

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 3, No. 3

March 2007

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.ussvich.org
National web page: www.ussvi.org

Base Meeting:

Thursday, March 8, 2007
Social hour 1800, General Meeting 1900

Location:

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269, Low Country Home
99 Wisteria Rd.
Goose Creek, South Carolina. Phone 843-569-2962

Base Officers		Phone Number
Commander	Steve Nelms	843-563-7115
Vice Commander	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Secretary	Ronnie Kerstetter	843-367-1026
Treasurer	George Lisle	843-559-4242

Special Officers		Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	Marty Sessler	843-871-1536
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 Vierung	843-797-2623
Alcohol & Gaming	Dave Mueller	843-553-2775

Minutes of the February 2007 meeting

Opening Ceremony: Base Commander, Steve Nelms, called the meeting to order. A quorum was present and the meeting was commenced at 1900.

Introductions: New persons were introduced; Larry Cox, Jim Keller, Jerry Yates, Joey Forbes, Joe Fuller, Eric Martinson, Mike Slattery, Daniel Hudson, Jim Lewis, Kevin Schirmer, Ernest Fisher, Wayne

Fleet Reserve News: No report.

Alcohol & Gaming: "No Neck" encouraged members to check out social night held each Wednesday night at the After Battery. Thanks to Jon Sutton for the donation of knives to the After Battery.

Chief of the Boat: Marty Sessler presented the following: Thanks for the good support to all who responded to the wheel chair request from Alan

Farrell, and Robert Delconte. Welcome aboard.

Treasurer: George Lisle gave the treasurer's report. George reminded everyone to continue their support of the depth charge drawings and After Battery social nights. This is how we finance our organization. George also cautioned us to be careful how we spend our money.

Secretary: Ronnie Kerstetter asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from last month. A motion was made and seconded; no discussion. Minutes approved.

Storekeeper: USSVI calendars are available for purchase cost is eight dollars each.

USS Silversides SS236

Paul held up a mounted piece of teak decking from the USS Silversides (SS236), this will be displayed in the After Battery. Paul is continuing to take donations that will be used to haul her out of the water and refurbish.

SILVERSIDES was commissioned into the U.S. Navy on December 15, 1941, just eight days after the attack on Pearl Harbor. She left for the first of her 14 war patrols on April 30, 1942. SILVERSIDES sank 30 ships and damaged 14 ships. She ranks third highest among all World War II U.S. submarines in ships sunk, totaling 90,080 tons. None of the boats scoring more sinkings or tonnage sunk exists today, leaving SILVERSIDES as the nation's most famous surviving WWII submarine.

The war's most publicized operation was performed on board SILVERSIDES. Pharmacist Mate Thomas Moore successfully removed a gangrenous appendix from crew member George Platter. Moore had never performed an operation before, but armed with makeshift instruments and a volunteer surgical team, he performed the operation successfully. The patient recovered admirably and was standing regular watch duties just six days later. The operation was reenacted in the movie Destination Tokyo.

Award Presentation: Buddha presented a plaque to TMC(SS), USN Retired, Richard Sparger. "Best cook in the world" in appreciation for all you do for Sub Vets Charleston Base. Many thanks Richard.

Chaplain: Bill Kennedy presented the binnacle list as follows: Mike Smith has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, he may go to Michigan. Demetria C. Votta, wife of Alan Votta, has passed away, she was suffering from acute leukemia. Please keep Alan and his family in your prayers. Arthur O'Meally has some bleeding blood vessels in his brain & will need

Votta. Oyster Roast on Saturday afternoon Feb 24th. Please RSVP Marty if you plan to attend. USS Trout Reunion, March 12-16, 2007 Holiday Inn, Mt. Pleasant, SC. See Buddha for details. Andrew Jackson (SSBN 619) reunion cruise. Capital Base is having their annual memorial service 19 May at 11:00. See the COB for details. February 24th is the oyster roast to be held at the after battery. Bring desert only. Thank you to Curly for the new podium.

2007 Eastern Region District 4/6 & Sub Vets WWII Conference Wednesday April 25 – Sunday April 29, 2007, Daytona Beach, FL at the Holiday Inn Express Speedway Resort. (If you would like to attend let Buddha know as he is trying to get a group together to make this trip). Registration forms and information for the convention available on the national website <http://www.ussvi.org/Conventions.asp>

Base Commander: Buddha had some things to say to the group.

