



Vol. 20 No. 03

March 2024

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

### Base Meeting:

Newsletter & Little David Phil Nunnally 843.518.8301

BOD: Mar 7, 2024

Membership: Mar 14, 2024

### Location:

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



Base Commander	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011
Vice Commander	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
Secretary	Gordon Long	843.214.2353
Treasurer	Ricky Collins	843.260.8299
Chief of the Boat	Greg Landry	843.609.2197
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
Historian	VACANT	
Public Affairs	VACANT	
Nuclear Historian	Rick Carlson	843.875.4030
Holland Club	Bill Freigh	843.729.3524
Social Media Coord	Lewis Leal	843.270.8870
Kaps for Kids	VACANT	
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
Special Events Coord	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
Special Events Coord	Tom Holcombe	843.514.1448

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## **Submarines lost during the month of March**

<b>USS Perch (SS-176)</b>	<b>3 Mar 42</b>	<b>59 Officers and Men taken as POW 6 POWs died.</b>
<b>USS Grampus (SS-207)</b>	<b>5 Mar 43</b>	<b>71 Souls Lost</b>
<b>USS H-1 (SS-28)12</b>	<b>12 Mar 20</b>	<b>4 Souls Lost</b>
<b>USS Triton (SS-201)</b>	<b>15 Mar 43</b>	<b>74 Souls Lost</b>
<b>USS Kete (SS-369)</b>	<b>20 Mar 45</b>	<b>87 Souls Lost</b>
<b>USS F-4 (Ex Skate) SS-23</b>	<b>21 Mar 15</b>	<b>21 Souls Lost</b>
<b>USS Tullibee (SS-284)</b>	<b>26 Mar 44</b>	<b>79 Souls Lost, 1 taken as a POW and survived the war</b>
<b>USS Trigger (SS-237)</b>	<b>26 Mar 45</b>	<b>89 Souls Lost</b>
<b>8 Boats 431 Souls Lost</b>		

### **USS Tullibee (SS 284)**

The following story of Tullibee's loss is taken from a statement made by the lone survivor, C.W. Kuykendall, GM2c. He reports that the boat arrived on station, 25 March, and on the night of 26 March a radar contact was found to be on a convoy consisting of a large troop and cargo ship, two medium sized freighters, two escort vessels and a large destroyer.

Having solved the convoy's speed and course, Tullibee made several surface runs on the large transport, but held fire, being unable to see her due to squally weather. The escorts had detected the submarine's presence, and dropped 15 to 20 depth charges. The submarine came in to 3,000 yards, still unable to see the target, and fired two bow tubes. A minute or two later a terrific concussion shook the boat, and Kuykendall, who had been on the bridge, soon found himself struggling in the water. Since range and bearing of escorts was known, the survivor states that he is sure the explosion was the result of a circular run of one of Tullibee's torpedoes.

## **USS Tullibee (SS 284)**

There were shouting men in the water when Kuykendall first regained consciousness after the blast, but after about ten minutes everything was silent, and he never again saw or heard any of the other Tullibee men. At 1000 on 27 March, an escort vessel located the swimming man, and after firing on him with machine guns, came in and picked him up. He learned here that the transport they had fired at had sunk.

The story of his captivity is much the same as the stories of survivors of Grenadier, Sculpin, Tang, Perch, and other U.S. submarines. He was questioned assiduously by English speaking officers, and beaten when he refused to give any more information than international law required. In April 1944, he was taken to Ofuna Naval Interrogation Camp, where he stayed until 30 September. From that date until rescue on 4 September 1945, he was forced to work in the copper mines of Ashio.



**Upcoming Base Events**  
**See [www.ussvicb.org](http://www.ussvicb.org) for details**

**Upcoming Charleston Base Events**

Board of Directors Meeting	Mar 7, 2024	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Daylight Savings Time Change	Mar 10, 2024	Set clocks ahead 1 hour
Base Meeting	Mar 14, 2024 ( <b>Social Hour—1800</b> )	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Oyster Roast	Mar 16, 2024 (Details below)	After Battery

**CHARLESTON BASE SUBVETS OYSTER ROAST**

- Saturday, March 16, 2024
- 1300-1800
- The After Battery
- 120 Sawdust Lane
- Dorchester, SC 29437

Base Provided:

Oysters, Frogmore Stew, Chili, Hot Dogs and Beverages

Please RSVP to [Johnny.Brown@comcast.net](mailto:Johnny.Brown@comcast.net) with number of Oyster Eaters and number of Non-Oyster Eaters so we can have plenty for everyone. All are welcome to bring their favorite Oyster Roast side dish or dessert to share.

