

# TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 12 No. 7

July 2016

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

**Base Meeting:**

BOD: 07 July 1800  
 Membership: 14 July 1900

**Location:**

FRA Branch 269  
 Low Country Home  
 99 Wisteria Rd.  
 Goose Creek, SC



Base Commander	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)	Chief of the Boat	Ken Hutchison	843.553.0935
Vice Com- mander	Mike Knaub	843.795.6665 (H) 843.696.7555(C)	Veterans Affairs	Ken Curtis	843.797.1268
Secretary	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011	Membership	Larry Knutson	843.553.5594
Treasurer	Mike Welch	843.300.9022	Scholarship	George Scharf	843.873.3318
			Storekeeper	Ron Chambers	843.821.2268
			Historian	George Scharf	843.873.3318
			Public Affairs	Ronnie Kerstetter	843-367-1026
			Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.553.1115
			Newsletter	Vacant	
			Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Kaps for Kids	Bill Kennedy	843.875.3109



## Submarines Lose During the Month of July

<b>USS S-28 (SS 133)</b>	<b>July 4, 1944</b>	<b>Training Exercise Lost with all hands 49 souls</b>
<b>USS Robalo (SS 273)</b>	<b>July 26, 1944</b>	<b>3rd war patrol; lost with 77 men, 4 died as POWs—81 souls</b>
<b>USS Grunion (SS 216)</b>	<b>July 30, 1942</b>	<b>1st war patrol; lost with all hands 70 souls</b>

### FROM THE BASE COMMANDER

I have decided that I will not run for Base Commander in 2017. Because of the demands of the position and the extra duties I have had to assume because only a small percentage of the base membership are willing to help in the operation of the base I have put a number of things off. I need to get caught up on the things that need to be done. I do enjoy being the Base Command and will continue to work for the base and support the new Base Commander any way he needs.

### Charleston Base Related USSVI National Scholarships

Here is a list of the USSVI Scholarships College Division. Charleston Base relatives are [blue](#).

**Stephan C. Russo, PNC Memorial Scholarship Award \$1500.00**

[Madison C. Macaulay, Step-Daughter of Keith E. Scott, Charleston Base](#)

**Joan Peters Scholarship Award \$1250.00**

Nina Rodriquez, Granddaughter of Robert Vichko, New Jersey South Base

**Edward “Ed” Lang, PNC Memorial Scholarship Award \$1250.00**

Aubrey Coutu, Granddaughter of Norm Kozel, Groton Base

**Joe Henry Senft Memorial Scholarship Award \$1250.00**

Benjamin Smith, Grandson of Thomas Algieri, MAL

**Bremerton Base “Willie Spoon Memorial Scholarship” Award \$1000.00**

[Abigail F. Schroeder, Granddaughter of Roger K. Smith, Charleston Base](#)

**Arthur Randall Memorial Scholarship Award \$1000.00**

**Robert “Robbie” Robertson Memorial Scholarship Award \$1000.00**

Kevin Lux, son of Gregory Lux, Peoria Base

**Robert E. Fennell Memorial Scholarship Award \$1000.00**

Lydia Lux, Daughter of Gregory Lux, Peoria Base

**Scholarship Committee Chairman Scholarship Award \$1000.00**

Megan Nailon, Daughter of Chris Nailon, Groton Base  
Emily Payner, Granddaughter of Richard B. Hillery, San Diego Base

**USSVI Scholarship Winners \$950.00**

Morgan German, Granddaughter of William C. Hitt, Drum Base

Sara Grove, Daughter of David J. Grove Jr., Razorback Base

Holly Jordan, Granddaughter of Richard L. Jordan, Colorado Springs Base

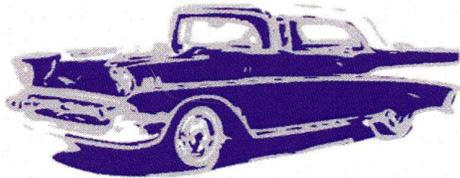
Brittany Miller, Daughter of Todd Miller, Trieste Base  
Cole Prescott, Grandson of Robert L. Robinson, Iowa Base

Hailey Smith, Daughter of Tyler Smith, Gudgeon Base  
[Trent A. Trump, Grandson of Terry Trump, Charleston Base](#)

Cera Weaver, Daughter of Royal Weaver, King Bay

### 2016 Inaugural U.S. Submarine Veterans Car Show

The flyer for the car show is on the next page. Please get it out to anyone you know who would be interested. All proceeds will go to the USSVI-Charleston Base Scholarship Fund. We need **your** help to make this a success!



