



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC.



# BOAT

N O T E S



*For those who served beneath the waves*

G R O T O N   B A S E

*Groton, Connecticut*

Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026

Table of Contents

Groton Base Officers .....	3
Committee Chairs and Points of Contacts .....	3
Address Changes .....	4
Deadlines for Submission .....	4
Contacting USSVI Groton Base .....	4
Greeting from the Base Commander .....	5
United States Submarine Veterans Creed.....	10
Lost Boats .....	10
Plan of the Month – May 2026.....	11
Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) Updates.....	13
BESS Graduation Schedule .....	20
Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) And Sub Vet Representative.....	20
Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC) And Sub Vet Representative .....	21
So, what has been happening since the last Broadcast? .....	21
Senior Vice Commander.....	25
Junior Vice Commander .....	25
Base Secretary .....	27
Base Treasurer .....	28
Base Chaplin.....	31
Holland Club.....	33
Color Guard .....	35
Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee .....	35
Membership .....	36
USSVI Groton Base DMV Liaison .....	37
Scholarship Committee.....	38
Memorial Committee.....	38
Veterans Affairs Committee .....	38
KAP(SS) 4 KID (SS).....	40
Public Affairs Officer .....	44
USSVI Groton Base May Birthday List .....	45
USSVI Groton Base May Eternal Patrol List .....	46
Thames River Heritage Park.....	48
Custom House Maritime Museum/New London Maritime Society (NLMS) .....	48
Garde Arts Center .....	49

Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026

Henry Breault Golf Tournament in Putnam Needs USSVI Representation! ..... 50  
The Chapel on the Thames ..... 50  
The Groton Sail Foundation ..... 51  
Submarine Base New London Retired Activities Office..... 52

Groton Base Officers

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Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026

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**Address Changes**

Please always keep your address up to date. Having a correct address allows us to not only ensure Boat Notes gets to you, but all other important correspondence. It also allows us to save money on unnecessary postage.

**Deadlines for Submission**

Draft due 20<sup>th</sup> of each month by EBoard Members and Committee Chairs.

The official newsletter of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Groton Base published monthly.

**Contacting USSVI Groton Base**

**US Mail:**

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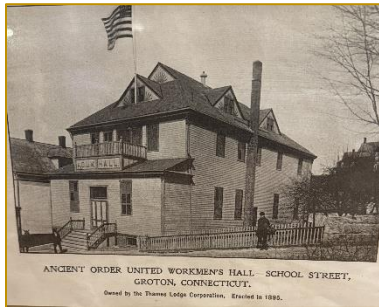


**USSVI Groton Base  
"First and Finest"  
Home of Dominic "Joe" Negri  
Memorial Clubhouse**

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Greeting from the Base Commander



We have sailed through a quarter of the calendar here at the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse located below the site of one of the last battles of the Revolutionary War, the Battle of Groton Heights, September 6, 1781. Our historic building was built about one hundred and fourteen years later and has a tremendous history of its own. The building is 5 years older than the Submarine Service. That in itself is a fitting reminder of our strength and commitment to our heritage and our future.

The last full week of April saw the commissioning of the USS Idaho SSN 799. To the crew congratulations may God speed as you charge forward to the pointy end of the spear.

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

### Scorpion Remembrance and Cross Hall Galley



May has always been a month of contrast in submarine history. It is a month of commissioning anniversaries, technological milestones, and proud achievements, but also a month marked by profound loss. For the U.S. Submarine Force, no May passes without remembering the men of USS *Scorpion* (SSN-589), lost with all hands on 22 May 1968. Their story stands at the center of this month's reflection, but it is part of a larger tapestry of events that shaped the identity, traditions, and memory of the Silent Service.



On 27 May 1968, families gathered on the pier in Norfolk, eagerly awaiting the return of *Scorpion*. She never showed up after her Mediterranean deployment. The submarine, a Skipjack class fast attack boat, carried 99 men, sailors, officers, and two civilian technicians. When she did not arrive as scheduled, the Navy initiated a search that quickly turned into a recovery effort. On 5 June, the Navy declared *Scorpion* lost.

Her wreck was located in October 1968, lying in 10,000 feet of water southwest of the Azores. The images taken by the deep submergence vehicle *Trieste II* revealed a shattered hull,

broken into several major sections. The cause of the loss remains debated, but the official Navy Court of Inquiry concluded that *Scorpion* was destroyed by a catastrophic internal event, most likely a torpedo malfunction or battery explosion; that caused a rapid flooding and implosion. The men of *Scorpion* are remembered not only for their sacrifice but for the era they represent. They served at a time when nuclear submarines were still relatively new, when Cold War tensions were high, and when the demands placed on submariners were extraordinary.

The USN did not treat the families very well, and much of the *Scorpion*'s loss is shrouded in conjecture and mystery. One thing they did right in Groton, a decade later, was naming the Submarine Base New London galley in honor of Steward First Class Joseph Cross in 1978, a veteran of eight World War II war patrols, a decorated lookout whose actions saved his boat, and the only World War II veteran serving aboard USS *Scorpion* (SSN-589) when she was lost in May 1968.

For generations of sailors passing through Naval Submarine Base New London, Cross Hall Galley has been a familiar landmark, a place to grab a hot meal, swap sea stories, and enjoy a brief respite from the demands of the waterfront. Thousands of submariners have walked beneath the sign proclaiming, "*Through these lines pass the best fed sailors in the Navy,*" without ever knowing the story of the man whose name the building bears. Cross's story is not only one of individual excellence, but of institutional transformation. His life traces the arc of the Submarine Force from the heyday diesel electric through the dawn of nuclear power.



Joseph Cross was born on 4 October 1920 in Maringouin, Louisiana, and enlisted in the Navy in May 1942, just months after the United States entered World War II. Like many African American recruits of his generation, he was channeled into the Steward Branch. On submarines, the rigid boundaries of rating and race often blurred, small crews, long patrols, and the constant threat of danger meant that every man had to be trusted, competent, and ready to perform duties far beyond his official job description.

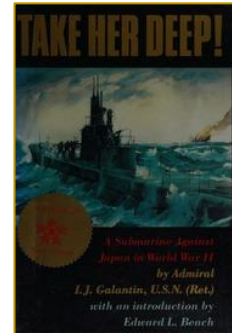
Cross reported to USS *Halibut* (SS-232) on 22 June 1942 and quickly distinguished himself. Over the course of eight war patrols, he earned a reputation as an exceptional lookout, a role of enormous responsibility in the Pacific theater. Submarines on the surface were vulnerable to aircraft attack, and a sharp-eyed lookout could mean the difference between survival and destruction. Cross's vigilance saved *Halibut* on more than one occasion, and he was awarded both the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and the Bronze Star for his extraordinary achievements for any submariner.

Cross continued to serve aboard some of the most storied boats in the fleet: *Tambor*, *Sirago*, *Sea Lion*, *Tigrone*, *Triton*, *Shark*, and finally *Scorpion*. His career spanned the transition from diesel to nuclear power, from the Pacific War to the Cold War, and from the era of the Fleet Boats to the rise of the fast



attack submarine. By the time he reported to *Scorpion*, he had accumulated more than two decades of experience and the respect of generations of shipmates.

Admiral I.J. Galantin, who commanded *Halibut* during the war, remembered Cross with deep admiration. In his memoir *Take Her Deep!*, Galantin described him as “a small, wiry man with a ready grin and the best night vision in the boat.” He kept Cross on the bridge as his nighttime battle stations lookout, a position reserved only for those the commanding officer trusted absolutely. When Cross was eventually transferred, Galantin considered it a major loss to the crew.



