



Vol. 21 No. 11

November 2025

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

### Base Meeting:

Newsletter & Little David Phil Nunnally 843.518.8301

BOD: Nov 6, 2025

Membership: Nov 13, 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 Albacore(SS-218)</b>	<b>7 Nov 44</b>	<b>85 Souls Lost</b>
<b>USS Growler (SS 215)</b>	<b>8 Nov 44</b>	<b>86 Souls Lost</b>
<b>USS Scamp (SS 277)</b>	<b>16 Nov 44</b>	<b>83 Souls Lost</b>
<b>USS Corvina (SS-226)</b>	<b>16 Nov 43</b>	<b>82 Souls Lost</b>
<b>USS Sculpin (SS-191)</b>	<b>19 Nov 43</b>	<b>42 Souls Lost, 41 Men Taken Prisoner, 21 Survived</b>

**5 Boats Lost, 399 Men Died, 21 Survived in POW camps**

### **USS Sculpin (SS-191) CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor**

Sculpin departed on her ninth war patrol in the waters north of Truk, where she was to intercept and attack Japanese ships departing for the upcoming invasion of Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands. Sculpin and two other submarines were to form "wolfpacks" in an effort to conduct coordinated attacks on the Japanese. Captain John P. Cromwell was onboard Sculpin to coordinate the attacks. After refueling at Johnston Island, Cromwell was ordered to commence the attacks on 29 November. After the submarine failed to acknowledge receipt of the orders, the message was repeated 48 hours later. The submarine was presumed lost about a month later.

Sculpin's final story was told by surviving crewmembers, who were liberated from Japanese prisoner of war camps at wars end. On 16 November, Sculpin arrived in the patrol area, and two days later, made radar contact with a large, high-speed enemy convoy. The following morning, Sculpin surfaced to attack, but after detection, the enemy started to zigzag towards her making it difficult to score a hit. The Japanese convoy then changed course. Sculpin dove and then resurfaced to attempt another attack. When the boat surfaced, a rear guard destroyer was discovered only 600 yards away. Sculpin crash-dived surviving the first salvo of depth charges. A second wave of attacks caused only minor damage to the submarine.

**USS Sculpin (SS-191)**  
**CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded**  
**the Congressional Medal of Honor**

After evading the enemy destroyer in a rainsquall, Sculpin attempted to come to periscope depth, but the depth gauge was damaged—stuck at 125 feet. Sculpin was detected by enemy sonar and she dove. The enemy rained 18 depth charges on Sculpin causing significant damage. Massive amounts of water began to enter the submarine making her an easy target for the Japanese. Another depth charge attack knocked out Sculpin's sonar, leaving her running blind.

After realizing the submarine was dead in the water, Commander Fred Connaway ordered the doomed boat to surface to give the crew a chance to escape. Sculpin's gunners manned the deck, but they were no match for the enemy destroyer's main battery. A shell hit the conning tower killing the bridge watch team, the gun crew, and the submarine's commander. The ship's senior surviving officer, Cromwell, ordered the submarine to be scuttled. Cromwell, who possessed vital information on the upcoming assault on the Gilbert Islands and other important future operations, feared he might reveal the plans if he was captured. The Japanese were infamous for their barbaric techniques in extracting information, which included torture and the use of drugs. Cromwell refused to be captured or abandon the submarine. He went down with the submarine, giving his life valiantly for his country. Cromwell received the Medal of Honor posthumously for extraordinary heroism.

Destroyer Yamagumo retrieved more than 40 of Sculpin's crew. After ten days of torture and questioning at a Japanese naval base at Truk, the prisoners of war were loaded on two aircraft carriers headed for Japanese prison camps. Escort carrier Chuyo carried half of the POWs. On 2 December, USS Sailfish (SS-192) torpedoed and sank Chuyo. The attack killed all but one of the American prisoners onboard. The remainder of Sculpin's survivors, who were on a separate aircraft carrier, made it safely to Japan and worked in copper mines for the duration of the war. Ironically, Sailfish was previously named Squalus. It was the submarine Sculpin helped rescue back in 1939 off the Isle of Shoals.

