

Groton Base Boat Notes





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



Greetings from the bridge of USSVI Groton Base, home of the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial "First and Finest" Clubhouse. As we steam into the new year, the clubhouse has never looked better and it's all because of you, the life blood of USSVI that we are able to keep the legacy of Joe Negri alive. The hard work, dedication, and monetary donations by our membership in the upkeep and improvements to this 130 plus year old building is nothing short of outstanding. The Groton Base EBoard and National Officers thank you.

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

USS *Cusk* (SS-348) Launches a Loon Missile and other February Submarine History Milestones

In the long arc of American undersea warfare, certain milestones stand out as unmistakable turning points: the commissioning of *Holland*, the wartime exploits of the Gato and Balao classes, the arrival of *Nautilus*, and the first Polaris patrol of *George Washington*. These events are well known, well documented, and widely celebrated. Yet between the end of World War II and the rise of the nuclear ballistic-missile submarine force lies a chapter of submarine history that remains comparatively underappreciated, one defined not by nuclear propulsion or underwater launch capability, but by the ingenuity, endurance, and professionalism of diesel-boat submariners.

February 12, 1947, when USS *Cusk* (SS-348) launched a U.S. Navy Loon missile off Point Mugu, California, becoming the first American submarine to fire a guided missile. While the event itself was experimental, its implications were profound. The launch marked the beginning of the missile era for the Submarine Force, setting in motion a series of developments that would ultimately reshape U.S. naval

strategy and global deterrence. But more importantly, it opened a period in which diesel submarines, and eventually nuclear submarines, carried the burden of America's earliest sea-based strategic deterrent.

For today's veterans, particularly those who served on diesel boats or in the early nuclear era, this story is more than a historical footnote. It is a reminder of the adaptability, technical mastery, and quiet professionalism that have



always defined the Submarine Force. It is also a testament to the men who served aboard the Regulus SSGs, boats like *Growler*, *Grayback*, *Tunny*, *Barbero*, and *Halibut*, whose contributions bridged the gap between World War II diesel operations and the modern SSBN fleet.

The Postwar Moment: A Force in Transition

When World War II ended, the U.S. Navy possessed the most experienced and effective submarine force in the world. Yet the strategic environment was shifting rapidly. The atomic bomb had altered the nature of warfare, and the emerging Cold War demanded new ways of projecting power and deterring aggression. The Navy recognized that submarines offered a promising platform for delivering strategic weapons. But the technology to do so was still in its infancy.

It was in this context that the Navy began experimenting with adapting German V-1 technology into an American cruise missile. The result was the Loon, a reverse-engineered derivative of the V-1 "buzz bomb." Crude by modern standards, the Loon had a limited range, required surface launch, and depended on radio-command guidance. Yet it represented a conceptual breakthrough: the idea that a submarine could deliver a weapon far beyond the reach of its torpedoes.



To test this concept, the Navy selected USS *Cusk*, a Balao-class submarine built at Electric Boat in Groton. Commissioned in 1946, *Cusk* was a conventional diesel-electric boat, but she was modified extensively for missile testing. An airtight hangar was installed aft of the sail, along with a deck-mounted launch ramp and specialized electronics for guidance and telemetry. These modifications transformed *Cusk* into one of the earliest “special mission” submarines in U.S. history.

February 12, 1947: The First Guided-Missile Launch from a U.S. Submarine

Submarine

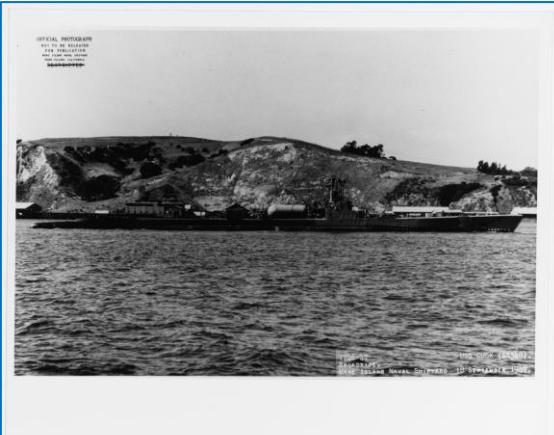
On the morning of 12 February 1947, *Cusk* surfaced off Point Mugu and prepared to launch her Loon missile. The event was the culmination of months of engineering work, training, and coordination. When the missile left the ramp and streaked across the Pacific sky, it marked the first time an American submarine had successfully fired a guided missile.

The launch was not merely a technical demonstration; it was a strategic revelation. It proved that submarines could serve as mobile missile platforms, capable of delivering weapons at ranges far exceeding those of torpedoes. Although the Loon itself was never deployed operationally, the experiment validated the concept of submarine-launched missiles and set the stage for the development of the Regulus program.

The Regulus Era: Diesel Boats on the Nuclear Front Line

The Regulus program represented the United States’ first operational attempt to deploy nuclear-armed missiles at sea. Before Polaris, before the first SSBN ever sailed, the nation’s strategic deterrent rested on the shoulders of a small group of diesel submarines equipped with Regulus I and later Regulus II cruise missiles. Their mission was straightforward in concept but extraordinarily demanding in execution: carry nuclear-armed cruise missiles to forward positions in the Pacific and remain ready to launch in the event of national emergency.

Unlike later ballistic-missile submarines, the Regulus boats faced significant operational challenges. They had to surface to launch, exposing themselves to detection. They required long, vulnerable transits to reach launch positions. Missile guidance was complex, often requiring coordination with aircraft or other submarines. Endurance was limited by diesel-electric propulsion. Crew workload was intense, blending WWII-era diesel operations with Cold War nuclear responsibilities.



Yet despite these challenges, the Regulus boats conducted some of the earliest strategic deterrent patrols in U.S. history. Their presence in the Pacific provided a critical stopgap capability during the years before Polaris became operational in 1960.

DBF Culture: The Human Element Behind the Mission

The success of the Regulus program depended heavily on the culture and skill of diesel-boat Sailors. The unique attributes of this community, ingenuity, toughness, adaptability, and a deep, hands-on understanding of their boats made this era possible. These qualities were essential in an era when automation was limited, systems were temperamental, and missions demanded both technical precision and physical endurance.

DBF Sailors maintained aging diesel machinery with resourcefulness and pride. They operated in harsh conditions, often with minimal support. They relied on teamwork, experience, and instinct. And they carried nuclear weapons at a time when the procedures, technologies, and strategic frameworks surrounding such missions were still evolving. In many ways, the Regulus boats represented the last great operational stand of the diesel submarine in U.S. service. They were the final expression of a culture forged in the crucible of World War II and carried forward into the early Cold War. Their contributions bridged the gap between the wartime diesel fleet and the nuclear-powered SSBN force that would follow.

