



Vol. 21 No. 7

July 2025

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

Base Meeting:

Newsletter & Little David Phil Nunnally 843.518.8301

BOD: Jul 3, 2025

Membership: Jul 10, 2025

Location:

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



ELECTED

Base Commander	Dave Harvey	812.773.1312
Vice Commander	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
Secretary	Gordon Long	843.214.2353
Treasurer	Ricky Collins	843.934.3754

APPOINTED

Chief of the Boat	Greg Landry	843.813.4361
Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Veterans Affairs	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
Scholarship	Tom Lawson III	843.813.0244
Membership	Larry Knutson	843.860.1155
Storekeeper	Woody Woodsmall	304.676.8356
Nuclear Historian	Rick Carlson	843.875.4030
Public Affairs	Bob MacPherson	717.606.7047
CF Ambassador	Bob MacPherson	717.606.7047
Navy League Coord	Bob MacPherson	717.606.7047
Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.729.3524
Social Media Coord	Lewis Leal	843.270.8870
Kaps for Kids	Art Sattler	843.813.6899
FRA Rep	Ken Hutchinson	843.793.4896
Base Photographer	Glenn Little	843.797.1867
Comptroller	Rick Wise	843.276.0899
Hunley/Housatonic	Tom Holcombe	843.607.9610
Special Events Coord	Tom Holcombe	843.607.9610
Patriots Point POC	Rusty Pickett	843.762.3888
Cold War Mem POC	Rodney McKanna	843.851.3415
Scout Recog Prog	Dick Koehler	843.553.2171
Recreation Comm.	Johnny Brown	843.276.8264
License Plate Coord	Ed Stank	843.568.2148
NNPTC POC	Anthony Mazza	912.322.8224
Float Coordinator	Dave Harvey	812.773.1312
SE Regional Coord	Dave Harvey	812.773.1312
National Awards Co	VACANT	
Base Historian	VACANT	
ADM Osborn Sch Comm	VACANT	

Table of Contents

1	Boats on Eternal Patrol	2
2	USS Robalo (SS-273)	2-3
3	Shipmates on Eternal Patrol	4
4	Upcoming Base Events	5
5	Important Dates	6-8
6	From the Editor	9
7	Announcements	9
8	Past and Future Events	10-13
9	Non-base Events	14-16
10	Little David Updates	17-18
11	General Stories	19-20
12	Foreign Sub News	21-22
13	Politics and Humor	23-27
14	May Minutes	28-36



Submarines lost during the month of July

USS S-28 (SS-133)	04 July 44	49 Souls lost
USS ROBALO (SS-273)	26 July 44	81 Souls lost, 77 men lost due to the sinking, 4 died as POW's
USS GRUNNION (SS-216)	30 July 42	70 Souls lost

THREE Boats and 200 Men Lost

USS Robalo (SS-273) Believed to be sunk by a mine

While running on the surface in the South China Sea, Robalo sighted what she identified as a Japanese Mitsubishi Betty flying a parallel course bearing 330°T less than two miles off the submarine's port beam. As she dove to avoid the enemy aircraft, the submarine heard the first of two 250-kg.bombs dropped by the enemy aircraft explode off her conning tower. As she reached 55 feet below the surface, the boat shook violently as the second Japanese bomb detonated off her port side forward compartment.

When the boat eventually leveled off at 350 ft., an initial assessment revealed damage to her JP radar significant enough to render it inoperable, as well as severe damage to her hydraulic steering. The attack also left Robalo with relatively minor leaks in her conning tower hatch, No. 1 main vent, pit log and antenna trunk.

In addition to her internal damage, an external inspection of the submarine conducted as she steamed out of the area at 2013 found her port and center antennas broken and No. 1 periscope flooded. Her 4-inch gun, main ballast tanks and auxiliary engine exhaust valve were less severely damaged. She completed repairs in Indochina.

In May 1944. Robalo selected a large 7,500-ton tanker crept to within 3,200 yards and fired six torpedoes. As she swung to starboard, Robalo saw one of her fish strike the enemy vessel just aft of amidships. As the submarine cleared the area to avoid a depth charge attack from an enemy destroyer, she heard two explosions and believed her target sank.

(Robalo was one of the 52 lost submarines found in later years by the [Lost 52 Project](#))

USS Robalo (SS-273)

Believed to be sunk by a mine

Robalo departed on her third war patrol en route to the waters off Natuna Islands, Indonesia, on 22 June 1944. On 3 July, the submarine reported to Commander Submarines, Southwest Pacific, that she had sighted the Japanese battleship Fuso escorted by air cover and the destroyers off the east coast of Borneo. Unfortunately, Navy officials in Australia received no further messages from Robalo and presumed her lost.

Investigations and court findings determined that a mine, struck as the boat transited into Balaban Strait via Nauseate Channel during the night of 3-4 July 1944, might have caused the explosion in Robalo's forward battery compartment. He also determined that the Japanese shot Kimmel and an unidentified sailor and took Tucker and Martin prisoner.

