



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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Groton Base Officers

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Club Manager Heather Norton clubmanager@ussvigroton.org
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Groton Base Boat Notes – August 2026

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License Plate Chair Michael Hodges ctsubvetplates@ussvigroton.org

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:

USSVI Groton Base

40 School St.

Groton, CT 06340

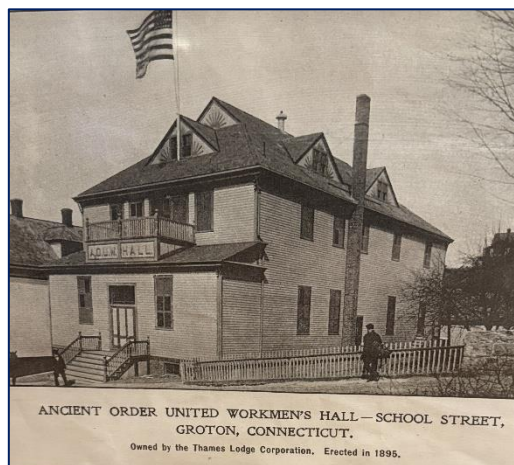


**USSVI Groton Base
"First and Finest"
Home of Dominic "Joe" Negri
Memorial Clubhouse**



Greeting from the Base Commander

Welcome to August, at the stately (i.e., august) Dominic "Joe" Negri Memorial Clubhouse. Our majestic (august) clubhouse is over 135 years old. Built in 1895 this august building has been home for both fraternal organizations and a center for entertainment. Originally built as a Union Hall for the Ancient Order of United Workers it has served as the home for the Groton Playhouse, the Groton Movie Theater, a Catholic meeting space, and the Groton Elks. Now this ancient building is now the home of yet another fraternal organization USSVI Groton Base and the USSVI National business office. We have all heard there are something that get better as they age such as a fine wine, a good whisky, beef, and cheese but one thing that certainly does not get better with age is our stately building. We as caretakers of this august establishment need to help preserve the integrity of this building and to help maintain it for future generations of Submariners.



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.

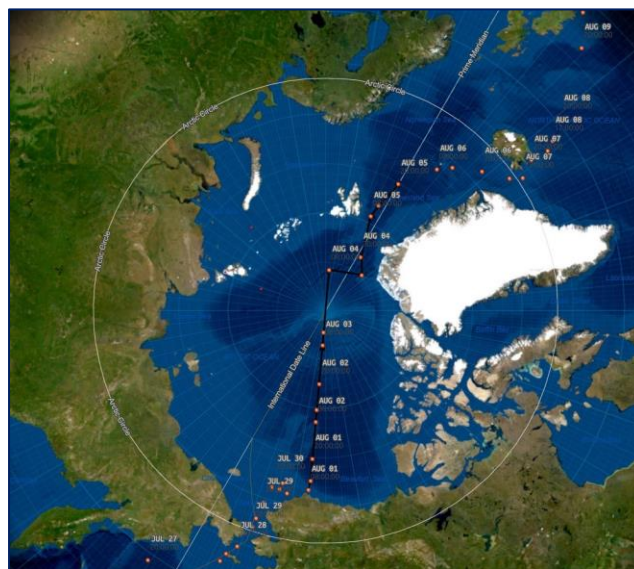
August: The Nautilus' Voyage

August marks the moments when submariners pushed into new frontiers geographically, technological, and strategic. It is a month defined by firsts: the first under-ice transit, the first ship to reach the North Pole, and the first operational demonstration of what nuclear propulsion made possible. These losses, spread across different oceans and different phases of the war, remind us that the Silent Service's sacrifices were not confined to major battles or famous patrols. They were woven into the daily, relentless demands of submarine operations — training dives, long transits, and the final patrols of a war nearing its end.



On 1–3 August 1958, *USS Nautilus (SSN-571)* completed the first successful under-ice transit of the Arctic Ocean. Beginning with her dive at Point Barrow, Alaska, *Nautilus* navigated beneath ice ranging from ten to eighty feet thick, traveling more than 1,800 miles submerged. Nuclear propulsion had given submariners something no diesel boat could offer at that time: the ability to remain submerged indefinitely, to ignore the constraints of battery charge and air supply, and to treat the ocean not as an obstacle but as a continuous medium.

On 3 August, *Nautilus* reached the geographic North Pole, becoming the first vessel in history to do so. Her crew recorded the moment with the understated professionalism that has always characterized the Silent Service. The accomplishment was announced publicly five days later, on 8 August 1958, signaling to the world that the United States had mastered a domain previously inaccessible to any navy. For Groton, the achievement was personal. *Nautilus* had been launched in the Thames River only four years earlier. Her success was a direct product of the community's industrial skill, engineering innovation, and the training pipeline that shaped her crew.



The under-ice transit also produced scientific data that reshaped Cold War strategy. Oceanographers gained new insight into Arctic salinity, temperature gradients, and bathymetry. Strategists recognized that the Arctic could serve as a concealed transit corridor for future submarines. And the Navy understood that nuclear propulsion had fundamentally altered the geometry of naval operations. August 1958 was not just an exploration milestone but also the moment the submarine force demonstrated that it could operate anywhere on the planet. August also marks the maturation of the nuclear submarine program itself. By the summer

of 1958, *Nautilus* had already completed endurance trials, speed records, and long-range operations that

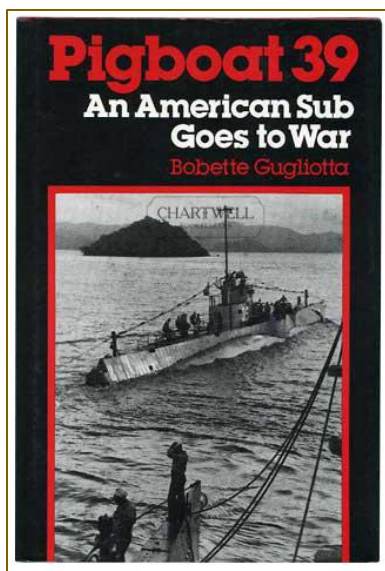
validated the nuclear concept. Her Arctic transit was the culmination of a year in which nuclear propulsion moved from experimental to operational. The Navy now possessed a platform capable of sustained, global, submerged operations that would soon underpin both the fast-attack and ballistic-missile fleets.

The loss of USS *S-39* (SS-144) on 13 August 1942 is one of the most revealing episodes of the early Pacific war because she was lost due to grounding, exposing the limits of the aging S-boats and the unforgiving conditions under which their crews fought. She is the first U.S. submarine lost solely to grounding. She is the first U.S. submarine abandoned on a reef with total loss of the hull but survival of the



entire crew. She is the only U.S. submarine of World War II whose loss was caused by navigational grounding rather than combat or mechanical failure.

The narrative preserved in Bobette Gugliotta's *Pigboat 39* captures the event with a clarity that only those who lived through it could provide: a small, overworked submarine, operating at the edge of her capabilities, meeting an enemy more dangerous than any destroyer the reefs of the Louisiade Archipelago. By mid-1942, *S-39* was already a veteran. She had fought through the desperate early months of the Pacific campaign, conducting patrols out of Manila, Surabaya, and Brisbane, pushing an obsolete platform into missions for which she had never been designed. Her crew compensated for the boat's limitations with improvisation, grit, and a level of seamanship that bordered on the heroic. But even the best crews could not overcome the hazards of poorly charted waters.