When *Scorpion* was lost in May 1968, Cross was 47 years old — a husband, a father, and a veteran of two eras of submarine warfare. His death, after surviving the dangers of eight wartime patrols, struck many as a cruel twist of fate. Yet his legacy did not fade. A decade later, on 5 October 1978, the Navy dedicated the enlisted dining facility at Submarine Base New London in his honor.



At the ceremony, RADM James R. Lewis described Cross as a man whose “professionalism, cheerfulness, and dedication were obvious,” and whose “enthusiastic approach and desire to do his very best highlighted his philosophy and characterized a successful career.” Cross’s wife, Anna, and his son, John, attended as guests of honor. The naming of the galley ensured that his memory would remain woven into the daily life of the base.

For decades, sailors have eaten in Cross Hall Galley without knowing the story behind the name. Yet the choice was profoundly fitting. Stewards and Culinary Specialists have always been central to submarine life, not only because they feed the crew, but because they sustain morale, stability, and a sense of home in an environment defined by confinement and danger. Naming the galley after a Steward First Class honored both Cross’s individual service and the essential role of the men who have kept submariners fed, supported, and ready for the mission.

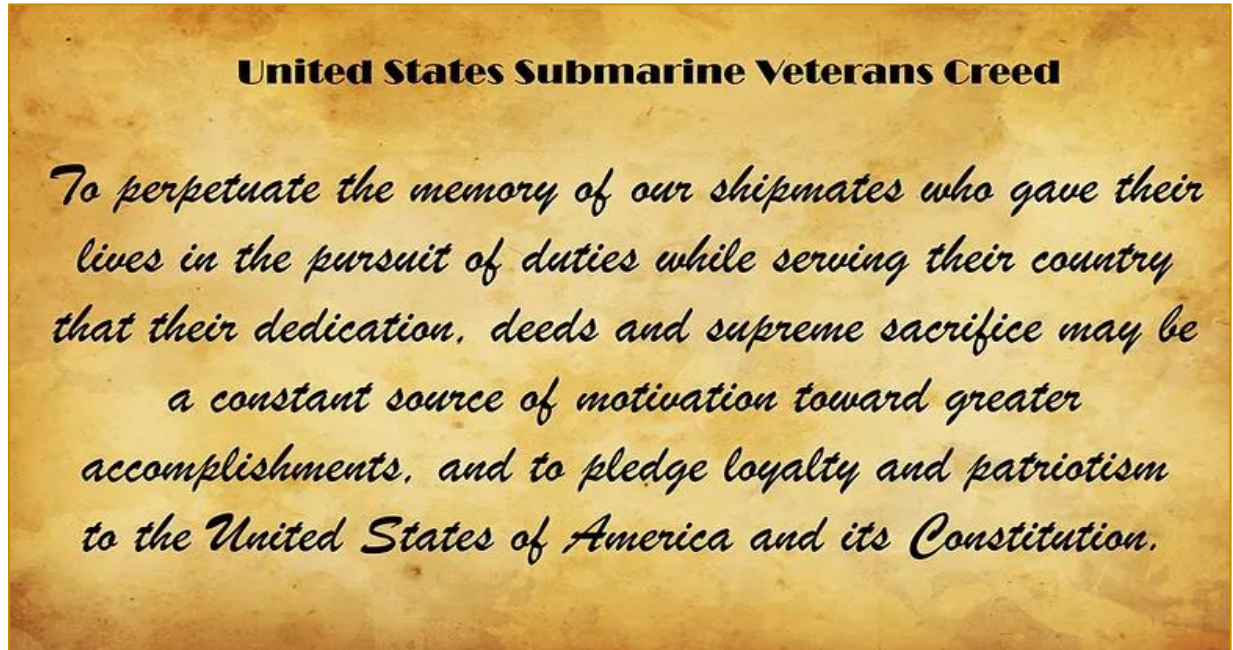
Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026

This “ready grin” appears in the *Scorpion* In Memoriam book, where Cross is pictured among his shipmates in the crew’s mess. He is one of the few men in that photograph whose service bridged two eras of submarine history. To the younger sailors aboard *Scorpion*, he would have been a link to the legendary generation of WWII submariners — men whose patrols in the Pacific had shaped the identity and mythology of the Silent Service.



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




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

#### Lost Boats – May

	<b>USS Lagarto (SS-371)</b>	Lost on May 3, 1945, with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. On her 2nd war patrol, she is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk by the USS Hawkbill (SS-366) 2 weeks later.
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Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026

	<p><b>USS Scorpion (SSN-589)</b></p>	<p>USS Scorpion (SSN-589) was returning to Norfolk, VA. from a Mediterranean deployment. On May 22, 1968, she reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Scorpion was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined. 99 officers and men were lost.</p>
	<p><b>USS Squalus (SS-192)</b></p>	<p>On May 23, 1939, USS Squalus suffered a catastrophic valve failure during a test-dive off the Isle of Shoals. Partially flooded, the submarine sank to the bottom and came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR-2) rescued 33 survivors using the diving bell he invented. 26 men drowned in the after compartments. Later Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish. In an ironic turn of fate, Sailfish sank the Japanese aircraft carrier carrying surviving crew members from Sculpin, which had located Squalus in 1939. Only one of survived after spending the rest of the war as slave laborers in Japan.</p>
	<p><b>USS Stickleback (SS-415)</b></p>	<p>Lost on May 28, 1958, when it sank off Hawaii while under tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to sinking.</p>

**Plan of the Month – May 2026**

Date	Time	Action	Description
5/1	1100	Event	SOAC Graduation – Bill Sheehan
5/2	1600	Event	Kentucky Derby Potluck Dinner & Race
5/4	1830	Meeting	Groton Base Membership Meeting

Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026

<b>5/8</b>	<b>0900</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>BESS Graduation – Gary Schmid</b>
<b>5/8</b>	<b>1700</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Old Salts Pasta Dinner with Chef Dom</b>
<b>5/8</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Karaoke With DJ Jammin’ Jim</b>
<b>5/19</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Holland Club Luncheon</b>
<b>5/21</b>	<b>0900</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>BESS Graduation – Bud Atkins</b>
<b>5/22</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>SOBC Graduation – Bill Sheehan</b>
<b>5/24</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Memorial Day Vigil, New London Parade Plaza</b>
<b>5/25</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Memorial Day Ceremony</b>



*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**

Each month, a USSVI Groton Base member participated in Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) graduation as the Sub Vets Representative presenting the "Heritage Award" and a Sub Vet Challenge coin to the class leader. In this month's issue of Boat Notes, we will highlight two graduations held on March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to thank Sub School 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 Jerry Verant, and Chief Michael Taylor as well as class instructors, and coordinators, for allowing us to participate in this milestone event.

### **USS Tennessee SSBN 734 BESS Class 26160**

The following information is for BESS Class 26160, named after the USS Tennessee SSBN 734. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.



USS Tennessee (hull number SSBN-734) is a United States Navy Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine that has been in commission since 1988. She is the fourth ship and first submarine of the U.S. Navy to be named for Tennessee, the 16th state.

Tennessee's construction was authorized in fiscal year 1980, and the contract to build her was awarded to the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut, on 7 January 1982. Her keel was laid down there on 9 June 1986. She was launched on 13 December 1986, sponsored by Mrs. Landess Kelso, and commissioned on 17

December 1988, with Captain Dennis Witzenburg in command of the Blue Crew and Captain Kenneth D. Barker in command of the Gold Crew.

The Tennessee was the first Ohio-class submarine commissioned capable of launching the Trident II ballistic missile (D5). On 21 March 1989, off the coast of Cape Canaveral, Florida, the Tennessee attempted the first submerged launch of the D5 which failed four seconds into the flight. Once the problem was understood, relatively simple changes were made and the first successful submerged test launch of a D5 missile was completed on 2 August 1989 by the Tennessee's Gold Crew.