Shortly after the landing of American forces on Palawan on 28 February 1945, soldiers from the US Army's 308th Counterintelligence Corps (CIC) searched the Japanese 14th Area Army Military Police Guard Unit headquarters and discovered documents that detailed the fate of Robalo and her crew.

According to the interrogations of EM2c Mason C. Poston and Ens. Tucker, an explosion rocked Robalo as she steamed in the Sulu Sea on the evening of 2 July 1944. The blast threw Kimmel, Lt. Cmdr. Fell, Poston, Tucker and six other sailors standing on the submarine's deck into the ocean. Poston and Martin finally reached tiny Comoran Island at 1100 on 3 July 1944, approximately 15 hours after they were thrown into the southwest Pacific.

Tucker joined his shipmates at 1300, with Laughlin washing ashore an hour later. Surviving on a diet of rainwater, the sailors constructed a makeshift shelter and raft over the next three days. The submariners finally departed for Balaban Island at 1100 on 6 July.

The submariners successfully evaded capture and roamed the mountains for the next 18 days, until unfortunately apprehended by the Japanese 33rd Naval Guard Unit on 25 July 1944, and taken to the 14th Area Army Military Police Unit (Kempe Itai) headquarters in Puerto Princesa.

After nearly a month in the custody of the Kempe Itai, the four submariners were taken to the Third Expeditionary Fleet headquarters in Manila on 19 August 1944 for further interrogation. According to Japanese records, the prisoners safely arrived at fleet headquarters and underwent interrogation on 25 August. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk.

Read the entire article [here](#)

CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

Shipmates Reported Lost Since our 2024 Base Christmas Party Bell Tolling

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • MMCS(SS) James Terry Sickle, USN Retired | 19 February 2025 |
| • LCDR (SS) Roy Edward Morrow, USN Retired | 9 June 2024 |
| • FTMC (SS) Martin K. Sessler USN Retired | 25 March 2025 |
| • ETN3(SS) Craig C. Emerson, USN Retired | 1 January 2025 |
| • QMC(SS) Alan Dempster, USN Retired | 23 May 2025 |



UPCOMING BASE EVENTS
See www.ussvicb.org for details

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Board of Directors Meeting	July 3	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Independence Day	July 4 (1100 - 1400)	Indoor Picnic FRA Home
Base Meeting	July 10 (Social Hour - 1800)	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Base/FRA Cookout	July 19	Marrington Plantation

**Charleston Base and FRA Cookout
19 July**

- 1200 to 1800 (Food will stop being served at 1700)
- Marrington Plantation Pavillion, NWS Charleston, Goose Creek [MAP](#)

To help get a headcount to ensure we have plenty for everyone and minimize waste, there is a \$5.00 per person charge. Proceeds will go to purchase door prizes.

Buy your tickets for the number in your group from Johnny Brown or at the FRA Home.

Please RSVP to Johnny Brown at cbrecomm@comcast.net with the number of attendees in your group NLT 12 July.

Bring a lawn chair

Menu

Hamburgers
Hotdogs
Pulled Pork
Potato Salad
Cole Slaw
Baked Beans
Beer, Soda, and Water.
Bring your favorite Side Dish or Dessert



IMPORTANT DATES

INDEPENDENCE DAY July 4th

On July 4th, 1776 the United States laid down its claim to be a free and independent nation by adopting the Declaration of Independence. Today, Independence Day is celebrated and honored in many forms such as fireworks, BBQs and parades. It is an opportunity for Americans to express patriotism and love of country including reflecting on the sacrifices from those in the military.

Independence Day will be officially observed on Thursday, July 4, 2025, our nation's 247th birthday.



IMPORTANT DATES

**National Hire A Veteran Day
July 25th**

The Department of Labor has established a day to celebrate and encourage hiring veterans.

Read the entire article [here](#)



IMPORTANT DATES

National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day July 27th

National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day commemorates the end of the Korean War on July 27, 1953, and those who served during this often forgotten war.

Read the entire article [here](#)

Korean War Veterans Memorial below



From the Editor
Contact me at newsletter@ussvicb.org

Whether you are spending your day with family, friends or veteran's,
I'm wishing everyone a Happy Independence Day!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Associate Members!

As we welcome our Associate Members, I'll be starting a new feature to get to know them. In their own words, I have asked them to provide their perspective on service to the Submarine Service, the Navy and the United States.

Getting to Know Our New Associate Members

I am Linda Nichols and a new Associate Member of Charleston Base. Nick and I have been married for 51 years and have two adult children. Our daughter is married and lives in Summerville with her husband. We have three granddaughters, a great granddaughter and a great grandson. Our son passed in 2020.

