

# TORPEDO ALLEY



VOL. 18 #67 & #8

JULY-AUGUST 2022

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

### Base Meetings:

BOD: Jul 7, 2022

Aug 4, 2022

Membership: Jul 14, 2022

Aug 11, 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

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### Submarines Lost During the Month of July

USS S-28 (SS 133)	July 4, 1944 – Training Exercise	LOST WITH ALL HANDS 49 SOULS
USS ROBALO (SS 273)	July 26, 1944 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> War patrol	LOST WITH 77 MEN; 4 DIED AS POW'S; 81 SOULS
USS GRUNION (SS 216)	July 30, 1942 – 1 <sup>ST</sup> War patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS 70 SOULS

THREE Boats and 202 Men Lost

### Submarines Lost During the Month of August

USS BULLHEAD (SS 332)	August 6, 1945 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> War Patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 84 SOULS
USS FLIER (SS 250)	August 13, 1944 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> War Patrol	LOST WITH 83 SOULS; 8 MEN SURVIVED
USS S-39 (SS 144)	August 14, 1942 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> War Patrol	NO LOSS OF LIFE
USS HARDER (SS 257)	August 24, 1944 – 6 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 79 SOULS
USS COCHINO (SS 345)	August 26, 1949	NO NAVY LOSS OF LIFE; ONE CIVILIAN LOSS; TUSK LOST 6 SOULS DURING THE RESCUE

FIVE Boats and 253 Men Lost

August 14, 1945 - VJ Day – Victory in the Pacific

#### From the Editor

During a recent Base Meeting I noticed something that I am ashamed that I did nothing to remedy. Sitting alone at a table was a man qualified in submarines that no one offered for him to sit at their table. Why you ask would this happen in a group that professes to be brothers of the Phin. Was he a thief, a child molester, a non-believer? Whatever it was, it appeared he was a lonely man at that table by himself.

How would you feel if that was you at that table? Shipmates, let's put a stop to anyone needing to sit at a table waiting or an invitation to join someone else. 'Nuff' said!!!

#### Upcoming Charleston Base Events

CB Board of Directors Meeting  
August 4 1800  
FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek

CB Meeting (Social Hour starts 1800)  
August 11 1900  
FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek

CB Board of Directors Meeting  
September 1 1800  
FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek

CB Meeting (Social Hour starts 1800)  
September 8 1900  
FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek

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

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#### NATIONAL WEBSITE INFO FROM CHARLESTON BASE WEBMASTER

Base Members,

Until the new and improved USSVI National Website is up and running, there is now a New [OLD] website you can use by going to the URL of [www.ussubvets.org](http://www.ussubvets.org) to gain access to most all of the features of the site we were using. Individual members can make corrections of your information can be made on this website.

If you prefer you can send any changes you would like to be made to either me [[webmaster@ussvicb.org](mailto:webmaster@ussvicb.org)] or Larry Knutson [[membership@ussvicb.org](mailto:membership@ussvicb.org)] and we will do it for

you. The changes will be made once the NEW website is online.

The new more modern Blackbaud Website becomes active which is tentatively set for a timeframe between the end of August or first part of September.

Any questions please email me and I'll try to explain to your satisfaction.

## 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/>

### HUMOR

There was a ragged, old, retired Submariner Senior Chief who shuffled into a waterfront bar. Stinking of whisky and cigarettes, his hands shook as he took the "Piano Player Wanted" sign from the window and handed it to the bartender.

"I'd like to apply for the job," he said.

The barkeep wasn't too sure about this doubtful looking old Squid, but it had been quite awhile since he had a piano player and business was falling off. So, the barkeep decided to give him a try.

The old Senior Chief staggered his way over to the piano while several patrons snickered. But, by the time he was into the third bar of music, every voice was silenced. What followed was a rhapsody of sound and music, unlike anyone had heard in the bar before. When he finished there wasn't a dry eye in the place. The bartender took the old Senior Chief a beer and asked him the name of the song he had just played.

"It's called, 'Drop Your Skivvies, Baby! We're Gonna Rock Tonight'," said the old Senior Chief after he took a long pull from the beer. The bartender and the crowd winced, but the piano player went on with a knee-slapping, hand-clapping bit of ragtime that had the place jumping.

After he finished, the Senior Chief

acknowledged the applause and told the crowd the song was called, "Big Boobs Make My Anchor Chain Run Out." He then excused himself as he lurched off to the head.

When the guy came out of the head, the bartender went over to him and said, "Look senior Chief, the job is yours, but do you know your fly is open and your pecker is hanging out?"

"Know it?" the old Senior Chief replied, "Hell, I wrote it!"

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### USSVI NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INFORMATION

NEWS-01: New website

Submitted by: Tim Carlisle on 7/22/2022

Good afternoon USSVI - here is the latest regarding the website.

Everything is going smoothly with the new website and database - we believe barring some out-of-the-box, unforeseen issues, we will complete the project in August 2022.

In the coming months, we will develop "tools" training for all Base Commanders, Membership Chairs, Treasurers, District Commanders, and above. We still have a bit more training to complete ourselves and will continue to work on this critical item.

The new old, reconstructed site <http://ussubvets.org/home.asp>, is working very well, for reference purposes, membership editing, and the 2022 National Elections - we have repaired some minor issues, as is expected when rebuilding a site of this magnitude. I also wanted to let you know we installed our digital certificate yesterday (which may have caused some slowdown issues), so now the site shows as secure. We ordered the certificate quite a while ago and just received it. We made a risk-based decision to release the website - to serve our members the best we could.

Please bear in mind this site <http://ussubvets.org/home.asp> has been posted to serve as an interim until the Blackbaud Website is completed.

