



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



Shipmates, Families, and Friends

I sincerely hope that everyone had a joyous and magical holiday season. The days between Thanksgiving and the end of the calendar year are always packed with wonderful celebrations and seem to rush by faster every year. Hopefully you were able to spend some time at the Domenic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse celebrating with friends, families, and members of our Submarine Community. The holidays are always a busy time of year, and this year was no exception. Whether it was a command party, family celebration, or pictures with Santa, SubVets Groton Base is the place to have fun.

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. Once you are qualified in Submarines, you are eligible to join SubVets. We need new members now more than ever. We are only as strong as our membership. Please spread the word, tell them what a great place 40 School Street is and the stories that our membership can tell. If you are a Member at Large (MAL), for one reason or another, come on back the door is open. Well, as long as you ring the buzzer.

Again, I thank our fabulous staff, Heather, Katrina, Ashley, Mika, Kaitlyn, Shelia, and Sarah along with all of the members who volunteer, for their extra effort over the holidays and in making SubVets a place to visit.

I would like to wish our families and friends in our ever-growing Submarine Community, a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

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.

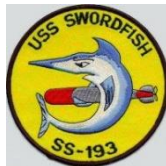
Lost Boats – January



Lost on Jan 5, 1944 with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.



Lost on Jan 10, 1943 with the loss of 102 officers and men off Rabaul, on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Jap destroyer who along with 2 other destroyers depth charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sunk her by gun fire.



Lost on Jan 12, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. Probably was lost to a mine.



Lost on Jan 20, 1942 with no loss of life, on her 2nd war patrol. She ran hard aground on a reef and radioed for help. The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch ship after they scuttled her.



Lost on Jan 24, 1942 with the loss of 46 officers and men in the Gulf of Panama, on her 2nd war patrol. She was rammed by the USS PC-460 and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO and one lookout on the bridge, were the only survivors.



Plan of the Month January 2024

DATE	TIME	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
1/01	-	Event	New Years Day
1/02	1730	Meeting	Executive Board Meeting
1/07	1500	Event	Volunteers Thank You Reception
1/08	1830	Meeting	Monthly Membership Meeting
1/09	1730	Meeting	2024 Anniversary Planning Meeting
1/12	17:30	Event	NUMI Holiday Party (TS)
1/12	17:00	Event	UWDC Holiday Party (PR)
1/15	10:00	Event	Brunch, Old Salts
1/16	1130	Event	Holland Club Luncheon
1/18	-	Event	Committee Reports due to Secretary
1/19	18:00	Event	GACPOA Dining In (TS)
1/23	1730	Meeting	2024 Anniversary Planning Meeting
1/24		Event	Khader Rehearsal (TS)
1/25	1700	Event	CT Veterans Hall of Fame Ceremony
1/25		Event	Khader Setup (TS)
1/26	15:00	Event	Khader Retirement (TS)
	16:00	Event	Khader Retirement (PR)
1/29	1730	Meeting	GB Executive Board Meeting

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



Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) Updates

During the month of December, a USSVI Groton Base member joined BESS graduation as the SubVets Representative presenting the "Heritage Award" to the class leader and a SubVet Challenge coin. In this month's issue of Boat Notes, we will highlight two graduations on 1 & 15 December. I would like to thank SubSchool leadership for allowing us to participate.

The following information on the Submarine that the graduating class was named. This information provided here comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links for additional details.



On 1 December, the BESS class that graduated was named after the USS Parche SSN 683.

USS Parche (SSN-683), a Sturgeon-class submarine, was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for the parche, a small, coral reef butterfly fish. Parche was launched on 13 January 1973, sponsored by Natalie Beshany, the wife of Vice Admiral Philip A. Beshany, and commissioned on 17 August 1974.

Parche served as a unit of the United States Atlantic Fleet Submarine Force from 1974 until 1976, before transferring to the United States Pacific Fleet in October 1976. Once arriving at her new home port at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California, Parche received ocean engineering modifications. Parche deployed on a shakedown training cruise in August and September 1978.