I was married to Nick for 21 of his 26 years in the Navy. I was an Ombudsman for the 15 years prior to his retirement. During this time, I had the privilege of working for three boat COs and twice at Submarine Group SIX for five Admirals over 7 years. Also, throughout my time as an Ombudsman, Family Services allowed me to assist them with the semi-annual Ombudsman Academy for continuous training of current and new Ombudsmen.

I am happy to be an Associate Member of Charleston Base. I look forward to being involved with the base and contributing in the base events and in any other manner possible.

PAST EVENTS

RiverDogs Baseball Game 13 June



PAST EVENTS

RiverDogs Baseball Game 13 June



PAST EVENTS

Freedom Fest 27 June



PAST EVENTS

Dave, Ed, Glenn and many others headed to
SubFest Manitowoc



NON-BASE EVENTS

FRA Indoor Picnic 4 July

- FRA Home Goose Creek
- 1200 Meal Time



NON-BASE EVENTS

Navy Ball Golf Tournament 2025 31 July 2025

Posting this for Shipmates Johnny Brown and Bob MacPherson.

More information can be found [here](#).

A promotional poster for the Navy Ball Golf Tournament 2025. The background is a lush green golf course with a golf club lying on the grass. The text is arranged in a dynamic, overlapping layout. At the top left is an anchor logo and the text 'NSA CHARLESTON NAVY BALL COMMITTEE'. To the right, a section titled 'WHAT ARE WE' explains the purpose of the tournament. The main title '3RD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT 2025' is prominently displayed in the center. A golf ball graphic on the left lists prizes. On the right, a list of included amenities is shown. A white box at the bottom provides contact information and a reservation link. The date '31 JULY 2025' is large and bold. Registration details, including time and location, are at the bottom right. A disclaimer is at the very bottom.

**NSA CHARLESTON
NAVY BALL
COMMITTEE**

WHAT ARE WE
JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THE 2025
NAVY BALL COMMITTEE AS WE
STRIVE TO RAISE FUNDS TO
PROVIDE AN INCREDIBLE
EXPERIENCE FOR SAILORS
IN OUR AREA!

3RD ANNUAL

**GOLF
TOURNAMENT
2025**

Give aways
hole-in-one prizes
Captains Choice

INCLUDED
BREAKFAST & LUNCH
18 HOLES
CART

SUPPORTING THE 2025 NAVY BALL
CONTACT 757-609-7882 or 757-348-3564 for reservations

*PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CLUBS, LIMITED AMOUNT OF RENTAL CLUBS
AVAILABLE*

**31 JULY
2025**

REGISTER NOW
\$400 PER TEAM

**8 AM REGISTRATION
9 AM SHOT GUN START**

**SUMMERVILLE COUNTRY CLUB
400 COUNTRY CLUB BLVD
SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483**

THIS IS A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION. IT IS NOT A PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR ANY OF ITS
COMPONENTS AND IT HAS NO GOVERNMENTAL STATUS

NON-BASE EVENTS

2025 USSVI National Convention 31 August—6 September 2025

- Rosen Shingle Creek Orlando, FL
- August 31 - September 6
- [Convention Registration](#)



**USSVI
2025
National
Convention**



Little David Overhaul Begins

January 2004

Little David was overhauled in 2004 by the United States Submarine Veterans Incorporated, Charleston Base (USSVICB). The overhaul took six months and several thousand man-hours to complete. During the overhaul, the hull was sandblasted to bare metal, the portions of the bottom were cut out and new sections welded in, and the hull was re-painted. The original design was modified by the installation of planking and a new cockpit to more resemble existing pictures of the Davids. A new torpedo was fabricated and bell housings were installed on the ventilation stacks.

Charleston Base is responsible for the upkeep of the replica and has a working party every spring, late March or early April, to get the replica ready for the tourist season. Charleston Base is also responsible for giving presentations during scheduled tours at the museum and during the Antique Tractor and Engine Show annually in early September.

Description of work done by Charleston Base.

1. About 75% of the bottom was removed and new sections rolled and welded in.
2. Entire hull was sandblasted and painted, inside and out.
3. Most of hull was sheathed in wood to more resemble the actual construction.
4. A new torpedo was manufactured.
5. A new cockpit was manufactured with the ability to install a canvas cover to keep rain out.



