

October Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the members of the Arizona Submarine Veterans – Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #62; Peoria, AZ at 1235 hours, 12 October 2002. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander, Dave Harnish.

The members were led in the pledge of allegiance; followed by the dedication, moment of silence for our departed shipmates, "tolling of the boats" and the invocation by Base Chaplain, Warner Howard Doyle.

There were 25 members and 2 guests attending the meeting, according to the sailing list. The guests included; Brandi Hershey and Ken Stephens (Blueback Base - Portland, OR). The members welcomed all the guest-members with a round of applause.

It was moved and the motion seconded that the minutes from the last meeting (August, 2002) be approved as published in the Base Newsletter; "The MidWatch". The motion carried by voice vote of the members present.

Treasurer (Robert May) reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of October, 2002. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Glenn Herold encouraged the members to review the offerings in the Ship's Store and help the Base by purchasing some of the Submarine Veteran related wares. He also indicated that Ed Brooks had donated a smaller version of the carved dolphins and the Ship's Store was selling them for \$50. Glenn also announced that the Ship's Store is in the process of acquiring a quantity of the "Old Navy Jack" for sale to the members.

Warner Howard Doyle, Base Chaplain invited the members to sign the card of condolence for Nancy and Jim Nelson to express the member's sympathy at the recent loss of Nancy's Mother.

Ramon Samson, Membership Chairman announced that there was one new member recruited during the month of September.

Ramon also expressed his appreciation for Chuck Emmett picking up responsibility for the Base Newsletter; "The Midwatch."

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Harnish reviewed events at the USSVI National Convention held during the month of September in Duluth, Minnesota. Dave reviewed the results of the national election and the slate of officers now representing the members.

He also reported on the progress for acquiring the USS Razorback from the Turkish Navy and bringing her to the Port of Little Rock, Arkansas where she will become a State Memorial to the Submarine Service.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Harnish addressed Don Wannamaker and read the text of the Charles A. Lockwood award for 2002. Don was cited for his exceptional efforts in producing, marketing and delivering the 2002 USSVI Calendar. The Charles A.



Lockwood Award is granted each year by the

USSVI and presented at the National Convention to members who distinguish themselves through service to the organization. Don received a resounding round of applause from the members.

Past Commander, Frank Rumbaugh asked for and was granted the floor. Frank proceeded to read a citation in appreciation for Dave Harnish's leadership as Base Commander. Dave was presented with a hand-carve profile representing the Chief of the Boat mounted on a ship's wheel (a symbol of the dedication associated with volunteer leadership). The membership had previously voted to present the award to Dave in appreciation for his exceptional leadership of the Perch Base. Dave also received a resounding round of applause from the members.

Warner Howard Doyle was asked to brief the members on progress toward participation in the Phoenix Veteran's Day Parade to take place November 11th. He indicated that Perch Base and Arizona Public Service were registered, as a unit, to participate. Positions in the parade have been assigned and Sub Vets will in the same general position as in 2001. Vehicles will be furnished for some members and a Palo Verde contingent plus Perch Base members will again carry the ship's flags representing Submarines on duty in the fleet.

Don Wannamaker briefed the members on arrangements for the Base Christmas Party to be held at the Luke AFB NCO Club. The party is scheduled to begin at 1800 hours

(6:00 pm) on December 14th. This year will feature a sit-down dinner as compared to last year's buffet dinner. Members were encouraged to make reservations with the Don or Dave Harnish as early as possible to guarantee attendance. Space is always limited and attendance is based on first-come, first-served.

Dave Harnish also announced that the retire appreciation day is slated to take place at the Enlisted Club at Luke AFB on Saturday, October 26th. Information for retirees presented at these events is usually beneficial to military retirees and worth the effort to attend.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Roger Cousin addressed the members and requested agreement for the USS Phoenix (SSN 702) Society to borrow the Perch Base Float for a night viewing by potential supporters. The 702 Society is attempting to bring the USS Phoenix sail to the City of Phoenix. The members overwhelmingly agreed with that use of the parade float.

Kenny Wayne asked to be recognized and was given the floor. He brought the members up to date on the careers of his two daughters who both received educational support from the USSVI Scholarship Fund. One daughter is becoming a counselor working with Vietnam Veterans and the other intends to become a Marine Biologist.

Dave Harnish announced that shipmate Dale Martin was presented with his membership in the USSVI Holland Club at his home in Phoenix. Dale has been battling illness and hasn't been able to get to meetings lately.