More on the Tennessee can be found [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Tennessee\\_\(SSBN-734\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Tennessee_(SSBN-734)).

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the BESS Class named after USS Tennessee SSBN-734 had 84 students with a class average was 79% and 4 Sailors graduating with Distinction. To graduate with Distinction requires an average of 90% or higher. Congratulations to this class of future Submariners who have finished one of many milestones in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments whether “A” School or direct assignment to their first submarine. Instructors involved with today’s ceremony included were: ITNC(SS) Michael Taylor, FT1(SS) Abbott, FT2(SS) Davis, and STS2(SS) Crater. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.



The Command Representative was SubSchool Executive Officer, CDR Brian Chapman. Guest Speaker was HMCM(SS) Retroyreo Conner, Senior Enlisted Leader, Naval Undersea Medical Institute, SubSchool Chaplain, CDR Wilkinson gave the Invocation and Benediction.



USSVI Groton Base Member and Northeast Regional Director, STCS(SS) Jeff Walsh USN Ret. was the Sub Vet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SR(SU) Koud G. Clotaire. 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 STSCS(SS) Jerry Verant to SR(SU) Kendra Von Heeder. 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 Leading Seaman Sven Hanser, by Sub School XO, CDR Chapman. 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 HMCM(SS) Conner to SR(SU) Addison Guzik. 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.



### **USS *Hawaii* SSN 776 Bess Class 26180**

The following information is for BESS Class 26180, named after the USS *Hawaii* SSN 776. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.

USS *Hawaii* (hull number SSN-776), a Virginia-class submarine, is the first commissioned warship of the United States Navy to be named for the 50th state. (A previous large cruiser, or battlecruiser, USS *Hawaii* (CB-3) was launched, but never commissioned, and was named after the Territory of Hawaii. The USS *Hawaii* (SSN 776) is the first commissioned vessel of its name. The submarine was named to recognize the tremendous support the Navy has enjoyed from the people and state of Hawaii, and in honor of the rich heritage of submarines in the Pacific. The building contract was awarded to the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut on 30 September 1998 and her keel was laid down on 27 August 2004. She was christened on 17 June 2006 by her sponsor, Governor Linda Lingle of Hawaii. Electric Boat delivered *Hawaii* to the US Navy on 22 December 2006, ahead of schedule. She was commissioned on 5 May 2007. In July 2009, she changed home port from Groton, CT (Submarine Group Two, Submarine Squadron Two) to Pearl Harbor, HI (Submarine Squadron One)



*Hawaii* will be able to attack targets ashore with highly accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles and conduct covert long-term surveillance of land areas, littoral waters, or other sea forces. Other missions *Hawaii* will conduct include anti-submarine and anti-ship warfare, special forces delivery and support, and mine delivery and minefield mapping. With enhanced communications connectivity, *Hawaii* also will provide important battle group and joint task force support, with full integration into carrier battle group operations.

More on the USS *Hawaii* can be found [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Hawaii\\_\(SSN-776\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Hawaii_(SSN-776)) and <https://www.csp.navy.mil/hawaii/About/>.

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, the BESS Class named after USS *Hawaii* SSN 776 had 70 students with a class average was 78% and 3 Sailors graduating with Distinction. To graduate with Distinction requires an average of 90% or higher. Congratulations to this class of future Submariners who have finished one of many milestones in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments whether “A” School

## Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026

or direct assignment to their first submarine. Instructors involved with today's ceremony included were: ITNC(SS) Michael Taylor, FT1(SS) Abbott, and STS2(SS) Bord. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.



The Command Representative was SubSchool CMDCM Michael Micheli. Guest Speaker was MCPON 17 John Perryman. SubSchool Chaplain, LT Rogers gave the Invocation and Benediction.



USSVI Groton Base Commander, ETCM(SS/DV) Steven Ricard, USNR Retired, was the SubVets Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SN(SU) Pablo E. Tripp. 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 STSCS(SS) Jerry Verant to SA(SU) Connor R. Mitchell.

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) Jacob Chytil, by Sub School CMDCM Michael Micheli. 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 MCPON 17 John Perryman to SR(SU) Wyatt W.

Vaughn. 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.



### USS Idaho SSN 799 Bess Class 26180

The following information is for BESS Class 26200, named after the USS Idaho SSN 799. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.

Idaho (SSN-799), a Virginia-class submarine, is the fifth U.S. Navy vessel named for the state of Idaho. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced the name on 23 August 2015, at a ceremony in Idaho. The keel laying ceremony took place 24 August 2020 at the Quonset Point Facility of General Dynamics Electric Boat in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. Idaho is projected to cost around \$2.6 billion dollars and was commissioned on April 25, 2026, at Naval Submarine Base New London. She was christened on 16 March 2024 at Electric Boat by Teresa Stackley, wife of Sean Stackley, a former Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition).



The ceremony marked the culmination of a multi-year construction process and officially brought the USS Idaho into the fleet. It is the fifth U.S. Navy vessel named for the Gem State. The most recent predecessor, USS Idaho (BB-42), was a New Mexico-class battleship commissioned in 1919 that earned seven battle stars for its service in World War II, including action at Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

U.S. Senator James Risch of Idaho delivered the principal address as the ceremony's keynote speaker.

The Honorable Hung Cao, Acting Secretary of the Navy, also delivered remarks, emphasizing the strategic importance of the new submarine.

"We are a maritime nation, bordering on both the Atlantic and the Pacific. Our commerce depends on safe and secure sea lanes of communication," Cao stated. "President Trump's commission to our military is simple: to achieve Peace Through Strength. The USS Idaho joins the fleet ready to answer the call to action, in any ocean, at any time."

Cmdr. Chad J. Guillerault, Idaho's commanding officer, addressed the attendees, speaking on behalf of the crew and the submarine's rich heritage.

"The Idaho connection is more than a name, it is a legacy – a legacy built before us that is being reborn today," Guillerault declared. "I am incredibly proud to be the commissioning captain of a vessel so steeped in tradition... and most importantly, honored to be the captain of a crew so mighty that they have outshone all those before them."

The ship's sponsor, Mrs. Teresa Stackley, gave the traditional order to "man our ship and bring her to life," at which point the crew ceremonially ran aboard to man the submarine.

"This moment is for you, Cmdr. Guillerault, and your crew," Stackley said. "Please note that when you sail, my heart sails with you."

Other distinguished speakers at the ceremony included Idaho Governor Brad Little, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Representative Joe Courtney, and U.S. Representative Michael Simpson. Adm. William Houston, Director of Naval Reactors, also provided remarks highlighting the technical achievement and operational readiness of the vessel.

Idaho (SSN 799) is the 26th Virginia-class submarine and the eighth of the advanced Block IV configuration. The submarine was built under a teaming agreement between General Dynamics Electric

## Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026

Boat and HII-Newport News Shipbuilding. The ship was christened on March 16, 2024, at the Electric Boat shipyard in Groton.

As the newest submarine to join the fleet, Idaho (SSN 799) brings cutting-edge warfighting capability to the nation's undersea forces. Virginia-class submarines feature enhanced stealth, sophisticated surveillance capabilities, and special warfare enhancements to meet the Navy's multi-mission requirements.

These submarines are 7,800 tons, 377 feet in length, and have a beam of 34 feet. They are powered by a nuclear reactor plant that will not require refueling during the planned life of the ship, reducing lifecycle costs, and increasing operational availability.

The commissioning of the USS Idaho reinforces the Navy's commitment to maritime superiority and national security. For 250 years, American naval power has projected strength across the globe. That mission continues and intensifies with the addition of the nation's most advanced undersea assets.

