



Vol. 20 No. 05

May 2024

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

Base Meeting:

Newsletter & Little David Phil Nunnally 843.518.8301

BOD: May 2, 2024
Membership: May 9, 2024

Location:

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



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Vice Commander	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
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Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Veterans Affairs	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
Membership	Larry Knutson	843.860.1155
Scholarship	Carl Chinn	843.437.5515
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Historian	VACANT	
Public Affairs	VACANT	
Nuclear Historian	Rick Carlson	843.875.4030
Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.729.3524
Social Media Coord	Lewis Leal	843.270.8870
Kaps for Kids	VACANT	
FRA Rep	Ken Hutchinson	843.793.4896
Base Photographer	Glenn Little	843.797.1867
Comptroller	Rick Wise	843.276.0899
Hunley/Housatonic	Tom Holcombe	843.607.9610
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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

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Submarines lost during the month of May

USS Lagarto (SS-371)	4 May 45	86 Souls Lost
USS Squalus (SS-192)	23 May 39	26 Souls Lost
USS Scorpion (SSN-589)	27 May 68	99 Souls Lost
USS Stickleback (SS-415)	30 May 58	No loss of life
4 Boats	211 Souls Lost	

USS Lagarto (SS-371)

Lagarto, under Commander F.D. Latta, departed Subic Bay, Philippine Islands, on 12 April 1945, for her second patrol in the South China Sea. On 27 April, she was directed to the outer part of Siam Gulf.

Lagarto contacted Baya, already patrolling in Siam Gulf on 2 May 1945, and exchanged calls with her by SJ radar. Later that day Baya sent Lagarto a contact report on a convoy she had contacted consisting of one tanker, one auxiliary and two destroyers. Lagarto soon reported being in contact with the convoy, and began coming in for an attack with Baya. However, the enemy escorts were equipped with 10 cm radar, and detected Baya and drove her off with gun-fire, whereupon the two submarines decided to wait and plan a subsequent attack.

Early on the morning of 3 May 1945, Lagarto and Baya made a rendezvous at about 7°-55'N, 102°-18'E and discussed plans. Lagarto was to dive on the convoy's track to make a contact at 1400, while Baya was to be ten to fifteen miles further along the track. During the day, numerous contact reports were exchanged. At 0010 on 4 May after a prolonged but unsuccessful attack. Baya was finally driven off by the alert escorts, and no further contact of any kind was ever made with Lagarto.

Japanese information available now records an attack on a U.S. submarine made by the Minelayer Hatsutaka, believed to be one of the two radar-equipped escorts of the convoy attacked. The attack was made at 7°-55'N, 102°-00'E in about 30 fathoms of water, and in view of the information presented above, the attack here described must be presumed to be the one which sank Lagarto.

Read the entire story at [Lagarto \(SS 371\) \(navy.mil\)](http://www.navy.mil/lagarto)

USS Lagarto (SS-371) Found in 2005

In 2005, a British diver reported discovering the wreckage of a submarine sitting upright in 225 feet of water off the coast of Thailand. While it appeared very likely that the Lagarto had been located, the U.S. Navy endeavored to make its own positive identification. A great deal of research and preparation, including a visit to the USS Torsk, a sister of Lagarto that is now a floating museum in the Inner Harbor of Baltimore, were undertaken before the salvage ship USS Salvor headed to the site. During six days of diving, 500 digital photographs and 10 hours of video of the wreckage were taken.

Divers had been briefed to look for a twin five-inch gun mount, a starboard anchor, and the propeller where the name of the submarine might be engraved. They found the gun mount and the anchor hanging to starboard. In addition, after scraping away decades of coral and marine growth, the letters "LA" were revealed on the propeller.

