



USSVI Thresher Base News



November 2007

September 2007 Minutes

The September meeting of Thresher Base was held at the Portsmouth VFW on September 15, 2007.

The meeting was called to order followed by a prayer and pledge of allegiance. The Tolling of the Bells was conducted for those boats lost in September and October. A sound off of all those present was conducted.

The secretary's report from July was read by Kevin Galeaz. The treasurer's report was read by Dennis O'keefe.

• Navy Memorial Dedication to be held on Sunday, September 23 at the Veteran's Cemetery in Boscowen - Gov. Lynch, Shipyard Commander and Silver Dolphins Rifle Team will be present.

• Also on September 23rd, Portsmouth will be holding a parade to mark the 102th anniversary of the Treaty of Portsmouth and labor unions. The shipyard labor union requested that the military join them in the parade, since they are an integral part of the shipyard. Command Master Chief Shoe will be the senior military representative.

• On September 10, PBS aired its season finale of History Detectives which featured a segment on the USS Thresher. In addition to interviewing Lori Arsenault, they showed footage of the base website which served as great PR, because Kevin Galeaz was contacted by National Geographic representatives who wish to produce a longer piece on the USS Thresher. Kevin put them in contact with Lori Arsenault and John Cook. Kevin feels that there may be many other opportunities upcoming because of the 45th anniversary of the loss. National Geographic is also looking for anyone who served on the USS Skylark.

• Website update - Photo sharing site setup to allow members to download photos. Photos of the 2006 and 2007 Lobsterbakes and 2007 Holland Club induction are available. Kevin Galeaz will continue to work on uploading photos from past events. John Carcioppolo suggesting sending a CD of all photos to USSVI archives.

• Subvets WWII next meeting will be October 20, noon at Newicks, Dover.

• Isle of Shoals cruise line offers tickets to veterans who are ill or disabled, and they will take care of all the arrangements. Contact Bill Tebo for more information.

• John Carcioppolo attended Admiral Fluckey's funeral and noted 22 subvets in attendance. He spoke with Admiral Konetzni who has taken on the lead of subvets WWII who have a combat patrol pin and a bronze star. He has asked the organization to send letters to the President of the United States, Chief of Naval Operations, Secretary of Defense, Fleet Reserve Association and VFW.

• John Carcioppolo has taken on a project of recognition of WWII submariners on the WWII Registry. He is specifically working on connecting the sailors on lost boats with the submarine community. He is working one boat at a time. He is requesting that all WWII subvets document their association with the community. Contact Kevin Galeaz and he will send along your information to John.

• 2008 is the 40th anniversary of the loss of the Scorpion. Information will be forth coming on events and services.

• Nominations are needed for Senior and Junior Vice Commander

positions. Tom Young has indicated an interest in holding the Senior Vice Commander position. Larry Oiler nominated Tom for the position. Kevin Galeaz indicated an interest in holding the Junior Vice Commander position. Gary Hildreth nominated Kevin for the position. Elections will be held at the November meeting. Discussion was then held that in fact, the elections were to be held at this meeting and the nominations were to be made at the July meeting. So voting was held on the two vacant positions - both positions were filled unanimously.

• Newsletter articles - write your biographies, tell us your stories, help will be provided if you need it. Especially the WWII vets who are a part of living history.

• Larry Oiler was presented with a plaque to recognize all the work that he has done for the base. He promises to be as active as possible.

• Gary recognized the contributions of Larry Oiler, Kevin and Robin Galeaz to the Thresher Base.

• 45th Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2008. Kevin Galeaz is looking for people to help.

• A silent prayer was held and the meeting was adjourned.



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Message from Art Randall

“To All My Shipmates of USSVI,
The good news is this is my 15th year of service to the Brotherhood. The bad news is, this may be my last. I have been diagnosed with lung cancer, prognosis unknown at this time. I hope to be available to answer any questions as I can and of which I have been involved.

