



BOAT NOTES



GROTON BASE "FIRST AND FINEST" QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

2023 Issue 1



BOAT NOTES NEWSLETTER

Remembering Pioneers of the Cold War



USS ODAX SS484

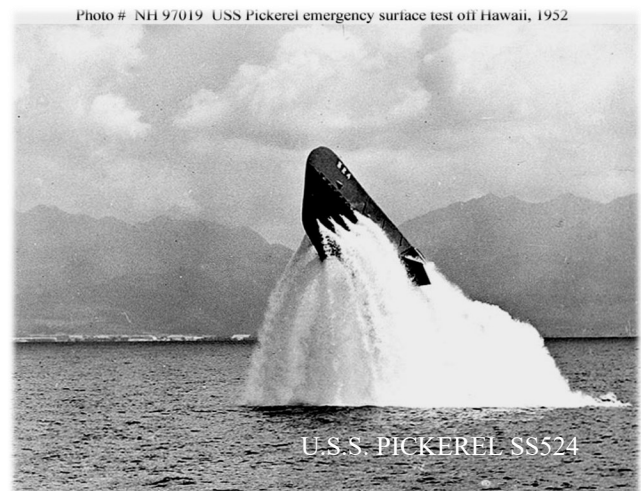


Photo # NH 97019 USS Pickerel emergency surface test off Hawaii, 1952

U.S.S. PICKEREL SS524



USS Daniel Webster SSBN 625



USS PARGO SSN 650



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2022 Issue 4



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“WHO WE ARE”



United States Submarine Veterans Inc.

ABOUT US—Groton Base was established 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.”

OUR CREED:

The purpose/creed of USSVI is to perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their 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.

**Download the Groton Base Calendars (Pg 32)
here in Boat Notes for January, February and March**

OR

**FOR UPCOMING EVENTS,
HERE'S WHERE YOU GET THE LATEST INFORMATION**

www.ussvigroton.org
<https://www.facebook.com/SubvetsGroton>



► **Newsletter (Boat Notes) Editor:** Alvin (Al) Kinsall

Groton Base Officers and Committee Chairs and Points of Contacts

Base Commander

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Jr Vice commander

Paul Skalski
Jrvice@ussvigroton.org

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Secretary@ussvigroton.org

Treasurer

Charlie Murray,
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Eboard Advisor

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Immediate Past Base Commander

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Base Chaplain

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Liquor Permittee

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Paul William Orstad

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BOAT NOTES

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

Deadlines for submission

Articles of Interest

Sea Story's

1st Quarter ~ December 1 of Previous year

2nd Quarter ~ March 1

3rd Quarter ~ June 1

4th Quarter ~ September 1

Contacting USSVI Groton Base

US Mail: USSVI Groton Base
40 School St
Groton CT, 06340

Phone: (860) 445-5262

Email: All officers and committee chairs can be reached by email as noted on the left side of this page.

We provide a lot of information in regards to USSVI Groton Base via email and if you are not on the Base's email listing contact us and we will ensure you are on it.

Webpage: Our webpage is
<https://ussvigroton.org/>



www.ussvigroton.org
<https://www.facebook.com/SubvetsGroton>

Want to join a committee?

Want to help or run a Club event?

Want to get involved in the administrative side of the Base? Become an Officer?

Contact any Base Officer to get more information and to get involved!!!

Commander Steve Ricard
commander@ussvigroton.org

VCDR Robert Perritt
vice@ussvigroton.org

Paul Skalski
jvice@ussvigroton.org

Al Kinsall
secretary@ussvigroton.org

Charlie Murray
treasurer@ussvigroton.org

GROTON BASE CLUBHOUSE OPERATING HOURS

HOURS OF OPERATION
MONDAY & TUESDAY
CLOSED
WEDNESDAY 1100—1700
THURSDAY & FRIDAY 1100
TO 1900.

LUNCHES ARE SERVED
WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY
AND FRIDAY
1130 TO 1400

SCHEDULE YOUR NEXT
EVENTS, BUSINESS MEETING,
PROMOTION PINNING,
RE-ENLISTMENT OR LUNCH-
CON
CALL TODAY 860-445-5262

RELATED NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Commander—
William Andrea—
wcandrea@bellsouth.net
 (561)-790-1287

National Region Director—
LES ALTSCHULER
DirectorNERegion@outlook.com
 (609)395-8197

Northeast District One—District Com-
mander
JEFFREY R. WALSH
USSVI_NERD1@yahoo.com

CLUB MANAGER GILL HENRY



Lead Bartender
Heather Norton

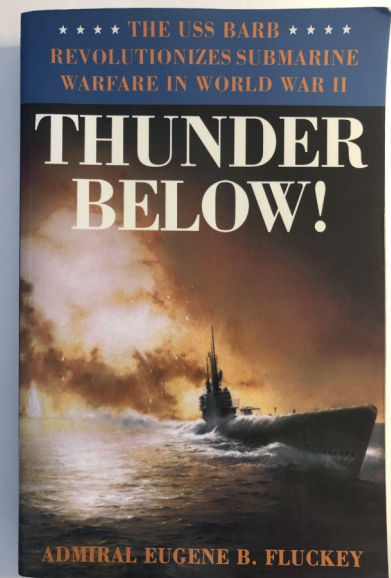
"A must read for Bubbleheads"

A story about a Boat and its crew!
The USS BARB

THUNDER BELOW

By Admiral Eugene B. Fluckey
Medal of Honor winner

An exciting read—you won't want to put it down!!



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Steve Ricard



Shipmates, families, and friends of USSVI Groton Base, I wish you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. The year 2022 is now in the history books and by all counts it was a highly successful year for the Domenic "Joe" Negri Clubhouse, home of USSVI Groton Base. With COVID under control, the clubhouse continues to loosen restrictions. The plastic shields went away, we expanded the hours of operations, and we started accepting bookings for events.

We had a couple of our longtime staff members and dear friends, Jillian, and Laura, move onto new duty stations with their spouses. We wish them well; they will be missed. With their departures we needed to fill some very big shoes and quickly. Replacements were hired and soon assumed the duties and responsibilities required as they began to warm the hearts of members and friends alike, creating great meals and carrying on stimulating and thought-provoking conversations at the bar.

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.*

We held many great events over the year most importantly Memorial services honoring our Shipmates both living and on Eternal Patrol. We participated in the 4th of July parade celebrating the birth of our country. We held the long waited 2020, 2021 & 2022 Holland Club Inductions ceremony. The Jr. Vice and our chef started Thursday evening dinners and threw in a few special dinners along the way i.e. St. Patrick's Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, Holland Club Steak night and Domenic's homemade pizza and karaoke night. There were numerous parties such as, Super Bowl, Kentucky Derby, Tony's 100th birthday and Karaoke nights with our own DJ "Jammin" Jim Lawton. I want to thank SubVettes for giving their time and delicious side dishes and desserts that make our post event receptions a nice treat. The Sunday Brunch challenge was issued by the crew of the USS Delaware, a challenge accepted by Old Salts, and then dropped because no one wanted to be embarrassed. Nothing ventured nothing gained. I think all said and done we accomplished a lot over the year. We'll keep putting together the events, you just need to keep

coming.

Our big event this year, as in years past, was Thanksgiving. The weather was fantastic, and the support was even better. Jeff Walsh, our Thanksgiving Chairman, and the meals to-go leads Shirley Patenaude and Kimberly Beagle estimated over 1400 meals were dished out both to-go and sit down. Feedback from our young Sailors and their parents came in different ways either on TV, on Facebook, or in person. What I cannot emphasize enough was the support from our members and outside organizations from around the state. The donations of turkeys, pies, vegetables, paper goods, coffee, and desserts were overwhelming. Did I mention homemade pies? Those were the first to go. The volunteer support was very impressive to say the least. Members stepped up to support this effort in record numbers both monetarily and through volunteer hours. Groups from Rand Whitney Container Corporation, Millstone's Veterans Resource Group, Veterans Equine Therapeutic Services, General Dynamics Electric Boat, Progeny Systems, Westbrook Elks, 2 Brothers Pizza, Monaco Ford, Table Talk Pie, and The Hometown Foundation all provided support over and above. From the bottom of my heart, "Thank You."

Your outpouring of support for our organization has been tremendous and as good stewards of your clubhouse, we continue to make improvements both inside and out. Again, without your help, this would not be possible, and I thank you for your generosity and volunteerism.

We are only as strong as our members, please visit your clubhouse and bring a fellow Submariner who is not a member.

Have a great quarter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve A. Ricard".

