



Vol. 21 No. 10

October 2025

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

### Base Meeting:

Newsletter & Little David Phil Nunnally 843.518.8301

BOD: Oct 2, 2025

Membership: Oct 9, 2025

### Location:

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



### **ELECTED**

Base Commander	Dave Harvey	812.773.1312
Vice Commander	Art Sattler	843.813.6899
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 October**

<b>USS Seawolf (SS-197)</b>	<b>Oct 3, 1944</b>	<b>100 Souls lost, 17 were Army</b>
<b>SS 44 (SS-155)</b>	<b>Oct 7, 1943</b>	<b>56 Souls lost, 2 POW</b>
<b>USS Wahoo (SS-238)</b>	<b>Oct 11, 1943</b>	<b>80 Souls lost</b>
<b>USS Dorado (SS-248)</b>	<b>Oct 12, 1943</b>	<b>77 Souls lost</b>
<b>USS Escolar (SS-294)</b>	<b>Oct 17, 1944</b>	<b>82 Souls lost</b>
<b>USS Darter (SS-227)</b>	<b>Oct 24, 1944</b>	<b>No loss of Life</b>
<b>USS Shark (SS-314)</b>	<b>Oct 24, 1944</b>	<b>87 Souls lost</b>
<b>USS Tang (SS-306)</b>	<b>Oct 24, 1944</b>	<b>78 Souls lost, 9 POW</b>
<b>USS O-5 (SS-66)</b>	<b>Oct 28, 1923</b>	<b>3 Souls lost</b>

**9 Boats Lost, 563 Souls Lost, 11 POW**

### **USS Wahoo (SS-238) Lieutenant Commander Dudley W. “Mush” Morton Lost 11 October 19**

Wahoo's fifth war patrol was hailed as outstanding in aggressiveness and efficiency. In just 10 days, Wahoo launched 10 torpedo attacks on eight different targets. Wahoo sank a total of 93,281 tons of shipping and damaged 30,880 more in only 25 days of the patrol. The patrol was Morton's third as commander of the boat establishing a record not only in damage inflicted on the enemy for three successive patrols, but also for accomplishing this feat in the shortest time. Morton received a gold star, in lieu of a second Navy Cross, from Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

After intensive post-repair trials and training, Wahoo departed on her sixth war patrol. The patrol's beginnings were marked by the worst possible luck with torpedoes. Within four days, 12 Japanese vessels were sighted and nine were hunted down and attacked to no avail. The torpedoes either broached, made erratic runs, or were just duds. Morton reported their poor performance and was ordered to return to base.

**USS Wahoo (SS-238)**  
**Lieutenant Commander Dudley W. “Mush” Morton**  
**Lost 11 October 19**

Morton was profoundly upset about the last patrol. He requested return to the Sea of Japan, and it was granted. On 9 September, Wahoo was underway from Pearl Harbor to La Perouse Strait. Once the legendary boat reached its destination, the plan was for Wahoo to enter the Sea of Japan first accompanied by USS Sawfish (SS-276). On 21 October, Wahoo was to head for home, but nothing was ever heard from Morton or Wahoo again. According to Japanese military records, Morton sank four ships amounting to about 13,000 tons on their final patrol. Japanese records also reported on 11 October that an antisubmarine aircraft discovered a surfaced submarine where Wahoo was estimated to be located and attacked, dropping three depth charges.

The loss of Morton sent shock waves among the submarine force and triggered a change tactics in the Sea of Japan. It would not be until June 1945 when submarines would return and that was with special mine detecting equipment. In postwar accounting, “Mush” Morton sank 19 ships for approximately 55,000 tons of enemy shipping. In terms of individual ships sunk, he was one of the top three skippers of the war. Morton received another Navy Cross posthumously. Wahoo earned six battle stars for her World War II service.



# CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

## Shipmates 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     |



**UPCOMING BASE EVENTS**  
See [www.ussvicb.org](http://www.ussvicb.org) for details

**Upcoming Charleston Base Events**

Board of Directors Meeting	October 2	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Base Meeting	October 9 ( <b>Social Hour—1800</b> )	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Navy Birthday Cake Cutting	October 10 @ 1800	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Navy Birthday Ball	October 18	Trident Technical College
Coastal Carolina Fair	Oct 30-Nov 9	Ladson Fair Grounds

**Coastal Carolina Fair  
Working Party to Display Our Float  
30 October—9 November**

More details to come about working party signups



## IMPORTANT DATES

**US Navy Birthday  
13 October  
250 Years!**

A 13 October 1775 resolution of the Continental Congress established what is now the United States Navy with “a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns, and a proportionable number of swivels, with eighty men, be fitted, with all possible despatch, for a cruise of three months....” After the American War of Independence, the U.S. Constitution empowered the new Congress “to provide and maintain a navy.” Acting on this authority, Congress established the Department of the Navy on 30 April 1798.





## **IMPORTANT DATES**

### **Day Of The Deployed 26 October**

Day of the Deployed is a day to honor our deployed troops and their families for their bravery and the sacrifices they are making for our country. Supporters of the military are urged to get personally involved in activities that send care packages, offer messages of encouragement, and other morale-boosting activities to those currently deployed overseas and the military families of the deployed.

