

Steel Valley Dolphins

April 2020



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 9 May if American Legion still closed you will be notified

USS Requin Base Officers

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

Commanders Corner:

HAPPY EASTER

During these troubling days of the Corona Virus, all of us are experiencing isolation. Even though all of our regular Easter observances and festivities will not be possible, as we all hunker down and practice the guidelines of safety during this silent enemy attack, we pray that all of us keep safe and well until we may all HAPPILY meet again. From your Board of Directors, Commander Huey and First Mate EDIE, have a happy and blessed Easter!

I was on a conference call with other District Commanders receiving information on the USSVI Charitable Foundation. It was brought to our attention that the membership is essentially unaware of the Charitable Foundation. Over the past twenty years, there has never been an open-full blown active fundraiser campaign. At our March base meeting, we held discussion on the base making contributions to the USSVI Charitable Foundation. The members present approved to make the contribution.

The Requin Base is the first base of USSVI, to make a full-blown contribution. Booky has sent in two checks to the Foundation - Base Check = \$1,520.00 and Members Check = \$1,780.00 which comes to grand total \$,3,300.00.

The Base check amount is a recommendation from the Charitable Foundation and the Members check is set up as \$10.00 per primary base member which makes the base members donating to supporting the fund at 100%.

The donation is broken down to the various funds of the Foundation - Memorial Fund \$1,000.00, Museum Fund \$1,000.00, Scholarship Fund \$1,000.00 and the Brotherhood Fund \$300.00.

The funds that were sent to the CF, were from various accounts that were raised from individual shipmates for base activities and not from membership dues. The Requin Base will be the TEMPLATE for all other bases to follow. CF Treasurer Ken Earls sent the following message to Booky – THANK YOU VERY MUCH, WE ALL TRULY APRECIATE THE GENEROUS ACTION BY YOU, YOUR FELLOW REQUIN BASE MEMBERS AND YOUR BASE COMMANDER, HUEY. ALL OF YOU ARE BLAZING A TRIAL THAT I HOPE EVERY OTHER BASE FOLLOWS!

NEW MEMBER:

Thomas Clark, Jr qualified in 1968 on board the USS Gato SSN615. Tom left the navy in 1996 as a Captain (06). He lives in Monroeville, Pa with his first mate Cathy. Captain Tom joined the base as both a life member of USSVI and REQUIN BASE. He is also President Navy League Pittsburgh. Tom becomes the 196th member of the Requin Base. Please e-mail Tom and welcome him aboard – tclark_usna66@comcast.net

During our trip out to Washington State, for the inactive ceremony of the USS PITTSBURGH, I was fortunate to meet and talk to John F. McCabe. He is the President and CEO of Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall. Both he and I would like to explore programs or any kind of joint initiatives we can pursue between Soldiers & Sailors and Requin Base. We both would love to set aside some time in the near future to visit so we can compare notes and get on the same page. Anyone that has any ideas or thoughts, please let me know. One train of thought was to explore the possibility of having a DECEMBER 7TH Memorial Service at S&S!

BIRTHDAYS**ANNIVERSARIES****Members****First Mates**

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Boutelle, Larry 5/27/33 | Bruce, Connie 5/31 | Geyer, Dick & Beverly 5/08 |
| Huff, Bill 5/29/79 | Campbell, Nita-Lou 5/31 | Myers, Bob & Jude 5/23 |
| Landri, Bruce 5/04/37 | Donnelly, Helen 5/20 | Masterson, Bat & Kim 5/08 |
| Lyons, Ed 5/25/43 | Foster, Stephany 5/17 | McGinty, Shawn & Lisa 5/08 |
| Metz, Vince 5/09/67 | Greenlee, Donna 5/19 | Campisi, Joe & Jill 5/18 |
| Miller, Marion 5/12 | Humes, Gosia 5/13 | Osborn, Russ & Francis 5/21 |
| Regits, Al 5/14/32 | Lindsay, Sandra 5/20 | Siege, Brien & Tina 5/29 |
| Schmidt, Bob 5/26/39 | Loskoch, Nancy 5/30 | Zdarko, Ed & Barbars 5/27 |
| Solinger, Bob 5/13/40 | Masterson, Kim 5/25 | Bence, Jim & Beverly 5/28 |
| Stewart, John 5/23/40 | Naso, Cathleen 5/20 | |
| Tolbert, Chuck 5/20/54 | Porter, Sharon 5/30 | |
| | Spencer, Carrie 5/17 | |
| | Underkoffler, Judy 5/22 | |

