



Vol. 15 No. 8

August 2019

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

**Base Meeting:**

BOD: August 1, 1800  
 Membership: August 8, 1900

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



Base Commander	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011	Chief of the Boat	Joe Lunn	843.747.5368
Base Vice Commander	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282	Veterans Affairs	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
Secretary	Gordon Long	843.214.2353	Membership	Larry Knutson	843.860.1155
Treasurer	Gordon Williams	843.553.3015	Scholarship	Carl Chinn	843.437.5515
			Storekeeper	Ken Hutchison	843.553.0935
			Historian	George Scharf	843.873.3318
			Public Affairs	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
			Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Events Coordinator	Rick Sparger	843.553.5594
			Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.553.1115
			Newsletter	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
			Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Kaps for Kids	Bill Kennedy	843.875.3109



## Submarines Lost During the Month of August

<b>USS Bullhead (SS-332)</b>	August 6, 1945 – 3rd War Patrol	Lost with All Hands – 84 Souls
<b>USS Flier (SS-250)</b>	August 13, 1944 – 2nd War Patrol	Lost with 82 Souls – 8 men survived.
<b>USS S-39 (SS-144)</b>	August 13, 1942 – 3rd War Patrol	No loss of life
<b>USS Harder (SS-257)</b>	August 24, 1944 – 6th War Patrol	Lost with All Hands – 79 Souls
<b>USS Cochino (SS-345)</b>	August 26, 1949	No Navy loss of life – one civilian loss – Tusk lost 6 souls during the rescue

**FIVE Boats and 253 Men Lost**

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### Upcoming Charleston Base Events

CPO Selectee Breakfast	Wednesdat, Sep 4, 0600	Cracker Barrel, N Charlston
Base BOD Meeting	Thursday, Sep 5, 1800	FRA Branch 269 Goose Creek
Base Meeting	Thursday, Sep 12, 1900	FRA Branch 269 Goose Creek

Information on all these events are on the base website [www.ussvicb.org/events/index.html](http://www.ussvicb.org/events/index.html)

### Other Happenings of Interest

## From the Editor

This is a somewhat abbreviated issue since I will soon be leaving for Arkansas and Oklahoma on a 3 week trip. See you at the October Base Meeting.

## From USSVI National

Normal message traffic from USSVI will be published on the Charleston Base Website [www.ussvicb.org](http://www.ussvicb.org) . If I see anything that should be brought to the notice of our non-computer members I will post it here.

 From:USSVI POC: William C. Andrea <NJVC@USSVI.ORG>Sent:Tuesday, August 13, 2019, 3:37:05 PM EDTSubject:USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News -#2019-052Date: 8/13/2019To: Distribution List=====NEWS-01: USS

### Thresher Arlington Nat Cemetery Memorial Fundraising

URGENTSubmitted by: Kevin Galeaz on 8/13/2019-----  
-----I regret to inform that to date,the corporate fundraising efforts have fallen far short of what is needed to cover the \$52,000 cost of the USS Thresher ANC Memorial Dedication Ceremony & Reception on September 26th.In response, we have a new fundraising program called "Sponsor a USS Thresher Family Member". For a donation of \$50, one USS Thresher Family member can be sponsored to attend the post dedication ceremony reception.An estimated 500 USS Thresher Family & Former Crew will attend this once in a lifetime dedication ceremony and reception.Your help is needed. To sponsor a USS Family Member, please see <https://threshermemorial.org/uss-thresher-family-sponsor.html>

With respect and gratitude,

Kevin

Kevin Galeaz, President

USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Foundation

<http://ThresherMemorial.org><https://www.facebook.com/USSThresherMemorial/>

[ThresherMemorial@gmail.com](mailto:ThresherMemorial@gmail.com)

603.785.6464 (Cell)

This is an official email communication from the United States Submarine Veterans.If you don't want to receive these E-Grams, please contact the sender

