

# Steel Valley Dolphins

December 2017



The official newsletter of the  
USS Requin Base of the USSVI  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

## USSVI Creed:

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of 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 of America and its Constitution."



Meetings held on the second Saturday of the month normally in Leetsdale at the VFW Post and quarterly meetings held around our membership area.

- **Make a difference, get to a meeting!**

----- Pride Runs Deep -----

Next Meeting: 1230 January 14th At the  
Leetsdale Pa VFW

## 2015 USS Requin Base Officers

Base Commander	Hubert C. Dietrich	412-486-2635	hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com
1st Vice Commander	Carl Stigers	412-995-8028	carstenstigers@verizon.net
2nd Vice Commander	Ron Goron	724-626-1209	patron@zoominternet.net
Secretary	Jeff Simon	724-502-4505	jeffsimon@zoominternet.net
Treasurer	Lee M. Bookwalter	412-795-8337	booky143@verizon.net
Storekeeper	Frank Nicotra	412-835-6540	nicotrafrank@gmail.com
Chaplain	Carl Stigers	412-995-8028	carstenstigers@verizon.net
Past Base Commander	Joe Campisi	412-322-3201	jcampisi1@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor	Jack Sutherin	330-482-4175	jack.sutherin@comcast.net
Webmaster	Lee M. Bookwalter	412-795-8337	booky143@verizon.net
COB/Historian -	Clyde Porter, jr.	740-635-3179	candspporter@comcast.net
Photographer	Peter Foster	724-980-7657	gopetro2000@gmail.com
SVD Hard Copy	Rick Elster	412-751-7967	relster565@comcast.net

----- Pride Runs Deep -----



## Binnacle List

Aaron Ellis  
Judy Elster  
Edy Dietrich  
Bob Gourley



## Commanders Corner:

Shipmates - Both my first mate, Edie and I want to wish each and everyone of you a great, happy and joyful holiday season. Along with our Jewish members and friends - Happy Hanukkah! And to everyone else - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year-----IN GOD WE TRUST.

Our annual Christmas Luncheon was a GREAT success. We had a total of 104 members, spouses, WW2 Vets and family, guests and the North Star Kids. This was a very special holiday event, one that we honored our WW2 guys. We have a total of 13 special WW2 shipmates and seven (7) were able to attend and they were-----

Sal Molitierno, Charles Schwertfeger, Dr. James Ross, Vince Segeleon, Robert Watson, Robert Stahl and Fred Voskuhl. We had Commander Peter Hoegel Jr., Executive Officer, Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh, who presented them with Certificates:

In testimony and tribute to  
"THE GREATEST GENERATION"  
and your service to the United States Submarine Service  
of  
WORLD WAR II  
You have demonstrated a long tradition of proud and dedicated service to your nation.  
as a life member of United States Submarine Veterans, Inc and  
the Requin Base, we salute and honor you in recognition of  
your achievements which have exemplified the highest  
standards of the silent service  
HONOR - COURAGE - COMMITMENT

The following WW2 Vets, who were unable to attend, also were sent the certificates:

Hubert Brown, Herbert Hollingsworth, Robert Kaufman, Robert Krautstrunk, Richard Biemer and Earl Woods.

Our heroes (WW2) who attended were also presented beautiful quilts from our local Quilts of Valor Chapter. What a great and wonderful surprise for our HEROS. They will cherish them and when they wrap them around themselves, they will know that we have their backs and SALUTE them everyday for their courageous efforts.

SPECIAL thanks to Rick Elster who constructed the certificates for Commander Hoegel to make and present - KUDOS Rick!!!!

Rick also held the MIA/POW ceremony that was very impressive and humbling to observe. Along with our short base meeting and our TOLLING OF THE BOATS, I can say that the whole afternoon was a very rewarding experience.

We held both a male and female grab-bag and once again it was very successful. First mates Linda Gaylor and Stephany Foster did an outstanding job on calling out the lucky winners. And a special Thanks to Joanne Welts who made up the beautiful x-mas candle jars for the tables and then to have the ladies take them home with them is truly a very special gift to the crew of the Requin Base. Thanks to Booky, Jeff, Clair, Carl, Lou, Frank, Dick and anyone else that helped out that I awkwardly forgot to mentioned by name.

## BINNICAL LIST:

Commander Matt Shiplee Guest speaker talked on the 1st, 2nd and tenth amendments.

