



Vol. 21 No. 8

August 2025

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

Base Meeting:

Newsletter & Little David Phil Nunnally 843.518.8301

BOD: Aug 7, 2025

Membership: Aug 14, 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	

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Submarines lost during the month of August

USS BULLHEAD (SS 332)	06 August 45	84 Souls lost
USS FLIER (SS 250)	13 August 44	78 Souls lost, 13 survived and swam to shore, 5 died ashore, 8 men survived
USS S-39 (SS 144)	13 August 42	No Souls lost
USS HARDER (SS 257)	24 August 44	79 Souls lost
USS COCHINO (SS 345)	26 August 49	No Souls lost

Five Boats and 246 Men Lost

USS HARDER (SS-257)

Tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk.

Launched 19 August 1942.

Steaming in a designated safe transit lane just after noon on 2 May, the submarine sighted a Navy PBY Catalina flying boat approximately five miles off her port beam. Unfortunately, the aircraft quickly turned and strafed the boat's starboard side with its .30 caliber machine guns and dropped a bomb close aboard. Fortunate to escape the encounter, Harder moored at the Submarine Base, Coco Solo, two days later at 1425.

Harder subsequently worked her way inside a picket line and sighted a merchant convoy escorted by a single warship steaming 11,000 off her port bow at 0034 on 22 June 1943. She immediately went to battle stations and gave chase. Upon closing to within 4,000 yards the boat dove and began maneuvering into a firing position. At 0052, she closed to within 800 yards and fired four torpedoes at the 1,189-ton auxiliary oiler Kyoei Maru No.3, but her first wartime shot exploded only 15 seconds into its run. However, at least one of the other three torpedoes hit and disabled the oiler. Unfortunately, the resulting explosion adversely affected Dealey's night vision, preventing him from firing on a second enemy ship. Expecting a counterattack, the boat dove, swung to starboard, and rigged for depth charges. Unfortunately, she overshot her intended depth and slammed into the bottom of the ocean, severely damaging her JK-QC sonar. She remained motionless from 0110-0230 as a series of 12 depth charges exploded overhead. With "considerable difficulty," Harder broke loose from the bottom a half hour later at 0300. Unfortunately, she only rose five feet before grounding a second time.

USS HARDER (SS-257)

Tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk

On 25 June 1943, Harder steamed toward smoke on the horizon at 1520, encountering a three ship-convoy escorted by a patrol craft five minutes later. The submarine maneuvered ahead, closed to within 2,000 yards and fired four shots from her after tubes at the middle ship in the column at 1603, before quickly turning and firing three more torpedoes at the last ship in the formation. As she went deep to 300-350 feet, the submarine observed her initial target down by the stern, with the pilothouse already awash. The enemy escort quickly located and closed the American boat, dropping seven depth charges from 1627-1734, after which the boat came to course 180° and crept out of the area.

The following evening at 1752, Harder sighted the cargo vessel Yoko Maru and a patrol craft steaming southward out of Tokyo Bay. Unable to close on the convoy while submerged, the boat broke off her attack until 1943 when reduced visibility permitted her to surface and give chase on three engines. She remained surfaced until she maneuvered into position directly ahead of her prey at 0045. At 0120, the boat fired three shots from her stern tubes from only 1,000 yards. Her second torpedo struck the enemy ship between her stack and stern. As she went deep, the submarine heard distinct “crunching” sounds as the maru broke apart. The boat remained at 300 feet as the patrol craft dropped nine depth charges, none of which exploded closer than 100 yards.

12 November. Just over three hours later, she encountered a cargo vessel escorted by an armed trawler and patrol craft at position 21°10'N, 144°50'E. The submarine immediately targeted the merchant ship, firing torpedoes from her three bow tubes at 1622. Her first two shots broke her target in two, quickly sending the ship to the bottom. She immediately dove to 100 ft. and rigged for silent running. The first enemy depth charge exploded close aboard, forcing the boat down to 250-300 feet. She returned to periscope depth at 1721 and found the armed trawler dead in the water, listing 20° to starboard and down by the stern. The submarine quickly photographed the enemy vessel before submerging again until after sunset. At 1857, the submarine surfaced and sank the damaged ship with her 3-inch and 20-millimeter guns, then turned her bow toward Saipan in search of new targets.

Sighting a large enemy convoy at 0200 on the morning of the 19th, she radioed her companions and closed for attack. At 0537, two torpedoes fired from Harder's bow tubes struck the passenger cargo ship Hokko Maru, which sank at 22°27'N, 147°15'E. Five minutes later, the submarine fired three shots from her stern tubes, which hit the 3,900-ton Udo Maru amidships. Despite multiple salvage attempts by the Japanese, the ship sank later that afternoon.

