



Vol. 22 No. 2

February 2026

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

Base Meeting:

Newsletter & Little David Phil Nunnally 843.518.8301

BOD: Feb 5, 2026

Membership: Feb 12, 2026

Location:

FRA Branch 269
Low Country Home
99 Wisteria Rd.



ELECTED

Base Commander	Dave Harvey	812.773.1312
Vice Commander	Art Sattler	843.813.6899
Secretary	Gordon Long	843.214.2353
Treasurer	Ricky Collins	843.934.3754

APPOINTED

Chief of the Boat	Greg Landry	843.813.4361
Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Veterans Affairs	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
Scholarship	Tom Lawson III	843.813.0244
Membership	Larry Knutson	843.860.1155
Storekeeper	Woody Woodsmall	304.676.8356
Nuclear Historian	Rick Carlson	843.875.4030
CF Ambassador	Bob MacPherson	717.606.7047
Navy League Coord	Bob MacPherson	717.606.7047
Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.729.3524
Social Media Coord	Lewis Leal	843.270.8870
Kaps for Kids	Art Sattler	843.813.6899
FRA Rep	Ken Hutchinson	843.793.4896
Base Photographer	Glenn Little	843.797.1867
Comptroller	Tom Holcombe	843.607.9610
Hunley/Housatonic	Tom Holcombe	843.607.9610
Special Events Coord	Tom Holcombe	843.607.9610
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 Comm.	Johnny Brown	843.276.8264
License Plate Coord	Ed Stank	843.568.2148
NNPTC POC	Anthony Mazza	912.322.8224
Float Coordinator	Dave Harvey	812.773.1312
SE Regional Coord	Dave Harvey	812.773.1312
PAO	Jerry Stout	843.568.5923
National Awards Co	VACANT	
Base Historian	VACANT	
ADM Osborn Sch Comm	VACANT	

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Submarines lost during the month of February

USS Barbel (SS-316)	4 February 45	81 Souls Lost
USS Shark (SS-174)	11 February 42	59 Souls Lost
USS Amberjack (SS-219)	16 February 43	72 Souls Lost
USS Grayback (SS-208)	26 February 44	80 Souls Lost
USS Trout (SS-202)	29 February	81 Souls Lost

5 Boats and 373 Souls lost

To those whose contribution meant the loss of sons, brothers or husbands in this war, I pay my most humble respect and extend by deepest sympathy. As to the 374 officers and 3131 men of the Submarine Force who gave their lives in the winning of this war, I can assure you that they went down fighting and that their brothers who survived them took a grim toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths.

MAY GOD REST THEIR GALLANT SOULS.

From speech given in Cleveland, Navy Day 1945, by Vice Admiral C.A. Lockwood, Jr., Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet January 1943-January 1946.

FLEET ADMIRAL CHESTER W. NIMITZ, U.S. NAVY

We, who survived World War II and were privileged to rejoin our loved ones at home, salute those gallant officers and men of our submarines who lost their lives in that long struggle. We shall never forget that it was our submarines that held the lines against the enemy while our fleets replaced losses and repaired wounds.

C.W. Nimitz, Fleet Admiral, USN

Read more [here](#).

CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

Shipmates Lost or Reported Lost Since our 2025 Base Christmas Party Bell Tolling

- MMCM(SS) Jay Miller Rowland III., USN Retired 11 January 2026
- STS2(SS) Charles Spencer Wood, USN Veteran 24 January 2026



CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

MMCM(SS) Jay Miller Rowland III., USN Retired, now on Eternal Patrol on Thursday, January 11, 2026, our shipmate Jay Miller Rowland III, 79, departed on Eternal Patrol in Summerville SC. Jay joined the Navy in 1964 and retired in 1991. He was a life member of National [2001], a member of Groton Base [primary 1999] and Charleston Base [secondary 2016]. He was also a member of the Holland Club having qualified in 1966 on USS THREADFIN SS-410. Jay also served on USS SCAMP SSN-588, USS GUARDFISH SSN-612, USS WILLIAM H. BATES SSN-680, USS QUEENFISH SSN-651, USS RAY SSN-653, USS PROVIDENCE SSN-719, and USS SANDLANCE SSN-660 as Chief of the Boat retiring from the SANDLANCE.



CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

STS2(SS) Charles Spencer Wood, USN Veteran, now on Eternal Patrol.

With great sadness I report on Saturday, January 24, 2026, our shipmate Charles Spencer Wood, 67, departed on Eternal Patrol in Ladson SC. Charles served in the Navy for 13 years from 1983-1995. He then served in the Army National Guard from 1997-1999 as a Communication Specialist E4. He was a life member of National [2012] and Charleston Base [2012]. Charles qualified in 1986 on USS GEORGE BANCROFT SSBN-643. He also served on USS TECUMSEH SSBN-628, USS HOLLAND AS-32 and COMSUB GROUP SIX Charleston.

An email will be sent when the new date of the service is confirmed.



UPCOMING BASE EVENTS
See www.ussvicb.org for details

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Board of Directors Meeting	February 5	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Oyster Roast	February 7	Aft Battery
Base Meeting	February 12	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
H.L. Hunley / Housatonic	Feb 17, 2025	Sunrise Presbyterian Church
Memorial service	(Details below)	Sullivan's Island