On the night of 12–13 August, *S-39* approached Rossel Island in heavy seas. The charts were incomplete, the weather deteriorating, and the visibility poor. The boat was attempting to make a landfall to begin her next patrol. As *Pigboat 39* recounts, the crew felt the first jolt, a grinding, unmistakable impact, followed by the sickening realization that the submarine had run hard aground on a reef. The next hours were a test of discipline and endurance. The sea state worsened, pounding the hull and driving the boat further onto the reef. The crew attempted every standard procedure: backing down, shifting ballast, adjusting trim, and using the engines to pivot the bow. Nothing worked. The reef held the boat fast, and each wave threatened to break her open. The captain, Francis Brown, ordered the crew topside, and they survived overnight on the reef. They were eventually rescued by Australian forces, who also scuttled the stricken boat. Every man survived and were transferred to new boats.

The loss of *S-39* is often overshadowed by the combat losses of 1942, but it deserves its place in August's roll of remembrance. It illustrates the conditions under which the early-war submarine force operated: obsolete boats, incomplete charts, and missions that demanded more of the platform than it could reliably deliver. It also highlights the professionalism of the crew, whose calm execution of emergency procedures ensured that not a single life was lost.

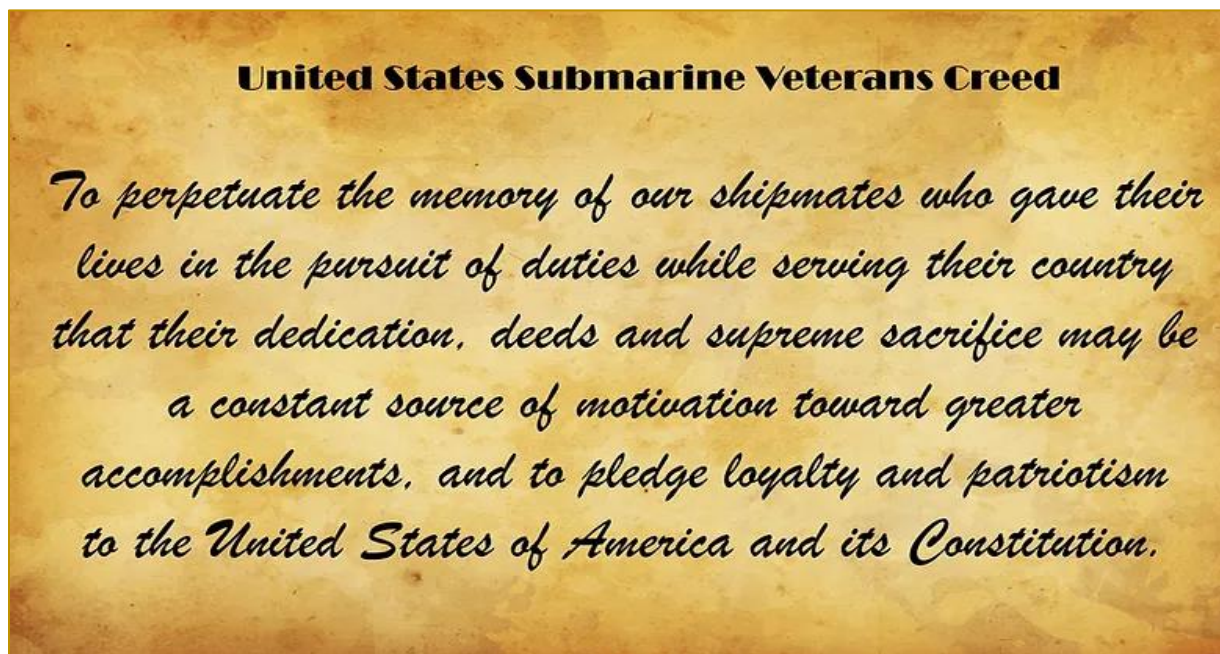
While August is defined primarily by *Nautilus*, it also marks the beginning of the modern era of submarine construction and testing. In August 2004, *USS Virginia* (SSN-774) entered her first full month of post-commissioning trials. Although commissioned in July, August was the period when *Virginia* validating the photonics mast, fly-by-wire ship control, modular construction, and the combat system architecture that would define the class. These trials represented the transition from concept to capability, the moment when the Navy confirmed that the Virginia class could meet the demands of 21st-century undersea warfare.



Taken together, August's milestones form a coherent narrative. *Nautilus* showed that submarines could reach the most inaccessible places on Earth. The nuclear program matured into a reliable operational force. And *Virginia* demonstrated that the Navy could continue innovating even after half a century of nuclear propulsion.

WHO WE ARE: We are all United States Submariners! Members whether currently Active, Retired, Reserve or an Honorably discharged veteran we all were, and some still are of the elite underseas fighting force of the United States Navy. We are all volunteers who passed stringent testing, challenging training, and we proved our mettle when we earned the coveted designation "QUALIFIED IN SUBMARINES". Whether your dolphins are Gold or Silver, there is no expiration date on the back of that precious pin.

United States Submarine Veterans Creed



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

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

Lost Boats

Lost Boats – August

 A rectangular patch with a white background. It features a cartoon illustration of a yellow submarine shaped like a bull's head, with a red flame-like trail behind it. Below the illustration, the text "U.S.S. BULLHEAD - S.S. 332" is printed in a bold, black, sans-serif font.	USS Bullhead (SS-332)	Lost on August 6, 1945, with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane. Bullhead was the last submarine lost during
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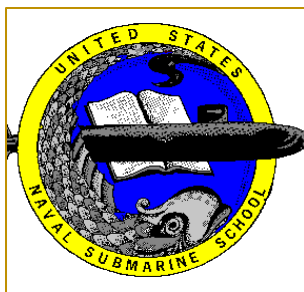
Groton Base Boat Notes – August 2026

	USS Flier (SS-250)	Lost on August 13, 1944, with the loss of 78 crew members while on her 2nd war patrol. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days later friendly natives guided them to a Coast Watcher and they were evacuated by the USS Redfin (SS-272).
	USS S-39 (SS-144)	Lost on August 13, 1942, after grounding on a reef south of Rossel Island while on her 3rd war patrol. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS Katoomba.
	USS Harder (SS-257)	Lost on August 24, 1944, with the loss of 79 crew members from a depth charge attack by a minesweeper near Bataan while on her 6th war patrol. Harder had won a Presidential Unit Citation for her first 5 war patrols and CDR Dealey was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. Harder is tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk.
	USS Cochino (SS-345)	Lost on August 26, 1949, after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway caused an electrical fire and battery explosion that generated hydrogen and chlorine gasses. In extremely bad weather, men of Cochino and Tusk (SS-426) fought to save the submarine for 14 hours. After a 2nd battery explosion, Abandon Ship was ordered and Cochino sank. Tusk's crew rescued all of Cochino's men except for one civilian engineer. Six sailors from Tusk were lost during the rescue.

