



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

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Havin a heat wave, a tropical heat wave here at the Submarine Capital of the World! The Executive Board, and I send our well wishes to all U.S. Submarine Veterans and hope you have a fantastic month of August with family gatherings and fun in the sun. Remember to stay hydrated and cool down in the air-conditioned clubhouse.

Some very significant events happened in the month of August for the U.S. Submarine service and with Boat Notes.



USS Nautilus (SSN-571) — was the world's first nuclear-powered submarine and the first submarine to complete a submerged transit of the North Pole on 3 August 1958.

As part of an exploratory voyage to the Arctic region of the globe, the nuclear-powered Skate (SNN-578) becomes the first submarine to surface at the North Pole when its sail breaks through the ice on 11 August 1958.



August 28, 1905, President Roosevelt late this afternoon made a descent in Long Island sound on board the submarine torpedo boat Plunger. He was aboard the vessel about three hours. At one time the little boat was submerged for 50 minutes and in that time was put through all of the submarine feats of which she is capable.



August 29, 1863, the H.L. Hunley sank for the first time in Charleston Harbor. Constructed in Mobile, Alabama, the vessel made its way to Charleston in the summer of 1863 in an effort to disrupt the Union naval blockade of the city.

As I said last month it is a big year for the Submarine Service. Come on down, enjoy the cool temps, camaraderie, and renew some friendship. Pride Runs Deep!

*The above information and images were taken from the Naval History and Heritage Command website.*

## **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."

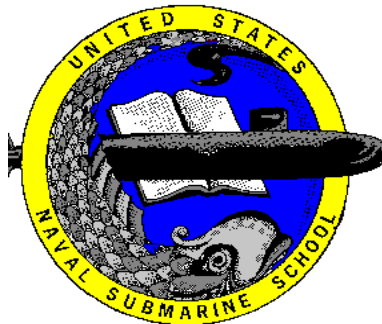
### Lost Boats – August

 <p>The logo for USS Bullhead (SS-332) features a yellow bull's head with horns, swimming in a dark blue oval. Below the oval, the text "U.S.S. BULLHEAD - S.S. 332" is written in black.</p>	<p><b>USS Bullhead (SS-332)</b></p>	<p>Lost on August 6, 1945, with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane. Bullhead was the last submarine lost during WWII.</p>
 <p>The logo for USS Flier (SS-250) is circular with a blue background. It depicts a black and white bee-like character with wings, standing on a yellow surfboard. The text "USS FLIER SS-250" is written around the top inner edge of the circle.</p>	<p><b>USS Flier (SS-250)</b></p>	<p>Lost on August 13, 1944, with the loss of 78 crew members while on her 2nd war patrol. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days later friendly natives guided them to a Coast Watcher and they were evacuated by the USS Redfin (SS-272).</p>
 <p>The logo for USS S-39 (SS-144) is circular with a black border. It shows a pig in a yellow boat, holding a large grey object. In the background, a red sun is rising over a black silhouette of a ship. The text "PIGBOAT 39" is at the top and "SS-144" is at the bottom.</p>	<p><b>USS S-39 (SS-144)</b></p>	<p>Lost on August 13, 1942, after grounding on a reef south of Rossel Island while on her 3rd war patrol. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by HMAS Katoomba.</p>
 <p>The logo for USS Harder (SS-257) is circular with a red border. It features a blue fish-like creature holding a red surfboard and a white cup. The text "U.S.S. HARDER SS-257" is at the top and "HIT 'EM HARDER" is at the bottom.</p>	<p><b>USS Harder (SS-257)</b></p>	<p>Lost on August 24, 1944, with the loss of 79 crew members from a depth charge attack by a minesweeper near Bataan while on her 6th war patrol. Harder had won a Presidential Unit Citation for her first 5 war patrols and CDR Dealey was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. Harder is tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk.</p>

	<b>USS Cochino (SS-345)</b>	<p>Lost on August 26, 1949, after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway caused an electrical fire and battery explosion that generated hydrogen and chlorine gasses. In extremely bad weather, men of Cochino and Tusk (SS-426) fought to save the submarine for 14 hours. After a 2nd battery explosion, Abandon Ship was ordered and Cochino sank. Tusk's crew rescued all of Cochino's men except for one civilian engineer. Six sailors from Tusk were lost during the rescue.</p>
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### Plan of the Month, August 2025

Date	Time	Action	Description
8/4	6:30 pm	Meeting	Monthly Meeting
8/7	7:00 pm	Meeting	SCMC
8/8	8:00 pm	Event	Karaoke
8/12	11:00	Private Event	Sea Leopard Lunch
8/16	10:00	Event	Military Appreciation Day at Ocean Beach
8/17	10:00	Event	Rickover Brunch
8/19	11:30	Meeting	Holland Club Luncheon
8/22	11:00	Private Event	USS Fulton Lunch
8/23	11:30	Private Event	Cambell Commissioning Reception
8/24	10:00	Event	SUBSCOL Brunch (dry)
9/6	10:00	Event	80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WWII Ceremony



*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 three graduations held on 11 & 25 July. I would like to thank SubSchool leadership for allowing us to participate in this milestone event.

The following information is for BESS Class 25320, named after the USS Houston SSN 713. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links for additional details.



USS Houston (SSN-713), a Los Angeles-class attack submarine, was the fourth ship of the United States Navy to be named for Houston, Texas. The contract to build her was awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Newport News, Virginia on 1 August 1975 and her keel was laid down on 29 January 1979. She was launched on 21 March 1981 sponsored by Barbara Bush, wife of then Vice-President of the United States George H. W. Bush. Houston was commissioned on 25 September 1982.

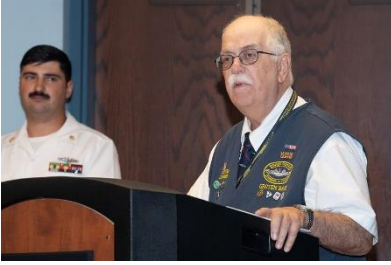
USS Houston was featured in the motion picture "The Hunt for Red October" representing USS Dallas (SSN-700). As the storyline went, she executed an "emergency blow" to avoid the enemy torpedoes fired at the Soviet submarine Red October. This was done by forcing high pressure air into the her ballast tanks, bringing extreme buoyancy, and causing her to literally "leap" from the water.

More on the USS Houston SSN 713 can be found [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Houston\\_\(SSN-713\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Houston_(SSN-713)), and <https://www.hullnumber.com/SSN-713>

The July 11<sup>th</sup> BESS Class named after USS Houston SSN 713 had 84 students 18 of which are from the Royal Australian Navy. The class average was 81% and 12 graduated with Distinction. 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, STS2(SS) Farrell, and ETV1(SS) Murphy. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool Commanding Officer, Captain Chance Litton. Guest Speaker was SLC Command Master Chief Norm Clarke. SubSchool Chaplain, LT Levels gave the Invocation and Benediction.





USSVI Groton Base and Holland Club Chairman, Master Chief John Carcioppolo, USN Retired, was the SubVet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SR(SU) Christopher Simpson. 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 MMACS(SS) Lee to SR(SU) Jessica Maynard. 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 SR(SU) Brady Jordan by SubSchool CO, Captain Litton. 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 Norm Clarke to SR(SU) Alexander Jankowski. 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.



