

Steel Valley Dolphins

June 2019



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 BADen at the American Legion Post and quarterly meetings held around our membership area.

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

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

Next Meeting: 1230 13 July at the American Legion in Baden Pa.

USS Requin Base Officers

Base Commander	Hubert C. Dietrich	412-486-2635	hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com
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SVD Hard Copy	Rick Elster	412-751-7967	relster565@comcast.net

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



Binnacle List

:
Chip & Sharon Porter,
Judith Underkoffler
John Lukasik
Ginny Sutherin



Shipmates, It is with heavy heart that I am notifying you all that Aaron Ellis has gone on Eternal Patrol. The funeral service conducted by us will be Thursday Evening at 1830 hours at the Hart Funeral Home, Located at 3103 Lillian Ave, Murrysville, PA 15668. Please notify both myself and Huey if you are able to participate. Uniform of the day will be dress pants white shirts and ties and our vests. There will be a funeral service the next morning at the same location starting at 1000. Internment will be most likely in the Middle of July in the Cemetery of the Allegheny's. Sandy has not settled on a date yet as there are family arrangements that need to be worked out. For that service we are asked to participate also. I will send out an email when I have the details. For those of you who did not know Aaron, Subvets was a very important part of his and Sandy's life for many years Sandy told me that we are an important part of their past and she wanted to make sure we could participate. The Obit for Friday says private but she stressed that all Subvets that could show up were welcome.

Carl

Commanders Column:

Memorial Day Memorial Service and Parades:

We started out on board the USS REQUIN with a great turnout. We had the VFW Post 9199 as our rifle squad and Marine Detachment 310 as our honor guard with our little Alissa as our singer. There was a surprise visit from Dan Klemz. Dan is from the North Side of Pittsburgh and resides in Rochester N.Y. and belongs to the Buffalo Base. We inserted Dan in the memorial ceremony and we are pleased that he is transferring into the Requin Base. He will be good for at least two meetings a year – welcome aboard Dan. We also had the privilege of having the sea scouts joining us. Their professionalism was impressive. The Commander and his daughter joined the ceremony and it was truly a great sight to have some navy dress whites with us on board.

The weather forecast was 50-50 as to whether we could have the memorial service on board the Requin. We held our breath and thanked the Lord, that we finished before the rain. This ceremony could not have happened without the help and cooperation of the staff of the Science Center- Kudos to Patty and Maria.

We then traveled to Carnegie for their Memorial Day Parade. We consider this parade as one that we don't want to miss. We arrived at the American Legion in the late morning and met some of the members and officers who support us throughout the year as a Base Booster. The Legion is at the end of the parade route and we stop in to refresh ourselves before we travel back over the parade route to the VFW at the starting point. They gave me a call before the parade and asked if we would be stopping in at the VFW. They said that they would have finger food and a BLOODY MARY bar for us before the parade, and a cook out afterwards. It was such a great event, spending time with great supporters. We received an e-mail from Annette, the club manager – she thanked the sub vets for coming to the VFW on Sunday. It really helped them out \$. She is kicking herself in the rear because she made us special red, white and blue jello shots but FORGOT to give them to us. It was nice that we invited the Sea Cadets to our Sunday ceremony. The Commander of the Sea Cadets told me they wanted to participate in the ceremony this year, as they did last year.

We truly had a great time. This is a listing of our members at the VFW –

Floyd Underkoffler, V. Metz, Chad Underkoffler, Booky, Eric Bookmiller, Sarge, Bat Masterson, F. Nicotra, L. Hamill, J. Simon, C. Stigers and H. Dietrich



On Memorial Day, we had two more parades, one in Sewickley and the other in Coraopolis. The Sewickley parade is one of the grandest parades in the area. This is one that the members do not want to miss. As we are marching, the parade route is five (5) & six (6) deep. They all stood and applauded for us, which is truly humbling. When we see other veterans along the way, we go over to them, shake their hand and salute them. They really appreciate the respect that is showed to them. As we march along, they have drones flying over us to film the parade. Like all the parades, we have our 26 ft. replica of the USS NAUTILUS and our troop transport truck to carry our older members and first mates and guests.

