

# TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 13 No. 1

January 2017

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

**Base Meeting:**

BOD: January 5 1800  
 Membership: January 12 1900

**Location:**

FRA Branch 269  
 Low Country Home  
 99 Wisteria Rd.  
 Goose Creek, SC



Base Commander	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
Vice Com- mander	Mike Knaub	843.795.6665 (H) 843.696.7555(C)
Secretary	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011
Treasurer	Mike 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	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Kaps for Kids	Bill Kennedy	843.875.3109



## Submarines Lose During the Month of January

<b>USS SCORPION (SS-278)</b>	Jan. 5, 1944 – 4 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 77 souls
<b>USS ARGONAUT (SS-166)</b>	Jan. 10, 1943 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 102 souls
<b>USS SWORDFISH (SS-193)</b>	Jan. 12, 1945 – 13 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 89 souls
<b>USS S-36 (SS-141)</b>	Jan. 20, 1942 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> War Patrol	No loss of life
<b>USS S-26 (SS-131)</b>	Jan. 24, 1942 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> War Patrol	Lost with 46 souls–3 men rescued

**Five Boats and 314 Men Lost**

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### Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Board of Directors Meeting	1800	Feb. 2 at FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek, SC
Submariners’ Legacy Award NPS Class 1606	0800	Feb. 3 NWS Exchange Parking Lot
Charleston Base Meeting	1900	Feb. 9 at FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek, SC (Social Hr 1800)
H. L. Hunley—USS Housatonic Memorial	1830	Feb. 17 Sunrise Presbyterian Church, Sullivans Island, SC

## FROM THE BASE COMMANDER

As I have announced before I will not run for Base Commander during the May election. Any member in good standing may run for Base Commander. Here are the duties as stated in the ByLaws:

- A. Presides over all Base and Board of Director Meetings
- B. Serves as an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.
- C. Appoints all committees, chairmen and appointed officers.
- D. When possible, represent the base at South East (SE) Regional. Two nights lodging will be authorized from the general fund.
- E. Represents the Base at all official functions.
- F. May require written reports of the Secretary, Treasurer and /or committee chairmen.
- G. On extraordinary occasions, calls special meetings of the membership upon giving notice to members and stating the purpose of the meeting.
- H. Review and approve the annual Base Financial Report to the national office.

None of these are difficult but they do take time and you should attend as many Base functions as possible. I will be happy to keep any of the additional jobs I have now (Little David Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Comptroller) if the new Base Commander wishes and will be happy to continue presenting the Submariners’ Legacy Award at NPS graduations and speak at any other events.

The Base will also need a new Treasurer since Mike Welch will not run.

**Please step up. Charleston Base needs you!**

## 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.

SubVet News 2017-2 Dallas SSN700 Decommissioning

Submitted by: William C. Andrea on 1/8/2017

USS DALLAS (SSN 700) DECOMMISSIONING

USS DALLAS is scheduled for Decommissioning in Galveston TX on 9 April.

The DALLAS Navy League has asked CO USS DALLAS to get a number of how many military they can expect for the decommissioning ceremony. He is working to get a list of active duty intending on traveling to Galveston.

DALLAS CO has requested that former DALLAS COB John "Gumba" Carcioppolo to get the word out to former crew members about the Decommissioning.

Once the CO has a consolidated list USS DALLAS will be mailing the invites out.

So if you are a former USS DALLAS Crew Member and would like to attending the USS DALLAS Decommissioning Ceremony in Galveston TX, please email John Carcioppolo at [gumba700@comcast.net](mailto:gumba700@comcast.net) with your full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address and number of people who will be attending in your group you will be put on the mailing list.

The CO's goal is to have a head count to the Dallas Navy League by 15 January. So your input is required to be to Carcioppolo by 13 Jan 2017. I apologize for the short lead time on this, but we had to wait until the Navy League and the USS DALLAS had confirmed the date, and that confirmation was just received yesterday.

Also if there are any shipmates that can't make it to TX , but, would like an invite for their scrapbook the command would support that as well. Please send your full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address and instead of the number in your party please indicate "Invite Only".

There will be a USS DALLAS reunion scheduled for 2 - 4 March in Groton that will be addressed separately.

Any questions please give contact John Carcioppolo at either [gumba700@comcast.net](mailto:gumba700@comcast.net) or (860) 514 - 7064.

Please spread the word to all of your DALLAS Shipmates who may not be members of USSVI so we can maximize the number of people who are aware of the DALLAS Decommissioning ceremony.

Respectfully

John "Gumba" Carcioppolo

SubVet News 2017-3 2017 Awards Manual

Submitted by: William C. Andrea on 1/12/2017

The National Awards Manual was submitted and approved by the BOD in January 2017, and is posted on the National web site under the Awards tab.

(Continued on pg 4)

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There were very minor changes made to the Manual that was posted last year. The requirements as listed for each Award have remained the same.

Some new Members of the on committees were changed or added, and the process time line was updated to 2017 dates.

In accordance with BOD action, a statement was added to Attachment One indicating that the Shipmates select the District Commander of the Year and for the Ben Bastura Historical Award will be notified as soon as the selection has been made and reported. These two Awards and all other Awards will be announced and presented at the Annual Business Meeting or the Awards Banquet.

