

COLUMBUS BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

March 2013



The Green Board



ALL SEAS ARE NAVIGABLE

Monitor Sailors' Remains Arrive For Burial

Washington Post, March 8

The wind rustled the red, white and blue flags on the two caskets. It blew the pant legs of the waiting ceremonial guard, and it lifted the jumper flaps on the sailors' uniforms.

It might have seemed familiar to the two shipmates whose bones were borne from the hold of an aircraft Thursday, a century and a half after they perished in a storm off the North Carolina coast.

But the two men, who died aboard the USS Monitor in 1862, were safe from the winds now, and back in the white-gloved hands of fellow sailors who were readying them for their burial Friday at Arlington National Cemetery.

The two sets of remains, which were found when the famous Monitor's 150-ton turret was raised from the bottom of the ocean in 2002, arrived at 11:30 a.m. at Dulles International Airport.

They were flown through Atlanta on a Delta Airlines commercial flight from a military identification laboratory in Hawaii. There they had been studied for the past 10 years and their identities sought, in vain.

As the plane landed, passengers could be seen taking snapshots from the windows, and the plane's pilot, Capt. Steve Manley, came down from the cockpit, stood at attention and saluted near the nose of his jet.

Manley had told the passengers about the remains, explained the history of the Monitor and asked that people stay in their seats until the caskets were unloaded.

As the gusts came, and quiet commands were issued, the caskets were then carried by a Navy Ceremonial Guard to two gray hearses, which took them to an Arlington funeral home to await burial Friday.

One of the most renowned vessels in history, the Monitor is famous for engaging in the first battle between ironclad warships, on March 9, 1862. Its opponent was the formidable Confederate ship CSS Virginia, formerly the USS Merrimack.

The battle in Hampton Roads was a draw, but many people thought the Monitor had saved the Union from the Confederate behemoth.

The Monitor and its crew became national heroes.

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Tolling of the Boats



USS F-4 (Skate) (SS-23) Lost with 19 men on 25 March 1915 when it foundered off Honolulu Harbor.



USS H-1 (SS-28) Lost on 12 March 1920 with the loss of 4 men when it sank after being grounded off Santa Margarita Island, Baja California, Mexico/



USS Perch (SS-176) Lost on 3 March 1942 when it was sunk by Japanese surface attack 30 miles NW of Surabaya, Java. 60 men were taken prisoner, 8 men died as POWs. 52 men survived the war.



USS Grampus (SS-207) Lost with all hands (71 men) by Japanese surface attack on the Solomon Islands on 5 March 1943.



USS Triton (SS-201) Lost with all hands (74 men) by Japanese surface attack off New Guinea on 15 March 1943.



USS Tullibee (SS-284) Lost with 79 men on 26 March 1944 north of Palau. Sunk by her own torpedo. One man survived and was taken prisoner.



USS Kete (SS-369) Lost with all hands (87 men) in March 1945 to unknown causes between Okinawa and Midway.



USS Trigger (SS-237) Lost with all hands (89 men) in the East China Sea on 28 March 1945 during a Japanese air and surface attack.

Commander's Corner

By Jim Tolson



We will miss Ben Grimes. Thanks again to Clutch Koogler for doing another excellent job representing Columbus Base. I received several emails from shipmates outside the central Ohio area to express condolences to the family, but I think Bernie Kenyon said it best "Like all submarine veterans of WWII, Ben Grimes was a HERO of the highest rank and we who knew him were blessed that he walked amongst us." Sailor rest your oar, we have the watch.

Columbus Base presented an Admiral Eugene Fluckey Eagle Scout Award to David Bernier Saturday February 23rd in Reynoldsburg. There are four additional Eagle Scout awards scheduled in March. If you know a Boy Scout that is planning his Court of Honor, contact Mike Thurston and he can schedule the award presentation.

Thanks to Commander Ken Worthy for agreeing to speak to the March base meeting. Ken was Main Propulsion Assistant and Chemistry & Radiological Controls Assistant on USS Cincinnati (SSN-693). He is currently Commander of Undersea Warfare Det AD drilling at Wright Patterson.