Heritage Award: SR(SU) Christopher Simpson



William H. Purdum Award: SR(SU) Jessica Maynard



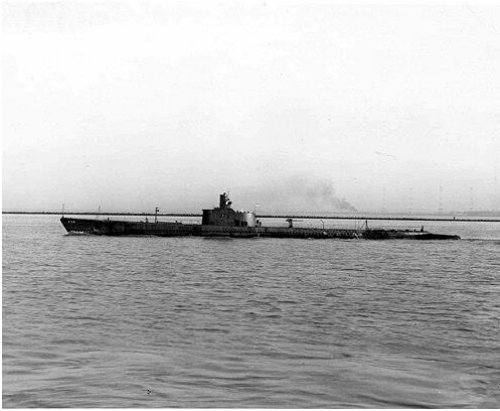
Jordan

Honor Graduate:



SR(SU) Brady  
Core Value Award: SR(SU) Alexander Jankowski

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, the BESS class that graduated was named after the USS Silversides (SS-236).



USS Silversides (SS/AGSS-236) is a Gato-class submarine, the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the silversides.

Silversides was one of the most successful submarines in the Pacific Theater of World War II, with 23 confirmed sinkings, totalling more than 90,000 long tons (91,444 t) of shipping. She received a Presidential Unit Citation for cumulative action over four patrols, and twelve battle stars. She presently serves as a museum ship in Muskegon, Michigan, and is a National Historic Landmark.

Her keel was laid down on 4 November 1940, by the Mare Island Navy Yard in Vallejo, California. She was launched on 26 August 1941, sponsored by Mrs. Elizabeth H. Hogan, and commissioned on 15 December 1941, with Lieutenant Commander Creed C. Burlingame in command.

After fitting out and a shakedown cruise to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Silversides departed on her first war patrol on 30 Apr 1942. While still transiting to her assigned patrol area, Silversides experienced in her first combat when she encountered a Japanese picket boat 600 miles from Japan. Silversides engaged the craft with her 3-inch deck gun as the patrol boat returned fire with machine guns and rifles. The Japanese boat was set afire and withdrew but not before one member of Silversides' gun crew was shot and killed by a machine gun bullet. Torpedoman Mate 3rd-class Mike Harbin was not only Silversides' first fatality of the war during the boat's first combat of the war, he would remain the boat's only fatality of the war.

On her tenth war patrol off the Marianas Islands, Silversides destroyed six enemy vessels for more than 14,000 tons of enemy shipping. Her eleventh war patrol was not as productive, but Silversides managed to rescue sister submarine USS Salmon (SS-182) that had been badly damaged by depth charge attacks. While Salmon was under attack, Silversides deliberately drew the attention of the enemy then quickly dove to escape their gunfire. Soon submarines USS Trigger (SS-237) and USS Sterlet (SS-392) joined Silversides in guarding and escorting the stricken submarine back to Saipan for repairs. On her twelfth war patrol in the East China Sea, few worthwhile targets were encountered, however, on 25 January 1945, Silversides sent a spread of torpedoes at 4,556-ton Japanese cargo ship Malay Maru sending it below the waves.

After the war, Silversides set sail for New London, Connecticut, where she was decommissioned on 17 April 1946, and placed in reserve until 15 October 1947. She was then placed in service as a training ship for naval reservists at Chicago, Illinois, for the remainder of her service. Her name was stricken from the Navy list on 30 June 1969. The South Chicago Chamber of Commerce promptly applied to the U.S. Navy for custody of Silversides to preserve her as a memorial. In 1987, the submarine was moved to Muskegon, Michigan, to serve as the centerpiece of the Great Lakes Naval Memorial & Museum. Silversides is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and as a National Historic Landmark. The museum is now known as the USS Silversides Submarine Museum.

More on the USS Nautilus can be found at [Silversides \(SS-236\)](#), [USS Silversides \(SS-236\) - Wikipedia](#) and [Submarine Silversides \(SS-236\) | World War II Database](#).



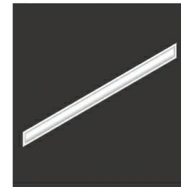
The USS Silversides (SS-236), class #25340 had 92 students with an average of 80% and 4 students graduating with distinction. Congratulations and “Well Done.” These future Submariners have finished that first significant milestone in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments ranging from “A” School to direct assignment to their first submarine. A big shout out to the instructors for this class for teaching them and giving them insight to their future onboard submarines. Thank you for using your background training and experience in training these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was Sonar School, STCS(SS) Verant. MMACS(SS) David Lee, SubSchool Department Head was the Guest Speaker. SubSchool Chaplain LT Level gave Invocation and Benediction.



USSVI Groton Base and Region Director Northeast, STCS(SS) Jeff Walsh, USN Retired was the SubVets Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to CSSSR(SU) Francis Renz Esteban. The Heritage Award is given to the student who demonstrates the performance of their duties above and beyond the call of the average student.

The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented to SR(SU) William McCafferty, by SubSchool Department Head, Senior Chief Lee. 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 by Senior Chief Lee to SR(SU) Turner Molenaar. 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 to LSSSN(SU) Judith Gnecco, by STCS(SS) Verant. This award is giving 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 Sailor joining our organization when they receive their fish.

## BESS Graduation Schedule

Here is the current graduation schedule for BESS. There are still many dates available to be the SubVet Representative. If interested please let me know.

### BESS Graduation Schedule SubVet Representative

Class No.	Class Name	Command Rep	Guest Speaker	SUBVETS Rep	Graduation Date	Notes
25360	Sea Leopard (SS-483)	DOT		Chris Callahan	2025-AUG-08	
25380		CO		Bud Atkins	2025-AUG-22	
25400		XO		John Carcioppolo	2025-SEP-05	
25420		CMC		Bob Sharpe	2025-SEP-19	
25440		DOT			2025-OCT-03	
25500	USS Dallas	CO		John Carcioppolo	2025-OCT-17	
25520		XO		Steve Ricard	2025-OCT-31	
25540		CMC		Bob Sharpe	2025-NOV 14	
25600		DOT		John Carcioppolo	2025-DEC 5	

We have also been asked to support Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) and Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC). Again if you see a date that you would like to be the SubVet Representative at one or more of these graduations, please let me know.

#### Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) Dates:

25060 Graduate on 12 September: Bob Sharpe

#### Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC) Dates:

25030 Graduate on 15 Aug 2025 Bill Sheehan

25050 Graduate on 12 Dec 2025: Bob Sharpe

26010 Graduate on 01 May 2026

26030 Graduate on 14 Aug 2026

26050 Graduate on 11 Dec 2026

25040 Graduate on 24 Oct 2025 Steve Ricard

25060 Graduate on 20 Feb 2026

26020 Graduate on 18 Jun 2026

26040 Graduate on 23 Oct 2026

## 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 Tuesday-Friday 1100-1900 with lunch served from 1100 – 1430 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Thanks to Heather, Ashley, Jessica, Erin and Julz for all the hard work, dedication and for keeping our clubhouse a go to destination. August there are changes coming to the galley. Please stand by for rough seas as we try to replace the freezer in the pantry.

