



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



Greetings from the periscope stand at the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse. The Executive Board and I send our well wishes to a fantastic busy April in Groton CT. Some very significant events happened in the month of April for both the submarine service and the U.S. Navy in general.



On April 1, 1893, Navy General Order 409 of 25 February 1893 establishes the rate of Chief Petty Officer as of this date. The establishment of the CPO rank was the result of years of advocacy by United States Navy leaders who recognized the need for a senior enlisted rank to serve as a bridge between the officers and the enlisted sailors.



On April 10, 1963, the Submarine service was devastated by the loss of the USS Thresher SSN 593. The Thresher sank during deep-diving tests about 220 miles east of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, killing all 129 crew and shipyard personnel aboard. Her loss was a watershed for the U.S. Navy, leading to the implementation of a rigorous submarine safety program known as SUBSAFE. She was the first nuclear submarine lost at sea.

On Saturday, April 19th, the USSVI Groton Base will conduct a U. S. S. Thresher SSN-593 Memorial Service at WWII Submarine Memorial East*. This ceremony is to honor of 129 submariners and shipyard personnel who lost their lives on that eventful day.



This is a USSVI Groton Base scheduled all hands event that starts at 11:00 a.m. Our ceremony will consist of opening remarks, guest speaker presentation, tolling the bell for the loss crewman, laying of the wreath and the playing of Taps.

The recommended dress code for this event is appropriate attire. USSVI members should wear their Subvets Vest.

* In case of inclement weather, the service will be held at the Joe Negri Memorial Clubhouse, 40 School Street, Groton, CT 06340.



This month is also the 125th Birthday of the U.S. Submarine Service. U.S. Navy bought the first submarine on 11 April 1900. USS Holland at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, circa 1901-1902, with several midshipmen on board.



There are some great things happening this month, including the USS Iowa (SSN 797) commissioning, and the Submarine Birthday Ball.

As I said last month it is a big year for the Submarine Service. Come on down, enjoy the atmosphere, camaraderie, and renew some friendship.

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 – April

	<p>USS Pickerel (SS-177)</p>	<p>Lost on April 3, 1943, with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her 7th war patrol. She was lost off Honshu. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.</p>
	<p>USS Snook (SS-279)</p>	<p>Lost on April 8, 1945, with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine.</p>
	<p>USS Thresher (SSN-593)</p>	<p>Lost on April 10, 1963, with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" - then, silence. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.</p>
	<p>USS Gudgeon (SS-211)</p>	<p>USS Gudgeon (SS-211) was probably lost on April 18, 1944, with the loss of 79 men SE of Iwo Jima, but may have been sunk on May 12, 1944, in another attack on an unidentified submarine and heard by several other submarines in the area. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely due to a combined air and surface anti-submarine attack. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. On her</p>

		first patrol, she became the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the submarine I-173.
	USS Grenadier (SS-210)	Lost on April 22, 1943, near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, Grenadier was bombed, causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 76 crew members taken prisoner, 72 survived the war.

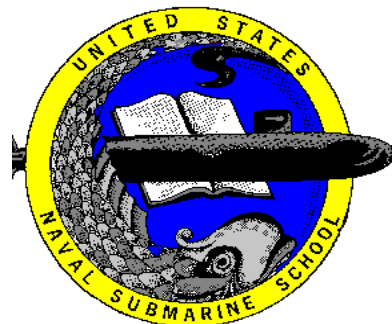
Plan of the Month, April 2025

DATE	TIME	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
4/1	11:00-14:00	Retirement	TP Retirement Jones
4/1	10:30	Meeting	Holland Club Induction Planning Meeting
4/4	16:00	Private Event	Crew Rally USS Iowa (whole building)
4/7	18:30	Meeting	Monthly Meeting
4/13	10:00	Event	Brunch - SSEP
4/15	11:30	Meeting	Holland Club Luncheon
4/17	11:00	Meeting	Holland Club Induction Planning Meeting
4/19	16:00	Event	USS Thresher Memorial, WWII SubVet Memorial East
4/25	20:00	Music	Karaoke With DJ Jammin' Jim
4/29	16:00	Meeting	Steelworkers

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 7 & 21 March. I would like to thank SubSchool leadership for allowing us to participate in this milestone event.



The following information is for BESS Class 25140, named after the USS Skate (SSN 578). The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links for additional details.



A salt water fish of the ray family, with a broad, flat body, and greatly developed pectoral fins that give the fish a rhomboidal shape.

Skate (SSN-578) was laid down on 21 July 1955 by General Dynamics Corp. (Electric Boat Co. Div.), Groton, Conn.; launched on 16 May 1957; sponsored by Mrs. Lewis L. Strauss; and commissioned on 23 December 1957, Cmdr. James F. Calvert in command.

Skate conducted shakedown training out of New London until 28 January 1958 when she cruised to the Bermuda operating area; returning to her homeport on 8 February. Sixteen days later, the submarine set a course for Portland, England. Before returning home, she had also visited ports in France and the Netherlands.

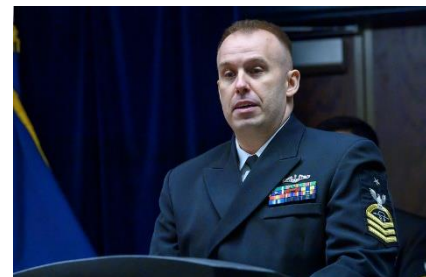


On 30 July, Skate steamed to the Arctic where she operated under the ice for ten days. During this time, she surfaced nine times through the ice, navigated over 2,400 miles under it, and became the second ship to reach the North Pole. On 23 August, she steamed into Bergen, Norway. The submarine made port calls in the Netherlands, Belgium, and France before returning to New London on 25 September 1958.

