

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 2, No. 5

May 2006

Newsletter of Charleston Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.



USSVI Creed

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States Government"



Base web page: www.ussvicb.org
 National web page: www.ussvi.org

Base Meeting:

Thursday, May 11, 2006
 Social hour & board of directors Meeting at 1800
 General meeting at 1900

Location:

VFW Post 3433, 10154 Bellwright Rd.
 Summerville, South Carolina. Phone 843-871-0607

Base Officers		Phone Number
Commander	Steve Nelms	843-563-7115
Vice Commander	Keith Schnebel	843-851-7334
Secretary	Jerry Stout	843-871-9533
Treasurer	George Lisle	843-559-4242

Special Officers		Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	Dave Mueller	843-553-2775
Public Affairs	Richard Cleeve	843-899-4563
Sub Vets WWII	Barnwell Chaplin	843-762-6945
Nuclear Historian	Ed Simokat	843-873-1709
Veterans Affairs	John Nichols	843-873-5897
Chaplain	Bill "Friar Tuck" Kennedy	843-875-3109
Membership	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Holland Club	Bob Lowe	843-573-9045
Little David Project	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Roving Reporter	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Scholarship	Jim Yates	843-873-0246
Newsletter	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Storekeeper	Paul Viering	843-797-2623

Minutes of the April 2006 meeting

Opening Ceremony: Base Commander, Steve Nelms calls to order. Quorum was present and the meeting was commenced at 1900.

Introductions: Arthur Hance, Bob Holzel, Glenn Gunnis, Dave Clinton, Gary Samples and Dean Hambinger. Welcome aboard.

Treasurer: Financial report given by George Lisle.

Secretary: March meeting minutes read in detail. A motion was made and seconded; no discussion. Minutes approved.

Storekeeper: Paul Viering reported that the store is well stocked.

Award Ceremony: John Paul Pardo and Edward V. Young were made Honorary USSVI, Charleston Base members. They are responsible for installing the air conditioning/heating unit in the After Battery at the Barn. The entire Charleston Base Sub Vet organization thanked them in a formal letter read during the ceremony.

Chaplain: Chaplain made his report on the binnacle list. George is home recovering from his stay in the hospital. Mike Mulkey is doing better. Curly attended the meeting tonight. Our prayers go out to all of our shipmates and families for a quick recovery. MMCM (SS) Jerry Payne passed away this month. He is not a USSVI member, however a wearer of dolphins.

Public Affairs: No report

SubVets WWII: The Amberjack Memorial ceremony went well. 26 personnel attended. Swede Hanson gave a moving speech that even had the Mayor to his feet. Any USSVICB member made participate as an Associate Member. Dues are only \$10.00.

Veteran's Affairs: Nick Nichols passed out a handout of information. Outline and details are on the Web Site. Reports are available on-line or through the VA. There is valuable information that all veterans can use, including pay, VA benefits, Military records, Tri-Care for Life. Obtaining your DD-214's is available on line.

Base Commander: Amberjack ceremony was held March 25, 2006 at White Point Gardens.

Float: Material will be purchased to house the float. Poles were donated; roof donated and only lumber will be purchased by Buddha. A working party is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2006.

Convention Program: The COB is going to need helpers to: bartend, helpers to set up the memorial on Saturday, work the check in desk, restock the hospitality room, and various other little jobs that come up. So far the COB has

Membership: Carl Chinn reported he had a great time on the cruise. He reported that there are 213 paid members. Nine (9) members did not pay for 2006 and have been removed. Six (6) are retained as National Life Members at large.

Nuclear Historian: Ed Simokat II was present and entertained the members with his humor.

Scholarship: Applications have been received and will be consolidated for an upcoming committee meeting.