As a reminder, Cliff Dodson maintains the Columbus Base Sailing List that has our contact information including addresses. We printed one edition, but now maintain it as a PDF that is available to any Columbus Base web site member. If you have any questions, ask Cliff Dodson.

High School teacher at MEPS teaching WWII history.

The Submarine Birthday and Tolling Ceremony dinner is already scheduled for April 6th at the VFW Post 4931, 2436 Walcutt Road, Columbus, OH 43228. This is the same location as the Christmas dinner and we will be using the same caterer, so you need to get this dinner on your schedule.

Activities

April 6, 2013 Submarine Birthday and Tolling Ceremony dinner

VFW 4931 2436 Walcutt Road Columbus, OH 43228

1700 Social Hour

1800 Dinner Meeting

\$22 per person to Dave Creekmore

OUR CREED

" To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their 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."



Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration awarded by the United States government. It is bestowed on a member of the United States armed forces who distinguishes himself *conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States*. Because of the nature of its criteria, the medal is often awarded posthumously.

RADM Richard H. O'Kane

Awarded the Medal of Honor on 10/24/1944 while on the SS-306

Also served on: USS Chester (CA-27), USS Pruitt (DD-347), USS Argonaut (SS-166), USS Wahoo (SS-238), USS Pelias (AS-14),
USS Nereus (AS-17), USS Sperry (AS-12)



O'Kane was born in Dover, New Hampshire, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in May 1934 and spent his first years of active duty on the cruiser USS Chester (CA-27) and destroyer USS Pruitt (DD-347). He received submarine instruction in 1938.

Citation

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the U.S.S. Tang operating against 2 enemy Japanese convoys on 23 and 24 October 1944, during her fifth and last war patrol. Boldly maneuvering on the surface into the midst of a heavily escorted convoy, CDR. O'Kane stood in the fusillade of bullets and shells from all directions to launch smashing hits on 3 tankers, coolly swung his ship to fire at a freighter and, in a split-second decision, shot out of the path of an onrushing transport, missing it by inches. Boxed in by blazing tankers, a freighter, transport, and several destroyers, he blasted 2 of the targets with his remaining torpedoes and, with pyrotechnics bursting on all sides, cleared the area. Twenty-four hours later, he again made contact with a heavily escorted convoy steaming to support the Leyte campaign with reinforcements and supplies and with crated planes piled high on each unit. In defiance of the enemy's relentless fire, he closed the concentration of ship and in quick succession sent 2 torpedoes each into the first and second transports and an adjacent tanker, finding his mark with each torpedo in a series of violent explosions at less than 1,000-yard range. With ships bearing down from all sides, he charged the enemy at high speed, exploding the tanker in a burst of flame, smashing the transport dead in the water, and blasting the destroyer with a mighty roar which rocked the Tang from stem to stern. Expending his last 2 torpedoes into the remnants of a once powerful convoy before his own ship went down, CDR. O'Kane, aided by his gallant command, achieved an illustrious record of heroism in combat, enhancing the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

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The ship was swarmed with visitors who begged for autographs. One woman, given a tour, kissed the guns. An emotional President Abraham Lincoln went aboard and reviewed the assembled crew, hat in hand.

But 10 months later as the Monitor was being towed off the coast of North Carolina, it got caught in a fierce storm, capsized and sank. It went undiscovered until a scientific team located the wreck in 1974.

Most of the Monitor's crew escaped the sinking, but 16 men died, including the two who were trapped in the turret.

The names of all 16 are known, but experts could not determine which of them were the ones who were recovered.

One was a younger man, about 21, whose skull showed he had suffered a broken nose and whose feet were clad in a pair of beat-up, mismatched shoes.

The other man was older, about 35, and his bones showed that he might have had a limp from a previous injury. He also had a groove in his left front teeth, probably from clenching a pipe, and he wore a gold ring with a crude swirling pattern on a right-hand finger.

The arrival at Dulles was emotional for some of those who had been working on the Monitor project for years.

"I was thinking of the irony that these men who fought to preserve the Union flew over a United States last night that they couldn't even have comprehended in 1862," said David W. Alberg, superintendent of NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, who was aboard the plane.

