



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC.



BOAT NOTES



For those who served beneath the waves

G R O T O N B A S E

Groton, Connecticut

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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 20th 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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Groton, CT 06340



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



Greeting from the Base Commander

It is hard to believe that it is already October 2026, 31 days short of three quarters of the year has been put into the record books. It's hard to believe that the final quarter of 2026 is only 32 days away. Greetings to our Submarine Community, family and friends from the "Submarine Capital of the World".

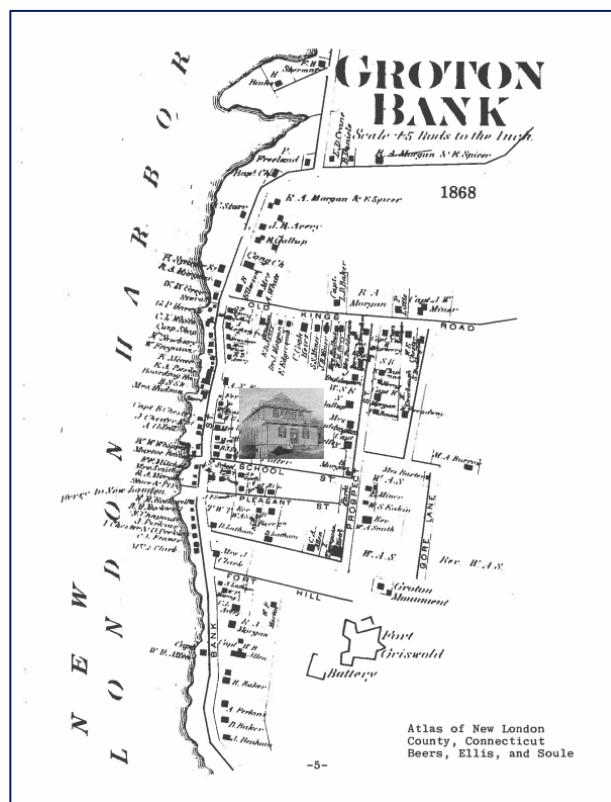
Sticking with the history of our building at 40 School Street. It was built in 1895 when the Borough of Groton was first incorporated, the building served as a public meetinghouse and was used by the Groton Town Court primarily for voting, legal, and community purposes. Our building, the Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse has some great historical significance to the City of Groton and the surrounding area.

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.

There are a couple of events on October 17th that would be great to see members attend.

Cribbage Tournament 12PM-4PM

Followed by our Monthly Dinner at 5PM



October: Submarines in Crisis, Tragedy, and Turning Points

October carries a particular weight in the history of undersea warfare. It is a month marked by crisis, sacrifice, and moments when individual judgment shaped the fate of nations. In September we reflected on the origins of the submarine force and the lived experiences of our members during the Global War on Terror. October invites us to look at the Cold War's most dangerous confrontation, the early tragedies of submarine development, and a strange historical episode that mirrors modern fiction. Together, these moments form a narrative of tension, innovation, and the quiet professionalism that defines the Submarine Force.

The Submarines of the Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962

October 1962 remains the most dangerous month in the history of the nuclear age. For thirteen days, the United States and the Soviet Union stood on the edge of a conflict that could have destroyed entire cities. Submarines were at the center of this confrontation. Their movements, their limitations, and the decisions made inside their hulls shaped the course of the crisis in ways that were not fully understood until decades later.



The story begins quietly on the first day of October, when four Soviet Foxtrot class diesel submarines departed Sayda Bay. Their hull numbers were *B-4*, *B-36*, *B-59*, and *B-130*. Each carried a crew of almost 80 men and a single nuclear tipped torpedo. Their mission was to reach Cuba and operate under strict radio silence. The Soviet leadership believed these boats would provide a forward presence and, if necessary, a retaliatory capability. What they did not anticipate was how poorly the Foxtrot class would perform in tropical waters.

As the submarines moved south, American intelligence began to detect unusual activity in Cuba. By the middle of the month, reconnaissance flights confirmed the presence of Soviet medium range ballistic missiles on the island. President John F. Kennedy convened the Executive Committee of the National Security Council, and the Navy began preparing for a naval quarantine. On October 22, 1962, Kennedy announced the quarantine to the world. The Navy surged into action. Destroyers, aircraft, and anti-submarine warfare assets deployed across the Atlantic. American submarines moved into strategic positions to track Soviet movements and provide intelligence. Diesel boats and nuclear submarines alike were placed on heightened alert.

The Soviet Foxtrots soon found themselves hunted. American destroyers used practice depth charges to signal the submarines to surface. To the Americans, these were warnings. To the Soviets, they sounded

like the opening shots of war. The Foxtrots were not designed for prolonged submerged operations in warm water. Temperatures inside the hulls exceeded one hundred degrees. Batteries drained quickly. Carbon dioxide levels rose to dangerous levels. The crews were exhausted and increasingly convinced that war had already begun.

The most dramatic confrontation came on October 27, later known as Black Saturday. American forces detected *B-59* and began signaling with practice depth charges. Inside the submarine, the situation deteriorated rapidly. The boat had been submerged for too long. Air was running out. The crew was disoriented and frightened. Captain Valentin Savitsky believed that hostilities had already begun and considered arming the nuclear torpedo.



It was at this moment that Vasily Arkhipov, the flotilla commander embarked aboard *B-59*, made the decision that would alter history. Arkhipov had previously survived the catastrophic accident aboard *K-19*, an experience that taught him the consequences of escalation. Soviet protocol required the consent of three officers to fire the nuclear torpedo. Arkhipov refused to authorize the launch. His insistence on surfacing rather than striking may have prevented a nuclear exchange. Arkhipov's role has become clearer in recent decades. His decision is now recognized as one of the most consequential acts of individual judgment in military history. Analysts have noted that submarine encounters in contested maritime spaces, whether in the Caribbean in 1962 or the South China Sea today, can become flashpoints where tactical decisions carry strategic consequences. Arkhipov's refusal to escalate is a case study in how restraint at the tactical level can avert catastrophe at the strategic level.

When *B-59* finally surfaced, her crew was barely able to stand. The boat's hull was blistered from the heat, and the men were physically depleted. Yet they had avoided disaster. In the days that followed, additional Soviet submarines were forced to surface under similar conditions. Each encounter carried out the risk of misinterpretation, and each surfacing underscored how fragile the line between peace and war had become.

American submariners also felt the weight of the moment. Nuclear boats shadowed Soviet movements, monitored communications, and provided intelligence to the fleet. Diesel submarines operated in support of anti-submarine warfare forces. The quiet professionalism of the Submarine Force was essential to the Navy's ability to manage the crisis without escalation.