## Scholarship Raffle

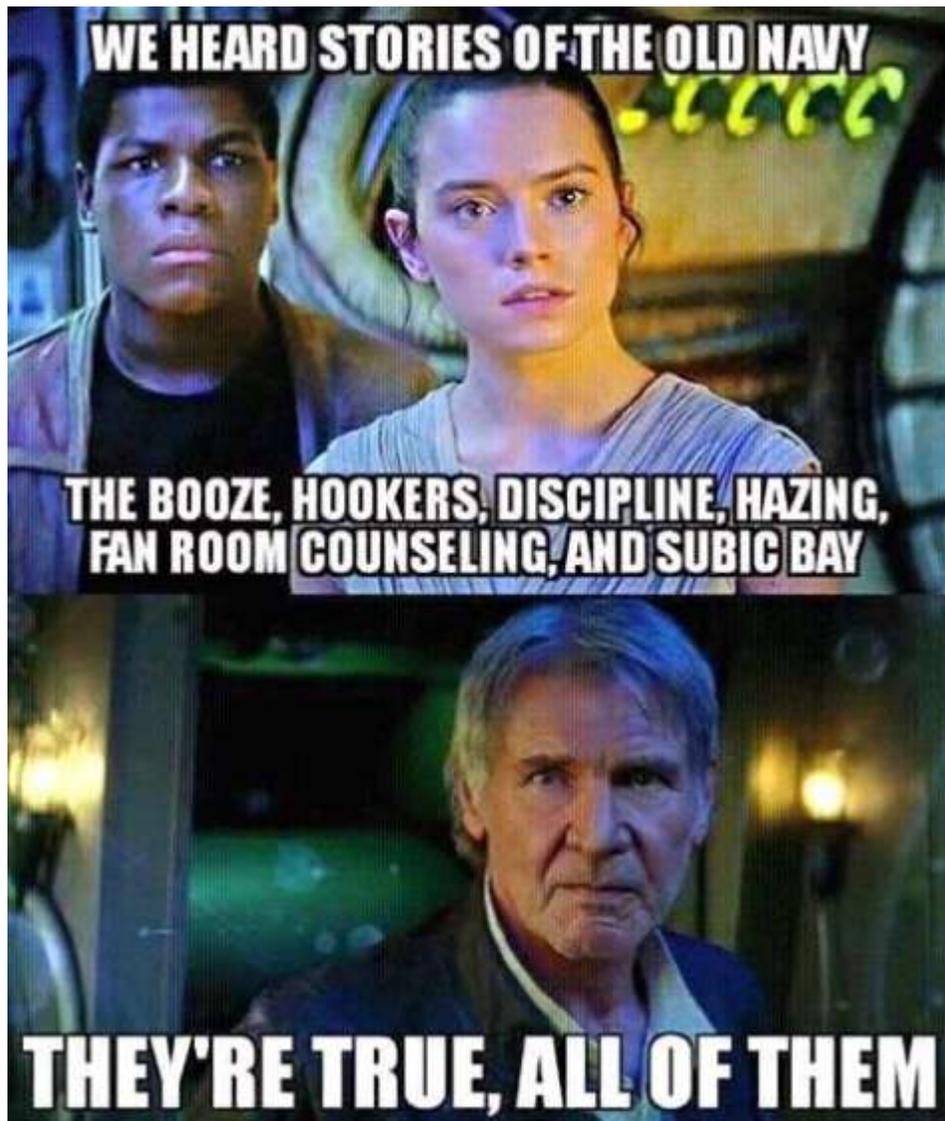
The Scholarship Committee will be selling raffle tickets to support the cause! This raffle will be for a visit to Middleton Place and a tour of the House Museum. Middleton Place and Gardens is a great place to visit. You can stroll around its 65 acres of gardens, take a look at the working stableyard, have a picnic, etc.

Middleton Place's 110 vibrant acres include 65 acres of America's oldest landscaped gardens – floral allées, terraced lawns, a pair of ornamental lakes shaped like butterfly wings – as well as a House Museum, Eliza's House, working Stableyards with artisans and heritage breed animals, a Restaurant, Inn, and Organic Farm – all waiting to be explored.

Guided tours of the House Museum introduce visitors to the men, women and children who made Middleton Place their home for over three centuries, including not only the Middleton family, but also the enslaved people and freedmen who served them. The story is interpreted through an extraordinary collection of original portraits, furniture, silver, china, documents and other objects that belonged to and were used by family members.

Buy some tickets for the raffle and take your sweetie for a great day adventure! Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets available at the September and October meetings. Winner will be drawn at the October meeting.





**The Submarine in the United States Navy, Washington, D.C.: [U.S. Govt. Print. Off.], 1963 (1964 printing)**

**Forward**

“As a Midshipman at the Naval Academy, I had my first ride in the United States Navy’s first submarine—USS HOLLAND. Thus in the brief span of my life, I have seen the Submarine grow “from a boy to a giant” of the Polaris submarine with strength untold for our land of freedom.

The airplane and the submarine both began to join the Fleet early in this 20th century, as invention and engineering provided reliable internal combustion engines and other engineering wonders. Each of the strange new means of warfare promised to destroy the power of Fleets—at least in the minds of enthusiasts. Instead they have brought incredible new power.

I early joined submarines as a young officer, engaged in experimental developments, commanded the submarine forces of the U. S. Atlantic Fleet, studied diesels in Germany and helped to introduce them into our Navy.



