



Vol. 19 No. 12

December 2023

Newsletter of Charleston Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Base Meeting:

Newsletter & Little David Phil Nunnally 843.518.8301

BOD: None

Membership: None

Location:

FRA Branch 269
Low Country Home
99 Wisteria Rd.
Goose Creek, SC



Table of Contents

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Vice Commander	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
Secretary	Gordon Long	843.214.2353
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Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Veterans Affairs	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
Membership	Larry Knutson	843.860.1155
Scholarship	Carl Chinn	843.437.5515
Storekeeper	Woody Woodsmall	304.676.8356
Public Affairs	Dave Harvey	812.773.1312
Nuclear Historian	Rick Carlson	843.875.4030
Non-Nuclear Historian	Harry Nettles	843.514.1448
Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.553.1115
Social Media Coord	Lewis Leal	843.270.8870
FRA Rep	Ken Hutchinson	843.793.4896
Base Photographer	Glenn Little	843.797.1867
Comptroller	Rick Wise	843.276.0899
Hunley/Housatonic	Tom Holcombe	843.514.1448
Patriots Point POC	Rusty Pickett	843.762.3888
Cold War Mem POC	Rodney McKanna	843.851.3415
Scout Recog Prog	Dick Koehler	843.553.2171
Recreation	Johnny Brown	843.276.8264
License Plate Coord	Ed Stank	843.568.2148
Kaps for Kids	Vacant	
Historian	Vacant	

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Submarines lost during the month of November

USS Capelin (SS-289)	2 Dec 43	76 Souls Lost
USS Sealion (SS-195)	Attacked 10 Dec 41 Scuttled 25 Dec 41	5 Souls Lost during the attack.
USS F-1 / Carp (SS-20)	17 Dec 17	19 Souls Lost
USS S-4 (SS-109)	17 Dec 27	40 Souls Lost. Salvaged in 1928 and recommissioned

4 Boats Lost, 140 Men Died

December Lost Boats

USS Capelin (SS-289)

Lost on Dec 2, 1943 with the loss of 76 men. She was on her 1st war patrol, but her exact location, date and cause of loss remain a mystery. She may have been lost to mines or an operational casualty.

USS Sealion (SS-195) First submarine lost in WWII

Damaged on Dec 10, 1941 with the loss of 5 men. To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay on Dec 25, 1941 after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack. 4 POW's were taken prisoner after the fall of the Philippines, 2 survived the war.

USS F-1 / Carp (SS-20)

Lost on December 17, 1917 with the loss of 19 officers and men when it was sunk after collision with the USS F-3 (Pickerel(SS-22)) off San Clemente, CA.

USS S-4 (SS-109)

Lost on December 17, 1927 with the loss of 40 officers and men when it was sunk after being rammed by USCG Paulding. Salvaged in 1928 and recommissioned

