

# TORPEDO ALLEY



VOL. 18 #5

MAY 2022

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

### Base Meetings:

BOD: Jun 2, 2022  
Membership: Jun 9, 2022

### Location:

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

Newsletter & PAO

Ed Stank

843.568.2148



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

### Table of Contents

- 2 Boats on Eternal Patrol
- 2 From the Editor
- 2 Upcoming Base Events
- 3 From USSVI National
- 4 Humor
- 5 South Carolina Veteran's Info
- 6 Flags for Memorial Day
- 7-10 May Base Meeting Minutes



### Submarines Lost During the Month of May

<b>USS LAGARTO (SS-371)</b>	May 3, 1945 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> War patrol	Lost with All Hands – 86 Souls
<b>USS SCORPION (SSN-589)</b>	May 22, 1968 – returning from deployment	Lost with All Hands – 99 Souls
<b>USS SQUALUS (SS-192)</b>	May 23, 1939 – during test dive	33 survivors – 26 Souls Lost
<b>USS STICKLEBACK (SS-415)</b>	May 30, 1958 – under tow	NO LOSS OF LIFE

#### FOUR Boats and 211 Men Lost

### Submarines Lost During the Month of June

<b>USS HERRING (SS-233)</b>	June 1, 1944 – 8 <sup>th</sup> war patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 83 SOULS
<b>USS R-12 (SS-89)</b>	June 12, 1943 – practice torpedo approach near Key West FL	LOST WITH 42 SOULS - 21 SURVIVORS
<b>USS GOLET (SS-361)</b>	June 14, 1944 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> war patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 82 SOULS
<b>USS BONEFISH (SS-223)</b>	June 18, 1945 – 8 <sup>th</sup> war patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 85 SOULS
<b>USS S-27 (SS-132)</b>	June 19, 1942 – grounded off Amchitka Island Alaska	NO LOSS OF LIFE
<b>USS O-9 (SS-70)</b>	June 20, 1941 – foundered off Isle of Shoals NH	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 33 SOULS
<b>USS RUNNER (SS-275)</b>	June 30, 1943 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> war patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 78 SOULS

#### SEVEN Boats and 403 Men Lost

#### From the Editor

Memorial Day will soon be upon us. Let us take a moment to remember all the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives so we could live ours.

---

#### Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting  
 May 6 1800  
 FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek

Submarine Birthday Ball  
 May 7 1800

Charleston Base Meeting (Social Hr starts 1800)  
 May 13 1900  
 FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek  
 Election of Vice Commander & Secretary

Armed Forces Day  
 May 21 1300

Memorial Day Service  
 May 30 1000  
 Summerville Cemetery

Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting  
 June 2 1800  
 FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek

Charleston Base Meeting (Social Hr starts 1800)  
 June 9 1900  
 FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek  
 Election of Vice Commander & Secretary  
 Guest speaker Donna Basnett, coordinator for the  
 Armed Forces Day on Joint Base Charleston.

Father's Day  
 June 19

**Information of all Charleston Base Events is on [www.ussvicb.org](http://www.ussvicb.org)**

**From USSVI National**

## 2022 USSVI National Convention in Buffalo, NY

As all of you should know, the 2022 National Convention will be held this year in Buffalo, NY.

The on-line registration is  
<http://ussviconvention.org/2022/>

-----  
**To:** Distribution  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 04:34:46 PM EDT  
**Subject:** FW: New VALife Insurance | June is PTSD Awareness Month | 20% Off Coffee for Veterans

Veteran Leaders,

Please share the latest information below from the VA with your veteran communities!

Coming in January 2023 - Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife), which will provide guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance coverage to Veterans age 80 and under, with any level of service-connected disability! Note: some Veterans age 81 and older may also be eligible!

Coverage is in increments from \$10,000 up to \$40,000, with premiums competitive (or better) than private sector availability.

Once locked in, premiums will not increase.

Please click on the "Learn More" button below the article to take you to the VA's information page about this new program!

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/103790/valife-insurance-program-coming-january-2023-veterans-with-service-connection/>

Respectfully,

**Dwight L. Bradham, Jr.**  
Director, Aiken County Veterans Affairs  
803.642.1545

**From:** Wayne E Phillips  
**Date:** May 9, 2022 at 2:02:56 PM EDT  
**To:** ESR D2  
**Subject:** ESR D2 District Commander Newsletter  
**US Navy Letter of Request**

The USSVI National Commander has received a letter from the US Navy requesting that we relinquish our (USSVI) copywrited insignia. We have learned that all of the US Armed Forces are attempting to obtain exclusive rights (copywrite) of their individual insignias. It's really strange that our military never saw fit to do this when they developed/ designed their insignias.