Edie Dietrich - Recovering from Open Heart Surgery  
Judy Elster - Recovering from Eye Surgery  
Bob Gourley - Recovering from Back Surgery

### **ETERNAL PATROL:**

We are saddened by the loss of the following shipmates in 2016:  
Matt Holzer - 03/15      Charles Tolbert - 10/09

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS - WE HAVE YOUR WATCH - SHIPMATES

### **BASE OFFICERS FOR 2017:**

Commander - Huey Dietrich  
First Vice - Carl Stigers  
Second Vice - **OPEN**  
Treasurer - Lee 'Booky' Bookwalter  
Secretary - Jeff Simon  
Past Base Commander - Joe Campisi  
Storekeeper - Frank Nicotra  
Chaplin - Carl Stigers  
Newsletter Editor - Jack Sutherin  
Web-Master - Lee Bookwalter  
Web-Site - Lou Hamil  
COB/Historian - Clyde Porter, Jr.  
Photographer - Peter Foster  
(We need volunteers for the Eagle Scout Program - contact Carl

### **COMMITTEES**

Eagle Scout - Carl Steigers  
Kap(ss)4Kid(ss) - Huey Dietrich  
Relocation Site - Eric Bookmiller

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Ament, Mike - 12/29/88  
Bittner, Robert - 12/24/64  
Donnelly, John - 12/10/30  
Goron, Ron - 12/24/47  
Kunz, Robert - 12/23/50  
Sigler, Bernie - 12/07/33  
Staas, George - 12/05/38  
Zdarko, Ed - 12/24/38

### **SPOUCES**

Priscilla Hawk - 12/24  
Louis Kieler - 12/18  
Brenda Winters - 12/24  
Rachel Taylor - 12/30

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Alfred & Patricia Cantwell-12/16  
Bob & Ruth Krautstrunk - 12/29  
John & Ginny Lukasik - 12/17  
Ed & Carol Lyons- 12/10  
Al & Carmon Murman - 12/24  
Bernie & Dottie Sigler - 12/07  
MacKenzie & Cass Smiric 12/22  
Jack & Jenny Sutherin 12/29

Any additions, deletions or corrections, please advise.

### **New Members:**

Fred Voskuhl qualified on the USS TUNNY SS282 in 1944 as a EM3C. He left the navy in 1948 as a EM3C(SS). He lives in the Bloomfield section of Pittsburgh. Fred is a WW2 veteran and was featured on the front page of the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, and on the entire page (6), on Sunday, November 13, 2016.

James Kontir is an associate member of the USSVI "Caspier Society Internet" and served on the USS TUNEY SS282, USS SEAD-RAGON SS584 and USS GRAYBACK SSG574. He left the navy in 1965 as a CT2. James lives in Mt. Pleasant, Pa with his first mate Mary Ann. Please e-mail Jim and welcome him aboard - jdkotir@yahoo.com

### **RETENTION:**

January 1 is the official "Dink Day"! The Dink List is for the shipmates who have not paid their dues on time. We have a total of (12) shipmates that owe either National, Base or Both dues. Out of the twelve, three (3) are in Pa., four (4) are from out of Pa., two (2) are associates and three (3) are scheduled for dues payment in December. Our membership stands at 214 which puts us as the sixth largest base in USSVI. At the end of the year we will be dropping three shipmates who have moved and are joining other bases

and we wish them well.

Please notify Booky, our treasurer if you change your telephone number, E-mail or house address. We have one member that we can't locate and nine (9) members that have a new address and we have up-dated their files.

Base Officers & Committees - 100%  
WW2 Vets ----- 100%  
Pa Shipmates-----` 98%  
Out of Pa Shipmates----- 97%  
Associate Members----- 80%  
New (2016) Shipmates----- 97%

Since we suspended the normal meeting agenda at our December meeting, the base officers will be sworn in at our January meeting. They are:

Commander - Huey Dietrich  
First Vice - Carl Stigers  
Treasurer - Lee Bookwalter  
Secretary - Jeff Simon

Now is the time to order your bottle of Hickory Bark Syrup. The cost is \$12.00 (8) oz and \$15.00 for (12) oz. We have fourteen (14) bottles left. The profit from the sale help us to balance our budget for next year. Also, we have twelve (12) USSVI calendars available.

We ordered extra Requin Base note pads that was given out as gifts at the holiday luncheon and are available for \$5.00 apiece.

### **Requin Base Meeting Minutes**

December 4, 2016

Pittsburgh, PA

**Base Commander Huey Dietrich** called the meeting to order.

**Attendees:** Attendance was not taken

**Base Commander Huey Dietrich** gave the quote of the day: "What goes up must come down. However what goes down doesn't necessarily have to come up."

**Requin History** On December 1, 1948 the USS Requin left shipyard with new radar equipment and reported to New London CT for duty in Submarine Squadron 8. On December 3, 1968 USS Requin was decommissioned and on December 20, 1971 USS Requin was struck from the Navy Register.

**Base Commander Huey Dietrich:** Let us at this time, with a moment of silent prayer, remember our Shipmates who made the supreme sacrifice that we may gather here in Peace. We dedicate this meeting to our Shipmates on Eternal Patrol, to perpetuate their memories in our lives and to honor our Shipmates on active duty in the service of the first line of defense of our Nation.

