# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base Minutes of Business Meeting 10 September 2020

# **Opening Ceremonies:**

- The September 2020 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum
  of two officers and a total of \_\_\_ members. The meeting started at 1900. Vice Commander Tom Lawson
  and Secretary Gordon Long were not present.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Base Commander Mike Ciesielko and recited by the members 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 September:

0	USS S-5 (SS 110)	Sep 1, 1920 – Practice Dive	No loss of life
0	USS GRAYLING (SS 209)	Sep 9, 1943 – 8 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands - 76 souls
0	USS S-51 (SS 162)	Sep 25, 1925 – Rammed off	
		Block Island	Lost with 33 souls; 3 survivors
0	USS CISCO (SS 290)	Sep 28, 1943 – 1 <sup>st</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands - 76 souls
0	USS POMPANO (SS 181)	September, 1943 – 7 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands - 77 souls

- Five Boats and 262 Men Lost
- First Class Machinist Mate, Submarines, David Robert Saari, US Navy Retired Departed on Eternal Patrol August 13, 2020
- The USSVI Creed was read by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members to the meeting.

#### **Introductions of New Attendees:**

• One man was present at the Base meeting for the first time: Keith Dye – MMCM(SS)

#### Old Business:

NONE

#### **New Business:**

NONE

## **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Not Present
- [The Minutes from the August Base meeting had been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website.]

## **Treasurer - Base Commander for Gordon Williams:**

- The Treasurer's Report for August has been published and promulgated on the website.
- There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved as provided.
- Gordon Williams reported that a one-year lease agreement was signed by Habitat for Humanity [Next to FRA] and Charleston Base to store the float under their shelter.

## **Chaplain – Nick Nichols:**

- Highlighted boat of the month:
  - O CISCO was lost on Sept 28, 1943 on her first war patrol with the loss of 76 men in the Sulu Sea west of Mindinao. Japanese records tell of sighting a submarine leaking oil in the area where the Cisco was known to have been on duty. Japanese records state she was sunk by bombs and depth charges.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- MM1(SS) David Robert Saari departed on Eternal Patrol on August 13. He joined the Navy in 1953 and retired in 1977. Dave was Life Member of USSVI National [2010], Life Member of Charleston Base [2010], a Holland Club member, the FRA Branch 269, VFW, American Legion. He qualified on USS TRUMPETFISH

SS-425 in 1960, and served on LAFAYETTE SSBN-616, JAMES MONROE SSBN-622, and SIMON BOLIVAR SSBN-641. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.

- Dave is the 8th CB brother that has departed on Eternal Patrol since March when COVID began.
- **Tim France** was in the hospital ICU with pneumonia mid-August. He is now on an antibiotic protocol and is home. Tim is a recent addition to the base but lives in Bluffton SC and will only attend a couple of meetings each year.
- **Gary Williams** had a lengthy surgery on his back this morning. He will be between the hospital and rehab for the next two weeks. No visitors but you can send cards to his home.
- Steve Everett is still undergoing chemo and says it's wearing him out. Really misses the meetings.
- **Linn Rogers Sr.** was in Trident ICU due to a fall in mid-August. He is now home in Hospice Care. They brought in a hospital bed for his use. He seems much more satisfied to be at his home versus the hospital. He's in good spirits.
- Roger Gibson received the results from a heart valve test. The valves that were operating at 30% are now normal.
- Harry Nettles had successful retina repair on his left eye.
- **Gene Weir** has low-grade lymphoma which is very treatable. He is talking pills daily and an injection every four weeks.
- George Burton is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. His most recent scans shows great improvement.
- Rick Wise will have his nuclear medicine done on October 2.
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care but is in a lot of pain from the medications given to him to alleviate the pain.
- 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.

#### **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.

## **Important Computer Info – Nick Nichols:**

• If you still have a Windows 7 computer, it must not be used on the internet. Microsoft is no longer supporting this operating system and has not been providing security updates for some time now.

#### New ID Cards - Nick Nichols:

 New retirees and family members will be getting new IDs similar to the CACs that are provided to active duty members. Only if you have to get a replacement ID card, will you will get the new type; otherwise you will not ever have to get one.

## **USSVI Annual Convention – Nick Nichols:**

• The 2021 USSVI Annual Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida in August. More information later.

## **Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Ciesielko for George Scharf:**

Nothing to report.

## Social Media – Lewis Leal:

• Nothing to report.

#### Kaps for Kids - Mike Emerson

- Not present.
- [Kaps for Kids events are on hold until the hospitals contact us to resume visits.]

## Membership – Larry Knutson

 We have a new USSVI member – Woody Woodsmall joined tonight as Life Member of both National and Charleston Base. Welcome!

#### VA - Tom Lawson

Not present

## Scholarship - Carl Chinn

- The Rummage Sale will be held soon. The actual date is yet to be determined.
- The new Scholarship application form is on the Base website. Please be sure to use the new form.
- The committee has a couple of submarine lighters that were donated Bancroft and Polk. These are for sale to benefit the scholarship fund. See Carl.
- Some Base members provided cash donations to the scholarship fund. Carl read their names and donations.
- The committee has raffle tickets for gift cards in varying dollar amounts to Top Dawg Tavern on Dorchester Rd. The drawing will be held at the Base Meeting in October.

# **Special Events – Rick Sparger**

- We are planning a Base picnic on October 17 at Bushy Park. The Base will provide hamburgers/hotdogs
  and members are asked to bring a side dish or two. Rick asked for a show of hands; receiving good response
  about those willing to attend. We need to have all hands willing to help for this event. If members want to
  bring something else to cook, Rick will be bringing a grille for you to use. He may even borrow a fryer. The
  Base will provide some beer also.
- We do not expect to have a Christmas party this year, but plan on a Base meeting in December instead.
- Rick also requested that the Base provide beer/wine for the picnic. Mike Ciesielko volunteered to cook.

## **CRAMA – Butch Bryar**

Not present.

## Nuclear Power School - Ray Sparks

Not Present.

#### Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger

Nothing to report.

#### **Public Affairs – Jerry Stout**

Not present

# **Newsletter - Rick Wise**

- Rick prepares the Base Newsletter and the Base Meeting Minutes get added at the end.
- Rick thanked Carl Chinn for his input to the Newsletter.
- If anyone has anything that you would like to put in the Base Newsletter, please send it to Rick.

## Comptroller - Rick Wise

The Base carried over several thousand dollars from 2019 to 2020. Nothing to report.

#### Recreation – VACANT

#### Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

- If anyone is in need of something, please call Ken. You can also simply send him an email.
- Since the number at our meetings are smaller right now, the ladies servicing our tables before the meeting are getting significantly less. There is an extra tip jar if you are able to help.

## COB - Joe Lunn

Not present.

#### Base Commander - Mike Ciesielko

- Mike reminded everyone to clean up the tables before departure.
- Mike will be reviewing the positions of those holding an office as part of Charleston Base. Some, due to
  health reasons are unable to fulfill the need of the position. Others are lacking in performance of the need
  of the office. At the next meeting, he may be asking for others to volunteer for various jobs.

# **Good of the Order**

# After Battery - Ken Hutchison

Nothing to report.

#### **Gun Club**

No activity at this time.

# **Nuclear Historian - Rick Carlson**

Not Present

# **Drawings & Auctions**

• Depth Charge – Lindsay Nelson

## **Closing Ceremony**

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting with three simulated blasts of the diving alarm.
- · Meeting closed.