Groton Base Boat Notes – August 2026

Plan of the Month – August 2026

Date	Time	Action	Description
8/3	1830	Meeting	Monthly Membership Meeting
8/14	0900	Event	BESS Graduation (Dealey Center) – Gary Schmid
8/14	1100	Event	SOAC Graduation – Bill Sheehan
8/14	1800	Event	August Monthly Dinner – Chicken Dinner
8/15	1000	Event	Military Appreciation Day at Ocean Beach Park, New London
8/18	1100	Event	Holland Club Luncheon
8/21	0900	Event	New London Veterans Coffeehouse with Breakfast
8/28	0900	Event	BESS Graduation – John Glaub
8/28	2000	Event	Karaoke With DJ Jammin’ Jim
8/30	1000	Event	Brunch – Courtesy of SSEP!



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 2nd and 17th.

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 Barb SS 238 BESS Class 26300

The following information is for BESS Class 26300, named after the USS Barb SS 220. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.



USS Barb SS-220 USS Barb (SS-220) was commissioned on 8 July 1942 at Groton, Connecticut. USS Barb (SS-220), a Gato-class submarine, was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the Barbus, a genus of ray-finned fish. She compiled one of the most outstanding records of any U.S. submarine in World War II. During her twelve war patrols, Barb is officially credited with sinking 17 enemy vessels totaling 96,628 tons, including the Japanese aircraft carrier Un'yō. In recognition of one outstanding patrol, Barb received the Presidential Unit Citation. Following shakedown and participation in Operation Torch—the invasion of North Africa—Barb was ordered in the spring of 1943 to the Pacific Fleet by Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Ernest J. King. After refitting and intensive training, Barb was underway for patrol duty in the fall of 1943 in Pacific waters, but the boat's first tour of duty in the Pacific was mostly uneventful.

Following overhaul and training, the submarine made way to shipping lanes west of the Marianas and east of Formosa. On 28 March 1944, Barb fired three torpedoes at Fukusei Maru breaking the freighter in half. Later in the patrol, the boat joined USS Steelhead (SS-280) in a successful bombardment of a congested industrial area on Rasa Island in the Philippines. Barb scored a direct hit on the main Japanese installation

of a secondary phosphate plant and successfully hit other locations that set off a multitude of munition and chemical explosions.

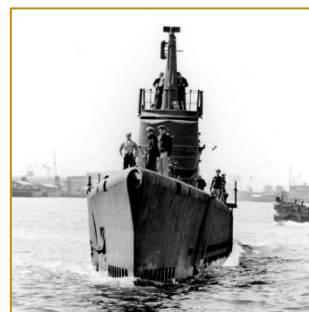
After refit, Barb was underway, 21 May 1944, with her new skipper, Commander Eugene B. “Lucky” Fluckey. Patrolling the waters along the Kuril Island chain, the north coast of Hokkaido, and in the Sea of Okhotsk, Barb successfully sent five ships and two sampans to the ocean’s floor. On 31 May, the submarine sank Japanese cargo ship Koto Maru and immediately afterwards, fired three more torpedoes at Madras Maru sending that cargo ship below the waves. On 2 June, Barb sent torpedoes at a lone ship, but the aggressive enemy vessel countered with guns and depth charges. Barb escaped, subsequently, into ice fields in the northern Kurils. On 11 June, Barb sank two trawlers with gunfire, then four hours later, sank Japanese ship Toten Maru and freighter Chihaya Maru. Two days later, the boat sank a passenger cargo ship with her last two torpedoes. Barb was credited with sinking an astounding 15,472 tons of enemy shipping during this single war patrol.

On 19 July, Fluckey noticed a railroad running close to the Japanese coastline. After three days of observation to establish train schedules, eight crew members secretly deployed ashore in the black of night. The men strategically placed a 55-pound demolition charge that was intended to explode when the next train passed. As the crew departed the area in rubber boats, an incoming train hit the charge sending locomotive wreckage 200-feet in the air that crashed in a mass of flames and smoke. Twelve freight cars, two passenger cars, and one mail car derailed and piled up in a mound of twisted metal. For the remainder of the war patrol, Barb continued to wreak havoc on Japanese shores and enemy vessels. Her last war patrol ended when Barb arrived at Midway on 2 August 1945. The war ended when the Japanese surrendered about two weeks later.

Barb was credited with destroying 96,628 tons of enemy shipping. She received four Presidential Unit Citations, a Navy Unit Commendation, and eight battle stars for her World War II service.

More on the USS Barb (SS 220) can be found [USS Barb \(SS-220\) - Wikipedia](#), and [Barb \(SS-220\)](#).

On July 2nd, the BESS Class named after USS Barb SS-220 had 101 students with a class average was 75% 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 were: ITNC(SS) Michael Taylor, FT1(SS) Abbott, STS2(SS) Marcos, and STS2(SS) Bord. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.



The Command Representative was SubSchool Executive Officer, CDR Bryan Chapman. Guest Speaker was ITSCM(SS/IW) Larry (Chip) Alger USN ret, SubSchool Staff and Chaplain, CDR Kevin Wilkinson gave the Invocation and Benediction.

USSVI Groton Base and Holland Club Member, STSCS(SS) Bob Sharpe USN ret, was the Sub Vet Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SR(SU)



Andrew P. Burke. The Heritage Award is given to the student who demonstrates performance of their duties above and beyond the call of the average student.



The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented by STSCS(SS) Jerry Verant to SR(SU) Bruce R. Onderdonk. 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) Ariel Y Torrijos, by Sub School XO, CDR Chapman. The honor graduate is the student with the highest academic average who maintained outstanding military bearing over the course of instruction.



The Navy Core Values Award was presented by Retired Master Chief Alger to SN(SU) Emerson P. Holmes. This award is given to the student who best embodies the U.S. Navy Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

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



USS Bonefish SS 223 Bess Class 26320



The following information is for BESS Class 26320, named after the USS Bonefish SS 223. The information provided comes from various sources including Naval History and Heritage Command and Wikipedia. Follow the links below for additional details.

USS Bonefish (SS-223) was a Gato-class submarine, the first United States Navy ship to be named for the bonefish.

She had a busy career in the Pacific against Japanese shipping after being launched and commissioned in May 1943. She was sunk in

June 1945 after sinking a ship on her eighth cruise.

Bonefish's keel was laid down by the Electric Boat Company of Groton, Connecticut on 25 June 1942. She was launched 7 May 1943 (sponsored by Mrs. Elizabeth S. Daubin, wife of Rear Admiral Freeland A. Daubin), and commissioned on 31 May 1943.

The submarine conducted shakedown training out of New London, Conn., and Newport, R.I., until 23 July, when she set out for the Pacific. She transited the Panama Canal on 4 August and arrived at Brisbane, Australia, on the 30th. Following a week of training out of that port, she again got underway for more days of drills in Moreton Bay. The submarine departed there on 16 September for her first war patrol.

Entering service in May 1943, the Bonefish was deployed to combat Japanese forces during World War II. Her maiden patrol began on September 16, 1943, in the South China Sea, where she engaged a convoy of eight ships, successfully striking a freighter before diving deep to avoid a counterattack. Soon after, Bonefish launched torpedoes at the lead vessel, sinking the 9,908-ton transport Kishima Maru and damaging Chihaya Maru, eluding pursuit from escort ships by diving to safety. Early in October, Bonefish approached a third convoy, landing hits on two cargo vessels and again evading enemy retaliation. Within days, she also targeted a two-ship convoy, sinking both Isuzugawa and Teibi Maru. The first patrol concluded with Bonefish's return to Western Australia.