Chief of the Boat: COB was not present. Base Commander spoke on the following:

Pole Barn working party will be held 4/25/2006 at 0830. This working party will be to put up the trusses for the float and also for the shed. The lumber is on site and the sooner we get it built the more stuff we can stow in it thus giving us more room in the "After Battery". Lunch will be provided and the menu is: Neck homemade vegetable beef soup, horsecock and salami sandwiches with condiments. We will "splice the main brace" after the work is done therefore each worker will be provided with free 2 adult beverages of his choice or sodas.

Stag Social will be held 4/18/2006 at 1800. Dinner will be hot dogs, chili, and chips. The revenue from Stag Social is paying down the debt incurred due to the modernization of the barn. Again, only Stag Social Night monies are being used to improve the condition of the After Battery. Other members are always encouraged to volunteer to bring food for the Social.

Fleet Reserve News: Home Committee Chairman, Dave Rein, reported that Branch 269's new building is coming together nicely. It is expected to open June 31, 2006. He also encouraged all USSVI members to attend the monthly meeting that is held on the 3rd Thursday of every month (4/20/2006) at 2000. He understands the time is late for a meeting, however it is set.

Old Business: No old Business.

New Business: Jim Yates proposed a payment of \$50.00 to students whose actions directly affect patriotism. As a school teacher, he observes less and less young people paying honor and respect to the flag. This idea came to him while he was observing the flag raising ceremony at his school. The motion was made, seconded and passed.

Pizza Inn is looking for organizations to sponsor a fundraiser. The organization will need to serve during the evening and invite members of the group, along with the general public. 10 % of the profit will be offered to the organization.

Keith Schnebel will be stepping down from his duties as Vice Commander of USSVI Charleston Base after serving over 5 years.

Nominations will be taken at the May meeting for

heard from Bill Buxton and Ed Stank. Please let the COB know if you can help and he will get back to you and tell you when and where I need you. He will be making a list so please don't hesitate. We are 2 weeks away. See or call the COB if you can help. 201 members have signed up for the three day event. Members are traveling in from LA, FL, IA, NC and SC. All Charleston Base Members need to help out in any way they can.

Tables and Chairs were purchased by the memorial fund established by the spouse of Jerry Madison.

Steering Committee: No report.

Holland Club: Report given by Bobby Lowe. All eligible Holland Club inductees will be honored at the banquet of the Combined Conference on May 6. Admiral Baciocco will make the presentations.

elections. All positions are open, including Base Commander (Incumbent Steve Nelms), Vice-Commander (Vacant), Base Treasurer (Incumbent George Lisle) and Secretary (Incumbent Jerry Stout). These officers have served from 2-12 years. Any member in good standing may run and hold these offices.

Brake shoes for the float were secured by Ed Bowles.

Lone Sailor procedures. Now, any member of the Naval Service may complete a log. See lonesailor.org for details.

Good Of The Order: Depth Charge Drawing was held. Winner announced as Jerry Farr.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.

**** End of the minutes for April 2006 ****

From the COB



No input this month.

From the Base Commander



Memorial Day ceremony is May 29 at 1030. It will be held at Parks Cemetery on Highway 17A in Summerville. We would like to have as much participation as possible.

****May Happenings!****

May 3 thru 7, Combined Conference of USSVI Southern Region Districts 4&6 and Southern Region Sub Vets WWII.

Radisson Hotel Charleston Airport
5991 Rivers Ave.

Memorial Day Service: May 29 at 1030. Parks Cemetery, Highway 17A (Boone Hill Pkwy), Summerville.

**Base Chaplin
Bill "Friar Tuck" Kennedy**



Our Chief of the Boat, Dave "No Neck" Mueller underwent surgery for carpal tunnel syndrome. As of this time all is well and he is recovering.

If you are going to get sick please let me know!

Membership and Dues Information:

If you have any changes to your membership info (address, phone, e-mail, etc.) please let Carl Chinn know at chasbasemembernews@sc.rr.com or carlc@sc.rr.com or call 875-3098.