During the parade this year, we had a special project. I dispatched Carl, our base Chaplin, and shipmate Chad. They went down to Ambridge, Pa to participate in the Memorial Service. Ronnie Kroner was recognized. Ron went on eternal patrol on the THREASHER 55 years ago. Here is an e-mail from his fiancée from that period.

“Carl and Chad did a beautiful tribute yesterday for Ronnie and the submariners. Wonderful! Those two touched many hearts. It was perfect. Weather cooperated. If there is some way they can be recognized by your organization, please let me know. I am so grateful that I talked with them on Memorial Day, 2018 in

Sewickley and they immediately directed me to you. You have been so helpful to me. Because of you, I got in touch with Veterans Affairs in Ambridge. They agreed with me that Ronnie should be recognized and it happened. I have more peace. His name is on the wall! Finally, what I wanted, took place. Thank you

Hats off to you, Carl and Chad, Gratefully – Marian”.

When we finished the parade in Sewickley, we had some time to spend to have some liquid refreshments. We decided to take a short ride down to Baden, to the American Legion, where we have our meeting. We could not have found a better place to go, while we were waiting for the parade in Coraopolis. We walked into the club and everyone at the bar got up and saluted us and told us to take their seats. Veterans have first choice of the bar seats, especially submarine veterans. We thanked them so much but we were comfortable at the tables so we could chat with one another. They played “yellow submarine” on the juke box and would send us over a few brewskies. Over on the pool table they had bottles of the hard stuff for each veteran to toast their comrades. Pastor Jill from one of the churches in Baden, was there to say a few prayers and to our surprise – introduced us to all present. Made us all so proud.

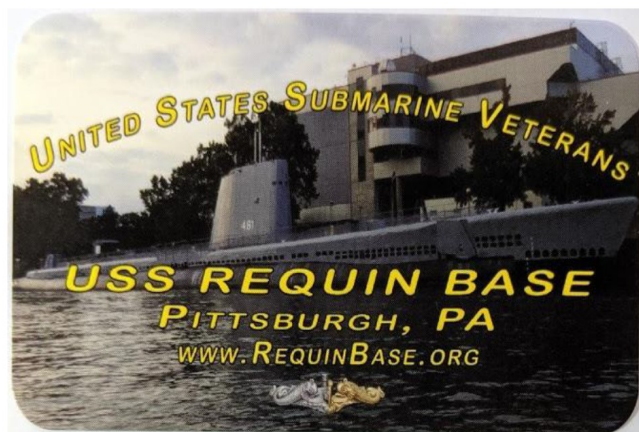
We saddled up and traveled over to Coraopolis for that parade. We parked at the VFW and took their shuttle up to the appointed area. This is another **GREAT** parade and we enjoyed the other veterans very much. I received a card from a veteran’s group for us to give them a call, if we need a bugler in the future. After we passed the reviewing stand, we had some finger food at the VFW. We didn’t stay too long; it was a long day.

During the day, we dispatched shipmate Eric Bookmiller to Canonsburg, Pa to be the key note speaker for their Memorial Day Service. He was invited by the county commissioner, Larry Maggi. Eric spoke of the history of Memorial Day, starting out as Decoration Day. He told of us last Veterans Day, that the Requin Base honored a fellow submariner, one of their local heroes from Claysville, Pa, Dennis Knapp, who went on Eternal Patrol 55 years ago aboard the USS Scorpion SSN 589. KUDOS to Eric – great job!

At the parades, we have Requin Base Banners attached to the Troop Transport, that identifies us to the general public. They look beat up so we are getting two new banners made for our next parades

