



Vol. 22 No. 5

May 2026

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

Base Meeting:

Newsletter & Little David Phil Nunnally 843.518.8301

BOD: May 7, 2026

Membership: May 14, 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
PAO	Jerry Stout	843.568.5923
Veterans Affairs	Jerry Stout	843.568.5923
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.	Ed Stank	843.568.2148
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
National Awards Co	VACANT	
Base Historian	VACANT	
ADM Osborn Sch Comm	VACANT	

Table of Contents

1	Boats on Eternal Patrol	2
2	Shipmates on Eternal Patrol	3
3	Upcoming Base Events	4-5
4	Important Dates	6-11
5	From the Editor	12-14
6	Announcements	15-27
7	It's Your Birthday	28
8	Past and Future Events	29-36
9	Non-base Events	37-38
10	General Stories	39-43
11	Foreign Sub News	44-45
12	Politics and Humor	46-48
13	Base Meeting Minutes	49-58



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
- QM2(SS) Christian Louis La Force, USN Veteran 22 February 2026
- TMC(SS) Robert Kenneth 'Ken' Curtis, USN Retired 23 February 2026
- FTCS(SS) Thomas W. Lawson, USN Retired 19 March 2026



UPCOMING BASE EVENTS
See www.ussvicb.org for details

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Board of Directors Meeting	May 7	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Mother's Day	May 10	
Base Meeting	May 14	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Nuc Pwr School Grad	May 22	Meet at NWS NEX
Memorial Day	May 25	

Distinguished Submariner Award Presentation
During the Base Meeting
14 May

YEAR	RECIPIENT NAME	PICTURE LINK
2008	LCDR(SS) James Warren Eckles	Eckles
2009	BMC(SS) 'Panama' Jack Stevenson	Stevenson
2010	CS1(SS) Lewis 'Lee' Allison	Allison
2011	TMC(SS) Charles 'Buddha' Nelms	Nelms
2012	MTCM(SS) John 'Nick' Nichols	Nichols
2013	ETCM(SS) Carl Chinn	Chinn
2014	FTCM(SS) Marty Sessler	Sessler
2015	TMCS(SS) Rick Sparger	Sparger
2016	QMCM(SS) Ken Hutchison	Hutchison
2017	MMCM(SS) Ed Stank	Stank
2018	MMCS(SS) Rick Wise	Wise
2019	EMCS(SS) Charlie Hudson	Hudson
2020	MMCS(SS) Bill Kennedy	Kennedy
2021	EMCM(SS) Terry Trump	Pics Vid
2022	QMCM(SS) Harry Nettles	Nettles
2023	RMCM(SS) John Lookabill	Lookabill
2024	TMC(SS)/LT Ret Johnny Brown	Pics Vid
2025	TMC(SS) Dave Harvey	Harvey

UPCOMING BASE EVENTS
See www.ussvicb.org for details

NNPTC Graduation
22 May

- Friday 0900
- If you plan to attend please contact Phil Nunnally at 843.518.8301 or email pbnunnally@gmail.com
- We will muster at and leave from the NEX parking lot at 0800



IMPORTANT DATES

Silver Star Service Banner Day 1 May

On May 1st we honor wounded, ill, and injured service members on what is known as Silver Star Banner Day. This is not to be confused with the Silver Star Medal. In May of 2010, Congress passed a resolution formalizing Silver Star Banner Day.

Service banners, more generically known as service flags, have been around since 1818. The banners are authorized by United States Code, Title 36, Section 901 Sec. 901 in the section titled "Service flag and service lapel button."



IMPORTANT DATES

Early Half-Staff Alert National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day 3 May

As National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend approaches, we pause to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in the line of duty. Their courage, sacrifice, and commitment to protecting their communities reflect the very best of America. This time of remembrance is not only about loss, but also about gratitude for those who stood ready to serve, no matter the cost.

The American flag has long stood as a symbol of honor, sacrifice, and national unity, and few occasions make that meaning clearer than this one. In the days ahead, as families, departments, and communities gather to remember our fallen firefighters, we invite you to join in reflecting on their service and the lasting legacy they leave behind.

As president, Donald Trump is expected to issue the annual proclamation marking National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, when flags are flown at half-staff in honor of the memorial service. The memorial was formerly held in October, but the official observance moved to May in 2023.

See more [here](#).

Thank You Veterans Flag

To honor our veterans, American Flags Express has created the "Thank You Veterans" flag. We want to give thanks for their patriotic service and sacrifice.

Watch the video to hear the inspiration behind the flag.

Learn more at: [Thank You Veterans](#)

Information provided by Shipmate Nick Nichols

IMPORTANT DATES

Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day) 8 May

On May 8, 1945 - known as Victory in Europe Day or V-E Day - celebrations erupted around the world to mark the end of World War II in Europe. The war had been raging for almost five years when U.S. and Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944. The invasion signaled the beginning of the end for Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany. In less than a year, Germany would surrender and Hitler would be dead. But in his speech to the nation on V-E Day, President Harry S. Truman cautioned that Allies must "work to finish the war" by defeating the Japanese in the Pacific.



IMPORTANT DATES

Military Spouse Appreciation Day
Observed on the Friday before Mother's Day
9 May

Always the Friday before Mother's Day, National Military Spouse Appreciation Day recognizes the significant contributions, support, and sacrifices of the spouses of the Armed Forces. National Military Spouse Appreciation Day is also sometimes known as Military Spouse Day



IMPORTANT DATES

Mother's Day
10 May



Armed Forces Day
May 17



IMPORTANT DATES

Memorial Day 25 May

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

May is an important month for all American's, especially for those who currently serve, veterans and their spouses and families.

All Gave Some, Some Gave All. By Billy Ray Cyrus



From the Editor
Contact me at newsletter@ussvicb.org

Wendy and I visited the USS North Carolina BB-55 in April. While there, I was able to get some pictures of the USS North Carolina SSN-777.

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.

List of all Maritime Museums in the US.



From the Editor
Contact me at newsletter@ussvicb.org

CNO Caudle's 'Backbone of the Fleet: Chief Petty Officers' C-Note

I had to publish the April newsletter early since I was in Hawaii late March, otherwise I would have added this article in that newsletter.

I have mentioned in previous newsletters that CNO Caudle, then LCDR Caudle, was my engineer on the Sand Lance when I was EDEA.

It was not a surprise to me when he advanced to CNO. Not because he was a good leader or very smart, as he was, but because he treated everyone with dignity and respect, and while he was the officer in charge, he treated us all as equal humans. He always treated me, and other chiefs, as equals with the officers.

