



# USSVI Thresher Base News



January 2008

## November Meeting Minutes

The November meeting was held at the VFW on Saturday, November 17. It was called to order followed by a prayer and pledge of allegiance. The Tolling of the Bell was conducted for boats lost in October and November followed by a sound off of all present.

**Secretary's Report** - The minutes from the September meeting were read and approved.

**Treasurer's Report** - Dues are due. Our beginning balance is \$5,766.56. We had deposits of \$70.96 and expenses of \$70.00. Our current balance is \$5,767.52.

**Friends of Albacore Park** - Bill Seward mentioned that the group would like to participate in Memorial Day ceremonies and dedicate a memorial to the original Albacore crew and two benches - one for Joe Sartel.

**Holland Club** - The following members will be inducted into the Holland Club at the January 19, 2008 meeting: Carl Chase, George Horne and Roger Miller. Larry Oiler will send an email to national for certificates and ask them to attend. Following the induction ceremony there will be a potluck open to all USSVI/WWII members and spouses. A signup sheet was started.

**Insurance** - We have been under the impression that National provided insurance for all meetings, but we do not need insurance for our regular meetings. It is when we hold the Memorial Service that we need coverage. Tom Young contacted Wells Fargo for clarification. Tom hopes to have a solid understanding of the policy by the next meeting. We may need to purchase coverage for one day for the Memorial Service. Carl Weber suggested adding a legal disclaimer to the invitations. Kevin Galeaz submitted the paperwork to R.W. Traipp Academy for the Thresher Memorial Service for April 12, 2008

because he could not wait any longer for the insurance issue to be decided. They require \$1,000,000 policy to be held by any organization that holds events on campus.

**45th Thresher Memorial Service** - The service is scheduled to take place at the R.W. Traipp Academy, on April 12, 2008. Kevin Galeaz, Memorial Service Chairman, is awaiting approval from Traipp Academy. Larry Oiler will be responsible for obtaining the wreath.

**Cod Reunion** - Bob Flannery attended the Cod reunion in September in Cleveland. They put on quite the show and there is a group that maintains the boat in sea ready condition. A book was made up for all those who attended. Kevin Galeaz asked Bob to write up a brief article for the newsletter with photos.

**The WWII Subvets Squalus Chapter** has decided to hold one formal meeting a year in November, due to the difficulties in getting members to attend meetings. Members will still participate in Memorial Day and the lobster bake.

**Mike Geletka** - Carl Weber reports that Mike Geletka is fighting cancer with chemotherapy treatments and could not make it to the meeting. All those present wrote messages to Mike which were mailed to him.

**Vermont Base** - Kevin Galeaz received a call from Bill Livendale, Vermont Base Commander, to coordinate their lobster bake with ours. Bill is scheduling their lobster bake for the 2nd Saturday in July in VT.

**Base Chaplin** - We are in need of a base chaplin. If you are interested contact Tom Young.

**Webmaster** - Kevin Galeaz has had a computer crash and requests that anyone who has sent recent emails to please

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## 2008 Base Schedule

January 19	Meeting/Holland Club/Potluck, VFW, Portsmouth, NH
March 15	Meeting, VFW, Portsmouth, NH
April 12	Thresher Memorial Service, R.W. Traipp Academy, Kittery, ME
May 17	Meeting, VFW, Portsmouth, NH
May 26	Memorial Day Service, Albacore Park, Portsmouth, NH
July 19	Lobsterbake, American Legion, Seabrook, NH
September 20	Meeting, VFW, Portsmouth, NH
November 15	Meeting, VFW, Portsmouth, NH

### Holland Club Induction and Potluck

Saturday, January 19  
1300

All USSVI and WWII members and spouses are welcome.



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resend them. He has added a link on the website to the national database. He talked to Pat Householder to gain access to database.

**Membership** – Tom Young brought up the need to increase involvement of our membership along with a need to increase the membership. John Gill suggests inviting the new sailors in the yard to our meetings like Groton base. Larry Oiler indicated the offer has been made in the past as well as the offer to pick up the first year's dues without much success.