Little David unveiling ceremony

3 July 2004

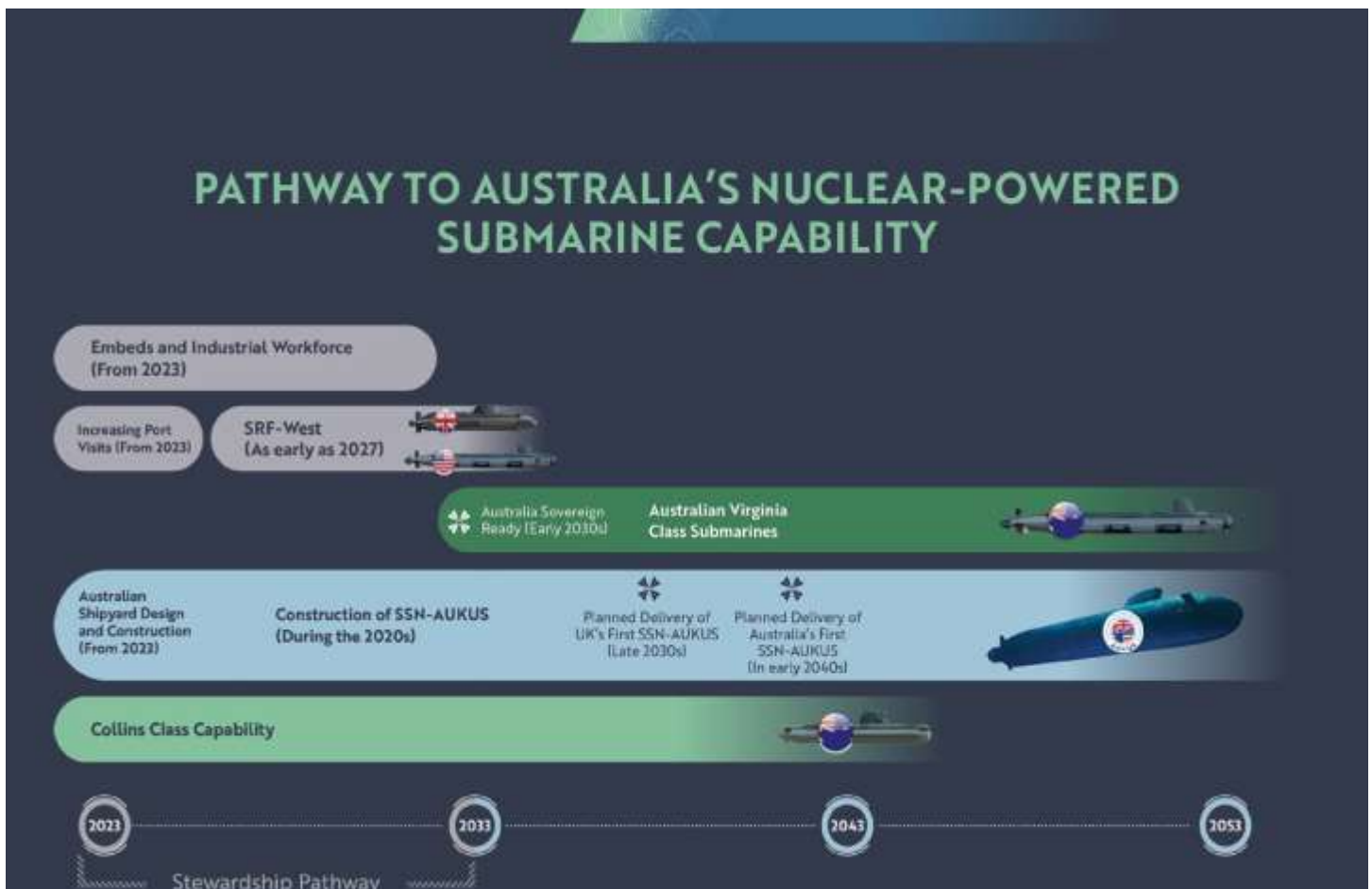


Australian Sub News

AUKUS Facts

Read AUKUS SSN Facts [here](#)

AUKUS Timeline



GENERAL STORIES

Honor a Hero: Veterans Bricks Now on Sale in Goose Creek

The City of Goose Creek has reopened sales for its popular personalized Veterans Bricks, offering residents a meaningful way to honor military service members.

The engraved bricks will be placed at Honor Plaza in John McCants Veterans Park on Anita Drive, beneath the park's prominent military flag display.

Each brick costs \$125 and can be customized with up to three lines of text, 14 characters per line including spaces. These messages may include the name of a veteran, a unit designation, or a brief tribute.

The sale runs through August 8, 2025, with installation scheduled for fall. Bricks must be purchased online at this [link](#).

Lost Boats Service Video 12 April 2025

The Base Social Media Coordinator, Lou Leal, has done an outstanding job on this video. Be sure to take a look at something unique he has added to it. I know you will be surprised and pleased...like I was. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Base Meeting on Thursday evening.

=====

The April Lost Boats Service from 12 April 2025 video link is below and posted to our website. When viewing the video be sure to click that you like it. That way we know how many of our shipmates are watching our meeting.

<https://youtu.be/YvJ-0Q8Gb38>

Sent to the base by email 12 June 2025

GENERAL STORIES

American Flag Flying Days

Sent by Shipmate Bill Freligh.

