



September 2026

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

Base Meeting:

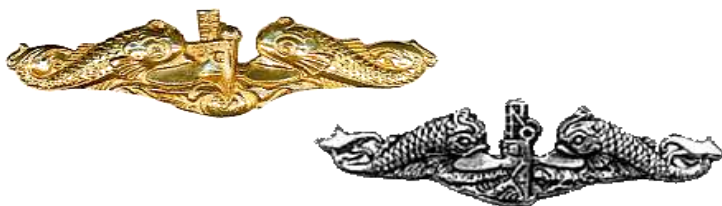
BOD: Sep 3, 2026

Membership: Sep 10, 2026

Location:

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

Newsletter & Little David Phil Nunnally 843.518.8301



ELECTED

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

APPOINTED

Chief of the Boat	Greg Landry	843.813.4361
Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Veterans Affairs/DAV	Fred Bolz	843.270.0345
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
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
Scholarship	VACANT	
PAO	VACANT	
Recreation Comm.	VACANT	
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	3-8
3 Upcoming Base Events	9
4 Important Dates	10-12
5 From the Editor	13
6 Announcements	13-19
7 It's Your Birthday	20
8 Past and Future Events	21-24
10 General Stories	25-28
11 Foreign Sub News	29-30
12 Politics and Humor	31-33
13 Base Meeting Minutes	34-40
14 Navy Ball Flyer	41



Submarines lost during the month of September

USS S-5 (SS-110)	01 September 20	No Loss of life
USS Grayling (SS-209)	09 September 43	76 Souls lost
USS S-51 (SS-162)	25 September 25	33 Souls lost, 3 Survivors
USS Cisco (SS-290)	28 September 43	76 Souls lost
USS Pompano (SS-181)	September 43	77 Souls lost

Five Boats and 246 Men Lost



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 Jan 2026
STS2(SS) Charles Spencer Wood, USN Veteran	24 Jan 2026
QM2(SS) Christian Louis La Force, USN Veteran	22 Feb 2026
TMC(SS) Robert Kenneth 'Ken' Curtis, USN Retired	23 Feb 2026
FTCS(SS) Thomas W. Lawson, USN Retired	19 Mar 2026
MMCS(SS) Marvin D. Miller, USN Retired	22 Apr 2026
ETCS(SS) Joseph Barnes Van Swearingen Jr., USN Ret	16 Sep 2024
CWO4(SS) Jerry K. Stout, USN Retired	09 Jun 2026
TMC(SS) Steven H. Curry, USN Retired	04 July 2026
TMC(SS) Edward J. Simokat II, USN Retired	07 July 2026
MMCS(SS) Richard O. 'Rick' Wise, USN Retired	27 July 2026
RMCS(SS) Harry E. Kirk, USN Retired	02 Aug 2026
MM2(SS) / CM1(SS) Thomas L. Skorepa, USN Retired	14 Aug 2026
EMCS(SS) Kwock Gong Kam, USN Retired	23 Mar 2025



CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

MMCS(SS) Richard O. 'Rick' Wise, USN Ret., now on Eternal Patrol.

With great sadness I report on Monday afternoon, 27 July 2026, our friend and shipmate Richard O. 'Rick' Wise, 78, departed on Eternal Patrol at MUSC Charleston. He joined the Navy in 1965 and retired in 1989. Rick joined USSVI / Charleston Base in 2002 and became a life member of USSVI National and Charleston Base in 2004. He was a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1971 on USS DANIEL BOONE SSBN-629. Other duty stations were USS VON STEUBEN SSBN-642, USS NATHAN HALE SSBN-623 and USS WOODROW WILSON SSBN-624 as the Bull Nuke. Additionally he served on USS FRANK CABLE AS-40. His shore duty commands were NAS MERIDAN MS, and NUCPWRSCOL ORLANDO FL. He retired after his tour on the WOODROW WILSON. In addition to his Life Membership in USSVI he was a Member of FRA Branch 269 joining in 2007 and a Life Member of DAV Swamp Fox Chapter 17.

From the time Rick joined Charleston Base in 2002, he was constantly active as a member and an officer in the Base. He has served as Base Commander, Base Secretary, Chief of the Boat, Public Affairs Officer, Comptroller, Newsletter Editor, Amberjack/Lost Boats Memorial Coordinator, NPS Legacy Awards Coordinator, Little David POC, Roving Reporter and Non-Nuclear Historian and he was always ready to pitch in and help any of us whenever it was needed.



CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

RMCS(SS) Harry E. Kirk, USN Ret., now on Eternal Patrol.

With great sadness I report on Sunday morning, 2 August 2026, our friend and shipmate Harry E. Kirk, 88, departed on Eternal Patrol. He joined the Navy in 1955 and retired in 1990. Harry joined USSVI / Charleston Base as a Life Member in 2003. He was a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1957 on USS SABLEFISH SS-303. He also served on USS CROAKER SS-246, USS PATRICK HENRY SSBN-599 Plank Owner, USS ULYSSES S GRANT SSBN-632, USS JOHN MARSHALL SSBN-611, USS NATHANAEAL GREENE SSBN-636, USS SEA DEVIL SSN-664, USS JAMES MONROE SSBN-622 COB, and USS STONEWALL JACKSON SSBN-634 COB. He retired after his tour on the STONEWALL JACKSON. In addition to his USSVI Life Membership he was a Life Member of FRA Branch 269 for 42 years and a Member of VFW Post 9509 Moncks Corner SC.



CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

MM2(SS) / CM1(SS) Thomas L. Skorepa, USN Ret., now on Eternal Patrol.

With great sadness I report early Friday morning, 14 August 2026, our friend and shipmate Thomas L. Skorepa, 82, departed on Eternal Patrol in Columbia SC. Tom joined the Navy in 1962 and left in 1966. He reenlisted in the Navy in 1980 and retired in 1999. He joined USSVI / Charleston Base in 2003 and became a life member of USSVI National and Charleston Base in 2004. He was a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1962 on USS ENTEMEDOR SS-340. After reenlisting as a Seabee, his rate changed to CM [Construction Mechanic]. He was assigned to USN Construction Battalion 14 in Charleston SC and was the AOIC when he retired. Additionally, Tom was a Member of FRA Branch 269 for the last 13 years joining in 2013.



CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

EMCS(SS) Kwock Gong Kam, USN Ret., now on Eternal Patrol.

With great sadness I report on 23 March 2025, our friend and shipmate Kwock Kam, 91, departed on Eternal Patrol at his home in Summerville SC. Kwock joined the Navy in 1952 and retired in 1972. He joined USSVI / Charleston Base as a Life Member in 2016. He was a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1953 on USS SEA LEOPARD SS-483. He was qualified in submarines for 73 years. He also served on USS POMODON SS-486, USS TUNNY SS-282, USS HALIBUT SSN-587, ULYSSES S GRANT SSBN-631 and USS GUARDFISH SSN-612. His shore duty was at FBMSTC Charleston SC.

Services and Burial were held on 23 May 2025 in Pensacola FL at Barrancas National Cemetery.

Obituary

Kwock Gong Kam, 91, passed away on March 23, 2025, at his home in Summerville, SC. Kammie, or Uncle Gong, as he was lovingly known, was born on November 2, 1933, in Canton, China, to Wah Bang and Lai Mui Wong Kam. He was raised in Honolulu, Hawaii and graduated from Farrington High School in 1952. Kammie was a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and uncle.

Kammie was a Veteran who earned the rank of Senior Chief in the United States Navy where he served for twenty years. He was an electrician on diesel and nuclear submarines. He faithfully served on the USS Sea Leopard (1953-1955), USS Pomodon (1955-1957), USS Tunny (1957-1960), USS Halibut (1961-1964), USS Ulysses S. Grant (1966-1969), and the USS Guardfish (1969-1972). Kammie received an honorable discharge from the US Navy in January 1972.

Kammie was an avid golfer and spent most mornings on the courses in Hawaii and later in Pensacola, Florida. His hobbies included gardening, a

good game of pinochle, swimming laps at the YMCA pool, and spending time with his family.

Kammie was predeceased by his wife of forty-two years, Syble B. Kam (2014); his daughter Wendy Kam Smith (2011); and granddaughter Rachel McBryde Kam-Johnson (2013). He is survived by his daughters Jennifer Kam, Summerville, SC, and Cheryl Wilson, Mobile, AL; his son-in-law James Smith, Givhans, SC; his siblings Johnson Kam (Christina), Seattle, WA, and Katherine Lung (Carlos), Honolulu, HI; his grandchildren Megan Cummins (Perry), Summerville, SC, Lindsey Smith, and Tyler Smith, Givhans, SC; and great-granddaughter Lydia Cummins; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Services will take place later at Oak Lawn Funeral Home in Pensacola, FL, with a burial to follow at Barrancas National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations in Kwock Gong Kam's name to the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC.

<https://www.navymemorial.org/general-donation>

[Kwock Kam Obituary](#) - Pensacola, FL



UPCOMING BASE EVENTS
See www.ussvicb.org for details

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Board of Directors Meeting	September 3	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Base Meeting	September 10	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
NNPTC Graduation	September 11	Meet at NEX 0800

NNPTC Graduation
11 September

- 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

VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY (V-J DAY) September 2, 1945

Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day) would officially be celebrated in the United States on the day formal surrender documents were signed aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay: September 2, 1945. But as welcome as victory over Japan was, the day was bittersweet in light of the war's destructiveness.



IMPORTANT DATES

PATRIOT DAY

September 11, 2001

Patriot Day on September 11th honors the memory of the nearly 3,000 innocent victims who died in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Each year Americans dedicate this day to remembering those who died and the first responders who risked their own lives to save others.

WE REMEMBER

For many, September 11, 2001, began like any other weekday. We made our way to work. Children attended school. We shopped, had coffee, waited in line at a drive-thru. Those of us who weren't in New York City heard the first reports on the radio or television. A friend or neighbor alerted us to a plane flying into one of the Twin Towers. We felt disbelief. An accident, perhaps, a miscalculation. Then, a second plane flew into the second tower. Our disbelief turned into uncertainty and concern.

Observe moments of silence:

- 8:46 AM EDT - American Airlines Flight #11 collides into the World Trade Center
- 9:03 AM EDT - United Airlines Flight #175 collides into the World Trade Center South Tower
- 9:37 AM EDT - American Airlines Flight #77 crashes into the Pentagon
- 9:59 AM EDT - World Trade Center South Tower Collapses
- 10:03 AM EDT - United Airlines Flight #93 crashes in Shanksville, PA
- 10:28 AM EDT - World Trade Center North Tower Collapses



IMPORTANT DATES
POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY
(third Friday in September)

18 September 2025

National POW/MIA Recognition Day — which this year falls on Sept. 17 — was established in 1979 through a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter a President who earned his dolphins.