**2016 INAUGURAL  
U.S SUBMARINE  
VETERANS CAR  
SHOW**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE US SUBMARINE VETERANS  
CHARLESTON BASE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**OPEN AUTO SHOW**

**October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

**Kimbrell's Parking Lot**

**208 Saint James Ave | Goose Creek, SC**

Free to Spectators

Unique Trophies

50/50 Drawing

Food/Drinks

Door Prizes

Bake Sale

Much More!!!

Registration: Starts at 9:00AM

Registration: \$20/\$25 day of show

Participate Judging: 9:00AM-12:00PM

Trophies: Starts at 2:00PM



**PRE-REGISTRATION**

You may pay online at [USSVICB.ORG](http://USSVICB.ORG) and mail you application to the below listed address.

Or by Mail:

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Charleston Base

C/o George Scharf

2141 Elm Village Dr.

Summerville, SC 29486

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Desired Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**Liability:** By registering, you agree to indemnify and hold harmless the members of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. Charleston Base, sponsors, participants, committees, and anyone else connected with this event from any and all known and unknown damages and/or injury to property or persons while participating in this event.

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature or Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

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Multiple Classes: Open 1900-1954 Open 1965-1963 Open 1974-1984 Open 1985-Present Air Cooled (VW, Corvair, etc.) Camaro/Firebird 1967-1981 Camaro/Firebird 1982-Present Corvette 1953-1967 Corvette 1968-1996 Corvette 1997-Present Imports-All Mopar-All Motorcycle -All Mustang 1964-1978 Mustang 1979-Present Street rods/Rat Rods Sport Truck-Other LMC

## USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the July 2016 meeting was 68.

**Opening Ceremonies:** The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Rick Wise. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1858. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in July was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Commander Rick Wise. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

**Guest Speaker from The Victory House:** The Base Commander introduced Crystal Harrington from the Victory House in Walterboro. Crystal gave a wonderful presentation about the Victory House and answered many questions. Base Commander Rick Wise thanked Crystal for coming and asked her to leave so we could continue our meeting.

**Introductions:** The following was a new attendee to Charleston Base meetings: STSC(SS) Michael Roper, Qual Boat: USS Ulysses S. Grant SSBN 631 Gold Crew.

**Secretary:** Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the June meeting minutes had published in the newsletter and on the base website. Mike asked the group for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ken Curtis made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Charles Wood.

**Treasurer:** Base Treasurer Mike Welch gave a report on the Charleston Base finances. The base financial report is now located as a password protected file on the base website under Documents and Resources. The password is the same as needed for the Sailing List.

**Vice Commander:** Was not present

**Chaplain and Webmaster:** Base Chaplain and Webmaster Nick Nichols gave the following report:

### July Report

**Highlighted boat of the month:** USS Robalo (SS-273) Lost on July 26, 1944 with the loss of 81 crew members while on her 3rd war patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Four men survived and swam ashore, then were imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk

- **RMCM(SS) Jack Ilgenfritz** departed on Eternal Patrol on July 12<sup>th</sup> at Trident Hospital. His viewing will be Sunday, 1600-2000 at McAlister Smith FH Goose Creek. His funeral will be Monday, 1000 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. SUBVETS will be conducting our Bell Tolling and Presentations on Sunday evening at the Funeral Home at 1615. Muster time is 1545. Participants will be in Vest Uniform. Uniform for others is at least the vest if they have one. Jack did not have a page 2 on file.
- **RMC Wendall Calloway** departed on Eternal Patrol on June 30<sup>th</sup> in Kingstree. He was a USSVI member at large but was not a member of Charleston Base.
- **Rick Koehler's mother-in-law, Dorothy McDonald**, passed away this past Monday.
- **Roger Gibson** was just diagnosed with a cancerous ulcer. He'll have a follow-up next week and go from there.
- **Fred Woodley** will be having his right shoulder replaced again after 9 years. He is in lots of pain. It will take place in Columbia. He has another doctor's appointment on July 26<sup>th</sup>.
- **'Buddha' Nelms** was in Trident ICU for a pace maker. He is now home and at last report is doing well. It was requested no visitors or phone calls in the hospital or after he came home.
- **Don Mook** was in Trident to have a stent put in. They will wait about 3 months to make a decision to put in a pace maker. Don is doing well.
- **George Scharf** had his back surgery June 16<sup>th</sup> and went home the following day. The surgery went well and he is doing fine.
- **CS3/AW Andrew Meadows**, Don's son, is in Stage 5 Kidney Failure. No current report.
- **Grant Hammett** age 13, Jim Lowman's grandson, has t-cell lymphoma and is undergoing intensive chemo. No Current Report

- **Nancy Alkire** had cancer surgery in mid-May. She is now waiting to find out when she begins radiation treatments which will be daily for 9 weeks.

**Clell Hutchinson** is home on hospice and not doing well but would like to have visitors and short calls. Please call Catherine before visiting. Follow-ups were made on those who've had surgery or illnesses in the last couple of months along with the base sending additional cards.

#### **WEBMASTER NOTES:**

- 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.

**Chaplain made comments about the amount of profanity being used at the meetings. He has met several people who will not be coming to the meetings due to this issue.**

**District Commander:** District Commander Ed Stank reported that the National Convention is in Reno Nevada this year. He also mentioned that he will be traveling to the Victory House next Tuesday 19 July 2016. There were three Charleston base students that received national scholarships.

**Membership:** Larry Knutson reported that base membership is now 318 members.

**Kaps for Kids:** Bill Kennedy was not present.

**Veterans Affairs:** Ken Curtis reported that the VA has new ways of registering and all the information is on the website.

**Public Affairs:** Ronnie Kerstetter was not present.

**Storekeeper:** Ron Chambers had no report.

**Holland Club:** Bill Freligh was not present

**FRA:** Rick Sparger spoke for Larry Cox and announced that the Salty Dogs will be at the Fleet Reserve on Saturday 23 July at 2000.

**Submarine Veterans of World War II:** George Scharf acknowledged that we had two WWII SUBVETS present. The car show is going well. The advertising books are going out.

**CRAMA:** Butch Bryar gave us a report on the continuing progress of saving the Clamagore. Butch encouraged everyone to contact their Senators and Congressman.

**Recreation Committee:** Rick Sparger announced that the Christmas Party will be held at the FRA on 3 December.

**Chief of the Boat:** Ken Hutchison reported that the Victory House visit will be 19 July.

**Special Events Coordinator:** Mentioned that the Fourth of July Parade was a success.

**Base Commander:** Rick asked for volunteers for presenting a certificate for Eagle scouts.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** There was a motion made on standing rule 1-98. The motion was made by Joe Hayes and seconded by Tom Clark. The Discretionary fund has been set at no more than \$500.00 per occurrence with a \$2000.00 annual cap. This fund may be used by officers and appointed chairman designated by the Base Commander with the approval of a minimum of four executive board members, two of which should be elected officers. The Discretionary fund shall not be used for monetary gifts: such expenditures shall be approved by a majority of members present at a monthly meeting. The amendment was voted on and passed on a show of hands vote.

**Good of the Order:**

**The After Battery:** Steve "Buddha" Nelms was not present

**Nuclear Historian:** Since it was such a crappy day, I sat in my recliner and started thinking about life and came to realize that: As I have grown older I have learned

that pleasing everyone is impossible, but pissing everyone off is a piece of cake.

Condoms don't guarantee safe sex any more, a friend of mine was wearing one when he was shot by a woman's husband.

Lance Armstrong... I think it is just terrible and disgusting how everyone treated Lance Armstrong, especially after what he achieved. Hell, when I was on drugs, I couldn't even find my bicycle.

