



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



Shipmates, Families, and Friends

I trust everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. Hopefully you were able to spend some time at the Domenic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse celebrating Thanksgiving with our Junior Sailors and their families. Thanksgiving is always a busy time of year, and this year was no exception. I hope that all of our volunteers enjoyed the experience and will come back again next year to support our annual Thanksgiving Day meal.

I know everyone that joined us, whether for a sit-down feast or meals to-go, was thankful for the opportunity to break bread with our Submarine Community. The impressions of family, friendship, and camaraderie we leave with our Junior Sailors are the foundation of the Submarine Service.

Remember USSVI Groton Base is home to every qualified Submariner, we need to spread the word and to bring in new members at every opportunity. We need new members now more than ever. We are only as strong as our membership. Please spread the word and bring in new members.

Again, I thank all of you for the extra effort over the month of November in making it a huge success.

I would like to wish all of our families and friends in our ever-growing Submarine Community, Happy Holiday.

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 – December



Lost on Dec 2, 1943 with the loss of 76 men. She was on her 1st war patrol, but her exact location, date and cause of loss remain a mystery. She may have been lost to mines or an operational casualty.



Lost on Dec 10, 1941 with the loss of 4 men. To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack. One other Sealion man was later captured and died in POW camp.



Lost on December 17, 1917 with the loss of 19 officers and men when it was sunk after collision with the USS F-3 (Pickerel(SS-22)) off San Clemente, CA.



Lost on December 17, 1927 with the loss of 40 officers and men when it was sunk after being rammed by USCG Paulding. Salvaged in 1928 and recommissioned.



Plan of the Month December 2023

DATE	TIME	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
12/03	1300	Event	Delaware FRG
12/04	1800	Social	Pre-meeting Social
	1830	Meeting	Monthly membership meeting
12/6		Event	Idaho Khakis
12/07	1230	Event	Pearl Harbor Remembrance – USSVI Submarine Veterans Memorial East (Weather permitting)
12/09	1400	Event	Army / Navy Game
12/13	1500	Event	Boy Scouts Annual Care Package for Troop Support TS
12/15	1200	Event	Kevin Retirement Party TS
	1200	Event	Steve Holiday party PR
	1700	Event	Squadron 12 Holiday Party TS
12/16	1200	Event	Wreaths Across America – Jordan Cemetery, Waterford, CT
12/19	1130	Event	Holland Club Luncheon
12/23-25			Christmas Club Closing
12/26	1730	Zoom meeting	Executive Board meeting (Zoom) 2024 calendar planning meeting
12/30-31			New Years Club Closing

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 November, 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 3 & 17 November. 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 5 October, the BESS class that graduated was named after the USS Silversides SS 236.

USS Silversides (SS/AGSS-236) is a Gato-class submarine, the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the silversides.

Silversides was one of the most successful submarines in the Pacific Theater of World War II, with 23 confirmed sinkings, totaling more than 91,000 tons of shipping. She received a Presidential Unit Citation for cumulative action over four patrols, and twelve battle stars.

Her keel was laid down on 4 November 1940, by the Mare Island Navy Yard in Vallejo, California. She was launched on 26 August 1941, sponsored by Mrs. Elizabeth H. Hogan, and commissioned on 15 December 1941, with Lieutenant Commander Creed C. Burlingame in command. After shakedown off the California coast, Silversides set course for Hawaii, arriving at Pearl Harbor on 4 April 1942. Departing Pearl Harbor on 30 April, Silversides headed for the Japanese home islands, in the area of Kii Suido, for the first of her many successful war patrols.

She completed fourteen war patrols and received 12 battle stars and the Presidential Unit Citation for her war service. According to Joint Army-Navy Assessment Committee figures, Silversides was credited with sinking 23 enemy vessels for a total of 90,080 tons of enemy shipping.