The words in this C-Note are accurate in his thinking about chief petty officers.

Read the entire article [here](#).

Words from this C-Note.

2. Chief Petty Officers are the Navy's center of gravity at the deck plates. Officers may chart the course, but Chiefs make that course real. They train Sailors, enforce standards, maintain readiness, and deliver repeatable excellence in peace and in combat. The bond of trust between the Wardroom and the Chiefs Mess is fundamental to command at sea. Chiefs give junior officers the leadership repetitions they need to grow, and they keep Commanding Officers firmly connected to the daily realities of the mission. The anchors they wear are not decoration – they are a solemn promise of technical mastery, calm leadership under pressure, and uncompromising standards at all times.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Letter from our Base Commander

As I approach the one-year mark as the Base Commander, I have found it both enlightening and challenging.

As with any change in leadership, in any organization, there will always be some minor adjustments to working together. The status quo changes in many ways, as do new goals for the organization that may come from the new leadership.

For me, I always let some time settle in while viewing the current state. But I am always evaluating what is and what may be needed, and I recommend changes to align with those needs. That can be frustrating for both the new leader and the base membership. I believe that has been a large part of my last ten months. So, I would like to share some of my thoughts to avoid confusion.

One, and most importantly, I feel Charleston Base to be the best USSVI Base in the Country. Its membership does not need to be the biggest, but the quality of our base is first.

2: This base has currently changed, adding Associate members, who I feel will be the backbone needed to help the base excel in many ways.

3: My goal from day one was to continue to get our base involved in as many outside events as possible, to make the general public and National more aware of who we are. That includes the Local Public, as well as others that can and will result in getting Charleston Base and USSVI attention.

4: Charleston Base is important to us, not unlike the other bases and their members throughout the USSVI organization. We all should feel that our base is important. We should not be in competition with each other, except for National to provide awards to those who excel. Charleston Base can be a leader in many ways in working with others to achieve a much-needed improvement in outside visibility for both Charleston Base and USSVI as a whole. I started a few years ago to do just that. Working with other members, we got into the Fair, participated in the Mt Pleasant Christmas Parade, and took our Float to Manitowoc to fill a void, as they did not have any USSVI submarine floats in their annual 4th of July parade. Manitowoc is a proud city in America that built 28 submarines for WWII. 11 USSVI members did that using only their own money. We are going back again this year with many more than 11 people from USSVI, including many members from different Bases.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Letter from our Base Commander

Note: Working with, not against, other bases is important. I ask all our members to consider attending other base special events where possible.

I also ask our members to consider planning our events so as not to interfere with other USSVI or Submarine Events in our Southeast Region. Some, like the National Convention and the Southeast Conference, are a given. But there are events in our region that have been scheduled for years. Examples: Submarine Veterans of WWII Memorial in GA. Panama City Christmas Party in December, and the USSVI NC Mountain Event. This request serves two purposes: first, it allows our members to attend those functions without missing our events; second, it shows that we respect them and play well with others.

In closing, I am doing my best to ensure I am working with all of you to achieve what is best for our base, and some challenges are larger than others, and I do hope we can work on these together:

Membership dues: We should not have to beg our members to pay their National and Base membership Dues. If you find you no longer want to be a member, just say so.

Turnout of our own base membership for our special events, such as Christmas Party, Cookouts, Parades, and Fundraising Events. With over 200 members, some with families close by, our event participation should be off the charts.

Please support our base when you can.

The lack of open communication, likes, dislikes, and all suggestions of the current state of the base belong in the open, not in secret between old friends and shipmates. I am sure we will not always agree on every subject, but we always need to remember what is best for the Base as a whole. This includes our leadership, BOD, and members. Agree to Disagree, but there can be a solution that works.

TMC/SS David Harvey

Charleston Base Commander

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shipmate Spotlight for May 2026

From PAO Jerry Stout

Gerry Starr

Our SubVet member for May is Gerry Starr. Even though his formal name is Gerald, throughout his childhood, Navy Career and into retirement, he prefers to be addressed as Gerry. Gerry was born in 1937 in Shelton, Washington State into a family of 4. Before the war and in the late 30's and early 40's, life was not so easy. His Father held down several jobs to keep food on their table and his Mother stayed at home raising the children. Gerry also has a 1/2 brother that still lives in Olympia, Washington that he has visited and stays in contact with his Northwestern roots.

Gerry tells me he was not much of an academic student, however very much enjoyed the outdoors of the Pacific Northwest, including small game hunting and fishing. His most vivid memories are that of fishing on the many lakes and rivers of the area. There were mostly trout and bass fish that were caught and very seldom catfish.

Gerry pursued his grade school studies and received a GED just prior to entering the Navy, one day after he turned 17 years old. Even in the 1950's, young men and women had to have parent permission to enter the service and Gerry chose the U.S. Navy. Even though I did not ask him the reason, I can only presume it was the matter of being near the water.

Upon enlisting at 17, Gerry entered Boot Camp in San Diego, California. His company commander was a first class petty officer surface and was influenced to ask for any ship on the West Coast. And indeed, he received orders to the USS Dehaven DD 727, stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. So far in his career as you can see his duty stations had the best of weather.

Gerry was assigned to the Supply Department where he learned on the job training to be a cook. Gerry fit in very well and after a couple years, he transferred again to another surface ship, the USS Forrestal CV-59. While in Pearl Harbor as he walked in the decks of the ship, Gerry would always be looking up toward the locks at the diesel submarines that were moored at the Subbase.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shipmate Spotlight for May 2026

From PAO Jerry Stout

He recalls the stories that were written and verbal descriptions of when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941 and also knew of the success of the Submarine Fleet that took the war to the Asia and because of the Sub Fleet took out tons of shipping and warships thus speeding the end of the war. Gerry wanted to be part of this heritage.

In his desire to volunteer for Submarines, Gerry had to network and because of his likable personality, befriended the Yeoman of the Forrestal Who else on a Navy Ship would have the influence to gain his passage? Gerry figured it out! I am sure too that his expert cooking skills also added to this endeavor with providing small snacks to this Yeomans staff before and after meals underway and in port. So, during an import period, Gerry wrote a chit to volunteer for Submarines and his request went in with several others and like most Naval Officers, not every item is read and deemed proper, the XO signed it and 3rd class Gerry Starr was on his way to New London ,Ct for submarine school.