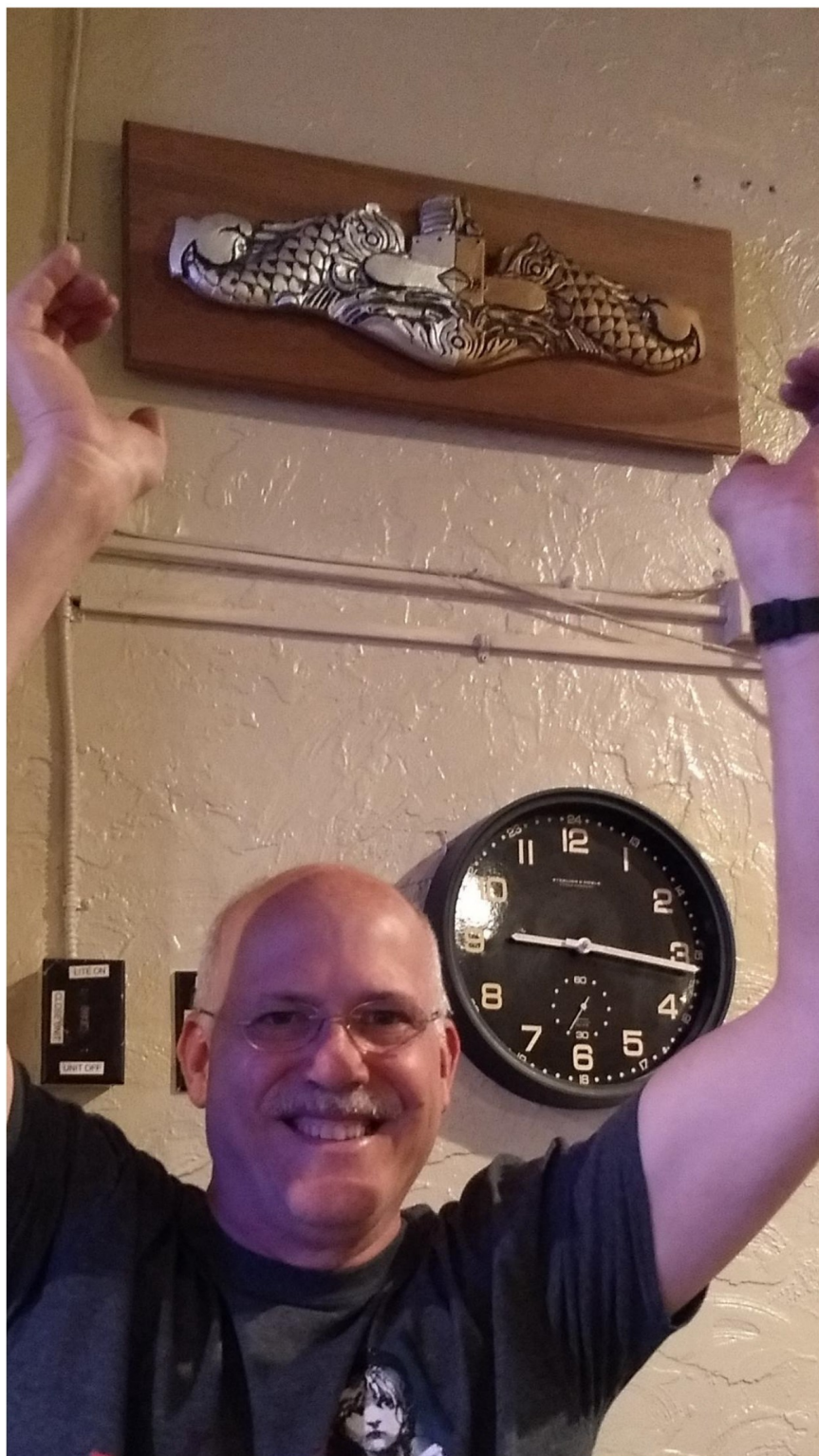


As our members march in the parades, they come across other submarine sailors and try and recruit them. We always have cards and applications, but are running short now. So, we are making up new recruiting cards to accommodate new, interested submariners.

