

**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
12 October 2023**

Opening Ceremonies:

- The October 2023 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 57 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 October was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of October:
 - **USS SEAWOLF (SS-197)** **October 3, 1944 – 15th War Patrol** **Lost with all hands –100 souls
(83 crew and 17 Army)**
 - **USS S-44 (SS-155)** **October 7, 1944 – 5th War Patrol** **Lost with 56 souls – 2 men
became POWs and survived the war**
 - **USS WAHOO (SS-238)** **October 11, 1943 – 7th War Patrol** **Lost with all hands – 80 souls**
 - **USS DORADO (SS-248)** **October 12, 1943 – New - training** **Lost with all hands – 77 souls**
 - **USS ESCOLAR (SS-294)** **October 17, 1944 – 1st War Patrol** **Lost with all hands – 82 souls**
 - **USS DARTER (SS-227)** **October 24, 1944 – 4th War Patrol** **No loss of life**
 - **USS SHARK II (SS-314)** **October 24, 1944 – 3rd War Patrol** **Lost with all hands – 87 souls**
 - **USS TANG (SS-306)** **October 25, 1944 – 5th War Patrol** **Lost with 78 souls – 9 men
became POWs and survived the war**
 - **USS O-5 (SS-66)** **October 29, 1923 – near Panama Canal** **Lost with 3 souls**
 - **Nine Boats and 563 Men Lost**

**Torpedoman's Mate Chief, Submarines
David Allen Mueller, USN Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol on September 28, 2023**

**Radioman Master Chief, Submarines
William E. Hall, U.S. Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol on October 5, 2022**

Honorary Member:

- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko recognized Casey Power in attendance from Atlanta this evening.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- Many Henry L Stimson shipmates were in attendance this evening while in town for SSBN-655 reunion. These men were simply asked to stand and be recognized rather than full introductions.
- No other new guests were present this evening.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- On December 7, a Pearl Harbor Day remembrance will be held on the Yorktown at Patriots Point. Tom Holcombe and Bob Browning volunteered to toss the wreath. Base Photographer Glenn Little will attend to take pictures.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko requested prayer for COB Rick Sparger.

- We have been asked to pull the float in the Ridgeville Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 9. BC has the registration paperwork, however it was noted that date is in conflict with the Goose Creek Christmas Parade.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the September Base Meeting were emailed directly to the entire Base membership, published on the Base Website. There were no revisions. The Base Meeting Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The Treasurer's Report for September 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:**
 - 80 years ago today, USS DORADO SS-248 was lost on October 12, 1943, with the loss of 77 men when she was sunk in the western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she had departed New London and was enroute to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane that received faulty instructions regarding bombing restriction areas or a German U-boat that was in the vicinity.

HAPPY EARLY BIRTHDAY SHIPMATES. TOMORROW IS THE 248TH BIRTHDAY OF THE US NAVY.

There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

- **RMCM(SS) William 'Bill' Hall, 79**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Thursday, October 5, 2023. Bill joined the Navy in 1960 and retired in 1987. He was a USSVI National Life Member (1994) and Charleston Base Life Member [2009], a member of the Holland Club having been qualified for 58 years, and a member of FRA Branch 269 having been a FRA member for 24 years. Bill qualified on USS HENRY CLAY SSBN-625 in 1962. He also served on USS SIMON BOLIVAR SSBN-641, USS LEWIS AND CLARK SSBN-644, and USS JAMES MADISON SSBN-627 as COB. His shore tours included Naval Communication Station Washington DC, Naval Communications Area Master Station Naples, Italy, CIC NTCC Capodichino Italy, CIC NTCC Agnano Italy and Director Navy Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio Station, Region Two, Charleston, SC. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website. The FRA conducted a Two Bell Service and Charleston Base conducted a bell tolling, let by Tom Lawson, Sunday, 8 Oct. during the viewing at 1800. The Funeral services were private. There were 6 SUBETS and 3 FRA members at the service.
- **TMC(SS) David Allen Mueller, USN Ret., 82**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Thursday, September 28, 2023, in North Charleston. Dave joined the Navy in 1962 and retired in 1976. He was a life member of USSVI National and Charleston Base [2003], a member of the Holland Club having been qualified for 61 years, and a member of the FRA for 49 years. Dave qualified on USS THORNBACK SS-418 in 1962. He also served on USS ALEXANDER HAMILTON SSBN-617 twice and USS JOHN C. CALHOUN SSBN-620. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website. His service was on Wednesday October 3, 2023 with Charleston Base conducting the bell tolling at graveside. Between the church service and graveside there were 26 base members and spouses.
- **CAPT John Nuernberger, USN (Ret), 80**, passed away on September 13, 2023 on Daniel Island, SC in his home surrounded by his family. John attended the US Naval Academy, graduating in 1964, and then went on to have a 30-year career as a submariner in the US Navy. He served aboard 5 different submarines. He was the Engineer on USS JOHN C. CALHOUN SSBN-630 and Commanding Officer of USS HENRY CLAY SSBN-625. USS Henry Clay. He was also Commanding Officer of Kings Bay Submarine Base GA. John's memorial service was held at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Mt. Pleasant on September 23, 2023. He was not a member of USSVI.

