



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



Happy February from the mess deck of the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse. It is a big year for the Submarine Service in several different areas. One is the 125th Anniversary of the US Submarine Service. Second is the 125th Anniversary of the birth of Medal of Honor winner TM2(SS) Henry Breault. Third is the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of WWII SubVet Bill Scarano. So, it's going to be a great year with plenty of planned events and surprises. So come on down, enjoy the atmosphere, camaraderie, and renew some friendships.



USS HOLLAND SS-1



WWII SubVet Bill Scarano & Congressman Courtney



Medal of Honor recipient TM2 (SS) Henry Breault

## 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

|   |                                      |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
|    | <p><b>USS Barbel (SS-316)</b></p>    | <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>  |
|    | <p><b>USS Shark I (SS-174)</b></p>   | <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>  |
|   | <p><b>USS Amberjack (SS-219)</b></p> | <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>   |
|  | <p><b>USS Grayback (SS-208)</b></p>  | <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> |

|   |                                  |   |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
|  | <p><b>USS Trout (SS-202)</b></p> | <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 2025**

| DATE | TIME  | ACTION     | DESCRIPTION                             |
|------|-------|------------|---|
| 2-7  | 12:00 | Luncheon   | SubSchool Hail and Farewell             |
| 2-9  | 10:00 | Brunch     | Brunch SubSchool CPOA                   |
| 2-9  | 17:00 |            | Super Bowl Watch party                  |
| 2-9  | 17:00 |            | Chili Cook off                          |
| 2-14 | 16:00 | Dinner     | Valentine Day Dinner/Dance              |
| 2/18 | 11:30 | Luncheon   | Holland Club Luncheon                   |
| 2-22 | 11:00 | Retirement | Dana Scott Retirement Top Side          |
| 2-23 | 10:00 | Brunch     | Brunch Old Salts                        |
| 2-27 | 16:00 | Meeting    | Holland Club Induction Planning 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."*

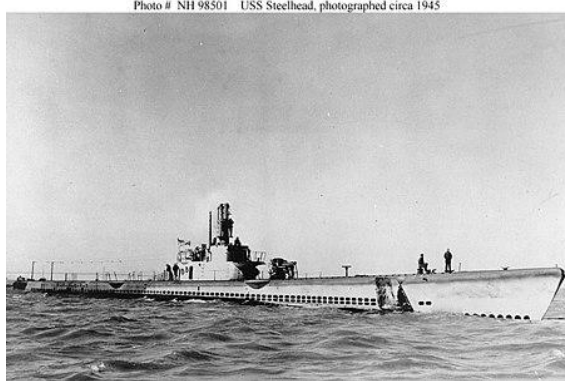
**Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) Updates**

During 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 on 10 & 24 January. I would like to thank SubSchool leadership for allowing us to participate in this milestone event.

The following information is for BESS Class 25060, named after the USS Steelhead (SS 280). The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links for additional details.



USS Steelhead (SS-280), a Gato-class submarine, was a ship of the United States Navy named for the steelhead, a North American trout found from California to Alaska.

Steelhead (SS-280) was laid down on 1 June 1942 by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine; launched on 11 September 1942; sponsored by Mrs. Marguerite Brown; and commissioned on 7 December 1942.

Steelhead held her shakedown off Long Island in December 1942 and January 1943. In February, she sailed for the Pacific and arrived at Pearl Harbor on 8 April. After intensive training, she sailed for Midway Island; topped off her fuel there on the 25th; and began her first war patrol. She planted 12 mines off the Japanese mainland near Erimo Saki and then bombarded a steel plant and iron foundry near Muroran, Hokkaido. She fired no torpedoes, and the submarine returned to Midway in early June.

On her second patrol, 30 June to 6 August, Steel-head fired 10 torpedoes at a Japanese task force on 10 July. Explosions were heard, but specific damage could not be ascertained. After refitting at Pearl Harbor, the ship sailed on 13 September for the Gilbert Islands where she operated as a lifeguard submarine off Tarawa during bombardment by Army aircraft. She called at Johnston Island for fuel and provisions and departed on the 25th to resume her patrol which took her into the Palau Islands. On 6 October off the Carolines, she damaged tanker Kazahaya, which Tinosa (SS-283) sank later that day. All her torpedoes expended, Steelhead sighted a large convoy which she trailed, while sending information to other submarines in the area.

On her next patrol, Steelhead operated off Bungo Suido from late December 1943 to early March 1944. On 10 January 1945, she torpedoed and sank the 6,795-ton converted salvage vessel, Yamabiko Mo.ru. Her fourth patrol, off Formosa from early April to 23 May, provided no targets worthy of torpedo fire; but she sank a trawler by gunfire. On 17 June, she sortied from Midway Island with Hammerhead (SS-364) and Parche (SS-384) to patrol south of Formosa. On 31 July, the submarine made three successful attacks in which one ship was damaged and two were sunk. Parche also sank two from the convoy. Upon concluding the patrol when she arrived at Pearl Harbor on 16 August, Steelhead was routed to the west coast for a much needed overhaul.

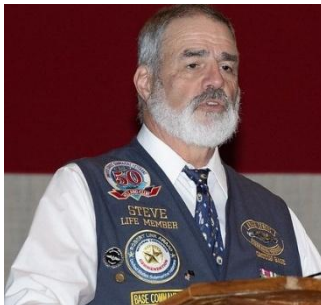
While in drydock, on 1 October 1944, Steelhead suffered a serious fire which required the installation of a new conning tower. After a long repair period, the submarine stood out of San Francisco on 16 April 1945, en route to Pearl Harbor. Steelhead began her last war patrol on 13 May. She performed lifeguard duty in the Caroline Islands and later patrolled in the Tokyo Bay area. She made no torpedo attacks but sank two trawlers by gunfire. The patrol ended at Midway Island on 5 August and, 20 days later, she sailed for the west coast.

Steelhead arrived at San Francisco on 5 September 1945 and provided services for the West Coast Sonar School until 2 January 1946. She sailed to Pearl Harbor and operated from there until March when she steamed back to San Francisco for inactivation. The submarine was placed in reserve, out of commission, on 29 June 1946 and attached to the Pacific Reserve Fleet. In May 1947, Steelhead was placed in service, in reserve, and used as a reserve training ship until struck from the Navy list on 1 April 1960.