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

Stop in and renew some old friendships. **Speaking of renewing, time to renew your Groton Base and USSVI National memberships.** We are also hosting “Happy Hour” Tuesday & Wednesday 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Come on down and try some drink specials.

It was an amazing 4th of July Parade here in Groton CT. The weather was amazing and with the "People Mover" loaded with SubVets, candy, flags, and the "Diving Alarm" we hit the parade route. Young Sailors from SubSchool and the SubSchool Silver Dolphins rounded out the group of over 80 marchers. After the parade everyone set sail for the clubhouse for the after party and burger burn.

We have heard that the Army marches on their stomachs. Well, it's no different in with Navy. The SubVets family and friends did a fantastic job in putting on a great after parade "Burger Burn". A big thanks to Paul Skalski, Jim Lawton, and Steve Chisholm for manning the galley to feed these hungry Sailors. Bravo Zulu to the following for whipping up great sides, desserts, decorating the hall, and after party cleanup.

Dee & John Carcioppolo

Estelle Rivera

Sue & Bob Sharpe

Marilyn & Bob Gustafson

Isabel Sturtz

Marian Galbraith

Shirley Patenaude & Denna

Sandra Butcher

Gretchen Glaub

Elaine Ricard

Gloria Maynard

Anne McMullen

Lorreta & Chris Albanese

Carol Skalski

Christine Medberry

Obie Hill

Susie & Maury Price

Steve Chisholm & Jean Petryshyn

Fran & Al Kinsall



On Monday July 7th we held our Monthly

Membership meeting at 1830 in the hall. Over 40 members joined the monthly meeting both in person and via Zoom. Thank you for joining us each month.

Swearing in ceremony was held for Jr. Vice, Jim Lawton and Base Commander, Steve Ricard



Executive Board members gave updates on the status of the club finances, and upcoming events to be held at the clubhouse. Each chairperson provided updates on committee activities during the month and plans for the upcoming months.

Prior to the meeting, a social hour/holiday stress relief was held in the pump room. Hot dogs and SubVet chili are available at a very reasonable price. 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 on Monday August 4th for our membership meeting starting at 1830. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting.



On Sunday 13 July the "non mess cooks" from SubSchool CPOA returned to the galley cooking up a wonderful Sunday Brunch. It was a quiet/subdude atmosphere with Senior Chief Wes Norton serving as the Maître d' all decked out in his Magnum PI Hawaiian shirt. Thanks again for support our submarine community.

On Tuesday July 15th, we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon where the house was packed with 60 attendees. Our guest speaker was from Navy Legal Service Office, LNC(SW/AW) Nina A. Kettles.



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



On Friday July 18<sup>th</sup> the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Dolphin Scholarship golf tournament was held at Pequot Golf Course. The Team representing SubVets Groton Base shot a respectable 8 under par....but did not even come close to the trophy. It was a beautiful day.



On Sunday 27 July our 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.

We have a lot of major events planned for the second half of 2025, 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**

Anyone having a boat reunion in the “Submarine Capital of the World” soon or coming up soon 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> Update:

Finding it difficult to find a good list of Submarine Reunions? So, 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>

Big thanks to the USS Houston SSN 713, for hosting their reunion meet and greet at the club. Thanks to the USS Memphis SSN 691 for stopping in to renew friendships and to see the Joe Negri clubhouse.

**SENIOR VICE COMMANDER**

**Robert Perritt**

Greetings Shipmates,

As planned, we continued to work on the Groton Base Membership program during May. I wish I could write some interesting and exciting news about the progress we’re making, but that’s not to be I’m afraid. We are adding new features and reports weekly, driven by ideas from our Base Treasurer.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please feel free to contact me at [vice@ussvigroton.org](mailto:vice@ussvigroton.org)

Bob Perritt  
Vice Commander

**JR VICE COMMANDER**

**Jim Lawton**

Hello Shipmates,

**Clubhouse hours (starting 3/1/2025)**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

**11:00 – 19:00**

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

**Lunch hours (Kitchen Closed, will return soon)**

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

**Happy Hour**

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

I have more or less relieved Paul Skalski as Jr Vice, as I was sworn in during the July monthly meeting. I am not one to make excuses, but there is a great deal to learn, and I will work hard to learn everything that is involved in the operation of the Clubhouse.

We just had to let our cook go. I am sad to report this, but we are finding that the summer business was very lacking, and it did not make financial sense to keep the kitchen open. Currently we are planning to re-open the kitchen for lunches in the first week of October. If anything changes, emails and Facebook notices will be broadcast.

Please support our new Jr Vice Jim Lawton.

**The needs of a few do not outweigh the needs of the many.**

**Be Part of the Solution, VOLUNTEER**

**Jim Lawton**

*Jr. Vice Commander*

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

860.984.5497

**BASE SECRETARY****David Frease**

The July Meeting was attended in person by (in person (28) and Zoom (10)) for a total of 38 members.

**BASE ELECTIONS 2025**

Base Secretary swore in Jim Lawton as Base Jr. Vice Commander.

Region Director Northeast (Jeff Walsh) swore in Base Commander Steve Ricard for 3<sup>rd</sup> term.

**David Frease****Base Secretary**[secretary@ussvigroton.org](mailto:secretary@ussvigroton.org)**BASE TREASURER****Charlie Murray****LOOKS LIKE THERE IS JUST NO INTEREST IN BEING OUR TEASURER.**

- I will remain on temporarily until we can nominate another person. This is workable if we can get a few people to help out with fundraising and updating records.

AS AN ALTERNATIVE I'm working to establish a committee of individuals to manage aspects of our finances. It's a great opportunity to do more for the club and to share your creativity.

Committee members:

Online eBay coordination – Bill Cavanagh

- Bill did this back in 2024; it involves offering plagues for donations.
- Prior to the August Holland Club luncheon, we will box up any plagues we have for Bill to stage these for future processing on eBay.
- We will consider expanding this going forward.

Memorabilia – photos and documents – Marian Galbraith

- Marian will go thru the boxes of photos and documents to assess their value.
- Timeframe to do this will be August thru September
- Tentatively we are considering hanging some of these on the stairwell to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

Donor communications – Harold Haugland Sr

- Harold will make calls back to donors who write to us when submitting their donations.

Looking for:

Media coordinator

- This could include ensuring more visibility to members and the submarine community.

Fund raising coordinator.

- This will include ensuring tracking and thank you messages to all our donors.

These activities will require cleaning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor storage area, remove obsolete or unusable materials, and rearrange the area to improve storage. This may include limiting access to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor storage area to provide more security for any items we need to safely store

### **THIS IS THE NEW OPPORTUNITY.**

1. DONATIONS – looking for 2 to 3 people to collaborate with me to manage our 2 donation appeals. Work isn't difficult and can be done from home. This is important because keeping the doors open depends on donations and the goodwill of our members.
2. MANAGEMENT OF OUR FUNDS – looking for at least 1 person to collaborate with me to ensure bills are paid and that funds are available to pay our staff. Work isn't difficult and can be done from home.

### **STILL VERY IMPORTANT SO PLEASE READ – VOLUNTEER OR NOMINATE SOMEONE**

We will continue **searching for a new treasurer** and collaborating with me now to give you exposure to our records and accounts and assume the position in the future.

