

Groton Base Boat Notes





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



Happy New Year to Shipmates, families, and friends. It is hard to believe that Christmas and 2025 have raced neck and neck to New Years Eve and 2026. What a year.

I would like to thank USSVI Groton Base for making 2025 a successful year for our Submarine Community. We accomplished a lot together. From celebrating the 100th birthday of WWII SubVet member William Scarano to welcoming the newest Virginia class submarine, USS Iowa SSN 797 to Inducting 41 Shipmates into the prestigious "Holland Club" for those qualified in submarines 50 years or more, to attending the Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) graduation ceremony of class 26040 named after the USS Albacore SS-218. We are an organization that prides itself on being

true to the creed, "Perpetuate the memory of our Shipmates" and provide a way for all submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. The USSVI supports a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

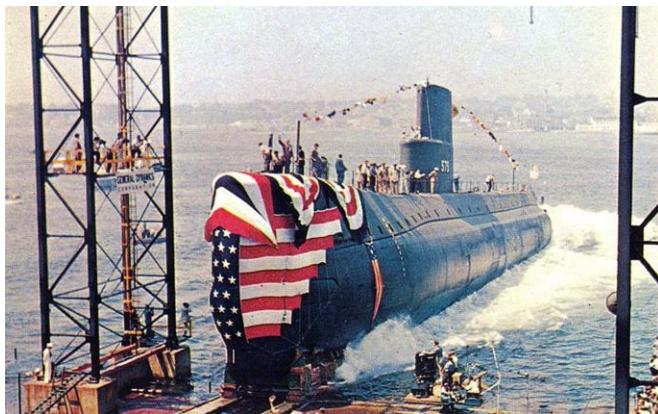
So here at the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse we wish all of our members, "Happy New Year" and a healthy and prosperous 2026. The Executive Board, and I send our well wishes to all U.S. Submarine Veterans and hope you have a fantastic month of January with family gatherings bringing in the New Year.

Nautilus (SSN-571) and other January Submarine History Milestones

Stand down is over, its back to work with the New Year's Resolve. It's the month when steel meets cold air, when new hulls touch water for the first time during the two Januaries that defined *USS Nautilus* (SSN-571 January 1954 and January 1955), twelve months that marked the symbolic and physical birth of the nuclear Navy.

On January 21, 1954, First Lady Mamie Eisenhower stood before a crowd in Groton and christened *Nautilus*, declaring the name that would soon become synonymous with a revolution. The boat behind her was still incomplete; its reactor was not yet installed, its compartments still a maze of scaffolding and cables. The christening was the United States telling the world that the next chapter of undersea warfare had begun with national attention, presidential presence, and a sense of technological destiny.

Christenings have always been symbolic moments in submarine history, but *Nautilus*'s ceremony was something different. It wasn't just a new hull number entering the fleet. It was the first time the Navy christened a vessel that would fundamentally rewrite what a submarine could be. In that moment, the Submarine Force stepped out of the long shadow of diesel-electric limitations and into a future where endurance, speed, and reach were no longer dictated by battery charge or snorkel depth. For veterans who served on diesel boats, the christening represented both pride and transition. A recognition that the skills, sacrifices, and lessons of the diesel era had paved the way for something extraordinary.



A year later, on January 17, 1955, *Nautilus* was launched. The gap between christening and launch was unusually long by mid-century standards, but it reflected the unprecedented complexity of the project. Electric Boat and the Navy were not just building a submarine; they were inventing the process of building a nuclear submarine. Every weld, every pipe run, every test was a first. The launch into the Thames River was the moment the world's first nuclear-powered vessel touched water, ready to begin the trials that would validate a national vision

of maritime dominance.

Even in the Cold War, January remained a month of milestones. On January 24, 1961, *USS George Washington* (SSBN-598) completed the first submerged Polaris missile patrol, returning to Holy Loch after 66 days underwater. That patrol, beginning and ending in the deep winter months, marked the start of continuous at-sea deterrence that continues unbroken to this day.



January 1991: When USS Louisville Changed the Nature of Undersea Warfare



And then there is January 1968, when *USS Scorpion* (SSN-589) departed Norfolk for what would become her final deployment. Though she would be lost in May, her January departure is remembered by many as the beginning of a story that still resonates deeply within the submarine community. January, again, became a month where beginnings and endings intertwined.

The Cold Warriors don't own January completely, as few January moments reshaped the mission of the Submarine Force as profoundly as the night *USS Louisville* (SSN-724) fired the first Tomahawk cruise missile in combat. It was January 19, 1991, barely 48 hours into Operation Desert Storm, when *Louisville* made history and quietly ushered in a new era of American sea power.

For decades, attack submarines had been defined by their traditional missions: intelligence gathering, anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, and the silent, patient work of positioning for advantage in the world's contested waters. But in the early hours of that January morning, *Louisville* demonstrated something entirely new: the ability of a fast-attack submarine to strike deep inland with precision, from a position of complete stealth, without warning and without risk of interception. It was a moment that validated years of technological development and strategic debate, changing how the Navy, the Pentagon, and America's adversaries viewed the submarine force.

Louisville had deployed to the Red Sea in late 1990 as part of the buildup to Desert Storm. Her crew knew they were on the front edge of something unprecedented. The Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM) had been tested, refined, and integrated into the fleet, but it had never been used in combat. The idea that a submarine silent, unseen, and operating independently could deliver a precision strike hundreds of miles inland was still, too many, a theoretical capability. *Louisville* was about to make it real.

On January 19, the order came. *Louisville* maneuvered into launch position, her crew working with the calm intensity that only submariners understand. There was no fanfare, no dramatic countdown, no spotlight. Just the quiet professionalism of a crew executing a mission that would be studied for decades.

When the first Tomahawk roared out of *Louisville*'s vertical launch tube, it marked the first time in history that a U.S. submarine had fired a cruise missile in combat. The missile arced into the night sky, its booster igniting against the dark horizon, before leveling off and disappearing on its long, autonomous flight toward targets in Iraq. More missiles followed. Each one represented a new chapter in submarine warfare: SSNs were no longer limited to the sea. It could shape events on land, influence campaigns, and deliver strategic effects with precision and surprise.



