

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
13 August 2026

Opening Ceremonies:

- The August 2026 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Dave Harvey with a quorum of four officers and a total of 61 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 August was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of August:
 - **USS Bullhead (SS-332)** **August 6, 1945 – 3rd War Patrol** **Lost with All Hands – 84 Souls**
 - **USS Flier (SS-250)** **August 13, 1944 – 2nd War Patrol** **Lost with 82 Souls – 8 men survived.**
 - **USS S-39 (SS-144)** **August 13, 1942 – 3rd War Patrol** **No loss of life**
 - **USS Harder (SS-257)** **August 24, 1944 – 6th War Patrol** **Lost with All Hands – 79 Souls**
 - **USS Cochino (SS-345)** **August 26, 1949** **No Navy loss of life – one civilian loss – Tusk lost 6 souls during the rescue**
- **FIVE Boats and 253 Men Lost**

Radioman Master Chief, Submarines
Harry E. Kirk, US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol 2 August 2026

Charleston Base Shipmates on Eternal Patrol

TM1(SS) Robert L. Kotzke - 4 January 2005
STSC(SS/DV) Roger Ray Lanegan – 15 January 2005
ENC(SS) William Tackett – WWII SUBVET – 14 February 2005
EN1(SS) Carmon Hatch Webb – 5 May 2005
RMCM(SS) Edgar ‘Mac’ McCollum – WWII SUBVET – 27 June 2005
ETCM(SS) Raymon Binion – WWII SUBVET – 30 August 2005
EMC(SS) James ‘Jerry’ Madison III – 18 December 2005
RMCS(SS) Duane Anderson – 30 June 2007
MSC(SS) Myron John Law – 24 February 2008
EM2(SS) Ronald Lee Willis – 13 July 2008

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

Presentation of Signed Poster:

- Roger Gibson presented a photo of Rick Wise to Rick’s widow Jean which was signed by Charleston Base Members in attendance this evening.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- There was one shipmate in attendance at the Base Meeting for the first time this evening.
 - o Patrick Percy – FTCS – Qualified on USS John Adams SSBN620 – 1976 – Also served aboard USS Henry L Stimson SSBN655, USS Von Steuben SSBN632, FBMSTC and POMFLANT

Old Business:

- **None**

New Business:

- **Distinguished Submariner Award – Ricky Collins**

- o Ricky had presented the motion at the August 6 BOD Meeting to rename the Distinguished Submariner Award to be the Rick Wise Distinguished Submariner Award, Samples of the future certificate were passed around for review.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the July Base Meeting were emailed to all Base members. The Minutes have also been published on the Charleston Base website. With no corrections noted at the Base Meeting, the Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

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

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Two Highlighted boats this month:**

- o While on her 3rd war patrol 84 years ago today, USS S-39 SS144 was lost without loss of life after grounding on submerged rocks off Rossel Island, Papua New Guinea. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS Katoomba. The S-39 was abandoned and left to "break up" on the rocks.
- o While on her 2nd war patrol 82 years ago today, USS FLIER SS250 was lost with the loss of 78 crew members. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days later friendly natives guided them to a Coast Watcher and they were evacuated by the USS Redfin.

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

ETERNAL PATROL

The last month has been hard on us all. Between July 15 and Aug 4 we have conducted/attended 4 funerals/memorial services. And we have another two later this month. For those who attended I want to say thank you. It means a great deal to the family to see a group of SUBVETs supporting their brother.

- **MMCS(SS) Rick Wise's** funeral was held Tuesday, 4 August, with over 40 SUBVETS present.
- **RMCM(SS) Harry Kirk, 88**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Sunday morning, 2 August 2026. He joined the Navy in 1955 and retired in 1990. Harry joined USSVI / Charleston Base as a Life Member in 2003. He was a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1957 on USS SABLEFISH SS-303. He also served on USS CROAKER SS-246, USS PATRICK HENRY SSBN-599 Plank Owner, USS ULYSSES S GRANT SSBN-632, USS JOHN MARSHALL SSBN-611, USS NATHANIEL GREENE SSBN-636, USS SEA DEVIL SSN-664, USS JAMES MONROE SSBN-622 COB, and USS STONEWALL JACKSON SSBN-634 COB. He retired after his tour on the STONEWALL JACKSON. In addition to his USSVI Life Membership he was a Life Member of FRA Branch 269 for 42 years and a Member of VFW Post 9509 Moncks Corner SC. Jacqueline, his wife, said at Harry's request there will not be any services.
- **TMC(SS) Edward J. Simokat II, 82**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Tuesday, 7 July at his home. He joined the navy in 1962 and retired in 1983. Ed was a Life Member of USSVI National and Charleston Base as of 1999. He was also a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1963 on USS WAHOO SS-565. Other submarine duty was USS IREX SS-482.
 - o Memorial Service: Wednesday, 19 Aug @ 1100. ST Luke's Lutheran Church Summerville. EP Bell Tolling between service and reception at approx 1230 in fellowship hall
- **TMC(SS) Steve H. Curry, 72**, departed on Eternal Patrol on the morning of 4 July. He joined the navy in 1972 and retired in 1994. Steve was a member of USSVI National and Charleston Base as of 2008. He was also a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1974 on USS TUNNY SSN-682. Other duty stations

