

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base

Minutes of Business Meeting

9 July 2020

Opening Ceremonies:

- The July 2020 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of two officers (Base Commander and Secretary) and a total of 18 members and two guests present. The meeting started at 1900. We did not use of the diving alarm tonight.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Base Commander Mike Ciesielko and recited by the members and guests in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of July:
 - **USS S-28 (SS 133) July 4, 1944 – Training Exercise Lost with all hands – 49 souls**
 - **USS ROBALO (SS 273) July 26, 1944 – 3rd War patrol Lost with 77 men – 4 died as POWs – 81 souls**
 - **USS GRUNION (SS 216) July 30, 1942 – 1st War patrol Lost with all hands – 70 souls**
 - **Three Boats and 200 Men Lost**
- **Senior Chief Radioman, Submarines, Barry Jack Tackett, US Navy Retired – Departed on Eternal Patrol April 23, 2020**
- **Master Chief Electronics Technician, Submarines, Stan Yoakum, US Navy Retired – Departed on Eternal Patrol April 29, 2020**
- **Master Chief Torpedoman, Submarines, Danny Leonhardt, US Navy Retired – Departed on Eternal Patrol May 21, 2020**
- **Chief Torpedoman, Submarines, William Hayes, Jr., US Navy Retired – Departed on Eternal Patrol May 29, 2020**
- The USSVI Creed was read by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Presentation of Distinguished Submariner:

- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko presented Bill Kennedy – AKA Friar Tuck – the Distinguished Submariner Award. Mike read the numerous comments provided from the nominations by the Base members for Bill's work as Kaps-for-Kids coordinator. The framed comments and certificate signed by the Base Commander were provided to Bill along with a plaque noting the achievement.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- Two men the Base meeting as guests:
 - William Woodfall (Woody) – EM1 – Qualified on USS Queenfish SSN651 – 1974 – Also served as an instructor at Nuclear Power School and Plankowner on USS Houston SSN713.
 - Phillip Nunn – MMC – Qualified on USS John Adams SSN620 – 1981 – Also served aboard USS John C. Calhoun SSBN 630, USS Sand Lance SSN 660, USS Holland, at SUPSHIP at Charleston Naval Shipyard and at Trident Training Facility.

Old Business:

- **2020 Charleston Base Elections – Ken Hutchison**
 - Two men had been nominated for office of Vice Commander: Tom Lawson (Incumbent) and Ed Stank. There was only one nomination for the office of Base Secretary: Gordon Long. Ballots were provided to each member at meeting check-in. The ballots were collected by Ken Hutchison with the results: Vice Commander – Tom Lawson winning with 10 votes. Ed Stank received 8 votes. Secretary – Gordon Long (uncontested).

New Business:

- **None**

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the March Base meeting had been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website. Due to the panic shutdown of America, Charleston Base did not hold meetings during the months of April, May or June. The March Base meeting minutes were approved with no additions, changes or deletions.

Treasurer – Base Commander for Gordon Williams:

- The Treasurer's Reports for March, April, May and June have been published and promulgated on the website.
- There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved as provided.
- Treasurer reported that Charleston Base donated \$250 to the Submarine Birthday Ball.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

Highlighted boat of the month:

GRUNION was lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in 2006 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.

- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **RMCS(SS) Barry Jack Tackett** departed on Eternal Patrol on April 23rd at the Walterboro Victory House. He was a member of USSVI National and Charleston Base since 2015. Served on: SSBN-658, SSBN-628, SSBN-627, SSBN-632. Qualified in submarines on the USS Mariano G Vallejo (SSBN-658) in 1968 and was a RMCS(SS) when he left the Navy.
- **TMC(SS) William 'Bill' Hayes, Jr.** departed on Eternal Patrol on May 29th at his home. He joined the Navy in 1954 and retired in 1973. Bill was a Life Member of USSVI National [2004] and Life Member of Charleston Base [2004], a member of the American Legion Post #166 in Goose Creek and Fleet Reserve Branch 269 in Goose Creek. He qualified on USS BEGURA SS-331, and served on SCAMP SSN-588, POMODON SS-486, HADDO SSN-604, HADDOCK SSN-621, POLLACK SSN-603 and TIRU SS-416. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.
- **TMCM(SS) Danny Leonhardt** departed on Eternal Patrol on May 21st at MUSC. He joined the Navy in 1962 and retired in 1985. Danny was a Member of USSVI National [2009] and Charleston Base [2009]. He qualified on USS THOMAS JEFFERSON SSBN 618 and served on SIMON BOLIVAR SSBN 641 and CASIMIR PULASKI SSBN633 as Chief of the Boat. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website. Wife Sandy has informed me there will be a memorial service sometime in the fall and would like Charleston Base and FRA to participate.
- **ETCM(SS) Stan Yoakum** departed on Eternal Patrol on April 29th in Moncks Corner. Stan was not a current member of USSVI or Charleston Base but had been up until 2019.
- **TMCM(SS) Charles E. Watkins** departed on Eternal Patrol on May 28th. He was not a member of USSVI. He qualified on BARBELL SS-580 and served on GRAYLING SSN-646, SUNFISH SSN-649, TRUMPETFISH SS-425, and PARCHE SSN-683. Also was stationed at POMFLANT NWS CHASH and one of the SQUADRONS either 4 or 6.
- **ETCS(SS) Richard 'Willie' Wilson** departed on Eternal Patrol on April 13th at home. He was not a member of USSVI. He qualified on HENRY L. STIMSON SSBN-655 in 1977 and served on FRANCIS SCOTT KEY SSBN-657, JOHN C. CALHOUN SSBN-630 and PROTEUS AS-19.
- **Dr. Trevor Nichols DC**, 52, son of Nick & Linda, died on March 21st at his residence in Forest Park GA. He was a Chiropractor practicing in the Atlanta area. He was an Air Force Veteran in Panama and the 1st Gulf War in Kuwait and Iraq. Due to the COVID19 restrictions, the family was not able to bring him home until the end of April. A private memorial service was held on June 2nd.
- **Rebecca Bryar**, Butch and Shelly's daughter, passed away on June 23rd.
- **Patricia Lindberg**, 82, wife of Tom Lindberg, passed away on May 16th.
- **Billy Buntin** is in Trident and not doing well. Is going to be placed on Hospice. Family is trying to get him into one of the VA Hospice Homes locally.
- **Roger Gibson** had a defibrillator installed on May 28th. He is doing well.
- **Glenn Little** was treated for diverticulitis. He is doing well.