I'm available now to help train anyone who is interested in doing this. If you are interested, please contact me. This is your opportunity to provide leadership to the Groton organization.

**2025 ANNUAL APPEAL** officially has ended but we accept donations all year.

We received permission from donors to identify their participation (we will not publish the donation amounts). Many of our donors have given us their permission.

The Annual Appeal is an ask for your support to keep the Clubhouse open. It's more than a place to have a quick lunch or after work beverage. It's, in fact, a reminder to all of us of all the Lost Boats and all the past members who are now on Eternal Patrol. There is just history on every floor and it's your history.

### **COMMENTS FROM OUR DONORS**

#### **BATHROOM RENOVATIONS**

We have received more interest in our contract again, but we need the funds to go forward, BUT we have received 5 donations since last month. We appreciate it very much.

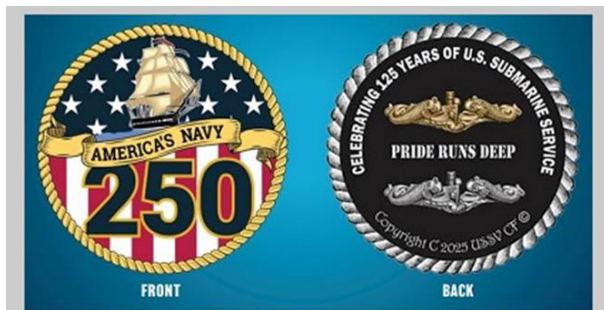
We offer our building for many submarine-related events, but we need to continue to improve our facilities. I don't think any of us consider our clubhouse to have 2<sup>nd</sup>-rate facilities or services. Yet we have limited bathroom facilities, which limits availability to our membership.

**HALL BATHROOM IS THE PRIORITY.** WHY does the Hall bathroom first? Because we believe it will be an asset in renting or in any use of the Hall. We now do retirements, pinning ceremonies, family parties but we will be able to get more disabled people to use the space, we can work to get organizations like the Blood Bank to use the Hall. I've spoken to member wives who tell me that while both bathrooms are needed, they want the hall installed as soon as possible.

The more we do with other organizations, the more visibility we will have within the Navy and Groton communities.

ADDITIONAL Coins

1. Available now for \$20 – 250 & 125 anniversary coin designed for National.



2. Pending should be available late in August – a 125 Anniversary coin designed for Groton. The dolphin will be replaced with one silver and one gold, similar to the one above. NOTE: there is a pending change to this coin, copy not available as of July 30



For 2026 – if you would like to submit a design please send it to the Treasurer so we can consider your ideas.

We will be considering ordering more of the above coins or creating a new one. We will keep you informed.

### **YOU 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

Option 4: You can donate online at <https://www.ussvcf.org/donate.html>.

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.
2. Option to get donations applied to the Brotherhood Fund

[https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause\\_pdetails/MTc1MjU4](https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTc1MjU4) Brotherhood

If you need more information about any fund-raising options, please contact [Treasurer@ussvigothon.org](mailto:Treasurer@ussvigothon.org)

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***2025 Listing of 466 Donors - The following donors have given permission to publish their names.***

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We appreciate the donors and support from our members, all SubVets, submarine families and local businesses.

PayPal donors are not included - decision to publish names not chosen as an option by donor.

Additionally, many Anonymous donors (names not included).

Additionally, 20+ members did not want their names shown.

Over 950 members have not donated as of July 29, 2025.

## USSVI Base Annual Activity Report

<b>Restrict your input to the number of events/activities only.            Itemize and Enter any significant event details in item #8 below.</b>			
1	<b>Average Number of Base Members Attending Meetings (Members Only - Not Guest)</b>		Annual Average
	Average	# Base Members	Attended Meeting
	June	1137	38      3%
	July	1143	48      4%
	August	1142	42      4%
	September	1151	47      4%
	October	1158	46      4%
	November	1164	36      3%
	December	1163	45      4%
	January	1174	43      4%
	February	1179	43
		4%	
	March	1187	43      4%
	April	1088	45      4%
	May	1094	33      3%
	Number of Meetings      12		
2	Public Events/Ceremonies Attended:		
		a. Parades	1
		b. Submarine Events	4
		c. Memorial Dedications	1
		d. Community	2
		e. Other: Flag raising, 9-11 ceremony	2
3	Base/District Events:		
		a. Eagle Scout Presentations	8
		b. K4K Events	31
		c. School Presentations	4
		d. Color Guard Duty	10
		e. Eternal Patrol Duty	1
4	Awards:		
		a. National/Regional/District/Recognition of Base	
		b. National/Regional/District/Base Recognition of Base Members	2
		c. USSVI Longevity pins awarded (By Base)	
		d. Holland Club Inductions (# Base Members Inducted)	41

5	Base Member Loses during Reporting Period:	a. Eternal Patrol	22
		b. Transfer	50
		c. Non-Renewal	
		Total	72
6	New Base Members Recruited: (Not transfers from other Bases, non-primary members, or late Renewals)		48
7	Monetary Contributions Made by Base: (Number of contributions made - Not Monetary Value)		4

**OPTIONAL: Significant Comments if Needed for Above Activities Please do not include minute details, keep comments as short as possible**

	<p>Groton Base provides the Submarine Veteran Representative to 24 Basic Enlisted Submarine School. Our role is to read the Shipmate Remembrance and to present the Submarine Heritage Award to the student who demonstrates the performance of their duties above and beyond the call of the average student. Groton Base provides the Submarine Veteran Representative to both the Submarine Officer Basic and Advance Courses. Our role is to read the "Shipmate Remembrance." To date we have attended 7 graduations.</p> <p>Monetary Contributions Made by Base additional information: Holiday donations of turkeys to local Navy families provided over 900 meals to go Thanksgiving meals for submarine duty sections, first responders, local Veterans, and neighbors. We also had over 350 meals served at the club to SubSchool students, family members and friends.</p>
8	<p>Additional info on Honors Detail Eternal Patrol 22 Honors Detail 10 Eternal Light 1 Submarine Homecomings 3</p>
	<p>Additional info on Holland Club</p> <p>HOLLAND CLUB Holland Club Ceremony 7 June 2023 Total Inducted 41 Note 1 Included one member who was a member of DALLAS Base Note 2 Included 2 members who were dual Members of other bases. Note 3 1 Member was dropped from the list of inductees due to non-payment of Base Dues despite name</p>

Info on meals served and events on site 2024 period.

June- 559 meals, 2 in-house, 9 privates  
 July- 474 meals, 2 in house, 6 privates  
 August - 536 meals, 3 in house, 8 privates  
 September - 623 meals, 3 in house, 19 privates  
 October - 757 meals, 3 in house, 16 privates  
 November - 433 meals, 4 in house, 9 privates  
 December - 404 meals, 3 in house, 11 privates

info on meals served and events on site 2025 period.