More on the USS Skate (SSN 578) can be found at [USS Skate \(SSN-578\) - Wikipedia](#), [Skate II \(SSN-578\)](#), and [Skate class SSN \(1957\)](#)

The March 7th BESS Class 25140 named after the Skate had 90 students with an 83% class average and 19 students graduating with distinction. Congratulations to this class of future Submariners have finished one of many milestones in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments whether “A” School or direct assignment to their first submarine. Instructors involved with today’s ceremony included were: MMAC(SS) Roberts, FT1(SS) Jensen, and STS1(SS) Oakley. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool Executive Officer, CDR Paul Danos. Guest Speaker was STSCS(SS) Martens, Submarine Squadron 12. SubSchool Chaplain, LT Levels gave the Invocation and Benediction.





USSVI Groton Base and Holland Club member Bob Sharpe was the SubVet Representative and would have presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin SR(SU) Elizette Smith, but she was away at training. 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 MMACM(SS) Vargas to SN(SU) Ananee Brown. This award is given to the student who shows academic achievement and personal improvement through the course of instruction.

The class Honor Graduate Award was presented to SA(SU) Earnesto Puig-Santana by XO CDR Danos. 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 STSCS(SS) Martens to SN(SU) Evan Lilly. This award is given to the student who best embodies the U.S. Navy Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

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



Heritage Award: SR(SU) Elizette Smith



William H. Purdum Award: SN(SU) Ananee Brown



Graduate: SA(SU) Earnesto Puig-Santana



Core Value Award: SN(SU) Evan Lilly

Honor

On March 21st, the BESS class that graduated was named after the USS S-3 (SS-107).

USS S-3 (SS-107) was the prototype of the "Government-type" S-class submarines of the United States Navy. (S-1 was the "Holland-type" prototype and S-2 the "Lake-type".) Her keel was laid down on 29 August 1917 by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. She was launched on 21 December 1918 sponsored by Mrs. William L. Hill, and commissioned on 30 January 1919.



Following outfitting and trials, S-3 began her career with training operations along the New England coast operating out of Portsmouth and New London, Connecticut. In 1920, she twice visited Havana, Cuba: first in January, and again in December.

In July 1921, she was attached to Submarine Division 12 (SubDiv 12) which, along with SubDiv 18, was to rendezvous off Portsmouth for the longest voyage on record, at that time, for American submarines. The two divisions were assigned to the Asiatic Fleet as Submarine Flotilla 3 (SubFlot 3) at the Cavite Naval Station in the Philippine Islands. They sailed via the Panama Canal to Pearl Harbor, where S-3 was detached and reassigned to operate on the West Coast of the United States from Mare Island, California. The two divisions continued on and successfully completed the voyage, arriving at Cavite on 1 December.

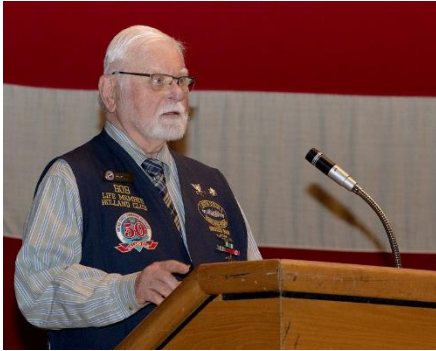
S-3 departed Pearl Harbor on 9 November and sailed to the U.S. West Coast where she operated until mid-July 1923. On 17 July, she took departure from San Francisco Bay to retransit the Panama Canal en route to New London.

Reaching New London on 5 September, she was attached to SubDiv 2, Atlantic Fleet, and assigned experimental duty at the Submarine School at New London, assuming the duties of S-1, flagship of SubDiv 2, which was conducting special experiments with aircraft. During the remainder of 1923 and the years following, into 1927, she ranged the East Coast of the United States conducting training operations and evaluating new techniques in submarine development.

In July 1927, S-3 and S-1 formed SubDiv 4 and began a schedule which included operational cruises to the Panama Canal Zone in the spring months of 1928–1930. The remaining months of those years were spent in operations along the New England coast.

Early in 1931, S-3 was ordered to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for inactivation. She was decommissioned there on 24 March and laid up. She was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 25 January 1937 and subsequently scrapped.

More on the USS S-3 (SS-107) can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_S-3 and <https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/museums/nmusn/explore/photography/ships-us/ships-usn-s/uss-s-3-ss-107.html>



USS S-3 (SS-107), class #25160 had 83 students with an average 76% and 4 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, Paul Danos. CMDCM Kevin Crisman USN (Ret), was the Guest Speaker. SubSchool Chaplain LCDR Wilkinson gave Invocation and Benediction.



USSVI Groton Base and Holland Member, CDR Bob Kish USN (Ret) was the SubVets Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SN(SU) Mathew Blythe. The Heritage Award is given to the student who demonstrates the performance of their duties above and beyond the call of the average student.

The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented to SA(SU) Sophia Otteni by MMACM(SS) Vargas. This award is given to the student who shows academic achievement and personal improvement through the course of instruction.

The class Honor Graduate award was presented by SubSchool XO, CDR Danos to SN(SU) Ryan Siggaard. The honor graduate is the student with the highest academic average who maintained outstanding military bearing over the course of instruction.

