



Vol. 22 No. 3

March 2026

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

Base Meeting:

Newsletter & Little David Phil Nunnally 843.518.8301

BOD: Mar 5, 2026

Membership: Mar 12, 2026

Location:

FRA Branch 269
Low Country Home
99 Wisteria Rd.



ELECTED

Base Commander	Dave Harvey	812.773.1312
Vice Commander	Art Sattler	843.813.6899
Secretary	Gordon Long	843.214.2353
Treasurer	Ricky Collins	843.934.3754

APPOINTED

Chief of the Boat	Greg Landry	843.813.4361
Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Veterans Affairs	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
Scholarship	Tom Lawson III	843.813.0244
Membership	Larry Knutson	843.860.1155
Storekeeper	Woody Woodsmall	304.676.8356
Nuclear Historian	Rick Carlson	843.875.4030
CF Ambassador	Bob MacPherson	717.606.7047
Navy League Coord	Bob MacPherson	717.606.7047
Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.729.3524
Social Media Coord	Lewis Leal	843.270.8870
Kaps for Kids	Art Sattler	843.813.6899
FRA Rep	Ken Hutchinson	843.793.4896
Base Photographer	Glenn Little	843.797.1867
Comptroller	Tom Holcombe	843.607.9610
Hunley/Housatonic	Tom Holcombe	843.607.9610
Special Events Coord	Tom Holcombe	843.607.9610
Patriots Point POC	Rusty Pickett	843.762.3888
Cold War Mem POC	Rodney McKanna	843.851.3415
Scout Recog Prog	Dick Koehler	843.553.2171
Recreation Comm.	Johnny Brown	843.276.8264
License Plate Coord	Ed Stank	843.568.2148
NNPTC POC	Anthony Mazza	912.322.8224
Float Coordinator	Dave Harvey	812.773.1312
SE Regional Coord	Dave Harvey	812.773.1312
PAO	Jerry Stout	843.568.5923
National Awards Co	VACANT	
Base Historian	VACANT	
ADM Osborn Sch Comm	VACANT	

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Submarines lost during the month of March

USS Perch (SS-176)	3 Mar 42	59 Officers and Men taken as POW 6 POWs died.
USS Grampus (SS-207)	5 Mar 43	71 Souls Lost
USS H-1 (SS-28)12	12 Mar 20	4 Souls Lost
USS Triton (SS-201)	15 Mar 43	74 Souls Lost
USS Kete (SS-369)	20 Mar 45	87 Souls Lost
USS F-4 (Ex Skate) SS-23	21 Mar 15	21 Souls Lost
USS Tullibee (SS-284)	26 Mar 44	79 Souls Lost, 1 taken as a POW and survived the war
USS Trigger (SS-237)	26 Mar 45	89 Souls Lost
8 Boats 431 Souls Lost		

To those whose contribution meant the loss of sons, brothers or husbands in this war, I pay my most humble respect and extend by deepest sympathy. As to the 374 officers and 3131 men of the Submarine Force who gave their lives in the winning of this war, I can assure you that they went down fighting and that their brothers who survived them took a grim toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths.

MAY GOD REST THEIR GALLANT SOULS.

From speech given in Cleveland, Navy Day 1945, by Vice Admiral C.A.

Lockwood, Jr., Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet January 1943 -January 1946.

FLEET ADMIRAL CHESTER W. NIMITZ, U.S. NAVY

We, who survived World War II and were privileged to rejoin our loved ones at home, salute those gallant officers and men of our submarines who lost their lives in that long struggle. We shall never forget that it was our submarines that held the lines against the enemy while our fleets replaced losses and repaired wounds.

C.W. Nimitz, Fleet Admiral, USN

Read more [here](#).

CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

Shipmates Lost or Reported Lost Since our 2025 Base Christmas Party Bell Tolling

- MMCM(SS) Jay Miller Rowland III., USN Retired 11 January 2026
- STS2(SS) Charles Spencer Wood, USN Veteran 24 January 2026
- TMC(SS) Robert Kenneth 'Ken' Curtis, USN Retired 23 February 2026



CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

TMC(SS) Robert Kenneth Curtis, USN Ret., now on Eternal Patrol.

With great sadness I report on Monday, 23 February 2026, our shipmate Robert Kenneth Curtis, 82, departed on Eternal Patrol in Goose Creek SC. Ken joined the Navy in 1960 and retired in 1980. He was a Vietnam War Veteran having served and been wounded in Vietnam. Ken was a life member of USSVI National and Charleston Base as of 2011. He was also a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1961 on USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN SSBN-602. Additional duty stations were USS BALAO SS-285, USS NATHAN HALE SSBN-623, USS JAMES K. POLK SSBN-645, USS LEWIS & CLARK SSBN-644 and USS HUNLEY AS-31. Shore duty assignments included POMFLANT Charleston SC and COMSUBRON 18. Ken was also a Life Member of FRA Branch 269 and a Life Member and Past Commander of DAV Chapter 17.

Robert Kenneth Curtis Obituary.

Robert Kenneth "Ken" Curtis, 83 of Goose Creek, South Carolina, passed away on Monday, February 23, 2026. Born on September 6, 1942 in Chattanooga, TN, Ken was a son of the late Ethel Thompson Curtis and William Curtis.

Ken dedicated 20 years to the United States Navy, retiring with the distinguished rank of Chief Torpedoman (TMC). His service took him beneath the seas on submarines and into the heart of the conflict in Vietnam, where he was wounded in action and awarded the Purple Heart for his sacrifice and Bronze Star for meritorious service.