Steve Ricard

REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED

Wear RED on Friday

Updated 012023

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER**Robert Perritt**

Hello shipmates;

The Holidays are behind us. Hope all you shipmates had a great holiday season. As 2023 kicks off, we can now settle down and get to work on those things we need to do to make this new year as successful as last year. I want to thank my colleague's who serve with me on the executive board for their tolerance during my recent illness. To my shipmates here at USSVI Groton Base—Happy New Year—Stay safe and stay healthy.

vice@ussvigroton.org.

V/r

Bob Perritt

UPDATED 012023

JR VICE COMMANDER**Paul Skalski**

Shipmates, families and friends we have some existing events for 2023. Were bringing back the Fun Pool League every Wednesday at 5:00 pm. Come on down, bring a friend. The bartenders will have weekly prizes.

Old Salts will be hosting two brunches at the club, January 29 and February 26. Come enjoy brunch and help support the Old Salts.

Zooming along. February 11 there will be a Roast Beef dinner. March 11 we will have the famous Tom Connors Corn Beef dinner. Sign up sheets will be at the bar.

Brunch support. We need your help. Please consider gathering a few shipmates and man the kitchen flat tops. Ask the bartender for details.

If your in the neighborhood stop by the clubhouse, pull up a chair and have a bowl of chili or another item from our lunch menu. Checkout out the weekly specials

I would like to wish everyone a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

v/r,

Paul Skalski

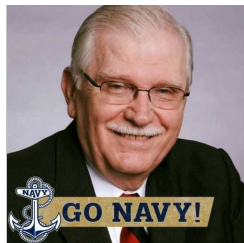
JrVice Commander

Captain Color Guard

USSVI Groton Base

jvice@ussvigroton.org

860.823.9641

Base Secretary**Alvin (Al) G. Kinsall*****Message from USSVI Groton Base Secretary—***

- **HAPPY NEW YEAR** as we welcome in 2023!

This year is an election year. Starting at the February membership meeting I will be asking for nominations for Base Commander, Base Jr. Vice Commander and Base Treasurer. Nomination for these three officer positions will close on April 15, 2023. Anyone interested in running for any of these positions can either be nominated by a fellow member or you can self nominate yourself.

We are always working hard to make your read of Boat Notes a pleasurable experience.

**2024****60th Anniversary USSVI / Groton Base**

Last edition Groton Base announced we will be hosting USSVI Groton Base 60th Anniversary of USSVI Groton Base. We are well into the planning process. Currently, we plan to arrange the Anniversary around key events such as Submarine School graduation, a lower base Boat tour, Boat reunions, Holland club induction and Grand Banquet not to mention the river cruises and casinos as an additional option. There will be plenty to do during the four day event.

The 2024 Anniversary committee is encouraging boat reunions where all events are planned and the is co-chaired by Al Kinsall, Robert Sharpe and Paul Skalski. The 20 committee members have been selected based on their field of expertise. This team plans to provide exciting venues, activities, tours, and events that will welcome you, your family, guests and friends for the event.

We are reaching out to Boat reunion coordinators and their committees to plan their reunions during the event. The Theme **“Come back, where your submarine career began; Groton Connecticut.”** Enjoy the events of the Anniversary.

[Follow us on Facebook](#)

<https://facebook.com/subvetsgroton/>

UPDATED 012023



Send your sea stories to Groton Base Secretary. You can also write your comments about this and other sea story published in Boat Notes—“your quarterly magazine.” Just follow the below link.

Membership Update

It is time to renew for 2023. Please remember that if you are a Life Member with National in most cases you will still need to pay base dues. You can renew at the Clubhouse with cash, check or credit card, by mail to the Clubhouse address, or online on our website at: <https://www.ussvigroton.org/dues-renewal>

Interested in Helping?

If you have an interest in helping on the Membership Committee, please contact Jeff Flesher. We can use support with soliciting new members, data entry and maintaining accurate records, and managing our membership updates and communication.

Membership Status

Base Members – 1221
National Life Members – 843
Holland Club Members – 617
Associate Members - 72

New Members

QMC(SS) Richard Chihocki, Qualified 1971 USS Skipjack
MM3(SS) James Engle, Qualified 1971, USS Robert E. Lee
MM3(SS) Charles Groomes, Qualified 1968, USS Robert E. Lee

New Active Duty Members

ITS1(SS) David Chungata, Qualified 2013 USS Springfield
MMN1(SS) Zachary Rowley, Qualified 2021, USS Delaware

New Associate Members

Brian Hague
David Lersch
Carol Meade
Mark Definger
Ralph Bret



[Q4 Boat Notes Update.docx](#)

Regards,
Jeff

Jeff Flesher
USSVI Groton Base
Membership Chair
membership@ussvigroton.org

Memorial Committee Update

The sail of the USS Flasher will soon be undergoing a makeover! The Navy's History and Heritage Command (HHC) is financing a refurbishment of the sail of the USS Flasher, a focal point of the USSVI WWII National Memorial East located in Groton. The refurbishment will include stripping paint and rust from both the inside and outside of the sail, treating surfaces to inhibit future rusting, and painting the structure inside and out. The process is expected to take about 90 days and should begin in the early months of 2023. HHC awarded the contract to LBI, a local company which was responsible for the refurbishment of the NR1 at the Submarine Force Museum and Library.

In preparation for the work, the Memorial Committee has removed all the tools and supplies which were stored in the sail. We are grateful to the City of Groton Public Works Department which assisted in the removal of equipment and is storing all equipment until the refurbishment is complete.

Marian Galbraith

Mktgalbraith@gmail.com

860-460-8740

2023 USSVI GROTON BASE COINS

2023 USSVI GROTON BASE COINS are on order now, tentative deliver early February 2023

SPECIAL - 2 COINS FOR 2023 - Thanks for Bob Dalin and Sheila Herring

NON SIBI SED PATRIAE (not self but country)



We still have 34 2022 coins available, buy them now and add to your collections....



CHAPLAINS REPORT**Earl Colella**

Happy New Year Shipmates,

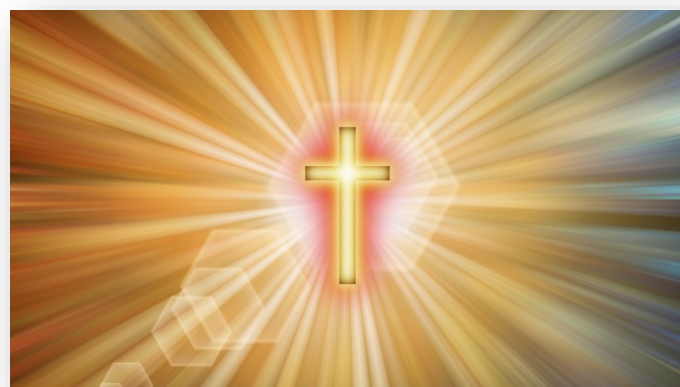
I pray all of you had a wonderful Christmas and holiday season. I am thankful for having this opportunity to serve as the Groton Base Chaplain. I am very gratefully for all the help and support that John Carcioppolo has given me. With my schedule, I never could have taken on this role this without John's support.

When we conduct an Eternal Patrol Ceremony with the Base Honor Guard, I can't help but notice that I am the youngest person there and I am 65. If any of you young members (like me) would like to be part of the Base Honor Guard, it would be greatly appreciated. It means a lot to the families of our shipmates on Eternal Patrol when we conduct the ceremony. I believe that if you become a member of Base honor Guard, you will never regret it. Even if you only made it out a couple of times a year, it would be appreciated.

As we enter 2023, I ask that you keep all our current U. S. Service members and their families in your prayers. Please pray for peace in the world, especially for Ukraine, Israel, and wherever there is conflict in our world. Try and take time at least once a day about what you are thankful for and give thanks. Living each day with an attitude of gratitude and very uplifting and can make the darkest of days a little brighter. Finally, As we close out 2022, let's take a minute to remember those we lost this year.

