



Vol. 17 No. 1

January 2021

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

**Base Meeting:**

BOD: January 7, 1800  
 Membership: January 14, 1900  
**Location:**  
 FRA Branch 269  
 Low Country Home  
 99 Wisteria Rd.  
 Goose Creek, SC



Base Commander	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011	Chief of the Boat	Joe Lunn Rick Sparger (act)	843.747.5368 843.553.5594
Base Vice Commander	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282	Veterans Affairs	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
Secretary	Gordon Long	843.214.2353	Membership	Larry Knutson	843.860.1155
Treasurer	Gordon Williams	843.553.3015	Scholarship	Carl Chinn	843.437.5515
			Storekeeper	Ken Hutchison	843.553.0935
			Historian	George Scharf	843.873.3318
			Public Affairs	Ed Stank	843.568.2148
			Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.553.1115
			Newsletter	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
			Social Media Coordinator	Lewis Leal	843.270-8870 social@ussvich.org
			Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Kaps for Kids	Mike Emerson	843.302.2650



# Submarines Lost During the Month of January

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

## Five Boats and 314 Men Lost

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### Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting	Thursday, Feb 4	1800	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Charleston Base Meeting (Social Hr starts 1800)	Thursday, Feb 11	1900	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Hunley-Housatonic Memorial Service	Sunday, Feb 17		

Information of all Charleston Base Events is on [www.ussvicb.org](http://www.ussvicb.org)

### From the Editor

This will be my last newsletter. I took it over when the previous editor had to give it up for health reasons and try as I would I couldn't find anyone else to take it over. As Base Commander I felt we MUST have a newsletter, so I could see no other way to make that happen. I have enjoyed doing the job but just cannot continue doing it. My wife and I take care for our 8 year old great grandson and 2 year old great granddaughter for 8 hours a day 4 days a week and we are beat at the weekend!

Ed Stank is taking over the job and I know he will do a good job.

## 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. Messages are arranged in the order received

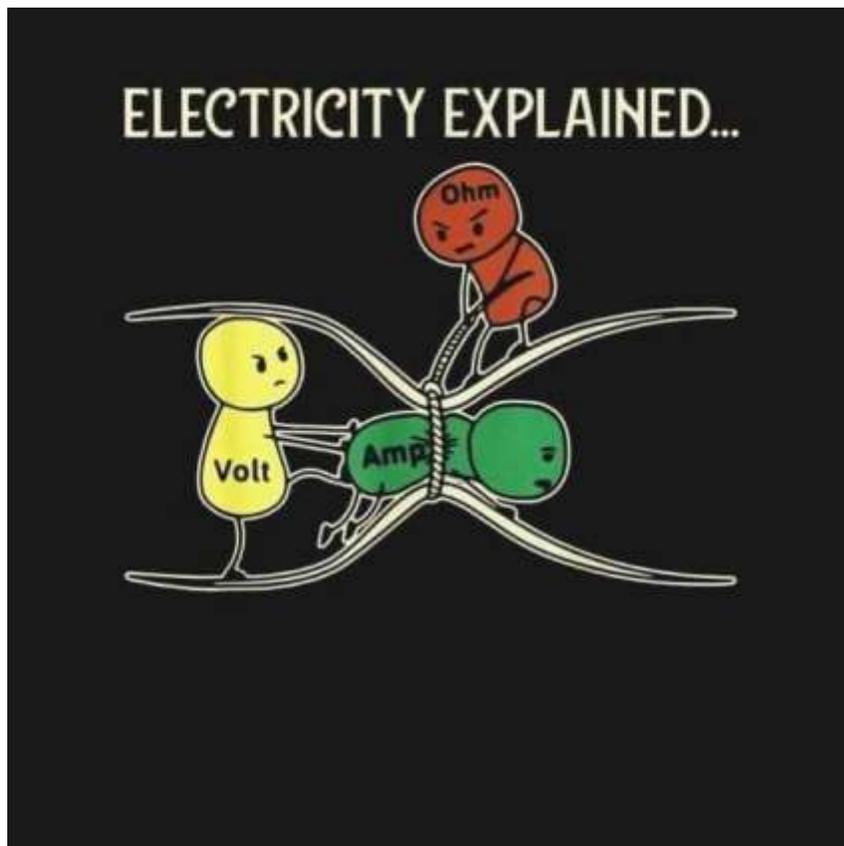
## Nothing to report

## HUMOR

I FEEL VERY COMFORTABLE WITH THE PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE, SINCE THEY MAKE VIAGRA,

IF THEY CAN RAISE THE DEAD

A HANDLING A VIRUS SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM!



