



# The Below Decks Watch

The Official Newsletter of the Coastal Carolina Base of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI)  
2014 USSVI Class III Newsletter of the Year!



## Happy Holidays!

**USSVI**

### ***Creed and Purpose***

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today.



## **Coastal Carolina Base Raises Awareness of the Submarine Service**

*The Members of the Coastal Carolina Base were very active in raising the awareness of the United States Submarine Service in the months of November and December. The first public activity was to participate in the Fall Belk's Charity Sale. Members sold tickets and participated in the event at Belk's netting the CCB approximately \$895.*



*Later the same day CCB Members participated for the first time in the Veteran's Day Parade in Jacksonville, NC. Member attendees reported that the Submarine Veteran Float was very popular and crowds stood and cheered as the Big, Black Submarine passed by.*

*Meanwhile, Base Secretary, Dog, represented CCB at the WWII Submarine Veterans Day event in Kings Bay,*

*Continued on Page 6*

### ***Qualified in U.S. Submarines?***

*You are welcome to attend our meetings and join our Base!  
Meeting Dates and Locations in Calendar on page 34  
Bring your spouse!*

Newsletter Editor  
Willam (Dog) Underwood

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## CCB Base Elected Officers

**Commander**  
Charlie Backes  
910-791-0844

[backestc@charter.net](mailto:backestc@charter.net)

**Vice Commander**  
Chuck Fletcher  
910-523-0622

[chuckandjoyf@live.com](mailto:chuckandjoyf@live.com)

**Secretary**  
Bill Underwood (Dog)  
910-232-4209  
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**Treasurer**  
Terry Kuhn  
910-251-5797  
[etkfixr@bellsouth.net](mailto:etkfixr@bellsouth.net)

**Coastal Carolina Base**  
**Generally Meets Every Other Month**  
**on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu or Sat of the Month**  
**See Base Calendar on Page 33 for**  
**More Details and Special Meetings**

## Base Commander's Corner

By Charlie Backes



Dear Sub Sailors,  
As I near the end of my tenure as Coastal Carolina Base Commander, I have the opportunity to see what progress, we have made.

First of all I think overall membership involvement has increased. I believe we have a ways to go before we should be satisfied, but one of our stated goals as a USSVI base is that we have social events to meet and get to know each other better. There have been a number of dinners that were lightly attended, but those that were there has a great time. Be on the lookout for more in the upcoming year.

A big step forward the development of our submarine float. We have been in three parades recently and six for the year. We won first place in the Non-Commerical group in the Wilmington Holiday Parade. We get a plaque and \$100. The three we entered were Oak Island Christmas Parade, Wilmington Holiday Parade and Leland Christmas Parade. We had our largest member turnout at the Leland parade, which was the least planned of the three. I arrived just after the decoration of the float (Timing is everything).

The float in the parades attracted a lot of attention and was well received by all the crowds. Many times people of all ages would look and say, with a surprise in their voice, "Look a submarine!". A few might have mistook the sub for a torpedo, but we quickly corrected them. Many applauded and thanked us for our service which was heart warming for all the subvets.

Fundraising was successful this year. The two Belk sales earned us well over \$1500.00 for the year. I will propose that we continue this as long as Belk offers the sale. I worked the day of the sale again this fall and earned the base and additional \$179.39 for the four hours I was in the store. If you have other suggestions for raising money let us know.

I will close by wishing each of you a very Merry Christmas and a successful New Year. PRIDE RUNS DEEP!!

## \$ Dues \$

**Are You Current on Your Dues?**

**2015**

**Base Dues = \$10**

**USSVI Dues = \$20**

**Send Checks made out to Coastal Carolina SubVets to Terry Kuhn at 5905 Downrigger Dr., Wilmington NC 28409**



**Base Gear Available**  
**Story on Page 14**



**Do You Have Your SubVet License Plate Yet?**

Forms available at meetings and at the following link:

<https://edmv.ncdot.gov/VehicleRegistration/SpecialPlate/Detail?PlateID=21#term=>





## **Time to Vote for New CCB Officers**

### **Your Nominees Are:**

**Base Commander  
Chuck Fletcher**



**Base Vice Commander  
Gerry Rowe**



**Base Secretary  
Bill Underwood**



**Base Treasurer  
Terry Kuhn**



**You can also vote for write in candidates. Butterbean Dixon will soon email ballots to each CCB Member. To Vote, Please mark your ballot as directed and email back to Butterbean. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO VOTE!**

**New Officers Will Serve  
April 2015 - April 2017**

**PLEASE VOTE!**

## **A Glimmer of Hope for the USS Clamagore (SS 343)**



*In November CCB Secretary, Bill Underwood attended the USS Clamagore Reunion in Kings Bay, Georgia. At that meeting, of course, a significant concern of the attendees was the fate of the beloved SS 343 submarine. Also attending the reunion was Joshua Richardson, a Knoxville Tennessee businessman inspired on a mission to save the Clamagore and bring it to Knoxville. Josh is not a submarine*



**Continued on Page 15**

## **Book of Members**

The Book of Members project continues to progress. The base is collecting pictures of each member and autobiographical descriptions of each member's Submarine Service experiences. Base Secretary, Bill Underwood, is taking pictures of each member attending each meeting. Commander Backes displays the Book of Members at Base meetings to encourage participation.

We are still missing pictures and autobiographies for most of the Base Members. A suggestion was made at the last meeting to write the autobiography for those who don't submit one. In the true spirit of the submarine brotherhood, we have composed an autobiography for Dilbert Kilroy, TM3 (SS) ([page 15](#)). **Please get your write up in to Charlie so we don't have to write these for you!**

**[backestc@charter.net](mailto:backestc@charter.net)**



## Tolling of the Boats

At Each Base Meeting We Honor the U.S. Submarines and Crews that were Lost at Sea  
Following are the Submarines Honored in the Fourth Quarter

Boats Lost in October	
<p><b>USS Seawolf (SS-197)</b> Lost on Oct 3, 1944 with the loss of 83 officers and men and 17 US Army troops when she was sunk just north of Moritai by USS Rowell, a Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another Destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.</p>	
<p><b>USS S-44 (SS-155)</b> 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.</p>	
<p><b>USS Wahoo (SS-238)</b> Lost on October 11, 1943 with the loss of 79 men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of one of the great sub skippers of World War II, LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo was on her 7th war patrol. Wahoo had won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was lost to depth charges dropped by a Japanese patrol aircraft.</p>	
<p><b>USS Dorado (SS-248)</b> Lost on October 12, 1943 with the loss of 78 when she was sunk in the western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she had departed New London and was en route to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane that received faulty instructions regarding bombing restriction areas or a German U-boat that was in the vicinity.</p>	
<p><b>USS Escolar (SS-294)</b> Lost on October 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. She was on her 1st war patrol and was most likely lost to a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea.</p>	
<p><b>USS Shark II (SS-314)</b> Lost on October 24, 1944 with the loss of 90 when she was sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was on her 3rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the tragedy, it turned out that the freighter had 1800 U.S. POWs on board.</p>	
<p><b>USS Darter (SS-227)</b> Lost on October 24, 1944 when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan and was then destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by USS Dace. Winner of one Navy Unit Commendation, Darter had sunk a heavy cruiser and damaged another and went aground while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation in hopes of getting in an attack on a battleship.</p>	
<p><b>USS Tang (SS-306)</b> Lost on October 25, 1944 with the loss of 80 men in the Formosa Strait while on her 5th war patrol. Tang ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage, and had won two Presidential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR. O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.</p>	
<p><b>USS O-5 (SS-66)</b> Lost on October 29, 1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Ababgarez off the Panama Canal.</p>	



## Tolling of the Boats

At Each Base Meeting We Honor the U.S. Submarines and Crews that were Lost at Sea  
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<p><b>USS Albacore (SS-218)</b> Lost on November 7, 1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her 11th war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.</p>	
<p><b>USS Growler (SS-215)</b> Lost on November 8, 1944 with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 11th war patrol, and was lost while attacking a convoy, probably as a result of a depth charge attack or victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes.</p>	
<p><b>USS Scamp (SS-277)</b> Lost on November 9, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay on her 8th war patrol. She may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate her and destroy her with depth charges.</p>	
<p><b>USS Corvina (SS-226)</b> Lost on November 16, 1943 with the loss of 82 men on her 1st war patrol when she was sunk just south of Truk. Corvina apparently was lost to the torpedoes of a Japanese submarine.</p>	
<p><b>USS Sculpin (SS-191)</b> Lost on November 19, 1943 with the loss of 40 men near Truk on her 9th war patrol. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, Sculpin continued to fight on the surface. When the captain was killed, the crew abandoned ship and scuttled Sculpin. 41 men were taken prisoner; only 21 survived the war. Among those not abandoning ship was CAPT Cromwell, aboard as a potential wolf pack commander, he rode the Sculpin down, fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture. For this, CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.</p>	
Boats Lost in December	
<p><b>USS Capelin (SS-289)</b> Lost on December 2, 1943 with the loss of 76 men on her 2nd war patrol, but her exact location and cause of loss remain a mystery. She may have been lost to mines or an operational casualty.</p>	
<p><b>USS Sealion (SS-195)</b> Lost on December 10, 1941 with the loss of 5 men. To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack.</p>	
<p><b>USS F-1 / Carp (SS-20)</b> Lost on December 17, 1917 with the loss of 19 officers and men when it was sunk after collision with the USS F-3 (Pickerell) (SS-22) off San Clemente, CA.</p>	
<p><b>USS S-4 (SS-109)</b> Lost on December 17, 1927 with the loss of 34 officers and men when it was sunk after being rammed by USCG Paulding off Cape Cod near Provincetown, MA. Salvaged in 1928 and recommissioned.</p>	





## Raising Awareness...continued

*Georgia. Twenty Eight WWII Submarine Veterans traveled to Kings Bay to be honored by hundreds of submarine veterans and dignitaries.*

*On November the 12<sup>th</sup> CCB Members and spouses got together at the Bonefish Grill in Wilmington to celebrate Veterans Day. A good time was had by all and the veterans that went before us were in the minds of each of us.*

*The craziness really got going in the first week of December as Members decorated the Big Black Submarine for Christmas Parades. The First was the Oak Island for the second annual participation of the Big Black Sub-*



*marine at Oak Island. Members met at Frank Blackmon's house to decorate the float. Amidst the beautiful live oak trees in Frank's yard, John Williamson unveiled a new sign system to be mounted on the deck astern of the sail. The sign was set up with a "Merry Christmas" sign, but was made to fit any number of specialty signs for future events.*

*As we were setting up in the staging area we met several submarine veterans that came up to the float and introduced themselves. Secretary Bill took their names, numbers and email addresses and, following the parade, emailed them a copy of the current "The Below Decks Watch". To date two of those recruits have subsequently joined the Coastal Carolina Base.*

*The next night the CCB Big Black Submarine participated in the Wilmington Holiday Parade. This Parade was a night time parade and participants were concerned*



*that the CCB Big Black Submarine had no lights on it. All the other floats were sparkling with holiday lights. The CCB attendees were warmed by the cheers of support from parade patrons on the cold winter night. Fortunately, we were in the number 1 float slot in the parade and were the first to finish the parade. The next day we learned that the CCB Big Black Submarine won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the "Non-Commercial" Class in the Parade. The prize for first place was \$100.00 and a plaque.*

*Since the parade was covered on local TV, we raised even more awareness of the Submarine Service when the Base name was announced as a winner!*

*Another important fact we learned is that it is important to register early for the parades to get away from the fire trucks. We were directly in front of a fire truck in the Oak Island Parade and were nearly deaf from the constant blaring of the horn and siren during the parade. In the Wilmington Parade we were far from the fire trucks and we could actually talk to the parade patrons as we passed by.*

*We were late entrants into the Leland Holiday Parade and consequently ended up back by the fire trucks again. CCB members arrived at John Williamson's house that*



*morning to help get the float ready. Trudy Williamson gra-*



# Chaplain's Corner

By Bill (Butterbean) Dixon

## Grace of God



[goldbow@att.net](mailto:goldbow@att.net)

**Titus 2-11: For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.**

Appeared in Titus 2-11 speaks to Acts 1-10: And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Acts 1-11; Which also said Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

**Titus 2-12: Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.** ( world, means the age we are living in)

**Titus 2-13: Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Romans 1-16; For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto Salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**

**Romans 1-19: Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.**

**Romans 1-20: For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power, and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.**

Creation in Romans 1-20 speaks to Genesis 1-1; In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Eternal power in Romans 1-20 speaks to Isaiah 40-26; Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number, he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he strong in power, not one faileth.

Isaiah 40-29: He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

**Romans 10-9: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**





## Coastal Carolina Base Member Birthdays

### October Birthdays

*Tom McFadden    George Cataldo    David Crabb*

### November Birthdays

*Bill Lowe    Brian Craig    Tim Dolan    Butterbean Dixon*  
*Dominic Pacilli    Elmer Norwood    George Depta    Doug Mays*

### December Birthdays

*J.B. Helms, Jr.    Gerry Rowe    Mark Siewert    Paul Siverson*  
*Everet Morgan    Michael Arcaro*

***A Very Happy Birthday & Many Returns!***

## Coastal Carolina Base Members on Eternal Patrol

*James Tobin    Lawrence H. Dunn*

*Phyl Hauck    Chuck Troyon*

### ***Navy Hymn for Submariners***

*Bless those who served beneath the deep,  
Through the lonely hours the vigil they had to keep,  
May eternal peace their mission ever be,  
Bless each one we ask of thee,  
Comfort those who at home who waited and prayed,  
For their return night and day.*





## CCB Member Chuck Troyon Goes on Eternal Patrol

**Charles "Chuck" A. Troyon Jr., 77**  
CLINTON — Charles "Chuck" Anthony Troyon Jr., 77, of Clinton, died Nov. 9, 2014 at Sampson Regional Medical Center after prolonged illness. A memorial service was held at 2 p.m.,

Thursday, Nov. 13, at Rowan Baptist Church. Friends and family will be received at the home on Five Bridge Road.

Mr. Troyon was born on April 1, 1937 in San Francisco, Calif. He served as Honorable in the US Navy for 26 years and retired as a senior chief petty officer. Most of his service was with the distinguished US Navy submarine service and he was a Vietnam veteran and a graduate of Palomar College in San Diego, Calif. After the military he retired from the State of Alaska, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. He then worked as a Teamster school bus driver with the Yakima Valley School system in Yakima, Wash.. Due to health reasons then retired with his wife to Clinton to be near family in 2008. He continued to contribute to the Clinton community through various volunteer programs including The VFW and The Learning Station in Clinton.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Carolyn Elizabeth Troyon of Clinton; son and daughter in law Richard Anthony and Sharon Fawn Troyon of Hampstead; grandchildren, Kristen Nicole Gurney of Charlotte, Ezekiel Anthony Troyon of Clinton, and Luke Nathaniel Troyon of Boone; mother, Mary Pleasanton, 97, of Castro Valley, Calif. and brothers, John Pleasanton of Silver Springs, Nevada, and Paul Pleasanton of Oakland, Calif..

He is preceded in death by his son, Mark Andrew Troyon of Juneau, Alaska; adopted father Charles Anthony Troyon Sr. and mother Ray Troyon of Alameda, Calif..

He will be truly missed by his family and friends. He never met a stranger and would love to remind us "It's God's job to work things out; It's our job to trust Him!"

## **Raising Awareness...continued**

*ciously invited us into her house to have coffee and snacks before the parade. The Leland Holiday Parade was a morning parade down a very straight road. All along the route children were scurrying about picking up candy thrown by preceding floats. We had no candy but got a great deal of respect from parade patrons as they stood and applauded and thanked us for our service. We thanked them for their support.*

*Following the parade most of the CCB members and spouses joined John and Trudy for lunch at Mac-*



*Grooders Restaurant in Leland. The food and fellowship were great capping off a very rewarding day.*

*All this parade activity and the success in raising awareness and recruiting generated a lot of new ideas for using our Big Black Submarine. John Williamson came up with several ideas for additional signs that we could use in the future for special events. Storekeeper Frank Blackmon raised the idea of LED lighting on the float for nighttime parades. Frank is an expert in building light shows and using LED light systems. At the December Base meeting Commander Charlie appointed John Williamson to head a committee to select what parades to attend in the future and how best to use the Big Black Submarine to raise awareness and recruit fellow Submarine Veterans. Frank Blackmon and Bill Underwood also joined John's committee. Please forward your suggestions to John, Frank or Bill for consideration.*

*It is very important to thank all the volunteers who helped construct, transport, improve and man the CCB float. Barry Turano was integral in getting the float started and Richard Schrum has supplied his trailer as the base for the float and stored and transported the float. Many others have improved the float, stored it and/or represented the base by riding on the float. **Thank You!***



## **Virginia Class Submarines No Periscope!**

## **No External Propeller!**

*Emailed to me by a CCB Member*

**Step Aboard The Navy's \$2.4 Billion "Virginia"  
Class Nuclear Submarine**



The USS *Virginia*-class submarines are the United States newest and most advanced submarine. The first Virginia slipped beneath the waves just eight years ago and only ten vessels have been completed. They take more than five years to build and run about \$2.4 billion apiece. Here, we look at the Virginia class of submarines from stern to bow, finding out what makes these ships unique. We'll start in the engine room, move our way over the reactor, through



the barracks to the command center and down into the torpedo room. The Virginia-class submarine is a new breed of high-tech post-Cold War nuclear subs. The submarines are nearly 400 feet long and



The ships were designed to function well in both deep sea and low-depth waters. So far, ten have entered service.



Above is Cheryl McGuinness, the widow of one of the pilots killed on 9/11, christening the USS *New Hampshire*.

Below are the USS *Virginias* Engines, which power the pump-jet propulsor rather than a conventional propeller. The SG9 nuclear reactor core drives the ship to nearly 32 mph when it's submerged

**Continued on Page 24**





## **Attention Veterans**

### **VA Benefit for Aged Veterans and/or Spouse**

If you are or have a family member who is a veteran or spouse of a veteran that needs extra care look at this info from the VA.

<http://www.vvachapter1075.org> vietnam vet help page A Little-Known Benefit for Aging Veterans.

As veterans age, many are unfamiliar with a benefit that can help pay for care at home or in assisted living or a nursing home.

Here's a riddle: When is a government benefit that pays for caregivers, assisted living and a nursing home not a benefit? When hardly any people know they're entitled to it.

That seems to be the story with a Department of Veterans Affairs benefit called the Aid and Attendance and Housebound Improved Pension benefit, known as A&A, which can cover the costs of caregivers in the home (including sons and daughters who are paid to be caregivers, though not spouses) or be used for assisted living or a nursing home. The benefit is not insignificant: up to \$2,019 monthly for a veteran and spouse, and up to \$1,094 for the widow of a veteran.

Surprised that you've never heard of it? You're not alone. "It's probably one of the lesser-known benefits," said Randal Noller, a Veterans Affairs spokesman in Washington. Of the 1.7 million World War II veterans alive as of 2011, who were in need of caregiving assistance and thus eligible, only 38,076 veterans and 38,685 surviving spouses were granted the A&A benefit that year, according to Mr. Noller.

Mr. Noller is not the first to acknowledge A&A is a well-kept secret. Jim Nicholson, former secretary of Veterans Affairs, said in a December 2006 news release that "not everyone is aware of his or her potential eligibility" for the program, which he called an "underused" benefit. Not much has changed. A search of the Veterans Affairs Web site for evidence of public information efforts in the six years since came up blank.

"The sad thing is, it's been an entitlement for 61 years, but it's sat idle - the V.A. employees just haven't been educated about it," said Debbie Burak of Midlothian, Va. She said she repeatedly called department offices on behalf of her father, a World War II veteran, and her mother, who became homeless after their house caught fire and

their injuries required extensive care. She was told there were no benefits they were entitled to. (Indeed, when I called two Baltimore-area Veterans Affairs offices for my father, a World War II veteran, no one had heard of this benefit or any benefit that paid for care givers or assisted living or nursing homes.) "My parents' end of life was so difficult. They lost everything, were living in a terrible hotel, ran up every credit card we had," Ms. Burak said. "My mother begged us not to cremate her, but there was no money for a burial; we had no choice."

It was only after her father died that Ms. Burak discovered her parents would have been entitled to as much as \$160,000 over the last decade through the Aid and Attendance benefit. She applied, but no money arrived before her mother died. Mr. Noller said the program's low visibility might be an effect of the size of the department. "The V.A. is the second-largest agency in the federal government, and you can't expect everybody to know everything," he said, referring to the agency's work force.

To bridge the information gap, Ms. Burak introduced VeteranAid.org, a Web site and a 501(c)(3) charity, in 2005, to provide information about A&A eligibility and how to apply. To qualify, a veteran need not have suffered a service-related injury. He or she only had to have clocked at least one day of his or her 90-day minimum military service during a time of war and need care giving for activities of daily living.

Applying can be confusing and arduous. If you know the program's name and search the Veterans Affairs Web site for Aid and Attendance, the first page states, among other things, that you are not eligible for A&A unless you already qualify for a basic Veterans Affairs pension - for which you have to be "totally disabled."

That's more than a little misleading. "What people don't know is that when wartime veterans turn 65, the V.A. automatically classifies them as 'totally disabled,' " Ms. Burak said. And if they meet income and asset criteria, they are eligible for a basic pension. The A&A benefit can be more than 50 percent higher than the basic veteran's pension (\$24,239 annually for a veteran and



## Veterans Assisted Living Benefits...continued

spouse with A&A, versus \$16,051 for a basic pension).

The income and asset cutoffs are also higher than for A&A benefits. Karen McCarty, of Fort Worth, is one of the lucky ones who applied for A&A - and got it. She heard about it when the assisted living facility where her father-in-law, Robert McCarty, 92, was living, held a seminar on it. Ms. McCarty, a former certified public accountant, started researching the application process at the Veterans Affairs site, but, she said, "the VeteranAid.org site was much clearer." She found all the forms she needed, and her father-in-law received the first check in record time - six months.

Not all Veterans Affairs officers are in the dark about A&A. After Annette Cadena's parents were in a car accident and moved to a nursing home in their tiny hometown, Fossil, Ore., it was the local Veterans Affairs officer, Paul Conroy (now retired), who saw her on the street and mentioned that her parents might qualify. "I was skeptical, to be honest," said Ms. Cadena. "My husband did two tours in Iraq and has worked 30 years for the Washington State Army National Guard coordinating with the V.A. to help veterans, and he had never heard of it." Still, she applied in August 2009, and nine months later her parents started receiving the maximum \$2,019 per month.

The benefit was a lifesaver. That is, until her father, Clinton Ray, died on Aug. 5. The payments to her mother, Bessie Ray, stopped, even though widows of veterans are also entitled to this benefit. "They cut her off cold," Ms. Cadena said, and told her she would have to apply all over again as a widow, which could take 9 to 18 months. "My mother said, 'Oh, my God, are they going to kick me out of the home?'" Ms. Cadena recalled.

Still, when the benefit comes through, it can make a real difference. Marcia Hruska's mother, 85, had run through all her savings after seven years of worsening Alzheimer's and round-the-clock care in her apartment in Coconut Creek, Fla. Assisted living was the next step, but Ms. Hruska didn't know how they would pay for it, with Social Security her only income. "One of the assisted living facilities we visited asked if my dad

had been in the service," and mentioned A&A, Ms. Hruska recalled. So she filled out the 26-page Veterans Affairs application - which used to be only four pages - and on Sept. 1, six months after applying, she received the first monthly check for \$1,019. "This relieves a lot of tension," Ms. Hruska said.

One warning note: Scams abound. The department forbids anyone to charge to help veterans fill out these challenging forms, yet a growing number of companies - many of which, on a Web search for "Aid and Attendance," pop up with waving flags and red-white-and-blue banners - offer to "help" veterans fill out the forms free, then charge thousands of dollars for financial consultation. And, Ms. Burak warns: "Financial planners at assisted living facilities are putting on seminars about the A&A benefit - but it isn't out of the goodness of their hearts. They are trolling for residents who have too much money to qualify, to get them to move assets into annuity products that don't count as income or assets and yield big commissions." (This is possible because, unlike Medicaid, with its five-year look back, Veterans Affairs has no look back on asset transfers.) The department does not reveal maximum allowable assets. But \$80,000 (the house and a car are exempt from this total) seems to be in the ballpark, though someone with more assets could still qualify if expenses were very high, according to Ms. Burak. Income limits are not set in stone either. But the maximum is around \$20,000 to \$23,000 after deducting costs for medical expenses, caregivers, assisted living or nursing home fees. Some people are taking advantage of A&A to protect assets for their heirs, Ms. McCarty said. Still, she said, "it's a wonderful benefit."



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

[Click Here to for More Info](#)





*The Coastal Carolina Base is a proud to be one of the six USSVI bases that comprise the United States Submarine Veterans of North Carolina, aka NCSubVets!*



### **USSVI** **Who We Are**

We are all United States Submariners! Whether currently Active, Retired, Reserve or a Honorably discharged veteran, we all were and some still are members of the elite under-seas fighting force of the United States Navy. We are all volunteers who passed stringent testing, challenging training and we proved our mettle when we earned the coveted designation **"QUALIFIED IN SUBMARINES"**. Whether your dolphins are gold or silver, there is no expiration date on the back of that precious pin.



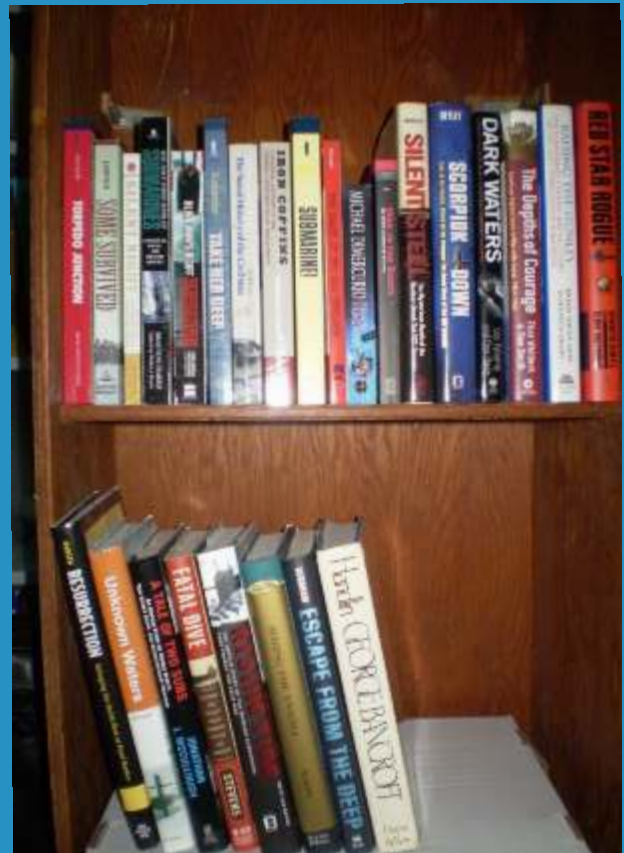
## **Coastal Carolina Base Library**

Yes the Coastal Carolina Base has a Library. The library was started in 2011 to give members a place to put their books, movies and submarine artifacts so they can be enjoyed by other members. The library grew significantly in 2013 with the generous donation of 25 books by USSVI Life Member, Bob Montore.

Several other members have also donated books, movies and artifacts.

Below is a partial list of books in the Base Library. Members can check out a book by dropping an email to the Base Commander or COB, John Williamson and the COB will bring it to the next meeting or agree to another way to pick it up.

***Donate your submarine related books, movies, and artifacts to your base library!***



No.	TITLE	AUTHOR(S)	Fiction or Non-Fiction	COPYRIGHT DATE	HARDCOVER OR SOFT
1	Escape From the Deep [USS Tang]	Alex Kershaw	NF	2008	H
2	Silent Steel [USS Scorpion]	Stephen Johnson	NF	2006	H
3	Seizing the Enigma	David Kahn	NF	1991	H
4	A Tale of Two Subs [Sculpin and Sailfish]	Jonathan J. McCullough	NF	2008	H
5	Red Star Rogue	Kenneth Sewell with Clint Richmond	NF	2005	H
6	Iron Coffins (has underlines on some pages)	Commander Herbert A. Werner	NF	1969	S
7	Raising the Hunley	Brian Hicks and Schuyler Kropf	NF	2002	H
8	Dark Waters [NR-1]	Lee Vyborny and Don Davis	NF	2003	H
9	Unknown Waters [USS Queenfish]	Alfred S. McClaren	NF	2008	H
10	The Navy Times Book of Submarines	Brayton Harris	NF	1997	S
11	The Depths of Courage	Flint Whistock and Ron Smith	NF	2007	H
12	Submarine!	Edward L. Beach	NF	1946	S
13	Blind Man's Bluff [USS Seawolf]	Sherry Sontag and Christopher Drew	NF	1998	S
14	Scorpion Down	Ed Offley	NF	2007	H
15	Take Her Deep	Adm. I.J. Galantin, USN [Ret.]	NF	1997	S
16	War in the Boats	Capt. William J. Ruhe, USN [Ret.]	NF	1994	S
17	Fatal Dive [USS Grunion]	Peter F. Stevens	NF	2012	H
18	Prana: Firing Point	Michael D. DiMercurio	F	1999	S
19	Some Survived [Bataan Death March]	Manny Lawton	NF	1984	S
20	By Sea and by River [Civil War Naval History]	Bern Anderson	NF	1962	S
21	Torpedo Junction	Homer H. Hickam, Jr.	NF	1989	S
22	The Death of the USS Thresher	Norman Pulmar	NF	1964	S
23	Rising Tide [Cold War Russian Subs]	Gary E. Weir and Walter J. Boyne	NF	2003	H
24	George Bancroft - The Intellectual as Democrat	Lilian Handlin	NF	1984	H
25	Resurrection - Salvaging the Battle Fleet at Pearl	Daniel Madsen	NF	2003	H



## Base Hats, Shirts and Jackets Available

Due to the low volume of traffic and sales  
on the [www.subvetsonline.com](http://www.subvetsonline.com) website  
The website has been discontinued.



However,  
The base logo gear is  
still available and your  
Base Storekeeper,  
Frank Blackmon, can  
get it for you!

Frank recommends that CCB Members visit  
the USSVI Storekeeper website and pick out  
what they want, then contact Frank at  
**[cblackmon@ec.rr.com](mailto:cblackmon@ec.rr.com)**  
Or 910-278-6581

Frank will order your item for you and the  
CCB will get a rebate of part of the price.

## Welcome to Our Newest Members!

**Doug Mays**  
USS Ben Franklin  
USS Alaska



**Elmer Norwood**  
USS Thornback  
USS Triton



**Mickey Finn**  
USS James Madison  
USS Trigger  
USS Lafayette



**Tom Waddell**  
USS Daniel Webster  
USS Thomas Edison



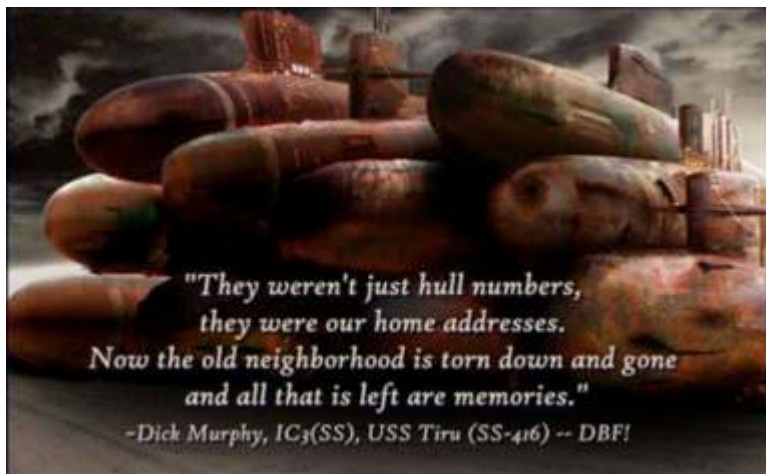




## Hope for the Clamagore...continued

veteran, but is fanatical about saving the Clamagore. In December Josh posted this about the Clamagore:

The Clamagore and the men who served aboard defended this nation for 30 years. Now it's our turn to defend Clamagore and prevent this from happening. SS-343 is the last submarine produced in the WWII era that can be saved. Join Friends of the Clamagore in our effort to bring 343 to East Tennessee and give her a new home. Together we will SAVE 343!



[Visit Friends of the Clamagore on Facebook!](#)

### Husband's Message

Honey, I got hit by a car outside of the office. Teena brought me to Hospital. They have been making tests and taking X-rays. The blow to my head though very strong, will not have any serious or lasting injury. But, I have three broken ribs, a broken arm, a compound fracture in the left leg, and they may have to amputate the right foot.

### Wife's Response

Who is Teena?

VIA 9GAG.COM

*I very quietly confided to my best friend that I was having an affair. She turned to me and asked, 'Are you having it catered'? And that, my friend, is the definition of 'OLD'!*



## Book of Members Autobiography of the Quarter Don't Make Us Write Your Story Like We Had to Write Dilbert's!

### Dilbert Kilroy TM3 (SS)

I was going to the drug store and went in the wrong door into the Navy recruiter. Before I could get out, I had joined the Navy. I was in Great Lakes for 6 months and went through boot camp three times. For some reason I had trouble marching in time with the others. Finally, I got out

of boot camp and went to Torpedoman A school. To my surprise I graduated top of the class and then was sent to sub School in New London. While at sub school, I accidentally set fire to the Escape Training Tower and was immediately transferred to the *USS Pickle (SS 69)* which was in the Philadelphia shipyard. I spent most of my time there wandering the base looking for a nosepiece for a water slug. Apparently they are in high demand and very hard to find. I would get there just after the last one had been picked up. On the boat I stood topside watch for 4 years. The worst was in January and February on the 00-0400 or the 0400-0800 watches. It was so cold I had 5 sets of foul weather gear on. Once I fell overboard into the Delaware and bobbed around for an hour before the oncoming watch pulled me out. Finally, the Captain had a guard shack moved on to the deck for the topside watches. It was so warm that the first night I had watch, I fell asleep and, when the Engineering Officer came on board at 0315, I was startled and accidentally shot him in the foot. He threw the guard shack overboard. I finally got qualified 4 days before my enlistment was up. My mother was worried that I would get seasick, but I never did. It might have been because we never went to sea.



## Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2014

**Location:** First Baptist Church Activity Center, Independence Blvd., Wilmington, NC

### Coastal Carolina Base Submarine Veterans Meeting

**When:** October 16, 2014, at 1900 hrs

**Location:** First Baptist Church Activity Center, Independence Blvd., Wilmington, NC

**Invocation:** Base Chaplain, Bill Dixon, gave the Invocation

**Raffle:** Storekeeper Frank Blackmon was not present so no raffle tickets were sold.

**Call to order:** Base Commander Charlie Backes called the Meeting to order at 1900.

**Attendees:** Charlie Backes (Base Commander), Chuck Fletcher (Base Vice Commander), Bill Underwood (Base Secretary), Butterbean Dixon (Base Chaplain), Howard Crist (Base Historian), Jim Simon, Bill Lowe, Ron Bixby, Gerry Rowe, Dominic Pacilli, Richard Schrum, Bernie Maguire and Jim Brincefield

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Commander Charlie Backes led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

**Tolling of the Lost Boats:** Vice Commander Fletcher was assisted by Gerry Rowe in performing the "Tolling of the Lost Boats" for boats lost in the months of September and October. At the end of the ceremony, Butterbean noted that three of the lost boats listed were lost to "friendly fire" and another was lost to a circular run on its own torpedo.

**Recognition of World War II Submarine Veterans in Attendance:** No World War II submarine veterans were at the meeting.

**Introductions:** Each attendee introduced themselves giving their name, qualification boat and boats served on.

**Holland Club Presentations:** Commander Backes called Howard Crist forward and presented him with his Holland Club patch and certificate. Congratulations Howard!

**Newsletter of the Year Award:** Commander Backes informed the attendees that the Coastal Carolina Base Newsletter, "The Below Decks Watch", was selected as the Newsletter of the Year for Class III size USS-VI Bases at the USSVI Convention in San Francisco. Charlie called the Editor of "The Below Decks Watch" up to present the plaque and a patch for Newsletter of the Year.

Congratulations to Charlie, Bill and the Base Members who work to make the base newsletter a winner!

**Motion to Approve Minutes from Last Meeting:** Commander Charlie called for a motion to accept the published minutes from the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting as written.

**MOTION: Bernie Maguire offered a MOTION to accept the Minutes from the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Coastal Carolina Base as written and dispense with the reading of those Minutes. Butterbean SECONDED the MOTION and the MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote of the attendees.**

**Submission of Bills and Receipts:** Charlie had some expenses to submit for reimbursement and Secretary Bill had the expense receipts for recent printing and mailing of the newsletter to submit but the treasurer was not present.

[Continued on page 17](#)





## Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2014...continued

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Terry Kuhn was not present at the meeting so no Treasurer's Report was given.

**Storekeeper's Report:** Storekeeper Frank Blackmon was not present so no Storekeeper's Report was given.

### Old Business

**Belk Fundraiser:** The Commander informed attendees that CCB will participate in the fall Belk's Charity Sale as discussed at the last meeting. Secretary Bill attended the kick off meeting at Belk's and picked up tickets. Commander Backes distributed the tickets to some of the CCB Members. If any members need tickets, contact Charlie. Each \$5 ticket sold provides \$5 to the CCB treasury. Also members can volunteer to sell tickets at Belks between Oct 24 and Nov 8. In the Spring Belk's Charity Sale the CCB added \$750 to the Base Treasury, so, if you can help, please do. You can also buy tickets and treat your better half to a great sale at any Belk's store on Nov 8 from 6:00 am to 10:00 am.

**Veteran's Day Parade:** Richard Schrum informed the attendees that the CCB Float is registered for the Jacksonville Veteran's Day Parade on Nov 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. CCB Members planning to ride the float should let Richard ([ncsubman@gmail.com](mailto:ncsubman@gmail.com)) know and plan to show up at the meeting place at the Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville at 9:00 am. Richard said he has chairs for the float but will need some help setting up the float on Nov 8<sup>th</sup>.

**CCB Veteran's Day Dinner:** Charlie entertained a discussion about a possible Dinner for CCB Members and guests to celebrate Veteran's Day. The attendees decided to set Wednesday Nov 12<sup>th</sup> at the Bonefish Grill as the tentative

time and place for now. Charlie will investigate and notify members soon.

**Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner:** Commander Charlie and BB reminded attendees about the upcoming Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Members planning to attend should fill out the attached form and email it to Gordon Banks ([gordonb1@nc.rr.com](mailto:gordonb1@nc.rr.com)) or BB ([goldbow@att.net](mailto:goldbow@att.net)).

**Oak Island Christmas Parade:** Commander Charlie reminded attendees that the CCB Float has been entered in the 2014 Oak Island Christmas Parade on December 6<sup>th</sup>. At the Aug 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, Frank Blackmon, Dick Gudis and John Williamson volunteered to organize the CCB participation in the Oak Island Parade and develop some Holiday decorations and a sign aft of the sail which identifies the float as representing the USS North Carolina or the United States Submarine Service. None of these members were present so there was not update on their progress.

**Wilmington Holiday Parade:** At the Aug 16<sup>th</sup> meeting the attendees expressed an interest in participating in the Wilmington Holiday Parade on Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> in Wilmington. There was no update for this meeting, but Charlie said he would do some more research on it and register if the float was not already registered.

**2015 USSVI Southeast Regional Convention:** The 2015 Southeast Regional Convention of the USSVI will be at the Snug Harbor Base in Satellite Beach (Cape Canaveral), Florida on April 20-23, 2015. Charlie asked which members plan to attend. Secretary Bill indicated he planned to attend.

**Kaps4Kids Participation:** Commander Charlie informed attendees that Base Treasurer, Terry

[Continued on page 18](#)



## Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2014...continued

Kuhn, had expressed interest in starting a Kaps4Kids program for CCB. Charlie said that he doesn't think Terry has had time to do anything with the program as of yet. BB mentioned that the Piedmont Base has an extensive K4K program so the Tarheel Base passes the hat and donates money to the Piedmont Base K4K program. That might be a way for CCB to get started with K4K.

**Veterans Christmas Dinner:** Commander Backes revisited the idea of having a Base Christmas Dinner. The attendees recommended that we don't plan another event in December since it is a very busy time for members already. It was agreed not to schedule another event in December.

**Kramer House:** Jim Brincefield suggested that the CCB talk to Lowes and Home Depot to see if one of them will donate the hot water heater to CCB to provide for the Kramer House or give the Base a substantial discount. Jim agreed to negotiate with Lowes and Home Depot.

**School Visits:** Commander Charlie encouraged CCB Members to contact local high schools with ROTC programs and speak to the ROTC groups about the Submarine Service. Charlie suggested using Kevin Kesterson's video about submarine duty as part of the presentation. See Charlie for copies of the video.

**Improvements to the CCB Float:** At the last meeting Charlie suggested that the base consider adding a sign on the deck behind the sail on the submarine centerpiece identifying the sub as the *USS North Carolina SSN 777*. Bill commented that the sub was not really designed to look like the *North Carolina*. John Williamson suggested that the sign say "United States Submarine Service" since the float represents and is designed to attract attention to the Submarine Service. Charlie suggested that

John Williamson and Frank Blackmon come up with designs for the sign and bring them to the next meeting. No update at this meeting.

### New Business

**New Hanover Veterans Council:** Commander Charlie informed attendees that he joined the New Hanover Veterans Council representing the CCB. He asked to be reimbursed for the \$20 dues. The New Hanover Veterans Council is made up of about 40 Veteran related organizations dedicated to "Promoting the aims and advancing the interests of Veterans and Patriotism".

**MOTION: Bernie Maguire offered a MOTION to reimburse Commander Charlie Backes \$20 for dues to the New Hanover Veterans Council. Chuck Fletcher SECONDED the Motion and the Motion CARRIED by unanimous vote of the attendees.**

Commander Charlie also mentioned that there will be a Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Viet Nam April 23-26 in the Coastline Convention Center in Wilmington. The event schedule is attached to these minutes.

**Officer Nominations:** Commander Charlie informed that the time to nominate and elect new CCB Officers is coming up. CCB Officers are elected to serve 2 year terms and members will need to elect a Commander, Vice Commander, Treasurer and Secretary for the 2015-2017 term. To date Bill Underwood has expressed a willingness to run for Base Commander and Chuck Fletcher has said he would run for Base Vice Commander. Hopefully Terry Kuhn will agree to run for Treasurer. We need a Base member step up to run for Base Secretary. Bill has agreed to continue to be the Editor of the Newsletter, if elected to Commander, so a good candidate for Base Secretary would be a member who could usu-





## Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2014...continued

ally attend Base meetings and events and record what goes on with notes and pictures and email Meeting Minutes within a few days after Base meetings. Butterbean will create the ballots and implement the voting and ballot counting process. If you would like to be nominated for any of the officer positions, please email Butterbean indicating your interest.

### Good of the Order

**Future Meeting Places:** Vice Commander Chuck Fletcher informed attendees that he spoke with the Maritime Museum in Southport and they offered CCB a meeting room free of charge in the Museum any time we want to meet in Southport. He also said that CCB is welcome to come back to the Trinity United Methodist Church any Sat morning to meet there as well. Chuck added that the Executive Par 3 Golf course in Southport would welcome a CCB Golf Tournament if we want to try one in 2015. He suggested that we need to find some meeting places in the Jacksonville area as well.

**Base Historian Comments:** Base Historian, Howard Crist, recounted that at the start of World War II, Pan American Airlines operated the Pan American Clipper, flying boat, service in the Pacific. When the war started Pan Am continued to fly the planes but the US Military took over the routing. The morning Hostilities started (Dec 7/8) the Philippine Clipper was at Wake Island and was strafed several times taking 60-80 hits before it could get out.

On January 20, 1942, one month after Pearl Harbor, the Philippine Clipper flew a special flight to San Francisco with COMSUBPAC Robert English and his staff on board. The flight had an unusually strong tailwind and arrived at the US several hours early in a heavy fog. The plane had trouble finding the airport and eventually crashed killing all on board.

As a result, Charles Lockwood took over as COMSUBPAC. He inherited a fleet of old submarines with nonaggressive skippers. Frustrated with this situation, Lockwood sidelined many of the timid Captains and started an aggressive submarine building program. He also arranged for returning sub crews to stay at the Royal Hawaiian and get the best food while at sea. Another serious problem Lockwood inherited was faulty torpedoes. Out of the first 1400 U.S. torpedoes fired, only 109 exploded and resulted in a kill. His Captains complained that the torpedoes were defective but NAVORD said there was nothing wrong with the torpedoes, it was inexperienced Skippers at fault. Lockwood supported his Skippers and started testing and eventually proved that the torpedoes were at fault. By 1943 the issue was fixed and the kill rate for Lockwood's Skippers went up dramatically. Lockwood also set up forward bases in Guam and Saipan so his boats didn't have to travel so far to replenish torpedoes.

After the war Lockwood wrote 4 books about submarines and consulted on several movies. He retired to California in 1947 and liked to hunt in his spare time. In a twist of fate, his favorite hunting preserve was also the area where the Philippine Clipper crashed in 1942 resulting in his appointment as COMSUBPAC.

Following Howard's recount of Lockwood's interesting story, Commander Charlie asked Howard to pull together a binder with the history of the Coastal Carolina Base and each of the submarine stories he and other members offer at CCB meetings.

**Member Gerry Rowe:** Gerry Rowe took the floor and showed attendees an "All Hands" magazine from 1967 that was focused on submarines. He also passed around an issue of the Chatham Press, local paper from Chatham, NY, which did a long article about Gerry and 5 other subvets living in Chatham at the time.

[Continued on Page 20](#)



## Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2014...continued

Gerry also donated several books to the Base Library.

### Adjournment:

**MOTION:** Dominic Pacilli offered a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Howard Crist **SECONDED** the **MOTION** and the **MOTIONED CARRIED** by unanimous vote by the attendees and the meeting was adjourned.

### Next Scheduled Base Event/Meeting

The next regular Base Meeting will be on Saturday morning, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 0900 at the Golden Corral on New Centre Drive in Wilmington, NC.

## *Warning!*

*If you have a Flashlight App on your phone, you need to watch the following Fox Interview!*



## [Click Here!](#)

According to the HOW TO GEEK - "The fact is that the built-in iPhone flashlight is part of iOS... it's part of your iPhone. It was created by Apple, and you have nothing to worry about."

## Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from December 20, 2014

### Coastal Carolina Base Submarine Veterans Meeting

**When:** December 20, 2014, at 0900 hrs

**Location:** Golden Corral on New Centre Drive, Wilmington, NC

**Raffle Tickets:** Storekeeper Frank Blackmon sold tickets to attendees for a Base Logo Shirt raffle.

**Call to Order:** After a delicious breakfast, Commander Backes called the meeting to order at 0930.

**Invocation:** Base Chaplain, Bill Dixon, gave the Invocation.

**Attendees:** Charlie Backes (Base Commander), Chuck Fletcher (Base Vice Commander), Bill Underwood (Base Secretary), Butterbean Dixon (Base Chaplain), Terry Kuhn (Base Treasurer), Howard Crist (Base Historian), Jim Simon, Gerry Rowe, Steve Croom, George Stalker, Kevin Kesterson, Dick Gudis, George Depta, Richard Schrum, Bernie Maguire, John Williamson and guests Tom Waddell, Mickey Finn, Caryl Finn, Mary Backes, Pat Blackmon, Wendy Simon, Joy Fletcher, Linda Underwood, Diane Rowe, Teresa Kesterson and Trudy Williamson.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Commander Charlie Backes led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

**Tolling of the Lost Boats:** Vice Commander Fletcher was assisted by John Williamson in performing the "Tolling of the Lost Boats" for boats lost in the months of November and December.

**Recognition of World War II Submarine Veterans in Attendance:** No World War II submarine veterans were at the meeting.





## Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from December 20, 2014...continued

**Introductions:** Each attendee introduced themselves giving their name, qualification boat and boats served on. Many introduced their wives as well.

**Holland Club Presentations:** Commander Backes announced that he had a Holland Club Patch and Certificate for Elmer Norwood, but Elmer Norwood was not present so no presentation was made.

**Parade Award:** Commander Backes informed attendees that the Coastal Carolina SubVet Float won first place in the Non-Commercial section of the Wilmington Holiday Parade. **Congratulations to all who worked on the float and participated in the parade!**

**Motion to Approve Minutes from Last Meeting:** Commander Charlie called for a motion to accept the published minutes from the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting as written.

**MOTION:** Butterbean offered a **MOTION** to accept the Minutes from the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Coastal Carolina Base as written and dispense with the reading of those Minutes. George Depta **SECONDED** the **MOTION** and the **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote of the attendees.

**Submission of Bills and Receipts:** John Williamson submitted receipts for \$235.14 for construction of signs for the float, Richard Schrum for \$35.00 for gas delivering the float to Oak Island and Charlie for \$21.91 for refreshments at the parades.

**MOTION:** Charlie offered a **MOTION** to reimburse John, Richard and Charlie for the submitted expenses. The Motion was **SECONDED** by Bernie Maguire and **CARRIED** by unanimous vote of the attendees.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Terry Kuhn presented the following Treasurer's Report for review and comment. Terry reported that he has received dues from several CCB members at the meeting today and written several reimbursement checks that will modify the attached Treasurer's Report. Terry added that the Base usually donates \$100.00 to the First Baptist Church for the use of the meeting room.

Coastal Carolina Base USSVI			
Treasurer's Report for		8/22/2014 to 12/18/2014	
Beginning Balance:		3/7/2014	\$2,265.24
Income:			
Base Dues:			\$190.00
Prepaid Dues:			\$110.00
National Dues:			\$240.00
Raffle Income:			\$0.00
SK Sales:			\$0.00
Belk Fundraiser:			\$500.00
Misc. Donations:			\$135.00
SOY refund:			\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME:			\$1,175.00
Expenditures:			
USSVI National Dues:			-\$240.00
Dues, New Hanover Veterans Council:			-\$20.00
Office Supplies:			-\$10.15
National Ads:			\$0.00
Float Expenses:			-\$30.00
Parades:			-\$25.00
Fundraiser Expenses:			-\$65.79
TOTAL EXPENSES:			-\$390.94
Reconciliation:		Beginning Balance:	\$2,265.24
		Plus Income:	\$1,175.00
		Less Expenses:	-\$390.94
Ending Balance:			\$3,049.30

**MOTION:** Terry offered a **MOTION** to donate \$100 to the First Baptist Church in Wilmington for use of the meeting rooms during the year. Butterbean **SECONDED** the **MOTION** and the **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote of the attendees.

Treasurer Terry also submitted the attached 2014 Budget as the guide for a proposed 2015 Budget for the CCB. A discussion ensued regarding increasing the budget for printing and

[Continued on Page 22](#)



## Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from December 20, 2014...continued

mailing the Base Newsletter to \$450 and to consider the Base budgeting for a donation to USSVI Charitable Fund. Terry agreed to make a few changes and submit the budget again at the Feb 19<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval.

**Storekeeper's Report:** Storekeeper Frank Blackmon reported that he is taking orders for Base Logo Shirts, caps and jackets. He showed an example microfiber jacket with USSVI logo on back and CCB logo on front. Frank continued by announcing that the USSVI Store now has nice vests available for order. He encouraged CCB members to go on the USSVI store site and select the merchandise they want, **THEN ORDER THE MERCHANDISE THROUGH FRANK. IF YOU ORDER THROUGH FRANK THE CCB GETS A PERCENTAGE OF THE ORDER AS A REBATE TO THE BASE.**

**Membership and Recruitment:** Butterbean commented that the Base gained 5 new SubVet contacts from the Base Float being in the local parades. 2 of the new contacts joined the base today. He welcomed new members Mickey Finn and Tom Waddell to the Base. BB continued by encouraging members to **get any new subvet prospect's name, phone number and email address and get the info to BB ASAP** so he can follow-up with the contact. He said that we need to add about 15 new members in 2015 to the CCB.

**CCB Annual Dues:** Butterbean reminded attendees that he has sent out several notices that annual dues are due now. CCB dues are \$10/year (you can pay for one year or several years at a time). If you are not a USSVI Life member, USSVI dues are \$20/year. You should mail your dues to:

Terry Kuhn  
5905 Downrigger Drive  
Wilmington, NC 28409-8907

## Old Business

**2014 Pearl Harbor Dinner:** Charlie reported that he attended the Pearl Harbor Dinner along with Butterbean, Bill Lowe, Dick Kanning, Bob Govern, Tom McFadden and Jerry Leppart from the CCB.

**Parade Results:** Commander Backes recounted that the CCB participated in 6 parades in 2014. A discussion ensued about the number and frequency of parades especially in November and December. Bill pointed out that in the last 3 parades we got 5 new SubVet contacts, 2 of which have already joined the CCB. Our Submarine Float is a very successful tool in promoting the submarine service and recruiting new members. Attendees mentioned potential participation in the Warsaw Veterans Day Parade, the Southport Holiday Parade and the Burgaw Holiday Parade. Commander Charlie asked John Williamson to form a committee to evaluate and plan for parade participation in 2015.

**Kramer House:** Charlie reminded attendees that Step-Up-For-Soldiers has broken ground on the Kramer House for returning veterans to live in while attending a local university. CCB previously voted to donate \$350 to the project for a hot water heater. Charlie plans to present the check soon.

**Belk Fundraiser:** Commander Charlie reported that the fall Belk Charity Fund Raiser raised \$894.39 for the CCB. A discussion ensued about the efficiency of this fund raiser for the CCB. Charlie encouraged the CCB to participate in this fundraiser in the Spring and Fall of 2015.

**Base Historical Record:** Howard Crist reported that has no report regarding the Base Historical Record at this point.

**Base Library:** Commander Backes informed attendees that, due to Brian Craig's conflicting responsibilities, he is appointing John Williamson as the COB for the Coastal Carolina Base. As the COB, John will assume responsibility for the





# Gems from Jim

*Thought Provoking emails from Jim Brincefield*



## Rules for Kickin' Butt:

### Rules for the Non-Military

1. The next time you see any adults talking (or wearing a hat) during the playing of the National Anthem - kick their Butt.

2. When you witness, firsthand, someone burning the American Flag in protest - kick their Butt.

3. Regardless of the rank they held while they served, pay the highest amount of respect to all veterans. If you see anyone doing otherwise, quietly pull them aside and explain how these veterans fought for the very freedom they bask in every second. Enlighten them on the many sacrifices these veterans made to make this Nation great. Then hold them down while a disabled veteran kicks their Butt.

4. If you were never in the military, DO NOT pretend that you were. Wearing battle dress uniforms (BDUs) or Jungle Fatigues, telling others that you used to be 'Special Forces'. Collecting GI Joe memorabilia might have been okay when you were seven years old, but now it will only make you look stupid and get your Butt kicked.

5. Next time you come across an Air Force member, do not ask them, 'Do you fly a jet?' Not everyone in the Air Force is a pilot. Such ignorance deserves an ass-kicking (children are exempt).

6. If you witness someone calling the Coast Guard 'non-military', inform them of their mistake - and kick their ass.

7. Next time Old Glory (the US flag) prances by during a parade, get on your damn feet and pay homage to her by placing your hand over your heart. This includes arrogant politicians who think someone may be offended. Quietly thank the military member or veteran lucky

enough to be carrying her - of course, failure to do either of those could earn you a severe Butt-kick-ing.

9. 'Your mama wears combat boots' never made sense to me - stop saying it! If she did, she would most likely be a vet and therefore would kick your Butt!

10. 'Flyboy' (Air Force), 'Jarhead' (Marines), 'Grunt' (Army), 'Squid' (Navy), 'Puddle Jumpers' (Coast Guard), Bubblehead (Subsailor), etc., are terms of endearment we use describing each other. Unless you are a service member or vet, you have not earned the right to use them. Using them could get your Butt kicked.

11. Last, but not least, whether or not you become a member of the military, support our troops and their families. Every Thanksgiving and religious holiday that you enjoy with family and friends, please remember that there are literally thousands of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen far from home wishing they could be with their families. Thank God for our military and the sacrifices they make every day. Without them, our country would get its Butt kicked..

12. It's the Veteran, not the reporter, who has given us the freedom of the press. It's the Veteran, not the poet, who has given us the freedom of speech. It's the Veteran, not the community organizer, who gives us the freedom to demonstrate. It's the Military who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.

13. If you ever see anyone singing the national anthem in Spanish - KICK THEIR BUTT.

### ONE LAST THING:

**WE LIVE IN THE LAND OF THE FREE, ONLY BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE!**

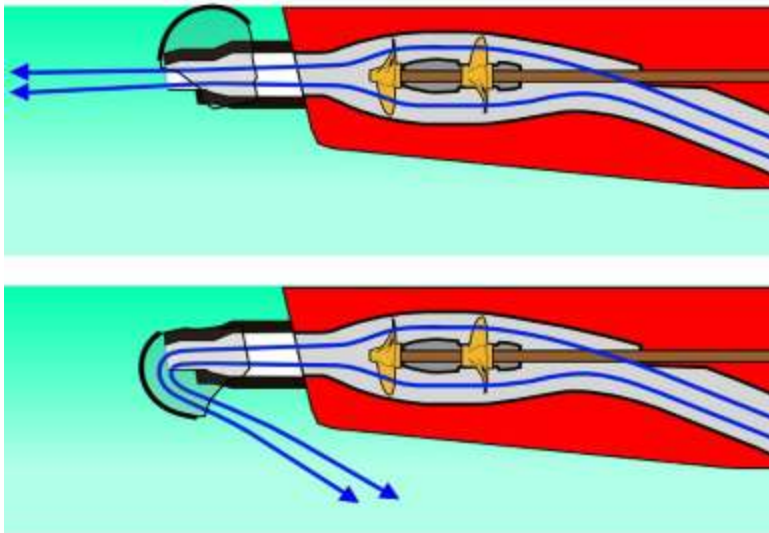
If you don't stand behind our troops, PLEASE feel free to stand in front of them!



## *Virginia Class No Periscopes & No Propellers...continued*



This design cuts back on corrosive damage and also makes the ship stealthier.



This hallway - extending from the engine room, over the reactor and through the living habitat in



the center of the ship - is dark so that sailors can sleep.



The SEALs can exit the sub while its underwater by passing through this airlock.



This lock-out chamber is in the center of the ship.







## Base Membership Statistics

<b>USSVI Life Members</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Base Life Members</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Holland Club Members</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Primary Members</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Associate Members</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>WWII Sub Veteran Members</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Active Members in</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Members on Eternal Patrol</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Attendees at Last Meeting</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>% voting in Last Election</b>	<b>63</b>



### USS Mississippi (SSN 782)

Assigned to Pearl

PEARL HARBOR (NNS) -- The Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Mississippi (SSN 782) was welcomed to the Pearl Harbor waterfront at an aloha ceremony Nov. 25, as the newest submarine permanently assigned to Submarine Squadron 1 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

## Notable Fourth Quarter History



Today in Undersea Warfare History (Dec 17, 1988), USS TENNESSEE (SSBN 734) was commissioned, with Capt. D. Witzenburg (B) and Capt. Kenneth D. Barker (G) in command.



On 11 November 1944 B-29 air strikes against Tokyo were cancelled and Archerfish, originally assigned to lifesaving duties, was free to patrol the waters near Tokyo Bay. On the night of 28 November she spots what is believed to be a tanker leaving the bay. Lookouts later determine that it's a large aircraft carrier with three destroyer escorts.

Archerfish CO, CDR Joseph F. Enright, begins a six-hour surface track on the carrier in anticipation of a submerged attack. When the carrier turned into the sub's path six torpedos were fired. They were set for shallow running in order to increase the chances of a hit in case they ran deeper than set. Two torpedo hits were seen and four more were heard. The carrier sank in 5 hours.



Today in Undersea Warfare History (Dec 31, 1941), Adm. Chester Nimitz, a qualified Submariner, was sworn in as Commander, Pacific Fleet aboard USS GRAYLING (SS 209).

Today in Undersea Warfare History (Dec 30, 1959), USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN 598) was commissioned, with Cmdr. James B. Osborn (B) and Cmdr. John L. From (G) in command.





# The Ditty Bag

*Contribute to the "Below Decks Watch" Newsletter*

***Some Sub Sailor is Bound to Have a Good Sea Story!***

*Please submit News, a Sea Story, Jokes (clean), cartoons, humorous anecdotes, alerts, local event notices, comments, Letters to the Editor, etc. by the end of February, May, August, or November to get your contribution in the next Quarter's Newsletter!*

*Submit to [bunder343@aol.com](mailto:bunder343@aol.com)*

## Political Correctness

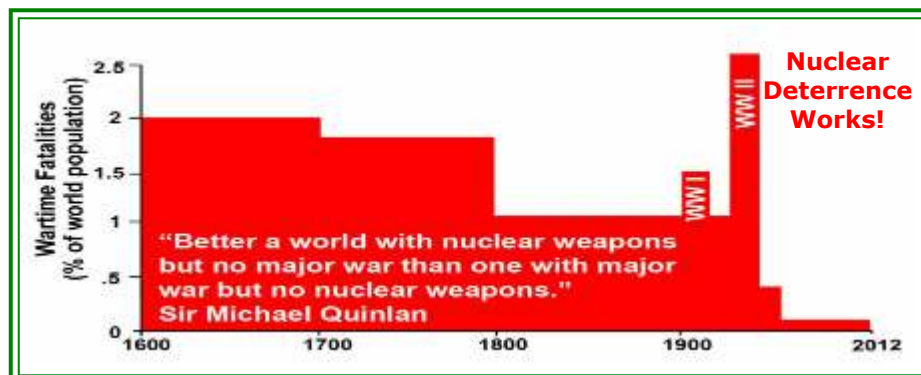
*There's an annual contest at Bond University, Australia, calling for the most appropriate definition of a contemporary term. This year's chosen term was "political correctness".*

*The winning student wrote:  
"Political correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical minority, and promoted by mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a piece of feces by the clean end."*

## Belay That!

If you find errors in an issue of this Newsletter, please tell us about it! Send comments or clarifications to the email below and we will publish the corrections in the next issue.

[bunder343@aol.com](mailto:bunder343@aol.com)



*Click Here for  
Cool Video of the USS North Carolina SSN 777  
Support for the UNC Tarheels in the Quicken  
Loans Carrier Classic Shootout on Veterans Day  
2011*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEuRYbjGkGc>

*The Coastal Carolina Base (CCB) of the North Carolina Submarine Veterans is a Duly Sanctioned Chapter of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., a 501 (c)(19) Charitable Veterans Organization*



<b>Name:</b>	<b>USS North Carolina</b>
Namesake:	The State of North Carolina
Ordered:	30 September 1998
Builder:	Northrop Grumman Newport News
Laid down:	22 May 2004
Christened:	21 April 2007
Launched:	5 May 2007
Acquired:	21 February 2008
Commissioned:	3 May 2008
Homeport:	Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

#### General characteristics

Class & type:	Virginia-class submarine
Displacement:	7,800 tons
Length:	114.9 meters (377 feet)
Beam:	10.3 meters (34 feet)
Depth:	800 ft (244 m)
Propulsion:	S9G reactor
Speed:	25 knots (46 km/h)+
Range:	Essentially unlimited distance;
Complement:	134 officers and men
Armament:	12 × VLS (BGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missile) & 4 × 533mm torpedo tubes (Mk-48 torpedo)

## USS North Carolina SSN 777



*In the Fourth Quarter 2014  
The USS North Carolina SSN 777  
Is in Port in Pearl or on Local Operations  
And Crew Training*







**Submariners eat well - the quality of the food is designed to offset the stress and burden of living underwater for months at a time.**



**As one sailor said, "It's like having comfort food 24-hours a day."**



**Going further toward the bow of the sub, the command center is directly beneath the main sail of the sub and where the navigators do their work.**



**The command center on the Virginia subs are much more spacious compared previous submarines.**



**The command center doesn't have to be directly under the deck of the ship in the Virginia-class subs because there isn't a periscope.**



**The monitor the Commander is looking at is this is the sub's "periscope" - a state-of-the-art photonics system, which enables real time imaging that more than one person can see at a time.**



**The Virginia eliminates the traditional helmsman, planesman, chief of the watch and diving officer by combining them into two stations manned by two officers.**





## Virginia Class-No Periscope, No Propeller...continued



The subs are equipped with a spherical sonar array that scans a full 360-degrees.

Despite computer navigation systems all routes are plotted manually as well.



Down below the command center is the torpedo room, where it is possible to set up temporary bunks for special operations team.



The Virginia subs carry a full crew of 134 sailors,



The ships carry up to 12 vertical launch tomahawk missiles and 38 torpedoes.



Here an officer on the USS Texas fires water through the torpedo tubes as part of a test.





## ***Virginia Class-No Periscope, No Propeller...continued***

The subs were designed to host the defunct Advanced SEAL Delivery system, a midget submarine that transported the Navy SEALs from the sub to their mission.



The only thing in front of the torpedo room is the bow of the submarine, which contains sonar equipment and shielding designed to make the sub stealthier.



Even as they are being built, new improvements and upgrades are being added into the design of the submarines.

The Virginia-class includes the following boats:  
USS Virginia (SSN 774), Portsmouth, NH  
USS Texas (SSN 775), Pearl Harbor, HI  
USS Hawaii (SSN 776), Pearl Harbor, HI  
USS North Carolina (SSN 777), Pearl Harbor, HI  
USS New Hampshire (SSN 778), Groton, CT  
USS New Mexico (SSN 779), Groton, CT  
USS Missouri (SSN 780), Groton, CT  
USS California (SSN 781), Groton, CT  
USS Mississippi (SSN 782), Groton, CT  
USS Minnesota (SSN 783), Norfolk, VA  
USS North Dakota (SSN 784), Groton, CT

John Warner (SSN 785), No homeport - Construction began March 2010-Christened 6 Sept 2014.

Illinois (SSN 786) - Construction began in March 2011.

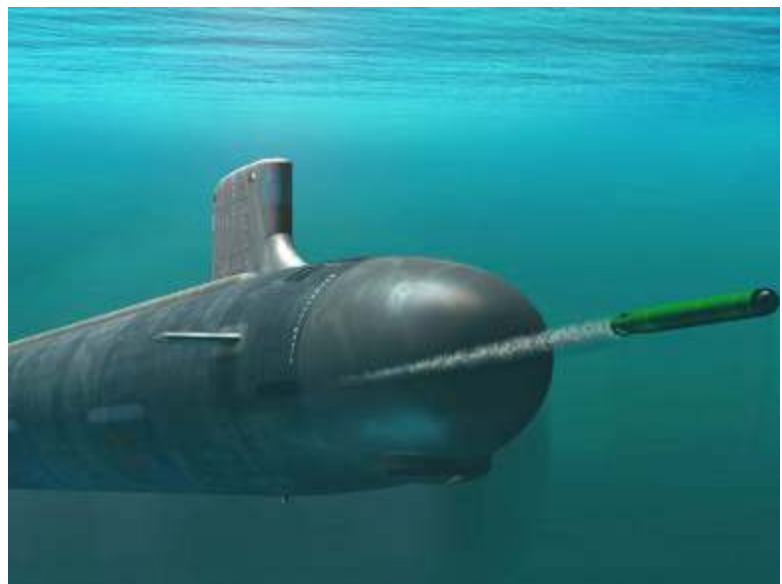
Washington (SSN 787) - No homeport, construction began in September 2011

Colorado (SSN 788) - No homeport, construction began in March 2012.

Indiana (SSN 789) - No homeport, construction began September 2012.

South Dakota (SSN 790) - Under contract.

Delaware (SSN 791) - Under contract.







## Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from December 20, 2014...continued

CCB Library. Members interested in checking out something from the library should contact John at 910-371-3222 or [jwilliamson@ec.rr.com](mailto:jwilliamson@ec.rr.com).

### New Business

**2015 USSVI Southeast Regional Convention:** The 2015 Southeast Regional Convention of the USSVI will be at the Snug Harbor Base in Satellite Beach (Cape Canaveral), Florida on April 20-23, 2015. Charlie asked which members plan to attend. Secretary Bill indicated he planned to attend.

**Improvements to the CCB Float:** John Williamson reported that he had built a modifiable sign to mount on the submarine float aft of the sail.



In the picture above, the Merry Christmas banner is mounted. To the right of Charlie in the picture is a U.S. Submarine Service banner that can also be mounted on the banner holder sign. In fact, many different banners specific to the event can be made and mounted for the occasion. During the discussion suggestions were made to add banners that say, "Pride Runs Deep!", "USS North Carolina", a sign with all the submarine rates on it, etc. Each banner would cost about \$40. Frank Blackmon added that he is a specialist in designing and building animated lighting and suggested consideration of an LED type sign in which the text could be

changed to fit the specific event. LED signs are particularly effective in night time parades.

**Review of the Proposed 2015 Base Calendar of Events:** Commander Charlie led the attendees down through the proposed 2015 CCB Calendar of Events. The group decided to eliminate the Valentine's Day Dinner and modify the June 18<sup>th</sup> regular meeting to be at some location in the Jacksonville area. Kevin Kesterson and Richard Schrum agreed to organize that meeting either on the Thursday, Jun 18 or the Saturday, Jun 20. In addition, Chuck and Joy Fletcher offered to host a Luncheon on the **Sea Nest** (their yacht), after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Southport. It was reiterated that the Float/Parade Committee would evaluate and select the parades the CCB float would participate in in 2015. Otherwise the Proposed Calendar was adopted. Charlie also informed attendees that CCB was already registered for the 2015 Azalea Festival Parade.

**Coastal Carolina Base Elections:** Butterbean informed attendees that he has sent out the first email confirmation message to CCB membership. He only received a few confirmations so far. The purpose of this is to confirm that the correct emails are in place to send the Base Election ballots to. **Please respond by just replying to the next email BB sends to you. This helps conserve Base funds by allowing voting by free email.** The current nominees for 2015-2016 Base Officers is:

Commander	Chuck Fletcher
Vice Commander	Gerry Rowe
Secretary	Bill Underwood
Treasurer	Terry Kuhn

Voting will begin in late February and the new officers will be installed on April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Southeast NC Regional Meeting. It is important that each member **VOTE!**



## Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from December 20, 2014...continued

### Good of the Order

**Base Historian Comments:** Base Historian, Howard Crist, took the floor to "honor those that went before us – our submarine forefathers who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor". He recounted that there were 8 submariners who won the Medal of Honor. The first one Howard discussed was John Cromwell. He reminded us of Cromwell Hall at Sub School in Groton. Cromwell was Skipper of the Sculpin which sank in 1943. Cromwell got his crew off and then went down with the Sculpin rather than risk divulging top secret information under torture by the Japanese.

Commander Howard W. Gilmore, Skipper of the USS Growler in February, 1943 in a vicious sea battle surfaced the Growler and rammed a Japanese gunboat at 17 knots. During the attack he ordered everyone below and gave the command, "Take her Down!" while he remained on the bridge guiding the boat and taking machine gun fire. The Growler made it back to Pearl and Captain Gilmore was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.

Commander Richard H. O'Kane, while Captain of the USS Tang in October, 1944 maneuvered on the surface inside a Japanese convoy and sank three tankers, a freighter, a Troop Transport and two destroyers. Ultimately the Tang was sunk by a circular run of one of its own torpedoes. But O'Kane and a number of his crew were captured by the Japanese and were POWs for the rest of the war. O'Kane received the Medal of Honor.

Commander Lawson P. Rammage, while Captain of the USS Parche in July, 1944 attacked a Japanese convoy on the surface creating havoc and sinking 3 tankers and 2 troop transports with fearless down the throat shots and close range stern shots. He and the Parche made it back to

Pearl after expending all torpedoes. Rammage was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Commander George L. Street, III, while Captain of the USS Tirante in April, 1945 on Tirante's first war patrol performed a daring surface attack in the shallow, shoal-obstructed, mined and patrol boat infested waters of the Harbor of Quelpart Island, off the coast of Korea. While in the shallow waters Tirante sank a large Ammunition Ship and two Frigates before escaping to deeper water. Captain Street was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action on the Tirante's first war patrol.

Commander Samuel D. Dealey, while Captain of the USS Harder on her 5<sup>th</sup> war patrol sank 5 Japanese destroyers in close succession. The USS Harder was lost with all on board on her 6<sup>th</sup> war patrol.

Commander Eugene B. Fluckey, while Captain of the USS Barb in early 1945 launched numerous successful attacks on Japanese convoys sinking several large ammunition ships, freighters and transport vessels in shallow water while being pursued by enemy destroyers and aircraft. Captain Fluckey was awarded the Medal of Honor. CCB Member, Dick Gudis, served under Captain Fluckey later in his career and said Admiral Fluckey was one of the best Navy officers he ever served under.

Torpedoman Second Class Henry Breault, was a crew member on the O-5 submarine. On the morning of Oct 23, 1928 the O-5 collided with the steamship *Abangarez* and sank in less than a minute of the collision. Breault was in the torpedo room and made it to the hatch. But, remembering there was another shipmate trapped in the torpedo room, Breault closed the hatch and went back inside to free his shipmate. Breault and his shipmate remained trapped in the sunken O-5 for 31 hours until a salvage



## Dec 20<sup>th</sup> Minutes...continued

team reached them. Breault was awarded the Medal of Honor.

**Raffle for the CCB Logo Shirt:** Bernie Maguire had the winning ticket and won a personalized CCB Logo Shirt. Congratulations Bernie!

## Adjournment:

**MOTION:** Bernie Maguire offered a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. George Depa **SECONDED** the MOTION and the MOTIONED CARRIED by unanimous vote by the attendees and the meeting was adjourned.

## Next Scheduled Base Meeting

The next regular Base Meeting will be on Thursday evening, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 1900 at the First Baptist Church Activity Center on Independence Blvd in Wilmington, NC



## THE SILENT SERVICE TV Series Now Available Free!

Thanks to the generosity of USSVI Northern VA Base member Ray Stone, the the 1957 and 1958 episodes of the TV series "The Silent Service" [are available for downloading at this site www.olgoat.com](http://www.olgoat.com). The Silent Service is a documentary styled anthology series about the U.S. Navy's submarine fleet and their missions during World War II and the Korean War. Every episode was fact based and the realism of the show was elevated by the use of actual combat footage from the files of the United States Navy. In addition to the episodes, Ray has included copies of the press kits that were issued to the stations along with the films. He also included episode summaries which are handy in preparing notices / programs for individual viewing. All episodes are in MP4 format. Ray suggests downloading to your device rather than trying to view online. Each episode is about 30 min. in length so consider that when trying to download.



**USS NORTH DAKOTA**  
SSN 784

**North Dakota**

Designed in 1964, the ship's unique design and construction allow it to operate in the most demanding environments, including the Arctic and Antarctic.

**North Dakota is the second ship named in honor of North Dakota and will be the 11th Virginia-class submarine.**

**Next-generation attack submarines**

These ships have the capability to operate in the most demanding environments, including the Arctic and Antarctic.

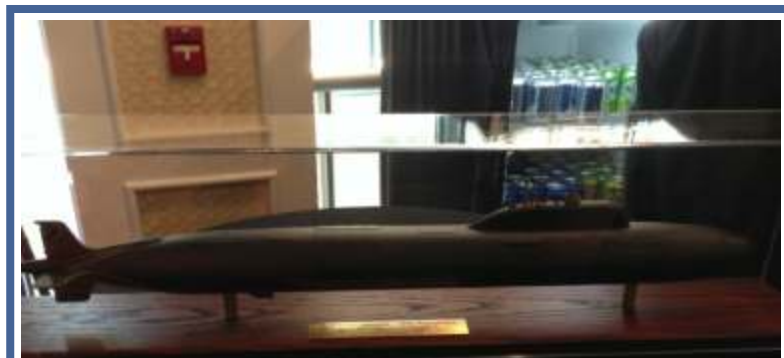
**Want to know more about your #USNavy?**

Facebook Twitter YouTube Instagram Google+ RSS

**USS North Dakota (SSN 784)**

**Commissioned October 25, 2014 At Submarine Base New London In Groton, CT**

**The North Dakota Is the 11<sup>th</sup> of the Virginia Class Submarines**



**Model of Latest Russian Sub K-329 Severodvinsk on Rear Adm Dave Johnson's Desk**  
**13,800 ton, 390 ft long, 20+ knot silent running**  
**"Very impressive!"**





# COASTAL CAROLINA BASE 2015 CALENDAR

Date	Day	Event
February 14, 2015	Sat	Valentines Day Dinner at Bonefish Grill
February 19, 2015	Thu	Regularly scheduled meeting at 1900 at First Baptist Church on Independence Blvd, Wilmington, NC
March 21, 2015	Sat	Pre-Azalea Festival meeting at 0900 at Location to be Determined
April 11, 2015	Sat	Azalea Festival Parade in Wilmington, NC and hosting District Meeting on the USS North Carolina (BB55)
April 20-23, 2015	Mon-Thu	Regional USSVI Convention hosted by Snug Harbor Base in Cape Canaveral, Florida
May, 2015		Spring Belk's Charity Sale 6:00 am - 10:00 am. Volunteers needed.
May 25, 2015	Mon	Memorial Day Ceremony at the S-28 Monument followed by a Base Picnic
May 25, 2015	Mon	50th Annual Memorial Day Observance at the USS North Carolina Battleship at 5:45 pm.
June 18, 2015	Thu	Regularly scheduled meeting at 1900 at First Baptist Church on Independence Blvd, Wilmington, NC
June 24, 2015	Wed	0745 Salute to the Flag at City Hall in Wilmington, NC, 102 N 3rd St, Wilmington, NC
July 4, 2015	Sat	Official North Carolina 4th of July Spectacular & Parade in Southport, NC
July 11, 2015	Sat	Battleship USS North Carolina Legacy Series Tribute to the Submarine Service 0900 to 1600 hours
August 15, 2015	Sat	Regularly scheduled meeting in Southport at 1030 at the Trinity United Methodist Church at 209 E Nash Street, Southport, NC
Sept 7-12, 2015	Week	USSVI 51st Anniversary National Convention in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
October 15, 2015	Thu	Regularly scheduled meeting at 1900 at First Baptist Church on Independence Blvd, Wilmington, NC
November, 2015		Fall Belk Charity Sale from 6:00 am - 10:00 am at area Belk's stores
November, 2015		95th Annual Veteran's Day Parade in Warsaw, NC - Possible Base Participation
November, 2015		Veterans Day Parade in Jacksonville, NC
November 11, 2015	Wed	CCB Member Veterans Day dinner at Bonefish Grill in Wilmington
December 5, 2015	Sat	Annual Pearl Harbor Dinner at the NC State University Club on Hillsborough St, Raleigh, NC
December 6, 2015	Sat	Oak Island Christmas Parade
December 7, 2015	Sun	Wilmington Holiday Parade - Possible Base Participation
December 12, 2015	Sat	Leland Holiday Parade- Possible Base Participation
December 19, 2015	Sat	Regularly scheduled meeting at 0900 at Golden Corral on New Centre Drive in Wilmington, NC



## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular ☐ Life ☐ Associate ☐

**OUR CREED:** "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

☐ I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ (Yr)  
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

☐ I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in \_\_\_\_\_ (Yr)

**Name:** (Print /Type) \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **Tel:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Your E-Mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Base/Chapter Desired:** \_\_\_\_\_

The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> thru Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. Please indicate your term preference: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$ 90.00; 3 Yr term: \$ 55.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 20.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$ 25.00  
Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$ 300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00  
**Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. \$10.00 per year for the Coastal Carolina Base.**

How did you find USSVI? ☐ Friend, ☐ Boat Assn, ☐ Local Event/News, ☐ Internet, ☐ Other (\_\_\_\_\_)

**Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?:** (Mandatory for Assoc Mbrs) \_\_\_\_\_

**Associate Applicant is:** ☐ Veteran ☐ Spouse of Veteran ☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

**Date Of Birth** (MM/DD/YY) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ **If other military service, What Branch?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Highest Rate & Rank Attained:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mil Retired (Y/N):** \_\_\_\_ **On Active Duty? (Y/N):** \_\_\_\_

**YR entered Mil Service:** \_\_\_\_ **YR left Mil Service** \_\_\_\_ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

**Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company** (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
2. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
3. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
4. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
5. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

**Next of Kin: Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Dau, Parent, Other)

**Addr:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Leave this address line blank if the same as your home address)

**Applicants on active duty are requested to provide a permanent home address.**

**Upon completion, please deliver or mail your application with your check payable to  
USSVI Coastal Carolina Base**

**Mail to: Bill Underwood, 302 Tall Ships Lane, Hampstead, NC 28443**