*Launching U.S.S. Holland in 1900. Holland marks the beginning of America's undersea fleet, and official recognition of the submarine as a legitimate warship.*

For years afterward I continued to serve in submarines afloat. Then, as naval duties took me away from the submarines, I followed their steady development with undiminished interest. When I assumed Command of the Pacific Fleet, I hoisted my flag in USS GRAYLING (SS-209). When detached, after V-J Day which owed so much to the valor, skill and dedicated service of submariners, I lowered my flag from the gallantly battle-tested USS MENCHADEN (SS-377). While Chief of Naval Operations, with imaginative leaders like my Deputy, Vice Admiral Forrest Sherman, Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, Naval Inspector General, who brilliantly commanded our Pacific submarine operations during much of World War II, and Vice Admiral Earle Mills, Chief of Bureau of Ships, I was happy to initiate the development of nuclear power afloat.

The decision was based in considerable part on a major study completed by Dr. Philip Abelson of Naval Research Laboratory in early 1946. All the foregoing officers were enthusiastic about the prospects. It struck me that if it worked we would be far in front in the ceaseless race in armed strength to keep our country strong and free. The fantastic speed and unlimited radius of action offered by atomic power gave promise of at last making possible the true submarine with indefinite endurance

submerged. Its feasibility had been explored in the Navy in the early '40's but the development had been set aside by the war and the single goal in atomic energy of the Manhattan Project. Now was the time to get underway. What remarkable results have followed.

Thus for much of my life, I have had faith in the submarine as I have had faith in the rest of the Navy and our great land of America. Each by being true to itself—seeking efficiency and power for noble ends – has been a blessing, just as for ignoble ends, it could be a curse. I am convinced that the mighty Polaris submarine, bearing imperishable names like Washington, Lincoln and Lee, will prove a blessing to America of the future and to all men as they reach upward to the light.”

Chester W. Nimitz Fleet Admiral, U. S. Navy



## **CNO Gilday's Message to the Fleet *Adm. Mike Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations, August 22***

I am humbled and honored to be your Chief of Naval Operations. Together, we are part of the greatest navy in the world. Everyone on our team – officers and enlisted Sailors, active and reserve, uniformed and civilian – plays an important part in making sure we not only remain the greatest navy in the world, but that we get even better.

For the first time in a very long time, we face serious challenges at sea around the world. For decades, we took for granted that no other blue-water navy would dare take us on. That's no longer true.

The U.S. Navy has been and will continue to be a global force for security and stability. But there are other nations who would use their maritime forces to threaten the freedom of the seas to intimidate their neighbors or to coerce others in violation of international law. Those maritime forces are growing in numbers and in strength. Still others know they cannot take us on at sea but will try to attack our Navy in areas like cyber.

Rapidly modernizing our Navy and keeping pace with technology will remain a priority for us. But I still believe what my first chief told me, that people are our most important weapons system. A well trained force is our competitive advantage. I look forward to hearing from leaders at every level at how we can continue to make improvements for Sailors and their families.

And I have a great sense of urgency to get after solutions to the challenges we face.

In the coming weeks, my FIRST priority will be visiting with many of you. I will work with our leaders in the fleets, with our Marine Corps teammates and with our other joint service and international partners as we develop our way ahead to meet these challenges.

We will question our assumptions. We will think differently about the competition we are now in. We will be the Navy the nation needs now, and we will build the Navy the nation needs to fight and win in the future.

What remain constant are our core values of honor, courage and commitment. We will remain true to our core attributes of integrity, accountability, initiative and toughness. We will remain the premier Navy in the world, and I know we will be even better tomorrow than we are today.

Thank you for all you do for our Navy

## **CNO Richardson Reflects on Massive Technology, Readiness Changes as Tenure Ends *Megan Eckstein, USNI News, August 19***

**THE PENTAGON** – The U.S. Navy and the world it operates in are a far cry from what they were four years ago.

The relationship with China has deteriorated, as the growing Pacific power behaves more aggressively throughout the South China Sea and the Pacific, forcing a new focus on near-peer warfare. Budgets, once axed by lawmakers as part of a 2011 budget deal, began to rebound, with an uptick in readiness lagging behind. Two fatal destroyer collisions showed the fragility of the overworked fleet and the depth of the readiness challenges the service would have to overcome. And a goal to field a fleet larger than the Navy can build to has sparked conversations about how long existing ships can stay in service and what more can be done to support a shaky industrial base.

In short, the service Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson is leading is not the one he inherited in 2015.

As Navy and Pentagon leadership were looking for a 31st CNO, Richardson was sitting in his Navy Yard office, leading the Naval Reactors program – just over two years into an eight-year gig and not expecting to be part of the conversation about the next leader of the sea service.

"It was a huge surprise because I think it's unprecedented that the director at Naval Reactors leaves before the eight-year tenure is done, for a really good reason," Richardson told USNI News in a recent interview ahead of his retirement.