# SHOTGUN RAFFLE

All proceeds go to the United States Submarine Veterans Charleston Base

## Admiral James B. Osborn Scholarship Fund

Scholarship is available to tri-county high school seniors with a relationship to a qualified submariner



### WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS SUPER X4 WATERFOWL HUNTER - MOSSY OAK SHADOWGRASS BLADES

- SYNTHETIC STOCK WITH IMPROVED ERGONOMICS, SMALLER PISTOL GRIP AND TEXTURED GRIPPING SURFACES give your hands a sure, non-slip grip. Full coverage Mossy Oak® Shadow Grass Blades camo finish
- BACK-BORED TECHNOLOGY provides optimum shot patterns that are dense and even
- INVECTOR-PLUS CHOKE TUBE SYSTEM offers consistent patterns to match your target situation
- HARD CHROME-PLATED CHAMBER AND BORE make these surfaces highly resistant to corrosion and wear from steel shot
- VENT RIB gives you a smooth, clean sighting plane
- TRUGLO® LONG BEAD™ FIBER-OPTIC FRONT SIGHT offers a true, precise sight picture
- ACTIVE VALVE GAS SYSTEM cycles a wide variety of loads while reducing "felt recoil"
- QUADRA-VENT™ PORTS vent excess gases for cleaner operation
- DROP-OUT TRIGGER GROUP allows for easy cleaning
- AMBIDEXTROUS CROSSBOLT SAFETY is easily reversible
- LARGER BOLT HANDLE AND BOLT RELEASE BUTTON are faster and easier to operate
- LENGTH OF PULL SPACERS allow stock adjustments to achieve a perfect fit
- INFLEX TECHNOLOGY RECOIL PAD directs "felt recoil" down and away from your cheek to reduce flinch and fatigue

**Gauge** 12

**Barrel Length** 26"

**Length of Pull** 14 1/4"

**Drop at Heel** 2"

**Magazine Capacity** 4

**Barrel Finish** Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades

**Chokes Included** Full, Modified, Improved Cylinder

**Dura Touch Finish** No

**Front Sight** Fiber Optic

**Barrel Material** Steel

**Recoil Pad** Inflex 1, Small with Hard Heel Insert

**Sling Swivel Studs** Matte Blued

**Trigger Finish** Matte Black

**Bolt Slide Finish** Matte Blued

**Trigger Material** Alloy

**Trigger Guard Engraving** None

**MSRP \$1,069.99**

**Chamber Length** 3 1/2"

**Overall Length** 47"

**Drop at Comb** 1 3/4"

**Weight** 7 lbs 0 oz

**Rib Width** 1/4"

**Stock Finish** Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades

**Receiver Finish** Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades

**Chamber Finish** Chrome Plated Chamber and Bore

**Choke System** Invector-Plus Flush

**Stock Material** Composite

**Checkering** Textured Grip Panels

**Receiver Material** Aluminum Alloy

**Trigger Guard Finish** Matte Black

**Magazine Type** Tubular

**Trigger Guard Material** Alloy

**Choke Wrench Included** Flat Wrench

**Ticket price: \$10 each**  
**Drawing to be held February 11, 2021**

## New Boat Names

Barb SSN-804

Tang SSN-805

Wahoo SSN-806

Silversides SSN-807



### **New documents show doomed USS Thresher submarine lacked training, preparations**

The sinking of the RMS Titanic in 1912. The explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger in 1986. And the implosion of the USS Thresher submarine in 1963.

All were tragedies. But a retired Navy captain believes it's time for further scrutiny of the disaster that's least-known of the three.

