



# USSVI Thresher Base News



November 2011

## Thresher Base Elections to be Held on Saturday

It is time for the annual base elections. At the September meeting, the following members were nominated for base officer positions:

Commander: Tom Young  
Kevin Galeaz

Vice Commander: Kevin Galeaz

Secretary: Bob McAlpine

Treasurer: Dennis O'Keeffe

Since the September meeting there have been some changes to the ballot that is being presented at Saturday's meeting. Kevin Galeaz decided to fo-

## Eagle Scout Ceremony

Shipmates,  
On the 23rd of October Shipmate Al Page and I had the pleasure of attending and speaking at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor. It was for Jamie Thomas Bateson Jr. National Subvets provided a very nice certificate which I presented on behalf of USSVI. Al Page gave a very nice talk on how the Eagle Scout program is like qualifying on Submarines. Al was also an Eagle scout and was able to tie his naval career and Eagle Scout days together. It was an outstanding affair.

Tom Young

cus his attention on the Commander position and removed his name from Vice Commander while Tom Young decided not to run for Commander. (See accompanying article)

So this is what the final ballot will look like:

Commander: Kevin Galeaz  
Vice Commander:  
Secretary: Bob McAlpine  
Treasurer: Dennis O'Keeffe

Come to this Saturday's meeting and have your voice heard!

**You must be present at the meeting to have your vote count!!!!!!**

## Base Dues and USSVI Dues

Base and USSVI dues are being collected at this time and they must be paid in full by December 31, 2011. Current base dues are \$15 and USSVI dues are \$20 and payment should be mailed to:

Dennis O'Keeffe  
1 Eureka Ave  
York, ME 03909-1403

## Thresher Base Nomination Resignation

Shipmates,  
I would like to inform all of you that I will not run for Base Commander this year. I will be happy to retain the position of storekeeper if that is alright with the membership and the incoming officers. In addition I can keep the database up dated until such time we have a vice commander that would want to assume those duties.

I want to thank everyone for all of their support.  
Regards,  
Tom

## Vice Commander Position

The Vice Commander position is an open position and nominations/volunteers are being actively sought to fill this position. If you are interested in taking on this position, please contact base secretary Kevin Galeaz, so your name may be added to the ballot.

## USSVI Thresher Base News

With the upcoming elections on Saturday, there will be a new base Secretary and the newsletter responsibilities will be turned over at that time. This will be the last edition of this newsletter.

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### September Meeting Minutes

The September meeting of Thresher Base was held at Newick's Restaurant in Dover, NH on September 17. The meeting was called to order followed by a silent rayer and ledge of allegiance. The Tolling of the Bells was conducted for those boars lost in September and October. A silent prayer was said for those on eternal patrol. A sound off of those present was



conducted.

Secretary's Report - minutes from the July 2011 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report - none

- Albacore Park Ceremony - August 20
- Bob McAlpine manned a table with USSVI applications and information
- KAPS 4 Kids - Bob McAlpine contacted Groton Base and received a lot of information. He will be making a presentation at the November meeting.
- Tom Young discussed receiving daily email report from Comsublant. Send a email to be added to the distribution list. See Tom if you want the webpage.
- Kevin Galeaz discussed the Thresher sculpture that was left to him by Sheryly Abrams. It will be on lone to Albacore and placed in a display case with the story of the Thresher. He looks at this as an inroad to the museum for future Thresher memorabilia.
- Kittery Traffic Circle USS Thresher Memorial Flagpole. Kevin Galeaz met with the group. They are looking for additional members - family member

and former crew. The group was looking for donations from the base as a way to get off the group. Their expectations were unreasonable.

- 49th and 50th

Thresher Memorial Services. Vice Admiral Kevin McCoy has indicated a desire to speak at the 49th. Rick West, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy is being considered as an alternate. Admiral Jon Greenert, CNO is being invited to be the guest speaker for the 50th. Space is going to be an issue for the 50th. Traip can hold 800 in bleachers and chairs. Looking into simulcast options. Boat Reunions are already being planned around this event. Gary Hildreth discussed the possiblilty of using the site of the New Hampshire commissioning, but this is weather dependent. Larry Oiler suggests that priority be given to those who RSVP then on a space available basis.

- Peter Joy attended the GI Dames show and it was quite successful. They were very thankful for the donation.
- The base received a thank you not



from Mrs. McNally. She thanked everyone who attended the service and for the help with the Eternal Patrol documentation. She said, "the Navy would have been Jack's career if he did not have a family."

- Dues must be paid by December 31.
- Cold War boats 2012 calendars for sale for \$5.
- Groton Base annual Thanksgiving meal donation. Will have Dennis check into how much money the base has given in the past.
- Officer Nominations

Commander: Tom Young  
 Kevin Galeaz  
 Vice Commander: Kevin Galeaz  
 Secretary: Bob McAlpine  
 Treasurer: Dennis O'Keeffe  
 Elections will be held at the November meeting.

- A number of funerals were attended by Thresher Base members in July and August: Mrs. Sheryly Abrams, Jack McNally and Irv Searl.

Meeting was adjourned.