Oyster Roast at the Aft Battery
7 February

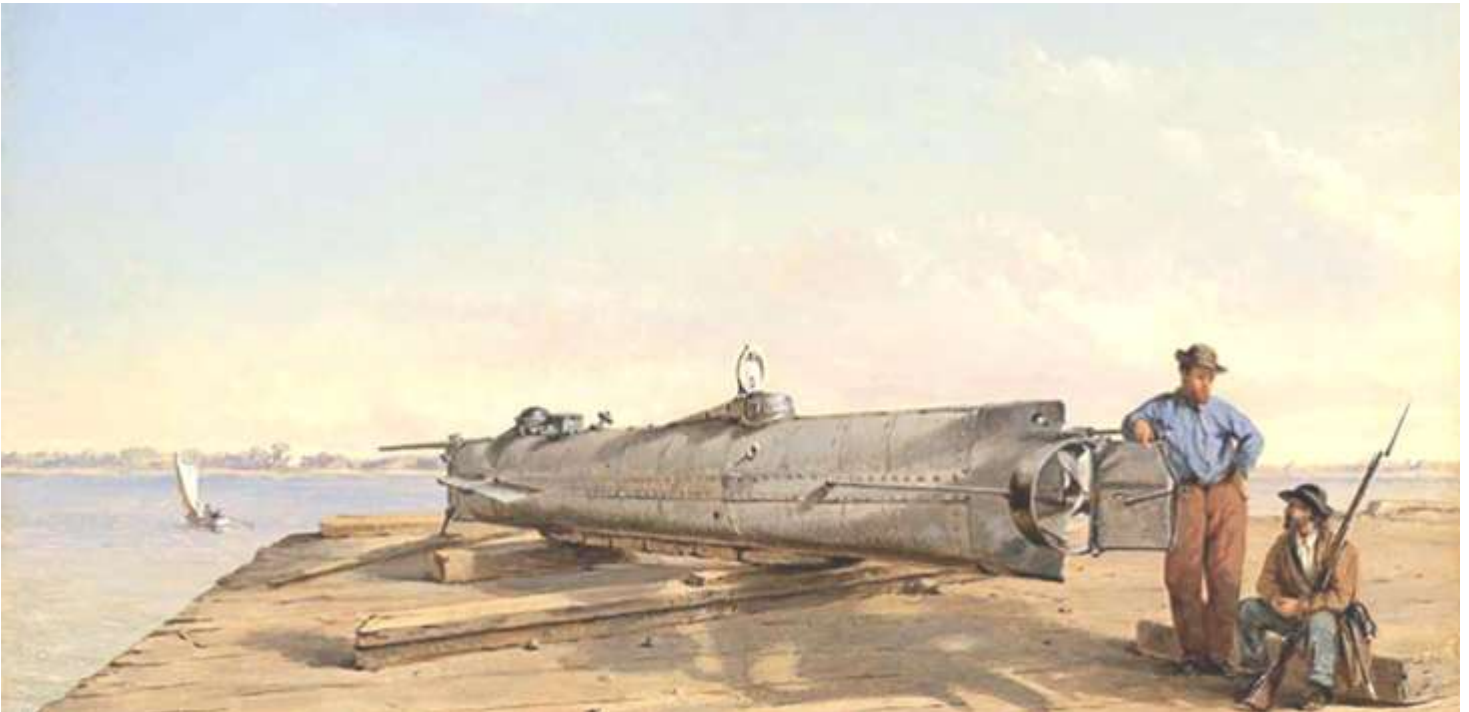
- 1200—1700
- Aft Battery 120 Sawdust Lane, Dorchester SC
- \$20 per person, \$12 for children under 12, paid at the Aft Battery
- Oysters, Frogmore Stew and non-seafood available
- Call 812-773-1312 if you have questions



UPCOMING BASE EVENTS
See www.ussvicb.org for details

H.L. Hunley/Housatonic Memorial Invitation to all Submariners
17 February

- H.L. Hunley Memorial Invitation to all Submariners
- The Confederate Heritages Trust, Inc. Hunley/Housatonic Memorial Service INFO
- [Map to Breech Inlet](#)
- 1830 Muster at beach - 1900 Memorial begins
- Participant uniform will be Charleston Tuxedo (Blue blazer with dolphins, light blue shirt, dark or dolphin tie and khaki pants.)
- Please bring a warm coat and a small flashlight...it's usually cold & dark on the beach.



IMPORTANT DATES

Four Chaplains Day 3 February

A Day to remember the four U.S. Army chaplains who made the ultimate sacrifice when the USAT Dorchester sank during World War II.



National Salute To Veteran Patients Week 9—15 February

The National Salute to Veteran Patients will happen during the week of Valentine's Day, February 9-15, 2026, honoring veterans in VA facilities with activities like card distributions, visits, and events to encourage volunteering, with the goal of showing appreciation and creating awareness for VA care. You can support this by sending Valentine's cards to your local VA or contacting their Voluntary Service to find ways to help



From the Editor
Contact me at newsletter@ussvicb.org

On Monday January 5th, I attended a funeral for Wendy's Aunt Janie C. Gillis, at Woodridge Memorial Park in Columbia. The memorial park had a veterans section with a memorial column and flags for each veterans' grave. I took pictures below including a picture of Mrs. Gillis' husband's marker, an Airman 1st Class who served during the Korean War.

Request: As each of you travel and see a Veteran's Memorial or Museum, please take pictures and send them to me for publishing.

We need to honor our veterans along with those who honor us.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Jerry Stout as our new Public Affairs Officer!

As the PAO for Charleston Base, one of my goals is to highlight the personal stories of our members. In the next issue, I am planning to have a **“Charleston Base Submarine Veteran Spotlight”** column.

Since we have over 250 members, getting a volunteer should be easy. The column is intended to make aware of the significant sacrifices that we as Submariners endured during active duty and to inform the membership of your hobbies, likes, dislikes, etc., including your transition from Sailor to Civilian. Not only will this be casual reading, but other members may also learn things about the interviewed submariner. Let's give this a try and the first write-up will be in the next Newsletter.

In addition, I be writing up articles for our base activities, including scholarships, parades, social and formal activities. Thank You,

Jerry K Stout

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new SC submarine veterans license plate will be available soon.
Thanks Ed!



Opportunities to Serve our Base

- Openings for
 - ◇ ~~Public Affairs Officer (PAO)~~ Filled by Jerry Stout
 - ◇ Base Historian
 - ◇ ADM Osborn Scholarship Committee
 - ◇ National Awards Coordinator

Contact the Base Commander, the COB or any officer if you can help

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Distinguished Submariner Award Nominations

Transmitted at the request of Greg Landry "The COB". All replies to this email will go to the COB.

Shipmates,

All nominations for the Distinguished Submariner Award are sent to the COB NLT 2 FEB to be voted on at the February BOD Meeting. Attached to the end of this newsletter is the form to be completed. If you would like to nominate a Base Shipmate for the Award, complete the form with the candidates name, bullets explaining why he deserves the award and sign (not required).

