

Minutes of 13 Oct 2026

1800 Meeting was called to order by the Base Commander, Rich Santomauro.

Attendance: Rich Santomauro, Base Commander; Stephen Armstrong, Base Vice Commander; Rod Stark, Secretary; Ed Simpson, Treasurer; Rick Kennedy, Base Chaplain; Barry Katz, COB; Steve Arner, Norm Bastille, Steve Ellis, Paul Korp, Rick Schiefen, Bill Strong and Chuck Weisse Jr.

Pledge of Allegiance, Tolling and Invocation

Introduction of Guests. Our Guests were Michael Trail and Salvador Molina.

The minutes of the last meeting which had been emailed to all members were reviewed with important highlights noted. A motion to approve the minutes was made. MSP

The Treasurer's report was read and is attached. A motion to approve the report was made. MSP. Ed also noted there is a problem with registering new members on the USSVI website. He discussed with Steve Ellis the issues with getting him properly registered with the base.

Storekeeper's report: This officer's position is presently open. We do have some screen-printed T-shirts with gold dolphins, and no embroidered polo shirts. We will be discussing this in more detail at a future time to determine need and numbers of shirts and sizes needed.

Old/Ongoing Business:

- Base 51 Memorial Maintenance was completed 9 May with the cleaning and painting of the torpedo. The support column needs some repairs to be done when the weather is cooler. Looks great again and ready for Veterans' Day 2026.
- Old float was decommissioned at the Labor Day BBQ with the sail awarded to Kimo Black who was the COB on the USS Nevada once upon a time. The BBQ was a complete success!
- Atomic Motors Submarine Vehicle Float project had its first meeting. They have secured a aircraft fuel tank to use as the base for the new submarine design. More information soon.

Great news from our Base Commander and NOW Webmaster! — our new USSVI Base 51 website is officially up and running on the internet! You can visit it at either of these links:

- <https://ussvibase51.org>
- <https://www.ussvibase51.org>

I registered our custom domain and set the site up on Cloudflare for the next 5 years, and I am donating the \$53.30 cost to the base so there is no expense to our treasury.

Here is a quick rundown of each of the menu navigation tabs across the top of the site:

- **Home:** Welcomes visitors with our USSVI emblem, our Base 51 mission and core values (Fellowship, Tradition, Honor, Service, and Heritage), and our monthly meeting time and location (2nd Tuesday of the month at 1800 at FRA Branch 90 on W. Cheyenne Ave).
- **About:** Features our Base 51 group photo, an overview of who we are in the Las Vegas and Southern Nevada community, and the USSVI National Creed.
- **Officers:** Lists our current Base 51 officers (Base Commander & Webmaster, Vice Commander, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief of the Boat, Chaplain, and Storekeeper) along with our base email contact.
- **Membership:** Explains Regular and Associate membership eligibility, annual national and local base dues, and how prospective members can join.
- **Events:** Covers our monthly meeting schedule, annual and community events (Tolling of the Boats, parades and float appearances, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, and base get-togethers), and our newsletter.
- **Eternal Patrol:** Honors our departed Base 51 shipmates and family with photos and Featured Tributes (Linda Hollis, Nick Campanale, Judith Ruiz, Len Heiselt, Harry Royer, Capt. Charles Ruiz, Herbert Brown, and Don O'Shea), along with the 13 Folds of the Flag (with video) and a link to the USSVI Eternal Patrol Facebook page.
- **Holland Club:** Recognizes our submarine veterans who have been qualified in submarines for 50 years or more (we will be adding our full Base 51 Holland Club roster here soon).
- **Links:** Provides direct links to USSVI National, submarine museums and memorials, and veteran resources including the VA, Nevada Department of Veterans Services, and the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery.
- **Contact:** Gives visitors and prospective members our base email address, meeting hall address, and a link to Google Maps.

Please take a look through the pages when you get a chance and let me know your feedback — any additions, corrections, or photos you would like to see included.



Base 51 Las Vegas

United States Submarine
Veterans, Inc.

**Meets at the
Vietnam Veterans
Association Chapter 17
6424 W Cheyenne Ave,
Las Vegas, NV 89108
702.936.2338**

Base Officers 2024 - 2026
Commander, Rich Santomauro
V. Cdr., Stephen Armstrong
Secretary, Rod Stark
Treasurer, Ed Simpson
COB, Barry Katz
Storekeeper, Open
Chaplain, Rick Kennedy



New Business:

- Base member Norm Bastille was formally recognized as a Holland Club member sporting his new distinctive yellow ballcap. Picture attached.
- Several Veterans' Day events were mentioned to the base. One notable one is the Classic Car show and BBQ at the VA Medical Center on Veterans' Day.
- Next meeting of the base is 8 December 2026.

Good of the Order: Paul Korp recently participated in the Southern Nevada Honor Flight. He gave a very nice report on his experience.

Binnacle List: Don Terry: problems aspiring,

We're removing Warren from the Binnacle list! New Email: Warren Hollis (has new email warrenph45@gmail.com 702-580-3368 Give him a call

Benediction:

1920 Meeting Adjourned

Commander's Comments:

Shipmates,

Please join Rick Schiefen and I on Veterans Day, 10AM-1130AM for a reception! RSVPs are required so we have a head count on the food. Yes, the Veterans Group of Regency (VGOR) is coordinating this event and has invited Base 51 Members to participate, but we need a head count as to how many of us are coming. This year I hope you will participate with me and the VGOR in their 2026 HOLIDAY GIFT BASKET PROGRAM FOR VETERANS IN HOSPICE CARE. I need a head count no later than this coming Wednesday at 5pm so I can get the list to VGOR for ordering the food. The event will be at the Regency Club House at 6700 Regency Square Avenue. I will need to add those who RSVP to the gate access list.

The 2026 VGOR Holiday Gift Basket for Veterans in Hospice Care runs from the 16th of November to the 7th of December. To partner with VGOR please consider donating items on the list below that are new or sealed; blankets, \$10-\$20 gift cards (local fast food or grocery), pocket calendar, playing cards, plug-in night lights, large non-slip socks, shampoo, bath and shower sets, toothpaste/toothbrushes, lotions, boxed cookies, granola bars, mints, puzzles, crosswords, books. For those of you who are participating I will set up a brunch for Tuesday, 1 December 10am at the Tailwinds to collect the items from you for the VGOR.

We are still looking for someone to take on the duties of Storekeeper, Membership and Charity Coordination positions for our Base. If you are interested let us know.