If you find a bug, fill out this bug report - we will

get to it. Gerry Smith, our webmaster for this site, may reach out to you to test the fix. His email for bug fixes is [ussvi@e911systems.com](mailto:ussvi@e911systems.com)

If you have questions, contact me at [ussviwebsitequestions@gmail.com](mailto:ussviwebsitequestions@gmail.com). I monitor the email and am happy to answer your questions.

Talk to you next month!  
Pride Runs Deep, Tim Carlisle

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**Date:** June 20, 2022 at 12:26:04 PM EDT  
**Subject: Fw: USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-023**

**National Election Time:**

**Base POCs:** Ensure that each of your Base members receive a copy of this email follow up. Forward this email to your Base members using the Bcc address bar and add my email address.

If you cannot vote by computer, use the paper ballot in the *American Submariner* magazine, current issue and mail it in. Mailing and computer instructions are provided below. **Election begins at 00:00:01 AM, June 24, 2022 and ends 2359 PM, August 15, 2022.** Votes before or after these times and dates will not be counted.

**To:** wayne phillips.ser2dc

**Sent:** Monday, June 20, 2022 at 09:54:15 AM EDT

**Subject:** USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-023

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**NEWS-01: Voting in the 2022 USSVI National Election instructions**

Submitted by: Tom Conlon, USSVI Election Master on 6/20/2022

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**2022 USSVI NATIONAL ELECTION BEGINS**

Voting in the 2022 USSVI National Election will begin at 00:00:01 AM, June 24, 2022. Voting will continue until 2359, August 15, 2022.

Online voting is via the newly reconstituted USSVI website ([www.ussubvets.org](http://www.ussubvets.org)). When voting begins, the "Vote in Election" button will be available. When you click on the button, you will get to the USSVI National Ballot. Once there, cast

your ballot accordingly. There is also space to write in a candidate of your choice.

When you vote, you do so from your primary Base. The Regional Director vote reflects the location of your primary Base. This may be different from the location of your residence. You can only vote for the Regional Director who represents the location of your primary Base.

There is one (1) Proposed Bylaws change. Vote "YES" or "NO" on the proposed change.

Candidate's Statements and the text of the Proposed Amendment are in the current issue of *The American Submariner*.

As always, you may vote by paper ballot. I must receive any paper ballots no later than August 10, 2022. This will allow me to count any "last minute" ballots. I will discard any ballots I receive after August 15th.

Mail-in Ballot Mail to:

**Tom Conlon,  
USSVI Election Master  
8 Davis Avenue  
Harrison, NJ 07029**

You must complete your own ballot. We do not allow "proxy voting."

**Base Commanders:** You may print a supply of paper ballots and distribute them at a Base meeting. However, each member must complete their own ballot. You may collect the ballots and send them to me as a package. I must also receive that package no later than August 10th.

You may also bring a suitable computer to a Base meeting and members may vote using that computer. Again, each member must cast their own online ballot.

My goal is for as many members as possible to vote in our election. Remember: **Your vote is your "voice" in our organization's operation.**

Tom Conlon USSVI National Election Master

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**Resources for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.**

VA's Health and Benefits mobile app enables Veterans to send secure messages to health care providers, view upcoming appointments, view

claims and appeals status, upload documentation, locate VA facilities, download Veteran benefits letters to prove Veteran status, and more. Veterans can also login using fingerprint or face ID. **Download the app on iPhone or Android**

This is an excellent app to garner VA information and news.

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**VA FYI: Travel Information & VA Services;  
From ESRD Ken Nichols**



You may be planning some travel this Summer to see family and friends and visit sites across the United States, or be travelling for work.

Did you know that the **VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center** is available to Veterans enrolled for VA care across south Georgia, most of Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands wherever you travel in the United States? **Add our toll-free number, 1-877-741-3400, to your mobile device's contact list as you pack for your trip.**

If you are not feeling well and need urgent care while you are away from home, you can receive the same timely and quality care you receive through the VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center while you are travelling. We are available to meet your needs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via our toll free number which will connect you with one of our talented team members. The Clinical Contact Center even has the capability to provide you with an urgent first fill of medications at community pharmacies across the country when it is related to a virtual urgent care visit you have with Dr. Lindsey Elmes or Dr. Bruce Hunt who are pictured here or one of our other medical providers.

By calling the VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center and being triaged by a registered nurse and having a virtual visit by telephone or video with a physician or nurse practitioner if needed, you can

quickly get back to enjoying your travels with confidence and trust in the care provided. Our team also includes pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and advanced medical support assistants who partner with registered nurses and the medical providers with the goal of providing you with first contact resolution. Plus, your treatment is documented in your VA electronic medical record and is available to your home VA care team!

If you experience respiratory concerns or COVID symptoms, we encourage you to reach out to us through our toll-free number. We have the capability to care for you while you are at home or away travelling. Keep in mind that there is a new medication available for the early (less than 5 days from onset) treatment of COVID, and it can be prescribed by Clinical Contact Center medical providers. This care coordination opportunity is important to us in keeping you healthy and ready to enjoy the summer months.

If you prefer texting versus the telephone, you can download the **VA Health Chat app** to connect with us. This secure chat app can be found on the Apple or Google Play stores and is available at no cost. If you choose to use VA Health Chat, know that it's use through the VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center is limited to 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Eastern, Monday to Friday excluding Federal holidays.

You can review the **VA Facility Locator** for information about urgent care and emergency departments. The VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center should not be used for emergency situations. In the event of a life-threatening emergency, please dial 911 or visit the closest emergency department. If your condition is not emergent and does not require a face-to-face visit, we encourage you to give virtual urgent care through the VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center a try from the comfort of your home or travels.

