

**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base**  
**Minutes of Business Meeting**  
**08 September 2022**

**Opening Ceremonies:**

- The September 2022 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 49 members. The meeting started at 1900 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 September was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of September:
  - **USS S-5 (SS 110) Sep 1, 1920 – Practice Dive No loss of life**
  - **USS GRAYLING (SS 209) Sep 9, 1943 – 8<sup>th</sup> War Patrol Lost with all hands – 76 souls**
  - **USS S-51 (SS 162) Sep 25, 1925 – Rammed off Block Island Lost with 33 souls; 3 survivors**
  - **USS CISCO (SS 290) Sep 28, 1943 – 1<sup>st</sup> War Patrol Lost with all hands – 76 souls**
  - **USS POMPANO (SS 181) September, 1943 – 7<sup>th</sup> War Patrol Lost with all hands - 77 souls**
  - **Five Boats and 262 Men Lost**

**Engineman Third Class, Submarines**  
**Robert J. Snyder, U.S. Navy Veteran**  
**Departed on Eternal Patrol on August 14, 2022**

**Electricians Mate First Class, Submarines**  
**John P Camp, USN Retired**  
**Departed on Eternal Patrol on August 28, 2022**

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

**Introductions of New Attendees:**

- One man was present at the Base meeting for the first time:
  - Thelmo Austria – MSC – Qualified on USS Picuda SS382 in 1971 – Also served aboard USS Entemedor SS340, USS Skate SSN578, USS Skipjack SSN585, USS James K Polk SSBN645 and USS Sand Lance SSN660.

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- Friends of the Hunley – Lindsay Nelson
  - Friends of the Hunley will be having “Behind the Scenes” tours on October 21. These will be free for Friends of the Hunley members. Charleston Base is a member with four memberships. Lindsay is trying to get at least ten tours so that interested Base members can go. He will provide more information as available. First come – First served.
  - On October 22, FOTH will be having an oyster roast as a fund raiser for Hunley maintenance. The cost will be \$50 for members. Lindsay will get a flyer out to COB for distribution.

**Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- The Minutes from the August 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 August Base Meeting Minutes were approved.

### Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The Treasurer's Report for August was published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. The report was approved as presented.

### Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- Highlighted boat of the month:
  - While S-51 (SS 162) was lost on September 25, 1925 when rammed and sunk off Block Island, NY, by the merchant steamer, City of Rome. Only three survivors of the 36 men on board the ill-fated submarine were recovered.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **EN3(SS) Robert J. Snyder, USN, 80**, departed on Eternal Patrol on August 14 at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center. Bob joined the Navy in 1950 and left in 1954. He was a life member of USSVI & Charleston Base [2001] and a member of the Holland Club. Bob qualified on the USS BLENNY SS-324 in 1952. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website. A memorial service was held in Manning SC on Sat. August 27 where we held our Bell Tolling Service. There were 6 SUBVETS and two wives in attendance.
- **EM1(SS) John P. Camp, USN Ret., 87**, departed on Eternal Patrol on August 28. John joined the Navy in 1951 and retired in 1972. He was a life member of USSVI [2001] & Charleston Base [2007] and a member of the Holland Club. John qualified on the USS THREADFIN SS-410 in 1958. He also served on USS ENTEMEDOR SS-340, USS SAM HOUSTON SSBN/SSN-609, USS RAY SSN-653 and USS GRENADIER SS-525. A note of condolence from Charleston Base has been placed on the funeral home website. John's family requested the SUBVET Bell Tolling service at the viewing on Sept. 7, last night. They would like to thank all the SUBVETS who attended. There were 13 SUBVETS and two wives in attendance.
- **ICC(SS) Frederick Richard Koenig, 88**, departed on Eternal Patrol on August 26, in Awendaw. He was not a member of USSVI. Bob qualified on the USS QUILLBACK SS-424 and served on USS MARLIN, USS ANDREW JACKSON, USS TRUMPETFISH, USS NATHANIEL GREEN and USS ALEXANDER HAMILTON. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website. His memorial service will be held Thursday, September 15, 2022 at St. Benedict Catholic Church Place at 11:00 am. Interment to follow in Mt. Pleasant Memorial Gardens, 1308 Mathis Ferry Rd.
- **MM1(SS) Michael Rudolph Parades, 73**, departed on Eternal Patrol on August 12 in Charleston. He was not a member of USSVI. Mike qualified on the USS SIMON BOLIVAR. His service was August 26<sup>th</sup>. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.
- **Timmy Rader, son of Roger & Sandy Rader**, passed away on Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>. His Memorial service was Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>. There were several SUBVETS there.
- **Larry Turner, 79, Nick's Brother-in-Law**, passed away on August 8<sup>th</sup>. His memorial service was held on August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- **Stacy Power, 95**, has been in and out of the hospital for that past month or more. The latest from his daughter Kitty: He's home, he's tired but glad to be home. The last time he was in they took off 1.85 gallons of fluid. Liver failure due to heart failure. Not sure what the future looks like but for now the doctor has put in a referral for him to be drained every 2 weeks. They can place a drain line in him so I can drain him at home but that comes with the risk of infection. They didn't want to do a biopsy of his liver because of his age. We are still waiting for a culture study to determine if there are malignancy cells in the fluid.
- **Jerry Stout** sent the following: I had a PET Scan last week and the results were NED (no evidence of disease). This means I am cancer free and the immune therapy I have been receiving is finally working! I must continue these treatments for many more years. Christine and I want to extend our sincere Thank you and gratitude for all the prayers from my Submarine Shipmates.
- **James Graham Sr., 70**, had foot surgery on August 11<sup>th</sup> and it went well. He expects it to be at least 2 months before he can get back to the meetings.
- **Marvin Miller, 81**, has many health issues. Frieda said she is having a hard time getting him out to go anywhere. Give him a call if you have time.

- **Thom Beach, 75**, has been at the Victory House in Walterboro since June 28. Linda hopes she can bring him home for the last week of September. He would like everyone's prayers while he is there. You can call at 843.925.3045 or send cards to him for his large blank wall. Some have had problems contacting Thom. He has dialysis M-W-F 9:30 until around 2:30. His room changed to 129. He is doing well, actually little better. Keep cards coming. Long way to go on my big wall.
  - Thomas Beach, Veterans Victory House Nursing Home 2461 Sidneys Road, Walterboro. SC, 29488. Room 129.
- **Margie Deal [wife of Walt Deal]** Margie has been in Trident for the last two weeks due to low blood pressure. On top of that she has contracted COVID and will be there for another 10 days. Walt also has COVID and can't go to see her.
- **Gene Weir, 75**, was in Roper Hospital DT in from mid-June until early July with COVID19 pneumonia. He also has cancer. He went to an offsite rehabilitation unit and now he is doing home rehab and improving daily. Still not at full strength but getting there slowly but surely. Thanks for all the prayers and blessings.
- **Bill Roberts, 83**, has a stent in an aneurism that is leaking and needs to be repaired. He goes on Monday, Sept. 12 to see when he will have surgery.
- **Bill Kennedy, 75**, has cancer in his right lung. Back on Aug.14 he wrote to tell me he has had 10 radiation treatments and 2 chemo treatments. He got really sick, spent 6 days in the hospital, and the 25 days in rehab. He is now home. Recently he told me he has a few chemo and radiation treatments to complete. He says he is feeling OK overall.
- **Mike Knaub** recently had a heart procedure to bring his heart back in rhythm.
- **Don Londergan, 83**, is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136.
- 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.
- The new website is now online and National is wanting everyone to sign in and make sure they can make it work for them. The site is [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org) (same as the old one) and everyone should have received an email telling them what to do to reset their password so they can login. If you have an issue let me know. Tools and Membership Training will be taking place soon.
  - The National Commander sent all USSVI members with an email notice on how to log in on the new USSVI website at <http://www.USSVI.org> The login is the email address you have listed with the USSVI, the password that you use is a lengthy one (at least 12 characters) but is a very important security feature of our website. After you do log in, send your Base Commander an email that you have.
  - Base Commanders, I ask that you check with each of your members over the next week to verify that all your members (with email accounts) have visited the new site. And then send me an email of how many have completed their log-in. Should any have questions about the site after logging in, send it to the Questions email address listed in the forwarded email.

#### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- The video from the August Base meeting was posted and the link was provided to the Base members.
- James K Polk Reunion in Jacksonville – for more information, see Lou after the meeting.

#### **Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Ciesielko for Mike Emerson:**

- Stacy Power was able to join our meeting tonight thanks to his daughter Kitty. His son Casey normally brings him, but was not available this evening.

#### **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson**

- Not present.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson**

- We currently have 262 Charleston Base Members.
- Dues will start again in October. Call Larry and get it done so that he does not have to track you down.
- The new USSVI website is supposed to be compatible with both Apple and Microsoft.
- Nick Nichols provided Base standings: 1) Groton 1201 - 2) Hampton Roads 280 - 3) Charleston 262– 4) Bremerton 253 - 5) Requin 190 - 6) San Diego 173 – 7) Long Island 155

### **National Awards – Mike Knaub**

- Not present.

### **VA – TOM LAWSON**

- The VA is now offering flu shots. They are also available at pharmacies which are part of the VA system.

### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn**

- The raffle for the large powder coated dolphins will be held tonight.
- The raffle for the 14 carat gold Dolphin ring will be held at the January Base meeting. The tickets for this are \$10 each. The online price for a similar item is around \$2,300.
- The Rummage Sale will be held on November 12. This is the Saturday after the monthly Base Meeting. The location is at Halloween Express/Rodney's Rockets (1825 Old Trolley Road, Summerville). Carl will be there at 0530 to start setting up. If you have items to donate, please bring it out.
- There are a few donated items at the table. Come see and make a donation to the Scholarship fund.
- There is a pile of free stuff available.

### **Special Events – Rick Sparger**

- The Christmas Party will be held here at the FRA on December 3. It will be the same format as last year:
  - The Base will provide sandwich trays.
  - There is no cost to attend. Yes, FREE.
  - There will be a charge for drinks (alcohol).
  - Members are encouraged to bring desserts or other dishes as desired.
  - Karaoke will be available.

### **Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison**

- Ken thanked everyone who attended his 80 year surprise birthday party. His kids did a wonderful job planning this party and he enjoyed it very – maybe, just a bit too – much.
- The September 10 event at Short Stay had to be cancelled. There was insufficient participation to cover the cost of the activity.
- The FRA has the old cook back in the kitchen. Things are looking better. Come out and support the FRA.

### **Recreation – OPEN**

- Nothing to Report

### **Nuclear Power School –Ray Sparks**

- The date for the next NPS graduation is not available.

### **PAO/Newsletter – Ed Stank**

- The Base Newsletter was published today.
- Ed attended the USSVI National Convention at Buffalo. They did an outstanding job at this function.
- Patriot's Point could learn a thing or two about how to have a naval presentation. At this location, are the USS Croaker, USS Little Rock and USS The Sullivans.
- Ed, and others, will be making a trip to the Victory house. Meet at the VFW on Bellwright Road at 1000. We will caravan out to Walterboro to visit Tom Beach and others out there.
- Kings Bay will be holding the 34th anniversary of their WWII Memorial in November.
- There is a move in Congress now to remove the Retired / VA Disability payment offset.

- The next American Submariner may possibly include our entry about the Memorial Day ceremony.

### **Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall**

- The orders from the last Base Meeting were placed with the National storekeeper, but they have not yet been shipped.
- Dolphin Ties will be ordered. Please let Woody know if you need one.