His commitment to service did not end with his military career. For more than 50 years, Ken served his community as a Captain with the Goose Creek Volunteer Fire Department, protecting and leading with the same courage he showed in uniform.

He also devoted years of leadership as a commander in the DAV (Disabled American Veterans), continuing to advocate for and support his fellow veterans. As a proud member of SUBVETS, he maintained strong ties to his submarine family.

CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

In addition to all of this, Ken had a hobby as a ham radio operator.

Above all else, he loved his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Ken is preceded in death by his parents; his son, Michael; brother William "Butch" Curtis; and sister, Evelyn.

Ken is survived by his wife of 63 years, Barbara Curtis; his sons: Tim Curtis and Chris Curtis (Rhonda); daughter-in-law, Melissa Curtis; brother, Edward Curtis (Harriet), sister-in-law, Faye Curtis; 14 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Expressions of sympathy may be viewed or submitted online at mcalister-smith.com/.



UPCOMING BASE EVENTS
See www.ussvicb.org for details

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Board of Directors Meeting	March 5	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Clock Spring Forward	March 8	0200
Base Meeting	March 12	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Nuclear PWR School Grad	March 27	Meet at NWS NEX

NNPTC Graduation
27 March

- Friday 0900
- If you plan to attend please contact Phil Nunnally at 843.518.8301 or email pbunnally@gmail.com
- We will muster at and leave from the NEX parking lot at 0800



IMPORTANT DATES

Navy Reserve Birthday 3 March

The United States Navy Reserve celebrates its birthday on March 3rd every year, commemorating the establishment of the Naval Reserve Act in 1915.



SEABEES Birthday 5 March

This is the day in 1942 when the Navy officially designated the Naval Construction Battalions as Seabees.



IMPORTANT DATES

K-9 Veterans Day 13 March

National K9 Veterans Day is celebrated on March 13th on the official birthday of the US Army K9 Corps, which was formed in 1942.



Vietnam Veterans Day 29 March

Vietnam Veterans Day commemorates the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans and their families and is part of a national effort to recognize the men and women who were denied a proper welcome upon returning home more than 40 years ago.



IMPORTANT DATES

National Medal of Honor Day 25 March

National Medal of Honor Day is observed every year on March 25 and is dedicated to Medal of Honor Recipients. Each branch of the U.S. military awards the Medal of Honor to those who have distinguished themselves “conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity” above and beyond the call of duty



The Eight Submariner Medal of Honor Recipients

- TM2 Henry Breault—1923
- CDR Howard W. Gilmore—1943
- CAPT John P. Cromwell—1943
- CDR Richard H. O’Kane—1944
- CDR Samuel D. Dealey—1944
- CDR Lawson P. Ramage—1944
- CDR Eugene B. Fluckey—1945
- CDR George L. Street III—1945

Read their stories [here](#).

From the Editor
Contact me at newsletter@ussvicb.org

Wendy and I traveled to New Orleans in February. Just outside our hotel was a Vietnam Memorial which honored Americans serving in the war along with the Vietnamese who assisted us in the war.

Request: As each of you travel and see a Veteran's Memorial or Museum, please take pictures and send them to me for publishing.

We need to honor our veterans along with those who honor us.



Veteran's Memorial Dedication in Vero Beach Florida

 SUBMARINE VETERANS photo · [Join](#)
Joseph Anderson · Nov 2 · 

Newly dedicated monument at the Vero Beach (FL) Veterans Memorial Sanctuary Island



Picture and information thanks to Shipmate Ken Farrell.

View the memorial dedication [here](#). The video is about 35 minutes long and very moving.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new SC submarine veterans license plate is available to view online. New information will be coming from Ed Stank on the process to order the tag.

The raffle for Plate 00001 was won by Golden Corner Base Member John Underwood

Thanks Ed!



Opportunities to Serve our Base

- Openings for
 - ◊ Base Historian
 - ◊ ADM Osborn Scholarship Committee
 - ◊ National Awards Coordinator

Contact the Base Commander, the COB or any officer if you can help

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seeking SubVets and SubVet spouses who wish to share their stories!

SubVet stories will be collected by video either in person or via Zoom and sent to the Library of Congress as part of their Veterans History Project. Additionally, soon we will be including links to these interviews through the USSVCF website.

Everyone – SubVets and SubVet spouses- has incredible, heartwarming, heart-stopping, educational, and otherwise entertaining stories from when they first donned the uniform to when they returned to civilian life. Please consider sharing your story today.

Contact Jessica Hult email at pr@ussvcf.org to set up your interview appointment today.

Your story matters, and her story matters too!



Sent from the USSVCF to all bases. Provided by Shipmate Nick Nichols

Editor's note: I, along with the PAO Jerry Stout, would love to hear these stories also.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Estate Planning Tip

Shipmate Tom Lawson III mentioned during the February base meeting about a NOKBOX for estate planning.

View this site for more [information](#).

Spotlight from our PAO, Jerry Stout

For Bob MacPherson

Bob was born in McKeesport, PA in 1954. He comes from a patriotic family where his grandfather, Father and youngest brother served in the armed forces.

Bob joined the Navy in 1972 and went to boot camp in Great Lakes Ill and was active in the boot camp band chorus, in addition played the Baritone Horn. He initially enlisted for 4 years as a Machinist Mate and with a little incentive from his Boot Camp Commander, volunteered for submarines. As it turned out, as a Machinist Mate, he would be a jack-of-all-trade, which was right up to his expertise. From boot camp, continued his training at Machinist Mate class A school and submarine school in New London, Ct.