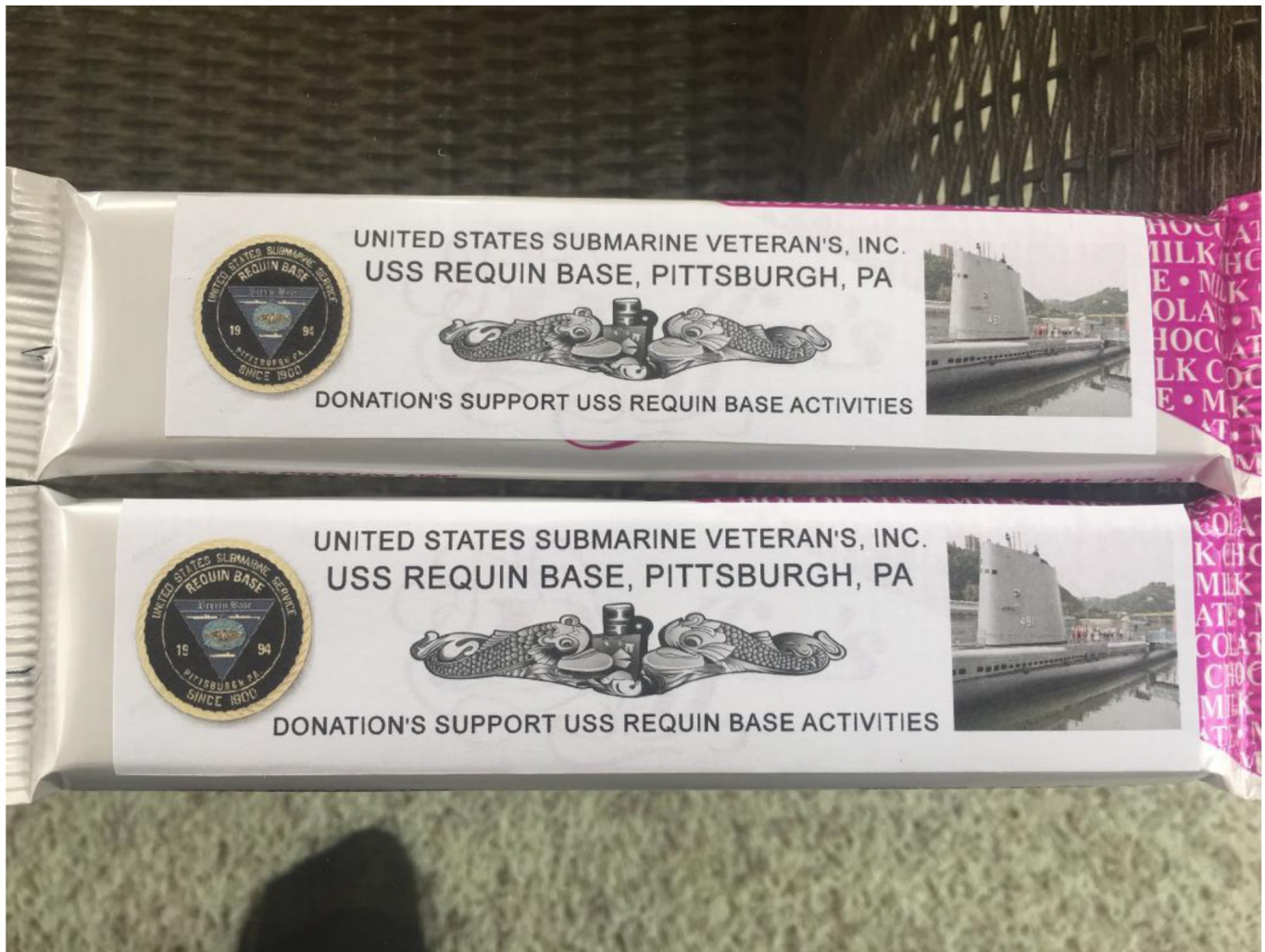


Base Meetings
2nd Saturday of Each Month
American Legion Post 641
271 State Street
Baden, PA 15005
1230 hours
Once A Quarter, Meetings Are Held Off Site.

We are attempting to place some of our submarine pictures and plaques in various American Legion's and VFW's. Below is shipmate Robert Bittner making like he is holding up one of our plaques. VFW Post 9199 has graciously accepted and has it hanging in its canteen.



As everyone knows, we always have a candy drive going on all year with the base. It is very successful and brings in revenue to balance our budget. As an added incentive to be more successful, I decided to have the candy bars displaying the picture of the USS REQUIN and the challenge coin of the REQUIN BASE. Hopefully more shipmates will promote the candy bar to their Veterans Clubs. Everyone is welcome to help us sell this quality candy – The proceeds are for our base projects and activities. They practically sell themselves. Don't forget to put your candy order in for Halloween!



We received a circular from the Gateway Clipper Fleet – “Cruise for Free”. All active duty, reserve or Veterans aboard the Three Rivers Sightseeing Cruises!

