

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base

## Minutes of Business Meeting

### 11 March 2021

#### Opening Ceremonies:

- The March 2021 Base Meeting was called to order at 1900 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 41 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- 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 March was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of March:
  - **USS PERCH (SS-176)** 3 March 1942 – 1<sup>st</sup> war patrol 59 POWs – 53 survived the war  
6 died as POW
  - **USS GRAMPUS (SS-207)** 5 March 1943 – 6<sup>th</sup> war patrol Lost with all hands – 71 souls
  - **USS H-1 (SS-28)** 12 March 1920 – grounding Loss of 4 souls
  - **USS TRITON (SS-201)** 15 March 1943 – 6<sup>th</sup> war patrol Lost with all hands – 74 souls
  - **USS KETE (SS-369)** 20 March 1945 – 2<sup>nd</sup> war patrol Lost with all hands – 87 souls
  - **USS F-4 (SS-23)** 25 March 1915 - foundered Lost with all hands – 21 souls
  - **USS TULLIBEE (SS-284)** 26 March 1944 – 4<sup>th</sup> war patrol Lost with 79 souls –  
One POW survived the war
  - **USS TRIGGER (SS-237)** 26 March 1945 – 12<sup>th</sup> war patrol Lost with all hands – 89 souls
  - **Eight Boats and 431 Men Lost**
- The USSVI Creed was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members to the meeting.

#### Distinguished Submariner Award Presentation – Base Commander Mike Ciesielko:

- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko presented **Terry Trump** with the **Distinguished Submariner Award**, reading nominations submitted by fellow Charleston Base members, noting some of his many contributions to the Base. Terry was also presented a plaque to commemorate the occasion. His family had made surreptitious arrangements to attend the presentation and surprised him for the ceremony. Congratulations to Terry. You truly deserve this award.

#### Introductions of New Attendees:

- John Brotherton – EMC – Qualified August 1974 - USS Hawkbill SSN666

#### Old Business:

- None

#### New Business:

- None

#### Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the February 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 February was published and promulgated on the website. There were no changes and was accepted as published.

#### Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Highlighted boat of the month:**

- F-4 (SS-23) was lost on March 25, 1915 with the loss of 22 men. She foundered 1.5 miles off of Honolulu when acid corrosion of the lead lining of the battery tank let seawater into the battery compartment, causing loss of control. She was raised in August 1915. The hull of F-4 was buried as fill in a trench off the Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, HI.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **Harry Nettles' brother-in-law, Lee's brother**, died last week. Harry and Lee will be leaving in the morning to travel to NC for the funeral. Lee's brother was a Vietnam Army veteran and Lee's last remaining sibling.
- **Bill Freleigh's** mother, Eleanore, passed away in Florida on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **Glenn Little** tested positive for COVID and will be in quarantine until 14 March.
- **John Lookabill** was put in Trident hospital on Mar. 2nd due to AFIB. He will be placed on some new medications. He is now home and hoping the new meds work. If not he may be looking at another procedure.
- **Ronny Vandiver** is at home as of Feb. 18th and is doing a little better. Kim has home health to assist her. Ronnie is recovering but still tires very easily. Phone calls are welcome and so are texts. If Ronny's tired Kim can read them to him
- **Ray Bryant** has been down with his back since late January. MRI shows several bulging discs and one herniated disc pressing on sciatic nerve. After two injections still not much relief. The pain management doctor has done all he can and is recommending a neurosurgical consult. If surgery is required, he will use MUSC in order to coordinate with his transplant team concerning his liver, kidneys or pancreas. Now standing by for an appointment...
- **Gene Weir** continues his cancer treatments. He started Chemo and pills in September 2020 and has treatments every four weeks. Don't know how many more he has to do. Things are going well with very little side effects from the Chemo. He thanks everybody for their prayers. They do work. Don't know when he will be able to attend a meeting.
- **Tom Lawson's** daughter, Tracey, had a very mild case of Covid and is doing well.
- **George Burton** is still undergoing treatment for lung cancer. He recently had to change meds when the one he was using caused his sugar to jump to 700. He is now taking daily insulin shots along with being put on other meds.
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care.
- Please complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

#### **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.
- I have received three comments on the base meeting video:
  - Tom Lufkin: Fantastic Video. As a Life member living in Florida I really enjoyed seeing that not much has changed with the meetings since I left three years ago.
  - George Gallagher: Kudos to you and Lou for putting the base meeting on the air. I, for one, appreciate it greatly as I can't attend in person. Don't change a thing. It's good as is.
  - Joe Lunn: I enjoyed the meeting on YouTube, we have come up in the world

#### **Submarine Veterans of WWII – Base Commander for George Scharf:**

- We gladly recognized Stacy Power here tonight for the third month in a row.

#### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- We will keep recording in the same manner as we did last meeting.
- The Distinguished Submariner Award presentation will be extracted as a separate video.
- All feedback is welcome.

### **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson**

- Not present.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson**

- We now have 270 Charleston Base Members.

### **VA – Tom Lawson**

- VA is providing COVID shots at the new VA facility on Rivers Avenue. Call 843-789-6900.
- Rick Sparger: VA is letting those 50 years of age or older get the COVID shot. Ed Stank echoed the statement since that was also the case for him.

### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn**

- The Shotgun Raffle raised \$2,210 for the Scholarship Fund increasing the balance to \$9,339.
- Challenge coins are available for \$12 each.
- Two hats, USS Pennsylvania and Sub Base New London (both new) were donated and are available.
- Small raffle for tonight of Paddy's Irish Whiskey and Irish Cream.

### **Special Events – Rick Sparger**

- Nothing to report.

### **Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger**

- The FRA will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots etc.
- The FRA has no other activities on the schedule.

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar**

- Butch provided an update on the case. The CRAMA legal team requested an update from the judge and received an acknowledgment of receipt from the judge's clerk.
- Butch read portions of a letter from the Patriot's Point lawyer which was sent to the court.
- In rebuttal to answer this letter, the CRAMA legal team sent additional information including a picture of the plaque aboard the submarine that Clamagore is noted as a national historic landmark.

### **Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks**

- The date for the next NPS graduation is April 26. We don't know if we are yet allowed to attend.
- Two performance awards from Charleston Base SubVets will be provided to the top officer and enlisted submarine designated individuals.

### **Newsletter – Ed Stank**

- Ed has published his first Charleston Base Newsletter. If any member has something to put in the newsletter, please let Ed know.
- Regarding the VA, the phone number is published in the newsletter.

### **Public Affairs – Ed Stank**

- Ed submitted two articles to American Submariner about the Charleston Base participation in the Christmas Parades and also the 65 year FRA to Stacy Power.
- Ed also sent the article for Stacy to the FRA. He received a response from the FRA saying that the article was received "out of circuit". Hopefully, it will be published in the next edition of the FRA magazine.
- Ed requested the Distinguish Submariner Award information, so that he can submit it to American Submariner.

### **Recreation – Bill Hayes**

- We are having difficulty locating a place to hold the spaghetti dinner with varied but significant restrictions. At this time the event is at a standstill.
- Please call Bill if you have ideas for recreation.

**Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison**

- Calendars are now on sale for \$5. That is 50% off the price.

**Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison**

- It is time for the Base Elections. Nominations start in April. This year, the offices are for Base Commander and Treasurer.
- We currently have 1 nominee for Base Commander – incumbent Mike Ciesielko.
- The Treasurer position is open as Gordon Williams believes that he has held the job long enough and will be stepping down.
- The election will be held at the May Base Meeting.

**COB – Rick Sparger (Acting)**

- Rusty Pickett requested help at the Cold War Memorial to put in some grass plants. Bring shovels and gloves. Meet at CWM 0930.
- Rick invited everyone to come to the FRA and have a green beer – not on him – if that is your celebration along with the other items that he previously mentioned in the FRA report.
- The VFW will not rent the kitchen according to information that he has received. Rodney McKanna believes that he can get the kitchen but will verify.
- Daylight Savings Time starts this weekend.

**Vice Commander – Tom Lawson**

- Reminded everyone to clean up after themselves tonight.

**Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko**

- We will be holding the Amberjack ceremony on April 10 at 1000. We will need some help setting for this. Please advise if you are able to assist.
- Mike has heard nothing regarding the Submarine Ball. Chaplain Nick Nichols also has been unable to contact anyone either.

**Good of the Order****Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson**

- Not present

**After Battery – Ray Sparks**

- Not present

**Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko**

- Trying to clear schedule for gun shoots.
- Ammunition is available from AMCHAR in Summerville – One box per caliber per week.
- The Holland Club Induction will be at the next Base Meeting in April

**Drawings & Auctions**

- Scholarship Committee raffle for two bottles of Bailey's liquor – Ricky Collins was the winner.
- FRA – Also Ricky Collins.
- Depth Charge – Lewis Leal – donated \$60 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 1959.