



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



### Shipmates Families and Friends

February ended adding one more day to the month and to 2024. Yeah, leap year as if we needed another day to add to winter. Although it has given the Anniversary Committee an additional day before our big event. Speaking of anniversaries this will be United States Submarine Veterans Incorporated's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and it will be held 29 May – 2 June in Groton the home of the "First and the Finest".

In May 1964 Domenic "Joe" Negri and his team purchased the clubhouse at 40 School St. This building



has quite the history it was originally owned by the Thames Lodge Corporation and was labor hall for the Ancient Order United Workmen in the early years of Electric Boat the Groton Playhouse Groton Theater Groton Elks Lodge and finally USSVI.

So come join us and celebrate this milestone in USSVI history. Many activities have been for planned. Keep an eye out for registration information. Hope to see you all there.

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### United States Submarine Veterans Inc.

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

**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."

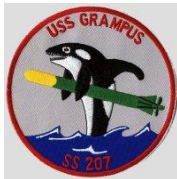
## United States Submarine Veterans Creed

*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.*

### Lost Boats – March



Lost on March 3 1942 near Java with no immediate loss of life while on her 1st war patrol. She survived 2 severe depth chargings in less than 200 feet of water by 3 Japanese destroyers. The crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the 59 officers and men taken prisoner 53 survived the war and six died as POWs.



Lost on March 5 1943 with the loss of 71 officers and men on her 6th war patrol. She was lost in Vella Gulf sunk after engaging 2 Japanese Destroyers.



Lost on March 12 1920 with the loss of 4 men as they tried to swim to shore after grounding on a shoal off Santa Margarita Island off the coast of Baja California Mexico. Vestal (AR-4) pulled H-1 off the rocks in the morning of 24 March only to have her sink 45 minutes later in some 50 feet of water. She was originally named the USS Seawolf before becoming H-1.



Lost on March 15 1943 with the loss of 74 men. She was sunk north of the Admiralty Islands during a fight with 3 Japanese Destroyers. Triton was the 1st boat to engage the enemy in December 1941 off Wake Island sinking 9 ships 1 submarine and a destroyer.



Lost on March 20 1945 with the loss of 87 officers and men at the end of her 2nd war patrol. Probably sunk near Okinawa by a Japanese submarine that itself was subsequently lost.



Lost on March 20 1945 with the loss of 87 officers and men at the end of her 2nd war patrol. Probably sunk near Okinawa by a Japanese submarine that itself was subsequently lost.



Lost on March 26 1944 with the loss of 79 officers and men on her 4th war patrol. It's believed she was a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. The lookout was the only survivor and he survived the war as a Japanese prisoner.

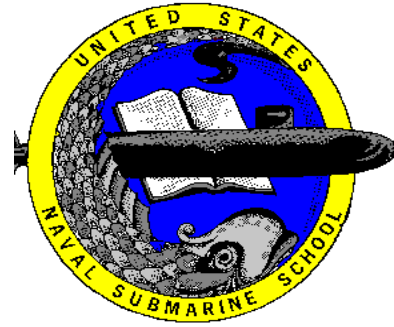


Lost on March 26 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese antisubmarine vessels and aircraft. Trigger ranked 7th in total tonnage sunk and tied for 8th in number of ships sunk.

### Plan of the Month March 2024

DATE	TIME	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
3/04	1830	Meeting	Monthly Membership Meeting
3/08	0900	Event	SubSchool Graduation
3/15	1300	Event	PCU Idaho Luncheon
3/16	1700	Event	St. Patrick Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner
3/16	1700	Event	Irish Music provided by Jamming Jim.
3/19	1130	Event	Holland Club Luncheon
3/22	0900	Event	SubSchool Graduation
3/25	1730	Meeting	Executive Board Meeting

*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 the month of February, a USSVI Groton Base member joined BESS graduation as the SubVets Representative presenting the "Heritage Award" and a SubVet Challenge coin to the class leader. In this month's issue of Boat Notes, we will highlight two graduations on 9 & 23 February. I would like to thank SubSchool leadership for allowing us to participate.

The following information on the USS Florida (SSBN-728/SSGN-728) and BESS Class 24120 graduating class was named comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links for additional details.



On 9 February BESS class that graduated was named after the USS Florida. USS Florida (SSBN-728/SSGN-728), an Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine, was the sixth ship of the United States Navy to be named for the 27th state. She was commissioned with the hull designation of SSBN-728; with her conversion to a cruise missile submarine, she was re-designated SSGN-728.

The contract to build her was awarded to the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut on 28 February 1975 and her keel was laid down on the bicentennial of the United States's independence, 4 July 1976. The boat was unnamed at the keel-laying ceremony.

The initial ship's crew formed the pre-commissioning unit on 8 July 1980. The first shipboard watches were stationed on 14 February 1981 to support the operational control transfer of engineering systems to ship's force control. The Secretary of the Navy finally named her on 19 January 1981.