The arrival of USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571) in 1954 and her first war patrol on nuclear power beginning on February 7, 1955 (another milestone) and the subsequent development of the Polaris ballistic-missile system fundamentally transformed the Submarine Force. Nuclear propulsion offered unprecedented endurance and stealth, while underwater launch capability eliminated the vulnerabilities associated with surface firing. When *George Washington* conducted the first Polaris patrol in 1960, the strategic landscape changed permanently.

Yet it is important to recognize that the Polaris program did not emerge in a vacuum. It was built on the foundation laid by *Cusk* and the Regulus boats. The early missile tests demonstrated the feasibility of submarine-launched weapons. The Regulus patrols provided operational experience in strategic deterrence. And the diesel-boat Sailors who executed those missions proved that submarines could carry the nation's most powerful weapons with professionalism and reliability.

For submarine veterans, whether diesel or nuclear, WWII, Cold War, GWOT, fast-attack or ballistic-missile, this history carries enduring significance. It reminds us that the Submarine Force has always been defined by innovation, adaptability, and quiet excellence. It underscores the importance of the human element in undersea warfare. And it highlights the contributions of Sailors whose service, though sometimes overshadowed by later technological achievements, was essential to the development of modern strategic deterrence.

The story of *Cusk* and the Regulus boats is not merely a technical narrative; it is a human one. It is the story of crews who operated in challenging conditions, who mastered new technologies, and who carried out missions of immense strategic importance with little public recognition. It is a story that deserves to be remembered, honored, and shared with future generations.

Conclusion: A Legacy Carried Forward

The missile age of the U.S. Submarine Force began not with nuclear propulsion or underwater launch capability, but with a diesel boat off the coast of California in 1947. From that first Loon launch aboard *Cusk* to the final Regulus patrols of the late 1950s, diesel submariners played a central role in shaping the strategic trajectory of the United States during the early Cold War.

Their legacy lives on in the SSBN fleet that patrols today, in the professionalism of the Sailors who serve aboard them, and in the heritage of the Submarine Force as a whole. For veterans, especially those who served on diesel boats or in the early missile programs, this chapter of history is a reminder of the vital contributions they made to national security.

As we reflect on the evolution of the Submarine Force, it is fitting to honor the men of *Cusk*, *Growler*, *Grayback*, *Tunny*, *Barbero*, and *Halibut*, and the countless others who served during this transformative period. Their work laid the foundation for the modern undersea deterrent, and their legacy continues to shape the silent service today.

United States Submarine Veterans Inc.

WHO WE ARE: We are all United States Submariners! members Whether currently Active Retired Reserve or an Honorably discharged veteran we all were, and some still are of the elite underseas fighting force of the United States Navy. We are all volunteers who passed stringent testing challenging training, and we proved our mettle when we earned the coveted designation "QUALIFIED IN SUBMARINES".

Whether your dolphins are Gold or Silver, there is no expiration date on the back of that precious pin.

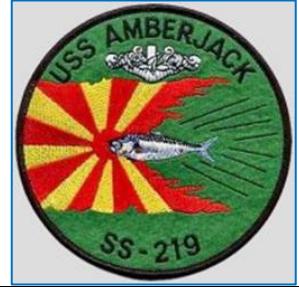
United States Submarine Veterans Creed

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country that their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments, and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

ABOUT US: Groton Base was established as the first USSVI Base in 1964 following the tragic loss of the USS Thresher SSN-593.

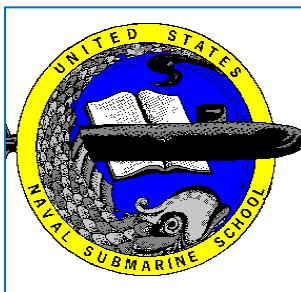
Our creed serves to remember them and “all US Submariners on Eternal Patrol.”

Lost Boats – February

	USS Barbel (SS-316)	<p>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.</p>
	USS Shark I (SS-174)	<p>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.</p>
	USS Amberjack (SS-219)	<p>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.</p>
	USS Grayback (SS-208)	<p>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.</p>
	USS Trout (SS-202)	<p>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.</p>

Plan of the Month, February 2026

Date	Time	Action	Description
2/2	1830	Event	Groton Base Membership Meeting
2/6	1100	Event	SOBC Graduation: Tony Quattroche
2/8	1000	Event	Superbowl Watch Party – Food and Drink Specials
2/13	0900	Event	BESS Graduation: Jeff Walsh
2/13	1800	Event	Monthly Dinner: Valentine Dinner & Dance
2/15	1000	Event	Sunday Brunch with Dawn
2/17	1100	Event	Holland Club Luncheon
2/20	1100	Event	SOAC Graduation: Bill Sheehan
2/20	2000	Event	Karaoke With DJ Jammin' Jim
2/25	1000	Event	Sunday Brunch with Dawn
2/27	0900	Event	BESS Graduation: Bob Sharpe



Part of the Submarine Veterans Creed/Purpose is to endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."

Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) Updates

During each month, a USSVI Groton Base member participated in Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) graduation as the SubVets Representative presenting the “Heritage Award” and a SubVet Challenge coin to the class leader. In this month’s issue of Boat Notes, we will highlight two graduations held on January 15th and the 30th.

I would like to thank SubSchool leadership, CO Captain Chance Litton, Executive Officer LCDR Bryan Chapman, Director of Training Captain Mark Robinson, CMC Michael Micheli, Master Chief Esteban Vargas, Senior Chief David Lee, Chief Nik Roberts, as well as class instructors, and coordinators, for allowing us to participate in this milestone event.

The following information is for BESS Class 26060, named after the USS *Nautilus* SSN 571. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.



Nautilus is described by Verne as "a masterpiece containing masterpieces". It is designed and commanded by Captain Nemo. Electricity provided by sodium/mercury electric batteries (with the sodium provided by extraction from seawater) is the craft's primary power source for propulsion and other services. The energy needed to extract the sodium is provided by coal mined from the sea floor. Nautilus is double-hulled, and is further separated into water-tight compartments. Its top speed is 50 knots.

Maybe Jules Verne had the future in mind when he wrote *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Seas*, in 1869.

USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571) was the world's first nuclear-powered boat, nuclear-powered submarine, and the first submarine to complete a submerged transit of the North Pole on 3 August 1958. Her initial commanding officer was Eugene "Dennis" Wilkinson, a widely respected naval officer who set the stage for many of the protocols of today's Nuclear Navy in the US, and who had a storied career during military service and afterwards.

Nautilus shares the name of the fictional submarine in Jules Verne's classic 1870 science fiction novel Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea[8] and the USS *Nautilus* (SS-168) that served with distinction in World War II.

On 19 August 1957, *Nautilus* departed New London for her first voyage under the Arctic polar ice pack. The 1,383-mile journey was significant, because previously U.S. submarines did not travel to the frozen northern oceans due to diesel-electric boats could not travel freely under ice. The opening of the Arctic to Navy submarines allowed access to the previously protected waters of the Soviet Union.