Have a safe and healthy Summer and thank you for making VA your trusted health care provider!

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**New Defense Department ID Cards Are Finally Compatible With TSA Security**

22 Jul 2022

Military.com | By Patricia Kime

There's good news for military personnel with new Common Access Cards, as well as retirees and military family members who received the Defense Department's next-generation identification card during the past two years: The IDs now work at Transportation Security Administration security checkpoints at all U.S. airports.

For the past two years, those with the new cards have needed to produce an alternate form of identification at many airports, since the IDs' barcodes were incompatible with the TSA's scanning system.

The problem was resolved in June, according to DoD spokeswoman Lisa Lawrence.

"DOD and TSA worked to identify the source of the problem," Lawrence told Military.com in an email Wednesday. "TSA has implemented a software update and completed the distribution to the field to correct the problem in early June 2022."

While the problem has largely been an inconvenience, since many people also travel with a driver's license, passport or other form of ID, it has become more of an imperative as a May 3, 2023, deadline approaches for everyone who flies domestically in the U.S. or visits a government facility.

As of that date, travelers and visitors will need to have a REAL ID card from their state or a DoD ID card, which is acceptable as a REAL ID.

A REAL ID meets minimum security standards for identification and production, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

The Defense Department updated the new IDs, known as USID, for active-duty family members, military retirees and their dependents, reservists and Medal of Honor recipients in 2020, the first upgrade to the cards since 1993.

The new USID cards look similar to Common Access Cards, but don't have a built-in chip. They do have durable lamination, full-color photos and enhanced security features, making them less likely to be misused or counterfeited.

The cards are being phased in as the older versions expire; the DoD said earlier this month that retirees and family members who hold old cards that lack an expiration date **have four years to get the new version.**

Any old cards with expiration dates must be replaced within 90 days of elapsing or they are subject to confiscation at installation gates.

Pentagon spokesman Army Maj. Charlie Dietz said those with cards with no expiration dates may replace them "at their convenience." The DoD recommends holders go to **the ID Card Office Online**, find a site that issues the new cards, and book an appointment.

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### Time to Renew? DoD Retirees and Dependents Now Getting Redesigned ID Cards



3 Mar 2021

Military.com | By Patricia Kime

Military retirees and family members renewing or getting their first military identification cards this year are nearly guaranteed to receive the Next Generation Uniform Services Identification, or USID, Card, the first update to Defense Department IDs for non-active duty beneficiaries in nearly 30 years.

According to Pentagon data, 97% of the DoD's ID renewal offices, known as Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification Card System, or RAPIDS, sites worldwide are issuing the new cards, which more closely resemble Common Access Cards used by troops and DoD civilians.

More than 200,000 new cards had been issued as of Feb. 28, according to data provided by the Pentagon.

The USID cards are more durable than the previous laminated cards since they are hard plastic and feature advanced security measures that make them less susceptible to counterfeiting and being used for fraud, according to defense officials.

The cards are being issued to new retirees and family members, as well as beneficiaries whose cards have expired. The transition to the new cards is expected to be completed by January 2026.

Those eligible for the ID cards include dependents of active-duty troops; Reserve members; retirees and their dependents; Medal of Honor recipients and their dependents; 100%-disabled veterans and their dependents; and dependents of Reserve members activated for 30 days or more.

As anyone with a military ID knows, the cards are necessary to access military bases easily, shop at commissaries and exchanges, and use on-base amenities.

In April, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, **Pentagon officials announced that dependent and retiree cards** that were to expire in 2020 had been extended automatically through September. This allowance has been extended again through June 2021 to help eliminate the need to visit a RAPIDS site in person.

Beneficiaries who have the current ID card should not seek a new card solely for the purpose of obtaining the new style, DoD officials said. The old-style ID cards will remain valid through their expiration date, according to the Pentagon.

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NEWS-01: August VSO Newsletter

Submitted by: John Dudas, USSVI VSO on 8/1/2022

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New Defense Department ID Cards Are Finally Compatible With TSA Security  
[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/07/22/new-defense-department-id-cards-are-finally-compatible-tsa-security.html?ESRC=mr\\_220725.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/07/22/new-defense-department-id-cards-are-finally-compatible-tsa-security.html?ESRC=mr_220725.nl)

Why You Should Get a Veterans Designation on

Your Driver's License

[https://www.military.com/discounts/veterans/why-you-should-get-veterans-designation-your-drivers-license.html?ESRC=navy-a\\_220720.nl](https://www.military.com/discounts/veterans/why-you-should-get-veterans-designation-your-drivers-license.html?ESRC=navy-a_220720.nl)

Military Retirees and Dependents With ID Cards That Don't Expire Need to Get Replacements Within 4 Years

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/07/14/military-retirees-and-dependents-id-cards-dont-expire-need-get-replacements-within-4-years.html?ESRC=navy-a\\_220720.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/07/14/military-retirees-and-dependents-id-cards-dont-expire-need-get-replacements-within-4-years.html?ESRC=navy-a_220720.nl)

The VA Just Changed This Home Loan Inspection Rule

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/07/15/va-just-changed-home-loan-inspection-rule.html?ESRC=navy-a\\_220720.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/07/15/va-just-changed-home-loan-inspection-rule.html?ESRC=navy-a_220720.nl)

155,000 Military Health System Patients to Be Pushed to Civilian Care Starting This Year

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/07/12/155000-military-health-system-patients-be-pushed-civilian-care-starting-year.html?ESRC=mr\\_220718.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/07/12/155000-military-health-system-patients-be-pushed-civilian-care-starting-year.html?ESRC=mr_220718.nl)