Florida was launched on 14 November 1981 sponsored by Mrs. Jarcia M. Carlucci. Her reactor was initially taken critical on 13 November 1982, and she went into service and the crew moved onboard on 21 January 1983. Florida commenced initial builders' sea trials on 21 February 1983 and was subsequently delivered to the Navy on 17 May 1983 – 43 days ahead of schedule. She was commissioned on 18 June 1983, with Captain William L. Powell in command of the Blue Crew and Captain G.R. Sterner in command of the Gold Crew.

Both crews successfully completed the demonstration and shakedown operations, each culminated by the successful launch of a Trident C-4 missile. Florida transited the Panama Canal in February and arrived in Bangor, Washington on 25 March 1984. She completed her first strategic deterrent patrol on 25 July 1984.

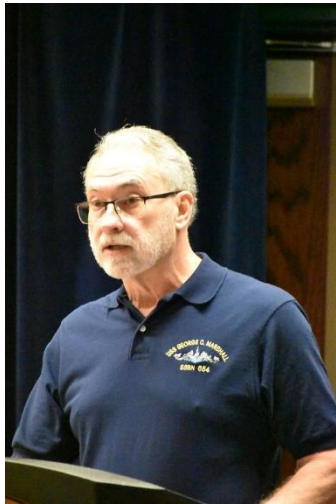


Florida entered Norfolk Naval Shipyard in July 2003 to undergo refueling and conversion from an SSBN to an SSGN. Florida completed her conversion in April 2006 and is homeported in Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia. On 25 May 2006 she had a return to service ceremony at Naval Station Mayport, Florida. Ms. Carlucci was the ship's sponsor for her recommissioning in Mayport, Florida in May 2006.

More on the USS Florida can be found at [USS Florida \(SSGN-728\) - Wikipedia](https://www.sublant.usff.navy.mil/SSGN728/) and <https://www.sublant.usff.navy.mil/SSGN728/>.

USS Florida, BESS class # 24120 had 86 students with a 78% average and 2 graduating with distinction. This class of future Submariners 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 for this were: STS1(SS) Mota TM1(SS) Floyd and STS2(SS) Hess. Thank you for using your background training and experience in guiding these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool Executive Officer CDR Danos and Guest Speaker was : CMDCM(SS) Travis Speaker, COB of PCU Idaho. SubSchool Chaplain Levels gave the Invocation and Benediction.



USSVI Groton Base Base Membership Chairman and USSVI Member Jeff Flesher was the SubVet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin SR(SU) Logan Pyper. The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented to SR(SU) Taylor Corbett. The class Honor Graduate Award was presented to SR(SU) Dylan Peterson. The Navy Core Values Award was presented to SN(SU) Eric Hamamoto. 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.



Heritage Award: SR(SU) Logan Pyper



William H. Purdum Award: SR(SU) Taylor Corbett



Honor Graduate: SR(SU) Dylan Peterson



Core Value Award: SN(SU) Eric Hamamoto



On February 23, BESS class that graduated was named after the USS Hampton (SSN 767).

USS Hampton (SSN-767), a Los Angeles-class submarine, is the fourth ship of the United States Navy to bear this name. The earlier Hamptons were given their names for varying reasons, but SSN-767 was specifically named for four cities: Hampton, Virginia; Hampton, Iowa; Hampton, South Carolina; and Hampton, New Hampshire. There are 14 more "Hampton" towns in the United States.

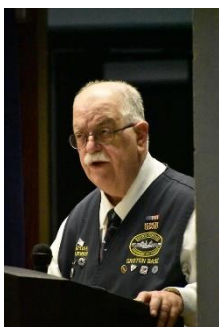
The contract to build the Hampton was awarded to the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Newport News, Virginia on 6 February 1987, and her keel was laid down on 2 March 1990. She was launched on 3 April 1992, sponsored by Mrs. Laura Bateman, and she was commissioned on 6 November 1993, with Commander David Antanitus in command.

In late April 2004 Hampton along with HMS Tireless (S88) surfaced through the ice together at the North Pole.

More information on the USS Hampton can be found at <https://www.csp.navy.mil/hampton/About/> or [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Hampton\\_\(SSN-767\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Hampton_(SSN-767)).



USS Hampton class # 24140 had 78 students with a 78% average and 3 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. Running this class through their paces were instructors STS1(SS) Mota TM1(SS) Floyd and STS2(SS) Hess. Thank you for using your background training and experience in training these future Submariners.



The Command Representative was SubSchool XO, Commander Dano. Guest Speaker was CMDCM(SS) Dex Buckley Chief of the Boat on PCU Iowa (SSN 797). SubSchool Chaplain LT Levels gave the Invocation and Benediction.

John Carcioppolo RMCM(SS) USN (Ret.) USSVI Groton Base Honor Detail Captain, USSVI Member was the USSVI Groton Base Representative and presented the Submarine



Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to FR(SU) Krause. The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented to SN(SU) Millbach. The class Honor Graduate award went to SN(SU) Glover. The Navy Core Values Award was presented to SA(SU) Peraino.

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.