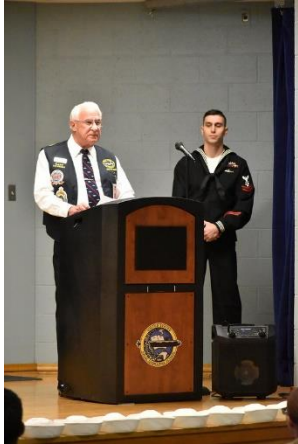
After the war, Silversides set sail for New London, Connecticut, where she was decommissioned on 17 April 1946, and placed in reserve until 15 October 1947. She was then placed in service as a training ship for naval reservists at Chicago, Illinois, for the remainder of her service. Her name was stricken from the Navy list on 30 June 1969. The South Chicago Chamber of Commerce promptly applied to the U.S. Navy for custody of Silversides to preserve her as a memorial. In 1987, the submarine was moved to Muskegon, Michigan, to serve as the centerpiece of the Great Lakes Naval Memorial & Museum. Silversides is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and as a National Historic Landmark. The museum is now known as the USS Silversides Submarine Museum.

More on the Silversides can be found at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Silversides_\(SS-236\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Silversides_(SS-236)) and <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/ships/submarines/silversides-ss-236.html>.

USS Silversides class # 23500 had 138 students with an 81% average and 16 graduated 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 MMN2(SS) Curliss, ETN1(SS) Taylor, FT2(SS) Ballensky and STS1(SS) Kaytes. 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 MMACS(SS) Borchwell.



USSVI Groton Base, Holland Club and USSVI Life Member Gary Schmid was the SubVet representative presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to FN(SU) Lillian Clunn. The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented to SR(SU) Nhurran Tolliver. The class Honor Graduate award was presented to SA(SU) SR(SU) Terje Snyder, and Navy Core Values Award was presented to FA(SU) Davian Strong. Congratulations to all. SubSchool Chaplain, LT Levels gave the Invocation and Benediction. 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: FN(SU) Lillian Clunn



William H. Purdum Award: SR(SU) Nhurran Tolliver



Honor Graduate: SR(SU) Terje Snyder



Core Value Award: FA(SU) Davian Strong



On November 17, the graduating BESS class was named after the USS Honolulu (SSN 718)

USS Honolulu (SSN-718) was a Los Angeles-class submarine, and the third ship of the United States Navy to be named for Honolulu, Hawaii. The contract to build her was awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Newport News, Virginia on 15 September 1977 and her keel was laid down on 10 November 1981. She was launched on 24 September 1983 sponsored by Mrs. Joan B. Clark, and commissioned on 6 July 1985, with Commander Robert M.

Mitchell in command.

Honolulu featured unique split stern planes that operated from independent hydraulic systems. With this redundant configuration, the inboard and outboard planes could be operated independently, preventing a failure of one or the other from causing an uncontrolled dive.

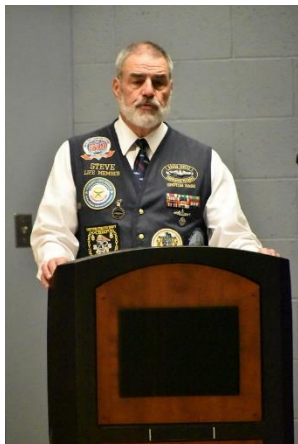
Honolulu's patrols were commemorated by ten surfboards signed by the men aboard her at the time. The latest three were kept on board the submarine; the other seven are stored at Pearl Harbor.

Honolulu held a farewell ceremony in Pearl Harbor on 15 April 2006, that included remarks by Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Lieutenant Governor Duke Aiona, U.S. Pacific Fleet commander Admiral Gary Roughead and former Honolulu commanding officer Vice Admiral Jonathan Greenert. Honolulu put to sea in early May 2006 for her final patrol. Her last patrol ended at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in October 2006 where she was placed on stand down, on her way to decommissioning. More information on the USS Honolulu can be found at <https://www.navysite.de/ssn/ssn718.htm> or [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Honolulu_\(SSN-718\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Honolulu_(SSN-718)).



Honolulu, class # 24020 had 135 students with an 78% average with 8 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 MMN(SS) Hudson, FT2(SS) Jensen, and FT2(SS) Rodrigue. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in training these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool Director Captain Craig Litty, Guest Speaker was CMDCM Travis Speaker, COB of PCU Idaho. SubSchool Chaplain, LT Levels gave the Invocation and Benediction.



Retired ETCM(SS/DV) Steve Ricard, Commander USSVI Groton Base was the USSVI Groton Base Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SR(SU) Sircedric Washington. The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented to SR(SU) Damien Brinkley. The class Honor Graduate award went to SR(SU) Carson Brokaw. The Navy Core Values Award was presented to SR(SU) Clayton Richards.