USS HARDER (SS-257)

Tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk

At 0840 on 1 April 1944, an overflying U.S. aircraft notified Harder of a downed pilot in the area. Guided by a fighter escort, the submarine sighted the airman standing on the northwestern tip of an unnamed island west of Woleai at 1145. Shortly thereafter, the submarine manned surface battle stations and nosed against a reef approximately 1,200 yards off the beach. With her hull scraping the bottom, the boat maintained her position with both screws as Lt. Samuel M. Logan, MoMM1c Francis X. Ryan and SC1c "J" "W" Thomason went over the side and began pushing and towing a rubber boat tethered to the submarine toward the beach. As they did so, an overflying aircraft dropped a rubber boat, into which Lt. (j.g.) John R. Galvin, A-V(N), USNR, from Fighting Squadron 8 in Bunker Hill (CV-17), climbed and attempted to paddle out against the tide. After approximately a half hour of wading and swimming, Lt. Logan and MoMM1c Ryan finally reached the exhausted pilot. Unfortunately, apparently unaware of the ongoing rescue attempt, an American floatplane landed and inadvertently severed the line between Harder and the rubber raft. Fortunately, GM1c Freeman Paquet Jr. was able to bring a second line to the stranded sailors. Despite Japanese snipers, boiling shoals, and the precarious position of the submarine, the daring rescue succeeded, and the intrepid boat returned to the open sea; subsequently, Lt. Logan, MoMM1c Ryan, SC1c Thomason, and GM1c Paquet each received the Navy Cross

On 6 June 1944, Harder entered the heavily patrolled Sibutu Passage between Tawi-Tawi and North Borneo and encountered a convoy of three tankers and two destroyers at 1930. She gave chase on the surface but was illuminated by the moon. As the 1,500-ton destroyer Minatsuki turned to attack, Harder submerged, turned and fired three torpedoes at a range of 1,100 yards at the onrushing enemy at 2159. Two struck the destroyer and exploded, sinking her within five minutes. At 2217, the boat's radar detected a second destroyer rapidly closing from 14,000 yards. Rather than run, Harder turned and closed on the enemy. At a range of only 1,250 yards, the submarine fired her six bow tubes at 2242. Unfortunately, the enemy ship skillfully avoided all of them, forcing the boat to go deep to 400 feet and rig for depth charges. Fortunately, sea conditions enabled the submarine depart the area and avoid the attack, which lasted until midnight.

At 1134 the next morning, Harder sighted another destroyer steaming 4,000 yards distant. As before, Harder took the initiative. At only 650 yards, the boat fired three torpedoes, striking Hayanami amidships, one apparently detonating the ship's magazine with a tremendous explosion, sinking her a minute later.

USS HARDER (SS-257)

Tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk

At 1940 on 7 June 1944, Harder surfaced and proceeded toward the Borneo coastline at one-third speed. As the boat came to rest, her hull scraping the bottom only 6,000 yards off the beach, TM1c Vincent L. Dallessandro and TM2c William F. Young assisted Australians Maj. William T. Jenkins and Sgt. Stanley W. Dodds with the assembly and loading of two folding canoes. Guided by information from Harder's radar passed via walkie-talkie, the two Aussies proceeded toward the coastline at 0940. A little over two hours later, they retrieved a party of six special operations troops from the Australian Special Reconnaissance Department's Z Unit. Aided by outboard motors, the group returned to the boat at 0130.

That evening Harder sighted two enemy destroyers patrolling the narrowest part of the passage, just six miles from Tawi-Tawi. After submerging, she made an undetected approach and at 1,000 yards fired four torpedoes at the overlapping targets. The second and third torpedoes blasted destroyer Tanikaze; she sank almost immediately, her boilers erupting with a terrific explosion. Soon afterward, the submarine underwent the inevitable depth charge attack then she set course for a point south of Tawi-Tawi to reconnoiter. Before dawn on 24 August 1944, Hake sighted the escort ship CD-22 and Patrol Boat No. 102 (ex-Stewart, DD-224.) As Hake closed to attack, the patrol boat turned away toward Dasol Bay. Hake broke off her approach, turned northward, sighting Harder's periscope 600 to 700 yards dead ahead. Swinging southward, Hake sighted CD-22 about 2,000 yards off her port quarter. To escape, Hake went deep and rigged for silent running. At 0728 Hake's crew reported hearing 15 rapid depth charges explode in the distance astern. Hake continued evasive action, returning to the attack area shortly after noon to sweep the area at periscope depth – only finding a ring of marker buoys covering a radius of one-half mile. Japanese records later revealed that Harder fired three torpedoes at CD-22 in a “down-the-throat” shot, which the enemy vessel successfully evaded. At 0728, she launched the first of several depth charges, which sunk the American submarine (Harder).

Harder received the Presidential Unit Citation for her first five patrols, and all six were designated successful. During his career, Cmdr. Dealey received the Navy Cross with three Gold Stars and the Distinguished Service Cross. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor and a Silver Star.

Read the entire article [here](#).

CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

Shipmates Reported Lost or 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 |
| • FTCS(SS) Albert 'Al' Stoll, Jr. USN Retired | 5 July 2025 |
| • YNC(SS) Elmer 'Moon' Mullins, Sr. USN Retired | 18 July 2025 |



CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

FTCS(SS) Albert 'Al' Stoll, Jr. 80, Ret. Now on Eternal Patrol

With great sadness I must report on Saturday July 5, 2025, our shipmate and friend Albert M. 'Al' Stoll Jr., 80, departed on Eternal Patrol at the Victory House in Walterboro. Al joined the Navy in 1962 and retired in 1983. He was a Member of USSVI National [2002] and Charleston Base [2002]. He was a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1969 on USS THREADFIN SS-410. Al also served on USS AMBERJACK SS-522, USS TRUMPETFISH SS-425 and USS PARCHE SSN-683. He served on two tenders USS HOWARD W. GILMORE AS-16 and USS BUSHNELL AS-15. His shore assignments were Submarine School NLON (twice) and Submarine Group SIX. Al was also a member of the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269, Navy League US and Rotary.

Al will be interned at Beaufort National Cemetery.

Albert Marcellius Stoll, Jr. WALTERBORO - Mr. Albert Marcellius Stoll, Jr., husband of fifty-eight years to Mrs. Jerrlyn Chastain Stoll, a Senior Chief in the United States Navy, entered into rest Saturday, July 5, 2025, at the Veterans Victory House in Walterboro, South Carolina. A Celebration of Life Reception will be held on Friday, July 25, 2025, at the Fleet Reserve Association, Low Country Branch, 99 Wisteria Road, Goose Creek SC, 11:30am - 1:30pm. Interment will be at Beaufort National Cemetery in a private ceremony at a later date.

Albert was born on July 12, 1944, in Cape May, NJ, son of Albert Marcellius Stoll, Sr. and Roberta Madeline Ball Stoll. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jerri, in 2022. He is survived by two daughters; Janice Simpson (Robert) of Mt. Pleasant, SC, and Jamie Hartman (Stephen) of Bluffton, SC; four grandchildren; Jessica Hartman, Craton Simpson (Jenna), Hannah Greenberg (William), Madeline Mills (Wyatt) and two great-grandchildren; Billy Simpson and Bond Simpson.

He enlisted in the Navy in 1962 and completed his final tour in 1983 comprising twenty-one years of highly decorated service in submarines and submarine support services. His "qual boat" was the USS Threadfin (SS-410), and he proudly served as Chief of the Boat on "the most highly decorated vessel in U.S. history", the USS Parche (SSN-683).

CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

FTCS(SS) Albert 'Al' Stoll, Jr. 80, Ret. Now on Eternal Patrol

He and his wife, Jerri, were married at a young age while he was in the Navy. The Navy life ensured that they experienced much of the United States as the family moved from duty station to duty station, coast to coast. Together, they raised two exceptional daughters.

After retiring from the Navy, Al and the family settled down in Charleston where he began working as a contractor in the defense industry. Albert was always known as a very confident person who pursued his goals with a passion. He could not resist trying his hand as an entrepreneur, dabbling in several small business ventures which spanned travel, food and beverage and real estate. Jerri, also an entrepreneur, started a small janitorial service which she and Al grew into Immaculate Reflections, a successful local business. Albert was also a founding investor, officer, and advisor, to Delphinus Engineering which has grown into a successful business providing government support services nationwide. Along the way, he still managed to do his part in supporting the community. He was a member of the North Charleston Rotary, The United States Submarine Veterans Inc., Charleston Base, The Navy League and the Fleet Reserve Association.

Always devoted to his family, Al was also loyal to his friends. The Stoll house was always a home; not only to his family but to friends, whenever they would visit. Along the way, the Stolls were known to take in a few strays, be them people or animals. You were always welcome to stay as long as you wanted (Some stayed years). He had a positive influence on many, was a big brother to some and a father figure to others; generous and always ready to lend a hand, provide support, encouragement, and candor when needed or mentorship when requested. He was a good man.

Al, the time has come to say Goodbye. Here's to the love, support, laughter and life events that we have shared over the years with our true and always loyal husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend. Now that you are together again, may God be with you and Jerri. We will always love you and miss you.

CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

FTCS(SS) Albert 'Al' Stoll, Jr. 80, Ret. Now on Eternal Patrol

Memorials may be made in Memory of Albert M. Stoll to the Veterans Victory House in Walterboro, SC, 2461 Sidneys Road, Walterboro, SC 29488 or a charity of your choice.

Arrangements by: THE BRICE W. HERNDON AND SONS FUNERAL HOMES AND CREMATORY, WALTERBORO CHAPEL, 1193 Bells Highway, Walterboro, 843.538.5408. Visit the registry online at: www.briceherndonfuneralhome.com.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).



Albert M. Stoll, Jr.
FTCS(SS) Qualified 1969 USS Threadfin SS410
DOB: 7.12.1944

Eternal Patrol: 7.5.2025

CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

YNC(SS) Elmer Bennett Mullins Sr., USN Retired Now on Eternal Patrol

With great sadness I must report on Friday, July 18, 2025, our shipmate and friend Elmer 'Moon' Mullins 89, departed on Eternal Patrol. Moon joined the Navy in 1954 and retired in 1978. He was a Member of USSVI National [2002] and Charleston Base [2002]. He was a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1964 on USS RATON SS/SSR/AGSS-270. Moon also served on USS DENTUDA AGSS-335, USS PARCHE AGSS-384, USS CHARR AGSS-328, USS SEADRAGON SSN-584 and twice on USS LEWIS AND CLARK SSBN-644, the first tour he was a Plank Owner putting her in commission and then as his last sea tour. He also served on the staff of COMMANDER SUBMARINE SQUADRON ONE. Moon was also a member of the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269, American Legion Post 166 Goose Creek and a Life Member of VFW Post 3433 Ladson.

