



Vol. 16 No. 4

July 2020

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

Base Meeting:

BOD: July 2, 1700

Membership: July 9, 1900

Location:

FRA Branch 269

Low Country Home



Base Com- mander	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011	Chief of the Boat	Joe Lunn	843.747.5368
Base Vice Com- mander	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282	Veterans Af- fairs	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
			Membership	Larry Knutson	843.860.1155
Secretary	Gordon Long	843.214.2353	Scholarship	Carl Chinn	843.437.5515
Treasurer	Gordon Wil- liams	843.553.3015	Storekeeper	Ken Hutchison	843.553.0935
			Historian	George Scharf	843.873.3318
			Public Affairs	Jerry Stout	843-568-5923
			Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Events Coordi- nator	Rick Sparger	843.553.5594
			Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.553.1115
			Social Media Coordinator	Lewis Leal	843-270-8870
			Newsletter	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
			Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Kaps for Kids	Mike Emerson	843.302.2650



Submarines Lost During the Month of April — July

USS PICKEREL (SS-177)	April 3, 1943 – 7 th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 74 souls
USS SNOOK (SS-279)	April 8, 1945 – 9 th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 84 souls
USS THRESHER (SSN-593)	April 10, 1963 – sea trials	Lost with all hands – 129 souls
USS GUDGEON (SS-211)	April 18, 1944 – 12 th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 79 souls
USS GRENADIER (SS-210)	April 22, 1943 – 6 th war patrol	76 POWs – 72 survived the war
USS LAGARTO (SS-371)	May 3, 1945 – 2 nd War patrol	Lost with All Hands – 86 Souls
USS SCORPION (SSN-589)	May 22, 1968 – returning from deployment	Lost with All Hands – 99 Souls
USS SQUALUS (SS-192)	May 23, 1939 – during test dive	33 survivors – 26 Souls Lost
USS STICKLEBACK (SS-415)	May 30, 1958 – under tow off Hawaii	No loss of life
USS HERRING (SS-233)	June 1, 1944 – 8 th war patrol	Lost with all hands — 83 souls
USS R-12 (SS-89)	June 12, 1943 – practice torpedo approach near Key West FL	Lost with 42 souls, 21 survivors
USS GOLET (SS-361)	June 14, 1944 – 2 nd war patrol	Lost with all hands — 82 souls
USS BONEFISH (SS-223)	June 18, 1945 – 8 th war patrol	Lost with all hands — 85 souls
USS S-27 (SS-132)	June 19, 1942 – grounded off Amchitka Island Alaska	No loss of life
USS O-9 (SS-70)	June 20, 1941 – foundered off Isle of Shoals NH	Lost with all hands - 33 souls
USS RUNNER (SS-275)	June 30, 1943 – 3 rd war patrol	Lost with all hands — 78 souls
USS S-28 (SS 133)	July 4, 1944 – Training Exercise	Lost with all hands - 49 souls
USS ROBALO (SS 273)	July 26, 1944 – 3 rd War patrol	Lost with 77 men; 4 died as POW's— 81 souls
USS GRUNION (SS 216)	July 30, 1942 – 1 ST War patrol	Lost with all hands— 70 souls

19 Boats and 1184 Men Lost

Table of Contents

From the Editor	3
From USSVI National	3
From the Scholarship Committee	5
Humor	6
July Base Meeting Minutes	7
Undersea Warfare News	10
Advertisements	12

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Board of Directors Meeting	Thursday, August 6	1800	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Charleston Base Meeting (To be determined)			
If held	Thursday, August 13	1900	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek

Information on all these events are on the base website www.ussvicb.org/events/index.html

From the Editor

Welcome Back!

This is the first issue of the newsletter since March. We had a July meeting and I would like to explain my thoughts in promoting a meeting.

This COVID-19 Pandemic is going to go on for many more months. I remember reading an article in April that predicted with good participation by the populace (social distancing, masks and sanitation) there would have to be about a 40% infection rate before the virus would start to disappear. Today, August 1, 2020, we have a SC total number of positive cases of 90,076 for a population of 5.149 million or 1.75%. At the current rate of about 1500 positives per week it would take over 1000 weeks or about 25 years to reach 40%. Of course, if a successful vaccine is developed this can number can be reached in a matter of months. We have to learn to live with this new danger in our lives.