- If the shoe don't fit don't worry about it
- Anyone who joins an organization normally abides by the majority rule
- A lot of people do a lot of work to make this group what it is
- I don't make decisions on my own that affect the entire organization. It is up to you people to make the decisions for the whole organization
- Everyone has a right to their opinion
- No one has the right to cut down anyone who volunteers their time to make this organization work
- There has been a lot of flack and e-mails going around from people. The executive board is not a clique. We do not always agree
- If you don't like the way things are going, run for an office and then work with the board to make changes
- Bring a solution to a problem and not just the problem
- When you give a gift to this organization, it is with no strings attached

We had an offer from the FRA to change our meeting location. Willy at the VFW was informed of the proposal. It is my job to put the proposal out to the troops, I can't make this decision on my own. Buddha read a letter from William Campbell commander of the Walter C Fulda Post 3433 Veterans of Foreign Wars. Willy says that every Sub Vet will always be welcome here regardless of the outcome of the voting tonight on the meeting location.

surgery. Bill Roup is recovering and may be moved to Health South. Please visit Bill if you get a chance as he is bored to death. Keith Schnebel is home and out walking. Al Addington had a triple by-pass, received blood and is doing well. If anybody is sick or needs help contact either Bill Kennedy or Marty Sessler.

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Public Affairs: Richard Cleeve has the Christmas Party pictures on the website. See Richard for any changes or additions to our web site.

Sub Vets WWII: Lee Allison reported that the next Swamp Fox Chapter meeting will be at Ryan's Family Steak House 1314 North Main Street in Summerville, SC on Thursday February 15, at 1200 (noon). Any Sub Vets member can join the Sub Vets WWII as an associate member and are encouraged to do so. They hold a lunch meeting every other month at Ryan's.

The USS Amberjack (SS219) Memorial Ceremony will be held 11 am, Saturday, March 24th at the monument in White Point Gardens (The Battery) in downtown Charleston.

The H.L. Hunley/USS Housatonic Anniversary Memorial, February 17, 2007 at Sunrise Presbyterian Church, 3222 Middle Street, Sullivans Island by Breech Inlet.

Veteran's Affairs: No report.

Membership: Carl Chinn is on vacation. Bob Chinn standing in for Carl tonight. Bob says that we have 239 Charleston Base members in good standing (dues paid). Six new members joined tonight, we still have 21 dink's. If you change your home address, phone number or e-mail notify Carl Chinn our membership chairman so that he can make the revisions.

Scholarship: Jim Yates was present and thanked everyone for all the donations to the scholarship fund. The Admiral James B. Osborn Memorial Scholarship is funded by the Charleston Base Submarine Veterans Incorporated. The scholarship is awarded to a Tri-County high school senior and disbursed as a one-time \$500 award payable to the recipient. A Summerville High School student is the latest recipient. Greg plans to study computers at Clemson and will receive the award on May 2, 2007, in the evening at an award ceremony. See Jim if you would like to attend this award presentation. Thank you to Joe Lookabill for donating part of his depth charge winnings from last meeting to the scholarship fund.

District Four: No report.

Old Business: Rick Wise made a motion to vote on the proposal to move the monthly meeting location. Motion was seconded. A discussion followed. Everyone that wanted to speak was allowed an allotted time with the COB monitoring. At the end of the discussion voting was conducted by paper ballots on whether to meet at the FRA or the VFW. The secretary (Ronnie Kerstetter), Bob Chinn, and Ed Simokat counted the votes. The result was that the organization majority voted to move the monthly meeting to the Fleet Reserve Facility, Lowcountry Home, in Goose Creek.

The military museum will move from downtown to North Charleston. There is a good possibility that we can get two Mark 14 torpedoes, we are working with the mayors office to help with transportation, etc.

A memorial is being planned for Waterfront Park. Don Wolfe is selling bricks for the memorial.

Several programs are a possibility for us to be involved in:

- Lazy eye test for school kids
- Giving hats to little kids that loose hair due to chemotherapy

When we find out details will put this out.

