



September 2004

Joint WWII and Thresher Base Meeting and Losterbake

The July meeting of Thresher Base was held with the WWII Base in Seabrook. The meeting was called to order followed by the invocation and the pledge of allegiance. A sound off of all those present was conducted. Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report were read and passed by the WWII Squalis Chapter. A profit of ~\$2600 was made from the Convention. Secretary's Report for Thresher Base was then read by Kevin Galeaz and passed by the membership. There was no Treasurer's Report due to Roy Pierce not being present at the meeting.

Bill Tebo received information about next year's WWII convention in July 2005 and the cruise from New York to Halifax, Nova Scotia. All USSVI members are invited to attend and Bill has application's if anyone is interested. There is a photo error in

the WWII 2005 calendar – Bill Tebo has a label with the correct photo if anyone wishes to correct the error.

Kevin Galeaz presented an update on the USSVI Convention in Saratoga



Sharing stories before the meeting.

in September.

A motion will be made at the WWII National Convention in Texas regarding the Sub Memorial East in Groton. The chairman of the committee had his name etched into the back of the memorial which caused problems. Groton base had his name sandblasted off the memorial and a vote is to held at the convention whether to keep his name off the memorial or to put it back on. A discussion was held to see what the membership thought about the upcoming vote. It was decided that

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Upcoming Meeting

The next Thresher Base meeting is this Saturday, September 18, 2004 at 1300 at the Portsmouth VFW on Deer Street.

Founding Member Passes Away

Rafe H. Blood Sr., 62, of Amesbury Road, died Monday, Sept. 6, 2004, in Exeter Hospital after a lengthy illness.

He was born Jan. 11, 1942, in Westborough, Mass., the son of Mabel (Lincoln) Blood Kamon of Exeter and the late Kenneth G. Blood Sr. He had resided in Kensington for 39 years.

He was a 1960 graduate of Essex Agricultural and Technical School, Danvers, Mass., and was a U.S. Navy veteran serving aboard the USBN Sam Houston and the USS Torro.

Mr. Blood owned R.H. Blood & Sons Inc., since 1979. He raised poultry and oxen on his small family farm in Kensington

He was a 32nd degree Mason and was past master of the Star in the East Lodge No. 59 in Exeter; past Grand Sword Bearer of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire; a member of St. Alban Chapter No. 15; the Dewitt Clinton Commandery No. 2; the Olivet Council No. 11 R.&S.M.; the Order of High Priesthood; Order of the Silver Trowel; Profile York Rite College No. 11; and the Bektash Shriners.

He was a member of the U.S. Submarine Veterans Thresher Base in Portsmouth.

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USSVI National Convention

The USSVI National Convention is taking place this week, September 14 to September 19 in Saratoga Springs, New York. Thresher Base members Mike Geletka, Carl Weber, Fred Pietrowski and Kevin Galeaz will be attending.



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Commander's Message

Due to the demands of his new job, Base Commander Hildreth was unable to write his column.

He is looking forward to seeing everyone at Saturday's meeting.



Founding Member Passes Away *(Continued from page 1)*

He enjoyed watching the abundant wildlife around his home.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife of 39 years, Linda B. Blood of Kensington; two sons, Rafe H. Blood Jr. of East Kingston and Christian D. Blood of Brentwood; one daughter, Tracey L. Blood of Greenville, Maine; five grandchildren; one brother, Kenneth G. Blood Jr. of

Stratham; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

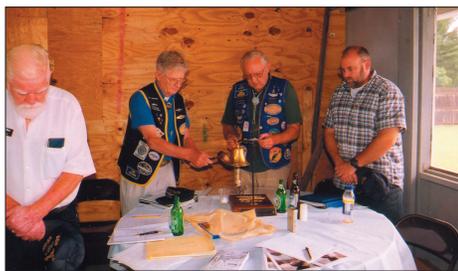
Memorial services were held in Exeter on Saturday, September 11. A military burial will be in Village Cemetery, Kensington.

Memorial donations may be made to the Patient Services Account, Seacoast Dialysis Center, 195 Commerce Way, Portsmouth, NH 03801.

Joint Meeting *(Continued from page 1)*

the delegates going to the convention would vote as they see fit. Two delegates and an alternate were selected.

Bill Seaward talked to those present about the Submarine Memorial Garden at Albacore Park. It is seriously overgrown and needs lots of work. It is estimated that it will cost between \$3000-\$5000. A new design is being worked on. He makes a request for \$1000 which is seconded to pay for a portion of the work. It was decided that before the money is handed over, that representatives would go to Albacore Park and tell them how they money is to be spent, to make sure the funds are spent on the garden rather the Albacore. Gary Hildreth states there is a possibility that the new chiefs at the shipyard could take on a part of the garden as their community service project. It was decided to table the final



Tolling of the Bells

representatives and they have reported back to the membership.

Thresher business started off with Kevin Galeaz recognizing that Gary Hildreth has retired and is now in need of finding a real job. The membership joined in congratulating Gary.

Armand Legare spoke with Kevin Galeaz at the onset of the meeting regarding the Holland Club. Legs has requested that Kevin find someone who is interested in taking over the Holland Club coordination. Kevin asked the membership if anyone would be interested and Bob Bellisle has offered to take over these duties.

An inquiry was made as to the status of Roy Pierce since no has spoken to him since the 41st Memorial Service in April. A similar inquiry was made about Bob Bryant who many have not heard from in over a year.