More on the USS Sturgeon (SS 187) can be found at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Steelhead](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Steelhead) and [Sturgeon I \(SS-187\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Sturgeon_I_(SS-187))

The Steelhead, BESS Class 25060, had 135 students with a 75% average and 9 students graduating with distinction. Congratulations to this class of future Submariners have finished one of many milestones in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments whether “A” School or direct assignment to their first submarine. Instructors for this were: STS1(SS) Mota, ITEC(SS) Lee, and STS2(SS) Ortiz. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool Executive Officer, Paul Danos. Guest Speaker was CMDCM Jason Hayes, Naval Submarine Support Facility. Chaplain, LT Karen Levels gave the Invocation and Benediction.



USSVI Groton Base Commander Steve Ricard was the SubVet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin SA(SU) Wyatt Clingman. 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 STSCM (SS) Michael Micheli, to SR(SU) Jordan Gary. This award is given to the student who shows academic achievement and personal improvement through the course of instruction.

The class Honor Graduate Award was presented to Able Seaman Cameron of the Royal Australian Navy by Executive Officer. 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 CMDCM Hayes to SN(SU) Elize McClendon. 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 Sailors joining our organization when they receive their fish.



Heritage Award: SR(SU) Reynia Anderson



William H. Purdum Award: SR(SU) Jordan Gary



Honor Graduate: Able Seaman Cameron



Core Value Award: SN(SU) Elize McClendon



On 24 January, the BESS class that graduated was named after the USS Blackfin (SS-322).

USS Blackfin (SS-322), a Balao-class submarine in commission from 1944 to 1948 and from 1951 to 1972, was a ship of the United States Navy named for the blackfin cisco, a food fish of the Great Lakes.

Blackfin's keel was laid on 10 June 1943 by the Electric Boat Company at Groton, Connecticut. She was launched on 12 March 1944, sponsored by Mrs. Phyllis Irwin Lockwood, wife of Rear Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, and commissioned on 4 July 1944 with Lieutenant Commander George H. Laird, Jr., in command.

On 29 August she joined the Pacific Fleet, and headed for Hawaii. She arrived at Pearl Harbor on 11 September and spent the rest of the month engaged in voyage repairs and training in the local operating area. On 30 September, she set sail on her first war patrol. The warship topped off her fuel tanks at Saipan on 10 October and then continued on her way to the northern approaches to Palawan Passage in the Philippines.

During World War II, Blackfin completed five war patrols in the Philippine Islands, South China Sea, and Yellow Sea. She sank the Japanese destroyer Shigure, which until then was known for her legendary luck, surviving for most of the war and a number of important Japanese naval operations. Blackfin also sank a Japanese cargo ship. After World War II, Blackfin served in the United States Pacific Fleet, and saw

service in the Vietnam War. From January to June 1972, Blackfin operated along the U.S. West Coast, visiting San Francisco, Avalon, and Monterey, California; Seattle and Port Angeles, Washington; and Vancouver, British Columbia. She then began preparations for deactivation and was decommissioned on 15 September 1972. She simultaneously was struck from the Naval Vessel Register.

More on the USS Blackfin (SS-322) can be found at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Blackfin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Blackfin) and [Blackfin \(SS-322\)](#).



USS Blackfin (SS-322), class #25080 had 132 students with an average 75% and 10 students graduating with distinction. Congratulations and “Well Done.” These future Submariners have finished that first significant milestone in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments ranging from “A” School to direct assignment to their first submarine. A big shout out to the instructors for this class for teaching them and giving them insight to their future onboard submarines. Thank you for using your background training and experience in training these future Submariners.



The Command Representative was SubSchool Command Master Chief Dean Marvin. Force Master Chief Neil Ford, SUBLANT was the Guest Speaker. SubSchool Chaplain LT Karen Levels gave the Invocation and Benediction.

USSVI Groton Base Member and Holland Chirman, RMCM(SS) John Carcioppolo USN (Ret) was the SubVets Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to CSSSA(SU) Carson Crom. 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 to SN(SU) Will Moten. This award is given to the student who shows academic achievement and personal improvement through the course of instruction.

The class Honor Graduate award went to SR(SU) Poet Benjamin. 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 to SN(SU) Equanis Peterson. This award is giving 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.



Heritage Award: CSSSA(SU) Carson Crom



William H. Purdum Award: SN(SU) Will Moten



Honor Graduate: SR(SU) Poet Benjamin



Core Value Award: SN(SU) Equanis Peterson

 *Pictures not available at press release time.*

### BESS Graduation Schedule

Here is the current graduation schedule for BESS. There are still many dates available to be the SubVet Representative. If interested please let me know.

#### BESS Graduation Schedule SubVet Representative

| Class No. | Class Name           | Command Rep | Guest Speaker | SUBVETS Rep      | Graduation Date | Notes  |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|--|
| 25100     | Growler (SS-215)     | CMC         |               | Pat Roche        | 2025-FEB-07     | <b>1943:</b> On February 7, 1943, a Japanese gunboat closed in on the USS Growler and prepared to ram it   |
| 25120     | USS Triton (SS-201)  | DOT         |               | Bud Atkins       | 2025-FEB-21     | The USS Triton (SS 201) sank a Japanese merchant cargo vessel on February 21, 1942   |
| 25140     | USS Skate (SSN-578)  | CO          |               | Bob Sharpe       | 2025-MAR-07     | The USS Skate (SSN-578) becomes the first submarine to surface at the North Pole   |
| 25160     | USS S-3 (SS-107)     | XO          |               | Pat Roche        | 2025-MAR-21     | The USS S-3 operated off the eastern coast of the United States and Cuba, and made a voyage to the Asiatic Fleet in the Philippine Islands. In 1923, the USS S-3 moved to New London, Connecticut, where it conducted experiments at the Submarine School. |
| 25180     | USS Haddock (SS 231) | CMC         |               | John Carcioppolo | 2025-APR-04     | <b>3 april SS Haddock:</b> Sank the Japanese fleet tanker Arima Maru north of Palau  |
| 25200     | USS Holland          | DOT         |               | Pat Roche        | 2025-APR-18     | April 11th is National Submarine Day in the  |