Sculpin received eight battle stars for her war service and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

# 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       |
| • FTCS (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      |
| • MMCS(SS) James M. 'Jim' McDonald USN Retired  | 28 September 2025 |
| • EMC(SS) John T. Brotherton USN Retired        | 12 October 2025   |



## CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

**MMCS(SS) James M. 'Jim' McDonald**, 73, departed on Eternal Patrol on 28 September 2025, in Norfolk VA. Jim joined the Navy in 1970 and retired in 1992. He was a life member of National [2001], a dual member of Charleston Base [2008] and Hampton Roads Base [2016]. He was also a member of the Holland Club having qualified in 1971 on USS DANIEL BOONE SSBN-629. Jim also served on USS HENRY L. STIMSON SSBN-655, USS JOHN MARSHALL SSBN/SSN-611, USS WOODROW WILSON SSBN/SSN-624 and USS JOHN C. CALHOUN SSBN-630. He also served on the tender USS ORION AS-18 and at Navy Recruiting District Nashville, a member of the Masons and VFW Post 2089 in Norfolk VA.

- A memorial service will be held at Deer Park Baptist Church on November 15 at 1100.
- This is also the date of the Rummage Sale for the Scholarship Fund.
- The service will be conducted by their pastor and Jim's brother-in-law.
- The family has requested Charleston Base to conduct the Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling during the service. More information will be coming out later.

Editor's Note: Jim and I served on the Calhoun together when I first became M-Div LCPO. I used his example on how to be a Chief in those early days. I saw him often in Charleston after we both retired until he moved to Norfolk along with the Army Maintenance Depot.

Jim's [obituary](#)



## CHARLESTON

### CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

**EMC(SS) John T. Brotherton, 73**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 12 October 2025. John joined the Navy in 1970 serving 6 years active duty and retired from the Navy Reserves in 1998. He was a life member of National and Charleston Base [2014]. He was a member of the Holland Club having qualified in 1974 on USS HAWKBILL SSN-666.

- A memorial service will be held in mid-December [possibly 13 Dec] location to be announced.
- The family has requested Charleston Base to conduct the Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling during the service. More information will be sent out later.

John's [obituary](#)





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

**Upcoming Charleston Base Events**

Coastal Carolina Fair Float	Oct 30—Nov 9	Ladson Fair Grounds
Board of Directors Meeting	November 6	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Veterans Day Lost Boats Tolling	November 11	Coastal Coffee Roasters
Base Meeting	November 13	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
	<b>( Social Hour—1800)</b>	
Scholarship Rummage Sale	November 15	Rodney's Rockets Trolley Rd
NNPTC Graduation	November 21	Meet at NEX
Thanksgiving	November 27	

**Coastal Carolina Fair**  
**Ladson Fair Grounds**  
**30 October—9 November**

Come see us or contact [Tom Holcombe](#) if you would still like to participate

We had a great time last year and expect the same this time.



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

**Coastal Coffee Roasters  
Veteran's Day Bell Tolling  
11 November 2024**

- Muster at 1030
- 1100 Start Time
- Free lunch provided after till 1400
- 108 E 3rd N St, Summerville, SC 29483
- The Thresher float will be on site
- Uniform of the day: Your SubVets vest
- Email [Tom Holcombe](mailto:Tom.Holcombe@ussvicb.org) if would like to be a participant





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

**Scholarship 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

**NNPTC Graduation  
21 November**

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



## IMPORTANT DATES

**Daylight Savings Time Ends  
2 November**



National Veterans & Military Family Month

Warrior Care Month

Entire Month of November

National Veterans Small Business Week

**3—7 2 November**

## IMPORTANT DATES

The war to end all wars resulted in the recognition and remembrance of all those who have served our great country and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Remember all veterans on November 11



*Bless those who serve beneath the deep,  
Through lonely hours their vigil keep.  
May peace their mission ever be!  
Protect each one, we ask of Thee.  
Bless those at home who wait and pray  
For their return by night and day.*

*Happy Thanksgiving to all those who can't be home this  
year and all the families that wait for their safe return*



## IMPORTANT DATES

Happy Thanksgiving!  
27 November



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

**Thanks!**

As you read the Newsletter you will see many articles contributed by our base shipmates. Thanks and keep them coming!!

