



Vol. 21 No. 12

December 2025

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

Base Meeting:

Newsletter & Little David Phil Nunnally 843.518.8301

BOD: Dec 4, 2025

Membership: None

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
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	
Public Affairs	VACANT	

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Submarines lost during the month of December

USS Capelin (SS-289)	2 Dec 43	76 Souls Lost
USS Sealion (SS-195)	Attacked 10 Dec 41 Scuttled 25 Dec 41	5 Souls Lost during the attack.
USS F-1 / Carp (SS-20)	17 Dec 17	19 Souls Lost
USS S-4 (SS-109)	17 Dec 27	40 Souls Lost. Salvaged in 1928 and recommissioned

4 Boats Lost, 140 Men Died

USS Capelin (SS-289) Lost to Unknown Cause on First War Patrol

Returning from her first war patrol after only 17 days out, CAPELIN (Cdr. E. E. Marshall) came into Darwin on 16 November 1943 with a defective conning tower hatch mechanism, excessively noisy bow planes, and a defective radar tube. These flaws were corrected to the satisfaction of the Commanding Officer, and the ship then departed for her second patrol on 17 November. Her area was in the Molucca and Celebes Seas, and she was to pay particular attention to Kaoe Bay, Morotai Strait, Davao Gulf and trade routes in the vicinity of Siaoe, Sangi, Talaud and Sarangani Islands. She was to leave her area at dark 6 December.

Nothing was positively heard from CAPELIN after her departure. However BONEFISH reported having seen a U. S. submarine at 1° 14'N, 123° 50'E on 2 December 1943. [Editor's note: According to Clay Blair in Silent Victory, the vessel was positively identified as Capelin. Bonefish sent her a message by sonar and received an acknowledgement.] This position is in the area assigned to CAPELIN at this time. An attempt to reach CAPELIN by radio, on 9 December 1943, elicited no response.

On 23 November an American submarine was attacked off Kaoe Bay, Halmahera, 1° 34'N, 123° 07'E. However the Japanese state that this attack was broken off, and the evidence of contact was rather thin. The only positive statement which can be made is that CAPELIN was lost in the Celebes Sea, or in Molucca Passage or the Molucca Sea, in December 1943.

USS Capelin (SS-289)

Lost to Unknown Cause on First War Patrol

Enemy minefields are now known to have been placed in various positions along the north coast of Celebes in CAPELIN's area, and she may have been lost because of a mine explosion. In her 17 day first patrol, CAPELIN sank two Japanese medium freighters for 7,400 tons of merchant shipping. This first patrol was conducted among the islands immediately west of New Guinea.

Read the entire story [here](#).



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 |
| • FTCM (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 |
| • EM1(SS) Antonio William 'Tony' Faella USN | 23 October 2025 |
| • FTCS(SS) Murrell Rex Wilson USN Retired | 20 March 2025 |
| • TMCM(SS) Raymond Kenneth Pease USN Retired | 29 October 2024 |



CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

WWII Submarine Veteran

EM1(SS) Antonio William 'Tony' Faella, 103, departed on Eternal Patrol on 23 October 2025 at home in South Kingstown RI. Tony enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and left in 1945. He qualified on USS SPEARFISH and made 5 war patrols. He was a life member of Submarine Veterans WWII, USSVI National and Groton Base. Tony attended every convention he could with the last one being the 2025 USSVI National Convention in Orlando. On November 22nd he and Betty would have been married for 74 years. His service was held on 1 Nov 2025.

EM1(SS) Antonio William 'Tony' Faella's [obituary](#).



CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

FTCS(SS) Murrell Rex Wilson, 91, departed on Eternal Patrol on March 20, 2025 at the Victory House in Walterboro SC. I discovered his passing when his birthday card was returned and I contacted his daughter and she let me know. Murrell joined the Navy in 1953 and retired in 1973. He joined USSVI in 2009 and a life member of National and Charleston Base [2011]. He was a member of the Holland Club having qualified in 1956 on USS QUEENFISH SS-393. Murrell also served on USS REDFISH SS-395, USS TRUMPETFISH SS-425 and USS ROBERT E. LEE SSBN/SSN-601. His service was held in Walterboro on 3 April 2025.

FTCS(SS) Murrell Rex Wilson's [obituary](#).



CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

TMCM(SS) Raymond Kenneth Pease, 89, departed on Eternal Patrol on October 29, 2024 in TN. We were recently informed of his passing when his granddaughter and great-grandson talked to us at the Fair. Raymond joined the Navy in 1954 and retired in 1980. He joined USSVI in 1997 and became a life member of National and Charleston Base [2004]. He was a member of the Holland Club having qualified in 1955 on USS BASHAW SS/SSK/AGSS-241. Raymond also served on USS BLUEGILL SS/SSK/AGSS-242, USS JAMES MADISON SSBN-627 as COB and HENRY CLAY SSBN-625. His service was private.

TMCM(SS) Raymond Kenneth Pease's [obituary](#).



UPCOMING BASE EVENTS
See www.ussvicb.org for details

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

BOD 2026 Planning Meeting	December 4	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Pearl Harbor Wreath Laying	December 7	USS Yorktown
Base Christmas Party and Base Meeting	December 12 (Party 1700-2000)	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Goose Creek Parade	December 13	
Mt Pleasant Parade	December 14	
Merry Christmas	December 25	

**84th Annual Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony with Wreath Laying
7 December**

- USS Yorktown Patriot's Point
- 1100 start time

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, along with Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10624, will host a Memorial Service to honor the 25 known South Carolinians who were killed during the 1941 Japanese attack. The service will include a wreath-laying, tolling of a bell, and a traditional gun salute. Museum admission will be waived from 10:00 - 1:00 PM for the those attending the memorial service.



UPCOMING BASE EVENTS
See www.ussvicb.org for details

**Charleston Sub Base Christmas Party
12 December**



**Charleston Base Submarine Veterans Christmas Party
Friday, 12 December 2025**

Fleet Reserve Home
Cash Bar
1700 Meet and Greet
1800 Dinner and Music
2000 Depth Charge Drawing

Buffet Dinner

\$10 per person and proceeds go to door prizes.

Pay Johnny Brown in person or mail to 148 Southwold Circle, Goose Creek, SC 29445

Attendance is limited to Charleston Base members and their families.

Make your reservations early as seating is limited.

RSVP NO LATER THAN 5 DECEMBER

Members are invited to bring your favorite Holiday dessert.



UPCOMING BASE EVENTS
See www.ussvicb.org for details

**Goose Creek Christmas Parade
13 December**

- Parade Start: 0930
- Lineup staging on Old Moncks Corner Rd begins 0700
- St James Ave closes at 0700
- Buses from Westview Elementary to the Lineup runs 0700-0850

WEB LINK



UPCOMING BASE EVENTS
See www.ussvicb.org for details

**Mount Pleasant Christmas Light Parade
14 December**

- Parade Start: 1730
- Coleman Blvd. Route
- More Info when known

WEB LINK



IMPORTANT DATES

National Wreaths Across America 13 December

National Wreaths Across America Day is an event in December dedicated to remembering the sacrifices veterans have made in wars since the American Revolution.

Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day pays tribute in veterans cemeteries nationwide. The WAA mission includes raising awareness of the sacrifices veterans make for the country and encouraging more people to remember.

You are invited to join the other FRA Branch 269 in the laying of the wreaths on graves in Carolina Memorial Gardens beginning at 1200. Come early to get a good parking space.

Merry Christmas!



From the Editor
Contact me at newsletter@ussvicb.org

Let's review just some of our busy and successful 2025!

- An incredibly successful USSVI Southeast Conference
- Another memorable Hog Roast in April
- A changing of the guard with our new base commander
- Our accomplishments and awards at the National Convention
- More exposure at the Coastal Carolina Fair
- And now into the busy Veteran's Day and Christmas parades and parties

On to 2026 and even a better year!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opportunities to Serve our Base

- Openings for
 - ◊ Public Affairs Officer [PAO]
 - ◊ 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 four openings. Could one of these be your calling?

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Unseen Burden: Toxic Exposures and Health Impacts on US Navy Submarines by SAG

During our recent November Base meeting, our Base Commander Dave Harvey, made us aware of the "Submariners' Advocacy Group" (SAG). Below, I quote directly from the home page of the SAG website. I encourage each of you to head to this site and read the information it contains.