See details at [USSVICB Home Page](#)

## After Battery Hog Roast 2023 Pictures



## After Battery Future Events Mark your calendars now

### **20th Anniversary After Battery Hog Roast Week**

- Starting April 20 through April 27 daily events
- Saturday April 27 hog roast
- Follow details at [20th Anniversary After Battery Hog Roast – The After Battery Home](#)

# 2024 Charleston Submarine Birthday Ball

## "UNDERWAY ON NUCLEAR POWER"

2024 Charleston Submarine Birthday Ball tickets are now available at the website link below.

**2024 Charleston Submarine Birthday Ball Tickets, Sat, Apr 13, 2024 at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite**

**Date and time: Saturday, April 13 · 5 - 11pm EDT**

**Location: The Porter Room at Holy City Brewing**

1021 Aragon Avenue North Charleston, SC 29405 **MAP**

**Refund Policy:** Contact the organizer to request a refund. Eventbrite's fee is nonrefundable.

**Cocktail Hour:** 1700-1800

**Ceremony:** 1800-1900

**Dinner and Dancing:** 1900-2300

### **Ticket Prices:**

- E-6 and Below and SubVETS: **\$65 per person** [+ transaction fee]
- E-7 to E-8/O-1 to O-3: **\$75 per person** [+ transaction fee]
- E-9 and O-4 and above: **\$85 per person** [+ transaction fee]

Rank of Service member used for Significant Other or Spouse attending. Price of ticket includes complimentary coin, cup, and dinner (Lewis BBQ), appetizers, and dessert. Cash bar is available for purchase of alcohol.

**Student tickets are available for purchase beginning 21 MAR 24.**

### **UNIFORM:**

- **Military:** Service Dress Blues or Whites and above.
- **Civilian:** Formal Attire.
- **SUBVETS:** Vest Uniform: Vest, Blue Shirt w/Dolphin Tie, Khaki Pants

### **Dinner options:**

- **Meat:** Brisket and Pulled pork
- **Side options:** Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Pinto Beans, Green Chile Corn Pudding, Collard Greens, Mac & Cheese

**Dessert:** Banana pudding or Chocolate Dirt Pie

Organized by NNPTC Heritage Committee

Provided by shipmate Anthony Mazza.

Questions contact Anthony [**atmazza81@gmail.com**]

**From the Editor**  
**Contact me at [newsletter@ussvicb.org](mailto:newsletter@ussvicb.org)**

As we get into 2024, I continue to look for news articles that will either inform or inspire you BUT I continue to ask for your help with input.

This is our base newsletter, not mine, so I want to hear your comments and ideas. We have over 200 base members who together can provide a wealth of information

I will continue to look for articles locally and nationwide that affect our community and provide those details to you. Email the Newsletter if you find articles.

**Important Information**

**I posted this last month but wanted to pass along one more time**

**How to reach the Veterans Crisis Line**

- Dial 988 Then Press 1
- Text message to 838255
- [WWW.veteranscrisisline.net](http://WWW.veteranscrisisline.net)
- Confidential support 24/7/365

**An extensive list of [VA Information](#) on our Base Website**

**[Death Notification Checklist](#) Located on our Base Website**



# **Announcements**

## **Welcome Greg Landry as to our New COB!**

I want to put out some info on the status of the COB position. I had asked Anthony Mazza to fill this position and when I did, I did not realize that his responsibilities are numerous and involved to say the least. After long deliberation I have asked Greg Landry to be our Chief of the Boat. This is not a demotion for Anthony by no means but a reallocation of people to better suit the base needs. Anthony is still our NNPTC Liaison as well as the Submarine Ball Coordinator for the base.

I thank each and every one who holds an office or is on a committee helping us in all ways.

Sincerely  
Mike Ciesielko  
Base Commander Charleston Base

Provided by email February 20, 2024

## **Welcome Thomas Holcombe as our New Special Events Coordinator!**

### **Opportunities to Serve our Base**

- Openings for
  - ◊ PAO
  - ◊ Base Historian
  - ◊ Kaps for Kids

Contact the Base Commander or any officer if you can help



# **Announcements**

## **Help with Nuclear Power School Graduations**

Rick Wise and I have been presenting Nuclear Power School graduation awards to the officer and enlisted submarine designated students with the highest GPA. This occurs every eight weeks on a Friday morning starting this year March 1st. I will be covering the graduation April 26th but we could use a backup for June and possibly future dates.

The process takes about 3 hours on that Friday morning plus printing of the award certificates, supplies provided by me. You do not have to be a nuke to deliver the awards.

If you can help, please contact Phil Nunnally at our base meeting or email me at [newsletter@ussvicb.org](mailto:newsletter@ussvicb.org)

## **Remindar**

**The USSVI National Website is <https://ussubvets.org>**

## **South Carolina Submarine License Plates**

Ed Stank is researching interest in a SC Submarine license plate. There are 454 Subvet members across SC in multiple bases. During the February meeting, a large majority stated yes to a vote. If you could not attend and have interest in SC creating a Subvets license plate, email Ed at [stanke623@gmail.com](mailto:stanke623@gmail.com)

Ed also noted that all base members are invited each week to the Wednesday weekly poker games and 1700 dinner. See details in the After Battery page above

## Scholarship Items Up For Bid

First up we have four (4) genuine U.S. Navy coffee cups. Three are Pyrex #723 and one is Anchor Hocking #910. These cups are hard to find any more since they have been out of production for some time. You might be able to find a few once in a while on ebay.com; price varies up to \$35 each plus shipping. These particular cups were donated by one of our own Stew Burners, Jerry Starr. Bid price is for one cup; buy 1, 2, 3, or 4. High bidder has first choice on how many he wants to buy. If he buys less than 4, the others will be available for sale at the highest bid price.



