

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
10 March 2022

Opening Ceremonies:

- The March 2022 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 54 members. The meeting started at 1901 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Tom Lawson 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 – 1st war patrol 59 POWs – 53 survived the war
6 died as POW
 - **USS GRAMPUS (SS-207)** 5 March 1943 – 6th 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 – 6th war patrol Lost with all hands – 74 souls
 - **USS KETE (SS-369)** 20 March 1945 – 2nd 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 – 4th war patrol Lost with 79 souls –
One POW survived the war
 - **USS TRIGGER (SS-237)** 26 March 1945 – 12th war patrol Lost with all hands – 89 souls
 - **Eight Boats and 431 Men Lost**

Chief Warrant Officer 3, Submarines
Earnest L. Barwick, US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol February 14, 2022

Senior Chief Torpedoman, Submarines
Marvin Odell Smith Jr., US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol February 17, 2022

Chief Torpedoman, Submarines
Lloyd William Wilson, US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol February 18, 2022

- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Presentation of Distinguished Submariner Award – Base Commander Mike Ciesielko

- Mike read a citation regarding his contributions to Charleston Base and presented the Distinguished Submariner Award Certificate and a plaque to Harry Nettles.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- Three men attended the Base Meeting for the first time this evening.
 - Jim Edie – TM2 – Qualified on USS Tecumseh SSBN628 – December 1981
 - Tony Buckmaster – TMCS – Qualified on USS Henry L Stimson SSBN655 – Also served aboard USS Tecumseh SSBN628 and USS Mariano G Vallejo SSBN658
 - Larry Laskowski – YNC – Qualified on USS Tecumseh SSBN628 – Also served aboard USS Sam Rayburn SSBN635, USS Kamehameha SSN642 and USS Buffalo SSN658

Old Business:

- **Amberjack Ceremony** – Rick Wise
 - The Amberjack Ceremony will be held on Saturday, April 2 at 1000. This year, the names of the lost boats will be read.

New Business:

- **Submarine Birthday Ball** – Nick Nichols
 - **The 2022 Charleston Submarine Birthday Ball** will be held on Saturday, May 7 at the Charleston Marriott across from the RiverDog's Stadium. Mark the date. As soon as I have more info it will be sent base wide. Uniforms for the ball are the Charleston Tuxedo – Blue Jacket/Khaki pants/Dolphin tie or Vest with light blue shirt and khaki pants. The vest was recommended by those coordinating the ball.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the February Base meeting have been emailed directly to the Base membership and had been promulgated on the Base Website. No additions or deletions were noted. The February Base Meeting Minutes were approved.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The revised Treasurer's Report for February was published and promulgated on the website. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved as presented.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time. Many of these are serious illnesses.
- **CWO3(SS) Ernest Laverne Barwick, USN Ret.**, departed on EP on Monday, February 14, 2022. We just found out about his passing when his death notice was run in the newspaper. His passing was verified by the funeral home. I was informed his family did not desire a service nor did they have an obituary. Ernie joined the Navy in 1958 and retired in 1978. He was a life member of USSVI and Charleston Base since 2000 and a member of the Holland Club. He qualified on USS REQUIN SS/SSR/AGSS-481 in 1959 and also served on SENNETT SS-408.
- **TMCS(SS) Marvin Odell Smith Jr., USN Ret.**, departed on EP on Thursday, February 17, 2022 in Jacksonville. There will be a Celebration of Life scheduled for a future date and the base will be informed. He joined the Navy in 1950 and retired in 1970. He was a Life Member of both USSVI & Charleston Base and a member of the Holland Club. MO qualified on USS CAIMAN SS-323 in 1951 and also served on SEA FOX SS-402, GRAMPUS SS-523, JOHN C. CALHOUN SSBN-630 and as COB on SAM HOUSTON SSBN-609, retiring from COMSUBRON 4. A note of condolence was placed on the funeral home website from the base.
- **TMC(SS) Lloyd William Wilson, USN Ret.**, departed on EP on Friday, February 18, 2022 in Anderson SC. Willy joined the Navy in 1959 and retired in 2001. He was a Life Member of USSVI & a member of Golden Corner Base, Charleston Base, and USS GROWLER Internet Base. He was also a member of the Holland Club. Willy qualified on USS HALIBUT SSN/SSGN-587 in 1962 and also served on GROWLER SSG-577. His shore duties included TM Shop Pearl Harbor and Navy Reserve Greenville SC. I was unable to place a note of condolence from Charleston Base on the funeral home website due to errors with their system.
- **YNSN(SS) Richard Edward Bloodgood** WWII Submarine Veteran, departed on EP on Wednesday, March 2, 2022. He qualified on the USS CUBERA ss-359 in Key West FL. He is the father of Nancy Bloodgood our CRAMA lawyer. Richard was not a member of USSVI. A note of condolence was placed on the funeral home website from the base.
- **Sue Reuer, Jeff's wife**, passed away at on February 14th 2022.
- **Stella Weir, Gene's wife**, had her aorta valve replaced on February 14th. Surgery went well but stay in hospital was longer than expected. Saturday March 5th, she came home and is improving daily. Thanks for all my shipmate's prayers. They really work.
- **Robert Gay** had some health issues and some test conducted. He has been diagnosed with cancer and has begun the process of determining what treatment is the best at this point.