"I was just concentrating on doing the director job," when he was then approached by Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and Defense Secretary Ash Carter.

"It's one of those things, when they ask if you want to be the Chief of Naval Operations, you either say yes or you retire. And so that's what got us here."

With little time to give much thought about his priorities and his vision for the service, given the surprise nature of the assignment, Richardson said it was clear right off the bat that great power competition was emerging, that an increasing portion of national security activities would take place in the maritime environment, and that rapidly advancing technology would flip the service and how it does business on its head.

Asked how he left the Navy a better or a different service than he found it, Richardson said, "if I could write it out, I would say that when they look back on four years, when history judges, that the person who was in the spot of the CNO wouldn't weigh a whole lot into that. The main thing is that the Navy as a team, Navy leadership as a team – and when I say leadership, all the way down to the deck plate leaders and everybody else – came together, and we are in a better position now, more ready, modernizing on a good track, to prevail in this great power competition."

Richardson said his four years at the helm were only the start of "a long competition" and that the depth of leadership that helped him achieve change over the past four years would have to keep up that effort.

"We're going to be in this for awhile. We have to think creatively. We have to think sustainably. And we're not just in it to compete; we're in it to get ahead and stay ahead."

## Technological change

To the admiral's mind, the change in technology is one of the most defining features of his tenure leading the Navy. He said he's been surprised by the pace of change and, reflecting back, said he wishes he had been able to do more to make the Navy as a bureaucracy act more urgently when it comes to thinking of new ways to leverage tech developments and then actually finding and fielding solutions.

"The speed of it – every time you think that you've got a little bit of time to do something, you find out you're behind. This pace is relentless. And then with respect to the technology environment, we're still figuring out as we get that whole part of our enterprise up on a competitive footing, this sense of urgency that, okay, whereas maybe in the Cold War the Defense Department was the technology leader and then at an appropriate time things would be declassified – GPS – now, it depends on what technology you're talking about. For some, the private sector is in the lead. And so, okay, how do we become fast followers? Some things there's just not going to be a private market, so it's going to be the Department's responsibility to lead out in those areas," he said.

"Rationalizing all that and making sure your technology is focused on your strategic objectives, this great power competition, that's been an interesting part. But again, the surprising part is really I think the pace at which it's moving and this dynamic, who's in the lead and who's following, what's the appropriate balance there, and moving at speed."

Richardson issued a Design for Maintaining Maritime Superiority 2.0 update in December 2018, with a slew of aggressive technology goals that ultimately his successor will have to carry out or disregard. Richardson declined to discuss his talks with Vice Adm. Michael Gilday, who will take over the job this week.

But, Richardson noted, the technology goals in his Design 2.0 reflect "a collaborative effort that brought those together. And so we tried to get the best sense of all of the leadership that, this is the trajectory that the Navy should be on. And so my hope is that we by and large stay on that trajectory and adjust where necessary."

## Modernizing the fleet

To others, the most defining aspect of Richardson's tenure comes down to three digits: 355.

A 2016 force structure assessment called for a fleet of 355, which was 47 ships greater than the previous plan to grow to 308. The assessment stated that 355 was the "minimum force structure to comply with [Pentagon] strategic guidance," and that the "desired" force would be even larger: 653 ships to meet all global requirements with minimal risk, which would well eclipse even the Reagan Administration buildup.

Though Congress passed into law a requirement for the Navy to build to 355, it has become clear that there isn't enough money in the budget and there isn't enough capacity in the industrial base to do so – or at least not any time soon. A focus on extending surface combatant and amphibious ship service life began to help achieve 355 ships sooner.

Asked about the challenges of not only buying new ships and extending the lives of old ships to grow the force, but also manning, maintaining and operating the larger fleet, Richardson said it was best to consider "naval power" rather than fleet size.

Richardson last year outlined a six-pronged view of readiness: a bigger navy, a better navy, a networked navy, a more talented navy, a more agile navy and a more ready navy. After previously using a chemistry metaphor – "Those are the components of the nucleus; if you try to tear one out, you don't have naval power, you have some isotope of nuclear power, something that's close but not really [naval power]. These isotopes are sometimes unstable, sometimes they decay, et cetera. It's not the stable element we want, not the true thing." – Richardson has since moved on to a biology metaphor.

"If the shipbuilding plan itself is the skeleton of naval power, then on top of that, you've got to have the muscle of naval power, which might be the crew. And then you've got to have the brains of naval power, which might be the networking and information technology," he said, again foot-stomping the need for balance among the number of ships and the Navy's ability to man them, operate them, maintain them and more.

