



"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. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."

That's our CREED above, but it's not who we are:

We are United States Submarine Sailors! We were, and are, members of the elite fighting force of the United States Navy. We are all QUALIFIED IN SUBMARINES.

SOUTH SOUND BASE KLAXON

Class III 2009 USSVI Newsletter of the Year Award Winner

VOLUME 3 Issue 10 - October 2010

Base Home Page: southsoundbase.org

National Home Page at: ussvi.org

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Traveling Dolphins by WD4 RD John Mansfield

I have initiated a new program in Western District 4 called The Traveling Dolphins. It is established to encourage 'visitations' to other Bases within our district. Here's how it works:

Since the inception was begun at South Sound Base, they will keep the dolphins on display at meetings until 'captured' or relieved.

The Traveling Dolphins may be captured by another base by having at least three members from their base attend the meeting of the Base that has them. At least one of the three members of the capturing base must be an elected officer of that base. The base will then take the Traveling Dolphins back to their own Base and keep it until it is captured by another base.



(continued on page 2)

USSVI South Sound Base

David Richards, Commander

3510 E. McKinley Ave.

Tacoma, WA 98404



Editor's note: I hope I do not miss submitted stuff to include in this base newsletter.

We all get busy and do the best we can. We are Qualified, we support our shipmates and we do not throw darts. I hope there will be plenty of newsletter items for next's months Klaxon since we have several activities upcoming. Hope we can be participants in Auburn parade.

Parade info at: http://www.auburnwa.gov/government/calendars/community_calendar/veterans_day_parade_45.asp

Special Note

South Sound Base Public Affairs Officer, John Mansfield, makes an effort to get high quality guest speakers for our meetings. It is very disappointing and, in my opinion, disrespectful to the guest speakers, to arrive to find only a few members at the meetings. We meet once a month for up to two hours. Is it too much to ask for your participation?. It's starting to look like the majority of our members are losing interest, which, as you know causes the down hill slide of an organization. If the programs are not to your liking, suggestions and comments are more than welcome to make improvements so that members will want to come to meetings.

We have an election coming up and need YOUR participation and willingness to step forward and be a part of the process. You have new and fresh ideas to contribute, which is always welcome. Get involved, Shipmates.

.....travelling Dolphinscontinued

It would be a good idea to alert the base retaining the dolphins of your Base's intention to attend the meeting. In the event two or more bases send participants to capture the dolphins; the base with the most number of members will take it home. In a tie, there will be the flip of a coin to determine who takes the dolphins home. As a primary member of South Sound Base, the WD4 Commander will count as one participant for the Base in seeking to capture the dolphins from bases other than his own.

Thanks and a hearty "Well Done" go out to Mike Robb, "carver extraordinaire", for the excellent job of making the Traveling Dolphins.

Everyone have fun, get out and attend meetings of other bases and share the camaraderie within our organization.

I was going to add that the capturing Base members had to tell one of their best sea stories in order to complete the mission, but I'll leave that up to You.

Fraternally, John Mansfield, WD4 Commander.



USSVI South Sound Base

Dave Richards, Commander

3510 E. McKinley Ave. Tacoma, WA 98404

Minutes of Meeting, October 14, 2010

The USSVI South Sound Base meeting was called to order by Commander David Richards at 1900 Hrs. There were six members and one guest present. Dave led the Pledge of Allegiance; John Mansfield gave the opening prayer.

Commander Dave read the USSVI Creed: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States Of America."

Tolling of the Boats lost in October was conducted by Dave Richards and Mike Ellis.

USS Seawolf (SS197) 1944, S-44 (SS155) 1943, USS Wahoo (SS238) 1943, USS Dorado (SS248) 1943, USS Escolar (SS294) 1944, USS Darter (SS227) 1944, USS Shark II (SS314) 1944, USS Tang (SS306) 1944, O-5 (SS66) 1923

A bell was rung for Capt. Les Guille, former Skipper of USS Menhaden (SS377) who passed away October 8th, 2010. He was the decommissioning captain for Menhaden in 1972. It was the boat SSB members, Don and John Mansfield served on from 1962 to 1965. A Moment of Silence was observed to honor shipmates on Eternal Patrol. Sailors Rest Your Oars.

Guest Speaker ... Donald Lachman Report and photographs on page 5

(Social Break)

Meeting continued:

Treasurer's Report: Mike Ellis gave the Treasury Report. A balance of \$2,102.30 is in the general account and \$668.27 is in the storekeeper account. The report was accepted as read by voice vote.

