



Vol. 17 No. 6

June 2021

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

Base Meeting:

BOD: June 4, 2021
 Membership: June 10, 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	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	Ricky Collins	843.276.4861	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	Ed Stank	843.568.2148
			Social Media	Lewis Leal	843.270-8870
			Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Kaps for Kids	Mike Emerson	843.302.2650



Submarines lost during the month of June:

USS Herring (SS-233)	1 Jun 1944	83 Lost
USS R-12 (SS-89)	12 Jun1944	42 Lost
USS Golet (SS-361)	14 Jun 1944	82 Lost
USS Bonefish (SS-223)	18 Jun 1945	85 Lost
USS S-27 (SS-132)	19 Jun 1942	No Loss of Life
USS O-9 (SS-70)	20 Jun 1941	33 Lost
USS Runner (SS-275)	26 Jun1943	78 Lost
	7 Boats	403 Shipmates Lost

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Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting	Jul 1	1800	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Charleston Base Meeting (Social Hr starts 1800)	Jul 8	1900	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Independence Day	Jul 4		

From the Editor

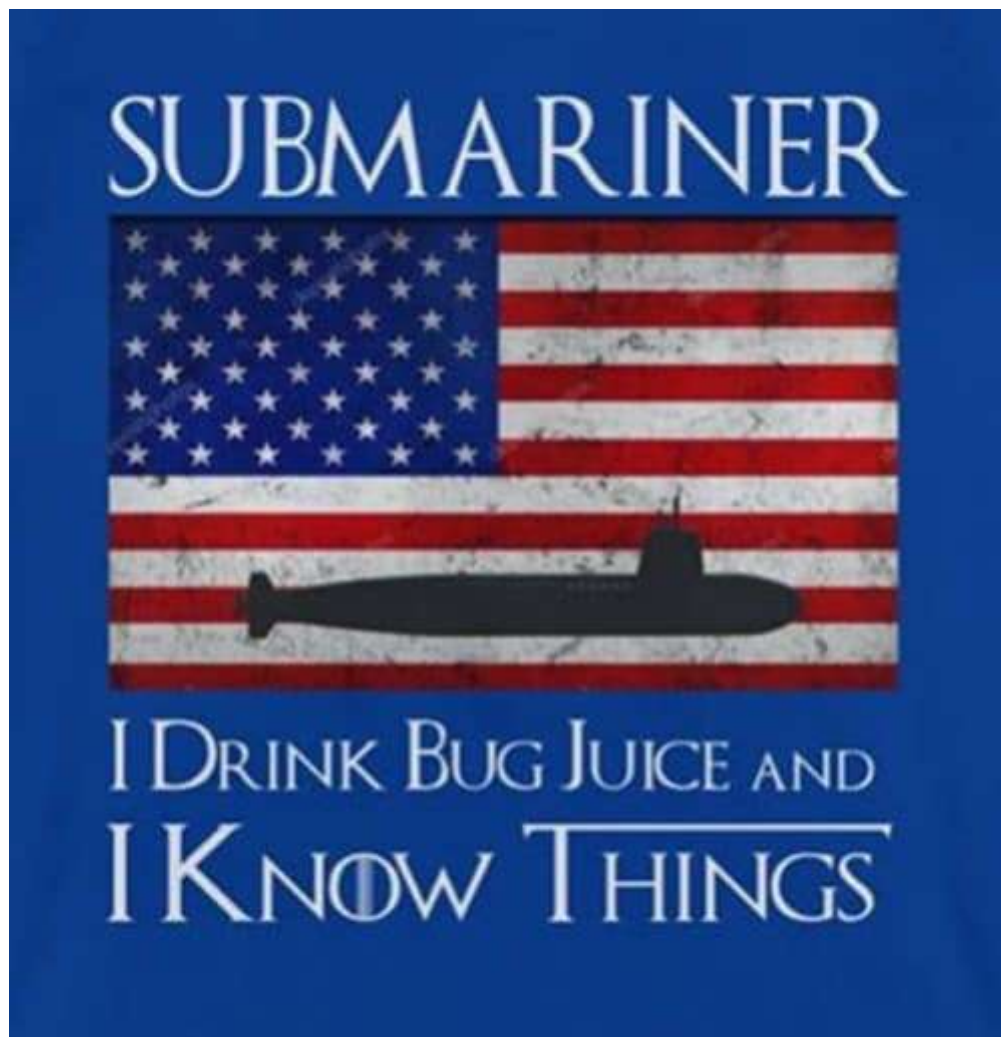
A very interesting and successful month as 4 students were awarded scholarships from Charleston Base, the repairs to the Little David were completed and Memorial Day at the Summerville Cemetery and Christening of the Veterans Memorial in Harleyville were conducted.