All Members are encouraged to review the Manual and submit their nominations to the National Awards Committee Chairman. Remember that the nomination period begins on February 1, 2017, and ends on 30 April, 2017. The only exception is the Newsletter Awards, which ends on 15 May, 2017.

Respectfully submitted, John Stanford, National Awards Committee Chairman

SubVet NEWS 2017-004 Acting NJVC

Submitted by: Alfred H Singleman Jr on 1/16/2017

Shipmates,

Due to a health issue Bill Andrea is in the hospital. While Bill is under treatment and until he is fully able to perform his dues as NJVC I have asked IPNC Al Singleman to be acting NJVC. Please forward any request for POCs, any membership questions or issues and any other NJVC functions to IPNC/Acting NJVC Al Singleman. Phone # 518-355-2119 E-mail [al@ssbn657.com](mailto:al@ssbn657.com) Also please keep Bill in your prayers and we will keep you informed on his progress per Bill's wishes.

Pride Runs Deep, John Markiewicz National Commander

From the Chaplain:

Several times during the last couple of years I have had base members ask me, on behalf of the family, if we can conduct a bell tolling service, provide a flag detail, etc., for a submarine veteran who is not a base member or a USSVI Member at Large.

In these cases I must explain that our resources in personnel and time will not allow us as a base to have an organized service for the family even though the deceased was a dolphin wearer. Here are the guidelines I use in handling these requests.

The base bylaws reference the Charleston Base Chaplain Guidelines and state the following. The guidelines can be located at: <http://www.ussvicb.org/documents/2012%20USSVICB%20Chaplain%20Guidelines.pdf>

## 6 ) Funerals and Memorial Services:

a ) Deceased Submarine qualified shipmates will fall into one of three categories:

- i ) Non-USSVI members (SS qualified but not members )
- ii ) USSVI Members at Large (MAL ) or members of another base
- iii ) USSVI Charleston Base members

b ) Non-USSVI members:

i ) The chaplain will ensure information, when known, concerning any shipmate 's passing is promulgated to the base membership. Info will include all pertinent details of services. All base members will be encouraged to attend the wake/viewing/services and wear their vests as a sign of support to the family.

c ) USSVI Members at Large (MAL ) or members of another base:

i ) When contacted by the family of the MAL or the leadership of another base, the chaplain will offer whatever assistance needed, dependent on available Charleston Base resources at the time of the services. All efforts will be made to ensure support for the departed shipmate 's family/base.

d ) USSVI Charleston Base members:

i ) When notified of the death of a Charleston Base member, the chaplain will make contact with the family as soon as possible. Additionally, he will promulgate to the membership as many details as known. Once service arrangements have been made, the chaplain will promulgate that info to the membership.

ii ) If the family requests, the chaplain will conduct the service to the best of his ability. He will work with the funeral home and family to ensure the wishes of the family is met whenever possible. In preparation for the service the chaplain will call upon the base leadership for assistance as necessary.

iii ) A typical service will consist of the following elements at a minimum:

- ( 1 ) Chaplain remarks
- ( 2 ) Music ( Navy Hymn, Amazing Grace, etc. )

- ( 3 ) Scripture ( if requested by family )
- ( 4 ) Presentations:
  - ( a ) Eternal Patrol Certificate
  - ( b ) Dolphin Shadow Box – Gold or Silver
  - ( c ) Commemorative Coin – Charleston Base or Holland Club
- ( 5 ) Bell Tolling

iv ) The chaplain will promulgate the prescribed uniform for the service. He will discuss this with the family and adhere to their wishes. The uniform will be either:

- ( 1 ) Vest Uniform – cover ( use decided by chaplain ) : SUVBET vest, blue shirt ( long or short sleeve ), dark tie ( dolphin tie preferred ), khaki pants, dark shoes
- ( 2 ) Charleston Tuxedo – no cover worn: navy blue blazer, full sized dolphins or pocket fob, khaki pants, dark shoes

### **USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes** 12 January 2017

The attendance for the January 2017 meeting was 91 members.

**Opening Ceremonies:** The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Rick Wise. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1900. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in January was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Secretary Michael Ciesielko. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

**Rick Wise:** Introduced Joyce Clark Ladson VFW Commander. She wanted to let us know they are having a Valentines Mystery Dinner at the VFW Post. All proceeds will go to the Victory House. The Dinner will be on 11 February 6:30 PM.

**Introductions:** The following introduced themselves at the meeting: ETCM (SS) Keith Deliteris, Qual Boat: USS Buffalo SSN 715; LCDR Bob Neider, Qual Boat: USS Grayling SSN 646.

**Secretary:** Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that there were no meeting Minutes for December. Mike also commented that this was due to only having the Christmas Party in December.

**Treasurer:** Base Treasurer Mike Welch gave his report on the Charleston Base finances. The base financial report is now located as a password protected file on the base website under Documents and Resources. The password is the same as needed for the Sailing List

**Special Events:** Rick thanked and acknowledged everyone for their outstanding efforts on the Christmas Party. Especially Elmer Feeser, who spent two days in the kitchen cooking the awesome Prime Rib.