From the Editor

Remember those on patrol this Christmas and New Years

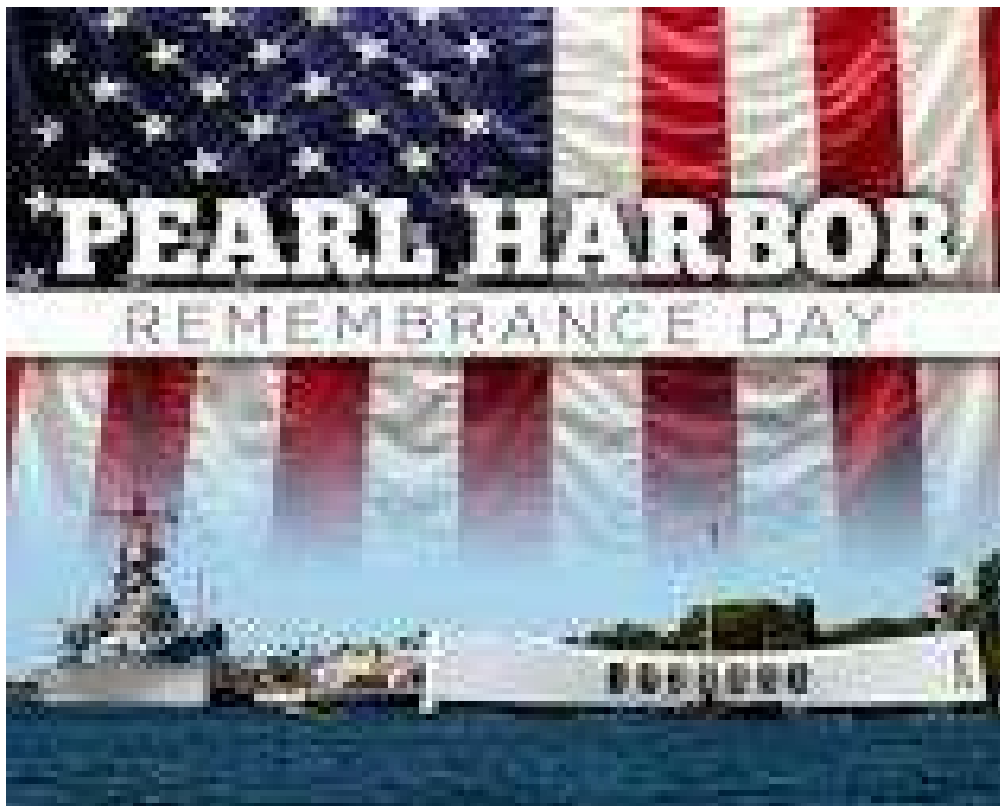
Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep,
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea!

Here the [Hymn](#) on YouTube

'Twas the Night Before Christmas - Submarine Style!



Remember those lost on December 7, 1941



December 7th, 1941: a Submarine Force Perspective

"When I assumed command of the Pacific Fleet on 31 December 1941, our submarines were already operating against the enemy, the only units of the fleet that could come to grips with the Japanese for months to come. It was to the submarine force that I looked to carry the load. It is to the everlasting honor and glory of our submarine personnel that they never failed us in our days of great peril." -- Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet (and also a submarine officer)

Read the [full story](#) by Rear Adm. Frederick "Fritz" Roegge, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Veteran's Day Ceremony Coffee Roasters Summerville

Thanks to all who joined in the Veteran's Day ceremony. We had a great time!

Veterans Day Lost Boats Tolling
Carolina Coffee Roaster
November 11, 2023



From the DAV Swamp Fox Chapter 17 Commander

Important Notice Regarding Backlog and Response Times at the National Personnel Records Center

Like many organizations, during the pandemic NARA imposed limitations on how many staff could be in the facility concurrently to protect its workforce and do its part to reduce community spread of the virus. The reduction in on-site capacity led to the development of a significant backlog of unanswered requests, which stands at 259,000 as of July 1, 2023.

The document most often requested by veterans is a separation document (DD Form 214 or equivalent). This is the document most often needed by veterans and their families to prove eligibility for benefits. NPRC therefore prioritizes these requests ahead of other pending requests.

If you are submitting a request to NPRC, if you ask only for a separation document (DD Form 214 or equivalent) you should expect a fast response -usually in ten days or less. If a DD Form 214 will meet your needs, please consider requesting only a DD Form 214 as you will receive a much faster response.

If you require additional documents, please allow additional time (several months) for a response. We have a plan in place to eliminate the entire backlog by December, 2023 but until then, other types of requests will continue to be delayed.

VA Claims

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a duty to assist veterans in gathering evidence to support their claim. It is not necessary to secure records from NPRC to submit a disability claim to the VA. For the fastest outcome, submit your claim directly to the VA and allow the VA to obtain any records needed to adjudicate your claim. In many instances, the VA will already have access to your electronic record. In instances in which analog, or paper records are required, NPRC is normally able to furnish them to the VA within three days.