|       |                        |     |  |                  |             |  |
|-------|------------------------|-----|--|------------------|-------------|--|
|       |                        |     |  |                  |             | United States, which commemorates the day in 1900 when the US Navy acquired its first modern submarine, the USS Holland  |
| 25220 | USS Barb (SS-220)      | CO  |  | John Carcioppolo | 2025-MAY-02 | On May 3, 1945, the USS Barb was in San Francisco Bay near the Mare Island Navy Yard. The USS Barb was a decorated submarine in World War II and is credited with sinking 17 Japanese ships, including the aircraft carrier Unyo. The USS Barb is also the only submarine to have ever sunk a train. |
| 25240 | USS Guitarro (SSN-665) | XO  |  | Pat Roche        | 2025-MAY-16 | On May 15, 1969, the nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Guitarro (SSN-665) sank while docked at the San Francisco Bay Naval Shipyard   |
| 25260 | USS Holland            | CMC |  | Bud Atkins       | 2025-JUN-06 | Holland Club Induction.  |
| 25280 | USS Nautilus (SSN-571) | DOT |  | Gary Schmid      | 2025-JUN-20 | On June 14, 1952, the keel for the USS Nautilus (SSN-571), the first nuclear-powered submarine, was laid by Electric Boat Company in Groton, Connecticut. The USS Nautilus was launched 18 months later and commissioned in September 1954   |
| 25300 | USS Thresher (SSN 593) | CO  |  | Steve Ricard     | 2025-JUL-04 | On July 9 <sup>th</sup> the USS Thresher (SSN 593) was launched in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Also, the name's sake of the most decorated submarine in history.  |
| 25320 | USS Grunion (SS-216)   | XO  |  | John Carcioppolo | 2025-JUL-18 | On July 15 <sup>th</sup> the USS Grunion (SS 216) sinks the Japanese submarine chasers (25 and 26) off Kiska, Aleutian Islands.  |

|       |                          |     |  |                  |             |   |
|-------|--------------------------|-----|--|------------------|-------------|---|
| 25340 | USS Silversides (SS-236) | CMC |  | Steve Ricard     | 2025-AUG-01 | On July 28 <sup>th</sup> the USS Silversides sank a 4,000-ton transport with many more to follow. |
| 25360 | Sea Leopard (SS-483)     | DOT |  | Chris Callahan   | 2025-AUG-15 |   |
| 25380 |                          | CO  |  | Bud Atkins       | 2025-AUG-29 |   |
| 25400 |                          | XO  |  |                  | 2025-SEP-05 |   |
| 25420 |                          | CMC |  | Bob Sharpe       | 2025-SEP-19 |   |
| 25440 |                          | DOT |  |                  | 2025-OCT-03 |   |
| 25500 | USS Dallas               | CO  |  | John Carcioppolo | 2025-OCT-17 |   |
| 25520 |                          | XO  |  |                  | 2025-OCT-31 |   |
| 25540 |                          | CMC |  | Bob Sharpe       | 2025-NOV-14 |   |
| 25600 |                          | DOT |  |                  | 2025-Dec 5  |   |

We have also been asked to support Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) and Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC). Again if you see a date that you would like to be the SubVet Representative at one or more of these graduations, please let me know.

**Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) Dates:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 25010 Graduate on 06 December: Bob Kish | 25020 Graduate on 07 February: Pat Roche |
| 25030 Graduate on 21 March: Pat Roche   | 25040 Graduate on 16 May: Bob Sharpe     |
| 25050 Graduate on 18 July               | 25060 Graduate on 12 September           |

**Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC) Dates:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 24050 Graduate on 13 Dec 2024: Bill Sheehan | 24060 Graduate on 21 Feb 2025 Bob Kish |
| 25010 Graduate on 25 Apr 2025               | 25020 Graduate on 20 Jun 2025          |
| 25030 Graduate on 15 Aug 2025               | 25040 Graduate on Oct 2025             |
| 25050 Graduate on 12 Dec 2025: Bob Sharpe   | 25060 Graduate on 20 Feb 2026          |
| 26010 Graduate on 01 May 2026               | 26020 Graduate on 18 Jun 2026          |
| 26030 Graduate on 14 Aug 2026               | 26040 Graduate on 23 Oct 2026          |
| 26050 Graduate on 11 Dec 2026               |  |

**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 Tuesday-Friday 1100-1900 with lunch served from 1100 - 1630 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 1100-1430. Thanks to Katrina, Heather, Ashley, Mika, Shelia, and Hodge 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, time to renew 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.

125<sup>th</sup> Submarine Birthday Ball tickets are on sale at the clubhouse. New policy in place this year, you will need to pay for tickets up front. We are sorry for the inconvenience. Tickets are going fast. See the bartender for details.

## 125<sup>th</sup> Submarine Birthday Ball



Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1700



**Foxwood Casino Grand Ball Room**

**Ticket Price: \$85**

Cash or Check made out to  
**"Submarine Birthday Ball"**



See Bartender for tickets

On Monday January 6<sup>th</sup> our Monthly Membership meeting was held at 1830 in the hall. Over 40 members joined the monthly meeting both in person and via Zoom. Thank for joining us each month. We offer Zoom so all of our, almost 1200 members can attend. Executive Board members gave an update on the status of the club finances, and upcoming events to be held at the clubhouse. Each committee chair gave

updates on events during the month and plans for the upcoming months. Many new things are planned for 2025. Including Groton Base elections for Base Commander, Treasurer, and Junior Vice. Please consider stepping up to the plate.

Prior to the meeting a social hour/holiday stress relief was held in the pump room. Hot dogs and SubVet chili are available at a very reasonable price. With the invention of Zoom, you'd think more members would attend the meeting.

Join us next month on Monday February 3<sup>rd</sup> for our membership meeting starting at 1830. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting.

In January we were very fortunate to have three groups host brunch at the clubhouse. What a treat.

On 12 January Submarine Surveillance Equipment Program (SSEP) assumed mess cooking duties in the galley. Over 65 friends and Shipmates were served a delicious breakfast. It is always a great thing when new crews volunteer to take over the galley.



Old Salts hosted Sunday Brunch on January 19<sup>th</sup> in the Tom Connors Memorial Dining Room. Over 80 happy diners enjoyed scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage(maybe) patties, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, French toast, and fresh fruit. Thanks Old Salts, another great job. Come on back anytime, we love it when someone else cooks.



PCU Arizona rounded out the month and assumed the mess cooking duties. The Chiefs Mess lead by COB Dave Jackson volunteered to take over the galley for the morning. Over 65 campers pushed back from the table feeling very happy.



On Tuesday January 18<sup>th</sup>, we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon with over 50 people in attendance. Our guest speaker was Commanding Officer of the PCU District of Columbia Capt. Heath E. Johnmeyer and Chief of the Boat Mark Shipley. John will cover the highlights further on in this edition of Boat Notes.

Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Groton Hosted a “Welcome Home” Vietnam Veterans Ceremony at Fitch High School. The Korean and Vietnam War veterans were recognized by Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz and CT Veterans Affairs Commissioner Ronald P. Welch. Town of Groton Mayor Rachael Franco, State Rep. André Bumgardner and Bruce Jones thanked each Veteran for their service and sacrifices.

Several of our members were recognized for their service. Congratulations Shipmates.



Mike Allen



Artie Gager



Charlie McMullin



Durrell Rader



Gary Schmid



Jim Streeter



**JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> WAS A HUGE KARAOKE PARTY NIGHT!  
LET'S DO IT AGAIN!**



On Friday January 31 SubVets hosted it's first Karaoke night of the year. Looks like all the crooners had a great time.

We have a lot of major events planned for 2025, so keep an eye out for announcements, Facebook postings or Plan of the Month posted in the clubhouse. If you have any ideas on how to put butts in seats at **YOUR** club let any of us know. Stop on by the clubhouse have lunch renew your membership and say "Hi."

## Boat Reunion



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

## SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Robert Perritt

Hello Shipmates,

We are pleased to report that good progress has been made building the 2025 Budgets and enhancing the Base’s membership application. Several of our tasks are now automated, such as downloading new members and then automatically updating Constant Contact.

We are also bringing back the email we used to send to you that lists all the donations and dues you paid to the Base for your records. Let us know if you would like to receive an early draft of the email – we welcome any suggestions to make the email better!

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

Bob Perritt  
Vice Commander

## JR VICE COMMANDER

Paul Skalski

Hello Shipmates

Congratulations to Base Commander Steve Ricard for his induction into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. Well done Steve.

Base elections. Nominations for Base Commander, Jr Vice Commander, Treasure. Positions are for 2 years.

I would like to formerly say that I will not be running for another 2-year term for Jr Vice Commander due to several health issues which occurred within the past year.

**Winter hours (starting 11/5)**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

**11:00 – 17:00**

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

**Lunch hours**

Tuesday 11:00 – 16:30

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

Check out Web Site, Facebook page, monthly Calander, and our rolling raspberry at the Clubhouse as new events are added.

**Be Part of the Solution, VOLUNTEER**

**Paul Skalski**

*Jr. Vice Commander*

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

860.823.9641

**BASE SECRETARY**

**David Frease**



The January Meeting was attended by (in person (20) and Zoom (7)) for a total of 27 members.

**ELECTION 2025**

**This year three positions are up for election:**

**Base Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, and Base Treasurer**

These three positions are vital to the overall operation of Groton Base

Nominations open at the 03 February Membership Meeting

Nominations will be closed on 15 April 2025

Balloting will take place following the closing of the Nominations.

## **BASE COMMANDER**

- Shall preside at all meetings of the general membership and Executive Board.
- Shall be present at all meetings of the Executive Board and, at the duly called meeting of the membership, present a report on the conditions of the business of the base.
- Shall cause to be called regular and special meetings of the membership and the Executive Board, in accordance with these bylaws.
- Shall, with consideration of the Permittee's input, appoint and remove employees and discharge and fix the compensation of all servants, agents, employees, and clerks of this base, all subject to the approval of the Executive Board.
- Shall sign and make all contracts and agreements in the name of the Base.
- Shall sign all certificates, notes, drafts, or bills of exchange, warrants or other orders for the payment of money duly drawn by the Base Treasurer, except as these bylaws otherwise provided for, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.
- Shall be the primary point of contact, or have delegated in writing his authority, for all matters dealing with the U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS INC. at the District, Regional and National levels of the organization.
- Shall be responsible for ensuring that all required reports to U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS INC at the District, Regional and National levels of the organization are submitted properly and on time.
- Shall be responsible for causing an annual budget to be prepared and submitting it to the Base membership for approval.
- Shall provide oversight, guidance and counsel for those individuals and entities assigned to this Office in the USSVI Groton Base Organization Chart.

## **BASE TREASURER**

- Shall have the care and custody of and be responsible for all the funds and securities of the base and deposit all such funds in the name of the base in such bank or banks, trust company or trust companies or safe deposit vaults as the Executive Board may designate.
- Shall serve and perform the functional duties of the Base Financial Manager.
- Shall sign, make, and endorse in the name of U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS INC. Groton Base, all checks, drafts, warrants, and orders for the payment of money and pay out and dispose of the same and receipt; therefore, under the direction of the Base Commander and Executive Board.
- Shall exhibit at all reasonable times the Base Organizational and Club financial books and electronic records to any member of the Executive Board or any member of the Base, upon application.
- Shall render a statement of the condition of the finances of the Base and Club at each regular monthly meeting of the general membership and at such other times as may be required of him.
- Shall keep such records at a place to be designated by the Executive Board.
- Shall do and perform all the duties pertaining to the office of Treasurer.
- The treasurer shall, if required by the Executive Board, give to the Base such security for the faithful discharge of his duties as the board may direct.
- Shall provide oversight, guidance and counsel for those individuals and entities assigned to this Office in the USSVI Groton Base Organization Chart.

## **BASE JR. VICE COMMANDER**

- Shall serve as a liaison between the Eboard and Club Operations Committee on the operation of the Joe Negri Clubhouse.
- Shall maintain, change and or modify events in the Base Calendar as needed or requested.
- During the absence and/or inability of the Base Commander or the Base Sr. Vice Commander to render and perform their duties or exercise their powers as set forth in these bylaws, the same shall be performed or exercised by the Base Jr. Vice Commander; and when so acting the Jr. Vice Commander shall have all the powers and be subject to all the responsibilities heretofore given to or imposed upon the Base Commander or the Base Sr. Vice-Commander.
- Will be responsible for updating and maintaining the Joe Negri Clubhouse Operations Policy and Procedures Manual.
- 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 the 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](mailto:secretary@ussvigroton.org)

**BASE TREASURER**

**Charlie Murray**

#### BATHROOM RENOVATIONS

We can report that we have temporarily set aside \$10,000 for this renovation. I hope that we can finalize the renovation costs and receive funds to do this during first quarter of 2025. Our members have indicated that the Hall bathroom be done before the Ladies Room. Members and their guests using the Hall for a variety of events feel that this is important for them to continue to rent the Hall.

WHY do the Hall bathroom first? Because we believe it will be an asset in renting or in any use of the Hall. We now do retirements, pinning ceremonies, family parties but we will be able to get more handicap people to use the space, we can work to get organizations like the Blood Bank to use the Hall.