On May 28, 1945, Bonefish departed Guam for her eighth war patrol in the Sea of Japan, operating as part of a coordinated wolfpack with USS Tunny (SS-282) and USS Skate (SS-305). She successfully sank a large transport and a medium freighter early in the patrol. On June 18, 1945, while conducting a submerged daylight patrol in Toyama Wan, Bonefish was attacked by Japanese antisubmarine forces. Depth charges were observed along with wood chips and oil, indicating her sinking. All 85 crew members were lost, and she was officially reported as presumed lost on July 30, 1945.

More on the USS Bonefish SS 223 can be found <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/u/united-states-submarine-losses/bonefish-ss-223.html>, <https://www.lost52project.org/Bonefish.html>, and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Bonefish_\(SS-223\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Bonefish_(SS-223)).

On May 21st, the BESS Class named after USS Bonefish SS 223 had 106 students with a class average was 78% and 3 Sailors graduating with Distinction. To graduate with Distinction requires an average of 90% or higher. Congratulations to this class of future Submariners who have finished one of many milestones in their Navy career and are anxiously waiting for their next assignments whether “A” School or direct assignment to their first submarine. Instructors involved with today’s ceremony included were: ITNC(SS) Michael Taylor, FT1(SS) Abbott, STS2(SS) Davis and STS2(SS) Carter. Thank you for using your background, training, and experience in guiding these future Submariners.

The Command Representative was SubSchool Director of Training Captain Mark Robinson. Guest Speaker was EMNCS(SS) Dan Miller, EDMC PCU Utah SSN 801. SubSchool Chaplain, LT Rogers gave the Invocation and Benediction.



USSVI Groton Base and Holland Club Member LCDR Dave Gustafson USN Retired, was the SubVets Representative and presented the Submarine Heritage Award and a Groton Base challenge coin to SA(SU) Collin G. Freeman. The Heritage Award is given to the student who demonstrates performance of their duties above and beyond the call of the average student.

Groton Base Boat Notes – August 2026

The Captain William H. Purdum Award was presented by MMAC(SS) Edward Chartier to SR(SU) Delmar L Barber II. 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) Kayson R. A Carranza, by Sub School DOT Captain Robinson. The honor graduate is the student with the highest academic average who maintained outstanding military bearing over the course of instruction.

The Navy Core Values Award was presented by EMNCS(SS) Dan Miller to FN(SU) Paden C Whetten. This award is given to the student who best embodies the U.S. Navy Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

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



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
26340	USS Parche (SS-384)	<i>31 July 2026</i>	CMC	John Carcioppolo	
26360	USS Nautilus (SS-168)	<i>14 August 2026</i>		Gary Schmid	
26380	USS Finback (SS-230)	<i>28 August 2026</i>		John Glaub	
26400	USS Seadragon (SS-194)	<i>11 September 2026</i>		Bob Sharpe	
26420	USS Archerfish (SS-311)	<i>25 September 2026</i>		John Carcioppolo	
26440	USS Barbero (SS-317)	<i>08 October 2026</i>		Steve Ricard	
		<i>23 October 2026</i>			
		<i>06 November 2026</i>			
		<i>18 November 2026</i>			
		<i>04 December 2026</i>			
		<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
26030	14 August 2026	Bill Sheehan	
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 (our new Chef), Mika, Ollie (welcome back), Julz, and Erin for all the hard work, dedication and for keeping our clubhouse a go to destination.



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



On Saturday July 4th, Groton Base and US Naval Submarine School participated in the annual Groton 4th of July Parade. This year we celebrated the 250th Anniversary of our country.

Groton Base Boat Notes – August 2026

We were notified by Groton parade official that USSVI - Groton Base / Naval Submarine School / Sub Vets was the 2026 Parade Award Winners for the Most Patriotic.



After the parade SubVets, Outer Light Brewing Company, and Grey Sail Brewing of RI hosted an old fashion backyard picnic with family, friends, and a whole bunch of SubSchool students. It was another great event for our Submarine Community.



Groton Base Boat Notes – August 2026

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



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

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

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



Join us next month at our Membership meeting on Monday, August 3rd at 1830. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting.

Friday, July 17th members of SubVets Groton Base were present for the 14th Annual Dolphin Scholarship Golf Tournament at Pequot Golf Course. We may not have won the tournament but we had a blast.



Groton Base Boat Notes – August 2026

July 17th had several SubVet members attended the reopening of the New London Veterans Coffeehouse & Breakfast. Our Guest Speaker was Thor Torgersen from Veterans Equine Therapeutic Services (V.E.T.S.) joined us to talk about the program. Please join us on the 3rd Friday of each month.



Saturday, July 18th was the July Monthly Dinner hosted by the Stan Mathis House Committee. The theme for the month was "Potluck," guest Chefs are pictured below. The meals that whipped up by these guest Chefs were nothing short of amazing. Everything was finger licking good, especially the peach cobbler.



Groton Base Boat Notes – August 2026



On Sunday, July 19th, SSEP cooked up a fantastic brunch with over 35 happy diners. Big thanks to the SSEP crew for manning the kitchen and keeping the tradition alive. BTW great biscuits and gravy.



Sunday afternoon, July 19th, members of Groton Base attended the annual summer picnic hosted by RI Base. The weather was fantastic, the food was excellent, and the camaraderie was supreme. A big thank you to Betty Faella and her family for opening their home at Larkin Pond for this annual event.



Congratulations to Shipmate Bill Remey for being inducted into the prestigious Holland Club.

On Tuesday, July 21st, we held our monthly Holland Club Luncheon up in “Higham Hall”. There were over 60 members and guests who attended the luncheon. Our guest speaker was Commander Daniel Goodwin CO, USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790) and he was accompanied by XO LCDR Jacqueline Penichet and COB ITRCS(SS) Jonathan Nogaj. Big thanks to Jim and Angie Lawton who cooked up a delicious pulled pork BBQ. We also celebrated Kirk’s birthday in fine fashion with a cake and well-wishes.



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

Groton Base Boat Notes – August 2026



On Friday, July 24th, SubVets Groton Base Commander was the guest beer tender at the Outer Light Brewing Company. This event called “Pour with a Purpose” was to raise funds for Military Appreciation Day at Ocean Beach. Thank you to all who attended in support of M.A.D. 2026.



On Sunday, the 26th, SubSchool Chiefs cooked up a fantastic brunch with over 20 diners slapping on the feedbag. Big thanks to the Chiefs for manning the kitchen and keeping the tradition alive.

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



Boat Reunion

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

Groton Base Boat Notes – August 2026

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

A big thanks to Dominick Grimaldi for submitting his name for Senior Vice Commander. He has taken over the vacant spot since June 2026.

Junior Vice Commander

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! Sorry for the inconvenience of having to close occasionally, but it is worth it. We have a new carpet in the dining hall, and now we have a new power distribution to the building. 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.

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.