Heritage Award: FR(SU) Krause



William H. Purdum Award: SN(SU) Millbach



Honor Graduate: to SN(SU) Glover



Core Value Award: SA(SU) Peraino

Here is the current graduation schedule for BESS. There are still a few 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
24160	Groton	DOT		Pat Roche	8-Mar-24	
24180	Nevada	CO		Steve Ricard	22-Mar-24	
24200	New Mexico	XO		Pat Roche	5-Apr-24	
24220	Texas	CMC	Shane Adkins		19-Apr-24	
24240	Providence	DOT			3-May-24	
24260	Rickover	CO			17-May-24	
24280	Tautog	XO		Bud Atkins	31-May-24	Joe Negri's qual boat
24300	Barb	CMC		Pat Roche	14-Jun-24	

24320	Wahoo	DOT		Bud Atkins	28-Jun-24	
24340	Turtle	CO		Steve Ricard	12-Jul-24	
24360	Nautilus	XO		Gary Schmid	26-Jul-24	
24380	NR1	CMC			9-Aug-24	
24400	Dolphin	DOT			23-Aug-24	
24420	Harder	CO			6-Sep-24	
24440	George C. Marshall	XO		Greg Kane	20-Sep-24	George C. Marshall & John Calhoun Reunions
24460	Cavalla	CMC		Pat Roche	4-Oct-24	Cavalla Reunion
24480	Jimmy Carter	DOT		Gary Schmid	18-Oct-24	
24500	Albacore	CO			1-Nov-24	
24520	Kamehameha	XO		Pat Roche	15-Nov-24	
24540	Sturgeon	CMC		John Carcioppolo	29-Nov-24	
24560	LA	DOT			13-Dec-24	

Red denotes recommended change in Class names.

*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.*

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



The clubhouse is open Tuesday-Friday 1100-1900 with lunch served from 1200 - 1430. Thanks to Katrina, Heather, Ashley, Mika Hodge, Shelia, and Sarah for all the hard work dedication and for keeping our clubhouse a go to destination. Luncheon specials and regular menu items are available. Check out our menus <https://www.ussvigroton.org/menus>. Stop in and renew some old friendships. Speaking of renewing 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.

During February, several organizations held various events from holiday parties, reunions to PCU Committee events, Commissioning’s, showers, and in-house events. I want to thank all for choosing SubVets for their special event, it truly brings home the feeling of family and the Submarine Community. We appreciate your patronage.

On Monday February 5<sup>th</sup> our Monthly Membership meeting was held at 1830 in the club hall. Over 35 members joined the monthly meeting both in person and via Zoom. The Executive Board gave their update on the status of the club finances, National Business Office move, and upcoming events to be held at the clubhouse. Each committee chair gave updates on happenings during the month and plans for the upcoming months. Many new things are planned for 2024 including USSVI Groton Base 60<sup>th</sup>



Anniversary. Prior to the meeting a social hour/holiday stress relief was held in the pump room. Join us next month on Monday March 4<sup>th</sup> for our monthly membership meeting starting at 1830. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting. Our regular raffles, meeting attendance and 50/50 were held.



On Friday 9 February the Club hosted a Valentines Day pasta dinner. About 40 people enjoyed a dinner prepared by Chefs Paul & Katrina. Also, the evening had a birthday celebration for John Carcioppolo. After dinner, music and karaoke was provided by our own DJ Jammin' Jim Lawton. Jim has a great following the comes into to crone to along to their favorite karaoke songs. The winner of the "Meat Raffle" gift certificate to Salem Prime Cuts was Troy Wagner. Thanks to all who joined us for an evening of dinner, friendship, and music.



Sunday 11 February Old Salts served up another fantastic Sunday Brunch Buffet. A big thanks to these guys and gals for doing another wonderful job. If any other organization would like to host Sunday Brunch, please let us know.



Sunday afternoon the clubhouse opened its doors for Super Bowl LVIII, Kansas City Swifties, I mean Chiefs v. San Francisco 49ers. Unless you live somewhere outside of earth's gravitational pull you know the Chiefs prevailed and won in an overtime thriller. The food and the thrills lasted long into the evening. Thanks to everyone who brought food for the pot-luck buffet. Congratulations to the big winners of the Super Bowl Pool.



1st Qtr: Bob Dulin                      Half Mika  
 3rd Qtr Mika                              Final Charlie and Anne

Friday 16 February SubVets Groton Base played host for a meet and greet with Congressman Joe Courtney and several Royal Australian Navy (RAN) officers who will begin the U.S. Navy's Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) at US Submarine Base New London. Members of SubSchool Staff, Subbase Staff and local officials were on hand for the festivities.



On Tuesday 20 February we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon. With the assistance of our friends from SubSchool Class 24140, four future Submariners assisted in serving up another delicious meal. Nice to see the interaction between the Holland Club members and the newest SubSchool soon to be graduates. A big BRAVO ZULU to Shipmates from Class 24140 USS Hampton Dalton Smilek ITSN(SU), Elijah Linquist MMAFA(SU), Bourne Caldwell ETVSR(SU), and Maximilian McNeill FTSR(SU).



