

Perch Base Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2024

Perch Base Commander George Woods called the monthly meeting to order at Dillon's Restaurant, in Glendale, AZ at 1200 hours, May 11, 2024.

Governor Joy gave the invocation. George Woods led the Pledge of Allegiance, George Woods read the USSVI Purpose. A moment of silence followed by the Tolling of the Boats lost in May.

Per the sailing list, the following attended the base meeting:

Geri Andersen	John Beckett	Jerry Benham
John Brown	Charles DeBlois	Carol Culbertson
Jim Denzien	Mary Denzien	W. H. Doyle, Jr
Chris Gahan	Bob Gilmore	David Heighway
Governor Joy	Ken Kennedy	Chuck Luna
Dan Marks	Mark McCleary	Bill McCoy
Paul Miller	Carl Miner	Melinda Piña
Don Robertson	Bob Saenz	Carol Saenz
Kevin Sheehan	Jessie Taylor	Joe Trotter
Don Unser	Marcia Unser	Alice Woods
George Woods		

Several guests introduced themselves: Melinda Piña (our guest speaker,) Bill McCoy and Mark McCleary

OFFICERS REPORTS

Membership – Chuck Luna

Chuck reported that membership was 167, decreased by 1 due to the Eternal Patrol of Life Member Mike Baka.

Storekeeper – John Beckett

John emphasized the sale of the USSVI 60th (Diamond) Anniversary patch and challenge coin. He always has patches, hats and challenge coins on-hand and can order anything he doesn't have.

Communications Officer & Newsletter Editor – Chris Gahan

Chris reported the deadline for input to the next MidWatch Newsletter is Friday, June 14, 2024. Chris emphasized that input to the MidWatch is welcome from ALL members, including articles, jokes, etc. Chris encouraged participation in Veteran Buzz meetings, Memorial Day, Drop Zone gatherings, standdowns and Veteran Coffee meetings.

Chris reminded members that if they have Cox email to ensure that they rollover to Yahoo Mail, or they will stop receiving base notices, Flash Traffics and MidWatches.

Chris noted a fine article about the USS Hampton (SSN-767) under the ice in the NY Times on 4/3/24, and another article about the USS District of Columbia (SSBN-826) in Popular Mechanics.

Events Coordinator – Dave Heighway

Dave reported upcoming events including Memorial Day/Tolling of the Boats at the National Cemetery, Prescott Parade and the National Convention in Cleveland, OH:

Vice Commander – Dave Heighway

Dave reported that we are looking for replacements for numerous Base officer positions, including Chaplin, Events Coordinator, Membership and Secretary.

Treasurer - Joe Trotter

Joe Trotter gave the Treasurer's Report. The month of April started with \$12,246. Income was \$110. Expenses were \$132, ending the month with \$12,224.

The USS Arizona Legacy Foundation's new President and CEO, Nicole LaSlavic has submitted a membership application to Joe.

Joe is looking for 4 members for 2 hour shifts between 10 AM and 2 PM to volunteer to staff the Drop Zone table in Mesa on June 1, 2024.

Past Commander – W. H. Doyle, Jr.

Howard Doyle is glad to be back from Hawaii. His granddaughter sends her thanks for the Perch Base scholarship she received.

He reported on discussions with Chuck Emmett, who is back in a rehabilitation facility for 37 days on antibiotics.

Webmaster – Dan Marks

Activity with the website since the last BOD meeting included posting a photo of Joe Trotter meeting the USS Arizona Legacy Foundation's new President and CEO, Nicole LaSlavic, the Eternal Patrol Notice for Mike Baka, photos of the Joe Trotter presentation to the Our Lady of Joy Roman Catholic Church Military Veterans Ministry, installation of three new ASSM Memorial Brick Pavers at the ASSM, the Western Region Roundup, the Base Picnic, the "Submarine Force Birthday", and the new MidWatch. Routine updates during the past month included updating the Sailing Orders page, Flash Traffics, base correspondence and meeting minutes uploaded, Lost Boat notices and Half Staff notices posted and links updated. Similar updates have been maintained on the Perch Base Facebook Page.

