

TORPEDO ALLEY



VOL. 18 #11

NOVEMBER 2022

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

Base Meetings:

BOD: Nov 3, 2022 Dec NONE
Membership: Nov 10, 2022 Dec NONE

Location:

FRA Branch 269
Low Country Home
99 Wisteria Rd.

Newsletter & PAO

Ed Stank 843.568.2148



Base Commander	<u>Mike Ciesielko</u>	843.324.0011
Vice Commander	<u>Tom Lawson</u>	843.327.3282
Secretary	<u>Gordon Long</u>	843.214.2353
Treasurer	<u>Ricky Collins</u>	843.276.4861
Chief of the Boat	<u>Rick Sparger</u>	843.553.5594
Chaplain	<u>Nick Nichols</u>	843.452.3189
Webmaster	<u>Nick Nichols</u>	843.452.3189
Veterans Affairs	<u>Tom Lawson</u>	843.327.3282
Membership	<u>Larry Knutson</u>	843.860.1155
Scholarship	<u>Carl Chinn</u>	843.437.5515
Storekeeper	<u>Woody Woodsmall</u>	304.676.8356
Historian	<u>George Scharf</u>	843.873.3318
Public Affairs	<u>Ed Stank</u>	843.568.2148
Nuclear Historian	<u>Rick Carlson</u>	843.875.4030
Holland Club	<u>Bill Freligh</u>	843.553.1115
Social Media Coord	<u>Lewis Leal</u>	843.270-8870
Kaps for Kids	<u>Mike Emerson</u>	843.302.2650
Fleet Reserve Rep	<u>Skip Chilton</u>	843.793.4896
Base Photographer	<u>Glenn Little</u>	843.797.1867
Comptroller	<u>Rick Wise</u>	843.276.0899
CRAMA Coord	<u>Butch Bryar</u>	843.224.9121
Hunley/Housatonic	<u>Harry Nettles</u>	843.514.1448
Patriots Point POC	<u>Rusty Pickett</u>	843.762.3888
Cold War Mem POC	<u>Rodney McKanna</u>	843.851.3415
Scout Recog Prog	<u>Dick Koehler</u>	843.553.2171
Recreation Comm	<u>Johnny Brown</u>	843-276-8264

Table of Contents

2	Boats on Eternal Patrol; From the Editor; Upcoming Base Events; CB 25th Anniversary
3	Scholarship Ring Raffle; Clock Raffle
4	Scholarship Rummage Sale
5	Veteran Day Ceremony; Humor; CB Christmas Party
6-8	TAPS; USSVI & VA Info
9-14	October 2022 Base Meeting Minutes
16	SUBVET Gulf Coast Christmas Party



Submarines Lost During the Month of November

USS ALBACORE (SS-218)	November 7, 1944 – 11 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 85 souls
USS GROWLER (SS-215)	November 8, 1944 – 12 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 86 souls
USS SCAMP (SS-277)	November 16, 1944 – 8 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 83 souls
USS CORVINA (SS-226)	November 16, 1943 – 1 st War patrol	Lost with all hands – 82 souls
USS SCULPIN (SS-191)	November 19, 1943 – 9 th War Patrol	Lost with 43 souls – 41 became POWs 21 survived the war

Five Boats and 376 Men Lost

Submarines Lost During the Month of December

USS CAPELIN (SS-289)	December 2, 1943	1 st War Patrol	Lost with all hands 76 souls
USS SEALION (SS-195)	December 10, 1941	Bombed in Philippine Shipyards	
		First submarine lost in World War II	Loss of 5 souls
USS F1/CARP (SS-20)	December 17, 1917	Collision with USS F3 (SS-22)	Loss of 19 souls
USS S4 (SS-109)	December 17, 1927	Rammed by USCGC Paulding	Lost with all hands 40 souls

Four Boats and 140 Men Lost During the Month of December

From the Editor

The war to end all wars resulted in the recognition and remembrance of all those who have served our great country and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Remember all veterans on November 11

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

- CB Board of Directors Meeting
November 3 1800
FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek

- Daylight Savings Time Ends - Fall Back 6 Nov

- ELECTION DAY November 8

- CB Meeting (Social Hour starts 1800)
November 10 1900
FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek

- Veterans Day Ceremony
November 11 1000
VFW Bellwright Road

- Scholarship Rummage Sale November 12
Rodney's Rockets Trolley Rd
0800-1300

- Happy Thanksgiving November 24

- No BOD meeting in December.

Charleston Base Christmas Party
December 3 1800
FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek

Information of all Charleston Base Events is on www.ussvicb.org



*This month is the 25th
Anniversary of Charleston Base
Remember all the hard work members
of our base, past and present have put
forth in her creation and continuance.*

Dolphin Ring Raffle

USSVI Charleston Base Admiral James B. Osborne Memorial Scholarship committee has a great raffle going!

