



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



Shipmates, Families, and Friends

Welcome to 2024, I wish you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. Last year was a successful year at the Domenic "Joe" Negri clubhouse and a big part of that was because of you, our members, families, and friends. What you do in support of our creed is outstanding.

I know that it is still early, but we are well into the planning and production phase of USSVI Groton Base 60th Anniversary celebration. Please mark your calendar 29 May through 2 June and plan to attend the festivities marking this milestone in USSVI history. A detailed schedule of events will be sent to each member in the coming weeks. I hope that you can join us.

Remember USSVI Groton Base is home to every qualified Submariner, we need to spread the word and to bring in new members at every opportunity. We are only as strong as our membership. Please spread the word, tell them what a great place 40 School Street is and the great sea stories that our membership can tell.

One of the reasons I know we do so well is because of our great staff. I thank all of you, Heather, Katrina, Ashley, Mika, Kaitlyn, Shelia, and Sarah along with all of members who volunteer for their extra efforts not just over the holidays but every day in making SubVets a place to visit and a huge success.

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 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.

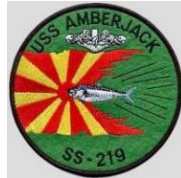
Lost Boats – February



Lost on Feb 4, 1945 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 4th war patrol. Based on Japanese records, she was bombed near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage. The day before, she reported she survived 3 depth charge attacks.



Lost on Feb 11, 1942 with the loss of 59 officers and men on her 1st war patrol. Shark was the 1st US submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific. She was most likely sunk by depth charges.



Lost on Feb 16, 1943 with the loss of 72 officers and men on her 3rd war patrol. Off Rabaul, she was attacked by a Japanese patrol plane, attacked by a torpedo boat and then depth charged by a subchaser. One additional man was killed earlier on the last patrol.



Lost on Feb 26, 1944 with the loss of 80 officers and men on her 10th war patrol. She appears to have been caught on the surface in the East China Sea by a Japanese carrier plane whose bombs made a direct hit. During this patrol she sank 4 ships totaling 21,594 tons and was tied for 11th in the number of ships sunk.



Lost on Feb 29, 1944 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 11th war patrol. She was sunk by escorts in the middle of the Philippines Basin after sinking a passenger-cargoman and damaging another in a convoy. She carried out several notable special missions, including carrying over two tons of gold bullion out of Corregidor in February 1942.



Plan of the Month February 2024

DATE	TIME	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
2/05	1830	Meeting	Monthly Membership Meeting
2/08	1900	Meeting	West Port Group Meeting
2/09	1800	Event	Valentine Dinner
2/09	1800	Event	Meat Raffle
2/11	1000	Event	Old Salts Bruch
2/11	1700	Event	Super Bowl Potluck Party
2/13	1730	Meeting	60 th Anniversary Meeting
2/20	1130	Event	Holland Club Luncheon
2/26	1730	Meeting	Executive Board Meeting
2/27	1730	Meeting	60 th Anniversary 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 January, 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 11 & 26 January. I would like to thank SubSchool leadership for allowing us to participate.

The following information on the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) and the submarine that the graduating class was named comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links for additional details.



On 11 January, the BESS class that graduated was named after the USS Constitution (Ironsides). USS Constitution was one of six frigates authorized for construction by an act of Congress in 1794. Joshua Humphreys designed them to be the Navy's capital ships. Larger and more heavily armed than the standard run of frigate, Constitution and her sisters were formidable opponents even for some ships of the line.

Built in Boston of resilient live oak, Constitution's planks were up to seven inches thick. Paul Revere forged the copper spikes and bolts that held the planks in place and the copper sheathing that protected the hull. Thus armed, she first put to sea in July 1798 and saw her first service patrolling the southeast coast of the United States during the Quasi-War with France.

Now the oldest U.S. warship still in commission, Constitution remains a powerful reminder of the nation's earliest steps into dominance of the sea.

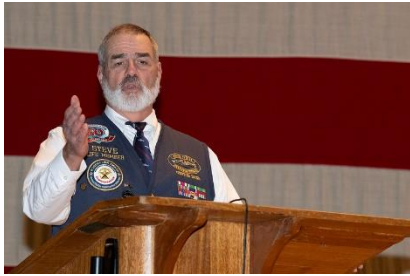
More on the Old Ironsides can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Constitution and <https://www.military.com/equipment/uss-constitution>.