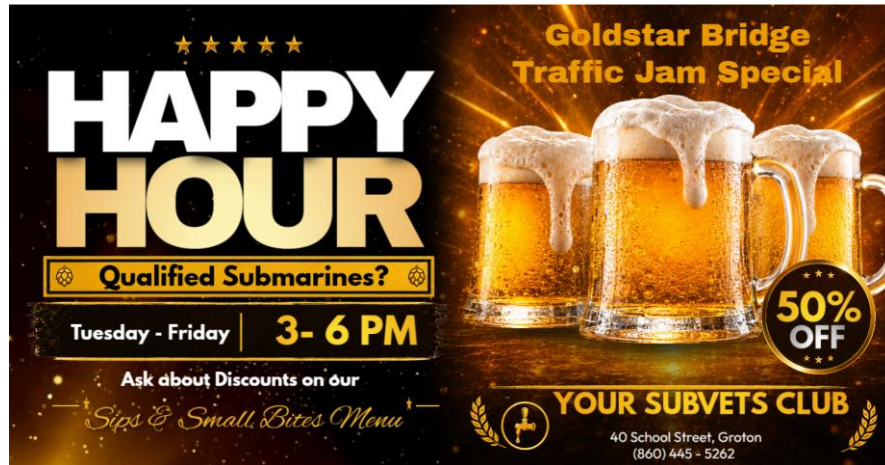
Kaitlyn Hodge is our kitchen crew as you would already know if you would stop in.

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**



SSEP, and SubSchool Chiefs Hosted Brunch! Thank You So Very Much!



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

Our organization bylaws are due for a review to bring the document up to the way USSVI Groton Base does its business. I will be asking committee chairs to review their content in the bylaws as well as their respective Policy & Procedure manuals to make changes they reflect the current way they are conducting committee business.

I intend to set up a subcommittee of 3 to 5 members to perform this much-needed review. If anyone would like to support this effort, please text me at 860-460-0027. I hope to be able to present all changes, corrections, and deletions to the EBoard by the end of this calendar year.

Please remember to vote for our National USSVI officers.

Alvin G Kinsall

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

Base Treasurer

AUGUST

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

JULY

Completed – new carpet in the dining room.

Completed – additional electrical work Called our electrician to troubleshoot an issue at 40 school street with half the building being out of power, found one pole on the main breaker was

burnt and not allowing power through. As a result of this issue the connection from the breaker to the busbar in the panel was also starting to heat up and become burnt. The breaker was replaced to get the building back on.

The electrician recommended replacing the main panel.

ANNUAL APPEAL 2026

THANK YOU so very much, to every member, friend, and vendor. You keep us open !

FINANCIALS:

Financial information thru July 31 will be posted on the website

All expenses have been paid to date.

Reimbursement – Notice: going forward please coordinate any expenses with the Treasurer in advance of any expense. We have staff with debit cards which can be used to purchase necessary items. To limited processing checks we will be reimbursing via Zella & PayPal....a few issues with setting up Venmo

THANKSGIVING & HOLIDAY APPEAL 2026

This Appeal will be in the mail to you after September 15, 2026. We have high hopes that this year will again be a wonderful November to December Holiday experience in our Submarine Community.

Future donations:

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

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

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

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

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 once they pass that Sub Vets is identified as their beneficiary or an amount of money. This account could be restricted for the ongoing support of SubVets Groton.

Suggested Groton Building Improvements:

Groton Base Boat Notes – August 2026

- 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.

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

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

IMPORTANT NEW OPTION AVAILABLE – IF YOU WANT A TAX DEDUCTION

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

1. Option to get donations applied and available for Groton.
 - a. Indicate that the donation is for Groton Building o
 - b. [Additional funds are listed for Groton: Scholarship](#), Building Fund, Thanksgiving or WWII Memorial East

2. Option to get donations applied to the Brotherhood Fund or any of the Funds that benefit USSVI members.
 - a. [Donate - Support Our Top Donation Campaign - USSVCF](#)

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

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

BUILDING INTERIOR CLEANUP:

1. Work on the 3rd floor will continue in June or during summer, with scrapping old paint off one area walls, repainting
 - a. Possible relocation of items to improve area usage
2. Old auditorium chairs will be removed from attic, and the intent is to get more donations.
 - a. Initial evaluation is that there is some value
 - b. I believe we don't have any use in our clubhouse for these, and it could be dangerous to keep them in the attic.
 - 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 constant repairs on our front door

Jim Kading our membership chair

Base Chaplin



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

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

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

EN2(SS) Dale MacKay Departed on Eternal Patrol on 27 May. Honors were held on 12 June. Present were John Carcioppolo, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Dennis Hopkins, Mark Kashar, Bob Sharpe, Joe Wread

FTCM(SS) Robert “Bob” Edward Christina Departed on Eternal Patrol on 11 July. Honors were held on 19 Jul. Present were John Carcioppolo, Earl Colella, Rob Davis, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, David Gustafson, Al Kinsall, Steve Ricard, and Bob Sharpe

EMCS(SS) Albert A. Osswald III Departed on Eternal Patrol on 24 June. No Honors Detail were Held

Eternal Light

Sadly we lost the following spouses of members this last month

Janice Stern Wife of Mark Stern entered Eternal Life on 4 July 2026.

Ella Mae Kuzel Widow of Norm Kuzel entered Eternal Life on 4 July 2026

Alice Gallimore Widow of Jack Gallimore entered Eternal Life on 12 July 2026

Our deepest condolences to our members and their families.

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

On Monday 3 August we will have a Red Hat Homecoming for USS VIRGINIA (SSN 774) returning to SUBASE New London from months of deployment at the pointy end of the spear.

The Homecoming Detail will muster at 1230 along the water behind Puffins Restaurant 169 Thames St, Groton, CT. Not required but If you have a vest recommend wearing it.

Please let me know if you can join us.



USS VIRGINIA (SSN 774)

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" will not receive any emails or updates from the club including the notifications for Honors Detail notifications and Redl Hat's. 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.

August 2026 Holland Club Report

LUNCHEONS We had a great luncheon in July with 65 people in attendance. Commander Daniel W. Goodwin CO, USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790) was the guest speaker. He was accompanied by XO LCDR Jacqueline "Juggernaut" M. Penichet and COB ITRCS(SS) Jonathan E. Nogaj. All three are top performers in our Submarine Force and the CO was a ball of positive energy. He spoke a great deal about his crew on SDK and how they are continuing our legacy.

A special thank you to Jim and Angie Lawton and Heather Norton. In the absence of SUBSCHOOL Students with help from the SDK COB they put on the luncheon and fed everyone. It was an outstanding effort on their part.