"It's reassuring that everything that they fought for was not in vain, that the nation not only survived but has thrived," he said.

The funeral Friday is open to the public. After a service at the adjacent Fort Myer chapel, the men are to be buried at 4:30 p.m. in the cemetery's Section 46.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Juan M. Garcia, who was on hand to meet the plane, said: "It's delivering on a commitment we make to every one of our sailors . . . you will to the maximum extent possible, you will be brought home . . . even if it takes a century and a half."

Freedom Isn't Free—War Memorial

Middle East Conflicts Wall Memorial

Located in Marseilles, Illinois

Honoring Our Fallen Heroes

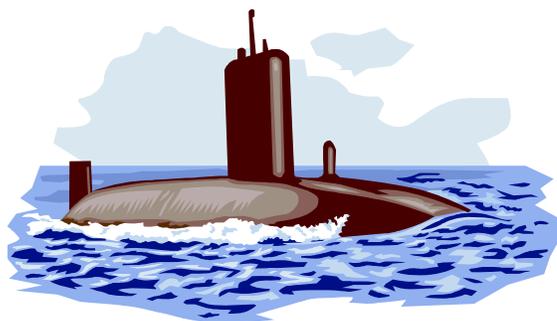
From 1979 to the Present

To view the video about the memorial

Click the link below

<http://stg.do/bjSc>

From Bob Frier





COLUMBUS BASE MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2013

Meeting was called to order by Base Vice Commander Tim Barker. COB Marv Pastor led the salute to the Flag. The invocation was conducted by the Chaplain Sharon Lloyd. Tolling of the Bell for lost boats of February and March was performed by Marv Pastor and Sharon Lloyd. There were 23 members and guests present. The VC welcomed everyone.

Secretary's Report – February Meeting was canceled and January meeting minutes were published in the *Green Board*.

Treasurer's Report- Dave was not present but it was reported that the \$100 Memorial for Ben Grimes has been sent to USSVI and our annual insurance payment has been made.

Webmaster's Report – Cliff reported a couple of passwords needed updated and he will be updating the sailing list throughout the year as needed.

Chaplain's Report- Sick Bay report –Sharon reported on the memorial service for Ben Grimes. Everyone commented it was one of the best they had experienced. Appreciation was given to Jim Koogler for his submarine memorial for Ben Grimes. Jim commented the reading by Ben's grandson was really moving and was one he hoped would be read by one of his grandchildren for him. That comment received a lot of agreement. Sharon said she talked to Phil Philipps. She said he sounded good and his last chemo was coming up soon. Opal's birthday is soon and a birthday card was routed around the room. Sharon also talked to John Leers and he said some days were good and some not so good. He hoped to make it to the Submarine Birthday Dinner. Jim Koogler reported on him and Bob McDaniel visiting Russ Ferguson. Russ was doing okay physically but his ability to do much is hampered by lack of vision. He really appreciates visits. Jim said we would try to copy some of the *Green Boards* to bring and read to him sometime in the future. Marv talked to Mamie Murphy and said Joe is about the same and not getting around a lot. Condolences were given to Galin Brady on the recent passing of his brother.

Introductions Bill Dumbauld introduced Larry Reese who was an 'A ganger' on the George Washington Carver with Bill. The VC said he hopes he chooses to join the base. Galin Brady said he offered membership to a submariner he recently meet who was a 'RO' on the Baltimore. Udo Maroscher, President of the Navy League, was recognized and he said he just wanted to say hi and stay in contact with us.

Committee Reports-

Activities –Submarine Birthday Dinner/Tolling Ceremony April 6th at VFW Post 4931 Hilliard – same caterer and location as Christmas Dinner. Dinner Cost \$22. Dave Creekmore can be paid today.