Attributed as being a key resource of the National Underwater Reconnaissance Office, Parche is said to be "the most highly decorated vessel in U.S. history."

More on the Parche can be found at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Parche_\(SSN-683\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Parche_(SSN-683)) and <https://www.navsource.org/archives/08/08683.htm>.



USS Parche SSN 683 class # 24040 had 142 students with a 79% average and 4 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 ETV2(SS) Vega. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in training these future Submariners.



The Command Representative was SubSchool Executive Officer, CDR Hornung and Guest Speaker was: ITSCM(SS) Mike Marzec. SubSchool Chaplain, LT Levels gave the Invocation and Benediction.

USSVI Groton Base, Holland Club and USSVI Member Pat Roche was the SubVet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin SR(SU) Haily Looper. The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented to SR(SU) George Matta. The class Honor Graduate award was presented to SR(SU) Aaron Davis, and Navy Core Values Award was presented to SA(SU) Justin Daez SR(SU) Haily Looper. Congratulations and good luck as you begin the next phase of your submarine career. Looking forward to all of 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 December 15, the graduating BESS class was named after the USS Colorado (SSN 788)

The USS Colorado (SSN-788) is a nuclear-powered United States Navy Virginia-class attack submarine, named for the State of Colorado. She is the fifteenth of her class and fifth of the significantly redesigned Block III, including a revised bow and VLS technology from the Ohio class of guided missile submarines. She was constructed by Huntington Ingalls Industries in partnership with the Electric Boat division of General Dynamics in Newport News, Virginia, with the initial contract awarded on 22 December 2008.

General Dynamics in Newport News, Virginia, with the initial contract awarded on 22 December 2008.

The official naming ceremony was on 25 June 2012. Her keel was laid down on 7 March 2015 and she was christened and launched on 3 December 2016. Her sponsor is Annie Mabus, daughter of former Navy Secretary Ray Mabus. She was commissioned on 17 March 2018.

More information on the USS Colorado can be found at <https://www.seaforces.org/usnships/ssn/SSN-788-USS-Colorado.htm> or [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Colorado_\(SSN-788\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Colorado_(SSN-788)).



Colorado, class # 24060 had 104 students with an 83% average and 10 graduating with distinction. 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 STS2(SS) Hess, FT2(SS) and FT2(SS) Rodrigue. Thank you for using your background, training, and

experience in training these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool CMC Dean Marvin, Guest Speaker was CSSCM(SS) Mark Shipley. SubSchool Chaplain, LT Levels gave the Invocation and Benediction.



Retired STSCS Bob Sharpe, USN Retired USSVI Life Member and Groton Base Color Guard Captain was the USSVI Groton Base Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SN(SU) Nathan Rains. The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented to FA(SU) Michael Morgan. The class Honor Graduate award went to MMN3(SU) Porter T Durand. The Navy Core Values Award was presented to ETN3(SU) Gabrielle Porter.

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



Heritage Award: SN(SU) Nathan Rains



William H. Purdum Award: FA(SU) Michael Morgan



Honor Graduate: MMN3(SU) Porter T Durand



Core Value Award: ETN3(SU) Gabrielle Porter

We would like to wish Master Chief Shipley all of the best as he moves to his next duty assignment, Chief of the Boat (COB) onboard PCU District of Columbia.

If you are interested in getting involved with SubSchool graduations as the SubVet Representative please let me know. Below is the current schedule and SubVet Representatives.