Anticipating outcomes, I have made recommendations to Tom Conlon that two replacements be made:

- 1) Paul Orstad as National Awards Chairman
- 2) Vic Paterno as National Eagle Scout Chairman

Both are well equipped to take over these chairmanships

I have designed the awards, plaques, and certificates to be used with all but a few changes each year. Only simple changes including name of recipient, date of award, and presenter name changes need to be done to easily continue using them.

Thanks for the ride! It's been a great experience! Also a thanks to all who have supported me these past 15 years.

Peri will remain an associate member of USSVI and I will remain a life member.

Art Randall”

Art Randall is a past “Joe Negri” Awardee, Past Central Region Director and Past Natl Awards Chairman. Art has worked tirelessly to improve USSVI and we all owe him our thanks.

On behalf of all members of USSVI, your Board wishes for Art and Peri his full and speedy recovery.

Cards and letters can be sent to Art at

1693 Claymont Estates Ct
Chesterfield MO 63017-7725

Note from the Treasurer

To all members,
DUES ARE DUE NOW !!

Please Submit to the Base Treasurer at: Dennis O’Keefe, 1 Eureka Ave., York, ME 03909-1403

To quote the National Junior Vice Commander: “Members still non renewed after Jan 1st become not in good standing. they will no longer have access to the members only section of the www.ussvi.org website, and will receive the American Submariner magazine only after they have made their membership current.

Anyone not renewed by April 1st is automatically dropped from the organization. Such members can rejoin

after that date will loose their membership seniority”.

Annual Dues National Renewal:
5 Yr period: \$90.00 (saves \$10)
3 Yr period: \$55.00 (saves \$5)
1 Yr period: \$20.00

Convert to National life membership:
Under 45 yrs: \$500.00
45-55: \$400.00
56-65: \$300.00
66-75: \$200.00
76+: \$100.00

Base dues are \$10.00 for Annual & Life Members.

WWII War Patrol Reports

Are you, or do you know of, a WWII Submarine Veteran (or SubVet’s family) who does NOT have, but would like to have, a copy of the war patrol reports for the time the SubVet was aboard a sub (or subs) during WWII?

If so, email John Clear, EMC(SS) ret, at webmaster@ussealion.com telling him which boat(s) and what time periods and.

John will see that he (or his family) will get them.

NOTE: This only applies to the WWII war patrol reports and not any later periods.

BZ to John Clear for providing this kind service to our older brothers from WWII.

USSVI Member Co-Authors a New Book About WWII Submarine Warfare in the Pacific

Ron “Warshot” Smith, SVWWII/ USSVI member and author of “Torpedoman” is featured in a new book just out.

The book “Depths of Courage” is in distribution and is 34% off regular price and it has been selected as Military Book Club “Book of the Month.”

The book is uniquely written in that his co-author (Flint Whitlock-author of some 8 other war books)tells the story of the submarine war in the Pacific but every other chapter is a chapter of Ron’s life and near death struggles in a WWII submarine.

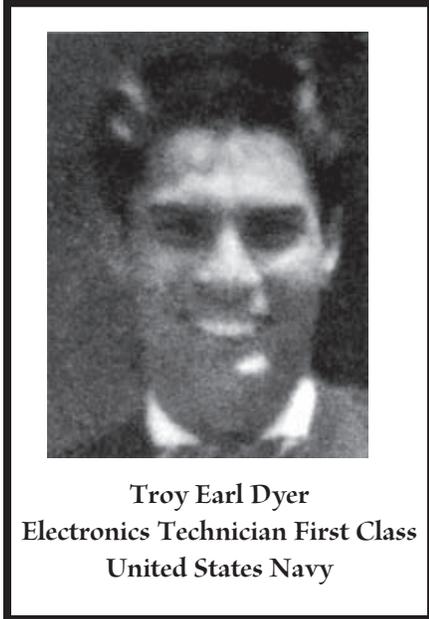
Ron is a member of SVWWII and USSVI.