## **Christmas Parades**

Final details will be available later this month or in November but the dates are:

Goose Creek Parade      12/13

Mt Pleasant Parade      12/14





## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- Openings for
  - ◊ Base Historian
  - ◊ ADM Osborn Scholarship Committee
  - ◊ National Awards Coordinator
  - ◊ Tom Lawson III is asking for a third volunteer for the Scholarship Cmte

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

### **Tom Lawson Steps Down as Vice Commander During the September Base Meeting**

I missed adding this information in the October Newsletter.  
Notes from the Base Minutes.

- Due to his breathing issues, Tom is stepping down as Vice Commander.
- At the conclusion of this meeting, Tom will resign his position.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey has appointed Art Sattler as Interim VC to fill out the term of office until the regular election in May, 2026.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **It's November Time to Renew Your Dues**

- Current membership—247
- \$40 national
- \$20 base
- PayPal not longer accepted

### **Legacy ID Cards No Longer Valid in 2026!**

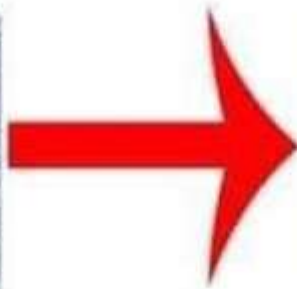
#### **Two Month Reminder**

Military retirees are required to update their Uniformed Services Identification (USID) cards to the new Next Generation USID card by December 31, 2025. The paper-based USID cards with indefinite expiration dates will no longer be accepted after this date. The new cards are more secure and durable, incorporating features like plastic cardstock and enhanced security measures. According to the DoD Common Access Card website, USID cards are issued to retired military and Reserve members, dependent family members of uniformed Service members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with DoD policy. It's important for military retirees/dependents/surviving spouses to know these old forms of ID will not be valid to access a military installation, and you will need issuance of the NextGen ID card.

**This will be true even if your old ID card has an INDEF expiration date on it - the ID will still be invalid.**

The deadline is 31 December 2025. Based on this, we strongly encourage everyone with an old-style ID card to get a NextGen ID card now!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Legacy  
ID  
Cards**

**Based on this, we strongly encourage everyone with an old-style ID card to get a NextGen ID card now!**

There are several ways to make an appointment to get a new ID card. (1). You can visit the RAPIDS ID Card Office Locator website to find the closest office and either call them to make an appointment or (2). schedule your own appointment using the website. <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/> To make an appointment using this site select the "ID Card Office Locator & Appointments" block. - do it now!

**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 in September 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](#).

## 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.

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  
substitute 5-6 oatmeal, cream of wheat, or grits packets

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Porch Painting in Goose Creek

Provided by Shipmate Tom Holcombe

# *Porch Painting* *Goose Class*



Where every brushstroke is for the birds (literally).  
Join us for a beginner-friendly painting class where  
you'll learn how to paint your own porch goose!

Class includes your own goose, all painting  
supplies, and one outfit to spruce up your home.

**BYOB (BEER & WINE ALLOWED, NO LIQUOR)**

DATE & TIME	LOCATION	FEE
<b>07 NOV 2025</b>	<b>THE CREEK</b>	<b>\$70</b>
<b>10 DEC 2025</b>	<b>COLLECTIVE</b>	<b>\$75</b>
<b>FROM 6 PM - 8 PM</b>	<b>222 ST. JAMES AVE</b>	<b>RESIDENT</b>
		<b>NON RESIDENT</b>

**FOR REGISTRATION & INFORMATION** [CITYOFGOOSSECREK.RECDESK.COM](http://CITYOFGOOSSECREK.RECDESK.COM)

**City of Goose Creek Recreation**

## IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

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

1 – DONALD WOLFE  
1 – MURRELL WILSON  
2 – KWOCK KAM  
2 – CHARLES WOOD  
3 – JONANNE SATTLER  
3 – MARVIN MILLER  
4 – GEORGE MUNOZ  
4 – PATRICK TOELLE  
4 – HERB ANDERSON  
7 – RODNEY MCKANNA  
8 – RAYMOND PEASE  
9 – TOM LEHMANN