### **COB – Rick Sparger**

- Rick's neighbor noted that the recent Bell Tolling which he attended with the presentations was the most impressive military ceremony that he had ever seen.
- Nick Nichols takes his position as Chaplain seriously. COB stated that he probably doesn't want to know who it was that sent an email rebuking Nick Nichols for the notifications that he sends out via email. From Rick Sparger, "Any S.O.B. that would do that, does not deserve to be a Submarine Veteran."
- The CPO Selectee Breakfast will be held on September 24 at Building 777 (Navy Nuclear Power Training Center Leader Development Center) near the NWS gas station. The Selectees will be cooking the breakfast. Are any of them MS/CS? We will find out. A head count of SubVets is needed.
- Rick noted that there will be 9/11 observances all over our nation. COB is asking people to stop and remember the day.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson**

- Nothing reported.

### **Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko**

- Thanks to all that showed up tonight.
- Remember that we set the standard, so be courteous especially while driving.

### **Good of the Order**

#### **Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson**

- Not present.

#### **After Battery – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks**

- The Hog Roast is planned for April 15-22, 2023. Save the date.
- The After Battery is open each Wednesday.

#### **Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko**

- Plans to organize a shoot soon by the end of October.

#### **Non-Nuclear Historian – Harry Nettles**

The guy that I am going to talk about was one of seven. He had nicknames – a very colorful set of nicknames. He was one of the most successful submarine skippers of World War II that was awarded the Medal of Honor. He was the CO of the USS BARB SS-220. His name was Eugene Fluckey. His nicknames were Five Fathoms Fluckey or Lucky Fluckey, but the Five Fathom Fluckey was relevant to an incident of which he was involved in. It was January 1945. The BARB was on patrol and they were off the coast of China where they found a group of transports – or what they thought were transports – steaming to a secluded anchorage and the BARB gave chase. Once these "freighters" were in their anchorage which was protected on one side by a minefield and on the other by destroyers that were continuously out there pinging, Fluckey decided, "Let's figure out how we can do this." – Because that's the kind of guy that Eugene Fluckey was. So, they pulled all their charts out and they looked and they saw that there was a channel that ran into this anchorage and that is where the destroyers were. They were pinging away, trying to find any submarine that might try to ingress into this harbor. Now, Fluckey was a smart guy, so, he got to looking at the outer edges of this harbor and he noticed that there was a reef up there and on the other side of the reef, the water depth was 30 feet. Now for all you nukes that don't understand what a fathom is, it is 6 feet. 5 times 6 is.....yes, 30. We still have somebody that can still do math! Congratulations, you get the award tonight! So, anyway, that was how he got his nickname of Five Fathom

Fluckey. So, he planned this out. It was a moonless night that they had. High tide was coming and on the surface, the Barb sneaked into this secluded anchorage area. They let loose with the last of what they had in the forward torpedo room, then turned around and launched the aft torpedoes and they sank six Japanese ships, of which two were ammo carriers. The night sky was lit up with explosions. They boogied out, but do you think they went out the channel that they came in? No, they went over the reef and settled on the bottom in thirty feet of water, hence the nickname Five Fathom Fluckey. They sat there all day listening to the Japanese dropping depth charges and running up and down the main channel, finding nothing. The next night, a moonless night again, at high tide, they came up, crossed the channel and escaped. In one night, yes one night, he sank seven ships in the attack of the harbor off the coast of China. Lucky Fluckey? Yes, he was. Five Fathom Fluckey? He knew what Five Fathoms stood for – in spite that they did not have nukes onboard. Now that is the story of the USS BARB SS-220 in January 1945.

### **Drawings & Auctions**

- Scholarship Committee Large Dolphin Raffle – Bill Hayes
- FRA Drawing – Nick Nichols
- Depth Charge Drawing – Bill Nunnally – Donated \$177 to Scholarship Fund.

### **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 2004.