Number	Class Name	Command Rep	Guest Speaker	SUBVETS Rep	Graduation Date
24080	Ironsides	DOT		Pat Roche	12-Jan-24
24100	Chicago	CO			26-Jan-24
24120	Florida	XO			9-Feb-24
24140	Hampton	CMC		John C	23-Feb-24
24160	Groton	DOT		Pat Roche	8-Mar-24
24180	Nevada	CO			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	Holland ??	XO		Bud Atkins	31-May-24
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	Jimmy Carter	XO		Greg Kane	20-Sep-24
24460	LA	CMC		Pat Roche	4-Oct-24
24480	Drum	DOT			18-Oct-24
24500	Albacore	CO			1-Nov-24
24520	Kamehameha	XO		Pat Roche	15-Nov-24
24540	Sturgeon	CMC		John C	29-Nov-24
24560	Cavalla	DOT			13-Dec-24

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 maybe 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 December, 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 greatly appreciate your patronage.



Monday 4 December, we held our Monthly membership meeting. Over 30 members joined the monthly meeting both in person and on Zoom. There were a few new members that joined the meeting for the first time. During the meeting, longtime Groton Base, Holland Club member and USSVI Life Member Richard “Dick” Warnock was awarded the Chris Quijada, Volunteer of the Year Award. As a member of the Memorial Committee Dick has spent countless hours maintaining the US SubVets WW II National Memorial East. One other accomplishment is that Dick has quietly provided homegrown, in his own backyard, butternut squash, over 1500 lbs. that is part of our Thanksgiving meal. Congratulations Dick on a job well done.

Thursday 7 December, USSVI Groton Base held its annual Perl Harbor Memorial ceremony at the US SubVets WW II National Memorial East to honor the memory of those lost on December 7th, 1941. A big thank you to Bob Sharpe and Alex Doucette for organizing the ceremony.



On Tuesday 19 December, we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon. It was a business luncheon, so we had no scheduled guest speaker. We also had the pleasure of having WWII Submariner, Bob Heist join us for lunch. Bob qualified in 1949 onboard the USS Dogfish SS-350.



SubSchool students on hand to support the luncheon, talk with living legends Bob Heist and Tony Faella, and meet our Holland Club members were STSSR(SU) Madeline Campbell, ETVSN(SU) DJ Majercak, STSSA(SU) Shayline Maia, ITSSN(SU) Edward Suarez, FTSA(SU) Lylah Lynch, STS(SA(SU) Colin Lund, ETVSR(SU) Raymond Laino. All are current in BESS and part of the Ironsides class. Thank you to Katrina for serving up a great meal.

Friday 29 December was a busy night at SubVets as we held our yearend Holiday party. Katrina made up some great sandwiches along with cracker and cheese plater, vegetable plater, and assorted fruit plater. There were hundreds of cookies for Many came to listen to DJ Jammin' Jim Lawton playing the tunes and trying to carry a tune singing karaoke. The night included a Yankee Swap between ten party goers and champagne toast at midnight bringing in the New Year a few days early. Fun night.

We have a lot of great events planned for the coming months including Thanksgiving. There have been some discussions on restarting the Thursday night dinners. 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 in the near future, reach out and let us know. We would love for you have one or more of your reunion functions at the club. Contact our Event Coordinator, Kaitlyn Hodge, via email at clubmanager@ussvigroton.org. We know that George C. Marshall, Nathanael Greene, Cavalla, John C. Calhoun, to name a few, will be in the area in 2024.



to

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

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Robert Perritt

Hello Shipmates,

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

V/r

Bob Perritt

vice@ussvigroton.org.

JR VICE COMMANDER

Paul Skalski

May you have a Happy and Prosperous New Year

v/r,

Paul Skalski

JrVice Commander

jrvice@ussvigroton.org

860.823.9641



BASE SECRETARY

Alvin (Al) G. Kinsall

I hope you had a great holiday season with family and friends. Last year was quite busy and this year appears to be a busier year in the making. Our committee chairs are busy planning their events for 2024. One of our biggest events is the 60th Anniversary of Groton Base coming up from May 29th through June 2nd. This event has required and will continue a large planning efforts by a group of dedicated members and their spouses in order to provide the very best anniversary celebration in SUBVETS' history. If you would like to be involved in this event, just contact me.