By the end of October, diplomatic negotiations succeeded. The Soviet Union agreed to withdraw its missiles from Cuba, and the United States pledged not to invade the island. The crisis began to ease, but

the lessons of October 1962 endured. Submarines had been at the center of the confrontation. Their presence shaped decisions on both sides. The Foxtrots demonstrated the dangers of deploying diesel boats in tropical waters under nuclear rules of engagement. American submarines demonstrated the value of stealth, endurance, and intelligence in managing escalation.



H. L. Hunley, 15 October 1863



October 15, 1863 marks one of the most tragic moments in early American submarine history. On that day, the Confederate submarine *H. L. Hunley* sank during a demonstration in Charleston Harbor, killing her inventor Horace Hunley and seven crew members. The event is often overshadowed by Hunley's later success, the sinking of USS *Housatonic* in February 1864, but the October disaster reveals the perilous learning curve of early undersea innovation.

Hunley was a remarkable vessel for her time. She was a hand cranked, cigar shaped submarine built of iron and powered entirely by human muscle. She represented a bold attempt to break the Union blockade and introduce a new form of naval warfare. Yet she was also unforgiving. Her interior was cramped. Her air supply was limited. Her buoyancy was unpredictable. Every dive carried risk.

On the morning of October 15, *Hunley*'s crew prepared for a routine demonstration. Horace Hunley himself took command, determined to show that the vessel could be operated safely and effectively. The submarine slipped beneath the surface, her crew turning the crank that powered her propeller. But something went wrong. *Hunley* failed to resurface. When the submarine was finally recovered, the crew was found still at their stations. Death had come quickly, likely from asphyxiation or flooding. The tragedy shocked Confederate naval authorities and raised serious questions about the viability of

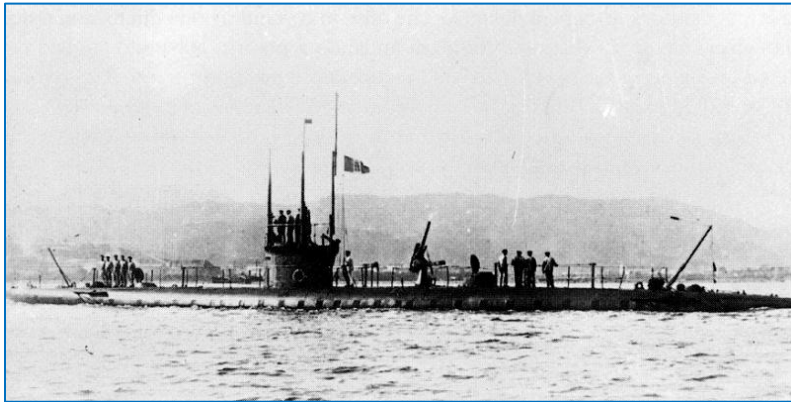
submarine warfare. Yet the Confederacy pressed on, repairing *Hunley* and preparing her for further operations.

The October sinking is a reminder of the courage and determination of early submariners. They operated without modern life support systems, without reliable ballast controls, and without the benefit of decades of engineering experience. Their sacrifices paved the way for the development of safer, more capable submarines in the decades that followed. Submarine

development has always required risk. That risk is borne by those willing to enter untested machines and trust their lives to experimental technology. The men who died in *Hunley*'s final demonstration were pioneers, and their story deserves to be remembered as part of the broader history of undersea warfare.



The Real Red October, 3 to 4 October 1914



Long before Tom Clancy imagined a Soviet submarine captain attempting to defect, a real submarine drama unfolded in October 1914. In a strange and little-known episode, Italian naval officer Angelo Belloni commandeered submarine *F-43* in an attempt to provoke Italy into entering the First World War. His actions, though ultimately

unsuccessful, created an early parallel to the fictional Red October and revealed the political tensions surrounding submarine operations in the early twentieth century.

Italy in 1914 was officially neutral. The country was torn between alliances and internal political divisions. Belloni believed that Italy should join the war on the side of the Allies, and he saw an opportunity to force the issue. On the third of October, he took control of *F-43* without authorization and attempted to sail her toward enemy waters, hoping to create an incident that would compel Italy to act. The plan was audacious but flawed. *F-43* was a small, early submarine with limited range and unreliable systems. Belloni's crew was not fully supportive, and the vessel soon encountered mechanical difficulties.

Italian authorities quickly realized what had happened and moved to intercept the rogue submarine. By the fourth of October, Belloni was forced to abandon his plan, and *F-43* was returned to port.

The incident became a minor scandal within the Italian Navy, but it also revealed the symbolic power of submarines. Even in 1914, submarines were seen as instruments of national will, capable of shaping political decisions and altering the course of conflict. Belloni's attempted provocation demonstrated how submarines could be used not only for military operations but for political theater.

For modern readers, the story offers a fascinating historical footnote. It shows that the idea of a rogue submarine captain, acting on personal conviction, is not purely fictional. It also highlights the early challenges of submarine command, discipline, and national policy. Though Belloni's actions did not change Italy's course, they remain a curious and compelling moment in the history of undersea warfare.