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



New Russian Submarine



Russian Navy Northern Fleet Yasen-class nuclear-powered sub Kazan arrives at its home base in Severomorsk, on Russia's Arctic coast, June 1, 2021.

On May 7, the Russian Navy finally commissioned the Kazan, its first Yasen-M-class nuclear-powered guided missile submarine (SSGN).

Kazan is the lead boat of a subclass descended from the Yasen class, the first of which, Severodvinsk, was commissioned in 2013.

Kazan is the culmination of more than a decade of effort to field a new and completely modern SSGN, and it is a marked improvement in nearly every respect over its predecessor, which already had US commanders and their NATO allies worried.

Severodvinsk and Kazan represent a new chapter for Russia's submarine force — long considered the most important part of the Russian Navy.

2021 Scholarship Recipients

Admiral James B. Osborn Memorial Scholarships were awarded at our regular meeting on June 10th. We were able to present the best scholarships to date because of fund raising efforts and great participation from our membership. Two recipients, Sarah Sparger and Carson Chinn, were present at the meeting and two, Christopher LeBarron and Abigail Chinn, were presented awards remotely.



Below are this year's recipients:

Sarah Sparger – Sarah lives in Moncks Corner, SC; daughter of Ricky and Eve Sparger, granddaughter of Richard and Kit Sparger. Sarah is a graduate of Berkeley High School. She was accepted to Lander University and University of South Carolina Beaufort. She will attend USC Beaufort; undecided major. \$2,000 award

Christopher LeBarron – Christopher lives in Charleston, SC; son of Paul and Barbara LeBarron, grandson of Tom and Gloria Cyrek. Christopher is a graduate of the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, Hartsville, SC. He was accepted and will attend the University of South Carolina Honors College majoring in Environmental Science. \$1,500 award

Abigail Chinn – Abigail lives in Crofton Maryland, daughter of Colin and Teri Chinn, granddaughter of Carl and Connie Chinn. Abigail is a graduate of Arundel High School, Gambrills, MD. She was accepted to Clemson University, University of South Carolina and Belmont University (Nashville, TN). Abigail will attend Clemson University majoring in Health Science leading to Physical Therapy. \$2,000 award

Carson Chinn – Carson lives in Greenville, SC, son of Cory and Hollie Chinn, grandson of Carl and Connie Chinn. Carson is a graduate of J.L. Mann High School, Greenville, SC. Carson's situation is a little unique. He joined the Army National Guard in his junior year of high school. He went to Army basic training during the summer between junior and senior year. Carson has been accepted to The Citadel, however, he is required to attend Advanced Infantry Training at Ft. Benning, GA this summer and will miss the deadline for entry to The Citadel. He was also accepted to Greenville Technical College where he will attend upon completion of AIT. He will enter The Citadel next year as a sophomore to complete his education majoring in Criminal Justice. \$2,000 award.

Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) Virtual Hearings

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) has held over 13,000 virtual tele-hearings. These virtual tele-hearings allow the Board to hold hearings for Veterans safely and efficiently from wherever the Veteran chooses. Best of all, the technology allows the Board to be more efficient and more productive, increasing the number of yearly hearings it can hold.

What is a hearing?

When a Veteran disagrees with a decision that VA made on their compensation claim, the Veteran has three options when asking for another look at the decision. One of those options is called an appeal, which is sent to BVA (the Board). At the Board, the Veteran has the choice to request a hearing with a Veterans Law Judge (Judge). The Veteran, their representative and the Judge all meet to discuss the Veteran's appeal.

The Judge is there to help, asking the Veteran questions to better understand the appeal. After the hearing, the appeal is held for about 90 days or more before the Judge reviews the appeal and issues a decision.