Read the entire story at [Discovery of lost submarine USS Lagarto brings speculation about its fate to a close. - Warfare History Network](#)



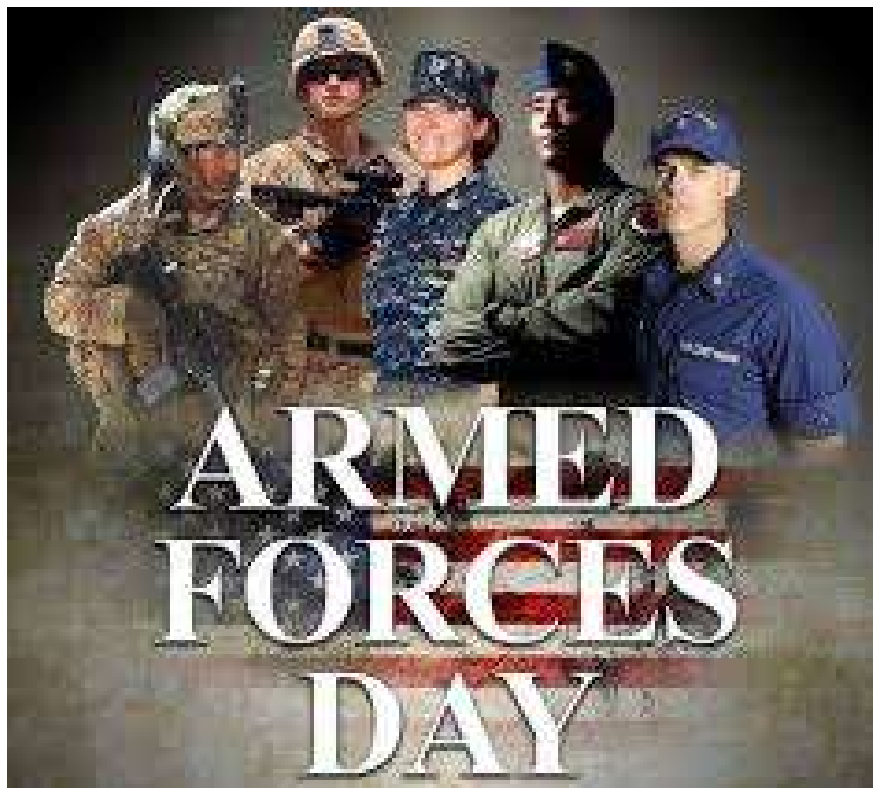
Upcoming Base Events
See www.ussvicb.org for details

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Board of Directors Meeting	May 2	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Base Meeting	May 9 (Social Hour—1800)	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
RiverDogs Baseball Game	May 24	RiverDogs Stadium

ARMED FORCES DAY
May 18th

Many Americans celebrate Armed Forces Day annually on the third Saturday of May. It is a day to pay tribute to men and women who serve the United States' armed forces. Armed Forces Day is also part of Armed Forces Week, which begins on the second Saturday of May.



MEMORIAL DAY

May 27th

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. It's difficult to prove the origins of this day as over two dozen towns and cities lay claim to be the birthplace. In May 1966, President Lyndon Johnson stepped in and officially declared Waterloo N.Y. the birthplace of Memorial Day.

Regardless of the location of origins or the exact date, one thing is crystal clear – Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War (which ended in 1865) and a desire to honor our dead. On the 5th of May in 1868, General John Logan who was the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, officially proclaimed it in his General Order No. 11.

Part of the history of Memorial Day meaning will show that in the Order, the General proclaimed, “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land.” Because the day wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle, the General called it, The date of Decoration Day.

On the first Decoration Day, 5,000 participants decorated the graves of 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried at Arlington Cemetery while General James Garfield made a historic speech.



From the Editor
Contact me at newsletter@ussvicb.org

Thanks to all who helped with Little David maintenance on April 6th and painting on April 18th. Over a dozen boards were replaced and the entire Little David was painted. There are still some boards to be replaced in the fall or next spring but Little David is looking much better.

Bravo Zulu!