I believe that Submarine Sailors are used to taking precautions when necessary.

Although there is a lot of BS on social media about it, the use of masks, social distancing, where possible, and good hygiene practices have kept many who couldn't be immunized for influenza from catching that disease when it was prevalent in the general population. AND IT WILL WORK FOR COVID-19!

While we are a fraternal organization that does not mean that our getting together for meeting is not important. Many of our members look forward to seeing their brothers again.

We are men who are used to considering all the pros and cons of a situation and making our own decisions.

That said, we had a good meeting and I haven't heard of anyone present that has tested positive.

This edition is taking a little longer to put together because we are keeping our 2 year-old great granddaughter and 8 year-old great grandson. The 2 year-old demands a lot of attention, just like ET's.

From USSVI National

Normal message traffic from USSVI will be published on the Charleston Base Website www.ussvicb.org . If I see anything that should be brought to the notice of our non-computer

members I will post it here.

VOTING FOR THE NATIONAL ELECTION ENDS AUGUST 17. VOTE!

VA National Cemeteries Resume Committal and Memorial Services Discontinued by COVID-19 Pandemic

June 5, 2020 WASHINGTON —Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemeteries will resume committal services in all but two national cemeteries on June 9, 2020. VA national cemeteries will begin contacting families who were unable to hold a committal service due to the COVID-19 pandemic to arrange memorial services for their loved ones beginning in July. "VA national cemeteries were able to continue performing our essential mission —to inter Veterans and eligible family members over the last 10 weeks," said Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves. "We have been eager to resume normal operations and provide committal services and military honors that families have come to expect. We believe we have a robust set of measures in place that will allow us to conduct committal and memorial services while protecting the health and safety of Veterans, their families and our team members who serve them." VA national cemeteries have remained open for interments and visitation throughout the pandemic. However, as a matter of health and safety, committal services and military funeral honors were deferred on March 23, 2020. Families with interments scheduled on or after June 9, 2020, will be offered the option of a committal service at the time of interment. At Calverton and Long Island national cemeteries, that option will be available starting June 22, 2020, provided state and local guidance permit. Military funeral honors, customarily provided by the Department of Defense and volunteer honor guards, will be based on local availability. VA national cemeteries will continue adherence to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to prevent the spread of coronavirus by limiting the number of individuals attending committal services, practicing physical distancing between individuals not from the same household, ensuring all attendees and employees wear face coverings, encouraging frequent use of hand sanitizer, and asking sick individuals to stay home.

The number of permitted attendees will vary based on state and local guidelines for gathering sizes provided the facility can accommodate larger groups while maintaining physical distancing. Families may continue to choose direct interment and opt for a memorial service at later date when restrictions have been lifted. Memorial services for Veterans and eligible family members who were interred without a committal service between March 23, 2020 and June 8, 2020 will commence in July.

Base Members,

This is from USSVI National.

The attached flyer advertises "The Silent Service Speaks" which is the third book written and published by Frank and Charles Hood where for each book sold, with the exception of a few cents, all proceeds go to our USSVI Charitable Foundations Scholarship Fund.\



ATTENTION: ALL SUB VETS GOOD DEAL 4U

Support the USSVI Scholarship Fund, as well as a deserving young person's Education – PLUS You get a Good Read – PLUS the chance for YOUR story to be published

The 3rd book in the "Poopie Suits & Cowboy Boots" series has been published, and is available now. (Soft Cover and e-Book)

Written by 33 submarine veterans like yourself, "The Silent Service Speaks - Vol I" contains 150 stories, replete with 314 pictures, that cover life on a boat from stem to stern.

By buying a copy for yourself, you will be getting better than a Two-Fer, you get a Three-Fer.

A great read that you can identify with, support for the USSVI Scholarship Fund, and funds that help a deserving young person get their degree, thus helping them for the entire rest of their lives.