**Chaplain and Webmaster:** Base Chaplain and Webmaster Nick Nichols gave the following report:

#### **January Report**

##### **Highlighted boat of the month:**

USS SCORPION (SS-278) was lost on January 5 1944, with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4<sup>th</sup> war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.

**RMCS(SS) Gary Alexander Burrell, USN Ret.**, departed on Eternal Patrol on December 29, 2016, in York SC. He joined the Navy in 1970, qualified on the George Bancroft, served on the Mariano G. Vallejo, and retired in 1991 from Strategic Systems Programs in DC. Gary was not a USSVI member.

- **MS1(SS) Michael Cline**, departed on Eternal Patrol on January 10, 2017 after a prolonged illness. He qualified on the Nathan Hale in 1976. Michael was a member of Charleston Base through 2012. His funeral will be at St Luke's Lutheran in Summerville on Sunday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> at 1400.
  - **Mike Knaub**, Vice Commander, has a couple more weeks before he can put weight on his foot and has to complete his meds. He plans to be here next month.
  - **Beetle Bailey's daughter, Diane**, has had a recurrence of her cancer. They found a 1.5 centimeter growth on her liver and she will be starting radiation soon.
  - **Buck Owens** was in the hospital over the New Year's weekend due to shortness of breath and a couple of other things. He was released on Monday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> and is recovering well.
  - **Joe Hayes** is having some major issues with his back. He is also having several other health concerns that are being treated.
  - **Roger Gibson** was at the doctor on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> and received great news. His PET scan showed everything was normal with no cancer. He will get a 6-month scan to check his lymph glands but knows what the report will be. QUOTE: Give the Lord all the praises for the healing and all the prayers; it's only through my Lord and savior that I'm healed and I give Him all the glory, amen and amen.
  - **Fred Woodley** will be having his shoulder surgery at some time in the future.
  - **April Hilton**, Vickie Mook's daughter, was in the hospital over Thanksgiving in critical condition with blood clots throughout her body. Vickie informed me that April is now home, still on O2, and doing pretty well. She was given only a 30% chance of surviving and she did. Long recovery ahead but at least she is still with us.
  - **Theron Irving's wife, Golden**, passed away on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at home with Theron by her side. No local services are planned. Golden will be buried in Texas with her father.
  - **Michael Cousino's wife, Lynn**, passed away on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Many SUBVETS attended either the viewing or Mass and their attendance was very appreciated by the family. Michael sent the base membership a very nice email which the Base Commander sent to everyone.
  - **Lee Young** has completed his radiation and will be having surgery in 8 weeks.
- James Graham** will be having thyroid surgery on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Follow-ups were made on those who've had surgery or illnesses in the last couple of months along with the base sending additional cards.

There will be an email coming our soon to begin a program where shipmates will pickup other shipmates who can't drive after dark and bring them to the meetings.

In the next newsletter I will explain what the base does for funerals for members and non-members.

#### **WEBMASTER NOTES:**

- Currently there are 6 ads on the Web site. I would like to encourage anyone that has a business to consider advertising through the base website and newsletter. The cost for an ad is \$25 for 12 months. If you would like to know more please see me or the Base Commander.
  - 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.

**Kaps for Kids:** Bill Kennedy reported that Kaps for Kids will be heading up to Florence on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February. Meet at Bill's by 8am. They are scheduled for 10 am at the Hospital.

Bill would like if anyone knows a Shriner He would like to get the Kaps for Kids into the Shriners Hospital.

**Membership:** Larry Knutson reported that there are 73 members that have not paid base dues. Membership is now 324 members.

**District Commander:** Ed commented that we (USSVI) are no longer a 401 status so charitable Contributions are no longer tax deductible. Next Tuesday Ed will make a visit to the Victory House. Ed mentioned the H.L. Hunley Memorial ceremony is Feb 17<sup>th</sup>. We need Volunteers for the presenters and wreath laying.

**Special Events:** Rick had no report.

**FRA:** Larry Cox reported that there is an FRA inauguration party 1100 to 1600 Friday 21 January. There is also a Superbowl Party on Superbowl Sunday. All food and Liquor will be provided. Tickets are 60.00 each.

**Veterans Affairs:** No Report.

**Submarine Veterans of World War II:** George Scharf reminded us we have 2 WWII vets attending tonight's meeting. George gave us a report on Willy Jones' status. Next Luncheon is at the FRA on 16 February.

**Scholarship:** George reported that the Scholarship applications need to be in by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Election Coordinator:** Joe Lunn asked the membership if anyone would like to run for the offices of Base Commander and Treasurer. Neither the Base Commander nor treasurer wish to run again for office.

**Public Affairs:** No Report

**Holland Club:** Bill Freligh had no report.

**Storekeeper:** Ron Chambers had no report.

**Rec Committee:** No Report

**CRAMA:** Butch Bryar was not present. Rick Wise mentioned that the next CRAMA meeting is 26 January.

**Chief of the Boat:** Was not present.

**Base Commander:** Talked about the Don Meadows Donation. The Base made a donation from the general fund of \$500.00

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Good of the Order:** Mike Ciesielko mentioned about starting a Charleston Base SUBVETS Gun Club. He asked if there was interest and if there were and they would like to join email the secretary.