While Navy leaders never officially tied this focus on wholeness to Congress, it does come after years of lawmakers boosting the annual shipbuilding budget over the request – one Littoral Combat Ship here, one amphibious transport dock there – but often gutting the operations and maintenance budget to stay within spending caps. In the last couple years, the Navy has finally been more successful in making the case for readiness spending, with Congress doing more to address aviation readiness and the backlog of ship maintenance at public yards.

Still, readiness remains the big challenge for the Navy as it grows, Richardson reflected.

"A lot of them are on a pretty good track. Shipbuilding on a pretty good track," he said. "Modernization is going really well. I think that some of the technologies that are right around the corner in terms of, first, that information technology. Directed energy weapons. We're back into the missile game in a meaningful way. Hypersonics right around the corner. I mean there's a number of unmanned and autonomy, machine-learning. I think Adm. Gilday testified that he's going to make that a continuing effort. And so these technologies in terms of the capability of each platform.

"Then our CONOPS, this distributed maritime operations, I think is an exciting thing. We need to go out and test it. We need to challenge it, test it, experiment with it. The large-scale exercise in 2020 will be a big factor in that testing and validation and refining. And then our people, we continue to meet our recruiting goals even almost 13 years running. Which is remarkable in this economy."

But, Richardson concluded, "readiness is the one thing that continues to be a challenge. Particularly ship maintenance. And so we have got to continue to crack that nut. Aircraft maintenance is on the mend. We're applying some state-of-the-art techniques to improve our throughput through the depot.

We've got to bring that to bear on ship maintenance because it's just, we're not finishing enough for those availabilities on time, that cascades down the entire workup and deployment period. And so that's where I think our effort is really focused, both with the public and private shipyards."

Asked if he was optimistic that ship maintenance was heading in the right direction, he said, "there's definitely signs of improvement, and we've been really lucky that Congress has partnered with us in this regard. So since 2017 and the request for additional appropriations, '18, '19 and then '20 looks like it's going to be another great budget for us. But what we're realizing is that that hole was pretty deep when we started. We are getting out of it for sure. And so we're flying more, we're steaming, we're more ready now than we were three or four years ago for sure. And that's a tribute to the fleets. And we've just got to continue to get after it. We're applying that same analytical rigor, the Perform to Plan process (used in aircraft maintenance), to ship depot maintenance now. There has been some progress in there, with respect to carrier availabilities and some of the SSBN availabilities, et cetera. So there's progress, but we need to do more."

#### Fitzgerald and McCain collisions

Though Richardson is confident readiness is moving in the right direction, the turning point on addressing readiness and perhaps the impetus for many of the reforms that have been made was a pair of fatal destroyer collisions. USS Fitzgerald (DDG-62) hit a merchant container ship on June 17, 2017, killing seven sailors during a massive flooding event that the crew was able to fight until help arrived more than an hour later. Just two months later, a similar collision between USS John S. McCain (DDG-56) and an oiler killed 10 sailors and forced the surface navy to stop and closely examine what more it needed to do to ensure the safety of its crews and the readiness of its ships.

"Let me say that there's not a day that I wake up where I don't think of that, and we want to make sure that everything that we do as a Navy somehow honors those 17 sailors who paid the ultimate price in those collisions," Richardson said. "And we've just got to continuously keep that in mind. And so as we've moved through that, I think you'll find it is a different surface force than it was. And they have taken this idea of, okay, we're going to be safe to operate at sea, we're going to comply with the rules of the road, [and moved] beyond that to a culture of real excellence."

"And so that's the best way that we can honor those sailors and their families, is to make sure that we're doing everything possible, and we've done a tremendous amount of change," the admiral continued, saying that individual and team training had become much more rigorous in the aftermath of the two collisions.

After several attempts before – including the 2014 rollout of the Optimized Fleet Response Plan – to move the Navy to a supply-driven deployment model rather than one where combatant commanders dictate how much naval presence they demand, Richardson said he believes that post-Fitz and McCain the surface navy is finally taking "a supply-side approach to providing forces, so that we are not sending ships out there, teams out there of any kind that are not trained and certified for the mission that they're going to do. I mean, this is a different surface force."

Though Richardson and other service leadership throughout the last year or so have repeatedly said at conferences and congressional hearings that the surface force is more ready and better trained – and, most importantly, operating more safely – than before the collisions, it took the tragedy of 17 sailors dying before these reforms were aggressively tackled and their success measured for accountability.

Asked why it took a tragedy to realize the depth of the struggles of the surface force, Richardson said, "I think when you start to take your eye off of those fundamentals, then it's going to catch up with you. And then you've got to have some way of sensing those and paying attention to those. There's got to be some kind of a trip wire, an alarm, a fire break or something. So we've really done some work to establish those so that it's now a system where if there's a mission assigned, there's a formal check to make sure that that certification is in place. If not, that's resolved and mitigated at the four-star level. But that's very rare."