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) Sircedric Washington



William H. Purdum Award: SR(SU) Damien Brinkley



Honor Graduate: SA(SU) Carson Brokaw



Core Value Award: SA(SU) Clayton Richards

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, and Riley 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 November, several organizations held various events from 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.



Friday 3 November I had the honor and pleasure to attend the 35th Annual Submarine Veterans of WWII Memorial Ceremony hosted by the St. Marys Submarine Museum, TRF Kings Bay, and . Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay. It was a great event honoring the WWII Submarine Sailors that sacrificed so much for the freedoms we enjoy today. WWII Submarine Veterans Tony Faella and his wife Betty and Patrick Ziliacus from California were on hand for the festivities. At the BBQ Dinner there was a Dolphin Pinning where the newest qualified was pinned by the oldest qualified.

Monday 6 November, we held our Monthly membership meeting. Over 30 members joined the monthly meeting both in person and on Zoom. There were several new members that joined the meeting.



Saturday 11 November, USSVI Groton Base honored Veterans from all branches of the military and the annual Veterans Day Ceremony. This year's ceremony was held at the City of Groton Municipal Building. Our guest speaker was Undersea Warfighting Development Center Chief of Staff, Captain Todd Moore. Reverend Dale Green, Captain USN Retired gave the Invocation and Benediction. I would like to thank SubSchool for volunteering their time for the "Tolling of the Boats" and



adding a moment of solemnity to

the ceremony. Mrs. Carol Connors, widow of Shipmate Master Chief Tom Connors, laid the wreath honoring all who are on Eternal Patrol.



Sunday 12 November, the SubSchool CPOA, invaded the kitchen and the dining room to cook and served a delicious brunch., Rumor has it there was an extra-large crowd all wanting to see if they could beat Old Salts head count of 97 happy customers. When all was said and done 104 happy customers left the building.



Tuesday 14 November, we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon. Our guest speaker was Rebecca Karun, USO Center Operations Specialist at the Subbase talked about the services offered and the request for volunteers. We also had the pleasure of having WWII Submariner, Tony Enos. Tony served three years aboard the USS Sea Lion II, qualifying in 1944. Tony made six war patrols and was part of the crew that sank 14 Japanese ships.





SubSchool students on hand to support, talk with a living legend, and meet our Holland Club members were MMASR(SU) Ahmaka Richardson, STSSR(SU) Keaton Krueger, TMSN(SU) Taylor Simon, ITSSA(SU) Jesse Strickland, ITSSA(SU) Hanna Chrismon, MMAFR(SU) Hezekiah Fitzgerald, and ETVSA(SU) Midly Dorcelly. Thank you to Katrina for serving up a great meal.

Wednesday 15 November SubVets Groton made the journey to Hartford to pick up 300 turkeys and 750 pounds of potatoes. This is the second year in a row that Hometown Foundation donated turkeys to help our Submarine Community enjoy Thanksgiving with worry.

<https://www.facebook.com/HometownFoundation/videos/1539533363546114>



A big thanks to Mike Monaco of Monaco Ford, and Shipmate Steve Dresty for volunteering their time and truck to bring the goods back to Subbase New London for distribution.

Friday 17 November was a busy night at SubVets. Many came to listen to DJ Jammin' Jim Lawton playing the tunes and trying to carry a tune singing karaoke. Fun night.

Thanksgiving Week

On Tuesday 14 November, the chill box arrived at the clubhouse to started receiving turkeys donated from members. First to drop off a turkey and potatoes was Jr, Shipmate Sterling Rushto. Thanks Sterling! The final total on turkeys donated was 81. The generosity of our Members and Donors was outstanding again this year.

Wednesday 15 November SubVets traveled to Hartford to pick up 300 turkeys and 750 lbs. of potatoes donated by The Hometown Foundation Inc. A big thanks to Mike Monaco from Monaco Ford and Shipmate Steve Dresty for assisting with the pickup and delivery to the Naval Submarine Base for their annual Holiday Caring and Sharing program. This is the second year that Mike and Steve have supported this operation.

On Monday 20 November a handful of volunteers Dick Warnock, Joe Damm, Artie Gager, and Kimberlee Beagle brought 49 turkeys, 400 lbs. of potatoes, 7 cases of stuffing, and 400 lbs. of butternut

squash (grown and donated by Dick Warnock) were brought to Cross Hall, Subbase Galley to be prepared for Thanksgiving at SubVet. The POC and lead at the galley was CSS1(SS) John Zamora. His knowledge and culinary expertise was put to the test in order to deliver food on time for Thanksgiving, the food was excellent.