His first boat was the Caiman SS 323 stationed out of San Diego. Gerry qualified in 1962 and established himself as a good shipmate and a great cook, night baker for the entire crew. Gerry still attends reunions of the boat and stays in contact with his shipmates each year. From the Caiman SS 323, he was transferred to a new construction boat, the USS Woodrow Wilson SSBN 624. As a plank owner, Gerry made several deterrent patrols and was promoted to 1st class petty officer prior to transfer. This is where Gerry met his lifelong friend and shipmate, Bob "Beetle"Bailey. His next tour was the USS Will Rogers SSBN 659. Upon shore duty he promoted to Chief and Senior Chief and tells me his most favorite shore command was the Navy's Food Management Team where his team would assist other Navy ships improving their food quality.

Gerry married his wife Charlotte and together had 2 children. His daughter lives in Goose Creek and his son lives in Oregon. Charlotte passed a few years ago after a lengthy illness. Without going into detail, Gerry has Great-great - great grandchildren. His family has lived in Cross , SC since 1974. Gerry actually built his home there stud by stud and to this day would survive any storm or hurricane that would venture.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shipmate Spotlight for May 2026

From PAO Jerry Stout

In 1974, Gerry retired from the Navy and after being turned down for a Dunkin' Donuts Franchise, established his own self business of being an over the road trucker. His business prospered and he retired when he turned 65.

Today, he keeps busy taking care of his vast 5 acres of lake front yard, has volunteered to be a DAV driver for the VA for several years transporting veterans from the Berkeley County area into downtown Charleston for their very important appointments and also volunteered to transport veterans several hundred miles away to mental health and rehabilitation facilities for veterans in need of help from drugs and alcohol abuse.

Gerry Starr is a true shipmate in all sense of life. When you see his smile, you will know you have met a person of quality and admiration.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jerry Stout is our new Veteran's Affair Representative

Ed Stank is our new Recreation Committee Chairman

Opportunities to Serve our Base

****We still need SubVets to step up and fill these positions****

- Openings for
 - ◇ Base Historian
 - ◇ ADM Osborn Scholarship Committee
 - ◇ National Awards Coordinator

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

If you're on Facebook, join the USSVICB Facebook group. It's a private group for our base members only. Another method to stay informed.



USSVICB

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCAM Warning from the National Vice-Commander




**National Senior Vice-Commander
Tim Carlisle**

Shipmates,

There is a "Secure message going around stating it is from me. This is a scam. Please do not click on it - I also recommend running your virus scan and changing passwords if you have clicked on it. As mentioned in previous emails, we currently have no capability to send secure messages to anyone in USSVI, and also wish to remind you that if you receive an email asking for money to check via phone call with that individual prior to paying anything.

Special Report - United States Submarine Veterans 2026 📧 Spam

 **United States Submarine Veterans**
To: me - Wed, Mar 18 at 10:56 AM

DEAR SHIPMATES,

You've received a secure message from **Timothy Carlisle** of **United States Submarine Veterans**.

To view your message

Save and open the attachment (SecureMessage.html), and follow the instructions. Sign in using the following email address: eddie105@yahoo.com

The email message and its attachments are for the sole use of the intended recipient or recipients and may contain confidential information. If you have received this in error, please notify the sender and delete this message.

Timothy Carlisle,

National Senior Vice Commander,

© 2026 **United States Submarine Veterans.**

Respectfully,
Tim Carlisle,
NSVC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**It's here!
Order your Submarine Plate Online**

Again, Thanks Ed!

Go to the [Plate Gallery](#)

- Search for submarine and tag should show
- Select More Info, then select Buy Plate By Mail
- Complete the form and mail per instructions with the registration fee

Requirements:

US Submarine Veterans \$20 + Registration Fee Requires official military documentation certifying registrants are active or veteran U.S. Submarine Sailors. Suitable documentation includes DD214, Completed Submarine Qualification Card, and a membership card for the United States Submarine Sailors.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New National Website!

This was sent by email to all members to access and log into the new national website. If you have not already done this, please log in and update any personal information.

Here is an excerpt from the email.

Welcome to our new website, which you can reach at <https://ussvi.org> or <https://ussubvets.org>.

Your email address is your username, and you can use the forgot password option to reset your password. The email takes 3-5 minutes to arrive and provides a temporary password, which you should change.

This system is very similar to our old one, except with modern technology. Your role as a Member, Base, District, Region, or National Officer is already configured, so that portion of your onboarding should be seamless. In the upper-right-hand corner, three horizontal lines indicate the menu for the dashboards you have access to. There are menus for Guest, Member, Base, District, Region, or National Officer. We will likely require two-factor authentication for any "Tools Users" in the near future.

...

All of our volunteers - Bravo Zulu! Your efforts are a game-changer!

Please explore our site and enjoy!

Respectfully,
Tim Carlisle,
CTO

New Sailor for Life online publication ready for review

[Download The Current Issue \(PDF\)](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seeking SubVets and SubVet spouses who wish to share their stories!

SubVet stories will be collected by video either in person or via Zoom and sent to the Library of Congress as part of their Veterans History Project. Additionally, soon we will be including links to these interviews through the USSVCF website.

Everyone – SubVets and SubVet spouses- has incredible, heartwarming, heart-stopping, educational, and otherwise entertaining stories from when they first donned the uniform to when they returned to civilian life. Please consider sharing your story today.

Contact Jessica Hult email at pr@ussvcf.org to set up your interview appointment today.

Your story matters, and her story matters too!

Sent from the USSVCF to all bases. Provided by Shipmate Nick Nichols

Editor's note: I, along with the PAO Jerry Stout, would love to hear these stories also.

Attention!

FYI for the members and their wives:

The Navy commissary is now charging \$0.05 for every plastic bag when you check out.

Information provided by Shipmate Mike Emerson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For National Volunteer Week

This National Volunteer Week, we're continuing to highlight the individuals who share their knowledge and passion with visitors at Patriots Point.

Meet Bob MacPherson, a U.S. Navy veteran whose decades of service took him across the world—from submarine patrols during the Cold War to leadership roles and training the next generation of sailors.

Today, Bob continues that service by educating others and sharing the stories here that shaped history. Bravo Zulu, Bob!

Our volunteers come from all walks of life, and each one plays a vital role in creating meaningful experiences at Patriots Point. Come visit and see their impact firsthand.