We have a lot of major events planned for the coming months 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 [clubmanager@ussvigroton.org](mailto:clubmanager@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.

**SENIOR VICE COMMANDER**

**Robert Perritt**

Hello Shipmates

In last month's Boat Notes, we described the Groton Base working budget for 2024. Below is a summary of income and expenses for the month of January:

Category	Actual	Budget	Over Budget
Income	17,018	12,340	4,677
Cost of Goods Sold	9,350	5,883	3,517
Expenses	15,146	13,153	1,993
Net Income	-7,477	-6,646	-831

Overall, we exceeded both income and expenses but still came very close to our net income forecast. Well done!

We are pleased to announce Shipmate **Bill Sheehan** is now a member of the Groton Base Finance Committee. His knowledge of accounting controls, budgets, and audits are very much needed at the Base. Thank you, Bill, for stepping up to the challenge!

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

Respectfully

Bob Perritt

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

**JR VICE COMMANDER**

**Paul Skalski**

Hello Shipmates

Spring arrives in 21days. Finally, sunshine, and warmer temperatures are heading our way.

The SubVets 2024 Challenge Coin featuring a likeness of Joe Negri has arrived. You can purchase coins from the bartender for \$10 each.



On March 16 SubVets will hold our annual Corn Beef and Cabbage dinner in the pump room. Dinner is at 1700. The cost is \$18.00 per person. Signup sheet is at the bar. Irish music will be provided by are very own DJ Jamming Jim.

We are raffling off a Blackstone 36” flat top griddle. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20,00, See the bartender for raffle tickets. Raffle to be held March 16 after the Corn Beef and cabbage dinner.



v/r

**Paul Skalski**

*JrVice Commander*

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

860.823.9641



## **BASE SECRETARY**

**Alvin (Al) G. Kinsall**

Nominations for 2024 election cycle are open for Base Secretary and Sr. Vice Commander. Anyone interested in becoming a part of the leadership team for Groton Base should let me or the Base Commander know if you have an interest.

By now you should have received your 2024 SUBVETS 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary registration package. You are encouraged to send in your registration form as soon as possible. If you want to have your name and or qual boat in the program book, complete that portion of the form on page 3 and send it in with your \$5.00 donation. One way you can help support the base and the project is to help us solicit ads from businesses you frequent.

This event promises to be a big hit because we have not had a gathering of members, friends, and family in five (5) years. For the Welcome reception, our featured speaker is CAPT Kenneth Curtin, Commanding Officer US Naval Submarine Base New London. To top off the event the featured speaker for the Grand Banquet on Saturday June 1, 2024, is Albert H. (Al) Konetzni Jr., RADM USN (Ret).

V/r

Alvin G. Kinsall

Base Secretary

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

## **BASE TREASURER**

**Charlie Murray**



New Joe Negri 2024 coins are on sale now. Price is \$10

### **National Office Relocation**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> floor renovations completed, and furniture installed.
  - o Furniture was donated by Spacefitters of Connecticut
- Internet & Phone lines to be installed on March 1
- The Foyer will be renovated at a later date, once we have funding. Work effort includes repairs to ceiling painting, installing stair railings, and repairing light fixtures. We have already received donations which include drywall and new front doors.
- National Office will relocate on March 4, 2024. On-site training and transfer of work will occur the first 2 to 3 weeks in March.

### **Furniture Available**

We have an office table and chairs, metal office desk and filing cabinets available. These items are available now to any member before we place these on the Marketplace. This is a second notice, so act now because these may not be available in April. You will need to remove them from the 2<sup>nd</sup> level. As always this is available to you as a member no charge, but you can always donate.

**You can donate your time or money to support the Club.**

Plan to support our Club by volunteering to help us and consider donating for these Appeals.

March – April 2024 Annual Appeal

September – October 2024 Annual Thanksgiving and Caring & Sharing Appeal

You can consider a donation to the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary or to renovate the Foyer.

**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 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.

Charlie Murray, Treasurer

Cell 860.830.9605

**CHAPLAINS REPORT**

**Earl Colella & John Carcioppolo**



Honors Detail – John “Gumba” Carcioppolo [gumba700@comcast.net](mailto:gumba700@comcast.net)

The following is the Honors Detail activity from 26 January - 26 February 2024.

There were 5 Eternal Patrols as follows:

STS2(SS) Richard L. Willis II 23 Jan 2024 Honors detail 24 Feb 2024 – John Carcioppolo, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Al Kinsall, Bob Sharpe present.

RMCS(SS) Morris Spencer “Spence” Newkirk 04 Feb No Honors Detail

TMCM(SS) Jerry A. King 8 Feb 2024. No Honors Detail

CDR Steven S. Hartzell 12 Feb 2024 Honors Detail 27 Feb 2024

EMCM(SS) Jack H. Gallimore 22 Feb 2024 Honors Detail 29 Feb 2024

Please keep the following Shipmates in your thoughts and prayers: Paul Orstad.

Many thanks to the members of the Honors Detail who continue to participate in rendering honors to our Shipmates and to Earl Colella for his admin support in the preparation and mailing of the Eternal Patrol Certificates and prayers at the ceremonies. We could not render honors to our shipmates without all your support.