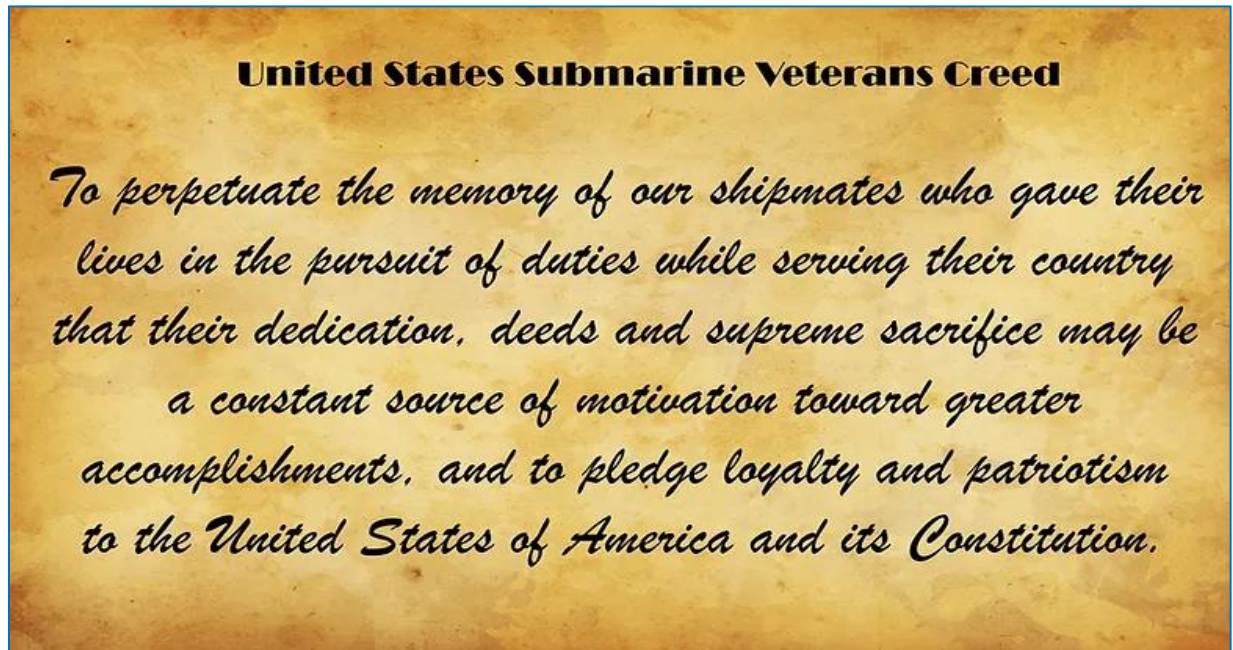


Conclusion

October is a month of crisis, tragedy, and strange turning points in the history of the Submarine Force. From the tense days of the Cuban Missile Crisis to the tragic sinking of *H. L. Hunley*, and even to the unusual events surrounding *F-43* in 1914, October reminds us that submariners have always operated at the intersection of innovation, danger, and national decision making. These stories, taken together, highlight the ingenuity, endurance, and quiet resolve that define the Submarine Force. They also remind us that history is shaped not only by nations and fleets, but by individuals who make difficult decisions in moments of uncertainty. As we reflect on October's milestones, we honor those who served, those who sacrificed, and those whose judgment helped preserve peace in the most dangerous moments of the past.

WHO WE ARE: We are all United States Submariners! Members, whether currently active, retired, reserve, or honorably discharged veterans, were all part of the elite undersea fighting force of the United States Navy. We are all volunteers who passed stringent testing and 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

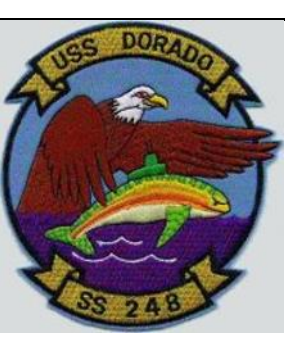


ABOUT US: Groton Base was established as the first USSVI Base in 1964 following the tragic loss of the USS Thresher SSN-593.

Our creed serves to remember them and "all US Submariners on Eternal Patrol."

Lost Boats

Lost Boats – October

	USS Seawolf (SS-197)	Lost on Oct 3, 1944, with the loss of 83 officers and men and 17 US Army troops when she was sunk just north of Moritai by USS Rowell, a Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another Destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.
	USS S-44 (SS-155)	Lost on Oct 7, 1943, with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles. S-44 was on her 5th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, S-44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.
	USS Wahoo (SS-238)	Lost on Oct 11, 1943, with the loss of 80 men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of one of the great sub skippers of World War II, LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo was on her 7th war patrol. Wahoo had won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was lost to depth charges dropped by a Japanese patrol aircraft.
	USS Dorado (SS-248)	Lost on Oct 12, 1943, with the loss of 77 men when she was sunk in the western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she had departed New London and was enroute to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane that received faulty instructions regarding bombing restriction areas or a German U-boat that was in the vicinity.

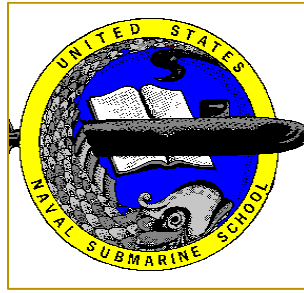
Groton Base Boat Notes – October 2026

	USS Escolar (SS-294)	Lost on Oct 17, 1944, with the loss of 82 men. She was on her 1st war patrol and was most likely lost to a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea.
	USS Shark II (SS-314)	Lost on Oct 24, 1944, with the loss of 87 men when she was sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was on her 3rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the tragedy, it turned out that the freighter had 1,800 U.S. POWs on board.
	USS Darter (SS-227)	Lost on Oct 24, 1944, when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan and was then destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by USS Dace. Winner of one Navy Unit Commendation, Darter had sunk a heavy cruiser and damaged another and went aground while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation in hopes of getting in an attack on a battleship.
	USS Tang (SS-306)	Lost on Oct 25, 1944, with the loss of 78 men in the Formosa Strait. Tang was on her 5th war patrol. Tang ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage and had won two Presidential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner including CDR. O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.
	USS O-5 (SS-66)	Lost on October 29, 1923, with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Abangarez off the Panama Canal.

Groton Base Boat Notes – October 2026

Plan of the Month – October 2026

Date	Time	Action	Description
10/4	1000	Event	SSEP Hosting Brunch
10/5	1830	Meeting	Monthly Membership Meeting
10/8	0900	Event	BESS Graduation – Steve Ricard
10/13	All Day	Event	Clubhouse closed for Kitchen Hood Vent Cleaning
10/16	0900	Event	New London Veterans Coffeehouse with Breakfast
10/17	1200 – 1600	Event	Cribbage Tournament – Higham Hall
10/17	1700	Event	Oktoberfest Monthly Meal
10/20	1100	Event	Holland Club Luncheon
10/23	0900	Event	BESS Graduation – John Carcioppolo
10/23	1100	Event	SOAC Graduation – TBD
10/23	2000	Event	Halloween Karaoke Costume Party
10/25	1000-1400	Event	SubSchool Hosting Brunch
10/26	1730	Meeting	EBoard Zoom Meeting



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

Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) Updates

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 July August 28th, September 11th, and September 25th.

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 Finback (SS-230) BESS Class 26380

The following information is for BESS Class 26380, named after the USS Finback (SS-230). The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.

USS FINBACK - SS-230



USS Finback (SS-230), a Gato-class submarine, was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the finback. Nine of Finback's 12 World War II patrols in the Pacific were designated as "successful"; she received 13 battle stars for her service and is credited with having sunk nearly 70,000 tons of enemy shipping.

Finback was laid down on 5 February 1941 at the Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery, Maine. She was launched on 25 August 1941, sponsored by Mrs. Genevieve G. Watson, wife of Rear Admiral Adolphus E Watson, commandant of the 4th Naval District and the Philadelphia Navy Yard in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was commissioned on 31 January 1942.

During her ninth war patrol off the Palaus and west of the Marianas, Finback was once again assigned lifeguard duty during aircraft strikes covering the opening of the Marianas operation. She returned to Majuro 21 July 1944, then steamed to the Iwo Jima, ChiChi Jima, and HaHa Jima area of operations near the Bonin Islands where she was assigned lifeguard duty on her tenth war patrol. Finback's crew rescued

multiple downed pilots during some of the heaviest fighting of the war. One of the fortunate aviators rescued was LTjg George H.W. Bush who would go on to become the 41st president of the United States.

On her eleventh war patrol, she sank a freighter on 16 December, and on her twelfth and final war patrol in the East China Sea saw little action. The Japanese surrendered ending World War II while she was at Pearl Harbor for an overhaul. Finback spent the next few years training young submariners before she reported to the Atlantic Reserve Fleet for inactivation on 4 January 1950. Finback was decommissioned later that year.

