

# TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 12 No. 12

December 2016

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

**Base Meeting:**

BOD: N/A

Membership: N/A

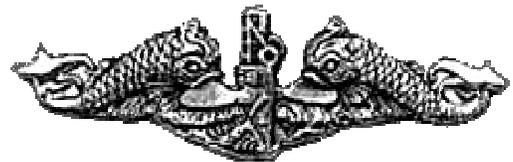
**Location:**

FRA Branch 269

Low Country Home

99 Wisteria Rd.

Goose Creek, SC



|                     |                   |                                      |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Base Commander      | Rick Wise         | 843.875.5559 (H)<br>843.276.0899 (C) |
| Vice Com-<br>mander | Mike<br>Knaub     | 843.795.6665 (H)<br>843.696.7555(C)  |
| Secretary           | Mike<br>Ciesielko | 843.324.0011                         |
| Treasurer           | Mike<br>Welch     | 843.300.9022                         |

|                   |                   |              |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Chief of the Boat | Ken Hutchison     | 843.553.0935 |
| Veterans Affairs  | Ken Curtis        | 843.797.1268 |
| Membership        | Larry Knutson     | 843.553.5594 |
| Scholarship       | George Scharf     | 843.873.3318 |
| Storekeeper       | Ron Chambers      | 843.821.2268 |
| Historian         | George Scharf     | 843.873.3318 |
| Public Affairs    | Ronnie Kerstetter | 843-367-1026 |
| Chaplain          | Nick Nichols      | 843.452.3189 |
| Holland Club      | Bill Freligh      | 843.553.1115 |
| Newsletter        | Vacant            |              |
| Webmaster         | Nick Nichols      | 843.452.3189 |
| Kaps for Kids     | Bill Kennedy      | 843.875.3109 |



## Submarines Lose During the Month of December

USS CAPELIN (SS-289) - December 2, 1943 - 1<sup>st</sup> War Patrol

USS SEALION (SS-195) - December 10, 1941

Lost with all hands – 76 souls

Bombed in Philippine Ship yards - First Submarine Lost in World War II - Loss of 5 souls

USS F1/CARP (SS-20) - December 17, 1917 - Collision with USS F3 (SS 22) - Loss of 19 souls

USS S4 (SS-109) - December 17, 1927 - Rammed by USCG Paulding - Lost with all hands – 40 souls

### Four Boats and 140 Men Lost During the Month of December

#### FROM THE BASE COMMANDER

I wish all of the Charleston Base members and their families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I am happy to report that the motion to donate to Don Meadows passed with a final total of 165 yeas, 5 Nays and 154 abstentions that are treated as Nays so it was 165 for and 159 against.

Here is the text of an e-mail Don sent before I told him that the base had approved the donation.

"We were doing good with Andrew, then while at dialysis the man next to him died. Rick this is an awful time.

I could not make it without knowing my brothers have my back.

Thank you!

Don "

I want to thank everyone involved in putting on a very successful Christmas Party and especially Rick Sparger and Elmer Feeser. Great prime rib, Elmer!

We also had a great Christmas Parade season with the Summerville Christmas Parade as the finale.

Please take a look at Page 7. Political Correctness doesn't always override common sense!

#### From USSVI National

Normal message traffic from USSVI will be published each month in the newsletter. If the message is of immediate interest to the membership it will be sent out by the Base Secretary.

SUBVETS NEWS2016-052: Christmas Holiday message from National Chaplain

LUKE 2:

7. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Savior: Webster says: one who saves.

GOD SAYS: MY SON

We are all blessed to be here right now by the Grace of God.

Do we realize what a magnificent moment this very minute is in our lives right now?

As we ponder our Bucket List for 2017, let us consider our relationship with our God, and make sure it is what it should be.

God Bless America!  
Butterbean  
NatChap

SUBVETS NEWS 2016-053 Insurance information request

Submitted by: William C. Andrea on 12/21/2016

This is a request about Insurance for a future Memorial being built in Northwest Arkansas . Many USSVI memorials are on State or city property, VFW or American Legion posts and are covered by their Insurance. Any help of names of Insurance Companies or other carriers that cover other USSVI memorials would be helpful.

USS Snook Base Memorial Chairman has requested that a POC be sent to all Base commanders requesting how insurance is covered on private memorials they support. This would be good information for the M&C Chairman to have.