Membership Chairman Mike Ellis reported the base has 42 members, three of which are Associates. It is time to send in 2011 Annual National and Base Dues. Please send \$20 to National and \$10 to Mike Ellis. There are programs available for multi year memberships. Remember, under the new By Laws recently passed at the National Convention in Cincinnati, future Holland Club Members will pay Annual dues unless they are Life Members with the National Office and their local Base.

Base Newsletter Report: None. Don Smith is on the Binnacle List, but will complete and distribute the Klaxon upon receiving these minutes and other Base officer reports. Don & Elaine Mansfield are also on the binnacle list, each with their own health issues. We wish them a speedy recovery.

October meeting minutes continued

Assistant Storekeeper, John Mansfield, reported "The store is open."

Western District Commander Report: John Mansfield reported on his visit to the USS Nevada (SSBN733) on 25 September with members from Yakima Base. A great tour was had by all, then everyone visited the Undersea Museum in Keyport and had burgers and beer at the Horse & Cow to complete an enjoyable day of comradeship and sea stories. The three Chiefs, including COB Rick Nelson were awesome. Nevada has been in the yards for upkeep for the past two years and is nearing readiness for her missions. It makes one proud of our young 'Bubbleheads' that carry on the traditions and defense of our country.

Auburn Veterans Parade November 6th, 10 a.m., meet at the parking garage on the Northwest side of town. Members and floats from Seattle, Bremerton, South Sound Base and others are welcome to participate. We look forward to having the ET Class from the Trident Training Facility accompany our unit, which always adds a sense of patriotism to the crowd-pleasing submarine veterans group. There are plenty of activities throughout the day, so come on out and wave the flag. Wear your vests and hats.

John also asked for a show of hands to see if there is interest in putting together a visit and tour of the USS Blueback at the OMSI in Portland. Most agreed, so it will be organized; possibly in the spring.

John also talked about our "Visitation Program" using the "**Traveling Dolphins.**" Mike Robb said he would make them so that they can stand on a table. South Sound Base will be the initial holder and other bases will be notified on how they can take them to their base. The base taking the dolphins would have to have a member of the E-Board and two members present at the meeting of the base presently holding the dolphins.

Old Business

Discussions were held on the upcoming **Veterans Day Fundraiser** at the South Puyallup Walmart on November 11th. We will set up at 0830. All members are encouraged to participate in this worthwhile event. Let's show our colors to the community! Address: 16505 S. Meridian, Puyallup, New Business

Commander Dave spoke on Base donations of Turkeys and Hams with all the trimmings to Spanaway Elementary School at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Approval voted unanimously. John asked Treasurer Mike to be prepared to cut a check for \$200 for the Thanksgiving order to be picked up at Summit Trading Post. Date and time of delivery to be announced.

It was suggested that we ask the two students that South Sound Base supported at the Northwest Youth Leadership Conference last summer to come to a meeting and tell everyone about their experiences.

Good of the Order

Kap(ss)4Kid(ss) Chairman, John spoke on the progress of a visit to Children's Hospital in Seattle and will advise members of Seattle Base who indicated they would like to participate.

John Mansfield gave the closing prayer and meeting adjourned at 2050.

Next meeting is November 11, 2010 at VFW Post 969 (Yes, it is the same evening as the Fundraiser)

Respectfully Submitted:

John Mansfield, Acting SSB Secretary



Guest speaker at our October meeting.

Donald Lachman, Program Manager of Veterans Reintegration Services at the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) gave an excellent and informative talk to South Sound Base members. Highlights: More than 20,000 soldiers have returned from deployments in the War Zone over the last year; about 20% of those with injuries, and a good number of those, with brain injuries. There have been more than 70,000+ deployments from the State of Washington, mostly from the 81st Heavy Armor Brigade. Washington is one of six states with a 'growing' veterans population. The G.I. Bill program at Pierce College has the highest attendance in the state. WDVA supports more than 5,000 veterans that have gone through the Pierce County Jail assistance program. One-half of the issues revolve around domestic violence incidents.

WDVA is working with the Pierce County Humane Society to provide funds and assistance for "Service Dogs" and "Companion" Dogs to help in rehabilitation programs for returning veterans with medical and emotional problems.

The numbers of foreclosures and evictions from homes of veterans is skyrocketing. WDVA is working on getting a \$3 Million grant to build housing in the Pierce County area for Homeless Veterans. They are also working with Catholic Community Services to provide housing and food services for homeless veterans presently living on the streets in Pierce County.