These Resorts and Hotels Are Just for Veterans and Military Members

[https://www.military.com/travel/these-resorts-and-hotels-are-just-veterans-and-military-members.html?ESRC=mr\\_220711.nl](https://www.military.com/travel/these-resorts-and-hotels-are-just-veterans-and-military-members.html?ESRC=mr_220711.nl)

Senators Block VA Review of Hospital Closures, Upgrades

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/06/28/senators-block-va-review-of-hospital-closures-upgrades.html?ESRC=mr\\_220704.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/06/28/senators-block-va-review-of-hospital-closures-upgrades.html?ESRC=mr_220704.nl)

Requirement for Women to Register for the Draft Back on in Annual Defense Bill

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/06/27/requirement-women-register-draft-back-table-annual-defense-bill.html?>

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**After 3 Tries, Veterans Toxic Exposure Bill --  
the PACT Act -- Finally Passes US Senate**

2 Aug 2022

Military.com | By Patricia Kime and Drew F.  
Lawrence

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Whoops of victory and tears of joy broke out in the U.S. Senate chamber Tuesday as the legislative body finally passed the bill that will provide health care and disability compensation to millions of veterans sickened by environmental exposures during their time in service.

The 86-11 vote on the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, also known as the PACT Act, came six days after the bill's legislative collapse in the Senate. That failure sparked protests and an around-the-clock vigil by veterans and family members at the U.S. Capitol, drawing national attention to the plight of troops with illnesses related to living and working near open-air waste disposal burn pits or who were exposed to radiation, herbicides and other chemicals encountered on battlefields.

"History is being made by these leaders right here," said Rosie Torres, who cofounded the advocacy group Burn Pits 360 with her husband, former Army officer Le Roy Torres, and others more than a decade ago. "I want to recognize the veterans that didn't go home, the ones that have walked the halls for 13 years. ... We did it all for the fallen that are not here."

The bill will now go to President Joe Biden's desk. He is expected to sign it in the coming weeks.

The move followed several days of negotiations between Senate Democrats and Republicans that resulted in three lawmakers offering amendments, on topics that included how to pay for the legislation and protect the **Department of Veterans Affairs**' private health care program from becoming overwhelmed by an influx of new patients.

Ultimately, the measure sailed past the 60

votes required to pass the bill.

"You did this. You never gave up, and we won," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York told the crowd of veterans at the Capitol following the vote.

The Senate voted July 27 to advance the bill, 55-42. But it fell short of the 60 needed for it to head to a final vote.

The failure sparked outrage among veterans and advocates who have worked for years to ensure that post-9/11 veterans and those from other eras who inhaled chemicals or were exposed to carcinogens during service were guaranteed access to health care and disability benefits.

Veterans camped out in 90-plus-degree heat, high humidity and driving rain and storms to force the Senate to reconsider. For six days sympathetic senators, VA Secretary Denis McDonough and advocates, including comedian Jon Stewart, brought food, water and other support to those camped out on the Senate steps.

The bill had already passed the Senate in June on an 84-14 vote, appearing to put it on a glide path to becoming law. But shortly after the Senate vote, House lawmakers discovered language that ran afoul of the Constitution's requirement that tax-related issues originate in the lower chamber. The problematic section would have provided a tax incentive to entice health care workers to move to rural VA facilities.

The House then passed a version of the bill without the tax language in a 342-88 vote earlier this month, kicking it back to the Senate; that vote failed.

But the third time was the charm.

Stewart, who has worked for months to bring the issue before lawmakers -- including the president, who mentioned burn pits in his State of the Union Address this year -- said he was "relieved."

"I'm just relieved, man. So happy that [the veterans] can finally go home," Stewart said in an interview with Military.com following passage.

"Today's passage of the PACT Act is a landmark victory for veterans of all ages, of all

conflicts and their families," said Tim Borland, national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in a statement following the vote. "Too many of our veterans have suffered over the years from effects of toxic exposure, with no medical care, no recompense and no support to their loved ones."

The PACT Act will expand health care and benefits to post-9/11 veterans exposed to burn pits used in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere to incinerate trash and other environmental hazards, such as volatile organic compounds, depleted uranium and petrochemicals.

The bill designates 23 diseases as presumed to be linked to military service, paving the way for veterans to receive expedited health services and disability compensation without having to provide proof that their illness was service-related.

The bill also contains provisions for veterans who served in previous conflicts. It would expand benefits for Vietnam-era veterans who have developed hypertension as a result of Agent Orange exposure; would allow veterans and family members sickened by contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, to file lawsuits; and expand coverage for veterans exposed to radiation during hazardous cleanups in the 1960s and 1970s.

The amendments offered on the legislation included one from Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., who proposed that the bill be funded using mainly discretionary funds, the amount of which are determined and set by Congress each year, instead of mandatory spending, which would automatically have to be funded in every budget cycle.

A second was offered by Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., who sought to cover the cost of the bill by reducing funds to the U.S. Agency for International Development, while Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., offered an amendment to allow veterans in the VA health system immediate access to community care.

All three failed.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated the cost of the bill to be more than \$278 billion

over the next 10 years.

VA Secretary McDonough has said that the department will work to ensure that the expansion required to meet the needs of newly eligible veterans would not delay or disrupt care for veterans currently in the system.

"This is a very important piece of legislation. I think it'd be very difficult to implement, but oftentimes, the most important things are difficult, and I think we're ready for it," he said during a hearing in June.

"I'm happy about it. I think this bill is going to save lives. I think it's going to support the veteran community," said Samantha Turner, a former Army officer following the vote. "But I'm also frustrated. I want to make sure that veterans' lives and veterans' legislation are never used as a political football again."

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### **The Veterans' Crisis Line**

On July 16, 2022, the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL) changed to a new number: **Dial 988 then Press 1.**

The new, shorter number directly addresses the need for ease of access and clarity in times of crisis, both for Veterans and non-Veterans alike.