View a website link [here](http://www.bestcustomflags.com).



www.bestcustomflags.com

AMERICAN FLAG FLYING DAYS

January 1	New Year's Day	June 14	Flag Day
3rd Monday in Jan	Martin Luther King Day	3rd Sunday in June	Fathers Day
3rd Monday in Jan	Inauguration Day (Every 4 years)	July 4	Independence Day
February 12	Lincoln's Birthday	July 27	Korean War Armistice Day
3rd Monday in Feb	President's Day	August 19	National Aviation Day
February 22	Washington's Birthday	1st Monday in Sept	Labor Day
(Variable)	Easter Sunday	September 11	Patriot Day (Half staff)
April 6	Army Day	September 17	Constitution Day
April 13	Thomas Jefferson's Birthday	3rd Friday in Sept	POW/MIA Recognition Day
April 14	Pan American Day (Embassies in Latin America)	Last Sunday in Sept	Gold Star Mothers Day
May 1	Loyalty Day/Law Day	2nd Monday in Oct	Columbus Day (October 12 at Foreign Service posts)
2nd Sunday in May	Mothers Day	October 27	Navy Day
May 15	Peace Officers Memorial Day (Half staff)	November 10	Marine Corps Birthday
3rd Saturday in May	Armed Forces Day	November 11	Veterans Day
May 22	National Maritime Day	4th Thursday in Nov	Thanksgiving Day
Last Monday in May	Memorial Day (Half-staff until noon, then hoisted to the top of the flagpole for the remainder of the day)	December 7	Pearl Harbor Day (Half staff)
		December 17	Pan American Aviation Day
		December 25	Christmas Day

British Sub News

UK to build up to 12 new attack submarines

Read the entire article [here](#)

Canadian Sub News

Canada's looking to buy new subs and new friends: are they in Europe or Asia?

Read the entire article [here](#)

Russian Sub News

Russian Nuclear Sub, Frigate with Long Range Land Attack Missiles Operating Off East Coast

Read the entire article [here](#)

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

USS Delaware Completes First Yellow Moray UUV Operations

This mission marks a significant technological milestone in autonomous system development as the Yellow Moray (REMUS 600) UUV executed the first -ever forward deployed submarine torpedo tube launch and recovery of a UUV to complete a tactical objective.

The Yellow Moray UUV executed a pre-programmed mission profile showcasing the potential to greatly enhance the Navy's subsea and seabed warfare (SSW) capabilities. The successful completion of this mission demonstrates the feasibility of deploying robotic and autonomous systems from submarines, opening new possibilities for clandestine operations and battlespace preparation. As part of this operation, DELAWARE executed three Yellow Moray UUV sorties of about 6-10 hours each using the same vehicle, validating the reliability of the system and the ability to execute multiple missions without the need for divers to launch and recover the vehicle.

“DELAWARE is just the beginning. We plan to continue to deploy submarines with robotic and autonomous system capability worldwide so we can give more options to our Combatant Commanders by enhancing the capability of our SSNs,”

Commander Submarine Forces, Vice Admiral Rob Gaucher.

Read the entire article [here](#)



What's going on in politics and the Navy?

USS Delaware Completes First Yellow Moray UUV Operations



What's going on in politics and the Navy?

Reconciliation Bill Moves \$4.5B for Virginia-class Buy in 2026

Read the entire article [here](#)

Senators Quiz Navy Leaders on Proposed Sea-Launched Nuclear Cruise

Read the entire article [here](#)

U.S. 'Will Not be Pushed Out of This Critical Region,' Says SECDEF

Read the entire article [here](#)

Navy's preliminary budget undercuts shipbuilding, senator says

Read the entire article [here](#)

Pentagon to review AUKUS submarine deal with Australia and Britain

Read the entire article [here](#)

Other defense related articles can be seen [here](#)

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

President Trump taps Adm. Caudle as Navy's next CNO

Admiral Caudle is a submariner and was nominated as our next CNO on 17 June 2025.

Read entire articles [here](#) and [here](#).

Editor's note. I served with then LCDR Caudle as my Engineer when I was EDEA on Sand Lance SSN-660. They couldn't have picked a more qualified person as CNO. He was smart, but more importantly, personable to everyone onboard Sand Lance.

SSGN Involved with Iran Bombing

While I'm not aware which SSGN, USS Ohio, USS Michigan, USS Florida, and USS Georgia, was involved, our subs were part of this operation.

Read the entire article [here](#).

After politics, we all need a little humor

**I told my wife I
wanted to be
cremated.
She made an
appointment for
Tuesday.**

The screenshot shows the 'Online Death Certificate Request' form from the Virginia Department of Health. The header includes the state seal and the name 'Fredrick Smith, Registrar'. The title is 'Online Death Certificate Request' with the subtitle 'Step 1: Who is on the Death Certificate?'. The main question is 'The person listed on the Death Certificate is:'. Below this are two buttons: 'Myself' and 'Someone Else' with a dropdown arrow.

Virginia Department of Health
Fredrick Smith, Registrar

Online Death Certificate Request

Step 1: Who is on the Death Certificate?