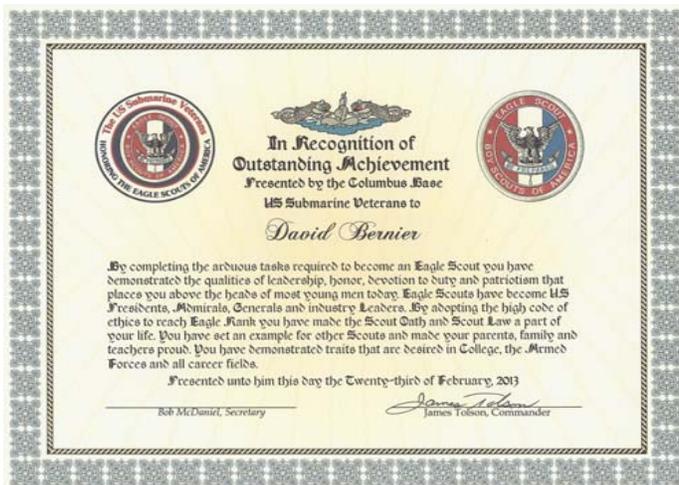
Unfinished Business –
New Business

For the Good of the Order –

- CDR Ken Worthy was introduced and he gave a presentation on Submarine Force Reserve Component.
- Kaps for Kids update – Bob McDaniel and Bill Anderson are still working on visit possible May 14th visit. Bill reported on certificate, hat, and coloring pages given to a little boy whose mother is friends with the wife of a CSC (SS) on the Mississippi.
- Bob McDaniel reported there is research being done on a couple of fund raiser ideas.
- BC Jim Tolson awarded the USSVI Submariner patch for Eagle Scout on February 4th. Four additional awards are scheduled in March.
- Phantom movie was out March 1. It is currently in some Columbus theaters.
- Wade Kiger will be playing March 16th from 5-8pm at Hamilton's Pub in Gahanna.
- Open discussion from floor. Bill Dumbauld said we can have annual picnic at his place this year. June 1st is the date. Wade said he could play/DJ if we wanted him to – the answer came in the affirmative. Appreciation was given to Don Crinkey and his wife for making the flag and stand used at our meeting today.
- 50/50
 - Ken Worthy won \$58
 - Ken Worthy won a cake
 - Dave O'Carroll won a knife
 - Don Crinkey won a bottle of wine
 - Galin Brady won an iPad case
 - Bill Anderson won a dvd-r disc
 - Walt Fleak won a submarine DVD
 - Phil Philipps won a navy pen
 - Lee Mathers won a loaf of homemade bread
- BC reminded everyone to help clean up the room. The next meeting on 4/6 at the VFW Post in Hilliard for the Submarine Birthday Dinner and Tolling Ceremony with social hour at 1700, Dinner at 1800, and the Tolling Ceremony at about 1900. Next officer meeting will be to plan for the Tolling Ceremony. We will meet at the AMVETS Post #89 at 3535 Westerville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43228 at 0900(tentative). Breakfast is available starting at 0800.

Benediction was performed by Walt Fleak. Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Bob McDaniel
Base Secretary



On February 23, 2013 Commander Jim Tolson presented David Bernier with a certificate in Recognition of his outstanding achievement as an Eagle Scout. The US Submarine Veterans Honoring The Eagle Scouts of America.

In Undersea Warfare History: March 8th

1943: USS Permit (SS-178) : Permit attacked a 9 ship convoy with 2 escorts. Two hits sent the 2742 ton cargo ship Hisashima Maru to the bottom.

1944: USS Sealion (SS-315) : Commissioned with LCDR. Eli T. Reich in command. Following the shakedown, Sealion, assigned to Submarine Division 222, sailed for the Pacific.

1961: USS Patrick Henry (SSBN-599) : When Patrick Henry surfaced off Holy Loch, Scotland, she had set a record for her type, cruising submerged 66 days and 22 hours.