Submariners' Advocacy Group

Submariners Helping Submariners

Welcome to the Submariners' Advocacy Group

Formed in June 2024, the Submariners' Advocacy Group (SAG) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for US Navy Submariners, both veterans and Active Duty. Members of the Silent Service have been faithful to their oaths and training and have been silent for far too long. SAG will advocate for all Submariners.

The Submariners' Advocacy Group (SAG) is to a voice for US Navy Submariners, both veterans and Active Duty.

Featured Information

- **NEW:** Read our groundbreaking report [The Unseen Burden: Toxic Exposures and Health Impacts on U.S. Navy Submariners](#) - exposing the chronic toxic exposure crisis affecting submariners and the systemic failures that have left veterans without proper care.
- Join our Public Facebook Group: [Submariners' Advocacy Group](#) to stay up to date on the latest news and information and to connect with other Submariners.
- Do you feel connected to this cause? Consider [donating](#) to help us continue our mission.
- Want to share the message? Try sharing our highly anticipated white paper [Submariners' Advocacy Group White Paper 02-13-2025](#) with your friends and family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Unseen Burden: Toxic Exposures and Health Impacts on US Navy Submarines by SAG

- Our Executive Director is headed to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of the Wyoming Congressional Delegation as a guest of the Wyoming VFW as well as the staff for both Missouri Senators and One of the Oklahoma Senators. It's going to be a busy trip! See the [calendar](#) for more details.
- Looking for more information or have a question? Drop us a line at public-affairs@subadvocates.org.

Vision

- To ensure that all Submariners are respected, receive all earned benefits and entitlements, and are properly recognized for the sacrifices they and their families have made as members of the greatest Submarine Force in the world.

Mission

- To advocate on behalf of all US Navy Submariners by undertaking all efforts to initiate required research and studies to facilitate proper medical care for submarine-connected health conditions and disabilities.
- To lobby the US Congress and state legislatures to pass and enact laws to provide for proper medical care of Submariners.
- To be a resource for Submariners, their families, survivors, and the medical community to obtain proper and adequate information regarding submarine-related atmospheric contaminants, toxic chemicals, radiation hazards, and related health issues.
- To provide appropriate materials and education to all interested Submariners.

Editor's Note: I also found this related article in the [Stars and Stripes](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

READ THIS!!

We were pleased to have VA Rep Jennifer Allison-Oord at our November base meeting with an important announcement related to nuclear submarines and the revised PACT act.

ALL submariners who served on nuclear subs are automatically eligible to be seen within the VA system due to the changes in the PACT act.

Here's a link to the primary VA health [page](#).

[Eligibility requirements](#).

How to get [started](#).

Call Jennifer Allison-Oord 843-252-7824 or [email](#).

Fall 2025 Sailor for Life Magazine

The fall magazine has a great article about US Navy's 250 years and other important article.

Read the magazine [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It's December Time to Renew Your Dues

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

Legacy ID Cards No Longer Valid in 2026!

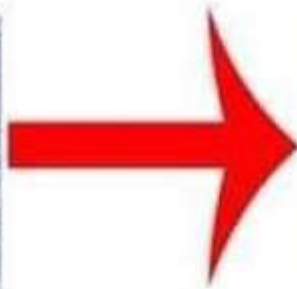
Last Month Reminder

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 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

07 NOV 2025

10 DEC 2025

FROM 6 PM - 8 PM

LOCATION

THE CREEK
COLLECTIVE
222 ST. JAMES AVE

FEE

\$70

\$75

RESIDENT

NON-
RESIDENT

FOR REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

CITYOFGOOSECREEK.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.

Dec 1 Pat Davis
Dec 2 Frank Evans
Dec 5 Paul Derrick
Dec 9 Terry Trump
Dec 10 George Scharf
Dec 11 Artie Sattler
Dec 12 Carl Chinn
Dec 13 David Horton
Dec 15 'Butch' Clift
Dec 16 Brenda Woodsmall

Dec 19 Mike Emerson
Dec 20 Robert 'Beetle' Bailey
Dec 20 Ronnie Vandiver
Dec 20 Fred Woodley
Dec 21 John Furst
Dec 22 Steve Smith
Dec 23 David Fischer
Dec 27 Ricky Collins
Dec 28 Steve Weise
Dec 31 Robert Williams



PAST EVENTS

Coastal Carolina Fair w/Float 30 October—9 November

This another successful event getting the SubVets and our base out in the public.