The proclamation reads, in part: "In each of America's wars, our prisoners of war have been called upon to make uncommon sacrifices. Upon them has fallen the arduous responsibility of defending American ideals under the absolute control of the enemy.

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, there are about 81,600 Americans missing — from the battlefields of World War II to recent conflicts. About 75% of those are in the Indo-Pacific region. About 41,000 of the 81,600 missing are presumed lost at sea.

As for POWs, the Congressional Research Service reports:

- There are 130,201 World War II POWs; of those, 14,072 died.
- There are —7,140 Korean War POWs; of those, 2,701 died.
- There are —725 Vietnam War POWs; of those, 64 died.
- There have been 37 POWs since the Vietnam War; no one is still in captivity.



From the Editor
Contact me at newsletter@ussvicb.org

Wendy and I visited several veteran memorial parks as we traveled to Florida in July. The last two locations are in this newsletter.

I've included a list of all [maritime museums](#) in the United States.

****When you travel, get pictures of Veteran sites and send them to me for publishing.**

St. Johns Veteran Park, FL. (near Jacksonville)



From the Editor
Contact me at newsletter@ussvicb.org

Tom Kaiser Veterans Memorial Park
Boynton Beach, FL.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Info on 2029 USSVI National Convention in Charleston SC

Transmitted as requested by Dave Harvey, Base Commander:

Shipmates,

At the March meeting Charleston Base was presented with the facts of their responsibility of hosting as the lead in the 2029 National Convention. During the motion, after second and discussion, the base voted 60 yes and two no. We look forward to planning and delivering an awesome Convention.

This is the beginning. It will be an All-Hands Evolution to have a successful convention and there is something for every base member to do.

You will find two attachments to this email.

1. The **USSVI National Convention Manual REVISED 10/15/2021**

2. A MSWord document indicating what position/job you are willing to take on to make the Convention a success. Download the form. Decide what position you will take on and put your name in that line. Save the form and email it back to Dave Harvey [basecommander@ussvicb.org].

Transmitted by Shipmate Nick Nichols 11 August 13, 2026

Updates from the 13 August Base Meeting

A picture of Rick Wise with SubVets' signatures was provided to Rick's wife Jean and son during the meeting

Effective Immediately Tom Lawson III has resigned as the Scholarship Committee Chairman

Base Commander Dave Harvey needs replacement as Float Coordinator within 90 days

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Updates from the 13 August Base Meeting

Base Commander requested members to review the Increasing Membership. Go to [Organization Documents](#) and search for Online_Organization_Membership

National Elections close September 5th

Over 150 SubVets license plates have been delivered. At least 300 license plates must be ordered to keep this plate active.

The Submariners' Advocacy Group Officially Releases Amendment 2

For those who have access to Facebook:

We are incredibly proud to announce that the SAG Board of Directors has officially approved the release of our newest report: "The Unseen Burden: Compounded Stressors and the Physiology of 'Human Error' – Amendment 2".

Read the entire article in The Submariner's Advocacy Group dated 4 August

Hunley Happenings

If you haven't already, please mark your calendar for October 3rd, which is the opening date of Textiles from the Deep: Findings from the *H.L. Hunley* Submarine, our exhibit with the Charleston Museum. More information is available

here: <https://www.charlestonmuseum.org/exhibits/upcoming>

Make sure you all have October 23rd – 24th marked for Member Tours and the 21st Annual Oyster Roast on Friday, 10/23.

Passed along by email from Shipmate Tom Holcombe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The New (Old) SubVets National Website

Webmaster Nick Nichols reported the SubVets National Website is again <https://ussvi.org>. Old website links will no longer redirect to this website.

Opportunities to Serve our Base

****We still need Base Members to step up and fill these positions****

- Openings for
 - Public Affairs Officer
 - Recreation Committee
 - Base Historian
 - ADM Osborn Scholarship Committee
 - National Awards Coordinator
 - Scholarship Committee Chairman
 - Float Coordinator

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



SEE THE FLYER ON THE LAST PAGE

**Celebrate 251 years of Navy pride, fun,
and tradition at the epic
251st Navy Ball—don't miss out!**

**Join us in Celebrating 251 years of Naval
Service to our Country, and 81 Years of
Naval Service to the Low Country.**

**Location: Red Bank Commons
Doors Open: 1700 (5pm)
Ceremony Starts: 1800 (6pm)
Event Ends 2300 (11pm)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blinded Veterans and Meta AI Glasses Donation Blinded Veterans Association

Meta has [announced](#) that it is donating Ray-Ban Meta AI glasses to 130,000 blinded veterans across the country.

This donation will be paired with [training created by BVA](#) to ensure that all recipients can use these glasses to their fullest potential.

Editor's Note: Spread the word if you know a veteran who could use this service.

Goose Creek launches Veterans Banner initiative

The City of Goose Creek is inviting residents to honor veterans in their families through its 2026 Veterans Banner Program, which will recognize military service members with personalized banners displayed throughout November.

Read the entire story [here](#). How to order a [banner](#).