Sub Vets World War II:

No input this month




**Public Affairs Announcement
Richard Cleeve**

We will now be showing old base pictures on the big screen TV at the meetings.

May Submarines Lost:

- USS Runner (SS 275) May 28, 1943
- USS Lagarto (SS 371) May 3, 1945
- USS Squalus (SS 192) - May 23, 1939
- USS Stickleback (SS 415) - May 29, 1958
- USS Scorpion (SSN 589) - May 27, 1968

May Birthdays!



Birdwhistell	Clarkin	Cline	Conrey
Fuhr	Fuqua	Gallagher	Heber
Houck	Houston	Lufkin	Mullins
Nichols	O'Meally	Papineau	Paris
Presley	Radd	Sparks	Sutton
Upchurch			

VETERAN SURVIVORS MAY BE MISSING OUT

Nearly 2 million poor veterans or their widows are likely missing out on pensions from the US Government. Veterans can make up to \$10,579 and qualify for the VA pension, while veterans' widows can make up to \$7,904 a year. Those who are homebound or in need of extra

The Final Patrol

Lord, this departed shipmate with dolphins on his chest is part of an outfit known as the best. Make him welcome and take him by the hand. You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land. So, heavenly Father add his name to the roll of our departed shipmates still on patrol. Let them know that we who survive will always keep their memories alive.

assistance can receive more.

Basically, a poor veteran who's 65 or older and served during a war, in combat or not, is eligible for the program.

Veterans can get more information at www.vba.va.gov/bin/21Milsvc/Docs/Pensoneg.doc or widows' information is available at www.vba.va.gov/bin/21Milsvc/Docs/Dpeneg.doc

Or call toll free 800.827.1000.

This information may not help you personally, but you may know someone it could benefit. It is estimated that only one in seven people who could qualify actually receive this benefit. Many are simply not aware of it.

Its official, DD-214's are NOW Online.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mailroom processing time.

Panel poised to boost raise, nix health care fee hikes

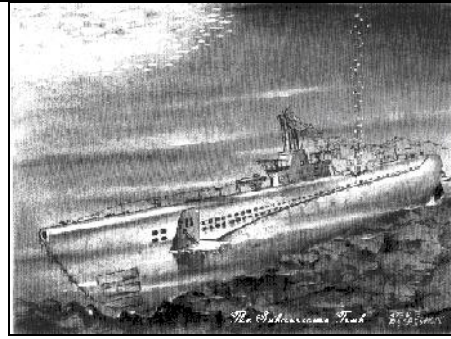
By Rick Maze, Times staff writer

Rejection is at hand for two key proposals in the White House's fiscal 2007 defense budget plan, as a House subcommittee plans to provide a larger military raise while refusing to increase health care fees for working-age military retirees.

Rep. John McHugh, R-N.Y., confirmed Tuesday that the military personnel subcommittee he chairs will not approve a Bush administration proposal to increase Tricare fees for military retirees under age 65 and their families who are enrolled in Tricare Standard and Tricare Prime, the military's health insurance programs.

"Though DoD's proposal was meant to be a cost-saving measure, it is the wrong way to go about it," McHugh said in a statement released by his office.

It is unusual for a House Armed Services Committee member to talk in advance about what will be included in



News update from the Admiral James B. Osborn Scholarship Committee:

The Committee met April 19 and reviewed the three scholarship applications that we received. Each candidate was very highly qualified and each wrote an excellent essay. It was extremely hard for the committee (Julian Villegas, Tom Lufkin, Carl Chinn and Jim Yates) to come to a consensus.

Therefore, we took the cowards way out and rewarded the scholarship to all three applicants. The awardees are as follows:

Sarah Collins

Daughter of Ricky Collins

Summerville High School

GPA of 3.964

Attending Charleston Southern University

Majoring in Education

Stephanie Esch

Daughter of Timothy Esch

Summerville High School

GPA of 4.526

Attending Campbell University

Majoring in Pre- Pharmacy

Kelli Luebben

Daughter of Donald Luebben

GPA of 5.015

Attending George Washington University

Majoring in International Relations

I absolutely know that Oz would be proud that his name is associated with these outstanding young people and we too can be justifiably proud to award these scholarships.