More on the USS Hawaii can be found <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2026/04/u-s-navy-commissions-26th-virginia-class-submarine-uss-idaho-ssn-799/> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Idaho\\_\(SSN-799\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Idaho_(SSN-799)).

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, the BESS Class named after USS Idaho SSN 799 had 80 students with a class average was 77% and 4 Sailors graduating with Distinction. To graduate with Distinction requires an average of 90% or higher. Congratulations to this class of future Submariners who have finished one of many milestones in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments whether "A" School or direct assignment to their first submarine. Instructors involved with today's ceremony included were: ITNC(SS) Michael Taylor, FT1(SS) Abbott, and FT12(SS) Smith. 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 CDR George Wallace USN Ret (author of Hunter Killer). SubSchool Chaplain, LT Rogers gave the Invocation and Benediction.



USSVI Groton Base and Holland Club Chairman, RMCM(SS) John Carcioppolo USN (Ret) was the SubVet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SR(SU) Sylas A. Miller. The Heritage Award is given to the student who demonstrates performance of their duties above and beyond the call of the average student.

Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026

The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented by MMACM(SS) Estaban Vargas to SA(SU) Elowyn E. Jefferson. 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 SA(SU) Luis Lara, by Sub School DOT, Captain 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 CDR George Wallace to SN(SU) Curtis A. Nixon. 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.



Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026

**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 SUB VET Representative**

<b>Class No.</b>	<b>Class Name</b>	<b>Graduation Date</b>	<b>Command Rep</b>	<b>SUBVETS Rep</b>	<b>Notes</b>
26220	USS Wahoo SS-238	08 May 2026		Gary Schmid	
26240	USS Barb SS-220	21 May 2026		Bud Atkins	
26260	USS Holland SS-1	05 June 2026		Steve Ricard	
		18 June 2026		Jeff Walsh	
		02 July 2026			
		17 July 2026		Bud Atkin	
		31 July 2026		John Carcioppolo	
		14 August 2026			
		28 August 2026			
		11 September 2026		Bob Sharpe	
		25 September 2026			
	USS Archerfish	09 October 2026		John Carcioppolo	
		23 October 2026		Bud Atkin	
		06 November 2026			
		18 November 2026		Steve Ricard	
		04 December 2026		John Carcioppolo	
		18 December 2026			

**Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) And Sub Vet Representative**

<b>Class No.</b>	<b>Graduation Date</b>	<b>SUBVETS Rep</b>	<b>Notes</b>
26030	22 May 2026	Bill Sheehan	
26040	24 July 2026	Bud Atkin	
26050	18 September 2026		
26060	13 November 2026		

**Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC) And Sub Vet Representative**

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

**So, what has been happening since the last Broadcast?**

*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.*

This is your clubhouse. We have made many improvements, and we are working hard to add more. We cannot survive without you. So come, join us for our monthly dinners, attend our ceremonies honoring our Submariners, enjoy your bar and kitchen selections, and above all say Hi to our dedicated staff. I owe a big thanks to Heather, Hodge (our new Chef, Mika, Ollie (welcome back), Julz, and Erin for all the hard work, dedication and for keeping our clubhouse a go to destination.



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

## Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026

On Monday, 6 April at 1830 we held our Monthly Membership meeting in the hall. Over 30 members joined in, both in person and via Zoom. Thank you to the members who attended their first meeting.



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

With the invention of Zoom, you'd think more members would attend the meeting.

**We offer Zoom so all our, almost 1000 members can attend.**

Join us next month at our Membership meeting on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at 1830. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting.



On Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> the 126<sup>th</sup> Submarine Birthday Ball was held at the Foxwood's Resort and Casino. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Daryl Caudle was the guest speaker along with Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy John Perryman. The theme for this year's event was, "Submarines on the Silver Screen," comparing Hollywood's dramatizations to the real-world professionalism and calm precision of today's submariners.



On Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, we held our annual Memorial ceremony marking the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the loss of USS Thresher. Our guest speaker was Captain Ken Curtin, Chief of Staff at Undersea Warfighting Development Center.

Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026

On Saturday 18 April, the Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee hosted the monthly dinner. Chefs Paul and Carol Skalski cooked up a delicious Polish dinner of Ham, Kielbasa, Lazy Pierogi, Red Cabbage, and Rye Bread. The dinner was attended by over 40 members and guests.



A big thanks to Bella for helping her grandparents waiting on guests and clearing tables. Raffle prizes and a 50/50 drawing with proceeds going to the next monthly dinner.

Thanks to all who attended and to those who brought along a special dessert. Join us on May 2<sup>nd</sup> for our Kentucky Derby, Potluck Dinner, it will be another great dinner and camaraderie. Thanks to the three for a great job and a wonderful evening.



On Tuesday, April 21st, we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon down in the “Tom Connors Memorial Dining Room”. There were over 50 members and guests who attended the luncheon. Our guest speaker was LCDR Brian Lucas, OIC of Historic Ship Nautilus. Bravo Zulu to the new Chef Kait Hodge who whipped up a great lunch.

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

On Thursday April 23rd, we held our friends at Outer Light Brewery, and the Commissioning Committee hosted an event for the crew and family members.



## Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026



of the event.

On Friday, April 24th, we hosted a gathering for USSVI Requin, Hawkbill, and Northern Virginia to join us to celebrate the commissioning of the USS Idaho SSN 799. This was a great opportunity for the clubhouse staff to shine and did they ever. A big thanks to Heather, Hodge, and Ollie for putting together a fantastic spread and taking care of the Idaho crew. We would also like to thank Dominick Grimaldi and Jared Moody for volunteering with the cleanup. Without their dedication and hard work this would not have been a memorable evening. Also, we would like to thank Outer Light Brewing Company's Kurt Delaney and Mike Burkinshaw for their donation to the event. A much-appreciated generous donation was also given by Ross Carroll of Hawkbill Base to help cover the cost

On Saturday 25 April, the newest Virginia Class Submarine, the USS Idaho SSN 799, was commissioned, pier side, at the US Naval Submarine Base New London.

The Navy commissioned the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Idaho (SSN 799) in a traditional ceremony held Saturday, April 25, at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut.



The ceremony marked the culmination of a multi-year construction process and officially brought the USS Idaho into the fleet. It is the fifth U.S. Navy vessel named for the Gem State. The most recent predecessor, USS Idaho (BB-42), was a New Mexico-class battleship commissioned in 1919 that earned seven battle stars for its service in World War II, including action at Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

U.S. Senator James Risch of Idaho delivered the principal address as the ceremony's keynote speaker.

The Honorable Hung Cao, Acting Secretary of the Navy, also delivered remarks, emphasizing the strategic importance of the new submarine.

Fair Winds and Following Seas to the crew of the USS Idaho SSN 799.



On Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, SubSchool Chiefs cooked up a fantastic brunch with over 35 happy diners. Big thanks to the Chiefs for manning the kitchen and keeping the tradition alive.

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

### Boat Reunion

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

<https://www.ussvigroton.org>

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

Jim Lawton, Webmaster / PAO – [pao@ussvigroton.org](mailto:pao@ussvigroton.org)

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

### Senior Vice Commander

A big thanks to Dominick Grimaldi for submitting his name for Senior Vice Commander.

### Junior Vice Commander

Hello Shipmates,

We are considering reducing the hours at the club, as we have been seeing a lack of customers, specifically on Tuesday, but we are also thinking about closing early on Wednesday and Thursday. We cannot pay our bills unless you fill in the seats. We encourage you to show up and provide me with feedback on how we can improve to get you there!