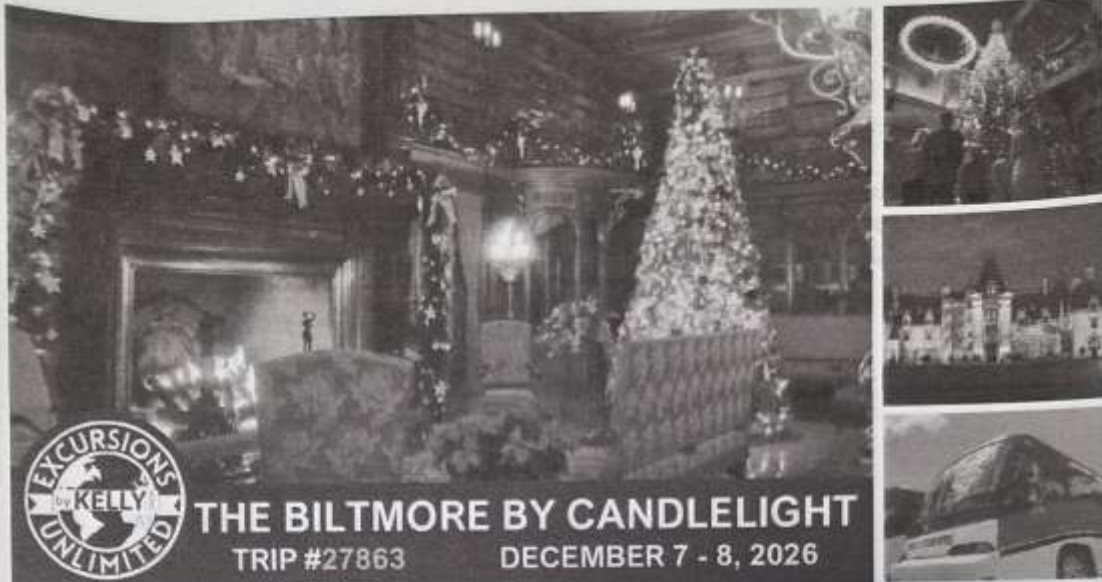
Oracle Provides VFW Foundation with \$160,000 to Aid Veterans Service

Oracle has been a longtime support of the VFW Foundation and donated this money that will assist the VFW's Accredited Service Officers to assist with veterans filing for disability compensation and pension benefits.

Read the entire story [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shipmate Charlie Hudson mentioned this tour during the August base meeting. Please contact him if you're interested. The SubVets could possibly get their own bus if enough sign up for the tour.



EXCURSIONS UNLIMITED BY KELLY

THE BILTMORE BY CANDLELIGHT

TRIP #27863 DECEMBER 7 - 8, 2026

EXCURSIONS UNLIMITED BY KELLY TOURS | 2788 US HWY 80 W, GARDEN CITY, GA 31408 | (912) 964-2010

The festive holiday spirit is rekindled with a trip to Asheville, North Carolina, and the beautiful Biltmore Estate. Built as a retreat for the Vanderbilt's, this French Château decks her halls with exquisite décor during the Christmas season. Wrap yourself in the scent of fresh evergreens as you admire holiday decor featuring wreaths, garlands, and the sparkle of a thousand ornaments on more than 55 glorious Christmas trees.

DAY 1: This is one of our most popular holiday trips and you are about to see why! Travel to Asheville, North Carolina, nestled in the Blue Mountains, and check into our hotel, The Embassy Suites Downtown, with an included welcome dinner. Experience the "Holiday Spirit" with an evening CANDLELIGHT TOUR of this 250 room French Renaissance Chateau. Enjoy the soft glow of candles reflecting off the many trees and bright red poinsettias, twinkling with colorful lights, vintage Victorian ornaments, and other festive decorations all to the dulcet tones of carol singers. **D**

DAY 2: Enjoy breakfast at your hotel, and the fun is not over yet. Join our local guide for a tour of this lovely city. Take a step back in time to explore the people, stories and happenings that built Asheville. Get to know the city's iconic architecture and walk in the footsteps of a Vanderbilt! Finally, a real treat! Lunch is served at the stately and fabulous GROVE PARK INN featuring a locally sourced menu and served in opulent Yuletide surroundings. Following lunch, spend some time admiring the inn's 50 decorated trees, homemade gingerbread houses, the large fireplace with logs aglow, and more! We must then return home after a fantastic Christmas experience. **B L**

PACKAGE PRICE
Per Person based on appropriate hotel room occupancy:
Single: \$725.00
Double: \$629.00

Deposit:
\$200.00 per person
Due upon booking

Final Payment:
Balance per person
Due by October 24, 2026

Includes: Roundtrip motor coach transportation, lodging, meals, programs and activities, Excursions Unlimited by Kelly Tours Tour Director, snacks and drinks along the way, travel arrangements, and all taxes.

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

Sep 1	John Thorsten	Sep 14	Linda Nichols
Sep 3	Dennis Lanier	Sep 16	Edward 'Ed' Bowles
Sep 4	Eva Sollo	Sep 16	David 'Dave' Clark
Sep 5	Edward 'Duby' Dubreuil	Sep 18	Michael 'Mike' Ciesielko
Sep 6	Allen 'Al' Katen	Sep 19	Patrick Dermody
Sep 6	Larry Knutson	Sep 19	John Moody Jr
Sep 7	Charles 'Chuck' Gravley	Sep 21	Leroy 'Lee' Chase
Sep 7	Kenneth 'Ken' Hutchison	Sep 21	Jullian Villegas
Sep 9	Robert 'Bob' Ingebretson	Sep 21	William 'Willie' Wilson
Sep 10	Stephen Blaisdell	Sep 22	Robert 'Bob' Browning
Sep 13	Don Kopczynski	Sep 25	Earley Vincent
Sep 14	Michael Cousino	Sep 26	Nicholas 'Nick' Medvedeff
Sep 14	Michael 'Knobby' Knaub		



**Picture of MMCS(SS) Rick Wise and SubVets Signatures
Presented to Ricks Family during the August Base Meeting
13 August**



FUTURE EVENTS

COASTAL CAROLINA FAIR w/FLOAT 29 October – 8 November

Mark your calendars. Tom Holcombe will provide more details and link for Watchbill signup



**...and stay tuned for information about this year's
Veterans Day Activities**

NON-BASE EVENTS

USSVI 2026 National Convention

6-11 September

Visit [here](#) for all the details.