The committee also decided that we do not want to keep an excess of money in the Scholarship Fund so we decided to award as many scholarships per year to qualified applicants as we could and still maintain a \$1,000 balance in the fund.

A contingency of members will go to the students'

the defense bill. But the personnel subcommittee's strong opposition was well known, so McHugh is not saying anything unexpected.

The proposed fee increases, he said, sent a "message to the many men and women who have served our nation through their military service that we're going back on a promise that was made them."

"We simply are not going to burden retirees with increased costs at this time," he said.

Instead, the subcommittee's version of the 2007 defense authorization bill prepared for approval Wednesday afternoon will demand two studies of military health care costs.

The studies — one by the Government Accountability Office, the bipartisan investigative arm of Congress, and the other by the Defense Department, are to fully account for health care funding and look at alternatives to fee increases.

McHugh did not mention, but several House sources confirmed, that the personnel subcommittee also will provide a 2.7 percent military pay raise Jan. 1, larger than the 2.2 percent increase proposed by the administration.

House Democrats have talked about increasing the 2.2 percent raise since it was first proposed by President Bush. By including a larger raise in the draft bill, House Republicans avoid being stuck in a position of supporting the administration's smaller raise. Increasing the Bush proposal by a relatively modest amount, at a cost of about \$250 million, also could make it more difficult for House Democrats to win support for an even bigger raise, aides said.

The 2.2 percent hike would be enough to keep pace with the average pay increase in the private sector last year. While this raise would be the amount specified in federal law for computing military and federal civilian pay increases, it would be the smallest increase since 1994, would do nothing to decrease the estimated 4.4 percent gap that still remains between military and private-sector wages and would not keep pace with inflation.

With the cost of living increasing at an annual rate of about 3.6 percent, a 2.7 percent raise would still represent a decrease in purchasing power, but it would reduce the military-civilian pay gap by 0.5 percentage point, to about 3.9 percent.

The defense budget submitted to Congress in February sets aside \$263 million for additional pay raises for warrant officers, senior enlisted members and people with more than 30 years of service, but it was unclear Tuesday if the armed services subcommittee would include the targeted raises in the 2007 defense bill.

David S.C. Chu, under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said earlier this year that the Pentagon would like the targeted pay raises to take effect April 1, 2007.

Aides said that as of Monday, the targeted raise proposal

schools and award the scholarships. Dates to be announced via e-mail.

Seven charged with attacking shipmates

By Gidget Fuentes, Times staff writer

SAN DIEGO — The Navy charged seven sailors with the fast-attack submarine Columbus, including a senior chief, with various offenses, including assault, dereliction of duty and hazing, in the alleged attacks on two sailors with their Bremerton, Wash.-based boat, officials said.

The sailors are expected to face the charges at a special court-martial, Lt. Linda Rojas, a Submarine Group Nine spokeswoman, said Monday. No dates had yet been set.

The seven sailors are assigned to Naval Submarine Support Center at Kitsap Naval Base in Bangor, and are attached to Columbus. The submarine, which returned from deployment in April 2004, is homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, but has been in the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard since that fall.

The charges, issued last Friday, stem from an investigation of an allegation that one sailor, a second-class electronics technician, was picked on by four shipmates and was hit several times and had alcohol poured on him before he was threatened with being set on fire. Another sailor, a first-class electronics technician (submarines), allegedly had a loaded handgun pointed at him.