Louisville's actions in January 1991 also reflected a broader shift in naval strategy. The Cold War had ended only weeks earlier. The Soviet Union was dissolving. The submarine force was entering a new era. Desert Storm became the first major test of how the Navy would adapt to a world where regional conflicts, precision strike, and joint operations would dominate the strategic landscape.

Louisville's Tomahawk launches showed that submarines were not just Cold War relics or deep-ocean hunters. They were flexible, survivable, and capable of delivering decisive effects in the opening hours of a conflict. They could operate forward, undetected, and independent of carrier groups or airfields. They could strike without warning, complicating enemy defenses and shaping the battlespace before the first aircraft crossed the border. The same sailors who trained for deep-ocean ASW were now executing precision land-attack missions with global consequences.

I can't help but think with all this history: What will January 2026 bring?

In a recent article published in "The Day" newspaper written by Staff Writer, John Ruddy where he interviews some old friends of USSVI Groton Base, Thaddeus Weaver, Dave Johnston, and Steve Katona about the loss of the USS Dorado SS-248. Here is the link to that article

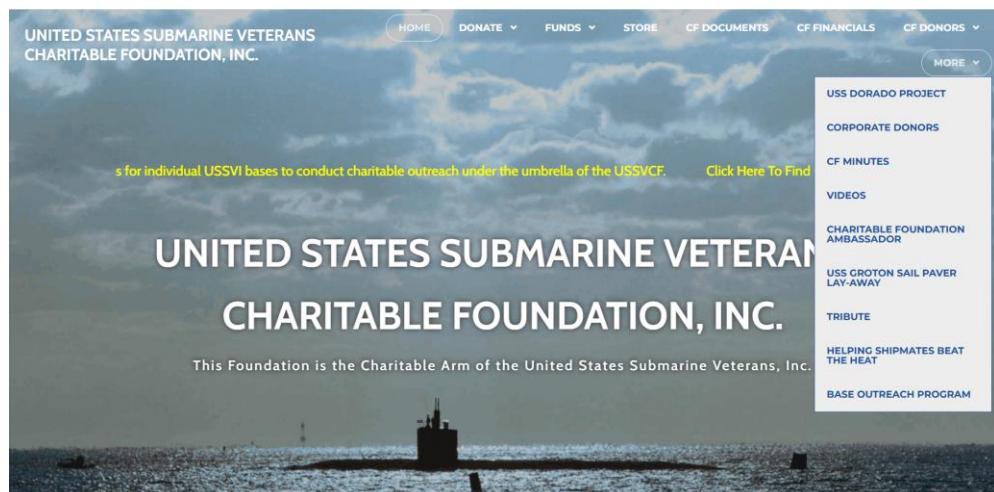
[On the hunt for a lost submarine | The Day](#)

The three researchers have also started the USS Dorado Project in hopes to raise funds to help locate the submarine, award deserved "Purple Hearts" to our departed Shipmates and bring closure for the families.

For more information https://pigboats.com/index.php?title=The_USS_Dorado_Project.



USSVI Charitable Foundation Inc. also has a link <https://ussvcf.org/> to support the project.



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

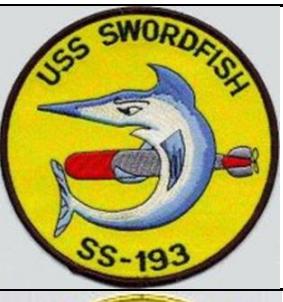
To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country that their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments, and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America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

	USS Scorpion (SS-278)	Lost on Jan 5, 1944, with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.
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	USS Argonaut (SS-166)	Lost on Jan 10, 1943, with the loss of 102 officers and men off Rabaul, on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Japanese destroyer who along with 2 other destroyers depth charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sunk her by gunfire.
	USS Swordfish (SS-193)	Lost on Jan 12, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. Probably was lost to a mine.
	USS S-36 (SS-141)	Lost on Jan 20, 1942, with no loss of life, on her 2nd war patrol. She ran hard aground on a reef and radioed for help. The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch ship after they scuttled her.
	USS S-26 (SS-131)	Lost on Jan 24, 1942 with the loss of 46 officers and men in the Gulf of Panama, on her 2nd war patrol. She was rammed by the USS PC-460 and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO and one lookout on the bridge, were the only survivors.

Plan of the Month, January 2026

Date	Time	Action	Description
1/5	1830	Event	Groton Base Membership Meeting
1/11	1500	Event	Volunteer Thank You Luncheon
1/14		Event	LDO - Topside
1/15	1500	Event	Private Event (Whole Club)
1/16	2000	Event	Karaoke with DJ Jammin' Jim

Groton Base Boat Notes – January 2026

1/20	1100	Event	Holland Club Luncheon
1/21	1000-1500	Event	Topside Private Events
1/22	1800	Event	Monthly Dinner Mongolian BBQ
1/31	1400	Event	Private Event



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

Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) Updates

During each month, a USSVI Groton Base member participated in Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) graduation as the SubVets Representative presenting the “Heritage Award” and a SubVet Challenge coin to the class leader. In this month’s issue of Boat Notes, we will highlight two graduations held on the December 4th and the 17th of December. I would like to thank SubSchool leadership, CO Captain Chance Litton, Executive Officer LCDR Bryan Chapman, Director of Training Captain Mark Robinson, CMC Michael Micheli, Master Chief Esteban Vargas, Senior Chief David Lee, MMAC(SS) Nik Roberts, as well as class instructors, and coordinators, for allowing us to participate in this milestone event.

The following information is for BESS Class 26020, named after the USS Sealion SS 315. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.