Copy and Paste the links to the right – to see a lot more.

If you have a story that is unique and interesting, see the contact info below.

Frank Hood fhoo001@gmail.com

**Stories from
Bubbleheads
In Their Own
Words**

**Stories that
deserved to be
told and preserved
in print**

**\$5 from each
purchase goes to
USSVI Scholarship
Fund**

**A Win/Win/Win
Charitable Action**

www.thesilent-service-speaks.net

www.subtales.com for info
on Books 1 and 2

**Thank You for Helping Us
Help Others**

2020 Admiral Osborn Scholarships Awarded

Two local high school seniors were recipients of the Charleston Base Admiral James B. Osborn Scholarship for 2020.



Kaitlyn Wood received an award of \$500. She is the granddaughter of Base member David Wood of Summerville. Kaitlyn lives in North Charleston and attended Fort Dorchester High School. She will be attending the University of South Carolina.



Griffin Shelton received an award of \$500. He is the grandson of Base member Ed Stank of Goose Creek. Griffin lives in Summerville and attended Cane Bay High School. He will be attending The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina.

From the Scholarship Committee:

Hey Guys!

We KNOW you've missed us so we have a new raffle for you. This one is going to be the same only different. This raffle will be held via mail and e-mail. You send your money in regular mail and we will send you your ticket numbers via e-mail (and we'll keep track too). The scholarship fund is only running about 18% of what it was last year at this time. With no income there can be no scholarships awarded.

This is a wonderful way to spend some of the money you've saved during the COVID shutdown and support our great cause!

This raffle is [*open to anyone*](#), not just Base members. So if you know someone who wants to get in please let them know! All takers welcome!

The raffle is for gift cards to Top Dawg Tavern on Dorchester Rd. It is a great place to get a bite and/or have a cool one. They have in-restaurant dining, take-out and outdoor seating.



9512 Dorchester Road, Summerville, SC 29485

*Seven for \$7 LUNCH! 7 lunch options for only \$7 available M-F, 11-4

*Happy Hour Monday-Friday, 4-7p

*LIVE MUSIC on the patio Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights

*Tuesday: 60¢ Wings and Half-Price Boneless Wings

*Burger Night every Wednesday (4-close): \$6 Tavern Burgers, Happy Hour all night, Whiskey Wednesday

*Thursday: any appetizer \$6, \$3.50 any Pint, \$5.50 any glass of Wine/Sangria

Ticket cost is six (6) for \$5; no singles. There will be three (3) prizes awarded! 3 chances to win! All prizes are gift cards to Top Dawg Tavern.

First place is \$40

Second place is \$30

Third place is \$20

Again, here's how it will work:

You send in your money via regular mail and we will send you your ticket numbers via e-mail (picture) after we receive funds. ***Please provide e-mail address with payment.***

Payment can be cash or check made payable to Carl Chinn.

Drawing will be held October 8th, 2020.

Send money to:

Carl Chinn

217 Brailsford Rd.

Summerville, SC 29485-5405

HUMOR





**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
9 July 2020**

Opening Ceremonies:

The July 2020 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of two officers (Base Commander and Secretary) and a total of 18 members and two guests present. The meeting started at 1900. We did not use of the diving alarm tonight. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Base Commander Mike Ciesielko and recited by the members and guests in attendance. The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. Submarines lost during the month of July:

USS S-28 (SS 133)	July 4, 1944 – Training Exercise	Lost with all hands – 49 souls
USS ROBALO (SS 273)	July 26, 1944 – 3 rd War patrol	Lost with 77 men – 4 died as POWs – 81 souls
USS GRUNION (SS 216)	July 30, 1942 – 1 st War patrol	Lost with all hands – 70 souls
Three Boats and 200 Men Lost		

Senior Chief Radioman, Submarines, Barry Jack Tackett, US Navy Retired – Departed on Eternal Patrol April 23, 2020

Master Chief Electronics Technician, Submarines, Stan Yoakum, US Navy Retired – Departed on Eternal Patrol April 29, 2020

Master Chief Torpedoman, Submarines, Danny Leonhardt, US Navy Retired – Departed on Eternal Patrol May 21, 2020

Chief Torpedoman, Submarines, William Hayes, Jr., US Navy Retired – Departed on Eternal Patrol May 29, 2020

The USSVI Creed was read by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko.