I got the information for the Eternal Patrol bios from the USSVI National Webpage Membership section. What you have there is what I put out. Additionally, some of the info comes from old bios from Holland Club inductions. If your info is not up to date either update it or ask Membership Chairman Jeff Fletcher to update it. You can contact Jeff at [membership@ussvigroton.org](mailto:membership@ussvigroton.org).

If you do not have all the right stuff, then that is what we are going to put out.

Also, with regards to information if we do not 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 who passed or see an obituary of a Submariner who passed and that may be a member, do not 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, please contact me or the Base Commander, Steve Ricard.

Also, if you need an Honors Detail tie, please contact John C.

Homecoming/Red Hat – On Wednesday 14 Feb we welcomed home USS CALIFORNIA (SSN 781) from deployment just in time for Valentines Day. I was not there but I was told that present were James Bowman, Dee Carcioppolo, Rich Cheatham, Rick Chihocki, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Marion Galbraith, Bob and Marilyn Gustafson, Brian Hague, Jim Lawton, Judy Lehosky, Charlie Murray, and Peggy Russell. If I missed anyone my apologies.

I am only as good as the info I get. But thank you all. Many thanks to the members of the Honors Detail who continue to participate in rendering honors to our Shipmates and to Earl Colella for his admin support in the preparation and mailing of the Eternal Patrol Certificates and prayers at the ceremonies. We could not render honors to our shipmates without all your support.



Saluting Cannons – From the head cannon-cocker Brian Hague good news for the cannons we received a donation of twenty-one shells of 10 gauge from Rich Russ of Norwich. Richie is a Navy vet that attends the Norwich Coffeehouse at VFW 594. Also working with Larry Williams of Mystic Air Force Vet and Machinist and our very own Ed Russell Larry was able to make aluminum inserts for the cannon breach to be able to fire 12-gauge shells due to the cost of 10-gauge shells. He also gave us two boxes of 12-gauge shells and now we have enough at least a dozen salutes. I would like to thank Richie.

Larry and Ed for their help and dedication to Veterans. “The only one who can help a Vet is another Vet.”

And I would like to thank Brian for his care and maintenance of our saluting cannons. Those guns are beauties when he gets done with them.

Let us have a moment of silence for our Shipmates on Eternal Patrol.



## HOLLAND CLUB REPORT

**Rich Cheatham Chairman**

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

### **March Holland Club Report to Membership**

#### **Luncheons**

We had **49** members and guests attending our **February 20, 2024**, Holland Club Luncheon. Our Guest Speaker was to be **Thor Torgersen**, President of **VETS** (Veterans Equine Therapeutic Services), but he had to bow out at the last minute. Luckily, member Gary Schmidt, former VETS Board of Director member, was able to provide an overview of the VETS operation and their need for volunteers.

#### **Induction**

The 2024 Holland Club Induction is scheduled for Saturday, **June 1, 2024**, at Dealey Center. *Mark your Calendar.*

#### **Status**

As of February 27, we have **39** 2024 Holland Club Inductees.

15 Attending

1 Undecided

6 Not attending

17 No reply.

The Induction Planning Committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5:30 pm at the clubhouse, continuing through May 16th. Let me know if you are interested in being on the committee. Volunteers are always needed, both before and on the day of so let me know if you can help.

Rich Cheatham

Holland Club Chair

[holland@ussvigothon.org](mailto:holland@ussvigothon.org)

## COLOR GUARD

**Bob Sharpe**



Looks like this February-March and Rope-yarn Wednesdays are going hand-in-hand. This has been a good time to take stock of the color guard's equipment and repair or replace as necessary.

The Color Guard next scheduled muster will be in April 2024 for the Groton Base's U. S. S. Thresher (SSN-593) memorial service. The detail needs a few members to assist. If you are interested, please email me at [bobsharpe@hotmail.com](mailto:bobsharpe@hotmail.com) or on my Cell at (860) 501-6161 and leave a message.

## MEMBERSHIP

**Jeff Flesher**

**SUPPORT GROTON BASE AND RENEW NOW for 2024!!  
Continue to be a Member of Our Base!**

### **Membership Update**

RENEW NOW FOR 2024

Members – 1190

Life National Members – 850

Holland Club – 636

Associate Members - 80

New Members February 2024

### **Active-Duty Submarine Qualified**

ITSC(SS) Kyle Longnecker. Qualified 2011, USS Dallas

CTTC(SS) Matthew Seidl, Qualified 2014, USS California

MMACS(SS) Justn Hendrix, Qualified 2008, USS Toledo

TM2(SS) Jacob Miller, Qualified 2018, USS Cheyenne

### **Associate**

Juliet Kotfer

Active-Duty Submariners are dues are free for Groton Base and USSVI National their first calendar year of membership!!

Are you a current member who wants to pay base and/or national dues for 2024 or beyond? If so, you can skip the forms and use PayPal from our website. You do not need a PayPal account, choose the guest option. Of course, you can still also pay at the Clubhouse or by mail. You can renew on the Groton Base website - <https://www.ussvigroton.org/dues-renewal>.