"This was a significant historical event," Jim Bryant says of the day Thresher went down. "It needs to be understood."

The deadliest submarine accident ever sent 129 sailors and civilians to their deaths off the coast of Massachusetts. And only now, 57 years later, Bryant has finally received and reviewed a batch of Navy documents never before seen by the public.

Bryant, a 23-year Navy veteran who himself commanded a Thresher-class submarine, the USS

Guardfish, has been litigating [for more records to be released](#) for years. His successful suit against the Navy will ultimately bring to light some 3,600 pages of never-released documents about what happened to the submarine on April 10, 1963, a [federal judge in Washington D.C. ruled in February 2020](#).

The Thresher's fateful plunge came somewhere around 1,300 feet of depth, when its nuclear reactor shut down. The hull imploded despite efforts by the crew to blow its ballast tanks. Its remains weren't found until more than a year later, and the boat is never to be decommissioned, its sailors forever on "eternal patrol."

An official investigation following the sinking found a failed seawater pipe to be the cause. But the new documents cast light on other problems — notably, that the new submarine was rushed and underprepared for the challenges it faced at ever greater depths. Workers from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard were still aboard working out the kinks as submariners also tried to train, all the while on a new, differently configured and heavier sub loaded with fresh technology.

"They really needed more time," said Bryant, who worked with a team of retired Navy and submarine experts to comb the new documents.

Only 19 pages of a total 1,700 investigative documents had been released publically before Bryant and his team sued to bring more of them to light. In September, in their successful suit, the first 300 pages were released, followed by another 1,200.

### **'Understanding the mindset'**

Bryant, a San Diego resident now in his 70s, said he'd always expected the documents to surface pieces of the puzzle, but he never anticipated any shocking revelation.

"We did not ever expect to find a smoking gun or government coverup," Bryant said. "What we wanted to find out was what the hell these people were thinking."

Bryant has argued throughout the lawsuit that the release of records will help current and future sailors, engineers and others understand "the mindset" of what led to the Thresher disaster. In this case, it appears to have been a lack of preparation for what was the Navy's most advanced sub of its time.

"The dangers of almost doubling the total depth were not appreciated and the fabrication, repair, and quality assurance were not improved fast enough or applied with enough force to prevent this disaster," Bryant wrote in his report on the released documents. "The operating procedures were not in place to recover the submarine at or near total depth after a loss of propulsion and after it became negatively buoyant with minor flooding or excess leakage. Crew training was insufficient."

The testimonies before the Navy Court of Inquiry, which conducted the investigation in the aftermath of the sinking, included that of Cmdr. John Woolston, then project officer that oversaw the Navy's leap from the Skipjack class to the Thresher class of submarines. Thresher was 14% larger, bigger in diameter, and longer. A superior sonar dome at the bow of Thresher, today standard on subs, relocated its torpedo tubs further aft. And while it hasn't been officially released, Bryant said it's widely known Thresher went to nearly double the depths of its predecessors: at least 1,300 feet.

The boat also was not as good at "deballasting" water. In the documents, Rear Adm. Dean Axene — who'd only transferred off Thresher less than three months before the tragedy — testified that the sub's main ballast tank's blow system had not enough high-pressure air and could not remove seawater quickly enough from the tank to surface from maximum depth.

"Since Thresher's total dive was much deeper than previous classes of submarines, the (court of inquiry) was surprised to find there was no sufficient effort to retest critical systems to the improved standards, especially silver brazed joints in systems seeing full submergence pressures," Bryant's

report says.

And so, while the submarine may have been sunk because of a failed seawater pipe, or, as some have suggested, an electrical failure, Bryant and his team concluded that "time was not made for proper training." That could have also led to a successful recovery strategy, even if the pipe failed.

Bryant uses the example of cost overruns and other problems with the Navy's littoral class ships and the USS Gerald Ford aircraft carrier. While there have been controversies, there were no deaths. And the retired captain is prideful of the Navy's response to Thresher in developing the SUBSAFE quality assurance program.