NON-BASE EVENTS

Labor Day Celebration - Indoor picnic at the Fleet

7 September

- FRA Goose Creek
- 1100-1400 with meal served at 1130
- You are encouraged to bring desserts

Navy Birthday Cake Cutting at the Fleet

9 October

- FRA Goose Creek
- 1800



GENERAL STORIES

The last of the 41 for Freedom, USS Daniel Webster (SSBN-626/MTS-626) making its final historic tow past Sullivan's Island in Charleston Harbor.

18 August

- 41 SSBN's commissioned between 1959 and 1967
- George Washington-class: 5 submarines, starting with the USS George Washington (SSBN-598) in 1959
- Ethan Allen-class: 5 submarines
- Lafayette-class: 9 submarines
- James Madison-class: 10 submarines
- Benjamin Franklin-class: 12 submarines, concluding with the USS Will Rogers (SSBN-659) in 1967
- 2824 total strategic deterrent patrols

Local news story of Webster's tow down the [Cooper River](#)

41 for Freedom [Submarines](#). A brief history of our 41 [SSBN's](#).

Shipmate Bob MacPherson's 41 for Freedom story in the [LeanSubmariner](#).



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

10. USS Snook (SS-279) 75,473 tons

- **USS Snook (SS-279)**, a Gato-class submarine, was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the common snook, an Atlantic marine fish that is bluish-gray above and silvery below a black lateral line.
- Commissioned 24 October 1942
- First war patrol 11 October 1943
- Conducted 9 war patrols
- 7 Battle Stars
- Eternal Patrol 8 April 1945
- Possible discovery of Snook found in 1995

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



25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

9. USS Jack (SS-259) 76,687 tons

- **USS Jack (SS-259)**, a Gato-class submarine, was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the jack (any of various fishes— young pike, green pike or pickerel, or large California rockfish).
- Commissioned 6 January 1943
- First war patrol 5 June 1943
- Conducted 9 war patrols
- Received a Presidential Citation and 7 Battle Stars
 - For her highly successful and aggressive first, third, and fifth war patrols, the submarine was awarded the coveted Presidential Unit Citation.
- Decommissioned 8 June 1946
- Recommissioned and transferred to Greece as HS Amfitriti (S-17) in 1958
- Returned from Greece and sunk as a target 5 September 1967

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



Russian Sub News

Russia Confirms World's Most Heavily Armed Submarines to Remain in Service Until 2060s

Read the entire story [here](#).

World's First Hypersonic Cruise Missile Submarine to Enter Service in Russia in 2026

Read the entire story [here](#).

European and Canadian Sub News

Germany, Norway And Canada Expand Type 212CD Submarine Cooperation For Arctic Operations

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

Chinese Sub News

Why submarine attacks may prove to be the Achilles' heel for China's new carrier fleet

Read the entire story [here](#).

Israeli Sub News

Israel's new \$634M German-built 'doomsday' sub gives major boost to Iran deterrence

Read the entire story [here](#).

South Korean Sub News

Seoul's nuclear submarine plans could spark arms race, North Korea warns

Read the entire story [here.](#)

Australian Sub News

Australian steel to support Virginia-class submarine construction

Read the entire story [here.](#)

Virginia-class nuclear submarines for Australia to get Lockheed combat systems

Read the entire story [here.](#)

North Korean Sub News

N.Korea: South's nuclear submarine plan to cause 'nuclear dominoes'

Read the entire story [here.](#)

Dutch Sub News

Netherlands Advances Uncrewed Sonar Vessel for New Anti-Submarine Warfare Frigates

Read the entire story [here.](#)

Indonesian Sub News

PT PAL Cuts First Steel for Indonesia's Scorpène Evolved Submarine

Read the entire story [here.](#)

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

Ultra Maritime Tests Integrated ASW and Counter-UUV Sonar System

Read the entire story [here](#).

Raytheon and CET Successfully Test New Low-Cost Hadalus UUV

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

U.S. Navy to Reclassify Virginia Payload Module-equipped SSNs to SSGNs

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

U.S. Navy Eyes Advanced Payload Launcher for Future Attack Boats

Read the entire article [here](#).

USS Georgia Completes Final Patrol Ahead of Inactivation

Read the entire article [here](#).

Navy Awards \$76.6B for 9 Virginia, 5 Columbia Subs to General Dynamics, HII

Read the entire article [here](#).

More than 35 Experiments Test Unmanned Systems, Emerging Technologies During RIMPAC

Read the entire article [here](#).

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

US Navy wants submarine launchers for weapons and underwater drones

Read the entire story [here](#).

No evidence of data breach after Chinese-made component found in Navy drones

Read the entire story [here](#).

Ukraine Finds Nvidia AI Chip in New Russian Missile

Read the entire story [here](#).

