

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base

Minutes of Business Meeting

14 January 2021

Opening Ceremonies:

- The January 2021 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of two officers and a total of 38 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm. Vice Commander Tom Lawson and Treasurer Gordon Williams 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 January was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of January:
 - **USS SCORPION (SS-278) January 5, 1944 – 4th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 77 souls**
 - **USS ARGONAUT (SS-166) January 10, 1943 – 3rd War Patrol Lost with all hands – 102 souls**
 - **USS SWORDFISH (SS-193) January 12, 1945 – 13th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 89 souls**
 - **USS S-36 (SS-141) January 20, 1942 – 2nd War Patrol No loss of life**
 - **USS S-26 (SS-131) January 24, 1942 – 2nd War Patrol Lost with 46 souls–3 men rescued****Five Boats and 314 Men lost during the month of January**
- The USSVI Creed was read by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members to the meeting.

Fleet Reserve Association Award:

- Instead of a guest speaker tonight, SubVet Harry Nettles (FRA Branch 269 VP), while arrayed in FRA apparel, with pleasure, read two awards and presented Stacy Power with a pin and the plaques to commemorate his 65 years of uninterrupted membership in the Fleet Reserve Association. It is unknown at this time, if anyone has exceeded this amount of years in the FRA.
- Stacy encouraged the few in the room who are not currently members of the FRA to join; noting representation of military members to Congress is important.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- One man was present at the Base meeting for the first time:
 - Harley Perry – STS2 – Qualified on USS L Mendel Rivers SSN686 – Qualified Diver – Served 10 years aboard submarines including USS GATO SSN615, USS Memphis SSN691 and USS Augusta SSN710. Served 12 1/2 years as MECP Nurse Corp officer.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Distinguished Submariner Award – Base Commander Mike Ciesielko noted that DSA Nomination forms had been put on the tables. He asked the Base members to write a paragraph explaining the reasons that the recommended fellow SubVet deserves to receive the award.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the December Base meeting were published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base Website. No additions or changes were noted. The Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer – Base Commander for Gordon Williams:

- The Treasurer's Report for December was published and promulgated on the website.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Highlighted boat of the month:**

- SWORDFISH SS-193 was lost on Jan 12, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. After repeated attempts to contact Swordfish by radio had failed, she was reported as lost, the victim of unknown causes, but best guess is a mine.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **EMCM(SS) William Basil Burnette**, 83, of Goose Creek departed on Eternal Patrol December 28, 2020. He was not a USSVI/CB member. He spent 28 years serving in the Navy as a submariner. After his retirement from the Navy he continued his career as a Nuclear Shift Test Engineer at the Charleston Naval Shipyard. An online condolence message was left on behalf of Charleston Base.
- **CPO(SS) Glenn James Andrews**, 93, of Charleston, departed on Eternal Patrol December 31, 2020. He served in the United States Navy and retired as a Chief Petty Officer. He was a Korean War Veteran serving on many ships during his service and retired off the SSBN624 USS Woodrow Wilson. An online condolence message was left on behalf of Charleston Base.
- **Linda Carver Gay**, Bob's wife, passed away on January 1st. Her service was held on January 5th. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.
- **Jimmy Kimbrell's brother, Don**, passed away mid-December 2020.
- **Jimmy Kimbrell** was in Roper on 10 January for congestive heart failure all over again. Gave him lots of Lasix to get the fluid buildup down so now no salt. Dang!!
- **Rodney McKanna** had his right knee replacement on 8 January. He was in the hospital for 28 hours. Home now but hurting. Says he loves the pain pills.
- **Ron Chambers** was treated for a ruptured vessel in his eye.
- **Gerry Farr** tested positive for COVID on 4 Jan and was admitted to the ER on 8 Jan. He is still at the hospital. Latest info from Mary (daughter) is the doctor said Dad's going to be there "in for a long haul" were his exact words. He said this viral thing is so unpredictable that it's hard to say how long it'll be but that Dad is plugging along at a steady pace. I brought up the possibility of Dad being put on a ventilator and he said that at this point they're not looking at it. So, that's where we are for now. Dad is more coherent today than he was yesterday but still has a long way to go, according to his doctor.
- **Don Ort** had heart surgery on December 15th to correct heart blockages and heart valve. The long 8.5 hours surgery went well but he has been having a hard time with recovery and healing. Donna (wife) reports that it is 4 weeks post op. 3 doctor appointments this week and all went well. Blood work and XRay perfect. Home PT is done and will begin cardiac rehab on Feb. 8th. Been a good week. Thanks for all the good thoughts and prayers.
- **Tom Lawson's daughter, Tracey**, had appendix surgery on Jan 5th and is home recovering.
- **Dennis "Frenchy" Fuqua** is home on palliative care with Hospice. The home health care and hospice nurses are a great help. He has lost a lot of weight and sleeps a lot. Their holidays were good considering everything. He cannot talk but Barbara will be glad to answer any questions and give him messages from you. Barbara's care (843)797-3230.
- **George Burton** is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. His most recent scans shows great improvement.
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care.
- Please complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so. Of all the Eternal Patrol 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.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Emerson for George Scharf:

- We recognized Stacy Power here tonight.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- We are recording both audio and video tonight. Video of Stacy Power's FRA award will be extracted, but we will find out whether the audio is of sufficient quality to place on the Base website.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson

- Nothing has changed at this point. Kaps for Kids events are on hold until the hospitals contact us to resume visits. Mike will call McLeod in Florence to see if they will allow Kaps visits if everyone has had the COVID vaccine.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- 279 Charleston Base Members – There are still about 30 members who owe National and 50 are dink in Base dues. They will soon be dropped from the Sailing List.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Not present

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- Carl gave the final report of the Rummage Sale. With the after-sale sales, the total was \$2467.
- The committee received a \$100 check from a company in Kansas City in memory of Richard Cleve.
- The shotgun raffle is still going on but the drawing will be held at the February Base Meeting. Carl would like to raise \$2000 for the scholarship fund through this effort.
- There is a box of books and other submarine related items on the table. Take something and make a donation to the scholarship fund.
- Challenge Coins are available.
- The committee has a two submarine Bancroft lighters for sale to benefit the scholarship fund. See Carl.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- Rick wants to arrange to pull the float during a springtime parade.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

- We are still waiting on the judge's ruling.
- Any donations will be helpful.
- We also have not yet heard from the governor's office.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks

- The date for the next NPS graduation is unknown. The school will provide the two performance awards from Charleston Base SubVets to the top officer and enlisted submarine designated individuals.
- The event is still closed because of COVID restrictions.

Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger

- The FRA normally has a Valentine's Day event, but it is unknown whether that will happen this year.

Newsletter – Rick Wise

- Rick reported that Ed Stank is relieving him as Newsletter Editor. I HAVE BEEN RELIEVED BY ED STANK
- Rick noted that he has been on the Board in some capacity since 2003 except for a few months. He asked that some younger members step in and take some of these tasks stating, "**Some of us are getting a little old.**"

Recreation – Bill Hayes

- We are planning a spaghetti dinner here at the FRA. We have three possible dates. More information will be provided at the next Base meeting.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko volunteered to cook for the dinner.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

- Nothing to Report

HUNLEY/HOUSATONIC – HARRY NETTLES

- 37 days from today we will remember the loss of the H.L. Hunley 157 years ago. Harry has a sign-up sheet. He needs 13 people for the annual 17 February ceremony which starts at 1900. We will meet at Sunrise Presbyterian Church on Sullivan's Island. Contact Harry for more details.

Public Affairs – Ed Stank

- Charleston Base has been published in American Submariner regarding the Rummage Sale to raise funds for the Scholarship Fund.
- Notification of our Base meetings are published in the Goose Creek Gazette.
- Ed will submit an article to American Submariner about Stacy Power's 65 year FRA award.

COB – Rick Sparger (Acting)

- Nothing to Report

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing to Report

Good of the Order

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Not present

VA Prescriptions – Mike Emerson

- If you plan to pick up prescriptions at the VA, make sure to get there early. Mike's wife had to wait more than 1.5 hours, but he got there early and was in/out in less than ten minutes.

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- Not present

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing to report

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA – Winner's name not recorded.
- There was a Challenge Coin Door Prize using a random number chosen from the sign-in sheet. The associated member did not have a Challenge Coin, so the prize will be held until next month.
- Depth Charge – Stacy Power – donated \$25 to the Scholarship fund.

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting with three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1953.