In recognition of her pioneering role in the practical use of nuclear power, *Nautilus* was designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior on 20 May 1982. Following an extensive historic ship conversion at Mare Island, the submarine was towed to Groton, arriving on 6 July 1985. There, on 11 April 1986, 86 years to the day after the establishment of the U.S. Submarine Force, historic ship *Nautilus* and the Submarine Force Museum opened to the public as the first exhibit of its kind in the world. The unique museum ship continues to serve as a dramatic link in both Cold War-era history and the birth of the nuclear age.



More on the Sealion can be found [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nautilus_\(fictional_submarine\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nautilus_(fictional_submarine)) and <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/ships/submarines/uss-nautilus.html>.

On January 15th the BESS Class named after USS *Nautilus* SSN 571 had 121 students with a class average was 78% and 7 Sailors graduating with Distinction. To graduate with Distinction requires an average of 90% or higher. Congratulations to this class of future Submariners who have finished one of many milestones in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments whether "A" School or direct assignment to their first submarine. Instructors involved with today's ceremony included were: MMAC(SS) Roberts, FT1(SS) Abbott, FT2(SS) Eaton, and STS2(SS) Ortiz. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool Commanding Officer, Captain Chance Litton. Guest Speaker was Naval submarine Support Facility (NSSF), CMC Jason Hayes. SubSchool Chaplain, CDR Wilkinson gave the Invocation and Benediction.



USSVI Groton Base and Holland Club Member, Gary Schmid was the SubVet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SA(SU) Nicholas Vaughn. The Heritage Award is given to the student who demonstrates performance of their duties above and beyond the call of the average student.

The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented by Master Chief Esteban Vargas to SA(SU) Karol Williams. This award is given to the student who demonstrates academic achievement and personal improvement through the course of instruction.



The class Honor Graduate Award was presented to SN(SU) Stephen Alaba, by SubSchool CO, Captain Litton. The honor graduate is the student with the highest academic average who maintained outstanding military bearing over the course of instruction.



The Navy Core Values Award was presented by CMC Jason Hays to SA(SU) Imari Alcorn. This award is given to the student who best embodies the U.S. Navy Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.



Congratulations and good luck as you begin the next phase of your submarine career. Looking forward to all these fine Sailor joining our organization when they receive their fish.

BESS Graduation Schedule

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

BESS Graduation Schedule and SubVet Representative

Class No.	Class Name	Graduation Date	Command Rep	SUBVETS Rep	Notes
26100	USS Shark	13 February 2026		Jeff Walsh	
		<i>27 February 2026</i>		Bob Sharpe	
		<i>13 March 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
		<i>27 March 2026</i>			
		<i>10 April 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
		<i>24 April 2026</i>		Steve Ricard	
		<i>08 May 2026</i>			
		<i>22 May 2026</i>			
	USS Holland	<i>05 June 2026</i>		Atkin/Ricard	
		<i>19 June 2026</i>			
		<i>02 July 2026</i>			
		<i>17 July 2026</i>		Bud Atkin	
		<i>31 July 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
		<i>14 August 2026</i>			
		<i>28 August 2026</i>			
		<i>11 September 2026</i>			
		<i>25 September 2026</i>			
	USS Archerfish	<i>09 October 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
		<i>23 October 2026</i>		Bud Atkin	
		<i>06 November 2026</i>			
		<i>18 November 2026</i>		Steve Ricard	
		<i>04 December 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
		<i>18 December 2026</i>			

Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) and SubVet Representative

Class No.	Graduation Date	SUBVETS Rep	Notes
26010	6 February 2026	Tony Quattroche	
26020	27 March 2026	Bill Cavanagh	
26030	22 May 2026		
26040	24 July 2026	Bud Atkin	
26050	18 September 2026		
26060	13 November 2026		

Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC) and SubVet Representative

Class No.	Graduation Date	SUBVETS Rep	Notes
25060	20 February 2026	Bill Sheehan	
26010	01 May 2026	Bob Sharpe	
26020	18 June 2026		
26030	14 August 2026		
26040	23 October 2026	Bud Atkin	
26050	11 December 2026	Bob Sharpe	

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

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, USSVI provides a way for all submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. The USSVI supports a strong U.S. Submarine Force.



The clubhouse is open Wednesday-Friday 1100-1700 (or when the last customer leaves) with lunch served from 1100 – 1430 Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday. Come in and say Hi to Dawn. Thanks to Heather, Ashley, Erin, Ollie, and Julz for all the hard work, dedication and for keeping our clubhouse a go to destination.

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

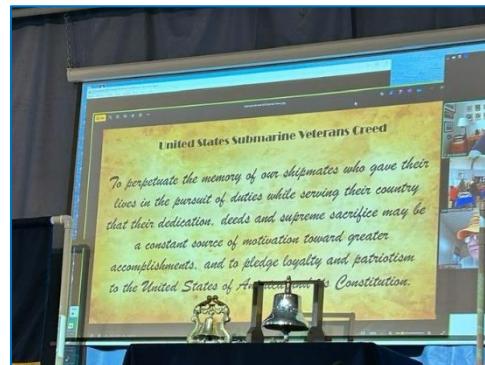
Stop in and renew some old friendships. We are also hosting “Happy Hour” Wednesday 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Come on down and try some drink specials.

On Monday January 5th we held our Monthly Membership meeting at 1830 in the hall. Over 30 members joined in on the first monthly meeting of the new year both in person and via Zoom. Thank you to members who attended their first meeting.

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

With the invention of Zoom, you'd think more members would attend the meeting. **We offer Zoom so all of our, almost 1200 members, can attend.**

Join us next month at our Membership meeting on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 1830. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting.





On Sunday 11 January we held our "Thank You Volunteers" reception. This event is for all of the people who put in the extra effort week after week in keeping this organization running. For the 2nd year in a row a fabulous spread was prepared and served by "Luigi's Wood Fired Pizza Risto".

On Tuesday January 20th we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon down in the "Tom Connors Memorial Dining Room". There were over 60 members and guests who braved the 10-degree temperatures to attend the luncheon. Our guest speaker was Commander, Submarine Squadron Four Capt. Thomas Flaherty, and CMC Adam Goulas.

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



Congratulations to Groton Base Associate Member Dennis Lisee, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army, who was inducted into the CT Veterans Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held at the CT Department of Veterans Affairs in Rocky Hill on Thursday 22 January.

Also inducted was Mike Monaco, U.S. Marine Corps. Mike has provided a utility truck from his business, Monaco Ford, and donated his time to help pick up over 1100 turkeys at Thanksgiving to support our Thanksgiving Caring and Sharing program. In all 14 Veterans were inducted into the CT Veterans Hall of Fame this year. Congratulations and well deserved.