10 – STEVE WOODSIDE  
12 – PATRICK MCCORD  
12 – CHRIS LAFORCE  
22 - HUGH ANDREWS  
22 - JOHN MCLOCHLIN  
23 – JOHN SELANDER  
24 – TOM LAWSON  
24 – RON LITZENBERGER  
26 – KENNY SEAL  
27 – ROBERT GALLAGHER  
30 – RONNIE KERSTETTER  
30 – ANDREW BERGAMO



## PAST EVENTS

### 250th Navy Birthday Ball 18 October 2025

These eight represented Charleston Base at the 250th Navy Birthday Ball held on October 18th. We had a great time and encourage everyone to consider attending next year.

- Rodney & Karen McKanna
- Nick & Linda Nichols
- Bob & Debbie MacPherson
- Johnny & Susan Brown

Provided by Shipmate Nick Nichols





## PAST EVENTS

### **19th Annual Pro-Am BBQ Cook-off American Legion Post 147 on James Island 24-25 October 2025**

The event featured a public tasting on Friday evening and turn-ins for various BBQ categories on Saturday morning, with an awards ceremony on Saturday afternoon. The cook-off benefits the Lowcountry Veterans Home and was sanctioned by the Southern BBQ Network.



## FUTURE EVENTS

### 84th Annual Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony with Wreath Laying 6 December

- USS Yorktown Patriot's Point
- 1100 Start Time

### Charleston Base SUBVETS Christmas Party 12 December





## **NON-BASE EVENTS**

### **North Charleston Tribute to Veterans 11 November 2025**

You're invited to the City of North Charleston's Annual Veterans Day Tribute on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, 10:00am at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center, featuring our keynote speaker Tara McClary Reeves.

We ask veterans and their families to join Mayor Reggie Burgess and City Council in this special ceremony. All veterans in attendance will be recognized and will receive a specially designed commemorative coin.

**RSVP no later than Monday, November 3, 2025.**

**Register Now Online at: [northcharlestonrec.eventbrite.com](https://northcharlestonrec.eventbrite.com).**

**For questions regarding the event please contact Katrina Page at [kpage@northcharleston.org](mailto:kpage@northcharleston.org) or 843-740-5803.**

Thanks,

**Katrina R. Page**

Program Director

Programs Division

City of North Charleston Recreation

2500 City Hall Lane

North Charleston, SC 29406

P: [\(843\) 740-5803](tel:(843)740-5803)

F: [\(843\) 745-1057](tel:(843)745-1057)

Provided by Shipmate Bob Browning

## NON-BASE EVENTS

### **2026 USSVI South Eastern Conference Hosted by the Tullibee Base 26-28 February 2026**

- Centennial Plaza Resort
- 200 East Beach Blvd, Gulfport Mississippi
- 100 Room Block saved until 10 January 2026
- \$116 per night + taxes, at present \$129.92
- More details to come

Link to 2026 SER Webpage: [2026 USSVI SER Conference](#)



## GENERAL STORIES

### Veterans History Project

The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress collects, preserves and makes accessible the firsthand recollections of U.S. military veterans who served from World War I through more recent conflicts and peacekeeping missions, so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand what they saw, did and felt during their service. It was founded through unanimous vote in both the House and Senate. To participate, click: <https://www.loc.gov/programs/veterans-history-project/how-to-participate/>

Submitted by Shipmate Rusty Pickett

### **U.S. Navy submariner joins mission to rebuild an Anglo-Saxon king's 1,400-year-old longship**

*Woodbridge, England — In a far-flung corner of southeast England, in a boatshed on the River Debden, a former U.S. Navy submariner whose career saw him serve on some of the most advanced nuclear-powered vessels of the 20th century has embarked on a mission into the past. David "Mac" MacDonald is one of 180 volunteers building a precise replica of a ship that set sail under the command of a king almost one-and-a-half millennia ago.*

They're working with The Sutton Hoo Ship's Company in the small town of Woodbridge, and their mission is to build a historically accurate reproduction of the wooden longship famously discovered on the site, which is believed to have been the final resting place of a 7th-century Anglo-Saxon king.