The Navy Core Values Award was presented to SA(SU) Calvin Jones by Kevin Crisman. This award is given to the student who best embodies the U.S. Navy Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

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



Heritage Award: SN(SU) Mathew Blythe



William H. Purdum Award: SA(SU) Sophia Otteni



Honor Graduate: SN(SU) Ryan Siggaard



Core Value Award: SA(SU) Calvin Jones

BESS Graduation Schedule

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

BESS Graduation Schedule SubVet Representative

Class No.	Class Name	Command Rep	Guest Speaker	SUBVETS Rep	Graduation Date	Notes
25180	USS Haddock (SS 231)	CMC		John Carcioppolo	2025-APR-04	3 april SS Haddock: Sank the Japanese fleet tanker Arima Maru north of Palau
25200	USS Holland	DOT		Pat Roche	2025-APR-18	April 11th is National Submarine Day in the United States, which commemorates the day in 1900 when the US Navy acquired its first modern submarine, the USS Holland
25220	USS Barb (SS-220)	CO		John Carcioppolo	2025-MAY-02	On May 3, 1945, the USS Barb was in San Francisco Bay near the Mare Island Navy Yard. The USS Barb was a decorated submarine in World War II and is credited with sinking 17 Japanese ships, including the aircraft carrier Unyo. The USS

						Barb is also the only submarine to have ever sunk a train.
25240	USS Guitarro (SSN-665)	XO		Pat Roche	2025-MAY-16	On May 15, 1969, the nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Guitarro (SSN-665) sank while docked at the San Francisco Bay Naval Shipyard
25280	USS Nautilus (SSN-571)	DOT		Gary Schmid	2025-JUN-20	On June 14, 1952, the keel for the USS Nautilus (SSN-571), the first nuclear-powered submarine, was laid by Electric Boat Company in Groton, Connecticut. The USS Nautilus was launched 18 months later and commissioned in September 1954
25300	USS Thresher (SSN 593)	CO		Steve Ricard	2025-JUL-04	On July 9 th the USS Thresher (SSN 593) was launched in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Also, the name's sake of the most decorated submarine in history.
25320	USS Grunion (SS-216)	XO		John Carcioppolo	2025-JUL-18	On July 15 th the USS Grunion (SS 216) sinks the Japanese submarine chasers (25 and 26) off Kiska, Aleutian Islands.
25340	USS Silversides (SS-236)	CMC		Steve Ricard	2025-AUG-01	On July 28 th the USS Silversides sank a 4,000-ton transport with many more to follow.
25360	Sea Leopard (SS-483)	DOT		Chris Callahan	2025-AUG-15	
25380		CO		Bud Atkins	2025-AUG-29	
25400		XO			2025-SEP-05	
25420		CMC		Bob Sharpe	2025-SEP-19	
25440		DOT			2025-OCT-03	
25500	USS Dallas	CO		John Carcioppolo	2025-OCT-17	
25520		XO			2025-OCT-31	

25540		CMC		Bob Sharpe	2025-NOV 14	
25600		DOT			2025-Dec 5	

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

Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) Dates:

25040 Graduate on 16 May: Bob Sharpe 25050 Graduate on 18 July: Bill Sheehan
25060 Graduate on 12 September

Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC) Dates:

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

So, what has been going on since the last Broadcast?

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates USSVI provides a way for all submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. The USSVI supports a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

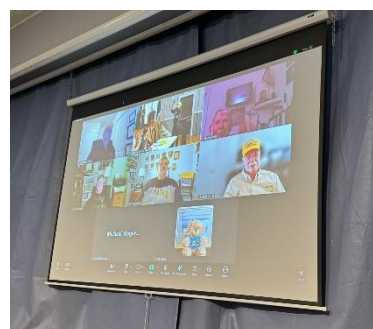


The clubhouse is open Tuesday-Friday 1100-1900 with lunch served from 1100 – 1430 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Thanks to Katrina, Heather, Ashley, Mika, Shelia, and Jessica for all the hard work, dedication and for keeping our clubhouse a go to destination. Luncheon specials and regular menu items are available. Check out our menus <https://www.ussvigroton.org/menus>. Stop in and renew some old friendships. **Speaking of renewing, time to renew your Groton Base and USSVI National memberships.** We are also hosting “Happy Hour” Tuesday & Wednesday 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Come on down and try some drink specials.



Sunday Brunch was held on March 2nd with the Chiefs from SSEP bringing their A game to the Tom Connors Memorial Dining Room. This was their second time in the breach, and they did a fantastic job. SSEP, looking forward to another return next month. Thanks for all you do in support of our Submarine community.

On Monday 3 March we held our Monthly Membership meeting at 1830 in the hall. Over 43 members joined the monthly meeting both in person and via Zoom. Thank you for joining us each month. **We offer Zoom so all of our, almost 1200 members can attend.**



Executive Board members gave an update on the status of the club finances, and upcoming events to be held at the clubhouse. Each committee chair gave updates on events during the month and plans for the upcoming months. Many new things are planned for 2025.



Including Groton Base elections for Base Commander, Treasurer, and Junior Vice. Please consider stepping up to the plate.

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

Join us next month on Monday April 7th for our membership meeting starting at 1830. The Zoom link

will be published prior to the meeting.

On March 8th, SubVets Groton Base joined members of Green Mountain Base and veterans, residents, officials, and families gathered in Veterans Park as Putnam honored Medal of Honor winner Henry Breault by declaring March 8 Henry Breault Day.



Sunday March 9th was held with the Chiefs from SubSchool displaying their talents as mess cooks and doing a fine job. We greatly appreciate the SubSchool Chiefs coming in to provide a warm delicious brunch. Thanks for all you do in support of our Submarine community.

On Saturday March 15th, we held our annual Tom & Carol Connors Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. A big thanks to Paul Skalski, Jeff Walsh, Jim Lawton, Carol Skalski, Elaine Ricard, Jean Petryshun, and Stephen Chisolm for making this a successful day. Also, there were a couple of future Submariners that worked with us all afternoon. They did a fantastic job, and it was a pleasure to have them onboard to assist.



Old Salts hosted Sunday Brunch on January 23rd in the Tom Connors Memorial Dining Room. Over 85 happy diners enjoyed scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage patties, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, French toast, and SubVet sandwiches. Thanks, Old Salts, for another great job. Come on back anytime, we love it when someone else cooks.

On Tuesday March 18th, we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon where the house was packed with 59 attendees. Our guest speaker was Groton Superintendent of Schools, Susan Austin. She was



accompanied by LCDR Terrance Henkle, (Ret.) who is the military science instructor and head of the NJROTC program. Terry and his wife Claudia, along with several NJROTC students have volunteered for the past two years at our Thanksgiving Day feast.