Phil Nunnally—Little David Coordinator

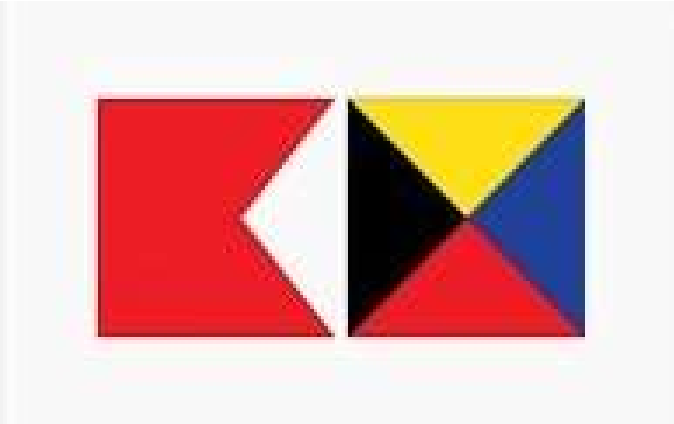
Little David Before Maintenance

April 6th



Little David After Maintenance

April 18th



HOLLAND CLUB INDUCTION April 11th



Announcements

Welcome New Members

Two new members have joined our Charleston Base.

- RMC(SS) Patrick Dermody
- HMCM(SS) Raymond Pelland 'Doc'



Opportunities to Serve our Base

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

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

Reminder

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

20th Anniversary After Battery Hog Roast Week

Ed Stank won over \$1000 in the 50/50 drawing. He donated 50% back to After Battery, the rest to go to the license plate project.



SUBMARINER MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

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

COMMANDER EUGENE BENNETT FLUCKEY

- RANK: COMMANDER (HIGHEST RANK: REAR ADMIRAL)
- CONFLICT/ERA: WORLD WAR II
- UNIT/COMMAND: U.S.S. BARB (SS220)
- MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH: U.S. NAVY
- MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: DECEMBER 19, 1944 - FEBRUARY 15, 1945
- MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION PLACE: NAMKWAN HARBOR ALONG COAST OF CHINA, CHINA

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the U.S.S. Barb during her 11th war patrol along the east coast of China from 19 December 1944 to 15 February 1945. After sinking a large enemy ammunition ship and damaging additional tonnage during a running two-hour night battle on 8 January, Comdr. Fluckey, in an exceptional feat of brilliant deduction and bold tracking on 25 January, located a concentration of more than 30 enemy ships in the lower reaches of Nankuan Chiang (Mamkwan Harbor).

Fully aware that a safe retirement would necessitate an hour's run at full speed through the uncharted, mined, and rock-obstructed waters, he bravely ordered, "Battle station[--torpedoes!" In a daring penetration of the heavy enemy screen, and riding in five fathoms of water, he launched the Barb's last forward torpedoes at 3,000-yard range.

COMMANDER EUGENE BENNETT FLUCKEY

Quickly bringing the ship's stern tubes to bear, he turned loose four more torpedoes into the enemy, obtaining eight direct hits on six of the main targets to explode a large ammunition ship and cause inestimable damage by the resultant flying shells and other pyrotechnics. Clearing the treacherous area at high speed, he brought the Barb through to safety, and four days later sank a large Japanese freighter to complete a record of heroic combat achievement, reflecting the highest credit upon Comdr. Fluckey, his gallant officers and men, and the U.S. Naval Service.



Getting to know Our New Base Members

Bill Carman, MMCS(SS)/Lt (ret)

I was raised as an Army Brat which means we really never had a place that I would call a Home Town. Most of my young life was at Ft Bliss, Texas with a four year intermission at Ft Wainwright, Alaska, then returning to El Paso. I joined the Navy. Oct. 13, 1970.

I went to Nuclear Power School, Bainbridge, Md. Didn't get a lot of free time while there, but survived and graduated in the top 10% of my class. From there I progressed to NPTU Ballston Spa, NY. I graduated from there in the top 10% in July 1972. I was stationed aboard USS Thomas Jefferson SSBN 618(G), New London, Ct., my CO was CDR "Smiling" Jack Darby, he later became ComSubPac. I made my first refit in Rota Spain that year and deployed on my first underway in November 1972. Even as a NUB I fell in love with Submarine duty. I qualified submarines August 23, 1973. While in the shipyard I got married and we moved to Pearl Harbor, deploying out of Guam. In 1977 my oldest daughter was born while I was underway, I met her a couple months later. In 1979 I was selected for Chief, I proudly went through my Chiefs initiation in Pearl, then received orders to be Command Career Counselor, Naval Nuclear Power School, Orlando.