Bob was relocated to Charleston, SC for advanced training and later assigned to the USS George Washington SSBN 598 in Guam, eventually joining the off crew in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. From 1973 – 1975, he would make four Strategic Deterrent Patrols. Following this assignment, he served on the USS Halibut SSN 587 based at Mare Island. He joined the Reserves in 1976 and served for two years. After living back home and working odd jobs, he decided to reenlist back into the Navy.

Bob was transferred to Newport News, Virginia, where he was assigned to work on the new construction of the USS San Francisco Submarine (SSN 711). While returning to this assignment, he met Debbie on the plane; they exchanged phone numbers and married three months later in 1980. After commissioning, the submarine made a homeport change to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. From Petty Officer 3rd class, he was promoted to Petty Officer 1st class in just three years.

While assigned, the San Francisco conducted multiple Westpac and NORPAC operations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spotlight from our PAO, Jerry Stout

For Bob MacPherson

Bob re-enlisted and served aboard the U.S.S. Ohio (SSBN), where he completed four more patrols departing from the Bangor Submarine Base in Bremerton, WA. He was subsequently assigned to teach at the Trident Training Facility in Bremerton, where he achieved the Master Training Specialist designation. He became Chief Petty Officer before taking a commission as Chief Warrant Officer (CWO2) in 1990.

After retirement, Bob graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1996, completing a Lifelong dream of a college degree, and settled in McPherson, KS., where he could be involved with the Scottish Highland Games, among other opportunities. Post Navy occupations included Executive Director for the McPherson Opera House Preservation Company and became the Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President. Additionally, Bob became a Business Improvement Consultant in the greater Indianapolis area and around the Midwest. He also worked for Volvo and Mack Trucks. He semi-retired in 2016 but became Chief of Staff to a Westmoreland County Commissioner, overseeing 21 departments with a \$362 million budget. By the summer of 2023 it was time to retire for good.

After coming to Charleston, SC for a Submarine reunion, Debbie and Bob decided they liked the area enough to retire here. Their realtor showed them Del Webb Cane Bay, and the rest is history. In addition to his USSVI membership, he also joined a photography club, Sportsman Club and is highly active at Patriots Point, Mt. Pleasant. Bob is currently the Base Ambassador for the USSV CF (Charitable fund).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

VA Hospital Curbside Delivery List

Items needed for Curbside Delivery For Our Veterans at the VA Hospital

Proteins:

- Tuna Cans
- Chicken Can
- SPAM Can or other potted meat
- Bean Cans: pork & beans, black beans, kidney beans, navy beans, beanie weenies
- Bag Dry Beans
- Jar Peanut Butter
- Soup/ or Stew:
 - Cans
- Sauce
 - Jar or Can Red Marinara Sauce or Alfredo Sauce
- Pasta:
 - Package or Box of Pasta noodles
- Rice:
 - Package or Box of Rice
- Vegetables:
 - Mixed Cans: corn, green beans, mixed, greens
- Fruits:
 - Mixed Cans: peaches, fruit cocktail, pineapple, apple sauce
- Ready Meals:
 - Mac & Cheese
 - Hormel Microwave Meals
 - Top Ramen
 - Box/Bag Instant Potatoes
- Cereal:
 - Box/Bag of Cereal----May substitute 4-5 small cereal boxes----May substitute 5-6 oatmeal, cream of wheat, or grits packets
- GIFT CARD \$5.00 OR \$10.00 NOT MORE—PLACE IN Auxiliary box

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Private Facebook Group for Charleston Base Members

Provides an additional avenue to keep us informed about our base

The Facebook group admins are Woody Woodsmall, Art Sattler and Lewis Leal.

If you want to stay informed, join this Facebook group called USSVICB.



A Note from our Base Chaplain

A little over a year ago I asked you all to begin collecting the soda & beer can tabs for me. You all have been very supportive of this. I give the tabs to Bethany UMC where they are donated to the Ronald McDonald House. These tabs are recycled, and the funds raised help support families with children facing medical challenges by providing them with housing and care during difficult times.

I have not kept track of how many you have provided but I do know there's not a meeting I leave with less than a couple of quart plastic bags. That's the low number.... most months it is much more.

A frequent attender to the After Battery has recently become a large contributor with, not quart bags, but gallon bags; a lot of gallon bags. HTCS Hutch Hutchinson heard about the tabs and begin collecting them and bringing them to the After Battery to give to me. Hutch served on 10 ships and served with the SEALs in Iraq where he was shot in the foot and had his throat cut protecting his team. If you see him at the After Battery, please say hello and thank him for supporting the SUBVETS. All tabs donated are given in the name of the Charleston Base SUBVETS when I take them to the church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CPR & AED Training

New Session, New Date!

- 28 March 2026
- 0900—1200
- FRA home
- Register [here](#), pay at the class

Transmitted at the request of Art Sattler, Charleston Base Vice Commander

Charleston Base Members,

As was discussed at our November meeting, we will be holding a CPR & AED training class on Saturday, March 28th from 9-12, at the location above.

The cost will be \$10 per person.

If you have any questions or would like to join, please contact me at vicecommandercb@ussvicb.org or ffinst@msn.com

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

If you don't see your birthday listed, maybe Nick needs your Page 2.

1	Tom Ishee	13	Larry Rosselot
1	Ralph Luther	15	Joe O'Saben
5	Terry Romig	21	John Paul Pardo
7	Dana Johnson	26	Hermenegildo Maula
10	Dave Harvey	27	James Flannery
11	John Adams	30	Roger Starnes
11	Howard Anderson Jr.		