From the DAV Swamp Fox Chapter 17 Commander

Alternate Methods to Obtain Service Records

Also, please be aware that there are alternate sources available for access to modern military records. In many instances, records that are available in electronic formats may also be accessed directly by veterans, without involvement from NPRC, through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) eBenefits application at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage> or the Department of Defense milConnect application at <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>.

Modern military medical records may be accessed through the VA's Blue Button application at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/get-medical-records/>.

For more information regarding the online availability of VA and military records, please visit <https://www.va.gov/records/>.

We hope the above on-line resources are helpful and greatly appreciate your patience as we continue making progress towards the elimination of our backlog.

Upcoming Base Events See www.ussvicb.org for details

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Board of Directors Meeting	None	
Base Meeting	None	
Base Christmas Party	Dec 1, 2023	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Goose Creek Parade	Dec 9, 2023	See you there

Charleston Base Christmas Party December 1, 2023

- 1700 Meet and Greet
- 1800 Finger Food and Music
- 2100 Depth Charge Drawing
- FRA Home

There is no cost but attendance is limited to Charleston Base members and their immediate families. There are no reservations so come early as seating is limited.

Members are invited to bring their favorite holiday side dish or dessert

Pearl Harbor Wreath Ceremony December 7, 2023

USS Yorktown Patriot's Point



Goose Creek Christmas Parade December 9, 2023

- Lineup: 0930
- Parade Start: 1000
- Lineup location: Lineup staging on Old Moncks Corner Rd begins 0700 - St James Ave closes at 0700
- Buses from Westview Elementary to the Lineup runs 0700-0850



**Midshipmen honoring the Submarine Force
During the Army-Navy Game
December 9th, 2023**



Disaster at Cavite. The Philippines “Pearl Harbor”

Morning light was just beginning to emerge over Manila Bay as Rear Admiral Francis Rockwell stood staring calmly at the brightening sky from his headquarters building near the Cavite Navy Yard. “They ought to be here any minute,” he told a subordinate. The grim-faced admiral was referring to the Japanese bombers he believed would be arriving. Only hours earlier his command had received an ominous message from his immediate superior, U.S. Asiatic Fleet commander Admiral Thomas Hart: “Japan started hostilities. Govern yourselves accordingly.”

It was 8 December 1941. Nearly 5,100 miles to the east—across the International Date Line—Japanese naval and air forces had launched a surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The 55-year-old Rockwell commanded the Sixteenth Naval District, a geographic area covering the Philippines that included an assortment of naval facilities and some local defense forces.

On the morning of 8 December, fog shrouded Japanese airfields on Formosa, delaying the start of air operations against the Philippines. Once the weather lifted, however, the Japanese unleashed a string of air attacks targeting U.S. air bases on the main Philippine island of Luzon. Over the next two days, General MacArthur’s air forces suffered a series of devastating defeats, allowing the Japanese to gain air superiority. Most notable was an attack on Clark Field northwest of Manila, where a large number of U.S. planes were destroyed. Admiral Rockwell’s naval facilities on Sangley Point had thus far escaped attack, but that was about to change.

The fog dissipated quickly on Formosa during the morning of 10 December, allowing a large group of naval planes, numbering about 52 A6M Zero fighters and more than 80 bombers, to take off at approximately 1000 headed south across Luzon. Thirty-five U.S. fighters rose to challenge the attackers but were overwhelmed by the escorting Zeros. No U.S. fighter planes were available to protect the sky over the naval facilities farther south on Sangley Point.

Disaster at Cavite. The Philippines “Pearl Harbor”

A Two-Prong Attack

The Japanese air armada divided into two groups north of Manila, with one moving to attack airfields and Army installations near the capital. The second, composed of 54 bombers, continued south toward Sangley Point. Half the bombers soon turned off to attack ships in Manila Bay, while the remaining 27 continued toward Cavite...