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Presentation of Distinguished Submariner:

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko presented Bill Kennedy – AKA Friar Tuck – the Distinguished Submariner Award. Mike read the numerous comments provided from the nominations by the Base members for Bill's work as Kaps-for-Kids coordinator. The framed comments and certificate signed by the Base Commander were provided to Bill along with a plaque noting the achievement.

Introductions of New Attendees:

Two men the Base meeting as guests:

William Woodfall (Woody) – EM1 – Qualified on USS Queenfish SSN651 – 1974 – Also served as an instructor at Nuclear Power School and Plankowner on USS Houston SSN713.

Phillip Nunn – MMC – Qualified on USS John Adams SSN620 – 1981 – Also served aboard USS John C. Calhoun SSBN 630, USS Sand Lance SSN 660, USS Holland, at SUPSHIP at Charleston Naval Shipyard and at Trident Training Facility.

Old Business:

2020 Charleston Base Elections – Ken Hutchison

Two men had been nominated for office of Vice Commander: Tom Lawson (Incumbent) and Ed Stank. There was only one nomination for the office of Base Secretary: Gordon Long. Ballots were provided to each member at meeting check-in. The ballots were collected by Ken Hutchison with the results:

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson winning with 10 votes. Ed Stank received 8 votes. Secretary – Gordon Long (uncontested).

New Business:

Secretary – Gordon Long:

The Minutes from the March Base meeting had been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website. Due to the panic shutdown of America, Charleston Base did not hold meetings during the months of April, May or June. The March Base meeting minutes were approved with no additions, changes or deletions.

Treasurer – Base Commander for Gordon Williams:

The Treasurer's Reports for March, April, May and June have been published and promulgated on the website.

There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved as provided.

Treasurer reported that Charleston Base donated \$250 to the Submarine Birthday Ball.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

Highlighted boat of the month:

GRUNION was lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in 2006 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.

There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

RMCS(SS) Barry Jack Tackett departed on Eternal Patrol on April 23rd at the Walterboro Victory House. He was a member of USSVI National and Charleston Base since 2015. Served on: SSBN-658, SSBN-628, SSBN-627, SSBN-632. Qualified in submarines on the USS Mariano G Vallejo (SSBN-658) in 1968 and was a RMCS(SS) when he left the Navy.

TMC(SS) William 'Bill' Hayes, Jr. departed on Eternal Patrol on May 29th at his home. He joined the Navy in 1954 and retired in 1973. Bill was a Life Member of USSVI National [2004] and Life Member of Charleston Base [2004], a member of the American Legion Post #166 in Goose Creek and Fleet Reserve Branch 269 in Goose Creek. He qualified on USS BEGURA SS-331, and served on SCAMP SSN-588, POMODON SS-486, HADDO SSN-604, HADDOCK SSN-621, POLLACK SSN-603 and TIRU SS-416. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.

TMC(SS) Danny Leonhardt departed on Eternal Patrol on May 21st at MUSC. He joined the Navy in 1962 and retired in 1985. Danny was a Member of USSVI National [2009] and Charleston Base [2009]. He qualified on USS THOMAS JEFFERSON SSBN 618 and served on SIMON BOLIVAR SSBN 641 and CASIMIR PULASKI SSBN633 as Chief of the Boat. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website. Wife Sandy has informed me there will be a memorial service sometime in the fall and would like Charleston Base and FRA to participate.

ETCM(SS) Stan Yoakum departed on Eternal Patrol on April 29th in Moncks Corner. Stan was not a current member of USSVI or Charleston Base but had been up until 2019.