PAST EVENTS

SEC Oyster Roast at the Aft Battery 7 February



PAST EVENTS

SEC Oyster Roast at the Aft Battery 7 February



PAST EVENTS

Hunley/Housatonic Memorial Service 17 February



Hunley/Housatonic Memorial Service February 17, 2026



FUTURE EVENTS

Lost Boats / Submarine Birthday Ceremony 11 April

- Cold War Memorial Patriot's Point—Good Weather
- NWS Bldg. 777 – Inclement Weather
- 1000 Ceremony Begins
- 0930 Muster at site
- Location decision will be made no less than 24 hours prior
- Tom Holcombe POC



FUTURE EVENTS

HOG ROAST 2026 11—18 April

- Location: After Battery in Dorchester SC
- Hog is served on Saturday 18 April
- [Link for more info](#)



NON-BASE EVENTS

2026 Charleston Submarine Ball 18 April



2026 Charleston Submarine Ball
By NNPTC Heritage Committee
Trident Technical College
Apr 18 from 5pm to 10:30pm EDT

[TICKET SALES LINK](#)

SUBVET Ticket Price: **\$76.54** incl. \$6.54 Fee
Join us for a night of celebration for the
past, present, and future of the Silent Service.

Charleston Submarine Ball

Honoring 126 years of undersea excellence; join us as we bring together family, friends, and shipmates to commemorate the heritage of the Silent Service. Enjoy great food, dancing, and camaraderie with the proud members of the Charleston submarine family!

Doors Open: 1700

Cocktail hour: 1700-1800

Ceremony: 1800-1900

Dinner and Dancing: 1900-2230

Rank of Service member is used for Significant other or Spouse attending. Price of ticket includes complimentary coin, commemorative coaster, and dinner with dessert.

Dinner:

-Blackened Shrimp Alfredo

-Pan Seared Chicken Breast with garlic parmesan cream sauce

Vegetarian Option:

-Wild Mushroom Ravioli

UNIFORM:

Military: Service Dress Whites or Blues and above.

SUBVETS: Vest Uniform or Charleston Tuxedo

<https://ussvicb.org/storekeeper/CB%20uniforms.jpg>

NON-BASE EVENTS

2026 High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony 6 May

2026 High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony

Welcome to OCS of Lowcountry! We are now accepting registrations for our upcoming ceremony.

May 06, 2026 6:30 pm

Doors Open @ 5:30 pm

Patriots Point Naval Museum

40 Patriots Point Road Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

<https://share.google/Vzycbf6JFerkHqVvz>

About the Ceremony

Our Community Salutes of The Lowcountry will host its 4th Annual High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony to honor its Class of 2026 high school seniors and their families on May 6, 2026.

Everyone must register to attend the event.

Doors open for check-in at 5:30pm.

The ceremony will begin promptly at 6:30pm.

Speakers will be announced soon!

There is no cost to attend this event. Local businesses and individuals are underwriting the entire cost of the ceremony in honor of our Class of 2026 high school enlistees who have made the selfless decision to serve our country.

Suggested dress attire is business or business casual.

Please be sure to register by: April 30th

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Thanks for Shipmate Nick Nichols for this information.

GENERAL STORIES

NPTU to be Home to New Nuclear Simulator

Burns McDonnell was awarded a contract to build to allow for a 24/7 campus operations, including:

- Safe passage of students and staff through an active construction site.
- Phasing of mechanical and electrical utility systems.
- Planned sequences and occupancy turnover.
- Orchestrated barge movements for a new berthing pier.
- Phased changes to secure perimeter as construction progressed.

Along with this new campus, Burns McDonnell will build a NPTU simulator training facility at JBC eventually removing the need for retired submarine facilities in the Cooper River.

Read the entire stories [here](#) and [here](#).



25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

During my research into successful WWII submarines, I was surprised to find many official and unofficial sources differ on the number of ships sunk and gross tonnage sunk during WWII by US submarines. To maintain consistency, I am using one main source for information. While there may be discrepancies between sources, one fact is indisputable, US submarines held the line in WWII while the surface fleet rebuilt

Submarine Warfare Played Major Role in World War II Victory

In all, U.S. submarines destroyed 1,314 enemy warships in the Pacific, representing 55% of all Axis power warships lost and a total of 5.3 million tons of shipping

Out of 16,000 U.S. submariners, the force lost 375 officers and 3,131 enlisted men in 52 submarines, and "although this was a tragic loss, it was still the lowest casualty rate of any combatant submarine service on either side in the 1939-1945 conflict," Weir noted. In the final months of the war, American submarines had difficulty finding targets because the Japanese had virtually no ships left to sink.

During World War II, U.S. submarines sank more Japanese ships than did U.S. surface vessels and planes, but at a high cost: a twenty percent casualty rate

Read the entire stories [here](#) and [here](#).



25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

20. USS Grayback (SS-208) 63,835 tons

USS Grayback (SS-208), was a Tambor-class submarine, and was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the lake herring *Coregonus artedii*. She ranked 20 among all U.S. submarines in total tonnage sunk during World War II, with 63,835 tons, and 24th in number of ships sunk, with 14. She was sunk near Okinawa on 27 February 1944. Her wreck was discovered in June 2019.

- Commissioned 30 June 1941
- First war patrol 15 February 1942
- Conducted 10 war patrols
- 2 Navy Unit Commendations and 8 battle stars for World War II service
- Lost with all hands, 80 men 26 February 1944



Links to USS Grayback Memorial [here](#) and [here](#).

25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

19. USS Tinosa (SS-283) 64,655 tons

USS Tinosa (SS-283), a Gato-class submarine, was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the tinosa.