To Perpetuate the Memory



Troy Earl Dyer was born on January 20, 1933, in Greenfield, Okla. He enlisted in the Navy on August 1, 1950, in Oklahoma City, Okla. He received his basic training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif., and had his first tour of sea duty in the destroyer U.S.S. Duncan (DD 874). He also served in the minesweeper U.S.S. Loyalty (AM 457), and on the staff of the com-



mander, Mine Squadron 9.

Troy had earned the navy's Good Conduct Medal, the Korean Service Medal, China Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal, for service during the Korean conflict.

He volunteered for submarine duty and upon being accepted, he was enrolled as a student in the Navy's Submarine School located at the U.S.

Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn. He successfully completed the course of instruction and was assigned to the submarine U.S.S. Sea Cat (SS 399), in March 1959.

Troy was qualified as a submariner while serving in the Sea Cat, and was awarded the silver dolphins; the insignia of the qualified submariner.

On February 27, 1961, Troy was assigned to the nuclear-powered submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593).

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Ginger Dyer, and three children, Stephanie, Stephen, and Troy D. of San Diego, Calif.

Ellwood Henry Forni was born on October 28, 1928, in Baltimore, Md. He attended local public schools there, and enlisted in the Navy on May 21, 1948. During his recruit training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., he volunteered for submarine duty and reported to the Submarine School at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn., in August, 1948.

Successfully completing the course of instruction, he was assigned to his first Submarine, the U.S.S. Sennett (SS 408). It was while serving in Sennett that Ellwood became qualified as a submariner and received his silver dolphins. He then attended the Navy's Fleet Sonar School at Key West, Fla., and after graduation, he was assigned to the U.S.S. Sea Cat (SS 399).

Service in the submarines U.S.S. Quillback (SS 424), U.S.S. Guavina (SS 362) and U.S.S. Sea Poacher (SS

406), followed until October, 1959. He was then selected for training at the Guided Missile School, Dan Neck, Va.

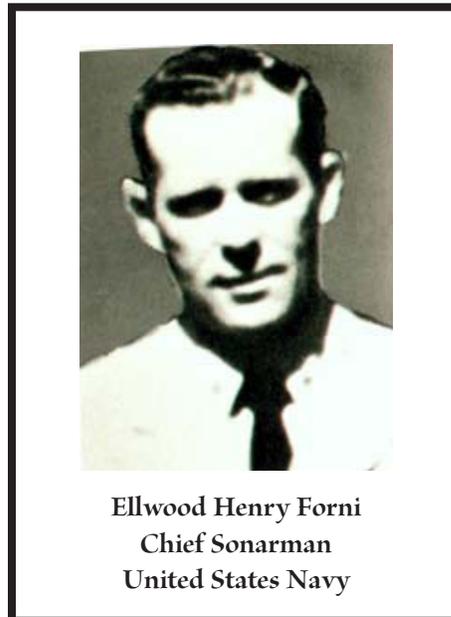
After this training, Ellwood was assigned to the nuclear-powered submarine U.S.S. Tullibee (SSN 597), where he received a letter of commendation from the commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, for his outstanding assistance and performance of duty during the "in-service trials" of the U.S.S. Tullibee.

He had also earned the Navy's Good Conduct Medal with four

stars; National Defense Service Medal, a letter of commendation from the commanding officer of the U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593) and a letter of commendation from the commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

On August 4, 1961, Ellwood was assigned to the U.S.S. Thresher.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mildred M. Forni of Mystic, Connecticut; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund F. Forni, Sr., and a brother, Edmund, Jr., all of Pikesville, Maryland.



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

Next Thresher Base Meeting
Saturday, November 17, 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, 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.

USSVI Conventions

2008
Fort Worth, TX

2009
San Diego, CA

2010
Cincinnati, OH-
Covington, KY