******It is important to note that BM3(SS) William “Bill” Scarano, a Submarine Veteran of WWII and a member of USSVI Groton Base served onboard the USS Sealion SS-315 from 1943 to 1946 making all six war patrols. Bill qualified onboard in 1944. Bill will be celebrating his 101st birthday on February 6th.******

 USSVI Life Member	William Michael Scarano , BM3(SS) 			 Holland Club
			 Submarine Qualified 50 years ago	



USS Sealion (SS/SSP/ASSP/APSS/LPSS-315), a Balao-class submarine, was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for the sea lion, any of several large, eared seals native to the Pacific. She is sometimes referred to as Sealion II, because her first skipper, Lieutenant Commander Eli Thomas Reich, was a veteran of the first Sealion (SS-195), serving on her when she was lost at the beginning of World War II. Sealion was the only US and Allied submarine that sank an enemy battleship during the Second World War. Her keel was laid down on 25 February 1943 by the Electric Boat Company of Groton, Connecticut. She was launched on

31 October 1943 sponsored by Mrs. Emory S. Land and commissioned on 8 March 1944.).

The second Sealion (SS-315) was laid down on 25 February 1943 by the Electric Boat Co., Groton, Conn.; launched on 31 October 1943; sponsored by Mrs. Emory Land; and commissioned on 8 March 1944, Lt. Comdr. Eli T. Reich in command.

Following the shakedown, Sealion, assigned to Submarine Division (SubDiv) 222, sailed for the Pacific and arrived at Pearl Harbor on 17 May. Further training occupied the next three weeks; and, on 8 June, she headed west on her first war patrol. Sailing with Tang (SS-306), she stopped off at Midway on the 12th; glanced off a whale on the 15th; and, on the 22d, transited Tokara Strait to enter the East China Sea. On the 23d, she and Tang took up stations in the Osumi Gunto, an island group to the south of Kyushu. That afternoon, Sealion unsuccessfully conducted her first attack; then underwent her first depth charging.

Refitted by Fulton (AS-11), Sealion departed for the Bashi Channel and her second war patrol on 17 August. Hunting with Growler (SS-215) and Pampanito (SS-383), she transited the channel and moved into the South China Sea on 30 August. During the pre-dawn hours of the 31st, she conducted a night surface attack against a Japanese convoy and heavily damaged a tanker. As Rikko Maru belched black smoke, other Japanese ships took Sealion under fire with deck guns.

On September 21, at 0220, she made radar contact with an enemy formation moving through Formosa Strait at about 16 knots and not zig-zagging.

By 0048, the pips were made out to be two cruisers and two battleships. At 0146, three additional ships, escorts—one on either beam of the formation and one on the starboard quarter—became visible. At 0245, Sea lion, ahead of the task force, turned in and slowed for the attack. Eleven minutes later, she fired six torpedoes at the second ship in line. At 0259, she fired three at the second battleship. At 0300, her crew saw and heard three hits from the first salvo, but they had hit and sunk the destroyer, Urakaze, not the first battleship. Shortly thereafter, one torpedo from the second spread hit the second battleship. Sealion opened to the westward. The Japanese searched to the east. By 0310, the submarine had reloaded and began tracking again with the thought that the torpedoes had only dented the battleship's armor belt.

The enemy formation, however, had begun zigzagging and the sea and wind had increased; then, at 0450, the enemy formation split into two groups. Sealion began tracking the slower group, the apparently damaged battleship escorted by two destroyers. At 0524, a tremendous explosion lit the area and the battleship, Kongo, disappeared. On her fourth war patrol, 14 December to 24 January 1945, Sealion returned to the South China Sea in a coordinated attack group with Blenny (SS-324) and Caiman (SS-323).

From Pearl Harbor, Sealion continued on to San Francisco where she was undergoing overhaul at the end of the war. With the cessation of hostilities, in-activation preparations were added to the overhaul; and, on 2 February 1946, the submarine, which had been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for her six war patrols, was decommissioned. On 2 November 1948, Sealion was recommissioned with the hull designation SSP-315. Training exercises off the southern California coast, with Marines embarked, took her into the spring of 1949 when she was ordered to the Atlantic for duty in SubDiv 21. Reclassified LPSS-315 in January 1969, Sea lion was ordered inactivated the following summer; and, in September, she proceeded to Philadelphia where she was decommissioned and placed in the inactive fleet on 20 February 1970.

More on the Sealion can be found [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Sea_lion_\(SS-315\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Sea_lion_(SS-315)) and <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/s/sealion-ii.html>

On December 4th the BESS Class named after USS Sealion (SS-315) had 128 students with a class average was 79% with 6 graduating with Distinction. To graduate with Distinction requires an average of 90% or higher. Congratulations to this class of future Submariners who have finished one of many milestones in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments whether “A” School or direct assignment to their first submarine. Instructors involved with today’s ceremony included were: MMAC(SS) Roberts, STS2(SS) Davis, and STS2(SS) Houck. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool Director of Training, Captain Mark Robinson. Guest Speaker was USS Iowa SSN 797, COB, MMACS(SS) Scott Buzzard. SubSchool Chaplain, CDR Wilkinson gave the Invocation and Benediction.



USSVI Groton Base Commander and Holland Club Member, ETCM(SS/DV) Steve Ricard, USNR Retired was the SubVet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SA(SU) Samuel A. Cuestaogando. The Heritage Award is given to the student who demonstrates performance of their duties above and beyond the call of the average student.



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



The class Honor Graduate Award was presented to SR(SU) Junior Tchuinkam Tchuinkam Tegang, by SubSchool DOT, Captain Mark Robinson. 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 COB Scott Buzzard to SA(SU) Ronald A. Allan. 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.



On December 17th, the BESS class that graduated was named after the USS Albacore (SS-218).

USS Albacore (SS-218) was a Gato-class submarine which served in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II.

Albacore was the second vessel of the United States Navy to be named for the albacore. Commissioning: USS Albacore was commissioned on June 1, 1942, after being launched on February 17, 1942. It was built by the Electric Boat Company in Groton, Connecticut.

