

**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 skiin 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.