Over the years, John Hoeven moved on from being a governor to a career as a North Dakota State Senator, and in 2011 he led an effort to establish official recognition for the holiday. On Oct. 18, 2011, his resolution passed unanimously for the first Day Of The Deployed. The Senate resolution is passed anew each year.

In a press release issued by the Senator's office that first announced the measure, Hoeven said, "Our U.S. service men and women currently deployed, along with their loved ones, make untold sacrifices as they serve our nation...A national Day of the Deployed pays tribute to their commitment to our country and their work to protect our freedoms."



## IMPORTANT DATES

**Navy Day**  
**27 October**

What is the difference between Navy Day and the Navy Birthday? Both occur in the month of October, and both celebrate the men and women of the United States Navy, past and present. The Navy celebrates its birthday officially on Oct. 13, and Navy Day was established to be observed on Oct. 27.

This year Navy Day will be on Monday, Oct. 27, 2025.

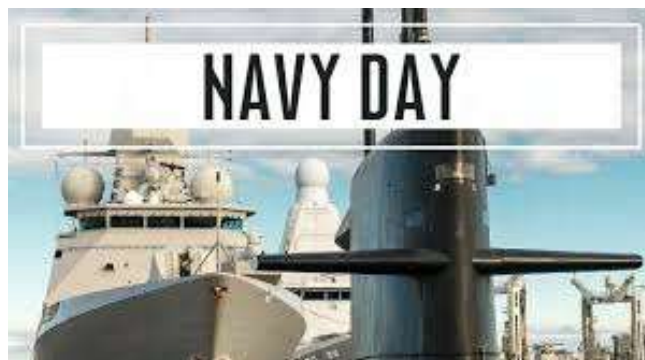
There are plenty of differences between the two, starting with the fact that the Navy Birthday is recognized on the anniversary of the historical formation of the Continental Navy during the American Revolution. Navy Day was originally chosen to coincide with the birthday of President Theodore Roosevelt.

Navy Day is actually the older observance, in terms of when it was created and officially recognized as it is today. The “official” observation of the Navy birthday was initiated by Admiral Elmo Zumwalt in 1972, but Navy Day was sponsored by the Navy League of New York in 1922.

While both holidays recognize the service and sacrifices of those in uniform, Navy Day is specifically about military service, where the Navy birthday celebrates the origins and history of the U.S. Navy.

Navy Day isn't unique to the American military. Many countries worldwide celebrate their own versions on different dates and with different traditions. Russia, Turkey, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, India, Croatia, Mexico, and many other nations all hold their own observations.

Read the entire article [here](#).





**From the Editor**  
**Contact me at [newsletter@ussvicb.org](mailto:newsletter@ussvicb.org)**

**Editor's visit to the Veteran's Memorial Museum  
Branson, MO  
10 September 2025**

While in Branson with Wendy and US Air Force friends, we were honored to visit this veterans museum. It is not the largest nor the most extravagant veterans museum I have visited but well worth the visit. It's basically a circular museum that starts with WWI memorabilia through more current wars and takes 1—2 hours to complete.

This was the first veterans museum where I saw a list of all ~417,000 Americans who died in action during WWII.

Here are a few pictures taken plus adding the name of my grandfather Army Private Herbert Bowman Nunnally Sr. who was killed in action during WWII, in Leyte, Philippines 13 December 1944. The gravestone picture is from another online source.



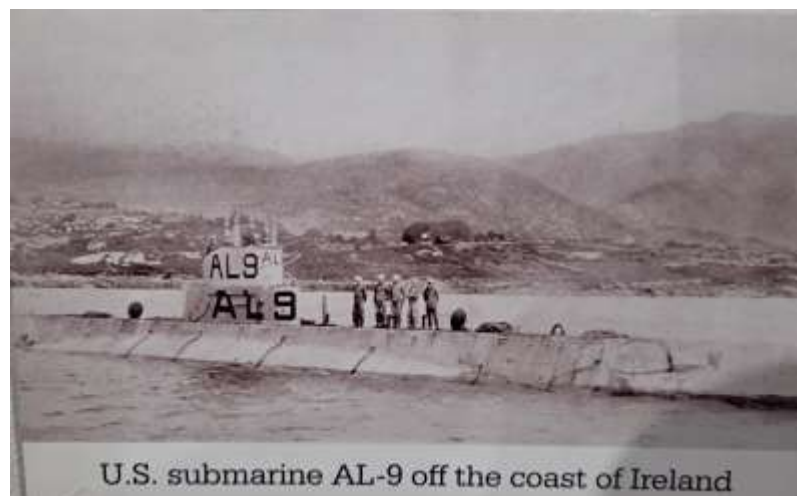
Nunez Joe R Nunez J  
rd E Nunley Milburn L  
Denver S Nunn Douglas L  
aynard L Nunn Melvin E  
B **Nunnally H B Sr** Nunna  
Lyle P Nunnenkamp Will  
iato Domenick W Nunziato S  
urney James T Nurrc Willia  
sbaum William Nusdeo Frank  
Dale H Nuss Henry Nuss  
ussbaum Loren E Nussbaumer  
Nute Kenneth H Nute Willia  
tt Earl J Nutt Edward E N  
G Nuttall George S Nuttall  
ter Francis J Nutter Grady T  
ting John F Nutting Roland B  
man Harold W Nuntinen Willia



From the Editor  
Contact me at [newsletter@ussvicb.org](mailto:newsletter@ussvicb.org)

## Visit to the Veteran's Memorial Museum Branson, MO 10 September 2025

The pictures and information about submarines was sparse but I took pictures where they existed.  
See more at their [website](https://www.veteransmemorialmuseum.org/).