**The After Battery:** Bhudda reported that the After Battery annual week long Hog roast will be 16<sup>th</sup> April.

**Nuclear Historian:** Rick Carlson reported:

Well, to start with we all got our rates back. ADM Richardson's CMC had to eat some crow. The NAVY (Sailors) did not want to do away with their rates! I'll bet he was either a NUC or an Airdale.

To date, I have been the Nuclear Historian for over 10 years. (Since we were at the VFW.) I had wanted to call it quits for a while, but I hung in there. I am finally ready for my relief. Any takers? The only requirement is you must be full of S\_it or at least half full.

Since I had not seen most of you since the Christmas Party, I'd like to wish you a belated Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Kuawana, and Happy New Year.

I spent my Christmas at my Brother-in-laws / Sister-in-laws in St Augustine, FL. It was so memorable I thought I would share it with you.

As a joke, My Brother-in-law Bob always hangs a pair of panty hose over his fireplace. He said all he wanted was for Santa to fill them.

What they say about Santa checking the list twice must be true because every Christmas morning, Bob's kids stockings are overflowing, and his poor pantyhose hung sadly empty.

This year I decided to make his dream come true. I put on sunglasses and went in search of an inflatable love doll.

They don't sell those things at WAL-MART!

I had to go to an adult bookstore on I-95. If you've never been in an X-rated store, don't go, you'll only confuse yourself. I was there an hour saying things like "What does that do?" You're kidding me! Who would buy that?

Finally, I made it to the inflatable doll section.

I wanted to buy a standard, uncomplicated doll that could also substitute as a passenger in my truck so I could use the car pool lane during rush hour.

Finding what I wanted was difficult. Love Dolls come in many different models. According to The top of the box, the most basic model could do things I've only heard about.

I needed the advice of an expert on these matters, so I called G.W. and asked for his recommendation.

I settled for "Lovable Louise". She was at the bottom of the price scale.

To call Louise a “doll” took a huge leap of imagination.  
On Christmas Eve and with the help of an old bicycle pump, Louise came to life.  
My Sister-in-law was in on the plan and let me in during the wee morning hours. Long after Santa had come and gone.  
I filled the dangling pantyhose with Louise’s legs and bottom.  
I also ate some cookies and drank the milk on a tray nearby.  
I went to the Hotel and giggled for a couple of hours.  
The next morning my Brother-in-law called to say Santa had been to his house and left a present that had made him  
“Very Happy”, but had left the dog confused. He would bark, start to walk away then bark some more.  
We all agreed that Louise should remain in her pantyhose so the rest of the family could admire her when they came  
over for the traditional Christmas Dinner.  
Bob’s Grandmother noticed Louise the moment she walked in the door. What the hell is that? She asked?  
Bob quickly explained, “It’s a doll” “Who would play with something like that? Granny snapped.  
I kept my mouth shut---but I wanted to say an Auxillaryman!  
Where are her clothes? Granny continued.  
Boy that Turkey sure smells nice, Granny, Bob said to steer her to the dining room.  
But Granny was relentless, “Why doesn’t she have any teeth?  
Again, I could have answered, but why would I?  
It was Christmas and no one wanted to ride in the back of the ambulance saying “Hang on Granny, Hang on!”  
Bob’s Grandfather, a delightful old man with poor eyesight, smiled up to me and asked. “Hey, who’s the naked gal by the  
fireplace? I told him she was Bob’s friend.  
A few minutes later I noticed Grandpa by the mantel, talking to Louise. Not just talking, but actually flirting. It was then  
that we realized this might be Grandpa’s last Christmas at home.  
The Dinner went well. We made the usual small talk about who had died, who was dying. And, who should be killed,  
when suddenly Louise made a noise like my dad in the bathroom in the morning.  
Then she lurched from the mantle, flew around the room twice, and fell in a heap in front of the sofa. The cat screamed.  
I passed cranberry through my nose, and Grandpa ran across the room, fell to his knees and began administering mouth  
-to-mouth resuscitation. My brother-in-law fell back over his chair and wet his pants.  
Granny threw down her napkin, stomped out of the room, and sat in the car.  
It was indeed a Christmas to treasure and remember.  
Later in Bob’s garage we conducted a thorough examination to decide the cause of Louise collapse. We discovered that  
Louise had suffered from a hot ember to the back of her right thigh.  
Fortunately, thanks to a wonder drug called “DUCT TAPE”, we restored her to perfect health.  
I can’t wait until next Christmas..... She may pay you a visit!!  
The red FRA ticket was won by Art Hanson  
The depth charge was won by Larry Knutson.

**Benediction:** Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Following the benediction by Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2022.

## **A Short Update on Andrew Meadows**

Charleston Base Member Don Meadows son Andrew is in Stage 5 Kidney Failure. He is to receive a transplant from his brother in the near future. Don wanted me to pass on this thanks for all the help and prayers he has received from his Brothers of the Dolphin. He recently posted this on the GoFundMe site.

Even though he is so very weak and sick. Even though he is scared to death, this SAILOR insisted on still performing his duty.

For his extraordinary efforts Andrew was named Naval Air Station Oceana SAILOR OF THE QUARTER!!

Everyone has been so kind and we thank and love you all. We are finding more and more hidden expenses that we must cover, both now and after the transplant.