On Saturday 24 January the Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee host the monthly dinner. Chef Paul and his mess cooks whipped up a delicious dinner. The Mongolian BBQ was attended by 46 members and their guest. Raffle prizes and a 50/50 drawing with proceeds going to the next monthly dinner. Thanks to all who attended and to those who brought along a special dessert. Join us in February for dinner and dancing. **We have a lot of open dates to plan your events for 2026**, so keep an eye out for announcements, Facebook postings or Plan of the Month posted in the clubhouse. If you have any ideas on how to put butts in seats at **YOUR** club let any of us know. Stop on by the clubhouse have lunch renew your membership and say "Hi."

Boat Reunion

Anyone having a boat reunion in the “Submarine Capital of the World” in 2026 reach out and let us know. We would love for you to have one or more of your reunion functions at the club. Contact our Event Coordinator Ashley via email at events@ussvigroton.org.

As mentioned at SubSchool graduations, the friendship, and the bonds that you make while onboard your boat will last forever. I want to thank the boats who have stopped by the club “your club” to renew friendships and to check on our many updates since your last visit.

<https://www.ussvigroton.org>

Finding it difficult to find a good list of Submarine Reunions? The PAO has added a new calendar to the website for finding Submarine Reunions. Should you become aware of one, please send me the information and I will add it to this calendar.

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

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

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Vacant

With the recent loss of our Shipmate, Robert Perritt, we are looking for someone to step forward and take over the remainder of Robert's term. If interested, please let the EBoard know.

JR VICE COMMANDER

Jim Lawton

Hello Shipmates,

We are implementing reduced hours for the Winter at the club, as we have reduced usage.

Winter Clubhouse Hours (As of January 1, 2026)

Closed Monday & Tuesday

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

11:00 – 17:00

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

Kitchen Lunch hours are implemented as of September 2

Stop by and check out the vittles and say hello to Dawn Andrelli, our new cook!

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

Happy Hour

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

During the last week of January 2026, Dawn was out sick. I stood in for her since I have had previous kitchen experience as a guest cook. If this is something you would like to do, please contact me. My worry is that if we shut down the kitchen during her absence we may lose customers. Without question, the kitchen keeps our clubhouse in business for all of us to enjoy!

We are working hard to maintain and improve your Clubhouse. Please notify me if you find a discrepancy. General comments for consideration can be sent to my email below. If it is a material deficiency, ask the bartender for the Maintenance Deficiency Log to document it. This log will be maintained by me to document issues. This document is Appendix B of the Club Operations Policy and Procedures manual available on our USSVI Groton Website - <https://www.ussvigroton.org/bylaws-ppm> (PPM - USSVIGB - Groton Base Clubhouse).

Jim Lawton

Jr. Vice Commander

jrvice@ussvigroton.org

860.984.5497

BASE SECRETARY**David Frease**

The Minutes for the 05 January 2026 Membership meeting were approved by the members present without objection.

Correspondence to Report – None.

ELECTION 2026

This year two positions are up for election:

BASE SR. VICE COMMANDER and BASE SECRETARY

These positions are vital to the overall operation of Groton Base

Nominations open at the 02 February Membership Meeting

Nominations will be closed on 15 April 2025

Balloting will take place following the closing of Nominations

BASE SR. VICE COMMANDER

- Shall be responsible for membership rolls in the manner prescribed by the Executive Board to show always, the names of the members of this organization, alphabetically arranged, their respective places of residence, their post office address, and the year when each person became a member.
- Shall be responsible for the promulgation of all pertinent information to the officers of the base.
- Shall be the Chairman of the Base Finance Committee.
- During the absences and/or inability of Base Commander to render and perform his duties, or exercise powers, as set forth in these bylaws, or in the laws under which the corporation is organized, the same shall be performed and exercised by the Sr. Vice Commander. And when so acting, they shall have all the powers given to, or imposed upon, the Base Commander.
- Shall provide oversight, guidance and council for those individuals and entities assigned to this Office in the USSVI Groton Base Organization Chart.

BASE SECRETARY

- Shall keep a record of the meetings of the general membership and of the Executive Board.
- Shall be the custodian of the records and of the seal and affix the latter when required.
- Shall be responsible for the contents, publication, and distribution of the newsletter.
- Shall maintain, change and or modify events in the Base Calendar as needed or requested.
- Shall present to the Executive Board at their stated meetings, all communications addressed to Secretary officially by the Base Commander or any other officer or member of the base.
- Shall attend to all correspondence and perform all duties incident to their office.
- The Secretary shall draft calls of meetings, conduct the election of the base officers and be responsible for the giving of notice thereof as required by these bylaws.
- Shall provide oversight, guidance and counsel for those individuals and entities assigned to this Office in the USSVI Groton Base Organization Chart.

NOMINATION OF BASE OFFICERS

- The Election Master or chairman of the Base Nominating Committee, as assigned, shall conduct the nominations for the (5) elected officers.
- The Election Master or Chairman of the Groton Base Nominating Committee shall issue a call for nominations of eligible candidates for Groton Base Officers to all Members in good standing no later than the date of the February membership business meeting.
- Nominations will remain open until April 15th.
- Nominations, when called for, may be made from the floor at the meeting(s) and shall be accepted upon the oral or written consent of the nominee that they accept the nominations and will serve if elected.
- Nominations may be submitted by any Member of Groton Base in good standing.
- Nominations submitted to the Election Master or chairman of the Nominating Committee, if not submitted by the nominee, must be accompanied by a written consent of the nominee that they will accept the nominations and will serve if elected. The qualifications of the nominee, not to exceed 100 words, may accompany nominations.

- Upon close of nominations the Election Master or Nominating Committee shall make wide distribution of the names and qualifications, in alphabetical order, of all candidates properly nominated using both print and electronic means as viable.

ELECTION OF BASE OFFICERS

- The Base Secretary shall conduct the election for the (5) elected officers except in an even year, when the election of Secretary is held.
- In the even years, an Officer not up for election or the Election Master will conduct the election providing all required documents to the Secretary upon conclusion of the election.
- Every bona fide candidate for Groton Base office, or their authorized delegate, may address the membership at a regular meeting for not more than five (5) minutes.
- After the close of nominations, should the Slate of Officers in nomination include only one name for each Office a voice vote, in lieu of a secret ballot vote may be entertained and conducted at the May membership business meeting.
- Electronic voting via internet is the standard method used for Elections, with mail-in paper ballots sent to the Base Secretary for inclusion in the electronic tally for those without internet access.
- If electronic voting via internet is not available, the voting shall be by paper ballot.
- Electronic and paper ballot voting, if utilized, Cut-off shall be no later than at 2359 hours on the last Monday of May.
- Ballots, ballot forms, and envelopes as hereafter prescribed shall be mailed by the Base Secretary not later than May 1st to each Groton Base Member in good standing and who the Secretary does not have a validate email address then to their last known US Mail address. The names, in alphabetical order, of all qualified candidates shall be printed or typed on the ballot with one (1) additional space for write-in vote, opposite of which shall be a box to be filled in by the member voting to signify the candidates of their choice. Such ballot shall also set forth in electronic media, printed or typed form such instructions as the Base Secretary considers necessary to insure the secrecy of the ballot and its execution and mailing, or personal delivery at the meeting within the prescribed period. The instructions shall also include directions that there may be no voting by proxy.
- Election results, if not voice voted, will be announced by the Secretary at the June monthly business meeting.