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Opportunities to Serve our Base**

- Openings for
  - ◊ Base Historian
  - ◊ ADM Osborn Scholarship Committee
  - ◊ National Awards Coordinator

We are down to three openings. Could one of these be your calling?

Contact the Base Commander, the COB or any officer if you can help

### **Sailor for Life Magazine Fall/Winter 2025**

Sailor for Life Fall-Winter 2025 Newsletter  
(replaces the Shift Colors newsletter)

Sailor for Life is the Navy #39 is a biannual magazine for veterans, retirees, and their families. It updates the Navy community about their benefits and changes to policies and programs that affect them. More than just a publication, it is a trusted source for staying informed and connected.

Read the magazine [here](#). Thanks for Shipmates Johnny Brown and Nick Nichols for their reminders.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### It's October Time to Renew Your Dues

- Current membership—247
- \$40 national
- \$20 base
- PayPal not longer accepted
- Renewals can be for 1, 3 or 5 years for both National and Base.

### Get Your ID Card Online! No More Trips to the ID Card Office

**REMINDER:** The old green ID Card does not qualify as a Real ID for travel

Shipmate Tom Holcombe completed this process a few days ago without a visit to the ID Card office and asked me to pass this along.

It's easy and the details can be found in the [News & Updates Section](#).

#### WHAT'S CHANGED?

- ✓ Sponsors can request cards online, from anywhere
- ✓ Cards will be mailed to the cardholder via US mail
- ✓ No in-person requirement for most requests



## **2025 Coastal Carolina Fair Watch Bill**

Shipmates, I've created an online signup schedule for the 2025 Coastal Carolina Fair and want everyone to start volunteering ASAP so, hopefully, we will have a full watch bill by the October meeting, and I can distribute a hard copy.

If anyone has a question, please email back and I'll be sure to update everyone with new information.

This year we are going to have 2 watches at the float for the entire time that gates are open. We will have 2–6-hour shifts for Saturday and Sunday and for Wednesday, November 5 which is the senior's day from 10AM to 2PM. Weekdays will have a single 2 watch shift (except for senior's day)

There are also signups for 1 alternate on each watch.

We will be in the very same location as last year.

Admission will not be required except for those that plan on coming out unannounced. I'll add Glenn (photog) for every watch so that he can come as he wishes. Everyone will be required to post your name and email address, and you will get an email reply for your signups.

**We want full participation from regular and associate members.**

We also plan to have a separate larger tent with tables and chairs so if anyone wants to come and hang out to keep the watches on their toes, they are welcome!

I will update everyone when the Military Appreciation Day is scheduled. As of today, it is not on the schedule.

Link to the signup sheet: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054AADA62EA1F5CF8-58937901-official>

Thomas (Tom) Holcombe  
1357 Hidden Lakes Drive  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Flu Shots are available at Ralph H. Johnson VAMC Main Facility  
and all surrounding Community-Based Outpatient Clinics**

- Walk-ins are welcome
- from 9/15/2025 - 12/12/2025
- between the hours of 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Monday-Friday

Thanks for Shipmate Nick Nichols for the information

**The FRA Auxiliary Unit 269 is supporting  
a program at the VA Hospital on Rivers Ave**

The FRA Auxiliary Unit 269 is supporting the Voluntary Service Curbside Delivery (VSCD) program at the VA Hospital in North Charleston, which assists veterans experiencing food insecurities. Here is a list of needed items. A collection bin has been placed in the bar area. If you wish to donate gift cards, please place them in the Auxiliary's lock box at the Home office to ensure they are properly received. See a list of needed items on the next page.

6450 Rivers Ave, North Charleston



**The FRA Auxiliary Unit 269 is supporting  
a program at the VA Hospital on Rivers Ave**

**Items needed for Curbside Delivery For Our Veterans at the VA Hospital**

**Proteins:**

Tuna Cans

Chicken Can

SPAM Can or other potted meat

Bean Cans: pork & beans, black beans, kidney beans, navy beans, beanie  
weenies

Bag Dry Beans

Jar Peanut Butter

**Soup/ or Stew:**

Cans

**Sauce**

Jar or Can Red Marinara Sauce or Alfredo Sauce

**Pasta:**

Package or Box of Pasta noodles

**Rice:**

Package or Box of Rice

**Vegetables:**

Mixed Cans: corn, green beans, mixed, greens

**Fruits:**

Mixed Cans: peaches, fruit cocktail, pineapple, apple sauce

**Ready Meals:**

Mac & Cheese

Hormel Microwave Meals

Top Ramen

Box/Bag Instant Potatoes

**Cereal:**

Box/Bag of Cereal---May substitute 4-5 small cereal boxes---May substi-  
tute 5-6 oatmeal, cream of wheat, or grits packets

**GIFT CARD \$5.00 OR \$10.00 NOT MORE—PLACE IN Auxiliary box**

## IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

If you don't see your birthday listed, maybe Nick needs your Page 2.