Hyman G. Rickover, the so-called "Father of the Nuclear Navy," also testified in the inquiry, saying the loss of the Thresher was a "consequence of the philosophy on design, construction and inspection." Bryant believes Rickover may have criticized the use of a new steel on the hull, known as HY-80, as a way to steer attention away from the scrutiny of the boat's nuclear power capabilities.

Bryant said this did not come at a cost to the investigation. He points out others testified and defended the new steel. And Bryant says Rickover had good reason for steering clear of nuclear Navy issues. At the time, there were 28 nuclear submarines in the fleet and 36 more on the way, many of them carrying ballistic missiles that gave the United States a strategic advantage in the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

"Rickover did not want to say anything that might make the public and/or politicians lose faith in the safety of the nation's nuclear submarines," Bryant wrote.

Bryant said he's pushed to receive the documents so others can study them, as well as to honor the families of the fallen crew members. There are memorials around the country for Thresher; Thresher Avenue on Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor is named for the submarine.

Bryant is not done yet. The Navy is due to release more documents that will include the testimonies of other high-ranking Navy officials, as well as statements from those on the USS Skylark, a Penguin-class submarine rescue ship that accompanied the Thresher on that fateful day.

"There is more to learn," Bryant wrote in concluding his report.



[Defense Finance and Accounting Service](#) Providing payment services for the U.S. Department of Defense

**\* \*Retirees: Mailed 1099-Rs Have Incomplete Payer's FIN – Corrected print 1099-Rs will be mailed no later than February 1\* \***

Please note: Retiree 2020 IRS 1099-Rs mailed in early January contain a Payer's Federal Identification Number (FIN) that is missing the last digit because of a printing error. The correct Payer's FIN is: 34-0727612. We apologize for the inconvenience.

We will mail you a corrected 2020 IRS 1099-R with the correct Payer's FIN no later than February 1.

You can also download a correct 2020 1099-R from myPay. It is available now.

If you're not using myPay, or if you haven't logged in for a while, see "[Use myPay](#)" in the information below for helpful guides and links.

## **Tax Documents**

Each year we provide millions of tax statements, such as Form 1099-R, to our customers. Some arrive in the mail and others are downloaded from [myPay](#) accounts.

Did you know you have options for getting the information you need to prepare for the annual April tax deadline?

### **Options for getting your 1099-R**

#### **[Use myPay](#) to get your tax documents**

Get the information you need – day or night – using myPay. Your tax documents are available earlier in myPay than through the mail.

If you've never used myPay, go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil> using the internet from your computer or your mobile device browser and click "Forgot or Need a Password" to have a temporary password mailed to you. The password will be mailed via regular mail to the address you have on file with DFAS and you will receive it in about 10 business days. Once you have received a password, return to the [myPay home page](#) and click "Create your myPay Profile" to get started. Enter your SSN and temporary password.

Here's our handy downloadable "[Get Started with myPay](#)" guide. Or watch the "[Get Started with myPay](#)" how-to video on our YouTube channel.

If you haven't logged in for a while, and you've forgotten your login ID or password:

Here's our handy downloadable "[How to Request a New myPay Password](#)" guide. Or watch the "[myPay: How to Change Your Password](#)" how-to video on our YouTube channel.

Here's our handy downloadable "[How to Request Your myPay Login ID](#)" guide. Or watch the "[myPay: How to Request Your Login ID](#)" how-to video on our YouTube channel.

#### **Use our [telephone self-service](#) option**

If you are a retiree, don't use myPay and your mailing address on file with DFAS is current, you can get a copy of your 1099R through our telephone self-service option.

Please note that 1099-R reissues requested through the telephone self-service option cannot be mailed prior to February 10, 2021.

#### **Use the quick and easy AskDFAS online option**

If the address you have on file with DFAS is out of date and you are not a **myPay** user, you can get your 1099R sent to an updated address by [submitting your request online at AskDFAS](#). You can request your 1099R be sent either to your current address or to a new address using an online form. Plus, you can request prior year 1099Rs. You will receive your 1099R in the mail in seven to ten business days.

Please note that 1099-R reissues requested through AskDFAS cannot be mailed prior to February 10, 2021.

