

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

9 March 2017

The attendance for the March 2017 meeting was 84 members.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Rick Wise. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1900. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in March was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Vice Commander Michael Knaub. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Award Presentations: Base Commander Rick Wise gave the following awards; Honorary Member was presented to Larry Pepper. Charleston Base Distinguished Submariner was awarded to Ed Stank.

Introductions: The following introduced themselves at the meeting: STS1 (SS) Dwayne Smalls, Qual Boat: USS Hammerhead SSN 663.

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the February meeting minutes had been published in the newsletter and on the base website. Mike asked the group for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ken Curtis made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Paul Viering.

Treasurer: Base Treasurer Mike Welch gave his report on the Charleston Base finances. The base financial report is now located as a password protected file on the base website under Documents and Resources. The password is the same as needed for the Sailing List

Chaplain:

Submarines Lost During the Month of March

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|-----------------------|---|--|
| USS PERCH (SS-176) | 3 March 1942 – 1 st war patrol | 61 POWs; 55 survived the war; 6 died as POW |
| USS GRAMPUS (SS-207) | 5 March 1943 – 6 th 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 – 6 th war patrol | Lost with all hands – 74 souls |
| USS KETE (SS-369) | 20 March 1945 – 2 nd 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 – 4 th war patrol | Lost with 79 souls – 1 POW survived the war |
| USS TRIGGER (SS-237) | 26 March 1945 – 12 th war patrol | Lost with all hands – 89 souls |

Eight Boats and 431 Men Lost

**Boatswain's Mate Third Class, Submarines, Andrew Edward Palenchar,
US Navy World War II Submarine Veteran
Departed on Eternal Patrol – February 18, 2017**

March Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS TRIGGER (SS-237) was lost on Mar 26, 1945 with 89 officers and men on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese antisubmarine vessels and aircraft. Trigger ranked 7th in total tonnage sunk and tied for 8th in number of ships sunk.

- **BM3(SS) / LTCOL Andrew Edward Palenchar**, US Army, Ret, now on Eternal Patrol. He was a CB member but was living in CO with family and also a member of Rocky Mountain base. He qualified on the FINBACK and was one that pulled George HW Bush out of the water. I passed this info on to the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum and received the following back from them:
 - “Our thoughts and prayers at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum go out to the family of Andrew. His service to our nation will not be forgotten. I have sent this information to President Bush's Houston office.” V/R David Anaya Director of Marketing and Communications George Bush Presidential Library and Museum
- **MTCM(SS) Gary Frederick Brown**, USN Ret., now on Eternal Patrol. Gary was a member of USSVI and Charleston Base between 2009 and 2012. He was COB on SIMON BOLIVAR SSBN 641B and CMC on PHILIPPINE SEA CG58.
- **LCDR(SS) Ralph Edward Stobart** USN Ret. now on Eternal Patrol. Ralph served 30 years all in submarines but not a member of CB.
- **CWO1(SS) Charles C. Bohling, Jr., USN Ret.**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Nov. 11, 2016. The SUBVETS participated in his memorial service on Nov. 21st. We have received a note from his wife, Irene addressed to our Base Commander::
 - Mr. Wise, I apologize for my thank you note being so late. Thank you ever so much for all you do, and thank you for your service. Thank you for your spiritual counsel and services at the funeral of my husband, Charles C. Bohling. I appreciate you and all the SubVets. Sincerely and God Bless, Irene Bohling
- **Frank Carroll** had back surgery yesterday at St. Francis. Have not heard a report on him.
- **Vernon Freshour** is in a nursing home in Bucklin, KS. His brother, Lynn, sent us a short note to let you know Vern's new address and it is on the Sailing List. Anyone wishing to send Vern a card, please use the new address: Vernon J. Freshour, Hill Top House PO Box 248, Bucklin, KS 67834
- **Lee Young** had cancer surgery on March 6th. He is in Room 7027, Roper Hosp at 125 Doughty Street in Charleston. Roger Rader visited Lee this morning and sent me the following by text: The surgery went well. His wife Donna said Thursday morning on Facebook that she was proud of Lee, he has the most positive attitude through all of this, he is doing great and hopefully will be out of the Hospital on Friday, but will more than likely be in rehab for 10-14 days to further help his recovery. She thanks everyone for the prayers and well wishes. We had a good visit. He is feeling good and is healing nicely. Looks like he will be discharged on Friday and probably go to Health South for a couple of weeks.
- **Rick Sparger** will be having back surgery at St. Francis on March 16.
- **Larry Cox** was back in Trident Hospital with pneumonia. He is home recovering.
- **Luke Murphy** was in the VA for pneumonia. After replacing his PEG tube he was moved to rehab and is now home recovering.
- **Ava Daughtery's** surgery has been postponed until a later date
- **Herb Anderson** will be having nasal surgery at the VA tomorrow am, Friday, 10 Mar.
- **Rusty Pickett's** knee replacement has been postponed.
- **Don Meadow's** son, Andrew, is doing well. Rick Wise talked to him today and learned and the older son is close to the weight target so they hope the transplant can happen soon. They are currently home and Andrew has been medically discharged. They are hoping to be able to have the older son tested here but it looks like they will have to go back up to DC. Don's infection is gone.
- **Stacy Power** has been in the hospital, completed rehab and is with us tonight.
- **Richard Cleve's** son emailed us to tell us that he is moving Richard to Missouri to an assisted living memory care facility. Richard doesn't know anyone anymore. During the same week I will be disconnecting his email account so the account will no longer receive emails. For any emails that you want to send, I have setup an email account for him on my server to keep