1 Tim Esch  
1 Bill Roup  
2 Ed Johnson  
6 Dennis Lloyd  
8 Dale Hostetter  
10 Carolyn Berry  
10 Tom Britton  
11 John Chaconas Jr.  
12 Lee Chiasson Jr.  
12 John Lookabill  
14 Lindsay Nelson  
15 Matt Mathis

15 Rich Alfano  
16 Tom Skorepa  
19 Nate Nathan  
20 Skip Chilton  
20 Chad Haffa  
23 Richard Jordan  
26 Ralph Rohrsen  
28 Peter Garrison  
29 Roger Niebeling  
30 Tom Yingling  
31 Bill Ford



## **PAST EVENTS**

### **2025 USSVI National Convention 1—6 September 2025**

#### **Charleston Base and Members Win Awards at the National Convention**

As Special Events Coordinator, I am pleased to inform you that we were all big winners at the 2025 USSVI National Convention this past week.

1) Charleston Base was recipient of the Meritorious Base Award for Class 1 (Large) Bases. Our citation included our involvement in local activities such as the Amberjack/Lost Boats Annual Memorial Service, Coastal Carolina Fair, Patriots Point Pearl Harbor Memorial, Coastal Coffee Roasters Tolling of the Boats, The Wall That Heals and The Hunley Museum and Annual Memorial for sinking of HL Hunley submarine and USS Housatonic. It also noted our efforts to maintain The Little David and the Cold War Memorial in addition to our involvement in NNPTC Graduation Ceremonies. We also granted 2 large scholarships last year.

2) In addition, our very own Nick Nichols was recipient of the National Commanders Robert Link Award, which is the equivalent of the Navy Commendation Medal. There is only one of these awards given each year. Nick was recognized for his 18 years as Chaplain and 17 years as Webmaster for Charleston Base. His citation included his numerous accomplishments over the past year, one of which was the addition of Associate Members in Charleston Base. There are several other significant accomplishments.

3) And lastly, our very own Dave Harvey was recipient to the Meritorious Individual Award for his efforts in The Coastal Carolina Fair, Thresher Memorial Float renovation, Fund Raising for USS Cobia and his leadership in the planning and coordination of the 2025 Southeast Regional Conference in March.

Well done to all of you who contributed to these efforts. Please be sure to attend our meeting this Thursday and help to congratulate our very deserving award winners. And pat yourselves on the back for helping to win the Base Meritorious Award!

## PAST EVENTS

**2025 USSVI National Convention  
1—6 September 2025**

**Charleston Base and Members  
Win Awards at the National Convention**





## PAST EVENTS

**2025 USSVI National Convention  
1—6 September 2025**

**Awards Displayed at our FRA 269 Home**



## **PAST EVENTS**

### **2025 USSVI National Convention 1—6 September 2025**

#### **List of all Awards at the National Convention**

#### **2025 USSVI National Awards and Recognition Program**

The following awards were announced and presented at 2025 USSVI National Convention in Orlando, FL. Congratulations to all the Award Recipients. BZ

#### **District Commander of the Year for 2025-2026**

Michael E. Bost - District Commander Northeast District Two— Jersey Shore Base

#### **Golden Anchor Award**

Class I - Gold Country Base

Class III - Boise Base

Class IV – Oklahoma City Base

#### **Silver Anchor Award**

Class I – Hubert C. Dietrich- Requin Base

Class II – Brenda Giles— Jersey Shore Base

Class III – Steven Bateman - USS Maine Base

Class IV – Jerry L. Juhl – Heart of Texas Base

#### **Meritorious Shipmate Award – Individual**

Class I – David Lee Harvey - Charleston Base

Class II – David W. Weaver – Chesapeake Base

Class III – John Armenta - Dolphin Base

Class III – John Armenta - Dolphin Base

#### **Meritorious Base Award - Base**

CLASS I - Charleston Base

CLASS II – Carolina  
Piedmont Base

Class IV – Troy J. Robie –  
Brazos Valley Base

#### **Ben Bastura Historical Achievement Award**

David L. Johnston - Hampton Roads Base

Thomas C. Denton - Tri-State Base

## **PAST EVENTS**

### **2025 USSVI National Convention 1—6 September 2025**

#### **List of all Awards at the National Convention**

##### **The Newsletter of the Year Awards**

CLASS I - Central Texas Base - The Deck Log -Editor – Harold W. Scott II  
CLASS I – Gold Country Base – Clear the Baffles - Editor – Barry J. Wyatt  
CLASS II – Sea Poacher Base – The Straight Scoop - Editor – John E. Merrill  
CLASS III – Boise Base– Riding the Vents - Editor – Gary Grunewald  
CLASS IV – Sout Florida Base – Dive - Dive - Editor – David P. Sturm  
NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR- Class I - Bremerton Base - Puget Soundings - Editor - David R. Pittman

##### **Robert Link National Commander's Award**

Charles L. Andrews - Buffalo Base  
Andrew Brown – Carolina Piedmont Base  
James R. Harvey - Nautilus Base  
Ronald L. Mosher – Naples Base  
Christopher A. Pomeroy – Central Texas Base

