

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI**  
**Location: 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa**  
**Meeting Date: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

The May meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander Al Singleman at 1859 with 21 Base Members present and 2 guests.

- The Base muster list was made available by the Base Secretary.
- The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by the Base Chief of the Boat, Mike Lynett.
- The Base Chaplain read the opening prayer and the Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of May.
- The Base Chaplain remembered the late Base Member Donato “Dan” Persico and read the inscription from the memorial to his service in Amsterdam, NY. Dan was a survivor of the USS SQUALUS sinking. A scan of the write up is attached to the end of the minutes.

**Old Business**

- Base Commander (BC) Al Singleman reviewed the upcoming parades and event, see upcoming events section.
- The Tolling of the Boats was discussed and who would take care of certain arrangements. BC Al Singleman briefly left the meeting, to arrange for chairs to be setup, with a gentleman at the bar. After Al’s return, Bill Preece and Rocky Smith volunteered to read. Bill Preece will arrange for the PA. Steve Cipperly will stop by to take care of the weeds soon. Rep. Mary Beth Walsh and Tom Tedesco will be attending.
- Jim Irwin mentioned the USS ALBANY Association ceremony on 11 May at 1100 at Rensselaer Riverfront Part at Broadway and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave in Rensselaer. The Assoc. will be visiting the Submarine Memorial and was interested to know if the numbers would be on the boat. BC Al Singleman reported that the first nice day the week of 5/6, he would stop by and put the numbers on. Some details on their website here: <https://ussalbany.org/event/memorial-park-coming-soon/>
- Float field day was discussed. Jim Stevens was not in attendance so BC Al Singleman resolved to get in touch with Jim and see what day this could happen.

## New Business

- Jim Irwin discussed the presentation of the Subvets Tenacity Award at the RPI NROTC awards ceremony. The presentation went well and was well received by the awardee and the crowd.
- Jim also discussed that RPI NROTC is struggling to get people to enroll. The NROTC scholarship includes tuition and books and a stipend. RPI also foots the bill for room and board which is not the case across all NROTC schools. A good deal indeed, tell your kids/grandkids.
- Jim also mentioned RPI NROTC commissioning is on 17 May at 1000. Subvets are invited to attend. It will be at The Hangar at 743 Albany Shaker Rd, Latham, NY 12110.
- BC Al Singleman discussed he is down to his last two blank plaques and would like to get more. We use them to do the Holland Club awards and also the Subvets Tenacity Award. Jim Irwin made a motion to purchase a case of blank plaques. Jim Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objections.
- BC Al Singleman discussed his findings about the Library of Congress facts about Submarine Service and the accepted pronunciation. A scan of the page attached to the end of the minutes.
- Andy Bodien mentioned that the close of scholarship applications for the USSVI Charitable Foundation is coming up on 19 May, 2024. There is an essay that must be written as part of the application.  
<https://www.ussvcf.org/scholarship-application.html>
- Randy Stein urged members to consider donating to the charitable foundation. There are only 31 recurring donors from the national membership of USSVI which is less than 1% of all members.
- Mike Lynett showed the group a sack he found that was from a WWII submarine and asked if anyone knew what it might have been used for. The group concluded it is a laundry bag that would have been dropped off on the pier and then returned to the boat. This would explain the name of the boat screen printed on the sack and the name of the sailor stenciled above the name of the boat.

- The Base's 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary is on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Base Charter members are as follows:

Barden, Walter F.	Burke, Michael J.	Bydairk, Walter J.	Carlson, Frederic
Cook, John	Craft, Richard W.	Cummings, Patrick	Curley, Theodore K.
Dorchak Jr., Frank P.	Drapalski, Louis	Ebenhoch Jr., John B.	Fox, John
Gasser, George	Gilgore, Charles	Gradwell, Edward	Hadley, John P.
Hassle, Marvin L.	Huether, Edward	Huggins, Bill	Irwin, James
Lowen, Robert J.	Luther, Edward A.	Mitchell, Bruce R.	Moore, Robert H.
Moore, Ronald J.	Nardacci, Fred A.	Negus, Merrill B.	Nokes, Joseph
Ondek, Robert J.	Purtell, Roy	Ryan, Michael	Singleman, Alfred H.
Stodden, Chad	Terzian, Harry	Von Allmen, Robert	Weeks, Michael J.
White, Charles W.	Whitney, William		

