



Vol. 17 No. 4

April 2021

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

**Base Meeting:**

BOD: May 6, 2021  
 Membership: May 13, 2021  
**Location:**  
 FRA Branch 269  
 Low Country Home  
 99 Wisteria Rd.  
 Goose Creek, SC



Base Commander	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011	Chief of the Boat	Rick Sparger (act)	843.553.5594
Base Vice Commander	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282	Veterans Affairs	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 Williams	843.553.3015	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	Ed Stank	843.568.2148
			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 April:**

**USS PICKEREL (SS-177) April 3, 1943 – 7th war patrol Lost with all hands – 74 souls**

**USS SNOOK (SS-279) April 8, 1945 – 9th 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 – 12th war patrol Lost with all hands – 79 souls**

**USS GRENADIER (SS-210) April 22, 1943 – 6th war patrol 76 POWs – 72 survived the war**

**Five Boats and 370 Men Lost**

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**Upcoming Charleston Base Events**

Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting April 1 1800 FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek  
Charleston Base Meeting (Social Hr starts 1800) Thursday, April 8 1900 FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek

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

**From the Editor**

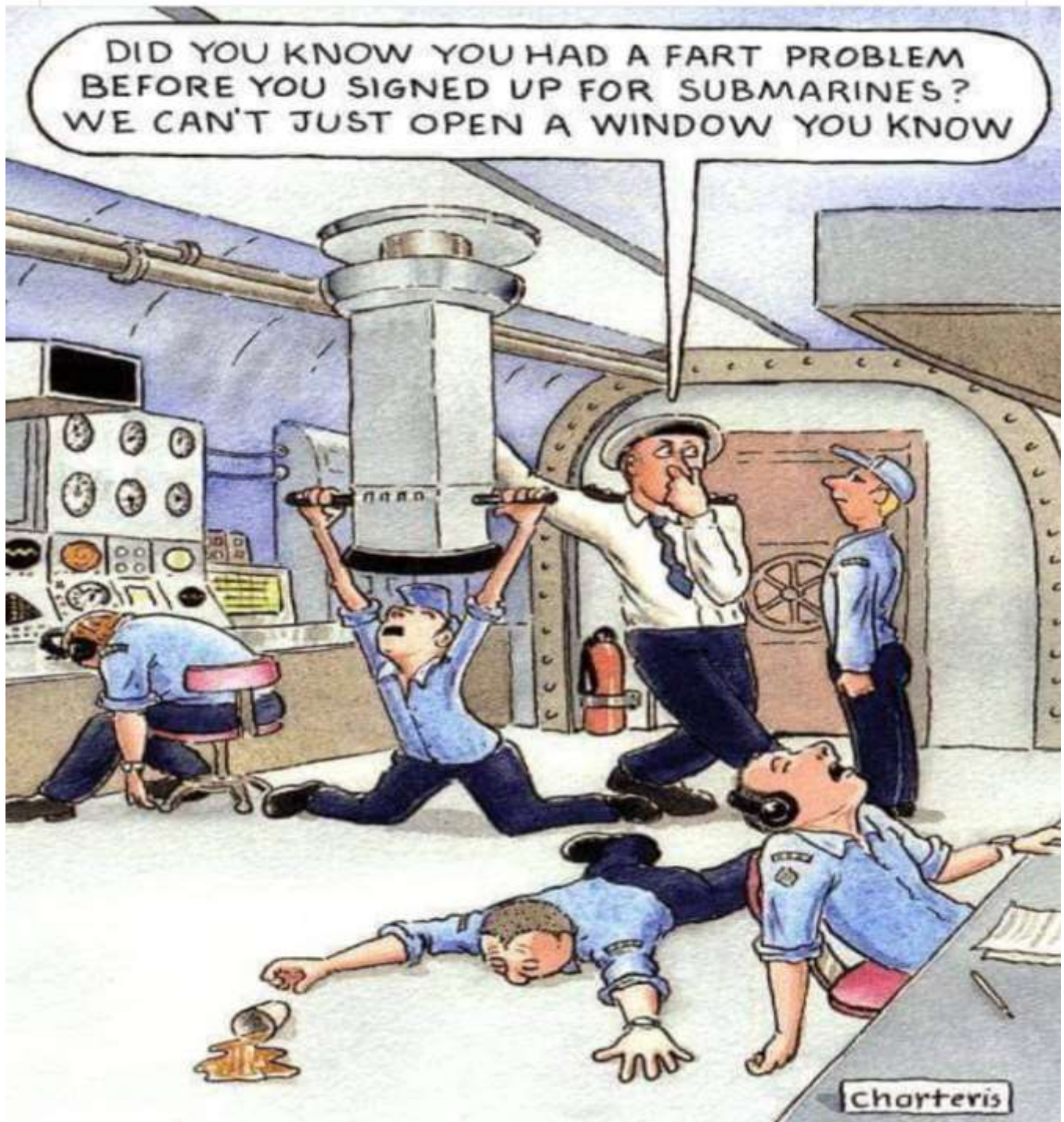
This edition of the newsletter will not contain meeting minutes from the last two base meetings due to travel constraints and vacations

## 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



## Suicide in Hawaii

The commander of the Pearl Harbor-based submarine USS Charlotte was relieved in the wake of a command investigation sparked in part by a sailor's suicide last month.