While in Orlando we started the first class of females in the Nuclear pipeline. I was impressed. I was selected for and promoted to MMCS(SS). My second daughter was born, May 1980, Memorial Day, and I brought my first home. My detailer found me a fast attack as a Bull Nuke on the USS Flying Fish SSN 673 for two years for two years. I applied for the Limited Duty Officer Program while on board and was selected in 1984. I accepted the commission and was promoted while on board. The CO had my completed EOOW card in hand and sent me back to take the watch and immediately ran a drill set, what a thrill. From there life was less exciting but still fun.

I served for about 18 months with NRRO in Charleston. Then to the Frank Cable AS-40 as R-2 Div-O and then the Nuclear Repair officer. Frank Cable was sent to La Maddalena, Italy. I was assigned to Trident Refit Facility, Kings Bay as a Plank owner. Then transferred down the road to Oak Ridge, ARDM-1 as the Engineer Officer (Department Head) and after qualifying I was the Docking Officer, positions I filled until I left in 1993. My last duty station was at Naval Shipyard Charleston as the Nuclear Closure Coordinator. Retired as a LT on 1 March 1996 after 25 years, 4 months, 17 days of service.

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

Columbia Class Program Delays

The U.S. Navy is facing significant challenges with the construction of its latest submarines, including the Columbia-class ships and Block V variants of the Virginia class, due to supplier issues, delays, and spiraling costs. The first Columbia-class submarine's delivery may be postponed by a year to FY 2028, jeopardizing U.S. nuclear deterrence capabilities as these submarines are vital, carrying over half of the nation's operational nuclear arsenal. Delays are attributed to production issues, such as those at Hill's Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia and with Northrop Grumman's steam turbines. This setback occurs amid escalating tensions between Washington and Beijing, underscoring the urgency of maintaining a robust and timely defense capability.

Construction of the U.S. Navy's latest submarines is flagging amid delays, production issues, and exorbitant costs. Supplier issues are impacting Columbia-class ships and the Block V variants of the Virginia class.

The Navy recently released a rare public accounting that outlines these issues in detail. The service foresees a cumulative delay of more than a decade. As tensions continue to heat up between Washington and Beijing and a future kinetic conflict in the South China Sea becomes more likely, this report is concerning.

Regardless of what happens with the Columbia class, the Navy's Ohio-class submarines will be retired at a rate of one per year beginning in 2028. Only two Columbia-class ships – the USS District of Columbia (SSBN-826), and the USS Wisconsin (SSBN-827) – have been ordered so far. They will be followed by an additional 10 submarines...

Read the entire story at [The U.S. Navy's Columbia-Class Submarine Nightmare](#)

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

Columbia Class Program Delays



Shift Colors for Navy Retirees

If you have not signed up already go to this web page and get your Navy retirement newsletter.

[Shift Colors \(navy.mil\)](http://navy.mil)

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

VA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

WASHINGTON — On May 31, 2024, the Department of Veterans Affairs will launch a new program — the Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase (VASP) program — to help more than 40,000 Veterans experiencing severe financial hardship avoid foreclosure and stay in their homes.

VASP is a new, last-resort tool in VA's comprehensive suite of home retention options for eligible Veterans, active-duty Service members, and surviving spouses with VA-guaranteed home loans who are experiencing severe financial hardship. Through VASP, VA will purchase defaulted VA loans from mortgage servicers, modify the loans, and then place them in the VA-owned portfolio as direct loans. This will empower VA to work directly with eligible Veterans to adjust their loans — and their monthly payments — so they can keep their homes. With VASP, these borrowers will have a fixed 2.5% interest rate, which will provide a consistent, affordable payment for the remainder of their loan.

Veterans who are having difficulty reaching a resolution with their mortgage servicer can contact VA at 877-827-3702, option 4. Learn more about the policy and the VASP program. For more information on VA home loans, visit the VA home loans website.

Read all the details and how to apply online at [Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships \(CFBNP\) \(va.gov\)](#)

Provided by shipmate Nick Nichols

After politics, we all need a little humor

Important reminder to transplants and tourists that it's bobcat nesting season. It's punishable by up to a \$25,000 fine to disturb bobcat eggs.