1. Ride any Gateway Clipper Fleet Three Rivers Sightseeing Cruise

2. Any Day of the Week – All Year Long

3. Plus, bring family and friends with you (up to 8) and they will ride for half price

4. To redeem discount, visit our dock ticket office and present valid military identification or papers. For information and schedule visit –

www.gatewayclippeer.com

Our own Chief Martin Abel, is retiring after 20 years of service. His ceremony will be held at Soldiers and Sailors in Oakland. The date will be Friday, July 26, 2019 at 0:900. Chief Martin served on board the USS PITTSBURGH and resides here in town. Please make every effort to attend.

Lt. Commander Elster is pictured below as he participates in an Eagle Scout presentation. Rick is also our Junior Vice.



I tied up with Rick Elster and we attended the retirement ceremony of Commander Hoegel of the Pittsburgh District Recruitment Office



Our June meeting was held in Columbiana, Ohio. We were so glad to spend some quality time with shipmates Mike Markel, and his first mate along with Jack Sutherin and his first mate – traveling meetings is what it's all about. We were also honored to have shipmates of the COD from Cleveland in attendance.



Member Birthday's

Joshua Nolan Chandler	7/4/1994
Scott W. Buzzard Jr.	7/16/1988
Stephan J. Boran	7/7/1986
Aaron Houpt	7/3/1978
Christopher Jacobson	7/18/1976
Maria Renzelli	7/12/1975
Jim Fortune	7/14/1971
Michael A. Cherock	7/13/1971
Peter M. Foster	7/17/1969
William Tubb	7/2/1967
Robert D. Welts	7/1/1966
Christopher Shal	7/2/1964
Louis Hamill	7/28/1962
Gregory Bayne	7/14/1961
Ronald M. Lucas	7/10/1957
Jeffrey B. Simon	7/1/1953
Charles Shrump	7/5/1951
Edward J. Morgan	7/9/1945
James C. Beachler	7/17/1944
Paris vonRabenau (Olivera)	7/22/1943
Robert H. Gourley	7/26/1942
James L. Mears	7/11/1941
C. William Greenlee	7/22/1939
Stephen A Kossler	7/5/1937
Don Carlton Crouch	7/13/1936
Kato L Davenport	7/14/1933
Edgar H. Paul	7/13/1931
George W. Denny	7/4/1929
James T. Lasher	7/27/1927
Charles Eugene Schwertfeger	7/31/1923

Anniversaries

Melissa & Justin Urso	5-Jul
Rosemary & Richard D. McCarthy	30-Jul
Gail Nicoletti & Terry M. Swinney	28-Jul
Christina (Tina) & Michael Wyckoff	9-Jul
Gwen & Gregory A. Bushko	14-Jul
Loretta & Major Galloway	23-Jul
Dorothy & Donald G. Bright	29-Jul
Mary L Yarnig-Wassenberg & Paul J. Wassenberg	5-Jul
Nita & Ronald V. Campbell	12-Jul
Lois & Eber M. Tripp	31-Jul
Sheri & Paul W. Bruce Jr	27-Jul
Sandra & Robert W Lindsey	20-Jul
Barbara & Reno J. Farina	15-Jul
Christine & Lawton M. Gaines	10-Jul
Liz & James Harris	14-Jul
Susan & Douglas E. Nunnery	22-Jul
Judy & Anthony M. DeNicola	4-Jul
Louise & Bill S. Kielar	21-Jul
Eileen & Robert Allen Campbell	16-Jul
Gertrude & Edmund John Figas	31-Jul

First Mate Birthdays

Sondra Schwarz	15-Jul
Melissa Holmes	7-Jul
Cynthia Ortiz Astacio	1-Jul
Joan Guntang	1-Jul
Elizabeth Davis	26-Jul
Cassandra Smircic	14-Jul
Olivia Koppenhauer Carranza	10-Jul
Kyle Abel	10-Jul
Michele Payne	2-Jul
Delores Taskey	25-Jul
Gail Nicoletti Swinney	8-Jul
Mary Jennifer (MJ) Sliver	6-Jul
Peggy Gibson	5-Jul
Donna Garlock	26-Jul
Holly Sipes Jr.	23-Jul
Eileen S. Simon	22-Jul
Linda G. vonRabenau (Olivera)	21-Jul
Mary L Yarnig-Wassenberg Wassenberg	18-Jul
Margaret E Holzer	16-Jul
Alice Shook	14-Jul
Eva Mathews Holzwarth	13-Jul
Vivian Mack	7-Jul
Eleanor Segeleon	6-Jul
Ruth Ann Shal	2-Jul
Trude S. Hayes	2-Jul
Michelle Haasz Fortune	1-Jul
Patricia Nelson III	1-Jul
Carol Keller	29-Jul