Combat Record: The submarine conducted ten war patrols and was credited with sinking 13 Japanese ships, including two destroyers, a light cruiser (Tenryū), and an aircraft carrier (Taihō). Albacore holds the record for the highest warship tonnage sunk by any U.S. submarine during the war, totaling 74,100 tons.

Notable Achievements

Successful Engagements: Albacore's notable missions included attacks on enemy vessels, where it demonstrated effective torpedo strikes and evasion tactics against depth charges. It was particularly successful during its patrols in the Bismarck Archipelago and near Truk.

Final Patrol: On October 24, 1944, Albacore embarked on its eleventh patrol but was reported missing after failing to return. It is believed to have struck a mine on November 7, 1944, near the Tsugaru Strait, leading to its sinking.

Discovery of the Wreck

Wreck Discovery: The wreck of USS Albacore was discovered on May 25, 2022, and confirmed by the U.S. Navy in February 2023. The identification was made possible through underwater footage and archival research.

Legacy

USS Albacore remains a significant part of U.S. naval history, recognized for its contributions during World War II and its record of enemy engagements. Its story reflects the bravery and challenges faced by submarines in the Pacific Theater.

More on the USS Albacore can be found at [uss albacore ss-218 - Search](https://www.google.com/search?q=uss+albacore+ss-218+search) and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Albacore_\(SS-218\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Albacore_(SS-218))



BESS Class - USS Albacore SS-218 with Tom Thompson, grandson of Albacore CO LCDR Hugh Rimmer

The

USS Nevada (SSBN-733), class #25500 had 128 students with an average of 79% and 6 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 Executive Officer LCDR Bryan Chapman. SUBREADRON 32 CMDCM Jacob Green was the Guest Speaker. SubSchool Chaplain, CDR Wilkinson, gave Invocation and Benediction.



USSVI Groton Base, Color Guard Captain, and Holland Club Member, Senior Chief Bob Sharpe, USN Retired, was the SubVets Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SR(SU) Jordan B. Otero. The Heritage Award is given to the student who demonstrates the performance of their duties above and beyond the call of the average student.



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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.

BESS Graduation Schedule

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

BESS Graduation Schedule SubVet Representative

Class No.	Class Name	Command Rep	Guest Speaker	SUBVETS Rep	Graduation Date	Notes
26060	USS Nautilus			Gary Schmid	2026 Jan 16	
26080	USS Barb			John Roch	2026 Jan 30	
261000	USS Shark			Jeff Walsh	2026 Feb 13	

Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) Dates:

Awaiting 2026 graduation schedule.

Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC) Dates:

25060 Graduate on 20 Feb 2026

26020 Graduate on 18 Jun 2026

26050 Graduate on 11 Dec 2026: Bob Sharpe

26010 Graduate on 01 May 2026: Bob Sharpe

26030 Graduate on 14 Aug 2026

26040 Graduate on 23 Oct 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 Wednesday-Friday 1100-1700 (or when the last customer leaves) with lunch served from 1100 – 1430 Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday. Come in and say Hi to Dawn. Thanks to Heather, Ashley, Erin, Ollie, Julz and Carolyn (our newest addition to the staff) for all the hard work, dedication and for keeping our clubhouse a go to destination.

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

Stop in and renew some old friendships. **Speaking of renewing, time to renew your Groton Base and USSVI National memberships.** We are also hosting “Happy Hour” Wednesday 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Come on down and try some drink specials.

On Saturday December 6th we held the Groton Base Christmas Party and Monthly Membership meeting at 2:00 PM in the hall. Forty-nine members and guests joined us for a delicious roast beef dinner prepared by our own Chef Paul. Raffles were held and photo booth was the bomb, and the charcuterie board was simply amazing.



Photo's courtesy of John C.

[Facebook](#)

The Executive Board gave a brief update on the status of the club finances, and upcoming events to be held at the clubhouse. Prior to dinner we decorated the last tree in the hall with Christmas ornaments bearing the name of each member who went on Eternal Patrol in 2025.



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

Join us next month at our Membership meeting on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 1830. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting.



On Tuesday December 16th we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon in Higham Hall. There were plenty of seats for the over 60 members and guests that attended the luncheon. Our guest speaker was RDML John Stafford from the Undersea Warfighting Development Center. Dominick and Katrina along with the help of 10 SubSchool Students did a fantastic job putting together a delicious spaghetti and meatball lunch.

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

We have a lot of open dates to plan your events for 2026, so keep an eye out for announcements, Facebook postings or Plan of the Month posted in the clubhouse. If you have any ideas on how to put butts in seats at **YOUR** club let any of us know. Stop on by the clubhouse have lunch renew your membership and say "Hi."

Boat Reunion

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

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

<https://www.ussvicroton.org> Update:

Finding it difficult to find a good list of Submarine Reunions? So, the PAO has added a new calendar to the website for finding Submarine Reunions. Should you become aware of one, please send me the information and I will add it to this calendar. Jim Lawton, Webmaster / PAO – pao@ussvicroton.org

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

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Vacant

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

JR VICE COMMANDER

Jim Lawton

Hello Shipmates,

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

Winter Clubhouse Hours (As of January 1, 2026)

Closed Monday & Tuesday

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

11:00 – 17:00

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

Kitchen Lunch hours are implemented as of September 2

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

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

Happy Hour

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

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

Jim Lawton

Jr. Vice Commander

jrvice@ussvicroton.org

860.984.5497

BASE SECRETARY



David Frease
Base Secretary

secretary@ussvicroton.org

David Frease

The December Meeting was a joint Christmas Party and Monthly Meeting attended by (in person (64) and Zoom (2)) for a total of 66 members.

BASE TREASURER**Charlie Murray**

Happy New Year!

ADDITIONAL Coin is now available \$10 each no price increase

For 2026 – if you would like to submit a design please send it to the Treasurer so we can consider your ideas. As of mid-November I haven't received any designs from membership so we will use a design that was considered but not choice in the past.



YOU CAN DONATE TO SUBVETS GROTON OR THE NATIONAL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

There are a few ways you can donate.