The person listed on the Death Certificate is:

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
8 May 2025

Opening Ceremonies:

- The May 2025 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of three officers and a total of 50 members. Treasurer Ricky Collins was absent from the meeting tonight. The meeting started at 1902 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:
 - ◊ USS LAGARTO (SS-371) May 3, 1945 – 2nd War patrol
Lost with All Hands – 86 Souls
 - ◊ USS SCORPION (SSN-589) May 22, 1968 – returning from deployment
Lost with All Hands – 99 Souls
 - ◊ USS SQUALUS (SS-192) May 23, 1939 – during test dive 3
3 survivors – 26 Souls Lost
 - ◊ USS STICKLEBACK (SS-415) May 30, 1958 – under tow off Hawaii
NO LOSS OF LIFE

FOUR Boats and 211 Men Lost

- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Distinguished Submariner Award:

- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko, assisted by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, read the award citation and presented the Distinguished Submariner Award to Dave Harvey.
- Photos were taken of Dave and his wife Dee Dee to record the event.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- There were no new guests/prospective members this evening.

Old Business:

- Charleston Base By-Laws Amendment (Second Reading) – Base Secretary Gordon Long
 - ◊ THE BOD RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT BE ADDED TO THE BYLAWS.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

Section 3. ASSOCIATE

E. Associate Members will not hold the elected Base offices of Base Commander, Vice Commander, Secretary, Treasurer or appointed position of COB. Associate Members may participate and vote on Base matters during any meeting the same as Regular members. The Base Commander may appoint Associate Members to serve on Base Committees and as Committee Chair.

NOTATION: This paragraph E will be inserted into Article V – Section 3. The existing paragraphs E, F and G shall be relabeled as F, G and H respectively.

- The Motion, having been made by the BOD as presented by the Base Secretary and seconded at the Base Meeting tonight by Chaplain Nick Nichols, was called for discussion by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. There was none. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko called for a show of hands in support of the amendment, followed by the same for NAY.
- The motion to amend the Charleston Base By-Laws passed without objection. The Base Secretary shall update the Base By-Laws and provide a copy to the Webmaster for placement onto the Base website.
- **Charleston Base Elections – Election Coordinator Ken Hutchison**
 - ◊ Elections for both of these offices were held at the end of the Base Meeting.
 - ◊ The office of Base Commander has only one (1) nominee since Johnny Brown has pulled his candidacy. Dave Harvey remains the only candidate.
 - ◊ The office of Base Treasurer has only one (1) nominee for Treasurer – Incumbent Ricky Collins
 - ◊ Ken made additional requests for nominees for Base Treasurer with no response.
 - ◊ The motion as made to elect Ricky Collins as Treasurer by acclamation.
 - ◊ With a voice vote by the members in attendance, Ricky Collins retained the office of Treasurer.
 - ◊ Ken made additional requests for nominees for Base Commander with no response.
 - ◊ The motion was made to elect Dave Harvey as Base Commander by acclamation.
 - ◊ With a voice vote by the members in attendance, Dave Harvey was accepted as Base Commander.
 - ◊ Chaplain Nick Nichols performed the official swearing-in of Dave Harvey as Base Commander. Ricky Collins is currently traveling and will be sworn in at a later date.

New Business:

- None

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the April Base Meeting were emailed to all Base members. The Minutes have been published on the Base Website for download. The Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer – Mike Ciesielko for Ricky Collins:

- The Treasurer's Report for April was published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. 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.
- All of the shipmates on this binnacle list would really appreciate a phone call or even a card from their shipmates in the base. Contact information can be found on the Sailing List.
- **Marty Sessler's** memorial service will be at St. Luke's Lutheran in Summerville on 22 May @ 11am. SUBVETS will participate. I will get more details after meeting with the family and pastors on Monday 12 May.
- **ENCS(SS) Kelsey R. Farrell, 87, Kenny's brother**, departed on EP on 30 April. Ken called me when he was on his way down. Kelsey was a resident of the AFRH in Biloxi. He was also a member of Yakima Base. He served on 6 diesels and 1 nuclear boat.
- **Kit Sparger** was in Berkeley Roper Hospital but went home from the hospital on Saturday 3 May. She is not doing well. She has been diagnosed with a type of bone cancer and possibly it's in her liver and lungs. She needs all the prayers she can get. This was reported by Rick Jr.
- **John Lookabill** recently pulled a ligament in his groin when he was at a PT appointment. He will be having an MRI to determine if it will require surgery to correct the problem.
- **Rick Carlson** was sent by his eye doctor to MUSC. He was diagnosed with a main blood vessel rupture behind his left eye causing him to have double vision. A procedure was done to stop the bleeding but he is not driving or doing much of anything. He needs to make appointments for his eye doctor and urologist but has no way to get to them. If he can make the appointments he will need help with transportation. I will get the word out if he needs someone to drive him. I know in this group we can get him to the doctors.
- **James Graham Sr.** just got home from several days in the hospital. He was diagnosed with cellulitis in his knee starting from a bug bite infection. It was initially thought he might lose his leg. The antibiotics are working just taking time to do so.

