

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the November 2014 meeting was 99.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ed Stank. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1906. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in November was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Vice-Commander Don Mook. Ed welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

He then turned the podium over to base Chaplain Nick Nichols.

Karl Humbertson Memorial Service: Base Chaplain Nick Nichols performed our standard Memorial Service for MMC(SS) Karl Edwin Humbertson who departed on Eternal Patrol on October 21, 2014.

Following the service the family and guest left the room so that the Business Meeting could continue.

Introductions: There were no guests at the meeting.

Secretary: Base Secretary Rick Wise called for a motion on the October Meeting minutes. Jay "Doc" Pierce made a motion to accept the minutes as published. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Treasurer/: Base Treasures Steve Morawiec gave a report on the base finances. The report is available on the Charleston Base website www.ussvicb.org . An analysis of the October Butt Roast showed a loss of \$257.

Vice-Commander/Membership Chairman: Base Vice-Commander Don Mook had no report but as Membership Chairman reported that there are 339 members of Charleston Base. 61 base members owe national dues (\$20) and 100 members owe base dues (\$15). He will be available to take dues for 30 minutes after the meeting. Dues can also be paid on-line at the base website, www.ussvicb.org .

Chaplain and Webmaster: Base Chaplain and Webmaster Nick Nichols gave the following report:

November Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

Albacore was lost on Nov 7, 1944 with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her eleventh war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.

- **MMC(SS) Karl Humbertson departed on Eternal Patrol October 21st.**
- **FTB2(SS) Charlie Rook departed on Eternal Patrol October 23rd.** His wife, Gloria, is planning a very small service on the battery to spread Charlie's ashes in the harbor. This will be on Sunday, November 23rd at noon. I will be saying a few words at the service. We will not be holding our normal bell tolling or presentations due to her not wanting to attract a crowd.
 - **NOTE:** *I would like to stress the importance of giving the Chaplain a Page 2. When there isn't one it does make it harder to assist the family with the funeral. We currently have 339 members. Of those, I only have a page 2 for 118 members or 35% of the base.*
- **David Knaub**, Mike and Debbie Knaub son was placed on the lung transplant list. This is significant because as soon as lungs become available for him he will go in for his transplant. Please keep him in your prayers as he may have been given a new chance for a normal life.
- **Harry Feller** is NHC West Ashley rm 102 recovering from a hospital stay in which he had to have three units of blood due to a bleeding ulcer. Talked to Mary this afternoon and she said he is doing better and can stand on his own but is still retaining a lot of fluid.
- **"Frenchy" Fuqua** continues to recover from his stroke. I was able to talk with Barbara this afternoon and she informed me he is doing well. French will be released next Friday, 21 Nov. and be able to go home. Not sure at this point if it will be home or outpatient therapy.
- As most of you know I volunteer on Tuesday evening at Summerville Medical Center. This past Tuesday like some of you, I spent a full morning of Veterans ceremonies causing me to feel good about myself and my service in the Navy. On Tuesday evening my feel good came crashing down around me. A 93 year old Army vet came to the hospital and I was able to shake the hand of an original member of Merrill's Marauders. He was with them from their beginning to their end, 1943-1944. If you know WWII military history you know what I'm talking about. Merrill's Marauders or Unit *Galahad*, was a United States Army long range penetration special operations jungle warfare unit, which fought in the South-East Asian theatre of World War II, or China-Burma-India Theater (CBI). The unit became famous for its deep-penetration missions behind Japanese lines, often engaging Japanese forces superior in number. Look them up and you'll realize why I had goose bumps all over my body when I shook this veterans' hands.
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- **NOTE:** *I would like to stress the importance of making sure you, and your family, know the location of your DD214. This is required to prove veteran status if you are seriously ill or in case of death.*

- **NOTE:** Please pickup one of the pages on the table where I'm sitting. Put one of these with your important papers so that your loved one knows who to contact with the SUBVETS.

Follow-ups were made on those who've had surgery or illnesses in the last couple of months along with the base sending additional cards.

WEBMASTER NOTES:

Website is updated constantly.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis reported that restriction on means testing for VA health benefit will be dropped on January 1, 2015. If you have tried to get in the system and been told you are not eligible because of your income apply again after 1 January.