- Commissioned 15 January 1943
- First war patrol 3 May 1943
- Conducted 12 war patrols
- Presidential Unit Citation for her 4th, 5th and 6th war patrols. 9 battle stars.
- Decommissioned January 1947
- Recommissioned January 1952 for Korean War service
- Final decommissioning 2 December 1953
- Her hull used for experimental and training purposes was authorized on 2 March 1959. She was used as an ASW target, then scuttled off Hawaii in November 1960.



Indian Sub News

INS Aridhman to carry K15 and K4 missiles

View the video [here](#).

Australian Sub News

U.S. submarine maintenance in Australia signals operational shift under AUKUS partnership

Read the entire story [here](#).

English Sub News

British nuclear-powered attack sub HMS Anson arrives in Perth for training exercises

Read the entire story [here](#).

NATO Sub News

Arctic Rescue: The Danish Joint Arctic Command evacuated a U.S. submariner for emergency medical care near Nuuk, Greenland on Feb 21–22, 2026.

Arctic Training & Vigilance: NATO allies are conducting "Arctic Dolphin" exercises in the High North to counter increasing Russian submarine activity and potential threats to Arctic security

Chinese Sub News

China's submarine surge testing Pacific's undersea balance

Read the entire story [here](#).

China Put HYPERSONIC Missiles on Their Cheapest Submarines

View the video [here](#).

Norwegian Sub News

Norway increases order by two more to now six Type 212CD submarines

Read the entire story [here](#).

Canadian Sub News

Hanwha eyes major Canadian defence deal, plans Pacific voyage of attack submarine

Read the entire story [here](#).

French Sub News

With This 5,200-Ton Monster, France Pulls Level With Its Old Rival The Royal Navy – And Even Beats It On Availability

Read the entire story [here](#).

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

Navy Says Columbia-class Sub Construction Schedule Improving

Read the entire article [here](#).

Navy Rethinking How to Command Robotic Forces, CNO Caudle Says

Read the entire article [here](#).

'One Size Fits All' Won't Work for the Navy of the Future, Says CNO Caudle

Read the entire article [here](#).

New Navy Sub Czar, Air Boss Confirmed by Senate

Read the entire article [here](#).

Trump Administration Details 'Make Shipbuilding Great Again' Effort in New Action Plan

Read the entire article [here](#).

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

SECNAV Phelan: FY 2027 Shipbuilding Budget Could be 'More Than Double' 2026 Ship Total

Read the entire article [here](#).

US Navy Seeks to hire 250,000 New Dockyard Workers in the Next 10 Years

Read the entire article [here](#).

11 Years Of Waiting for Repairs: The Navy Has A Nuclear Attack Submarine 'Trapped in Port'

Read the entire article [here](#).

General Dynamics Testing MEDUSA Submarine Launched Mine Warfare Drone

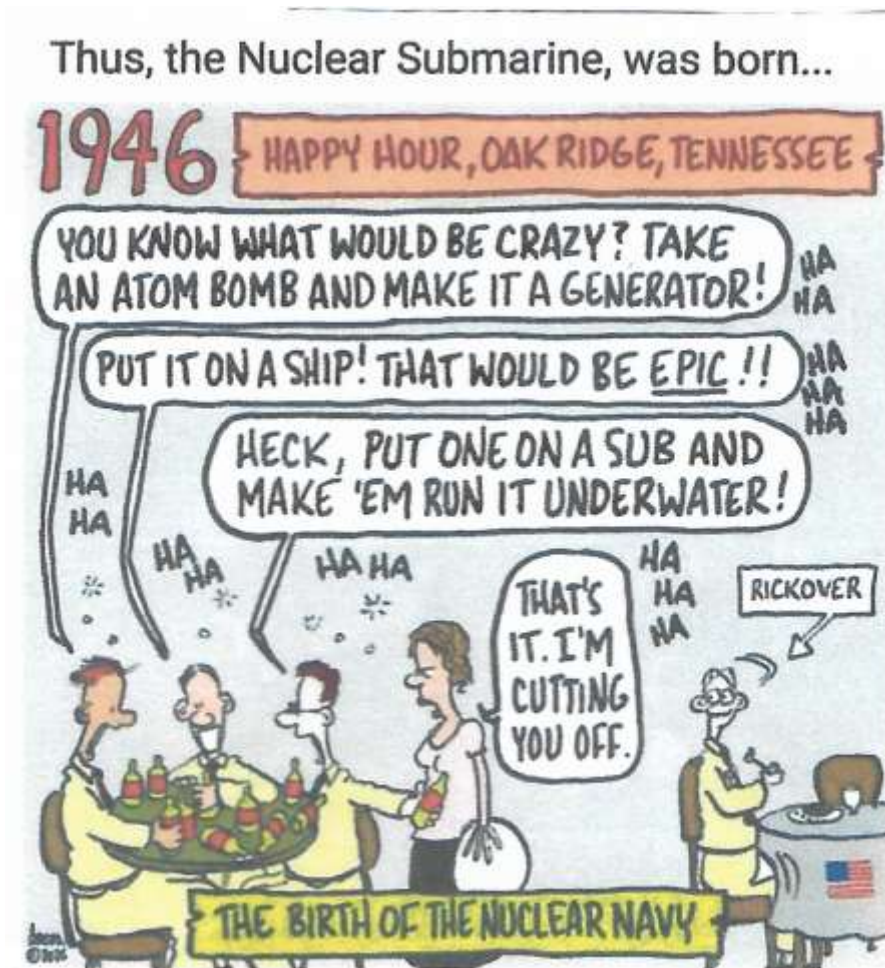
Read the entire article [here](#).