Again, I would like to remind our members that 2024 is an election year for Base Secretary and Sr. Vice Commander. Nominations for either of these two positions will open at the February membership meeting. Consider stepping up and become an officer, setting the future direction of USSVI Groton Base

Incidentally, the Groton Base Plan of the Month is part of this broadcast. Use it to plan your month's events and activities, especially here at the club.

Finally, my wish to you is to have a Happy and Healthy New Year to you and your family...

V/r

Alvin G. Kinsall
Base Secretary
secretary@ussvigroton.org

BASE TREASURER

Charlie Murray

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR!

Because of your donations we have again finished the year with all of our bills paid.

CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT BY VISITING THE CLUBHOUSE

Joe Negri said the clubhouse is more than a building because it stands as a reminder to everyone that we will always remember those on eternal patrol, especially our lost boats.

BALONY AND 3RD FLOOR WORK PARTY

We need a few members to help with additional clean up. Let me know if you can work on this with me.

NATIONAL OFFICE RELOCATION

- 3rd floor renovations scheduled for early January 2024
- National Office will relocate on March 1, 2023

I look forward to the opportunities the coming year will bring and to working with all of you to achieve another successful year for Groton SubVets.

Charlie Murray
treasurer@ussvigroton.org



John "Gumba" Carcioppolo gumba700@comcast.net

The following is the Honors Detail activity from 26 November – 27 December 2023

There were 4 Eternal Patrols as follows:

SN(SS) Stephen Madagosky – 16 Dec 2023. No Honors Detail

EM1(SS) Miles (Smiley) E. Cochran Jr. 20 Nov 2023. No Honors Detail

MMC(SS) Michael T. Zeimet – 27 Nov 2023. No Honors Detail

MMCS(SS) PW Louthain – 21 Dec 2023. Honors Detail 29 Dec. Participants/Attendees who joined me were Homer Darrel Callicut; Rich Cheatham; Earl Colella; Forrest Cramer, Joe Damm; Rob Davis; Alex Ducette; Bob Dulin; Pedro Gonzales; Dominic Grimaldi; Bob Gustafson; PQ Johnson; Al Kinsall; Jim Lawton; Jim Leonaitis; Stan Mathis; Durrell Rader; Steve Ricard; Barry Russack; Tom Shannon; Bob Sharpe and Paul Skalski; Many thanks to all for the great turnout to send our Shipmate off.

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 couldn't render honors to our shipmates without all of your support.

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

If you don't have all the right stuff, then that's what we are going to put out.

Also, with regards to information if we don't know of a members 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 members passing or see an obituary of someone who may be a member don't hesitate to pass that info along. 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 Canons – We are looking for donations of .10-gauge blank shotgun shells needed for the saluting canons. We are starting to run low and are looking for someone to donate to the cause. If you would like to donate, please contact either John Carcioppolo or Base Commander Steve Ricard.

Finally let's remember all those we lost during 2023.

Finally let's take a minute and remember all those we lost during 2023.

QMCS(SS) Joseph F. O'Hara; CTICS(SS) Tommy Cox; Master Chief(SS) Paul D. Cook; LT William Conley Jr.; QMCM(SS) Jack L. Penney; RM1(SS) Richard Geiler ; SN(SS) Roger A. Kuemper; STSCS(SS) Norman A. Main; CAPT Marshall T. Slayton; RM3(SS) Cecil M. Burner; CDR William C. McGann III; IC3(SS) Albert P. Hahn; MoMM2(SS) Daniel Peter Zdanowicz; ENCS(SS) Richard E. "Dick" Cordero; EM1(SS) Breck R. Kearns; RM3(SS) Nicholas "Nick" A. Calderiso; Captain Richard Noreika; MT3(SS) James "Jim" J. Bruce; ET2(SS) Edgar "Ed" H. Butcher Jr.; EM1(SS) Edward "Don" Porter; ETC(SS) Joseph (Joe) Bialek ; MMC(SS/DV) Paul R. Brosig Sr; YNCS(SS) Howard W. Kligge Jr.; SKCM(SS) Thomas R. Connors; Captain William L. McGonagal; EM2(SS) James D. Rohen; MMCM(SS) Bruce A. Selby; CWO3 Matthew Mark Thomson; EMCM(SS) William R. Beagle; EM1(SS) Miles (Smiley) E. Cochran Jr.; MMC(SS) Michael T. Zeimet; MMCS(SS) PW Louthain; SN(SS) Stephen Madigosky; YN2(SS) Dennis Waters; ETCSS(SS) Raymond Brombereck; TMCM((SS) Von Tish; LCDR Stephen Kelley; LCDR James Wallace