Second up is a unique, hard to come by shower curtain. The curtain is standard size, nylon material with a large set of Navy blue dolphins printed on one side. It includes curtain rings for hanging and a blue and gold tie-back. This item was donated by member Bill Hayes.



To participate just send your bid(s), including which item, to [scholarship@ussvicb.org](mailto:scholarship@ussvicb.org) any time until 1200 (noon), March 14, 2024. Bids will also be taken in person at our regular meeting (up to the end) on March 14th. Highest bid for each item wins. Remember for the cups you are bidding for one (1) cup; buy 1, 2, 3 or 4; make sure to include how many cups you want with your bid. If highest bidder buys less than 4, the others will be sold for that highest bid at the end of the meeting.

Transmitted at the request of Carl Chinn, Scholarship Chairman

# Hunley/Housatonic Memorial Service

February 17, 2024



## **SUBMARINER MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS**

The submarine community has eight Medal of Honor recipients. This is the second of eight in this series.

### **CAPTAIN JOHN PHILIP CROMWELL**

- RANK: CAPTAIN
- CONFLICT/ERA: WORLD WAR II
- UNIT/COMMAND: U.S.S. SCULPIN
- MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH: U.S. NAVY
- MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 1943
- MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION PLACE: OFF TRUK ISLAND, OFF TRUK ISLAND, SOUTH PACIFIC

As commander of a submarine coordinated attack group with flag in the U.S.S. Sculpin, during the 9th war patrol of that vessel in enemy-controlled waters off Truk Island, 19 November 1943. Undertaking this patrol prior to the launching of our first large-scale offensive in the Pacific, Capt. Cromwell, alone of the entire Task Group, possessed secret intelligence information of our submarine strategy and tactics, scheduled Fleet movements, and specific attack plans. Constantly vigilant and precise in carrying out his secret orders, he moved his undersea flotilla inexorably forward despite savage opposition and established a line of submarines to southeastward of the main Japanese stronghold at Truk. Cool and undaunted as the submarine, rocked and battered by Japanese depth charges, sustained terrific battle damage and sank to an excessive depth, he authorized the Sculpin to surface and engage the enemy in a gunfight, thereby providing an opportunity for the crew to abandon ship. Determined to sacrifice himself rather than risk capture and subsequent danger of revealing plans under Japanese torture or use of drugs, he stoically remained aboard the mortally wounded vessel as she plunged to her death, preserving the security of his mission, at the cost of his own life.

## CAPTAIN JOHN PHILIP CROMWELL



## **Automatic Content Tracking**

### **You are not just watching your Smart TV**

### **Your Smart TV is watching you**

If you bought a new smart TV during any of the holiday sales, there's likely to be an uninvited guest watching along with you. The most popular smart TVs sold today use automatic content recognition (ACR), a kind of ad surveillance technology that collects data on everything you view and sends it to a proprietary database to identify what you're watching and serve you highly targeted ads. The software is largely hidden from view, and it's complicated to opt out. Many consumers aren't aware of ACR, let alone that it's active on their shiny new TVs. If that's you, and you'd like to turn it off,

First, a quick primer on the tech: ACR identifies what's displayed on your television, including content served through a cable TV box, streaming service, or game console, by continuously grabbing screenshots and comparing them to a massive database of media and advertisements. Think of it as a Shazam-like service constantly running in the background while your TV is on.

These TVs can capture and identify 7,200 images per hour, or approximately two every second. The data is then used for content recommendations and ad targeting, which is a huge business; advertisers spent an estimated \$18.6 billion on smart TV ads in 2022, according to market research firm eMarketer.

For anyone who'd rather not have ACR looking over their shoulder while they watch, we've put together a guide to turning it off on three of the most popular smart TV software platforms in use last year. Depending on the platform, turning off ACR took us between 10 and 37 clicks.

View this [Smart TV link](#) for more information and how to disable ACR on many platforms.

Provided by shipmate Thomas Holcombe

## **USS Triton (SSRN-586)**

### **First Submerged Circumnavigation by any Vessel**

USS Triton (SSR(N)-586) was commissioned on 10 November 1959 in Groton, Connecticut, with Captain Edward L. Beach in command. On her maiden cruise, the submarine departed on 15 February 1960 bound for the South Atlantic arriving in the Middle Atlantic off St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks on 24 February. Remaining submerged, Triton departed from her position, continued south towards Cape Horn, rounded the tip of South America, and then travelled west across the Pacific. After passing through the Philippine and Indonesian archipelagoes and crossing the Indian Ocean, she rounded the Cape of Good Hope and arrived off St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks—the starting point of the historic journey—on 10 April 60 days and 21 hours after departing the landmark. Triton arrived back at Groton on 10 May completing the first submerged circumnavigation of the Earth.