- 28 volunteers
- \$609 collected for the Scholarship Committee
- 64 contacts added to the ledger



PAST EVENTS

Lost Boats Bell Tolling Coastal Coffee Roasters Summerville 11 November



PAST EVENTS

Scholarship Rummage Sale Rodney's Rockets Trolley Rd 15 November



PAST EVENTS

NNPTC Graduation Ceremony 21 November 2025

This graduation had the largest graduation class in many years at 448 Graduates

The keynote speaker was Rear Adm Melvin R. Smith. He is currently Commander Submarine Group 2 and was previously Commanding Officer of the USS Jimmy Carter (SSN-23)



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 SEC Webpage: [2026 USSVI SE Conference](#)

Link to 2026 SEC Registration Package: [2026 USSVI SE Conference Reg Pkg](#)

Transmitted as requested by Dave Harvey, Base Commander / Southeast Conference Coordinator

In order to offer an attractive option to driving and a more comfortable trip to Gulfport MS for the 2026 SER Conference, I am working with a small company out of Columbia SC to provide us with a package deal for transportation. I have requested several options from him and asked he give us prices for each option. I hope to have those prices at our Base Meeting on Thursday. Below is the basics without the prices so that everyone can see what is planned. By doing it this way I'm hoping we will have a great turnout from the Base for the Conference.

Dates are February 22nd - March 1st 2026

--Pickup in Summerville SC, at 6am Feb 22nd, and transporting to Gulfport Mississippi, Centennial Plaza Resort 200 East Beach Blvd.

--Feb 24th plan trip to The National WWII Museum in New Orleans, 945 Magazine St. Leave Centennial Plaza Resort at 0730 am and return to Gulfport by 10PM

--Feb 25th plan trip to USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park, 2703 Battleship Pkwy. Mobile, AL. Leave Centennial Plaza Resort at 0730 am and return to Gulfport by 10pm.

--Leave Gulfport at 0800 March 1st returning to Summerville SC.

*** Price to and from Summerville will be: TBD

French Sub News

The new French Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile M51.3 enters service

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

Australian Sub News

Industry leaders unite to deliver combat system capability for SSN-AUKUS

Read the entire article [here](#).

Lockheed's Aussie arm makes pitch to sustain future Australian Virginia class submarines

Read the entire article [here](#).

Russian Sub News

Russia's New Nuclear Torpedo-Carrying Submarine Has Been Launched

Read the entire article [here](#).

Chinese Sub News

Chinese submarine to join Pak Navy fleet by 2026 : Should India be worried?

Read the entire article [here](#).

Canadian Sub News

Canada's New Submarines Will Be Lethal, Stealthy, and Very UnCanadian

Read the entire article [here](#).

Canada's missing submarine funds: 2025 budget leaves navy treading water

Read the entire article [here](#).

Korean Sub News

South Korea Positions KSS-III Attack Submarine for International Sale

Read the entire article [here](#).

'It is Reasonable' to Build RoK Navy Nuclear Sub in South Korean Shipyard

Read the entire article [here](#).

Indonesian Sub News

Torpedo fired from autonomous submarine: Stealth vessel proves underwater warfare supremacy

Read the entire article [here](#).

Swedish Sub News

World's first 5th-gen submarine can deploy drones, drop to seabed for hiding

Read the entire article [here](#).

Japanese Sub News

Japan likely to discuss possessing nuclear subs

Read the entire article [here](#).

AIP Sōryū-Class Is One of the Best Submarines On Earth (Not Made in America)

Read the entire article [here](#).

Spanish Sub News

On November 17, 2025, Navantia announced the floating of the S-82 Narciso Monturiol, the second submarine of the S-80 class

Read the entire article [here](#).

Pakistani Sub News

Pakistan will commission in 2026 the first Hangor-class submarines built in cooperation with China

Read the entire article [here](#).

Polish Sub News

Poland selects Sweden's Saab A26 as future submarine

Read the entire article [here](#).

NATO Sub News

NATO's Playbook Merlin 25 Enhances Baltic Sea Anti-Submarine Capabilities

Read the entire article [here](#).

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

HII CEO: New Agreement for 15 Submarines Could be Done by End of Year

Read the entire article [here](#).