We also had the opportunity to help Kirk Haugland celebrate his birthday

The 50/50 was won by Tonja Strobe who won \$130 and donated \$65 back to the Holland Club



**CDR Daniel W. Goodwin
CO, USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790)**



**USS SOUTH DAKOTA
Leadership Team**



Happy Birthday Kirk



**Team BILLFISH
COB Mikey Allen, CO Terry Jones and
RMLPO John C.**

Additional Pictures from the luncheon are posted here

<https://linkit.shutterfly.com/E-8WmR>

Upcoming Speakers are as follows:

- **18 August Guest Speaker** – Mayor Jill Rusk, Mayor City of Groton
- **15 September Guest Speaker** – CO/COB PCU ARIZONA (SSN 803)
- **20 October Guest Speaker** – Damien Cregeau the author of "Portraits of Patriots"

HOLLAND CLUB 2027 Looking ahead to 2027, we had a meeting with SUBASE New London on 22 July. We have confirmed and locked in the date for the 2027 Holland Club Induction Ceremony. We are a go for Saturday 5 June 2027 on SUBASE New London at Dealey Center Theatre. So if you are being inducted in 2027 mark the dates and tell your families not to plan anything else so that you can be on the stage. I have sent an invitation to the Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Daryl Caudle to be our guest speaker. I'll keep you informed as things progress.

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

Color Guard

Groton Base's Color Guard's flags were ready to fly at the Town of Groton's 4th of July Parade. Groton base members, the U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII Memorial – East committee's 'Lost Boat' flags carried by Naval Submarine School students along with the Silver Dolphins Color Guard and Drill Team provided the parade with a U. S. Submarine Service presentation.

For their part in the parade, USSVI Groton Base, Naval Submarine School students along with the Silver Dolphins Color Guard and Drill Team won the Town of Groton Judges Patriotic Award.

As an addition to the People Mover, this year we were able to have the USS Tench SS-417 Float be part of our group. The float has been garaged kept for the past 5 years and will undergo an overhaul this winter.

Unfortunately we did not have enough members or submarine students to muster the Groton Base Color Guard. This is really the only scheduled event that requires some younger members, capable of carrying our flags for almost two miles. Hopefully, next year we will have the capability to fly the Groton Base's USSVI and SVWWII Colors on the USS Tench Float.

The Color Guard has been requested to present the colors at 2 submarine reunions scheduled for this fall. Also, if called upon, the color guard will need members to assist in the USSVI Groton Base's Veterans Day festivities.

Robert 'Bob' Sharpe
Color Guard Captain
bobsharpe@hotmail.com

Stan Mathis Memorial House Committee

Thank you to everyone who attended the July Potluck Social. Thank you to everyone who brought a dish to share. Plenty of delicious food.

Thank you to Julz who provided 4 of the raffle baskets.

Next event is Friday August 14 @ 6:00 PM.



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

Contact the House committee chairman, Paul Skalski

Many hands make for light work

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

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

If you have any suggestions for dinner, drop me an email at p.skalski@sbcglobal.net. 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

SubVets Monthly Dinner Schedule 2026			
Month	Weekday	Time	Theme
14-Aug-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Hillbilly Night
18-Sep-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	Sock Hop Dance food from the 50's
16-Oct-2026	Friday	6:00 PM	October Fest German food
26-Nov-2026	Thursday	12:00 – 5:00	Annual Club Thanksgiving meal
05-Dec-2026	Saturday	2:00 PM	Base Christmas Party

Membership

RENEW NOW FOR 2026

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

As of July 29th, Groton Base had 1050 members. This shows we are way down from last year, however, with the new website came many issues that we are still trying to work out. It also has not been updated to show anyone who has paid since May. I do have a database of everyone that has paid so rest assured; you will eventually be updated in the national database, and you are a member in good standing. 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 – 1,050
Life National Members – 858
Base Life Members – 404*
Holland Club – 657
Associate Members – 60

**-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

There is no update this month due to family vacation, but I will include details for this period in the September edition of Boat Notes.

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 pumphoom.



Michael Hodges
DMV Liaison

Scholarship Committee



**2023 Groton Base Scholarship a
Awardee Delaney Reck**

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 weather finally cooperated and the Memorial Committee was able to get the planting done at the USSVIWWII National Memorial East. We were happy to be joined by a group of sailors so the work was done in record time. By the end of the morning the plants were in place, the mulch was down and new flags were in place.

The Memorial Committee also supported the Memorial Day Observance held May 25.



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@ussvigroton.org

Hey Navy, it looks like AUG is finally here. Remember BBQ Safety and end of the month back to school buses. the side entrance to the West Haven VA garage will be opening near the end of AUG....hopefully this year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

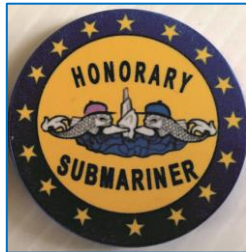
Are you a high-tech Sailor? The VA put out a helpful link to navigate their Apps. [How to use cool features in VA's official mobile app - VA News](#)

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

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

- <https://www.va.gov/> is Always a good place to start.
- [Home - My HealtheVet - My HealtheVet \(va.gov\)](#) Track your appointments, meds, and more.
- [Military and Veteran Benefits, News, Veteran Jobs | Military.com](#) This is a great website for info on any Military and Veteran related issues.

KAP(SS) 4 KID (SS)



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

Abraham Lincoln

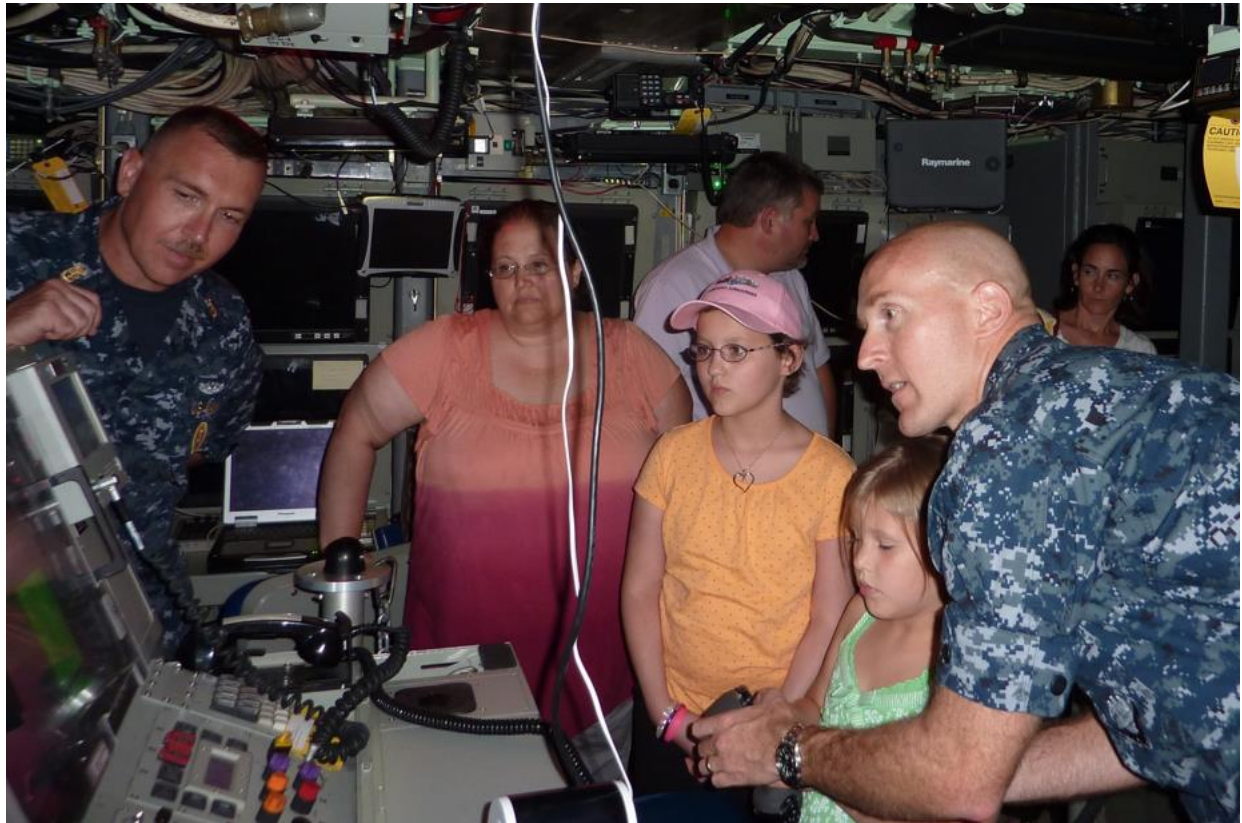
Since its inception in 2009, Groton Base's Kap (SS) 4 Kid (SS) Program has provided comfort and joy to over 2,500 Children facing illness, and their families.