See details at [Triton \(SSR\(N\)-586\) \(navy.mil\)](http://www.navy.mil/triton/ssr(n)-586)





# **What's going on in politics?**

## **2024 National Defense Bill signed**

Some highlights of the bill:

- \$883 billion for all defense related activities
- \$28 billion more than 2023, a 3.2% increase
- \$841 billion for the DOD
- Total active duty strength at 1,283,700
  - ◊ 337,000 for the Navy

## **2023 Legislative Victories**

- No new Tricare fee increases were in the 2024 National Defense Bill
- Expanded the VA's prostate cancer treatment and research
- New VA policy allowing almost any veteran experiencing a suicidal crisis to receive emergency care at no cost from any VA or non-VA care facility. Enrollment in the VA system is not required
- Multiple bills in committees that would greatly benefit active duty and retirees

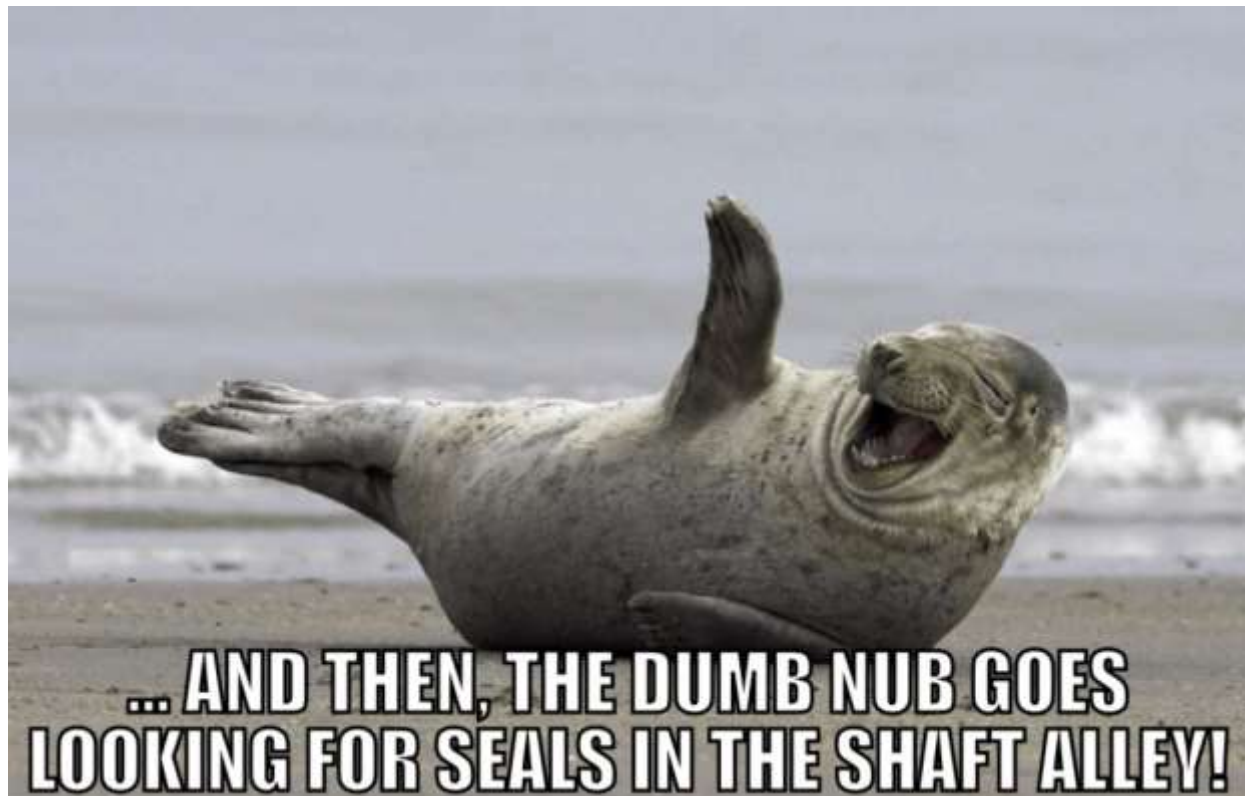
Information from *FRA Today January/February 2024*

## **Only Remaining Vietnam Veteran in the Senate to Retire**

- Tom Harper (Del.) announced he will not seek reelection in 2024
- There are three remaining Vietnam Vets in the House of Representatives
- 6.2% of all Americans are veterans, down from 18% in 1980
- While only 6.2% of the population, 18.4% of the House are veterans

Information from *FRA Today January/February 2024*

**After politics, we all need a little humor**



**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base**  
**Minutes of Business Meeting**  
**11 January 2024**

**Opening Ceremonies:**

- The January 2024 Base Meeting was called to order by Vice Commander Tom Lawson with a quorum of three officers and a total of 40 members. The meeting started at 1901 with the sound of the diving alarm. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko was not present this evening.
- 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 January was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of January:
  - ◊ **USS SCORPION (SS-278)                      January 5, 1944 – 4<sup>th</sup> War Patrol**
  - ◊ **Lost with all hands – 77 souls**
  - ◊ **USS ARGONAUT (SS-166)                      January 10, 1943 – 3<sup>rd</sup> War Patrol**
  - ◊ **Lost with all hands – 102 souls**
  - ◊ **USS SWORDFISH (SS-193)                      January 12, 1945 – 13<sup>th</sup> War Patrol**
  - ◊ **Lost with all hands – 89 souls**
  - ◊ **USS S-36 (SS-141)                              January 20, 1942 – 2<sup>nd</sup> War Patrol**
  - ◊ **No loss of life**
  - ◊ **USS S-26 (SS-131)                              January 24, 1942 – 2<sup>nd</sup> War Patrol**
  - ◊ **Lost with 46 souls–3 men rescued**

**Five Boats and 314 Men Lost**

The following Charleston Base members have departed on Eternal Patrol last year.