Hegseth Maintains U.S. Position on Taiwan, China Urges Caution

Read the entire article [here](#).

USS Massachusetts (SSN-798) Completed Its First Sea Trials

Read the entire article [here](#).

8,000-ton submarine with enhanced stealth, special warfare tech delivered to US Navy

Read the entire article [here](#).

General Dynamics Electric Boat has launched the future USS Idaho

Read the entire article [here](#).

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

Future Attack Submarine Utah Christened at Electric Boat

Read the entire article [here](#).

The story of the 2 USS Utahs: Honoring the past while celebrating the future

Read the entire article [here](#).

Pearl Harbor to become first US Navy base armed with hypersonic destroyers, submarines

Read the entire article [here](#).

How Can America Respond to Russia's New Submarine Detection Grid?

Read the entire article [here](#).

Korea's nuclear sub plan carries wider role in countering China: US Navy chief

Read the entire article [here](#).

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

General Dynamics lands \$2.28B Columbia submarine contract

Read the entire article [here](#).

Top US Admiral Says He's Watching China's Rapid Naval Buildup Closely

Read the entire article [here](#)

Bow Section of First Columbia-class Sub Heading to Electric Boat

Read the entire article [here](#)



After politics, we all need a little humor

**I'M AT THE AGE WHERE THIS HOUSE
DOESN'T SCARE ME.**



Provided by Shipmate Jim Lewis

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
9 October 2025

Opening Ceremonies:

- The October 2025 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Dave Harvey with a quorum of four officers and a total of 47 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Art Sattler and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of October was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of October:
 - ◊ **USS SEAWOLF (SS 197) Oct 3, 1944 – 15th War Patrol**
Lost with all hands – 100 souls (83 crew and 17 Army)
 - ◊ **USS S-44 (SS 155) Oct 7, 1944 – 5th War Patrol**
Lost with 56 souls – 2 men became POWs and survived the war
 - ◊ **USS WAHOO (SS 238) Oct 11, 1943 – 7th War Patrol**
Lost with all hands – 80 souls
 - ◊ **USS DORADO (SS 248) Oct 12, 1944 – New - Training**
Lost with all hands – 77 souls
 - ◊ **USS ESCOLAR (SS 294) Oct 17, 1944 – 1st War Patrol**
Lost with all hands – 82 souls
 - ◊ **USS DARTER (SS 227) Oct 24, 1944 – 4th War Patrol**
No loss of life
 - ◊ **USS SHARK II (SS 314) Oct 24, 1944 – 3rd War Patrol**
Lost with all hands – 87 souls
 - ◊ **USS TANG (SS 306) Oct 25, 1944 – 5th War Patrol**
Lost with 78 souls – 9 men became POWs and survived the war
 - ◊ **USS O-5 (SS 66) Oct 29, 1923 – Near Panama Canal**
Lost with 3 souls
 - ◊ **Nine Boats and 563 Men Lost**

Senior Chief Machinist Mate, Submarines
James Maurice McDonald, US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol 28 September 2025

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

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 six men in attendance from the USS RAY Reunion at the Base meeting for the first time this evening. Three men were accompanied by their wives. We offered a birthday greeting in song to one of the ladies since she was attending this meeting on her birthday.

Old Business:

2026 Charleston Base Annual Budget – Rick Wise

- Rick Wise had previously sent the budget to the entire Base membership.
 - ◊ Rick explained that when the Life Membership dues was set up, the money was placed in an Investment fund; to be used when the majority of the Base were Life Members. We are currently there and have been for about 10 years.
 - ◊ The problem we have experienced is there was no provision for made for withdrawal of the funds. An approved Budget by the Base membership corrects this, although the transaction still goes to the Base membership for approval.
 - ◊ We will vote on the Budget at the November Base Meeting.
 - ◊ The 2025 3rd Quarter Budget/Expense report will be posted online soon.
- There was no further Old Business

New Business:

• New Vice Commander – Art Sattler

- ◊ Chaplain Nick Nichols performed the official swearing-in of Arthur Sattler as Vice Commander.
- ◊ Art will perform the duties of Vice Commander until May 2026 when the offices of Vice Commander and Base Secretary are scheduled for regular election.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the September Base Meeting were emailed to all Base members. A minor spelling error was reported via email. The error was correct prior to the Base Meeting. The corrected Minutes have been uploaded to the Base website. There were no further corrections noted at the meeting and were accepted as published. Those wanting a final revised copy of the September Base Meeting Minutes can download it from the Base website.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The Treasurer's Report for September was published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. The report was approved as presented.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

• HAPPY 250th BIRTHDAY US NAVY – OCTOBER 13th

- ◊ There will be a Happy Birthday Cake Cutting at the FRA Home on Friday Oct 13th at 1800.