Eternal Light Irma Jean Streeter; Eternal Light Caroline Plantz; Eternal Light Joy Sinacore.

Homecoming/Red Hat – We recently welcomed home the crew of USS COLORADO (SSN 788) Just in time for Christmas. Pictures from the event are located here

<https://link.shutterfly.com/3WrYJt4OPFb>

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

Pictures from the December Holland Club Luncheon are here

<https://link.shutterfly.com/urnNRyePPFb>



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.

We had 45 members and guests join us on December 19, for the final Holland Club Luncheon of 2023. We did not have a scheduled Guest Speaker as the intent of the luncheon was to celebrate 2023 and give an overview of the business side of the Holland Club.

We were joined by WWII Submarine Hero and Groton Base member, Bob Heist. Bob joined the Navy in 1945 and qualified in Submarines in 1949 onboard USS Dogfish (SS 350).

Our next Holland Club Luncheon will be January 16, 2024. Our guest speaker will be Major General Francis J. Evon, Jr., the Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard. As always, please let me know if you plan to attend.

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

COLOR GUARD

Bob Sharpe



The Color Guard conducted the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony on December 7, 2023 at the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II Memorial East.

During the service the color guard presented the U.S. Navy, USSVI, and Submarine Veterans of World War II Flags. Color guard captain Robert Sharpe was the master of ceremony. He provided a Remembrance Day reading and a memorial prayer. At 12:55 pm EST (07:55 HST), the time that the first bomb was dropped, Alex Doucette

commenced a 7-gun salute, one shot per minute, in honor of the service men lost that day. After the seventh shot, Robert Dulin played taps.

The Color Guard presented the colors during MMCS (SS) PW Louthain's Eternal Patrol services on December 29, 2023 at the USSVI's Submarine Veteran's Clubhouse.

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

RENEW NOW for 2024!!

Membership – 1,173

Life National Members – 848

Holland Club – 608

Associates – 75

Our Base dues increase is effective Jan. 1, 2024. Our dues now reflect the annual renewal amounts of National. One-year effective January 1, 2024, for Base and National dues is now \$60 and for National Life members, 1 year of base dues is \$30.

1 Year – National = \$30, Base = \$30, BOTH = \$60

2 Years – National = \$60, Base = \$60, BOTH = \$120

3 Years – National = \$85.00, Base = \$85.00, BOTH = \$170

4 Years – National = \$115, Base = \$115, BOTH = \$230

5 Years – National = \$140 Base = \$140, BOTH = \$280

National Life Memberships based on your current age:

76+ years old = \$120.00.

66 through 75 = \$240.

56 through 65 = \$ 360.00.

46 through 55 = \$500.00.

Through 45 years old = \$ 600.00.

Groton Base does not have a Life Membership Option.

DUES FOR ACTIVE DUTY PERSONEL ARE COMPLIMENTARY FOR FIRST YEAR

Jeff Flesher
Groton Base Membership Chairman
membership@ussvigothon.org
Thank you to all renewing members!!



