchildren, that helped in the letter-writing campaign asking the Navy to name the submarine after the Granite State, were also on hand for the event.

The hour long ceremony featured plenty of pomp and circumstance and culminated with McGuinness instructing the crew to board their vessel and officially become one.



*Ship's Sponsor Cheryl McGuinness*



*USS New Hampshire (SSN 778) crew*





# USS New Hampshire Commissioning



*LT Jason Anderson, Weapons Officer, USS New Hampshire (SSN 778) and family*



*ET1 (SS) Benjamin Greenwood, Information Technology, USS New Hampshire (SSN 778) and family*



*Tom Shannon, District 1 Commander*



*Carol and Elmer Flanagan*



*Dan MacIsaac*



*Harlan Brown, USS Maine Base; William Andrea, Eastern Region South D-5 CDR; and William 'Bucky' Walters, USS Maine Base*



*John and Nancy McCarthy*



*Dana Sweeter, Marblehead Commander*



*Jack McNally and Harlan Brown*



*Steve Adler, USS Maine Base*



*Bill Tebo*

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

**Next Thresher Base Meeting  
Saturday, November 15, 2008 @ 1300  
VFW • Deer Street • Portsmouth, NH**



### USSVI Thresher Base

USSVI Thresher Base was chartered on 15 November 1989 in the memory of those 129 gallant men who at 9:17 AM on 10 April 1963 lost their lives in the performance of their duties aboard USS THRESHER (SSN 593).

Our mission is "to perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of

America and its Constitution."

The base newsletter, *Thresher Base News*, and base website, [www.thresherbase.org](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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### USSVI Conventions

**2009  
San Diego, CA**

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

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