This change is the result of the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, which designated 988 as the universal telephone number within the U.S. for purposes of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system, operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and VCL.

Upon 988 activation, Veterans may still dial 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, which will continue to be operational. VCL text (838255) and chat services remain unchanged (VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat).

Crisis support, available 24/7/365, is one critical component of implementation of the National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide (2018).

The VA looks forward to the 988 transition as a milestone in our collaborative work to advance access to world-class care and services.

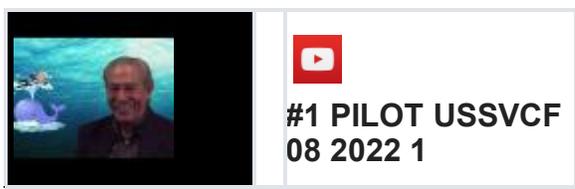
Each and every one of us has a responsibility in supporting those that suffer from hidden disease that is called mental health. If you see something say something!

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**USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-030**

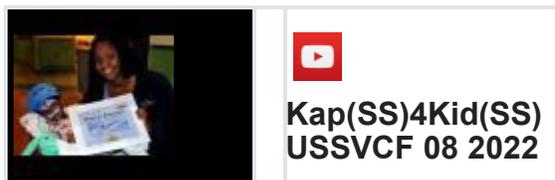
If you have already tried to view either or both of the two You Tube videos and didn't have success, click on the below links or copy one of the links and past it into your browser address bar, then press the enter key. Like and Subscribe to the USSVCF You Tube videos.

**#1 PILOT USSVCF 08 2022 1**



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**Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) USSVCF 08 2022**



Look for future USSVCF and USSVI You Tube videos coming soon. Let me know what you think of these.

*Wayne E. Phillips* (former USN TM2(SS) Launcher Tech)  
USSVI ES2 District Commander (2017 - Present)

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**Leadership Message to Stakeholders**  
July 2022

In addition to continuing as a top facility in quality and efficiency, the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center continues to be the only 5- star medical facility in South Carolina for patient satisfaction. Our VA goes beyond health care in so many ways to make sure the whole Veteran is taken care of by an incredibly devoted team. Our

staff coordinates with other agencies to meet non-medical needs, such as providing transportation for those who need assistance getting to appointments; lodging; food; mental health services, and fun activities-- all while finding ways to honor our Veterans and being a good community partner. You, our patients deserve nothing less.

Healthcare innovation can drive economic growth by improving efficiency and increasing productivity, as well as optimizing patient outcomes. There are so many amazing things going on here in our Health Care System and I want to highlight three initiatives aimed at improving care for our Veterans.

The Ralph H. Johnson VA Health Care System, one of a select number of high-performance VAs in the country was approved in February to start a **Kidney Transplantation Program**. We are proud to offer this to our Veterans. This will enable us to provide care for Veterans who currently must go outside our VA for this service. We have an anticipated start date for the program of January 2023.

Another major win for RHJ is the addition of **Robotic- Assisted Surgery**. We are proud to now offer robotic-assisted surgery to many of our Veterans. This allows surgeons to perform more complex minimally invasive surgical procedures with increased precision. Robotic surgery offers benefits to patients such as shorter hospitalization stays and smaller incisions, resulting in a reduced risk of infection. We currently have four robots and have completed 209 surgeries to date.

Did you know that RHJ has a **3D Innovation Center** that was instrumental in the fight against COVID-19 for many of our Veterans and continues to improve the lives of many every day? The center was established and selected to be one of three National 3D Printing Hubs for VHA to provide patient-specific health care solutions using Advanced Manufacturing. During 2020 and now, the center's focus is on providing PPE to protect staff and patients from the COVID-19 virus. The center continues to expand its services, now providing digital dental solutions that include

night guards, custom trays, and soon dentures. This is a win for our Veterans because it poses a more accurate device at a faster turnaround time than traditional methods. The center also provides custom devices for patient-specific needs such as wheelchair attachment pieces including trays, baskets, and cup holders. The center's latest development is producing anatomical models based on CT or MRI imaging that provides surgeons the capability to plan out surgical procedures in advance as well as provide patients a more enhanced educational explanation for their clinical situation.

I am so happy to share our innovation updates with you and I want to extend my sincere appreciation for everyone's support and dedication to our Veterans and their families. We couldn't do what we do without you. Our VA is proud to be a part of this community and we are grateful to be able to work with our partners to care for our Veterans.

Lastly, I think it is essential to stay in contact with all our Veterans and share news, relevant stories, and events. We do all of this on social media and encourage all of you to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

*Sincerely, //Signed//* **Scott Isaacks, Director/CEO**

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### **VA: Health and Benefits Mobile App**

An app to help Veterans quickly and easily manage their VA benefits and services VA's app allows Veterans to quickly and easily check the status of their services and complete simple transactions across health and benefits.

Available for Apple and Android.

VA is here for you.

[VA Mobile Apps](#)

<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/mobile-apps>

VA offers a variety of health-related mobile apps for Veterans to help them take control of their health care from the palm of their hands

### Phone Numbers

**1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)** is always the right number

Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255

Vet Centers: 1-877-927-8387

Homeless Veteran Resources: or Chat

White House VA Hotline: 1-855-948-2311

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## **ADMIRAL JAMES B. OSBORN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE**

### **Dolphin Metal Art Raffle**

The Admiral James B. Osborn Memorial Scholarship committee has a beautiful piece of metal art up for raffle.

Dolphins are 48" wide by 21" high. They are cut out of steel and have a nice powder coated finish.

These dolphins will look good in any man cave, I love me room/wall, home bar or garage.



