

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
8 October 2020

Opening Ceremonies:

- The October 2020 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of three officers and a total of 41 members. The meeting started at 1900. Vice Commander Tom Lawson was not present.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Base Commander Mike Ciesielko and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of October was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of October:
 - **USS SEAWOLF (SS-197)** **October 3, 1944 – 15th War Patrol** **Lost with all hands –100 souls
(83 crew and 17 Army)**
 - **USS S-44 (SS-155)** **October 7, 1944 – 5th War Patrol** **Lost with 56 souls – 2 men
became POWs and survived the war**
 - **USS WAHOO (SS-238)** **October 11, 1943 – 7th War Patrol** **Lost with all hands – 80 souls**
 - **USS DORADO (SS-248)** **October 12, 1943 – New - training** **Lost with all hands – 77 souls**
 - **USS ESCOLAR (SS-294)** **October 17, 1944 – 1st War Patrol** **Lost with all hands – 82 souls**
 - **USS DARTER (SS-227)** **October 24, 1944 – 4th War Patrol** **No loss of life**
 - **USS SHARK II (SS-314)** **October 24, 1944 – 3rd War Patrol** **Lost with all hands – 87 souls**
 - **USS TANG (SS-306)** **October 25, 1944 – 5th War Patrol** **Lost with 78 souls – 9 men
became POWs and survived the war**
 - **USS O-5 (SS-66)** **October 29, 1923 – near Panama Canal** **Lost with 3 souls**
 - **Nine Boats and 563 Men Lost**
- **Chief Engineman, Submarines, Linn Reid Rogers Sr., US Navy Retired – Departed on Eternal Patrol September 15, 2020**
- **First Class Torpedoman's Mate, Submarines, Robert John McCollem Jr. – Departed on Eternal Patrol September 21, 2020**
- **Chief Quartermaster, Submarines, James Fred Loveday, US Navy Retired – Departed on Eternal Patrol September 28, 2020**
- The USSVI Creed was read by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- None present.

Old Business:

- NONE

New Business:

- NONE

Secretary – Gordon Long:

The Minutes from the September Base meeting had been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website. 33 members attended the September Base Meeting. No other additions or changes were noted. The Minutes were approved.

Treasurer – Base Commander for Gordon Williams:

- The Treasurer's Report for September has been published and promulgated on the website.
- There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved as provided.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Highlighted boat of the month:**