- **Jay Pierce** had his left knee replaced at the VA. He expects a couple of weeks of intense rehab and then hopefully a return to somewhat normal. Update as of Mar. 8th is the surgery went well. Have already been up and walking. He is now home and ready for PT.
- **Tom Skorepa** has been having some tests done to help figure out some health issues he is having. Tom and Joyce Skorepa have moved to Elloree SC.
- **Jim Williams** is not doing well. The test trial failed after 13 months. His liver was bleeding and he ended up in the hospital on Christmas day for four days. Found a local oncologist that had a new trial Chemo so I tried it, did not last two weeks. Now just sitting at home using walker. Kids convinced me to call in Hospice. They come by twice a week, a Nurse and an aide. Looking to get some help from the VA also. Sorry for not being better at keeping you up to date. Done with Real Estate, New email soon.
- **Stacy Power** fell at Walmart on March 2nd and went to the ER at MUSC. He was kept overnight for observation. He has a small bleed between skull and brain. Stacy went home on March 3rd. He still has an active brain bleed, (4mm), inside the skull. Not out of the woods yet. Time will tell.
- **Mike Knaub** had a biopsy on his bladder the 28th of Jan and while on table heart rate dropped to 36 bpm. The biopsy came back positive for cancer and also, they put a chip in the chest to monitor heart rate. On Tues 15 Feb, he went to urology at VA to find out how bad and treatment. Update is that they say they got it all since it was on the lining not in the muscle and now next five yrs I get a scope every three months.
- **Joe O'Saben** had a colonoscopy 6 Dec and was found to have lymphatic cancer. He had surgery on 9 Feb at Roper downtown. Laparoscopic went well.
- **Don Londergan** is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136 and he's now got his phone back.
- **Gene Weir** continues his cancer treatments.
- **Bob Snyder** is still with palliative care.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so. Of all the EP 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.
- With war between Ukraine and Russia there has been an increase in ransomware and phishing. If you are using a VPN and you receive any warning or message about your VPN do not respond, enable or install anything. As always be very careful with any email you receive and only open links from trusted sources. If you receive a link or attachment you were not expecting DO NOT OPEN it.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Not present

Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Ciesielko for George Scharf:

- Stacy Power is here tonight along with his son Casey. We are glad to see both of them this evening.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson

- Not present.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- We will have 263 Charleston Base Members at the end of the Base meeting tonight.
- Base standings as of earlier today, March 10 are: 1137 Groton; 267 Hampton Roads; 260 Charleston; 249 Bremerton; 182 San Diego

National Awards – Don Ort

- Nothing to report.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- The balance in the Scholarship Fund is \$8,423.
- The raffle for four submarine models will be tonight. All boats – Albacore, Seewolf, Nautilus and Tullibee. There will be four winners with the first winner getting first choice and so on... The drawing will be held at the March Base Meeting.
- Challenge coins are available for sale.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- We received an email from a lady at the Air Force Base. They will be having an Armed Forces Day ceremony on May 21. She requested that we bring the float to the event. This will be a static display, but we will need someone to tow the float and have a couple of men in vests to attend it.
- We are trying to plan a picnic in May to be held at Bushy Park.

Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger

- Nothing to report

Recreation – Mike Ciesielko

- As Bill Hayes is unable to continue as Recreation Committee chair, if you can fill this needed position, please contact Rick Sparger (COB) or Mike Ciesielko (BC).

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

- Nothing to report

Nuclear Power School – Ray Sparks

- The next NPS graduation is April 1 at 0800. Meet at Exchange parking lot to carpool because of limited parking. It is worth going to hear Rick Wise make the presentation from Charleston Base.

Newsletter – Ed Stank

- The Base Newsletter has been published including the February Base Minutes.