things more organized. The new email address is rwc@borgx.com. Thanks again for the prayers! I will inform you of any major changes to his health going forward as well. James Cleeve 314-795-8862

* Chaplain Note: The Charleston Base website has been updated to indicate Richard's new address, phone number (his son) and email address (his son will print all the emails that are not SPAM and give them to him.)

- **James Graham** had thyroid surgery and it went well. He is waiting on the results to see if there was any cancer.
Sonny Rash had hernia surgery and is now home recovering.
- **Beetle Bailey's** daughter, **Diane**, has had a recurrence of her cancer. They found a 1.5 centimeter growth on her liver and she will be starting radiation soon.
- **Charlotte Loveday**, Jim's wife, has hospice helping her.
- **Estelle Jones**, Willie's wife, is in the hospital but we don't know which one. Dave Taylor called Willie to come to the meeting but Willie declined.
- **Lorraine Curtis**, Walt and Maureen's daughter, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Her first chemo was last Thursday.
- **Don Petersen** has throat cancer which is being treated with both Chemo and radiation.

Follow-ups were made on those who've had surgery or illnesses in the last couple of months along with the base sending additional cards.

There will be an email coming our soon to begin a program where shipmates will pick up other shipmates who can't drive after dark and bring them to the meetings.

WEBMASTER NOTES:

- Currently there are 6 ads on the Web site. I would like to encourage anyone that has a business to consider advertising through the base website and newsletter. The cost for an ad is \$25 for 12 months. If you would like to know more please see me or the Base Commander.
- 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.

Special Events: Rick reported that we will be having the Amberjack Ceremony on April 8th at Patriots Point. If we have inclement weather then we will have it at the FRA.

Veterans Affairs: Reported that there is INVITRO Fertilization to Members under the Age of 50

District Commander: Ed commented that the Southeast Regional Convention this year will be in Orlando FLA on 11 to 14 May. The National Scholarship fund ends March 15th. The Vietnam Veterans ceremony over at Patriots point is March 29th. Victory House Tuesday 14th March.

Membership: Larry Knutson reported that there are now 301 members.

Election Coordinator: Joe Lund asked the membership if anyone would like to run for the offices of Base Commander and Treasurer. Neither the Base Commander nor treasurer wish to run again for office. He also reported that the Combined FRA/Subvets picnic is May 6th.

Public Affairs: Ronnie Kerstetter introduced himself and asked if there were any questions.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: George Scharf reminded us we have 2 WWII vets attending tonight's meeting. George reported that the next Luncheon is at the FRA in April. We are going to have videos at the luncheon.

Scholarship: George reported that the Scholarship applications need to be in by April 15th.

FRA: Rick Sparger reported that the FRA will be having a St Paddy's Day special next Friday and a Comedy Show on 18 March.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers has challenge coins, Bolo Ties, Submarine Ties, Hats and Special Chief patches.

Holland Club: Bill Freigh reported that the Holland Club will have 10 inductees in April.

KapSS for KidSS: No Report

CRAMA: No Report

Chief of the Boat: Sunday is Daylight Savings. CRAMA meeting here at 1300 on the 23rd of March. Friday the 31st is the NMPTU Legacy award graduation.

