



UNITED STATES  
SUBMARINE VETERANS INC

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# STRYKER SIGNALS

## Our Creed

“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. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States government.”

28 July 2009

## Social

Our next social will be at the home of Bessie Locker, widow of Stryker Base Charter Member N. L. Locker, on 15 August at 1200 hrs. Directions: Hwy. 90/Gibbs toward Del Rio. At Veterans Blvd. turn North and continue twelve blocks to Highland St. The address is 208 Highland St. (If you are Army-Inclined and get lost you can call (830) 775-3321 for directions.)

Please contact Jennelle at [jennelle@gvtc.com](mailto:jennelle@gvtc.com) or (830) 885-5080 to coordinate food.

## Meeting

**The next meeting will be at the VFW Post #8315 (1000 FM 78, Schertz) will be 20 September starting with a Pot Luck lunch at 1300 hours. Guests and family are always welcome.**

## Call to Order

Meeting called to order by BC Frank Simpson at 1345 hrs. A moment of silence was observed for Tomme Lambertson who departed on Eternal Patrol, 23 June 2009.

## Invocation/Prayer

Frank Simpson asked the opening prayer.

## Pledge of Allegiance

Led by BC Frank Simpson

## Reading of USSVI Creed

Read by Frank Lister

## **New Member Introduction**

None

## **Ten Year Membership Pins Awarded**

Dallas Lesley, Dave Shelley, and Frank Lister were awarded pins for 10 year membership in USSVI. John Buchanan and John Lee were not present to receive their pins. All are Charter Members of Stryker Base.

## **Reading of the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Accepted as written in the Stryker Signals.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Accept as presented by Barry Martin

## **Old Business**

- A. BC Frank Simpson accepted responsibility for not getting word out about Tomme Lambertson's Memorial Service.
- B. Reports were made for Memorial Day Ceremonies at Ft. Sam Houston and Fredericksburg.
- C. Barry Martin presented certificates to Dave Shelley and Dallas Lesley for Veteran's Day volunteer work at Ft. Sam in 2008

## **New Business**

- A. A motion was made and passed to purchase a **4,000 Man** 30" X 48" double sided banner to use in future Base activities. Donations were collected and the Base will pay the balance of the \$65 price.
- B. A Motion was made and passed to purchase Holland Club Challenge Coins from the National Storekeeper. Coins may be engraved with the Boat Name and Qual Date as requested.
- C. Information for new USSVI members joining in the last quarter of the year was provided.
- D. Frank Lister's nominating committee was charged with coming up with a slate of officers for CY 2010. Slate to be presented at September meeting and voted on at November meeting.
- E. Base Vice Commander will conduct September meeting as the Base Commander will be attending the USSVI Convention in San Diego.
- F. A motion was made to purchase an Ad in the USSVI Convention booklet. Motion failed.

## Other Information

- A. Base Anniversary message from CRD Cdr Carl Schmidt read at meeting. Base established 21 June 1997.
- B. Request for PUC text for four boats. No members had any information.
- C. Report on Russian boomers being readied for deployment again.
  
- A. Capt. Eric Barr is having health problems. We ask God's touch on his life.
- B. American Submariner magazine update:
  - 1. Go electronic.
  - 2. New Holland Club members will be posted on the USSVI webpage vice being printed in the American Submariner magazine.
- C. Held Base raffle.
- D. Larry Yano received a letter inviting the Base to participate in the Harris School History Faire, October 2009. Details will be given at the September meeting.
- E. Reiterated plans for a Tolling of the Boats ceremony in Fredericksburg on 6 December 2009.

## Benediction

Francine Stryker Simpson gave the benediction.

## Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1453 hrs.

### **A friend sent this to me.....**

I went to a nationwide memorial service for Darrell "Shifty" Powers.

Shifty volunteered for the Airborne in WWII and served with Easy Company of the 506<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Infantry. If you've seen *Band of Brothers* on HBO or the History Channel, you know Shifty. His character appears in all ten episodes, and Shifty himself is interviewed in several of them.

I met Shifty in the Philadelphia airport several years ago. I didn't know who he was at the time. I just saw an elderly gentleman having trouble reading his ticket. I offered to help, assured him that he was at the right gate, and noticed the "Screaming Eagle," the symbol of the 101<sup>st</sup>, on his hat.

Making conversation, I asked him if he'd been in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne or if his son was serving? He said quietly that he had been in the 101<sup>st</sup>. I thanked him for his service, then asked him when he served, and how many jumps he made?

Quietly and humbly, he said: "Well, I guess I signed up in 1941 or so, and was in until sometime in 1945....." At which point my heart skipped.

At that point, again, very humbly, he said: "I made the five training jumps at Toccoa, and then jumped into Normandy.....do you know where Normandy is?" At this point my heart stopped.

I told him yes, I know exactly where Normandy is, and I know what D-Day was. At that point he said: "I also made a second jump into Holland, into Arnhem." I was standing with a genuine war hero.....and then I realized that it was June, just after the anniversary of D-Day.

I asked Shifty if he was on his way back from France, and he said: "Yes, and it's real sad because these days so few of the guys are left, and those that are, lots of them can't make the trip." My heart was in my throat and I didn't know what to say.

I helped Shifty get onto the plane and then realized he was back in Coach, while I was in First Class. I sent the flight attendant back to get him and said that I wanted to switch seats. When Shifty came forward, I got up out of the seat and told him I wanted him to have it, that I'd take his in coach.

He said: "No, son, you enjoy that seat. Just knowing that there are still some who remember what we did and still care is enough to make an old man very happy." His eyes were filling up as he said it. And mine are brimming up now as I write this.

Shifty died on June 17 after fighting cancer.

There was no parade.

No big event in Staples Center.

No wall to wall, back to back, 24X7 news coverage.

No weeping fans on television.

And that's not right.

Let's give Shifty his own Memorial Service, online, in our own quiet way.

Rest in Peace, Shifty.

"A nation without heroes is nothing."

Roberto Clemente

Thank you, heroes, living and passed, for your service and sacrifice!

Editor