

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**September 1, 2022**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1801 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Bill Freligh, Larry Knutson, Rick Sparger, Tom Lawson, Lewis Leal, Woody Woodsmall, Ed Stank, Gordon Long and Nick Nichols.

### **Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:**

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- Charleston Base currently has 262 members.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings: 1) Groton 1201 - 2) Hampton Roads 280 - 3) Charleston 262– 4) Bremerton 253 - 5) Requin 190 - 6) San Diego 173 – 7) Long Island 155

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Nothing to report.

### **COB – Rick Sparger:**

- Discussed the cleaning of the Cold War Memorial benches. We will plan a working party when it gets cooler – October/November timeframe.
- The Chief Selectee Breakfast will be September 24. The Selectees will be cooking. The location will be at NWS.
- Rick would like to resume visits to the Victory House in Walterboro. We used to go there with several Base members on the Tuesday following the Base meeting.

### **FRA – Rick Sparger:**

- The FRA will hold an indoor cookout on Labor Day at the FRA.
- The FRA has been scheduled for September 10 at the Santee Pavilion at Short Stay.

### **Scholarship – Rick Sparger for Carl Chinn:**

- Rummage sale will be held on November 12.
- The large set of dolphins will be raffled at the Base Meeting next week.
- The drawing for the dolphin ring will be held at the January 2023 Base Meeting.

### **Special Events – Rick Sparger:**

- We will soon have Christmas parades. We will assemble a working party to prepare the float for the events.

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### **Recreation – OPEN??:**

- Rick Sparger reported that he has a volunteer to be Recreation Chairman but is requesting assistance in the effort.
- The Charleston Base Christmas party will be held here at the FRA on December 3. The format will be the same as last year: We will have the DJ with karaoke. We will have finger foods. Members are invited to bring deserts etc... There will be no admission fee charged to attend this party.

### **Newsletter/PAO – Ed Stank:**

- Ed went to Buffalo's national convention and enjoyed it. It was very well organized.
- There is a boat out there now that has a female COB – the first one.
- There is an opening for a charitable foundation treasurer at National.
- Ed suggested that when one of our Base members goes on Eternal Patrol, that we provide – instead of the “Holland Club” or “Charleston Base” coin – an “In Memory Of” coin. They are available for \$15 from the coin lady. The reasoning is that the value to the next-of-kin will be much higher with such a coin. Ed offered to buy the first 10 coins. Rick Sparger and Tom Lawson each offered to purchase 10 coins. Nick Nichols noted that this is something that we should be able to do as the Board and simply inform the Base members about the change. After much discussion, the Board voted to add the new coin to the Eternal Patrol ceremony and make an additional coin presentation to the member's family. We will notify the Base members that the first 30 coins will be personally purchased by three of the Board members.
- There will be a WWII remembrance gathering at Kings Bay November 2 thru 6. This is the first one in several years. Ed will have more info in the Base Newsletter.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Nothing to report.

### **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.
- **EN3(SS) Robert J. Snyder, USN, 80**, departed on Eternal Patrol on August 14 at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center. Bob joined the Navy in 1950 and left in 1954. He was a life member of USSVI & Charleston Base [2001] and a member of the Holland Club. Bob qualified on the USS BLENNEY SS-324 in 1952. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website. A memorial service was held in Manning SC on Sat. August 27 where we held our Bell Tolling Service. There were 6 SUBVETS and two wives in attendance.
- **EN1(SS) John P. Camp, USN Ret., 87**, departed on Eternal Patrol on August 28. John joined the Navy in 1951 and retired in 1972. He was a life member of USSVI [2001] & Charleston Base [2007] and a member of the Holland Club. John qualified on the USS THREADFIN SS-410 in 1958. He also served on USS ENTEMEDOR SS-340, USS SAM HOUSTON SSBN/SSN-609, USS RAY SSN-653 and USS GRENADIER SS-525. A note of

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condolence from Charleston Base will be placed on the funeral home website when published. John's family has requested the SUBVET Bell Tolling service at the viewing on Sept. 7 at 1855. More info will be transmitted by email.