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

Option 2: You can donate Via PayPal at <https://www.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

- please indicate that your donation is for Groton Building or Groton Thanksgiving

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

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

IMPORTANT NEW OPTION AVAILABLE – IF YOU WANT A TAX DEDUCTION

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

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

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

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

COMMITTEE WORKING WITH THE TREASURER

Looking for:

Media coordinator

- This could include ensuring more visibility for members and the submarine community.

Fund raising coordinator.

- identify and manage other opportunities to help us in the Submarine Community

OPPORTUNITY.

DONATIONS – looking for 2 to 3 people to collaborate with me to manage our 2 donation appeals. Work isn't difficult and can be done from home. This is important because keeping the doors open depends on donations and the goodwill of our members.

MANAGEMENT OF OUR FUNDS – looking for at least 1 person to collaborate with me to ensure bills are paid and that funds are available to pay our staff. Work isn't difficult and can be done from home.

- This will include ensuring tracking and thank you messages to all our donors.

BUILDING INTERIOR CLEANUP:

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

CHAPLAINS REPORT**Earl Colella & John Carcioppolo**

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

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

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

HMCM(SS) William T. "Doc" McCance Departed on Eternal Patrol 5 December 2025. Honors Detail 10 December 2025. The following members participated in the Honors Detail: Mike Allen, Earl Colella Rob Davis, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Pedro Gonzales, Bob Gustofson, Jim Lawton, Bob Sharpe, Pat Urello, Joe Wread

What we do matters the following was received from Elinore McCance following her father, Doc McCance's Honors Detail:

Hello, John.

On behalf of my family, I wanted to thank you and SubVets for the special honors paid to my father, Doc McCance, at his funeral and for letting the Edison reunion organizers know of his passing so that he will be remembered at their reunion.

We would like to make a donation to SubVets in Dad's memory. Is there a special fund or need that we can help with?

Thank you.

[Elinore F. McCance-Katz MD, PhD](#)

Per a separate email from Elinore, her family will be making a donation to the Holland Club.

The information for the Eternal Patrol bios comes from the USSVI National Webpage Membership section. What you have there is what I put out. If you don't have all the right stuff, then that's what we are going to put out. Additionally, some of the info comes from old bios from Holland Club inductions. If

your info on the National Web Page is not up to date, either update it or ask Base Commander Steve Ricard at commander@ussviroton.org. Also, with regards to information, if we don't know of a member passing, we cannot provide the information or present Honors. Please ensure that your families know that when you have passed to contact Groton Base Chaplain Earl Colella 734-730-1026 earl.coellea@comcast.net or John Carcioppolo 860-514- 7064 gumba700@comcast.net and if possible, provide a link to the obituary.

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

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

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

Finally let's take a minute and remember all those we lost during 2025: Peter Liwski; LCDR Gary C. Beale; Pam Urello; Captain James Seaton; TM1(SS) Joseph K. Birkle; SO3(SS) David S. Socha; CSC(SS) Orville Campbell; EM2(SS) Paul H. Blanchette Jr.; STSCS(SS) Dennis Lee Reichenberger; LT Ronald Pelletier; QMC(SS) Dale Liggett; EMC(SS) Edward Russell; Dolly Stafford; MM1(SS) Stewart Stuart; LCDR Stanley W. Mathis; STS3(SS) Dave Lombardi; YN3(SS) Timothy Mazza; MM2(SS) Jeffrey Waters; EN2(SS) Raymond F. Brown; ET1(SS) Robert Perritt; EM1(SS) Antonio Faella; EMC(SS) Kenneth Vining; HMCM(SS) William T. "Doc" McCance

Special Request: Sometimes thoughts and prayers are necessary. Please read Chaplin Frank T. Vereb from USSVI Requin Base post regarding Requin & Groton Base members Eric Bookmiller's, Grandson.

Friends,

We walk along the Road of life learning along the way that the only certainty is change. Nothing stays the same. The change can be on the macro level, like a marriage, a new job, your first house, joining the Navy... The change can also be on the micro level, a few more wrinkles in your face, having to loosen your belt another notch, or realizing your hair is now more salt than pepper. Unfortunately, the change can be on the cellular level, too. Sometimes we encounter rough spots on that formerly-smooth road of life and realize that our bodies have secretly betrayed us. For most folks, you find the longer you walk the road, the greater the chance that one of those cellular-level changes goes out of control and you find yourself having that Talk with your doctor about your new "battle" with cancer. So, you swallow hard

(i.e., PRAY), sit down with your loved ones, and discuss the options for your particular circumstances. Generally, you have a sense of the road ahead. You can weigh the risks and come to some peace as to what kind of fight you have up ahead. Even the simplest cases are difficult, and this Road never comes with a guarantee. Now throw all that out the window. You are 1-year-old. You just started walking, way back not far past the starting line on the Road. Adults notice something off about how you hold your head. The test results come back that you are sick. Not just sick, but cancer. And not just cancer, but one of the most aggressive and rarest types of brain cancer shared by only a few dozen other people in the country. Operation. Tumor is removed, 100%. But remember that thing I said about the cancer being the most aggressive brain cancer one can get? Now starts the chemotherapy, and lots of it. Both of your parents have had to step away from their jobs and all you want to do is get out of the hospital and chase your big 3-year-old sister, Lilly, around the house (you just started walking!). You are 1-year-old. Your name is Tedy Bookmiller, grandson of Eric Bookmiller. Your Road of life has just started and the big changes seem like they never end (you have hair, YOU JUST STARTED WALKING). Now, other things are happening you do not understand. And your Road is getting bumpy, scary. Shipmates, this is more than a story or a line in the Binnacle List. This is a CALL TO PRAYER. This young man and his family are not alone. I ask that you take time to earnestly pray for Tedy, to ask God to shine his healing light on him and provide comfort to his family. Psalm 23:4: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. God can go to places where the hand of man cannot. We ask God to flood Tedy with the grace of the Holy Spirit, driving this foul illness from his body, forever. Imbue Tedy with peace and strength to make it through the shadow, the scary times he does not understand. Touch the very souls of Tedy's parents, Eric Jr., and Sara, and guide them with the wisdom and fortitude they will need to care for Tedy as well as Lilly. A GoFundMe has been established to assist the family as they step away from their jobs to care for their son. Please consider donating. <https://gofund.me/8a33a6649>

In His Service,
Frank T. Vereb
412-328-3390



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 2026 Holland Club Report

Happy New Year. Welcome to 2026. Hope that you had a Great Christmas and New Year.