- **Don Meadows** sent an email to let me know he is bed ridden for the most part. Seizures are getting worse and more frequent. He would love to attend a meeting but just can't. He does watch the meeting video. His comment: Trust me, my heart is with you all.
- **Fred Woodley** was in Roper at Carnes Crossroads with another UTI on Mon 5 May. He was been given antibiotics and discharged Monday evening. He saw his urologist Tues morning and will be getting another CT scan then the plan is to have a procedure to reduce the pressure. This will happen in the next couple of months as an outpatient. It is also the less invasive option.
- **Ed Simokat** is back home after a second 10 day stay in the hospital for double pneumonia. Until he has a decent amount of rehab/PT he is basically immobile and needs constant assistance. Once he is semi-mobile again, he will need a ramp to move from his house to the driveway to go to doctors' appointments.
- On Saturday 3 May his grandson graduated from the Citadel. He was not able to travel but Ricky Collins stayed with him for 7 hours while so the family could attend the ceremony.
- On May 3 & 4 (Sat & Sun) this past weekend there were 3 shipmates from the NNPTC First Class PO Assoc (FCPOA) who went to Ed's house and poured a concrete ramp for him. These Sailors, ET1 (SW) Ernest Hickerson, MA1(EXW/SW/AW) Bryan Gary and MA1(EXW/AW) Eric Denver worked for 6 hours on Saturday to get the materials needed, form up, mix the concrete and pour the ramp. They returned for 4 hours on Sunday to remove all the forms and clean up the entire area around the ramp.
- Bob MacPherson will talk a little more about this during his Charitable Fund report.
- **Ronnie Vandiver** had throat surgery on 2 April. He is recovering well and is getting out. Says he is eating much better than he was.
- **Ken Curtis** is at home with Palliative Hospice care coming to the house several times during the week. He is in good spirits and welcomes phone calls and visitors. Please keep Ken and Barbara both in your prayers.
- **Roger Rader** is recovering well.
- **Al Stoll** is in Room 3 at the skilled Nursing section at the villages at Summerville rehab center at the end of West 9th North Street. He has a very hard time hearing so phone calls are not easy for him. If visiting before or after lunch is best time.
- **Marvin Miller** is at White Oak Manor. 9285 Medical Plaza Dr. Room 117. He is answering his cell 843.873.0564. This is behind Trident.
- **Bill & Becky Roberts** are living in the Villages, him in Cottage 606 with Becky in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, Unit 99, Summerville, SC 29483-6715.
- **Al & Connie Dempster** are in The Bridge of Charleston Assisted Living. Mailing address is: Alan Dempster – Room 222, 2590 Elms Plantation Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29406. Apartment phone – (843) 793-1187.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Anyone having a boat reunion in Charleston can send the info to me and it will be put on the base website.
- Anytime there is a change to your personal info on the National website, contact either Larry, Nick or the COB so that we can make the necessary changes locally and with National.
- The retiree magazine called “Shift Colors” has been discontinued. The new one is [Sailor for Life](#), and is designed especially for Navy Veterans, Retirees, and Families. If you have a DFAS email address you will receive the emagazine in email. Also, you can find the first two issues of this magazine on our base website on the Documents webpage.

Hobson Memorial – Nick Nichols:

- On 27 April the FRA held a Memorial Service at the Home to recognize the sinking of USS HOBSON DD464/DSM464 on 26 April 1952. SUBVETS participated with other groups in the laying of a wreath during the service. Four Charleston Base members and one spouse attended.

CMC Retirement – Nick Nichols:

- Cindy Huratiak had a great retirement ceremony Monday morning 5 May. Six Charleston Base members attended: Herb Anderson, Ray Sparks, Phil Nunnally, Glenn Little, Linda Nichols and Nick Nichols.

Memorial Day – Nick Nichols:

- On Saturday 24 May CB will participate in a Memorial Day Wreath Laying at the McAlister-Smith Funeral Home in Goose Creek.
- There is a Memorial Day service on Monday 26 May at 1030 at the home. CB will participate by placing our wreath with others during the service.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report

Membership – Larry Knutson

- Larry reported that Charleston Base has 247 members.
- Larry read names of new Regular and Associate members.
- Larry reported that he has been getting numerous phone calls which are Medicare scam. Due to this, he is not answering his phone, but blocking unknown numbers, so please leave a message and he will call you back. If you don't leave a message, you will likely get blocked.
- **Base Standings** [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #3 in USSVI membership.
 - ◊ Groton 1098 - 2) Hampton Roads 286 – 3) Charleston 247 - 4) Bremerton 242 – 5) Requin 203
 - ◊ Charleston Base has 10 Associate Members.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III