Public Affairs – Ed Stank

- Two Charleston Base articles should be in the March edition of American Submariner.
- During the boat show at the North Charleston Coliseum, Mike Knaub will be presented an award. He had served two tours in Vietnam on river patrol boats.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Nothing reported.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody reported that he has rockers for Holland Club patches noting from 55 to 75 years. These are free.

COB – Rick Sparger

- Rick is having two keys made to the storage facility. These will be provided to Base Commander Mike Ciesielko for retention. Currently, only Ken Hutchison and Rick Sparger hold keys.
- We need a working party to set up and inspect the old nylon top canopies. If they are good, we will sell them and put the money into the Base General Fund, since that is the source of the original purchase.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing to report.

Good of the Order

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Not present.

Non-Nuclear Historian – Harry Nettles

- Ken was born in 1917 in Minnesota. This was the year that communism came to Russia. His family of 10 grew up on farms. He milked cows and shot squirrels as a kid. The majority of his education was in a two-room schoolhouse for eleven years. His family moved closer to the city and he finally attended a real high school in his twelfth-grade year. He knew no one and absolutely nothing about sports, but he made it through and graduated. He dabbled in the hotel industry for a while when he got out of high school, then in November 1941, at the ripe old age of 24, he joined the Army Air Corp. He trained and became an instructor in the P47 Fighter/Bomber – a great aircraft at the time. In 1944, he was sent to England on a solo trip and arrived there just two days before D-Day, where he was assigned to squadron that flew the P51. This was a problem, because he had never even seen this aircraft. Well, they "trained" him with a 45 minute familiarization (FAM Ride) so he could get used to flying the airplane. On D-Day and D-Day+1, he flew escorts for ships that were carrying troops to the beaches at Normandy. Time moved on and the war proceeded, moving further and further into France. On August 16, 1944, he was shot down over France. He avoided capture (he had the ability to become an outstanding submarine sailor) by getting into a pond, cutting a reed and using it as a snorkel to breath air until the Germans had left without detecting him. However, this was not the end of his adventures, because on December 26, he was shot down a second time. This time, he was unable to bail out of his airplane because it was so low and he crash landed in a field behind enemy lines, but fortunately for him, there was an American tank crew who was lost and found him and got him back on the good side of the enemy lines. It did not end there folks. It's Valentine's 1945 and he's out flying. This time, he is at 10,000 feet (that's waaaayyyy up there for you non-nucs) when a shell from a German artillery unit struck his airplane. The P51 was a very stable and secure airplane for the pilots. It had armor underneath and both sides and in back behind him, but it tore the entire tail off his plane, knocked him unconscious and threw him out into the air. As he fell to the ground, suddenly around 800 feet, he revived and realized that he needed to pull the ripcord very quickly. At 500 feet, his parachute deployed, but not in time enough to make a nice, soft landing. He landed with a thump. He began to evade, because he knew that he was behind enemy lines. He went and hid in bushes and under trees. But that did not work and the next day, he was captured and was put into a German POW camp where spent the rest of World War II. Finally, after the war was over, he made his way back to the U.S. and to his homeland in Minnesota. He was quite the hero. Yes, he crashed three times, but he had shot down fifteen German planes; making him what is called a Triple-Ace. There are not many of those. Well, after he got back home and had gotten settled, he needed to find something important, so he got working in a medical electronics business. There, he started a new company – which we all know and some of you use – Miracle Ear. His name was Ken Dalberg outlived the Soviet Union, because he died in October, 2011. Ken Dalberg – Triple Ace – is interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

- **After Battery – Ray Sparks / Steve (Buddha) Nelms**

- The After Battery is open every Wednesday. Dinner is at 1700.
- The Hog Roast will be held from April 3 thru 9. The major events will be held only Thursday, Friday and Saturday. RVs will be allowed on the grounds beginning April 3.
- There will be golf outings on Tuesday and Thursday.
- Ray has After Battery business cards available.
- Steve Nelms reported that the After Battery flag was underway aboard one of our subs, to have a picture taken after surfacing under ice.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Mike will be organizing a shoot for the month of April at Twin Ponds range.
- They have a range master and others to assist.

Drawings & Auctions

- Scholarship First Boat Model Winner – John Lookabill (Chose Tullibee)
- Scholarship Second Boat Model Winner – Beatle Bailey (Not Present)
- Scholarship Third Boat Model Winner – Beatle Bailey (Not Present)
- Scholarship Fourth Boat Model Winner – Rick Sparger
- Scholarship Challenge Coin Drawing – Rick Wise did not have Challenge Coin.
- FRA Drawing – Tommy Wilbanks
- Depth Charge Drawing – Greg Landry

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson sounded three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 2002.