

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2022

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1803 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Woody Woodsmall, Glenn Little, Larry Knutson, Ed Stank, Rick Sparger, Ricky Collins, Gordon Long, Tom Lawson, and Nick Nichols.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Nothing to report.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Nothing to report.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 265 members.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings: 1) Groton 1179 - 2) Hampton Roads 273 - 3) Charleston 265 – 4) Bremerton 253

COB – Rick Sparger:

- The cover for the float is seriously damaged. Some sort of cover needs to be put on it. Nick Nichols suggested some tarps and bungee cords for the time being. Glenn Little stated that he has some tarps available. Several men offered to help install the tarp – at least to get the sail covered. There was also some discussion about purchasing a tarp of sufficient size to cover the whole float.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Nothing to report.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report.

By-Laws – Nick Nichols:

- This is the month that we are scheduled to vote on changes to the Charleston Base By-Laws, but there were no changes.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

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

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- **MMCS(SS) Robert W. Gay**, US Navy Ret., 79, departed on Eternal Patrol on June 19, 2022. Bob joined the Navy in 1963 and retired in 1986. He was a Life Member of both USSVI [2013] & Charleston Base [2013], a member of the Holland Club, and a member the FRA Branch 269. Bob qualified on USS SEA CAT SS-399 in 1964 and served on TIRANTE SS-420, SAILFISH SSR/SS-572, HALFBEAK SS-352, DANIEL BOONE SSBN-629, BIRMINGHAM SSN-695, L.Y. SPEAR AS-36, and BATON ROUGE SSN-689. He served on shore at Naval Reserve Center in Charleston SC. His service, including FRA Two-Bell and SUBVETS Bell Tolling, was conducted on June 23rd at his church. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.
- **MMC(SS) James Donald Phillips, Jr.**, US Navy Ret., 73, of Ladson, departed on Eternal Patrol on Friday, June 3, 2022. Jim entered the Navy in 1961 and retired in 1991. He was a member of USSVI and Charleston Base [2011]. He qualified on USS Andrew Jackson SSBN-619 in 1972 and served on Fulton AS-1 1, Kamehameha SSBN-642, Stonewall Jackson SSBN-634 and John C Calhoun SSBN-630. His service was on Sunday, June 12 at Bryant Funeral Home, St. George, from 5:00-7:00 PM. A note of condolence was placed on the funeral home website.
- **ET1(SS) Dennis M. McFarland**, US Navy Ret., 69, departed on Eternal Patrol on May 25, 2022, in PA. Dennis entered the Navy in 1982 and retired in 2003. He was a member of USSVI and Charleston Base [2011]. He qualified on USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SSBN 656 in 1986. He also served on TENNESSEE SSBN 734, KENTUCKY SSBN 737, ATLANTA SSN 712 and PENNSYLVANIA SSBN 735. A note of condolence was left on the funeral home website.
- **Raymond Lee Toler Sr.**, US Navy Ret., 84, of North Charleston, departed on Eternal Patrol on Saturday, June 11, 2022. Ray retired from the Navy after serving 24 years. He served on the USS Trout SS-566 and other boats not known. His service was Saturday, June 18 at Carolina Memorial Funeral Home. Ray was not a member of USSVI. A note of condolence was placed on the funeral home website.
- **CDR Michael J. O'Donnell**, US Navy Retired, departed on Eternal Patrol on Sunday June 12, 2022 in IN. He qualified on USS Tecumseh SSBN-628 in the late 70's and also served on Flying Fish SSN-673. Michael was not a member of USSVI. A note of condolence was placed on the funeral home website.
- **Master Chief Oakley James Post Sr., USCG Ret., age 92 father of Keith Post**, Curator of St. Marys Submarine Museum, passed away on June 9, 2022 in FL.
- **Ralph Rohrsen's** brother-in-law, **Dennis Ashley**, age 78, passed away June 22nd in Elgin IL. He was a Machinery Repairman Second Class and participate in the Cuban Missile Crisis blockade.
- **Thom Beach** has been at the Victory House in Walterboro since June 28. He would like everyone's prayers while he is there. You can call at 843.925.3045 or send cards to him for his large blank wall. Some have had problems contacting Thom. He has dialysis M-W-F 9:30 until around 2:30. No idea what time he leaves the facility or returns but do know he is anxiously awaiting contacts. He missed the Covid for which I am thankful and I checked negative yesterday. Thom wanted me to let you know he has met a retired submariner from Goose Creek. He is a Philipino and has always wanted to be a member of the SUBVETS. They would like an application. It was important to let you know his name is Nic also and

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you should note the spelling. I hope to go over and spend the weekend Friday if I can get a little rest between now and then. Thomas Beach, Veterans Victory House Nursing Home 2461 Sidneys Road, Walterboro. SC, 29488. Room A106 B.