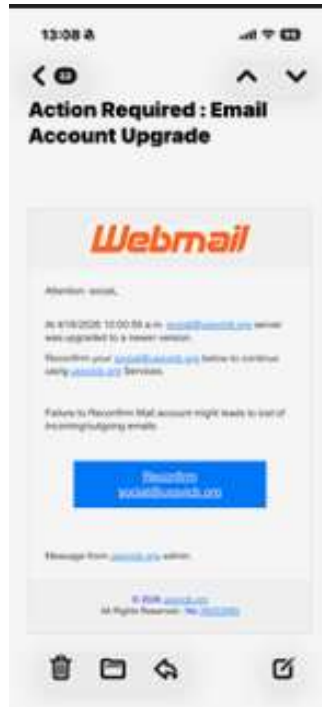
#NationalVolunteerWeek #PatriotsPoint #VolunteerSpotlight #Charting50Years



ANNOUNCEMENTS

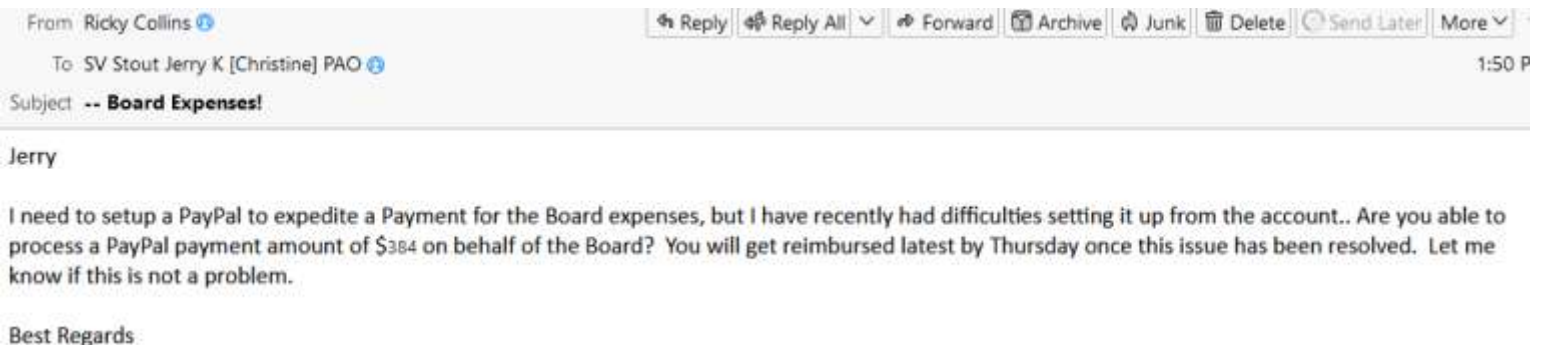
Targeted Phishing Attempts

Lou Leal has received a couple of these and thought it would be a good reminder that these are phishing emails. Put them in the spam folder.



This is THIS IS A HOAX - PHISH - SPAM
DON'T DO ANYTHING EXCEPT PUT IT IN SPAM - JUNK - TRASH
LOOKS LIKE MOST OF THE BOARD IS GETTING IT FROM

Provided by Shipmate Nick Nichols



ANNOUNCEMENTS

VA Hospital Curbside Delivery List

Items needed for Curbside Delivery For Our Veterans at the VA Hospital

Proteins:

- Tuna Cans
- Chicken Can
- SPAM Can or other potted meat
- Bean Cans: pork & beans, black beans, kidney beans, navy beans, beanie weenies
- Bag Dry Beans
- Jar Peanut Butter
- Soup/ or Stew:
 - Cans
- Sauce
 - Jar or Can Red Marinara Sauce or Alfredo Sauce
- Pasta:
 - Package or Box of Pasta noodles
- Rice:
 - Package or Box of Rice
- Vegetables:
 - Mixed Cans: corn, green beans, mixed, greens
- Fruits:
 - Mixed Cans: peaches, fruit cocktail, pineapple, apple sauce
- Ready Meals:
 - Mac & Cheese
 - Hormel Microwave Meals
 - Top Ramen
 - Box/Bag Instant Potatoes
- Cereal:
 - Box/Bag of Cereal----May substitute 4-5 small cereal boxes----May substitute 5-6 oatmeal, cream of wheat, or grits packets
- GIFT CARD \$5.00 OR \$10.00 NOT MORE—PLACE IN Auxiliary box

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

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

9	Russell Pickett	18	James McCallum
9	Michael Price	20	Robert 'Bob' MacPherson
11	Barbara Brenneman	20	Amanda Mazza
11	Frank Carroll Jr.	21	Peter 'Pete' Finne
11	Warren 'Ray' Sparks	21	Hugh Graham
12	David Taylor	26	Ralph Lydick
13	Dean Habegger	27	John 'Nick' Nichols
16	Michael LeCompte	27	Casey Power
17	William 'Woody' Woodsmall III	30	Thomas 'Tom' Lufkin
18	Elmer Feeser	31	Don Ort
18	George Gallagher		



PAST EVENTS

RiverDogs Baseball 3 April



PAST EVENTS

Little David Working Party 7 April



PAST EVENTS

Holland Club Induction 9 April



PAST EVENTS

Holland Club Induction 9 April



Watch the Holland Club Ceremony [here](#).

PAST EVENTS

USS Amberjack Memorial 11 April



PAST EVENTS

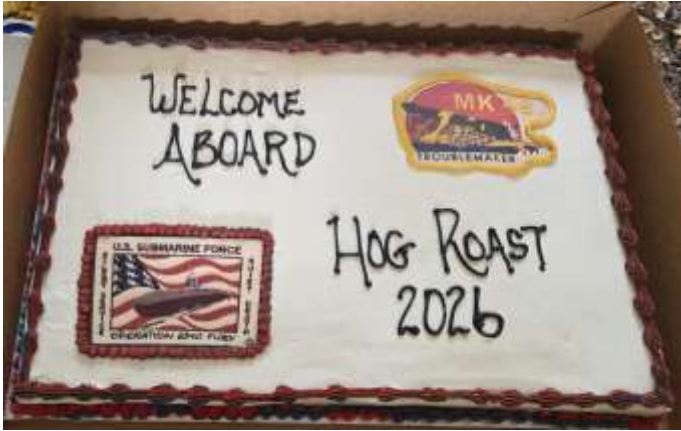
USS Amberjack Memorial 11 April



View the Amberjack Memorial [here](#).

PAST EVENTS

Hog Roast in the Swamp 18 April



PAST EVENTS

USS HOBSON MEMORIAL SERVICE 26 April

On April 26, 2026 the FRA Branch & Unit 269 conducted the Annual Memorial Service for USS HOBSON (DD-464/DMS-26). Hobson sank in 1952 after a collision with USS Wasp (CV-7) during night maneuvers. Hobson broke in two and sank in less that 5 minutes taking 176 crew with it. Participating and presenting wreaths was: Hobson Memorial Society, FRA Branch 269, Tin Can Sailors Association, American Legion Post 166, VFW Post 4633, Auxiliary of the FRA Unit 269, Marine Corps League Detachment No. 703, USSVI Charleston Base, Vietnam Veterans of America Charleston, and two civic groups. This ceremony is the equivalent to the SUBVETS annual memorial for the USS AMBERJACK (SS-291). Nine Charleston Base members participated in the presentation of a wreath at the service.