Here is a list of those who have received the DSA from 2008 when the base began giving it out. You can view pictures of each ceremony at:
[CB Distinguished Submariner Award](#)

New Private Facebook Group for Charleston Base Members

Provides an additional avenue to keep us informed about our base

The Facebook group admins are Woody Woodsmall, Art Sattler and Lewis Leal.

If you want to stay informed, join this Facebook group called USSVICB.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ordering a flag flown over the US Capitol building

View this link on how to [order](#).

Thanks Shipmate Nick Nichols for this information.



Other VA education benefits

VA offers education benefits over and above your standard GI Bill benefits.

Read the entire story [here](#).

Thanks Shipmate Tom Holcombe for providing this information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LINKS TO ALL 2025 PICTURES POSTED TO THE WEBSITE

- [2025 Mt. Pleasant Christmas Parade](#)
- [2025 Goose Creek Christmas Parade](#)
- [2025 CB Christmas Party](#)
- [2025 Pearl Harbor Day USS Yorktown](#)
- [2025 CB Scholarship Rummage Sale](#)
- [2025 Veterans Day Bell Tolling @ Coffee Roasters](#)
- [2025 Base Meeting November 13th](#)
- [2025 CB @ Coastal Carolina Fair](#)
- [2025 250th Navy Ball Participation](#)
- [2025 CB Scholarship Trash To Treasures @ Elloree SC](#)
- [2025 Base Meeting October 9th](#)
- [2025 USSVI National Convention & CB Award Recipients](#)
- [2025 NNPTC/SUBVET Chief Selectee Brunch](#)
- [2025 Base Meeting September 11th](#)
- [2025 Base Meeting - Sessler Clock Presentation August 14th](#)
- [2025 SUBVET/FRA Picnic July 19th](#)
- [2025 Base Meeting July 10th](#)
- [2025 Riverdogs Baseball Game June 13th](#)
- [2025 Base Meeting June 12th](#)
- [2025 Fish Fry Fund Raiser May 24th](#)
- [2025 Base Meeting/Distinguished Submariner Award Dave Harvey May 8th](#)
- [2025 NNPTC FCPOA Ramp Build for CB Shipmate May 3rd](#)
- [2025 Lost Boats Bell Tolling Memorial April 12th](#) [PICS](#) [VIDEO](#)
- [2025 CMC Huritiak Presentation/Holland Club Induction/Base Meeting Apr 10th](#)
- [2025 Holland Club Induction Apr 10th](#) [PICS](#) [VIDEO](#)
- [2025 125th Submarine Birthday Ball Apr 5th](#)
- [2025 After Battery Hog Roast Apr 3rd](#)
- [2025 CB Meeting Mar 13th](#)
- 2025 February USSVI Southeast Conference**
 - 13 Feb: Day1- [Registration & Meetings](#)**
 - 13 Feb: Day1- [Base Meeting & FRA Meal](#)**
 - 14 Feb: Day2- [HL Hunley Tour](#)**
 - 14 Feb: Day2- [After Battery Meal](#)**
 - 15 Feb: Day3- [Amberjack Bell Tolling](#)**
 - 15 Feb: Day3- [Closing Banquet](#)**
- 2025 January SE Conference Fund Raiser Jan 18th Fish Fry & 25th BBQ Dinner**
- 2025 January SE Conference Fund Raiser Jan 4th Breakfast**

CB YouTube Videos posted in 2025 (base meetings not included)

- Cindy Huratiak Award <https://youtu.be/tts5iqmgu1Q>
- April 2025 Holland Club https://youtu.be/P_v8oKbQwEY

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

If you don't see your birthday listed, maybe Nick needs your Page 2.

3	Ken Brennerman	12	Jerry Koebel
3	James Dendy Jr.	14	Jerry Stout
3	Carol Hix	15	William Carman
4	Bill Jennings	16	Steve Everett
6	Doug Bell	17	Robert McNeish
7	Barry Mathis	19	Paul Reeves II
7	Anthony Mazza	22	Dick Koehler
7	Joseph Van Swearingen	23	Elton Hamilton
11	Steve Curry	27	Sonny Rash
11	Roy 'Doc' Massey		



PAST EVENTS

Military Appreciation Night at the Stingrays 17 January 2026



PAST EVENTS

Military Appreciation Night at the Stingrays 17 January 2026



PAST EVENTS

NNPTC Graduation Ceremony 30 January 2026

This graduation exceeded last ceremony with 514 graduations today.



FUTURE EVENTS

Flowertown Festival 2026 27—29 March

Our float will be at the festival similar to our attendance at the Coastal Carolina Fair.
A watchbill and other details will be provided soon.



FUTURE EVENTS

HOG ROAST 2026 11—18 April

- Location: After Battery in Dorchester SC
- Hog is served on Saturday 18 April
- [Link for more info](#)



NON-BASE EVENTS

Hunley: The Untold Stories 19 February 2026

- Sunrise Presbyterian Church
- 3222 Middle Street
- Sullivan's Island
- 6 PM
- Free to all

Warren Lasch will talk about the mysteries of the Hunley. February will be the 162nd anniversary of the first successful attack by a submarine against an enemy ship. Of course, that was the Confederate vessel H.L. Hunley, which was raised in 2000 and currently rests in a purpose-built museum endowed by Mr. Warren Lasch. Who could be better to talk about the mysteries of the Hunley than Mr. Lasch himself!

See any new details [here](#).

2026 USSVI SOUTHEAST REGION CONFERENCE 26—28 February 2026

- **Centennial Plaza Resort, Gulfport MS**
- Thursday 26 FEB - Saturday 28 FEB 2026
- Registration Deadline: TUESDAY, 20 JAN 2026
- Contact: [2026 USSVI SE Conference](#)
- Link to: [REGISTRATION PKG](#)

GENERAL STORIES

SUBMARINE COLLISION OFF MURMANSK: A LOOK FROM AFAR 11 February 1992

The Baton Rouge, reportedly trying to reacquire sonar contact, closed in too far.