The accused are:

- Senior Chief Electronics Technician Sean E. Howe, 33, charged with two counts of failing to obey a Navy regulation and one count each of dereliction of duty and maltreatment by allowing the second-class petty officer to be hazed.
- ET1 (Submarines) Eleazar Garza Jr., 24, charged with two counts of conspiracy, four counts of assault on the second-class petty officer, two counts of hazing and one count each of dereliction of duty and maltreatment.
- ET1 (Submarines) Alvin D. Franklin, 25, charged with two counts of conspiracy, two counts of hazing the second-class petty officer, three counts of assault and one count of threatening the victim.
- Machinist's Mate (Submarines) 1st Class Charles D. Isham, 27, charged with four counts of assault and one count each of dereliction of duty and making a threat against the victim.
- ET2 Jacob A. Kidder, 23, charged with two counts each of conspiracy and hazing and four counts of assault.
- ET2 Brian D. Bruce, 24, charged with two counts each of conspiracy, hazing and assault.
- MM3 Joseph W. Tibbs, 21, charged with dereliction of duty, assault, lying to investigators and impeding an investigation.

The maximum punishment in a special court-martial is

had not been formally submitted to Congress, but a copy of the plan had been provided to the armed services committee for review.

Whether targeted raises are included in the bill could depend on the cost assigned to the proposal by the Congressional Budget Office, which is analyzing that question, aides said.

one year confinement, forfeiture of two-thirds pay for one year, reduction to E-1 and a bad-conduct discharge.

NNS060412-14. Multimission-Capable Sub Readies for Full Operation

By Journalist 1st Class Donald P. Rule, Fleet Public Affairs Center Atlantic

NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE KINGS BAY, Ga. (NNS) - The guided-missile submarine USS Florida (SSGN 728) arrived at its new home of Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga., April 11, completing the sub's three-year refueling and conversion at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Va.

Florida is the second Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine the Navy has reconfigured, replacing its 24 Trident missiles with nearly 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles, switching the boat from a nuclear deterrent to a source of more conventional firepower in the global war on terrorism.

"We've taken the Trident submarine, which is a well proven design, and we've done great things with it," said Florida's Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Gregory Ott. "It's a very flexible platform. We haven't really built it just for today's threat. We've built it so that it can be modified for whatever's over the horizon that we can't imagine."

The first in the class, the guided-missile submarine USS Ohio (SSGN 726) returned to the fleet in February, and two additional subs, USS Michigan (SSGN 727) and USS Georgia (SSGN 729), are currently undergoing conversion.

The Navy's existing fleet of attack submarines had already been outfitted with Tomahawk cruise missiles, a staple of naval operations in the past used during the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Although effective, the attack subs could only carry a small number of missiles, which meant several vessels were needed to conduct major cruise missile strikes.

"When we had submarines in the Gulf," said Florida's Chief of the Boat, Command Master Chief (SS) Harold Miller, "it's a huge waterspace management issue to have multiple submarines in this area. If we had two of the [SSGNs] there, we could have launched more missiles and still not had the waterspace issue that we had."

Changing to conventional weapons isn't all Florida did while she went through the conversion. Several areas of space aboard were reconfigured for increased littoral

combat capability.

The newly-upgraded SSGNs can now fully house “at least 66 or more SEALs (Sea, Air, Land),” said Ott. “There are no platforms right now other than the SSGN that are dedicated to carrying special forces. And it’s not just the personnel that we can carry – we can carry all of their equipment, and the ship has the capability to deliver the SEALs covertly.”

According to Ott, Florida’s firepower, mixed with a greater capacity to move SEALs and their equipment into mission essential areas, increases the Navy’s ability to engage the enemy on a whole new level.

“The importance of having nobody know you’re there can’t be overstated,” said Ott. “The bottom line is, if you put a surface ship off the coast or there is knowledge of the Navy’s presence, people don’t do the same things. They go hide when they know you’re there. So having the submarine there and that whole stealth piece, is very important.”

The boat plans to have its Return to the Fleet ceremony in May at Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, Fla., and then return to King’s Bay to begin its service to the fleet.