January- 732 meals, 4 in house, 9 private  
 February - 545 meals, 3 in house, 7 private  
 March- 698 meals, 3 in house, 9 private  
 April- 577 meals, 3 in house, 15 private  
 May- 589 meals, 5 in house, 11 private

## 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 22 June 2025. There was 1 Honors Detail

**ENC(SS) Edward R. Russell** Passed 16 June 2025 – Honors Detail 3 July 2025. Participants: John Carcioppolo, Earl Colella, Rob Davis, Alex Doucette, Bob Dulin, Bob Gustafson, Jim Lawton, Bob Sharpe  
**ENCSS(SS) Fred R. Stafford** Passed 18 March 2021 – There will be a combined Honors Detail for Fred and an Eternal Light Ceremony for his wife Dolly Stafford who recently passed on 21 June. The Celebration of Life for both will be on 13 September 2025 at their

residence at 783 Buddington Road in Groton. We will muster at 1145 and start the Celebration of Life at noon.

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 doesn'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.

**RED HAT CEREMONIES** On 5 July we welcomed home the USS DELAWARE (SSN 791) home from an extended deployment. It was a beautiful day and a great turn-out. The following people participated in the Homecoming: Bo Bowman; Dee Carcioppolo; Rick Chihocki; Rich Cheatham; Alex Doucette; Bob Dulin; Riley French; John & Gretchen Glaub; Harold & Kirk Haugland; Mike Hagerman; Dennis Hopkins; Jim Lawton; Al & Fran Kinsall; Denna Patenaude; Shirley Patenaude; Rick Poole; Steve & Elaine Ricard; Sue & Bob Sharpe; Paul & Carol Skalski and Joe Wread.



There will be two homecomings in the fall before Thanksgiving. Watch your emails for word on Homecomings.

I often receive requests to be added to Homecoming notifications.

I do not have a specific email list for homecomings. I just send 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.*

### **August 2025 Holland Club Report**

Welcome to the Dog Days of Summer

**LUNCHEONS** Our Jul Holland Club Luncheon had 71 people in attendance. That is the largest group we have had for our Holland Club Lunch to date. That's GREAT. The bad news is that we had 62 RSVPs and 9 walk-ins. This resulted in several folks having to sit in the bar area. Additionally, there was not enough salad for everyone to go around.

The Dining Room capacity is restricted to 64 people by the fire code. At past luncheons, we have added chairs and even a table to accommodate the extra people who show up. This endangers not only our guests, but our students who are walking around the room serving and cleaning up.

We certainly could hold the luncheon upstairs in the hall, which would accommodate more people. But with no bathroom facilities up there it is a real inconvenience to you, our guests. Plus, there are other logistics which are not insurmountable, but my main concern is no bathroom facilities. Especially for the women who attend with the rest room all the way downstairs, through the bar and the dining room. That is a definite inconvenience.

When we have a bathroom upstairs, we will drop back and punt and change how we do our Holland Club Luncheons to accommodate more people.

Starting with the August Holland Club Luncheon, I will implement new policies to conduct our monthly luncheons.

I will take reservations as I have in the past, but I will cut off the lunches when I have RSVPs for 55 people. Beyond 55 people will be placed on a standby listing until we are at 64 people. People who do not RSVP will have to eat at the tables in the bar area.

If there are no show's we will fill the seats in the dining room until we are at capacity.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I'm open to any suggestions on how we can do business better.

Our Guest Speaker was LNC(SW/AC) Nina A. Kettles. Chief Kettles is the Senior Enlisted Leader at the Regional Legal Service Office on SUBASE. She gave a great briefing on what her Sailors at RLSO do and the services provided for Retirees.

50-50 was won by Donna Conahan who won \$165 and donated it all back to the Holland Club. Thank you, Donna.

Many thanks to Carlene and Ashley for a great meal with some great help from SUBSCHOOL Students SA Dakota D. Reno from TN; SA Warren Shaw from TX; SA Jonathan Diers; and a return student who was here last month SN Christina Ingram.



**SUBSCHOOL Students L-R SA Diers, SA Reno,  
SA Reno, SA Ingram**

**LNC(SW/AC} Nina A. Kettles**

We have speakers booked out through September. Upcoming speakers are as follows:

- **19 Aug Guest Speaker** Captain Kenneth Curtin, CO Naval Submarine Base and CMDCM(SS) Gary Stephenson. The menu will be hot dogs, hamburgers, beans, and potato salad.
- **23 September Guest Speaker** Mike Holland, Retired Rear Admiral. Please note the date. Our Holland Club Luncheons are normally on the third Tuesday of the month. However, because of the Chief Petty Officer Pinning's throughout the day on 16 September, I have moved the September Holland Club Luncheon back a week. This is for September only. In October we will go back to the third Tuesday of the month.
- I have invited the new Admiral at Undersea Warfare Development Center (UWDC) RDML John Stafford to be our guest speaker for October, November, or December. The Admiral has committed to speak at whichever his schedule can support. His staff is reviewing his schedule and will confirm which one works.

**HOLLAND CLUB 2026** We are already starting our planning for our 2026 HOLLAND Club Induction Ceremony. At a recent meeting with the SUBASE Leadership Team it was agreed that the 2026 Ceremony will be on Saturday, 6 June 2026. Mark your calendars and plan accordingly.

The following is the initial listing of 34 people we have identified right now that will be inducted on 6 June 2026: MMCM(SS) James J. Bargmann; TM1(SS) Charles Boynton; RM2(SS) Stephen D. Chickering; MM2(SS) Earl Colella; MM2(SS) Gerald Cyrul; MMC(SS) Douglas R. Delgado; FTG1(SS) Richard Eberle; IC3(SS) Bryan J. Ersek; CAPT Leo O. Falardeau; IC2(SS) George J Fetkin; ETN2(SS) Gary R. Francis; MM1(SS) Al Jagaczewski; EM1(SS) Tom Kelly; MMC(SS) James Kenyon; MT1(SS) Robert William Lary, Jr.; HTCM(SS) David LeJeune; LT Bruce E. Lobach; CWO3 William F Longman; QM3(SS) David A. Mapes; CDR John A. Moulson; STS1(SS) William J. Ramey; STS1(SS) Bobby V. Rogers; MSC(SS) Jeremiah D Ross; TM2(SS) Duane W. Russell; BRGEN Mark Russo; QMC(SS) Alton

Seamon; MM1(SS) Stuart W. Temple; MTC(SS) Stephen W. Thompson; ICCS(SS) John Tippet; EM1(SS/DV) Mark D Van Der Voort; MSSC(SS) Reginald I. White; TMCS(SS) Billy Whitehead; MM1(SS) Chuck Wilmot;

**If you Qualified before 1976 and have not been inducted into the Holland Club or Qualified in 1976 and are not on this list, please contact me at the earliest opportunity.**

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

### **VJ DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY**

August 15<sup>th</sup> is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victory over Japan. On 2 September, the Japanese formerly surrender on 2 September 1945.

On Saturday 6 September U.S. Submarine Veterans Groton Base will hold a Ceremony at the to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WWII. Details are still being worked out, but the date of the ceremony is definite. Time and location to be determined. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be at the Groton Municipal Building on Meridian Street. Let's get a great turn-out for this significant event as we pay tribute to our heroes from the Greatest Generation.