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

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



During our visits, the Kids all receive the now-standard K4K gear from Groton Base: Honorary Submariner Certificates, ball caps, temporary tattoos, challenge coins, and wristbands. Also handed out are signed Nautilus photos, maps showing the location of submarine museums around the U.S., and brochures specifically about the WWII Submarine Memorial and Submarine Force Museum in Groton. The Kids continue to be excited to receive stress-reducing red heart-shaped squeeze balls and K4K Teddy Bears!



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



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

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



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

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

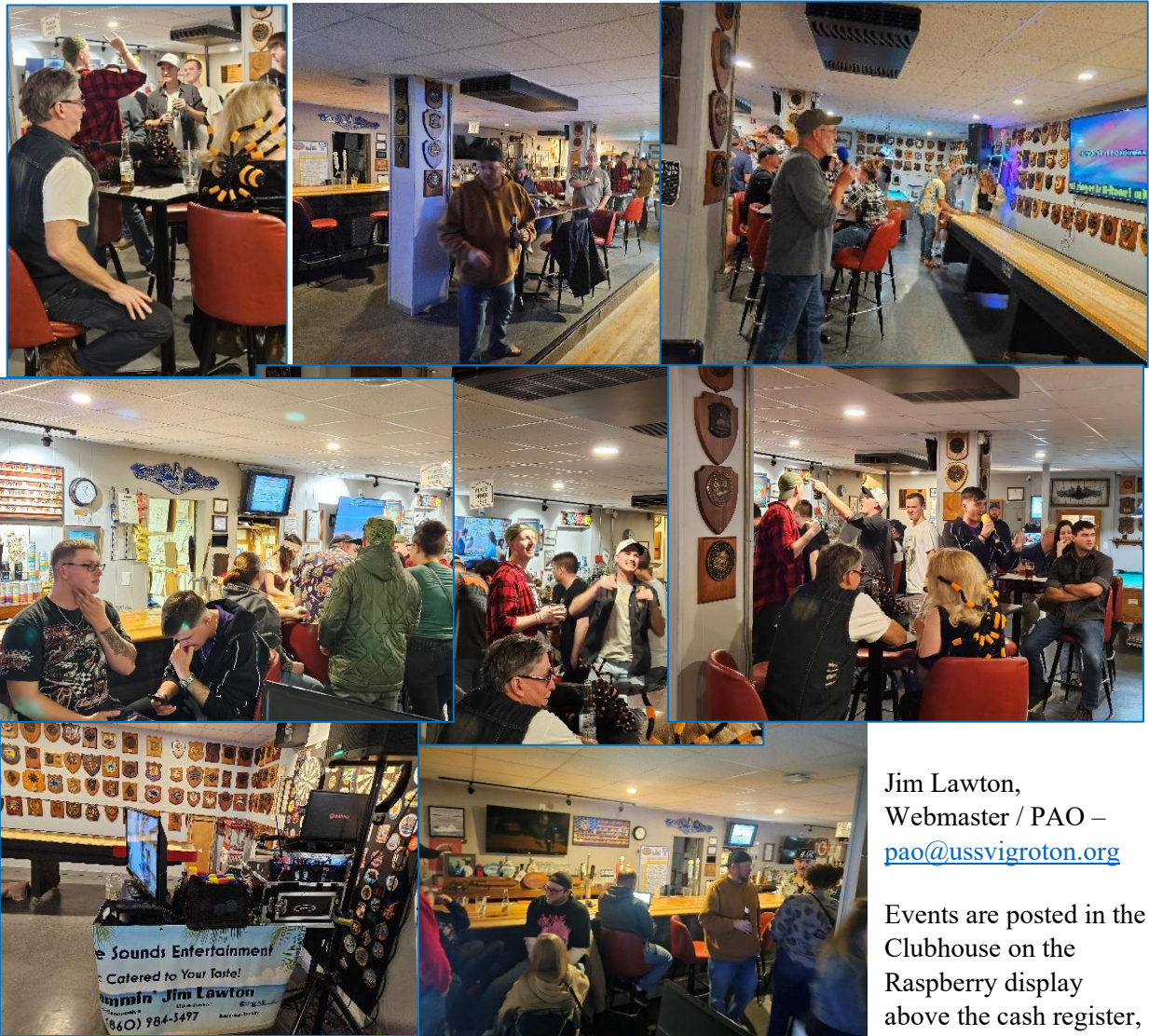
Public Affairs Officer

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.

Karaoke Night Success!

Karaoke is scheduled for August 28, 2026



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 August Birthday List

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

Last Name	First Name	Date	Last Name	First Name	Date
Ambrose	Kenneth R.	30	MacDonald	Arthur R.	06
Barnes	Stephen W.	29	McCleer	James L.	14
Barrows	Blair	01	Meaden	Thomas	12
Basilio	Anthony C.	21	Meloche, Jr.	Raymond H.	27
Bekech	Ronald J.	19	Miarecki	Rick	27
Bell	Steven D.	07	Miller	Lloyd M.	02
Blevins	Jerry L.	13	Moran III	George T.	18
Booth	Rodger	27	Mosley	James M.	12
Bowler	John A.	20	Murray	Derek	08
Brandon	Earl L.	26	Nott	Raymond L.	21
Brecheen	Damon K.	22	Nowell	James R.	07
Brosig Jr.	Paul R.	22	O'Shea	Thomas	05
Callahan	Chris	16	Oakley	Jacob A.	05
Cheatham	Richard Glenn	04	Oswald	William H.	17
Cialino	Charles	09	Parent	Phillipe J.	22
Cocchiaro	Antonio A.	24	Patterson	Mark	07
Colucci	Frank E.	27	Pierce	Thomas E.	20
Colville	James P.	15	Pratt	Henry	15
Dahlman, Jr.	Carl E.	13	Quatroche	Anthony J.	22
Day	Grant Paul	07	Rehbach	John	12
Degnan	Joseph	19	Rowland, III	Jay M.	20
Del Santo	Edward A.	16	Ryan, Jr.	Joseph Wayne	08
Demers	Joshua Joseph	01	Scarbrough	Del	07
Di Luzio	Joseph P.	15	Schmitz	Matthew G.	19
Dubay	Ted E.	27	Schneider	Timothy L.	26
Dyer	Kory L.	16	Sharp	Robert J.	01
Fankhauser	Samuel R.	25	Shropshire	Waylan	28
Finco	Steven A.	06	Singer	Elisha	14
Frederick, III	Joseph John	07	Singleman, Jr.	Alfred	24
Galbraith	Marian	18	Sisk	Wallace D.	13
Godfrey, Sr.	Curtis V.	21	Smith	Keith	13
Hammond	Barry L.	13	Snyder	Robert	22
Hartline	Kenneth C.	23	Springer, Jr.	Roy M.	28
Henke	Radford P.	22	Stevens	Edmond P.	09
Hiner	Brian	07	Sturgis, Jr.	Talbot E.	20
Hornok	William A.	08	Szegda	Robert M.	26
Howell	Matthew	15	Thompson	Jonathon N.	26
Hunter	Gaylen E.	06	Torres	Christopher M.	13
Irwin	James	17	Tryon	Timothy	08
Isenhour	Nathan L.	09	Tupper	Kenneth Dale	23
Kading	James	23	Van Camp	Earle B.	20
Kelly	Tom	23	Wallace	Joseph D.	25