TMC(SS) Charles E. Watkins departed on Eternal Patrol on May 28th. He was not a member of USSVI. He qualified on BARBELL SS-580 and served on GRAYLING SSN-646, SUNFISH SSN-649, TRUMPETFISH SS-425, and PARCHE SSN-683. Also was stationed at POMFLANT NWS CHASH and one of the SQUADRONS either 4 or 6.

ETCS(SS) Richard 'Willie' Wilson departed on Eternal Patrol on April 13th at home. He was not a member of USSVI. He qualified on HENRY L. STIMSON SSBN-655 in 1977 and served on FRANCIS SCOTT KEY SSBN-657, JOHN C. CALHOUN SSBN-630 and PROTEUS AS-19.

Dr. Trevor Nichols DC, 52, son of Nick & Linda, died on March 21st at his residence in Forest Park GA. He was a Chiropractor practicing in the Atlanta area. He was an Air Force Veteran in Panama and the 1st Gulf War in Kuwait and Iraq. Due to the COVID19 restrictions, the family was not able to bring him home until the end of April. A private memorial service was held on June 2nd.

Rebecca Bryar, Butch and Shelly's daughter, passed away on June 23rd.

Patricia Lindberg, 82, wife of Tom Lindberg, passed away on May 16th.

Billy Buntin is in Trident and not doing well. Is going to be placed on Hospice. Family is trying to get him into one of the VA Hospice Homes locally.

Roger Gibson had a defibrillator installed on May 28th. He is doing well.

Glenn Little was treated for diverticulitis. He is doing well.

George Burton is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. His most recent scans show great improvement.

Gene Simpo was in Roper with congestive heart failure. He is 94 years young. He is now in Roper Downtown for physical therapy.

Rick Wise has been diagnosed with early stage prostate cancer. After consulting with the Oncologist he has decided to go with radioactive seed implants. Since it requires 3 months of hormone therapy prior to the implants the target date is in mid to late October. I thank everyone for their input that helped me with the decision as well as their prayers. Please keep them coming.

Gerry Starr had gall bladder surgery in early May. He is doing well.

Jimmy Kimbrell was in the hospital for a possible heart problem but diagnosed with shingles. Doing well.

Ed Stank had colon surgery in mid-May. He was diagnosed with no cancer.

Tom Lufkin has had several medical issues beginning in Nov 2019. The latest began in early May with angina pain, developed a cough, fluid

on the lungs and eventually ended up with COVID 19. He is now home and feels much better.

Ray Sparks had hernia surgery in late March. Feeling great now.

Bob Snyder is home with palliative care.

Please complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so. Of all the Eternal Patrols this reporting period, no one had a page 2 on file. None of the 4 base members who passed away during this reporting period had a page 2.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

Website is constantly updated.

Make use of the EVENTS page on the Charleston Base website. All events that are put out to the membership via email will be listed and updated on the events page.

Pictures will now be on the USSVI National website. Please take a look at your profile on the National site and update it if needed. Many have missing info.

Charleston Base now has a YouTube channel compliments of our Social Media guru, Lewis Leal. The Memorial Day service was filmed and put on there.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – George Scharf:

Not present

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

Not present

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson

Not present

Membership – Larry Knutson

Not present

VA – Tom Lawson

Not present

Nick Nichols noted that the VA is starting to open again, but you are not allowed to have any visitor to accompany you to the appointment.

Building access is also restricted to less than 15 minutes prior to your appointment. So, if you are a slow walker, you need to call to make arrangements accordingly so that you don't miss your appointment.

Scholarship – Rick Sparger for Carl Chinn

The Rummage Sale to benefit the Scholarship Fund will occur when cooler weather starts to arrive. The date is yet to be determined, but it WILL happen. Please continue to hold your items so that we can raise the funds for the Scholarship presentations.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

Nothing to report.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

Not Present

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks

The graduations are no longer open to the public. Charleston Base is still participating by providing the award but it is actually presented by the NPS staff to the students with video streaming. The next NPS graduation is July 10.

Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger

The FRA is has open (no cost) for pool tables on Sundays.

Public Affairs – Jerry Stout

Not present

Newsletter – Rick Wise

If anyone has anything that you would like to put in the Base Newsletter, please send it to Rick. He is usually waiting on the Meeting Minutes.