Fraternally,

Carl Schmidt CD1

M&C Chairman

SUBVETS NEWS 2016-51: Shipmate in need

Submitted by: William C. Andrea on 12/18/2016

Shipmates,

Don Meadows, member of Charleston Base needs some help. His son, who is active duty is in Stage 5 kidney failure. His brother is going to donate a kidney, and the transplant will take place at Walter Reed. The problem is that they are in Charleston, and have spent everything on transportation, and all their leave and vacation time has been expired due to them traveling to and from Norfolk to Bethesda many times for workups. The surgery will be soon and both boys must stay in Walter Reed for at least a month after the surgery, and then have follow ups at regular intervals. Though they will be staying at the Fisher House, there will be no ,money coming in from work, as all time has been spent. They have started a "Go Fund Me" page to help with the transportation, loss of income and other expenses until they can get the boys back on their feet. The USSVI Brotherhood Fund has just sent Don a check for \$1,000.00, but they will need extra help on top of that. If you are able to donate anything to Don and his family, you may do so thru the "Go Fund Me" link, which is: <https://www.gofundme.com/2gfztk4>

SUBVETS NEWS 2016-50: Base closure

Submitted by: William C. Andrea on 12/16/2016

Shipmates:

Another Base has had to close due to lack of participation and attendance. The Doug Smay Base in Chula Vista, California sent in it's Charter, and it's members either reverted to MAL status, or members of another Base if they were dual members. Don't let this happen to your Base. If your Base is experiencing these problems, please send me an email, and we can discuss possible solutions to improve both attendance and participation. Let's keep our organization strong.

Bill Andrea

NJVC

---

## Charleston Base Christmas Party

3 December 2016

The Charleston Base Christmas Party was held at the FRA Branch 269 in Goose Creek, SC.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and reading of the USSVI Creed, Base Chaplain Nick Nichols read the following:

**THE FOLLOWING SHIPMATES HAVE DEPARTED ON THEIR ETERNAL PATROL  
SINCE OUR 2015 CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Master Chief Yeoman, Submarines, David Leslie Hansen,  
US Navy Retired  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Master Chief Radioman, Submarines, Gary Lynn Samples,  
US Navy Retired  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Chief Fire Control Technician, Submarines, Abel Urias Jenkins,  
US Navy World War II Veteran  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Lieutenant Commander, Submarines, David Eugene Rein,  
US Navy Retired  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Lieutenant Commander, Submarines, James George Yates,  
US Navy Retired  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Master Chief Fire Control Technician, Submarines, Robert G. Grabowski,  
US Navy Retired  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – April 13, 2016**

**Second Class Commissaryman, Submarines, Lewis Leroy Allison,  
US Navy World War II Submarine Veteran  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – April 15, 2016**

**Master Chief Radioman, Submarines, John E. Ilgenfritz,  
US Navy Retired  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – July 12, 2016**

**First Class Engineman, Submarines, Edgel Cletis Hash,  
US Navy Veteran and US Air Force Retired  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Senior Chief Electricians Mate, Submarines, William Max Allen,  
US Navy Retired  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Master Chief Machinist Mate, Submarines, Clell Burton Hutchinson,  
US Navy Retired**

**Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Master Chief Electricians Mate, Submarines, Donald George Mook,  
US Navy Retired**

**Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – September 5, 2016**

**Commander, Chaplain Corps, Keith Edward Wooster,  
US Navy Retired and Charleston Base Honorary Member  
Departed on Eternal Patrol – August 15, 2016**

**First Class Commissaryman, Submarines, William Houston Weaver,  
US Navy Retired WWII Veteran**

**Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – September 10, 2016**

**Chief Radioman, Submarines, Arthur O'Meally, Jr.  
US Navy Retired**

**Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – October 5, 2016**

**Chief Warrant Officer 1, Submarines, Charles Clifford Bohling, Jr.  
US Navy Retired**

**Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – November 11, 2016**

He then followed with the invocation and blessing of the food.



## Christmas Parades

Charleston Base participated in the Harleyville Christmas Parade ( Dec 1), Elloree Christmas Parade (Dec 10) and Summerville Christmas Parade (Dec 11).



Prior to the Elloree Christmas Parade the float was at Stumphole Landing where the participants were treated to lunch by base member "Moon" Mullins.



Summerville Christmas Parade

## **Navy Leaders Bring Back Rating Titles**

**Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs, Navy.mil, December 21**

**WASHINGTON** - On Dec. 21, the Navy announced that effective immediately, Sailors may continue to be addressed by their Rating Titles.