## **[Navy To Get New, More Deadly Torpedo](#)**

**[Kyle Mizokami, Popularmechanics.com, December 27](#)**

The Pentagon is developing an improved version of the venerable Mark 48 heavyweight homing torpedo. A standard of U.S. Navy submarines since the 1970s, the torpedo is being updated to deal with new threats.

The Mark 48 torpedo was originally fielded in the early 1970s as a “one torpedo sinks all” replacement for the older Mark 37. Unlike the Mark 37, which was only useful against other submarines, the Mark 48 could attack both surface ships and submarines.

The Mark 48 weighs 3,695 pounds, is nineteen feet long and has a diameter of 533 millimeters. It has a 650 pound PBXN-103 high explosive warhead, an effective range of 35,000 yards, and an estimated maximum depth of 2,500 feet. It has both active and passive guidance systems capable of locking onto targets at 4,000 yards, and can also use wire guidance. The U.S. Navy has 1,046 of the torpedoes fleetwide.

Defense contractor Lockheed Martin is upgrading existing Mark 48s to a new standard. A new, upgraded torpedo will run quieter, have an improved propulsion system, be more resistant to electronic countermeasures, and have an all-new guidance control system known as Common Broadband Advanced Sonar System, or CBASS. The new system should allow for locking onto enemy vessels at even longer ranges.

In addition to upgrading older torpedoes, Lockheed will deliver 250 more brand new Mark 48s to the U.S. Navy.

## **Russia readies two of its most advanced submarines for launch in 2017**

*Thomas Gibbons-Neff, The Washington Post, December 29*

Two of Russia's most advanced nuclear submarines will be launched in 2017, despite ballooning program costs and delays, according to a report by a Russian state news agency.

Vice Adm. Viktor Bursuk, deputy commander of the Russian navy, said last week that the ballistic-missile-carrying, Borei-class Prince Vladimir and the Yasen-M attack boat Kazan "will be floated out" by the end of next year. While there had been reports that the vessels would be delayed, Bursuk said the navy expects to take possession of the vessels "within the time limits stipulated by the contract."

The terms "launched" and "floated out" do not necessarily mean the vessels will be ready for sea trials and commissioning. Once they move from the shipyard to their docks, more systems will likely need to be installed.

The Borei- and Yasen-class boats endured a tortuous development cycle as money dried up after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Even though the keel of the Yury Dolgoruky, the lead boat of the Borei class, was laid down in 1996, the nearly two-football-field-long sub wouldn't join the Russian fleet until 2013. Likewise, the initial Yasen-class vessel, the Severodvinsk, first underwent construction in 1993 only to earn its commission 20 years later.

Though two other Borei-class submarines have entered service following the commissioning of the Dolgoruky, the Prince Vladimir will be the first of four more advanced Borei-type subs, known as the Borei-A class, which will enter the Russian fleet. Construction began on the Vladimir in 2012, and in the coming years, eight Borei-class submarines — five A-types and the three current variants — will be at sea. On Friday, the keel of the eighth and likely final Borei-A class, the Prince Pozharsky, was laid down.

A 2013 article written by a U.S. naval officer for Proceedings magazine discussed the importance of the Borei- and Yasen-class submarines. Lt. Cmdr. Tom Spahn argued that the Borei and Yasen classes would become the backbone of the Russian sub fleet as the Russian navy sought to consolidate the capabilities of its different classes of submarines into two types.

The Borei — which means North Wind — costs roughly \$890 million, according to Spahn and has a silent propulsion technology much like the new U.S. Virginia attack-class nuclear submarines. The Borei is also capable of carrying 16 ballistic missiles, while the Borei-A class is rumored to carry 20.

The Yasen class, or Ash Tree, is designed primarily to attack other subs, surface ships and gather intelligence and requires a crew of only around 90, compared with the Virginia class's 134. Spahn said that the relatively small crew size indicates an advanced level of autonomy in the Russian sub.

The small crew size and high-tech systems might have something to do with its price tag, as the initial Yasen boat, the Severodvinsk, costs roughly \$1.5 billion. The second vessel, the Kazan will likely cost double that by the time it takes to the sea. The Yasen, according to Spahn's piece, has eight torpedo tubes, capable of launching underwater projectiles that can reach roughly 230 mph. The Yasen class can also carry a wide array of cruise missiles. In April, the Severodvinsk successfully test fired Kalibr cruise missiles, the same type of weapons Russia fired into Syria.

Russian submarine activity has steadily increased since Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea in Ukraine. In February, a top NATO admiral, Royal Navy Vice Adm. Clive Johnstone, said that NATO sub commanders are reporting "more activity from Russian submarines than we've seen since the days of the Cold War." Earlier this month, news reports indicated that two Oscar-II class Russian cruise missile submarines were operating near a U.S. and French aircraft carrier sailing in the eastern Mediterranean, setting off a NATO-led hunt for the boats.

The Russian navy has dozens of submarines, the majority of which are Soviet-era nuclear and diesel-powered subs. While Russia is trying to churn out new vessels, its navy is also modernizing some of its older boats. The U.S. Navy, however, has upward of 50 submarines, all of which run on nuclear propulsion. Congress's most recent defense spending bill authorizes the construction of six Virginia-class submarines through 2019 and has allocated money to replace the aging Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine.