Comptroller – Rick Wise

We did not take in much money last quarter – only about \$313. We did carry over \$2500 from last year, so we will not have any budget issues.

Recreation – VACANT

Rick Sparger pointed out that we had the Oyster Roast this last February and have not had any other events. We should have a picnic in the

autumn after cooler weather arrives. He does not recommend a barbeque since that was unsuccessful in the past. Instead it should simply be hamburgers/hotdogs. Rick also suggested that the Base should provide beer and wine.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

If anyone is in need of an item, please call Ken.

COB – Joe Lunn

Not present

Vice Commander – Mike Ciesielko for Tom Lawson

Be sure to clean your tables.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

National USSVI elections are currently in progress. The election for national officers is being handled online and started on June 18. It will run until August 17. Go to USSVI.ORG national site and log on to make your selection for the various officers and amendments. If you prefer a paper ballot, there is a button to print it out for mail-in. You can also use the ballot that is in the American Submariner. These instructions were previously sent to the entire Base membership via email. Mike encouraged everyone to vote – preferably online to make sure that your vote is counted. The deadline is too close to our August Base meeting.

Nick Nichols explained the requested changes to the National By-Laws that are contained in the USSVI ballot and emphasized the need to logon and cast your vote

Good of the Order

After Battery – Ken Hutchison

Currently shutdown due to one individual testing positive for COVID. Will open up likely next Wednesday after sanitizing everything.

COVID – Nick Nichols

As many are aware, there are several states which are requiring quarantine when traveling from South Carolina and others. Be careful of your vacation plans this summer because you may have to quarantine for 14 days before going out anywhere once you arrive at the other state.

EMAIL – Nick Nichols

National USSVI sent information regarding the use of email. When sending out to groups, PLEASE remember to address your list in the BCC box – not TO or CC, as this will keep the addresses hidden. For small groups this is usually no problem. By using BCC, it keeps from sending out everyone's email addresses if someone was to forward the email outside the group. Many times, spammers are able to obtain email addresses from these forwarded emails.

Gun Shoot – Mike Ciesielko

Nothing happening at this point.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

Not Present

Drawings & Auctions

Depth Charge – Rick Sparger – Donated \$20 back to Base.

Closing Ceremony

Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 1945.

After the U.S. Navy's Bonhomme Richard catastrophe, a far-reaching crack-down on fire safety

David B. Larter, DefenseNews, July 25

WASHINGTON — U.S. Navy brass is telling sailors and contractors to put fire safety at the center of their work in the shipyards and on the waterfront in the wake of a catastrophic fire aboard the amphibious assault ship Bonhomme Richard.

As Naval Sea Systems Command continues its formal assessment of the damage to Bonhomme Richard, the Navy has both sailors across the organization and contractors working on the ships reviewing their procedures and ensuring they are doing everything possible to prevent a second tragedy.

Adm. Michael Gilday, the chief of naval operations, said the enterprise-wide effort was to prevent a similar event from taking place, a lesson he drew from the Navy's response to a string of accidents in 7th Fleet in 2017.

"Could there be another Bonhomme Richard waiting to happen? If you go back to 2017, who would have predicted we'd have had two collisions of that magnitude within a month?" Gilday said in a July 16 interview with Defense News. "So, I'm not waiting for 'No. 2' to decide we have a trend here. In a situation like this, one incident is enough for me to determine that there could be a trend and I'm not going to leave it to chance that there might be."

In the wake of the fire, he ordered fleet commanders to send a lengthy list of requirements to the waterfront, including a mandate to do fire safety inspections of every space on every ship. So-called "zone inspections" of each space on a ship are generally spread out over months, rather than packed into a week.

The orders also included reviewing maintenance records on all damage control equipment – such as fire hoses and fire main connections, fire extinguishers, fixed fire suppression systems and firefighting gear – and ensure it is 100 percent accounted for. Additionally, each in-port duty section (a rotating group of sailors from the crew designated to stay on board the ship for 24 hours) was required to undergo a formal assessment as to their proficiency in firefighting and validate that they were properly manned to be effective.