Wednesday 22 November about 30 volunteers showed up to help get ready for Thursday. Ten employees from Rand Whitney Cardboard Container Corp, and fourteen employees from Dominion Power Millstone worked tirelessly doing all the prep work that helps make Thanksgiving a success. Joe Diedrich headed up the turkey carving station, preparing all of the bird cooked at the galley.

Finally, Thanksgiving Day arrived early, 0600 when Kevin Crisman set up the turkey fryer line and dropped the first bird at 0705. When all was said and done, over 60 birds were fried and served to hungry SubSchool student and families. Shortly after the first birds came out of the deep fryer, Joe Diedrich and his band of merry butchers were fast at it carving up the turkeys as fast as they arrived. At 0800 Kimberlee Beagle and her team of volunteers loaded 605 meals to-go for Submarine Duty sections, First Responders, State and Local law enforcement, Veterans, and families. At 1200 Sarah Gager, Jean Petryshyn, and about thirty volunteers served over 340 Sailors and family members to a Thanksgiving feast. What a great job.

Sunday 26 November Old Salts served up a wonderful, post-Thanksgiving Brunch in the hall serving up leftovers...no just kidding. Serving up a buffet style lunch in the hall to accommodate all 96 diners in one shot. Thanks again for all you do for SubVets.





We have a lot of great events planned 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 to have one or more of your reunion functions at the club. Contact our Event Coordinator, Kait Hodge, via email at clubmanager@ussvigroton.org. As mentioned at SubSchool graduations, the friendship, and the bonds that you make while onboard your boat will last forever.



I want to thank the boats who have stopped by the club, "your club," to renew friendships and to check on our many updates since your last visit.

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

The holiday season is upon us. While you're getting ready, please take time to relax and enjoy the season. All too often people get caught up with the hustle and bustle and never enjoy it. While doing your holiday shopping think about making a tax-deductible contribution to the United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation at WWW.USSVCF.ORG. Its veterans helping veterans. You never know when you may need some help.

While celebrating the holidays please be safe and if the need arises have a designated driver to get your party safely home,

The Color Guard had the honor to parade our nation's colors at the annual Griswold Middle School Veterans Day Assembly. The Color Guard was invited to have breakfast with the students. Thank you to Alex Doucette, Phil Johnson and Jr Vice Commander for participating in this annual event for the Color Guard.

Please check our web site often for updates and changes to the Plan of the Month (POM).

On November 14 students from BESS Class 24020 provided excellent support for the monthly Holland Club luncheon. Everyone had a great time talking to the younger sailors.

A big thank you to the following students from BESS Class 24020 for their help. Job well done.

Ahmaka Richardson MMA/E1

Taylor Simon STS/E1

Jesse Strickland ITS/E2

Hanna Chrismon ITS/E2

Hezeliyah Fitzgerald MMA/E1

Midly Dorceley ETV/E2

The football game of the year.

Army vs Navy.

Wear you team color's

Come on down to the Groton Clubhouse and join us for pizza made by our very own Dominic Grimaldi along with other food and drink specials.

Come and check out our guest bartender for the game. Guarantee you will have a fun time.

Doors open at 2:00 pm.

Kickoff 3:00 pm

Saturday December 9.

As the Fonz would say, be there or be square.

v/r,

Paul Skalski

JrVice Commander

jrvice@ussvigroton.org

860.823.9641



BASE SECRETARY

Alvin (AI) G. Kinsall

Well, the holiday is upon us. We hope everyone had a pleasant Thanksgiving with family and friends. With that in mind I want to wish the membership a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It is the season of sharing and caring for those less fortunate. So, keep that in mind as we go through this month, enjoying the company of friends and relatives.

Again, I would like to remind our members that 2024 will be 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, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family...