Ken Hutchinson with FRA Wreath



Pat Suckow & Linda Nichols
place FRA Wreath



SubVet Members with Wreath



Nick Nichols places
SUBVET wreath

NON-BASE EVENTS

2026 High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony 6 May

2026 High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony

Welcome to OCS of Lowcountry! We are now accepting registrations for our upcoming ceremony.

May 06, 2026 6:30 pm

Doors Open @ 5:30 pm

Patriots Point Naval Museum

40 Patriots Point Road Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

<https://share.google/Vzycbf6JFerkHqVvz>

About the Ceremony

Our Community Salutes of The Lowcountry will host its 4th Annual High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony to honor its Class of 2026 high school seniors and their families on May 6, 2026.

Everyone must register to attend the event.

Doors open for check-in at 5:30pm.

The ceremony will begin promptly at 6:30pm.

Speakers will be announced soon!

There is no cost to attend this event. Local businesses and individuals are underwriting the entire cost of the ceremony in honor of our Class of 2026 high school enlistees who have made the selfless decision to serve our country.

Suggested dress attire is business or business casual.

Please be sure to register by: April 30th

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Thanks for Shipmate Nick Nichols for this information.

NON-BASE EVENTS

2026 NC SubVets Burnsville Memorial Service at Moonshine Mountain 15-17 May

- **Location:** [Moonshine Mountain](#) / [Big Lynn Lodge](#), 10860 Hwy. 226A, Little Switzerland, NC 28749.
- **Significance:** The ceremony takes place near Armed Forces Day (which is May 16, 2026).
- **Organization:** The event is managed by the North Carolina Submarine Veterans.
- **Check** the [NCSubVets events page](#) closer to the date for specific daily itineraries

Memorial Day Service FRA followed by indoor picnic 25 May

Two events occur on Memorial Day

Placing flags on graves at Plantation Memorial Cemetery

- Starts at 0800
- Contact Nick Nichols or Ken Hutchinson if you would like to participate

Memorial Day Service and indoor picnic

- Service starts at 1030
- Picnic 1200-1500
- FRA 269 Home

All are invited.

GENERAL STORIES

Provided by Shipmate Nick Nichols.

Why USSVI? by John "Gumba" Carcioppolo This was posted July 25, 2001 on the BBS of Ron Martini

I joined USSVI 20 years ago. A first class Quartermaster Jerry Tighe brought me down to 40 School Street and introduced me to Joe Negri. My first impression was pretty negative. I felt that it was an expansion of the Chief's club. It was just a bunch of "Old Farts". Why would I want to be part of this group. I saw no reason why a 22 year old, on Active Duty would want to be part of this.

Joe, saw in my eyes what I was thinking. He told me in his gruff voice "feel out of place kid?" "Feel like you don't belong here"? "Would rather be some where's else chasing some skirt wouldn't you"?. I answered that he was correct in all of his assumptions. Joe then said "that there were 3,800 other sailors at the bottom of the ocean who served on Submarines that also felt out of place. Felt that they didn't belong there, and like me would rather be some where's else chasing some skirt".

He then went on "that Being a member of SUBVETS was all about remembering those guys at the bottom of the ocean, who had paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. He said sure they could have done something else, but they chose Submarines, just like I had". He said being a SUBVET was about pride in our dolphins, and making sure that those around us, knew what Submariners had accomplished, not just in WWII, but since the inception of Submarines, and commissioning of HOLLAND, and the sacrifices that we had paid".

Joe then went on to tell me that being a SUBVET was about dolphin wearing shipmates. Guys who had all had the same or similar experiences. He said I could join some other group like the VFW, or the FRA, but none of them have the uniqueness of all being Submariners. He said "When you go out, who do you go out with?" I said I go out with guys on my boat"? Guys that have served on Submarines." He said exactly. And in 20 or 30 or 40 years from now after you've long left the navy and look back on your life these days when you were having good times with Shipmates will be remembered as the best days of your

GENERAL STORIES

He said that being a member of SUBVETS served two purposes. Remembering our Shipmates, and maintaining comradery with those who have done the same unique things as I have on Submarines are the two fundamental reasons why one should be a member of SUBVETS".

Papa Joe also cautioned me that the USSVI organization had it's share of Bullshit, and arguing, but to look through that crap, and keep the two fundamental reasons for this organization in mind.

I was convinced. I coughed up the \$15.00 bucks, and became a proud card carrying member of USSVI.

Over the years, Joe Negri and I would have many conversations, and I could see inside his head, where he was coming from. When people would say "Why do I want to be a member, I don't drink" Joe would go off and tell them being a member of SUBVETS was not about this club house at 40 School Street. The club house was just a nice thing that Groton had." "That drinking had nothing to do with being a member". That instead it was about remembering guys who died on Submarines with names like Scorpion, Thresher, Wahoo, and Growler and 50 other Submarines that weren't able to drink because they were lost serving their country.

Another favorite line was the guys who would say I'm getting out of the Navy, and moving across the country so I won't be able to attend meetings, or be involved. He would then talk about the many shipmates who lived all over the country who couldn't come to meetings, but would stay involved with the organization just by their membership. That their membership alone showed their support in our creed, and what we believed in.

Well those are my many reasons for joining and staying as a member of USSVI. I guess that the bottom line reason was Joe Negri, but his philosophies were in the right place as far as I was concerned, and his visions were always 20 years down the road. Joe was liked by many, and disliked by many more because he was outspoken, and because he believed in what USSVI was all about. To me he was a friend, and a Shipmate that I had an awful lot of respect for, and I adopted many of his philosophies.