The US Navy Submarine Service was organized in October 1900 with the commissioning of the USS Holland, SS-1, and much later came the development of our coveted 'Dolphins' pin.

The USSVI designed our insignia, which includes the Dolphin pin, in 1966, two years after forming the organization.

The US Navy is now wanting us to give up exclusive rights to the 'Pin'. The BOD approved the NC to communicate with the Law firm that we used for copywriting our insignia regarding this issue.

More will be released when I learn of it. No additional data on this issue as of May 9, 2022

-----  
**2022 National Election:**

National election ballot is listed in the 2 nd Quarter 2022 of the American Submariner. Election dates are included.

- ◆ Online voting is preferred
- ◆ Online 3rd party website link will be provided by email by June 24th
- ◆ Election starts 0001 on June 24th
- ◆ Election ends 2359 on August 23rd
- ◆ Paper ballots must be received by Election Master by August 23rd
- ◆ Election results will be announced at the National Convention. Read the ballot in your American Submariner magazine, page 19.

# Submariner



What society thinks I do



What my friends think I do



What my family thinks I do



What the surface navy thinks I' do



What the recruiter wants me to think that I'll do



What!? I thought we just finished field day?



## **Workforce Enhancement & Military Recognition Act**

After years of advocacy, **Governor Henry McMaster** and **SCDVA Secretary Will Grimsley** are celebrating the passage of the **Workforce Enhancement & Military Recognition Act (H.3247)**. With Governor McMaster signing H.3247 into law, South Carolina is now one of more than three dozen states that exempt military retiree pay from taxation, and will incentivize qualified military Veterans to remain, or relocate to South Carolina.

The law is effective beginning tax years after 2021 making military retiree pay 100-percent exempt from state income tax with no earned-income cap. Prior to the passage of the bill, a portion of a military retiree's income was taxed with only partial exemptions in place.

Governor Henry McMaster first proposed the tax cut for military retirees in January of 2018. The legislation will incentivize Service Members transitioning from active duty to retirement to live, work, or consider relocating to South Carolina.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **SOUTH CAROLINA VETERANS MILITARY LICENSE PLATE CHANGES**

On May 6, 2022, the SCDMV will expand and update its military license plate program in accordance with legislation that takes effect the same day. To align with the new law, several changes will occur:

Some of the military plates will no longer have plate registration fees. Plate registrations paid before the effective date of the new law, May 6, 2022, will not be eligible for a refund.

Select military plates will have free metered parking in South Carolina. For those who qualify, there is also an option to have certain military plates with disabled parking privileges.

Plates with such benefits will have the appropriate design printed on the plate.

Under the new law, qualifying active or prior service members may receive a maximum of three military plates per eligible plate type. For example, if a customer is eligible for only one type of South Carolina military plate, the maximum number of plates for a specific type of plate he or she can receive is three.

If the military customer is authorized to receive more than one type of South Carolina military plates, he or she can receive up to three of each plate type authorized. However, a plate can only be used for a single vehicle, meaning that the customer will not be able to order three plates for one vehicle.

Permanent military plates will no longer be eligible for transfer after the new plates become available. Current permanent military plate holders will be grandfathered under the new requirements and are not required to surrender their current plates. The SCDMV will have a voluntary plate exchange to allow permanent plate holders to exchange the plate for a new military plate. However, the exchanged plate will be subject to the updated requirements under the new law.

There may be more customers attempting to obtain a military plate due to the added benefits of free parking and free registration that many plates will carry under the new law. The agency appreciates your partnership in helping to inform military constituents about the new plates, the changes to current plates, and the added benefits. For convenience, please refer to the Military Plates Quick Reference Guide.