were USS SUNFISH SSN-649 and USS BILLFISH SSN-656. Additionally, he served at NAVMAG HI, SUBTORPFAC/NWS Charleston, NWS Yorktown VA, and POMFLANT Charleston.

- o Memorial service: Saturday, 29 Aug @ 1100. Carolina Memorial Gardens chapel across from Trident Tech. EP Bell Tolling will be done as part of the service. Visitation and lite refreshments will follow the service.
- **STS2(SS) Charles Wood** departed on Eternal Patrol on Jan 24 of this year. His postponed memorial service was held on Saturday, 25 July at 1700 at the FRA. It was attended by several base and FRA members.
- **END2(SS) Edward Joseph Wolf** departed on Eternal Patrol in 2024 just as they were getting ready to move from the home in AZ. He was a member of Perch Base. His wife settled in Mt Pleasant with their children. She held a memorial service for him on 18 July. 17 CB members attended and conducted an Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling for him.
Mrs. Miriam Wolf sent a check for \$50 and a card with her thanks.

BINNACLE LIST

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.

- **Tom Skorepa** is in ICU in Prisma Health in Richland Columbia. He is now in hospice care. But not looking good. All prayers are welcomed for peace for him.
- **Ken Farrell** has been diagnosed with cancer on his vertebrae. He has had a MRI and PET scan. The plans are to treat with radiation only. This is a slow growing Cancer. The doctor told him that he would probably die with it but would not die from the cancer.
- **Pete Garrison** had some heart rate issues which led to an audiogram. The cardiologist said the widow maker was severely blocked in two places so he put two stents in that artery, and another stent into another blocked artery. He is doing much better now. His ENT took a biopsy in his throat, which came back positive for throat cancer in the tonsil. The doctor says that this type of cancer responds well to treatment. Pete has a PET scan scheduled for Aug 13th, and an oncologist appointment on Aug 18th to determine the best way to treat the cancer

LONG TERM / ASSISTED LIVING / HOMEBOUND

- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time but he hopes to make some base meetings. Has had foot surgery, with many more to come, to correct his problem. [843.475.7043]
- **Bill [Becky] Roberts** in D409 in the Villages of Summerville. Becky 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:

- The ussubvets.org link is no longer forwarded to ussvi.org - please use only ussvi.org to get to the National website.
- The 2026 National Election (On-Line Voting) closes on **September 5th, 2026**. If you have not received an email from "Election Buddy" contact Mike Bost, the USSVI National Election. You should have received an email with a personal link to vote. Several of us have already voted. It's very easy. Associate members cannot vote in this election even though they received an email.
- Any changes to your info on National can be updated by you or send the info to either Larry or me to get them made on National and local.
 - Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
 - o Groton 1053 w/39 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 298 w/6 AM – 3) Bremerton 268 w/13 AM – 4) Charleston 239 w/19 AM

Base Contacts – Nick Nichols:

- You should have the names, phone numbers and email addresses of all BOD members in your phone contacts or use the link to the officers' page to get contact info.

Base Business Cards – Nick Nichols:

- Always carry a couple of the new base business cards at all times. On the back of the card are two QR codes, one for the base and one for national.

FRA Rules – Nick Nichols:

- Continue to remember the rules for entering the bar at the meetings.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Not present.

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Not present.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III

- The current balance of the Scholarship Fund is \$5,507. This includes a recent donation of \$200 from Tom Lufkin in Florida in memory of Rick Wise.
- Treasurer Ricky Collins read the accompanying note from Tom expressing his gratitude for the years of having been in company of Rick at the various Charleston Base, CRAMA and After Battery events. The note listing the offices and jobs that Rick held or performed was extensive. Mostly, Rick had offered so much encouragement to everyone. He shall be missed.
- The raffle for a SubVet Flag will be held tonight. The flag cost the Base \$150, so this will be paid back before any money is provided to the Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$2 each.
- Tom Lawson announced his resignation as Chairman of the Scholarship Fund and is prepared for turnover.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- Charleston Base currently has 239 Members.
- Nick Nichols provided Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
 - o Groton 1053 w/39 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 298 w/6 AM – 3) Bremerton 268 w/13 AM – 4) Charleston 239 w/19 AM
- Dave Harvey noted a section on the National USSVI website which provides ideas for increasing Base membership.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe

- Tom outlined the upcoming events.
 - o First – Coastal Carolina Fair – 29 October to 8 November. Tom asked for a show of hands willing to participate at the Fair and afterward warned them that their commitment was videoed. He will asking for those to volunteer for the Watch Bill.
 - o Second – Coastal Coffee Roasters – Veterans Day. Tom has contacted them and they have asked us to return again this year. Tom also had advised them of Rick Wise's passing. Tom requested a show of hands from those who are willing to attend the event.
 - o Third – Parades
 - Goose Creek Christmas Parade – Saturday, 12 December. Since we meet in Goose Creek it is good to attend this parade.
 - Mount Pleasant Parade – Sunday Evening, 13 December. Parade of Lights – Tom requested to know who was willing to attend this event. There was a bit of humor – after the fact – about an incident concerning destruction of the mailbox belonging to Tom's neighbor.
 - Tom requested suggestions of other locations. Some mentioned were Andrews, Harleyville, Summerville and Ellore; all of which had been attended in years past. Tom also stated that if someone is making suggestions of a parade location, he expects that individual to be on the float that day. It was noted that the Summerville Parade is also 13 December. Tom will check on all these locations and provide info that he obtains for the group to make decisions on which event to attend.
 - Tom noted that he will be out of town for the Mount Pleasant parade and that he will need someone to pull the float.

- Charlie Hudson stated that he has pulled the float in years past and is willing to pull in all the parades if needed.
- There was a suggestion of attending the VA Parade in downtown Charleston on 8 November. There is a conflict with the Coastal Carolina Fair on this date. Tom will do some research about this.

Comptroller – Tom Holcombe

- Nothing to report

CSS Hunley – Tom Holcombe

- Nothing reported.

Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison:

- No current Charleston Base elections.
- Dave Harvey spoke about the National USSVI elections. All offices are running unopposed, however there are some questions at the end of the ballot concerning Associate Members. In summary, the changes are to either allow or disallow the Associate Members – after three (3) years – to apply for Lifetime Membership and to be sponsored by the respective Base rather than a Regular or Life USSVI Member.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison:

- The FRA will hold an Indoor Picnic on Labor Day.

Nuclear Power School Legacy Awards – Phil Nunnally

- The next NPS graduation is Friday, September 11. Meet at the NEX at 0800.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- Nothing to report

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Phil will go to inspect the Little David later this month or in September for any needed Fall maintenance.

Ambassador USSVCF – Bob MacPherson

- Bob expressed his gratitude to be able to represent the Charitable Foundation on both the National and local levels. He briefly mentioned some circumstances where the CF was able to help and noted that the charter only allows assistance to members of USSVI. That is a good reason to join SubVets. The support that the CF provides to those in need is also a good reason to donate to the CF.
- The Daniel Webster (MTS-626) is expected to be towed out of Charleston on 18 August. She is truly the end of an era, being the last of the old boomers still floating; thus the CF has partnered with the crew to commemorate her with a coin with 41 FOR FREEDOM on one side and DANIEL WEBSTER on the other.
- The CF is expecting to have a national coin to recognize the 41 FOR FREEDOM as well. Bob will provide more information about that as it becomes available.
- Dave Harvey suggested that we could meet at Riverfront Park to see the Webster be towed down the river.

Navy Ball – Bob MacPherson

- Bob reported that the Navy Ball will be held on Saturday, 17 October at the Redbank Club. Part of the cost of our tickets is used to offset the cost for the enlisted sailors in order to encourage them to come to the Ball.

PAO – OPEN

- Base Commander Dave Harvey noted that the position of Public Affairs Officer is currently open. He wrote an article about the participation of Charleston Base in Manitowoc, WI. It has been submitted to American Submariner.

Recreation – OPEN

- The Charleston Base Christmas Party has been rescheduled for Friday, December 11. Ed will be in Panama City, FL on that date.
- Ed reminded everyone that he has resigned as Recreation Committee Chair.

Tunnel 2 Towers – Ed Stank

- Ed attended the opening of the T2T Veterans Home off Ashley Phosphate near Cracker Barrel.
- The location has 91 beds and is NOT free. The cost is \$1,000 per month. In order to be considered, one must show an income of at least \$2,200.
- Ed is looking for volunteers to help at the location. Please send Ed a text if available. His number is in the Sailing List and also on the Charleston Base website.
- The folks have not provided a needed/desired list yet, but they will take donations of books, games etc. When Ed gets the info, he will pass it on.