Kepler	John D.	08	Wert	Ronald Eugene	08
Kish	Robert J.	24	Winslow	Ralph L.	28
Knaff	John A.	31	Wittkopf	Michael	18
Kostlan	Doug	14	Wolber	Michael J.	23
Kotan	Charles J.	08	Wread	Joseph M.	08
Lawton	James E.	15			
Lisee	Dennis F.	06			

USSVI Groton Base August Eternal Patrol List

Last Name	First Name	Date	Last Name	First Name	Date
Arthur	Rasimas	08/26/2022	McGuirk	Brendan	08/03/2014
Arthur, Jr.	Glenn N.	08/26/2017	McLarin	Gregory	08/31/2003
Beach	Thomas	08/01/2024	Mumford	John	08/14/2017
Bing	Ward	08/02/2015	Murtha, Sr.	William	08/10/2009
Brosig	Paul	08/01/2023	Negri	Joe	08/22/1994
Caronia	Michael	08/04/2009	Olsson	J. David	08/27/2021
Collins	Richard	08/06/2014	Page	James	08/28/2016
Connors	Thomas	08/31/2023	Pando	Fred	08/07/2014
Davis	Tudor	08/28/2024	Parker	Bill	08/20/2012
DeVallee	Peter	08/30/2007	Pritzl	Gerald	08/17/1998
Edlund	Frederick G.	08/19/2022	Quijada	Richard	08/14/2005
Ekberg	Elden	08/05/2005	Quinn	Francis	08/09/2011
French	Richard	08/22/2021	Rice	Richard	08/29/2024
Gillespie	Andrew	08/14/2010	Rohen	James	08/18/2023
Goudreau	Robert	08/07/2010	Russell, III	Thomas	08/13/2017
Griffith, Sr.	Philip	08/06/1205	Seel	Joseph	08/17/2003
Haderski	Richard	08/02/2011	Smith, III	Percy	08/18/2021
Haines	Willaim	08/03/2021	Spina	John	08/10/2013
Hecker, Sr.	Robert	08/16/2015	Streichert	Emil	08/18/2016
Hollendonner	Frederick	08/26/2008	Szablewski	Kenneth	08/02/2008
Jocque	Edward	08/01/2016	Talbott	Merrill	08/08/2018
Johnson	Donald	08/30/2006	Towne	Earle	08/08/2000
Kaszuba	Theodore	08/15/2018	Vaisin	Jay	08/14/2024
Kimmons	Carl	08/04/2016	Wagner	John	08/22/2018
Kliggle, Jr.	Howard	08/04/2023	Watterson	Joseph	08/19/2013
Knight	John	08/27/1997	Welton	Donald	08/11/2004
Kortekamp	Jack	08/17/2006	Wildes	Warren	08/08/2018
Maranda	Francis	08/04/2010	Wilson	Harland	08/07/2011
Marmaud	Joseph	08/10/2007	Woolcott	William	08/06/2020
Mathis	Stanley W.	08/27/2025	Younger	Richard	08/3120/13



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

Thames River Heritage Park

HOP ON HOP OFF CRUISES BOAT TOURS SITES, TOURS AND PROGRAMS PLAN YOUR VISIT ABOUT

Join us for Opening Day on June 6, 2026

DONATE

Today is Sunday, May 31, 2026
Hop-on Hop-off Harbor Cruises are not running today.





Hop On, Hop Off Harbor Cruise

Enjoy a Harbor Cruise aboard a retired naval utility boat. Hop on & off at your leisure across three departure locations on an hour-loop | Service Resumes in Summer 2026

[Learn More](#)

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

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

<https://nlmaritimesociety.org/>



CUSTOM HOUSE MARITIME MUSEUM

About NL Harborcam Calendar Rental Lighthouses Library News Amistad Education



Saving our local maritime heritage sites through education, advocacy, & preservation.
From all of us at the New London Maritime Society, thank you for supporting our work to preserve history for the future.

Please [DONATE](#) to our [ANNUAL APPEAL](#)! #StandUpForScience #Museums4Science

Garde Arts Center



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Garde

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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



YOUR SERVICE IS NEEDED TODAY!

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

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

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

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



US NAVY
SUBMARINE
FORCE MUSEUM
USS Nautilus (SSN 571)

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

Henry Breault Golf Tournament in Putnam Needs USSVI Representation!



**We Want
You!**

HENRY BREAUT
MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT
Golf Tournament



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

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



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

The Chapel on the Thames



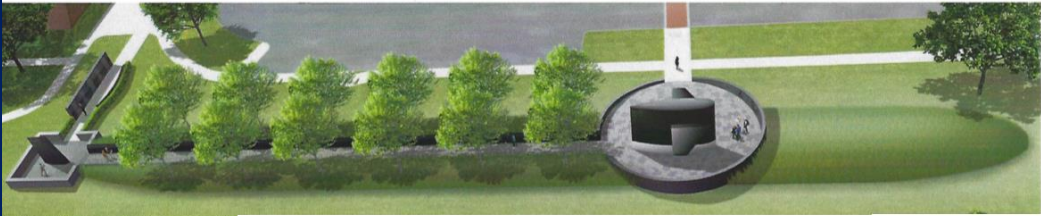
The Chapel on the Thames (COT) is located aboard Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton and offers both Protestant and Roman Catholic worship services for active-duty retired veterans and their families. The COT was originally conceived and constructed as a memorial to submariners, Officers and Enlisted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

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

The Groton Sail Foundation

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

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



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



THE USS GROTON SAIL MONUMENT

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

[Contact Us – Groton Sail Foundation](#)

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

Submarine Base New London Retired Activities Office

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



(860) 694-3284

DSN 694-3284

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.

Military Appreciation Day

9th Annual Military Appreciation Day

August 15, 2026

Ocean Beach Park
New London, CT

10:00am - Closing

Free Entry for;
Active duty, Veterans , DD214 holders

Event Info