New Business: None

Good Of The Order: The depth charge drawing was held. The winner was George Lisle. Bill Roberts suggested that we inventory everything that Charleston Base owns. Buddha has already started a title "B" list of Sub Vets Charleston Base items. Carl Chinn is in process of up grading our by-laws. We will vote on any changes. Von Stuben Reunion March 22-25 at the Airport Radisson. Social night menu for St. Patty Day will be corn beef with Irish bacon, etc. James K. Polk 645 boat reunion in Reno, Nevada, July 19-22. Movie CD's are needed for the Veterans Home in Walterboro. L Mendel Rivers reunion May 17-20 in Mt Pleasant. Please let Carl Chinn know about any up coming boat reunions so he can get the word out.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2045.

**** End of the minutes for February 2007 ****

"Don't tell mom I'm a submariner, she thinks I play piano in a whorehouse."

New meeting location

Starting in March 2007, Charleston Base will begin meeting at the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269 Low Country Home. The home is located at 99 Wisteria Rd., Goose Creek. It is off Redbank Rd. directly behind the Wendy's restaurant near 84 Lumber.

Non FRA members are required to sign in as guests. As a reminder, there is no smoking allowed in the meeting room.

March Submarines Lost:

USS Perch	SS 176	March 3, 1942
USS Grampus	SS 207	March 5, 1943
USS Triton	SS 201	March 15, 1943
USS Tullibee	SS 284	March 26, 1944
USS Kete	SS 369	March 20, 1945
USS Trigger	SS 237	March 26, 1945
USS F-4	SS 21	March 25, 1915
USS H-1	SS 28	March 12, 1920



Allegretto	Anderson, H.	Baciocco	Corcoran
Dale	Deschaine	Giddens	Hix
Hodges	Johnson, D.	Kopacka	Luther
Martinson	McLuskey	O'Saben	Rosselot
Sanders	Schirmer	Sessler	Smith, M.
Snyder	Spear	Wieland	Yates, G.

Membership and Dues Information:

We're up to **270** members! We are still hanging as number 3 in base size, and less than 100 fewer than number 2. Groton and San Diego are larger. Keep on recruitin'!

Only problem is we have 19 dinks! We need them to keep growing. Check with your buddies and make sure they have paid their dues.

If you haven't yet paid, when you read this newsletter your 2007 dues are past due. If you are unsure of what you owe (regular base and/or national) please ask me! See me at the meeting, e-mail or call.

If you have not renewed your dues by March 31, you will be dropped from the Base and National sailing lists. If you are a National Life member you will be transferred to Member-At-Large status.

We dropped 8 members last year...This year looks like 19!

Annual dues are \$20 for National and \$15 for Charleston Base.

If you have any changes to your membership info (address, phone, e-mail, etc.) you can now make those changes directly on-line in the Sub Vets national database.

Old Salt

*Old salt, Tar, Sailor been called
Through time stood watch
in rough seas and calm.*

*In steps of those who's gone before;
In vessels of mast and vessels of oar.
The great ships have changed
in number and size;*

*Sliding under the sea, and above in the sky.
In times of peace they sharpen their skills;
for the call of Battle Stations! Battle Stations!
This is no drill.*

*Gone are the cannons and muskets of old;
replaced by rockets, missiles, and jets on patrol.*

*Their battle ground different, yet still the same;
atop the brine, open to fire and flame.*

*Shipmates are many that rest 'neath the foam;
Last full measure given for family and home.*

Admiral Oz Scholarship News

Today, we continue to celebrate the legacy of Admiral James B. Osborn by awarding a scholarship in his name to Gregory Stabler. Greg is the son of William Stabler MT1(SS) Ret. He is currently a senior at Summerville High School and is ranked #2 in a class of 658. He has a GPA of 4.98 and is planning on attending Clemson as a computer science major. We are all invited to attend an awards ceremony on the evening of May 2, 2007 and present him with the \$500 scholarship check. More details will be forthcoming as they are available.

On behalf of the scholarship committee, Julian Villegas, Carl Chinn, and Tom Lufkin; I wish to commend each of you for your individual generosity and support of this worthwhile project. Throughout this year, there have

If you make changes, please let me know at chasbasemembernews@sc.rr.com or carlc@sc.rr.com or call 875-3098. This is so we can keep our local information current and accurate. If you want, I can make the changes for you...just let me know.