Two submarines to decommission in 2026

The Navy already bid farewell to Los Angeles-class submarines USS Newport News (SSN-750), which was decommissioned last month after 37 years of service. The 35-year-old USS Alexandria (SSN-757) will also leave the Navy's active fleet this year on Aug. 4. The attack boats will be defueled and scrapped at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Wash.

Read the article [here](#).

After politics, we all need a little humor



There are 10 types of people in the world

those who understand binary and those who don't.

**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
8 January 2026**

Opening Ceremonies:

- The January 2026 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Dave Harvey with a quorum of four officers and a total of 65 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Art Sattler 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:
 - ◊ **USS SCORPION (SS-278) January 5, 1944 – 4th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 77 souls**
 - ◊ **USS ARGONAUT (SS-166) January 10, 1943 – 3rd War Patrol Lost with all hands – 102 souls**
 - ◊ **USS SWORDFISH (SS-193) January 12, 1945 – 13th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 89 souls**
 - ◊ **USS S-36 (SS-141) January 20, 1942 – 2nd War Patrol No loss of life**
 - ◊ **USS S-26 (SS-131) January 24, 1942 – 2nd War Patrol Lost with 46 souls–3 men rescued**
 - ◊ **Five Boats and 314 Men Lost**
- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Art Sattler.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Guest Speaker:

- We were scheduled to have a guest speaker from the VA Hospital, but she cancelled due to illness. We will reschedule her at a later time.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- There were two shipmates in attendance at the Base Meeting for the first time this evening.
 - ◊ Jim Salzman – IC1 – Qualified on USS Tinosa SSN606
 - ◊ Jim Bardman – MMCM – Qualified on USS Finback SSN670 – Also served aboard USS Houston SSN713, USS Norfolk SSN714, USS Pasadena SSN752 and USS Orion AS18

Old Business:

- No Old Business

New Business:

- **Base Treasury Audit – Base Commander**

- ◊ Base Commander Dave Harvey initially assigned Tom Holcombe and Art Sattler to conduct the audit of the Base Bank Account, however since Tom Holcombe has assumed the duties of Comptroller, he cannot be part of the audit team. Tom Thompson has been assigned in his place.
- ◊ No Further New Business

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the November Base Meeting and the December Base Meeting/ Christmas Party were emailed to all Base members. The Minutes have also been published on the Charleston Base website. With no corrections noted at the Base Meeting, the Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The Treasurer's Report for December was published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. The report was approved as presented.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Highlighted boat of the month:**

- ◊ **USS ARGONAUT (SS-166)** was lost on Jan 10, 1943 with the loss of 102 officers and men off the coast of Rabaul, Papua New Guinea on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Jap destroyer who, along with 2 other destroyers, depth charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sank her by gun fire.

Beginning this month I will divide my reports up into three areas: Eternal Patrol, Binnacle List and Long Term which will include those who are homebound and in assisted living.

- **ETERNAL PATROL**

- ◊ **HMCM(SS) William T. "Doc" McCance** departed on Eternal Patrol on 5 December 2025. Doc joined the Navy in 1954 and retired in 1980. He was a life member of National and Groton Base [1998]. He was also a member of the Holland Club having qualified in 1971 on USS THOMAS A. EDISON SSBN-610. Doc also served on USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN SSBN-602 AND USS GEORGE MARSHALL SSBN-654. He completed 26 years of service, serving at 17 commands, including 3 submarines and 2 surface ships. He completed 11 strategic deterrent patrols. Doc was the first Hospital Corpsman to be a Chief of the Boat on a nuclear submarine (USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN) and he was also the first Hospital Corpsman to be the Command, Master Chief for Commander Submarine Group TWO.

- ◇ **CAPT Gerald 'Corky' Corcoran** departed on Eternal Patrol on 17 December 2025. He served on several submarines and commanded the USS JOHN C. CALHOUN SSBN-630. He was a regular at the After Battery. He was not a member of USSVI. There will be a service with full military honors sometime in January at the Beaufort National Cemetery.
- ◇ **CDR Thomas S. Czulewicz** recently departed on Eternal Patrol recently at his Texas home. He was the founding Base Commander for Grand Strand Base. He joined the Navy in 1961 and retired in 1995. He began his career as a FTGSN and was commissioned in 1975. He was a member of USSVI and GRAND STRAND Base along with the Holland Club qualifying in 1965 on USS SAM RAYBURN SSBN-635. He also served on USS TUSK SS-426, USS DANIEL WEBSTER SSBN-626, USS FRANCIS SCOTT KEY SSBN-657 and USS HUNLEY AS-31. Tom was the Commanding Officer of POMFLANT during the base closing. There was an accident at his home from which he didn't recover. Tom was a member of Charleston Base for a couple of years about 12 years ago.
- ◇ **Debbie Knaub**, Mike's wife, passed away November 20th.
- ◇ **Lucy Trump**, Terry's wife, passed away December 3rd.

• BINNACLE LIST

- ◇ **Dave Harvey** was in the hospital after Christmas due to an AFIB issue. It turned out to be arrhythmia. He will have an ablation procedure on 23 Jan.
- ◇ **Rick Wise** had a bone biopsy and bronchoscope that was unable to determine the type of cancer he has. On Fri 2 Jan he had a CT and this found a brain but no evidence of any problems. He had his first Immuno-chemo therapy yesterday and so far has had no side effects.
- ◇ **Jay Rowland** was admitted to Roper Berkeley on 6 Jan and is in ICU with several issues. As of this afternoon his wife Sandy informed me there has been no significant improvement and he is transitioning to hospice at Roper Berkeley.
- ◇ **Casey Power** thinks he possibly has a kidney stone and is on pain pills. He doesn't think it is a wise decision to drive from Atlanta to be here but he said to tell everyone he misses them.
- ◇ **Tom Ishee** is recovering well after a serious fall on his bicycle in November.
- ◇ **Jerry Stout** has a recurrence of skin cancer near his left kidney and will be having treatment for that.
- ◇ **Tom Lawson** is home and constantly on 5-6 liters of oxygen.