This list was read and the bell tolled at the party but for the benefit of those members who were not there, I am reading the names and date of Eternal Patrol during this meeting.

**We will not toll the bell since that was done at the party.**

**RMC(SS) GORDON A. SMITH, DECEMBER 13, 2022  
LCDR GEORGE W. BARNETTE III, DECEMBER 13, 2022  
FTCS(SS) LEROY P. WERLEY, JANUARY 27, 2023  
MMCM(SS) JOSEPH I. HAYES, FEBRUARY 12, 2023  
MM2(SS) ROBERT D. LEHMAN, JULY 20, 2023  
MMCM(SS) DONALD D. PETERSEN, JULY 21, 2023  
CDR THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, JULY 29, 2023  
SK1(SS) HANS VLAM, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023  
TMCS(SS) DAVID A. MUELLER, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023  
RMCM(SS) WILLIAM E. HALL JR., OCTOBER 5, 2023  
TMCS(SS) RICHARD K. SPARGER, OCTOBER 28, 2023**

#### **Introductions of New Attendees:**

- One man was present at the Base meeting for the first time:
  - ◊ Arthur Sattler – MT1 – Qualified on USS Will Rogers SSBN659 – June 1979 – Also served aboard USS John Adams SSBN620, Francis Scott Key SSBN657 and shore commands NOTU and FTC Charleston.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Pearl Harbor Memorial – Tom Holcombe:**
  - ◊ Tom reported about the Pearl Harbor remembrance aboard the USS Yorktown. There were about 30 veterans' groups represented for a great ceremony. Tom recommended that Charleston Base continue to participate in this annual event.

#### **New Business:**

- Vice Commander Tom Lawson reminded those in attendance about submitting nominations for this year's Distinguished Submariner Award.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- The Minutes from the November Base meeting were emailed to all Base members. We had a short Base business meeting at the Christmas Party in December. These Minutes were also emailed to the entire Base membership. Nick has published the Minutes on the Base Website. There was a correction to the drawing winners from the Christmas Party. There were no changes to the November Base Meeting Minutes and were approved as written. The December Meeting Minutes were approved with the noted changes and sent to the Webmaster for republication.

### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- The Treasurer's Reports for November/December were published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. The reports were approved as presented.

### **Chaplain – Nick Nichols:**

#### **• Highlighted boat of the month:**

- ◊ USS S-36 SS-141 was lost on January 20, 1942 with no loss of life, on her 2nd war patrol. She ran hard aground on the Taka Bakang Reef in Makassar Strait, Indonesia and radioed for help. The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch ship after they scuttled her

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

- **Wayne Standerfer** has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He is the USSVI Immediate Past National Commander. Cancer. Wayne is undergoing tests and will see the oncologist after the tests are completed. The prognosis of those test results will determine the possible treatment options and course of action. Please keep Wayne and his family in your thoughts and prayers.
- **Jerry Stout** reported his cancer (Merckle cell Carcinoma skin cancer) has reappeared in my left neck and clavicle after 9 months of clear margins. He had focused radiation centered at the affected area but ss this procedure is not a cure; he will be staying on an immune regiment until it appears again. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

- **Tom Clark** has an aggressive Type B lymphoma growing on his spine. His latest email to me: Got PET Scan today, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, and it shows no evidence of the cancer it showed six weeks ago. Still have 2 more chemo sessions – just because they cannot see in the scan it does not mean it is not there in smaller amounts. Likely the “symptoms” I’ve experienced are due to the chemo and other meds. So, I’ll still be “wobbly” for several months . . . a small price to be shed of cancer. I know all the prayers that were raised for me are a significant part of getting to this point – thank you all.
- **Mike Emerson** had surgery on Dec 21 and is doing well.
- **Sonny Rash** is having lung surgery at the VA on Jan 25. Expects to be in the hospital 2-4 days and then a 2–4-week recovery. He told me he already told the doctor he would cut each of those time limits in half.
- **John Furst** is suffering from pancreatitis which happened after he had the stents put in his pancreas. He’s also recovering from a stroke he had last year that left him weak on his left side.
- **Marvin Miller** was hospitalized in September 2023 for a broken Hip socket. Surgery was successful. He was at Presbyterian Villages of Summerville until early Dec 2023. He was discharged to home and became sick. Diagnosed with Cdiff. Spent a week in Summerville Medical and is now back in the Villages. Freida said she expects him home sometime the week of Jan 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **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. Johnny Brown saw him on Jan 4<sup>th</sup>. Thom is in a private room in the Elliott Pavilion Rm A-117a. His phone number is 843.809.9417.
- **Don Londergan** 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:**

- If you change your number or drop your home line, please contact either Larry, Nick or the COB so that we can make the necessary changes locally and with National.
- Until told differently, continue to use the website of <https://ussubvets.org>

- New base member, Bob MacPherson, is the author of the blog LEANSUBMARINER.COM. He is a retired CWO and a great writer. Check out his posts. He has talked about Charleston in the last few of his posts. He is chairing a reunion of the USS San Francisco (now a MTS at the NWS) and they will be attending our April Base Meeting, Lost Boats Tolling and the Submarine Birthday Ball.