Finback received 13 battle stars for her World War II service—nine of her 12 war patrols were designated as “successful,” and she was credited with sending 59,383 tons of Japanese shipping to the ocean’s floor.

More on the USS Finback (SS-230) can be found [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Finback_\(SS-230\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Finback_(SS-230)) and <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/ships/submarines/finback-ss-230.html>.

On July 31st, the BESS Class named after USS Finback (SS-230). had 76 students with a class average of 76%. 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 ITNC(SS) Michael Taylor, FT1(SS) Abbott, STS1(SS) Boyd, and STS2(SS) Davis. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was Director of Training Captain Mark Robinson. Guest Speaker was MMACS(SS) David Lee, and Chaplain, LTjg David Rogers gave the Invocation and Benediction.

USSVI Groton Base and Holland member, John Glaub, was the Sub Vet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SR(SU) Brienna Nichols. 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 BESS LCPO ETVC(SS) Alejandra Capistran to SA(SU) Clayton Pierce. 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) Ricky S. Casey by SubSchool DOT 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 Acting CMC David Leeto SN(SU) Charles D. Bruining. 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. We look forward to all these fine Sailors joining our organization when they receive their fish.

USS Seadragon (SS-194) BESS Class 26400

The following information is for BESS Class 26400, named after the USS Seadragon (SS-194). The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.

USS Seadragon (SS-194), a Narwhal-class submarine, a very large cruiser submarine and one of the "V-boats", was the third ship of the United States Navy to bear the name.



USS Seadragon (SS-194), a Sargo-class submarine, was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the leafy seadragon.

Seadragon's keel was laid on 18 April 1938 by the Electric Boat Company at Groton, Connecticut. She was christened and launched on 21 April 1939, sponsored by Mrs. May F. Richardson, wife of Admiral James O. Richardson, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, and commissioned on 23 October 1939.

Following a shakedown cruise off the United States East Coast and in the Caribbean Sea, Seadragon returned to New England and, on 23 May 1940, departed New London, Connecticut, for the Philippine Islands. With Commander, Submarine Division 17 (ComSubDiv 17) embarked, she arrived at Cavite on 30 November and commenced training operations as a unit of the Asiatic Fleet. A year later, she prepared for overhaul; and, by 8 December 1941 (7 December east of the International Date Line), she had started her yard period at the Cavite Navy Yard.

Two days later, on 10 December, she and sister ship Sealion, moored together, were caught in an enemy air raid against Cavite. Sealion took a direct hit which demolished her and damaged Seadragon. The force of the explosion ripped off part of the latter's bridge. Fragments and splinters punctured her ballast tanks and conning tower, killing one and wounding five. The heat of the explosion scorched her hull and blistered her black paint.

Temporary repairs were accomplished by Canopus (AS-9) and Pigeon; and, on the night of 15 December, she embarked members of the Asiatic Fleet staff. At 0000, 10 December, she headed out of Manila Bay.

Escorted by Buhner (DD-222), Seadragon moved south, via Surigao and Makassar strait to Soerabaja, where she disembarked her passengers; received further repairs, exclusive of a paint job; and prepared for her first war patrol.

On 19 January, she set a southerly course; and, on the 22d, she arrived at Guam to complete her last war patrol.

The next day, *Seadragon* continued on to Pearl Harbor, and, after refit, returned to California to provide training services to naval air units. In May, she was transferred back to the Atlantic Fleet and, for the final months of the war, provided training services at Guantanamo Bay and Key West. In September, she moved north to New London, thence to Boston where she was decommissioned on 15 November 1945. Less than four months later, on 8 February 1946, she was recommissioned to assist in the inactivation and preservation of submarines, including U-boats, at Hingham, Mass. On 29 October 1946, she was again decommissioned and berthed as a unit of the Atlantic Reserve Fleet where she remained until struck from the Navy list on 30 April 1948.

Seadragon earned 11 battle stars during World War II.

More on the USS Seadragon (SS-194) can be found [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Seadragon_\(SS-194\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Seadragon_(SS-194)), and <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/s/seadragon-i.html>.

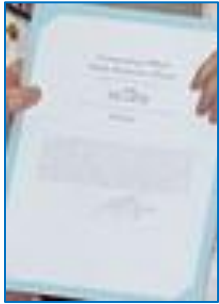
On September 11th the BESS Class named after USS Seadragon (SS-194) had 61 students with a class average of 77% and 3 Sailors graduating with Distinction. To graduate with Distinction requires an average of 90% or higher. Congratulations to this class of future Submariners who have finished one of many milestones in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments, whether “A” School or direct assignment to their first submarine. Instructors involved with today’s ceremony included ITNC(SS) Michael Taylor, STS2(SS) Marcos, FT2(SS) William, and SN Christian. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool XO CDR Bryan Chapman. Guest Speaker was Master Chief Dean Marvin USN Retired. SubSchool Chaplain, LT David Rogers gave the Invocation and Benediction.



USSVI Groton Base and Holland Club Member STSCS(SS) Bob Sharpe was the SubVets Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SN(SU) Jordyn E. Jamchi. 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 SN(SU) Erik Garciamartinez. 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 SN(SU) Zachariah D Greaves, by SubSchool 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 Master Chief (Ret) Dean Marvin to SA(SU) Duncan L. Parker. 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. We look forward to all these fine Sailors joining our organization when they receive their fish.



BESS Graduation Schedule

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

BESS SUB VET Representative

Class No.	Class Name	Graduation Date	Command Rep	SUBVETS Rep	Notes
26420	USS Archerfish (SS-311)	<i>25 September 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
26440	USS Barbero (SS-317)	<i>08 October 2026</i>		Steve Ricard	
	USS Nevada (SSBN-733)	<i>23 October 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
	USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619)	<i>06 November 2026</i>		Dave Gustafson	
		<i>20 November 2026</i>		Steve Ricard	
		<i>04 December 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
		<i>18 December 2026</i>		Bob Sharpe	

Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) And Sub Vet Representative

Class No.	Graduation Date	SUBVETS Rep	Notes
26050	18 September 2026	Bill Cavanagh	
26060	13 November 2026	Bill Sheehan	

Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC) And Sub Vet Representative

Class No.	Graduation Date	SUBVETS Rep	Notes
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, and above all say Hi to our dedicated staff. I owe a big thanks to Heather, Hodge, Mika, Ollie, 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>.

How do you want to start your ride home.

With this?



Or

This?



Stop in and unwind from your hard day at work.

 **SUNDAY**
SEPTEMBER | **13**
Sunday



On Sunday, 13 September we were supposed to participate in the beginning of the Maritime Heritage Festival with a Tolling of the Boats Ceremony. This ceremony was to mark the end of World War II and to honor the 52 submarines and crewman lost but, Mother Nature had a different plans with a complete washout of the day's events.