## **U.S. Navy Will Add Nine Ships in 2017**

*Staff, Maritime Executive, January 2*

The U.S. Navy is scheduled to add nine new ships in 2017.

The ships will include four littoral combat ships: USS Gabrielle Giffords, USS Little Rock, USS Omaha and USS Sioux City.

The navy also expects the USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier.

The Navy Times reports the U.S. Navy is also expecting two destroyers, the USS John Finn and the USS Rafael Peralta, and two submarines, the USS Washington and the USS Colorado.

Leaving the fleet will be the submarine USS San Francisco which is planned to become a moored training ship. Two other submarines, the USS Dallas and the USS Buffalo are expected to leave active duty in 2017.

President-elect Donald Trump has said he plans to increase the fleet to 350 ships.

The Navy accepted delivery of the USS Gabrielle Giffords (LCS 10) on December 23.

USS Gabrielle Giffords is the ninth littoral combat ship (LCS) to be delivered to the Navy and the fifth of the Independence variant to join the fleet. The Independence variant is noted for its unique trimaran hull, ability to operate at high speeds and large flight deck size.

Following commissioning this year, the USS Gabrielle Giffords will be homeported in San Diego with her fellow ships USS Freedom (LCS 1), USS Independence (LCS 2), USS Fort Worth (LCS 3), USS Coronado (LCS 4), USS Jackson (LCS 6) and USS Montgomery (LCS 8).

The LCS class consists of two variants, the Freedom variant and the Independence variant, designed and built by two industry teams. The Freedom variant team is led by Lockheed Martin, with the Independence variant team led by Austal USA.

Each LCS will be outfitted with a mission package made up of mission modules containing warfighting systems and support equipment. A dedicated ship crew will combine with aviation assets to deploy manned and unmanned vehicles and sensors in support of mine countermeasures, anti-submarine warfare or surface warfare missions.

The Gerald R. Ford-class is the future aircraft carrier replacement class for Enterprise and Nimitz-class aircraft carriers. The lead ship, USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) is expected to be delivered this year. The class will be the premier forward asset for crisis response and early decisive striking power in a major combat operation. Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carriers and carrier strike groups will provide the core capabilities of forward presence, deterrence, sea control, power projection, maritime security and humanitarian assistance.

The USS Gerald R. Ford is designed to operate effectively with almost 700 fewer crew members than a CVN 68-class ship. Improvements in the ship design will also allow the embarked air wing to operate with fewer personnel. New technologies and ship design features are expected to reduce watch standing and maintenance workload for the crew.

The USS Gerald R. Ford is the first aircraft carrier designed with all electric utilities, eliminating steam service lines from the ship, reducing maintenance requirements and improving corrosion control.

The carrier class is designed to maximize the striking power of the embarked carrier air wing. The ship's systems and configuration are optimized to maximize the sortie generation rate (SGR) of attached strike aircraft, resulting in a 33 percent increase in SGR over the Nimitz-class. The ship's configuration and electrical generating plant are designed to accommodate new systems, including direct energy weapons, during its 50-year service life.

The next two carriers of the Ford Class will be the USS John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) and the USS Enterprise (CVN 80).

The Navy accepted delivery of the future USS John Finn (DDG 113) from shipbuilder Huntington Ingalls Industries on December 7.

John Finn is the 63rd Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) class destroyer and the first of the DDG 51 Flight IIA restart ships.

DDG 113 is equipped with Aegis Baseline 9 combat system upgrades, which have increased computing power along with radar upgrades that improve detection and reaction capabilities against modern Anti-Air Warfare threats.

The shipyard is currently in production on future destroyers USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114), USS Paul Ignatius (DDG 117), USS Delbert D. Black (DDG 119) and USS Frank E. Petersen, Jr. (DDG 121) and under contract for two additional ships awarded as part of the five-ship multi-year procurement for FY13-17. Another seven Arleigh Burke class destroyers are either under construction or contract at General Dynamics' Bath Iron Works shipyard.

The USS Rafael Peralta (DDG 115) successfully completed acceptance trials on December 16. The USS Rafael Peralta is equipped with the Aegis Baseline 9 Combat System which includes an Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) capability incorporating Ballistic Missile Defense 5.0 Capability Upgrade and Naval Integrated Fire Control-Counter Air capability. The ship's IAMD radar will provide increased computing power and radar upgrades that improve detection and reaction capabilities against modern air warfare threats. The Aegis Combat System will enable the ship to link radars with other ships and aircraft to provide a composite picture of the battlespace and effectively increase the theater space.

Following delivery, DDG 115 will be the 65th Arleigh Burke class destroyer and the first of the DDG 51 FLT IIA restart ships to be built at Bath Iron Works. The shipyard is currently in production on future destroyers USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116), USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118) and USS Carl M. Levin (DDG 120) and under contract for three additional ships awarded as part of the five-ship multi-year procurement for FY13-17.

USS Washington (SSN 787) is the 14th Virginia-Class fast attack submarine and the third US Navy ship named for the State of Washington. USS Washington is under construction at Huntington Ingalls Industries Newport News Shipbuilding. Virginia-class submarines are designed to conduct anti-submarine; anti-surface; strike; special operations; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; irregular warfare and mine warfare missions.