PARADES: – I received notice from the Sewickley Parade Committee that their Memorial Day Parade is cancelled due to the virus. I proceeded to send a notice to the South Hills Memorial Day Parade Committee. We were accepted at first, but they also cancelled their parade.

Our Memorial Service on board the Requin is still scheduled unless we hear otherwise from the Science Center. Speaking of parades, the Carnegie and Coraopolis parades have not notified us, if they are cancelled.

Base Miscellaneous ITEMS:

1. USSVI Life Members – 64

2. Requin Base Life Members – 12 – (need to be USSVI life member to apply)

Two new members just joined and became life members for USSVI & Requin Base and all the WW2 members have joined as Base life Members.

3. Pa-USSVI License plates – 29

4. Member Photographs on web site – 136

Please send in your photos – (Navy and current)

5. New Members (2020) – 8 – sign up your old shipmates, family or friends.

Anyone wanting any information on the five above items, please contact me at hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com !

Our next base meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 09, 2020. If the American Legion is still shut down, you will be notified!

TWENTY VOLUNTEERS (phone bank) NEEDED TO CALL OUR SHIPMATES:

Each volunteer will be given a list of ten (10) phone numbers of our shipmates starting in alphabetical order, to reach out to them and give them happiness and joy that their brothers of the Phin are thinking of them. E-mail me and I will send you the list – hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com

a virtual get-together with friends and family

By James Gelinas, Komando.com

March 23, 2020

Going stir-crazy yet? You're not alone. Millions of Americans are now under some form of shelter-in-place, lockdown or work-from-home arrangement that keeps them from socializing with their friends and loved ones.

Despite our mutual frustrations, all this quarantine business is happening for a reason. It's all part of the effort to flatten the curve of infection and slow down the number of new COVID-19 cases.

To cope with the isolation, people are finding creative ways to keep in touch with friends and family. And right now, the best way to meet online is with none other than group video chats. Here's how you can say "hello" without having to go outside.

How can I use video chat to talk to my loved ones?

For starters, you'll want to make sure you have a stable internet connection, a working camera and microphone, and a computer capable of running the software.

If you don't have all of these, your best bet is to use your smartphone. It comes pre-installed with a camera and microphone array, as well as a wireless connection you can use if your Wi-Fi isn't stable enough.

And with companies cutting data caps during the course of the outbreak, there's never been a better time to take advantage of your data plan.

Lastly, you'll want to decide which app works the best for your group. Here are some of the most popular apps, as well as their strengths and weaknesses:

- **Skype:** The oldest program in the bunch, but available for free and backed by Microsoft's support network. It does have a tendency to lag when connections are spotty and this can affect image and audio quality.
- **Google Hangouts:** Free to use and only requires your Google Account to sign up. Audio and Group Video calls are limited to 10 people on the free version of the program.
- **Zoom:** Allows for conferences of up to 100 people, but won't integrate with your existing Google Account or social media. A dedicated video chatting program.

All three of these programs are available online for desktop users and mobile users can get them from both the iOS App Store and the Google Play Store.

Once you've downloaded the software, make sure you've asked your friends and family for their usernames and make sure everyone is on the same page about which software you're using. If you have different video chatting apps, you won't be able to talk to one another.

Don't fear the lag

One final word of advice: Even the best video chatting apps feature some lag — especially considering how remote work traffic is dominating our local networks. T

If you notice you and the other people in your chat seem to be talking over one another, make sure to take a brief pause after you're finished speaking. This will help mitigate the lag and make the conversation easier to follow.

Hopefully, everyone will continue to use these methods of connecting to stay in touch with family and friends long after this pandemic fades away. Crises aren't permanent, but the bonds we share with our friends and family are unbreakable.