Drive by... Someone broke into my house last week. They didn't take my TV, just the remote. Now they drive by all the time and change the channels the sick bastards.

The agony of aging... On the morning that Daylight Savings Time ended, I stopped in to visit my aging friend. He was busy covering his penis with black shoe polish. I said to him "you better get your hearing checked! You were supposed to turn your CLOCK back!"

Video scam... Just got scammed out of \$25. I bought a Tiger Woods DVD titled "My Favorite 18 Holes". It was all about golf. That was a total waste of money! Pass this on so others don't get scammed.

Dr. asks a pregnant prostitute. "Do you know who the father is?" She replied Hey dumbass, if you ate a can of beans would you know which one made you fart?"

**The depth charge** was won by Ron Kozlowski.

**The FRA red ticket** was won by Walt Deal

**Meeting Adjourned:** Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2026.

## Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Presentation

On July 12, 7 members of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc, Charleston Base visited the children's wing of the McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence, SC. The trip was arranged by Bill "Friar Tuck" Kennedy and his daughter Sarah Rolan, Director of Nursing. Those visiting were Bill Kennedy, Rick Sparger, Ed Stank, Ken Hutchison, Paul Viering, Rick Wise and Bill Hayes. The group was escorted by Allana Hilley, a Child Life Specialist and visited about 12 children ranging in age from a new born to 15 years old. Each child were presented with a "Kaps for Kids" honorary submariner certificate, ball cap, coloring books and crayons.



## USSVI-Charleston Base Submariners' Legacy Award

The next presentation of the Submariners' Legacy Award will be on Friday August 12. Please contact Rick Wise at [basecommander@ussvicb.org](mailto:basecommander@ussvicb.org) or 843-875-5559 or 843-276-0899 by Tuesday, August 9 if you wish to attend. Award Coordinator Ray Sparks is traveling. The dates for the rest of the year are October 7 and December 2.

### **Michigan Undocks, Ending Historic Refit**

*PSNS & IMF Public Affairs Office, Navy.mil, July 11*

**BREMERTON, Washington** Although USS Michigan (SSGN 727) only moved a few dozen yards July 8 when it left Dry Dock 2 for nearby Pier 5, the brief journey was a major step forward for the sub, the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PSNS & IMF), and the Navy.

Michigan's undocking marked the beginning of the end of a Major Maintenance Period that began in August 2015 and included complex repairs in the sub's sail, superstructure, engineering spaces and missile compartments, said PSNS & IMF Project Superintendent Kevin Looney. It also included the historic installation of the first submarine living quarters for enlisted female Sailors.

"Major alterations and improvements in the submarine's ability to navigate and communicate, as well as the first berthing of enlisted women, sets the course to return this warship as a standard bearer for the fleet," Looney said.

The complex task of constructing living quarters for enlisted women aboard Michigan required a team effort from PSNS & IMF, Electric Boat and Michigan's crew. Their mission was to accommodate up to three female chief petty officers without a change to the total complement of 20 CPOs, and to accommodate from nine to 36 women crew members without changing the total complement of 120. They accomplished this in part by enlarging the forward washroom, adding four showers by converting a bunkroom into shower space, splitting the aft washroom to allow for a shower/head combo and a watchstander head, and creating a new bunkroom from the old crew's study.

"It has been very exciting to watch this part of history unfold in front of me," said Melissa Kittrell, the project's work integration manager. "The very first female enlisted Sailors have reported for duty during this MMP. As a former enlisted Sailor, I am so excited to be a part of this alteration and drive the work to completion."

Kittrell said making this alteration in the boat's structure alongside the other ongoing repair and production work created many challenges for the team.

"Translating the designs on paper to the actual steel of the 34-year-old boat was a feat that ship's force, Shipyard employees and contractors tirelessly worked through," she said. "The lessons learned will help future boats that will be receiving this alteration, and provide the capability to accommodate the next cycle of female enlisted Sailors coming through the pipeline that will serve on these warships."