The Washington Soldiers Home in Orting is what Don calls "The jewel of Pierce County veterans programs."

There are plans to expand treatment facilities, programs and housing for veterans and families with medical and trauma issues. Of course all of these programs rely on funding; which WDVA Director, John Lee is working on.

Don covered many topics that indicate a very positive influx of funds to improve the quality of life for returning veterans and their families. It was a great presentation and should be heard by all veterans organizations. Washington State has 600,000 veterans and is leading the nation in innovative programs to help honor the men and women who have so bravely served our country.

USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: Flash Traffic - #2010-025 Date: 10/18/2010

Our Purpose/Creed Submitted by: T. Michael Bircumshaw on 10/18/2010

Shipmates,

Several weeks ago I sent a message to all bases entitled "A message from your National Commander."

The purpose of that message was to remind those who may have forgotten and to inform those who did not know as to the total purpose of USSVI as expressed in Article III of our Constitution.

Most of us merely recite the purpose of USSVI as stated in Paragraph one, also known as "The Creed", but there actually are two additional sections to Article III that complete and define our purpose as an organization and state the reasons we exist.

It is perfectly acceptable to use the first paragraph (Statement of Purpose/Creed) on our websites, in our publications and to recite in our meetings in the same way it is perfectly acceptable to sing only the first stanza of the Star Spangled Banner, even though there are four additional stanzas to our National Anthem.

I believe most of our shipmates intuitively understand this, but a couple of members took the meaning of my message to be an assault on our "Creed". There is no "assault". There is no suggestion to change what you print on your newsletters or what is printed on the cover of the American Submariner or what you recite at your meetings.

As a point of interest, the word "Creed" is misused in this context. There was no mention of a creed in our founding documents, only a statement of Purpose. The word "Creed" first appeared in our Constitution many years after our founding. A "Creed" is a statement of belief, usually a religious belief. (Please refer to any handy dictionary)

If you were to take the first paragraph and substitute the following words you would see the difference which might lead to a better understanding of the situation. Begin the paragraph by placing; "Our belief is" and then put the words; "Our purpose is" and see which one makes the most sense to you.

Our Belief is "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and it's Constitution."

Our Purpose is "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and it's Constitution."

Strictly speaking, even though the word "Creed" is not properly used in this context, it is close enough for our intent and changing it would serve no useful purpose.

The bottom line here is that my only intention was to bring all three paragraphs to your attention and I firmly believe that the second and third paragraphs strongly serve to support and describe our "Purpose/Creed" in a substantial, supportive, and positive manner.

I welcome your comments on this and all other matters concerning USSVI. You can reach me at nc@ussvi.org or call me at (951) 795-4315 (Toll Free)

Best, Michael Bircumshaw - National Commander 2010-2012

Ref:

USSVI Constitution

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE/CREED

Section 1: STATEMENT of Purpose/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. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution. (C-01-08)

Section 2:

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be Strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

Section 3:

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today.

Fun Stuff

Norwegian Royal Guard

Looks like a group of Submariners marching in a parade..

from Walters from Blueback

THE BEST DEFINITION OF PRECISION EVER SEEN!

Those are US made Garand M-1 rifles (WWII), and they are heavy weapons (9 POUNDS EACH). When that one young fellow goes on his own - YOU'VE NEVER SEEN A RIFLE SPUN THAT FAST - note the collective "Oooooooooo!" from the audience.

<http://sorisomail.com/email/16993/exibicao-de-banda-militar--um-espectaculo-imperdivel.html>

32 Rifle drill team .. these guys are good... Musicians good also - 8 plus minutes

Some good web sites on the World Wide Web

<http://togetherweserved.com/>

<http://patriotpost.us/edition/2010/10/15/digest/>

<http://www.subforce.navy.mil/>

<http://navytv.org>

REST OF THE STORY (USS MOHICAN) Did you know it was a sub tender?

How would you like riding one of those boats in a rising sea?

<http://tendertale.com/tenders/008/008.html>

A RECENTLY INSTALLED computer system at an Navy investigative agency elicited abusive comments and several threats to the life of the machine. The following sign was soon placed over it:

"Weapons Will Not Be Worn While Operating This Computer."

FACEBOOK— a social network on the internet. It's what you make it, set your desired security settings. I have a facebook account for subvets, separate from other stuff. If you have an account or interested to blab and contact other subvets, log onto my subvet page using this e-mail address subvetdonmac@hotmail.com there are over 200 contacts now on that page.

That's all folks