Michael Brigandi – Mare Island Base  
Grant Day – Rocky Mountain Base  
Vaughn Mortimer - Dorado Base  
John E. Nichols - Charleston Base  
David P. Sturm – South Florida Base

JOE NEGRI AWARD United States Submarine Veteran of the Year  
Kenneth L. Earls – Rogue-Umpqua Base

Honored to Serve, Gary Galles,

2025 USSVI National Awards and Recognition Program Chair  
Prepared by Harold W (Bill) Scott II, National Awards Committee

## PAST EVENTS

### Nuc School Graduation 26 September 2025

399 graduates in this class

- Guest speaker: Mr. Jeffrey St. George
  - ◊ Senior Naval Reactors Representative for NPTU (prototype)
  - ◊ US Navy Submarine Officer earning three consecutive “Red E” awards as Engineer Officer, USS Montpelier (SSN 765)
  - ◊ Navy Legislative Fellow to the United States Congress
- Attended by myself and PAO/Navy League Rep Bob MacPherson



## FUTURE EVENTS

### Annual Rummage Sale 15 November

- Rodney's Rockets 129 Gateway Dr, Ladson, SC 29456
- 5 AM start
- Bring your stuff to sell
- More details to come from Tom Lawson III

### Charleston Sub Base Christmas Party 12 December





## **NON-BASE EVENTS**

### **US Navy 250th Flagship Birthday Event Philadelphia 9—15 October 2025**

Philadelphia, PA will host the historic celebration of the Navy and Marine Corps' 250th Birthday, honoring two of the most storied branches of the U.S. military. From October 9-15, the city will come alive with a weeklong series of events marking two-and-a-half centuries of service, sacrifice, and tradition. This milestone is particularly special, as both the Navy and Marine Corps come together to commemorate their shared legacy of warfighting commitment to defending freedom. With Philadelphia's rich historical significance and strong ties to both the Navy and Marine Corps founding in 1775, it is the perfect backdrop to celebrate the enduring bond between these two branches. Throughout the week, attendees will experience a variety of events — from commemorative ceremonies to community outreach programs, exhibitions, and live demonstrations — all showcasing the unique contributions of the Navy and Marine Corps to our nation's history and future.

This event is considered to be the Flagship of all US Navy celebrations for the 250th birthday.



## NON-BASE EVENTS

### 2025 SUBMARINE VETERANS OF WWII MEMORIAL 4—9 November

- 37th ANIVERSARY OF THE MEMORIAL
- Registration Deadline: FRIDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2025
- Contact: <http://www.stmaryssubmuseum.com/>
- Link to: [INFO & REGISTRATION PKG](#)



## GENERAL STORIES

### 11 Must-Read Submarine Books for Thrilling Escapes

Shipmate Tom Holcombe provided this website link for submarine books.

Happy reading!

#### **USS Holland (SS-1) Commissioned 12 October 1900**

John Philip Holland, the man who developed the first true submarine accepted by U.S. Navy (spending 57 of his 74 years working with submersibles), was born in Liscannor, County Clare, Ireland, on 29 February 1840. As a youth, he considered the use of the submarine to further the cause of Irish Independence. Holland came to the United States in 1873. In 1875 his first submarine designs were submitted for consideration by the U.S. Navy, but turned down as unworkable.

On 16 October 1900, Holland left Newport under tow of the tug Leyden for Annapolis where she trained cadets of the Naval Academy as well as officers and enlisted men ordered there to receive training so vital in preparing for the operation of other submarines being built for the Fleet.

Read the entire story [here](#).



## GENERAL STORIES

### **Historic WWII submarine USS Cobia begins journey for maintenance in Sturgeon Bay 7 September 2025**

MANITOWOC, Wis. (WLUK) -- A historic submarine is ready for some much-needed maintenance in Sturgeon Bay.

The USS Cobia left its dock at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc on Sunday morning.

It was originally scheduled to move on Thursday, but was rescheduled due to weather delays.

The WWII-era submarine will be towed 55 nautical miles north to Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding in Sturgeon Bay.

There it will be cleaned, inspected, replated, and repainted in dry dock.

Read the entire story [here](#).



## **British Sub News**

### **King Charles backs AUKUS submarine deal in hint for Trump**

Read the entire story [here](#).

## **Australian Sub News**

### **Australia Pledges \$7.9B for Naval Project to Support AUKUS Subs**

Read the entire story [here](#).

## **Russian Sub News**

### **Russia Gives North Korea Nuclear Submarine Technology: Report**

Read the entire story [here](#).

## **Chinese Sub News**

### **China Signs Submarine Deal With Us Ally**

Read the entire story [here](#).

## **Canadian Sub News**

### **German or South Korean subs? Ottawa's pick will hinge on economic windfall**

Read the entire story [here](#).

# **What's going on in politics and the Navy?**

## **CNO Caudle's First 'C-Note' to the Fleet**

Read the C-Note [here](#).

## **Report to Congress on Defense Acquisition Reform**

Key phase— *“chief acquisition and sustainment officer of the [DOD] with the mission of delivering and sustaining timely, cost-effective capabilities for the armed forces (and the Department).”*

Read the entire story [here](#).