Raffle will start at our regular meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Drawing will be held at our regular meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

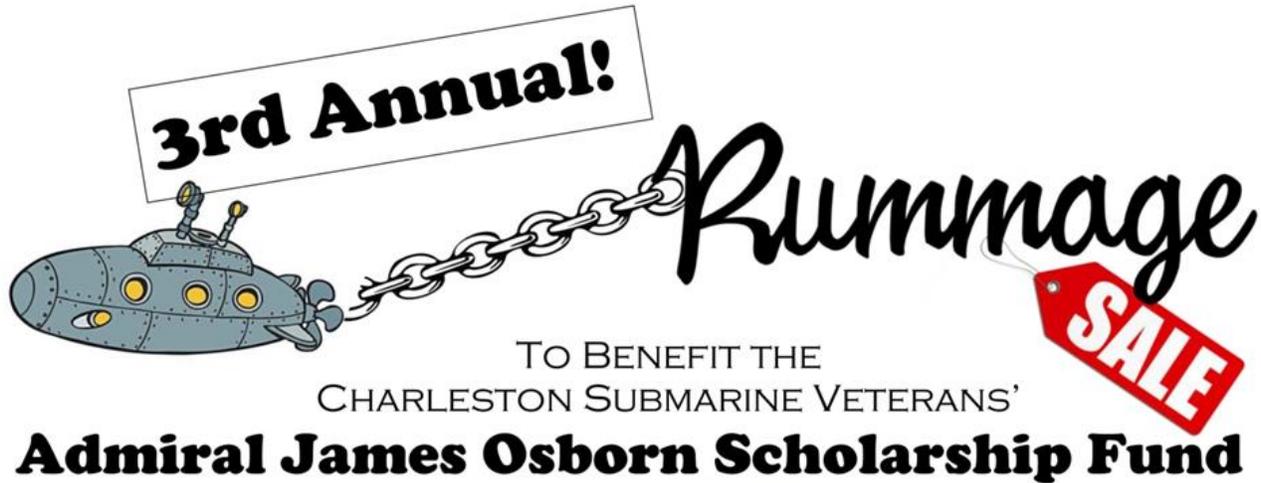
Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and available at the meetings. You can also contact Carl Chinn, Marty Sessler or Rick Sparger.

As with all of our raffles, this one is open to anyone. So if you have other shipmates that are not members get them to buy some tickets too!

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rummage Sale!

The Scholarship Committee will be holding their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rummage Sale to benefit the Admiral James B. Osborn Memorial Scholarship. The sale is open to the public. Donations can be made any time, contact Rick Sparger, Marty Sessler or Carl Chinn. We ask that if you can, please self store until the sale. Sale will be at the same location as the last two years; Rodney's Rockets on Trolley Road. Same as last year...no clothing or bedding please!



The Scholarship Committee will hold a HUGE sale of miscellaneous household goods, tools, sports, toys, etc. Deals galore!  
All proceeds go to the United States Submarine Veterans Charleston Base's Admiral James B. Osborn Memorial Scholarship Fund.

**Date: Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022** (Rain date Nov. 19)

**Where: 1825 Old Trolley Rd  
Summerville, SC**  
(Halloween Express / Rodney's Rockets)

**Time: 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.**



**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.,  
Charleston Base Minutes of Business Meeting  
14 July 2022**

**Opening Ceremonies:**

The July 2022 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 48 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 July was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.

Submarines lost during the month of July:

o USS S-28 (SS-133) July 4, 1944 – Training Exercise Lost with All Hands – 49 Souls

o USS ROBALO (SS-273) July 26, 1944 – 3RD war patrol Lost with 77 Men – 4 Died as POWs – 81 Souls

o USS GRUNNION (SS-216) July 30, 1942 – 1ST war patrol Lost with All Hands – 70 Souls  
THREE Boats and 200 Men Lost

First Class Electronics Technician, Submarines  
Dennis M. McFarland, U.S. Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol May 25, 2022

Chief Machinist Mate, Submarines  
James Donald Phillips Jr., U.S. Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol June 3, 2022

Senior Chief Machinist Mate, Submarines  
Robert Wayne Gay, U.S. Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol June 18, 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 new guests attended the meeting this evening

**Old Business:**

Charleston Base By-Laws – Mike Ciesielko  
o There were no changes to the Charleston Base By-Laws this year.

**New Business:**

None

**Secretary – Gordon Long:**

The Minutes from the June 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 June Base Meeting Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

The Treasurer's Report for May 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:

o USS ROBALO (SS-273) was 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.

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

ET1(SS) Dennis M. McFarland, US Navy Ret., 69, departed on Eternal Patrol on May 25, 2022, in PA. Dennis entered the Navy in 1982 and retired in 2003. He was a member of USSVI and Charleston Base [2011]. He qualified on USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SSBN 656 in 1986. He also served on TENNESSEE SSBN 734, KENTUCKY SSBN 737, ATLANTA SSN 712 and PENNSYLVANIA SSBN 735. A note of condolence was left on the funeral home website.

MMC(SS) James Donald Phillips, Jr., US Navy Ret., 73, of Ladson, departed on Eternal Patrol on

Friday, June 3, 2022. Jim entered the Navy in 1961 and retired in 1991. He was a member of USSVI and Charleston Base [2011]. He qualified on USS Andrew Jackson SSBN-619 in 1972 and served on Fulton AS-1 1, Kamehameha SSBN-642, Stonewall Jackson SSBN-634 and John C Calhoun SSBN-630. His service was on Sunday, June 12 at Bryant Funeral Home, St. George, from 5:00-7:00 PM. A note of condolence was placed on the funeral home website.