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral John Richardson, with the support of Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Steve Giordano, made the announcement in NAVADMIN 283/16.

"Our Navy needs to be a fast-learning organization - that includes Navy leadership," Richardson wrote in the NAVADMIN. "The Design for Maintaining Maritime Superiority states that our most junior teammate may have the best idea and that we must be open to capturing that idea. We have learned from you, and so effective immediately, all rating names are restored."

"The SECNAV, MCPON and I, along with other Navy leadership, have had the opportunity to speak with thousands of Sailors during our travels throughout the fleet. The feedback from current and former Sailors has been consistent that there is wide support for the flexibility that the plan offers, but the removal of rating titles was unnecessary and detracted from accomplishing our major goals."

The rating modernization working group will continue its work on the substantive portion of the rating moderation effort.

"As we looked at rating modernization effort over the past few months, we saw that we could still achieve the positive results we want without changing rating titles right now," said the Navy's Chief of Personnel Vice Adm. Robert Burke.

"However, modernizing our industrial-age personnel system in order to provide Sailors choice and flexibility still remains a priority for us. Our personnel system has not fundamentally changed since the 1970s, and just like our ships, aircraft and weapons systems, it needs updates to keep pace with a rapidly changing world. We must not shy away from adapting to meet the needs of a 21st century Navy -- including the way we manage our people."

"As we move forward into the execution stages of the rating modernization, more and more Sailors will have multiple occupational skill sets or ratings," Burke continued. "Before we get there, we will need to tackle the issue of managing rating names. We will involve Sailors throughout the Fleet and leverage the Rating Modernization working group to figure out how to best do that."

Sailor 2025 is a set of initiatives collectively aimed at modernizing the personnel system, improving the training process and improving career readiness of the Navy's Sailors. The program has been a major focus of effort for SECNAV and CNO as they seek to better prepare the workforce for the current and future operating environment.

Sailors have a direct line to provide input to the Rating Modernization working group to make sure their ideas are heard. Send them to [NavyRatingMod.fct@navy.mil](mailto:NavyRatingMod.fct@navy.mil).

## **USS Springfield Conducts Burial At Sea, Reuniting A Sailor with Lost Shipmates**

**Chief Petty Officer Steve Owsley, Dolphin News, December 8**

More than 50 years ago, on April 10, 1963 USS Thresher (SSN 593) was lost at sea while conducting deep-dive trials approximately 200 miles southeast of Cape Cod, Mass. costing the lives of all 129 crew members aboard.

The loss of Thresher forever changed the U.S. Navy's submarine force and the life of one young Sailor.

At the time, Capt. Paul "Bud" Rogers Jr. was a recently commissioned officer who had only been at his command for a few months when he was scheduled to go aboard Thresher as part of a weapons inspection team, but the leadership team decided to send someone more senior, said Rogers' son-in-law, retired Cmdr. Fred Henney. "Bud lived the rest of his life with the knowledge that someone else died in his place and I believe it drove his decision to be buried at sea."

While on routine operations Nov. 30, 2016, at the site where Thresher was lost, the Los Angeles class, fast-attack submarine, USS Springfield (SSN 761) held a burial at sea where Rodgers' last wishes were fulfilled as he was sent on his eternal patrol alongside the submarine and Sailors he always felt connected to.

"My husband loved submarines and he loved serving on them," said Rogers' widow, Barbara. "He went from being a boy scout to a submariner."

According to his obituary, Rogers served in the U.S. Navy for 41 years. He served as a Fire Controlman aboard the diesel submarines USS Sea Cat and USS Bang, then aboard one of the Navy's first ballistic missile submarines, USS Robert E. Lee. He was commissioned as an officer in 1963 and became one of the first-ever limited duty officers to be promoted to the rank of captain.

According to Barbara her husband joined the Navy during the Korean War and took part in the Blockade of Cuba during the Bay of Pigs Invasion.

According to Barbara they were always stationed on the East Coast, from Key West, Fla. to Maine.

"It was a sad time in Groton, when the Thresher was lost," said Barbara. "I never saw my husband cry before, but he was crying when it went down."

She said, "He always said he wanted to be buried at sea, but particularly after the Thresher went down."

On an overcast day, approximately 200 miles southeast of Cape Cod, Mass. USS Springfield's Commanding Officer,

Cmdr. Brent Spillner, Executive Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Rene Cano, and Chief of the Boat, Master Chief (SS/DV) Michael Johnson were in the submarine's sail with Navy Chaplain, Cmdr. Paul Rumery.