USS Ironsides class # 24080 had 94 students with a 77% average and 3 graduating with distinction. This class of future Submariners have finished that first milestone in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments, ranging from "A" School to direct assignment to their first submarine. Instructors for this were : STS1(SS) Mota, FT2(SS) Rodrigue, 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) Adam Goulas. SubSchool Chief Oser gave the Invocation and Benediction.

USSVI Groton Base Base Commander, Holland Club and USSVI Life Member ETCM(SS/DV) Steve Ricard USNR Retired was the SubVet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin SN(SU) Janett Gomez. The Captain



William H. Purdum Award was presented to FN(SU) Alexander Coughenhour. The class Honor Graduate Award was presented to SN(SU) Ismael Gonzalez. The Navy Core Values Award was presented to SN(SU) Merrick



Greene. 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) Haily Looper



William H. Purdum Award: SR(SU) George Matta



Honor Graduate: SR(SU) Terje Snyder



Core Value Award: SA(SU) Justin Daez



On January 26, the graduating BESS class was named after the USS Chicago (SSN 721)

USS Chicago (SSN-721) is a Los Angeles-class submarine, the fourth ship of the United States Navy to be named for the city of Chicago, Illinois. The contract to build her was awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Newport News, Virginia on 13 August 1981 and her keel was laid down on 5 January 1983. She was launched on 13 October 1984 sponsored by Mrs. Vicki Ann Paisley, wife of Melvyn R.

Paisley assistant Secretary of the Navy and commissioned on 27 September 1986. The Chicago was retired in 2023.

More information on the USS Chicago can be found at [About USS Chicago | USS Chicago | SSN 721 | Submarine Squadron 15 | COMSUBPAC \(navy.mil\)](#) or [USS Chicago \(SSN-721\) - Wikipedia](#).



Chicago, class # 24100 had 80 students with an 78% average and 2 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, FT2(SS) Jensen, and FT2(SS) Rodrigue. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in training these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool CO, Captain Fanning. Guest Speaker was ETVCM(SS) Osman Bangura, Chief of the Boat on PCU UTAH (SSN 801). SubSchool Chaplain, LT Levels gave the Invocation and Benediction.



Frank White, USSVI Groton Base and Holland Club Member was the USSVI Groton Base Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SA(SU) Shaldon Sami. The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented to SR(SU) Michael Snider. The class Honor Graduate award went to SR(SU) Michael Mackay with a 94% average. The Navy Core Values Award was presented to SA(SU) Mitchell Maxwell.

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: SA(SU) Shaldon Sami



William H. Purdum Award: SR(SU) Michael Snider



Honor Graduate: to SR(SU) Michael Mackay



Core Value Award: SA(SU) Mitchell Maxwell

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
24120	Florida	XO		Bill Cavanagh	9-Feb-24	
24140	Hampton	CMC		John Carcioppolo	23-Feb-24	
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 being 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 January, 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 events, it truly brings home the feeling of family and the Submarine Community. We appreciate your patronage.



On January 3rd, Mr. Bill Louis, President, MDA-UAW Local 571 stopped by the clubhouse to drop of a check for \$2,050 to be used towards the Building Fund. The donation came from the 3rd Annual Cornhole Tournament held on November 18 was hosted by Foxwoods Casino. There were 155 teams that participated in the tournament at all skill levels and raised \$23,385.00. The MDA-UAW donated all proceeds to 15 different Veteran organizations. Thank you MDA-UAW Local 571 for your continued support to our Veteran Community.

Due to the first Monday of the month being a holiday the Monthly Membership meeting was held on Monday 8 January. Over 30 members joined the monthly meeting both in person and on Zoom. The Executive Board gave an end of year status update and committee chairs gave status updates. During the meeting we received a very generous donation of \$1,000 from Jack and Alice Gallimore. The donation will go towards the new lady’s restroom. Jack and Alice, thank you for your continued support. Many new things are planned for 2024, including USSVI Groton Base 60th Anniversary. Prior to the meeting a social hour/holiday stress relief was held in the pump room. Join us next month, on Monday February 5th for our monthly membership meeting starting at 1830. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting.



On Sunday 14 January, Old Salts held our first brunch of the new year. They implemented a new method of serving brunch buffet style in the Hall. It seems to be well received giving brunch goers more time to enjoy breakfast with family and friends. Cody, Dean, Katrina, Kevin, and Troy invaded the kitchen and cooked a delicious brunch.