OBITUARY

Elmer Bennett Mullins, Sr.

DOB: May 15, 1936

July 18, 2025 (age 89)

Elmer Bennett "Moon" Mullins, Sr., 89, of Goose Creek, SC, passed away Friday, July 18, 2025.

Funeral Services with Military Honors will be Saturday afternoon, July 26, 2025 at 1 o'clock in Parks Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will be private. The family will receive friends from 12:30 until the time of service in the chapel. Flowers are accepted. Donations in his name may also be made to New Beginnings Worship Center or St. Matthews Church of God, where he was a member. Ben was born May 15, 1936 in Derby, VA, the son of the late Ransom N. Mullins and Dorothy Hughes Mullins. He honorably served on the USS Lewis and Clark (SSBN-644) while in the United States Navy. He was a Vietnam Veteran and served for 24 years before retiring. He dedicated 20 years before retiring from the United States Postal Service in Summerville and loved watching football and Westerns. He enjoyed camping, fishing and traveling, especially to his hometown of Appalachia/Derby, VA. He was a member of the VFW, American Legion, Fleet Reserves, and the US Submarine Veterans Committee.

CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

YNC(SS) Elmer Bennett Mullins Sr., USN Retired Now on Eternal Patrol

Ben leaves behind his wife, Elizabeth Mullins; sons, Benny Mullins, Jr. (Karen) and Pastor Ralph Mullins (Lori); daughters, Sharon Dalton (Todd) and Kimberly Harper (Gene); and grandchildren, Jacob Zeruth, Bethany Trerotola (Jett), Bennett Mullins III, Will Mullins, Hannah Mullins, Gracie Harper, David Harper, and Tyler Harper. In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his first wife and mother of his children, Betty Sue Mullins; brother, Harold Mullins; sister, Sharon Bear; and many nieces and nephews.

Arrangements by PARKS FUNERAL HOME, 130 W. 1st North Street, Summerville, SC 29483. www.parksfuneralhome.com.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Elmer Bennett Mullins, Sr., please visit our floral store.



UPCOMING BASE EVENTS
See www.ussvicb.org for details

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Nuc School Graduation	August 1	Nuc Power School Campus
Board of Directors Meeting	August 7	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Base Meeting	August 14 (Social Hour—1800)	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
USSVI National Convention	Aug 31—Sep 6	Orlando FL.

NNPTC Graduation
1 August 2024

- Friday 0900
- If you plan to attend please contact Phil Nunnally at 843.518.8301 or email pbnunnally@gmail.com
- We will muster at and leave from the NEX parking lot at 0800



IMPORTANT DATES

PURPLE HEART DAY **August 7th**

Purple Heart Day is observed on Aug. 7 each year and is a time for Americans to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. Purple Heart Day is also known as National Purple Heart Day, Purple Heart Recognition Day, and Purple Heart Appreciation Day.



From the Editor
Contact me at newsletter@ussvicb.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Carl's Granddaughter was selected as one of the
USSVI Scholarship recipients!**

Scholarship News

Announcing our newest **eighty** scholarship recipients! Here they all are, listed in alphabetical order! Congratulations to each of them! They represent our future.

Name	College	USSVI Sponsor	Base
Elizabeth Chinn	Clemson University	Carl Chinn	Charleston



**Sub Vet Travels Over 1,000 Miles to Participate
in Fourth on the Shore with Replica Sub**

Charleston Base Commander Dave Harvey was interviewed about USSVI and our base participation in SubFest Manitowoc

Read the entire newspaper article [here](#).

SubFest Manitowoc [Home Page](#).

From the Editor
Contact me at newsletter@ussvicb.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VA announces expanded burial benefits

For immediate release
July 10, 2025 - 1:00 pm

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today it has temporarily expanded burial benefits for certain Veterans, per the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act.

The new law specifies eligible Veterans are those who are discharged from VA-provided medical or nursing care to receive VA-provided hospice care at their home and who pass away between July 1, 2025, and Oct. 1, 2026.

Previously, Veterans who died at home under VA hospice care after discharge from VA-provided medical or nursing care were not always eligible for a full VA burial allowance. The Dole Act addresses that gap.

VA is working hard to fully implement the many provisions of the Dole Act,” **said VA Secretary Doug Collins**. “We’re excited to offer this expanded benefit, which better supports Veterans who choose to spend their final days at home, surrounded by their loved ones.”

Families and caregivers of Veterans receiving hospice care at home following discharge from VA-provided medical or nursing care are encouraged to contact their local VA for information about eligibility and how to apply for burial benefits. Visit [VA burial benefits](#) or call 800-827-1000 for more information and see here for [details on the legislative language authorizing this change](#).