According to Rockwell’s war diary, the first bomb exploded at 1314. The navy yard and surrounding facilities came under intense attack for about an hour from the initial bombers, which later were joined by those that earlier attacked shipping in Manila Bay. The attackers most likely broke into smaller formations of nine planes because of the narrow scope of the target. The rain of destruction was carried out with deadly precision; strings of bombs hit nearly the full length of the peninsula, from the city of Cavite to the far piers. Explosions destroyed buildings, damaged ships, and maimed people.

The Docks Aflame

The blasts set off vigorous fires that quickly spread across Sangley Point, eventually even setting the docks aflame. Ruptured oil tanks sent thick, black smoke billowing skyward. “Practically all bombs (including many fragmentation and incendiary) fell within the navy yard limits, and direct hits were made on the power plant, dispensary, torpedo repair shop, supply office and warehouses, signal station, commissary store, receiving station, barracks and officers’ quarters, and several ships, tugs, and barges along the waterfront,” Rockwell reported. “The entire yard and about one third of the city of Cavite was set ablaze from end to end, but fortunately no direct hit was made on the Naval Ammunition Depot itself which still contained much powder and ammunition.” A warehouse full of torpedoes took a direct bomb hit, resulting in a tremendous blast. Flames later reached a building storing small arms and ammunition, setting off a series of intermittent explosions.

Disaster at Cavite. The Philippines “Pearl Harbor”

Any vessel able to get under way from the navy yard during the attack headed toward the open waters of Manila Bay. Many, however, were trapped at their moorings. The Sealion was hit by two bombs and incurred extensive damage and flooding; she would never put to sea again. The adjacent Seadragon suffered a scorched hull and blistering paint from the intense heat generated by nearby fires. The submarine survived the attack and eventually had a long and decorated battle career during the war. The Pigeon escaped certain destruction when her alert skipper pulled away from the burning Sealion. The nearby Bittern sustained heavy damage from a combination of fire, near misses, and flying debris. The old minesweeper later was scuttled in Manila Bay. The destroyer USS Peary (DD-226), in port for repairs, was towed clear of burning danger before sustaining damage from a bomb...

Morning light on 11 December revealed the fires still burning out of control. Daytime also showed the full extent of the damage. The entire base was virtually demolished; Rockwell confirmed as much with an on-site inspection and deemed it too dangerous for large numbers of personnel to reenter the base. Back in Manila, Admiral Hart came to the sobering realization that his only major operating base was gone. After reviewing initial damage reports, considering Japanese air superiority, and conferring with Rockwell, he ordered Cavite to be abandoned and reported to officials in Washington that the Manila area was untenable for further naval operations...

USS Sealion and Seadragon. First submarine sailors lost in WWII

At almost the same instant another bomb, passing through the main ballast tank and the pressure hull, exploded in the maneuvering space in the after end of the after engine room, killing four men working in that compartment - Electrician Mates Foster, O'Connell and Paul, and Machinist Mate Ogilvie.

With this explosion in the maneuvering space, the after engine room flooded immediately and Sealion settled by the stern in the mud. The forward engine room and the after torpedo room flooded slowly through bomb fragment holes in the bulkheads. Personnel in these compartments, as well as in other parts of the ship, escaped through the hatches, which were all still above water. Sealion finally settled down by the stern with about 40% of the main deck underwater and 15° list to starboard.

The bomb which exploded above the control room, while doing great superficial damage, did little harm to the pressure hull other than piercing it with numerous bomb fragments. The bomb which exploded aft did the major damage. A more vital spot than the maneuvering space could not possibly have been found. All motor control, reduction gears, and main motors were wrecked, totally immobilizing the ship. However, the damage would have been considered non-fatal had there been overhaul facilities available for repairs. But such was not the case; the bombing which wrecked Sealion also demolished the Navy Yard Cavite, and the closest repair facilities were at Pearl Harbor, 5000 miles away. The war situation being what it was, it was impossible to tow Sealion that distance, and after removing all gear of value, such as gyro, radio and sound equipment, she was destroyed to prevent her from falling into enemy hands. Three depth charges were exploded inside Sealion on Christmas Day, 1941.