#### **Boats Lost:**

USS CAPELIN (SS 289)	December 2, 1943
USS SEALION (SS 195)	December 10, 1941
USS F-1 (SS 20)	December 17, 1917
USS S-4 (SS 109)	December 17, 1927

Let us also remember our fellow shipmates of the Requin Base, Calvin Boring, Henry Collings, Robert LaLonde and Don Robins, who were lost in December. Finally let us remember all the brave submariners who died performing their duties aboard submarines, some individually and some in groups, but where the submarine itself was not lost.

**Chaplain Carl Stigers** gave the Invocation.

**Chief Of The Boat Clyde Porter** led the Base in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to suspend normal meeting activities was approved by the members present.

MIA/POW ceremony was performed.

Commander Peter Hoegel Jr. Executive Office of the Pittsburgh Navy Recruiting District presided over a salute to our WWII shipmates.

Members were entertained by the North Start Kids.

#### **For The Good Of The Order:**

Lee Bookwalter won this year's drawing of the 40-40-20 Christmas raffle.

**Chaplain Carl Stigers** gave the blessing of today's meal.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

**Next meeting:** Leetsdale, PA VFW at 1230 hours on January 14, 2017.

Letter from The Quilt Ladies.



December 8, 2016

Last Sunday, Betty and I were invited to attend the Christmas celebration with the members of the US Submarine Group; USS Requin Base and families and guests. The event was held at the German Club on the North Side. The German buffet was excellent!

Commander Peter Hoegel Jr. - Executive officer of the Pittsburgh Navy Requiring District was the guest speaker who presented awards to each of the WWII veterans who were the guests of honor. In addition to the awards, we were asked to present Quilts of Valor to the WWII Submarine Veterans. Charles Schwertfeger - Wheeling, WV received the Group Star Quilt that we made at a workshop. Fred Voskuhl - Pittsburgh PA (Donna Martin). Salavatore Moliterno - Verona, PA (Joanie Smisko). Robert 'Pete' Watson - Slippery Rock, PA (Jane Nicola); Dr. James Ross - Pittsburgh PA and Robert Stahl - Bradfordwoods, PA (Tracey Zigo); Vincent Segeleon - Sewickley, PA (Dolores Britting).











We also presented a QOV to Base Commander, Huey Dietrich - Glenshaw - Vietnam. His QOV was made by Ruthann Sesti. Each of the veterans were touched by the gesture and we received many, many compliments about the beauty and workmanship of our quilts.

Great job as usual Ladies!!

We are ready for the US Army Reserve's Yellow Ribbon Celebration that will be scheduled within the next 60 - 90 days. The celebration will NOT be held at the Washington Armory but at an offsite non-military location. As soon as I get the final details, I will pass them along to you. Last weekend the homecoming was televised on Channels 2, 4 and 11. I hope you got to see it.

I have received two requests from the QOVF for local veterans. One veteran from Portersville, Leroy Leise, served in the US Army during the Korean War. His wife of 56 years passed 18 months ago. Together they raised 10 children with the youngest still living at home with him due to a disability - - he is very childlike. Unfortunately, Leroy is battling dementia and his family would like to have a QOV for him while he can somewhat remember.

The second veteran lives in Gibsonia and served 12 years in the Marine Corps. Michael Ditto was deployed 7 times to Iraq and has a 100% disability rating from the VA. He was a founding member of MARSOC (Marine Corps Special Operations Command). I will be presenting a QOV to Michael at his home on December 21 after his children get home from school 😊.

As of this writing, we have made **117 QOV's for 2016!!!!** We presented **53** QOV's (counting the one going to be presented within the next two weeks).

**PLEASE** let me know if you are going to continue your membership with NPQOV. If you are, I need to know whether or not you'd like me to renew for you or if you're renewing yourself (online). I will get you \$5 from you at a later date if need be. I plan to submit the membership dues before Christmas and need to know your intentions if you haven't already told me.



Our next and **FINAL** meeting of 2016 is Monday, December 12. We are planning to have a Christmas celebration and spread a little Christmas cheer. Please bring your favorite dish or drink to share. The time will be from 6pm to 8:30ish. Please bring any quilt tops that need to be sent out and completed quilts that Betty has received back will be returned to you. I hope you can make it!

We received a \$150.00 donation from the Lawrenceville Nields Lunch Bunch (formerly, The Christian Mother's Guild). This is the second year that we received a generous donation from the ladies.

Take care and thank you for all you do to make our group such a success! Thank you to Karen and Cary Montgomery for allowing us to use 'The Studio' and the closet. We really appreciate what you do for us!

If we don't get a chance to see you, Merry Christmas to you and yours and hopes for a healthy, safe, and Happy New Year!!!

--Georgette