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Requin Base Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2019

Columbiana, Ohio

Base Commander Huey Dietrich called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Martin Abel, Eric Bookmiller, George & Cindy Brown, Tom & Deneen Calabrese, Ron Campbell, Joe Campisi, Huey & Edie Dietrich, Rick Elster, Gerry & Linda Gaylor, Bob & Lynn Gourley, Bill & Donna Greenlee, Lou Hamil, Bill & Sandy Lindsay, Pete & Nancy Lockoch, Bat & Kim Masterson, James Messer, Vince Metz, Bob & Jude Myers, Frank Nicotra, Mike Pellegrino, Chuck Shrum, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Carl Stigers, Jack & Genny Sutherin, John Swords, Mike & Tina Wyckoff, and 9 Cod Base members

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: Quotes of the day: "The only good marine is a submariner"

History of the Requin: June 3rd following shakedown off the New England coast, USS Requin departed Portsmouth New Hampshire in route to Hawaii. June 30, 1949 soon after her return to New London CT, Requin was transferred to Norfolk VA for duty with Subron 6. Into the spring of 1950 she operated in the western Atlantic ranging from Nova Scotia to the West Indies. From June to August 1959, the Charleston Shipyard in South Carolina removed all Requin's radar equipment making her more streamline. June 29, 1968 Requin was reclassified as AGS-481. June 30, 1971 Requin was reclassified as IXSS-481. June 17, 1972 Requin was transferred to Tampa Florida as a tourist attraction. She remained in the role until 1986 when she was closed down due to a lack of funding and support. For four years she remained abandoned at the pier.

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 HERRING (SS 233)	June 1, 1944
USS R 12 (SS 89)	June 12, 1943
USS GOLET (SS 361)	June 14, 1944
USS BONEFISH (SS 223)	June 18, 1945
USS S 27 (SS 132)	June 19, 1942
USS O-9 (SS 70)	June 20, 1941
USS RUNNER (SS 275)	June 26, 1943

We also remember our departed shipmate of the Requin Base Bill Britt and George Heron. Let us also remember 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.

Base Secretary Jeff Simon led the Base in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members introduced themselves and the boats they qualified on.

Base Secretary Jeff Simon reported that Minutes of the previous meeting were published in the SVD and on the Requin Base website. With no objections, the minutes will stand as published.

No Treasurer's report.

Other Reports:

Binnacle List: Chip & Sharon Porter, Diana Gervais (Underkoffer), John Lukasik

Eternal Patrol: None

Membership stands at 182

Storekeeper Frank Nicotra reported on available small stores.

Shipmate Vince Metz reported on Eagle Scouts presentations

Social Events

Martin Abel retirement ceremony July 26, 2019

George Brown boat reunion September 5-8, 2019

Shawn McGinty boat reunion June 2020

Guest Speaker: Members of the Cod Base thanked Requin Base for inviting them to our meeting. Challenge coins were exchanged.

Old Business:

Eric Bookmiller spoke about recent ceremonies in Gorton CT.

Pictures of Commander Hoegel's retirement were shown.

New Business:

On July 27 Cod Base is hosting a cookout.

Requin Base going to Cleveland (Cod Base) September 19-22 date to be determined.

For The Good Of The Order:

Torpedo Run will be held in Cleveland June 15.

Various letters to the Base were read.

Custom wrappers are being developed for the Requin Base candy sales.

New banners are being made for use in parades.

Recruiting cards and welcome packages are being made for passing out to veterans during parades.

Entertainment and commemorative glasses for Requin Base anniversary were discussed.

Hospitality of Carnegie VFW was discussed.

Strategies are being coordinated with other area groups to obtain the USS Pittsburgh sail

Members were informed regarding memorial ceremony on May 26 in Ambridge PA

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Baden PA at 1230 hours on July 13, 2019

