

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
9 October 2025

Opening Ceremonies:

- The October 2025 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Dave Harvey with a quorum of four officers and a total of 47 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 October was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of October:
 - **USS SEAWOLF (SS 197)** **Oct 3, 1944 – 15th War Patrol** **Lost with all hands – 100 souls (83 crew and 17 Army)**
 - **USS S-44 (SS 155)** **Oct 7, 1944 – 5th War Patrol** **Lost with 56 souls – 2 men became POWs and survived the war**
 - **USS WAHOO (SS 238)** **Oct 11, 1943 – 7th War Patrol** **Lost with all hands – 80 souls**
 - **USS DORADO (SS 248)** **Oct 12, 1944 – New - Training** **Lost with all hands – 77 souls**
 - **USS ESCOLAR (SS 294)** **Oct 17, 1944 – 1st War Patrol** **Lost with all hands – 82 souls**
 - **USS DARTER (SS 227)** **Oct 24, 1944 – 4th War Patrol** **No loss of life**
 - **USS SHARK II (SS 314)** **Oct 24, 1944 – 3rd War Patrol** **Lost with all hands – 87 souls**
 - **USS TANG (SS 306)** **Oct 25, 1944 – 5th War Patrol** **Lost with 78 souls – 9 men became POWs and survived the war**
 - **USS O-5 (SS 66)** **Oct 29, 1923 – Near Panama Canal** **Lost with 3 souls**
 - **Nine Boats and 563 Men Lost**

Senior Chief Machinist Mate, Submarines
James Maurice McDonald, US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol 28 September 2025

- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Art Sattler.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Dismissal of Guests and Start of Business:

- Base Commander Dave Harvey asked anyone who is not a member of the Base or is not a submarine qualified guest, to depart the meeting room. A brief recess was held during this time.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- There were six men in attendance from the USS RAY Reunion at the Base meeting for the first time this evening. Three men were accompanied by their wives. We offered a birthday greeting in song to one of the ladies since she was attending this meeting on her birthday.

Old Business:

- **2026 Charleston Base Annual Budget – Rick Wise**
 - Rick Wise had previously sent the budget to the entire Base membership.
 - Rick explained that when the Life Membership dues was set up, the money was placed in an Investment fund; to be used when the majority of the Base were Life Members. We are currently there and have been for about 10 years.
 - The problem we have experienced is there was no provision for made for withdrawal of the funds. An approved Budget by the Base membership corrects this, although the transaction still goes to the Base membership for approval.
 - We will vote on the Budget at the November Base Meeting.

- The 2025 3rd Quarter Budget/Expense report will be posted online soon.
- There was no further Old Business

New Business:

- **New Vice Commander – Art Sattler**
 - Chaplain Nick Nichols performed the official swearing-in of Arthur Sattler as Vice Commander.
 - Art will perform the duties of Vice Commander until May 2026 when the offices of Vice Commander and Base Secretary are scheduled for regular election.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the September Base Meeting were emailed to all Base members. A minor spelling error was reported via email. The error was correct prior to the Base Meeting. The corrected Minutes have been uploaded to the Base website. There were no further corrections noted at the meeting and were accepted as published. Those wanting a final revised copy of the September Base Meeting Minutes can download it from the Base website.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

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

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **HAPPY 250th BIRTHDAY US NAVY – OCTOBER 13th**
 - There will be a Happy Birthday Cake Cutting at the FRA Home on Friday Oct 13th at 1800.
- **Highlighted boat of the month:**
 - **USS POMPAÑO (SS-181)** S-44 (SS-155) was lost on Oct 7, 1943 with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles. S-44 was on her 5th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, S-44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.

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

All of the shipmates on this binnacle list would really appreciate a phone call or even a card from their shipmates in the base. Contact information can be found on the Sailing List.