Request for Individual Support for Groton Clubhouse Upkeep

Transmitted at the direction of Base Commander Dave Harvey.
Base members are encouraged to donate if they would like to.
There are two links in this letter that you can use:
USSVI Boat Notes [Boat Notes | USSVI Groton](#)

Online gifts to the clubhouse [DONATIONS | USSVI Groton](#)

PAST EVENTS

SubFest Manitowoc, WI 4-6 July 2025

Manitowoc Wisconsin on Lake Michigan



PAST EVENTS

SubFest Manitowoc, WI 4-6 July 2025

USS Cobia SS-245 WWII facts.



Want to sleep onboard?

PAST EVENTS

SubFest Manitowoc, WI 4-6 July 2025



PAST EVENTS

FRA Indoor Picnic 4 July 2025



PAST EVENTS

Charleston Base/FRA Combined Cookout 19 July 2025

Johnny I know you shy away from praise but you deserve a great big heaping of THANKS. To be honest, anyone can have a "just a picnic" but it takes leadership to put in on like you did yesterday. Food always makes any event and yesterday the chow was wonderful thanks to the great cooks and planning that went into the entire event. Your idea to give the money back in the envelopes as a raffle was a huge success with many great comments and something we need to repeat at our functions in the future. Again BRAVE ZULU to you for staging the picnic and making it a "Huge Success".

Email from Nick Nichols 20 July 2025



PAST EVENTS

Charleston Base/FRA Combined Cookout 19 July 2025



PAST EVENTS

Charleston Base/FRA Combined Cookout 19 July 2025



FUTURE EVENTS

Charleston Sub Base Christmas Party 12 December



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**



NON-BASE EVENTS

Labor Day Celebration - Indoor picnic at the Fleet 1 September

- FRA Goose Creek
- 1100-1400 with meal served at 1130
- Hot Dogs and Hamburgers and all the fixin's
- You are encouraged to bring desserts



GENERAL STORIES

Deep Submergence Vessel NR-1 Initial Sea Trials 19 August 1969

Deep Submergence Vessel NR-1 was a unique United States Navy (USN) nuclear-powered ocean engineering and research submarine, built by the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics at Groton, Connecticut. NR-1 was launched on 25 January 1969, completed initial sea trials 19 August 1969, and was home-ported at Naval Submarine Base New London. NR-1 was the smallest nuclear submarine ever put into operation. The vessel was casually known as "Nerwin" and was never officially named or commissioned.

In the 1970s and 1980s, NR-1 conducted numerous classified missions involving recovery of objects from the floor of the deep sea. These missions remain classified and few details have been made public. One publicly acknowledged mission in 1976 was to recover parts of an F-14 that were lost from the deck of an aircraft carrier and sank with at least one AIM-54A Phoenix air-to-air missile. The secrecy typical of USN submarine operations was heightened by Rickover's personal involvement, and he shared details of NR-1 operations only on a need-to-know basis. Rickover envisioned building a small fleet of NR-1 type submarines, but only one was built due to budget restrictions.

Following the loss of the Space Shuttle Challenger in 1986, NR-1 was used to search for, identify, and recover critical parts of the Challenger craft. It could remain on the sea floor without resurfacing frequently, and was a major tool for searching deep waters. NR-1 remained submerged and on station even when heavy weather and rough seas hit the area and forced all other search and recovery ships into port.

In 1995, Robert Ballard used the NR-1 and its support ship MV Carolyn Chouest to explore the wreck of HMHS Britannic, the sister ship of RMS Titanic, which sank off the coast of Greece while serving as a hospital ship during World War I.

NR-1 was deactivated on 21 November 2008 at the U.S. Navy submarine base at Groton, Connecticut.

GENERAL STORIES

Kursk (K-141) submarine disaster 12 August 2000

On the morning of 12 August 2000, Kursk was in the Barents Sea, participating in the "Summer-X" exercise, the first large-scale naval exercise planned by the Russian Navy in more than a decade, and also its first since the dissolution of the Soviet Union. According to the Russian press, the exercise involved more than 50 ships and submarines, 40 support vessels, and around 80 airplanes and helicopters.

Kursk had recently won a citation for its excellent performance and been recognised as having the best submarine crew in the Northern Fleet.

[6] Although this was an exercise, Kursk loaded a full complement of conventional combat weapons. It was one of the few submarines authorised to carry a combat load at all times.

The Russian nuclear submarine K-141 Kursk sank in an accident on 12 August 2000 in the Barents Sea, with the loss of all 118 personnel on board. The submarine, which was of the Project 949A-class (Oscar II class), was taking part in the first major Russian naval exercise in more than 10 years. The crews of nearby ships felt an initial explosion and a second, much larger explosion, but the Russian Navy did not realise that an accident had occurred and did not initiate a search for the vessel for over six hours. The submarine's emergency rescue buoy had been intentionally disabled during an earlier mission and it took more than 16 hours to locate the submarine, which rested on the ocean floor at a depth of 108 metres (354 ft).

