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- **MM1(SS) Kenneth Robert Turner** departed on Eternal Patrol on August 8, 2021. Bob's memorial service was held this morning with a good attendance by the SUBVETS and FRA Branch 269. I would like to thank Rick Wise and all the participants for handling this service. I received a call from Gloria this afternoon to tell me she and the family were very happy with the service. The HP did not get to the scene of my accident until after 12.
- **CDR Harry L. Huggins** departed on Eternal Patrol on July 15, 2021 in NC. He was not a member of USSVI. He was CO on USS SEA POACHER SS-406 during 1968-1969. A note of condolence was placed on the funeral home website.
- **LCDR Louis S. Roehm** departed on Eternal Patrol on September 1, 2021. He was not a member of USSVI. He was a TM who converted to MT and was commissioned in 1981. He served on HENRY L. STIMSON SSBN-655, NATHAN HALE SSBN-623 and JAMES MONROE SSBN-622. Additionally he served at POMFLANT Charleston, COMSUBPAC twice and Submarine Squadron ONE. He retired with 26 years. A note of condolence was placed on the funeral home website.
- **Ruth Adams**, 78, wife of base member Bill Adams, passed away on Tuesday, August 31 peacefully at home in Moncks Corner. No services are planned.
- **Sharon Sessler's** brother passed away recently. Services will be held at a future date.
- **Ellen Bohon**, wife of base member Bruce Bohon, fell at church last night and went to the ER. She has a broken right upper arm. She saw an orthopedic doctor today.
- **Ed Stank** had a recurrence of COVID on Sept. 6th and went to the ER. He is now home on meds.
- **Rick Wise** tested positive for COVID, completed his quarantine and is now OK. He is here tonight.
- **Joseph N. O'Saben**, Joe's 48 year old son, was in SMC with COVID and was on O2 but is now home. He would like to thank all of the SUBVETS for your prayers to help with his Covid virus. He is fully recovered now and was back to work full time on Monday Aug. 30.
- **George Burton's** cancer is growing. He has change treatment methods and meds. He is not in pain but has discomfort on his right side around the lung. He appreciates all your prayers.
- **Jimmy Kimbrell** was in the hospital recently. He tested negative for COVID but was kept for several days due to pain in his chest. He is home now taking this meds. He is able to lie down and get a little sleep before the coughing starts again. He thanks everyone for hanging in there with him and keep them prayers coming.
- **Don Londergan** is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136. Rick Wise visited him on 2 July and says Don is looking well and is more alert than he was before the lock down. Cypress Place does require visitors to wear masks.
- **Gene Weir** continues his cancer treatments.
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care. Ed will continue to contact him each month for the meeting.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so. Of all the Eternal Patrol this reporting period, no one had a page 2 on file.

Webmaster

- 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.
- Vets in the Woods collection box is suspended until further notice. The donations overwhelmed the DAV.
- If you send something out to the base members try to remember to put it in PDF format. Not everyone has the same programs to open files. Most everyone can view a PDF.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Ciesielko for Mike Emerson:

- Stacy Power is not here tonight.
- Mike Ciesielko relayed a story about a 97-year old Torpedoman named Norm Walker whom they were seated with at the USSVI National banquet. He was going on leave and had to ride another ship to his departure point. That ship was subsequently torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. That was aboard the that hMike also is not present.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson

- Not present.

Membership – Nick Nichols for Larry Knutson

- Next month, we start collecting annual dues. If anyone has questions about your dues status, please contact Larry. He has had members pay for several years, lose track of it and then want to pay for the next year.
- The current roster lists 273 Charleston Base Members. We are the #2 Base, just one member more than Hampton Roads.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko talked briefly about issues discussed during the USSVI National convention about their website. He left believing that some of his questions went unanswered.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- The Scholarship Committee will have the raffle for The Final Mission Hunley print at the end of the meeting tonight. Tickets are \$10.
- Challenge Coins are available for \$12.
- The Rummage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 13 at the same location (Rodney's Rockets/Halloween Express) on Old Trolley Rd. Please bring items early that morning or, if needed, the committee has a storage area. Contact Carl, Rick or Marty.
- The committee still has a box of items provided by the Woodrow Wilson organization. There are no prices, so make a donation to the Scholarship Fund.
- A stack of various patches, which were donated to the Scholarship Committee, are available for \$5 each. Please come take a look.

Fleet Reserve Association – Harry Nettles

- The FRA will hold a picnic on September 18, 1200-1500, at Short Stay – BYOB/Bring a dish. First 99 get in free – after that are \$2 each.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- Nothing to report.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report.