Gumba

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

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



25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

18. USS THRESHER 66,172 tons

- USS Thresher (SS-200) was the most decorated United States Navy submarine of World War II, with 15 battle stars and a Navy Unit Commendation. Thresher was the third of twelve Tambor-class submarines that were commissioned. All twelve fought in the war, and she was one of five to survive it.
- Commissioned 27 August 1940
- First war patrol 30 December 1941
- Conducted 14 war patrols
- Navy Unit Commendations and 15 battle stars for World War II service
- Decommissioned 13 December 1945
- Recommissioned 6 February 1946 for atomic test at Bikini Atoll
- Decommissioned 12 July 1946

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

25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

17. USS BOWFIN 67,882 tons

USS Bowfin (SS/AGSS-287), is a Balao-class submarine of the United States Navy named for the bowfin fish. Commissioned 1 May 1943

- First war patrol 19 August 1943
- Conducted 9 war patrols
- 1 Presidential Unit Citation, 1 Navy Unit Commendation, and 8 Battle Stars
- Recommissioned 27 July 1951 for Korean War service
- Final decommissioning 22 April 1954
- On 1 May 1960 to replace Puffer as the Naval Reserve training submarine there, and to begin a little over a decade's service. Her name was finally stricken from the Navy list on 1 December 1971
- Since 1981, she has been open to public tours at the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, next to the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center.

Singapore Sub News

Third Invincible-Class Submarine Returns to Singapore

Read the entire story [here](#).

Indonesian Sub News

UKEF Secures £128 Million for Indonesian Navy's Submarine Rescue Systems

Read the entire story [here](#).

English Sub News

UK says Russia ran submarine operation over cables and pipelines

Read the entire story [here](#).

Canadian Sub News

TKMS joins hands with E3 Lithium to work on Canadian Navy's submarine program

Read the entire story [here](#).

French Sub News

French submarine launches US Navy drone in joint undersea test

Read the entire story [here](#).

Taiwanese Sub News

Taiwanese

Read the entire story [here](#).

Australian Sub News

Australia will be left with no submarines if it abandons Aukus, senior defence official warns

Read the entire story [here](#).

PM confirms Australian navy personnel on US submarine that sank Iranian vessel

Read the entire story [here](#).

NATO Sub News

Feature: New submarines set to surface in NATO's northern seas

Read the entire story [here](#).

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

Navy to Inactivate Attack Boat USS Boise After \$1.6B Repair Effort

Read the entire article [here](#).

Pentagon's New \$65.8B Shipbuilding Request is Highest Since 1962

Read the entire article [here](#).

Defense Primer: Strategic Nuclear Forces

Read the entire article [here](#).

NATO Secretary General's 2025 Annual Report

Read the entire article [here](#).

Navy Commissions New Virginia-class Attack Boat USS Massachusetts in Boston Ceremony

Read the entire article [here](#).

Keel Joins Palantir and U.S. Navy in ShipOS Initiative to Accelerate Submarine Production

Read the entire article [here](#).

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

CNO Caudle's 'Excellence Ashore' C-Note to the Fleet

Read the entire article [here](#).

SECNAV Phelan Stands up 5 New Offices for Navy, Marine Acquisition

Read the entire article [here](#).

The U.S. Navy's 4 Ohio-Class SSGNs Are Retiring and Nothing Can Fill the Gap

Read the entire article [here](#).

US to scale up submarine production with \$900 million AI-driven automated factories

Read the entire article [here](#).

The U.S. Navy's New Block V Virginia-Class Is Something Russia, China or Iran Can't Match

Read the entire article [here](#).

U.S. Navy's USS New Jersey Attack Submarine Reenters Service After Initial Upgrades for Sustained Operations

Read the entire article [here](#).

After politics, we all need a little humor



**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
12 March 2026**

Opening Ceremonies:

- The March 2026 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Dave Harvey with a quorum of four officers and a total of 59 members. The meeting started at 1901 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 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
 - ◇ **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

**Torpedoman Chief, Submarines
Robert Kenneth Curtis, US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol on February 23, 2026**

**Quartermaster Second Class, Submarines
Christian Louis LaForce, US Navy Veteran
Departed on Eternal Patrol on February 22, 2026**

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

Distinguished Submariner Award:

- Base Commander Dave Harvey, presented the Distinguished Submariner Award to Tom Holcombe.
- Tom noted that we had conducted a covert operation in order to keep him from knowing about the award, his wife Lisa had come to the meeting to “join as an Associate Member” – which she actually did.
- Photos were taken of Tom and Lisa to record the event.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- There was one shipmate in attendance at the Base Meeting for the first time this evening.
- Jeff Bolduc – MSC – Qualified on USS Ulysses S. Grant SSBN631 – 1982. Jeff joined Charleston Base tonight as a Life Member.
- Three new Associate Members joined Charleston Base and introduced themselves this evening.
 - ◊ Lisa Holcombe
 - ◊ Amanda Mazza
 - ◊ Barbara Breneman

Old Business:

- **SE Regional Conference Report – Base Commander Dave Harvey**
 - ◊ Dave reported on the recent three-day SER Conference held in Gulfport, MS. A total of 55 were in attendance. The food and entertainment was great. The DJ played for hours doing many requested songs on guitar.
 - ◊ At this time, the 2027 SER Conference is tentatively being planned for Jacksonville, FL.
 - ◊ Vice Commander Art Sattler read a citation from USSVI – signed by District Commander Wayne Phillips and SE Region Director Ken Nichols – presenting Dave Harvey with Shipmate of the Year award for his work of planning the SER Conference and promotion of USSVCF.

New Business:

- **USSVI 2029 National Convention – Base Commander Dave Harvey**
 - ◊ The National Commander Jon Jaques approached Tom Holcombe about hosting a National Convention in Charleston in 2029 since Michigan has opted out. No USSVI National Convention has ever been held in the entire state of SC. The Charleston BOD members individually have reviewed the requirements for hosting such an event and have voted to present this opportunity to Charleston Base. There is quite a bit of work involved to make this a success but all the work does not need to fall to Charleston. The other SC bases can be part of the planning and provide assistance.
 - ◊ USSVI National also does a major part of the work, especially when it comes to making arrangements with hotels. We need to give a list of hotels to the National Coordinator which can support a convention which will bring up to 900 people.

- ◇ Dave acknowledged that some of us likely will not be here in 3.5 years, but that should not be a factor when considering the planning. We will just deal with that as it occurs.
- ◇ Art Sattler presented a motion that Charleston Base host the USSVI National Convention. Ken Hutchison seconded the motion.
- ◇ The convention is normally held over/around Labor Day.
- ◇ Ray Sparks recommended that we use hotels in downtown Charleston, noting that the downtown area is the attraction to those from out of town. Parking downtown is usually a problem, but the hotel arrangements are made by the USSVI National Coordinator. Ken Hutchison suggested a fact-finding committee be assembled. Dave Harvey asked for volunteers to research area hotels.
- ◇ Ed Stank inquired about the total estimated manning requirement for the tasking, but again, we can figure out all these details over the next couple of years as we make plans.
- ◇ The vote was taken with the YEAs overwhelmingly approving for Charleston Base to host the 2029 USSVI National Convention. There were two members who voted NAY to the effort. Motion carried.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the February 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 February was published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. The End of Year Report has also been sent to USSVI National. The report was approved as presented.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

• Highlighted boat of the month:

- ◇ USS H-1 (SS-28) was lost on March 12, 1920, 96 years ago today, with the loss of 4 men as they tried to swim to shore after grounding on a shoal off Santa Margarita Island, off the coast of Baja California, Mexico. USS Vestal (AR-4), pulled H-1 off the rocks in the morning of 24 March, only to have her sink 45 minutes later in some 50 feet of water. She was originally named the USS Seawolf before becoming H-1.