□ MMCS(SS) Robert W. Gay, US Navy Ret., 79, departed on Eternal Patrol on June 19, 2022. Bob joined the Navy in 1963 and retired in 1986. He was a Life Member of both USSVI [2013] & Charleston Base [2013], a member of the Holland Club, and a member the FRA Branch 269. Bob qualified on USS SEA CAT SS-399 in 1964 and served on TIRANTE SS-420, SAILFISH SSR/SS-572, HALFBEAK SS-352, DANIEL BOONE SSBN-629, BIRMINGHAM SSN-695, L.Y. SPEAR AS-36, and BATON ROUGE SSN-689. He served on shore at Naval Reserve Center in Charleston SC. His service, including FRA Two-Bell and SUBVETS Bell Tolling, was conducted on June 23rd at his church. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.

□ Raymond Lee Toler Sr., US Navy Ret., 84, of North Charleston, departed on Eternal Patrol on Saturday, June 11, 2022. Ray retired from the Navy after serving 24 years. He served on the USS Trout SS-566 and other boats not known. His service was Saturday, June 18 at Carolina Memorial Funeral Home. Ray was not a member of USSVI. A note of condolence was placed on the funeral home website.

□ CDR Michael J. O'Donnell, US Navy Retired, departed on Eternal Patrol on Sunday June 12, 2022 in IN. He qualified on USS Tecumseh SSBN-628 in the late 70's and also served on Flying Fish SSN-673. Michael was not a member of USSVI. A note of condolence was placed on the funeral home website.

□ Master Chief Oakley James Post Sr., USCG Ret., age 92 father of Keith Post, Curator of St.

Marys Submarine Museum, passed away on June 9, 2022 in FL.

□ Ralph Rohrssen's brother-in-law, Dennis Ashley, age 78, passed away June 22nd in Elgin IL. He was a Machinery Repairman Second Class and participate in the Cuba Missile Crisis blockade.

□ Margie Deal [Walt's wife] had a stroke and fell at Harris Teeters over a month ago. She fell again that same night going to the bathroom. Broke three bones and her little toe on her right foot. She wore a boot for 2 or 3 weeks and the bones healed. The night the foot doctor released her she fell again this time she bruised her spine and it swoll up to where she can't stand or walk. Doctor put her on steroids for the swelling and she is in rehab at the Village in S'ville. She also has "normal" hydrocephalus which is giving her some confusing moments. She can have visitors, 8 to 8 weekdays 10 to 6 weekends.

□ Thom Beach has been at the Victory House in Walterboro since June 28. He would like everyone's prayers while he is there. You can call at 843.925.3045 or send cards to him for his large blank wall. Some have had problems contacting Thom. He has dialysis M-W-F 9:30 until around 2:30. No idea what time he leaves the facility or returns but do know he is anxiously awaiting contacts. He missed the Covid for which I am thankful and I checked negative yesterday. Thom wanted me to let you know he has met a retired submariner from Goose Creek. He is a Phillipino and has always wanted to be a member of the SUBVETS. They would like an application. It was important to let you know his name is Nic also and you should note the spelling. I hope to go over and spend the weekend Friday if I can get a little rest between now and then. Thomas Beach, Veterans Victory House Nursing Home 2461 Sidneys Road, Walterboro. SC, 29488. Room A106 B.

□ Bob Snyder was moved from Sandpiper Post-Acute Care, 1049 Anna Knapp Blvd., Mt. Pleasant SC 29464 back to the VA ICU this week. Bob has his cell phone 843.412.2530 but not sure if anyone can call right now. Cards will be very

appreciated. Mail to his home address above. Please continue to pray for Bob and his wife Claire and son Jimmy as they travel to see him each day.

Gene Weir went in Roper Hospital DT June 18th. He had COVID19 pneumonia. He was sent to rehab and was released Tuesday from rehab. At home working on getting my strength and endurance up. Still need oxygen at night but rehabbing at home. It is a very slow process right now.

- Bill Kennedy has lung cancer.
- Lee Rackley is not doing well. He enjoys talking to anyone who might want to call.
- Don Londergan is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136.
- 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.
- There is now a New [OLD] website you can use by going to the URL of [www.ussubvets.org](http://www.ussubvets.org) to gain access to most all of the features of the site we were using. If you are one of the few members who corrected your profile online PLEASE DO NOT DO THAT ON THIS WEBSITE. Send any changes you would have made to either me [[webmaster@ussvicb.org](mailto:webmaster@ussvicb.org)] or Larry Knutson [[membership@ussvicb.org](mailto:membership@ussvicb.org)] and we will make note. The changes will be made once the NEW website is online.
- 2022 USSVI NATIONAL ELECTION Voting has started and will end 2359, August 15, 2022.
  - Use the newly reconstituted USSVI website ([www.ussubvets.org](http://www.ussubvets.org)). Cast your ballot accordingly. There is also space to write in a candidate of your choice.

- Vote from your primary Base. The Regional Director vote reflects the location of your primary Base. This may be different from the location of your residence. You can only vote for the Regional Director who represents the location of your primary Base.

- There is one (1) Proposed Bylaws change. Vote "YES" or "NO" on the proposed change.

- Candidate's Statements and the text of the Proposed Amendment are in the current issue of The American Submariner.

- You may vote by paper ballot. Paper ballots no later than August 10, 2022.

- Mail-in Ballot Mail to: Tom Conlon, USSVI Election Master, 8 Davis Ave., Harrison, NJ 07029

- You must complete your own ballot. We do not allow "proxy voting."

- Base Commanders: You may print a supply of paper ballots and distribute them at a Base meeting. However, each member must complete their own ballot. You may collect the ballots and send them to me as a package. I must also receive that package no later than August 10th.