The two steel giants, moving silently in near-total darkness, slammed into each other **beneath the surface**.

The **Baton Rouge** suffered significant dents in her **ballast tanks** and cracks in her outer hull. The **Kostroma**'s **sail (conning tower)** was badly damaged enough for her crew to later paint a victory star on its side, Cold War-style.

Read the entire story [here](#) and [here](#).



GENERAL STORIES

HII Marks One Year of Shipbuilding Operations in Berkeley County

One year after launching production in Berkeley County, HII's Newport News Shipbuilding Charleston Operations is being credited with strengthening U.S. Navy shipbuilding efforts while exceeding its early performance goals.

Goose Creek facility powers U.S. Navy future while bringing jobs

DRS Naval Power Systems...now open in Berkeley County, is set to play a key role in the future of the U.S. Navy while delivering long-term economic benefits to the local community.

Defense contractor Leonardo DRS officially cut the ribbon on its new naval power manufacturing facility in Goose Creek, a more than 140,000-square-foot site designed to build and test electric power and propulsion systems for U.S. Navy submarines.

Read the entire story [here](#).

25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

During my research into successful WWII submarines, I was surprised to find many official and unofficial sources differ on the number of ships sunk and gross tonnage sunk during WWII by US submarines. To maintain consistency, I am using one main source for information. While there may be discrepancies between sources, one fact is indisputable, US submarines held the line in WWII while the surface fleet rebuilt

Submarine Warfare Played Major Role in World War II Victory

In all, U.S. submarines destroyed 1,314 enemy warships in the Pacific, representing 55% of all Axis power warships lost and a total of 5.3 million tons of shipping

Out of 16,000 U.S. submariners, the force lost 375 officers and 3,131 enlisted men in 52 submarines, and "although this was a tragic loss, it was still the lowest casualty rate of any combatant submarine service on either side in the 1939-1945 conflict," Weir noted. In the final months of the war, American submarines had difficulty finding targets because the Japanese had virtually no ships left to sink.

During World War II, U.S. submarines sank more Japanese ships than did U.S. surface vessels and planes, but at a high cost: a twenty percent casualty rate



25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

22. USS Bonefish (SS-223)

59,800 tons

USS Bonefish (SS-223) was a Gato-class submarine, the first United States Navy ship to be named for the bonefish.

She had a busy career in the Pacific against Japanese shipping after being launched and commissioned in May 1943. She was sunk in June 1945 after sinking a ship on her eighth cruise.

- Commissioned 31 May 1943
- First war patrol 22 September 1943
- Conducted 8 war patrols
- 7 battle stars for World War II service
- Lost with all hands, 85 men 18 June 1945

See her entire history [here](#).



25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

21. USS Pogy (SS-266) 59,815 tons

USS Pogy (SS-266), a Gato-class submarine, was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the pogy, or menhaden. She was credited with sinking 16 ships totaling 62,633 gross register tons during World War II.

- Commissioned 10 January 1943
- First war patrol 15 April 1943
- Conducted 10 war patrols
- Pogy received eight battle stars for service in World War II
- Decommissioned 20 July 1946

See her entire history [here](#).



Iran, Russia and China Sub News

Iran, Russia and China join for naval drills in South Africa as tensions run high

Read the entire story [here.](#)

Australian Sub News

AUKUS Submarine Deal Might Be Near a Collapse

Read the entire story [here.](#)

English Sub News

Fleet stretched thin: the Royal Navy deployed its only operational nuclear-powered attack submarine to Australia

Read the entire story [here.](#)

Russian Sub News

Russia Introduces a New Category of Naval Strike Weapon

Read the entire story [here.](#)

Russia's 'New' Amur-Class Stealth Navy Submarine Summed Up in 1 Word

Read the entire story [here.](#)

Chinese Sub News

China's Nuclear Submarine Fleet Overtakes Russia's

Read the entire story [here](#).

China Develops Type 096 Ballistic Missile Submarine to Challenge U.S. Undersea Nuclear Deterrence

Read the entire story [here](#).

Canadian Sub News

TKMS would expand its proposal to equip the Canadian Navy with twelve new Type 212CD submarines

Read the entire story [here](#).

Taiwanese Sub News

Taiwan's indigenous defense submarine begins 6th sea trial

Read the entire story [here](#).

Swedish Sub News

This New Swedish Submarine Has Russia Completely Outmatched

View the video [here](#).

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

US Navy nuclear submarines get protection from weld cracking with neutron beams

Read the entire article [here](#).

Report to Congress on Strategic Nuclear Forces

Read the entire article [here](#).

Report to Congress on Emerging Technologies

Read the entire article [here](#).

US Navy Seeks to hire 250,000 New Dockyard Workers in the Next 10 Years

Read the entire article [here](#).

US shipyard HII expands in UK to service growing Europe UUV business

Read the entire article [here](#).

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

US Navy's SeaGuardian drone drops sonobuoys to hunt submarines hidden in deep sea

Read the entire article [here](#).

The SSN(X) Stealth Nuclear Attack Submarine Is a Giant Headache for the U.S. Navy

Read the entire article [here](#).

Report to Congress on the Virginia-class Submarine Program and AUKUS

Read the entire article [here](#).

US lawmakers release \$839B compromise defense spending bill

Read the entire article [here](#).

CNO says force should operate on 'wartime footing'

View the video [here](#).