USSVI GROTON BASE “SILENT SERVICE”

Richard Rusczyk

SUBVETS LICENSE PLATE Contact Richard Rusczyk (richardrusczyk@att.net)

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



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

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Greg Kane

Now Hear This Submarine Veterans! Your support is needed for the Groton USSVI Scholarship fund. With pride, let's stand united and contribute to this noble cause, enabling over 70 shipmates' children and grandchildren to benefit from the scholarship fund. By doing so, we fulfill our sacred promise to remember our shipmates and honor them in the most meaningful way possible. Your generosity will create a lasting legacy, forging brighter futures for the next generation. Please join us in ensuring that our shipmates' descendants have the opportunity to pursue their dreams and aspirations through education. Please forward your donations to the **Groton Base USSVI Scholarship Fund, 40 School Street, Groton, CT 06340**. Note on the payment it is for Groton Base Scholarship.

Any questions contact Scholarship chair, Gregory Kane, 860 989-1426

Groton USSVI Base Scholarship Committee

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Marion Galbraith



The Memorial has been decorated for the season festivities. Thank you to the Memorial committee for a job well done.

VETERANS CORNER

SGT Brian 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, another month down and more VA news out and about. The VA just put out their overall report card. [2023 VA State of Innovation Report - VA News](#)

Here's the "so far" report card on the Pact Act. [VA PACT Act Performance Dashboard](#)

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. <https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-expands-burial-benefits/>

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/>

My HealtheVet is moving onto VA.gov. [My HealtheVet is moving to VA.gov: What to know - VA News](#)

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's 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'll track it down and post it. Hope to see you at the club!

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

Always a good place to start.

[Home - My HealtheVet - My HealtheVet \(va.gov\)](#)

Track your appointments, meds and more.

[Military and Veteran Benefits, News, Veteran Jobs | Military.com](#)

This is a great website for info on any Military and Veteran related.



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

GROTON BASE 2023 KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS) VISITS

Below are photos from Groton Base's 2023 Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) visits and events.

Our K4K Team members included Bob Dulin, Bob Sharpe, Paul Grammer, Ed Giambastia MMN1(SS), Branden Wilkison EMN1(SS) and John Riley. Ed and Branden are on active duty, assigned to the Nautilus Submarine and Submarine Force Museum in Groton, CT. They were big hits with the Kids!

Some photos of young Oban Birmingham, document part of his Amazing Journey from a very sick young boy in 2021, to a very healthy Honorary Submariner in 2022 & 2023. A photo, taken in October 2022, shows Oban with the USS Indiana's (SSN 789) Captain, Scott Bresnahan and Chief of the Boat, Mike Micheli, testing boat alarms. He was a big hit with the crew. In June of 2023, Oban was invited by Captain Bresnahan to attend his change of command ceremony. It was another amazing experience for Oban, who took pictures with the Captain and COB and excitedly got to tour the USS Indiana one more time.

Many of the other photos document numerous 2023 visits to sick Kids at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, the Connecticut Childrens Medical Center in Hartford CT, and Yale New Haven Hospitals' Inpatient Child Psychiatric Unit.

These visits bring comfort and joy to sick Kids and their families and enrich the lives of the Submarine Veterans who visit them!









Our Groton Base Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Team wishes all who read this the Happiest of Holidays and the Healthiest of New Years!

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

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.

USSVI GROTON BASE "JANUARY BIRTHDAY LIST"

Happy Birthday to all who continue to celebrate.

