

**USSVI WESTERN DISTRICT SIX**  
***The District of Distinction***  
District Commander – Robert J. (Bob) Miller  
BobM593@gmail.com - 760-519-7730

31 January 2010

Hello Mike,

I've reviewed the Bonefish Base Constitution and Bylaws you submitted for my approval. While the wording and arrangement of the Bonefish docs are dissimilar from the National docs they are in no way "in conflict" with the intent and purpose of the requirements of the National docs.

I therefore have approved your docs and am returning your original documents with my approval signature to you for your official Base records. I'm sending a copy to the Western Region Director to keep him informed and for his records also.

Congratulations to you for the great job you are doing in running the Bonefish Base and in promoting the Creed of United States Submarine Veterans Inc.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert J. Miller". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Take care," text.

CC: Jim Dunn, Western Region Director

**USS BONEFISH SS-223/582 BASE  
REDLANDS, CA  
OF  
UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS, INCORPORATED**

**CONSTITUTION**

(Revised January 1, 2010)



The Trademarked Emblem of the Organization

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

**Section 1:** The name of the organization shall be **USS BONEFISH SS-223/582 BASE**.

**Section 2:** For the purpose of this Constitution the term “organization” shall be synonymous with “USS BONEFISH BASE”.

**Section 3:** The spoken name may be shortened to **BONEFISH** or **BONEFISH BASE**. The Article 1, Section 1 full name shall be used in all official correspondence.

**ARTICLE II – EMBLEM**

**Section 1:** The trademarked emblem of this organization shall be depicted by an oval with the words **UNITED STATES** bracketed along the inside edge of the oval at the top and the words **SUBMARINE VETERANS** bracketed along the inside edge at the bottom. A depiction of the “**QUALIFIED IN SUBMARINES**” breast insignia (Dolphins) shall appear centered in the oval. A depiction of the emblem will be found in USSVI’S By-laws.

**Section 2:** Use of the organization’s trademarked emblem for any purpose, will be as specified in the USSVI’S By-Laws.

**ARTICLE III – PURPOSE/CREED**

**Section 1: STATEMENT of Purpose/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.

**Section 2:** In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be Strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

**Section 3:** The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today.

#### **ARTICLE IV – POLICY**

The organization shall adopt no policy in conflict with the Constitution, Laws, and Practices of the United States or USSVI.

#### **ARTICLE V-- FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the organization shall commence on the first day of January and end on the thirty -first day of December in each year.

#### **ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP**

##### **Section 1. GENERAL**

- A. Members who have been discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States of America must have been discharged under honorable conditions. Proof of qualification and honorable service may be required to be provided to assigned base Secretary or Nat'l Membership Chairman.
- B. All members shall be bound by the Organization's Constitution and Bylaws.
- C. A member may choose the Local Base he desires, however, if no choice is made he may be referred to the Base nearest his home or an internet base at the direction of the National Membership chairman.
- D. A member is considered "in good standing" if National dues has been paid for the current year.
- E. Dues are due and payable effective the last day of December each year. Beginning on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> a non-renewed member is considered in arrears. Members shall have through 31 January to bring their status up to date. After the above listed dates, members who have not become current in status will be dropped from the rolls of the organization.
- F. Members may join any number of Bases. One Base shall be selected as their (main) primary Base, and all others as (secondary) dual Base(s). Members may only vote from their primary Base in the National elections of the organization.
- G. To avoid conflicts of interest, a Member may only serve as Base Commander for one Base at a time.

##### **Section 2. REGULAR MEMBERS.**

- A. Regular membership is restricted to current and former U.S. Military Personnel, who have been designated "Qualified in Submarines" by authorized U.S. Navy Command Authority, or are regular members of the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II.

### **Section 3. LIFE MEMBERS**

- A. Regular and Associate Members may become Life Members by paying the National Life Membership Fee.
- B. National Life Members will pay no further National dues, but may be required to pay Base dues as per Base By-laws.
- C. A Base may offer a member, who is a National Life Member, Base Life Membership, not to exceed the cost of National Life membership.

### **Section 4: HOLLAND CLUB**

- A. Any Regular Member who has been designated "Qualified in Submarines" for fifty (50) years or more and who is either (a) a National Life Member in good standing, or (b) an annual member in good standing for five or more consecutive years, is eligible to become a member of the "Holland Club" within the organization. (C5/04)
- B. Holland Club members will pay no further National dues, but may be required to pay Base dues as per Base By-laws.
- C. Holland Club member's membership cards will be appropriately stamped HOLLAND CLUB on the front.
- D. The members of the Holland Club will elect Holland Club officers including a Holland Club Chairman who will represent them directly to the organization's National Commander.
- E. The Base Commander will periodically review the Membership and notify the National Membership Chairman and the Holland Club Chairman as Members approach the eligibility requirements.

### **Section 5: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

- A. An Associate Member is a person who is not eligible for regular membership but is closely associated with a Regular Member.
- B. Each Associate Member must be sponsored by a Regular Member in good standing.
- C. Associate Members are eligible for Life Membership.
- D. Associate Membership is reserved for persons not otherwise eligible for regular membership, but who are related to the Submarine Service by their deeds or actions. (All Associate Members must be at least sixteen (16) years of age). This does not preclude any relative of a regular member in good standing from applying for Associate Membership.
- E. Each Regular Member may sponsor one other Associate Member not defined in paragraph "D" above.
- F. Anyone who is presently serving, or has served, in a currently allied Navy, and is Qualified in Submarines, may become an Associate Member, and does not require a sponsor.
- G. Associate Members may not vote in the National elections and cannot hold National elected office.
- H. Associate Members may vote on Base matters, but may not hold elective offices.
- I. In the event an Associate Member's sponsor can no longer sponsor the Associate Member (i.e. transferred or called to eternal patrol) the Base may assume sponsorship of the Associate Member.
- J. A non-U.S. citizen who becomes an Associate Member is not required to pledge loyalty to the United States Government nor United States Constitution.