Meantime in the Hall, Gordo, Gary, Fritz, and the crew staffed the buffet line and took brunch

orders. Over 90 happy patrons left the building after an all you could eat buffet. Thanks, Old Salts for starting the new year on a full stomach.



Sunday afternoon, we tried our second attempt at holding our Annual Volunteer "Thank You" reception. The original date was 7 January, but the weather did not cooperate. The event was rescheduled to the 14th in hope of finally thanking everyone for their support. The food was ordered, and the volunteers showed up early to help take down the Christmas trees in the Hall. But Mother Nature had a different kind of event in mind. Rain and high winds rolled into southeastern Connecticut around 1300 and knocked out power from the clubhouse to RT 1.



But we persevered. Moving to the hall, where we at least had windows and eventually battery powered candles (thanks Sarah and Jean) to kick the event off. The food was good, the camaraderie was excellent, and the desserts were outstanding. I want to thank all the volunteers for attending and donating their time



to our many events held during 2023, especially Thanksgiving. We cannot do this without your support.



Thursday 18 January five volunteers from BESS joined us at the clubhouse to remove the Eternal Patrol Christmas ornaments and take down five trees and made the transition from a Christmas to a

Valentine theme in the dining room. After the work was done, they sat down for a well-deserved lunch. A big BRAVO ZULU to Shipmates from Class 24100, USS Chicago, SA(SU) Hudle, FR(SU) Bereczky, SA(SU) Rader, SA(SU) Sami, and SR(SU) Smith.



Friday, 19 January Groton Area Chief Petty Officers Association (GACPOA) held a Dining-In in hall. It was a great evening. Thanks Shipmates, for bringing this time-honored event to the Domenic “Joe” Negri Clubhouse.

We have a lot of great 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, Kait Hodge, via email at 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



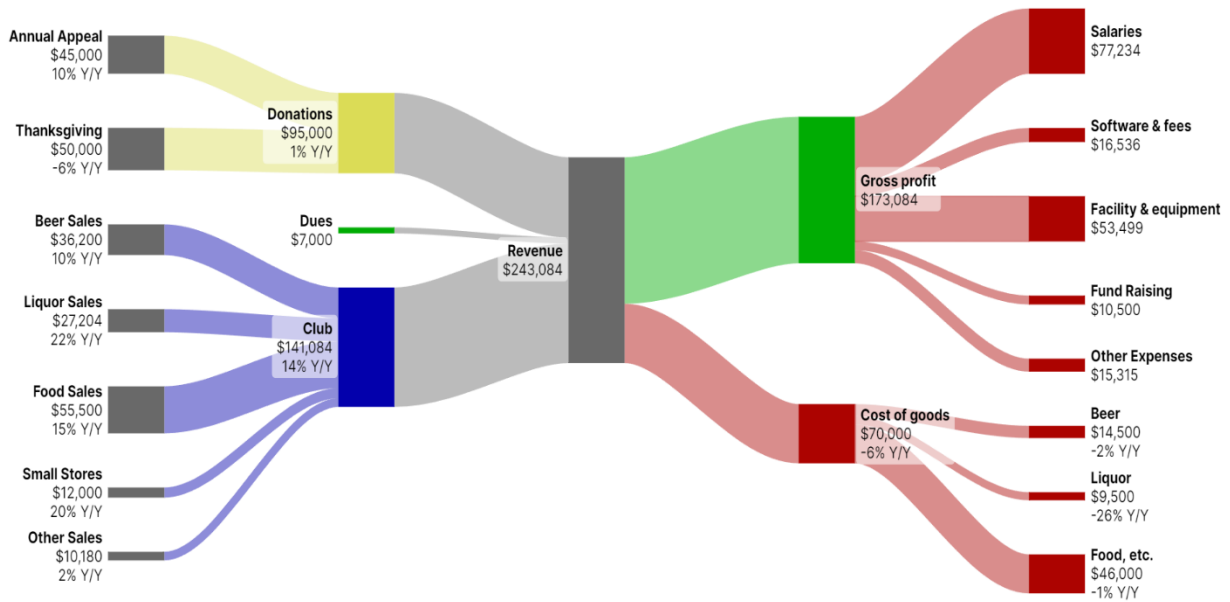
stopped by the club, “your club,” to renew friendships and to check on our many updates since your last visit.