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Nothing to report

### **Membership – Larry Knutson**

- October was the time for Annual Dues. We are now at January and have about a dozen that have not renewed. National USSVI will drop everyone at the end of the month that have not sent dues. At that time, we have no choice but to do the same. Members can send Larry a check made out to “USSVI”. Larry’s address is on the Base website. PayPal has been deactivated on the Base website because of issues getting correct payment.
- The report from Nick Nichols provided Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]:
- Groton 1183 - 2) Hampton Roads 281 - 3) Charleston 261 - 4) Bremerton 247

### **Amberjack Ceremony – Rick Wise**

- On April 13, we will hold the Amberjack ceremony at the Cold War Memorial at Patriot’s Point. In the case of inclement weather, the event will be indoors at the Naval Weapons Station.

### **Special Events – Tom Holcombe**

- Tom Lawson introduced Tom Holcombe as the new Special Events Coordinator.
- Tom stated that he is willing to do anything but cooking.

### **Hunley Coordinator – Tom Holcombe**

- This year is the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the Housatonic and the loss of the Hunley.
- Tom requested volunteers for wreaths at the ceremony on February 17.
- The nearby church no longer allows the ceremony to be held there.



### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn**

- The Rummage sale was held on November 18. From the day of the sale, the Scholarship Committee received \$1,844. The total for the Rummage Sale was \$2,394 because of items sold online prior to the sale.
- Memorial donations for Rick Sparger to the Scholarship Committee have totaled \$1,293.
- The raffle for two tickets to the Glen Miller Orchestra concert at the Charleston Music Hall will be held at the end of tonight's meeting.
- We still have Challenge coins. These come in handy for some special drawings held by the committee at the Base meeting. If you don't have one, get yours tonight.
- The current balance in the Scholarship Fund is \$9,925.

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

- Ken spoke about the FRA and Charleston Base working closer together. The Pearl Harbor remembrance is just one such example. He also talked about Wreaths Across America.
- At the recent Veterans Day fund raiser, the cooks for the FRA were SubVets. Thanks to both of them!
- On February 17, we will have a good, old-fashioned Navy Breakfast. The cooks will be sub sailors.
- On May 18, the FRA will be doing Frogmore Stew AKA Low-Country Boil.
- Ken congratulated Rick Wise for all the work that he has done for Charleston Base and being able to maintain a remarkable attitude considering his medical issues including the loss of his arm. Rick encouraged everyone to try being positive in all situations.

### **Recreation – Dave Harvey for Johnny Brown**

- Oyster Roast to be held on March 6 at The After Battery. In order to avoid buying too many oysters, tickets to the event will be sold next month at a price of \$10. When you show up, you will get your money back.

### **Nuclear Power School Awards – Phil Nunnally**

- The next NPS graduation will be March 1.

### **Newsletter – Phil Nunnally**

- The next edition will be out at the beginning of February.

### **Little David – Phil Nunnally**

- Phil will get more info out later, but expect work in April or May.

### **PAO – Dave Harvey**

- Dave stated that we need to appoint a new PAO, briefly explaining his history with the local newspapers.

### **Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall**

- Woody talked about items that he has available including calendars (now on sale), “Submarine Vet Edition” vehicle emblems and “Veteran” Flag pins.
- Oakbrook Embroidery on Bacon’s Bridge Road has been sold to “Infinite Creations Boutique”. The new owner will still do embroidery.

### **NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza**

- A “Burger Burn” is being planned. More info as available.

### **COB – Anthony Mazza**

- The Naval Weapons Station First Class Petty Officer’s Association is again sponsoring the Navy Ball. More information as available.

### **VA – Tom Lawson**

- The VA has opened the valet parking at the VA Hospital. It was closed for about 12 years beginning with construction
- The VA retirement has a Cost of Living increase
- Tom spoke about the upcoming event at Sangaree Middle School with General Livingston (MoH) as the guest speaker. 19 JAN 1000.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson**

- Nothing to report

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

- Not present

### **Good of the Order**

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

- Not present.

### **After Battery – Ray Sparks**

- The Hog Roast will be April 20-27. Talk to Ken Hutchison about RV parking.
- The After Battery is open every Wednesday.

