

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base

## Minutes of Meeting/Christmas Party

### 3 December 2022

The December 2022 Base Meeting was substituted by a Christmas Party and was held at the Fleet Reserve Association beginning at 1800 where we meet each month for Base Meetings.

After some time of socializing, the event was officially opened by Recreation Chairman Johnny Brown welcoming the men and their wives and at least one daughter. A total of 65 people were present at the party.

- Johnny introduced himself as the new Recreation Committee Chairman and recognized the many shipmates who helped him set up for the party.
- He has several events planned for 2023 beginning with the Stingrays Military Appreciation Night on Jan 14<sup>th</sup>. There is a flyer on the Base website about the hockey game. Information for all planned events will be placed on the Recreation Committee webpage on the Base website and transmitted by email to All Hands.
- Johnny then brought us into a short Base meeting. He has asked BC, COB and Chaplain to make reports but the COB is sick. He reported for the COB about the Goose Creek parade on 10 Dec at 0930. More will be put out via email when lineup info is received.
- He introduced the DJ and photographer. The photographer is available to take pictures of individual or groups at the party. A link to all the photos taken will be put on the Base website when they become available.
- He then introduced Base Commander Mike Ciesielko.

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed everyone and gave a short State of the Base Report.

- Charleston Base is third in national membership with 261 members.
- This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Base Charter. He read a list of Plank Owners. Of them, only Chuck Gravely was present.
  - Plank owners: QMCS(SS) William 'Bill' Freligh, IC2(SS) George Gallagher Jr., TMC(SS) Chuck Gravely, ENCS(SS) David H. Menefee, TMCM(SS) Raymond 'Ray' K. Pease, EMCM(SS) William 'Bill' E. Roberts, ICC(SS) Fred Woodley
- Mike praised the Base membership, officers and appointed positions – stating that after attending a National Convention, he is convinced Charleston Base is the best and named those officers/appointed which have held several positions in the Base since its chartering.
- Mike introduced the Base Chaplain.

Base Chaplain Nick Nichols welcomed everyone by wishing them all a Merry Christmas.

- Nick read the Binnacle List:
  - **J.J. Fortier** had a very complicated surgery for a complete Lower Lumbar fusion. He is home and in a lot of pain.
  - **Rodney McKanna** is out of the hospital and recovering from surgery on his right knee.
  - Many of our members are having serious health problems, some are scheduled for surgery after the holidays and many are battling different degrees of cancer.
  - Several of our members have had wives and other close family members pass away this year.
- The Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of December was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of December:
  - **USS CAPELIN (SS-289) December 2, 1943 – 1<sup>st</sup> War Patrol Lost with all hands – 76 souls**
  - **USS SEALION (SS-195) December 10, 1941 – Bombed in Philippine Shipyards –  
First submarine lost in World War II – Loss of 5 souls**
  - **USS F1/CARP (SS-20) December 17, 1917 – Collision with USS F3 (SS-22) –  
Loss of 19 souls**
  - **USS S4 (SS-109) December 17, 1927 – Rammed by USCGC Paulding –  
Lost with all hands – 40 souls**

- **Four Boats and 140 Men Lost during the month of December**

- The bell was tolled for all shipmates who departed on Eternal Patrol in 2022. During this year, there have been 20 Charleston Base members who departed on Eternal Patrol. One of these passed in 2021 but we only found out about it in the spring of this year.
  - Chief Torpedoman, Submarines – Simon Peter Przyborowski, USN Retired  
World War II SUBVET – Eternal Patrol August 6, 2021
  - Master Chief Torpedoman, Submarines – Warren S. Kratz, USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol January 13, 2022
  - Chief Warrant Officer 3, Submarines – Ernest L. Barwick, USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol February 14, 2022
  - Senior Chief Torpedoman, Submarines – Marvin Odell Smith Jr., USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol February 17, 2022
  - Chief Torpedoman, Submarines – Lloyd William Wilson, USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol February 18, 2022
  - Senior Chief Fire Control Technician Ballistic, Submarines – Frank C. Capaci, USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol March 13, 2022
  - Master Chief Electricians Mate, Submarines – James David Williams, USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol April 15, 2022
  - Second Class Electronics Technician, Submarines – Robert William Holzel, USN Veteran  
Eternal Patrol May 31, 2022
  - First Class Electronics Technician, Submarines – Dennis M. McFarland, USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol May 25, 2022
  - Chief Machinist Mate, Submarines – James Donald Phillips Jr., USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol June 3, 2022
  - Senior Chief Machinist Mate, Submarines – Robert Wayne Gay, USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol June 18, 2022
  - Chief Mess Specialist, Submarines – Emmett Leroy 'Lee' Rackley, USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol July 14, 2022
  - Master Chief Machinist Mate, Submarines – Newell T. 'Soupy' Campbell, USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol August 3, 2022
  - Engineman Third Class, Submarines – Robert J. Snyder, USN Veteran  
Eternal Patrol August 14, 2022
  - Engineman First Class, Submarines – John P Camp, USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol August 28, 2022
  - Machinist Mate Senior Chief, Submarines – John William Kennedy, USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol September 19, 2022

- Commissaryman Master Chief, Submarines – Stacy Barton Power, USN Retired  
WWII and Submarine Veteran – Eternal Patrol September 23, 2022
  - Radioman Chief, Submarines – Bobby Eugene Boley, USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol October 5, 2022
  - Electronics Technician Senior Chief, Submarines – John Hazard, USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol October 7, 2022
  - Electronics Technician First Class, Submarines – Jimmy Kimbrell, USN Retired  
Eternal Patrol November 30, 2022
- Chaplain Nick Nichols offered an Invocation for the evening and blessing of the food.
  - Base Commander Mike Ciesielko led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - Base Commander thanked Ed Stank for making sure that the cake was at the party. The decoration on the cake commemorated the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the Charleston Base as being chartered as part of USSVI. Mike then had his wife join him in cake cutting ceremony to officially start the party.
  - Throughout the entire evening, there were plenty of songs played which seemed to call the Base members and their wives to spend some time on the dance floor.
  - The Depth Charge Drawing was won by Jerry Starr.
  - After the Depth Charge, Bill – the DJ – configured his system for a short time of karaoke. Some Base members including Gordon Long and Mike Ciesielko enjoyed getting up on stage to do a little singing. The grand prize, however – if there had been one – would have gone to Joe O’Saben for his rousing rendition of “Mack the Knife”. Joe’s daughter sang and also joined her dad on at least one other song as well.