United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
14 March 2024

Opening Ceremonies:

- The March 2024 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 58 members. The meeting started at 1902 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Tom Lawson and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of March was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of March:
 - ◊ USS PERCH (SS-176) 3 March 1942 – 1st war patrol
 - ◊ 59 POWs – 53 survived the war 6 died as POW's
 - ◊ USS GRAMPUS (SS-207) 5 March 1943 – 6th war patrol
 - ◊ Lost with all hands – 71 souls
 - ◊ USS H-1 (SS-28) 12 March 1920 – grounding
 - ◊ Loss of 4 souls
 - ◊ USS TRITON (SS-201) 15 March 1943 – 6th war patrol
 - ◊ Lost with all hands – 74 souls
 - ◊ USS KETE (SS-369) 20 March 1945 – 2nd war patrol
 - ◊ Lost with all hands – 87 souls
 - ◊ USS F-4 (SS-23) 25 March 1915 – foundered
 - ◊ Lost with all hands – 21 souls
 - ◊ USS TULLIBEE (SS-284) 26 March 1944 – 4th war patrol
 - ◊ Lost with 79 souls – One POW survived the war
 - ◊ USS TRIGGER (SS-237) 26 March 1945 – 12th war patrol
 - ◊ Lost with all hands – 89 souls
 - ◊ Eight Boats and 431 Men Lost
- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Distinguished Submariner Award:

- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko, assisted by Vice Commander Tom Lawson, read the award citation and presented the Distinguished Submariner Award to Johnny Brown.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- One man was present at the Base meeting for the first time:
- Tim Howard – MMNC – Qualified on USS Columbia SSN771 – December 2009 – Also served aboard USS Tennessee SSBN734, USS Emory S Land AS39, USS Olympia SSN717, USS Oklahoma City SSN723. Active duty and currently serving aboard USS San Francisco MTS711 [AKA SanFranLulu or HonoFrisco].

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko opened up the discussion of the proposed amendment to the Charleston Base By-Laws to reinstitute Associate Members. The complete text of the proposed amendment – as emailed to the entire Base Membership for consideration – was as follows:

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE FOR CHARLESTON BASE

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

Section 3. ASSOCIATE

- A. An Associate Member is a person who is not eligible for regular membership but is sponsored by a Regular Member and meets one of the following requirements:
1. A family member of a Regular Member, including adoptive children of the Regular Member. (No limit.)
 2. A non-family member who has demonstrated a strong interest and support of the U.S. Submarine Service by their deeds or actions and is at least sixteen (16) years of age, subject to prior approval by the National Membership Chairman. (Limit one (1).)
 3. A non-family U.S. Military service member, Active or Veteran, who has demonstrated a strong interest and support of the U.S. Submarine Service by their deeds or actions, subject to prior approval by the National Membership Chairman. If separated from service, it must have been under honorable circumstances. (Limit one (1).)

- a) Some examples of interest and support are: Submarine Book author, Sub Tender service, Intel Rider, Museum submarine docent, Submarine Historian, or provides some other demonstrated service to advance the U.S. Submarine force.
- B. Each Associate Member must be continuously sponsored by a Regular Member in good standing.
- C. Associate Members are eligible for National and Base Annual Membership and must retain their membership in an established base to maintain their national USSVI membership. Associate Member annual dues will be the same as Regular Members.
- D. Associate Members are not eligible for Life Membership.
- E. Associate Members may vote on Base matters and may hold the elective Base offices of Secretary and/or Treasurer but not Base Commander or Vice Commander. Associate Members may serve on Base Committees as determined by the Base Commander.
- F. Associate Members are ineligible to vote in National/Regional elections and cannot hold National elected office.
- G. In the event an Associate Member's sponsor cannot or will not continue to sponsor the Associate Member (i.e., the sponsor is transferred or leaves the Organization), another Regular Member of the Base may assume sponsorship of the Associate Member. If no other Regular Member of the Base assumes the sponsorship, the Associate member will be dropped from membership.
- H. If the Associate Member is the widow, widower, child, or grandchild of a deceased Regular Member who was in good standing at the time of death, another Regular Member of the deceased member's Base may assume the sponsorship.