Major League Baseball and its players union are showing interest in a plan that could allow the season to start in May at several stadiums in Arizona, ESPN reported Tuesday.

The idea, unnamed sources told the US sports network's website, has the support of top federal public health officials who think all 30 clubs could operate safely despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The plan would have teams play at empty outdoor stadiums in the Phoenix area where several teams conduct pre-season spring training and Chase Field, the retractable-roof home stadium for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Players, managers and coaches, umpires and others would be sequestered at area hotels, living in relative isolation with travel only to and from the stadium, essentially in a bubble to be kept from the public.

"I think there would be an adjustment but we would follow suit," retired MLB star and television commentator Alex Rodriguez told ESPN.

"Players want to play and fans want to watch."

The MLB season of 162 games per club was to have opened on March 26.

MLB stars such as Bryce Harper and Mike Trout potentially would be forced to play an entire campaign away from families and friends while the Washington Nationals would try to defend their World Series crown in empty ballparks on the other side of the country.

“It’s a completely different experience,” Rodriguez said of empty stadiums.

“Communication as an infielder would be a lot better. I think it would be fine for television but on the field it would be like a spring training game.”

The report said officials at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health have shown support for a plan involving strict isolation and social distancing that could allow America’s national pastime to return from the deadly virus outbreak that has shut down most sports worldwide.

Two exceptions to the halt of sport have been low-level golf tours in Arizona, the men’s Outlaw Tour and women’s Cactus Tour.

“We just don’t know enough about this deadly disease,” Rodriguez said. “Everybody is concerned. The science tells us something different every day. The stock market is going up and down every day. That’s how everybody’s emotions are going.”

The report says some officials think June openers are more realistic, with May depending on many health issues being solved.

Prime among those concerns would be the need for a major increase in the availability of coronavirus tests with quick results that would not curtail testing access for the public as deaths and hospitalizations mount.

Ensuring safety for older participants such as managers and umpires as well as younger and fit players is another key factor, both from the virus and from the searing heat of an Arizona summer.

Players might spread out in empty grandstands instead of watch from more cramped dugout areas.

– Extreme Arizona heat –

Average daily high temperatures in the Phoenix area crack 100 degrees (37.7 Celsius) from June through September.

Teams would be looking at playing back-to-back games, possibly shortened to seven innings and with tie-breaker methods to ensure no marathon deadlocked contests.

“Back in the day it was something we did all the time,” Rodriguez said of double-headers. “We have to make sure we don’t put players in harm’s way.”

The move would allow players to keep receiving salaries and provide sport television for people sheltering in homes while trying to limit the spread of the deadly disease.

While MLB would stand to lose ticket money, the lion’s share of its \$10 billion annual revenues, the league and players could reap greater money from telecast rights.

The report said top federal health officials have spoken about the viability of such a plan with MLB and on Saturday with the MLB Players Association, with the union and MLB starting to discuss the idea Monday.

The plan would include teams carrying larger rosters to ease heat-related issues and allow for the possibility a player tests positive for coronavirus, but the report said officials do not believe such a test would necessarily cause a team to be quarantined or a shutdown to be reinstated.

War Of 1812 At Walmart

Yesterday, I wore my Korea Veteran cap to Wal-Mart. There was nothing in particular that I needed at the world's largest retailer; but, since I retired, trips to "Wally World" to look at the Walmartians is always good for some comic relief. Besides, I always feel pretty normal after seeing some of the people that frequent the establishment. But, I digress, . . . enough of my psychological fixations.

While standing in line to check out, the guy in front of me, probably in his early thirties, asked, "Are you a Viet Nam Vet?"

"No," I replied.

"Then why are you wearing that cap?"

"Because I couldn't find the one from the War of 1812 . . ." I thought it was a snappy retort.

"The War of 1812, huh?" the Walmartian queried, "When was that?"

God forgive me, but I couldn't pass up such an opportunity. "1946," I answered as straight-faced as possible.

He pondered my response for a moment and responded, "Why do they call it the War of 1812 if it was in 1946?"

"It was a Black Op. No one is supposed to know about it." This was beginning to be way fun!

"Dude! Really?" He exclaimed. "How did you get to do something that COOOOL?"