The only event that took place was the burger burn at Outer Light Brewing Company. A big thanks to Kurt and the whole gang at Outer Light Brewing Co.

On Sunday, September 13th, Chief Selects hosted a fantastic brunch with over 40 happy diners on a rainy miserable day. Big thanks to the soon to be newly minted Chiefs for manning the kitchen and keeping the tradition alive.



On Monday, 14 September at 1830 we held our Monthly Membership meeting in the hall. The Executive Board gave a brief update on the status of the club finances and upcoming events to be held at the clubhouse. Each chairman or appointed representative gave the status of their committee.



Congratulations to John Carcioppollo for receiving the USSVI 2026 Silver Anchor Award. With all of the work that John has done in support of Groton Base's Holland Club and Honor Detail.

The monthly dinner for n Sunday, September 27th, Chief Selects hosted a fantastic brunch with over 40

We offer Zoom so all our almost 1,000 members can attend.

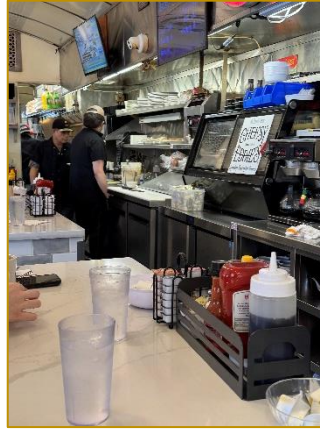
Join us next month at our Membership meeting on Monday, October 5th (at 1830. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting.

On Tuesday, 15 September, we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon in “Higham Hall”. Our guest speaker was CO/COB PCU ARIZONA (SSN 803) CDR Christian Olsen and MMACM(SS) Cody Henry. Big thanks to Kait Hodge who cooked up a delicious chicken, broccoli, and pasta lunch.

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

The monthly dinner on Wednesday 23 September was cancelled.

On Sunday, September 27th, Mother Nature again canceled all weekend events at the clubhouse. So we had brunch elsewhere.



We have a lot of open dates to plan your events for 2026, so keep an eye out for announcements, Facebook postings, or the 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 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 Heather 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>

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

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

USS ARCHERFISH (SSN 678) Reunion – 24 – 26 September, Groton CT. Contact John C. 860-514-7064, or Gumba700@comcast.net

Senior Vice Commander

Dominick Grimaldi

Over the next few months Dom will be settling into the role as Sr Vice and looking for ways to bring former members back to SubVets.

Junior Vice Commander Jim Lawton

Hello Shipmates,

We need to thank our Clubhouse staff for stepping in to keep the club active during these summer months as people take vacation. We encourage you to show up and provide me with feedback on how we can improve to get you there!

We have been getting some updates to the clubhouse! We have to close on Tuesday October 13th as we have a contractor coming in to clean the Hood Vent in the kitchen. We have plans to remodel the lady's restroom, and that will be coming soon. Tuesday continues to be a slow day, and as such we have started shutting down after lunch at 2PM (1400), and we may not open at all on Tuesday soon unless business picks up.

We are evaluating the heating and air conditioning in the bar / dining hall. We are evaluating options to be able to maintain the temperature consistently; this has always been a problem, and we are listening to all of your feedback.

Summer Clubhouse Hours (As of March 31, 2026)

Tuesday **11:00 – 14:00**,

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

11:00 – 19:00

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

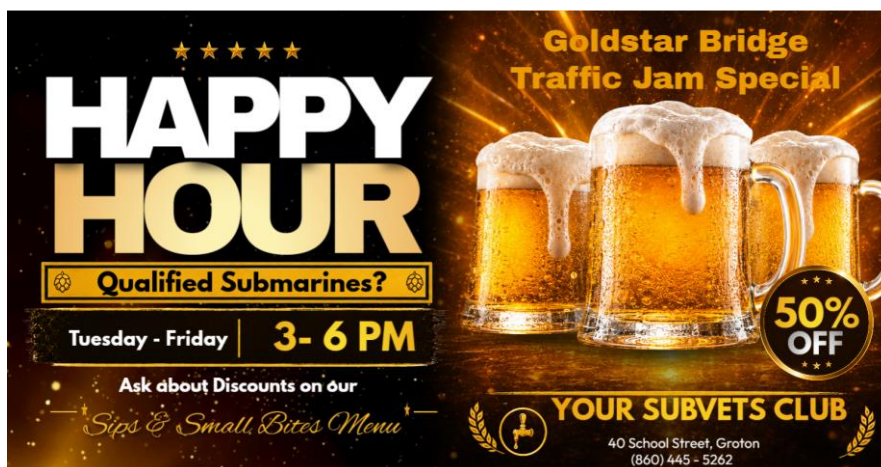
Kaitlyn Hodge is our kitchen crew as you would already know if you would stop in.

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!

Happy Hour

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday **15:00 – 18:00**



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

Jim Lawton

Jr. Vice Commander

jrvice@ussvigroton.org

860.984.5497

BASE SECRETARY Alvin G. Kinsall

NOTARY REPUBLIC – Notice to members - If you need to have a legal document notarized, I can provide you with this service free of charge.

Alvin G. Kinsall
State of Connecticut
Notary Republic

My Commission expires 02/29/2028
860-460-0027

BYLAWS - Subcommittee meeting is 22 September 2026, at 1530 at the clubhouse. Committee Chairs are requested to review their Policy and Procedure Manuals for updates and deletions. Forward your review of comments to the Base Secretary by November 1st.

SUBMARINE FORCE LIBRARY MUSEUM:

- The museum needs volunteers, all watches, every day except Tuesdays. Please consider volunteering for a watch or two times a month. For more information and to stand a UI watch, to see if its for you, give me a call or Jennifer Bourque at Jennifer.a.bourque2.civ@us.navy.mil

Groton Base Boat Notes – October 2026

- Museum is open daily 9-5pm during the summer schedule and 9:4:00 during the winter schedule except on Tuesdays
- October 19-30 Museum is closed for Fall maintenance
- Docents will be changing to winter hours on November 1st
- The museum library is available by appointment on Monday, Wednesday Thursday and Friday 9-1130 and 1300-1545

The Museum is holding its 6th annual golf tournament on 15 October at Lake of Isles Golf Course. (Active duty, retirees, civilians) \$200pp E7 and above, \$185 E6 and below. Register your foursome online by 5 October at ussnautilus.org/golfregistration and GOOD LUCK!

BASE CORRESPONDENCE: This past month I received an email on 03 August from Nathan Nelson, ETVSA (SU) who requested a certificate or some form stating that he while at NAVSUBSCHOL had volunteered for SUBVETS Memorial Day 2025. The following letter was drafted and sent to Mr. Nelsons Command.