Requesting a hearing does take the Board longer to decide the appeal. That's because a lot of Veterans ask for hearings (more than 85,000 are waiting). Virtual tele-hearings allow the Board to hold more hearings. More hearings enable the Board to get more Veterans a faster decision.

But, we need your help: the Board wants to hold 50,000 hearings in 2021.

How do you get one?

Call your representative and tell them to call the Board and ask for a virtual tele-hearing, or send the Board an email requesting a virtual hearing at BVAVirtualHearing@VA.gov.

Virtual Vietnam Wall

Vietnam Wall-- This is really sobering. First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city where you went to high school and look at the names. Click on the name and it will give details of the person's death, a picture or at least their bio and medals. This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it. I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country. Pass the link on to others, as many knew wonderful people whose names are listed. <http://www.virtualwall.org>

SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE



Professionally framed print of Mort Kunstler #39'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

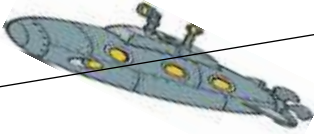
Drawing will be held 9 September at our regular meeting.

Artist's comments:

"Like all of my paintings, this one required a lot of research. I went out to Sullivans 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."

2nd 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.



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.

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.

Orlando, FL August 30 – September 04, 2021

June Base Meeting Minutes

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base Minutes of Business Meeting
10 June 2021

Opening Ceremonies:

The June 2021 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 49 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Tom Lawson and recited by the members in attendance.

The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of June was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.

Submarines lost during the month of June:

- USS HERRING (SS-233) June 1, 1944 – 8th 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 – 2nd war patrol Lost with All Hands – 82 Souls
- USS BONEFISH (SS-223) June 18, 1945 – 8th 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 – 3rd war patrol Lost with All Hands – 78 Souls

Seven Boats and 403 Men Lost

The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson followed by welcoming of members and guests to the meeting.

The Scholarship Committee Members – Chairman Carl Chinn, Rick Sparger and Marty Sessler presented four awards to recent high school graduates:

Sarah Sparger – Daughter of Ricky/Eve Sparger – Granddaughter of Rick/Kit Sparger – Graduated from Berkeley HS – Will attend USC Beaufort.

Christopher LeBaron – Son of Paul/Barbara LeBaron – Grandson of Tom/Gloria Cyrek – Graduated from SC Governor's School for Science and Mathematics – Will attend USC Honors College – Award accepted by Ed Stank, who read a note of thanks by Christopher.

Abigail Chinn – Daughter of Colin/Teri Chinn – Granddaughter of Carl/Connie Chinn - Graduated from Arundel HS in Maryland – Will attend Clemson University – Award accepted by granddad Carl Chinn.

Carson Chinn – Son of Cory/Holly Chinn – Grandson of Carl/Connie Chinn – Graduated from J.L. Mann HS in Greenville – Has already completed U.S. Army boot camp and will be attending Advanced Infantry Training in Fort Benning followed by Greenville Community College this year and will then will attend The Citadel starting as a sophomore next year. Photographs were taken.

We congratulate each recipient.

Guest Speaker – Nikki Kuhl:

Joe O'Saben introduced his daughter Nicole (Nikki) Kuhl; then she addressed the meeting concerning Parkinson's Disease.

- Described as neuro-degenerative illness.
- Early signs are: tremors / taking smaller steps / shuffling feet / mood issues / gut and bowel problems among others
- A Parkinson's patient will normally visit a neurologist but can also see a movement disorder specialist.
- She answered a question and described the workings of a deep brain stimulator. This is a device similar to a pacemaker in function that activates the nerves in the brain to calm a well-defined tremor. Getting such a device installed will require the patient to undergo some serious medical evaluations.

Stacy Power indicated that he had all of these symptoms but Nikki pointed out that his brain is functioning quite well given his age.

Introductions of New Attendees: We had no new attendees this evening.

Old Business: Base Commander Mike Ciesielko addressed some concern from a few members regarding the Board and the expenditure of Base funds. He explained that the members of the Board do take this issue seriously. If there is any question by the membership, motions can be presented at the Base Meeting can be presented by any of the Base members to alter the financial decisions that are made by the Board. We make every attempt to do the best in support of the Base members.