V/r

Alvin G. Kinsall

Base Secretary

secretary@ussvigroton.orgs

BASE TREASURER

Charlie Murray

Fund Raising Effort

- 2023 has been an outstanding effort by our Members, Families, Friends and Vendors to donate funds and goods to our Club.
- Renovations of the Men's bathroom is an example of how we used these donations to continue improvements to the Club.
- New dishwasher is an example of a major purchase made with your donations.
- Donations provide us with the funds to pay our utility bills, insurance and building maintenance
- All because of your support. *THANK YOU VERY MUCH.*

There is still time to donate

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

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

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

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

Option 3: You can mail a check to USSV Charitable Foundation, 3100 Bucklin Hill Road, PO Box 3870 Silverdale WA 98383

Option 4: You can donate on line at <https://www.ussvcf.org/donate.html>

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

Duplicate Plaques

Thanks to Bill Cavanagh

Using Ebay, Bill was able to get donations for the remaining duplicate plaques we had at the Club

A 9 month effort resulted in just under \$7,000 of donations for Capital Improvements

Scam Warning

Heads up! Scam calls, typically targeting seniors (that's a lot of us including me), seem to be popping up again, including winning an exorbitant amount of money from Publisher's Clearing House. Help me spread the word with these reminders:

If you have to pay money to get money - it is a scam!

If it is too good to be true - reach out to a trusted source before acting.

You always have time to verify - do not let them take that away from you.

If they insist that you need to pay now, end the conversation. It is ok to hang up.

National Office Relocation

- 3rd floor renovations scheduled for mid December 2023
- National Office will relocate in March 2023

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



John "Gumba" Carcioppolo gumba700@comcast.net

The following is the Honors Detail activity from 25 October 25 November 2023 There were no Eternal Patrols during this period.

Please keep the following Shipmates in your thoughts and prayers: Paul Orstad, and PW Louthain.?

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 member 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.

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

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



HOLLAND CLUB REPORT

Rich Cheatham, Chairman

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

We had 44 members and guests join us for the November 14, 2023, Luncheon. Our Guest Speaker was Rebecca Karun. Rebecca is the Operations Supervisor of the USO at SUBASE. We were joined by WWII Submarine Hero, Tony Enos from the Marblehead Base, a guest of Steve Borowicz. Tony Qualified in Submarines in 1944 onboard USS SEALION (SS 315). He was a plank owner and completed 6 war patrols on SEALION.

Our next Holland Club Luncheon will be December 19, 2023. This will be the end of the year Holland Club Business Luncheon.

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 provided the presentation of colors at our Veterans Day service. Although the day was sunny it was too cold to hold the service at the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II Memorial East. Instead it was held at the City of Groton Municipal Building.

During the service the color guard presented the U.S. National Flag, Connecticut State Flag and the USSVI Flag. In support of the service's Tolling of the Boats ceremony, color guard members Robert Sharpe saluted the first 32 lost boat and Alex Doucette saluted the last 33 lost boat flags, while Robert Dulin rang the bell twice for each lost boat.

The Color Guard will muster again in December for the Groton Base's Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony on December 7.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Jeff Flesher

RENEW NOW for 2024!!

Our base dues increase is effective Jan. 1, 2024, save a few bucks and renew now still at \$25 (\$30 per year as of 1/1/2024).

Membership – 1,176
Life National Members – 850
Holland Club – 612
Associates – 75

November New Members:

RADM Michael Holland, Qualified 1990, USS Pintado
CDR Phillip De Rose, Qualified 1979, USS Alexander Hamilton
MMC(SS) Jon Pierce, Qualified 1980, USS Simon Bolivar

New Active-Duty Members

CSSC(SS) Charles Khader, Qualified 2002, USS Pennsylvania
STSC(SS) Eric Boyd, Qualified 2011, USS Hartford
CAPT Thomas O'Donnell, Qualified 2003, USS Maryland

New Associate Members

Joan Spagnuolo Tobler, Sponsored by Ralph Bret

During the month of December, I will be sending emails to members who are not current with Base dues for 2023 as a reminder to get current. We have several LIFE National members who are not current with Base dues. Remember, National Life Membership does not include Groton Base dues.

Jeff Flesher

Groton Base Membership Chairman
membership@ussvigroton.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.ussvigroton.org/linksofinterest>.



Applications are available at the pumphouse.

clubhouse next to the bulletin board in the

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



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

Marion Galbraith

VETERANS CORNER

SGT Brain Hague US Army (Retired)

From the desk of USSVI Groton Base Veterans Affairs

HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR VA BENEFITS?
DON'T KNOW IF YOU QUALIFY FOR VA BENEFITS?