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

Friday March 28th was a HUGE Karaoke night! Standing room only spilled into the Dining Hall. It was so wonderful to see the number of people that showed up to support our club! I only took a couple of photos shown here, as I was just too busy! Thanks to Michaela and Jessica for an excellent job keeping up with everyone. There were a great number of new singers, and so the vet singers hardly had a chance to sing, that is very unusual. I can only hope that we have the same or similar Karaoke night scheduled for Friday April 25! - DJ Jammin' Jim Lawton – pao@ussvigroton.org



We have a lot of major events planned for 2025, so keep an eye out for announcements, Facebook postings or Plan of the Month posted in the clubhouse. If you have any ideas on how to put butts

in seats at **YOUR** club let any of us know. Stop on by the clubhouse have lunch renew your membership and say “Hi.”

Boat Reunion



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

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

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Robert Perritt

Greetings Shipmates,

March saw more work done on the Groton Base Membership program. Our ideas and requirements come from both Base Officers and Committee Chairs. The program has a growing number of automations to make the jobs of officers and committee chairs easier, less manual drudge work.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please feel free to contact me at vice@ussvigroton.org

Bob Perritt
Vice Commander

JR VICE COMMANDER

Paul Skalski

Hello Shipmates,
Spring is in the air.

Spring hours (starting 3/1/2025)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

11:00 – 19:00

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

Lunch hours

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

Happy Hour

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

We hired two additional bartenders. Please welcome Jessica Boone and Erin Cote. Stop by the clubhouse and say hello.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for Tom Connor's Corn Beef and Cabbage dinner. A great success. SubVets keep the tradition alive.

Sunday 4/13 SSEP will be hosting brunch (10:00 – noon). Stop by for a great brunch and support the SSEP fund raiser.

Be Part of the Solution, VOLUNTEER

Paul Skalski

Jr. Vice Commander

jvice@ussvigroton.org

860.823.9641

BASE SECRETARY

David Frease



The March Meeting was attended by (in person (26) and Zoom (7)) for a total of 33 members.

The Election Master issued a call for nominations of eligible candidates for Base Commander, Treasurer and Jr. Vice Commander to all Members in good standing 22 January 2025.

ELECTION 2025

This year three positions are up for election:

Base Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, and Base Treasurer

These three positions are vital to the overall operation and success of USSVI Groton Base. Nominations opened at the 03 February Membership Meeting and will be closed on 15 April 2025. Balloting will take place following the closing of the Nominations.

Please reach out to our current EBoard members if you are interested or have questions about running for any of these positions.

BASE COMMANDER

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

BASE TREASURER

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

- Shall provide oversight, guidance and counsel for those individuals and entities assigned to this Office in the USSVI Groton Base Organization Chart.

BASE JR. VICE COMMANDER

- Shall serve as a liaison between the EBoard and Club Operations Committee on the operation of the Joe Negri Clubhouse.
- Shall maintain, change and or modify events in the Base Calendar as needed or requested.
- During the absence and/or inability of the Base Commander or the Base Sr. Vice Commander to render and perform their duties or exercise their powers as set forth in these bylaws, the same shall be performed or exercised by the Base Jr. Vice Commander; and when so acting the Jr. Vice Commander shall have all the powers and be subject to all the responsibilities heretofore given to or imposed upon the Base Commander or the Base Sr. Vice-Commander.
- Will be responsible for updating and maintaining the Joe Negri Clubhouse Operations Policy and Procedures Manual.
- Shall provide oversight, guidance and counsel for those individuals and entities assigned to this Office in the USSVI Groton Base Organization Chart.

NOMINATION OF BASE OFFICERS

- The Election Master or chairman of the Base Nominating Committee, as assigned, shall conduct the nominations for the (5) elected officers.
- The Election Master or Chairman of the Groton Base Nominating Committee shall issue a call for nominations of eligible candidates for Groton Base Officers to all Members in good standing no later than the date of the February membership business meeting.
- Nominations will remain open until April 15th.
- Nominations, when called for, may be made from the floor at the meeting(s) and shall be accepted upon the oral or written consent of the nominee that they accept the nominations and will serve if elected.
- Nominations may be submitted by any Member of Groton Base in good standing.
- Nominations submitted to the Election Master or chairman of the Nominating Committee, if not submitted by the nominee, must be accompanied by a written consent of the nominee that they will accept the nominations and will serve if elected. The qualifications of the nominee, not to exceed 100 words, may accompany nominations.
- Upon close of nominations the Election Master or Nominating Committee shall make wide distribution of the names and qualifications, in alphabetical order, of all candidates properly nominated using both print and electronic means as viable.

ELECTION OF BASE OFFICERS

- The Base Secretary shall conduct the election for the (5) elected officers except in the Even year when the election of Secretary is held.

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

Correspondence to Report – None.

David Frease
Base Secretary
secretary@ussvigroton.org

2025 ANNUAL APPEAL

Letters mailed to all. If you haven't got yours please contact me. This is the first of two appeals and without your continued support the Clubhouse and Thanksgiving just don't happen.

Annual Appeal is an ask for your support to keep the Clubhouse open. It's more than a place to have a quick lunch or after work beverage. It's in fact, a reminder to all of us of all the Lost Boats and all the pat members who are now on Eternal Patrol. There is just history on every floor and it's your history.

NEW ATM

We expect that this new ATM will provide you with your ability to get cash and will eliminate any days when there are no funds.

Thanks to Chelsea Harvey, Manager, Branch Operations, Groton, and her staff. Keep Navy Federal Credit in mind for all your banking needs.

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS

Everything is on HOLD; we need the funds to go forward.

We offer our building for many submarine-related events, but we need to continue to improve our facilities. I don't think any of us consider our clubhouse is 2nd-rate facilities or services. Yet we have limited bathroom facilities, which limits the availability to our membership.