ETCM(SS) Kenneth L. Small
 DK3(SS) Jack Casey
 MMCM(SS) Barry Gran
 EM1(SS) John Michael Farro
 FTCM(SS) Ralph Donald Pelletier
 QM1(SS) Robert Marvin Folks
 SK2(SS) Edward Dallas Greenwold
 CS3(SS) Basil Angelo Asteriades
 LCDR John Craggs
 RMCM(SS) Scott Wayland Howard
 HMCM(SS) Steven A. Jackson
 IC1(SS) Joseph B. Miller
 ENC(SS) Darrell L. Mann
 SO3(SS) Donald R. Crooks
 LCDR Glenn Dean Myers, Sr.
 SN(SS) Alexander Mahew Angus, Jr.
 HMCM(SS) Charles R. Williams
 EM1(SS) Samuel B. Brody
 MMCM(SS) Lawrence L. Davis
 MMCS(SS) William L. Doe
 RMC(SS) Roger "Frenchy" LaBrecque
 RT2(SS) Sterling "Jack" Higgins
 LCDR Brian D. Turley
 Associate Ronald Marcoux
 MMCM(SS) Aubrey B. Hall

"THERE IS A PORT OF NO RETURN, WHERE SHIPS
 MAY RIDE AT ANCHOR FOR A LITTLE SPACE. AND
 THEN SOME STARLESS NIGHT THE CABLE SLIPS,
 LEAVING ONLY AN EDDY AT THE MOORING PLACE.
 GULLS VEAR NO LONGER, SAILOR REST YOUR OAR.
 NO TANGLED WRECKAGE WILL BE WASHED



QM3(SS) Kevin P. Keegan
 FTM3(SS) John Paull Anderson
 EM2(SS) Frederick G. Edlund
 IC1(SS) Paul D. Curry
 Associate Barbara Lee Franciosi
 Associate Allen Paul Wallen
 TM3(SS) David Rosenbluh
 EM3(SS) Arthur Rasimus
 TMC(SS) Richard S. Geddes
 MM1(SS) Marvin Luke Serruto
 CDR William L. Breed
 MMCM(SS) James D. "Jim" Sullivan
 EM3(SS) Thomas A. Majewski
 HTCM(MD/DV) Billy Kitchens
 RMCM(SS) Walter L. Wooten
 MM1(SS) Danny R. Buchan
 EMCM(SS) Andrew J. Elnicki
 TMCS(SS) Howard W. Booth, Jr.
 SK2(SS) Richard LaCombe, Sr.
 EM1(SS) Wilfred Kosmas Anhalt
 FTBCM(SS) Donald F. Terry
 EN2(SS) Donald B. Tennant
 ENCS(SS) Darrell D. Best
 Eternal Light Anna Louise McCance
 Eternal Light Carla Doucette
 Eternal Light Grace Bates
 Eternal Light Ethel W. Davis

ETERNAL PATROL NOTICES Last Quarter

John "Gumba"

Unfortunately, we have lost a lot of members in the last quarter, and the Honors Detail has been busy rendering honors to 6 Shipmates and one spouse. The following members of Groton Base have departed on Eternal Patrol since the September Newsletter and the date of passing. Those with an * the Groton Base Honors Detail rendered honors.

*SK2(SS) **Richard Lacombe** Founding Member 02 Dec 2022
*TMCS(SS) **Howard W. Booth Jr.** 26 Nov 2022
*EMCM(SS) **Andy Elnicki** 10 Nov 2022
*Carla Doucette Eternal Light 10 Nov 2022
MM1(SS) **Danny Buchan** 01 Nov 2022
*HTCM(MD/DV) **Billie Kitchens** 22 Oct 2022
Grace Bates Eternal Light 05 Oct 2020 **Not Notified until 20 Oct 2022**
*RMCM(SS) **Walter Wooten** 29 Sep 2022
CDR William Breed 19 Sep 2022 **Not Notified until 30 Sep 2022**
TMC(SS) **Rick Geddes** Past Base Commander 13 Sep 2022
MMCM(SS) **James D. Sullivan** 13 Sep 2022 **Not Notified until 12 Oct 2022**
*TM3(SS) **David Rosenblum** 09 Sep 2022 WSG Presented Honors
MM1(SS) **Marvin Serruto** 29 Aug 2022 **Not Notified until 29 Sep 2022**
EM3(SS) **Aurthur Rasimas** 26 Aug 2022 **Not Notified until 22 Sep 2022**
Associate Member **Barbara Lee Franciosi** 08 Apr 2022 **Not Notified until 21 Sep 2022**
Associate Member **Allen Paul Wallen** 16 Nov 2020 **Not notified until 16 Sep 2022**
EM3(SS) **Thomas A. Majewski** 12 Jun 2020 **Not Notified until 30 Oct 2022**

We continue sending Eternal Patrol Notices to the entire membership when a member of Groton Base departs on Eternal Patrol. These notices are sent out by John "Gumba" Carcioppolo.

But we are only as good as the information that we get. If we don't know of a members passing, we can not provide the information.

Please ensure that your families know that when you have passed to contact is Groton Base Chaplain Earl Colella 734-730-1026 chaplain@ussvigroton.org or John Carcioppolo 860-514-7064 gumba700@comcast.net and if possible provide a link to the obituary.

The Chaplain then works with the family to determine if the Honors Detail is desired and sets up the schedule. John C. sends out the Eternal Patrol notice and includes the Honors Detail notification.

The sooner we know the information the more timely we can put out the notices. As indicated in red above 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 have developed a Policy and Procedure Manual for the Honors Detail. Many thanks to Robert Sharpe for putting it together. It is at the Executive Board for approval.

The Homecoming Detail recently provided Honors for USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790) as they returned home from deployment just in time for Christmas. Welcome Home Warriors and thanks for what you do.

We have obtained the procedures for Burial At Sea. The guidance and these procedures are posted on the Groton Base Web Page at <https://www.ussvigroton.org/burialatsea> Using the guidance provided and the documents from this link a Navy Member's family can request a Burial At Sea and can be sure it runs smoothly. If your desires are to be buried at sea, we strongly recommend that you print these documents and keep them with your important papers for when you pass to make it easier for your family to execute your last wishes.

Thank you
John C

CHAPLAINS REPORT**Earl Colella**

“THERE IS A PORT OF NO RETURN, WHERE SHIPS MAY RIDE AT ANCHOR
FOR A LITTLE SPACE. AND THEN SOME STARLESS NIGHT THE CABLE SLIPS,
LEAVING ONLY AN EDDY AT THE MOORING PLACE. GULLS WEAR NO
LONGER, SAILOR REST YOUR OAR.
NO TANGLED WRECKAGE WILL BE WASHED ASHORE.”

*PLEASE PAUSE TO REMEMBER THOSE OF OUR SHIPMATES WHO SAILED
IN HARM’S WAY AND DID NOT RETURN.
LORD, THESE DEPARTED SHIPMATES WITH DOLPHINS ON THEIR CHEST
ARE PART OF AN OUTFIT KNOWN AS THE BEST.
MAKE THEM WELCOME AND TAKE THEM BY THE HAND.
YOU’LL FIND WITHOUT A DOUBT THEY WERE THE BEST IN ALL THE LAND.
SO, HEAVENLY FATHER THEIR NAMES ARE ON THE ROLLS
OF OUR DEPARTED SHIPMATES STILL ON PATROL.
LET THEM KNOW THAT WE WHO SURVIVE
WILL 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, keep near Thyself the soul,
Of every Submariner, still on his final patrol.*

Chaplain contact information**Earl Colella****chaplain@ussvigroton.org****734-730-1026**

HOLLAND CLUB**Rich Cheatham, Chair****HOLLAND CLUB REPORT**

Happy New Year to all! As we begin 2023 this seems like an appropriate time for a brief look back at Groton Base Holland Club 2022.

Our monthly luncheons continue to be very popular - we usually have 50+ members and guests attend. The luncheons are on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 11:30, at the Club. *It is important that you email or call if you plan to attend.*

Part of what make these luncheons special is our Guest speakers. We are very fortunate to have had these Guest Speakers join us this past year.

LCDR Derek **Sutton**, Officer In Charge of HS NAUTILUS/Director of Submarine Force Museum; Dr. Brian **Maguire**, Senior Epidemiologist, and Ms. Linda **Hughes**, Program Manager of the Undersea Health Epidemiology Research Program (UHERP) at Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory; United States Congressman "Submarine Joe" Joe **Courtney**; our own Dr. Jeffery **Flesher** author of *Leadership From Below - Paradoxes of Submarine Leadership*; ITSCM(SS) Larry "Chip" **Alger**, Staff Command Master Chief at Submarine Learning Center; our National Holland Club Chairman, CMDCM Bud **Atkins** USN ret., Bud was relieved as National Holland Club Chairman by Jim **Irvin** at this year's convention, after serving in that role since 2012. BZ Bud!; WWII veteran Cecil **Burner** and his nephew Marshal **Parsons** about the capture of the Japanese Submarine I401; Captain Emil **Casciano**, USN ret., Vice President, Nuclear Operations & Fleet Support for Electric Boat; CMDCM(SS) Kellen **Voland**, CMC Naval Submarine Base New London; and Commodore Thomas P. **O'Donnell**, Commander Submarine Squadron 12.

A couple of other highlights were that in June we formally Inducted 44 Groton Base Holland Club members into the prestigious USSVI Holland Club, on the stage, in Dealey Center Theater, onboard Naval Submarine Base New London. And in September we celebrated World War II Submarine Veteran EM1(SS) Tony **Faella's** 100th birthday. Tony Qualified in Submarines in 1944 aboard USS Spearfish (SS 190). He was aboard for her 8th through 12th War Patrols.