Contact Brian Hague, USSVI Groton Base Veterans Affairs Representative
(860)237-7323 brian.hague@ussvigroton.org

Hey Navy, another month down and more VA news out and about. The VA just put out their over all 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 at the club for Thanksgiving!

<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'S KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS) WEEK HOSPITAL VISIT

On November 13, 2023, as part of USSVI's Annual Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Week (the period around Veteran's Day), the Groton Base's K4K Team will visit the Kids at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital (YNHCH).

On Veteran's Day, November 11, 2009, YNHCH was the very first hospital our K4K Team visited! Every year since then, we have visited the Kids there around Veterans Day.

Our visits to YNHCH around Veteran's Day have always been extra special. The Kids, their families, and the staff are more engaged than usual, and we continually get thanked for our service to our country.

Below are two pictures from that Veterans Day visit:



Our Groton Base Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) team included Bob Sharpe, Branden Wilkison EMN1(SS) and John Riley. Branden is on Active Duty, serving at the Nautilus Submarine Force Museum, in Groton CT. He is a new K4K Team Member and, as expected, was a big hit with the Kids! Branden says that the visit was a big hit for him as well and is looking forward to future K4K visits!

We made the Kids Honorary Submariners and gave them our usual Groton Base K4K gifts: an Honorary Submariner Certificate, Ball Kap, K4K Tattoos, Challenge

Coin and Wrist Band. They also received a Nautilus Submarine Photo signed by our K4K Team, a map showing the location of all US Submarine Museums, and information brochures from the USS Nautilus Submarine Museum and the WWII Submarine Memorial in Groton, CT.

We gave them Therapeutic Relaxing Heart Shaped Squeeze Balls, with the image of a Submarine stamped on them. This helps reduce the stress of being in a hospital and is always a big hit!

They were excited to learn that they would get a Special Tour and a USS Nautilus Challenge Coin, from Active-Duty Submariners, like Branden, if they visited the free USS Nautilus Submarine Museum.



***"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 a copy, and paste it into your browser.

USSVI GROTON BASE "DECEMBER BIRTHDAY LIST"

Happy Birthday to all who continue to celebrate.

12/1 Brian Andersen	12/18 Thomas P. Traxler
12/1 Stephen V Brooke	12/19 Kie Brown
12/1 Ronald E Hanson	12/19 Barry Cohen
12/2 William J. Dwyer	12/19 Jeff Heck
12/2 Owen E Key	12/19 Bryan J. Ersek
12/2 Dimetrius T Winks	12/19 David P Foret
12/3 Murphy Vincent	12/19 Joseph J Radecki
12/3 Jason G. Breen	12/20 Jeremiah D. Ross
12/3 Gregory C Hill	12/20 Paul J. Weir
12/3 Luke E Kilgore	12/21 Dale Liggett
12/3 William E. Short	12/21 John C Franzoni
12/3 Nathaniel K. Van Noy	12/21 Alexander M. Hay
12/4 Paul Gonsalves	12/21 James M. Healey
12/4 John R. Vernotzy	12/21 Aaron M. Kalfus
12/5 John Harworth	12/21 Robert J. Price
12/5 Edward Hyne	12/21 William J. Ramey
12/5 John J. Cunnally Jr.	12/21 Thomas D. West
12/5 P.W. Louthain	12/22 Herbert G Horne
12/6 Thomas E Vernon	12/23 Joseph Forte
12/8 Peter J. Mazanec	12/23 David R. Aiken
12/9 Brian E. Bell	12/23 James C. Hedtke
12/9 Douglas W Bennett	12/24 Chad Underkoffler
12/9 William L. Henry	12/24 Jack H. Gallimore
12/9 Larry L. Oiler	12/24 James F Moulding
12/10 Norman E Holiman	12/25 Jason Rusk
12/11 James A. Adams	12/25 George H. Williams Jr
12/11 Charles Wayne Juoni	12/26 James Standish
12/11 David J. Latta	12/26 Richard A. Johnson
12/12 Harold P. Egbert Jr	12/26 John L. Kloner
12/12 John T Leahy	12/26 George H. Schalk
12/12 Walter William Roye, Jr	12/26 Herman W Schnabel
12/12 Robert J Sniper	12/26 Tim J. Shannon
12/13 John Palmer	12/27 Marc Kashar
12/13 John Ward	12/27 Jeff Kelly
12/13 James G. Spinner	12/27 Steven B. Bastien
12/14 Frederick M Hooker, Jr	12/27 David G. Lees
12/15 Gerald Domahowski	12/27 Anthony E Myrill
12/15 David Baratko	12/28 Charles D. Bennett
12/15 Leo O. Falardeau	12/28 Willard T Burkett, Jr
12/15 John A. Moulson	12/28 Wayne N. Ferguson
12/16 Scott Lang	12/28 Manuel J Misarski
12/16 Curtis L Thomas	12/29 Kenneth D. Brown
12/17 David G. Balcom	12/29 David M. Hernandez
12/17 James R Crumm	12/29 Marvin Daniel Stuart
12/17 Donald F Terry	12/29 B. K. Thompson
12/18 Paul B. Bissey	12/30 Michael Yacovino
12/18 Robert J. Burns	12/30 Edward J Cedor Jr.