**Thank you to all renewing members!**

Jeff Flesher  
Groton Base Membership Chairman  
[membership@ussvigroton.org](mailto:membership@ussvigroton.org)



**USSVI GROTON BASE “SILENT SERVICE”**

**Richard Rusczyk**

SUBVETS LICENSE PLATE Contact Richard Rusczyk ([richardrusczyk@att.net](mailto:richardrusczyk@att.net))

See Our Website: <https://www.ussvigroton.org/linksofinterest>.



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

**These Are Faces Of Groton Base USSVI Scholarship Recipients 2020.**



It is only through Donations from Shipmates like you that the Groton Sub-Vets Base is able to provide financial support to our member's family members as they move on to post-secondary education. Some go on to attend colleges and universities, some community colleges, and some formal technical education programs. Any donations go toward your organization ensuring our Creed "**To Perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country**", continues to become a reality by supporting our shipmate's families future generations.

Please support your Groton Base Scholarship Program by forwarding a check identifying "**For the Scholarship Program**" to the Groton Base USSVI Scholarship Program 40 School Street, Groton, CT 06340.

Groton Base

Any questions, contact Greg Kane, Scholarship Chair at 860 989-1426.



A big thanks to the Memorial committee for a job well done!

Help support the installation of the Groton Sail by purchasing a paver. Be a part of the heritage for this great submarine.

# HELP US BUILD A MONUMENT.

<https://grotonsail.com/paver-order-form/>



USS GROTON Sail Foundation 

BUY A PAVER

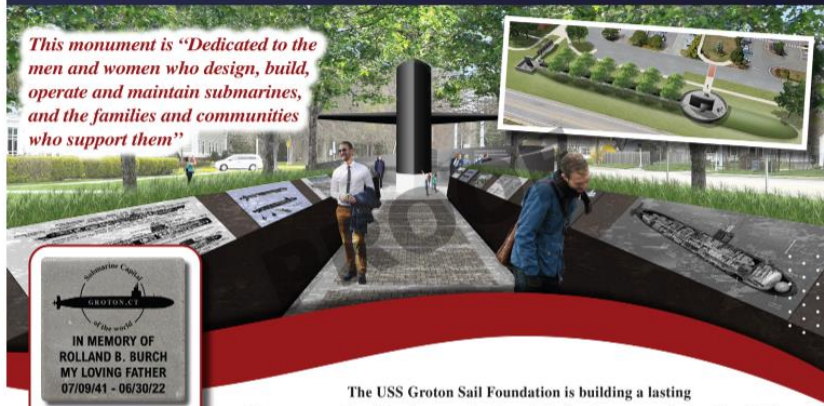
CREDIT CARD DONATION

MAIL A DONATION IN

[Home](#) [Purchase a Paver](#) [About](#) [History of the USS GROTON](#) [News](#) [Contact](#)

## USS GROTON SAIL MONUMENT *Engraved Walkway Pavers*

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




IN MEMORY OF  
ROLLAND B. BURCH  
MY LOVING FATHER  
07/09/41 - 06/30/22

**Order Your Personalized Paver today!**  
*Limited Number Available*

**\$250**  
Makes a great Holiday Gift!



Scan QR Code for info

The USS Groton Sail Foundation is building a lasting public monument to celebrate our region's contribution to our country's national defense. To be located on Route 117, adjacent to the Groton Public Library & Thrive 55+ Center, the centerpiece for this 320 foot submarine replica will be the actual sail and rudder from the United States submarine USS Groton (SSN 694).

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A dedicated walkway, comprised of 8"x 8" custom, engraved pavers will be a major part of this monument.

Each paver will be engraved with 1 of 10 special custom logos and can have 4 lines of text with your choice of a name and/or text to recognize family, friends, service members, businesses, or something special to you.

**Go to: [grotonsail.com](https://grotonsail.com)**

Credit Cards and Checks accepted • Application forms also available at Groton Public Library

*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, another cold month down a few more to go. The VA just put out their End-Of The-Year 2023 Veterans Benefit Update. <https://news.va.gov/127378/2023-end-of-year-veteran-benefits-update/>

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 plans 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 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 to travel, 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 submariner medical issues let me know and I will track it down and post it. 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.



**"No one stands so tall as when they stoop 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 thousands of sick Kids!



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.

We plan to continue this program as long as there are sick Kids in need of our support.

We visit Kids at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, The Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Yale New Haven Hospital's 2 Child Psychiatric Units, The Ronald McDonald House and The Connecticut Hospice. We continue to explore visiting Kids at other Connecticut child health care facilities.

We have Fun with the Kids and give them Honorary Submariner Certificates, Ball Kaps, Tattoos, Challenge Coins and Wrist Bands. They also receive a Nautilus Submarine Photo signed by our K4K Team, a Silent Service Coloring Book, a map showing the location of all US Submarine Museums, and information brochures from the USS Nautilus Submarine Museum and the WWII Submarine Memorial in Groton, CT.