Cmdr. Joseph Lautenslager was dismissed from the fast-attack sub by Capt. Michael Majewski, who heads Submarine Squadron 7, after losing confidence in his ability to command, the Navy said in a news release.

Majewski took the action after an investigation "revealed leadership and command climate problems," the Navy said.

Lautenslager took command of the Charlotte in March 2019. He has been temporarily assigned to the staff of Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

The death of a sailor of a self-inflicted gunshot after a barricade situation at the The Kahala Hotel & Resort was the third tied to Hawaii's submarine force in the past 16 months.

The Navy confirmed that the sailor was assigned to the Pacific Fleet submarine force. However, they did not release the sailor's identity, military assignment or rank.

On Dec. 4, 2019, Machinist's Mate Auxiliary Fireman Gabriel Antonio Romero of San Antonio, 22, an armed watch-stander on the attack submarine USS Columbia, shot three civilian workers, killing two, at the Pearl Harbor shipyard and then turned a pistol on himself while the sub was in Dry Dock 2 for a major overhaul.

Vincent Kapoi Jr., 30, and Roldan Agustin, 49, were killed and Roger Nakamine, 36, was injured in the shooting, which resulted in a base lockdown and sent shock waves through the state's largest industrial employer, which has more than 6,400 mainly civilian workers.

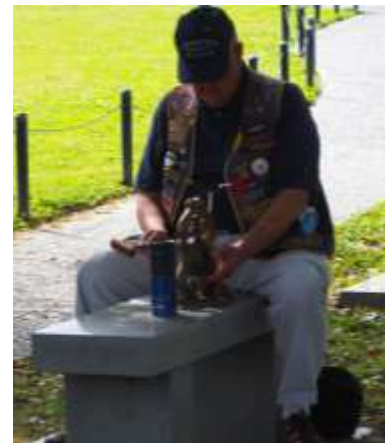
Suicide was the second --leading cause of death for people ages 10 to 34 last year in Hawaii, the fourth-leading cause for ages 35 to 44, fifth for ages 45 to 54, eighth for ages 55 to 64 and 17th for those 65 and older, the state said.

## USS Amberjack Memorial



The United States Submarine Veterans, Charleston Base and the WWII Swamp Fox Chapter of the held a ceremony honoring the South Carolina WWII submarine, USS Amberjack (SS 219) at Patriots Point Cold War Memorial on Saturday April 10.

The event was attended by about 30 submariners and family members. The guest speaker, QMCM(SS) Harry Nettles, USN Retired, gave a moving presentation of the history of the Amberjack and the history of the submarine force during WWII. Each state was awarded a submarine lost during the war with California and New York each awarded two. Almost 4000 officers and men were lost during the war but almost single handedly brought the Japanese shipping fleet to its knees through the loss of 55% of his force. A reading of the crewmembers of the Amberjack was done by MMCM (SS) Stank and ETCM(SS) Freligh and Vice Admiral Lockwood, COMSUBPAC message was read by MMCS(SS) Wise. TMC(SS) Emerson tolled the bell for each of the lost crewmen.



## SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE



Professionally framed print of Mort Kunstler's painting "The Final Mission" which depicts the confederate submarine H. L. Hunley and crew pier side before their final mission on the night of February 17, 1864. Print size is 18" h x 27" w.

This is an artist signed limited edition, number 128 of 950.

Tickets are \$10 each

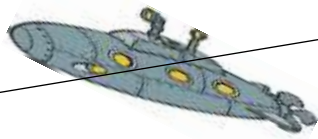
Drawing will be held July 8, 2021 at our regular meeting.

### Artist's comments:

"Like all of my paintings, this one required a lot of research. I went out to Sullivan's Island and Breach Inlet overlooking Charleston harbor, and examined the launch site for the Hunley's last mission – the site where the scene in this painting occurred. The scene I've painted here is set at approximately 6:30 p.m. on February 17, 1864. High tide has crested, and the tide is shifting seaward again. That, of course, will help the crew propel the Hunley through Breach Inlet and toward her target -- the USS Housatonic.

I realized that this would be the first officially sanctioned image of the Hunley, so I felt a serious burden of responsibility to faithfully portray the vessel, its crew and the surroundings in the most authentic manner – based on a wealth of research. It's the first time that Lieutenant Dixon and the crew have been authentically portrayed. I have included many of the major artifacts that were recovered from the Hunley -- a signal lantern, compass box, canteens, buttons, tobacco pipes and, of course, the famous pocket watch that Lieutenant Dixon carried."

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual!