<https://scdva.sc.gov/news/2022-04/military-license-plate-updates-scdmv>

[https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124\\_2021-2022/bills/3805.htm](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124_2021-2022/bills/3805.htm)

<https://www.scdmvonline.com/Vehicle-Owners/Registration/License-Plates/Military-Plates>

## FLAGS FOR MEMORIAL DAY

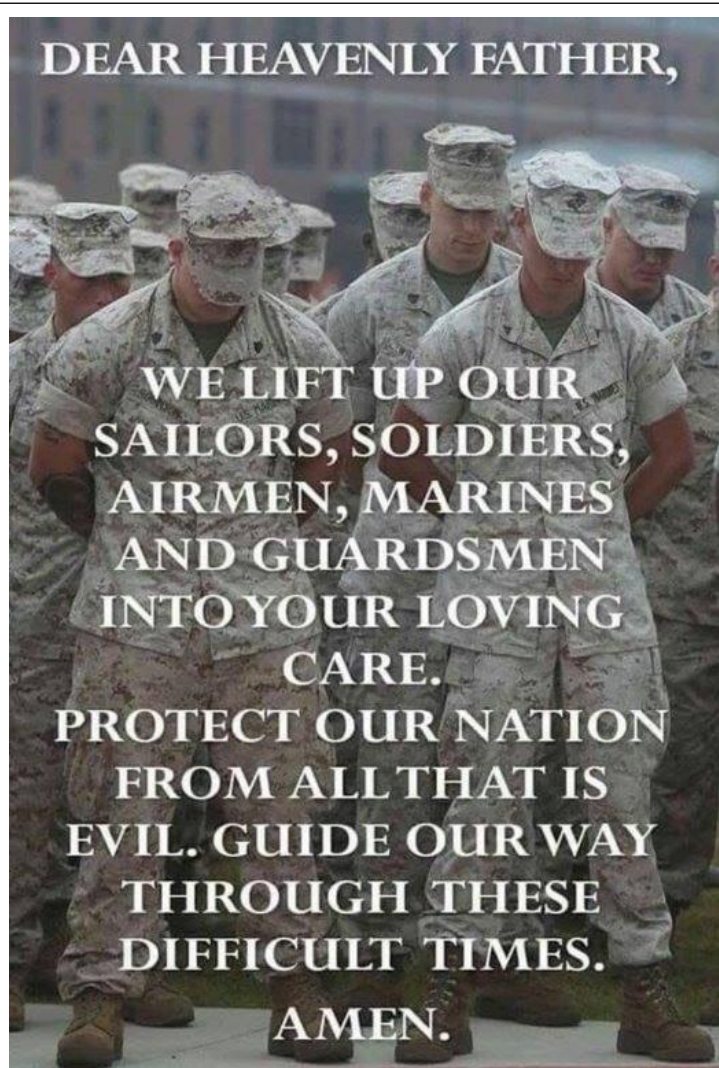
Jeff Reuer and Woody Woodsmall recently represented Charleston Base helping students and staff from the Nuclear Power School place flags in the filed facing Goose Creek City Hall.

There are 5,678 flags for the South Carolinians lost since the beginning of WWII.

The event began at 1400 and was scheduled to complete at 1500. Halfway through a hellish down pour hit. Instead of running for cover they stayed the course and kept right on placing the flags until they were finished.

It was quite a sight seeing all those young men and women working together to get the job done. By their actions, these "kids" have shown the future nuclear Navy looks to be in pretty good hands!





**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.,  
Charleston Base  
Minutes of Business Meeting 12 May 2022**

**Opening Ceremonies:**

- The May 2022 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 52 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Tom Lawson and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of May was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- **Submarines lost during the month of May:**
  - o USS LAGARTO (SS-371) May 3, 1945 – 2nd War patrol Lost with All Hands – 86 Souls
  - o USS SCORPION (SSN-589) May 22, 1968 – returning from deployment Lost with All Hands – 99 Souls
  - o USS SQUALUS (SS-192) May 23, 1939 – during test dive 33 survivors – 26 Souls Lost

- o USS STICKLEBACK (SS-415) May 30, 1958 – under tow off Hawaii NO LOSS OF LIFE

**FOUR Boats and 211 Men Lost**

Master Chief Electricians Mate, Submarines  
James David Williams, U.S. Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol on April 15, 2022

- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Introductions of New Attendees: No first-time guests here tonight

**Old Business:**

- Nominations – Ken Hutchison
  - o Ken requested final nominations for Vice Commander and Secretary with no additional members called for these offices. Both VC and SEC retained positions by acclamation.

**New Business:**

- Tom Lawson and Gordon Long were sworn in for another two-year term for the offices of Vice Commander and Secretary respectively.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko read awards presented by the Southeast Regional District Commander to Ed Stank and Charleston Base.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson read an award to Base Commander Mike Ciesielko from the District Commander for his recruiting efforts.

**Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- The Minutes from the April Base meeting have been emailed directly to the Base membership and had been promulgated on the Base Website. No additions or deletions were noted. The April Base Meeting Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- The Treasurer's Report for April was published and promulgated on the website. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved as presented.