### Boats Lost in September and October

- S-5 (SS-110) - 9/1/1920
- USS Grayling (SS-209) - 9/9/1943
- S-51 (SS-162) - 9/25/1925
- USS Cisco (SS-290) - 9/28/1943
- USS Seawolf (SS-197) - 10/3/1944
- S-44 (SS-155) - 10/7/1943

- USS Wahoo (SS-238) - 10/11/43
- USS Dorado (SS-248) - 10/12/1943
- USS Escobar (SS-194) - 10/17/1944
- USS Shark II (SS-314) - 10/24/1944
- USS Darter (SS-227) - 10/24/1944
- USS Tang (SS-306) - 10/25/1944
- USS O-5 (SS-66) - 10/29/1923

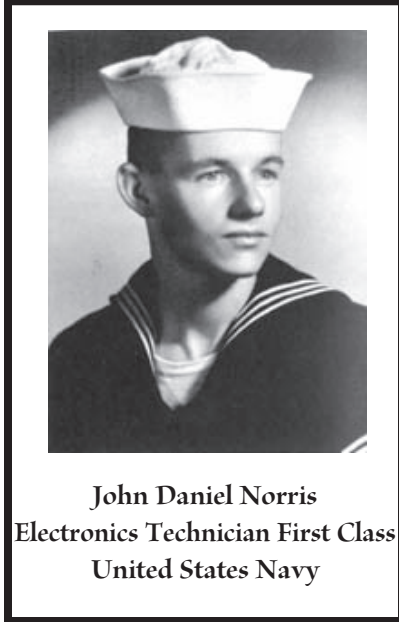


## To Perpetuate the Memory



John Daniel Norris was born on November 5, 1933, and spent his early boyhood in Athens, Ga. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil D. Norris, he attended local schools prior to entering the Navy on November 4, 1952.

John received his recruit training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif., and upon completing the course, he immediately vol-



**John Daniel Norris**  
**Electronics Technician First Class**  
**United States Navy**

unteered for submarine duty. He was accepted and enrolled in the U.S. Naval Submarine School at New London, Conn. After graduating, he attended the Navy's Electronics Technician school, which he successfully completed on June 5, 1953.

John was assigned to the submarine U.S.S. Harder (SS 568), and on November 10, 1953, was awarded

his silver dolphins for qualifying as a submariner.

Prior to being ordered as a crewmember of the U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593), on August 26, 1961, John served in the U.S.S. Compass Island (EAG 153), and the U.S.S. Observation Island (EAG 154), both ships are involved in the Navy's Polaris program.

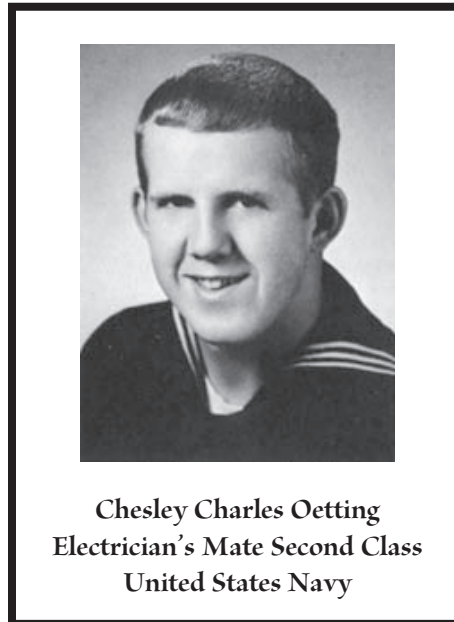
He is survived by his widow, Cecelia A. Norris, three sons, Richard, Robert and Roger. He also leaves his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil D. Norris of Pahokee, Fla.

Chesley Charles Oetting was born on December 23, 1940, in Mankato, Minn., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl G. Oetting. While attending school in Mankato, he participated in many of the outdoor sports, and as a member of his high school's track team. Upon completing high school, Chesley entered the Navy on December 16, 1958, and received his basic training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif. He attended the Navy's Electrician's Mate Class "A" School and was then assigned to his first ship, the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Bennington (CVA 20).

He then volunteered for submarine duty, and upon being accepted entered training at the U.S. Naval Submarine

School, New London, Conn. Successfully completing the course of instruction he entered the nuclear powered program and underwent training at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn., and at the Nuclear Power Training Unit, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

On April 4, 1962, Chesley was assigned to his first



**Chesley Charles Oetting**  
**Electrician's Mate Second Class**  
**United States Navy**

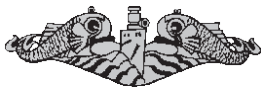
submarine, the nuclear-powered U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593).

In addition to his parents, Chesley is survived by two brothers, Bradley C., a member of the U.S. Army, and Gil Robert; a sister, Catherine Beth of Mankato, Minn.



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

**Next Thresher Base Meeting**  
**Saturday, November 19 @ 1200**  
**Newick's Restaurant • Dover Point Road • Dover, NH**



### 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 [thresherbase@comcast.net](mailto:thresherbase@comcast.net).

### USSVI Conventions

**2012**  
**September 2 to 9**  
**Norfolk, VA**

**2013**  
**August 25 to September 2**  
**Rochester, MN**