#### Future of the Navy

Of course none of the Navy's challenges – addressing readiness, figuring out how to grow to meet operational demands, continuing to bring in the right people and technologies to be successful in the future – end when Richardson retires.

Gilday, who formerly served as the commander of U.S. Fleet Cyber Command and U.S. 10th Fleet and as the director of the Joint Staff, will serve as the 32nd CNO and have to dive head-first into these issues. Richardson says Gilday is the right officer for the time.

"He's a consummate warfighter in the traditional parts of our Navy, a surface warfare officer. His early part of his career was just being stellar in that area. But then as you talk about either the future of warfare and what information warfare, including cyber, space, all of those things that are going to play an increasingly important part, who better than Adm. Gilday to understand that, having commanded the 10th Fleet," Richardson said.

"And so I think he's just a perfect guy, could not be more excited."

Gilday's nomination for the job came after former Vice CNO Adm. Bill Moran was confirmed to lead the service and then unexpectedly requested to retire amid an investigation into his ongoing relationship with a former Navy spokesman who faced sexual harassment claims by junior female officers.

Richardson released a memo shortly afterwards, briefly addressing what had happened.

He told USNI News that there was still more to say on the topic, eventually.

"There's a lot of lessons that we're teaching, and I hope you'll just give me a little bit of time, we want to have that conversation inside the Navy. It's one that we had to just sort of sit and take some time," he said.

“But I will say just as loudly as I can, what I hope people do not take away from this is that we don’t want to be mentors to our people. And that includes, in fact, maybe especially includes, mentoring people who are struggling. I mean, those are the people that need mentors the most. This is not that. And so, please, all of you out there, continue to help each other out, and if somebody is struggling, continue to help them. That was not what was at play on this. And so if I could just stress that point as broadly as I can, that would be important to get clear right up front.”

“And the rest of it, we’re putting together the program to kind of walk the Navy and talk and have those conversations throughout the Navy so that people can take the lessons from that, the broader lessons, away from this in time,” he added.

More broadly, character and ethics played a role in Richardson’s time as CNO: though the Fat Leonard scandal didn’t break during Richardson’s tenure, the Navy has continued to feel the effects, with additional censures against officers, investigations holding up officers’ assignments, and more.

Richardson stood up the Navy Leadership and Ethics Center at the Naval War College in Rhode Island, and he said he believes character and ethics are being taken more seriously now than four years ago.

“We’ve got to make sure that we are behaving as an organization consistent with our values as a profession. I think we’re in a much stronger place in that regard right now,” he said.

“I don’t think that there’s two commanders that get together anymore without talking in some way about ethics. So that happens at just about every one of our leadership schools. It’s operationalized more and more, so that there’s some ethical dimension to just about everything that we do. ... I’m optimistic that we’re in a much different place now in terms of where ethics resides in our consciousness as a navy.”

## **United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base Minutes of Business Meeting 8 August 2019**

### **Opening Ceremonies:**

The August 2019 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 81 members present. The meeting started at 1901 with the sound of the diving alarm.

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

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

Submarines lost during the month of August:

<b>USS Bullhead (SS-332)</b>	<b>August 6, 1945 – 3rd War Patrol</b>	<b>Lost with All Hands – 84 Souls</b>
<b>USS Flier (SS-250)</b>	<b>August 13, 1944 – 2nd War Patrol</b>	<b>Lost with 82 Souls – 8 men survived.</b>
<b>USS S-39 (SS-144)</b>	<b>August 13, 1942 – 3rd War Patrol</b>	<b>No loss of life</b>
<b>USS Harder (SS-257)</b>	<b>August 24, 1944 – 6th War Patrol</b>	<b>Lost with All Hands – 79 Souls</b>
<b>USS Cochino (SS-345)</b>	<b>August 26, 1949</b>	<b>No Navy loss of life – one civilian loss – Tusk lost 6 souls during the rescue</b>

### **FIVE Boats and 253 Men Lost**

The USSVI Creed 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:

Robert (Bob) Browning – FTGC – Qualified on USS James K Polk SSBN645B – 1972 – Also served aboard USS Daniel Boone SSBN629, USS Woodrow Wilson SSBN624, USS Francis Scott Key SSBN657, SUBTRAFAC, FBMSTC, and USS Canopus AS34.

John Furst – LT – Qualified on USS Mariano G Vallejo SSBN658 – JUN 1974 – Also served aboard USS Von Steuben SSBN632 and USS Simon Lake AS33

Simon Bolivar SSBN641G and MTS635

### **Old Business:**

**None**

### **New Business:**

#### **UNDIE 500 – Rodney McKanna**

Rodney reminded everyone about the UNDIE 500 event for the next Base meeting. Please bring new unopened packages of underwear (men’s and women’s) to the September 12 Base meeting.