**USS DALLAS (SSN 700) 2025 Reunion** – Reunion for all crew members from Plank Owners to Decom Crew. 16 – 18 October 2025 Groton CT. Contact John “Gumba” Carcioppolo [gumba700@comcast.net](mailto:gumba700@comcast.net) for more information.

### **COLOR GUARD**

**Bob Sharpe**

On Friday July 4, 2025, the Naval Submarine School Silver Dolphin’s Color Guard presented the colors, the Drill Team provided demonstrations of close order drills, and the Submarine School students carried the U. S. Submarine Veterans of World War II Memorial – East’s Lost Boats flags during the Town of Groton’s 4th of July parade..

Groton Base Color Guard members were present, some walking and some riding on the member’s float while providing candy and miniature America Flags to the kids.

I am the co-chairman for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Victory in Japan discussed above. I’ll be looking for 3 - 4 flag carriers for this event.

Preferred Uniform:	Black pants	White shirt, long sleeve, SubVet Dolphin tie
	SubVet vest	Black shoes
		Garrison cap

Please let me know if you are planning on attending this event and can support being part of this detail.

As always, the Detail needs a few members to assist at scheduled events. If you are interested, please email me at [bobsharpe@hotmail.com](mailto:bobsharpe@hotmail.com) or on my Cell at (860) 501-6161 and leave a message.

## MEMBERSHIP

Vacant

### RENEW NOW FOR 2025

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](#)

New rates are \$80 /year (\$40 USSVI National and \$40 Groton Base).



### Membership Update

Members – 1,125  
 Life National Members – 865  
 Base Life Members - 372  
 Holland Club – 646  
 Associate Members – 62

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

New Active-Duty Members:

CMDMCM/MMNCM(SS) Jason S Hays Qual Boat USS City of Corpus Christi SSN 705 in 2005

CDR James M Wendler Qual Boat USS Tennessee SSBN 734 in 2006

MM1(SS) Nicholas N Nash II Qual Boat USS Columbus SSN 762 in 2021

ETNC(SS) Julian A Kjellander Qual Boat USS New Hampshire SSN 778 in 2010

MMAC(SS) Niklaus M Roberts Qual Boat USS Hawaii SSN 776 in 2014

### LOOKING FOR A MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

USSVI GROTON BASE “SILENT SERVICE” DMV LIAISON

Michael Hodges

Since last month’s update, I’ve responded to 4 email inquiries, mailed 1 plate application and instructions to an USSVI member, and sent 3 completed plate applications to the DMV.



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**

### **Upholding a Legacy: Why Your Donation to the USSVI Groton Base Scholarship Fund Matters**

The cost of a college education today is staggering. Tuition, room and board, books, and lab fees can easily add up to tens of thousands of dollars annually, placing an immense burden on families striving to provide a brighter future for their loved ones. For the dedicated members of the USSVI Groton Base, who have served our nation with honor, this financial hurdle can be particularly daunting for their families, especially when it comes to the dreams of their grandchildren.

This is where the USSVI Groton Base Scholarship Fund steps in, embodying the very spirit of the USSVI 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."

This powerful creed speaks to more than just remembrance; it calls for action. It's a solemn promise to honor those who served. And what greater accomplishment can there be than equipping the descendants of submarine sailors with the knowledge and skills to thrive in an ever-changing world?

Consider the immense sacrifice made by our shipmates. Their "dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice" paved the way for the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy today. By contributing to the USSVI Groton Base Scholarship Fund, you are directly investing in the future of the families who continue the legacy. You are helping to alleviate the crushing financial pressure of higher education, allowing these young people—including the sons, daughters, and grandchildren of active Groton Base members—to focus on their studies and pursue their academic dreams without the added stress of insurmountable debt.

Your donation is not merely a charitable act; it's an investment in perpetuating the values of service, sacrifice, and dedication that define the USSVI. It's a tangible way to ensure that the "constant source of motivation" mentioned in the creed translates into real-world opportunities for academic excellence and future success. By supporting these students, we are empowering them to achieve "greater accomplishments" in their own lives, reflecting the very essence of what our shipmates fought for.

Let's stand together to honor our shipmates not just in memory, but in action. Your contribution, no matter the size, directly impacts on the lives of deserving students and strengthens the fabric of our USSVI community. Help us ensure that the legacy of service continues to inspire and uplift future

generations.

Please make donations payable to the Groton Base Scholarship Fund today.

## MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

**Marian Galbraith**

New holly trees have been planted at the Memorial, twenty in total, The new trees will create an attractive backdrop to the Memorial. While we are awaiting the installation of the new irrigation, the Memorial Committee has been taking turns watering them on a daily basis.



## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**BRIAN HAGUE**

***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, can it get any hotter? There's a scam going around on text message saying you haven't paid your CT Toll charge. If I'm not mistaken tolls in CT ended in the 1980's. ***DON'T FALL FOR IT.***

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 health care - 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 KIDS (SS)**

**John Riley - National Chairman**



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

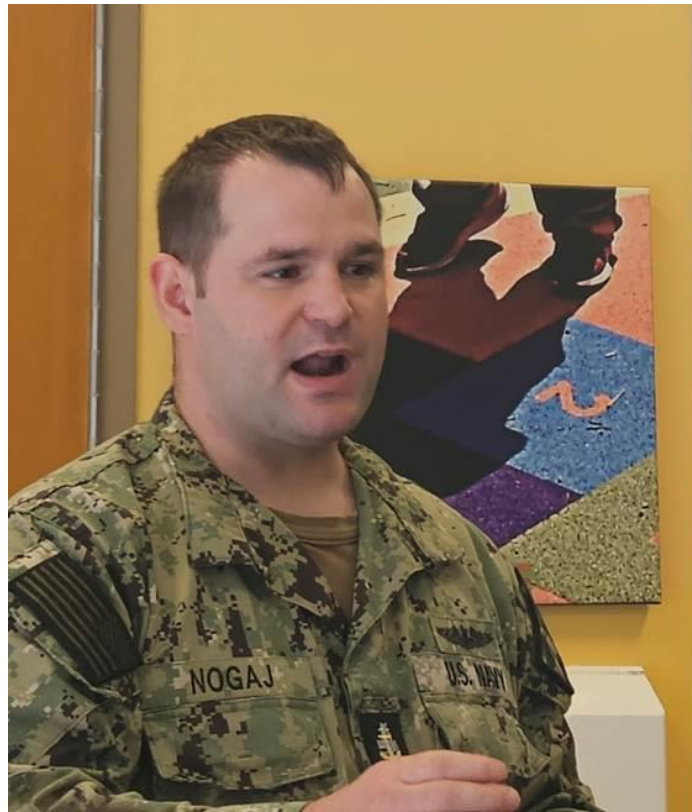
**Abraham Lincoln**

**Since 2009, at child health care facilities throughout Connecticut, the Groton Base's Kaps 4 Kids Program has brought Comfort and Joy to over 2,500 sick Kids and their families!**

**We visit Kids at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, Connecticut Children's Hospital, Yale New Haven Hospital's Child Psychiatric Units, The Ronald McDonald House and The Connecticut Hospice. We plan to continue this program as long as there are sick Kids in need of our support.**

On June 26th, the Groton Base Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Team of Jonathan Nogaj ITRCS(SS), Heath Spenser ITRCS (SS) [both Active Duty Submariners], and John Riley conducted a visit to 4 to 13-year-old Kids in Yale New Haven Hospital's Child Psychiatric Inpatient Unit. We have been engaging with and making the Kids in this unit Honorary Submariners for over 15 years!