1/1 Chase Rivers	1/15 Richard C Chihocki
1/1 Victor Reck	1/15 Robert Fedder
1/1 David N. Truex	1/15 Robert Edward Christina
1/1 James J. Bargmann	1/16 Paul J. Van Benthem
1/2 Frank J. Saviano	1/16 William C Andrea
1/3 John P. Held	1/16 John Phillip Olsson Jr
1/4 Paul F Dillon	1/17 Edmond E. Gibbons
1/4 William C Helton	1/18 Thomas R Kunz
1/4 Edward Tulinski Sr.	1/18 William F. Heffernan
1/5 Philip O Gagnon	1/18 George Wayne Roache
1/5 Floyd Evans	1/20 William K Castleberry
1/6 Michael Bevenour	1/20 Laurie Kotfer
1/7 Richard W. Schlueter	1/20 Craig Raymond Knutson
1/8 Aaron Packnick	1/21 David Bulkley
1/8 Travis Turner	1/21 Bradley D. Julian
1/8 Richard P. Gudis	1/21 Richard Grigsby
1/9 Michael D Eshnaur	1/21 James R Campbell
1/9 Edward J. Lynd III	1/21 John B. Padgett III
1/9 Edward V Winner	1/21 William C. Cavanagh
1/9 Michael J. Dobrolet	1/22 Douglas Del Biondo
1/9 Jack B Ensminger	1/22 Lee Ashcraft
1/10 Thomas S. Beach	1/22 Charles Thomas Hall
1/10 Dennis W Hopkins	1/23 Gary L Sievers
1/11 Aaron C Mack	1/23 David W Shoaff
1/11 Peter F. Keller	1/23 Steven W. Anderson
1/11 William D. Kronenwetter	1/23 Raymund A. Briggs
1/11 Gary S. Schmid	1/24 Thomas P. O'Donnell
1/11 Patrick J Dougherty	1/24 Mark L Kaufmann
1/11 Robert G. Carlson	1/24 Timothy May
1/12 Christopher M. Borris	1/24 Chuck Wilmot
1/12 Felix J. Rymza	1/24 Michael K. Hartung
1/12 Jack Kavanaugh	1/24 Charlie Rolls
1/12 Thomas H Stevens III	1/24 Carl D. Hill
1/12 James Kronenwetter	1/25 Don M. Hodgdon
1/12 William Robert Salen	1/25 Jerry Withinton
1/13 John B Manning	1/25 Robert J. Segal
1/13 Kaitlyn A Hodge	1/25 Joseph Ellis
1/13 Richard Eberle	1/26 Sean Godfrey
1/13 Charles Boynton	1/26 Carol Meade
1/13 David LeJeune	1/26 Glenn Dean
1/13 Kevin M. Prendergast	1/26 Warren Glen Speh
1/13 Joseph Charles. Damm	1/26 Charles Manza
1/14 Robert A. Philipps	1/27 Scott J Fusco
1/14 Charles F. Murray	1/27 Paul D Reed
1/14 Robert L. Ruest	1/27 Angelo J. Naso

1/27 Raymond W Iverson
 1/28 Brian Beirne
 1/28 Earl W Goodby
 1/29 James K. Bowman
 1/29 George Bowns
 1/30 Jared L Coers
 1/30 James B Birge
 1/30 Jack Haddock
 1/30 John R. Olson
 1/31 Rich Golden
 1/31 Regis Amil Koontz

USSVI GROTON BASE "JANUARY ETERNAL PATROL LIST"

1/1/1999	William Pitowski	1/16/2007	Charles Johnson
1/3/2022	Kenneth Small	1/16/2010	Charles Martone
1/4/2006	Albert Ferris	1/16/2019	Victor Gaska III
1/4/2021	Donald Rudelt	1/16/2019	Peter Galera
1/4/2022	Jack Casey	1/17/1999	Red Heron
1/5/2008	William Dabney Jr	1/17/2004	Robert Casey
1/5/2020	James Keaveny	1/17/2020	David Dlugo
1/5/2023	Joseph O'Hara	1/18/2008	Edmund Bachmann
1/6/2015	Peter Haidet	1/18/2011	Ernest Danford
1/6/2018	Herb Halpern	1/18/2021	William Welsh, Jr.
1/7/2007	James Whisler	1/19/2019	Paul Melher
1/7/2009	David Bascom	1/19/2022	Robert M. Folks
1/7/2014	Robert Becher	1/20/2017	William Besley
1/7/2022	John Farro	1/20/2019	Michael Cooper
1/8/2004	Joseph Corneau	1/20/2019	William Schofield
1/8/2004	Ira Golderberg	1/21/2012	Richard Weckwerth
1/8/2011	Harold Funke Jr	1/22/2013	Marvin Ruzansky
1/8/2021	David Lane	1/23/2005	Clements Mashak
1/9/2011	Nelson Sheppo Jr	1/23/2006	Edward Bissonnette
1/9/2022	Ralph Pelletier	1/23/2016	Donald Cameron
1/10/2010	Frederick Johler	1/24/1998	Robert Phillips
1/10/2011	Peter McCormack	1/24/2011	Gary Batch
1/10/2013	James Palmer	1/24/2015	Michael LaRose
1/11/2018	Lawrence Crowley	1/24/2020	Kenneth Pitman
1/11/2018	Herman Ruhlmann	1/24/2021	Edward Burchfield
1/12/2018	Richard McGirr, Jr	1/25/2022	Edward D. Greenwold
1/13/2005	Jack Roberts	1/26/2020	Soloman Swiman
1/13/2018	Earle Forbes Jr.	1/28/2011	Joseph Santella
1/13/2020	Francis Duntz	1/30/2015	Charles Venezia
1/13/2020	Allen Polhemus	1/30/2018	Gordon Clark
1/15/2008	Walter Benson	1/31/2023	Paul D. Cook
1/15/2018	Silas Ponder		