Looking forward we will be standing up the Groton Base Holland Club Induction Planning Committee in the next month or so. While we are just starting to think about Induction, it looks like we may have about 30 inductees in the class of 2023. I expect that we will be shooting for a June Induction. Stay tuned.

Rich Cheatham,
HOLLAND CLUB Chairman, USSVI Groton Base

UPDATED 01022023

Memories of Joe – *By John Carcioppolo*

I recently had the opportunity to visit twice with an old friend and mentor Joe Negri.

I first met Joe in 1981 when I first joined SUBVETS. I was introduced to him by Jerry Tighe. He was sitting at the end of the clubhouse bar. The club was barely lit and Joe was working on a crossword puzzle drinking a Miller High Life. Jerry introduced me to him. Joe looked at me over his glasses and said “another F’n Nuke”. He came across as grizzled and tough.

He was also the first SUBVET WWII that I had met and he was a decorated one. He had a Silver Star, and a Bronze Star with the “V” device which he received during WWII onboard USS TAU-TOG (SS 199). He was also a very proud Pearl Harbor Survivor, but he wasn’t on a Submarine then. He was stationed on USS AYLWIN (DD 355) at the time.

I filled out my membership application and Joe signed my membership card like he had done for so many others. I wish I still had it.

I became friends with Joe and soon after he hired me as a bartender. I often relieved him as the bartender. He would hang around for a bit drinking a Miller High Life working on his crossword puzzle watching his favorite show Hawaii Five-O. During those times we talked a lot about various subjects. National, his personal back ground, various members and customers.

I really got to know him pretty well through our conversations.

I learned that when he took over as the National President for SV WWII, his first order of business as National President was to announce that he was going to establish an organization for all Submariners. That took a lot of courage and he was pretty unpopular with many of the SV WWII for this decision. But he set his course and held true.

I learned that when USSVI was formed he was no where’s around at that final meeting in Oct 1963 in NJ. Joe was deployed on PIPER to the Med during that time frame. But Joe had gotten the wheels rolling in 1962, and then made a full court press when he returned from deployment and THRESHER was lost in April 1963. He was heavily involved in the incorporation of the organization in 1964.

Joe was one of two individuals who was both National President SUBVETS WWII and National Commander USSVI. The other was Tudor Davis another member of Groton Base and another friend that I met through Joe.

I learned that his thinking was very forward thinking about several things. The forming of USSVI, the WWII Memorial and the Clubhouse to name a few.

He nicknamed me “Flying Cloud”. In 1982 he talked me into running for Base Secretary which I did and held the position until 1984 when I went back to Sea Duty. I was honored to have him at my CPO initiation in 1984.

Joe didn’t have a fondness for women at the club but he took

a liking to Dee and he took her on with the House Committee as one of the waitresses for Brunch and Dinners. He had a fondness for her. She would send him cookies and chocolates when we moved to DC in 1991. In turn in Dec 1991 he sent her some puca beads from his HI visit for the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. She still has those beads today.

My father-in-law had moved in with us in the mid 80s and Joe liked him too. He would cover for Joe when Joe would make his fishing trips to Canada and other vacations. He even gave my father-in-law the coveted secret recipe for the SUBVETS Chili.

After his passing it was brought up at a meeting by his close friend Morgan Bailey to name the clubhouse the Dominic “Joe” Negri Clubhouse to honor him. It was overwhelmingly approved by the membership. Morgan purchased the sign out front and in 1999 the clubhouse was formally named for Joe.

In 2001 the Cold War Memorial Committee chaired by VADM Albert J Baciocco, Jr. USN (Ret) was working hard at establishing their Memorial in Charleston SC. They wanted to honor someone who represented Submarine Veterans on Eternal Patrol. And Naturally Joe’s name came up. I was contacted and they wanted a biography of Joe, which I provided. They honored Joe with a very nice bench when the Memorial was established in 2002.

Today there are many benches that populate the grounds of the Memorial. Joe’s bench is located on the walkway on the port side of the Memorial. A little bit aft of the Sail. It is directly across from the USS THRESHER and USS SCORPION Memorials. All the other benches are gray marble. But Joe’s is the only one made of black marble, and it’s a beauty. See picture below.

In October I was in Charleston for a DALLAS reunion and I stopped by his bench to say hi.

In December I made a work trip to Pearl Harbor. And like I always do when I’m in Pearl I stopped by to pay my respects to my friend. I never regret the time I spend visiting with Joe.

If anyone is out there and wants to stop by he’s in the third section on the right. Plot CT3-I, 400, 410.

I am privileged and Honored that Joe Negri considered me his friend. I consider our friendship special. Shipmate Negri, Rest your oar. We owe you a dept of gratitude for your service in WWII, and the Cold War and for all that you did for USSVI.





INCORPORATORS
Reading left to right -- K.O. Walkington,
Joe Marion and Joe Negri, incorporated
U.S. SUB VETS on 22 May 1964 at New
London, Connecticut



FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION
June 1964 -- President Robert Link
of Absecon, New Jersey turns over
gavel of office to Joe Negri of Un-
casville, Connecticut.



Dominic J. "Joe" Negri

Date of Birth 09/13/1918

Date of Death 8/24/1994

Retired 1 April 1968

TMCS(SS)

Medals/Decorations/Awards: Silver Star, Navy Unit Commendation, Bronze Star (V), World War II Victory Medal, American Defense, Asiatic Pacific, American Area, Phil. Def., Good Conduct (4), Submarine Dolphins, Submarine Combat Insignia

Commands:

ENLISTED 15 Mar 1938

Recruit Training Newport RI 15 Mar 1938 – 19 Jun 1938

USS REGAL Jun – Jul 1938

USS TUCKER (DD 374) Jul 1938

USS AYLWIN (DD 355) Jul 1938 – Jul 1942

BASIC SUBMARINE School AUG 1942 - NOV 16 1942

USS TAUTOG (SS 199) Feb 1943 – May 1945

USS HACKELBACK (SS 295) May 1945 – Dec 1945

Recruiting Duty Springfield IL, Jan 1946 – Jul 1946

SUBASE New London CT Aug 1947 – Feb 1948

USS THREADFIN (SS 410) FEB 1948 – Aug 1951

COMSUBRON TWO STAFF AUG 1951 – SEP 1958 Mine Warfare Training

USS JALLAO (SS 368) Sep 1958 – NOV 1959 COB

USS GUARDFISH (SS 217) /USS MANTA (AGSS 299) RESERVE TRAINING SHIPS Nov 1959 – Jun 1962

USS TRITON (SSN 586) Jun 1962 – Oct 1963 COB

USS PIPER (SS409) Oct 1963 – Mar 1967 COB

USS MANTA (AGSS 299) Mar 1967 Mar 1968 COB

National Commander USSV WWII 1962 - 1963

National Commander USSVI 1964 – 1965

Founded USSVI in Oct 1963

KAP(SS)4KID(SS)**John Riley Chair****GROTON BASE BRINGS COMFORT AND JOY TO KIDS WHO NEED IT**

We returned to the Nautilus Museum and were joined by Submarine Veteran Groton Base Commander Steve Ricard, who received thanks from Oban's Dad for setting up the Indiana it.

Oban received a personal tour of the USS Nautilus Submarine and Museum by Active Duty Submariner Brendan Perry. Brendan is the grandson of past Groton Base Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Team member Jack Gallimore.

Brendan and Oban hit it off right away and Oban got a Great tour. He was again overwhelmed.



vis-

Oban, his Dad and the K4K Team then visited the WWII National Submarine Memorial in Groton, which is dedicated to the 3,617 courageous Submariners who lost their lives during WWII. Oban saw the granite wall that listed the names of all the men who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country, and he spent time looking at the 52 engraved granite markers honoring each of the US Submarines lost in World War II.

Leaving the memorial, we visited the Submarine Veterans Groton Base Clubhouse and enjoyed lunch together. Oban surveyed his many gifts and beamed as he recounted his experiences.

It was a Full & Exciting Day for all involved. We let Oban and his Dad know that they are now members of our Submarine Family and are welcome and encouraged to visit any time.

Oban sent us the below Thank You letter. It reads:

Dear John, Left Bob and Right Bob,

Thank you so much for organizing the private tour of the military base and the USS Indiana. I still feel so amazed when I think back on it. Thank you for the opportunity to get All the cool challenge coins, patches, badges and the Special wrench from the crew of the USS Indiana.

Also thank you for the private tour of the USS Nautilus and the Nautilus museum and for spending the day with me. And thank you for the gift of the model brick submarine. I have had fun building it with my mom and by myself.

The food at the clubhouse was the best I ever had. So thank you for taking me and my dad (but mainly me). It was a great treat.

I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely

Oban



TWO GREAT NOVEMBER KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS) VISITS!