During April, there were 6,093 page views on the Perch Base website during 3,860 visits by 2,177 users based on Awstats. This is a significant increase. Much of the increased traffic occurred during the Base Picnic and Western Region Roundup. Most of the traffic was to the home page, followed by the Glossary, then the Sailing Orders page and the Picnic photos. The majority of the page views were from the U.S., followed by the Russian Federation, then China.

During April, the Facebook Post Reach (The number of people who saw any of our posts at least once. Reach is different from impressions, which may include multiple views of your posts by the same people.) was 1,260. The Facebook Post Engagement (The number of reactions, comments, shares and clicks on your posts) was 160. Our Facebook page had 3 new Page Likes for a total of 193 and 3 new followers for a total of 227. The top post was the "USS LAGARTO (SS-371) Eternal Patrol Notice. ." post with 275 Post Impressions, a Post Reach of 275, and a Post Engagement of 4.

Dan reported on visits to Davy Jones at the Banner Boswell Rehabilitation Center in Sun City.

Chief Of the Boat – Don Robertson

Don reported that the USS Phoenix float is "in drydock" and will have a paint job to be ready for Memorial Day and the Prescott Parade in July.

Commander – George Woods

Gudgeon Base will again host a lunch after the Prescott Parade at Tom Warner's house.

Secretary – Laura Luna

Laura was not present.

Base Historian – Chuck Emmett

Chuck was not present.

GUEST SPEAKER

George Woods introduced our Guest Speaker, Melinda Piña, from Honor Flight Arizona. Melinda noted that application forms are available on their website, www.honorflightaz.org and also brought applications to the meeting. There are 124 Honor Flight hubs across the country. Melinda is representing Honor Flight Arizona. The cost to send a Veteran on the 3-day Honor Flight from Arizona is \$1,300 and includes airfare, hotel and food, but the Veteran pays nothing. The cost is covered by donations to the 501(c)(3) organization. Guardians that accompany a Veteran pay their own way. Spouses cannot be Guardians, but other family members are encouraged. They are presently sending mainly Korean and Vietnam War Veterans between 1941 to 1975, including Cold War Veterans. The latest flight (which included our Base Commander George Woods) that just returned on May 10 had 30 Veterans. The Honor Flight Arizona usually has 5 flights in the spring and 5 flights in the fall, but intends to increase to a total of 12 per year.

Tour activities included the US Navy Memorial, Fort McHenry, the National WW2 Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Marine Corp Memorial, Military Women's Memorial, Maryland Museum of Military History, the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and a group picture at Fort Myer Air Force Base. George Woods was highly complimentary of his Honor Flight.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- David Heighway noted the cupcakes are in honor of George Woods birthday is today.
- Carl Miner added to Chris Gahan's earlier report with an example that keeping your email up to date is important. Carl recently improved his VA benefits as a result of information in a USSVI broadcast correspondence that came via email about the CARES Act.
- The "Noisy Can" was passed around. This quarter's proceeds benefit the USSVI National Charitable Foundation.
- Governor Joy discussed that if you just say, "I'm OK," the VA will promptly move on. He emphasized "Don't be bashful." For example, the Veterans Administration is the top purchaser of hearing aids.
- Capt. Carol Culbertson (USN, ret) invited the membership to come to the Naval Order of the United States Sea Services History Society meeting on Thursday, 5/23, 11:15 AM at the IHOP at 4201 W Bell Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85053. David Kampf, USN (Vet) will discuss the Battle of Midway, June 1942 – from the Japanese Perspective.
- Don Unser had no specifics, but pointed out that there are new additional criteria available to qualify for PACT ACT money.

BINNACLE LIST

- Jim Denzien
- Mary Denzien
- W. Howard Doyle, Jr.
- Chuck Emmett
- DeWayne Lober
- Richard Simmons

- Davy Jones

50/50

Melinda Piña drew the ticket for the 50/50 drawing. Governor Joy won the 50/50 drawing. The total drawing value was \$72. Governor's share came to \$36.00. Perch Base received \$36.00. Governor Joy donated his winnings back to the Base.

ADJOURNMENT

Governor Joy led the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Submitted by:
Dan Marks,
Filling in for Laura Luna
Secretary, Perch Base