We gave the Kids Honorary Submariner Certificates Ball Kaps Tattoos Challenge Coins and Wrist Bands. They also received a Nautilus Submarine Photo signed by our K4K Team a Silent Service Coloring Book a map showing the location of all US Submarine Museums and information brochures from the USS Nautilus Submarine Museum and the WWII Submarine Memorial in Groton CT.

We gave them Therapeutic Relaxing Heart Shaped Squeeze Balls with the image of a Submarine stamped on them. These are always a big hit and we had fun playing throw and catch handing them out.

We also let them know that they would get a Special Tour and a USS Nautilus Challenge Coin from Active-Duty Submariners if they visit the free USS Nautilus Submarine Museum.

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



**K4K VIDEO & INFO:** <https://www.ussvcf.org/kapss-4-kidss-fund.html>

*If the above link does not work, try copying and pasting it into your browser.*

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



**USSVI GROTON BASE "MARCH BIRTHDAY LIST"**

*Happy Birthday to all who continue to celebrate.*

1-Mar	Joe	Frederick	14-Mar	Marvin	Burkhalter III
1-Mar	Robert E.	Saenz	14-Mar	Matthew W	Portillo
1-Mar	Nathan	Smith	15-Mar	Robert A.	Johnson
1-Mar	Justin Ryan	Stewart	15-Mar	Dean R.	Marvin II
1-Mar	Jeffrey R	Walsh	15-Mar	Emmit J.	McPherson
1-Mar	Brian W.	Wynn	15-Mar	Eric J	Murphy
2-Mar	Michael J	DeViliez	16-Mar	Cary W.	Maikranz Sr
2-Mar	Kevin	O'Connor	17-Mar	Kevin P.	Coogan
2-Mar	Alan P.	Tracy	17-Mar	Matthew A.	Gregory
3-Mar	Robert F.	Rowe	17-Mar	Thomas M.	Perron
4-Mar	Jeffrey	Burns	17-Mar	David	Quesenberry
4-Mar	Breck R	Kearns	17-Mar	Howard Patrick	Urello
4-Mar	Jack J.	Kelledes	18-Mar	Harry L.	Hegg III
4-Mar	Thomas D.	Ponko	18-Mar	William D	Printup
4-Mar	Charles K.	Shoop	18-Mar	Dennis Lee	Reichenberger
5-Mar	Richard	Carter	19-Mar	Steven M.	Shirar
5-Mar	Paul R.	Cote	20-Mar	Jerry K	Patterson
5-Mar	Leo M.	Morrisette	20-Mar	Dennis C.	Staley
6-Mar	Charles S	Wilkinson Jr	23-Mar	Paul E.	Thielen
7-Mar	Lisa M.	Sizer	20-Mar	Jack L.	Townsend
7-Mar	Alfred G.	Trottier	20-Mar	Gary D	Weale
8-Mar	Kevin	Burgo	21-Mar	Dean E.	Davis
8-Mar	Jesse	Lowery	21-Mar	Scott	Stackpole
8-Mar	Bill	Shatraw	22-Mar	Wesleigh F	Whitson
9-Mar	Kimberlee L.	Beagle	23-Mar	Robert P.	Dulin
10-Mar	Steve	Fritzler	23-Mar	Eric M.	Jones
10-Mar	Paul	McLain	23-Mar	Hope	Maruzo
10-Mar	Len	Novak Jr.	23-Mar	Jeffrey S.	Rigg
11-Mar	Nicholas	Harr	23-Mar	George S.	Smith
11-Mar	John Charles	Moulton	24-Mar	James Franklin	Caldwell Jr.
11-Mar	Dale G	Strope	24-Mar	Charlie	Cooper
11-Mar	Teddy G.	Vaughan	24-Mar	David B	Gustafson
11-Mar	Dennis	Waters	24-Mar	Larry	Hunter
12-Mar	David	Anderson	24-Mar	Leon	Hylton
12-Mar	Gary C	Beale	25-Mar	Stephen B	Chisholm
12-Mar	Stephen A.	Foster	25-Mar	Richard S	Hovdestad
12-Mar	George E.	Marshall	26-Mar	Philip J	Clerkin
13-Mar	Joseph R.	Franks	26-Mar	Jerome C.	Kline
13-Mar	Garrett	Hughes	27-Mar	Clifford E	Cline
13-Mar	Joseph D	Schoonmaker	27-Mar	Daniel	Reiss

27-Mar	Roderick H.	Riessen	29-Mar	Stephen T	Hambey
27-Mar	Shawn T	Ryan	29-Mar	Craig S.	Megargle
28-Mar	Robert	Asselin	29-Mar	Robert G	Schmitz
28-Mar	James C.	Clawson	29-Mar	Harrison H.	Solt III
28-Mar	William J.	Dopirak	30-Mar	Ramsey C	Allen
28-Mar	Gannon	McHale	30-Mar	Kenneth J	Bennett
29-Mar	Michael P.	Allen	30-Mar	Patrick	McLellan
29-Mar	Ileene Genevieve	Davis			