YALE NEW HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL:



On November 17th, Groton Base's Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Team of Bob Dulin, and John Riley, conducted a visit to the Kids at Yale New Haven Hospital's Children's Hospital (YNHCH) in New Haven, CT.

Complying with the hospital's masking and safety protocols, we visited Kids in the hospital's Teen Center.

As usual, we had lots of fun with the Kids and staff as we shared information about life on-board a Submarine, showed Submarine related pictures and videos, and answered their questions.

The Kids all received their now-standard K4K gear from Groton Base: Honorary Submariner Certificates, ball caps, temporary tattoos, challenge coins and wristbands. Also handed out were 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.

They also excited to receive stress-reducing red heart-shaped squeeze balls. This newest crop of Honorary Submariners were informed they were now entitled to a free tour and challenge coin from active-duty submariners at the USS Nautilus Submarine Museum.

CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER:

On November 21st, Groton Base's Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Team of Bob Dullin, Paul Dillon and John Riley, conducted a visit to the Kids at The Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC) in Hartford, CT.

Because of COVID, it had been almost 3 years since we visited the Kids at CCMC! The staff was as excited as we were about our finally being able to visit their Kids!

From the hospital's new Family Resource Center, we ZOOMED with the Kids in their rooms.

We had fun with the Kids and staff as we shared our information about life on-board a Submarine, showed Submarine related pictures and videos, and answered their questions.

They also received their now-standard K4K gear from Groton Base and got invitations to get Special Tours of the USS Nautilus Submarine and Museum.

We were informed that future ZOOMED visits from the Family Resource Center can have available Kids and their families with us in the center as well.





USSVI Groton Base “Silent Service” License Plates

December 31, 2022

Year-End report

To: Secretary; USSVI Groton Base

From: Richard Rusczyk, CT Silent Service License Plate Liaison

Subject: CT Silent Service License Plate Committee Report as of December 31, 2022.

1. License Plate Five Year Request/Application History

- a. 2017; 11 requests, 5 applications, 45% process rate, only current members applied
- b. 2018; 11 requests, 4 applications, 36% process rate.
- c. 2019; 25 Requests, 8 applications, 32% process rate.
- d. 2020; 21 Requests, 11 applications, 42% process rate.
- e. 2021; 21 Requests, 7 applications, 33% process rate

f. License Plate Request/Application History 2022 Year to Date

- g. January – August 2022, 14 requests, 5 applications, 36% process rate.
- h. September – December 2022, 7 requests, 2 applications, 29% process rate

i. Activities since last report

- j. Continue program as activity dictates.

k. Budget

Five Year Budget History

I have not requested any money during my term.

Current Budget

I have not requested money

5. Connecticut Silent Service License Plate Program Problems/Issues

- a. Activity remains suppressed. Most requests were from outside the Groton area. Need ideas for promoting program statewide. Most requests are due to a license plate sighting while driving. Most requests are from non-members and don't result in new membership or a license plate application.

Losing members to USSVI Member at Large (MAL) program.

Very Respectfully,

Richard Rusczyk

Richard Rusczyk

VETERANS AFFAIRS**Alvin Kinsall****VETERANS BENEFITS**

**Whether you are retired or not, you need to register with the VA HealthCare System
It's a benefit you have earned. Let's talk to see if its right for you. No obligation.**

It's easy!

Just Call Al at 860.460.0027

VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) is OPEN

6 Shaw's Cove, New London, CT 06320

(Serving all veterans in the Greater New London Area)

We are here to support you

Our Mission: To evaluate and promote new and existing programs and services for Members and their families.

Our Vision: That USSVI Groton Base Veterans Affairs offer quality services and program referrals to ensure the enrichment and enhancement of life for our men and women Members and their families.

Our Purpose: Is to strengthen the common Veteran's cause and ensure that our Members and the Community is aware of Veteran's rights and needs.

To preserve the honor due to all Members by helping our Active Duty members transition to civilian life. Help our members avoid transition problems related to unemployment, homelessness as well as physical and mental health challenges.

We work cooperatively with other Committees, and City, State and Federal staff with regard to policies, programs, and concerns relating to Veterans' interest. We maintain a working relationship with all Communities in the Greater New London Area, and other agencies serving Veterans within the state of Connecticut.

We work hard to recognize and honor citizens, Active Duty Military and Veterans in the Greater New London Area who distinguish themselves for community service, particularly in the area of Veterans' needs and concerns.

We render honors to the survivors of deceased members. ###

Veteran Affairs Continued—Toxic Exposure Information



TOXIC EXPOSURE SCREENING INFORMATION

VA is committed to providing screening, health care, and resources to Veterans with toxic exposure concerns from military service.

TOXIC EXPOSURES

While toxic exposure is defined by law, generally there are several types of possible exposures or hazards Veterans may have experienced during their military service. Some common examples appear below.

- » **Open Burn Pits/Airborne Hazards:** Contaminants or substances in the air including smoke and fumes from open burn pits and fine particulate matter.
- » **Gulf War related exposures:** Veterans may have been exposed to a variety of environmental hazards including pesticides and oil well fires.
- » **Agent Orange:** An herbicide used to thin-out thick foliage commonly found in jungles and fields.
- » **Radiation:** Exposure from sources such as nuclear weapons.
- » **Camp Lejeune contaminated water exposure:** Between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, Veterans and their families may have been exposed to contaminated drinking water.
- » **Other exposures:** There are other potential toxic exposures that may occur during military service.

MANAGE YOUR HEALTH

Proactively developing a long-term health care plan with your care team can help detect conditions early and treat or lessen the effect of complications resulting from exposure(s).

TALK WITH A VA PROVIDER:

- » Call 1-800-MyVA411 then press 8, or a local VA clinical care team
- » Send a secure message to your clinical care team through your patient portal:
My HealtheVet at: www.myhealth.va.gov or My VA Health at: patientportal.myhealth.va.gov
- » Discuss exposure concerns at your next VA appointment

ENROLL IN VA CARE:

- » Online www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction
- » Call 877-222-VETS (8387)
- » Visit your nearest VA medical center and enroll in person: www.va.gov/find-locations



Scan with your mobile device
to access this document

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Affairs—Continued Toxic Exposure Screening Information

REGISTRY HEALTH EXAMS

Registry health exams are no-cost voluntary environmental exposure medical exams. VA has several health registries – these include: Agent Orange, Airborne Hazard and Open Burn Pit, Gulf War (Includes Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn), Ionizing Radiation, Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program, Embedded Fragment Surveillance Center.

- » You may be eligible to participate in one or more of these health registries. *Note: The registry evaluation is not a compensation exam or required for other VA benefits.*
- » Registries can alert you to possible health problems related to your military service and help VA better understand and respond to these health problems more effectively.

SCHEDULE A REGISTRY EXAM WITH YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COORDINATOR

- » Online www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/coordinators.asp
- » Call 1-800-MyVA411, then press 8
- » Visit your local VA Medical Center

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- » Visit www.va.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MyVA411, then press 8
- » Information on military environmental exposures: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/index.asp
- » Exposure benefits information: www.va.gov/disability/eligibility
- » Download the free VA Exposure Ed mobile app: mobile.va.gov/app/exposure-ed

VA PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS

Veterans may be eligible for disability benefits and/or compensation if they have a health condition that results in disability and was connected to their military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition. For some conditions, we automatically assume (or “presume”) that your service caused your condition. We call these “presumptive conditions.” We consider a condition presumptive when it’s established by law or regulation. If you have a presumptive condition, you do not need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

BENEFITS

- » Veterans with presumptive diseases may be eligible for benefits such as disability compensation
- » Surviving spouses, dependent children and/or parents of deceased Veterans may be eligible for benefits such as dependency and indemnity compensation and accrued benefits
- » Veterans who had claims that were previously denied can file supplemental claims
- » **To File a Claim for Benefits**
 - Submit online: www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim
 - Access VA benefits: www.ebenefits.va.gov
 - Call VA Benefits hotline: 800-827-1000 for help filing a claim
 - Locate a local Veteran Service Officer www.va.gov/govapps/accréditation/index.asp



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to access this document

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

2023 GROTON BASE USSVI SCHOLARSHIP

The 2023 Scholarship Applications is available on the Groton Base USSVI website. Scholarship Link

Funding for the annual scholarships is provided totally through membership donations. Over the past few years the funds have been dwindling and all Groton SUBVETS member are encouraged to donate to the scholarship fund through a stand alone donation or as part of their annual giving. Supporting the scholarship and our shipmates children and grandchildren is a powerful way to as stated in our creed, perpetuate the memory of our shipmates.

For additional information contact Groton Base Scholarship Chair, Gregory Kane at Gregory.Kane@ccsu.edu

WELCOME HOME**THE CREWS OF DEPLOYED HOME BOUND BOATS**

The Homecoming Detail provided Honors for USS California, USS Hartford, USS San Juan, USS Vermont, USS Newport News, as they returned home from deployment. Welcome Home Warriors and thanks for what you do.