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 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

US NAVY
SUBMARINE
FORCE MUSEUM
USS Nautilus (SSN 571)

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

Over 20 fun ways to start your 2024 in Thames River Heritage Park

Some Featured Events

For more information

[Thames River Heritage Park – One river. A thousand stories. \(bing.com\)](https://www.bing.com)

Sailors, Whalers & Traders **Island Connections to the Thames**

WED, JAN 3 | 6PM-8PM

Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London

Troubadour Geoff Kaufman shares stories of mariners, whalers and traders in prose and song during Thames River Heritage Park's 2024 opening lecture. His songs reference connections between New London/Groton and Southeastern Connecticut to a number of islands near and far.

Tickets include a 6PM reception with wine and light hors d'oeuvres, followed by the 7PM performance. Grab your friends and family for this warm and fun event!

Island Affairs of the Thames is made possible thanks to a grant from [CT Humanities](#).

[RSVP & MORE INFO](#)

Celebrate the Outdoors

First Day Hike

MON, JAN 1 | 12PM

Fort Griswold Battlefield, Groton

Join the folks at Fort Griswold Battlefield on New Year's Day for a First Day Hike! There will be a guide at the front gates to lead this activity starting at noon. Hikes on the first day of the year are a State Park initiative and tradition that is honored across the country. You are asked to please dress for the weather and bring all your friends. Kick off your new year in nature and soak up the outdoors.

[MORE INFO](#)

Saturdays at the Museum

Nature Watercolors

SAT, JAN 6 | 11AM-1PM

Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London

Visit the art studio and create an artwork that represents Nature Watercolors. Take inspiration from the exhibition featuring artwork by Elizabeth Enders. Then, use watercolors to make a bright watercolor painting of nature. While you're there, explore the Museum and enjoy [ongoing exhibits](#). Walk-ins for the art project are welcome as capacity allows. *Sponsored by Chelsea Groton Bank.*

[**MORE INFO**](#)

NL County Historical Society

HMS Resolute

SAT, JAN 6 | 3 - 4:30PM

Public Library of New London

Join New London County Historical Society's executive director, Steve Manuel, as he discusses the HMS Resolute. Learn about arctic exploration and our history as you discover the role of New London and the President's desk.

[**MORE INFO**](#)

Opening Reception

Whalers, Lancers & Saints

SAT, JAN 6 | 6PM

Hygienic Art, New London

This one-of-a-kind show features works that includes photography, drawings, paintings, ceramics, jewelry, and mixed media in the Hygienic Art Galleries. Presented by high school students in the art programs at New London, Waterford and Saint Bernard High Schools; the show highlights young, local artists. Come support the next generation of visual art leaders in our community! On display until January 20th, 2024.

[**MORE INFO**](#)