Up for raffle is a genuine 14 karat gold dolphin ring. The ring is yellow gold and the dolphins are white gold. The eyes of the dolphins are set with a ruby and an emerald representing port and starboard running lights. The bullnose is set with a small diamond.

This ring has a weight of 15.5 grams. It is currently size 9. Although this ring is not brand new, it is in excellent condition!



To purchase a brand new similar ring would cost around \$2,300!

Included in the raffle is \$50 toward re-sizing if necessary at Bob London's Jewelry on Trolley Road in Summerville.

Tickets are \$10 each, available at meetings, You can also contact Carl Chinn, Rick Sparger or Marty Sessler.

Raffle will start at our regular September 8th meeting. Drawing will be held at our regular meeting on January 12th, 2023.

Raffle is open to anyone, not just Base members!

ADMIRAL OSBORNE SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE

DOLPHIN CLOCK

Brass/Bronze Clock and Dolphins Mounted in a Gimbel System

Base is 12"X7" 12" Tall

Raffle will start in the October Meeting
Drawing in November Meeting

Tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5

Raffle is open to anyone



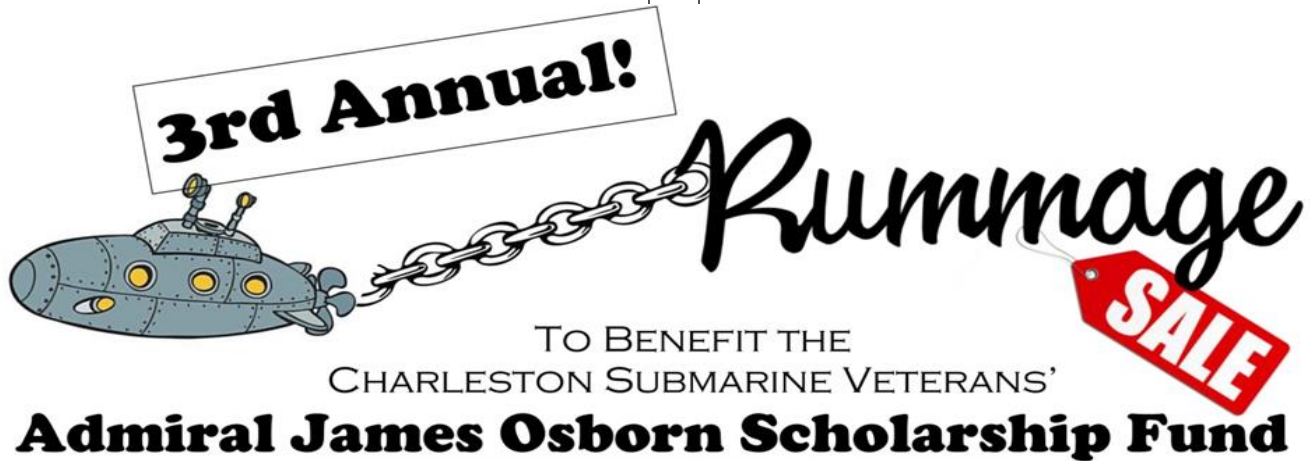
NOVEMBER 8TH



ADMIRAL JAMES B. OSBORN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

3rd Annual Rummage Sale!

The Scholarship Committee will be holding their 3rd Annual Rummage Sale to benefit the Admiral James B. Osborn Memorial Scholarship. The sale is open to the public. Donations can be made any time, contact Rick Sparger, Marty Sessler or Carl



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.

Date: Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022 (Rain date Nov. 19)

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

(Halloween Express / Rodney's Rockets)

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



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY



Due to the inclement weather predictions, the Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) on Bellwright Road starting at 1000, muster at 0945. Please wear Khaki pants, Light Blue shirt and your Vest and cover. Don't have the outfit, come anyway and help honor all the brave men and women who have faithfully served this country. After the ceremony is complete a luncheon will follow.

IN HONOR OF THE MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

A submarine sandwich



CHARLESTON BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS' 2022 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY *Saturday December 3rd*

A CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE HELD AT THE FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION (FRA) ON SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER.

THIS EVENT IS FREE TO ALL MEMBERS. LIGHT SNACKS WILL BE SERVED WITH MUSIC AND DANCING.

IF POSSIBLE PLEASE BRING A SIDEDISH OR DESERT.

COME OUT AND JOIN YOUR SHIPMATES IN AN EVENING OF FUN AND COMADRE.

THIS IS THE LAST EVENT OF THE YEAR AND I ASK ALL OF YOU TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO ATTEND.