Note 1.

Seadragon survived the war, made 11 war patrols and was credited with sinking 10 Japanese ships with a displacement of 43,450 tons.

Getting to know our Base Members

As Editor, I asked our base members who joined since 2022 to provide some information about themselves so we could get to know our base members better. I started with two questions mentioned below and any personal information they wanted to share. Dennis was the second to respond and is highlighted in this newsletter.

ICC(SS) Lanier Dennis

Qual Date and Boat: 1972 USS Harder SS 568

I enlisted February 1972. Both me and my twin brother David enlisted under "brother duty". We went to Boot camp in Orlando and of course Sub School. After graduating we were ordered to Ballast Point San Diego where we reported onboard the USS Harder SS 568 where we qualified submariners. My twin brother and I separated after the Harder. I served on the USS John C. Calhoun SSBN 630B from Sept 1974 to Feb 1979 and I was fortunate to have my younger brother Mark report aboard while we were in Holy Loch Scotland and was with the Calhoun in the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. He was later separated from the navy due to injuries he sustained in a vehicle accident. I reported to SIMA Charleston for shore duty from March 1979 to December 1981. After shore duty I served on the USS John Adams SSBN 620G from January 1982 to April 1987 as ICLPO and ships Career Counselor. In April 1987 I reported to Subtrafac Charleston SC where I taught IC systems and later Instructor Training school leaving in April 1990. New orders took me to the USS Baton Rouge SSN 689 in Norfolk Va. where I served as ICLPO, 1st Lt. and ships Career Counselor from May 1990 to June 1992. My last command was MOTU 2 in Norfolk from August 1992 until my retirement Feb 1993.



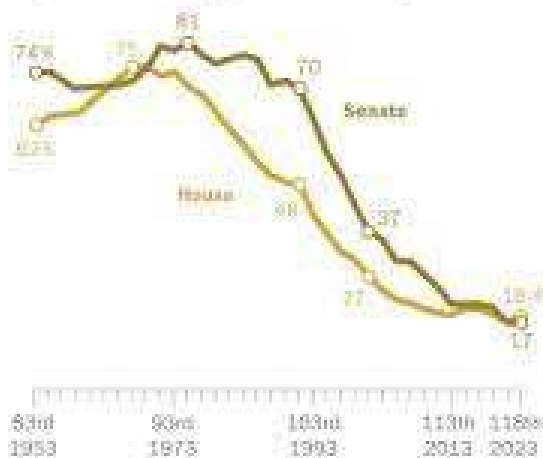
What's NOT going on in Washington?

Wow, when I stated last month that Washington was broken, I had no idea how bad. Congress has kicked the can until early January 2024. I hope they can even decide on what they want to decide on.



Share of members in Congress who are veterans has fallen in recent decades

% of members with previous military service



Note: Data does not include nonvoting delegates or commissioners.
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of data from Military Times, Congressional Research Service, Brookings Institution and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Veterans as share of population



Source: Census Bureau

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

After Washington, we all need a little humor



**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.

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.

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.

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
13 July 2023

Opening Ceremonies:

- The July 2023 Base Meeting was called to order by Vice Commander Tom Lawson with a quorum of three officers and a total of 51 members. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko was not present. 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 July was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of July:
 - ◊ **USS S-28 (SS-133) July 4, 1944 – Training Exercise
Lost with All Hands – 49 Souls**
 - ◊ **USS ROBALO (SS-273) July 26, 1944 – 3RD war patrol
Lost with 77 Men – 4 Died as POWs – 81 Souls**
 - ◊ **USS GRUNNION (SS-216) July 30, 1942 – 1ST war patrol
Lost with All Hands – 70 Souls**
 - ◊ **THREE Boats and 200 Men Lost**
- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Guest Speaker – MA1 Brad Outhet:

- After being introduced by Recreation Chairman Johnny Brown, MA1 Brad Outhet from WEPSTA Charleston provided details about an upcoming Golf Tournament which is to raise funds for the Navy Ball to be held on October 14.
- The tournament will be held at the Miler Country Club course in Summerville on Thursday, August 10. While not allowed to put the notice on the flyers that he provided, he promised FREE BEER. He detailed the varied levels of business sponsorship. For the players, the admission is \$125 each or \$500 per team.
- Brad answered a few individual questions, including that there are no limit to the number of teams.
- Johnny noted that he sent the notice out to the Base members regarding formation of golf teams.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- Three men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:
 - ◊ Adam Taylor – LT – Qualified on USS Mississippi SSN782 - 2018
 - ◊ Bryan Baranowski – MMN1 – Qualified on USS Jimmy Carter SSN23 – 2019 – Also served at NPTU Charleston MTS701
 - ◊ Nicholas Fender – MMN1 – Qualified on USS New Mexico SSN779 – 2018 – Also served at NUC “A” School – Basic Machinery Instructor – Scuba Diver

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- At the Board Meeting last week, the recommendation was made to sponsor a Lunch Bar at the Golf Tournament. The motion by Johnny Brown was seconded and discussion followed. The suggestion was made to withdraw \$750 from the Investment Fund for this purpose. By both show of hands and voice vote, the use the funds was approved by the members in attendance.
- No further business.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the June Base Meeting were emailed directly to the entire Base membership, published in the Base Newsletter and have been promulgated on the Base Website. The Base Meeting Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The Treasurer’s Report for June 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:
 - ◊ GRUNION was lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Grunion’s mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in 2006 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.

- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **Bobby Jonason** of Goose Creek departed on Eternal Patrol on Monday, 10 July. He was not a member of USSVI.
- **Ruth Glass**, mother of Trudy Glass, wife of Jim Lewis, passed away the morning of 6 July. She was 97 years young.
- **Mike Ciesielko's daughter, Erica**, had a serious car accident June 21st and the car was totaled. She was taken to the hospital with broken bones and spine injuries and was in ICU for a few days. She had back surgery and is now home. Wearing a back brace. Mike says she is doing well.
- **Jim Higgins** is in rehab at Elms LifeCare Rm 10 Garden Ridge after being in the hospital. He has had back pain for a long time and it was getting worse so he went to the ER where an MRI was done. He had an infection on his spine and is being treated with antibiotics. His progress is slow due to the pain and meds. He is OK with visitors although per Mildred's direction "Do Not Disturb If He Is Sleeping". He needs the rest. Mildred, wife, will be keeping me informed as to how he is doing.
- **Rick Wise** received his CT scan results on June 28th and they are GOOD! No signs of cancer were found. He is doing so well he will be taking back the responsibility for the Amberjack/Lost Boats ceremony we do each April.
- On June 30th, Alyssa and 3 others including Chief Thompson, from the FCPOA, came by and raked and took the pine needles and other debris from our backyard out to the road. This was something Jean and I just couldn't do.
- **Rick Collins** has a friend who has an electric wheel chair and will donate it if there is anyone who might need one. Contact Rick at treasurer@ussvicb.org for more information.
- **Hauns 'Sam' Vlam** is in the Oakbrook Health & Rehabilitation Center Rm 315 for rehab. He has Parkinson's and is doing as well as can be expected. He will enjoy any visits he gets.
- **Woody Woodsmall** is still having some issues with his shoulder after the surgery and rehab is taking longer to complete. On June 30th, he had surgery on his face for a benign tumor and stayed overnight. He will be going in next week for a doctor to look at the surgery site.
- **Howard 'Andy' Anderson** is out of cardiac rehab by Dr orders. He completed about half of the days. The heart is doing fine and working good for a 84 year old guy. Still have an unknown bleeding source that has reared its ugly head 3 times since Jan. Lots of doctors have been involved. It still remains unknown source of bleeding at this time. He has had this issue for years but appears to have gotten more frequent since the heart attacks.
- **Joe Lunn** is still battling his Parkinson's Disease.