- **Highlighted boat of the month:**

- ◊ **USS POMPANO (SS-181)** S-44 (SS-155) was lost on Oct 7, 1943 with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles. S-44 was on her 5th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, S-44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.

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.

- **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.
- **Bob Browning** had very serious back surgery on 7 October. Additional problems were found during the surgery resulting in more time in the OR. His discharge date is planned for tomorrow. Jerry Starr has volunteered to give him a ride home. He may need assistance after home and will let me know which I will then get the word out.
- **Tom Lawson** went to Summerville ER on Friday Oct 3rd with the same O₂ problems he had before. He was released on Monday Oct 6th. Home recovering.
- **Dave Woods wife, Fran**, had a stroke in February 2024 during a heart bypass procedure. They also had to replace her aorta during all of that. She is still recovering.
- **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. His phone number is 843-475-7043
- **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. Call before visiting. His number is 843-501-7368
- **Mike Knaub and wife Deborah** have moved to Daniel Island to an assisted living location. Their address is 514 Robert Daniel Dr. Rm 310, Daniel Island SC 29492-7375. You can contact Mike on his email mlk91444@yahoo.com or cell 843-795-6665.
- **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. Bill's email is cbussvicob@yahoo.com and his cell phone is 843-509-3962
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.
- The clock given to the SUBVETS in memory of Marty Sessler from his family has been hung along with a plaque. This is a special clock that receives its time signals from satellites. If it's ever noticed the time is off do not try to set it yourself. Contact the chaplain at chaplain@ussvicb.org.
- The base received a check from Marty's friends and family in Ohio. The check goes to the Scholarship Fund. Nick read a letter accompanying the check:
 - ◊ June 16, 2025
 - ◊ The enclosed gift is a memorial to our dear friend Martin (Marty) K. Sessler.
 - ◊ He will be missed but we'll have many fond memories of days gone by!
 - ◊ Sue A. Reinemann & husband Verne E Reinemann, a Subvet as well.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- I'm planning on reworking our website next year. There are many things on there that using the host analytics I don't see anyone ever checking the pages and information. I hope to streamline it and to give it a cleaner look.
- 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.

FRA Ladies' Auxiliary – Nick Nichols:

- As noted in my email reminder for this base meeting, the FRA Ladies Auxiliary has decided to take on a project this year to help feed Veterans. The VA sponsored program is called **Curbside Veterans Delivery**. There is a box in the bar area for you to bring items to that can be used in this program. The BOD encourages you to support the FRA Auxiliary in this program.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III

- The current balance in the Scholarship Fund \$7,677.
- Bob MacPherson has joined the Scholarship Committee.
- The Trash to Treasures event in Elloree is on Saturday, October 11. Contact Tom or Dave for more info.
- 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. Setting up at 0500 in Elloree.
- 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.
- Challenge coins are available for \$12.
- We received a donation to the Scholarship Fund from the USS Tullibee Association.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report

Membership – Larry Knutson

- It is now a new year for Dues from Annual Members since it is October. Take care of this immediately – (Cash or Check).
- **Base Standings** [those with more than 200 members]: **Charleston dropped to #4 in USSVI membership.** [AM = associate member]
 - ◊ Groton 1134 w/63 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 291 w/11 AM – 3) Bremerton 251 w/15 AM - 4) Charleston 247 w/12 AM – 5) Requin 207 w/20 AM
- At the National Convention, Dave Harvey reported that Charleston Base has received a meritorious award. Base members during the period are eligible for a patch. Please contact the storekeeper.