#### **Summer Clubhouse Hours (As of March 31, 2026)**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

**11:00 – 19:00**

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

**Kaitlyn Hodge is now our kitchen crew as you would already know if you would stop in.**

**We now offer Mozzarella Sticks, Jalapeno Poppers, Chicken Wings, and a Combination platter which has all the above, plus Chicken Tenders and Fries or Onion Rings!**

**We have also listened to you and replaced the hot dogs with a Foot Long, Great Tasting one!**

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

#### **Happy Hour**

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

**SubSchool Chiefs Hosted Brunch! Thank You So Very Much!**

Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026





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

**Jim Lawton**

*Jr. Vice Commander*

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

860.984.5497

**Base Secretary**

**ELECTION 2026**

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

**BASE SR. VICE COMMANDER and BASE SECRETARY**

These positions are vital to the overall operation of Groton Base

Nominations opened at the 02 February Membership Meeting

Nominations closed on 15 April 2026

**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.

## Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026

- Nominations, when called for, may be made from the floor at the meeting(s) and shall be accepted upon the oral or written consent of the nominee that they accept the nominations and will serve if elected.
- Nominations may be submitted by any Member of Groton Base in good standing.
- Nominations submitted to the Election Master or chairman of the Nominating Committee, if not submitted by the nominee, must be accompanied by a written consent of the nominee that they will accept the nominations and will serve if elected. The qualifications of the nominee, not to exceed 100 words, may accompany nominations.
- Upon close of nominations the Election Master or Nominating Committee shall make wide distribution of the names and qualifications, in alphabetical order, of all candidates properly nominated using both print and electronic means as viable.

### **ELECTION OF BASE OFFICERS**

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

**David Frease**

**Base Secretary** [secretary@ussvigroton.org](mailto:secretary@ussvigroton.org)

**Base Treasurer**

### **NEW IDEAS FOR MAY**

- Baby Diaper drive for our submarine community families & provide diapers by Mother's Day  
Last day for collection is Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> at Membership meeting  
Collection has been great, make this a success give now if you haven't had time to donate

- Weekly giveaways at lunchtime
- Check notices in Facebook

### ANNUAL APPEAL 2026

**The Appeal Letters – we appreciate your donations to date, if you haven't had time, please consider a donation to support our efforts to maintain the building, keep it open and a place for the submarine community.**

#### COINS:

The cost remains \$10 again this year...



#### FINANCIALS:

Future donations:

We are asked “How can I identify Sub Vets Groton for donations in my name once I'm on Eternal Patrol”?

- First, Sub Vets wants to know that you are well but if you pass away, we want to acknowledge your service and show our appreciation for you as a shipmate.
- Next – you need to let you family know that they should notify Sub Vets if you pass away

If you select to make or have donations, go to Sub Vets:

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

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

#### Suggested Groton Building Improvements:

- 1<sup>st</sup> level ladies' room
- Fix the front door, get back to using the buzzer
- Add locks to provide additional security to in building doors
- Hall create storage area for tables and chairs
- Outside storage building or shipping container for items used once or twice a year.
- Propane storage rack
- Gutters

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

## DONATIONS:

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

## **YOU CAN DONATE TO SUBVETS GROTON OR THE NATIONAL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

There are a few ways you can donate.

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

Option 2: You can donate Via PayPal at <https://www.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 o
  - b. [Additional funds are listed for Groton: Scholarship](#), Building Fund, Thanksgiving or WWII Memorial East
2. Option to get donations applied to the Brotherhood Fund or any of the Funds that benefit USSVI members.
  - a. [Donate - Support Our Top Donation Campaign - USSVCF](#)

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

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

## BUILDING INTERIOR CLEANUP:

1. Work on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will continue in June or sooner, with scrapping old paint off one area walls, repainting
  - a. Possible relocation of items to improve area usage

2. Old auditorium chairs will 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.
3. A new space to be identified on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 members.

### Base Chaplin



**Chaplains Report/Honors Detail - John Carcioppolo 860-514-7064 [Gumba700@comcast.net](mailto:Gumba700@comcast.net)**

The following is the Honors Detail activity from March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Unfortunately, this was a sad busy month. The following members departed on Eternal Patrol since the last newsletter.

**HMCS(SS) James Moseley** Departed on Eternal Patrol 1 April 2026. The Honors Detail presented Honors on 11 April. Present were John Carcioppolo, Rob Davis, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Pedro Gonzales, David Gustafson, Obie Hill, Al Kinsall, Charlie Murray, Steve Ricard, Bob Sharpe, Paul Skalski and Joe Wread,

**QM1(SS) Robert (Bob) P. Heist, Sr.** Departed on Eternal Patrol 10 April 2026. The Honors Detail presented Honors on 25 April. Present were John Carcioppolo, Rob Davis, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, David Gustafson, Bob Gustafson, Dennis Hopkins, and Joe Wread,

**ETCS(SS) Leland "Lee" Rogers** Departed on Eternal Patrol 18 April 2026. No honors Detail was held.

**LCDR William "Bill" Fatek Jr.** Departed on Eternal Patrol 03 April 2026. There will be a Funeral Mass May 9, 2026, at 12:00 at Christ the King Church in Old Lyme, The Honors Detail will muster at 1130 and present honors at 1145 prior to the Funeral Mass.

**Many thanks to the members of the Honors Detail for your support, especially those who did double duty at both Honors Details.**



**Honors Detail at Bob Heist Memorial Service. L-R  
John C., Bob Dulin, Joe Wread, Bob Gustafson, Alex  
Ducette, Rob Davis, David Gustafson.**

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

### Holland Club



*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.*

**May 2026 Holland Club Report** Summer is almost here.

**LUNCHEONS** We had a great luncheon in April. As always, we had GREAT SUPPORT from our students at Naval Submarine School

The Guest Speaker was OIC Historic Ship Nautilus LCDR Brian Lucas accompanied by his CMD MMNCS Mike Macrito. LCDR Lucas talked about the transition from Diesel Submarines to Nuclear Power. Very interesting remarks.

Many thanks to all who supported and attended this luncheon. The 50/50 was \$127 and was won by Dennis Hopkins, who donated it all back to the Holland Club.



**SUBSCHOOL Volunteers**



**LCDR Brian Lucas  
OIC NAUTILUS**



**LCDR Lucas and MMNCS(SS) Macrito**



Additional Pictures are here: <https://linkit.shutterfly.com/QACpho>

Upcoming Speakers are as follows:

- **19 May Guest Speaker** Groton Sail Foundation
- **16 June Guest Speaker** - Captain Philip Castellano Commander, Submarine Squadron Twelve

**HOLLAND CLUB 2026** We are one month away from this year's Holland Club Ceremony. The 2026 Ceremony will be on Saturday, 6 June 2026. Mark your calendars and plan accordingly.

Our final count is 49 inductees for this year's ceremony. 15 will not be attending and 34 Inductees will be on the stage.

This is the final listing of 2026 Holland Club Inductees: RADM Raymond A. Archer; LT Robert B. Austin; MMCM(SS) James J. Bargmann; QM2(SS) Stephen W Barnes; TM1(SS) Charles Boynton; MM3(SS) Donald Card; RM2(SS) Stephen D. Chickering; MM2(SS) Earl Colella; MM2(SS) Gerald Cyrul; MMC(SS) Douglas R. Delgado; Captain Rockie (Jeb) Deloach; RM1(SS) Billy DeShong; LCDR Charles A. Duzy; FTG1(SS) Richard Eberle; IC3(SS) Bryan J. Ersek; CAPT Leo O. Falardeau; MM3(SS) Robert Fariior; IC2(SS) George J Fetkin; ETN2(SS) Gary R. Francis; CSCM(SS) Lorenzo G. French, Jr.; MMCM(SS) Ira J. Goldman; LT Zenas Gurley; EM2(SS) William C. Hare; MM1(SS) Al Jagaczewski; RMCS(SS) Paul M. Johnson; TM3(SS) William Keel; EM1(SS) Tom Kelly; MMC(SS) James Kenyon; MT1(SS) Robert William Lary, Jr.; HTCMM(SS) David LeJeune; CWO3 William F Longman; QM3(SS) David A. Mapes; CDR John A. Moulson; EM1(SS) John E. Olson; CWO3 Steven E. Passen; MSC(SS) Jeremiah D Ross; TM2(SS) Duane W. Russell; BRIG Mark Russo; STS2(SS) Mitchell B Schechtman; EM1(SS) Rodney B. Schlosser; TM3(SS) Floyd D. Stahl; CAPT Edward A. Sundberg; MTC(SS) Stephen W. Thompson; ICCS(SS) John Tippet; 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.