Find instructions at: <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/ticketInput.action?subCategoryID=9725>

#### **Mail or fax your written request**

If you prefer postal mail or fax, you can send us a written request, but please make sure you leave time for processing. It may take 30 days to process requests received by mail or fax. And remember to send your written request to our [correct mailing address](#).

Find instructions at: <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/manage/taxes/getting1099r/viawrittenreq>

### **Speak with one of our customer care representatives**

Members with unique situations can speak directly to one of our customer care representatives. Depending on call volume, you may have to wait on hold while we assist other customers. Keep in mind that tax season is our busiest period. Please note that 1099-R reissues requested from our customer care center cannot be mailed prior to February 10, 2021.

For more information, check out: <https://dfas.dod.afpims.mil/Retired-Military-Annuitants/about/aboutus/customer-service/>

### **Getting a 1095-B**

Please note: IRS Form 1095-B will only be available online via myPay, unless a request is received for a copy by mail.

As required by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), DFAS continues to provide IRS Forms 1095-B or 1095-C via individual myPay accounts. These forms are created for military, retiree and federal civilian employees who receive healthcare insurance coverage through Tricare or Federal Employee Health Benefit programs. **According to the IRS, these forms are not required to prepare or file income tax returns** but will be available via myPay no later than Jan. 31, 2021.

### **Getting a 1042-S**

If you receive a Form 1042-S instead of a Form 1099-R, call 800-321-1080 for assistance.

### **Other helpful tax-related information**

[Is Your Pay Taxable or Not?](#)  
[Federal Income Tax Withholding](#)

[State Income Tax Withholding](#)

[Correcting Your 1099-R](#)

### **Tax Levies and Debt Recoupments**

Military retirees who owe federal taxes may be subject to a levy in order to pay an overdue tax bill. Military retirement payments are subject to the Federal Payment Levy Program through the Internal Revenue Service. Military retirement payments could be levied (reduced) by 15 percent through the Federal Payment Levy Program. The Federal Payment Levy Program only goes into effect if you have not paid your taxes on time or made arrangements to pay your overdue tax bill. Before a levy is issued, you will receive an initial tax bill with information on what you owe and how to pay it. You will also receive a final tax bill with information on what you owe, how to pay it, what can happen if you don't pay and an explanation of your appeal rights. The IRS will not issue a levy if you pay what you owe, or make payment arrangements, within 30 days after the final billing notice is sent. The federal tax levy could remain in place until the debt is satisfied.

Please click [here](#) for more information from irs.gov.

In the case of garnishments, the collection action is mandatory and any rebuttal concerning the levy must be addressed to the IRS.

NOTE: Annuity payments are not subject to IRS tax levy collections.

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base

## Minutes of Business Meeting

### 14 January 2021

#### Opening Ceremonies:

The January 2021 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of two officers and a total of 38 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm. Vice Commander Tom Lawson and Treasurer Gordon Williams were not present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Base Commander Mike Ciesielko and recited by the members in attendance. The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of January was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. Submarines lost during the month of January:

<b>USS SCORPION (SS-278)</b>	<b>January 5, 1944 – 4<sup>th</sup> War Patrol</b>	<b>Lost with all hands – 77 souls</b>
<b>USS ARGONAUT (SS-166)</b>	<b>January 10, 1943 – 3<sup>rd</sup> War Patrol</b>	<b>Lost with all hands – 102 souls</b>
<b>USS SWORDFISH (SS-193)</b>	<b>January 12, 1945 – 13<sup>th</sup> War Patrol</b>	<b>Lost with all hands – 89 souls</b>
<b>USS S-36 (SS-141)</b>	<b>January 20, 1942 – 2<sup>nd</sup> War Patrol</b>	<b>No loss of life</b>
<b>USS S-26 (SS-131)</b>	<b>January 24, 1942 – 2<sup>nd</sup> War Patrol</b>	<b>Lost with 46 souls–3 men rescued</b>
<b>Five Boats and 314 Men lost during the month of January</b>		

The USSVI Creed was read by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko.

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members to the meeting.