NAVAL WEAPONS STATION PHARMACY ISSUE

A member of our base recently has had difficulty getting prescriptions filled by the Naval Weapons Station Pharmacy. This s a copy of the submission made and the response from pharmacy representatives.

I have been trying to get my prescriptions filled at the Naval Weapons Station Pharmacy this week and the process has been cumbersome and unproductive. I've been placed on multiple 45-minute holds, gone to pick up my meds and only one prescription was filled when there should have been seven more, and I've been hung up on.

I've had to go to Walgreens out of pocket get meds I needed the day-of because it has taken so long, and I still don't have the meds I need.

Public Affairs advised me that there's program called Genesis being implemented that might be holding things up.

Don't give up on any government supported program that you are entitled to. If you need help on any VA issue contact your base VA representative,

Tom Lawson at 843.327.3282 or contact your local VA representative.

Submitted by Charleston Base Shipmate Pat Davis, STCS(SS)

SILENZIO'...BEAUTIFUL AND HAUNTING

About six miles from Maastricht, in the Netherlands, lie buried 8,301 American soldiers who died in "Operation Market Garden" in the battles to liberate Holland in the fall/winter of 1944. Every one of the men buried in the cemetery, as well as those in the Canadian and British military cemeteries, has been adopted by a Dutch family who mind the grave, decorate it, and keep alive the memory of the soldier they have adopted. It is even the custom to keep a portrait of "their" soldier in a place of honour in their home.

Annually, on "Liberation Day," memorial services are held for "the men who died to liberate Holland." The day concludes with a concert. The final piece is always "Il Silenzio," a memorial piece commissioned by the Dutch and first played in 1965 on the 20th anniversary of Holland's liberation. It has been the concluding piece of the memorial concert ever since.

This year the soloist was a 13-year-old Dutch girl, Melissa Venema, backed by André Rieu and his orchestra (the Royal Orchestra of the Netherlands). This beautiful concert piece is based upon the original version of taps and was composed by Italian composer Nino Rossi.

Wait until the last note is reached ..

<http://www.flixxy.com/trumpet-solo-melissa-venema.htm>

USSVI NATIONAL AND REGIONAL and VETERANS INFORMATION

Dear Veteran,

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes that you may have questions regarding the VA claim exam (also known as a compensation and pension, or C&P, exam) process if you have filed a disability claim. To help answer many of these questions, VA has updated the following two websites regarding VA claim exams:

Claim Exam Information - Compensation (va.gov)

VA Claim Exam (C&P Exam) | Veterans Affairs

VA claim exams are a critical part of the claims process and VA wants to help you understand this process. VA's updated websites provide answers about why a claim exam may or may not be needed, who contacts you about scheduling exams and how you may be contacted. These new webpages contain answers to additional questions such as:

- What to do if an exam is missed;
- How to reschedule an appointment;
- What to bring to the exam and how to prepare for it;
- Who completes the exam;

Costs or travel expenses and so much more. Please visit our updated websites for answers to frequently asked questions and for updated information regarding VA claim exams.

Military.com The Military's Largest Benefits Update

6 More States Stop Taxing Military Retirement

Free Cruise Tickets Available for Veterans and Active-Duty Military on This Upgraded Ship

Sweeping New Law Expands Veterans' Medical and Disability Benefits

5 Things You May Not Know About Queen Elizabeth II's Military History

Here's Why the Pentagon Will Stop Issuing the National Defense Service Medal

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Veterans Day 2022 Discounts & Free Meals

Free meals, haircuts, Bed and Breakfasts, and tons of discounts for Veterans. This Veterans Day discounts list will be updated.

More than 500 Free Veterans Day Events Across the Country

It's National Veteran and Military Families Month! Check out the more than 500 FREE events nationwide celebrating Veterans and their families. The list is organized by state and will continue to be updated as we learn of more events.

Expanded VA Care & Benefits

The PACT Act expands access to VA care and eligibility for disability compensation. Learn more at VA.gov/PACT or watch this video to learn how it could impact you.

FREE: Brand New Medical Supplies and Equipment

Learn how Veterans and their families can save money on medical supplies and equipment with VA health care. From medical beds to wheelchair ramps, VA can help. All medical supplies and equipment are brand new, never used and yours to keep.

Explore the History of VA

In 1932, the Bonus Army protests set lawmakers on a path to provide benefits to Veterans who had served their country. Learn more about the history of the Bonus Army Veterans and explore the "History of VA in 100 Objects." The virtual exhibit spotlights objects that illuminate the Nation's historical efforts to honor and reward Veterans from 1776 to the present.