The more we do with other organizations the more visibility we will have with in the Navy and Groton communities.

### 2024 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

This is now available on our SubVets Groton website.

### 2025 COIN – are you interested in getting an early view?



as in the past we will try to keep the cost to you at \$10 a coin.

### YOU 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.ussvigroton.org/donations>.

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

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

Option 3: You can mail a check to USSV Charitable Foundation PO Box 1063 Groton CT 06340-1063

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

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

### 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.
2. Option to get donations applied to the Brotherhood Fund

[https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause\\_pdetails/MTc1MjU4](https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTc1MjU4) Brotherhood

If you need more information about any fund-raising options please contact [Treasurer@ussvigroton.org](mailto:Treasurer@ussvigroton.org)

### PLEASE READ – VOLUNTEER OR NOMINATE SOMEONE

We are actively **searching for a new treasurer** and collaborating with me now will give you exposure to our records and accounts and assuming the position on July 1, 2025, will be much easier.

I'm available now to help train anyone who is interested in doing this. If you are interested, please contact me. This is your opportunity to provide leadership to the Groton organization.

*Charlie Murray, Treasurer, 860 830 9605*

## CHAPLAINS REPORT

**Earl Colella & John Carcioppolo**



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

The following is the Honors Detail activity from 24 December 2024.

**There were 4 Eternal Patrols as follows:**

**LCDR Gary C. Beale** Passed on 3 December 2024. No Honors Detail.

**STS2(SS) Stephen Monson** Passed on 11 December 2024. The Honors Detail presented Honors on a cold morning on Friday 3 January at Elm Grove Cemetery with 15 hours’ notice. Participants included Earl Colella, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Bill Dwyer, and Ed Russell. **Well Done and Thank You Team**

**CWO2 Dick Kanning** Passed on 27 December 2024 No Honors Detail

**Captain James H. Seaton** Passed on 30 December 2024 Passed 27 December 2024 No Honors Detail

### **ETERNAL LIGHT**

**Pam Urello** wife of Pat Urello passed away on 23 December. The Honors Detail presented Eternal Light Honors on Friday 3 January. Attendees and Participants included Bud Atkins, Earl Colella, Joe Damm, Rob Davis, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Bob Gustafson, Greg Kane, Joel Kersteter, Dr. Bob Kish, Steve Ricard, Lenny Robbins, and Bob Sharpe,

Many thanks to the members of the Honors Detail who support the rendering of 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.

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 is not up to date either update it or ask Base Commander Steve Ricard at [commander@ussvigroton.org](mailto:commander@ussvigroton.org).

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](mailto:earl.colella@comcast.net) or John Carcioppolo 860-514-7064 [gumba700@comcast.net](mailto:gumba700@comcast.net) and if possible provide a link to the obituary.

Keep your eyes open. If you know of a member passing or see an obituary of a Submariner who passed and maybe a member, do not hesitate to pass that info along. We will figure out if he is a member and conduct business accordingly. A link to the obituary is always good to have.

The sooner we know the information the timelier we can react and put out the notices and hopefully have the Honors Detail render honors.

All too often we find out about the passing of a member long after the funeral and do not get the chance to provide honors for our Shipmates.

We are always looking for potential new members of the Honors Detail to supplement those who participate. If you are interested in being part of the Honors Detail 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.

### **What we do matters**

Below are the contents of a card received from Jody Lees after the Honors Detail for her husband David: Dear John and SUBVETS, My family and I cannot thank you enough for the honor you gave my husband at his memorial on 23 December. The day didn't go as planned but Subvets came through as always. My family was quite touched by your moving ceremony, and I know Dave would have been so proud. His dolphins were his most prized possession. Very Respectfully, Jody Lees, Capt USN (Retired)

Below are the contents of a card received from Pat Urello after the Eternal Light for his wife Pam, John, On behalf of my entire family I want to thank you and the Honor Detail for a very meaningful and beautiful ceremony honoring Pam. I have received numerous positive comments from both family and friends with how impressed they were with the SUBVETS. From the bottom of my heart – thank you. Pat

**RED HAT CEREMONIES** There will be no additional Red Hat Ceremonies until Spring. I often receive requests to be added to the homecoming notifications. I do not have a specific list for homecomings. I just send them 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.

### **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.*

#### **January 2025 Holland Club Report**

#### **HOLLAND CLUB LUNCHEONS**



Our January Holland Club Luncheon had 62 people in attendance. Well done and thank you to all who RSVPd so that I could give Katrina and Ashley an accurate head count. We still have some folks showing up who don't RSVP. Fortunately, we have last-minute cancellations, so we still have enough seats.

We hosted guest speaker Commanding Officer of the PCU District of Columbia Captain Heath E. Johnmeyer and Chief of the Boat Mark Shipley. He gave a presentation on the status of the D of C and the future of the Ohio replacement program.

The 50-50 was won by Tom Swaenepoel and he donated the \$135 back to the Holland Club. Thanks Tom for the donation. Speaking of donations and Tom Swaenepoel, he donated that flag challenge coin hold on the wall in the picture.

Many thanks to Hodge and Ashley for a great meal with some great help from the following SUBSCHOOL Students: MMA Connor Beard, Oklahoma City OK, MMA Jacob Bise Banning, CA, MMA Sam Fealy, Orr, MN, FT Jonathan Lewis, San Antonio, TX, and STS Ahron Pineda, Cali, Columbia. **Many Thanks Shipmates. BZ!**



If you missed them the rest of the pictures are here <https://link.shutterstock.com/pGPpLOWJnOb> Thank you Kimberlee Beagle

We now have speakers booked out through March.

February, we have SUBSCHOOL CMC Dean Marvin and his relief CMC Michael Miceli. And in March we have Superintendent of Groton Schools Susan Austin.

Again, as a courtesy, please contact me when I put out the call each month if you plan to attend so we can continue to give the best head count possible to our cook and staff.

**Holland Club Members and Dues** It's time to renew your membership dues for 2025, and yes even if you are a Life Member there is a requirement for Base Dues. If you went into the Holland Club 2015 or earlier, you are grandfathered and have no dues requirements. If you went into the Holland Club after 2015, Base Dues are required. We don't want to lose you for non-renewal so please renew your dues.