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

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

2025 COIN featuring Medal of Honor winner Henry Breault the only enlisted Submariner to receive this honor – you need to have this coin. Supply is limited and the cost is only \$10 a coin.

**PLEASE READ – VOLUNTEER OR NOMINATE SOMEONE**

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

While I can't continue as Treasurer after June 30th, I have offered to continue to do all fund raising.

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

YOU DONATE TO SUBVETS GROTON OR THE NATIONAL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

There are a few ways you can donate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT NEW OPTION AVAILABLE – IF YOU WANT A TAX DEDUCTION

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

1. Option to get donations applied and available for Groton.
2. Option to get donations applied to the Brotherhood Fund

https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTc1MjU4 Brotherhood

If you need more information about any fund-raising options please contact Treasurer@ussvigroton.org

Charlie Murray, Treasurer, 860 830 9605



Honors Detail – John “Gumba” Carcioppolo gumba700@comcast.net

The following is the Honors Detail activity from 27 February 2025.

There were 3 Eternal Patrols as follows:

SO3(SS) David S. Socha Passed away on February 10th, 2025, No Honors Detail

CSC(SS) Orville Campbell Passed away on February 14th, 2025, No Honors Detail

EM2(SS) Paul Blanchette Jr. Passed away on February 22nd, 2025, No Honors Detail

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.

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 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.

RED HAT CEREMONIES We recently conducted a Red Hat Homecoming for the USS INDIANA (SSN 789) on 27 March 2025. Despite a chilly, breezy afternoon, we had a great group to welcome our

Shipmates home from a long deployment at the point end of the spear. SUBVETS Members present at the homecoming with me were: Rich Cheatham; Rick Chihocki; Bruce "Frenchy" DeFrahn; Alex Doucette; Bob Dulin; David Dvorak; Bob & Marilyn Gustafson; Cameron Hatchett; Dennis Hopkins; Stan Hungerford; Paul Johnson; Jim Lawton; Jim Leonaitis; Steve Ricard; Paul Roggeman; Peggy Russell and Tom Swaenepoel. We also had members from the VFW Norwich Coffeehouse Rocky Rocky Camaredella, Bob Denesha & Judy Lehosky with us. The homecoming went really well with INDIANA sounding the ship's whistle just before passing us, and we returned 7 rounds from the Saluting Canons.

I often receive requests to be added to the Homecoming notifications. I do not have a specific 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.

Homecoming Pictures courtesy Jim Lawton



USS INDIANA (SSN 789)



Homecoming Detail 27 March 2025

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.

April 2025 Holland Club Report

Winter and St. Patrick's Day are behind us and Easter and hopefully warmer temperatures are ahead.

HOLLAND CLUB LUNCHEONS Our March Holland Club Luncheon we had 59 people in attendance Well done and thank you to all who RSVP'd so that I could give Katrina and Ashley an accurate head count. Our Guest Speaker was Groton Superintendent of Schools, Susan Austin. Susan gave a great presentation on her 45-year career as a teacher and School Administrator and how being a Navy Brat and Admiral's daughter helped influence her career. She also talked about some of the wonderful programs going on the Groton Schools. With her were LCDR Terrance Henkle, (Ret.) who is the military science

instructor and recently established an NJROTC Program. She was also accompanied by Kathy Lotring and Marcy Arthur.

50-50 was won by Al Kinsall and he donated the \$125 back to the Holland Club. Thanks, Al, for the donation.

Many thanks to Katrina and Ashley for a great meal with some great help from SUBSCHOOL Students CSS Victoria Wheeler, MMA David Melosanchez, .IT Karla Richardopez and MMA Alexander Felkner.

We now have speakers booked out through May. Upcoming speakers are as follows:

- **15 Apr Guest Speaker** Capt. Eric M. Sager Submarine Learning Center, CMC Norm Clarke
- **20 May Guest Speaker** CT Veterans Administration Commissioner Ron Welch
- **17 Jun** City of Groton Mayor Keith Hedrick

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



The rest of the pictures can be viewed here: <https://link.shutterfly.com/hT7gjrSDWRb>

HOLLAND CLUB 2025 2025 Holland Club Season is progressing well, we are about two months away from the big day. We have inductees for our ceremony on 7 June 2025, 30 of which are attending and will be on the stage. The second letter has gone out and the deadline for responses is **15 April**. This date is important. If you didn't get the second letter, please contact me ASAP. The purpose of the second letter is for you to provide your guest list for vetting by the SUBASE Police Department. It also contains other

information about events associated with the Holland Club Ceremony. I would prefer that you not email this information because I don't like Personal Identification Information (PII) on the internet. For those of you who would like to attend the ceremony, if you don't have normal base access please mail me a piece of paper by 15 April with your full name, Social Security Number, date of birth and citizenship. This is required for access by SUBASE Security. Again, please mail these not email.

The following is what I think is the final listing of 2025 inductees:

MM1(SS) Lee J. Adams USS ETHAN ALLEN (SSBN 608) 1968
YNCS(SS/DV) David R. Aiken USS TANG (SS 563) 1974
IC2(SS) Glenn Appleton USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN 642) 1975
SK3(SS) Lonnie Lee Barham USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571) 1968
ETN2(SS) Patrick E Boyle USS NATHANAEL GREENE (SSBN 636) 1975
MMCM(SS) Stanley L Clerici USS DACE (SSN 607) 1975
IC1(SS) James A Daniels USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN 598) 1973
CMDCM(SS) Alfred L. De Simone USS LAFAYETTE (SSBN 616) 1975
MM2(SS) Douglas Del Biondo USS ARCHERFISH (SSN 678) 1975
ETR2(SS) Joseph P. Di Luzio USS STURGEON (SSN 637) 1974
MM1(SS) David A Dvorak USS TULLIBEE (SSN 597) 1975
EN3(SS) Stephen C. Garmon USS CLAMAGORE (SS 343) 1975
MM2(SS) Wayne Gates USS GEORGE C MARSHALL (SSBN 654) 1975
ET1(SS) Ronald G Giuliani USS NATHANAEL GREENE (SSBN 636) 1975
MM1(SS) Raymond A. Hamilton Jr. USS SKATE (SSN 578) 1975
LCDR David D. Harper USS STONEWALL JACKSON (SSBN 634) 1975
LT James C. Hedtke USS FLYING FISH (SSN 673) 1975
ETR2(SS) John P. Held USS BILLFISH (SSN 676) 1974
HMCM(SS) Rex E. Henderson USS DANIEL BOONE (SSBN 629) 1966
MMCM(SS) Daniel C. Hubert USS HALFBEAK (SS 352) 1962
LT Charles A. Kappelman USS WILL ROGERS (SSBN 659) 1970
CS3(SS) William B. Konakowitz USS CASIMIR PULASKI (SSBN 633) 1964
MM1(SS) Doug Kostlan USS GREENLING (SSN 614) 1975
MM1(SS) Dennis R. Latz USS WILL ROGERS (SSBN 659) 1975
RM3(SS) James Lavoie USS NATHANAEL GREENE (SSBN 636) 1967
RM1(SS) Stanley D. Miller USS ALEXANDER HAMILTON (SSBN 617) 1975
MM2(SS) Frederick B Nellums USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN 642) 1974
FTG3(SS) Robert H. Nelson USS CUSK (SS 348) 1967
MM1(SS) Richard W. Poole USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (SSBN 656) 1974
MMCS(SS) Maurice L Price II USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (SSBN 640) 1975
PNC(SS) Frank J. Rowe USS VON STEUBEN (SSBN 632) 1975
ETCS(SS) Robert G Stephens USS GUITARRO (SSN 665) 1975
MM1(SS) Mark V Stern USS GLENARD P LIPSCOMB (SSN 685) 1975
TMC(SS) Scott M. Thompson USS WILLIAM H BATES (SSN 680) 1975
MSC(SS) Robert Walker USS SAM RAYBURN (SSBN 635) 1974
FTB2(SS) John R. Wallace USS JALLAO (SS 368) 1964
MM2(SS) Robert W. Wallace USS HENRY L STIMSON (SSBN 655) 1968
PN3(SS) Richard E. Wojtowicz USS ULYSSES S GRANT (SSBN 631) 1975

The following is the Meeting Schedule for 2025

*Tue 01 Apr 25 10:30 am SUBASE

Thu 17 Apr 25 4:30 pm Clubhouse

*Tue 06 May 25 10:30 am SUBASE

Tue 22 May 25 4:30 pm Clubhouse

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

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

Finally, in closing I would like to thank the following individuals who have donated to this year's Holland Club Ceremony: Obie Hill, Mikey Allen and Al Kinsall who recently gave back their 50/50 winnings at the Holland Club Luncheon as a donation. Also, the following inductees who have helped their own cause with donations: Patrick E Boyle; Joseph P. Di Luzio; David A Dvorak; Stephen C. Garmon; Wayne Gates; Ronald G Giuliani; James C. Hedtke; Rex E. Henderson; Daniel C. Hubert; Charles A. Kappelman; Doug Kostlan; James Lavoie; Stanley D. Miller; Robert H. Nelson; Richard W. Poole; Robert G Stephens; Scott M. Thompson; Robert W. Wallace.

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

COLOR GUARD

Bob Sharpe

On Saturday March 8, 2025, I joined the VFW/American Legion color guard and presented the USSVI colors at the Henry Breault Day Celebration. Members of the color guard and SubVet members in attendance made up the Wreath Dropping Detail. Also present were our saluting cannons, manned by our gun captain Brian Hague. The Henry Breault Day Celebration committee and especially Ryan Walker thanked us for our presents and support.

The Color Guard has been requested to present the colors at the USSVI Groton Base's USS Thresher Memorial Service, on Saturday April 19, 2025.

This event is being held at the Submarine Veterans World War II National Memorial East, Groton, CT, starting at 11:00 am. We will muster at 10:30 a.m. I would like to have a minimum of four (4) flag carriers and two (2) flag escorts for this event.

Preferred Uniform:	Black pants	White shirt, long sleeve	SubVet Dolphin tie
SubVet vest	Black shoes	Garrison cap	

Please let me know if you are planning to attend this event and can support being part of this detail. As always, the Detail needs a few 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 2025

Reminder that it is time to renew annual membership. If you are a USSVI Life member you still owe Groton Base dues (unless you are Groton Base Life).

Membership Update

Members – 1088
Life National Members – 860
Base Life Members - 366
Holland Club – 637
Associate Members – 61

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

USSVI GROTON BASE “SILENT SERVICE”

Michael Hodges

Since last month’s report I’ve responded to seven new inquiries and mailed applications to three of those (one member and two former submariners who are joining USSVI). 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.

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

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

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Greg Kane

Help a Shipmate’s Family Member Succeed

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

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

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

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



The Flasher Memorial made it through the holidays, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the 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

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

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

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

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

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

The Department of Veterans Affairs issued a proposed rule outlining plan to expand the locations and time frames for which VA presumes exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides.

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-presumes-exposure-agent-orange-herbicides/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Always a good place to start.

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

Track your appointments, meds and more.

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

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



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

Abraham Lincoln



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



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



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

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



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

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

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

JOIN US IN BRINGING JOY TO SICK KIDS!



K4K: INFO / VIDEO / DONATE

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

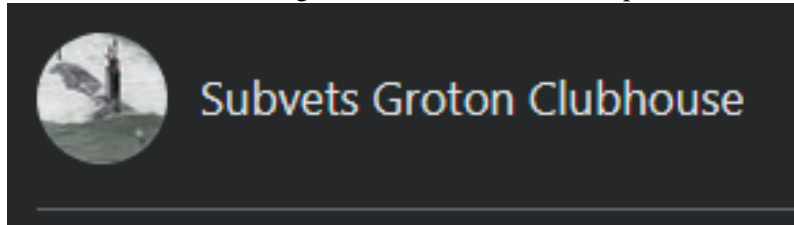
If the above link does not work, try copying and pasting it into your browser.

