



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

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Groton Base Officers

Base Commander Steven Ricard commander@ussvigroton.org
Senior Vice Commander Dominick Grimaldi Vice@ussvigroton.org
Junior Vice Commander Jim Lawton jvice@ussvigroton.org
Secretary Alvin Kinsall secretary@ussvigroton.org
Treasurer Charlie Murray treasurer@ussvigroton.org
Past Base Commander Jeff Walsh neregiondir@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs and Points of Contacts

Base Chaplin Earl Colella Earl.colella@comcast.net
Club Manager Heather Norton clubmanager@ussvigroton.org
Public Affairs Officer Jim Lawton PAO@ussvigroton.org
Membership Chair Jim Kading kadingj@hotmail.com
Holland Club John Carcioppollo holland@ussvigroton.org

Groton Base Boat Notes – September 2026

Scholarship Greg Kane Scholarship@ussvigroton.org
Kaps For Kids (SS) John Riley jprjer@sbcglobal.net
Memorial Marian Galbraith mktgalbraith@gmail.com
Veterans Affairs Brian Hague Brian.hague@ctdav.org
Editing Ryan Walker Yankeeprivateer761@gmail.com
License Plate Chair Michael Hodges ctsubvetplates@ussvigroton.org

[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 20th 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](#)

US Mail:

USSVI Groton Base

40 School St.

Groton, CT 06340



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



Greeting from the Base Commander

The summer of 2026 is slowly dipping below the yardarm. It is hard to believe that in 21 days "Fall" will be knocking on Joe Negri's door.

Big things happened in our backyard during the month of September back in 1781. The Battle of Groton Heights (also known as the Battle of Fort Griswold and occasionally called the Fort Griswold massacre) was a battle of the American Revolutionary War fought on September 6, 1781, between a small Connecticut militia force led by Lieutenant Colonel William Ledyard and the more numerous British forces led by traitor, Brigadier General Benedict Arnold and Lieutenant Colonel Edmund Eyre.



This year, September 6 marks the 245th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Groton Heights. For all of you history buffs it's worth the visit.

Across the Thames River in New London, 11-13 September is the Maritime Heritage Festival. It's a coordinated effort between OpSail CT, City of New London, US Navy and the US Coast Guard celebrating the areas maritime heritage. On September 11th, the 25th Anniversary of 9-11, a ceremony will be held at the Customs House Pier in New London starting at 0830. This will be followed by a Flag Retirement Ceremony by this year's Chief Selects.

We at SubVets will be holding a "Tolling of the Boats" ceremony on Sunday 13 September at the Customs House Pier at 1100. It's a great weekend. Here is the link to the weekend events <https://ctmaritimefest.com/schedule/>.

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.

September: 9/11, The Turtle and Other Milestones

It is probably impossible to start any September milestones without acknowledging the shadow of recent history. Colloquially known as 9/11, September 11 is not simply a date on the calendar for the Groton Base. It is a day woven into the personal histories of many of our members, a day when submariners, veterans, and families watched the world change in real time. 25 years later, we remember.

When the hijacked commercial planes struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the Submarine Force reacted with the speed and seriousness that has always defined it. Bases locked down, boats surged to readiness, and commands across the fleet shifted instantly to wartime posture. For many, the transition was not theoretical; it was personal. Many of our members were actively serving on 9/11, either aboard submarines, in shipyards, or at commands across the fleet. A story I am aware of was told to me as we went to celebrate the graduation of the Henry Breault BESS class in 2024: Our current Base Commander Steve Ricard was recalled from the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) in the days following the attacks. A reminder that the Force's commitment does not end when a tour does. Steve was not alone as submariners across the country found themselves moving from routine operations to heightened alert, ready to deploy at a moment's notice. Serving during the Global War on Terror is a pillar of my own short career, spanning nearly twenty years. I encourage you to share the stories of this recent event when we meet this month.



The attacks triggered a fundamental shift in submarine operations: Immediate surge readiness across Atlantic and Pacific fleets. There was an increased emphasis on intelligence and surveillance missions. Boat deployments increased in duration and tempo to support expanded homeland defense roles, including undersea monitoring and strategic support. By virtue of the tomahawk missile, submariners became part of the first wave of America's response — silent, unseen, and essential.

David Bushnell's Turtle Attacks 7 September 1776

Cornelius Drebbel's early egg-shaped leather-covered rowboat submarine underwent testing by the Royal Navy in the Thames River in London, staying submerged for three hours at a depth of about 15 feet. Despite this, the story of the submarine force begins on 7 September 1776, when David Bushnell's *Turtle* crept through the darkness of New York Harbor toward the British flagship HMS *Asia*. Sergeant Ezra Lee, sealed inside Bushnell's hand powered sphere, attempted to fasten a timed explosive charge to the hull. The attempt failed as the screw could not bite into the copper sheathing, but the moment endures as the first combat submarine attack in American history. Bushnell's strange wooden craft, driven by foot treadles and hand cranks, introduced the essential principles of stealth, underwater approach, and asymmetric strike that would define the submarine service centuries later. The picture shows just how primitive the Turtle was but shows the remarkable story of advancement and American ingenuity.



USS NAUTILUS Commissioning



Nearly 180 years later, on 30 September 1954, those principles found their modern expression when USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571) was commissioned at Groton. With her nuclear propulsion plant, *Nautilus* shattered every limitation of diesel electric boats. She could remain submerged indefinitely, travel at sustained high speed underwater, and operate across entire oceans without surfacing. Her commissioning marked

the beginning of the nuclear era: not just for the Navy, but for the town of Groton itself. Today she rests only a short walk from the shipyard that built her, a museum ship, and a monument to the region's central role in submarine innovation.

The First Regulus Patrols

Five years later, September 1959 revealed another transformation. The Cold War was entering a new phase, and the Navy was experimenting with strategic missile capability at sea. USS *Barbero* (SSG-317), a converted fleet boat, and USS *Growler* (SSG-577), one of only two purpose built Regulus missile submarines, were conducting nuclear armed deterrent patrols.

Operating under strict radio silence, often alone and far from support, these boats proved the feasibility of sea-based strategic strike. Their September patrols formed the bridge between the aging WWII fleet boats and the Polaris SSBNs soon to follow. In their quiet, tense missions lay the beginnings of the continuous deterrent posture that remains a cornerstone of American security.

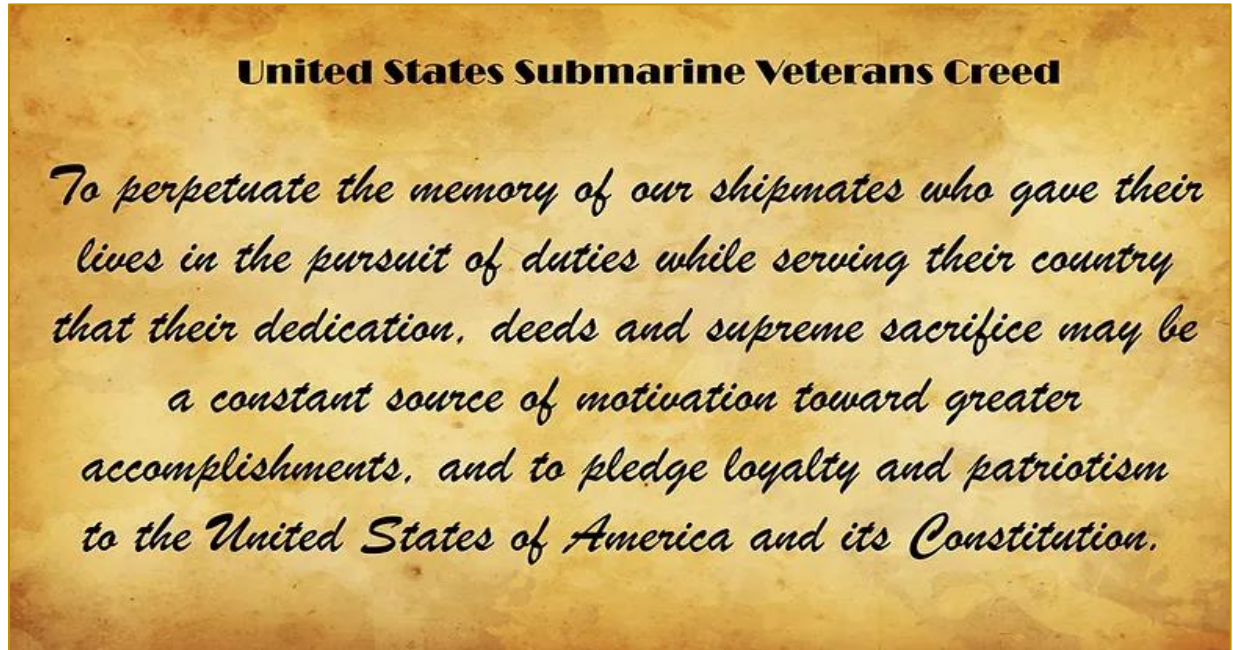


Conclusion

The submarine force has many milestones in September worth remembering. From Bushnell's wooden sphere to nuclear propulsion, from early missile patrols to the post-9/11 surge, September is a month that reminds us of the ingenuity, endurance, and quiet resolve that define the Submarine Force. It is a month of history, but also of memory, service, and the enduring connection between Groton and the fleet beneath the waves.

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 – September

	USS S-5 (SS-110)	Lost on September 1, 1920, when a practice dive went wrong, and she sank bow-first, with her stern showing above the water. In a dramatic adventure, her exhausted crew was rescued during the next few days. Salvage attempts were unsuccessful; S-5 settled to the bottom and was abandoned.
	(SS-209 USS Grayling)	Lost on Sept 9, 1943, with the loss of 76 men near the Tablas Strait. Grayling was on her 8th war patrol and sank two ships before being lost.
	USS Pompano (SS-181)	Pompano was sunk (between Sept 17 and Oct 5) with the loss of 77 men while on her 7th war patrol. Possibly lost on Sept 17, 1943. Japanese records show that a submarine was sunk in her patrol area on 17 September by air & depth charge attack off the Aomori Prefecture near Shiriya Zaki. Before being lost, she sank two enemy cargo ships. The exact cause of her loss remains unknown, but she probably was sunk by the air/sea attack above or fell victim to a mine on or after 9/25/1943. This boat's last recorded ship (Taiko Maru) sunk happened on Sept 25th, so she probably hit a mine on or after that date but before Oct 5th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.
	USS S-51 (SS-162)	Lost on Sept 25, 1925, with the loss of 33 men when it was sunk after collision with SS City of Rome off Block Island.

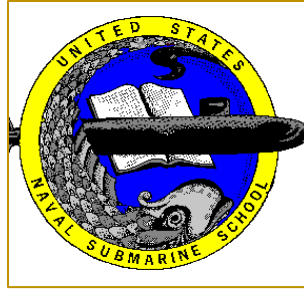
Groton Base Boat Notes – September 2026

 A circular crest for the USS Cisco (SS-290). The top half features a blue submarine on a blue wave. The bottom half contains the text "USS CISCO" in a semi-circle and "SS-290" in a semi-circle below it.	USS Cisco (SS-290)	Lost on Sept 28, 1943, on her first war patrol with the loss of 76 men in the Sulu Sea west of Mindinao.
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Groton Base Boat Notes – September 2026

Plan of the Month – September 2026

Date	Time	Action	Description
9/11	0830	Event	25th Anniversary 9-11 Ceremony Customs House Pier, New London
9/11	0900	Event	BESS Graduation – Bob Sharpe
9/12	1000	Event	Maritime Heritage Festival Opening Ceremony Customs House Pier, New London
9/13	1100	Event	Tolling of the Boats Ceremony Customs House Pier, New London
9/13	1230	Event	Post Tolling of the Boats Ceremony Picnic/Reception Outer Light Brewing Co.
9/14	1830	Meeting	Monthly Membership Meeting
9/15	1100	Event	Holland Club Luncheon
9/18	0900	Event	New London Veterans Coffeehouse with Breakfast
9/18	1000-1400	Event	CT DVA Standdown – Rally Point, Norwich
9/18	1100	Event	SOBC Graduation – Bill Cavanagh
9/23	18:00	Event	Sox Hop 50's dinning
9/25	0900	Event	BESS Graduation – John Carcioppolo



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 July 31st and August 14th.

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 Parche SS 384 BESS Class 26340

The following information is for BESS Class 26340, named after the USS Parche SS 384. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.



The first USS Parche (SS-384/AGSS-384) was a United States Navy submarine. She bore the name (pronounced with two equal syllables: /ˌpɑːrˈtʃeɪ/) of a butterfly fish, *Chaetodon capistratus*. Parche was a Balao-class submarine that operated in World War II.

Parche was built by the Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery, Maine. Her keel was laid on 9 April 1943, and she was christened on 24 July, when her sponsor, Betty Russell, smashed the traditional bottle of champagne across the bow as Parche slid into the water for the first time. Russell was the daughter of U.S. District Court Judge Robert Lee Russell, formerly Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Navy. Parche was commissioned on 20 November 1943 with Commander Lawson P. Ramage commanding.

On 29 March 1944, the submarine slipped out of Pearl Harbor with Tinosa (SS-283) and Bang (SS-385) for her first war patrol. After topping off at Midway, the three reached the sea lanes south of Formosa 16 April. On 29 April Bang reported a large convoy 50 miles away, and the wolf pack attacked, Parche getting one hit.

Parche's second patrol was again south of Formosa, forming with Hammerhead and Steelhead, a coordinated attack group.

On her third war patrol, 10 September to 2 December, one of the longest of the war, Parche did not encounter any targets.

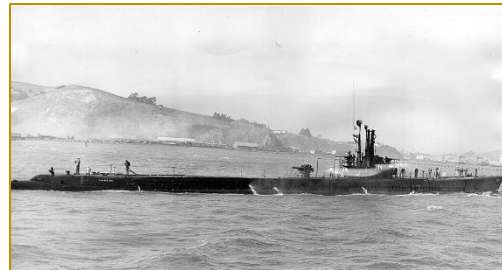
Parche got underway on 25 May for her sixth patrol, the last of World War II, joining the "Lifeguard League" south of Honshu. She stayed on station off Honshu until 18 June, ready to pick up any aviators who might be forced down. No rescues were necessary, and on the 18th, she proceeded to Tsugara Strait.

A Navy yard overhaul kept the ship in port until after the Japanese surrender. In 1946 she was assigned to operation "Crossroads," as a target ship for the atomic bomb tests at Bikini. Arriving in Bikini lagoon 1 June, Parche survived both the air burst and the underwater burst, coming through relatively undamaged.

One of the most highly decorated boats of the renowned World War II Pacific Submarine Force, USS Parche made six war patrols, earning five battle stars and one Presidential Unit Citation award for 2 war patrols.

More on the USS Parche SS 384 can be found [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Parche_\(SS-384\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Parche_(SS-384)) and [Parche I \(SS-384\)](#).

On July 31st the BESS Class named after USS Parche SS 384 had 80 students with a class average was 77% and 2 Sailors graduating with Distinction. To graduate with Distinction requires an average of 90% or higher. Congratulations to this class of future Submariners who have finished one of many milestones in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments whether "A" School or direct assignment to their first submarine. Instructors involved with today's ceremony included were: MMAC(SS) Edward Chartier, FT1(SS) Abbott, MMA2(SS) Thieme, and FT1(SS) Price. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.



The Command Representative was Acting SubSchool CMC MMACS(SS) David Lee. Guest Speaker was CMC Nick Turn, Submarine Learning Center, and Chaplain, LTJg Rogers gave the Invocation and Benediction.

USSVI Groton Base and Holland Club Chairman, RMCM(SS) John Carcioppolo USN ret, was the Sub Vet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SN(SU) Ayden L. Emge. 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 STSCS(SS) Jerry Verant to SA(SU) Hayden T. Ward. 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) Jonas O Paugh, by SubSchool Acting CMC Lee. 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 Nick Turner to SR(SU) Charles D. Bruining. 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 Nautilus SS 168 BESS Class 26360



The following information is for BESS Class 26360, named after the USS Nautilus SS 168. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.

USS Nautilus (SF-9/SS-168), a Narwhal-class submarine, a very large cruiser submarine and one of the "V-boats", was the third ship of the United States Navy to bear the name.

She was originally named and designated V-6 (SF-9), but was redesignated and given hull classification symbol SC-2 on 11 February 1925. Her keel was laid on 10 May 1927 by the Mare Island Naval Shipyard of Vallejo, California. She was launched on 15 March 1930 sponsored by Miss Joan Keesling, and commissioned on 1 July 1930. It was the first of many submarines built at Mare Island CA.

Commissioned July 1, 1930 with Lieutenant Commander Thomas J. Doyle Jr. in command. On February 19, 1931 renamed USS Nautilus and designated as a Narwhal-class Submarine. On July 1, 1931 designated SS-168. During the 1930s, the bow had "Nautilus" in block letters in white on the bow.

During July 1941 entered Mare Island Navy Yard at Mare Island for modernization with updated radio equipment, external torpedo tubes (two bow and two stern firing) and a newer Winton diesel engines plus air conditioning. The modernization continued until the spring of 1942. She departed San Francisco, California, on 21 April 1942, reaching Pearl Harbor on 28 April. On 24 May, Nautilus (commanded by Lieutenant Commander William H. Brockman Jr.) got underway for her first war patrol, to Midway Island to help repel the expected attack by the Japanese fleet.

Over the 14 War Patrols the Nautilus did what few submarines in the U.S. Navy can lay claim to a record as prestigious as that of the third Nautilus. From her participation in the opening act of the Battle of Midway, to the havoc she wreaked on Japanese shipping, Nautilus, and the crews who manned her were a true testament to the endurance and tenacity of the U.S. submarine fleet in WWII.

In addition to her Presidential Unit Citation, given for her exceptional aggressiveness in enemy waters, Nautilus was also awarded 14 battle stars for her service in WWII.

More on the USS Nautilus SS 168 can be found [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Nautilus_\(SS-168\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Nautilus_(SS-168)), and <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/n/nautilus-ss-168-iii.html>.

On August 14th, the BESS Class named after USS Nautilus SS 168 had 57 students with a class average was 75%. 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, FT2(SS) Pangilinan, and STS2(SS) Carter. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool XO CDR Bryan Chapman. Guest Speaker was FTSM(SS) Shane Adkins, SubSchool N3 DMC. SubSchool Chaplain, LT Rogers gave the Invocation and Benediction.



USSVI Groton Base and Membership Chairman Jim Kading was the SubVets Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SN(SU) William H. Foster. 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 STSCS(SS) Jerry Verant to SN(SU) Nicholas P. Richmond. This award is given to the student who demonstrates academic achievement and personal improvement through the course of instruction.



Groton Base Boat Notes – September 2026



The class Honor Graduate Award was presented to SN(SU) Curran M Lichtenauer, by SubSchool XO CDR Chapman. 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 FTCM(SS) Shane Atkins to SN(SU) Daniel Gordon. 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.



Groton Base Boat Notes – September 2026

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

Class No.	Class Name	Graduation Date	Command Rep	SUBVETS Rep	Notes
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	
	USS Nevada (SSBN-733)	<i>23 October 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
	USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619)	<i>06 November 2026</i>		Dave Gustafson	
		<i>20 November 2026</i>		Steve Ricard	
		<i>04 December 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
		<i>18 December 2026</i>		Bob Sharpe	

Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) And Sub Vet Representative

Class No.	Graduation Date	SUBVETS Rep	Notes
26050	18 September 2026	Bill Cavanagh	
26060	13 November 2026	Bill Sheehan	

Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC) And Sub Vet Representative

Class No.	Graduation Date	SUBVETS Rep	Notes
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 (welcome back), Julz, 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>.

How do you want to start your ride home.

With this?



Or

This?



Stop in and unwind from your hard day at work.

Groton Base Boat Notes – September 2026

On Monday, 3 August at 1830 we held our Monthly Membership meeting in the hall. Over 30 members joined, both in person and via Zoom. Thank you to the members who attended their first meeting.



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

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, September 13 (meeting moved due to By-Law ruling that this is the first Monday after Labor Day) at 1830. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting.

Friday, August 14th was the August Monthly Dinner hosted by the Stan Mathis House Committee. The theme for the month was "Hillbilly Night." The meal, prepared by Chef Paul, Suse Chef Carol, and prep cook Bella was lip-smacking' good. Better than finger lickin good.

Baked chicken, sweet potatoes, braised brussels sprouts, and for dessert cobbler and birthday cake.

Thanks to the Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee for putting on another great meal. To Paul, Carol, and Bella thank you.



Groton Base Boat Notes – September 2026

On Saturday, August 15th, our friends with the New London Veterans Advisory Committee held the 9th Annual Military Appreciation Day at Ocean Beach Park. The day started out with the 5th Annual 5K M.A.D. Dash followed by a free day at the beach for all Veterans, Active Duty, and family members.



We had a great team for this event, Navy Federal Credit Union, Subbase New London, Electric Boat, New London Veterans Advisory Committee, Ocean Beach Park, and the City of New London. Thanks to all who joined in this great event.

Groton Base Boat Notes – September 2026

On Tuesday, August 18th, we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon in “Higham Hall”. There were over 60 members and guests who attended the luncheon. Our guest speaker was Subbase Public Affairs Officer, Chris Zendan, who talked about famous connections to the Subbase that the average Submariner might not know. Big thanks to Kait Hodge who cooked up a delicious chicken, broccoli, and pasta lunch.



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



August 21st had several SubVet members attending the New London Veterans Coffeehouse & Breakfast. Our Guest Speaker was Dr. Melissa Root who talked with our Veterans about her product called CalmPak. Which is designed to optimize performance through stress management. Please join us on the 3rd Friday of each month.





On Sunday, August 23rd, SRS 32 hosted a fantastic brunch with over 35 happy diners. Big thanks to Justin and the crew for manning the kitchen and keeping the tradition alive. A special thanks to Hodge for keeping them in line.

On Friday, August 28th SubVets Groton Base Jr. Vice, also known as DJ Jammin Jim Lawton, was queuing up the tunes for the crowd at Friday Night Karaoke. The joint was hopping, and the crooners were belting out their favorite tunes. Everyone had a Jammin' good time.



On Sunday, the 26th, SubSchool Chiefs cooked up a fantastic brunch with over 20 diners slapping on the feedbag. Big thanks to the 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

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 Heather via email at 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

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

USS ARCHERFISH (SSN 678) Reunion – 24 – 26 September, Groton CT. Contact John C. 860-514-7064, or Gumba700@comcast.net

Senior Vice Commander

Dominick Grimaldi

Over the next few months Dom will be settling into the role as Sr Vice and looking for ways to bring former members back to SubVets.

Junior Vice Commander

Jim Lawton

Hello Shipmates,

We need to thank our Clubhouse staff for stepping in to keep the club active during these summer months as people take vacation. We encourage you to show up and provide me with feedback on how we can improve to get you there!

We have been getting some updates to the clubhouse! Sorry for the inconvenience of having to close occasionally, but it is worth it. We have a new carpet in the dining hall, and now we have a new power distribution to the building. We have plans to remodel the lady's restroom, and that will be coming soon. Tuesday continues to be a slow day, and as such we have started shutting down after lunch at 2PM (1400).

We are evaluating the heating and air conditioning in the bar / dining hall. We are evaluating options to be able to maintain the temperature consistently; this has always been a problem, and we are listening to all of your feedback.

Summer Clubhouse Hours (As of March 31, 2026)

Groton Base Boat Notes – September 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.

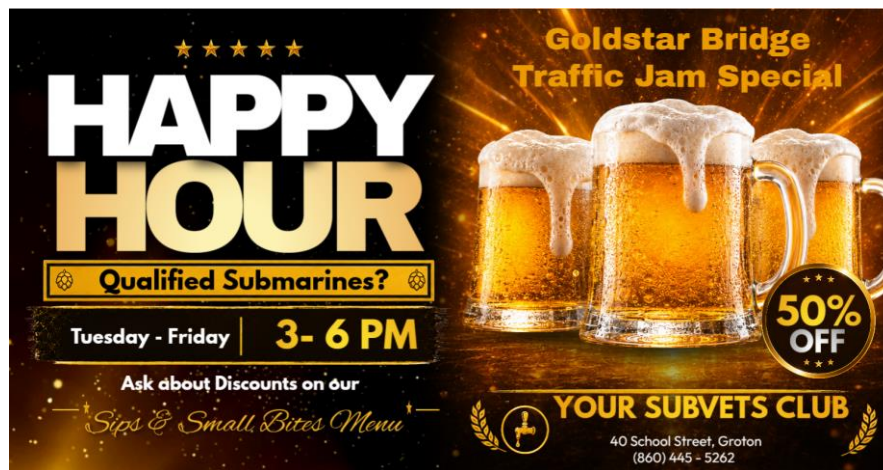
Kaitlyn Hodge is our kitchen crew as you would already know if you would stop in.

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!

Happy Hour

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



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



Groton Base Boat Notes – September 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

jrvic@ussvigroton.org

860.984.5497

BASE SECRETARY - Alvin G. Kinsall

I want to extend a big shout out to members (John Carcioppolo, Bob Sharpe, Bob Dulin and Alex Doucette) for committing to reviewing the Base Bylaws with me. This is a task that will ensure our rules of operation are up to date as to how the base does its business. Our first meeting of the Bylaw Subcommittee is August 26, 2026, at 1530 at the clubhouse. All members are welcome to sit in.

Alvin G Kinsall

Base Secretary secretary@ussvigroton.org

(860)460-0027

BASE TREASURER – Charlie Murray

SEPTEMBER (maybe delayed because we have Events we do not want to cancel)

Tentative in planning: Ladies Room Bathroom. Complete renovation. Target start mid-month. FYI please remember that you can send in a separate donation for this project; as in the past Michael Shusta, our contractor will work to get some materials donated. Remember that National will help us with funding as a match on expenses up to \$15,000

If you want to make a separate donation for this project, please consider it since this is the last of the building's bathrooms to be renovated.

THANKSGIVING APPEAL (HOLIDAY FUND RAISING) 2026

Letters will be mailed out after September 1st. This is our efforts to support our local submarine community during the Holiday season. Always a great event & appreciated by our active duty & Navy families.

FINANCIALS:

Financial information thru August 31 will be posted on our website

All expenses have been paid to date.

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....a few issues with setting up 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 Groton Building Improvements:

- 1st level ladies' room – tentative late August....we are still short of funds to do this work
- Fix the front door, get back to using the buzzer (with luck it is fixed before you read this)
- Add locks to provide additional security to in building doors (over the summer)
 - o Lock installed between bar and hallway from front door... reason in the future we may want to isolate the bar from events in the Hall
- Hall create storage area for tables and chairs
- Outside storage building or shipping container for items used once or twice a year.
- Propane storage rack
- Gutters – will recheck before winter

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

DONATIONS:

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

YOU CAN DONATE TO SUBVETS GROTON OR THE NATIONAL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

There are a few ways you can donate.

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

Option 2: You can donate Via PayPal at <https://www.ussvigroton.org/donations>.

You can donate to our Annual or Thanksgiving Appeals, to our Scholarship, Holland Club, Memorial Fund, Capital Improvements and Kaps4Kids.

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

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

(we have fund accounts with the Charitable Foundation, the Foundation is a 501C3 so your donations to our accounts at the Foundation are tax deductible)

(as always, we will acknowledge all donations)

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

Groton Base Boat Notes – September 2026

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

IMPORTANT NEW OPTION AVAILABLE – IF YOU WANT A TAX DEDUCTION

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

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

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

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

BUILDING INTERIOR CLEANUP:

1. Work on the 3rd 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 3rd 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 : Larry Williamson for repairing the buzzer on the front door.

Base Chaplin



Chaplain's Report/Honors Detail - John Carcioppolo 860-514-7064
Gumba700@comcast.net

The following is the Honors Detail activity from July 28th.

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

FT3(SS) Walter J. Wadja, Jr. Departed on Eternal Patrol on August 8, 2026. The Honors Detail presented Honors on Monday 26 August. Bob Sharpe coordinated the Honors Detail and was joined by Earl Colella, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Dennis Hopkins, and Joe Wread. Our detail was joined by two members of the American Legion Pattye Cox and Janet Weber

TMCM(SS) Barry Russack Departed on Eternal Patrol on 16 August. The Honors Detail will present Honors on Sunday 27 September. Details to follow next month

Eternal Light

Sadly, we lost the following spouses of members this last month

Kenneth "Ken" Jones Husband of Marian Galbraith entered Eternal Life on 29 July. The Honors Detail presented Honors for an Eternal Light Ceremony on Saturday 16 August. I was joined by Earl Colella, Rob Davis, Bob Dulin, Bob Gustafson, Dave Gustafson, Obie Hill, William Castlebury, Charlie McMullin, and Bob Sharpe,

Ella Mae Kuzel Widow of Norm Kuzel entered Eternal Life on 4 July 2026. The Honors Detail presented Honors for an Eternal Light Ceremony on Saturday Friday 22 August. I was joined by Earl Colella, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Bob Gustafson, Jim Lawton, Charlie Murray, Bob Sharpe, and Joe Wread

Please make sure that your families have instructions to contact us in the event of your passing. This information should be kept with insurance documents, wills, and other like documents.

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. 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 or John Carcioppolo 860-514- 7064 gumba700@comcast.net and if possible, provide a link to the obituary.

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

The sooner we know the information the timelier we can react and put out the notices and hopefully have the Honors Detail render honors. All too often we find out about the passing of a member long after the funeral and do not get the chance to provide honors for our Shipmates.

We are always looking for potential new members of the Honors Detail to supplement those who participate. If you are interested in being part of the Honors Detail, all you really have to do is let me know and show up. We prefer you to have the SUBVETS vest, but that is not a hard requirement. If you are interested in joining the Honors Detail, please let me know.

RED HAT CEREMONIES

On Monday 3 August we were supposed to have a homecoming for USS VIRGINIA (SSN 774) returning to SUBASE New London from months of deployment at the pointy end of the spear. The weather held us off. **Welcome home to the Officers and Crew of USS VIRGINIA (SSN 774).**



USS VIRGINIA (SSN 774)

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.

Note: A quick note on emails and broadcasts. I recently learned this with Holland Club emails. If you have "UNSUBSCRIBED" will not receive any emails or updates from the club including the notifications for Honors Detail notifications and Redl Hat's. If you would like to "Subscribe" again for the emails, please contact the Base Commander

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.

September 2026 Holland Club Report

LUNCHEONS We had a great luncheon in August with 57 people in attendance. Our guest speaker was supposed to be Groton City Mayor Jill Rusk. But she had to cancel at the last minute because her daughter was giving birth. FAMILY FIRST. So, we had a last-minute substitution with SUBASE New London Public Affairs Officer Chris Zendan assisted by Lt Minhyok Kim. Chris gave a very interesting presentation on three of the Memorials on SUBASE and the history behind those Memorials. It was a great program.

A special thank you to Jim Lawton and our SUBSCHOOL Students SN Dunham, SN Moore, SN Sims, SN Sour, SN Rosfield, SN Michael, SN Teachout, SN Tucker, and SN Rootho and Kate Hodge for putting on the meal.

I would also like to thank SC Wes Norton for providing the students, and to Dee Carcioppolo and Bob Dulin for collecting the money. Last but not least, thanks to Kim Beagle for taking pictures.

The 50/50 was won by Charlie Murray who won \$110 and donated it to the Building f/und.



SUBSCHOOL Students



**Chris Zendan, John C. LT Kim
Leadership Team**



Tom Allgier & Bob Gustafson



Steve Ricard & John C enjoy a moment after the luncheon

Additional Pictures from the luncheon are posted here
<https://linkit.shutterfly.com/zFBu9x>

Upcoming Speakers are as follows:

- **15 September Guest Speaker** – CO/COB PCU ARIZONA (SSN 803) CDR Christian Olsen and MMACM(SS) Cody Henry
- **20 October Guest Speaker** – Damien Cregeau the author of "Portraits of Patriots"
- **17 November Guest Speaker** – CSS-12 CAPT Thomas Bullock and CMDM(SS/EXW/IW/DV) Dustin Bruner

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

Color Guard

During the month of August, the color guard did not receive any request for services.

The color guard's flags will be provided for the City of New London's Maritime Heritage Festival on September 13th during our Tolling of the Boats ceremony. Our flags will be presented by the local Sea Cadets Color Guard.

The color guard's next scheduled musters will be for the presentation of colors at two submarine reunion banquets:

USS George C. Marshall SSBN - 654 Reunion. Friday 18 September 2026

USS Archerfish SSN-678 Reunion.

Saturday 26 September 2026

Currently the color guard is in charge of transporting the USS Tench SS-417 float from its current stowage location to the Joe Negri Submarine Veterans Clubhouse. The float will be removed from the trailer and will undergo restoration over the winter. The trailer will be stored offsite and be ready for use in the spring.

Due to the float's construction it has to be kept garaged when not in use. If anyone has or knows of someone that has a spare garage bay, outbuilding or barn that would stow it for us, please let the base commander or me know.

Also, we are looking for some help in the restoration of the float over the winter. We have a couple of members already, but we could use more.

The detail needs a few members to assist in events. If you are interested, please email me at bobsharpe@hotmail.com or on my Cell at (860) 501-6161 and leave a message.

Robert 'Bob' Sharpe
Color Guard Captain
bobsharpe@hotmail.com

Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee

I would say the chicken dinner for August was a success. Many smiling faces.

Thank you to all who helped with the cleanup. Many hands make light work.

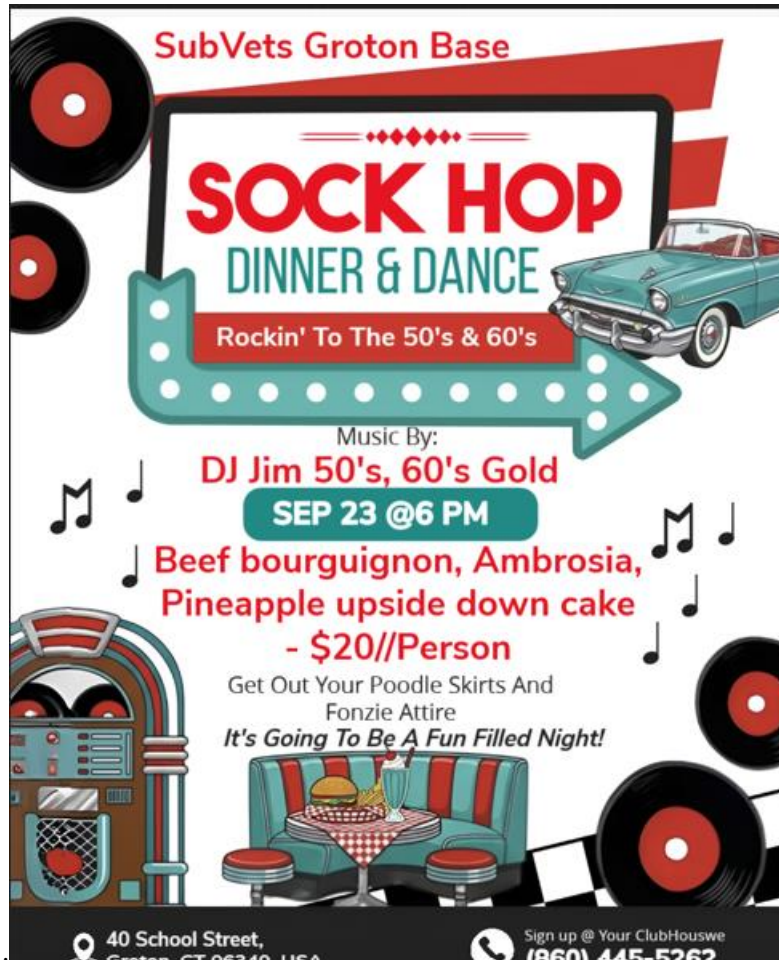
Thank you to Juilz, who provided several raffle baskets for the evening.

Our next event was rescheduled to September 23, which is a Wednesday night at 6:00 pm. Hope to see you at the clubhouse.

Please sign up with the bartender at the bar.

September's Dinner menu. \$20 / person

Beef Bourguignon – French Beef Stew (made popular by Julia Child the french chef in the 50's)



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. I will look at all suggestions when I build the 2027 schedule

SubVets Monthly Dinner Attendance 2026				
Month	Weekday	Time	Theme	Attended
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 Conor's Corn Beef and Cabbage	83
18-Apr-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Easter Dinner Polish Night	45
02-May-2026	Saturday	5:00 PM	Kentucky Derby Potluck	20
05-June-2026	Friday		Holland Club Induction Steak Dinner	
04-July-2026	Saturday		After Parade Picnic – Outer Light	Appr 200-250
18-July-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Potluck Social	20-25
14-Aug-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Hillbilly Night – Chicken Dinner	40

SubVets Monthly Dinner Schedule 2026			
Month	Weekday	Time	Theme
23-Sep-2026	Wednesday	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.

As of August 30th, Groton Base had 1060 members. However, we have many memberships still pending in the new website. If you log into the new national website at <https://ussvi.org>, you can look yourself up, and edit any of the info on yourself, like previous commands, phone numbers, etc. If you have not logged into the new website, you will use your old email and username. If you forgot your password, select forgot password and you will be sent an email to your email address on file. If you no longer have access to that email, we can still get you into the website. Just contact me and I will assist you. I also want to remind you that if you have a national lifetime membership, you can also get a base lifetime membership. The cost is based on your age and is the same as what national membership costs. I highly recommend lifetime memberships as you never have to remember to pay your dues.

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, 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).

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 – 1,060

Life National Members – 820

*Base Life Members – 404**

Holland Club – 657

Associate Members – 61

**-This is old data, I have no way yet to pull this out of the new database.*

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

Membership Chairman

Jim Kading

kadingj@hotmail.com

USSVI Groton Base DMV Liaison



Since my last report (June), I've answered 14 inquiries and mailed 9 DMV applications for our "Silent Service" background plates to people who are current USSVI members or in the process of joining. In this time, I received 8 DMV application back that I endorsed and sent on to the DMV. Of these 8, 2 were from current members, and 6 were from people who renewed, rejoined, or joined for the first time.

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.

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 pumproom.

Michael Hodges, DMV Liaison

Scholarship Committee

GROTON BASE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN NOVEMBER 2026

If you have questions related to the Groton Base Scholarship Program, please contact Gregory Kane, Groton Base Scholarship Chair, at 860-989-1426 or via email at Gregory.Kane@CCSU.Edu.

Memorial Committee



The Memorial has been the site of quite a few ceremonies lately, and more ceremonies are on the schedule throughout the month of September. This is always a gratifying occasion for the committee who works hard to make sure the Memorial looks its best throughout the season. Many thanks to Dick Warnock who tends to the gardens throughout the summer months.

To join the Memorial Committee, contact Marian Galbraith at 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@ctdav.org

Hey Navy, it looks like Sept is finally here. A big event this month is Standdown in six locations throughout the state. Closest one is Easter Seals Veterans Rally Point, 24 Stott Ave, Norwich CT. Times 0800 – 1400hrs.

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/>

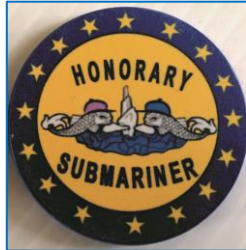
Are you a high-tech Sailor? The VA put out a helpful link to navigate their Apps. [How to use cool features in VA's official mobile app - VA News](#)

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 DEDUCTABLE VIA THE USSV CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION**

(designate "K4K Groton Base")

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



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

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

Public Affairs Officer

Jim Lawton

As PAO, I have been trying to find a device that will broadcast audio during the monthly meeting to those who wear hearing aids. So far, I have invested \$130.00 and come up empty. If anyone has a suggestion for a device that I can purchase that will meet this need, do not hesitate to contact me at the email below. I refuse to give up on this venture so that everyone attending can hear without question. So far, I have a Homespot Audio Broadcaster (HS-BA210), and an Avantree Audiocast-4. Neither one covers the requesting shipmate's hearing aids.

Karaoke Night Success!

Karaoke is not scheduled for September as it does not fit into any schedule



Jim Lawton, Webmaster / PAO – pao@ussvigroton.org

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 September Birthday List

Happy Birthday to All Who Continue to Celebrate for the Month of September

Last Name	First Name	DOB		Last Name	First Name	DOB
Akesson	Mark A.	16		Kjellander	Thomas	20
Baptiste	Dennis A.	01		Koontz	Stephen G.	18
Blankenship, Jr.	Sterling L.	06		Labbe	Lawrence R.	01
Brann	Warren B.	17		Lamb Jr.	Earl T.	01
Brown	Reginald J.	18		Leonaitis	James A.	06
Clerici	Stanley L.	29		Levandoski	Charles F.	27
Cohen	Bruce A.	22		Lindbeck	Donald	14
Congdon	Joe	25		Liwski	Piotr P.M.	21
Davis	Robert E.	12		Luers	Scott	17
DeLeo	Michael A.	30		Malloch	Wayne Douglas	27
Doe	Barry	12		Mazza	Timothy	13
Dominy	Richard A.	30		McHale	Paul F.	07
Dorn, Sr	David J.	19		Nickerson	Austin L.	24
Duprey	David L.	30		Palmer	Gordon	10
Dvorak	David A.	17		Pelish	Eric H.	02
Emblidge	John M	30		Peterson	Todd A.	13
Faella	Antonio William	08		Phillips	Matthew Kopcza	05
Farina	Carl	16		Pierpaoli	Joseph	19
Farmer	Stanley M.	05		Pollick	Raymond J.	23
Fauver	Arthur D. Jr.	22		Ranelli	John R.	25
Folio	Curtis P.	22		Read	Kenric	01
Fox	Donald	19		Reiner	Braden	12
Francis	Gary R.	05		Riley	John P.	10
Galeaz	Kevin M.	12		Roach	Lawrence	18
Giuliani	Ronald G.	01		Rosenberger	Ralph L.	27
Gonzales	Pedro L.	11		Rowe	Frank J.	27
Gordon	John, Joseph	19		Sabin	Wallace Albert	01
Graham	Bradley W.	11		Sauerwein	Richard A.	26
Grant	Walter	13		Saul	Phillip W.	09
Greaney	Michael	28		Scaduto	Jack Lee	21
Grimaldi	Dominick	27		Scairpon	John	06
Hadovski	William L.	17		Schuldt	Gerald L.	07
Hall	Charles R.	04		Schumann	John	18
Hartman	Richard H.	11		Sheehan	John Wilfred	11
Harvey	Thomas	12		Sherman	Edward B.	18
Hespeler	Thomas	08		Stangeland	H.L.	27
Heyer	Alfred	03		Steinford	Margil L.	30
Hodge Jr.	Floyd E.	04		Stevens	Paul	07

Hubbard	Michael	21		Swafford	William R.	26
Hutnan	George R.	09		Tarbox, Jr.	Harold Chester	24
Ingraham	Gary L.	13		Vinyard Jr.	Jackie W.	14
Jenkins	Christopher W.	15		Walsh	Sharon	07
Jennings	Gordon	13		Watson	Joel S.	17
Jensen	Ronald L.	13		White	Casey L.	24
Kesling	Timothy C.	26				

USSVI Groton Base September Eternal Patrol List

09/15/98	Richard	Higham	09/04/18	Emil	Vestuti
09/08/01	Fred	Davis	09/16/18	James	Dickensheets
09/14/04	Morgan	Bailey	09/26/18	Perry	Randall
09/24/04	Ellsworth	LeFevre	09/04/19	Robert	Hall
09/24/05	Edward	Skinner III	09/06/19	Paul	McGrath
09/08/07	William	Ruhlman	09/11/19	John	Slebodnick
09/25/07	Robert	Beers	09/21/19	Douglas	Baker
09/02/08	William	Nixon	09/26/19	David	Ferrell
09/27/08	Wilbur	Powers	09/06/20	Frederick	Allen
09/16/09	Henri	Baxter	09/08/20	Douglas	Law
09/11/10	Wilburn	Lomax	09/19/21	John	Peters
09/15/10	Allen	Hayes	09/12/21	Kevin P.	Keegan
09/22/10	James	Broyles	09/27/21	James	Patton Jr.
09/03/11	Edward	Dillow	09/28/21	William	Miller
09/09/11	Alan	Donn	09/28/21	Rolland	Jackson, Jr.
09/25/11	Wilbert	Dettmann	09/02/22	Curry	Paul
09/24/12	Henry	Ohlmann	09/09/22	Rosenbluh	Davidson
09/17/13	Charles	Grant, Jr.	09/13/22	Sullivan	James
09/18/13	Richard	Lightle	09/19/22	Breen	William Lee
09/07/14	David	Pinkham	09/20/22	Kimball	Kenwood Jordon
09/07/15	Louis	Ulrich	09/29/22	Serruto	Marvin
09/16/15	Edward	Hernandez	09/11/23	McGonegal	William
09/14/16	Ch. J.	Garrett	09/14/23	Selby	Bruce
09/03/17	Kristian	Kristian (Kostyna)	09/24/23	Thomson	Matthew
09/23/17	John	Hanniford	09/29/02	Wooten	Walters



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.

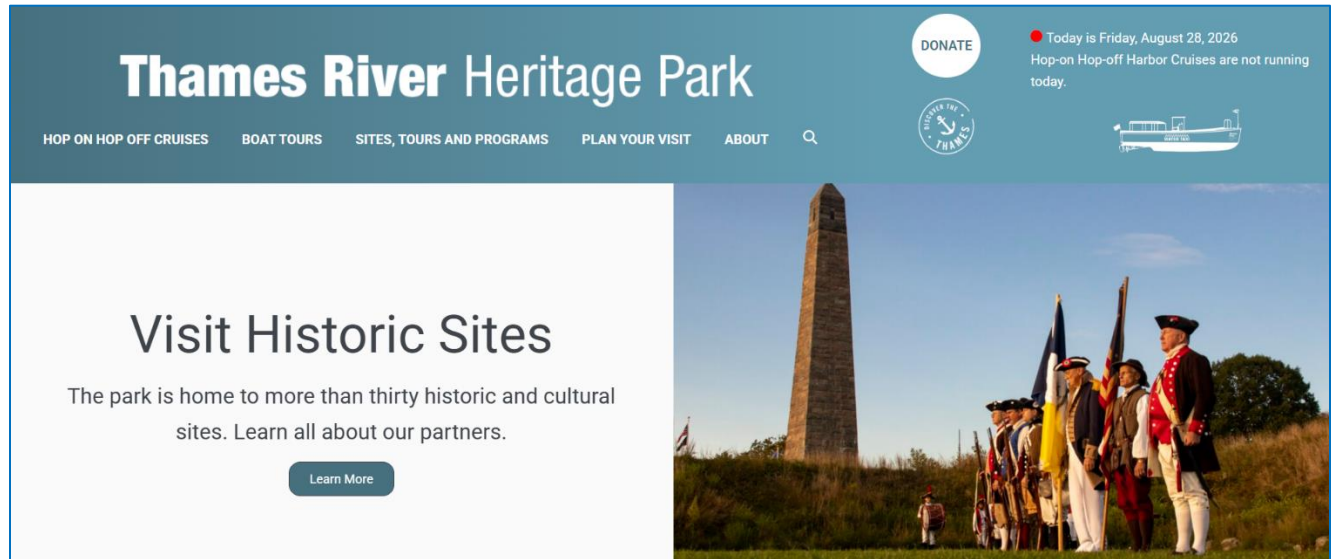
Lord this departed shipmate with Dolphins on his chest, is part of an outfit known as the best.

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 image 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 search icon. A date notice states: 'Today is Friday, August 28, 2026. Hop-on Hop-off Harbor Cruises are not running today.' The main content area features a large image of a historic obelisk and a group of people in period costume. Text on the left says 'Visit Historic Sites' and 'The park is home to more than thirty historic and cultural sites. Learn all about our partners.' with a 'Learn More' button.

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

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

<https://nlmaritimesociety.org/>



The image shows the website for the Custom House Maritime Museum/New London Maritime Society (NLMS). The header features the NLMS logo, the museum's name, and a navigation menu with links: 'About', 'NL Harborcam', 'Calendar', 'Rental', 'Lighthouses', 'Library', 'News', 'Amistad', and 'Education'. The main content area includes a large image of a group of people in period costume, a text box about the Amistad, and a call to action for an annual appeal. The text box reads: 'The Amistad entered New London harbor 187 years ago on August 25, 1839. The Custom House had opened 4 years before. The 3rd iteration of Fort Trumbull was just rebuilt that year in an Egyptian revival style.' The call to action says: 'Please DONATE to our ANNUAL APPEAL! #StandUpForScience #Museums4Science'.

Garde Arts Center



JOIN - Friends of the
Garde

Get Email Updates

EVENTS ▾ VISIT ▾ RENT ▾ SUPPORT ▾ EDUCATION ▾ ABOUT ▾

Add a little sparkle to every month of the
Garde's Centennial Season!

From unforgettable films and live music to comedy, family entertainment, and
once-in-a-century celebrations, there is always something special waiting for you.

**Choose your favorites – or join us for them all –
and celebrate 100 years of the Garde!**

<https://gardearts.org/>



The Real Movie Palace Experience
The Guardian (2006)
presented by the CT Maritime Heritage Festival

Giant screen, state of the art 4k digital
cinema projection, and full surround
sound, adult beverages, and your favorite
movie concessions

Movies

Fri, Sep 11, 2026 | 7:00 pm

Proudly presented as part of the **Connecticut
Maritime Heritage Festival** weekend

Event Details

[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 GREAT 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@USNVMIL
DOCENT COORDINATOR AND SECURITY MANAGER: ELBERTON A. MINOR@USNVMIL
EVENT SCHEDULING AND MUSEUM USE REQUESTS: LINDA E. WILLIAMS@USNVMIL
EDUCATION DIRECTOR (ACTING): KEVIN KELLY@USNVMIL
RESEARCH AND ARCHIVES: WENDY S. GALLEY@USNVMIL

US NAVY
SUBMARINE
FORCE MUSEUM
100th Anniversary 2026-2027



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

The Chapel on the Thames



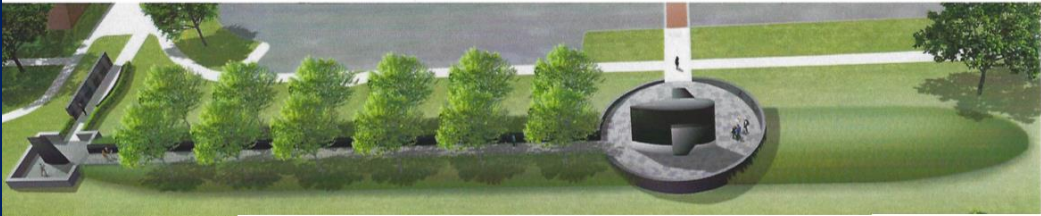
The Chapel on the Thames (COT) is located aboard Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton and offers both Protestant and Roman Catholic worship services for active-duty retired veterans and their families. The COT was originally conceived and constructed as a memorial to submariners, Officers and Enlisted 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.”

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



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.