



COLUMBUS BASE MEETING MINUTES 1 November 2025

Call to Order:

1300– Vice-Commander Dave Hamel called the November meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag and country following our traditional social hour. Chaplain Walt Fleak offered the invocation.

Thirteen members and guests attended. Due to the small number attending, and the absence of guests, individual introductions were waived.

Lost Boats for November were tolled by Chaplain Sharon Lloyd and Jim Koogler. The ceremony included tolling in remembrance of base members who departed on Eternal Patrol in the month of November. The usual moment of silence for all lost boats and shipmates concluded the memorial portion of the meeting.

Administrative Reports:

Vice-Commander Hamel reported that the past meeting's minutes were posted on our website. No known correspondence was reported..

Treasurer Walt reported the bank balances as of the end of October.

Webmaster reported no issues.

Chaplain Sharon Lloyd reported on those members on the “Binnacle List”:

Ongoing reminder: Please leave instructions to next of kin or family members to contact Columbus Base if you should depart on Eternal Patrol. There have been a few times when we weren't aware of a shipmate's departure and therefore were not present to honor his memory and service at his memorial. o “In case of death” checklist copies available on request.

Storekeeper Eric Dreiseidel has 2026 calendars for sale: \$10.00 each.

Membership:

We are at 77 members.

Website received inquiry from USSVI Life member Matthew McGovern: MM1(SS) NUC/ELT, qual 1991 USS Pennsylvania SSBN-735. He's MAL and looking to join a local base. Matthew and his wife Jennifer live in Johnstown.

Events:

Columbus Base Election: Ballot will be emailed November 1, 2025. Must be returned by Saturday Nov 22, 2025.

Delaware Community Veterans Day Parade will be held Sunday, November 2, 2025. Step off at 3pm.

Logan's Veterans Day Parade will be held Sunday, November 9, 2025. Step off at 3 PM.

Christmas Dinner/Awards Celebration/Toys for Tots Collection:

- Day/Date: Saturday, 6 December 2025
- Location: VFW #4931 (Hilliard) • 2436 Walcutt Rd
- Columbus, Ohio 43228 • 614-876-4817
- Cost: \$22.00 per person
- Menu: Italian. Appetizers provided by base members.

The next USSVI Conventions will be 2026, Corpus Christi; 2027, Reno; 2028, Norfolk.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Honor Flight – There are 2 remaining flights scheduled for this year on November 6 and November 13.

Eagle Scouts – no new certificates presented.

NJROTC Awards: Jim Koogler contacted Cdr Matt Bradshaw at Franklin Heights High School. Criteria for selection of Columbus Base award honoree was the subject of discussion and agreed.

Shipmate of the Year: Discussion regarding whether Shipmate of the Year election should be held this year. It was decided to continue the tradition for 2025 and revisit again in 2026.

Other discussions included: American Legion Post donations; locations for 2026 April and December dinners; Upper Arlington High School invitation for Veterans' Day lunch.

50/50 was held.

Chaplain Walt Fleak gave the benediction, and Vice-Commander Hamel adjourned the meeting at 1400 after announcing the next meeting will be the Christmas Dinner on:

Saturday, 6 December 2025

VFW #4931 (Hillard)

2436 Walcutt Rd

Columbus, OH 43228

Respectfully submitted, James Koogler, Secretary (Pro Tem)