**Secretary – Gordon Long:**

The Minutes from the July Base meeting have been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website. There were no other additions or deletions to the July Base meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

**Treasurer – Gordon Williams:**

The Treasurer's Report for July has been published and promulgated on the website. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved.

**Chaplain – Nick Nichols:****Highlighted boat of the month:**

While on her 3rd war patrol 72 years ago today, **USS S-39 (SS144)** was lost without loss of life after grounding on submerged rocks off Rossel Island, Papua New Guinea. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS Katoomba. The S-39 was abandoned and left to "break up" on the rocks.

On this day, 19 years ago, technology allowed to begin the raising of the H.L. Hunley which was lost over a century ago. Since being recovered and delivered to a high tech lab designed for excavation and preservation, scientists have been in the process of unlocking her secrets and trying to learn why she mysteriously vanished in February 1864. This is the "Happy Hunley Recovery Day."

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

**EMC(SS) Frederick 'Fred' Pennell Sr., USN Ret, WWII SUBVET**, age 95, departed on Eternal Patrol on July 16<sup>th</sup>. His service was held on July 22<sup>nd</sup> with 15 Charleston Base members present. He qualified on USS CERO SS-225 in 1943 and served on TORO SS-422, CREVALLE SS-291 and AMBERJACK II SS-522. Not a USSVI member. Online condolence sent. I was asked by the family to speak on behalf of submariners and I asked that those base members, who could, please attend. He was a WWII Submariner with 4 war patrols and 7 enemy ships sunk on those patrols. We gave him the standard bell tolling service. He was not a USSVI member. Online condolence sent.

**John Johnson, age 77**, departed on Eternal Patrol June 29<sup>th</sup>. He was known as "Jack", "Big Jack", or "Mr. J". **He served in USS Torsk (SS-423) and as UDT.** Not a USSVI member. Online condolence sent.

**TMC(SS) William Wilcox, US Navy Retired**, age 75, departed on eternal patrol July 15th. He served on the RAY SSN 653. Not a USSVI member. Online condolence sent.

**George Gallagher** had his MRI. He has the results of the MRI but can't read it. Its five pages and it may as well be Greek. He is waiting for them to give me an appointment so we can plan my next move. More as it develops.

**Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care. He would like to talk to you so give him a call. His cell #: 843.412.2530. He has been able to show up at the After Battery. If there is anyone living in his area he would like to have a ride to the base meeting if possible?

**Don Londergan** is in Room 136 at Cypress Place. His phone number is now 843-990-3938.

**Bob & Kathleen Ingebretson** have moved to Cumming GA, northeast of Atlanta. He said it was not easy to move but they are now settled. I sent him the info for the Atlanta Base and his comment was: As for the base here they meet in Lawrenceville and with traffic here it could be a pain. At any rate with all we are doing right now I have been too busy to check them out, they will never measure up to the Charleston Base though I am sure. I will definitely stop in when back in the area.

**Ken Curtis** was planning to attend tonight but he received a call from the VA to inform him that he was scheduled for ANOTHER EGD (endoscopy) today at 1100. That makes nine (9) he has had this year. Told me he's now on a first name basis with the nurses and doctors in the lab. Just keep him in prayer. He has retired from his DAV work at the VA Clinic due to many doctors' appointments he could not continue to be there on a regular basis.

**Ron Chambers** has been in the hospital a couple of times since in the last couple of months. He's at the meeting tonight.

**Jim Higgins** will be having back surgery on August 29. Please complete 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.

**Submarine Veterans of WWII – George Sharf:**

We recognized Stacy Power here tonight.

Stacy said that his hat got him a free haircut.

**Social Media – Nick Nichols for Lewis Leal:**

If any member has anything that you would like posted onto the Base Facebook page, send Lou an email social@ussvicb.org.

**Kaps for Kids – Bill Kennedy**

The next Kaps for Kids visit will be at McLeod Hospital in Florence on Tuesday, August 13.

A visit to Shriner's Hospital in Greenville is scheduled for Monday, October 7 at 1000. This trip will involve staying overnight. The group will be staying at Baymont Inn & Suites \$85 per night.

Bill has contacted Summerville Medical Center about visits to the pediatric

Bill has enough coloring books and crayons for the McLeod trip but he is starting to run out of both of these.

**Membership – Larry Knutson**

The Base currently has 281 members.

Annual Dues will start to be accepted in October. National dues are \$25 – Charleston Base dues are \$15.

**VA – Tom Lawson**

The VA is looking for volunteers and are especially in need of drivers.

Tom asked the membership if they would like to have an eligibility specialist attend the Base meeting. He received significant positive response, so he will follow up on this.