- **Bob Snyder** was moved from Sandpiper Post-Acute Care, 1049 Anna Knapp Blvd., Mt. Pleasant SC 29464 back to the VA ICU this week. Bob has his cell phone 843.412.2530 but not sure if anyone can call right now. Cards will be much appreciated. Mail to his home address above. Please continue to pray for Bob and his wife Claire and son Jimmy as they travel to see him each day.
- **Gene Weir** went in Roper Hospital DT June 18th. He had COVID19 pneumonia. He was sent to rehab and was released Tuesday from rehab. At home working on getting my strength and endurance up. Still need oxygen at night but rehabbing at home. It is a very slow process right now.
- **Bill Kennedy** has lung cancer.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Website is constantly updated.
- Make use of the EVENTS page on the Charleston Base website. All events that are put out to the membership via email will be listed and updated on the events page.
- Pictures will now be on the USSVI National website. Please take a look at your profile on the National site and update it if needed. Many have missing info.
- There is now a New [OLD] website you can use by going to the URL of www.ussubvets.org to gain access to most all of the features of the site we were using. If you are one of the few members who corrected your profile online **PLEASE DO NOT DO THAT ON THIS WEBSITE.** Send any changes you would have made to either me [webmaster@ussvicb.org] or Larry Knutson [membership@ussvicb.org] and we will make note. The changes will be made once the NEW website is online.
- **2022 USSVI NATIONAL ELECTION** Voting has started and will end 2359, August 15, 2022.
 - Use the newly reconstituted USSVI website (www.ussubvets.org). Cast your ballot accordingly. There is also space to write in a candidate of your choice.
 - Vote from your primary Base. The Regional Director vote reflects the location of your primary Base. This may be different from the location of your residence. You can only vote for the Regional Director who represents the location of your primary Base.
 - There is one (1) Proposed Bylaws change. Vote "YES" or "NO" on the proposed change.
 - Candidate's Statements and the text of the Proposed Amendment are in the current issue of *The American Submariner*.
 - You may vote by paper ballot. Paper ballots no later than August 10, 2022.
 - Mail-in Ballot Mail to: **Tom Conlon, USSVI Election Master, 8 Davis Ave., Harrison, NJ 07029**
 - You must complete your own ballot. We do not allow "proxy voting."
 - **Base Commanders:** You may print a supply of paper ballots and distribute them at a Base meeting. However, each member must complete their own ballot. You may collect the ballots and send them to me as a package. I must also receive that package no later

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than August 10th.

- You may also bring a suitable computer to a Base meeting and members may vote using that computer. Again, each member must cast their own online ballot.

Holland Club – Nick Nichols for Bill Freligh:

- Bill was not in attendance tonight but had sent a request that – after receiving the video from Lou Leal of the Holland Club induction – the Base consider purchase of a remotely controlled camera so that we could pan from the front to the audience. At the Memorial Day ceremony, we could do the same. This is in regards to looking professional.
- While Bill is making a good suggestion, the major problems is that people do not want their faces on video.

Recreation – Ed Stank and others:

- There was discussion about having more recreational events, but we need someone to organize and be in charge of the activities.

Newsletter/PAO – Ed Stank:

- Nothing reported.

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing reported.

Scholarship – Rick Sparger for Carl Chinn:

- Rummage sale will be held in November.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing reported.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar:

- Not present – but Rick Sparger talked briefly about the report of the CRAMA meeting with Senator Tim Scott.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present. [Secretary's Note: The last reported status is that the hospitals are still denying entry because of COVID cases.]

WWII Veterans – Rick Sparger:

- The last WWII Medal of Honor recipient, Woody Woodall, recently passed away. As a Corporal in the Marine Corp, he eliminated seven pill boxes at Iwo Jima. Rick had previously met him and counted it a privilege to have known him. Mr. Woodall was honored at Patriot's Point. He was a humble individual and gave credit for his survival during the battle to others who had been killed, stating that they deserved the medal.

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Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Not present

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Nothing else tonight. Have a good evening.

Meeting was adjourned at 1848