# Rummage SALE

## Admiral James Osborn Scholarship Fund



The Scholarship Committee will hold a HUGE sale of miscellaneous household goods, tools, sports, toys, etc. Deals galore!

All proceeds go to the United States Submarine Veterans Charleston Base's Admiral James B. Osborn Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship will be awarded to a High School senior who demonstrates a familial relationship with a submarine qualified individual who is a member of United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. The applicant must show acceptance to a 2 or 4 year post-secondary institution. Applicants must demonstrate both scholastic proficiency and participation in extra-curricular activities that benefit either their school or community. The Scholarship will be disbursed as a one-time minimum \$500 award payable to the recipient.

**Date: Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021 (Rain date Nov. 20)**

**Where: 1825 Old Trolley Rd Summerville, SC**

**(Halloween Express / Rodney's Rockets)**

**Time: 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.**



## IN STATE-TUITION

Updated SC law grants in-state tuition to veterans regardless of when they served. Gov. Henry McMaster signed a bill granting all military veterans and their dependents in-state tuition at South Carolina's universities regardless of when they left the service.

The law from Haley's tenure, however, specified that a veteran must apply to South Carolina's schools within three years of leaving military service to be eligible for in-state tuition rates.

Under the bill signed by McMaster, that time limit no longer applies.

The GI Bill covers the cost of in-state tuition but doesn't cover the difference in out-of-state fees and tuition. Haley's law helped incentivise former service members to consider South Carolina for their education.

It can lead to huge savings for veterans. At the University of South Carolina in Columbia, for example, the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition is nearly \$10,000.

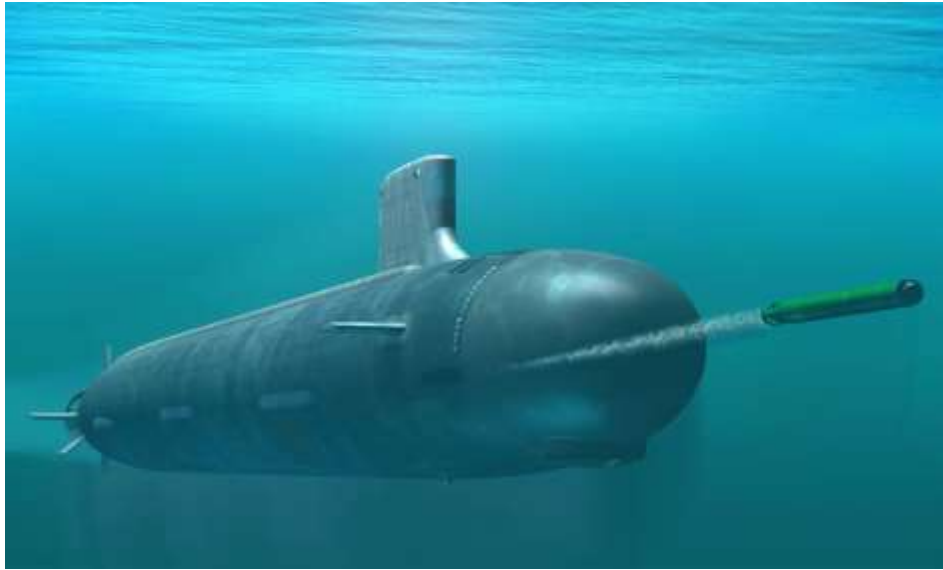
With the time limit requirement waived, advocates such as Gen. William Grimsley, McMaster's secretary of Veterans' Affairs, believe a larger group of veterans nationwide could relocate to South Carolina as a result.

## Scholarship Donation

During the April base meeting John Lookabill, RMCM(SS), USN, Retired (right) made a generous donation of \$1000 to the Scholarship Fund. Pictured (left) is the Scholarship Chairman Carl Chinn accepting the donation.







## Not Your Steel Beach!

Charleston Base Picnic 15 May 2021

Cooper River Partners Recreation Area 1000-1500; eat at 1200

\$5 each for member and one (1) all other guests \$10 each; pay at the door

Provided: Burgers, Hot Dogs, Drinks (soda, water)

Hard Liquor not allowed

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

**USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION  
Orlando, FL**

**August 30 – September 04, 2021  
Welcome To Orlando, Shipmates!**

**Central Florida & Snug Harbor Base are your hosts for the  
2021 USSVI National Convention**



We have a group rate of **\$105.00** per night per room.

Attendees can also contact the hotel reservations department directly at 866-996-6338 and use code USSVI-2021 National Convention.

**The cut-off date for the Room Block is August 01, 2021.**

Reservations made after this date may be made at the Convention rate based on room availability.

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Our annual convention is one of the largest and most exciting annual gatherings of submarine veterans in the U.S. This event offers attendees the environment, the setting and the unique opportunity to meet with fellow submariners to exchange ideas, reminisce and keep up to date on important information. Details about the convention, available services and calendar of events can be found on this site.

**<https://ussviconvention.org/2021/>**