

## USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

8 March 2018

The attendance for the March 2018 meeting was 90 members.

**Opening Ceremonies:** The meeting was called to order by Base Vice Commander Mike Knaub. 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 Secretary Mike Ciesielko. Mike Knaub welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

**Introductions:** The following introduced themselves at the meeting: MS (SS) Ken Lutz Qual Boat: USS Ben Franklin SSBN 640

**Secretary:** The Minutes have been published and promulgated. Are there any additions or deletions? If not the Minutes are Approved

**Treasurer:** The treasurer's report is published and promulgated. Are there any additions or deletions? If not the report is Approved.

**Chaplain:**

### Submarines Lost During the Month of March

USS PERCH (SS-176)	3 March 1942 – 1 <sup>st</sup> war patrol	59 POWs; 53 survived the war; 6 died as POW
USS GRAMPUS (SS-207)	5 March 1943 – 6 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> war patrol	Lost with all hands – 74 souls
USS KETE (SS-369)	20 March 1945 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> war patrol	Lost with 79 souls – 1 POW survived the war
USS TRIGGER (SS-237)	26 March 1945 – 12 <sup>th</sup> war patrol	Lost with all hands – 89 souls

### Eight Boats and 431 Men Lost

Quartermaster First Class, Submarines, Walter James Curtis,  
US Navy World War II Submarine Veteran  
Departed on Eternal Patrol – February 10, 2018

Chief Torpedoman's Mate, Submarines, Vernon J. Freshour  
United States Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol – March 1, 2018

### March Report

#### Highlighted boat of the month:

USS PERCH SS-176 was lost on March 3, 1942 near Java with no immediate loss of life, while on her 1st war patrol. She survived 2 severe depth chargings in less than 200 feet of water by 3 Japanese destroyers. The crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the 59 officers and men taken prisoner, 53 survived the war and six died as POWs.

You will notice on each table there is a single red rose and a card. These were placed there by Mrs. Maureen Curtis, widow of Walt Curtis. The card reads:

“The family of Walter J. Curtis acknowledges with grateful appreciation the kind expression of your sympathy. Since my emotions make it difficult to stand before you, I am writing to express to you how much Walt and I enjoyed the meetings, events, but mostly the friendships. I wanted to let each and every one of you know how much my family and I appreciate your prayers for Walt. For those of you that were able to come and participate during the visitation, it was an absolutely beautiful ceremony. My family and I were so impressed and moved. Walt was so very proud to be part of this fine group. Thank you – we shall never forget. Maureen Curtis and family.”

Additionally there were two cards with donations for the Scholarship Fund which totaled \$85.00.

- **QM1(SS) Walter James Curtis, a WWII Submarine Veteran**, departed on Eternal Patrol, Feb. 10, 2018. Charleston Base conducted a Bell Tolling at the viewing in the FH Chapel. The FRA conducted their Two Bell prior to Charleston Base. There was a very good turnout for these services. Walt joined the Navy in 1942 and left in 1953. He was a member of US Submarine Veterans of WWII, USSVI National (Life Member 2004), USSVI Charleston Base (2014), USSVI Weeki Wachee Base (2009), the Holland Club and FRA Branch 269. Walt qualified on USS SHAD SS-235 in 1943 making several war patrols. He also was a plankowner on BLACKFISH SS-221 and served on BOWFIN SS-287.
- **TMC(SS) Vernon J. Freshour** departed on Eternal Patrol March 1, 2018 in Bucklin KS. Vern had moved to Bucklin to be near family. He joined the Navy in 1956 and retired in 1978. He was a member of USSVI National (Life Member 2003), Charleston Base (Life Member 2003) and the Holland Club. Vern qualified on USS STERLET SS-392 in 1957. He also served on TRUMPETFISH SS-425, CASIMIR PULASKI SSBN-633, SIMON BOLIVAR SSBN-641 and ETHAN ALLEN SSBN/SSN-608.
- **Tom Cyrek** fell at home last Tuesday (Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>). Trip to the ER did not show a problem. Went back to ER on Sunday and was admitted to MUSC for 2 cracked vertebrae. The operation is risky if needed. He is now home in a body brace and on heavy pain killers every 4 hours. Knobby, Deborah and Ed Stank went to see him yesterday and took soup.
- **Ken Curtis** just recovered from 3 weeks of the flu and now has pneumonia. He went to the VA ER at 0330 Sunday night. Says he feels lousy but a little better each day.
- **Jimmy Legg** went to the VA for problems breathing and found out it was pneumonia. He also has a lump on the breathing tube going to his right lung. After biopsy, MRI, CT scan decided it was 99.9% sure it's cancer. MUSC doctors are making a plan but looks like several weeks of radiation for 5 days and chemo for 1 day. Doctors are very optimistic this will clear up the cancer. Covet your prayers.
- **Marty Sessler** had surgery on his Left knee on 22 Feb. Now home and doing great. Had doctor appointment today and doctor is pleased with his progress.
- **Charles Wood** had major heart surgery on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>. He completed his stay in Hallmark Rehab and is now home. Actually he is here tonight.
- **Luke Murphy** was in the VA Hospital beginning February 24<sup>th</sup>. He had a stroke that affected his left leg and some issues with his feeding tube blocking. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> he was moved to NHC Healthcare in West Ashley. Judy says he now is responding to his left leg being stimulated which is good. He is still having problems with the feeding tube blocking which is bad. If you would like to visit the address is 2230 Ashley Crossing Dr, Charleston, SC 29414 and there are no set visiting hours. The door does lock at 2000. Judy says you can call or text her (843.560.0431) if you have any questions.
- **Jimmy Kimbrell's sister-in-law, Becky**, passed away on Feb 27 in Batesburg SC.
- **Mark Hunter's son, Peter**, died in a car wreck on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Peter's memorial service will be at the FRA on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