- **George Burton** is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. His most recent scans show great improvement.
- **Gene Simpo** was in Roper with congestive heart failure. He is 94 years young. He is now in Roper Downtown for physical therapy.
- **Rick Wise** has been diagnosed with early stage prostate cancer. After consulting with the Oncologist he has decided to go with radioactive seed implants. Since it requires 3 months of hormone therapy prior to the implants the target date is in mid to late October. I thank everyone for their input that helped me with the decision as well as their prayers. Please keep them coming.
- **Gerry Starr** had gall bladder surgery in early May. He is doing well.
- **Jimmy Kimbrell** was in the hospital for a possible heart problem but diagnosed with shingles. Doing well.
- **Ed Stank** had colon surgery in mid-May. He was diagnosed with no cancer.
- **Tom Lufkin** has had several medical issues beginning in Nov 2019. The latest began in early May with angina pain, developed a cough, fluid on the lungs and eventually ended up with COVID 19. He is now home and feels much better.
- **Ray Sparks** had hernia surgery in late March. Feeling great now.
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care.
- Please complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so. Of all the Eternal Patrols this reporting period, no one had a page 2 on file. None of the 4 base members who passed away during this reporting period had a page 2.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Website is constantly updated.
- Make use of the EVENTS page on the Charleston Base website. All events that are put out to the membership via email will be listed and updated on the events page.
- Pictures will now be on the USSVI National website. Please take a look at your profile on the National site and update it if needed. Many have missing info.
- Charleston Base now has a YouTube channel compliments of our Social Media guru, Lewis Leal. The Memorial Day service was filmed and put on there.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – George Scharf:

- Not present

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson

- Not present

Membership – Larry Knutson

- Not present

VA – Tom Lawson

- Not present
- Nick Nichols noted that the VA is starting to open again, but you are not allowed to have any visitor to accompany you to the appointment. Building access is also restricted to less than 15 minutes prior to your appointment. So, if you are a slow walker, you need to call to make arrangements accordingly so that you don't miss your appointment.

Scholarship – Rick Sparger for Carl Chinn

- The Rummage Sale to benefit the Scholarship Fund will occur when cooler weather starts to arrive. The date is yet to be determined, but it WILL happen. Please continue to hold your items so that we can raise the funds for the Scholarship presentations.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- Nothing to report.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

- Not Present

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks

- The graduations are no longer open to the public. Charleston Base is still participating by providing the award but it is actually presented by the NPS staff to the students with video streaming. The next NPS graduation is July 10.

Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger

- The FRA is has open (no cost) for pool tables on Sundays.

Public Affairs – Jerry Stout

- Not present

Newsletter – Rick Wise

- If anyone has anything that you would like to put in the Base Newsletter, please send it to Rick. He is usually waiting on the Meeting Minutes.

Comptroller – Rick Wise

- We did not take in much money last quarter – only about \$313. We did carry over \$2500 from last year, so we will not have any budget issues.

Recreation – VACANT

- Rick Sparger pointed out that we had the Oyster Roast this last February and have not had any other events. We should have a picnic in the autumn after cooler weather arrives. He does not recommend a barbeque since that was unsuccessful in the past. Instead it should simply be hamburgers/hotdogs. Rick also suggested that the Base should provide beer and wine.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

- If anyone is in need of an item, please call Ken.

COB – Joe Lunn

- Not present

Vice Commander – Mike Ciesielko for Tom Lawson

- Be sure to clean your tables.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- National USSVI elections are currently in progress. The election for national officers is being handled online and started on June 18. It will run until August 17. Go to USSVI.ORG national site and log on to make your selection for the various officers and amendments. If you prefer a paper ballot, there is a button to print it out for mail-in. You can also use the ballot that is in the American Submariner. These instructions were previously sent to the entire Base membership via email. Mike encouraged everyone to vote – preferably online to make sure that your vote is counted. The deadline is too close to our August Base meeting.
- Nick Nichols explained the requested changes to the National By-Laws that are contained in the USSVI ballot and emphasized the need to logon and cast your vote

Good of the Order

After Battery – Ken Hutchison

- Currently shutdown due to one individual testing positive for COVID. Will open up likely next Wednesday after sanitizing everything.

COVID – Nick Nichols

- As many are aware, there are several states which are requiring quarantine when traveling from South Carolina and others. Be careful of your vacation plans this summer because you may have to quarantine for 14 days before going out anywhere once you arrive at the other state.

EMAIL – Nick Nichols

- National USSVI sent information regarding the use of email. When sending out to groups, PLEASE remember to address your list in the BCC box – not TO or CC, as this will keep the addresses hidden. For small groups this is usually no problem. By using BCC, it keeps from sending out everyone's email addresses if someone was to forward the email outside the group. Many times, spammers are able to obtain email addresses from these forwarded emails.

Gun Shoot – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing happening at this point.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Not Present

Drawings & Auctions

- Depth Charge – Rick Sparger – Donated \$20 back to Base.

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting.
- The meeting was closed at 1945.