- **MMCS(SS) James M. 'Jim' McDonald**, 73, departed on Eternal Patrol on 28 September 2025, in Norfolk VA. Jim joined the Navy in 1970 and retired in 1992. He was a life member of National [2001], a dual member of Charleston Base [2008] and Hampton Roads Base [2016]. He was also a member of the Holland Club having qualified in 1971 on USS DANIEL BOONE SSBN-629. Jim also served on USS HENRY L. STIMSON SSBN-655, USS JOHN MARSHALL SSBN/SSN-611, USS WOODROW WILSON SSBN/SSN-624 and USS JOHN C. CALHOUN SSBN-630. He also served on the tender USS ORION AS-18 and at Navy Recruiting District Nashville, a member of the Masons and VFW Post 2089 in Norfolk VA.
 - A memorial service will be held at Deer Park Baptist Church on November 15 at 1100. This is also the date of the Rummage Sale for the Scholarship Fund.
 - The service will be conducted by their pastor and Jim's brother-in-law.
 - The family has requested Charleston Base to conduct the Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling during the service. More information will be coming out later.
- **Bob Browning** had very serious back surgery on 7 October. Additional problems were found during the surgery resulting in more time in the OR. His discharge date is planned for tomorrow. Jerry Starr has volunteered to give him a ride home. He may need assistance after home and will let me know which I will then get the word out.
- **Tom Lawson** went to Summerville ER on Friday Oct 3rd with the same O₂ problems he had before. He was released on Monday Oct 6th. Home recovering.
- **Dave Woods wife, Fran**, had a stroke in February 2024 during a heart bypass procedure. They also had to replace her aorta during all of that. She is still recovering.

- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time. Even though he can't attend the meetings he does watch them on YouTube. His seizures are getting worse and more frequent. His phone number is 843-475-7043
- **Ken Curtis** is at home with Palliative Hospice care coming to the house several times during the week. 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
- **Mike Knaub and wife Deborah** have moved to Daniel Island to an assisted living location. Their 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. He is answering his cell 843.873.0564. This is behind Trident.
- **Bill & Becky Roberts** has changed his location in the Villages. He is now in D409 in the main building. Becky is still 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.
- The clock given to the SUBVETS in memory of Marty Sessler from his family has been hung along with a plaque. This is a special clock that receives its time signals from satellites. If it's ever noticed the time is off do not try to set it yourself. Contact the chaplain at chaplain@ussvicb.org.
- The base received a check from Marty's friends and family in Ohio. The check goes to the Scholarship Fund. **Nick read a letter accompanying the check:**
 - **June 16, 2025**
 - **The enclosed gift is a memorial to our dear friend Martin (Marty) K. Sessler.**
 - **He will be missed but we'll have many fond memories of days gone by!**
 - **Sue A. Reinemann & husband Verne E Reinemann, a Subvet as well.**

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- I'm planning on reworking our website next year. There are many things on there that using the host analytics I don't see anyone ever checking the pages and information. I hope to streamline it and to give it a cleaner look.
- Please report any change in your personal info to either Larry, Nick or the COB so the necessary changes can be made to national and local database.

FRA Ladies' Auxiliary – Nick Nichols:

- As noted in my email reminder for this base meeting, the FRA Ladies Auxiliary has decided to take on a project this year 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 \$7,677.
- Bob MacPherson has joined the Scholarship Committee.
- The Trash to Treasures event in Elloree is on Saturday, October 11. Contact Tom or Dave for more info.
- Dave Harvey has received a significant amount of antiques. This will be taken to Elloree, SC for their annual Trash to Treasure event on October 11 rather than putting them out at the Rummage Sale. Setting up at 0500 in Elloree.
- Our Rummage Sale will be held on November 15 at Rodney's Rockets/Halloween Express on Old Trolley Rd. in Summerville. (The same place as previous years). We will begin setting up at 0500 for this also.
- Challenge coins are available for \$12.
- We received a donation to the Scholarship Fund from the USS Tullibee Association.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- It is now a new year for Dues from Annual Members since it is October. Take care of this immediately – (Cash or Check).
- **Base Standings** [those with more than 200 members]: **Charleston dropped to #4 in USSVI** membership. [AM = associate member]
 - Groton 1134 w/63 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 291 w/11 AM – 3) Bremerton 251 w/15 AM - 4) Charleston 247 w/12 AM – 5) Requin 207 w/20 AM
- At the National Convention, Dave Harvey reported that Charleston Base has received a meritorious award. Base members during the period are eligible for a patch. Please contact the storekeeper.