David Frease
Base Secretary
secretary@ussvigroton.org

BASE TREASURER**Charlie Murray****COINS:**

NEW COIN FOR 2026 - designed and order completed, estimate arrival mid-February, we will try to keep cost at \$10 but as you know everything just costs more.

**FINANCIALS:**

Check our website for current financial statements.

New options to make donations to Subvets Groton:

We have been asked over the last couple of years for options other than cash, credit card, checks, or PayPal.

Zelle – if you can use Zelle you can send in donations

Venmo – if you use Venmo you can send in donations

Note: always let us know how you want us to use your donation

Zelle our tag is - subvetsgroton

Venmo find us at @USSVI-Groton or @subvetsgroton

Future donations: we are asked how can I identify Subvets Groton for donations in my name once I'm on Eternal Patrol.

First, Subvets wants to know that you are well but if you pass away we want to acknowledge your service and show our appreciation for you as a shipmate.

First – you need to let your family know that they should notify Subvets if you pass away

If you select to make or have donations go to Subvets:

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

Future - We are working to set up an account for those members who want to include in their Wills or Insurance beneficiary statements that once they pass that Subvets is identified as their beneficiary or an amount of money. This account could be restricted for the ongoing support of Subvets Groton.

Suggested Groton Building Improvements:

- 1st level ladies room
- Hall create storage area for tables and chairs
- Outside storage building or shipping container for items used once or twice a year.
- Propane storage rack
- Gutters

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

DONATIONS:

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

YOU CAN DONATE TO SUBVETS GROTON OR THE NATIONAL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

There are a few ways you can donate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT NEW OPTION AVAILABLE – IF YOU WANT A TAX DEDUCTION

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

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

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

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

BUILDING INTERIOR CLEANUP:

1. The balcony office cleaning and reorganizing efforts continue. In September we removed at least 4 garbage bags of identified obsolete financial records for shredding.
2. Work on the 3rd floor will continue in October, with scrapping old paint off one area walls, repainting
 - a. Possible relocation of items to improve area usage
3. Old auditorium chairs are being to be removed from attic, and the intent is to get more donations.
 - a. Initial evaluation is that there is some value
 - b. I believe we don't have any use in our clubhouse for these, and it could be dangerous to keep them in the attic.
4. A new space to be identified on the 3rd floor for any donations that come into the club. I hope that in left in a central location we can more quickly evaluate whether or not to keep the donations.

NOTE: it's extremely hard not to accept these donations from navy families; remember the items were personal belongings to their family member.

CHAPLAINS REPORT

Earl Colella & John Carcioppolo



Chaplains Report/Honors Detail - John Carcioppolo 860-514-7064
Gumba700@comcast.net

The following is the Honors Detail activity from December 27th.

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

EN2(SS) Joe Wendell Roberts – Departed on Eternal Patrol 01 February 2025. No Honors

MT2(SS) Robert V. Erickson – Departed on Eternal Patrol on 21 December. No Honors

We conducted one Eternal Light

Dottie Dillon – wife of Paul Dillon Passed on 6 Jan. An Eternal Lite Service was held on 17 January and the following members participated: Earl Colella, Rob Davis, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Pedro Gonazles, Jim Lawton, Steve Ricard, and Joe Wread

What we do matters

The following was received from Paul Dillon following Dottie Dillon's Eternal Light service.

John please pass on to those who participated in Dottie's ceremony. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to the SubVets for your recent Eternal Light ceremony conducted in memory of my wife, Dottie Dillon.

She would have been deeply honored by the moving ceremony. My family certainly was grateful for your remembrance of her. She was very fond of the time that we spent with the submarine veterans. Her association with the US Navy was a big part of her life. She gave, and endured, so much during my time in the Navy.

This final recognition was a great tribute. Once again, thank you for taking the time to honor her.

With great appreciation, Paul

The following was received from Ellen McCance

Dear SubVets, Thank you for the great years of camaraderie you gave our dad, the great memories that came out of our times going to SubVets with Mom and Dad, and the very special tribute paid to my Dad at the time of his passing. My family wishes all at SubVets many more years of Happy times together. Sincerely Ellen McCance, Michael Katz, and Willoughby C. McCance.

The information for the Eternal Patrol bios comes from the USSVI National Webpage Membership section. What you have there is what I put out. If you don't have all the right stuff, then that's what we are going to put out. Additionally, some of the info comes from old bios from Holland Club inductions. If your info on the National Web Page is not up to date either update it or ask Base Commander Steve Ricard at commander@ussvigroton.org. Also, with regards to information, if we don't know of a member passing, we cannot provide the information or present Honors. Please ensure that your families know that when you have passed to contact Groton Base Chaplain Earl Colella 734-730-1026 earl.colella@comcast.net or John Carcioppolo 860-514- 7064 gumba700@comcast.net and if possible, provide a link to the obituary.

Keep your eyes open. If you know of a member passing or see an obituary of a Submariner who passed and maybe a member don't hesitate to pass that info along. We will figure out if he is a member and conduct business accordingly. A link to the obituary is always good to have. The sooner we know the information the timelier we can react and put out the notices and hopefully have the Honors Detail render honors. All too often we find out about the passing of a member long after the funeral and do not get the chance to provide honors for our Shipmates. We are always looking for potential new members of the Honors Detail to supplement those who participate. If you are interested in being part of the Honors Detail, all you really have to do is let me know and show up. We prefer you to have the SUBVETS vest, but that is not a hard requirement. If you are interested in joining the Honors Detail, please let me know

RED HAT CEREMONIES There will be two Red Hat Ceremonies in February. Watch your emails.

I often receive requests to be added to the Homecoming notifications. I do not have a specific email list for homecomings. I just send the notifications to the entire membership, so I don't miss anyone. If you get all the regular Base Broadcasts from the Base Commander, Eternal Patrol Broadcasts, etc. etc. then you should get the Homecoming notifications. If you are not getting the Broadcasts, you will not get the Homecoming notifications, and you should contact the Base Commander to ensure that we have the correct email address on file.

Also, due to classification restrictions, I can only put the word out 2 days in advance. However, I use the Welcome Home signs at the front gate of the Naval Submarine Base as a guide. If the signs go up that's my signal to send out the notification.

HOLLAND CLUB Report - John Carcioppolo



AN EXCLUSIVE GROUP WITHIN OUR SUBMARINE VETERANS' ORGANIZATION WHERE THE CORE REQUIREMENT FOR ELIGIBILITY IS THE DESIGNATION "QUALIFIED IN SUBMARINES" FOR A MINIMUM OF FIFTY YEARS. February 2026 Holland Club Report

We are just about halfway through this tough winter. It's like being on a long patrol that you can't wait to get to the end.