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- There was much discussion and numerous members, including Rick Wise, Johnny Brown and others who offered constructive input, while some took to grandstanding and devolving the conversation into an argumentative event, claiming that the amendment would allow anyone [J.S.t.R] to join Charleston Base without considering the restrictions in paragraphs A.1, A.2 and A.3. At one point, our Treasurer Ricky Collins felt compelled to leave the meeting.

- John Lookabill presented a motion, which was seconded by Phil Nunnally, to strike Section 3 - Paragraph E from the proposal. The vote was taken by show of hands, resulting in the paragraph being removed from the proposal amendment. Subsequent lines F,G and H will be relabeled in the altered amendment as E, F and G.
- Prior to the vote being taken on the modified amendment, Nick Nichols explained the importance of the Associate Members in other Bases. Nick has witnessed and/or presided over the Eternal Patrol ceremonies of 168 shipmates during his tenure as Chaplain of Charleston Base.
- After a bit more discussion, with a call for the vote, one of our young members from NNPTC stepped up and walked around counting hands. The vote was cast with thirty-three (33) YEAs (in favor of the modified amendment) and twenty (20) NAYs (against the amendment – even after modification). After the meeting, Nick Nichols provided the full text of the changed amendment to be incorporated into the Charleston Base By-Laws. For clarity, Section 3 (as modified) is included, in its entirety, in these Minutes below:

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

Section 3. ASSOCIATE

- A. An Associate Member is a person who is not eligible for regular membership but is sponsored by a Regular Member and meets one of the following requirements:
1. A family member of a Regular Member, including adoptive children of the Regular Member. (No limit.)
 2. A non-family member who has demonstrated a strong interest and support of the U.S. Submarine Service by their deeds or actions and is at least sixteen (16) years of age, subject to prior approval by the National Membership Chairman. (Limit one (1).)
 3. A non-family U.S. Military service member, Active or Veteran, who has demonstrated a strong interest and support of the U.S. Submarine Service by their deeds or actions, subject to prior approval by the National Membership Chairman. If separated from service, it must have been under honorable circumstances. (Limit one (1).)
 - a) Some examples of interest and support are: Submarine Book author, Sub Tender service, Intel Rider, Museum submarine docent, Submarine Historian, or provides some other demonstrated service to advance the U.S. Submarine force.

B. Each Associate Members must be continuously sponsored by a Regular Member in good standing.

C. Associate Members are eligible for National and Base Annual Membership and must retain their membership in an established base to maintain their national USSVI membership. Associate Member annual dues will be the same as Regular Members.

D. Associate Members are not eligible for Life Membership.

E. Associate Members are ineligible to vote in National/Regional elections and cannot hold National elected office.

F. In the event an Associate Member's sponsor cannot or will not continue to sponsor the Associate Member (i.e., the sponsor is transferred or leaves the Organization), another Regular Member of the base may assume sponsorship of the Associate Member. If no other Regular Member of the Base assumes the sponsorship, the Associate member will be dropped from membership.

G. If the Associate Member is the widow, widower, child, or grandchild of a deceased Regular Member who was in good standing at the time of death, another Regular Member of the deceased member's Base may assume the sponsorship.

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- With input of this change to the Charleston Base By-Laws, the current Section 3 & 4 must be renumbered to read as Section 4 & 5

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the February Base meeting were emailed to all Base members. The February Meeting Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer – Base Commander for Ricky Collins:

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

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Something different this month instead of the highlighted boat of the month:**
 - ◇ 100 years ago this past Friday, March 8th, the first submariner received the Medal of Honor. President Calvin Coolidge presented Torpedoman's Mate 2nd Class Henry Breault the military's highest military decoration on March 8, 1924 due to actions in the Panama Canal the year before. According to his Medal of Honor citation, Breault was serving aboard the USS O-5 on Oct. 28, 1923, when a commercial vessel struck the sub, sinking it in less than a minute. He was in the torpedo room at the time of the collision but managed to make it to the hatch and escape. He soon realized a fellow submariner was left behind. Instead of jumping overboard to save his own life, he returned to the torpedo room to rescue a shipmate, Chief Electrician's Mate Lawrence Brown, he knew was trapped in the boat. Breault secured the watertight door to the torpedo room, giving the pair precious air and time. Breault locked himself and Brown inside. Safe there, they planned to wait for salvage divers. It took 31 hours, but the pair was rescued. Breault reenlisted several times and was promoted to the rank of Torpedoman's Mate 1st Class. He ultimately served in the Navy for 20 years before developing a heart condition, which claimed his life on Dec. 5, 1941. He was 41 years old.