- **ICC(SS) Frederick Richard Koenig, 88**, departed on Eternal Patrol on August 26, in Awendaw. He was not a member of USSVI. Bob qualified on the USS QUILLBACK and served on USS MARLIN, USS ANDREW JACKSON, USS TRUMPETFISH, USS NATHANIEL GREEN and USS ALEXANDER HAMILTON. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.
- **Timmy Rader, son of Roger & Sandy Rader**, passed away on Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>. His Memorial service was Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>. There were several SUBVETs there.
- **Stacy Power, 95**, has been in and out of the hospital for that past month or more. The latest from his daughter Kitty: He's home, he's tired but glad to be home. The last time he was in they took off 1.85 gallons of fluid. Liver failure due to heart failure. Not sure what the future looks like but for now the doctor has put in a referral for him to be drained every 2 weeks for now. They can place a drain line in him so I can drain him at home but that comes with the risk of infection. They didn't want to do a biopsy of his liver because of his age. We are still waiting for a culture study to determine if there is malignancy cells in the fluid.
- **Jerry Stout** sent the following: I had a PET Scan last week and the results were NED. This means I am cancer free and the immune therapy I have been receiving is finally working! I must continue these treatments for many more years. Christine and I want to extend our sincere Thank you and gratitude for all the prayers from my Submarine Shipmates.
- **James Graham Sr., 70**, had foot surgery on August 11<sup>th</sup> and it went well. He expects it to be at least 2 months before he can get back to the meetings.
- **Marvin Miller, 81**, has many health issues. Frieda said she is having a hard time getting him out to go anywhere. Give him a call if you have time.
- **Thom Beach, 75**, 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. His room changed to 129. He is doing well, actually little better. Keep cards coming. Long way to go on my big wall...
  - Thomas Beach, Veterans Victory House Nursing Home 2461 Sidneys Road, Walterboro. SC, 29488. Room 129.
- **Margie Deal [wife of Walt Deal]** Margie had a stroke and fell at Harris Teeters almost two months ago. She is in rehab at the Village in S'ville. Have not had an update.
- **Gene Weir, 75**, was in Roper Hospital DT in from mid-June until early July with COVID19 pneumonia. He also has cancer. He went to an offsite rehabilitation unit and now he is doing home rehab and improving daily. Still not at full strength but getting there slowly but surely. Thanks for all the prayers and blessings.
- **Bill Roberts, 83**, has a scan on Wednesday for determining what to do with the stent and how to repair the aneurism. A stent had been put in but it is now leaking.
- **Bill Kennedy, 75**, has cancer in his right lung. Back on Aug.14 he wrote to tell me he has had 10 radiation treatments and 2 chemo treatments. He got really sick, spent 6 days in the hospital, and the 25 days in rehab. He is now home. Recently he told me he has a few chemo and radiation treatments to complete. He says he is feeling OK overall.

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- **Don Londergan, 83**, is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136.
- **Larry Turner, 79, Nick's Brother in Law**, passed away on August 8<sup>th</sup>. His memorial service was held on August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- 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.
- The new website is now online and National is wanting everyone to sign in and make sure they can make it work for them. The site is [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org) (same as the old one) and everyone should have received an email telling them what to do to reset their password so they can login. If you have an issue let me know. Tools and Membership Training will be taking place soon.
  - The National Commander sent all USSVI members with an email notice on how to log in on the new USSVI website at <http://www.USSVI.org>. The login is the email address you have listed with the USSVI, The password that you use is a lengthy one (at least 10 characters) but is a very important security feature of our website. After you do log in, send your Base Commander an email that you have.
- Base Commanders, I ask that you check with each of your members over the next week to verify that all your members (with email accounts) have visited the new site. And then send me an email of how many have completed their log-in. Should any have questions about the site after logging in, send it to the Questions email address listed in the forwarded email.

### **Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:**

- Nothing to report.

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar:**

- Not present.

### **Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:**

- Not present

### **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.]

### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- Not present.

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### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Not present.

Meeting was adjourned at 1857