- You may also bring a suitable computer to a Base meeting and members may vote using that computer. Again, each member must cast their own online ballot

#### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Nothing to report

#### **Submarine Veterans of WWII – 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**

- Mike has contacted the hospital about Kaps visits. They currently have COVID cases in the ward and are not allowing the visits.

#### **Membership – Larry Knutson**

- We currently have 265 Charleston Base Members.

- Nick Nichols provided Base standings: 1) Groton 1179 - 2) Hampton Roads 273 - 3)

Charleston 265 – 4) Bremerton 253 - 5) Requin 190 - 6) San Diego 171 – 7) Long Island 152

### **National Awards – Mike Knaub**

- Not present.

### **VA – TOM LAWSON**

- The VA is pushing a DNA program. Your information determines the probability of cancer, diabetes etc. If interested, you may sign up for this at the VA website or the VA hospital.

### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn**

- There will be no raffle tonight.
- Carl has two DVDs regarding the final crew of the CSS Hunley available for a donation to the Scholarship fund.
- Carl has two CDs from the Submarine Museum in St. Mary's, GA – The Encyclopedia of Submarine History.
- He also has some older patches.
- The Rummage Sale will be in November

### **Special Events – Rick Sparger**

- Nothing to Report

### **Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison**

- The FRA will hold a picnic at Short Stay on 10 September beginning at 1030.
- The FRA kitchen will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays. This began on July 1.
- Ken will not be at the August Base Meeting.

### **COB – Rick Sparger**

- The current cover for Charleston Base float is severely damaged and needs replacement. Glenn Little helped put a tarp temporarily over the sail section. Thank you Glenn.
- We need someone to take over maintenance of the float.
- Ed Stank has been in contact with the River Dogs to arrange a night for Charleston Base to attend. The last time that we did this, it ended up being Stacy Power Night. Those attending, especially Stacy, enjoyed the evening.

### **Recreation – OPEN**

- Rick Sparger stated that he is looking into having a Barbeque at Bushy Park in October. The event will be catered.
- Rick mentioned a Christmas Party – possibly to be held at the Catholic Church recreational building.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko reminded everyone that we are still in need of a Recreation Coordinator.

### **Nuclear Power School – Ray Sparks**

- The next NPS graduation is Friday July 22 at 0800. Muster at Exchange parking lot to carpool because of limited parking. Come see Rick Wise make the presentation.

### **Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall**

- Woody recommended to quit advertising for the car dealership and purchase a Silent Service license plate frame instead. He has some in stock.

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise**

- The 2nd Quarter Budget Report will be online soon.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson**

- Please remember to clean up after yourselves tonight.

### **Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko**

- Remember the USSVI National Convention is coming up.

### **Good of the Order**

#### **Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson**

- Not present.

#### **Wills – Mike Emerson**

- Since the death of his daughter, Mike has seen first-hand the problems that arise when someone dies intestate. His warning to everyone is, "Get a Will. Get your kids to get a Will". Regardless of age, everyone needs a Will. It will only take a couple of hours. You can go the Navy Base and get it done for free.

### **After Battery – Ray Sparks**

- Open every Wednesday

### **Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko**

- Wants to get a gun shoot scheduled.

### **Bastille Day – Mike Emerson**

- Today, July 14, is a day that the French consider a holiday, but in the U.S. Navy, it is a very sad day. 140 years ago today, the Secretary of the Navy outlawed alcohol on our ships.

### **Non-Nuclear Historian – Harry Nettles**

How many of you can tell me what Navy Stuff is? Yes, for years all of us have dealt with Navy Stuff, but what exactly is Navy Stuff? Well, let me give you an example. Being a Quartermaster, we had technique called a slide bar. I don't know who created it, but it aided us to get our submarines safely in and out of Charleston Harbor without sticking our nose in the mud. I have used that device for years, all around the world since I learned about it. It works. [Ken Hutchison interjected that the inventor of the slide bar was QMC Buck Owens – not the country singer.] Now let me tell you about another guy – LT John Koelsch. He was a helicopter pilot and served in Korea in 1951, but he was not your standard American helicopter pilot, because in his off-time, he invented and improved upon the stuff that helicopter pilots use to rescue naval aviators that had been shot down in cold waters. On July 3, 1951, LT Koelsch was flying with a Machinist Mate on his helicopter, going to rescue a downed Marine Corp pilot. Now, what is a MM doing on a helicopter? Anyway, LT Koelsch and his MM went to rescue the Marine Corp pilot, who they recovered, but things did not go well after that. You see, LT Koelsch, his MM and the USMC pilot were shot down. Now, how many days could you survive with nothing more than a Snickers bar and two and half canteens of water? Well, the three of them snuck around and evaded the enemy for three days, but eventually, they got captured and were taken to a prison camp. In Korea, they did not have POW camps, but prison camps. Now, LT

Koelsch was one of those guys – he read the book. He knew what the dos and don'ts were. The only thing that he would tell his captors was his name, rank and serial number. That was ALL he would tell them. He resisted their efforts to interrogate him, claiming that the Geneva Convention for POWs took precedence over what they were to do. He also, because he was in good health, gave portions of his daily rations to those that were injured, so that they could survive. But on October 16, 1951 – not even six months after he was captured – LT Koelsch died. It was because of his sacrifice and those that were captured with him, that in 1955, the U.S. military service came out with the Code of Conduct for POWs. Something that we all had to learn and something that is still in effect to this day.

### **Drawings & Auctions**

- FRA Drawing – Harry Nettles
- Depth Charge Drawing – Chuck Gravley

### **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 1950.





# VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



## The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

### How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on [va.gov/family-member-benefits](https://va.gov/family-member-benefits).



#### Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.



#### Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

### Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



#### Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



#### Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



#### Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



#### Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



#### Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)  
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)  
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)  
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)