New Business: None

Secretary – Gordon Long:

The Minutes from the May Base meeting has been promulgated on the Base Website. With no other additions or deletions to the May Base Minutes presented, the Minutes were approved.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

The Treasurer's Report for May was published and promulgated on the website. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved. Congratulations to Ricky for assumption of Treasurer duties.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

Highlighted boat of the month: O-9 (SS-70) was lost on June 20, 1941 with the loss of 33 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH. O-9 submerged at 0738 to conduct deep submergence tests. The sub did not surface thereafter but was crushed by the pressure of the water 402 feet below.

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

MMCS(SS) Glen J. Birdwhistle departed on Eternal Patrol on June 4, 2021. He was not a current member of USSVI/Charleston Base but had previously been a member until 2015. Glen entered the Navy in 1958 and retired in 1982. He qualified on USS ARCHERFISH SS-311 in 1959. He also served on AMBERJACK SS-522, BLUEBACK SS-581, SAM HOUSTON SSBN-609, MARIANO G. VALLEJO SSBN-658, CASIMIR PULASKI SSBN-633, STURGEON SSN-637 and as COB on GRAYLING SSN-646. A note of condolence was placed on the funeral home website from Charleston Base.

STS3(SS) Gerald Karl Weckhorst departed on Eternal Patrol on May 21, 2021 due to cancer. He was not a USSVI member. He joined the Navy in 1967 and left in 1974. He qualified on TUSK SS-426 in 1971 and served on MARIANO G. VALLEJO SSBN-658. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.

Bill Roberts had a stent placed to correct an aortic aneurysm on 18 May at the VA. He is doing well in his recovery.

Ronnie VanDiver spent some time in hospital but is now recovering at home. He'll be getting a PET scan soon to determine if there is something else needed to be done to fix his problem.

Ken Curtis is still getting his infusions. He and Barbara don't get out except to the store.

Marty Sessler had shoulder replacement surgery on Friday 4 June to repair a previous surgery some months back. He was home that evening. He is recovering and he's here tonight.

Ron Litzenberger had an ischemic stroke in mid-April. No serious side effects but minor right side discomfort.

Harry Nettles had rotator cuff surgery this morning. He is home recovering.

J.J. Fortier had his back surgery on 6 April and did well. He has a feeding tube and doesn't know how long that will be needed. He is recovering well from lower back surgery but is still on the feeding tube. He is waiting for an appointment for another Barium swallow test. If the results for the test turn out normal he may be able to lose the feeding tube. As long as he has the feeding tube he must stay pretty close to home.

Ray Bryant has had years of lumbar spine injections and his pain management doctor cannot do anything more for his back. The central canal of L4, L5/S1 is showing serious narrowing. He had back surgery on this past Monday and stayed overnight.

Judy Hutchison had pneumonia a couple of weeks ago. She is slowly recovering.

Gene Weir continues his cancer treatments began in Sept 2020. Things are going well with very little side effects from the Chemo. He thanks everybody for their prayers. They do work. Don't know when he will be able to attend a meeting.

George Burton is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. His recent scans show the chemo has slowed the rate of growth but is still growing about a pencil point size each scan. Doctor says this could continue for a long time at that slow rate of growth. George will have to tell him when he wants to stop chemo. His schedule is each Wed. for 2 weeks, a week off, repeat this 3 week cycle for 9 weeks, then a new scan. All in all he is feeling good.

Bob Snyder is home with palliative care. Ed will continue to contact him each month for the meeting.

Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so. Of all the EP 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.

We hope everyone is watching and enjoying the video/audio recordings put on base social media by Lou Leal. The Amberjack Memorial and Memorial Day Service have been placed on the base YouTube channel and links are on the website homepage.

As a reminder, the links to our base meeting video/audio recordings are only sent to our base members. They are not placed on our YouTube channel for the public to see.

Please collect the aluminum tabs from the top of soda and beer cans and bring them to me at the base meetings. I will give them to our church to use the money for local missions.

Summerville Medical is in need of volunteers for several areas. Jullian Villegas and I are now volunteering. One area that needs help is driving the golf car to pick up patients from their cars and bring them to the doors of the hospital. If you are interested, send me an email at chaplain@ussvicb.org to receive more info on who to contact.

Discussed the USSVI National Convention in Orlando.

Fourth of July Celebration at First Baptist of Columbia on 27 June.