Recreation – Rick Sparger for Bill Hayes

- The Catholic Church in Goose Creek is not available for December 4.
- Rick stated that the FRA is the only available location for our Christmas party on December 4.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

- Legally, there has been no change in status of the case.
- The Clamagore has been open for tours since July. The boat is considerably cleaner inside than it has been.
- Mike Ciesielko attended a meeting at USSVI National convention regarding memorials. He will provide details at a later time.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise

- Nothing to report

Newsletter – Ed Stank

- Not present

Public Affairs – Ed Stank

- Not present

Storekeeper – Rick Sparger for Ken Hutchison

- Ken Hutchison is attending a reunion, but wishes to express his thanks for the turnout at Judy's funeral.

COB – Rick Sparger

- Rick has the vest for Bob Browning.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- Tom noted appreciation for attendance at the funeral today.
- It was comedy central as Tom mentioned the "new funeral uniform" introduced by Rick Sparger to include a towel over the shoulder.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- Mike briefly spoke about his trip to the USSVI National Convention. He learned better ways that he can use to communicate with National.
- As during his time on the boat, it was the crew that made the submarine work, so it is the members with Charleston Base.
- Several awards were submitted for Charleston Base members at National, but we came home empty handed. Next year, Mike will be better prepared, but he needs help from every Base member to present names for the various award categories. There were several awards for which there were no nominations. Mike may not necessarily know everything that each member does, but the Base membership – as a whole – does. Any member can submit any member's name for an award. He will further address the topic at the next board meeting and also at the next Base meeting. We can expect this subject to be addressed at every meeting.
- Ray Sparks also attended the USSVI National Convention. He commented that other bases around the U.S. had advertisements in the program, but Charleston Base did not.
- Nick Nichols addressed that he was seated next to the USSVI National Secretary and inquired why we not informed of the program adverts and was told that Central Florida did not contact all of the bases.

Good of the Order

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Not present.

Non-Nuclear Historian – Harry Nettles

- The Story of Doug.
 - Doug is pretty much the same age as we are. He was born in 1946 in South Dakota and probably like me, he got that letter from Lyndon Baines Johnson that said, "Greetings and Salutations, you are hereby directed to report to your Selective Service Board for induction into the armed forces of the United States of America." And he did just like me, as I took that letter down and waved it in my Navy recruiter's face and he signed me up. But in 1967, Doug – a fireman apprentice – wound up on the USS Canberra, a heavy cruiser and found himself patrolling off the coast of Vietnam. The Canberra was built in the 1940s and didn't have much air conditioning (if any at all). I am quite sure that in the engineering spaces, it was hotter than the engine room on a nuclear powered submarine, so he asked his LPO if he could go topside. The LPO allowed it even though he knew that he should not. So, Doug goes topside and was sitting there looking out over the rail and he could see the treetops of the jungle. Suddenly, without warning, three five-inch guns, right over his head, fired a salvo and the shockwave sent him over the rail into the water.
Now, he is out there in Gulf of Tonkin treading water and he is watching his ship go away. He thinks, "Certainly, at any time, they are going to turn around and come get me." Well, they didn't. Doug, at this point, wonders what he should do now. He thinks, "I have three choices. #1: I could stay out here and

tread water for as long as I can and then drown. #2: I could swim ashore, but if I do, I will probably get captured and put in a POW camp. #3: Maybe someone will come by and pick me up.” “Okay, I am probably stuck with #1 and drown.” But then he thought he might get bitten by a shark, so he starts swimming.

Fortunately for Doug, a fishermen group saw him and picked him up into their boat and fed him and gave him water. He thought that he was in good shape until they took him ashore and turned him over to the North Vietnamese. Well, he wound up in a POW camp, one of the Hanoi Hilton Villages. Now, when the NVA got him, they thought he is not a pilot as they had lots of those and he is just one guy, so he must be some kind of saboteur. So, they began to torture and beat him – finally bringing him some papers. When told to sign the papers, he told his captors that he could not read – a little American ingenuity there. Well, the NVA brought someone in to teach him how to read. As they are going through the process of teaching him how to read, he kept telling them that he could not see the words. They took him into town and bought him a pair of glasses so that he could read the words and then sign the papers. Finally, they gave up on him and put him in a cell with a major that had been shot down because he got too close to a NVA rocket.