Hello Shipmates,

Below is a simplified view of the Groton Base 2024 Budget. Income flows in on the left side of the diagram – primarily from club revenue and member donations. Expenses are shown on the right.

Where there is a percentage with the “Y/Y” notation, it indicates this year’s budget compared to 2023’s actual amount. For example, we predict a 10% increase from the 2024 Annual Appeal vs last year.

USSVI Groton Base FY24 Budget



If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please feel free to contact me at vice@ussvigroton.org.

Respectfully,

Bob Perritt
vice@ussvigroton.org.

Hello Shipmates

Another month has come and gone at the clubhouse. Will the groundhog see his shadow this month. We will see. Check our web site often for upcoming events which may be of interest to you.

Stop into the clubhouse, pull up a stool, have some lunch and swap old sea stories. The clubhouse is open Tuesday – Friday 11:00 – 19:00. Lunch is between 11:00 – 14:30.

February 9 at 18:00 we will be having a Valentine Pasta Dinner. Music will be provided by Jamming Jim. Once dinner is over Jim will slide into Karaoke at 20:00. Always, a good time.

Old Salts will be hosting brunch on February 11 between 10:00 – noon. Come and give them your support.

Super bowl potluck party on Sunday February 11. Bring your favorite dish to share with your fellow shipmates and friends. Root for your favorite team. Doors open at 17:00. Kick off at 18:30. Squares are available for purchase from the bartender for \$20 / square. Purchase a square and have two free drinks.

March 16 we will hold the annual Tom and Carol Connors Corn Beef and Cabbage dinner. Come on down and see what surprises we have in store.

Hope to see you at the clubhouse.

v/r,

Paul Skalski

JrVice Commander

jvice@ussvigroton.org

860.823.9641



BASE SECRETARY

Alvin (Al) G. Kinsall

Again, I would like to remind our members that this month, February 1, 2024, nominations for Base Secretary and Sr. Vice Commander are open. Anyone interested in stepping up and becoming a part of the leadership team for Groton Base should let the Base Commander know you are interested. After careful consideration, it is with regret that I will not seek re-election as Base Secretary.

I am also Chair of SUBVETS 60th Anniversary committee. The event runs from May 28 through June 2, 2024. The committee has done a lot of work to this point. Most events are planned and ready to execute. The project has now reached the point where the committee is soliciting Anniversary Program Book Ads to help defray our cost of putting on this major event.

One way you can help support the base and the project is to help us solicit ads from businesses you frequent. In addition, you can put a business card size ad or just your name and qual boat on our member's page. When you get your registration package, please consider supporting this major event.

V/r

Alvin G. Kinsall

Base Secretary

secretary@ussvigroton.orgs

February 2024

COINS – First Look at New 2024 coin.



The significant change is shown above. Expect to have new coins before March 2024. Price is \$10

National Office Relocation

- 3rd floor renovations in progress mid-January expect work to be completed by January month end. Office furniture to be installed by mid-February, Internet & Phone lines to be installed on March 1, 2024
- Foyer as part of the 3rd floor renovations the Foyer will be renovated. This work will start once the 3rd floor is completed. Work effort includes repairs to ceiling, painting, repairing light fixtures, improved access.
- 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.
- Our Contractor, Michael and Oscar are busy, and the work is exceptional.

Furniture Available

We have an office table, metal office desk and filing cabinets available. Before we place these on the Marketplace, these can be available to a member. You will need to remove them from the 2nd 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

Volunteer to help us, it only takes a few hours a week to make a difference in the appearance of the clubhouse or to help with a Sunday Brunch. Try this just have lunch or a drink and talk to another member, you do that, and the member is likely to continue to come to the clubhouse. Remember it is more of a social club and strictly for you.

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.

New Opportunity

The Treasurer is looking for 3 to 5 members or friends who want to be more involved with how we acquire donations, make clubhouse improvements, and provide reporting to our members. If you are interested, please contact me (Charlie at treasurer@ussvigroton.org).

2025 there will be an opportunity to be the Base Treasurer, if you are interested then let us work together now so you have an idea of the responsibilities.

Bathroom Improvements

We are planning to rebuild the lady's bathroom in 2024. This renovation will allow for wheelchair access, handicap toilet and functional improvements. Donations are necessary, tell your past shipmates that they can help with a donation.