Rumery read the biographies of Rogers and three other Navy veterans who had requested a burial at sea. Then he read scripture before each Sailor received a three-round gun salute in honor of their service. The ceremony ended with a playing of Taps and the Sailors being committed to the sea.

When speaking about her husband's thoughts on being laid to rest with the Sailors of USS Thresher, Barbara said, "I think he would have been very, very happy. He felt bad all these years, because he felt he should have gone down with the ship. I feel that he would have felt like he was where he belonged."

After the ceremony Spillner reflected, "It's an absolute honor as captain of USS Springfield to be a small part of bringing Capt. Roberts to his final resting place as we transit to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for our scheduled maintenance availability. The submarine force changed on April 10, 1963 and 100 years from now Submariners will still know the name Thresher."

Thresher was built at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine and homeported in Groton, Conn. The Navy believes a leak sprayed sea water on an electrical panel, which caused Thresher's nuclear reactor to shut down.

The Thresher's loss resulted in the SUBSAFE program which led to a series of design modifications, training improvements and submarine safety criteria. The program, which was established approximately two months after the loss of Thresher, is still in place today.

## **Navy Studies Call For Increasing Number Of Ships To Near Mid-300s**

**Marc Selinger, Defense Daily, 5 December**

Studies conducted by the U.S. Navy are suggesting that the service should increase the number of ships in its fleet to about the mid-300s, according to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson.

The Navy is currently slated to grow its fleet from 272 ships today to 308 by fiscal year 2021. But the 308 goal was set in 2012 and did not account for a resurgent Russia or the rise of the Islamic State, Richardson said Dec. 3 at the Reagan National Defense Forum in Simi Valley, Calif. As a result, the Navy has been studying whether a further expansion of its fleet is warranted.

"Our studies are showing" that a fleet size "very close to the middle 300s" is what the Navy would recommend as an "appropriate risk," Richardson told the forum. "It has to come with the rest of the funding to own that force."

The Navy plans to release more details about its ship plans "in the next several months," a spokesman said Dec. 5.

The new goal offered by Richardson would put the Navy close to the total of 350 surface ships and submarines that President-elect Donald Trump proposed during his campaign. Trump has said he would reach his target partly by buying more destroyers and upgrading cruisers.

Richardson's comments came two days after Navy acquisition chief Sean Stackley testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee that the service would likely increase production rates for attack submarines, large surface combatants and amphibious assault ships if it received a funding infusion. Committee members conveyed support for a larger fleet but emphasized that controlling costs would be critical to making that happen.

The House Armed Services Committee has expressed concern about the "unprecedented shrinkage" in the attack submarine force, which is expected to fall below the Navy requirement of 48 vessels in 2025 and reach a low of 41 in 2030. According to the House report on the fiscal year 2017 defense authorization bill, the committee "has received testimony from a wide range of military leaders and experts about the strain that the submarine force is under today, and the need to mitigate the projected reduction in the fleet."

## CHARLESTON 9 MEMORIAL PROJECT

While preparing for the Summerville Christmas Parade we received the card below. Captain Louis M. Mulkey, one of the firefighters lost, was the son of a submariner, Ovie Mulkey, who was a long time member of Charleston Base.



### Charleston 9 Memorial Project

**SUPPORT THE PROJECT,  
BUY YOUR BRICK TODAY!  
TWO OPTIONS:**

- 1) 4X8 BRICK WITH 3 LINES, 18 CHARACTERS EACH LINE, \$100
- 2) 8X8 BRICK WITH 6 LINES, 18 CHARACTERS EACH LINE, \$150

VISIT [FIREANDIRON28.COM](http://FIREANDIRON28.COM) AND CLICK THE CHARLESTON 9 MEMORIAL TAB FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO ORDER



QUESTIONS?  
[FIREANDIRON28@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FIREANDIRON28@GMAIL.COM)



## H. L. Hunley Memorial Service

Date: February 17, 2017 (Friday)

Time: 1900 hours -- (Arrive 20 to 30 minutes early)

Place: Sunrise Presbyterian Church

3222 Middle Street

Sullivans Island, S.C, 29482

Church located near intersection of Jasper Blvd. and Middle Street by

Breech Inlet Bridge (Sullivan's Island side)

Uniform: Charleston Tuxedo for presenters and wreath bearers.