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Not present

Nuclear Power School Awards – Phil Nunnally

- Not present

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- Not present

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Not present

CSS Hunley – Tom Holcombe

- The Hunley Oyster Roast is October 24. They will be conducting tours on both 10/24 and 10/25. More info will be provided via email

Special Events – Tom Holcombe

- The membership drive will be held at the Coastal Carolina Fair. The float will be put into position the day before the fair opens.
- Tom has a watch bill with a few open spots still available.
- The Tolling of the Boats will be held at Coastal Coffee Roasters on Veterans Day.
- The Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 12. The Goose Creek parade is the next morning. Unless Tom hears of overwhelming support for the Goose Creek parade, we will not be participating in that event this year.
- We will participate in the Mount Pleasant parade on December 14. Tom needs help to decorate the float for the Mount Pleasant parade. Most importantly, Tom needs someone to step in as coordinator for the parade(s) since he will not be here at that time.
- Tom needs some volunteers for the Pearl Harbor Remembrance on December 7 to launch the memorial wreaths.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- Not present.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- On October 10, the FRA will hold a cake cutting in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States Navy Birthday. All are invited.
- Celebrate Veterans Day at 1130 at the FRA. All are invited.
- If you are not a FRA member, see Ken about it.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey

- Dave is asking for a working party on October 25 to clean and paint the float to prepare it for the Coastal Carolina Fair. Dave has a sign-up sheet for this working party.

Ambassador USSVCF – Bob MacPherson

- The Charitable Fund is set up to help shipmates and perform other tasks as needed.
- There is up to \$3k per instance to help if needed.
- Do you have a Will? Is it up to date? If it is older than five years, then likely it has things in it that no longer apply to your situation. If this is the case, USSVCF has a link where you can get a Will done.
- Talk to your financial planner if needed, but the USSVCF is worthy of a place in your Will.

PAO – Bob MacPherson

- Nothing to report – Need inputs from everyone.

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler

- Planning to be at the Coastal Carolina Fair.
- MUSC has new chairman at the children's cancer center. He is making plans to meet with him next week.

Submarine License Plates – DAVE HARVEY FOR Ed Stank

- South Carolina DMV has sent out a request for bids to make the plates.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody has 2026 Calendars for \$10 highlighting the 688 Class submarine. The National Storekeeper has them for more than \$17.
- Woody has hats available.
- Square – the credit card payment gizmo – is charging 3 percent now.
- PSA – Someone left a hat at the last meeting that they had purchased.

COB – Greg Landry

- Sign up for the Fair. Even if the watch bill is full, come on out and have fun. Wear your vest.
- Need to recruit members.
- The AFB will be having an Air Show in May 2026 with the Blue Angels.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler

- Nothing to report

Base Commander – Dave Harvey

- Dave needs help from 3 or 4 men to load the trailer for the trip to Elloree. There are about 1500 pieces. Wear your vest if you come to help at Elloree.
- Dave will be cooking at The After Battery for the USS Ray reunion.
- Dave is Southeast Conference Coordinator schedule for February 26-28. The Tullibee Base will be hosting the conference in Gulfport, MS. Dave highlighted some of the scheduled activities and stated that he would like to see at least 40 from Charleston Base to attend.
- We had 28 from Charleston Base attend the USSVI National Convention.
- Wear your vest when you are out somewhere - even Walmart.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

After Battery – Dave Harvey

- The USS RAY (SSN-653) will be holding a reunion with 120 people listed as attending on Friday OCT 10.
- USS Will Rogers (SSBN-659) will hold a reunion in October the following week.

GUN CLUB – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing to report.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Wise

- In 1849, Rick's great-great-grandfather was washing a pail in Georgia and found gold, so he started a mine which became very productive. Later, he sold the mine which continued to produce until about 1861. The gold from this mine was used to start the Bank of Georgia.
- The last name of the man to which the mine had been sold was Holland. Rick's neighbor also has the last name of Holland, so Rick went over to visit and ask why he stole Rick's gold. The neighbor stated that he did not steal the gold. But this man was a Holland from Georgia and you just can't trust these people.
- There were many twists and turns to the story of Rick's great-great-grandfather, including a wife from Tennessee and bushwhackers involved looking for the gold that he had been noted carrying. He was reportedly shot through the ear or possibly hot lead poured inside his ear.
- Rick's great-grandfather supposedly barricaded himself in his house because he was afraid of his family.

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA Drawing – Glenn Little
- Depth Charge Drawing – Dee Dee Harvey

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 2000