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

- **Fran Wood, David Wood's wife**, had bypass surgery in mid-February. She suffered a stroke on the table but is now moving her arm and leg on the left side. This is very good news.
- **Wanda Yaeger, 87, Bill Yeager's wife of 64 ½ years**, passed away on Feb. 15th after 5 days of hospice care. Her memorial service will be held at a later date.
- **Tom Cyrek** was in the VA hospital but has now been moved to Life Care Center on Elms Blvd. On Friday 8 Mar, Ed Stank informed me that Tom had been readmitted with complications from a recent surgery. Then on Sunday 10 Mar, Mike Knaub and Ed visited with Tom and Gloria for about 4 hours. Tom was talking better but still having problem with his legs. He at the VA rehab at Life Care Center Meadow Ridge, 2600 Elms Plantation Blvd, N. Charleston 29406

- **Mike Knaub** fell earlier in the week. When he was in the ER he was in AFIB for a long time. The defibrator he had installed in January did not work like it should.
- **Larry Rosselot** had reverse surgery on his right shoulder on 6 Mar at Roper downtown. His text to me stated “I came home 7 March. I have virtually no pain, and the pain drip was removed on 10 March. Staples will be removed on 14 March with my arm in a sling for 6weeks. The next hurdle will be OT and PT. I am overwhelmed at the response to my request for prayers for surgery success and thank all who responded to my request.”
- **Ken Curtis** is home after being in Life Care Center. His text saying he is home also stated ‘hopefully for good this time’. He left rehab on 5 March.
- **Rick Wise** received the report that the biopsy on the nodules in his lungs have cancerous cells.in both. The right lung nodule was removed surgically 8 Mar. The left lung nodule will be removed at a later date. He is home and recovering.
- **Mike Emerson** had surgery in mid-December then on 20 Feb the temporary colostomy bag was removed. After being at home for a few days he had to go back to the hospital. His most recent email is: “I made it home safely on Saturday afternoon with the help of Charlie Hudson. Today, Monday, I travel West Ashley to one of the doctor’s offices. It’s gotten to the point where if it wasn’t for the medical professionals, I would not have a social life. I will try to keep you updated. (Tubes Aft out.)”
- **James Graham Sr.** had a scope procedure on his left knee on Feb. 27th. He is home and rehabbing.
- **Sonny Rash** had lung surgery at the VA on Monday, Jan 25. He is recovering at home.
- **Marvin Miller** is home and recovering. He broke his hip socket in September last year and between surgery, rehab and a bout with Cdiff it has been a rough 6 months for him.
- **Jerry Stout** has additional spreading of cancer with a plum size tumor next to his right kidney. Radiation was able to shrink the lymph nodes in his neck area. He is now using a new regimen of immune drugs and significant side effects are expected. He is asking for NO visits but phone calls and text are good until further notice.

- **Al Dempster** and his wife, Connie, are in The Bridge of Charleston Assisted Living. His mailing address is: Alan Dempster – Room 222, 2590 Elms Plantation Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29406. They have a phone in their apartment – (843) 793-1187.
- **Thom Beach** is at the VICTORY HOUSE in Walterboro. Thom is in a private room in the Elliott Pavilion Rm A-117a. His phone number is 843.809.9417.
- **Don Londergan** is in Cypress Square on Midland Pkwy in room 136. Has no phone and hardly any visitors. Visit if you are able.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- If you change your number or drop your home line, please contact either Larry, Nick or the COB so that we can make the necessary changes locally and with National.
- Until told differently, continue to use the website of <https://ussubvets.org>
- Since Rick Wise will be out of town, he has asked me to conduct the April 13 Lost Boats / Amberjack Crew / Submarine Birthday recognition service and bell tolling. It is planned for the CWM. Inclement site is BLDG 777 at NWS behind the gas station. Decision on the location will be made on or before our next meeting. More info will be sent out via email in the next couple of weeks.
- SAN FRANCISCO SSN-711 will be having their reunion in Charleston April 11-14. One of our base members from PA will be heading up the reunion. He will be getting his HC induction at our April meeting and there will be a large number of them attending our meeting. At least 2 retired flag officers will be here. They will also be attending the April 13th Lost Boats service in the AM and the Submariner Birthday Ball in the PM.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- The video from tonight's Distinguished Submariner Award presentation will be pulled out as a separate video.
- The video from the February Base Meeting is posted for members to watch however, there was a glitch in the recording, so a portion in the middle is missing.