### **Section 6. MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

- A. The Base or National Membership Chairman may place any member, who once chooses, or is assigned to a Base, and who is a National Life Member or whose National annual dues are current, but whose Base dues are in arrears, in a category of Member-at-Large.

- B. Members-at-Large whose National Annual dues are current or who are National Life Members will retain National benefits (i.e. receipt of National magazine and voting on National issues).
- C. A Member-at-Large may affiliate with a Base at anytime by remitting Base dues.
- D. A Regular base member may transfer to Member At Large Status at any time by making a request to his affiliated base or to the National Membership Chair.

## **ARTICLE VII -- MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**Section 1.** Every member of the organization will pay membership dues as prescribed in the organization's By-laws.

**Section 2:** Dues are due and payable on January 1st each year and remain effective thru December 31st the same year.

**Section 3:** New Member National annual dues may be set on a declining pro-rata monthly schedule to be determined by the USSVI Board of Directors and published to the bases.

**Section 4:** Those members with 35 years of continuous membership in USSVI shall be classed as Senior Members, be publicly recognized and considered Life Members for national dues purposes if they are still annual dues members.

## **ARTICLE VIII – STRUCTURE**

### **Section 1. BASES**

- A. The Base will consist of at least seven (7) regular members in good standing.
- B. The Base will be governed by a duly elected or appointed Base Commander as per Base By-laws.
- C. The Base Constitution, By-laws and their amendments must not conflict with the National Constitution or National By-laws and must be approved by the District Commander or next in the chain of command to become effective.

## **ARTICLE IX – CHARTER**

**Section 1.** Upon signed approval of their Constitution and By-laws by the appropriate District Commander and endorsement by the Regional Director, each Base shall be issued a Charter from the organization. The USSVI National Commander and Secretary, who shall affix the USSVI Seal thereto, shall sign the charter.

**Section 2.** Issuance of the Charter signifies authorization to carry out the purpose of USSVI under the name United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. and authorizes the use of the National Emblem in carrying out that purpose provided however that no Base has the authority to bind the Organization either financially or contractually.


**Section 3.** Any Base that fails to comply with USSVI'S Constitution and By-laws will have thirty days (30), after notification in writing by the USSVI'S Secretary, to correct the deficiency or cause their Charter to be revoked.

## ARTICLE X – OFFICERS

### **Section 1: BASE OFFICERS**

- A. Base elected officers of USS Bonefish Base will be: Base Commander, Base Senior Vice-Commander, Base Junior Vice-Commander, Base Secretary, and Base Treasurer.
- B. The following Officers will be appointed by the Base Commander and confirmed by the Board of Directors: Chaplain, Historian, Parliamentarian, Newsletter Editor, Storekeeper and Webmaster.

### **Section 2. BASE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (E-BOARD)**

- A. The E-Board shall have the control and general management of the affairs and business of the Base.
- B. The E-Board shall be comprised of the Base elected officers, the immediate past Base Commander, and the President of the Ladies Auxiliary.
- C. All members of the E-Board have voting privileges ~~are~~ except the President of the Ladies Auxiliary. 
- D. Any member of the E-Board may be removed from office for cause by two-thirds (66 %) vote of the E-Board.
- E. Duties of the E-Board shall include but not be limited to all normal business that the board takes care of in the routine management of the Base. It shall also include approving those appointments the Base Commander and others shall make
- F. Regardless of cause, a replacement for a voting member may be appointed from the general membership by the Base Commander, providing that the member appointed meets all the requirements for that position, or the sitting officer next in seniority, or the vacated duties may be absorbed or distributed between the remaining members as the E-Board approves.
- G. No member of the E-Board with voting privileges shall have more than one vote.

## ARTICLE XI – MEETINGS

**Section 1.** The USS Bonefish Base shall conduct at least 10 Business Meetings per year, at times and places as specified in the By-laws.

## ARTICLE XII – QUORUM

**Section 1.** Members in good standing at the Base's Monthly meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business.

**Section 2.** A majority of the voting members of the E-Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business at a duly called meeting of the E-Board.

**Section 3.** Once a quorum has been established, no member absenting himself shall destroy the quorum.

## ARTICLE XIII – VOTING

**Section 1.** Each regular member of the Base shall be entitled to vote in the National Election, provided that the member is in good standing, both at the time his ballot is counted and on the date of the Annual Business Meeting.

**Section 2.** Each Base member in good standing can cast one vote in the Base Election.

**Section 3.** There shall be no voting by proxy; any member in good standing not voting will be considered as abstaining. And all votes will be cast in secret.

**ARTICLE XIV – AMENDMENTS**

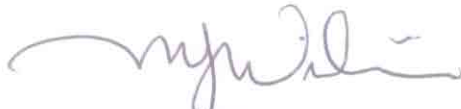
**Section 1:** Any regular member in good standing may submit proposed amendments to amend this Base Constitution or the USSVI National Constitution by forwarding, either by the Postal Service or by email, send the proposed amendments to the Base Commander, or for USSVI National to the Chairman of the Constitution & By-laws Committee.

**ARTICLE XV – DISSOLUTION**


**Section 1:** In the event of a Base dissolution, all assets and moneys of the same shall be turned over to the National Senior Vice-Commander.

**JANUARY 01, 2010**

This Constitution is accepted and approved, as amended, in accordance with existing National By-Laws by the District Commander.



**Michael (Willie) Williamson  
Base Commander, USS BONEFISH BASE**



**Robert (Bob) Miller  
Western Region District 6 Commander**