After politics, we all need a little humor

“Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut afterwards”
-Benjamin Franklin

“Love is an hourglass, with the heart filling up as the brain empties.”
-Jules Renard

“You can't buy love, but you can pay heavily for it.”
-Henny Youngman



**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
13 November 2025**

Opening Ceremonies:

- The November 2025 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Dave Harvey with a quorum of four officers and a total of 51 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Art Sattler and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of November was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of November:
 - ◇ **USS ALBACORE (SS-218)** **November 7, 1944 - 11th War**
Patrol Lost with all hands - 85 souls
 - ◇ **USS GROWLER (SS-215)** **November 8, 1944 - 12th War**
Patrol Lost with all hands - 86 souls
 - ◇ **USS SCAMP (SS-277)** **November 16, 1944 - 8th War**
Patrol Lost with all hands - 83 souls
 - ◇ **USS CORVINA (SS-226)** **November 16, 1943 - 1st War**
Patrol Lost with all hands - 82 souls
 - ◇ **USS SCULPIN (SS-191)** **November 19, 1943 - 9th War**
Patrol Lost with 43 souls – 41 became POWs - 21 survived the war
 - ◇ **5 Boats and 399 Men Lost**

**Electrician's Mate Chief, Submarines
John T. Brotherton, USNR Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol on October 12, 2025**

**Fire Control Technician Senior Chief, Submarines
Murrell Rex Wilson, USN Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol on March 20, 2025**

**Torpedoman's Mate Master Chief, Submarines
Raymond Kenneth Pease, USN Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol on October 9, 2024**

- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Art Sattler.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Guest Speaker:

- Jennifer Allison-Oord – Veterans Affairs – Outreach Program Specialist – Ralph H. Johnson Hospital
 - ◊ Described the different branches of Department of Veterans Affairs' responsibilities with a focus on medical (her area of concern). She listed numerous procedures that VA is now covering.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- There were two men in attendance at the Base meeting for the first time this evening.
 - ◊ H. Doug Bell – QM/CMDCM – Qualified on USS Casimir Pulaski SSBN633 – March 1992 – Also served aboard USS Billfish SSN676, USS Maryland SSBN738B, USS Wyoming SSBN742B and USS Florida SSGN728G
 - ◊ Larry Phillippe – ETC – Qualified on USS James K Polk SSBN645 – 1978 – Also served aboard USS Henry L Stimson SSBN655
- We were pleased to have some active duty sailors (three men and one woman) soon to graduate from Nuclear Power School, who are destined for their first submarine, introduce themselves this evening.

Dismissal of Guests and Start of Business:

- Base Commander Dave Harvey asked anyone who is not a member of the Base or is not a submarine qualified guest, to depart the meeting room. A brief recess was held during this time.

Old Business:

- **2026 Charleston Base Annual Budget – Rick Wise (Comptroller)**
 - ◊ Rick Wise had previously sent the budget to the entire Base membership. He also had a copy on each table. Rick explained the budget line items and made a motion with Phil Nunnally seconding to accept the Charleston Base Budget for next year. There was no discussion. The motion carried without objection.
 - ◊ This was Rick's final task as Comptroller. Thomas Holcombe has been working with and will succeed Rick.
 - ◊ Ken Hutchison noted – throughout all of the medical problems, procedures and surgeries – the positive example and attitude that Rick Wise has and continues to exhibit. The room was filled with applause for Rick Wise.
- There was no further Old Business.

New Business:

- **No New Business**

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the October Base Meeting were emailed to all Base members. A few typos were reported to the Secretary. The corrected Minutes will be sent to the Webmaster for publishing on the Base website. There were no further corrections noted at the meeting and were accepted as published. Those wanting a final revised copy of the October Base Meeting Minutes can download it from the Base website.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The Treasurer's Report for October was published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. The report was approved as presented. The Treasurer will be available to collect dues after the Base Meeting.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

• Highlighted boat of the month:

- ◊ **USS CORVINA SS-226** Lost on Nov 16, 1943 with the loss of 82 men when she was sunk just south of Truk. After topping off with fuel at Johnston Island, she left and was never heard from again. Corvina was on her 1st war patrol and appears she was lost to the torpedoes of a Japanese submarine.

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

All of the shipmates on this binnacle list would really appreciate a phone call or even a card from their shipmates in the base. Contact information can be found on the Sailing List.

- **EM1(SS) Antonio William 'Tony' Faella, 103**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 23 October 2025 at home in South Kingstown RI. Tony enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and left in 1945. He qualified on USS SPEARFISH and made 5 war patrols. He was a life member of Submarine Veterans WWII, USSVI National and Groton Base. Tony attended every convention he could with the last one being the 2025 USSVI National Convention in Orlando. On November 22nd he and Betty would have been married for 74 years. His service was held on 1 Nov 2025.
- **MMCS(SS) James M. 'Jim' McDonald, 73**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 28 September 2025, in Norfolk VA. He was a member of Charleston Base since 2008.
 - ◊ A memorial service will be held at Deer Park Baptist Church on November 15 1100.
 - ◊ The service will be conducted by their pastor and Jim's brother-in-law.
 - ◊ The family has requested Charleston Base to conduct the Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling during the service. More information will be coming out later.
- **EMC(SS) John T. Brotherton, 73**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 12 October 2025. John joined the Navy in 1970 serving 6 years active duty and retired from the Navy Reserves in 1998. He was a life member of National and Charleston Base [2014]. He was a member of the Holland Club having qualified in 1974 on USS HAWKBILL SSN-666.
 - ◊ A memorial service will be held in early 2026, location to be announced. The family has requested Charleston Base to conduct the Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling during the service