John C. Red Hat coordinator

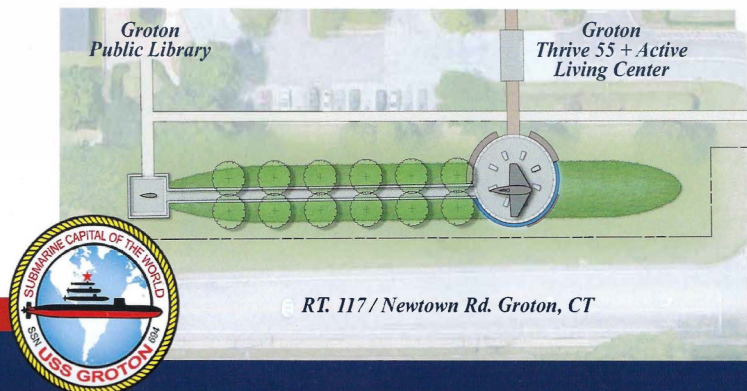
Thank you to all members who take part in this event. It is an honor to Welcome home these sailors, husbands, wives, after being deployed for months.

**BULLETIN**

Be a part of history—Donate to the
USS GROTON Foundation for bringing
Groton Sail and Rudder Home to Groton

Help us build a monument!

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

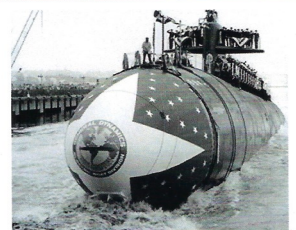
**THE USS GROTON SAIL MONUMENT**

We are building a lasting public monument to celebrate our region's contribution to our nation's defense. The centerpiece of the monument will be the USS Groton's sail and rudder, which will serve as a permanent tribute to the Nation's submarine community, past, present and future.

For more than 100 years Groton, CT has been the Submarine Capital of the World. Since 1916, thousands of submariners have trained and served here at our nation's first Submarine Base and the Navy's Submarine School. Hundreds of submarines have been designed and built by the men and women of Electric Boat.

This monument will provide a place for celebration, an educational backdrop to the evolution of the submarine industry and submarine service, a site for generations to reflect on the service of their family and friends, and a welcoming landmark for all.

**Project Launch
OCTOBER 2022**



*To participate by making
a gift or bidding in our
auction visit:
www.GrotonSail.com
or simply scan this
QR code to make an
immediate contribution.*

www.grotonsail.com

ONE SUBMARINE, MANY HANDS, LASTING IMPACT

For more information or to purchase a Paver at this memorial,
Contact Marian Galbraith

Mktgalbraith@gmail.com

860-460-8740

BURIAL AT SEA—What you need to know**By: John Carcioppolo**

As editor of Boat Notes Newsletter, I am re-running this article to make sure all readers and family members know the process needed to have your remains buried at sea.

The process for burial at sea is provided in a separate article.

As a follow up to your request for information on the burial at sea procedure I submit the following:

Upon getting the initial info from you, Mrs. Davis contacted the chaplain's office in Norfolk and received directions on the submittal of Larry Davis' cremains. She was instructed on how to package the cremains, a flag (obtained at the post office at no charge), and the certificate of death from the funeral director. She was informed that Norfolk was the only sub base that participated in the burial at sea program and that there might be a delay depending on the availability of a sub and their schedule.

In July, Nancy was informed that Master Chief Davis was placed aboard the USS New Mexico for completion of the burial process. Approximately ten days later Nancy was notified that Larry was committed to the sea and the specific latitude and longitude of the commitment. She was also advised that she would receive a call from the C.O. when the deployment was completed.

Last week Mrs. Davis received a very nice call from the C.O. with details of the burial, much sympathy, and advised her that she would receive a package in a few days. Last Saturday she got the package via Federal Express which included the ceremony flag, a ships challenge coin, details of the ceremony and a picture of the sub.

Nancy and I greatly appreciate your kindness and efforts in making this possible. I sincerely hope this info will be beneficial to some of our other brothers at the Phin.

Once again, thanks very much.

Memorabilia

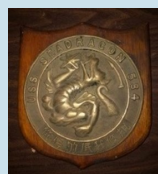
Alvin G. Kinsall

SPARE PLAQUES

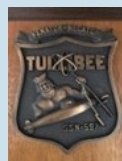
and other memorabilia available

Ask me if I have a spare plaque of your qual boat...

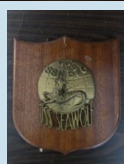
All donations goes toward Capital Improvement fund



USS Seadragon SSN584



USS Tullibee SSN597



USS Seawolf SSN575



USS Bluefish SSN675



USS Triton SSN586



USS Gato SSN615



USS Dace SSN607



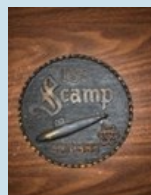
USS Hawkbill SSN666

No Picture

USS Jack SSN605



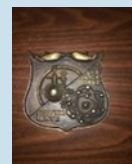
USS PARGO SSN650



USS Scamp SSN588



USS Pintado SSN672



USS Snook SSN582



USS Archerfish SSN678



USS Tinosa SSN606



USS Dallas SSN700



“The fate of the Clamagore”

Courtesy of Joe Damm

With an assist from a tugboat, the historic Clamagore is set to sail from Patriots Point for its final ocean voyage by the end of the week. The decommissioned Navy submarine will be towed from its longtime home along the Mount Pleasant waterfront around noon on Oct. 14, weather permitting, after a public send-off to Norfolk, Va., where the rusting vessel will be recycled, spokesman Chris Hauff said.

The board that oversees state owned Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum decided earlier this year to dismantle the Clamagore after years of grappling with what to do with the aging sub. The decision followed exploration of “numerous alternatives,” including making it an underwater reef, finding a new home for it and fixing it.

Patriots Point has said repairing the Clamagore would be cost-prohibitive. A 2019 estimate from a marine surveying and consulting company estimated the figure at more than \$9 million. Moving it onto dry land also was deemed too expensive. Multiple reefing plans fell through. “Unfortunately, we cannot financially sustain the maintenance of three historic vessels,” Patriots Point said in March after it voted to recycle the sub.

“The USS Yorktown and USS Laffey also need repair, and we are fighting a never-ending battle against the corrosion that comes from being submerged in saltwater.” Some of the components and other artifacts from the Clamagore will be saved for an exhibit at Patriots Point.

The cost of recycling the sub will come to about \$2 million. The process has included the removal of more than 500 batteries weighing more than 450,000 pounds in order to increase the buoyancy of the vessel for its journey up the coast to Virginia. Workers this week will be removing a breakwater at a neighboring marina so a tugboat can safely pull the Clamagore from the shore, Hauff said. The structure will then need to be immediately reinstalled. “That’s why the weather is so important,” he said Tuesday. The move was scheduled to take place earlier this month. Hurricane Ian pushed back the timing to this week.

Public tours of the Clamagore were halted in mid-December, when a Patriots Point staffer found a leak in the main ballast tank. Concerns about the display vessel go back years, mostly about the extensive corrosion. Another worry is the environmental risks from chemical leaks if the sub were to sustain serious structural damage from a major storm.

Built too late for action in World War II, the vessel is best known for its service during the Cold War-era while it was stationed in Key West, Fla., where it was nicknamed the “Grey Ghost of the Florida Coast.”

The sub was modified twice, the second time to become one of only nine submarines converted to the Guppy III configuration — the top-of the line upgrade for diesel-powered subs. It was decommissioned in 1975 and has been docked at Patriots Point for the past 41 years.





"A Moment in Time"



The Story of USS Flasher SS249

First and second war patrols, January – May 1944

Flasher arrived at [Pearl Harbor](#) from [New London](#) 15 December 1943 to prepare for her first war patrol, for which she sailed 6 January 1944. Bound for her patrol area off Mindoro, she sank her first target 18 January, sending a 2,900-ton former [gunboat](#) to the bottom. Adding to what would be the greatest total of enemy tonnage credited to an American submarine in [World War II](#), she sank a freighter off Manila 5 February, and sank two cargo ships of the same convoy on 14 February. *Flasher* arrived at Fremantle, Australia 29 February to refit. The 2 vessels sunk 14 February 1944 were the *Minryo Maru* and the *Hokuan Maru*. See [\[1\]](#). (The *Hokuan Maru* probably rammed and sunk the [Grayling](#) 9 September 1943.)

Action-bound once more, the submarine departed Fremantle 4 April 1944 for the coast of [French Indochina](#) on her second war patrol. On 29 April she contacted the french river gunboat *Tahure* guarding a freighter off the Hon Doi Islands, and sank both. After sinking a large cargo ship in the Sulu Sea 3 May, *Flasher* shaped course for Fremantle, arriving 28 May for refit until 19 June.