- **LONG TERM / ASSISTED LIVING / HOMEBOUND**

- ◇ **Dave Woods wife, Fran**, still recovering from a Feb 2024 stroke that happened during a heart bypass procedure.
 - ◇ **Charles Wood** has been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.
 - ◇ **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time but he was able to bring his wife to the Christmas Party which was a blessing for him.
 - ◇ **Ken Curtis** is at home with Palliative Hospice care. He is in good spirits and welcomes phone calls and visitors. Please keep Ken and Barbara both in your prayers. Call before visiting. His number is 843-501-7368
 - ◇ **Ed Simokat** is confined to his home and can't attend meetings. He enjoys calls from his shipmates: 843.810.0382
 - ◇ **Mike Knaub** is in assisted living on Daniel Island. His address is 514 Robert Daniel Dr. Rm 310, Daniel Island SC 29492-7375. You can contact Mike on his email mlk91444@yahoo.com or cell 843-795-6665.
 - ◇ **Marvin Miller** is at White Oak Manor. 9285 Medical Plaza Dr. Room 117. This is behind Trident. He no longer answers his phone.
 - ◇ **Bill [Becky] Roberts** in D409 in the Villages of Summerville. Becky is in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, D409, Summerville SC 29483-6715. Bill's email is cbussvicob@yahoo.com and his cell phone is 843-509-3962
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- All event pictures for 2025 are now listed on the Base website home page.
- I'm beginning an update on our website to remove out of date info and pages. If you find a broken link, please let me know.
- Please continue to report any change in your personal info to either Larry, COB, or me so the necessary changes can be made to national and local database.

Base Business Cards – Nick Nichols:

- New Base business cards are available. The cards now have the Base website and a new contact email address which is SubVetsCharleston@ussvicb.org. Hopefully each of you will pick up 5 of these cards and give them to any submariner's you see in town to let them know about the Base. On the back of the card are two QR codes, one for the Base and one for National.

Submariner's Advocacy Group – Nick Nichols:

- After the Base Commander brought Submariners' Advocacy Group (SAG) to our attention at the November meeting, I sent the info out to the Base via email and added the SAG report, The Unseen Burden, to the home page of the website.

FRA Ladies' Auxiliary – Nick Nichols:

- FRA Auxiliary is continuing their project to help feed Veterans. The VA sponsored program is called **Curbside Veterans Delivery**. There is a box in the bar area for you to bring items to that can be used in this program. The BOD encourages you to support the FRA Auxiliary in this program.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III

- The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$10,807. The Elore event netted \$1,027 and at the November Rummage Sale we raised \$825. Tom thanked all those who worked at or supported each of these.
- The latest Scholarship information has been updated on the Base website for 2026. Last year we had no applications, so if you have graduates in your family this year, please apply.
- The raffle for the 250th Navy Anniversary bottle of bourbon will be held at the end of the meeting tonight.
- Tom has a SubVet flag that will be raffled. The double-sided flag was paid for by Charleston Base, so anything over \$150 will be given to the Scholarship Fund.
- Tom has Challenge Coins available for \$12.
- Tom has some glassware that was provided by Bob Browning. It is available for donations to the Scholarship fund.
- Tom has a “United States Navy Sub Veteran” jacket – size XL

Membership – Larry Knutson

- Charleston Base currently has 249 members. The National website is having issues. Larry was informed that we should start collecting the next year's Dues in September vice October.
- Some new members joined this evening and several others paid their Dues.
- Even so, we still have about 20 members who have not paid National Dues and about 40 who still owe Base Dues. All of the Dinks (National/Base or both) were notified individually by email in early December. The entire list of Dinks received another email (BCC) this week after the BOD Meeting informing them of pending imminent removal of membership by National for unpaid Dues.
- If USSVI drops a member, the individual is automatically removed as a Base member, since you MUST be registered at National to be a member of Charleston Base.
- We previously have had members in hardship situations (Nursing or Veteran's Homes) that we “passed the hat” to pay the man's Dues. None of current list of Dinks are in this category.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #3 in USSVI membership. [AM = Associate Member]
 - ◇ Groton 1152 w/65 AM – 2) Hampton Roads 294 w/11 AM – 3) Charleston 249 w/13 AM –
 - 4) Bremerton 247 w/14 AM – 5) Requin 204 w/21 AM

USSVI National Awards – Dave Harvey

- Any Base member can recommend someone for any award. National Award submissions must be provided to Tom Holcombe NLT February 28. The awards MUST be provided to National by April, so, if you do not believe that you can word the suggestion well, we have several men who can write it up.

Comptroller – Tom Holcombe

- Nothing to report.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe

- Tom relayed the report that the Goose Creek Christmas Parade went very well. Johnny Brown pulled the float.
- Tom reported that the Mount Pleasant parade went well with one casualty. Tom's neighbor's mailbox was knocked down. Tom is working on a replacement.
- The Battery Gadsden Cultural Center is scheduled to have a program – with Warren Lasch speaking – held at Sunrise Presbyterian Church on February 19. Tom will provide the details to Phil for the Newsletter.
- Dave Harvey informed the members that Charleston Base has been “accepted as a vendor” for the Flowertown Festival in Summerville. We will have the float on static display. Dave requested a watchbill coordinator for the event dates March 26-29. Tom Holcombe is already working on it. He had good results making a watchbill for the Coastal Carolina Fair.