VA Disability Payments to Increase in 2023

VA disability compensation rates are increasing in 2023 based on Social Security's cost

of living adjustment. Official compensation tables will be provided by VA in December 2022.

Commissary Shopping Privileges for Veterans

Many Veterans are eligible to shop at Defense commissaries worldwide, including Veterans with any service-connected disability, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and caregivers of eligible Veterans

VA Expands Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to Veterans of All Service Eras

Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is expanding the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) to include eligible Veterans and their family caregivers of all eras.

VA's PCAFC provides resources, education, support, a financial stipend, health insurance (if eligible), and additional benefits to Family Caregivers of **eligible Veterans**.

For more information about the PCAFC expansion, or to learn more about VA's Caregiver Support Program, visit www.caregiver.va.gov/index.asp, reach out to your **local CSP team**, or call our Caregiver Support Line at 855-260-3274 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. ET, and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET.

VA opens health care eligibility for Vietnam, Gulf War, post-9/11 Veterans under PACT Act **WASHINGTON** — On Oct. 1, The Department of Veterans Affairs will expand and extend eligibility for VA health care for certain Veterans of the Vietnam War, Gulf Wars and post-9/11 era under the **Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act**.

This expansion increases health care eligibility for generations of toxic-exposed Veterans, giving them access to the health care they've earned and deserve.

President Biden signed the bipartisan **PACT Act** into law August 10, authorizing one of the largest expansions of VA health care and benefits

in U.S. history. Veterans can go to VA.gov/PACT to apply for health care or learn more about what this bill means for them and their families.

“This expansion will bring generations of new Veterans into VA health care, and increase the health care benefits of many more, which will result in the one outcome that matters most: better health outcomes for Veterans,” said **Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs**. “I highly encourage these Veterans to apply now for the health care they’ve earned and deserve.”

Beginning on Oct. 1, Post-9/11 Veterans who did not previously enroll in VA health care will have a 1-year window to enroll if they:

Served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, **or**

Served in a combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after Nov. 11, 1998, **and**

Were discharged or released from active service between Sept. 11, 2001, and Oct. 1, 2013.

Also on Oct. 1, the following groups of Veterans will be eligible for care:

Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War. This includes Veterans who, in connection with service during such period, received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Service Specific Expeditionary Medal, Combat Era Specific Expeditionary Medal, Campaign Specific Medal, or any other combat theater award established by federal statute or executive order.

Vietnam-era Veterans who served in the following locations and time periods: The Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975; Thailand at any U.S. or Royal Thai base between Jan. 9, 1962, and June 30, 1976; Laos between Dec. 1, 1965, and Sept. 30, 1969; Certain provinces in Cambodia between April 16, 1969, and April 30, 1969; Guam or American Samoa (or their territorial waters)

between Jan. 9, 1962, and July 31, 1980; Johnston Atoll (or on a ship that called there) between Jan. 1, 1972, and Sept. 30, 1977.

While the expansion of PACT Act-related health care eligibility is staggered over the coming years, VA has made all **conditions outlined in the PACT Act** presumptive for benefits as of August 10, the day President Biden signed the bill into law. Eligible Veterans and survivors are encouraged to apply for those benefits now at VA.gov/PACT.

More information about VA’s implementation of the PACT Act can be found in this **fact sheet**.

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**From our USSVI Charitable Fund:
Announcing the 2023 – 24 Submarine Veterans
Scholarship**

The United States Submarine Veterans Inc. and the United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation have sponsored educational scholarships for nearly 4 decades. These scholarships, given to submarine veterans and their families, have had a huge impact on their continuing education.

The program has expanded eligibility this year. This expansion includes vocational training, trade schools, and apprenticeships for submarine veterans, their children, and grandchildren. The application period for the next academic year is open now.

Interested individuals can visit the link below to view information about eligibility and the application process.

[Application - United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc. \(ussvcf.org\)](http://ussvcf.org)

Anyone interested in helping to further this program with a tax-deductible donation is encouraged to visit the USSV Charitable Foundation website: www.ussvcf.org

Dr. Alan G. Fickett, Ph.D., Chairman,
USSVCF Academic Scholarship Program
alan.cfsbvets@gmail.com

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**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.,
Charleston Base Minutes of Business Meeting
13 October 2022**

Opening Ceremonies:

- The October 2022 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 41 members. The meeting started at 1901 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 October was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of October:
 - o USS SEAWOLF (SS-197) October 3, 1944 – 15th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 100 souls (83 crew and 17 Army)
 - o USS S-44 (SS-155) October 7, 1944 – 5th War Patrol Lost with 56 souls – 2 men became POWs and survived the war
 - o USS WAHOO (SS-238) October 11, 1943 – 7th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 80 souls
 - o USS DORADO (SS-248) October 12, 1943 – New - training Lost with all hands – 77 souls
 - o USS ESCOLAR (SS-294) October 17, 1944 – 1st War Patrol Lost with all hands – 82 souls
 - o USS DARTER (SS-227) October 24, 1944 – 4th War Patrol No loss of life
 - o USS SHARK II (SS-314) October 24, 1944 – 3rd War Patrol Lost with all hands – 87 souls
 - o USS TANG (SS-306) October 25, 1944 – 5th War Patrol Lost with 78 souls – 9 men became POWs and survived the war
 - o USS O-5 (SS-66) October 29, 1923 – near Panama Canal Lost with 3 souls
 - o Nine Boats and 563 Men Lost

Machinist Mate Senior Chief, Submarines
John William Kennedy, USN Retired
Eternal Patrol on September 19, 2022

Commissaryman Master Chief, Submarines
Stacy Barton Power,
USN Retired WWII and Submarine Veteran
Eternal Patrol on September 23, 2022

Radioman Chief, Submarines
Bobby Eugene Boley, USN Retired
Eternal Patrol on October 5, 2022

Electronics Technician Senior Chief, Submarines
John Hazard, USN Retired
Eternal Patrol on October 7, 2022

- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Introductions of new attendees:
 - Two men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:
 - o Jonathan Thompson – EMNC – Qualified on USS Toledo SSN769 in December 2008
 - o Eric Fortenberry – STS1 – Qualified on USS Bluefish SSN675 in June 1991 – Also served aboard USS Sturgeon SSN637

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the September Base meeting have been emailed directly to the Base membership and had been promulgated on the Base Website. There was one correction to the dates for the Friends of the Hunley Tour and Oyster Roast. A revised copy of the September Base Minutes was posted on the Base Website. The September Base Meeting Minutes were approved with the changes.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The Treasurer's Report for September was published and promulgated on the website. There

were no revisions. The report was approved and presented.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- Highlighted boat of the month:
 - o USS DARTER (SS 227) was lost on Oct 24, 1944 when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan and was then destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by USS Dace. Winner of one Navy Unit Commendation, Darter had sunk a heavy cruiser and damaged another and went aground while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation in hopes of getting in an attack on a battleship.

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

- **MMCS(SS) John W. 'Bill' Kennedy**, USN Retired, 75, departed on Eternal Patrol on September 19 at home. John was known by different names, either Bill or Friar Tuck being the most common. Bill joined the Navy in 1965 and retired in 1985. He was a life member of USSVI & Charleston Base [2002], and a member of the Holland Club. Bill qualified on USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN in 1969, and served on USS PINTADO SSN-672, USS VON STEUBEN SSBN-632, USS NATHAN HALE SSBN-623, USS STURGEON SSN-637. There were 14 CB members and wives at the service. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.

- o Bill's daughter sent the following email: Hello. My name is Sarah Roland and I am John/Bill/Friar Tuck's daughter. I really appreciated the portion of his services that which you and the other Sub Vets honored him. My brother and I learned about the several things and especially about the Holland Club. Please express my sincere thanks to your group. Please also express to all of the members that I appreciate all of them who routinely came to the hospital with the Caps for Kids program.

- **CSCM(SS) Stacy B. Power**, USN Retired, 95, departed on Eternal Patrol on September 23 at

home. Stacy joined the Navy in 1943 and retired in 1969. He was a life member of the US Submarine Veterans WWII, USSVI & Charleston Base joining both in 1999. He was a Plank Owner of Charleston Base and the first Chaplain for the Base. He was also a member of the Holland Club having been qualified for 71 years, a Life Member of FRA Branch 269, a Life Member of the VFW, and a member of the American Legion. Prior to his submarine service, during and after WWII Stacy served on USS LSM-1, USS VALLEY FORGE CV-45 and the Presidential Yacht, USS WILLILAMSBURG AGC-369. Stacy qualified on USS GRENADIER SS-525 in 1951 and then served on USS SABALO SS-302 as COB, USS GREENFISH SS-351 as COB and USS SAM RAYBURN SSBN-635. He also served at the Louisville KY Recruiting District, US Amphib Base Ft. Pierce FL and Navy Recreation Station Washington DC. Stacy's funeral was held on Wednesday Sept. 28. There were 37 CB members and wives and 14 Active Duty Sailors from NNPTC at the service. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.