Base Commander: Talked about having a Little David working party. Rick will need a 3 man on the 24th and as many as can help paint on the 25th. Rick Wise will not run for Base Commander

Old Business: None

New Business: Rick Sparger made a motion to donate \$200.00 to the FRA towards the purchase of 2 Bricks for the Front of the FRA one for the WWII Subvets and one for the Charleston base Subvets. George Scharf seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Good of the Order: Jeff Reuer reported that there is a free day trip to Washington DC March 15th. The only cost to you will be your meals. See Jeff after the meeting.

The After Battery: Bhudda reported that the After Battery annual week long Hog roast will be 16th April. Any donations or Raffle Baskets are much appreciated.

Nuclear Historian: Ed Stank reported:

A small boy lost Grandpa at the mall. He approached a uniformed security guard and said, "I've lost my grandpa!"

The guard asked, "What's his name?"

"Grandpa"

The guard smiled, then asked, "What's he like?"

The little tyke hesitated for a moment and then replied,

"Miller Lite and women with big boobs."

War hero wins fight with Va. homeowners group over flagpole



Medal of Honor recipient Van T. Barfoot, 90, lowers the flag from a pole in his yard in the Sussex Square neighborhood near Richmond. (Eva Russo/richmond Times-dispatch Via Associated Press)

The Great Flagpole Dispute of 2009 started last summer when Van T. Barfoot, a retired Army colonel who single-handedly took on three Nazi tanks in World War II, moved to the Sussex Square neighborhood near Richmond to be closer to his daughter. Barfoot believes in flying the colors of the nation he loves, so he erected a flagpole in his front yard.

Like thousands of developments across the country, Sussex Square is governed by a homeowners association, which controls the neighborhood's aesthetics. The association ordered Barfoot, a 90-year-old Medal of Honor recipient, to remove his flagpole.

By the time the flagpole battle ended this week, after threats of litigation, accusations of anti-Americanism and indignation that spilled far beyond the development's boundaries to become fodder for a nation of talking heads and blogging pundits, even Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine (D) and the Obama administration had chimed in.

In the end, it took the combined forces of the American Legion, members of Congress, untold numbers of sympathetic veterans and the spokesman for the leader of the free world to persuade the homeowners association to back off its threat to sue a war hero. Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) finally brokered a deal that will allow Barfoot to keep his flagpole.

"All my life, from childhood to now, I have been able to fly the flag," Barfoot told supporters standing outside his house Wednesday. "In the time I have left, I plan to continue to fly the American flag without interference."

The rules at Sussex Square are simple: "No building, fence, flagpole, wall, improvement or other structure" may be put up without the association's approval. Like the nearly 60 million Americans who live in communities governed by homeowners associations, Barfoot and his neighbors must seek approval before even painting their house a different color.

Still, when Barfoot erected his 21-foot-tall flagpole, said his attorney, John Honey, "he believed he was within his legal rights."

The legalities quickly became secondary to the explosion of outrage about what appeared to many to be a suppression of patriotism. After the association ordered removal of the flagpole, Richmond area news outlets reported on the controversy. Soon, there was a "We Support Col Van T. Barfoot's (Ret) Effort To Fly The U.S. Flag" page on Facebook (as of Wednesday: 48,000 members and counting). Outraged bloggers posted and tweeted the name and phone number of the association's president, urging people to give him an earful.

The American Legion issued a statement saying that the homeowners association "underestimated the fight left in this elderly veteran, and now they have to contend with the determination and persistence of Col. Barfoot's 2.5 million friends in The American Legion."

Barfoot is known in Virginia for his wartime heroism and his service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. His Medal of Honor citation credits his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" while fighting in Italy in 1944. Barfoot took out two enemy machine gun perches, which led to the surrender of a third. Later, he "took up an exposed position directly in front of three advancing Mark VI tanks" and fired on one with a bazooka, scaring the other two away. Earlier this year, Virginia's legislature named a stretch of Route 16 the "Col. Van T. Barfoot Medal of Honor Highway."

So when news of the flagpole battle flared, officials rallied around the war hero. Kaine said it was "ridiculous" that the association was requiring Barfoot to take the flagpole down.

On Monday, during a briefing that dealt mainly with the environment, the economy, health care and Afghanistan, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said he thought it was "silly" that Barfoot "can't have a flagpole and show the proper respect and appreciation that any flag deserves by flying that in their neighborhood."

And on Tuesday, Rep. Eric Cantor (R-Va.) introduced a resolution seeking to allow Medal of Honor recipients "to properly display the flag" on their property.

Mike Ciesielko announced that the Charleston Base Gun club meeting will be scheduled after this meeting

The red FRA ticket was won by Mike Knaub

The depth charge was won by Walt Curtis

Benediction: Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2007.