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

Public Affairs Officer (oao@ussvigroton.org)

Jim Lawton

Recently I was asked via the Website how a member can get information about changes and events that USSVIGroton holds. A great deal of information is posted on our Facebook Account – Look for



However, you should also know that 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>.



Something else of note, we now have a new ATM in the Clubhouse courtesy of Navy Federal!

USSVI GROTON BASE APRIL BIRTHDAY LIST

Happy Birthday To All Who Continue To Celebrate

Stephen Leal	Jackson	04/03	Wesley A.	Dietz	04/19
Robert V.	Erickson	04/04	Harold C.F.	Haugland	04/19
Jeffrey M.	Falk	04/04	Arnold D.	Holmes	04/19
James	Burwell	04/05	David T.	Cornell Sr.	04/20
Leo E.	Gibson	04/05	Ronald K.	Fulton	04/20
James A.	Leavitt	04/05	Jesse L.	Ledbetter	04/20
Charles F.	McMullin	04/05	Ronald N.	Saunders	04/20
Edward A.	Priebe	04/05	Alvin L.	Butters, Jr.	04/21
John David	Robinson	04/05	Jon R.	Pierce	04/21
Michael K.	Scroggins	04/06	Stephen W.	Thompson	04/22
William J.	Giese	04/07	David L.	Larson	04/22
Mark A.	Wiggins	04/07	Clinton R.	Benson	04/23
John E.	Glaub	04/08	Nicholas P.	Dobush	04/23
Robert L.	McManus, Jr.	04/08	Bruce E.	Lobach	04/23
Juan	Davila	04/09	John C.	Yuill	04/23
Martin William	Glavan	04/09	William J.	Gantz	04/24
Gregory C.	Kane	04/09	Obediah P.	Hill	04/24
Charles A.	Maresca	04/09	Howard	Ratzky	04/24
Christopher	Pattee	04/09	Patrick	Roche	04/24
Patrick	Steady	04/09	Douglas R.	Delgado	04/25
Alton	Seamon	04/10	William	Hawks	04/25
Charles R.	Smee	04/10	Michael	Hurley	04/25
John T.	Robinson	04/11	John W.	Kressley	04/25
William C.	Shishmanian	04/11	Jimmy Kirk	Summers	04/25
Orville	Cambell	04/12	John	Tippett	04/25
Kenneth L.	Earls	04/12	Derek F.	Watkins	04/25
Michael Nicholas	Klein	04/12	Daniel	Kramer	04/26
Glen R.	Norris	04/12	David H.	Padgett Jr.	04/26
Homer Darrell	Callicutt	04/13	Todd M.	Grace	04/28
Winthrop	Hayes	04/13	Edward J.	Shaw	04/28
James	Mugavero	04/13	Steven A.	Ricard	04/29
Steven S.	Youel	04/13			
Richard J.	Boorman	04/14			
Joseph P.	Driscoll	04/14			
Michael O.	Eastham	04/14			
Leonard M.	Glendening	04/14			
Peyton W.	Jones	04/15			
William R.	Stoller	04/15			
Bruce E.	Laney	04/16			

Roy Robert	Purtell	04/16
John E.	Kammerer	04/17
Brian R.	Osborne	04/17
Sean T.	Verma	04/17
Paul A.	Whitescarver	04/18
Patrick J.	McGovern	04/18

USSVI GROTON BASE MARCH ETERNAL PATROL LIST

April 1, 2008	William Grady	April 14, 2023	Bruce James
April 1, 2007	Ellis Willingham	April 14, 2019	Jeweldeen Brown
April 1, 2001	James Ward	April 14, 2019	Ralph Vlcek
April 3, 2023	Breck Kearns	April 14, 2017	John MacKenzie
April 3, 2023	Richard Noreika	April 14, 2014	Helen Petranek
April 3, 2022	Joseph B. Miller	April 14, 2014	Vicent Rasp
April 3, 2016	Wilfred Nelson	April 14, 2014	Anthony Salafia
April 3, 2016	Peter Toppa Jr.	April 14, 2014	Milton Weymouth, Jr.
April 3, 2007	Charles Thompson	April 14, 2012	Timothy Comfort
April 4, 2006	Basil Lyon	April 15, 2024	Michael Gilbert
April 5, 2018	Harold McCain	April 15, 2024	William Stellenwerf
April 5, 2012	Edward Hawkins	April 15, 2004	Kurt Menke
April 6, 2024	Kenneth Tracy	April 16, 2022	Darrell Mann
April 6, 2021	Peter Fazio	April 17, 2009	William Jahns
April 6, 2016	John Davis	April 18, 2008	Joseph Flasco
April 6, 2009	Robert Booth	April 18, 2005	Robert Straub
April 8, 2022	Barbara Lee Franciosi	April 19, 2012	John Gill
April 9, 2021	Richard McCannes	April 20, 2022	Donald Crooks
April 9, 2020	Joseph Paskale	April 20, 2021	David Jewell
April 10, 2017	Dexter Holaday	April 20, 2007	Roy Hilt
April 10, 2013	Henry Fulkoski	April 21, 2022	Glen Dean Myers, Sr.
April 11, 2020	Elmer Holmes	April 21, 2020	Howard Jones
April 11, 2017	William Broadbent	April 21, 2008	Paul Skahan
April 12, 2016	Joseph Wojcik	April 22, 2011	Robert Tompkins
April 13, 2011	Donald Snyder	April 22, 2010	William Jacobsen

April 23, 2008 David Helmold
April 24, 2011 Vernon Tolsma
April 25, 2024 Ken Hochstetler
April 25, 2019 Charles Ames, Sr.
April 25, 2014 George Jones
April 25, 2008 Peter Howell, Jr.