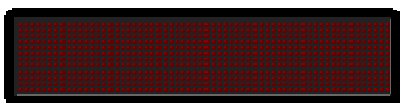
Membership Drive



Target: *New Members*

Started in November was a membership drive for 2007. We have the potential of becoming the second largest base in the country with just a little bit of work. It will be easy to be number 2 'cause we're less than 100 behind them. Who knows, we might someday surpass Groton Base! Here's the deal: Recruit as many new members as you can. The guy who recruits the most new members before 1 April 2007 will get 2 years Charleston Base membership dues paid. If that guy is already a Charleston Base Life member he will get \$30 cash. In case of a tie, there will be a random drawing for the winner. Make sure that you let me know when you recruit a new guy, if he joins you get credit and I can track the numbers.

Carl



March 24 – Amberjack Memorial Service, 1100
White Point Gardens

Terminology Trivia

“Hunky dory”

OK; satisfactory

Derived from Honki-Dori, a street in the port of Yokohama, Japan, where many a pleasure awaited visiting sailors.

“Learn the ropes”

Gain a skill

Young sailors were taught what each rope, rigging and knot was for aboard a ship. After ‘learning the ropes’, sailors would then ‘know the ropes’.

TRICARE USER FEES UPDATE 17: The Pentagon’s top health official reiterated 30 JAN the need to increase Tricare fees because across-the-board cuts have not been enough to decrease the Defense Department’s health care costs. Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant defense secretary for health affairs, said there is no way to cut operating enough to prevent higher fees. “That is a false hope,” he said. “It is not possible.” During a roundtable at

been many donations to our scholarship fund. The legacy that we are building by supporting these students will pay off in untold ways. Ways that many of us may never fully realize, but rest assured we have had a very important hand in shaping the future of our country by supporting the young intellectual leaders of our future. Bravo Zulu gentlemen.

Memories Surface With Sub's Discovery

By Rachel Harrington

Published on 2/5/2007

Ledyard -- While he was held for three years as a prisoner of war during World War II, Ernest Plantz was fed rice with bits of dead worms and beaten when he was too exhausted to work.

At one point I held the record for beatings by a baseball bat, the 86-year-old Gales Ferry resident remembered. I was struck 75 times in one day.

Plantz, then 21, was an electrician 3rd class aboard the USS Perch when a Japanese convoy attacked the submarine in the Java Sea on March 1, 1942. When the submarine's commander, who had been aboard with five officers and 54 sailors, ordered the Perch scuttled, Plantz figured that was the last he'd see of the submarine. Seeing the sub go down was like seeing my home go down, Plantz explained. This past Thanksgiving Day the Perch was discovered 190 feet below the surface by an Australian team hoping to take photos of the wreck of the British cruiser HMS Exeter.

I was surprised, Plantz said, I never thought I'd see it again. Last week the frail but sharp-witted Plantz sifted through the expedition's pictures of the submarine in his living room. Plantz was struck by a photograph of a large hole where a Japanese shell barreled through the hull. Fortunately for us it didn't explode, Plantz said.

When Plantz first saw the photos, he said that memories came flooding back to him. They reminded me of the beginning of that horrible time, he said. I think they bring back more bad memories than good.

After being captured by the Japanese, Plantz and his shipmates were held on Makassar, an island in what is now Indonesia. In what would be Plantz's final year at the camp in 1945, six of his shipmates died from torture, disease, and malnourishment. When the 180-pound Plantz emerged from the prison, he weighed 80 pounds and was near death. He suffered from starvation, malaria and dysentery. Still, not all of Plantz's memories upon seeing the photos of the wreck were bad ones. Looking at a shot of a glass porthole, Plantz was instantly nostalgic. I loved sitting there when we submerged, watching the fish go by, he recalled.

the annual Military Health System Conference in Washington, Winkenwerder said the health care budget was at \$18 billion in 2000. In 2007, he expects it to grow to about \$40 billion. "We don't see an end to that, in the absence of some appropriate adjustments and changes. We haven't made any change in the benefits structure in 13 years. The rate of growth, especially with new benefits and the expansion of Tricare for older military retirees and reservists, is twice the rate of inflation and higher than private-sector growth." He reiter!