A Base member mentioned that the VA is willing to pay for urgent care.

**Scholarship – Carl Chinn**

The committee will be having a raffle tonight. It is a package of items containing:

- A one-year gun range membership from ATP Gunshop

- An ATP polo style shirt.

- An ATP baseball cap.

- An 8 LED flashlight.

- A container of tannerite explosive target powder.

Tickets for the raffle are \$1 or six for \$5.

Challenge coins are available.

The committee has some other items, including some USS George Bancroft objects, which were donated by Jenny Viering available for purchase. The prices for these vary. Please see Carl or Marty.

**Special Events – Rick Sparger**

Rick has received permission from Short Stay to bring the float over Labor Day. We need people to attend and answer questions that folks may have.

Rick was asked to announce that there will be a USS Thresher Memorial dedication ceremony at Arlington on September 26 at 1600.

**CRAMA – Butch Bryar**

Still waiting on State to see if the case will be accepted.

The marina at Patriot's Point is – in fact – owned by Patriot's Point.

**NPS – Ray Sparks**

Nothing to Report

**Fleet Reserve Association – Larry Guthrie for Skip Chilton**

There are two men who will be receiving a 45-year FRA membership pin. One of them is 96 years old.

There will be a golf tournament on September 14. There will be a Prime Rib Dinner at the FRA afterward.

**Public Affairs – Jerry Stout**

Not Present

**Newsletter – Rick Wise**

Nothing to Report

**Recreation – Ed Stank**

Nothing to Report

**Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison**

Nothing to Report as Storekeeper.

**COB – Joe Lunn**

COB encouraged everyone to go see the H.L. Hunley exhibit.

Larry Guthrie asked those who want to go to see him after the meeting.

**Vice Commander – Tom Lawson**

The Chief Selectee Breakfast will be Wednesday, 28 August at 0600 at the Cracker Barrel in North Charleston. All Sub-Vet Chiefs are invited to attend.

**Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko.**

Nothing to Report

**Good of the Order****After Battery – Ray Sparks**

The After Battery is open every Wednesday.

**Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko**

Mike is going to organize a shoot for September. Normally will meet at FRA 0815, then caravan to the location.

Bring your own guns, ammo and paper targets.

**Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson**

It seems the USSVI and FRA are having retention and membership application problems. I can't do anything about the retention; the old guys are going to die sooner or later. All we can do is pray for them and hope that their dues are paid up. I would like to address the new membership and present some exciting ideas. Ever noticed how everything is "exciting"? If we were out in Kansas, where Dorothy is from, you don't see many submarine sailors, but we live in Charleston – the home of the Naval Nuclear Power Training Center. All those nuclear trained personnel – some of which – are qualified. So, ours is a sailor-rich environment. BUT!! This presents a different problem than New London or Norfolk or San Diego or Bremerton. Why, you ask? The nuclear trained personnel are used to the better things in life – and more expensive. So their enticements are a bit more expensive. I guess that is why American Express has the statement, "Membership has its rewards. If we were in New London, we'd be able to give a guy a couple of beers and BOOM! He'd join. But here, our standards are different. The new guys demand choices. So how about a \$100,000 lifetime bonus OR a new \$80,000 car OR a new house – without wheels. Maybe some other items. Advertise (dolphins on your vehicle, sign in the back window or on the tailgate of your truck, home, pocket cards you pass out. Why do I say advertise? I happened to be in Denmark. South Carolina – that is. We had dinner at Blackville – at Miller's Bread Basket. When I stopped in Denmark, I came out to find a little yellow sticky on my car saying, "I'm a Navy Brat. My Dad was a submariner. Where did you find that sticker? Go NAVY! Thanks." It also had the lady's phone number and her name. They may demand a ham at Easter; a turkey at Thanksgiving; a ham and turkey at Christmas; maybe we could give away free FRA tickets at all meetings. We could forgive their NNPTC education loans. Free healthcare while in the military, except for what they pay for Tri-Care. Free phone and phone cards. A free chicken in every pot. Give away free, historically correct superseded uniforms for the past year. A free wheelbarrow to take home your reenlistment bonuses. Why not? The national debt is at \$22 trillion dollars and moving up. We are always open to other great ideas. Please contribute.

**Drawings & Auctions**

FRA Drawing – Nick Nichols

SCHOLARSHIP ATP Drawing – Rick Sparger

SCHOLARSHIP Consolation Prize – Larry Knutson

Depth Charge – Larry Pepper

**Closing Ceremony**

Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting followed by three blasts on the diving alarm.

The meeting was closed at 1953

**FOR SALE**

Charleston Base members who have items they wish to sell may send me the information for inclusion in the newsletter. Items will run for three issues or until I'm notified by the person submitting the ad that it is no longer needed.

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