Over four days, the Russian Navy repeatedly failed in its attempts to attach four different diving bells and submersibles to the escape hatch of the submarine. Its response was criticised as slow and inept. Officials misled and manipulated the public and news media, and refused help from other countries' ships nearby. President Vladimir Putin initially continued his vacation at a seaside resort in Sochi[1] and authorised the Russian Navy to accept British and Norwegian assistance only after five days had passed. Two days later, British and Norwegian divers finally opened a hatch to the escape trunk in the boat's flooded ninth compartment, but found no survivors.

GENERAL STORIES

Kursk (K-141) submarine disaster 12 August 2000

An official investigation concluded that when the crew loaded a dummy 65-76 "Kit" torpedo, a faulty weld in its casing leaked high-test peroxide (HTP) inside the torpedo tube, initiating a catalytic explosion.[2] The torpedo manufacturer challenged this hypothesis, insisting that its design would prevent the kind of event described. The explosion blew off both the inner and outer tube doors, ignited a fire, destroyed the bulkhead between the first and second compartments, damaged the control room in the second compartment, and incapacitated or killed the torpedo room and control-room crew. Two minutes and fifteen seconds after the first explosion, another five to seven torpedo warheads exploded.

Analysts concluded that 23 sailors took refuge in the small ninth compartment and survived for more than six hours. When oxygen ran low, they attempted to replace a potassium superoxide chemical oxygen cartridge, but it fell into the oily seawater and exploded on contact. The resulting fire killed several crew members and triggered a flash fire that consumed the remaining oxygen, suffocating the remaining survivors.

Read the entire article [here](#).



British Sub News

UK decommissions last Trafalgar class nuclear submarine

Read the entire story [here](#).

Royal Navy hunter-killer submarine completes first historic phase of front-line career

Read the entire story [here](#).

Australian Sub News

Several Australian submarine news articles [here](#).

U.K. Royal Navy Shadows Russian Submarine in English Channel U.K., U.S., Netherlands Drill off East Coast

Read the entire story [here](#).

Russian Sub News

Russia's Nuclear Submarine Fleet Has a Message for NATO and the U.S. Navy

Read the entire story [here](#).

Chinese Sub News

Japan Reports Rare Sighting of Chinese Navy Submarine Support Ship

Read the entire story [here](#).

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

USS Newport News make First US Submarine Stop in Iceland 9 July 2025

Read the articles [here](#) and [here](#) and on [Facebook](#).



What's going on in politics and the Navy?

Report to Congress on SSN(X) Next Generation Submarine Program

Read the article [here](#).

Report to Congress on Changes in the Arctic

Read the article [here](#).

Major Star Concurrent Receipt Bill Reintroduced

The bill seeks to remove concurrent receipt restrictions on retirement and combat related pay.

Read the article [here](#).

Report to Congress on SSN(X) Next-Generation Submarine

Read the article [here](#).

CNO Nominee Caudle Says Sub Construction Pace Needs to Grow to Deliver on AUKUS Promise

Read the article [here](#).

After politics, we all need a little humor

It's so hot. Must be August.

Go to the O'Reilly website and search for Part 121G



United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
12 June 2025

Opening Ceremonies:

- The June 2025 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Dave Harvey with a quorum of three officers and a total of 48 members. Vice Commander Tom Lawson was absent from the meeting tonight. The meeting started at 1901 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Base Commander Dave Harvey and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of June was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of June:
 - ◊ USS HERRING (SS-233) June 1, 1944 – 8th war patrol
Lost with All Hands – 83 Souls
 - ◊ USS R-12 (SS-89) June 12, 1943 – practice torpedo approach near Key West FL
Lost with 42 Souls – 21 Survivors
 - ◊ USS GOLET (SS-361) June 14, 1944 – 2nd war patrol
Lost with All Hands – 82 Souls
 - ◊ USS BONEFISH (SS-223) June 18, 1945 – 8th war patrol
Lost with All Hands – 85 Souls
 - ◊ USS S-27 (SS-132) June 19, 1942 – grounded off Amchitka Island Alaska
No Loss of Life
 - ◊ USS O-9 (SS-70) June 20, 1941 – foundered off Isle of Shoals NH
Lost with All Hands – 33 Souls
 - ◊ USS Runner (SS-275) June 30, 1943 – 3rd war patrol
Lost with All Hands – 78 Souls
 - ◊ Seven Boats and 403 Men Lost

Chief Quartermaster, Submarines
Alan William Dempster, US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol 23 May 2025

- The Creed of USSVI was read by Base Commander Dave Harvey.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

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

Old Business:

- Treasurer Oath of Office – Chaplain Nick Nichols
 - ◊ Chaplain Nick Nichols performed the official swearing-in of Ricky Collins as Base Treasurer.