Upcoming Events

March ????	0900	Officers meeting at the AmVets Post #89. Watch e-mail for date Breakfast is served starting at 0800
April 6th	1700	Submarine Birthday / Tolling Ceremony Dinner at the VFW 4931 located at 2436 Walcutt Rd. Columbus 43228



Submarine Birthday & Tolling Ceremony Dinner

VFW 4931, 2436 Walcutt Road, Columbus OH 43228

Saturday April 6, 2013

1700

Social Hour, Hors D'oeuvres, Cash Bar

Dinner at 1800

Chicken Marsala

Lasagna

Tossed Salad

Sesame Green Beans

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Rolls & butter

Dessert by our own Sharon Lloyd

Cost \$22.00 per person

Please RSVP attendance by Saturday March 30 to

Dave Creekmore CREEK636@columbus.rr.com

or phone 740-973-2372

Send payment (made out to Columbus Base)

Dave Creekmore

4030 Beaver Run Road

Hebron OH 43025

Directions to Hilliard VFW 4931:

Exit from I-270 at Roberts road. Drive west 1 mile to Walcutt Road. Turn left (south) and the entrance to VFW 4931 is on the left about 300 yards south of the Roberts/Walcutt intersection.



April Birthdays

Marcia Dreiseidel	04-02
John Leers	04-04
Dave Creekmore	04-05
Denver Smith	04-07
Bob Frier	04-12
Walt Fleak	04-15
Tim Barker	04-24
Bernie Kenyon	04-28



The Conn

Base commander

Jim Tolson

Vice Commander

Tim Barker

Treasurer

Dave Creekmore

Secretary

Bob McDaniel

Chaplain

Sharon Lloyd / Walt Fleak

COB

Marv Pastor

Membership Chairman

Jim Tolson

Storekeeper

Frank Lloyd

Web Master

Cliff Dodson

Editor

Jan Creekmore

Activates Chairmen

Remember to bring your donations of coffee, tea and / or hot cocoa to the monthly base meeting. Your donations are very much appreciated by the veterans at the Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Clinic



Editor's Note

If you have comments or articles, please contact the base newsletter editor.

Jan Creekmore at e-mail creek636@columbus.rr.com



Holland Club Members



Al Albergottie: 1960 USS Blenny SS-324	Joe Murphy: 1947, USS Bugara SS-331
John Alexander: 1945, USS Haddock SS-231	Marvin Pastor: 1955, USS Razorback SS-394
Galin Brady: 1962, USS Swordfish SSN-579	Clem O'Brien: 1944, USS Albacore SS-218
Bill Dumbauld: 1957, USS Caiman SS-323	Dave O'Carroll: 1957, USS Salmon SSR-573
Ed Ellsworth (EP): 1944, USS Blackfin SS-322	John Palmer: 1951, USS Guavina SSO-362
Dick Estell (EP): 1944, USS Scabbardfish SS-397	John Pendleton: 1954, USS Toto SS-422
Russ Ferguson: 1946, USS Haddo SS-255	Phil Philipps: 1949, USS Segundo SS-398
Bob Frier: 1960, USS Menhaden SS-377	Ron Rossington: 1954, USS Conger SS-477
Ben Grimes (EP): 1944, USS Raton SS-270	"CO" Smith (EP): 1944, USS Nautilus SS-168
"Gus" Hoehl (EP): 1944, USS Flounder SS-251	Denver Smith: 1943, USS Grayling SS-209
Bill Holly (EP): 1957, USS Ray SSR-271	Ken Strahm: 1960, USS Bream SS-243
Gene Horton (EP): 1951, USS Chivo SS-341	Sam Templeton: 1956, USS Trutta SS-421
Bernie Kenyon: 1954, USS Hardhead SS-365	George Trace: 1951, USS Caiman SS-323
John Leers: 1954, USS Sea Owl SS-405	Lynn Trump: 1960, USS Sea Cat SS-399
"Butch" Leffin: 1957, USS Hardhead SS-365	Ron Waldron: 1953, USS Charr SS-328
Chuck Martin: 1956, USS Pomfret SS-391	Robert Wells: 1947, USS Capitaine SS-336
Lee Mather: 1954, USS Crevalle SS-291	John Woodmansee: 1956, USS Hardhead SS-365
Bill McCorkle: 1956, USS Dogfish SS-350	
"Doc" Morin: 1957, USS Raton SSR-270	

"Sailor rest your oars."

Eternal Patrol

Ben Grimes

March 16, 1924– February 19, 2013

Gene Horton

January 28, 1933– March 5, 2013