Blue Blazer w/Dolphins

White or Light Blue Shirt

Dolphin Tie (or dark tie)

Kaki Pants

Black or Brown Shoes

Top Coat/Overcoat Recommended (its cold on the beach)

If attending other than presenters or wreath bearers

Please wear your vest or your Dolphins

The Charleston Base Submarine Veterans and WWII Submarine Veterans are invited to attend a Memorial Service honoring the 8 man crew lost on the Confederate Submarine H. L. Hunley along with the 5 crewmen lost on the USS Housatonic during the night of February 17, 1864.

The Confederate Heritage Trust Committee has asked the Charleston Base to supply a *minimum* of 15 men to participate in the service. The more men (SubVets) involved, the better our showing of support from the Charleston Base. Please make an effort to be there and bring your wives, girlfriends and children, this is a family service.

Our job (*15* men) will be to sit in front of the church (in the choir loft just right of the pulpit as faced from the congregation) and at the appropriate time in the program, to step to the table at the front of the church, select a white rose from a table, turn to the Lady Mourners seated in the front pew and present the rose to a Lady Mourner. At the conclusion of the church service the SubVets will exit the church. Up-on retrieving our coats, we will proceed in the street in front of the church, then down to Breech Inlet for the completion of the service at the water's edge.

I would also urge all SubVets to carry a mini-flashlight with them as the sandy path to the beach can be tricky to negotiate in the dark.

NOTE: It is usually very cold with sometimes strong winds this time of year so be sure to bring a heavy coat.

**PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING AS A PARTICIPANT OR AT LEAST ATTEND AS PART OF THE CONGREGATION IN SUPPORT OF THE H.L. HUNLEY PROJECT.**

Thanks, Paul Viering Contact for volunteering.

843-797-2623 Home

843-693-2595 Cell

paul-jen2@comcast.net E-mail

Certified GSA Container Inspector  
 Past President of SC Locksmith Association  
 2004 Locksmith of the Year





**Robert Temple**  
 Journeyman Safe Cracker  
 Summerville, SC 29483

**843-873-0767**  
**H8SPVMT@GMAIL.COM**

Robert Temple - Crackerjack Locksmith  
 Locked Out? Call Crackerjack!!! 843.873.0767



**Swamp Fox Utilities, LLC**  
**Tim Curtis**  
**Senior Estimator**

**Clearing \* Grading \* Water/Sewer \*  
 Asphalt Paving**  
**2080 Mendel Rivers Rd**  
**PO Box 14**  
**St. Stephen SC 29479**  
**Phone: 843-567-3170**  
**Fax: 843-567-6709**

[swampfoxutilities@cs.com](mailto:swampfoxutilities@cs.com)



**RT2BR Arms LLC**  
 Firearms Transfers and Sales

---

Tom Clark  
 308 Mendenhall St  
 Summerville, SC 29483

Hours by Appointment  
 (843) 277-5309  
 Info@RT2BRArms.com  
 www.RT2BRArms.com

**MC SQUARED CABLES, LLC**



**MC SQUARED CABLES, LLC**  
 MELISSA A. GORDON, CEO/OWNER  
 EDWOSB/EDVOSB/DAVOSB  
 101 KILKENNY AVE.  
 GOOSE CREEK, SC 29445  
 OFFICE: (843) 327-8967  
 FAX: (843) 569-1438

**FIREARMS TRANSFERS**

[www.rt2brarms.com](http://www.rt2brarms.com)  
[Info@RT2BRArms.com](mailto:Info@RT2BRArms.com) Standard  
 Transfer Fee: \$20 USSVI Mem-  
 ber \$15  
 SC CWP Holders: \$5 discount

MC SQUARED Cables, LLC is an Economically Disadvantaged Woman/Veteran/Minority and Disabled Veteran-owned small business. We provide our customers with reliable cables that are physically and electrically appropriate for their applications, and conformant to the most demanding industrial requirements and military specifications. See [Flyer](#) at <http://www.ussvicb.org/business-discounts/MCSQUARED Business Description.pdf> for more information



**CHRIS CURTIS CONSTRUCTION LLC**  
 NO JOB TO SMALL

**CHRIS CURTIS**  
 LICENSED AND BONDED

8539 LAKE MARION DR.  
 N. CHARLESTON SC, 29406  
 (843)514-0305

SCHB LICENSE# 20188  
 BEAGLE305@COMCAST.NET