- The balance in the Scholarship fund is approximately \$6,300 at this time. The balance will increase a bit after the raffles tonight.
- The deadline date for scholarship applications is May 9, 2025. Scholarships will be presented at the June Base Meeting.
- The drawing for the large Dolphins will be at the end of the meeting tonight.
- Tonight's drawings will also include a bottle of Scotch
- Tom is looking for a third team member to be part of the Scholarship Committee.
- Tom has Base Challenge Coins available.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- Ken Hutchison has one more function as President of the FRA. During the last six years, three Charleston Base members, Nate Nathan, Harry Nettles and Ken have been President of the FRA.
- About 60-70 percent of the Charleston Base members are also members of the FRA. Ken wants to know why it is not 100 percent.
- Ken thanked all of the SubVets for support during his tenure as FRA President, but singled out two men by name – Dave Harvey and especially Nick Nichols.
- On May 24, at 1500, the FRA will support the Goose Creek VFW by going to McAllister-Smith to hold a wreath laying ceremony.
- On Memorial Day at 0800, the FRA will put flags on veterans' graves at Plantation Memorial Gardens, then at 1030, the FRA will hold its annual Memorial Day remembrance. Bob MacPherson will be the guest speaker. After the ceremony, the FRA will have an indoor picnic. All are invited.

Recreation – COB for Johnny Brown

- The River Dogs game will be Friday, 13 June.

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Not present

Comptroller – Rick Wise

- Nothing to report

Nuclear Power School Awards – Phil Nunnally

- The next graduation ceremony will be held on June 6.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- Nothing to report.

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Phil joined by Woody Woodsmall replaced some boards and touched up some paint on the Little David.
- The museum director was very happy with the work that they had done.

SER Conference – Dave Harvey

- The National Convention is in Orlando, FL on August 31 – September 6. The cost for the room is \$120.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey

- A new set of fairwater planes are being designed for the float since the starboard plane came off somewhere on I-26 on the way to the Lost Boats Ceremony at Patriot's Point. (No, they will not be moveable.)
- The float will be commercially transported to Manitowoc, WI for "All Things Submarine" where it will be in the parade on July 4. The cost for this has already been covered.
- There will be a fish fry on Saturday, May 24 at the FRA. Tom Holcombe suggested that the three sailors from NNPTC that did the work at a Charleston Base member's home be invited and fed at this event. Dave suggested – not just them, but also their families.

Ambassador USSVCF – Bob MacPherson

- Bob thanked those who have already purchased the special coin. It has been a very successful fund raiser so far for helping our shipmates.
- The material for the recently installed ramp at a Base member's home was paid for by the Brotherhood Fund of USSVCF. The work was done by the FCPOA from NNPTC. Bob thanked Nick Nichols for his help to arrange for the work to be done.
- Bob noted that several members have donated to USSVCF already.
- In addition to the Brotherhood fund, there are ten different funds including the Education fund.

PAO – Bob MacPherson

- Bob has taken over as PAO.
- Bob stated that for all events, we need to have Facts, Figures, Dates and Times. Bob will prepare a form for Base members to submit the basic information.
- We need to let everyone know that Charleston Base is the best base in the entire country but we just need to tell our story better.
- We need to get our name out in the community and national publications.
- We have not yet heard anything regarding Armed Forces Day or Freedom Fest. Tom Holcombe will check further.

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler

- Nothing to Report

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank

- Not present

Special Events – Tom Holcombe

- Nothing to Report

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody sold the last two Challenge coins that he had, but he will order five more. They can only be ordered with a maximum quantity of five at a time.
- Woody has a 20oz. tumbler with dolphins on it as the special of the month.
- Woody can take plastic for purchases.

COB – Greg Landry

- The Will Rogers SSBN-659 Reunion will be held in October and is requesting support from Charleston Base with a memorial service at Patriot's Point.
- The Stonewall Jackson SSBN-634 is requesting assistance around the same date.
- COB will get more information and advise them what we can and cannot do.

National Awards – Mike Ciesielko for Bob Browning

- Mike reported that several awards were submitted to USSVI National. Mike expects these awards to be presented at the National Convention in September.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- Mike thanked the Base members for support during his seven years as Base Commander and four years as Secretary. He talked about getting invited to the Base meeting by Ray Bryant and Ken Hutchison (his actual COB on the boat) convincing him to be Secretary.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

After Battery – Rick Wise

- Open for chow on Wednesdays with games later.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Mike plans to get Palmetto State Armory to come to a meeting. He will coordinate that with the new Base Commander.

Memorial Day Texas

- There was mention of Memorial Day events in Frisco, TX and he has been the only SubVet there in past years. The Dallas Base has been contacted about this event.

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA Drawing – Ken Hutchison
- Depth Charge Drawing – Gordon Williams
- Scholarship BIG DOLPHINS – Don Ort
- Scholarship Highland Park Scotch – Don Ort

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson announced adjournment of the meeting with a sound of three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1957.