



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 Constitution.”

21 November 2009

## Social

Next social will be at the Clear Springs Restaurant, 606 W. Afton Oaks (inside Loop1604 feeder between Stone Oak Blvd. and Hwy. 281) San Antonio. Starting time if 1300 hours on Saturday, February 20.

## Meeting

The next meeting will be at the VFW Post #8315 (1000 FM 78, Schertz) will be 21 March starting with a Pot Luck lunch at 1300 hours. Guests and family are always welcome.

## Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Base Commander at 1344 hours.

## Invocation/Prayer

Lead by Base Commander.

## Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by Base Commander.

## Reading of USSVI Creed

Read by Base Commander.

## New Member Introduction

Phil D'Ambrosio (and wife Susan); Retired as HMCM after 30 years. 'Started out to be a medic, but the USN in infinite wisdom made him an FT' (his words!). At time of re-enlistment he switched to

HM. Later went to Sub School, then served on the USS Trepang (SSN 674) and the USS Kamahamaha (SSBN 642)

Ray Demartini (and wife Patricia); Served on USS Medrigo (SS 480), USS Simon Lake (AS 33), and USS Haddock (SSN 661)

John Powell (wife Sharon stayed home to watch the football game!); After Sub School and Nuke School he served on the USS Thomas A. Edison (SSBN 610).

## **Swearing in of Officers**

Base Commander Frank Simpson.

Vice Commander Dave Shelley.

Treasurer Barry Martin.

Secretary Gary English.

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

Minutes were accepted as written in the Stryker Signals.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Accepted as presented by Barry Martin

## **Old Business**

- A. There was a good turnout for the re-dedication of the USS Pintado at the Nimitz Museum, with standing room only. We had a short version of the Tolling of the Bells Ceremony, and we were mentioned in the Nimitz News Dispatch.
- B. The Christmas Party had a good turnout and "a good time was had by all."
- C. The young guests at the November meeting enjoyed talking to the Sub Vets. They learned a lot.

## **New Business**

- A. Approved the 2010 yearly schedule.
- B. There will be a History Faire at the Tejada Middle School in San Antonio on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 2010, 0930-1600 hours, and we have been invited again.
- C. Base Commander asked that the members think about projects for 2010; Possible speakers or presentation at the meetings. When and where for a Tolling of the Boats.
- D. Proposed Amendments to Constitution & Bylaws due to National by 10 March 2010.
- E. Next social will be at the Clearsprings Restaurant Saturday, 20 February, 1300 hrs.
- F. USSVI Wall of Honor for those who have received Meritorious Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze or Silver Star or DSM. If you would like it posted contact: Gil Shaddock: [gil@ssbn601.com](mailto:gil@ssbn601.com).
- G. Oath Keepers is a group of people who have vowed to keep the oath they took "to defend the Constitution from all enemies foreign and domestic" when they joined the Navy. Contact Barry Martin for more information: [blmartin@gvtc.com](mailto:blmartin@gvtc.com).
- H. American Submariner Magazine sponsorship program was disgusted.

## **Good of the Order**

- A. Keep Capt. Eric Barr and John Lee in your prayers for continued good health.
- B. Base Commander wishes a Happy New Year to all.
- C. The World War II Sub Vets of Texas are holding their last State Convention in Galveston. USSVI has a 5" X 4.3" Commemorative Patch (\$10 each); send checks to: Ron Harter 3007 Twinleaf Dr. League City, TX 77573

### D. National Office Elections

For NATIONAL COMMANDER:

1. T. Michael Bircumshaw, NJVC and editor American Submariner, past District Commander, past Base Commander, Joe Negri & Robert Link Award winner.
2. John Carcioppolo, Groton Base Commander and past Eastern Region Director, Joe Negri & Robert Link Award winner.
3. Carl Schmidt, Central Region Director, past District Commander, past Base Commander, and Robert Link Award winner.

For SECRETARY:

5. Tom Conlon
6. John Theoronio

For TREASURER:

7. John Markiewicz
8. Richard McPherson
9. Tom Barnes.

Regional Elections

USSVI REGION:

- NE Region, Vince Flaherty
- SE Region, Bill Andrea
- Central Region, Wayne Standerfer
- Western Region, Jim Dunn and Rocky Rockers.

Officers not running: Pat Householder, NC; George Boyle, SE Region.

For information contact John Peters peterj007 @ Hawaii.rr.com.

- E. USS Texas (SSN 775) left last week for her new home port of Pearl Harbor. She will join her sister USS Hawaii (SSN 776), and participate in Hawaii's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Later the USS North Carolina (SSN 777) will also be home ported in Pearl. The Texas is 377 feet long, displaces 7,800 tons, and cost \$2.7 billion.

## **Benediction**

## **Adjournment Other Information**

Meeting adjourned at 1509 hours.

## **SPECIAL NOTE**

Base Treasurer received from the past National Commander:

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country.

“Just wanted to let you know that, the same as many of you, I recently received my Military Retiree Account Statement. Please review the back of your statement and verify who you have designated as the beneficiary in case you die. Mine has change to someone I don’t even know (Cathy J. MuMullen, “wife”) as getting 100%. Based upon the fact that recently the VA had military retiree personnel information compromised it is interesting that somehow my beneficiaries have changed.

If you look at the broader picture of what this means; many veterans probably wouldn’t catch this and, as we lose more of our fellow service men and women each day, this would leave their dependents without the benefits they deserve. I will be calling DOD first day they are open as well as the DOD IG and local congressman.

Please send this out to the retirees you know and alert them to check whether the current beneficiary is correct.

LtGen Chuck Pitman and Gen. Al Gray requests this be passed along to All Hands.

## **Pumping the Humor Bilge**

Blonde Cruise Ship Diary:

Dear Diary-Day 1

All packed for the cruise ship. All my sexiest dresses and make up packed. I am so excited!

Dear Diary-Day 2

Entire day at sea. Saw many whales and dolphins. Met the ship’s captain; he seems like a very nice man.

Dear Diary-Day 3

At the pool today. Also some shuffleboarding and hit golf balls off the fantail of the ship. Captain invited me to join him at his table tonight; I feel so honored, and had a wonderful time. He is so attractive and attentive.

Dear Diary-Day 4

Won \$800 in ship’s casino. Captain asked me to have dinner with him in his cabin. Had a luxurious dinner with caviar and Champaign. He asked me to stay the night but I declined. Told him I could not be unfaithful to my husband.

Dear Diary-Day 5

At the pool again today. Got sunburned, so spent the rest of the day inside at the piano bar. Captain bought me several large drinks. He is so charming. Asked me to spend the night in his cabin. Again I declined. He said if I didn’t let him have his way with me he would sink the ship. I was shocked.

Dear Diary-Day 6

Last night I saved 1,600 lives.  
Twice!