ated a list of all the things the Defense Department has done to cut costs: changes to the prescription-drug formulary that saved \$5 million in two years, changes in the payment process for care that saved \$1 billion, and the conversion of military positions to civilian positions to save several hundreds of thousands of dollars. In spite of this he noted doing all of these things still does not get DoD anywhere near the amount of savings needed to have a lower-cost growth. Congress rejected last fall a 2006 proposal to save \$11 billion through increased fees for retirees younger than 65 or increasing what they spend out-of-pocket for doctor visits met with strong opposition. The Defense Department had planned to save \$735 million this year by increasing Tricare fees. The House defense appropriations subcommittee demanded that Winkenwerder solve the problem by asking the White House to present a request for more money.

TRICARE USER FEES UPDATE 18: The defense budget the Administration submitted to Congress on 5 FEB significantly upped the ante in the Pentagon's campaign to raise Tricare fees. It assumes even bigger fee hikes for FY2008 than last year's budget submission assumed for FY2007. Last year's budget proposed tripling Tricare Prime and Tricare Standard fees for retired officers and their family members and survivors over a two-year period, and more than doubling them for most enlisted retirees. It also would have increased retail pharmacy fees for all Tricare beneficiaries of all ages by almost 70%. The Administration projected that those fee hikes would save the Pentagon \$735 million in FY2007 and \$1.86 billion in FY2008, and cut last year's defense health budget by \$735 million on the assumption that Congress would accept them. Fortunately, Congress did not and barred the Pentagon from increasing fees in FY2007, pending review of alternative options.

This year, the Pentagon hasn't published any specific fee increase plan, indicating they are awaiting the results of a DoD-appointed Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care, which is supposed to provide interim recommendations on cost-sharing and pharmacy copays in May. But that's disingenuous, because the budget submitted to Congress this week assumes \$1.8 billion in savings from Tricare fee increases. That's almost three times the savings assumed in the FY2007 budget -- and happens to be precisely the amount of savings associated with the second year of last year's fee hike plan. So the budget puts enormous pressure on the Task Force (all of

Since the Perch was discovered, Plantz has been in contact with two of the ship's five living survivors Robert Lents and Marion Turk Turner, who Plantz has been close with since their ordeal. They were all so excited, said Plantz's wife Caroline about some of the men's conversations. Caroline said that her husband now wonders if his bolo knife, a prized possession, is still in his locker on the Perch. The knife is a type of machete used in the jungles of Indonesia and the Philippines. I was quite proud of it, Ernest Plantz explained, I almost took it off the ship. Had Plantz taken the knife off the submarine, he likely would have been killed. They stripped a person of everything he had in his pockets, he said. Charles Hinman, education director at the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii, said that fellow survivor Lents had a similar curiosity, jokingly wondering about the \$37 he left on board. Hinman and the museum were the first to report the findings, and he has been in touch with Plantz, e-mailing him photos of the Perch. Hinman said that the Perch wreckage is unique when compared to other lost submarines. Perch's case is different because no men were lost when the boat went down, he said.

During World War II about 288 submarines were deployed, 158 of which saw combat. Fifty-two of these vessels were lost at sea, most often in the Pacific. Only 10 of those have been located. The Naval Historical Center in Washington, D.C. is now responsible for making the Perch findings official, though there is little doubt that the submarine is, in fact, the USS Perch. A plaque with the submarine's name still rests on the wreckage.

Of the approximately 37 World War II submarine POWs alive today, five are from the Perch, according to Art Randall, regional director of U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc. John Carcioppolo, local Groton base commander of U.S. Subvets, Inc., said that fewer than 3,000 living World War II submarine veterans remain.

Randall has been working on compiling short biographies of POWs like Plantz.

We're losing them every day, he said.