Nathan Nelson
ETVSA (SU) Nelson, Nathan
TRITRAFAC BANGOR
2000 Thresher Ave
Silverdale, WA 98315

To whom it may concern:

Be advised that this letter is to confirm that Nathan Nelson while at NAVSUBSCHOL, U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London, did volunteer for the U.S. Submarine Veterans (SUBVETS) Groton base during its 2025 Memorial Day ceremony.

Steven Ricard /S/
USSVI Groton Base, Base Commander

Alvin G Kinsall
Base Secretary secretary@ussvigroton.org
(860)460-0027

BASE TREASURER – Charlie Murray

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS

SEPTEMBER (maybe delayed because we have Events we do not want to cancel)

Tentative in planning: Ladies' Room Bathroom. Complete renovation. Target start is mid-month. FYI, please remember that you can send in a separate donation for this project; as in the past, Michael Shusta, our contractor, will work to get some materials donated. Remember that National will help us with funding as a match on expenses up to \$15,000.

If you want to make a separate donation for this project, please consider it since this is the last of the building's bathrooms to be renovated.

THANKSGIVING APPEAL (HOLIDAY FUND RAISING) 2026

Letters mailed out. This is our efforts to support our local submarine community during the Holiday season. This is a great event for us to share our time and clubhouse with subschool sailors and the entire submarine community

Did you know we bring out a hot thanksgiving dinner to our members who have limited access to getting out on any holiday. We include any home limited veterans and especially to the spouses of our members on Eternal Patrol.

Always a great event & appreciated by our active duty & Navy families.

FINANCIALS:

Financial information thru September 2026 will be posted on our website

All expenses have been paid to date. (note that we are able to do this because of the successful operations of the Clubhouse and by the submarine community donations.

Reimbursement – Notice: Going forward, please coordinate any expenses with the Treasurer in advance of any expense. We have staff with debit cards that can be used to purchase necessary items. To limit processing checks, we will be reimbursing via Zelle and PayPal. We are still working through a few issues with setting up Venmo.

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 your 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.

Now – you can set up a Legacy Fund in your name with the National Charitable Foundation. Ask if you are interested

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

Suggested Groton Building Improvements:

- 1st level ladies' room – tentative late August....we are still short of funds to do this work
- Fix the front door, get back to using the buzzer (with luck it is fixed before you read this)
- Add locks to provide additional security to in building doors (over the summer)
 - o Lock installed between bar and hallway from front door... reason in the future we may want to isolate the bar from events in the Hall
- 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 – will recheck before winter

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.

(We have fund accounts with the Charitable Foundation. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3), so your donations to our accounts at the Foundation are tax deductible.)

(as always, we will acknowledge all donations)

IF YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE ADDITIONAL DONATIONS, 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

BUILDING INTERIOR CLEANUP:

1. Work on the 3rd floor will continue in June or during summer, with scraping old paint off one area of the walls and 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.
 - c. Need a crew maybe 5 to relocate items
3. A new space to be identified on the 3rd floor for any donations that come into the club. I hope that in left in a central location we can more quickly evaluate whether or not to keep the donations.
NOTE: It's extremely hard not to accept these donations from navy families; remember the items were personal belongings to their family members.

BUILDING EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE

THANKS TO : Larry Williamson for repairing the buzzer on the front door.

Base Chaplin



Chaplain's Report/Honors Detail - John Carcioppolo 860-514-7064
Gumba700@comcast.net

The following is the Honors Detail activity from August 26th.

We were notified of a large number of members who passed away this month.

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

FTCS(SS) Floyd E. Hodge Jr. departed on Eternal Patrol on 3 November 2025

EM1(SS) Ralph Masi departed on Eternal Patrol on 18 March 2026. There were no honors presented.

TMCMS(SS) Barry Russack Departed on Eternal Patrol on 16 August. The Honors Detail Presented Honors on Sunday 27 September. We had a great turnout. Present for the Honors Detail were Earl Colella, Rob Davis, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Bob Fedder, Bob Gustafson, Dave Gustafson, Obie Hill, Dennis Hopkins, Harold Haugland, Kirk Haugland, Mark Kashar, Jim Lawton, Bob Sharpe, and Paul Skalski

IC2(SS) Dell Howse departed on Eternal Patrol on 2 September 2026. There were no honors presented.

RM1(SS) Jerry K. Patterson Departed on Eternal Patrol on 04 September 2026. There were no honors presented.

ICC(SS) Nathan Isenhour departed on Eternal Patrol on 12 September 2026. There were no honors presented.

ET2(SS) Forrest E. Cramer Jr. departed on Eternal Patrol on 20 September 2026. The Honors Detail will muster on Friday evening, October 2nd at the Mystic Funeral Home located on Route 1 Mystic CT. The Honors Detail will muster at 1715 and go on at 1730.

Please make sure that your families have instructions to contact us in the event of your passing. This information should be kept with insurance documents, wills, and other like documents.

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. 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.

Note: A quick note on emails and broadcasts. I recently learned this with Holland Club emails. If you have "UNSUBSCRIBED," you will not receive any emails or updates from the club, including notifications for Honors Detail and Red Hat events. If you would like to "subscribe" again for the emails, please contact the Base Commander.

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.

October 2026 Holland Club Report

LUNCHEONS We had a great luncheon in September with 57 people in attendance. Our guest speaker was CO/COB PCU ARIZONA (SSN 803) CDR Christian Olsen and MMACM(SS) Cody Henry gave a great talk about his career and PCU ARIZONA.

A special thank you to Jim Lawton and our SUBSCHOOL Students (**WILL PROVIDE THIS LIST SEPARATELY**) and Kate Hodge for putting on the meal.

I would also like to thank SC Wes Norton for providing the students, and to Dee Carcioppolo and Bob Dulin for collecting the money. Last but not least, thanks to Kim Beagle for taking pictures. Pictures will be provided next month.

The 50/50 was won by Dave Frease, who won \$160.00

Groton Base Boat Notes – October 2026

Upcoming Speakers are as follows:

- **20 October Guest Speaker** – Damien Cregeau the author of "Portraits of Patriots". Please RSVP by 15 October if you plan to attend.
- **17 November Guest Speaker** – CSS-12 CAPT Thomas Bullock and CMDCM(SS/EXW/IW/DV) Dustin Bruner
- **15 December Guest Speaker** Commander, Undersea Warfare Development Center (UNSEAWARDEVCCEN) RDML Eric J. Rozek

Holland Club 2027 – Save the date: 05 June 2027 SUBASE New London. Nothing else to report right now.

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

USS ARCHERFISH (SSN 678) Reunion – 24 – 25 September, Groton CT. Many thanks to Heather Norton, Jim Lawton, Jules Zipp and Paul Skalski for your support in hosting Reunion 2026. Your support made for two great reunion events. **Thank you. John C.**

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

Color Guard – Robert Sharpe

During the month of September, the color guard provided the presentation of colors at the USS George C Marshall SSBN-654 and the USS Archerfish SSN-678 reunion banquets.

The next scheduled color guard muster will be in November for the presentation of colors on Veteran’s Day.

The color guard needs a few new members to assist in events. If you are interested, please email me at bobsharpe@hotmail.com or on my Cell at (860) 501-6161 and leave a message.

Robert ‘Bob’ Sharpe
Color Guard Captain
bobsharpe@hotmail.com

Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee

Unfortunately, I had to cancel the Sock Hop on September 23, with only 2 people signed up.

Next up on **Saturday, October 17, 2026 @ 5 PM \$25 person.** The signup sheet is at the bar. Sign up early. Cut off date is October 9, 2026. **Due to stabilizing beef prices, we have reduced the cost to \$25.00 per person.**

Our guest chef will be Jr. Vice / PAO Jim Lawton. Jim will be preparing an authentic German meal.



Oktoberfest Dinner
Saturday, Oktobert 17,
2026 - 5PM
**Beef Saurbraten, Potato
Dumplings, Blaukraut,
Rolls, Desert**
**\$25.00//Per Person, Reservations Required No Later
Than Oktober 9, 2026, Call/Sign Up at Your SubVets!**
**SubVets Groton,
40 School Street,
Groton, CT -06340
(860) 445-5262**

Please give Jim your support.

*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 Mathis 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. I will look at all suggestions when I build the 2027 schedule

SubVets Monthly Dinner Attendance 2026				
Month	Weekday	Time	Theme	Attended
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 Conor's Corn Beef and Cabbage	83
18-Apr-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Easter Dinner Polish Night	45
02-May-2026	Saturday	5:00 PM	Kentucky Derby Potluck	20
05-June-2026	Friday		Holland Club Induction Steak Dinner	
04-July-2026	Saturday		After Parade Picnic – Outer Light	Appr 200-250
18-July-2026	Saturday	6:00 PM	Potluck Social	20-25
14-Aug-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Hillbilly Night – Chicken Dinner	40
23-Sep-2026	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Sock Hop Cancel (only 2 signed up for the event)	Cancel

SubVets Monthly Dinner Schedule 2026			
Month	Weekday	Time	Theme
17-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.

As of September 26th, Groton Base had 1068 members. If you log into the new national website at <https://ussvi.org>, you can look yourself up, and edit any of the info on yourself, like previous commands, phone numbers, etc. If you have not logged into the new website, you will use your old email and username. If you forgot your password, select forgot password and you will be sent an email to your email address on file. If you no longer have access to that email, we can still get you into the website. Just contact me and I will assist you. I also want to remind you that if you have a national lifetime membership, you can also get a base lifetime membership. The cost is based on your age and is the same as what national membership costs. I highly recommend lifetime memberships as you never have to remember to pay your dues.

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, Jim Kading at kadingj@hotmail.com. 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).

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 – 1,068
Life National Members – 828
Base Life Members – 404*
Holland Club – 652
Associate Members – 40

**-This is old data, I have no way yet to pull this out of the new database.*

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

Membership Chairman
Jim Kading
kadingj@hotmail.com



USSVI Groton Base DMV Liaison

Things have slowed down a bit with only five email inquiries since my last report in September. I did hear back from one happy “customer” who joined USSVI in June and has already received the “Silent Service” plates he applied for.

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

Michael Hodges, DMV Liaison

Scholarship Committee

GROTON BASE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN NOVEMBER 2026

If you have questions related to the Groton Base Scholarship Program, please contact Gregory Kane, Groton Base Scholarship Chair, at 860-989-1426 or via email at Gregory.Kane@CCSU.Edu.

Memorial Committee



The Memorial has been the site of quite a few ceremonies lately, and more ceremonies are on the schedule throughout the month of September. This is always a gratifying occasion for the committee who works hard to make sure the Memorial looks its best throughout the season. Many thanks to Dick Warnock who tends to the gardens throughout the summer months.

To join the Memorial Committee, contact Marian Galbraith at 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@ctdav.org

Hey Navy, it looks like Oct is about to get us. Cooler weather means dress in layers. Keep some blankets and other warm stuff in the back of the car. If you get stuck somewhere, you'll be set.

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/>

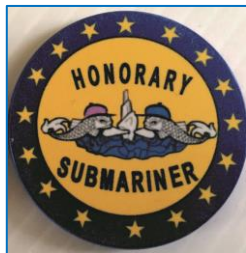
Are you a high-tech Sailor? The VA put out a helpful link to navigate their Apps. [How to use cool features in VA's official mobile app - VA News](#)

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 DEDUCTIBLE 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 203 668-9131

Public Affairs Officer Jim Lawton

As PAO, I have been trying to find a device that will broadcast audio during the monthly meeting to those who wear hearing aids. So far, I have invested \$130.00 and come up empty. If anyone has a suggestion for a device that I can purchase that will meet this need, do not hesitate to contact me at the email below. I refuse to give up on this venture so that everyone attending can hear without question. So far, I have a Homespot Audio Broadcaster (HS-BA210), and an Avantree Audiocast-4. Neither one covers the requesting shipmate's hearing aids. So far, we have had great luck with the Avantree Audiocast. I will send out details about these devices, and have them available at the meeting. I have also added a PDF that describes Hearing Aid Audio support to our website. You can download it here.

<https://www.ussvigroton.org/pdf-documents>.

Karaoke Night Success!

Our Karaoke for October is the 23rd, and it is also our Halloween Costume Party! Dress up and enjoy the fun!



Jim Lawton, Webmaster / PAO – pao@ussvigroton.org

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 October Birthday List

Happy Birthday to All Who Continue to Celebrate for the Month of October

Last Name	First Name	DOB		Last Name	First Name	DOB
Amuan	Reynaldo A.	25		Lopez	Rene J.	15
Anderson	Paul W.	06		Lubs	James	09
Atkins	Edwin F.	05		Mapes	David A.	13
Baker Jr.	Harrison	28		McKenzie Sr.	John Stephen	11
Blonigen	Gerald R.	31		McMullin	Robert A.	20
Boe	David E.	08		Moore	Richard	14
Bohannan	William L.	17		Mordarski	Jamie	25
Bookmiller	Eric	02		Moreau	Steve	23
Booth	David H.	16		Nelson	Robert Harry	07
Boyd	David H.	10		Neubauer	Michael D.	13
Bruce	Jon E.	04		Norris	John Keller	19
Burley	John Arthur	12		Obman	Frederick L.	09
Carner	George H.	12		Patton	Kevin M.	18
Cefaratti	Joseph R.	29		Perrin	Bradley S.	25
Clark	Charles Bennett	20		Peters	Gerald	07
Confer	Robert D.	14		Poole	Richard W.	27
Conklin	Craig J.	01		Pope	Allen E.	20
Curtis	Dennis E.	02		Powell	Raymond	23
Dalebout	Merlyn N.	02		Reichart	Glenn	26
Decker	Donald	07		Reiff	Stephen D.	27
DeClerck	Jeffrey A.	02		Rider	Dudley G.	11
Diani	Robert L.	04		Rivera	Sergio	02
Dobbs	Clinton E.	16		Robbins	Leonard W.	02
Durkin	John F.	26		Roberts	Joe Wendell	11
Engle	James R.	13		Schwarz	Jeffrey	19
Farrell Sr.	Sean	14		Sharpe	Robert G.	23
France Jr.	Frederick M.	22		Skalski	Paul	28
Gabor	Lyle B.	15		Small	Robert F.	07
Gentry	Kerry F.	10		Smith	Fred	23
Glueck Jr.	William J.	08		Snyder	David L.	10
Hansen	Robert E.	12		St. George	Gilles	10
Harrison	Mary	17		Stack	Edward J.	30
Hartl	Richard P.	10		Stern	Mark V.	06