#### Fleet Reserve Association Award:

Instead of a guest speaker tonight, SubVet Harry Nettles (FRA Branch 269 VP), while arrayed in FRA apparel, with pleasure, read two awards and presented Stacy Power with a pin and the plaques to commemorate his 65 years of uninterrupted membership in the Fleet Reserve Association. It is unknown at this time, if anyone has exceeded this amount of years in the FRA.

Stacy encouraged the few in the room who are not currently members of the FRA to join; noting representation of military members to Congress is important.

#### Introductions of New Attendees:

One man was present at the Base meeting for the first time:

Harley Perry – STS2 – Qualified on USS L Mendel Rivers SSN686 – Qualified Diver – Served 10 years aboard submarines including USS GATO SSN615, USS Memphis SSN691 and USS Augusta SSN710. Served 12 1/2 years as MECP Nurse Corp officer.

#### Old Business:

None

#### New Business:

Distinguished Submariner Award – Base Commander Mike Ciesielko noted that DSA Nomination forms had been put on the tables. He asked the Base members to write a paragraph explaining the reasons that the recommended fellow SubVet deserves to receive the award.

#### Secretary – Gordon Long:

The Minutes from the December Base meeting were published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base Website. No additions or changes were noted. The Minutes were approved as written.

#### Treasurer – Base Commander for Gordon Williams:

The Treasurer's Report for December was published and promulgated on the website.

#### Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

##### Highlighted boat of the month:

SWORDFISH SS-193 was lost on Jan 12, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. After repeated attempts to contact Swordfish by radio had failed, she was reported as lost, the victim of unknown causes, but best guess is a mine.

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

**EMCM(SS) William Basil Burnette**, 83, of Goose Creek departed on Eternal Patrol December 28, 2020. He was not a USSVI/CB member. He spent 28 years serving in the Navy as a submariner. After his retirement from the Navy he continued his career as a Nuclear Shift Test Engineer at the Charleston Naval Shipyard. An online condolence mes-

sage was left on behalf of Charleston Base.

**CPO(SS) Glenn James Andrews**, 93, of Charleston, departed on Eternal Patrol December 31, 2020. He served in the United States Navy and retired as a Chief Petty Officer. He was a Korean War Veteran serving on many ships during his service and retired off the SSBN624 USS Woodrow Wilson. An online condolence message was left on behalf of Charleston Base.

**Linda Carver Gay**, Bob's wife, passed away on January 1st. Her service was held on January 5th. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.

**Jimmy Kimbrell's brother, Don**, passed away mid-December 2020.

**Jimmy Kimbrell** was in Roper on 10 January for congestive heart failure all over again. Gave him lots of Lasix to get the fluid buildup down so now no salt. Dang!!

**Rodney McKanna** had his right knee replacement on 8 January. He was in the hospital for 28 hours. Home now but hurting. Says he loves the pain pills.

**Ron Chambers** was treated for a ruptured vessel in his eye.

**Gerry Farr** tested positive for COVID on 4 Jan and was admitted to the ER on 8 Jan. He is still at the hospital. Latest info from Mary (daughter) is the doctor said Dad's going to be there "in for a long haul" were his exact words. He said this viral thing is so unpredictable that it's hard to say how long it'll be but that Dad is plugging along at a steady pace. I brought up the possibility of Dad being put on a ventilator and he said that at this point they're not looking at it. So, that's where we are for now. Dad is more coherent today than he was yesterday but still has a long way to go, according to his doctor.

**Don Ort** had heart surgery on December 15th to correct heart blockages and heart valve. The long 8.5 hours surgery went well but he has been having a hard time with recovery and healing. Donna (wife) reports that it is 4 weeks post op. 3 doctor appointments this week and all went well. Blood work and XRay perfect. Home PT is done and will begin cardiac rehab on Feb. 8th. Been a good week. Thanks for all the good thoughts and prayers.

**Tom Lawson's daughter, Tracey**, had appendix surgery on Jan 5th and is home recovering.

**Dennis "Frenchy" Fuqua** is home on palliative care with Hospice. The home health care and hospice nurses are a great help. He has lost a lot of weight and sleeps a lot. Their holidays were good considering everything. He cannot talk but Barbara will be glad to answer any questions and give him messages from you. Barbara's care (843)797-3230.