As viewed from the North Vietnamese religious aspect, Doug didn't seem to be quite right. He had some goofy, crazy characteristics and they did not want to have anything to do with him, but they finally determined that he was worthless. After all, he did not fly a jet, so they pretty much gave him the run of the compound. Doug, every day, was out of his cell and he would find something to amuse himself. He got really good at it. He looked around the camp and found a broom. Now, he had something, with which, to entertain himself. So, he would go all around the camp with the broom and sweep up little piles of dirt – some here by the truck, there by the hut, and then go another spot, then another and do the same thing – over and over again. The entire time, he is watching the guards. They are looking out of the camp, concerned that they may be attacked in an attempt to rescue these majors and lieutenant commanders that they have in their cells. Once Doug had nice little piles of dirt here and there – in all parts of the camp, he went back to each one and kicked the pile, scattering the dirt all over the place. He would then start again, sweeping up the piles of dirt.

Well, the NVA at this time really think that the kid has lost his mind, because he would do this every day, sweeping up piles of dirt and then knock them down with his foot and start sweeping again. One day he gets back to a pile that he had swept up next to the truck; he looks around at the guards. They are not watching him. He removes the gas cap and takes a handful of dirt and puts it in the truck and puts the cap back on. They towed out five trucks that would not start because there was dirt in the gas tank. One of the majors could not believe it. He had been to college and had been trained to fly a multimillion dollar jet and this kid with a broom has caused more damage to the North Vietnamese than he was able to do. Well, talks of prisoner exchange came...

The NVA wanted to get rid of Doug because he was worthless. They did not know how much damage he had already done. They had no bartering capability with such a looney-tune. Doug told the major, with whom he was locked up at night, that he would not leave unless all of the prisoners were let loose, but the officer told him that he would be of much more value if he went home, explaining that he could provide information to our people that they would not otherwise be able to obtain. The only time that any of the captured officers left their cells, was to be interrogated and beaten. They did not get to play in the yard with the dirt like Doug. In order to communicate, they had developed a special code that they could use to send messages from one cell to another. So they told Doug that he could take the information back and let folks back home know that they were alive. They started feeding Doug the details about themselves, but how difficult is it going to be for him remember the names and other data about 256 prisoners being held at the camp – especially after you had been beaten, tortured and nearly starved to death?!

Well, Doug learned all of the information about the men including their names, rank, date of rank, branch of service and something that each man had back home that no one would know, by putting it to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”. Years after Doug was out of the Navy, he could start singing this song and recall every one of the 256 names of the men which were in that camp with him. Well, the prisoner exchange happens and Doug is sent home... He gets back and the military starts the debriefing. They ask questions and Doug is providing answers that have them shaking their heads, saying that there cannot be that many POWs in that camp. Doug says, “Let me tell you that Major Brown was in the Air Force. He is married and at home, he has a dog named Ralph.” “How do you know this?” they asked. “He told me,” Doug responded. So they called Major Brown's wife in Oklahoma and told her that they

have a couple of questions for her; asking if the major had any pets. After she answered that he had dog, they inquired about the name. When she told them that the dog's name was Ralph, the debriefing team was suddenly all wide-eyed because this young fireman apprentice had more information than they were able to gather through the Geneva outfit.

In 1969, Doug had been released and sent home. In 1970, he was sent to Paris, France for the first round of the Paris Peace Accord, where he was able to stand up there in front of the entire world and tell what he experienced and what his fellow comrades, back in the POW camp, were experiencing. That one instance right there began the process of our men coming home from Vietnam. We had Medal of Honor recipients such as Admiral James Stockdale, who at one time was president of the Citadel. John McCain, who was also a POW and became a U.S. Senator. The people kept coming and coming and coming.

So, the next time that you are told that you do not have a snowball's chance in hell of pulling this thing off, go grab a broom and show 'em what you can do!

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- The After Battery will hold a reunion for the USS Parche on September 18.
- The Hog Roast will be held from April 3 thru 9. This year will be different, as the major events will be held only Thursday, Friday and Saturday, instead of having meals all week.

James K Polk Reunion – Lewis Leal

- James K Polk will be holding a reunion in Charleston. October 30 – November 3 at Comfort Suites. The banquet will be held on the Yorktown.

9-11 Special Service – Gordon Long

- Gordon mentioned a special service that they will be holding at ParkWay Baptist Church to honor First Responders. Cards were provided on the tables for info.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Is working to get vendors at the Base Meeting.
- Will be planning gun shoots soon.

Drawings & Auctions

- Scholarship Fund Hunley print drawing – Lee Wilson – Not here, but presence not required.
- Scholarship Challenge Coin Challenge – A random number based on the Base Meeting attendance sheet had been chosen. Rick Sparger would have won, if he had had a Challenge Coin. The prize will be held until next month.
- FRA Drawing – James Graham
- FRA Steak Dinner Auction – Two Dinners – High bidder was Bill Freligh at \$33
- Depth Charge Drawing – Not Recorded

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 at 2023.