



# USSVI Thresher Base News



September 2011

## July 2011 Minutes

The July meeting of Thresher Base was held at the American Legion Hall in Seabrook, NH on July 16. The meeting was called to order followed by a silent prayer and pledge of allegiance. The Tolling of the Bells was conducted for those boats lost in July and August. A silent prayer was said for those on eternal patrol.

A sound off of those present was conducted.

Secretary's Report - Minutes from the May 2011 meeting were read and approved.

### Treasurer's Report -

- \$3618.90 opening balance
- \$3702.63 current balance
- \$3711.85 Memorial Service balance

Holland Club Induction- Tom Shannon presented Norman Gilmore, Joseph Palmer and Alfred Page with their Holland Club certificates.

Tom Shannon also extended a thank you to Gary Hildreth and his wife for attending Marblehead Base's birthday ball.

Following the Holland Club Induction, special recognition was given to all Holland Club members in attendance followed by all WWII Subvets in attendance. A special welcome was made to Jill Robinson and Lori Arsenault.

Tom Young commented on the Bath 4th of July parade. Four or Five members of the base attended and he hoped that more members would have attended. We were treated very well by the Maine base members and looking forward to next year's event.

Tom Young discussed the upcoming September meeting and how the Maine base has been interested in having a joint meeting. Their next meeting is also in September in Augusta. They are also holding their Holland Club induction and hosting Vice Admiral Emery. It is a long drive so he was looking to see how many people would be interested in having a joint meeting in Augusta. A number of people indicated an interest so he stated our next meeting would be on Sunday, September 18 in Augusta. More details would follow.

Received call from another base for a donation to the Pinup for Vets Project. Money goes towards disabled vets and \$50000 has been raised. A \$50 donation was made on behalf of the base.

Peter Joy received a thank you note from Bob Bryant's wife who was appreciative of the Final Patrol plaque and certificate. He also received letters from National recognizing the passing of John Czajkowski and Jack McNally.

Peter also brought 4 cards for members who are on the Binnacle List. Please let him know if there are any other Thresher base members who should be placed on the list. The four cards are for Mike Remmington, Irvin Searl, Norman Gilmore and Legs Legare. A round of applause was given as soon as everyone realized that Legs was at the Lobsterbake.

Peter Joy made a request for a donation to a musical group in Sanford Maine that puts on a show called USO Dames. He requests a donation of \$25 be made to help them with their expenses. A motion is made and it is passed.

Sherley Abrams, the wife of Philip Abrams, a PNS employee who perished aboard USS Thresher, passed away at her home in Kittery. Mrs. Abrams deeply appreciated all the

*continued on page 2*

## Upcoming Events

September 17 - 1200 - Meeting/Luncheon at Newick's, Dover, NH

November 19 - Meeting/Luncheon at Newick's, Dover, NH

## Boats Lost in July and August

USS S-28 (SS-133)  
 USS Robalo (SS-273)  
 USS Grunion (SS-216)

USS Bullhead (SS-332)  
 USS Flier (SS-250)  
 USS S-39 (SS-144)  
 USS Harder (SS-257)  
 USS Cochino (SS-345)  
 USS Pompano (SS-181)



## Table of Contents

July Meeting Minutes ..... 1  
 Lost Boats ..... 1  
 Upcoming Events ..... 1  
 To Perpetuate the Memory ..... 3  
 Lobsterbake and Holland Club ...4/5  
 USSVI Conventions ..... Back Page  
 Next Meeting..... Back Page



## July 2011 Minutes *(continued from page 1)*

work SubVets and PNS have done over the past 48 years to perpetuate the memories of those lost aboard USS Thresher. Mrs. Abrams donated \$1000 to the Thresher Memorial Fund, and purchased everything auctioned off at last year's lobster bake.

In lieu of flowers, Mrs. Abrams has requested that donations be made to the Thresher Memorial Fund. Mrs. Abrams and Carol Norton specified that these donations, along with the \$1000 she has already donated, are to be used to perpetuate the USS Thresher memorial services, not exclusively for the 50th. She also bequeathed to Kevin Galeaz a 53 inch stone sculpture of the USS Thresher. He is in negotiona with Albacore Park to put in on display.

The town of Kittery has requested input on a project to create a USS Thresher Memorial at the Kittery traffic circle. This memorial would be a lit 129 foot flag pole to commemorate each of the men lost on the USS Thresher. It would be visible from Route 95. Kevin Galeaz has discussed a need to spruce up the area. He has also been in contact with the USS Thresher family members and former crew members and he has received positive feedback.

Website continues to attract attention. Received contact from Dennis Hill who was on the commissioning crew of the Thresher.

Newsletter feedback from Robert Miller, Thresher Base member and Western Region District 6 Commander. "Great newsletter. One comment. You talk of a "Tolling of the Bells" ceremony, USSVI officially refers to the ceremony as the "Tolling

of the Boats" ceremony. Keep up the great work.

Victoria Sallade, granddaughter of Charles Wiggins and Robin Galeaz have set up a Facebook account to locate new family members.

### Thresher Memorial Service -

48th - Thank you to Gary Hildreth & the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Staff and Volunteers and to the volunteers from Thresher Base who made this memorial service a success.

49th - April 14th, the week after Easter with an anticipated number of attendees of ~ 300. It will be back at Traip Academy and former USS Thresher Crew LCDR Fern Wagner will be a speaker. Fern is a Thresher Base member.

50th - April 6th, 2013, also the week after Easter with an anticipated number of attendees of 750. It will be at Traip Academy. Committee member Bob McAlpine has researched the occupancy limits at Traip which is around 800. We can expect to receive international coverage. An invitation will be sent to Admiral Jonathan Greenert, currently serving as the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, a submariner with senior experience in the U.S Navy's Pacific and Atlantic fleets to be the keynote speaker. Admiral Greenert has been recommended for nomination by Defense Secretary Robert Gates to become the next chief of naval operations (CNO)

Bob Flannery brought up the current issue of Submariner in which there is an article about the Thresher, but there is no mention of our Memorial Service. Kevin Galeaz has also received

feedback from John Carcioppolo, Groton Base, that National is not doing enough to cover the Thresher and the Memorial Service. Tom Shannon put the base in for a Meritorious Award but there were 37 other submissions. Kevin thanks Tom for the nomination. Kevin has lots of plans for the 50th. He is looking for corporate sponsorship to help with AT&T Connect internet video to Family/Former crew who cannot attend due to age or illness.

Bob McAlpine has flag stars for anyone who wants them.

Albacore Park 25th Anniversary Celebration on August 20. Free admission. Many activities for kids, tours, book signings and talks by former crew.

Tom Young brings up the Kaps for Kids program which is being done at many bases. If anyone is interested in taking on this project, contact Tom. He has more information that he will bring to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned following a closing prayer.

As soon as the meeting was adjourned, all subvets went outside for group photos. This was followed by a great lobster meal.



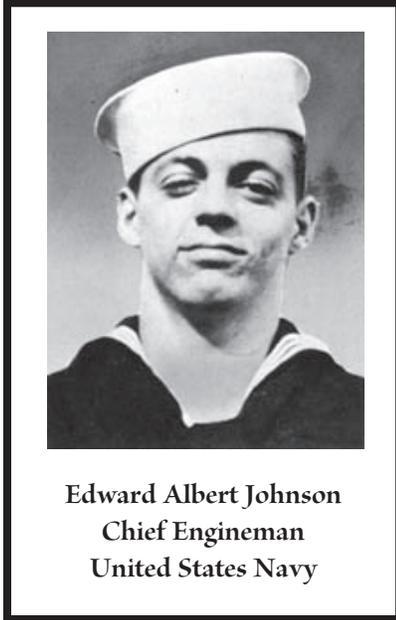
## To Perpetuate the Memory



Edward Albert Johnson was born on May 30, 1929, in Hardwick, Vt.

He attended Gocham High School in Hardwick where he was active in athletics, and was captain of the basketball team.

Edward enlisted in the naval service in January, 1948. He was assigned to the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., where he received his basic training.



**Edward Albert Johnson  
Chief Engineman  
United States Navy**

Upon completion of recruit training, he volunteered for submarine duty, and successfully completed Submarine School at New London, Conn.

Edward served his entire career in submarines beginning with the U.S.S. Pomfret (SS 391) in which he was designated qualified in submarines. Duty in the submarines U.S.S. Jallao (SS 368) and U.S.S. Archerfish (SS 311) followed.

He returned to the Jallao for another tour of duty before assignment to the U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593), in February 1961.

During his 15 years in the Navy, Edward was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, United National Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the China Service Medal.

Edward is survived by two brothers, Harold and Robert of North Jay, Maine.

Edmund Joseph Kaluza was born on February 4, 1941, in Holyoke, Mass., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kaluza. In 1957, his family moved to Williamansett where he attended Chapin Elementary School. During his junior and senior high school days, Edmund was active in Scouting, was a member of the Holyoke YMCA, where he played basketball, and earned his Junior and Senior Life Saving Merit Awards. Edmund's interest in the Navy was brought about during a visit to the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn., when he was a member of Boy Scout Troop 33, sponsored by Saint Mary's Church of Williamansett.

During his senior year at Chicopee High School, Edmund joined the U.S. Naval Reserve Unit, and after being graduated with the class of June 1959, he enlisted in the regular Navy. He

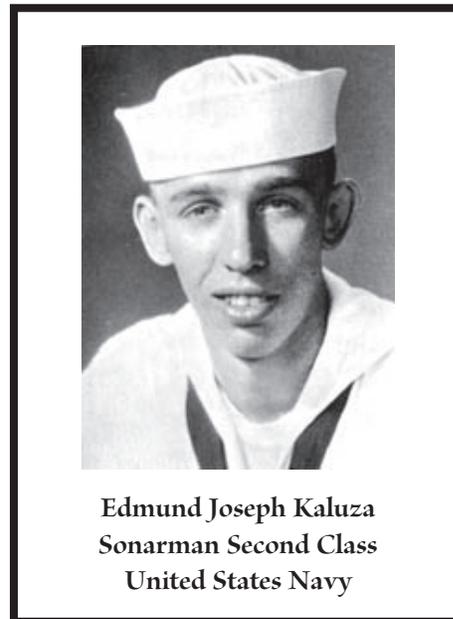
received his basic training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., and attended the Navy's Fleet Sonar School at Key West, Fla., before volunteering for submarine duty.

Edmund successfully completed the Submarine School course of instruction and was graduated on June 22, 1960. His first submarine duty was in the U.S.S. Jallao (SS 368). He later served in the U.S.S. Grouper (SS 214), in which he became qualified as a submariner on November 27, 1961, and was awarded his

silver dolphins. Edmund saw service in the submarines U.S.S. Picuda (SS

382) and U.S.S. Barracuda (SST 3), prior to being assigned to the nuclear-powered submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593), on March 5, 1963. He had also earned the Navy's Good Conduct Medal.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kaluza; brothers, James and Frank



**Edmund Joseph Kaluza  
Sonarman Second Class  
United States Navy**

Kaluza, and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kaluza.



# Holland Club Induction



## 2011 Holland Club Inductees

Norm Gilmore qualified aboard the Pomfret (SS391) in 1961. He also served on the Archerfish (AGSS311), Crevalle (SS291), James K Polk (SSBN645), and Pargo (SSN650).



Alfred Page qualified aboard the Quillback (S-424) in 1956. He also served on the Trutta (SS-421), Sea Cat (SS-399), Marlin (SST/T-2), Bushnell (AA-15), Darter (SS-576) and Fulton (AS-11).

Joseph Palmer qualified aboard the Sea Robin (SS407) in 1961. He also served on the Blenny (SS324).





# Lobsterbake and Holland Club Induction



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

*Next Thresher Base Meeting*  
*Saturday, September 17 @ 1200*  
*Newick's Restaurant • 431 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**  
**Norfolk, VA**