The ceremony is open to all members of Groton Base and your guests attending.

We have received \$4605 in donations so far from the following towards this year's Holland Club Induction: Elinore McCance-Katz, Ed Sherman, Reginald White, Bryan Ersek, Thomas Kelly; George Fetkin; Mark VanDerVoort, Gary Francis, Al Jagaczewski, William Lary, Don Card, Charlie Duzy, Billy Whitehead, Steven Passen, Duane Russell, Zenas Gurley, Ira Goldman, Charles Boynton, Stephen

## Groton Base Boat Notes – May 2026

Chickering, Jim Kenyon, Steven Barnes, Robert Austin, Jeremiah Ross, Gerald Cyrul, John Olsson, William Tronosky Jr, Rockie DeLoach, Floyd Stahl, Harold Cushing, Richard Eberle, David LeJune, Mitchell Schechtman, Billy Deshong and William Hare.

Thank you one and all. These donations go a long way towards covering all the expenses involved in putting on a very meaningful ceremony and reception for our newest members of the Holland Club. We can't do it without your support and there is no donation too small.

Many thanks to the following members who helped with the stuffing of the folders to be presented to our inductees at the ceremony: Jim Lawton, Rich Cheatham, Tom Allgier, Alex Doucett and Bob Dulin.

### **LET'S DO THIS! HOOYAH HOLLAND CLUB CLASS OF 2026.**

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

### **Color Guard**

The Color Guard presented our colors on April 2026 for the Groton Base's U. S. S. Thresher (SSN-593) memorial service. The color guard detail, consisting of Joe Wread, Alex Doucette and Rich Cheatham, carried the U. S. National, U. S. Navy and the USSVI flags.

Our next big event will on May 25th at the World War II Submarine Memorial East for the Groton Base's Memorial Day/U. S. S. Scorpion (SSN-589) memorial service. The color guard is prepared to present all of Groton Base's color guard flags for this event.

We are now registered for the Town of Groton's USA's 250th Anniversary 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Groton base members, the U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII Memorial – East committee and Naval Submarine School staff, students and Silver Dolphins Color Guard and Drill Team will provide the parade with a U. S. Submarine Service presentation.

We can always use more people to help me decorate the 'People Mover' trailer with posters and banners. Let me know if you can help.

### **Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee**

Thank you to everyone who attended the club's 1<sup>st</sup> Polish Night Dinner. One comment certainly stood out "A great dinner and enjoyable time at SubVets Groton Clubhouse." Many smiling faces enjoying the meal, renewing old friendships. Making new friends.

Next up May 2, our Fourth Annual Kentucky Derby Potluck Dinner. Come down to your clubhouse and bring your favorite dish to share and watch the race. Doors open at 4:30.

*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.*

A little housekeeping. Since we reactivated the old House Committee and renamed it the Stan Mathies Memorial House committee, we have had several successful monthly dinners. Below is a chart of how many people attended each month.

If you have any suggestions for dinner, drop me an email at [p.skalski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:p.skalski@sbcglobal.net). I will look at all suggestions when I build the 2027 schedule

<b>SubVets Monthly Dinner Attendance 2026</b>				
<b>Month</b>	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Attended</b>
6-Dec-2025	Saturday	2:00 PM	Base Christmas Party	44
13-Jan-2026	Tuesday	6:00 PM	Mongolian barbecue	49
13-Feb-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Valentine Day Italian dinner	31
21-Mar-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Tom Conon's Corn Beef and Cabbage	83
18-Apr-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Easter Dinner Polish Night	45

<b>SubVets Monthly Dinner Schedule 2026</b>			
<b>Month</b>	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Theme</b>
02-May-2026	Saturday	5:00 PM	Kentucky Derby Potluck
20-Jun-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Potluck
04-Jul-2026	Saturday	Noon	Groton 4th of July Parade Reception
14-Aug-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Hillbilly Night
18-Sep-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Sock Hop Dance food from the 50's
16-Oct-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	October Fest German food
26-Nov-2026	Thursday	12:00 – 5:00	Annual Club Thanksgiving meal
05-Dec-2026	Saturday	2:00 PM	Base Christmas Party

### Membership

#### **RENEW NOW FOR 2026**

Greetings, Shipmates, and friends. If you are reading this, it means you are a member in good standing with USSVI and USSVI Groton Base or are you.

On March 23, at the close of the business day, Groton Base had 1179 members. As of March 24, at the start of the business Groton Base had dropped to 1105. So, what does that mean to the Regular/Annual Members? It means you missed the renewal window and National dropped you. How will you know;

you'll no longer receive a copy of the American Submariner or notices from USSVI. How to rectify; renew your membership ASAP.

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@ussvigroton.org](mailto:commander@ussvigroton.org). Here is the link to renew your membership. [Dues Renewal | USSVI Groton](#)

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

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

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



### **Membership Update**

Members – 1,105  
Life National Members – 865  
Base Life Members - 404  
Holland Club – 668  
Associate Members – 64

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

### **USSVI Groton Base DMV Liaison**

I've replied to three inquiries, one from a person who originally inquired in 2023 but had let their membership lapse and have now re-joined to finish the process. I've received back three DMV applications that I've processed and sent on to the DMV.



DMV Liaison

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

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

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

Michael Hodges

### Scholarship Committee

#### Groton Base USSVI Scholarships

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2026 SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS**

**APRIL 15, 2026.**

Please contact Gregory Kane, Groton Base Scholarship Chair, at 860-989-1426 or via email at [Gregory.Kane@CCSU.Edu](mailto:Gregory.Kane@CCSU.Edu).

### Memorial Committee

The Memorial Committee spent the month of April preparing for and supporting the Thresher Observance and now we are preparing for the Memorial Day Observance which, weather permitting, will be held at Submarine Veterans WWII National Memorial East on May 25 at 1100. In case of inclement weather, the Observance will be held at the City of Groton Municipal Building. As part of those preparations, we hope to do our Spring planting on May 15 as long as the weather and the garden center can accommodate us. If you’d like to join us, we’ll gather around 9:00. Bring a trowel, some kneeling pads, a wheelbarrow, and some work gloves. We’d love to see you!

For more information contact Marian Galbraith at [mktgalbraith@gmail.com](mailto:mktgalbraith@gmail.com) or 860-460-8740.



### Veterans Affairs Committee

***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, it looks like May is finally here. Remember this month usually gives us a good amount of rain. Be aware of local flooding and any flooding in your home. Also start preparing your home and vehicle into summer mode.

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

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

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

Some good news for World War II Veterans. [All WWII Veterans are now eligible for VA healthcare - VA News](#)

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](#)

“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/>

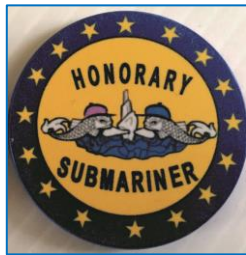
Are you a high-tech Sailor? The VA put out a helpful link to navigate their Apps. [How to use cool features in VA's official mobile app - VA News](#)

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. I hope to see you at the club!

