



**United States Submarine Veterans Inc.
Groton Base "First and Finest"
Home of USSVI and Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse**

March 1, 2023

Greetings from the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse; I trust all is well. I am writing to you today asking for your support for our Annual Appeal. As you know or may not know, USSVI National is the sole owner of the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse at 40 School Street in Groton Connecticut. Groton Base, "First and Finest," was the number one base in the organization. This is where USSVI originated. Groton was also the home of USSVI Corporate Headquarters for the first 30 years before the Board of Directors made the decision to move the National Office to the West Coast. Finally, at the end of 2023, National will be moving back to Groton Base. We remain the caretaker of the building and the surrounding property.

Therefore, the purpose for this Annual Appeal is to help support the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse operating fund.

The Joe Negri Clubhouse was built in 1895, and at nearly 125-years-old, the building requires a lot of tender loving care. Groton Base annual dues and donations simply are not enough to meet the clubhouse expenses and maintain the building. While, naturally, our goal is to continue to provide the services to our members, it has become increasingly difficult to keep the doors open. With the increases in utilities, food, and beverage costs, we were recently forced to raise menu and bar prices to keep losses to a minimum. For example, we incurred higher utility costs (17%) and food costs (10%), in addition to replacing our dishwasher at a cost of \$6,000, and other maintenance costs of \$7,000. These expenses need to be covered by what we can generate from members visiting the clubhouse, member dues, and your generous donations.

The Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse is the only tangible asset USSVI owns, and, because we are all members of USSVI, belongs to all of us! We must depend on our membership to help in meeting our financial obligations and keeping our doors open to you, the owners of the building.

We are personally asking each of you, as a member of USSVI, for your help again this year by sending a donation. There is no minimum donation. Every little bit will help. You can make a one-time donation, or if you like, you may pledge in monthly or quarterly installments.

Please donate online or complete the enclosed Annual Appeal response form and mail your donation to the USSVI Clubhouse, Attention: USSVI Groton Base Annual Appeal, 40 School Street, Groton, CT. 06340. Checks should be made out to SUBVETS USSVI Groton Base.

We are truly depending on your help to make a difference.

Thanking you in advance,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven A. Ricard".

Murray

Steven Ricard
Groton Base Commander
Cell 860.460.0963
Email: commander@ussvigroton.org

Charlie

Charlie Murray
Treasurer
Cell 860.830.9605
Email: treasurer@ussvigroton.org



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2023 USSVI GROTON BASE ANNUAL APPEAL**

To supporting the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse Operating and Renovation Fund.

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone: _____

Total of your monetary donation amount: \$_____

IF MAKING A MONETARY DONATION, PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK WITH THIS FORM OR MAKE YOUR DONATE VIA <https://www.ussvigroton.org/donations>

One-time donation (Cash or Check) Make your check out to: SUBVETS USSVI Groton Base
USSVI GROTON BASE
ANNUAL APPEAL
40 SCHOOL STREET
GROTON, CT 06340

We appreciate your support and Thank You.

Note: Contributions or gifts are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.



WHEN SOMEONE ASKS YOU TO GO TO THE CLUBHOUSE IT DOESN'T MEAN HAVE A BEER

I think it's important to talk to you about all I am...and you support everything below:

1. Provide monthly membership meetings: members attend in person and via Zoom.
2. Participate in public events:
 - a. Parades
 - b. Submarine Events
 - c. Memorial Dedications
 - d. Community



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3. Base & District events:
 - a. Annual Eagle Scout Presentation
 - b. Kaps4Kids visits in person & via Zoom.
 - c. School Presentations especially on Veterans Day
 - d. Color Guard Duty
 - e. Eternal Patrol Duty at Funeral Homes and Churches
4. Award Ceremonies:
 - a. Recognition of Base Members
 - b. Annual Holland Club Induction Ceremony on Subbase Groton
5. Membership:
 - a. Membership Retention
 - b. New Member Recruitment
6. Clubhouse Events:
 - a. Holiday parties
 - b. Boat reunions
 - c. Enlistments
 - d. Retirements
 - e. Pinning ceremonies
 - f. Family parties
7. Clubhouse Dining:
 - a. Weekday luncheons
 - b. Weekly evening meals
 - c. Bi-monthly brunch
8. Clubhouse activities:
 - a. Pool
 - b. Darts
 - c. Monthly Friday night Karaoke
9. Non-monetary contributions made.
 - a. Sponsorship of sport youth sports
 - b. Provide 1400 Thanksgiving meals to veterans and families.
 - c. Provide Christmas hams or turkeys to submarine families

ADDITIONAL WE CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE APPEARANCE AND FACILITIES OF THE CLUBHOUSE.

THIS YEAR: We added ramp access to the Hall and replaced the kitchen dishwasher

OUR 5 YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

SHORT TERM WITHIN 2 YEARS: Install new Hall bathroom and renovate 2 other bathrooms to improve access and to accommodate families.

LONG TERM NECESSARY IN 3 TO 5 YEARS: Replace furnace

DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS: Replace Hall windows.