Third and fourth war patrols, June – October 1944

Flasher made her third war patrol in the South China Sea, where on 28 June 1944 she contacted a heavily escorted convoy of 13 ships. She made a cautious approach, undeterred by the escort, and shortly after midnight 29 June, broke into the convoy to sink a freighter and badly damage a large passenger cargo ship. Her next victim was a freighter, sunk 7 July. Twelve days later, *Flasher* sighted [cruiser Ōi](#) escorted by a [destroyer](#). Two attacks, each followed by a heavy [depth charge](#) retaliation from the destroyer, sufficed to sink the cruiser, a fact confirmed several hours later when a [periscope](#) observation revealed only the destroyer in sight. Seven days later, she sank another important target, a merchant tanker, and the same day damaged another tanker later sunk by one of her sisters. With all her torpedoes gone, *Flasher* put back for Fremantle, where she replenished and refitted between 7 August and 30 August.

During her fourth war patrol, in the Philippines, *Flasher* headed a [coordinated attack group](#) which included two other submarines, [Hawkbill](#) and [Becuna](#). Although she was on lifeguard station during the air attacks preliminary to the invasion of the Philippines during part of this patrol, *Flasher* sank three ships, a former light cruiser on 18 September, a transport on 27 September, and a cargo ship on 4 October. She returned to Fremantle 20 October.

Fifth and sixth war patrols, November 1944 – April 1945

Heading the same attack group, *Flasher* now commanded by Lieutenant Commander G. W. Grider, sailed on her fifth war patrol 15 November 1944, bound for Cam Ranh Bay. On 4 December one of her companions reported a tanker convoy, and *Flasher* set a converging course. As she made her approach in a heavy downpour, a destroyer suddenly loomed up before her, and *Flasher* launched her first spread of torpedoes at this escort. The destroyer was stopped by two hits, and began listing and smoking heavily. *Flasher* got a spread of torpedoes away at a tanker before she was forced deep by a second destroyer, which dropped 16 depth charges. Rising to periscope depth, *Flasher* located the tanker burning and covered by yet a third destroyer. Speedily reloading, she prepared to sink the destroyer and finish off the tanker, and though almost blinded by rainsqualls, she did so with a salvo of four torpedoes, two of which hit the destroyer, and two of which passed beneath her, as planned, to hit the tanker. Once more, counter-attack forced *Flasher* down, and when she surfaced she found no trace of the two damaged destroyers. The tanker, blazing away, was still guarded by three escorts until abandoned at sunset, when *Flasher* sank her with one torpedo. The two destroyers, both found after the war to have been sunk,

were [Kishinami](#) and *Iwanami* (However, the destroyer *Iwanami* did not exist. The character for "岸" in *Kishinami*(岸波) could have been confused with "岩"(Iwa)) *Flasher*'s war patrol reported that her count of destroyers may have been inaccurate, but this seems to have been ignored, and it is likely that *Flasher* actually finished off previously crippled *Kishinami* and did not hit any other destroyer.

Flasher contacted another well-guarded tanker convoy on the morning of 21 December 1944, and she began a long chase, getting into position to attack from the unguarded shoreward side. In rapid succession, *Flasher* attacked and sank three of the tankers, receiving no counter-attack since the enemy apparently believed he had stumbled into a minefield. One of these tankers was the largest *Flasher* sank during the war. The other two tankers had displacements similar to each other, were tied for third largest.

Refitting at Fremantle once more between 2 January and 29 January 1945, *Flasher* made her sixth war patrol on the coast of Indochina. Contacts were few, but on 21 February she sank a sea truck by surface gunfire, and 4 days later sank a cargo ship with torpedoes. She completed her patrol upon her arrival at Pearl Harbor 3 April 1945, and sailed a few days later for a West Coast overhaul.

Post-war

Bound for Guam on a seventh war patrol at the close of the war, *Flasher* was ordered back to New London, where she was decommissioned and placed in reserve 16 March 1946, attached to the [Atlantic Reserve Fleet](#). On 1 June 1959 the *Flasher* was struck from the [Naval Vessel Register](#). She was sold for scrap on 1 June 1963. Her [conning tower](#) was removed and placed on display as a memorial at the entrance to Nautilus Park, a Navy housing area in Groton, Connecticut. It was then moved to the intersection of Thames St. and Bridge St. where it is the centerpiece of the World War II memorial that honors the 52 U.S. submarines and their valiant crews lost during the war. Its upkeep was originally the responsibility of the Submarine Veterans of World War II organization and was then transferred into the willing (and usually younger) hands of the U. S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Awards

Flasher received the [Presidential Unit Citation](#) for her brilliantly successful third, fourth, and fifth war patrols. For her six war patrols, each designated "Successful", she received six [battle stars](#).

U.S. SUBMARINES FORCES LOSSES

JANUARY



USS SCORPION (SS-278) Lost on Jan 5, 1944 with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.



USS ARGONAUT (APS-1/SS-166) Lost on Jan 10, 1943 with the loss of 102 officers and men off Rabaul, on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Jap destroyer who along with 2 other destroyers depth charged her. As she tried to



USS S-36 (SS-141) Lost on Jan 20, 1942 with no loss of life, on her 2nd war patrol. She ran hard aground on a reef and radioed for help. The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch ship



USS SWORDFISH (SS-193) Lost on Jan 12, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. Probably was lost to a mine.



USS S-26 (SS-131) Lost on Jan 24, 1942 with the loss of 46 officers and men in the Gulf of Panama, on her 2nd war patrol. She was rammed by the USS PC-460 and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO and one lookout on the bridge, were the only survivors.

U.S. SUBMARINES FORCES LOSSES (Continued)

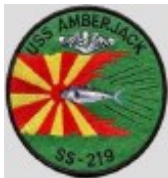
FEBRUARY



USS Barbel (SS-316) Lost on Feb 4, 1945 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 4th war patrol. Based on Japanese records, she was bombed near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage. The day before, she reported she survived 3 depth charge attacks.



USS Shark I (SS-174) Lost on Feb 11, 1942 with the loss of 59 officers and men on her 1st war patrol. Shark was the 1st US submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific. She was most likely sunk by depth charges.



USS Amberjack (SS-219) Lost on Feb 16, 1943 with the loss of 72 officers and men on her 3rd war patrol Off Rabaul, she was attacked by a Japanese patrol plane, attacked by a torpedo boat and then depth charged by a subchaser. One additional man was killed earlier on the last patrol.



USS Grayback (SS-208) Lost on Feb 26, 1944 with the loss of 80 officers and men on her 10th war patrol. She appears to have been caught on the surface in the East China Sea by a Japanese carrier plane whose bombs made a direct hit. During this patrol she sank 4 ships totaling 21,594 tons and was tied for 11th in the number of ships sunk.



USS Trout (SS-202) Lost on Feb 29, 1944 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 11th war patrol. She was sunk by escorts in the middle of the Philippines Basin after sinking a passenger-cargoman and damaging another in a convoy. She carried out several notable special missions, including carrying over two tons of gold bullion out of Corregidor in February 1942.

U.S. SUBMARINES FORCES LOSSES (Continued)

MARCH



USS Perch (SS-176) Lost on March 3, 1942 near Java with no immediate loss of life, while on her 1st war patrol. She survived 2 severe depth chargings in less than 200 feet of water by 3 Japanese destroyers. The crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the 59 officers and men taken prisoner, 53 survived the war and six died as POWs.



USS Grampus (SS-207) Lost on March 5, 1943 with the loss of 71 officers and men, on her 6th war patrol. She was lost in Vella Gulf, sunk after engaging 2 Japanese Destroyers.



USS H-1 (SS-28) Lost on March 12, 1920 with the loss of 4 men as they tried to swim to shore after grounding on a shoal off Santa Margarita Island, off the coast of Baja California, Mexico. Vestal (AR-4), pulled H-1 off the rocks in the morning of 24 March, only to have her sink 45 minutes later in some 50 feet of water. She was originally named the USS Seawolf before becoming H-1.



USS Triton (SS-201) Lost on March 15, 1943 with the loss of 74 men. She was sunk north of the Admiralty Islands during a fight with 3 Japanese Destroyers. Triton was the 1st boat to engage the enemy in December 1941 off Wake Island, sinking 9 ships, 1 submarine and a destroyer.



USS Kete (SS-369) Lost on March 20, 1945 with the loss of 87 officers and men at the end of her 2nd war patrol. Probably sunk near Okinawa, by a Japanese submarine that itself was subsequently lost.



USS F-4 (SS-23) Lost on March 25, 1915 with the loss of 21 men. She foundered 1.5 miles off of Honolulu when acid corrosion of the lead lining of the battery tank let seawater into the battery compartment, causing loss of control. She was raised in August 1915.