US Navy tests AI-powered submarine hunter

Read the entire story [here](#).

VFW Applauds Federal Court Ruling Against Veterans Guardian

Many veterans' organizations like Veterans Guardian charge fees to assist veterans file claims that would be free if filed directly with the VA. On May 29 of this year a federal court considered this practice illegal and that ruling applies throughout the US.

Read the entire story [here](#).

Trump's VA budget request tops \$488 billion for fiscal 2027

This will increase VA's budget by 7.7% if passed in its current form.

Read the entire story [here](#).

Famous Quotes About Submariners



Winston Churchill -

"Of all the branches of men in the Armed Forces, there is none which shows more devotion and faces grimmer perils than the submariners"

Red Hanley -

"Submariners are a bunch of intelligent misfits that somehow seem to her along, understanding each other and work well together."

Vice Admiral Rudolf Gosolov, Russian Navy -

"Submariners are a special brotherhood, either all come to the surface or no one does. On a submarine, the phrase all for one and one for all is not just a slogan, but reality."

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
9 July 2026

Opening Ceremonies:

- The July 2026 Base Meeting was called to order by Vice Commander Art Sattler with a quorum of three officers and a total of 54 members. Base Commander Dave Harvey was not present. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Art Sattler and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of July was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of July:
 - **USS S-28 (SS-133) July 4, 1944 – Training Exercise Lost with All Hands – 49 Souls**
 - **USS ROBALO (SS-273) July 26, 1944 – 3RD war patrol Lost with 77 Men – 4 Died as POWs – 81 Souls**
 - **USS GRUNNION (SS-216) July 30, 1942 – 1ST war patrol Lost with All Hands – 70 Souls**
 - **THREE Boats and 200 Men Lost**

Torpedoman's Mate Chief, Submarines
Steven H. Curry, US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol 4 July 2026

Torpedoman's Mate Chief, Submarines
Edward J. Simokat II, US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol 7 July 2026

Charleston Base Shipmates on Eternal Patrol

EM1(SS) Blase Ferdinand Wagenbrenner – WWII SUBVET – 14 July 1999
PNCM(SS) Varnell Poss – WWII SUBVET – 25 August 2002
LTJG(SS) Hugh Oliver Gill – WWII SUBVET – 3 August 2003
EMP2(SS) Lawrence Vincent – WWII SUBVET – 16 September 2003
Samuel Gerard – 5 January 2004
RADM(SS) James Butler Osborn – WWII SUBVET – 30 March 2004
MMC(SS) Donald C. Kopp – 4 April 2004
Chief Petty Officer (SS) Charles Alfred Amole – 3 December 2004

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

Introductions of New Attendees:

- There was one shipmate in attendance at the Base Meeting for the first time this evening.
 - Leroy Chase – QM2 – Qualified on USS John C Calhoun SSBN630 -- 1971

Old Business:

- **None**

New Business:

- **None**

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the June 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 June was published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. The report was approved as presented.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Highlighted boat of the month:**
 - **GRUNION (SS-216)** was lost on **July 30, 1942** with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in August 2007 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska. The discovery was confirmed by the U.S. Navy in October 2008.

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

ETERNAL PATROL

- **Jerry Stout** departed on Eternal Patrol on Tuesday, 9 June 2026. Family visitation will be held on Wednesday July 15 at 1100 at John the Beloved at 28 Sumter St., Summerville. His funeral will follow at 1200 at the same place. His burial with full Military Honors is Friday July 17th at 12:00 PM at Beaufort National Cemetery.
 - A luncheon will follow the service in Madden Hall and that's where we will conduct the EP service along with the FRA Two Bell at 1330. Muster for those not attending the service will be at 1300 in the Madden Hall (fellowship hall).
- **TMC(SS) Steve H. Curry, USN Ret.**, 72, departed on EP on the morning of 4 July 2026. He joined the navy in 1972 and retired in 1994. Steve was a member of USSVI National and Charleston Base as of 2008. He was also a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1974 on USS TUNNY SSN-682. Other duty stations were USS SUNFISH SSN-649 and USS BILLFISH SSN-676. Additionally, he served at NAVMAG HI, SUBTORPFAC/NWS Charleston, NWS Yorktown VA, and POMFLANT Charleston.
 - **Steve's daughter is handling the arrangements and has asked for the SUBVETS to conduct the service and the EP Bell Tolling. When more info is available it will be put out via email.**
- **TMC(SS) Edward J. Simokat II, USN Ret.**, 82, departed on EP on the evening of 7 July 2026 at home. He joined the navy in 1962 and retired in 1983. Ed was a Life Member of USSVI National and Charleston Base as of 1999. He was also a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1963 on USS WAHOO SS-565. Other submarine duty was USS IREX SS-482.
 - The family has indicated his services will be held in the fall.
- **MMCS(SS) John Glave Jr.**, 82, departed on EP on 22 June 2026. He joined the Navy in 1963 and retired in 1986. He served on USS Irex, USS Skipjack, USS James K. Polk, USS Bluefish, USS Daniel Boone, and USS Ray. He was a member of the Denizens of the Deep Base since its founding in 2000. His services will be private.
- **END2(SS) Edward Wolf:** I have received a request for SUBVET attendance at a funeral service on Saturday 18 July at 1100. Mariam Wolf is asking us to attend Edward's funeral mass to help honor him. Edward was a END2(SS) on USS RAY SS-271 from 1952-1956 during the Korean War. Edward passes away in 2024 at age 89. He was a member of the Perch Base in AZ but due to moving around after his death he never had a final mass service. It will be on Saturday, July 18th at 1100 at St. Benedicts Catholic Church, 950 Darrell Creek Trl, Mount Pleasant, SC 29466