- **Rev. Donald C. Meadows, 80, father of base member Don Meadows**, passed away on 27 Sept 2023 at the Southern Ohio Memorial Hospital while in Hospice. Don said his father was very proud of him being a submariner. He was fortunate in that his father was with him on a dependent cruise while Don was serving on USS Dallas SSN 700.
- **Rick Sparger, COB**, has been in Summerville Medical since last Thursday, 5 October. He was diagnosed with a serious blood infection which is being treated with antibiotics. He expects to be released on Friday, 13 October.
- **Rick & Colleen Collins** are the proud grandparents of Amelia Grace Moser, 8 lbs 2 oz born Sunday Oct 8, 2023. Parents are Geoff & Sarah Moser. Sarah is Rick's daughter. Sarah is home but baby Amelia is still in the hospital. Please remember the family in your prayers.
- **Marvin Miller** was hospitalized for a broken Hip socket. Surgery was successful. He is now at Presbyterian Villages of Summerville Rm R5. His phone number is 843-594-0170.
- **Mike Emerson** was in the hospital from Friday 22 Sept until Tuesday 25 Sept. He was diagnosed and treated for diverticulitis. He has a new cell number which is on the sailing list.
- **Rick Wise** saw his oncologist on 29 Sept and the results of the chest and abdomen CT scans show no sign of cancer.
- **Al Dempster** and his wife, Connie, are in The Bridge of Charleston Assisted Living. His mailing address is: Alan Dempster – Room 222, 2590 Elms Plantation Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29406. They have a phone in their apartment – (843) 793-1187.
- **Thom Beach** is still at the VICTORY HOUSE in Walterboro. His phone number is 843.809.9417.

Webmaster – Tom Lawson for Nick Nichols:

- We are continuing to have phone number issues. If you change your number or drop your home line, please contact either Larry or Nick so that we can make the necessary changes locally and with National.
- Until told differently, continue to use the website of <https://ussubvets.org>
- John Lookabill noted that “**Shift Colors**”, the FRA magazine has contact information that is useful in case of change of life events. Nick will send an email with a link to the FRA information.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Not present

Membership – Larry Knutson

- Annual Dues are due!! If you are one of the 80 unpaid Annual Members, then NOW IS THE TIME!!
- Members can send Larry a check made out to “USSVI”. Larry's address is on the Base website.
- The report from Nick Nichols provided Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Groton 1161 - 2) Hampton Roads 282 - 3) Charleston 256 - 4) Bremerton 243

Hunley Coordinator – Tom Holcombe

- Once per year there is a “Friends of the Hunley” weekend. The information is in the Newsletter. Tom described the activities that are part of the event: Oyster Roast, BBQ and a normally closed lab visit with the archaeologists working in the lab.

National Awards – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing to report

VA – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- Raffle for dolphins and belt buckle at the end of meeting tonight
- We still have Challenge Coins for sale - \$12 each.

- The Rummage sale will be held on November 18. Halloween Express on Old Trolley Rd. Carl will be there at 0500 to start setting up. Got stuff? Bring it out! Anything not sold by 1 pm will be taken to the nearby thrift store.

Convention/License Plate Coordinator – ED Stank

- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko introduced Ed as Convention Coordinator.
- Ed is waiting on a date for a future SE Regional USSVI Convention. He will need help to do this when he receives a time frame to work with.
- Ed is attempting again to get Submarine License Plates. It will take over \$6k and some coordination with Columbia to make it a reality.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- Not present

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Base Commander introduced Anthony Mazza as NNPTC Liaison.
- The Australian Navy is having graduates now also.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- Not present

Nuclear Power School Awards – Phil Nunnally

- The next NPS graduation will be 27 October. Rick Wise will be in charge since Phil is traveling.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- Phil has taken over Newsletter from Ed Stank and has published his first edition.
- Phil would like to get some Sea Stories to publish in the Newsletter.

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Phil visited the Little David and determined that it only needed a little cleaning. There will be no major work on it this season. We can expect to replace several boards probably in April 2024.

Recreation – Tom Lawson for Johnny Brown

- Tom reminded everyone of the cookout at Marrington on October. The flyer is on the Base Website for info. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko will be cooking Boston Butts (PULLED PORK).
- The Base Christmas Party will be held at the FRA on Friday, December 1.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- 2024 Calendars are here!! They are about the GUPPY class boats.
- Woody purchased ten SUBVET Edition Vehicle Emblems. He has sold out and will purchase more.
- He has three different sizes of Dolphin Decals.
- Woody will not be present at the November Base Meeting.

PAO – Dave Harvey

- Not Present

COMPTROLLER – RICK WISE

- The 2024 Budget will be soon sent to the Base Members for review. It will be voted on at the November Base Meeting.

COB – Rick Sparger

- Not present

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- The project of getting Submarine License Plates needs a graphic artist. If you know one, please contact Mike (BC).

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

- Not present.

After Battery – Rick Wise

- Nothing to report

FRA – John Lookabill

- On Veterans Day, there will be a BBQ at the FRA with proceeds to go in support of the SE Regional FRA Convention

NNPTC – Anthony Mazza

- There will be a Burger Bash/Burn at NNPTC on 19 November.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing to report.

Non-Nuclear Historian – Harry Nettles

- Not present

Drawings & Auctions

- Belt Buckle – Marty Sessler
- Wood Dolphins – Anthony Mazza
- Challenge Coin – Gordon Long would have won, but did not have a Challenge Coin.
- FRA Drawing – Ricky Collins
- Depth Charge Drawing – Gordon (Willy) Williams

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 1951.