USS Tullibee (SS-284) Lost on March 26, 1944 with the loss of 79 officers and men, on her 4th war patrol. It's believed she was a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. The lookout was the only survivor and he survived the war as a Japanese prisoner.



USS Trigger (SS-237) Lost on March 26, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men, on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese antisubmarine vessels and aircraft. Trigger ranked 7th in total tonnage sunk and tied for 8th in number of ships sunk.

JANUARY 2023 -- See website for updates at www.ussvigroton.org						
SUNDAY Club Hours (TBS)	MONDAY Club Hours 1100-1400**	TUESDAY Club Hours 1100-1400	WEDNESDAY Club Hours 1100-1700	THURSDAY Club Hours 1100-1900	FRIDAY Club Hours 1100-1900	SATURDAY Club Hours -- Closed**
	** Clubhouse Hours Expanded/Open on Mondays and Saturdays Evenings for Scheduled Events; Contact Club Manager.		Sked Annual Picnic (694-3238 to reserve 2nd Saturday in August)	Scholarship E-Mtg: contact Chairman, Greg Kane, at Scholarship@ussvigroton.org		
01 New Year's Day (Holiday)	02 1830 Monthly Business Meeting	03 0900-1100, Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse	04 0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Willimantic	05 9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Pawcatuck	06 9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Groton	07 9AM-12PM, Colchester Veterans' Coffeehouse
Sked Annual Picnic (694-3238 to reserve 2nd Saturday in August)		0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Norwich		SV GB Broadcast update due	SV GB Broadcast Publish due	
08 10-12 Brunch	09 0900-1100, Waterford Veterans Coffeehouse	10 0900-1100, Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse	11 0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Willimantic	12 9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Mystic	13 9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, New London	14 1730-2100, SVGB Winter Steak Dinner (tbd)
11am - 1pm, Take down Christmas Tree						
15 10-12 Brunch	16 MLK Day	17 1130 Holland Club luncheon	18 0900-1100, Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse	19 Chairman reports due to Base Secretary	20 (TBS) SUBASE CPO/GACPOA Dining-In at Groton Elks POC: CMDCM NAVSUBSUPPCEN NLON	21
	(TBS) GB Westport Satellite Group Meeting	1600 Clubhouse Operations Mtg	0900-1100, Willimantic Veterans' Coffeehouse	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Pawcatuck	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Groton	
		0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Norwich		SV GB Broadcast update due	SV GB Broadcast Publish due	
		1830 Holland Club Png Mtg via zoom		Scheduled for 19 January 2023, CT Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, LOB Hartford, CT		
22 10-12 Brunch	23	24 0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Norwich	25 0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Willimantic	26	27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day	28
29 10-12 Brunch	30 1730, E-Board Meeting	31 0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Norwich 0900-1100, Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse				

This is a planning calendar, events and date may change

FEBRUARY 2023 -- FEBRUARY is Black/African American History and American Heart Month; See website for updates at www.ussvigroton.org

SUNDAY Club Hours (TBS)	MONDAY Club Hours 1100-1400	TUESDAY Club Hours 1100-1400	WEDNESDAY Club Hours 1100-1700	THURSDAY Club Hours 1100-1900	FRIDAY Club Hours 1100-1900	SATURDAY Club Hours – Closed**
Clubhouse Hours Expanded/Open on Mondays and Saturdays Evenings for Scheduled Events: Contact Club		Base Archivist Submit annual report to Historical		2020 Awards Program starts February 1st, 2021; Check		
			01	02	03 Four Chaplains Day	04
			0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Willimantic	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Mystic	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, New London	9AM-12PM, Colchester Veterans' Coffeehouse
			1830-2100, Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse	SV GB Broadcast update due	SV GB Broadcast Publish due	
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
10 - 12 Brunch	1830 Monthly Business Meeting	0900-1100, Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse	0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Willimantic	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Pawcatuck	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Groton	1730-2100, SVGB Dinner (TBD)
Accepts SVGB Scholarship applications until 15 April		0900-1100, Waterford Veterans Coffeehouse				American Submariner & Newsletter inputs due 1 March
		0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Norwich				
12	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15	16	17	18
10-12 Brunch		0900-1100, Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse;	0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Norwich	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Mystic	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, New London	American Submariner & Newsletter inputs due 1 March
SVGB Super Bowl Party Potluck. Contact Clubhouse for more information at 860-445- 5262.		1130 Holland Club luncheon. Guest speaker: TBD	0900-1100, Veterans' Coffeehouse, Willimantic	Chairman reports due to Base Secretary	GROTON CPOA Dining In.	
				SV GB Broadcast update due	SV GB Broadcast Publish due	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10-12 Brunch	President's Day	1130 Holland Club luncheon. Guest speaker: TBD	0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Willimantic	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Pawcatuck	American Submariner input & Newsletter inputs due. 1 March	
		1730 Holland Club Png Mtg				
		1600 Clubhouse Operations Png Mtg	0900-1100, Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse	GB Westport Satellite Group Meeting, 1900	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Groton	
26	27	28				
10-12 Brunch	1730, E-Board Meeting					

MARCH 2023 -- MARCH is National Women's History Month and Jewish American Heritage Month; See website for updates at www.ussvigroton.org						
SUNDAY Club Hours (TBS)	MONDAY Club Hours 1100-1400**	TUESDAY Club Hours 1100-1400	WEDNESDAY Club Hours 1100-1700	THURSDAY Club Hours 1100-1900	FRIDAY Club Hours 1100-1900	SATURDAY Club Hours - Closed**
			01	02	03	04
	American Submariner input & Newsletter inputs due. 1 March		0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Willimantic	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Mystic	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, New London	9AM-12PM, Colchester Veterans' Coffeehouse
			1830-2100, Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse	SV GB Broadcast update due	SV GB Broadcast Publish due	
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
10 - 12 Brunch	1830 Monthly Business Meeting	0900-1100, Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse	0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Willimantic	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Pawcatuck	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Groton	
		0900-1100, Waterford Veterans Coffeehouse	0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Montville			
		0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Norwich				
12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
10-12 Brunch			0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Willimantic	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Mystic	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, New London	1730-2030, SVGB Dinner Corned Beef & Cabbage
0200 Daylight Savings Time begins				SV GB Broadcast update due	SV GB Broadcast Publish due	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10-12 Brunch		1130, Holland Club luncheon. Guest speaker	0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Willimantic	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Pawcatuck	9AM-11AM, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Groton	6pm Dinner Guest Speaker Prog (\$10.00 TBD)
		0900-1100, RSVP Veterans' Coffeehouse, Norwich				
		1600 Clubhouse Operations Ping Mtg		1830 GB Westport Satellite Group Meeting		
		0900-1100, Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse	1830 Monthly Meeting; Plan for SUBFEST Booth & Crew	Chairman reports due to Base Secretary		
26	27 Korean War Ended (1953)	28 World War I Began (1914)	29	30	31	
10-12 Brunch	1730, E-Board Meeting	NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS WELCOME HOME Day	CT VIET NAM VETERANS WELCOME HOME Day	SV GB Broadcast update due	SV GB Broadcast Publish due	** Clubhouse Hours Expanded/Open on Mondays and Saturdays Evenings for Scheduled Events; Contact Club Manager.
		0900-1100, Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse				
		1700 Holland Club Ping Mtg				

PUBLIC AFFAIRS**Jim Lawton, PAO**

The Virtual Tour Revision 2 is posted on our YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2K-CpiSw20>



[Virtual Tour SubVets Groton Clubhouse - 2022 \(Rev.2\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2K-CpiSw20)

Revision 2 - Virtual Tour of renovations to the Submarine Veterans Clubhouse, 40 School Street, Groton, CT. The COVID-19 Team renovated the entire clubhouse inside and out. This video created by Jim Lawton - USSVI SubVets Groton PAO (2022) of Creative Sounds Entertainment - No Copy rite notices filed. Credit Bensound.com, For example: "Music ... www.youtube.com

Have you checked out our Facebook Page?

(Click link here) <https://www.facebook.com/ussvigroton/>

Please **“like”** our Facebook Page and **“share”** posts and photos with friends and members.

Help us get the great work we do out there!

There are a number of Facebook sites dedicated to our experiences....

Some are listed below.....

Old War Submarine Veterans

Eternal Patrol by USSVI

Silent Service motorcycle club international

US Submarine Veterans

Run Silent, Run Deep

Of course, we want you to visit us in Groton.... <https://www.ussvigroton.org/>

**US SUBMARINE VETERANS, INC.,
40 SCHOOL STREET
GROTON, CT 06340-3940**



Visit us online:
<http://ussvigroton.org/>

**Groton Base Boat Notes
Apr/May/Jun 2018**



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