The commander of Submarine Group 9, to which Michigan is assigned, emphasized the importance of Michigan's undocking and acknowledged the Shipyard's role in this milestone.

"The demands on our submarine force continue to grow," said Rear Adm. John W. Tammen.

"Strategic stability and deterrence remain key elements of our nation's strategy and SSGNs, like USS Michigan, are vital to achieving both. Undocking Michigan is a significant milestone in returning the ship to operations in the Pacific and could only be accomplished through teamwork and dedication.

"We all have our role in maintaining undersea superiority, but we rely heavily on the men and women assigned to PSNS & IMF for their expertise in ensuring the material readiness of our ships," he added.

## Fresh Salad At Sea: Military Considers Gardens Aboard Subs

*Jennifer Mcdermott, Associated Press, July 5*

**NATICK, Mass.**— When a Navy submarine goes to sea on a months-long voyage, the lettuce, tomatoes and other fresh fruits and vegetables on board run out in a week or two, forcing the crew to rely on canned, frozen or dehydrated products.

But what if subs had their own gardens where food could be grown under lights?

The U.S. military is testing out the idea by growing plants hydroponically — that is, with nutrient solution instead of soil — inside a 40-foot shipping container on dry land at a laboratory outside Boston.

Engineering technician Don Holman, who grew up on a farm in Michigan before serving 30 years in the Navy, is running the \$100,000 project at the Army's Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center. He said sailors have been asking for more produce.

"When you give someone something they want, it improves their morale. And they perform better when morale is up," said Holman, who will present a technical report in September so the Navy can decide whether to attempt gardening beneath the sea.

This is the second phase of the testing. Holman first tried to grow 83 varieties of fruits and vegetables to see which ones did best. The leafy greens and green onions thrived. Root vegetables did fairly well. Strawberries and rhubarb grew but probably wouldn't produce enough to make it worthwhile, Holman said.

The cucumbers, on the other hand, were a mess. The vines climbed everywhere. And the large leaves on the zucchini plants blocked the lights. The tomato plants grew but didn't produce fruit because the lighting wasn't bright enough and the temperature was too low.

Holman replanted the varieties that did well. He is now tending to those seedlings to see how much they produce.

On the dirt- and insect-free "farm," as Holman calls it, the plants are growing in trays of peat moss plugs and will be transferred this week to more than 250 towers suspended from overhead tracks and filled with growing material made of recycled plastic. Strands of red and blue LED lights dangle from the ceiling.

He said vegetables could be planted before a vessel went to sea so that they would be ready for harvesting during the mission.

Retired Navy Capt. Ronald Steed, a former sub skipper, said it would be a real challenge to fit a garden on a submarine, where space is extremely tight, "but if they could do it, that would be awesome."

The newest fast-attack submarines are nearly 400 feet long and carry a crew of about 130, while ballistic-missile subs stretch about 560 feet and can have a crew of 170.

"I doubt that every meal could have fresh fruits and vegetables," Steed said, "but if you could do it from time to time, it takes something that's really essential to crew morale and makes it better."

The idea originated at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, a research and development lab in Newport, Rhode Island.

A fast-attack sub has enough food on board for at least 90 days when it leaves for a deployment from the Navy base at Groton, Connecticut, said Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Shutt, supply officer for the waterfront.

After about a week, the lettuce in the salad bar becomes slightly translucent, then runs out, and the fresh tomatoes, carrots and celery are gone, too. Thawed fruit, bean or pasta salad, and soups take their place at the salad bar. Pudding occasionally shows up when the fruit is gone.

It's not this way the entire time — a submarine will get fresh food when it stops at a port or another ship delivers it.

Chief Culinary Specialist Brian Pearson, who serves on the submarine USS Missouri, admitted that nothing beats fresh ingredients but said the crew still really likes his spaghetti or lasagna, made with canned tomatoes, dehydrated onions and extra spices. For mashed potatoes, he said, he can transform dehydrated potato flakes with butter, garlic and sour cream.

For his part, Steed allowed that the food aboard submarines is pretty good, considering what the cooks have to work with.

"It's just kind of one of those things where you accept that you're not going to have fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs," he said, "and given that, they do a great job."

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