Reunion News

USS Von Steuben SSBN-632 All Hands Reunion
March 22 - 25, 2007, Charleston, SC, Radisson Hotel at
Rivers and Aviation
Website: www.ssb632reunion.org

USS Seadragon reunion will be held Wed. 3 thru Fri. 5

whose members were appointed by the Secretary of Defense and half of whom work for the Secretary) to propose at least the same fee hikes the Pentagon pushed last year - and assumes that Congress will implement them all immediately, without any two-year phase-in. In essence, the Administration has underfunded the defense health budget by presuming the task force's outcome, and has challenged Congress to either change the law to implement fee increases high enough to save \$1.8 billion or to find another \$1.8 billion from another source to make up for the underfunding.

The Military Officers Association of America thinks it's wrong to play this kind of budget "chicken" with the defense health program - especially in time of war. They believe strongly that Congress should establish clear guidelines in law about the unique role of military retirement benefits, including health care, as the primary offset for the extraordinary demands and sacrifices inherent in a military career. They must recognize that military members and families who serve two or three decades under those conditions are making a substantial, in-kind pre-payment for those benefits. The cash deductibles, enrollment fees and copays that they pay in retirement are only a small portion of their very large personal contributions toward their benefits. To help make this case, MOAA is asking their members and all others in the military community member to do the following as applicable:

Sign, stamp and mail the four tear-out letters in their February issue of Military Officer magazine (two at page 32 addressed to the House and Senate Armed Services Committee Chairmen and two at page 52 addressed to the Committees' senior Republican). Similar tear-out letters last year helped turn the tide in Congress when Committee leaders stacked them on a witness table at a TRICARE hearing. Even more participation is needed this year, now that Congress is facing a far greater budget challenge.

Use MOAA's Web site to urge your U.S. representative to cosponsor Rep. Chet Edwards' (D-TX) and Rep. Walter Jones' (R-NC) Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act (H.R. 579).

Pass the word about the proposed increases to all of your TRICARE-eligible friends and urge them to send the message available at <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9275676>

September 2008 in the Renaissance Hotel (A Marriott Hotel). in Dallas - Fort Worth. E-mail:

Ron Waldron Head Hunter 352-753-5393

SSN584NUC1@aol.com or

Tom McCabe Sect/Tres 707-429-4796

tompops@aol.com



A big "Thank You" and a hearty well done goes to George Lisle, our Base Treasurer.

George won the depth charge drawing at the February meeting and immediately donated his winnings back to the Base!

Thanks George!!

Victims of Sub Collision Mourned

AP, Honolulu Star-Bulletin, February 10, 2007

Takako Segawa wanted her family's Hawaii vacation to be special. So she turned down invitations from friends to join them on their trips here, hoping instead to experience the islands with her father, a radio operator on the Japanese fisheries training vessel Ehime Maru.

Before she got her chance, the Navy submarine USS Greenville rammed into the Japanese fishing school ship during a surfacing maneuver demonstration off Honolulu six years ago, killing Hirotaka Segawa, four other crewmen and four teenage trainees. Yesterday, the families of all nine victims gathered in Honolulu for a ceremony carrying special significance under Buddhist custom because it marked the start of the seventh year since the deaths. Last year, the families of only three victims made it.

"My father would often come to the Honolulu port, but he wouldn't get to visit much of the city. So we thought it would be a good place to come," said Takako Segawa, 37. "He was going to retire after this voyage, and we were going to come."

One by one, during a quiet, sober ceremony on a Kakaako Waterfront Park hill, family members laid white carnations and colorful leis in honor of the dead. Some families offered colorful strings of paper cranes, a Japanese symbol of peace. Few cried. Most rather maintained solemn, drawn faces as they bowed before a granite memorial and photographs of those killed.

According to Buddhist tradition, yesterday marked the seventh year since the nine died because the religion counts the moment of death as the first



Two of our members, Dave Rein and Carl Chinn recently in Key Largo, FL, playing at the American Legion.

year of passing. The seventh year is a special time for healing and remembrance for Buddhists. Tatsuyoshi Mizuguchi, whose 17-year-old son, Takeshi, was the only one of the nine whose body was never found, poured sake into the ocean after the ceremony. "I told him we're here again and that we'll be back next year," he said.

The Navy's investigation concluded that the Greeneville's captain, Cmdr. Scott Waddle, rushed through mandatory safety procedures while demonstrating an emergency surfacing drill for the benefit of civilians touring the submarine. The sub's rudder sliced into the hull of the Ehime Maru.