## **U.S. Destroyers, Norwegian Navy surveilled by Russia in High North**

Read the entire story [here](#).

## **Defense Primer: U.S. Strategic Command Contains Report on SSBN's**

Read the entire story [here](#).



## What's going on in politics and the Navy?

**Senate bill seeks to protect shipbuilding jobs from workforce cuts**

Read the entire story [here](#).

**House and Senate OKs plans for \$852 billion in defense spending next year**

Read the entire story [here](#) and [here](#).

**After politics, we all need a little humor**



**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base**  
**Minutes of Business Meeting**  
**14 August 2025**

**Opening Ceremonies:**

- The August 2025 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Dave Harvey with a quorum of two officers and a total of 57 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm. Secretary Gordon Long arrived late but in just in time to provide the Secretary report in person. Vice Commander Tom Lawson was not present this evening.
- 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 August was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of August:
  - ◊ **USS Bullhead (SS-332) August 6, 1945 – 3rd War Patrol**  
**Lost with All Hands – 84 Souls**
  - ◊ **USS Flier (SS-250) August 13, 1944 – 2nd War Patrol**  
**Lost with 83 Souls – 8 men**
  - ◊ **survived.**
  - ◊ **USS S-39 (SS-144) August 13, 1942 – 3rd War Patrol**  
**No loss of life**
  - ◊ **USS Harder (SS-257) August 24, 1944 – 6th 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**
  - ◊

**Chief Yeoman, Submarines**  
**Elmer Bennett Mullins, US Navy Retired**  
**Departed on Eternal Patrol 18 July 2025**

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

**Special Presentation:**

- Sharon Sessler spoke about how much her husband Marty loved clocks as she and her daughter Lauren presented one to Charleston Base in his memory. Marty built, repaired, bought and sold clocks.
- Lauren briefly expressed how much her dad had enjoyed his time in the Service and that SubVets had meant a lot to him – especially reuniting with old shipmates.
- Nick Nichols accepted the clock and stated that we have a spot in this room right beside the Base Charter on the wall. When you see it, you will be able to remember Marty.

**Dismissal of Guests and Start of Business:**

- Base Commander Dave Harvey asked anyone who is not a member of the Base or is not a submarine qualified guest, to depart the meeting room. A brief recess was held during this time.

**Introductions of New Attendees:**

- There was one new man in attendance who introduced himself evening.
- Myles Smith – ETNC(SEL) – Qualified on USS Helena SSN725 – 2021

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- **Chief Selectee Submarine Brunch - Myles Smith**
  - ◇ Myles Smith from NNPTC asked Charleston Base members to attend a Chief Selectee Submarine Brunch at 1200 on 13 September at Bldg 777. The invitation is for Chief and above only.
- **FRA Annual Donation - Nick Nichols**
  - ◇ Nick Nichols presented a motion as recommended by the BOD:
  - ◇ Charleston Base shall make an annual donation of \$1000 to the FRA Home beginning September 1, 2025 and continue each year on September 1.
  - ◇ Several voices were heard as a second to the motion, the loudest and most distinct was Ken Hutchison. Nick noted that we use this facility for our meetings, Christmas Party, fund raisers and anything else we want to do including several fund raisers for the recently held USSVI Southeast Regional Conference. They could be renting this out but elect to let us use it. We should support them as much as possible other than buying food and drinks. The motion carried.

**Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- The Minutes from the July Base Meeting were emailed to all Base members. The Minutes have been published on the Base Website for download. There were no revisions. The Minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- The Treasurer's Report for July 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 BULLHEAD (SS-332)** was the last submarine lost during WWII. She was sunk on August 6, 1945 with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol. BULLHEAD was sunk by a depth charge dropped from a Japanese Army plane.
- **TODAY 80 years ago - August 14, 1945 - VJ Day – Victory in the Pacific**
- **67 years ago - August 12, 1958 - USS Nautilus completes first undersea voyage to North Pole**
- **25 years ago - August 12, 2000 - Soviet Submarine KURSK sank in Barents Sea – loss of all hands**

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.

- **YNC(SS) Elmer 'Moon' Mullins, 89**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 18 July 2025. 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. There was a Memorial Service on 26 July at Parks Funeral Home Chapel where he was given a FRA Two Bell Ceremony and SUBVET Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling.
- **FTCS(SS) Albert 'Al' Stoll, 80**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 5 July 2025. There was a Celebration of Life Memorial at the FRA Home on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Al was given a FRA Two Bell Ceremony and SUBVET Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling.
- **Tom Holcombe's** sister, Norma Jean Holcombe, passed away in 15 July. Tom traveled home for her service on 19 July.
- **Bobbi Sutton's** daughter, Becky Grammer, passed away on July 17. Bobbi is the FRA Branch 269 Chaplain and widow of RMCM(SS) Jon Sutton who departed on EP 28 June 2011. Her service was held on 29 July at Hillcrest Baptist Church.
- **Tom Lawson** was taken to Summerville ER on Wed for possible pneumonia but he did not have that. He ended up staying overnight and will be there tonight also. Tests show that he does not have it but he will have a final CT scan this evening.. With his breathing issues they are testing everything.
- **Jerry Stout** had a recent PET scan and it showed no residual skin cancer cells. He will continue having monthly immune therapy infusions. On Monday 11 August he had a difficult 5 ½ hr. surgery and was home on Tuesday. Thoughts and Prayers are appreciated. Jerry personally provided an update on his condition.