12/30 William B. Dumbauld
12/30 Charles F. Masterson
12/30 Thomas D Rodgers
12/30 Robert G Stephens
12/30 Barry R. Strauss
12/31 James T Custer

12/31 Francis A. (IV) Englehart
12/31 Joseph J Falman
12/31 John C Ketcham
12/31 Timothy P Potter

USSVI GROTON BASE "DECEMBER ETERNAL PATROL LIST"

12/1/2004	Daniel Westhusin	12/16/2018	Frank Holden
12/1/2008	Allen Bryson	12/17/2009	Bruce Anderson
12/1/2013	Raymond Stanis	12/18/2014	Rollie Stephens
12/1/2017	LeRoy Webb	12/18/2018	Lionel Walling
12/2/2022	Richard LaCombe	12/18/2021	George Patenaude
12/3/2002	Howard McPherson	12/19/2015	Frank Cima Sr.
12/3/2012	Abraham Sanchez	12/19/2015	Ernest Plantz
12/3/2018	Louis Baldi Jr.	12/20/2003	Donald Hale
12/4/2011	Ronald Trahan	12/20/2018	Eugene Bassette
12/4/2014	Philip Marshall	12/22/2005	Donald Wright, Sr
12/4/2020	John Howard	12/22/2018	Frank Thompson
12/5/2010	John Jennerwein	12/22/2022	Tennant Donald
12/6/2007	Thomas Hurley	12/22/2022	Donald Best
12/6/2011	Stanley Alexander	12/24/2020	Donn Law
12/7/2019	Kreso Paskov	12/24/2021	Norman Kuzel
12/10/2015	William Dersham	12/24/2022	Donald F Terry
12/10/2018	Edmond Diamantini	12/25/2006	George MacGregor
12/11/2012	John Kurrus	12/25/2007	Ronald Brewer
12/11/2019	John McElroy	12/25/2019	Carl Hochstetler
12/12/2021	Mark Schraer	12/26/2010	William Carlen
12/13/2018	Stephen Flynn	12/26/2020	Ted Anthony
12/13/2021	William Deer	12/27/2016	Roy Wilkes
12/14/2008	Benjamin Travisano	12/27/2019	Michael Doherty
12/14/2011	James Zimble	12/28/2004	Edward Zeller Jr.
12/14/2017	Mickey Davidson	12/28/2017	Eldon McGuire
12/14/2018	Francis Kruszka	12/29/2010	Frank White
12/15/2007	William Budding, Jr.	12/29/2020	James Newman
12/15/2012	Ralph Brown	12/30/2020	Jon-David Edwards
12/15/2016	Larry Yering		
12/16/2015	Glenn Suttle		



always keep their memories alive.

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

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.CHAPMANG.MIL@US.NAVY.MIL
DOCENT COORDINATOR AND SECURITY MANAGER: ELBERTON.A.MIXON2.MIL@US.NAVY.MIL
EVENT SCHEDULING AND MUSEUM USE REQUESTS: LINDA.E.WILLIAMS10.CIV@US.NAVY.MIL
EDUCATION DIRECTOR (ACTING): KEVIN.WILLY.MIL@US.NAVY.MIL
RESEARCH AND ARCHIVES: WENDY.S.GULLEY.CIV@US.NAVY.MIL

US NAVY
SUBMARINE
FORCE MUSEUM
USS Nautilus (SSN 571)

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