- <https://www.va.gov/> is 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)



**"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.

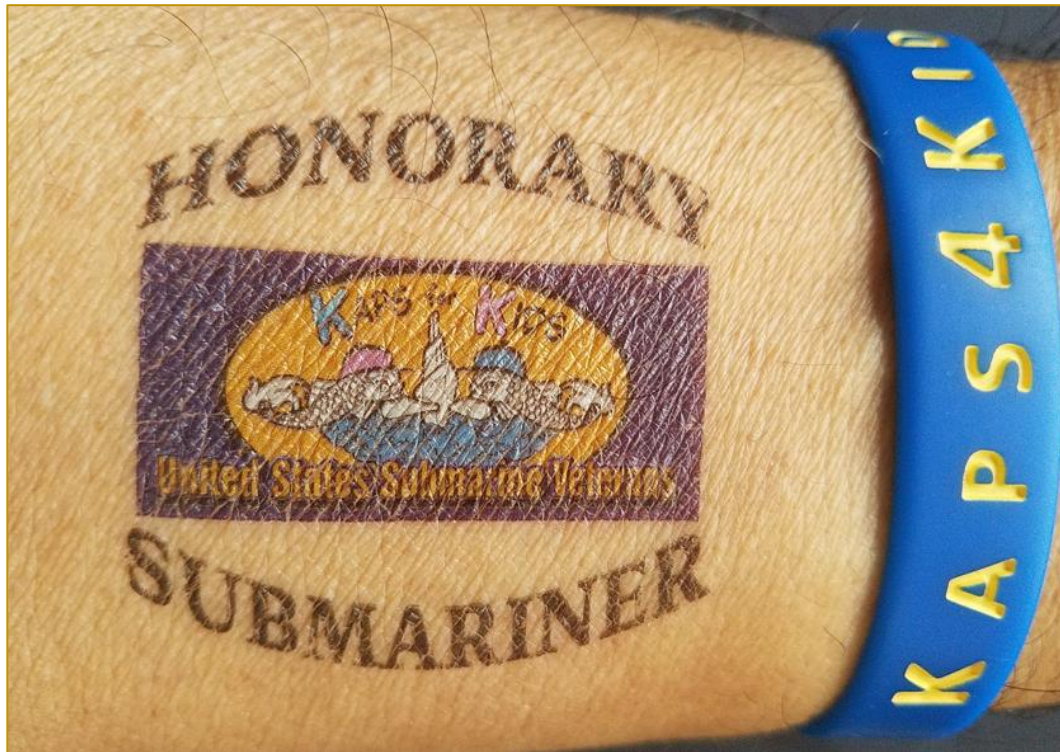
**We are committed to continuing this program as long as there are children in need of our support.**



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 is informed they would be entitled to a free tour and challenge coin from active-duty submariners at the USS Nautilus Submarine Museum.



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

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



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

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

Public Affairs Officer

Karaoke Night Success!

Karaoke is scheduled for May 8, 2026



Events are posted in the Clubhouse on the Raspberry display above the cash register, On the opening splash page of our website

<https://www.ussvigroton.org>, and on our Events page <https://www.ussvigroton.org/events>.

USSVI Groton Base May Birthday List

***Happy Birthday to All Who Continue to Celebrate for the Month of May***

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>DOB</b>		<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>DOB</b>
Abel	John P.	31		Klungler III	Hugo J.	19
Allen	David	26		Kostritza	Ryan	18
Andersen	Matthew B.	29		Latz	Dennis R.	12
Anderson	Skylar A.	22		Lintner	Stanley	16
Atkins	Richard R.	24		Lockett	Bryan	27
Baldwin	Brian	02		Lyons	Edward T.	23
Bell Jr.	Hugh L.	24		Maguire	Edwin J.	25
Berns Jr.	Peter	18		Mancini	Albert	10
Berry	Edward	12		Marion	William M.	26
Bircumshaw	Thomas Michael	18		Martinez	Daniel A.	19
Bost	Michael E.	11		Matkovich	Mark J.	13
Bournique	Steven	30		McCarthy	Kevin D.	12
Brannon	Kent R.	10		McGunnigle	John E.	13
Brantley	Arnell	10		Miliefsky	Arnold L.	24
Bright	Larry Lee	18		Miller	Leo F.	03
Bushar	Harold G.	04		Morley	Brian K.	20
Cardinal	Stanley A.	27		O'Connor	Michael J.	22
Carlino	Thomas A.	25		Patch	Philip C.	21
Chetney	John P.	31		Peel	Gilbert	17
Clapp	Kathleen	17		Petsch	Richard	26
Cook III	Sanford E.	02		Proctor	John	18
Cramer	Forrest	05		Putinas	Bruce F.	29
Craven	Tyler J.	29		Pyburn	Marty L.	14
Cruickshank	Roy	15		Roberts	Niklaus M.	25
Diedrich	Joseph S.	02		Roggemann, Jr.	Paul J.	14
Dougherty	Robert F.	13		Russo	Mark	01
Dunn	Michael M.	07		Savage	Paul M.	07
Edwards II	George E.	23		Seavers	David R.	06
Fiske	Richard L.	20		Silvers	John W.	11
Fritz	Thomas D.	12		Steward	Jason P.	15
Gendreau	Tom	16		Strohl Jr.	Robert A.	22
Gibb	Brian H.	21		Sundberg	Edward A.	14
Gilly	James	25		Sweet	Matthew R.	11
Goodman	Douglas	30		Tacey	Ralph	09

Grove	Tom	06		Tosh	Jerry M.	21
Hague	Brian J.	25		Walker	Robert	02
Hall Jr.	John F.	24		Washington Jr.	Robert J.	15
Hall	Howard R.	02		Wayles	Cecil J.	09
Harper	David D.	08		Webb	Zachary A.	05
Henry	James	05		Weller	David E.	10
Hollis	Jonie B.	14		Williams	Andrae N.	16
Jackson Jr.	Owen John	26		Williams	Seth E.	11
Johnson	Kenneth H.	25		Williamson	Larry M.	09
Johnson	Paul A.	19		Wirkala	Allan C.	01
Johnson	Raymond	03		Wojtowicz	Richard E.	10
Jones	Albert S.	08		Wright	Douglas A.	08
Khader	Charles B.	17				

**USSVI Groton Base May Eternal Patrol List**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Date</b>		<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Achtemeier	Arthur	05/05/2007		Higgins	Sterling "Jack"	05/08/2022
Allen	James	05/18/2003		Kuemper	Robert	05/16/2023
Andersen	William	05/21/2011		Kvietkus	Richard	05/01/2018
Awezec	Edward	05/02/2001		LaForce	Donn	05/30/2009
Baciocco, Jr.	Albert	05/22/2015		Lamb, Jr.	Horace	05/04/2012
Balwierczak	Adam	05/02/2006		Leonberger	Charles	05/06/1998
Bauer	Jerry	05/17/2020		Liggett	Dale	05/06/2025
Block	Frederick	05/09/2018		Lindsay	Robert	05/31/2017
Braman	Robert	05/01/2006		Lyons	Roy	05/06/2009
Brody	Samuel	05/18/2022		Maccini, Jr.	Arthur	05/05/2010
Burr	Robert	05/21/2011		Main	Norman	05/25/2023
Catubig	Pedro	05/31/2011		Marshall	Slayton	05/27/2023
Charette	Alfred	05/31/2013		McFadden	Michael	05/01/2003
Chiappone	Matthew	05/01/2003		McGann	William	05/30/2023
Cook	John	05/13/2011		Milbrandt	Frederick	05/09/2011
Corona	Christoper	05/28/2011		Montgomery	James	05/12/2024
Cuseo	Mike	05/04/2016		Mulholland	James	05/14/2008
De Los Santos	Julio	05/19/2006		O'Connor	Donald	05/08/2020
Drucker	Paul	05/03/2007		Pendergast	Terrance	05/17/2019
Ellis	Floyd	05/01/2009		Porter	Edward "Don"	05/14/2023
Espeleta	John	05/24/2005		Richardson Sr.	Arthur	05/05/2022
Farnon	Thomas	05/23/2012		Rosa	Ronald	05/29/2005
Flatley	Joseph	05/17/2000		Ruple	Robert	05/06/2008
Fletcher	Charles	05/01/2019		Sanborn	Ray	05/09/2010
Foster	George	05/04/2008		Skurat	Michael	05/10/2012