**Chaplain – Nick Nichols:**

- Highlighted boat of the month: USS Squalus SS-192 was lost on May 23, 1939 after suffering a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. Partially flooded, the submarine sank to the bottom and came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR-2)

rescued 33 survivors use the diving bell he invented. 26 men drowned in the after compartments. Later Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish. In an ironic turn of fate, Sailfish sank the Japanese aircraft carrier carrying surviving crew members from Sculpin, which had located Squalus in 1939. Only one of the Sculpin crew survived after spending the rest of the war as slave laborers in Japan.

- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- EMCM(SS) Jim Williams departed on EP on Friday, April 15 at home in Goose Creek. Jim joined the Navy in 1960 and retired in 1992. He was a Life Member of both USSVI [1998] & Charleston Base [1998], a member of the Holland Club, a member the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269 and a member of the American Legion Post 0166. Jim qualified on USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN SSBN602 in 1964 and served on GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SSBN656, L. MENDEL RIVERS SSN686 as COB, THOMAS JEFFERSON SSBN/SSN628 as COB and STURGEON SSN637 as COB. He served on shore duty at NMCRSta New Orleans LA, Recruit Training Command Orlando FL and Commander Squadron Four Squadron Master Chief. His service was held on April 21st with a large number of SUBVETS, FRA members, family and friends present with standing room only.
- Trish Stanley, Mike Emerson's daughter, passed away on April 9th. Her service was held on April 22nd.
- Joyce Harden, widow of Jack Harden EP Feb. 2019, passed away on April 15th. Her service was held on April 23rd.
- Congratulations to new Grandpa James Graham Sr. Louis Dewey Amay Graham was born at MUSC on May 2nd at 0218. 9 lb, 12 oz, 23.2 inches. He is the son of James Graham Jr. and Richelle Amay Graham. Son, parents and granddad are all doing well.
- Larry Rosselot sent this final report on my surgery: The surgery took place on May 10th almost as planned. We had a two hour wait past the scheduled time of the surgery. This was caused by the hospital schedule overflow. We arrived so 0900 for an 1130 surgery time. The surgery did not start till 2pm (1400). Very taxing on our patience. I arrived in recovery about 4:15 (1615). All went well and received over 100 prayer responses. These prayers were responsible for this success. I had very little sleep that night with all the wake-up's for vitals. Plenty of time to pray.

Yes, I had a sleep over till today. Today was filled with follow ups and advice with instructions. We were able to get home by 1 O'clock and have got reorganized to support 15-25-minute walks along with naps and no more than 20-30 minutes sitting in a chair. We are both tired and I have some very low pain. I am to wear a back brace all the time I'm not in bed. (I can have 5 minutes without the brace for a bathroom stop. My first post-op visit with the surgeon is May 19 or 20. So far, no talk about follow-up PT. I seriously wish to thank all of the prayer warriors for your gracious prayers. You have made this a very successful surgery. I pray for each of you for your prayers for me. God bless each of you many times over.

- Tom Skorepa had his lung biopsy on the 3rd. Don Ort stopped in to see Tom Skorepa on Tuesday at Trident Medical Center. He looked really good. His wife and daughter were there. He had a surgical biopsy on his lung and a lymph node removed. He had a drain tube in and they planned to watch him overnight and release him some time Wednesday. They are waiting for the pathology report to be sure of the diagnosis.
- Bill Kennedy reported he has cancer in his right lung but don't know what kind. A sample was sent off to University of Michigan and they don't know either. He is taking radiation to reduce the size of the cancer and to help with the pain. The mass is 5in x 3in. Does have some pills to help with the pain.
- Ed Stank was in an accident on April 26 and his truck was totaled. They had to cut the roof off to get him out. After being checked out in the ER he was sent home the next day. A little stiff and sore but he is still with us.
- Herb Anderson was in the hospital (Georgetown) with polymorphic ventricular tachycardia [unstable heart rhythm in early-April. He was moved to MUSC the middle of April. He is now home recovering and feeling better each day.
- Rodney McKanna got home from the hospital on April 21st with a PIK line for antibiotics. He will be on them until May 11th. Full leg brace until the 27th.
- Bob Gay has been diagnosed with cancer and has begun his chemo.
- Beetle Bailey had hand surgery on April 14th due to tingling in his hands.
- Don Londergan is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136.
- Gene Weir continues his cancer treatments.
- Bob Snyder is still with palliative care.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.