When delivered, the USS Washington will be the most technologically advanced submarine in service, as well as the least expensive. The Virginia-class is 7,800-tons and 377 feet in length, has a beam of 34 feet and can operate at more than 25 knots submerged. It is designed with a reactor plant that will not require refueling during the planned life of the boat.

## **Navy Plans Stealthier Attack Submarines, Citing Breakthrough Acoustic Technology**

***Kris Osborn, Scout Warrior, January 4***

New quieting technologies could help US submarine operate in or near enemy territory without being detected; this will enable US subs to detect and destroy enemy submarines, ships and incoming weapons at much farther distances.

Navy leaders say the service is making progress developing new acoustics, sensors and quieting technologies to ensure the U.S. retains its technological edge in the undersea domain – as countries like China and Russia continue rapid military modernization and construction of new submarines.

The innovations, many details of which are secret and not available, include quieting technologies for the engine room to make the submarine harder to detect, a new large vertical array and additional coating materials for the hull, Navy officials explained.

“We are talking about changes in sensors and changes in the capabilities aboard the ship that we think could be very dramatic in terms of improving our ability to compete in our acoustic spectrum,” Rear Adm. Charles Richard, former Director of Undersea Warfare, told Scout Warrior in a special interview last year.

Richard told Scout Warrior that the impetus for the Navy effort, called “acoustic superiority,” is specifically grounded in the emerging reality that the U.S. undersea margin of technological superiority is rapidly diminishing in light of Russian and Chinese advances.

The idea with “acoustic superiority,” is therefore to engineer a circumstance wherein U.S. submarines can operate undetected in or near enemy waters or coastline, conduct reconnaissance or attack missions and sense any movement or enemy activities at farther ranges than adversaries can.

Acoustic sensor technology works by using underwater submarine sensors to detect sound “pings” in order to determine the contours, speed and range of an enemy ship, submarine or approaching weapon. Much like radar analyzes the return electromagnetic signal bounced off an object, acoustics works by using “sound” in a similar fashion. Most of the undersea acoustic technology is “passive,” meaning it is engineered to receive pings and “listen” without sending out a signal which might reveal their undersea presence or location to an enemy, Richard explained.

Described as a technology insertion, the improvements will eventually be integrated on board both Virginia-Class submarines and the now-in-development next-generation nuclear-armed boats called the Ohio Replacement Program.

“The testing going on with the acoustic superiority program is more on the sensor side of the house. We see ourselves on the cusp of a fourth generation of undersea communications,” Richard added.

The concept with a fourth generation of undersea technology is based upon a “domain” perspective as opposed to a platform approach – looking at and assessing advancements in the electro-magnetic and acoustic underwater technologies, Richard explained.

“In this fourth generation, acoustic stealth will always be required - get into a hostile environment. If I am noisy, I am not going to live very long. We are constantly pushing the boundary of how to minimize our own signature - while having a better ability to detect an adversary signature,” Richard told Scout Warrior.

Richard articulated the first two generations as the advent of the first operational submarine fleets during WWII and the subsequent advent of undersea nuclear weapons during the Cold War.

“WWII was our first time to field a fleet scale capability that was effective in a war. It actually helped us win,” he said.

The new “acoustic superiority” effort is immersed in performing tactical assessments as well as due diligence from an academic standpoint to make sure the service looks at all the threat vectors – whether that be hydrodynamics, acoustics, lasers, among others.

The emerging technologies, however, are heavily focused upon sensitive, passive acoustic sensors able to detect movement and objects of potential adversary boats and ships at much further ranges and with a higher-degree of fidelity. While high-frequency, fast two-way communication is currently difficult to sustain from the undersea domain, submarines are able to use a Very Low Frequency radio to communicate while at various depths beneath the surface.

“Low frequency radio signals allow for slower communication. Water is opaque and it is also opaque to radio energy. We have the ability to use certain radio frequencies that do penetrate in the water but they tend to limit you in data rate and receive only. It’s very reliable and it well understood. Ballistic missile submarines are in constant communication,” Richard added.

The South Dakota is slated deliver in the next few years, Navy officials said.

Study: US Undersea Technological Dominance in Jeopardy.

Senior Navy officials have explained that the innovations contained in the USS South Dakota do, at least in part, help address an issue raised by a report by the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

The report, titled “The Emerging Era in Undersea Warfare,” says the technological margin of difference separating the U.S from potential rivals is expected to get much smaller. This is requiring the U.S. to re-think the role of manned submarines and prioritize innovation in the realm of undersea warfare, the study says.

“America’s superiority in undersea warfare results from decades of research and development, operations, and train-

ing. It is, however, far from assured. U.S. submarines are the world's quietest, but new detection techniques are emerging that don't rely on the noise a submarine makes, and may make traditional manned submarine operations far more risky in the future. America's competitors are likely pursuing these technologies even while expanding their own undersea forces," writes the report's author Bryan Clark.

In the report, Clark details some increasingly available technologies expected to change the equation regarding U.S. undersea technological supremacy. They include increased use of lower frequency active sonar and non-acoustic methods of detecting submarine wakes at short ranges. In particular, Clark cites a technique of bouncing laser light or light-emitting-diodes off of a submarine hull to detect its presence.