Gallagher	Michael	05/02/2024		Smith	Wayne	05/15/2005
Galli	Angelo	05/07/2006		Swafford	Barry	05/02/2012
Gantnier	John	05/01/2017		White	R. H.	05/13/2004
Gates	Charles	05/04/2014		Williams	Charles	05/18/2022
George	Peter	05/13/2005		Wynn	John	05/12/2012
Gross, III	Robert	05/13/2012				
Harrison	Richard	05/15/2019				



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.

# Local Items of Interest from around the area

## Thames River Heritage Park

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Thames River Heritage Park website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the park's name, a 'DONATE' button, and a notice that today's hop-on hop-off harbor cruises are not running. Below the navigation bar is an orange banner with the text 'Discover the Park: May 9, 2026 at Fort Trumbull State Park' and a 'Learn more' button. The main content area features a large heading 'Discover the Park' with a sub-heading 'Enjoy a day filled with family-friendly events, interactive fun, live music, food trucks, and more.' and a 'Learn More' button. To the right, there are several images: a boat on the water, a lighthouse, and a building. A large banner reads 'DISCOVER THE PARK!' with the date and time 'Saturday, May 9 | 10:00 A. M. - 2:00 P. M. | FORT TRUMBULL'. A 'Book Now' button is located in the bottom left corner.

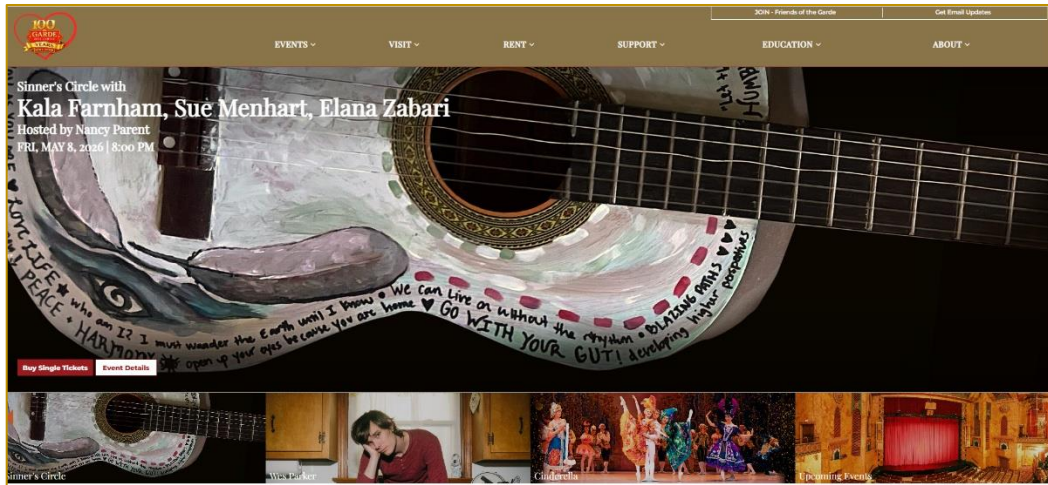
<https://www.thamesriverheritagepark.org/>

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

<https://nlmaritimesociety.org/>

The screenshot shows the website for the Custom House Maritime Museum/New London Maritime Society (NLMS). The header features the NLMS logo, the text 'CUSTOM HOUSE MARITIME MUSEUM', and a navigation menu with links for 'About', 'NL Harborcam', 'Calendar', 'Rental', 'Lighthouses', 'Library', 'News', 'Amistad', and 'Education'. Below the header is a large image of a group of students and an educator singing sea chanteys on a boat. A text box on the right side of the image reads: 'Students in our Local-History & Landmarks program in the NL Public Schools sing sea chanteys with musician Geoff Kaufman and NLMS educator Jody Barthel.' At the bottom of the page, there is a call to action: 'Saving our local maritime heritage sites through education, advocacy, & preservation. From all of us at the New London Maritime Society, thank you for supporting our work to preserve history for the future. Please DONATE to our ANNUAL APPEAL! #StandUpForScience #Museums4Science'.

## Garde Arts Center



<https://gardearts.org/>

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

## 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 MUSEUM'S 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 SHIP'S DRYDOCK OVERHAUL IN 2022

THE MUSEUM HAS CONSISTENTLY GROWN OUTREACH BY 300% TO 500% EVERY SIX MONTHS AND THE DEMAND SIGNAL FOR SUPPORT IN SCHOOLS AND WITH VARIOUS ASSOCIATIONS IS CONTINUING TO GROW. DOCENTS AND VOLUNTEERS HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN OR CO-LEAD SOME OF THESE EVENTS WITH OUR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

OFFICER IN CHARGE AND SFM DIRECTOR: BRYAN.R.CHAPMAN@US.NAVY.MIL  
DOCENT COORDINATOR AND SECURITY MANAGER: ELBERTON.A.MIXON@US.NAVY.MIL  
EVENT SCHEDULING AND MUSEUM USE REQUESTS: LINDA.E.WILLIAMS@US.NAVY.MIL  
EDUCATION DIRECTOR (ACTING): KEVIN.WILLY@US.NAVY.MIL  
RESEARCH AND ARCHIVES: WENDY.S.GULLEY@US.NAVY.MIL

US NAVY  
SUBMARINE  
FORCE MUSEUM  
USS Nautilus (SSN 571)

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

Henry Breault Golf Tournament in Putnam Needs USSVI Representation!



**We Want  
You!**

**HENRY BREAUTL**  
**MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT**  
*Golf Tournament*



*TM2 Henry Breault receiving the Medal of Honor from President Calvin Coolidge at the White House in 1924.*

**Monday**  
**August 17, 2026**  
**9 AM**  
Connecticut National  
Golf Club  
Putnam, CT



**Mayotte-Viens**  
**American Legion**  
**Post #13-Putnam, CT**

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.”

### The Groton Sail Foundation

**Help us build a monument!**  
<https://grotonsail.com/donate/>

*Dedicated to the men and women who design, build, operate and maintain submarines, and the families and communities who support them*



**PURCHASE A PAVER TO HELP BUILD A LASTING TRIBUTE TO OUR SUBMARINE COMMUNITY**



**THE USS GROTON SAIL MONUMENT**

Visit the Groton Sail Foundation for the latest edition of the USS GROTON Sail Foundation Newsletter.

[Contact Us – Groton Sail Foundation](#)

If you would like to make a donation towards the project, please visit <https://grotonsail.org/donate/>

**Submarine Base New London Retired Activities Office**

Building 83, Room 10  
P.O. Box 93  
Groton, CT 06349



RAO is desperately looking for new volunteers to become part of the few that man the office in Bldg. 83.

This office hosts the annual Retiree Appreciation Day in October.

If anyone is interested in volunteering at the RAO, they should contact the FFSC. (860) 694-3383 and the folks there will be able to get in touch with Phil DeRose.