Charlie Murray
Treasurer
USSVI Groton Base
treasurer@ussvigroton.org
860.830.9605

CHAPLAINS REPORT

Earl Colella & John Carcioppolo



John "Gumba" Carcioppolo gumba700@comcast.net

The following is the Honors Detail activity from 26 December – 25 January 2024.

There was one Eternal Patrol for STCM(SS) Tim Salmon 1 Jan 2024 Honors Detail to be provided later.

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.

The information that I receive for the Eternal Patrol bios is 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. Jeff can be contacted at membership@ussvigroton.org.

Also, with regards to information if we do not know of a member passing, we cannot provide the information or present Honors. If you do not have all the right stuff, then that is what we are going to put out.

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 Shipmate's passing or see an obituary of a Submariner who passed, and 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.

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.

Homecoming/Red Hat – There will be another Homecoming in the month of February with a Red Hat Muster. Dates cannot be provided at this time due to classification. Watch your emails.

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.

February Holland Club Report

Luncheons

The **January 16, 2024**, Luncheon was *cancelled* due to Mother Nature. We are working to re-schedule **Major General Francis Evon** as our guest Speaker for a future date.

We have **Thor Torgersen**, President of **VETS** (Veterans Equine Therapeutic Services), scheduled to be our **February 20, 2024**, Guest Speaker.

Let me know if you plan to attend the luncheon.

Induction

We have **thirty-nine** potential 2024 Holland Club Inductee's.

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

The Induction Planning Committee will meet at the clubhouse on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5:30 pm beginning February 15th.

Let me know if you are interested in being on the committee

Rich Cheatham
Groton Base Holland Club Chair
holland@ussvigroton.org

COLOR GUARD

Bob Sharpe



I am fulfilling all of the duties and responsibilities of Groton Base's Color Guard Captain until the Executive Board approves a long-term replacement. Groton base needs to have a few new members, preferably non-Holland Club, to step forward to be the Color Guard Captain and flag carriers. It's actually a light duty detail that is not time consuming and can be easily supported with your day-to-day schedules.

I am looking for some members to step forward and become part of our color guard roster. If you are interested in becoming a member, please email me at bobsharpe@hotmail.com or on my Cell at (860) 501-6161 and leave a message.

The Color Guard next scheduled muster will be in April 2024 for the Groton Base's U. S. S. Thresher (SSN-593) memorial service.

MEMBERSHIP

Jeff Flesher

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

Earlier this month we sent emails to over 400 members who were not current with Groton Base dues. More than 70 Shipmates have renewed so far in January. I will send another email update at the beginning of February, if you get the email, then you are not current with the Base. **Remember, National USSVI Life Membership does not include Groton Base Memberships.**

Membership – 1,184
Life National Members – 851
Holland Club – 637
Associates – 79

January New Members:

New Associate Members:
LT Ethan Bloodworth

Thank you to all renewing members!

Jeff Flesher
Groton Base Membership Chairman
membership@ussvigroton.org



USSVI GROTON BASE “SILENT SERVICE”

Richard Rusczyk

SUBVETS LICENSE PLATE Contact Richard Rusczyk (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.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Greg Kane

These Are The Faces Of Groton Base USSVI Scholarship Recipients.



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.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Marion Galbraith



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

HELP US BUILD A MONUMENT.

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



USS GROTON Sail Foundation

BUY A PAVER

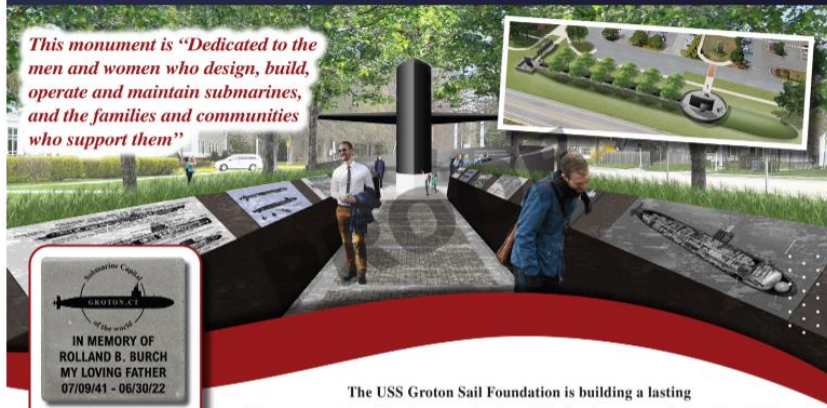
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MAIL A DONATION IN

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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

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

VETERANS CORNER

SGT Brain Hague US Army (Retired)

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

Hey Navy, one 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](#)

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.

KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS)

John Riley - National Chairman



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

Abraham Lincoln



On 17 January, the Groton Base Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Team of Bob Dulin and John Riley visited Kids at Yale New Haven Hospital's In-Patient Child Psychiatric Unit.

We made 16 Kids Happy Honorary Submariners!

This 16-bed in-patient unit treats Children with neuropsychiatric, developmental, and behavioral problems. It provides comprehensive psychiatric, psychosocial, and educational evaluation and treatment for Children ages 4 to 14.

We have been visiting Kids in this unit for over 13 years, and we always have lots of Fun with them. The staff again thanked us and informed us that our visits make a positive difference with the Kids. They also told us that it gives the staff a welcome and entertaining break from their daily routine. We shared with the staff that our visits make a positive difference in our lives as well!

Using our Submarine video and slide show presentation, we entertained the Kids and staff, and answered their many questions.



We gave the Kids Honorary Submariner Certificates, Ball Caps, 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 "FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY LIST"

Happy Birthday to all who continue to celebrate.

2/1	Michael A. Casella	2/13	William J Shaw
2/1	David M Chungata	2/13	Walter J. Wadja Jr
2/1	Alexander Louis Hartley IV	2/14	Walter Barch
2/1	James Ramage	2/14	Walter Magnavice Jr
2/1	Michael G. Riegel	2/14	Francis H To
2/2	Darrell Buffenmeyer	2/15	Lawrence Gleason
2/2	John I. Gedney III	2/15	Christine M. W. Marcoux
2/2	Dale Johnston	2/16	Robert C Freeman
2/2	Walter L. Newton	2/16	Donald G. Gunn
2/2	Albert Joseph Perry	2/16	Richard J Twilley
2/2	Michael Shaw	2/17	John E. Hogan
2/3	Ronald T. Grabowski	2/17	Jeff Markowski
2/3	Diederick E. Kanning	2/17	Gary J. Turek
2/4	Joseph Bialek, Jr	2/18	Chad C Collins
2/4	Joseph K. Birkle	2/18	John Pagan
2/4	Roy R. Rimmele Jr	2/18	Troy Wick
2/4	Patrick P. Sullivan	2/18	Jeffrey M Wiesmaier
2/4	Walter G. Wyllie Jr	2/19	Arthur R. Gager
2/5	Jean B Cather	2/19	Ralph V. Masi
2/6	Alexander Atkinson	2/19	Bruce M. McCutcheon
2/6	Wayne Mercer	2/19	Morris Spencer Newkirk Jr
2/6	Michael W Munhall	2/19	Adolfo T. Villarial
2/6	Chris Nailon	2/19	James W Windsor
2/6	William Michael Scarano	2/20	Lloyd W. Frink IV
2/8	David A. Bergstrom	2/21	Bruce Brayton
2/8	Henry Buermeyer	2/21	Stanley W. Mathis
2/8	Harold L. Drurey	2/21	William T. McCance
2/8	William H. Fatek	2/21	James Montague
2/8	Michael G. Moore	2/21	Thomas Ross
2/8	Joseph W. Vaisin	2/21	Andrew Toriello
2/9	Jay H. Atkinson	2/22	Maurice L Price II
2/9	John J. Carcioppolo	2/22	George Torkelson
2/9	Robert A Gustafson	2/23	Joseph E. Banack
2/9	Dan Tassias	2/24	Gordon E. W. Conrad II
2/10	Patrick E Boyle	2/23	David D. Gordon
2/10	Henry F. Gunning	2/23	Elton E. Hamilton
2/10	Richard J Rice	2/23	Rick Harris
2/11	Chris Albanese	2/2	Donald Francis Madura
2/12	William Badders	2/24	Edwin L. Gibbons
2/12	Frank Conahan	2/24	Robert Michael Hagerman
2/12	Steven DuBois	2/25	James C Leen
2/12	Paul C Maloney	2/25	John J Lynch
2/12	Jerry L Walton	2/25	Keith M. Middlesworth
2/13	Jerry L Ramsey	2/27	Benjamin G. Kuerth