April 26, 2013 Sean Keck
April 27, 2020 Gilbert Engels
April 28, 2020 Michael Trombley
April 30, 2023 Edgar Butcher Jr.
April 30, 2005 Ralph Kennedy
April 30, 2005 Constantine Zessos



always keep their memories alive.

I have one consolation that lives with me today. That God is near to them in his own special way. So, God in all Your mercy 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

ITEMS OF INTEREST

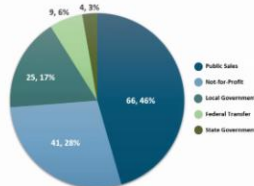


What's Up at the Custom House?



Total Program Transfers

- 66 lights (46%) have been sold via public sales to private citizens.
- 41 lights (28%) have been transferred to not-for-profit organizations.
- 25 lights (17%) were transferred to local governments, which typically are local, town, or county governments.
- 9 lights (6%), primarily located within national parks, were transferred to other Federal agencies.
- 4 lights (3%) have been conveyed to state governments.



This week at the Custom House

Lighthouses can be a dicey subject at the Custom House.

I spent much of the week with lighthouse *lovers* -- three days of zoom talks and discussions with over 60 US lighthouse stewards, owners, partners, and technicians -- an event organized by the United States Lighthouse Society in

partnership with the GSA and NPS. It was all to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000, a federal program that has found owners for nearly 150 American lighthouses.

When times are uncertain, people ask why NLMS accepted responsibility for three lights?

We do it because these landmarks are an integral part of New London's maritime identity, and once they are gone -- that's it.

"When we build...let it not be for present delights nor for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for, and let us think... that a time is to come when these stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say as they look upon the labor, and the wrought substance of them, See! This our fathers did for us!"



John Ruskin
(1819-1900)



Tuesday, April 15, 1:30 pm

JIBBOOM CLUB #1

SEASERVICES
THE FISHERMAN'S CO-OP NORTH AMERICA

Join Jibboom in April when **Gordon Videll**, Chief Executive Officer of **Sea Services North America**, talks about Sea Services' unique co-operative model to use local fishing vessels to provide scout and safety (guard) vessel services for offshore wind developers.

Near the docks of New London, Connecticut, a fishermen's co-op is making history. Established by fishermen for fishermen, **Sea Services North America** serves as the bridge between offshore wind developers and commercial fishermen. Their mission is to improve safety on the open water and create opportunities for local watermen to earn extra income by providing guard, scouting, and environmental compliance services to the growing clean energy industry. --from <https://ss-na.com/>

Jibboom Club is *not* a club, but a friendly gathering, with a speaker and refreshments, that is free and open to all! Please come and bring a friend. Generously sponsored by the Maco Family Fund!

[Garde Arts Center](#)

[Performance Theater in New London, Connecticut](#)

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

All Events

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All Genres ▼

All ▼

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STOMP

Dominion Energy SchoolTime Performance Series

Recommended Grade Levels: K to 12

Schooltime Performances

Learn More

Tue, Apr 1, 2025 | 11:00 am



STOMP

Live on Stage

Tue, Apr 1, 2025 | 7:30 pm

Matchboxes, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, and more fill the stage with energizing beats: the inventive show that's dance, music, and theatrical performance blended in one electrifying rhythm.

Learn More

Buy Tickets



Another Tequila Sunrise

A Tribute to the Eagles

Live on Stage


Sat, Apr 5, 2025 | 8:00 pm

With sweet vocal harmonies and jangling guitars, "Another Tequila Sunrise" captures the LIVE experience of the Eagles and beyond.

Learn More

Buy Tickets

Nautilus Submarine Force Museum




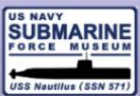
YOUR SERVICE IS NEEDED **TODAY!**

**HISTORIC SHIP NAUTILUS SSN-571
SUBMARINE FORCE MUSEUM (SFM) IS ACTIVELY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS
FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO SERVE AS DOCENTS.**

THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DOCENT
TO GREET PEOPLE AS THEY ENTER THE MUSEUM AND ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MUSEUM PATRONS.
THE DOCENT WATCH MAY ALSO GIVE GUIDED TOURS TO PATRONS OR COORDINATE WITH THE STAFF FOR GUIDED
TOURS AND EVENTS THAT ARE EITHER BY REQUEST OR PRE-ARRANGED BY THE MUSEUMS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.
THE DOCENT WATCH IS NORMALLY A 4-HOUR COMMITMENT ON DAYS THAT THE MUSEUM IS OPENED, ROTATED AND
SHARED BY THE DOCENT TEAM

SINCE THE SHIPS DRYDOCK OVERHAUL IN 2022
THE MUSEUM HAS CONSISTENTLY GROWN OUTREACH BY 300% TO 500% EVERY SIX MONTHS AND THE DEMAND
SIGNAL FOR SUPPORT IN SCHOOLS AND WITH VARIOUS ASSOCIATIONS IS CONTINUING TO GROW. DOCENTS AND
VOLUNTEERS HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN OR CO-LEAD SOME OF THESE EVENTS WITH OUR EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT.

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



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

The Chapel On The Thames



The Chapel on the Thames (COT) is located aboard Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton and offers both Protestant and Roman Catholic worship services for active-duty retired veterans and their families. The COT was originally conceived and constructed as a memorial to submariners, Officers and Enlisted who lost their lives in the service of their country during the Second World War. The COT was opened on December 3, 1944, 80 years ago and in it you will find many submarine related themes including beautiful stained-glass windows and pews labeled with brass plates to memorialize specific submarines from

World War II.

All with base access are welcome to participate in scheduled services which are on Sundays as follows: Protestant Service at 9:30 AM and Roman Catholic Mass at 11:30 AM. COT is located directly across the parking lot from Dealey Center movie theater. We hope you will take the time to visit us at this historic chapel.”