Contractors and shipbuilders have also been warned by the Navy to take fire safety seriously. In the days following the Bonhomme Richard fire, two minor fires – one on board the amphibious assault ship Kearsarge at General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard and another on the Navy's future carrier John F. Kennedy at Newport News shipbuilding – have curtailed work and prompted a doubling down on safety.

In a Friday letter, Navy's top acquisitions official James Geurts told shipbuilders and contractors to take Bonhomme Richard as a lesson.

"Anyone who steps aboard our ships must be ever vigilant about ensuring fire safety," Geurts wrote. "I urge you to use [the recent fire] to ensure that our work spaces are clean, that unnecessary clutter is removed, that all fire safety measures are being followed and that there is unrestricted access to firefighting and damage control equipment."

'Gutted'

The safety crackdown follows the Navy's worst in-port disaster since the 2012 fire on board the attack submarine Miami, which suffered a major conflagration while in deep maintenance at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Maine. That incident was later determined to be arson.

The Bonhomme Richard fire, which experts fear may have damaged the "big deck" amphib beyond repair, raised troubling questions about how prepared sailors are to combat one of their most fearsome enemies: a shipboard fire, a threat they are trained to deal with from their earliest days in Boot Camp.

In a letter this week from Gilday to all Navy flag officers and top enlisted leaders, he detailed how a series of explosions and a 1,200-degree inferno caused "extensive damage" to 11 of Bonhomme Richard's 14 decks.

"There is fire and water damage, to varying degrees, on 11 of 14 decks," Gilday wrote. "With the flight deck as a reference, I walked sections of the ship 5 levels below and had the opportunity to examine the superstructure.

"The island is nearly gutted, as are sections of some of the decks below; some perhaps, nearly encompassing the 844 ft length and 106 ft beam of the ship ([Naval Sea System Command's] detailed assessment is ongoing). Sections of the flight deck are warped/bulging."

The fire on the Bonhomme Richard broke out the morning of July 12 while it was pierside in San Diego, California, undergoing maintenance. The blaze was aided by wind and explosions, Gilday wrote.

"While response from the crew and federal firefighters was rapid, preliminary reports indicate there were two main factors that contributed to the intensity, scope, and speed of the fire," Gilday wrote. "First was wind that fueled the fire as the vehicle storage area leads to the well deck, which opens to the air at the stern gate. The second were the explosions, one in particular, reportedly heard about 13 miles away.

"The explosions, some were intense, and the uncertainty of their location and timing, led to a situation, that might have been under control late Sunday night, but expanded into a mass conflagration, spreading quickly up elevator shafts, engine exhaust stacks, and through berthing and other compartments where combustible material was present."

The Navy has launched dual investigations into the fire: A safety investigation, which are generally not released to the public so that witnesses can feel free to speak openly, and a more formal administrative investigation, which generally comes with disciplinary recommendations and are releasable to the public.

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



Crackerjack Locksmith



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



RT2BR Arms LLC

Firearms Transfers and Sales

Firearms Transfers

www.rt2brarms.com

Info@RT2BRArms.com Standard Transfer

Fee: \$20 USSVI Member \$15

SC CWP Holders: \$5 discount

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

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



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



Kathy Sumner - MBA / Realtor – License# 91234

843.475.7431 – KathyHSumner@kw.com

www.SumnerPropertyGroup.com

1180 Sam Rittenberg Blvd, Charleston SC 29407

TABOR
Mortgage Group

A division of **ResMac**

Patrick Villegas
Loan Officer *"Specializing in VA Loans and VA Refinances"*
2000 Sam Rittenberg Blvd. Ste. 2020, Charleston, SC 29407
Patrick@tabormortgage.com
NMLS 1520207 (843) 224-9272

Patrick Villegas
Loan Officer *"Specializing in VA Loans and VA Refinances"*
2000 Sam Rittenberg Blvd. Ste. 2020, Charleston, SC 29407
Patrick@tabormortgage.com
NMLS 1520207 (843) 224-9272