New Business:

• Navy Birthday Ball – Johnny Brown

- ◇ Johnny advised the members that NNPTC will be organizing the Golf Tournament fund raiser for the Navy Ball. Johnny said that we had previously sponsored the Breakfast Bar at \$500.
- ◇ [Secretary's Note: From the July, 2023 Base Meeting Minutes – the Base approved withdrawal of \$750 from the Investment Fund for the sponsorship of the Golf Tournament fund raiser.]
- ◇ If Charleston Base wants to sponsor this year, the cost will be \$1,000. Ken Hutchison made the motion to sponsor the Breakfast Bar with Ray Sparks seconding. Treasurer Ricky Collins advised the group that we do not have sufficient funds in the checking account to cover the \$1,000 expenditure. Ken Hutchison stated that we need to support NNPTC and this event.
- ◇ Ray Sparks presented a motion, with Robert Sollo seconding, that we withdraw the \$1,000 from the Investment Fund. No discussion. Motion was overwhelmingly approved to transfer the funds except for two hands as NAY. With the original motion about whether or not to sponsor the Navy Ball Golf Tournament still open, the vote was taken and approved without objection.

• USSVI National Convention – Dave Harvey

- ◇ We have been asked if Charleston Base would like to place an ad in American Submariner for the upcoming National Convention for a cost of \$175 for a half page ad. Nick Nichols made the motion with Glenn Little seconding. During discussion, there were questions from the room about what the ad looked like and the bank balance, otherwise there were no questions. Motion passed.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the May 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 – Ricky Collins:

- With Ricky on travel, the Treasurer's Report for May was same as published in April. Updates to the May report are:
 - ◇ We made \$1,600 in the Investment Fund.
 - ◇ Deposits were made from money received last week at the BOD Meeting.
 - ◇ The correct amount of the current balance of the General Fund – including reserved, designated funds (Scholarship, CWM, License Plates, etc.) is \$10,061. The report was approved as updated. The updates will be fully reflected in the June Treasurer's report.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- Highlighted boat of the month:
 - ◊ 82 years ago today, June 12, 1943, **USS R-12 (SS-89)** was lost with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.

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 was held on 22 May with 40 base members & family attending the service. Marty's family was very appreciative of us being there. She has sent a note that reads:
 - ◊ "Thanks" to all of the SubVets and especially those who came to Marty's services. I got so many compliments on you, the SubVets, their "uniforms" and their professionalism. One man (and ex-Marine told me it was the most beautiful, well conducted and inspiring religious/military funeral he'd ever attended. And I owe the military part to you and Marty's other friends."
- **Al Dempster's** memorial service will be at Stuhr's Northwoods Chapel Greenridge Rd. on 14 June @ 11am. Pastor Sam Knight will conduct the service. We've had services with him before. FRA will conduct Two Bell and SUBVETS will conduct Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling. I have these participants: Dave Harvey present certificate; Greg Landry present shadow box; Bill Freligh will present the HC coin; Glenn Little will toll the bell.
- **Budda Nelms** was taken to the hospital with a serious case of the flu. He was there from Sunday 7 June until Tuesday 10 June. He is home taking his meds and doing much better.
- **Pete Garrison** sent an email saying he had not made meetings for awhile due to his lung issues. In 2021 he had pneumonia and covid causing lung scarring and reducing efficient to 50%. He's now on supplemental O2 and the amount he needs to be safe increased to double previously needed. His portable O2 machine runs at full capacity which reduces battery life but he now has three batteries so hopes to get to our meetings again.
- **Ron Snyder** was in the hospital after having a heart attack on May 22. He got home on May 27, is doing PT and getting stronger each day. Looking forward to getting back to going to the meetings. Thanks for all the prayers.
- **Rick Carlson** was sent by his eye doctor to MUSC and 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.
- **Kit Sparger** is at home and according to her son, Rick Jr., she is doing OK. Continuing to do treatments and so far, looks positive.
- **John Lookabill** will not require surgery for the pulled ligament.
- **James Graham Sr.** is at home recovering from the hospital stay with cellulitis in his knee starting from a bug bite infection.

- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time. Even though he can't attend the meetings he does watch them on YouTube. His seizures are getting worse and more frequent.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Connie Dempster** is in The Bridge of Charleston Assisted Living. Mailing address is: Connie 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:

- It is election time for our ESR District 2 Commander for the 2025-27 Term of Office. The current ESD2 is Wayne Phillips and is running unopposed. Next week an email will be sent to all base members with both Word and PDF ballots and instructions. Please take time to vote...it is important to show that the 3rd largest base in USSVI cares about electing our leaders.
- American Legion Post 166, Goose Creek, will be conducting a Flag Disposal ceremony on Saturday, June 14th, at the Post commencing at 1700. They have asked that our Shipmates bring their unserviceable flag to be properly disposed and participate. TV Channel 4 will be televising portions of this ceremony with various organizations participating.
- Boat reunion info for those being held in Charleston will be placed on the home page of the base website when received. Send the info to webmaster@ussvicb.org
- Please report any change in your personal info to either Larry, Nick or the COB so the necessary changes can be made to national and local database.
- "Shift Colors" has been discontinued. The new eMagazine is Sailor for Life, It will be delivered to you via email if you have a DFAS email address. Also, you can find the first two issues of this magazine on our base website on the Documents webpage.