- Jim Irwin heard that National was giving up on the new website. BC Al Singleman had not heard anything about that.
- Butch McCabe mentioned he was nominated as a Hometown Hero by the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation and will have a banner hung in his honor. The banners of all the Hometown Heros will be on display on light posts around downtown Schenectady from late May until November for two years.
- In light of the discussion about the Charitable Foundation, BC Al Singleman challenged the membership to come up with an amount to donate to the Brotherhood Fund since we have ~15K in assets. Al mentioned \$150, Dale Breault suggested \$1000. There was discussion on being careful on spending too much every year, what funds might actually be the most in need, etc. Due to the time being ~2010, the discussion was tabled for the June meeting. Bring your thoughts on the topic to the June meeting for discussion.
- 50/50 drawing was held and won by Bill Preece who donated his \$43 to the CROAKER memorial.
- The USSVI Creed was recited.
- The next meeting will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup> and will begin at 1900. The meeting will be held at the American Legion Post 234.
- The meeting was adjourned at 2010.

**Upcoming Base events:**

- 11 May: USS ALBANY Association memorial dedication. 1100 at Rensselaer Riverfront Park at Broadway and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave in Rensselaer
- 17 May: RPI NROTC commissioning ceremony. 1000 at The Hangar at 743. Located at 743 Albany Shaker Rd Building 202, Latham, NY 12110
- 18 May: Malta Armed Forces Day Parade. Park at Community Center, meet at Town Hall at 0900. Parade starts at 1005
- 18 May: Capital Region Veterans Memorial, Legacy Project dedication. 1300 at Dutch Meadows Lane and Rt 50 in Glenville  
<https://capitalregionveteransmemorial.org/about/>
- 25 May: Ballston Spa Memorial Day Parade. Meet at the Ocean State Job Lot parking lot. Step off at 0900.
- 27 May: Glens Falls Memorial Day Parade. Meet between TD Bank and Glens Falls City Park on Maple St. Step off at 1000.
- 29 May – 1 June: Groton Base 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration  
<https://www.ussvigroton.org/60thanniversary>
- 8 June: Tolling of the Boats, Submarine Memorial at 1100
- 4 July: Clifton Park 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade
- 4 August: Schuylerville Turning Point Parade
- 19-24 August: USSVI National Convention in Cleveland  
<https://subvetconvention.org/>
- September: Base Picnic
- December: Wreath laying at National Cemetery

## Correspondence – Convention and other updates

- The 2024 USSVI National Convention will be hosted by Cod Base on August 19-24 at the Embassy Suites Rockside in Independence, Ohio (Just south of Cleveland) (About a 7½ hour drive from the Capital District).  
<https://subvetconvention.org/>
- Please consider purchasing a brick paver for our Memorial.  
<https://www.subvetmemorial.com/buy-a-brick.htm>
- Please fill out a Sub Vet history report – see the Base Chaplain or forms are available on the Base website.  
<https://www.albanysaratogasubvets.com/pdfs/Subvet%20History%20Report.pdf>

Submitted by: Kurt Daniels  
Albany-Saratoga Base Secretary  
Pride Runs Deep - Shoot First!!!  
End Report



# Donato (Dan) Persico, Chief T/M



Photographed By Howard C. Ohlhous, September 2, 2011

## 1. Donato (Dan) Persico, Chief T/M Marker

### Inscription.

Submarine Combat World War II

United States USS Squalus 192

#### Donato (Dan) Persico, Chief T/M

A Survivor of the Submarine U.S.S. Squalus, which sank on May 23, 1939 off the coast of Portsmouth, NH. A faulty main induction valve caused the engine rooms to fill with sea water trapping 26 sailors who drowned. Thirty three others were in the forward section of the Submarine where water-tight doors held back the water. All 33 were rescued by using a rescue bell, designed by Swede Momsen but never used until this disaster. The bell was lowered 3 times to the depth of 240 ft. and secured to an escape hatch bringing up 25 men to the surface. The bell was lowered a fourth time to bring up the remaining eight. Dan Persico, just 21 years of age, was in the last bell. Disaster struck again. The down-haul cable, attached to the bell jammed and couldn't be freed. This cable was then cut leaving the bell attached only to the surface by a single cable that became frayed except for one strand. After several attempts to attach a new cable failed, the bell was raised slowly by hand to prevent breaking the one remaining Paid strand. The final eight men were brought safely to the surface. Chief Persico received the Bronze Star, the Submarine Combat Pin, and Battle Stars during World War II. He also served in the Korean Conflict. When Dan

retired from the U.S. Navy he returned to Amsterdam, NY where he lived.

Donato (Dan) Persico died on January 26, 2001.



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