



# United States Submarine Veterans Bremerton Base

P. O. Box 465, Silverdale, WA 98383-0465  
<http://gertrude-check.org/>



17 October 2015

Base Chief of the Boat, Wayne Peterson called the meeting to order at 1000 hours.

Opening observances were conducted.

World War II Submarine Veteran Paul Christoferson along with South Sound Base Commander and Bremerton Base Member John Mansfield were in attendance.

Base Chief of the Boat, Wayne Peterson read the Citation for the Robert Link Award and presented it to Sam Swenson.

Michael Sharp, Radm. Ret, Chairman of Washington Commissioning Committee along with his Chief of Staff Kathy Dimaggio, Capt. USN, Ret were introduced as the guest speakers.

RADM Sharp is the chair of the [USS Washington \(SSN 787\) Commissioning Committee](#).

After his opening remarks which included his active duty assignments, Radm. Sharp told of his participation in designing the Virginia Class submarine.

A modular ship constructed by at Groton, CT and Newport News, VA, the *Washington* will be commissioned in the spring of 2016 at Newport News, VA.

Radm. Sharp then gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing the *Washington's* attributes and capabilities. Primary attributes were high tech control of all forward systems including weapon loading and ship controls, plus 30" torpedo tubes and stealth. Capabilities will mimic and improve those of the Trident refitted SSGN boats. The 787's nuclear core will not need replacing for the life time of the boat.

The Navy League is the prime sponsor for the commissioning events.

Radm. Sharp then outlined his role in leading the [Commissioning Committee](#) That is comprised of retired Navy personnel, civilians and some WA legislative members. Their primary purpose is to generate funds to support the events surrounding the [Washington commissioning](#).

Radm Sharp said his goal is \$500K. Any remaining funds after expenses will be placed in the *Washington's* MWF (Moral Welfare Fund).

Donations may be sent to:

**USS Washington Commissioning Committee**  
**PO BOX 5598**  
**Bremerton, WA 98312**

To conclude Radm. L Sharp fielded questions and recognized a few members that had worked with him over his Navy career.

The minutes from the August 29 meeting were approved as presented.

The membership is at 268 as of Oct. 31 2015. Base Treasure, Dennis Nardone, reminds everyone that National dues is going up from \$20 to \$25 as of 1 January 2016. The Base has \$82,163.99 in all accounts.

COB, Wayne Peterson, announced the Christmas Party will be Dec. 12 at the Bremerton Elks Lodge off of Pine Rd.

Deterrent Park and Gertrude Check Chairperson Don Bassler has about 20 bricks to install on Oct. 24. Ray Pitts volunteered to help Don with the installation. Don will always accept pictures and articles for Gertrude-Check. He talked about the Arizona Silent Service Memorial and had a few donation flyers available.

John Gardner, Scholarship and Parades Chairperson, reminded everyone of the Auburn Veterans Day Parade on November 7, and Veterans Day at Kitsap County Fairgrounds on November 11. John Mansfield informed everyone this is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Auburn Veterans Day Parade.

Gary Kaiser, The Nominations and Elections Chairperson wants nominations for USSVI Bremerton Base elected offices in accordance with the base By-laws sent to: [gekaiser@comcast.net](mailto:gekaiser@comcast.net).

Written nomination will close 30 days prior to the November meeting (Oct. 16). An opportunity to verbally nominate someone will occur at the November meeting.

The Base elections will be held at the November 2015 Meeting for the Offices: Commander, Vice Commander, Treasurer, Secretary and Chief of the Boat.

Chief of the Boat Wayne Peterson presented a motion to change Section 3 of the By Laws from “All elections shall be by secret ballot vote of the members in good standing” to “All elections shall be by secret ballot vote of any position with more than one candidate by attending members in good standing. If any position has only one candidate, election may be determined by a simple showing of raised hands of attending members in good standing.” This motion for By Laws changed passed unanimously

The next E Board meeting will be held 0900 November 14 at FRA so as not to conflict with the Auburn Veterans Day Parade.

The Base Historian Bob Paul is working on the website adding base photos.

The next scheduled General Membership Meeting will be Saturday, 21 November 2015 at 1000 at FRA

The meeting was adjourned at 1130 hours.

Respectfully submitted  
Base Secretary Wayne Sieckowski