CSS Hunley – Tom Holcombe

- February 17 is the annual Hunley/Housatonic remembrance. Tom is waiting on info from the lead group. We still have another Base meeting before that date.

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Not present

Nuclear Power School Legacy Awards – Phil Nunnally

- January 30 will be the next graduation. The last class had 450 graduates and they expect the numbers to increase next time. We will meet at the NEX at 0800 and carpool due to limited parking.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- Phil reported that that input by the Base members for the Newsletter is good, but if you have something that is submarine related or of interest to SubVets, please get the info to Phil.
- Dave requested to know when the Newsletter was submitted for a National award. Answer: 2013.

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Based on the last inspection, Phil is planning for a work party after the Hog Roast to replace a few boards.

Recreation – Art Sattler for Johnny Brown

- Art reported that the Stingray's hockey game is on January 17. For all those who want tickets and have not ordered them online, see Art immediately after the meeting tonight. He needs to have the money this evening to get the tickets.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- Nothing to report.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey

- The float has been taken to The After Battery. The undercarriage will be removed to prepare the float for mounting onto the new trailer. Once the welding is complete, Dave will ask for volunteers to help repaint the float.

Southeast Regional Conference – Dave Harvey

- The next SE Conference will be held in Gulfport, MS. The deadline for registrations is January 20.

Ambassador USSVCF – Bob MacPherson

- Bob and Debbie were unable to attend the Christmas Party last month, but Bob expressed his gratitude, because at the party, the Base collected money raising \$1,500 for USSVCF.
- Bob read a letter from USSVCF addressed to Ray Sparks thanking Charleston Base for the contribution. Most of the money that USSVCF receives is from individual donors and not collective donations from bases. USSVCF will be sending Charleston Base a GENEROUS BASE certificate.
- Bob also, without going into personal details, outlined a few recent instances where the USSVCF Brotherhood Fund provided help to SubVets and families.
- Bob mentioned the eight areas within USSVCF including the Scholarship and Memorial funds but his most cherished is the Brotherhood Fund due to the amount of assistance that is provided to SubVets in need.

PAO – Jerry Stout

- Jerry just recently was reappointed as PAO.
- Jerry stated that he wants to get more articles in the National Magazine but most importantly, we need more young members. He wants to let younger folks know that we exist even for those who are not retired.
- Do you have any personal interest stories, e.g. volunteer events that you do. Please provide these to Jerry.
- Jerry told of his skin cancer issues and help that he has received from the VA.
- Jerry has placed his name for SE Region Director. He is waiting to hear from National on this before he begins his campaign.

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler

- Nothing reported.

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank

- Ed talked about the Mount Pleasant parade.
- The design for the SC Submariner (SV) license plate is available for view on the Charleston Base website.
- Ed is selling raffle tickets for the SV00001 numbered plate. The tickets are 1 for \$1, 6 for \$5, 14 for \$10 and 30 for \$20. Members of Charleston Base and Golden Corner Base in Easley be provided this raffle opportunity. The drawing will be held at the February Charleston Base Meeting.
- Purchase availability of the SV license plate will begin in February.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- PSA – Someone purchased a hat at a previous meeting and then left it. It was found on the cabinet. FOUND owner has come forward.
- Woody has one USSVI Silent Hunter 2026 calendar left. SOLD.
- Woody has some 125 years challenge coins with Gold dolphins.
- Woody has an oak whiskey barrel pen with etched Dolphins made by one of our Base members. The pen takes a Parker pen refill, available for \$30
- Woody has hats “UNSEEN – UNHEARD – ALWAYS THERE. ONLY THE QUALIFIED SURVIVE” available in gray, tan and blue. ONLY \$5 – marked down from \$9.
- Woody has 5 National Meritorious Base Award patches available \$8, for anyone who was a Base member in 2024. More can be ordered upon request.
- Woody reported the military bases are on 100% ID check now. Anyone that does not have a valid DOD ID card will need someone with one, to vouch for them at the pass office and escort them on the base.

Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison

- Nothing to report today. See you next month.

COB – Greg Landry

- Not present.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler

- Art plans to hold a CPR class on January 31 at the FRA. See Art to sign up. The class is \$10.
- A fish fry is scheduled for afterward.
- We are starting a Facebook Group to provide information about Charleston Base. You must be a Charleston Base member. Art, Woody and Lou will be the administrators.

Base Commander – Dave Harvey

- Dave admitted error in asking someone to make a purchase. The amount was excessive. The amount required BOD/Base approval. If you are asked to do something, verify the cost beforehand. Expenditures of this level MUST be approved ahead of time.
- The upcoming Fish Fry is to raise funds for the SER transportation (rental van) to Gulfport along with the New Orleans WWII Museum and the Alabama/Drum Memorial in Mobile. Dave hopes to have good participation since the proceeds are going to a good cause.
- There was mention of the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) in Gulfport, MS.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- The Hog Roast will be held from April 11 to 18 with Hog Day on Saturday April 18.
- There are lots of RV hookups.
- The After Battery is open for dinner every Wednesday at 1700
- On February 7, The After Battery will hold an Oyster Roast/Frogmore Stew from 1200 - 1800.
- Ray thanked the FRA for loaning some chairs to The After Battery for a recent event.

GUN CLUB – Mike Ciesielko

- Not present.

Drawings & Auctions

- Scholarship – Bourbon Raffle – Bob MacPherson
- FRA Drawing – Don Meadows
- Depth Charge Drawing – Roger Gibson – Donated \$80 to Scholarship Fund