



## COLUMBUS BASE MEETING MINUTES 4 January 2025

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### **Call to Order:**

1301 – Commander Tim Barker called the January meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag and country following our traditional social hour. Chaplain Walt Fleak offered the invocation. This was followed by the Tolling of Lost Boats by Walt Fleck and Galin Brady and then recognition of Columbus Base Eternal Members for January. The Columbus Base is 21 years as of this writing.

Prior to the meeting, the officers met.

It was decided to donate \$250 to the USS Cincinnati Memorial.

It was decided to participate at the 2025 Dublin Irish Festival Defenders Den with an informational table.

It was decided to send the revised Base Bylaws to the membership for review and have voting at the February meeting. The revised Bylaws were reviewed and approved by the District Commander.

Twenty members and guests attended.

Please welcome aboard our newest Columbus Base member, Chris Longstreth MS1(SS) USN (ret). Chris comes to us as a result of "recruiting" by shipmate Jim Steckman, who met Chris at Home Depot. Chris attended the Christmas Dinner... where we hooked him after he won the 50/50!!! ;-) Chris joined the Navy in 1985. Following boot camp, he reported aboard USS Woodrow Wilson SSBN-624 where he qualified in submarines... also in 1985. Chris was on Wilson for the next 3 years, then transitioning to active reserve in 1988. Chris spent the next 19+ years in active reserve with Cargo Handling Battalion 9... including deployments with Operation Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom. Chris works at Home Depot. He, and wife Lisa, currently live in Grove City. WELCOME ABOARD, CHRIS! We're happy to have you with us.

The Secretary offered his report. No correspondence was received this past month.

The Treasurer report was provided to date, there is \$9,908.47 total in the Base accounts.

Webmaster Cliff Dodson had nothing new to report.

Clutch reported that there were 8 members that were not current on their dues that were now due.

Chaplain Walt Fleck reported on the Binnacle List for January:

#### CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Bob Frier—He says, “all in all he is doing OK”. He is not confident in his driving yet. The mass on his back is benign & he will keep in touch with his doctor.

Jim Steck— He attended and is doing well but gets kind of tired after kemo. Has 8 or 9 more weeks of treatment.

Sharon Lloyd—therapy is down to once a week till the first week of February. Doing well & getting stronger.

Sharon called the rest of the men on the list & got voicemail from them all. She will send cards to everyone & sign them from the Base.

Events:

Christmas Diner - Saturday, 7 December 2024, went well and Thanks to Clutch for coordinating the event.

Eagle Scouts - Walt Fleak reported he participated in 4 Eagle Scout presentations in 2024.

Honor Flight – All missions were completed in 2024. It was reported the 2025 schedule is not out yet. Wheelchair Commanders have changed. Roger Dyer has retired and Eric McWhorter has assumed Commander.

Discussions were held regarding future dinners. It was decided to continue the April (Holland Club indoctrination) and the Christmas Dinner. The general opinion was to raise the cost to \$25 per person. The August picnic was pushed to further discussions. Dave Hamel volunteered to coordinate the April dinner. (THANKS) A volunteer is still needed for the Christmas Dinner.

It was also discussed and decided to continue the Awards presentations at the December Dinner.

The 50/50 drawings were held.

Chaplain Walt Fleak gave the benediction as Commander Tim adjourned the meeting at 1407.

The next meeting will be held at 1300 on Saturday, 1 February 2025, at the American Legion Leasure-Blackston Post 239, 700 Morning Street, Worthington following the usual noon social hour.

Respectfully submitted, Richard Demboski, Secretary