ETERNAL PATROL

- **TMC(SS) Robert Kenneth Curtis, USN Retired, 82**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Monday, 23 February 2026 at his home. Ken joined the Navy in 1960 and retired in 1980. He was a Vietnam War Veteran having served and been wounded in Vietnam. Ken was a life member of USSVI National and Charleston Base as of 2011. He was also a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1961 on USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN SSBN-602. Additional duty stations were USS BALAO SS-285, USS NATHAN HALE SSBN-623, USS JAMES K. POLK SSBN-645, USS LEWIS & CLARK SSBN-644 and USS HUNLEY AS-31. Shore duty assignments included POMFLANT Charleston SC and COMSUBRON 18. Ken was also a Life Member of FRA Branch 269 and a Life Member and Past Commander of DAV Chapter 17 and a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 780.
- Ken's service was held on 28 Feb. I would like to thank Ed Stank, Larry Knutson, and Woody Woodsmall for stepping in to make presentations at the service.
- **QM2(SS) Christian Louis La Force, USN Veteran, 73**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Sunday, 22 February 2026 at his home. Chris joined the Navy in 1972 and left in 1978. He was a life member of USSVI National and Charleston Base as of 2020. He was also a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1973 on USS POLLACK SSN-603. He also served on USS JOHN ADAMS SSBN-620. Chris was a Life Member of FRA Branch 269 joining in 2006. He worked at NIWC ATLANTIC. No funeral service will be held.
- **CWO2(SS) Billie N. Hickerson, USN Retired**, departed on Eternal Patrol. He served on USS ETHAN ALLEN SSBN-608 and USS CARBONERO SS-337. Billie was not a member of USSVI.
- I am still waiting to hear from the families of **EMC(SS) John Brotherton** [EP 12 OCT 12] and **STS2(SS) Charles Spencer Wood** [EP 24 JAN 2026] about services for them.

BINNACLE LIST

- **Buddha Nelms** went to the hospital on Tuesday afternoon. He will be going home on Friday 13th.
- **Jim Higgins** is recovering from having his left leg amputated above the knee due to infection in his toe. It was his option to have the amputation. He will be home from rehab on tomorrow (Friday 3.13) and having at home therapy. No visitors until he is settled in. He is in good spirits.
- **Sonny Rash** is recovering from having his right leg amputated 4 inches below the knee due to a bad infection. He will be fitted with a prosthetic as soon as his leg heals enough. [843.345.1430]
- **Ed Simokat** is recovering from being in Summerville Hospital in early Feb. Phone calls and visits are welcome. [843.810.0383]
- **Bob Sollo** is recovering from his shoulder surgery and has started PT.
- **Beetle Bailey** is recovering from surgery in early Feb on his spine for a pinched nerve.
- **Jerry Stout** had surgery to correct an obstruction and continues on immune therapy.

- **Rick Wise** is still taking chemo treatments. He is not here due to having an infusion on yesterday which is the last of this set. The CTs done on Feb. 16 showed an indication the infusions are having some effect. He now goes to a maintenance schedule that reduces the chemo to one drug and the immunotherapy on a 5-week cycle instead of the current 3 weeks. Of course this can change based on the PET scan April 10th.
- **Don Meadows' son, Andrew age 33**, is again in Kidney failure. Andrew's numbers are slipping. Another med change leaves him very tired and sick. As far as me, one VA doctor who for three years told me she would do needed surgery for one reason or another was replaced by her boss. He took a look at my Xray, and stormed out. He came in with another doctor. They talked medical jargon. They looked at me and said you are having surgery on the 11th. My feet bones look like Swiss cheese. I am having plates, and pins, and screws to put in. I had a bad spell last Tuesday. 52 seizures. Then just for fun I had two injections in my spine for the leg and back pain. Shoots my sugar to the roof, then it drops to the low 50s. But, a United States Navy Nuclear Powered Submarine torpedoes an enemy warship. This is the best day ever!

LONG TERM / ASSISTED LIVING / HOMEBOUND

- **Tom Lawson** is home on 24/7 oxygen. He is on hospice care. He needs a ramp and the BC along with others are looking into getting one built. Calls are welcome but his voice tires easily [843.327.3282].
- **Steve Curry** was diagnosed with AFIB and congenital heart failure in July 2025. He is on 24/7 oxygen with very limited travel. Phone calls are welcome [843.270.9905]
- **Dave Woods wife, Fran**, is still recovering from a stroke in 2024 during a heart bypass.
- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time but he hopes to make some base meetings.
- **Ed Simokat** is confined to his home and can't attend meetings. He enjoys calls from his shipmates. [843.810.0382]
- **Mike Knaub** is in assisted living on Daniel Island. His address is 514 Robert Daniel Dr. Rm 310, Daniel Island SC 29492-7375. You can contact Mike on his email **mlk91444@yahoo.com** or [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.
- **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:

- At long last we should expect to see the new USSVI website in April. I have been asked to be one of the beta testers and will be doing that the next few days. If all works as planned the current USSVI site will be taken offline for a week and then the new one will be put online. I believe the name of the new website will be the same as the one we are using now.
- Please continue to report any change in your personal info to either Larry, COB, or me so the necessary changes can be made to national and local database.

Base Business Cards – Nick Nichols:

- Everyone should be carrying a couple of the new base business cards to give to prospective members. The contact email address **SubVetsCharleston@ussvicb.org** is on the front and the National and Base QR codes on the back.

Fraud Alert for Veterans – Nick Nichols:

- FRAUD ALERT FOR VETERANS. Do not pay for VA or Community Care Appointments up front. Nick read a flyer explaining the scam. If you get anything that sounds strange, contact the VA.

