

# Groton Base Boat Notes





**USSVI Groton Base  
"First and Finest"  
Home of Dominic "Joe" Negri  
Memorial Clubhouse**



**SNOWFALL FORECAST...**

The latest models have slightly increased the expected snowfall. The current forecast is for 18" - 24" in southern CT and 12" - 18" in northern CT.

Note: Any westward movement of this storm could bring higher snowfall totals into CT from Rhode Island.



SUNDAY/MONDAY SNOWFALL FORECAST  
400 FEBRUARY 22, 2025 UPDATE  
MOST LIKELY SNOWFALL

Greetings from the snow covered conn of USS-VI Groton Base, home of the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial "First and Finest" Clubhouse. This has been the winter from Siberia. As February comes to a close we are buried yet again by snow encroaching on our butt cheeks. So next time you see that pesky groundhog, give it a boot.



Mother Nature has not been nice to our 135 y/o clubhouse. During the month we cancelled the Super Bowl party due to extremely cold temperatures and treacherous parking conditions. Even with the hot and cold-water trickling

throughout the club, the hot water line froze overnight Saturday when temps dropped to 3 degrees above 0. The line was isolated and no water was recorded in the people tank. Temperatures overnight Sunday



into Monday saw windchill temperatures -15 degrees. Jim went in Monday AM to make chili and soon discovered that the cold water had frozen and we had minor flooding in the lady's room.

The plumbing experts were called in to make repairs on both the hot and cold-water lines in the lady's room. It's a temporary solution as we design the new lady's room and hopefully complete installation by fall of 2026.

Our building is old and continues to need TLC to keep her in great shape for the next generation of Submariners. Remember, we are only as strong as our dedication and willingness to push forward and continue to strengthen that camaraderie and have a great clubhouse.

### **The Second World War Turning Point: March Submarine History Milestones**

If you are waiting for a turning point, March is a great month. March-April 1943 was a phenomenal period for the US Submarine Force during the Second World War (WW2). By the beginning of 1943, the U.S. submarine force had been at war for more than a year, with twelve long months of daring patrols, bitter disappointments, and flashes of brilliance that never quite added up to strategic effect. The boats were out there, prowling the shipping lanes of the Pacific, stalking convoys in the South China Sea, slipping through the Bismarck Archipelago under moonless skies. Their skippers were learning, adapting, and improvising. Their crews were growing seasoned. And yet, for all the courage and ingenuity on display, the results of 1942 were uneven. The promise was unmistakable, but the decisive power remained just out of reach.

Historians Clay Blair and Theodore Roscoe both describe early 1943 as the moment when everything changed. They do not use the same phrasing, but their conclusions converge: this was the hinge point, the month when the submarine force stopped fighting with one hand tied behind its back and began to exert the kind of pressure that would eventually strangle Japan's war economy. It was not a single event, nor a single patrol, nor a single technological breakthrough. It was the convergence of three developments that had been building slowly, painfully, and often in defiance of official doctrine.

The first was the long-delayed correction of the Mark 14 torpedo, a weapon so plagued with defects in 1942 that it often betrayed the very men who risked their lives to fire it. The second was the rise of a new breed of submarine skippers, aggressive, imaginative, and unafraid to push their boats and crews to the limits of endurance. And the third was the cumulative effect of these changes: a surge in sinkings that began to erode Japan's ability to sustain its far-flung empire.

Together, these forces transformed the submarine campaign from a promising but inconsistent effort into the most strategically decisive arm of the U.S. Navy in the Pacific.

### **The Torpedo That Finally Worked**

No story of the submarine war can be told honestly without confronting the Mark 14 torpedo. Blair, in *Silent Victory*, is unsparing in his assessment. The early-war Mark 14, he writes, was "a flawed weapon that betrayed the men who depended on it." Roscoe, in his sweeping narrative of submarine operations, calls it "a mechanical delinquent." The language may differ, but the sentiment is the same: torpedoes had failed in making an impact.

It ran ten to fifteen feet deeper than set. Its magnetic exploder detonated prematurely or not at all. Its contact exploder, the last line of hope, often crumpled on angled impacts.

Submarines risked everything to achieve firing positions, only to watch their torpedoes streak harmlessly beneath targets or strike with a dull, heartbreaking thud. The frustration was immense. Patrol reports from 1942 read like laments.

Skippers returned to Pearl Harbor with stories of perfect setups ruined by defective weapons. Some were reprimanded for “poor shooting.” Others were quietly relieved. The Bureau of Ordnance insisted the torpedoes were sound.



The men in the boats knew better. Some of their leaders listened. By late 1942, the pressure from the fleet became impossible to ignore. Skippers like Charles Lockwood, Charles “Swede” Momsen, and John Cromwell conducted their own unauthorized tests such as firing torpedoes at cliffs, nets, and even the ocean floor. Their findings were irrefutable. The torpedoes were defective.

Once identified, the fixes came in waves. Depth-keeping mechanisms were recalibrated. Magnetic exploders were deactivated. Contact exploders were redesigned. And by the first months of 1943, January, February, March, the Mark 14 was finally becoming the weapon it had always been advertised to be.

The difference was immediate and dramatic.

### **Wahoo’s Third Patrol: A Revelation**

No patrol illustrates the turning point more vividly than Wahoo’s third, conducted in the opening months of 1943. Morton and his executive officer, Dick O’Kane, had endured the agony of dud torpedoes on earlier patrols. They had seen perfect shots wasted. They had returned to Pearl Harbor with more questions than answers. But in early 1943, armed with torpedoes that finally behaved, Wahoo became a predator unleashed.

In the Bismarck Sea, Morton attacked with a ferocity that stunned even his own crew. Convoys were hit in rapid succession. Ships that would have survived a 1942 encounter now erupted in fire and smoke.



Blair calls the patrol “a revelation.” Roscoe calls it “a harbinger of the campaign to come.” The weapon worked. And once it worked, the men could finally fight the war they had trained for.

### **The Rise of the New Breed**

Even a perfect torpedo would have been wasted in the hands of timid leadership. The early months of the war had exposed a painful truth: many prewar skippers were cautious to a fault. They were products of a Navy that prized engineering precision, safety, and conservative

doctrine, though Joel Holwitt has offered further nuance to that discussion recently in *Execute Against Japan*. Still, they were not yet the kind of commanders who would take a submarine into a night surface attack against a heavily escorted convoy.

A new breed of skippers emerged men who understood instinctively that the submarine was an offensive weapon, not a reconnaissance platform. They embraced risk. They trusted their crews. They pushed their boats to the edge of what was possible. Morton was one. O’Kane, who would later command *Tang*, was another. So were Sam Dealey of *Harder*, Slade Cutter of *Seahorse*, George Grider of *Haddock*, and John “Babe” Brown of *Grayback*. Their names would become legend.

If there was a single patrol that captured the spirit of the new, aggressive generation of submarine commanders emerging in early 1943, it was Slade Cutter’s March patrol in *Seahorse*. Cutter had been a championship boxer at the Naval Academy, and he brought that same combination of discipline, instinct, and controlled ferocity to submarine warfare. His first patrols had shown promise, but it was the one that began in late February and unfolded through March 1943 that revealed what the submarine force could do.



Cutter took *Seahorse* into the East China Sea and the waters around the Ryukyus with a clarity of purpose that would have been unthinkable for many skippers a year earlier. The torpedoes were finally working. Radar was giving him eyes in the dark. And Cutter had the temperament to use both with audacity. He favored night surface attacks, the most dangerous and most effective tactic available to a submarine commander. On the surface, a submarine was fast, maneuverable, and nearly invisible against the black horizon. Cutter used that advantage ruthlessly.

In early March, *Seahorse* made radar contact with a Japanese convoy. Instead of shadowing it cautiously or waiting for daylight, Cutter closed the range at flank speed, running on the surface with the wind in his face and the phosphorescent wake glowing behind him. He threaded *Seahorse* between escorts, firing spreads at overlapping targets, then swung around for an end-around maneuver to attack again. The Japanese never fully understood what was happening. Ships erupted in flame. Others veered wildly to avoid torpedoes they never saw. Cutter kept pressing, using radar to maintain contact even as the convoy scattered in panic.



It was a patrol defined by aggression, but not recklessness. Cutter had an intuitive sense of timing when to attack, when to dive, when to sprint ahead for another strike. His crew later recalled that he seemed to “see” the battle in three dimensions, anticipating the movements of escorts and transports with uncanny accuracy. The results spoke for themselves: multiple ships sunk, convoys disrupted, and a demonstration of what a confident, well-led American submarine could do when the torpedoes worked and the skipper trusted his instincts.

Roscoe would later describe Cutter’s March patrol as “a model of the new submarine warfare,” and Blair saw in it the unmistakable signs of a force that had finally found its footing. Cutter was not alone, but his March patrol stands as one of the clearest examples of the transformation underway. The submarine force was no longer feeling its way into the war. It was dictating the terms of it.

### **The Sinkings That Broke an Empire**

The final piece of the transformation was the cumulative effect of these developments. By early 1943, the combination of reliable torpedoes and aggressive leadership produced results that Japan could not absorb.

The numbers tell the story with brutal clarity.

In 1942, U.S. submarines sank roughly 180,000 tons of Japanese shipping per month. It was a respectable figure, but not decisive. Japan could still replace much of what it lost.

By March 1943, that number had surged past 350,000 tons per month. By late 1943, it exceeded 500,000 tons. Japan’s merchant fleet could not keep pace. The arteries of its empire began to constrict.

### **Trigger and Tunny March Patrol: A Textbook Demonstration**

In March 1943, *Trigger* under Roy Benson conducted one of the most effective patrols of the early war. Benson attacked convoys with precision, sank multiple freighters, and forced Japanese escorts into

defensive postures that disrupted their operations. Blair calls the patrol “a textbook demonstration of the submarine’s emerging strategic power.”

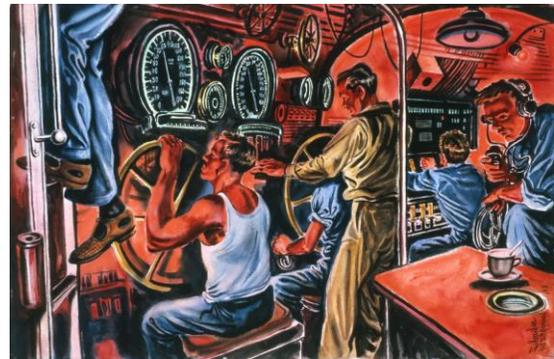


That same month, *Tunny* under John A. Scott sank the transport *Toyokuni Maru* and damaged the aircraft carrier *Hiyō*. The attack sent shockwaves through the Japanese Navy. Carriers were precious. Transports were irreplaceable. Every loss tightened the noose. Roscoe notes that *Tunny*’s March patrol

“signaled the beginning of the end for Japanese maritime mobility.” The submarine force was no longer merely harassing Japan’s supply lines. It was dismantling them.

### The Moment the Tide Turned

Early 1943 was not a single moment. It was a convergence. A weapon that finally worked. A generation of skippers who had learned, adapted, and hardened. A tempo of sinkings that began to erode the foundation of Japan’s war effort. Blair describes this period as the moment when the submarine force “came into its own.” Roscoe calls it the point when the campaign became “systematic and devastating.” The transformation was not inevitable. It was earned through engineering fixes, tactical evolution, and the courage of the men who took their boats into harm’s way. By the end of 1943, the submarine force had become the most lethal arm of the U.S. Navy. By 1944, it was strangling Japan’s economy. By 1945, it had reduced Japanese merchant shipping to a fraction of its prewar size.



But the seeds of that victory were planted in March 1943 when the promise of the submarine force finally became a tangible impact for the war effort.

### United States Submarine Veterans Inc.

WHO WE ARE: We are all United States Submariners! members Whether currently Active Retired Reserve or an Honorably discharged veteran we all were, and some still are of the elite underseas 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.

### United States Submarine Veterans Creed

*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 may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments, and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.*

ABOUT US: Groton Base was established as the first USSVI Base in 1964 following the tragic loss of the USS Thresher SSN-593.

Our creed serves to remember them and "all US Submariners on Eternal Patrol."

### Lost Boats – March

 The logo for the USS Perch (SS-176) is circular. It features a blue submarine on the surface of the water. Above the submarine is a white anchor. The text "USS PERCH" is written in a semi-circle at the top, and "SS-176" is at the bottom.	<b>USS Perch (SS-176)</b>	Lost on March 3, 1942, near Java with no immediate loss of life, while on her 1st war patrol. She survived 2 severe depth charging's in less than 200 feet of water by 3 Japanese destroyers. The crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the 59 officers and men taken prisoner, 53 survived the war and six died as POWs.
 The logo for the USS Grampus (SS-207) is circular. It features a black and white orca (killer whale) breaching the water, holding a green and yellow object in its mouth. The text "USS GRAMPUS" is written in a semi-circle at the top, and "SS 207" is at the bottom.	<b>USS Grampus (SS-207)</b>	Lost on March 5, 1943, with the loss of 71 officers and men, on her 6th war patrol. She was lost in Vella Gulf, sunk after engaging 2 Japanese Destroyers.

	<p><b>USS H-1 (SS-28)</b></p>	<p>Lost on March 12, 1920, with the loss of 4 men as they tried to swim to shore after grounding on a shoal off Santa Margarita Island, off the coast of Baja California, Mexico. Vestal (AR-4), pulled H-1 off the rocks on the morning of 24 March, only to have her sink 45 minutes later in some 50 feet of water. She was originally named the USS Seawolf before becoming H-1.</p>
	<p><b>USS Triton (SS-201)</b></p>	<p>Lost on March 15, 1943, with the loss of 74 men. She was sunk north of the Admiralty Islands during a fight with 3 Japanese Destroyers. Triton was the 1st boat to engage the enemy in December 1941 off Wake Island, sinking 9 ships, 1 submarine and a destroyer.</p>
	<p><b>USS Kete (SS-369)</b></p>	<p>Lost on March 20, 1945, with the loss of 87 officers and men at the end of her 2nd war patrol. Probably sunk near Okinawa, by a Japanese submarine that itself was subsequently lost.</p>
	<p><b>USS F-4 (SS-23)</b></p>	<p>Lost on March 25, 1915, with the loss of 21 men. She foundered 1.5 miles off of Honolulu when acid corrosion of the lead lining of the battery tank let seawater into the battery compartment, causing loss of control. She was raised in August 1915.</p>
	<p><b>USS Tullibee (SS-284)</b></p>	<p>Lost on March 26, 1944, with the loss of 79 officers and men, on her 4th war patrol. It's believed she was a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. The lookout was the only survivor, and he survived the war as a Japanese prisoner.</p>
	<p><b>USS Trigger (SS-237)</b></p>	<p>Lost on March 26, 1945, with the loss of 89 officers and men, on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese antisubmarine vessels and aircraft. Trigger ranked 7th in total tonnage sunk and tied for 8th in number of ships sunk.</p>

**Plan of the Month, March 2026**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>3/2</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Groton Base Membership Meeting</b>
<b>3/8</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Sunday Brunch with Dawn</b>
<b>3/13</b>	<b>0900</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>BESS Graduation: John Carcioppolo</b>
<b>3/13</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Karaoke With DJ Jammin' Jim</b>
<b>3/15</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Sunday Brunch with Old Salts - Downstairs</b>
<b>3/17</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Holland Club Luncheon</b>
<b>3/21</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Monthly Dinner: Tom &amp; Carol Connors Corned Beef Dinner</b>
<b>3/22</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Sunday Brunch with Dawn</b>
<b>3/27</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>SOBC Graduation: Bill Cavanagh</b>
<b>3/27</b>	<b>0900</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>BESS Graduation: Jeff Walsh</b>



*Part of the Submarine Veterans Creed/Purpose is to 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."*

### Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) Updates

During each month, a USSVI Groton Base member participated in Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) graduation as the SubVets Representative presenting the "Heritage Award" and a SubVet Challenge coin to the class leader. In this month's issue of Boat Notes, we will highlight two graduations held on January 30<sup>th</sup> and February 13<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to thank SubSchool leadership, CO Captain Chance Litton, Executive Officer LCDR Bryan Chapman, Director of Training Captain Mark Robinson, CMC Michael Micheli, Master Chief Esteban Vargas, Senior Chief David Lee, Chief Nik Roberts, as well as class instructors, and coordinators, for allowing us to participate in this milestone event.

The following information is for BESS Class 26100, named after the USS *Barb* (SS-220). The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.



USS *Barb* was a *Gato*-class submarine commissioned on 8 July 1942 at Groton, Connecticut. *Barb* was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the tiger barb, a genus of ray-finned fish.

Following shakedown and participation in Operation Torch—the invasion of North Africa—*Barb* was ordered in the spring of 1943 to the Pacific Fleet by Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Ernest J. King. After refitting and intensive training, *Barb* was underway for patrol duty in the fall of 1943 in Pacific waters, but the boat's first tour of duty in the Pacific was mostly uneventful.

She compiled one of the most outstanding records of any U.S. submarine in World War II. During her twelve war patrols, *Barb* is officially credited with sinking 17 enemy vessels totaling 96,628 tons, including the Japanese aircraft carrier *Un'yō*. In recognition of one outstanding patrol, *Barb* received the Presidential Unit Citation. On her twelfth and final patrol of the war, she landed a party of carefully selected crew members who blew up a train, the only ground combat operation in the Japanese (four main) home islands.



Following overhaul and training, the submarine made way to shipping lanes west of the Marianas and east of Formosa. On 28 March 1944, *Barb* fired three torpedoes at Fukusei Maru, breaking the freighter in half. Later in the patrol, the boat joined USS Steelhead (SS-280) in a successful bombardment of a congested industrial area on Rasa Island in the Philippines.

*Barb's* war operations spanned the period from 20 October 1942 – 2 August 1945, during which time she completed 12 war patrols.

More on the Sealion can be found [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Barb\\_\(SS-220\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Barb_(SS-220)) and <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/ships/submarines/barb-ss-220.html>.

On January 30<sup>th</sup> the BESS Class named after USS *Barb* SS 220 had 126 students with a class average was 79% and 11 Sailors graduating with Distinction. To graduate with Distinction requires an average of 90% or higher. Congratulations to this class of future Submariners who have finished one of many milestones in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments whether “A” School or direct assignment to their first submarine. Instructors involved with today’s ceremony included were: MMAC(SS) Roberts, FT1(SS) Abbott, FT1(SS) Murphy, and STS2(SS) Bord. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool CMC Michael Micheli. Guest Speaker was Naval Submarine Base New London, CMC Gary Stephenson. SubSchool Chaplain, CDR Wilkinson gave the Invocation and Benediction.



USSVI Groton Base and Holland Club Chairman, RMCM(SS) John Carcioppolo USN (Ret) was the SubVet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SA(SU) Mickaella Casseu. The Heritage Award is given to the student who demonstrates performance of their duties above and beyond the call of the average student.

The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented by Master Chief Esteban Vargas to SR(SU) Derek Christian. This award is given to the student who demonstrates academic achievement and personal improvement through the course of instruction.



The class Honor Graduate Award was presented to Able Seaman (SU) Gwiazda, by SubSchool CMC, Michael Micheli. The honor graduate is the student with the highest academic average who maintained outstanding military bearing over the course of instruction.

The Navy Core Values Award was presented by CMC Gary Stephenson to SN(SU) Rakkem Little. This award is given to the student who best embodies the U.S. Navy Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

Congratulations and good luck as you begin the next phase of your submarine career. Looking forward to all these fine Sailors joining our organization when they receive their fish.



The following information is for BESS Class 26100, named after the USS *Shark* (SS-174). The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.



*Shark, just after launch (Credit Wikipedia)*

*Shark* was a *Porpoise*-class submarine, the fifth ship of the United States Navy to be named for the shark. *Shark's* keel was laid down by the Electric Boat Company in Groton, Connecticut, on 24 October 1933. She was launched on 21 May 1935, sponsored by Miss Ruth Ellen Lonergan, the 12-year-old daughter of United States Senator Augustine Lonergan of Connecticut, and commissioned on 25 January 1936.

Following shakedown in the North Atlantic and the Caribbean Sea, *Shark* transited the Panama Canal and arrived at San Diego, California on 4 March 1937. She spent the next year and one-half, in training exercises and Army-Navy war problems as a unit of Submarine Squadron 6 (SubRon 6). Following a regular overhaul at Mare Island Navy Yard, Vallejo, California, *Shark* got underway from San Diego on 16 December 1938 bound for Pearl Harbor and reassignment to SubRon 4.

In January of 1942, just weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, *Shark* set out on her first war patrol. She was dispatched first to Ambon Island in Indonesia; then, on the 27th, she joined several other subs that were patrolling in the Strait of Malacca, which separates Malaysia from Singapore.

On 2 February *Shark* reported to Surabaya that she had been depth charged 10 miles off Tifore Island and that she had missed on one torpedo attack.

Five days later *Shark* reported an empty enemy cargo ship heading northeast. In answer to these messages, Surabaya pointed out that such transmissions contained little information of use in appraising the situation, and that they might very possibly reveal to the enemy a position to avoid. No further messages were received from *Shark*. She was told on 8 February to proceed to Makassar Strait via the north coast of Celebes and later was told to report information. Nothing further was heard from *Shark* and on 7 March she was reported as presumed lost.

A Japanese report of antisubmarine attacks available now records at least three which might have been on *Shark*. One was east of Manado on northern Celebes on 11 February 1942; the second was north of

Kendari on the southeast coast of Celebes on 4 February 1942; the third was east of Kendari on 21 February 1942. Also, in 1944, a Japanese press release claimed that an enemy subchaser rammed a U.S. submarine in Manipa Strait in February 1942. No mention is made of this attack in official Japanese reports, but their reports are notoriously inaccurate and incomplete, especially during the early part of the war. Since Dutch and English submarines were operating in the area patrolled by *Shark*, it is impossible at this time to determine whether any or all of the above-mentioned attacks were survived by submarines operating with our Asiatic Fleet. Loss of *Shark* to an enemy minefield is deemed improbable, since the enemy was on the offensive at this time and would naturally hesitate to lay mines in the path of his advance down the Strait of Makassar. Thus indications point to the probability that *Shark* was lost through enemy depth charge attack; however, the specific attack responsible for the loss cannot be determined. The one on 11 February off Menado is thought most likely, since *Shark* had been ordered to northern Celebes.

More on the *Shark* can be found [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Shark\\_\(SS-174\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Shark_(SS-174)) and <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/u/united-states-submarine-losses/shark-i-ss-174.html>.

On 12 February the BESS Class named after USS *Shark* SS 174 had 117 students with a class average was 79% and 6 Sailors graduating with Distinction. To graduate with Distinction requires an average of 90% or higher. Congratulations to this class of future Submariners who have finished one of many milestones in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments whether “A” School or direct assignment to their first submarine. Instructors involved with today’s ceremony included were: MMAC(SS) Roberts, FT1(SS) Abbott, FT1(SS) Murphy, and STS2(SS) Bord. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool Director of Training, Captain Mark Robinson. Guest Speaker was CMC Simon Makuchowski, COB USS California SSN 781. SubSchool Chaplain, CDR Wilkinson gave the Invocation and Benediction.

USSVI Groton Base Commander and Holland Club Member, ETCM(SS/DV) Steve Ricard, USNR Retired was the SubVet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SR(SU) Brett James. The Heritage Award is given to the student who demonstrates performance of their duties above and beyond the call of the average student.



The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented by Master Chief Esteban Vargas to SN(SU) Clint Leach. This award is given to the student who demonstrates academic achievement and personal improvement through the course of instruction.

The class Honor Graduate Award was presented to SN(SU) Jerry Powell III, by SubSchool DOT, Mark Robinson. The honor graduate is the student with the highest academic average who maintained outstanding military bearing over the course of instruction.



The Navy Core Values Award was presented by CMC Simon Makuchowski to SR(SU) Brena McDermott. This award is given to the student who best embodies the U.S. Navy Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

Congratulations and good luck as you begin the next phase of your submarine career. Looking forward to all these fine Sailors joining our organization when they receive their fish.

### BESS Graduation Schedule

Here is the current graduation schedule for BESS. We are waiting for the 2026 BESS and SOBC graduation schedules to be published. If interested in being the SubVet Representative please let me know.

### BESS Graduation Schedule and SubVet Representative

<b>Class No.</b>	<b>Class Name</b>	<b>Graduation Date</b>	<b>CMD Rep</b>	<b>SUBVETS Rep</b>	<b>Notes</b>
26140	USS Pickerel SS-524	<i>13 March 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
26160	USS Tennessee SSBN-734	<i>27 March 2026</i>		Jeff Walsh	
26180	USS Hawaii SSN-776	<i>10 April 2026</i>		Steve Ricard	
26200	USS Idaho SSN-799	<i>24 April 2026</i>		Mike Allen	
26220	USS Wahoo SS-238	<i>08 May 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
26240	USS Barb SS-220	<i>22 May 2026</i>		Bud Atkins	
26260	USS Holland SS-1	<i>05 June 2026</i>		Atkin/Ricard	
		<i>19 June 2026</i>			
		<i>02 July 2026</i>			
		<i>17 July 2026</i>		Bud Atkin	
		<i>31 July 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
		<i>14 August 2026</i>			
		<i>28 August 2026</i>			
		<i>11 September 2026</i>		Bob Sharpe	
		<i>25 September 2026</i>			
	USS Archerfish	<i>09 October 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
		<i>23 October 2026</i>		Bud Atkin	
		<i>06 November 2026</i>			
		<i>18 November 2026</i>		Steve Ricard	
		<i>04 December 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
		<i>18 December 2026</i>			

### Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) and SubVet Representative

<b>Class No.</b>	<b>Graduation Date</b>	<b>SUBVETS Rep</b>	<b>Notes</b>
26020	27 March 2026	Bill Cavanagh	
26030	22 May 2026		
26040	24 July 2026	Bud Atkin	

26050	18 September 2026		
26060	13 November 2026		

### Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC) and SubVet Representative

Class No.	Graduation Date	SUBVETS Rep	Notes
26010	01 May 2026	Bob Sharpe	
26020	18 June 2026		
26030	14 August 2026		
26040	23 October 2026	Bud Atkin	
26050	11 December 2026	Bob Sharpe	

### So, what has been going on since the last Broadcast?

*In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, USSVI provides a way for all submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. The USSVI supports a strong U.S. Submarine Force.*



The clubhouse is open Wednesday-Friday 1100-1700 (or when the last customer leaves) with lunch served from 1100 – 1430 Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday. Come in and say Hi to Dawn. Thanks to Heather, Ashley, Hodge, Micha, and Julz for all the hard work, dedication and for keeping our clubhouse a go to destination.

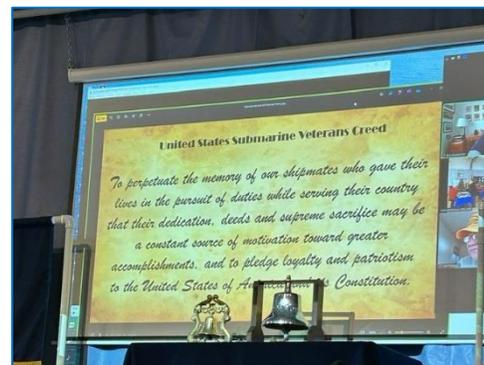
Check out our menus <https://www.ussvigroton.org/menus>.

Stop in and renew some old friendships. We are also hosting “Happy Hour” Wednesday 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Come on down and try some drink specials.

On Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> we held our Monthly Membership meeting at 1830 in the hall. Over 35 members joined in on the meeting both in person and via Zoom. Thank you to the members who attended their first meeting.

The Executive Board gave a brief update on the status of the club finances, and upcoming events to be held at the clubhouse.

With the invention of Zoom, you’d think more members would attend the meeting. **We offer Zoom so all of our, almost 1200 members, can attend.**



Join us next month at our Membership meeting on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 1830. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting.

On Sunday 8 February we were supposed to hold our annual Super Bowl party but again Mother Nature had other plans. Score Temperature +2 vs feels like -26. Along with lousy parking conditions event was cancelled.



On a side note, Groton Base and Bremerton Base had a side bet on the game. Winner wears the other Base's polo shirt with Base logo. Nuff said.....

On Friday 13 February, the Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee hosted the monthly dinner. Chef Paul and his mess cooks whipped up a delicious dinner. The Valentine Dinner was attended by 35 members and their guests.



Raffle prizes and a 50/50 drawing with proceeds going to the next monthly dinner. Thanks to all who attended and to those who brought along a special dessert. Join us in March for the famous Tom & Carol Connors Corned Beef and Cabbage St Patrick's Day dinner. **We have a lot of open dates to plan your events for 2026**, so keep an eye out for announcements, Facebook postings or Plan of the Month posted in the clubhouse. If you have any ideas on how to put butts in seats at **YOUR** club let any of us know. Stop on by the clubhouse have lunch renew your membership and say "Hi."

On Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup> we held our first "Brunch with Dawn" and Tina. We're trying to have a brunch every Sunday whether it's a brunch crew or with Dawn. It's a great time, come on down, support the club and eat a good home (club) cooked breakfast.



On Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup> we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon down in the "Tom Connors Memorial Dining Room". There were over 60 members and guests who braved the bone chilling temperatures to attend the luncheon. Our guest speakers were CO USS Albany, CDR Adam Nebanzahl, COB TMCM(SS) Adan Rodriguez and SOY .



John will cover the highlights further on in this edition of Boat Notes.



On Friday, 20 February several of us attended the Groton Area Chief Petty Officer Associations annual Dining In at the Ocean Beach Pilot House..

### **Boat Reunion**

Anyone having a boat reunion in the “Submarine Capital of the World” in 2026 reach out and let us know. We would love for you to have one or more of your reunion functions at the club. Contact our Event Coordinator Ashley via email at [events@ussvigroton.org](mailto:events@ussvigroton.org).

As mentioned at SubSchool graduations, the friendship, and the bonds that you make while onboard your boat will last forever. I want to thank the boats who have stopped by the club “your club” to renew friendships and to check on our many updates since your last visit.

<https://www.ussvigroton.org>

Finding it difficult to find a good list of Submarine Reunions? The PAO has added a new calendar to the website for finding Submarine Reunions. Should you become aware of one, please send me the information and I will add it to this calendar.

Jim Lawton, Webmaster / PAO – [pao@ussvigroton.org](mailto:pao@ussvigroton.org)

<https://www.ussvigroton.org/boatreunions>

### **SENIOR VICE COMMANDER**

**Vacant**

With the recent loss of our Shipmate, Robert Perritt, we are looking for someone to step forward and take over the remainder of Robert’s term. If interested, please let the EBoard know.

### **JR. VICE COMMANDER**

**Jim Lawton**

Hello Shipmates,

We have implemented reduced hours for the Winter at the club, as we have reduced usage.

#### **Winter Clubhouse Hours (As of January 1, 2026)**

**Closed Monday & Tuesday**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

**11:00 – 17:00**

We will be open late for meeting nights, special events, catered events, and Karaoke.

**We will be open to normal Summertime hours March 31!**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:00 – 14:30

**Happy Hour**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 15:00 – 17:00

Our cook has begun serving Brunch Every Sunday! So far it has been very successful and is happening during the normal hours of 10AM to Noon!

During the last week of January 2026, Dawn was out sick. I stood in for her since I have had previous kitchen experience as a guest cook. If this is something you would like to do, please contact me. My worry is that if we shut down the kitchen during her absence, we may lose customers. Without question, the kitchen keeps our clubhouse in business for all of us to enjoy!

We are working hard to maintain and improve your Clubhouse. Please notify me if you find a discrepancy. General comments for consideration can be sent to my email below. If it is a material deficiency, ask the bartender for the Maintenance Deficiency Log to document it. This log will be maintained by me to document issues. This document is Appendix B of the Club Operations Policy and Procedures manual available on our USSVI Groton Website - <https://www.ussvigroton.org/bylaws-ppm> (PPM - USSVIGB - Groton Base Clubhouse).

**Jim Lawton**

*Jr. Vice Commander*

[jrvice@ussvigroton.org](mailto:jrvice@ussvigroton.org)

860.984.5497

**BASE SECRETARY**

**David Frease**

The Minutes for the 02 February 2026 Membership meeting were approved by the members present without objection.

Correspondence to Report – None.

**ELECTION 2026**

**This year two positions are up for election:**

**BASE SR. VICE COMMANDER and BASE SECRETARY**

These positions are vital to the overall operation of Groton Base

Nominations open at the 02 February Membership Meeting

Nominations will be closed on 15 April 2025

Balloting will take place following the closing of Nominations

**BASE SR. VICE COMMANDER**

- Shall be responsible for membership rolls in the manner prescribed by the Executive Board to show always the names of the members of this organization, alphabetically arranged, their respective places of residence, their post office address, and the year when each person became a member.
- Shall be responsible for the promulgation of all pertinent information to the officers of the base.
- Shall be the Chairman of the Base Finance Committee.
- During the absences and/or inability of Base Commander to render and perform his duties, or exercise powers, as set forth in these bylaws, or in the laws under which the corporation is organized, the same shall be performed and exercised by the Sr. Vice Commander. And when so acting, they shall have all the powers given to, or imposed upon, the Base Commander.
- Shall provide oversight, guidance and council for those individuals and entities assigned to this Office in the USSVI Groton Base Organization Chart.

### **BASE SECRETARY**

- Shall keep a record of the meetings of the general membership and of the Executive Board.
- Shall be the custodian of the records and of the seal and affix the latter when required.
- Shall be responsible for the content, publication, and distribution of the newsletter.
- Shall maintain, change and or modify events in the Base Calendar as needed or requested.
- Shall present to the Executive Board at their stated meetings, all communications addressed to Secretary officially by the Base Commander or any other officer or member of the base.
- Shall attend to all correspondence and perform all duties incident to their office.
- The Secretary shall draft calls of meetings, conduct the election of the base officers and be responsible for the giving of notice thereof as required by these bylaws.
- Shall provide oversight, guidance and counsel for those individuals and entities assigned to this Office in the USSVI Groton Base Organization Chart.

### **NOMINATION OF BASE OFFICERS**

- The Election Master or chairman of the Base Nominating Committee, as assigned, shall conduct the nominations for the (5) elected officers.
- The Election Master or Chairman of the Groton Base Nominating Committee shall issue a call for nominations of eligible candidates for Groton Base Officers to all Members in good standing no later than the date of the February membership business meeting.
- Nominations will remain open until April 15th.
- Nominations, when called for, may be made from the floor at the meeting(s) and shall be accepted upon the oral or written consent of the nominee that they accept the nominations and will serve if elected.
- Nominations may be submitted by any Member of Groton Base in good standing.
- Nominations submitted to the Election Master or chairman of the Nominating Committee, if not submitted by the nominee, must be accompanied by a written consent of the nominee that they will accept the nominations and will serve if elected. The qualifications of the nominee, not to exceed 100 words, may accompany nominations.
- Upon close of nominations the Election Master or Nominating Committee shall make wide distribution of the names and qualifications, in alphabetical order, of all candidates properly nominated using both print and electronic means as viable.

## ELECTION OF BASE OFFICERS

- The Base Secretary shall conduct the election for the (5) elected officers except in an even year, when the election of Secretary is held.
- In the even years, an Officer not up for election or the Election Master will conduct the election providing all required documents to the Secretary upon conclusion of the election.
- Every bona fide candidate for Groton Base office, or their authorized delegate, may address the membership at a regular meeting for not more than five (5) minutes.
- After the close of nominations, should the Slate of Officers in nomination include only one name for each Office a voice vote, in lieu of a secret ballot vote may be entertained and conducted at the May membership business meeting.
- Electronic voting via internet is the standard method used for Elections, with mail-in paper ballots sent to the Base Secretary for inclusion in the electronic tally for those without internet access.
- If electronic voting via internet is not available, the voting shall be by paper ballot.
- Electronic and paper ballot voting, if utilized, Cut-off shall be no later than at 2359 hours on the last Monday of May.
- Ballots, ballot forms, and envelopes as hereafter prescribed shall be mailed by the Base Secretary not later than May 1st to each Groton Base Member in good standing and who the Secretary does not have a validate email address then to their last known US Mail address. The names, in alphabetical order, of all qualified candidates shall be printed or typed on the ballot with one (1) additional space for write-in vote, opposite of which shall be a box to be filled in by the member voting to signify the candidates of their choice. Such ballot shall also set forth in electronic media, printed or typed form such instructions as the Base Secretary considers necessary to insure the secrecy of the ballot and its execution and mailing, or personal delivery at the meeting within the prescribed period. The instructions shall also include directions that there may be no voting by proxy.
- Election results, if not voice voted, will be announced by the Secretary at the June monthly business meeting.

**David Frease**  
**Base Secretary**  
[secretary@ussvigroton.org](mailto:secretary@ussvigroton.org)

## BASE TREASURER

**Charlie Murray**

### COINS:

NEW COIN FOR 2026 - designed and order completed, estimate arrival soon (early March) we will try to keep cost at \$10 but as you know everything just costs more.

### FINANCIALS:

Check our website for current financial statements.

### DONATIONS:

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS



Please consider naming SUBVETS GROTON to receive memorial donations upon your passing or when you want to donate to a shipmate on Eternal Patrol. The shipmate's family and the donor receive a special thank you from your Groton Base Club.

Now - Your family can include in your obituary the suggestion that donations be made to SubVets Groton. We appreciate these donations in memory of our shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

Future -We are working to set up an account for those members who want to include in their Wills or Insurance beneficiary statements that once they pass that SubVets is identified as their beneficiary or an amount of money. This account could be restricted for the ongoing support of SubVets Groton.

### SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

Scholarship Fund which was established to grant educational scholarships to the children of members in good standing. Scholarships are awarded each year.

The second is our Capital Improvement Fund.

### NEW WAY TO DONATE

New options to make donations to SubVets Groton:

We have been asked over the last couple of years for options other than cash, credit card, checks, or PayPal.

Zelle – if you can use Zelle you can send in donations

Zelle our tag is - subvetsgroton

Note: always let us know how you want us to use your donation

Future donations: we are asked how can I identify SubVets Groton for donations

Now - Your family can include in your obituary the suggestion that donations be made to SubVets Groton. We appreciate these donations in memory of our shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

Future -We are working to set up an account for those members who want to include in their Wills or Insurance beneficiary statements that once they pass that SubVets is identified as their beneficiary or an amount of money. This account could be restricted for the ongoing support of SubVets Groton.

### **Suggested Groton Building Improvements:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> level ladies' room
- Hall create storage area for tables and chairs
- Outside storage building or shipping container for items used once or twice a year.
- Propane storage rack
- Gutters

Note: if you have ideas or suggestions, please let us know

### **DONATIONS:**

**DONATIONS ARE NOT ONLY IMPORTANT BUT CRITICAL. Our National and local bases need donations to keep activities available to our submarine communities. For Groton it's keeping the doors open but just one visit and you can see the difference individual donations have made in maintaining the building and improving services to all of us!**

## **YOU CAN DONATE TO SUBVETS GROTON OR THE NATIONAL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

There are a few ways you can donate.

Option 1: You can mail a check to SUBVETS GROTON 40 School St Groton CT 06340

Option 2: You can donate Via PayPal at <https://www.ussvigroton.org/donations>.  
You can donate to our Annual or Thanksgiving Appeals, to our Scholarship, Holland Club, Memorial Fund, Capital Improvements and Kaps4Kids.

Note: Contributions to SUBVETS GROTON are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

Option 3: You can mail a check to USSV Charitable Foundation PO Box 1063 Groton CT 06340-1063. Please indicate that your donation is for Groton Building or Groton Thanksgiving.

**IF YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE ADDITIONAL DONATIONS THAT WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONSIDER DONATING DIRECTLY TO THE USSVI CHARITABLE FOUNDATION.**

Note: Contributions to the USSVI Charitable Foundation are tax deductible. And you can indicate that you are donating to any of the Funds or to a specific GROTON Fund.

### **IMPORTANT NEW OPTION AVAILABLE – IF YOU WANT A TAX DEDUCTION**

You can use one of the Links below to send directly to the Charitable Foundation

1. Option to get donations applied and available for Groton.
  - a. Indicate that the donation is for Groton Building o
  - b. [Additional funds are listed for Groton: Scholarship](#), Building Fund, Thanksgiving or WWII Memorial East
2. Option to get donations applied to the Brotherhood Fund or any of the Funds that benefit USSVI members.
  - a. [Donate - Support Our Top Donation Campaign - USSVCF](#)

Brotherhood supports all of our national members, including Groton, with assistance in their time of need.

**If you need more information about any fund-raising options, please contact Treasurer *Charlie Murray*, 860 830 9605 or [Treasurer@ussvigroton.org](mailto:Treasurer@ussvigroton.org)**

### **BUILDING INTERIOR CLEANUP:**

1. Planned: Work on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will continue in October, with scrapping old paint off one area walls, repainting
  - a. Relocation of items to improve area usage
2. Old auditorium chairs are going to be removed from the attic, and the intent is to get more donations.

- a. Initial evaluation is that there is some value
  - b. I believe we don't have any use in our clubhouse for these, and it could be dangerous to keep them in the attic.
3. A new space to be identified on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor for any items donated that come into the club. I hope that in left in a central location we can more quickly evaluate whether or not to keep the donations. NOTE: it's extremely hard not to accept these donations from navy families; remember the items were personal belongings to their family members.

## SIGN IN YOUR GUESTS

State liquor control laws mandate that private clubs maintain a guest book where non-member guests are required to register and be signed in by the member.

Please ensure that your guests are properly signed in....help protect your Club! Failure to comply with the liquor laws may result in fines or other penalties such as closure of our pub for a period determined by the Liquor Control Commission.

**Please remember that you are responsible for the conduct of your guests and they must depart the premises when you depart - no exception.**

This is your Club....protect it at all times! Thank you for your cooperation.

## CHAPLAINS REPORT

Earl Colella & John Carcioppolo

**Chaplains Report/Honors Detail - John Carcioppolo 860-514-7064**

[Gumba700@comcast.net](mailto:Gumba700@comcast.net)

The following is the Honors Detail activity from January 26<sup>th</sup>.

The following members departed on Eternal Patrol since the last newsletter.

**HMCMS(SS) Alexander S.T. Campbell** – Departed on Eternal Patrol on 01/07/2026 No Honors

**EN1(SS) Robert A. Croft**- Departed on Eternal Patrol on 01/09/2026 No Honors

**LCDR Leo Morrissette** – Departed on Eternal Patrol on 2/23/2026. No Honors



The information for the Eternal Patrol bios comes from the USSVI National Webpage Membership section. What you have there is what I put out. If you don't have all the right stuff, then that's what we are going to put out. Additionally, some of the info comes from old bios from Holland Club inductions. If your info on the National Web Page is not up to date either update it or ask Base Commander Steve Ricard at [commander@ussvigroton.org](mailto:commander@ussvigroton.org). Also, with regards to information, if we don't know of a member passing, we cannot provide the information or present Honors. Please ensure that your families know that when you have passed to contact Groton Base Chaplain Earl Colella 734-730-1026 [earl.colella@comcast.net](mailto:earl.colella@comcast.net) or John Carcioppolo 860-514- 7064 [gumba700@comcast.net](mailto:gumba700@comcast.net) and if possible, provide a link to the obituary.

Keep your eyes open. If you know of a member passing or see an obituary of a Submariner who passed and maybe a member don't hesitate to pass that info along. We will figure out if he is a member and conduct business accordingly. A link to the obituary is always good to have. The sooner we know the

information the timelier we can react and put out the notices and hopefully have the Honors Detail render honors. All too often we find out about the passing of a member long after the funeral and do not get the chance to provide honors for our Shipmates. We are always looking for potential new members of the Honors Detail to supplement those who participate. If you are interested in being part of the Honors Detail all you really have to do is let me know and show up. We prefer you to have the SUBVETS vest, but that is not a hard requirement. If you are interested in joining the Honors Detail please let me know

**RED HAT CEREMONIES** On Friday 20 February a number of hearty members and spouses from Groton Base braved some really nasty weather to welcome home the USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790) home to SUBASE after months of deployment at the Pointy End of the Spear. 7 volleys on the Saluting Cannons and a return whistle from SDK and they were on the way upriver to continue their return to families and friends waiting at SUBASE. WELCOME HOME Shipmates. BZ and THANK YOU.

The following Shipmates and Spouses participated in the Red Hat Ceremony welcoming home USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790): Bob Dulin; Bob Sharpe; Brian Hague; Steve Ricard; Alex Doucette; Harold and Kurt Haugland; Bob Feeder; Derek Watkins; Bob Bell; Bruce DeFrehn; Joe Wread; Craig Amborn; Dee Carcioppolo; Rich Cheatam - Photographer.



Please feel free to share and repost as desired. Pictures courtesy of Rich Cheatham and are located here: <https://shutterfly.onelink.me/1053802476/jgqcckww>

Thanks also to Robert Sharpe for taking charge in my absence.

Many thanks also go out to Harold Haugland who provided red skullies with dolphins on them and sweatshirts to the crew to help them stay warm.

There will be another Red Hat Ceremony in March. Watch your emails.

I often receive requests to be added to the Homecoming notifications. I do not have a specific email list for homecomings. I just send the notifications to the entire membership, so I don't miss anyone. If you get all the regular Base Broadcasts from the Base Commander, Eternal Patrol Broadcasts, etc. etc. then you should get the Homecoming notifications. If you are not getting the Broadcasts, you will not get the Homecoming notifications, and you should contact the Base Commander to ensure that we have the correct email address on file.

Also, due to classification restrictions I can only put the word out 2 days in advance. However, I use the Welcome Home signs at the front gate of the Naval Submarine Base as a guide. If the signs go up that's my signal to send out the notification.

## HOLLAND CLUB Report - John Carcioppolo



*AN EXCLUSIVE GROUP WITHIN OUR SUBMARINE VETERANS' ORGANIZATION WHERE THE CORE REQUIREMENT FOR ELIGIBILITY IS THE DESIGNATION "QUALIFIED IN SUBMARINES" FOR A MINIMUM OF FIFTY YEARS.*

### March 2026 Holland Club Report

We are almost there at the end of winter. It's been a long one, but Spring is close.

**LUNCHEONS** We had a great luncheon in February. We had GREAT SUPPORT from the following students from Naval Submarine School in serving the meal: STSSN Benjamin, STSSN Scott, ITSN Jones, STSSN Reyes, ITR Evans, and TMSN Moore.

Guest Speaker CDR Adam Nebanzahl, CO USS ALBANY (SSN 753). He was accompanied by his COB ITNCS(SS) Alexander Heck and the USS ALBANY Sailor of the Year YNS1(SS) Sullivan. Petty Officer Sullivan is not only the USS ALBANY Sailor of the Year, but he is also the Submarine Squadron Four SOY. He is going to compete at the COMSUBLANT Level, and we wish him the best. CDR Nebanzahl gave a great talk about USS ALBANY, where they came from and where they are going. They have made one Change of Homeport to Groton CT from Norfolk and will be making another Change of Homeport to Bremerton WA when their maintenance period is over. Two Change of Homeports in one year. WOW.

Many thanks to all who supported and attended this luncheon. Also thank you to Arty Gager who won the 50/50 and donated \$120 back to the Thanksgiving Fund.

Jim Lawton also started a new tradition where he brought a cake for all present who had a birthday in February. A nice tradition we will continue each month. Birthday Honorees besides myself included Tom Algier, Gordon Conrad, Artie Gager and Bob Gustafson.



**February Birthday Bunch  
John C, Gordon Conrad, Arty Gager, Bob  
Gustafson, Tom Algier**



**Team ALBANY, CDR Nebanzahl,  
YNS1(SS) Sullivan, COB Heck**



**CDR Adam Nebanzahl, CO  
USS ALBANY SSN 753**



**SUBSCHOOL STUDENTS**



**SUBSCHOOL Students and  
CDR Nebanzahl**



**CDR Nebanzahl and SOY  
YNS1(SS) Sullivan**

Additional Pictures are here: <https://shutterfly.onelink.me/1053802476/pcvbn8vp>

Upcoming Speakers are as follows:

- **17 March Guest Speaker** Captain Craig E. Litty, CO Naval Submarine Base Groton
- **21 April Guest Speaker** OIC Historic Ship Nautilus LCDR Lucas
- **19 May Guest Speaker** Groton Sail Foundation

**HOLLAND CLUB 2026** We are moving ahead towards this year's Holland Club Ceremony. The 2026 Ceremony will be on Saturday, 6 June 2026. Mark your calendars and plan accordingly.

At present we have 41 inductees for this year's ceremony. We recently added two additional inductees to the list, Ira Goldman and John E. Olson.

We have received many responses to the first letter that was sent out in January, but there are still 15 members that we have not heard from and whether they are coming or not and 3 who still need to pay dues for 2026 to be eligible. The responses were supposed to be received by 2 March. If you have not returned your initial response please return these with a picture as soon as you can. Even if you are not attending so we know that you are not attending and don't have to guess. You will be inducted whether you attend or not.

The second letter will be going out by 16 March. This letter will provide a schedule of events, and it will be your opportunity to provide your guest list of people who will be joining you for the Holland Club Ceremony. Your guests list needs to be returned back by 15 April. It is very important that you and your guests who do not have normal Base Access that you include full name, SSN, Date of Birth, and citizenship so that all can be vetted by SUBASE Security for Base access.

The ceremony is open to all members of Groton Base and your guests to attend. If you have normal

access to SUBASE no problem. If you do not have normal access to the Base you will need to provide the same information listed above and can ride the bus to get on base.

The following is the meeting schedule for the Induction Ceremony planning meetings:

Thu 26 Mar 26 4:00 pm Clubhouse

Thu 30 Apr 26 4:00 pm Clubhouse

Thu 28 May 26 4:00 pm Clubhouse

We have received \$2405.00 in donations so far from the following towards this year's Holland Club Induction: Ellen McCance Ed Sherman; Reginald White; Bryan Ersek; Thomas Kelly; George Fetkin; Mark VanDerVoort; Gary Francis; Al Jagazewski; William Lary; Don Card; Charlie Duzy; Billy Whitehead. Steven Passen and Duane Russell. Thank you one and all. These donations go a long way towards covering all the expenses involved in putting on a very meaningful ceremony and reception for our newest members of the Holland Club. We can't do it without your support and there is no donation too small.

Hang in there. Spring is close.

John "Gumba" Carcioppolo  
Holland Club Chair (860) 514 – 7064  
[Holland@ussvigroton.org](mailto:Holland@ussvigroton.org)

## **COLOR GUARD**

**Bob Sharpe**

During the month of February, the color guard presented our National Stars and Stripes along with the USSVI flag during our U. S. S. South Dakota SSN-790 home coming salute. We thank the crew for a job well done and for bringing her home safely from deployment.

The Color Guard next scheduled muster will be in April 2024 for the Groton Base's U. S. S. Thresher (SSN-593) memorial service. The detail needs a few members to assist. If you are interested, please contact me.

Groton Bases' next big event is our community involvement in the Town of Groton's USA's 250th Anniversary 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Groton base members, the U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII Memorial – East committee and Naval Submarine School staff, students and Silver Dolphins Color Guard and Drill Team will provide the parade with a U. S. Submarine Service presentation.

We are looking for USA's 250th Anniversary ideas for decorating the 'People Mover' trailer, posters, or banner. Email me with your good ideas and the plans on how to accomplish it.

As part of our base's event plans, for hosting your reunion with the Joe Negri Clubhouse, our color guard can also present the National Colors at your banquet.

Email [Ashley-events@ussvigroton.org](mailto:Ashley-events@ussvigroton.org) for more information.

**Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee**

**Paul Skalski**

Get your Irish on. Come and join us for the Tom and Carol Connors Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner on Saturday, March 21, 2026 @ 6:00 pm. \$25/person. Doors open at 4:00 pm. Basket raffle and 50/50 raffle,

A huge thank you to Steve Ricard, Jim Lawton who helped cook, wash dishes, pot and pans and general cleanup of the dining room and kitchen after the Valentine Day Dinner.

Additionally, Steve's wife Elaine, my wife Carol and John Carcioppolo rounded out the cleanup detail along with three SubSchool Students.

Thank you to Heather who took care of libations for all.

Thank you to James Lawton, Jr. Vice, who provided the photo-booth which was a huge success.

Lots of work to put on dinner. We can always use additional hands to help. Many hands make for light work.



*Volunteers are welcome to help set up, wash dishes/pots and pans, cook, and breakdown.*

Contact the House committee chairman, Paul Skalski

Many hands make for light work

If the dinner needs to be rescheduled due to bad weather or cancelled, a notification will be posted on Facebook, the club website, with the new date.

SubVets Monthly Dinner Schedule 2026			
Month	Weekday	Time	Theme
21-Mar-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Tom Connor's Corn Beef and Cabbage
18-Apr-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Easter dinner Polish night
2-May-2026	Saturday	5:00 PM	Kentucky Derby Potluck
20-Jun-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Potluck
4-Jul-2026	Saturday	noon	Groton 4th of July Parade Reception
14-Aug-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Hillbilly Night
18-Sep-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Sock Hop Dance food from the 50's
16-Oct-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	October Fest German food
26-Nov-2026	Thursday	12:00 – 5:00	Annual Club Thanksgiving meal
5-Dec-2026	Saturday	2:00 PM	Base Christmas Party

## MEMBERSHIP

Vacant

### RENEW NOW FOR 2026

Reminder that it is time to renew annual membership. If you are a USSVI Life member, you still owe Groton Base dues (unless you are Groton Base Life). If you are trying to find out if you are a member in good standing, drop me a line [commander@ussvigroton.org](mailto:commander@ussvigroton.org). Here is the link to renew your membership. [Dues Renewal | USSVI Groton](#)

#### Are you on the DinQ list?

- USSVI National: There are still **97 members** that need to renew ASAP.
- USSVI Groton Base: **Over 370 members** that need to renew ASAP.

**If you are NOT a USSVI National Life Member:** Dues are \$80 /year (\$40 USSVI National and \$40 Groton Base).

**If you are a USSVI National Life Member:** Groton Base dues are \$40

It's never too early to renew memberships for 2026. Please do not get dropped for not renewing your Base and national dues.



### Membership Update

Members – 1,170  
Life National Members – 864  
Base Life Members - 400  
Holland Club – 676  
Associate Members – 70

Active Duty, new members only, Base and National Dues for their first calendar year are free.

**I'd like to thank Jim Kading for stepping forward and assuming the roles and responsibilities as the new Membership Chairman.**

### USSVI GROTON BASE “SILENT SERVICE” DMV LIAISON

Michael Hodges

Since last month's report, I've responded to three new inquiries, one from a new member.



If you would like to display our unique “Silent Service” on your vehicle, please contact me and I would be glad to answer any questions and guide you through the process. If you have questions shoot a quick email to me at: [ctsubvetplates@ussvigroton.org](mailto:ctsubvetplates@ussvigroton.org).

I'm also listed on our USSVI Groton Website under: <https://www.ussvigroton.org/linksofinterest>.

Applications are also available at the clubhouse in the document holder next to the bulletin board in the pumphoom.

### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Greg Kane

### Groton Base USSVI Scholarships

Applications for the Groton Base USSVI Scholarship are NOW Open

<https://www.ussvigroton.org/scholarship-info>

Supporting the Groton USSVI Base Scholarship Fund is a powerful way to **honor the legacy of submarine service** while investing in the future of our families. By contributing, you help preserve the proud traditions of our community and provide the children and grandchildren of submarine veterans with the resources they need for a quality education. This fund does more than just provide financial aid; it **strengthens our brotherhood** by demonstrating a tangible commitment to one another, reinforcing the bonds that make the Groton Base so resilient.

Every contribution, regardless of size, creates a **lasting impact** that helps students achieve their academic goals and build a brighter future. Ultimately, your support allows us to leave a legacy of service "beyond the boat," reflecting the submarine ethos of dedication and sacrifice in a way that meaningfully benefits society for generations to come.

Have Questions?

Please contact Gregory Kane, Groton Base Scholarship Chair, at 860-989-1426 or via email at [Gregory.Kane@CCSU.Edu](mailto:Gregory.Kane@CCSU.Edu).

## **MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

**Marian Galbraith**

With all this snow on the ground, it's hard to believe that Spring really is right around the corner, but it really is. The flowers are ordered and soon we'll be preparing the flower beds. Anyone wishing to join the Memorial Committee should contact Marian Galbraith at [mktgalbraith@gmail.com](mailto:mktgalbraith@gmail.com).

## **Groton Sail Foundation**

Catch up on the latest news and status of the USS Groton sail. If you'd like to receive our newsletter, send your email address to [mktgalbraith@gmail.com](mailto:mktgalbraith@gmail.com).



The banner features the USS Groton logo on the left, which includes a submarine and the text "SUBMARINE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD" and "USS GROTON 684". To the right of the logo is the text "USS GROTON Sail Foundation" with a Facebook icon. Below this are three red buttons: "BUY A PAVER", "MAKE A DONATION", and "MAIL A DONATION IN". At the bottom of the banner is a dark blue navigation bar with white text links: "The Foundation", "The Monument", "We Need Your Help", "News", "Newsletters", and "Contact".

<https://grotonsail.com/in-the-news/>

GSM NEWS: VOL 3, ISSUE 1

## **USS GROTON SAIL MONUMENT NEWS**

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/USS-GROTON-SAIL-FOUNDATION-NEWSLETTER.html?soid=1141966767457&aid=Yc4uJ5qZqM4>

***From the desk of USSVI Groton Base Veterans Affairs***

**HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR VA BENEFITS?**

**DON'T KNOW IF YOU QUALIFY FOR VA BENEFITS?**

Contact Brian Hague, USSVI Groton Base Veterans Affairs Representative (860)237-7323.

[brian.hague@ussvigroton.org](mailto:brian.hague@ussvigroton.org)

Hey Navy, hope you are all surviving the cold, now you know how I felt in Korea! Make sure you don't have too much skin exposure; in this weather frost bite comes on fast.

It's also a good time to start to winterize your life. Put some winter equipment in the vehicle, i.e., jumper cables/jumper pack, blankets, a set of warm clothes, small toolbox, etc.

Don't get caught off guard when it comes to newer VA log-in requirements.

<https://news.va.gov/133159/prepare-for-vas-secure-sign-in-changes/>

What to stay active without the crazy workout? <https://news.va.gov/131368/five-virtual-resources-older-veterans-active/>

Some good news for World War II Veterans. [All WWII Veterans are now eligible for VA healthcare - VA News](#)

The Department of Veterans Affairs issued a proposed rule outlining a plan to expand the locations and time frames for which VA presumes exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides.

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-presumes-exposure-agent-orange-herbicides/>

VA launches a new nationwide surgery initiative. <https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-launches-new-surgery-initiative-across-the-nation-a-critical-step-to-saving-the-lives-of-veterans-considering-surgery/>

For those who like to track the West Haven Campus during the renovations, I'll leave up the link to the final Environmental Assessment Report from Dec 2022 it includes campus overlay: [VA OCFM - West Haven VAMC - NEPA Final Environmental Assessment - December 2022](#)

“The more you sweat in peacetime, the less you bleed in war.” Get ahead of your final wishes and plan now for what you want. Do it now and no worries. [VA expands burial benefits for Veterans and their families](#)

Looking forward to travelling, but with a good deal. Armed Forces Vacation Club (AFVC) might be for you and your family. <https://news.va.gov/124422/armed-forces-vacation-club-for-veterans/>

Are you a high-tech Sailor? The VA put out a helpful link to navigate their Apps. [How to use cool features in VA's official mobile app - VA News](#)

Here is an Oct 2019 study from the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory on Submarine Medicine. [An Overview of the Unique Field of Submarine Medicine \(dtic.mil\)](#)

Remember, if you want to see other info related to submarine medical issues, let me know and I will track it down and post it. I hope to see you at the club!

<https://www.va.gov/>

Always a good place to start.

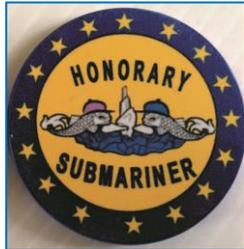
[Home - My HealtheVet - My HealtheVet \(va.gov\)](#)

Track your appointments, meds, and more.

[Military and Veteran Benefits, News, Veteran Jobs | Military.com](#) This is a great website for info on any Military and Veteran related issues.

**KAP(SS) 4 KID (SS)**

**John Riley**



**"No one stands so tall as when they stop to help a child."**

**Abraham Lincoln**

Since its inception in 2009, Groton Base's Kap (SS) 4 Kid (SS) Program has provided comfort and joy to over 2,500 Children facing illness, and their families.

Our K4K Team visits young patients at various facilities, including Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, Connecticut Children's Hospital, the Child Psychiatric Units at Yale New Haven Hospital, the Ronald McDonald House, Connecticut Hospice, and other designated locations.

**We are committed to continuing this program as long as there are children in need of our support.**



During our visits, the Kids all receive the now-standard K4K gear from Groton Base: Honorary Submariner Certificates, ball caps, temporary tattoos, challenge coins, and wristbands. Also handed out are signed Nautilus photos, maps showing the location of submarine museums around the U.S., and brochures specifically about the WWII Submarine Memorial and Submarine Force Museum in Groton. The Kids continue to be excited to receive stress-reducing red heart-shaped squeeze balls and K4K Teddy Bears!



Each new crop of Honorary Submariners are informed they would be entitled to a free tour and challenge coin from active-duty submariners at the USS Nautilus Submarine Museum.



These Children need caring attention, as much joy as we can give them, and reminders that they are so much more than their disease or condition.

**DONATE TO SUPPORT**  
**GROTON BASE'S KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS) PROGRAM**  
**IT'S TAX DEDUCTABLE VIA THE USSV CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**  
(designate "K4K Groton Base")  
<https://ussvcf.org/kapss-4-kidss-fund/>



**"We began by imagining that we are giving to them; we end by realizing that they have enriched us" - Pope John Paul II**

If you have questions regarding our K4K program, please contact John Riley,  
Groton Base K4K Chairman [kaps4kids@gmail.com](mailto:kaps4kids@gmail.com) 203 668-9131

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER**

**Jim Lawton**

Karaoke Night Success!

**Karaoke is scheduled for March 13, 2026**





Events and are posted in the Clubhouse on the Raspberry display above the cash register, On the opening splash page of our website <https://www.ussvigroton.org>, and on our Events page <https://www.ussvigroton.org/events>.

### USSVI GROTON BASE MARCH BIRTHDAY LIST

*Happy Birthday to All Who Continue to Celebrate*

Last Name	First Name	DOB		Last Name	First Name	DOB
Allen	Michael P.	29		Maruzo	Hope	23
Anderson	David	12		Marvin, II	Dean R.	15
Archer	Raymond A.	31		McHale	Gannon	28
Beagle	Kimberlee L.	09		McLain	Paul	10
Beatrice	Devin R.	22		McLellan	Patrick	30
Beglau	William M.	12		McPherson	Emmit J.	15
Burgo	Kevin	08		Megargle	Craig S.	29
Burkhalter III	Marvin	14		Moulton	John Charles	11
Burns	Christie	10		Novak Jr.	Len	10
Burns	Jeffrey	04		O'Connor	Kevin	02
Caldwell Jr.	James Franklin	24		Patterson	Jerry K.	20
Carter	Richard	05		Perron	Thomas M.	17
Chisholm	Stephen B.	25		Ponko	Thomas D.	04
Clawson	James C.	28		Quesenberry	David	17
Clerkin	Philip J.	26		Raty	Joshua P.	27
Cline	Clifford E.	27		Riessen	Roderick H.	27
Coogan	Kevin P.	17		Rigg	Jeffrey S.	23
Cooper	Charlie	24		Rowe	Robert F.	03
Cote	Paul R.	05		Saenz	Robert E.	01
Davis	Dean E.	21		Schmitz	Robert G.	29
Davis	Ileene Genevieve	29		Schoonmaker	Joseph D.	01
Dopirak	William J.	28		Shatraw	Bill	08

Doyle	David P.	06		Shipman	William Lawrence	11
Dulin	Robert P.	23		Shirar	Steven M.	19
Duzy	Charles A.	08		Shoop	Charles K.	04
Feinberg	Zachary A.	12		Sizer	Lisa M.	07
Foster	Stephen A.	12		Smith	George S.	23
Franks	Joseph R.	13		Solt, III	Harrison H.	29
Frederick	Joe	01		Stackpole	Scott	21
Fritzler	Steve	10		Staley	Dennis C.	20
Gregory	Matthew A.	17		Stewart	Justin Ryan	01
Gustafson	David B.	24		Strope	Dale G.	11
Hegg, III	Harry L.	18		Theobald	Raymond	26
Hovdestad	Richard S.	25		Thielen	Paul E.	23
Howe	John	09		Townsend	Jack L.	20
Huff	Kenneth A.	22		Tracy	Alan P.	02
Hughes	Garrett	13		Trottier	Alfred G.	07
Hunter	Larry	24		Urello	Howard Patrick	17
Hylton	Leon	24		Vaughan	Teddy G.	11
Johnson	Robert A.	15		Walsh	Jeffrey R.	01
Jones	Eric M.	23		Waters	Dennis	11
Kearns	Breck R.	04		Weale	Gary D.	20
Kline	Jerome C.	26		Wilkinson Jr.	Charles S.	06
Maikranz Sr.	Cary W.	16		Wynn	Brian W.	01
Marshall	George E.	12				

**USSVI GROTON BASE MARCH ETERNAL PATROL LIST**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Date</b>		<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Athow	Lelan	03/28/2014		Manning	John	03/25/2014
Badger	Raymond	03/20/2007		Maruzo, Jr.	Joseph	03/24/2016
Bair	Robert	03/23/2013		Maynard	Douglas	03/30/2020
Barber	Donald	03/12/2013		McFadyen	Peter	03/13/2005
Barker	Richard	03/06/2016		McNeil	William	03/12/2011
Barley Sr.	Donald	03/22/2010		Murphy	Daniel	03/28/2017
Bearce	Nelson	03/19/2017		Nettleton	David	03/14/2006
Behlke	Leonard	03/17/2006		Nolan	Daniel	03/01/2024
Breault	LaVerne	03/15/2005		Orcutt	Daniel	03/30/2009
Cadoret	Edouard	03/10/2018		Orr, Sr.	James	03/18/2001
Charlette	Roy	03/26/2020		Parkos	Eugene	03/16/2014
Chesky Jr.	Frank	03/15/2020		Penney	Jack	03/14/2023

Davis	Martin (Ed)	03/29/2024		Pitka Jr.	Arthur	03/21/2001
Dionne	Philip	03/03/2009		Pokorny	John	03/24/1998
Eck	John	03/18/2011		Rall	Robert	03/11/2013
Emerson	Charles	03/01/2007		Reed, Jr.	Henry	03/12/2015
Eng	Richard	03/18/2020		Reichenberger	Dennis Lee	03/28/2025
Fenick	Charles	03/05/2020		Roan	Thomas	03/31/2014
Foss	Paul	03/17/2004		Runde	William	03/06/2007
French	James	03/12/2009		Shaw, Jr.	Edwin	03/27/2013
Geiler	Richard	03/09/2023		Simmons	Harvey	03/17/2021
Haines	William	03/27/2014		Smith	George	03/15/2012
Hansen	Carl	03/10/2021		Sollenberger	Robert	03/31/2011
Hopely	Thomas	03/31/2008		Stafford	Fred	03/18/2021
Horne	Herbert	03/30/2024		Swanson Jr.	Theodore	03/28/2008
Horton	Orville	03/05/2013		Sweat	John	03/25/2019
Jackson	Stephen A "Doc"	03/15/2020		Truman	John	03/23/2018
Jensen	Robert	03/01/2014		Vera	Robert	03/12/2001
Karpus	Ronald	03/25/2020		Vincente	Jose	03/19/2011
Katusha	David	03/04/2018		Wagner	William	03/18/2015
Kline	Herbert	03/11/2006		Williams	Ronald	03/27/2020
Knight	Edmund	03/13/2015		Williamson	Robert	03/29/2019
Kreeger	Robert	03/10/2009		Wilson	Donald	03/14/2007
Larch	Linus	03/08/2004		Wilton	Robert	03/18/2015
Larsen	Harry	03/08/2017		Zaharevich	Daniel	03/30/2023
Lemerlin	James	03/17/2006				



I have one consolation that lives with me today. That God is near to them in his own special way. So, God in all Your mercy keeps near Thyself the soul of every Submariner still on his final patrol.

Lord this departed shipmate with Dolphins on his chest, is part of an outfit known as the best.

Make him welcome and take him by the hand. You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land.

So heavenly Father add his name to the roll of our departed shipmates still on patrol. Let them know that we who survive will always keep their memories alive.

## Thames River Heritage Park



<https://www.thamesriverheritagepark.org/>

## Custom House Maritime Museum/New London Maritime Society (NLMS)

<https://nlmaritimesociety.org/>



## Garde Arts Center



<https://gardearts.org/>

[All Events | Garde Arts Center](#) (click for more info)

## Nautilus Submarine Force Museum

## The Chapel On The Thames

The Chapel on the Thames (COT) is located aboard Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton and



offers both Protestant and Roman Catholic worship services for active-duty retired veterans and their families. The COT was originally conceived and constructed as a memorial to submariners, Officers and Enlisted who lost their lives in the service of their country during the Second World War. The COT was opened on December 3, 1944, 80 years ago and in it you will find many submarine related themes including beautiful stained-glass windows and pews labeled with brass plates to memorialize specific submarines from World War II.

All with base access are welcome to participate in scheduled services which are on Sundays as follows:

Protestant Service at 9:30 AM and Roman Catholic

Mass at 11:30 AM. COT is located directly across the parking lot from Dealey Center movie theater. We hope you will take the time to visit us at this historic chapel.”