I glanced furtively around me for effect, leaned toward the guy and in a low voice said, "I'm not sure. I was the only Caucasian on the mission."

"Dude," he was really getting excited about what he was hearing, "that is seriously awesome! But, didn't you kind of stand out?"

"Not really. The other guys were wearing white camouflage." The moron nodded knowingly.

"Listen man," I said in a very serious tone, "You can't tell anyone about this. It's still 'top secret' and I shouldn't have said anything."

"Oh yeah?" he gave me the 'don't threaten me look.' "Like, what's gonna happen if I do?"

With a really hard look I said, "You have a family don't you? We wouldn't want anything to happen to them, would we?"

The guy gulped, left his basket where it was and fled through the door. The lady behind me started laughing so hard I thought she was about to have a heart attack. I just grinned at her.

After checking out and going to the parking lot, I saw dimwit leaning in a car window talking to a young woman. Upon catching sight of me he started pointing excitedly in my direction. Giving him another 'deadly' serious look, I made the 'I see you' gesture. He turned kind of pale, jumped in the car and sped out of the parking lot.

And these people VOTE! What a great time! Tomorrow I'm going back wearing my Homeland Security cap. Then the next day I will go to the driver's license bureau wearing my Border Patrol hat, and see how long it takes to empty the place. Whoever said retirement is boring? You just need to wear the right kind of cap! See you guys at Walmart!!

Toilet Paper

Crisis Hawaii Has Never Forgotten



The cause was different, but the effect was the same: Not enough tissue at hand for the issue at hand. Americans are struggling to find toilet paper after demand exploded amid the coronavirus crisis. In July 1971, dock strikes wiped out the supply in Hawaii, leading to an uncomfortable shortage that lasted for months. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union strike shut down every dock on the West Coast while bosses and union leaders fought over a new contract. Hawaii residents were completely dependent on those shipments for a variety of goods - salt, rice - but none seems to have stuck in the memory like the lack of toilet paper.

- Bar owner Bob Hampton recently recalled to the Star-Advertiser that after patrons kept stealing rolls from the restrooms, they moved them behind the bar and assigned a "kukae (poop) manager," who rationed six squares per customer for a visit to the commode.
- When a local hotel owner ran out of TP for guests, he lifted some from the public restrooms in the luxury resort across the street, he told the Star-Advertiser. After a few days, the restrooms suddenly had security guards.
- A 1971 New York Times article described how having toilet paper became an expression of status. When a wealthy heiress and her husband bought a condo in Waikiki, they received rolls of toilet paper and Morton's salt shakers as housewarming gifts from neighbors.
- When radio stations had contests, the winning caller got toilet paper. One station, the Times wrote, delivered the TP in a Rolls-Royce. You didn't get to keep the Rolls, though, just the rolls.
- And what's a public health crisis without a little quid pro quo? A grocery store manager told the Star-Advertiser he got a call from then-Honolulu Mayor Frank Fasi. "I need a case of toilet paper and three bags of rice," Fasi told him. When they made the exchange at midnight, "like two spies," Fasi asked him if there was anything he needed. The manager told him about some potholes behind the store; two days later, they were paved over.

By October, President Richard Nixon got involved in the strike negotiations, citing national "health and safety" concerns. The longshoremen were forced back to work for 80 days - just in time for Christmas - but they struck again in January 1972. This time, the shipping company refused to allow dock workers to load military cargo to Vietnam, according to the Waterfront Workers History Project at the University of Washington, claiming the extra income from that work was prolonging the strike.

An agreement was finally reached in February, largely to the strikers' favor, and soon the critical tissue began rolling back onto the shelves of Hawaiian stores. Hawaii residents may or may not have forgiven the dock workers for the strike, but they certainly haven't forgotten. In 1999, a threat of a strike caused a run on toilet paper at big-box stores across the state, the Star Bulletin reported at the time. It happened again during a dock worker lockout in 2002. State economist Pearl Imada Iboshi told the SFGate, "People are quite prepared," because they had "built up inventories to cushion any negative impact." [Source: The Washington Post | Gillian Brockell | March 29, 2020 ++]