Thresher base voted to join the

WWII Albacore Park Committee. Gary Hildreth will be the Thresher base representative.

Bay State West is looking to work with the USS Springfield to create a sister city program between Springfield, MA and Springfield, IL. If anyone knows anyone who served on the USS Springfield, Bay State West would greatly appreciate the contact.

Bob Bellisle read part of a letter written thanking Gary for his work for the Thresher Base. Bob planned on presenting this letter to Gary at his retirement party on July 1 at the Shipyard but there was no time to present it at the party.

Tolling of the bells for those ships lost in July and August was held, followed by the 50/50 Raffle.

The meeting was brought to a close with invocation by the base chaplain.

Once the meeting was ajourned, Kevin Galeaz, managed to get all members to pose for a group photo. This took some doing, but the result was priceless. With the photo finished, those who signed up for

lunch dined on lobster or steak. It was quite the spread and a good time was had by all.





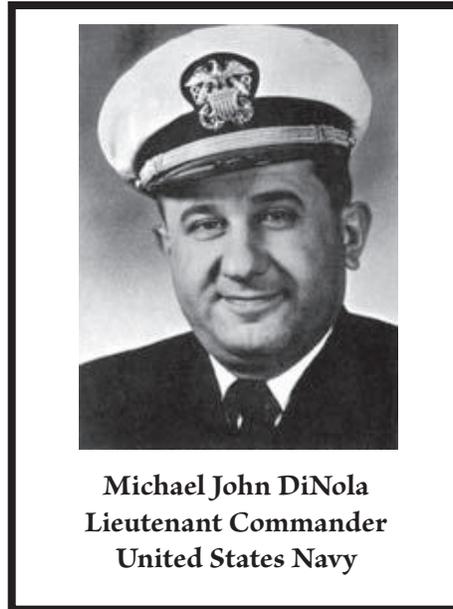
To Perpetuate the Memory



Michael John DiNola was born on October 2, 1929, in New York, N.Y., son of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas A. DiNola. As a youth, he attended Saint Columbia Grammar School in Manhattan, and maintaining excellent grades, was awarded the Mathematics Medal, upon graduating in 1943. He also was graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School in 1947.

After high school, he attended evening classes at New York University, where he studied accounting. During this period, he became affiliated with the Naval Reserve submarine program at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Michael was a quartermaster seaman when he competed in the examination that won him an appointment to the Naval Academy.

He entered the Academy in June 1949, and was graduated with the class of 1953. His first sea duty was in the attack cargo ship U.S.S. Capricornus (AKA 57). In June 1954,



he entered the submarine school for instruction, and in December 1954, he was assigned to the submarine U.S.S. Tiru (SS 416). Michael qualified in submarines in February 1956, aboard the Tiru. In September 1957, he was transferred to the U.S.S. Sterlet (SS 392), and served in that command

until May 1959, when he was selected to attend the Nuclear Power School at New London. This was followed by more schooling in nuclear power, when, in December 1959, Michael attended the Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit at Schenectady, N.Y. There, he qualified as an operator in the S3G land-based prototype submarine nuclear propulsion plant. In February 1961, Michael was assigned for duty to the U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593). Michael had earned the National Defense Service Medal during his naval service.

He was married to the former Edna Zimmerman of Webster, Mass., who now resides with their five children in Rye, N.H. The children are, Michael, Mark, Debra, Matthew and Donna. He also leaves his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas A. DiNola of New York.



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.

Check Your Database Listing

As an off shot of the most recent database searches, Larry Oiler and Tom Young have determined a need to check all entries for accuracy. Larry has offered to bring his laptop to the next few meetings to allow the membership to check the base records. So please check in with Larry and help



the base with this endeavor. Your help is greatly appreciated and will make the base a stronger entity.

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

Mark Your Calendars
Joint Northeast Regional Convention Cruise
New York City to Halifax, Nova Scotia
July 7 to July 11, 2005

Subvet WWII and Subvets Inc are holding a combined convention, four day carnival cruise to Canada from New York City. The Carnival ship "triumph" sets sail on Thursday July 7th 2005 from NYC for Halifax, Nova Scotia. and returning Monday July 11.

Accomodations: (price per person)

- 4A. 2 Persons inside cabin \$576.00
- 4A. 3 Persons inside cabin \$490.00
- 6A. 2 Persons outside cabin \$696.00
(Window)
- 6A. 3 Persons outside cabin \$606.00
(Window)
- 8A. 2 Persons balcony cabin \$780.00
- 8A. 3 Persons balcony cabin \$680.00

Prices include insurance and all tax and port charges. A discount p/p off the list price of \$25 to \$50 will be given depending on total attendance over 50 persons.

We will receive a bottle of wine in each cabin and a cocktail hour with hot and cold canapes with an open bar. After, an hour or so for a general meeting. Each to receive a name tag. Board ship at 1pm. More perks to come.

Identification needed: birth certificate with initiated seal, drivers license or passport to enter Canada.

Registration:

Initial payment of \$40 p/p, second payment of \$60 p/p with final payment on 5/9/05. Check with Ralph Merola 928 77th St., Brooklyn, NY 11228-2322. 1-718 745 5417. E-mail ralph@merola.net.

Arriving by car:

South on West Side Hiway (12th ave.) Approach Carnival terminal ramp at 55th St.

North on West Side Hiway, make left turn at traffic light to Carnival terminal ramp.

Parking at Carnival terminal \$22 per day. Parking at Hudson view garage on W. 51th St. \$15 Per day.