For those members who are expecting to go in the Holland Club in 2025, to be completely eligible for the Holland Club you must pay your dues for 2025. Again, even if you are a Life Member of USSVI, there are Base Dues that are required. So either please pay your dues before the end of the year or take advantage of the new Base Life Membership so that it's one less thing I must worry about in the last six months before induction.

If you have questions about your dues status, or want information on the Base Life Membership, please contact Base Commander Steve Ricard.

**HOLLAND Club Assistant Chairman** Gary Schmid had to step back as the Holland Club Assistant Chairman for personal reasons. He will still help out as he can but cannot commit at this time. Carl Franzioni has stepped up to fill his spot and help me. Thanks to both Gary and Carl.

**HOLLAND CLUB 2025** With the New Year, we are officially into the 2025 Holland Club Season. At present we have 30 inductees for our ceremony on 7 June 2025. Letters to the inductees will be going in the mail shortly. We ask those receiving letters for 2025 to respond quickly, verify and provide the information requested and a good photo for the program. The first deadline will be 1 Mar 2025. The following is the Meeting Schedule for 2025 Holland Club Planning

Thu 27 Feb 25 4:30 pm Clubhouse

\*Tue 04 Mar 25 10:30 am SUBASE

Thu 20 Mar 25 4:30 pm Clubhouse

\*Tue 01 Apr 25 10:30 am SUBASE

Thu 17 Apr 25 4:30 pm Clubhouse

\*Tue 06 May 25 10:30 am SUBASE

Tue 22 May 25 4:30 pm Clubhouse

\*SUBASE Meetings to be held at SUBASE HQ, Ramage Hall, Building 86, Commanding Officer's Conference Room

There will also be a Full Rehearsal, and a Tech Run to be scheduled at a later time.

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

## **COLOR GUARD**

**Bob Sharpe**

No activities were scheduled in January.

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

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**Vacant**

### **RENEW NOW FOR 2025**

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).

### **Membership Update**

Members – 1179

Life National Members – 858

Base Life Members - 358

Holland Club – 625  
Associate Members – 77

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

**Groton Base Life Membership Option**

Groton Base is now offering a Life membership option. First you must be a current National Lifetime member. As we build the system, members will be able to pay for both National and Base lifetime memberships at the same time. The cost mirrors the National life Memberships just like the rest of our Groton Base dues structure.

|                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Base Life Membership Cost | Through age 45 - \$750 |
| 46-55 - \$625             | 56-65 - \$450          |
| 66-75 - \$300             | 76 and older - \$150   |

When completing a form, please include your full name, address, phone, and email so we can verify and update your information if needed.

Dues for both National and Groton Base have gone up as of 1 January 2025. Below is the table that National will be using and soon Groton Base.

| <b>USSVI Annual &amp; Lifetime Dues Table</b> |  |                                      |                                      |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>USSVI National Dues</b>                    | <b>Years Renewed / Age at Lifetime</b> | <b>Current Dues until 12/31/2024</b> | <b>Revised Dues as of 01/01/2025</b> |
| Annual Dues                                   | 1 Year                                 | \$ 30.00                             | \$ 40.00                             |
|   | Oct-Dec & Next Year                    | \$ 35.00                             | \$ 47.00                             |
|   | 3 Years                                | \$ 85.00                             | \$ 113.00                            |
|   | 5 Years                                | \$ 140.00                            | \$ 185.00                            |
| Lifetime Dues                                 | 76+ Years                              | \$ 120.00                            | \$ 150.00                            |
|   | 66 -75 Years                           | \$ 240.00                            | \$ 300.00                            |
|   | 56 - 65 Years                          | \$ 360.00                            | \$ 450.00                            |
|   | 46 - 55 Years                          | \$ 500.00                            | \$ 625.00                            |
|   | Up to 45 Years                         | \$ 600.00                            | \$ 750.00                            |

**USSVI GROTON BASE “SILENT SERVICE”**

**Michael Hodges**

It’s been over one month now since I accepted Steve’s invitation to be the USSVI Groton coordinator for the Connecticut “Silent Service” U.S. Submarine Veterans license plate, and I’m happy to say that with the help of multiple Groton Base members, all systems are now up and running and we’re underway. I’ve been receiving inquiries both from base members as well as non-members interested in joining USSVI and applying for our special organization plate.

If you have questions shoot a quick email to me at:

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



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

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

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

**Greg Kane**

### Help a Shipmate's Family Member Succeed

Receiving a scholarship sponsored by a family member can have profound psychological and financial impacts on a student. Psychologically, it can instill a deep sense of gratitude and motivation, knowing that a loved one believes in their potential and is willing to invest in their future. This support can boost the student's confidence and reduce the stress associated with financial burdens, allowing them to focus more on their studies and personal growth. Financially, the scholarship alleviates the pressure of tuition fees and other educational expenses, enabling students to pursue their academic goals without the constant worry of debt. This financial relief can also open opportunities for students to engage in extracurricular activities, internships, or other experiences that enrich their education and career prospects. Overall, such a scholarship can be a transformative gift, fostering emotional well-being and academic Success.

Please donate today by sending your contribution made payable to the Groton Base Scholarship Fund and mail to 40 School Street, Groton, CT 06340.

Scholarship applications are now being accepted, and the forms are located on the Groton Base website at <https://www.ussvigroton.org/scholarship-info>.

Drop off or mail your donation made payable to Groton Base Scholarship Fund. 40 School Street, Groton, CT 06340.



**From the desk of USSVI Groton Base Veterans Affairs**

**HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR VA BENEFITS?**

**DON'T KNOW IF YOU QUALIFY FOR VA BENEFITS?**

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

[brian.hague@ussvigroton.org](mailto:brian.hague@ussvigroton.org)

Hey Navy, we're getting closer to warmer weather. I have intel on the parking garage at West Haven VA, finish date is the end of Feb. Now they didn't say what year, but hopefully it's this one.

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 health care - VA News](#)

The Department of Veterans Affairs issued a proposed rule outlining 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 new nationwide surgery initiative. <https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-launches-new-surgery-initiative-across-the-nation-a-critical-step-to-saving-the-lives-of-veterans-considering-surgery/>

For those who like to track the West Haven Campus during the renovations, I'll leave up the link to the final Environmental Assessment Report from Dec 2022 it includes campus overlay: [VA OCFM - West Haven VAMC - NEPA Final Environmental Assessment - December 2022](#)

"The more you sweat in peacetime, the less you bleed in war." Get ahead of your final wishes and plan now for what you want. Do it now and no worries. [VA expands burial benefits for Veterans and their families](#)

Looking 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](#)

Here is an Oct 2019 study from the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory on Submarine Medicine. [An Overview of the Unique Field of Submarine Medicine \(dtic.mil\)](#)

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

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

Always a good place to start.