MacDonald grew up in New England and then lived in North Carolina for 30 years, but he moved to the U.K. seven years ago.

He built bespoke furniture and is a trained violin maker, but he put all that aside for a set of Anglo-Saxon axes after one of his wife's friends mentioned the project. Now he's part of the longship family, where he says he has "been made most welcome."

**[Read complete story with pictures HERE](#)**

Submitted by Shipmate Bob Browning

## GENERAL STORIES

### **The Secret Submarine with Tiny Little Ski Legs**

Nearly 400 feet beneath the freezing Sea of Okhotsk in the far east Soviet territorial waters, two divers clung to their lives through the umbilical cords that pumped warm water into their diving suits. As the men scoured the ocean floor, they kept looking for a 5-inch-diameter cable near their submarine's underwater skis. However, not even they knew precisely what they were doing or why, as their mission was so shrouded in secrecy that the sailors were told they were testing ocean engineering equipment. Little did they know that the submarine was conducting a series of spy missions to tap into Soviet communication cables between military bases, and was right on its way to becoming the most decorated submarine in United States Navy history... <https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/article/the-secret-submarine-with-tiny-little-ski-legs/vi-AA1KXH0q?ocid=winp2fptaskbarhover&cvid=d1f0edbc032141edeb2545969c93737a&ei=42>

Submitted by Shipmate John Lookabill

### **The Tragic Disappearance and Loss of the Argentine Submarine ARA San Juan (S-42)**

Argentine submarine ARA San Juan (S-42) lost during a training exercise in November 2017.

Read the entire story [here](#).



## British Sub News

**First Sea Lord orders 100-day plan to fix Royal Navy submarine availability crisis**

Read the entire story [here](#).

**UK defence secretary warns Putin: 'We're watching you'**

Read the entire story [here](#).

## Australian Sub News

**Trump backs US nuclear submarine deal for Australia**

Read the entire story [here](#).

## Russian Sub News

**Russia acquired Western technology to protect its nuclear submarine fleet**

Read the entire story [here](#).

**Russia to raise sunken nuclear submarines over radiation fears**

Read the entire story [here](#).

**Nato chief jokes about 'limping' Russian submarine**

Read the entire story [here](#).



## Chinese Sub News

### **China's submarines are getting quieter and deadlier**

Read the entire story [here](#).

### **China Builds Ocean-Wide Spy Network That Could Make US Submarines Visible**

Read the entire story [here](#).

## Canadian Sub News

### **Germany, Norway advocate for Canada to join Type 212CD submarine project**

Read the entire story [here](#).

## Korean Sub News

### **Hanwha Ocean Launches First KSS-III Batch-II Submarine**

Read the entire story [here](#).

## French Sub News

### **France introduced a modernized version of its M51 submarine-launched strategic ballistic missile**

Read the entire story [here](#).

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

### **Ballistic Missile Submarine USS Wyoming CO Removed From Command**

Read the entire story [here](#).

### **U.S. Sailors, Marines Join Partners for Biennial Exercise in Philippine Sea**

Read the entire story [here](#).

### **U.S. Guided-missile Sub Makes Rare Appearance in the Philippines**

Read the entire story [here](#).

### **H.R.1815 - VA Home Loan Program Reform Act To Prevent VA Loan Foreclosures Signed into Law 31 July 2025**

*This bill provides these veterans with needed relief and a second chance to keep their homes as a result of the new program.*

Read the entire story [here](#).