BINNACLE LIST

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

- **Pete Garrison** has been having heart issues, like faster pulse and elevated blood pressure. He has an appointment with a cardiologist tomorrow (Friday 10 July) to find out what it is.
- **Rick Wise** reported the results of the PET scan he had on 29 June were not promising. It showed a new enlarged lymph node that will be biopsied through a Bronchoscopy on July 14. There are some questionable areas in my lungs that will need to be watched. The lesions in my spine and pelvis have increased in size but since these are adding material and not bone loss I'm not very concerned. I will be taking a break from chemo to see if that may be causing some of the problems. Please keep me in your prayers. [843.276.0899]
 - **Johnny Brown** is going to take him for the Bronchoscopy on July 14. He needs to be there at 0830 and the procedure will take about 3 hours.
- **Bill Hayes** had a heart cath on Monday 22 June. One artery was 70% blocked and he was told he needed a 3x bypass. On Thursday 25 June he had surgery and only needed a single bypass. He is recovering at home with very little pain.

LONG TERM / ASSISTED LIVING / HOMEBOUND

- **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. Has had foot surgery, with many more to come, to correct his problem. [843.475.7043]
- **Bill [Becky] Roberts** in D409 in the Villages of Summerville. Becky in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, D409, Summerville SC 29483-6715. Bill's email is **cbussvicob@yahoo.com** and his cell phone is [843.509.3962]

Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- You should have received an email stating voting began on July 7th. Check your spam folder if you didn't. We will be voting using "Election Buddy". The email you receive will include a personal link to vote. Several of us have already voted. It's very easy. Associate members cannot vote in this election even though they received an email. Everyone is asked to vote and give a good showing for Charleston Base.
- Any changes to your info on National can be updated by you or send the info to either Larry or me to get it updated on National and local.

USS Groton Sail Monument – Nick Nichols:

- The sail from the USS Groton is going to be placed in Groton, CT. The Groton Base has sent an email requesting base and individual donations. If you served aboard SSN-694 or you would like to donate to this effort, the info is in the email. Nick will forward this to the Base members.

Base Contacts – Nick Nichols:

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

Base Business Cards – Nick Nichols:

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

FRA Rules – Nick Nichols:

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

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Not present.

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Not present.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III

- We still have 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. Currently expecting to raffle the flag at the August Base Meeting.
- Challenge Coins are available.
- Ed Simokat's grandson Anders Brewer has received the Scholarship check. He was travelling and unable to attend the Base Meeting last month.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- Charleston Base currently has 241 Members.
- Larry welcomed Leroy Chase as a new member tonight.
- Nick Nichols provided Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
 - o Groton 1049 w/39 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 299 w/12 AM – 3) Bremerton 268 w/13 AM – 4) Charleston 241 w/19 AM

Comptroller – Tom Holcombe

- Nothing to report

Special Events – Tom Holcombe

- With ideal weather (about 72 degrees), we attended the Manitowoc, WI July 4 parade with the float, which won the Patriotic Award. What the award entails, we shall find out. We had a bunch on the float.
- Dave Harvey towed the float all the way to WI. Tom was not interested in a 2,000 mile pull.
- We'll see what happens next year.

CSS Hunley – Tom Holcombe

- Nothing reported.

Fleet Reserve Association – Art Sattler for Ken Hutchison:

- We had a great July 4 indoor picnic at the FRA including Lowcountry Boil.

Nuclear Power School Legacy Awards – Phil Nunnally

- The next NPS graduation is Friday, July 17. Meet at the NEX at 0800.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- Charleston Base received its charter on January 24, 1997. This means that we are soon approaching the 30 year anniversary of the Charleston Base Charter. We still have six Charter Members of Charleston Base on the Sailing List. One – Bill Freligh – is here tonight.
- Phil had been traveling of the past few weeks and visited several veteran's memorials. He will include information about these in upcoming Newsletters.

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Nothing reported.

Ambassador USSVCF – Bob MacPherson

- Nothing reported.

PAO – OPEN

- Vice Commander Art Sattler reminded everyone that we are in need of a Public Affairs Officer. If interested in this job, come see us about it.

Recreation – OPEN

- Ed has resigned as Recreation Committee Chair.
- The Charleston Base Christmas Party is currently scheduled for Friday, December 4.
- Vice Commander Art Sattler voiced the same request for someone to fill the open chair.

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank

- As of the last reported number, 130 Submariner license plates have been issued. One of the members in attendance reported that the count is up to at least 137.
- If you need help ordering your SV (SubVet) license plate, please see Ed.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody has the following items available:
 - Flag pins with “Silent Service” and dolphins
 - A few more 250TH Freedom patches
 - Dolphin and Holland Club Ties
- These items can be ordered
 - Dolphin ties with black background can be ordered.
 - Gold Dolphin (O-Gang) ties can be ordered.
- Other items can be ordered also. Just see Woody about it.