As always, our visit was filled with fun and joy for both the Kids and the staff. We shared insights about life aboard a Submarine, showcased Submarine related pictures and videos, and answered their many questions with enthusiasm.

One memorable moment came at the end of our visit when a young girl, who had been particularly engaged and curious throughout our time together, expressed her gratitude. She said that it was the best day of her life, and that she will remember it forever! Her heartfelt words warmed our hearts and reaffirmed the impact of our visits!

We welcomed 3 new members of the staff. They were also excited to be made Honorary Submariners.



Previous Boat Notes shared the Amazing Story of 7-year-old Oban Birmingham's successful fight against a virulent form of cancer.



During his treatment, Bob Dulin, Bob Sharpe, and John Riley made Oban an Honorary Submariner.



He and his Dad were subsequently treated to a special visit to the Nautilus Submarine Museum, and a Surprise tour of a new Virginia-Class Submarine, the USS Indiana (SSN 789).



Oban is now 11 ½ years old, in full remission from cancer, and participates in various sports, including traveling team hockey, lacrosse, and soccer!



On June 28th, Oban and his Dad were greeted by Bob, Bob, and John at the Nautilus Submarine Museum and treated to a delightful tour by active duty Submariner John Gordan ET1 (SS).



After that tour, Oban was Surprised and thrilled to visit another Submarine, the USS Virginia (SSN 774). He was overjoyed because this was the very first Virginia-Class-Submarine, and he appreciated its great significance.

The day concluded with a shared lunch, during which Oban and his Dad were warmly encouraged to visit often.



**JOIN US IN BRINGING JOY TO SICK KIDS!**

**K4K: INFO / VIDEO / DONATE**

<https://www.ussvcf.org/kapss-4-kidss-fund.html>



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

**Public Affairs Officer (pao@ussvigroton.org)**

**Jim Lawton**

Karaoke Night Success!

Stop by for Karaoke on Friday, August 8, 8PM-Midnight !



After the last meeting Joe Wread approached me, informing me that it was often difficult to hear what is being put out. He told me about a theater he recently went to that was broadcasting the movie's audio out to the audience via Bluetooth to hearing aids. He also told me that he would be willing to purchase said technology should I find something to support this during our meeting. I was very surprised to hear this personally, as I was unaware of the use of this. I am happy to announce that I have found such a device! I have replaced this device and will have it for the meeting for August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Here are some details about the device I will be setting up, so you can be prepared:



HomeSpot BA210 v2 Bluetooth Auracast Transmitter, LC3, AptX Lossless, AptX HD, Optical & 3.5mm Inputs, Compatible with Galaxy Buds 2 Pro, Buds 3, JY300 JM320, Hearing Aids and Bluetooth Headphones

This table provides the details:

#### **Auracast-compatible Hearing Aids Supported by BA210 v2**

THROUGH MANUFACTURER'S APP	
Resound	Nexia / Savia / Vivia
Jabra	Enhance Pro 20 / Pro 30
Beltone	Serene / Envision / Commence
danalogic	Extend
Danavox	Brisa
NEED QK ASSISTANT / ANDROID BA	
Jabra	Enhance Select 500
StarKey	Edge AI

#### **LE Audio-capable hearing aids without Auracast and **\*\*NOT\*\*** supported by BA210 v2**

Rexton	Reach
--------	-------

Signia	Pure Charge&Go IX / Styletto IX / Active Pro IX
Widex	Allure
Oticon	Intent
Philips	Hearlink 9050

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 AUGUST BIRTHDAY LIST**

*Happy Birthday to All Who Continue to Celebrate*

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Date</b>		<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Ambrose	Kenneth R.	30		Lisee	Dennis F.	06
Barrows	Blair	01		MacDonald	Arthur R.	06
Basilio	Anthony C.	21		McCleer	James L.	14
Bekech	Ronald J.	19		Meaden	Thomas	12
Bell	Steven D.	07		Meloche Jr.	Raymond H.	27
Blevins	Jerry L.	13		Miarecki	Rick	27
Booth	Rodger	27		Miller	Lloyd M.	02
Bowler	John A.	20		Moran III	George T.	18
Brandon	Earl L.	26		Mosley	James M.	12
Brecheen	Damon K.	22		Murray	Derek	08
Brosig Jr.	Paul R.	22		Nott	Raymond L.	21
Callahan	Chris	16		Nowell	James R.	07
Cheatham	Richard Glenn	04		O'Shea	Thomas	05
Cialino	Charles	09		Oswald	William H.	17
Cocchiaro	Antonio A.	24		Parent	Phillipe J.	22
Colucci	Frank E.	27		Patterson	Mark	07
Colville	James P.	15		Pierce	Thomas E.	20
Dahlman, Jr.	Carl E.	13		Pratt	Henry	15
Day	Grant Paul	07		Quatroche	Anthony J.	22
Degnan	Joseph	19		Rehbach	John	12
Del Santo	Edward A.	16		Rowland, III	Jay M.	20
Demers	Joshua Joseph	01		Ryan Jr.	Joseph Wayne	08
Di Luzio	Joseph P.	15		Scarborough	Del	07
Dubay	Ted E.	27		Schmitz	Matthew G.	19
Dyer	Kory L.	16		Schneider	Timothy L.	26
Fankhauser	Samuel R.	25		Sharp	Robert J.	01

Finco	Steven A.	06		Shropshire	Waylan	28
Frederick III	Joseph John	07		Singer	Elisha	14
Galbraith	Marian	18		Singleman Jr.	Alfred	24
Godfrey Sr.	Curtis V.	21		Sisk	Wallace D.	13
Hammond	Barry L.	13		Smith	Keith	13
Hartline	Kenneth C.	23		Springer, Jr.	Roy M.	28
Henke	Radford P.	22		Stevens	Edmond P.	09
Hornok	William A.	08		Sturgis, Jr.	Talbot E.	20
Howell	Matthew	15		Szegda	Robert M.	26
Hunter	Gaylen E.	06		Torres	Christopher M.	13
Irwin	James	17		Tryon	Timothy	08
Isenhour	Nathan L.	09		Tupper	Kenneth Dale	23
Kading	James	23		Van Camp	Earle B.	20
Kelly	Tom	23		Wallace	Joseph D.	25
Kepler	John D.	08		Wert	Ronald Eugene	08
Kish	Robert J.	24		Winslow	Ralph L.	28
Knaff	John A.	31		Wittkopf	Michael	18
Kostlan	Doug	14		Wolber	Michael J.	23
Kotan	Charles J.	08		Wread	Joseph M.	08