LUNCHEONS We had a great luncheon for the first luncheon of the year. We had GREAT SUPPORT from the following students from Naval Submarine School in serving the meal: ETVSR Laxton; FTSA Daly; FTSA Lorentz; MMAS Pelletier; TMSA Hidalgo; ETVSA Wheeler; ITSA Williams; ETVS Boys; ETVSA Casseus

The Guest Speaker was Captain Thomas Flaherty III, Commander, Submarine Squadron Four. He was accompanied by his CMC, CMDCM(SS) Adam Goulas and their JSOY Petty Officer Bensing. Captain Flaherty gave a great talk on what the Submarines in Squadron Four are up to.

Many thanks to all who supported and attended this luncheon. Also thank you to Dave Gustafson who won the 50/50 and donated \$130 back to the Holland Club.



SUBSCHOOL VOLUNTEERS
01/20/2026



CSS-4, Captain Thomas Flaherty III

Additional Pictures are here: <https://shutterfly.onelink.me/1053802476/hn6ol88w>

Our next speaker is:

- **17 February Guest Speaker** – Commander, CDR Adam Nebanzahl, CO USS ALBANY (SSN 753)

HOLLAND CLUB 2026 We are Full Speed Ahead towards this year's Holland Club Ceremony. The 2026 Ceremony will be on Saturday, 6 June 2026. Mark your calendars and plan accordingly if you are scheduled to go into the Holland Club in 2026 you should have received the first of two letters. Please return these with a picture by 2 March. Even if you are not attending. If you didn't get a letter and think you should be going into the Holland Club in June, please contact me ASAP.

The following is the meeting schedule for the Induction Ceremony planning meetings:

Thu 26 Feb 26 4:00 pm Clubhouse
Thu 26 Mar 26 4:00 pm Clubhouse
Thu 30 Apr 26 4:00 pm Clubhouse
Thu 28 May 26 4:00 pm Clubhouse

We received the following donations towards this year's Holland Club Induction: Ellen McCance \$500 (In Memory of Doc McCance); Ed Sherman \$500; Reginald White \$350

Stay warm and stay safe.

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

COLOR GUARD

Bob Sharpe

The color guard was idle during the month of January.

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 contact me.

Groton Bases' next big event is our community involvement in the Town of Groton's USA's 250th Anniversary 4th of July Parade. Groton base members, the U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII Memorial – East committee and Naval Submarine School staff, students and Silver Dolphins Color Guard and Drill Team will provide the parade with a U. S. Submarine Service presentation.

We are looking for USA's 250th Anniversary ideas for decorating the 'People Mover' trailer, posters, or banner. Email me with your good ideas.

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

Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee**Paul Skalski**

On Saturday February 22, 48 members, spouses and guest braved the frigid 9-degree temperature to attend the Mongolian BBQ. The menu was a sweet and savory stir fry strips of flank steak, chicken fried rice, egg noodles, steamed vegetables and a meatless goulash dessert provided by members who attended.

A huge thank you to Steve Ricard, Jim Lawton who helped cook, wash dishes, pot and pans and general cleanup of the dining room and kitchen

Additionally Steve's wife Elaine and Jean Petryshyn rounded out the cleanup detail.

Thank you to Julz who took care of libations for all. (and made and donated two of the raffle baskets)

Lots of work to put on dinner. We can always use additional hands to help. Many hands make for light work.

Our next dinner is a Valentine Day dinner dance on Friday February 13 at 6:00 pm. Signup sheet at the bar. The cost is \$20 per person.

Menu:

Stuffed Shells
Side of Sausage
Salad
Dessert
Rolls

Volunteers are welcome to help set up, wash dishes/pots and pans, cook, and breakdown.

Contact the House committee chairman, Paul Skalski

Many hands make for light work

If the dinner needs to be rescheduled due to bad weather or cancelled, a notification will be posted on Facebook, the club website, with the new date.

SubVets Monthly Dinner Schedule 2026			
Month	Weekday	Time	Theme
13-Feb-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Valentine Day Italian dinner
21-Mar-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Tom Connor's Corn Beef and Cabbage
18-Apr-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Easter dinner Polish night
2-May-2026	Saturday	5:00 PM	Kentucky Derby Potluck
20-Jun-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Potluck
4-Jul-2026	Saturday	noon	Groton 4th of July Parade Reception
14-Aug-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Hillbilly Night
18-Sep-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Sock Hop Dance food from the 50's
16-Oct-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	October Fest German food
26-Nov-2026	Thursday	12:00 – 5:00	Annual Club Thanksgiving meal
5-Dec-2026	Saturday	2:00 PM	Base Christmas Party

MEMBERSHIP**Vacant****RENEW NOW FOR 2026**

Reminder that it is time to renew annual membership. If you are a USSVI Life member, you still owe Groton Base dues (unless you are Groton Base Life). If you are trying to find out if you are a member in good standing, drop me a line commander@ussviroton.org. Here is the link to renew your membership. [Dues Renewal | USSVI Groton](#)

Are you on the DinQ list?

- USSVI National: There are still **97 members** that need to renew ASAP.
- USSVI Groton Base: **Over 370 members** that need to renew ASAP.

If you are NOT a USSVI National Life Member: Dues are \$80 /year (\$40 USSVI National and \$40 Groton Base).

If you are a USSVI National Life Member: Groton Base dues are \$40

It's never too early to renew memberships for 2026. Please do not get dropped for not renewing your Base and national dues.

**Membership Update**

Members – 1,158
 Life National Members – 863
 Base Life Members - 399
 Holland Club – 675
 Associate Members – 67

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

LOOKING FOR A MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**USSVI GROTON BASE “SILENT SERVICE” DMV LIAISON****Michael Hodges**

Since last month's report, I've received one new inquiry, and we've gained two new USSVI/Groton base members. One who originally inquired about our "Silent Service" license plate last March, to which I've mailed a DMV application with instructions. I received a completed DMV plate application from the other new member, which I've endorsed and mailed with his payment to the DMV.



If you would like to display our unique "Silent Service" on your vehicle, please contact me and I would be glad to answer any questions and guide you through the process. If you have questions shoot a quick email to me at: ctsubvetplates@ussvigo.org.

I'm also listed on our USSVI Groton Website under: <https://www.ussvigo.org/linksofinterest>.

Applications are also available at the clubhouse in the document holder next to the bulletin board in the pumphouse.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Greg Kane

Groton Base USSVI Scholarships

Applications for the Groton Base USSVI Scholarship are NOW Open

<https://www.ussvigo.org/scholarship-info>

Supporting the Groton USSVI Base Scholarship Fund is a powerful way to **honor the legacy of submarine service** while investing in the future of our families. By contributing, you help preserve the proud traditions of our community and provide the children and grandchildren of submarine veterans with the resources they need for a quality education. This fund does more than just provide financial aid; it **strengthens our brotherhood** by demonstrating a tangible commitment to one another, reinforcing the bonds that make the Groton Base so resilient.