FRA Ladies' Auxiliary – Nick Nichols:

- FRA Auxiliary project for this year is to help feed Veterans. The VA sponsored program is called **Curbside Veterans Delivery**. You are encouraged to bring items that can be used in this program.
- FRA Auxiliary is holding a Yard Sale at the FRA Home on 21 Mar 2026 beginning at 0800. They will be taking donations beginning at 1000 on Friday 20 Mar at the FRA Home.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- SCAM ALERT – If you get an email that says it is from the Base Commander asking “if you have a few minutes”, and it is not the USSVICB address, then you can be assured that it is fraudulent.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III

- The current balance in the Scholarship fund is ABOUT \$11K
- The Scholarship application deadline is May 1. The printed copy of the application must be in Tom's hand by that date.
- If you have a high school Senior graduating this year, get them to apply.
- We have a on a raffle for a SubVet Flag. 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.
- Challenge Coins are \$12
- Not Scholarship related, but we several of us are working on a wheel chair ramp for Tom Lawson at his house in College Park. We can always use an extra hand.

Membership – Nick Nichols for Larry Knutson

- Nick welcomed Jeff Bolduc as a new member. Jeff must like us since he signed up as a Life Member of National and Charleston Base on his first day here.
- Nick also welcomed our three new Associate Members Lisa, Amanda and Barbara.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
 - o Groton 1170 w/70 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 297 w/12 AM – 3) Charleston 257 w/18 AM - 4) Bremerton 253 w/17 AM

Comptroller – Tom Holcombe

- Nothing to report.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe

- The Amberjack ceremony will be held at the Cold War Memorial on Saturday, April 11.
- The Battery Gadsden will be held in Sullivan’s Island on March 26 at Sunrise Presbyterian Church called, “The Unseen Threat – German U-Boats in Charleston Waters”.

CSS Hunley – Tom Holcombe

- Nothing reported.

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Submarine Ball Tickets for April 18, 2026 at Trident Tech are now available through Eventbrite. Search “2026 Charleston Sub Ball” in Google and it will get you to the link. The Ball begins at 1700 and will have a DJ. The event will have a buffet presented by the Culinary Arts students on campus. Get your tickets while you can.

Ambassador USSVCF – Bob MacPherson

- Bob MacPherson stated that he has seen the Battery Gadsden presentation before from the Park Rangers speaking about the German U-Boats. Bob recommends it highly.
- Bob briefly mentioned the Chaplain’s Highlighted Boat of the Month – H1. Bob has an article on his weblog “The Lean Submariner” about the H1.
- Bob reminded everyone about the USSVCF and that it has several categories where assistance is available. One of those is the National Scholarship. Where Charleston Base has a Scholarship Fund, USSVCF also has its own National Scholarship Fund.
- Bob stated that Charleston Base was one of the largest contributors to USSVCF last year.
- Bob has been elected as the Charleston Counsel of the Navy League. In addition to the Submarine Ball, there is also the Navy Ball which is open to all Navy. Money is being raised to lower the cost for the young sailors in the area to attend by a golf tournament beginning at 0800 on April 30 held at the Summerville Country Club. Cost is \$500 per team.

Nuclear Power School Legacy Awards – Greg Landry for Phil Nunnally

- The next NPS graduation will be Friday, March 27.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- Not present.

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Not present.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- Johnny was contacted by the Riverdogs inquiring about tickets needed. The Military Appreciation Nights are May 16, June 24 and August 4. Johnny said these nights are Free Tickets. Home Games on Friday are also Military Appreciation Nights with fireworks.
- Last year we held a combined FRA/SubVet picnic with 95 in attendance in 95 degree July heat with 95 percent humidity and enjoyed the day. Johnny wants to arrange another picnic, but during a cooler time of the year.

Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison

- In April, we will nominate candidates for the offices of Vice Commander and Secretary. In May, we will hold the election for these two offices.
- Currently, the only candidate that we have for Vice Commander is the Incumbent – Art Sattler.
- Likewise, the only candidate for Secretary is Incumbent – Gordon Long.
- Ken Hutchison encouraged Base Members to place their hat in the ring for either of these positions.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- The FRA was visited by SLED last Friday Night. All of the game activities were hit. The weekly book/ 50-50 raffle and game machines. They departed with a lot of cash. The biggest hit was a non-member in a private club. As long as non-FRA member remains in the meeting room, there is no problem, but only FRA members are allowed in the bar. If you want to have a beer at the bar, see Ken about FRA membership.
- Ken will provide more information at the April Base Meeting, but on Memorial Day we will have Admiral Ishee as guest speaker.

PAO – Jerry Stout

- Jerry is working on articles for American Submariner:
- SER Conference
- SC License Plates
- Submarine Birthday Ball

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank

- The Submarine License Plate is now available using the MV-37 online form. The cost is the normal registration plus \$20. You must show proof of eligibility – DD214 / Base Membership. You can get up to three license plates.
- Ed will be replacing his Handicapped plate with a mirror placard so that he can put Submarine plate on his car.
- The link to the DMV website is on the Charleston Base website.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- For anyone who was a Charleston Base Member in the calendar year 2024, Woody has four remaining USSVI Nation Meritorious Base Award patches. The patch is \$8. Woody can order more if he sells out.
- Woody has 250-year Freedom patches – \$10 each.
- PSA – If you are going to the Weapons Station, bring plenty of bug repellent. The mosquitos are out in force. Woody was working on his best golf game ever and the group quit after the front nine.

COB – Greg Landry

- For the Air Show, we will be able to take the float to the Air Force Base on April 30. Friday, May 1 is for military and dependents only. Saturday/Sunday will be for general admission.
- We will need volunteers for a watch bill for manning the float on Saturday and Sunday.

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler

- Attempting to set up meeting at MUSC.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler

- The CPR class being held at the FRA has been moved to March 28 at 0900. The 2 hour class is \$10

USSVI National Awards – Dave Harvey

- The deadline for award submission is April 30. Tom has already sent some proposals to Wayne Phillips.
- Dave asked for show of hands for any others who have submitted award nominations. Negative response.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey

- The float upgrade is in progress. Dave expects it to be completed around April 1. Plans are to have it ready for the Sub Ball.

Base Commander – Dave Harvey

- Dave showed a design and has proposed to National USSVI for a billboard using the USS Tang about the National Convention.
- Dave suggested a billboard for the Amberjack on I-26 eastbound.
- Dave notified everyone to expect an email from National about attending the upcoming National Convention in Texas.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- Ray thanked everyone who participated in the working party at The After Battery.
- The After Battery is open for dinner every Wednesday at 1700 for Dinner.
- The Hog Roast will be held from April 11 to 18 with food every night and Hog Day on Saturday April 18.

GUN CLUB – Mike Ciesielko

- Not present.

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA Drawing – Don Ort
- Depth Charge Drawing – Richard Jordan

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 2004.