**USSVI GROTON BASE AUGUST ETERNAL PATROL LIST**

08/22/94	Joe	Negri
08/27/97	John	Knight
08/17/98	Gerald	Pritzl
08/08/00	Earle	Towne
08/17/03	Joseph	Secl
08/31/03	Gregory	McLarin
08/11/04	Donald	Welton
08/05/05	Elden	Ekberg
08/14/05	Richard	Quijada
08/17/06	Jack	Kortekamp
08/30/06	Donald	Johnson
08/10/07	Joseph	Marmaud
08/30/07	Peter	DeVallee
08/02/08	Kenneth	Szablewski
08/26/08	Frederick	Hollendonner
08/04/09	Michael	Caronia
08/10/09	William	Murtha, Sr.
08/04/10	Francis	Maranda
08/07/10	Robert	Goudreau
08/14/10	Andrew	Gillespie
08/02/11	Richard	Haderski
08/07/11	Harland	Wilson
08/09/11	Francis	Quinn

08/20/12	Bill	Parker
08/10/13	John	Spina
08/19/13	Joseph	Watterson
08/31/13	Richard	Younger
08/03/14	Brendan	McGuirk
08/06/14	Richard	Collins
08/07/14	Fred	Pando
08/02/15	Ward	Bing
08/06/15	Philip	Griffith, Sr.
08/16/15	Robert	Hecker, Sr.
08/01/16	Edward	Jocque
08/04/16	Carl	Kimmons
08/18/16	Emil	Streichert
08/28/16	James	Page
08/13/17	Thomas	Russell III
08/14/17	John	Mumford
08/26/17	Glenn	Arthur, Jr
08/08/18	Merrill	Talbott
08/08/18	Warren	Wildes
08/15/18	Theodore	Kaszuba
08/22/18	John	Wagner
08/06/20	William	Woolcott
08/03/21	Willaim	Haines
08/18/21	Percy	Smith III
08/22/21	Richard	French
08/27/21	J. David	Olsson
08/19/22	Frederick G.	Edlund
08/26/22	Rasimas	Arthur
08/01/23	Brosig	Paul
08/04/23	Kliggle, Jr.	Howard
08/18/23	Rohen	James
08/31/23	Connors	Thomas
08/01/24	Thomas	Beach
08/14/24	Jay	Vaisin
08/28/24	Tudor	Davis



always keep their memories alive.

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



## ITEMS OF INTEREST

# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Military Appreciation Day

**August 16, 2025**

**Ocean Beach Park  
New London, CT**

**10:00am - Closing**

**Free Entry for;  
Active duty, Veterans , DD214 holders**

Event Info  




# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K race

**August 16, 2025**

**Ocean Beach Park  
New London, CT**

**9:00am**

**5K Registration**



**Register at: <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/NewLondon/MAD5K>**



# Thames River Heritage Park

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

## Thames River Heritage Park


HOP ON HOP OFF BOAT TOURS SITES, TOURS AND PROGRAMS PLAN YOUR VISIT ABOUT


July 26 & 27: Historical Boat Tours ONLY. No weekend Hop On, Hop Off Harbor Cruise Services

DONATE

Today is Sunday, July 27, 2025  
Hop-on Hop-off Harbor Cruises are not running today.

THAMES





[Book Now](#)

### Hop On, Hop Off Harbor Cruise

Enjoy a Harbor Cruise aboard a retired naval utility boat. Hop on & off at your leisure across three departure locations on an hour-loop. Every weekend, all summer long.

[Learn More](#)

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

<https://nlmaritimesociety.org/>

### CUSTOM HOUSE MARITIME MUSEUM



[About](#)
[NL Harborcam](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Rental](#)
[Lighthouses](#)
[Library](#)
[News](#)
[Amistad](#)
[Education](#)



#### About Us



Located in downtown New London, a short walking distance from the City's railroad, bus & ferry transportation hub, the Custom House Maritime Museum is open year-round, Wednesday-Sunday, 1 - 5 PM, Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM.

Telling the stories of New London's waterfront, the Custom House offers lighthouse tours and boat trips, an annual chowda'fest, artifacts relating to local lighthouses, US Customs and the Amistad, along with changing exhibitions and a great [Museum Shop](#).

**ADDRESS:** 150 Bank Street, New London, CT 06320.

★ **HOURS:** We're open Wednesday through Sunday, from 1—5 PM, Sat. 10-5, or by appointment. call: **860-447-2501**.

If you require accommodations due to a disability please email us to discuss your needs. The museum's Lower Level and ship model gallery are accessible, and we have an accessible restroom. The request should be provided with enough time to reasonably set up the accommodation.

We also are open from 9 AM-1 PM for school groups and "by request". Groups may schedule tours in advance by [email](#) or by calling 860-447-2501.

Group tour admission is \$5 per visitor.

**ADMISSION:** Admission is a \$7 suggested donation. The Custom House Maritime Museum is always FREE for current members, individuals with current military or USCG cadet ID and children under age 14 (with adult)

Tour the Robert Mills US Custom House from attic to sub-basement! **Custom House Architectural tours** can be arranged by appointment at \$10 per visitor.



Last fall, the American Baptist Churches of CT visited the Custom House. Here is what they wrote:

## Garde Arts Center



### Performance Theater in New London, Connecticut

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



Missoula Children's Theatre presents  
**SOS: Treasure Island**  
 Session Three

A week of rehearsals & workshops culminating in two public performances.

Summer on Stage Shows

Fri, Aug 1 | 7 pm & Sat, Aug 2 | 11 am

Buy Tickets

Summer on Stage students perform Treasure Island.

Learn More



**Toast**  
 The No.1 Tribute to Bread

Live on Stage

Fri, Aug 8, 2025 | 7:00 pm

Buy Tickets

**TOAST** presents a "feel-good" show that includes all of Bread's top hits and brings all the memories flooding back quickly. This concert truly "rises" to the top as one of the favorite concerts of audiences everywhere!

Learn More



Anchor of Hope presents  
**Music for Life**

Live on Stage

Sat, Aug 9, 2025 | 7:00 pm

Buy Tickets

Join **Mike Donehey** and **Matt Hammitt** for an evening of song and devotion. These two singer songwriters take the stage to share their stories of hope and faith.

Learn More



## A Chorus Line (1985)

Movies

Tue, Aug 19, 2025 | 7:00 pm

FREE Tickets

Enjoy this **FREE** classic movie brought to you by our generous community sponsors. Runtime: 1 hour & 58 minutes - Rated PG-13

Learn More



Sound Waves Magazine

## 35 Year Celebration

Hosted and Emceed by David "Lefty" Foster & The Shaboo All-Stars

Just Announced

Sat, Aug 23, 2025 | 8:00 pm

Buy Tickets

Come see the many great musicians who have been a part of the Sound Waves Magazine history. This is a show 35 years in the making that you don't want to miss.

Learn More



## Harmony for Hope

Benefit Concert for Haitian Community Center of Greater Norwich

Live on Stage

Sat, Aug 30, 2025 | 7:00 pm

Buy Tickets

**The Haitian Community Center of Greater Norwich** is pleased to present Harmony for Hope—an inspiring evening of Haitian music and cultural celebration.

Learn More

## 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 MUSEUMS 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 SHIPS 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](mailto:BRYAN.R.CHAPMAN@US.NAVY.MIL)  
 DOCENT COORDINATOR AND SECURITY MANAGER: [ELBERTON.A.MIXON@US.NAVY.MIL](mailto:ELBERTON.A.MIXON@US.NAVY.MIL)  
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**\* INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A GENERAL BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION.**

## 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.”