- **FTCS(SS) Murrell Rex Wilson, 91**, departed on Eternal Patrol on March 20, 2025 at the Victory House in Walterboro SC. I discovered his passing when his birthday card was returned and I contacted his daughter and she let me know. Murrell joined the Navy in 1953 and retired in 1973. He joined USSVI in 2009 and a life member of National and Charleston Base [2011]. He was a member of the Holland Club having qualified in 1956 on USS QUEENFISH SS-393. Murrell also served on USS REDFISH SS-395, USS TRUMPETFISH SS-425 and USS ROBERT E. LEE SSBN/SSN-601. His service was held in Walterboro on 3 April 2025.
- **TMCM(SS) Raymond Kenneth Pease, 89**, departed on Eternal Patrol on October 29, 2024 in TN. We were recently informed of his passing when his granddaughter and great-grandson talked to us at the Fair. Raymond joined the Navy in 1954 and retired in 1980. He joined USSVI in 1997 and became a life member of National and Charleston Base [2004]. He was a member of the Holland Club having qualified in 1955 on USS BASHAW SS/SSK/AGSS-241. Raymond also served on USS BLUEGILL SS/SSK/AGSS-242, USS JAMES MADISON SSBN-627 as COB and HENRY CLAY SSBN-625. His service was private.
- **Rick Wise** had a PET scan which indicated an issue in his hip. He is having a difficult time walking. He also had a Dexa scan which showed no bone loss in his hip area. He had a biopsy on Veterans Day but no results yet. He is using a wheelchair and cane to help with mobility. Jerry Starr is driving Rick to the Hollings Cancer Ctr on Wed, 19 Nov for an appointment to decide when to begin radiation treatment.
- **Charles Wood** has been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. It was diagnosed as Stage 1 when it was first found and developed to Stage 4 in a month.
- **Tom Lawson** had a pacemaker put in late Monday 10 Nov. He stayed overnight and got home on Tue afternoon exhausted. After some sleep he feels much better.
- **NOTE:** Jerry Stout visited Tom before his pacemaker procedure and he was up and around although still tethered to the Oxygen Generator. His spirits are good and he has gotten out of the house.
- **Sonny Rash** was released from White Oak Manor and is home with home health care. His daughter is helping until he gets his strength back. Calls are welcome 843.345.1430.
- **Jerry Stout** reports his prostate cancer is gone but there is a recurrence of skin cancer near his left kidney. There will be a new treatment plan.
- **Bill Hayes** went to the ER on Thursday, 2 Oct. On 3 Oct he had a pacemaker put in. He is home recovering and feeling much better.
- **Bill Roberts** went to the VA hospital 29 October for a Trigger finger. The hand surgery doctor surprised him with a shot in the affected finger and said that it should cure it by Thanksgiving. So far, my finger has not locked up. I was worried I might need surgery. Hope this helps someone else who might have one.
- **Bob Browning** had very serious back surgery on 7 October. He was discharged on Friday 10 October. He is doing very well but is still limited with the BLTs [bending, lifting, twisting...his words]. He has received the help he needs from friends, neighbors and shipmates. Bob is here tonight at his table doing his duty.

- **Dave Woods wife, Fran**, had a stroke in February 2024 during a heart bypass procedure. They also had to replace her aorta during all of that. She is still recovering.
- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time. He had spinal surgery to fix issues in his left leg and now he can't use either one. Even though he can't attend the meetings he does watch them on YouTube. His seizures are getting worse and more frequent.
- **Ken Curtis** is at home with Palliative Hospice care coming to the house several times during the week. He is in good spirits and welcomes phone calls and visitors. Please keep Ken and Barbara both in your prayers. Call before visiting. His number is 843-501-7368
- **Mike & Deborah Knaub** have moved to Daniel Island to an assisted living location. Their address is 514 Robert Daniel Dr. Rm 310, Daniel Island SC 29492-7375. You can contact Mike on his email mlk91444@yahoo.com or cell 843-795-6665.
- **Marvin Miller** is at White Oak Manor. 9285 Medical Plaza Dr. Room 117. This is behind Trident. He no longer answers his phone.
- **NOTE:** Jerry Stout visited Marvin. He only said a few words and was asleep most of the time while he was there. He doesn't get out of bed.
- **Bill [Becky] Roberts** is now in D409 in the main building. Becky is in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, D409, Summerville SC 29483-6715. Bill's email is cbussvicob@yahoo.com and his cell phone is 843-509-3962
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- I'm planning on reworking our website next year. There are many things on there that using the host analytics I don't see anyone ever checking the pages and information. I hope to streamline it and to give it a cleaner look.
- Please report any change in your personal info to either Larry, Nick or the COB so the necessary changes can be made to national and local database.

FRA Ladies' Auxiliary – Nick Nichols:

- FRA Auxiliary is continuing their project to help feed Veterans. The VA sponsored program is called Curbside Veterans Delivery. There is a box in the bar area for you to bring items to that can be used in this program. The BOD encourages you to support the FRA Auxiliary in this program.

Meritorious Base Award – Nick Nichols:

- Anyone who was a member of Charleston Base in 2024 is eligible to wear the Meritorious Base Award patch. The Base was presented with the award at the National Convention. A list is being prepared with the names of all members of the base during 2024 to be forwarded to National.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Lewis stated that the video from the Veterans Day event at Coastal Coffee Roasters will be out soon.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III

- Tom has a box of books that was provided to the Scholarship Committee. They will be available for a reasonable donation.
- Tom has a bottle of bourbon noting the 250th Anniversary of the Navy. Tickets are \$2 each.
- Our Rummage Sale will be held on November 15 at Rodney's Rockets/Halloween Express on Old Trolley Rd. in Summerville. (The same place as previous years). We will begin setting up at 0530. Please bring your items with a piece of tape marked with a realistic "yard sale" price. Please stay and help with the Rummage Sale. Any items left over at the end of the sale will be donated to the nearby Thrift Store.
- There was a recommendation that we have a sign noting that the money was being raised for the Scholarship Fund.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- We currently have 63 Annual Members that still have not paid Base Dues for this year. 41 of those have not paid National. This is because some members are USSVI National Life Members.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is now #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
- Groton 1143 w/65 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 293 w/11 AM – 3) Bremerton 254 w/16 AM - 4) Charleston 246 w/13 AM – 5) Requin 205 w/20 AM

National Awards – Dave Harvey

- National Award submissions are due in February. Any Base member can recommend someone for any award. The proposal does not need to wait; it can be provided at any time. If you do not believe that you can word the suggestion well, we have several men who can write it up instead.
- We can expect more attention from National. While the awards MUST be in by April, they are being accepted beginning in February.

Comptroller – Tom Holcombe

- Nothing to report tonight. Rick Wise provided the info this evening during Old Business.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe

- Tom thanked those who helped and reported on the results from our second time at the Coastal Carolina Fair. We received \$609 for the Scholarship Fund. This year we received 64 contacts. The great majority of these have received a follow-up email. (Thank you Nick).
- Tom noted that we have a good bit of time to plan, but suggested that with Veterans Day next year falling just after the completion of the fair, we should have a cookout and invite all of our contacts. He drew laughs all around the room when he proposed that Base Commander Dave Harvey would pay for it.

