



# USSVI Thresher Base News



January 2007

## November Meeting Minutes

The November 2006 meeting of Thresher Base was held at the VFW in Portsmouth. The meeting was called to order followed by a prayer and pledge of allegiance.

The tolling of the bell was sounded for those boats lost in November and December followed by a silent prayer for all those shipmates on final patrol. A sound off of all those present was conducted.

Thresher Base minutes of September's meeting were read by Kevin Galeaz. Roy Pierce followed by reading the Treasurer's Report.

### Old Business -

1) Thresher Service - Jack McNally has been in touch with the Elk's Club and the issue at hand is when to hold the Service. It will need to be Saturday, April 7 or 14. It is suggested to go with the furthest date to allow for better weather and allow time for invitations. Kevin will get in touch with John Cook. Suggestion to send out a flyer using our database to help with turnout. A reason to shifting off base was to allow for more public attendance we need to look at other media sources. Looking at holding the 45th to be on base. Apparently Easter is on the 8th, so we will go with the 14th.

2) Larry gave Ken Cowan contact information to help him plan the Reunion for the Augusta.

3) Bill Tebo brought pictures of the bridge dedication. Good turn out due to good weather and the shipyard support was excellent. Financial support provided by the town and an anonymous donor. Unfortunately no media arrived for the bridge dedication, but photos were sent to the Exeter News-

letter. Bill will send photos to Kevin for the website.

4) Sculpin Monument - The ceremony was going to be held on November 11, but due to concerns over weather it was postponed until Spring/Summer. Hold a dedication at the Memorial Day Service at Albacore Park. A round of applause was called on by Gary for Bill for all of his work on the bridge dedication and Sculpin Monument.

### New Business -

1) Donation of \$100 to the VFW children's Christmas fund. Passed.

2) Holland Club Inducation at January 2007 meeting. Eligibility has been modified from 5 years of good standing or Life member + 1 year, to 5 years of good standing or Life member.

3) National Database - check it out to see your record. You have the ability to edit or add to your history.

4) Donations to Nimitz Museum. On an individual basis.

5) Donation of \$50 to Thanksgiving Families in Need program at Groton - fed 600 families last year. Passed.

6) Due to the issues with the bridge in Portsmouth, NH DOT has asked Albacore Park and received permission to put in a bypass through the property. It will be two ways. The barrier will be broken on Market Street and work has begun. This should be a positive action for Albacore Park.

7) Joint meeting in January with WWII, Holand Club Ceremony and Potluck.

8) Jack McNally is regretfully resigning his position as Base Chaplin.

9) Dennis O'Keefe has taken over as

the new Base Treasurer.

10) Elections - Current board is re-nominated replacing Dennis O'Keefe for Roy Pierce. Motion to elect the board. Passed.

Meeting was adjourned.

## Holland Club

THRESHER Base Members eligible for induction into the Holland Club during year 2007 are David V. Dickey and Herman H. Stolzenburg. Larry will be contacting these individuals to determine if they will be able to attend an induction ceremony during the January 2007 base meeting.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Saturday, January 20 at 1300 at the VFW in Portsmouth. There will be a potluck meal following the Holland Club Ceremony. All spouses and guests are welcome to attend.

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### ED1 Commander Report

It is December already and one year since I filed my first ED1 Report. Many things changed during my tour of duty thus far. I was unable to attend the 2006 National Convention do to limitations of my employment. However, I hope to retire from that job and plan to be in attendance for the 2007 Convention.

This past year I have had opportunity to travel to our Bases and meet most of the Base Officers. I thank your for including me in many of the meetings and events throughout the year. It was my pleasure to participate in handing out awards, swear in new Base Officers and help with the induction of many members into the Holland Club.

As you may well know I consider that my purpose in this job is to support the Base Officers. I try to listen and do what I can to help with action or advice. I do believe that our purpose is in our creed and that everything that we do should take that into consideration. I have counseled our base leadership to communicate and function as a team rather than

as individuals. We have seen officers and other members attend meetings or events supporting efforts at other Bases in the district.

I believe that we can do simple things like two members going to their Town Green or park and tolling the Lost Boats. Our actions can be small or large, but each thing that we do to remember those that serve and those that have served is important.