### USSVI GROTON BASE "MARCH ETERNAL PATROL LIST"

1-Mar-07 Charles Emerson	18-Mar-01 James Orr Sr
1-Mar-14 Robert Jensen	18-Mar-11 John Eck
3-Mar-09 Philip Dionne	18-Mar-15 William Wagner
4-Mar-18 David Katusha	18-Mar-16 Robert Wilton
5-Mar-13 Orville Horton	18-Mar-20 Richard Eng
5-Mar-20 Charles Fenick	18-Mar-21 Fred Stafford
6-Mar-07 William Runde	19-Mar-11 Jose Vincente
6-Mar-16 Richard Barker	19-Mar-17 Nelson Bearce
8-Mar-04 Linus Larch	20-Mar-07 Raymond Badger
8-Mar-17 Harry Larsen	21-Mar-01 Arthur Pitka Jr
9-Mar-23 Geiler Richard	22-Mar-10 Donald Barley Sr
10-Mar-09 Robert Kreeger	23-Mar-13 Robert Bair
10-Mar-18 Edouard Cadoret	23-Mar-18 John Truman
10-Mar-21 Carl Hansen	24-Mar-98 John Pokorny
11-Mar-06 Herbert Kline	24-Mar-16 Joseph Maruzo Jr
11-Mar-13 Robert Rall	25-Mar-14 John Manning
12-Mar-01 Robert Vera	25-Mar-19 John Sweat
12-Mar-09 James French	25-Mar-20 Ronald Karpus
12-Mar-11 William McNeil	26-Mar-20 Roy Charlette
12-Mar-13 Donald Barber	27-Mar-13 Edwin Shaw Jr
12-Mar-15 Henry Reed Jr	27-Mar-14 William Haines
13-Mar-05 Peter McFadyen	27-Mar-20 Ronald Williams
13-Mar-15 Edmund Knight	28-Mar-08 Theodore Swanson Jr.
14-Mar-06 David Nettleton	28-Mar-14 Lelan Athow
14-Mar-07 Donald Wilson	28-Mar-17 Daniel Murphy
14-Mar-23 Penney Jack	29-Mar-19 Robert Williamson
15-Mar-05 LaVerne Breault	30-Mar-09 Daniel Orcutt
15-Mar-12 George Smith	30-Mar-20 Douglas Maynard
15-Mar-20 Frank Chesky Jr	30-Mar-23 Zaharevich Daniel
15-Mar-22 Stephen A "Doc" Jackson	31-Mar-08 Thomas Hopely
16-Mar-14 Eugene Parkos	31-Mar-11 Robert Sollenberger
17-Mar-04 Paul Foss	31-Mar-14 Thomas Roan
17-Mar-06 Leonard Behlke	
17-Mar-06 James Lemerlin	
17-Mar-21 Harvey Simmons	



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.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Garde Arts Center was created in 1985 as a non-profit performing arts organization to save and reuse the historic Garde Theatre one of the few remaining historic movie palaces in Connecticut. Built in 1926 during the golden era of motion pictures and vaudeville theatres the recently restored Moroccan interior of the Garde Theatre along with the new seats and state-of-the-art stage equipment provide a very audience-friendly theatre venue in a warm and beautiful atmosphere. Today the Garde is becoming nationally recognized for its unique architecture and multi-faceted programming. For more information [About | Garde Arts Center](#)

For a great evening out this winter take a movie at the Cinema. For movies and schedules visit <https://gardearts.org/events/2024-winter-cinema-series-pass/>

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Garde Arts Center website. The logo is a red heart with 'GARDE ARTS CENTER' inside. The navigation menu includes: EVENTS ▾, VISIT ▾, DONATE ▾, SUPPORT ▾, EDUCATION ▾, ABOUT ▾. On the right, there are links for 'Donate' and 'Get Email Updates' with a shopping cart icon. The main banner features a dark blue background with a film strip and a golden Oscar statue. The text reads: 'The Breezeline 2024 Winter Cinema Series Pass Up to 18 films for one \$65 Cinema Pass!'. Below the banner, there is a 'Through March 2024' section with a search box containing 'Breezeline Winter Cinema Series'. To the right is a 'Buy Passes' button and 'Tickets \$65 per pass plus fees'. Further right is a 'SEASON 2024' graphic with the text 'Explore our latest events, advertisers, & supporters'. At the bottom right, it says 'Your tax-deductible gifts make a difference as we bring everyone...'.


## **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. It was dedicated 79 years ago on December 3, 1944, 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.”

# 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)  
EVENT SCHEDULING AND MUSEUM USE REQUESTS: [LINDA.E.WILLIAMS@US.NAVY.MIL](mailto:LINDA.E.WILLIAMS@US.NAVY.MIL)  
EDUCATION DIRECTOR (ACTING): [KEVIN.WILLY@US.NAVY.MIL](mailto:KEVIN.WILLY@US.NAVY.MIL)  
RESEARCH AND ARCHIVES: [WENDY.S.GULLEY@US.NAVY.MIL](mailto:WENDY.S.GULLEY@US.NAVY.MIL)*



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