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

Track your appointments, meds and more.

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

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



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

**Abraham Lincoln**



On 23 January, the Groton Base Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Team of Bob Sharpe, Jonathan Nogai ITRAC(SS), Heath Spenser IRTCS(SS) and John Riley visited Kids at Yale New Haven Hospital's In-Patient Child Psychiatric Unit.

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

We made 9 Kids Honorary Submariners!



Jonathan and Health, who are stationed at the Naval Submarine Base New London, were Great and enjoyed sharing their knowledge and experience with the Kids.

After our Submarine-related video/picture presentation, answering their many questions, and giving them our customary gifts, we gave them all our newest offering, K4K Teddy Bears! The Teddy Bears were a BIG hit!

We let them know that if they named their Teddy Bear before they went home the staff would give their bear an Honorary Submariner Certificate like theirs. They would then have a Submariner Shipmate to take home with them. This was also a BIG hit. To our surprise, all the Kids named their bear before we left. We left enough signed certificates for the staff to honor our promise.



**Since 2009, at child health care facilities throughout Connecticut, the Groton Base's Kaps 4 Kids Program has brought Comfort and Joy to over 2,500 sick Kids and their families!**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**K4K: INFO / VIDEO / DONATE**

<https://www.ussvcf.org/kapss-4-kidss-fund.html>

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

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

**USSVI GROTON BASE FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY LIST**

*Happy Birthday to all who continue to celebrate.*

|                 |             |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| Alexander Louis | Hartley IV  | 02/01 |
| Michael G.      | Riegel      | 02/01 |
| Darrell         | Buffenmeyer | 02/02 |
| John I.         | Gedney III  | 02/02 |
| Dale            | Johnston    | 02/02 |
| Walter L.       | Newton      | 02/02 |
| Albert Joseph   | Perry       | 02/02 |
| Michael         | Shaw        | 02/02 |
| Ronald T.       | Grabowski   | 02/03 |
| Diederick E.    | Kanning     | 02/03 |
| Joseph          | Bialek, Jr. | 02/04 |
| Roy R.          | Rimmele Jr. | 02/04 |
| Jean B.         | Cather      | 02/05 |
| Joseph K.       | Birkle      | 02/04 |
| Walter G.       | Wyllie Jr.  | 02/04 |
| Alexander       | Atkinson    | 02/06 |
| Wayne           | Mercer      | 02/06 |
| Michael W.      | Munhall     | 02/06 |
| Chris           | Nailon      | 02/06 |
| William Michael | Scarano     | 02/06 |
| David A.        | Bergstrom   | 02/08 |
| Dale E.         | Flemming    | 02/08 |
| Henry           | Buermeyer   | 02/08 |
| Harold L.       | Drurey      | 02/08 |
| William H.      | Fatek       | 02/08 |
| Michael G.      | Moore       | 02/08 |
| Jay H.          | Atkinson    | 02/09 |
| John J.         | Carcioppolo | 02/09 |
| Robert A.       | Gustafson   | 02/09 |
| Dan             | Tassias     | 02/09 |
| Patrick E.      | Boyle       | 02/10 |
| Henry F.        | Gunning     | 02/10 |
| Chris           | Albanese    | 02/11 |
| William         | Badders     | 02/12 |
| Frank           | Conahan     | 02/12 |
| Steven          | DuBois      | 02/12 |
| Paul C.         | Maloney     | 02/12 |
| Jerry L.        | Walton      | 02/12 |

|                 |               |       |
|-----------------|---------------|-------|
| Jerry L.        | Ramsey        | 02/13 |
| William J.      | Shaw          | 02/13 |
| Walter J.       | Wadja Jr.     | 02/13 |
| Walter          | Barch         | 02/14 |
| Walter          | Magnavice Jr. | 02/14 |
| Francis H.      | To            | 02/14 |
| Lawrence        | Gleason       | 02/15 |
| Christine M. W. | Marcoux       | 02/15 |
| Timothy J.      | Buckley       | 02/16 |
| Robert C.       | Freeman       | 02/16 |
| Donald G.       | Gunn          | 02/16 |
| Richard J.      | Twilley       | 02/16 |
| John E.         | Hogan         | 02/17 |
| Jeff            | Markowski     | 02/17 |
| Gary J.         | Turek         | 02/17 |
| John            | Pagan         | 02/18 |
| Jeffrey M.      | Wiesmaier     | 02/18 |
| Troy            | Wick          | 02/18 |
| Arthur R.       | Gager         | 02/19 |
| Bruce M.        | McCutcheon    | 02/19 |
| Ralph V.        | Masi          | 02/19 |
| Adofo T.        | Villarial     | 02/19 |
| James W.        | Windsor       | 02/19 |
| Lloyd W.        | Frink IV      | 02/20 |
| Bruce           | Brayton       | 02/21 |
| Stanley W.      | Mathis        | 02/21 |
| William T.      | McCance       | 02/21 |
| Brent A.        | Meyer         | 02/21 |
| James           | Montague      | 02/21 |
| Thomas          | Ross          | 02/21 |
| Andrew          | Toriello      | 02/21 |
| Maurice L.      | Price II      | 02/22 |
| George          | Torkelson     | 02/22 |
| David D.        | Gordon        | 02/23 |
| Elton E.        | Hamilton      | 02/23 |
| Rick            | Harris        | 02/23 |
| Donald Francis  | Madura        | 02/23 |
| Joseph E.       | Banack        | 02/23 |
| Gordon E. W.    | Conrad II     | 02/24 |
| Edwin L.        | Gibbons       | 02/24 |
| Robert Michael  | Hagerman      | 02/24 |
| John J.         | Lynch         | 02/25 |
| Keith M.        | Middlesworth  | 02/25 |
| Thomas E.       | Allgeier      | 02/26 |
| Raymond A.      | Hamilton Jr.  | 02/27 |
| Benjamin G.     | Kuerth        | 02/27 |
| Jack            | Munro         | 02/27 |
| Michael C.      | Henderson     | 02/28 |
| James           | Burgess       | 02/29 |