- **RMC(SS) Bobby E. Boley**, US Navy Retired, 74, departed on EP on October 5, 2022 at home. Bobby joined the Navy in 1957 and retired in 1978. He was a life member of the USSVI & Charleston Base [1997], and a member of the Holland Club having been qualified for 55 years. Prior to his submarine service, Bobby served on USS BLAIR DER-147, USS KING DL-610 Precom, USS HANSON DDR-837, AND USS BUSHNELL AS15. Bobby qualified on USS LAPON SSN-661 in 1967. His shore duties included NAVCOMSTA Washington DC, NAVCOMSTA Iceland, NAVCOMSTA Puerto Rico and COMSUBLANT. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website. CB conducted the bell tolling service and there were 15 base members and wives in attendance.

- **ETCS(SS) John Hazard**, US Navy Retired, 74, departed on EP on October 7, 2022 due to injuries he sustained while on a bicycle ride in

Kentucky. John joined the Navy in 1969 and retired in 1995 after 26 years of service. He qualified in on USS RAY SSN-653 in 1973 and served on USS LAPON SSN-661, USS JACKSONVILLE SSN-699, USS MEMPHIS SSN-691 and USS SILVERSIDES SSN-679. Prior to submarine service he served on USS FLORIKAN AST-9 for a year. A note of condolence will be placed on the funeral home website when it is posted. His son, Patrick, said there will not be a funeral due to John's wishes and nothing planned for Charleston.

· **EN3(SS) Robert J. Snyder**, US Navy Veteran, departed on EP on August 24. 8 CB members and wives attended his service in Manning SC.

o Bob's wife sent the following letter: Dear Nick, I thank you all so very much for making the trip to Manning for Bob's service. I hope you will relay my thank you to the sub=vets who made the trip to take part in the service. I know it was what Bob wanted and that made it especially meaningful to me. He suffered so long with cancer however the last three months of his life were almost unbearable for him. I am thankful for the prayers of all those who were praying for him and for his family. Our home seems so empty without him; I miss him more each day it seems. Please let me know if I can ever do anything for the members of the Sub-Vets. Fondly, Claire Snyder

· **CWO4 John Robert Wahl**, US Navy Retired, departed on EP on October 5. He was not a member of USSV or Charleston Base. John joined the Navy in 1963 and retired in 1995 serving or 32 years. He qualified on USS NAUTILUS SSN-571 in 1963 and served on USS HARDHEAD SS-365, USS CORPORAL SS-346 and USS CLAMAGORE SS-343. After making Warrant Officer he served on USS WHITE PLAINS AFS-4 and USS MOUNT BAKER AE-34. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.

· **Charlotte Starr**, Jerry's wife, passed away this past Saturday. There will be a celebration of life on 5 November at their home.

· **Margie Deal** [Walt's wife] is now at home on hospice care mostly sleeping and being kept out

of pain. Walt called last night to tell me. He asks for prayers

· **Sabrina Peters** passed away after a heart attack. Sabrina was the last of three children of Clyde & Sue Peters. All three children have now passed away. Sue is the widow of CB member Clyde Peters who departed on Eternal Patrol on August 22, 2014.

· **John Lookabill**, 88, was in Summerville Medical from 7 Oct to 10 Oct (Fri-Mon) due to COPD and bronchitis complications. He went home on Monday is now recovering at home.

· **Bill Roberts**, 83, had surgery to repair his aneurism stent. The surgery went well and he is recovering at home.

· **Tom Cyrek** fell and is not doing well.

· **David Wood**, 80, had 4-way bypass surgery which went well and he was up and walking the next day. He is recovering at home but a has a terrible back pain.

· **James Graham Sr.**, 70, had foot surgery in August. He was able to be at Stacy's funeral.

· **Thom Beach**, 75, was able to be come home for the last week in September. According to Linda he is really enjoying his time at home. He had a neuro test while here. Not being able to drive and the storm (IAN) curtailed a lot but it has been good for him to be home.

o Ray Bryant's note: I visited Thom this afternoon (6 Apr) for a while. I wanted to take him out to Dukes for lunch but he wasn't up to it. He's looking well, smiling and enjoyed a visit from Beetle and another Shipmate before I got there. He asked me to have you let the guys at the next week's meeting know he sure misses them and wishes he could be there.

· **Lee Nettles** [Harry's wife] had ankle surgery. She's home and recovering.

· **Gene Weir**, 75, is still fighting his cancer.

· **Don Londergan**, 83, is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136.

· Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

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.

· The new website is now online and National is wanting everyone to sign in and make sure they can make it work for them. The site is www.ussvi.org (same as the old one) and everyone should have received an email telling them what to do to reset their password so they can login. If you have an issue let me know. Tools and Membership Training will be taking place soon.

o The National Commander sent all USSVI members an email notice on how to log in on the new USSVI website at <http://www.USSVI.org> The login is the email address you have listed with the USSVI, the password that you use is a lengthy one (at least 10 characters) but is a very important security feature of our website. After you do log in, send your Base Commander an email that you have.

o Should any have questions about the site after logging in, send it to the Questions email address listed in the forwarded email.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

· Nothing to report.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Ciesielko for Mike Emerson:

· We had a reserved, but empty chair but Stacy Power was unable to attend due to departure on Eternal Patrol. His son Casey who is an Honorary Charleston Base Member is welcome to attend the Base Meetings at any time.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson

· Not present.