- Tolling of the Boats at Coastal Coffee Roasters was well attended. Due to the cold temperature, the door was kept shut. A barbeque dinner was provided by Coastal Coffee Roasters – asking only donations
- Tom requested at least two volunteers for the Pearl Harbor Remembrance on December 7 to launch the memorial wreaths. He also noted that VFW Post 10624 in Mt. Pleasant will have a lunch afterward.
- Johnny Brown has volunteered to pull the float in the Goose Creek Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 13. (The morning after the Charleston Base Christmas Party). Now we need a few more riders. We would like to have eight or ten aboard the float. The parade starts at 0900. Muster to prepare the float will be 0800.
- The Mount Pleasant Christmas Parade is December 14 at 1730. Tom will have the float parked in his driveway and requests help to decorate and ride the float for the parade. Gordon Williams' son will pull the float for Mount Pleasant. Last year we won an award in the parade. The money was provided to the Scholarship Fund.

CSS Hunley – Tom Holcombe

- Nothing reported.

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Not present

Nuclear Power School Awards – Phil Nunnally

- November 21 will be the next graduation. This will be the last NPS Legacy Award for this year.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- Phil has received good input for the Newsletter. Thanks to all that contributed. It makes things easier when information is provided. Your input to the Newsletter does not always have to be submarine related, but if you want it published and it is legal, Phil will put it in the Newsletter.
- Beginning January 1, the old style military or dependent ID cards will no longer be valid. You **MUST** get a new ID card. The old card **WILL NOT** be accepted. You can apply online. The information is in the Base Newsletter.

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Right now, there is no needed work on the Little David, we can expect to do some work in the spring,

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- Recently Johnny participated in the American Legion BBQ contest on James Island and won second place. This netted \$300 for the Scholarship Fund.
- The Charleston Base Christmas Party will be held on December 12. If you need tickets, please see Johnny after the meeting tonight. The menu will be brisket, fish and chicken. Eva Sollo will be bringing sides. Everyone is asked to bring a dessert.
- January 17, 2026 will be Military Appreciation Day.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- Nothing to report.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey

- The float has been taken to The After Battery.
- Dave will get the bunting washed so that it will be ready for the Christmas parades.
- In January, the float will be reworked and get the new trailer under the float. It will be ready to transport in February.

SE CONFERENCE – Dave Harvey

- The next SE Conference will be held in Gulfport, MS. Applications were placed on each table this evening.
- Based on 50 people, the round-trip cost of the bus to Gulfport will be \$236 per person. Dave needs a head count by December 15 to be sure that we have 50 people riding the bus.
- There is a WWII museum in New Orleans, LA and the Alabama/Drum Memorial in Mobile, AL. Both are about 75 miles away. Going to visit these locations will require a very early departure in order to return to the Conference in Gulfport for the evening events.
- Dave outlined the Plan of the Conference including each day/evening events.
- For those who want to visit a casino, Biloxi is about 15 miles away.
- Applications must be submitted with money in January – no exceptions.
- Dave noted that the turnout for the recent National Convention in Orlando in which Charleston Base – based on membership numbers – had a high turnout compared to the Florida bases when it was held in the middle of their yard.

Ambassador USSVCF – Bob MacPherson

- Bob talked about the USSVCF Brotherhood Fund. It is set up to deal with the unexpected things that happen during our lives. Bob cited a recent specific example one of his former shipmates in Indiana who had cancer and is now on Eternal Patrol. The Brotherhood Fund helped the family in the time of their need with funeral expenses. His daughter – a senior in college – was also helped by the USSVCF Scholarship Fund. Bob reported about the immense gratitude expressed by the widow for all of the assistance provided by the submarine community.

- With reports such as Bob provided, it really shows the provision of the USSVCF, how it is managed and that it is worthy of our financial support. The money really goes to a good cause.
- The recent coin campaign was one of the best fund-raisers that we have ever had.

PAO – Dave Harvey

- Need PAO. If interested, please see Dave after the Meeting.

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler

- Woody has a few Kaps 4 Kids team member badges. They are free to those who are entitled to wear one.
- We gave out more than 100 K4K hats at the Coastal Carolina Fair.
- Art is working to get back into the hospitals to visit the children and their parents.

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank

- Ed provided an update on the Submarine License Plates.
- The design of the plate is posted on the Charleston Base website.
- The numbering of the license plate will be sequential. Ed demonstrated what that meant by counting from one to eight.
- Donors included Bases around the state and individuals providing the \$6,800 to get the plate into production. The plan is to return money to the donors from the additional \$20 cost per plate.
- You can get up to three plates, but they must be in your name NOT your family members.
- There will be a raffle for the SV 00001 license plate.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- PSA – Someone purchased a hat at a previous meeting and then left it. It was found on the cabinet. Woody is attempting to get it to its rightful owner.
- Woody has 2026 Calendars for \$10 highlighting the 688 Class submarine. The National Storekeeper has them for more than \$17.
- Woody has Bottom Gun slate coasters with Dolphins available. He has only six of them - \$5 each
- Woody has a new hat – US SUBMARINE FORCE – SILENT SERVICE with dolphins.
- Woody has some of the 250/125 coin with Gold Dolphins.
- Woody has oak wood whiskey barrel pens with engraved Dolphins made by one of our Base Members. The pen takes a Parker refill and is available for \$30. These make really great gifts.
- Woody has hats, “UNSEEN – UNHEARD – ALWAYS THERE. ONLY THE QUALIFIED SURVIVE” available in gray, tan and blue. Only \$9 – marked down from \$10 at the last meeting.
- Woody has tumblers, “SILENT SERVICE VETERAN”. The COB reports that the tumbler works great at holding temperature.
- Woody has stars available from retired flags. These are no charge.
- The sign-up sheets for the National Meritorious Base Award patch were provided back to Woody.

COB – Greg Landry

- Nothing to report.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler

- Art expressed his thanks to all those who came out for the Coastal Carolina Fair.

Base Commander – Dave Harvey

- Dave thanked everyone in the room for the work done throughout this year 2025.
- Dave attended a meeting presented by SAG – Submarine Advocacy Group. They are concerned with the health effects due to duty on submarines. SAG has a book out describing these problems.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- Come out on Wednesday.