### **Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko**

- Not Present

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

- Not present

### **Drawings & Auctions**

- Scholarship – Glen Miller Tickets – Tom Lawson
- Carl Chinn's number was selected for The Challenge Coin drawing. Being ineligible, the prize will be retained until the February Base Meeting.
- FRA Drawing – Ray Bryant
- Depth Charge Drawing – Phil Nunnally – Donated \$140 to Scholarship Fund.

### **Closing Ceremony**

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson announced adjournment of the meeting and sounded three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1957.
-

**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base**  
**Minutes of Business Meeting**  
**8 February 2024**

**Opening Ceremonies:**

- The February 2024 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 45 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 February was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of February:
  - ◊ **USS BARBEL (SS-316)** February 4, 1945 – 4th War Patrol  
Lost with all hands – 81 souls
  - ◊ **USS SHARK 1 (SS-174)** February 11, 1942 – 1st War Patrol  
Lost with all hands – 59 souls
  - ◊ **USS AMBERJACK (SS-219)** February 16, 1943 – 3rd War Patrol  
Lost with all hands – 72 souls
  - ◊ **USS GRAYBACK (SS-208)** February 27, 1944 – 10th War Patrol  
Lost with all hands – 80 souls
  - ◊ **USS TROUT (SS-202)** February 29, 1944 – 11th War Patrol  
Lost with all hands – 81 souls
  - ◊ **5 Boats and 373 Men Lost**
  - ◊ **H.L. HUNLEY** February 17, 1864 Lost with all hands – 8 souls
- The Creed of USSVI was read by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

**Introductions of New Attendees:**

- Four men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:
- William (Bill) Carman – MMCS/LDO – Qualified on USS Thomas Jefferson SSBN618 – August 1973
- Jon Aponte – EMN1 – Qualified on USS Springfield SSN761 – October 2017
- Rafael Guzman – STSC – Qualified on USS New Hampshire SSN778 – March 2012 – Also served aboard USS Maryland SSN738
- Charles Ivey – MTCM – Qualified on USS Daniel Boone SSBN629 – 1970 – Also served aboard USS Lewis and Clark SSBN644, POMFLANT, All four Sub Tenders at NWS Charleston.

### **Old Business:**

- Comptroller Rick Wise provided the 2023 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report.

### **New Business:**

- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko advised the members of a proposed change to the Base By-Laws. The text of the change had been sent to the entire Base membership for review prior to a vote next month at the March Base Meeting.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- The Minutes from the January Base meeting were emailed to all Base members. In addition, the text from a proposed change to the Charleston Base By-Laws, reinstating category of Associate Members, was also emailed to the entire membership. There was a correction to the date of the Oyster Roast at The After Battery. The January Meeting Minutes were approved.

### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

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

### **Chaplain – Nick Nichols:**

#### **• Highlighted boat of the month:**

- ◊ **USS TROUT SS-202** was lost on Feb 29, 1944 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 11th war patrol. She was sunk by escorts in the middle of the Philippines Basin after sinking a passenger cargo ship and damaging another in a convoy. She carried out several notable special missions, including carrying over two tons of gold bullion out of Corregidor in February 1942.

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

- **Lloyd Lookabill**, 102, brother of John Lookabill passed away Feb 4 in GA. He was a member of our Greatest Generation having served in WWII. Lloyd was living in an assisted living facility in Blairsville, GA and John had been there with him all week before he passed.
- **Tom Lawson** was in the hospital from Tues evening until Wed evening for testing. Home now.
- **Robby Roberts** has tested positive for COVID, is in quarantine and on meds to reduce effects.
- **Rick Wise** had a recent scan and there are nodules in both lungs. The one in the left lung has increased in size since the last scan. He will be setting up a time to have a needle biopsy to determine if they are benign.
- **Sonny Rash** had lung surgery at the VA on Monday, Jan 25. It went well and he's home recovering. He's on oxygen therapy and is off his pain meds.
- **Marvin Miller** is now home and recovering. He broke his hip socket in September last year and between surgery, rehab and a bout with Cdiff it has been a rough 6 months for him.
- **Jerry Stout** reported after completing his focused radiation centered at the affected area, he will be staying on an immune regimen until it appears again. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.
- **Tom Clark** has 1 more chemo session to complete. He will then start weaning off the chemo and is hopeful he will see us at a meeting soon. He says he will still be "wobbly" for several months . . . a small price to be shed of cancer. I know all the prayers that were raised for me are a significant part of getting to this point – thank you all.
- **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 at the VICTORY HOUSE in Walterboro. Thom is in a private room in the Elliott Pavilion Rm A-117a. His phone number is 843.809.9417.
- **Don Londergan** is in Cypress Square on Midland Pkwy in room 136. Has no phone and hardly any visitors. Visit if you are able.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

**Webmaster – Nick Nichols:**

- If you change phone number, drop your home line or change your address, please contact either Larry or Nick that we can make the necessary changes locally and with National.
- The website to use for National is **<https://ussubvets.org>**

**Amberjack Ceremony / Reunion – Nick Nichols:**

- Rick Wise has asked me to be in charge of the April 13 Lost Boats/ Amberjack Crew/Submarine Birthday recognition service and bell tolling. I will be getting info out before the March BOD and asking for help.
- SAN FRANCISCO / 711 will be having their reunion in Charleston April 11-14. Several of them, including 2 retired flag officers, will attend our April base meeting as one of our base members from PA will get his that night. They will also be attending the April 13<sup>th</sup> Lost Boats service in the AM and the Submariner Birthday Ball in the PM.

**Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Nothing to report

**Membership – Larry Knutson**

- National USSVI will soon drop everyone soon who have not sent dues. At that time, we have no choice but to do the same. Send Larry a check made out to "USSVI". Larry's address is on the Base website. PayPal has been deactivated on the Base website because of issues getting correct payment.
- The report from Nick Nichols provided Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]:
- Groton 1189 - 2) Hampton Roads 284 - 3) Charleston 261 - 4) Bremerton 237

**National Awards – Mike Ciesielko**

- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko discussed meeting to prepare submissions for National Award.



### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn**

- The current balance in the Scholarship Fund is \$10,186.
- The committee has a raffle in progress for a \$100 Publix gift card – to be drawn at the March Base Meeting.
- Phil Nunnally won the Depth Charge last month and donated the entire amount to the Scholarship Fund.
- Tonight, we received \$400 in donations to the Scholarship Fund as memorial in Rick Sparger's name.
- The Base Treasurer reported that Rick Sparger memorial donations have exceeded \$2400.

### **Special Events – Tom Holcombe**

- We have submitted a request for a FRA Memorial Brick for Stacy Power. Tom also welcomed Casey Power to the Base Meeting tonight.

### **Hunley Coordinator – Tom Holcombe**

- Tom reported that he has volunteers in place for the February 17 Hunley/Housatonic Ceremony.
- The location will be at Breach Inlet. Please wear your vest. Muster at 1830.
- This year is the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the Housatonic and the loss of the Hunley.

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

- On February 10, we will have a good, old-fashioned Navy Breakfast. The cooks will be sub sailors.
- Ken and Johnny Brown will be going to the Victory House to present Thom Beach with a 35-year pin.

### **Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison**

- This year, the offices of Vice Commander and Secretary are scheduled for the May Base Meeting. If interested in either of these two positions, please contact Ken.

### **Recreation – Mike Ciesielko for Johnny Brown**

- Oyster Roast to be held on March 16 at The After Battery. Please contact Johnny to attend. [FROM LAST MONTH: In order to avoid buying too many oysters, tickets to the event will be sold next month at a price of \$10. When you show up, you will get your money back.]
- Johnny has contacted the River Dogs about attending during Military Appreciation events this year.
- There will be a BBQ at Marrington – Date TBD
- The 2024 Christmas Party will be held at the FRA on Friday, December 6.

### **Nuclear Power School Awards – Phil Nunnally**

- The next NPS graduation will be March 1. Phil will not be able to attend this event. Rick Wise will cover the ceremony on this day.
- Phil requested that another man be on standby for the award in the event that he is again unable to be there.

### **Newsletter – Phil Nunnally**

- Nothing to report

### **Little David – Phil Nunnally**

- Phil will get more info out later, but expect work in April or May.

### **SC License Plates – Ed Stank**

- Ed will be contacting other Bases around the state regarding “Submarine Qualified” – not – “SubVet” license plates. The fee to get this started is \$6800 (non-refundable). Contact Ed with the number of plates that you will want.
- Social Media Coordinator Lou Leal will post info regarding the plates and the need to raise the funds.

### **PAO – OPEN**

- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko requested that someone take over as PAO. The position is open.

### **Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall**

- Woody talked about items that he has available including calendars (now on sale), “Submarine Vet Edition” vehicle emblems and “Veteran” Flag pins.

### **NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza**

- Not present

### **COB – Anthony Mazza**

- Not present

### **VA – Tom Lawson**

- Nothing to report.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson**

- Tom thank those who attended the Patriotic Event at Sangaree Middle School.
- Pictures are on the Base website.

### **SUBBALL – EM1 Jon Aponte**

- Jon is the chairman of the Heritage Committee at NNPTC. He officially invited Charleston Base to attend the 124<sup>th</sup> Submarine Ball on April 14. The event will be held at Holy City Brewery. Tickets are \$50 each.

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

- Nothing to report

### **Good of the Order**

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

- Not present.

### **After Battery – ED Stank**

- Ed encouraged everyone to visit The After Battery. Charleston Base is having an oyster roast in March.
- The After Battery is open every Wednesday with dinner at 1700.

### **Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko**

- Nothing reported

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

- Not present

### **Simon Bolivar Reunion – John Lookabill**

- The Simon Bolivar will be holding a reunion in Branson, MO in April. Contact John for more info.

### **Automatic Content Recognition – Tom Holcombe**

- Tom discussed the privacy issues with TV Streaming Services.

### **Presidential Primary Election – Ron Snyder**

- Encouraged everyone to go vote.

### **Drawings & Auctions**

- There was no Challenge Coin drawing at this Base Meeting.
- FRA Drawing – Herme Maula
- Depth Charge Drawing – Mike Knaub

### **Closing Ceremony**

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson announced adjournment of the meeting and sounded three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1950.