**Navy Times Article** – Larry Oiler discussed an issue with the USS Hampton and water chemistry.

**PNSY Museum** - Bill Tebo announced that the museum is open on Thursdays. This summer the museum tried being open on the 1st Saturday of each month. It was a success until the first of November. The decision was made to close the museum on Saturdays until the spring. If you want to visit the museum and you do not have military id, contact Bill Tebo or Dennis O'Keefe at 207-438-2325 .

**Larry Oiler** is retiring from federal service on 21 December, but will start working for a contractor on 2 January.

**USS New Hampshire** - Potential commissioning in NH next October. It is a SSN 778 Virginia Class and the planks

are being made from NH grown trees.

**Senator Dodd** - Most officers received phone messages from the Senator's office requesting information about this meeting. Everyone ignored these requests.

**USS New Hampshire Products** - Tom Young has USS New Hampshire hats and t-shirts.

**Newsletter** - It is requested to get the newsletter out 10 days before the next meeting for a better showing for the Holland Club and potluck.

Meeting adjourned.

### Legacy Submariner Puts on Family Dolphins

*by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Luciano Marano, Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs*

PEARL HARBOR (NNS) -- A distinguished moment in any submariner's career is the day he pins on his dolphins. The submarine warfare pin signifies that Sailor has completed the rigorous and challenging training required to be a qualified Navy submariner.

In a very unique ceremony at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on board USS Bremerton (SSN 698), Dec. 18, Lt. j.g. Tyler McDonald joined the proud ranks of those sailors when his own dolphins were pinned to his uniform.

These dolphins, however, have a legacy much more personal, as they are the same dolphins pinned on McDonald's father, a 1977 Naval Academy graduate, and his Grandfather, a 1949 Naval Academy graduate, both men career naval submariners.

McDonald continued the proud family tradition and put on these dol-

phins, which have been engraved with the dates his father and grandfather were pinned.

Rear Adm. John Bird, Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, United States Pacific Fleet, pinned on McDonald's dolphins. Bird, an Academy classmate of McDonald's father and close friend of his grandfather, said that it was, "a real great honor and distinct pleasure to participate in this special event."

"Every time I think about the day I got my own dolphins, I feel a bond with the rich history of submarining," said Bird.

McDonald himself remained humble regarding the proceedings. "Thanks to everyone who has helped me out along the way," McDonald said. "I promise to keep doing my best and to pass on the knowledge I have gained to all new submariners throughout my career."

### Eternal Patrol Preparations

*by Pat Householder, USSVI Natl JVC/Membership Chair*

Shipmates, while we hope your day and those of your shipmates is far off in the future, we must nevertheless prepare. Please copy this notice and place it with your will or important papers.

#### IMPORTANT

In the case of my death, please immediately notify the U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc., (USSVI) at 877-542-3483 or 360-337-2978 and give the person on duty the information regarding my death, funeral, and burial arrangements, plus who they can contact for follow-up and support.

Please ask them to contact my local chapter's Base Commander with this information as well (they can look it up in their membership records).

This information can alternatively be e-mailed to the National Office at [office@ussvi.org](mailto:office@ussvi.org).

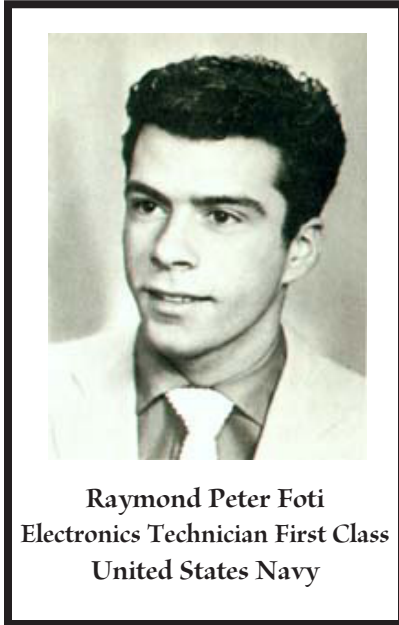


## To Perpetuate the Memory



Raymond Peter Foti was born on May 6, 1939, in Rochester, N.Y., the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Foti.

