

November 2026

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

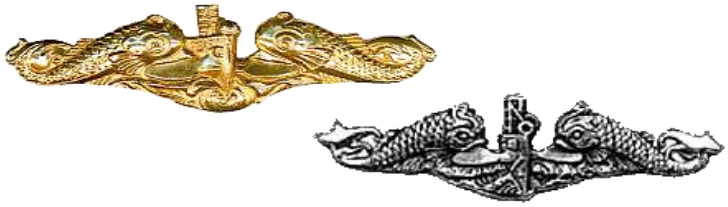
Base Meeting:

BOD: Nov 5, 2026
Base Meeting: Nov 12, 2026

Location:

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

Newsletter & Little David Phil Nunnally 843.518.8301
newsletter@ussvicb.org



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	**Herb Anderson**	**843.875.1060**
Chaplain	**Nick Nichols**	**843.452.3189**
Webmaster	**Nick Nichols**	**843.452.3189**
Veterans Affairs	**Fred Bolz**	**843.270.0345**
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	**Tom Holcombe**	**843.607.9610**
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**
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**
Scholarship Coord	**Kelly Price**	**813.613.9415**
ADM Osborn Sch Comm	**Matt Hoffman & Anthony Mazza**	
PAO	**VACANT**	
Recreation Comm.	**VACANT**	
National Awards Co	**VACANT**	
Base Historian	**VACANT**	
Float Coordinator	**VACANT**	

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Submarines lost during the month of November

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

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

Wreck Site Identified as World War II USS Albacore (SS 218)

16 February 2023

Read the story here.





Submarines lost during the month of October







CHARLESTON SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

Shipmates Lost or Reported Lost
Since our 2025 Base Christmas Party Bell Tolling

MMCM(SS) Jay Miller Rowland III., USN Retired	11 Jan 2026
STS2(SS) Charles Spencer Wood, USN Veteran	24 Jan 2026
QM2(SS) Christian Louis La Force, USN Veteran	22 Feb 2026
TMC(SS) Robert Kenneth ‘Ken’ Curtis, USN Retired	23 Feb 2026
FTCS(SS) Thomas W. Lawson, USN Retired	19 Mar 2026
MMCS(SS) Marvin D. Miller, USN Retired	22 Apr 2026
ETCS(SS) Joseph Barnes Van Swearingen Jr., USN Ret	16 Sep 2024
CWO4(SS) Jerry K. Stout, USN Retired	09 Jun 2026
TMC(SS) Steven H. Curry, USN Retired	04 July 2026
TMC(SS) Edward J. Simokat II, USN Retired	07 July 2026
MMCS(SS) Richard O. 'Rick' Wise, USN Retired	27 July 2026
RMCS(SS) Harry E. Kirk, USN Retired	02 Aug 2026
MM2(SS) / CM1(SS) Thomas L. Skorepa, USN Retired	14 Aug 2026
EMCS(SS) Kwock Gong Kam, USN Retired	23 Mar 2025



UPCOMING BASE EVENTS
See www.ussvicb.org for details

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Coastal Carolina Fair	Oct 29-Nov 8	Ladson Fair grounds
Board of Directors Meeting	November 5	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Lost Boats Bell Tolling	November 11	Coastal Coffee Roasters
Base Meeting	November 12	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek

Coastal Carolina Fair w/float
29 October – 8 November

- Hope to see everyone there!





UPCOMING BASE EVENTS

COASTAL COFFEE ROASTERS
Veteran's Day Bell Tolling
11 November

- 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 if would like to be a participant





IMPORTANT DATES

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
1 November



MID-TERM ELECTIONS

Time to Vote 3 November!



IMPORTANT DATES

VETERANS DAY

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 11th



THANKSGIVING

26 November



From the Editor
Contact me at newsletter@ussvicb.org

I visited John McCant's Veteran's Park in Goose Creek back in August. Stop by and visit when you get the chance.

I've included a list of all maritime museums in the United States.

****When you travel, get pictures of Veteran sites and send them to me for publishing.**

John McCant's Veteran's Park
Goose Creek







From the Editor

While watching the Alabama - Georgia Football Game



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Transmitted at the direction of Dave Harvey Base Commander.

I am very glad to inform Charleston Base that 3 base members have stepped forward to fill positions within the base leadership. After the last meeting two members stepped forward to volunteer for the Scholarship Committee and one called me later to volunteer for the COB position.

CHIEF OF THE BOAT:

I have appointed Herb Anderson MMC(SS/SW) Ret as the new COB. He is now receiving email at the COB address: cob@ussvicb.org. Drop him a line to welcome him to this new position. Herb retired in 1994 and qualified on Nathanael Greene SSBN 636 in 1972. He is a Life Member of National and Base and also is a member of the Holland Club. Welcome COB Anderson.

Greg Landry has been our Base COB for the last 3 years beginning in 2023. We appreciate all that Greg has done to keep the base running smoothly.

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN:

I have appointed Kelly Price LCDR Ret as the new Scholarship Chairman. He is now receiving email at the Scholarship address: scholarship@ussvicb.org. Drop him a line and welcome him to this new position. Kelly retired in 2002 and qualified on Jacksonville SSN 699 in 1992. He also served on Hampton SSN 767. Kelly just joined in March of this year and has already stepped up to help the base.

Thomas Lawson III has been the Scholarship Chair for the last 2 years beginning in 2024. We appreciate all that Tom has done to continue the ADM Osborn Scholarship program.

Matthew Hoffman MM2(SS) also volunteered as a member of the Scholarship Committee. Matt was in the Navy from 1988-1994 and qualified on Honolulu SSN 718 in 1991. Matt joined the base in January 2025.

The Scholarship Committee now consists of Kelly Price, Matt Hoffman and Anthony Mazza.

UPDATES FROM THE 8 OCTOBER BASE MEETING

Base Commander's Appeal to fill Three Vital Base Positions

Dave Harvey stated these vital positions need to be filled immediately and asked members of the base to step up and volunteer.

- Public Affairs Officer
- Recreation Committee Chairman
- ~~Scholarship Committee Chairman~~



Charleston Base will host the 2029 National Convention

Base Commander Dave Harvey announced our base will host the 2029 convention. There will be much more to come in the coming months for key positions to be filled and convention planning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPDATES FROM THE 8 OCTOBER BASE MEETING

Tunnels to Towers is dedicated to providing housing for homeless veterans in the Charleston area. Ed Stank stated that T2T – Veterans Village - has 81 rooms and currently houses 20 vets. There will be a box available at the November base meeting to provide NEW clothing and other personal needs for the vets. Bring what you can on November 12th. T2T.org

Thanks Ed!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPDATES FROM THE 8 OCTOBER BASE MEETING

One More Submarine Veteran Name interned at Beaufort

After I listed submarine veterans interned at the Beaufort Nation Cemetery, Russ Picket provided me with this additional name. He was not a SubVet member.

LCDR Robert E. Ryan (retired). Plank owner on USS Abraham Lincoln (SSN-602) and Navigator on USS Threadfin (SS-410) among other commands

Survey finds Overwhelming Opposition to TCAVA Omnibus Bill

Despite strong support for the Major Richard Star Act, 71% oppose TCAVA unless Section 108 benefit cuts are removed

WASHINGTON – A new DAV survey of more than 4,200 veterans, their family members, caregivers and survivors shows overwhelming support (93%) for protecting veterans earned benefits and overwhelming opposition (71%) to the omnibus Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA) unless a provision (Section 108) containing historic cuts to veterans' benefits is removed.

The survey also found unequivocal support for passing the Major Richard Star Act this year, with 65% calling on Congress to pass the full and complete bill, compared with just 5% favoring a reduced or capped bill, such as the compromise version included in TCAVA. Importantly, only 1% favored reducing future veterans' disability compensation as an offset for the Major Richard Star Act.

A discharge petition in the House to pass the full Major Richard Star Act without requiring PAYGO offsets, is now just one signature away from forcing a floor vote on the bill.

On the question of whether and how Congress should apply PAYGO budget enforcement rules to veterans' legislation generally, 84% opposed using benefits cuts as an offset, and 80% specifically opposed Section 108 of TCAVA—the provision that could cut disability compensation by $57 billion for 1.5 million veterans in the future.

Section 108 was modeled on an old VA proposal from 2022, which was not finalized, calling for dramatically reducing or eliminating disability compensation for nearly all veterans who develop sleep apnea or tinnitus in the future. More than 90% of respondents opposed that proposed VA regulation.

"The message from veterans is clear: Earned benefits should never be sacrificed to pay for other priorities, particularly other veterans' benefits," said DAV National Commander John Donovan. "Disabled veterans deserve the benefits they earned, and Congress should never seek to balance the budget on the backs of veterans."

The survey was fielded through SurveyMonkey from August 31 to September 5, receiving over 4,200 responses, primarily from disabled veterans, but also from family members, caregivers, and survivors. About 81% were DAV members; 16% were not members. The survey found no substantial variances among responses from disabled veterans, family members, DAV members or nonmembers; all strongly supported the Major Richard Star Act but opposed TCAVA unless the benefit cuts were removed.

Information provided by our VA Rep Fred Bolz

The New (Old) SubVets National Website

Webmaster Nick Nichols reported the SubVets National Website is again

https://ussvi.org. Old website links will no longer be redirected to this website.

Opportunities to Serve our Base

****We still need SubVets to step up and fill these positions****

- Openings for
  - Public Affairs Officer
  - Recreation Committee
  - Base Historian
  - ~~ADM Osborn Scholarship Committee~~
  - National Awards Coordinator
  - Float Coordinator

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

SC Stingrays News for Active and Retired Veterans

- 15% discount on all tickets this season. Go here for more details
- Stingrays also give military honors during Sunday home games. Nominate a veteran by contacting the Stingrays at 843-518-6580
- **Military Appreciation Night will be 17 January 2027**

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

Nov 1	Donald Wolfe	**Nov 12**	Patrick McCord
Nov 3	Nellie Kirtley	**Nov 21**	Patrick Pearcy
Nov 3	JonAnne Sattler	**Nov 21**	Roger Rader
Nov 4	Herb Anderson	**Nov 22**	Hugh Andrews
Nov 4	George Munoz	**Nov 22**	John McLochlin
Nov 4	Patrick Toelle	**Nov 23**	John Selander
Nov 7	Rodney McKanna	**Nov 26**	Kenny Seal
Nov 9	Tom Lehmann	**Nov 27**	Robert Gallagher
Nov 10	Stephen Woodside	**Nov 30**	Ronnie Kerstetter



PAST EVENTS

Navy Birthday Cake Cutting at the FRA
9 October

On Tuesday, October 13th, the FRA celebrated the 251st Navy Birthday with a cake cutting held in the meeting room with over 30 in attendance. The celebration began with the singing of Happy Birthday to the Navy after which the FRA Home Committee Chairman Shipmate Nate Nathan, TMCM(SS) read aloud the CNO's birthday message to the Navy. Then the youngest and most senior Sailor (active or retired) cut the cake accompanied by the playing of Anchors Aweigh.









PAST EVENTS

251st Navy Ball
17 October

The 251st Navy Ball was a great success …. once the base got the power restored to the Red Bank Club. It was about 1 ½ hours late starting but it turned out to be a great evening. The seven Charleston Base members who attended were Nick & Linda Nichols, Bob MacPherson, Bruce & Nellie Kirtley and [not pictured: Rodney & Karen McKanna]

The guest speaker was CWO2 Bob MacPherson who, as we've come to expect, wowed the audience with his knowledge and humor.

The cake was cut by the newest and the most senior Sailors.
Base Member LCDR Bruce Kirtley is pictured cutting the cake.



PAST EVENTS

251ST Navy Ball

17 October





Sons of American Legion Annual BBQ Cook Off

24 October

Several from our base went to James Island to support Johnny Brown



FUTURE EVENTS

Brookgreen Gardens - Nights of a Thousand Candles
28 November

Shipmates we have an opportunity to travel to Brookgreen Gardens to see the famous “Nights of a Thousand Candles”. Brookgreen is located between Pawley's Island and Murrells Inlet.

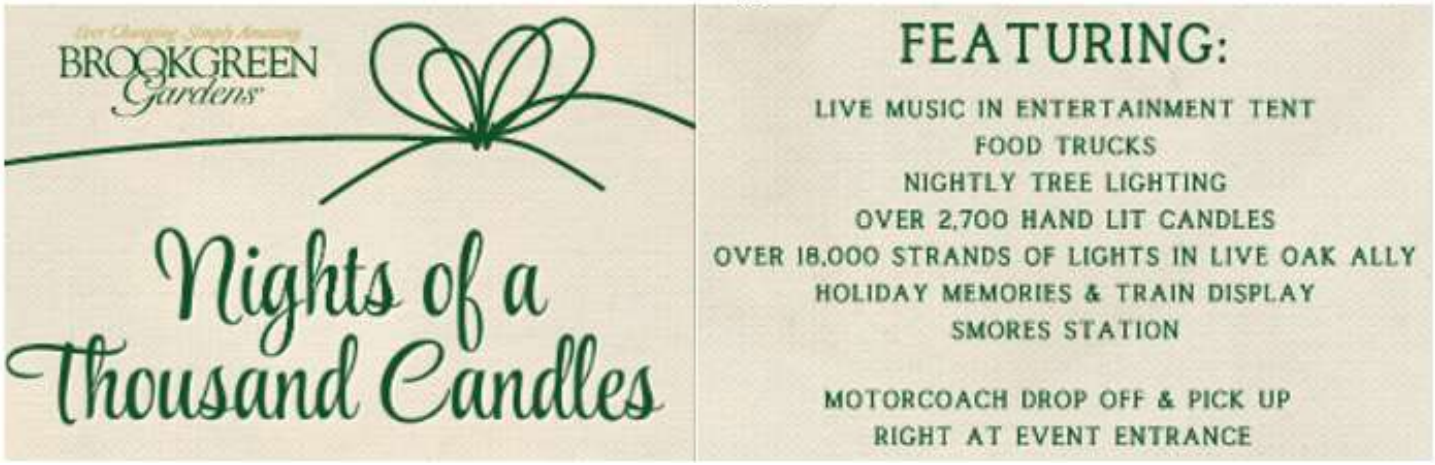
Group rate is $34/ticket, minimum 20 tickets.

If you are interested in going, then email me with the number of tickets you want. If we have enough interest, I will make the arrangements to get the tickets.

We will talk more about this at the base meeting.

Just so you know, there is a lot of walking at the Gardens.

Payment is due at the Board or Base meetings in November.

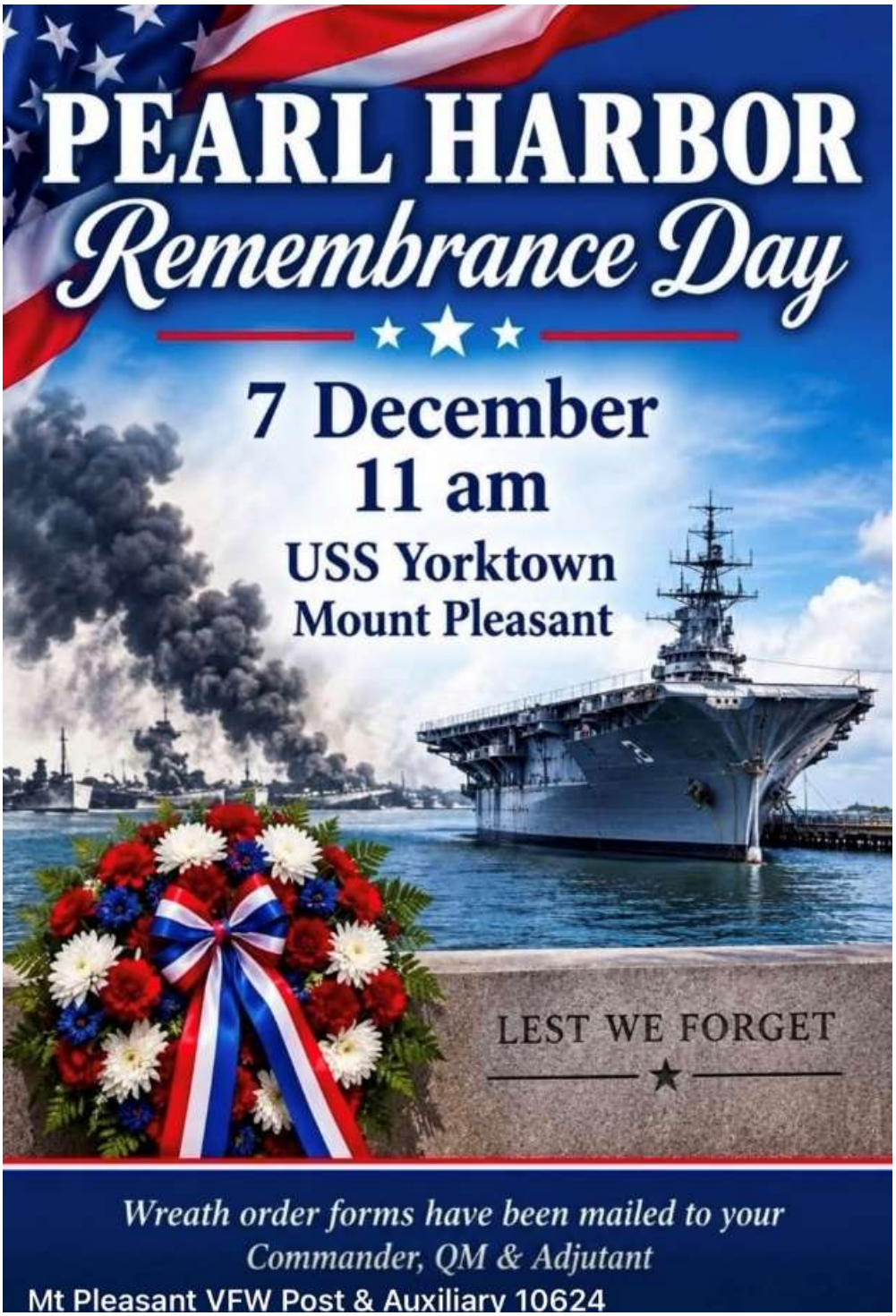


FUTURE EVENTS

84th Annual Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony with Wreath Laying

7 December

Attended by Charleston Base SubVets and FRA Chapter 269



FUTURE EVENTS

Charleston Base SubVets Christmas Parades

In accordance with the wishes of Charleston base members, we are planning to participate in 3 Christmas Parades this year. The Town of Harleyville and Mount Pleasant Parades are evening parades and require the float to be decorated and lit. The Goose Creek Parade is a morning one and won't need all the lights.

Here is a summary of the important points for each parade:

1) **Harleyville, SC Christmas Parade 2026 will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2026, at 7:00 PM.**
   a) **THE MORE LIGHTS, THE BETTER THE PARADE LOOKS and The More Likely you will win a gift Card!**
   b) The parade will begin to line up at 5:00 PM and the parade will start promptly at 7:00 PM.
   c) We will have a float decorating party on Saturday November 28 at the After Battery. Start time will be 11 AM.
   d) Tom Holcombe will capture decorator volunteers and rider volunteers in the November meeting and final timing will be set with volunteers via email and discussions.

2) **Goose Creek, SC Christmas Parade 2026 will be held on Saturday, December 12, 2026, at 9:30 AM.**
   a) The parade will begin to line up on Old Moncks Corner Road, Goose Creek. Probably best to be in place by 8:30 AM.
   b) We will store the float at FRA the night before and depart from FRA at 8:00 AM.
   c) We will determine the float preparation time and communicate to all riders in the regular November meeting.
   d) Tom Holcombe will capture decorator volunteers and rider volunteers in the November meeting and final timing will be set with volunteers via email and discussions.

3) **Mount Pleasant, SC Christmas Parade 2026 will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2026, at 5:30 PM.**
   a) All entrants must send one representative to a **mandatory** parade meeting where participants will be given event and safety information. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at either 12:30 or 5:30 p.m.
   b) The parade will line up and start from Coleman Blvd.
   c) The float will be transferred from Goose Creek parade to Tom Holcombes house on December
   d) The decorating team will assemble at Tom Holcombes' house on Sunday December 13 at 11AM.
   e) Any riders not decorating need to be at the parade lineup point no later than 4:30PM on Sunday December 13th.
   f) Tom Holcombe will capture decorator volunteers and rider volunteers in the November meeting and final timing will be set with volunteers via email and discussions.

FUTURE EVENTS

Charleston Base Christmas Party
Thursday 10 December

Charleston Base Submarine Veterans
Christmas Party
Thursday, 10 December 2026

Fleet Reserve Home
Cash Bar
1700 Meet and Greet
1800 Dinner and Music

Buffet Dinner

FREE to member and one guest; $35 each for all other guests
RSVP NLT November 20th to Dave Harvey
812.773.1312 or basecommander@ussvicb.org

Members are invited to bring your favorite Holiday dessert.





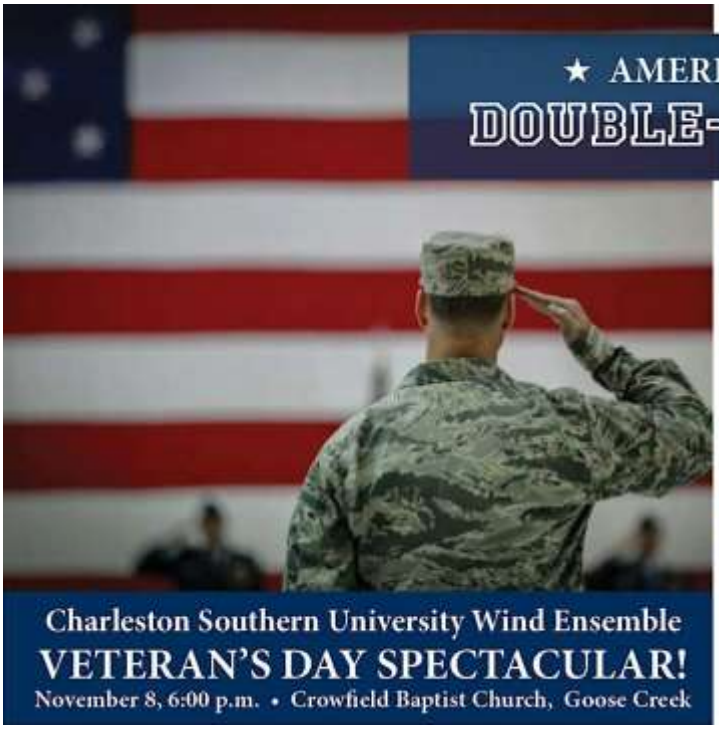
NON-BASE EVENTS

2026 Kings Bay Submarine Veterans' Week

4 – 8 November

- Registration deadline has passed but if interested contact the POC on the registration information.
- See details and registration information on our Base Website

America 250: CSU Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra





- The event is free, but tickets must be reserved here

NON-BASE EVENTS

Submarine Veterans' Gulf Coast 2026 Annual Christmas Party
10 – 13 December

- Panama City Beach
- Registration form is posted on our base Events Page
  2026 - KINGS BAY SUBVETS MEMORIAL WEEK.pdf

USSVI 2027 Southeast Conference
11-13 March 2027
Deadline: 14 February 2027

- St Marys, Georgia
- Registration form is posted on our base Events Page
  2027 SER Conference Registration.pdf



USSVI MEMBER

NO ☐ YES ☐ IF YES, NAME OF BASE: _____

SHIPMATE NAME: _____
GUEST NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
_____
PHONE: _____

EVENT ATTENDANCE WILL BE THROUGH ADVANCE PAYMENT ONLY

Registration Fee (required for all attending SEC): $65 each
Thursday Welcome Visitors (Light Dinner & DJ): $35 each
Friday Dinner & Comedy Show: $40 each
Saturday Night Banquet, Speaker & Awards: $70 each
Total Package Price is **$210** for each person.
**Please circle attending events and enter total below.
TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED: $_____

PRIMARY CONFERENCE HOTEL

SureStay Best Western
2710 Osborne Rd, St Marys, GA 31558
Phone 912 882-6250
ROOM RATES: $139 plus tax for standard room, $169 plus tax for suite

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 14, 2027

Complete this form (please print legibly) and mail it with your check or money order—payable to USSVI—to the address below:

St. Marys Submarine Museum
102 St Marys St W, St. Marys, GA 31558
Phone 912-882-2782
giftshop@stmaryssubmuseum.com

****REGISTRATION OVER THE PHONE CAN BE CONDUCTED AFTER NOVEMBER 15, 2025****

CONTACTS

Pat "Doc" Ivory 904-524-6806
Jace Hastert 540-246-6646

GENERAL STORIES

What Is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier?

Arlington National Cemetery is a place of quiet reflection and honor. It covers hundreds of acres overlooking Washington, D.C. and serves as the final resting place for more than 400,000 service members and their families. In the center of these grounds stands the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a monument built to honor American soldiers whose names and identities are lost to war.

Read the story here.







GENERAL STORIES

Navy Establishes New Chief of the Boat (COB) Rating to Strengthen Submarine Enlisted Leadership

A submarine's chief of the boat stands at the intersection of command, crew and mission. The Navy's Submarine Force now wants that role to have a career path of its own.

On Oct. 1, 2026, the Navy Enlisted Occupational Classification System Board established the Chief of the Boat, or COB, as a separate rating for senior chiefs and master chiefs. The plan would move the current mix of COB billets out of their source technical ratings and into dedicated COB senior chief and master chief billets.

The change addressed a gap in the submarine force's enlisted leadership structure. Experienced technical Sailors are needed to serve as chiefs of the boat, where they fill critical command-level leadership billets. However, when Sailors leave their original ratings their technical communities lose some of their most capable trainers, mentors and leaders.

"The proposed plan to make COB its own rating offers a systematic solution to personnel management challenges," Bean said. The goal is to ensure the submarine force remains, "both technically dominant and expertly led."

Under the change, the force would establish 229 dedicated COB billets: 69 at the senior chief rank and 160 at the master chief rank. The plan says it would not require new training, facilities or equipment. Sailors selected for the path would continue to attend the current command leadership schools and complete existing qualification requirements. This change also preserves current uniform guidance, authorizing COB personnel to wear the Command Senior Chief and Master Chief rating badges.

The new rating also supports the Chief of Naval Operations' requirement that Sailors eligible for master chief complete Command Senior Enlisted Leader qualifications in their warfare area. For the submarine force, the change would formalize a track that already exists in practice: taking proven technical leaders and preparing them for the demands of command-level enlisted leadership.

Read the entire story here.

Read the CNO Message here.

GENERAL STORIES

First C-130J For Navy's New E-130J Phoenix II Ballistic Submarine Communications Fleet Delivered

The E-130J will be taking over the Take Charge And Move Out mission from the jet-powered E-6B Mercury.

(THE WAR ZONE 17 OCT 26) ... Thomas Newdick

The U.S. Navy has taken delivery of the first C-130J-30 Hercules airframe destined to become an E-130J Phoenix II, the service's next-generation aircraft for maintaining communications with its nuclear ballistic submarines. The aircraft will now undergo extensive mission-systems integration before it can begin testing for the Take Charge and Move Out (TACAMO) mission.

Lockheed Martin handed over the newly built aircraft at its facility in Marietta, Georgia, on October 15. The delivery marks the start of the transition from the Navy's aging E-6B Mercury fleet to the turboprop-powered E-130J, which is intended to provide a survivable communications link between national leadership and U.S. Navy nuclear ballistic missile submarines, including the ability to send them orders to launch strikes while they are submerged.

"Today's delivery from the historic Marietta line represents far more than a new airframe; it marks the foundation of our future strategic deterrence posture," Capt. Roger Davis, program manager for the Navy's Airborne Strategic Command, Control, and Communications program office (PMA-271), said in a statement.

"Through our close partnership with Lockheed Martin and our industry team, we are ensuring our nation maintains an unshakeable communications lifeline to our ballistic missile submarine fleet."

The aircraft is the first of three C-130J-30s initially procured by the Navy in September 2024. It will be transferred to Northrop Grumman, the E-130J program's prime contractor and mission-systems integrator, for conversion. Collins Aerospace is providing the very low frequency (VLF) communications system, a key component of the TACAMO mission.

TACAMO aircraft provide a means for the president, secretary of defense, and U.S. Strategic Command to communicate with nuclear forces, including submarines submerged at sea. The mission is designed to preserve the ability to transmit emergency action messages even if conventional communications infrastructure is disrupted or destroyed.

Read the entire story here.

Thanks to Shipmate Nick Nichols for passing this along

GENERAL STORIES

The Tragic Disappearance and Loss of the

Argentine Submarine ARA San Juan (S-42)

In November 2017, the Argentine submarine ARA San Juan (S-42) went missing while returning to her home base at Mar del Plata. It took just over a year for the vessel to be located, some 800 meters beneath the surface of the Atlantic Ocean. Both the incident and the events that followed caused years of controversy and animosity between the Argentine government and the families of the missing crewmen.

View the entire story here.







GENERAL STORIES

2027-28 Academic Year USSVCF Scholarship Program

The USSV Charitable Foundation Scholarship Committee (USSVCF) announces the 2027-28 Academic Year USSVCF Scholarship Program for USSVI members and the children, grandchildren, stepchildren, and legal guardian children of USSVI members (including Associate members of 2 years standing) as of October 31, 2026. For 2027-28, an additional category of eligible applicants has been added: Eligible applicants and USSVI members in good standing who seek scholarship funding for trade, technical, career education, and apprenticeship programs at accredited institutions (Qualified submarine veterans who are not USSVI members may join by clicking the link: https://www.ussvi.org/).

The USSVCF Scholarship website provides a guided, semi-automatic step-by-step procedure for application for consideration for a United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation Academic Scholarship.
https://subforcescholarships.smapply.io/prog/ussvcf_scholarship_2027-28/

Hard copy applications cannot be submitted. All applicants must use this application process. All applications must be completed and submitted via this website no later than 11:59 PM on May 19, 2027. Specific notes and instructions are provided as necessary in each segment or Part of the application. Each Student Scholar Applicant must have registered using their full name and personal email address. Using a family member's registration will disqualify the registration. Applicant contact information must be complete.

To register and apply, click on:
https://subforcescholarships.smapply.io/prog/ussvcf_scholarship_2027-28/

Questions or assistance may be requested via email at: scholarship@ussvcf.org

Dr. Alan G. Fickett, Chairman

USSVCF Academic Scholarship Program

GENERAL STORIES

This was submitted by Charleston Base Member Olin Thomas CWO4 Ret. The text discusses the Polaris Tartan that many of us who served in Holy Loch were familiar with. Great historical info for us 'old' Sailors.

Tartan Details - Polaris Military

The information held within The Scottish Register of Tartans for the "Polaris Military" tartan is shown below.

STA ref: 222 STWR ref: 222
Designer: MacIntyre of Strone, Alexander
Tartan date: 01/01/1964
Registration date: This tartan was recorded prior to the launch of The Scottish Register of Tartans.
Category: Military
Restrictions:

Registration notes: Although known as 'Polaris' for many years, this tartan's correct name is 'Polaris Military' and was designed in 1964 by Alexander MacIntyre of Strone, for the officers and men of the American Submarine base at the Holy Loch. Polaris was the name of the nuclear missile carried by the U.S. Navy's ballistic missile submarines in the 1960's and not, as mistakenly thought, the name of a specific submarine.

The idea came from Captain Walter F Schlech of the USS Proteus AS19 who was Commander of the submarine squadron. The Lord Lyon of the time apparently exploded when the tartan was submitted to him and is quoted as saying "We don't record tartans for submarines. It is nonsense. I have never heard of a ship's tartan in the whole history of Scotland!"

While not necessarily tartan-related, mention should also be made of Mission Specialist Laurel Clark, who was killed in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster in 2003. Clark, a Naval Doctor, was stationed at the US Navy submarine base at Holy Loch, Scotland with Submarine Squadron (SUBRON 14). According to a number of accounts, she was very proud of her Scottish heritage, and a piper played at her wedding to a fellow naval officer she had met at Holy Loch. On the morning before the tragic accident, Mission Control used Scotland the Brave as the wakeup call for Columbia in honour of Clark. The well-known pipe tune was also played at her funeral, along with Amazing Grace at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Polaris (Military) tartan (ITI #222) is worn today by the Pipes and Drums of the US Naval Academy. The navy blue represents the naval uniform, the dark green the depths of the oceans and the Royal Blue and gold overchecks represent the 'Blue' and 'Gold' crews who alternate.

https://www.tartanregister.gov.uk/tartanLargeImage?ref=3350

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The registration criteria now applied by the Register conforms to the Scottish Register of Tartans Act 2008. These criteria are different to those previously applied by either the STA or the STWR. You may wish to refer to the STA website for further information on the original recording of this tartan.



25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

During my research into successful WWII submarines, I was surprised to find many official and unofficial sources differ on the number of ships sunk and gross tonnage sunk during WWII by US submarines. To maintain consistency, I am using one main source for information. While there may be discrepancies between sources, one fact is indisputable, US submarines held the line in WWII while the surface fleet rebuilt

Submarine Warfare Played Major Role in World War II Victory

In all, U.S. submarines destroyed 1,314 enemy warships in the Pacific, representing 55% of all Axis power warships lost and a total of 5.3 million tons of shipping

Out of 16,000 U.S. submariners, the force lost 375 officers and 3,131 enlisted men in 52 submarines, and "although this was a tragic loss, it was still the lowest casualty rate of any combatant submarine service on either side in the 1939-1945 conflict," Weir noted. In the final months of the war, American submarines had difficulty finding targets because the Japanese had virtually no ships left to sink.

During World War II, U.S. submarines sank more Japanese ships than did U.S. surface vessels and planes, but at a high cost: a twenty percent casualty rate

Read the entire stories here and here.

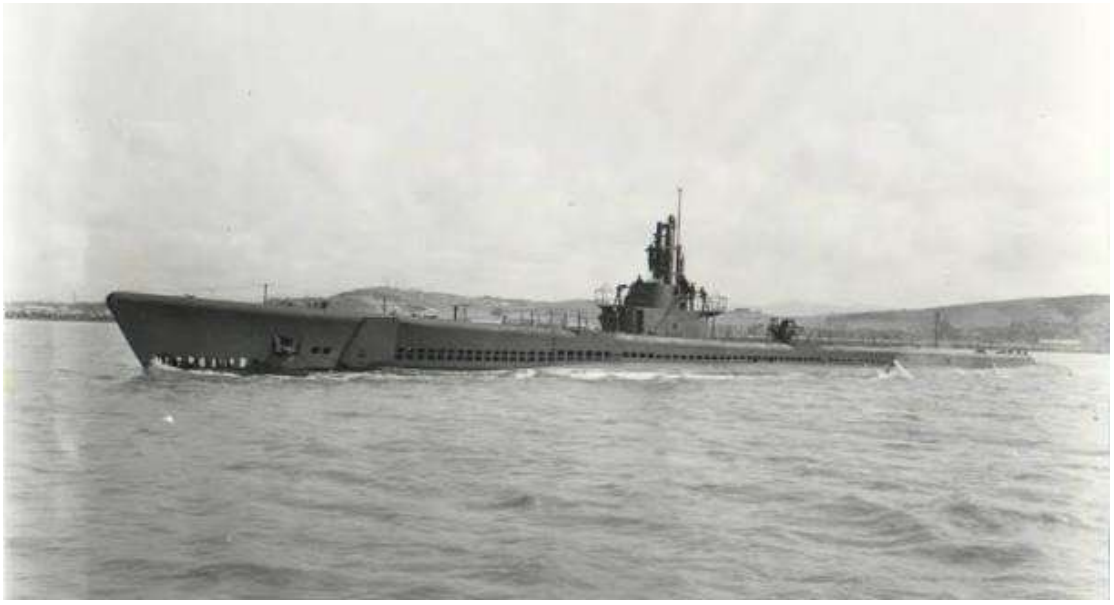


25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

6. USS Spadefish (SS/AGSS-411)
88,091 tons

- **USS Spadefish (SS/AGSS-411)** was a Balao-class submarine, the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the spadefish. Although she was commissioned late in the war and spent only one year in the Pacific war zone, she was able to run up a record of 88,091 tons in 21 ships and numerous trawlers sunk. Decommissioned in 1946, Spadefish was struck from the naval register in 1967 and sold for scrap in 1969.
- Commissioned 9 March 1944
- First war patrol 23 July 1944
- Conducted 5 war patrols
- 4 Battle Stars
- Decommissioned 3 May 1946
- Reclassified an auxiliary submarine, AGSS-411, on 6 November 1962
- Struck from the Navy list 1 April 1967
- USS Spadefish (SSN-668) a Sturgeon-class submarine, was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for the spadefish

Read her entire story here and here.



25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

5. USS Silversides (SS-236)
90,080 tons

- **USS Silversides (SS/AGSS-236)** is a Gato-class submarine, the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the silversides.
- Silversides was one of the most successful submarines in the Pacific Theater of World War II, with 23 confirmed sinkings
- Commissioned 15 December 1941
- First war patrol 30 April 1942
- Conducted 14 war patrols
- She received a Presidential Unit Citation for cumulative action over four patrols and12 Battle Stars
- Decommissioned 17 April 1946
- Silversides was reclassified as an auxiliary submarine with hull classification symbol AGSS-236, and on 30 June 1969, her name was struck from the Naval Vessel Register

Read her story here and here. USS Silversides Museum.



25 most Successful Submarines in WWII

4. USS Barb (SS-220)
96,628 tons

- **USS Barb (SS-220),** a Gato-class submarine, was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the tiger barb, a genus of ray-finned fish. She compiled one of the most outstanding records of any U.S. submarine in World War II. During her twelve war patrols, Barb is officially credited with sinking 17 enemy vessels
- Commissioned 8 July 1942
- First through fifth war patrol were in the European and Africa theaters including the invasion of North Africa
- Sixth through twelfth war patrols were in the Pacific theater
- Received the Presidential Unit Citation, The Navy Unit Citation, 1 European-African Battle Star and 7 Pacific Battle Stars
- Decommissioned 12 February 1947
- She was recommissioned two more times and finally decommissioned 13 December 1954
- Transferred to Italy on 13 December 1954 as Enrico Tazzoli (S-511)
- USS Barb (SSN-596) served in the Navy from1963 to 1989
- On 13 October 2020, Secretary of the Navy announced that a future Virginia-class submarine (SSGN-804) will be named for USS Barb

Read her story here and here. USS Barb (SSN-596). USS Barb (SSGN-804).



Russian Sub News

Russia's quieter nuclear submarines threaten NATO

Read the entire story here

British Sub News

Royal Navy Lacks Ships, Capabilities to Defend High North from Russia

Read the entire story here

Russia is 'Greatest Threat' to U.K. Security, Says First Sea Lord

Read the entire story here

Chinese Sub News

China's New Giant Submarine Drone Mothership

Read the entire story here and here

French Sub News

From Concept to Sea Trials in Six Months: France Fast-Tracks SMOKERS Kamikaze USV

Read the entire story here

South Korean Sub News

South Korea Announces Plans for Nuclear-Powered Submarines

Read the entire story here

North Korean Sub News

North Korea Tests First Submarine-launched Cruise Missile in Nearly 3 Years

Read the entire story here

Canadian Sub News

Canada's New Submarine Course to Strengthen Industrial Base for Long-Term Submarine Capability

Read the entire story here

Australian Sub News

Royal Australian Navy Maintainers Learn U.S. Submarine Sustainment

Read the entire story here

Collaboration on Autonomous Undersea Warfare is on Track

Read the entire story here

Japanese Sub News

Japan's new 3,300-ton submarine enters water with advanced stealth technology

Read the entire story here

NATO Sub News

Commandos take a ride on attack submarines during NATO war exercise

Read the entire story here and here

Britain Leads Biggest NATO Undersea Effort since the Cold War

Read the entire story and see the video here

Italian Sub News

Read the entire story here

Argentine Sub News

Argentina Eyes New Submarines and Frigates in 2027

Read the entire story here

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

US Taps USS Colorado (SSN-788) for 2027 Australian AUKUS Assignment

Read the entire story here and here.

USS Connecticut, one of only three Seawolf-class submarines, won't return to service until summer 2027

Read the entire story here.

GAO Report on the Navy's Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program

Read the entire story here

Navy Establishes New Deputy Chief of Naval Operations to Support Failing Shore Infrastructure

Read the entire article here

'We Absolutely Need to Change,' says New Navy Maintenance Head

Read the entire article here.

Anduril to Build New Submarine Component Facility

Read the entire article here.

The New Federation of American Shipyards

Read the entire article here.

U.S. Navy Seeks Information on SSN(X) Next Gen Submarine

Read the entire article here.

Not Only Can't America Build Submarines, It Can't Retire Them, Either

Read the entire story here

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

VOYANT Demonstrates Software-Defined Approach to Strengthen ASW Ops

Read the entire story here.

Fragile Supply Chains Threaten U.S. Submarine Production

Read the entire story here.

Firing and Retrieving a 12.75-inch underwater robot autonomously

Read the entire story here.

Hanwha Defense USA to Acquire Hanwha Philly Shipyard

Read the entire story here.

House Passes the 2027 Defense Bill 216 to 212

Read the entire story here.

VA benefits claims backlog drops below 70K for first time since 2020

Read the entire story here.

Report to Congress on Russia's Arctic Military Posture

Read the entire story here.

NCIS Investigating Submarine Sailor Death on Naval Base Kitsap

Read the entire story here.

China built more than twice naval tonnage of US in 2024-25

"We're seeing an increase in power capabilities, particularly nuclear-powered attack submarines for example." Read the entire story here.

After politics, we all need a little humor



United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
10 September 2026

Opening Ceremonies:

- The September 2026 Base Meeting was called to order by Treasurer Ricky Collins along with Secretary Gordon Long, having a quorum of two officers and a total of 50 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm. Base Commander Dave Harvey and Vice Commander Art Sattler were not at tonight's meeting due to attendance of the USSVI National Convention representing Charleston Base.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Treasurer Ricky Collins 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 – 8th 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 – 1st War Patrol**
    Lost with all hands – 76 souls
  - **USS POMPANO (SS 181) Sep, 1943 – 7th War Patrol**
    Lost with all hands - 77 souls
  - **Five Boats and 262 Men Lost**

Machinist Mate Second Class/Construction Mechanic, Submarines
Thomas L. Skorepa, US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol 14 August 2026

Electricians Mate Senior Chief, Submarines
Kwock Gong Kam, US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol 23 March 2025

<u>Charleston Base Shipmates on Eternal Patrol</u>
EM1(SS) Thomas E. Walsh WW2 SUBVET– 16 September 2008
EM2(SS) Barnwell Rhett Chaplin WW2 SUBVET – 17 October 2008

FTCM(SS) Robert Wayne Chinn – 9 December 2008
TM1(SS) Wallace H. Fulmer WW2 SUBVET – 28 December 2008
CWO4(SS) Sylvester Maxon Mabie WW2 SUBVET – 13 January 2009
EMC(SS) Glen R. Houck – 8 February 2009
MMCS(SS) Donald L. Nuzum – 15 March 2009
ENC(SS) William H. Hyatt Jr. – 31 May 2009
FN(SS) William Smith Sr. WW2 SUBVET – 3 July 2009
TMC(SS) Robert Duane Finch – 1 September 2009

- The Creed of USSVI was read by Secretary Gordon Long.
- Treasurer Ricky Collins welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Special Announcement of Auction – Tom Thompson:

- While in Manitowoc, Tom purchased a special Operation Redfin Whiskey Decanter; explaining that it will be available by auction at the end of the Base Meeting tonight.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- There were two shipmates in attendance at the Base Meeting for the first time this evening.
    - Sam Hall – TMC – Qualified on USS Ray SSN653 – 1989 – Also served aboard USS Charlotte SSN766, MK48 Shop Charleston, USS Scranton SSN756, USS Louisiana SSBN743, USS Wyoming SSBN742, NSSC Kings Bay and PMT Pearl Harbor
    - Scott Bullington – ETCM – Qualified on USS Henry L Stimson SSBN655 – 1985 – Also served aboard USS Casimir Pulaski SSBN633, USS Sand Lance SSN660, USS Grayling SSN646, USS Columbus SSN762

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Announcements – Ray Sparks for Dave Harvey**
    - Brookgreen Gardens – Trip, Saturday 28NOV – Admission price $34/person if we have 20 people. Provide own transportation. Pay Dave NLT November Base Meeting.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the August Base Meeting were emailed to all Base members. The Minutes have also been published on the Charleston Base website. With no corrections noted at the Base Meeting, 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:

- **9/11 is a Flags at Half Staff Day!!!**
  - A September 11 Remembrance Ceremony will be held at American Legion Post 166 beginning at 10am tomorrow Friday, (09/11). IT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. The American Legion has permission to park at the adjacent Magistrate's Office where there is plenty of parking. There is additional parking with golf cart shuttles further down Howe Hall Road at the Karate school. Please come early – the Ceremony will start promptly at 10:00 am. They will not disturb the ceremony once it begins. The guest speaker, Mr. Michael Hemphill, witnessed 9/11 with his own eyes and was involved in the recovery and evacuation. Hear history from a witness. We are located at 116 Howe Hall Road in Goose Creek. SUBVETS wear your vest if you attend.
- **Highlighted boat this month:**
  - Only 25 years after the US Submarine Service was established, S-51 (SS 162) was lost. On September 25, 1925 she was rammed and sunk off Block Island, N.Y., by the merchant steamer, City of Rome. Only three survivors of the 36 men on board the ill-fated submarine were recovered.

There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

ETERNAL PATROL

- **EMCS(SS) Kwock Gong Kam, 91,** departed on Eternal Patrol on 23 March 2025 in Summerville SC. Kwock joined the Navy in 1952 and retired in 1972. He joined USSVI / Charleston Base as a Life Member in 2016. He was a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1953 on USS SEA LEOPARD SS-483. He was qualified in submarines for 73 years. He also served on USS POMODON SS-486, USS TUNNY SS-282, USS HALIBUT SSN-587, ULYSSES S GRANT SSBN-631 and USS GUARDFISH SSN-612. His shore duty was at FBMSTC Charleston SC. Services and

Burial were held on 23 May 2025 in Pensacola FL at Barrancas National Cemetery. o I found Kam's obituary when his email began to bounce.

- **MM2/CM1ISS) Thomas Skorepa, 82,** departed on Eternal patrol on 14 August 2026 in Columbia SC. Tom joined the Navy in 1962 and left in 1966. He reenlisted in the Navy in 1980 and retired in 1999. He joined USSVI / Charleston Base in 2003 and became a life member of USSVI National and Charleston Base in 2004. He was a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1962 on USS ENTEMEDOR SS-340. After reenlisting as a Seabee, his rate changed to CM [Construction Mechanic]. He was assigned to USN Reserve Construction Battalion 14 in Charleston SC and was the AOIC when he retired. Additionally, Tom was a Member of FRA Branch 269 for the last 13 years joining in 2013.

o A memorial service was held at Santee Presbyterian Church Saturday, Sept 5th. o A graveside service was held at Fort Jackson National Cemetery this morning at 10:00 a.m., with military honors.

Between July and August, we had six shipmates depart on Eternal Patrol, seven if you count Kam.

Shipmates, I am not a CACO so please prepare your family for what to do after your death. This means updating all your information, preparing wills, etc. There are checklists and other information on the documents section of the website that will help you prepare..

BINNACLE LIST

- Ken Farrell has been diagnosed with cancer on his vertebrae. He has completed two radiation treatments as of 19 August which is all he'll have this year.
- Pete Garrison has started the radiation treatments for his tonsil cancer. It will be continuing until the 27th of October with him going to the MUSC Cancer Center M-F and having the weekends off. His immune system will be compromised, so he is going to avoid as many public engagements as possible. See you all in a few months.

As you know, my policy for placing anyone on the public binnacle list is that either the person or the family has authorized it. I do want to know anything you learn so I can contact the member/family but if it doesn't hit the printed binnacle list you know why.

LONG TERM / ASSISTED LIVING / HOMEBOUND

- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time but he hopes to make some base meetings. Has had foot surgery, with many more to come, to correct his problem. [843.475.7043]
- **Bill [Becky] Roberts** in D409 in the Villages of Summerville. Becky 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.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- The address to the National website is: **https://ussvi.org**
- Any changes to your info on National can be updated by you or send the info to either Larry or me to get them made on National and local.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member] o Groton 1069 w/40 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 306 w/12 AM – 3) Bremerton 272 w/13 AM – 4) Charleston 239 w/19 AM

Base Business Cards – Nick Nichols:

- Always carry a couple of the new base business cards at all times. On the back of the card are two QR codes, one for the base and one for national. The one for national is bad and when I make another order I will change it.

FRA Rules – Nick Nichols:

- Continue to remember the rules for entering the bar at the meetings.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Not present.

NNPTC Liaison – Gordon Long for Anthony Mazza

- Unable to attend this evening. Anthony sent email report stating Nothing to Report.

Scholarship – OPEN

- Ricky Collins reminded everyone that we do not currently have – and are in need of – a Scholarship Chairman. For someone who would like to fill that need, please contact Tom Lawson for turnover.

BBQ – Johnny Brown

- Johnny echoed the need for everyone to complete a Page 2 – noting that he recently had to escort a shipmate home – stating that the hardest thing he has had to do is to give a 24hour paycheck to the mother rather than the wife.
- Last year, Johnny participated in the Sons of the American Legion BBQ and took home 2nd Place resulting in a $300 contribution to the Scholarship Fund. Johnny had been given permission by the BOD to hang the SubVet banner and he represented us well.
- This year, Johnny is again entered into the BBQ contest, being held on Saturday, October 24 and has secured approval from the BOD to display the SubVet banner. Johnny is asking for no financial support, but wants everyone to come to the event and talk to people about submarines. As last year, he will not have time to do that himself. For example, the contestant has to cook at least 20lbs. of meat. Johnny cooked 200lbs total of brisket, pork butt, ribs, chicken. Put this on your calendar and stop by the American Legion on Folly Rd. You will not leave hungry. Wear your vest when you go.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- Charleston Base currently has 239 Members.
- Nick Nichols provided Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
  - Groton 1069 w/40 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 306 w/12 AM – 3) Bremerton 272 w/13 AM – 4) Charleston 239 w/19 AM
- Annual Dues are due next month. $40 for National / $20 Base (Total of $60)

Special Events – Tom Holcombe

- Not present

Comptroller – Tom Holcombe

- Not present

CSS Hunley – Tom Holcombe

- Not present

Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison:

- Nothing to report

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison:

- Nothing to report

Nuclear Power School Legacy Awards – Phil Nunnally

- The next NPS graduation is tomorrow, Friday, September 11. Meet at the NEX at 0800.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- If you are traveling about the country – even locally, take pictures of veteran's memorials. Phil wants to put them in the Newsletter.
- Nothing else to report.

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Phil inspected the Little David. There is no work required until Spring

Ambassador USSVCF – Bob MacPherson

- Not present

Navy Ball – Bob MacPherson

- Not present
- Nick Nichols provided info about the Navy Ball. The event will be held at Redbank Commons (formerly called Redbank Club) on October 17 from 1700 to 2300. Service Dress Blues or Whites with ribbons or better or formal wear. SubVets can wear the "Charleston Tuxedo" (Normal Vest Uniform but substitute navy blue jacket instead of vest).
- Ticket prices: $55.20 – E1 to E9 / $81.88 – O1 to O10. A portion of the ticket sales goes to help fund junior sailors' admission.

PAO – OPEN

- Ricky reminded everyone that we do not currently have – and are in need of – a PAO.

Recreation – OPEN

- Ricky reminded everyone that we do not currently have – and are in need of – a Recreation Committee Chairman.

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank

- Ed clarified the purchase price of the plate. The cost of the license plate is $20 in addition to the regular registration fee. DMV will pro-rate your old tag that you turn in. If you only send $20, the DMV will NOT send you a plate.
- Ed expressed his thanks to those who have ordered the Submariner License Plates to date. As of now, more than 150 plates have been issued but the milestone of 300 which will secure the plates for future sales.
- If you have not ordered the plate, please do so.
- Ed asked those in the room, "Do you remember where you were on 9-11?" Ed then talked about the fantastic memorial that was built in New York. It really is worth seeing if you get a chance to go.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody promoted some of his available items:
    - 250-year Navy / 125-year Submarine coins – only has a few
    - Whiskey Barrel Engraved Dolphin Pen – locally made by one of our SubVets – takes a Parker refill and makes a good gift item.
- Woody has the following items available for FREE:
    - "Pride Runs Deep" - old school license plate – FREE - one available
    - Tee Shirt – size medium – "Old Navy Veteran. My level of sarcasm depends on your level of stupidity."
- 2027 calendars – highlighting the Ohio class boats will be available next month

VA – Fred Bolz

- The VA will be at the Ladson Fairgrounds this Saturday.
  If you have questions about VA benefits, ask Fred.

DAV – Fred Bolz

- Fred expects to have information about DAV at the next Base Meeting.

COB – Greg Landry

- Greg reminded everyone that Annual Dues are due beginning next month and encouraged all to get them paid quickly.
- Greg also recommended that we bring guests to the meeting in a recruiting effort.

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler

- Not present

Vice Commander – Art Sattler

- Not present

National Awards – Dave Harvey

- Not present

Float Coordinator – OPEN

- Ricky Collins reminded everyone that we need a new Float Coordinator.
- There was a question from the members about the Float at the Fair. Tom Holcombe – not present this evening – will be coordinating that activity.

SER Conference – Dave Harvey

- Not present

Base Commander – Dave Harvey

- Not present.

<u>GOOD OF THE ORDER</u>

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Not present

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- Open every Wednesday for dinner at 1700. Activities start at 1000. Like to play cards? Come on out. They also have a game on Saturday.
- Currently working to get the date set for the 2027 Hog Roast. They are attempting to avoid date conflicts with the Charleston and New London Sub Balls

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing to report

Chaplain Support – John Lookabill

- John talked about the time and money that Nick as Chaplain spends on Base Activities especially Eternal Patrol Ceremonies, recommending that Nick be compensated for all of the work that he does. There is a lot of "behind the scenes" work that no one knows anything about.
- Ken Hutchison stated that Nick does the same work for the FRA.
- Nick expressed his gratitude for the suggestion, but advised everyone that he receives a reimbursement of $0.60 per mile for his work.

Drawings & Auctions

- An auction was held for the Operation Redfin bottle of whiskey. Several bids were made with Glenn Little being the winner at $125. The money will go to Charleston Base General Fund.
- FRA Drawing – First number not claimed. Redraw – Fred Bolz
- Depth Charge Drawing – Jeff Burke

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Treasurer Ricky Collins announced adjournment of the meeting with a sound of three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1955.