- **Walt Deal's granddaughter's** heart surgery went great. She was home in record time is now playing like a little girl should.
- **Ed Simokat** fell in his house on 22 July, and after being treated at the hospital was sent home. He was banged up badly.
- **Fred Woodley** continues to have urinary tract problems. He had a procedure conducted that went very well and is recovering at home. The procedure left a hematoma from his waist to right knee. On Wednesday he learned his brother Larry in Michigan has been diagnosed with a cancerous tumor pressing on his airway and his is intubated.
- **Rick Wise** had a CT scan on 28 July with very good results. No new nodules were found in the lungs but a small nodule that has been present in the right lung has had a small increase in size. He will have his next PET scan in three months.
- **Mike Knaub and wife Deborah** have moved to Daniel Island to an assisted living location.
- **Sue Eckles** had a stroke and is now in the Village of Summerville.
- **Kit Sparger** is at home. Rick Jr., says she is doing OK and continuing her treatments and so far, looks positive.
- **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.
- **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:**

- 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.

#### **Saturday Base Meeting – Nick Nichols**

- Nick Nichols updated everyone on the plans for a daytime Saturday Base Meeting – the purpose is to allow those members who cannot drive at night an opportunity to attend a Base Meeting. There is not enough time for proper coordination. Because of this, we will plan for such a change for possibly the March 2026 Base Meeting.

#### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Nothing to report

### **Membership – Nick Nichols for Larry Knutson**

- **Base Standings** [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #3 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
- Groton 1125 w/62 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 288 w/11 AM – 3) Charleston 247 w/12 AM - 4) Bremerton 243 w/12 AM – 5) Requin 207 w/20 AM
- Beginning with the renewal of dues in October members who pay annual dues will be able to make 1, 3 or 5-year dues payment for next year. The hope is to reduce the number who forget to pay their dues. Fee will remain \$20/yr.

### **Scholarship – Tom Lawson III**

- The balance in the Scholarship fund is currently \$6,567.
- Tom is still asking for a third member to be part of the Scholarship Committee.
- Challenge coins are available.
- There is a raffle in progress for a set of Dolphins.
- Plans are still being made for the Rummage Sale in November.

### **National Awards – Dave Harvey**

- Several awards were submitted to USSVI, but no advanced notice is provided prior to the National Convention in Orlando.

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

- The FRA will be holding an indoor picnic on Labor Day beginning at 1130.
- Ken Hutchison thanked Charleston Base for the contribution to the FRA. Treasurer Ricky Collins still must provide the check.
- Ken talked about the drawing in progress for the members of the FRA. It will be held on Tuesday.
- Ken recently was privileged to conduct a Two-Bell ceremony for a FRA member who was 102 years old. The man had been on the USS Hornet when Dolittle's Raiders flew off and also was in the battle of Coral Sea.
- Ken listed the "Four Stages for an Old Guy".
  - ◊ First – You look around and don't remember names.
  - ◊ Second – Is when you forget people's faces.
  - ◊ Third – When you go to the head and come out with your zipper open.
  - ◊ Fourth – When you forget to unzip.

### **Recreation – Johnny Brown**

- Johnny talked about the combined FRA/Charleston Base SubVets picnic which was held at Marrington Plantation on July 19. It was HOT, but we had a good time. We will avoid future July picnics.
- We will have our Christmas Party at the FRA on December 12. The menu has not yet been worked out.
- Charleston Base sponsored the breakfast bar at the Navy Birthday Ball golf tournament fund raiser. The SubVet banner will be displayed.



### **NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza**

- Nothing to report

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise**

- Nothing to report

### **Nuclear Power School Awards – Phil Nunnally**

- The last NPS graduation was August 1. It was hot, but it was still good.
- The guest speaker was the Commanding Officer of PCU John F. Kennedy. He had been a Machinist Mate who became an officer.
- The next NPS graduation will be September 26.

### **Newsletter – Phil Nunnally**

- Please send anything submarine related if you just think it may be of interest to members – even if you think that he may have heard it already.

### **Little David – Phil Nunnally**

- Nothing to report

### **Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey**

Working on things for September.

### **Ambassador USSVCF– Bob MacPherson**

- USSVCF website has changed the information regarding the various topics. Be sure take the time to refresh your memory on the opportunities available from children, scholarships, fellow submarine community with desperate needs etc.
- If you have standing donations to USSVCF, to continue these donations, you must redo them. The vendor which had been handling the donations stole approximately \$40,000 from the Foundation by holding onto the donations. The Foundation is getting this corrected, but in the meantime, the instructions for making recurring donations are on the USSVCF website.
- The USSVCF will be holding some auctions at the National Convention. There is a WWII Jeep and other things that are used to raise funds for memorials and other projects. The Foundation provided a list of items for auction donations. Tom Holcombe noted that the Jeep has been fully restored.
- Bob spoke about the 2025 WWII Memorial Week in St. Marys.