LUNCHEONS December's meal was prepared by Dominick Grimaldi and Katrina Marvin. It was a fantastic pasta and meatballs dinner. We had GREAT SUPPORT from Kate Atkinson and AGAIN Great Support from the following students from Naval Submarine School in serving the meal: SR Abelardo Ortega Calistro, FR Alex Cruz, FN Gabriel Firsdon, SN Connor Garen, SN Clemen Morquecho, SN Peter Orsak, SR Wilcox Parker, FR Michaelangelo Valenzuela. We could not do this without them. The guest speaker was RDML John Stafford, Commander, Undersea Warfare Development Center. Holland Club picked up the bill for lunch as a thank you to everyone who has supported the Holland Club this past year.

Many thanks to all who supported and attended this luncheon. Also thank you to the many folks who made donations including Carl Franzoni who won the 50/50 and donated **\$150** back to the Holland Club

and to Ed Sherman who donated **\$500.**



RDML Stafford and SUBCHOOL Students



RDML Stafford, USQWDC



RDML Stafford and HC Chairman John C.



National Treasurer John Slidovsky & Base Commander Steve Ricard

Additional Pictures are here: <https://shutterfly.onelink.me/1053802476/o0rbi67u>

Our next speaker is:

- **20 January Guest Speaker** Commander, Submarine Squadron Four Capt. Thomas Flaherty, and his CMC Adam Goulas.
- **17 February Guest Speaker** – Commander, CDR Adam Nebanzahl, CO USS ALBANY (SSN 753)

HOLLAND CLUB 2026 The 2026 Ceremony will be on Saturday, 6 June 2026. Mark your calendars and plan accordingly if you are scheduled to go into the Holland Club in 2026.

Our first meeting is on Friday 2 January at 3:30 at the clubhouse.

If you qualified **in 1976** or earlier and **have not been inducted** into the Holland Club we will be inducting you in June.

We have identified those eligible for 2026 Holland Club Induction and we have notified those who need to renew. This is our initial listing of the 41 2026 Inductees: RADM Raymond A. Archer; MMCM(SS) James J. Bargmann; QM2(SS) Stephen W Barnes; TM1(SS) Charles Boynton; MMA3(SS) Donald Card; RM2(SS) Stephen D. Chickering; MM2(SS) Earl Colella; MM2(SS) Gerald Cyrul; MMC(SS) Douglas R. Delgado; LCDR Charles A. Duzy; FTG1(SS) Richard Eberle; IC3(SS) Bryan J. Ersek; CAPT Leo O. Falardeau; MM3(SS) Robert Ferrior; IC2(SS) George J Fetkin; ETN2(SS) Gary R. Francis; CS3(SS) Lorenzo G. French, Jr.; LT Zenas Gurley; MM1(SS) Al Jagaczewski; EM1(SS) Tom Kelly; MMC(SS)

James Kenyon; MT1(SS) Robert William Lary, Jr.; HTCM(SS) David LeJeune; LT Bruce E. Lobach; CWO3 William F Longman; QM3(SS) David A. Mapes; CDR John A. Moulson; CWO3 Steven E. Passen; STS1(SS) William J. Ramey; MSC(SS) Jeremiah D Ross; TM2(SS) Duane W. Russell; BRIG Mark Russo; STS2(SS) Mitchell B Schechtman; CAPT Edward A. Sundberg; MTC(SS) Stephen W. Thompson; ICCS(SS) John Tippett; TM3(SS) William Tronosky Jr.; EM1(SS/DV) Mark D Van Der Voort; MSSC(SS) Reginald I. White; TMCS(SS) Billy Whitehead; MM1(SS) Chuck Wilmot. **If your name is not on this list and you believe you should be inducted in June, please contact me ASAP.** The inductees will all receive the initial letters for the induction in January. It's very important that you verify the information that we have, add any additional information, and return it to us. Stay warm and stay safe.

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

COLOR GUARD

Bob Sharpe

The color guard was idle during the month of December.

During 2026, the Groton Base Color Guard will normally provide services for the USSVI Groton Base memorial services. These memorial services may include but are not limited to:

- USS Thresher/Submarine Force Birthday Memorial Service
- USSVI Groton Base Anniversary
- Memorial Day/USS Scorpion Memorial Service
- 4th of July/Town of Groton Parade
- Veterans Day
- Pearl Harbor Day

When requested and approved, the Groton Base Color Guard services can be provided for the following special events:

- Submarine Homecoming Salute
- Submarine Reunions
- Submarine Eternal Patrol Services
- Special Veteran's Events (Presentations, dinners, picnics, etc.)
- Requested Events (Retirements, Naval Submarine Base/School, or Community events.)

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

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

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

New rates are \$80 /year (\$40 USSVI National and \$40 Groton Base).

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

**Membership Update**

Members – 1,152

Life National Members – 865

Base Life Members - 389

Holland Club – 643

Associate Members – 65

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

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

Since last month's report, I've received three new email inquiries for our "Silent Service" license plate and have mailed DMV applications to two of those, one of which joined USSVI last year to apply for our plate, and one who is in the process of joining now. In addition, I received a completed plate application from a member that I've authorized and mailed to the DMV and received a thank you from a member with this picture of the plates they just received.



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

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

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

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Greg Kane

Groton Base USSVI Scholarships

Applications for the Groton Base USSVI Scholarship are NOW Open

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

Five Reasons to Donate to the Groton USSVI Base Scholarship Fund

1. Honor the Legacy of Submarine Service

Your donation helps preserve the proud traditions and values of the submarine community by supporting the next generation in their educational pursuits.