2/27 Peter R LaSala
 2/27 Jack Munro
 2/28 Michael C. Henderson
 2/29 Eric T Boyd
 2/29 James Burgess

USSVI GROTON BASE "FEBRUARY ETERNAL PATROL LIST"

			2/15/21	Gerald	Brinkman
			2/16/11	Joseph	Hegy
2/1/02	Tom	Flynn	2/17/15	William	Monteith
2/1/11	Lockwood	Whiteley	2/27/21	Richard	Paul
2/2/06	Brian	Berger	2/18/99	Robert	Furu
2/2/13	Joseph	Hinchey	2/19/06	Harold	Schwartz
2/2/13	Edward	Kalin	2/19/11	Linus	Steck
2/3/08	Prentice	Alexander	2/19/23	Tommy	Cox
2/3/09	Joseph	Damiata	2/20/05	William	Bauer
2/3/09	David	Gilletti	2/20/13	Steven	Hancharyk Jr.
2/3/11	George	Zipp	2/20/17	Harold	Harold
2/5/09	Richard	Dickson Sr.	2/20/18	Marshall	Clark
2/5/20	Roy	Callahan	2/20/20	Michael	Brown
2/5/21	Joseph	Gilbert Jr.	2/20/21	Louis	Costa
2/6/12	Martin	Kichar	2/21/07	Anthony	Skrzat
2/7/99	Jay	Kernan	2/21/08	August	Brenzinger Jr.
2/7/06	David	Wilkens	2/21/20	James	Horne
2/7/14	William	Lehr	2/22/21	Lenny	Sinacore
2/7/15	Gerald	Tighe	2/23/07	Stephen	Arel
2/8/04	Terrance	Henninger	2/23/21	Walter	Friess
2/17/12	Stuart	Brown	2/24/09	Kenneth	Ayers
2/8/12	Charles	Schofield	2/24/12	Joseph	Donahue
2/9/00	David	Rimbey	2/26/10	Charles	Harrison
2/9/13	Robert	Perry	2/26/10	Peter	Nalle
2/10/09	Churck	Dreer	2/26/13	Alex	Doucette
2/21/15	Wayne	Robinson		Basil	
2/11/16	Kenneth	Brannin	2/26/22	Angelo	Asteriades
2/13/04	Thomas	Kiely, Jr	2/27/22	John	Craggs
2/14/09	Kenneth	Guilfoil	2/28/22	Scott	Howard
2/14/17	Richard	Williamson	2/28/23	William	Conley Jr.
2/15/14	Charles	Sullivan			



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, keep 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 Garde Arts Center website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo on the left and links for 'Donate', 'Get Email Updates', and a shopping cart icon. Below the navigation bar is a main menu with 'EVENTS', 'VISIT', 'DONATE', 'SUPPORT', 'EDUCATION', and 'ABOUT'. The main content area features a large banner for 'The Breezeline 2024 Winter Cinema Series Pass' with the text 'Up to 18 films for one \$65 Cinema Pass!'. Below the banner, there is a 'Through March 2024' section with a search bar containing 'Breezeline Winter Cinema Series'. To the right of the search bar is a 'Buy Passes' button. Below the search bar are social media icons for Facebook, X, and Email, with the text 'Invite a Friend:'. To the right of the search bar is a 'Tickets' section with the text '\$65 per pass plus fees'. On the far right, there is a promotional graphic for 'SEASON 2024' with the text 'Explore our latest events, advertisers, & supporters' and '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
DOCENT COORDINATOR AND SECURITY MANAGER: ELBERTON.A.MIXON@US.NAVY.MIL
EVENT SCHEDULING AND MUSEUM USE REQUESTS: LINDA.E.WILLIAMS@US.NAVY.MIL
EDUCATION DIRECTOR (ACTING): KEVIN.WILLY@US.NAVY.MIL
RESEARCH AND ARCHIVES: WENDY.S.GULLEY@US.NAVY.MIL*



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

Join the 3rd Cohort!

10-week training program

for current and prospective volunteer guides

Lively Informative Talks and Presentations
Tours of Heritage Sites

[View the 10-week schedule](#)

Every Wednesday, 9 AM - 12:30 PM
February 14, 2022 - April 24, 2024*

A collaborative effort of
Thames River Heritage Park Foundation
and the 21 heritage sites that comprise the Park.

REGISTER TODAY!

<https://www.thamesriverheritagepark.org/docent-academy/da-registration/>