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank

- The number of Submariner License Plates has now exceeded 150 but we need to reach the milestone of 300 which will secure the plates for future sales. If you have not ordered the plate, please do so.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody has the following items available:
 - o Sale of the Month – Hats – “Submarine Service Veteran” - \$5
 - o Hats – “Unseen, Unheard, Always There – Only the Qualified Survive”
 - o U.S. Veteran Pin – FREE
 - o 2024 National USSVI Meritorious patch. If you were a member of Charleston Base in 2004, you are eligible for this patch.
 - o Flag pins with “Silent Service” and dolphins
 - o Only two more 250TH Freedom patches
 - o Gold Dolphins for vehicle
 - o Holland Club Rocker – available in 5-year increments from 55 thru 75 years.
 - o Hats – “It Never Happened – We Were Never There”
- The Storekeeper table will be open for a short time after the conclusion of the Base Meeting.

VA – Fred Bolz

- There are two (2) recent articles from the VA that may be of interest to Charleston Base members that Fred will have published in the Charleston Base Newsletter.
 - o One regarding dementia.
 - o The other about alcohol.
- Fred will also be the DAV representative for Charleston Base.

COB – Greg Landry

- Nothing reported.

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler

- Nothing to report.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler

- Thanked everyone for being here this evening.
- Art will not be at the September Meeting due to attending the USSVI National Convention.

National Awards – Dave Harvey

- Dave will be at the USSVI National Convention. There have been some of our Base Members nominated for National awards. Dave will pick up any awards presented to those not in attendance at the convention.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey

- The float is located at The After Battery. It is ready to go anywhere. The container with all of the flags is out there also.
- Any Charleston Base Member is allowed to use the float – noting that you will be responsible for it. Simply notify members of the Board so that arrangements can be made.
- We need a new Float Coordinator within the next 90 days.

SER Conference – Dave Harvey

- The Southeast Regional Conference will be held in Kings Bay, GA. The dates will be determined within the next 30 days. This Conference is a joint effort by the Kings Bay Base in Kingsland and the First Coast Base in Atlantic Beach, FL

Base Commander – Dave Harvey

- At the July 4 parade in Manitowoc, WI, the Charleston Base Float received the Most Patriotic award. Dave Harvey had the trophy displayed on the table for all to see.
- Regarding Manitowoc: Why did we go all the way up there? Dave was asked that question by a man who lived there – to which he explained that we are giving honor to submariners lost and to the workers in the Manitowoc shipyard which built 28 submarines during WWII.
- Dave had read that the location was all about submarines. The problem was that there were no SubVets in the event. The float was taken up there last year and this year at no cost to Charleston Base.
- Dave expressed his disappointment to the Base members for the dismal attendance of the Fish Fry which was to be a fund raiser to pay the fuel cost for the trip to WI. Dave had planned for 150 and only 52 were there.
- Charleston Base is planning to host the 2029 USSVI National Convention. It is going to take a lot of participation by the Base members.
- Dave informed the Base members that he has taken the position of SE Region Director for District 2. Wayne Phillips needed to resign due to health reasons. Dave stated that he will be at all of the Base and Board meetings.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Since Charleston Base was started, there have been four (4) Nuclear Historians:
 - o Ed Simokat – on Eternal Patrol
 - o Ed Stank – brief term in position
 - o Rick Wise – on Eternal Patrol
 - o Rick Carlson – past and current – Acknowledged the many contributions to Charleston Base made by Rick Wise. The members in attendance paid respect to Rick Wise with resounding applause.

BILTMORE BUS TOUR – Charlie Hudson

- Charlie informed the group of an upcoming Kelly Tours trip to the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC., noting that it is a bit pricey. Charlie would like to see enough people signed up from SubVets and/or FRA so that the group could have its own bus.

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- Nothing to report.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Not present.

Alcohol at Base Events – Dave Harvey

- In accordance with the USSVI rules, Charleston Base is not permitted to provide alcohol. For those who imbibe here at this meeting, you purchase your drinks from the FRA. Dave reminded everyone to NOT Drink and Drive. Get a ride home with someone if needed.

Drawings & Auctions

- Scholarship SubVet Flag – Bill Carman (Not present – Nick Nichols informed the group that Bill's last meeting with us was last month since he has moved to Texas – Tom Lawson will get the flag to him.)
- FRA Drawing – Bob Browning
- Depth Charge Drawing – Ken Hutchison

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 2013.