Every contribution, regardless of size, creates a **lasting impact** that helps students achieve their academic goals and build a brighter future. Ultimately, your support allows us to leave a legacy of service "beyond the boat," reflecting the submarine ethos of dedication and sacrifice in a way that meaningfully benefits society for generations to come.

Have Questions?

Please contact Gregory Kane, Groton Base Scholarship Chair, at 860-989-1426 or via email at Gregory.Kane@CCSU.Edu.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**Marian Galbraith**

If you've had an opportunity to drive by the Memorial one of these cold winter evenings, you'll have noticed the cheery lights lining the conning tower. Many thanks to the members of the committee who braved the cold to come out and string the lights.

In January we'll be taking down the lights and looking forward to longer, warmer days.

Anyone wishing to join the Memorial Committee should contact Marian Galbraith at mktgalbraith@gmail.com.

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**Brian Hague*****From the desk of USSVI Groton Base Veterans Affairs***

HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR VA BENEFITS?

DON'T KNOW IF YOU QUALIFY FOR VA BENEFITS?

Contact Brian Hague, USSVI Groton Base Veterans Affairs Representative (860)237-7323.

brian.hague@ussvicroton.org

Hey Navy, hope you all surviving the cold, now you know how I felt in Korea! Make sure you don't have too much skin exposure, in this weather frost bite comes on fast.

It's also a good time to start to winterize your life. Put some winter equipment in the vehicle i.e., jumper cables/jumper pack, blankets, a set of warm clothes, small toolbox, etc.

Don't get caught off guard when it comes to newer VA log-in requirements.

<https://news.va.gov/133159/prepare-for-vas-secure-sign-in-changes/>

What to stay active without the crazy workout? <https://news.va.gov/131368/five-virtual-resources-older-veterans-active/>

Some good news for World War II Veterans. [All WWII Veterans are now eligible for VA healthcare - VA News](https://news.va.gov/131368/all-wwii-veterans-are-now-eligible-for-va-healthcare-va-news)

The Department of Veterans Affairs issued a proposed rule outlining a plan to expand the locations and time frames for which VA presumes exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. <https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-presumes-exposure-agent-orange-herbicides/>

VA launches a new nationwide surgery initiative. <https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-launches-new-surgery-initiative-across-the-nation-a-critical-step-to-saving-the-lives-of-veterans-considering-surgery/>

For those who like to track the West Haven Campus during the renovations, I'll leave up the link to the final Environmental Assessment Report from Dec 2022 it includes campus overlay: [VA OCFM - West Haven VAMC - NEPA Final Environmental Assessment - December 2022](https://news.va.gov/131368/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](https://news.va.gov/131368/va-expands-burial-benefits-for-veterans-and-their-families)

Looking forward to travelling, but with a good deal. Armed Forces Vacation Club (AFVC) might be for you and your family. <https://news.va.gov/124422/armed-forces-vacation-club-for-veterans/>

Are you a high-tech Sailor? The VA put out a helpful link to navigate their Apps. [How to use cool features in VA's official mobile app - VA News](https://news.va.gov/131368/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 \(dtic.mil\)](https://dtic.mil)

Remember, if you want to see other info related to submarine medical issues, let me know and I will track it down and post it. I hope to see you at the club!

<https://www.va.gov/>

Always a good place to start.

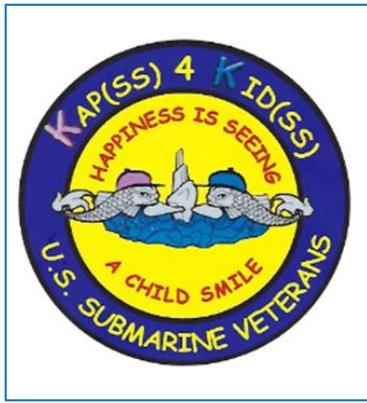
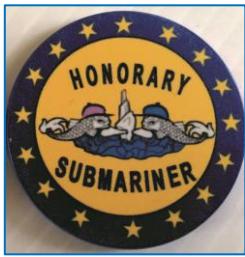
[Home - My HealtheVet - My HealtheVet \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/VAweb/home.aspx)

Track your appointments, meds, and more.

[Military and Veteran Benefits, News, Veteran Jobs | Military.com](https://www.military.com) This is a great website for info on any Military and Veteran related issues.

KAP(SS) 4 KID (SS)

John Riley



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

Abraham Lincoln

Since its inception in 2009, Groton Base's Kap (SS) 4 Kid (SS) Program has provided comfort and joy to over 2,500 Children facing illness, and their families.

Our K4K Team visits young patients at various facilities, including Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, Connecticut Children's Hospital, the Child Psychiatric Units at Yale New Haven Hospital, the Ronald McDonald House, Connecticut Hospice, and other designated locations.

We are committed to continuing this program as long as there are children in need of our support.



During our visits, the Kids all receive the now-standard K4K gear from Groton Base: Honorary Submariner Certificates, ball caps, temporary tattoos, challenge coins, and wristbands. Also handed out are signed Nautilus photos, maps showing the location of submarine museums around the U.S., and brochures specifically about the WWII Submarine Memorial and Submarine Force Museum in Groton. The Kids continue to be excited to receive stress-reducing red heart-shaped squeeze balls and K4K Teddy Bears!



Each new crop of Honorary Submariners are informed they would be entitled to a free tour and challenge coin from active-duty submariners at the USS Nautilus Submarine Museum.



These Children need caring attention, as much joy as we can give them, and reminders that they are so much more than their disease or condition.

**DONATE TO SUPPORT
GROTON BASE'S KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS) PROGRAM
IT'S TAX DEDUCTABLE VIA THE USSV CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
(designate "K4K Groton Base")
<https://ussvcf.org/kapss-4-kidss-fund/>**



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

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Jim Lawton

Karaoke Night Success!

Our first night for Karaoke is February 20, 2026



Events and are posted in the Clubhouse on the Raspberry display above the cash register, On the opening splash page of our website <https://www.ussvigroton.org> , and on our Events page <https://www.ussvigroton.org/events>.