An example of things you have done include helping develop a satellite base providing an opportunity for members that live some distance from their primary base to perpetuate the memory without an additional admin burden. Taking the time to honor our Senior Members, making a special effort to honor those joining the Holland Club, and taking the time to honor those members when they go on Eternal Patrol are a few more example of what you do.

Members as well as Base Officers in ED1 have honored our creed well and I thank you for doing so even as you seek no thanks.

PW Louthain, ED1 CDR

### NH Bridge Dedication

On October 14, 2006, the Route 108 Bridge, over the Squanscott River, between Newfields and Stratham, N.H., was named "The United States Submarine Veterans of World War II Memorial Bridge.

Left to Right: Background Seated, Lt.(JG) Robert D. Johnson, USN, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Chaplain. Commander Ryan K. Brookhart,USN, Commanding Officer, USS Hartford SSN 768. Mrs. Stella Scamman, of Stratham, N.H. House of Representatives. HB 1313 Sponsor. Mr. Karl Gilbert, of Newmarket, N.H. House of Representatives. HB 1313 Author. Mrs. Margaret Hassan, of Exeter. N.H. State Senator, HB 1313 Sponsor.



### New Members

Welcome aboard ETN2(SS) Richard E. Armstrong. Richard transferred from Mare Island Base to THRESHER Base on 1 December. He has been a member of USSVI since April 1997, and a Life Member since December 2004. Richard qualified in submarines in 1968 on USS GUARDFISH (SSN 612). He also served on USS DACE (SSN 607) in 1971. Richard and his wife Carol reside in Alexandria, New Hampshire.

Welcome aboard ETCS(SS) Robert J. Miller, USN, Retired. Bob joined THRESHER Base Chapter as a dual member on 27 October and has been a member of USSVI since March 1999; primary base is SCAMP. Bob qualified in submarines in 1962 on USS THRESHER (SSN 593) and retired from the Navy in 1978. He also served on USS PATRICK HENRY (SSBN 599), USS JAMES MONROE (SSBN 622), and USS SAM HOUSTON (SSBN 609). Bob and his wife Margaret (Peggy) reside in Vista, California.



Left to Right: Bill Tebo, N.H. State Commander, Originator of Bridge Naming, Dave Dickey, N.H. Deputy State Commander, Designer of Signs and had signs Manufactured by the State Dept. of Transportation.

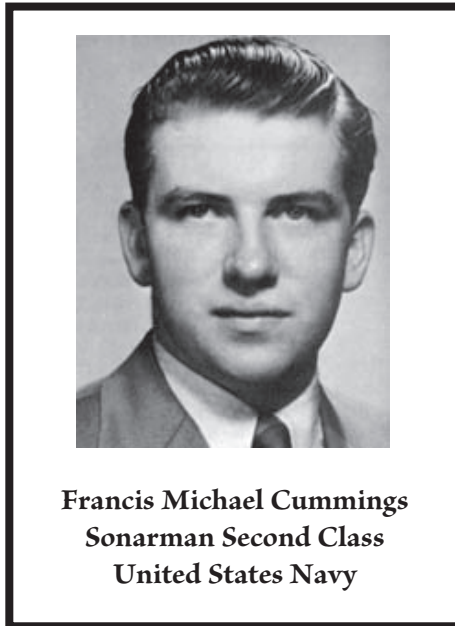


## To Perpetuate the Memory



Francis Michael Cummings was born on May 31, 1936, in Newton, Mass. He spent his early boyhood there, and was graduated from Wellesley High School in June 1954.

Francis enlisted in the Navy in July, and after completing his recruit training, he volunteered for submarine duty.



**Francis Michael Cummings**  
**Sonarman Second Class**  
**United States Navy**

He was accepted for training, and entered the Navy's Submarine School at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn. He completed the course and was graduated with the class of March 1955. His first assignment was in the submarine U.S.S. Harder (SS 568), followed by a tour of duty in the U.S.S. Blenny (SS 324). Francis became qualified

as a submariner while serving in the Harder on July 16, 1956.

Selected for sonar training, Francis attended the school at Key West, Fla., and at the Raytheon Co. in Burlington, Mass. In May 1961, he reported for duty as a member of the crew of the nuclear-powered submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593). During his naval service, Francis had been awarded the Navy's Good Conduct Medal.

