

MINUTES OF MEETING ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI

Location: Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234, Ballston Spa, NY

Meeting Date: April 6, 2016

- The regular meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander Jim Irwin at 1900 with 19 members present.
- The Base muster list was passed around.
- There was a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- A Moment of Silence for Shipmates on Eternal Patrol
- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer.
- The Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of April.
- Each submarine veteran introduced themselves with the name of their qual boat and other boats served on. Associate members and Guests also introduced themselves.

Base Secretary Art Nolan indicated there was a quorum present.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was read by Base Treasurer Randy Stein. It was voted upon and accepted without correction.

Base Commander's Report

On April, 3, 2016, Base Commander Jim Irwin presented SUBVETS certificates and patches to 5 Eagle Scouts in Cherry Valley, NY. There were 150 people in attendance and the Base Commander was well received.

New paver orders have been received and more are expected. We have received 4 orders from the USS New York City (SSN-696) Association. The deadline for purchase is approaching. The installer will be coming in mid-May.

Base COB Al Singleman recently attended a Nuclear Power School graduation and presented our Base's "Tenacity Award".

The mid-term National SUBVETS meeting will be held the weekend of April 9-10, 2016.

OLD BUSINESS

Progress continues to be made on the project to name a portion of Route 9 in Saratoga County in honor of all submarine veterans. We are now awaiting its introduction as a bill in the State Legislature. All indications are that it will receive a favorable response. There may be a circumstance where the Base is requested to provide representation at the Legislature

on short notice. If you are available and desire to participate, let the Base Commander know and he will place you on a list.

NEW BUSINESS

A reader and a person to “toll the boat” are needed for the ceremony to be held on Saturday, June 4, 2016. Bob Bailey volunteered to do the introduction portion of the ceremony, Base Commander Irwin will do the readings for each boat, and Mike Lynett volunteered to “toll the boat”. A guest speaker has not yet been identified.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Malta Parade – Saturday, May 21, 2016. Parade begins at 0900. Assemble at 1 Bayberry Common, (just off RT. 9 north of the Malta Traffic Circle.)

Ballston Spa Parade – Saturday, May 28, 2016. Parade begins at 0900. Assemble at Ocean State Job Lot at 0830.

Saratoga Flag Day Parade – Saturday, June 11, 2016. Parade begins at 1200. Assemble in the area across from Burke’s Funeral Home on North Broadway at 1130.

Tolling of the Boats – Saturday, June 4, 2016. Ceremony begins in the Ballston Spa Veterans Memorial Park at 1100.

LONG TERM PLANNING

None

GENERAL BASE INFORMATION

Kurt Von Maucher has volunteered to serve as an assistant to Base Treasurer Randy Stein. The Base appreciates Kurt’s initiative to learn the Treasurer’s position and serve as “back-up” to Randy.

Base COB/SUBVETS National Commander Al Singleman recently gave a talk at the Bethlehem Library on the “History of the United States Submarine Service in World War II” to an audience of approximately 45 people.

The Chief of the Boat of USS Albany has been relieved due to failing a drug test. No further information available.

Base Commander Irwin gave a moving account of how his father, Richard Irwin, Jr., received the nation of France’s “Legion of Merit Medal” for his bravery and service during World War II in liberating France. This medal is equivalent to our Nation’s “Medal of Honor”. In addition to receiving the Legion of Merit, Mr. Irwin was appointed a “Knight of France” with the title of Sir Richard Irwin, Jr. Base Commander Irwin displayed the Legion of Merit Medal and

accompanying letter of commendation that read: "Dear Mr. Irwin: By decree of the President of the Republic of France, Mr. Francois Hollande, you have been appointed a Chevalier (Knight) of the National Order of the Legion of Honor. This award testifies to President Hollande's high esteem for your merits and accomplishments. In particular, it is a sign of France's infinite gratitude and appreciation for your personal and precious contribution to the Allies' decisive role in the liberation of our country during World War II. The Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by people of exceptional merit. The French people will never forget your courage and devotion to the great cause of freedom." The Base was very grateful to CDR Irwin for sharing his father's story.

Scholarship applications for 2016-2017 are available on the USSVI website. Last year USSVI distributed 30 scholarships totaling in the area of \$40,000.00. Deadline for applicant submission is April 15, 2016.

Awards information is also available on-line. Help with the application is available through the Base Commander. Nominations for national awards will be accepted until the deadline of April 30, 2016.

Please consider completing a Base History form available on AlbanySaratogasubvets.com. We have received approximately 30 so far.

2016 Submarine Calendars are still available for purchase. See Diane Singleman if interested.

Break

Janet Irwin won the 50/50.

Binnacle List

No Report

Closing Remarks

The Base Chaplain read the closing prayer and the SUBVETS Creed was recited by all.

The next base meeting will be held at the Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234, 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa, NY, on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at 1900.

The meeting was concluded at 2023

Submitted by: Art Nolan
Albany-Saratoga Base Secretary
Pride Runs Deep