· Rick Sparger (COB) noted that all of the Kaps for Kids supplies have been moved to the storage area. He also suggested that maybe we should

contact the Shriner's Hospital since access is restricted at McLeod Hospital in Florence due to COVID protocols.

· Base Commander Mike Ciesielko stated that we will discuss Kaps for Kids at the Board Meeting in November.

Membership – Larry Knutson

· We currently have 262 Charleston Base Members.

· It is October and time for annual dues to be paid. Don't wait and have to be reinstated.

· If someone is a Life Member of National USSVI, but annual Base Member, National will move them to Member-At-Large. Any Annual Member of National will be dropped from that roster at the end of January.

· Nick Nichols provided Base standings: 1) Groton 1213 - 2) Hampton Roads 281 - 3) Charleston 261 - 4) Bremerton 252 - 5) Requin 193 - 6) San Diego 173 - 7) Long Island 159

National Awards – Mike Knaub

· Not present.

VA – Tom Lawson

· Nothing to report.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

· The current Scholarship Raffle is for a Dolphin Clock which was donated by our Chaplain. The drawing for this clock will be held at the November Base Meeting.

· The raffle for the 14-carat gold Dolphin ring will be held at the January Base meeting. The tickets for this are \$10 each. The online price for a similar item is around \$2,300.

· The Rummage Sale will be held on November 12. This is the Saturday after the monthly Base Meeting. The location is at Halloween Express/Rodney's Rockets (1825 Old Trolley Road, Summerville). Carl will be there at 0530 to start setting up. The time of the sale will be from 0800 – 1300.

· The Scholarship Application is available on the Base Website. If you have children or

grandchildren eligible, download and complete the form. The deadline is April 14.

- We received two donations to the Scholarship Fund given in memory of Stacy Power. One of them came from a couple in Hurricane, WV.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- Rick asked for someone else to be a key holder for the storage shed.
- Remember to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Summerville County Office Building.
- We only have to bring the sound system and ourselves.
- We need to do some work on the float to make it presentable, but we expect to have tolling of the boats at Coastal Coffee Roasters in Summerville.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- Stacy Power joined the FRA on December 1 1955. Nick Nichols noted that Stacy had been qualified submarines longer than being an FRA member.
- The FRA will hold a cake cutting tomorrow in honor of the U.S. Navy Birthday (247 years).
- Beginning at 0800, The FRA will be placing flags at Plantation Memorial Gardens for Veterans Day.
- The guest speaker for the FRA Veterans Day service will be the CMC of NNPTC.
- The FRA is planning either a barbeque or an indoor picnic.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko introduced Johnny as the new Recreation Committee Chair.
- The Christmas Party will be held here at the FRA on December 3. It will be the same format as last year:
 - o The Base will provide sandwich trays.
 - o There is no cost to attend. Yes, FREE.
 - o There will be a cash bar for drinks (alcohol).
 - o Members are encouraged to bring desserts or other dishes as desired.
 - o Karaoke will be available.
- Johnny asked the membership to let him know some events that would be fun to do.

CRAMA - None

- Rick Sparger reported that at high tide tomorrow morning, Clamagore is being towed out. The picture in the paper of the boat shows the neglect that Patriot's Point had for this WWII submarine which was put in their trust.
- Rick Wise stated that the judge finally, after months, made a decision that we had no standing in the case.
- This will likely be the last CRAMA report.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks

- The expected date for the next NPS graduation is November 11. Rick will be checking to make sure.
- He will be at the graduation if no other SubVets are there.

Comptroller – Rick Wise

- The 3rd Quarter Budget Report has been posted online
- The proposed budget for next year is also available on the Base Website. We will be voting on the budget at the November Base Meeting.

PAO/Newsletter – Nick Nichols for Ed Stank

- The Base Newsletter was published today. Nick noted that Ed does a lot of work putting the Newsletter together and this work is deserving of reading.
- The Base Minutes have to be published in the Newsletter.
- NNPTC invited the entire Base membership to a picnic recently, and the few that actually attended had a really good time as the Chief Selectees would not even let us throw our own trash away. Yes, we had short notice this time, but when get an invitation, please do your best to attend. Many bases are going away and Charleston will be no different without some younger members.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- If you no longer want to be free advertisement for the dealership where you purchased your car,

then get a license plate frame from the Base Storekeeper. Woody has frames that advertise for SubVets.