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Not present

Nuclear Power School Awards – Phil Nunnally

- Not present

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- Not present

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Not present

CSS Hunley – Tom Holcombe

- The Hunley Oyster Roast is October 24. They will be conducting tours on both 10/24 and 10/25. More info will be provided via email

Special Events – Tom Holcombe

- The membership drive will be held at the Coastal Carolina Fair. The float will be put into position the day before the fair opens.
- Tom has a watch bill with a few open spots still available.
- The Tolling of the Boats will be held at Coastal Coffee Roasters on Veterans Day.
- The Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 12. The Goose Creek parade is the next morning. Unless Tom hears of overwhelming support for the Goose Creek parade, we will not be participating in that event this year.
- We will participate in the Mount Pleasant parade on December 14. Tom needs help to decorate the float for the Mount Pleasant parade. Most importantly, Tom needs someone to step in as coordinator for the parade(s) since he will not be here at that time.
- Tom needs some volunteers for the Pearl Harbor Remembrance on December 7 to launch the memorial wreaths.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- Not present.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- On October 10, the FRA will hold a cake cutting in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States Navy Birthday. All are invited.
- Celebrate Veterans Day at 1130 at the FRA. All are invited.
- If you are not a FRA member, see Ken about it.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey

- Dave is asking for a working party on October 25 to clean and paint the float to prepare it for the Coastal Carolina Fair. Dave has a sign-up sheet for this working party.

Ambassador USSVCF – Bob MacPherson

- The Charitable Fund is set up to help shipmates and perform other tasks as needed.
- There is up to \$3k per instance to help if needed.
- Do you have a Will? Is it up to date? If it is older than five years, then likely it has things in it that no longer apply to your situation. If this is the case, USSVCF has a link where you can get a Will done.
- Talk to your financial planner if needed, but the USSVCF is worthy of a place in your Will.

PAO – Bob MacPherson

- Nothing to report – Need inputs from everyone.

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler

- Planning to be at the Coastal Carolina Fair.
- MUSC has new chairman at the children's cancer center. He is making plans to meet with him next week.

Submarine License Plates – DAVE HARVEY FOR Ed Stank

- South Carolina DMV has sent out a request for bids to make the plates.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody has 2026 Calendars for \$10 highlighting the 688 Class submarine. The National Storekeeper has them for more than \$17.
- Woody has hats available.
- Square – the credit card payment gizmo – is charging 3 percent now.
- PSA – Someone left a hat at the last meeting that they had purchased.

COB – Greg Landry

- Sign up for the Fair. Even if the watch bill is full, come on out and have fun. Wear your vest.
- Need to recruit members.
- The AFB will be having an Air Show in May 2026 with the Blue Angels.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler

- Nothing to report

Base Commander – Dave Harvey

- Dave needs help from 3 or 4 men to load the trailer for the trip to Elloree. There are about 1500 pieces. Wear your vest if you come to help at Elloree.
- Dave will be cooking at The After Battery for the USS Ray reunion.
- Dave is Southeast Conference Coordinator schedule for February 26-28. The Tullibee Base will be hosting the conference in Gulfport, MS. Dave highlighted some of the scheduled activities and stated that he would like to see at least 40 from Charleston Base to attend.
- We had 28 from Charleston Base attend the USSVI National Convention.
- Wear your vest when you are out somewhere - even Walmart.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

After Battery – Dave Harvey

- The USS RAY (SSN-653) will be holding a reunion with 120 people listed as attending on Friday OCT 10.
- USS Will Rogers (SSBN-659) will hold a reunion in October the following week.

GUN CLUB – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing to report.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Wise

- In 1849, Rick's great-great-grandfather was washing a pail in Georgia and found gold, so he started a mine which became very productive. Later, he sold the mine which continued to produce until about 1861. The gold from this mine was used to start the Bank of Georgia.
- The last name of the man to which the mine had been sold was Holland. Rick's neighbor also has the last name of Holland, so Rick went over to visit and ask why he stole Rick's gold. The neighbor stated that he did not steal the gold. But this man was a Holland from Georgia and you just can't trust these people.
- There were many twists and turns to the story of Rick's great-great-grandfather, including a wife from Tennessee and bushwhackers involved looking for the gold that he had been noted carrying. He was reportedly shot through the ear or possibly hot lead poured inside his ear.
- Rick's great-grandfather supposedly barricaded himself in his house because he was afraid of his family.

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA Drawing – Glenn Little
- Depth Charge Drawing – Dee Dee Harvey

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey announced adjournment of the meeting with a sound of three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 2000