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

**Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care.

Please complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so. Of all the Eternal Patrol this reporting period, no one had a page 2 on file.

#### **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.

#### **Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Emerson for George Scharf:**

We recognized Stacy Power here tonight.

#### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

We are recording both audio and video tonight. Video of Stacy Power's FRA award will be extracted, but we will find out whether the audio is of sufficient quality to place on the Base website.

#### **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson**

Nothing has changed at this point. Kaps for Kids events are on hold until the hospitals contact us to resume visits. Mike will call McLeod in Florence to see if they will allow Kaps visits if everyone has had the COVID vaccine.

#### **Membership – Larry Knutson**

279 Charleston Base Members – There are still about 30 members who owe National and 50 are dink in Base dues. They will soon be dropped from the Sailing List.

#### **VA – Tom Lawson**

Not present

#### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn**

Carl gave the final report of the Rummage Sale. With the after-sale sales, the total was \$2467. The committee received a \$100 check from a company in Kansas City in memory of Richard Cleve.

The shotgun raffle is still going on but the drawing will be held at the February Base Meeting. Carl would like to raise \$2000 for the scholarship fund through this effort.

There is a box of books and other submarine related items on the table. Take something and make a donation to the scholarship fund.

Challenge Coins are available.

The committee has a two submarine Bancroft lighters for sale to benefit the scholarship fund. See Carl.

### **Special Events – Rick Sparger**

Rick wants to arrange to pull the float during a springtime parade.

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar**

We are still waiting on the judge's ruling.

Any donations will be helpful.

We also have not yet heard from the governor's office.

### **Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks**

The date for the next NPS graduation is unknown. The school will provide the two performance awards from Charleston Base SubVets to the top officer and enlisted submarine designated individuals.

The event is still closed because of COVID restrictions.

### **Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger**

The FRA normally has a Valentine's Day event, but it is unknown whether that will happen this year.

### **Newsletter – Rick Wise**

Rick reported that Ed Stank is relieving him as Newsletter Editor. I HAVE BEEN RELIEVED BY ED STANK

Rick noted that he has been on the Board in some capacity since 2003 except for a few months. He asked that some younger members step in and take some of these tasks stating, "***Some of us are getting a little old.***"

### **Recreation – Bill Hayes**

We are planning a spaghetti dinner here at the FRA. We have three possible dates. More information will be provided at the next Base meeting.

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko volunteered to cook for the dinner.

### **Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison**

Nothing to Report

### **HUNLEY/HOUSATONIC – HARRY NETTLES**

37 days from today we will remember the loss of the H.L. Hunley 157 years ago. Harry has a sign-up sheet. He needs 13 people for the annual 17 February ceremony which starts at 1900. We will meet at Sunrise Presbyterian Church on Sullivan's Island. Contact Harry for more details.

### **Public Affairs – Ed Stank**

Charleston Base has been published in American Submariner regarding the Rummage Sale to raise funds for the Scholarship Fund.

Notification of our Base meetings are published in the Goose Creek Gazette.

Ed will submit an article to American Submariner about Stacy Power's 65 year FRA award.

### **COB – Rick Sparger (Acting)**

Nothing to Report

### **Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko**

Nothing to Report

### **Good of the Order**

### **Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson**

Not present

### **VA Prescriptions – Mike Emerson**

If you plan to pick up prescriptions at the VA, make sure to get there early. Mike's wife had to wait more than 1.5 hours, but he got there early and was in/out in less than ten minutes.

**After Battery – Ray Sparks**

Not present

**Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko**

Nothing to report

**Drawings & Auctions**

FRA – Winner's name not recorded.

There was a Challenge Coin Door Prize using a random number chosen from the sign-in sheet. The associated member did not have a Challenge Coin, so the prize will be held until next month.

Depth Charge – Stacy Power – donated \$25 to the Scholarship fund.

**Closing Ceremony**

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

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting with three blasts of the diving alarm.

Meeting closed at 1953.