- USS TANG was lost on Oct 25, 1944 with the loss of 78 men in the Formosa Strait while on her 5th war patrol. Tang ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage, and had won two Presidential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Tang's last torpedo broached and curved to the left. Tang fishtailed to clear the turning circle of the torpedo, but it struck her abreast the after torpedo room approximately 20 seconds after it was fired. Tang sank by the stern. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR. O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **ENCS(SS) Linn Reid Rogers Sr.** departed on Eternal Patrol on 15 September. He joined the Navy in 1951 and retired in 1972. Linn was a Life Member of USSVI National [2003], Life Member of Charleston Base [2003], and a Holland Club member. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge Number 401 and a Shriner. He qualified on USS CONGER SS/AGSS 477 in 1953, and served on ENTEMEDOR SS 340, BANG SS 385 and as COB [70-72] on TRUMPETFISH SS 425. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website. His memorial service was held on 18 September. CB conducted a bell tolling service but due to limitations placed on attendance only 7 CB members were present.
- **TM1(SS) Robert John McCollem Jr.** departed on Eternal Patrol on 21 September. He joined the Navy in 1956 and retired in 1974. Robert was a Member of USSVI National [2016] and Charleston Base [2016], and a Holland Club member. He was also a member of the FRA Branch 269, the American Legion and the USS TULLIBEE SSN-597 Association He qualified on USS CORPORAL SS-346 in 1957, and served on TULLIBEE SSN-587, RUNNER SS-476, ULYSSES S. GRANT SSBN-631 and MARIANO G. VALLEJO SSBN-658. He also served a POMFLANT Charleston. A note of condolence from Charleston Base has been placed on the funeral home website. His memorial service was held on 26 September at the FRA. CB conducted a bell tolling service which was well attended by base members. I want to thank Rick Wise for standing in for me and doing a great job.
- **QMC(SS) James Fred Loveday** departed on Eternal Patrol on 28 September. He joined the Navy in 1952 and retired in 1973 after 21 years of service. He was a Life Member of USSVI National [2005], Life Member of Charleston Base [2005], and a Holland Club member. He qualified on USS CLAMAGORE SS-343 in 1960, and served on TRUMPETFISH SS-425 and SIMON BOLIVAR SSBN-641. Prior to submarine duty Jim served on USS MISSOURI BB-63, USS BAYFIELD APA-33, USS TARARA CVS-40 and USS LEYTE CVS-32. He also served at NRTC Davenport IA and was a Korean War Veteran. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website. Jim's service was held on Saturday, 3 October. CB conducted a bell tolling service and several base members were in attendance.
- **SK2(SS) Jon Duckworth** departed on Eternal Patrol on 8 October in Florida from a massive stroke. He was a Life Member of USSVI National [2004] and Life Member of First Coast Base [2004]. He qualified on USS SIMON BOLIVAR SSBN-641 in 1973 and also served on STURGEON SSN-637.
- So far this year there have been 12 Charleston Base members who have departed on EP. Only two had a page two on file. Please complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.
- **Pauline Bohon, Bruce Bohon's** mother, passed away today. She was living with Bruce and Ellen and was under hospice care. Services will be in New York at a future time.
- **James Graham** had knee surgery on 15 September. It was successful and he's doing well with his PT.
- **Gary Williams** had lengthy back surgery on 10 September. Have not heard how he's doing. It was reported at the meeting that Gary fell today and is in pain.
- **George Burton** continues to undergo treatment for lung cancer.
- **Rick Wise** had the seeds implanted on 2 October.
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care.

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.
- Member 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.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Ciesielko for George Scharf:

- Stacy Power is not present tonight
- Nothing to report

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Lou has added a section on Facebook for pictures from the upcoming Charleston Base Picnic.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson

- Not present.
- [Kaps for Kids events are on hold until the hospitals contact us to resume visits.]

Membership – Larry Knutson

- 277 Charleston Base Members – It is October and Dues are due. Please do not let this stretch out into next year. It causes a lot of extra work.

Public Affairs – Jerry Stout

- Nothing to report.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Not present

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- The new Scholarship application form is on the Base website. Please be sure to use the new form.
- The committee has a few submarine lighters that were donated – Bancroft, Polk and CSS-16. These are for sale to benefit the scholarship fund. See Carl.
- The Top Dawg Tavern raffles will be held tonight.
- The Committee has a shotgun raffle. Carl had won this from the FRA and donated it to Charleston Base as a fund raiser for the Scholarship fund. Tickets are \$10.
- The Rummage Sale will be held on November 14 from 0800 – 1300 at Halloween Express on Old Trolley Road near Dorchester Rd. Please bring all of your items early that morning. Carl will be there at 0500. Any unsold items will be picked up by the Kidney Foundation truck and taken to their Thrift Store nearby.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- There will be a picnic on October 17 at Bushy Park. The Base will provide hamburgers/hotdogs and members are asked to bring a side dish or two. Rick asked that all members attend since it is the final – non-meeting – function for 2020. We expect to have a good time. The Base will provide some beer also.
- Since we will not have a Christmas party this year, we will have a Base meeting in December.
- Rick also requested that the Base provide beer/wine for the picnic. Mike Ciesielko volunteered to cook.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

- Provided update on the court case. Patriot's Point has not responded as yet. Contact with the Navy may be next. Still waiting on the judge's decision.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks

- Nothing to report.

Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger

- The FRA, yesterday, had its famed Liver and Onion lunch special. Rick hoped that all enjoyed it.

Newsletter – Rick Wise

- If anyone has anything that you would like to put in the Base Newsletter, please send it to Rick.

LITTLE DAVID – Rick Wise

- Work on the Little David will happen soon. He will provide info to the COB about needed working parties.

Comptroller – Rick Wise

- The quarterly report should be out before the end of October.