2. Invest in the Future of Our Families

The scholarship fund directly benefits children and grandchildren of submarine veterans, ensuring they have access to quality education and opportunities for success.

3. Strengthen Our Brotherhood and Community

Contributing to the fund demonstrates solidarity and commitment to fellow members, reinforcing the bonds that make the Groton Base strong.

4. Create a Lasting Impact

Even a modest donation can make a significant difference in a student’s life, helping them achieve their academic goals and build a brighter future.

5. Leave a Legacy of Service Beyond the Boat

Supporting education reflects the submarine ethos of dedication and sacrifice, extending our service to society in a meaningful and enduring way.

If you have any questions please contact Gregory Kane, Groton Base Scholarship Chair 860 989-1426 or Gregory.Kane@CCSU.Edu

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**Marian Galbraith**

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

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

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

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

HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR VA BENEFITS?

DON'T KNOW IF YOU QUALIFY FOR VA BENEFITS?

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

brian.hague@ussviroton.org

Hey Navy, hope you all survived Christmas Party. I'm looking forward to the new year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For those who like to track the West Haven Campus during the renovations, I'll leave up the link to the final Environmental Assessment Report from Dec 2022 it includes campus overlay: [VA OCFM - West Haven VAMC - NEPA Final Environmental Assessment - December 2022](https://news.va.gov/124422/va-ocfm-west-haven-vamc-nepa-final-environmental-assessment-december-2022)

"The more you sweat in peacetime, the less you bleed in war." Get ahead of your final wishes and plan now for what you want. Do it now and no worries. [VA expands burial benefits for Veterans and their families](https://news.va.gov/124422/va-expands-burial-benefits-for-veterans-and-their-families)

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

Are you a high-tech Sailor? The VA put out a helpful link to navigate their Apps. [How to use cool features in VA's official mobile app - VA News](https://news.va.gov/124422/how-to-use-cool-features-in-vas-official-mobile-app-va-news)

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

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

Always a good place to start.

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

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 issues.

KAP(SS) 4 KID (SS)John Riley - National & Groton Base Chairman

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

Abraham Lincoln

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

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

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



During our visits, the Kids all receive the now-standard K4K gear from Groton Base: Honorary Submariner Certificates, ball caps, temporary tattoos, challenge coins, and wristbands. Also handed out are signed Nautilus photos, maps showing the location of submarine museums around the U.S., and brochures specifically about the WWII Submarine Memorial and Submarine Force Museum in Groton.

The Kids continue to be excited to receive stress-reducing red heart-shaped squeeze balls and K4K Teddy Bears!



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



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

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



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

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

Karaoke Night Success!

Our first night for Karaoke is January 16, 2026



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

Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee

Paul Skalski

Christmas and New Year celebrations are in the books for 2025.

We had a successful Base Christmas party with 47 guests enjoying a roast beef dinner.

Thank you to Jim Lawton for providing the photo booth and holiday music.

Thank you to everyone who brought in desserts to share.

Thank you to everyone who made and donated holiday baskets for the raffle.

Thank you to everyone who pitched in afterwards to help cleanup.

The coat drive was a success. We collected 23 coats, 6 hats, 6 scarves, and 41 pairs of gloves which were donated to Gallup Hill school in Groton.

A huge thank you to Veterans Equine Therapy Service who provided 10 new coats

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy New Year.

January is cold and snowy. Come down to the clubhouse on **Thursday January 22 @ 6:00 pm** to enjoy a **Mongolian BBQ dinner**.

See the flyer below. Signup sheets will be at the bar.



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

Contact the House committee chairman, Paul Skalski

Many hands make for light work

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

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

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

Last Name	First Name	DOB	Last Name	First Name	DOB
Adams	Lee J.	01/31	Hopkins	Dennis W.	01/10
Anderson	Steven W.	01/23	Iverson	Raymond W.	01/27
Andrea	William C.	01/16	Julian	Bradley D.	01/21
Ashcraft	Lee	01/22	Kaufmann	Mark L.	01/24
Bargmann	James J.	01/01	Kavanaugh	Jack	01/12
Beirne	Brian	01/28	Keller	Peter F.	01/11
Bevenour	Michael	01/06	Knutson	Craig Raymond	01/20
Borris	Christopher M.	01/12	Koontz	Regis Amil	01/31
Bowman	James K.	01/29	Kronenwetter	James	01/12
Boynton	Charles	01/13	Kronenwetter	William D.	01/11
Briggs	Raymund A.	01/23	Kunz	Thomas R.	01/18
Bulkley	David	01/21	LeJeune	David	01/13
Campbell	James R.	01/21	Lynd, III	Edward J.	01/09
Carlson	Robert G.	01/11	Manza	Charles	01/26
Castleberry	William K.	01/20	May	Timothy	01/24
Cavanagh	William C.	01/21	Meade	Carol	01/26
Chihocki	Richard C.	01/15	Murray	Charles F.	01/14
Christina	Robert Edward	01/15	Naso	Angelo J.	01/27
Coers	Jared L.	01/30	Olson	John R.	01/30
Damm	Joseph Charles	01/13	Olsson Jr.	John Phillip	01/16
Daniels	James A.	01/15	Padgett III	John B.	01/21
Dean	Glenn	01/26	Philipps	Robert A.	01/14
Del Biondo	Douglas	01/22	Prendergast	Kevin M.	01/13
Dillon	Paul F.	01/04	Reed	Paul D.	01/27
Dobrolet	Michael J.	01/09	Rivers	Chase	01/01
Dougherty	Patrick J.	01/11	Roache	George Wayne	01/18
Eberle	Richard	01/13	Rolls	Charlie	01/24
Ellis	Joseph	01/25	Rossi	Gino M.	01/02
Ensminger	Jack B.	01/09	Ruest	Robert L.	01/14
Eshnaur	Michael D.	01/09	Rymsza	Felix J.	01/12
Floyd	Evans	01/05	Salen	William Robert	01/12
Fedder	Robert	01/15	Saviano	Frank J.	01/02
Fusco	Scott J.	01/27	Schlueter	Richard W.	01/07
Gagnon	Philip O.	01/05	Schmid	Gary S.	01/11
Gates	Wayne	01/24	Segal	Robert J.	01/25