"The physics behind most of these alternative techniques has been known for decades, but was not exploited because computer processors were too slow to run the detailed models needed to see small changes in the environment caused by a quiet submarine. Today, 'big dat'" processing enables advanced navies to run sophisticated oceanographic models in real time to exploit these detection techniques," Clark writes.

#### Chinese Submarine Threat:

When asked about the pace of Chinese undersea military construction and modernization, Richard explained that the Navy is focused on sustaining the research and development, or R&D, sufficient to ensure the U.S. retains its technological superiority.

Richard added that the submarine fleet, and strategic nuclear deterrence in particular, is all the more pressing and significant now that China has operational nuclear-armed JL-2 missiles able to hit part of the United States.

A recent Congressional report states that Chinese modernization plans call for a sharp increase in attack submarines and nuclear-armed submarines or SSBNs. Chinese SSBNs are now able to patrol with nuclear-armed JL-2 missiles able to strike targets more than 4,500 nautical miles.

The Chinese are currently working on a new, modernized SSBN platform as well as a long-range missile, the JL-3, Congressional information says.

# H. L. Hunley—USS Housatonic Memorial Service

Date: February 17, 2017 (Friday)

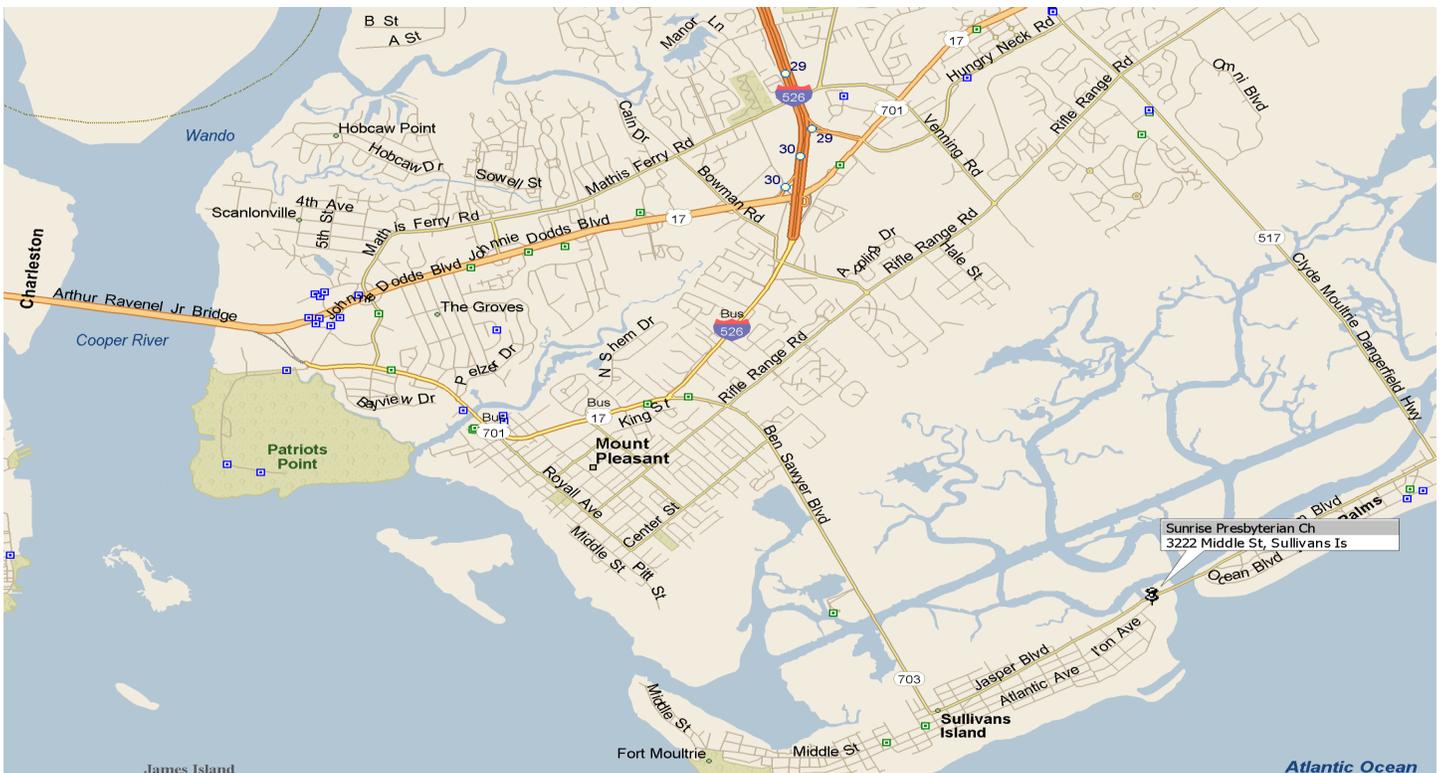
Time: 1900 hours -- (Arrive 20 to 30 minutes early)

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.**

**If you have never participated we'll have you in the middle and you can see how the presentation is done before you have to do it.**

Thanks, Paul Viering Contact for volunteering.

843-797-2623 Home

843-693-2595 Cell

paul-jen2@comcast.net E-mail

## 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!  
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