Membership – Nick Nichols for Larry Knutson

- USSVI National has completed their move from Silverdale WA to Groton CT. They are now housed in the Groton Clubhouse. The new address is on the National website along with the phone number.
- National has dropped all who have not paid their 2024 dues. Charleston Base lost 11 members:
- Brian Casey - Richard Gagne - Bob Isaman - Tony Kierpiec - Joe Lunn - Don Meadows - Mike Morris - Timothy Murray - Mike Nadolski - William Narowski and Harry Nettles
- Beginning last October all of these members were sent several emails about paying their dues.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #3 in USSVI membership.
- Groton 1107 - 2) Hampton Roads 276 - 3) Charleston 251 - 4) Bremerton 239

National Awards – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing reported

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- The current balance in the Scholarship Fund is \$11,124. Two generous donations - \$500 from Tom Holcombe and \$1,000 from John Lookabill are included in this amount.
- The drawing for the \$100 gift card from Publix will be tonight.
- Johnny Brown bit \$100 for three of the cups.
- Someone bid \$1 on the Submarine shower curtain.

Hunley Coordinator – Tom Holcombe

- Tom reported on the Hunley/Housatonic Ceremony. Although the event turned out okay, there were some technical difficulties.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- Ken reported on his visit to The Victory House.
- The Memorial Brick for Stacy Power will be installed tomorrow 15 March.
- If you want to purchase a brick, the cost is \$100
- The FRA will hold a picnic on 18 May.

Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison

- Ken reported that this year, the offices of Vice Commander and Secretary are scheduled for the May Base Meeting.
- At this time, there are three candidates for Vice Commander:
- Tom Lawson – Incumbent
- Ed Stank
- Gordon Williams
- Currently, there is only the incumbent, Gordon Long as candidate for Secretary.
- If interested in either of these two positions, please contact Ken.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- Oyster Roast to be held on Saturday, March 16 at The After Battery, 1300 to 1800. There will be Frogmore Stew, Chili and HotDogs. Feel free to bring a side dish. At this point, we have 90 people signed up. We will have a working party at 1000 Friday morning to set up.

Nuclear Power School Awards – Phil Nunnally

- The next NPS graduation will be April 26. Phil will be there for this event.
- Meet in Navy Exchange parking lot 0800 to carpool in to the ceremony.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- Nothing to report

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Phil will get more info out later, but expect work in April or May.
- He is getting wood cut for the project.

AO – OPEN

- The position is open.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- The National SK has issued a new patch – 60TH (DIAMOND) Anniversary
- Woody read names of those who wanted a patch/coin set.
- Woody talked about items that he has available including calendars (now on sale), “Submarine Vet Edition” vehicle emblems and “Veteran” Flag pins.

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Anthony reminded everyone of the Sub Ball on April 13.
- NNPTC will be holding a picnic on April 12. 1300 until ?? All SubVets are invited. If no Base approved ID, please contact Anthony.

COB – Greg Landry

- Greg spoke about increasing Charleston Base membership and becoming the No.2 in rankings over Hampton Roads.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing to report

Good of the Order

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Not present.

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- The Hog Roast will be April 20 – 27. Different menu each day.
- Saturday, March 16 is the SubVet Oyster Roast

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing reported

Drawings & Auctions

- Publix Gift Card – Bob Browning
- The Coffee Cups High Bid was \$100 for QTY 3
- Dolphin Shower Curtain Auction – \$32 by Rodney McKanna
- FRA Drawing – Dennis Lanier
- Depth Charge Drawing – Anthony Mazza – Donated the entire winnings to the Scholarship Fund.

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson announced adjournment of the meeting with a sound of three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 2024.