Golden	Rich	01/31		Shoaff	David W.	01/23
Goodby	Earl W.	01/28		Sievers	Gary L.	01/23
Grigsby	Richard	01/21		Speh	Warren Glen	01/26
Gudis	Richard P.	01/08		Stevens, III	Thomas H.	01/12
Gurley	Zenas	01/20		Tronosky, Jr.	William	01/31
Haddock	Jack	01/30		Truex	David N.	01/01
Hall	Charles Thomas	01/22		Turner	Travis	01/08
Hartung	Michael K.	01/24		Van Benthem	Paul J.	01/16
Hatchett	Cameron D.	01/10		Wallace	John Richard	01/08
Headman	Thomas R.	01/26		Wilmot	Chuck	01/24
Heffernan	William F.	01/18		Winner	Edward V.	01/09
Held	John P.	01/03		Withinton	Jerry	01/25
Helton	William C.	01/04				
Hill	Carl D.	01/24				
Hodgdon	Don M.	01/25				

USSVI GROTON BASE JANUARY ETERNAL PATROL LIST

Date	Last Name	First Name		Date	Last Name	First Name
01/18/2008	Bachmann	Edmund		01/16/2007	Johnson	Charles
01/07/2009	Bascom	David		01/05/2020	Keaveny	James
01/24/2011	Batch	Gary		01/08/2021	Lane	David
01/07/2014	Becher	Robert		01/24/2015	LaRose	Michael
01/15/2008	Benson	Walter		01/20/2023	Liwski	Peter
01/20/2017	Besley	William		01/16/2010	Martone	Charles
01/23/2006	Bissonnette	Edward		01/23/2005	Mashak	Clements
01/24/2021	Burchfield	Edward		01/10/2011	McCormack	Peter
01/23/2016	Cameron	Donald		01/12/2018	McGirr, Jr.	Richard
01/04/2022	Casey	Jack		01/19/2019	Melher	Paul
01/17/2004	Casey	Robert		01/05/2023	O'Hara	Joseph
01/30/2018	Clark	Gordon		01/10/2013	Palmer	James
01/31/2023	Cook	Paul D.		01/09/2022	Pelletier	Ralph
01/20/2019	Cooper	Michael		01/24/1998	Phillips	Robert

01/08/2004	Corneau	Joseph		01/24/2020	Pitman	Kenneth
01/11/2018	Crowley	Lawrence		01/01/1999	Pitowski	William
01/05/2008	Dabney, Jr.	William		01/13/2020	Polhemus	Allen
01/18/2011	Danford	Ernest		01/15/2018	Ponder	Silas
01/17/2020	Dlugo	David		01/13/2005	Roberts	Jack
01/13/2020	Duntz	Francis		01/04/2021	Rudelt	Donald
01/07/2022	Farro	John		01/11/2018	Ruhlmann	Herman
01/04/2006	Ferris	Albert		01/22/2013	Ruzansky	Marvin
01/19/2022	Folks	Robert Marvin		01/01/2024	Salmon	Tim
01/13/2018	Forbes, Jr.	Earle		01/28/2011	Santella	Joseph
01/08/2011	Funke, Jr.	Harold		01/20/2019	Schofield	William
01/16/2019	Galera	Peter		01/09/2011	Sheppo, Jr.	Nelson
01/16/2019	Gaska, III	Victor		01/03/2022	Small	Kenneth
01/15/2024	Gibbons	Edmond (Corky)		01/26/2020	Swiman	Soloman
01/08/2004	Golderberg	Ira		01/30/2015	Venezio	Charles
01/25/2022	Greenwold	Edward Dallas		01/21/2012	Weckwerth	Richard
01/06/2018	Halpern	Herb		01/18/2021	Welsh, Jr.	William
01/06/2015	Haidet	Peter		01/07/2007	Whisler	James
01/17/1999	Heron	Red		01/23/2024	Willis II	Richard
01/10/2010	Johler	Frederick				



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

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

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

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

Thames River Heritage Park



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Thames River Heritage Park. The header features the park's name in large white letters. Below the header are navigation links for 'HOP ON HOP OFF', 'BOAT TOURS', 'SITES, TOURS AND PROGRAMS', 'PLAN YOUR VISIT', and 'ABOUT'. A 'DONATE' button and a circular logo with the text 'THAMES' are also present. A message in the top right corner states: 'Today is Monday, December 29, 2025. Hop-on Hop-off Harbor Cruises are not running today.' Below the header is an orange banner with the text 'TRHP In Search of Next Boat Operator for 2026 Season' and a 'MORE INFO' button.

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

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

<https://nlmaritimessociety.org/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Custom House Maritime Museum/NLMS. The header features the NLMS logo and the text 'CUSTOM HOUSE MARITIME MUSEUM'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for 'About', 'NL Harborcam', 'Calendar', 'Rental', 'Lighthouses', 'Library', 'News', 'Amistad', and 'Education'. A large image of a night view of a waterfront with a lighthouse is the main background. A text box in the upper left corner announces a 'HAPPY HOLIDAYS' message, stating the museum is closed for winter break and will reopen on January 8, 2026.

Garde Arts Center



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Garde Arts Center. The header features the Garde Arts Center logo and navigation links for 'EVENTS', 'VISIT', 'RENT', 'SUPPORT', 'EDUCATION', and 'ABOUT'. The main image is a large photograph of a person interacting with a large, realistic-looking Triceratops statue. Text on the image reads 'Dinosaur World Live' and 'SAT, JAN 10, 2026 | 11:00 AM'. Below the image are buttons for 'Buy Tickets' and 'Learn More'.

<https://gardearts.org/>

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

Nautilus Submarine Force Museum



The Chapel On The Thames



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."

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