After politics, we all need a little humor



**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base**  
**Minutes of Business Meeting**  
**11 September 2025**

**Opening Ceremonies:**

- The September 2025 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Dave Harvey with a quorum of four officers and a total of 58 members. The meeting started at 1900 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 September was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of September:
  - ◊ **USS S-5 (SS 110) Sep 1, 1920 – Practice Dive**  
**No loss of life**
  - ◊ **USS GRAYLING (SS 209) Sep 9, 1943 – 8<sup>th</sup> War Patrol**  
**Lost with all hands – 76 souls**
  - ◊ **USS S-51 (SS 162) Sep 25, 1925 – Rammed off Block Island**  
**Lost with 33 souls; 3 survivors**
  - ◊ **USS CISCO (SS 290) Sep 28, 1943 – 1<sup>st</sup> War Patrol**  
**Lost with all hands – 76 souls**
  - ◊ **USS POMPANO (SS 181) September, 1943 – 7<sup>th</sup> War Patrol**  
**Lost with all hands - 77 souls**
- **Five Boats and 262 Men Lost**
- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Noting today's date, **Base Chaplain Nick Nichols** read the following:

Here's something really important to think about in your life – not just for today but every day.

**On this day, in 2001 ....**

---**246 people** went to sleep in preparation for their morning flights.

---**2,606 people** went to sleep in preparation for work in the morning.

---**343 firefighters** went to sleep in preparation for their morning shift.

---**60 police officers** went to sleep in preparation for their morning patrol.

---**8 paramedics** went to sleep in preparation for their morning shift of saving lives.

**None of them saw past 10 a.m. September 11, 2001. None.**

Life is random - In one single moment, life may never be the same.

Tonight, as you go to sleep in preparation for your life tomorrow, kiss the ones you love.

Hug your spouse and snuggle a little tighter, and **never take one second of your life for granted.** Never.

### **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 were two men in attendance at the Base meeting for the first time this evening.
  - ◊ Richard Jordan – RMCS - Qualified on USS Grayback SS574 – 1960 – Also served aboard USS Silversides SS236, USS Ulysses S Grant SSBN631B, USS Abraham Lincoln SSBN602G, USS Theodore Roosevelt SSBN600B
  - ◊ Roy Pertell – TM3 – Qualified on USS Sea Owl SS405 – 1968 – Member of Saratoga Base
- Both of these men are members of other bases who attended the USSVI National Convention and visited our Base Meeting on their route home.

### **Old Business:**

- None

### **New Business:**

- **New Trailer for Float – Dave Harvey – Float Coordinator**
  - ◊ After turning over control of the Base Meeting to Vice Commander Tom Lawson, Dave Harvey as Float Coordinator explained that he recently was able to acquire a 22 foot 15,000 pound capacity, heavy duty trailer which has regular tires and electric brakes.
  - ◊ A conservative estimate to fix the old trailer with correct axles, tires and brakes would be upwards of \$4,500. After hearing that the planned use was by SubVets, the man who sold the trailer to Dave agreed to an \$800 reduction in price, making the cost for this new trailer \$2,000.
  - ◊ The plan is to remove the wheels/jacks and tongue from the old trailer and weld the current trailer onto the top of the new trailer. This allows us to use everything as it is now without changes or additional cost to place a good stable frame under the float.
  - ◊ Dave had asked the BOD to recommend and present this request to the Base to reimburse him the \$2,000 cost. Ken Hutchison made the motion with Nick Nichols seconding.
    - \* There was a brief discussion with positive input from Tom Holcombe who had towed the float in its current condition.
    - \* Ed Stank noted that we had previously towed the float to locations outside the Charleston area and inquired about being able to do this again. Dave Harvey stated that this new trailer could be towed all the way to San Diego. Another man noted to the group that he was able to pull this new trailer with his Jeep.

- ◇ Vice Commander Tom Lawson asked the Base for a vote on the motion which carried enthusiastically and without objection.

The meeting was interrupted briefly for a statement that the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis has been locked down due to report of an active shooter.

- **National Awards – Tom Holcombe/Dave Harvey:**

- ◇ Tom read the USSVI citation and presented the USSVI 2025 Meritorious Base Award to Charleston Base as most representing the submarine motto, “Pride Runs Deep”. Mike Ciesielko accepted the award on behalf of Charleston as prior Base Commander.
- ◇ Dave Harvey read the excerpt and presented Mike Ciesielko with an award from the National Commander. Mike spoke a few words of acceptance after he was presented the award.
- ◇ Tom Holcombe read the text of the USSVI Robert Link Award and presented the award to Nick Nichols.
- ◇ Tom Holcombe presented the Individual USSVI Award to Dave Harvey. After accepting the award, Dave spoke about the assistance he received from numerous Base members during the recent SER Conference, for which he was recognized.
- ◇ Dave Harvey explained the procedure for which the awards will be submitted in the future.