- **Ron Chambers** was discharged from the hospital today and has been diagnosed with congestive heart disease.
- One of our members has had his cancer recur.
- A member's wife had surgery on Feb. 8. She is doing well.

I still need page 2s for about 30% of our members.

If you have a change of mailing address, phone number, email address please let the base leadership know about it. We need to make sure all of our records are updated so we can make contact with you if we need to.

I have volunteered to be the Charleston Base contact with the 2018 Charleston Submarine Birthday Ball Committee. The SubBall will be April 7<sup>th</sup> located at Trident Tech again. A representative from the Committee is here tonight to report. The website is <http://www.charlestonsubball.org/>

#### **WEBMASTER NOTES:**

- There are a lot of updates to the VA section on our website. The latest one is the VA Disability Rates for 2018.
- 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.

**Membership:** Larry Knutson reported that there are 275 Members

**Kaps for Kids:** Bill reported that the next Kaps for Kids visit is March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Veterans Affairs:** Ken Curtis was not present. No report. Check the website.

**FRA:** Larry Cox reported That the next FRA Meeting is 15 March and there is a Saint Patty's day Party at the Fleet on 17 March.

**Submarine Veterans of World War II:** Stacy Power was present tonight.

**NPS Awards:** March 9<sup>th</sup>. One of the recipients is John Walker. This is a famous name in the submarine circles.

**Guest Speaker:** EMN1(SS) Brandon Perkins gave us details of the SUB Ball Tickets. These can be purchased online only and are \$35.00 each for SUBVETS.

**CRAMA:** No Report.

**Little David:** Rick Wise is asking for working party Volunteers. Email or call him.

**Public Affairs:** No Report

**Storekeeper:** No Report

**Special Events:** No Report.

**Chief of the Boat:** Joe Lunn reported the Oyster roast was a success.

**Base Commander:** Was not present. No Report.

**Old Business:** Ed Stank reported that The Victory House visit will be 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018. New regulations prevent us from giving them a Picnic. (cannot bring outside food in anymore)

**New Business:** The Amberjack Ceremony will be April 14<sup>th</sup> Muster time is 0900 and service will be at 1000

**Good of the Order:**

**The After Battery:** Hog Roast is April 21st. The festivities start April 16<sup>th</sup> and run all week. The New England Subvets will be down again as well. There is a raffle for a 30-30 rifle. Tickets are \$10.00 each.

**Nuclear Historian:**

Recently I heard about an officer, and a yeoman driving along and “BANG”. They had a flat tire. So the officer calls his chief to find out how to fix it. The Chief tells the officer to take wheel off, with the proper tool. The Chief asks the Officer, “You do know what a lug wrench is don’t you?” “Sure I do” the Officer responded. The Officer then asks the Yeoman is this a lug wrench?” You know the rest of the story.

Years old always wanted a pair of “authentic” boots, so seeing some on sale he bought them and wore them home. Walking proudly, he sauntered into the kitchen and said to his wife, “Notice anything different about me?” Jean looked him over and replied, “Nope”. Frustrated as all get out, RW stormed off into the bathroom, undressed and walked back into the kitchen completely naked except for the new boot. Again he asked Jean, a little this time, “Notice anything different now???” Jean looked up and said in her best deadpan response, “RW, what’s different? It was hanging down yesterday and it will be hanging down tomorrow.” Furious, RW yells out “And do you know why it’s hanging down, Jean?” “Nope, not a clue,” she replied. “It is hanging down because it is looking at my new boots!!!” Without missing a beat Jean replied, “Should of bought a hat, Rick! Shoulda bought a hat!”

Next month I will start a special series on “Something to offend everyone”.

**Gun Club:** Mike Ciesielko had no report.

The **Red FRA ticket** was won by Marty Sessler

The **depth charge** was won by Bill Hayes

**Benediction:** Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Following the benediction by Nick Nichols, the Base Vice Commander adjourned the meeting at 1950.