- **Don Petersen** is not doing well
- **Thom Beach** is still at the VICTORY HOUSE in Walterboro. His phone number is 843.809.9417.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols

- Until told differently, continue to use the website of <https://ussubvets.org>
- Freedom fest total of 16 SUBVETs and spouses there.
- Received from Alexis: Thank you for showing up in force to the event. The SUBVETs are always a friendly face of calm in a storm that is these events and I personally appreciate the support. Additionally, thank you on behalf of JBC.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Not present

Membership – Larry Knutson

- Charleston Base currently has 256 members.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]:
- 1) Groton 1152 – 2) Hampton Roads 278 – 3) Charleston 256 – 4) Bremerton 242

National Awards – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing reported.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- At the last Base Meeting, we spent \$10,000 from the Scholarship Fund for issuing awards.
- We received a “Thank You” from each of the four recipients of the Scholarship Award. Carl read each response. Two were via text message. One was sent by email. One was actually mailed in the form of a card. All expressed their gratitude for the money provided to them.
- We are now, again raising funds for next year. Tonight we have a raffle for two season tickets to Flowertown Players in Summerville.
- We also have the Challenge coin drawing tonight.
- We still have Challenge Coins for sale - \$12 each.
- The Rummage sale will be held on November 18.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- Rick expressed his thanks for all that helped by cleaning and preparing the float for Freedom Fest. He also thanked those that helped to get the float into the location and get it back to storage.

Submarine Museum – Dave Harvey

- Mayor Summey did not respond, so the request was made to the Governor.
- Summey has passed the decision to the new mayor, which will be after the election in November.
- The information package is ready for the new mayor – whomever it shall be.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- Nothing to report

Nuclear Power School – Phil Nunnally

- The last NPS graduation was on July 7 and had the very first students from the Australian Navy.
- The next graduation for NPS will be held somewhere around Labor Day weekend, but the dates are uncertain at this time.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- We had 25 members & spouses at the River Dogs baseball game.
- Six of our expected group did not show, so the tickets were given to and appreciated by some young folks.
- Johnny is waiting on response from the Citadel
- Johnny is planning to arrange an Old Fashioned Navy Breakfast.
- Johnny and Ken Hutchison are working together to have SubVet at Fleet events to be non-competitive with each other but possibly being a joint venture. More info as available.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody has Window Decals. If you want, you can cut off the “Salt Life” statement and have a really nice set of Dolphins to apply to your window.
- Woody also has a few hats available that say, “It never happened and we were never there.”

Newsletter – Ed Stank

- Ed thanked Scholarship Chair for providing details about award winners.
- Ed is still looking for a relief as Newsletter Editor. Without a relief, there may not be any more Newsletters.

PAO – Ed Stank

- Ed has submitted an article about the Charleston Base Scholarship program to American Submariner.
- He may send an article about the Aussie NPS graduation.

COB – Rick Sparger

- There is a lady who works at Eggs-Up Grill who also does embroidery. Rick recommended her for any embroidery that you may need to have done.
- Rick has business cards available.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- Base Commander could not be here tonight. Tom thanked members for attendance and cooperation this evening.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- Not present.

Good of the Order

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Not present.

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- Not present.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Not present.

Non-Nuclear Historian – Harry Nettles

- Not present.

Drawings & Auctions

- Auction for Theatre Tickets – Marty Sessler
- FRA Drawing – Lindsay Nelson
- Challenge Coin Drawing – Won by Pete Garrison.
- Depth Charge Drawing – Glenn Little

Closing Ceremony

- Base Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson announced adjournment of the meeting.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson sounded three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1954.