Haumer	Mike A.	03		Stevens	Brian P.	12
Heist Sr.	Robert P.	03		Sturgeon	Kipp S.	05
Hemmann	Robert	09		Toland	Thomas A.	07
Hickey	Thomas G.	31		Tortoriello	Joel A.	22
Higgins	Garry	07		Viar	Cyle B.	03
Hundley	Joseph	05		Vining	Kenneth C.	25
Hyland	George P.	03		Waldron	Dale O.	13
Jacobs	Anthony J.	31		Ward	Theodore W.	05
Johnson	Paul A.	17		Webster	David	27
Jones	F. Terry	20		Wetzel	Robert L.	10
Kadlecik	Ronald	24		White	Frank Anderson	05
Kurtzman	Randall M.	21		Whitehead	Billy	05
Linne	William	11		Wiesemann, III	Arthur C.	02
Litton	Charles Chance	21		Wilson	Caleb	30

USSVI Groton Base October Eternal Patrol List

Date	Last Name	First Name		Date	Last Name	First Name
10/23/11	Alton	Frank		10/28/09	Ludy	Harold
10/06/22	Barber	Donald		10/08/25	Mazza	Timothy
10/21/23	Beagle	William		10/06/98	McAteer	Edward
10/03/17	Beals	Theodore		10/31/12	McDevitt	Joseph
10/23/13	Beaman	William		10/21/11	Mueller Jr.	Donald
10/20/19	Beaudoin	Leon		10/04/09	Mulcahy	James
10/09/11	Bowen	James		10/03/10	Nolan	Elton
10/10/25	Brown	Raymond F.		10/04/15	Ostrander	Robert
10/04/21	Cheshire	Dee		10/17/16	Paquette	Adrien
10/19/03	Davidson	William		10/02/20	Payette	James
10/19/20	Davis	Gordon		10/13/25	Perritt	Robert
10/25/04	Emery	Richard		10/05/11	Petersen	Martin
10/23/25	Faella	Antonio		10/22/17	Philipp	Frederick
10/11/14	Falvey, Jr.	Earle M.		10/02/17	Platia	Salvatore
10/24/13	Fitzpatrick	William		10/03/15	Rankin, Jr.	Waldo
10/30/10	Flaman	Lawrence		10/30/09	Robinson	Glenn
10/02/07	French	Ralph		10/01/20	Schoolcraft	Donald
10/12/09	Glendening	Jack		10/01/03	Schram	Robert
10/21/13	Glover	Harry		10/15/18	Scott	Kenneth
10/03/21	Hallquist	Stephen		10/24/12	Sergio, Sr.	Michael
10/24/24	Harding	Wayne		10/30/05	Sprinkel	Wesley
10/03/05	Harris	Earl		10/09/06	Terrill	Donald
10/06/17	Harris	Jefferson		10/30/12	Tortorigi	Raymond

10/08/17	Hogan	John		10/10/24	Tulinski, Sr.	Edward
10/05/20	Holland	David		10/02/23	Wallace	James J.
10/22/22	Kitchens	Billy		10/18/08	Weaver	Rufus
10/26/17	Kukish, Jr.	Peter		10/25/13	Wheeler	Kenneth
10/21/21	Labrecque	Roger		10/04/22	Wulftange	William
10/01/21	Lange	William Gordon		10/29/04	Zimmerman	Toni
10/18/24	Lees	David				
10/09/13	Limpert	Frank				
10/01/25	Lombardi	Dave				



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. The header is dark blue with the park's name in white. Navigation links include 'HOP ON HOP OFF CRUISES', 'BOAT TOURS', 'SITES, TOURS AND PROGRAMS', 'PLAN YOUR VISIT', and 'ABOUT'. There is a 'DONATE' button and a search icon. A date notice states: 'Today is Thursday, October 1, 2026. Hop-on Hop-off Harbor Cruises are not running today.' The main content area features a large image of a group of people standing in front of a stone monument. To the left of the image, the text reads: 'A Walk in the Park. Join us for a series of walking tours throughout October, presented by the Thames River Heritage Park. Learn More'.

<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: 'About', 'NL Harborcam', 'Calendar', 'Rental', 'Lighthouses', 'Library', 'News', 'Amistad', and 'Education'. Below the header is a large image of a group of people, with a blue text box overlaid that reads: 'The Custom House Maritime Museum will close on Saturday, October 3, between 1:30 and 4 PM.' At the bottom, a message states: 'New London Maritime Society is a family of four historic sites dedicated to preserving our local maritime heritage. Please DONATE to our New Roof #StandUpForScience #Museums4Science'.

Garde Arts Center



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Add a little sparkle to every month of the Garde's Centennial Season!

From unforgettable films and live music to comedy, family entertainment, and once-in-a-century celebrations, there is always something special waiting for you.

Choose your favorites – or join us for them all – and celebrate 100 years of the Garde!

<https://gardearts.org/>



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

Nautilus Submarine Force Museum



The Chapel on the Thames



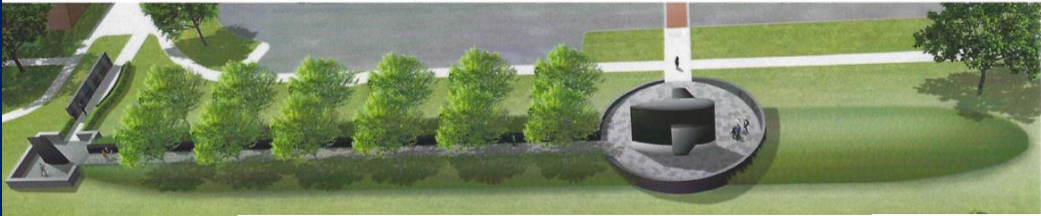
The Chapel on the Thames (COT) is located aboard Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton and offers both Protestant and Roman Catholic worship services for active-duty retired veterans and their families. The COT was originally conceived and constructed as a memorial to submariners, Officers and Enlisted 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



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 contact Phil DeRose.