National Convention – Nick Nichols:

- A total of 17 from Charleston and 1 guest from another base are planning to attend the National Convention Aug 31 – Sep 6 in Orlando FL.
 - ◊ Ken & Barbara Brennerman
 - ◊ Bill & Mary Freligh
 - ◊ Dave & Dee Dee Harvey
 - ◊ Tom & Lisa Holcombe
 - ◊ Richard Jordan & Austin Jordan [Hampton Rds Base]
 - ◊ Nick & Linda Nichols
 - ◊ Art & JonAnne Sattler
 - ◊ Ed Stank & Carolyn Berry
 - ◊ Steve Woodside & Peg O'Donnell

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Lou reported that the video from the Lost Boats ceremony at CWM was posted online today.
- A recent video required a lot of editing – “Thank you Ed.” [dripping sarcasm]
- Membership – Larry Knutson
- Nothing to Report
- Nick Nichols provided Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #3 in USSVI membership. [AM = Associate Member]
- Groton 1106 w/61 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 285 w/11 AM – 3) Charleston 248 w/12 AM - 4) Bremerton 243 w/12 AM – 5) Requin 206 w/20 AM

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III

- We have a balance in the Scholarship fund of just over \$6,500 at this time.
- We had no Scholarship applications this year. The balance will be carried forward to next year.
- Tom has Base Challenge Coins available.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- Ken Hutchison has been relieved as President of the FRA. During the last six years, three Charleston Base members, Nate Nathan, Harry Nettles and Ken have held the office, but the new FRA President is a Marine.
- Ken wants to make sure that we get Al Dempster sent off on Eternal Patrol properly.
- The FRA will hold an Indoor Picnic on July 4.

Election Coordinator – Dave Harvey

- Ken Hutchison has been the Charleston Base Election coordinator for ten years and is requesting a relief of duty. If someone wants to take on this task, please advise Dave.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- The River Dogs game is tomorrow, 13 June. It is too late to purchase tickets.
- The FRA has invited Charleston Base SubVets to join them for a picnic at Marrington Plantation. Tickets will be \$5. Let Johnny know if you are coming and how many you are bringing.

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Not present

Comptroller – Rick Wise

- Nothing to report

Nuclear Power School Awards – Phil Nunnally

- Not present

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- Not present

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Not present

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey

- We have received two new THRESHER signs for the float.
- The float will be transported to Manitowoc, WI for the parade there.

Ambassador USSVCF/PAO– Bob MacPherson

- Not present

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler

- Nothing reported

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank

- On the tables are a proposed design for the plate. It has also been sent to the DMV for review.
- Currently, the effort is \$332 short of the required \$6,800 to submit the application. Ed stated that this is not a problem, since he could pay this himself if necessary.
- Ed stated that when a plate is purchased, the cost will be paid back to Charleston Base but it may take ten years to get reimbursed.
- Members of USSVI will be automatically qualified to receive the plate, but it will be available to any submarine qualified individual. The plate will ONLY be available to submarine qualified personnel. A member of Charleston Base (currently Ed Stank) will be the gate keeper for all DMV submarine license plate applications.
- The license plate will not be available with handicap markings. If someone needs the handicap marker, then the placard to hang from the mirror is an option.

Cold War Memorial – Rusty Pickett

- There is an effort for restoration of the Cold War Memorial. Rusty Pickett clarified that the CWM is a dedicated SC State memorial, so that if anyone hears of efforts by Patriot's Point to move the CWM, simply disregard what you hear. There is, however, a lot of cosmetic work that must be done at the CWM – especially on the sail.
- Rusty Pickett informed the group that a Lafayette bench will be installed at the CWM soon. There will also be a Nathan Hale bench to follow shortly after. Rusty nixed any word to the contrary about being able to install memorial benches at the CWM.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe

- Freedom Fest will be held on June 27 at Locklear Park starting at 6PM. The float will not be there this year, since it is being packed for transport to Wisconsin for the parade in Manitowoc.
- Tom will soon be assembling a watch bill for the Coastal Carolina Fair.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody has received five more 250/125 Challenge Coins.
- Woody has one more 60 Year USSVI patch kit.
- Woody has a bunch of stars from retired flags. These are available at no cost.
- The Embroidery Shop has been sold to another nearby business.
- Woody will not be at the July Base Meeting.
- We will have a guest speaker at the July Base Meeting. Tom Holcombe will be the POC for him.

COB – Greg Landry

- Freedom Fest will begin at 6PM with fireworks about 9PM.
- The July 4 FRA Indoor Picnic will begin about 1130.
- 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.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Not present

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- Not present

Base Commander – DAVE HARVEY

- Dave thanked the Base members for support and patience during his first meeting as BC.
- The National Convention will be held in Orlando, FL on August 31 – September 6.
- There was discussion of how membership/dues are paid by members of more than one base.
- Dave mentioned an email that he received requesting donations to Groton Base which has more than 1100 members on the roster.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- Open for chow at 5PM on Wednesdays.

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA Drawing – Pete Garrison
- Depth Charge Drawing – Dennis Lanier

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey announced adjournment of the meeting with a sound of three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1959.