He is survived by his widowed mother, Mrs. Helen C. Cummings; brothers, Thomas J., and Paul T.; sisters, Mrs. Mary Ellen Laak of Berkeley, Calif.; and Elizabeth A. Cummings of Wellesley, Mass.

Samuel Joseph Dabruzzi was born on August 27, 1936, in Hudson, Wis., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Dabruzzi. He attended St. Patrick's Grade School and upon being graduated in 1950, received the coveted American Legion Award for scholarship and leadership. His first 2 years of high school were spent at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio. He returned to Hudson High School and was graduated with the class of 1954. Samuel attended St. Thomas College in St. Paul, Minn., for 2 years prior to enlisting in the Navy in September 1956.

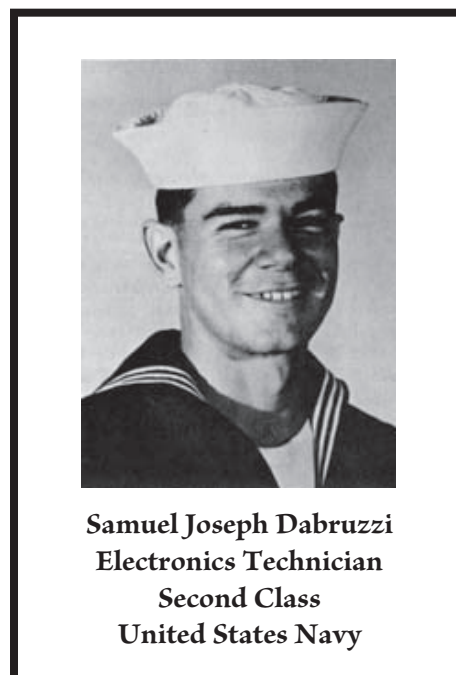
He received his basic training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., and attended the Navy's Electronics technician School in San Francisco, Calif. He then volunteered for submarine duty and upon being accepted he enrolled in the Submarine

school at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn. He was graduated in January 1959, and was selected for advance training. He completed the course in nuclear power at the submarine base and at the nuclear-power training unit at West Milton, N.Y. On February 27, 1961, Samuel was assigned to the U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593). during his naval service, Samuel had been awarded the Navy's Good Conduct Medal, and a letter of commendation from the commanding officer of the U.S.S.

Thresher (SSN 593) for his outstanding performance of duty.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs.

Carrie Ann; three children, Samuel, Jr., Carl James, Vivian Ann; brothers, Frank, Albert, and the Very Reverend James S. Dabruzzi; five sisters, Mrs. John Zappa, Mrs. Donald Hentges, Mrs. Joseph Mezzenga, Mrs. James Meyer, and Doris Dabruzzi.



**Samuel Joseph Dabruzzi**  
**Electronics Technician**  
**Second Class**  
**United States Navy**



THRESHER Base  
United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.  
c/o Kevin Galeaz  
1465 Hooksett Road #239  
Hooksett, NH 03106

**Next Thresher Base Meeting**  
**Saturday, January 20, 2007 @ 1300**  
**Portsmouth VFW • Deer Street, Portsmouth**



### USSVI Thresher Base

USSVI Thresher Base was chartered on 15 November 1989 in the memory of those 129 gallant men who at 9:17 AM on 10 April 1963 lost their lives in the performance of their duties aboard USS THRESHER (SSN 593).

Our mission is "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 Government."

The base newsletter, *Thresher Base News*, and base website, [www.thresherbase.org](http://www.thresherbase.org), are used to inform the membership and community about meeting happenings and upcoming events. Any member who has information to share with the membership is encouraged to submit articles to the editor for publishing. Send submissions to Kevin Galeaz, Editor, 1465 Hooksett Road #239, Hooksett, NH 03106 or [webmaster@thresherbase.org](mailto:webmaster@thresherbase.org).

### Groton Base USSVI Celebration

This event begins with the Scholarship Golf Tourney on Thursday May 3 and ends with Steak N Eggs breakfast Sunday May 6. There will be golf, tours of Submarine School, most likely a tour of an active submarine and much more. There is a chance for your spouse or friend to get all dressed up to attend the Banquet on Saturday. Registration forms will be available on the Groton website.