**USSVI GROTON BASE FEBRUARY ETERNAL PATROL LIST**

|            |          |                  |
|------------|----------|------------------|
| 02/01/2002 | Tom      | Flynn            |
| 02/01/2011 | Lockwood | Whiteley         |
| 02/02/2006 | Brian    | Berger           |
| 02/02/2013 | Joseph   | Hinchey          |
| 02/02/2013 | Edward   | Kalin            |
| 02/03/2008 | Prentice | Alexander        |
| 02/03/2009 | Joseph   | Damiata          |
| 02/03/2009 | David    | Gilletti         |
| 02/03/2011 | George   | Zipp             |
| 02/04/2024 | Newkirk  | Morris "Spencer" |
| 02/05/2009 | Roy      | Callahan         |
| 02/05/2009 | Richard  | Dickson Sr.      |
| 02/05/2021 | Joseph   | Gilbert Jr.      |
| 02/06/2012 | Martin   | Kichar           |
| 02/07/1999 | Jay      | Kernan           |
| 02/07/2014 | William  | Lehr             |
| 02/07/2015 | Gerald   | Tighe            |
| 02/07/2006 | David    | Wilkens          |
| 02/08/2004 | Terrance | Henninger        |
| 02/08/2012 | Charles  | Schofield        |
| 02/09/2013 | Robert   | Perry            |
| 02/09/2000 | David    | Rimbey           |
| 02/10/2009 | Churck   | Dreer            |
| 02/11/2016 | Kenneth  | Brannin          |
| 02/13/2004 | Thomas   | Kiely, Jr.       |
| 02/14/2009 | Kenneth  | Guilfoil         |
| 02/14/2017 | Richard  | Williamson       |
| 02/15/2021 | Gerald   | Brinkman         |
| 02/15/2014 | Charles  | Sullivan         |
| 02/16/2011 | Joseph   | Hegy             |
| 02/17/2012 | Stuart   | Brown            |
| 02/17/2015 | William  | Monteith         |
| 02/18/1999 | Robert   | Furu             |
| 02/19/2023 | Tommy    | Cox              |
| 02/19/2006 | Harold   | Schwartz         |
| 02/19/2011 | Linus    | Steck            |
| 02/20/2020 | Michael  | Brown            |
| 02/20/2005 | William  | Bauer            |
| 02/20/2018 | Marshall | Clark            |
| 02/20/2021 | Louis    | Costa            |
| 02/20/2013 | Steven   | Hancharyk, Jr.   |
| 02/20/2017 | Harold   | Harold           |
| 02/21/2008 | August   | Brenzinger, Jr.  |
| 02/21/2020 | James    | Horne            |

|            |              |             |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| 02/21/2015 | Wayne        | Robinson    |
| 02/21/2007 | Anthony      | Skrzat      |
| 02/22/2021 | Lenny        | Sinacore    |
| 02/23/2007 | Stephen      | Arel        |
| 02/23/2021 | Walter       | Friess      |
| 02/24/2009 | Kenneth      | Ayers       |
| 02/24/2012 | Joseph       | Donahue     |
| 02/26/2010 | Charles      | Harrison    |
| 02/26/2022 | Basil Angelo | Asteriades  |
| 02/26/2013 | Alex         | Doucette    |
| 02/26/2010 | Peter        | Nalle       |
| 02/27/2022 | John         | Craggs      |
| 02/27/2021 | Richard      | Paul        |
| 02/28/2022 | Scott        | Howard      |
| 02/28/2023 | Conley       | William Jr. |



I have one consolation that lives with me today. That God is near to them in his own special way. So, God in all Your mercy keeps near Thyself the soul of every Submariner still on his final patrol.

Lord this departed shipmate with Dolphins on his chest, is part of an outfit known as the best.

Make him welcome and take him by the hand. You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land.

So heavenly Father add his name to the roll of our departed shipmates still on patrol. Let them know that we who survive will always keep their memories alive.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

# Thames River Heritage Park

ONE RIVER. A THOUSAND STORIES.



## FEBRUARY IN THE PARK



**2025 TRHP Lecture Series**  
***Seeds of Revolution on the Thames and Beyond***  
**Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London**

Thames River Heritage Park, New London County Historical Society and Lyman Allyn Art Museum are pleased to present the 2025 Lecture Series: "Seeds of Revolution on the Thames and Beyond."

Hosted at the Lyman Allyn, lectures will explore events that seeded discontent and sparked the American Revolution and influenced the history of the region. The 5-part series will occur once a month through May 2025.

# All Events

SEARCH EVENTS OR CLASSES



2025 Breezeline Winter Cinema Series

## Sing Sing

Breezeline Winter Cinema Series

Sat, Feb 1, 2025 | 3:00 pm

[Buy Tickets](#)

3 Oscars Nominations. Golden Globe Best Actor Colman Domingo stars in the true story of a Sing Sing prison theatre group. **R. 107 Minutes.**

[Learn More](#)



Hygienic Art presents:

## Mayfly (24-Hour One-Act Play Festival)

In the Oasis Room

Sat, Feb 1, 2025 | 7:00 pm

[Buy Tickets](#)

This isn't just a show—it's an experience. 24 hours of pure creativity and collaboration. Writers dream up stories, directors shape the vision, and actors bring characters to life—all culminating in a one-time-only performance of original 10-minute plays.

[Learn More](#)



2025 Breezeline Winter Cinema Series

## Gladiator II

Breezeline Winter Cinema Series

Sat, Feb 1, 2025 | 7:30 pm

[Buy Tickets](#)

Ridley Scott's action-packed sequel to his 2000 blockbuster includes a Golden Globe-nominated performance by Denzel Washington. **R. 148 Minutes.**

[Learn More](#)



2025 Breezeline Winter Cinema Series

## Moana 2

Breezeline Winter Cinema Series

Sun, Feb 2, 2025 | 3:00 pm

[Buy Tickets](#)

Disney's Golden Glob-nominated Best Animation finds Moana journeying to the far seas of Oceania after receiving an unexpected call from her wayfinding ancestors. **PG. 100 Minutes.**

[Learn More](#)



... ..

The world's first feature-length documentary to

# 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:**  
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DOCENT COORDINATOR AND SECURITY MANAGER: [ELBERTON.A.MIXON@US.NAVY.MIL](mailto:ELBERTON.A.MIXON@US.NAVY.MIL)  
EVENT SCHEDULING AND MUSEUM USE REQUESTS: [LINDA.E.WILLIAMS@US.NAVY.MIL](mailto:LINDA.E.WILLIAMS@US.NAVY.MIL)  
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**\* INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A GENERAL BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION.**

## 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.”