Recreation –

- Nothing to report.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

- Nothing to report.

COB – Rick Sparger (Acting)

- There are several 10x10 event tents that have not been used in quite a while. Rick proposed that we sell them at the Rummage Sale. There was no disagreement from the Base members. They will be taken to the Rummage Sale.
- Joe will return as COB as soon as he is able.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- Reported that Joe Lunn, because of health and COVID concerns, is taking leave from duties as COB. Rick Sparger has assumed the duties for the time being. Mike asked Base members to pray for Joe.
- We will be holding a Board Meeting and a Base Meeting in December since we will not be having a Christmas party this year.
- Mike reminded everyone to clean up the tables before departure.

Good of the Order

After Battery – Ken Hutchison

- Nothing to report.

Gun Club

- Gun Shoot schedule for this Saturday 10 OCT. Meet at FRA 0830. The rangemaster will provide safety briefing for all involved.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

This is my first time here this year. I'd like to thank all our members and wives for coming out to my wife's funeral service in February. This was the period of the start of the coronavirus pandemic. Anyway – Thank You!

Because of the pandemic, I spent a lot of time at home, alone. So, I watched movies; lots of movies! All of the Miami Vice series, all of the Star Wars series and many, many, many more! I discovered a new realization about things we take for granted!

- ❖ **C-3PO** – was not a CPO
- ❖ **Thor** – was a TM. Who else uses a hammer?
- ❖ **Popeye** – is a sailor
- ❖ **Beatle Bailey** – is a lazy Army dude.
- ❖ **Lucy** (of Charlie Brown) – was an ET! Thinks she knows it all, but gets flustered when her skirt blows up.
- ❖ **Bugs Bunny** – was a RM – What's up Doc? Probably working on a Rickover Letter.
- ❖ **Pig Pen** – Self-Explanatory – A-Gang

Newsflash!!!

I received an email to meet women. I was lonesome and excited! After going through two pages of beautiful women, I turned to the third page and BOOM – A set of boobs – with a message to me. Being a gentleman, I

asked if she had another photo. Sure enough, she sent me a spread eagle shot. The only thing I could not see were her eye teeth! It was a porn site. The next three sites were also porn sites. So, once I was sure – after reviewing 50,000 more photos, I was pretty convinced of that and dumped them. Ask for the web address after the meeting, if interested.

My daughter entered me on a site for people over 50, called “OUR TIME”. All they had were old broads. I even got hit on by a gal 89 years old. I did finally meet, online, a lady from IVA, South Carolina. I’m waiting to see where that one will lead me. All the write-up is great, but I haven’t actually met her, in person, yet! No sooner than I started writing her, she had to take a trip to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to sell some property that she and her late husband had bought nine years ago. He died five years ago. She tells me that that she has to pay \$30,000 in taxes before she can sell the property and she only had \$15,000 cash in her suitcase. While waiting on the bench for the taxi, she needed a trip to the restroom. When she returned, her suitcase was no longer there. NEWSFLASH – ROBBED! FOREIGN COUNTRY! I’ll keep you informed. No, she hasn’t asked for any of my credit card numbers or cash....YET! Besides, I only have a few thousand that I could send her right now!

Last night, I was asked if the “Geek Squad” could charge me \$299.99 for a Microsoft Windows annual update. It was not something that I remembered signing up for. Luckily, I happened to be on the computer while the guys were doing this and – with no permission from me – watched them take \$8,000 from my savings account and \$1,000 from my checking account. Thankfully, I was able to contact the bank and get the money back into my savings account. The contact at the fraud number told me that they cannot take money from your savings. Everyone, please be careful. I was able to keep from being scammed out of \$9,000.

Drawings & Auctions

- Top Dawg Tavern – First Drawing – Larry Knutson – 40
- Top Dawg Tavern – Second Drawing – Beetle Bailey – 20
- Top Dawg Tavern – Third Drawing – Rick Sparger – 10
- There was a Challenge Coin Door Prize based upon the sign-in sheet. The man with the random number chosen did not have a Challenge Coin. The prize will be held until next month.
- Depth Charge – Woody Woodsmall

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting with three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed.