



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC.



# BOAT

N O T E S



*For those who served beneath the waves*

G R O T O N   B A S E

*Groton, Connecticut*

Groton Base Boat Notes – July 2026

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Groton Base Officers

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<p><b>Secretary</b>                  Alvin Kinsall  <a href="mailto:secretary@ussvigroton.org">secretary@ussvigroton.org</a></p>
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[Address Changes](#)

Please always keep your address up to date. Having a correct address allows us to not only ensure Boat Notes gets to you, but all other important correspondence. It also allows us to save money on unnecessary postage.

[Deadlines for Submission](#)

Draft due 20<sup>th</sup> of each month by EBoard Members and Committee Chairs.

The official newsletter of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Groton Base published monthly.

[Contacting USSVI Groton Base](#)

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40 School St.  
Groton, CT 06340



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

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Greeting from the Base Commander



The birth of our Nation happened 250 years ago this month, July 1776. Since our Founding Fathers signed on that dotted line a strong bond was formed between the Continental Congress of 1775 and the less than a year-old small Continental Navy. Earlier this year we witnessed the oldest ship in the Navy, the USS Constitution and the newly commissioned submarine, the USS Massachusetts SSN 798. Our Navy has come a long way over two and a half centuries and as a Submarine Veteran, you, we are a part of that journey.

On July 4th Groton Base will once again roll out the "People Mover" and an old parade favorite, a replica of the USS Tench SS-417 to be part of the Groton Parade. We will be joined by the Naval SubSchool "Silver Dolphin" Color Guard and over 80 SubSchool Students carrying the "Lost Boat" flags and SubVet banners. What a proud day this will be for Submariners and our Submarine Community. So whether you ride the "People Mover" walk (march) or wave from the sidelines, please join the celebration in our "Submarine Capital of the World" to celebrate the birth of our Nation.

This year we are going to do something a little different for the after-parade reception. This year we are co-host with the Outer Light Brewery for a summer picnic. There will be burgers, hot dogs, summer picnic side dishes, and plenty of summer fun. The party will start as soon as we get there from 12 PM - 3 PM (while supplies last!). So, please join us as we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our country.

We are an organization that prides itself on being true to the creed, "Perpetuate the memory of our Shipmates" and provides a way for all submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie." We are only as strong as our dedication and willingness to push forward and continue to strengthen that camaraderie and have a great clubhouse.

### Submarine History Notes

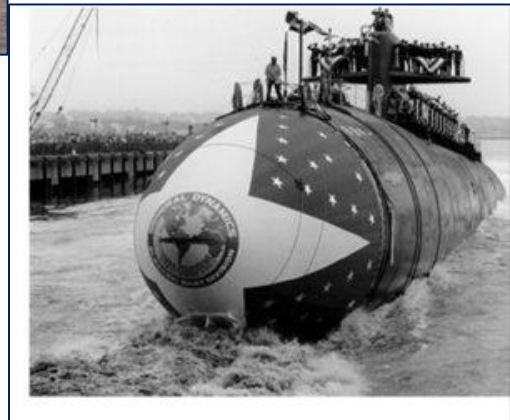
July has always carried a particular weight in Groton. It's the month when the river finally warms, when the shipyard hums at full tempo, and when the long arc of submarine history seems to bend back toward the place where so much of it began. This year, July gives us two milestones worth marking: the commissioning anniversary of USS *Groton* and the ongoing effort to return her sail to the community that built her, crewed her, and never forgot her.

### **Commissioning Day: USS *Groton* (SSN-694)**



On July 8, 1978, the Navy commissioned *USS Groton*, the first of the *Los Angeles*-class attack submarines. It was a moment that signaled more than the arrival of a new hull. It marked the beginning of a class that would define American undersea warfare for nearly half a century. For Groton, it was a rare honor: a submarine bearing the name of the town that had become synonymous with the Silent Service.

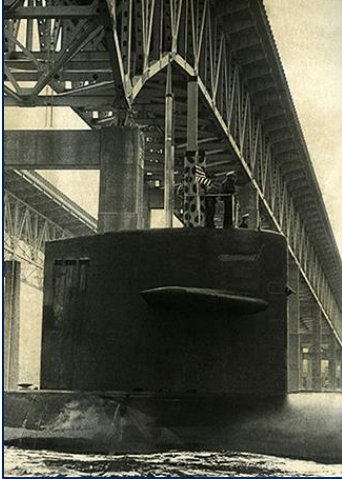
The commissioning ceremony captured the pride of a community that understood exactly what it meant to send a boat down the Thames and out into the world. *Groton* was not just a namesake; she was a statement. That the town which trained submariners, built submarines, and buried submariners would now have its own boat in the fleet. Despite what the *Wall Street Journal* claimed in a recent article, Groton's commitment never slackened.



For many of our members, *Groton* was a first boat, a homeport, or a familiar silhouette tied up along the waterfront. Her commissioning remains one of the defining July moments in the history of the Submarine Capital of the World.

### **Bringing the Sail Home**

Today, nearly five decades later, the effort to bring the sail of *USS Groton* back to southeastern Connecticut has become one of the most meaningful heritage projects underway in the region. The sail is



more than a relic. It is a physical reminder of the Cold War generation, of the transition from Sturgeon to 688, and of the thousands of submariners whose careers began or ended aboard her.

The push to return the sail is driven by a simple conviction: Groton should not lose the tangible markers of its own history. The Submarine Force Museum preserves the national story; the sail of *Groton* preserves the local one. It anchors memory in steel as the kind of memory that

schoolchildren can walk beneath, that veterans can point to, and that future submariners can stand beside before they ever step aboard a boat.



The effort is ongoing, but momentum is real. Community leaders, veterans' organizations, and local advocates have all recognized the value of bringing the sail home. It would join the growing constellation of monuments that make Groton not just a place where submarines are built, but a place where their stories are kept.

For many of our members, *Groton* was a first boat, a homeport, or a familiar silhouette tied up along the waterfront. Her commissioning remains one of the defining July moments in the history of the Submarine Capital of the World.

### **S-28 July 11, 1944**

Some losses in submarine history remain raw not because of their scale, but because of their silence. The disappearance of USS *S-28* (SS-133) on July 11, 1944, is a tragedy that unfolded without witnesses, without wreckage, and without a final transmission. Even today, *S-28*'s loss stands as a reminder of the unforgiving nature of undersea operations and the quiet courage of the men who served in the oldest boats of the fleet.

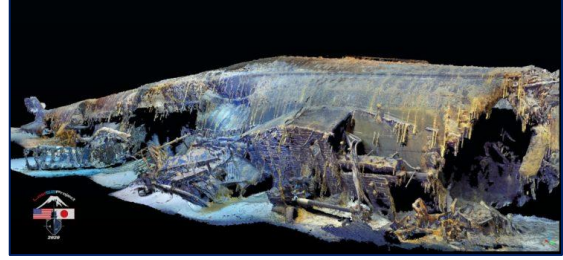
By mid-1944, the S-boats were already relics, they were slow, cramped, and technologically outmatched by the fleet submarines that followed. Yet they remained indispensable in training, ASW development, and coastal defense. *S-28* was performing one of those essential but unglamorous duties, an

anti-submarine warfare exercise off Oahu, when she vanished.



The exercise began routinely. *S-28* submerged for a coordinated attack drill with the Coast Guard cutter *Reliance*. Communications were normal. Sonar contact was steady. And then, without warning, the contact faded. *Reliance* attempted to reestablish tracking, but the ocean had already closed over the boat. No distress signal was ever received.

The search that followed was exhaustive. Aircraft, surface ships, and divers scoured the area. Oil slicks were investigated. Debris fields were examined. Nothing. The Navy convened a Court of Inquiry, but with no wreckage and no survivors, the cause could not be determined. The court concluded only that *S-28* had suffered a catastrophic failure that was sudden, total, and unrecoverable.



Eighty-nine years later, the loss of *S-28* still resonates within the submarine community. Her disappearance underscores the reality that even in training, even in peacetime waters, submariners operate at the edge of what machines and men can endure. The S-boats were unforgiving platforms, but they were also the crucible in which generations of submariners learned their craft. Their boat may never be found, but their place in our history is fixed, permanent, and honored.

### ***Virginia* Commissioning July 23, 2004**

On July 23, 2004, the Navy commissioned USS *Virginia* (SSN-774), the lead boat of a class that would redefine undersea warfare for the 21st century. The submarine force was entering a new era, one shaped by modularity, stealth, littoral capability, and the integration of technologies that had been only conceptual a decade earlier.



*Virginia* represented a fundamental shift in design philosophy. Instead of optimizing solely for deep-water, high-speed operations, the class was built to excel across the full spectrum of undersea missions: intelligence collection, special operations, strike warfare, and contested littoral environments. Twenty years later, the *Virginia* class is the backbone of the attack submarine fleet. Block upgrades have expanded capabilities, and the class has proven adaptable enough to remain relevant in a

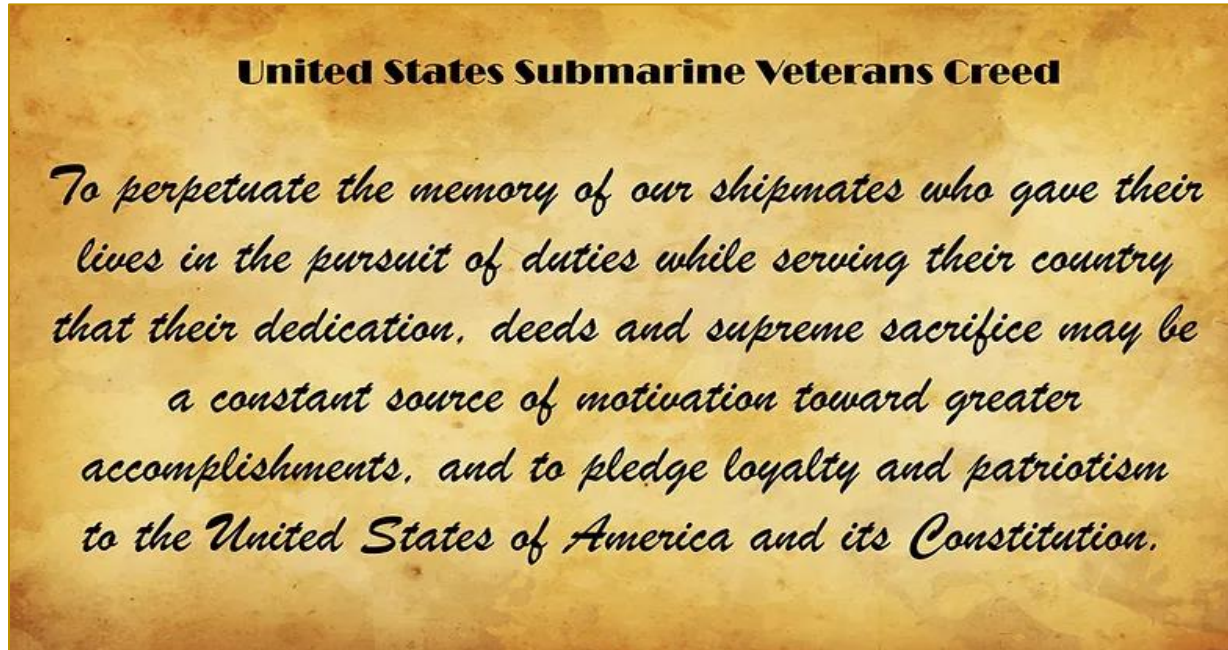
rapidly evolving maritime environment.

The commissioning of *Virginia* in July 2004 was not just the start of a new class, it was the start of a new era. For the submarine force, and for Groton, it remains one of the defining milestones of the modern age. July reminds us that heritage is not passive. It requires the work of remembering, of preserving, of telling the story again so that it does not slip quietly into the river. The commissioning of *USS Groton* was a moment of pride; bringing her sail home would be an act of stewardship.

Both speak to the same truth: Groton's identity is inseparable from the boats that have carried its name, its labor, and its people across the world's oceans.

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**




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**

**Lost Boats – July**

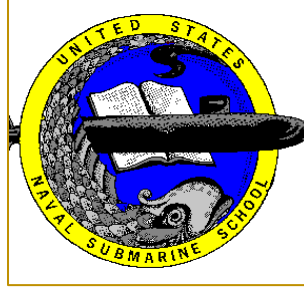
	<b>USS S-28 (SS-133)</b>	Lost on July 4, 1944, with the loss of 49 crew members. She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the US Coast Guard Cutter Reliance. After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two days later, an oil slick was found near where S-28 was last known to have submerged. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery.
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	<p><b>USS Robalo (SS-273)</b></p>	<p>Lost on July 26, 1944, with the loss of 81 crew members while on her 3rd war patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Four men survived and swam ashore, then were imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk.</p>
	<p><b>USS Grunion (SS-216)</b></p>	<p>Lost on July 30, 1942, with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in 2006 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.</p>

Plan of the Month – July 2026

Date	Time	Action	Description
7/2	0900	Event	BESS Graduation (Dealey Center) – Bob Sharpe
7/4	0800	Event	“People Mover” Load out 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Parade at Clubhouse
7/4	1000	Event	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Parade
7/4	1200-1500	Event	4 <sup>th</sup> of July After Parade Burger Burn/Reception at Outer Light Brewery co-hosted by OLB and SubVets
7/6	1830	Meeting	Monthly Membership Meeting
7/17	0700	Event	Dolphin Scholarship Golf Tournament – Pequot Golf Course
7/17	0900	Event	BESS Graduation (Dealey Center) – Dave Gustafson
7/17	0900	Event	New London Veterans Coffeehouse with Breakfast
7/19	1000	Event	Brunch Courtesy of SSEP
7/21	1100	Event	Holland Club Luncheon
7/24	1100	Event	SOAC Graduation – TBD
7/26	1000	Event	Prospectively – Brunch – Courtesy Subscool Chiefs



*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**

Each month, a USSVI Groton Base member participated in Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) graduation as the Sub Vets Representative presenting the "Heritage Award" and a Sub Vet Challenge coin to the class leader. In this month's issue of Boat Notes, we will highlight two graduations held on June 5th and 18th.

I would like to thank Sub School 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 Jerry Verant, and Chief Michael Taylor as well as class instructors, and coordinators, for allowing us to participate in this milestone event.

### **USS Holland SS 238 BESS Class 26220**

The following information is for BESS Class 26260, named after the USS Holland SS 1. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.

On June 5th, BESS class that graduated was named after the first U.S. Navy Submarine, the USS Holland (SS-1). This graduation also coincided with the 2026 USSVI Groton Base Holland Club Induction marking 50 years qualified in the US Submarine Service and the USS Nathanael Greene SSBN 636 reunion.





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The Command Representative was SubSchool Command Master Chief, Michael Micheli. Guest Speaker was TMCM(SS) Jeremiah Marzean USN(Ret) and Chaplain, CDR Fullerton gave the Invocation and Benediction.



USSVI Groton Base Commander and Holland Club Member, ETCM(SS/DV) Steven Ricard, USNR(Ret), was the SubVets Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SA(SU) Nicole M. Vera Cavalieri. 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 Estaban Vargas to SR(SU) Seamus J Lee. This award is given to the student who demonstrates academic achievement and personal improvement through the course of instruction.



The Honor Graduate Award was presented to SA(SU) Colin M Adams, by Sub School 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 TMCM(SS) Jeremiah Marzean USN(Ret) to SN(SU) Joshua H Page. 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.

***USS George Washington SSBN 598 BESS Class 26280***



The following information is for BESS Class 26280, named after the USS George Washington SSBN-598. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.

USS George Washington (SSBN-598) was the United States's first operational ballistic missile submarine. She was the lead ship of her class of nuclear ballistic missile submarines, was the third United States Navy ship of the name, in honor of

Founding Father George Washington (1732–1799), the first president of the United States, and was the first of that name to be purpose-built as a warship.

Washington's keel was laid down at Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics, Groton, Connecticut on 1 November 1958. The first of her class, she was launched on 9 June 1959 sponsored by Mrs. Ollie Mae Anderson (née Rawlins), wife of US Treasury Secretary and former Secretary of the Navy Robert B. Anderson, and commissioned on 30 December 1959 as SSBN-598 with Commander James B. Osborn in command of the Blue crew and Commander John L. From Jr. in command of the Gold crew.

George Washington was originally laid down as the attack submarine USS Scorpion (SSN-589). During construction, she was lengthened by the insertion of a 130 ft (40 m)-long ballistic missile section and renamed George Washington; another submarine under construction at the time received the original name and hull number. Inside George Washington's forward escape hatch, a plaque remained bearing her original name. Because the ballistic missile compartment design of George Washington was intended to be reused in later ship classes, the section inserted into George Washington was designed with a deeper test depth rating than the rest of the submarine.

After completing the historic launches, George Washington began her first patrol. During the maiden voyage, the submarine ran submerged 66 days before returning to Groton where the gold crew assumed responsibility of the boat's second patrol. At the completion of the second patrol, George Washington made way to Holy Loch, Scotland, in April 1961. For the next few years, the submarine conducted classified deterrent patrols near the Soviet coastline, rotating the two crews. Four years after her departure from Groton, George Washington had steamed more than 100,000 miles.

In 1965, after overhaul, the submarine resumed patrols with the Pacific Fleet, and for nearly 20 years acted as a deterrent to global war embodying her motto, "First in Peace." George Washington was decommissioned on 24 January 1985, and was later scrapped. The submarine's sail, or conning tower, was saved and is on display at the Submarine Force Museum in Groton..

More on the USS George Washington (SSBN 598) can be found [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_George\\_Washington\\_\(SSBN-598\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_George_Washington_(SSBN-598)), and <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/ships/submarines/george-washington-ssbn-598.html>.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the BESS Class named after USS George Washington (SSBN 598) had 82 students with a class average was 76% and 3 Sailors graduating with Distinction. To graduate with Distinction requires an

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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: ITNC(SS) Michael Taylor, FT1(SS) Abbott, STS2(SS) Davis and STS2(SS) Carter. 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 TMC(SS) Sarah LaFave, USS Iowa SSN 797. SubSchool Chaplain, LT Rodgers gave the Invocation and Benediction.



SubSchool Chaplain LT Rodgers presented the Submarine Heritage Award to SN(SU) Devin N. Langford. The Heritage Award is given to the student who demonstrates performance of their duties above and beyond the call of the average student. Thanks Chaps for filling in.

The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented by MMACM(SS) Estaban Vargas to SN(SU) Michael J. Stebbins. 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) Mark R. Lamb, by Sub School DOT Captain 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 TMC(SS) LaFave to SN(SU), Xavier B. Mujica. 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.



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**BESS Graduation Schedule**

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

**BESS SUB VET Representative**

<b>Class No.</b>	<b>Class Name</b>	<b>Graduation Date</b>	<b>Command Rep</b>	<b>SUBVETS Rep</b>	<b>Notes</b>
26300	USS Barb (SS-220)	<i>02 July 2026</i>	DOT	Bob Sharpe	
26320	USS Bonefish (SS-223)	<i>17 July 2026</i>	XO	Dave Gustafson	
26340	USS Parche (SS-384)	<i>31 July 2026</i>	CMC	John Carcioppolo	
26360	USS Nautilus (SS-168)	<i>14 August 2026</i>		Gary Schmid	
26380	USS Finback (SS-230)	<i>28 August 2026</i>		John Glaub	
26400	USS Seadragon (SS-194)	<i>11 September 2026</i>		Bob Sharpe	
26420	USS Archerfish (SS-311)	<i>25 September 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
26440	USS Barbero (SS-317)	<i>08 October 2026</i>		Steve Ricard	
		<i>23 October 2026</i>			
		<i>06 November 2026</i>			
		<i>18 November 2026</i>			
		<i>04 December 2026</i>			
		<i>18 December 2026</i>			

**Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) And Sub Vet Representative**

<b>Class No.</b>	<b>Graduation Date</b>	<b>SUBVETS Rep</b>	<b>Notes</b>
26040	24 July 2026	Bob Sharpe	
26050	18 September 2026	Bill Cavanagh	
26060	13 November 2026	Bill Sheehan	

**Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC) And Sub Vet Representative**

<b>Class No.</b>	<b>Graduation Date</b>	<b>SUBVETS Rep</b>	<b>Notes</b>
26030	14 August 2026	Bill Sheehan	
26040	23 October 2026	Bud Atkin	
26050	11 December 2026	Bob Sharpe	

**So, what has been happening since the last Broadcast?**

*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.*

This is your clubhouse. We have made many improvements, and we are working hard to add more. We cannot survive without you. So come, join us for our monthly dinners, attend our ceremonies honoring our Submariners, enjoy your bar and kitchen, and above all say Hi to our dedicated staff. I owe a big thanks to Heather, Hodge (our new Chef), Mika, Ollie, Julz (welcome back), and Erin for all the hard work, dedication and for keeping our clubhouse a go to destination.



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



On Monday, 1 June at 1830 we held our Monthly Membership meeting in the hall. Over 30 members joined in, both in person and via Zoom. Thank you to the members who attended their first meeting

Prior to the meeting our Scholarship Committee Chairman, Greg Kane and Members Pat Urello and Rob Davis presented a Groton Base Scholarship to Shipmate Eric Bookmiller's grandson Jacob Bookmiller. Congratulations Jacob, best of luck at the United States Merchant Marine Academy.



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

We also swore in new officers to the Executive Board.



Dominick Grimaldi was sworn in as a Senior Vice. Dom joined USSVI and Groton Base in 2025 and retired as a Master Chief in 2025.

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Al Kinsall was sworn in as Secretary. Al joined USSVI and Groton Base in 2004 and has served in many Executive Board roles including Base Commander. This will be Al's second, third, or fourth time as Secretary.

With the invention of Zoom, you'd think more members would attend the meeting.

**We offer Zoom so all our, almost 1000 members can attend.**

Join us next month at our Membership meeting on Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 1830. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting.

Groton Base Boat Notes – July 2026



Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> SubVets Groton Base held Steak Night in conjunction with our annual Holland Club Induction ceremony. There were over 100 Inductees, families, SubVet members, and reunion attendees enjoyed a delicious steak dinner cooked again by the fabulous Chefs and Mess Cook of Old Salts.



On Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> Groton Base held it's annual Holland Club Induction Ceremony where 34 SubVets inducted into the prestigious Holland Club. Congratulations to all inductees. The Holland Club Chairman will cover the day's events in his section.

After the Holland Club Induction Ceremony about 200 Inductees, families, friends, and Groton Base members returned to the clubhouse to enjoy a wonderful reception with food donated, prepared, and served by Dee, Rich, John, Bob, Sue, Marilyn, Bob, Marion, Heather Price, Sophia, Gretchen, Estelle, Angie, Elaine, Kathy Shirley, Obie, Jessica, Bob, Loretta, Chris, Andrea, and Rodrigo. You all did a fantastic job serving up so great food. Thank you for making this memorable Induction reception. I would also like to thank Waterford Walmart for donating over 100 pieces of fried chicken, your support is greatly appreciated.



## Groton Base Boat Notes – July 2026



On Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, Old Salts with guest Chef Katrina served up a fantastic brunch with over 35 happy diners. Big thanks to the Old Salts crew for manning the kitchen and keeping the tradition alive. BTW great biscuits and gravy.



Friday Night is “Karaoke Night” at SubVets. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the clubhouse was rock-in and roll-in with DJ Jammin Jim Lawton.

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

On Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, Shipmates from SSEP returned to the galley cooking up a wonderful Sunday Brunch. With a couple of great specials, the famous PFA Failure and homemade sausage gravy and biscuits. Thanks again for support our submarine community.



## Groton Base Boat Notes – July 2026

On Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon up in “Higham Hall”. There were over 60 members and guests who attended the luncheon. Our guest speaker was CDR Andrew McGovern, CO USS Texas (SSN 775).

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



On Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, several SubVet members attended the monthly New London Veterans Coffeehouse & Breakfast. Please join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month.



On Sunday, 28 June, SubSchool Chiefs cooked up a fantastic brunch. As someone mentioned “one of the top 15 smoothest run brunches of the year.” No panic, superb attentiveness by the SubSchool Chiefs. Great food.” Big thanks to the SubSchool Chiefs for manning the kitchen and keeping the tradition alive.

**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.”



### Boat Reunion

We would like to thank the USS Nathanael Greene for hosting a reunion luncheon at the clubhouse. Hope to see you at next year’s Holland Club Induction.

Groton Base Boat Notes – July 2026

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**

A big thanks to Dominick Grimaldi for submitting his name for Senior Vice Commander.

**Junior Vice Commander**

Hello Shipmates,

We have reduced the hours at the club on Tuesday. Due to a lack of customers, we are now closing directly after lunch at 1400, (2 P.M.). We cannot pay our bills unless you fill in the seats. We encourage you to show up and provide me with feedback on how we can improve to get you there!

**Summer Clubhouse Hours (As of March 31, 2026)**

Tuesday - **11:00 – 14:00**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

**11:00 – 19:00**

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

**Kaitlyn Hodge is now our kitchen crew as you would already know if you would stop in.**

**We now offer Mozzarella Sticks, Jalapeno Poppers, Chicken Wings, and a Combination platter which has all the above, plus Chicken Tenders and Fries or Onion Rings!**

**We have also listened to you and replaced the hot dogs with a Foot Long, Great Tasting one!**

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

**Happy Hour**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 15:00 – 18:00

**Both SSEP, and SubSchool Chiefs Hosted Brunch! Thank You So Very Much!**

## Groton Base Boat Notes – July 2026



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**

News for July–

First, I would like to say it is great and a privilege to be back as a member of USSVI Groton Base leadership. Thank you to the membership for your confidence in me handling the base secretary position. The make-up of this new executive board has the capability to take this base to greater accomplishments, benefiting our membership, the clubhouse and the USSVI organization as a whole. I also wish to thank David Frease for a job well done as base secretary for the last two years. HOOYA!

VOTE – VOTE – VOTE - VOTE

Please note that USSVI National officers are up for election this Fall. **Online balloting started on 19 June 2026** and ends 4 September 2026. The online ballot can be found on USSVI Website, [www.ussubvets.org](http://www.ussubvets.org). Remember to vote for the Proposed Amendment to the USSVI Constitution and Bylaws; Article VII – Membership Sec 3: Life Members and Sec 5: Associate Members.

If you download and vote by paper ballot, the ballot must be received by the election master no later than 4 September 2026. I have a supply of paper ballots for the convenience for members who need one. Email me at [akinsall@ussvigroton.org](mailto:akinsall@ussvigroton.org). The election master must receive your paper ballot no later than 4 September.

Send paper ballots to -  
Michael Bost, Election Master,  
USSVI Election Master,  
4 Sandy Lane  
Farmingdale, NJ 07727

Election Master email is [SubVet635@aol.com](mailto:SubVet635@aol.com)

**Alvin Kinsall**

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

**Base Treasurer**

**NEW FOR JULY**

**In progress – additional electrical work waiting on scheduled date.** Called our electrician to troubleshoot an issue at 40 school street with half the building being out of power, found one pole on the main breaker was burnt and not allowing power through. As a result of this issue the connection from the breaker to the busbar in the panel was also starting to heat up and become burnt. The breaker was replaced to get the building back on. The electrician recommended replacing the main panel.

**In process waiting on installation date, likely in July – replace dining room carpet.** Order placed. Current carpet had a 5-year warranty and was installed 6 years ago. New carpet as a 10-year warranty.

**In planning – we are waiting on a quote for installation for the entire building.** Only recently renovated spaces have any installed insulation. Bar, National Office, Foyer, sections in stairs to 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Building is 140 + years old, when we open wall areas we find damaged wood, no installation. We anticipate additional comfort, lower utility bills, and improvements.

**In planning – renovate the ladies room lower level.** Waiting on re-estimates for all related work. This might be completed over next 3 months. Renovations will include complete removal of bathroom fixtures, lowering the floor to same level as the dining room, provide for wheelchair access, and improved plumbing.

**Early planning – replace 6 hall windows,** most don't open, once open hard to close. These are only windows that haven't been updated. Only looking for quotes on this work.

### ANNUAL APPEAL 2026

**Appeal has ended for 2026,** we greatly appreciate all of the donations and they many notes about the improvements we have made and the memories of past visits to the club.

Notice: 18 checks deposited on 3/28 did not clear the bank but were redeposited on 5/29. We apologize for this inconvenience to donors.

#### FINANCIALS:

Finanical information thru June 2026 will be posted on the website

Reimbursement – Notice: going forward please coordinate any expenses with the Treasurer in advance of any expense. We have staff with debit cards which can be used to purchase necessary items. To limited processing checks we will be reimbursing via Zella, PayPal, or still working on ability to use Venmo

Future donations:

We are asked “How can I identify Sub Vets Groton for donations in my name once I'm on Eternal Patrol”?

- First, Sub Vets wants to know that you are well but if you pass away, we want to acknowledge your service and show our appreciation for you as a shipmate.
- Next – you need to let you family know that they should notify Sub Vets if you pass away

If you select to make or have donations, go to Sub Vets:

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

Now – you can set up a Legacy Fund in your name with the National Charitable Foundation. Ask if you are interested

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 Sub Vets is identified as their beneficiary or an amount of money. This account could be restricted for the ongoing support of SubVets Groton.

**Suggested & Planned Groton Building Improvements:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> level ladies' room – we are still short of funds to do this work (we will make this happen)
- Fix the front door, get back to using the buzzer (parts are now available, just need time to do the work)
- Add locks to provide additional security to in building doors (over the summer)
- Hall create storage area for tables and chairs
- Outside storage building or shipping container for items used once or twice a year.
- Gutters – we are checking on this now

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. With just one visit you can see the difference individual donations have made in maintaining the building and improving services to all of us! Supporting all local bases is needed. While they may not have a building they have projects and programs that support local SubVets and their local communities.**

**YOU CAN DONATE TO SUBVETS GROTON OR THE NATIONAL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION (this has become my favorite our 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

## Groton Base Boat Notes – July 2026

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. Work on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will continue in June or during summer, with scrapping old paint off one area walls, repainting
  - a. Possible relocation of items to improve area usage
2. Old auditorium chairs will be removed from 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.
  - c. Need a crew maybe 5 to relocate items
3. A new space to be identified on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor for any donations 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.

### BUILDING EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE

#### THANKS TO :

Alan Williams for frequent cleanup and checking on equipment  
- in June he will spray for carpenter ants, did an exterior cleanup, escalated our A/C summer maintenance

Larry Williamson for constant repairs on our front door and preparing for additional building security

Jim Kading, [kadingj@hotmail.com](mailto:kadingj@hotmail.com), our membership chair for all of his work

Base Chaplin



**Chaplains Report/Honors Detail - John Carcioppolo 860-514-7064**  
**[Gumba700@comcast.net](mailto:Gumba700@comcast.net)**

The following is the Honors Detail activity from May 26<sup>th</sup>. It was a slow month, and we like slow months when talking about members who departed on Eternal Patrol.

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

**EN2(SS) Dale MacKay** Departed on Eternal Patrol on 27 May. Honors were held on 12 June. Present were John Carcioppolo, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Dennis Hopkins, Mark Kashar, Bob Sharpe, Joe Wread

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.

**What we do matters** Following Dale MacKay's Honors Detail, his wife sent a \$200.00 check in appreciation for the Honor Guard.

**RED HAT CEREMONIES**

On 25 June we had a Red Hat Homecoming to welcome home the USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790) from a deployment at the Pointy End of the Spear. There were over 30 people out there on a beautiful day. Thanks to all for showing up and thank you all for your participation and again **WELCOME HOME USS SOUTH DAKOTA. Thanks for what you do and for your sacrifices in defending Freedom.**



**USS SOUTH DAKOTA HOMECOMING  
DETAIL 06/25/2026  
Picture courtesy of Rich Cheatham**



**WELCOME HOME USS SOUTH DAKOTA  
(SSN 790)**

**Additional photos here:** <https://linkit.shutterfly.com/-eNdBS>

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**



*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.*

**July 2026 Holland Club Report** Welcome to Summer 2026.

**LUNCHEONS** We had a great luncheon in June. As always, we had GREAT SUPPORT from our students at Naval Submarine School. Many thanks to the students who supported our luncheon with your time and support.

## Groton Base Boat Notes – July 2026

Our guest speaker was CO USS TEXAS (SSN 775) CDR Andrew McGovern, his wife Dr. Robin McGovern & COB STSCS(SS) Wesley Martens. The Captain gave a Great talk about what the TEXAS Sailors have been up to on their recent deployment.

The 50/50 was won by Bob Sharpe who won \$130 and donated \$65 back to the Holland Club



**SUBSCHOOL Volunteers**



**CDR Andrew McGovern  
CO USS TEXAS (SSN 775)**



**L-R STSCS(SS) Wesley Martens, John Carcioppolo, Cdr McGovern, Dr. Robin McGovern**

Pictures taken by Jim Lawton.

Additional Pictures are here: <https://linkit.shutterfly.com/BjAWgF>

Upcoming Speakers are as follows:

- **21 July Guest Speaker – Tentative**, CO/COB USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790)
- **18 August Guest Speaker** – Mayor Jill Rusk, Mayor City of Groton
- **15 September Guest Speaker** – CO/COB PCU ARIZONA (SSN 803)
- **20 October Guest Speaker** – Damien Cregeau the author of "Portraits of Patriots"



**HOLLAND CLUB CLASS OF 2026 6 June 2026**

**HOLLAND CLUB 2026** The 2026 Holland Club Ceremony was a complete success. It was a great ceremony with Admiral James F. Caldwell Jr. as the Guest Speaker. CMDM(SS) Gary Stephenson was the Master of Ceremonies and Gil Simmons from WTNH read the bios. Thank you to all in particular to the core members of the committee: Tom Allgier, Kim Beagle, Carl Franzoni, Dee Carcioppolo, Rich Cheatham, Alex Doucette, Bob Dulin, Dominic Grimaldi, Al Kinsall, Jim Lawton, Steve Ricard, Bob Sharpe, Gary Sievers. Thank you also to all the volunteers, all who made Donations, all who brought food, the Groton Area CPOA, Old Salts, the staff of Naval Submarine School and Naval Submarine Base, Hodge, and Heather

I couldn't ask for a better team behind me to execute all of the moving parts that make our Holland Club Ceremony such an impressive event. We could not do it without your support **HOOYAH to the HOLLAND CLUB Committee**

**HOLLAND CLUB 2027** Looking ahead to 2027 the tentative date for the ceremony is 5 June 2027. **That is not confirmed yet as of this printing.** Here is a **preliminary listing** of those I found in the National Data Base who are eligible for the Holland Club next year: FTCS(SS) David Anderson; STS1(SS) Brian Beirne; MMA2(SS) Michael Bethune; LT Jerry L. Blevins; MMCS(SS) Eric Bookmiller; RMCM(SS) John J. Carcioppolo; STS1(SS) Bruce DeFrehn; FTGC(SS) Vincent Delmore; ET1(SS) Philip O Gagnon; SK2(SS) David A. Garcia; TMC(SS) Richard Grigsby; EMC(SS) William A Hornok; STSC(SS) James Kading; MM2(SS) Bruce E Laney; LT Bruce Lobach; LT Donald R. Maranell; MAC(SS) Richard Rusczyk; LCDR John Schumann; MMC(SS/DV) Edward J Shaw; MT2(SS) Paul Skalski; CAPT Paul J. Van Benthem; CMDM(SS/SW) Adolfo Villarreal; MM1(SS) Ralph L. Winslow. There are still memberships being processed and there is a lot of time before we get going. We will be refining the list between now and January.

John "Gumba" Carcioppolo

Holland Club Chair (860) 514 – 7064

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

### Color Guard

The color guard was idle during the month of June.

Color Guard Flags, USSVI and SVWWII, were displayed alongside the USSVI Holland Club Induction ‘Welcome’ Flag during the Gorton Base’s Holland Club Induction Ceremony on June 6th

We are gearing up for 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.

U. S. Submarine Veterans and Submarine Veterans of World War flags will be flown during the parade. If anyone would like to carry one of them for the 2-mile parade route, please let me know. If available, we’ll try to fly them on the USS Tench Float.

We can always use more people to help me decorate the ‘People Mover’ trailer with posters and banners. Let me know if you can help.

### Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee

After the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade come join us at Outer Light for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July reception directly after the parade.

Next event is Saturday, July 18, 2026 @ 18:00. Potluck social. Kick off to summer. Bring a dish and have some fun.

*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.*

A little housekeeping. Since we reactivated the old House Committee and renamed it the Stan Mathies Memorial House committee, we have had several successful monthly dinners. Below is a chart of how many people attended each month.

If you have any suggestions for dinner, drop me an email at [p.skalski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:p.skalski@sbcglobal.net). I will look at all suggestions when I build the 2027 schedule

<b>SubVets Monthly Dinner Attendance 2026</b>				
<b>Month</b>	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Attended</b>
6-Dec-2025	Saturday	2:00 PM	Base Christmas Party	44
13-Jan-2026	Tuesday	6:00 PM	Mongolian barbecue	49
13-Feb-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Valentine Day Italian dinner	31
21-Mar-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Tom Conon's Corn Beef and Cabbage	83
18-Apr-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Easter Dinner Polish Night	45
02-May2026	Saturday	5:00 PM	Kentucky Derby Potluck	20
05-June-2026	Friday	5:00 PM	Holland Club Steak dinner	Approximately 125
20-June-2026	Saturday	18:00 PM	June Potluck	Rescheduled

<b>SubVets Monthly Dinner Schedule 2026</b>				
<b>Month</b>	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Theme</b>	
04-Jul-2026	Saturday	Noon	Groton 4th of July Parade Reception	
18-July-2026	Saturday	18:o	Potluck dinner	
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	
05-Dec-2026	Saturday	2:00 PM	Base Christmas Party	

### Membership

#### **RENEW NOW FOR 2026**

Greetings, Shipmates, and friends. If you are reading this, it means you are a member in good standing with USSVI and USSVI Groton Base or are you.

On March 23, at the close of the business day, Groton Base had 1179 members. As of March 24, at the start of the business Groton Base had dropped to 1105. So, what does that mean to the Regular/Annual Members? It means you missed the renewal window and National dropped you. How will you know; you'll no longer receive a copy of the American Submariner or notices from USSVI. How to rectify; renew your membership ASAP.

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, Jim Kading at [kadingj@hotmail.com](mailto:kadingj@hotmail.com), Here is the link to renew your membership.

[Dues Renewal | USSVI Groton](#)

**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 – 1,047  
Life National Members – 858  
Base Life Members - 404  
Holland Club – 657  
Associate Members – 61

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

Membership Chairman  
Jim Kading  
[kadingj@hotmail.com](mailto:kadingj@hotmail.com)

**USSVI Groton Base DMV Liaison**

To date this year:

- 27 email inquiries received and answered,
- 13 DMV applications and instructions mailed to submarine veterans,
- 9 mailed DMV applications and 1 from the pump room have been received back,
- 8 submarine veterans have joined or re-joined USSVI to order our “Silent Service” plate.



DMV Liaison

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 pump room.

Michael Hodges

### Scholarship Committee



### **Groton Base 2026 USSVI Scholarship Award – Jacob Bookmiller**

It is our honor to recognize an outstanding young man as the recipient of the **2026 Groton Base United States Submarine Veterans, Scholarship Award**. This award is not only about academic achievement. It is about character, service, perseverance, patriotism, and the promise of carrying forward the values that mean so much to our submarine veteran community.

This year’s scholarship recipient is **Jacob Bookmiller of Niantic**, the son of **Jason and Carin Bookmiller**. Jacob is sponsored by his grandfather, **Eric Bookmiller, MMCS/SS, United States Navy Retired**, a 20-year nuclear submarine veteran. Jacob’s application reflects a strong family legacy of service, including service in the Navy, Merchant Marine, Army, Marines, Air Force, and service during Vietnam, Korea, World War II, and World War I.

Jacob has been accepted to the **United States Merchant Marine Academy**, where he plans to study **Marine Engineering** and pursue a career sailing commercially while serving in the **Navy Reserve**. His

academic record shows strong preparation in engineering, CAD, AP Physics, AP Chemistry, AP Calculus, construction, and pre-engineering coursework. He also earned a SAT score of **1310**, with particular strength in mathematics.

But Jacob's story goes well beyond grades and test scores. He has already gained real-world technical experience as a **full-time mechanical design intern at Electric Boat General Dynamics in Groton**, where he helped design valves for Virginia-class submarines and worked on tolerance studies and manufacturing information for submarine components. He has also worked as a dockhand at Ferry Landing Marina, shadowed an engineering manager at Millstone Nuclear Power Station, operated his own handyman service, and developed skills in AutoCAD, Teamcenter NX, electrical work, tools, and basic mechanical repair.

Jacob is also a young man of discipline and teamwork. He has been involved in football, wrestling, lacrosse, Boy Scouts, community service, church volunteering, beach cleanups, soup kitchen service, and a week-long outreach trip helping repair homes for people in need. His recommendations describe him as a person of **integrity, determination, maturity, leadership, perseverance, and character**. One recommender wrote that Jacob is someone "who can be relied upon to do the right thing, even when it is not the easiest choice."

In his essay on what the Submarine Veterans Creed means to him, Jacob wrote that the creed is about "**memory, responsibility, and purpose**." He said that remembrance is not passive, but an "**active duty**." He wrote that we must honor those who gave everything by doing what we can to make America better, and that their sacrifice should push others toward excellence. He also reflected that everything he enjoys today is because of the sacrifice of his family and the brave men and women of the Navy and armed forces.

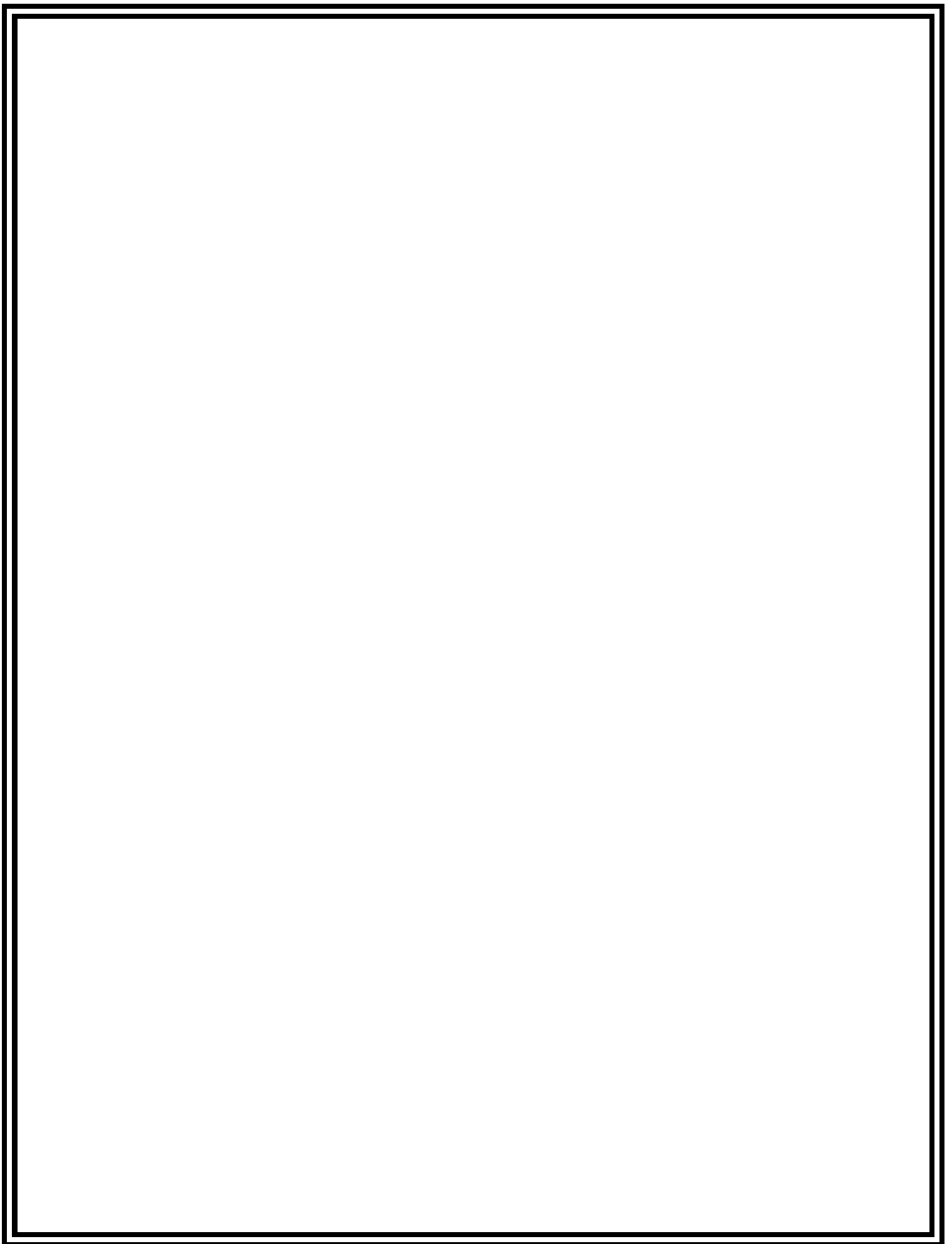
Those words are especially meaningful in this room. As submarine veterans and families, we understand that service is not just a chapter in someone's life. It becomes part of a family's story. It becomes a legacy. Jacob understands that legacy, and he has clearly chosen to carry it forward with humility, purpose, and determination.

Jacob also wrote that service is about protecting **freedom, unity, law, the United States, and its Constitution**. He said that those are the ideals shipmates gave their lives protecting, and that he has a duty to do the same.

That statement captures exactly why this scholarship matters. We are not simply helping a student go to college. We are investing in a future leader who understands service, sacrifice, responsibility, and country.

Jacob, on behalf of the Groton Base United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., we congratulate you on your accomplishments, your appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and your commitment to continuing a proud tradition of service.

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



There's something new at the Memorial! In addition to the flowers that have been planted for the season and the new flags waving in the breeze, a new guardrail now surrounds the Memorial. For some time, the Committee has been working with the City of Groton to replace the guardrail which had deteriorated over time. The City included the replacement in their budget, put out a call for proposals, and finally in the first week of June the guardrail was replaced. Many thanks are due to the City of Groton for taking care of this project. It looks like we are going to have a painting party soon! Stay tuned

To join the Memorial Committee, contact Marian Galbraith at [mktgalbraith@gmail.com](mailto:mktgalbraith@gmail.com) or 860-460-8740.

## Veterans Affairs Committee

*[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, Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Remember this month usually gives us a good amount of heat for some reason. Take it easy, drink fluids, and find some shade. If you have to work outside, let someone know in case of heat injuries.

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/>

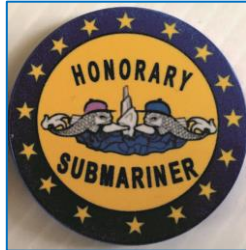
Are you a high-tech Sailor? The VA put out a helpful link to navigate their Apps. [How to use cool features in VA's official mobile app - VA News](#)

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/> is 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)



**"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 is 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 DEDUCTIBLE 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**

Karaoke Night Success! - No Karaoke scheduled for July, Have a Great Summer!

## Karaoke photographs from previous events



Events 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 July Birthday List

*Happy Birthday to All Who Continue to Celebrate for the Month of July*

Last Name	First Name	DOB		Last Name	First Name	DOB
Borders	John M.	20		Nankee	Richard L.	20
Borysewicz Sr.	William W.	20		Neill	Bob	23
Bottum Jr.	George E.	25		Neill	Robert E.	18
Breard	Jhean M.	24		Nellums	Frederick B.	07
Buff	Joseph J.	22		Norton	Wesley	01
Cantrell, Jr.	Claud F.	09		Novosad	Stephen L.	19
Cole	Barry	28		Pelletier	Ronald W.	02
Colella	Earl	05		Petta	Alfred L.	30
Croft	Robert A.	19		Pickett	Wayne E.	19
Delmore	Vincent	11		Probasco	Dale R.	23
Dettman	Terry A.	21		Redding	Sterling J.	15
Dominguez, Jr.	Jesse	14		Reinhart	Ronald	07
Donnelly	Michael	21		Rier	Danny T.	08
Dotts	Charles H.	10		Rusczyk	Richard	27
Ferrigno Sr.	Anthony P.	27		Russack	Barry Bernard	05
Fetkin	George J.	29		Ryan	William G.	15
Fischetti	John	25		Schmidt	Ralph A.	17
Flesher	Jeffrey	15		Schneider	Gary	31
Frabutt	Anthony W.	06		Schumate	Jimmy C.	30
Frizzola	Robert	21		Schwartzel	Mark	28
Ganns	Kevin J.	31		Sepulveda	Angel L.	10
Ginglardi	Alan	15		Shipman	William Lawrence	11
Golden	Clarence A.	17		Sidlovsky	John R.	09
Gorman	Andrey	26		Staples	Norman A.	28
Groomes	Charles C.	15		Stein	Randall C.	15
Hackett	David K.	27		Stephenson	Gary R.	25
Hartigan	John	09		Theobald	Raymond	26
Haugland	Kirk M.	23		Tiede	Randy L.	19
Hayden	Delbert Wayne	11		Tierney, Jr.	James Stephen	23
Hirt	Kenneth L.	07		Walker	Ryan C.	08
Hodges	Michael W.	18		Wallace	Robert W.	29
Holland	Mike	30		Warnock	Richard A.	25
Holmstedt	Herbert A.	22		Weaver	James F.	17
Hunter	Jack E.	10		Weinberger	Arthur K.	29
Johnson	Thomas L.	08		White	Dexter	28
Kenny	Michael John	27		Whitty	Francis Frederick	01
Kinsall	Alvin G.	26		Williams	Charles R.	01
Kreul	Raymond E.	23		Wise	Rick	05
Lary, Jr.	Robert William	10		Wylie	Edward C.	29
Lovelady	Kayla	31		Zujus	Raymond	09

Maloney	Patrick J.	21			
Miller	Lawrence H.	26			
Mordecai	Mark S.	21			

**USSVI Groton Base July 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>
Amero	Leo	07/22/18		Logano	Frank	07/24/03
Anderson	John Paul	07/30/22		Losee	Boyd	07/31/15
Armstrong	Dex	07/08/14		Lukas(iewski)	Richard	07/26/16
Ator	Roy	07/16/16		Margiano, Jr.	Raymond	07/19/21
Bellman	Rodney	07/16/18		McPhilmy	John	07/19/16
Bennett	Walter	07/10/14		Mehalick	John	07/20/12
Bialek	Joseph	07/20/23		Neighbors	Jack	07/19/15
Billing	Clare	07/02/14		Nevel	Stephen	07/25/09
Black	Ian	07/29/06		Paterson	Alexander	07/01/19
Brazil	John	07/08/08		Quijada	Christoper	07/06/03
Caldwell	Harry	07/08/08		Reisinger	William	07/11/24
Calverley	Jimmie	07/16/05		Reynolds, Jr.	Advah	07/13/14
Cooper, Jr.	Daniel	07/21/07		Richardson, Sr.	Robert	07/02/12
Cushman, Jr.	Charles	07/23/18		Schirch	Roland	07/15/99
Dennis	Richard	07/20/14		Serabian	Paul	07/26/17
Feindt	Andrew	07/27/01		Shipman	William	07/08/08
Flanagan	Bernard	07/01/14		Sladky	Charles	07/19/20
Ford	Charles	07/01/24		Smith	Byron	07/18/10
Guilfoil	Thomas	07/02/20		Sullivan	John	07/15/24
Hackett	Raymond	07/13/09		Sutton, Jr.	Charles	07/21/18
Hamilton	Robert	07/18/14		Swedin	Herbert	07/10/16
Hanzel, Jr.	Joseph	07/28/20		Temple, Jr.	John	07/20/10
Hawk	Harry	07/26/02		Tomac, Sr.	Richard	07/07/17
Herrington	Arnold	07/21/16		Valero	Warren	07/01/11
Impellizeri	Joseph	07/01/11		Walters	Frank	07/26/16
Kabulis	Joseph	07/24/20		Wright	Howard	07/23/08
Kazlauskas	George	07/07/21		Yost	Harry	07/02/98
Lamanque, Jr.	Claude	07/08/09		Young	Robert	07/11/20
Liddon	Victor	07/18/13				



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.

# Local Items of Interest from around the area

## Thames River Heritage Park

The screenshot shows the website for Thames River Heritage Park. The header is dark blue with the park's name in white. Navigation links include 'HOP ON HOP OFF CRUISES', 'BOAT TOURS', 'SITES, TOURS AND PROGRAMS', 'PLAN YOUR VISIT', and 'ABOUT'. There is a 'DONATE' button and a notice: 'Today is Tuesday, June 30, 2026 Hop-on Hop-off Harbor Cruises are not running today.' A circular logo with 'HERITAGE OF THAMES' and a ship icon is also present. The main content area features the heading 'Visit Historic Sites' and the text 'The park is home to more than thirty historic and cultural sites. Learn all about our partners.' with a 'Learn More' button. To the right is a photograph of a tall stone obelisk and a group of people in historical military uniforms.

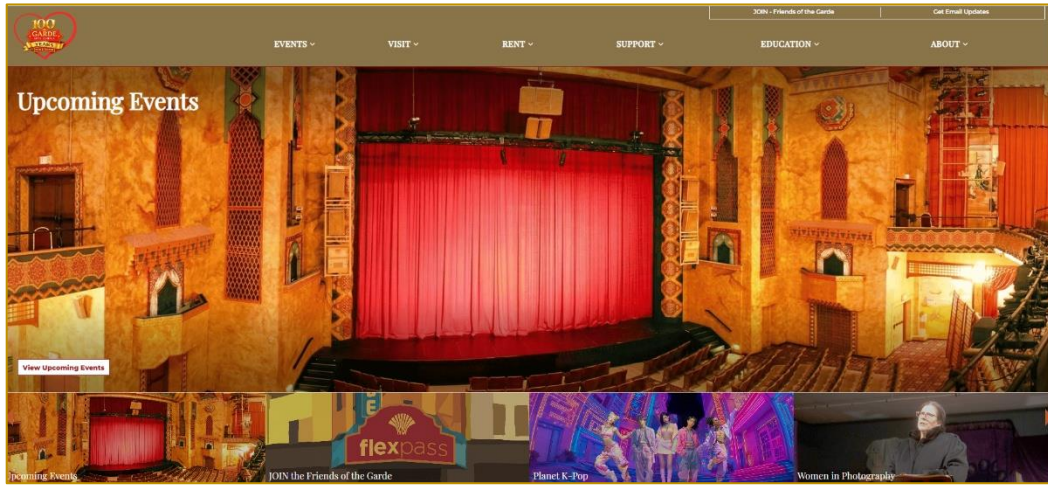
<https://www.thamesriverheritagepark.org/>

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

<https://nlmaritimesociety.org/>

The screenshot shows the website for the Custom House Maritime Museum. The header features the NLMS logo, the text 'CUSTOM HOUSE MARITIME MUSEUM', and a navigation menu with links: 'About', 'NL Harborcam', 'Calendar', 'Rental', 'Lighthouses', 'Library', 'News', 'Amistad', and 'Education'. Below the header is a large photograph of a harbor scene with several tall-masted sailing ships docked at a pier. In the foreground, a crowd of people is gathered, many holding American flags. Two text boxes are overlaid on the bottom of the image: one on the left reads 'Happy 250th! 3rd grade students in our Local-History & Landmarks program in the NL Public Schools sang sea chanteys, with musician Geoff Kaufman and NLMS educator Jody Barthel, as the USCG Eagle departed home port New London, May 1, 2026.' and one on the right reads 'The Custom House Maritime Museum will be CLOSED on Saturday, July 4.'

## Garde Arts Center



<https://gardearts.org/>

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

## Nautilus Submarine Force Museum

**YOUR SERVICE IS NEEDED TODAY!**

HISTORIC SHIP NAUTILUS SSN-571  
SUBMARINE FORCE MUSEUM (SFM) IS ACTIVELY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO SERVE AS DOCENTS.

THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DOCENT  
TO GREET PEOPLE AS THEY ENTER THE MUSEUM AND ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MUSEUM PATRONS.  
THE DOCENT WATCH MAY ALSO GIVE GUIDED TOURS TO PATRONS OR COORDINATE WITH THE STAFF FOR GUIDED TOURS AND EVENTS THAT ARE EITHER BY REQUEST OR PRE-ARRANGED BY THE MUSEUM'S EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.  
THE DOCENT WATCH IS NORMALLY A 4-HOUR COMMITMENT ON DAYS THAT THE MUSEUM IS OPENED, ROTATED AND SHARED BY THE DOCENT TEAM

SINCE THE SHIP'S DRYDOCK OVERHAUL IN 2022  
THE MUSEUM HAS CONSISTENTLY GROWN OUTREACH BY 300% TO 500% EVERY SIX MONTHS AND THE DEMAND SIGNAL FOR SUPPORT IN SCHOOLS AND WITH VARIOUS ASSOCIATIONS IS CONTINUING TO GROW. DOCENTS AND VOLUNTEERS HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN OR CO-LEAD SOME OF THESE EVENTS WITH OUR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

POINTS OF CONTACT:  
OFFICER IN CHARGE AND SFM DIRECTOR: BRYAN.R.CHAPMAN@US.NAVY.MIL  
DOCENT COORDINATOR AND SECURITY MANAGER: ELBERTON.A.MIXON@US.NAVY.MIL  
EVENT SCHEDULING AND MUSEUM USE REQUESTS: LINDA.E.WILLIAMS@US.NAVY.MIL  
EDUCATION DIRECTOR (ACTING): KEVIN.WILLY@US.NAVY.MIL  
RESEARCH AND ARCHIVES: WENDY.S.GULLEY@US.NAVY.MIL

US NAVY  
SUBMARINE  
FORCE MUSEUM  
USS Nautilus (SSN 571)

\* INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A GENERAL BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION.

**Henry Breault Golf Tournament in Putnam Needs USSVI Representation!**



**We Want  
You!**

**HENRY BREAULT**  
**MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT**  
*Golf Tournament*



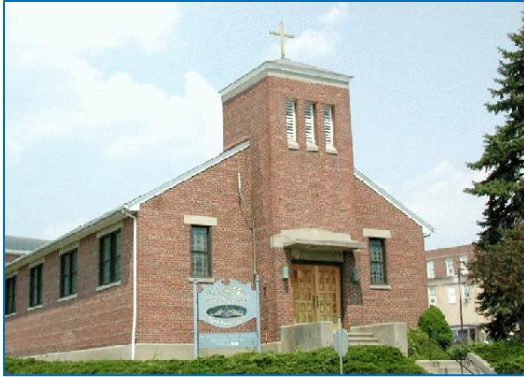
*TM2 Henry Breault receiving the Medal of Honor from President Calvin Coolidge at the White House in 1924.*

**Monday**  
**August 17, 2026**  
**9 AM**  
**Connecticut National**  
**Golf Club**  
**Putnam, CT**



**Mayotte-Viens**  
**American Legion**  
**Post #13-Putnam, CT**

## 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.”

## The Groton Sail Foundation

**Help us build a monument!**  
<https://grotonsail.com/donate/>

*Dedicated to the men and women who design, build, operate and maintain submarines, and the families and communities who support them*



**PURCHASE A PAVER TO HELP BUILD A LASTING TRIBUTE TO OUR SUBMARINE COMMUNITY**



**THE USS GROTON SAIL MONUMENT**

Visit the Groton Sail Foundation for the latest edition of the USS GROTON Sail Foundation Newsletter.

[Contact Us – Groton Sail Foundation](#)

If you would like to make a donation towards the project, please visit <https://grotonsail.org/donate/>

**Submarine Base New London Retired Activities Office**

Building 83, Room 10  
P.O. Box 93  
Groton, CT 06349



RAO is desperately looking for new volunteers to become part of the few that man the office in Bldg. 83.

This office hosts the annual Retiree Appreciation Day in October.

If anyone is interested in volunteering at the RAO, they should contact the FFSC. (860) 694-3383 and the folks there will be able to contact Phil DeRose.