The family moved to Webster, N.Y., where Raymond attended and was graduated from Holy Trinity Parochial School. He attended St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Rochester, for 2 years, standing first, scholastically, in a class of 400. As an honor student he was a member of the St. Thomas Aquinas Honor Club. Raymond returned to Webster High



**Raymond Peter Foti**  
Electronics Technician First Class  
United States Navy

School from which he was graduated.

After high school he attended the University of Rochester for a short time, and was employed by the Eastman Kodak Co., prior to enlisting in the Navy on August 26, 1958.

Raymond completed his basic training, and attended the Navy's Electronics Technician School at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill. He volunteered for submarine duty and upon being accepted he was enrolled in the Submarine School at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn.

He successfully completed the course

of instruction and was assigned to his first submarine, the U.S.S. Medregal (SS 480). It was while serving in the Medregal that Raymond became qualified as a submariner and was awarded his silver dolphins.

He was selected for advance training in nuclear power, and attended the school at the Nuclear Power Training Unit at Windsor Locks, and at the submarine base, New London, Conn.

On November 29, 1961, Raymond was assigned to the nuclear-powered submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593), as a member of her crew. During his naval service, Raymond had earned the Navy's Good Conduct Medal.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Frances Dora Foti; a son, Anthony; and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Foti of Webster, N.Y. He also leaves three brothers, Frederick, William and Robert Foti also of Webster.

Merrill Francis Collier was born on February 17, 1932, near New Richmond, Ohio, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ethel Collier.

Prior to enlisting in the Navy in August 1949, Merrill was graduated from Bethel-Tate High School where he was class president during his junior and senior years. In 1951, he was ordered to the Naval Academy Preparatory School at Bainbridge, Maryland. Here he organized the first drill team for the school. He was then appointed to the Naval Academy in 1952. While undergoing training at the Academy, Merrill was class president for 3 years and was also appointed brigade commander for both the fall and spring midshipmen staffs of 1956. During his first year at the Academy, Merrill was elected to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Merrill was commissioned ensign upon graduating the Academy with the class of 1956. His first sea duty assignment

was aboard the destroyer U.S.S. J. C. Owens (DD 776), where he served as engineering officer. In January 1959, he was ordered to nuclear power training at New London, Connecticut. After this training, he was ordered to duty to the Nuclear Power Test Unit at Idaho Falls, Idaho. While there, he qualified as reactor engineer.

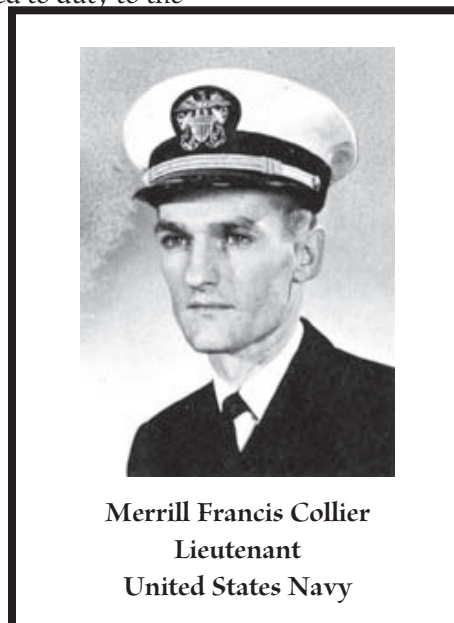
In September 1961, he was ordered to the U.S.S. Farragut (DLG 6) for duty as engineering officer. One year later, Merrill received orders to undergo submarine training at New London, CT.

After completing the course of instruction at the submarine school, Merrill received orders

to the submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593), and reported to that command in April 1963.

During his naval service, Merrill had earned the Navy Occupation Service Medal with Asia Clasp, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal.

Merrill was survived by his widow the former Helen Harvey-cutter of Silver Spring, Maryland; two children, Sherrill L. and Neal D. and his mother, Mrs. C. Warren Carnes.



**Merrill Francis Collier**  
Lieutenant  
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 19, 2008 @ 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).

### USSVI Conventions

**2008**  
**Fort Worth, TX**

**2009**  
**San Diego, CA**

**2010**  
**Cincinnati, OH-**  
**Covington, KY**