VA – Fred Bolz

- Fred explained a VA benefit that is available for those using a CPAP machine

COB – Greg Landry

- Not present

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler

- Nothing to report.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler

- Associate Members are allowed to be on and even serve as chair of any Charleston Base committee. The only offices that Associate Members cannot hold are the four elected positions and COB. At the end of the meeting last month, Fred Bolz asked about being the VA Representative for Charleston Base. Likewise, if an Associate Member is interested in Recreation, PAO or any other committee, please let us know.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey

- Not present

SER Conference – Dave Harvey

- Not present

Base Commander – Art Sattler for Dave Harvey

- The Fish Fry held at the FRA had only 35 Base Members (including Associates) with a total of only 51 people attending. He was expecting 150 present. There was a lot of food wasted. Dave will discuss this at the August Base Meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Adrift 500 Feet Under the Sea, A Minute Was Like Eternity – by Christopher Drew
 - APRA HARBOR, Guam – Blood was everywhere. Sailors lay sprawled across the floor, several of them unconscious, others simply dazed. Even the captain was asking, “What just happened?” All anyone

knew for sure was that the nuclear-powered attack submarine had slammed head-on into something solid and very large, and that it had to get to the surface fast.

- In the control room, a senior enlisted man shoved the “chicken switches,” blowing high-pressure air through the ballast tanks to force the vessel upward. Usually, the submarine would respond at once. But as the captain, Cmdr. Kevin G. Mooney, and top officers stared at the depth gauge, the needle refused to budge.
- Moments before, they had been slipping quiet and fast through the Pacific. Now, they were stuck, more than 500 feet down. Ten seconds passed. Then 20, 30.
- “I thought I was going to die,” Commander Mooney recalled.
- It would be close to a minute, but an excruciatingly long minute, before the submarine’s mangled nose began to rise, before the entire control room exhaled in relief, before the diving officer, Chief Petty Officer Danny R. Hager, began to read out a succession of shallower depths.
“I don’t know how long it was,” Chief Hager said, “but it seemed like forever.”
- Last week, Navy investigators reported that a series of mistakes at sea and on shore caused the 6,900-ton submarine, the San Francisco (SSN-711), to run into an undersea mountain not on its navigational charts. One crewman was killed, 98 others were injured, and the captain and three other officers were relieved of their duties as a result of the Jan. 8 crash, one of the worst on an American submarine since the 1960’s.
- What is becoming clear only now, from the first interviews with Commander Mooney and 15 other officers and enlisted men, as well as a review of Navy reports, is how much worse it nearly was, and how close the San Francisco came to being lost. The submarine crashed at top speed about 360 miles southeast of Guam. The impact punched huge holes in the forward ballast tanks, so the air being driven into them was no match for the ocean pouring in. The throttle shut and the vessel briefly lost propulsion. The Low Pressure Blower ran continuously for four days!!
- When a ship goes on deployment, the quartermaster gets all the charts for where they are going. They update them and use them for the whole run. The ship’s control party drives the boat at the required course, depth and speed. The diving officer has the responsibility to control the ship and maintain it within the safe operating envelope. The ship was outside of the SOE – too deep, too fast, and old, not updated charts.
- MM2 Joseph Allen Ashley – 24 – died in the Engine Room Lower Level when he slid forward due to the impact. 98 men were injured. The San Francisco had one Hospital Corpsman, however they were fortunate because one officer onboard – previously a Hospital Corpsman – helped to assist with the injured. Some of those men had been knocked unconscious. The crash occurred on January 8, 2005, and the final report was published by the NY Times on May 18, 2005.
- The San Francisco is now at the Navy Nuclear Power School at NWS Charleston as MTS 711 (Moored Training Ship). The reports at that time were that all 688s were identical!! They could cut the bow off one submarine and put it onto another one. The thought was that the 711 had just completed a refueling overhaul – many millions of dollars spent. So since all of the 688 class submarines were “identical,” they looked for a donor front and the USS Honolulu (SSN-718) was available. Well, they found out that this would not work after all, so they just had to rebuild the outer portion of the 711 and put a new dome on her.
- We are extremely fortunate that the San Francisco is still here today. Although she is not operational any longer and doesn’t go down river, at least she still is able to serve as a training ship, replacing the Daniel Webster (MTS-626).

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- Nothing to report.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing to report.

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA Drawing – Ken Farrell
- Depth Charge Drawing – Herb Anderson

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Vice Commander Art Sattler announced adjournment of the meeting with a sound of three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1951.

**Celebrate 251 years of Navy pride, fun, and tradition at the epic
251st Navy Ball—don't miss out!**

**Join us in Celebrating 251 years of Naval Service to our Country,
and 81 Years of Naval Service to the Low Country.**

**Location: Red Bank Commons
Doors Open: 1700 (5pm)
Ceremony Starts: 1800 (6pm)
Event Ends 2300 (11pm)**

**Attire: Service Members: Dress Blues or Dress Whites with Ribbons or better.
Civilian: Formal Wear.**

**Spouses pay service member's price for tickets.
Retiree's pay last Rank price for tickets.
Non-Military Civilians pay Officer price.**



Click [HERE](#) or use the QR code

Tickets: Active, Reserve, Retired, Spouse same price

E1-E9 - \$55.20 per person [includes \$5.20 processing]

01-010 and civilians - \$81.88 per person [includes \$6.88 processing]

MENU: Catered by Paige's Okra Grill

HORS D'OEUVRES: Bacon Wrapped Shrimp

**ENTREES: Smoked Brisket Country Fried with White Pepper Gravy;
Honey Glazed Salmon**

SIDES: Baked Mac N Cheese; Red Rice

DESSERT: Banana Pudding