- The new Submarine Calendars are in. The theme is Perils in the Deep.

COB – Rick Sparger

- Today is the 247th Birthday of the U.S. Navy.
- Election Day is November 8. This Please get out and vote! If there is anyone that is need of transportation, please contact COB and he will arrange for someone to get them to the polls.
- The Submarine Museum in St. Mary's, Georgia had gotten flooded during Hurricane Ian, but is back open now. They will be having the WWII Ceremony on November 4 at 1000. This will be the first event held in the last three years.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- With Stacy Power now on Eternal Patrol, Terry Trump has assumed the title of Senior Charleston Base member, having qualified submarines in 1956.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- Mike talked about the NNPTC picnic and the fact that he received lots of questions from the sailors. One young lady is volunteering for submarine duty.
- We need to see some younger members.

Good of the Order Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Not present.

After Battery – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks

- The Hog Roast is planned for April 15-22, 2023. Save the date.
- The After Battery is open each Wednesday.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing new at this time.

Non-Nuclear Historian – Harry Nettles

- Not present.

Hunley Tours – Lindsay Nelson

- Reminded everyone that tomorrow is the last day to sign up for the Hunley Tour and Oyster Roast.

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA Drawing – Lewis Leal
- Depth Charge Drawing – John Brotherton

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson sounded three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 2004

Old(er) Age

I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But here it is... the winter of my life, and it catches me by surprise... How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those "older people" were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey... they move slower and I see an older person in myself now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me... but, I see the great change... Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so... now I enter this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things

that I wish I had done but never did!! But at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last... this I know, that when it's over on this earth... it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done... things I should have done, but indeed, there are also many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet... let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can TODAY, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life... so, LIVE FOR TODAY and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember... and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

"Life" is a GIFT to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

Remember: "It is Health that is real Wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."

**~But "Old" is good in some things:
Old Songs, Old movies ...and best of all, our dear ...OLD FRIENDS!!**

Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!"

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Submarine Veterans' Gulf Coast 2022 Annual Christmas Party



Thursday Dec 8th – Sunday Dec 11th, 2022

Holiday Inn Resort

(New, Better, Completely Remodeled)

11127 Front Beach Rd, Panama City Beach, FL 32407

1-850-234-1111 or 1-800-633-0266 (toll-free)

Rooms \$89.00 plus tax

Hospitality Room and Banquet **\$50.00**

(Hospitality Room includes Morning Coffee & Donuts, Free Libations & Assorted Snacks)

Hosted by Robert Wilson, Surgeon Base, (rwflegends@gmail.com)

~~LA Hancock~~ Driven Base, (wcpa.sv@peoplepc.com)

This is a Christmas Party – Gifts Optional (to receive a gift, you must bring a gift)

Everyone Bring a Present (around \$15) - Men bring a Guy's gift and Ladies bring a Gal's gift.

Banquet Christmas Party Saturday Night

Banquet will have a Cash Bar starting at 5 P.M. followed by Dinner and Party at 6:30 P.M.

MENU – SANTA'S FAVORITE BUFFET

Carolina Fresh Salad

Tender Roasted Tom Turkey with Giblet Gravy - Spiral Honey Glazed Ham

Country Style Sausage Cornbread Stuffing - Whipped Potatoes - Cashed Yams

Green Bean Almondine - Fresh Whole Kernel Corn - Freshly Baked Rolls

Desert Selections - Freshly Baked Pecan Pie, Apple Pie or Cobbler - Iced Tea or Coffee

Memorial Service 11 A.M. Saturday December 10th

Nightly Bar Raffles (w/extra prizes) - 6 for \$5.00

Large Split the Pot Saturday Night Raffle (w/extra prizes) - 6 for \$5.00



**Mail Reservations for Banquet and Hospitality Rooms to
Robert A Wilson, 4935 N Peppermint Dr, Beverly Hills, FL 34465**

Make Checks out to Robert A Wilson, please include Christmas Party in Memo

Reservations have to be in hand NLT November 20th to guarantee your banquet seating

(Refunds for Banquet after December 1st, 2022, cannot be guaranteed)

Problems or Questions? Contact Robert Wilson, 352-212-0605 (rwflegends@gmail.com)

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Spouse /Guest: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

(Tel) (____) _____ - _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Local Chapter/Base _____

Number Banquet & Hospitality Rooms: _____ x \$50.00 \$ _____

Hospitality Rooms (only) \$25 – Banquet (only) \$35: _____ x \$xx.00 \$ _____

Saturday Night 50/50 Raffle (6 tickets for \$5) How Many: _____ x \$ 5.00 \$ _____

Total Remitted: \$ _____