Discussed Amazon Sidewalk and email security.

Social Media – Lewis Leal: Lewis discussed web and email security – highlighting the need to be observant when receiving strange emails.

The video from the Amberjack ceremony and the Memorial Day service have been uploaded.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Emerson: We gladly recognized Stacy Power at the meeting tonight. This is the sixth month in a row that he has attended the Base Meeting.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson: Mike provided update concerning the hospital visits. Anyone who wants to be part of the next Kaps trip must have had COVID shots. At this time, one hospital has two children admitted with COVID – one has been in ICU twice. Have not contacted Greenville because he has to coordinate visits with another base.

Membership – Nick Nichols for Larry Knutson: We now have 270 Charleston Base Members and are tied with Piedmont Base.

VA – Tom Lawson The new VA facility officially opened this week. All of the primary care and dental clinic has moved to this location. Be sure to verify any upcoming appointments for possible location change.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn With the Scholarships presented, we have spent a lot of money and must restock the fund now. The Scholarship Committee has a raffle for The Final Mission Hunley print. Tickets are \$10. The drawing is open to members of other organizations, especially those associated with the Hunley. The drawing is currently scheduled for the July 8 Base Meeting, but we may extend the date. Challenge Coins are available for \$12.

Special Events – Rick Sparger Nothing reported

Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger Nothing to report. The FRA elections have concluded. The SubVets are well represented in the FRA leadership.

CRAMA – Mike Ciesielko for Butch Bryar: Have not yet heard from the judge. Starting JULY 1, Patriot's Point will have a new Executive Director. [Secretary's Note: Rorie Cartier will be the new ED.]

The Clamagore will be open for tours starting in July.

Nuclear Power School – RICK WISE FOR Ray Sparks The next NPS graduation is June 18 – Do not know about whether visitors will be allowed.

Little David – Rick Wise Painting is completed and it looks great. Thanks to each one that helped. Rick has been relieved of this work.

Recreation – Rick Sparger for Bill Hayes: Bill is not here tonight, but we had a really good picnic. Only 44 folks attended, but we had a great time. Bill brought his cooker and grilled the burgers and hotdogs. The ladies – and others – provided some great side dishes. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko made sure to get recognized for his contribution of cole slaw. The gathering was quite enjoyable.

Newsletter – Ed Stank: The Base Newsletter was published last week.

Public Affairs – Ed Stank The Distinguished Submariner Award information has been received by American Submariner. Ed has also submitted an entry about the Holland Club presentation to American Submariner. He is currently working on articles about the Amberjack and Memorial Day ceremonies.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison: Ken has Holland Club decals – prices vary depending on size. Oakbrook Embroidery will put your name, rate and dolphins on a shirt for \$15. You can take the shirt directly to them or bring it to Ken at the Base Meeting. Pay Ken the \$15 and then he will return the shirt to you at the following Base Meeting.

COB – Rick Sparger: Nothing to report

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson: We had a great turnout for the Memorial Day Ceremony. Tom stopped counting at 37.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko: Mike thanked the Base members for being at the meeting tonight. Mike spoke to the group about his time in the hospital and after effects of COVID.

Mike want to schedule guest speakers such as from VA or DAV on shorter meeting nights. There was significant interest from the group for this.

Guest speakers could also include a representative from Palmetto State Armory.

Prior to the meeting tonight, a member of The Navy League delivered a plaque acknowledging Charleston Base as a Plankowner of the USS Charleston LCS-18, which was commissioned about two years ago.

Good of the Order

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson: Not present.

After Battery – RICK WISE: Nothing to report.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko A gun shoot is planned for June 19. Muster at the FRA at 0830. Twin Ponds opens at 0900. 9/11

HEROS RUN – LOU LEAL The 9/11 Hero's Run will be held September 11 at 0900. Registration is open for participants. This is the event that Lou talked about setting up a table last year before end up being cancelled. Lou will keep us informed about the event.

Drawings & Auctions:

Scholarship Challenge Coin Challenge – Kit Sparger had chosen a random number based on the Base Meeting attendance sheet. James Graham would have won, if he had had a Challenge Coin. The prize will be held until next month.

FRA – Steak Dinner Auction – Gordon Williams – \$30

Depth Charge Drawing – Woody Woodsmall

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 2116.