FRA: Larry Cox told the base about the National Veterans Day Ceremony he attended at Birmingham, Alabama. The honored guest at the banquet was the co-pilot on plane #1 plane of the Doolittle Raid on Toyoko.

Holland Club: Holland Club Chairman Bill Freligh asked that members who qualified in submarines in 1965 to contact him so he can start setting up next year's Holland Club induction.

Storekeeper: Base Storekeeper Ken Hutchison stated that he still had 2015 calendars for sale for \$9 each. USSVI has 50th anniversary coins available for \$7. If you would like one or need anything else contact the storekeeper at storekeeper@ussvicb.org .

Submarine Veterans of World War II: Swamp Fox President George Scharf described the Veterans Day Memorial Service at Stratford High School. He said it was one of the most impressive services he had attended.

Recreation Committee: Charlie Hudson reminded the base of the Christmas Party on 13 December at the Red Bank Club. There will be two pony kegs (one Miller Lite and one Bud Lite) as well as drink tickets.

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson made the following report:

Engineers.....They are not what I remember an engineer looking like. If you recall when someone said he was an engineer the first thing you looked for was the blue and white striped cap. (You know....Trains or as a young NUC would say.....Choo-Choos!)

Engineers were responsible for most of the following.....

Equipment Malfunctions..... Missed movements (late underways)..... Miscommunications (why isn't the number 11 pronounced onty-one?)....Wanting to control the whole ship:

They would like to have the Control Room back in Maneuvering. They would also like a periscope installed in Maneuvering. And they don't want you to talk across the chain!

They don't allow you to have a coffee pot in Maneuvering, but you can drink coffee on watch. You just can't spill a whole pot on the panels!

Cavitation.

All Co's were engineers but less that 25% of the engineers become CO's. Why? Because they also have to be successful Executive Officers, people and paper pushers.

The engineers that do not stay in the military, retire and become executives in the business world. They work for beverage companies....Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?

The work for pharmaceutical companies.....Whatever happened to Preparations A through G?

They work in corrections....Why do they use sterilized needles for lethal injections?

Or, go back to school and get their Masters degrees and become Historians.....

In 1272 Arabic Muslims invented the condom, using a goat's lower intestine.

In 1873 the British refined the idea by taking the intestine out of the goat first!

Yet some engineers go into the medical field....So ask yourself if one out of four persons suffer from mental illness....Do the other three enjoy it?

The After Battery: Steve "Buddha" Nelms reminded the base of the After Battery in Dorchester, SC. The website with a map and information is www.theafterbattery.com . The annual Hog Roast will be Saturday, April 11, 2015.

Chief of the Boat: Rick Sparger thanked Marty Sessler, Terry Trump and Rick Wise on their work getting the float ready.

Rick talked about how disappointed he was for the attendance at the Butt Roast. A lot of base members and their wives did a lot of work hold the event.

Base Commander: Ed Stank talked about the Veterans Day Ceremony in Summerville on November 11.

He reminded the base members that they can go on line to the Combined Base Charleston site and set up for wills, living wills and power-of-attorney at no cost.

He asked if any members had suggestions on changes to the by-laws please let the Board of Directors know.

Stratford High School has contacted the base about having veterans come in and talk to the students. If you are interested contact Rick Wise (secretary@ussvicb.org).

(Secretary Note: I was contacted by Steve Morawiec and Ralph Rhorsen as volunteers.)

Old Business: Fisher House Donation: After the October meeting Ed determined that the donations would not go to building the Fisher House but for Administration and Training. Ed made a motion that the money collected be contributed to buying the property, which must be done before the building can start. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

New Business: Rick Wise made the following motion: The Treasurer of USSVI-Charleston Base may transfer funds annually from the Investment Fund to the General Fund not to exceed the product of the number of base life members multiplied by the amount of the annual base membership dues, as required, with the concurrence of the Board of Directors.

The motion was seconded and after some spirited discussion that did not apply to the motion presented was rejected by the membership.

Good of the Order: Julian Villegas resigned as chairman and a member of the Scholarship Committee. Rick Collins also resigned as a member of the Scholarship Committee. If you are interested in serving on the Scholarship Committee please contact Ed Stank.

Depth Charge: The depth charge was won by Ed Stank. He donated \$160 to the General Fund.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2015.