USSVI GROTON BASE FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY LIST***Happy Birthday to All Who Continue to Celebrate***

Last Name	First Name	DOB	Last Name	First Name	DOB
Albanese	Chris	02/11	Kuerth	Benjamin G.	02/27
Allgeier	Thomas E.	02/26	LaSala	Peter R.	02/27
Atkinson	Alexander	02/06	Lynch	John J.	02/25
Atkinson	Jay H.	02/09	Magnavice Jr.	Walter	02/14
Badders	William	02/12	Madura	Donald Francis	02/23
Banack	Joseph E.	02/23	Malone	Paul C.	02/12
Barch	Walter	02/14	Marcoux	Christine M. W.	02/15
Bergstrom	David A.	02/08	Masi	Ralph V.	02/19
Bialek, Jr.	Joseph	02/04	McCutcheon	Bruce M.	02/19
Brayton	Bruce	02/21	Mercer	Wayne	02/06
Boyle	Patrick E.	02/10	Meyer	Brent A.	02/21
Buckley	Timothy J.	02/16	Middlesworth	Keith M.	02/25
Buermeyer	Henry	02/08	Moore	Michael G.	02/08
Buffenmeyer	Darrell	02/02	Munhall	Michael W.	02/06
Burgess	James	02/29	Munro	Jack	02/27
Cacioppolo	John J.	02/09	Nailon	Chris	02/06
Cather	Jean B.	02/05	Newton	Walter L.	02/02
Casella	Michael A.	02/01	Perry	Albert Joseph	02/02
Conahan Sr.	Frank	02/12	Price II	Maurice L.	02/22
Conrad II	Gordon E. W.	02/24	Ramsey	Jerry L.	02/13
Drurey	Harold L.	02/08	Riegel	Michael G.	02/01
DuBois	Steven	02/12	Rimmele Jr.	Roy R.	02/04
Fatek	William H.	02/08	Ross	Thomas	02/21
Flemming	Dale E.	02/08	Scarano	William Michael	02/06
Freeman	Robert C.	02/16	Schrum	Richard W.	02/20
Frink IV	Lloyd W.	02/20	Shaw	William J.	02/13
Gager	Arthur R.	02/19	Tassias	Dan	02/09
Gedney III	John I.	02/02	To	Francis H.	02/14
Gleason	Lawrence	02/15	Toriello	Andrew	02/21
Gibbons	Edwin L.	02/24	Torkelson	George	02/22
Gordon	David D.	02/23	Turek	Gary J.	02/17
Grabowski	Ronald T.	02/03	Twilley	Richard J.	02/16
Gunn	Donald G.	02/16	Van Der Voort	Mark D.	02/27
Gunning	Henry F.	02/10	Villarial	Adofo T.	02/19
Gustafson	Robert A.	02/09	Wadja, Jr.	Walter J.	02/13
Hagerman	Robert Michael	02/24	Walton	Jerry L.	02/12
Hamilton	Elton E.	02/23	Wick	Troy	02/18
Hamilton Jr.	Raymond A.	02/27	Wiesmaier	Jeffrey M.	02/18
Harris	Rick	02/23	Wiscons	Justin W.	02/05

Hartley IV	Alexander Louis	02/01		Wyllie Jr.	Walter G.	02/04
Henderson	Michael C.	02/28				
Henderson	Rex E.	02/21				
Hogan	John E.	02/17				

USSVI GROTON BASE FEBRUARY ETERNAL PATROL LIST

Date	Last Name	First Name		Date	Last Name	First Name
02/23/2007	Arel	Stephen		02/20/2017	Harold	Louis J.
02/03/2008	Alexander	Prentice		02/26/2010	Harrison	Charles
02/26/2022	Asteriades	Basil Angelo		02/16/2011	Hegyi	Joseph
02/24/2009	Ayers	Kenneth		02/08/2004	Henninger	Terrance
02/20/2005	Bauer	William		02/02/2013	Hinchey	Joseph
02/02/2006	Berger	Brian		02/21/2020	Horne	James
02/10/2025	Birkle	Joseph K.		02/28/2022	Howard	Scott
02/22/2025	Blanchette Jr.	Paul H.		02/02/2013	Kalin	Edward
02/11/2016	Brannin	Kenneth		02/07/1999	Kernan	Jay
02/21/2008	Brenzinger, Jr.	August		02/06/2012	Kichar	Martin
02/15/2021	Brinkman	Gerald		02/13/2004	Kiely, Jr.	Thomas
02/20/2020	Brown	Michael		02/07/2014	Lehr	William
02/17/2012	Brown	Stuart		02/17/2015	Monteith	William
02/05/2020	Callahan	Roy		02/26/2010	Nalle	Peter
02/14/2025	Campbell	Orville		02/04/2024	Newkirk	Morris "Spencer"
02/20/2018	Clark	Marshall		02/27/2021	Paul	Richard
02/28/2023	Conley, Jr.	William		02/09/2013	Perry	Robert
02/20/2021	Costa	Louis		02/09/2000	Rimbey	David
02/19/2023	Cox	Tommy		02/21/2015	Robinson	Wayne
02/27/2022	Crags	John		02/19/2006	Schwartz	Harold
02/03/2009	Damiata	Joseph		02/08/2012	Schofield	Charles
02/05/2009	Dickson Sr.	Richard		02/21/2007	Skrzat	Anthony
02/24/2012	Donahue	Joseph		02/22/2021	Sinacore	Lenny
02/26/2013	Doucette	Alex		02/10/2025	Socha	David S.
02/10/2009	Dreer	Chuck		02/19/2011	Steck	Linus
02/01/2002	Flynn	Tom		02/15/2014	Sullivan	Charles
02/23/2021	Friess	Walter		02/07/2015	Tighe	Gerald
02/18/1999	Furu	Robert		02/01/2011	Whiteley	Lockwood
02/05/2021	Gilbert, Jr.	Joseph		02/07/2006	Wilkens	David
02/03/2009	Gilletti	David		02/14/2017	Williamson	Richard
02/14/2009	Guilfoil	Kenneth		02/03/2011	Zipp	George
02/20/2013	Hancharyk, Jr.	Steven				



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.

Thames River Heritage Park

Thames River Heritage Park

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

TRHP In Search of Next Boat Operator for 2026 Season [MORE INFO](#)

DONATE  Today is Monday, December 29, 2025
Hop-on Hop-off Harbor Cruises are not running today.



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

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

<https://nlmaritimessociety.org/>

NLMS
New London Maritime Society
Custom House Maritime Museum

**CUSTOM HOUSE
MARITIME MUSEUM**

About NL Harborcam Calendar Rental Lighthouses Library News Amistad Education

HAPPY HOLIDAYS.
The Custom House Maritime Museum is now closed for a short Winter break.
We will open for Open Mic at the Museum on Sunday, Dec. 28, 6-9 pm.
The museum reopens on Thursday, January 8, 1-5 PM.
Welcome Yule! peace and love to all.



Garde Arts Center



<https://gardearts.org/>

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

Nautilus Submarine Force Museum



The Chapel On The Thames

The Chapel on the Thames (COT) is located aboard Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton and



offers both Protestant and Roman Catholic worship services for active-duty retired veterans and their families. The COT was originally conceived and constructed as a memorial to submariners, Officers and Enlisted who lost their lives in the service of their country during the Second World War. The COT was opened on December 3, 1944, 80 years ago and in it you will find many submarine related themes including beautiful stained-glass windows and pews labeled with brass plates to memorialize specific submarines from World War II.

All with base access are welcome to participate in scheduled services which are on Sundays as follows: Protestant Service at 9:30 AM and Roman Catholic

Mass at 11:30 AM. COT is located directly across the parking lot from Dealey Center movie theater. We hope you will take the time to visit us at this historic chapel."