Don Wannamaker announced that there were of surplus Mk 14 torpedoes available for monuments and special purposes. It was agreed by the members that he should try to obtain one for use by Perch Base.

Dave Harnish reviewed efforts by USSVI to build funds in the USSVI Charitable Foundation. Committees within the USSVI are pursuing major contributions from outside sources such as businesses and other benefactors. He encouraged members to get involved donating on an annual basis to the Charitable Foundation. With more than 10,000 members, a few dollars a year from each USSVI member would be significant.

Ed Brooks announced that the raffle, of the two hand-carved submariner's dolphins, at the USSVI National Convention produced \$600 for the USSVI Scholarship Fund. The funds will be donated in the name of Perch Base.

50/50 DRAWING

The 50/50 raffle was conducted and Chuck Emmett was the winner. The winner's share of the proceeds was \$50.

(See ADJOURNMENT on page 7)

The Navy's Highest

WWII Submariner Awarded Navy Cross

(Reprint of an article by:

By Rowena J. Obrero, Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) — If walls could talk, the Clean Sweep Bar and Skippers' Lounge in historic Lockwood Hall at Pearl Harbor would whisper secrets known only to those who had access to the inner world of submariners.

The Skippers' Lounge, its walls lined with photos of commanding officers of Pacific Fleet submarines and World War II submarine heroes, was a gathering spot where submariners exchanged war patrol stories, formulated strategies and plotted maneuvers.

The Skippers' Lounge added another hero to its Wall of Honor Oct. 4, during a ceremony honoring retired U.S. Navy Capt. Charles W. Rush Jr., 83, of Port Saint Lucie, Fla. Rush was recently awarded the Navy Cross almost 60 years after his courageous efforts during World War II.



Retired Navy Capt. Charles W. Rush, Jr., 83, of Port Saint Lucie, Fla. and Rear Adm. John B. Padgett III, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, during opening remarks at the awards ceremony.

The Navy Cross is the Navy's third highest award and is awarded to a person who distinguishes himself by extraordinary heroism in the presence of great danger or great personal risk.

Rush, then a lieutenant, is credited with saving USS

Billfish (SS 286) and her crew amid depth charge attacks by the Japanese in November 1943. Rush was directly responsible for saving Billfish and directing damage-control efforts after the depth charge attack incapacitated the ship's captain and all officers senior to Rush. Keeping calm, Rush was able to sustain the submarine 170 feet below its test depth for 12 hours - with a ruptured aft pressure hull and while the submarine was riddled with major leaks through the stern tubes and various hull fittings.

After another officer relieved him, Rush discovered the helm was unmanned and that no action had been taken to counter the sustained attacks. He assumed command, found a helmsman and proceeded to direct evasive actions by innovative maneuvers that retraced their path under the submarine's oil slick left by an explosion near the fuel ballast tanks.

Rush eluded the enemy above and surfaced four hours later.



The Navy Cross

"I greatly appreciate you being here today. It means a great deal to me," said Rush during the ceremony that honored him as the latest Navy Cross recipient. "When the Billfish went through their long and difficult and trying experience, I came to understand some things. The crew of the Billfish made that submarine."

To commemorate Rush's accomplishments, a WWII photo of Rush was posted beside other notable submarine heroes such as Dick O'Kane, "Mush" Morton and Edward Beach, and his name was engraved on a Navy Cross bronze plaque located at Lockwood Hall. This is the first time this honor has been bestowed on someone other than a submarine commanding officer.

"It is important that today's young officers and the wonderful young men they lead on those submarines understand the strength, the humility and the courage of the men upon whose shoulders we stand," said. Rear Adm. John B. Padgett III, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, during opening remarks at the ceremony. "That legacy is profound. That legacy is what sustains us when times get tough today.

"The elements of courage that [Capt. Rush] demonstrated as a young officer many years ago are those same elements we try to instill in our officers and the men they lead on our ships today," he added.

Rush was nominated for the Navy Cross after efforts to obtain a Silver Star for another crewmember, the late Chief Electrician's Mate John D. Rendernick, revealed Rush's heroic actions. Deferring any credit from himself, Rush recognized three chief petty officers who took the lead in the crew and key members of the crew who assisted them in saving the ship.

"I am standing here now because of them," Rush said. "One of the chiefs came to me after it was all over and thanked me for saving the ship. I said, 'Chief, if it hadn't been for you, there would have been no ship to save.'"

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ADJOURNMENT

All outstanding business being concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote.

Base Chaplain, Warner Howard Doyle led the membership in the benediction and closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 13:25 hours.

Edgar T. Brooks – Base Secretary

