

## Albany-Saratoga Base, USSVI

### Meeting Minutes 8/7/19

- The regular meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base (ASB), was called to order at 1902, with 20 members present.
- Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Base COB Mark Maiellaro.
- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer.
- The Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of August.
- Introductions were done, and Welcome aboard to new base member Billy Lutz!
- The Treasurer's report was given for July.
- Always looking to improve our social interactions, it was pointed out that "the chairs in a row" format we'd been using felt too stilted. In response, the Legion has agreed to allow us to come in at 1800, we'll have tables set up, you can socialize and have a beverage of choice, and interact with fellow members before the official meeting, which will still start at 1900. Hopefully we can expedite the business part of the meeting to 1 hour or less. The goal is to make this a more enjoyable experience for all!
- The **Base Picnic is Saturday 9/14** ~1100 kickoff time. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, beer and soda will be provided. If you would like to attend, please let me know by 8/31 how many are coming, so we can get the right number of burgers/dogs. Also, if you can bring a side dish (salad, Dessert, etc.) that would be appreciated also! If you signed up on the list at the meeting, you don't need to respond again. Thanks for your continued support of your/our local base chapter! Holland Club members will be inducted! **This will also serve as the monthly meeting, so there will be no meeting on September 4<sup>th</sup>!**
- Updated Parade report: The Turning Point Parade for Schuylerville, last parade of the season, was Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. We had 12 members participate, and based on crowd cheering, we were well received. Also, the float and 4 participants were involved in the Hartford parade on Memorial Day, 27<sup>th</sup> May, and were also appreciated there, though not mentioned till now. Mea Culpa!
- The American Legion is getting ready to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Anyone who served from 7 December 1941 through now is authorized to be a member of the Legion.

If you are interested in joining, contact your local chapter, make sure you bring your DD-214.

- Bill Preece and Ray Misiewicz were recognized by the Base Commander Bob Bailey for promoting SUBVET culture through photos/emails and Facebook respectively. Thanks for spreading the news and keeping us on the forefront! **BZ** shipmates!
- The USS Thresher ANC Memorial Dedication Ceremony & Reception is on Thursday, September 26 @ 1600 at Arlington National Cemetery. If anyone is interested in attending, the info is here: <https://threshermemorial.org/index.html>. Under dedication Tab dropdown menu is the Capital Tours info, with Pickup points, hotels, and pricing. The contact at Capital Tours is Kevin, at 1-800-323-1184.
- The USS Batfish, in Oklahoma, was flooded from the overflowing Arkansas river, and is looking for donations to help restore her. USSVI has set up a charitable foundation fund to collect for this effort. Donations are tax deductible, send checks to USSVI National Office, PO Box 3870, Silverdale WA 98383-3870, and put “Batfish Fund” in the memo section of the check.
- There are new guidelines for the Kaps(SS) 4 Kid(SS) programs, and a renewed interest in local base membership to restart the program here. Jerry Whitehead is coordinating with local chairman Al Singleman to get the ball rolling again, with expected visits to both Albany Med and Double H Hole in the Woods as soon as in early September. Will put out time/dates as soon as they are locked down.
- There are ~560,000 sailors that were potentially affected by Agent Orange during the Vietnam conflict, and the Blue Water Act was passed, but there is a funding issue in Washington. When the payments do come through, they will start with people 85 or older to get benefits. Will post more data when available.
- Officer elections will be held at the November meeting, the periods for nominations are September-November. The post is for a 2-year commitment, please keep that in mind. You can nominate yourself.
- It was proposed that the Christmas party be a catered event this year. The motion is under consideration, but looks very promising. More info to follow.
- After the break, the Base Chaplain put out the reminder, the 7<sup>th</sup> of December is our wreath laying for our vets at the National Cemetery. Each year, our contingent of wreath

layers/memory keepers has grown, with graveside remembrances shared and enjoyed. This is part of our creed, let's continue to uphold and keep the faith with our departed shipmates, friends and families. Please keep the date open. Muster time 1100 at the gate.

- Jerry Whitehead won the 50/50 raffle, \$30 to the winner, who donated it back to our Kaps4Kids fund.
- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered closing prayer.
- The USSVI creed was recited, led by Base Commander Bob Bailey.
- Meeting was adjourned at 2002.
- Base COB Mark Maiellaro gave a video presentation of his daughter's graduation from Boot camp in Great Lakes, some interesting changes from when most of us had gone through!

Jerome K. Whitehead

Secretary for the Albany-Saratoga Base, USSVI