GUN CLUB – Mike Ciesielko

- Not present.

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA Drawing – Ken Farrell
- Depth Charge Drawing – Larry Knutson

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey announced adjournment of the meeting with a sound of three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 2027.

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Meeting/Christmas Party
12 December 2025

The December 2025 Base Meeting was substituted by a Christmas Party and was held at the Fleet Reserve Association beginning at 1700 where we meet each month for Base Meetings.

- Emcee Johnny Brown welcomed everyone to the Christmas Party.
- Vice Commander Art Sattler lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Emcee Johnny Brown acknowledged Wives and Guests and those who helped plan and prepare for the party.
- Emcee expressed gratitude to the FRA for the use of the Meeting Hall for tonight's Christmas Party and introduced our DJ – Bill Neischalk.
- Johnny explained the Depth Charge (50-50) Drawing to be held at 1930.
- Since we are not having a regular meeting this month, Johnny made some brief comments and announcements:
 - ◊ We will attend the Goose Creek Christmas Parade, pulling the float, tomorrow morning, 13 December starting at 0900 on St James Avenue.
 - ◊ We will pull the float in the Mount Pleasant Christmas Parade on Sunday, 14 December starting at 1730 on Coleman Blvd.
- Emcee Johnny Brown introduced Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Base Chaplain Nick Nichols welcomed everyone by wishing all a Merry Christmas.
- Nick read the Binnacle List:
 - ◊ Our condolences to **Michael Knaub** whose wife, **Debbie**, passed away November 20th and to **Terry Trump** whose wife, **Lucy**, passed away December 3rd.
 - ◊ **Rick Wise**, who is with us tonight, had a scope of his lungs done on this past Tuesday. His lungs appear to be clear.
 - ◊ **Ricky Collins** is in TN to attend the funeral of his brother-in-law.
 - ◊ **Tom Ishee**, who is with us tonight, is recovering from his bicycle fall. He broke 3 ribs, his femur, had a concussion and a small brain bleed which was corrected.
 - ◊ **John Lookabill** was in Roper Hospital from Saturday thru Wednesday. He is feeling much better and is recovering at home.
 - ◊ **Don Meadows** has been on our homebound binnacle list for a very long time. He was able to get out of the house and is here with us tonight.
 - ◊ Many of our members are having serious health problems, some are scheduled for surgery after the holidays and many are battling different degrees of cancer.
 - ◊ Several of our members have had wives and other close family members pass away this year.
- The Chaplain requested for everyone, if able, to stand during the tolling of the bell for the Lost Boats and for all shipmates who departed on Eternal Patrol in 2025. Since our Christmas Party last year there were nine Charleston Base shipmates who have departed on Eternal Patrol.

- The Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of December was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of December:
 - ◊ **USS CAPELIN (SS-289) December 2, 1943 – 1st War Patrol**
Lost with all hands – 76 souls
 - ◊ **USS SEALION (SS-195) December 10, 1941 –**
Bombed in Philippine Shipyards – First submarine lost in World War II
Loss of 5 souls
 - ◊ **USS F1/CARP (SS-20) December 17, 1917 –**
Collision with USS F3 (SS-22) – Loss of 19 souls
 - ◊ **USS S4 (SS-109) December 17, 1927 –**
Rammed by USCGC Paulding – Lost with all hands – 40 souls
- **Four Boats and 140 Men Lost during the month of December**
- **Charleston Base Members on Eternal Patrol during this past year:**
 - ◊ Third Class Electronics Technician, Submarines, **Craig C. Emerson,**
US Navy Veteran, Eternal Patrol January 1, 2025
 - ◊ Senior Chief Machinists Mate, Submarines, **James Terry Sickle,**
US Navy Retired, Eternal Patrol February 19, 2025
 - ◊ Master Chief Fire Control Technician, Submarines, **Martin Karl Sessler,**
US Navy Retired, Eternal Patrol March 25, 2025
 - ◊ Chief Quartermaster, Submarines, **Alan William Dempster,**
US Navy Retired, Eternal Patrol May 23, 2025
 - ◊ Lieutenant Commander, Submarines, **Roy Edward Morrow,**
US Navy Retired, Eternal Patrol June 9, 2025
 - ◊ Senior Chief Fire Control Technician, Submarines, **Albert Marcellius Stoll,**
US Navy Retired, Eternal Patrol July 5, 2025
 - ◊ Chief Yeoman, Submarines, **Elmer Bennett Mullins,**
US Navy Retired, Eternal Patrol July 18, 2025
 - ◊ Senior Chief Machinists Mate, Submarines, **James Maurice McDonald,**
US Navy Retired, Eternal Patrol September 28, 2025
 - ◊ Chief Electricians Mate, Submarines, **John Thomas Brotherton,**
US Navy Retired, Eternal Patrol October 12, 2025
 - ◆ Note: John's Memorial Service will be held in January. The family has requested an EP Bell Tolling. An email will be sent out when the date and location is known.

- Emcee Johnny Brown explained how the tables will be called to come up for the food buffet to prevent a large line and to allow the entire table to be served and eat together.
- Charleston Base Chaplain Nick Nichols offered the Benediction and Blessing for the Meal.
- We had a cake to celebrate the evening. Several Base members provided desserts.
- A total of 82 members and guests were present tonight at the Christmas Party.
- Several door prizes were presented throughout the evening.
- One chair at each table had been marked with a small label, giving that person the opportunity to take home the flower centerpiece.
- The Depth Charge Drawing was won by Gordon Long.
- Several of our Base Members have previously been assisted by the USSVCF Brotherhood Fund. Tonight, members in attendance donated money to the USSVCF Brotherhood Fund. The total amount of the donations will be provided in the January Treasurer's report.
- During the evening, Bill – the DJ played an assortment of festive songs.
- At 2000, the doors were opened to the other half of the building where some of our members and family participated in some karaoke.
- [SECRETARY'S NOTE: I truly appreciate the input from Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The meeting portion of the Christmas party had already occurred prior to my arrival this evening.]