### **PAO– Bob MacPherson**

- Please provide Bob with info so that he can get it to National. It's great to have a newsletter but articles about Charleston Base events must be also be sent to National in a timely manner so that we can get the recognition that we need. This Base has great enthusiasm and does amazing things; the work, therefore, must be acknowledged. When it comes time for awards at the end of the year, it will be apparent why this Base is deserving of those awards.

### **Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler**

- We may be able to have a K4K visit in October. More info later.

### **Submarine License Plates – Dave Harvey for Ed Stank**

- The plate design which Ed submitted was denied by the DMV. At this point, what is permitted is the National USSVI logo, the letters “SV” and the number. Ed will provide an update at the next Base Meeting.

### **Special Events – Tom Holcombe**

- Tom reported a recent posting from Joint Base Charleston of a Country Music event at the Air Base. Tom asked Webmaster Nick Nichols to post the info on the Charleston Base website.
- Tom talked about the upcoming National Convention.
- The dates for the Coastal Carolina Fair are 30 OCT to 9 NOV. Tom will be putting together a watchbill for the event. He wants to have the float attended from gates open to gates closed. He hopes to be at the same location on the grounds.
- Tom, along with Rusty Pickett and Rodney McKanna met with David Coat from Patriots Point to discuss the Cold War Memorial. There are plans to put a waterproof membrane, which is supposed to last for five years, over the top the sail to keep water from getting inside the sail. Patriots Point will be sending a list of plans for future work as well.
- There is cleaning at the CWM. Tom stated that Rodney will coordinate these working parties for later when it is cooler.
- There are discussions in progress to gather funds for maintenance of the CWM. If a good many of the boat associations donate to the cause, then plenty of money will be secured. There was a question from the floor about how Patriots Point would direct the money. Tom stated that it would be earmarked for the CWM.

### **Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall**

- The 250/125 year Navy/Submarine Birthday Coin is available for only a short period of time. There will be no more produced after October. Woody has only a few left at \$12 and does not expect to order anymore.
- Woody has only one more 60 year Coin/Patch Combo – Never mind – It is gone. Woody offered the set for a discount price of \$15. It was claimed quickly by Casey Power.
- Woody has oak wood Dolphin pens available which are made by one of our Base Members. The wood come from an old whiskey barrel. The pen uses a Parker refill and is \$30 each.
- Woody has placed an order for 2026 calendars. He only purchased 40 based on previous years' sales.

- **Two PSAs:**

- ◊ Use the microphone. For those who are unable to attend the Base meeting – as Woody was last month – and must depend on the video to hear what is going, it is very important to use the mic. When someone was talking without the mic, it was similar to watching a Charlie Chaplain silent movie for what could be heard. Woody noted that we had to have missed him because his table was totally empty as no one set it up in his place.
- ◊ The Oxford Dictionary defines the word “Committee” as, “A group of people appointed for a specific function, typically consisting of members from a larger group.” Those who went to the picnic in July should have noted how hard Johnny worked to do almost everything for that picnic. Johnny is not the committee. The committee must be more than one man. It was brought up at the BOD meeting, but there must be some guys in this room tonight who are willing to be part of the Recreation Committee so that when we have these events, one man is not getting the ice, doing all the cooking, etc. Johnny needs to be recognized for his effort. He was offered a little help the day of the picnic, but the work involved to put on a picnic truly requires a committee.

### **COB – Greg Landry**

- The Coastal Carolina Fair is coming up soon and we need volunteers. COB encouraged everyone to be part of the Charleston Base float display at the fair. It was a lot of fun last year.
- There will be an Air Show in May 2026. More info at a later date.

### **VA – Tom Lawson**

- Not present

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson**

- Not present

### **Base Commander – Dave Harvey**

- Dave has received a very large donation of antique furniture and other items of value. He has contacted the town of Ellore which, on Oct 11, closes the street and has an event called Trash to Treasure. Dave expects to have three of the spaces at this event. Dave will have a trailer at the September Base Meeting for those who want to bring something.
- For those going to the National Convention, you sign up for your table once you are there. We can arrange to sit together at check-in.
- There will be a Holland Club Breakfast at the National Convention. The meal is also open to your wives, not just yourselves.
- The Base/District Commanders’ Meeting at the National Convention will be held on Friday. It is available to any member based on seat availability.

- Charleston Base has several open committee positions – Associate Chaplain, FRA and others. Dave recognized how hard Nick Nichols works as Base Chaplain and truly needs some assistance in this important work.
- Dave Harvey encouraged Base members to go visit other Base members who are not at the Base Meetings. In the last three months since he became Base Commander, we have lost 5 members.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

### **After Battery – Steve (Buddha) Nelms**

- USS RAY (SSN-653) will be holding a reunion beginning on Wednesday, OCT 8. On Friday OCT 10, the Ray group will visit The After Battery all day.
- USS Will Rogers (SSBN-659) will hold a reunion in October, with plans to visit The After Battery with 120 people on the October 17. Buddha read some questions from the 659 Reunion Committee.
- The 2026 Hog Roast will be held in April. Plans are being made right now.

### **GUN CLUB – Mike Ciesielko**

- Mike is planning a shoot for late September or early October.

### **VFW – Rodney McKanna**

- The VFW in Summerville is holding 50s/60s sock hop.

### **Drawings & Auctions**

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

### **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 2019.