- **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- The Minutes from the August 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 August was published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. The report was approved as presented.

- **Chaplain – Nick Nichols:**

- Our shipmate William Carman presented the base with a bullhorn to use at our picnics. A great gift and it will be very useful at base functions.

- **Highlighted boat of the month:**

- ◇ **USS POMPANO (SS-181)** was sunk between Sept 17 and Oct 5 with the loss of 77 men while on her 7th war patrol. Before being lost, she sank two enemy cargo ships. The exact cause of her loss remains unknown, but she probably fell victim to a mine on or after September 25th. This boat's last recorded ship sunk happened on Sept 25th, so she probably hit a mine on or after that date but before Oct 5th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.

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.

- **SKCM(SS) James Brooks USN Retired, 82**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 31 August 2025 in Mt. Pleasant. He was not a member of USSVI.
- **EMCM(SS) Harold L. Zachariah, USN Retired, 91**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 4 September in N. Charleston. His service was held on Wed, 10 September. He was not a member of USSVI.
- **Sue Eckles**, wife of Jim Eckles (EP 2009) passed away. Her service was this past Tuesday.
- **Buddha Nelms** will be having his pace maker replaced on Monday morning 15 September.
- **Tom Lawson** has been having issues which caused him to be in the hospital. He is home recovering.
- **Jerry Stout** is now clear of his prostate cancer and going through rehab.
- **Fred Woodley** received a good report from his urologist. Determined his thyroid issue was due to his weight loss. His brother is at the UofMichigan and being evaluated on treatment plans.
- **David Wood sent the following: My wife Fran**, had a stroke on February two years ago February 2026. This happened during a heart bypass procedure and they also had to replace her aorta during all of that. She is home now and doing better. We have a friend of hers that helps during the week.
- **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. You can contact him at cell 843.475.7043 or [torpedochief@aol.com](mailto:torpedochief@aol.com).
- **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. Ken can't talk for long but you can contact him at cell 843.906.1880 or [kencurtis@comcast.net](mailto:kencurtis@comcast.net).
- **Mike Knaub and wife Deborah** have moved to Daniel Island to an assisted living location. Their address is: Daniel Point Retirement Community, Room 310, 514 Robert Daniel Drive, Daniel Island, SC 29492. You can contact him at cell 843-795-6665 or [mlk91444@yahoo.com](mailto:mlk91444@yahoo.com).
- **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** has changed his location in the Villages. He is now in D409 in the main building. Becky is still in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, D409, Summerville SC 29483-6715. You can contact him at cell 843.509.3862 or [cbussvicob@yahoo.com](mailto:cbussvicob@yahoo.com)
- 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.

**Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Not present

**Membership – Larry Knutson**

- **Base Standings** [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #3 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
- Groton 1130 w/62 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 290 w/11 AM – 3) Charleston 247 w/12 AM - 4) Bremerton 244 w/12 AM – 5) Requin 207 w/20 AM
- Dues for annual members will be due at the Base Meeting in October. This year, we will have multi-year payment options for 1/3/5 years at a time.
- At the National Convention, Dave Harvey reported that – as noted during the recent National Convention – 61 percent of the current USSVI members are Holland Club members,

**Scholarship – Tom Lawson III**

- There is a raffle in progress for a large set of dolphins. The drawing will be held at the of the meeting tonight.
- Dave Harvey has received a significant amount of antiques. This will be taken to Elloree, SC for their annual Trash to Treasure event on October 11 rather than putting them out at the Rummage Sale. Dave is asking for help on October 4 to load up the new trailer for the trip to Elloree where we will be setting up at 0500.
- We have already sold five items totaling \$500
- Our Rummage Sale will be held on November 15 at Rodney's Rockets/Halloween Express on Old Trolley Rd. in Summerville. (The same place as previous years). We will begin setting up at 0500 for this also. Anything not sold will be taken to the National Kidney Foundation Thrift Store
- Tables are needed for smaller items.
- Tom is still asking for a third member to be part of the Scholarship Committee.
- Challenge coins are available for \$12.

**Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison**

- Nothing to report.

**Recreation – Johnny Brown**

- Nothing to report.

**NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza**

- On Saturday, September 13 at BLDG 777, NNPTC will host the Chief Selectee Breakfast.

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise**

- The 2026 Charleston Base Budget is being prepared by Rick and Tom Holcombe. It will be presented at the November BOD Meeting for initial review. Afterward, it shall be sent to the entire Base membership for final review. And a vote by the Base members at the November Base Meeting.
- This will be Rick's last budget. With that change, Rick will be out of a job at Charleston Base. Applause ensued, recognizing Rick Wise's long-term of work at Charleston Base.

### **Nuclear Power School Awards – Anthony Mazza for Phil Nunnally**

- The next NPS graduation will be September 26.

### **Newsletter – Phil Nunnally**

- Not present

### **Little David – Phil Nunnally**

- Not present

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

- The float will remain in its current state (not attached to the new trailer) until after the Coastal Carolina Fair

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

- At the Nation Convection, Ken Earles won a National Award.
- There are 10 elements to USSVCF – especially the Brotherhood Fund
- Bob welcomed Jerry Stout to his committee
- USSVCF website has changed as they shift to another website provider. The original was withholding funds.

### **PAO– Bob MacPherson**

- Bob encouraged everyone to read his LEAN SUBMARINER blog.
- It costs \$125S to sponsor a young enlisted man and his spouse for the Navy Ball.

### **Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler**

- Art stated that other Bases are having trouble getting back into the hospitals.
- Currently planning for the Fair.

### **Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank**

- The template for the plate has been approved.
- A DD214 must be submitted.
- The cost for the plate will be \$20 in addition to the normal registration fee.
- As money is received, the contributors will be reimbursed.
- There will be a raffle for the first plate

### **Special Events – Tom Holcombe**

- The Coastal Carolina Fair is coming up soon. Tom is asking for volunteers to sign up. He wants to have the float manned from “Gates Open to Gates Closed”
- The Hunley will be having an Oyster Roast on October 24. They will be offering behind the scenes tours to SubVets. More info later

### **Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall**

- Woody had one last Navy 250 / Submarine 150 year coin. It was quickly claimed by Nick.
- Woody has flag pins with VETERAN on it – Get yours now.
- Woody has flag pins with dolphins also.
- Woody has a new license plate frame.
- Woody has some new hats.

### **COB – Greg Landry**

- The AFB will be having an Air Show in May 2026 with the Blue Angels.

### **VA – Tom Lawson**

- VA needs volunteers – especially drivers.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson**

- Due to his breathing issues, Tom is stepping down as Vice Commander.
- At the conclusion of this meeting, Tom will resign his position.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey has appointed Art Sattler as Interim VC to fill out the term of office until the regular election in May, 2026.

### **Base Commander – Dave Harvey**

- Dave Harvey asked anyone who is involved in politics to not wear your vest, hat etc.
- Sub School reports that 40 percent of the students are female. By 2030, they expect it to be 60 percent.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

#### **After Battery – Ray Sparks**

- Ray reported that several submarine reunions are visiting The After Battery.
- There is a need for a Fall Clean Up.
- The After Battery is open each Wednesday at 5PM
- 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.

### **USSVI Campaign – Jerry Stout**

- Jerry reported that he is running for the office of USSVI SE Region Director. The office is currently held by Ken Nichols.
- Jerry gave Buddha a Sculpin Belt Buckle

### **CPR/AED Class – Art Sattler**

- Took poll for interest in CPR/AED Class. Art is a certified instructor.

### **GUN CLUB – Mike Ciesielko**

- Nothing to report.

### **Nuclear Historian – Rick Wise**

- Nothing to report.

### **Drawings & Auctions**

- Scholarship Dolphins – Mike Ciesielko
- FRA Drawing – Linda Nichols
- Depth Charge Drawing – Ken Hutchison

### **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 2018.