**Webmaster** – Nick Nichols

- Website is constantly updated.
- Make use of the EVENTS page on the Charleston Base website. All events that are put out to the membership via email will be listed and updated on the events page.
- Pictures will now be on the USSVI National website. Please take a look at your profile on the National site and update it if needed. Many have missing info.
- Widows and email info. When a CB SUBVET departs on EP his widow/family are asked if they wish to continue receiving emails and info from the base. If they agree they will receive info until 1) they request it to stop or 2) they discontinue the email in use.
- 'NEW' USSVI National Website. It appears progress is being made for the new website. At least things are moving in that direction.

**Social Media** – Lewis Leal:

- Regarding the public videos, please make sure to give them a "Thumbs Up" as this will cause the algorithm to put the video at the top of a search.

**Submarine Veterans of WWII** – Mike Ciesielko for Mike Emerson:

- Stacy Power is here tonight along with his son Casey. We are glad to see both of them this evening.

**Kaps for Kids** – Mike Emerson

- Not present.

**Membership** – Larry Knutson

- We currently have 267 Charleston Base Members.
- Nick Nichols provided Base standings: Groton – 1159; Hampton Roads – 272; Charleston – 267; Bremerton – 254; Requin – 191; San Diego – 172

**National Awards** – Mike Ciesielko for Mike Knaub

- Mike Knaub has assumed the post of National Awards Chair for Charleston Base.

**VA** – TOM LAWSON

- Nothing to report

**Scholarship** – Carl Chinn

- The balance in the Scholarship Fund is \$9,400.
- The raffle for a large set of powder coated dolphins will be drawn at the end of the meeting tonight.
- Challenge coins are available. There are drawings which can only be won if you have the

## Challenge coin.

- We will be holding a rummage sale in November.

**Special Events** – Rick Sparger

- The Armed Forces Day ceremony will be at the Air Force Base picnic grounds on Saturday, May 21. We will bring the float and set it up as a static display. We will need some men in vests to attend it and answer questions.

**Fleet Reserve Association** – Rick Sparger

- The FRA has dinner available on Saturday.

**Recreation** – Rick Sparger

- The picnic originally planned for June 4 has been cancelled since no one offered to lead it.

**CRAMA** – Butch Bryar

- There has been no ruling from the judge in the case.
- There have been reports of parts being stripped off of Clamagore to be used on other submarine displays around the country. Butch noted that it is a violation to remove any parts from a ship in litigation. Lindsay Nelson noted that an injunction may need to be filed to stop any further cannibalization of material.

**Nuclear Power School** – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks

- The next NPS graduation is Friday May 27 at 0800. Muster at Exchange parking lot to carpool because of limited parking.

**Newsletter** – Ed Stank

- The Base Newsletter was published yesterday.

**Public Affairs** – Ed Stank

- Articles for the Amberjack ceremony and the Holland Club Induction will be submitted to American Submariner.
- Ed is planning to write an article about the Memorial Day ceremony, so please attend this event.

**Storekeeper** – Woody Woodsmall

- Nothing to report.

**COB** – Rick Sparger

- Requested information about the subscription to American Submariner for NNPTC. Nick Nichols will provide.
- We need some help to clean up the float for the Armed Forces Day event.

· Rick Wise thanked COB for the communication with NNPTC as the active-duty turnout from the nuclear power school to the Amberjack Ceremony was terrific.

**Vice Commander** – Tom Lawson

· With NNPTC attendance, this was the best turnout we have had for the Amberjack Ceremony.

**Base Commander** – Mike Ciesielko

· A large set of dolphins had been donated to Charleston Base. Mike requested that they be given to the Scholarship committee. Those in attendance were in favor of this action.

**Good of the Order**

**Nuclear Historian** – Rick Carlson

· Not present.

**Non-Nuclear Historian** – Harry Nettles

· Not present.

**After Battery** – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks

· Nothing to report

**Gun Club** – Mike Ciesielko

· Nothing to report

**Drawings & Auctions**

· Scholarship Dolphins – Don Ort

· Scholarship “Nuclear Waste” – Stacy Power would have won, but did not have a Challenge coin. It will be held until next meeting.

· FRA Drawing – Julian Villegas

· Depth Charge Drawing – Bill Roup

**Closing Ceremony**

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

· Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting.

· Vice Commander Tom Lawson sounded three blasts of the diving alarm.

· Meeting closed at 1957.

Chief Coffee Cup  by Brian Amstader



All rights reserved. brian@chiefcoffee.com ©Brian Amstader 2022